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# KUML

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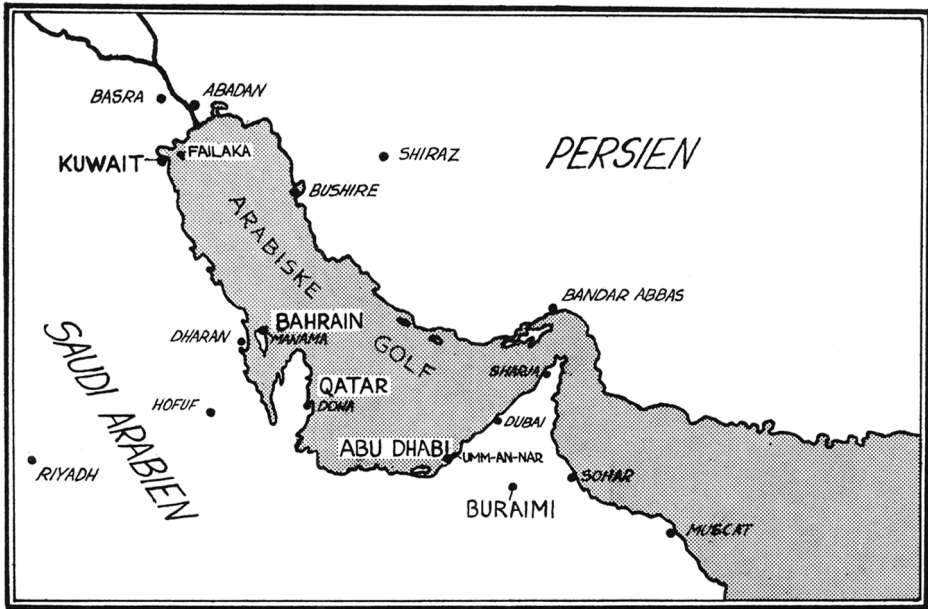


Fig. 1. Kort visende Bahrain - ekspeditionernes undersøgelsesområder.  
Map showing the investigation area of the Bahrain Expeditions.

## GRAVRØSER PÅ UMM an-NAR

Af KNUD THORVILDSSEN

I sheikedømmet Abu Dhabi på Oman halvøens kyst mod Den persiske Havbugt ligger den lille nøgne klippeø Umm an-Nar. Med sit midtplateau af kalkklippe og sin brede forstrand af sand ligner den alle de andre mange småøer ud for Traktatkystens golde ørken. Øen, der kun er skilt fra fastlandet ved et 10–20 meter bredt sund, er nu helt ubeboet, men er dog kendt af ørkenens beduiner og beboerne i den nærmeste by, sheikens residens Abu Dhabi, fordi der midt på øens klippeplateau findes en i ny tid muret vandcisterne, som ved de alt for sjældent forekommende regnskyl opsamler den kostbare nedbør.

Det var P. V. Glob og T. G. Bibby, som i 1958 ved en rekognoscering i Abu Dhabi området i forbindelse med den 5. Danske Arkæologiske Bahrain-Ekspedition blev gjort opmærksom på ruinerne efter en forhistorisk bosættelse på Umm an-Nar. Et besøg på øen afslørede talrige gravhøje, alle i form af stenrøser, og en ruinhøj med bopladslevninger<sup>1</sup>). Oldtidsminderne på den lille ø lokkede til nærmere undersøgelse og denne blev da også påbegyndt det følgende år, idet det takket være hjælp fra den regerende sheik og olieselskabet A. D. M. A. lykkedes



Fig. 2. Røse I efter udgravningen 1959.  
Cairn I after the excavation in 1959.

at overvinde de praktiske vanskeligheder, som stillede sig i vejen for den arkæologiske undersøgelse. Arkæologerne blev installeret i en palmehytte på øens brede forstrand. Forsyningerne blev i bil kørt de 20 km gennem ørkenen til øen fra den lille by Abu Dhabi, som også var i stand til at levere den halve snes arabiske arbejdere, som hjalp til ved undersøgelsen.

Den første undersøgelseskampagne fandt sted i månederne februar og marts 1959. I løbet af godt en måned foretog Harald Andersen, Mogens Ørsnes og Knud Riisgaard en undersøgelse af en af øens største gravrøser (røse I) og fik klarlagt den store gravbygningens komplicerede anlæg og undersøgt halvdelen af dens grave. Derudover blev foretaget mindre undersøgelser i bopladsruinerne. Året efter fortsattes undersøgelserne, denne gang af Arne Thorsteinsson og forfatteren af denne foreløbige beretning. Ved den anden kampagne, der varede fra 25. januar til 25. marts 1960, blev røse I færdigundersøgt og udgravningen af røse II påbegyndt, uden at man dog nåede ned til selve gravkamrene. Især koncentreredes undersøgelsen dog om en række mindre gravbygninger (røserne IV–VIII), der blev undersøgt til bunds. Kampagnen sluttede med en fuldstændig registrering og beskrivelse af øens 50 grave. Undersøgelsen af øens grave blev fortsat i november og december 1961, hvor undersøgelsen af røse II blev afsluttet. I denne sidste kampagne deltog sammen med det forrige års deltagere Elise Thorvildsen og Vagn Kolstrup.

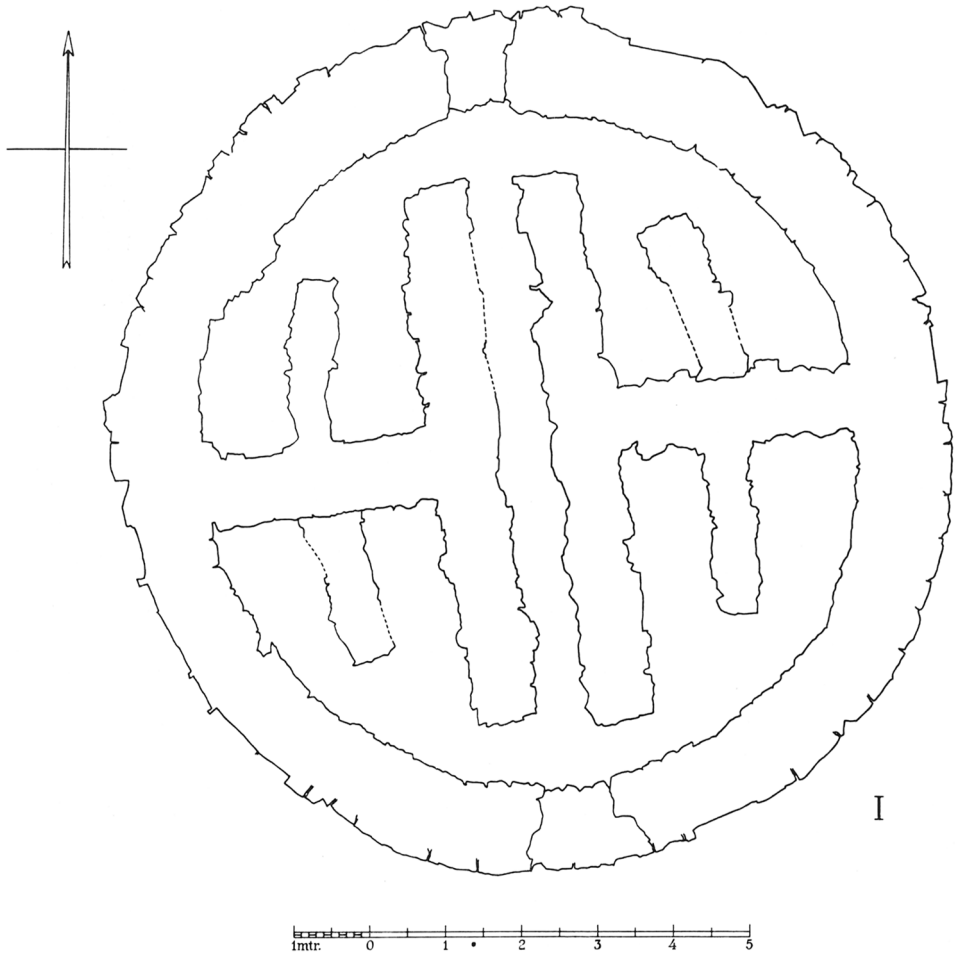


Fig. 3. Grundplan af røse I.  
Plan of Cairn I.

### *Røse I*

Det i 1959 afdækkede gravanlæg er en 11 meter bred, cirkelrund gravbygning, hvor ydermuren hviler på en sokkel af regelmæssigt tilhugne brudsten. Bygningen har en dobbelt, ca. 1 meter bred ringmur. Den yderste mur er bygget af fint tilhugne, nøjagtigt sammenpassede store kalkstenskvadre, der uden binde-middel har været opstabled i flere skifter indtil en højde af mindst 1,50 meter, opefter har muren haft en svag hældning indad. Bag kvaderstensmuren var opstabled en indvendig ringmur af utilhugne flade brudsten. Rummet inden for ringmuren var, som det fremgår af fig. 2-3 opfyldt af mange gravkamre, der var adskilt fra hinanden ved et kompliceret mursystem. En flisebelagt tværgang, der var flankeret af mure i retning nord-syd, delte bygningens indre i to halvdele,

uden at adskillelsen dog var absolut, idet gangens mure ved begge ender stand-  
sede ca. 1 meter fra ringmuren. De to af gangen adskilte halvdele var delt i to  
lige store dele ved hjælp af en mur, der fra ringmuren nåede gangens mur, vinkel-  
ret på denne. De 4 sektioner er atter tvedelt, denne gang af krumme mure, så-  
ledes at der i hver fjerdedel findes to flisebelagte gravrum med fælles forrum  
uden brolægning. Fund af flade stenheller på murene eller nedskredne fra disse  
på gulvet viste, at gang og rum havde været overdækket med sten. Det blev iagt-  
taget, at der udfor hver ende af den nord-sydgående midtergang var et brud i  
den indre ringmur (aftegnet på planen fig. 3), og da der uden for muren mellem  
de nedstyrtede stenkvadre netop ud for hver af disse brud fandtes en fint tilhug-  
get stenkvader med tilskåret »håndtag« blev disse sten opfattet som »dørsten«  
og bruddene i muren som spor efter indgangsåbninger til gravene.

