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**Abstract:** The aim of the project “Newcomers and autochthons” is a detailed analysis of the archaeological remains dated to the Late Chalcolithic and Ninevite 5 periods found during the survey conducted in the Upper Greater Zab area. The article presents a preliminary report on the field activities in the fall of 2013.

**Keywords:** Late Chalcolithic period, Late Uruk period, Uruk expansion, Kurdistan Autonomous Region, archaeological survey

القادمون الجدد والسكان الأصليين . التقرير الأولي لأنشطة 2013 في منطقة الحكم الذاتي لكردستان - العراق .

Dorota Ławecka

**الملخص:** الهدف من مشروع القادمين الجدد والسكان الأصليين هو تحليل مفصل من بقايا أثرية تعود إلى أواخر العصر النحاسي وفترة نينوى 5 ( 5 Ninevit ) وجدت خلال المسح الذي أجري في منطقة الزاب الأعلى. تقدم هذه المقالة التقرير الأولي عن الأنشطة الميدانية.

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# POLISH ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

XXIV/1

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RESEARCH



## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AA</i>	<i>Archäologischer Anzeiger; Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts</i> (Berlin)
<i>ANM</i>	<i>Archéologie du Nil Moyen</i> (Lille)
<i>ASAE</i>	<i>Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte</i> (Cairo)
<i>AV</i>	<i>Archäologische Veröffentlichungen, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Abteilung Kairo</i> (Berlin–Mainz am Rhein)
<i>BAAL</i>	<i>Bulletin d'archéologie et d'architecture libanaises</i> (Beirut)
<i>BAH</i>	<i>Bibliothèque archéologique et historique</i> (Paris)
<i>BAR IS</i>	<i>British Archaeology Reports International Series</i> (Oxford)
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> (Ann Arbor, MI)
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de correspondance hellénique</i> (Paris)
<i>BdE</i>	<i>Bibliothèque d'étude</i> (Cairo)
<i>BIFAO</i>	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale</i> (Cairo)
<i>BSAA</i>	<i>Bulletin de la Société d'archéologie d'Alexandrie</i> (Cairo)
<i>BSFE</i>	<i>Bulletin de la Société française d'égyptologie</i> (Paris)
<i>CCE</i>	<i>Cahiers de la céramique égyptienne</i> (Cairo)
<i>EtTrav</i>	<i>Études et travaux. Travaux du Centre d'archéologie méditerranéenne de l'Académie des sciences polonaise</i> (Warsaw)
<i>FIFAO</i>	<i>Fouilles de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale</i> (Cairo)
<i>GAMAR</i>	<i>Gdańsk Archaeological Museum African Reports</i> (Gdańsk)
<i>GM</i>	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i> (Göttingen)
<i>IAMS</i>	<i>Institute of Archaeo-Metallurgical Studies</i> (London)
<i>JARCE</i>	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i> (Boston–Princeton–New York–Cairo)
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i> (London)
<i>JGS</i>	<i>Journal of Glass Studies</i> (Corning, NY)
<i>JJP</i>	<i>Journal of Juristic Papyrology</i> (Warsaw)
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i> (London)
<i>MDAIK</i>	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo</i> (Wiesbaden)
<i>OIP</i>	<i>Oriental Institute Publications</i> (Chicago)
<i>OLA</i>	<i>Orientalia lovaniensia analecta</i> (Louvain)
<i>PAM</i>	<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i> (Warsaw)
<i>PSAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies</i> (London)
<i>SAAC</i>	<i>Studies in Ancient Art and Civilisation</i> (Kraków)
<i>SAK</i>	<i>Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur</i> (Hamburg)
<i>SAOC</i>	<i>Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization</i> (Chicago)
<i>WVDOG</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft</i> (Berlin–Leipzig)

# NEWCOMERS AND AUTOCHTHONS. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 2013 ACTIVITIES IN THE KURDISTAN AUTONOMOUS REGION, IRAQ

Dorota Ławecka

Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw

**Abstract:** The aim of the project “Newcomers and autochthons” is a detailed analysis of the archaeological remains dated to the Late Chalcolithic and Ninevite 5 periods found during the survey conducted in the Upper Greater Zab area. The article presents a preliminary report on the field activities in the fall of 2013.

