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**Fourth Cataract: Excavations at
Es-Sadda and Hagar El-Beida, Survey
between Es-Sadda and Shemkhiya :
Two Seasons of Work in 2005**

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FOURTH CATARACT

EXCAVATIONS AT ES-SADDA AND HAGAR EL-BEIDA, SURVEY BETWEEN ES-SADDA AND SHEMKHIYA: TWO SEASONS OF WORK IN 2005

Marek Chłodnicki, Marek Lemiesz, Anna Longa,
Piotr Osypiński, Michał Sip

The first season of excavations on the concession of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University in the Fourth Cataract region took place in January-March 2005; the sites investigated were the tumuli fields at Es-Sadda 1 and Hagar el-Beida 1, 2 and 3.¹ The archaeological survey of the area around Es-Sadda and Hagar el-Beida villages was continued, identifying two new sites in Es-Sadda and 14 in Hagar el-Beida. This was coupled with ethnological and geological surveys of the region.

The team returned in the autumn (November-December 2005) to complete another season of work.² Excavations at the es-Sadda 1 and Hagar el-Beida 2 sites were continued, and Hagar el-Beida 11 was tested. A detailed survey of es-Sadda and Hagar el-Beida was continued, identifying another 23 sites (Es-Sadda 13-33, Hagar el-Beida 39-40). Eight more sites in Gamamiya and seven more in Shemkhiya were discovered while the team commuted between Hagar el-Beida and Shemkhiya.

The following contributions have been arranged by sites. Preceding the reports is a site gazetteer complementing the list already presented in last year's report.³

- 1 The team was headed by Dr. Marek Chłodnicki, Director; and three field-directors: Mr. Piotr Osypiński (Es-Sadda 1), Ms Anna Longa (Hagar el-Beida 2) and Mr. Marek Lemiesz (Hagar el-Beida 1 and 3); the staff comprised: Ms Marta Osypińska, archeozoologist; Dr. Paweł Wilkosz, Mr. Robert Radaszewski, geologists; Mr. Piotr Maliński, ethnologist; Ms Maria Czarnecka, Mr. Mariusz Drzewiecki, Mr. Krzysztof Garwoliński, Mr. Małgorzata Horzemska, Ms Martyna Mazur, Mr. Paweł Polkowski, Mr. Marcin Sawicki, Mr. Bogusław Stec, students of archaeology from Poznań University. The National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums was represented by inspector Mr. Yahya Berima Ahmed. The excavations were financed by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University and the Patrimonium Foundation, Poznań.
- 2 The team was headed by Dr. Marek Chłodnicki, Director; and three field directors: Mr. Piotr Osypiński (Es-Sadda 1), Ms Anna Longa (Hagar el-Beida 2) and Mr. Michał Sip (Hagar el-Beida 11); the staff comprised: Mrs. Joanna Dębowska, Ms Iwona Marciniak, archaeologists, Mr. Piotr Maliński, ethnologist, Mr. Lukasz Gauza, photographer. The National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums was represented by inspector Mr. Hassan Abdel Aziz. The excavations were financed by the Poznań Prehistoric Society, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University, Archaeological Museum in Poznań and Institute of Archaeology of Jagiellonian University in Kraków
- 3 On the results of previous surveys, see L. Krzyżaniak, M. Chłodnicki, M. Jórdeczka, M. Lemiesz, "Archaeological reconnaissance between Shemkiya and Khor Umm Ghizlan (left bank of the Nile), 2003", *GAMAR* 4 (2005), 39-43; M. Chłodnicki, B. Żurawski, "From Khor Umm Ghizlan to Shemkhiya. Archaeological survey in the Fourth Cataract Region, December 2004", *PAM XVI, Reports 2005* (2005), 369-383, esp. Fig. 1 presenting a map of the Polish concession.

ES-SADDA

SITE GAZETTEER

The survey in Sadda valley was completed in 2005. Two small, partly destroyed box-grave cemeteries located one in a small wadi and the other at the mouth of Khor Umm Ghizlan, close to the modern Nile valley (Es-Sadda 13-14 respectively) merit attention, both being apparently family burial grounds. Not far from these cemeteries is a camp located between a complex of rocks on the Nile bank (Es-Sadda 22). Nothing more from Christian times has been preserved in the vicinity, with the possible exception of a drywall enclosure built in the desert at the mouth of a small wadi (Es-Sadda 31). The wall is about 1 m thick and outlined a unit 8 by 5 m with an entrance located between two huge blocks of stone.

