

Reconstructing the history of the planning of the Medamoud temple: a multidisciplinary approach

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Résumé:

During the pharaonic era, Medamoud was a provincial city of medium importance. The cult of the god Montou took place in the city like in the surrounding ones, Karnak, Ermant and Tod. Archaeological surveys were undertaken by the French scientists mandated by the Louvre museum from 1925 to 1939. They excavated the Greco-Roman great temple which was founded over the remains of the Mid and New Empire. In 2011, a new study started in order to summarize and to complete the former ones.

Site

The preserved area around the temple covers about 15.5ha. Its limits describe approximately a circular kôm. The height difference with the surroundings is about 1.5m with some mounds reaching nearly 3m. Only the dromos, the temple area and the embarking area have been excavated yet. As the site could be quite complex (various transformations in the buildings, several old excavations) the idea is to combine electrical resistivity/conductivity measurements with magnetometry over the areas defined as having the maximum archaeological interest.

Prospected area: archaeological potential of the surrounding area

As the excavations were mainly done over the temple itself and its accesses, the protected area of near 15.5ha surrounding it have never been explored except a Byzantine pottery workshop discovered in 1928 but never published. As the excavations over the temple proved that a Copt settlement have been located here, it would probably extend over the entire area of the kôm. In addition, Greco-Roman and pharaonic settlements could probably be there too. The survey will be done over the areas filled with the diagonal hatching pattern (fig. 1).

Prospected area: area of the temples

The main source of information is brought by the excavation reports (Bisson de la Roque 1946). These ones were undertaken by the French institute for oriental archaeology (IFAO) between years 1922 and 1939. Although the kôm of the antic city of Madou was known since the XVIII^e century BC (Pococke 1743 p. 96), No excavations were done before 1925, when the Louvres Museum asked for it. The excavations gave plenty of results and objects. It has been described in regular reporting, mainly on the architectural features discovered: Greco-Roman temple and coptic settlements. Nonetheless, the accuracy of the descriptions is not sufficient and numerous information are missing. The annual reporting covers the excavations between 1925 and 1933. The last campaigns are only partially published.

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