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Professor BOLESŁAW GINTER

THIS VOLUME OF *RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES, NOUVELLE SERIE*
IS DEDICATED
TO PROFESSOR BOLESŁAW GINTER
ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

In 2013 Professor Bolesław Ginter turned seventy five, therefore his students, colleagues and friends, together with editorial board of *Recherches Archéologiques NS*, decided to dedicate to him the 5th and 6th volumes combined.

Professor is one of the most eminent and respected European authorities in the field of Paleolithic and Mesolithic issues. In 1961 he graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy and History at the Jagiellonian University, reaching his master's degree in archaeology. In 1966 he acquired his PhD and in 1973 he became Assistant Professor. In 1985 he received the title of Associate Professor and he obtained the full professorship in 1994. He is an educator and researcher, appreciated in many different centers. He has been conducting lectures at the University of Rzeszów since several years and in 2011 he was granted the *honoris causa* doctorate of the University of Wrocław. During his academic career he held scientific internships and invited lectures in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Italy. In the years 1984–1987 Professor Bolesław Ginter was Vice Dean of the Faculty of History and Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University and in the years 1990–1993 the Vice Rector. From 1985 to 2008 he was head of the Department of Stone Age Archaeology at the Jagiellonian University. Professor was a member of the Central Council of Science and Higher Education, and from January 3rd 2003, he served as Vice Chairman of the eighth cadency. Professor Bolesław Ginter conducted excavations at many sites. As particularly important we should mention the Balkan works, which embraced, e.g. Middle- and Upper Paleolithic sequences in Bacho Kiro and Temnata Caves. Last but not least were the works in Egypt, which initially had been performed in cooperation with the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw and subsequently were run by share of the *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut* and encompassed predynastic positions of El-Tarif and Armant (west and south of Luxor) and also Qasr el-Sagha (north of the Fayum Oasis). In the years 1994–2005 Professor co-led the excavations in the Peloponnese, in the cave no. 1, in the Klissoura Gorge in Argolid. They led to the documentation of the first comprehensive sequence of the Neanderthal stratum in this part of Mediterranean Europe. From among Polish positions we should distinguish co-direction of a long-term, so far lasting project of the research of the main chamber of the Ciemna Cave in Ojców. He also directed an investigative project of the Committee for Scientific Research: “The site of the Magdalenian culture in Dzierżysław in Upper Silesia”.

Professor's studies enriched the Paleolithic flint workshops systematics by contents of fundamental significance. It can be best proven by the brilliant habilitation thesis titled *Wydobywanie, przetwórstwo i dystrybucja surowców i wyrobów krzemienych w schyłkowym paleolicie północnej części Europy środkowej* from 1974 and the monograph from the same year *Spätpaläolithikum in Oberschlesien und im Oberen Warta Flussgebiet*. Among other monographs, it would be hard not to mention about such important, co-edited

items like *Excavation in the Bacho Kiro Cave (Bulgaria)*, *Predynastic Settlement near Ar-mant, Temnata Cave. Excavation in Karlukovo Karst Area, Bulgaria* (1992, 1994, 2000), and also co-authorship of an eminent and repeatedly resumed academic textbook *Technika obróbki i typologia wyrobów kamiennych paleolitu i mezolitu* (1975).

Professor Bolesław Ginter has published a total of 170 scientific items. He is the author, co-author or co-editor of 14 books. He supervised 19 masters and 5 doctors. He has participated in the sessions of numerous scientific bodies on the electoral basis. Professor is a deputy president of the Committee of Prae- and Protohistoric Sciences Polish Academy of Sciences, a member of the board of Archaeological Commission of the Kraków Branch of Polish Academy of Sciences, and member of following Commissions of the Polish Academy of Art and Sciences: Paleogeography of Quaternary, European Affairs, Praehistory of Polish Carpathians. He is deputy chairman of the XXXII Commission of *Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques*, member correspondent of *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut*, member of International Association of Egyptologists and American Academy in Rome.

