Études et Travaux has turned fifty years old and is herewith presenting its 31st volume. A good occasion to attempt a short retrospection.

The journal’s history parallels that of what is frequently called the ‘Polish school of Mediterranean archaeology’. Its creator, Kazimierz Michałowski, was already the head of the Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw, as well as Deputy Director of the National Museum in Warsaw, when he founded the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw in 1956, which in 2010 was transformed into the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

As an institution responsible mainly for scientific documentation from Polish excavations in Egypt, Sudan and the Near East, and for scholarly studies on the original materials discovered during these works, as well as for publication of this research, the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology is somehow organically connected with a parallel institution of the University of Warsaw, generated also by Michałowski, in 1959 in Cairo. The University Centre (Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology), with two branches, headquartered in Warsaw and with a logistics ‘Station’ in Cairo-Heliopolis, is the official organiser of most of the Polish excavations in various areas of the Mediterranean.

Études et Travaux, published by the Academy Centre, became a scientific forum for international presentation of the achievements of the ‘Polish school’. From the very beginning its articles were published exclusively in foreign languages, mainly English and French, but – at special occasions (e.g. volumes dedicated to eminent scholars) – also German, Italian and Russian. These were written by the post-war generation of Polish classical archaeologists, philologists, Egyptologists, Assyriologists and other scholars specialised in ancient cultures, such as anthropologists, architects, historians, art historians, restorers etc.

1 Michałowski 1966: 5–22.
2 Lichocka 2017; Myśliwiec 2001. The transformation of the Centre into the Institute also led to the change of the journal’s subtitle (including name of the publisher) and therefore also the change of the ISSN.
The tradition of limitation to Polish authorship was broken as early as in the second volume, with an article written by Adolf Klasens.\(^3\) Since that moment, foreign participation in our periodical was becoming more and more frequent and is today the rule. What prevailed in the first volumes were studies on ancient objects from Polish collections, particularly the museums in Warsaw and Cracow, as well as fragments of the best dissertations written at the universities of these two towns. However, an unprecedented development of our ‘school’s’ archaeological activities in various countries of the Mediterranean in the sixties and seventies, especially after the creation of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo in 1959, progressively promoted reports from excavations and case studies on objects discovered in subsequent campaigns.

Invented by Michałowski, *Études et Travaux* were initially (volumes I–XIII) the editorial achievement of two scholars: Marek Marciniak, an eminent Egyptologist, assistant of Michałowski at the excavations in Faras, later author of the publication of the hieratic inscriptions from the temple of Thutmose III at Deir el-Bahari,\(^4\) and Zsolt Kiss, classical archaeologist, participant of the excavations at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria, later cooperating with Franck Goddio at the latter’s submarine excavations in the region.\(^5\) Marciniak headed the editorial team and Kiss translated many texts into French. After Marek,\(^6\) other scholars from the Academy Centre took over the effort of editing the periodical, namely Karol Myśliwiec, Stefan Jakobielski, Zsolt Kiss, Małgorzata Martens-Czarnecka, Mirosław Barwik, Barbara Lichocka, Barbara Tkaczow; from the volume XIX the task of series editor was entrusted to Maciej G. Wińkowski, and from the volume XXX to Maciej Makowski.

The increasing number of excavation *chantiers* and studies on the discoveries, implied the necessity of regular and actual information from the field. This led to the creation of a *Chronique des fouilles* as an integral part of the *Études et Travaux*. From 1973 (*EtudTrav VII*) till 1992 (*EtudTrav XVI*) this *chronique* appeared regularly in subsequent volumes, except for *EtudTrav XIII* (1983) and *EtudTrav XV* (1990) which became volumes dedicated to two eminent scholars.

Further development of field works conducted by professor Michałowski’s ‘school’ led to the creation of a new scholarly periodical containing exclusively news from the field and short studies on specific discoveries. This is the *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean*, published by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw. The first volume of the *PAM* appeared in 1990 and contained field reports from the excavation campaigns 1988–1989. At the beginning, each fascicle was published in two versions, Polish and English. Since 1997 (*PAM VIII*), there has only been one version, in English. Still, longer reports as well as studies on specific groups of objects from the excavations, or on subjects inspired by new archaeological materials, continue to appear in the *Études*.

