ABSTRACTS

Stephan Seidlmayer, The Archaeology of Settlement and the Reconstruction of Social and Cultural Milieus

Since more than 30 years, research on settlements became a primary focus of Archaeology in Egypt. During this period tremendous progress has been achieved in our knowledge of Ancient Egyptian towns, their structure and composition, as well as in research methodology. This background invites an attempt to discuss the role and potential of settlement archaeology within the context of a wider agenda of research on Ancient Egypt. In this paper, only one aspect will be addressed, namely the reconstruction of social and cultural milieus. Actually it is commonly recognized that the composition, structure, and living conditions of by far the largest part of the population of Ancient Egypt can be reconstructed on the basis of written sources only in severely biased ways. Archaeology, on the other hand, might be in a privileged position to elucidate this issue. To achieve this goal, an integrated approach directed towards the reconstruction of regional settlement systems and of the cultural profile of regional populations on the basis of the whole range of archaeological information seems necessary. On the basis of concrete examples, the potential - as well as the problems and limitations - of such an approach will be outlined.

Stan Henrickx, The walls of Elkab

The huge mudbrick enclosure wall still standing to a height of over 10 meter, is at present the most striking feature at Elkab. It is already known for a long time that this is only one of three remarkable mudbrick walls. The two other are smaller in size and also less well preserved. Somers Clarke (1921) named them respectively the Temple Enclosure and the Double Walls, while he referred to the main enclosure simply as the Great Walls. The chronological position of these walls, and especially of the Double Walls, has been disputed over time, but can now be defined with more precision thanks to a number of radiocarbon dates. The relatively good preservation of these walls is unfortunately not reflected in the settlement remains. The tell still present at the beginning of the 19th century had completely disappeared before the end of that century. It seems nevertheless possible to present a number of conclusions on the extension and the chronology of the habitation.

Mark Lehner, Signs of Social Control: An Urban Footprint at Giza

The Giza Plateau Mapping Project has surveyed the broad outlines and major structures of an urban installation covering about 7 hectares 400 meters south of the Sphinx and south-southeast of the large stonewall called Heit el-Ghurob (Wall of the Crow). By clearing a sandy overburden, largely overturned by modern stable hands removing sand from the site for cleaning the stables, and returning the sand to the site with its new inclusions, we have the opportunity to map what is essentially a broad horizontal section through the mud brick and
fieldstone ruins of a 4th dynasty settlement, cut by powerful forces of erosion within the time frame of the Old Kingdom (and therefore evidential, we believe, of major climate change). Most of the architecture that shows in the surface of the ruin field belongs to a phase of the settlement that dates from the middle to the late 4th dynasty (Khafre to Menkaure). Our excavations have exposed parts of an older, underlying, architectural layout with a different arrangement, but also dating to the 4th dynasty.

Four large blocks of long mudbrick galleries form the center piece of the settlement, flanked east, west and south by fieldstone structures for production, including bakeries. A thick fieldstone wall encloses this ensemble, the Gallery Complex, on the West and south. Another large enclosure (RAB) off the southeastern corner of the Gallery Complex contains a sunken court of silos, probably for storing grain. Sealings, including the royal names Khafre and Menkaure, and mud tokens suggest accounting and administration functions for the RAB. To the east of the Gallery Complex and the RAB, a series of small chambers and courts form the "Eastern Town." To the south of the Gallery Complex, and west of the RAB we found a series of large enclosures containing courts and magazines, probably functional extensions of the RAB. Farther south a maize of walls shows in the surface of the ruin field. These seem to comprise a series of large houses of the "Western Town."

Our excavations with systemic, intensive retrieval and analysis of ancient objects, plants remains, animal bone, ceramics, sealings, lithics (chipped and ground stone), and charcoal have provided a great deal of evidence about life in the distinct parts of this settlement. We work with the hypothesis that the galleries were barracks; the surrounding fieldstone structures, which including bakeries, processed foodstuff for those ensconced in the Gallery Complex, perhaps temporarily in a rotation of service. The distribution of grinding stones and other evidence suggests that those who lived in the Eastern Town were responsible for an earlier stage of processing raw materials and foodstuff for consumption. We further hypothesize that the RAB was dedicated to centralized storage and administration. Sealings from the Western Town -- including 2,500 sealings from one dump deposit alone, which we partially excavated in 2005, doubling our corpus from the overall site -- include high-ranking titles, such as "Scribes of the Royal Documents," "Scribe of the King's Writing Case," "Scribe of the Royal Works," among others. The sealing material, lends support for the hypothesis that high-ranking administrators lived and worked in the Western Town.

