

***PAM RESEARCH* — NEW FORMULA**

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Polish archaeological effort in the Mediterranean has always been strong and for the past twenty plus years *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean* (*PAM*), published by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, has accompanied the work, faithfully mirroring this effort with up-to-date reports, articles, lengthier studies and brief notes. For a generation now *PAM* has regularly informed the international archaeological public of the most recent discoveries and restoration achievements of Polish archaeologists and conservators in the southeastern Mediterranean, that is, in Egypt and Sudan, Cyprus, Syria and Lebanon, Iraq and recently also Kuwait and Iran.

The first issues rarely topped 100 pages, while the most recent issues have not gone under 500 pages. In the first years, *PAM* was *par excellence* a homegrown, desktop publication, barely illustrated and reproduced on duplicator machines. Line drawings were added gradually, then, from volume 7 (1996), the first black and white photographs were included. Finally, color plates appeared in volume 16 (2006). A parallel version in Polish was also published for the first seven issues (only the first volume appeared first in Polish and was later translated into English, with a slightly different set of articles).

With volume 10 (issued in 1999) the journal got a visual facelift and this new form has sailed successfully through a decade of publishing history. From that time also it has been produced by various printing houses. From volume 17 (2006) it has an independent publisher, Warsaw University Press, which is responsible for its distribution. Since 2010 the journal has its own internet version and past issues are available on-line at www.pcma.uw.edu.pl.

In the past six years PCMA publications have also mushroomed into a *PAM Monograph Series*, presenting broader studies and dissertations from a wide field of ancient studies related to our own PCMA excavations (an earlier *Supplement Series* has been modified to include only occasional publications of conference acts and similar). A parallel series, *PCMA Excavation Reports*, has been launched concurrently with the present volume. It will feature reports in book form, from current and completed excavation projects. Another journal published by PCMA, *Studia Palmyreńskie*, which is devoted specifically to Palmyrene studies, has also recently been renewed.

Progress does not come without change. Hence, volume 20 of *PAM* comes in a new form. The changes will in no way affect the journal's mission, which remains the fullest possible presentation of archaeological, geophysical, restoration and study work carried out by expeditions from the PCMA UW, in the Near East and northeastern Africa, projects covering all periods from prehistory and protohistory through the Islamic age. What is new in this volume is the broadened scope, providing a forum for more comprehensive reports and studies based on current and past findings.

Realizing an institutional responsibility to present the results of our work, we have decided to include a section on studies following the core section containing field reports.

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This section is open to all PCMA staff and associates worldwide, publishing findings from field projects run by the PCMA.

The first volume with a STUDIES section brings a series of articles on sepulchral issues, these being the long-awaited acts of a conference, *Continuity of sepulchral traditions and manifestations of mortuary practices in the archaeological record on cemetery sites in the Nile Valley*, held by the PCMA in 2005.

The REPORTS section remains unchanged, but there has been a shift in the character of the presentation. An effort is made to include all sites and projects where work is currently undertaken, but a more liberal policy has been adopted to the form of these presentations. Full-length reports are preferred, but wherever this is not possible for different reasons, the work is recorded in a new column listing all of the fieldwork conducted in the reported year. This approach produces the opportunity for more comprehensive and summary reports from fieldwork extended over a couple of seasons, as well as facilitates the study and interpretation of current results in fuller and better researched form.

The new concept has entailed also a broadening of editorial supervision. Longtime editors Michał Gawlikowski and Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski remain as editors of the journal, now members of an Editorial Committee which also includes Piotr Bieliński, the Director of PCMA, Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz, Włodzimierz Godlewski and Karol Myśliwiec. They are supported by an International Advisory Board made up of Jean-Charles Balty, Charles Bonnet, Giorgio Buccellati, Stan Hendrickx, and Johanna Holaubek. All submissions to the journal, as well as the obligatory excavation fieldwork studies are now independently reviewed according to generally accepted standards in scientific publications.

It is hoped that the changes will contribute to an increasingly comprehensive and well researched presentation of the results of the Polish archaeological and conservation effort in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Prof. Piotr Bieliński