

## Report on the

### 22nd Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission

in Syene / Old Aswan (2021/2022)

by

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#### 1. Introduction

The 22<sup>nd</sup> season of the joint archaeological project of the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research in Cairo and the Inspectorate of Antiquities of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Aswan was carried out between November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022<sup>1</sup>.

During the first summer of the global crisis caused by the Corona virus in 2020, the Swiss Institute built a long-planned magazine for the finds and pottery from the excavations of the joint mission over the last two decades. No work could take place in the following season 2020/21, and the remaining work in the area of the magazine was carried out in winter 2021/22. This included, in particular, additional measures to increase the security of the magazine area and the relocation of the extensive stone stores next to the Temple of Isis.

For many years, one of the main concerns of the mission has been the permanent monitoring of construction sites in the urban area of Aswan in order to carry out rescue excavations where necessary and possible.<sup>2</sup> The number of new construction projects in the Old

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<sup>1</sup> We are grateful to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the members of the Permanent Committee for granting permission to undertake the Joint Mission in Aswan. We appreciate very much the fruitful cooperation with our colleagues of the Aswan Inspectorate in this joint mission. The mission was directed by C. VON PILGRIM, in close cooperation with ABDELMONEIM SAID MAHMOUD. The fieldwork was directed by W. MÜLLER. Team members were the archaeologists M. HEPHA, M. MÜLLER, L. REMBART and C. THIRY, the Egyptologist V. LEPPER, the physicist H.-E. MAHNKE, and the photographer P. MORA RIUDAVETS. Egyptian members of the mission were the Inspectors of Antiquities HAYTHAM MOHAMED ABDEL MOTAL, ABEER ABDELRAHY ABDEL HAFEEZ, TAHSEEN MOHAMED ATTIYA, ALYAA ABD ELMONSEF HASSAN ALY and YOSRA KHALFALLA EL ZOHRY, and FATHIA AHMED EL-HEFNY in the magazine. - We are much indebted to P. ROSE for correcting the English of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. for the report on the last working season: C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 20<sup>th</sup> Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2019/20), *ASAE*, forthcoming (henceforth quoted as *Nineteenth Season*), and for all reports on previous seasons: [http://www.swissinst.ch/html/forschung\\_neu.html](http://www.swissinst.ch/html/forschung_neu.html). For recently published studies see L. Rembart, *Syene IV. Die ptolemäische und römische Keramik aus den Arealen 2 und 13c. Typochronologie und weiterführende Studien*, BeiträgeBf 22, Gladbeck 2020; M. Hepa, *Syene V. Zwei Rettungsgrabungen im*

Aswan area has declined steadily in recent years, but in January 2022 a major construction project (for the Library of Aswan) began in the last remaining open area in Old Aswan (Fig. 1).

