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T. KENDALL, B 100: A little-known Meroitic palace at Jebel Barkal  
(TAB. II)



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# S U M M A R I U M

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## Ex amicitia...

Egyptological Studies offered to Alessandro Roccati  
by some of his colleagues  
(edited by E. M. Ciampini, F. Contardi and G. Rosati)

Preface . . . . .	3
S. DONADONI, Alessandro Roccati: una nota personale . . . . .	5-6
Bibliography of Alessandro Roccati . . . . .	7-21
Ch. BONNET, Le Royaume de Kerma, un territoire entre l'Égypte et l'Afrique centrale (TAB. I-II) . . . . .	22-30
H.-W. FISCHER-ELFERT, Ein Spruch gegen den Bösen Blick in Meroe: Anmerkungen zur Bronzeschale Boston MFA 24.900 aus Grab S 155 der Süd-Nekropole . . . . .	31-49
J. Cl. GOYON, Un curieux exemplaire égyptien du "Livre de sortir au jour": Le papyrus hiératique MBAL H 1579-1583 (Lyon n° 57) .	50-62
T. KENDALL, B 100: A little-known Meroitic palace at Jebel Barkal (TAB. II) . . . . .	63-75
V. P.-M. LAISNEY, Deux témoignages tardifs de l'usage des sagesses .	76-89
D. MEEKS, L'art et la manière: petite enquête lexicale . . . . .	90-100
J. OSING, Zu einigen Inschriften der 17. und 18. Dynastie . . . . .	101-105
D. VALBELLE, Le jujubier dans la toponymie nilotique . . . . .	106-122
M. VALLOGGIA, Une stèle de Houy de Deir el-Medina parmi les dessins de Henri Wild (TAB. III) . . . . .	124-129
G. ZAKI, L'intégration de Sobek dans le dispositif théologique des pays du Sud au temps des Ptolémées . . . . .	130-139
<b>Libri ad Directionem missi . . . . .</b>	<b>140</b>

## **B 100: A little-known Meroitic palace at Jebel Barkal<sup>1</sup>**

(TAB. II)

Timothy KENDALL

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In the early 1980's, as a member of the curatorial staff of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), I developed a keen interest in the ancient Sudan and thought I might like to pursue fieldwork on a Sudan site formerly excavated by the legendary former curator of my department at the MFA, George A. Reisner (1867-1942). Reisner had worked at Jebel Barkal and the surrounding royal cemeteries of El-Kurru and Nuri between 1916 and 1920, and since some of his finds remained unpublished, I thought I would try to return to Sudan to fill in some of the narrow gaps in his monumental work. In 1985, I wrote to Nigm ed-Din Mohamed Sherif, then the General Director of the Sudan Antiquities Service (SAS), asking him for permission to work in the Great Temple of Amun (B 500) to try to record the unpublished reliefs of Piankhy. To my dismay, he denied my application because, as he informed me, the concession for the entire site was held by the Italian Mission of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", directed by Prof. F. Sergio Donadoni. I then took my heart in my hands and wrote to Prof. Donadoni, asking him if I might simply join his team to perform the work, and he very kindly welcomed me and my colleague, Cynthia Shartzer, as full team members. Since Dr. Donadoni was focused mainly on exploring unexcavated sectors of the site, he was more than happy to have Cynthia and me work in the old Reisner concession area, which he had no plan to revisit. After that season, Donadoni graciously asked Nigm ed-Din to grant the MFA, as my institutional sponsor, a license as an independent mission to conduct further researches in that area, and Nigm ed-Din kindly granted the license. Since then, despite the many changes in the status of our two missions over the last

<sup>1</sup> I would like to express my great thanks to Dr. Rita Freed, Curator, and the members of her staff in the Dept. of the Art of the Ancient World in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, for making available to me and my colleague Joyce Haynes the Reisner diaries, records, and photographs from Jebel Barkal, which has made this research possible. Special thanks to Joyce for helping me to compile these materials prior to our departure for eight weeks of fieldwork at Jebel Barkal, where this was written (January 2014).

twenty-eight years, our continuing collaboration has always been very cordial, and we always look forward to seeing each other and working together each new season – even at times to sharing the same house!

