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The Archaeology of Muleba, South West of Lake Nyanza: A Preliminary Report

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INTRODUCTION

This work is a preliminary report of the archaeological field work conducted in the district of Muleba, Kagera Region of Tanzania (Fig. 4.1) on the south-west part of Lake Nyanza. Apart from field school training, another purpose was to launch an archaeological project on the Tanzanian part of Lake Nyanza to complement similar efforts already launched on the Ugandan side by a newly initiated project called the African Archaeology Programme.

The decision to work in Muleba was the result of a report by a resident, a retired Tanzanian Cultural Officer, Mr. Peter Kalugira, about several rock shelters. His pictures indicated that the paintings were similar to those which had been documented by Chaplin (1974) from the rest of the lake region. The second author travelled to the district in April 2002 to confirm the reports and also to conduct a feasibility study. It was found that there were many rock shelters and rock hangings which had geometrical and non-naturalist paintings and within their surroundings pottery of Early Iron Working (EIW) were scattered.

RESEARCH PROBLEMS

It has been observed from virtually all archaeological reports from the Great Lakes Region that no excavated sites have been found to have a complete