In recognition of his services, Professor Bolesław Ginter was six times individually awarded and twice as a team by the Minister of Education. Eight times he received the Award of the rector of the Jagiellonian University. He was honored by the Knight's Cross and Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Medal of the National Education Commission.

Paweł Valde-Nowak

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Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz¹

Excavations at the Western Kom at Tell el-Farkha 2011-2012

Abstract: Excavations at the Western Kom were continued within a former trench that had been opened in 2006-2007, extended to the north in 2009 and further excavated in the next season. On the interior face of the eastern wall of Room 240 associated with the Protodynastic administrative-cultic centre, traces of thin wooden posts were preserved. Wooden planks had been fixed to it, thus forming a kind of an inner cladding of this wall. A complex of rooms of clearly utilitarian function was unearthed in the northern and south-eastern part of the trench. The pottery uncovered in Seasons 2011-2012 indicates that the upper layers excavated during the campaign are contemporaneous with the end of Phase 4 at Tell el-Farkha (i.e., Naqada IIIA1/IIIB) and the deeper layers with Phase 3 (Naqada IID2/IIIA1). Fragments of imported Near Eastern pottery were discovered, notably fragments of so called Tell Erani C style vessels and a small piece of a vessel with white stripe-painted decoration, which has its counterpart only in Megiddo, Israel. On the stratigraphic interface of the administrative-cultic centre and the Naqada residence, a brewery dated to Naqada IIIA1 was uncovered.

Key-words: Tell el-Farkha, Naqada culture, administrative-cultic centre, Naqada residence, brewery

The campaigns in 2011-2012 were carried out under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Archaeological Museum in Poznan and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, Warsaw University. The campaign in 2011 lasted from 22nd March and continued until 14th April; in 2012 between 4th March and 2nd April.

The fieldworks at the Western Kom were carried out within the older trench that had

been opened in 2006-2007, extended to the north in 2009 and further excavated in next seasons. The whole excavation area covered over 10 a (Fig. 1).

At the beginning of the exploration, in a space surrounded by thick walls (structure no. 240) the rooms discovered in the previous season were still preserved (Fig. 2). The walls of these rooms were erected on a layer with many traces of red, black and white ashes. Some of them can be interpreted as the remains of ovens, but others look like a burnt layer.

It is worth stressing that the northern wall of structure 240 and the northern part

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Fig. 1. The general view of Western Kom after season 2012



Fig. 2. Rooms discovered in structure no. 240

of eastern wall were directly beneath a cultic shrine discovered in previous seasons (cf. Ciałowicz 2009; 2010). On the internal side of the eastern wall of room 240, traces of at least three thin (ca. 15 cm in diameter) wooden posts were preserved (Fig. 3). They were put in intervals of about 80 cm. They were too thin for supporting the roof, which probably was lying on the top level of the thick walls (ca. 1.6 m). It is then possible that wooden planks were fixed to the mentioned posts, forming a kind of inner cladding of the walls. This supposition is confirmed by the presence of fired bricks in the wall (Fig. 4), which seems to be a result of a small fire in room 240. Wood was used for the inner wall cladding in Naqada III graves, as proven by the excavations at Abydos (Dreyer *et al.* 1996, 25). Now, another proof of the strict connection between the arrangement of early Egyptian houses and graves is received.

During the cleaning of northern wall's inner surface a rare example of a sickle handle (Fig. 5) was found, made from a cattle rib. In the vicinity, a kind of quernstone (Fig. 6) was deposited as well. This was made from basalt and has a very smooth, almost shiny, surface.

After the inner walls had been removed, the exploration of the whole space in room 240 was continued. On the western border of structure 240, the badly preserved corner of two mud-brick walls (1.5 brick wide) was discovered (Fig. 7). In the mentioned structure a storage jar and a few smaller vessels (Fig. 8) were found. Outside of the corner a few fire places with typical pots were located. The newly unearthed walls are undoubtedly connected with an older structure, the so-called Naqadan Residence (cf. below). The wide wall which joined the northeastern corner of room 240 (Fig. 9), is probably also a part of the Residence.