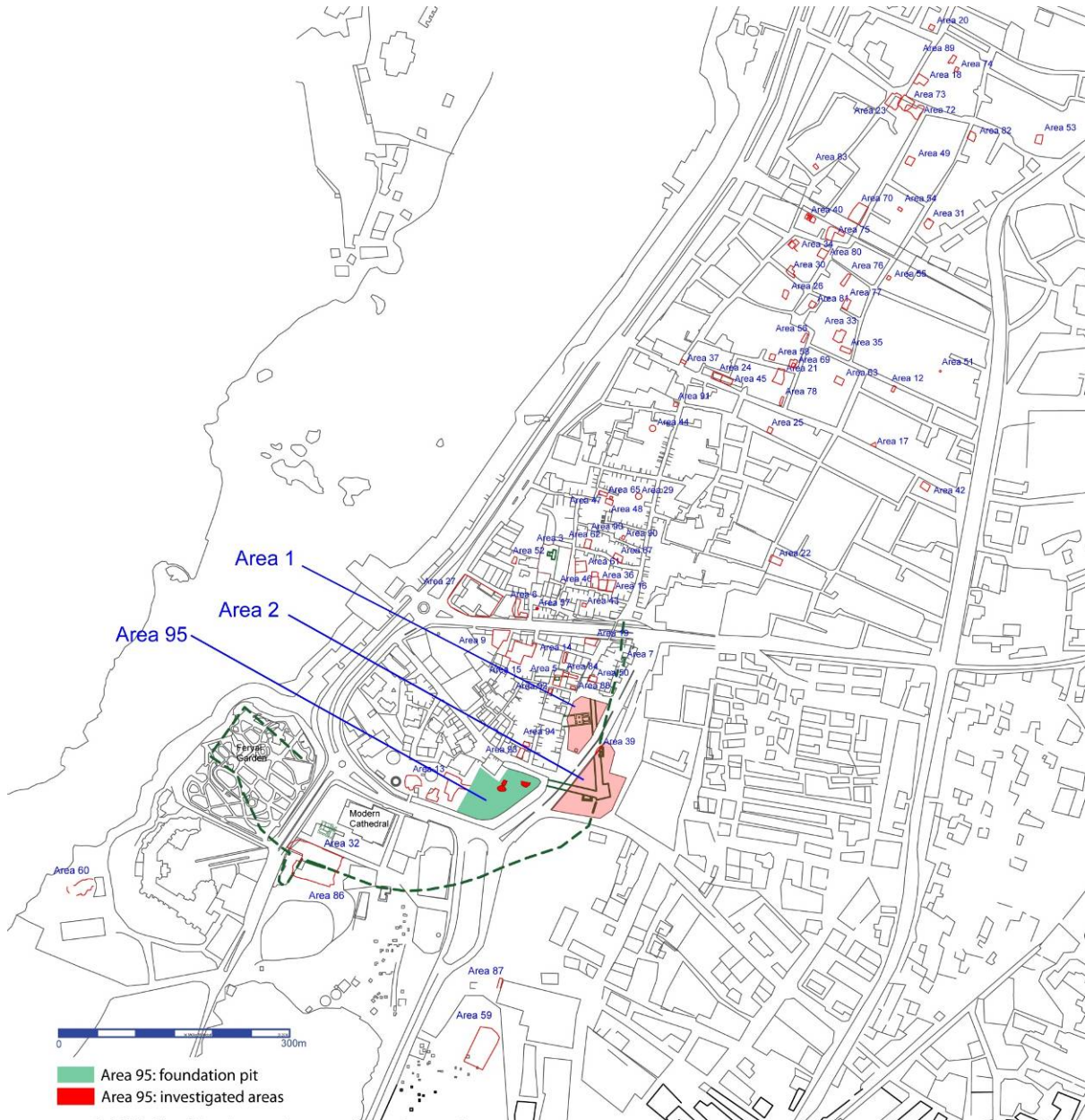


Fig. 1: Map of Aswan with areas excavated by the Swiss-Egyptian Mission at Old Aswan since 2000.

It is located immediately to the east of Area 13, which was investigated from 2004 to 2006 and where evidence of a continuous settlement from (at least) the Late Period to the early Islamic

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*Norden der antiken Stadt (Areal 62 und 90): Keramik und Befunde*, BeiträgeBf 23, Gladbeck 2021; G. Williams, *Syene VI. A Center on the Edge. Early Islamic Pottery from Aswan*, BeiträgeBf 24, Gladbeck 2022.; C. von Pilgrim, Middle Kingdom Settlement Geography at the First Cataract, in: A. Jiménez-Serrano, A. J. Morales, *Middle Kingdom Palace Culture and its Echoes in the Provinces. Regional Perspectives and Realities*, Harvard Egyptological Studies 12, Leiden/Boston 2021, 393-416.

period was recorded. Historical photos also show the presence of high standing ruins in this area, which were only covered up in the first half of the 20th century (Fig. 2)<sup>3</sup>.

