

SUDAN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MUNICH

Mr. Khalid Musa



Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Khalid Musa participated in the ceremony of the National Museum of the Egyptian art in Munich on the occasion of displaying

and hosting valuable antiques from the Meroitic period of the Sudanese ancient civilization. In his speech the DCM says that the display of these pieces which go back to the first century AD was possible because of the constructive cultural cooperation between the national corporation for antiquities and museums in Sudan and the relevant cultural authorities and agencies in Germany specially the National museum of Egyptian Art in Berlin and Munich. He appreciates the scientific and archaeological efforts of Prof. Wildung who led a historical

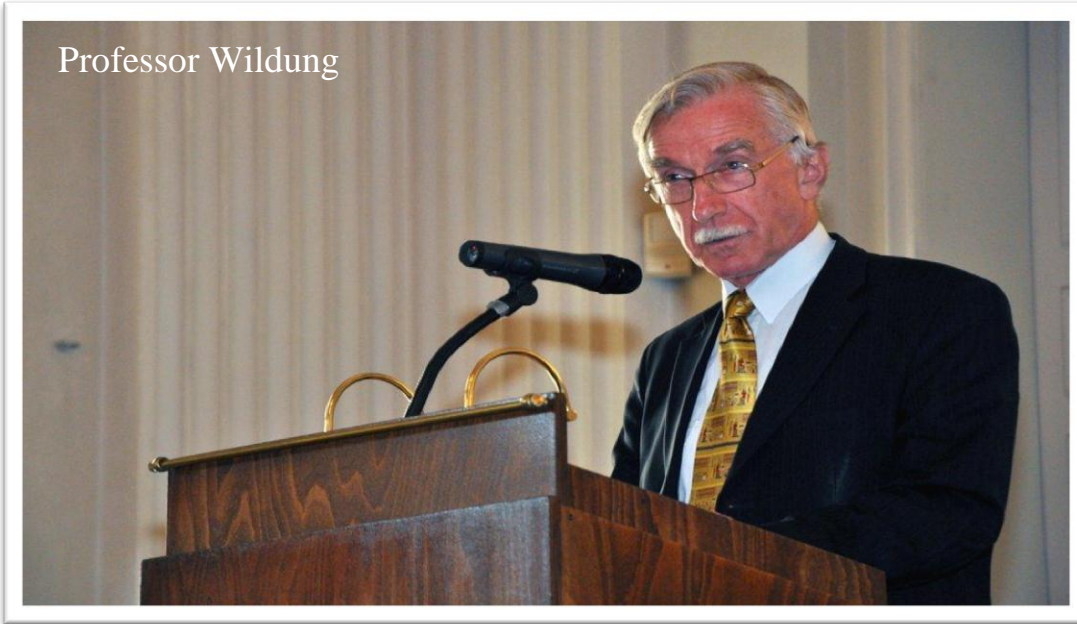
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cavations mission to Sudan and helped the discovery of the temple ruins of the city of Naga. He emphasizes the commitment of the Sudan to develop this cooperation to different levels to achieve all objectives of scientific research in arachnology and to strengthen the cultural relations between our two countries.

PART OF THE AUDIENCE

Professor Wildung highlights the historical significance of the Sudanese ancient civilization



Professor Wildung

and hails the cooperation between Sudan and Germany. In his speech he emphasized the

bilateral cultural relations between the two countries since the seventeenth century. He says:

In the year 1839 the Royal Family in Germany have Antiquarium at the Wittelsbach with the acquisition of the gold reserve of the pyramid of Queen Amanishakheto Meroe in one of the first collections in Europe, the antiquities from ancient Sudan. Today is the gold jewellery from the first Century AD, a highlight at the National Museum of Egyptian art at the Munich Residenz. Now Queen Amanishakheto herself comes to Munich: In recognition of the Munich-based commitment to the Sudan archaeology leaves the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of the Republic of Sudan to the museum as a long-term loan from four outstanding properties, which in recent years, and financed by the German Research Foundation Excavations line by Dietrich Wildung were discovered in the temple ruins of the city of Naga in the desert northeast of Khartoum. There is a stele of sandstone, showing the queen herself, accompanied by two gods, as well as an unprecedented statue of the goddess Isis faience. The other two are on loan, there are two of the few surviving examples of Meroitic wall painting, one of which the upper body of a Nilgottheit shows. The second piece is a fragment of a large royal representation can be seen. No comparable parallels in other museums, the loans are at the highest artistic level representative of sculpture, reliefs, inscriptions and paintings of a little-known, two millennia ago thriving culture between Africa and Europe. They are already included in the exhibition concept in Nubia-Sudan-hall in the building of the Egyptian Museum, but first at the old location of the museum at the residence issued. Last year the museum had in collaboration with the Egyptian Museum in Berlin, the exhibition "King of Naga City" show, which 135 objects have been unearthed in

