Lech Krzyżaniak

Kadero: Preliminary Report, 1999

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The 1999 season at Kadero was the fifteenth at this site. Work has proceeded bi-annually since the 1980s in an effort to maximize staff and logistic opportunities and to carry on different kinds of research. In similarity to the previous seasons, the project was conducted by the Polish Center of Archeology of Warsaw University in association with the Poznań Archaeological Museum.

The season started on November 11 and terminated on December 9, 1999.[1)]

Campaign objectives included continued excavation of the Neolithic settlement[2)] *and its burial ground, macro-examination of the botanical remains found in the settlement middens and grave pits, investigation of the geology and geomorphology of the Kadero mound, and study of the human remains found in the graves.*

[1)] The field party comprised Prof. Lech Krzyżaniak, Dr. Karla Kroeper, Prof. Michał Kobusiewicz, Mr. Przemysław Bobrowski, Mr. Maciej Jórdeczka, archaeologists; Prof. Dr. Maria Kaczmarek, physical anthropologist; Prof. Wojciech Stankowski, geologist; Dr. Lucyna Kubiak-Martens, botanist. The National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums was represented at the site by Mrs. Amal Awad Mokhtar.

[2)] L. Krzyżaniak, *PAM IX, Reports 1997* (1998), 154-157 (also earlier references); L. Krzyżaniak, A Rich Neolithic Burial from Kadero (Sudan), in: F-R Herrmann (ed.), Festschrift fur Gunter Smolla, Materialien zur Vor- und Fruhgeschichte von Hessen 8 (Wiesbaden 1999), vol. II, 399-404.

