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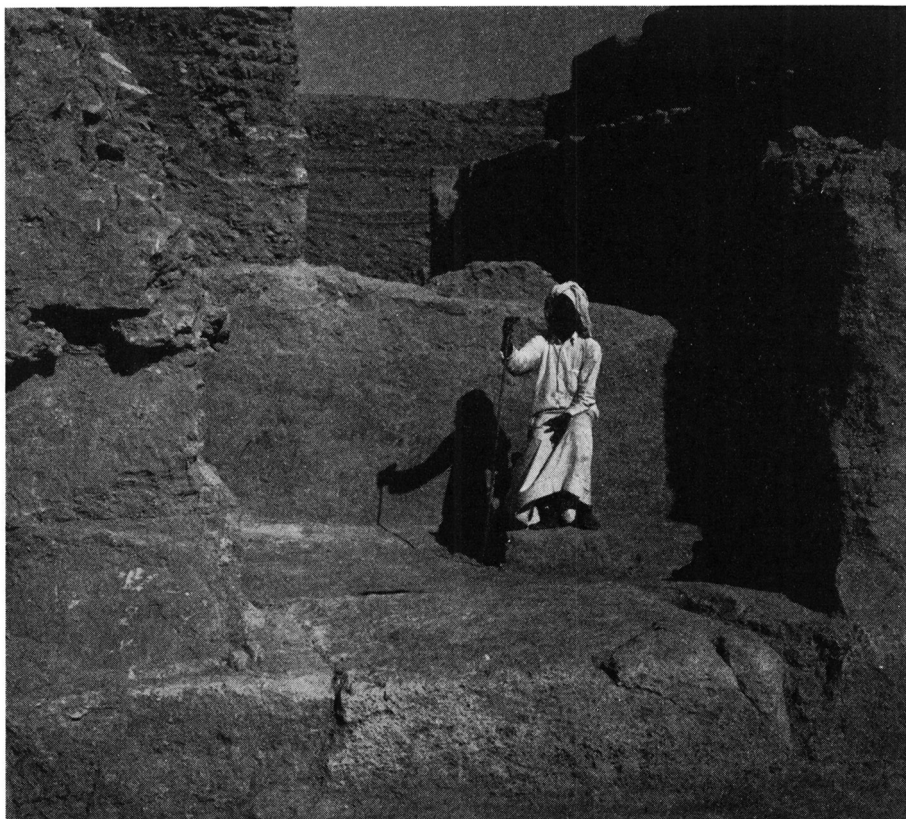


Fig. 1. »Tronstol« i den store bygning i Bahrains oldtidshovedstad.
"Throne" in the large building in Bahrain's ancient capital.

ARKÆOLOGISKE UNDERSØGELSER I FIRE ARABISKE STATER

Af P. V. GLOB

De danske arkæologiske undersøgelser i landene langs Den persiske Golf fortsattes foråret 1959 med udgravninger i sheikedømmerne Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar og Abu Dhabi og rekognosceringerne blev udvidet til vestsiden af Oman-halvøen og Buraimi-oaserne. I disse deltog 27 arkæologer og assistenter og flere hundrede indfødte medhjælpere med T. G. Bibby som souschef og undertegnede som leder. Hovedstyrken afrejste fra Danmark den 13. januar. Arbejdet påbegyndtes i Bahrain og Qatar den 16. januar, i Kuwait den 20. januar og i Abu Dhabi den 20. februar og afsluttedes alle steder c. den 1. april.



Fig. 2. »Kildetempel« på vestsiden af Barbartemplerne i Bahrain.
"Well-temple" on the western side of the Barbar temples in Bahrain.

