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# Archaeologia Polona

## vol. 58: 2020

**Special theme:**  
**PREHISTORY OF NORTH-EAST AFRICA**  
**Volume dedicated to Prof. Michał Kobusiewicz**  
**on his 80th birthday**

# Archaeologia Polona

Volume 58 : 2020

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- Editorial office:** INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
00-140 Warsaw; Al. Solidarności 105  
Tel. (4822) 6202881 ext. 154; Fax. (4822) 624 01 00  
E-mail: [archaeologiapolona@iaepan.edu.pl](mailto:archaeologiapolona@iaepan.edu.pl)  
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## Editorial

The current, 58th volume of *Archaeologia Polona* with the special theme – *The Prehistory of North-East Africa* is devoted to Professor Michał Kobusiewicz on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his birth. Being aware of Michał's many significant research achievements, we would like through this collection of contributions to especially honour the African chapter of his scientific life. Although he has been engaged in activities in several African countries, over most of this period, his main areas of research were Egypt and Sudan. The Polish contribution to research on the prehistory of NE Africa has a long tradition. This goes back at least to the launch and initial projects of the Combined Prehistoric Expedition (CPE) in Egyptian and Sudanese Nubia in the early 1960s (Wendorf 1965). Michał Kobusiewicz was part of the first wave of Polish prehistorians contributing to the work of the CPE, joining the expedition in 1967. Since then, he has taken part in several dozen African missions resulting in abundant publications greatly increasing knowledge about the past of NE Africa. We may for example mention the articles in *Science* (Wendorf *et al.*, 1976; 1984) or the monograph *The Production, Use and Importance of Flint Tools in the Archaic Period and the Old Kingdom of Egypt* (Kobusiewicz 2015). A detailed account of the African activities and publications of Michał Kobusiewicz are given in the initial chapters of this volume, the first by Romuald Schild – *The African Chapter in the Scientific Life of Professor Michał Kobusiewicz* and the second, compiled by Przemysław Bobrowski – *African Research of Michał Kobusiewicz: Calendar and Bibliography*. Judging by this presentation of the geographical and chronological scope of interests and scientific results, it would perhaps not be an exaggeration to suggest that Michał Kobusiewicz, may justifiably be considered as one of the few individuals that could be considered as a colossus of African archaeology. Fred Wendorf, in his *Desert Days*, describing a field school for Egyptian inspectors writes that Michał was: “regarded as a great teacher and knew more about lithic typology than anyone in the camp, except possibly Schild” (Wendorf 2008: 272).

The papers in this volume honouring Michał Kobusiewicz have been written by his friends, colleagues, acquaintances and also by former students and present collaborators. All consider the archaeology of NE Africa with the same broad chronological and thematic scope as the interests of Professor Kobusiewicz.

The first four papers consider the oldest episodes of hominin presence in NE Africa. Mirosław Masojć and colleagues in their paper *Acheulean Bifaces from Khor Shambat, Omdurman (Sudan), Comparative Studies in the Nubian Context* discuss a recently discovered Palaeolithic assemblage from Omdurman and its statistical comparison with

several other Acheulean sites. The second paper, *The Middle Palaeolithic Assemblage with Bahari Technique from Site 21b in Deir el-Bahari (Western Thebes), Upper Egypt* by Barbara Drobiewicz and Bolesław Ginter presents interesting knapping technique observed in the Egyptian Palaeolithic assemblage from Deir el-Bahari. Marta Osypińska and colleagues focus on the *The PalaeoAffad Project and the Prehistory of the Middle Nile*. The last article in this group, by Donatella Usai, *The Qadan, the Jebel Sahaba Cemetery and the Lithic Collection*, reassesses the chronology and affiliation of the world-famous Sudanese cemetery with the oldest evidence of warfare.