In the late 1990's, Dr. Donadoni turned over the practical directorship of the Jebel Barkal Mission to his colleague Prof. Alessandro Roccati, who, upon Donadoni's retirement in 1988, assumed both his chair in Egyptology and the official directorship of the Mission. In 2005, when Dr. Roccati took a new position at the University of Turin, the Jebel Barkal Mission followed him there, and Turin became its new institutional sponsor. When he himself retired in 2010, he turned over the Jebel Barkal Mission to Prof. Emanuele Ciampini of the University of Venice, which has now become the project's third sponsor. Dr. Roccati, however, still returns annually to Jebel Barkal to assume his familiar role on the excavations, and is always welcomed back with great enthusiasm both by his workmen of many years and his American colleagues.

As for the MFA Mission to Jebel Barkal, it continued with this name until my own departure from the MFA in early 1999. Lacking a proper institutional sponsor during the 1999 field season, I simply asked Prof. Roccati if I could work again officially as part of the Italian team, and he readily agreed, as did Hassan Hussein Idriss, then the General Director of the Sudan Antiquities Department, which in the early 90's had been renamed NCAM (The National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums). The following year, Hassan Hussein asked me if I would like simply to work as director of an official NCAM Mission at Jebel Barkal. This was an attractive offer which I immediately accepted, and so, since 2001, the former MFA Mission has become the NCAM Mission to Jebel Barkal.

The two teams at Jebel Barkal have two very different concession areas. The Italian Mission works in the area northeast of the Great Amun Temple (B 500), which is an area of predominantly Meroitic buildings, the largest being the great palace of Natakamani (B 1500). The NCAM team works in the area to the southwest of that line, which is the area of temples to which Reisner devoted his attentions. This area consists mainly of Egyptian and Napatan buildings, many of them restored in Meroitic times. The two areas provide their respective excavators with very different cultural remains and historical foci.

There is at least one large Meroitic structure lying within the NCAM concession area that more properly relates to the research focus of the Italian Mission. This is the building numbered "B 100". For many years this structure has been a topic of conversation between myself and Dr. Roccati because it is in so many ways similar to the Palace of Nataka-



mani, which the Italian Mission has been excavating, room by room, almost annually since 1978<sup>2</sup>. The problem with B 100 is that, although it was cleared and documented by Reisner in 1916, it was never published by him, and only two years after excavating it, he decided to use it as a dump site and so completely reburied it. B 100 thus has continued to remain one of the least known buildings at Jebel Barkal, since all the records pertaining to it are contained within the voluminous field diaries, photographs, registers of finds, and survey plans in the archives of the library of the former Egyptian Dept. of the MFA (now called the Department of the Art of the Ancient World) and would require days of research there to gather up and to synthesize.

When I was asked to contribute something to this volume to honor my long-time friend, colleague, and fellow collaborator at Jebel Barkal, Alessandro Roccati, I could think of no better offering than to try to assemble all the loose threads of evidence I could find for this long-forgotten building and to try to make sense of the record so that it could be useful for him and others in the future. I am thus so pleased to be able to dedicate the following remarks to the man affectionately known at Jebel Barkal among the Sudanese as “Iskander”.

Reisner excavated B 100 between January 15 and March 26, 1916. Because it was the first building he dug in the Barkal sanctuary, it was the first to which he assigned a number<sup>3</sup>. Initially he called it “Temple aa”, but after adopting his new numbering system three days later, he gave it its present name<sup>4</sup>. Although he carefully mapped it when it was under excavation and left detailed notes and drawings of it in his field diary, he was, as time went on, distracted by more important tasks and never went back to it, leaving it unpublished. In 1970, 54 years after the excavations, Reisner’s assistant, Dows Dunham, then in his seventies, tried to describe this building in his publication of Reisner’s unfinished work at Barkal<sup>5</sup>, but he found himself frustrated by his inability to find any original measured ground plan of it or any site map that indicated its exact position. He was thus forced to publish a schematic plan of it, without scale and without

<sup>2</sup> See A. Roccati, “The Italian Archaeological Expedition to Jebel Barkal/Napata”, in: *Between the Cataracts: Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference for Nubian Studies, Warsaw University, 27 August – 2 September 2006*. Part I: *Main Papers* Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean Supplement Series 2. 1; Warsaw 2008) 249-261 and bibliography.

<sup>3</sup> G. A. Reisner, “The Barkal Temples in 1916”, *JEA* 4 (1917) 213-215.

