

AMIR KEBIR QURQUMAS MAUSOLEUM IN CAIRO, 1993

Tomasz Scholl and Medhat el-Menabbawy

Excavations started on March 13 and were continued until May 24, 1993.¹ Archaeological research was carried out in the area situated between the Qurqumas mortuary complex and the modern eastern enclosure wall (in previous reports labeled as "southern enclosure"). The aim was to explore the area between the two channels that were excavated previously. Thanks to our Egyptian colleagues, approximately 75% of the area under investigation was stripped of layers of asphalt and *dakka* by bulldozer. The total area excavated this year covered c. 600 sq.m.

The western wall of a huge building (partly known from the last season) was uncovered probably almost to its full extent: a stretch 70-m long was exposed. The northern end of the facade still remains unknown. It seems that this building consist of two parts: one smaller, located at the south end (with the southern channel) including loci 1-7, and the other to the north (loci 8-21). (Fig. 1)

In the southern part, horizontal layers of ashes with lime and sand were revealed in rooms 2-4. The northern part of the building consists of a row of rooms (measuring 4.5 x 3.5 m.) each provided with a lavatory. For each set of two rooms there was

¹ The staff comprised on the Polish side: Mr. Jarosław Dobrowolski (architect, head of the Polish-Egyptian Mission), Dr. Tomasz Scholl (archaeologist, in charge of archaeological excavations), Mr. Waldemar Jerke (photographer), while the Egyptian side was represented by Mr. Medhat el-Menabbawy, Mr. Hisham Abdel-Latif and Mrs. Merwat Saad Badawy (all archaeologists). We would like to express our gratitude to the EAO for its help in the excavations.

THE FUNERARY COMPLEX OF AMIR KEBIR QURQUMAS

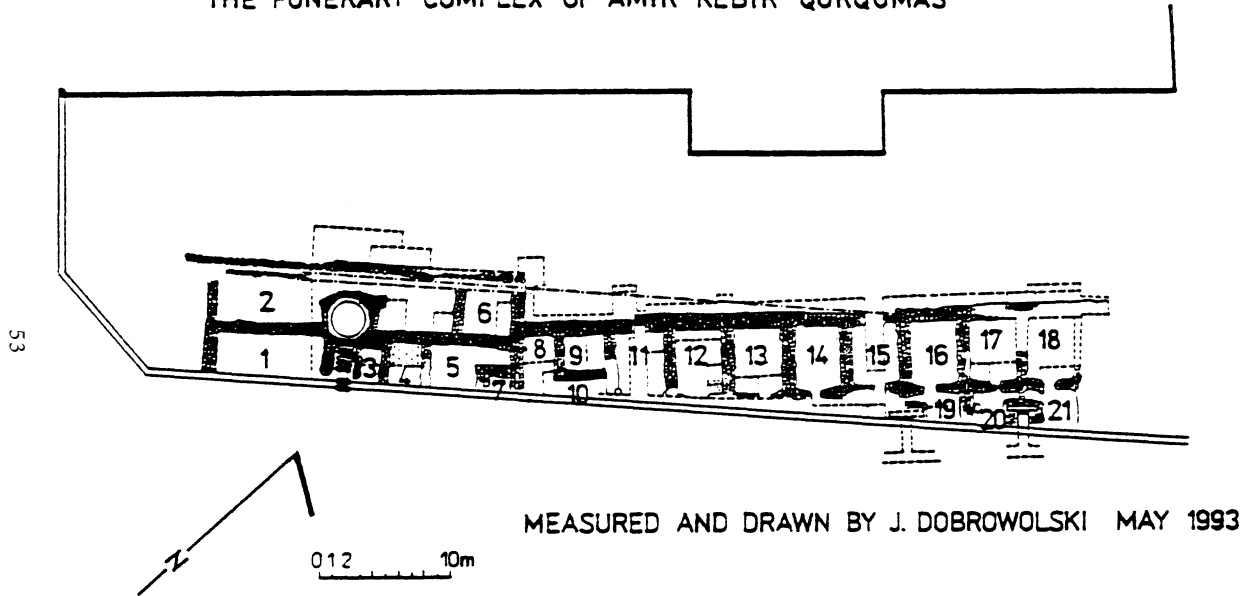


Fig. 1. Plan of the unearthed part of the building northeast of the Amir Kebir Qurqumas Funerary Complex. Drawing J. Dobrowolski.

a sewage channel serving both. In this sector, the western facade of the building changes its orientation slightly toward the north.

This season was not especially rich in small finds. They consisted of 10 coins (to be studied by Mrs. Anna Kmietowicz of Jagiellonian University in Kraków), cooking-pot sherds in abundance, a few glazed sherds (mainly of Mamluk date) and one piece of chinaware celadon.