

In memoriam Henry S. Smith (14. 6. 1928 – 8. 9. 2024)

Ladislav Bareš

On September 8, 2024, prof. Henry Sidney Smith, known to all Egyptologists and to his numerous friends in Egypt, United Kingdom and virtually elsewhere in the world as „Harry“, passed away. Although his life and academic career were always connected with the British academic world (University of Cambridge and University College London) and institutions (Egypt Exploration society), Czech Egyptologists have good reasons to remember him as well.

Already in 1961, during the international campaign of UNESCO to salvage the monuments of ancient Nubia to be submerged by the waters of the High Assuan Dam, he headed a team of the Egypt Exploration Society that conducted a survey of a part on the Egyptian Nubia. In Khor Fomm el-Atmur, the team headed by him discovered and partly excavated a stunningly painted shelter, marked EES Rock Drawing Site No. 49 (Smith 1962: 79–90). As his team was assigned to conduct an archaeological survey only, he asked UNESCO to entrust another mission with the



Fig. 1 Harry Smith and Sue Davies at a happy moment during the Eleventh International Conference on Demotic Studies (Oxford 2011), together with the daughter of the author of this recollection (Archive of the Czech Institute of Egyptology, photo V. Barešová)

documentation of these magnificent paintings. Following his suggestion, the task was allotted to the mission of the then Czechoslovak (now Czech) Institute of Egyptology of the Charles University that recorded and studied in detail this shelter in 1963 and 1964. Many years later, the results of this work were published by our colleague Lenka Suková (now Varadzinová) (Suková 2011), whose efforts were so kindly appreciated by Harry Smith in his charming and interesting recollections of the Nubian campaign (Smith 2022: 48).

During his long-time participation in the archaeological excavations of the EES at Saqqara, headed by him from 1971 until 1988, he was in fact a close neighbour of the Czech archaeological mission working at the nearby Abusir. Members of both missions have often visited each other, shared their knowledge and experience and enjoyed those special moments at Saqqara or Abusir. For many years, moreover, both missions shared the experience and ability of Czech anthropologist Eugen Strouhal (Klír 2010; Klír 2016, Bietak 2016; for a bibliography of Eugen Strouhal see Strouhal 2010; Anon. 2016).

Even after his retirement, Harry Smith continued publishing the results of his long-time work at Saqqara (especially the numerous sources written in Demotic), often in co-operation with his former pupil Dr Sue Davies. Until a very old age, he used to participate in the regularly organized international conferences on Demotic studies, where the author of this recollection had a happy occasion to meet him and to enjoy his immense kindness and friendship.

Harry Smith was a brilliant scholar and, at the same time, a most kind and friendly man. As such, he will stay in our memories forever.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANONYMOUS

2016 "Addition to the List of Scientific Publications by prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, DrSc.", *Anthropologie LIV*, pp. 79–80.

BIETAK, MANFRED

2016 "A Farewell to Our Friend and Colleague Eugen Strouhal (24. 1. 1931 – 20. 10. 2016)", *Ägypten und Levante/Egypt and the Levant XXVI*, pp. 15–16.

KLÍR, PŘEMYSL

2010 "A Festschrift in Honour of prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, DrSc.", *Anthropologie LXVIII/2*, pp. 65–68.

2016 "In Honour of 85th Birthday of prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, DrSc.", *Anthropologie LIV/2*, pp. 75–78.

SMITH, HENRY S.

1962 *UNESCO's International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Ancient Nubia: Preliminary Reports of the Egypt Exploration Society's Nubian Survey*, Cairo: General Organisation for Government Printing Offices.

2022 *Nubian Memoirs*, Reading: Paolo Scremin.

STROUHAL, EUGEN

2010 "List of Scientific Publications by prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal", *Anthropologie* LXVIII/2, pp. 69–90.

SUKOVÁ, LENKA

2011 *The Rock Paintings of Lower Nubia (Czechoslovak Concession)*, Prague: Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Arts, pp. 12–57.

Ladislav Bareš

Czech Institute of Egyptology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University; ladislav.bares@ff.cuni.cz