

## PCMA FIELD MISSIONS AND PROJECTS IN 2012 AND 2013

The chronicle of fieldwork presented here includes all sites and projects carried out by teams working under the auspices of the PCMA in the archaeological seasons in 2012 and 2013. The presentation is divided by country (in the following sequence: Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, and Armenia) and sites follow an alphabetical order. Projects not reported in this volume are described here in brief, giving full information on the dates of the fieldwork and team composition, as well as a summary of the most important results and relevant other publications.

The Syrian projects were cancelled during these two seasons due to the deteriorating political situation in the region.

## EGYPT

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

**BERENIKE**, see in this volume.

See also: P. Osypiński, Discovering a prehistoric cattle cemetery in the Eastern Desert, *PCMA Newsletter*, available online: <http://www.pcma.uw.edu.pl/pl/newsletter-pcma/2012/hellenistic-and-graeco-roman-period/berenike-egypt/>.

**DAKHLEH OASIS: THE ROCK ART PROJECT**, see in this volume.

**DEIR EL-BAHARI: TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III**, see in this volume.

### DEIR EL-BAHARI: TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

The PCMA flagship project at the Temple of Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari continued its current work, encompassing on one hand archaeological, egyptological and epigraphic research and on the other, full-scale conservation and restoration based on the results of the research. The Royal Mortuary Cult Complex is the focus of work at present with most of the activities concentrated inside the Chapel of Hatshepsut (among others, installation of a three-layered tempered-glass trapdoor in the opening of the shaft of Tomb VIII (S.7A/82) from the Twenty-third Dynasty, furnished with a ladder down into the tomb and a lighting system). A pilot restoration project concerning the sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut was implemented as well, as was the restoration of the Osiride statues in the facade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico. Trenches were excavated to the east of the northern T-shaped pond (S.1/12), to check the ground under the restored sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut. Among others, Tomb II in the rock-cliff face behind the Temple of Tuthmosis III was re-explored, yielding remnants of grave goods (inscribed shrouds, pottery and coffins) which placed the origins of the tomb in the early Twenty-sixth Dynasty. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys were carried out in the three temple terraces.

Documentation proceeded in the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex as well as in the Bark Hall of the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re, where verification of earlier drawings was the main focus. Graffiti and building *dipinti* were documented and studied.

Outside the Temple of Hatshepsut, a study of representations of private costume in Egyptian art from the Twenty-fifth to the Thirty-first Dynasty in the tombs of Asasif was carried out in TT Nos 27, 33, 34, 36, 196, 279, 312 and 414. Graffiti in tombs on the northern slopes of Asasif (TT Nos 240, 281, 308, 310, 311, 313, 314, 315, 316, 353, 358; and tombs MMA Nos



Map A. Archaeological sites excavated by the PCMA: Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon and Cyprus



Map B. Archaeological sites excavated by the PCMA: Syria, Iraqi Kurdistan, Kuwait and Armenia

504 (Carter # 82), 506, 507, 511, 512, 514, 515; Tomb MMA 504 was closed with an iron gate) were documented and studied. More than 800 block fragments from the Temple of Tuthmosis I (Khnenemet-ankh), identified in the tomb-storeroom (MMA 828), located behind the Mission's dig-house, were documented in preparation for a theoretical reconstruction project.

## SEASON 2011/2012

*Dates of work:* 23 October 2011–30 April 2012

*Director:* Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński, egyptologist, archaeologist (Research Center in Cairo, PCMA UW)

*MSA representatives:* Abdel Khani Abdel Rahman, Mahmoud Abdel At, Mohammed El-Azab Mohamed, Asmaa Kamel el-Din Ahmed

*Egyptologists:* Dr. Olga Białostocka (independent), Kamila Braulińska (bursary, PCMA UW), Aleksandra Hallmann (bursary, PCMA UW), Jadwiga Iwaszczuk (PhD candidate, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Katarzyna Kapiiec (independent), Cynthia May-Sheikholeslami (American University in Cairo), Marta Sankiewicz (PhD candidate, University of Poznań), Dawid Wieczorek (PhD candidate, University of Warsaw)

