

EMIR QURQUMAS MAUSOLEUM IN CAIRO EXCAVATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN YARD, 1992

by Tomasz Scholl and Medhat El-Menabbawy

The archaeological excavations carried out in the southern courtyard of the Great Emir Qurqumas funerary complex on the Northern Cemetery in Cairo started on March 24 and continued until the end of April 1992.¹ The objective of this season was to search for the connection between two drains and investigate the remnants of a furnace partly excavated during the previous season.

Work was encumbered by asphalt and a bedding of hard, crushed limestone covering all the area. Three trenches (X, XI and XII) were complemented by a number of trial pits (A, B, C, D, E and F).

Trench X (11 x 9 m) was set along the western canal. The previously discovered furnace was 2.53-2.49 m in diameter and was enclosed by a contemporary stone wall. Two consecutive layers connected with the use of this construction represent

¹ The staff was composed on the Polish side of Mr. Leszek Słoński (engineer) - Director of the Mission, Dr Tomasz Scholl (archaeologist), Mr. Jan Burmas (architect) and Mr. Waldemar Jerke (photographer). The Egyptian side was represented by Messrs. Medhat El-Menabbawy and Hisham Abdel Latif (archaeologists). The Polish-Egyptian Archaeological and Conservation Mission for Islamic Architecture (the Ateliers for Conservation of Cultural Property - PKZ) would like to express its gratefulness to the EAO and the Polish Centre of Archaeology for their support and technical help in the excavations.