

PCMA FIELD MISSIONS AND PROJECTS IN 2011

The eventful “Arab Spring” of 2011, which in Egypt took the form of the 25 January Revolution and the downfall of the Mubarak regime, compromised several field projects that were either unable to carry out their fieldwork or had their programs restricted or curtailed, mostly owing to cancellations on the part of team members as well as individual people’s decisions to evacuate. The Berenike Project continued the fieldwork but had to cancel most of the study season. At Deir el-Bahari, several conservators cut short their stay. Other projects planned for later in the year ran their course more or less as usual thanks to the courageous and determined stance of the Supreme Council of Antiquities officials from the Foreign Mission’s Affairs Department, Dr. Mohamed Ismail and Mr. Hany Azmy Abdelaziz. In Syria, the political situation deteriorated rapidly, causing security issues foremost. The Palmyra Tariff Project completed its work in March and the last project in the field was Tell Qaramel in May. The remaining PCMA excavations were all cancelled and remain suspended in view of the situation. In Lebanon, the project in Chhim was not cancelled, but it was limited to a study mission in view of the volatility of the situation.

EGYPT

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

BERENIKE

Fieldwork in 2011, carried out foremost in the northeastern part of the southwestern bay of the Early Roman town, was aimed at establishing beach levels and investigating possible harbor-related structures. Coupled with a geoarchaeological augerhole survey in the area of the bay (two transects with a total of 64 auger holes with individual depth ranging from less than 2 m to 5 m), the investigations demonstrated that the bay had operated most likely as a natural sheltered landing place and not as a regular harbor. The landscape, as revealed by three trenches dug within the boundaries of the bay, must have consisted of shelter-like enclosures with light wall and roof structures, housing diverse industrial installations.

Further work in the harbor temenos area investigated the fill of a sunken square feature (6 m by 6 m) discovered in the previous season. Amidst the tumble there was an altarstone inscribed to Domitian and apparently bearing evidence of *damnatio memoriae*. Exploration of the late Hellenistic and Early Roman trash dumps, located generally north of the harbor bay, revealed in one of the trenches the burial of a hound, wrapped in a mat and covered with pieces of a halved amphora (Dressel 5) (first half of 1st century AD). Several cat skeletons, including naturally mummified remains, one still with an iron collar around the neck, as well as remains of dogs, birds, a monkey and a human, were discovered in the same trench (1st to 3rd century AD).

A documentation study of the Great Temple of Berenike, the so-called Serapis Temple, was launched, bringing to light from a 5th century AD context a palm-sized stone hybrid figurine of the Egyptian god Sobek.

See also Zych, I., Rądkowska, J., Crespo Liñeiro, I., Sidebotham, S.E., “The “Square Feature” in the harbor: Excavations in Berenike 2010–2011”, in this volume, and PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

Dates of work: 2 January–17 February 2011

Co-directors: Professor Steven E. Sidebotham, archaeologist, numismatist (University of Delaware), Iwona Zych, archaeologist (PCMA UW)

Sub-projects: Serapis Temple Project (head Martin A. Hense); Wadi Gemal/Sikait Survey (head Jean-Louis Rivard)



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



Map B. Archaeological sites excavated by the PCMA — Syria, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait

SCA representative: Hosam Aboud Abd El Hamied (Berenike Project); Mahmoud Nour Eldin Mohmed (Wadi Gemal Project)

Archaeologists: Ignacio Crespo Liñeiro (ARGOS Arqueologia), Miranda Haigh (independent), Dario Nappo, ancient historian (Oxford University, PhD candidate), Julian Newman (independent), Piotr Osypiński, also Wadi Gemal Project (Patrimonium Foundation), Joanna Rądkowska (PhD candidate, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Katya Schorle (PhD candidate, Oxford University), Mary Sidebotham (independent), Marek Woźniak (PhD candidate, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Archaeologist/photographer: Bartosz Wójcik, Serapis Temple sub-project (University of Warsaw, Institute of Archaeology, undergraduate student)

