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DE L'UNIVERSITE JAGELLONNE DE CRACOVIE**

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EN COUVERTURE
Trois figurines d'ivoire de site prédynastique de Tell el-Farkha

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Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz

Excavations of the Western Kom at Tell el-Farkha in 2006

Excavations of the Western Kom at Tell el-Farkha began in 2006 on 11th February and came to a close on 4th March. The main aim of this season's campaign was to clean the surface before the geophysical research, which were realized on 31th March. It was the main reason, that the new trench delimited on the Western Kom covered more than 14 are (1400 m²). On the whole surface upper layers were seriously destroyed by animals as well as human activity. Numerous pits and dumps caused that archaeological materials were mixed and it was necessary to clean the surface layers to the depth of 20–40 cm.

Because we were excavating on the slope the differences between the highest part of the hill and the lowest one were nearly 2 m (between 738–549 cm a.s.l.) and from the beginning we had been excavating various chronological and cultural layers.

The Western Kom at Tell el-Farkha was abandoned at the beginning of the I dynasty, as the first of Koms which form the site. The Central and the Eastern tells were occupied till the beginning of the IV dynasty, i.e. about 250 years longer (Chłodnicki, Ciałowicz 2003, 73 ff.). The layers from the top of the hill, excavated during season 2006 were connected with the period of Dynasty 0 and I. Layers excavated at the lower southern edge of the Kom were very damaged by a modern rubbish heap, nevertheless they should be connected probably

with Naqada III (A-B?) culture. In the next season the chronological position of these layers should be fixed.

The main and most important discoveries made during this season were connected with layers dated to the beginning of Dynasty I. In the area to the west of the old trench, in the north-western corner (are 53) of the newly delimited excavation area a rectangular debris of walls was discovered. The space was surrounded by 45 cm thick brick walls (1,5 of a brick), it was oriented along the NW-SE axis and the room measured 8×3.30 m (Fig. 1). It is worth to stress that the described room is evidently connected with the great building – so-called administrative-cultic centre – found on the same level in 2001, when the trench finished in 2005 was excavated. The most important discovery made at that time was a small deposit of miniature pottery and stone vessels, figurines of baboons, a crocodile and a prostrate man as well as 5 clay rattles (comp. Ciałowicz 2006). These first deposit was uncovered within massive walls marking off a relatively small room that was a part of the building of a considerable size (at least 25 by 15 m), made up of a series of rooms.

In the middle of the mentioned room discovered in 2006 a concentration of 8 vessels was found (Fig. 2). The special interest was put on: the so-called Nubian vessel – a bowl decorated with punctured dots and incised

triangles; and also a pot and his stand with triangles cut in its body. Both vessels (and probably other found together) are considered (by many scholars) as connected with cult or some rituals.

Few centimetres below (but still within the same stratum and in the same room) two stone vessels and a kind of container for ink were discovered. Especially interested is the last one. It was a thin pottery slab, 7 cm wide, with three (about 4.5 cm in diameter) round containers filled with black substance. It was probably a scribe palette or offering stand.

Just at the eastern wall of the room a small jar (23 cm high) was found (Fig. 3). It was also decorated with punctured dots and incised decoration: 2 quadruped animals (gazelles?) and an ostrich. The mentioned jar was covered with a small bowl: inside 62 small objects were hidden. It was evidently a deposit of cultic items composed of 5 figurines of women; 2 figurines of captives, 2 figurines of men, 2 figurines of children; 9 figurines of dwarves, 14 figurines of various animals, 17 models of different objects (i.e. a knife, boats, a mirror, pieces of games, a cylindrical seal, tablets, boxes) and 11 miniature vessels. They were made of different materials: hippopotamus tusk, stones, clay and copper.

In the same room, near the jar with the deposit five another small objects of hippopotamus tusk and faience were found, together with tens of beads made of different materials: semiprecious stones (agate, carnelian, amethyst, hematite), limestone, faience and clay.

I. List of items found in the jar¹:

A. Women:

1. Woman (Fig. 4). A naked figure standing on a basis with her legs together and her right arm along the body. The straight hand rests on the hip, fingers are clearly modeled. The left arm is bent in the elbow, while the hand with similarly modeled fingers is turned up and holds the right breast. Cast of features are curved in detail: lips are relatively large and narrow, its nose is large and hooked, eyes almond-shaped and eyebrows slightly rounded. Lack of pupils can be the result of surface waste. Long hair are parted in the middle, they reach the waist on the back and fall on the breasts in two separated bands. The figure's womb and buttocks are plastically modeled. The surface of the figurine is effaced, numerous vertical fractures cause delamination of almost the whole item. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 8.5 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/25 (R-624).

2. Woman (Fig. 5). A figure dressed in a long robe reaching the middle of calves, tied with a belt. She stands on a round basis, her legs together. The badly damaged face had been plastically modeled: a large and hooked nose, almond-shaped eyes, lips small and thick. Long hair are parted in the middle and reach the shoulders, ending roundly. In hands, bent and turned for, the woman holds a vessel: a bowl or a plate. The figure is slightly leant forward as if she was offering the bowl. Her toes are curved in every detail. The figurine is badly preserved. Large fractures and losses. An elliptic hole (1.1×0.8×0.7 cm) in the bottom part of the basis. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 8.0 cm. Height of the basis 0.6 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/26 (R-625).

3. Woman (Fig. 6). A flat figure standing on an oval basis is dressed in a robe or coat that reaches her slightly bent knees. Her feet with clearly marked toes are put together. The hands hang along the body and reach hips. All fingers are visibly engraved. The

¹ Inventory numbers come from the field inventory (WD/06/...) as well as from the register book of SCA in Mansura (R-...).

face is expressive with large almond-shaped eyes, clearly marked eyebrows and small relatively thick lips. The figure's nose is wide and straight. The left ear is marked much deeper, nevertheless both are large and sticking. Long hair reach the half of the back and on the top of the head they are arranged in waves going from fore to back, while on the back itself the waves go horizontally. The state of preservation: lack of a lower part of the left arm from the elbow, parts of the torso from the front and back are missing, small delaminations. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 6.9 cm. Height of the basis 0.5 cm. Inv. no. WD06/53 (R-652).

4. Woman with child on her hand (Fig. 7). The woman stands on a basis and is dressed in a long robe that reaches her ankles. Her long hair fall to the half of her back and on her probably large breasts in two separated bands. The face is not preserved, although it was most certainly schematically curved. The right arm that hangs along the body is only partially preserved. With the left hand the woman holds the back of a probably naked child sitting on her hip. The child has a round head and sticking ears. Its face is not marked in detail. The child's left hand is bent in elbow and rests on its chest. Both persons are badly damaged, parts of heads, feet and the basis are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 4.7 cm. Height of the basis 0.5 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/28 (R-627).

