

# Polish Research in 2017

Listed in this section is the fieldwork organized and funded, in full or in part, by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology University of Warsaw (PCMA UW), as well as associated grant projects awarded by the National Science Center of the Republic of Poland, conducted in 2017 and in the archaeological season overlapping into 2018. Sites are presented in alphabetical order by country, the sequence of presentation of the latter arbitrary, reflecting the traditional scope of current involvement. Brief summaries of the most important results and relevant publications, including fieldwork dates and teams, appear for projects not reported in full in this volume.

The Syrian projects: Hawarte, Palmyra, Tell Arbid and Tell Qaramel, remain suspended due to the political situation in the region and are not included below. Some of the Egyptian projects were cancelled and others seriously delayed, resulting in decisions to reschedule work.

## EGYPT

**ALEXANDRIA, KOM EL-DIKKA, see in this volume.**

Ongoing research grant: Dr. Katarzyna Lach, “Studies on the character of social contacts in Roman Alexandria based on numismatics research. Analysis of coin finds from Kom el-Dikka in the archaeological context” (NCN Fuga 3: 2014/12/S/HS3/00088)

## BERENIKE

The January–February season in 2017 had to be cancelled due to a delayed permit issue. A study season was organized at the site in the fall. A core team comprised grant holders completing grant-related research on finds stored on-site, the team’s glass specialist and a surveyor preparing a hypsometric map of the site.

*Dates of work:* 16 September–16 October 2017

*Director:* Iwona Zych, archaeologist, small finds specialist (PCMA UW)

*SCA representative:* Mahmud Ahmed Husein (Red Sea Inspectorate)

*Archaeologists and specialists:* Renata Kucharczyk (ancient glass specialist), Joanna Rądkowska (Harbor Temple study), and Marek Woźniak (all PCMA UW)

*Surveyor:* Andrzej Szeszko (freelance)

Three research grants funded by the National Science Center of the Republic of Poland, two from Berenike and one from Aynuna, Saudi Arabia (see below):

Ongoing research grants: Iwona Zych, MA “Religious practices and beliefs in the “Red Land”: religious building complexes and cult objects from the port of Berenike



as a manifestation of the religiousness of the population of the Egyptian Red Sea coast and Eastern Desert from the mid 3rd century BC to the early 6th century AD” (NCN Preludium 7: UMO-2014/13/N/HS3/04400)

Marek Woźniak, MA “From military base to international emporium: the nature and functioning of the Hellenistic port of Berenike on the Red Sea” (NCN Grant Preludium 9: 2015/17/N/HS3/00163)

Prof. Michał Gawlikowski “Infrastructure of the international trade in the Red Sea area in the Roman period” (NCN Harmonia 6: UMO-2014/14/M/HS3/00795)

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- Site name - Current research
  - Site name - Past research
  - ▲ Restoration and conservation
  - Surveyed
  - Geophysical project
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  - Other Polish projects in this volume
  - PROJECT - Past survey and salvage project
  - PROJECT - Current survey and salvage project
- 0 100 200 300 400 500 km

See also: Selected papers of the 2016 conference in Cairo in a Special Studies volume *Research on the Red Sea*, PAM 26/2 (2017): D. Eguiluz Maestro “Conservation interventions at the site of Berenike (Egypt): challenges and solutions in an ancient city of the Eastern Desert” (pp. 211–223); M. Hense “The Great Temple of Berenike: new findings of the Berenike Temple Project” (pp. 133–146); A.M. Kotarba-Morley “Port town and its harbors: sedimentary proxies for landscape and seascape reconstruction of the Greco-Roman site of Berenike Troglodytica on the Red Sea coast of Egypt” (pp. 61–92); R. Kucharczyk “Come and dine with me... Early Roman luxury glass tableware from Berenike – new evidence from the harbor area and the trash dumps” (pp. 147–166); M. Osypińska and P. Osypiński “New evidence for the emergence of the human-pet relation in early Roman Berenike (first–second century AD)” (pp. 167–192); J. Then-Obluska “Beads and pendants from the late Harbor Temple and harbor temenos in the Red Sea port of Berenike (seasons 2010–2013): materials, techniques, functions and cultural” (pp. 193–210); M. Woźniak “Shaping a city and its defenses: fortifications of Hellenistic Berenike Troglodytica” (pp. 43–60); I. Zych “The harbor of early Roman “Imperial” Berenike: overview of excavations from 2009 to 2015” (pp. 93–132)

#### DEIR EL-BAHARI: TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

The conservation effort in the Complex of the Royal Cult on the Upper Terrace of the Temple of Hatshepsut was continued, coupled with documentation and requisite digging. Various ongoing projects were continued, nearing in many cases completion:

- ◊ conservation and restoration of the Complex of the Sun Cult and the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re; the two parts of the temple have now been opened to the public;
- ◊ restoration of the Osiride statues of Hatshepsut in the façade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico and the queen’s sandstone sphinxes; the North Colossus and the upper part of the Southern Colossus at the edges of the Lower Portico of the Hatshepsut temple (ongoing);
- ◊ reconstruction of the sandstone painted statue of Amenhotep I in the form of a mummiform figure of the god Osiris, found in Asasif.

