



JACQUES REINOLD

1944 – 2020

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jacques Reinold, our life-long friend and companion of many adventures in Sudan. With characteristic deep passion and strong personality, Jacques uncovered entire sections of Nubian cultures and led a successful career that greatly enriched our scientific knowledge of these parts of the world. He also established lasting personal relationships; his generosity was legendary, and archaeologists and travellers to southern Egypt alike will remember his fine sense of humour. Perhaps they accompanied him for a private adventure in his powerful car, or they may have visited him in his family home in Manchia, where his wife and children helped offering a warm welcome. During his tenure as director of the French archaeological Unit at the Sudan Antiquities Service, Jacques contributed to making a difficult and hard to reach country more accessible to researchers, and thus allowed our knowledge of Sudanese heritage to greatly increase.

Fifty years ago, we forged a strong friendship thanks to our joint participation in many endeavours, in Sedeinga and Sai, where work took place after the UNESCO's Nubian Campaign; in Khartoum with our common friend Fritz Hinkel during the building of the National Museum; and later during the excavation of the Neolithic cemetery of Kadada, published in 2017. In our farmhouse in Satigny (Geneva), we witnessed the complicated stages of his doctoral thesis under the oversight of my mother, who effectively banned cigarette smoking during writing. Jacques' excavations at Kadruka, only ten kilometres to the south of Kerma where we had been working for over twenty years, was another opportunity for close collaboration. We reflected at length on the construction of the history of Sudan that was still, at that time, mostly considered as a mere off-

shoot of Egypt. Together with our brother-in-arms Patrice Lenoble, we demonstrated the surprisingly uniform character of the cultures that developed in this independent crossroads-country both along the Nile and on an East-West axis from the Red Sea to Darfur.