The second group of contributions consider Mesolithic and Neolithic societies both from Egypt and Sudan in the form of a site reports, geophysical surveys and a synthetic papers. Lenka Varadinová and Ladislav Varadin report on *The First Notes on the Second Khartoum Mesolithic Cemetery at Jebel Sabaloka (Sudan)*. Another Mesolithic and Neolithic cemetery from Omdurman, Sudan is presented by Maciej Jórdeczka and colleagues in the next paper, *Neolithic Inhabitants of Khor Shambat I, Sudan*. The third paper in this group, *Comparison of Different Gouge Collections from Central Sudan* by Katarína Kapustka and Małgorzata Winiarska-Kabacińska, involves technological and functional analysis of Neolithic gouges from Sudanese collections. An important Neolithic sites in the Egyptian Desert is discussed by Jacek Kabaciński and a group of co-authors and by Przemysław Bobrowski and colleagues in the next two papers, *Towards Understanding the Late Neolithic of the Egyptian Western Desert: Gebel Ramlah, Site E-16-02* and *The Early Holocene Archaeological Evidence (Site E-05-1) in Bargat El-Shab (Western Desert Egypt)*. It must be said that geophysical surveys have been very rarely undertaken on prehistoric NE African sites, but one is reported by Fabian Welc and Przemysław Bobrowski from the area of Bargat El-Shab in the paper titled: *Results of Geophysical Survey in Bargat El-Shab in Southern Egypt. Insight into the Early Holocene Settlement Pattern of the El Nabta / Al Jerar Interphase*. The last paper in this group, *Recent Research on Neolithic and Predynastic Development in the Egyptian Nile Valley* by Agnieszka Mączyńska, is an important review of the recent results of studies concerning the origins of the Neolithic in Northeastern Africa.

The next group, of two papers, considers the later prehistory of the area. The first of them, *A few Remarks about Cosmetic Palettes from Tell el-Farkha* by Krzysztof Ciałowicz discusses an aspect of this important site in the Nile delta. The second paper, *Flints from the Road: on the Significance of two Enigmatic Stone Tools Found along the Darb el-Tawil* written by Heiko Riemer and Karin Kindermann, discusses the phenomenon of the interpretation of surface lithic finds and the issue of knapped stone artefacts being produced and used in the period after the Stone Age in Africa.

Rock art, one of the beloved subjects of Michał Kobusiewicz's research, is the theme of the fourth and last group of papers in this volume. Friederike Jesse presents her observations from the Sudanese site Zolat el Hammad in the paper titled: *Rock Art and Archaeology – a Short Visit to Zolat el Hammad, Northern Sudan* and Paweł Lech

Polkowski discusses rock art from Egyptian Dakhleh Oasis: *Animal Hill – a Large Prehistoric Rock Art Site CO178 in the Central Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt*.

We believe that the above listed contributions, in many cases based on or discussing the results of Michał Kobusiewicz's research, represent the range of his scientific involvement with Africa, and thus form a tribute to his work. These fifteen papers have been reviewed and improved by a group of international reviewers to whom we owe our gratitude. In alphabetical order the following reviewers were so kind to contribute to improving this volume: Mirosław Furmanek (Wrocław), Elena Garcea (Cassino), Maria Gatto (Leicester), Bolesław Ginter (Cracow), Tomasz Herbich (Warsaw), Karla Kroeper (Berlin), Alice Leplongeon (Leuven), Maria Kaczmarek (Poznan), Andrea Manzo (Naples), Arkadiusz Marciniak (Poznan), Henryk Paner (Gdansk), Tomasz Płonka (Wrocław), Włodzimierz Rączkowski (Poznan), Andrzej Rozwadowski (Poznan), Jiří Svoboda (Brno), Philip Van Peer (Leuven), András Zboray (Budapest).

Finally, the editors would like to express our wish that this volume will reach a broad audience. It was a pleasure to edit and work on the volume to honour the Professor whom we not only respect as a scientist but also admire a lot as a person. On behalf of all the contributors to this volume, the authors and the reviewers, we would like to wish Michał many more successes and achievements in his ongoing work in Africa!

*Przemysław Bobrowski  
Mirosław Masojć*

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*Photo: M. Jórdeczka*

Professor Michał Kobusiewicz at Meroe (Sudan, 2012)



# African Research of Michał Kobusiewicz: Calendar and Bibliography

Przemysław Bobrowski<sup>a</sup>

Abbreviations used in the text:

CPE Combined Prehistoric Expedition;

PCMA Center of Mediterranean Archaeology, Warsaw University;

DOP-PU Dakhleh Oasis Project – Petroglyph Unit;

IAE PAS Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology Polish Academy of Sciences.

