



NADINE NOLDE

ANIMAL BONES FROM THE 2014 EXCAVATIONS ON THE CENTRAL TERRACE IN MUSAWWARAT ES-SUFRA

In the 2014 excavations on the Central Terrace of the Great Enclosure in Musawwarat es-Sufra only three bone fragments were recovered.¹ In addition to one non-determinable long bone of a cattle sized animal, there is one left talus of a cattle and a left mandible of an adult sheep or goat with a third molar and a second badly preserved molar. According to the specifications of Angela von den Driesch² the talus and third molar could be measured. The measurements of the bovid talus (lateral length: 63.1, medial length: 58.4, lateral depth: 33.6, medial depth: 32.8, distal breadth: 37.2) suggest a small to medium-sized individual. While cattle of the Ancient Kerma period (around 2500 to 1500 BC) were large and impressive animals with a withers height of 1.40 m,³ more recent Suda-

nese cattle are much smaller and their role today seem to lose some importance because the arid, sub-desert environment of modern Nubia is more suitable for small ruminants than for large animals.⁴ During the Meroitic period (400 BC to 400 AD) cattle still had an important status in the Nubian economy, but their shoulder height was statistically lower than the Kerma ones. This demonstrates the talus of the Central Terrace in Musawwarat es Sufra, which seems to have a size similar to the smallest individuals of Middel Kerma period (2050-1750 BC) (Tab. 1).

The third molar from the left mandible of a small domestic ruminant was in use and the posterior cups already show signs of wear at the time of death, which implies an age of three to four years.⁵

| | Talus from the Central Terrace in Musawwarat es-Sufra (300 BC-300 AD) | Tali from Kerma (2050-1750 BC)⁶ |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| lateral length | 63.1 | min. 59.0 / max. 77.5 |
| medial length | 58.4 | min. 52.9 / max. 71.5 |
| lateral depth | 33.6 | min. 31.7 / max. 43.2 |
| medial depth | 32.8 | min. 29.7 / max. 44.5 |
| distal breadth | 37.2 | min. 34.0 / max. 53.8 |

Tab. 1: Comparison of the talus measurements from Musawwarat es-Sufra (no. 102.20-023-004, 300 BC – 300 AD) and the ancient Kerma Period (min. = minimum value; max. = maximum value)

1 All three fragments were recorded under find no. 102.20-023-004.

2 Von den Driesch 1996: find no. 102.20-023-004.

3 Chaix 2011: 13-26.

4 Chaix 1992: 63; Chaix 2007: 169-249.

5 Payne 1973: 281-303.

6 Chaix 2007: 239-240.

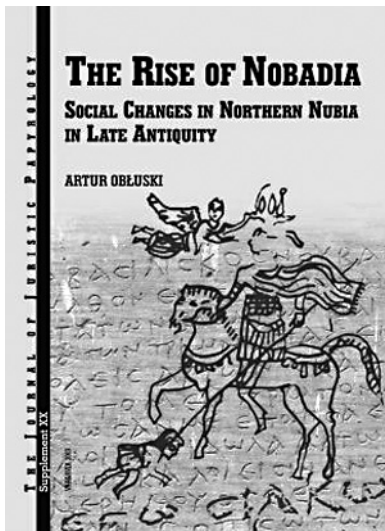


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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Aus der Grabung an der zentralen Terrasse in Musawwarat es-Sufra stammen ein Rollbein (Talus) eines Rindes sowie ein Unterkieferfragment (Mandibula) eines ungefähr drei- bis vierjährigen kleinen Hauswiederkäuers (Schaf oder Ziege). Die anatomische Vermessung und der Vergleich des Rindertalus mit großen, stattlichen Rindern aus der Mittleren Kerma Kultur deutet auf ein vergleichsweise kleines Individuum in Musawwarat es-Sufra hin, was mit der generellen Größenreduktion der Rinder in Nubien von der Frühen Kerma Phase bis in die heutige Zeit überein zu stimmen scheint.



ARTUR OBLUSKI

The Rise of Nobadia

Social Changes in Northern Nubia in Late Antiquity

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The author of this book presents an innovative approach to the history of Nubia. The period covered includes the fall of Meroe and the rise of the united kingdom of Nobadia and Makuria. The emphasis was put on the analysis of social and political changes. Moreover some major improvements of the chronological nomenclature have been suggested. To date, it has been largely influenced by the early 20th cent. politically incorrect approach to African cultures and the contemporary state of research. The author implies that there is actually no reason which would compel modern scholars to study and describe the history of Nubia in other ways than the rest of the world. It means that all studies

post-dating this path-breaking book should be based on actual political changes and not vague racial or religious criteria. Nowadays we can be certain that after the fall of Meroe there was no political vacuum, but various political organisms immediately started to rise: Nobadia, Makuria and Alwa. For this reason the term 'Group X' should not be used any longer.

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