På Bahrain fortsattes de tidligere års udgravninger i Bahraíns oldtidshovedstad på Qala'at al-Bahrain med afdækning af den store bygning¹), hvor stud. mag.erne Hans Berg og Karen Frifelt afdækkede flere rum, bl. a. et med resterne af en »tronstol« (fig. 1), og ved bymuren²), hvor assistent Egon Hansen fandt et værksted for de seglsten, der er karakteristiske for Dilmun-kulturen i 2.-3. årt.³), således at de med sikkerhed nu kan opstilles som ledetype for denne nye kulturgruppe, der har formidlet handelen mellem sumererne i Mesopotamien og Induskulturen. I templerne ved Barbar afsluttedes undersøgelserne af den indre tempelkerne i de ældste anlæg⁴), og på vestsiden afdækkedes nye store bygningsdele af museumsinspektør Hellmuth Andersen og stud. mag. Peder Mortensen. Her bragte frigravningen af den vestlige rampe⁵) afgørende nyt, idet det viste sig, at den førte ned til et »kildetempel«, i hvis midte der stod et stenkar med tre huller i siden lige over bunden, så grundvandet kunne vælde op i det (fig. 2). Denne rampe har været benyttet både i det første og andet tempelanlæg og har således ikke været en indgang til templet, som det tidligere er formodet. Dette

giver også en bedre forklaring på de store stenblokke, der i to rækker er opstillet på begge sider af rampen, og hvori der må antages at have stået gudebilleder af træ⁶). Yderligere undersøgtes fire gravhøje fra jernalder syd for Budaiavejen af museumsinspektørerne Harald Andersen og Mogens Ørnsnes, samt assistent Knud Riisgård, der i stenkister⁷) fandt bl. a. keramik og glas. For konservering og lejr stod konservator Frode Visti.

I Qatar fortsattes undersøgelsen af et stort byanlæg fra midten af 1. årt. e. Kr. ved Murwab på vestsiden af halvøen af forfatteren Eigil Knuth og cand. jur. Knud Dalgaard-Knudsen, medens mag. art. et cand. jur. Viggo Nielsen udgravede flere af gravhøjene ved Umm al Ma⁸). Yderligere foretog Viggo Nielsen udgravning af de mesolitiske stenalderboplads ved Al Wusail⁹), hvor ledetypen er en flækkepil med skafttunge, hvoraf der fandtes et halvt hundrede, samt talrige brudstykker. Vest for Al Wakrah undersøgtes en ny lokalitet helleristninger af P. V. Glob, hovedsagelig bestående af skålgruber ordnede i lignende mønstre som de tidligere fundne syd for Al Furaihah¹⁰), men også flere nye tegn opdagedes. Undersøgelserne på Qatar udvidedes i år med etnografiske studier af universitetsadjunkt Klaus Ferdinand blandt Na'im- og Murra-stammerne (fig. 3), og samtidig optog fotograf Jette Bang en dokumentarfilm i farver.

På Failaka i Kuwait fortsattes udgravningen af tell'et Sa'ad på øens sydvestspids¹¹), hvor dr. phil. Aage Roussell, fil. dr. Åke Fredsjö, museumsassistent Oscar Marseen, samt malerne Erik Spjæt Christensen og Jørn Glob var beskæftiget. Her afdækkedes en række beboelsesrum, hvori fandtes riflet keramik¹²),



Fig. 3. Gruppe af Murra-stammen under flytning i sandlandskab i Sydqatar. (Marts 1959).
Group of the Murra tribe moving quarters in the sand landscape of south Qatar. (March 1959).

