



# SCA/EES Delta Survey Workshop 31 March - 1 April 2011 Programme



## Thursday 31 March

08.00	<i>Registration</i>	
08.25	Welcome	
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Chaired by Manfred Bietak</b>	
08.30	Mohammed Abdel Maksoud	Excavation at Tell Hebua II, III
09.00	Jeffrey Spencer	The British Museum's Dafana and Naukratis Projects
09.30	Sayed Abd el-Aleem and Mustafa Nour el-Din	Tell Dafana
10.00	Discussion	
10.30	Tea/coffee	
11.00	Robert Schiestl	Regional Survey in the Governorate of Kafr esh-Shaikh; aims, first results and plans
11.30	Mohamed Kenawi	The Western Delta between Past and Future
12.00	Pascale Ballet	Late Buto: the evolution of the city from the Early Hellenistic Period to Islamic times
12.30	Discussion	
13.00	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>	
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Chaired by Penny Wilson</b>	
14.00	Ahmed Gabr Nour el-Din	Tell Atrib
14.30	Joanne Rowland	EES Fieldwork at Quesna and throughout Minufiyeh Province. March 2009-September 2010
15.00	Fathy el-Talhawy	Tell Tablh
15.30	<i>Tea/coffee</i>	
16.00	Aiman Ashmawy Ali	Recent excavations at Tell el-Yahudia
16.30	Emad Khalil	The Lake Mareotis Research Project
17.00	Mohammed Mostafa Abd el-Maguib	Maamourah Surveys: preliminary report
17.30	Discussion	

**Friday 1 April**

<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Chaired by Jeffrey Spencer</b>	
08.30	Penny Wilson	Settlements in the Delta: Dynamics and Indolence
09.00	Tomasz Herbich	Geophysical Survey of Tell el-Farama (Pelusium), northern Sinai
09.30	Hisham Mohamed Abd el-Moamen	Tell Abu -Yasseen Excavations
10.00	Fekri Hassan	Excavations in the Kafr Hassan Dawood Archives and the new SCA/UW/EES Wadi Tumilat Project
10.30	Tea/coffee	
11.00	Manfred Bietak	Horemheb's Activities in the eastern Nile Delta; the planning of a Delta Residence?
11.30	Irene Förstner-Muller	The landscape of Avaris: new results
12.00	Manuela Lehmann	Current Research in Tell el-Da'ba: the Late Period
12.30	Discussion	
13.00	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>	
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Chaired by Joanne Rowland</b>	
14.00	Eva Lange	Recent excavations at Tell Basta/Bubastis
14.30	Ahmed Saeed el-Kharadly	Tell Faraoun - Imet
15.00	Patricia Spencer	Tell el-Balamun - not 'a very minor town and temple'
15.30	<i>Tea/coffee</i>	
16.00	Selim Gabr Baghdady	The Proto-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Necropolises of Minshaa't Ezzat, Tell el-Samara and Tell el-Dabaa 'El-Kanan'
16.30	Marek Chłodnicki and Krzysztof Ciałowicz	Tell el-Farkha - recent discoveries (2009-2011)
17.00	Mariusz Jucha	Polish excavations at Tell el-Murra - a Predynastic-Old Kingdom site in the North-Eastern Nile Delta
17.30	Discussion	



# SCA/EES Delta Survey Workshop SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS



## Session 1

### **Mohammed Abdel Maksoud**

#### **Excavation at Tell Hebua II, III**

Dr Maksoud has, since the 1980s, directed the Supreme Council of Antiquities excavations at Tell Hebua and its environs in north-west Sinai, uncovering diverse evidence on the nature of the occupation from the Second Intermediate Period through New Kingdom. His work has demonstrated that Tell Hebua is to be equated with Tjaru of the 17th-20th Dynasties, a massive Egyptian fortification guarding the East Delta and the military 'Way of Horus' across North Sinai. This talk will focus on the most recent excavations of the SCA at Tell Hebua II and III.