A complex of rooms of a clearly utilitarian function, adjacent to the mentioned structure



Fig. 3. Traces of wooden posts on the internal side of the eastern wall of room no. 240



Fig. 4. Fired bricks in the wall of room no. 240



Fig. 5. Sickle handle found in the inner surface of the northern wall of room no. 240

from the north and discovered in the previous season, also changed (Fig. 10). Relicts of at least two rooms were preserved. The walls were wider and built with greater precision than those uncovered in previous seasons.



Fig. 6. Quern-stone found in the inner surface of the northern wall of room no. 240

It confirms the hypothesis proposed after season 2009 that the buildings discovered at that time were a sort of side attachments built in a hurry in response to immediate needs.

A few badly preserved rooms were unearthed (Fig. 11) in the southeastern part of the trench. The rooms were rectangular and surrounded by thin walls (1–2 bricks). In some of them layers of ashes and potsherds were discovered, as for example in

room W267 (Fig. 12). In other rooms and between them ovens, sometimes with pots inside, were localized (Fig. 13).

In the whole area, large amounts of pottery fragments were found as well as a dozen or so complete vessels, mostly of a smaller size. During the excavations a few storage jars and some lower parts of similar vessels were also discovered. The mentioned jars were in very poor condition, broken into many pieces. One of them was put into the lower part of a similar jar (Fig. 14). Possibly, when the first jar was broken, the next one was put in exactly the same place. Such a situation is also known from previous discoveries.

Small size vessels were also represented (Fig. 15). Most of them was made of local silt and can be classified as Rough ware – even the storage jar from the above-mentioned structure 240. Only a few fragments were polished. Among the most common forms were small jars, pot-stands and bowls (cf. Sobas 2012, 184–190).



Fig. 7. Corner of two mud-brick walls on the western border of structure no. 240



Fig. 8. A storage jar and a few smaller vessels found on the western border of structure no. 240

It is worth stressing that, unlike in other parts of the site, fragments of bread moulds were very rare. This is the next proof for the exceptional rank of the Western Kom and its connection with local elites. One fragment of a spinning bowl was also found. It

is similar to several others discovered during previous seasons and it confirms that various workshops were located in the area.

The pottery discovered in seasons 2011–2012 indicates that the upper layers excavated during the campaign are connected with the end of Phase 4 at Tell el-Farkha (i.e. Naqada IIIA1/IIIB) and the lower layers with Phase 3 (Naqada IID2/IIIA1).

In the excavated layers, several dozen fragments (e.g. ledge handles; Fig. 16) of imported Canaanite pottery were discovered. Of particular importance are pieces of Erani C style vessels (Fig. 16 bottom). The occurrence of this style is essentially limited to southern and central Israel, but such imports were also discovered in the famous U-j tomb from Abydos (Czarnowicz 2012, 247), whose owner is generally considered to be one of the earliest Egyptian kings (Dreyer 1998). Another particularly interesting



Fig. 9. The wide wall joining the northeastern corner of room no. 240



Fig. 10. A complex of (two?) rooms of adjacent to the structure no. 240 from the north



Fig. 11. Rooms unearthed in the southeastern part of the trench



Fig. 12. Room no. 267



Fig. 13. Oven and pots in room no. 268



Fig. 14. Storage jar put into the lower part of another jar

fragment discovered at the Western Kom is a small piece of a dark-colour vessel with white striped decoration (Fig. 17). It is a unique find with no known analogies – neither in Egypt nor in the Levant, with the sole exception of Megiddo (Czarnowicz 2012: 251). All those imports confirm the earlier presumption that trade played a great



Fig. 15. Small size vessels

role in the life of inhabitants of the Western Kom. The mentioned painted fragment testifies that contacts with the Near East were spread further than it was supposed.

Flint tools other than those used for stone vessel manufacture were rather rare in the discussed area. This is why one complete flint knife and the fragments of a few others deserve special attention (Fig. 18). Some fragments of greywacke palettes were also found (Fig. 19), as well as a part of a clay boat model (Fig. 20). Small items in different shapes, used probably as tokens

(Fig. 21), were also commonly represented in the excavated layers.