5. Woman with child (Fig. 8). Both persons sit probably on an oval palanquin, made of wood or what is more certain of basketwork, composed of 4 clearly separated horizontal segments. The woman is presented to her waist. She wears a kind of a coat that covers her around and is visibly marked by her neck. The body is very schematically modeled. The face severely effaced: badly preserved almond-shaped eyes and lips, the nose is straight and narrow. Hair parted in the middle of the head, most probably they

were falling on her shoulders. The woman holds on her knees a child that sits sideways to her. This figure is very schematically presented, most certainly it is dressed in a coat with its hands put together on the chest. Cast of features are not marked. Numerous delaminations and vertical cracks, surface badly effaced. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 4.1 cm. The basket's measurements 1.5×2.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/49 (R-648).

B. Men:

1. Man (king?). A standing figure on a badly preserved, wedge-shaped basis (Fig. 9). The man treads his left leg forward. The right foot stands on the basis and its toes are plastically modeled. The figure is dressed in a coat reaching his knees. The right hand appears underneath the coat, it originally kept an undefined object – most probably a *he-ka*-scepter or another power insignium. The coat's structure is stressed by an ornament of horizontal curvings. The face is effaced and some of its details are not clear. The man's eyes are almond-shaped, eyebrows visibly stressed. The nose is relatively small and straight, while lips are little and thick. The undercut beneath lips and on the cheeks suggests that a beard surrounding the face could have been present. Ears are badly preserved but they were large and protruding. Smooth hair (could be) reach the neck. The state of preservation: lack of the left foot and fragments of a hand, surface severely cracked and delaminated, numerous losses on the back and the head. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 7.5 cm. Inv. no. WD06/55 (R-654).

2. Man (Fig. 10). A treading figure is placed on a basis. The left leg is moved forward, the right arm hangs along the body and is tighten with its thumb straighten. The left arm is bent in the elbow, the hand in a fist is placed on the chest. The face is plastically modeled – the line of eyebrows is clearly

marked, eyes are almond-shaped, the nose is large and wide, lips are relatively thick and ears sticking. The line of hair is visibly shaped over the forehead. A loincloth is modeled at the back and at the front it falls in two ribbons. Between them there probably was an unpreserved penis-sheath. Numerous losses on the surface. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 4.8 cm. Height of the basis 0.2 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/22 (R-621).

C. Dwarves:

1. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 11). A figure standing on a basis in a crouched position, dressed in a robe that reaches her ankles. Feet are together with clearly modeled heels, legs are bent in knees which are drawn aside. Hands were probably short and pulled away from the body, unfortunately they are not preserved entirely. The face is plastically modeled, eyebrows and almond-shaped eyes are stressed with curvings. The nose is relatively narrow and straight, lips were not marked. The head is covered with a wig, parted on the top. On the back hair are modeled in wisps or braids arranged in a kind of net and they fall on the figure's shoulders. The right hand is missing, as well as most of the left one of which only forearm is preserved, losses in the wig. In the basis a hole 0.2 cm in diameter and 0.8 cm deep. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 2.8 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/33 (R-632).

2. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 12). A very schematically presented figure standing on an elliptic basis (2.5×1.4 cm). The woman is dressed in a long robe, her legs are bent, her knees are drawn aside and feet put together. Short arms with gently marked muscles hang along the body. Hands are schematically modeled, fingers not marked at all. Breasts are made by a single curving. The face is very simple, only lips are marked with more details. Long hair are parted in the middle and reach half of the back ending

roundly. Good state of preservation, losses are very few. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 5.9 cm. Height of the basis 1.2 cm. Inv. no. WD06/35 (R-634).

3. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 13). A figure on a cylindrical basis (1.2 cm in diameter) presents an expressive image of a woman standing on her legs bent in knees. The knees are drawn aside and her feet put together. The woman is dressed in a long robe and a heavy wig is on her head. The body is schematically modeled, only short hands are more carefully shaped. They are pulled aside and bent in elbows. Fingers are visibly modeled. The face is almost triangular, slightly tilted on the left. Eyebrows, almond-shaped eyes, small and thick lips or straight nose are clearly stressed. The wig, parted in the middle consists of straight hair looking like a homogeneous cover on the top of the head and thin plaits appearing from beneath, falling on the shoulders at the back of the figure and as two locks on the chest. A hole in the basis (0.3 cm in diameter; 0.9 cm deep). Good state of preservation. The left breast and the right knee are missing. Numerous fractures. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 3.4 cm. Height of the basis 1.0 cm. Inv. no. WD06/36 (R-635).

4. Dwarf-woman. A schematic representation of a figure standing on a round basis (0.7 cm in diameter). The figure wears a long robe and has her legs slightly bent in knees. Her short arms were schematically modeled and fall along the body. The face – comparing to the rest of the silhouette – is shown in greater detail: a little nose, almond-shaped eyes, eyebrows and small lips. Her long hair (most probably a wig) are centrally parted on the top of the head and reach her shoulders. Some difficulties in distinction of the face features may result rather from the state of preservation (chafed surface) than the actual artist's intention. A hole in the basis 0.3 cm in diameter and

0.4 cm deep. Numerous cracks and vertical delaminations. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 3.8 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/41 (R-640).

5. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 14). A schematic representation of a figure standing on an oval basis (1.2×0.9 cm). The figure probably wears a long robe and has her knees slightly bent. The body was only generally shown with lightly marked breasts. Her short arms are also schematically marked and fall along the body. There is no detail stressed on the face, what may result partially from the state of preservation – chafed and burnt surface. The head was presumably covered with a centrally parted wig. It was composed of straight and compact hair on the top of the head and of thin plaits (marked with a check pattern) coming out from beneath and reaching the woman's waist on the back. A hole in the basis 0.4 cm in diameter and 0.8 cm deep. Numerous cracks, fragments of the face are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 3.3 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/42 (R-641).

6. Dwarf-woman (?). A schematic representation of a figure standing on an oval basis (2.2×1.2 cm). The figure probably wears a long robe and stands on slightly bent knees. Her body was only schematically modeled with lightly marked breasts (?). Her short arms are schematically shaped and fall along the body. The head is round and flat without any traces of a hairdo. The schematic face with a plastically marked nose, eyes and lips are marked with cuts. Numerous cracks, lack of small fragments. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 3.9 cm. Height of the basis 0.4 cm. Inv. no. WD06/43 (R-642).

7. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 15). A figure standing on a round basis (1.2 cm in diameter) wearing probably a bent-knees-long robe. Her toes point themselves; heels and knees drawn aside, what creates the impression

of a clear silhouette's deformation. Hands are schematically modeled as archwise bent and sticking out from the trunk. The body is only generally shown. The face is plastically modeled with visibly marked eyebrows, lightly shown eyes and a small, straight nose. Lips were not marked. A pair of large and sticking ears is appearing from beneath a heavy wig. It is composed of two parts: on the top of the head it is a compact cover of centrally parted hair, beneath there probably are some thin plaits (not marked) at the back falling on the shoulders. A hole in the basis 0.3 cm in diameter and 0.8 cm deep. Good state of preservation, numerous cracks and a small loss at the back of the right hand. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 3.1 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/48 (R-647).