Undersøgelsen i 1959 afsluttedes med udgravningen af midtergangens og den  
østlige halvdels bundlag. Det afsløredes herved, at der i forrummene til de 4  
brolagte gravkamre fandtes ophobninger af menneskeknogler, hvorimod der i  
midtergangen og selv kamrene kun lå enkelte knogler. Mellem skeletdelene lå  
tre itubrudte lerkar samt en del spredte skår og enkelte små stenperler. Ved kam-  
pagnen i 1960 blev begravelseslaget i den vestlige del af anlægget undersøgt, og  
det viste sig, at bundlaget her var betydeligt mere givende end i den østlige del.  
Også her blev kun fundet ganske enkelte lerkar og knogler i de 4 brolagte rum.  
Langt størstedelen lå hobet op i forrummene i en dyngge op mod ringmuren (fig.  
4). Dette forhold forklares vel bedst ved at antage, at gravrummene kun har  
rummet en enkelt begravelse ad gangen, idet den tidligere gravlagte ved hver ny  
gravlægning er blevet ryddet ud i forrummet. At dømme efter antallet af kra-  
nier og underkæber har der i gravbygningens vestlige del været begravet mindst  
15 individer, hvoraf i hvert fald det ene var et barn. Mellem knoglerne lå 23  
mere eller mindre hele lerkar (et udvalg ses fig. 21), et kar af grøn steatit (fig. 21  
nederst th.) samt bunden af et stærkt forvitret alabasterkar. Endvidere fandtes ca.  
650 perler, de fleste var korte rørformede af en grå stenart, men en del var kulørte  
af varierende form og størrelse. Endelig blev der også fremdraget et par små  
bronzefragmenter, hvoraf det ene synes at være af en nål, medens det andet ikke  
kan bestemmes.

### *Røse II.*

80 meter sydøst for den just beskrevne grav lå røse II. Skønt en smule større  
med sine 12 meter i tværmål, svarer denne gravbygning i form og udseende gan-  
ske til den først undersøgte (fig. 5). Opdelingen af bygningens indre afveg kun  
fra den første derved, at midtergangen var spærret med en tværmur, således at  
der ikke var forbindelse mellem bygningens nordlige og sydlige halvdel. Den  
yderste ringmur havde i sit nederste skifte haft 60 smukt tilhugne kvadre af noget  
varierende længde, men alle 0,45–0,50 meter høje, og 42 stod endnu på plads.  
Af andet skifte var kun 4 sten på plads, de var nogle få centimeter lavere  
i højden end stenene fra nederste skifte. Skjult under sand lå som en krans uden  
for gravbygningen 310 nedstyrtede kvadre. Forudsat at ingen kvadre er fjernet





Fig. 4. Røse I under udgravning 1960.  
Cairn I during the excavation 1960.

fra stedet kan det på grundlag af kvadrenes antal og længde beregnes, at kvaderstensmuren har haft 5 skifter med en samlet højde af 2,25–2,50 m. Denne beregning stemmer ganske godt sammen med højden på den bedst bevarede af midtergangens længdemure, der endnu stod i en højde af 2,25 m.

Op til ringmurens nordside lige ud for midtergangen fandtes en kvadersten med et fra længdesiden udhugget firkantet hul stort nok til, at en arm kunne stikkes igennem. Da en nøjagtig lignende sten blev fundet ud for midtergangen på bygningens modsatte side, vil det være naturligt at sidestille disse sten med de to »dørsten«, som blev fundet ved røse I (fig. 6).

Disse særligt formede sten har dog ikke været den eneste variation i ydermurens glatte stenflade. Nærmest ved sydmurens »dørsten« afdækkedes 2 kvadersten, prydet med dyrefigurer i ophøjet relief. Midt på den ene ses en kraftigt tegnet tyreskikkelse<sup>2</sup>). På den anden (fig. 7) er hugget en kamel samt et dyr, der bl. a. på grund af overfladens forvitring kun med nogen usikkerhed kan bestemmes som en gazelle. Nedstyrtet fra ringmuren fandtes mod sydvest endnu to billedsten. Den ene var prydet med en idollignende figur (fig. 9), på den anden viste kamelen sig igen, denne gang tegnet på en noget anden måde (fig. 8). Medens disse fire

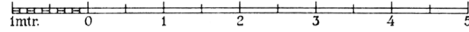
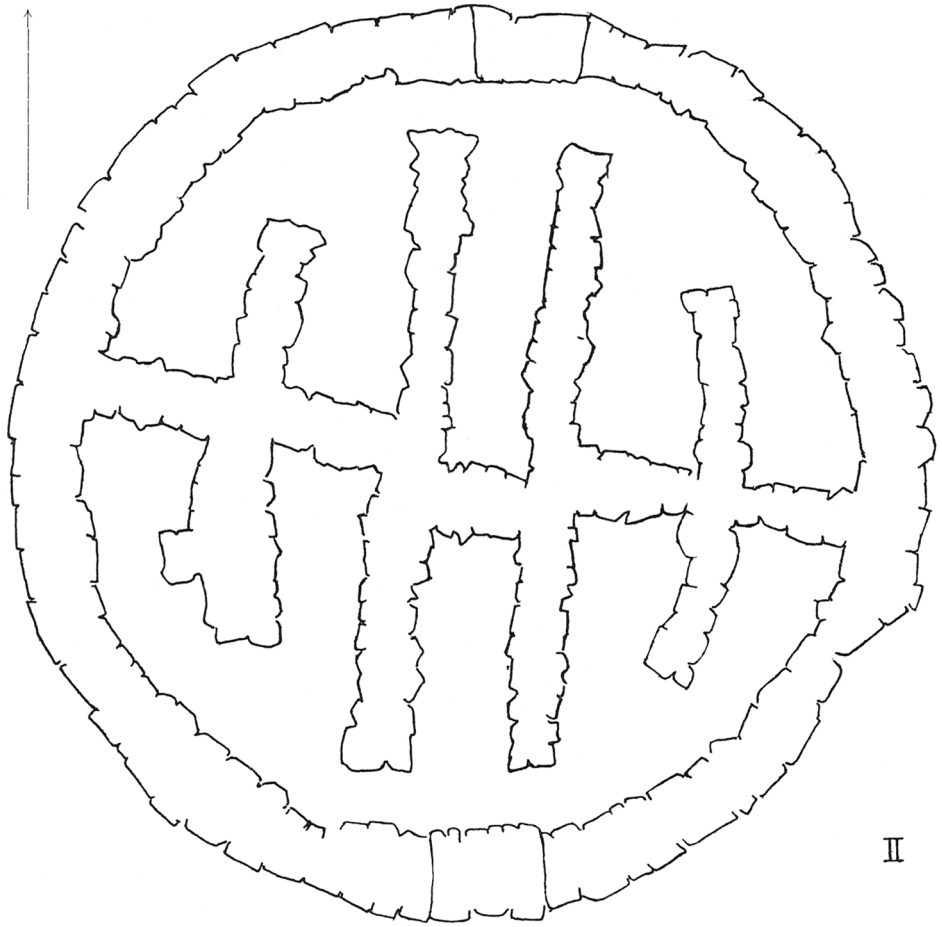


Fig. 5. Grundplan af røse II.  
Plan of Cairn II.

billedkvadre må have prydet muren, er anvendelsen af endnu en billedsten, som blev fundet mellem de nedstyrtede kvadre mod sydøst, usikker. Stenen er af samme lokale kalkstensmateriale som kvaderstenene og af samme længde som de øvrige billedsten, men har en helt anden udformning, idet den er formet som en halvcylinder. Stenen er glat indvendig, men udvendig er den prydet med to slangefigurer i kraftigt ophøjet relief (fig. 10). Bag den yderste ringmur af kvadersten stod den indre ringmur, der ganske som ved røse I var opbygget af opstablede brudsten og sluttede sig til murene der omsluttede bygningens forskellige rum. Alle disse mure står lodrette indtil en højde af 0,70–0,90 meter, derover krager



Fig. 6. Røse II set fra syd. En »dørsten« ses i forgrunden.  
Cairn II from the south. A "doorstone" is seen in the foreground.

de ud i de rum de begrænser og har foroven – at slutte efter de bedst bevarede – nærmet sig så stærkt til hinanden, at de har dannet en hvælving, der sikkert allerøverst har været lukket med en flad flise. Som ved røse I findes der i hver af bygningens fjerdedele 2 lave kistelignende rum, der har været overdækket af store flade fliser, som har hvilet på konsolsten, der endnu ses de fleste steder i ca. 0,80 meters højde. Et enkelt sted, over den østlige kiste i sydvestlige fjerdedel, lå en enkelt af dækfliserne på sin oprindelige plads, alle de andre var styrtet ned.

