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I. Preface

According to the License for Archaeological Excavations, issued on the 22.07.2001 and prolonged on the 18.08.2003, the team of archaeologists, conservators and students of the Warsaw University opened a two month mission on 16 August 2004 (ending on 15 October 2004).

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This year's mission was a continuation of excavations conducted in December 2001, April-May 2002, and October 2003.

Works were carried out in three different spheres: archaeological excavations, conservation works and geodetic measurements of the city.

II. Archaeological works

The aim of this year's campaign was to uncover the earliest phases of construction of the villa and to confirm the suppositions concerning the chronology. Works were therefore concentrated on exploration of four newly opened sondages (sondage BC99/1, sondage EX9/1, sondage EX9/2, sondage EX9/3) and on the exploration of S-W part of trench CXCI81, S-W part of trench BC79, and trench BC89. Hellenistic foundations of the villa, placed directly on bedrock were reached in all above mentioned areas (except BC89). The external walls of the villa, built on Hellenistic foundations, were found in W (sondage EX9/1) and in E (trench CXCI81).

Two baulks in the central part of the villa (balk 2 and balk 3; also partially balk 5) were explored and taken down in order to remove the remaining fragments of the Achilles mosaic. Conservation works on the fragmentary Achilles mosaic, as well as on frescos preserved in room 9 (trench BC99 and EX9) were continued.

Trench BC79

Works in trench BC79 were previously carried out in Spring 2002 (see report 2002). During this season's mission trench BC79 was enlarged in N-W direction (1,5 x 4,00m.) in order to establish the relation between W24, W29, W42, W46 and W43.

The relation between these walls allowed to determine the chronology of the uncovered structures: the earliest phases are walls dating to the Hellenistic (?) period (corner of W24 and W42, W29, W46). The foundation of W46 is placed directly on bedrock. Between the stones of the foundation a Ptolemaic coin was found (cn/026/04). W29, perpendicular to W46, is also dated to the Hellenistic period, and functioned as a support wall. W46 and W29 served as foundation for Roman walls. W24 served as foundation for Byzantine walls W42 and W24 and probably W31, forming a Byzantine construction of defensive character (R26). In later phase of Byzantine period W43 and W28, forming the defensive wall of the city quarter, were built on both sides of W24 (S wall of tower). W22 and W27 were later added to this defensive construction.

Room 26: only the S-W corner of the room was excavated. The upper layer of R26 was covered with stones from destroyed W24 and W42. The pottery finds date clearly to the Byzantine period, as well as two stone decorative elements: a volute of a Byzantine capital and fragment of bas-relief with floral decoration.

Room 20: 5 layers with 2 clear habitation phases were distinguished:

1. humus + mixed layer (unit 6/04)
2. living floor (small stones and large amount of pottery fragments, unit 10/04)
3. mixed layer (unit 26/04)
4. beaten floor/pavement (unit 57/04); on same level and connected to thresholds in W29 and W46
5. layer of soil (unit 58/04); no pottery finds; below this layer, in bedrock, several fragments of Hellenistic fine pottery were found

We suspect that the Roman layers were destroyed in the Byzantine period during the construction of W43, when the earlier layers were removed.

Room 25: the area was previously explored in 2002.

During this season's works in S profile of BC79, S of W46, a mosaic pavement (M10) was partially uncovered (more informations about room R25 includes description of the works conducted in trench BC89).

Trench BC89

Works were undertaken in order to establish the relation between the structures found in BC79, BC99 and BC90. After the removal of the upper destruction layer, wall W59 (SW wall of R25; NE wall of unexplored room R27) and wall W60 (perpendicular to W59; NW wall of R17) were uncovered.

Room 17: NW part of this room was explored (another part of R17 was uncovered in trench BC90, during works of 2002 season). During this season's works pavement (unit 93/04) with mortar and small stones (ca 1cm) was uncovered. Pavement of R17 was constructed ca 0.60 m upper than level of mosaic pavement of R25. In destruction layer (unit 73/04) above level of pavement, huge quantity of Late Roman and Byzantine pottery was found.

Room 25: During exploration of this room (its small part was explored in trench BC79), mosaic M10 was uncovered. This big-size mosaic (min. size: 70 m²) is decorated in geometrical ornaments. Walls of the room were decorated with wall paintings (they were uncovered in very poor condition). In N profile of trench BC89, inside R25, unknown stone construction and base of column were uncovered in big layer, which was dig (probably in Late Roman period) ca. 0,3 m above mosaic level.