8. Dwarf-woman (?). A figure standing on a round basis (0.7 cm in diameter). Her knees are bent and drawn aside, her toes point themselves. The woman was probably wearing a knee-long robe. The body is presented very schematically just like the short arms hanging along the trunk. The face is worked out in greater detail: visibly marked eyebrows, while almond-shaped eyes and her nose are slightly less clear. It can result, however, from their state of preservation. The head is covered with a large and heavy wig composed of two parts. By contrast with other examples, its upper element seems to be arranged in curls or plaits, while the lower element is smoothly falling to the half of the back. Under the wig, presumably large and sticking out ears are shown. The head is cracked horizontally, parts of the trunk and the right leg are missing as well as the right hand; numerous fractures and chafes of the surface. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 2.6 cm. Height of the basis 0.6 cm. Inv. no. WD06/51 (R-650).

9. Dwarf (Fig. 16). A figure representation very realistically modeled. The figure

on bandy legs with knees drawn aside was dressed only in a loincloth holding up a penis-sheath. The sheath looks like made of a piece of cloth. Toes pointing themselves are modeled in detail. Torso muscles are stressed just like disproportionately short arms that reach only the waist. Fingers are carefully marked. Convex buttocks are plastically modeled. The head is disproportionately large and round with almond-shaped eyes and visibly marked eyebrows. The nose is large and wide, the mouth are fleshy and thick. The shoulder reaching hairdo is centrally parted and particular strands of hair are stressed with vertical engravings ended archwise at their lower end. State of preservation: numerous losses and cracks on the torso, the left leg is missing, the surface is effaced and cracked. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 4.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/54 (R-653).

D. Captives:

1. Captive (Fig. 17). A figurine of a standing man with his left leg drawn ahead and slightly bent in knee. The left arm is bent in elbow and the hand (partly unpreserved) was close to the mouth. The right arm is bent to the back and placed on the waist – probably tied to the back. The figure is naked, a penis-sheath is linked to a loincloth that girds the waist. Buttocks are plastically modeled. On the rather effaced face eyes are hardly visible, the nose is not preserved, the hair line is (probably long) almost unnoticeable. It is not quite sure whether the man was wearing a beard surrounding the face, though it seems feasible. The body muscles are slightly marked. Extended parts of thighs and buttocks draw special attention. Numerous cracks and effaced surface. Fragments of hands and the right foot are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 4.3 cm. Inv. no. WD06/47 (R-646).

2. Captive (?) (Fig. 18). On account of the weak state of preservation the figurine is

difficult for interpretation. The face and arms are practically unpreserved, only a fragment of the head and the hairdo from its left side is present. The hair were probably reaching shoulders, eyes were almond-shaped, the nose and mouth are missing. The preserved part of the right shoulder and a probable trace of a hand slightly turned to the back suggest that the figure could have its hands tied on the back. A bit better preserved is the lower part that allows to state that the figure was dressed in a long robe and kneeling on a round base. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 5.4 cm. Inv. no. WD06/62 (R-661).

E. Children:

1. Boy (Fig. 19). A slender figure of a boy sitting on the ground. The face is distinctively modeled. Eyes are large and almond-shaped but not identical, with clearly marked pupils. Ears are also large and unnaturally sticking. Mouth are relatively wide and thick, the nose is slightly snubbed. Over the forehead the hair line is marked as going down to the ears. Knees are drawn up and aside, while feet with clearly modeled toes are put together. The left arm is bent in elbow and the hand with disproportionately long and thin fingers lays on the knee. The right elbow is put on the right knee with the hand close to the mouth. Three fingers are together, the thumb is drawn outwards, the index finger (partially preserved) was touching the mouth. The figurine is cracked vertically, delaminated in various places. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 8.4 cm. Inv. no. WD06/39 (R-638).

2. Boy (Fig. 20). A stocky figure of a naked boy sitting on the ground. The face is distinctively modeled. Eyes are large and almond-shaped. Ears are also large, unnaturally sticking. Mouth are relatively wide and thick, the nose is large, wide and crooked. Over the forehead there is a hair line marked that falls down to the ears and is visible on

the back of the head, too. Genitals are plastically modeled, the buttock line is also clearly stressed. Knees are drawn up and outwards, while feet with plastically modeled toes are put together. The left arm is bent in elbow and its hand with disproportionately long and thin fingers lays on the knee. The right elbow is leaned against the right knee, the hand on the mouth level. Three fingers are together, the thumb or the index finger (partially preserved) was touching the mouth. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 5.2 cm. Inv. no. WD06/40 (R-639).

F. Animals

1. Animal head (crocodile ?). Probably an amulet. Strongly marked ears and jaws. Light-green faience. Measurements 3.5×1.5×2.0 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/10 (R-609).

2. Fish – tilapia (Fig. 21). Fins covered with incisions, its snout marked with a curling. Eyes are round with pupils represented by a dot. An elliptic hole in the basis (0.7×0.3 cm) 1.1 cm deep. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 2.9×5.0×0.9 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/20 (R-619).

3. Animal. Lion or dog. The figurine is pierced crosswise through the trunk. The animal is presented in a lying position, with its paws drawn fore. Modeling is very schematic. At the back of the body there is the tail marked. Numerous cracks on the surface, which show a white substance covered with a grey one, placed on the top of it. The figurine is made of slightly baked silt, presumably on a faience or limestone core. Measurements 2.8×4.3×1.5 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/24 (R-623).

4. Animal. Lion or dog. A representation of an animal lying on its fore paws tucked underneath. The exact specie of the animal is difficult to define. The head is schematically modeled with an elongated, rounded muzzle, almond-shaped eyes and almost round

ears. At the back of the figure a distinctive short and thick tail. The back slightly bent in its fore part, paws with visibly marked claws. The surface is effaced, what makes interpretation difficult. The shape of head and ears in particular may suggest a lion. Bad state of preservation: numerous horizontal and vertical delaminations, many losses on the surface. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 3.2×6.5×2.1 cm. Inv. no. WD06/57 (R-656).

5. Dog (Fig. 22). A lying animal with its paws drawn forward and put paralelly. A plastically modeled muzzle, eyes marked with a curving. The left ear is damaged and from the tail only its base is preserved. A hole in the bottom 0.5 cm in diameter and 0.8 cm deep. Numerous cracks. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 2.2×4.5×1.3 cm. Inv. no. WD06/44 (R-643).

6. Uraeus. A figure of a rearing cobra. Plastically modeled head. Round eyes marked with a curving. A hole in the place of jaws 0.3 cm in diameter 1 cm deep. Most certainly the snake's tongue of some different material was fixed in it. Plastically modeled back and hood. A hole 0.5 cm in diameter and 1.1 cm deep placed at the back in the figure's lower part. Good state of preservation, a small loss in the left part of the hood and by the lower hole. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 6.1 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/29 (R-628).

