

APPENDIX 2

EXPLORATION OF KOM J
IN OLD DONGOLA (2002 AND 2006)

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Kom J neighbors with the North Church (NC) and Christian cemetery (TSJ), situated east of the modern track from el-Ghaddar village to the ruins of the Throne Hall-Mosque and Citadel on Kom A, about 450 m west of the monastery compound on Kom H (for a general plan of the Polish concession at Dongola site, cf. Jakobielski 2001: 4-5). It was first explored in December 2002 (Jakobielski 2003: 224) and again in January 2006, both times by the present author.

It is on oval mound measuring c. 15 m across and rising to a height of 3 m on the west, north and south. Toward the east there is a low ridge connecting it with Kom I. The ground is strewn with red-brick rubble and small pieces of broken stone.

A rectangular trench (c. 8.00 by 6.50 m) was dug in the southeastern part of the mound in order to determine the character of the architecture located here (suggestions have included a church, monumental mausoleum or cemetery area, cf. Jakobielski 2001: 4). Testing in other parts of the kom established the thickness of deposits, which consist of sand and rubble on top of bedrock: not exceeding 0.20 m in the central part, not more than 0.40 m in the western part and the area where the trench was excavated.

Relics of two unidentified structures in very poor state of preservation were cleared under a layer of drifted sand and fine rubble, one in the southeastern part of the mound and the other situated more centrally [Figs 2, 3]. One corner of the more easterly of the two structures was made of sandstone blocks reused from a Napatan or New Kingdom temple, as suggested by a block with two hieroglyphic signs in low relief, *šps* (or similar, cf. Jakobielski 2003: 224 and note 15 – Gardiner's signs A40, A42, A46,

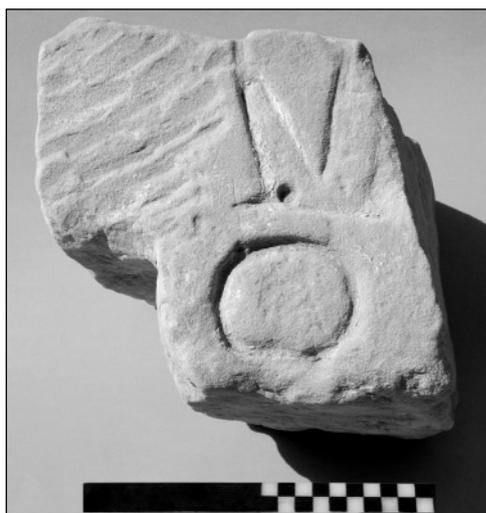


Fig. 1. Block with hieroglyphic signs
(Photo D. Gazda)

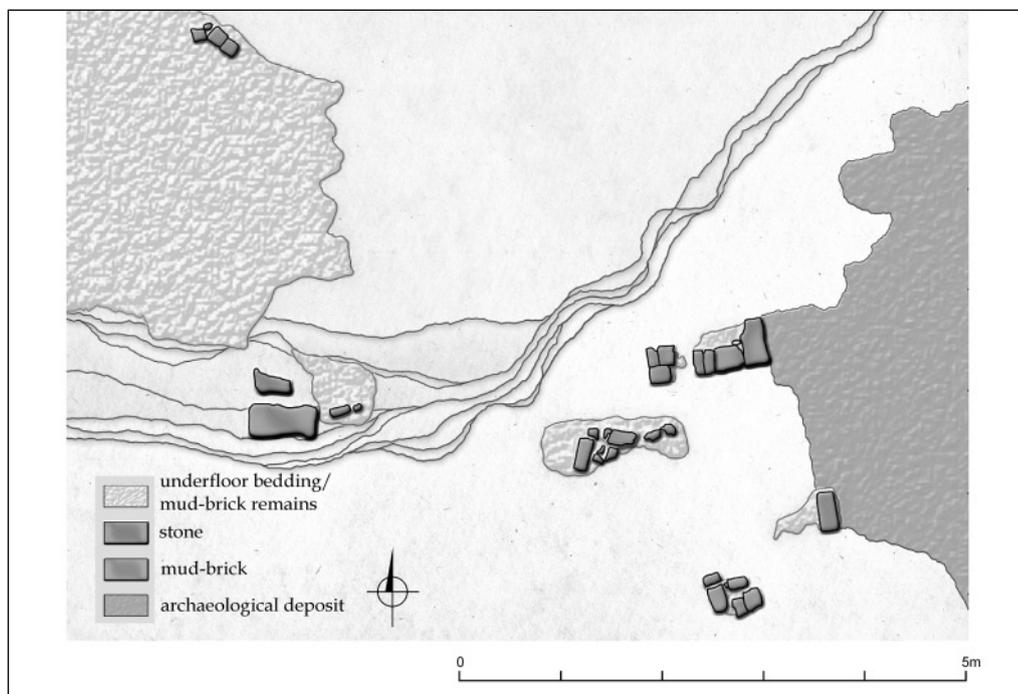


Fig. 2. Plan of remains on Kom J (Drawing A. Błaszczyk and D. Gazda)



Fig. 3. Remains of structures on Kom J, seen from the east (Photo D. Gazda)

C8 or C10) and r^c , both painted yellow [Fig. 1], found at the top of the mound, where a shallow trench had been cut in bedrock under one of the walls. The fill of this structure contained some Post-Classic Christian pottery of Dongolan production (11th-12th century).

Three ceramic tiles measuring 23x12x3.5 cm formed a residual pavement in the central part of the mound, resting on a bedding of sand a few centimeters thick, laid directly on bedrock. The rubble here also contains fragments of wall plaster in white, red and gray color. The structure

with the pavement could have been at least 5 m long.

East of the eastern one of the two structures was an archaeological layer c. 0.20-0.25 m thick. Testing yielded pottery and organic remains.

Interpretation of the structures based on the limited evidence available is impossible, although the feature in the center of the mound could have been a mausoleum. It was most definitely not a church. To judge by the recorded ceramics, at least some part of this architecture was still in use in the 11th/12th century.

REFERENCES

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