

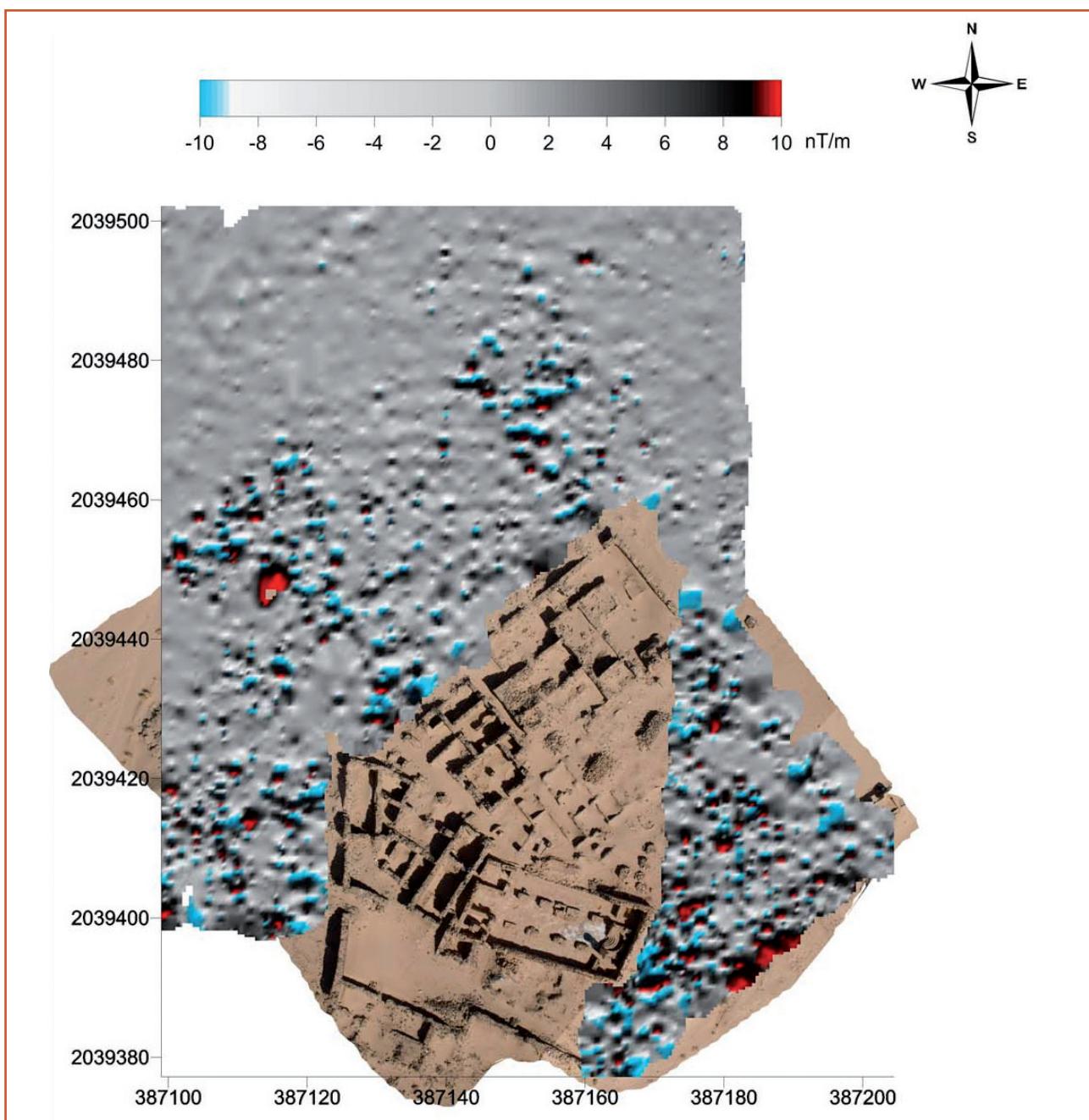
DER ANTIKE SUDAN

HEFT 25 • 2014



MITTEILUNGEN DER SUDANARCHÄOLOGISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT ZU BERLIN E.V.

