



Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum is now open

Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum is the second foreign research centre of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (PCMA).

The opening ceremony took place in the gardens of the National Museum in Khartoum. It was hosted by Mohamed Abou Zaid Mustafa, Minister of Tourism, Antiquities and Wildlife, and Dr. Abdelrahman Ali Mohamed, Director General of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums on the Sudanese side, and on the Polish side by Michał Murkociński Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea and Prof. Marcin Pałys, the Rector of the University of Warsaw.

The proceedings were also attended by a delegation from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland: Deputy Minister, Sebastian Skuza and Director General, Anna Budzanowska. It was also an occasion to honor Prof. Włodzimierz Godlewski, who for over a decade headed the PCMA archaeological mission in Dongola, with a special diploma of recognition from the University of Warsaw. During the ceremony Prof. Stefan Jakobielski from the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences, delivered a lecture outlining the history of Polish Nubiological research.

More than 50 years ago Polish archaeologists took part in the UNESCO international campaign to save the monuments of Nubia. Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski and Stefan Jakobielski led a team that discovered the cathedrals at Faras and saved the wall paintings from destruction in the waters of the lake created by the construction of the Aswan Dam.

Today, teams from the PCMA and other academic institutions in Poland regularly excavate and survey archaeological sites in Sudan. The new Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum will institutionalize the logistic and academic support needed in the field by close to a hundred professionals every year.

Headed by Prof. Mahmoud El-Tayeb of the PCMA, this will be only the second foreign archaeological institute operating in Khartoum. Office space and lodgings for scholars staying or passing through Khartoum have kindly been provided by the Heritage Protection Fund from Gdańsk.

Apart from providing logistic assistance for Polish scientific expeditions working in Sudan, not the least the University of Warsaw missions, the Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum will engage in archaeological research in Sudan, launching joint projects with the Sudanese and strengthening ties of cooperation with other foreign archaeological expeditions working in Sudan.

It will liaison between the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) and the Ministry of Interior to deal with administration of the Polish expeditions in the field and will offer NCAM staff as well other heritage and culture-related agencies support in the fields of capacity building, site presentation and archaeological research management projects, training and mutual study visits. Last but not least, the Unit will prepare exhibitions, lectures, film screenings, study tours of sites etc., to popularize the results of Polish archaeological research in Sudan.



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Khartoum, 27.02.2018, National Museum; opening of the Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw.

From the left: Prof. Tomasz Waliszewski, Director of the PCMA, Michał Murkociński, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea, Prof. Marcin Palys, Rector of the University of Warsaw, Sebastian Skuza, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education, Anna Budzanowska Director General of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Prof. Mahmoud El-Tayeb, Director of the Polish Archaeological Unit in Khartoum; Prof. Henryk Paner, of the PCMA and Archaeological Museum in Gdańsk; Dr. Artur Obluski, Director of the PCMA Research Centre in Egypt, Prof. Stefan Jakobielski, of the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences; Prof. Jusuf Fadol Hassan, President of the National Board of Antiquities and Museums and Dr. Ghalia Gar El-Nabi, Director of Sudan National Museums. (Photo Adrian Chlebowski/PCMA)

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw coordinates Polish archaeological research in the Eastern Mediterranean since 1959 (since 1990 under the present name). In recent years it broadened its scope of interest into the Arabian Peninsula and the Caucasus. Currently about 30 projects in Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Iraqi Kurdistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, U.A.E. and Armenia. The PCMA also runs a Research Centre in Cairo.

For more information on the PCMA go to:

<http://www.pcma.uw.edu.pl/en/> ; www.facebook.com/pcma.uw/

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