

NubiaFEST 2020 Old Nubian Crash Course Day 1 – History and Writing System

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September 14, 2020

Table of Contents

Overview

History and Context of Old Nubian

- Rediscovery of Old Nubian

- Types of Texts

- Linguistic History of the Middle Nile Valley

- History of Literacy in the Middle Nile Valley

Phonology and Writing System

- Phonology

- Writing System

Thank You!

Overview of the Course

Day 1. History and Writing System

Day 2. Noun Phrases

Day 3. Quantification, Predication, Person

Day 4. All about the Verb

Day 5. Sentences and Subordination

Table of Contents

Overview

History and Context of Old Nubian

Rediscovery of Old Nubian

Types of Texts

Linguistic History of the Middle Nile Valley

History of Literacy in the Middle Nile Valley

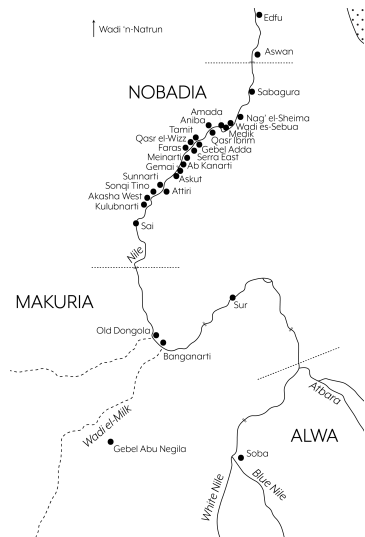
Phonology and Writing System

Phonology

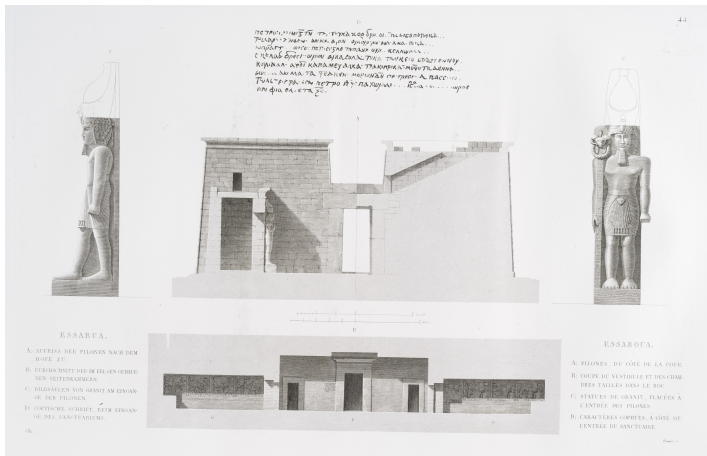
Writing System

Thank You!

Sites Where Old Nubian Texts Were Found

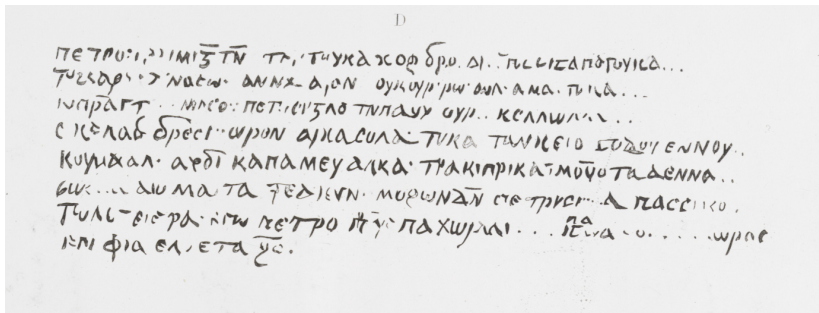


In the Wake of Napoléon's Conquest (1819)



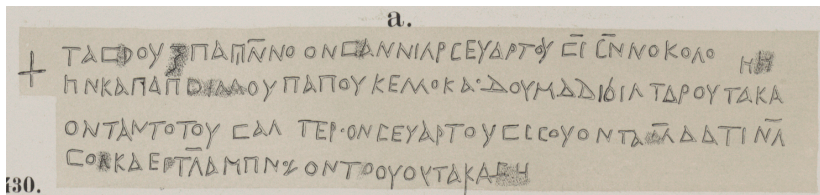
Temple built by Ramesses II from Gau (1822, 44). Retrieved from General Research Division, The New York Public Library. "Essabua [el-Sebua]. A. Aufris der Pilonen nach dem Hofe zu; B. Durchschnitt der im Felsen gehauenen Seitenkammern; C. Bildsäulen von Granit am Eingang der Pilonen; D. Coptische Schrift, beim Eingange des Sanctuariums. = Essaboua. A. Pilonnes, du côté de la cour; B. Coupe du vestibule et des chambres taillés dans le roc; C. Statues de granit, placées à l'entrée des pilones; D. Caractères coptés, à côté de l'entrée du sanctuaire." New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed May 19, 2019. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47dd-fdea-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