7. Uraeus. A figure of a rearing cobra. Plastically modeled head. Round eyes marked with a curving. A hole in the place of jaws 0.3 cm in diameter 1 cm deep. Most certainly the snake's tongue of some different material was fixed in it. Plastically modeled back and hood. A hole 0.6 cm in diameter and 1.5 cm deep placed at the back in the figure's lower part. Numerous cracks, some lacks of the left part of the hood, losses by the lower hole. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 6.1 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/30 (R-629).

8. Uraeus (Fig. 23). A figure of a rearing cobra. Plastically modeled head. Round eyes, pupils marked with apertures. A hole in the place of jaws 0.3 cm in diameter 1 cm deep. Most certainly the snake's tongue of some different material was fixed in it. Plastically modeled back and hood. A hole 0.5 cm in diameter and 1.2 cm deep placed at the back in the figure's lower part. Good state of preservation, a small loss in the left part of the hood. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 6.3 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/31 (R-630).

9. Uraeus. A figure of a rearing cobra. Plastically modeled head. Eyes not marked. A hole in the place of jaws 0.3 cm in diameter 1 cm deep. Most certainly the snake's tongue of some different material was fixed in it. Plastically modeled back and hood. A hole 0.6 cm in diameter and 1.3 cm deep placed at the back in the figure's lower part. Numerous cracks and losses, mostly at the external edges of the figurine. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 7.3 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/32 (R-631).

10. Scorpion (Fig. 24). The body is covered with schematically modeled scales of its shell, stressed with deep curves. At both sides 4 legs are modeled. On the head with disproportionately large pincers, eyes are visibly marked. The tail is round in section and rings on it are stressed with curvings. In its last segment there is a round hole (0.2×0.4 cm) probably meant for placing a sting of some different material. On the bottom of the body another round hole (0.4×1.0 cm) presumably for fastening the figurine. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 6.8×3.3×1.3 cm. Inv. no. WD06/34 (R-633).

11. Water bird (goose?) (Fig. 25). The body is plastically modeled, wings are marked with curving. The neck is long and winded, the head bent down. The eyes are round, the beak is flat and stressed with curving. Legs are short, cylindrical. One leg is broken off,

parts of the body and beak are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 5.0 cm. Inv. no. WD06/52 (R-651).

12. Falcon. A very schematic representation of a bird. In the central part of the body there is a hole supposedly meant for attaching the figure to its basis. Part of the head is missing, cracks and losses on the bird's neck. Hippopotamus tusk. Length 6.6 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/27 (R-626).

G. Fantastic creatures:

1. Fantastic animal (Fig. 26). The bird head-figure with animal body and two human hands is sitting on a flat basis. The creature holds a tall jar (a wine jar?) in its hands and between its knees. The head is modeled bird-like with a clearly marked beak of a bird of prey (a falcon?) and not entirely preserved, pointed ears. Eyes are almond-shaped with a clear swelling of eyelids. There are breasts visibly modeled on the body and small curvings presumably imitating feathers on the back. A clear swelling in the lower part of the figure is most supposedly a tail. Hands are bent in elbows and end with distinctive human fingers. However, there is no toes visible and feet are more like feline paws. The figurine is broken along its vertical axis, there are numerous delaminations, the beak, ears and parts of the vessel's rim are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 7.2 cm. Height of the basis 0.6 cm. Inv. no. WD06/37 (R-636).

2. Fantastic animal (Fig. 27). A figure standing on a rectangular basis (1.2×0.6 cm). The figurine is small and very schematically shaped. Its surface is badly effaced. It probably presents a figure with a snakelike body and a human face (woman?). There are almond-shaped eyes, stressed eyebrows, a relatively wide nose and small lips. Hair are cut with a visible line on the forehead, they are parted on the top of head and fall probably to the neck of the figure, where

a rather distinct curving suggests transition into the snake's body. On the right side of the transitional part there is a swelling, which function remains undefined. On the back behind the figure a double shape protrudes from the basis. It may be a tail of the snake or the bottom part of its hood. Each side of the basis is decorated with an ornament of oblique net pattern and a dot in the centre. There is a round hole in the basis (0.3 cm in diameter) and rests of a bone pin in it, on which the figurine was fixed. Good state of preservation, small losses in the basis. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 2.4 cm. Height of the basis 0.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/56 (R-655).

H. Small objects and models:

1. Pebble-grinder and/or hammer-stone. Evident traces of using as a grinder and a hammer. Natural agate. Measurements 4.2×2.4×1.6 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/5 (R-604).
2. Cone, probably piece of game. Light-green faience. Height 2.7 cm. Diameter 2.0 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/6 (R-605).
3. Cone, probably piece of game. Light-green faience. Height 2.5 cm. Diameter 1.7 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/7 (R-606).
4. Piece of game (?). A conical object, narrowed in its upper part, made of the ending of a tusk. Numerous losses, vertical and concentric cracks. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 5.3 cm. Diameter of the basis 2.7 cm. Inv. no. WD06/60 (R-659).
5. Bead. Limestone. Length 1.1 cm. Diameter 1.0 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/14 (R-613).
6. Model of knife. Copper. Length 4.5 cm. Width 2.7 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/15 (R-614).
7. Cylindrical seal. Very shallow engraving and hieroglyphic signs probably without any meaning allow to suppose that it was only a model, not a real cylindrical seal. Light-green faience. Height 3.7 cm. Diameter 2.0 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/11 (R-610).
8. Model of so-called mesopotamian boat (with high stem and stern) with cabin in the middle (Fig. 28). On the stem (?) a hole, probably for suspending the model (as an amulet?). An almost triangular cabin is probably very schematic representation of a light, reed construction – it is confirmed by the cross ornament on the roof of cabin. Along both sides many small incisions – perhaps symbols of oars. Hippopotamus tusk. Length 6.1 cm. Height 2.5 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/16 (R-615).
9. Model of so-called papyrus boat (Fig. 29). The prow is slightly curved upright and in the middle of the deck there is a cuboid cabin placed. Numerous curvings along both boards and on the cabin. The stem is pierced with a round hole (0.2 cm in diameter) probably meant for attachment. A crack along the whole item, fragments of the stem and deck in its prow part are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 6.1×1.3×1.3 cm. Inv. no. WD06/45 (R-644).
10. Model (!) of *Aspatharia*-shell (Fig. 30). Hippopotamus tusk. Length 7.6 cm; Width 4.4 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/17 (R-616).
11. Model of undefined object. A rectangular plaque with extended corners, pierced in five points (the corners and the middle). Both sides are decorated with a shallow curling forming zigzags. The item may be a model of hearse, bed, animal skin as well as a part of a box or a similar thing. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 5.1×3.5×0.6 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/19 (R.618).
12. Part of box (?). A rectangular plate with its two edges visibly curved. A shallow groove by one of the edges running along the plate's total height. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 5.1×4.1×0.3 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/23 (R-622).
13. Lid of miniature box with horizontally pierced handle. Numerous cracks and losses on both sides, a fragment of the edge is

missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 5.2×3.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/38 (R-637).