### **Jeffrey Spencer**

#### **The British Museum's Dafana and Naukratis Projects**

In 2008 the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan in the British Museum began a project to investigate Greek-Egyptian interaction in the Nile Delta through a re-examination of the work of Flinders Petrie for the EES at Tell Defenneh in 1885-6. The project is closely related to a similar one exploring the same subject through the site of Naukratis, and operated by the Department of Greece and Rome. This presentation will describe the scope of these two projects and some of the revisions made to the conclusions reached by Petrie and other early investigators

### **Sayed Abd el-Aleem and Mustafa Nour el-Din**

#### **Tell Dafana**

Tell Dafana was a defensive outpost on the eastern edge of the Nile Delta which, at the beginning of the Saite Period, controlled the defunct Pelusaic branch of the Nile. It is located on the west bank of the Suez Canal barely 10km from Qantara West. The town was mentioned by Herodotus (II.30) and in other literary sources, and was first excavated in 1886 by the archaeologist W. F. Petrie. The current excavations of the SCA have revealed many architectural elements within a massive enclosure wall, 13m wide, a series of magazines which lie on both eastern and southern sides, a great temple located in the midst of the tell and other elements including store rooms, industrial areas and work shops. The excavations have revealed a huge number of pottery vessels as well as local and imported amphorae, jars, lids and other worked stone which reflected the large-scale trade activity between ancient Egypt, Greece and the Near East.

## **Robert Schiestl**

### **Regional Survey in the Governorate of Kafr esh-Shaikh: Aims, First Results and Plans**

In 2010 the German Archaeological Institute Cairo launched a new survey in the Western/Central Nile Delta, in the governorate of Kafr esh-Shaikh. The survey covers an area of about 25 x 25 km around the site of Buto (Tell el-Farain) and its main aims are to understand better settlement history and changes in the natural landscape in this region throughout history. Two seasons of surface surveying and auger core drilling were completed in 2010 and the preliminary results will be presented here: North and north-east of Buto a range of very large and tall tells were investigated. According to preliminary dating of pottery the earliest site is of the Third Intermediate Period but most of the tells were founded in the Ptolemaic or Roman Periods. South and further east of Buto such large tells free of modern buildings are no longer in existence; however, numerous new sites have been located. Some sites are under modern towns and cemeteries and are thus somewhat preserved, as was confirmed by auger core drilling. Many sites, however, are only detectable by surface pottery in fields and have completely disappeared above and below ground. A preliminary understanding of the landscape in the Roman to Byzantine Periods has also been gained.

## **Mohamed Kenawi**

### **The Western Delta between Past and Future**

The survey project in the Western Delta of Egypt, started at the end of 2007, has documented 66 archaeological sites. The state of preservation of the majority of the sites shows the danger of daily local agricultural activities and past records of some sites show how these activities disturbed the ancient ruins. The future does not seem promising for the salvation of what remained and documentation projects are our only method for preserving some of the Egyptian heritage which will be lost forever.

## **Pascale Ballet**

### **Late Buto: the evolution of the city from the Early Hellenistic Period to Islamic times**

In 2001 the University of Poitiers (HeRMA) started a project, within the German Archaeological Institute concession, on the late phases of occupation in Buto/Tell el-Fara'in. The first part of the programme (2001-06) investigated the Graeco-Roman pottery workshops, especially in the north part of the settlement, after topographical prospection revealed anomalies which corresponded to firing structures (kilns), some of which were later excavated. From 2007 to 2010, the main purpose was to continue exploration by fieldwalking and excavations, and to extend research to the southern part of Buto. This revealed occupation of the Late Roman and Byzantine Periods, a large depression with many chalk fragments related to lime-production, early Ptolemaic occupation and a Ptolemaic residential neighbourhood later occupied by Roman Period pottery workshops. From 2008 to 2010, the expedition has studied the bath complex in the north-east of the kom. The final aim is to study the different phases of occupation from the Ptolemaic Period to the last phases of the Islamic Period settlement. The fieldwork is carried out with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology of Cairo.

