

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

Volume IV



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Front cover: Kawa, skeletons in grave (HA2)94.

Back cover: Skeletons in the cemetery and a bucranium in Building F1.



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

Volume IV

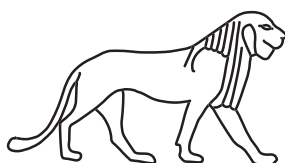
Bioarchaeology

by

Anna M. Davies-Barrett
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with contributions by

Rebecca J. Whiting
Derek A. Welsby



SARS
LONDON
2024

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

Volume IV

Bioarchaeology

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1. Introduction

Derek A. Welsby

It had been the intention to devote this volume to reports on the bioarchaeological material recovered during the excavations at Kawa between 1997 and 2018. Unfortunately the report on the floral remains is delayed and therefore, so as not to hold up the publication of the human and animal bone, is not included here. For a report on some of the archaeobotanical material from Kawa, published in *Sudan & Nubia*, see Fuller 2004.

The designation of graves and skeletons in the report on the human remains is in the format (grid square)context number in most cases. However a small number of graves in the cemetery, site R18, was visible on the surface and each of these was excavated individually. In those cases the number in curved brackets is the feature number relating to the survey of the site in 1993 and following the location of grave cuts on the surface during the 2000 season. All feature numbers between (1055) and (1083) were subsequently grouped into Area (HA1).

The articulated human skeletons were excavated either by the physical anthropologist present as a member of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society's team or by some of the particularly skilled local workmen under the general supervision of the anthropologist. Bodies were recorded *in situ* and lifted and bagged by the physical anthropologist, two of whom are among the authors of the report published here.

Physical anthropologists present in the field:-

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 2000 | January-March | Margaret Judd |
| 2000-1 | December-February | Margaret Judd |
| 2001-2 | December-February | Margaret Judd |
| 2007-8 | December-February | Iwona Kozieradzka |
| 2009-10 | December-February | Emilie Gustafsson |
| 2010-11 | December-February | Natasha Kalogirou |
| 2013 | January-February | Rebecca Whiting |
| 2013-14 | December-February | Rebecca Whiting |
| 2014-15 | December-February | Bonnie Knapp |
| 2017 | January-March | Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta |
| 2017-18 | December-February | Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta |

During, and on the completion of, the excavation project the skeletal material was donated to SARS by the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums and, with its permission, passed on to the British Museum for permanent curation. Once there it was studied in detail in the Barbara Mertz Bioarchaeology Laboratory within the Department of Egypt and Sudan. The EA Number noted in the catalogue of the human bone is the object number of each skeleton accessed into the collections of the Department of Egypt and Sudan.

The animal remains were recovered during the excavation of the deposits in which they lay. Unfortunately it did not

prove possible for the archaeozoologist to examine them *in situ* and their fragility in many cases resulted in considerable fragmentation of the material. An initial study of some of the material was made by Kim Burrows based in the excavation house in the 2009-10 season and by Pernille Bangsgaard in the 2008-9 and 2010-11 seasons.

In Volume I of the Kawa reports the presence of human and animal bones is recorded based on the information available immediately before the report went to press. Subsequently, during the completion of the Bioarchaeology volume, a small amount of additional material was examined. Where this material is not mentioned in Volume I attention is drawn to this fact so that this material can be taken into account when reading, in particular, the report on the excavation in the cemetery.

The sites in Sudan mentioned within the reports are located on Figure 1.1.

Dr Patricia Spencer kindly copy edited this volume. Any remaining errors are the full responsibility of the individual authors.



Figure 1.1. Sites in Sudan mentioned within the reports.