

Map 82 Meroe

Compiled by N.B. Millet, 1995

Introduction

Of all the areas covered by the *Barrington Atlas*, it may be said that the Sudan has a claim to be among the least explored in terms of its history and archaeology. The pioneering efforts of investigators such as Reisner and Garstang were limited to major monumental sites in the Nile river valley, mostly those of Pharaonic times. Only with the Egyptian decision to build the High Dam at Aswan, and the consequent launching of the UNESCO Salvage Campaign in the 1960s, did the Middle Nile become the subject of serious archaeological examination.

No previous map has made any useful attempt to match names preserved by Greek and Latin sources with places and features in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Sudan. The sources are mostly of Roman date, with very few toponyms being attested earlier. Many names mentioned by Strabo, Pliny and Ptolemy can be equated with modern places, but since relatively little excavation has been carried out, the inadequacy of the archaeological record normally makes it quite impossible to determine their size or importance in antiquity. Indeed, in many of the places, signs of ancient habitation have yet to be reported.

The ancient lists of place names have been carefully examined and sifted by Priebe (1984) and Török (1988). Their identifications are based on several factors, including Roman mileage estimates and similarity of names to those of modern settlements or regions. Contributions to the topographical study of the region are also made by Edwards (1989) and Welsby (1996).

There are several caravan trails across the Bayuda desert that might have been followed by the Neronian exploratory expedition into Meroitic territory. The site in this desert now known as el Fura may be Pliny's Boron.

The known monuments of the Napatan and Meroitic periods of Sudanese history (720 B.C. to A.D. 350)—temples and royal (pyramid) cemeteries most obviously, but some town sites as well—are for the most part located along the Nile. The pyramid fields of Nuri, el Kurru and Barkal (ancient Napata) were the burial places of the royalty of the Napatan period. The pyramids of the later kings and queens of the Meroitic period are at Meroe itself, at some distance from the city.

Once Rome no longer claimed control south of the First Cataract from about 297, it seems that Roman contact with the area covered by the map was largely broken off. The paucity of references to places in the Sudan in Late Antiquity may also be due to the preoccupation with difficulties further north.

The hafirs (waterholes) marked were essential to the ancient Sudanese pastoral economy. They should be regarded as Hellenistic in date; most are still in use today (Hinkel 1991).

Directory

All place names are in the Republic of the Sudan

Abbreviation

SAS

Sudan Antiquities Service

Names

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
D4	Abale	H?R	el Mogren?	Priese 1984, 496
D2	<i>Abu Hashim</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 45
A2	Acina	H?R	Tagab?	Priese 1984, 493
D3	Alana	H?R	Abidiya?	Priese 1984, 495
D5	Araba	H?R	Wad Ban Naqa	Priese 1984, 497
A3	Arca(s)/ Arta(s)	H?R	Argi?	Priese 1984, 494
E4	Astaboras fl.	HR	Atbara	RE
A3	Bagada/ Gagauden	H?R	Megauda?	Priese 1984, 494
E2	Blemmyes		EGY / SUD	See Map 81
D4	Boron	H?R	el Fura	Pliny, <i>NH</i> 6.178; Crawford 1951, 10
A3	Breues	H?R	Girf el-Melik?	Priese 1984, 494
C3	Cataracta Quarta			LexÄgypt Katarakt(e)
D3	Cataracta Quinta			LexÄgypt Katarakt(e)
A2	Cataracta Tertia	RL		LexÄgypt Katarakt(e)
B3	Cortum	H?R	Korti?	Priese 1984, 495
D4	Darou	H?R	Sha'adinab?	Priese 1984, 496
A2	Direla § Direlis?	H?R	Agada?	Priese 1984, 494
B3	Dumana	H?R	Diffar?	Priese 1984, 495
D5	Epis	H?R		Priese 1984, 496
	Gagauden = Bagada			
D4	Galim	H?R	Hasaya	Priese 1984, 496
D3	<i>Gebel Absol</i>	CHRL?		SAS file 45 G-3; N.B. Millet
F3	<i>Gebel Gurad</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 46 Gharad
E2	<i>Gebel Raihob</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 46 Gheiob
D4	Gora	H?R	Garrib?	Priese 1984, 496
A2	Gugo	H?R	Koka?	Priese 1984, 493
	Hypaton = Mulon			
A1	<i>Kedurma</i>	HR		Edwards 1991, 82-83
F2	<i>Komotit</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 46
B3	<i>el Kurru</i>	AC		LexÄgypt
D4	Mallo	H?R	Aliab?	Priese 1984, 496
B3	Mambli	H?R	Ganetti?	Priese 1984, 495
A3	Mancharum	H?R	Sahaba?	Priese 1984, 494
D3	<i>Marru</i>	CHRL?	settlement and mine	Dunn 1911, 45
C3	Megabar(r)i?	HRL		RE Megabari
D5	Meroe	CHR	Bagrawiya	RE
A3	Mulon/ Hypaton	H?R	el Khandaq?	Priese 1984, 494
inset	<i>Musawwarat</i>	CHR		LexÄgypt
B3	Napata	H?R	Barkal	LexÄgypt
inset	<i>Naqa</i>			LexÄgypt
E1	<i>Nauarai</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 47
E2	<i>Nigeim</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 46-47
A3	Nilus fl.			See Map 74
B4	Nubaei?	CRL		RE
B3	<i>Nuri</i>	ACH		LexÄgypt
D1	<i>Omar Kabash</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 63
A2	Orsum	H?R	ez Zawarat?	Priese 1984, 494

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
A3	Pago	H?R	el Baja?	Priese 1984, 494
A2	Paroa	H?R	Fareig?	Priese 1984, 493
A2	Patinga?	H?R	Kawa	Crawford 1951, 13; Priese 1984, 494
A2	Pnups?	HRL	Tebo	Priese 1984, 493; LexÄgypt Pnubs
A2	Prummu?/ Primii?	H?R	Kerma	Priese 1984, 493
D3	Sakole?	H?R	Dangeil	Priese 1984, 495
D4	Sakolche	H?R	Mutmir?	Priese 1984, 496
D4	Scammos	H?R	Berber?	Priese 1984, 496
A3	Segasa § Segusa	H?R	Tangasi?	Priese 1984, 494
F1	<i>Serakoit</i>	CHRL?		N.B. Millet
D4	Seserem	H?R	Zeidab?	Priese 1984, 496
A2	Suara	H?R	Sortot?	Priese 1984, 494
D5	Summarum	H?R	Shendi?	Priese 1984, 497
D5	Tadu	H?R	on Shebeliya Is.	Crawford 1951, 13; Priese 1984, 496
B3	Tergendum?	H?R	Tergis	Priese 1984, 494
F3	<i>Togni</i>	CHRL?		Dunn 1911, 58
A3	Urbim	H?R	Urbi?	Priese 1984, 494
B4	Zamnes	H?R	Goshabi?	Priese 1984, 495

Unlocated Toponyms

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Artigula	R	island N Tangasi	Priese 1984, 494
Berressa	R	W Korti	Priese 1984, 495
Bonchis	RL	near Cataracta Tertia	C-D 2, 72
Cadata	R	E bank, W Korti	Priese 1984, 495
Gale	R	E bank, at Delgo?	Priese 1984, 493
Gistate/ Cist(a)epe	R	E bank, N Magadib	Priese 1984, 493
Golpoa/ Glopoa	R	E bank, S Koya	Priese 1984, 493
Magada	R	E bank at Magadib?	Priese 1984, 493
Mathe	R	W Barkal	Priese 1984, 495
Nakis	R	N El Moqren	Priese 1984, 496

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