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## Session 2

### Ahmed Gabr Nour el-Din

#### Tell Atrib

This site is located just to the northeast of the modern town of Benha on the Damietta branch of the Nile, about 48 miles north of Cairo. It is the site of ancient Hut-hery-ib, called Athribis by the Greeks. Today, it is called Kom Sidi Youssuf. It was the capital of this nome (10th), and the city's history dates back into the Old Kingdom. A number of kings built here, including Amenhotep III, who's northern-most building project was a temple in the city. It is now completely gone, but the remains of a number of temples have been located. Several of these date to the Graeco-Roman Period, while one dates to the reign of the Late Period King Amasis. Unfortunately, the ruins are too destroyed to even allow full reconstruction. Most of the minor monuments found here can be dated to the 25th through 30th Dynasties, with none being earlier than the 12th Dynasty. Some 26th to 30th Dynasties' silver ingots and jewelry that were found at Athribis are now in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

### Joanne Rowland

#### Fieldwork at Quesna and throughout Minufiyeh Province – March 2009-September 2010

Since the 2009 meeting of the Delta Survey Workshop, substantial evidence has been forthcoming in respect of the earliest periods of Egyptian history and prehistory within Minufiyeh province, in addition to the later periods of history both at Quesna and Kom el-Ahmar, Minuf. Along the western edge of the Delta, in the vicinity of Khatatbah, a number of findspots have yielded important information relating to human presence from the Middle Palaeolithic until the Predynastic Periods – largely ascertained through lithics. In addition, at the site of Quesna, most commonly known for the cemetery and falcon necropolis dating to the Late Period, Ptolemaic Period and Roman times, the first evidence for the Old Kingdom use of the site was located in spring 2010 as a result of both surface survey and geophysical survey: a mud-brick mastaba tomb with associated ceramics of the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. Fieldwork at Quesna included further investigations into the northernmost extent of the Ptolemaic/Roman cemetery and the initiation of a Ground Penetrating Radar survey, which proved highly successful in detecting mud-brick to a depth of 5m in the vicinity of the mausoleum and in the falcon necropolis.

## **Fathy El-Talhawy**

### **Tell Tablh**

This tell is known by several names: Belah, Tablah, Balah and Tell Teblah as well as Deblah and Tell Deblah. It is 12km north of Mendes and rises above the cultivated lands c.6 m. and c.8m asl, covering an area of c.22 feddans. There are limestone and red granite blocks scattered on the surface, some inscribed with hieroglyphs. The remains of a temple pylon, door jambs, a naos, parts of the bases and capitals of columns, mortars, a sewage canal, pavement tiles, some coffins and coffin lids have been excavated. The site was an important city known as Ro-Nefer located on the Mendisian branch of the River Nile. Artefacts found date to the Old Kingdom, New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period through to the Late and Graeco-Roman Periods. There is mention on a 26th Dynasty statue of a temple erected in the city consecrated to Osiris. Excavations in the site focused on 3 feddans located in the south-west corner of the tell where 14 mastabas of mud brick, each containing a few rooms, housed mass burials wrapped in linen shrouds. They were excavated in two levels. Also in this south west corner of the site the city temple enclosure wall of mud bricks was excavated. Work in the south-east side of the site aimed to clarify the nature of human activities beneath mastabas that had been exposed by previous excavations. A third level has been unearthed, directly beneath the second level of the mastabas, consisting of a vaulted room, with two burials. On one of them are the remains of blue and red paints and there are bronze inlaid eyes on one of the skulls.