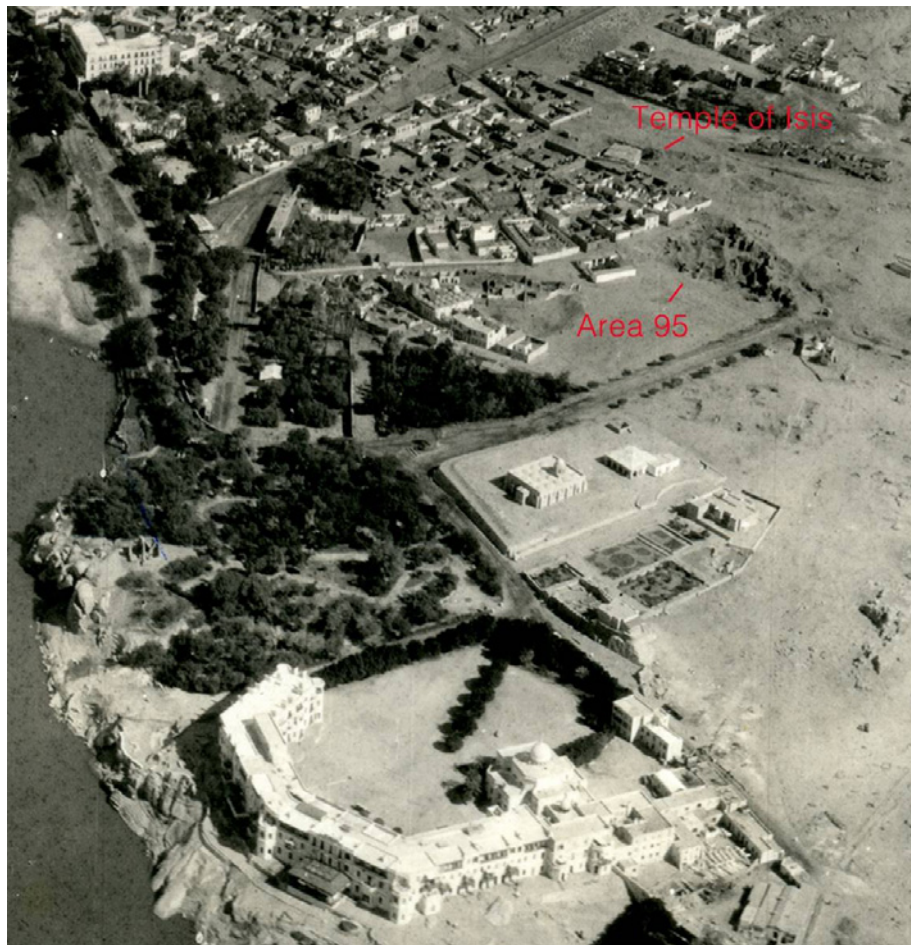


Fig. 2: Aerial photo of 1926 with ruins in Area 95 (detail of photo Mittelholzer, *Afrikaflug* 1926, fig. 53)

Despite the greatest efforts on the part of the Inspectorate of Antiquities, it was unfortunately not possible to convince the army representatives responsible for the construction of the need to carry out significant archaeological excavations in this area. Although extraordinarily well-preserved buildings had already been cut into by the construction company during the excavation of the construction pit, the archaeological investigation of the area, which was of more than 3500sqm, was only permitted for the short period of 2 weeks (s.b.).

In addition to the fieldwork, the processing of the pottery continued. C. THIRY continued documenting the Late Period pottery from Area 3 in order to establish a typology of vessel forms. M. HEPA and L. REMBART continued their long-term projects on Ptolemaic and Roman pottery from Syene.

A collection of extremely fragile papyrus fragments found in an earlier season in Area 2 were analyzed by V. Lepper and H.-E. Mahnke in order to determine the composition of the ink.

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<sup>3</sup> W. Mittelholzer, *Afrikaflug*, Zürich/Leipzig 1927, Fig. 53.

The results of the investigations are the prerequisite for deciding whether it will be possible to make the papyri readable using non-invasive techniques.

### **1. Site management and additional construction works in Area 2**

In the northern part of the area, the perimeter wall was closed in the section of the glacis next to the road (Fig. 3), while on the south side the existing perimeter wall was consolidated and raised (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3: Area 2: New perimeter wall in the north.

In addition, the construction of a series of massive reinforced concrete pillars was begun on the south side to secure the road, which runs at a higher level there. On the east side, a new access gate with steel doors was installed, allowing large vehicles to pass through (Fig. 5).

Finally, a separate room for a member of the Antiquities Police was built inside the area next to the new entrance gate (Fig. 6).



Fig. 4: Area 2: Detail of the space between the new magazine and the street to the south after backfill and consolidation and raising of the southern perimeter wall.



Fig. 5: Area 2: Southern entrance gate with newly built room for the Antiquities Police.



Fig. 6: Area 2: Newly built room for the Antiquities Police and in the background a part of the lapidarium, where millstones and other stone-tools are stored.

After the Isis Temple was opened to visitors in January 2021, it became necessary to remove the extensive collections of architectural elements and other stone objects that had always been stored around the temple in the absence of a more suitable storage space (Figs. 7 and 8).



Fig. 7: Area 1: Former storage of architectural elements and stone objects to the south of the temple of Isis.



Fig. 8: Area 1: Former storage of stone objects at the eastern fence of Area 1 that were moved during construction work for the new ticket office.

