

Newsletter di Archeologia **CISA**



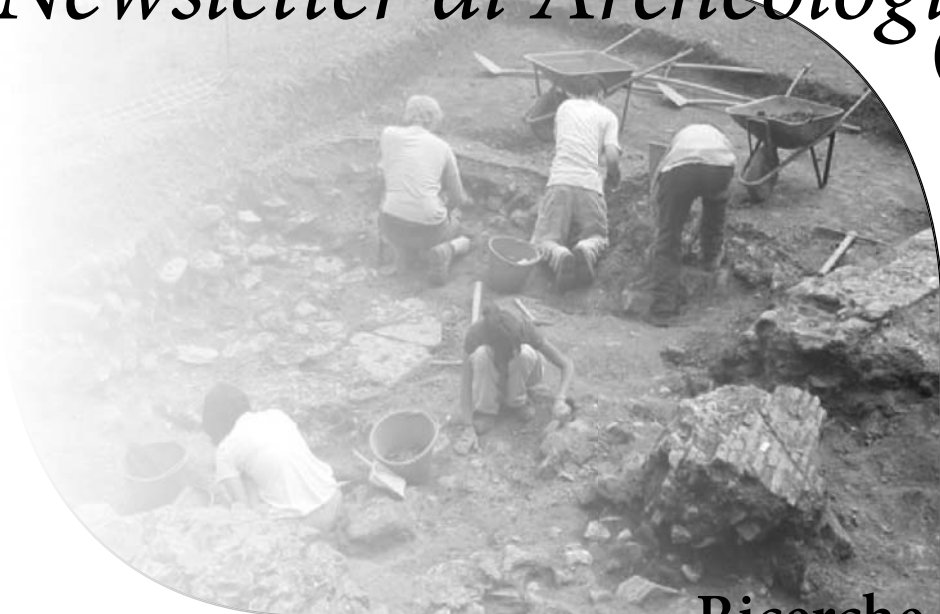
Ricerche e studi

Direttore
BRUNO GENITO

Rivista on-line
ISSN 2036-6353

2016
volume 7

Newsletter di Archeologia **CISA**



Ricerche e studi

Direttore
BRUNO GENITO

Rivista on-line
ISSN 2036-6353

2016
volume 7



Pubblicazione elettronica del
Centro Interdipartimentale di Servizi di Archeologia (CISA)

Vicoletto 1° S. M. Agnone, 8 - 80139 Napoli
tel. +39 081440594 • *fax* +39 081293501 • *e-mail* cisa@unior.it

Newsletter Archeologia CISA
Direttore Bruno Genito

© 2016 CISA e Autori individuali

Pagine 248 + covers; Dimensioni 21 × 29,7 cm

ISSN: 2036-6353

Codice rivista: E201560

COMITATO SCIENTIFICO
Bruno D'Agostino
Teresa E. Cinquantaquattro
Rodolfo Fattovich
Maurizio Tosi
Guido Vannini

COMITATO EDITORIALE
Irene Bragantini
Bruno Genito
Andrea Manzo
Fabrizio Pesando

REDAZIONE
Rosario Valentini
Marco Giglio
Giulio Maresca

E' con molto piacere che presentiamo questo secondo numero del nuovo formato della Rivista Newsletter di Archeologia, CISA, Ricerche e Studi, Vol. 7 del 2016. Oltre al solito ed affascinante notiziario delle attività archeologiche del 2015 che per la settima volta offre al lettore uno spaccato e dà un senso al fare Archeologia nel nostro Ateneo, e che spazia da Cuma all'Uzbekistan, dall'Arabia all'Oman e alle ville romane del litorale laziale etc., la redazione ha deciso di ospitare 4 articoli tematici di Enzo Cocca, Anna Filigenzi et alii, Bruno Genito e Li Yusheng. Anche questi contributi ci danno un'idea delle potenzialità metodologiche e geografiche culturali della nostra Newsletter di Archeologia. Accanto ad aspetti statistico quantitativi, ecco la difficile analisi mortuaria di un contesto lontano, ma sempre intrigante, come il Pakistan, e le prospettive nuove di un approccio "archeologico" al mondo Sasanide sull'altopiano iranico e dintorni per troppo tempo relegato solo alle pur rispettabili tradizioni di studio storico-artistiche ed architettoniche, e la nuova (per noi) definizione di un'altra Barbaricità nel controverso mondo del popolo degli Hu, ai confini del mondo, nella Sogdiana "iranica", ma in contesto geografico culturale cinese. Siamo sicuri che il lettore, come noi che abbiamo provveduto all'edizione di questi testi, troveranno interessante ed affascinante la dimensione globale cui si richiamano i contenuti degli articoli qui presentati, e che, siamo sicuri, si potranno riproporre l'anno prossimo con il Volume 8.