<sup>4</sup> “Temple aa” (Diary Jan. 25, 1916, p. 57; Jan. 26, p. 61); “Temple 100 (aa)” (Diary, Jan. 27, 1916, p. 64); “Temple 100” (Diary Jan. 28, 1916, p. 67 and henceforth). In Reisner, *JEA* 4, 214, he wrote: “B 100...was a Meroitic building, *not a temple*...”.

<sup>5</sup> D. Dunham, *The Barkal Temples* (Boston 1970) 7.

precise orientation, reconstructed from sketches in Reisner's diary and from Reisner's photographs of the building as it appeared fully excavated<sup>6</sup>.

B 100 can clearly be seen in its relation to B 1200 in Reisner photos A 2757 and 2839<sup>7</sup>. In the latter photo, the outline of the SW corner of temple B 800 can be seen, so Dunham could estimate its position as "160 m. SE of B 300 and 110 m. SW. of B 500 First Pylon". The problem of locating B 100's true position on the site was caused by Reisner's decision to rebury it before he put it on his site map. Once he had cleared and recorded it, he decided in 1919 to use it as a dump site for debris from his excavations in B 501. Since he judged Meroitic buildings to be of secondary importance to the earlier buildings he was looking for, he saw no problem in covering B 100 with a great spoil heap. Today it remains hidden and inaccessible, except through Reisner's own records.

One objective of our 1989 field season was to map the entire temple complex and to show all the known buildings in their proper relation to one another<sup>8</sup>. Since B 1200 was still partially visible, we could add its exposed rooms to the map, and since the location of B 100 was evident in its relation to B 1200 from Reisner's photos, we could add it as well, even though we could place it only approximately. Then in 1990, quite by chance, I found in storage at the MFA the original Reisner plans of both B 100 and B 1200, which had eluded Dunham<sup>9</sup>. These had been rolled up together and misfiled. With the recovery of this important additional evidence for both buildings, I could now add the full plans of these buildings to the site map<sup>10</sup>.

In 1992, I made a first attempt to describe Reisner's excavations in B 1200, which we could by then recognize as the Napatan palace at the site<sup>11</sup>. I eventually followed this up in 1996, 1997, 2006, and 2007 with excavations in the same building<sup>12</sup>. When in 2006, we conducted a magnetic

<sup>6</sup> Dunham, *The Barkal Temples*, plan II. Reisner's photos of B 100, archived in the Department of the Art of the Ancient World, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, are numbered A 2335, A 2626, A 2658, A 2690, A 2691, A 2692, A 2693, A 2710, A 2715, A 2732, B 7134, B 7168.

<sup>7</sup> Dunham, *The Barkal Temples*, pl. LXA.

<sup>8</sup> T. Kendall, *The Gebel Barkal Temples 1989-1990: A Progress Report of the Work of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Sudan Mission*. Geneva: Seventh International Conference for Nubian Studies, 3-8 September 1990 (privately distributed), fig. 1.

<sup>9</sup> T. Kendall, "The Napatan Palace at Gebel Barkal: A First Look at B 1200", in: W. V. Davies (ed.), *Egypt and Africa: Nubia from Prehistory to Islam* (London 1991) 302.

<sup>10</sup> Kendall, in: *Egypt and Africa*, 304, fig. 1; T. Kendall, "A New Map of the Gebel Barkal Temples", in: C. Bonnet (ed.), *Études nubiennes: Conférence de Genève. Actes du VII<sup>e</sup> Congrès international d'études nubiennes 3-8 septembre 1990*, vol. 2 (Geneva 1994) 139-145.

<sup>11</sup> Kendall, in: *Egypt and Africa*.

<sup>12</sup> T. Kendall, "Excavations at Gebel Barkal, 1996. Report of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Sudan Mission", *Kush* 17 (1997) 320-354; T. Kendall - P. Wolf, "Excavations in the Palace of Aspetla at Jebel Barkal, March 2007", *Sudan & Nubia* 11 (2007) 82-88.

survey of the Jebel Barkal sanctuary<sup>13</sup>, we were surprised to find that one of our magnetic images revealed the western corner and southwestern side of B 100. This enabled us now to know exactly where this structure lay and to place it precisely on the site map (**fig. 1**).



