Some Observations on the Royal *hammam* at Gebel Barkal (B 2200) (Italian Mission in Sudan) (Emanuele Ciampini)

Excavations of the winter 2008 held by the Italian Archaeological Mission investigated the sector of the royal building, known as B 2200; already recognized in 2006, the structure could be identified as a *hammam* related with the Natakamani Palace (B 2400). Its ritual nature can be connected with ceremonies of the kingship during the New Year Festival, and similar to the so-called Water Sanctuary of Meroe. The presence of the ritual *hammam* in the old ceremonial centre of the Napatan kingship determines the relationship between the royal person, and the divine spring of power and of the Nile flood.