Titelbild: Das Nordprofil des Schnittes 102.20 (Foto: Thomas Scheibner)

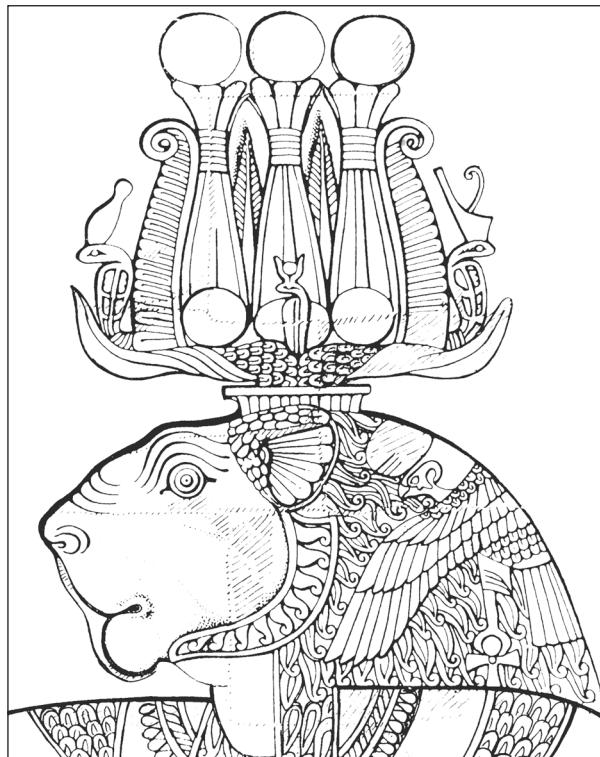


Colour fig. 1: Results of the geomagnetic survey in the monastery



Colour fig. 2: The Musawwarat mosaic 'flower' bead from the upper foundation layer of wall 120/122 in trench 122.17
(photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)

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NADINE NOLDE

THE BONE ACCUMULATION FROM A PIT IN TRENCH MUSAWWARAT ES-SUFRA I 22.18

The pit with context no. 122.18-009 in trench 122.18, excavated in the 2014 season,¹ contained 101 animal bones with a total weight of 205.2 g. The majority of the bones is highly fragmented and badly preserved, and therefore it was only possible to determine the taxonomic and anatomic identity of 23 bones and fragments of bones. Although the number of unidentified bones is considerably higher than the number of identified species (NISP), the weight is less and so the fragment size of the unidentified finds is practically negligible (fig. 1). Due to the small amount of bone it is not possible to undertake a quantitative analysis of the primary data.

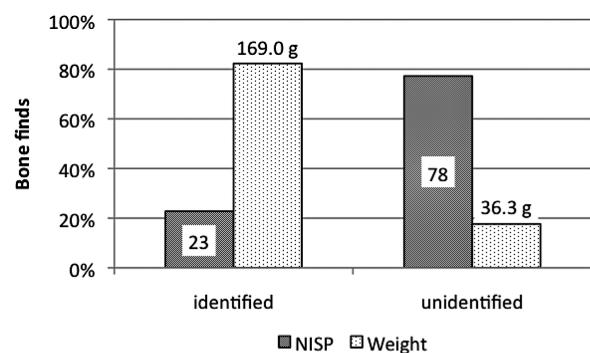


Fig. 1: Ratio (NISP) and weight (g) of identified and unidentified animal bones from pit 122.18-009

Out of the 23 identifiable bones, there are 21 bovid bones; while only two bones are identified as a juvenile sheep or goat. Cattle is represented by six thoracic and four lumbar vertebrae, and five left, three right and three non-classifiable fragments of ribs. The single vertebrae do not match as they originate from different, non-contiguous regions of the thoracic and lumbar spine; however, there is the possibility that the ten vertebrae belong to just one individual. Regarding the ribs, all that remains of four left and two right ones is the compact dorsal end of the bone. Three of them show an unfused epiphyseal line, which coincides with open cranial

and caudal epiphyseal lines in four corpora of the thoracic vertebrae and in one of the lumbar vertebra. This indicates an age of death as less than seven to nine years.² Although none of the bovine bones show any traces of slaughter i.e. butchering or cut marks - the lack of evidence could be caused by the badly preserved and weathered surface of the bones - a food economic context of this fleshy sections of the carcass is verisimilar.

The small domestic ruminants, sheep or goat, are represented by one complete patella and a fragment of a left femur with non-fused proximal epiphyseal line, which indicates an age of death less than three to three and a half years.

The remaining 78 fragments of unidentified species occupy the size class, which ranges from pigs to cattle.

REFERENCES

- Habermehl, K.-H. (1975): Die Altersbestimmung bei Haus- und Labortieren. Berlin.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Bei der Untersuchung einer Grube aus meroitischer Zeit in Musawwarat es-Sufra konnten 101 stark fragmentierte Tierknochen geborgen werden. Unter den insgesamt 23 bestimmbaren Knochen befinden sich 21, sehr wahrscheinlich fleischwirtschaftlich genutzte Rinderwirbel- und Rinderrippenfragmente von vermutlich einem einzelnen unter sieben bis neun Jahre alten Individuum sowie eine Kniescheibe (Patella) und ein Oberschenkelknochen (Femur) von mindestens einem unter drei bis dreieinhalb Jahre alten kleinen Hauswiederkäuer (Schaf oder Ziege).

