

Contents

Preface	XI
Acknowledgements	XII
List of Figures and Tables	XV
Notes on Contributors	XXII

PART 1

Introduction

1	Overview	3
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
2	An Unexplored Market Town of the Early Trans-Saharan Trade	7
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
3	The Essouk-Tadmekka Locality: Environment and Human Geography	21
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	

PART 2

Site Overview and Surface Remains

4	The Essouk-Tadmekka Ruins and Their Prospection	27
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
5	Arabic and Tifinagh Inscriptions	41
	<i>Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias</i>	

PART 3

Excavations and Architecture

6	Excavation Programme and Methods	55
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
7	Excavations in the Mosque Quarter (Unit Ek-A)	58
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
8	Excavations near the Eastern Cliffs (Unit Ek-B)	83
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
9	Excavations on the Island (Unit Ek-C)	90
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
10	Chronology	94
	<i>Sam Nixon</i>	
11	Architecture	102
	<i>Sam Nixon and Benoit Suzanne</i>	

PART 4

Finds

- 12 Pottery 119
Sam Nixon and Kevin MacDonald
- 13 Glass Vessels 152
Sam Nixon, James Lankton and Laure Dussubieux
- 14 Beads 160
James Lankton, Sam Nixon, Peter Robertshaw and Laure Dussubieux
- 15 Gold Processing Remains 174
Sam Nixon and Thilo Rehren
- 16 Crucible-steel Making and Other Metalworking Remains 188
Thilo Rehren and Sam Nixon
- 17 Coins and Other Metal Artefacts 203
Sam Nixon
- 18 Miscellaneous Material Culture 216
Sam Nixon
- 19 Eggshell 227
Jane Sidell
- 20 Faunal Remains 234
Kevin MacDonald
- 21 Plant Remains 241
Dorian Fuller, Mary-Anne Murray and Sam Nixon

PART 5

Synthesis and Discussion

- 22 Excavated Sequence 255
Sam Nixon
- 23 A New Cultural History of Essouk-Tadmekka 262
Sam Nixon
- 24 Debating Trans-Saharan Commerce and Culture 268
Sam Nixon
- Conclusion 279

Appendices

- A Early Arabic Documentary Records of Tadmekka** 283
Sam Nixon
- B Plans of Essouk-Tadmekka Town Ruins and Cemeteries** 287
Benoit Suzanne
- C Essouk Arabic Non-Funerary Inscriptions, New (Previously Unpublished) Series** 299
Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias
- D Context Descriptions for Excavation Units** 304
Sam Nixon
- E Pottery Analysis Tables and Additional Illustrative Materials** 308
Sam Nixon and Kevin MacDonald
- F Glass Vessels Tables** 355
Sam Nixon and James Lankton
- G Glass Bead Tables** 358
Sam Nixon and James Lankton
- H Vessel and Bead Glass Chemical Compositional Analysis** 364
James Lankton, Peter Robertshaw, Laure Dussubieux and Sam Nixon
- I Archaeometallurgical Waste** 370
Thilo Rehren
- J Digital X-ray Imaging and Conservation Treatment of Silver Coins and Related Finds** 379
Stephanie Black
- K Preliminary Chemical and Technical Analyses of Essouk Metal Artefacts** 385
Thomas Fenn, Thilo Rehren and Laure Dussubieux
- L Note sur le damas et sur le « voile » de soie d'Essouk-Tadmekka** 393
Sophie Desrosiers
- M Faunal Remains Tables** 400
Kevin MacDonald
- N Species Counts of Plant Remains** 404
Dorian Fuller, Mary-Anne Murray and Sam Nixon
- Bibliography** 411
- Index** 420