*Coptologist:* Esther Garel (Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo)

*Architects:* Aleksandra Brzozowska, Dr. Teresa Kaczor-Dziedzic, Assoc. Prof. Jacek Kościuk (all Wrocław University of Technology); student-trainees: Mariusz Caban, Ewelina Owsiana, Paweł Srokowski (all Wrocław University of Technology)

*Conservators:* Rajmund Gazda, Maria Lulkiewicz, Arkadiusz Ostasz, Andrzej Sośnierz, Krystyna Wadzyńska (all independent), Wojciech Myjak (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland)

*Archaeologist:* Paul M. Barford (independent)

*Engineers:* Mieczysław Michiewicz (freelance), Mariusz Dybich (PCMA UW)

*Photographers:* Maciej Jawornicki, Wojciech Wojciechowski, Aleksandra Kamińska (all freelance)

*Registrars:* Sarah Fortune (student, University of Manchester), Piotr Czerkwiński, Agata Smilgin (all three bursaries, PCMA UW)

## SEASON 2012/2013

*Dates of work:* 30 September 2012–7 April 2013

*Director:* Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński, egyptologist, archaeologist (Research Center in Cairo, PCMA UW)

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

*MSA representatives:* Sayed Mohamed El-Gorani Basri, Mahmud Al-Azab Ad-Alrazeq, Esra Mohamed, Omar Fathi Hassan

*Egyptologists:* Dorota Czerwik (independent), Aleksandra Hallmann-Mikołajczak (bursary, PCMA UW), Jadwiga Iwaszczuk (PhD candidate, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Katarzyna Kapiiec (Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Center, University of Warsaw), Cynthia May-Sheikholeslami (American University in Cairo), Agnieszka Niemirka (National Heritage Board of Poland), Dr. Frédéric Payraudeau and Dr. Chloé Rigazzoli (both Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo), Dr. Aleksiej Shukanau (bursary, Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo), Agata Smilgin (independent), Dr. Anastasiia Stupko-Lubczyńska (Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Dr. André Veldmeijer (Netherlands-Flemish

Institute in Cairo), Dawid Wieczorek (PhD candidate, University of Warsaw; Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences)

*Architects:* Aleksandra Brzozowska, Mariusz Caban, Dr. Teresa Dziedzic, Karolina Majdzik (all four Wrocław University of Technology) and Andrzej Kwaśnica (independent)

*Conservators:* Rajmund Gazda, Maria Lulkiewicz, Andrzej Sośnierz, Sara Hejke, Marta Zaborowska (all freelance), Wojciech Myjak (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland)

*Archaeologists:* Piotr Czerkwiński (PhD candidate, Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Center, University of Warsaw), Robert Ryndziejewicz, Katarzyna Bartoś, Kamila Braulińska (all independent)

*Engineers:* Mieczysław Michiewicz (freelance), Mariusz Dybich (Research Center in Cairo, PCMA UW)

*Photographer:* Maciej Jawornicki (freelance)

*Documentalists:* Marek Puskarski (PCMA UW), Dorota Mazanek (bursary, PCMA UW)

*Student-trainees:* Anastazja Golijewskaja, Piotr Sójka (both bursaries, PCMA UW), Sergio Alarcón Robledo (architecture student, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid), Anna Kubicka (architecture student, Wrocław University of Technology)

*Registrars:* Sarah Fortune (student, University of Manchester)

## MAREA

Exploration continued of an early Christian basilica, which is the second largest known from Egypt, dated to the 5th–7th century. The Project has cleared further stretches of the main body of the church, as well as the so-called shops to the southwest. Petrographic studies of the marble of the numerous elements of architectural decoration from the basilica demonstrated extensive use of imported stone, coming from the Proconessus quarries, Euboeia, Teos, Chios and other Greek islands. Conservation work included cleaning of the numerous coins found in previous seasons.

