

The Great Oasis of Egypt

The Great Oasis of Egypt provides the first full study of the Dakhla and Kharga oases in antiquity, written by participants in several of the current archaeological projects in this region. The oases were closely tied to Egypt and to each other, but not always easy to control, and their agricultural productivity varied with climatic conditions. The book discusses the oases' geology, water resources, history, administration, economy, trade connections, taxation, urbanism, religion, burial practices, literary culture, and art. New evidence for human health and illness from the cemeteries is presented along with a synthesis on the use of different types of cloth in burial. A particular emphasis is placed on pottery, with its ability to tell us about how people lived and about the extent to which we can identify imports and exports through its shapes and fabrics, and also on literature and art, which suggest full participation in the culture of Greco-Roman Egypt.

ROGER S. BAGNALL is Professor of Ancient History and Leon Levy Director, emeritus, at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, as well as Jay Professor of Greek and Latin and Professor of History, emeritus, at Columbia University. He is the director of the excavations at Amheida and a co-author of the accompanying volume, *An Oasis City* (2015). He is a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

GAËLLE TALLET is Assistant Professor of Greek History at the University of Limoges, and director of the El-Deir archaeological mission in Kharga. She is co-editor, with Thierry Sauzeau, of *Mer et désert de l'Antiquité à nos jours: Approches croisées* (2018).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48216-5 — The Great Oasis of Egypt
Edited by Roger S. Bagnall, Gaëlle Tallet
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48216-5 — The Great Oasis of Egypt
Edited by Roger S. Bagnall, Gaëlle Tallet
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

The Great Oasis of Egypt

The Kharga and Dakhla Oases in Antiquity

Edited by

ROGER S. BAGNALL

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University

GAËLLE TALLET

University of Limoges



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48216-5 — The Great Oasis of Egypt
Edited by Roger S. Bagnall, Gaëlle Tallet
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108482165

DOI: 10.1017/9781108593274

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bagnall, Roger S., editor. | Tallet, Gaëlle, 1974– editor. | Oasis Magna : Kharga and Dakhla Oases in Antiquity (Conference) (2014 : New York University)

Title: The Great Oasis of Egypt : the Kharga and Dakhla Oases in antiquity / edited by Roger S. Bagnall, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University; Gaëlle Tallet, Université de Limoges.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Papers originally presented at a conference held September, 2014, at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019002789 | ISBN 9781108482165 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Kharga (Egypt : Oasis) – Congresses. | Kharga (Egypt : Oasis) – Antiquities – Congresses. | Dakhla Oasis (Egypt) – Congresses. | Dakhla Oasis (Egypt) – Antiquities – Congresses.

Classification: LCC DT73.K5 G74 2019 | DDC 932–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019002789>

ISBN 978-1-108-48216-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

- List of Figures* [page vii]
List of Tables [xii]
List of Contributors [xiii]
Preface [xvii]
- 1 Introduction [1]
ROGER S. BAGNALL AND GAËLLE TALLET
- PART I LIVING IN THE OASIS: HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT [15]
- 2 Water Resources and Irrigation in Two Oases of the Western Desert of Egypt: Kharga and Dakhla [17]
JEAN-PAUL BRAVARD
- 3 The Ancient Population of the Kharga Oasis [30]
FRANÇOISE DUNAND AND ROGER LICHTENBERG
- 4 Trimitis: A Case Study of Proto-Byzantine Urbanism [46]
PAOLA DAVOLI
- PART II MANAGING THE OASIS [81]
- 5 The Great Oasis: An Administrative Entity from Pharaonic Times to Roman Times [83]
ROGER S. BAGNALL AND GAËLLE TALLET
- 6 Land and Resource Administration: Farmers, Managers, and Soldiers in the Great Oasis [105]
RODNEY AST
- 7 What Remains in the Hands of the Gods: Taxation in Kharga Oasis through the Demotic Ostraca (Fifth Century BC to First Century AD) [122]
DAMIEN AGUT-LABORDÈRE

