

VLASTIMIL VRTAL¹

RECONSTRUCTING THE 1958–1960 EXCAVATIONS IN THE PALACE OF AMANISHAKHETO AT WAD BEN NAGA

Between late 1958 and early 1960 archaeological research was conducted at the archaeological site of Wad Ben Naga by a Sudanese mission headed by Thabit Hassan Thabit.² Among other structures, the expedition uncovered a large building of palatial character, identified as a palace constructed by Queen Amanishakheto.³ The state of preservation of the building itself and the number of objects retrieved in the vestiges together provided one of the most complex images of Meroitic administrative institutions and socio-economic milieu. The results of the Sudanese excavations thus carried a great informative value on many aspects of Meroitic culture and state organization. The report on the excavations was published by Jean Vercoutter⁴ and represents a major source of our information about the palace. Important pieces of information were later collected also by other scholars, with Friedrich W. Hinkel in the first place, who – apart from general observations - carried out precise measurements of the exposed architecture of the building.⁵ The present paper aims to contribute to the informative potential of the Palace of Amanishakheto by reconstructing the course of the Sudanese excavations in the structure.

EARLY RESEARCH

The remains of the palace were for the first time recorded on a drawing by Linant de Bellefonds in 1821.⁶ One year later Frédéric Cailliaud and Piérre C. Létorzec included the extensive remains of the structure in their plan of the site published in Cailliaud's Voyage à Méroé.⁷ The remains were designated as 'kom B'. The debris on the surface, including parts of columns, was wrongly identified as 'restes de temples'. A couple of years later, the kom was documented in a cursory fashion by George Alexander Hoskins.⁸ None of the later early visitors to the site, including the members of the Lepsius' expedition, paid any attention to kom B.

The excavations of 1958–1960

The Sudanese mission carried out excavations at Wad Ben Naga within two field seasons. The first season was commenced on 25 November 1958 and concluded in early (?) March 1959. At latest in mid-December 1958 the *kom* with vestiges of the palace started to be surveyed, probably still on an irregular basis. Regular examination of the *kom* seems to have started only in late February 1959, and was preceded by careful planning of debris deposition, which necessitated excavation of two trial pits. 11

By the end of the first season, the mission uncovered the outer limit of the structure and tops of its outer walls. ¹² The cleaning of outer walls resulted in several major finds including the so-called '*tête royale*' (inv. no. SNM 62/10/162), ¹³ a capital of a pilaster with depiction of a lion (inv. no. SNM 62/10/161) ¹⁴ and a statuette of a captive (inv. no. SNM 11949).

¹ Contact: Vlastimil Vrtal, National Museum – Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures / Archaeological Expedition to Wad Ben Naga; E-mail: vlastimil_vrtal@nm.cz. The article was written within the framework of the project "Exploration of the Meroitic Royal City at Wad Ben Naga (Sudan)" supported by the Czech Science Foundation (grant no. 13-09594S). The present author wishes to express his sincerest thanks to Pavel Onderka, the head of the Archaeological Expedition to Wad Ben Naga, and to the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (further NCAM), namely to Dr. Abdel-Rahman Ali Mohamed, Juweriya Osman Mohamed Zain, and Ikhlas Abdllatief Ahmed Idris, for the possibility to work on the material from the Palace of Amanishakheto at Wad Ben Naga.

² Onderka 2016: 70-99.

³ Vercoutter 1962: 282–283; and later i.a. Ali Hakem 1988: 92–95; Hinkel & Sievertsen 2002: 69–70; Vrtal 2013; Maillot 2016: 78–83.

⁴ Vercoutter 1962.

⁵ Hinkel – Sievertsen 2002: IX.75.

⁶ Onderka 2016: 118-119, Pl. 2-3.

⁷ Cailliaud 1826.

⁸ Hoskins 1835.

⁹ Cf. Vercoutter 1962; Onderka 2016: 70.

¹⁰ The earliest date connected to a find from the palace is 18 December 1958 (inv. no. SNM 11958).

¹¹ Vercoutter 1962: 275.

¹² Cf. Vercoutter 1962: 275-277.

¹³ Vercoutter 1962: fig. 6.

¹⁴ Vercoutter 1962: fig. 7.





Fig. 1: Excavations of the Palace of Amanishakheto (Photo: Archive of the SFDAS).

A number of fragments of stelae (or a single stela)¹⁵ inscribed in Meroitic cursive was further collected in the area of the *kom* (inv. nos. SNM 62/10/104, 106–119).

