This lecture, which launches the new lecture series of the Cairo Branch on “Austrian Studies in Egyptian Archaeology” (ASEA), gives an overview of recent research into the material culture from the Second Intermediate Period (ca. 1750 to 1550 BC) in Egypt. The chronological problems in synchronising sites during this time period complicate the comparison of contemporary material from different areas, which is known to be regionally different in several respects. This regional variation is particularly noticeable in terms of pottery since ceramic material occurs more frequently than other types of objects. Possible regional variations for objects other than pottery are difficult to distinguish, and such differences, if they exist, may not only be regional, but may also depend on the opportunities of object procurement, the continued use of heirlooms, and potential reuse of older items. Nevertheless several examples will be discussed as well as some results from cooperations with international teams.

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