Both the architectural layout and the distribution patterns of the material culture, suggest a high degree of social control within and between the distinct components of the settlement. Segregation between the Gallery Complex, the RAB, and the Western Town is suggested by the pathways between the distinct parts of the site, the constrictions along these pathways, and the locations of the larger house-like structures. Bed platforms across or beside critical doorways suggest watching and control functions down to the level of particular chambers within the major structures, and bring up interesting comparison to control and monitoring functions attested in the Abu Sir Papyri.

Florence Doyen, Readings on Urban Spatial Analysis: the Case of the Elite Residences of Kahun

Houses in Kahun offer a large variety of typological criteria based on dimensions, proportions, complexity of organization and ways of circulation. Among all these houses, elite residences could be the structural unity that would have ruled the global spatial organization of the city.
**Ernst Czerny**, Fragments of Information: What can the Limited Evidence tell us about the Middle Kingdom Settlement of Ezbet Rushdi

The Middle Kingdom settlement site of Ezbet Rushdi has been excavated during two seasons only. Within this short time, a rather small area could be thoroughly investigated, producing large quantities of finds, mostly pottery. The very fragmentary character of virtually all kind of finds, ground plans as well as artefacts, causes any interpretation to be tentative. What kind of settlement was found? Was it residential or industrial in character? When was it founded, how long was it in use and when and how was it abandoned? Finally: what was the situation of the excavated structures within the known Middle Kingdom layout of the overall Tell el-Dab’a era? How far can we go in interpreting the restricted evidence for answering any of these questions and what kind of solution may we realistically expect?

**Carola Vogel**, Storming the Gates? Entrance protection in the Military Architecture of Middle Kingdom Egypt

Gates are the most vulnerable feature within the fortification since they weaken the wall by an artificial gap. To overcome this fact, through all times and cultures military architects developed elaborate gateway solutions to guarantee the entrance protection.

This paper focuses on the fortresses of Middle Kingdom Nubia where two main gate types are testified in various subtypes:

- Huge and highly fortified gates facing the desert and serving as the main entrance. Smaller and less fortified river side gates ensuring reliable supplies of drinking water.

Based on the archaeological evidence between the First and Second Nile Cataract the gates will be shown in the light of their corresponding and deviating patterns.

In addition, their general significance will be highlighted by their appearance in literature and iconography.

**Cornelius von Pilgrim**, Change and Continuity in the Town Structure of Elephantine

As a town which was fortified throughout all periods Elephantine differs from other towns in Pharaonic Egypt. In the paper some remarks on the development of the town structure of Elephantine will be given. The main focus will be put on the fortification walls as well as on the general town pattern with the street pattern in particular. Additionally, based on some results from the recent work of the Swiss-Egyptian mission in Aswan the paper will take a brief look at the relationship of Elephantine with an occupation at the eastbank of Aswan.

**Irene Forstner Müller**, Towards a Topographical Map of Avaris. Instrusive and Non-Intrusive Methods and their Interpretation

Since the first successful test was performed in the area of Tell el-Dab’a-Qantir in 1996 – the contrast in magnetic susceptibility and/or magnetisation of sundried mudbrick walls and surrounding mud was sufficient for the detection by sensitive magnetometers- the method of geophysical research proved to be the benefit of fast and non-intrusive subsurface investigation in order to map the remnants of the old capital of Avaris/Piramesse. Since then many campaigns of magnetometry uncovered a wealth of information about districts, streets, channels, temples and houses of the ancient city.

This paper will give a summary of the recent work and then will show by means of selected examples how the geophysical survey can be correlated with archaeological excavation.
Manfred Bietak, Palaces, Houses and Social Structure

Reviewing the house types, the palatial buildings, the areas of sacred significance and the building patterns of excavated areas at Tell el-Dab’a an attempt will be made to assess the social structure of the town in comparison with other selected town sites. A study on the physical position of the town in relationship to river, swamps and the sea may help to identify to some extent the function of this site in antiquity and to find sites with similar geophysical position.

Kate Spence, Settlement Structure and Social Interaction at Amarna

Despite exciting recent discoveries at sites such as Tell el-Dab'a, El-Amarna remains our most complete and best known example of a large, substantially unplanned pharaonic settlement. In addition to royal structures such as palaces, temples and institutions the remains of over 1000 houses of all sizes have been excavated. While royal structures dominate the centre of the city and peripheral locations, the houses sprawl along the routes and wadis joining the royal structures situated on the edge of the cultivation.

