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ÅRBOG FOR JYSK ARKÆOLOGISK SELSKAB

1960

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INDHOLD

<i>P. V. Glob</i> : Johannes Brøndsted	6
<i>Bent Sylvest</i> og <i>Inger Sylvest</i> : Årupgårdfundet	9
<i>H. Hellmuth Andersen</i> : Køkkenmøddingen ved Mejlgård	26
<i>Oscar Marseen</i> : Ferslev-Huset	36
<i>Henrik Thrane</i> : En bronzeskål fra Ålborgeggen	56
<i>Poul Kjærum</i> : Stensatte Jernalder-Kældre i Vendsyssel	62
<i>Jytte Lavrsen</i> : Brandstrup	90
<i>O. Crumlin-Pedersen</i> : Sideroret fra Vorså	106
<i>Peter Riismøller</i> : Nålemageren i Strandstien	117
<i>V. V. Pokhljobkin</i> og <i>V. B. Vilinbakhov</i> : Nogle ord i anledning af prof. A. Stender-Petersens hypotese	135
<i>Ad. Stender-Petersen</i> : Svar på <i>V. V. Pokhljobkins</i> og <i>V. B. Vilinbakhovs</i> be- mærkninger	137
<i>Kristian Jeppesen</i> : Et kongebud til Ikaros	153
<i>Otto Mørkholm</i> : Græske mønter fra Failaka	199
<i>P. V. Glob</i> : Danske arkæologer i Den persiske Golf	208
Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab	215
Register for Kuml 1951-1960	217

CONTENTS

<i>P. V. Glob</i> : Johannes Brøndsted	8
<i>Bent Sylvest and Inger Sylvest</i> : The Årupgård Hoard	23
<i>H. Hellmuth Andersen</i> : Der Muschelhaufen bei Mejlgård	34
<i>Oscar Marseen</i> : The Ferslev House—a Cult-Building from the Passage-Grave Period	53
<i>Henrik Thrane</i> : A Bronze Cup from the Ålborg Area.....	60
<i>Poul Kjærum</i> : Stone-set Iron Age Cellars in Vendsyssel	88
<i>Jytte Lavrsen</i> : Brandstrup. A 10th Century Cavalry Grave	104
<i>O. Crumlin-Pedersen</i> : The Steering Oar from Vorså	115
<i>Peter Riismøller</i> : Der Nadler in Strandstien	130
<i>V. V. Pokhljobkin</i> og <i>V. B. Vilinbakhov</i> : Несколько слов по поводу гипотезы проф. Стендер-Петерсена	132
<i>Ad. Stender-Petersen</i> : Ответ на замечания В. В. Похлебкина и В. Б. Вилинбахова.....	144
<i>Kristian Jeppesen</i> : A Royal Message to Ikaros	187
<i>Otto Mørkholm</i> : Greek Coins from Failaka	205
<i>P. V. Glob</i> : Danish Archeologists in the Persian Gulf	212
Index to Kuml 1951-1960	217



Fig. 1. Husruiner fra tell'et Sa'ad på Failaka, Kuwait (Lennart Larsen fot.).
Remains of houses from the tell of Sa'ad on Failaka, Kuwait.

DANSKE ARKÆOLOGER I DEN PERSISKE GOLF

Af P. V. GLOB

Med store styrker fortsattes udgravningerne i sheikedømmerne Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar og Abu Dhabi fra midten af januar til omkring 1. april 1960 med undertegnede som leder og museumsinspektør T. G. Bibby som souschef.