- PART III TRADE AND MOBILITY IN A CONNECTED
ENVIRONMENT [133]
- 8 The North Kharga Oasis Darb Ain Amur Survey
(NKODAAS): Surveying the Tracks between the Two
Oases [135]
SALIMA IKRAM
- 9 And the Potsherds? Some Avenues of Reflection and
Synthesis on the Pottery of the Great Oasis [152]
PASCALE BALLET
- 10 Egyptian and Imported Amphoras at Amheida [168]
CLEMENTINA CAPUTO
- 11 Kegs from Amheida [192]
IRENE SOTO MARÍN
- 12 El-Deir as a Switching Point [201]
YAËL CHEVALIER
- PART IV AN OASIS CULTURE? [217]
- 13 Temple Building on the Egyptian Margins: The
Geopolitical Issues behind Seti II and Ramesses IX's
Activity at Amheida [221]
OLAF E. KAPER
- 14 Funerary Practices in the Great Oasis during
Antiquity [237]
FRANÇOISE DUNAND AND FLEUR LETELLIER-
WILLEMEN
- 15 Was There an Interest in Literary Culture in the Great
Oasis? Some Answers [269]
RAFFAELLA CRIBIORE
- 16 The House of Serenos and Wall Painting in the Western
Oases [281]
SUSANNA MCFADDEN
- Bibliography* [297]
Index of ancient people [334]
Index of places [336]
General index [339]

Figures

- 1.1 The Great Oasis [page 2]
- 1.2 The settlement at Amheida, view [4]
- 1.3 The settlement at El-Deir [4]
- 1.4 The El-Deir fortress [8]
- 1.5 Seth on a relief in the first court of the Hibis temple [12]
- 2.1 Kharga and Dakhla oases [19]
- 2.2 Cross-section of the geological structure and static water level, Western Desert of Egypt [21]
- 2.3 Yardang, El-Deir Oasis [25]
- 2.4 Historical land occupation and development, El-Deir Oasis [26]
- 2.5 A yardang cross-section, Amheida [27]
- 3.1 An attempt at paleodemography: the age at death at Dush [33]
- 3.2 An attempt at paleodemography: the age at death at Ain el-Labakha [33]
- 3.3 Badly knitted femur fracture, El-Deir [35]
- 3.4 A 12-year-old boy with many fractures, Ain el-Labakha [36]
- 3.5 A 40-year-old woman who suffered from tuberculosis and bilharzia, Ain el-Labakha [37]
- 3.6 A man suffering from multiple myeloma in the Christian necropolis of El-Deir [38]
- 3.7 Growth arrest lines (GAL) at Dush [39]
- 3.8 Growth arrest lines (GAL) at Ain el-Labakha [39]
- 3.9 A man with shaved head and circumcised penis at Ain el-Labakha [43]
- 4.1 Plan of Trimithis/Amheida, 2013 [47]
- 4.2 Plan of Trimithis/Amheida with dune movements and stable dunes covered by potsherds, 2013 [48]
- 4.3 Overview of the south edge of Amheida [49]
- 4.4 Satellite view of northwest Dakhla and detail of Amheida area [50]
- 4.5 Pottery sherds used as building material [52]

- 4.6 Street network and names of streets [55]
- 4.7 Area 1, Street 1 looking northwest [56]
- 4.8 The long north–south street in Area 2 looking north [57]
- 4.9 Area 2, the house of Serenos flanked by Streets 2 and 3 [58]
- 4.10 Area 2, Street 2 during the excavation [59]
- 4.11 Area 2, Street 3 looking south [60]
- 4.12 Hypothetical reconstruction of the *temenos* and temple of Thoth [62]
- 4.13 Bathhouse B6, looking west [64]
- 4.14 Plan of the bathhouse B6 [64]
- 4.15 The house of Serenos: detail of central painted room 1 [66]
- 4.16 Possible banquet halls and painted rooms [68]
- 4.17 The pyramid in Area 3 and the tower tomb in Area 10 [71]
- 4.18 Hypothetical regular grid foundation applied on Areas 2 and 11 [73]
- 4.19 Widths of the thirty-seven streets, Amheida [75]
- 4.20 Detail of Area 8 [78]
- 4.21 Detail of Area 2 south with street network [79]
- 5.1 The site of Hibis [84]
- 5.2 Ain el-Turba, excavations of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York [86]
- 5.3 Dakhla’s connectivity through North Kharga [88]
- 5.4 The Girga road [89]
- 5.5 Osiris, Amun, Isis, Nephthys, and the Abydene fetish in the Hibis temple [92]
- 5.6 Amenibis on the gateway of his temple at Hibis [95]
- 6.1 Map of Dakhla and Kharga oases [109]
- 6.2 Vessel with mud jar-stopper and tag in place [112]
- 6.3 Example of writing by Chrestos [119]
- 6.4 Example of writing by Abraam [120]
- 6.5 Example of writing by Serenos [121]
- 7.1 Chronological overview of the Demotic ostraca found in the Kharga Oasis [123]
- 7.2 Geographic distribution of the Demotic ostraca within the Kharga Oasis [125]
- 8.1 Map showing H. E. Winlock’s travels between Kharga and Dakhla [136]
- 8.2 Travelers’ graffiti on the gateway at the temple of Ain Amur [141]