14. Model of mirror or spoon (?). The object is composed of a handle and a flat, nearly round "mirror". The handle is decorated with grooves and incisions arranged in a net pattern. It is oblong, slightly curved and elliptic in section. The "mirror" is flat on its one side and convex on the other one. First of them is undecorated, the second covered with deep, round holes (0.1 cm in diameter). Two bigger holes (0.4 cm) in the upper part of the item are bored throughout it. Many cracks, small fragments are missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Length 7.8 cm. Inv. no. WD06/46 (R-645).

15. Model of boat (?) An almost square object with two arched edgings in its upper part. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 2.4×4.6×1.5 cm. Inv. no. WD06/50 (R-649).

16. Bone slab. A cuboid object with every edge elaborated. The upper surface gives the impression of slightly concave or narrowed. Lack of any rests of decoration. State of preservation: the surface cracked with many losses at both sides. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 7.0×1.5×0.7 cm. Inv. no. WD06/58 (R-657).

17. Model of granary (?). An object made of the ending of a tusk. It resembles a half of a cylinder with a kind of pin or handle standing out of it. The object is slightly narrowed in its upper part and has an egg-shaped hole bored through it. State of preservation: many losses on the surface, vertical and concentric delaminations. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 3.6×3.1×1.6 cm. Inv. no. WD06/61 (R-660).

J. Miniature vessels:

1. Miniature jar with wavy handles. Calcite. Height 2.4 cm. Diameter 1.5 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/1 (R-600).

2. Miniature stone jar with lug-handles. Basalt? Height 3.2 cm. Diameter 2.0 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/2 (R-601).

3. Miniature stone bowl. Porphyry (diomite?). Height 1.6 cm. Diameter 4.8 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/3 (R-602).

4. Miniature flask with lug-handles (Fig. 31). Stone. Height 4.2 cm. Diameter 3.8×1.8 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/4 (R-603).

5. Miniature cylindrical jar with vertically pierced handles. Light-green faience. Height 5.4 cm. Diameter 2.1 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/8 (R-607).

6. Badly preserved miniature cylindrical (?) jar. Upper part not preserved. Calcite. Height 3.2 cm. Diameter 2.1 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/9 (R-608).

7. Badly preserved miniature bowl (?). Calcite. Height 1.9 cm. Diameter 1.9 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/12 (R-611).

8. Badly preserved miniature jar. Calcite. Height 2.8 cm; Diameter 2.6 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/13 (R-612).

9. Miniature cylindrical jar with schematic cord ornament beneath the rim. Part of the rim is missing. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 6.0 cm. Diameter 2.5 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/18 (R-617).

10. Model of vessel (beer jar?). Hippopotamus tusk. Height 2.7 cm. Diameter 1.7 cm. Inv. no. WD/06/21 (R-620).

11. Model of bowl. Numerous losses by the rim, the surface is cracked. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 1.2 cm; rim diameter 3.0 cm; bottom diameter 1.7 cm. Inv. no. WD06/59 (R-658).

II. Objects found in the vicinity of the jar:

1. Dwarf-woman (Fig. 32). A standing figure on a round, conically narrowing down basis (0.8 cm in diameter). The woman is dressed in a long robe that reaches her feet. She stands on slightly bent legs, her knees drawn aside, feet together. Her relatively short arms fall along the body. Long hair are

visibly parted in the middle of the disproportionately large head and reach the half of the back. The very damaged face bears traces of plastic modeling: large, almond-shaped eyes, small nose and narrow lips, that clearly fall down. A hole in the basis (0.3 cm in diameter). Badly preserved, the left arm is missing, major losses on the surface, numerous irremovable lumps of soil and salt. Hippopotamus tusk. Total height 4.7 cm. Height of the basis 1.1 cm. Inv. no. W06/8 (R-666).

2. Woman (Fig. 33). A badly preserved representation of a standing, naked woman. Her right hand falls along the body, the left one is bent in elbow and holds breasts. Buttocks and womb are plastically modeled. At the back of the head hair reach her shoulders. Badly preserved: lack of legs and the left arm, face is completely effaced. Numerous losses, lumps of soil and salt on the whole surface. Hippopotamus tusk. Height as preserved 3.0 cm. Inv. no W06/7 (R-665).

3. Model of chair/bed leg in form of bovine leg. It supports on a relatively high "hoof" with horizontal notches. Its upper part is flat and has an asymmetric hole presumably meant for attaching the leg with the chair/bed's beam. The object is well preserved despite irremovable lumps of soil and salt. Hippopotamus tusk. Height 3.8 cm. Inv. no. W06/5 (R-663).

4. Box lid. The surface is damaged with irremovable dirt. Hippopotamus tusk. Measurements 4.8×2.7×1 cm. Inv. no W06/6 (R-664).

5. Faience slab. An object shaped as a slightly curved cuboid. Obliquely bored holes in its shorter sides. A decoration in form of a plaited belt is placed at one of the longer sides of the object. The item was found in one of stone vessels discovered in the vicinity of the deposit. Faience. Measurements 7.7×1.0×0.9 cm. Inv. no. W06/4 (R-662).

The above described second deposit from Tell el-Farkha belongs to the most important among the recently discovered in Egypt ones. Till the beginnings of the Polish excavations in Tell el-Farkha from the Delta area the only known were from Tell Ibrahim Awad. However, they were only very preliminary described (van Haarlem 1995; 1996; Belowa, Sherkova 2002). But still it may be stated that – concerning their quality and variety of objects – sets from the Delta do not give way to other deposits known from Upper Egypt: from Hierakonpolis (Quibell, Petrie 1900), Abydos (Petrie 1902; 1903; Kemp 1968) or Elephantine (Dreyer 1986). The latter are far more better worked out and known, although research on the most famous deposit from Hierakonpolis are still in progress, resulting in recently surprising and even amazing findings (Whitehouse 2002; 2004).

Most objects from the Tell el-Farkha deposit could not stand independently. Some figurines are at their bottom end wedge-like shaped, probably to facilitate their placing in specially prepared holes in a larger base or even fastening right into sand or mud. Other stand on small round, oval or quadrangular bases that were drilled from their bottom side into relatively deep holes allowing their attaching on pins of bone or wood (see cat. no. I.G.2). Sporadically, there are some objects thoroughly drilled to hang them on something or fasten onto some flat surface.

Preliminary analyzing the Tell el-Farkha deposit, attention should be drawn on the wide variety of the deposit elements from the both stylistic and formal point of view. At first sight, it seems that the majority of the figurines should have their counterparts in previously discovered sets. More detailed examination enables to state that many types of figures were hitherto absent in the Egyptian art. Similarity to others it is superficial

and not quite accurate. It puzzles why some objects known from the first deposit from Tell el-Farkha (ex. baboons, a captive falling on his face, a figurine of a standing man made of clay, rattles) have no counterparts in the presently described deposit.

