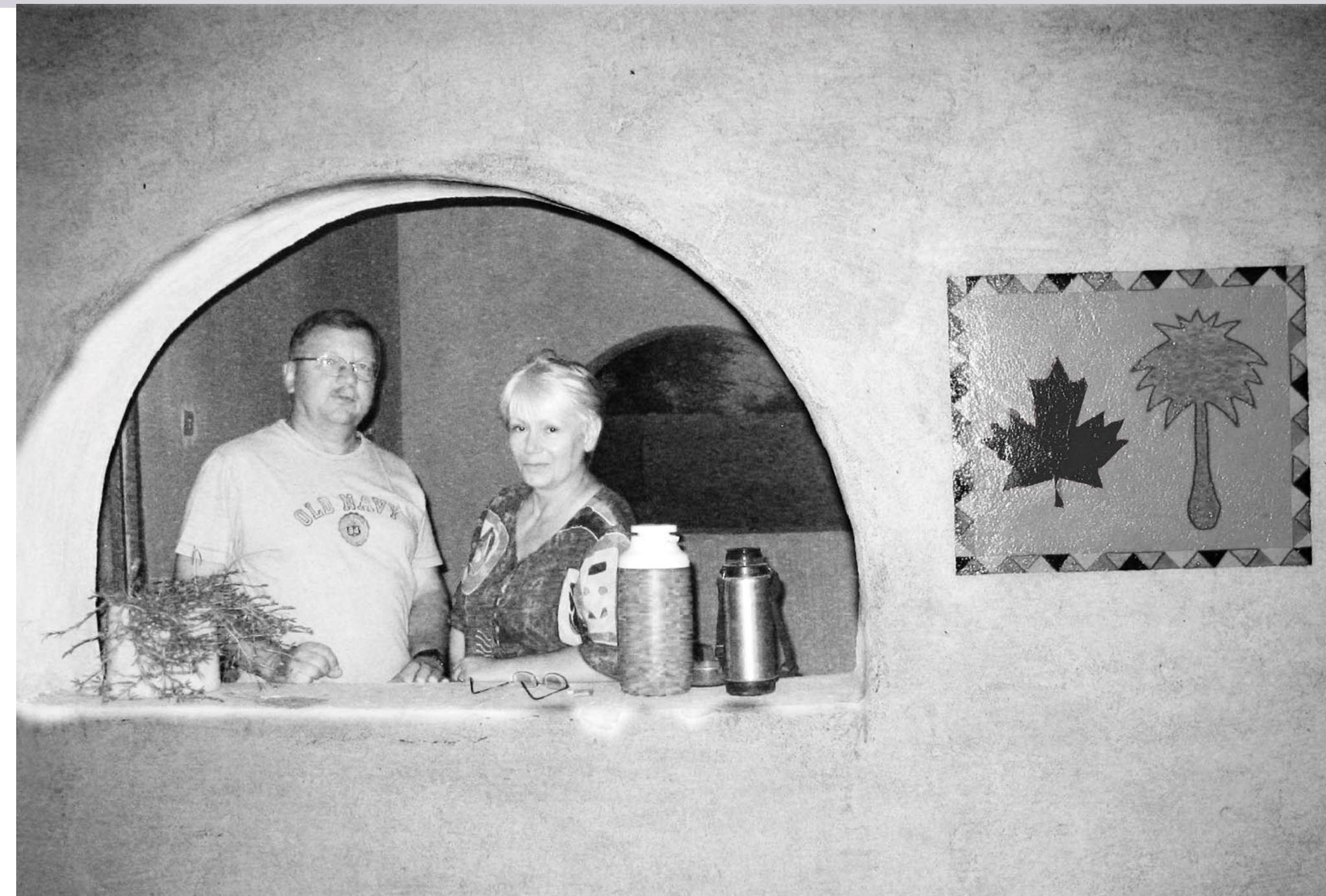


Krzysztof Grzyski

(b. 1951)

Archaeologist



What fascinates me is uncovering the daily life of the city, the jars, the cooking pots that somebody left in the kitchen, and three thousand years later we are finding them.

(Toronto Star, 2007)

Born in Kalisz, Poland, Krzysztof Grzyski studied Mediterranean archaeology at the University of Warsaw, and African archaeology at the University of Calgary, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1981. Since he joined the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto in 1984, his activities have encompassed three different areas: field archaeology, museum curatorship, and university teaching.

Prof. Grzyski's field projects are carried out in Egypt and Sudanese Nubia. The ROM Nubian Expedition has been carrying out an archaeological survey in this area, recording sites from the Stone Age to Islamic periods. Among the most intriguing discoveries were the remains of the previously unknown pre-Napatan Nubian people (1000 - 800 B.C.), the ancestors of the great rulers of Kush. Of special note is the excavation of the Graeco-Roman town Pelusium (Tell el-Farama now) in response to the appeal of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. When the construction of a massive waterway across Egypt's northern Sinai Desert threatened numerous archaeological sites, in 1991 archaeologists launched the North Sinai Salvage Project to survey the canal's path for sites, recover data from sites that would be destroyed, and suggest where the canal might be rerouted. Grzyski co-directed the joint Canadian Egyptian project to explore and preserve the domestic and industrial remains of this important Greco-Roman port. Since 2000, he has been directing joint Sudanese Canadian excavations at Meroe, the capital of Ancient Sudan, a city that flourished between 800 B.C. and A.D. 300. Meroe is considered the largest archaeological site in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Grzyski's activities at the Royal Ontario Museum include developing the Egyptian and Nubian galleries, opened in 1992, and curating special exhibitions such as the *Gold of Meroe* (1994), *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids* (2000), and *Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum* (2004). He is presently Department Head of World Cultures at the ROM.

As teacher, Prof. Grzyski is particularly proud of offering courses in Egyptian and Nubian archaeology and culture at the University of Toronto, and supervising doctoral dissertations.

In 1996, Krzysztof Grzyski was awarded silver medal of the University of Khartoum, and in 2000 he became an Honorary Citizen of his hometown Kalisz.

Photos from top left clockwise:

• Dr Krzysztof Grzyski at work in the Royal Ontario Museum • With wife Joanna in Meroe, Sudan • Archeological excavations in Meroe, Sudan, 2005 • With Prof. Ali Osman in Sudan, 2005

All photos – private archive



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