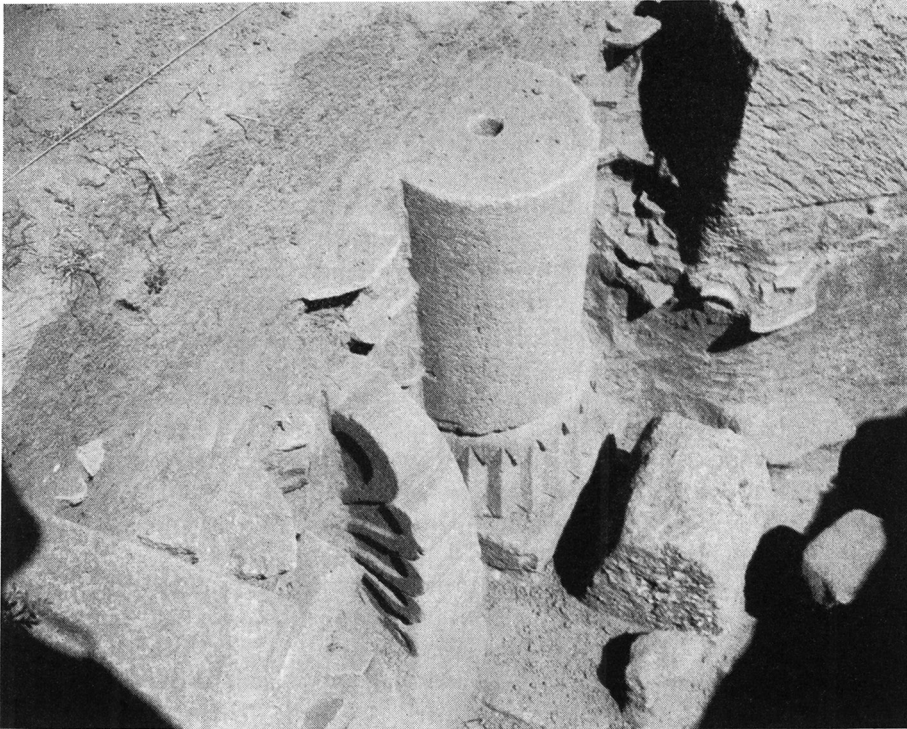


Fig. 4. Fra tempelanlægget ved Sa'aid på Failaka, Kuwait.
From the temple complex at Sa'aid on Failaka, Kuwait.

der sammen med 35 seglsten af klæbersten og forarbejder til disse viser, at bebyggelsen tilhører Dilmun-kulturen, samt at disse seglsten også er tilvirket her. I det nærliggende Sa'aid gravedes der i de græske anlæg af museumsinspektørerne Erling Albrechtsen og Georg Kunwald, konservator G. Lange-Kornbak og stud. mag. Arne Thorsteinsson¹⁴). Det store anlæg her viste sig at være et akropolis omgivet af vold og dybe grave med et tempel, hvoraf dog kun en mindre del blev fremgravet (fig. 4). Ved undersøgelserne her bistod endvidere Imran Abdo, Kuwait Museum.

På Umm an-Nar i Abu Dhabi undersøgte Harald Andersen, Mogens Ørsnes og Knud Riisgård en gravhøj og en samtidig boplads, og sammen med Bibby og Glob foretoges en rekognoscering i Buraimi-området, hvor en gruppe stenrøser, et par hundrede, opdagedes ved Nudud al-Jahal. De fleste af disse var et par meter høje og c. 12 m i tværmål (fig. 5). Rekognosceringen fortsattes af Bibby og Glob fra Buraimi op gennem Oman-halvøens vestside til Ras al Khaimah, hvorunder flintpladser og tell'er kortlagdes.

Som de tidligere år sikrede Carlsbergfondet, København, ved et stort tilskud undersøgelserne på Bahrain, hvortil også Bahrains regering og olieselskabet BAPCO bidrog. For gæstfri modtagelse og hjælp der takker vi Bahrains regent, Hans Højhed sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah og Hans Excellence sheikh

Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifah, regeringens sekretær G. W. R. Smith og BAPCOs vicepræsident M. H. Lipp. Undersøgelserne på Failaka bekostedes af Kuwaits regering, for hvilket vi takker Hans Højhed sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, undervisningsministeren, Hans Excellence sheikh Abdullah Al-Jábir Al-Sabah, og for hjælp ved gennemførelsen undervisningsdirektør Abdulaziz Hussein og vicedirektør Darwish Miqdadi. Arbejdet i Qatar gennemførtes med tilskud fra lokale midler, for hvilke vi takker regenten Hans Højhed sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani og chefen for Q. P. C., Mr. P. R. A. Ensor og for megen hjælp regeringens rådgiver G. M. Hancock og sheikh Jasem bin Mohammed bin Jasem Al-Thani. I Abu Dhabi blev vort arbejde mødt med stor interesse af regenten Hans Højhed sheikh Shakbut bin Sultan bin Zaid og Hans Excellence sheikh Zaid bin Sultan bin Zaid, og vi modtog megen hjælp fra repræsentanten for A. D. M. A., Mr. I. Cuthbert.