- 8.3 Distribution map of the prehistoric sites found by NKODAAS [143]
- 8.4 Map of routes used during the New Kingdom in the area of the Darb Ain Amur [147]
- 8.5 Map of routes used during the Roman period in the area of the Darb Ain Amur [149]
- 9.1 Kilns at Dush/Kysis, workshop 2 [153]
- 9.2 Dush/Kysis: *sigà* dating to phase I [155]
- 9.3 Dush/Kysis: *sigà* dating to phase II [156]
- 9.4 Amheida/Trimithis: potters' kilns [156]
- 9.5 Amheida/Trimithis: heaps of sherds on surface [157]
- 9.6 Amheida/Trimithis: bowls of local production [157]
- 9.7 El-Deir: Zone A', east–west canal [159]
- 9.8 Dush/Kysis: bowl, late yellow slip group [161]
- 9.9 Ta'oun al-Hawa, 1987: workshop dump, with yellow slip wares [161]
- 9.10 El-Deir: fragments of Ptolemaic amphora from the Nile Valley [163]
- 9.11 El-Deir: neck of Late Roman amphora 1 [164]
- 9.12 Ain el-Labakha, 1987: round-bottomed bowls with painted decoration [166]
- 10.1 Amheida general map, 2013 [169]
- 10.2 The Great Oasis and the Late Roman military settlements [170]
- 10.3 A letter and receipts from Amheida [172]
- 10.4 Well-tags from Amheida [173]
- 10.5 Percentages of vessel categories at Amheida [174]
- 10.6 Percentages of Egyptian and imported amphoras at Amheida [174]
- 10.7 AE 3, LRA 7, Cretan, Rhodian, Cnidian, Pamphylian, and Mau amphoras at Amheida [175]
- 10.8 Distribution of fragments of LRA 7 in Serenos' house [177]
- 10.9 j: Cretan amphora; k–m: Rhodian amphoras; n–o: Cnidian amphoras; p: Pamphylian amphora; q: Mau XXVII/XXVIII amphora [181]
- 10.10 S. Lorenzo 7, LRA 4, Spatheion 1, and Keay LII amphoras [186]
- 10.11 Distribution of amphoras in different excavation areas at Amheida [189]
- 11.1 Keg typology at Amheida [195]
- 11.2 Darb el-Farafra Road kegs [197]
- 12.1 Local ceramic production: assemblage of kegs, El-Deir [205]