**Table 1.** Calendar of African study visits of Michał Kobusiewicz.

Year (month)	Country	Site	Chronology / Period	Mission (project manager)
1967	Sudan	Debba, Khashm El Girba Area	Palaeolithic, Neolithic	CPE Joel L. Shiner
1969 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Fayum Area	Stone Age	CPE Northern Fayum Project Fred Wendorf
1970 Jul., Aug.	Lebanon	Nahr Ibrahim Cave	Palaeolithic	Columbia University Ralph Solecki
1973 Jan.	Egypt	Bir Sahara, Bir Tarfawi (Western Desert)	Palaeolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1974 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Bir Sahara, Bir Tarfawi (Western Desert)	Palaeolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1975 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Gebel Nabta (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Rubież Street 46, 61-612 Poznań, Poland; e-mail: przemyslawbobrowski@iaepan.poznan.pl; ORCID: 0000-0002-7537-1856



**Fig. 1.** Gebel Nabta, Egypt, Western Desert (1976). Michał Kobusiewicz with workers, Bedouins from the Maarif clan. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.

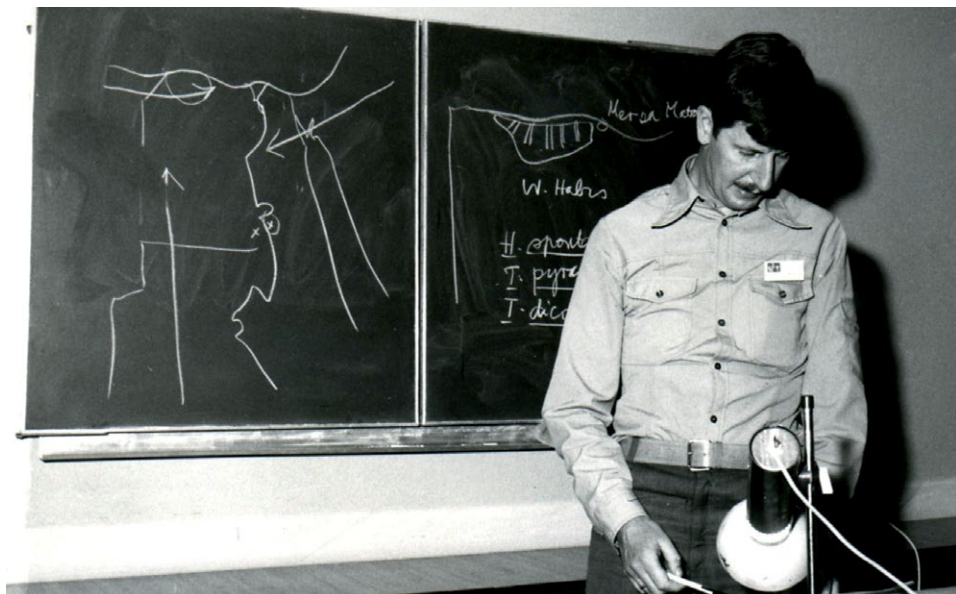


**Fig. 2.** Bir Sahara, Egypt, Western Desert (1974). Standing, from the left: Romuald Schild, Peter Jeschofnig, Michał Kobusiewicz, Rushdi Said (Director, Geological Survey of Egypt), Fred Wendorf, Mohammad el Hinnawi (Geological Survey of Egypt). Kneeling, from left: Achilles Gautier, Michael Wendorf and staff of the Geological Survey of Egypt. Photo: Vance Haynes (private collection of M. Kobusiewicz).

<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Chronology /Period</b>	<b>Mission (project manager)</b>
1977 Jan., Feb.	Egypt	Gebel Nabta (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1978	Egypt	Wadi Kubbaniya (Nile Valley)	Palaeolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1979 Jan.–Mar.	Egypt	Bir Kiseiba (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1980 Jan.–Mar.	Egypt	Bir Kiseiba (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1982 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Wadi Kubbaniya (Nile Valley)	Palaeolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1982 Dec.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
1982/1983	Sudan	Survey along Blue Nile (to Roseires); Sennar, Jebel Moya	Prehistory	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
1983 Jan., Feb.	Egypt	Wadi Kubbaniya (Nile Valley)	Palaeolithic	CPE Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1986 Jul.–Sep.	Egypt	Kom El-Hisn (West Delta)	Old Kingdom	University of Washington / American Research Center Robert Wenke
1987 Jan.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
1988 Apr.–Jun.	Egypt	Kom El-Hisn (West Delta)	Old Kingdom	University of Washington / American Research Center Robert Wenke
1988 Sep.–Nov.	Egypt	Minshat Abu Omar (East Delta)	Predynastic	National Museum of the Egyptian Art, Munich Dietrich Wiedung
1989 Feb., Mar.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
1991 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
1993 Nov.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak



**Fig. 3.** Kadero, Sudan (1987). Michał Kobusiewicz with Jacek Kabaciński during an experiment.  
Photo: L. Krzyżaniak.



**Fig. 4.** Dymaczewo near Poznan, Poland (1988). Michał Kobusiewicz presenting a paper  
at a conference. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.