## **Aiman Ashmawy Ali**

### **Recent excavations at Tell el-Yahudia**

Tell El-Yahudia (ancient Egyptian *Nay-ta-hut*) Greek Leontopolis is situated about 2km south east of Shibin El-Kanater and 19km north of Heliopolis. The site is a high tell on the edge of the desert, owned by the SCA. It measures about 71 feddan, and is cut in two by the road of Shibin el-Kanater via Abu-Za'bel. The southern part is called the 'great tell' (el-tell el-kebir) and contains the Hyksos camp, the remains of the temple of Ramesses III and the temple of Onias. The other part extends north east of the great tell and is known as the 'small tell' (el-tell el-soghier). Its most important feature is the Graeco-Roman rock cut tombs in its southern part and the Hyksos and Late Period cemetery in the gezira to the north. The SCA excavation in 2010-11 shed more light on the history and archaeology of the tell. Work was concentrated in the 'small tell' where more rock cut tombs were discovered as well as Hyksos, New Kingdom, and Late Period tombs in the gezira, but the most important result is the discovery of several donkey burials in the cemetery beside evidence of a Middle Kingdom cemetery.

**Emad Khalil, Lucy Blue, Sameh Ramses, Julian Whitewright and Ross Thomas**

**The Lake Mareotis Research Project**

This paper highlights the results of over five seasons of work around the shores of the western arm of Lake Mareotis, Alexandria between the years 2004 and 2008. The first stage of this work has now come to an end and the results will be published shortly. The Lake Mareotis Research Project has, for the first time, systematically identified, investigated and surveyed comprehensively and inclusively all extant remains of over 70 sites along the western Mareotic Arm of Lake Mareotis covering an area of approximately 40km east-west by 3km wide from Sidi Kerir to El-Hammam, equating to 350 hectares of topographic data. The sites recorded date from the Hellenistic period through to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and vary extensively in nature, size and function. Collectively, their number, variety of function and scale, all serve to demonstrate the importance of this area particularly in relation to Alexandria and the mechanisms by which Mareotic products were produced and transported to the city. This paper will summarise these results and highlight a few key points concerning the significance of the research.

**Mohammed Mostafa Abd el-Maguid**

**Maamourah Surveys: Preliminary rapport**

After some short-time surveys and several successful joint venture campaigns with foreign missions in Egypt's territorial waters, the Department for Underwater Antiquities have chosen the Maamourah site as its first exclusive domain to carry out a comprehensive survey and excavation. This site is well known to both the fishermen and those who dive for sport and direct contacts with fishermen and divers has enabled us to collect more data about the site before starting the survey. Moreover, the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria received some artefacts fished from the site in 1988. In this paper, the methods and results of three surveys conducted under the water of the western side of the Maamourah gulf will be discussed.

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## Session 3

### Penny Wilson

#### **Settlements in the Delta: Dynamics and Indolence**

The work at Sais and the Delta Survey has demonstrated several truisms about Egyptian Delta settlements. For example, settlements are founded on high ground which builds up at the same rate as the floodplain or faster, that they are often multi-centred, subject to the vagaries of more than one Nile channel, that the centre of settlement focus moved around through time and that they are difficult to excavate. There are also several other themes highlighting more deep seated and phenomenological aspects of settlements: the nature of twin settlements, especially those on either side of river channels effectively collaboratively controlling the passage of traffic on the waterway, the importance of contact with the past through recycling of objects and finds of residual material in decayed settlements and the nature of communication networks throughout the delta in both a practical and psychological sense. Furthermore, it may be possible to discuss the vexed question of population density at certain periods. This paper will investigate some of these aspects with reference to the excavations at Sais and work of the Delta Survey project of the EES.