Ceramologists: Dr. Roberta Tomber, pottery team head (British Museum);* Sonali Gupta-Agarwal (PhD candidate, University of California Los Angeles), Monika Więch (PhD candidate, Center for Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, University of Warsaw)

Papyrologists: Roger S. Bagnall (Leon Levy Director and Professor of Ancient History, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University), Rodney Ast (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University)*

Architect: Jean-Louis Rivard (10BASE-T Incorporated)

Glass specialist: Renata Kucharczyk (PCMA)

Conservator: Katarzyna Lach (PhD candidate, Jagiellonian University, Kraków)

Textile restorer-specialist: Barbara Czaja-Szewczak (Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, Conservation Laboratories)*

Metal specialist, restorer and artist: Martin A. Hense (independent)

Leather specialist: Mariusz Gwiazda (PhD candidate, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw)

Archaeozoologist: Dr. Marta Osypińska (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań)

Geoarchaeologist: Anna Maria Kotarba-Morley, harbor coring project (PhD candidate, Oxford University)

Geologist: Dr. Jerzy Trzciński, geologist (University of Warsaw, Faculty of Geology)*

Geophysicist-archaeologist: Dawid Święch (freelance)*

Registrar/illustrator: Anna Babiarz (undergraduate student, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Documentalists: Teresa Witkowska (MOYO); Mary Sidebotham, video documentation (independent)

Volunteers: Beata Dziedzic (Poland)

* prevented from coming by the Egyptian Revolution of January 25 or other reasons

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

DEIR EL-BAHARI: TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

Restoration and study of the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex was the chief task of the season in 2010/2011. Cleaning and conservation work was completed on the granite false door in the Chapel of Hatshepsut with its Coptic decoration, as well as on the decoration of Niche A in the vestibule. Conservation of the Osiride statues of the Upper Coronation Portico was continued and work was completed on the Upper Ramp and selected other features. The restoration of two sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut started, even as a newly restored sandstone sculpture of Amenhotep I (see earlier report) was mounted in the Chamber of Amun, in preparation for

opening the complex to tourists. In the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine, consolidation of the roof slabs of Niche D proceeded with another three blocks being processed this season.

Concurrently, the mission continued with architectural and epigraphic documentation of the temple walls in the Obelisk Portico in the Lower Terrace, North Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard, the Upper Terrace above the Lower Shrine of Anubis and in the Room with a Window. A 3D Leica-scanner was used to produce a photo-mosaic of the ceiling and wall decoration of the Royal Mortuary complex. Building *dipinti* in the precincts of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III were documented as well. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys were carried out on the three temple terraces.

Limited excavations took place on the Middle Terrace along the foundation of the North Retaining Wall; on the Lower Terrace along the eastern edges of two T-shaped pools with gardens, and north of the avenue leading to the temple where the restored Hatshepsut sphinxes will be erected; by the Hathor Ramp Gate, where remains of a gate construction and a Third Intermediate Period tomb were unearthed. In the previously excavated area (test pit L.1/08), located between the walls of the Vestibule and the Punt Portico, bedrock was reached almost 6.50 m below the pavement of the Royal Cult Complex.

Other projects included: documentation of over 800 block fragments from the Temple of Tuthmosis I (J. Iwaszczuk); photographic documentation of the inner coffin and canopic chest of Montu Priest Nespekashuty kept in the Luxor Egyptian Museum (C. May-Sheikholeslami); iconographic study of representations of private costume in Egyptian art from the Twenty-fifth to the Thirty-first Dynasty in the Late Period tombs in Asasif (A. Hallmann); registration and preliminary documentation of 693 rediscovered decorated block fragments from the bark station (kiosk?) constructed by Hatshepsut in Asasif.

