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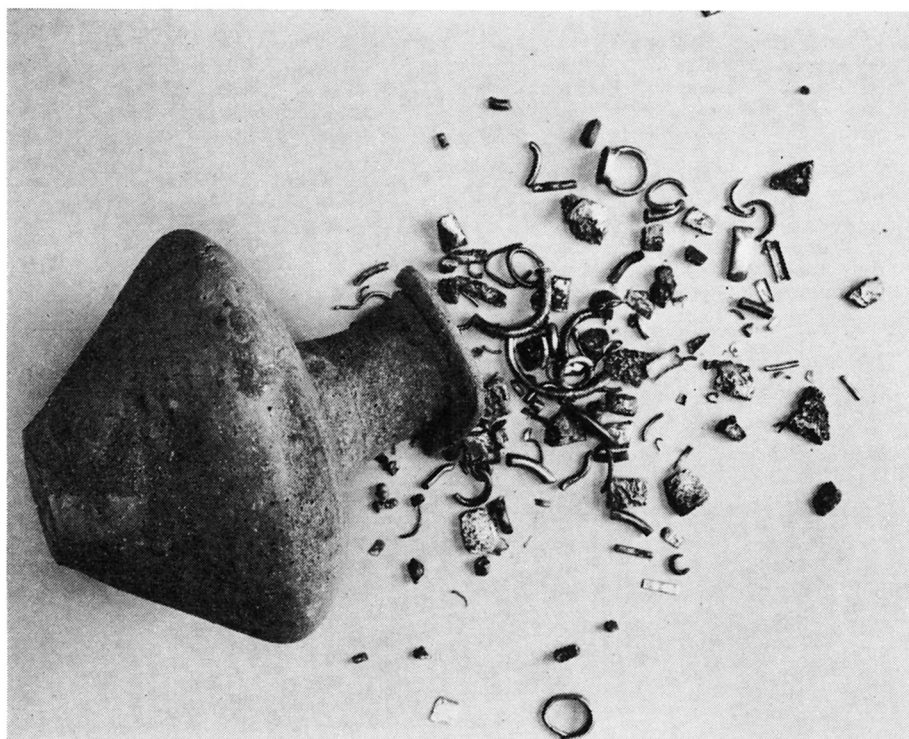


Fig. 1. Dele af sølvdepotet og lerkarret, hvori størstedelen af det er fundet. Fra by IV »Palads«, Qala'at al-Bahrain.

Part of the hoard of silver found in the ruins of the City IV "palace" at Qala'at al-Bahrain, and the pot in which the greater part of the hoard was contained.

ARABIENS ARKÆOLOGI

Af GEOFFREY BIBBY

Dansk arkæologisk ekspeditions 8. kampagne, 1961/62

Vinteren 1961/62 fortsatte den danske ekspedition fra Forhistorisk Museum i Århus arbejdet i Arabien med undersøgelser på Bahrain, på Qatar, i Kuwait og i Abu Dhabi. Ekspeditionen, som varede fra d. 17. oktober 1961 til d. 29. januar 1962, lededes af professor P. V. Glob med T. G. Bibby som souschef. Der var 26 deltagere.

Som tidligere år modtog ekspeditionen betydelige bevillinger både fra Danmark og fra golfstaterne, således fra regeringerne på Bahrain, Qatar og i Kuwait, fra Bahrain Petroleum Company, Qatar Petroleum Company, Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company og Carlsbergfondet.

Beskrivelsen af undersøgelserne i Kuwait under denne kampagne følger i Kuml 1965.

Bahrain

På Bahrain koncentreredes arbejdet om de to pladser, som allerede er kendt fra de foregående års udgravninger, nemlig tempelanlægget fra 3. årtusind ved Barbar og byhøjen ved Qala'at al-Bahrain. Tillige blev to af de store gravhøje syd for landsbyen Ali inddraget i undersøgelserne.

Barbar. Her afsluttede Hellmuth Andersen og Peder Mortensen deres udgravning af tempelanlægget med en række søgegrøfter i udkanten af området.

Vest for templet fandtes i to øst-vest orienterede grøfter og i meget betydelig dybde (under det ældste tempels overflade) rester af huse fra to byggeperioder. De var bygget af utilhugne sten sat i ler, og nogle af murene havde gipspuds. Det nederste byggeniveau var samtidig med Tempel II eller tidlig Tempel III, det øverste niveau med sen Tempel III. Under en udvidelse af udgravningen afdækkedes en række rum i et hus fra den ældre periode, mens en seglsten blev fundet under et gulv fra den yngre periode.

Nord for templet viste undersøgelsen, at Tempel III's ydre terrassemur var meget dårligt bevaret. Men det fremgik også, at templet har været helt omgivet af en oval terrassemur ligesom templerne i Khafaja og al-Ubaid i Iraq.

Syd og øst for templet gravedes søgegrøfter ned til den oprindelige jordoverflade. Herved fandtes rester af bygninger samtidige med Tempel I under et tykt brandlag syd for det »ovale anlæg«. (Mortensen, Kuml 1956).

Supplerende gravninger foretoges under trapper og altre i alle tre templer. Også langs vandledninger fra Tempel II og III blev der gravet, og herunder fandtes halvdelen af et køllehoved af alabast i Tempel III niveau. Endelig førtes to grøfter mod syd og øst fra hustomten nordøst for tempelanlægget (Harald Andersen, Kuml 1956). Disse viste, at huset oprindeligt har stået på en 1,50–2 m høj terrassemur, hvis sten i en senere tid er fjernet til andet formål. Murens forløb kunne dog følges i profilvæggene, og en del af de store, tilhuggede kalkstensblokke lå stadig langs kanten af stenrøvernes nedgravning.

Efter udgravningens afslutning bragtes Tempel III's flisegulv tillige med de store, runde stensokler og de tre sten med cirkulære huller (Glob, Kuml 1954 og 1955), som var fjernet for at tillade undersøgelserne af Tempel I og II, tilbage på deres oprindelige plads, hvorefter hele anlægget tildækkedes ved hjælp af bulldozer. Dette var en nødvendig sikkerhedsforanstaltning for at hindre, at murene, der gennem undersøgelsen flere steder var blevet undergravet, udsat for vejr og vind i løbet af kort tid skulle styrte sammen. Nu bevares det enestående anlæg under sandet, til det en dag måske kan restaureres og vedligeholdes som et synligt monument fra Bahrains fortid.

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Peder Mortensen).

Qala'at al-Bahrain. I den allerede udgravede del af det store »palads« gravede Hans Berg og Karen Frifelt en række profilgrøfter ind mod murene for at nå frem til en mere sikker datering af bygningen, som har vist sig overordentlig vanskelig at tidsfæste på grund af den fuldkomne mangel på okkupationslag.



Fig. 2. Signetring fra sølvdepotet (fig. 1). Den ægyptiske hieroglyph-
inskriftion kan dateres til 7 årh. f. Kr.

The signet ring found in the hoard (fig. 1). The Egyptian hieroglyph
inscription can be dated to the 7th Century BC.

Herunder opgravedes en del af gulvet i det store indgangsrum, hvor der før er fundet slangebegravelser (Glob, Kuml 1957), og endnu et antal af disse kom for dagen. De fleste var anbragt i små lerskåle dækket af et potteskår, andre fandtes uden spor af beholder, kun dækket af et skår, og en enkelt var nedsat i en alabasterskål.

I »tronrummet« (Glob, Kuml 1959) – eller snarere kultrummet – gravedes en øst-vest gående profilgrøft i forbindelse med »tronstolen«, og foran denne under gipsgulvet afdækkedes et afløbsbassin bygget op af sten- og gipsbrokker og med fire kalksten som dække. »Tronstolen« fjernedes, og gulvet under den undersøgte nøje, men der var ingen fund af nogen art.