<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Chronology /Period</b>	<b>Mission (project manager)</b>
1993 Dec.	Sudan	El Gadar	Stone Age	Royal Ontario Museum Canada Chris Grzymski
1993 Dec.	Sudan	Kasura	Stone Age	British Museum Derek Welsby
1994	Sudan	El Gaddar, Hambukol – Gebel Kobkabba (Old Dongola Area)	Palaeolithic	Royal Ontario Museum Canada Chris Grzymski
1996 Aug.–Nov.	Egypt	Sinai	Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age	CPE Central Sinai Salvage Project Fred Wendorf and Romuald Schild
1999 Aug., Sep.	Botswana	Study – survey Gabarone, Maun, Okavango Delta, Makadikadi, Palapie	Prehistory	IAE PAS
1999 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Conference of UISPP Commission – Khartoum, Naga	–	IAE PAS
2000 Jan.–Mar.	Egypt	Gebel Nabta (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Romuald Schild and Fred Wendorf
2000 Nov., Dec.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP–PU Lech Krzyżaniak
2001 Jan.–Mar.	Egypt	Gebel Ramlah (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Romuald Schild and Fred Wendorf
2001 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Kadero	Neolithic	PCMA Lech Krzyżaniak
2003 Jan., Feb.	Egypt	Gebel Ramlah (Western Desert)	Neolithic	CPE Romuald Schild and Fred Wendorf
2003 Mar.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP–PU Lech Krzyżaniak
2003 Nov.	Sudan	Survey on the IVth Nile Cataract and Bayuda Desert	Prehistory	PCMA/Poznan Archaeological Museum Lech Krzyżaniak
2004 Jul., Aug.	Tanzania	Loyangalani (Serengeti National Park)	Palaeolithic	Serengeti Foundation (US) John R. F. Bower



**Fig. 5.** SE Sudan near Abu Hugar. Survey along the banks of the Blue Nile. Photo: L. Krzyżaniak.



**Fig. 6.** Kom El-Hisn in the Western Delta, Egypt (1986). Bottom row from the left: Anthony Cegle, Janet Long, Robert Wenke, Karla Kroeper, Willma Wetterstrom, Lech Krzyżaniak. Upper row from the left: Inspector Samicha and Michał Kobusiewicz. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.



<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Chronology /Period</b>	<b>Mission (project manager)</b>
2005 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2005 Jul., Aug.	Tanzania	Serengeti National Park	Palaeolithic	Serengeti Foundation (US) John R. F. Bower
2006 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2006 Jun.	Egypt	Conference of Dakhleh Oasis Project – Cairo		PCMA/IAE PAS
2007 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2007 Sep.	Egypt	Conference “70 Years of Polish Archaeology in Egypt” – Cairo		PCMA
2008 Jan., Feb.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2008 Nov., Dec.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2009 Nov., Dec.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Ain El Gazzereen Siwa Oasis	Rock art, Archaic Old Kingdom, Prehistory	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2010 Feb., Mar.	Egypt	Study and Conservation Visit – Aswan (Nubian Museum)	Neolithic	CPE Foundation (US)
2010 Oct.	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo	Archaic Old Kingdom	IAE PAS
2010 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Bir Nurayet (Red Sea Hill)	Rock art, Prehistory	IAE PAS Bir Nurayet Project Przemysław Bobrowski
2011 Feb.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Siwa Oasis	Rock art, Prehistory	PCMA/DOP-PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2011 Mar.	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo	Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA



**Fig. 7.** Minshat Abu Omar, in the Eastern Delta, Egypt (1988). Michał Kobusiewicz during the excavation of a Predynastic grave. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.



