

## PREFACE

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The present volume is the second in a series of monographs dedicated to the results achieved within the European Research Council Project AcrossBorders. Sai Island in northern Sudan, the prime example for settlement policy of New Kingdom Egypt in Upper Nubia, was the focus of this project. The AcrossBorders project aimed to provide new insights on the lifestyle and living conditions in New Kingdom Nubia thanks to new fieldwork and multi-layered research on Sai Island. The main hypothesis that was tested was whether the settlement on Sai Island can be evaluated as an Egyptian microcosm, despite its location outside of Egypt and its specific topographical, environmental and cultural situation. Various approaches – from geoarchaeology and micromorphological sediment analysis, ceramic analysis and petrographic analysis, architectural studies, ethnoarchaeological approaches to Strontium Isotope Analysis and Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INNA) – were utilized to investigate the multifaceted lives of the citizens of New Kingdom Sai.

The principal focus of the present volume is the material remains of two sectors excavated by the AcrossBorders project in the fortified New Kingdom town of Sai: the excavations, architecture and material culture, with emphasis on the pottery and small finds, from SAV1 East and SAV1 West are presented. Questions of dating, stratigraphy and possible implications of material remains about the lifestyle and activities at SAV1 North complete this volume. The environmental conditions, above all the geologic realities, of the New Kingdom town at Sai will be presented. The examination of pottery, tools and small finds was complemented by an assessment of the environmental remains, in particular of the botanical and faunal remains. Evidence for people on New Kingdom Sai is also discussed and allows placing the town within the New Kingdom macrocosm.

All in all, the evidence gathered by the AcrossBorders project and brought together in this volume leads to an understanding of New Kingdom Sai as a complex microcosm with a significant evolution, reflecting aspects of the macro-history of New Kingdom Nubia. Sai Island can serve as a case study for the fruitful combination of archaeological investigations on both the micro- and the macro-level.<sup>I</sup> Together with the recent publication on the architectural assessment of the southern part of the New Kingdom town of Sai,<sup>II</sup> and the analysis of the material remains from sector SAV1 North,<sup>III</sup> this volume therefore underlines the important role Sai plays in investigating settlement patterns in New Kingdom Nubia.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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<sup>I</sup> See Budka and Auenmüller 2018.

<sup>II</sup> Adenstedt 2016 (an outcome of Julia Budka's START-prize of the Austrian Science Fund: Y615-G19).

<sup>III</sup> Budka 2017e.

the generous support by the University Executive Board which allowed an extension of five months of the project, granted by the ERCEA – this extra time was simply necessary because of the rich outcome of the AcrossBorders' excavation both at Sai and at Elephantine.

The work on Sai presented in this volume was conducted with the kind permission of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of Sudan (NCAM). My sincere thanks are in particular due to Abdelrahman Ali Mohamed (Director General) and El-Hassan Ahmed Mohamed (Director of Field-work). I am especially grateful to the project director of the Sai Island Archaeological Mission (SIAM) of Charles-de-Gaulle – Lille 3 University (UMR 8164 HALMA-IPEL), France, Didier Devauchelle for allowing AcrossBorders to start work under the patronage of the French concession on Sai. Florence Doyen, the field director of the SIAM mission was of much help during this phase of planning and I am grateful for all her support to realise a new project on Sai. Although work permission was granted and the work plan was composed with the help of Devauchelle and Doyen in 2012, thanks also go to the current concession holder of Sai, Vincent Francigny (SFDAS Khartoum) who took over the responsibilities from Devauchelle in the winter of 2014/2015. Francigny started with a direct follow-up project within the New Kingdom town immediately after AcrossBorders' last field season in 2017. I am furthermore very thankful for all of the support by NCAM during AcrossBorders' field seasons on Sai (2013–2017), especially to Huda Magzoub. Many thanks also go to the Sudanese staff of the dig-house under the supervision of Sid Ahmed and Abdel Fatah. These thanks also include our gang of local workmen, supervised by Imad Shorbagi Mohamed Farah and by Hassan Dawd. All present occupants of Sai had a considerable share of making AcrossBorders' work in Sudan successful – I am very grateful for their kind hospitality and sincerely hope that our assessment of one aspect of the rich heritage of 'their' island makes them proud.

Special thanks are due to all AcrossBorders team members – those who participated in the field season at the site are listed in Chapter 3.8. As an AcrossBorders team member, Johannes Auenmüller paid Sai several visits while he was working at Amara West – his analysis of the 'social fabric' of New Kingdom Sai (Chapter 6) profited a lot from the knowledge of material from Amara West and thanks are here due to the generosity of Neal Spencer and Michaela Binder. Martina Ullmann did not have the opportunity to join us in the field during her employment for AcrossBorders, but collected all relevant data about textual references for sandstone from Sai (Chapter 2.4). I am particularly grateful to Dietrich and Rosemarie Klemm who not only came as external experts to Sai and worked in the field there, sharing their vast knowledge about sandstones and quarrying with us, but continuously supported the processing of the geoarchaeological data in Munich. Chapter 2 would not have been written without their valuable input and advice. Thin section analysis at the Geology Department of the LMU was possible thanks to the generous support by the chair of the department, Anke Friedrich, and her complete team. I am furthermore very grateful to Charles French for enabling AcrossBorders' research at the McBurney Geoarchaeology Laboratory of the University of Cambridge.