The architecture provisionally cleared in 2011 to the east and southeast of the apse of the basilica started to be investigated. A house with paved courtyard, on the edges of which a large deposit of ostraka was discovered in 2011, was now cleared, uncovering the southern part (24 m by 26 m) with a staircase, a well with notches for climbing down and a cistern. A wide street separated this building from architecture located closer to quay III. To the east of this compound, a latrine consisting of three compartments stood at the edge of the lake. The channels of the latrine yielded an abundance of cooking pottery and jars from the 6th–7th century and amphorae from a longer period from the 6th through 8th century. More ostraka were found in the general area of the deposit discovered previously. It could have formed an archive of some kind, considering the same general theme and a certain haste in taking down notes concerning craftsmen and their pay. It is possible that the house was occupied by the master builder directing the construction of the basilica.

Work was conducted under an agreement between the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, and the Archaeological Museum in Kraków, with extra funding provided generously by Mrs. Hélène Zaleski. The cooperation of Mustafa Mohamed Roshdy, General Director of the Alexandrian Antiquities Department, and the generous help of Samiha Noshay Rafla, General Director of Foreign Excavations in Alexandria, are gratefully acknowledged.

*Dates of work:* 3 July–24 August 2012; 20 August–20 October 2013

*Director:* Krzysztof Babraj (2012, 2013; Archaeological Museum in Kraków)

*MSA representative:* Abd Alaziz Mohamed Said (2012; 2013)

*Archaeologists:* Assoc. Prof. Tomasz Derda (2012, 2013; Department of Papyrology, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Anna Drzymuchowska (2012, 2013; Archaeological Museum in Kraków), Elena Marinova-Wolff (2013; Center for Archaeological Sciences, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Dr. Dagmara Wielgosz-Rondolino (2012, 2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Architects:* Andrzej Kutiak, architect, art history post-graduate student (2013; Faculty of Art History, Jagiellonian University), Katarzyna Rozmus (2013; Universidad Politecnica de Valencia trainee), Daria Tarara, chief architect (2012, 2013; freelance)

*Specialists:* Tomasz Górecki, pottery expert (2013; National Museum in Warsaw), Piotr Jaworski, numismatist (2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Dr. Nina Willburger, glass expert (2012, 2013; Landesmuseum in Stuttgart)

*Restorers:* Joanna Babraj (2013; Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków), Tomasz Skrzypiec (2012, 2013; Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków)

*Civil engineer:* Dr. Janusz Kogut (2012, 2013; Kraków University of Technology)

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

### **MARINA EL-ALAMEIN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

The archaeological mission took up work after a four-year interval and under new leadership following Prof. Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski's retirement. Work started with a probe on street S1 running by the recently restored House H21 directly toward the harbor. The trench cut across the width of the street (6.20 m) and was 2.50 m wide. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded, identifying seven different levels dated by the pottery from the respective surfaces to the 2nd through 4th centuries AD. Buildings on the western side of the street proved to have two building phases, differentiated solely by the nature of the mortar used in construction: clay with lime particles in the earlier phase, lime mortar in the later one. In the second trench dug in 2012 and 2013, a possible tavern was located; it appeared to be one of at least three different units that had originally been designated as H39. Building H40 was cleared in the third probe. The archaeological evidence showed several phases of development, dated generally to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Animal bones excavated here were identified to species, demonstrating a significant share in the local diet of sheep or goat meat, as well as cattle, fish and chicken. Directors Dr. Halid Abol Hamd and Dr. Nama Samaelm Yakoub of the local chapter of the MSA are gratefully acknowledged for their support and help during both seasons.