**Fig. 8.** Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt (2000). Standing, from the left: Heiko Riemer, Karin Kindermann, a member of the German team, Eliza Jaroni, Michał Kobusiewicz. Sitting: Sofia, a student from Portugal and Ewa Kuciewicz. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.

<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Chronology /Period</b>	<b>Mission (project manager)</b>
2011 Mar., Apr.	Sudan	Conference – “Fifty Years of Cooperation between Sudan and Poland in the Field of Archaeology” – Khartoum		PCMA
2011 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Bir Nurayet Red Sea Hill	Rock art, Prehistory	IAE PAS Bir Nurayet Project Przemysław Bobrowski
2012 Feb.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis, Siwa Oasis	Rock art, Prehistory	PCMA/DOP–PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2012 Mar.	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo	Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA
2012 Nov., Dec.	Sudan	Bir Nurayet, Gebel Karaiweb (Red Sea Hill)	Rock art, Prehistory	IAE PAS Bir Nurayet Project Przemysław Bobrowski
2013 Feb.	Egypt	Dakhleh Oasis	Rock art, Prehistory	PCMA/DOP–PU Michał Kobusiewicz
2013 Mar.	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo	Archaic Old Kingdom	PCMA
2016 May	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo	Neolithic	IAE PAS Bargat El-Shab Project Michał Kobusiewicz and Przemysław Bobrowski
2017 Mar.	Egypt	Study Visit – Cairo, Aswan	Neolithic	IAE PAS Bargat El-Shab Project Michał Kobusiewicz and Przemysław Bobrowski
2018 Apr.	Egypt	Bargat El-Shab (Western Desert)	Neolithic	IAE PAS Bargat El-Shab Project Michał Kobusiewicz and Przemysław Bobrowski



**Fig. 9.** Atbara, Sudan (2003). Michał Kobusiewicz with his great friend Lech Krzyżaniak waiting to be taken across the Nile. Photo: M. Jórdeczka.



**Fig. 10.** Serengeti, Tanzania (2005). During an archaeological survey. From the left: Michał Kobusiewicz, Adax Mabulla and John R. F. Bower. Photo: M. Kobusiewicz, private collection.

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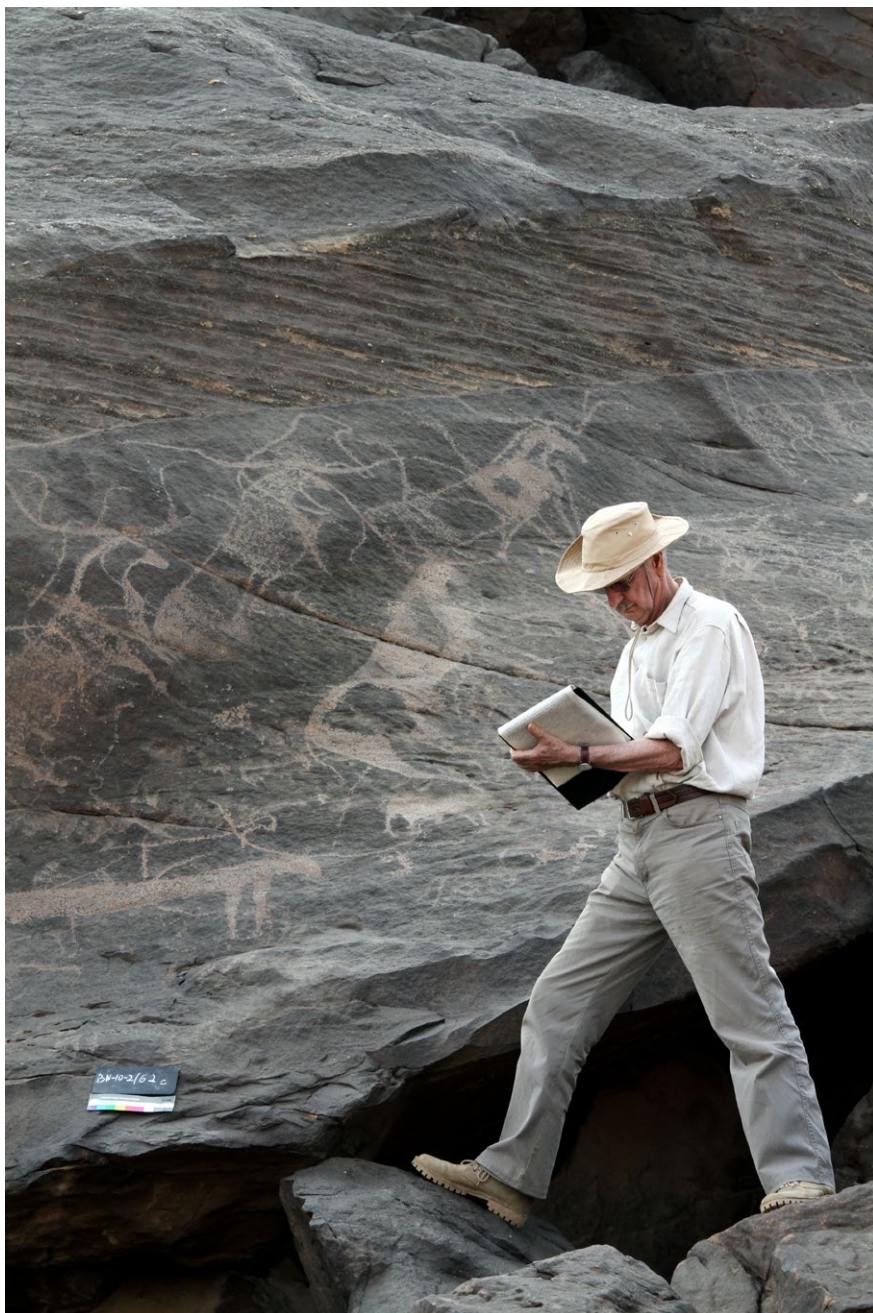
- A voice in the discussion connected with the paper by R. Schild and F. Wendorf, Wieloznacznosc ekologicznego uwarunkowania, wielkich zmian kulturowych. Dwa przykłady: Niż Europejski u schyłku epoki lodowej i Sahara w początkach holocenu. *Przegląd Antropologiczny* 44(1): 211–212.