In the Wake of Napoléon's Conquest (1819)



Inscription in Old Nubian, Wādī es-Sabūḥ (gr 4, DBMNT 1397) from Gau (1822, 44). Retrieved from General Research Division, The New York Public Library. "Essabua [el-Sebua]. A. Aufriss der Pilonen nach dem Hofe zu; B. Durchschnitt der im Felsen gehauenen Seitenkammern; C. Bildsäulen von Granit am Eingange der Pilonen; D. Coptische Schrift, beim Eingange des Sanctuariums. = Essaboua. A. Pilonen, du côté de la cour; B. Coupe du vestibule et des chambres taillés dans le roc; C. Statues de granit, placées à l'entrée des pilones; D. Caractères coptes, à côté de l'entrée du sanctuaire." New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed May 19, 2019. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47dd-fdea-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

The Prussian Expedition (1842–45)



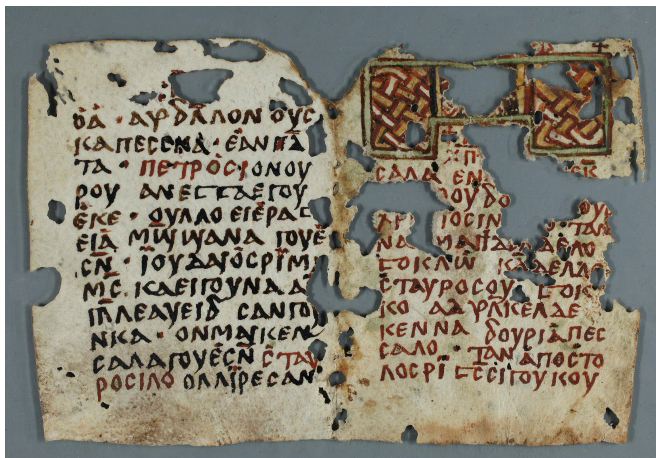
Inscription in Old Nubian, Ibrīm (DBMNT 1541) from Lepsius (1849, Abth. 6, Bl. 96, a). Retrieved from General Research Division, The New York Public Library. "Griechische Inschriften. 390-431, Dem.187: Dakkeh [el-Dakka]. Maharaka [el-Maharraqa]. Anibe [Aniba]. Derr. Ibrim. (390-416. Dakkeh; 417-428. Maharraka; 429. Anibe; 430. Derr; 431. Ibrim; a. Christlich Aethiopische [?] Felseninschrift von Ibrim.)" New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed May 19, 2019.
<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-5b55-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

The Royal Prussian Library Goes Shopping in Cairo (1906)



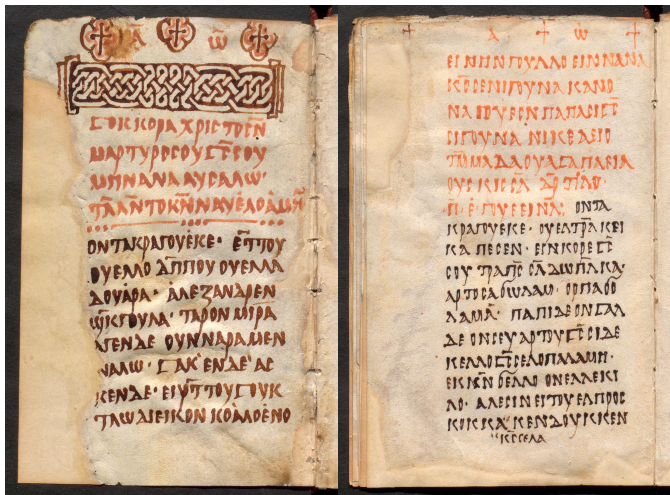
Kgl. Bibl. NS. Or. Quart 1019, 2r. The folio from the *Old Nubian Lectionary* containing the first Old Nubian sentence translated by Schäfer. Retrieved from Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Germany. "Alt-nubisches Lectionar." Orientalische Handschriften digital. Accessed May 19, 2019. <http://resolver.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/SBB0000DDB900000000>.

The Royal Prussian Library Goes Shopping in Cairo (1906)



Kgl. Bibl. NS. Or. Quart 1020, 2r. Folio from the *Stauros Text*. Retrieved from Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Germany. "Stauros-Liturgie." *Orientalische Handschriften digital*. Accessed August 24, 2020. <http://resolver.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/SBB00009FAD00000000>.

