

# The University of Newcastle upon Tyne



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RFT/EO

11th June, 1975.

Dear Mr. Chittick,

Many thanks for your letter of 2nd June. I did, in fact, receive the essence of your lecture last year from your London secretary, for which I am very grateful. I have met Judith Todd since then and understand that you have very little in the way of furnace evidence which, considering our Meroitic developments, is a bit disappointing.

I was in Meroe for the second time during the winter and we have, indeed, found some really good evidence of the type of furnace that was used there during the first 500 years AD. Whether this was before or after the Aksumite invasion I do not know, but I understand that Professor Shinnie is beginning to question the date of 400 AD for this event. Judging by the evidence that I saw and the radio-carbon dates that he has, it would appear to me that the commercial side of Meroe was in a very prosperous state during this period and I find difficulty in equating this with a downfall. I wonder how sound this invasion date is? You have probably seen my first report in the Bulletin of the HMG on the ironworking of Meroe. If you have not, please let me know and I will send you a copy. I will soon be publishing my second report and I will see that you get a copy of this when it appears, probably later this year. If you like, I could probably send you a copy of the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

R.F. Tylecote.

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