

**GEMATON: LIVING AND DYING IN  
A KUSHITE TOWN ON THE NILE**

Volume II



SUDAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY  
PUBLICATION NUMBER 28

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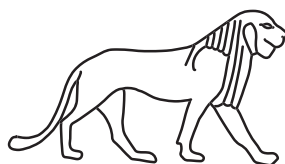
The Artefacts

edited by

Derek A. Welsby

with contributions by

John H. Taylor	Piotr Osypiński
Joanna Then-Obłuska	Irene Vincentelli
Derek A. Welsby	Willeke Wendrich



SARS  
LONDON  
2024



ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Summertown Pavilion

18-24 Middle Way

Oxford OX2 7LG

[www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com)

## Sudan Archaeological Research Society

Publication Number 28

Editor of this volume: D. A. Welsby

ISBN 978-1-80327-885-8

ISBN 978-1-80327-886-5 (e-Pdf)

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Front cover: Kawa, a selection of the artefacts recovered from the excavations.

Back cover: Grave (JH3)21 in the cemetery Site R18 at Kawa with the *clepsydra* (cat. no. F-86), copper-alloy bowl (cat. no. F-83) and ceramic jar (type 4335x) *in situ*.



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Volume II

The Artefacts



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# 1. Introduction

*Derek A. Welsby*

A very large number of artefacts was recovered during the course of the SARS survey and excavations at Kawa. During the first season of the Northern Dongola Reach Survey in 1993 the team mainly focussed on the immediate environs of the urban centre at Kawa with no systematic work being undertaken within the town. Apart from the excavation of a single tumulus in the cemetery, Site R18, and of a single grave in the Kerma-period cemetery, Site R19, the only artefacts recovered were those visible on the surface. Much of this material consisted of pottery sherds and has been dealt with elsewhere (Welsby Sjöström 2001b; 2023). Other artefacts collected at that time were reported upon by this author (Welsby 2001c).

From 1997 until 2018 the Sudan Archaeological Research Society, with significant gaps caused by the need to react to the rescue missions at the Fourth and Fifth Cataracts, worked at Kawa. During this project the Society undertook a detailed topographical survey of the town and large-scale excavations at a number of locations, both within the town and in the adjacent Kushite cemetery, work reported upon in detail in Volume I (Welsby 2023a).

Artefacts were recovered from the excavations but were also collected from the ground surface. This latter collection was not systematic but it was deemed desirable to recover objects of interest noted as the team members walked across the site whilst engaged in a variety of tasks. The coordinates of each of these objects, relative to the site grid, were recorded and they were assigned loci numbers. The collection of this material was undertaken to preserve them from being randomly collected by both local people and Sudanese and foreign tourists who visit the site, thereby being taken from their archaeological context and lost to view.

A few of the finds are unprovenanced. In most cases this is the result of termites cutting their way into the plastic bags in which the finds were stored and eating part or all of the paper labels containing the context data. If this happened before the finds were registered by the find's specialist the data was irretrievably lost. The same fate befell labels with other categories of finds particularly bones and pottery sherds.

Also included in this volume are reports on categories of material which are not artefacts *per se*, the wall paintings and the dressed-stone blocks. Many of the wall paintings remain *in situ* attached to the walls which they adorned while the many fallen fragments recovered were collected along with the other finds. In the cemetery in particular the almost total destruction of a number of stone pyramids left a vast amount of rubble on site, both dressed and unworked blocks. The former are studied here in regard to the quarrying and dressing methods employed.

Throughout the Kawa volumes the following prefixes are used to direct the reader to the appropriate specialist report for more details of individual finds:

B-	beads catalogue
B&M-	basketry and matting catalogue
C-	painted coffins catalogue
F-	small finds catalogue
L-	lithics catalogue
ML-	macrolithics catalogue
S-	mud seal impressions catalogue
SB to SP	painted stone blocks
Sc-	scarabs catalogue

Each object has a catalogue number but the addition of the prefix renders each one unique. Such an arrangement allows one to move with ease between one volume and another to locate additional data on the object concerned and also allows ease of cross referencing between the text, tables, figures and plates. Note that in the tables the prefix is generally omitted.

The following abbreviations are used throughout:

D	diameter
H.D	hole diameter
T	thickness
L	length
W	width
H	height
*	drawing published
[*]	measured sketch published
+	photograph published

In the text of the reports the findspot is often recorded in a format such as Room A1-III or Room C21-C which relate to Building A1, Room III or Building C21, Room C etc.

The bulk of most categories of finds were retained after study and are currently stored in the magazine of the Jebel Barkal Museum although a few of the most interesting or spectacular objects have been transferred to the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum. Very large numbers of complete and fragmentary pieces of grinding equipment were recovered. Of these only a sample was retained, the rest being dumped on site immediately to the south of Building A1 adjacent to the pottery sherd dump. The loose dressed stone blocks from the pyramids have been placed on the ground adjacent to the relevant monument apart from the two stone lintels associated with Pyramid S5 which are on display in the Kawa Visitors' Centre.

The mud bungs were found in profusion but, owing to the nature of the material from which they were made, they were often in a very fragmentary state. Only a sample of the better preserved examples were retained, frequently consolidated with a 10% solution of polyvinyl acetate.

During the consolidation of Temple T a number of decorated blocks were found buried in the sand or were noted in the stone pile where they had been placed in the 1930s by Griffith's team. Two of these are on display in the Visitors' Centre, the others are now buried deep in the sand within the building.