**Keywords:** Late Chalcolithic period, Late Uruk period, Uruk expansion, Kurdistan Autonomous Region, archaeological survey

The intensification of archaeological research in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region of Iraq in the past few years has been substantial. Numerous survey projects have been undertaken in addition to excavation research. The UGZAR (Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance) project directed by Dr. Rafał Koliński (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań) started in the upper part of the Greater Zab valley in the fall of 2012 [*Fig. 1*].<sup>1</sup> The “Newcomers and autochthons” project supported by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology is kindly hosted within the limits of the UGZAR zone.

One of the main aims of the project is detailed documentation and thorough analysis of remains belonging to the Late Chalcolithic 3–5 period. The widely debated phenomenon of the so-called Uruk expansion took place starting with the Early Middle Uruk period about 3700 BC and continuing until about 3100 BC (Algaze 2008; Butterlin 2003; Rothman 2001; 2004: 93; Sundsdal 2011; all with further bibliography). As a result of this process many components of the southern Mesopotamian material culture (like pottery, seals and seal impressions, architectural layout, clay wall cones etc.)

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<sup>1</sup> The survey area abuts on the south with the area of the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) directed by Dr. Jason Ur (Harvard University); immediately to the northwest is the Land of Niniveh Regional Project (LoNRP) led by Dr. Daniele Morandi Bonacossi (University of Udine).

spread to regions far outside primary Uruk culture territory. The picture emerging from northern Mesopotamia in consequence of these developments is rather complicated: we are dealing with sites representing purely southern Uruk culture, southern enclaves in local settlements, sites with mixed features, as well as settlements with local, indigenous northern

culture. The “Uruk expansion” episode is reasonably well investigated as far as the western part of northern Mesopotamia is concerned (for a recent brief summary, see Oates 2013; Sürenhagen 2013), but the state of our knowledge relating to the area east of the upper Tigris River, which is still rather poorly investigated, is definitely meager and inadequate (Rothman

