

Documenting Elkab



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Documenting Elkab

Progress reports

edited by

W. V. Davies

Access Archaeology





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Front cover: Elkab main rock-necropolis, section of upper range (photo: W. V. Davies).

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Tomb of Bebi, offering scene (photo: J. Rossiter).



Elkab, main rock-necropolis, view from south-west (photo: J. Rossiter).

Preface

W. Vivian Davies

This volume presents a selective account of the Oxford Epigraphic Expedition to Upper Egypt's progress over recent seasons (largely seasons 2017-2020, 2022). It comprises five reports, the first four devoted to the results of the on-going documentation of the pharaonic monuments of Elkab, especially the tombs of the main rock-necropolis, and the fifth to Coptic ostraca (with unusual content) from the related site of Hagr Edfu, now stored in the Antiquities Magazine at Elkab. The numerous published reports on earlier seasons of work at both sites are listed in the bibliographies within.

The work has been carried out with the kind permission of the Permanent Committee of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt, under the auspices, since 2017, of the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford (previously of the British Museum), and with the assistance in Cairo of the Administration of Foreign Missions Affairs, the Centre of Documentation of Egyptian Antiquities, and the American Research Center in Egypt.

The core team during the period has included: Vivian Davies (Director, Epigrapher), Liam McNamara (Assistant Director, Epigrapher), Luigi Prada (Assistant Field Director, Epigrapher), Lamia El-Hadidy (Senior Conservator), Mohamed Badawy (Conservator), Bianca Madden (Project Conservator), Robert Demarée (Hieratic Specialist), Claire Thorne (Artist), Susanne Woodhouse (Epigrapher), Anke Blöbaum (Epigrapher), Xavier Droux (Epigrapher), Ellen Jones (Epigrapher), Will Schenck (Epigrapher), Renée Friedman (Archaeologist), Günter Heindl (Architect/Surveyor), Joel Paulson (Surveyor), James Rossiter (Photographer), and Paul Wordsworth (Digital Recording Specialist). Also to be acknowledged in terms of the content of the present volume are the epigraphic contributions from previous seasons of Marcel Marée and Ilona Regulski, the provision of relevant archival material by the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford, by the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum, and by our long-time colleague, Dietrich Wildung, as well as significant logistical support from the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University.

For help and co-operation in the field, we are grateful to the following: Staff of the Aswan and Nubia Antiquities Zone; Director of the Edfu Inspectorate, Osama Ismail Ahmed; senior Inspectorate officers (past and present), Suzie Labib, Ramadan Hassan Ahmed, and Nagwa Abdel Megeed; Director of the Elkab Antiquities Magazine, Ibrahim Hussein Mohamed; successive Chief Inspectors of Elkab, Mohamed Saad, Ashraf Harb and Tharwat Musallam Saady; and the many site- and expedition-inspectors and local guards, who have assisted and facilitated our work.

In the preparation and composition of this volume, we have much benefited from the admirable technical skills and experience of Loretta Kilroe and from the invaluable editorial assistance of Patricia Spencer. We are grateful to Archaeopress, Oxford, for accepting the volume for publication, and for seeing it efficiently through to press.

