Beyond Borders: New Evidence of Barbarians in Debod

Miguel JARAMAGO

The gradual disappearance of Roman control on the southern border of Egypt manifested in several ways. The most obvious was the retreat of the defensive garrison of the Nubian limes that Diocletian moved from Maharraqa to Aswan in the year 298 CE. It proved to be a real strategic success because the recent Nubian frontier of the Empire came to the Byzantine era unchanged. In turn, this displacement of the Roman border northward left Lower Nubia outside the Imperial military control, allowing the arrival and settlement of Barbarian groups from the periphery in the large Nubian centers of the two banks of the Nile.

Acknowledgements: I am thrice grateful to Dr. Miguel Á. Molinero Polo, editor of TdE, for his invitation to write for this journal, for his help in translating my work into English, and for ceding the illustrations for this paper. It goes without saying that any error is solely attributable to the undersigned of the present work.

About the concrete circumstances surrounding this decision and the consequences derivated from it, see Hendrickx (2014), passim.