La Redazione

INDICE

ARTICOLI TEMATICI:

<i>Enzo Cocca</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Approcci di studi quantitative in archeologia: Geostatistica e PyArchInit	1
<i>Anna Filigenzi</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" <i>Luca M. Olivieri</i> , Università degli Studi di Bologna "Alma Mater" with a contribution by <i>Filippo Terrasi, Fabio Marzaioli, Isabella Passariello and Manuela Capano</i> Buddhist Settlements and Proto-Historic Graveyards: New Chronometric and Archaeological Data from Saidu Sharif I (Swat, Pakistan)	23
<i>Bruno Genito</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" A Modern Archaeology of the Sasanian Period: Former Limitations and New Perspectives	35
<i>Li Yusheng</i> , Northwest University, Xi'an Study of Tombs of <i>Hu</i> People in Late 6th Century Northern China	91

NOTIZIARIO, ATTIVITÀ ARCHEOLOGICHE DEL 2015

<i>Matteo D'Acunto, Marco Giglio, Stefano Iavarone, Mariangela Barbato, Giovanni Borriello, Laura Carpentiero, Marcello Gelone, Sara Napolitano, Suenà Carnevale, Chiara Penzone, Marco Tartari</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Il quartiere Greco romano tra le Terme del Foro e le Mura Settentrionali: Campagna di scavo 2015	137
<i>Bruno Genito</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" <i>Mukhtar Pardaev</i> , Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan Trial Trenches at Kojtepa, Samarkand Area (Sodgiana). Seventh Interim Report 2015	153
<i>Romolo Loreto</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Note on the Activities of the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Framework of the Saudi-Italian-French Archaeological Project at Dūmat al-Jandal	173
<i>Romolo Loreto</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Note on the 2015 Excavation Season at BMH2 (Bimah, Sultanate of Oman)	183
<i>Andrea Manzo</i> , Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the University of Naples "L'Orientale". Preliminary Report of the 2015 Field Season	191
<i>Fabrizio Pesando, Michele Stefanile</i> , Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Sperlonga. Le attività di archeologia subacquea dell'Università di Napoli "L'Orientale" nella villa di Tiberio	205
<i>Luisa Sernicola, Laurel Phillipson and Rodolfo Fattovich</i> with contributions by <i>Assefa Getaneh, Diego Capra, Gabriella Giovannone and Rachel Moy</i> Archaeological Expedition at Axum (Ethiopia) of the Università of Naples "L'Orientale". 2014 Field Season: Seglamen	223

ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO THE EASTERN SUDAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES
“L’ORIENTALE”. PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE 2015 FIELD SEASON

Andrea Manzo, Università degli studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Introduction

The research activities conducted in the 2015 field season of the Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the University of Naples “L’Orientale”¹ consisted of the continuation of the investigations at site K 1 (Mahal Teglinos), one of the major archaeological sites of Eastern Sudan already investigated by the archaeological expedition led by Rodolfo Fattovich from 1980 to 1995, and of the beginning of excavations at sites UA 50 and JAG 1 (Fig. 1).

This year too, the activities conducted by the Expedition were both related to the topics of the research project approved by the granting institutions² and to the support in the cultural heritage management of the region. In this field the Expedition is actively collaborating with the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums and with the Regional Government of

the Kassala State. In particular, UA 50 will be affected by the implementation of an agricultural scheme in the region between the Gash and the Atbara (Upper Atbara Agricultural Irrigated Scheme) related to the new dams on the Atbara and Setit rivers. While JAG 1 has somehow been protected for many years by its location right on the border with Eritrea, it has been more and more affected by activities of people searching for gold or for treasures, whose presence in the area has been on the rise due to improved relations between the two countries. As far as K 1 (Mahal Teglinos) is concerned, the site has been affected by the heavy rains of recent years and a large part of it is endangered by intense erosion.

All these sites could also be considered important to the research project of the Expedition, whose objective is to obtain a better knowledge of the relations between Eastern Sudan and Upper Nubia as well as to investigate the possible relations between the cultures of Eastern Sudan and the Red Sea coast *via* the Eastern Desert in ancient times (Manzo 2012, 314; 2014a, 1149-1152). Actually, K 1 has already contributed to the study of these topics (see Manzo 2012, 318-320, 2014c, 378-379, 2015, 232-233; Manzo *et al.* 2011, 5-6, 28-30 and 2012, 52-56, 60-65, 95-96). Moreover, UA 50 and JAG 1 could provide more data on the earliest and last phases of the regional cultural sequence, whose investigation is also a part of the research project (Manzo 2015, 231; Manzo *et alii* 2012, 1, 127-128).

Also in this field season, in the framework of the collaboration between the University of Naples “L’Orientale” and the Regional Government of the Kassala State, a field school in archaeology was instituted. Two junior staff members of the cultural office of the Regional Government of the Kassala State, a junior staff member of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums and five Italian MA and PhD students participated.

Investigations at K 1 (Mahal Teglinos)

K 1 (Mahal Teglinos) is a 10 ha. site located East of Kassala in a small valley in the northern part of the Jebel Taka complex. The

¹ The field work took place from 18th October to 18th November. The team in the field consisted of Andrea Manzo, archaeologist, director of the project and ceramic analyst (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Alemseged Beldados Aleho, paleoethnobotanist (Addis Ababa University), Alessia Cesaro, assistant archaeologist (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Elena D’Itria, archaeologist (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Pietro Fusco, lithic analyst (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Eleonora Minucci, physical anthropologist (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Valentina Perna, ceramic analyst (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), Francesco Michele Rega, assistant archaeologist (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”), Suzan Ibrahim Nafe, assistant archaeologist (Regional Government of the Kassala State), Hisham Musa Ali, assistant archaeologist (Regional Government of the Kassala State), Huyam Khalid Mohammed Madani, assistant archaeologist (National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums), and Vincenzo Zoppi, archaeologist, also in charge of the survey and GIS analyst (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”). The colleague representing NCAM was Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss.