Øst for dette område fjernedes de det foregående år udgravede rum hørende til »palads«-bygningen, og under dem afdækkedes dele af to større bygninger fra den kassitiske periode (karamel-keramik perioden – Bibby, Kuml 1957) med en smal gade imellem. Dele af vandkanaler med dække af sten- og gipsfliser blev udgravet; de afbrydes af fundamenter til kassitermurene og må altså være ældre end disse. Den sydligste kassiterbygning har haft en øst-vest gående, vistnok overdækket gård med værelser på begge sider. Syd for denne gård afdækkedes et rum helt og to delvis. De var alle ødelagt af en voldsom brand, og her fandtes foruden skår rester af bronze og korn samt aftryk af træ. Over

brandlaget, men under »paladset«s gipsgulv (hvori på dette sted intet brud iagttoges) fandtes i et lag med mange murbrokker en lerkrukke indeholdende sølvfragmenter og rester af vævet stof. Denne sølvskat (fig. 1) bestod af små stykker smeltet sølv, dele af armbånd brudt i småstykker og et antal hele fingerringe og ørenringe. Bemærkelsesværdig var en signetring med ægyptiske hieroglyffer (fig. 2), som af Nationalmuseet er dateret til 650–550 f. K. Det ser ud til at være en sølvsmeds lager, der er blevet begravet her i ruinerne af kassiterbygningen. Fundets betydning for dateringen af »paladset« afhænger af, om det kan påvises, at det blev begravet før opførelsen af dette, eller det er gravet ned under (og altså gennem) dets gulv. Skønt der ikke blev iagttaget nogen tydelig gennembrydning af gulvet, tør det på den anden side ikke afvises, at et evt. senere udbedret brud er undgået opmærksomheden.

Nord for gården afdækkedes to rum helt og et delvis. Det vestligste af disse lå i modsætning til alle de øvrige hævet lidt over gårdens niveau med et par trappetrin i rummets bredde. I det midterste rum fandtes på gulvet et brandlag bestående af et flere cm tykt lag bitumen iblandet skår og med aftryk af træ, foruden en stor dyng brændte daddelkerner. Nederst i et opfyldningslag lige over brandlaget fandtes et fragment af en lertavle med kileskrift (den første fundet på Bahrain), to spydspidser og et hakkeblad af bronze.

En prøve af de brændte daddelkerner blev indsendt til C14 analyse og dateredes til 1180 ± 110 f. K. (K-827).

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Karen Frifelt).

Arbejdet blev også fortsat på den vestlige del af bymuren, hvor Aino Mortensen og Elsebeth Sander-Jørgensen gravede et snit gennem muren og det nærmeste område indenfor, medens Geoffrey Bibby og Jytte Thomsen fulgte murens forløb mod syd. Det fremgik af snittet tydeligt, at muren var bygget direkte på klippen i Barbar perioden, og at den i den kassitiske periode var ombygget og udvidet med et brystværn på den indvendige side. Dette stemmer med det foregående års undersøgelser og med den antagelse, at muren var opgivet og allerede dækket af den voksende tell i den seleukidiske periode, da en række småhuse, hvert med to værelser, byggedes på kanten af skråningen ovenfor. Der var derimod ingen spor af bebyggelse lige inden for muren på den tid, da den var i brug.

Murforløbet kunne følges ca. 100 m sydpå i en lige linje, hvorefter det afbrødes af en portlignende åbning. Denne port, der var 1,75 m bred, lå 2,60 m over murens fundament på højde med brystværnet. Muren var her forstærket med en bastion, ligeledes bygget på klippen og føjet ind i muren, så den sprang ca. 75 cm frem. Alt dette tyder på, at der her har været en art træbro over en bred grøft eller grav uden for muren.

Ali. Ved landsbyen Ali blev det besluttet at undersøge resterne af to af de vældige gravhøje, der har lidt hårdt under bulldozeres angreb. Denne undersøgelse blev foretaget af P. V. Glob. I begge tilfælde havde bulldozeren blottet og delvis fjernet en ca. 3 m høj ringmur, der har været bygget nogle meter



Fig. 3. To malede pokaler og 3 skåle fra den store gravhøj ved 'Ali.
Two painted goblets and a nest of three bowls from the large tumulus at 'Ali.

inden for højfoden. Det var også muligt i begge tilfælde at lokalisere en indgang, der fra en åbning i ringmuren løb ind mod et kammer i højens midte. Gangen var ca. 2 m bred med tørmure af kalkstensblokke, yderst af samme højde som ringmuren og voksende indefter til ca. 4 m. Der var ikke noget tag. Begge gangene blev udgravet i deres fulde længde, ca. 14 m, hvoraf de sidste 2,50 m i den ene gang havde vægpuds. Man var herefter nået ind til centalkammeret, og for begge højes vedkommende viste det sig, at kammerets tag af stenblokke var brudt sammen og faldet ind, så blokkene nu hvilede på den jord, der fyldte kamrene. Det viste sig umuligt at fremskaffe udstyr, der var kraftigt nok til at hæve eller understøtte disse dækplader, der vejede adskillige tons, så en udgravning af kamrene måtte opgives som unødigt risikabel, så meget mere som det i begge højene tydeligt konstateredes, at gravrøvere tidligere havde gravet sig ind gennem gangene. I den ene gang havde de trukket et spor af potteskår efter sig, og det lykkedes af dette tabte gods at samle tre små skåle og to vinglas-formede bægre med geometriske mønstre malet i sort på en rød baggrund (fig. 3).

Foruden de allerede nævnte ekspeditionsmedlemmer var Vibeke Kristensen tilknyttet ekspeditionen som tegner, mens Vibeke Bibby var økonoma.

Qatar

På Qatar fortsattes undersøgelsen af flintplader af Holger Kapel assisteret af Hans Jørgen Madsen og Jens Aarup Jensen. Man koncentrerede sig især om den nordlige og nordøstlige del af halvøen, hvor ti pladser, karakteriseret af store pri-

mitivt udseende redskaber, blev fundet i nærheden af *Khor*. Der blev dog også arbejdet i Dukhan området på vestkysten. (En anden artikel her i bogen, s. 112 ff. giver en oversigt over samtlige stenalder-undersøgelser på Qatar).

Et meget betydeligt helleristningsområde opdagedes ved *Jebel Jasasiya* i Nordøstqatar. Her findes en række fremspringende, jævne klippeflader, der hovedsagelig skråner mod øst, og på dem er ristningerne udført. Der fandtes dog også en del på vandrette eller mod vest skrånende flader. Almindeligst forekommende er en dobbeltrække af skåltegn, men hyppig er også en roset dannet af en ring af skåltegn ofte med en større grube i midten. Store huller, indtil et badekars størrelse, er i flere tilfælde hugget ind i klippen. Desuden findes ristninger af skibe set ovenfra med årer, rorpind og fremspringende for- og agterstavn (fig. 4), og i et enkelt tilfælde med ankerreb og anker. Alle ristningerne blev kortlagt, tegnet og fotograferet.



Fig. 4. Helleristningskibe ved Jebel Jasasiya på Qatar. Bemærk styreåren ved de styrbords stævne.

Rock carvings of galleys at Jebel Jasasiya in Qatar. Note the steering oars at the starboard sterns.

En række udgravninger af gravhøje blev foretaget af H. J. Madsen og J. Aarup Jensen. I et højområde på omkring et hundrede stykker ved *Ras Abaruk* blev ti små stenbyggede høje undersøgt, men alle gravene var tidligere forstyrret. Kun i tre tilfælde var et stensat kammer tilbage, og bortset fra 26 perler fra et kammer og 82 fra et andet var der ingen fund af betydning i gravene. Et enkelt randskår fundet mellem de spredte skår rundt om en af højene antyder en datering af gravene til tidlig seleukidisk tid, dvs. omkring 300 f. Kr.

Mere interessante var resultaterne fra *Mezru'ah* syd for Khor. Her lå to store og to små høje, hvoraf en stor og en lille udgravedes. I den store høj, der målte ca. 1,50 m i højde og 15 m i diameter, fandtes tre grave, der alle var gravet 20–30 cm ned gennem en tynd, brun humuslignende stribe markerende den oprindelige jordoverflade, og alle var dækket af en stendyng. Størst var centralgraven, og den var plyndret, så kun fragmenter af menneskekogler, bronze, jern, glas og potteskår fandtes. De to andre grave, der var dækket af mindre stendynger, indeholdt hver et skelet af en kamel, tilsyneladende i knæstilling, og i den ene grav var der tillige en glasflaske.

Den mindre høj var ca. 0,50 m høj og 6 m i diameter. Under den fandtes en uregelmæssig grav gravet ned gennem det oprindelige humuslag og dækket med tre store stenfliser, og heri lå skeletterne af to personer i meget forvredne stillinger. I graven fandtes tillige et jernsværd og et bundt pilespidser af jern, mens en pilespid lå i underlivet på det ene skelet og en anden sad fast i venstre underarmsknogle.