Trench BC90

Works in trench BC90 were previously carried out in Spring 2002 (see report 2002). During this season's mission trench BC90 was enlarged in S-E direction (0,75 x 2,00m.) in order to remove an architectural block partially stuck in S profile of trench.

Room 14: mosaic M6, partially visible in CXCI81, was uncovered. The central medaillon was destroyed in antiquity. The mosaic is not symmetrical – the boarder is more narrow from W than from the other directions.

Trench CXCI81

Works in trench CXCI81 were previously carried out in Spring 2002 (see report 2002). During this season's mission works in this trench were undertaken in order to determine whether the main rooms of the villa were planned symmetrically around the central peristyle. W47 and perpendicular to it W45 and W49 date to the Hellenistic period. W47, situated directly on bedrock, forms the exterior wall of the villa.

On these Hellenistic foundations (W47 in its S part and W45) Byzantine constructions were up built (W48 above S part of W47; the Byzantine wall above W45 does not have a separate number). W45 in its upper level is a continuation of W10 and forms N corner of Byzantine blockhouse.

Room 14: 4 layers were distinguished

1. humus (unit 8/04)
2. rubble (unit 28/04)
3. mixed layer with many fresco fragments from W45 and W47 (unit 30/04)
4. mosaic pavement.

Room 21: 3 layers were distinguished

1. humus (unit 8/04)
2. rubble (unit 28/04)
3. mixed layer (unit 33/04); N of W49 large amounts of pottery fragments and several lamps (whole and fragmentary) were found.

Unit 33 was located directly on bedrock where several Hellenistic fine pottery fragments were found.

Area with no room number, S of Room 21, directly above W49; 5 layers were distinguished:

1. humus (unit 8/04)
2. rubble (unit 28/04)
3. mixed layer (unit 33/04)
4. pavement 0,04m. thick (unit 43/04)
5. layer of soil (unit 42).

Sondage BC99/1

The sondage is located E of W1 and N of W40; it runs N parallel to W1 and has 2,50m. of width.

E of W1 and parallel to it a wall constructed of one layer of stone blocks was uncovered. It served probably as support of W1. In its S part a rectangular hole was discovered serving as door attachment.

N of W40 and parallel to it a drain (aqueduct?) cover made of stones slabs was uncovered (unit 60/04). The drain continues SW of W1 and is visible in sondage EX9/1, probably joining the main city drain. It continues also to NE, leading N of W40 to the central peristyle (see description of Baulk 3).

Construction of drain:

1. stone slabs covering drain
2. layer of mortar with drilled space for sewage flow
3. layer of soil, trapezoidal in cross section, strengthened on sides with stones and placed directly on bedrock.

In N part of sondage, by the W profile of trench BC99, 2 walls of a construction of a basin or latrine (unit 63/04) were uncovered (W55 and perpendicular to it W56). The walls of the basin are made of stones combined with mortar and are placed directly on bedrock; the interior is covered with plaster. The fill of this construction was identical to the fill of the sewage collector in sondage EX9/1.

Room 23

4 main layers were distinguished:

1. destruction layer (unit 44/04)
2. primitive stone pavement (unit 59/04)
3. thin, gray-white, layer probably connected with the construction of pavement
4. layer consisting of several thin layers, created probably after the construction of the drain and basin, placed directly on bedrock; layers considered connected with the construction of the stone pavement

Basing on the analysis of the stratigraphy and the analysis of the pottery material, the basin, pavement and drain functioned simultaneously

Sondage EX9/1

The sondage runs parallel along W1 in trench EX9 and BC99, reaching the W profile of BC99 and has 1,50m. in width. In its S part, S of W2, the sondage was widened to reach the construction of the basin of latrine. The S end of sondage is a continuation of the line of the face of W20.

In S part of E profile of sondage a Hellenistic wall – continuation of W1 - was uncovered (W44). In block of W44 corresponding directly with W1, a hole was cut, functioning as part of drain construction leading from latrine to sewage collector.