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Documentation in the Ptolemaic Portico and in the Upper Courtyard as well as by the south wall of the Chapel of Hatshepsut, in the Lower Courtyard and by the Hathor Ramp Gate required additional testing. A Third Intermediate Period cemetery was unearthed in the Upper Terrace. Coffins from the Tomb of Montu Priests were documented and studied and an X-ray examination of the mummies carried out (for the results, see selected articles in the Special Studies volume *PAM 27/2: Deir el-Bahari Studies II*).

Documentation and study on decoration in the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re, the South Chamber of Amun, and the Punt and Birth Porticoes were carried on in preparation for a monographic publication. The same was concluded for the Chapel of Tuthmosis I. Building *dipinti* and graffiti were documented. The results of 3D scanning as well as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys were applied in studies of the temple.

The following projects were continued as part of the larger Deir el-Bahari Project:

- 1) Temple of Tuthmosis III storeroom project, directed by Monika Dolńska (see below in this section);
- 2) Temple of Tuthmosis I storeroom project, catalogue of block fragments by Jadwiga Iwaszczuk;
- 3) Asasif Necropolis Project, directed by Patryk Chudzik (see the report in this volume).

*Acknowledgments:* The project benefited from the generous assistance of Dr. Mohamed Ismail, Director General of Sector for Foreign Missions Affairs, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz, Director General of Upper Egypt, Mr. Talat Abdel Aziz, Director General of the West Bank in Luxor, Mr. Ezz el-Din, Chief Inspector of the West Bank Central Sector, Mr. Ibrahim Souleyman (former director of Karnak) and Dr. Hisham Elleithy, Director of Scientific Publication and Documentation Department.

*Dates of work:* 12 March–9 April 2017

*Director:* Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński, egyptologist (PCMA UW)

*Deputy Director:* Dr. Mirosław Barwik, egyptologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*SCA representatives:* Omar Fathi Hassan Hasan and Elazab Ragab Ahmed Abd Rabu

*Egyptologists:* Katarzyna Kapiec (PhD candidate, Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Center, University of Warsaw), Dr. Edyta Kopp (Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw), Adrianna Madej (IKSiO PAN), Dr. Franciszek Pawlicki (PCMA UW), Cynthia May-Sheikholeslami (independent) and Patryk Chudzik (independent), Dr. Filip Taterka (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

*Architects:* Dr. Teresa Dziedzic (Wrocław University of Technology), Sergio Alarcón Robledo (independent)

*Conservators:* Rajmund Gazda, Dr. Maria Lulkiewicz, Dorota Rudzińska (all freelance)

*Engineer:* Mieczysław Michiewicz (freelance)

*Photographer:* Maciej Jawornicki (freelance)

*Documentalists:* Sarah Fortune, registrar (student, University of Manchester), Marek Puzzkarski (PCMA UW)

*Student-trainees:* Katarzyna Kasprzycka (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Volunteer:* G. Katarzyna Szafrńska (Poland)

*Rais:* Ragab Ahmed Yassin

**DEIR EL-BAHARI: ASASIF** (research program), see in this volume.

**DEIR EL-BAHARI: TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III** (research program)

Branch of the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological and Conservation Mission to the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari

Ongoing work on the theoretical reconstruction of various temple chambers based on a reconstruction of the painted relief wall decoration. The team proceeded with a program of checking reconstruction drawings against surviving block fragments, coupled with a complementary project of high quality professional photography supporting a series of photomontages of selected parts of the decoration. The reconstruction of the Hypostyle Hall, Sanctuary, and Rooms D, G and H is nearing completion, in preparation for the final publication.

*Dates of work:* November 2017

*Director:* Dr. Monika Dolińska (National Museum in Warsaw)

*SCA representative:* Abla Abd el-Haq

*Egyptologists:* Janina Wiercińska (National Museum in Warsaw), Nathalie Beaux (IFAO)

*Photographer:* Zbigniew Doliński (National Museum in Warsaw)

*Architect:* Mariusz Caban (PhD candidate, Wrocław University of Science and Technology)

**GEBELEIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (Egypt)**, see in this volume.

**MAREA (Egypt)**

*Basilica project and late antiquity building in Marea and its inhabitants*

Continued exploration of the great Basilica concentrated on the north entrance and staircase in the northwest corner of the church. A few marble pavement slabs still remained from the original interior decoration, whereas the inner walls of the staircase revealed impressions of wooden beams from the steps. Excavations revealed another section of the stylobate supporting the columns separating the northern aisle from the nave; the negative impressions of four columns were noted 230 cm apart. Further fieldwork was also undertaken in the building (H<sub>1</sub>) located east of the basilica, focusing on completing the exploration of the installation in room T<sub>1</sub>, the documentation of the architectural stratigraphy of walls and floors, additional orthophotographs and 3D models, and recording of small finds.