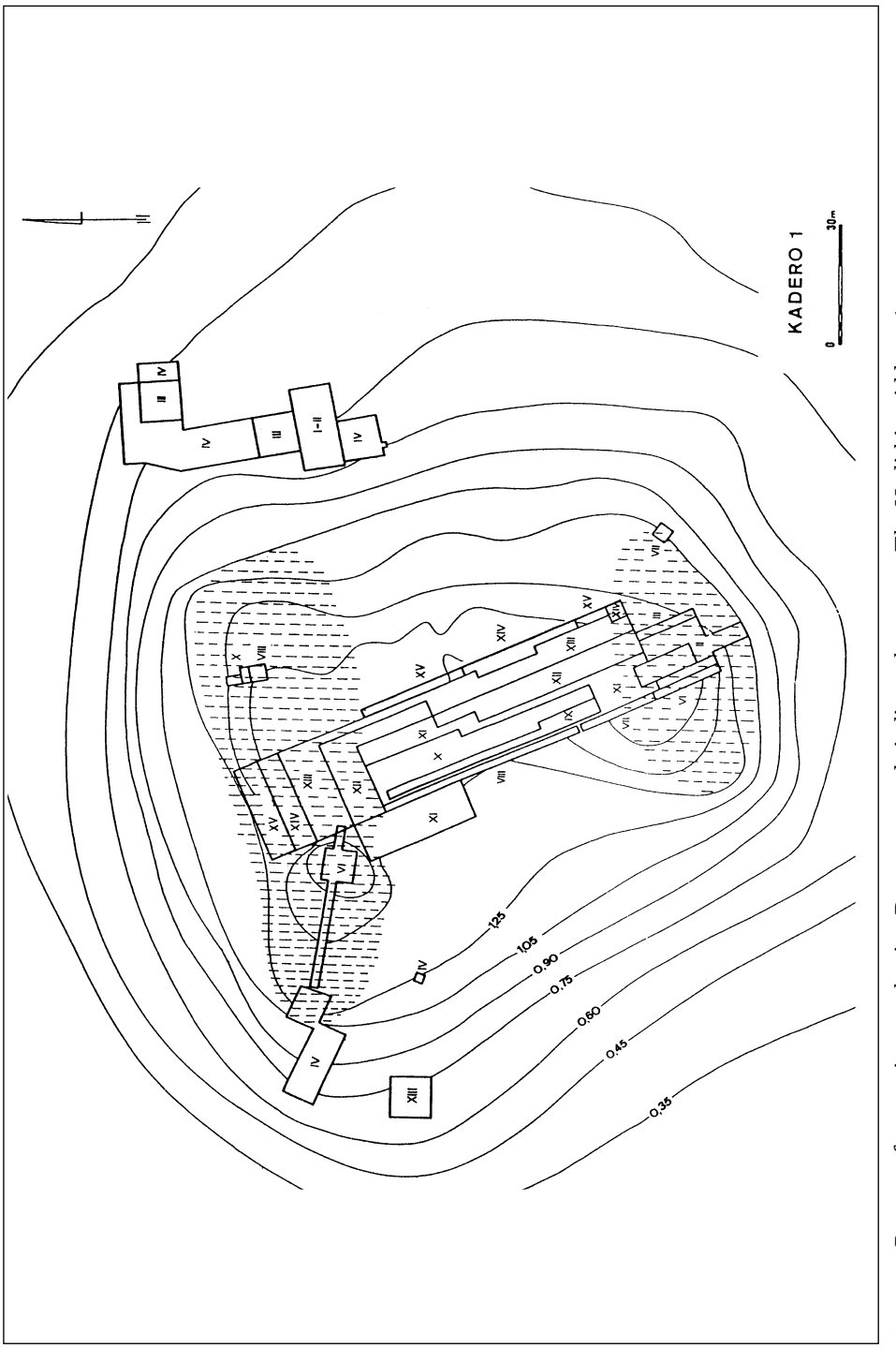

Fig. 1. Progress of excavations on the site. Roman numerals indicate the seasons. The Neolithic midden - 1 (Drawing J. Kądelska)

EXCAVATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

At the site of the Neolithic cemetery, the trench of the previous seasons was enlarged in a series of 17 squares (each 2 x 2 m) traced across the hill following a NNW-SSE axis (squares nos. 899-902 and 913-925) and 36 squares at the NNW end of this trench (squares nos. 639-674). The total excavated site has now been considerably enlarged (*Fig. 1*). All these squares were excavated to a depth of 1.0-1.1m.

In the middens of the Neolithic settlement, the testing, carried out chiefly to obtain macro-botanical remains, comprised a series of 20 pits, each 1 x 1 m, excavated in the northern and southern middens. All the pits were excavated down to virgin soil, which was reached at 0.45 m. The botanist first examined the soil for observable floral remains, after which the soil was sieved to recover and record the non-botanical contents (potsherds, lithics and animal bones).

The total number of Neolithic burials found this season is 14. Twelve of these were found in the large trench excavated across the site, the remaining two were noted away from the trench, during a routine examination of the surface of the Kadero mound made each season.

Similarities with previously discovered Neolithic graves at Kadero are numerous. The skeletons were found in contracted position and the tomb equipment comprised pottery vessels (*Figs. 2 a, b*) and necklaces of carnelian beads. In some cases, it was possible to trace the grave pit. In most instances the age and sex of the deceased was determined.

Studies of the geology and geomorphology of the Kadero mound were initiated with several dozen borings being made along two lines following the N-S and E-W axes of the site. In effect, some 180 samples of the soil were collected.

The respective samples – geological, botanical, zoological (animal remains from the settlement middens) and human (teeth) – are now undergoing specialized laboratory research.

SITE PROTECTION

The author's experience with desert sites without architectural remains has led to the development of a method for their protection, which has been tested at Kadero for the past few seasons. The method requires a shallow rampart to be built around the site, marked with red-and-white painted posts of concrete, all bearing an inscription in Arabic informing about the presence of an archaeological site. The rampart-plus-posts have been found to create a physical and psychological barrier sufficiently big to keep away lorry drivers, gravel diggers, road and canal builders and the like. This year the rampart was deepened and the posts painted again.

Acting on instructions from the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museum, the expedition prepared a similar rampart around the nearby site of Kadero 2.