After preparing appropriate areas in front of the new magazine, the stones were moved to Area 2. Before this, the original sorting of the components was re-established, the objects were cleaned and the find numbers on the objects were verified and, if necessary, renewed (Fig. 9). More than 3000 objects, architectural elements, stone vessels, stone tools, reliefs and stelae

were transported and stored in the new *lapidarium* in front of the magazine (Figs. 6 and 10).<sup>4</sup> Larger stone blocks, columns, column bases and capitals were deposited in the northern part of Area 2 where similar objects from Area 1 and the storage area in Talaina had already been put in 2019 and 2020 (Fig. 11).

(C. von Pilgrim)



Fig. 9: Area 1: The area to the south of the Temple of Isis after removal of the stone collections to the new magazine site in Area 2.



Fig. 10: Area 2: The new lapidarium to the north of the magazine.

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<sup>4</sup> This work was conducted by W. MÜLLER and M. MÜLLER.



Fig. 11: Area 2: The new lapidarium in the northern part of Area 2.

## 2. A short-term salvage excavation at the heart of ancient Syene (Area 95)

### Location and circumstances

Area 95 (Figs. 1, 12 and 13)<sup>5</sup> is located in a part of modern Aswan that is of great archaeological significance.<sup>6</sup> To the immediate west of the area, three rescue excavations of the Joint Mission in Area 13 produced a rich stratigraphy from the Late Period to Late Antiquity and also the medieval period.<sup>7</sup> The investigated area is situated just to the south of the southern face of the projected course of the southern section of the Late Period town wall still visible in

<sup>5</sup> Excavation work for the foundation of the new central library of Aswan had been stopped on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by the Aswan inspectorate of the Egyptian Ministry for Tourism and Antiquities. Proper archaeological work started on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and stopped on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. The work was directed by WOLFGANG MÜLLER. He was supported by MARIOLA HEPA, ABED AHMED ALI and a team of the Aswan Inspectorate, including MOHAMED ABDEL RAZEK MOHAMED ALI, HALA MOHAMED, SAID EL-RAWI and others. The Inspector of the Mission was MOHAMED ABDELRAZEK MOHAMED ALI.

<sup>6</sup> C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 60 (2004), pp. 119-148 (henceforth quoted as *1<sup>st</sup> Report*), pp. 126-127 and Fig. 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 62 (2006), pp. 215-277 (henceforth quoted as *2<sup>nd</sup> Report*), pp. 264-270. *Idem*, in C. VON PILGRIM et. al., S. MARTIN-KILCHER, J. WININGER, *Syene III. Untersuchungen zur römischen Keramik und weiteren Funden aus Syene / Assuan (1.-7. Jahrhundert AD), Grabungen 2001-2004. Beiträge zur ägyptischen Bauforschung und Altertumskunde* 22 (Gladbeck 2017), pp. 41-67. *Idem* in C. VON PILGRIM et al., 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 64 (2008), pp. 305-356 (henceforth quoted as *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*), pp. 313-314. L. REMBART, *Syene IV. Die ptolemäische und römische Keramik aus den Arealen 2 und 13c. Typochronologie und weiterführende Studien*, *BeiträgeBf* 22 (Gladbeck 2020), pp. 10-13.



Area 2. As this wall was repaired in Late Antiquity,<sup>8</sup> Area 95 can be considered extramural until the medieval period.

One of the central questions prior to the start of the work was how far the extramural settlement observed in Area 13 extended towards the east,<sup>9</sup> as no traces of domestic structures were found to the south of the town wall further to the east in Area 2. In the intramural Area 93, located to the north of Area 95, on the other side of the Sh. Abu el-Ela, remains of a Late Roman house were documented and there was some evidence of Roman Imperial architecture.<sup>10</sup> Several drillings during the geomorphological survey of Old Aswan in Area 13 and the garden area to its east that was to become Area 95 proved unhelpful as too much debris was encountered and none of the augerings could be completed.<sup>11</sup>

When proper archaeological work started, most of the large foundation pit was already excavated to a depth of 6 m, except for a small area in the north-east (Fig. 12, Sector B). Most of the bottom of the foundation pit was then already covered with a thick layer of sand and gravel.

The work of the mission focussed on two main aspects: the documentation of the architectural sequence still visible in selected sections and cleaning and excavation at the bottom of the foundation pit wherever possible (Fig. 12, sectors A and C).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> C. VON PILGRIM, W. MÜLLER, 'Report on the Tenth Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report on the Tenth Season of the Joint Swiss Egyptian Mission in Syene Old Aswan \(2009 2010\).pdf](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report%20on%20the%20Tenth%20Season%20of%20the%20Joint%20Swiss%20Egyptian%20Mission%20in%20Syene%20Old%20Aswan%20(2009%202010).pdf)), pp. 2-6.