*Dates of work:* 17 May–10 June 2012; 15 May–6 June 2013

*Director:* Dr. Krzysztof Jakubiak, archaeologist (2012, 2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*MSA representatives:* Soheir Fekrey Ahmed Hassan (2012), Muhammad Ahmed El-Awady Kandil (2013)

*Archaeologists:* Szymon Maślak (2012, 2013; PCMA UW), Klaudia Szajkowska (2012, 2013; independent)

*Student-trainees:* Iwona Laskowska (2012), Eva Eshak and Manda Lueders (2013) (all University of Warsaw)

### **NAQLUN (Deir el Nekloni)**

Exploration continued on the central section of the monastic compound on the upper plateau, in seven trenches located north of the refuse dump. The main objective was to investigate the monastic architecture in this part of the site. The area turned out to be of a domestic nature, rather poorly preserved as the mud bricks from the walls were probably mined for reuse in



the medieval enclosure wall of the monastery around the Church of Archangel Gabriel. The floor surfaces, however, appeared to be in good condition. Industrial installations in these units included a basin and a small cellar, and the fill yielded wooden mallets among other artifacts. The pottery assemblage consisted of mainly LRA 7 amphorae, imported containers from North Africa and from Palestine, as well as their local imitations, representing the local Fayum economy of the 9th and 10th centuries. One of the most interesting finds was a huge Palestinian amphora with a text in Arabic on the body, presumed to be a form of address; the amphora with its unidentified content had been sent from a presumed Muslim to a monk from the monastery. Finds included glass vessels, wooden artifacts and fragmentary documents in Arabic and Coptic of an economic nature, a codex cover of impressed leather with depressions left by removed incrustation. A cellar-like room with niches yielded a surprising find in the form of a pot holding dried fish, perfectly preserved, presumably fished in the nearby canal.

Restoration of metal objects, made of copper and its alloys, silver and iron, was continued throughout the season, even as relevant specialists concentrated on the documentation and studies of pottery in its entirety and mudstoppers as illustration of the 6th and 7th century monastic economy. Of greatest significance, however, was a study of coinage: Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid dinars and dirhams from the fill of the monastic buildings. These were cleaned, identified and dated. Of a total of 81 coins and their fragments, 11 gold dinars of Tulunid date were struck by Khumarawaih (883–895), son of the Dynasty founder Ahmad bin Tulun, and by his son Harun (896–904); 22 dinars were issued by the caliph al-Muqtadir bi-llah (908–932) and the latest Abbasid coins belonged to al-Radi bi-llah (struck in 936/937). Seven coins were identified as Aghlabid issues, representing a dynasty of emirs ruling North Africa for almost a hundred years until 909 (one complete coin struck in 886/887).

See also: W. Godlewski, Naqlun 2012: interim report from excavations at the monastery of Nekloni in Fayum, *PCMA Newsletter*, available online: <http://www.pcma.uw.edu.pl/pl/newsletter-pcma/2012/late-roman-byzantine-and-medieval/naqlun-egypt/>.

*Dates of work:* 29 August–28 September 2012; the 2013 season was rescheduled to 2014

*Director:* Prof. Włodzimierz Godlewski, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*MSA representative in Fayum:* Goma Helmi Abderrahman (fieldwork), Ibrahim Ragab Ahmed (storeroom)

*Archaeologist/papyrologist:* Dr. Dorota Dzierzbicka (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Archaeologist/documentalist:* Szymon Maślak (PCMA UW)

*Archaeologist/ceramologist:* Katarzyna Danys-Lasek (PCMA UW bursary)

*Archaeologists:* Łukasz Jarmużek (PhD candidate, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Łukasz Krupski (independent)

*Glass expert:* Dr. Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert (Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo)

*Arabist/art historian:* Dr. Gisela Helmecke (Islamic Art Museum, Berlin)

*Metal object restorer:* Władysław Weker (State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, Conservation Department)

**SAQQARA**, see in this volume.

## **SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA**

Exploration in the 2012 season was limited to the rock slope in front of the hermitage in tomb MMA 1151 (yielding pharaonic artifacts dumped by H.E. Winlock's excavation team in 1924) and to the interior of this hermitage and the other one in tomb MMA 1152.