The second field season was commenced on 18 November 1959 and terminated on 24 March 1960, ¹⁶ and it was almost exclusively devoted to exploration of *kom B*. The expedition uncovered a well-preserved structure with over 60 rooms of different shape and function. The photographic documentation ¹⁷ from the expedition, which was recently made accessible for research by the Section française de la direction des antiquités du Sudan (further SFDAS) and National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (further NCAM), revealed that up to 40 workmen participated on the excavation of the palace at the same time (Fig. 1). ¹⁸ This is in concord with oral

communication by one of the workers of Thabit Hassan Thabit.¹⁹

More than 250 objects were retrieved from the palace, documented and subsequently accessioned in the Sudan National Museum (inv. nos. SNM 62/9/25 - 62/10/170). The documentation of finds allows the reconstruction of the progress of the exploration. Among other data, the individual find entries record the date of retrieval of the find (cf. Fig. 2). In combination with the localisation of some individual finds,²⁰ it is possible to trace back the period of exploration for some of the rooms. Although it is necessary to take into consideration that more than a single room was excavated at a time, which resulted in certain overlapping of dates, having put these pieces of information together, the picture becomes relatively clear. During early December 1959, the expedition concentrated its work on the area of the southern monumental entrance and the magazines abutting it to the east, i.e. on rooms WBN 154-156 and WBN 134-136.²¹ In late December 1959, the whole south-western sector of the palace was under excavation, including two representative entrance halls in the west (WBN 103 and 158) with

¹⁵ Cf. Vercoutter 1962: 277.

¹⁶ Vercoutter 1962: 277.

¹⁷ The present author would like to express his sincerest gratitude to Vincent Francigny, the Section française de la direction des antiquités du Sudan (further SFDAS), and Dr. Abdel-Rahman Ali Mohamed, the director general of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, for making the photographic documentation and documentation of the finds stored in the archive of the SFDAS accessible for research.

¹⁸ Cf. Onderka 2016: 80-81, nos. 1-10.

¹⁹ Onderka 2016: 77.

²⁰ Cf. below.

²¹ Numbering of the rooms according to Hinkel – Sievertsen 2002: IX.75.



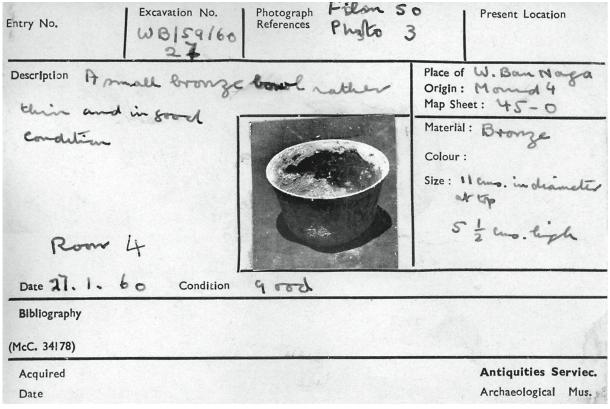


Fig. 2: Finds documentation recording the date of retrieval and find spot. Excavation no. WB 59/60 27 (Photo: Archive of the SFDAS).

surrounding rooms, the magazines to the west of the southern entrance (rooms WBN 110–111), the ramp leading from the southern entrance to the second storey (WBN 157) and parts of magazines and rooms in the south-eastern sector (WBN 130–133). By mid-January 1960, the excavations progressed to the northern half of the palace, starting with a particularly rich collection of objects from room WBN 104. The north-eastern sector was the last to be explored (cf. Fig. 3).

The re-construction of the progress of excavations is in full concord with the plan of the palace constructed by Vercoutter,²² which shows walls of the palace excavated by January 1960. The reconstruction of the progress reveals the methodology of the archaeological excavations. At first, the outer perimeter of the building was cleared. Then, starting from the southern entrance, cleaning of the individual rooms followed one by one. Based on the photographic documentation, it seems likely that the tops of the walls were not cleaned before taking out the fill, except perhaps for the walls forming the room to be excavated. The rooms were thus carefully cleared by working from the side, rather than from the top, or by combination of both. Occasion-

ally, a reference baulk preserving the original fill of the room was prudently left *in situ* by the mission for future research. At least three such baulks were identified by the Archaeological Expedition to Wad Ben Naga in 2014.²³

The main contribution of the re-construction of the progress of excavations lies in our ability to attribute find spots, or rather find sectors, to those finds, for which there are missing data other than the date of retrieval (e.g. beer jars inv. nos. SNM 62/10/142, 143, 153, etc.). Also it is useful in the case of finds, for which the indicated localisation is vague (such as 'gate 3' in the case of a jar inv. no. SNM 62/10/122).

Localisation of finds

The collection of over 260 objects from the Palace of Amanishakheto represents a rich testimony of activities carried out in the palace throughout its history of occupation. Although the attribution of the objects to the structure as a whole is clear, their great informative value was hampered by our inability to assign most of the finds to their individual find spots. Such attribution would provide a possibility to come

²² Vercoutter 1962: fig. 8.

²³ Onderka, Vrtal & Gatzsche 2015: 98.