² The field season was made possible by the following institutions: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (grant 2015), Università di Napoli “L’Orientale” (research grants 2013 and 2014 and grant assigned to the agreement between the National Corporation for antiquities and Museums (NCAM) and the Università di Napoli “L’Orientale” for the year 2015). The expedition also contributed to the “Futuro in Ricerca” 2012 project code RBFR12N6WD, *Aree di transizione linguistica e culturale in Africa (Areas of linguistic and cultural transition in Africa)*.

site was investigated from 1980 to 1995 by the Italian Archaeological Mission to the Sudan (Kassala) (IAMSK) directed by Rodolfo Fattovich of the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (at that time Istituto Universitario Orientale) (Fattovich 1991, 1993; Fattovich *et alii* 1994). Previous investigations demonstrated that the site was in use at least from the 4th millennium BC to the 1st millennium AD. The main occupation phases of the site date from the mid-3rd-2nd millennia BC. In the Gash Group times (ca. early 3rd-early 2nd millennium BC) a large settlement and a cemetery characterized by monolithic stelae, a so far unique funerary monument typical of this site, developed in the central and eastern part of the site. In the Jebel Mokram Group times (early 2nd millennium BC-early 1st millennium AD) a smaller village was located in the western sector of the site.

A visit to K 1 in 2010 had evidenced the erosion that is bringing to light large sectors of a settlement in the north-western part of the site, and that some graves were cut and almost destroyed by streams in the same sector of the site. Moreover, erosion was also affecting large areas in the central sector of the site. For this reason, in 2010, 2013 and 2014 five excavation units were investigated there: K 1 VI, VII, VIII, IX and X (Manzo 2012, 317-318, 2014b, 377-378, 2015, 231-233; Manzo *et alii* 2011, pp. 27-30). In 2015, investigations continued in K 1 X, and two new excavation units, K1 XI and XII, were opened. K 1 XI is located in the central sector of the site, immediately south of K 1 X, while K 1 XII is on the edge of a terrace east of the Islamic cemetery, occupying a part of the western sector of the site immediately north of the old excavation unit BPLF-Z and BPQA-E (Fig. 2).

K1 X,³ in the central sector of the site, is downslope of the area where in 1993 some mud-brick structures dating to the 2nd millennium BC phases of the Gash Group were investigated (Fattovich *et alii* 1994, 16). In the same area, in 1991 the largest collection of Egyptian Pharaonic pottery south of the Fourth Cataract was discovered (Manzo 1993). A further concentration of Egyptian Marl A3 sherds was remarked there in 2013 (Manzo 2014b, 378, 2014c). In 2014 six fireplaces were excavated in this trench producing a large amount of

fragments of imported Egyptian vessels, administrative devices and clay figurines (Manzo 2015, 232-233). In 2015, the 8 × 8m area investigated in the 2014 excavation unit was enlarged to a 10 × 10m area. Two fireplaces associated to the same living floor of those investigated in 2014 that had produced classic-late Gash Group (late 3rd-early 2nd millennium BC) materials were brought to light in the last field season (Fig. 3). Their diameter ranged from ca. 1 to about 1.5m and the depth from 20 to 50cm. They contained a large amount of potsherds, fragments of big ceramic trays ca. 50 cm in diameter, some bones, charcoal and charred grains. The fact that all these finds were inside the fireplaces, as well as that several large sherds were mending, suggests that most of these materials were intentionally dumped in the fireplaces after use. As already remarked in 2014, the trays from K 1 X are made by coiling technique and their fabric is characterized by mineral temper, their internal surface is smoother than that the external one, which is quite rough. Moreover, they were exposed to fire and heat and their external surface is blackened. This suggests that they may have been used in the cooking process, perhaps in a way similar to the ethnographic tray named *dokka* to prepare low unleavened bread from sorghum (Manzo 2015, 232-233). Other remarkable finds are represented by large mending fragments of an Egyptian Marl A3 small jar, all found under a small stone structure in the western sector of the excavation unit. Investigation also started in a single square of a new excavation unit K 1 XI, immediately South of K 1 X. Some areas with harder clay soil were remarked in this square as well as along the western edge of the excavation unit K 1 X and this may suggest that a different situation was characterizing the area south and west of the sector with fireplaces so far investigated. Excavations will continue there in the next field season in order to clarify this point.

K1 XII was an 8 × 6m excavation unit⁴, immediately north of a sector of the western cemetery partially investigated in 1994 and 1995 (Fattovich *et alii* 1994, 16-17). Eighteen tombs

³ The excavation was conducted by Andrea Manzo, Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss, Alessia Cesaro, Suzan Ibrahim Nafe, and Huyam Khalid Mohammed Madani.

⁴ The excavation was conducted by Andrea Manzo, Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss, Suzan Ibrahim Nafe, Huyam Khalid Mohammed Madani, Hisham Musa Ali, and Vincenzo Zoppi.

were investigated there in 2015⁵. Twelve were single graves characterized by bodies in extended position on the back, with orientation varying from north-south with head to south (4), to east-west with head to the east (7) or to the west (1). Three tombs contained skeletons in contracted position and had an orientation varying from east-west with head to the east and facing south (1), to east-west with head to the west and facing south (1), and to north-south with the head to the south and facing west (1).

The tombs with skeletons in extended position were associated with structures made of stone slabs and stelae preserved only in the upslope squares of the excavation unit, while downslope similar markers may have been destroyed by erosion. The grave goods were limited to personal ornaments.