The study of the pottery assemblage excavated in 2003–2010 continued in both seasons, resulting in a reassembly of a few hundred vessels. These consisted mainly of late Roman tableware, storage containers, water bottles, beakers as well as all kinds of plain domestic ware (pots and lids, colanders, funnels, dippers), and especially a set of containers made of dried clay, seldom encountered in Egypt and believed to be containers for olive oil imported from Tunisia and wine from the Greek isles. The pottery sheds light on diverse aspects of the monastic economy concerned with food storage and monastic diet in the 7th century. The group of Tunisian amphorae, which is the biggest assemblage ever found in Egypt, attests late contacts between Upper Egypt and the slowing down economy of Byzantine North Africa.

A provisional typology of the ceramics from the hermitage continued to be developed, placing emphasis on function and on reconstructing the interrelationship between different pottery forms and their function. Sets of functionally associated vessels were distinguished, e.g., vessel for mixing or storing liquids, a ladle for drawing the content, funnel for pouring and vessel to be filled. Other categories for which statistics were made concerned *saggiya*-pots and cooking pots (open and closed).

A geological study of the rock formation in which the tombs were excavated and the stone used for various artifacts from the site was completed.

A third aspect of the study season in 2012, as well as research on the results of the excavations, carried out within the frame of grant N N109 318337 from the National Science Center of Poland (“The functioning of the hermitage in tomb MMA 1152 in Gurna, Luxor, in the light of archaeological and textual data”, headed by Tomasz Derda from the University of Warsaw), is the monks’ spirituality, analyzed on the grounds of modest remains of drawings and paintings preserved on the walls of the hermitage. Among others, the pits and so-called cellar in the hermitages have been interpreted as places of seclusion for monks during the period of the fast, a practice confirmed in textual sources.

Documentation of stone-dressing, such as chisel width, among others, contributed data on stone-working techniques of the Middle Kingdom. This led to the identification of stone slabs found in the fill of the hermitage as revetment coming from the original Pharaonic tomb.

*Dates of work:* 8 January–12 March 2012; 21 January–14 March 2013

*Director:* Tomasz Górecki, archaeologist/ceramologist (2012, 2013; National Museum in Warsaw)

*Archaeologists:* Julia Górecka, ceramologist (2012, 2013; independent), Patryk Chudzik, egyptologist (2012, 2013; University of Wrocław)

*Geologist:* Maciej Pawlikowski (2013; Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków)

*Architect:* Małgorzata Słowińska (2012; freelance)

*Photographer:* Dariusz Dąbkowski (2012; freelance)

## SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA MANUSCRIPTS CONSERVATION MISSION

The manuscripts were transferred in October 2012 from the National Museum in Alexandria Restoration Lab, where they had been kept until then, to the Coptic Museum in Cairo, where the work was to be continued in the Restoration Labs of the Museum. Extended formalities and the need to carry out a microbiological examination of samples taken from the manuscripts by an SCA lab drastically shortened the time spent on actual conservation. The manuscripts were placed in two wooden chests with silica gel protection, in state-of-the-art acid-free carton boxes lined with canvas, with disinfectant-saturated liners.

*Dates of work:* 28 December 2012–31 January 2013; 19 May–21 June 2013

*Director:* Anna Thommée, senior conservator of art works (Polish Ateliers for Conservation of Cultural Property)



*Coptic Museum liason:* Sherin Lotwi Aziz  
*Book restorer:* Barbara Adamczyk (freelance)

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

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

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

**VALLEY OF THE KINGS: TOMB OF RAMESSES VI**, season cancelled.

## SUDAN

**DONGOLA**, see in this volume.

See also: W. Godlewski, Polish Archaeological Mission in Dongola, 2012, *PCMA Newsletter*, available online: <http://www.pcma.uw.edu.pl/pl/newsletter-pcma/2012/late-roman-byzantine-and-medieval/dongola/>, and  
W. Godlewski, Polish Archaeological Mission in Dongola, 2013, *PCMA Newsletter*, available online: <http://www.pcma.uw.edu.pl/pl/newsletter-pcma/2013/late-roman-byzantine-and-medieval/dongola-sudan/>.