- 12.2 Local ceramic production: kegs, bottles, and flasks, Roman period [206]
- 12.3 Local ceramic production: bowls and cooking pots, Roman Period [207]
- 12.4 Imported amphoras, bottles, and water jars [209]
- 12.5 El-Deir, fortress area: Late Roman amphoras 1A [211]
- 12.6 El-Deir, agricultural plots: bowls, amphoras, and kegs [213]
- 12.7 El-Deir, agricultural plots, early Roman cooking pot, bottle, and amphora [214]
- 13.1 Stela of Seti II found at Amheida [224]
- 13.2 Fragment of relief in the name of Ramesses IX from the temple at Amheida [229]
- 14.1 El-Deir East Cemetery, tomb E4.2: limestone and wood coffins [240]
- 14.2 Wood coffins from Dabashiya cemetery (Kharga), tomb 22 and El Deir Northeast Cemetery, tomb NE2 [241]
- 14.3 Coffins and painted coffin-bed wood boards, from Bagawat, Dush, and El-Deir [242]
- 14.4 Dush main cemetery, tomb 20: mummies set down on stones [242]
- 14.5 Head coverings, from Kellis and Ain el-Labakha [243]
- 14.6 El Deir East Cemetery, tomb 35: “*ousekh* necklace” made of a “cut” piece of cartonnage [244]
- 14.7 *Ba*-birds of painted wood and raw clay, from Ain el-Labakha and Dabashiya [244]
- 14.8 Dabashiya: piece of plaited hair, deposited in a round vessel [245]
- 14.9 Maps of West Cemetery, El-Deir and Kellis 2 cemetery [247]
- 14.10 El-Deir West Cemetery: mummy W73.01 [248]
- 14.11 El-Deir West Cemetery: salt inside mummy wrappings [249]
- 14.12 El-Deir West Cemetery, tomb W18: right hand of a priest’s mummy [250]
- 14.13 El-Deir West Cemetery, tomb W106: painted board from a traditional coffin [251]
- 14.14 Cushion stuffed with grass [252]
- 14.15 Mummy’s legs with high quality of stuffing [253]
- 14.16 Jar stand [253]
- 14.17 Textile amulets [254]

- 14.18 Bag containing hair [254]
- 14.19 Different kinds of fringes [255]
- 14.20 A special weaving, “Gros de Tours” [256]
- 14.21 Colors and dyes [256]
- 14.22 Painted shroud [257]
- 14.23 Red, yellow, and black shrouds [257]
- 14.24 A tunic woven in two parts [258]
- 14.25 Neck decoration [259]
- 14.26 Dyed wefts [259]
- 14.27 Check pattern [260]
- 14.28 A band with two selvages [260]
- 14.29 Supplementary wefts with loops [261]
- 14.30 A sewing in a linen textile with a cotton thread [261]
- 14.31 A patched-up cotton textile from a traditional cemetery [262]
- 14.32 The only cotton fragment of this kind [263]
- 14.33 Shrouds tied up with cotton strings [264]
- 14.34 Pattern with traditional colors [265]
- 14.35 Mummy W53.1 with eleven linen shrouds [266]
- 14.36 Mummy W14.1 clothed with a woolen tunic [267]
- 14.37 A woolen head-scarf [267]
- 15.1 Passage from Homer, *Odyssey*, from room 19 in Amheida, Area 2.1 [271]
- 15.2 Rhetorical composition on the wall of room 15 in Amheida, Area 2.1 [272]
- 16.1 The house of Serenos replica, room 1 decorations [282]
- 16.2 Wall paintings uncovered during 2015 survey, Amheida Area 2.6 [285]
- 16.3 Plan of the house of Serenos, Area 2.1 [287]
- 16.4 The “Purple Room” from the house of Serenos [288]
- 16.5 The house of Serenos, northeast corner of room 1 [289]
- 16.6 Room 1, detail of east wall, Ares and a figure in a Phrygian cap [290]
- 16.7 A chariot scene, the house of Serenos [291]
- 16.8 Detail of the north wall of room 1, Perseus rescuing Andromeda [292]
- 16.9 Collapsed masonry from west wall of room 1, Orpheus and the animals [293]
- 16.10 Detail of the west wall, room 1, banquet scene [294]

Tables

- 3.1 List of individuals studied on each site [*page* 31]
- 3.2 The sex ratio in the cemeteries of the Kharga Oasis [31]
- 4.1 Widths of the thirty-seven streets, Amheida [75]
- 9.1 Summary of amphora imports in the oasis of Dakhla [162]
- 10.1 Summary of Egyptian and imported amphoras at Amheida [179]

Contributors

DAMIEN AGUT-LABORDÈRE is permanent researcher in the French CNRS (Archéologie et Sciences de l'Antiquité, Nanterre) and a member of the excavation team directed by Gaëlle Tallet at El-Deir, in which he is in charge of the Demotic papyri and ostraca. He contributed to the online edition of the Ain Manawir ostraca directed by Michel Chauveau (available online at achemenet.com). His interests lie mainly in the social and economic history of Egypt from the Saite to the Persian period.