### Tomasz Herbich

#### **Geophysical survey of Tell el-Farama (Pelusium), Northern Sinai.**

Excavations in Tell el-Farama (ancient Pelusium, established at the mouth of the now extinct Pelusiac branch of the Nile) has uncovered no more than 2% of the area of the ancient town: the building of a bath, the foundations of a theater and a church, plus fragments of houses. The site was not inhabited again until modern times and is for the most part flat due to erosional processes. The ruins are found immediately below the ground surface. Red brick, which is strongly magnetic, was the principal building material. The substrate is alluvial in nature, humid and salty due to the nearness of the sea; it is therefore an excellent electrical conductor. These factors make Tell el-Farama a perfect site for geophysical research, whether by the magnetic or electrical resistance methods. In 2005, the Polish concession between the northern side of the theater and the northern town limits became the site of geophysical research and the results of the prospection have permitted a reliable reconstruction of large sections of the town plan. The research is part of a broader study programme aimed at reconstructing urban layouts in the Nile Delta based partly on the results of geophysical prospection.

## **Hisham Mohamed Abdel Moamen**

### **Tell Abu -Yasseen Excavations**

Tell Abu Yasseen is a sandy tell located 3km south of Horbiet and 20km north-east of Zagaziq. It was the cemetery of the Eleventh Nome of the Delta. A cemetery of bulls and huge granite coffins were unearthed in the tell, a part of which was also used as a cemetery for mummified hawks buried inside coffins. The rest of the tell has human burials dated to the Saite to Ptolemaic Periods. The recent SCA excavations in the site took place from 31/2/2003 to 30/3/2003, after the discovery of two limestone coffins inside one of the houses.

## **Fekri A Hassan, Geoffrey J Tassie, K. Saad, and Joris van Wetering**

### **Excavations in the Kafr Hassan Dawood Archives and the new SCA/UW/EES Wadi Tumilat Project**

Kafr Hassan Dawood is located on a low terrace adjacent to the southern edge of the western Wadi Tumilat and is the largest cemetery so far excavated in the East Delta, containing 1,069 graves dating from the Protodynastic to Ptolemaic Periods. Excavations were carried out from 1989 to 1995 by the local SCA inspectorate (Mohammed Ilewa el-Moslamy, assisted by Mohammed Salem al-Hangouri) and from 1995 until 1999 by an SCA/UCL mission directed by Prof Fekri A. Hassan. Although Mr al-Hangouri was researching the site archive by for his MA dissertation much of the original documentation from the 1989-1995 excavations were presented to Prof. Hassan. After translation into English and digitization of all the plans and artefact drawings it became apparent that this archive was incomplete. The sad death of Mr al-Hangouri in January 2006 made the gathering of all the data more difficult but, with the help of both central and local SCA personnel, the vast majority of the data pertaining to the site was gathered together by June 2009 and analysis is allowing a full investigation and re-dating of the site. This paper will present the initial results of this research which has led to a new research project to resume investigation of KHD and research the early history of the Wadi Tumilat. Running concurrently will be the EES-sponsored survey of Early Bronze Age sites in the Wadi Tumilat to try and establish the settlement framework for the Egyptian-Levantine interaction sphere.

## **Manfred Bietak**

### **Horemheb's activities in the eastern Nile Delta: The Planning of a Delta Residence?**

After Amenhotep II we have a gap of occupation in the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty installations connected most probably with the naval station of Peru-nefer with its harbour. No explanation has thus far been found for this gap. There are traces of re-occupation during Amenhotep III, but a full re-occupation of the site with an enormous fortress can be recognized from the evidence of excavations at Tell el-Dab'a under Horemheb. At the same time also the temple of Seth was rebuilt at this site after it may have been ruined during the Amarna Period. It seems that also the system of fortresses at the beginning of the Horus road was begun under this important monarch of non royal origin. The geopolitical situation in the Near East where the Hittites have installed themselves as formidable adversaries of Egypt may have been the reasons for concentrating military and political power in the Eastern Delta.