As mentioned above, a few mud brick constructions were probably joined with the youngest stage of the Naqadan Residence. Only the eastern part of this huge building was excavated during seasons 2002–2003, but it is clear that it had been constructed in a few phases (Ciałowicz 2012, 163–171). The size of the youngest phase may be referred to as monumental. It was divided into two parts by a 2.5 m thick wall. At the southern extreme, it ended with a big rounded corner.



Fig. 16. Fragments of imported Canaanite pottery



Fig. 17. Fragment of imported dark-colour vessel with white striped decoration

The wall was actually made of two differently constructed sections. The inside part was erected of yellowish bricks with a considerable amount of sand, set in dark-grey mud mortar. The outside face was built of typical mud bricks bonded with light yellowish mortar tempered with sand.

The eastern part of the hitherto discovered fragment of the building consists of a few rooms featuring a considerable concentration of finds and storage vessels, which were found standing in their original position. Two rooms (one rectangular and one almost square) were found next to a thick (80 cm) wall running NE-SW. In the first room, successive floors were made of clay and most probably covered with a kind of lime mortar. Inside this space, especially in the southern part, there were considerable quantities of artefacts – numerous potsherds, but also two complete storage vessels with conical bottoms, standing in pits lined with thick coatings of mud. The third vessel was fragmentarily preserved and there were six small vases, two of them with fish bones, lying on the floor next to a flint knife, and a flat ledge of a big stone vessel. A structure with a rounded corner (1.20×1.50 m) abutted the room on the south; it was surrounded with a low brick wall equal in width to one length of a brick (ca. 30 cm). A similar wall surrounded a semicircular space adjoining the main wall from southeast. To the north of it, a few groups of bricks lying in all different directions could perhaps reflect the presence of a floor. The walls of this facility have been preserved to the height of 40–50 cm; they were constructed of layers of brick well visible in places, bonded with a kind of lime mortar and founded on an obvious layer of destruction. In the second room, two storage vessels standing inside it were found. Neither of them had a bottom; one stood in a lump of pure clay and the other in a bowl. Also here, there was a concentration of



Fig. 18. Flint knives

finds, including complete small vessels. The evidence clearly points to a sudden abandonment of the site. To conclude, it seems that the eastern section of the edifice served as store-houses.

The western part of excavated fragment of the building comprised of a cluster of rooms having a different character. Regular arrangements of mud bricks formed a clearly visible outline of the building. The edifice was of a significant size, divided into several internal compartments. Huge walls (2 m thick) draw

the attention as they separated the building from an additional southern room, where two stoves with pots inside were discovered. The numerous postholes dug in one of the rooms along with a wall surrounding them from the west should be dated to the same period, i.e. the last phase of the structure's occupation. It is very likely that the posts had been supporting a roof or an upper storey ruined in unknown circumstances. Both the room with the stoves and the posts were erected before the edifice's final devastation.



Fig. 19. Greywacke palettes



Fig. 20. A part of a clay boat model

The outlines of the described structure were found under two layers, of which the bottom one was undoubtedly burnt, with black (occasionally red) burnt-through soil and lighter ashes. On top of this, there was a layer of steel-grey clay that is practically sterile as regards archaeological artifacts; its thickness varied from a few centimeters

in the south to over 20 cm in the north. The layer is an indubitable proof of the structure having been burnt at some point and then flooded by the waters of the Nile. It is difficult to estimate whether it was a result of a natural disaster (flood, earthquake) or an intentional human action. However, the latter is hard to prove. Nonetheless, the epoch when the disastrous fire happened deserves a closer look. The catastrophic event is to be dated to the end of Phase 3 at Tell el-Farkha, i.e. Naqada IIIA1, which is the period when the existence of the earliest protokindoms in Upper Egypt can be assumed. The first richly equipped burials recorded in southern necropoli demonstrate the final stage of the elites' formation process. The largest and most significant tomb (U-j) was found in Abydos. Its outstanding features clearly support the dignity and royal power of the person who had been buried in it (Dreyer 1998). The oldest hieroglyphs which were found there suggest not only a considerable development of the society's organization, but administrative and bureaucratic control over many aspects of life as well. A discovery of over 400 vessels, although originating from the Southern Levant but clearly ordered by the Egyptians and then deposited in tomb U-j, supports the postulated crucial significance of goods imported from the Levant, and thus the role of trade itself. Graves 16 and 23 at Hierakonpolis (Friedman 2005; 2011) are dated to an even earlier period (Naqada IIA-B). More or less contemporary with tomb U-j, although almost completely plundered, are other tombs unearthed in Hierakonpolis (Adams 1996). There are other testimonies uncovered at that site indicating its colossal significance for the formative processes of the Egyptian state. We should mention at least the oldest ceremonial center from HK29A (Adams 1999; Friedman 2009) or the famous painting from grave 100 (Ciałowicz 2001, 157–163). It is very likely