Endelig fandtes under rekognosceringer på nordøstkysten ved *Ras al-Matbakh* en stor lerkrukke lige under den nuværende overflade ca. 35 m fra kystlinjen. Krukken lå på siden med munden, der var omgivet af sten, vendende mod syd. Pladsen vidnede om nutidig forstyrrelse, og krukken indeholdt da også dyrebene og papir fra moderne tid, men på bunden lå et menneskeskelet, der så ud til oprindeligt at have ligget sammenbøjet med hovedet mod syd.

(Ovenstående bygger på rapporter af Hans Jørgen Madsen).

Abu Dhabi

I Abu Dhabi fortsatte Knud og Lise Thorvildsen, Arne Thorsteinsson og Vagn Kolstrup undersøgelsen af gravhøjene på den lille ø Umm an-Nar. Resultatet af disse udgravninger er tidligere publiceret (Thorvildsen, Kuml 1962).

Hen mod slutningen af sæsonen flyttede holdet til *Buraimi* godt 150 km inde i landet på den vestlige rand af Oman bjergene, hvor en del gravhøje var lokaliseret under tidligere rekognosceringer (Glob, Kuml 1959). Fem af disse blev udgravet og viste sig at være af en helt anden konstruktion end de runde gravbygninger på Umm an-Nar. De bestod af stenrøser over centralgrave med en indtil 2 m lang gang gennem højen. Gravene så ud til at være blevet plyndret, men der fandtes to store bronzenäle foruden fragmenter af steatitkar og to hele lerkar. Lerkarrene var af en anden type end Umm an-Nar keramikken, det var små rundbundede vaser af gulligt gods med flad mundingsrand. Det lykkedes ikke på daværende tidspunkt at finde frem til en datering af højene.

Dansk arkæologisk ekspeditions 9. kampagne, 1962/63

Fra den 4. november 1962 til den 16. februar 1963 fortsatte Dansk arkæologisk ekspedition sine undersøgelser på Bahrain og Qatar, i Kuwait og i Abu Dhabi. Desuden blev det ved stor velvilje og hjælp fra Arabian-American Oil Company muligt for første gang at foretage rekognosceringer i de nærmeste områder i Saudi Arabien. Ekspeditionen lededes som sædvanlig af professor P. V. Glob med T. G. Bibby som souschef. Der var 25 deltagere.

For bevillinger også til denne sæson ønsker ekspeditionen at udtale sin taknemmelighed over for regeringerne på Bahrain og Qatar og i Kuwait, ligeledes olieselskaberne på Bahrain, Qatar og i Abu Dhabi og Carlsbergfondet.

Rapporten om undersøgelserne i Kuwait følger i Kuml 1965.

Bahrain

Arbejdet koncentreredes under denne sæson om to punkter: byhøjen ved Qala'at al-Bahrain, hvor en udvidelse af udgravningen midt på byhøjen gav nye oplysninger om »paladset« og om de kassitiske bygninger dybere nede, og hvor en række gravninger søgte at finde bymuren mod syd; og som det andet punkt højområdet syd for Ali, hvor, i tilknytning til undersøgelsen det foregående år af to af de største høje, nu mere end 40 af de mindre høje udgravedes.

Foruden de i den følgende oversigt nævnte arkæologer deltog Malene Møller-Jensen som tegner og Vibeke Bibby som økonoma.

Qala'at al-Bahrain. Midt på byhøjen udvidede Karen Frifelt og Hans Chr. Vorting de tidligere års udgravninger 5,50 m mod øst i et 20 m bredt bælte, hvor de øverste meter jord fjernedes ned til »paladsbygningen«s niveau. I disse lag fandtes rester af islamisk bebyggelse, således en islamisk brønd, der oprensedes ned til kassiterbebyggelsens niveau, nogle murrester og gulvlag og flere af de såkaldte ovne (store lerkrukker uden bund, ifølge befolkningen anvendt til brødbagning). En stor del af feltet var dog forstyrret af tidligere nedgravninger, der igen var fyldt op med affaldslag iblandet usædvanlig mange skår. Blandt fundene var også en »trefod« af den slags, der anvendes under brænding af potter, hvilket kunne tyde på et pottemageri i nærheden. I affaldslagene fandtes rester af forskellige små dyrefigurer og et par importerede sorte attiske skår.

Stående på gulvlagene i »paladsbygningen«s niveau og med få meters mellemrum fandtes to gravkrukker. Ingen spor af nedgravning i forbindelse med disse kunne iagttages, men ville i alle tilfælde have været yderst vanskelige at skelne i broklagene. Den ene var en svær, oval krukke af rødt gods, der dog ved afdækningen fandtes sønderslået og fyldt med jord. I den fandtes nogle smuldrende knogler, et par tænder, et stykke af en ben-amulet med en femtakket stjerne på den ene side og tre parallelle streger på den anden og et fragment af en blå glasperle. Den anden gravlægning var en barnebegravelse i en terrinformat krukke af rødgult ler, og skønt der ikke var bevaret noget dække, var begravelsen uforstyrret. Den døde var et spædbarn, og skelettet lå krummet sam-

men i krukken med optrukne ben, hovedet i syd og ansigtet vendt mod vest. Der var ingen gravgaver.

I tilslutning til de tidligere udgravede bygninger, der samler sig om »paladset«, afdækkedes en række rum, hvoraf det største var godt 10 m langt og 4,50 m bredt. I langsiderne over for hinanden har der været to anselige dobbeltdøre, hvoraf nu tærskelstenene og for hver ende af dem to i kalksten smukt udhuggede, halvcirkelformede dørstolpesten var tilbage. Også endevæggene havde døre, og i hver ende af det lange rum fandtes resterne af et ildsted.

I de øvrige rum var murene næsten nedbrudt, i flere tilfælde var der kun rester af fundamentet tilbage. Sydligt i feltet fandtes en strækning med et brostenlignende lag, der antagelig er rester af en øst-vest gående gade.

Efter at alle bygningsresterne var tegnet og opmålt, fjernedes de, og de underliggende lag bortgravedes ned til kassiterbebyggelsens niveau. Det drejede sig om opfyldningslag med mange stenbrokker og forholdsvis få skår. Herfra stammer et lerfragment med et lille afsnit af et seglaftryk, antagelig fra et cylindersegl.

Der afdækkedes endnu to rum i den i sidste sæson påbegyndte kassiterbygning med de op til en meter tykke mure og et stykke af den overdækkede gård. Også her fandtes spor af en voldsom brand og i bitumenlaget aftryk af træ og flettede måtter, muligvis fra taget.

I et af rummene fandtes en »badekar«-begravelse fra senere tid. Det svære gipsgulv var gennembrudt, og den badekarformede lerkiste var stillet nord-syd og således, at randen ragede ca. 40 cm op over gulvet. Den må derfor være senere end kassiterbygningen. Den var anbragt lige inden for tærskelen til den sydlige dobbeltdør i det lange rum beskrevet ovenfor og et godt stykke under dettes gulvniveau. Gulvet på dette sted er i gravebogen beskrevet som »ujævnt og delvis afslidt«, mens tegningen viser brudte linjer. Det er derfor sandsynligt, at badekarbegravelsen er gravet ned også gennem dette gulv og således antagelig er yngre end »paladset«. Efter aftrykkene at dømme har badekarret haft låg af træ og været forseglet med bitumen. Begravelsen var uforstyrret, og kisten indeholdt et dårligt bevaret skelet, der lå på siden med hovedet i syd, ansigtet mod øst og ben og arme trukket op under hagen. Som eneste gravgave var i hovedenden hensat en vaseformet krukke af ret tyndt, gult gods.

I den nordlige del af feltet afdækkedes fortsættelsen af den smalle gade fra sidste sæson, og nord for denne fortsatte ligeledes ydermuren til den anden kassiterbygning mod øst. I det fasttrampede gadelag fandtes et større antal almindelige slagsten.

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Karen Frifelt).

Langs byhøjens sydlige rand foretog Kirsten Kassow og Mogens Bencard en række undersøgelser for at lokalisere bymuren i dette område.