<sup>9</sup> W. MÜLLER, 'Syene (ancient Aswan) in the First Millennium AD', in E. R. O'CONNELL (ed.), *Egypt in the First Millennium AD. Perspectives from new fieldwork*, *BMPES 2* (Leuven-Paris-Walpole 2014), pp. 63-64.

<sup>10</sup> C. VON PILGRIM et al., 'Report on the 17<sup>th</sup> Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2016/17)', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report Swiss Egyptian Mission ASWAN 2017.pdf](http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report%20Swiss%20Egyptian%20Mission%20ASWAN%202017.pdf)), pp. 17-19.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. W. MÜLLER, M. DE DAPPER, 'The Urban Landscape of Aswan (Egypt) Since the Predynastic Period: A Geoarchaeological Approach', in Y. TRISTANT, M. GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology. Egypt and the Mediterranean World*, *BiEtud 169* (Cairo 2018), p. 31 and fig. 5.

<sup>12</sup> All information on the pottery was provided by M. HEPA who provided preliminary pottery datings on site.

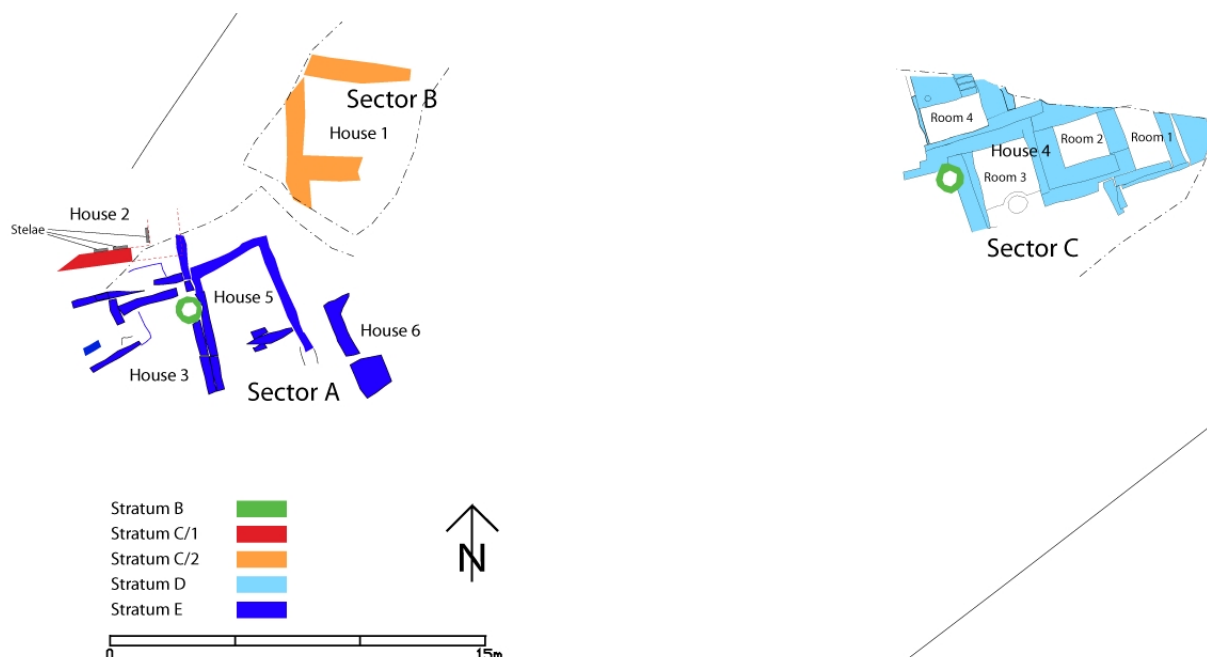


Fig. 12: Plan of Area 95.



Fig. 13: Overview of Area 95 from the south-east with Sectors A and B. In the background, house under construction in former Area 93.

## Results of the excavation

### Late Period remains (Stratum E)

The earliest structures were found at the bottom of the pit in Sector A (Figs. 12 and 14). There, parts of three houses were excavated. The southernmost House 3 abutted House 5. The northernmost House 6 was separated from House 5 by a narrow (ca. 1 m wide) east-west street. The south-western corner of House 6 and ca. 4m of its southern wall were within the excavated area. This 0.6 m-wide wall was made of sandstone and some granite rubble. Its eastern end consisted of a massive sandstone foundation (1.20 x 1.50 m wide). This was most probably part of the construction of the north-eastern corner of the house. The actual corner was destroyed when the pit was excavated.