## **Irene Forstner-Müller**

### **The landscape of Avaris: new results**

This paper is in two parts. The first part will present results of the geophysical survey at Tell el-Dab'a (Avaris) where an extensive remote sensing project at (magnetic survey in cooperation with Christian Schweitzer and Tomasz Herbich, Polish Academy of Sciences, and resistivity survey in cooperation with Tomasz Herbich, Polish Academy of Sciences) was continued. The focus of last season's activity was in the southern part of the town. There a suburban quarter consisting of several buildings, streets and possibly tombs was discovered. The second part of the talk will discuss recent excavation in the area to the east of the modern village of 'Ezbet Rushdi (R/III) which was badly threatened by modern agricultural activity. Salvage excavations were conducted in autumn 2010. The uppermost stratum dates from the very late Second Intermediate Period and contains several units, separated from each other by streets, with courtyards, silos and ovens. As well as a large amount of pottery, many sealing impressions were found in this area.

## **Manuela Lehmann**

### **Current Research in Tell el-Dab'a: The Late Period**

The site of the ancient city Avaris, Tell el-Dab'a, is nowadays famous for its remains of the Hyksos Period and the New Kingdom. Research of the last decades at Tell el-Dab'a focused on the palaces, settlement, temples and cemeteries of those periods. However, the existence of a widely extended settlement of the Late Period, which first came to light during excavations in the 1960s, remained almost unknown in Egyptology. The lecture will give an overview about the results of the new excavation basing on former investigations of the Tell el-Dab'a Project in the areas concerning the Late Period. Questions concerning the character and arrangement of the Late Period settlement, its architecture, pottery and the finds will be discussed. Given the lack of knowledge about settlements of the Late Period, especially in the Delta, the excavations at Tell el-Dab'a will add essential information to this long neglected topic.

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## Session 4

### **Eva Lange**

#### **Recent Excavations at Tell Basta/Bubastis**

As one of the major sites in the Nile Delta, the ancient city of Bubastis/Tell Basta is renowned for its temple of the goddess Bastet and its notorious religious festivals. As a result earlier excavations and studies focused on the temple, leaving the vast settlement area unexplored. However, the site of Tell Basta offers a very promising starting point for a contextual approach to the temple and its topographical and archaeological environment, understanding the temple not as an isolated entity but as a substantial part of the city. Moreover, it opens the possibility to study the close relation between the evolution of the city at the moment of its transformation from a major settlement to a royal residence and the associated rising importance of the goddess Bastet and her temple. Therefore, in the last three years, the Tell Basta-Project started archaeological and geophysical investigations of the Area in close vicinity to the temple (the sacred area) and of the area of the ancient city of Bubastis. The lecture will present the results of those efforts as well as the future intentions of the Tell Basta Project.

### **Ahmed Saeed Ibrahim El-Kharadly**

#### **Tell Faraon – Imet**

Tell Faraon is one of the major archaeological sites in the eastern Nile Delta within the district of El-Husaniya in El-Sharkeya province, about 10–12 kms north–east of the area of Qantir and Tell El-Daba. It is located on a gezira originally bordered on the north-west by the former Pelusiac Nile branch. The site acquired its name from the great monolithic shrine called Tagget Faraon (or niche of pharaoh) or Ras Faraon (or head of pharaoh). It was also known as Tell Bedawi, after a bedouin settlement and it was marked as such on an English Ministry of Defence map. The site is also called Tell Nebesheh, after the bedouin Sheikh Nebesheh, who lived there in 1900, The mound originally covered about 1 square km but is now much smaller. Its ancient name was Imet and it was the capital of the Nineteenth Nome in Lower Egypt, and also known as “the eastern Buto”. Many gods were worshipped there such as Horus, Bes and Min, but the main divinity was Wadjet. This archaeological site existed already during the Early Dynastic Period and was used as cemetery at this time. Petrie discovered a series of mud brick tombs which he termed “Cypriote”, which can be dated to the late New Kingdom and early Third Intermediate Period.