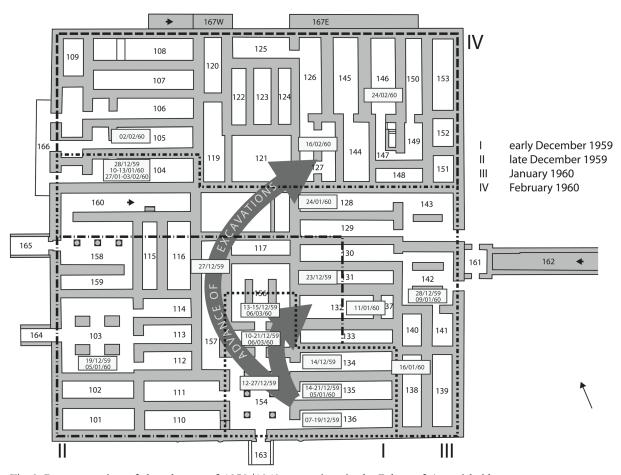


Fig. 3: Reconstruction of the advance of 1959/1960 excavations in the Palace of Amanishakheto.

much closer to understanding the internal functional divisions within the palace, or at least the processes and human activities which took place in the palace at the time of its abandonment.

In his report on the excavations, Vercoutter provided information on localisation of number of objects and architectural elements. He placed the discovery of column capitals in room C (WBN 156),²⁴ which was further supported by the photographic documentation showing some of the capitals resting on the brick pillar walls in the room. Drums of other columns were found in room Y (WBN 128) in the eastern part of the palace.²⁵ Vercoutter further stated that magazines E (WBN 135), D(WBN136),P(WBN110),Q(WBN111),P'(WBN 101) and Q' (WBN 102) contained a large amount of pottery, a small sandstone altar and terracotta statuettes of lions (six pieces; inv. no. SNM 62/10/23) and falcons (three pieces; inv. no. SNM 62/9/107).²⁶

Later in the text, the location of a large number of jars was more precisely attributed to magazines P (WBN 110) and Q (WBN 111),²⁷ and the location of terracotta statuettes to magazine E (WBN 135).²⁸ According to Vercoutter, a number of objects including ivory tusks, blocks of wood (identified as ebony, inv. no. SNM 62/10/170) and blackware jar with a frieze of bovids (inv. no. SNM 62/10/123) were further found in room V (WBN 104).²⁹ A find of a bronze plaque showing a sitting frog was situated to the upper part of room R (WBN 157)³⁰ and a find of a faience saucer (inv. no. SNM 62/9/27) to the north-western corner of room C (WBN 156).³¹

Location and/or archaeological context were also indirectly established for some other finds in the report. Firstly, it was stated that significant portion of objects was found in the upper sections of the fill of the rooms, 3–4 metres above the floor levels.³²

²⁴ Vercoutter 1962: 279, figs. 9-10.

²⁵ Vercoutter 1962: 280.

²⁶ Vercoutter 1962: 279. Vercoutter states five pieces of lion statuettes and two pieces of falcon statuettes, the photographic documentation of finds shows six and three statuettes respectively. The discrepancy may be explained

by different find spots for the two redundant statuettes.

²⁷ Vercoutter 1962: 281.

²⁸ Vercoutter 1962: 285-286.

²⁹ Vercoutter 1962: 280-281, 291.

³⁰ Vercoutter 1962: 287.

³¹ Vercoutter 1962: 290.

³² Vercoutter 1962: 280.





Fig. 4: Pile of wheelmade storage jars found in one of the rooms of the palace (Photo: Archive of the SFDAS).

According to Vercoutter, this applied particularly to faience amulets (including decorative clasps, inv. nos. SNM 62/9/36-37, 58-59, 69, 84-85),³³ bronzes, and fragments of brickwork with painted and gilded stucco decoration (inv. nos. SNM 11944, 11970, 11971, 62/10/86-90, 126-128, 131-132), which represented debris from decoration of the upper storey of the palace with habitational and representative quarters. Another valuable piece of information concerned deposition of objects that were found at the floor level and in large numbers. Such objects were found almost always together in a single room³⁴ and they most probably represented goods stored in magazines for eventual redistribution. The photographic documentation shows that this applied particularly to both redware and blackware storage jars (Fig. 4)³⁵ and to dozens of lids (inv. no. SNM 62/9/39), which were found in the north-eastern magazines,³⁶ but also to the terracotta statuettes, ivory, and bronzes (e.g. nails, inv. no. SNM 62/10/3).

Additional information on the localisation of finds from the Palace of Amanishakheto can be obtained directly from the objects stored in the Sudan National Museum. Some objects or their cases are equipped with original labels recording their excavation number, date of retrieval and find spot: e.g. "object from Wad Ben Naga 59/60, kom 4, room V, 28/12/1959, clay, flower shape" (inv. no. SNM 62/9/62). For most of the objects such a complete information is either missing or duplicating the information acquired from other sources, even partial record can nevertheless be used for establishing the wider find spot area in some cases (e.g. through retrieval date as demonstrated above).

