

A DECADE OF EXCAVATIONS
IN QUBBET EL-HAWA.
THE RESULTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JAÉN.
CATALOGUE OF THE EXHIBITION

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A DECADE OF EXCAVATIONS
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Dedicated to the memory of Hosny Abd El Rheem
Director of Nubia Museum

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FOREWORD

SAID MAHMOUD ABD EL-MONEIM

General Director of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Aswan and Nubia

This catalogue scientifically presents the exhibition organized by the University of Jaén in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to the public for the first time. Until the opening of the exhibition, all these pieces had been just studied and admired by the members of the Spanish mission and the inspectors of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. Now it is time that the Egyptian society and the foreign visitors share the same feelings lived by the specialists.

But behind this splendid exhibition, there is an enormous work. For any archaeological mission, the fieldwork in Egypt requires many efforts: physical and intellectual. In addition, some missions spend long periods out from home, which increase the sacrifices mentioned before. Although all these costs are compensated with the magnificent pieces displayed in the Nubian Museum and the unique privilege to work with the ancient Egyptian material culture. All the foreign missions count with the assistance of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. All the inspectors that I have the luck to work with share long journeys of hard work on the field or in the office. All of them are always happy to help our foreign colleagues to achieve their main goals, because, at the end, we are part of the same team.

Many inspectors have worked with the University of Jaén mission in Qubbet el-Hawa and from these lines I would like to thank them for their great job. I would

like to mention specially my predecessors in the charge of General Directors: Dr. Mohamed el-Bialy, Mr. Fathi Abou Zeid and Naser Salama.

I am sure that any scientific visitor of this exhibition as well as the general public will enjoy the result of a decade of works by the University of Jaén in Qubbet el-Hawa.

FOREWORD

RAMÓN GIL-CASARES Y SATRÚSTEGUI

Ambassador of Spain in Egypt

The friendship between the Egyptian and Spanish peoples has a long-standing tradition. The Mediterranean Sea has shaped us with many similarities. We are very proud to share History, Art and Culture. It is precisely in this context that the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism and different Spanish archaeological missions work, highlighting the very best of them.

Although the passion for Egyptian Ancient civilization started with Eduardo Toda i Güell at the end of the XIX century, the contemporary cooperation excelled in January 1960, when Spain, amongst other nations, echoed the appeal of UNESCO to save the Nubian monuments. Since then, the Spanish centers of research, such as universities and CSIC, have increased their fruitful collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The University of Jaén and their mission at the archaeological site of Qubbet el Hawa (Aswan) constitute a clear example of this warm friendship and collaboration. The result of the findings and archeological research of this project are most relevant, precisely because of the fact that both, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the University of Jaén, are working together. All of our archeological projects in Egypt are committed with the study of the Egyptian history and culture, the restoration and the social valorization of the magnificent Egyptian heritage.

As Spanish Ambassador to Egypt I am proud to acknowledge the result of the present exhibition by the University of Jaén, after a decade of archaeological works in Qubbet el-Hawa. Not only the objects discovered and displayed in this exhibition highlight the richness of the Egyptian civilization, but also it shows that the Egyptian Museums have the capacity to host them.

FOREWORD

PROF. DR. JUAN GÓMEZ ORTEGA

President of the University of Jaén

The present exhibition is the result of a great scientific effort carried out by the University of Jaén and it shows the commitment with the Archaeology, a discipline with a long tradition in our young University. This project is also a distinctive sign of one of the major lines of our university, the internationalization of our teaching and research. Today, the University of Jaén counts with research projects in all the continents of the world, being Africa one of our major scenarios. This election is not coincidental, but the result of our commitment with the African countries in their scientific and social development.

The archaeological project of the University of Jaén in Qubbet el-Hawa (Aswan), directed by Prof. Dr. Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano, has been designed since its beginnings in 2008 as a scientific tool, but also as our belief that the study and conservation of the heritage doubtless have a social return into the Egyptian society.

With the present exhibition the University of Jaén shares with the world the results of their archaeological research. These scientific goals offer a new chapter in the history of the humankind, because Egypt is one of the main cradles of our culture. In a particular place of Egypt, the First Cataract, two worlds, the Mediterranean and the Africa, interchanged ideas and contributed to shape our culture.