Udgravningerne kompliceredes mod sydvest af den yngre meget kraftige islamiske bymur, der her er bygget oven på muren fra Barbar perioden. Det lykkedes dog tæt op ad den nuværende landsby at afdække en del af den ældste mur, der i sin opbygning viste nøje overensstemmelse med den vestlige bymur. Som den, og ulig muren nord for byen, er den bygget direkte på klippen.

Lidt længere mod øst lige syd for »paladset« afdækkedes en 1,50 m svær islamisk mur, der hvilede på toppen af et brystværn, som igen var bygget på Barbar bymuren. Utroligt nok ser det ud til, at den oprindelige bymur her er bevaret i sin fulde højde lige til toppen af brystværnet, hvis mur er 30 cm tyk og 1,30 m høj og er bygget på sydkanten af den 3 m høje bymur. Hele konstruktionen er på ydersiden pudset, så den står med en 4,30 m høj, glat flade. Hvor svær den oprindelige bymur har været, kunne ikke afgøres, da bagsiden af muren var fjernet hele vejen ned. Den bevarede del var godt en meter tyk. I det hele taget viste området inden for muren tegn på mange senere forstyrrelser, og kun en udvidelse af udgravningen over et større areal vil kunne klarlægge alle faserne i murens historie her. Således ville man gerne vide lidt mere om de lemlæstede og delvis brændte skeletdele af mindst 8 personer, der lå i Barbar lagene lige inden for muren.

Omkring 300 m længere mod øst blev sydøstskråningen af byhøjen gennemskåret af en søgegrøft og hermed et nyt område inddraget i undersøgelserne. Barbar bymuren blev dog ikke fundet, men kulturlag og husmure fra Barbar perioden, afdækket 7–8 m under den nuværende overflade og lige over klippen, tyder på, at byen dengang har strakt sig længere sydpå. En 2 m bred mur med let skrånende sider og 1 m bredt »glacis« udvendigt kan antagelig dateres til den kassitiske periode, hvorfra der her fandtes tykke kulturlag. Endelig afdækkedes to gravlægninger, simple jordfæstegrave, hvor den døde var lagt i sammenbøjjet stilling på venstre side med ansigtet mod nord. I den ene grav lå et lille, glaseret lerkar.

Gravhøje syd for Ali. En omfattende undersøgelse af gravhøje i højfeltet syd for Ali blev foretaget af P. V. Glob, Peter Crabb og Grith Lerche. Området har lidt meget under bulldozeres arbejde med grusgravning. Således var høje ofte bortgravet lige til kammeret, og det blev derved muligt at undersøge, tegne og beskrive 42 gravhøje, hvoraf dog selve højkonstruktionen i næsten alle tilfælde var helt ødelagt.

Alle gravene var blevet plyndret i oldtiden, så der fandtes ingen kostbarheder. En antydning af det, der havde været, gav et enkelt lille stykke guld – måske et led fra en kæde – sammensat af fire spiraler. Der fandtes heller ingen skeletter *in situ*, men et betydeligt skeletmateriale opsamledes, og det kunne afgøres, at i intet tilfælde var der mere end én gravlægning i samme grav. Skår materialet var stort, og der var en del af den karakteristiske røde, rillede Barbar keramik, der således daterer højene til Barbar perioden. Endelig fandtes også nogle skåle af alabast og bægre af strudsæg. Det er bemærkelsesværdigt, der ikke blev fundet en eneste af de typiske Barbar seglsten. Derimod blev der i to af gravene fundet en slags »falske seglsten«, nemlig forstenede strandsnegleskaller skåret til i form som tidens sædvanlige segl, således at sneglens naturlige spiraler dannede seglstenens forside.

Til undersøgelsen valgtes to adskilte højgrupper inden for det samme højområde. Den første, omfattende 16 høje, lå tæt op til storhøjene syd for Ali, mens den anden på 26 høje lå ca. 1 km syd herfor. Forskellen mellem de to grupper var meget tydelig. I den første var kamrene større, bygget af tilhugne kalksten

i regelmæssige skifter, hvorimod den anden gruppes mindre kamre var opført af brudsten. Tilsvarende var gravindholdet rigere i den første gruppe. Men derimod var selve højen – så vidt der var noget tilbage af den – som regel større i den anden gruppe. Dette skyldes, at den første gruppes kamre lå delvis (undertiden næsten helt) under den daværende jordoverflade, dog aldrig skåret ned i klippen, mens kamrene i den anden gruppe var bygget på den daværende overflade, ikke blot hvor klippen lå ganske tæt under den, men også hvor der i en wadi var tykkere jordlag. Undersøgelsen af kamrene viste, at de i disse tilfælde var bygget på kulturlag (se s. 89 f. og Bibby, Kuml 1954).

Sideløbende med højgravningen undersøgtes en større, lav forhøjning lige syd for Ali vejen, hvor grusgravningen havde afdækket en del pudsede mure. Mellem dem lå lerkarskår fra Barbar perioden blandet med skår fra senere islamisk tid. En profilvæg rensedes af gennem den ene side af højen for at få rede på lagfølgen, og det fremgik heraf tydeligt, at de pudsede mure stammede fra en større islamisk bygning opført på en bebyggelse fra Barbar tid. Kun en enkelt mur fra denne ældre bosættelse blev frilagt.

Qatar

Stenalderundersøgelsen på Qatar blev fortsat af Holger Kapel, Svend Bue-Madsen og Erik Bendixen. De to sidstnævnte udgravede desuden en boplads fra seleukidisk tid, fundet ved Ras Uwainat Ali på vestkysten lige nord for Dukhan.

På overfladen af en lav sandhøj lå spredt de typiske potteskår fra perioden, de tynde skåle (Bibby, Kuml 1957) af gulbrunt, rødt eller sort gods. Søgegrøfter gennem højen i to retninger og ført helt ned til klippen afdækkede dog ingen bygningsrester. Men næsten 800 skår fra mindst 75 lerkar opsamledes fra de øvre sandlag. Bortset fra flintpladserne er der ikke tidligere fundet spor af før-islamisk bebyggelse på Qatar, og fundene fra denne plads tyder da også på, at den har været ret isoleret. Mange af skårene har langs brudfladerne rækker af huller fra klinkning. Mens de samme tynde skåle på Bahrain anvendtes og bortkastedes i hundredvis i den seleukidiske periode, er de her blevet omhyggeligt repareret, når de gik i stykker.

Abu Dhabi

Arbejdet fortsattes på den lille ø Umm an-Nar, hvor et hold bestående af Jens Aarup Jensen, Vagn Kolstrup og Jørgen Lund tilbragte en måneds tid med udgravninger på bopladsen øst for de tidligere undersøgte gravhøje. Derefter flyttede holdet ind i landet til Buraimi for i de følgende 14 dage at foretage udgravninger af høje syd for Al-Ain.

Umm an-Nar. Udgravningerne her blev startet på den sydlige del af bopladsen, hvor murene af et tilsyneladende mindre hus ragede frem på overfladen. Det blev dog snart klart, at de synlige mure kun var en del af en langt større bygning, og ved sæsonens slutning var der udgravet 300 m², uden at huset dermed var frilagt. Den afdækkede del er næsten kvadratisk og måler ca. 16 ×

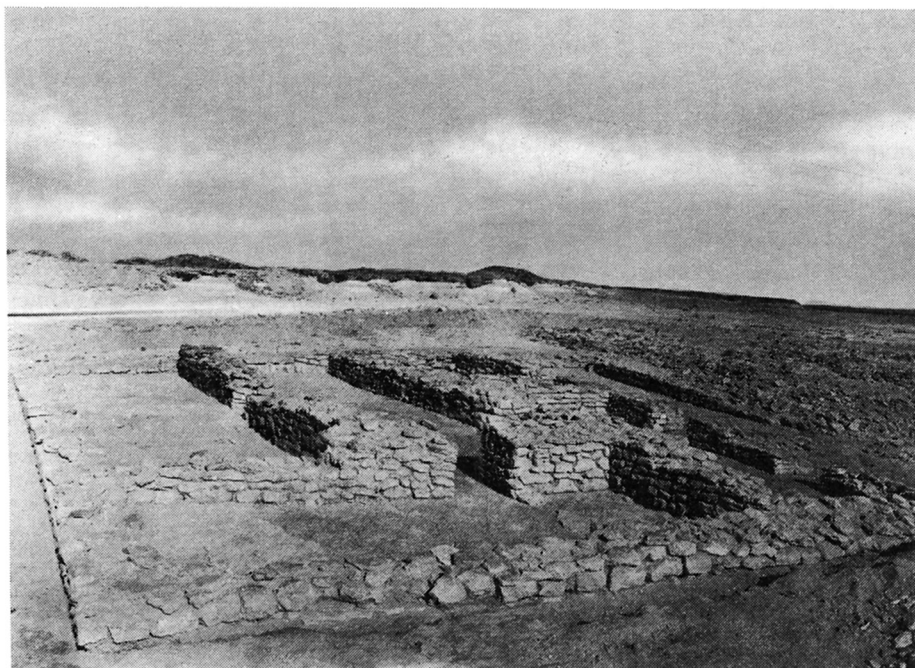


Fig. 5. Det udgravede huskomplex på bopladsen på Umm-an-Nar øen, Abu Dhabi.
Panoramic view of excavated house in the settlement on Umm an-Nar island, Abu Dhabi.