As is common for the architecture of the Late and especially the Persian Period (Dynasty 27) in Syene, the walls were constructed of mud bricks of very bad quality and then coated in a thick layer of mud-plaster. Often, the lower courses and foundations, and in some cases the complete walls were made of stone.<sup>13</sup>

Compared to House 6, the walls of Houses 5 and 3 had rather modest dimensions. House 5 showed a trapezoid ground plan being narrower at its northern end (ca. 3.3 m) than at the not preserved southern end. Its walls were made of poor quality mud brick and rested on a socle of sandstone rubble. As the walls were only 0.35 m wide, the house most probably comprised only one floor. Two rooms of the house could be investigated, one of them in its entirety. The northernmost room measured ca. 3.5 x 1.5 m in its latest phase. Only the northern part was preserved of the room to its north. The division wall between the rooms was reinforced at its western end. The door between the two rooms was very wide (1.20 m). The house showed several phases that could not be excavated in any detail. Suffice it to say that the northern room was smaller during the earlier phases of the house.

House 3 was severely damaged by modern construction activity. Two rooms were within the investigated area. The east-west width of the rooms was ca. 2.80 m. A ca. 0.60 m-wide door led from the southernmost room towards the west. The construction and character of the walls resembled those of House 5.

Due to the restricted size of the investigated area (ca. 70 sqm), the interpretation of the Late Period findings is difficult. Suffice it to say that several phases of most probably domestic structures were documented. The houses were of modest size and resembled those found in other parts of Syene and on Elephantine Island.<sup>14</sup> This observation was a surprise as it proves

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<sup>13</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 317.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. S. MARCHI, *L'habitat dans les forteresses de Migdol (Tell el-Herr) durant les V<sup>e</sup> et IV<sup>e</sup> siècles avant J.-C. Étude archéologique*, (Paris 2014), pp. 197-201 for a comparative study on domestic structures in Late Period Egypt. Cf. A. KREKELER, 'Stadtgrabung am Westkom von Elephantine/Wohnbauten des 1. Jahrtausends v. Chr.', in M. BIETAK (ed.), *House and Palace in Ancient Egypt*, UZK 16 = DenkschrWien 14 (Vienna 1996), pp. 107-115.

that a settlement existed outside the contemporary town-wall of Syene. This is of special interest given the discovery of a fortification wall, probably part of a fortress of the Late Period, in Area 13A.<sup>15</sup>



Fig. 14: Area 95: Overview of Sector A from the north-west. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

#### Ptolemaic remains (Stratum D)

Cleaning work in the north-eastern corner of the foundation pit (Sector C) showed that a Roman house was destroyed there by the excavator of the construction company. In the northern and eastern sections, the walls of this house stood to a height of ca. 6 m (Figs. 2 and 15). Cleaning of the bottom of the foundation pit in this area showed that no more traces of the Roman house were preserved.

Instead, walls of an earlier building (House 4) came to light (Figs. 12 and 16). Of its walls, only the lowest courses of mudbricks were preserved. As these walls were between 0.7 and 1.3 m wide, House 4 must have been several floors high. More than 50 sqm of this house, its southern and parts of its eastern outer wall as well as four rooms were excavated. Rooms 1-3 showed carefully laid mud brick pavements. Room 1 was ca. 2 m wide and at least 2.50 m long (the northern end of the room was outside the excavated area). Room 2 showed a square ground plan and was significantly smaller (side length ca. 1.70 m). Room 3 was 2.20 m wide and at least 2.25 m long. Its southern wall was not preserved but the end of the mud brick pavement gives an idea of its location. To the east, a later pit cut into the pavement. The pit was carefully

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<sup>15</sup> VON PILGRIM, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 313-314.

coated with mud plaster and most probably was used as a granary. The pottery from this pit was dated to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.



Fig. 15: Area 95 (Sector C): Walls of destroyed Roman house in sections. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.