I would like to express my gratitude to H. E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Prof. Dr. Khaled el-Enany, who kindly authorized to the University of Jaén mission in Qubbet el-Hawa to carry out the excavations and research, which we may enjoy today. The exhibition displays the result of the collaboration of two institutions committed with the research, defense and protection of the heritage.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fruitful collaboration that the Nubia Museum in general and its director, Dr. Hosny Abd el Rheem, who has facilitated the work of a large team of Egyptologists, Restorers, Consultants and collaborators. Without them, this exhibition would have not been possible.

FOREWORD

ALEJANDRO JIMÉNEZ SERRANO

Director of Qubbet el-Hawa Project

For an Egyptologist, excavating in Egypt is a dream that comes true. Since 2005, and since 2008 as Director, I had had the opportunity to work in Qubbet el-Hawa, a very interesting archaeological site, which shows most of the Egyptian history, since the late third millennium to the Fatimid period. Despite several scholars preceded me working in Qubbet el-Hawa, there was still much to do when we began.

During the last decade, we have begun to understand the site, its evolution and, for the first time, to carry out a multidisciplinary study of the material culture discovered yearly archaeological seasons. But, today, Archaeology is not only excavation, study, interpretation and publishing the data, it is also to preserve that what is already discovered. In addition, it is obligated to transfer the knowledge of our work to the society and it is, with this exhibition, I believe that we have accomplished.

This exhibition displays for the first time the material found by the University of Jaén mission in Qubbet el-Hawa, which in most of the cases, had not been seen by the general public, and, doubtless the variety and the quality of all the pieces deserve it.

With this exhibition we pretend to return to all the Egyptian people, specially to those who live in Aswan, and the visitors who visit Egypt the beginning of a long way of research and fieldwork.

Finally, this work might not be possible without the commitment of all the members of my team. It is impossible to mention all of them, because they are more than fifty researchers, from different disciplines, who have enriched the results of this project, some of them advanced or the very first time in this catalogue. Among this large group, I must highlight to Dr. Yolanda de la Torre Robles, who has been the curator of the exhibition. She has been the responsible of every step from an early idea to the reality that we can enjoy today. We have counted with the invaluable assistance of our team of restorers Ms. Teresa López-Obregón Silvestre, Mrs. Sara Tapia-Ruano Juan and Miss Rebeca Hernández Sánchez. They brought back to life all the pieces to its original grandeur and beauty. In addition, there have been three people that had the patience to work in this catalogue: Mrs. Sarah Griffith who has corrected the English of the whole catalogue and Mr. Osama Amer and Mr. Hany Salah, who did the same for the Arabic.

A research project abroad cannot be carry out without the assistance of many people and without enjoy a peaceful accommodation. Thus, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Mohamed Orabi Mohamed Ali, his family -our family-, our workers and the village of Garb Aswan, who have showed the famous Nubian hospitality.

The results displayed in the exhibition could not be possible without the funs contributed by different public and private institutions. First of all, I would like to thank to Dr. Juan Gómez Ortega, the President of the University of Jaén, who believed in this project and made possible to fund it by the University of Jaén. In other respect, the financial support of the excavations was given by the Ministerio de Ciencia, Investigación y Unviersidades through three grants got since 2010 to 2019. Private institutions have also contributed since 2008 with priceless funds: Asociación Española de Egiptología, Caja Rural de Jaén, GGM, Fundación Gaselec, Fundación Palarq and Construcciones Calderón. Without their generosity and support much of the material displayed in the exhibition would not be inside the vitrines.

I want to express my gratitude to the Spanish members of the Embassy in Cairo, who have assisted to all the members of the Spanish Mission during all these years. Their help has always been more than welcome in some moments.

Without the confidence, commitment and help of H. E. Minister Dr. Khaled el-Enany, Dr. Nashua Gaber, Mr. Abdelmonen Said, Dr. Hosny Abd el Rheem and Miss Shimaa Gomaa Saleh this exhibition would have ever been possible. All of them have showed their compromise with the transference of our work to the Egyptian society and the scientific community.

In the daily work, we counted with the support, knowledge and help of thirty inspectors of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in the Aswan office. Therefore, this catalogue must be considered a small homage for their collaboration with us.

Finally, to the families of all the members of our team, specially mine, who have understood the unique privilege that is to work in Egypt. In the name of my team members, I want to dedicate this volume to all of them



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