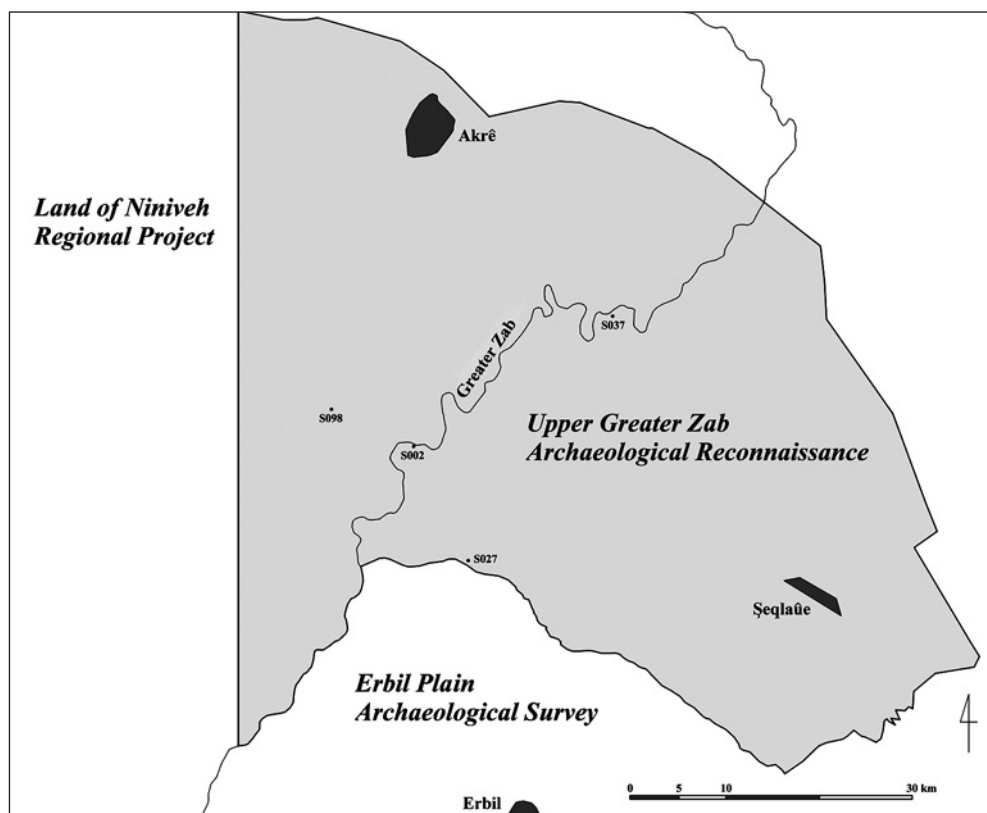


Fig. 1. Map of the UGZAR project area  
(Drawing D. Ławecka, based on the map by X. Kolińska)

Team

Dates of work: 22 August–25 October 2013

Director: Dr. Dorota Ławecka (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Archaeologist: Jakub Brochocki (PCMA UW bursary)

2004: 78, Fig. 1; Sundsdal 2011: 171–173, 179, Figs 5–7, 10).

Thanks to surveys conducted in the past the Uruk settlement pattern in southern Mesopotamia is moderately well documented (e.g., Adams 1981; Adams and Nissen 1972), but the region north of the Diyala River valley is largely unknown and even the northern limits of dense and homogeneous Uruk settlement remain unclear.

The area will be studied in detail once the entire region has been investigated. The present report concentrates instead on a few sites that illustrate the heterogeneity of material culture during the Late Chalcolithic 3–5 period in the Upper Greater Zab area.

Limited field activity conducted in 2012 in the southern part of the UGZAR project area revealed three sites (out of 37 documented) with pottery dated to the Late Chalcolithic period. All of them were situated on the waterside, two on the left bank of the Upper Zab River (S002 in sector J3 and S037 in sector F8), while the third one (S027, sector J5) was located on the right side of a large seasonal stream Bastore Çai.<sup>2</sup>

A small flat site, S002 covered about 0.5 ha in area and was located on the left bank of the Upper Zab River, close to its confluence with Bastore Çai. The site is under cultivation and part of it was apparently undercut and destroyed by the river [Fig. 2]. Preliminary examination of



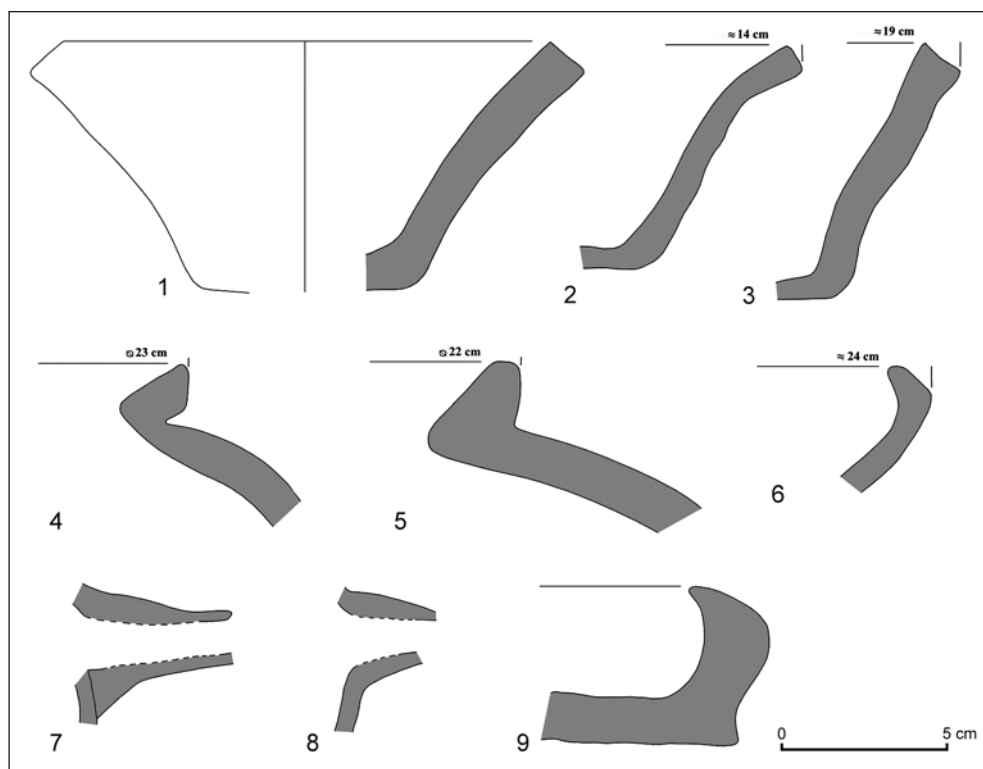
Fig. 2. Northern part of site S002 and a cliff area damaged by the river  
(Photo D. Ławecka)