I Kuwait påbegyndtes undersøgelserne på Failaka den 8. januar, hvor museumsinspektør Poul Kjærum havde den daglige ledelse. I tell'et Sa'ad på øens sydvestspids fortsattes udgravningerne af byanlægget fra 3. årtusindes slutning ¹⁾ af museumsinspektør Oscar Marseen, konservator Kristen Møllenhuis, Trondheim, magister Peter Seeberg og stud. mag. Aino Kann Rasmussen, og her afdækkedes et stort antal mindre husrum i tell'ets sydlige del (fig. 1) og i dets nordlige rester af større bygninger, der var stærkt ødelagte ved stenplyndring. I det nærliggende tell Sa'id fuldendtes udgravningen af det tidligere påviste tempel

fra 3. århundrede f. Kr.²⁾ af professor, dr. phil. Kristian Jeppesen, etnografen Steffen Fisker, forfatteren Thorkild Hansen og stud. mag. Elsebeth Sander Jørgensen, medens museumsinspektør Erling Albrechtsen fortsatte udgravningen af de befæstningsanlæg, der omgiver dette anlæg og de omgivne bygninger.³⁾ Umiddelbart nord derfor påbegyndtes udgravningen af et tell, der dækkede fundamenter af anselige bygninger fra 3. årtusindets slutning, overlejret af yngre anlæg, af Karl Vibe Müller, Oslo, og stud. mag. Jens Aarup Jensen. Endvidere deltog i ekspeditionen G. Lange-Kornbak som konservator og Lennart Larsen som fotograf, meden Kuwaits museum var repræsenteret af Tareq Rajab og Imran Abdo. Udgravningen af templet og en møntskat er særlig omtalt (s. 153 og s. 199) og af fundene fra de andre udgravninger må særlig fremhæves et par hundrede seglsten af steatit som de tidligere fremdragne⁴⁾, samt cylindersegl, heraf flere med kileindskrifter. Ekspeditionens heldige forløb og økonomi



Fig. 2. Den vestlige bymur omkring oldtidshovedstaden på Qala'at al-Bahrain ((Lennart Larsen fot.).
The western portion of the city wall around the ancient capital at Qala'at al-Bahrain.

sikredes gennem stor imødekommenhed fra Kuwaits regent, Hans Højhed sheik Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, undervisningsministeren, Hans Excellence sheik Abdullah Al-Jábir Al-Sabah og undervisningsdirektør Abdulaziz Hussein, og det praktiske arrangement af vicedirektør Darwish Miqdadi og Ahmed Al-Eisa.

I Bahrain fortsattes de tidligere års udgravninger fra den 10. januar i oldtidshovedstaden i Qala'at al-Bahrain, hvor stud. mag.erne Hans Berg og Karen Frifelt afdækkede de østlige dele af den store paladsbygning⁵), medens mag. art. E. Kern Lillesø og Svend Bue-Madsen påbegyndte undersøgelsen af den vestlige del af bymuren, der her viste sig at være ualmindelig godt bevaret (fig. 2). Museumsinspektør Hellmuth Andersen og mag. art. Peder Mortensen fortsatte undersøgelseerne af templerne ved Barbar, hvor udstrækningen af de tre anlægs vestlige og nordlige mure blev endelig fastlagt⁶). Også eftersøgningen af flintpladser i Bahraíns sydvestlige ørken blev fortsat og to gravhøje ved landsbyen Sar undersøgt af cand. mag. Knud Thorvildsen og Arne Thorsteinsson, som deri afdækkede mandslange stenkister fra jernalderen. Disse høje viste sig at være opbyggede i flere tempi, forøgede til siderne ved anlæggelse af nye grave, så formen bliver uregelmæssig og toppen fladet ud, hvorved de adskiller sig fra den store mængde af kegleformede høje i Bahraíns ørken fra 3. årtusinde⁷). Den flade højtype findes talrigt op til vestkystens landsbyer Dumistan, Karzakkan og Shaharakkan, hvilket synes at vise, at disse er anlagt samtidig med højene. For lejr og konservering stod Frode Visti, medens maleren Karl Bovin som gæst deltog i ekspeditionen et par måneder. Undersøgelseerne på Bahrain sikredes som



Fig. 3. Flintplads på Qatar.

Flint site on Qatar.



