



OLD KINGDOM STUDIES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
8TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OLD KINGDOM ART
AND
ARCHAEOLOGY

ALEJANDRO JIMÉNEZ SERRANO & HAMADA M. ASHOUR
EDITORS

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3.2. THE KOM EL-KHAMASEEN PROJECT, 1997-2022

JOSEP CERVELLÓ AUTUORI*

Although the Spanish-Egyptian Archaeological Mission in Saqqara (SEAMS) was established in 2019 and the archaeological excavation of the site of Kom el-Khamaseen has taken place in three seasons, in 2019, 2021, and 2022 (the 2020 season could not be carried out due to the Covid 19 health crisis), the Kom el-Khamaseen Project has a much older origin. In fact, we have been working on it, intermittently, since 1997, that is to say, for over 25 years.¹

Kom el-Khamaseen is a small archaeological site on a gentle natural elevation of the terrain at the southwestern edge of the archaeological area of Saqqara, 3.20 km west of the pyramid of Djedkare Izezi and far from all the other cemeteries of the Memphite necropolis. When the SEAMS began its work in 2019, the site was still isolated in the middle of the desert. It is now 500 m north of the major five-lane dual carriageway linking 6 October City to New Cairo and passing between the monuments of Saqqara South and Dahshur. The site is a privileged vantage point from which the entire southern half of the Memphite necropolis, from Dahshur to Abusir, can be admired, especially the step pyramid, which dominates the landscape (fig. 1).

1. CERVELLÓ AUTUORI & DÍAZ DE CERIO (2006); CERVELLÓ AUTUORI (2007, 2016); CERVELLÓ AUTUORI & GONZÁLEZ LEÓN (2023).

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