<sup>2</sup> Detailed settlement distribution maps and site catalogues can be found on the project website [archeo.amu.edu.pl/ugzar](http://archeo.amu.edu.pl/ugzar), and on <http://amu.academia.edu/RafalKolinski>. See also preliminary reports (Koliński 2012; 2013) posted on Academia.edu.



the pottery fallen from the section demonstrated it to be a single-period site yielding a large quantity of Late Chalcolithic 3–5 ceramics from the surface.<sup>3</sup> A small quantity of local, northern pottery was found, but on the whole S002 yielded mainly southern Uruk specimens, among them several dozens of bevelled rim bowls [e.g., *Fig. 3:1–3*], as well as other fragments

apparently from a southern repertoire [e.g., *Fig. 3:4–9*]. Intriguing, distinctively southern specimens include a clay sickle blade [*Fig. 4*] (see Benco 1992), and two typical clay wall cones [*Fig. 5*]. Although the character of the site cannot be determined without regular excavations, this particular set of southern Mesopotamian items is extremely interesting, testifying



*Fig. 3. Selection of southern Uruk pottery from site S002  
(Drawing D. Ławecka)*

<sup>3</sup> The preliminary dating of the pottery presented in this article was based mainly on an unpublished field catalogue prepared by Jason Ur (7th edition, 2013), which includes material from numerous survey projects: Iraqi North Jazira Project, Tell Beydar Survey 1997–1998, Tell Hamoukar Survey 1999–2001, Tell Brak Survey 2002–2005, Hirbemerdon Tepe Survey 2007–2011 and Assyrian Landscapes Research Group 2012–2013 (Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey <EPAS>, Land of Nineveh Regional Project <LoNRP>, Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance <UGZAR>). For parallels to *Fig. 3:9*, which is not included in the catalogue, see Pollock 1987: 134, *Fig. 7:c*; 1990: 93, *Fig. 5i*; van Driel 2002: 200, *Fig. 5*, JA 1268.

to at least intense influence or strong ties with southern Uruk material culture.

The second site, S037, is a small multi-period tell with well represented Late Chalcolithic pottery. It yielded both southern and northern sherds, but the pottery still awaits detailed documentation.

The third Late Chalcolithic 3–5 site identified (S027), was found further upstream on the Bastore Çai. It was a flat settlement, covering approximately 1 ha, and was damaged by a huge pit that enabled an examination of the sections. It proved to be a single-period settlement like S002. Although the collected pottery

assemblage was not purely southern, again bevelled rim bowls were in abundance.

The situation in the northern part of the area (Dohuk province), where the project concentrated activities in 2013, appeared to be quite different. Late Chalcolithic sites, rare in the mountain valleys and on the rolling plain, were in abundance in the alluvial plain (Koliński 2013: 11, Table 5). A preliminary look indicated that of the



Fig. 4. Clay sickle, site S002  
(Photo M. Szablowski, ©UGZAR project)



Fig. 5. Clay wall cones, site S002  
(Photo M. Szablowski, ©UGZAR project)

56 fully documented sites 13 (including traces of settlements represented by modest assemblages of sherds in five instances) yielded Late Chalcolithic material. Southern Uruk pottery was extremely rare,

being found in small quantities (usually solitary sherds) on four sites. Indigenous Late Chalcolithic 3–5 material predominated (at least on five sites), and there were no single-period sites with abundant

