

THE LECH KRZYŻANIAK EXCAVATIONS IN THE SUDAN

KADERO

POZNAŃ ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Poznań Archaeological Museum

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Preface

MAREK CHŁODNICKI, MICHAŁ KOBUSIEWICZ,
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The first steps of Lech Krzyżaniak in the Sudan were taken at Old Dongola, where in 1966 he joined a team of Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski excavating the capital of Nobadia and Makuria. Whilst involved in this project, and spurred on by his interest in Prehistory, he also embarked on an archaeological reconnaissance of the surrounding desert resulting in the first ever report on the Stone Age of this region (Krzyżaniak 1968; Jakobielski, Krzyżaniak 1973; Kobusiewicz, Krzyżaniak 1975).

One of his greatest achievements was the work carried out at the Neolithic settlement and cemetery in Kadero. Over thirty years of excavations at this site brought to light a wealth of invaluable information about the early farming societies of North-Eastern Africa. Lech Krzyżaniak supported numerous initiatives and promoted archaeological work in the Sudan. In recognition of his contributions to the study of Sudan's archaeology he was decorated with the Sudanese "Order of Two Niles".

The research in Kadero initiated in 1972 continued until 2003. The Project was continuously sponsored by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, Warsaw University in collaboration with the Poznań Archaeological Museum. The work in Kadero included training for an international body of students from Poland, Norway, Germany, USA and France. Sudanese students

from the Khartoum University also participated in the on site training. In the same way the archaeological team was composed of experts from different countries.

Lech Krzyżaniak was working on the final publication of the Kadero site at the time of his premature death and although it is not possible to reproduce all information which was only available to Lech Krzyżaniak himself, nevertheless in order to prevent the loss of the enormous output of the Kadero expedition, the collaborators and students of Lech Krzyżaniak decided to finish his work and to prepare this monograph of the site on the 70th anniversary of his birth.

The aim of the publication is to present all finds obtained during the over thirty years long lasting investigations. Some chapters were written many years ago, the others were prepared currently to fill the gaps and to make the study as complete as possible. A text prepared by Lech Krzyżaniak himself is also inserted to this volume.

The materials presented here will be the starting point for far reaching research concerning the beginning of the Neolithic in Central Sudan. The publication of the Kadero monograph with all the various contributors and authors also stresses the importance of the the long lasting multidisciplinary research at this site