

K E R M A

2008 - 2009

SOUDAN

Matthieu Honegger • Charles Bonnet • Jérôme Dubosson • Bastien Jakob • Camille Fallet • Philippe Ruffieux



Université de Neuchâtel
Documents de la mission archéologique suisse au Soudan
2009 | I

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I M P R E S S U M

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The investigations of the Swiss Archaeological Mission started on November 30, 2008 and were completed on February 2, 2009.

The team directed by Matthieu Honegger conducted excavations at the eastern cemetery of Kerma and at the site of Wadi El-Arab, and also worked at the Kerma Museum. The team comprised the *rais* Khidir Magbul and Jaffar Abdul Fares, who guided 30 local workers, and three specialists from Switzerland who worked in their respective field : Louis Chaix (anthropology and archaeozoology), Marion Berti (archaeology and drawing) and Daniel Conforti (archaeology and drawing). Four students from the University of Neuchâtel (Jérôme Dubosson, Bastien Jakob, Camille Fallet, and Laure Bassin) and a student from the University of Khartoum (Shahinda Omer) also participated in the season's work.

The team led by Charles Bonnet, which worked at Dukki Gel and the ancient city of Kerma, was composed of the *rais* Gad Abdallah, Saleh Melieh, Abdelrazek Omer Nuri and Idriss Osman Idriss, who guided 60 local workers. It included five specialists from Switzerland : Philippe Ruffieux (ceramic studies), Inès Matter-Horisberger (drawing), Alain Peillex (drawing), Marc Bundi (technician, drawing), and Louis Chaix (archaeozoology).

Mr. Abdelhai Abdelsawi, inspector and curator of the Kerma Museum, monitored the progress of fieldwork and supervised the preparations for the Museum's second inauguration.

The Swiss Mission was supported by Mr. Hassan Hussein, director of the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums of Sudan (NCAM) and his collaborators, Drs Salah Eddin Mohamed Ahmed and Abdelrahman Ali. Following the installation of three scale models representing the ancient towns of Kerma and Pre-Kerma, and the hut of El-Barga, a second inauguration of the Kerma Museum was held on January 10, 2009. The event was attended by a Swiss delegation of eight individuals representing political, scientific and academic institutions, the director and collaborators of NCAM, the president of the High Committee of the Kerma Cultural Complex (Sir El Hatim), several ministers, and the *wali* of Dongola.

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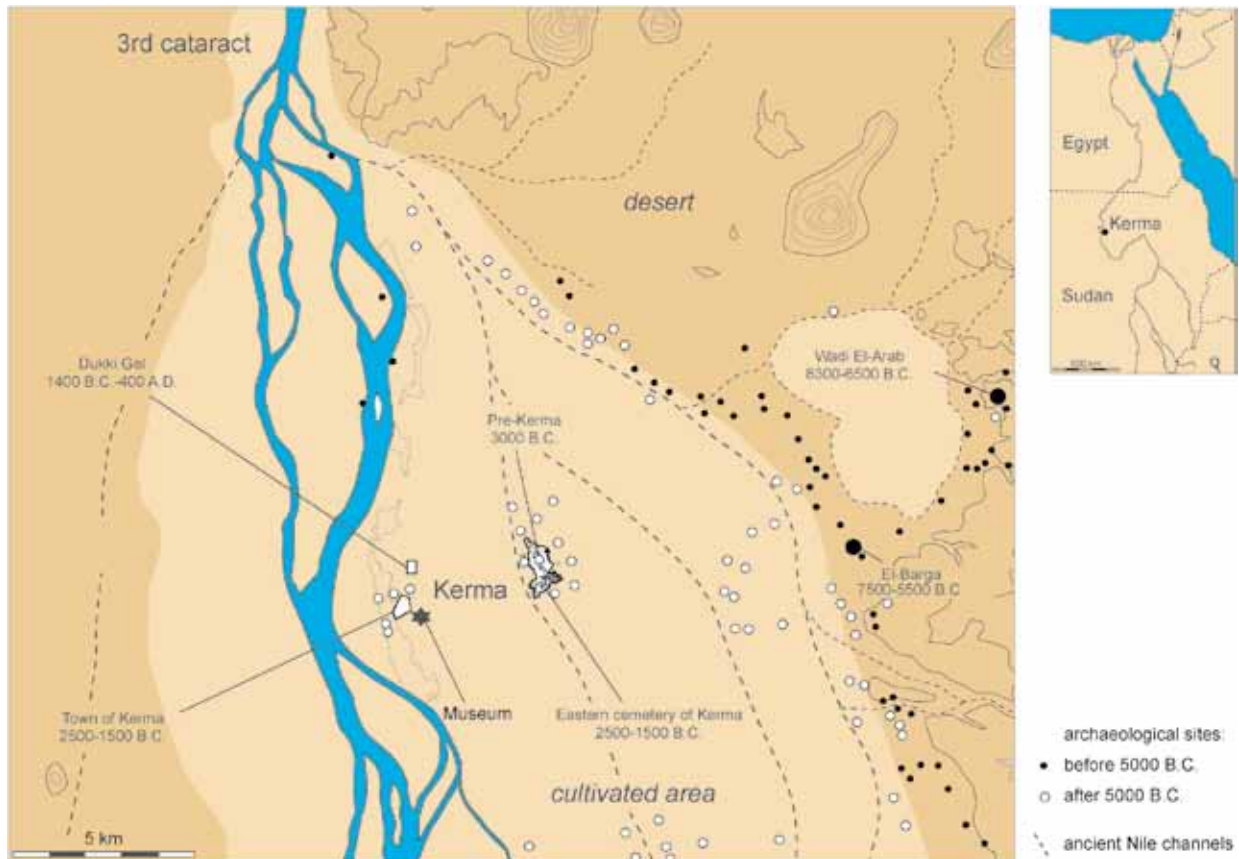
The investigations focused on the excavations of :

- a new sector in Wadi el-Arab;
- a new sector of the Pre-Kerma settlement;
- Ancient Kerma graves in the northern part of the eastern cemetery;
- fortifications and temples in Dukki-Gel.

This season, restoration and preservation work was conducted at the main archaeological sites :

- restoration of the stairs of the western Deffufa;
- building of *galus* walls and embankments to protect the eastern cemetery from destruction caused by car and lorry traffic and the expansion of cultivated fields.

Figure 1 | Map of the Kerma area with the location of the main archaeological sites and the Museum.



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FIGURE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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|--|---|
| Matthieu Honegger | Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 27, 28 |
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| Laure Bassin | Figure 11 |
| Marion Berti | Figures 16, 19 |
| Charles Bonnet et
Inès Matter Horisberger | Figures 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 |
| Daniel Conforti | Figures 23, 26 |

SUMMARY

Matthieu Honegger & Charles Bonnet	Archaeological excavations at Kerma (Sudan) • Preliminary report to the 2008-2009 season
Matthieu Honegger & Bastien Jakob	The early Holocene sequence of Wadi el-Arab
Matthieu Honegger	The Pre-Kerma agglomeration
Matthieu Honegger & Jérôme Dubosson	Ancient Kerma graves of the eastern cemetery
Camille Fallet	Palaeoanthropology of human skeletal remains found in the Ancient Kerma graves
Charles Bonnet	Dukki Gel: temples and fortifications
Philippe Ruffieux	The pottery of Dukki Gel
Matthieu Honegger	The Kerma Museum
Matthieu Honegger & Charles Bonnet	Restoration and preservation