A construction of a sewage collector along the W face of S part of W1 was uncovered. The construction was cut 2,00m. deep into the bedrock. The hole cut in the bedrock was strengthened from inside by stones and mortar and surrounded by a construction made of soil and stones mixed with mortar. The construction is more narrow in its S part – being a continuation of the drain visible S of W2 - and widens in its N part. The entire construction was covered by 2 big stone slabs (resting on especially cut slots in blocks of W1) and several smaller ones (unit 13/04). The fill of the collector (unit 29/04) – large amounts of pottery, several complete lamps and few coins - was homogenous and covered by a green deposit. In N part of sondage the continuation of drain visible in R23 was uncovered.

Layers distinguished in sondage:

1. gray layer of ashes and soil with large amounts of pottery, visible along W1 (unit 5/04)
2. several accumulation layers N of sewage collector.

Sondage EX9/2

The sondage, 1,50m. in width, is perpendicular to sondage EX9/1 and runs W from W44 to the W profile of EX9. Its S profile is a continuation of W20 and S profile of sondage EX9/1. Its N profile is a continuation of S face of W2.

In central part of sondage a construction of a aquaduct (?), placed directly on bedrock and dating probably to the IIIrd/IVth c. A.D., was uncovered (unit 69/04). The aquaduct is covered by stone slabs of identical shape and size.

In W profile of sondage a wall (W57, unit 71/04) belonging to an undefined structure (villa ?) and forming the limit of insula, was uncovered. In N-W corner of sondage, next to W57 a construction of a sewage collector (?), probably identical to the one found in EX9/1, was discovered.

Layers distinguished in sondage:

3. layer connected with the removal of the upper layer of blocks from W44, visible in E part of S profile (unit 82/04)
4. several accumulation layers visible in S and N profiles of sondage (units 66/04, 70/04).

Sondage EX9/3

The sondage was opened in order to find the continuation of W44 in S direction and to determine the W limit of the villa.

During exploration, continuation of W44 was uncovered (it has also continuation outside area of excavations, in SE direction). In the middle part of excavated area (next to R22), one of blocks of the wall construction has dimensions bigger than other. It has also rectangular hole serving probably as hellenistic building's door attachment.

In N part of sondage, W of W44, two complete Mid Roman vessels were found.

Trench EX9, Trench EX10, Baulk 2

The area excavated during this campaign is a group of rooms of industrial character (R7, R8, R10, R11, R22, R18, R24), functioning in IVth c. A.D. (date determined basing on the analysis of the pottery finds) and destroyed during the earthquake in 365.

We suppose that after 262 A.D. (date of first earthquake) the rooms R10, R11, R22, R18 and R24 were not entirely closed and did not have walls from the side of the street. Two large blocks found in trench EX9 - functioning probably as pillars - together with a supraporta found nearby, are interpreted as elements of a portico. These architectural elements were probably reused and belonged originally, before the earthquake of 262 A.D., to the doorway between R4 and R8.

Room 7 + Room 10

These rooms are interpreted as area of latrine. The walls of these rooms (W20, W23) were placed on mosaic M1.

R7 is closed from all 4 sides; probably the entrance to the room was through W41 – lower than the remaining walls (ca 0,20m. high). On upper surface of W41 a hole was cut, serving probably as drain. A drain is also visible in W23, but it has been cut between 2 blocks.

In SE part of room a stone block serving probably as a stool was found. Several complete Mid Roman vessels were also found (urinals ?).

R10 is located SW of R7 and has similar dimensions. It is divided in two parts: 1. a basin placed on a stone and mortar construction and 2. a drain leading from behind the basin towards the sewage collector; the terrain falls in the SW direction.

Room 4 + Room 8 + Room 11

R11 is interpreted as entrance hall to 2 dining rooms – R4 and R8. In W corner of R8 a stone block functioning probably as a table was found. It is note worthy that in R8, during the 2003 campaign, a stool made from 2 stone blocks and 1 Mid-Roman jug were found; in R4, during the 2002 campaign, a Mid-Roman cooking pot was also found.

The 3 rooms analyzed above belonged originally – before 262 A.D. - to the Roman phase of the villa (chronology based on analysis of wall paintings and mosaics dating to the IInd /IIIrd c. A.D.)

Room 22, Room 18, Room24

R22 and R18 are interpreted as area of kitchen, where meals were prepared and cooked.

In R22 3 phases of usage are visible. In the earliest phase the room was divided in 2 parts (remains of a division wall made of mortar and stones are visible in W50, unit 46/04) and occupied by basins. Their presence is confirmed by remains of plaster on walls. To the second phase belongs the pavement visible in E part of room, analogous to the pavement in R18.

During the third phase the pavement in N part of room was partially destroyed and a primitive kitchen made of stones was built (unit 50/04). Under the stone construction of the kitchen was an empty space (unit 51/04) in which 3 small Mid Roman jugs were found. On top of the construction 2 Mid Roman cooking pots were also found. Approximately 0,70m. above the pavement, stuck in W15, was a shelf ? (probably made of stone and mortar and covered with plaster).

R18 was divided in 2 parts. In N-W part of room a pavement analogous to the one in R22 was found. The pavement was partially destroyed and its foundation of small stones is visible in central part of R18. Standing on pavement, in W part of room, a stone block serving as stool was uncovered. Also directly on pavement, next to W15, a Mid Roman coarse vessel was

found. In S-E part of room 2 basins built on a stone construction were uncovered. A smaller basin (unit 54/04), built next to W15 was separated from the larger one (unit 56/04) in S-W part of room by a small wall. The basins were shallow (ca 0,20m.) and were covered with plaster from the inside.

Only the N part of R24 has been excavated. A primitive drain construction, made of irregular stones, leads from R3 to R24 and continues S along W19.

It seems necessary to note that in addition to the coarse pottery found in the entire area described above (R10, R11, R22, R18, R24 and W of these rooms), more than 20 bone pins were also obtained.

Baulk 3

The main purpose of the removal of Baulk 3 was the complete uncovering of R9, partially explored in 2003. In S part of baulk 3 (S-E corner of R9) several large architectural elements were discovered (2 bases together with fragmentarily preserved columns and a capital – fragment of doorway). In S-E part of W3 a figural fresco preserved to ca. 1,60m. was uncovered, depicting figural scenes with birds. Remaining fragments of the Achilles mosaic were also recuperated.

In the N part of baulk, fragment of W area of the central peristyle was excavated. During exploration, mosaic M4 was uncovered (mosaic with oval ornaments, partially uncovered in 2002 season). N of W3 several decorated architectural elements (for example fragments of painted column) were also found. In the N part of W7, NE of mosaic M4, base of the column of central peristyle was discovered. Behind this base, continuation of drain-aqueduct (known from sondages: EX9/1 and BC99/1) was uncovered.

During exploration part of baulk S of W2, part of mosaic pavement of R8 was uncovered. The exploration of the cistern located in R9 - partially explored in 2003 - was finished (unit 16/04). Many fragmentary lamps, several coins, etc. (see inventory of Small Finds) were found. The cistern was ca 3,5 m deep and had no drains leading to other rooms of the villa; its walls were covered with plaster from the inside.

Baulk 5

During exploration of the part of Baulk 5, S of W2 and W of W3, part of mosaic pavement of R8 was uncovered (mosaic M9 was then completely uncovered) . In N corner of R8, between W2 and W3, SW entrance to the central peristyle of house was discovered.

III. Pottery report

Excavations in season 2004 brought, similar to previous years, huge number of pottery finds. Characteristic fragments of rims, bases and handles of fine and coarse pottery, were drawn and photographed. All types of pottery finds were identified on the basis of the report from the excavations at Sidi Krebish, Benghazi (P.M. Kenrick, *The Fine Pottery*, in: *Excavations at Sidi Khrebish, Benghazi (Berenice)* [Libya Antiqua, suppl. V], vol. 3, Tripoli 1985; J. Riley, *Coarse Pottery*, in: *ibidem*, vol. 2, Tripoli 1978) as well as compiled material from Polish excavations in Ptolemais, seasons 2001-2003.

The most of categories of fine and coarse pottery is present and representing periods from Hellenistic through Roman up to Byzantine (Late Roman and Byzantine pottery were found first of all in trenches: BC79, BC89 and N part of Baulk 3; specially noteworthy are numerous fragments of Byzantine *unguentarium* and *mortarium* vessel types, several with monogram stamps).

The most interesting and most numerous pottery finds excavated during season 2004, represent categories of Mid Roman coarse pottery produced in local workshops (Ptolemais?). These fragments outweigh other categories of pottery in almost every archaeological context and represent follow types (based on report published by British mission at Sidi Khrebish):

- Mid Roman cooking wares: D501-522,
- Mid Roman plain wares: D870-886; D900-902; D904-914,
- Mid Roman jugs: D1144-1157.

Hundreds of fragments and several whole vessels of local Mid Roman coarse pottery were found. Their presence in archaeological deposits usually define dates of contexts to date 365 AD, year of the second large earthquake in Cyrenaica.

Table 1. Ptolemais 2004 – archaeological contexts dated to 365 AD by MR vessels

Archaeological context	Types of the Mid Roman coarse pottery (based on Sidi Khrebish publ. report)		
	MR cooking ware	MR plain ware	MR jug
EX9, room 7, unit 1/04	—	D900 (inv. no: p/002/04; p/025/04)	—
EX10, room 18, unit 54/04	D503 (inv. no p/132/04); D521 (inv. no: p/130/04;	—	—

	p/136/04)		
EX10, room 18, unit 56/04	D516 (inv. no p/147/04); D521 (inv. no p/144/04)	_____	similar to D1147 (inv. no p/150/04); D1150 (inv. no p/149/04)
EX10, room 22, unit 45/04	D506 (inv. no p/131/04); D520 (inv. no p/135/04)	_____	_____
EX10, room 22, unit 51/04	_____	similar to D520, but small (inv. no: p/145/04; p/148/04)	D1151 (inv. no p/147/04);
Sondage EX9/1, unit 5/04	D516 (inv. no: p/133/04; p/138/04; p/143/04)	_____	_____
Sondage EX9/1, unit 20/04	D516 (inv. no p/142/04)	D901 (inv. no p/134/04)	
Sondage EX9/3, unit 84/04	D516 (inv. no: p/140/04; p/141/04)	_____	_____

IV. Numismatic Report

Archaeological works conducted in the season 2004 brought 34 coin finds, increasing general number of coins which were found during 3 years of excavations of the villa (2002-2004) to number 130. All coin finds of this season represent AE denominations. Identical to previous years, large number of very corroded coins badly inconvenienced during the process of cleaning and identifying of numismatic finds. Finally, most coins were successfully cleaned and identified. Their chronological classification, which emphasizes the authorities involved in issuing the coins, represents Table 1.

Table 1. Ptolemais 2004 – chronological classification of coins.

Period	Number of finds	North African Mints		Greek Imperial Mints	Rome	East. and European Roman Imperial Mints
		Ptolemaic	Cyrenaica			
Hellenistic	7	Ptolemy V	Cleopatra VII /M. Antonius	—	—	—
	2	Ptolemy IX				
	1	illegible				
Early Roman	3	illegible				
Mid Roman	1	—	<i>Familia Pupia</i>	—		
	5	—	—	illegible	M. Aurelius Commodus	—
	3	—	—			
Late Roman	2	—	—	—	Trajan Decius	
	1	—	—	—		Licinius I /Alexandria
	1	—	—	—		Licinius II

	1					/Heraclea
	1					Constantius II
	5					/Constantinople
	0					Constantius II
	0					/mint-mark
Byzantine	0					uncertain
						illegible

It is noteworthy, that in this chronological classifications four periods: 1) Late Hellenistic/Early Roman, 2) Antoninian, 3) early Late Roman, 4) 1st half of IV c., outweigh other periods in quantity of coin finds. It points to general phases of the beginning, use and changes in architecture and decor of the villa (Table 2).

Table 2. Season's 2002-2004 coin finds and chronology of the villa

Chronology of the villa	The oldest coin	The youngest coin	Date of phase
I. Building of the villa, Late Hell/Early Roman	Ptolemy V (III/II c. BC)	Augustus (- end of I c. BC)	End of I c. BC
II. Using phase, Early Roman	Tiberius (14 AD -)	Caligula (- 41 AD)	1 st half of I c. AD
III. Antoninian building phase	Trajanus (98 AD -)	Commodus (-190 AD)	Last quart. of II c. AD
IV. Using phase, Mid Roman	Commodus (190 AD -)	Severus Alexander (-227 AD)	II/III c. AD
V. Renovation and changes in decor, early Late Roman	Severus Alexander (227 AD-)	Philip I (- ca. half of III c. AD)	2 nd quart. of II c. AD
VI. Using phase, partly destroyed villa, between earthquakes of 262 and 365 AD			

Naturally, for now these phases in chronology of villa we must treat cautiously and take it with a pinch until holistic report on other archaeological finds. For sure, chronological phases singled out on the basis of coin finds are identical to these, which are obtained during the analysis of coarse pottery.