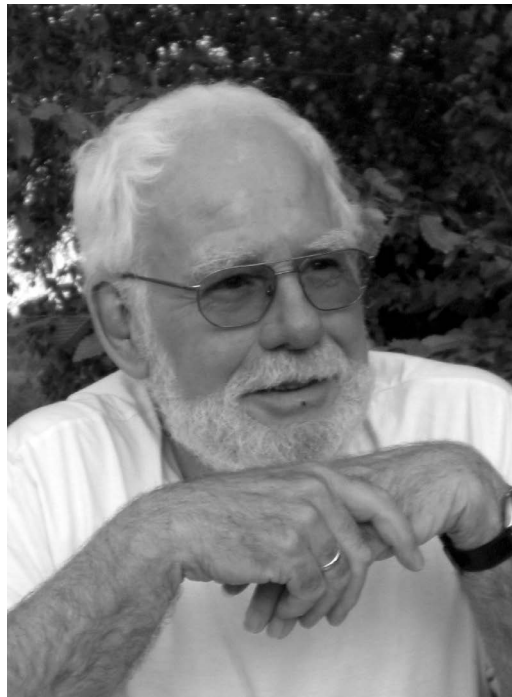


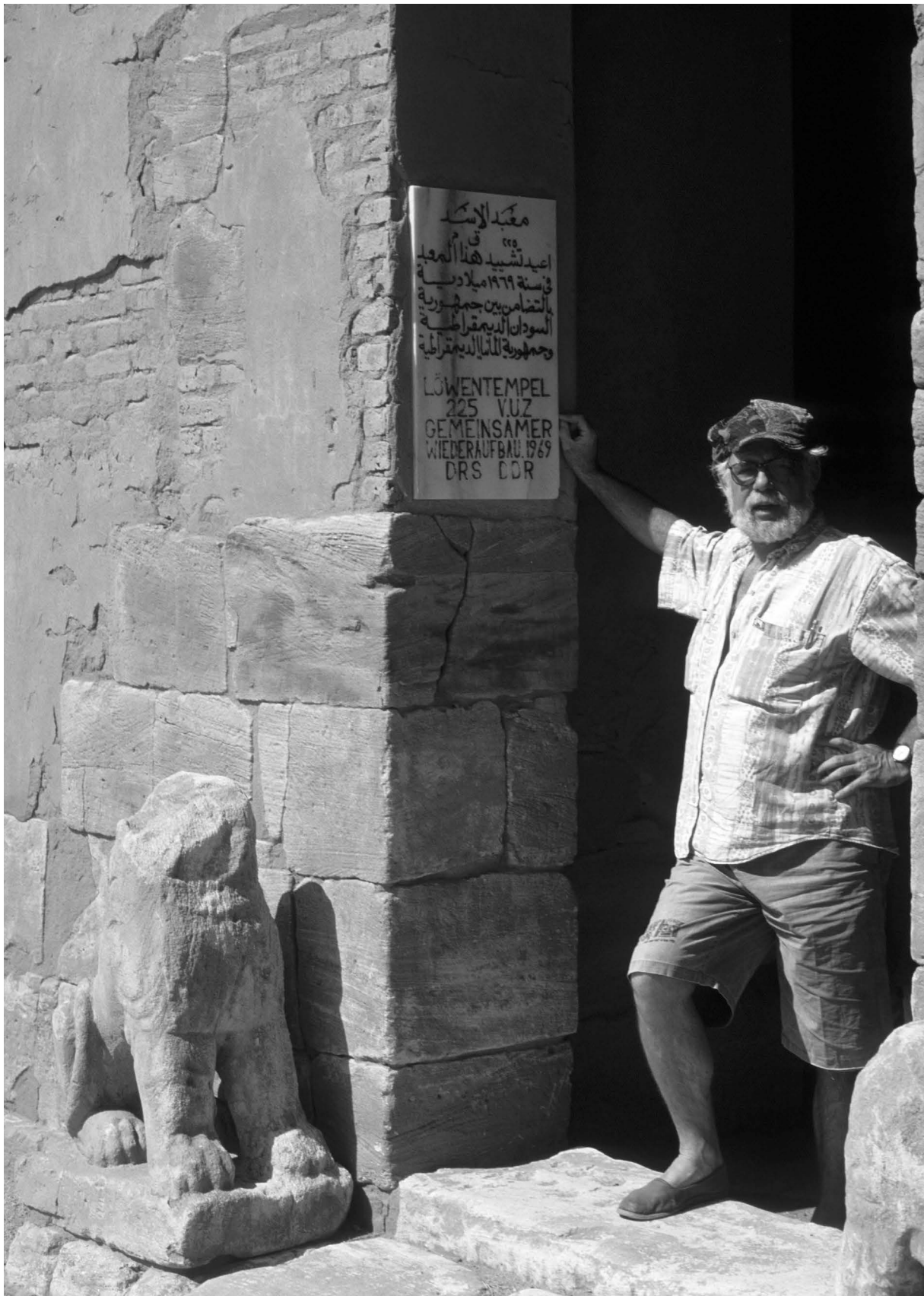
Foto: © SFDAS Khartoum.

A decade ago, Jacques Reinold discovered a major archaeological site in the vicinity of Kadada. His meticulous excavations showed that already during the Neolithic, the deceased were placed in burial chambers constructed of wood and earth, alongside the walls of organic materials that had disappeared. The prehistorian presented the results of his work in an outstanding lecture to the scientific world, who will remember the technical feat necessitated by the extremely difficult terrain of excavation. The gold mines of the Red Sea mountains gave us another chance at prospecting an area that had remained terra incognita. We were fascinated

by unusual cultic places and by the traces left by ancient gold diggers. We kindly remember the support offered us by the direction of the French mining company Ariab.

After decades of collaboration and the long experience acquired in Sudan, we can only lament the loss of our faithful friend. Jacques' enthusiasm for Nubian archaeology promoted a new scientific discipline in African lands, and he demonstrated the originality of ancient cultures that are yet to be discovered. He kindled interest in a country long considered as little developed in antiquity and worked tirelessly to show the larger public these riches through notable exhibitions. This tribute goes by right to one of the discoverers of the Sudanese past. We lose a friend, but also an excellent specialist of Nubian civilisations.

CHARLES BONNET



Jacques Reinold 1995 in Musawwarat es Sufra (Foto: R. Kuper).