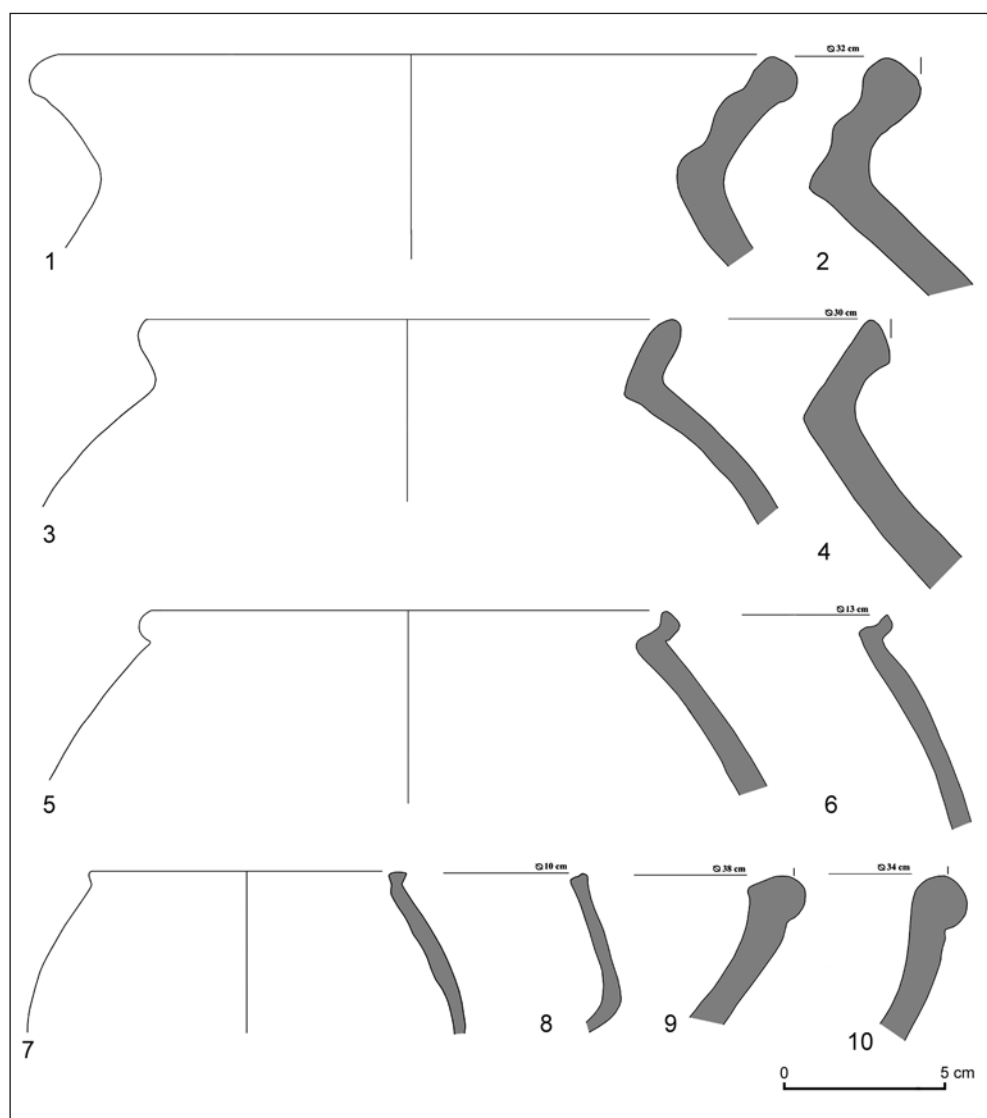


Fig. 6. Sample of indigenous northern Late Chalcolithic 3–5 pottery from site S098  
(Drawing L. Kachraman Walika)

southern Uruk pottery comparable to S002 or S027. Moreover, in a few cases sites yielded both Late Chalcolithic 1–2 and 3–5 material, suggesting a well-marked continuity between these two periods.

A good exemplification of this discrepancy was provided by S098 (sector G2), a settlement occupied in the Late Chalcolithic period. Since the site was heavily damaged by recent pits and cuts, the material collected was abundant, giving a fairly sound base for conclusions. Although the site was settled already in the earlier part of the Late Chalcolithic period, sherds contemporary with “Uruk expansion” predominated [Fig. 6]. It seems to represent indigenous northern material culture.