A British Purchase from “Arab nomads” (1908)



British Museum Or. MS 6805 containing *The Miracle of Saint Mina* and the *Pseudo-Nicene Canons*. As a result of the colonialist heritage that continues to dominate British Museum policy, these images are not publicly available despite scholars having acquired them for their own research with public money. I'd be happy to share these high-res images with anyone who asks me.

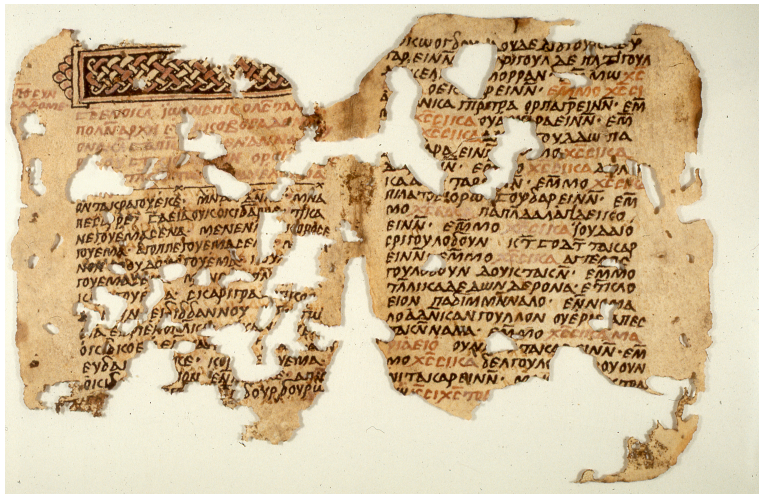
Polish Excavations at Faras (1961–64)



Courtesy of the online Professor Kazimierz Michałowski Faras Gallery of the Polish National Museum.

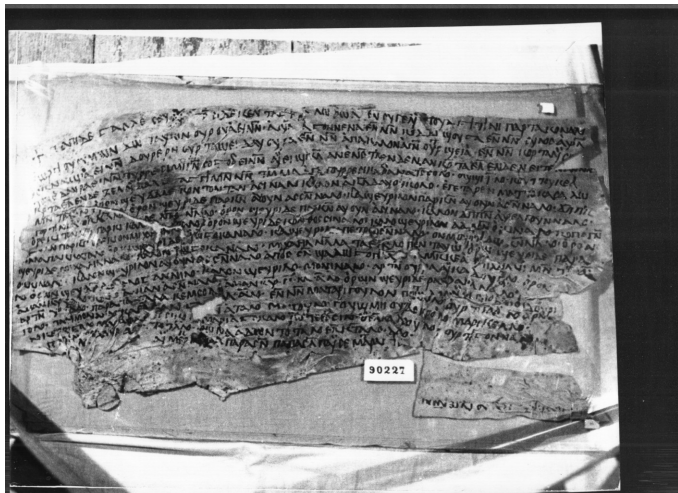
<http://www.mnw.art.pl/en/collections/permanent-galleries/faras-gallery/the-professor-kazimierz-michalowski-faras-gallery,1.html>.

Discovery of the Serra East Codex (1963–64)



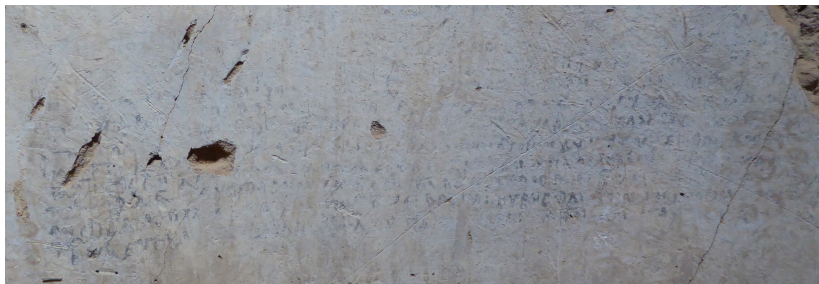
Folio containing pp. 1 and 10 from the Serra East Codex, containing Ps.-Chrysostomus *In venerabilem crucem sermo*. Courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

EES Excavations in Qasr Ibrim (1963–)



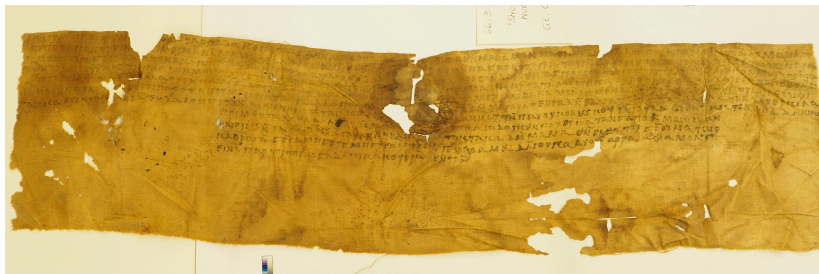
Document on leather from Qasr Ibrim (P.QI 4 65), excavated in 1964. Courtesy of the Egypt Exploration Society.

