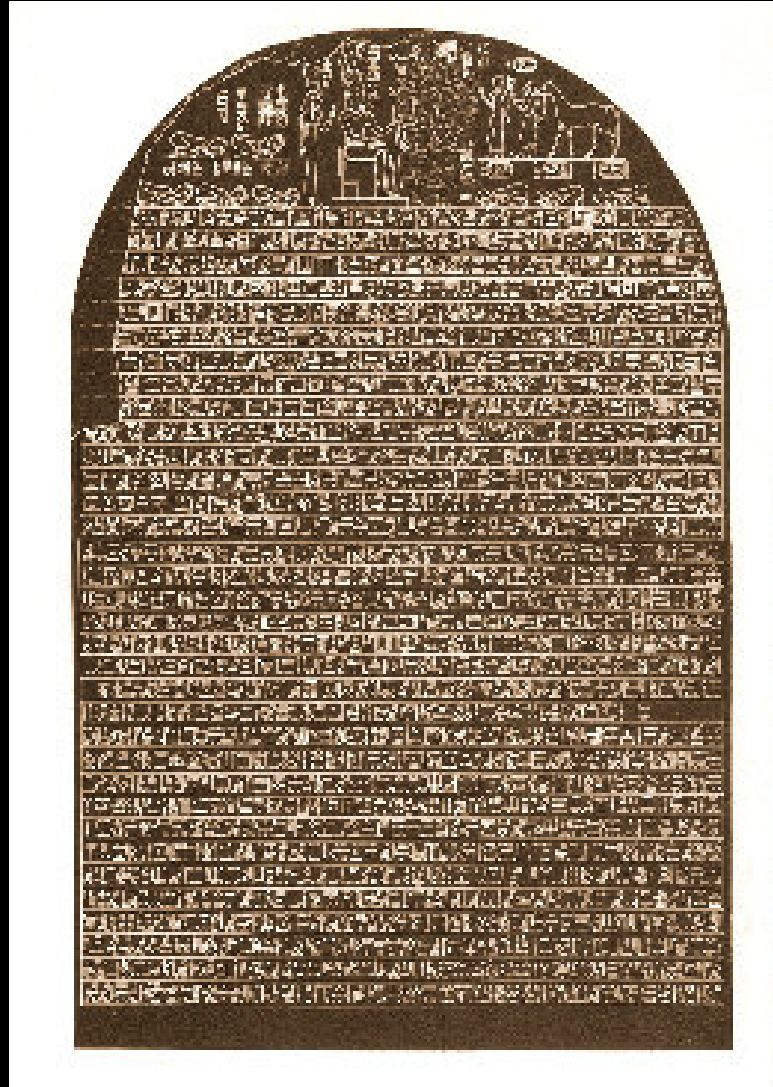


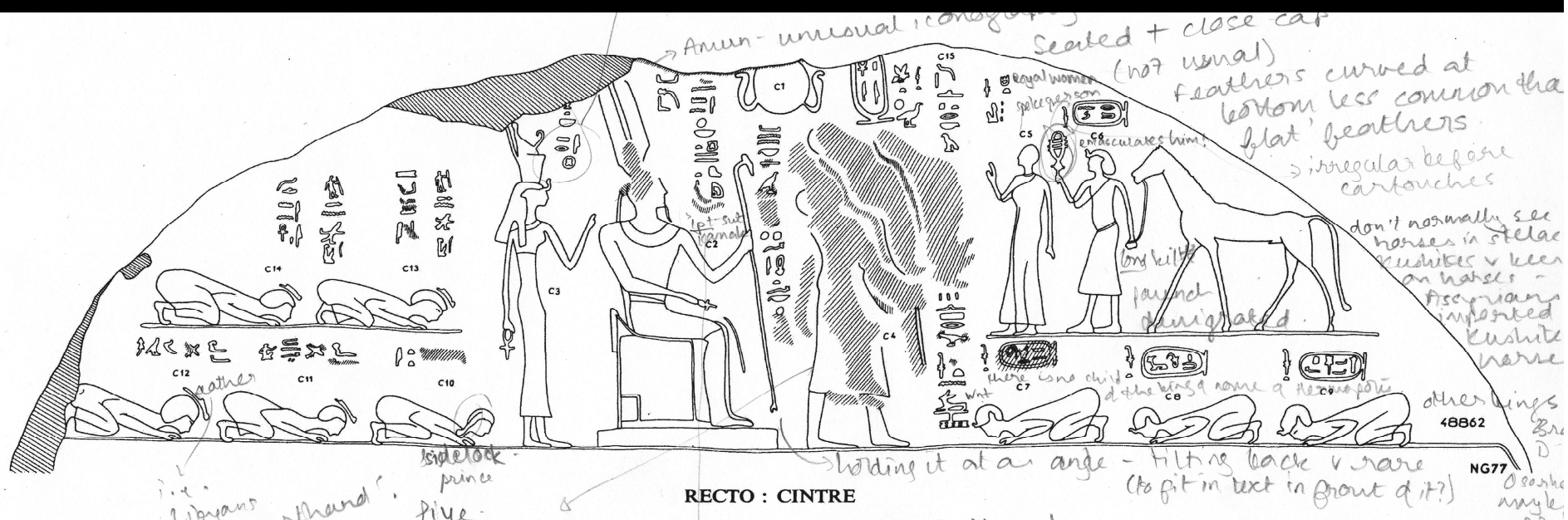
Sudanic Statecraft?



