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PTOLEMAIS IN LIBYA.

THE WARSAW UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATIONS IN 2002 AND 2003.

REPORT ON TWO SEASONS OF FIELDWORK

(PL. 47. -66)

Archaeologists from the Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology conducted two campaigns of fieldwork in Ptolemais (Libya): in April-May 2002 and October 2003¹, preceded by a 10-day reconnaissance in December 2001¹. The team was accompanied by conservators from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Work was carried out under the terms of a license for archaeological excavations issued by the Libyan authorities on July 22, 2001. The major objectives of the work were twofold: topographical measurements prerequisite to mapping the site of ancient Ptolemais (see report below, p. 117, Fig 1, 4) and excavations of an *insula* located east of the "Colonnaded Palace" (Fig. 1, 2, 5).

Archaeological testing in 2001

In December 2001, a 70-meter long trial trench was opened running E- W across the *insula*, cutting the line of prospective building walls at an angle of 45°. The trench, which was traced to establish the limits of the *insula*, was divided into seven sections (A-G, each 10m by 2.5 m), leaving a baulk 1.50 m thick between them. By end season, the following results had been recorded:

Trench A: *insula* edge and road surface .

Trench B: fragments of mosaics, stuccos and painted architectural blocks (column, capital, two parts of architrave and multiple small fragments), apparently from a destroyed building, the walls of which were also found in trench C.

Trench C: architectural blocks in a destruction layer and a standing wall corner with painted decoration in the southwestern part of the trench; many fragments of mosaics, frescos and painted stuccos in the middle of the section.

Trench D: no architecture or other traces of human activity apart from potsherds in the first three layers; a concentration of pottery (Roman and Byzantine amphorae, coarse ware) in the western end, c. 29.7029.90 m below sea level.

Trench E: occupational level (tamped floor with small stones) in the eastern end; however, only two layers (40 cm) were explored.

Trench F: occupational level continuing that from trench E at the western edge; in the eastern end, in the second layer, small wall running parallel to the edge of the *insula*.

Trench G: two superposed walls bordering the *insula* on the northeast (presumably late Byzantine wall covering partly an earlier, almost parallel wall, cf. Fig. 6).

. Apart from the authors and co-authors of the present article, the team in 2002-2003 consisted of the following: conservator Marcin Chmielewski; archaeologist-arabist George Yacoub; archaeologists J. Dynysiuk, P. Kobek, L. Merunowicz, M. Nowakowska, Z. Polak, J. Żelazowski; students: M. Baliszewski, K. Czajkowski, A. Dłuska, D. Dziejczak, W. Dzierzbicki, M. Jaxa-Chamiec, R. Pachocki, M. Tarkowski. Without their dedicated support, neither the fieldwork nor the documentation of the finds, including the preparation of this report, would have been quite as success full.

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² See our preliminary report on the excavations in Ptolemais conducted in December 2001 (an abridged version in Polish was published as an appendix to: ¹ Mikocki, *Polskie wykopaliska archeologiczne w Libii. Wykopaliska Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego w Ptolemais (Tolmeita). Sondáže 2001 r., Światowit 3* (n.s.), 2001 [2002], fasc. A, p. 10-11 sq., esp. 1-16 sq., pis. 40-53, fig. 29-57