Re-evaluating the Archaeology of the First Millennium BC in the Northern Horn

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Editorial

The papers contained in this special issue are extensively revised versions of presentations made at a session of the Conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in Frankfurt am Main, September 2008. Two papers presented in the same session are not included here: Laurel Phillipson’s contribution has already been published in this journal (Phillipson 2009), and Catherine D’Andrea elected to defer publication.

Revision of the papers has been a collaborative effort, drafts prepared by each contributor having been read and commented upon by all the others. In the process, all have been struck by the level of overall agreement that has been independently reached; we as editors have made no effort to ensure this uniformity. The contributors share the view that the terminologies currently in use require either replacement or tighter definition; all but one prefer to avoid the term ‘Pre-Aksumite’ altogether, while Manzo—in a paper discussing elite aspects of society—uses it only in a strictly chronological sense. We offer no detailed suggestions here, believing that this would be inappropriate in a publication based on a meeting at which, to our very great regret, no archaeologists from Eritrea and Ethiopia were able to be

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present. We hope that this question will be taken up in future at a more broadly based forum.

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References

- Phillipson, L. (2009). Lithic artefacts as a source of cultural, social and economic information: the evidence from Aksum, Ethiopia. *African Archaeological Review*, 26, 45–54.