Conclusions will be possible once the results of the surveys in the region are completed and published. For the time being a general preliminary observation may be offered. In its first short season in 2012, the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey produced relatively abundant southern Uruk pottery, coming from eight sites in the Shemamok and Baqrta regions (Ur et al. 2013: 96, Fig. 4, 110, Fig. 15; no fur-

ther details given). According to Jason Ur, head of the EPAS project, the number of sites with southern Uruk pottery recorded during the 2013 season had doubled (Ur 2013). However, the situation in the area of the Land of Niniveh Regional Project, situated to the northwest of the UGZAR area, appears to be entirely different. Although Late Chalcolithic settlements are numerous (about 60 sites), southern Uruk pottery is extremely rare: altogether only one fragment of bevelled rim bowl, as well as one sherd and one vessel of another type have been found to date (Iamoni 2013). Further investigations in the UGZAR area should bring answers to the question, whether we are dealing here with the northern limits of southern Uruk culture impact on the local pottery tradition.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Rafał Koliński, head of the UGZAR Project of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, for hosting my research.

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---

## CONTENTS

---

## CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	10
ABBREVIATIONS.....	11

### PAM REPORTS

PCMA FIELD MISSIONS AND PROJECTS IN 2012 AND 2013 (WITH MAP) .....	17
--	----

### EGYPT

#### ALEXANDRIA: KOM EL-DIKKA

ALEXANDRIA: EXCAVATIONS AND PRESERVATION WORK ON KOM EL-DIKKA,  
SEASONS 2012 AND 2013

<i>Grzegorz Majcherek</i> .....	29
---------------------------------	----

ISLAMIC NECROPOLIS AT KOM EL-DIKKA IN ALEXANDRIA:  
RESEARCH IN THE 2010–2013 SEASONS

<i>Emanuela Kulicka</i> .....	62
-------------------------------	----

ISLAMIC GLASS FROM AREA U (2012–2013)

<i>Renata Kucharczyk</i> .....	73
--------------------------------	----

#### MARINA EL-ALAMEIN

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION IN MARINA EL-ALAMEIN IN THE 2012  
AND 2013 SEASONS. THE POLISH–EGYPTIAN CONSERVATION MISSION

<i>Rafał Czerner, Grażyna Bąkowska-Czerner, Wiesław Grzegorek</i> .....	87
---	----

SELECTED CONSERVATION WORK IN MARINA EL-ALAMEIN IN THE 2012  
AND 2013 SEASONS

<i>Marlena Koczorowska, Wojciech Osiak</i> .....	101
--	-----

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION IN THE ROMAN BATHS OF MARINA EL-ALAMEIN  
IN THE 2012 AND 2013 SEASONS (POLISH–EGYPTIAN CONSERVATION MISSION)

<i>Rafał Czerner, Grażyna Bąkowska-Czerner, Grzegorz Majcherek</i> .....	113
--	-----

#### TELL EL-RETABA

TELL EL-RETABA, SEASON 2012

<i>Sławomir Rzepka, Józef Hudec, Łukasz Jarmużek, Lucia Hulková, Veronika Dubcová</i> .....	139
---	-----

APPENDIX: TELL EL-RETABA 2012. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARCHAEOBOTANICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS

<i>Claire Malleson</i> .....	156
------------------------------	-----

TELL EL-RETABA 2012: THE POTTERY

<i>Anna Wodzińska</i> .....	164
-----------------------------	-----

# CONTENTS

## TELL EL-FARKHA

TELL EL-FARKHA. EXCAVATIONS, 2012–2013

*Marek Chłodnicki, Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz* ..... 173

## TELL EL-MURRA

TELL EL-MURRA (NORTHEASTERN NILE DELTA SURVEY). SEASONS 2012–2013

*Mariusz A. Jucha, Grzegorz Bąk-Pryc, Natalia Małecką-Drozd* ..... 199

## SAQQARA

SAQQARA: SEASONS 2012 AND 2013/2014

*Karol Mysliwiec* ..... 215

APPENDIX: CONSERVATION WORK IN SAQQARA (2012 AND 2014)