Af ekspeditionens arbejde blev i år optaget farvefilm for BAPCO af John Underwood, og det bragtes ud til en større kreds gennem Ib René, Danmarks Statsradio, Svend Aage Lorentz og Henning Bendtsen, Danmarks Fjernsyn, journalist Adam Wiehe, samt maleren Karl Bovin, der var udsendt af Carlsbergbryggeriernes kunstforening.

De danske arkæologer blev overalt som tidligere mødt med hjertelighed og



Fig. 5. Gravhøje ved Nudūd al-Jahal i Buraimi, Abu Dhabi.
Burial mounds at Nudūd al-Jahal in Buraimi, Abu Dhabi.

hjelpsomhed af gamle og nye medarbejdere blandt befolkningen i de mange områder, arbejdet efterhånden omfatter, hvilket i høj grad fremmede arbejdet og sikrede de gode resultater.

Archeological Investigations in Four Arab States.

The Danish archeological investigations in the countries along the shores of the Arabian Gulf were continued in the spring of 1959, with excavations in the Principalities of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, and with reconnaissance extended to the western coast of the Oman peninsula and to the oases around Buraimi. 27 archeologists and assistants, and several hundred local labourers, took part in these investigations, with the author as Director and Geoffrey Bibby as Deputy Director. The main party left Denmark 13th January, and work commenced in Bahrain and Qatar 16th January, in Kuwait 20th January, and in Abu Dhabi 20th February. The season concluded at all sites about 1st April.

In Bahrain previous years' excavations at Bahrain's prehistoric capital at Qala'at al-Bahrain were continued; Hans Berg and Karen Frifelt excavated further rooms in the large building¹), including one with remains of a 'throne' (Fig 1), while at the city wall²) Egon Hansen discovered a workshop for the stamp-seals characteristic of the Dilmun-culture of the Second and Third Millennia BC³), so that they can now with certainty be regarded as characteristic types of the new culture group which ran the trade between the Sumerians in Mesopotamia and the Indus civilisation. In the temples at Barbar, Hellmuth Andersen and Peder Mortensen completed their investigations of the central core of the earliest stage⁴), and on the western side uncovered new large constructional features. Here the uncovering of the western ramp⁵) led to an important new discovery, at it was shown to lead down to a 'well-temple', in the centre of which stood a stone vessel with three holes in the sides just above the bottom, to allow the subsoil-water to run out of it (Fig. 2). This ramp had been in use during both the first and second stages of the temple, and had thus not formed an entrance to the temple as was at first thought. This also gives a better explanation of the large stone blocks which lie in two rows on either side of the ramp, and in which we may assume that wooden figures of gods stood⁶). In addition, Harald Andersen, Mogens Ørsnes and Knud Riisgård investigated four Iron-Age burial mounds south of the Budaiya road, discovering stone cists⁷) containing, among other objects, pottery and glass. Frode Visti was in charge of the camp and of conservation.

In Qatar the excavation was continued of a large town area at Murwab on the west side of the peninsula dating to the middle of the First Millennium BC, by Eigil Knuth and Knud Dalgaard-Knudsen, while Viggo Nielsen excavated several of the burial mounds at Umm al-Ma⁸), and in addition carried out excavations on the Stone-Age settlement of Mesolithic date at Al-Wusail⁹), characterized by a tanged blade-arrowhead of which about fifty, in addition to numerous fragments, were found. West of Al-Wakrah a new field of rock-carvings was investigated by P. V. Glob. The carvings consisted mainly of cup-marks arranged in patterns similar to those earlier found south of Al-Furaihah¹⁰), though several new subjects were noted. This season the investigations in Qatar were extended to cover ethnographical studies by Klaus Ferdinand among the Na'im and Murra tribes (Fig. 3), while at the same time Mrs. Jette Bang took a documentary film in colour.

