Meeting November 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2010  
Bioarcheology Research Lab  
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Notes before beginning: Possible anthro film club, one meeting a month, $2 admission. Bodies Revealed exhibit in Grand Rapids at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids.  
Adan Quan: Chair of faculty communications committee. Photo contest – relates to fieldwork pictures. Could be a project for a class or summer field school. There is a link on the anthropology website. If you would like to be a judge for this email Chris468@msu.edu with your qualifications, why you are interested, etc. It's a small time commitment so don't let that hold you back!

Bioarch Research Lab: Skeletons from Nubia (along Nile river). From the fourth cataract on Mis Island. Christian kingdoms, three time periods. 600 to 1500 CE. Christianity was first introduced by Byzantine Christians, left frescoes.  
There is a bias in the study of the history of Africa, Egypt considered more exciting and skin tone was lighter, Nubians have darker skin and was assumed to have less culture as a result. The collection MSU has currently is the second largest collection of its size to be studied.  
400 ad – Pagan  
500 ad – Conversion  
700 ad – Union of Makvia and Wobadia  
Tenth through eleventh centuries the breakdown happens. Egypt starts to take advantage of the weakening kingdom, wants the gold mines and the grazing lands. Makvia collapses in 1300's ad. Conversion to Islam. 1500 all had converted to Islam. Christians weren't forced out but were taxed, slow process of conversion.  
2006 and 2007 excavated Mis Island, sought to salvage the remains before a dam was built that flooded the area. Most of the sites were excavated, due to religious observances none of the Muslim burials were disturbed. Desert did a great job in preserving the remains. There were three cemeteries in total and there were multiple multinational teams working to excavate the remains, there was a big initiative.

Cemetery 3-J-11  
Ranged from 300 to 1400 ad.  
Skeletal collection:  
Adults 157  
Subadults 136  
Total 293 individuals  
Able to excavate half of the skeletal remains  

Cemetery 3-J-10  
1100 to 1500 ad.  
Skeletal collection:  
Adults 74  
Subadults 52  
Total 126  
Graves were typically arranged east to west, heads facing east. Most were on their backs, some were on their sides. Personal adornments were present.  
Q: How were local villagers used to help?  
A: They were very involved and excited, helped to excavate. Did not feel any connection to their Christian ancestors.

The Skeleton Collection and Research Lab  
Over 100 boxes of skeletal remains from Sudan. Started June 2010. Re-bagged, re-boxed, and
cleaning the remains. Five grad students, thirteen undergraduates. Just finished cleaning everything.

The Osteological Research

Paleopathology – very interesting; health of the population, study of disease. Vitamin C deficiencies, Anemia, Vitamin D deficiencies, childhood stress, enamel hypoplasias, infections and infectious disease.

Ancient DNA testing, it's nice to get genetic confirmation about what caused diseases, etc. The prevalence of disease gives us a snapshot of the community.

Dental Analysis

Dental abscesses can get into the blood stream. Extreme tooth wear indicate eating a lot of grit. Most likely the sand.

Trauma

A lot of trauma in this population. A certain pattern of trauma can tell you what's going on in the community. A lot of breaks in the wrist and forearms. Indicates people may have been tripping on the stones, and landing on their arms to catch themselves.

Inter-personal violence, lots of depressed cranial fractures, to be decided what caused this.

Populations Studies

Can tell us about emigration, the slow progression of the ancestry. Nubian population has a very unique morphology. Lots of non-metric traits. Can tell us something about marriage patterns.

Goals of the Research

Provide a picture of the life at Mis Island during the medieval time period.

Goals of the Lab

Prepare skeletal collection for British Museum
Prepare site monograph on skeletal remains
Graduate dissertations and theses
Undergraduate research projects