Polish Excavations at Old Dongola (1964–)



Greek–Old Nubian bilingual Psalm 96 on a wall in the NW Annex of the Monastery on Kom H in Old Dongola. Van Gerven Oei & Łajtar (forthcoming).

ARCE Excavations in Gebel Adda (1962–66)



Burial shroud from Gebel Adda. Courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum. Van Gerven Oei & Lajtar (forthcoming).

Literary Texts

- Liturgical texts: lectionaries, psalms, sermons, canons, prayers
- Miracle stories

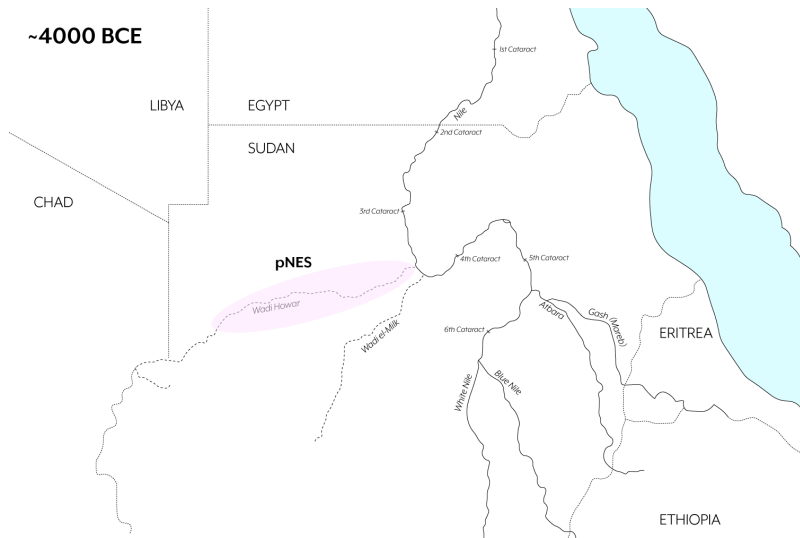
Documentary Texts

- Legal texts: contracts, sales, proclamations
- Horoscopes, lunaries
- Letters
- Visitor inscriptions
- Legends

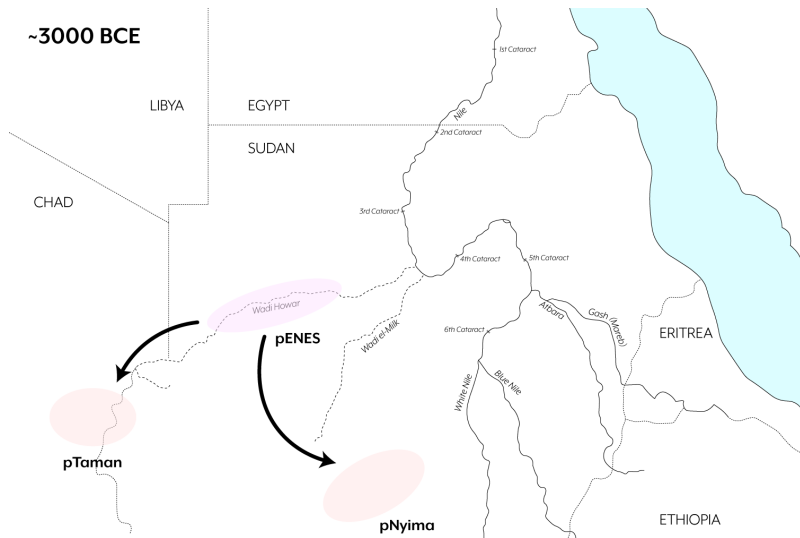
Substrates

- Parchment
- Paper
- Leather
- Clay (ostraca, pottery inscriptions)
- Plaster (graffiti, dipinti)
- Stone (graffiti, dipinti, monumental inscriptions)