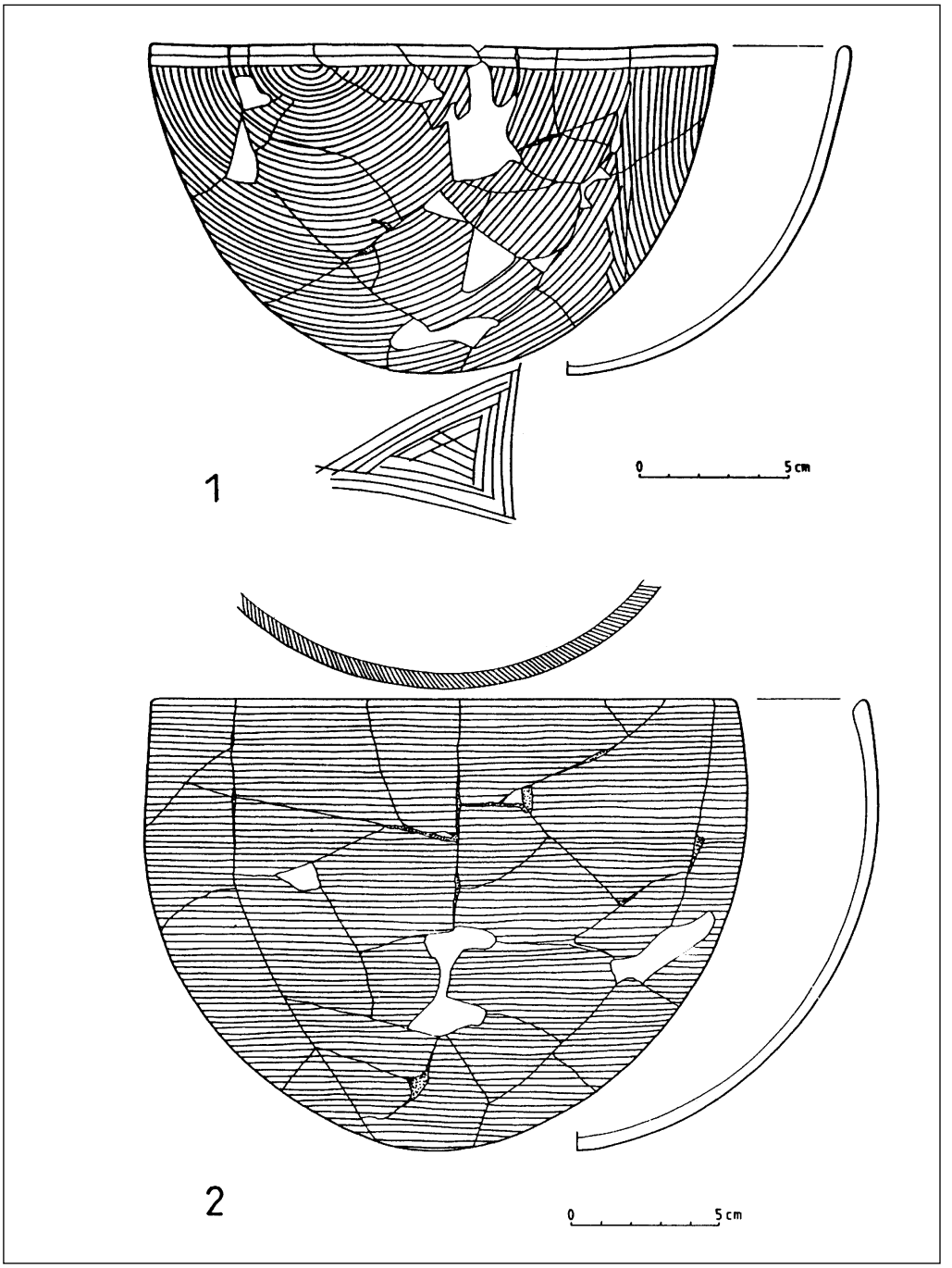

Fig. 2. Pottery vessels from grave no. 227 (1) and no. 195 (2) (Drawing J. Kędelska)