Fig. 4. Kvader med tyre-relief ved sydsiden af høj 43, Umm en-Nar (Knud Thorkildsen fot.).
Masonry block with relief of bull at southern side of tumulus 43, Umm en-Nar, Abu Dhabi.

tidligere gennem tilskud fra Carlsbergfondet, København, Bahraíns regering og olieselskabet Bapco og blev som vanligt fulgt med stor interesse af Bahraíns regent, Hans Højhed sheik Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, Hans Excellence sheik Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifah, regeringens sekretær G. W. R. Smith og Bapcos vicepræsident M. H. Lipp.

I Qatar foretoges omfattende undersøgelser af de sydvestlige kystegne af halvøen, hvor der tidligere var fundet adskillige flintpladser ved Al Hamlah og Ras Uwainat Ali⁸). Her arbejdede billedhuggeren Holger Kapel og stud. mag. Hans Jørgen Madsen fra 14. januar og fandt 40 nye flintpladser fra palæolitisk og neolitisk tid. Alle pladserne var overfladefund (fig. 3), men et meget stort materiale blev opsamlet, særlig fra en neolitisk plads syd for Dukhan, hvor et par hundrede fladehuggede pilespidser blev opsamlet⁹) sammen med et stort antal økser og skrabere. Undersøgelserne gennemførtes med midler fra Qatars regering og olieselskabet QPC og ved stor imødekommenhed fra regenten Hans Højhed sheik Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani, regeringens rådgiver G. M. Hancock, politichefen, commander R. Cochrane og chefen for QPC, Mr. P. R. A. Ensor.

På øen Umm an-Nar i Abu Dhabi fortsattes undersøgelsen af stenrøserne fra 25. januar ved konservator, cand. mag. Knud Thorvildsen og stud. mag. Arne Thorsteinsson, der udgravede et par større og flere mindre røser¹⁰). De viste

sig at indeholde meget komplicerede gravanlæg med skeletgrave, perler og malet keramik fra 3. årtusinde, omsluttet af hvælvinger af kvaderhuggede sten, hvoraf nogle på den største af højene ved indgangen i syd bar relieffer af tyr, kamel, slange og andre dyr (fig. 4). Regenten, Hans Højhed sheik Shakbut bin Sultan bin Zaid, og Hans Excellence sheik Zaid bin Sultan bin Zaid gav imødekommende tilladelse til udgravninger, som de fulgte med stor interesse, og for den praktiske gennemførelse af opholdet på den øde ø takker ekspeditionen A.D.M.A.s stedlige leder, Mr. I. Cuthbert.

Danish Archeologists in the Persian Gulf.

The excavations in the sheikhdoms of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi were continued from the middle of January to about the first of April 1960 by large force of archeologists, with the author as leader and Geoffrey Bibby as deputy leader.

In Kuwait investigations were resumed on Failaka 8th January under the overall direction of Poul Kjærum. At the "tell" of Sa'ad on the southwest corner of the island excavation of the town site from the end of the Third Millennium¹) was continued by Oscar Marseen, assisted by Kristen Møllenhuis of Trondheim, Peter Seeberg and Aino Kann Rasmussen, and here a large number of small dwelling rooms were uncovered to the south, and to the north remains of larger buildings, badly destroyed in the course of stone-plundering (Fig. 1). In the tell of Sa'id close by the excavation of the temple from the 3rd century BC, which had already been identified²), was completed by Professor Kristian Jeppesen, Steffen Fisker, Thorkild Hansen and Elsebeth Sander Jørgensen, while Erling Albrechtsen continued the excavation of the fortifications which surround this site and the associated buildings³). Immediately to the north of this site excavation was commenced on a tell which proved to cover the foundations of imposing buildings from the end of the Third Millennium, topped by later levels, by Karl Vibe Müller of Oslo and Jens Aarup Jensen. In addition Gunnar Lange-Kornbak took part in the expedition as conservator and Lennart Larsen as photographer, while Kuwait's museum was represented by Tareq Rajab and Imran Abdo. The excavations of the temple and of a coin hoard are separately reported (p. 187 and 205), while of the other objects discovered special mention must be made of some 150 stamp-seals of steatite of the same type as those previously found⁴), as well as cylinder seals, several of which bore cuneiform inscriptions. The success of the expedition and its economic basis were the result of generous support from the Ruler of Kuwait, His Highness the Emir Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, the Minister of Education, His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, and the Director of Education, Abdulaziz Hussein, and by the practical assistance of the Deputy Director, Darwish Miqdadi, and of Ahmed Al-Eisa.