Ved udgravningen fandtes alle bygningens rum fyldt med flyvesand og nedstyrtede sten. Under stenene og sandet lå gravlaget med skeletdele og oldsager. Nogle steder var det tydeligt markeret som et mørkebrunt lag af formuldede organiske substanser, andre steder var det kun markeret ved enkelte skeletdele eller spredte lerkarskår. Også i denne gravbygning var sporene efter begravelserne noget ujævnt fordelt. Medens fundene var nogenlunde talrige i bygningens sydøstlige fjerdedel og i midtergangens sydlige halvdel var de ret sparsomme i den nordøstlige del og savnedes næsten helt i den nordvestlige del. Størst udbytte gav den sydvestlige fjerdedel, hvor både de to gravrum og navnlig pladsen foran disse var fyldt med skeletdele og oldsager. Nogen orden i sporene efter begravelserne kunne ikke konstateres, ophobningen af skeletdele i forrummet underbyggede de slutninger om udrømning af gamle begravelser fra kisterne ved gravsætning af nye lig, som forholdene i røse I gav anledning til.

Keramikken, der blev fundet i røse II, svarer nøje til fundene fra røse I. Her som der dominerer de små vaseformede kar af rødbrændt ler prydet med maledede dekorationer, men de små sortbemaalede kar af gråt ler er dog til stede i flere

eksemplarer. Nye var de to lerkar med indridsede stregprydelser, som afbildes fig. 20. Antallet af perler var ikke så stort som i røse I, men formerne var de samme.

Af særlig interesse var de tre dolke af kobber eller bronze<sup>3</sup>) som blev fremgravet mellem skeletdelene (fig. 18). Det drejer sig om en 25 cm lang dolk med massivt, firkantet fæste og to fragmenterede, tynde dolkblade. Det ene med to naglehuller øverst på klingens har været 18 cm langt, det andet er et 19 cm langt klingestykke med smal midtribbe.

Da røse I og II på grund af deres størrelse og udsøgte bygningsmåde skønnes ikke at være fuldgyldige repræsentanter for Umman-Nars halvhundrede gravhøje, der for langt det overvejende antals vedkommende var mindre end halvt så store og syntes opbygget af simple utilhugne brudsten, besluttedes det at undersøge en gruppe bestående af 5 »almindelige« stenrøser af lidt varierende størrelse, som lå ca. 100 m syd for røse II. Højene fik ved udgravningen betegnelserne IV–VIII (fig. 11–12).

#### *Røse IV*

Denne røse var 8,50 meter i udvendig diameter og havde en dobbelt ringmur med begge mure bygget af almindelige brudsten. Gravens ruminddeling svarede ret nøje til den, der blev påtruffet i røse I. Den havde en midtergang, hvis mure ikke nåede helt ud til ringmuren, og to tværmure. Derimod blev der ikke konstateret en yderligere inddeling af gravens 4 sektorer; dette kan skyldes, at væltede mure vanskeligt kunne erkendes i rummenes tætpakkede stensamlinger. Nogen bundbrolægning i rummene fandtes ikke, ligesom der heller ikke kunne gøres iagttagelser vedrørende rummenes overdækning. Derimod sås ud for hver ende af midtergangen brud i ringmurens opbygning, der også her tolkedes som spor efter indgangsåbninger. Undersøgelsen af bygningens bundlag gav kun ringe resultat; kun et enkelt sted, op ad ringmuren mod øst, fandtes lidt knogler og skår af 2–3 lerkar. Interessant var brudstykket af en billedkvader, sekundært anvendt i en af de indre mure, se fig. 14.

#### *Røse V.*

Før undersøgelsen kunne de tre høje V, VI og VII vanskeligt skelnes fra hinanden, idet de sammenstyrtede bygninger dannede een stor aflang stenrøse. Sydligst i denne røse lå grav V. Denne gravbygning var kun 6,50 meter i udvendig diameter, som de andre var den cirkelrund og havde en dobbelt ringmur, anbragt på en sokkel af tilhugne større sten. Den yderste mur var uden bindemiddel opbygget af fint tilhugne sten af en grå bjergart. Stenene var buede på den udadvendende side og kileformet tildannede indadtil for at kunne tilpasses hinanden i murens stærke krumning. Et enkelt sted var ydermuren bevaret i 0,80 meters højde. Den stod her i 5 skifter, og det kunne ses, at de tilhugne sten var størst i de nederste skifter og aftog i størrelse opefter. Hvis der ikke er fjernet tilhugne sten fra denne bygning kan murens oprindelige højde beregnes på grundlag af de nedstyrtede sten til med 10 skifter at have nået ca. 1,40 meter op over den 0,20 meter høje sokkel (fig. 13).

Indenfor ringmuren var graven delt i to halvdele, som var uden indbyrdes



Fig. 7. Billedsten fra røse II.  
Sculptured stone from Cairn II.

forbindelse, idet en tværmur i retning ønø.-sv. spændte tværs over rummet. Vinkelret på tværmuren var mure bygget ud som korsarme uden at nå ringmuren. Hver af gravens to halvdele blev derved delt i to lige store rum, der havde forbindelse med hinanden ved passage uden om korsarmen. Ud for hver af korsmurene var der brud i ringmurene, ja mod nord, hvor murene stod højt, var der et veritabelt hul stort nok til, at en voksen mand kunne krybe igennem. Hver af de to adskilte halvdele har altså haft egen indgang. Store flade stenheller, der lå nedstyrtet på gravens bund, har tjent som dække over rummene. Mod nord, hvor murene stod højt, kunne det ses, hvorledes korsmurens og indre ringmurs øverste skifter kragede ud mod hinanden for at gøre det mellemrum loftshellen skulle spænde over så smalt som muligt (fig. 15).

Alle rum var brolagt med tætliggende stenfliser. På denne brolægning hvilede et 10–20 centimeter tykt lag af skeletdele og oldsager. Alt lå dynget sammen uden nogen orden. I de 4 gravrum var skeletdele af mindst 36 individer, hvoraf i al fald de tre var børn. Oldsagernes mængde svarede til antallet af gravlagte. Der blev optaget ikke færre end 22 lerkar og skår af mindst lige så mange. Et stærkt forvitret alabasterkar og en halvkugleformet spindesten dannet af en lærknogles ledende var solonumre. I alle rummene lå perlerne talrigt, flest var der i det nordvestlige rum, hvor det lykkedes at frempræparere en stor samling af

små rørformede perler, der lå urørt i flere rækker tæt ved siden af hinanden. Uden tvivl var det rester af et klædningsstykke (fig. 16). Vigtigt var det, at der foruden nogle stykker af bronzenåle blev fundet tre simple dolke af kobber eller bronze<sup>3</sup>) (se fig. 19 med de to bedst bevarede).

Uventet var fundene, som blev gjort uden for gravbygningen. Her fandtes mod vest under den nedstyrtede ringmur 4 menneskeskeletter, to havde hovedet mod syd og lå med optrukne ben, eet lå udstrakt med hovedet i nord, det 4. skelets stilling var uklar. Skeletterne lå tæt op til muren, de tre så tæt, at de støttede mod sokkelstenene (se fig. 17). Ved skeletterne, knust under de nedstyrtede sten, lå en del lerkarskår og et enkelt ubestemmeligt bronzefragment. Ved soklen, også under de nedstyrtede sten, lå endvidere to kværnsten, den ene var oval, ca. 30 cm lang med en plansleben flade. Den lå ovenpå resterne af en flettet bastmåttee eller -kurv.

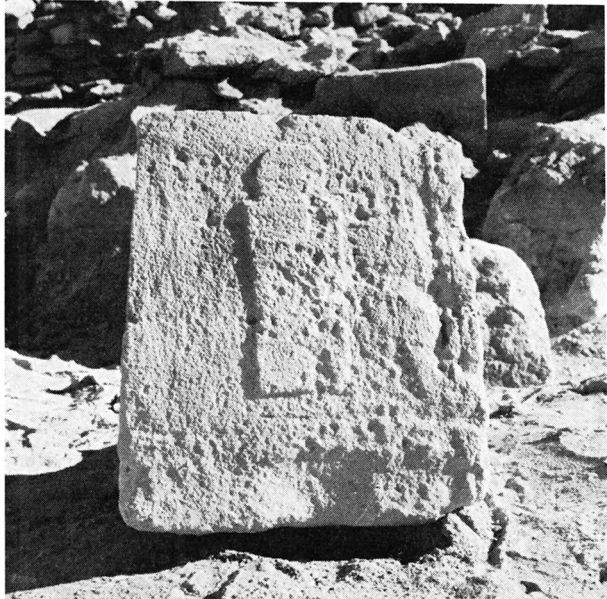
### *Røse VI.*

Med en udvendig diameter på 5,50 meter og en ringmur, hvor begge mure var opført af løst opstablede brudsten synede høj VI kun lidt ved siden af høj V's fint udførte facade af tilhugne sten. Også dens indre var enklere, kun delt i to rum med en øst-vestgående tværmur, som mod øst lod en ca. 1 meter bred passage åben mellem de to gravrum. Som ved høj V fandtes sporene efter indgangen til graven – synlig som et 0,80 meter bredt brud i ringmuren – netop ud for denne passage. Ringmuren var bevaret i 0,75 meters højde og tværmuren



Fig. 8. Billedsten fra røse II.  
Sculptured stone from Cairn II.

Fig. 9. Billedsten fra røse II.  
Sculptured stone from Cairn II.



nåede op til en højde af 1,30 meter, hvilket tillod iagttagelser vedrørende gravrummenes overdækning, idet det tydeligt sås, hvordan både den indre ringmur og tværmuren kragede ud og snævrede gravrummene ind foroven. I det sydlige kammer var afstanden foroven mellem de to mure således kun 1,20 meter, medens den ved gulvet var 1,90 meter. Med mure i fuld højde har afstanden foroven været endnu mindre.