RODNEY AST is Senior Research and Teaching Associate in the Institute for Papyrology at the University of Heidelberg. His areas of interest include Greek and Latin papyrology and paleography, the cultural and social history of Greco-Roman Egypt, Egyptian archaeology, and Digital Humanities. He participates in fieldwork in the Dakhla Oasis and in Egypt's Eastern Desert.

ROGER S. BAGNALL is Professor of Ancient History and Leon Levy Director, emeritus, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, as well as Jay Professor of Greek and Latin and Professor of History, emeritus, at Columbia University. He is the director of the excavations at Amheida and the co-author of the recent volume on those excavations, *An Oasis City* (2015). His interests lie mainly in the social, economic, and administrative history of Egypt from the Hellenistic to the late antique period and in the papyrological documentation of that period.

PASCALE BALLET is Professor of History of Art and Archaeology of the Roman World at the University of Paris-Nanterre. She has dedicated an important part of her research to the study of material culture and especially ceramics, and at the beginning of the 1980s launched the Center for the Study of Ceramics at the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, of which she was the director from 1983 to 1993. The Great Oasis (both Kharga and Dakhla) is one of the areas she has been investigating, from the Old Kingdom to the Byzantine period. Since 2001, she has been conducting

excavations at Buto/Tell el-Fara'in (Late periods), in cooperation with the German Institute of Archaeology in Cairo.

JEAN-PAUL BRAVARD is a geographer, professor emeritus of the University of Lyon, and former senior member of the French University Institute. He has worked on past and present rivers and alluvial plains in different regions of the world, mostly focusing on the impacts of human actions. He has published a large number of peer-reviewed articles and books. He has previously worked in the Wadi Hadramawt (Yemen) and is involved in the geoarchaeological studies conducted at El-Deir and Amheida.

CLEMENTINA CAPUTO is post-doctoral researcher in the Sonderforschungsbereich 933 – Materiale Textkulturen (TP A09), at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. She has been a member of the Dime excavation team since 2006 and the Amheida excavation team since 2009. She works on Greco-Roman and Late Roman pottery, and ceramic writing supports in the ancient Mediterranean.

YAËL CHEVALIER is a PhD candidate at the University of Poitiers and is writing a dissertation on “The Egyptian Greco-Roman material in context: a comparative study of two different landscapes, Buto and El-Deir” (advisor: Prof. Pascale Ballet). She is a ceramicist in both the El-Deir and Buto archaeological missions.

RAFFAELLA CRIBIORE is a professor of Classics at New York University. She has published extensively on education in the Greek and Roman worlds and on rhetoric in late antiquity. Among her books are *Gymnastics of the Mind: Greek Education in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt* (2001), *The School of Libanius in Late Antique Antioch* (2007), *Libanius the Sophist: Rhetoric, Reality and Religion in the Fourth Century* (2013), and *Between City and School: Selected Orations of Libanius TTH 65* (2016).

PAOLA DAVOLI is Associate Professor of Egyptology at the University of Salento, Lecce, and archaeological director of the Amheida excavations since 2005. She has more than twenty years of field experience in archaeology in Egypt, and she is currently the co-director of the Soknopaiou Nesos Project (Fayyum) of the Centro di Studi Papirologici (University of Salento). She has published extensively on the archaeology of the Fayyum. Her main interests are urbanism and the material culture of Egypt up to the Greco-Roman period.

FRANÇOISE DUNAND is Professor emerita of History of Religions at Strasbourg University. She is a former member of the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology in Cairo, and worked for more than thirty years on the ancient cemeteries of Kharga Oasis. She was the director of the French Mission at El-Deir for twelve years.

SALIMA IKRAM is Distinguished University Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, and has worked in Egypt since 1986. She has directed the Animal Mummy Project, co-directed the Predynastic Gallery Project and the North Kharga Oasis Survey, and is Director of the North Kharga Oasis Darb Ain Amur Survey and the Amenmesse Mission-KV10/KV63 in the Valley of the Kings. She has published extensively, with her main research interests being funerary archaeology, daily life, archaeozoology, rock art, environmental history, ethno- and experimental archaeology, and the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage.