Another tumuli burial field from Post-Meroitic times was found in the Sadda valley (Es-Sadda 24). The tumuli are about 6 m across on average, some with a clear kerb around their base, others covered with mounds of stones and silt. Remains of a camp located in the Khor Umm Ghizlan are probably attributable to this horizon (Es-

Sadda 20); finds included potsherds, grinding stones and remains of a stone construction.

Four new sites of the Kerma-horizon were mapped (Es-Sadda 15, 16, 17, 33). These hilltop cemeteries comprised from one to nine tumuli. Some graves were located at the foot of the hill. The chronology of stone rings located on elevations between the khors (Es-Sadda 18, 30, 32) is difficult to establish. A geometric geoglyph made by removing stones from the surface was found on the slope of one of the hills (Es-Sadda 19).

On the hills between the valleys of Sadda and the Nile, as well as at the edge of the desert several Neolithic sites were located. All were rather small (camps) and located in elevated places providing a good view of the surroundings, looking either to the Nile or to the Sadda valley, or at the mouths of wadis. From most sites modest collections (less than 10) were recovered, the one exception being site Es-Sadda 28, which was located on a hilltop close to the river bank.

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|-------------|------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Es-Sadda 11 | Settlement | Scattered pottery and flint artifacts | Neolithic | N19°16'46.4" E32°45'49.6" |
| Es-Sadda 12 | Settlement | Scattered pottery, grinders, flints, two stone rings | Neolithic | N19°16'59.2" E32°45'36.9" |
| Es-Sadda 13 | Cemetery | 17 box-graves | Christian | N19°16'21.6" E32°43'01.0" |
| Es-Sadda 14 | Cemetery | 13 box-graves, partly destroyed | Christian | N19°16'16.6" E32°42'57.2" |
| Es-Sadda 15 | Cemetery | 3 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°17'23.5" E32°43'54.2" |

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Es-Sadda 16 | Cemetery | 9 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°17'14.3" E32°43'49.6" |
| Es-Sadda 17 | Cemetery | 7-8 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°17'11.5" E32°43'47.7" |
| Es-Sadda 18 | Stone rings | Several circles and lines built of stones | ? | N19°17'07.9" E32°43'43.4" |
| Es-Sadda 19 | Settlement, geoglyphs | 3 circles with removed stones, geoglyphs | ? | N19°16'36.6" E32°44'03.8" |
| Es-Sadda 20 | Camp | Scattered potsherds, destroyed stone construction | Post-Meroitic? | N19°16'22.3" E32°44'01.5" |
| Es-Sadda 21 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Neolithic | N19°16'24.3" E32°43'51.1" |
| Es-Sadda 22 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Christian? | N19°16'53.9" E32°43'07.9" |
| Es-Sadda 23 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Neolithic | N19°16'55.6" E32°43'54.4" |



Fig. 1. *Es-Sadda 24. Tumulus cemetery*
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|-------------|------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Es-Sadda 24 | Cemetery | Dozen tumuli [Fig. 1] | Kerma horizon? | N19°16'54.4" E32°43'23.6" |
| Es-Sadda 25 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints | Neolithic | N19°16'59.9" E32°43'24.5" |
| Es-Sadda 26 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints | Neolithic | N19°17'03.9" E32°43'20.5" |
| Es-Sadda 27 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints | Neolithic | N19°17'00.8" E32°43'18.2" |
| Es-Sadda 28 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints [Fig. 2] | Neolithic | N19°17'00.7" E32°43'13.4" |



Fig. 2. *Es-Sadda 28. Neolithic settlement*
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Es-Sadda 29 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints | Neolithic | N19°17'05.2" E32°43'30.8" |
| Es-Sadda 30 | Stone rings | 7 stone rings [Fig. 3] | ? | N19°17'19.3" E32°43'58.4" |
| Es-Sadda 31 | Dry stone wall | Dry wall enclosure | Christian? | N19°17'22.8" E32°44'00.6" |
| Es-Sadda 32 | Stone rings | 4 stone rings | ? | N19°17'25.1" E32°43'59.6" |
| Es-Sadda 33 | Cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'32.8" E32°44'01.1" |



Fig. 3 Es-Sadda 30. Stone rings
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

