KADERO 1993

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The excavations of Kadero (central Sudan) were continued in 1993. The thirteenth season took place in November and December of the year and was effected by the largest field party ever mounted at this site. [1]The season's program anticipated further testing of the Neolithic middens and burial ground started in the previous seasons.[2]

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[1] The Mission included: Prof. Lech Krzyżaniak, Prof. Michał Kobusiewicz, Dr. Karla Kroeper, Dr. Krzysztof Ciałowicz, Mr. Jacek Kabaciński (all archaeologists), Dr. Maria Kaczmarek (anthropologist), Mrs. Hala'a N. Barakat (archaeobotanist) and three students from the Humboldt-University in Berlin: Ms. Claudia Näser, Mr. Jörg Linstädter and Mr. Thomas Scheibner. the season was a success thanks to the help extended to the Mission by the Sudan Directorate of Antiquities and National Museums and particularly by its Director General, Prof. Ahmed Hakim and the site inspector Mrs. Ekhlas Abdel-Latif.

[2] As regards previous bibliography of the Kadero Project, *cf.* L. Krzyżaniak, Kadero 1991, *PAM* IV, 1992 (1993), pp. 94-97 (with further bibliography); id., The later prehistory of the Upper (main) Nile: Comments on the current state of the researches [in:] F. Klees, R. Kuper (eds.), *New Light on the Northeast African Past. Current Prehistoric Research*, Köln 1992, pp. 239-248; id., *Schyłek pradziejów w środkowym Sudanie* (Later Prehistory of the central Sudan), Poznań 1992; id., Preliminary report on the excavations at Kadero 1 – Eleventh Season, 1989, *Études et Travaux* 16 (1992), pp. 363-381; id., Some aspects of the later prehistoric development in the Sudan as seen from the point of view of the current research on the Neolithic [in:] Ch. Bonnet (ed.), *Études Nubiennes, Conférence de Génève,* Génève 1992, pp. 267-273.

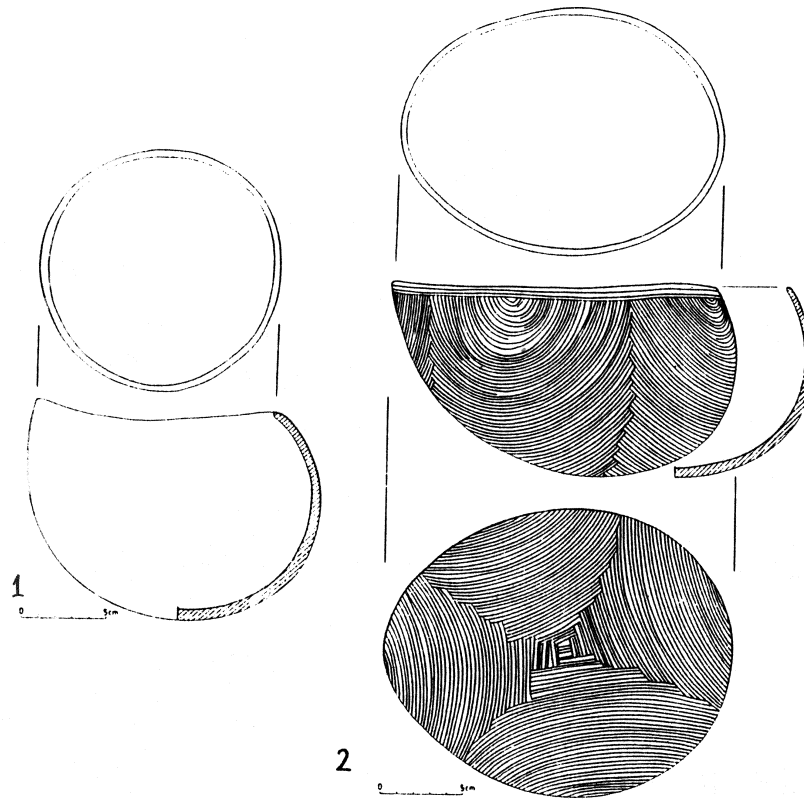

Fig. 1. Kadero: pottery vessels. 1. from Grave 153, 2. from Grave 182.

The objective in exploring the Neolithic middens was primarily to collect the botanical contents. This was done in several small pits of one square meter each, excavated in different parts of both middens. The botanist took an active part in the excavation of these pits, picking out from the soil all the charred plant macro-remains and packing them accordingly for identification in the laboratory. Most of the botanical remains consisted of charred lumps of wood. It is expected that their study and eventual identification will result in better knowledge of Neolithic plant use and ecology in this part of Sudan.

Exploration of the Neolithic burial ground continued with the enlarging of the major pit excavated in the central part of the site in previous seasons; a separate pit was also excavated in the western part of the mound where a Meroitic cemetery had been found in the initial phase of the Kadero project. Altogether, some 674 square meters of the site were excavated in search of burials this season; it constitutes the largest surface area of the mound explored so far in a single season. Following routine practice, the entire surface of the mound was systematically surveyed in order to locate remains of eroded burials. In total, 49 burials were found this season: 42 Neolithic, five Meroitic and two medieval ones. The medieval and Meroitic inhumations were either devoid of grave goods or had just a few insignificant belongings. Three of the Neolithic graves were found outside the pits, on the eroded surface of the mound.

The 39 Neolithic graves excavated in the large pit situated in the central part of the mound manifest characteristics somewhat different from the local burial ground explored prior to this season. While the inhumations devoid of grave goods remained frequent, no rich graves of members of the social elite were found this season; several graves can be placed between these

two extreme groups of inhumations. Pottery (Fig. 1) and personal ornaments were the most frequent finds in these richer graves.

In order to obtain more data for studies of Kadero site chronology, several samples of organic material suitable for radiocarbon dating were collected. Importantly, a benchmark was finally established on the site giving its absolute height. This should help considerably in studies of the hydrology and ecology of the site and settlement patterns in Neolithic times.

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