Fig. 16: Area 95 (Sector C): Overview of House 4 from the east. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

A small room, Room 4 (Fig. 17), in the north-west part of the investigated area, showed a mud floor and was entered via a staircase that led up towards the north. Four steps made of sandstone slabs were preserved. An amphora filled with traces of lime was integrated into the brickwork of the northern wall of the room. As no doors nor entrances were observed except for the staircase in Room 4, Rooms 1-3 most probably constitute parts of the substructure of the house. The house was tentatively dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. Similar architecture of a similar date was observed in Area 15.<sup>16</sup>



Fig. 17: Area 95 (Sector C): Detail of House 4/Room 4 from the north. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

### Roman remains (Stratum C)

#### House 1

House 1 (Stratum C/2) was situated in the south-western part of Sector B (Figs. 12 and 18). Here, the construction work was stopped after only 1 m of material had been removed. The level was thus ca. 4m higher than in Sector A. House 1 was the only building of Roman date that could be investigated in plan. All other buildings were only observed in the sections. Due to the short time at the disposal of the mission, the house could not be excavated properly. In a vaulted room of House 1, a lamp dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD was found.

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<sup>16</sup>W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 333-336. *idem*, 'Domestic Structures in Graeco-Roman Syene (Modern Aswan)', in S. LADSTÄTTER, V. SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum 4. Jh. v. Chr. – 1. Jh. n. Chr.*, DÖAWW 397, AF 18 (Vienna 2010), pp. 435-437. *Idem*, 'Hellenistic Aswan', in D. RAUE et al. (eds.), *The First Cataract of the Nile. One Region – Diverse Perspectives*, SDAIK 36 (2013), pp. 130-133.



Fig. 18: Area 95 (Sector B): Overview of House 1 from the west. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

## House 2

House 2 (Stratum C/1) was only preserved in the section to the south-west of House 3 (Figs. 12 and 19). It was constructed at the very end of the Ptolemaic or the beginning of the Roman Imperial Period. The mud brick building showed several phases. The latest preserved phase was dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. This phase of the house was of special importance as two fragmented but complete stelae and fragments of a third stela were found. All were severely damaged during the excavation of the site by the contractor. These stelae once adorned the north-eastern inner corner of House 2. They were carefully integrated into the brickwork and thus part of the construction from the beginning of this phase of the house. The stelae showed enthroned gods with *was*-sceptres and inscriptions under the thrones and baselines. The southernmost stela was severely damaged and has yet to be restored properly to interpret the identity of the depicted goddess (Fig. 20). The inscription, a palimpsest, shows that the relief was dedicated by a man called Dyonysios. The earlier inscription shows the same formula, but the name of the dedicator is not legible. The second stela, positioned just to the east next to the corner of the house, showed the god Khnum (Fig. 21). The inscription field was left empty. Of the third stela built into the northern wall, only small fragments were found (Fig. 22). Just the lower part of a *was* sceptre, the foot of an offering table and the beginning of an inscription that showed the same formula as the other stelae but was broken before the name of the dedicator, were preserved of the relief. Their discovery in a house of such late date is further proof of the

resilience of pagan cults in the region of the First Cataract.<sup>17</sup> The carefully placed reliefs were soon covered with a thick layer of mud plaster and thus hidden from view, probably due to the new faith of the owners of the house.

The function of the house and the room with the stelae is difficult to ascertain. Rather than a temple it was most probably a clubhouse or a similar semi-private setting in which the reliefs played an important part, at least at the beginning of Stratum C/1.



Fig. 19: Area 95: Western section with House 2 and two stelae *in situ*. Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

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<sup>17</sup> Cf. J. H. F. DIJKSTRA, *Philae and the End of Ancient Egyptian Religion. A Regional Study of Religious Transformation (298-642 CE)*, OLA 173 (Leuven 2008), pp. 11- 14 and 125-218.