**BANGANARTI and SELIB**, see in this volume.

### EARLY MAKURIA RESEARCH PROJECT: EL-ZUMA

Excavations in the El-Zuma Tumuli Field Project over two successive seasons in 2012 and 2013 focused on the exploration of three tumuli representing types II and III in the site classification system. Type II, a middle-sized flat-topped mound, is represented by tumuli T.12, T.14, T.15 and T.24, whereas Type III, the smallest in size, by tumuli T.21 and T.28. Type II mounds are built of pure gravel and sand, surrounded by a stone ring made of rough chunks of sandstone. Crater-like depressions are observed on the center top of these mounds, indicating as a rule rifling of the burials in antiquity. Burials of Type III also appeared to be plundered in the past. Limited exploration was undertaken of tumuli T.7, belonging to Type I (the largest of the mounds), in an effort to unveil the entrance to an underground tunnel leading to the main burial chamber, the nature of which remains unexplained.

*Dates of work:* 12 February–15 March 2012; 19 January–10 March 2013

*Director:* Mahmoud El-Tayeb, archaeologist (PCMA UW)

*NCAM representatives:* Huyam Khalid, Neamat Mohamed El-Hassan

*Archaeologists:* Ewa Skowrońska (2012, 2013; independent), Roksana Hajduga (2012; independent), Katarzyna Solarska (2012; independent), Jakub Brochocki (2012; independent), Aleksandra Głąb (2012, 2013; independent), Sebastian Mailot (2012; independent), Ewa Czyżewska (2013; PCMA UW)

*Anthropologist:* Robert Mahler (2013; PCMA UW)

*Archaeozoologist:* Urszula Iwaszczuk (2013; independent)

*Photographer:* Tomasz Wojtczak (2012; freelance)

### KHOR SHAMBAT

In December 2012, the African Prehistoric and Early Civilisation Research Group at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, carried out a season of research under the auspices of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of

Warsaw, at Khor Shambat 1 (Omdurman, a suburb of Khartoum), a Neolithic site accidentally discovered during road construction in Omdurman, situated near the confluence of the White and Blue Niles, on a sandy dune rising 384–385 m above sea level (around 5 m above the current maximum overflow level of the river), between two smaller gorges (*khors*) which drain water to the valley of the Nile. Four trenches were excavated to establish the topographical range of the site and settlement chronology. Four levels were identified. The cultural level was dated to 8400 +/- 621 and 6000 +/- 528 years TL (from 2013). The recorded artifacts included 4751 vessel ceramics, 98% of which were associated with the Neolithic phase, 735 microlithic stone artifacts and 94 macrolithic stone tools, which could thus be assigned to the same time frame, and 370 animal bone fragments. The oldest ceramics refer to the Early Khartoum Culture, while the newest to the early phases of the late Neolithic. All the vessel fragments and all but two chipped flint artifacts came from the exploration of cultural layers. Tools were rare in the collection. The macrolithic stone tools were for the most part fragments of objects typical of sites with similar chronology in central Sudan and they, too, did not constitute burial goods. The finds included two personal adornments from the graves; one was a barrel-shaped zeolite bead and the other a lip or ear plug made of rhyolite. With regard to the graves that were explored, an analysis of their shape and orientation, as well as of the body positioning, indicated a multi-stage cemetery, used in the Neolithic and later, probably during the Meroitic or post-Meroitic period. Exploration of seven of the Neolithic burials (three men, two women and one child of unidentified gender, and one unidentified) suggested at least two traditions of interment which could be connected to their differing chronology. The grave pits were of oval or round shape and the dead were deposited in flexed position. The newer graves were rectangular pits and the bodies were laid supine. The research was continued in 2013 with different funding.

See forthcoming: Bobrowski, P., Jórdeczka, M., Sobkowiak-Tabaka, I., and Binder, M. (2016). Khor Shambat 1: New Neolithic site and cemetery in Omdurman (Sudan), *PAM* 25/1.