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\(^3\) Klasens 1968.

\(^4\) Marciniak 1974.

\(^5\) Bibliographie de Zsolt Kiss 2012; Myśliwiec 2012.

\(^6\) Laskowska-Kusztal, Kiss 2007; Laskowska-Kusztal, Ochała 2007; Myśliwiec 2007.
et Travaux. Among the most frequent subjects of these articles are the following areas of ancient civilizations: Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus, and Near East.

EGYPT

Tell Atrib

Ancient Athribis was the first field of Polish excavations in Egypt after World War II. The works initiated by Michałowski, were later directed by Barbara Ruszczyc, and in 1985 changed into Polish-Egyptian rescue excavations directed by Karol Myśliwiec, extensively reported in Études et Travaux. The area adjacent to Kom Sidi Yusuf turned out to be particularly important because of its undisturbed stratigraphy and abundant dating materials (particularly coins and pottery stamps) which brought to light the development of an important cult centre from the Ptolemaic period. Worth particular attention are local artisanal workshops that crafted, among others, faience objects.

Alexandria

Monumental architecture from Ptolemaic, Roman, Byzantine and early Arab periods, including a public baths complex, an ancient university and a habitation quarter, was unearthed at the site, studied and restored by three generations of archaeologists, architects, anthropologists, restaurers and other specialists whose articles were predominantly published in subsequent volumes of Études et Travaux. Some of our colleagues were invited to study the archaeological material from the submarine excavations of Franck Goddio, among others Zsolt Kiss, an outstanding art historian in the field of stone sculpture.

Deir el-Bahari

Both the temple of queen Hatshepsut and the adjacent temple of Thutmose III, the latter discovered by the Polish team, were for many years and still are the subject of extensive studies and conservation works which have systematically been reported in Études et Travaux.

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7 Cf. the first report on Tell Atrib excavations, published in Études et Travaux: K. Kołodziejczyk in EtudTrav VI; the report by B. Ruszczyc from the campaign 1969 (EtudTrav VIII), her discovery of a temple of Amasis (EtudTrav IX), campaign 1979 (EtudTrav XIV), and 1983 (EtudTrav XVI).
8 Cf. the articles by K. Myśliwiec in EtudTrav XIII, XV–XIX.
9 Articles by F. Welc in EtudTrav XXIV and XXVI.
10 Starting with the articles of L. Dąbrowski, J. Lipińska and T. Dzierżykray-Rogalski (EtudTrav 1), throughout all the subsequent volumes. Concerning the stratigraphy of Alexandria, cf. particularly the article by M. Rodziewicz in EtudTrav XIV, and with regard to the town’s topography and architecture, that of B. Tkaczow in EtudTrav XIX. The later author has also studied the wall paintings from the excavated site (EtudTrav XXVII).
11 Cf. EtudTrav XXIII, XXVI/1, XXVII–XXVIII.
12 Starting with the articles of M. Marciniak, L. Dąbrowski, P. Gartkiewicz, E. Dąbrowska-Smektala, J. Lipińska and T. Dzierżykray-Rogalski in EtudTrav II, throughout the following volumes.
The architecture of the queen’s temple has been studied and discussed in many articles by Zygmunt Wysocki, while epigraphic problems of this unique monument were systematically presented by Janusz Karkowski. A team of young Egyptologists working today at Deir el-Bahari represents a new, multilateral approach to the history of both temples as records of the period’s political theology.

SAQQARA

Polish-Egyptian excavations west of the Djoser pyramid in Saqqara started in 1987, and their first campaign was reported in Études et Travaux. Among the later studies concerning these discoveries, published in our journal, worth particular attention are epigraphic reports by Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz, including, among others, the tomb of the general Ikhi/Mery and inscribed architectural elements of other Old Kingdom structures, as well as studies concerning stratigraphy and geophysical research by Fabian Welc, and the articles of Małgorzata Radomska on the Ptolemaic period necropolis and historical topography of Saqqara in Graeco-Roman times.