*Zbigniew Godziejewski, Urszula Dąbrowska* ..... 224

SAQQARA 2012: THE POTTERY

*Teodozja I. Rzeuska* ..... 230

## WEST THEBES (ASASIF, DEIR EL-BAHARI) AND VALLEY OF THE NILE

THE TOMBS OF ASASIF: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION  
IN THE 2013/2014 SEASON

*Patryk Chudzik* ..... 239

TEXTILES FROM TOMB II IN DEIR EL-BAHARI: PRELIMINARY REPORT  
FROM SEASON 2012/2013

*Aleksandra Hallmann* ..... 247

DEIR EL-BAHARI. TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III, CAMPAIGNS 2012–2013

*Monika Dolińska* ..... 257

REPORT FROM FIELD RECONNAISSANCE AT GEBELEIN, KHOZAM AND EL-RIZEIQAT

*Wojciech Ejsmond, Julia M. Chyla, Cezary Baka* ..... 265

## DAKHLEH OASIS

DAKHLEH OASIS PROJECT, PETROGLYPH UNIT: SEASONS 2012 AND 2013

*Ewa Kuciewicz, Paweł Polkowski, Michał Kobusiewicz* ..... 275

## BERENIKE

BERENIKE PROJECT. HELLENISTIC FORT, ROMAN HARBOR, LATE ROMAN TEMPLE, AND  
OTHER FIELDWORK: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE 2012 AND 2013 SEASONS

*Steven E. Sidebotham, Iwona Zych, Joanna K. Rądkowska, Marek Woźniak* ..... 297

## SUDAN

### DONGOLA

DONGOLA. SEASONS IN 2012–2013

*Włodzimierz Godlewski* ..... 325

APPENDIX: THE SKELETAL REMAINS FROM THE SANCTUARY OF ANNA  
IN THE MONASTERY ON KOM H

*Robert Mahler* ..... 340



---

## CONTENTS

---

WALL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST ANNEX TO THE MONASTERY ON KOM H AT DONGOLA: REPORT ON WORK IN THE 2013 SEASON <i>Adam Łajtar</i> .....	344
CRYPT 3 IN THE NORTHWEST ANNEX OF THE MONASTERY ON KOM H IN DONGOLA: REPORT ON THE EXPLORATION IN 2012 <i>Robert Mahler, Włodzimierz Godlewski, Katarzyna Danys-Lasek, Barbara Czaja</i> ....	352
BANGANARTI AND SELIB	
BANGANARTI AND SELIB IN 2011/2012 AND 2013 <i>Bogdan Żurawski</i> .....	369
EXCAVATIONS AT SELIB 2 IN 2012 <i>Roksana Hajduga, Katarzyna Solarska</i> .....	389
SELIB 1. PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR THE 2012 AND 2013 SEASONS <i>Aneta Cedro</i> .....	397
FAUNAL REMAINS FROM THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT AROUND THE CHURCH AT BANGANARTI IN SUDAN <i>Marta Osypińska</i> .....	411
EARLY MAKURIA (MTOM) PROJECT	
ANIMAL REMAINS FROM THE EARLY MAKURIAN CEMETERY IN EL-ZUMA (SEASON 2013) <i>Urszula Iwaszczuk</i> .....	425
GHAZALI	
GHAZALI 2012: PRELIMINARY REPORT <i>Artur Obłuski, Grzegorz Ochala, Miron Bogacki, Wiesław Małkowski, Szymon Maślak, Zaki ed-Din Mahmoud</i> .....	431
CYPRUS	
NEA PAPHOS	
NEA PAPHOS. SEASONS 2012 AND 2013 <i>Henryk Meyza</i> .....	443
LEBANON	
JIYEH	
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2012 AND 2013 EXCAVATION SEASONS AT JIYEH (PORPHYREON): WORK IN SECTOR D (RESIDENTIAL QUARTER) <i>Tomasz Waliszewski, Magdalena Antos, Piotr Jaworski, Piotr Makowski, Marcin Romaniuk, Rafał Solecki, Agnieszka Szymczak</i> .....	453
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A STRATIGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF LATE ROMAN AND EARLY BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE IN THE RESIDENTIAL QUARTER OF JIYEH <i>Michał Dzik</i> .....	475