16 m. Murene fortsætter mod nordvest, på de andre tre sider er ydervæggene fundet. Husets indre er opdelt i syv rektangulære rum, alle omkring 3 m brede og indtil 11 m lange (fig. 5).

Huset er bygget på en ret jævn klippeflade, der skråner let ned mod kysten, således at det østlige hjørne ligger ca. 1 m lavere end det vestlige. Murene er ca. 90 cm tykke og bevaret i en højde af 80–90 cm, dvs. 8 skifter af de flade stenblokke af den lokale kalksten. Som bindemiddel var anvendt ler, og flere steder fandtes også rester af lerpuds. Døråbningerne mellem rummene var 80–95 cm brede, og i forbindelse med tre af dem blev der fundet dørstolpehuller. Skønt de øverste lag var fyldt med nedfaldne sten fra murene, er der dog næppe nok til mere end yderligere 2–3 skifter, så medmindre senere tider har hentet sten i ruinerne, må den øverste del af murene og taget have bestået af et andet, mere forgængeligt materiale, såsom træ, måtter eller palmeblade. I to af rummene var der gravet en større grube, mens to andre rum havde mindre huller, der gik helt ned i klippen. Det drejer sig sikkert om stolpehuller, men det var ikke muligt ud fra dem at sige noget om tagkonstruktionen.

Hovedparten af fundene var potteskår, og de fleste af disse stammer fra grove, tykvæggede brugskar. Dog blev der i de fleste af rummene også fundet skår af den fine røde keramik med påmalet sort dekoration, som kendes fra gravhøjene på øen. Bopladsen må altså være fra samme tid. Ganske vist blev de malede skår næsten udelukkende fundet i den nederste del af kulturlaget,

men det kan meget vel skyldes, at de malede mønstre på skårene nær overfladen udsat for vejr og vind i tidens løb er skallet af.

Et stort knoglemateriale blev optaget. Der var horn af får og geder, fiskeben og skildpaddeskjolde og knoglerne af en hval på 2–3 meters længde. Interessant er fund af kamelknogler, som således antyder, at kamelen blev holdt som husdyr i Oman i 3. årtusind f. Kr.

Redskabsinventaret tyder på, at fiskeri var hovednæringsvejen. Der var et stort antal sænkesten tildannet i den lokale kalksten, 3 fiskekroge af kobber uden modhager, 3 lange, buede kobbernåle foruden forskellige genstande af horn og ben, deriblandt syle og en tenvægt. Endvidere fandtes en mindre skubbekværn og et antal mere eller mindre tildannede, men importerede sten, måske vægtlodder. De eneste smykker var to stenperler og en ring af ben. Der var ingen figurer, seglsten eller indskrifter.

Under det øverste broklag fandtes i de fleste af rummene et tydeligt askelag. Derefter fulgte kulturlagene, der så ud til at være vokset langsomt og uden afbrydelser. Der var ingen grundlag for en opdeling i flere perioder, skønt huset ganske vist fra tid til anden havde undergået ændringer og ombygninger. Alle rummene virkede som opholdsrum, ingen af dem kunne udskilles som køkken, forrådsrum eller lignende.

(Ovenstående er resumé af en rapport af Jens Aarup Jensen).

Buraimi. I de 14 dage, holdet tilbragte i Buraimi, blev der undersøgt 20 gravhøje på skråningerne i den dal, der fra Al-Ain går sydpå til Jebel Hafit. Undersøgelsens formål var at fremskaffe så stort et fundmateriale som muligt fra gravene, så man udvalgte fortrinsvis høje, der havde været genstand for stensplyndring og derfor krævede mindre arbejde for at nå centralkammeret. Alle højene viste sig imidlertid at være forstyrret også før stensplyndringen af gravrøvere, der var gået ned i kammeret ovenfra. Der var således ikke meget at hente, og resultatet blev i de fleste tilfælde kun en plan af kammeret og dets indgang, og for en enkelt højs vedkommende et tværsnit, der tydeligt viste opbygningen. De så alle ud til at være af samme konstruktion som de høje, der blev udgravet midt i dalen i 1961/62: røser bygget op af sten fra stedet omkring en falsk hvælving over et rundt eller ovalt kammer opført på den daværende overflade. Fra sydsiden førte en snæver gang ind til kammeret. Røsens diameter har været 7–11 m og højden 3–5 m. Kammerets største længde i gulvhøjde var som regel ca. 2 m. Det største kammer (røse 22) var $2,85 \times 2,60$ m, og det mindste (røse 19) var $1,35 \times 1,25$ m. Gangen, der forneden var ca. 0,50 m bred og snævredes ind til 0,25–0,35 m under dækstenene, var 1–1,40 m høj og oftest blokeret med sten hele vejen ind.

Røse 10, 15 og 17 var helt tomme, røse 6, 18, 24 og 25 indeholdt kun spredte knoglefragmenter. I de fleste andre fandtes et lerkar af samme type som dem, der blev fundet den foregående sæson: en fladbundet, dobbeltkonisk krukke med kort cylinderhals og flad, udbøjjet rand. I røse 22 optoges tre kar af denne type sammen med næsten 400 perler og en bladformet pilespids af bronze, mens røse 23 gav to lerkar, to 11–12 cm lange bronzenåle og en tre-

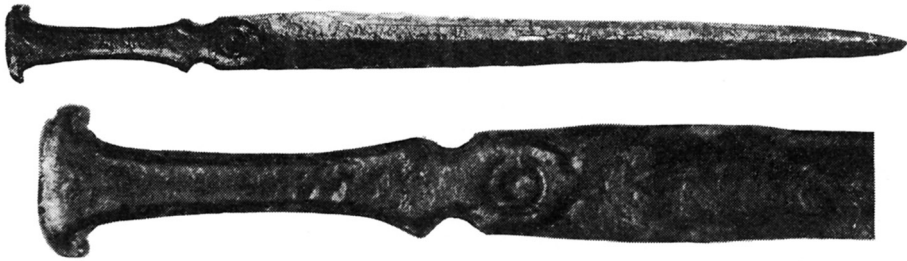


Fig. 6. Bronzesværd fra gravhøj 20 ved Al-'Ain, Buraimi. Længde 42,5 cm.
Bronze sword found in Tumulus 20 at Al-Ain, Buraimi. Length 42.5 cms.

kantet dolkklinge ligeledes af bronze, $21,5 \times 6,3$ cm med svag midtribbe og to nagler. Den rigeste grav lå i røse 20 og indeholdt en ornamenteret steatit-skål, to bronzekar, hvoraf et med tud, en stor flad knap af blankpoleret muslingskal, en bælteknop af bronze og et 42,5 cm langt bronzesværd (fig. 6).

Dette sværd med fordybning i fæstet til indlægning og med ophøjede koncentriske cirkler på overgangen mellem fæste og klinge har ingen nøjagtige paralleller i Mellemøsten. Størst er ligheden med sværd fra Luristan [1], dateret til 13. og 14. årh. f. Kr., og det er foreløbig det nærmeste, man kan komme en datering af gravhøjene i Buraimi.