HAGAR EL-BEIDA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|-------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hagar el-Beida 25 | Cemetery | At least 15 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°19'17.3" E32°46'03.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 26 | Cemetery | 3 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°19'16.6" E32°45'56.8" |
| Hagar el-Beida 27 | Settlement | Single flint and pottery artifacts | Neolithic | N19°19'29.1" E32°45'55.4" |
| Hagar el-Beida 28 | Cemetery | 7 tumuli in two groups, scattered potsherds | Post Meroitic | N19°19'31.5" E32°45'53.2" |
| Hagar el-Beida 29 | Cemetery | Damaged tumulus | Kerma horizon? | N19°19'35.7" E32°45'57.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 30 | Settlement | Dotted wavy-line pottery | Neolithic Modern | N19°19'32.0" E32°45'59.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 31 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds, flint, fossilized bones | Paleolithic, Neolithic, Kerma | N19°19'30.9" E32°45'59.7" |
| Hagar el-Beida 32 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds, dry-wall constructions | Christian Modern | N19°19'29.2" E32°46'02.5" |
| Hagar el-Beida 33 | Settlement | Scattered flint and fossilized bones, potsherds and hammerstones | Middle Paleolithic, Kerma | N19°19'31.2" E32°46'02.4" |
| Hagar el-Beida 34 | Cemetery | At least 7 tumuli | Kerma horizon? Napata? | N19°19'12.7" E32°45'47.0" |
| Hagar el-Beida 35 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Post Meroitic? | N19°19'45.6" E32°45'26.6" |
| Hagar el-Beida 36 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Post Meroitic, medieval/modern | N19°19'47.6" E32°45'26.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 37 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Post Meroitic? Modern | N19°19'59.1" E32°45'44.3" |
| Hagar el-Beida 38 | Petroglyphs | Geometric petroglyphs | Christian? Modern | N19°18'12.6" E32°46'25.8" |
| Hagar el-Beida 39 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds | Post-Meroitic | N19°19'20.6" E32°46'06.5" |
| Hagar el-Beida 40 | Settlement | Scattered potsherds and flints | Paleolithic Neolithic | N19°19'13.8" E32°48'16.6" |

The survey in Hagar el-Beida was also completed in the two seasons this year. Sparse scattered surface material dating from the Paleolithic to modern times was found. Another tumuli cemetery is note-

worthy (Hagar el-Beida 34), as is also a site containing several petroglyphs, including lines, cross and pentagram (Hagar el-Beida 38). It does not seem to date before Christian times.

EL-GAMAMIYA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| El-Gamamiya 7 | <i>Saqiyah</i> {Fig. 4} | | Islamic | N19°20'22.8" E32°47'20.6" |
| El-Gamamiya 8 | Rock art | Cow drawing | ? | N19°20'13.1" E32°46'49.5" |
| El-Gamamiya 9 | Cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°20'10.9" E32°47'17.3" |



Fig. 4. *El-Gamamiya 7. Saqiyah*
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|----------------|-----------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| El-Gamamiya 10 | Cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°20'07.3" E32°47'19.9" |
| El-Gamamiya 11 | Cemetery | 6 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°20'01.1" E32°47'15.1" |
| El-Gamamiya 12 | Cemetery | 10 tumuli | Kerma horizon? | N19°19'53.4" E32°47'09.6" |
| El-Gamamiya 13 | Rock art | Hundreds of rock drawings: animals, humans, geometric symbols, Arabic inscriptions [Figs 5-7] | From Neolithic? to modern times | N19°19'13.8" E32°48'15.6" |

Information from the local populace led to the identification of two sites with rock drawings. One with a single, small drawing of a cow was found on rock near the Nile bank (El-Gamamiya 8). The other site is situated deep in the desert (El-Gamamiya 13). Hundreds of rock drawings, showing animals (including ostrich?,

longhorn cattle, camels), humans, geometric symbols and Arabic inscriptions were discovered in a number of concentrations on the flat rocks