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A big load of thanks goes to all of the assistants involved in documenting and analysing pottery and small finds from SAV1 East and SAV1 West (in order of their appearance): Nathalie Bozet, Fatma Keshk, Huda Magzoub, Giulia D'Ercole, Victoria Grünberg, Julia Preisigke, Nicole Mosiniak, Sebastian Stiefel, Elke Schuster, Arvi Korhonen, Daniela Wöflf, Meg Gundlach, Kenneth Griffin, Oliver Frank Stephan, Daniela Penzer, Michaela Janker, Lucia Sedlakova, Julian Putner and Patrizia Heindl. The digitalising of the original drawings of pottery and objects was done by the AcrossBorders student assistants Elke Schuster, Vanessa Becker and Daniela Penzer as well as team member Oliver

Frank Stephan. Most photos used for illustrating objects and finds were made by Meg Gundlach and Cajetan Geiger.

Last but definitely not least, Veronica Hinterhuber deserves the biggest thanks. She joined the Across-Borders project in autumn 2017 and was deeply involved in the realisation of this volume, with editing the object database prior to its processing, preparing the find lists for Chapter 4 (Appendix), as well as the bibliography, and offering much productive feedback and very useful comments on all chapters.

Julia Budka  
Munich, August 2018

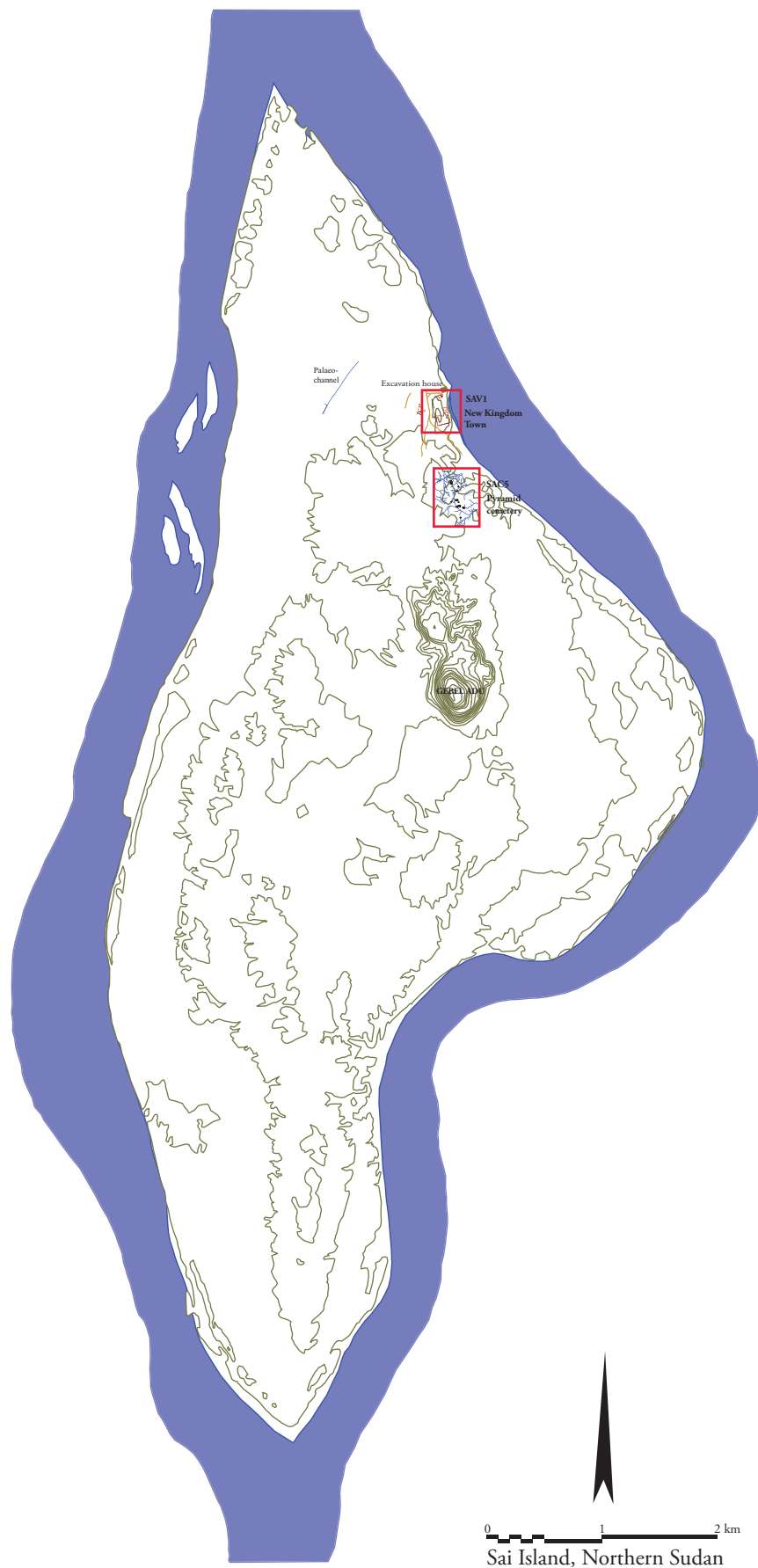


Fig. 1 Map of Sai Island with location of New Kingdom town and cemetery SAC5 highlighted