Forstyrrelsen var i de fleste grave for stor til, at man kunne sige ret meget om gravskikken, men i den rige grav 20, hvor en sammenstyrtning af taget åbenbart havde forhindret fuldstændig udplyndring, så nogle af skeletdelene ud til at ligge på deres oprindelige plads. Den døde var lagt på siden med hovedet mod øst, de to bronzekar og steatitskålen var anbragt i hovedenden, antagelig inden i hinanden, mens knappen af muslingskal lå ved hoften. Sværdet, der lå med spidsen pegende mod hovedet, hører muligvis ikke til samme begravelse, idet alle kamrene har plads til flere gravlægninger, og i det mindste i grav 14 blev fundet rester af fire forskellige kranier. Ingen af gravene indeholdt brændte ben eller trækul. I røse 7 fandtes en flækkekniv af flint og tæt ved røse 20 en oval skraber.

Ved siden af udgravningsarbejdet foretoges rekognosceringer i området, og man fandt en række lignende høje, dog indtil tre gange større end de største i Al-Ain, på østsiden af Jebel Hafit, derimod ingen på vestsiden. Øst for landsbyerne Sa'ara og Hili lå flere hundrede høje op over skråningerne på Jebel Auha.

En stencirkel, der ragede op over jorden på sletten sydøst for landsbyen Hili, var blevet lokaliseret den foregående sæson. Ved et nyt besøg opsamledes en større mængde potteskår inden for ringen. De var af Umm an-Nar type, og både denne plads og en del nærliggende høje er sikkert rester af et gravfelt af Umm an-Nar type.

(Ovenstående bygger for størstedelen på en rapport af Jens Aarup Jensen).

Saudi Arabien

Fra 4.–9. december 1962 blev der foretaget et kort, men intensivt rekognosceringsbesøg i Saudi Arabien af Vibeke og Geoffrey Bibby som gæster hos Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco). Dagen efter ankomsten blev der arrangeret en flyvetur hen over et højområde syd for Dhahran lufthavn, videre sydpå langs kysten, hvor et forgrenet mønster af gamle vandingskanaler kunne skelnes mellem sandbankerne, og hen over ruinerne af en by med mure omkring endnu længere sydpå ved Uquair. Turen gik derefter ind over land til Hofuf oasen og derfra nordpå til Thaj, hvor der omkring en lille nutidig landsby findes tydelige rester af en større by med mure omkring og uden for murene et antal store gravhøje og ringformede høje. Tilbageturen til Dhahran gik hen over et vandhul ved navn Ain-as-Subaighawi, hvor man under vejbygning var stødt på rester af bygninger, over Jawan, hvor en korsformet grav fra seleukidisk tid var blevet udgravet af Ric. Vidal fra Aramco, og over øen Tarut nord for Dhahran, hvor ruinerne af et fort ligger på toppen af en meget betydelig tell midt på øen.

I de følgende dage blev de fleste af disse pladser besøgt i bil sammen med stedkendte og interesserede amatørarkæologer fra Aramco, og der blev fra hvert sted medtaget en samling af de på overfladen spredte potteskår.

I *Thaj* blev der fundet skår af den importerede sorte, attiske keramik foruden fragmenter af lerfiguriner og talrige skår af de »tynde skåle« af den fra Qala'at al-Bahrain og »Ikaros« pladsen på Failaka så velkendte type. I husmurene i den moderne landsby var der indmuret gravsten med nabatæisk skrift [2], og på et af de fundne lerkar var der malet en indskrift af en anden type.

I *Ain as-Subaighawi* og i *Jawan* blev der fundet mængder af skår af »tynde skåle«.

Et forsøg på at nå til overrislingskanalerne nord for Uqair lykkedes desværre ikke, da bilerne ikke kunne klare sandbankerne.

Det er ofte blevet foreslået, at *Uqair* er det hos klassiske forfattere så hyppigt nævnte Gerra [3], så ruinerne af byen og de omgivende mure blev grundigt gennemgået. De er hovedsagelig bygget af korallblokke og af det havbundskonglomerat, der lokalt går under navnet *farush*, men er nu næsten helt dækket af *sabkha* (saltsumpe). Konstruktionen minder meget om islamiske bygninger på Bahrain, derimod slet ikke om den seleukidiske periodes arkitektur på Bahrain eller i Kuwait; der var f. eks. ingen tilhuggede kalkstensblokke. Keramikken var udelukkende islamisk uden et eneste skår af »tynde skåle«, som var fundet på tre forskellige pladser dagen før. Der er altså ikke på overfladen noget tegn på, at dette er Gerra.

En dag tilbragtes med at undersøge en række pladser i *Hofuf* oasen. På de fleste bopladser og »byhøje« fandtes kun islamiske skår og mønter. Et mindre højområde midt i oasen, tidligere beskrevet af Ric. Vidal, gav slet ingen skår eller andet daterende materiale. Lige syd for dette område (ca. 1,5 km fra Hofuf by på »vejen« til Jebel Sha'ban) ligger en vældig gravhøj, mindst dobbelt så stor som den største på Bahrain. Der var gnavet ind i den fra begge

sider, så kun midterpartiet stod tilbage, og store sten fra centralkammeret var synlige. Men ingen skår eller andre fund til at tidsfæste den opsamledes.

Højrækkerne syd for *Dhahran flyveplads* ligner Bahrains. På en af højene, der viste tegn på nedgravning, opsamledes tre skår af den røde, rillede Barbar keramik. Der er derfor næppe tvivl om, at disse høje er fra Barbar perioden og ganske svarer til Bahrains.

Tarut blev ikke besøgt, men der blev arrangeret en rekognosceringstur ind i ørkenen fra kystbyerne Qatif og Dammam. Store strækninger er her dækket med potteskår, og der blev med mellemrum foretaget opsamlinger, som viste, at alle skårene stammer fra islamisk keramik.

Der var lejlighed til at tale med folk, der havde gennemrejst Arabien, og til at gennemgå samlinger både fra de nu besøgte pladser og fra fjernere områder, således af flintredskaber fra Rub' al-Khali. Fladehuggede spydspidser og knive dominerede her og var fundet på mange pladser i distriktet, men en meget fin samling håndkiler af Acheuléen type var efter sigende fundet på et meget begrænset område i det vestlige Rub' al-Phali. I den samme samling fandtes en hel del slebne, sorte stenøkser fra en plads længere mod nordøst.

Den danske ekspedition vil gerne udtrykke sin taknemmelighed for den store gæstfrihed og for den vel tilrettelagte rekognoscering, som trods den korte tid gav så stort et udbytte.

Arabian Gulf archeology

The Eighth Campaign of the Danish Archeological Expedition 1961/62

During the winter of 1961/62 the expedition sent out from the Forhistorisk Museum in Aarhus continued its work on the Arabian littoral of the Arabian Gulf, operating in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi. The expedition, which was in the field from 17th October 1961 to 29th January 1962, was under the leadership of Professor P. V. Glob, with T. G. Bibby as deputy director. There were 26 participants.

As in previous years generous grants were received from a number of supporters in Denmark and the Arabian Gulf, including the governments of Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, the Bahrain Petroleum Company, the Qatar Petroleum Company, the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company and the Carlsberg Foundation.

The report on the work in Kuwait during the campaign will be published in *Kuml* 1965.

Bahrain

In Bahrain work was concentrated on the two sites already extensively investigated during the previous seven campaigns, the third-millennium temple-complex at Barbar and the city-mound at Qala'at al-Bahrain, while investigations were also made of two of the large burial mounds south of the village of Ali.

Barbar. Here Hellmuth Andersen and Peder Mortensen completed their investigation of the temple-complex with a series of excavations on the outskirts of the site:

To the west of the temple two trenches dug E-W revealed, at a depth below that of the original temple, two building phases with remains of houses built in unworked stone set in clay, the walls in some cases plastered with gypsum. The lower building level was contemporary with Temple II or early Temple III, the upper level with late Temple III. The excavation was extended to uncover some rooms of a house belonging to the earlier phase, while a seal was discovered below a floor belonging to the later phase.

North of the temple the outer terrace wall of Temple III proved to be poorly preserved, in one to two courses of stone. It was, however, thereby shown that the temple had been completely surrounded by an oval terrace wall, in the same way as the temples of Khafaja and al-'Ubaid in Iraq.

South and east of the temple trenches were dug down to the original ground surface, revealing remains of buildings contemporary with Temple I below a thick burnt layer south of the "temple oval" (Mortensen, KUML 1956).

