



## **Trade and Industry at Africa's Hub: Petrography of Pottery from Meroe, Sudan**

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The ancient city of Meroë lies about 200 km northeast of Khartoum, on the Nile River. Apart from being the centre of a number of important Nubian kingdoms, such as that of the Kushites (circa 800 BCE – 350 CE), it was always a major hub for trade between ancient Egypt and the rest of Africa, and also for local production of various commodities, particularly including gold. Excavations at the site by a team from the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) of Toronto and the University of Khartoum have continued the research of Peter Shinnie, aimed at unraveling the history of the site and its contact with Egypt and Africa (Grzyski 2003).

Petrographic analysis of pottery from the ROM/Khartoum excavations and also Shinnie's excavations, also stored at the ROM, is aimed at examining the diversity of local production and raw material procurement and processing, and also identifying imported ceramics to give a better idea of the archaeologically determinable contacts of Meroë with Egypt and the rest of Africa.

### **Reference:**

Grzyski, K. A., 2003, "Meroe Reports I," Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Publication XVII, Toronto.