A new way of viewing the Piye Victory Stela

Problems with interpreting the Victory Stela as a culturally Egyptian object

- Difference of Piye to Egyptian norms stressed
- Piye allows Egyptian rulers to stay in power, leaves Egypt



The Segmentary State



Aidan Southall, 1920-2009

Alur Society, 1956

Previously binary opposition between states and stateless societies:
unsatisfying

Stateless societies ('tribes' or 'clans') organized around kinship lines:
'segmentary lineage'

The Segmentary State

- Numerous centres of political power
- Political power is differentiated between royal suzerainty (ritual), and practical power held by local elites
- Royal centre organized through administrative system and coercive force: repeated on a smaller scale in other locales of power
- Prone to fluctuations in size, especially at the peripheries

Segmentary > Sudanic

- Segmentary state model widely applicable across Sudanic belt (incl. Djenne-Djeno?)
- Applied to Meroitic period using direct historical method (Funj and Keira sultanates) by Edwards

‘then the treasuries and granaries of Memphis were allocated as endowment to Amun, to Ptah, and to the Ennead in Memphis’

‘its granaries were allocated as endowment to his father Amen-Re’

‘anyone who hides his horses and conceals his wealth shall die the death of his father!’

(oaths of the four kings)

‘I will not disobey the King’s command. I will not thrust aside his majesty’s words. I will not do wrong to a count without your knowledge. I will only do what the King said. I will not disobey what he has commanded.’

(Tefnakht’s oath)

Archaeological Traces of the Sudanic State?

- Lack of excavation of settlement
- Cemeteries rather small- lack of sedentary agriculture?
- Different types of burial- no centrally imposed culture

Archaeology in Egypt

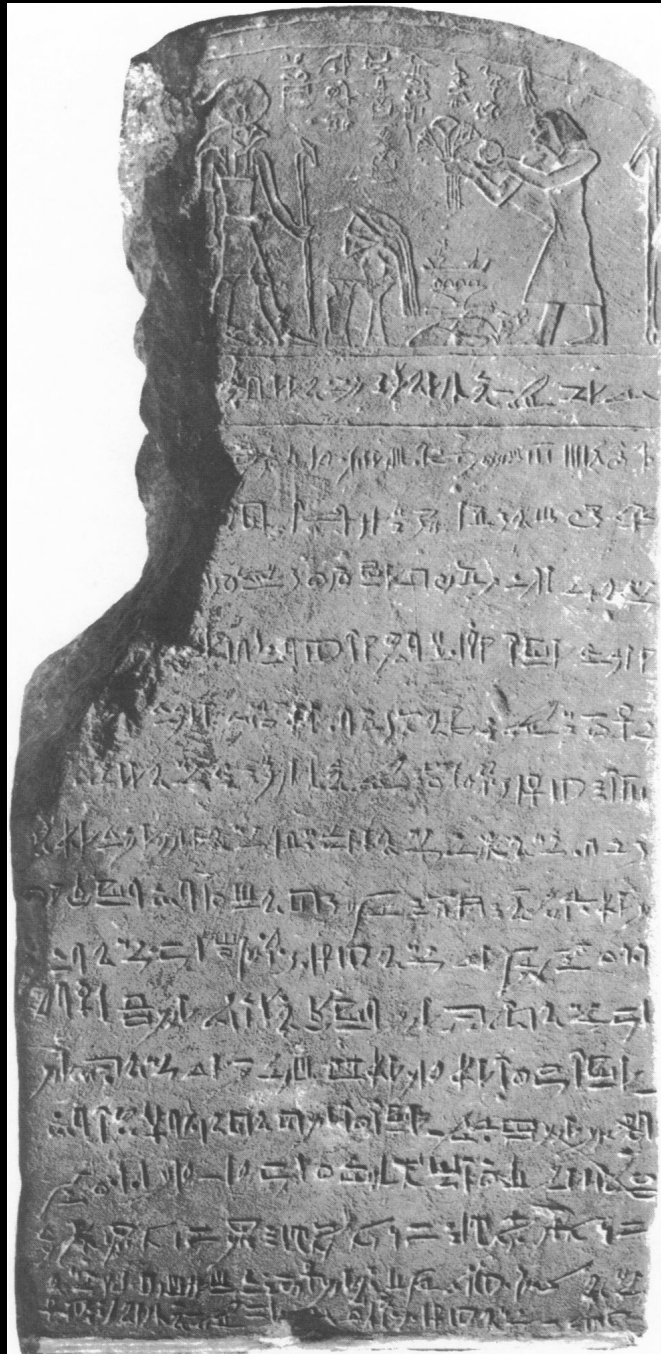
- Dakhla Stela: dedicated by *wr* ꜥ Nesdjehuty
 - Offering to god: kingly position
 - Dated to year 24 of *pr*-ꜥ Piye

Mummy wrapping: name of Piye and date year 20+x

Gap: date not necessarily associated with name

Examples of mummy cloth where name is local ruler
but date of king's reign

Ash. Mus. 1894. 107b



BM 6640



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