Supplementary excavations were made below the stairways and altars of all three temples, and along the lines of the draining channels belonging to Temples II and III, the latter investigation producing half an alabaster macehead from a Temple III level. In addition two trenches were dug southward and eastward from the house site to the northeast of the temple (Harald Andersen, KUML 1956). These showed that this house had originally stood on a walled terrace, 1.5–2.0 meters high. The terrace wall had later been quarried away, but its course could be identified in the sections, while some of the large cut-limestone blocks of the wall still lay along the edge of the quarry trench.

At the conclusion of the work the flagged floor of Temple III, together with the large circular plinths and the three perforated stones (Glob, KUML 1954 & 1955), which had been removed to facilitate investigation of Temples I and II, were replaced in position, and the whole site thereafter covered in again by bulldozer. This step was necessary, as much of the stonework of the later temples had been considerably undercut during investigation of the earlier levels, and if these walls had been left exposed weathering of the sand on which they stood would have quickly resulted in their collapse. The covering with sand is thus a temporary safety measure until such time as adequate plans for restoration and preservation of this unique ancient monument can be agreed upon.

(The above based on a report by Peder Mortensen).

Qala'at al-Bahrain. In the already excavated portion of the large "palace" building Hans Berg and Karen Frifelt dug a series of section trenches at right-angles to the walls in order to reach a more trustworthy dating of the building (which has proved tantalizingly difficult to date owing to a complete lack of any "occupation-stratum"). In the course of this work an area of the floor of the large entrance hall was taken up and a number of "snake-offerings" (Glob, KUML 1957) discovered. Most of these lay in small pottery bowls covered by a potsherd, while one lay in an alabaster bowl and several had no container, being merely covered by a potsherd.

In the "throne-room" (Glob, KUML 1959)—more probably a chapel—an E-W section trench was dug in connection with the "throne" and a drainage basin was discovered in front of it, below the cement floor. The basin was built up of unshaped stones and pieces of cement and was covered with 4 limestone slabs. The "throne" was removed and the floor and soil beneath investigated without result.

To the east of this area the rooms of the "palace" building were removed. Below them portions of two large buildings of the Kassite period ("caramel-ware" period—Bibby, KUML 1957) were discovered with a narrow alley between. Portions of drains covered by stone and cement slabs were excavated outside these buildings; the drains were interrupted by the foundations of the Kassite buildings and must therefore be older than these. The southern Kassite building had consisted of a central court running E-W and probably roofed, with rooms on either side. South of the court one room was excavated completely and two partially. They had all been destroyed by an extensive fire, and here were found potsherds, remains of bronze and corn, and the impress of wood. Above the burnt layer, in a level characterized by quantities of collapsed masonry, but below the cement floor of the "palace" building (in which no break was noted) lay a pottery vessel containing a quantity of silver and remains of woven cloth. This silver hoard (fig. 1) consisted of pieces of smelted silver, portions of bracelets clipped into several pieces, and a number of complete rings and earrings. Conspicuous among the ornaments was a signet ring bearing Egyptian hieroglyphs (fig. 2). This has been dated (by the National Museum,

Copenhagen) to 650–550 BC. The hoard was apparently the stock of a silversmith buried in the ruins of the Kassite building. Its bearing on the date of the “palace” depends on whether it was buried before the construction of this building or below (and therefore through) its floor. Though no break in the floor was observed attention was not, of course, particularly directed to the spot at which the hoard was later to be found.

North of the court of the Kassite building two rooms were excavated completely and one partially. The westernmost of these rooms had a floor raised above the general level and approached by two steps in the full width of the room. In the centre room a burnt level just above the floor consisted of a thick layer of bitumen mixed with potsherds and the impress of wood, and in addition of a large heap of burnt date-stones. Just above this burnt level was found a fragment of a cuneiform tablet (the first clay tablet to be found in Bahrain), two bronze spearheads and a bronze hoe-blade.

A sample taken from the burnt date-stones in this room has been subjected to C 14 analysis, which has given a result of 1180 ± 110 BC (K-827).

(The above based on a report by Karen Frifelt).

Work was also continued on the western fortification wall of the city, where Aino Mortensen and Elsebeth Sander-Jørgensen made a section through the wall and the area within, while Geoffrey Bibby and Jytte Thomsen traced the southward course of the wall. The section demonstrated conclusively that the wall was constructed on bedrock during the Barbar period and extensively rebuilt in Kassite times, at which period the wall was broadened by the construction of a parapet on the inner side of the wall. This confirmed the findings of the previous year, as well as the conclusion that the wall was given up and already underground by the Seleucid period, at which time a number of two-roomed houses were built on the edge of the slope above it. No trace was found of occupation within the wall at the time when it was in use.

The wall was found to continue due south in a straight line for at least a further hundred meters, and at this final point reached a small portal was found in the wall. The portal was at “parapet” level, 1.75 meters wide and 2.6 meters above the base of the wall. The wall had at this point been strengthened by a bastion, based like the wall on bedrock, keyed into the wall and projecting some 75 cms. out from it. This suggests strongly that there may have been a ditch outside the wall, bridged at this point by some wooden construction.

Ali. Investigations were carried out by P. V. Glob of two of the huge burial tumuli at Ali which had been dug into to a considerable depth around the edges by quarrying bulldozers. In both cases the bulldozers had exposed, and partly removed, a circular ring-wall which had, as far as could be seen, stood to a height of approximately 3 meters, some meters in from the foot of the mounds. In both cases it proved possible to locate an entrance passage running from a gap in this ring-wall radially inward towards a central chamber. The passage way, about 2 meters wide, was lined with dry-stone walls of quarried limestone blocks to the same height as the ring-walls at the outer end and increasing gradually to about 4 meters. There was no roof. In both cases the passage was excavated in a length of about 14 meters as far as the central chamber (the last 2.5 meters of one of the passages being plastered), and in both cases it was found that the roof blocks of the chamber had broken and fallen in, being supported only by the sand which had filled the chambers. It proved impossible to obtain tackle of a strength necessary to support these slabs, several tons in weight, during an excavation of the chambers, and both excavations had to be abandoned at this point. In both cases it could moreover be seen that robber-tunnels had previously been dug through the entrance passages. In one case a trail of potsherds, scattered by the robbers in their tunnel, could be assembled to form a nest of three small bowls and two “wineglass”-shaped beakers with painted geometric ornamentation in black on a red slip (fig. 3).

In addition to the expedition members mentioned above Vibeke Kristensen took part as draughtswoman and Vibeke Bibby as commissariat supervisor.

Qatar

In Qatar the survey of flint sites was continued by Holger Kapel, assisted by Hans Jørgen Madsen and Jens Aarup Jensen. It was concentrated mainly in the north and northeast of the peninsula, where ten sites characterized by large implements of primitive character were found near *Khor*, while further work was done around Dukhan on the west coast. (The results of the whole course of Stone-Age research in Qatar are summarised in this issue, p. 112).

A very considerable area of rock-carvings was discovered at *Jebel Jasasiyah* in the northeast of Qatar. Here smooth rock outcrops slope in the main downwards towards the east, though carvings are also found where the slabs are horizontal or westward sloping. The most common pattern is in the form of a double row of cupmarks, while another frequent design is a rosette, a ring of cupmarks with often a larger hollow in the centre. Large holes, some the size of a bathtub, have also been cut into the rock. In addition there are carvings of ships, viewed from above, with oars, steering oars, and bow and stern platforms (fig. 4), and in one case with an anchor rope and anchor. The field of carvings was extensively mapped, sketched and photographed.

A number of excavations of burial mounds was carried out during the season by H. J. Madsen and J. Aarup Jensen. Investigations of ten small cairns in a tumulus field of about a hundred at *Ras Abaruk* gave little result, as the graves had been extensively disturbed. Only in three cases was a stone-lined chamber traceable, and apart from 26 beads from one chamber and 82 from another there were no significant finds in the graves. One rim sherd, however, found in a scattering of potsherds round one of the cairns, suggests strongly an early Seleucid date, around 300 BC.

More interesting were the results obtained from *Mezru'ah*, south of Khor, where lay two large and two small tumuli. One large and one small tumulus were excavated. The large tumulus, measuring about 1.5 meters in height and 15 meters in diameter, covered three graves, all dug down about 20–30 cms. through a thin brown humus-like stripe marking the original ground surface and all covered with a built-up mound of stones. The central and largest grave had been plundered, and only fragments of human bones, bronze, iron, glass and potsherds were found. The two peripheral graves, with a smaller coverage of stones, contained the skeletons of camels, apparently in a kneeling position, while one grave also contained a glass flask.