An exceptional discovery was represented by a tomb in the northwestern corner of the excavation unit whose funerary pit was almost completely destroyed by erosion, as the tomb is located in the downslope sector of the excavation unit. Apparently, it contained two bodies, whose legs were found while the rest of the skeleton was destroyed by erosion: the legs were flexed in a symmetrically contracted position, forming a kind of lozenge whose vertex were represented by the heads of the femurs, the knees and the ankles. The very regular arrangement may also suggest that the ankles of the two subjects may have been bound together. The presumed orientation of the bodies was south/east-north/west with the heads to the north/west, presumably facing east and west. The intentional deposition of the two bodies in symmetrical position is very clear. Close to the two contracted bodies is a crushed vessel, that is almost complete and mending, and reminiscent of C-Group IB and Early Kerma I types (Privati 2004, 145, Fig. 2, 5) (Fig. 4). Below the two contracted bodies (6 cm underneath) is a burial, partially overlapped by them but undisturbed. It is in an extended position on the back with north-south orientation, the head to the south, and characterized by two lip plugs, a necklace and two bracelets - one on each arm - made of white stone beads and by other curve hook shaped ornaments perhaps originally put in the hairs (Fig. 5). The association between the two

bodies in contracted position is indisputable and the pit of the tomb in which they were buried may have cut the earlier tomb containing the third body in extended position. The unusual and distinctive attitude and orientation of the two contracted bodies, their intentionally symmetrical position as well as the exotic Nubian pot associated with them can even suggest that this tomb could be ascribed to foreigners from Upper Nubia, and that one of the two skeletons may have represented a sacrificed person. It should be remarked that the occurrence in this specific cemetery of K 1 of a double tomb possibly containing a human sacrifice, like it happened in between the mid-3rd and the mid-2nd millennium BC at Kerma, was already pointed out (Manzo 2014d, 16). In the meantime, the richness of the earlier grave with the body in extended position should be also stressed, if compared with the other burials with similar position investigated in the same area.

The three other single tombs with bodies in contracted position (two children and an adult), all characterized by the complete erosion of the funerary pits despite the fact that they are located in the upslope sectors of the excavation unit, can be ascribed to a later funerary use of this area, possibly dating from the mid- to late 2nd mill. BC. No grave goods occurred in these tombs except for a necklace made of three animal teeth and a couple of *faïence* beads associated with the tomb of the adult.

Some fireplaces associated with concentrations of mending sherds and some concentrations of materials were laying on a living floor disturbed by the later funerary phase (Fig. 6). On the same living floor, also some slabs and stelae related to the earlier funerary phase were erected. Thus, also the fireplaces and mending sherds may be related to the funerary rituals of the earlier burials. Some of these sherds are comparable to types characterizing the earlier phases of the Gash Group culture, dating to the first half of the 3rd millennium BC in the eastern sector of the site (Capuano, Manzo and Perlingieri 1994, 114, archaeological level 4). Likewise, a fragment of black topped rippled ware found in the soil, filling the pit of a grave may be ascribed to the same phase of use of the area as well. All this may suggest that the funerary use of this sector of the site started earlier than we thought so far. Moreover, the fact that some burials cut and overlap each other and the chronology of the above mentioned C-

⁵ The study of the human bones is going to be performed by Eleonora Minucci in collaboration with Luca Bondioli of the Museo Nazionale Preistorico e Etnografico "Luigi Pigorini".

Group/Early Kerma-like vessel suggest that the first funerary phase was very prolonged.

Investigations at Site UA50

UA50 is a site in the southern sector of the area endangered by the implementation of the Upper Atbara Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, not far from the Khor Marmareb.⁶ As shown by the surface investigations conducted in 2010 and by a short visit during the geoarchaeological survey in 2014, the site is mainly characterized by the presence of Pre-Saroba materials on the surface (see Manzo *et alii* 2012, 43, 119). Therefore, according to the only available radiocarbon date for that phase (Manzo *et alii* 2012, 128), the site may have been settled in the second half of the 6th millennium BC. In 2015, a decision was made to conduct investigations at the site in order to collect more evidence on this still little known Mesolithic phases of the region. This specific site was selected because in the 2014 geoarchaeological survey, Mauro Cremaschi remarked that some Mesolithic materials were visible on a profile of the nearby stream, suggesting that some still stratified remains could be expected there. For these reasons, two excavation units were investigated in 2015: UA 50 I, and II.

UA 50 I is an 8x8 m excavation unit intended to investigate a shell midden whose upper part was brought to light by erosion. The shell midden resulted to be ca. 2x2 m large and up to 10-15 cm thick and consisted of shells of snails and animal bones, all sampled and exported for identification (Fig. 7). It also contained potsherds and lithic remains.

UA 50 II was a 2 × 4m excavation unit near a khor whose profiles revealed remains of shells and Mesolithic materials. It gave only materials apparently not in situ but moved there by the water of the stream and nearby wadi. The materials were embedded in a clay stratum originating from the wadi activity, apparently the same stratum covering the Mesolithic remains in UA 50 I and in the rest of the site.

In addition, some tombs containing skeletons in contracted position, brought to light by erosion and obviously later than the Mesolithic occupation phase and not remarked in the previous visits to the site, were noted at

the UA 50 in 2015. Among the interesting surface finds from UA 50, the presence of a lid of an Egyptian calcite vessel should be stressed (Fig. 8). This find likely originated from a post-Mesolithic tomb, perhaps also related to some scattered Gash Group and Jebel Mokram Group sherds (early 3rd-2nd millennia BC).