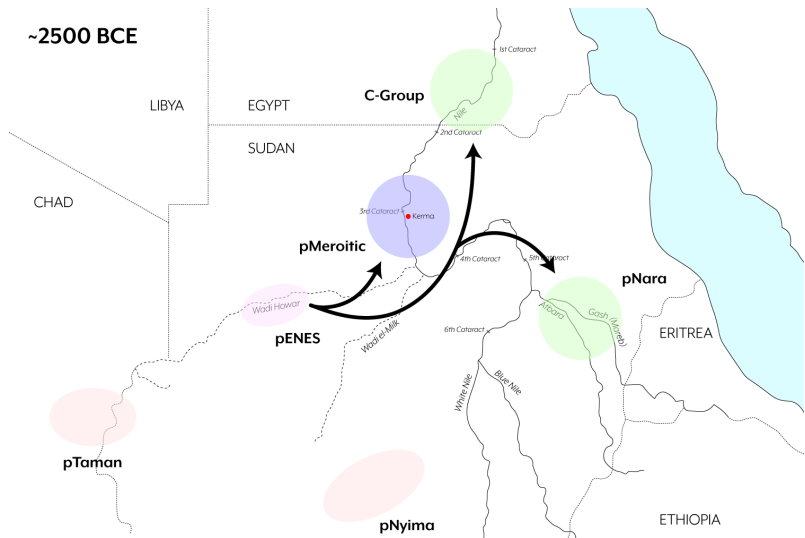
~4000 BCE



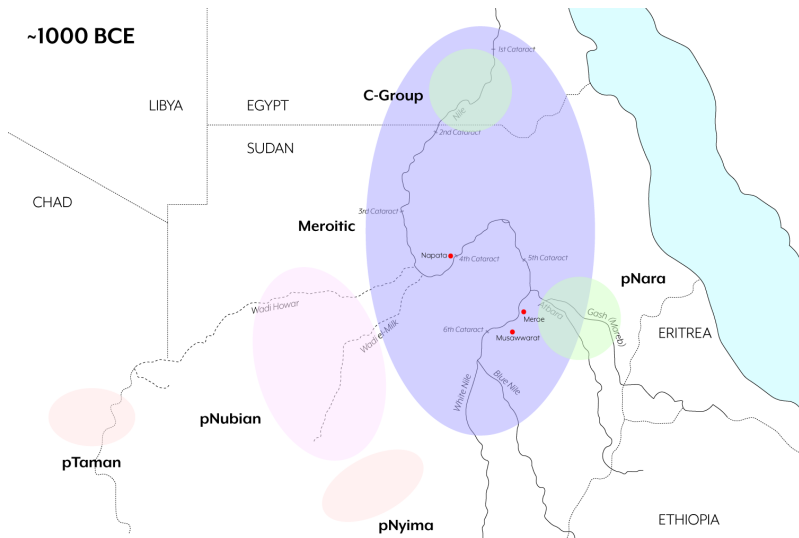
~3000 BCE



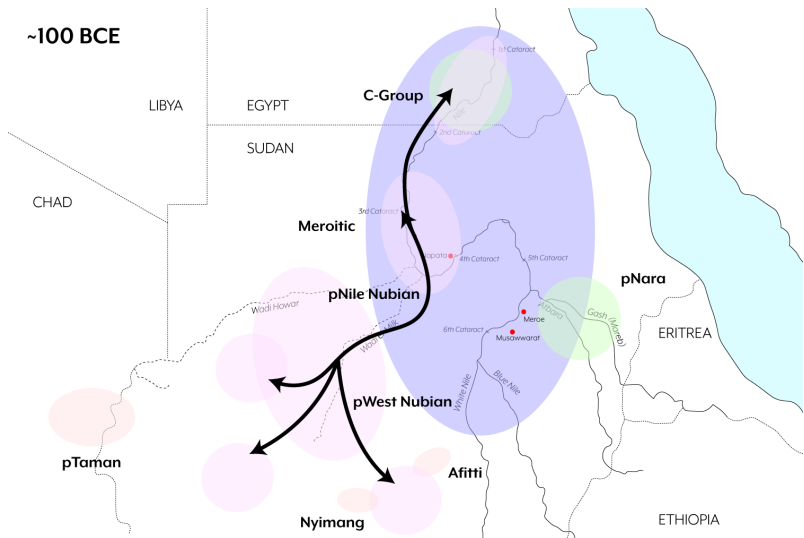
~2500 BCE



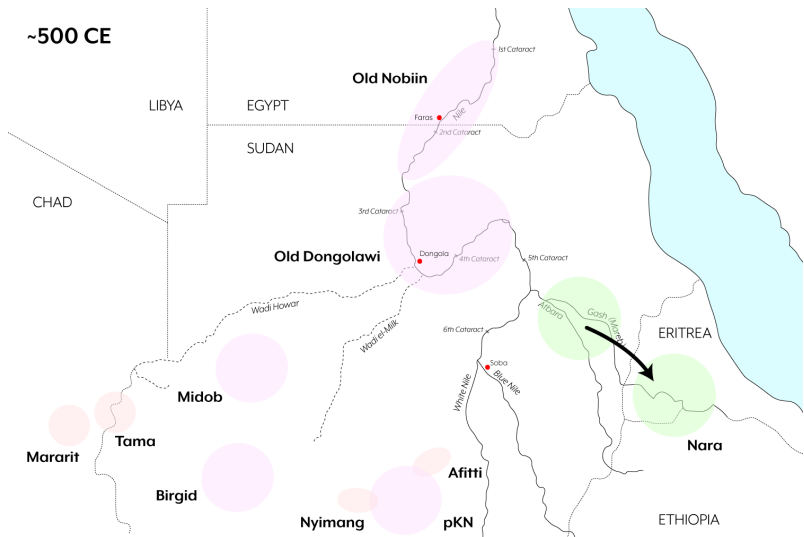
~1000 BCE



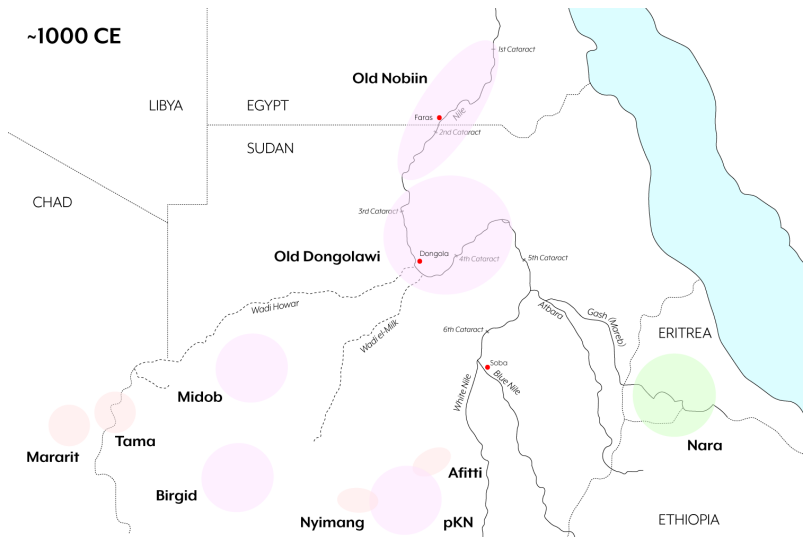
~100 BCE



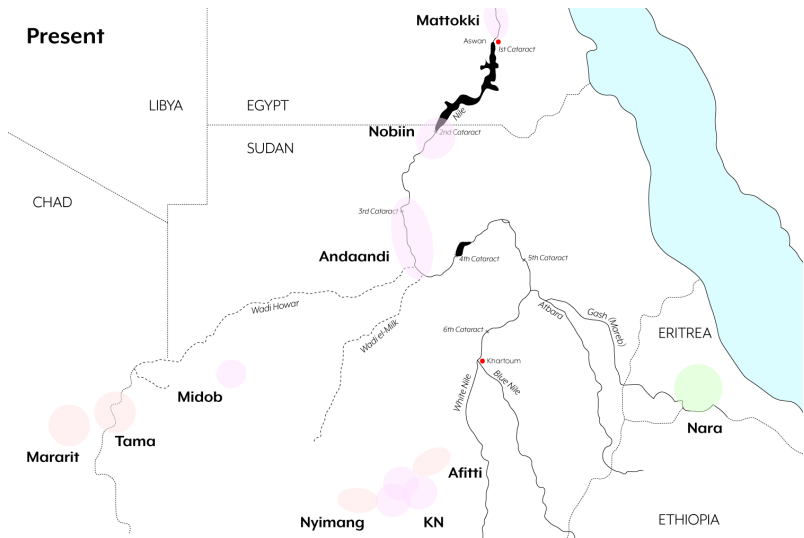