Fig. 21. Small items in different shapes, used probably as tokens

that both centers were competing in various fields (the dominating one could be in control of trade routes leading to the Sinai and the Near East). Located nearby such a route, Tell el-Farkha presumably was important for trade exchange, its supervision and control over the northeastern trade route itself. That is why it is possible that the final destruction of the described complex found in Tell

el-Farkha was the result of a conflict between those two centers of emerging kingship, even if there is no definite proof for this hypothesis. Accepting this theory, it should be strongly stressed that the destruction remains in close relation to an internal conflict on a regional scale within the Naqada culture; therefore, it cannot be regarded as the evidence for Upper Egyptian conquest of the Nile Delta.



Fig. 22. Black burnt layer covered by a silt under the eastern wall of the administrative-cultic centre's courtyard



Fig. 23. Round red stain of soil beneath the corner of room no. 238, in the southwestern part of courtyard

Interesting observations were made during seasons 2011-2012 in the transitional strata between the administrative-cultic centre (cf. Ciałowicz 2012, 171-180) and the Naqadan residence. As mentioned above, a burnt layer was visible in room 240. A similar situation was noticed under the eastern wall of the administrative-cultic centre's courtyard (Fig. 22). There, a black burnt layer covered by a silt one was evident. Both were probably lying on an earlier mud brick wall.

In the southwestern part of courtyard, beneath the corner of one of the rooms (no. 238) from the oldest stage of the complex, an almost round red stain of soil (about 6 m

in diameter) appeared (Fig. 23; cf. Fig. 1). Excavations in 2013 revealed that it was a brewery. It was built during the Naqada IIIA1 period and it is evidently younger than the burnt Naqadan Residence and older than the administrative-cultic centre. The brewery was probably erected at the beginning of the administrative-cultic centre's construction and it is possible that the beer produced in this brewery should be treated as supplies for workers. In such a situation, a tradition known from the Old Kingdom is much older and organization of work in Naqadan society was quite well developed.

Badania wykopaliskowe na Komie Zachodnim w Tell el-Farcha w latach 2011–2012

Prace prowadzone w latach 2011–2012 na Zachodnim Komie w Tell el-Farcha były kontynuacją prac prowadzonych tutaj w poprzednich sezonach. Na wewnętrznym licu wschodniej ściany pomieszczenia nr 240, należącego do protodynastycznego centrum administracyjno-kultowego, odkryto ślady cienkich słupów, na których umieszczone były prawdopodobnie cienkie deski wykładające wewnętrzne ściany pomieszczenia. Pomieszczenia o użytkowym charakterze odsłonięto w północnej i południowo-wschodniej części eksplorowanego wykopu. Ceramika odkryta w trakcie badań pozwala datować przebadane warstwy na koniec 4 fazy w Tell el-Farcha (Nagada IIIA1/IIIB) i początek fazy 3 (Nagada IID2/IIIA1). Odkryto fragmenty bliskowschodniej ceramiki, m.in. te należące do charakterystycznego dla południowego Lewantu horyzontu Erani C oraz fragment naczynia, dla którego jedyne znane dotąd analogie pochodzą z Megiddo. W warstwach przejściowych pomiędzy centrum administracyjno-kultowym a tzw. rezydencją nagadyjską odsłonięto pozostałości browaru datowanego na okres Nagada IIIA1.

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