Gulvet i gravbygningen var dækket af store flade fliser undtagen i forrummet og den østlige ende af det sydlige rum. På gulvet lå skeletdele skubbet sammen i dynger. Knoglerne var meget dårligt bevarede, men det kunne dog ses, at der havde været begravet mindst 3 individer i det sydlige rum og mindst 2 i det nordlige. Mellem skeletdelene lå skår af mindst 8 forskellige lerkar, et enkelt lille kar stod ganske uskadt mellem to bundfliser. Spredt mellem knoglerne lå i hvert kammer over 100 perler. De fleste var grå og rørformede som hovedmængden af dem, der blev fundet i røserne I og V, men en del var gule, røde og hvide og varierede i formen. Også i denne grav fandtes en kobber- eller bronzedolk, desværre i så dårlig en forfatning, at dens form ikke er klar.

Skeletspor ved højens sydlige fod antydede, at der også uden for denne gravbygning havde været anbragt lig. Tæt op til ringmurens yderside mod øst lå en kværnsten og en knusesten.

#### *Røse VII.*

Som den sidste i den aflange stenrøse blev grav VII undersøgt, den lå kun een meter fra grav VI. Det var en lille gravbygning kun ca. 3 meter i udvendig diameter og den var som sin nabo opbygget med dobbelt ringmur af utilhugne



Fig. 10. Sten med slangefigurer fra røse II.  
Stone with snake relief from Cairn II.

sten. Gravrummet var kun 1,60 meter bredt og gav selvfølgelig ikke plads for nogen opdeling ved hjælp af mure. I det lille gravrum, som var ganske uden brotlægning, fandtes uden nogen orden knogler af 3–4 individer. Mellem knoglerne lå 4 uskadte lerkar og op til ringmuren stod et 0,52 meter højt lerkar, det største, som blev fundet i gravene. Også ved denne lille grav blev der gjort fund tæt op til ringmurens yderside. Mod syd iagttoges store dele af eet eller to skeletter og mod nordøst lå på en kværnsten to lerkar, som var knust af ringmurens nedskredne sten.

#### *Røse VIII.*

Ca. 4 meter nordøst for grav VI lå den lille grav VIII, som kun skal omtales for en fuldstændigheds skyld. De få bevarede sten tillod ingen sikre slutninger vedrørende gravens opbygning. Kun et enkelt lerkarskår fandtes i sandet mellem »murene«.

Iagttagelserne fra de foran beskrevne undersøgelser viser, at alle gravbygningerne er bygget efter samme princip, idet enkelthederne kan være forskellige betinget af bygningernes størrelse og den omhu, hvormed de er bygget og udsmykket.

Alle gravene er cirkelformede med dobbelte mure af sten, der er opstabled uden bindemiddel. Selv på de største af bygningerne har ydermurene næppe været stort mere end 2,25 meter høje. Iagttagelserne ved de kvaderbyggede ringmure synes at vise, at ydermurene har skrånet svagt indad, således at bygningerne udefra har mindet om den nederste del af en bikube. Kvadre synes kun anvendt til de største bygninger.

Bygningernes indre er ved hjælp af et varieret system af tværmure inddelt i forskellige rum, der har været overdækket af flade stenheller lagt oven på udkragende mure. Rummenes antal og murenes placering synes betinget af bygningens størrelse, idet et større areal kræver flere mure for at kunne overdækkes. Såvel ringmure som tværmure er dobbelte, for at muliggøre overdækningen af gravrummene. Hvor to mure skilles foroven er mellemrummet mellem dem opfyldt af sten, der tjener som ballast over for de udkragende mure. I alle de blot



Fig. 14. Billedsten fra røse IV.  
Sculptured stone from Cairn IV.



lidt større gravbygninger ses i ringmuren spor efter een eller to indgangsåbninger til graven.

Gravrummenes størrelse og fri højde har tilladt fri færdsel under tagstenene, omend næppe i oprejst stilling. Det ses da også, at gravrummene er blevet brugt gang på gang, idet ældre begravelser er blevet skubbet til side for at skaffe plads til nye. Ved begravelsen synes den døde at have været i al fald delvis påklædt (jævnfør perlestykket i grav V). Som smykker var anvendt perlekæder og som gravgaver var medgivet lerkar eller kar af andet materiale (sten og alabast) samt dolke og nåle af kobber eller bronze, og en enkelt gang er fundet en spindesten.

Muligvis har begravelserne i bygningen været ledsaget af ofringer udenfor graven. Dette er i al fald en nærliggende forklaring på det forhold, at der uden for tre af gravbygningerne fandtes skeletter af lig, der sammen med lerkar og kværnsten var henlagt ved gravens fod og nu lå under de nedstyrtede ringmure.

Lerkarrene fra Umm an-Nar er forfærdiget ved hjælp af drejeskive og materialet er en fint slemmet lermasse, som ved brændingen har antaget en grå farve eller, hvad der er almindeligere, en rød som terra cotta. På nogle af karrene spores rester af en tynd grå begitning. Brændingen er hård og karrene er gennemgående ret tyndvæggede. Enkelte kar er dog forfærdiget af en sandblandet lermasse. Medens disse sidstnævnte kar er ret store og grove, er langt den overvejende part af lerkarrene elegante små kar, de fleste kun 10–12 cm i højden, enkelte (typen fig. 24 nederst th.) er dog ca. 25 cm, og flere eksemplarer af typen fig. 21 øverst tv., er kun 6 cm høje.

De mindre lerkar har næsten alle kort hals med mere eller mindre udadsvungen mundingsrand, og kan stort set inddeles i to grupper. I den ene, som er overvejende i grav V, har korpus form som en mere eller mindre fladtrykt kugle, der hviler på en stærkere eller svagere accentueret fod. Den anden gruppe er vaseformet med konisk underdel under den mere eller mindre skrå skulder, kar-

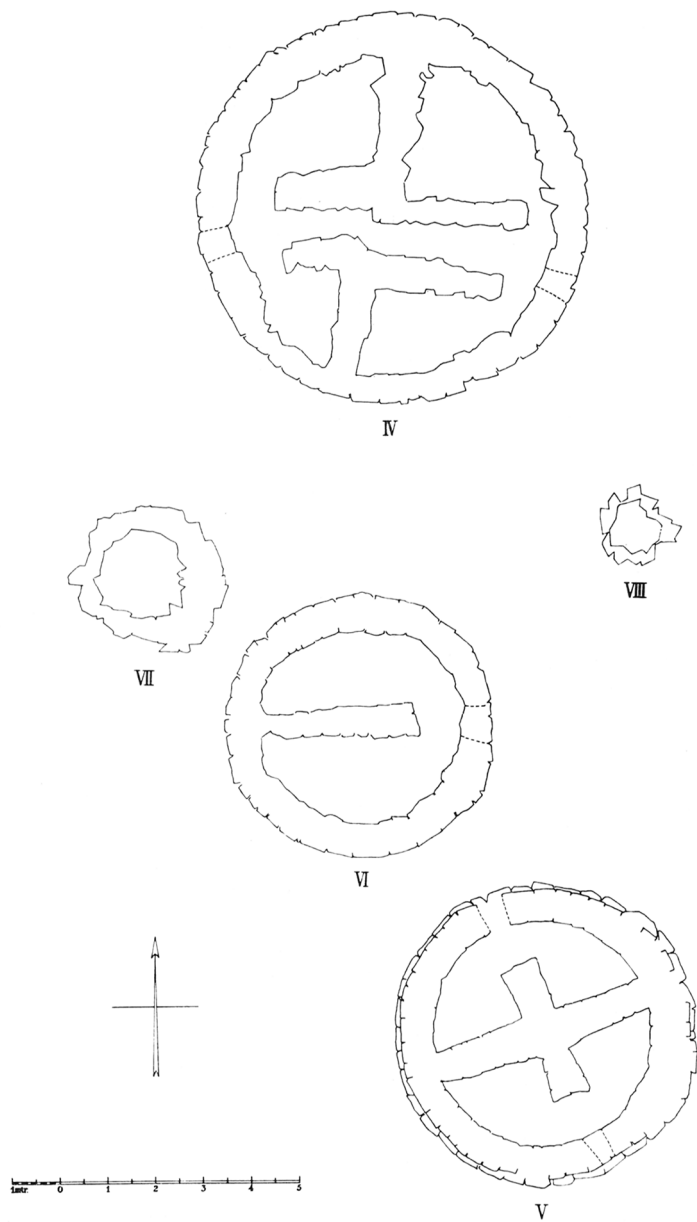


Fig. 11. Grundplaner og placering af røserne IV-VIII.  
Cairns IV-VIII, plans and map of position.



Fig. 12. Røserne IV-VII efter udgravning, forrest røse IV.  
Cairns IV-VII after excavation. Cairn IV in the foreground.



Fig. 13. Røse V efter udgravning, set fra nordøst.  
Cairn V after excavation from NE.

rene af denne type har bred standflade uden antydning af fod. Denne sidste type fandtes talrigest i grav I. Karrene, der afbildes fig. 24, og den lille skål fig. 22 øverst er ikke de eneste afvigelser fra de to nævnte kargrupper, andre var større kar forsynet med en lille tud oppe på skulderen.