The small tumulus, about 0.5 meters high and 6 meters in diameter, covered an irregular grave dug through the original surface humus level and covered with three large slabs of stone. It contained two human skeletons in very contorted positions. An iron sword and a bunch of iron arrowheads were found in the grave, while an arrowhead was found by the groin of one skeleton and another embedded in the bone of the left lower arm.

In addition at *Ras al-Matbakh*, on the northeast coast, a large jar was investigated, lying just under the present surface level about 35 meters from the shoreline. The jar lay on its side with a stone setting around its mouth, which pointed due south. The whole site had been badly disturbed very recently, and the jar contained recent animal bones and paper, but at the bottom lay a human skeleton apparently originally in a contracted position with its head to the south.

(The above based on reports by Hans Jørgen Madsen).

Abu Dhabi

In Abu Dhabi a team consisting of Knud and Lise Thorvildsen, Arne Thorsteinsson and Vagn Kolstrup continued the investigation of the burial tumuli of the island of Umm an-Nar. The results of this investigation have already been published (Thorvildsen, KUML 1962).

Towards the end of the season the team moved to Buraimi, a hundred miles inland on the western edge of the Oman mountains, and spent a fortnight investigating the tumuli already discovered there (Glob, KUML 1959). Five mounds were excavated and proved to be of a completely different structure from the round sepulchral buildings of Umm

an-Nar. They consisted of cairns of stones built up around a central corbelled chamber approached by a narrow entrance passage through the thickness of the mound, a length of up to 2 meters. The graves appeared to have been plundered, but two large bronze pins were found, together with fragments of steatite bowls and two complete pottery vessels. These latter were completely different from those of Umm an-Nar, being small round-bodied vases of biscuit-colored ware with flat collar-rims. No conclusions could at this stage be drawn concerning the date of these tumuli.

The Ninth Campaign of the Danish Archeological Expedition 1962/63

From 4th November 1962 the Danish Archeological Expedition to the Arabian Gulf was once again in operation in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, work continuing until 16th February 1963. In addition, by the good offices of the Arabian-American Oil Company, it proved possible for the first time to carry out a reconnaissance of the nearer portions of Saudi Arabia. The expedition was, as usual, under the directorship of Professor P. V. Glob, with T. G. Bibby as deputy director. There were 25 participants.

The expedition wishes once more to record its gratitude to the numerous supporters of its work, including the governments of Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, the oil companies of Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, and the Carlsberg Foundation.

Bahrain

Work during this season was concentrated upon two projects: the "tell" of Qala'at al-Bahrain, where a further area in the centre of the mound extended our knowledge of the "palace" building and the Kassite buildings below and where sondages were made along the expected line of the south defensive wall of the city; and the tumulus fields south of Ali, where—following the excavations last year in two of the largest mounds—over forty of the smaller tumuli were investigated.

In addition to the excavators mentioned in the body of the report Malene Møller-Jensen took part as draughtswoman and Vibeke Bibby as commissariat supervisor.

Qala'at al-Bahrain. In the central area Karen Frifelt and Hans Chr. Vorting extended the previous years' excavations a further 5.5 meters towards the east in a width of 20 meters, and the upper layers of earth were removed down to the level of the "palace" building. In these layers remains of Islamic buildings were found, comprising an Islamic well which was cleaned out down to Kassite levels, some remains of walls and floors, and several of the so-called ovens. A large part of the area, however, had been disturbed by earlier pits which had thereafter been refilled with rubbish including an unusual number of potsherds. Among the objects discovered was moreover a "tripod" spacer of the type used during the firing of pottery, which would suggest that there had been a potter's workshop in the vicinity. Among the rubbish layers were found fragments of small animal figurines and two imported Greek sherds.

Standing at floor level of the "palace" a few meters apart were two burials in pottery vessels. No traces could be seen of these burials having been dug down from a higher level, but this would in any case have been difficult to see in the rubble. The one consisted of a thick oval jar of red clay which was found on excavation to have been broken and to be full of earth. However, there were found in it some badly preserved bones, two teeth, a fragment of a bone amulet with a five-pointed star on one side and three parallel lines on the other, and a fragment of a blue glass bead. The other burial was an infant inhumation in a bowl-shaped vessel of reddish yellow clay. Though no lid was preserved the burial was undisturbed, an infant lying curled up, with legs drawn up, head to the south and face turned towards the west. There were no objects with the skeleton.

A further series of rooms were excavated in the complex of buildings associated with the "palace" with its great wall. The largest of these rooms measured over 10 meters in length by 4.5 meters in width, and had, in either sidewall, opposite one another, an imposing double door, of which only the threshold stones and the fine semicircular carved hinge-stones on either side of the thresholds now remain. There were also doorways in the end walls of this room, and the remains of a hearth were found at each end.

The walls of the other rooms were almost entirely demolished, in some cases well into foundation level. Towards the south of the excavated area a stretch of cobbles was presumably the remains of an E-W-running street.

After all the remains of buildings had been planned and measured they were removed, and the levels below excavated down to the level of the Kassite buildings. These levels consisted of "fill" containing much stone and rubble and few potsherds. Here was found a fragment of clay with a portion of a seal impression, probably of a cylinder seal.

A further two rooms were excavated within the massive Kassite building (with walls up to a meter thick) which was discovered the previous season, as well as a portion of the covered court. Here too traces were found of a fierce conflagration, and in the burnt layer the impress of wood and of woven palm-mats, possibly from the roof.

In one of the rooms a "bathtub"-coffin burial of later date was found. The thick plaster floor had been pierced, and the coffin stood N-S with its upper edge about 40 cms. above floor level. It was thus without a doubt later in date than the Kassite building. In spacial relation to the "palace" building above it lay just within the threshold of the southern double door in the room described above, and of course a considerable distance below its floor level. The floor at precisely that point had been described, before the burial was discovered, as "uneven and partly worn away", and had been drawn as a broken patch. It seems probable, therefore, that the "bathtub"-coffin had also been buried through this floor, and is therefore of later date than the "palace". To judge by impressions remaining the coffin had had a wooden lid and been sealed with bitumen. The burial was undisturbed, and the coffin contained a skeleton in poor condition, on its side with head to the south facing east and with arms and legs drawn up under the chin. The only burial gift was a vase by the head.

In the northern part of the excavation area a continuation of the narrow alley found the previous year proved to contain a large number of hammer stones, while on the northern side of the alley the outer walls of the second Kassite building continued.

(The above based on a report by Karen Frifelt).

Along the southern edge of the "tell" Kirsten Kassow and Mogens Bencard carried out a series of excavations in order to discover the nature and location of the defensive wall of the city in this area, following its investigation in previous years in the north and west of the city.

The excavations in the southwest area were complicated by the presence of very massive walls of Islamic date following closely the original line of the "Barbar-period" wall. However, close to the present-day village on the site it proved possible to uncover a portion of the wall completely, and it was shown to agree closely in construction with the west wall of the city, like it (and unlike the north wall) being built directly upon bedrock.

A little further to the east, immediately south of the "palace" excavation, a 1.5 meter-thick Islamic wall was found resting directly upon the top of a curtain wall surmounting the Barbar-period fortification wall. Incredible as it appears, the conclusion seems inescapable that here the original fortification wall is preserved in its full height to the very tip of the parapet wall. The curtain wall, 30 cms. thick and 1.3 meters high, was built on the outer, southern edge of the fortification wall, which itself stood at this point to a height of 3 meters, founded upon bedrock. The outer face was plastered, and thus presented a sheer smooth face, 4.3 meters from top to bottom. The thickness of the actual fortification wall could not be determined, as the whole of the rear of the wall had been quarried away in its full depth. The surviving maximum thickness was a little over a meter. In general the area inside the wall showed signs of considerable disturbance at many periods, and only an extension of the excavation to cover a considerably larger area would be able to unravel the history of the wall at this point. In particular an explanation is lacking for the presence, in the "Barbar" levels within the walls, of portions of the dismembered and partly burnt skeletons of at least eight human beings.

A final sondage was made some 300 meters further to the east, on the southeastern edge of the "tell" and far from any area which we have previously investigated. