

Editorial

Archaeological prospection encompasses an entire range of non-invasive methods for recording archaeological features, including all kinds of geophysical methods, but also aerial and satellite photography, as well as a variety of digital site-recording systems and multivariate statistical methods for analyzing the distribution of artifacts collected from the surface. The past twenty years have seen a rapid development of these methods resulting from the progress made in computer hardware and software. With the increase in effectiveness of prospection methods archaeologists' interest in using them for investigation of archaeological sites has skyrocketed as well. The rate of progress in various countries may differ substantially and we are still a step away from these methods becoming a permanent fixture of archaeological research. The use of methods of archaeological prospection is self-evident in Great Britain, but remains sporadic at best in many regions of Europe and the world, even in areas where archaeology is a respected and successful science. One region where the interest in this kind of prospection methods has really snowballed in the past five years is the Near East and Egypt in particular. A measure of this interest is the popularity of geophysical methods among foreign expeditions as well as Egyptian geophysicists.

The most important forum for presenting accomplishments in the field of non-invasive methods of exploring archaeological sites are international branch conferences, the first of which took place at Bradford in 1995, organized by the same research center that also established the *Archaeological Prospection* journal. This volume of *Archaeologia Polona* is devoted in its entirety to the 5th Conference on Archaeological Prospection, planned for September 10–14, 2003, in Cracow, organized jointly by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Commission on the Prehistory of the Carpathians, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The first part of the volume contains articles presenting the results achieved by members of the IAE Applied Sciences Department in Warsaw. The opening article about geophysical research in Egypt refers to the theme of the opening session of the conference devoted to archaeological prospection in countries of the Near East. Readers interested in the history of the development of geophysical research in Poland are referred to an article by K. Misiewicz in last year's volume of *Archaeologia Polona* (40:111–24). The article on the Zofipole interdisciplinary research project, which included geophysical prospecting as one of a variety of investigative techniques, presents a site visited by the conference participants at the close of the

meeting. The second part of the volume contains the abstracts of papers presented at the conference; the form of brief articles is conducive to disseminating the developments and results of archaeological prospection worldwide.

The preparation of this volume has engaged the help of several people. The papers have all been verified for English technical and language usage at Bradford by Armin Schmidt in association with Rob Vernon, Tim Horsley, David Elks, Debra Oliver and Alec Phillips, and then in Warsaw by Iwona Zych. I am also indebted to Pawel Gan and Emilia Chrobak for their assistance.

This volume, produced for the conference, is also a means of paying homage to two extraordinary men, who are celebrating their anniversaries this year. Mr. Aleksander Jagodziński has turned seventy this year and Dr. Albert Hesse is celebrating his sixty-fifth birthday. Each in his own way has had major impact on the development and current image of Polish archaeological prospection and it is with immense gratitude that I take this opportunity on behalf of the geophysical and archaeological community to pay them the deepest respects.

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