Fig. 1: Magnetic image showing sections of the Jebel Barkal sanctuary surveyed by magnetometry, Feb.-Mar. 2006. The W corner and SW side of B 100 appear in the image at the bottom, and when the corrected plan of the building is overlaid over it, its NE door appears to lie 104.4 m (200 cubits) from the entrance of B 500. The much older palace B 1200 (above), excavated in its central part and presumed to be rectangular in plan, appears in the magnetic image to be nearly square in plan like its Meroitic descendants. The greater part of it is still unexcavated.

B 100 belongs to a well-known genre of Meroitic building: the royal palace<sup>14</sup>. Like all Meroitic palaces, it has a nearly square plan. Its NE and SW sides are 33.2 m long, and its NW and SE sides are 37.1 m. long. Over the course of ten weeks in early 1916, Reisner exposed its complete

<sup>13</sup> With thanks to Pawel Wolf, Thomas Goldmann, Ronny Wutzler and Mohamed Abdel Wahab, who conducted the survey.

<sup>14</sup> For the most recent discussion of Meroitic palaces with a comprehensive bibliography on the topic, see M. Maillot, "The Palace of Muweis in the Shendi Reach: A Case Study", in: *Actes du colloque des maisons-tours en Egypte durant le Basse Epoque, les périodes ptolémaïques et romaines* (Paris 2013) 1-16.

ground plan and opened up all of its rooms, which, on the ground floor alone, numbered 23, with four hallways and two central staircases (**photo 4**<sup>15</sup>). Most of these rooms were doorless foundation cells, filled with rubble and built with baked brick to protect the walls from Nile floods. These were the cellars of a building whose primary rooms and centers of activity were on a higher level, above high water, and accessed by the two stairways. Unfortunately, all traces of the second (or main) floor level have disappeared.

The fullest account of B 100 by Reisner himself can be found in an unpublished letter, describing his 1916 Jebel Barkal campaign in detail, which he wrote from his house at the Giza Pyramids, April 29, 1916, to Prof. Francis Ll. Griffith, soon after having returned to Egypt from the Sudan. The previous year, Griffith had relinquished to Reisner his concession to excavate the main sites in the district of Napata due to the outbreak of World War I, and Reisner sent the letter to inform him of the results. He also used the letter as a kind of preliminary first season's report to himself, and so he kept a separate typed copy in his files, which is now kept in the library of the Art of the Ancient World Dept., MFA, Boston. (Note: parentheses appear in the original; brackets have been added by me.)

“Dear Prof. Griffith,

“Having just returned from Merowe, I want to tell you about our work at the site. You were so kind as to write me that you would be pleased to have me take up your work there and I am sure you will be interested in what we have done.

“The departure of the expedition from Cairo was delayed by the failure of a prospective assistant to turn up; but we arrived at Kareima (with my family, Mr. [Dows] Dunham, and 60 Egyptians) on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next day, I sent the Egyptians out to Gebel Barkal, where they built themselves huts in the crannies of the rock on the down-stream side of the Gebel. On January 24<sup>th</sup> we got to work with 100 locals, which we soon increased to 200, and later to 300 and even 350. We worked continuously until April 24<sup>th</sup>, but the last ten days were occupied with final clearings...”

At this point in his letter Reisner presented a detailed account of his excavations in the Barkal pyramids, but on p. 3 of the typescript he began a discussion of his work in the sanctuary with a description of B 100:

<sup>15</sup> Photograph taken March 15, 1916, showing B 100 from the S, fully cleared. At left is the SW doorway, aligned on the central axis, which led through the columned hall 102 to the angled staircase 106. Behind 106, the same axis passed through a second columned hall 108, through the NE doorway, straight to a point 26 m (50 cubits) in front of the entrance of the Great Amun Temple (B 500). Photo A 2326. Courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

“While the work on the pyramids was going on, a special gang was put to work to make preliminary investigations on the site around the known temples. It was at once clear that, while my estimate of six weeks for the excavations of the great temple [B 500] was ample, there was a great deal left undone in the other temples, and a considerable area of Meroitic buildings which might conceal older structures. I selected the low mound about 100 meters in front of Lepsius temple D [= B 1200] and proceeded to clear it, making the dump towards the south. The preliminary clearing was finished about Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> (i.e. down to the first preserved floor). This building, numbered [B] 100, was some sort of administrative building, to judge by the plan and absence of household utensils. The date was clearly late Meroitic. The walls (partly of mud brick, partly of burnt brick) were preserved to a height of 200 cm but formed only the ground floor. There were two large rooms with the roofs supported by clumsy open papyrus columns of cement-covered sandstone. These were entered by four doorways, one on each face of the building, and gave access by two stairways to the main floor above. These rooms took up about one third the building, and while there were a few smaller side rooms (cellars), the greater part of the ground floor was occupied by filled foundation compartments, in which the places of the columns of the main floor were marked by square foundation pillars. Later, after the plans and photographs had been made, work was resumed on [B] 100. The floors in the rooms and the foundation compartments were cut out, down to water-soaked alluvium. No further floor was found, but the mud-brick foundations of a series of irregularly oriented small rooms appeared just below the bases of the walls of [B] 100. The floor level of these buildings was indicated by a door-sill accidentally left in one of the foundation compartments by the builders of [B] 100. This sill was only about 80 cm below the floor level of [B] 100. In fact any floor below this would be flooded at high Nile. These irregular rooms, no doubt parts of houses, contained pottery which brought them into the same archaeological group as the Barkal pyramids. So far as one can judge by surface indications, buildings of the period of [B] 100 extend in all directions from [B] 100, and probably overlie houses of the pyramid period. Owing to the Nile level, I do not believe that older buildings will be found.”

B 100 was oriented in such a way that its corners were directed to the cardinal points and its main axis (SW to NE) was perpendicular to the front entrance of the Great Temple (B 500, court B 501). The door in its NE wall was 104.4 m in a straight line to a point 26 m in front of the main gate of B 501 on the sacred way of the temple. (These measurements prove to be almost precisely 200 cubits and 50 cubits respectively!). A 90° left turn here led into the temple. In this position, “at the starboard side of the god’s bark” as it exited the temple, B 100 occupied the very place of the traditional Egyptian palace with respect to an Amun temple<sup>16</sup>. Thus, there can be no doubt that what Reisner thought was an “administrative

<sup>16</sup> D. O’Connor, “City and Palace in New Kingdom Egypt”, in: *Sociétés urbaines en Égypte et au Soudan* (Cahiers de recherches de l’Institut de Papyrologie et d’Égyptologie de Lille, No. 11; Lille 1989) 79.

building” was in fact a palace. Since it was founded on a layer of older buildings that also appeared to be Meroitic, B 100 may not have been a predecessor of B 1500, as I have generally assumed, but rather, given its small size, perhaps a building used contemporaneously with B 1500. Given its formal position with respect to B 500, B 100 may have been a “ceremonial palace” used by the king to prepare himself for ritual events, while B 1500, having a more unconventional orientation to B 500, may simply have been the king’s actual residence on the site, where he dwelt with all his staff and family and conducted the business of state. If this is true, then the lifespan of B 1200 may have extended well past the end of the Napatan Period through the early Meroitic.

Because B 1200 had been built at a right angle to the entrance of both the lesser Amun temple B 800 and the entrance of the second pylon of B 500 (i.e., before Piankhy had added the outer court B 501, which pushed the entrance forward about 50 m), we can be sure that the first phase of B 1200 dates either to the reign of Kashta, who completed B 800, or to the first half of the reign of Piankhy, when B 502 was completed as the entrance of B 500<sup>17</sup>. After this, B 1200 seems to have been rebuilt at least five times during the Napatan period, the latest renovation dating perhaps to the reign of Amanislo of the early third century BC, which may have given it another century or more of useful existence. Eventually B 1200 ceased to be used and was replaced by B 100, which, if built to complement B 1500, can probably also be dated to the joint reign of Natakamani and Amanitore. Internal features suggest that B 100 underwent at least two renovations and could well have had a lifespan of over a century. Reisner’s belief that B 100 was “late Meroitic” is probably correct, given his discovery of extensive earlier Meroitic (or possibly late Napatan) house remains under its foundations.

B 100 had doorways on all four sides (**fig. 2**). On three sides (SE, SW, and NE) they are in the center of the walls. Only on the NW side is the doorway off-center, nearer the W corner. The main entrance was probably in the middle of the NE wall, which opened in a straight line to the entrance of B 500. This doorway opened into a large room (108) (9.75 × 8.5 m) and lay at one end of an axis that originally passed clear through the building, exiting through another doorway in the center of the SW wall.

Room 108 had six columns, arranged in two rows of three, with open papyrus (or bell) capitals, heavily plastered and doubtless originally

<sup>17</sup> Kendall, in: *Egypt and Africa* 305.