Bortset fra de større og grovere lerkar synes næsten alle karrene at have haft malet dekoration. Farvesporene er dog meget ujævnt bevaret, og på nogle af karrene savnes sporene helt. De malede ornamenter er fortrinsvis anbragt på karrenes overdel, men kan dog også dække hele karret. På flere af karrene ses også dekoration indvendig på den udadsvungne mundingsrand. Al dekoration er udført som streger enten indridset med pind eller malet med sort farve på de grå lerkar og mørkebrun på de rødlige. Arrangementet er vinkellinjer, buer, trekant og rækker af parallelle streger, alt med regelmæssig gentagelse i vandrette bæltter begrænset såvel opad- som nedadtil af omløbende streger. Et enkelt kar (fig. 21 øverst th.) er dekoreret med en omløbende bølget vulst begrænset foroven og forneden af vandrette vulster. Øverst på karret er i sort malet et rudemønster.

Et par større kar – af typen fig. 24 nederst th., har den almindelige stregdeko-

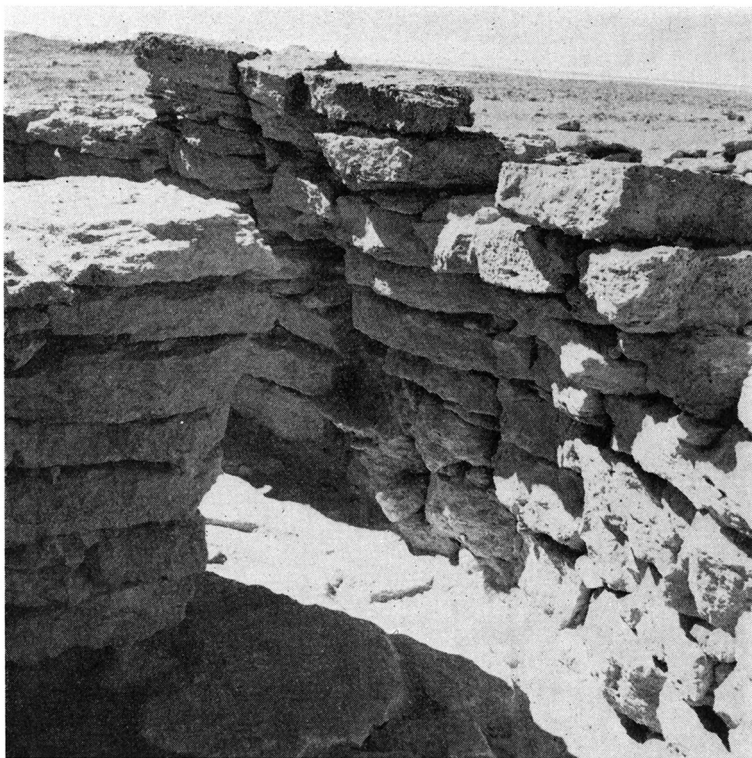


Fig. 15. Nordlige gravrum i røse V efter udgravning.  
Northern chamber in Cairn V after excavation.

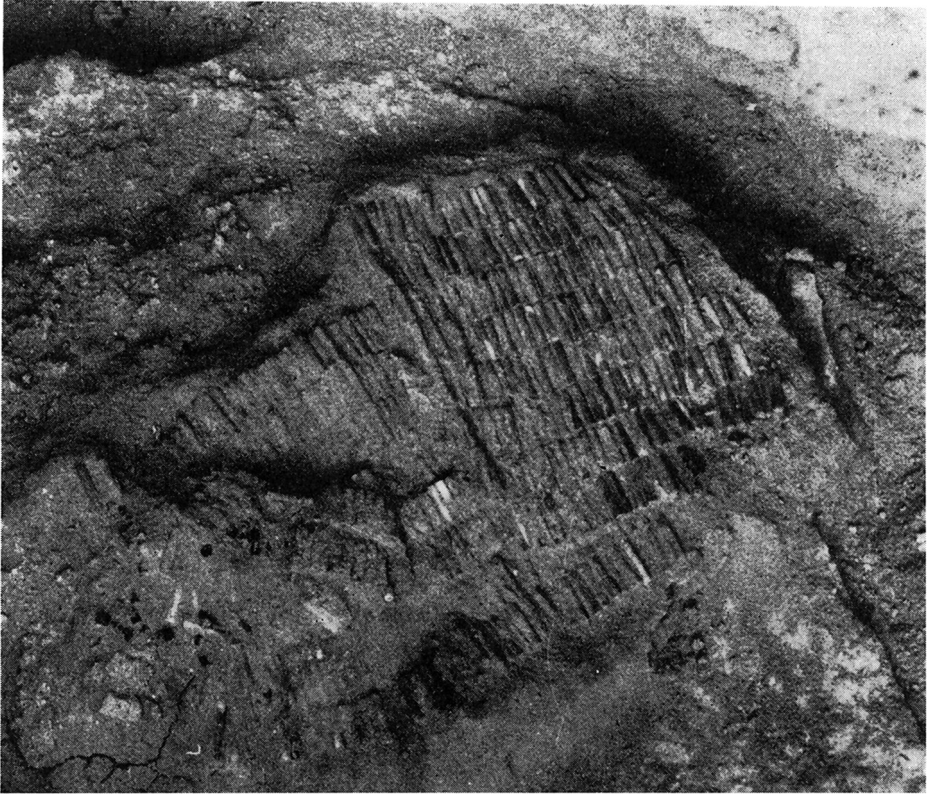


Fig. 16. Perlesamling i røse V.  
Group of beads in Cairn V.

ration suppleret med malede dyrefigurer (se fig. 23 nederst), i begge tilfælde er det en pukkelokse, som afbildes.

Dette righoldige lerkarmateriale fra gravene på den lille ørkenø vil være velegnet til den vurdering af fundenes tidsstilling og kulturforbindelser, som senere vil blive foretaget. I denne sammenhæng kan allerede nu opmærksomheden henledes på den keramik, som kendes fra Kulli-kulturen i det sydlige Beluchistan<sup>4</sup>). Lerkar fra denne kultur, som blomstrede i 3. årtusinde f. v. tidsregnings begyndelse i området vest for Indusflodens nedre løb, viser både hvad form og malet dekoration angår så store ligheder med keramikken fra Umm an-Nar, at denne synes at måtte høre til i samme tidlige tidsrum. Indholdet af gravene på øen bliver da et nyt udtryk for den søværts forbindelse mellem Kulli-kulturen og Den arabiske Golf, som man mener at have fundet beviser for i bunden af Golfen allerede fra tidlig dynastisk tid ca. 3000 år f. v. t.<sup>5</sup>).

### *Burial Cairns on Umm an-Nar*

In the sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi, on the Persian Gulf coast of the Oman peninsula, lies the little, naked, rocky island of Umm an-Nar. With its central limestone plateau and its wide sandy beaches, it resembles all the other small islands off the harsh desert of the Trucial Coast.

The Island is separated from the mainland by a strait only 10–20 yards wide, and is now entirely uninhabited, though it is known to the bedouin of the desert and to the inhabitants of the nearest town, the capital Abu Dhabi, because upon its rocky plateau there is a water-cistern, built in recent years, in which rainwater collects during the all too rare showers.

It was P. V. Glob and T. G. Bibby who, during a reconnaissance in the Abu Dhabi area in 1958 in connection with the Fifth Danish Archeological Bahrain-Expedition, were told of the presence of prehistoric remains on Umm an-Nar. A visit to the island revealed a large number of tumuli, all consisting of cairns of stones, and a settlement ("tell"<sup>1</sup>). Ancient monuments on so isolated an island were a tempting object for closer investigation, and this was begun the following year. The practical difficulties were overcome with help from the Ruler, His Excellency Sheikh Shakbut bin Sultan, and from the oil company, Abu Dhabi Marine Areas, which had first brought the site to our attention. The archeologists were installed in a palm hut on the wide beach of the island, and supplies were driven by car the 12 miles of desert between the island and the little town of Abu Dhabi, whence also came the dozen Arab workers who assisted in the excavation.



Fig. 17. Skelet ved røse V.  
Skeleton by Cairn V.



Fig. 18. Tre dolke af bronze eller kobber, fra røse II. 1 : 2.  
Three daggers of bronze or copper. From Cairn II.

The first excavation campaign took place in the months of February and March 1959. In the course of a little over a month Harald Andersen, Mogens Ørsnes and Knud Riisgård investigated one of the largest cairns on the island (Cairn I), worked out the complicated plan of the large mortuary building, and excavated the greater part of its burials. In addition they carried out a short investigation of the settlement site.

The following year the investigations were continued, on this occasion by Arne Thorsteinson and the author of this preliminary report. During this second campaign, which lasted from 25th January to 25th March 1960, the excavation of Cairn I was completed, and that of Cairn II begun, though the actual burial chambers were not reached. The investigation concentrated upon a series of smaller mortuary buildings (Cairns IV–VIII), which were completely excavated. The campaign ended with a complete registration and description of the 50 tumuli on the island.

The investigation of these burial mounds was continued in November and December 1961, and the excavation of Cairn II was completed. In addition to the previous year's participants, Elise Thorvildsen and Vagn Kolstrup also took part in this third campaign.

#### *Cairn I.*

This complex, excavated in 1959, consisted of a circular mortuary building, 11 meters in diameter, with its outer wall resting on a plinth of regularly cut stone blocks. The building possessed a double ring-wall, about 1 meter in width. The outer wall is built of large, carefully shaped and fitted, limestone blocks, built up without the use of mortar in several courses to a height of at least 1.5 meters, and sloping slightly inwards. Behind this ashlar wall an inner ring-wall of flat unshaped stones was built up.

