

Editorial

Geoarchaeology is a relatively young discipline which still keeps gaining its own place within the archaeological sciences. Due to its specific research methodology, geoarchaeology can solve the different scientific problems that cannot be explained by classical archaeology, commonly supported by a limited number of research methods only. Therefore, nowadays almost every significant archaeological project is backed up by interdisciplinary geoarchaeological and paleoenvironmental investigation.

Researches at the contact of environmental sciences and archaeology have become gradually a standard in Egyptian archaeology during the last few years. The Polish-Egyptian archaeological mission operated since many years in West Sakkara (fragment of the extensive Memphite necropolis) and headed by Professor Karol Myśliwiec is a good example of such approach.

The Memphite necropolis occupies a particular place in the cultural heritage of the world. It is composed of the most important archaeological sites including Giza, Saqqara, Abusir and Dahshur, among others with impressive giant tomb complexes of the kings from the Old Kingdom period (ca. 4600–4100 yrs BP) and thousands of unique private tombs constructed throughout the long-lasting Egyptian history.

*The present volume of **Studia Quaternaria** is fully dedicated to interdisciplinary geoarchaeological and paleoen-*

vironmental investigations that have been carried mostly in the Memphite necropolis area. The papers are in particular focused on the archaeological site in Saqqara and present most recent results of paleoclimatic, paleoenvironmental and paleogeographical researches with a strong geoarchaeological background for this area. This main subject is supplemented with papers that present climate changes in the Egyptian Western Desert (Nabta Playa) and the Holocene mysterious environmental transformation of north-eastern Sudan (Bir Nurayet).

*A collection of papers published in this volume of **Studia Quaternaria** follows the achievements of the 2nd Geoarchaeological Conference in Warsaw 'Memphite necropolis (Egypt) in the light of geoarchaeological and environmental research', organized on 7-8th December 2012 by Dr. Fabian Welc from the Institute of Archaeology of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw with support of Professor Leszek Marks and Dr. Jerzy Trzciniński from the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw. During this conference as many as 19 papers were presented by leading researchers from Poland, Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia and the United Kingdom.*

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