Out of the Hellenistic coins obtained this year, 2 main types – well known from previous seasons – occur: 1) bronze coins representing a type struck in the years 204 – 180 BC, during the reign of Ptolemy V Epiphanes, with a depiction of a diademed head of Ptolemy I, right on the obverse and a head of Libya, right, on the reverse, 2) bronze coins, representing a type struck in the years 116 – 106 BC, during the reign of Ptolemy IX Soter, depicting a head of Zeus-Ammon, right, on the obverse and an eagle standing left, on the reverse.

Among coins of Late Hellenistic/Early Roman period 2 coins, struck in local mints of Cyrenaica, are specially noteworthy: 1) cn012/04: half of Ptolemaic AE 28, struck during the reign of Cleopatra VII. (51 – 30 BC) and M. Antonius, with legends in fields of obverse and reverse referring to their persons (Obv. [BAC]IA/ΘEA/[NE], Rv. ANT[Ω]/ΥΠ[A/Γ]), 2) cn029/04: half of Cyrenaican AE 28 struck during the reign of Augustus by Roman family *Pupia*, depicting a head of Zeus-Ammon, right, on the obverse with legend [KA]I TAMIAC [L] and a curule chair between two *fascies*, on the reverse with legend ΠΟ[ΥΠΙΟC ANTICTPA L A].

Between coins struck in the mint of Rome, the biggest group represents 5 bronze coins of Commodus (coins belong to various denominations: 3 sestertii, 1 dupondius, 1 as). It is noteworthy, that in the group of Late Roman coins there are 4 bronze found in trench BC79 (cn001-004/04), connected together. Out of these coins only one was successfully identified (Constantius II, coin of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO type).

All coins were found in a defined archaeological context (Table 3).

Table 3. Ptolemais 2004 – archaeological context of coin finds

Inv. no.	Greek	Roman	trench	sondage	baulk	room	Archaeological context
cn/001/04	-	X	BC79	-	-	-	S profile of trench, depth: 37,59 m one of 4 coins connected together
cn/002/04	-	X	BC79	-	-	-	S profile of trench, depth: 37,59 m one of 4 coins connected together
cn/003/04	-	X	BC79	-	-	-	S profile of trench, depth: 37,59 m one of 4 coins connected together
cn/004/04	-	X	BC79	-	-	-	S profile of trench, depth: 37,59 m one of 4 coins connected together
cn/005/04	-	X	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 5/04; below Byzant. sewage drain, W of wall W1

cn/006/04	-	X	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 5/04; below Byzant. sewage drain, W of wall W1
cn/007/04	X	-	-	-	1	9	Unit 16/04; fill of cistern
cn/008/04	-	X	BC79	-	-	-	Unit 15/04
cn/009/04	-	X	-	-	1	9	Unit 16/04; fill of cistern
cn/010/04	-	X	-	-	1	9	Unit 16/04; fill of cistern
cn/011/04	-	X	CXCI81	-	-	-	Unit 28/04; above upper layer in a fill of R14
cn/012/04	X	-	CXCI81	-	-	14	Unit 30/04; upper layer in a fill of R14
cn/013/04	-	X	CXCI81	-	-	14	Unit 30/04; upper layer in a fill of R14
cn/014/04	-	?	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector
cn/015/04	X	-	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector
cn/016/04	X	-	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector
cn/017/04	-	X	EX9	-	-	10	Unit 36/04; N and E of basin, above a fill of drain
cn/018/04	X	-	EX9	-	-	10	Unit 36/04; N and E of basin, above a fill of drain
cn/019/04	-	X	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector
cn/020/04	-	X	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector
cn/021/04	-	X	CXCI81	-	-	21	Unit 33/04; upper layer in a fill of R21
cn/022/04	-	?	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 29/04; fill of sewage collector, found connected with small stones in a fragment of mortar
cn/023/04	-	?	-	-	2	8	Unit 32/04; below layer of plaster
cn/024/04	X	-	-	-	2	-	Unit 67/04; layer above W44
cn/025/04	X	-	-	-	2	11	Unit 38/04
cn/026/04	X	-	BC79	-	-	20	Unit 58/04; found between stones of a foundation of wall W46
cn/027/04	X	-	-	EX9/1	-	-	Unit 21/04; S of collector and W of R10, below upper surface of W44
cn/028/04	-	?	BC89	-	-	-	Unit 78/04; mudbrick destruction layer
cn/029/04	-	X	BC89	-	-	-	Unit 78/04; mudbrick destruction layer
cn/030/04	X	-	BC79	-	-	20	Unit 58/04; W profile of trench, ca. 0,4 m above bedrock
cn/031/04	X	-	BC89	-	-	-	Unit 83/04
cn/032/04	-	X	BC89	-	-	-	Unit 83/04
cn/033/04	X	-	BC89	-	-	-	Unit 83/04
cn/034/04	X	-	BC89	-	-	25	Unit 88/04; ca. 0,5 m above mosaic M10

