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# Merowe Dan Archaeological Salvage Project (MDASP) [Contribution of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology]

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

# MEROWE DAM

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE PROJECT (MDASP)

Contribution of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology

*The Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University has joined an international group of expeditions, including The Sudan Archaeological Research Society (SARS), the Humboldt University Nubian Expedition (H.U.N.E.), and the Polish Gdańsk Archeological Museum Expedition (GAME), among others, in responding to an international appeal, launched in 2003 by the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) of the Republic of Sudan. The appeal called for rescuing the archeological sites to be inundated by the floods of the Merowe (formerly Hamdab) High Dam currently under construction near the island of Merowe in the Fourth Cataract region of northern Sudan.*

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The dam, which is located about 26 km upstream from the pyramids of Nuri, will flood a strip of about 170 km upstream from Merowe. The lake formed immediately behind the dam will be approximately 4 km wide. A reassessment of the situation in view of progress on the dam's construction, carried out in 2003 by the Gdańsk expedition, demonstrated intensified looting of ancient cemetery sites in the en-

dangered region, adding to the direct threat posed by engineering work in the area.<sup>1</sup>

The first step in the Centre's involvement in the international rescue project was a survey and follow-up salvage operation on the islands of Saffi and Uli within the NCAM concession, undertaken at the specific invitation of NCAM. With Bogdan Żurawski taking upon himself the preliminary organization of the project, two teams from

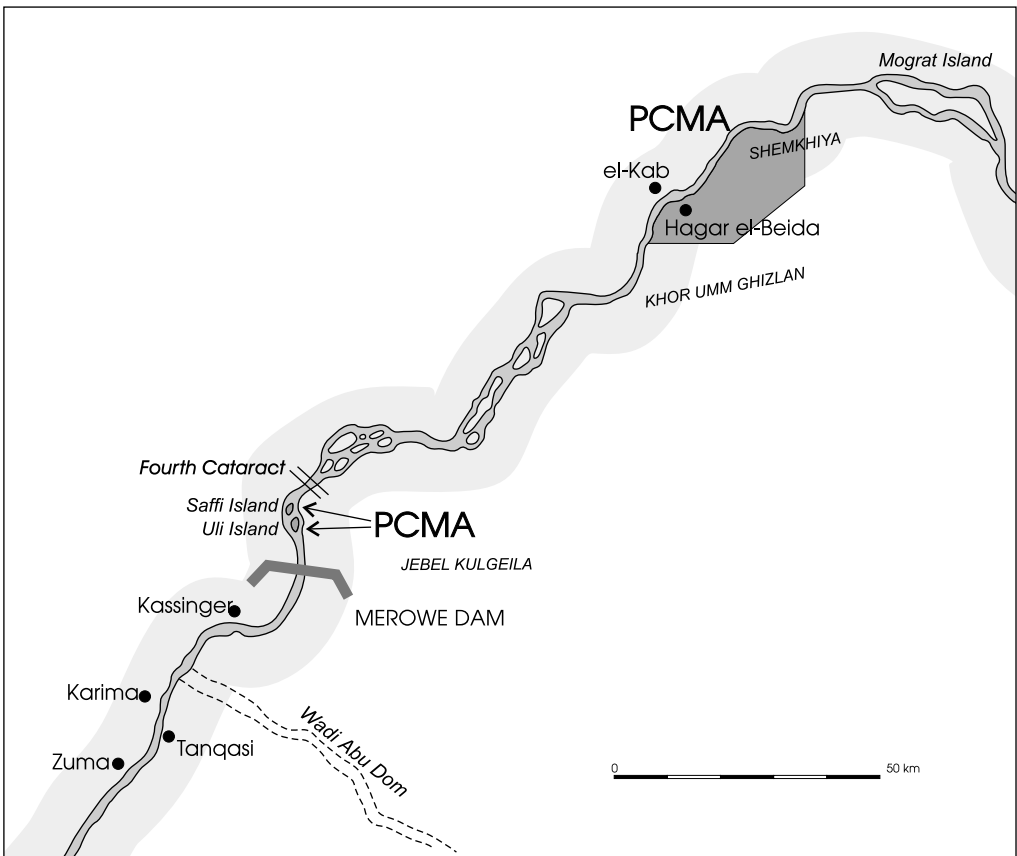


Fig. 1. Map of the Fourth cataract region showing areas where PCMA expeditions worked in 2003 and 2004 (Drawing M. Puzzkarski)

1 Cf. H.Paner, Z. Borowski, "Gdańsk Archaeological Museum Expedition. A summary of eight seasons' work at the Fourth Cataract", *GAMAR* 4 (2004), 89f.

Warsaw finally landed on the islands. Saffi was investigated between February 8 and March 27, 2004, by a joint expedition of the Centre and the National Museum in Warsaw directed by Dr. Żurawski, while Uli was explored in the same period by a team from the Centre headed by Prof. Dr. Włodzimierz Godlewski. While the teams shared facilities and even some of the team members in the field, their preliminary reports appear separately in this volume.

Simultaneously with the organization of this work, the Centre applied for permission to work on the left bank of the Nile between Khor Umm Ghizlan in the south and Shemkhiya in the north. This 50-km long region is at the southernmost end of the 170-km strip to be inundated by the dam. The 'concession' was duly granted and a brief reconnaissance was mounted in December 2003 with the Late Prof. Dr. Lech Krzyżaniak in charge. A year later, in

December 2004, a team directed by Dr. Marek Chłodnicki continued the survey. His report, written together with Dr. Żurawski, follows the Uli and Saffi reports in this volume.

Finally, coming as a direct offshoot of the archaeological salvage operations taken up on a broad scale in the region of the Fourth Cataract, there is the MtoM project, a five-year research program designed to bring together the results of intensified excavations in an effort to describe and understand the nature of social changes taking place in the area in the 4th and 5th centuries – from Meroe to Makuria. The project was conceived by Prof. Dr. Włodzimierz Godlewski and will be realized by him in association with Dr. Mahmoud el-Tayeb. This volume brings a brief introduction to the project written by Godlewski, followed by El-Tayeb's interim report on the first season of work in Ez-Zuma.