

Editorial

Archaeological excavations at Nemrik 9 (Dohuk province, northern Iraq) were conducted between 1985 and 1989 by the expedition directed by S.K. Kozłowski from the Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University. The research was financed by the Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University and the Iraqi Direction of Antiquities.

The site was located on the left bank of Tigris, on the second terrace elevated c. 65–70 m over present water level and cut by many deep wadis, the remains of water streams flowing southwards to Tigris from the foots of the Kurdish Mountains. Human settlement dated to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic covered c. 2.5–3 hectares. Radiocarbon datings done by M. Pazdur in Gliwice Radiocarbon Laboratory show that the settlement had been founded in late 9th millennium and was deserted in first half of 7th millennium BCE. The excavators distinguished five settlement phases (Kozłowski and Szymczak 1987).

Archaeological reports were published in two books (Kozłowski 1990, 2002) which contain also some particulars concerning burials. In earlier phases of the settlement the bodies were buried in pit graves scattered among houses, from the phase III on the collective graves were located beneath the house floors and sometimes in stone heaps among the houses. Almost all skeletons were placed on their side, in a bent position. Partial burials have also been found.

In general, the excavators have discovered more than 200 architectural structures, many of them with more or less numerous human bones. All skeletal remains were transported to the Laboratory of Anthropology at the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, Poland. The present volume contains first three reports on human remains from Nemrik 9, including an analysis of element contents in the teeth (Szostek et al.), an odontological report (Szlachetko and Zadurska) and a reconstruction of activity patterns (Molleson).

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