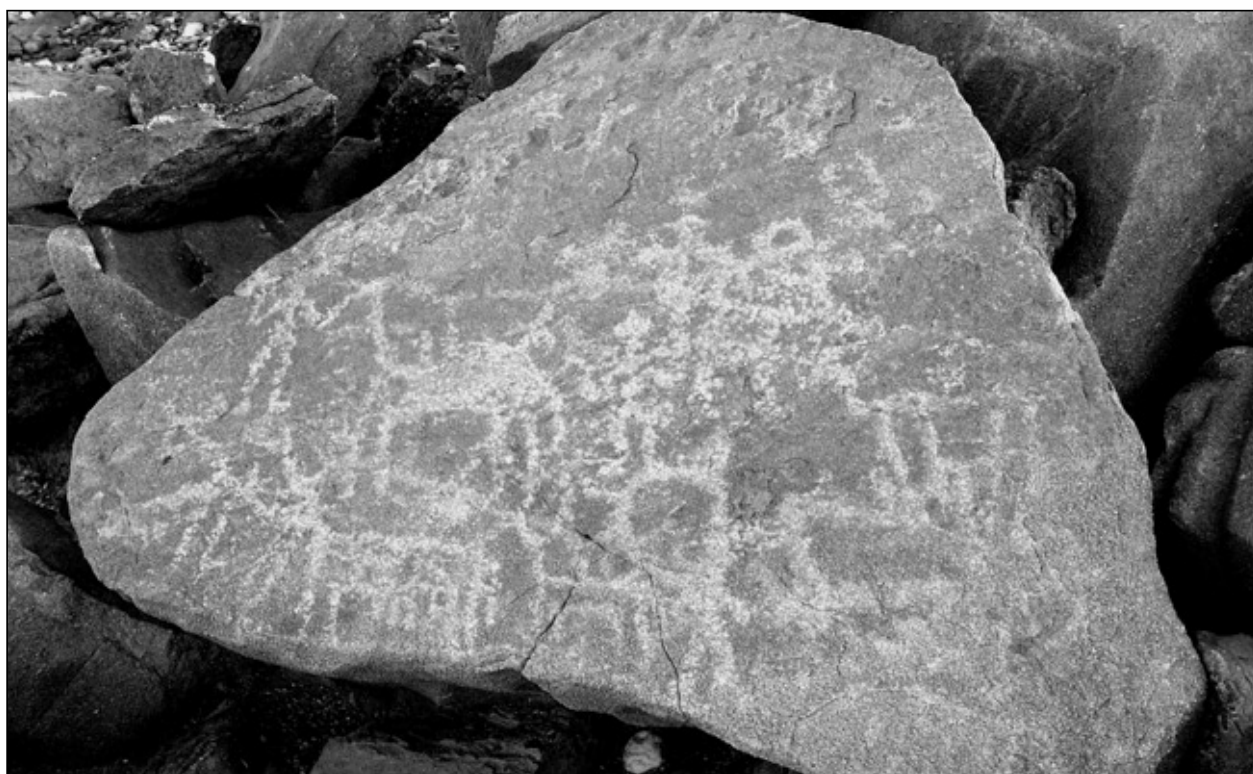
The tumuli burial fields on hilltops are in all likelihood of Kerma-horizon date. All of the tombs were built of stone blocks and are about 3 m in diameter.



Fig. 5. El-Gamamiya 13. Rock drawings (Photo M. Chłodnicki)



*Fig. 6. El-Gamamiya 13. Rock drawings
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)*



*Fig. 7. El-Gamamiya 13. Rock drawings
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)*

SHEMKHIYA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Shemkhiya 14 | Cemetery | Tumulus | Post-Meroitic? | N19°26'28.0" E32°57'37.1" |
| Shemkhiya 15 | Cemetery | Stone implements, pottery 6 tumuli with stone kerbs | Paleolithic, Neolithic Post-Meroitic? | N19°26'06.7" E32°58'11.3" |
| Shemkhiya 16 | Cemetery | Tumulus with stone kerb | Post-Meroitic? | N19°26'34.0" E32°58'44.2" |
| Shemkhiya 17 | Cemetery | Several tumuli with stone slabs and at least 200 box graves [Fig. 8] | Post-Meroitic, Christian | N19°27'01.4" E32°58'11.3" |
| Shemkhiya 18 | Cemetery | More than 200 box graves, and several tumuli | Post-Meroitic, Christian | N19°27'23.9" E32°55'20.6" |



Fig. 8. *Shemkhiya 17. Box-graves cemetery*
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shemkhiya 19 | Cemetery | Dozen destroyed tumuli | Post-Meroitic? | N19°27'28.2" E32°57'06.8" |
| Shemkhiya 20 | Cemetery | Dozen destroyed tumuli, pottery | Post-Meroitic? | N19°27'31.4" E32°56'59.9" |

The continued survey of the desert in the Shemkhiya region revealed two single tumuli with stone kerbs (Shemkhiya 14, 16) and a bigger cemetery (Shemkhiya 15) located on a plateau between the khors, in a place where Neolithic settlement

had already existed before. On the road between the said two strongholds in Shemkhiya (sites 1 and 8), another four cemeteries were located. On two of these, box-graves occur in the neighborhood of the tumuli.