

PREFACE

by Julia Budka

The present volume is the first in a series of monographs dedicated to the results achieved within the European Research Council Project AcrossBorders. Sai Island, the prime example for settlement policy of New Kingdom Egypt in Upper Nubia, is the focus of this project. The AcrossBorders project aims to provide new insights on the lifestyle and living conditions in New Kingdom Nubia thanks to new fieldwork and multi-layered research on Sai Island. The main hypothesis tested was whether the settlement on Sai Island can be evaluated as an Egyptian microcosm, despite its location outside of Egypt and its specific topographical, environmental and cultural situation. A detailed comparison of the site with two major 18th Dynasty settlement sites located in Egypt proper (Abydos and Elephantine) allows a fresh evaluation of the material culture and architectural remains from Sai. Various approaches – from ceramic analysis to architectural studies, petrographic analysis, ethnoarchaeological approaches to Strontium Isotope Analysis and Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INNA) – were utilised to investigate whether objects refer to the cultural identities of their users or reflect more complicated processes.¹

The excavation history of the New Kingdom fortified town at Sai Island goes back to the 1950s. Several sectors of the town site were explored by the French mission, particularly the southern area (SAV1) and the surroundings of the small sandstone temple (Temple A) during the 1970s.² This volume is dedicated to the sector SAV1 North, situated along the northern enclosure wall. It was excavated by the Sai Island Archaeological Mission (SIAM), directed by Didier Devauchelle and headed in the field between 2008 and 2012 by Florence Doyen. All analyses and studies in preparation for the present publication were undertaken within the framework of AcrossBorders, including a visit and final on-site adjustments to the documentation of the ar-

chitecture by Florence Doyen in 2014. Results from the scientific analyses of the various material types – especially pottery (petrography and Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis), animal bones and micromorphological samples – as well as new approaches to reconstruct the ancient landscape of Sai Island are still ongoing and will be published in a next volume. The principal focus of the present volume is the material remains of SAV1 North: the architecture and material culture, with emphasis on the pottery and small finds.

Datable to the mid to late 18th Dynasty, the so-called Level 3 was the heyday of sector SAV1 North – a time well-attested by several architectural remains, with associated finds and pottery. These are presented in the following. A summary of thoughts on the possible hints preserved in the material remains about the lifestyle and activities at SAV1 North completes this volume. All in all, the evidence from SAV1 North adds to the current understanding of Sai during the 18th Dynasty as a complex microcosm with a significant evolution, reflecting aspects of the macrohistory of New Kingdom Nubia. Together with the recent publication on the architectural assessment of the southern part of the New Kingdom town of Sai,³ this volume therefore underlines the important role Sai plays in understanding settlement patterns in New Kingdom Nubia.

Acknowledgments

Research for the present study was financed by Julia Budka's START-prize of the Austrian Science Fund: Y615-G19 and the ERC Starting Grant AcrossBorders, Grant Agreement no. 313668. AcrossBorders was hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences from 12/2012 to 03/2015 and is currently based in Germany at the LMU Munich (since 04/2015). The work on Sai was conducted with the kind permis-

¹ Cf. BUDKA 2014, 59 and 68; BUDKA 2015b, 50.

² Cf. AZIM 1975; VERCOUTTER 1986; GEUS 2004. The label SAV1 for the town was introduced by Vercoutter and stands for "Sai Adou Ville 1".

³ ADENSTEDT 2016 (an outcome of Julia Budka's START-prize of the Austrian Science Fund: Y615-G19).

sion of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of Sudan (NCAM). My sincere thanks are in particular due to Abdelrahman Ali Mohamed (Director General) and El-Hassan Ahmed Mohamed (Director of Fieldwork). I am especially grateful to the project director of the Sai Island Archaeological Mission (SIAM) of Charles-de-Gaulle – Lille 3 University (UMR 8164 HALMA-IPEL), France, Didier Devauchelle for allowing AcrossBorders to study, process and publish the results from SAV1 North. Although work on SAV1 North was mainly conducted between 2012 and spring 2014, thanks also go to the current concession holder of Sai, Vincent Francigny (SFDAS Khartoum; since fall 2015). I am furthermore very grateful for all of the support by NCAM during AcrossBorders' field seasons on Sai (2013–2016), especially to Huda Magzoub. Many thanks go also to the Sudanese staff of the dig-house under the supervision of Sid Ahmed and Abdel Fatah.

Special thanks are due to Florence Doyen who acted as the field director of SIAM's work at SAV1 North, was employed by AcrossBorders from 2012–2015 and joined the team on site in 2014. She wishes to thank Nicole Miller and Christine Horton for their assistance with regards to the first version of her written English in this volume. My own work at Sai Island and there at SAV1 North started in 2011 and was only possible through support of Humboldt University Berlin and Frank Kammerzell. Financial support for the 2012 pottery season, which resulted in important insights on the pottery presented in this volume, was granted by the Pollitzer Foundation of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and I am here

grateful to Manfred Bietak. In this context, I am also indebted to Lauriane Miellé, the former ceramic specialist for SAV1 North (Lille 3 University, UMR 8164 HALMA-IPEL), for kindly sharing her data on the material with me.

Parts of Chapter V.1 are based on micromorphological analysis conducted within the framework of AcrossBorders, for which I would like to thank Miranda Semple, Sayantani Neogi and Sean Taylor. Ingrid Adenstedt and Martin Fera have composed detailed plans and images of SAV1 North within the context of the entire New Kingdom town. A big load of thanks goes to all of the assistants involved in documenting and analysing pottery and small finds from SAV1 North (in order of their appearance): Nathalie Bozet, Veronika Hinterhuber, Fatma Keshk, Huda Magzoub, Giulia D'Ercole, Victoria Grünberg, Nicole Mosiniak, Sebastian Stiefel, Elke Schuster, Arvi Korhonen, Daniela Wölfl, Meg Gundlach, Kenneth Griffin, Oliver Frank Stephan, Daniela Penzer, Michaela Janker and Lucia Sedlakova. The digitalising of the original drawings of pottery and objects was done by the AcrossBorders student assistants Elke Schuster, Vanessa Becker and Daniela Penzer. For the layout of the pottery figures, thanks go to Oliver Frank Stephan. Last but definitely not least, Meg Gundlach was deeply involved in the realisation of this volume, with editing the English of all chapters, much productive feedback and very useful comments.

Julia Budka
Munich, September 2016