V. Conservation works

1. Works on the paintings.

The main conservation works focused on the paintings had explored from the baulk 1 and 3 (corner between walls W2 and W3). In this area a lot of small broken fragments of paintings (which had fallen down from the walls) were found in the earth. All of them were picked up and put into the boxes.

Two greater fragments of paintings and one fragment of stucco cornice were found. They lay face down in the earth and were seriously destroyed. On their back surface one layer of gauze and one layer of cotton textile were attached using polyacetate vinyl in water dispersion. Then all fragments were lifted and put on the wooden boards (fragment with cornice into the box).

Two lifted fragments of paintings originally were the part of decoration on the wall W2 in the room with Dionisos mosaic. On the greater fragment (approx. dimensions: max. width 90 cm; max. height 50 cm.) geometrical decoration is visible and on the smaller one painted bird on the green background. The fragments are in very bad condition. Two layers of plaster in many places are detached, cracked and broken. Some pieces are loose (the painted plaster is completely detached from the first layer of mortar). The face of painting is dirt, covered with thick layer of clay.

Fragment with bird was put into the box with sand because its surface is deformed. The layer of plasters were preliminary consolidated with injections (Primal AC 33 in water 1:3). The painted surface was cleaned with water (first wet pieces of soft paper were applied for soggy of dirt and clay, then water cleaning was done using paintbrushes and sponges). The surface of painting was disinfected with Preventol R 80 (3% in water). The red colours were impregnated with Paraloid B72 (3% in acetone). Some areas have been protected with Japanese paper (applied with 5% polyalcohol vinyl in water). This treatment is preliminary only. Fragments of paintings are preserved now but in the future their conservation should be continued.

After final excavation of baulk 1 and 3 large fragments of painted decoration on the walls W2 (approx. dimensions: max. width 229 cm; max. height 105 cm.) and wall W3 (approx.

dimensions: max width 224 cm; max height 143 cm.) were uncovered. The paintings are preserved in the corner between two mentioned walls in the room with Dionisos mosaic). On the walls another fragments of geometrical decoration are visible – red, green and yellow squares and rectangles, painted columns with imitation of marble, white lines and simple floral ornaments. Moreover on the wall W3 the bird on the green background is presented. The paintings were seriously destroyed. The plasters layers in many places were detached from the stone support. There were a lot of empty spaces between them. Painted surface was deformed and seriously cracked. There were many lacunes of painted plaster, some fragments were completely unstuck from the support and hang on the earth only. The face of paintings was very dirt, covered with thick layer of clay and earth which were very hard consolidated with paint layer.

The following works were done by the paintings on the walls:

- all edges of painted plaster were protected with mortar bands (acryl stucco mortar [El Madina wall paste – Libya] with sand 1:1,5),
- consolidation of unstuck fragments of plasters (injections with 20% Primal AC 33 in water),
- first step of cleaning – wet soft paper pieces applied on the paint surface, then water cleaning with paintbrushes and sponges,
- disinfection of paintings (3% Preventol in water),
- impregnation of red colours which were powdered (3% Paraloid B 72 in acetone).

After this treatment the paintings are reinforced and preliminary protected. There are covered with perforated synthetic textile (Texbond – Italy) and layer of sand and earth. However in the future the paintings should be take off from the walls and transfer on the new mobile support.