I will analyse the structure of the city in terms of social relationships and examine the extent to which we can investigate the social interactions of individuals within domestic space. I will argue that 'ownership' of space is key to establishing identity for the householder and extended family, and that access and exclusion were important indicators of status, further mediated by bearing and gesture.

Sally-Ann Ashton, Investigating settlement patterns at North Karnak: methodology and preliminary findings

This paper will review the methodology and findings from the 2006 season at North Karnak. Non-invasive survey techniques were used to investigate the area immediately north of the main enclosure wall and west and north of the Montu enclosure wall. Investigation took the form of a geomatic survey, including a contour map of the area, a magnetometer survey, and a purposive surface survey of 1m circles every 20 m. In addition to summarising the methodology and to what extent non-invasive techniques can successfully be used to investigate settlement sites, the paper will summarise the findings from the first season.

Initial results have shown that in addition to the Eighteenth dynasty structures positioned close to the Montu enclosure wall, there are structures dating to the Third Intermediate, Late, Ptolemaic and Roman periods. The surface survey has allowed us to map the spread of
buildings, showing for example that the Roman structures dominate only certain parts of the site. A survey of surface masonry consisting of a detailed record and mapping has also enabled the project to consider the extent of stone structures in the TIP/Late and Ptolemaic periods and their re-use by the Romans, when the site seems to have housed domestic structures and industry.

The magnetometer has shown a series of structures, which seem to be a continuation of the New Kingdom structures excavated by Robichon (Christophe, L.A. 1951, Karnak-Nord Volume III. Cairo; L’Institut Français D’Archéologie Orientale.). Several anomalies are suggestive of kilns, which accords with the surface finds. The magnetometer also recorded an anomaly, which suggests that there was an earlier enclosure wall running parallel to the western wall of Montu. The area immediately north of the dromos of the Montu enclosure seems to have remained undeveloped suggesting that it continued in use into the Roman period.

Angus Graham with a contribution by Dr Irmgard Hein, Karnak: Island Origins and Expanding Footprint

This paper will firstly look at the geomorphological origins of the site of Karnak and how an island setting in the First Intermediate Period relates to the location of the temple and urban areas and access to the site. It will also discuss the relationship between the subsequent shift in the Nile in a northwesterly direction and the expanding footprint of Karnak in the New Kingdom. The past land- and waterscapes of Karnak have been (re)constructed through the study of sediments and artefacts retrieved by a programme of hand augering begun in 2002, combined with earlier sedimentary records of the site and archaeological evidence from the temple and settlement. The paper will finally look at two different sedimentary deposits as evidence of bodies of water, one associated with the monumental stone platform at North Karnak; the other on the western margin of the site in the Middle Kingdom and will discuss how they may be signatures of different types of harbour installation.

Stephen R. Snape, A Centre on the Periphery: the dmi at Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham

The fortress-town of Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham was constructed and occupied during the reign of Ramesses II, and probably abandoned shortly thereafter. Its location, on Egypt’s Mediterranean coast 300 km west of Alexandria, raises a series of interesting questions regarding the specific reasons why the site was located here, the purposes it was designed to serve, the specific composition of its population, and how it was provisioned. Excavations which have been conducted at the site since 1994 by the University of Liverpool have provided answers for some of these questions, while raising others. This paper will concentrate on the central issues of the strategic role of the fortress-town, the extent to which its design and operation were dictated by central planning or by local autonomy, and the degree to which interaction with the indigenous Libyan population of Marmarica represented an essential aspect of its practical operation.

Dominique Valbelle, Enclosure Walls and Fortifications in Urban Context. Questions and Perspectives

The author would like to seize the opportunity of this conference on urban archaeology to give rise to a constructive common reflection on some aspects of the questions raised by the discovery or non-discovery of various kinds of walls and defences in urban context. Recent excavations in Northern Sinaï and in Kerma-Doukki Gel (Sudan) will be particularly emphasized.
The Swiss Institute of Architectural and Archaeological Research on Ancient Egypt in Cairo is involved in a joint project with the Egyptian SCA in Aswan since 2000. 27 (mostly salvage-) excavations produced a large amount of new data concerning the history of ancient Syene. The paper will focus on the development of the city in Roman and Hellenistic times, but will also take into account the older history of the settlement, encountered for the first time in recent salvage excavations in Old Aswan, where an uninterrupted stratigraphical sequence from the fifth century BC. until early Islamic times was investigated. The excavated architectural structures show a large range of functions from monumental architecture to simple domestic buildings. A gradual shift in the overall character of these living quarters and most probably the whole city from the military-dominated garrison-town towards the new Late Ptolemaic urban centre with features typical of the Hellenistic town of the time became evident.