The area within the ring-wall was, as appears in figs. 2–3 occupied by a number of grave-chambers, separated from each other by a complicated wall system. A flagged cross-passage, flanked by walls running north-south, divided the interior into two halves, though the division was not complete as the walls of the passage stopped short at both ends about 1 meter from the ring-wall. The two halves thus formed by the passage were each divided into two equal parts by a wall stretching from the ring-wall to the passage wall and at rightangles to the latter. These four sections were each again divided into two, this time by curved walls, in such a way that in each quarter there were two flagged burial chambers with a common forechamber without flagging.

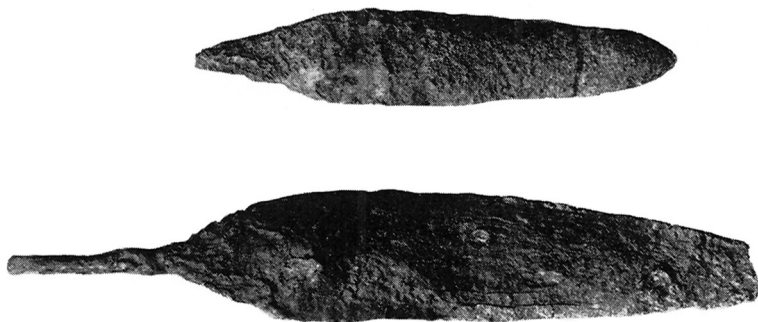


Fig. 19. To dolke af bronze eller kobber, fra røse V. 1:2.  
Two daggers of bronze or copper from Cairn V.

The discovery of flat stone slabs on the walls or on the floor where they had fallen from the walls showed that passages and chambers had been stone-roofed. It was observed that opposite each end of the north-south central passage there was a break in the inner ring-wall (shown on the plan fig. 3), and as, outside the wall among the fallen stone blocks immediately opposite each of these breaks, a carefully shaped stone block was found with a carved "handle" these stones were interpreted as "door-stones", and the breaks in the wall as the traces of openings giving entrance to the burial-places.

The investigation in 1959 ended with the excavation of the floor-level layers of the central passage and the eastern half of the building. This showed that in the forechambers to the 4 flagged burial chambers there were piles of human bones, while in the central passage and in the actual chambers there were only few scattered bones. Among the skeletal remains lay 3 broken pottery vessels, a number of scattered potsherds and a few small stone beads. During the campaign of 1960 the floor level in the western half of the building was excavated and proved to be considerably more rewarding than the eastern half. Here too only a very small number of pottery vessels and bones were found in the 4 flagged chambers. By far the greater part lay heaped up in the forechambers in a pile against the ring-wall (fig. 4). This circumstance is doubtless best explained on the assumption that the burial chambers could only hold a single burial at a time, and that at each new burial the earlier ones were swept out into the forechamber. To judge by the number of skulls and jawbones at least 15 individuals had been buried in the western half of the building, and of these at least one was a child. Among the bones lay 23 more or less complete pottery vessels (fig. 21), one vessel of green steatite (fig. 21, bottom right) and the base of a very badly preserved alabaster vessel. In addition about 650 beads were found, the majority short and tubular of a grey stone, though a number were of coloured stone of various shapes and sizes. Finally two small bronze or copper fragments were found, one appearing to be part of a pin, while the nature of the other cannot be determined.

#### *Cairn II.*

80 meters southeast of the burial complex above described lay Cairn II. Though a little larger, with a diameter of 12 meters, this mortuary building corresponds exactly in form and appearance to the first investigated (fig. 5). The division of the interior differed from Cairn I only in the circumstance that the central passage was here blocked by a cross-wall, so that there was no connection between the northern and southern halves of the building.

The outer ring-wall had consisted in its lowest course of 60 finely cut blocks, of somewhat varying length but all 45-50 cms. high. 42 of them were still in situ. Of the second course only 4 stones were in place, and these were some few cms. less in height than those of the lowest course. Hidden beneath the sand in a ring around the whole mortuary building lay 310 fallen blocks. If one assumes that no blocks have been removed from the site it is possible to work



out from the total length of the blocks that the ashlar wall was originally of 5 courses with a total height of 2.25–2.5 meters. This calculation agrees very well with the height of the best preserved portion of the wall of the central passage, which still stood to a height of 2.24 meters.

Against the north side of the ring-wall just opposite the central passage a stone block was found with a square hole cut on its face large enough for an arm to be inserted. As an exactly similar stone was found opposite the central passage on the opposite side of the building it would be natural to compare these with the two “door-stones” found at Cairn I (fig. 6).

These specially shaped stones had, however, not been the only variation in the smooth surface of the outer wall. Close to the “door-stone” by the south wall 2 stone blocks were uncovered ornamented with animal figures in raised relief. In the centre of the one could be seen a boldly portrayed bull<sup>2</sup>). On the other (fig. 7) were carved a camel and another animal which can only with some uncertainty, on account of surface weathering, be identified as a gazelle. Two further stones with reliefs were found fallen from the ring-wall in the southwest. The one (fig. 9) was ornamented with a figure reminiscent of an idol, while the other (fig. 8) showed once more a camel, though this time carved in rather a different way.

While these four relief blocks must have adorned the wall, the placing of yet another relief stone, which was found among the fallen blocks in the southeast, is uncertain. This stone is of the same local limestone as the ashlar blocks, and is of the same length as the other relief stones, but it is of a completely different shape, being half-cylindrical in form. The inner surface of the half-cylinder is smooth, but on the outside it is ornamented with two figures of snakes in boldly raised relief (fig. 10).

Behind the outer ashlar ring-wall stood the inner ring-wall, built, as in the case of Cairn I, of piled, unshaped stone, and joined to the walls bounding the various chambers of the building. All these walls stood vertical up to a height of 70–90 cms., and thereafter project outwards over the chambers they bound, at the top – to judge by the best preserved – approaching each



Fig. 20. Lerkar fra røse II. 1 : 2.  
Pottery from Cairn II.

other closely enough to form a corbelled vaulting, doubtless closed at the top with a flat slab. As in the case of Cairn I, there are in each quarter of the building two low cistlike chambers, originally roofed with large flat slabs resting on projecting stones which in most places can still be seen in about 80 cms. height. At one point, above the eastern cist in the southwestern quarter, one of these roofing slabs was still in situ, but elsewhere they had all fallen in.

On excavation all the chambers of the building were found to be full of drift-sand and fallen stones. Below these lay the burial layer with skeletal remains and grave furniture. At some points this layer was clearly marked as a dark-brown layer of decomposed organic material, at other points it was only marked by single bones or scattered potsherds. Also in this mortuary building the traces of burial were very unevenly distributed. While objects were fairly numerous in the southeasterly quarter of the building and in the southern half of the central passage, they were quite rare in the northeastern portion and were almost entirely absent in the northwestern part. The southwestern quarter yielded the largest number of objects, and there both the two burial chambers and in particular the area in front of them were full of skeletal remains and artifacts. No order in the remains of the burials could be traced, and the piling up of skeletal remains in the forechamber supported the conclusion that new burials were accompanied by a clearing out of old burials from the cists which the conditions found in Cairn I had suggested.

The pottery found in Cairn II resembles closely that found in Cairn I. Here, as there, the small vase-shaped vessels of red ware with painted ornamentation dominate, but several specimens of the grey ware with black painted ornamentation were also found. The two vessels decorated with incised lines shown in fig. 20 were of a type not previously found. The number of beads was not as large as in Cairn I, but the shapes were the same.

Of particular interest are the 3 daggers of copper or bronze<sup>3</sup>) which were found among the skeletal remains (fig. 18). They consist of one dagger, 25 cms. long, with a solid hilt of square section, and two thin, fragmentary dagger-blades. The one with two rivet-holes at the upper end of the blade has been 18 cms. long, while the other is a complete blade with a narrow centre rib, 19 cms. long.

As Cairns I and II, on account of their size and refined construction, were not considered to be fully representative of the fifty or so gravemounds on Umm an-Nar, the great majority of which were less than half so large and appeared to be built of simple unshaped stones, it was decided to investigate a group consisting of 5 "normal" cairns of slightly varying sizes which lay about 100 yards south of Cairn II. The mounds were given the numbers IV-VIII (figs. 11-12).

#### *Cairn IV.*

This cairn was the largest of the five, being 8.5 meters in outer diameter and having a double ring-wall with both walls built of unshaped quarried stone. The building's division into chambers corresponded closely to that found in Cairn I; it had a central passage, the walls of which did not extend all the way to the ring-wall, and two cross-walls. Here, however, no further subdivision of the 4 sectors could be observed, though this may be due to the difficulty of identifying fallen walls in the tightly packed stone filling of the chambers. No paving was found in the chambers, nor could any observations be made concerning the roofing of the chambers. However, at each end of the central passage a break could be seen in the build-up of the ring-walls, and here too this was interpreted as traces of entrance openings. The investigation of the floor layer gave poor results; only at one point, close to the ring-wall to the east were a few bones found and sherds of 2-3 vessels. Of interest was the fragment of a relief block, used secondarily in one of the inner walls, cf. fig. 14.