The ceramic material consisted mainly of amphorae: local LRA 5/6 (produced in Abu Mena) dated to the 6th–7th century, types Kellia 187–190, Kellia 167 and LRA 7 (types 173–177) from the 6th–8th centuries, LRA 7, AE 3 and AE 4 from earlier phases at the site, as well as imported LRA 1. The largest assemblage came from the staircase. The material also included ERSW A tableware, fragments of bowls, plates, water jugs (*gullas*) and scarce fragments of kitchenware (“pans”, lids, cooking pots), storage pots and lids. The pottery assemblage recovered from building H<sub>1</sub> in seasons 2014 and 2016 was fully documented. The collection of coins from recent excavations was also cleaned and studied.

A field survey was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of geophysical methods for locating archaeological features preserved in the vicinity of the basilica. A total of 7600 m<sup>2</sup> were surveyed using the magnetic method, and the resistivity survey was conducted in a sector of 1200 m<sup>2</sup>. The survey areas were positioned in geographical coordinate grid WGS 84 projection UTM (zone 35N: EPSG32635) based on a satellite image downloaded from the Google Earth website.

*Dates of work:* 1–25 November 2017

*Director:* Krzysztof Babraj, archaeologist (Archaeological Museum in Kraków)

*Deputy Director:* Prof. Tomasz Derda, papyrologist, epigrapher (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*SCA representative:* Mai Ibrahim Abed El Monem (archaeology), Amr Ibrahim Ali Noah, Director of the Fawzy el Fakhrany Storage Museum in Marea, Ashref Mohammed Abed El Samea (conservation), Mohamed Abdelbaset Ahmed (conservation), Sherif Ayman Saad Ahmad (survey)

*Archaeologists:* Anna Drzymuchowska, ceramologist (Archaeological Museum in Kraków), Dr. Mariusz Gwiazda (independent), Aleksandra Pawlikowska (independent)

*Architect:* Daria Tarara, chief architect (freelance)

*Numismatist:* Dr. Piotr Jaworski (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Glass expert:* Renata Kucharczyk (PCMA UW)

*Conservator:* Tomasz Skrzypiec (freelance)

*Geophysical survey:* Prof. Krzysztof Misiewicz (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

**MARINA EL-ALAMEIN: CONSERVATION PROJECT**, see in this volume.

**MARINA EL-ALAMEIN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**, see in this volume

**NAQLUN (Deir el-Nekloni)**, season cancelled.

**SAQQARA**, see in this volume.

**SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA: THE PHARAONIC PROJECT**, season cancelled.

**SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA MANUSCRIPTS CONSERVATION MISSION**, project suspended.

**TELL EL-FARKHA (GHAZALA)**, see in this volume.

**TELL EL-MURRA (NORTHEASTERN NILE DELTA SURVEY)**, see in this volume.

**TELL EL-RETABA**, see in this volume.

### **VALLEY OF THE KINGS: TOMB OF RAMESSES VI**

The team continued documentation of Roman-age inscriptions from the rock-cut walls, covering sections A to E of the royal tomb. The work still needs to be continued.

*Dates of work:* December 2017

*Director:* Adam Łukaszewicz, archaeologist and epigrapher (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Archaeologists/documentalists:* Kamila Braulińska, photographer (PhD candidate, Faculty of History, University of Warsaw), Anastazja Golijewska, drafts person (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

## **SUDAN**

### **DONGOLA (OLD)**

Two programs supported by the Qatar–Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP#10 and QSAP#31), implemented by the PCMA team.

*Monastery on Kom H:* program of excavations in the courtyard, the Central building in the northern part of the monastery, the Northeastern Building and the northern complex: NC.1 Circular building, NB.2 Church with preserved paintings and inscriptions from the early 14th century, NB.4 storied monastic building from the early 7th century. Wall painting conservation program on newly discovered representations and documentation of inscriptions from the Northwest Building and Church NB.2. Anthropological examination of four 14th-century tombs in the southwestern cemetery and infant pot burials from the monastery courtyard (and the Citadel as well). Pottery studies. Shelter roof constructed over the remains of the NB.2 church with wall paintings.

*Citadel.* Excavation at the SWN site covered the southwestern part of the palace (SWN.B.I) and inside the Church of the Archangel Raphael (SWN.B.V). Conservation of the late 8th century wall paintings found inside the church. Study program encompassing the Funj-period basketry and textiles uncovered in the previous season at the SWN site.