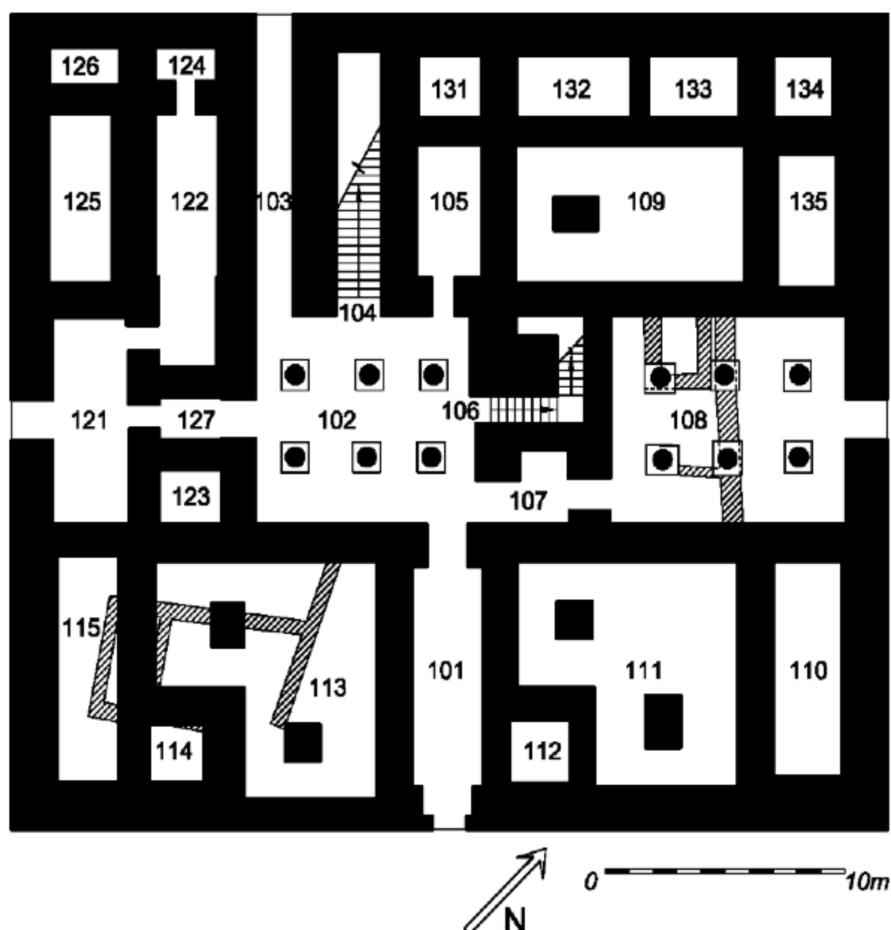


Fig. 2: Revised plan of B 100, derived from the original notes and measured map of Reisner, made in 1916 (and which, prior to 1990, had been presumed “lost”). It improves upon the only previously published plan of Dunham<sup>18</sup>, which was made without benefit of Reisner’s map, and it corrects the several errors in his published room numbers.

painted. In the first phase of the building, one could have walked along the axis of 108 uninterrupted, through a short corridor, then into a second room of six columns (102) virtually identical to 108, and finally through rooms 127 and 121, exiting the doorway in the SW wall. Originally, an angled stairway of two turns, leading to the second floor or roof, opened

<sup>18</sup> Dunham, *The Barkal Temples*, pl. II.

onto the corridor connecting 108 and 102. In a later phase, this corridor was completely blocked up by a more massive staircase (106), which took three turns and could be accessed only from 102. This change in plan prompted the construction of a new corridor (107), which linked rooms 108 and 102 along their SE side walls.

The map of B 100 indicates that the SE side had two near duplicate room plans (110, 111, and 112, and 113, 114, and 115) on opposite sides of a corridor (101). Each of the main rooms (111 and 113) had two massive, nearly square mud-brick pillars within, which were obviously intended to support columns in the same locations in the rooms above. On the SW side, another cluster of six rooms (121-126) suggested long, narrow apartments above, while the NW side had a series of rooms suggesting seven more ample chambers above them. The columned halls (108 and 102) probably rose to the full height of the two levels, allowing light into the center of the building through clerestory windows.