Dates of work: 19 October 2010–10 April 2011

Director: Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński (PCMA UW)

SCA representatives: Abdel Rahman and Mohammed El-Azab

Egyptologists: Dr. Olga Białostocka (independent), Aleksandra Hallmann (PCMA scholarship-holder), Jadwiga Iwaszczuk (PhD candidate, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Marta Sankiewicz (PhD candidate, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Cynthia May-Sheikholeslami (American University in Cairo), Dawid Wieczorek (PhD candidate, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Archaeologist: Paul M. Barford (independent)

Architects: Aleksandra Brzozowska, Mariusz Caban, Dr. Teresa Kaczor-Dziedzic, 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 of the Republic of Poland)

Engineers: Mieczysław Michiewicz (independent), Mariusz Dybich (PCMA UW)

Georadar specialists: Jarosław Majewski, Dominik Kaleta (both Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław)

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

Registrars: Piotr Czerkwiński, Katarzyna Kapiec, Agata Smilgin (all PCMA scholarship-holders), Sarah Fortune (University of Manchester, student)

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

MAREA, see in this volume.

MARINA EL-ALAMEIN: CONSERVATION PROJECT, see in this volume, see also PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

NAQLUN, see in this volume, see also PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

SAQQARA, see in this volume

SHEIKH ABD EL-GURNA MANUSCRIPTS CONSERVATION MISSION

The conservation of three Coptic manuscripts, two papyrus codices and a parchment book, discovered in the refuse dump of a hermitage at Sheikh Abd el-Gurna was continued with the application of appropriate procedures. Microbiological tests were carried out again in connection with a planned move of the manuscripts to the Coptic Museum in Cairo. The SCA laboratory in Cairo tested samples taken from representative areas of all manuscripts with typically changed characteristics. Blotters sprayed with PCMC were interleaved for disinfection purposes.

Dates of work: 4 December 2010–31 January 2011

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

SCA Representative: Safinaz Ali Mohamed

TELL EL-FARKHA (GHAZALA) see in this volume, see also PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011

TELL EL-MURRA, see in this volume, see also PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

TELL EL-RETABA, see in this volume.

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

SUDAN

DONGOLA, see in this volume, see also PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

BANGANARTI and SELIB, see in this volume.

EARLY MAKURIA RESEARCH PROJECT: ZUMA, see in this volume.

CYPRUS

NEA PAPHOS, see in this volume.

LEBANON

JIYEH (*PORPHYREON*)

In view of the political tensions in the region, the campaign of 2011 was planned as a study season focusing on materials from the previous few excavation seasons in Jiyeh (Porphyreon). The documented and analyzed finds included metal objects from the site stored in the National Museum in Beirut and the Beiteddine Palace Museum, fine and coarse ware, oil lamps and glass and stone objects. The chronological and functional aspects of the architectural relics excavated in Jiyeh were better understood in this respect.

Dates of work: 30 August–2 October 2011

Director: Dr. Tomasz Waliszewski, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Ceramologists: Dr. Krzysztof Domżański (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences), Zofia Kowarska, Urszula Wicenciak (both PhD candidates, Center for Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, University of Warsaw)

Archaeologist, small finds specialist: Mariusz Gwiazda (PhD candidate, Center for Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, University of Warsaw)

Metal specialist: Agnieszka Szulc-Kajak (independent)

Glass specialist: Marcin Wagner (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Topographer, documentalist: Szymon Lenarczyk (PhD candidate, Center for Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, University of Warsaw)

Documentalist: Magdalena Makowska (freelance)

Student-trainee: Joanna Pazio (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

MAR ELIAS BTINA: WALL PAINTINGS CONSERVATION see in this volume.

SYRIA

HAWARTE, season cancelled.

PALMYRA, season cancelled.

PALMYRA TARIFF, see in this volume.

TELL ARBID, season cancelled.

TELL QARAMEL

Fieldwork was resumed at the foot of the southern slope of the tell, where Epipaleolithic, Protoneolithic, Pre-pottery Neolithic B levels were investigated. Several rounded houses were recorded, one of which may have served as more than a dwelling, as indicated by the ritual burials of two onagers in its immediate vicinity. In one trench, some badly damaged remains of Early Iron Age layers were also explored.