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**Fig. 11.** Bir Nurayet in the mountains by the Red Sea (2010). Documentation of rock art.  
Photo: M. Jórdeczka.

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**Fig. 12.** Bir Nurayet in the mountains by the Red Sea (2011).  
In the lower row: from the left, NCAM Inspector Tayeb and Paweł Wiktorowicz.  
In the middle row: Michał Kobusiewicz, Marek Chłodnicki and Maciej Jórdeczka.  
Przemysław Bobrowski sitting on a stone. Photo: M. Jórdeczka (self-timer).



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**Fig. 13.** Aswan, Egypt (2012). Reconstruction of the megalithic “calendar” in the Nubian Museum. From the left: museum employee, Romuald Schild, Hebatallah A. A. Ibrahim and Michał Kobusiewicz. Photo: M. Jórdeczka.



**Fig. 14.** Naga, Sudan (2012). On the road to Bir Nurayet with sponsors of the mission. From the left: Michał Kobusiewicz, Maciej Korobacz and Jacek Jurek. Photo: P. Bobrowski.

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**Fig. 15.** Omduram, Sudan (2012). Michał Kobusiewicz “dancing” with dervishes. Photo: M. Jórdeczka.



**Fig. 16.** Ostrów Lednicki, Poland (2012). With John R. F. Bower on an excursion during the Dymaczewo Conference. Photo: M. Jórdeczka.

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**Fig. 17.** Excursion to Ostrów Lednicki, Poland (2012). In the foreground: Friederike Jesse, Elena Garcea and Michał Kobusiewicz. Photo: M. Jórdeczka.



**Fig. 18.** Poznan, Poland (2012). Members of the Combined Prehistoric Expedition. From the left, standing: Przemysław Bobrowski, Agnieszka Czekaj-Zastawny, Halina Królik, Fred Wendorf, Hebatallah A. A. Ibrahim, Michał Kobusiewicz, Romuald Schild, Jacek Kobusiewicz. Kneeling: Maciej Jórdeczka. Photo: M. Jórdeczka (self-timer).

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**Fig. 19.** Aswan, Egypt (2017). On the road to Bargat el-Shab in the Western Desert. From the left: Fabian Welc, Maria Lityńska-Zajac, Patrycja Rutkowska, Paweł Wiktorowicz, Michał Kobusiewicz, Przemysław Bobrowski, Maciej Jórdeczka and Mirosław Masojć. Photo: M. Jórdeczka (self-timer).