Editor's Foreword

This occasional paper, the second in the new series *Studia Panopolitana* which is devoted to research on the ninth nome of Upper Egypt and its metropolis Aḥmīm-Panopolis, is the first to appear in book form. It is furthermore the first in a series dealing with the expedition of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt (BSAE), directed by Flinders Petrie in 1907/08, at three sites on the western escarpment of the Libyan desert plateau, in the modern Sūhāǧ district and within the boundaries of the ancient ninth nome of Upper Egypt, the 'Nomós Panopolites' of the Greek sources. In his reports, Petrie, viewing the three sites as part of a contiguous historic landscape, refers to them as Hagarseh, Athribis, and the coenobium of Athribis at the White Monastery or 'Deir Amba Shenudeh'.

Petrie did not report on the results of his 1907/08 Sūhāǧ-season at great length; many aspects of the work conducted remain unclear down until today. One reason is that the extant archival documents have not been easily accessible, and so could not readily be evaluated. A major purpose of this volume is to provide access and to contextualise the (for the most part) unpublished excavation photographs held in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London. In this, the research follows the model set ten years ago by the first volume of *Unseen Images: Archive Photographs in the Petrie Museum: Gurob, Sedment and Tarkhan*. It is especially welcome that Ivor Pridden, co-editor of that publication, could provide his expertise to support the present volume of *Studia Panopolitana*, which may in a real sense be considered a continuation of the *Unseen Images* project. The reprocessing of the published and unpublished documentation and the finds deriving from the work of the Sūhāǧ expedition also aims to clarify the spatial extent of this brief excavation season, intended only as a one-off, stop-gap measure, which resulted, amongst other things, in the distribution of diverse finds to a previously indeterminate number of destinations.