#### *Cairn V.*

Before excavation commenced the three mounds V, VI and VII could only with difficulty be distinguished, as the collapsed buildings formed one large oval cairn. Cairn V lay southernmost in this complex. The building was only 6.5 meters in exterior diameter, and was, like the others, circular and with a double ring-wall, built upon a plinth of larger quarried stones. The

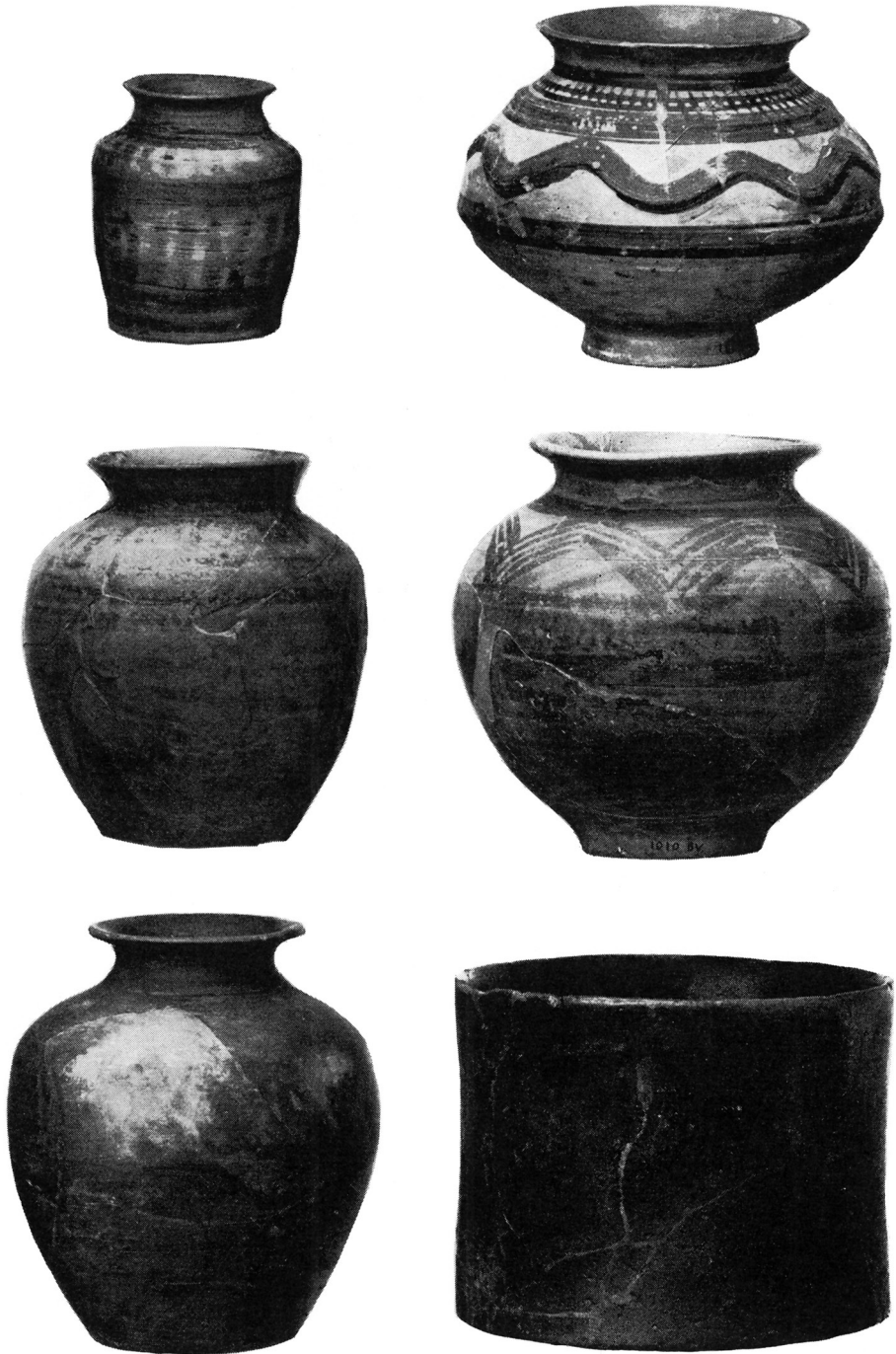


Fig. 21. Lerkar fra røse I. 1 : 2.  
Pottery from Cairn I.

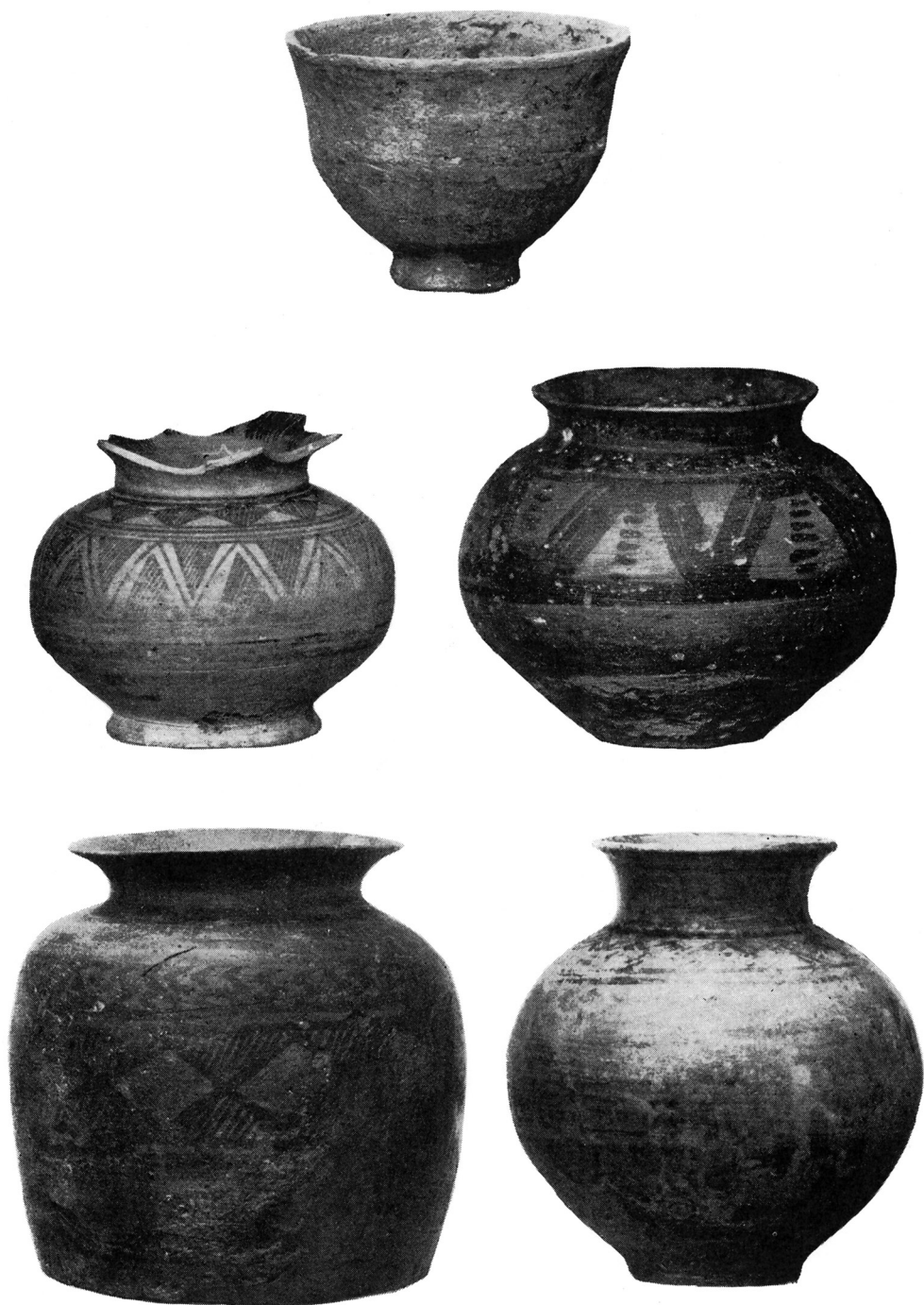


Fig. 22. Lerkar fra røse V. 1 : 2.  
Pottery from Cairn V.



Fig. 23. Lerkar fra røse V. 1 : 2.  
Pottery from Cairn V.



Fig. 24. Lerkar fra røse I (nederst til venstre), røse V (til højre) og røse VI (øverst til venstre). 1 : 4.  
Pottery from Cairn I (bottom left), Cairn V (right), and Cairn VI (top left).

outer wall was built up of carefully shaped blocks of a grey stone laid without mortar. The stones were curved on the outer face and wedge-shaped in order to fit into the sharp curvature of the wall. At one point the outer wall still stood to a height of 80 cms. Here 5 courses were preserved, and it could be seen that the shaped stones were largest in the lower courses, diminishing in size upwards. As it is unlikely that cut stones have been removed from this building the original height of the wall could be calculated on a basis of the fallen stones to have been, with 10 courses, about 1.4 meters, above the 20 cm. high plinth (fig. 13).

Within the ring-wall the burial space was divided into two halves without connection with each other, as a cross-wall spanned the area from ENE to WSW. At rightangles to the cross-wall walls were built out to form the arms of a cross, but without reaching the ring-wall. Each of the two halves of the mortuary building was thus divided into two rooms of equal size, connected by the passage around the end of the arm of the cross. Opposite these wall-ends there was on each side a break in the ring-wall, in fact to the north, where the wall still stood to some height, there was an actual hole large enough for a grown man to creep through. Each of these two separate half-chambers had therefore possessed its own entrance. Large flat stone slabs which lay where they had fallen on the floor had served as roofing for the chambers, and to the north, where the walls still stood tall, it could be seen how the upper courses of the

cross-walls and the inner ring-wall projected towards each other to make the interval which the roof-slabs should span as narrow as possible (fig. 15).