*Dates of work:* 29 November–15 December 2012

*Director:* Dr. Przemysław Bobrowski, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań)

*Deputy director:* Dr. Maciej Jórdeczka, archaeologist, photographer (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań)

*NCAM representative:* Tayeb Hassan Mohamed

*Khartoum State representative:* Abdul Salam

*Archaeologists:* Prof. Michał Kobusiewicz, Iwona Sobkowiak-Tabaka (both Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań)

*Anthropologist:* Michaela Binder (Durham University)

## CYPRUS

NEA PAPHOS, see in this volume.

## LEBANON

JIYEH (PORPHYREON), see in this volume.

### IQLÎM EL-KHARRUB SURVEY

The archaeological prospection of the province in Lebanon, between Wadi Bisri, Wadi Damour, Jebel Baruk and the Mediterranean coast, is an on-and-off project, which began in 2000 and

which aims to document the vanishing heritage of the province, while broadening the database on the immediate neighborhood of Qasr Chhîm, the site explored by a PCMA team from 1996. Returning to the field after a break of three years, the team checked on the state of preservation of already recorded sites and completed the database of the project with photographic documentation and measurements wherever still needed. Since 2010 there has been extensive building activity in the region and many sites have vanished completely. Fourteen new sites, ranging from Roman to Ottoman in date, were found and recorded. Among them were water sources (Ain Mazboud, Ain Barja, Ain Baasir), water mills (Mazra'a Zafarani 1–5, Wadi Deleb, Madhan Marjiyat), ancient necropolises at Barja and Haaret Baasir, mosques (Nebi Yunis and Barja), settlements and production facilities (Bjero farm and lime kiln, natural cave at Mughara Marjiyat and Nabat Marjiyat). An interactive map, which was prepared following the season, will support further analysis of the relations between the recorded sites based on their nature and chronology. The provisional documentation of two medieval mosques, at Barja and Nebi Yunus, has contributed to an understanding of Islamic architectural traditions in Lebanon.

*Dates of survey:* 16 August–10 September 2013

*Director:* Dr. Mahmoud El-Tayeb, archaeologist, survey project head (PCMA UW)

*Survey team:* Dr. Karol Juchniewicz, Zofia Kowarska, Szymon Lenarczyk, archaeologists (all independent)

*GIS documentation:* Karolina Pawlik (independent)

## SYRIA

**HAWARTE**, seasons cancelled.

**PALMYRA**, seasons cancelled.

**PALMYRA TARIFF**, seasons cancelled.

**TELL ARBID**, seasons cancelled.

**TELL QARAMEL**, seasons cancelled.

## IRAQI KURDISTAN

**"NEWCOMERS AND AUTOCHTHONS" SURVEY IN THE UPPER GREATER ZAB AREA**, see in this volume.

## KUWAIT

**AL-SUBIYAH (AS-SABBIYA) TUMULI GRAVES SURVEY PROJECT**, see in this volume.

**BAHRA 1, AL-SUBIYAH (AS-SABBIYA)**

The prehistoric site of Bahra 1 has been under exploration since 2009. Stratigraphic trenches were dug to establish the thickness of the deposits and the chronological sequence. A single large house measuring 11.50 m x 8.50 m, was cleared. It consisted of 13 units arranged in three series parallel to one another, oriented NW–SE. Three of the units were furnished with a stone pavement and in one there was a stone hearth. The structure had at least two occupational phases.

The pottery recovered from the site is typical of Mesopotamian Ubaid painted ware of the 5th millennium BC. Judging by the technological features, the pottery was imported from Mesopotamia. However, a numerous group of sherds was identified as plain ware of a local reddish fabric and less well fired. Other finds included stone tools and shell beads; the beads were wasters for the most part, suggesting that a workshop existed in this area. An abundant presence of post-consumption shell waste constituted additional evidence for bead-making. A cluster of units and domestic installations uncovered in the area to the north of the house appears to have been used for industrial activities. Altogether an area of 1350 m<sup>2</sup> has been investigated. In the most recent season, a 40-m-long stratigraphic trench, 2 m wide, was dug to the east of House 1, uncovering at a depth of almost one meter the stone walls of what may be a building in another part of the settlement.