There are found two columns and half-columns with painted decoration on the thin plaster. There are decorated with floral ornament – red floral scroll with leaves and fruits. Weak edges of plaster were reinforced with mortar bands (acryl stucco mortar with sand 1:2). Paint layer was cleaned with water (sponges and paintbrushes), disinfected (3% Preventol in water) and impregnated (Paraloid B 72 in acetone).

2.Works on the mosaics.

The following mosaics are uncovered: in room R7 and R11 mosaic M1; in room R14 mosaic M6; in west part of peristyle mosaic M4; in room R25 mosaic M10. All of them are made in *opus tessellatum* technique and are decorated with geometrical ornaments. Some areas of

mosaics are seriously destroyed: smaller and greater lacunes in tesseras layer, weak and degraded mortar support, deformed and dirty surface of mosaics, losing tesseras.

The following works were done on the mosaics:

- reinforce of edges of mosaic along the lacunes with new mortar bands (acryl stucco mortar with sand 1:1,5),
- cleaning of the mosaics surface (water cleaning using sponges and paintbrushes),
- covering the mosaics with perforated synthetic textile (Texbond – Italy) and layers of sand and earth.

VI. Survey report

Equipment

During archaeological and topographical works carried out in 2004 campaign, a Total Station Leica TC 1105 with prism GPR 111 and Total Station TCR 407 Power with prism GPR 1 were used for measuring.

For data preparation the following software was used:

- Leica Survey Office (data transfer)
- Winkalk (calculation of data)
- Autocad 2004 (final map drawing).

This year a satellite photo prepared in GEOTIFF format made by Digital Globe was acquired.

For the correlation of the satellite photo with survey plan the following software was used:

- GIS software ArcView 8.3 (for visualisation and preparation of geographic models)
- Raster Design 2004 for correlating with survey plan
- GPS Garmin (model: GPS map 60CS) with its own software Map Source for measuring correlation points.

Method

The satellite photo was connected to the existing city plan and calibrated with GPS control points and with certain points on the plan of the city. As result the satellite photo was transformed into a photographic map of the city. This procedure allowed us to point out:

- architectural structures,
- open areas,
- insulas (as well as layout of main streets) and city limits.

Field works

During this season's works measurements of the city **inside the fenced area** were almost completed, with the exception of the south-eastern part.

1. Borders of insulas were traced. Their layout is clear and can be defined apart from the north-western area near the amphiteater.
2. Topographical data concerning the localization of the public squares (Hellenistic agora, Roman forum, marketplaces) has been gathered; several possible localizations have been proposed.
3. Several structures with apses and plan referring to basilicas, situated correctly inside insula limits, have been recognized.

The city walls have been measured in distinctive places allowing for the tracing of the shape of the fortifications.

VII. Program for future seasons

Program for archaeological works

In the forthcoming year we hope to conduct one campaign in Spring 2005.

During our next campaign we would like to remove the remaining baulks (beginning with baulk 5) in order to uncover the entire central part of the villa.

Our main goal for the future is to prepare the villa for reconstruction on site (anastylosis of the preserved architectural and decorative elements). Such a reconstruction will be possible when all fieldwork and exploration activities are achieved. Preliminary works on the project have already begun (theoretical – 3 dimension reconstruction). We suppose that such a reconstruction, giving the possibility to visit the villa of Lucius Actius – so richly decorated with mosaics and paintings – would be very interesting for tourists as well as archaeologists.

Program for conservation works

Conservation works on the destroyed Achilles mosaic will be continued. The mosaic had fallen from the first floor of the building and had broke into thousands of pieces. It requires many months of work, preferably in a highly qualified laboratory. A very large budget for conservation in such a laboratory would be necessary and we are taking measures in order to obtain an appropriate sum of money from a private sponsor.

Program for topographical works

Field works employing the Total Station set are to be continued in the following seasons.

During the next campaign we would like to make measurements of the city located outside the fenced area, beginning with the northern part of the city and the harbour of Ptolemais.

The results of measurements should be supplemented by a number of sondages. On the basis of these investigations and the analysis of the satellite photo already obtained, a dissertation on the urban development of Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic Ptolemais – Tolmeita will be prepared.