The Khnum Temple Graffiti Project (KTGP)

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This project, launched in 2013 under the aegis of the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research on Ancient Egypt and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI), is a sequel to the ‘Isis Temple Graffiti Project’ that was sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2008-2012), and that resulted in the monograph Syene I. The Figural and Textual Graffiti from the Temple of Isis at Aswan (Mainz/Darmstadt, 2012). It has resulted in the recording and digitizing of 195 graffiti on the forecourt of the temple of Khnum on Elephantine island. These graffiti, consisting of both figures and texts, paint a detailed picture of the personal religious piety of the visitors to the temple in the Roman and Late Antique periods, when the area – like the Isis temple at Aswan – included a church. The publication that results from the project will include detailed descriptions of all graffiti and systematic studies of groups of graffiti, such as animals, feet and game boards.

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