The pottery from the site dates it securely to the Ubaid period, at the close of the 6th millennium BC. It is certainly the largest known Ubaid site not only in Kuwait, but also presumably in the entire Gulf region.

See also: Bieliński, P., Białowarczuk, M., Kiersnowski, H., Piątkowska-Malecka, J., Reiche, A., Smogorzewska, A., Szymczak, A. (2015). *Bahra 1. Excavations in 2013. Preliminary report on the fifth season of Kuwaiti-Polish archaeological explorations* [=KPAM Publications]. Kuwait-Warsaw: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Kuwait; PCMA UW

*Dates of work:* 24 October–5 December 2012; 25 October–8 December 2013

*Co-directors:* Prof. Piotr Bieliński, archaeologist (2012, 2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw); Dr. Sultan Al-Duweish, archaeologist (2012, 2013; Director, Department of Antiquities and Museums of the State of Kuwait)

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*Archaeologists:* Dorota Bielińska (2012, 2013; Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Jacek Hamburg (2013; independent), Mateusz Iskra (2013; PCMA UW), Dr. Karol Juchniewicz (2012; independent), Ewelina Mizak (2012, 2013; PhD candidate, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw), Dr. Agnieszka Pieńkowska (2012, 2013; PCMA UW), Agnieszka Szymczak (2012, 2013; PCMA UW), Urszula Wicenciak (2012, PhD candidate, Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Center, University of Warsaw; 2013, independent), Dr. Zuzanna Wygnańska (2012, 2013; PCMA UW)

*Small finds specialist/archaeologist:* Andrzej Reiche (2012, 2013; National Museum in Warsaw)

*Lithics specialist/archaeologist:* Dr. Marcin Białowarczuk (2012, 2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Flint specialist:* Prof. Stefan Karol Kozłowski (2012; Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw)

*Ceramologist:* Dr. Anna Smogorzewska (2012, 2013; Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

*Archaeobotanist:* Assoc. Prof. Jarosław Zieliński (2012; independent)

*Geologist:* Hubert Kiersnowski (2012, 2013; Polish Geological Institute)

*Documentalists:* Ewa Hander (2012, 2013; Archaeological Museum of Chełm), Marta Momot (2012, 2013; PCMA UW)

*Photographer:* Adam Oleksiak (2013; freelance)

*Topographer:* Piotr Zakrzewski (2012, 2013; PhD candidate, Faculty of History, University of Warsaw)

*Student-trainee:* Jacek Hamburg, BA (2012; graduate student, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

**FAILAKA ISLAND: KHARAIB EL-DESHT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**, see in this volume.

**FAILAKA ISLAND: QUSUR EXCAVATION PROJECT**, see in this volume.

**FAILAKA ISLAND: SURVEY PROJECT**, see in this volume.

## ARMENIA

### METSAMOR

The urban layout of the neighborhood of the fortress in Metsamor was tested during the first season of investigations at the site. Three test trenches were excavated: on the northern slope of the hill of the fortress and on the northern terrace where the settlement was believed to have stood. The trench on the hill slope permitted the stratigraphic sequence of the site to be established, from the end of the 3rd millennium BC (early Bronze Age) to the 13th century (Middle Ages). Excavations revealed part of a clay and river pebble embankment which had protected the higher-lying structures from sliding down into the river. The embankment may be dated to the 14th–13th century BC. The trenches on the terrace uncovered an oval unit that was part of the western wing of a building from the 11th century BC. The structure was destroyed by fire. Inside it were two high storage containers. Judging by the pottery evidence, the building remained in use until the 9th century BC.

*Dates of work:* 30 September–22 October 2013

*Co-directors:* Dr. Krzysztof Jakubiak, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Prof. Aszot Piliposyan (Ministry of Culture, Republic of Armenia)

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*Student-trainees:* Joanna Dzik, Martin Malata, Agata Migdalska, Marcin Okniński (all Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)