The copies of finds documentation from the 1958–1960 excavations, provided by the SFDAS, represent the third and most complete source of information, which can be used for attribution of finds to their original find spots. The file includes 115 find entries, majority of which comes from the Palace of Amanishakheto ('Mound 4'). In most cases, the find entries generally record the excavation number, description, dimensions, the date of retrieval, and visual representation of the object (either a photograph or a drawing; cf. Fig. 2). Based on these data,

³³ Cf. Sackho-Autissier 2011.

³⁴ Vercoutter 1962: 281.

³⁵ Vercoutter 1962: 291, Pl. XXc; Onderka 2016: 91, no. 136; 92, no. 148.

³⁶ Vercoutter 1962: 292-293.



majority of objects with the exception of rings and libation basins could be paired with the actual objects stored in the Sudan National Museum. Besides the listed data, seventy-six find entries for objects from the Palace of Amanishakheto further include attribution to a room or a trench.

The designation of rooms on the find entries was recorded in two forms: alphabetical and numerical (cf. Table 1). The alphabetical recording of rooms can be found also in Vercoutter's report. Alphabetical designations of rooms on the find entries can thus be directly paired with designations included on the plan of the palace in the report. The confirmation of this assumption is provided e.g. by the saucer inv. no. SNM 62/9/27, find spot of which was placed both by Vercoutter and the find entry to room C (WBN 156).

The numerical designations, on the other hand, find no parallel in the report. The numbers used in the documentation range from 3 to 46, reflecting the number of uncovered rooms. A comparison between the two systems is possible based on three groups of objects, which both lists, i.e. the list of find spots mentioned by Vercoutter and the list of find spots from the find entries, share: the ivory tusks ('magasin V' / 'room 4'), blocks of wood ('magasin V' / 'room 4'), and terracotta statuettes ('magasin E' / 'room 35'). Clearly, the numerical designation did not follow the sequence, in which the rooms were excavated, as room E was among the earliest excavated, and room V was excavated only in January 1960. Somewhat surprisingly, however, the numerical designations are in both cases (i.e. room 4 and room 35) identical with designations used by Friedrich W. Hinkel in his much later plan.³⁷ The numbers were adjusted by Hinkel to match his numbering system, i.e. WBN 104 for room E / room 4, and WBN 135 for room E / room 35. Based on this relation the attribution of other room designations on find entries employing the numerical system is possible with reasonable confidence. The only contradiction among the three sources of information is represented by an inscription on a case for a miniature cup inv. no. SNM 62/9/92 and corresponding find entry, which record rooms C and B, respectively. The discrepancy may be explained by the proximity of both rooms.

Employing two parallel systems of designations probably stemmed from the unexpectedly high number of rooms in the gradually excavated structure. The alphabetical system thus proved to be rather impractical and was replaced by the numerical one in the course of excavations. The original system used in the find entries and employing numbers for

The information on localisation of finds acquired from the finds documentation can be further supplemened by the study of photographic documentation of the excavations. Based on photographs recording original archeological situations, finds can be linked to other objects, for which their find spots are known, or to architectural features in the palace. The find spot of two plastered sandstone stands (inv. no. SNM 62/10/167) captured on the same photo as terracotta statuettes (inv. nos. SNM 62/9/107 and 62/10/23) can be attributed to room WBN 135.38 Another photograph³⁹ provides confirmation of the common deposition of ivory tusks, blocks of wood (inv. no. SNM 62/10/170), a trulla (inv. no. SNM 62/9/43), a klepsydra, a bronze bowl (inv. no. SNM 62/9/66) and a hoe (inv. no. SNM 62/10/5). Another confirmation of known find spot is provided by a photograph showing a sandstone libation basin from room C (WBN 156).⁴⁰ The photographic documentation further records a large number of jars and vats re-used as cooking vessels and ovens,41 which in some cases indicate secondary use of rooms.

Discussion

The attribution of a substantial portion of finds from the Palace of Amanishakheto to their find spots within the structure allowed the study and analysis of the objects in relation to their original archaeological and spatial context. Although the actual position of the objects in the stratigraphy cannot be fully reconstructed, the localisation of finds should greatly improve our understanding of the internal functional division of the palace and its operating basis, as well as the status of the building and of the people that resided or worked in its premises.

Approaching such understanding will necessitate a detailed assessment of the whole collection of finds from the palace in all its complexity. The finds ought to be analysed not only in relation to their actual or probable find spots, but also taking into account their relation to each other, their functional and chronological characteristics, as well as their history of use and potential re-use. Based on the collected

koms and letters for rooms thus seems to have been substituted by a numerical system for rooms, and – at least in Vercoutter's report – an alphabetical system for koms, which was in compliance with designations already used by Cailliaud.

