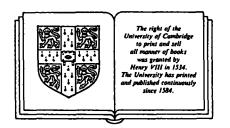
Archaeological typology and practical reality

A DIALECTICAL APPROACH TO ARTIFACT CLASSIFICATION AND SORTING

William Y. Adams University of Kentucky and Ernest W. Adams University of California at Berkeley



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS Cambridge New York Port Chester Melbourne Sydney

CONTENTS -

| | List of figures | page xiii |
|----------|---|-----------|
| | List of tables · | xiv |
| | The archaeologist's preface | xv |
| | The philosopher's preface | xxii |
| PART I | Introductory | 1 |
| 1 | Beginning points | 3 |
| 2 | Introductory theses | 18 |
| PART II | The nature of types and typologies | 27 |
| 3 | Dimensions and elements of "typehood" | 29 |
| 4 | Perceptual and conceptual foundations | 39 |
| 5 | The dialectics of type formulation | 50 |
| 6 | The nature of types | 63 |
| 7 | The structure of typologies | 76 |
| 8 | A synthetic definition of typology and type | 91 |
| PART III | Typology in action: the Medieval Nubian Pottery | |
| | Typology | 97 |
| 9 | Origin and development of the Nubian Typology | 99 |
| 10 | Basic features of the Nubian Typology | 110 |
| 11 | The uses of the Nubian Typology | 128 |
| 12 | Philosophical implications | 143 |
| PART IV | Pragmatics of archaeological typology | 155 |
| 13 | The starting point: purpose | 157 |
| 14 | The determinants of types: variables and attributes | 169 |
| 15 | The making of types: formulation, designation and | |
| | description | 182 |
| 16 | The use of types: typing and sorting | 194 |
| 17 | The ordering of types: taxonomy and seriation | 202 |
| 18 | Variation and variability in archaeological | |
| | classifications | 214 |
| 19 | The bottom line: practicality | 233 |

.

| 20 | Principles of practical typology | 239 |
|------------|--|-----|
| 21 | Information-theoretic formulations | 244 |
| PART V | Classification, explanation, and theory | 263 |
| 22 | The Typological Debate | 265 |
| 23 | Issues and non-issues in the Typological Debate | 278 |
| 24 | Conceptual problems | 296 |
| 25 | The use and abuse of theory | 305 |
| 26 | Paradigms and progress | 314 |
| Appendices | | 327 |
| Α | Glossary of definitions | 329 |
| В | Specimen pottery ware description: Terminal | |
| | Christian Decorated White Ware | 373 |
| С | Estimated dates for pottery wares found in Nubia | 377 |
| D | Examples of pottery ware distribution data from | |
| | Qasr Ibrim | 383 |
| | References | 388 |
| | Index | 412 |

•