## CONTENTS

---

RESULTS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE AREA OF THE JIYEH MARINA RESORT HOTEL COMPLEX IN THE 2012 SEASON <i>Zofia Kowarska, Szymon Lenarczyk</i> .....	491
---	-----

### KUWAIT

#### AL-SUBIYAH AND FAILAKA ISLAND

TUMULUS BURIAL FIELD ON THE NORTH COAST OF KUWAIT BAY. PRELIMINARY EXCAVATION REPORT ON THE SPRING SEASON IN 2012 <i>Łukasz Rutkowski</i> .....	505
CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENT AT FAILAKA, QUSUR SITE (KUWAIT): EXCAVATIONS IN 2011 AND 2013 <i>Magdalena Żurek</i> .....	529
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE JOINT KUWAITI–POLISH MISSION, FAILAKA ISLAND, 2012 <i>Franciszek Pawlicki</i> .....	547
FAILAKA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT. PRELIMINARY RESULTS AFTER THE FIRST SEASON OF EXCAVATION AT THE KHARAIB EL-DESHT SITE IN 2013 <i>Agnieszka Pieńkowska</i> .....	560
APPENDIX 1: KHARAIB EL-DESHT 2013: POTTERY. PRELIMINARY REPORT <i>Marta Mierzejewska</i> .....	571
APPENDIX 2: SURVEY OF KHARAIB EL-DESHT BAY ON FAILAKA ISLAND: PRELIMINARY REPORT <i>Magdalena Nowakowska</i> .....	579

### IRAQI KURDISTAN

NEWCOMERS AND AUTOCHTHONS. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 2013 ACTIVITIES IN THE KURDISTAN AUTONOMOUS REGION, IRAQ <i>Dorota Ławecka</i> .....	591
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### PAM STUDIES

LEVALLOIS TRADITION EPIGONES IN THE MIDDLE NILE VALLEY: SURVEY IN THE AFFAD BASIN <i>Marta Osypińska, Piotr Osypiński</i> .....	601
ZOOMORPHIC CLAY FIGURINES FROM TELL ARBID. PRELIMINARY REPORT <i>Maciej Makowski</i> .....	627
PLANT MACROFOSSILS FROM THE SITE OF TELL ARBID, NORTHEAST SYRIA (3RD–2ND MILLENNIUM BC). PRELIMINARY REPORT <i>Aldona Mueller-Bieniek, Krystyna Wasylkowa, Anna Smogorzewska</i> .....	657
THE ANIMAL ECONOMY OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SETTLEMENT OF TELL RAD SHAQRAH (SYRIA) <i>Joanna Piątkowska-Matecka, Rafał Koliński</i> .....	675

---

## CONTENTS

---

THE SOLAR ALTAR IN THE TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT AT DEIR EL-BAHARI: ARCHITECTURE AND IDEOLOGY <i>Andrzej Ćwiek</i> .....	693
FAIENCE OBJECTS FROM THE TOMB MMA 1152 AT SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA <i>Patryk Chudzik, Andrzej Ćwiek</i> .....	701
INDIAN STEEL: A FORGOTTEN COMMODITY OF THE GREAT TRADE ROUTES <i>Marek Woźniak</i> .....	709
MONETIZATION OF ROMAN EGYPT DURING THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY (AD 69–96): THE CASE OF ALEXANDRIA AND BERENIKE <i>Katarzyna Lach</i> .....	727
CROSS-CULTURAL BEAD ENCOUNTERS AT THE RED SEA PORT SITE OF BERENIKE, EGYPT. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (SEASONS 2009–2012) <i>Joanna Then-Obluska</i> .....	735
A NEW LOOK ON SOME OLD GLASS FINDS FROM PALMYRA <i>Krystyna Gawlikowska</i> .....	779
NEW INSIGHTS INTO NUBIAN ARCHERY <i>Łukasz Zieliński</i> .....	791
INDEX OF SITES .....	803
GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS .....	804
PCMA PUBLICATIONS .....	805

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