Investigations at Site JAG 1

Some excavations and surveys were conducted at site JAG 1, South-West of Kassala. JAG 1 is a multi-phase site already recorded in the survey conducted in the eighties and visited by the expedition in 2013 (Manzo 2014, 382-383). Materials ranging in date from the 6th-5th millennium BC to the 1st millennium AD are scattered on the surface. As the site is menaced and already largely disturbed by illegal excavations, the Expedition decided to investigate it. Three excavation units were started at JAG 1 in 2015: JAG 1 I, II, and III.

JAG I and II are two adjacent excavation units including a large 12 m diameter tumulus characterized on the surface by a ring of granite rocks and an eroded topping of white quartz pebbles (Fig. 9).⁷ A central transect of the tumulus was investigated. There, the floor on top of which the tumulus was built was brought to light. The tumulus resulted to be built of soil and the ring of granite rocks occurs only on the surface, suggesting that its purpose might have been to maintain the topping of quartz pebbles in place. On the soil on top of which the tumulus was built, mixed materials ranging in date from the 4th millennium BC to the 1st millennium AD were collected. This suggests a quite late date for the tumulus: it was later than or contemporary to the latest material in this stratum. Furthermore, the top of a possible funerary pit filled with stones was partially brought to light in the central part of the tumulus. Its excavation will be continued next year. An intrusive burial in a very bad state of preservation consisting of a skeleton placed on its left side with east-west orientation and head to the east was recorded on the top of the tumulus.

JAG III is an excavation unit located on a terrace adjacent to the granite boulders of the jebel, where a concentration of Hagiz Group (1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD) materials

⁶ Investigations at UA 50 were conducted by Andrea Manzo, Alessia Cesaro and Vincenzo Zoppi.

⁷ These excavation units were investigated by Elena D'Itria and Huyam Khalid Mohammed Madani.

was remarked on the surface⁸. Remains of a Hagiz Group domestic occupation, possibly exploiting the boulders opportunistically as shelters, were brought to light. Several burnt areas and a fireplace were remarked there. Close to the granite boulders are also traces of later frequentations of the spot. Downslope from the spot where the shelter is, remains of several possible rounded huts ca. 4-6 m in diameter and possibly dating back to the same late phases were recorded as well (Fig. 10).

At JAG 1 it was also remarked that several man-made features, possibly mortars, or, in the case of the larger ones, storage pits, were carved at several spots along the lower slopes of the granite hill.⁹ These features seem to be mostly related to Gash Group and the Jebel Mokram Group materials (early 3rd-2nd millennium BC), even if there are also earlier and later materials occasionally associated with them.

Finally, it should be remarked that in the central part of the site, along the foot of the hill, some possible Malawiya Group sherds (5th millennium BC) were collected, while in the flat area downslope, where a concentration of Gash Group and Jebel Mokram Group materials was remarked, a Pharaonic Marl A3 sherd was also recorded.

Final remarks

Although the analysis of the collected data and of the exported samples is still in progress, some preliminary remarks on the 2015 field season can be proposed. Also this year, excavations at K 1 Mahal Teglinos proved to be very fruitful and not only because of the usual large collection of charred grains and animal bones, which will considerably enrich our knowledge of the subsistence strategies of the Gash Group (early 3rd-early 2nd millennia BC). The finds from the Early Gash Group phase (first half of the 3rd millennium BC ?) in excavation unit K 1 XII may provide interesting insights into a chronological phase previously known only from limited test pits in the eastern sector of the site. In general, the resumed

investigations in the cemetery at K 1 XII promise to increase our knowledge on the funerary customs and on the social structure of the groups inhabiting the area in the 3rd-2nd millennia BC. For this reason, this spot certainly deserves further investigations. The exploration of the concentration of fireplaces and of Egyptian Pharaonic ceramic materials in the central sector of the site added further elements for a full appreciation of the functional differences between the areas of the site at the end of the 3rd-early 2nd millennium BC and contributed to the study of the role of Eastern Sudan in the inter-regional exchange networks in that period.

Investigations at UA 50 are providing fresh data on the Mesolithic (6th millennium BC) phase in Eastern Sudan for the first time since the excavations conducted near the Atbara by Shiner (Shiner *et alii* 1971). Moreover, the later, possibly 3rd-2nd millennia BC, tombs on the same site to be investigated in the next years will help us to put the K 1 Mahal Teglinos finds in a broader regional context.

As far as the investigations at JAG 1 are concerned, the results of the 2015 field season and their continuation, promise to add data on the latest phases of the regional cultural sequence, namely the 1st millennium BC and 1st-2nd millennia AD. Furthermore, the exploration of JAG 1 will certainly be crucial also for a full understanding of the earlier periods of the history of the region, as already suggested by its surface finds.

⁸ The excavation unit and the areas downslope were investigated by Valentina Perna, Suzan Ibrahim Nafe, and Hisham Musa Ali with the support of Vincenzo Zoppi.

⁹ Francesco Michele Rega started a systematic survey and documentation of these features with the support of Vincenzo Zoppi.