OTHER SITES IN THE NILE VALLEY

The increasing participation of Polish archaeologists and other specialists in the excavations of foreign missions in the Nile Valley, was also reported in Études et Travaux, particularly with respect to two sites: Qasr Ibrim and Elephantine. The excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society at Qasr Ibrim constitute a sort of epilogue of the Nubian salvage campaign. They also became an important chapter of international cooperation in the field of archaeology. Remarkable contributions to the research on Elephantine temples of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods resulted from the long-term epigraphic work done by Ewa Laskowska-Kusztal as a member of the German-Swiss mission on the island. Most of her articles concerning this matter were published in Études et Travaux.

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13 Cf. *EtudTrav* VII–XII, XIV, XVI.
14 E.g. *EtudTrav* VI, VIII–XI, XIII–XIV, XIX, XXIX.
16 K. Myśliwiec, T. Herbich and A. Niwiński in *EtudTrav* XVII.
17 *EtudTrav* XXVII.
18 *EtudTrav* XIX.
19 *EtudTrav* XXII–XXIV, and with R. Mieszkowski in volume XXVIII.
20 *EtudTrav* XXVI and XXIX.
21 *EtudTrav* XXV.
22 J.M. Plumley in *EtudTrav* VIII, XII; W.H.C. Frend in *EtudTrav* VIII.
23 Cf. *EtudTrav* XIX, XXI, XXV–XXVIII.
SUDAN

FARAS

Although the site has long disappeared under waters of the great Nubian Lake, a team of Nubiologists continues studies on various aspects of early Christian, as well as Meroitic cultures, based on the huge archaeological material, part of which nowadays constitutes the Faras Gallery in the National Museum in Warsaw, recently rearranged according to modern standards. The results of this research have extensively been presented in Études et Travaux by Stefan Jakobielski, Małgorzata Martens-Czarnecka, and many other scholars.

DONGOLA

In the same time, an archaeological mission is yearly continuing excavations at Dongola, another Nubian centre of Christian culture, that provides, among others, unique records of a symbiosis bringing together Christian religion and earlier indigenous traditions. Études et Travaux became a forum for these publications.

BANGANARTI AND SELIB

Banganarti and Selib are yet other centres of Christian culture in the Nile Valley, recently excavated by a Polish mission directed by Bogdan Żurawski. Several reports presenting this research were published in Études et Travaux.

KADERO

Kadero, an important site of Neolithic civilisation, located nearby Khartoum, was a subject of excavations initiated by Lech Krzyżaniak and led by the scholar till his premature death in 2004. First reports from the early campaigns also appeared in Études et Travaux.

24 Galeria Faras 2015.
25 Cf. EtudTrav I, XIII, XIX, XXI, XXVI, XXIX.
26 Cf. EtudTrav VI–VII, XII–XIV, XVI, XIX, XXI, XXV.
29 E.g. B. Żurawski in EtudTrav XXI, XXIX; M. Łaptaś in EtudTrav XXII, XXVIII.
31 Cf. L. Krzyżaniak in EtudTrav VIII–IX, XI, XIV, XVI.
CYPRUS

The excavations at Nea Paphos, for many years led by Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski, and presently by Henryk Meyza, yielded a vast architectural complex with extraordinary mosaics from Roman times. These works, i.e. excavations and studies, were regularly reported in Études et Travaux.32

*

The research on the archaeological materials discovered at the above-mentioned sites in Egypt, Sudan and Cyprus, was done by a group of specialists, mostly members of the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology, Polish Academy of Sciences / Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences, who systematically published the results of their work in Études et Travaux. Worth mentioning are particularly the efforts of:

– physical anthropologists, Tadeusz Dzierżykray-Rogalski and Elżbieta Promińska,33
– numismatist, Barbara Lichocka,34
– glyptic specialist, Zofia Sztetyło,35
– specialist of hieroglyphic epigraphy of the Graeco-Roman period, Ewa Laskowska-Kusztal,36
– art historian specialised in Graeco-Roman portraiture, Zsolt Kiss,37
– ceramologists, Teodozja Rzeuska38 and Henryk Meyza;39 the latter scholar developed a scientific cooperation with French colleagues working on the pottery from the excavations on the island Delos.40