On the island of Failaka in Kuwait excavation continued at the "tell" of Sa'ad on the southwest point of the island¹¹), Dr. Aage Roussell, Dr. Åke Fredsjö, Oscar Marseen, Erik Spjæt Christensen and Jørn Glob taking part in the work. Here a series of dwelling-rooms was uncovered, and in them ridged pottery and 35 stamp-seals of steatite and blanks for seals show that the settlement belongs to the Dilmun culture and that this type of seal was also manufactured here. In the "tell" of Sa'aid nearby Erling Albrechtsen, Georg Kunwald, Gunnar Lange-Kornbak and Arne Thorsteinsson dug in the remains of the Greek occupation¹⁴). The large site here has proved to be an acropolis surrounded by ramparts and a deep moat, and containing a temple of which only a small portion has as yet been excavated (Fig. 4). Our investigations here were also assisted by Imran Abdo, of the Kuwait Museum.

In Abu Dhabi, a burial tumulus and a contemporary settlement were investigated by Harald Andersen, Mogens Ørsnes and Knud Risgård on the island of Umm an-Nar, while the same team, together with Bibby and Glob, carried out a reconnaissance of the area around Buraimi, where a group of about 200 stone burial cairns was discovered at Nudud al-Jahal. The majority of these cairns were about two metres high and about 12 metres in diameter (Fig. 5). The reconnaissance was continued by Bibby and Glob from Buraimi northward through the western part of the Oman peninsula as far as Ras al-Khaimah. In the course of the journey flint-sites and tells were located and mapped.

As in previous years the investigations on Bahrain were made possible by a large grant from the Carlsberg Foundation in Copenhagen, while contributions were also received from the Government of Bahrain and the oil company BAPCO. For help and hospitality there we thank the Ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, and His Excellency Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifah, the Secretary to the Government, Mr. G. W. R. Smith, and the Vice President of BAPCO, Mr. M. H. Lipp. The investigations on Failaka were financed by the Government of Kuwait, for which we thank the Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, and the Minister of Education, His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jabir Al-Sabah. In carrying out the work we were greatly assisted by the Director of Education, Mr. Abdulaziz Hussein, and the Deputy Director, Mr. Darwish Miqdadi. The work in Qatar was made possible by grants from local sources, and for them we are deeply grateful to the Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani, and to the General Manager of the oil company QPC, Mr. P. R. A. Ensor, while much welcome assistance was rendered to us by the Adviser to the Government, Mr. G. M. Hancock, and by Sheikh Jasem bin Mohammed bin Jasem Al-Thani. In Abu Dhabi our work was followed with great interest by the Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Shakbut bin Sultan bin Zaid, and by His Excellency Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan bin Zaid, while we received invaluable assistance from the oil company ADMA, and from its representative in Abu Dhabi, Mr. I. Cuthbert.

A colour film for BAPCO of the work of the expedition was taken this year by Mr. J. Underwood, while our work was introduced to a wider circle through Ib René of the Danish State Radio, Svend Aage Lorentz and Henning Bendtsen of Danish Television, and by Adam Wiehe, journalist, and Karl Bovin, artist, who was sent out by the Art Society of the Carlsberg Breweries.

As in earlier years the Danish archeologists have, throughout the large area which our researches have gradually come to cover, everywhere been met with cordial hospitality and a ready willingness to assist from friends both old and new among the residents in these many lands. Their help has been of inestimable value to the progress and success of the expedition.

P. V. Glob,
Forhistorisk Museum.

NOTER

1) Kuml 1954 s. 164 og 1958 s. 140. 2) Kuml 1957 s. 138. 3) Kuml 1957 s. 143 fig. 13. 4) Kuml 1955 s. 178. 5) Kuml 1955 s. 181 fig. 4. 6) Kuml 1955 s. 183. 7) Kuml 1954 s. 126. 8) Kuml 1957 s. 171 fig. 5. 9) Kuml 1958 s. 169. 10) Kuml 1957 s. 174 fig. 8. 11) Kuml 1958 s. 116 fig. 1. 12) Kuml 1955 s. 188 fig. 12. 13) Kuml 1958 s. 168 fig. 3. 14) Kuml 1958 s. 172.