Dates of work: 8 April–15 May 2011

Co-Directors: Assoc. Prof. Ryszard F. Mazurowski, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Dr. Joussef Kanjou, anthropologist (DGAM Damascus, National Museum, Aleppo)

Archaeologists: Qaies Abbout George (DGAM Damascus, National Museum Aleppo), Marcin Białowarczuk, Dr. Joanna Gawrońska, Artur Grabarek, Michał Przeździecki (all from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Archaeozoologists: Dr. Anna Gręzak (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Student-trainees: Edyta Ciosek, Paulina Gromadko, Igor Tarłowski (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Manar Kerdy (Institute for Prehistory and Archaeological Science, Basel University)

KUWAIT

AL-SUBIYAH (AS-SABBIYA): BAHRA 1

Work at the Ubaid-related site of Bahra 1 aimed at establishing the extent of the settlement and at mapping the surface remains in the SBH 38 sector of the site. Therefore, most efforts concentrated on cleaning the site surface west of the previously excavated structures (Units

1 and 2, where work was now limited to a few selected spots). The outlines of at least two architectural units, each consisting of several rooms were cleared. A concentration of installations, some associated with the use of fire, was encountered in the westernmost part of the site. East of Units 1 and 2, where the sand overburden is much thicker, a long and narrow test trench was dug in order to check for a possible continuation of the site towards the SBH 35 sector, where architectural remains of the same age had been discovered previously, and to establish the southern extent of the site. Some wall foundations were encountered in the northern part of the trench, proving the existence on architecture at the spot.

See also: Ł. Rutkowski (ed.), *Kuwaiti-Polish Archaeological Investigations in Northern Kuwait. As-Sabbiya 2007–2010*, Warsaw – Al-Jahra: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Kuwait, PCMA UW, 2011

Dates of work: 30 October–4 December 2011

Directors: Assoc. Prof. Piotr Bieliński, archaeologist (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Sultan Ad-Duweish, archaeologist (National Council for Culture Arts and Letters, State of Kuwait)

Archaeologists: Dorota Bielińska (Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Ewelina Mizak (PhD candidate, Department of Assyriology, Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw), Andrzej Reiche (National Museum in Warsaw), Dr. Agnieszka Pieńkowska (PCMA UW), Dr. Anna Smogorzewska (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), Agnieszka Szymczak (PCMA UW), Urszula Wicenciak (PhD candidate, Center for Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, University of Warsaw)

Archaeologist, lithic specialist: Marcin Białowarczuk (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Restorer: Ewa Parandowska (National Museum in Warsaw)

Topographer: Roman Łopaciuk (Geomatic Company)

Documentalist: Marta Momot (PCMA)

Student trainee: Krzysztof Kiersnowski (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

AL-SUBIYAH (AS-SABBIYA): TUMULI GRAVES AND DESERT WELLS PROJECTS, see in this volume and PCMA on-line Newsletter 2011.

FAILAKA ISLAND: AL-QUSUR

The area of research in the first season of work was located in the northern part of the vast Al-Qusur site. A topographical grid was set up and surface remains were mapped within the whole fenced enclosure under protection by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. In all, nine architectural complexes were recorded, of which Complex III was chosen for excavation. Two houses were recorded, of which at least one consisted of two room; there is also evidence of at least three occupation phases, all within the Early Islamic period.

Dates of work: 31 October–3 December 2011

Field director: Dr. Magdalena Żurek (Institute of Archaeology, Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw)

Archaeologist: Łukasz Miechowicz (PhD candidate, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Polish Academy of Sciences), Joanna Rądkowska, (PhD candidate, Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences), Marek Woźniak (PhD candidate, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Restorer: Ewa Parandowska (National Museum in Warsaw)

Topographer: Roman Łopaciuk (Geomatic Company)