1 For the archaeological situation see Näser, this volume. All bones were registered under find no. 122.18-009-002.

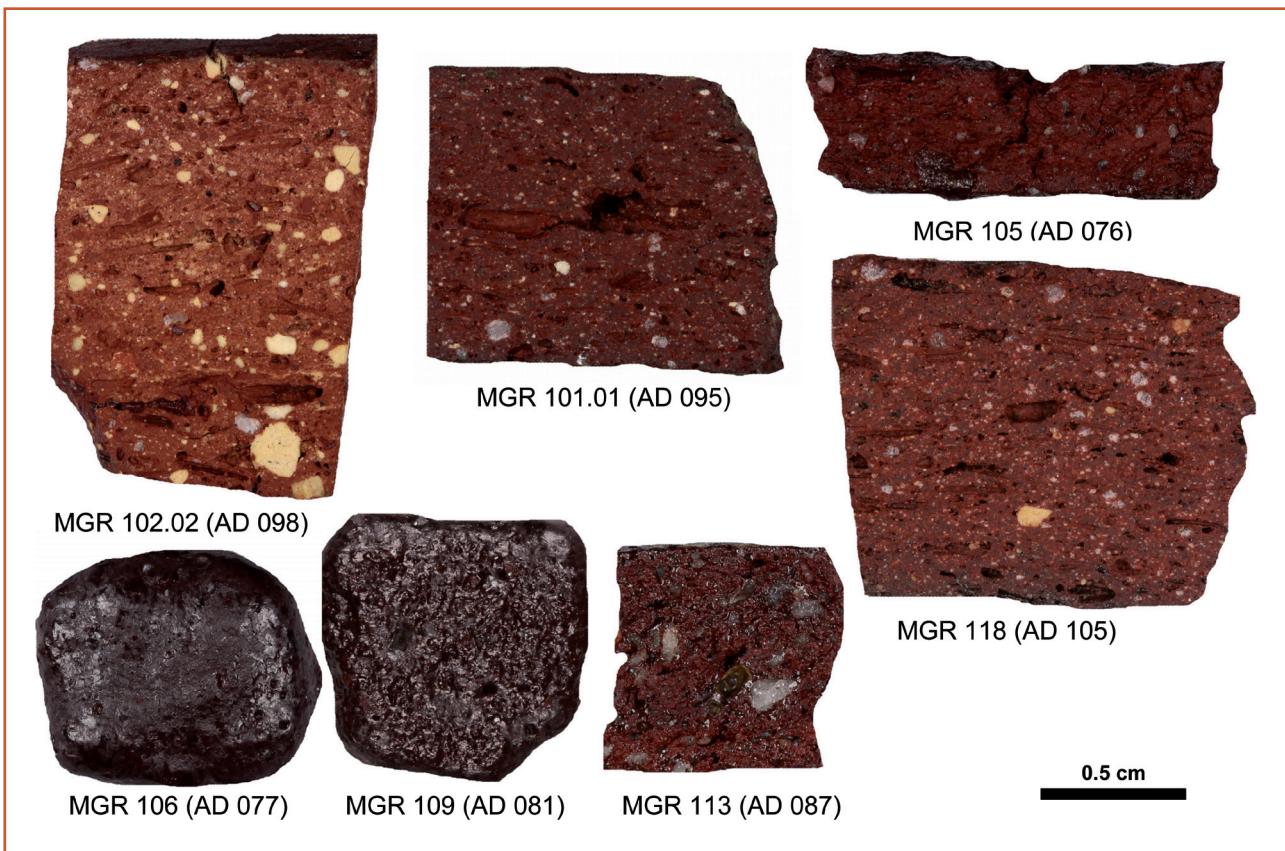
2 Habermehl 1975: 99–100.



Colour fig. 3: Plane 3 of the northeastern square of trench 2014.14 with the mudbrick wall [224.14-004] and the lower layer with traces of circumscribed burning [224.14-009] (photograph: Claudia Näser)



Colour fig. 4: The packing of unfired clay [context 224.14-003] drawing over the mudbrick wall [224.14-004] (photograph: Claudia Näser)



Colour fig. 5: Selected samples representing seven MGRgroups. Five samples made of wadi clay: AD095 and AD098 (local), AD076 and AD105 (local or regional) and AD087 (import). Two samples made of alluvial clay: AD077 and AD081. Samples after refiring at 1200°C (macrophotos of cross-sections: M. Baranowski)



Colour fig. 6: The eastern section of the southeastern square of trench 224.14 with pit [224.14-015] (photograph: Claudia Näser)



Colour fig. 7: The workplace of the pottery project in the dighouse (photograph: Stephanie Bruck)