

Monks, Archangels, and a king's son: Recent epigraphic work at the monastery of Ghazali (Sudan) – abstract

After what seemed to have been an almost complete exploitation of the site's epigraphic potential, mainly by Karl Richard Lepsius in the nineteenth century and Peter Shinnie and Neville Chittick in the 1950s, the number of inscriptions discovered already during the second season of Polish excavations in the monastery of Ghazali in 2013 was a pleasant surprise. A few dozen wall inscriptions, a few dozen fragments of funerary stelae, a few hundred inscriptions on pottery vessels, they all constitute an important addition to the corpus of Christian Nubian written sources. While the excavations are ongoing and some more epigraphic discoveries are still to be expected, during the lecture I will focus on presenting the most interesting specimens in all categories of finds.

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graduated from the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw in 1995, where he also defended his doctoral dissertation in 2010. His main field of interest is the history and culture of the Nile Valley, especially the Middle Nile Valley, in Late Antiquity and Middle Ages, and his main specialisation is Greek and Coptic epigraphy of Christian Nubia. Dr Ochała's research covers a wide variety of subjects, such as Nubian chronological systems, Nubian liturgy, or Nubian multilingualism. He is the author of a widely acknowledged monograph entitled *Chronological Systems of Christian Nubia* (Warsaw 2011) and several articles in such renowned journals as *Le Muséon*, *The Journal of Juristic Papyrology*, or *Bulletin of the American Association of Papyrologists*. No less important is his Database of Medieval Nubian Texts (available online at <http://www.dbmnt.uw.edu.pl>), into which Dr Ochała systematically enters metadata of all published written sources produced in the Middle Nile Valley between the sixth and the fifteenth centuries. He was a member of Polish archaeological missions in Egypt (Deir el-Naqlun and Sheikh Abd el-Gurna) and Sudan (Dongola). Currently he takes part in Polish excavations in Deir el-Gahzali (Sudan) as the head epigraphist.