~500 CE



~1000 CE



Present




Post-Meroitic Literacy ~350–500 CE

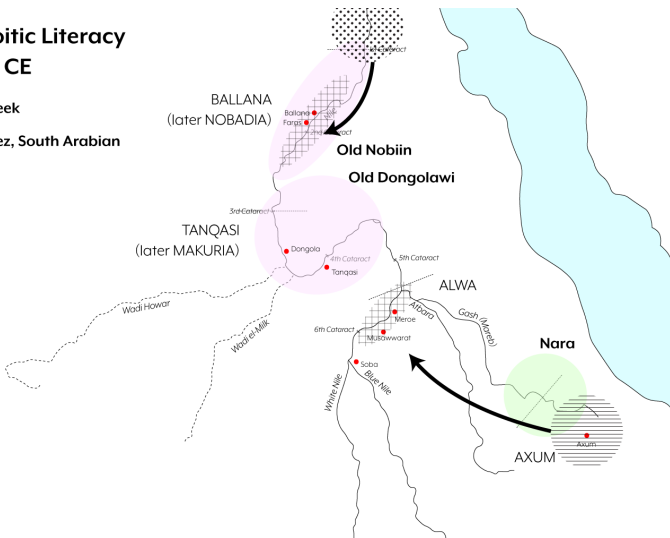
Post-Meroitic Literacy

~350–500 CE

 Coptic, Greek

 Greek, Ge'ez, South Arabian

 Meroitic



Nubian Literacy ~800 CE

Nubian Literacy

~800 CE

••••• Coptic, Greek

==== Old Nubian, Coptic, Greek

?