In the Pre- and Early Dynastic art there are numerous representations of naked women. They appear already in the Badari culture (Brunton, Caton-Thompson 1928, pl. XXIV:2), and begin to be popular in Naqada I. One of the most significant, though of an unknown origin, is deposited in the British Museum (inv. no. EA 32 141). The small figurine (11.4 cm) represents a naked woman standing on legs that are put together and her hands holding the breasts. Her hair fall on the both sides of the face in thin plaits. Sex features are highly stressed. Disproportionately large eyes inlaid with lapis-lazuli particularly draw attention (Donadoni Roveri, Tiradritti 1998, 31).

Representations of naked women are still popular in the Proto- and Early Dynastic period. A badly damaged figurine of bone showing a naked woman with her hands falling along the body comes from the Early Dynastic deposit from Tell Ibrahim Awad (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 55). A few examples are known from the Main Deposit from Hierakonpolis. To this group belongs among others a figurine from Petrie Museum (Adams 1974, 360). The large (20 cm of height) figurine of ivory presents a standing naked woman. Despite the fact that both her hands are broken off, it is possible to suppose that the left arm was bent in elbow and held breasts, while the right one was falling along the body – the hand with carefully shaped fingers is preserved. What draws attention is the distinctively modeled face with almond-shaped eyes, relatively wide nose and thick lips. Particularly interesting is also the hairdo. The long hair or wig reach the figure's waist and curls

are represented by horizontal lines. So this sculpture is very similar to both found in Tell el-Farkha (no I.A.1; II.2). The majority of figurines from Hierakonpolis is deposited in the Ashmolean Museum (Capart 1905, fig. 132–133). There are representations of naked women there, both with hands along the body and with the arrangement of hands identical to those from Tell el-Farkha. From the same set come also representations of women dressed in long robes just as in the examples from Tell el-Farkha.

Among objects from Elephantine there are three figures holding something in their hands. One of them represents a man embracing a round article (bread?) against his chest, the second is partially preserved and shows a woman with a vessel on her head, while the third one, also incomplete, is a sitting figure holding a large vessel in front of it (Dreyer 1986, 101, inv. no. El.K. 999; 1499; 967). To this type belongs a figurine from Tell Ibrahim Awad, too (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 104). It represents a standing woman in a long robe, with her hair falling on the shoulders and with a jar in her hands. Another figurine, this time of faience, also comes from the same site. It is a sitting baboon holding a jar in front of it (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 72). The latter object has its counterpart in a monkey from Abydos now comprising a part of Kofler-Truniger collection (Schlögl 1978, 25).

None of the figures in question consist an exact counterpart to our woman with a bowl (no I.A-2) or the sitting falcon-headed figure offering a jar (no I.G.1). However, they show that this iconographic type was known both in Upper and in Lower Egypt. A similar situation concerns representations of women with children. From Elephantine there is a partially preserved figure of a women with a child on her back known and two other figurines presenting standing women holding in their arms two children

each (Dreyer 1986, 103, inv. no. El.K. 1444, 1022, 1009). Statues of mothers with children are also kept in London (B.M. 32143) and in Berlin (14.441), however we do not know where they come from. In the first case a woman in a long robe holds in her left hand a child that hangs on her back, in the second one a naked woman holds a child on her hip (Capart 1905, 168f.). In this context, the figurine from Tell el-Farkha presenting a standing woman with a child on her hand (no. I.A-4) is nothing extraoriginal, though it shows another approach to the theme. A different view, however, is required when discussing the representation of a woman with a child on her knees sitting in an oval object similar to a basket that is probably a kind of a litter (I.A-5). In the case attention should be drawn on some representations in relief and small objects of plastic art. The former show figures in litters and the most popular are the maceheads of Scorpion and Narmer (Ciałowicz 2001, 197 ff.). There are covered litters known from sculpture, sometimes comprising a figure (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 49; Schlögl 1978, 26f.). These objects may suggest that the representation from Tell el-Farkha can be in relation to *reput*, recognized as a representation of a mother, a divine pharaoh's mother (Kaiser 1983, 262) or in a broader sense women from the royal family (Millet 1990, 58).

The treading man from Tell el-Farkha (I.B-2) was probably wearing only a penis-sheath (unpreserved). Similar, though not identical figurines are registered in the period of Naqada I. Most of them – i.e. the famous figure of Mahasna (Ayrton, Loat 1911, XI,1) – kept their legs together and their hands were falling along the bodies. It draws attention that their ears were marked without exaggeration. Similarly some other figurines from Hierakonpolis were shown (Quibell, Petrie 1900: pl. VII). Analogous can be also a partially preserved faience figurine from

Elephantine (Dreyer 1986, 99; inv. no. El.K. 747). Like ours it shows the arrangement of arms: the right bent obliquely lays on the chest (in our figurine it is the left arm); the left one is broken off but was falling along the body. The figure's hair are short and expose relatively large ears. The face just like in our figurine is quite round and the mouth are wide and slightly smiling.

The enveloped in a coat man from Tell el-Farkha (I.B-1) has no its direct counterpart. In a very similar way, a coat covers also a famous figurine from Abydos (British Museum 37 996; Petrie 1903, 24, pl. II:3). Although, it is badly damaged, it seems that in this case, too, one hand was showing from under the coat's folds. What draws attention is the very decorative structure of the coat. Identification of the represented figure facilitates the Upperegyptian crown on his head – doubtlessly the sculpture from Abydos showed one of the early rulers during his *sed* jubilee. In the case of the figure from Tell el-Farkha we are not absolutely sure, though the representation of a figure in a decorated coat is significant. In the early Egyptian art it is reserved for rulers, enough to mention statues of Ninecher, Chaseschem or Djoser. In the former from beneath the coat's fold hands come out that hold the royal insignia (Simpson 1956). In the figurine from Tell el-Farkha's hand could have been a presently missing heka-scepter. Lack of crown on the head that would definitively allow to recognize him as a ruler's representation is not final, either. On the heb-*sed* representations Niuserre led the procession dressed only in an apron and a headscarf (Kaiser 1971, 94). In our case the situation is not identical, but it allows to think that in the early period a ruler could have been shown without his crown. So it may be assumed that the man in the coat from Tell el-Farkha could have represented an anonymous ruler during his *sed* jubilee.