³⁸ Cf. Onderka 2016: 86, no. 81.

³⁹ Cf. Onderka 2016: 90, no. 122.

⁴⁰ Cf. Onderka 2016: 89, no. 108.

⁴¹ Cf. Onderka 2016: 92-93, nos. 149-154.

³⁷ Hinkel - Sievertsen 2002: IX.75.



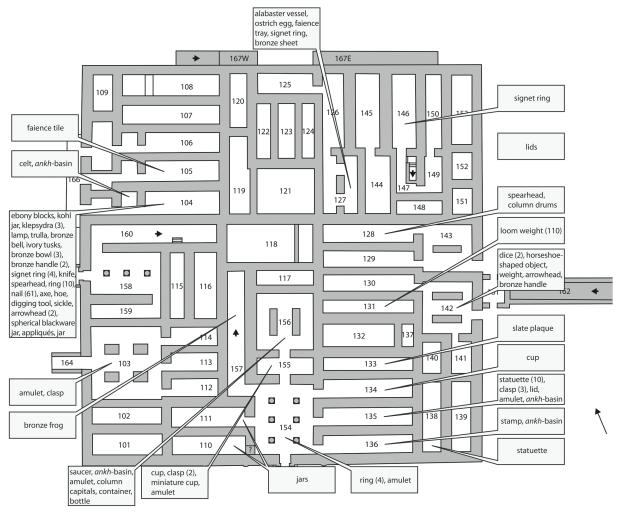


Fig. 5: Localisation of finds in the Palace of Amanishakheto.

localisation data some conclusions can nevertheless be postulated even at this point.

Vercoutter stated that a substantial number of objects was found in the upper strata of the fill of rooms. In the case of such objects, the informative value of their find spots must be perceived with caution, as they were subject to post-depositional transfers and the spatial context for the actual use or storage of these objects thus may have been much different originally. On the other hand, a number of objects were clearly found in situ. These include the handmade and wheelmade jars found in what appeared to be magazines intended for administering the redistribution of goods by the palace officials. The photographic documentation shows up to 40 wheelmade storage jars in one such magazine (Fig. 4), and 15 handmade storage jars in another. 42 However, there is indisputable evidence that the collection of jars did not represent humble remains of a large-scale storage of goods, preserved by a chance in a couple

of magazines. All the jars piled together were found upside-down, as the photographic documentation shows, and thus they must have been empty at the time of their deposition. The collection of jars thus could hardly represent primary storage of goods intended for redistribution. It rather represented a collection of jars stored for further re-use, i.e. filling, and therefore free of any potentially valuable content. This fact has consequences for our understanding of the function of these rooms, or more precisely, understanding of their position in the administrative system of the palace. Unfortunately, we are unable to identify the rooms, in which both depots were uncovered, with certainty, although linking the piles of jars to 'grande quantité des jarres' discovered in magazines P and Q (rooms WBN 110 and 111)⁴³ seems very plausible. On the other hand, the date of retrieval of 15 handmade jars (14 January 1960) allows to situate the find spot to the western sector of the palace, to the vicinity of room WBN 104.

⁴² Vercoutter 1962: Pl. XXc.

⁴³ Vercoutter 1962: 281.



Magazines WBN 110 and WBN 111 then may have been reserved for storage of wheelmade storage jars recorded by the photographic documentation and mentioned in the report. If this suggestion is valid, a magazine with empty jars would be directly accessible from what is considered the main entrance to the palace. Given the clearly representative character of the entrance hall WBN 154, the presence of the storage of used (or brand new but empty) jars in its vicinity is necessarily rather surprising. One would expect in these rooms the presence of goods satisfying the needs of the representative or habitational part of the palace or storage of its equipment. Furthermore, the magazines lack any subsidiary rooms which could be used as offices or utility rooms for officials administering this block of magazines. The adjacent rooms WBN 155 and WBN 156 were tentatively identified as a sanctuary by Vercoutter,⁴⁴ probably based on their axial disposition, a find of sandstone libation basin in room WBN 156 and a find of objects of cultic(?) character in one of the magazines flanking the entrance hall. The hypothetical presence of a sanctuary in the royal palace is problematic, however. Although it cannot be ruled out, there is no clear evidence for such a phenomenon in other Meroitic palaces. The storage of cultic equipment such as sandstone altars and terracotta statuettes may be further linked to redistributive function of the palace rather than to performance of cult activities. Similarly, terracotta statuettes of lions and falcons should be more likely considered as apotropaici and not cultic images.