Acknowledgements

The members of the Expedition would like to express their gratitude to the Director General of the NCAM, to all the NCAM staff and especially to our representative, Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss, for their invaluable help and support. Many thanks are also due for the support, collaboration and hospitality to the Regional Ministry of Development and Culture of the Kassala State, to the Ambassador of Italy to the Sudan Mr. Fabrizio Lobasso and to all the staff members of the Italian Embassy, as well as to the staff of the office of the Italian Cooperation in Kassala.

References

- Capuano, G., Manzo, A., Perlingieri, C. (1994) Progress report on the pottery from the Gash Group settlement area at Mahal Teglinos (Kassala), 3rd-2nd mill. BC, Ch. Bonnet (ed), *Etudes Nubiennes, Conférence de Genève. Actes du VIIe Congrès international d'études nubiennes*, 109-115, Genève.
- Fattovich, R. (1991) Ricerche archeologiche italiane nel delta del Gash (Kassala), 1980-1989: un bilancio preliminare, *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici* 33, 89-130.
- Fattovich, R. (1993) Excavations at Mahal Teglinos (Kassala), 1984-1988. A preliminary report, *Kush* 16, 225-287.
- Fattovich, R., A. Manzo, D. Usai (1994) Gash Delta Archaeological Project: 1991, 1992-93, 1993-94 field seasons, *Nyame Akuma*, 42, 14-18.
- Manzo, A. (1993) Note sur quelques tessons égyptiens découverts près de Kassala (Sud-Est du Soudan), *Bulletin de Liaison du Groupe International d'Etude de la Céramique Egyptienne*, 17, 41-46.
- Manzo, A. (2012) The Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale". An Overview of the 2010 and 2011 Field Seasons, B. Genito (ed), *Newsletter di Archeologia CISA*, Volume 3, 313-335. Napoli.
- Manzo, A. (2013) The Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale". An Overview of the 2012 field season, B. Genito (ed), *Newsletter di Archeologia CISA*, Volume 4, 253-271. Napoli.
- Manzo, A. (2014a) "Beyond the Fourth Cataract. Perspectives for Research in Eastern Sudan", in J.R. Anderson and D.A. Welsby (eds), *The Fourth Cataract and Beyond. Proceedings of the 12th International Conference for Nubian Studies*, Walpole, 1149-1157, Leuven-Paris.
- Manzo, A. (2014b) Preliminary Report of the 2013 Field Season of the Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale", B. Genito (ed), *Newsletter di Archeologia CISA*, Volume 5, 375-412. Napoli.
- Manzo, A. (2014c) Note su alcuni rinvenimenti ceramici riferibili ai rapporti tra il Sudan orientale e l'Egitto nel II millennio a.C., E. Fantusati and M. Baldi (eds) *Atti della Quarta Giornata di Studi Nubiani. A tribute to Nubian Civilisation*, 165-184, Roma.
- Manzo, A. (2014d) Snakes and Sacrifices: Tentative Insights into the Pre-Christian Ethiopian Religion, *Aethiopica*, 17, 7-24.
- Manzo, A. (2015) Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan of the Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale". Preliminary Report of the 2014 Field Season, B. Genito (ed), *Newsletter di Archeologia CISA*, Volume 6, 231-240. Napoli.
- Manzo, A. (with contributions by A. Coppa, Alemseged Beldados Aleho and V. Zoppi) (2011) *Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Sudan of the University of Naples "L'Orientale". 2010 Field Season*, Napoli.
- Manzo, A. (with contributions by Alemseged Beldados Aleho, A. Carannante, D. Usai and V. Zoppi) (2012) *Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Sudan of the University of Naples "L'Orientale". 2011 Field Season*, Napoli.
- Privati, B. (2004) Kerma: classification des céramiques de la nécropole orientale, T. Kendall (ed) *Nubian Studies 1998. Proceedings of the Ninth Conference of the International Society of Nubian Studies*, 145-156, Boston.
- Shiner, J.L. (with contributions by A.E. Marks, V. Chmielewski, J. de Heinzelin and T.R. Hays) 1971. *The Prehistory and Geology of Northern Sudan. Part II*, Dallas (unpublished report).

