



SOCIÉTÉ DES CULTURES NUBIENNES

POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS ...

FIRST EXPLORERS

ANNEXE 1

At the beginning of our era, Diodorus Siculus and Strabo take over the task of historians of Nubia. They are joined by Pliny the Elder and Dion Cassius. In the 6th Century AD, Procopius mentions post-Meroitic Nubia. Eutyches, John of Ephesus and Michael the Syrian speak of Christianity there.

In the medieval period the historian Ibn Khaldun, the geographer Maqrizi al-Khitat and the traveller Ibn Salim el-Aswani compile information that will guide the explorers of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

In his memoirs published in 1766, Bourguignon d'Anville, the chief geographer of Louis XIV, draws his information from works concerning Nubia. Thanks to the information collected, Frédéric Caillaud discovered the prestigious ruins of Meroe.

ANNEXE 2

The aristocracy keeps up with modern tastes. Theodore de Lesseps, the elder brother of Ferdinand, reaches the Second Cataract in the company of Alexandre of Uxkull. They are followed by Louis de Vaucelles and Renouard de Bussieres. Among the travellers, some personalities stand out: John Gardiner Wilkinson, author of exciting and unpublished notes, George Waddington, and the reverend Barnard Hanbury. From Italy comes the famous Dr Ferlini, who unfortunately, finds the treasure of the queen Amanishakheto, at the price of the destruction of her pyramid.

ANNEXE 3

In 1905, the first laws that are to govern archaeological fieldwork guide the survey work. To achieve this, a Council of Museums and a position as Director of Antiquities are created. This system was to last until 1939 when a Director of Antiquities and Anthropology (Commissioner for Archaeology) was nominated under the direction of the Civil Administration. Anthony J. Arkell was the first to hold this position.