The photographic documentation provides evidence of presence of other jars of the same type in the (north-)western magazines.⁴⁵ Furthermore, the storage of a large number of ceramic lids, which would normally be complementary to wheelmade jars, in the north-eastern magazines - that is in the opposite part of the palace lacking direct communication on the same floor level with both southern and western blocks of magazines - seems curious. While the localisation of the pile of wheelmade storage jars is thus inconclusive for the moment, we may speculate that there were several separate administrative units in the palace, manifested by individual blocks of magazines and employing same types of objects, namely storage jars, for administering different sections of the redistributive process, such as tax collection, storage and distribution, for which accumulating a substantial reserve of empty jars was undoubtedly desirable.

In this respect, the specific situation of room WBN 104 should attract our attention. In the room a considerable number of objects were found, including blocks of ebony wood, ivory tusks, bronze bowls, bronze tools, weapons, signet rings, klepsydrae, etc. (cf. Table 1). The functional diversity of these objects is striking. It is difficult to understand this collection of objects as a standard inventory of a single specialized magazine of a Meroitic royal palace, nor can we rate the objects among goods of no potential value that would evade the interest of looters. On the contrary, the common characteristic for most of the objects from the room is their value as a source of a rare workable material. Besides the obvious resources - the unworked ebony wood and ivory the magazine contained a large number of bronze and iron objects, which could be recycled or reworked. Other objects, such as an imported terracotta lamp (inv. no. SNM 62/9/31), fine lustrous handmade jar with figural decoration (inv. no. SNM 62/10/123) and ceramic klepsydrae (inv. nos. SNM 62/9/25, 26 and 62/10/49), perhaps represented objects that were not considered valuable enough to be collected by the late residents of the palace, but they may have retained some value as status symbols of lesser significance, and therefore were collected and stored till their potential return into circulation.

The finds from room WBN 104 should thus not be considered as a testimony of goods typically stored in the magazines of the palace, but as an assemblage of objects, which were collected in the deserted structure during or after its abandonment and then stored in a single, easily guarded room with the intention for future re-use. It is also surely of no coincidence that the objects were kept in a room opening towards an area enclosed by stone walls built only in the period of gradual destruction of the palace, ⁴⁷ and also towards the so-called Typhonium, a temple of Mut, in which there was found evidence

The archaeological evidence indicates that the palace was abandoned gradually rather than as a result of a single destructive event. Its late residents or later visitors thus necessarily collected all objects that would be considered worthy. Consequently, such objects could not enter our records, and we are only dealing with what was considered as refuse. He pty jars were obviously uninteresting for any takers, which must be the main reason behind their preservation in such numbers.

⁴⁴ Vercoutter 1962: 279.

⁴⁵ Onderka 2016: 90, no. 129.

⁴⁶ Cf. Sommer 1990.

⁴⁷ Cf. Onderka, Vrtal & Gatzsche 2015: 98.



for its occupation well into the final years of the 3rd century CE.⁴⁸

The preliminary evaluation of the localisation data shows that the collection of finds needs to be perceived not only with respect to processes related to the operation of the palace, but to a significant degree also with respect to processes, which occurred in its late history, i.e. during and after its abandonment. This applies to all finds and corresponding archaeological contexts that might appear to be relatable to the period of primary occupation of the palace. While the assemblage of objects from room WBN 104 can be considered as a storage of objects collected in the deserted palace and intended for further re-use, the situation with piles of storage jars is more complicated. Their location may attest to distribution of actual administrative processes, but their widespread re-use for cooking purposes could have also provided the impetus for their collecting and any interpretation thus must be perceived with caution.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Eine sudanesische archäologische Mission unter der Leitung von Thabit Hassan Thabit untersuchte zwischen Ende 1958 und Anfang 1960 die Altertümerstätte von Wad Ben Naga. Mehrere Strukturen kamen zu Tage, darunter auch ein großes Gebäude von palastartigem Charakter, das als Palast der Königin Amanishakheto identifiziert wurde. Der Erhaltungszustand des Gebäudes selbst und die Anzahl der Objekte, die dort gefunden wurden, bieten uns eines der komplexesten Bilder von meroitischen administrativen Institutionen und dem sozio-ökonomischen Milieu. Der Artikel möchte zu diesem informativen Potential des Palastes der Amanishakheto beitragen, indem die sudanesischen Ausgrabungen darin rekonstruiert werden. Es werden dabei sowohl publizierte als auch noch unpublizierte Quellen untersucht. Vor allem über die originale Dokumentation und das Studium der gefundenen Objekte war es möglich, den zeitlichen Ablauf der Grabung zu rekonstruieren und die genauen Fundorte von einigen Objekten zu identifizieren. Basierend auf diesen neuen Daten wird die Verteilung der Funktionseinheiten im Palast diskutiert sowie die Prozesse, denen der Bau während und nach seiner Aufgabe ausgesetzt war.