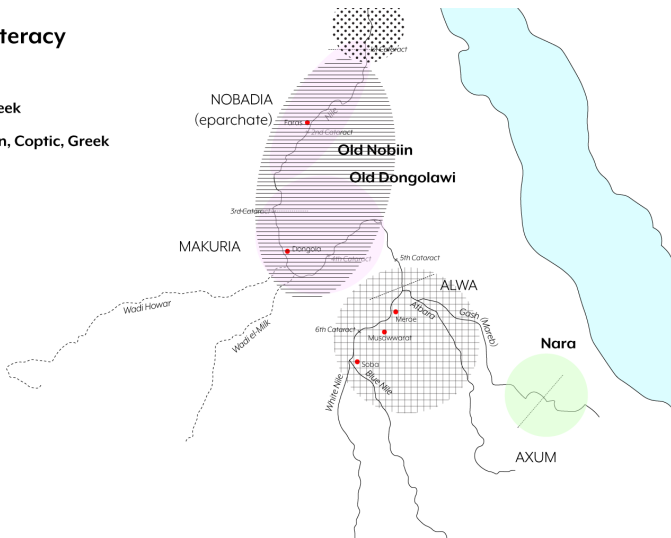


Table of Contents

Overview

History and Context of Old Nubian

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Consonants

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	b		t d	ʃ	k g	
Nasal	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
Fricative		f	s	ʃ		h
Trill			r			
Lateral			l			
Approximant	w			j		

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i, i:		u, u:
Mid	e, e:		o, o:
Open		a, a:	

Alphabet

Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.
ⲁ	<i>a</i>	[a, a:]	Ⲃ	<i>l</i>	[l]	ⲃ	<i>ph</i>	[b, f]
Ⲅ	<i>b</i>	[b, w]	ⲅ	<i>m</i>	[m]	Ⲇ	<i>kh</i>	[k, g, h]
ⲇ	<i>g</i>	[g]	Ⲉ	<i>n</i>	[n]	ⲉ	<i>ps</i>	[(p)s]
Ⲋ	<i>d</i>	[d, r]	ⲋ/Ⲍ	<i>x</i>	[(k)s]	ⲍ	<i>ō</i>	[o, o:]
Ⲏ	<i>e</i>	[e, e:]	ⲏ	<i>o</i>	[o, o:]	Ⲑ	<i>š</i>	[ʃ]
ⲑ	<i>z</i>	[s]	Ⲓ	<i>p</i>	[b]	ⲓ	<i>h</i>	[h]
Ⲕ	<i>ē</i>	[i, i:]	ⲕ	<i>r</i>	[r]	Ⲍ	<i>j</i>	[j]
Ⲗ	<i>th</i>	[t]	ⲍ	<i>s</i>	[s]	Ⲏ	<i>η</i>	[ŋ]
Ⲙ	<i>i</i>	[i, i:]	ⲏ	<i>t</i>	[t]	ⲏ	<i>ñ</i>	[ɲ]
ⲙ	<i>k</i>	[k, g]	Ⲑ	<i>u</i>	[i, u]	ⲑ	<i>w</i>	[w]

Alphabet – Greek Characters

Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.
Α	<i>a</i>	[a, a:]	λ	<i>l</i>	[l]	Φ	<i>ph</i>	[b, f]
Β	<i>b</i>	[b, w]	μ	<i>m</i>	[m]	Χ	<i>kh</i>	[k, g, h]
Γ	<i>g</i>	[g]	ν	<i>n</i>	[n]	Ψ	<i>ps</i>	[(p)s]
Δ	<i>d</i>	[d, r]	ξ/ξ̄	<i>x</i>	[(k)s]	Ω	<i>ō</i>	[o, o:]
Ε	<i>e</i>	[e, e:]	ο	<i>o</i>	[o, o:]	Ϟ	<i>š</i>	[ʃ]
Ζ	<i>z</i>	[s]	π	<i>p</i>	[b]	ε	<i>h</i>	[h]
Η	<i>ē</i>	[i, i:]	ρ	<i>r</i>	[r]	Ϸ	<i>j</i>	[j]
Θ	<i>th</i>	[t]	σ	<i>s</i>	[s]	ϸ	<i>η</i>	[ŋ]
Ι	<i>i</i>	[i, i:]	τ	<i>t</i>	[t]	Ϻ	<i>ñ</i>	[ɲ]
Κ	<i>k</i>	[k, g]	Υ	<i>u</i>	[i, u]	ϻ	<i>w</i>	[w]