On February 15, 1916, Reisner finished clearing all the rooms in B 100 down to floor level, remarking “It is quite clear that we have in the plan the subsidiary (ground) floor of which only rooms 101 to 108, 121, 122, 124 were accessible (cellar rooms). The main floor was undoubtedly above”. On March 15 he cleaned B 100 “for survey and photography”, then began probing below the floor levels of the different rooms to hunt for earlier occupation levels. On March 17, under the floors of rooms 113, 114, and 115, he found traces of an earlier mud brick building; he also found older floors of red brick in rooms 105 and 108. This lower level, which Reisner believed to be Meroitic by its pottery, he called “B 100-sub”.

In his object register for Jebel Barkal, he recorded approximately 63 objects from B 100 – mainly pottery. These objects were brought back to Boston and are now stored in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Dunham (1970, 7-9) listed 31, which he considered the most important. As of this writing, I have not yet had a chance to examine any of them.

### **Summary of recorded room data**

The following descriptions of the different rooms in B 100 have been drawn from Reisner’s field diary: Diary VI, Sudan, pt. 2: “Gebel Barkal and Nuri”, which is presently archived in the library of the Art of Ancient World Dept., MFA Boston. In these notes and their accompanying drawings, Reisner himself often confused room numbers, so that they sometimes varied within diary entries and drawings and occasionally differed from those appearing on his master plan of B 100. The room numbering



system was further confused on Dunham's plan (1970, plan II). Having thoroughly examined the original sources, I have made an attempt to correct the errors and to produce a final correct plan.

**101:** Long entrance corridor on SE side, opens into central room 102.

**102:** Large central room with a NE to SW axis, with six columns (The middle column in the SE row was found missing). The columns were set on square piers. Reisner reported finding "pottery under floor" on the SE side of the room (Diary, Jan. 28, p. 67). The SW side had a doorway centered on the axis, which passed through corridor 127 and room 121 to an exit doorway centered in the SW wall. On the NE side of the room the axis went up an angled staircase (106) to the lost main floor and/or roof. The surviving stairway took three turns: a lowest section (SW-NE), a middle level (SE-NW), and a higher level (NE-SW). The lower stair was partly destroyed, revealing that there was an older stair beneath. The older stair began with the mid-section, not with the lower, and indicated that a corridor once connected rooms 102 and 108 along the axis (Diary, Feb. 1, p. 75). Later this corridor was replaced by another (107), which followed the SE sides of these rooms. The NW side of 102 had three doorways. One led to 103 (a corridor leading to the NW exit doorway); another led to 104 (a flight of steps leading to the second level), and a third led to 105 (a room of unknown function).

**103:** A corridor leading from the S corner of room 102 to an exit doorway in the NW wall. Reisner's diary sketch indicates that in 103 he found "pots under floor".

**104:** A staircase, accessed by a door in the middle of the NW wall of 102, that preserved 10 steps of a stairway leading to the second floor. The steps were each about 10 cm high and 35 cm wide (Diary, Jan. 29, 1916, p. 71).

**105:** A basement room off the NW corner of B 102, parallel to 103 and 104.

**106:** A heavy mud-brick stair of three angled turns. The stairway was renewed at least twice. The upper turn was destroyed, revealing an older stair underneath. The older stair began with the second turn, not with the first, and when B 100 was first built its NE-SW axis ran through the center of 102 and 108 and connected the doors on either side of the building (Diary, Feb. 1, 1918, p. 75).

**107:** a later corridor, installed when the hallway linking 102 and 108 was blocked by 106 (the later stairway). Reisner reported finding pots on the floor of 107 & 108, along the SE wall (Diary, Feb. 1, 1918, p. 75).

**108:** a large room with six columns, nearly identical to 102, accessed from 102 by corridor 107. Its walls were of mud brick, partly coated with sandy plaster. Its columns were of sandstone, also heavily plastered. In the

debris, several column capitals of bell form were preserved. The columns were founded on square piers of red (burnt) brick (Diary, Feb. 2, 1916, p. 78). Under the floor Reisner found well-built, cemented red brick walls 50-60 cm further down, the bases of which were so low that he doubted any other building existed below them, since they would have been below high Nile level (Diary, Mar. 19, p. 201).

**109:** A large doorless room on the NW side of 108 with a square mud brick pillar in the middle. In the debris in the S corner, Reisner reported finding the head of a large bronze nail and sherds of buff ware, orange-red polished ware, dark brown line-painted ware, and incised ware (Diary Feb. 2, 1916, p. 75). (Note: In the original Reisner plan of B 100, this room is numbered “134”. In Reisner’s diary it is consistently numbered “109”, which is followed by Dunham [1970, plan II]. In the original Reisner plan, however, the number “109” is assigned to Dunham’s room “110”.)