LITERATUR

- Ali Hakem, A. M., 1988. Meroitic Architecture. A Background of an African Civilization. Khartoum.
- Cailliaud, F., 1826. Voyage à Méroé: au fleuve Blanc, audel à de Fazoql dans le midi du royaume de Sennâr à Syouah. Vol. 3. Paris.
- Hinkel, F. W. Sievertsen, U., 2002. The Archaeological
 Map of Sudan. Supplement IV. Die Royal City von
 Meroe und die repräsentative Profanarchitektur in
 Kush. Berlin.
- Hoskins, G. A., 1835. Travels in Ethiopia, above the second cataract of the Nile. London.
- Maillot, M., 2016. Palais et grandes demeures du royaume de Méroé. Paris.
- Onderka, P., 2016. Wad Ben Naga Report I: An Introduction to the Site. Prague.
- Onderka, P., Vrtal, V. & Gatzsche, A., 2015. The Preliminary Report on the Ninth Excavation Season of the Archaeological Expedition to Wad Ben Naga. Annals of the Náprstek Museum 36/2, pp. 93–110.
- Sackho-Autissier, A., 2011. Ouad Ben Naga inconnu: quelques objets en faïence du palais royal. In Rondot, V., Alpi, F. & Villeneuve, F. (dir.), La pioche et la plume. Autour du Soudan, du Liban et de la Jordanie. Hommages archéologiques à Patrice Lenoble. Paris, pp. 359–375.
- Sommer, U., 1990. Dirt theory, or archaeological sites seen as rubbish heaps. Journal of Theoretical Archaeology 1, pp. 47–60.
- Vercoutter, J., 1962. Un palais des 'candaces' contemporain d'Auguste (fouilles à Wad-ban-Naga, 1958–1960). Syria 39, pp. 263–299.
- Vrtal, V., 2015. The Palace of Queen Amanishakheto (WBN 100). In Onderka, P. & Vrtal, V. et al., Wad Ben Naga 1821–2013. Praha, pp. 57–62.

⁴⁸ Cf. Onderka, Vrtal & Gatzsche 2015: 94.



Table 1: Localisation of finds from the Palace of Amanishakheto based on report on the excavations, find labels and finds and photographic documentation.

SNM Inv. No.	Object Type	Excavation Number	Date of Retrieval	Room (Documentation)	Room
11923	bowl			eastern enclosure wall	
11949	statuette	WB 58/59 25	01 March 1959		
11957	amulet	WB 58/59 20	28 February 1959		
11958 (?)	signet ring	WB 58/59 19	18 December 1958		
11960	ring	WB 58/59 18	18 February 1959	square 12	
11966	alabaster vessel	WB 58/59 16	21 February 1959		
11967	statuette	WB 58/59 17	18 February 1959		
62/9/25	klepsydra	WB 59/60 46	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/26	klepsydra	WB 59/60 47	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/27	saucer	WB 59/60 1	15 December 1959	С	WBN 156
62/9/28	cup	WB 59/60 15	14 December 1959	34	WBN 134
62/9/29	ostrich egg	WB 59/60 75	16 February 1960	27	WBN 127
62/9/30	bronze frog	WB 59/60 3	27 December 1959	R	WBN 157
62/9/31	lamp	WB 59/60 12	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/32	cup	WB 59/60 18	15 December 1959	В	WBN 155
62/9/33	faience tray	WB 59/60 76	16 February 1960	27	WBN 127
62/9/34	faience tile	WB 59/60 83	02 February 1960	5	WBN 105
62/9/35	horseshoe- shaped object	WB 59/60 72	28 December 1959	42	WBN 142
62/9/36	clasp	WB 59/60 9	19 December 1959	3	WBN 103
62/9/37	clasp	WB 59/60 10	05 January 1960	35	WBN 135
62/9/38	stamp	WB 59/60 17	19 December 1959	36	WBN 136
62/9/40 (?)	ankh-basin	WB 59/60 50	19 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/9/41	ankh-basin	WB 59/60 52	03 February 1960	4(2)	WBN 104 (?)
62/9/42	ankh-basin	WB 59/60 51	07 December 1959	36	WBN 136
62/9/43	trulla	WB 59/60 25	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/55	relief tile	WB 59/60 53	06 January 1960		
62/9/56	celt	WB 59/60 11	13 January 1960	4(2)	WBN 104 (?)
62/9/57	bronze bowl	WB 59/60 28	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/58	clasp	WB 59/60 8	16 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/9/59	clasp	WB 59/60 6	10 December 1959	В	WBN 155
62/9/60	amulet	WB 59/60 13	21 December 1959	Е	WBN 135
62/9/62	appliqués		28 December 1959	V	WBN 104
62/9/65	bronze bowl	WB 59/60 27	27 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/66	bronze bowl	WB 59/60 26	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/67	bronze bell	WB 59/60 29	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/68	ivory tusks	WB 59/60 55	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/69	clasp	WB 59/60 7	16 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/9/70	slate plaque	WB 59/60 81	11 January 1960	33	WBN 133
62/9/72	furniture (legs)	WB 59/60 54	30 December 1959		
62/9/73	lid	WB 59/60 16	14 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/9/74	weight	WB 59/60 73	28 December 1959	42	WBN 142
62/9/75	amulet	WB 59/60 2	05 January 1960	3	WBN 103
62/9/76	arrowhead (?)	WB 59/60 77	09 January 1960	42	WBN 142
62/9/77	bronze handle	WB 59/60 30	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/78	bronze handle	WB 59/60 37	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/79	arrowhead	WB 59/60 67	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/9/80	ivory ring	WB 59/60 34	10 January 1960		
62/9/81	signet ring	WB 59/60 79	16 February 1960	27	WBN 127
62/9/82	amulet	WB 59/60 21	27 December 1959	A	WBN 154
62/9/83	amulet	WB 59/60 85	06 March 1960	В	WBN 155
62/9/85	clasp	WB 59/60 19	21 December 1959	В	WBN 155
62/9/86	ivory bars	WB 59/60 36	11 January 1960		