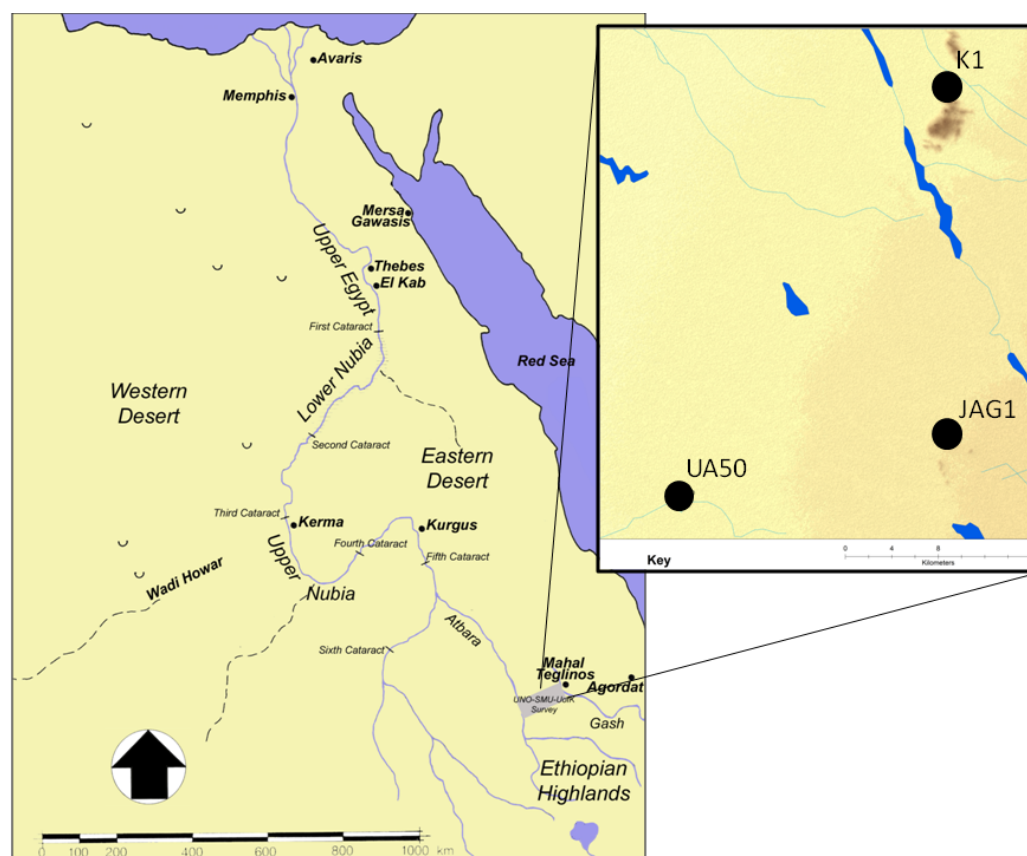


Fig. 1 - Map showing the location of the area under investigation, and the sites investigated in the 2015 field season

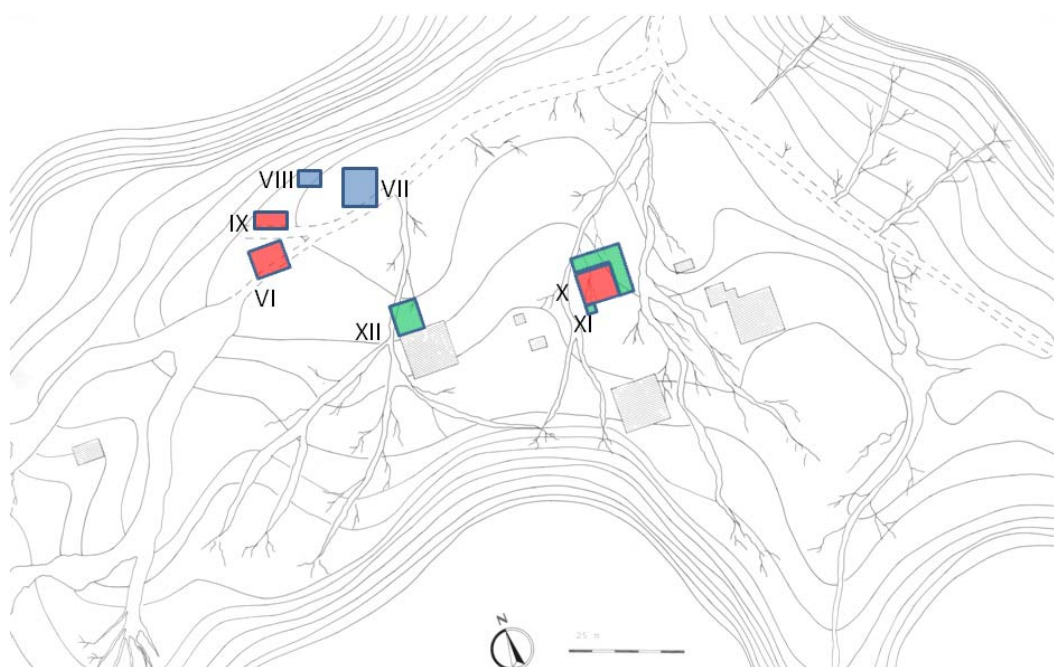


Fig. 2 - Map of the excavation units investigated at K 1-Mahal Teglinos in Eighties and Nineties (gray color), 2013 (blue color), 2014 (red color), and 2015 (green color)