OLAF E. KAPER is Professor of Egyptology at Leiden University and Adjunct Research Fellow at Monash University, Melbourne. He is senior investigator of the Dakhleh Oasis Project, directed by A. J. Mills, since 1988, and Associate Director for Egyptology of the excavations at Amheida since 2004.

FLEUR LETELLIER-WILLEMEN is a medical doctor, specialized in radiology, and an associate member of the CRIHAM research team at the University of Limoges. She was trained in the study of antique textiles at the CIETA, in Lyon, and is in charge of the study of archaeological textiles in the El-Deir archaeological team. She has published many papers on archaeological textiles, with a focus on fibers and techniques in their specific context. She is interested in the role played by textiles in funerary practices and in the information they provide on economic and social status, trade, and external influences.

ROGER LICHTENBERG is a medical doctor, specialized in radiology, and the former chief of the Radiological Service in the Institut Arthur Vernes, Paris. He was part of the French team who studied the mummy of Ramesses II in Paris in 1976. For more than thirty years, he worked with Françoise Dunand upon the mummies that they discovered in the ancient cemeteries of Kharga, as well as upon mummies from other Egyptian sites (Saqqara, Deir el-Medina).

SUSANNA MCFADDEN is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College. She is a

specialist in Late Roman wall paintings in both Egypt and the wider Roman Empire. Recent contributions on the topic include an essay on the paintings of Amheida in *An Oasis City* (2015) as well as co-editing a book on the Late Roman wall paintings in Luxor Temple entitled *The Art of Maintaining an Empire: The Imperial Cult Chamber in Luxor Temple* (2015).

IRENE SOTO MARÍN received her PhD from the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University in 2018. Her thesis, entitled “The economic integration of a Late Roman province: Egypt from Diocletian to Anastasius,” analyzed the degree of economic connections between Egypt and the rest of the Roman Empire by studying the evidence from coins, ceramics, and textiles. She is currently Wissenschaftliche Assistentin in the Department of Ancient History at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She has been working as a ceramicist for the excavations at Amheida since 2008.

GAËLLE TALLET is Assistant Professor of Greek History at the University of Limoges. She is the Director of the El-Deir archaeological mission in Kharga. Her research focuses on the cultural, political, and economic history of Egypt during the Greco-Roman period, and she has mostly published on religious changes in Greco-Roman Egypt, with a specific interest in mummy cartonnage production in the Great Oasis and in the impact of temple management on the oasis landscape. She has recently edited, with Thierry Sauzeau, *Mer et désert de l'Antiquité à nos jours: Approches croisées* (2018).

Preface

Like many collective volumes, this one is the product of a conference, held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, in September 2014. But this conference was simply the conclusion to a multi-year collaborative project supported by a grant from the Partner University Fund (Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States) to the universities of Limoges and Poitiers and New York University. The publication of the book gives us an opportunity to thank the PUF again for their help. The grant was intended to foster mobility between the teams as well as the sharing of data and insights. In the event, this sharing was particularly valuable in the areas of geomorphology and ceramics, where members of the French team associated with the excavations at El-Deir took an active role in the work of the American-led (but actually international) team at Amheida. But readers will be able to see the results of collaboration in a number of other chapters as well. The intellectual goals of the collaborative project are set out in the Introduction and do not need to be sketched here.

We do, however, wish to thank those who do not figure in the list of authors but who nonetheless contributed to the success of the project and the conference. Above all, these are the other members of the El-Deir and Amheida teams, our partners in the field and in conversation. We cannot list them all here, but many of them figure in the bibliography and footnotes. A list of the Amheida team over the years can be found at www.amheida.org, and a list of the members of the El-Deir team is available at oasis.unilim.fr. We would signal the importance of the work of Bruno Bazzani in creating the Amheida database (www.amheida.com) and generating much of the visual documentation for the Amheida excavations and the objects found. The work of Joëlle Carayon and Aurélien Bolo, in charge of the El-Deir archaeological database and geographical information system, and the support of Rémi Crouzevialle

and Fabien Cerbelaud for the creation of visuals and maps is also to be highlighted. For the conference, we depended on several members of the ISAW staff, most importantly Kathryn Lawson, Eliana Katsiaouni, Tiffany Wall, and Diane Bennett; on the French side, Corinne Sylvestre, Magalie Fajardo, and Céline Chrétien provided full support.