SNM Inv. No.	Object Type	Excavation Number	Date of Retrieval	Room (Documentation)	Room
62/9/87 (?)	ring	WB 59/60 42	12 December 1959	A	WBN 154
62/9/88 (?)	ring	WB 59/60 43	12 December 1959	A	WBN 154
62/9/89	ring	WB 59/60 44	12 December 1959	A	WBN 154
62/9/91 (?)	ring	WB 59/60 45	12 December 1959	A	WBN 154
62/9/92	miniature cup	WB 59/60 14	15 December 1959	B (card) / C (case)	WBN 155 / 156
62/9/93	ivory cylinder	WB 59/60 33	10 January 1960		
62/9/94	bronze spatula	WB 59/60 32	10 January 1960		
62/9/95	bronze handle	WB 59/60 78	09 January 1960	42	WBN 142
62/9/98	amphora		15 January/February 1960		
62/9/101	statuette	WB 59/60 24	16 January 1960	38	WBN 138
62/9/106	alabaster vessel	WB 59/60 74	16 February 1960	27	WBN 127
62/9/107	statuette	WB 59/60 5a-d	19 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/10/1	spearhead	WB 59/60 57	24 January 1960	28	WBN 128
62/10/2	digging tool	WB 59/60 65	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/3	60 nails	WB 59/60 68	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/4	axe	WB 59/60 63	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/5	hoe	WB 59/60 64	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/6	spearhead	WB 59/60 60	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/7	sickle	WB 59/60 66	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/8	10 rings	WB 59/60 61	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/9	nail	WB 59/60 62	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/10	knife	WB 59/60 59	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/11	spearhead	WB 59/60 58	10 January 1960		
62/10/22	kohl jar	WB 59/60 31	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/23	statuette	WB 59/60 4a-f	19 December 1959	35	WBN 135
62/10/26	bottle		15 December 1959	С	WBN 156
62/10/32	container		14 December 1959	С	WBN 156
62/10/49	klepsydra	WB 59/60 48	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/94b	sealing		11 March(?) 1958 (sic)		
62/10/95	amulet	WB 59/60 84	06 March 1960	С	WBN 156
62/10/97	arrowhead	WB 59/60 69	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
62/10/98	dice	WB 59/60 70	28 December 1959	42	WBN 142
62/10/99	ivory amulets	WB 59/60 35a-b	11 January 1960		
62/10/103	dice	WB 59/60 71	28 December 1959	42	WBN 142
62/10/122	jar	· · · ·	12 January 1960	gate 3, western side	WBN 104 (?)
62/10/123	jar			V	WBN 104
62/10/142	jar		14 January 1960		
62/10/143	jar		14 January 1960		
62/10/148	110 loom weights	WB 59/60 87	23 December 1959	31	WBN 131
62/10/153	jar		14 January 1960		
62/10/161 (?)	pilaster capital	WB 59/60 29	02 March 1959		
62/10/162	statue	WB 59/60 28	02 March 1959		
62/10/167	stands				WBN 135
62/10/170	ebony blocks	WB 59/60 56	10 January 1960	4	WBN 104
	signet ring	WB 59/60 22	11 January 1960		
	signet ring	WB 59/60 23	16 January 1960		
	signet ring	WB 59/60 86	08 December 1959		
	signet ring	WB 59/60 38	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
	signet ring	WB 59/60 39	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
	signet ring	WB 59/60 40	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
	signet ring	WB 59/60 41	11 January 1960	4	WBN 104
	bronze sheet	WB 59/60 80	16 February 1960	27	WBN 127
	signet ring	WB 59/60 82	24 February 1960	46	WBN 146
	I DISTILL THIS	1 17 10 00/100 04	a i i cordary 1700	1 17	14 DI 1 ITU