## **Patricia Spencer**

### **Tell el-Balamun - not 'a very minor town and temple'**

In 1973 Professor Kenneth Kitchen (THIP, p.427, n.20) described Tell el-Balamun as 'a very minor town and temple in the northernmost backwaters of the Delta'. Given the state of knowledge of the site almost 40 years ago, this description is not surprising, as there had then been very little excavation at Balamun. The British Museum's fieldwork at the site, which started in 1991, has recently drawn to a close with a final season in 2010. This enabled the completion, by Tomasz Herbich and his colleagues, of the magnetic map (started in 2005) of the temple enclosure, and limited excavation of specific features revealed by the scanning. The paper will describe the results of the final season of work and summarise what we now know of the town and temples of Tell el-Balamun.

## **Selim Gabr Baghdady**

### **The Proto-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Necropolises of Minshaa't Ezzat, Tell el-Samara and Tell el-Dabaa 'El-Kanan'.**

El-Dakahlia province in the Northeast Delta includes many important late Predynastic and Early-Dynastic necropolises such as Minshaa't Ezzat, Tell el-Samara and Tell El-Dabaa, all of which have been excavated by the Mansura Inspectorate of the SCA. Minshaa't Ezzat was not known to be an antiquities site until 1997 and excavation from 1998 to 2004 revealed around 135 graves, many with slate palettes and one containing the fine knife with the serekh of King Den on the handle. The site also has extensive evidence of early settlements. Tell el-Samara (excavated between 1998 and 2002) has 85 graves of the Early Dynastic Period, built of mud and also containing many artifacts. Tell el-Dabaa 'El Kanan' was excavated by the SCA between 1989 and 1998 and has 100 Proto-Dynastic and 110 Early Dynastic graves as well as 40 poor burials of the Graeco-Roman Period. This paper will compare the cemeteries and report on the antiquities found.

## **Marek Chłodniki and Krzysztof Ciałowicz**

### **Tell el-Farkha – recent discoveries (2009-11)**

Between 2009 and 2011 all three koms of Tell el-Farkha were excavated. Excavation continued on the Western Kom beneath the Early Dynastic chapel discovered earlier with votive deposits. A building complex of rooms around an empty space, probably an internal courtyard, was unearthed. These rooms had clearly formed a part of the large administrative and cult complex excavated in 2006-08. Structures of the so-called "Lower Egyptian residence" were explored on the Central Kom, uncovering remains of residential buildings made of organic materials and wooden structures serving as enclosures. In the western part of the excavation, remains of early mud brick structures linked to the Lower Egyptian culture and to the transition stage between it and Naqada were found. Work on the Eastern Kom focused on the cemetery where all the burials can be divided into three main groups. The first is composed of poor and badly preserved burials, probably related to the final settlement phase (beginning of the Old Kingdom). In the second group are average graves, containing less than four clay or stone pots (Dynasty 0 - 2<sup>nd</sup>). The third group has the richest graves lined with mud bricks or even constructed in a mastaba form with numerous offerings in their interior (Dynasty 0 - 1<sup>st</sup>).

## **Mariusz A Jucha**

### **Polish Excavation at Tell el-Murra: the Predynastic - Old Kingdom site in the north-eastern Nile Delta.**

The site of Tell el-Murra is situated in the north-eastern part of the Nile Delta (Sharqiyyah Governorate) only a few kilometers east of Tell el-Farkha, and to the west of Tell el-Iswid. It has been investigated by the Polish Archaeological Expedition since 2008. The tell is almost undisturbed (only fragments were leveled by field activity) and it still rises c 3m - 4m above the field level. The remains of mud-brick structures were revealed in trenches located in the north-eastern and south-western part of the site. The pottery from the former were dated to the Old Kingdom (until the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty) while the latter comprises forms well-known from other sites of Naqada III Period. The occurrence of potsherds dated to the Protodynastic, Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom Periods points at the fact that the latest occupation should be dated to the latter. Moreover, some older occupation layers of the Predynastic Period should be expected below the strata explored until now. It seems to be further confirmed by the occurrence of a potsherd decorated with a zig-zag pattern, which is quite characteristic of the Predynastic – Lower Egyptian Culture. Beside the excavation at Tell el-Murra several sites situated around it were also visited.

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