NEAR EAST

PALMYRA

Subsequent campaigns of the excavations at Palmyra, directed first by Michałowski, then by Anna Sadurska and Michał Gawlikowski, were first reported in the Chronique de fouilles and other articles published in Études et Travaux.41

32 Cf. the articles by W.A. Daszewski in EtudTrav VI–XII, XIV, XVI, XIX; J. Młynarczyk in EtudTrav XIII; Z. Kiss in EtudTrav XX; B. Lichocka in EtudTrav XX; H. Meyza in EtudTrav XXV; M. Więch in EtudTrav XXX.
33 Cf. the articles published by these scholars in EtudTrav II–XI, XIII.
34 See: EtudTrav VIII–X, XII–XVII, XIX–XXI, XXV–XXVI, XXVIII.
35 Cf. EtudTrav IV, VIII, X, XIII–XIV, XVI.
36 E.g. EtudTrav VII–VIII, X, XIII, XVII, XIX, XXI, XXV–XXVIII.
38 Cf. EtudTrav XIX, XXII–XXIII, XXVI–XXVII.
39 E.g. in EtudTrav XX, XXV–XXVI.
40 Cf. co-authorship papers of H. Meyza and A. Peignard-Giros in EtudTrav XXIII–XXIV.
41 E.g. M. Gawlikowski in EtudTrav III, VIII–XI, XIII, XVI; A. Sadurska in EtudTrav VII–VIII, XII; S.P. Kowalski in EtudTrav XVIII.
HIPPOS-SUSSITA, SHA’AR-HA’AMAKIM AND TELL KEISAN

These archaeological sites, located in Israel, were a subject of intense international research in which our colleagues Jolanta Młynarczyk and Mariusz Burdajewicz played a significant role, and have published some reports in *Études et Travaux*.

MESOPOTAMIA

The Mesopotamian series in our annual started with some philological studies by the late Krystyna Szarzyńska (1918–2017) and Krystyna Łyczkowska (1933–2018), followed by archaeological articles of the late Antoni Mierzejewski (1936–2014). Slightly later, an outstanding chapter in this sequence constitute the publications of Janusz Meuszyński (1946–1976) on Nimrud, partly based on his excavations at this important site. His tragic premature death in 1976 stopped his activities in Iraq, but a Polish presence in the archaeology of Mesopotamia was then resumed with the rescue excavations at various sites, directed by Piotr Bieliński who subsequently moved his field activities to Kuwait and Oman.

* 

Today’s *Études et Travaux* differ essentially from the volumes published in the first three decades of the annual’s existence. There are fewer reports from current excavations, but more studies on specific subjects. The spectrum of cultures and epochs under discussions becomes broader and broader, going far beyond the borders of Polish excavations in the Mediterranean. It becomes more international with respect to authorship as well, and we hope to maximise this tendency.

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42 Hippos-Sussita: J. Młynarczyk in *EtudTrav* XXII and (with A. Łajtar) *EtudTrav* XXX; M. Burdajewicz in *EtudTrav* XXIV and XXX; A. Segal in *EtudTrav* XXV. Sha’ar-Ha’Amakim: M. Burdajewicz in *EtudTrav* XXVIII and J. Michniewicz (with J. Młynarczyk) in *EtudTrav* XXX. Tell Keisan: J. Młynarczyk in *EtudTrav* XIX.
43 *EtudTrav* II–III, XII.
44 *EtudTrav* IV–V, VII.
45 *EtudTrav* III–IV, VII, XII–XIII.
46 *EtudTrav* V–VI, VIII–XI. Cf. also the report on the last campaign of his work in Nimrud, published by R. Sobolewski in *EtudTrav* XI, and an obituary comprising also the bibliography of Meuszyński’s publications in *EtudTrav* X.
47 P. Bieliński in *EtudTrav* X, XV, XVI; A. Reiche in *EtudTrav* XVI; F.M. Stępniowski in *EtudTrav* XVII; B. Kaim in *EtudTrav* XVII; D. Bielińska in *EtudTrav* XIX, XXIX; A. Smogorzewska in *EtudTrav* XXIII; M. Makowski in *EtudTrav* XXVII, XXVIII.
48 A. Smogorzewska in *EtudTrav* XXVIII.
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