the last 15 years by a research team from the Egyptian Museum in Berlin in the desert of northern Sudan. Naga was a royal city of the kingdom of Meroe, which was from 300 BC to 350 AD, the politically and economically powerful southern neighbor of the Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. The first systematic survey of all archaeological sites in the Nile Valley, conducted in 1842 to 1845 by the Prussian expedition led by Richard Lepsius, was limited to a not-for Egypt, but closed the north of Sudan and Sinnar on the Blue Nile. 150 years after the Prussian expedition began in 1995 a research team from the Egyptian Museum in Berlin, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the excavation of the untouched for two millennia city of Naga in the desert northeast of Khartoum. Numerous huge mounds of rubble mark the city area. Four well-preserved temple with reliefs and inscriptions provided indicate that Naga from 300 BC, the kingdom of Meroe until 200 AD, a royal city. In ten years of excavation work in a commanding position overlooking the city built the Temple of Amun was excavated. An avenue of twelve monumental statues of rams before the temple and the columns of the hypostyle hall, with rubble and sand were discovered, re-erected. Numerous findings in the temple - statues, stelae, decorated with reliefs and painted altars, wall paintings - are an unusually large influx of new research material. This archaeological context of the new loans will come for the Munich Museum. This gives the department "Nubia - Ancient Sudan," which is one of the most important in Europe, some spectacular new additions. Particular importance given the Munich-based stocks from the fact that they come to a large extent secured from archaeological context and finds divisions came to Europe, thanks to the Munich-based Egyptologist Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Bissing (1873-1956), who had financially supported several excavations and received in return finds that later found their way into the Egyptian collection. The cultures along the Nile south of Egypt in the future from the Neolithic to the Christian era a period of six centuries of time are presented in their interaction with ancient Egypt.

Statue of the goddess Isis

Statue of the goddess Isis One of the most

important art works from the Meroitic royal city of Naga is the figure of the goddess Isis. She exemplifies the bridging function of Meroitic art and culture from Africa, Egypt and the world of classical antiquity: your look with the knot between her breasts comes from the Hellenistic Ptolemaic iconography, base and back pillar refer to the example of ancient Egyptian sculptures, the full hips and the luscious breasts meet an African ideal of beauty. Thus, African, Egyptian and Hellenistic aspects combine to create a masterpiece that is typical of the kingdom of Meroe, a bridge between Africa and the Mediterranean world. The statue, broken into several



pieces, was found in the Temple of Amun, spread over several field seasons.

Fayence H. 49.6 cm, w 16 cm, 13.2 cm T. Naga, Temple of Amun First Century. CE.

Stele of Queen Amanishakheto

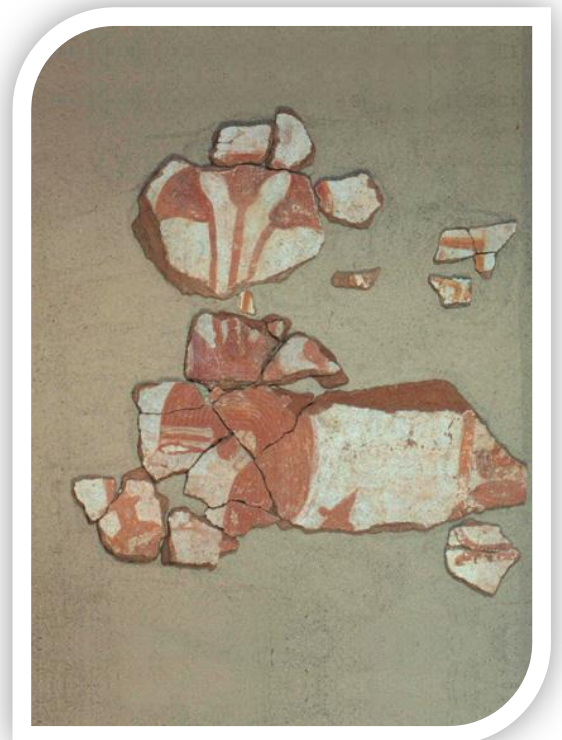


Stele of Queen Amanishakheto In the framing of a god's shrine is in the central position of the extremely obese queen Amanishakheto represented by the lion-headed god Apedemak and Goddess Amesemi in high relief, the many details in the iconography reflects how the falcon as a head-dress of the goddess, the feinplissierten cloak of the Queen and the scale pattern of the robe of Apedemak. Under this main scene a series of five captive enemies is seen, which are complementary to the left side against the same. The first man stands out in his presentation significantly with a helmet compared to the following Nubians with curly hair that is in front of his face-to-read short inscription probably be read as "white man", pointing to military conflicts of this queen of the Romans, who are occupied elsewhere. The Meroitic inscription on the back is called place names that describe the extent of this ancient African kingdom to the border of Egypt at Aswan.

Sand stone Naga H. 39.5 cm, W. 24.4 cm, 3.0 cm T. Naga, Temple of Amun First Century. CE.

A wall painting from the Naga Temple

Fragment of a wall painting Also from one of the rooms in the Naga Temple is the fragment of a wall painting depicting the head of a fertility deity with lotus flowers as a headdress. This theme comes from Egyptian temples and decorated former as in the lower zone of the temple walls, it was the meeting of the ruler shown with different gods. The Nile gods are male-female presented and keep water containers in their hands, their covers are still here, just received. Of these representations have been found hundreds of fragments, fragments of mural paintings on clay plaster, which have only received because they were hardened in a fire that destroyed the temple for sacrifices.



Clay plaster, painted H. 42 cm, w 31 cm, t. 1.0 cm Naga, Temple of Amun First Century. AD