

## **The Maritime Expeditions of Wadi Gawasis in the Twelfth Dynasty**

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Wadi Gawasis is considered one of the most important ancient Egyptian archeological sites; which represent a different archeological nature than those in the Nile Valley. The site represents one of the oldest ports in the history of mankind, which was used continuously during the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in the Middle Kingdom, the Golden age of the ancient Egyptian civilization (approximately during the 19<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century BCE). The site was a connecting point between the Nile Valley civilization and other areas of producing and trading the Incense (strategic commodity in ancient Egypt) on the Red Sea, known as Punt Land; this geographical name is still debatable which the author did not mention.

The Italian-American expedition, directed by Rodolfo Fattovich and Kathryn Bard during the first decade of this century, which discovered many archeological evidences, Hieroglyphic and Hieratic inscriptions on wooden slabs of ships remaining in the Red Sea, huge ports, cargo boxes to Puntland, ostrca, papyrus with brief yet very important Hieratic texts, votive stela that bore a lot of important historical information.

Through the textual inscriptions which were discovered lately, studied and published by the author in many scientific periodicals, so the objective of this article is to deal with all the epigraphic data discovered in the maritime site until now.