

THE SUDAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

This Society was founded in 1991 to foster a greater awareness of, and research into, the archaeology and ethnography of Sudan. To achieve its aims the Society organises a programme of public lectures and runs a one-day seminar each year. At the seminar fieldworkers who have been active in the preceeding winter are invited to acquaint the membership with the results of their work. The international circulation of its bi-annual newsletter, containing summaries of all the lectures and seminar papers, together with additional information, allows the overseas members to participate in the activities of the Society. The Society is building up a library, largely from donations, and has branches in London and Khartoum. The Khartoum branch, housed in the library of the British Council, is already available for use by the membership and the London branch will be open at the first opportunity.

The core activity of the Society is connected with fieldwork which is supported in two ways. Firstly the Society has equipment including a vehicle which is stored in Khartoum and is available for use by approved projects. Secondly, with the financial resources at its disposal, raised from a variety of sources, the Society is able to fund fieldwork directly.

Since its inception the Society has supported the work of the British Institute in Eastern Africa at Soba East, the capital of the medieval Kingdom of Alwa. In response to a request from the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums it is undertaking a detailed survey and

rescue excavations on the line of the new road soon to be built along the Nile from Shendi to Atbara. Further north the Society has already completed two seasons in a projected four season campaign on the east bank of the Nile in the northern Dongola Reach. This also is a rescue project, in this case the threat coming from the rapid expansion of agriculture up to a maximum distance of 18 km from the present river channel. This project which is undertaking a survey of sites of all periods has already made significant additions to our knowledge of the palaeo-hydrology of the region. The most abundant sites date to the time of the Kerma culture 2500 – 1500 BC at which time the Nile flowed in three channels, each attracting settlement to their banks.

The Society well appreciates the paramount importance of the swift publication of fieldwork results and is actively persuing a programme of publication of its own projects. It has also made small grants to facilitate the publication of other fieldwork with which it has not been directly involved.

New members to the Society are most welcome. For details of membership please write to:

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