**110:** a long doorless compartment at the E corner of B 100. Here Reisner found a hard red floor about 40 cm. below the floor level of 108. The pottery he recovered “resembled the Barkal Pyramid wares” but with “some different forms” included. (Note: In Reisner’s diary this room is labeled both “110” and “112”. See Diary, Feb. 4, 1916, p. 86, and Mar. 21, p. 205.)

**111, 112:** doorless rooms SW of 110, which were clearly only foundation cells. Room 111 was a large L-shaped compartment with two square piers. These walls and piers must have supported the walls and columns of the more important upper story (Diary Feb. 6, p. 94). (Note: The room that Reisner calls “111” is called by Dunham “111/112”. Dunham’s plan also incorrectly shows only one column pier.) Below the floors of these rooms, Reisner found other floors, below which were thin layers of soil, alluvial sand and mud. He reported the earth to be very damp and thus not much above high Nile level and concluded that there could have been no pre-Meroitic buildings in this area. He also reported that room 112 contained a few broken human bones (Diary, Feb. 9, 1916, p. 100). (Note: In his diary Reisner calls room 112 also “113”, which is followed by Dunham. Cf. Diary, Feb. 4, 9 and Mar. 21.)

**113, 114, 115:** these rooms, occupying the S end of B 100, were similar in arrangement to rooms 110, 111, and 112. Rooms 113 and 114 were identical in plan to rooms 111 and 112, and room 115 on the S end parallels 110 on the N end. These two clusters of rooms lay opposite each other, across corridor 101. Under the floors of rooms 113, 114 and 115 (i.e. below the B 100 foundations), Reisner found earlier mud brick walls. Pottery that he found in 115 included an amphora of a type he described as similar to the Barkal Pyramid group. (Note: In his diary Reisner calls room 113 variously “114” [Diary, Feb. 9, Mar. 17, 21], room 114, “115” [Diary Mar. 17, 21], and room 115, “116” [Diary, Mar. 17, 21].)

**117, 118:** Dunham's rooms 117 and 118 are labeled 135 and 134 on the present plan because they are so labeled on the Reisner plan. These rooms, occupying the N corner of B 100, are also doorless basement cells NE of room 109. In 134, a hard red floor was found at about 40 cm. below the floor level of 108.

**119, 120:** (unused room numbers)

**121:** an elongated room perpendicular to the NE-SW axis of B 100, connecting with 102 via corridor 127 and opening onto an exit doorway in the SW wall. A door in its N corner led into a long room 122, which itself led into a small room 124.

**122:** a long room accessed by doorway from 121.

**123:** a small closed compartment on the SE side of corridor 127, in which Reisner found "a few broken human bones" (Diary, Feb. 9, 1916, p. 100). He also found there a stone celt which had been used as a rubbing stone. Below its floor he also encountered older mud brick walls, which he took to be private houses.

**124:** a small room at the NW end of room 122, connected to it by a doorway.

**125, 126:** a pair of doorless foundation cells on the NW side of rooms 122 and 124 (Diary, Feb. 11, 1916, p. 105).

**127-130:** (unused room numbers)

**131, 132:** a pair of small doorless basement rooms on the NW side. Outside the outer wall of 131, Reisner found fragments of gold leaf, several small fragments of black polished ware, and two fragments of black granite with worked faces (Diary, Feb. 12, 1916, p. 106). Below the floors of 132, he found the doorway of an earlier building about 50-60 cm below the floor level of 108 (Diary, Mar. 23, p. 211).

**133, 134:** rooms described in Diary, Mar. 19, 1916, p. 201, but which are not drawn on any diary plan. Room 133 appears to be the SW half of Dunham's room 118 (which was actually two rooms, 133 and 134). The person who drew Reisner's master ground plan of B 100 identified room 109 (see above) as "134", but one suspects that Reisner intended to apply the term to the N cell of B 100.

**135:** on Reisner's map of B 100 is room 117 on Dunham's map. No mention of a "135" appears in the diary.

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Photo 3 : Le palais A avec son trône (photo : M. Berti).



Photo 4 : Photograph taken March 15, 1916, showing B 100 from the S, fully cleared.