



THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY FUND NEWSLETTER

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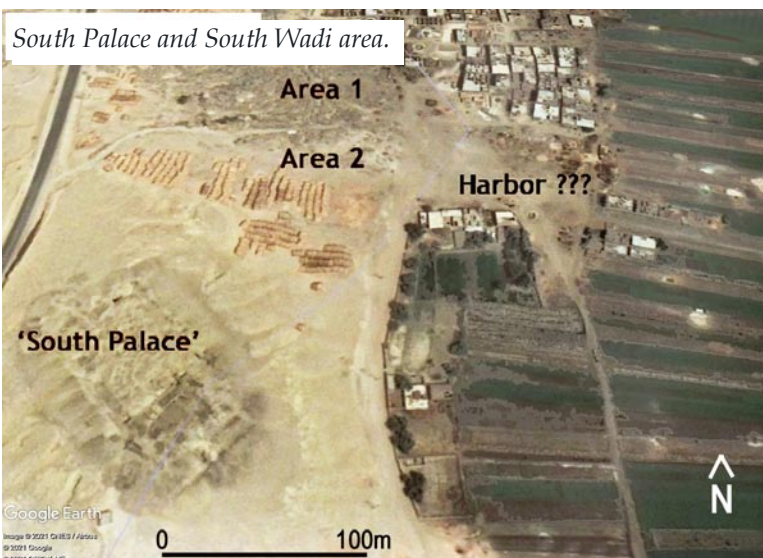
2021

Deir el-Ballas Expedition



Reconstruction work at the North Palace

Having been delayed by the pandemic, we returned to Deir el-Ballas later than usual, on May 3rd 2021 for a brief season. This was to continue the restoration work at the North Palace and the 'South Palace'; as well as to explore what we had previously thought was the administrative area for the settlement, located at the mouth of the South Wadi. Given the excessive heat and Ramadan, we worked shorter hours on site, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and followed the new Ministry Covid regulations. We began where we left off last season, working to stabilize and reconstruct the collapsed façade of the 'South Palace.' We were able to stabilize the façade wall, as well as the inner stairway wall that had further collapsed due to looters pulling out a wooden beam.



After we finished our restoration work at the 'South Palace' we moved on to the North Palace, and undertook some more reconstruction on the casemates at its western end. Piet Collet completed surveying the 'South Palace' and planned the structures in South Wadi areas 1 and 2. Once the survey work was done we began clearing debris from the surface. In this area, which had not been excavated by the Hearst Expedition, we found a dense cluster of buildings resembling somewhat the Central City at Tell el-Amarna. It is an important feature of the site that needs to be explored and preserved.

The team exposed two large areas here (tentatively designated Areas 1 and 2). In just cleaning the

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debris off the surface we saw two very different patterns of construction. In Area 2 was a very long, large building made up of a number of small rooms, and in Area 1 was a cluster of large and small structures extending over a broad area. This further supports our theory that this part of the site, like the Central City at Tell el-Amarna, was an administrative district. Moreover, the location of these structures at the mouth of a wadi running down to the river may signal that this was the location of the port for the settlement.



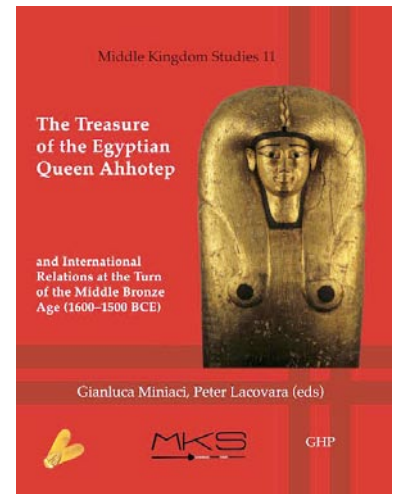
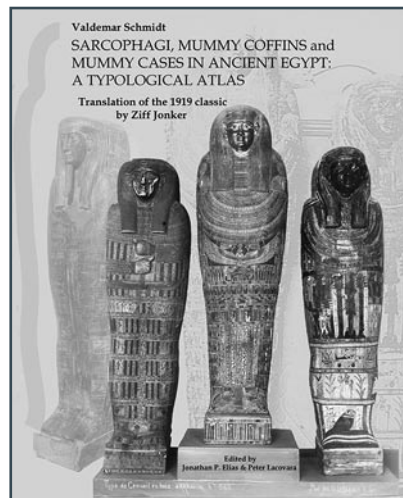
Work under way at the 'South Palace'

Ayman Demarani photographed the objects and a number of features at the site. Following the completion of work on May 17, we were invited to make a presentation about the site to the Governor of Qena Province, Major General Ashraf Al-Dawdi. This was posted on his official website, as well as covered in the local press.

A longer season with a much larger staff is planned for January and February of 2022.

Publication Projects

The Fund hopes to have a preliminary report on the work so far at Deir el-Ballas, to be published by the end of the year, as well as an English translation by Ziff Jonker of Valdemar Schmidt's *Sarkofager, Mumiekister og Mumiehylstre i det gamle Aegypten*, the classic work on ancient Egyptian funerary art, at present available only in Danish. We also contributed to the upcoming publication *The Treasure of Queen Ahhotep and International Relations at the Turn of The Middle Bronze Age (1600-1500 BCE)*, to be published by Golden House Publications.



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