In the Tell el-Farkha deposit, there are only two figurines of captives (no. I.D.1–2). It is worth to remind that in the set discovered in 2001 one of the best presently known in the Egyptian art captive representations falling on his face was found (Chłodnicki, Ciałowicz 2003, pl. IX:2). Similar, though of less workmanship and preservation state are known from Tell Ibrahim Awad (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 39) and Abydos (Schlögl 1978, 28). There is no direct analogy to any of captive figures found during the last season in Tell el-Farkha, although it was a common theme in the Pre- and Early Dynastic art. As the best examples are counted full of expression figurines from Hierakonpolis (Quibell, Petrie 1900, pl. XI–XII). Representations of defeated and caught enemies are known also from Abydos (Schlögl 1978, 29) and Tell Ibrahim Awad, where the so-called idol is doubtlessly a very schematic representation of a captive with his arms bent in elbows and bound (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 106).

Figurines of dwarves (cat. I.C.1–9; II.1) from Tell el-Farkha seem to consist the most numerous set ever discovered in Egypt. At the same time, the workmanship level of the majority of them, the realistic way of showing their deformed bodies, the expression of faces make that no other, hitherto known dwarves representations may equal them. Figurines from MacGregor collection are regarded to be the oldest (Naville 1900, pl. IV–V). They present naked women with bold heads, large eyes and ears and visibly deformed bodies: their legs are short and bent in knees, their arms reach not far as to the waist. A faience figurine from Elephantine is also considered a dwarf (Dreyer 1986, 99; inv. no. El.K. 1024). This suggestion is based on too short legs and too large head when compared with the rest of the body which seems to be proportional. Two figurines from Hierakonpolis are also

regarded as dwarves (Quibell, Petrie 1900, pl. XI, XVIII). The first of them was made of bone, but unfortunately it is badly preserved. It represents a naked woman with a large stomach and dropping breasts that stands on bent and drawn aside knees. Hands were probably locked on her stomach (the left hand is unpreserved). Her head was covered with a heavy wig that was falling to the half of her back. The second figurine of limestone had its legs very thin, short and bandy, its arms were weak and the head was large. Two further figurines, this time from Tell Ibrahim Awad, can be treated as dwarves representations (Belova, Sherkova 2002, figs. 100–102). Both were made of ivory and their state of preservation is much alike to the bone objects found in Tell el-Farkha outside the jar. Since the figure by its discoverers interpreted as a dwarf is badly preserved, its published photography do not allow its full evaluation. It seems that the figure was sitting with its knee drawn high up (only the left leg is preserved) where one hand was laying. The body proportions do not suggest a dwarf, though (as far as it can be noticed), the slightly grotesque cast of features may justify this opinion. To sum up, it is quite difficult to state whether the figurine in question actually shows a dwarf or rather a sitting boy, perhaps with his finger in mouth. Nevertheless, the figurine in picture 102 seems to be a female dwarf, mostly because of bent legs, short arms and a heavy wig. Even though, any final conclusions may be drawn after a publication of some better photographs or drawing. An unquestioned representation of a dwarf comes from Abusir el-Meleq (Vandier 1952, 464). The made of black steatite figurine was plundered out from one of graves and lost by its thefts. It shows a schematically modeled figure with bent knees and arm crossed on the chest. It is dressed in nothing but a straight belt, its hair are short. These both features suggest

that a male dwarf was presented, though, in Vandier's opinion the figure represented a woman.

A few dozens of figurines presenting a child with its finger in mouth come from Elephantine. The majority of them shows standing figures, unknown from Tell el-Farkha. There is also a dozen or so of figurines presenting naked (sometimes in a loin-cloth) boys sitting on the ground with their knees drawn high up (Dreyer 1986, 106 f.). Their straight majority was made of faience. They are characterized by relatively large heads and clearly shaped cast of features. Each of them keeps his right hand finger in the mouth, while his left hand lays on the knee. Similar figures are known from other sites, too (Belova, Sherkova 2002, Fig. 38). The best – from the artistic point of view – are figurines from Abydos, though. They were made of stone, represent a similar style and presently are stored in the Brooklyn Museum (Needler 1984, 347) and in Kofler-Truniger collection (Schlögl 1978, 28). The latter, in particular, may be artistically compared to the findings from Tell el-Farkha (no. I.E.1–2).

None of fantastic creatures figurines or cobras-uraeuses (no. I.F.6–9) representations from Tell el-Farkha has any counterparts among the hitherto discovered small objects of art. The figure of a falcon-headed feline (?) (no. I.G.1) is the most interesting within the group. Nevertheless, it is too early for its full interpretation. It is only worth to mention that griffins with a lion or panter body, a bird head and wings appear among late Predynastic reliefs from the Main Deposit in Hierakonpolis (Ciałowicz 1999, fig. 189). It is similarly difficult to assess whether the small figurine showing a woman-faced snake (no. I.G.2) may in any way be connected to goddess Wadjet or Renenutet. The interpretation is additionally handicapped by the decorated base where the figure is standing on. Did

the author mean to represent a *neb* – basket? Cobras-uraeuses, however, seem to clearly point to the first of them as originating from Lower Egypt divine king's patroness. It is believed that since the reign of Den they became a characteristic element of pharaonic crowns. Meanwhile, the cobras from Tell el-Farkha (earlier than the Den's reign) were probably attached to something and were part of a bigger whole (royal crowns, sculptures depicting rulers?), what is suggested by holes at the end of their tails.

Animal figurines (lions, dogs, scorpions, fish, falcons) are known mostly from Hierakonpolis, though they are represented also on other sites, i.e. Abydos, Elephantine, Saqqara and Tell Ibrahim Awad. A significant group of them is presently in various collections, but their origin and so their date is not precisely defined. They were made of various materials: clay, faience, bone and stone. They differ in details and their workmanship from the Tell el-Farkha figurines (no. I.F.1–12), but probably more important seemed to be just representing of a specific specie than standardization of their stylistic features. Moreover, this diversity gives a good testimony to contemporary artist and makes that the art of that period is neither monotonous nor schematic.

There are two models of papyrus boat (sicklelike) of stone and faience known from Elephantine (Dreyer 1986, 121 f.). Some further models of differently shaped boats made of faience and ivory come from Tell Ibrahim Awad (Belova, Sherkova 2002, 172; figs. 41, 50). Most of the illustrated ones shows papyrus boats, but one was probably to present a boat with a high stern and prow. So, similarly as in Tell el-Farkha (no. I.H.8–9) both types present in Pre- and Early Dynastic Egypt were found among votive objects coming from different sites.

Interesting are also objects discovered at Elephantine (Dreyer 1986, 122) recognized

as granary models, that could be used as game-pieces, too. One of them is of faience, another of bone. With their shape and size they are a bit alike as an object found in Tell el-Farkha (no. I.H.17). Similar game-pieces are known from Tell Ibrahim Awad, too (Belova, Sherkova 2002, fig. 11). Two miniature vessel models of faience and stone come also from Elephantine (Dreyer 1986, 123, 133) as well as made of the same material game-pieces, most commonly in a conical form (Dreyer 1986, 125). From the Elephantine deposit come numerous beads of different shape, first of all made of faience but also of gold and carnelian (Dreyer 1986, 129 ff.). This resembles the situation from Tell el-Farkha, where in the room with the deposit many beads of semi-precious stones were found.

