



A R I D

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L O G Y

8 2019

MONOGRAPHS

Papers from the 1st Workshop

Archaeology in Africa

Potentials and perspectives on laboratory
& fieldwork research

Edited by

Savino di Lernia and Marina Gallinaro

Arid Zone Archaeology, Monographs

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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELL'ANTICHITÀ

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with contributions by

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with foreword by S. di Lernia



All'Insegna del Giglio

Foreword

Approximately one year after the last monograph, devoted to the Holocene pastoral archaeology of Egypt's Western Desert (Gallinaro 2018), I am pleased to present the eighth volume of our series. It collects a selection of contributions presented at the 1st Workshop on "Archaeology in Africa" held in Rome in December 2017, whose theme was "*Potentials and perspectives on laboratory & fieldwork research*" and it is edited by Marina Gallinaro and myself: for this reason, I shall not detail here what the reader will find in the introducing chapter. As Series Editor, however, I have to mention a previous monograph devoted to the proceedings of a conference, held in Rome in June 2001 and edited by Mario Liverani (2003), focussed on arid lands in Roman times. I am confident that also other initiatives could consider for publication our series. This book is also fully 'open access', in order to facilitate

its diffusion. As Series Editor, I am glad to underline how AZA is in the forefront of dissemination of scientific research supported by public funds, following the guidelines of the European Union. Also for this book I have followed the tradition to ask several colleagues to join our "Advisory Board", that is a panel of researchers that provide comments and suggestions on the submitted chapters: it is a rigorous, yet not-blind, peer-review process that aims to provide constructive and transparent criticism. I take then the opportunity to thank here, in alphabetical order, Piero Bartoloni, Matthew R. Bennett, Alberto Cazzella, Paola Davoli, Hédi Dridi, Mhamed Hassine Fantar, Enrico Giorgi, Alessandro M. Jaia, Damiano Marchi, Lucia Mori, Oscar Mei, Lorenzo Nigro, Marc Mayer Olivé and Gaëlle Tallet, who have greatly contributed to the quality of this volume.



Opening of the 1st Workshop on "Archaeology in Africa": from the left, the late Prof. Enzo Lippolis, former Director of the Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Prof. Savino di Lernia, organizer of the workshop with Dr. Marina Gallinaro, and Prof. Eugenio Gaudio, Rector of Sapienza Università di Roma (Photo by A. Zerboni).

The publication of this book has been possible thanks to the financial support of the “*Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità – Sezione Archeologia*”, Sapienza Università di Roma and of the “*Scuola Archaeologica Italiana di Cartagine – SAIC*”: I wish to thank Andrea Cardarelli, Coordinator of our archaeology section, and Attilio Mastino, President of the SAIC, for their help and support.

I am also pleased to welcome a new colleague joining our Editorial Board: Mario Santana Quintero (University of Carleton, Canada), ICOMOS Vice-President and expert on ethics in the domain of digital heritage.

On a more general level, as times passes, we see how the outcomes of the ‘Arab Spring’ still shake much of the *arid zones* to which this series is devoted. In Northern Africa, research in Algeria is still limited for foreign researchers; Libya is dramatically still; Egypt, but for some localities along the Nile Valley, also has restrictions, with much part of the desert off-limits for security reasons. Tunisia and Morocco are probably the only countries where, albeit with difficulties, fieldwork is, to some extent, still possible. If we move south, much of the Saharo-Sahelian region is still heavily affected by turmoil, ethnic clashes, and social instability. Despite this is tragic especially for our African young colleagues who cannot access the field, and for the local community involved, it is also important to see things in a different perspective. As Peter Mitchell has hinted in his key-note speech during the workshop (published in this volume), we should acknowledge “*that both in those countries where security conditions*

currently preclude access to the field and more generally, fieldwork is not the only means of producing archaeological knowledge. Indeed, the inability to undertake it may even be a blessing in disguise if this encourages us to publish the results of fieldwork already undertaken. African and non-African institutions alike house vast quantities of material that has been excavated, but not yet fully studied.”

Arid Zone Archaeology Series is open to welcome any contributions that could go in the direction of keeping African archaeology, and especially that from ‘conflict zones’, alive and visible. Finally, this book has been sent to the publisher a few weeks after the tragic death of Sebastiano Tusa in the airplane crash near Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in March 2019. Dear friend, tireless researcher and passionate scientist, Sebastiano has extensively worked in Africa – Tunisia, Libya, Kenya, to name a few – trying to overtake the traditional barriers between disciplines: we wish to dedicate this book to his memory.

Savino di Lernia
Series Editor
Arid Zone Archaeology

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