All the chambers were paved with closeset flags. On this paving lay a layer 10–20 cms. thick of skeletal remains and artifacts. Everything was heaped together with no semblance of order. In the 4 burial chambers were the remains of at least 36 individuals, of whom at least 3 were children. The number of objects found corresponded to the number of burials. No less than 22 whole pottery vessels were taken up, and sherds of at least as many again. A very weathered alabaster vessel and a hemispherical spindle-whorl formed of the end of a thighbone were also found. In all the chambers there were large numbers of beads, most in the northwest chamber, where it was possible to clear a large group of small tubular beads which lay undisturbed in several rows close besides each other. They were undoubtedly the remains of bead-embroidered clothing (fig. 16). Other important finds were, in addition to some fragments of bronze pins, three simple daggers of copper or bronze<sup>3</sup>) (cf. fig. 19 for the two best preserved).

The discoveries made outside the mortuary building were unexpected. Here on the western side, under the fallen ring-wall, lay 4 human skeletons, two with their heads to the south and legs contracted, one outstretched with its head to the north, the position of the fourth skeleton being uncertain. The skeletons lay close up to the wall, the three of them so close that they rested against the plinth (fig. 17). Together with the skeletons, crushed under the fallen stones, lay a number of potsherds and a single unidentifiable fragment of bronze. Also beneath the fallen stones by the plinth lay two quern-stones, one of them oval, about 30 cms. long with a smooth-polished surface. Beneath it lay the remains of a woven palmleaf mat or basket.

#### *Cairn VI.*

With an exterior diameter of 5.5 meters and a ring-wall where both the inner and outer walls were constructed of unshaped dry-stone walling Cairn VI was far from impressive besides the well-constructed facade of cut stone of Cairn V. Its interior, too, was simpler, being merely divided into two rooms by an east-west cross-wall, which ended at the eastern end 1 meter from the ringwall to leave a passage between the two chambers. As in the case of Cairn V traces were found of an entrance to the grave—appearing as an 80 cm. wide break in the ring-wall—immediately opposite this passage. The ring-wall was preserved to a height of 75 cms., and the cross-wall reached a height of 1.3 meters, allowing observations to be made of the roofing of the chambers. It could be clearly seen that both the inner ring-wall and the cross-wall sloped outward, so that the grave-chambers narrowed towards the top. Thus in the southern chamber the gap between the walls was at the top only 1.2 meters while at the floor level it was 1.9 meters. With the walls in their full height the gap at the top would have been even smaller.

The floor of the mortuary chamber was covered with large flat flags except in the fore-chamber and the eastern end of the southern room. On the floor lay skeletal remains pushed together into heaps. The bones were very badly preserved, but it could be seen that at least three individuals had been buried in the southern room and at least two in the northern. Among the bones lay sherds of at least 8 different pottery vessels, and one small vessel lay completely unbroken between two of the flags. Scattered among the bones lay in each chamber over 100 beads, the majority grey and tubular like the majority of those found in Cairns I and V, though a number were yellow, red or white and of various shapes. A copper or bronze dagger was also found in this grave, but unfortunately so badly preserved that its shape was not clear.

Traces of skeletons by the southern foot of the cairn show that here too bodies had been placed outside the building. And close to the outer side of the ring-wall to the east lay a quernstone and a hammer stone.

#### *Cairn VII.*

This grave was the last to be investigated within the oval cairn, and lay only 1 meter from grave VI. It was a little mortuary building only about 3 meters in exterior diameter, and, like its neighbour, was built with a double ring-wall of uncut stone. The grave-chamber was only 1.6 meters wide and therefore provided no room for division by cross-walls. In the little cham-

ber, which was entirely unpaved, the bones of 3-4 individuals were found in no discernible order. Among the bones lay 4 unbroken pottery vessels, and against the ring-wall stood a vessel 52 cms. high, the largest found in any of the graves. Also by this little grave discoveries were made close to the outer side of the ring wall. To the south the greater part of one or two skeletons was observed, and to the northeast, upon a quernstone lay two pottery vessels, broken by the fall of the ring-wall's stones.

#### *Cairn VIII.*

About 4 meters northeast of grave VI lay the little grave VIII, which is only mentioned to complete the record. The few stones remaining permitted no certain conclusions concerning the construction of the grave, while only a single potsherd was found in the sand between its "walls".

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Observations made during the investigations here described show that all the mortuary buildings are constructed on the same principle, though they may differ in details, dependent on the size of the building and the care devoted to its construction and adornment.

All the graves are circular, with double walls of dry-stone construction. Even in the case of the largest of the buildings the outer walls can hardly have been more than 2.25 meters high. Observation of the ashlar-built ring-walls seems to show that the outer walls sloped slightly inward, so that from the outside the buildings must have resembled the lower part of a beehive. Only the larger of the buildings appear to have been constructed with shaped stone.

The interior of the buildings is divided into a number of chambers by means of a varying system of cross-walls. The chambers were roofed with flat stone slabs laid upon outward leaning (corbelled) walls. The number of chambers and the placing of the walls appears dependent on the size of the building, the larger the area to be roofed the greater the number of walls required. Both ring-walls and cross-walls are double, to facilitate the roofing of the grave-chambers. Where the two halves of a double wall lean outwards away from each other the interval is filled with stones which act as ballast. In all the mortuary buildings except the very smallest traces can be seen in the ring-walls of one or two entrances to the building.

The size and free height of the grave chambers has permitted free movement under the roof-stones, though hardly in upright position. It can also be seen that the grave chambers have been used time after time, older burials being pushed to one side to make room for new. At the time of burial the body appears to have been at least partially clothed (cf. the bead embroidery in grave V). Bead necklaces have accompanied the burials as ornaments, and the burial furniture has consisted of vessels of pottery or other material (stone or alabaster), as well as daggers and pins of copper or bronze, while in one case a spinning whorl was found.

It is possible that the burials in the buildings have been accompanied by sacrifices outside the tomb. This is at least a natural interpretation of the circumstance that outside three of the mortuary buildings were found human skeletons, laid together with pottery vessels and quernstones at the foot of the tomb and now lying under the fallen ring-wall.

The pottery from Umm an-Nar is wheel-made, and its material is a fine clay which in firing has taken a grey colour, or more often a terracotta red. Traces of a thin grey slip can be seen on some of the vessels. The vessels are hard fired and in most cases very thin-walled. A few of the vessels are, however, made from a sand-tempered clay. While these latter are quite large and coarse, by far the majority of the vessels are elegant small vases, most of them only 10-12 cms. in height, though some (of the type shown in fig. 24 lower right) are about 25 cms., while several specimens (of the type shown in fig. 21 top left) are only 6 cms. high.

The smaller vessels almost all possess a short neck and a more or less outspread rim, and they can be divided roughly into two groups. The one, found mainly in grave V, has a body formed as a more or less flattened sphere, resting on a more or less accentuated foot. The other group is vase-shaped with a conical body below more or less sloping shoulders; vessels of this type have a broad base without trace of a foot. This type was found in greatest numbers in grave I. The vessels shown in fig. 24 and the little bowl in fig. 22 top are not the only exceptions to the two groups described, others being larger vessels bearing a short spout on the shoulder.



Apart from the larger and coarser vessels almost all the pottery appears to have borne painted ornamentation. Trace of colour is, however, very unevenly preserved, and on some of the vessels all traces have disappeared. The painted decoration is in most cases on the upper part of the vessels, though it sometimes covers the whole surface. On several of the vessels decoration is also applied to the interior of the outplayed rim. All the ornamentation consists of lines, either incised with a sliver of wood or painted, with black paint on the grey vessels and with dark brown on the red. Designs found are oblique lines, semicircles, triangles and rows of parallel lines, all regularly repeated in horizontal belts bordered above and below by lines running round the vessels. A single vase (fig. 21 upper right) is decorated with a raised wavy ridge bordered above and below by horizontal ridges. On the top of this vessel a chequer design is painted in black.

Two of the larger vessels (of the type shown in fig. 24, lower right) bear in addition to the normal geometric ornamentation painted animal figures (cf. fig. 23 bottom), in both cases the animal represented being a humped bull.

This rich ceramic material from the graves on this little desert island will be of great assistance in determining the date and cultural associations of the site, a determination which will be undertaken at a later date. But in this connection it is already possible to make reference to the pottery known from the Kulli culture in southern Baluchistan<sup>4</sup>). The pottery of this culture, which flourished in the Third Millennium BC in the area west of the lower reaches of the Indus, shows both in form and in style of decoration so great resemblance to the pottery from Umm an-Nar that there appears to be no doubt that this pottery belongs to the same early period. The contents of the graves on this island thus form a new example of the seaward connections between the Kulli culture and the Arabian Gulf for which evidence is claimed to have been found at the head of the Gulf as early as the Early Dynastic Period about 3000 BC<sup>5</sup>).

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NOTER :

- 1) P. V. Glob: *Rekognoscering i Abu Dhabi*, KUML 1958, p. 162. 2) KUML 1960, p. 211. 3) Metallet i nåle og dolke er endnu ikke blevet analyseret. 4) Stuart Piggott: *Ancient India* No. 1, 1946, p. 8 ff. Fra Khurab i Bampur i det sydøstlige Iran findes en meget lignende keramik. Se A. Stein: *Archaeological Reconnaissances in N.W. India and S.E. Iran*, London 1937, p. 118 ff, pl. XIII-XVII. 5) Stuart Piggott: *Op. cit.*, p. 22.