Hitherto discovered on many sites deposits are not precisely dated. In their majority

they consist not only of objects from the Proto- and Early Dynastic times. Among them, there is a significant number of objects from later periods, from the IVth Dynasty or even the end of the First Transitional Period. In the deposit found in 2006 in Tell el-Farkha all objects are to be dated to the turn of Dynasty 0 and I. This precise date is suggested by the discovery of the deposit in surface layers of the Western Kom, that basing on pottery materials had been finally abandoned no further than in the middle of Dynasty I. At the same time, the deposit from 2006 seems more homogenous than the one discovered in Tell el-Farkha in 2001. In the second one among objects undoubtedly coming from the end of Dynasty 0 and the beginning of Dynasty I were also some earlier objects, thought they probably were not numerous.

Wykopaliska na zachodnim wzgórzu w Tell el-Farkha w 2006 r.

W 2006 r. rozpoczęto badania zachodniej części kompleksu kultowo-administracyjnego na komie zachodnim w Tell el-Farkha (wschodnia Delta Nilu). Wschodnia część tego zespołu została przebadana w 2001, kiedy odkryto m. in. depozyt wotywny rozsypany w jednym z pomieszczeń. W trakcie badań w 2006 r. odsłonięto m. in. pomieszczenie (8×3.30 m), w którym znaleziono kilka naczyń o kultowym charakterze oraz niewielki dzban wypełniony wotywnymi przedmiotami. W dzbanie znajdowały się 62 przedmioty, przede wszystkim figurki z kłów hipopotama. Cały depozyt, mający wyjątkową wartość historyczną i artystyczną, powstał przed połową I dynastii i jest jedynym jak dotąd tak pewnie datowanym zespołem tego typu. W jego skład wchodzi m. in. przedstawienia kobiet, dzieci, jeńców, jednego z anonimowych władców egipskich, stworów fantastycznych, a przede wszystkim karłów, tworzących unikatową kolekcję.

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Fig. 1. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Shrine with deposit
(photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 2. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Cultic vessels from the shrine
(photo R. Słaboński)

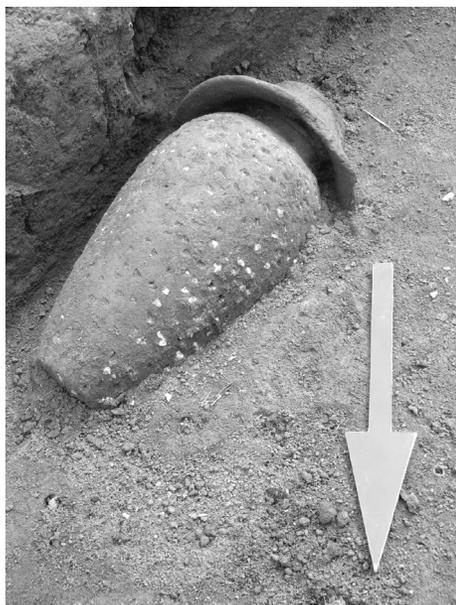


Fig. 3. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Jar with deposit in situ (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 4. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of naked woman (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 5. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of woman with plate (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 6. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of woman in dress (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 7. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of woman with child on hand (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 8. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of woman with child on knees (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 9. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of king (?) (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 10. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of walking man (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 11. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 12. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 13. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman (photo R. Słaboński)

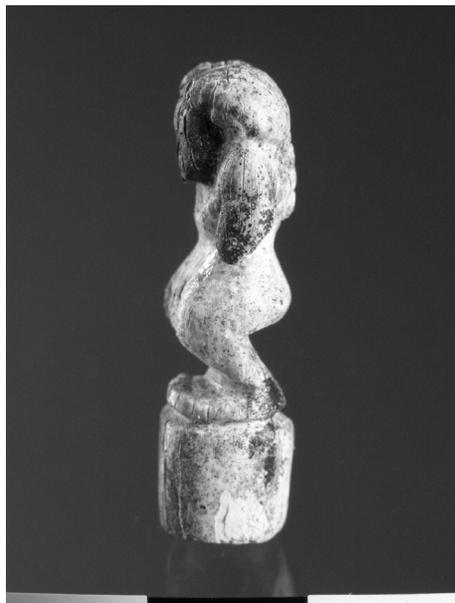


Fig. 14. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 15. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman (photo R. Słaboński)

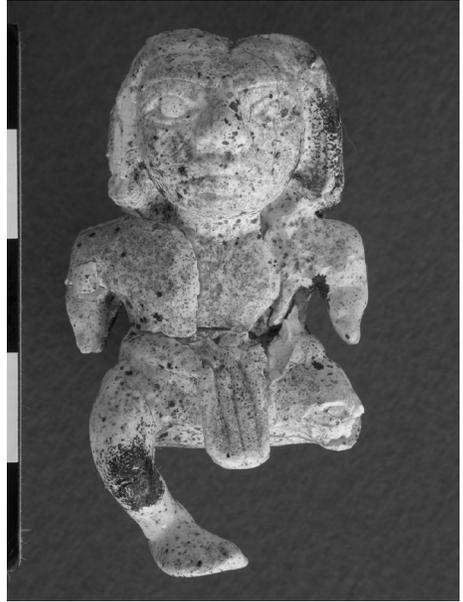


Fig. 16. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 17. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of captive (photo R. Słaboński)

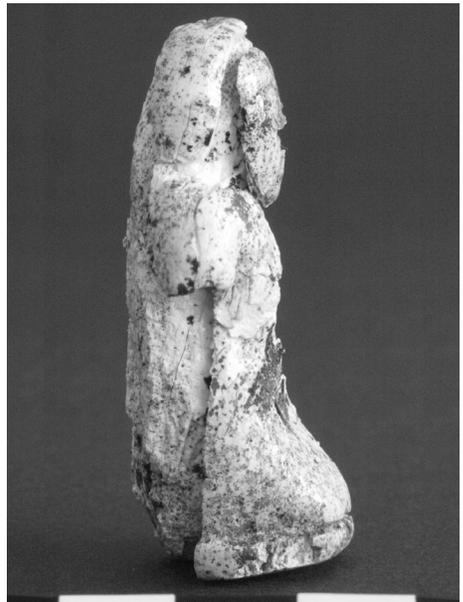


Fig. 18. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of captive (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 19. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of boy (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 21. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of fish (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 20. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of boy (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 22. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of dog (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 23. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of cobra (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 24. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of scorpion (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 25. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of goose (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 26. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Figurine of fantastic animal (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 27. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of fantastic animal
(photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 28. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Model of boat
(photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 29. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom. Model of boat (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 30. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Model of *Aspatharia*-shell (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 31. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Miniature vessel (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 32. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of dwarf-woman found outside the jar with deposit (photo R. Słaboński)



Fig. 33. Tell el-Farkha. Western Kom.
Figurine of woman found outside the jar with deposit (photo R. Słaboński)