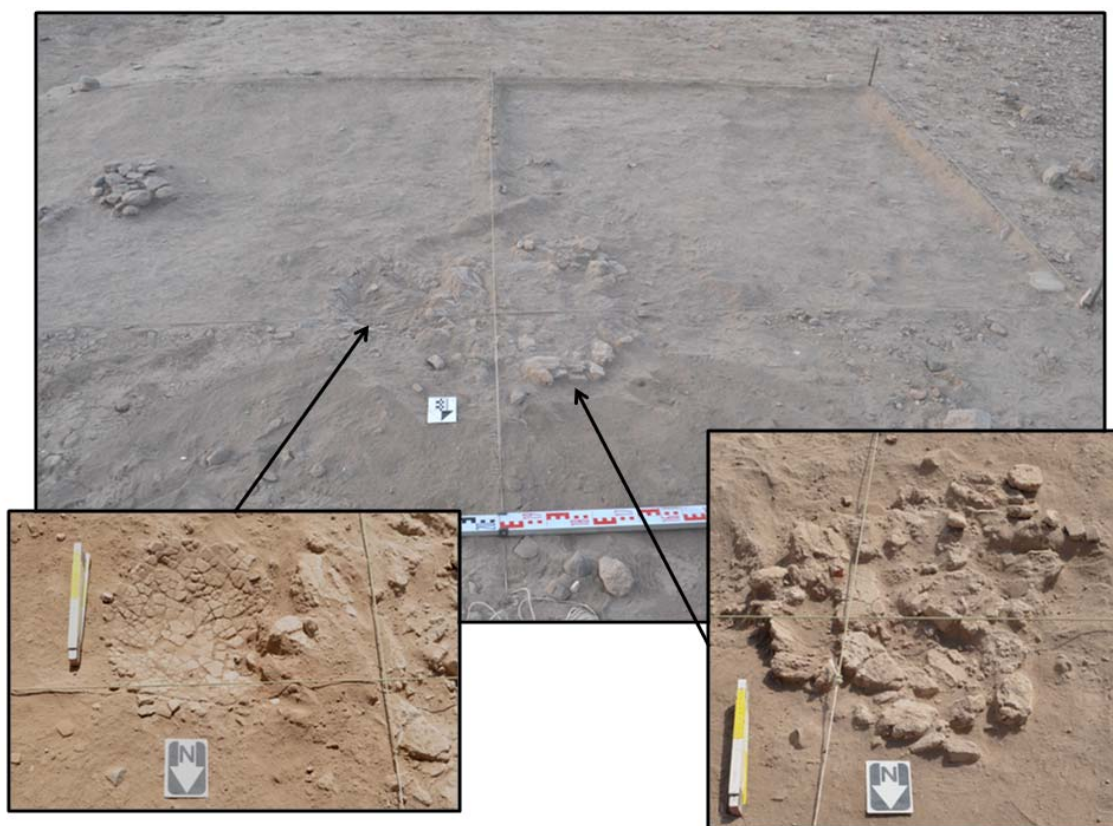


Fig. 3 - Excavation unit K 1 X, squares A1 and A2, ceramic tray collapsed on top of a fireplace (on the right) and fragments of the base of a vessel still in situ nearby (on the left) associated with living floor SU3



Fig. 4 - Reconstructed vessel reminiscent of C-Group IB and Early Kerma I types from K 1 XII SU38 (diameter 17 cm)



Fig. 5 - Excavation unit K 1 XII squares A1 and B1, Tomb 14, of the earlier funerary phase richly provided of personal ornaments: two stone lip plugs, bracelets of stone beads, a necklace of stone beads, head hook shaped ornaments probably inserted in the hairs

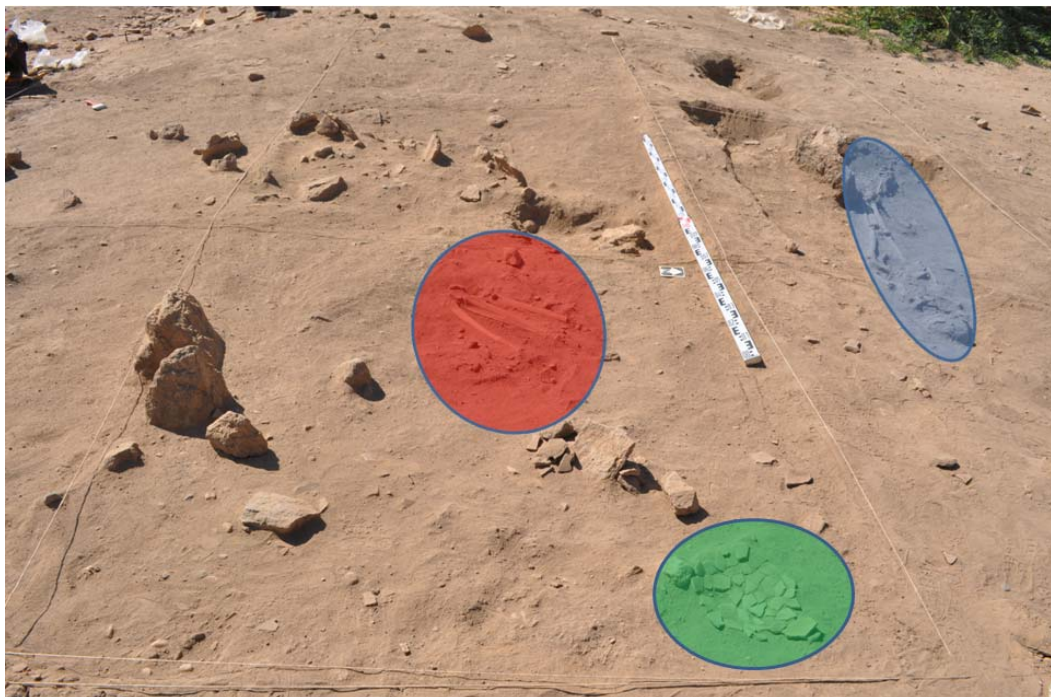


Fig. 6 - Excavation unit K 1 XII, squares C1-C3 and D1-D3, the three phases of use of the area are evident: a late tomb with a badly preserved skeleton in contracted position (highlighted in red), an earlier tomb with skeletons in extended position (highlighted in blue), and the fragments of a broken vessel still in situ (highlighted in green) on the surface where also fireplaces were laying and some structures of stone slabs and stelae were erected



Fig. 7 - Excavation unit UA 50 I, squares A2-A3 and B2, the shell midden brought to light



Fig. 8 - Lid of an Egyptian calcite vessel collected on the surface of site UA 50



Fig. 9 - Excavation units JAG 1 I and II, the tumulus before excavation



Fig. 10 - Perimeter of two huts, possibly going back to Hagiz Group times, immediately west of excavation unit JAG 1 III