



The vizier's house of eternity. The tomb of Merefnebef and its discoverer

We have the pleasure to invite you to an exhibition presenting one of the most important discoveries made by the mission of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology UW in Saqqara (Egypt), organized by PCMA UW in cooperation with the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw and the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological Mission Saqqara.

Thirty years have passed since the PCMA UW mission started excavating in Saqqara, and twenty since one of the most spectacular discoveries was made – the discovery of the tomb of vizier Merefnebef (23rd century BC). This event also aims to honour the thirty years of work in Saqqara of Prof. Karol Myśliwiec, founder and long-standing (until 2016) director of the mission.

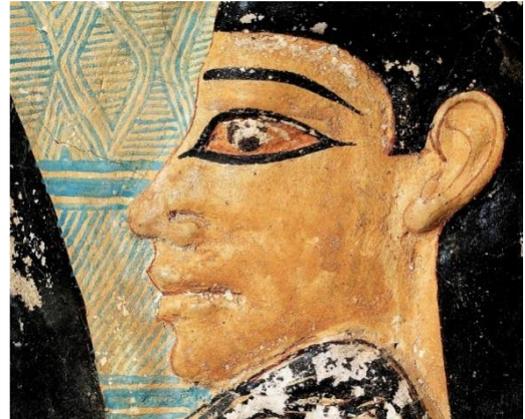


Photo J. Dąbrowski/ PCMA UW

The main component of the exhibition is a life-size model of Merefnebef's funerary chapel. The walls of the original chapel are decorated with polychrome reliefs which depict scenes from the life of an Egyptian dignitary from 4400 years ago. The model is preceded by an exhibition explaining the importance and context of the discovery, including the history of Polish excavations and Egyptian funerary practices. Also displayed will be objects from the National Museum in Warsaw collection which have never been shown before and copies of the finds from the necropolis of dignitaries in Saqqara made by the mission's restorers.

The exhibition was co-financed by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology UW, the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, the University of Warsaw Foundation and the Faculty of Oriental Studies UW.



Professor Karol Myśliwiec – founder and long-standing director of the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological Mission Saqqara. Laureate of the prize awarded to renowned scholars by the Foundation for Polish Science for significant advancements and scientific discoveries ("Polish Nobel"). The year 2017 marks the 30th anniversary of his work in the shadow of the oldest pyramid in the world. *(Photo Z. Kość)*



CENTRUM ARCHEOLOGII ŚRÓDZIEMNOMORSKIEJ
UNIwersytetu Warszawskiego

POLISH CENTRE OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

Exhibition:

“The vizier’s house of eternity. The tomb of Merefnebef and its discoverer”

8 December 2017 – 31 March 2018

State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, ul. Długa 52

Exhibition under the honorary patronage of the Marshall of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Rector of the University of Warsaw

Organizers:

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology University of Warsaw

State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw

Polish-Egyptian Archaeological Mission Saqqara

Honorary Committee:

Dr. Wojciech Brzeziński (director of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw)

Prof. Tomasz Waliszewski (director of the PCMA UW)

Dr. Teodozja Rzeuska (director of the IMOC PAS)

Ms. Helene Zaleski

Ms. Alicja Kozłowska

Ms. Teresa Żurkowska

Partners:

Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw

National Museum in Warsaw

Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences

Organizational and Scientific Committee:

Urszula Perlikowska-Puszkarska (deputy director of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw)

Prof. Kamil Kuraszkiewicz (FOS UW, Saqqara Mission) – curator of the exhibition

Joanna Szczepkowska (PCMA UW)

Agnieszka Kowalska (Saqqara Mission)

Małgorzata Radomska (IMOC PAS, Saqqara Mission)

Jarosław Dąbrowski (Saqqara Mission)

Magdalena Abramowska (Saqqara Mission)

pcma@uw.edu.pl

00-497 Poland, Warszawa, ul. Nowy Świat 4
T (+48 22) 553 13 28, 826 52 16
Fx (+48 22) 628 45 23

cairo.pcma@uw.edu.pl

Research Centre in Cairo
Cairo–Heliopolis, Egypt
11, Mahalla T (+202) 22 904 459
14, Nazih Khalifa T (+202) 24 159 898

www.pcma.uw.edu.pl

NIP 525-001-12-66
REGON 000001258



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Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology University of Warsaw

– Numerous Polish excavation and conservation projects in the Mediterranean, Africa and the Middle East have been carried out under its auspices for more than 50 years. The Centre cooperates with specialists from over 40 institutions nationwide and worldwide. At present, the Centre conducts about 30 excavation and conservation projects on sites dated from the prehistoric times through all the historic periods to Late Antiquity and Islamic period in Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus, Iraqi Kurdistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Georgia and Armenia.

For more information on the activities of the Centre, see: www.pcma.uw.edu.pl ;
www.facebook.com/pcma.uw

Polish-Egyptian Archaeological Mission Saqqara

– The mission carries out excavation work on the western side of the oldest of Egyptian pyramids, the Step Pyramid in Saqqara. It explores the necropolis of dignitaries dating from the Old Kingdom (23rd–22nd century BC) and the burial ground of the inhabitants of Memphis (one of the most important cities of Egypt and intermittently its capital) established there two thousand years later, as well as structures associated with the royal complex of the Step Pyramid (built for pharaoh Djoser in the 27th century BC). The team comprises archaeologists, restorers and documentalists as well as various specialists; to date 115 people have participated in the excavations.

For more information on the activities of the mission, see: <http://saqqara.uw.edu.pl>

Contact:

Prof. Kamil Kuraszkiewicz, curator of the exhibition
e-mail: k.o.kuraszkiewicz@uw.edu.pl; akowalska5@me.com
Phone 0048 604382043, 0048 604226574