Alphabet – Coptic Characters

Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.
ⲁ	<i>a</i>	[a, a:]	Ⲃ	<i>l</i>	[l]	Ⲅ	<i>ph</i>	[b, f]
Ⲃ	<i>b</i>	[b, w]	Ⲅ	<i>m</i>	[m]	Ⲇ	<i>kh</i>	[k, g, h]
Ⲅ	<i>g</i>	[g]	Ⲇ	<i>n</i>	[n]	Ⲉ	<i>ps</i>	[(p)s]
Ⲇ	<i>d</i>	[d, r]	Ⲉ	<i>x</i>	[(k)s]	Ⲋ	<i>ō</i>	[o, o:]
Ⲉ	<i>e</i>	[e, e:]	Ⲋ	<i>o</i>	[o, o:]	Ⲍ	<i>š</i>	[ʃ]
Ⲋ	<i>z</i>	[s]	Ⲍ	<i>p</i>	[b]	Ⲏ	<i>h</i>	[h]
Ⲍ	<i>ē</i>	[i, i:]	Ⲏ	<i>r</i>	[r]	Ⲑ	<i>j</i>	[j]
Ⲏ	<i>th</i>	[t]	Ⲑ	<i>s</i>	[s]	Ⲓ	<i>η</i>	[ŋ]
Ⲑ	<i>i</i>	[i, i:]	Ⲓ	<i>t</i>	[t]	Ⲕ	<i>ñ</i>	[ɲ]
Ⲓ	<i>k</i>	[k, g]	Ⲕ	<i>u</i>	[i, u]	Ⲗ	<i>w</i>	[w]

Alphabet – Meroitic (“Enchoric”) Characters

Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.	Char.	Trlit.	Pron.
ⲁ	<i>a</i>	[a, a:]	Ⲃ	<i>l</i>	[l]	ⲃ	<i>ph</i>	[b, f]
Ⲅ	<i>b</i>	[b, w]	ⲅ	<i>m</i>	[m]	Ⲇ	<i>kh</i>	[k, g, h]
ⲇ	<i>g</i>	[g]	Ⲉ	<i>n</i>	[n]	ⲉ	<i>ps</i>	[(p)s]
ⲉ	<i>d</i>	[d, r]	Ⲋ/ⲋ	<i>x</i>	[(k)s]	Ⲍ	<i>ō</i>	[o, o:]
Ⲋ	<i>e</i>	[e, e:]	ⲍ	<i>o</i>	[o, o:]	Ⲏ	<i>š</i>	[ʃ]
ⲋ	<i>z</i>	[s]	ⲏ	<i>p</i>	[b]	Ⲑ	<i>h</i>	[h]
Ⲍ	<i>ē</i>	[i, i:]	ⲑ	<i>r</i>	[r]	Ⲓ	<i>j</i>	[j]
ⲍ	<i>th</i>	[t]	ⲓ	<i>s</i>	[s]	Ⲕ	<i>η</i>	[ŋ]
Ⲏ	<i>i</i>	[i, i:]	ⲕ	<i>t</i>	[t]	ⲕ	<i>ñ</i>	[ɲ]
ⲏ	<i>k</i>	[k, g]	Ⲍ	<i>u</i>	[i, u]	Ⲍ	<i>w</i>	[w]

Supralinear Stroke

Over consonants:

- L 113.5 ḥ̄λο /islo/
- L 112.11 τ̄λλ̄ḥ̄ /tillin/

Supralinear Stroke

Over consonants:

- L 113.5 ḥλο /islo/
- L 112.11 τλλḥ /tillin/
- *But* M 11.15–16.1 ḥḥκα /ogijka/ (supralinear stroke over ḥ moves to preceding C)

Supralinear Stroke

Over consonants:

- L 113.5 ḥλο /islo/
- L 112.11 τλλḥ /tillin/
- *But* M 11.15–16.1 ḳḥḳḳḳ /ogijka/ (supralinear stroke over ḳ moves to preceding C)

Over vowels:

- L 112.10 ḳḳḳḳḳḳḳḳ /jan.osijesa/
- M 10.8–9 τριḳḳḳḳḳḳḳḳḳḳ /tris.agion/

Supralinear Stroke

Over consonants:

- L 113.5 ḥλο /islo/
- L 112.11 τλλḥ /tillin/
- *But* M 11.15–16.1 ḳḥḳḳa /ogijka/ (supralinear stroke over ḳ moves to preceding C)

Over vowels:

- L 112.10 ḳanḳiḳesa /jan.osijesa/
- M 10.8–9 τριḳḳḳḳion /tris.agion/
- *But* L 111.9 oktagina /oktagina/ (for endings -CḳV, -CḳV, -CḳV, and -CḳV with supralinear stroke over the vowel)

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Contact

Email

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