In Bahrain the excavations of previous years were continued from 10th January at the prehistoric capital at Qala'at al-Bahrain, where Hans Berg and Karen Frifelt uncovered the eastern part of the large palace-building⁵), while E. Kern Lillesø and Svend Bue-Madsen commenced an investigation of the western portion of the city wall, which here proved to be exceptionally well preserved (Fig. 2). Hellmuth Andersen and Peder Mortensen continued the investigation of the temples at Barbar, where the run of the western and northern walls of the three building phases was finally determined⁶). The investigation of flint sites in the south-western desert of Bahrain was also continued, and two burial tumuli near the village of Sar were excavated by Knud Thorvildsen and Arne Thorsteinsson, and proved to contain Iron-Age stone cists in full man's length. These tumuli were shown to have been built up in several stages, extended to the sides by the placing of new graves, producing the irregular shape and flat top by which these mounds are distinguished from the large number of conical tumuli from the Third Millennium in Bahrain's desert⁷). This flat type of tumulus is found in large numbers close to the west coast villages of Dumistan, Karzakkan and Shaharakkan, which would appear

to suggest that these villages were founded at the same time as the tumuli. Frode Visti was in charge of the camp and of conservation, while the artist, Karl Bovin, was the guest of the expedition for two months. The excavations on Bahrain were made possible, as in earlier years, by grants from the Carlsberg Foundation, the Government of Bahrain and the Bahrain Petroleum Company, and the work was as usual followed with great interest by the Ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, the heir-apparent, His Excellency Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifah, by the Secretary to the Government, G. W. R. Smith, and by the Vice President of Bapco M. H. Lipp.

In Qatar a thorough investigation was carried out of the southwestern coastal areas of the peninsula, where previously a number of flint sites had been found at Al-Hamlah and Ras Uwainat Ali⁸). Here Holger Kapel and Hans Jørgen Madsen worked from 14th January, and found 40 new flint sites from Paleolithic and Neolithic periods. All were surface sites (Fig. 3), but a very large body of material was collected, particularly from a Neolithic site south of Dukhan, where about 200 surface-flaked arrowheads were collected⁹, together with a large number of axes and scrapers. The investigations were carried out with means provided by the Government of Qatar and the Qatar Petroleum Company, and with the generous assistance of the Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani, the Adviser to the Government, G. M. Hancock, the Chief of Police, Commandant R. Cochrane, and the General Manager of Q.P.C., P.R.A. Ensor.

On the island of Umm an-Nar in Abu Dhabi the investigation of the stone tumuli was continued from 25th January by Knud Thorvildsen and Arne Thorsteinsson, who excavated two large and several small tumuli¹⁰). They proved to contain very complicated grave structures with skeletons, beads and painted pottery from the Third Millennium, covered by corbelled vaults of cut stone, some of which, by the southern entrance to the largest of the mounds, bore reliefs of bulls, camels, snakes and other animals (Fig. 4). The Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Shakbut bin Sultan bin Zaid, and His Excellency Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan bin Zaid freely gave their permission for the investigation, which they followed with great interest, while for the practical arrangements for sojourn on a completely desert island the thanks of the expedition are due to the local representative of Abu Dhabi Marine Areas, Ian Cuthbert.

P. V. Glob,

Forhistorisk Museum, Århus.

NOTER

1) KUML 1958 s. 166 fig. 1. 2) KUML 1959 s. 236 fig. 4. 3) KUML 1958 s. 172. 4) KUML 1959 s. 168 fig. 3. 5) KUML 1954 s. 164 og 1958 s. 140. 6) KUML 1955 s. 178 og 1959 s. 234. 7) KUML 1954 s. 116. 8) KUML 1957 s. 167. 9) KUML 1957 s. 169 fig. 3 c. 10) KUML 1958 s. 162.