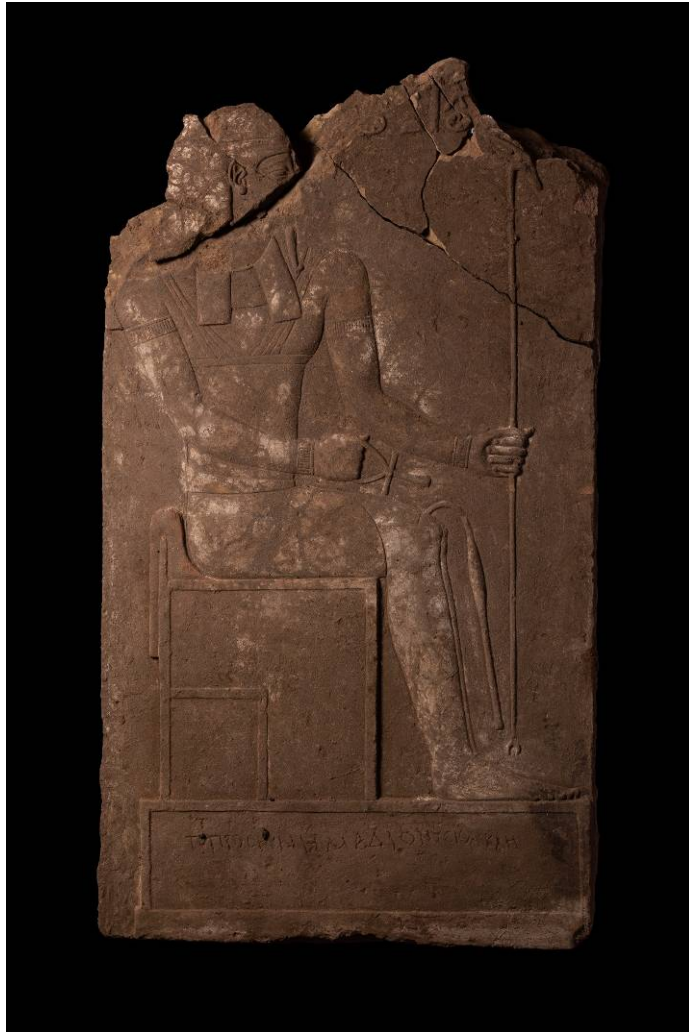


Fig. 20: Area 95: Detail of the stela 12-95-2-1/1 (the stela is 56cm wide and ca. 120cm high).  
Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.



Fig. 21: Area 95: Detail of the stela 22-95-0-1/1.  
Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.



Fig. 22: Area 95: Fragment of a stela (22-95-0-1/2). Photo: P. Mora Riudavets.

#### Medieval remains (Stratum B)

Several carefully constructed shafts for the disposal of wastewater were found in the area (Fig. 23). They were all that was left of a densely built-up part of the Islamic town of Aswan. Similar constructions are known from Fustat and medieval Cairo<sup>18</sup> and are a common occurrence in archaeological record of Aswan.<sup>19</sup>



Fig. 23: Area 95: Medieval shaft for wastewater disposal.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. W. KUBIAK/G. T. SCANLON, 'Fustat Expedition: Preliminary Report, 1966', *JARCE* 10 (1973), p. 17-19, S. PRADINES et al., 'Excavations of the Archaeological Triangle. 10 Years of Archaeological Excavations in Fatimid Cairo (2000 to 2009)', *MISHKAH* 4 (2009), p. 195 and 198.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. W. MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 16 and p. 32, fig. 24 (Area 3), *idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 16 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 13, *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 14 n. 53, *idem*, in *Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 184, fig. 4 (Area 31).

## Conclusion

Time pressure and difficult circumstances are a common trait of rescue excavations. In the case of Area 95, though, the situation was especially to be regretted as this was the last area of considerable size in Old Aswan that was not covered with modern buildings. A proper excavation of the area would have provided insights into the fabric of the extramural town quarter and crucial information on the development of domestic structures over a time span of more than one millennium. As the time at the disposal of the mission did not allow it to excavate much deeper than the bottom of the foundation pit, some 5m of stratigraphy and with it data on the Pharaonic history of Aswan were lost.<sup>20</sup> Even considering these problems and although only 5% of the foundation pit could be properly investigated, the results of the excavation were of the utmost importance for our understanding of the extent and development of Syene. The extramural settlements of the Late Period as well as the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods were significantly larger than expected.<sup>21</sup> The three reliefs are a singular find from Roman Syene and are evidence for the resilience of pagan beliefs well into Late Antiquity.

(W. Müller)

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<sup>20</sup> Cf. *idem*, in 'Report on the Eleventh Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2010/2011)', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report on the Eleventh Season of the Joint Swiss Egyptian Mission in Syene Old Aswan \(2010 2011\).pdf](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_on_the_Eleventh_Season_of_the_Joint_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_in_Syene_Old_Aswan_(2010_2011).pdf)), pp. 4-13 on a Pharaonic necropolis with chamber tombs dating to the late Old Kingdom just 50m to the east of Area 95.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. *idem*, 'Urbanism in Graeco-Roman Egypt', in M. BIETAK et al. (eds.), *Cities and Urbanism in Ancient Egypt*, UZK 35 (Vienna 2010), pp. 242-245. *Idem*, in O'CONNELL, *Egypt in the First Millennium AD*, pl. 2 gives a plan with the estimate for the extent of the city prior to the excavation in Area 95.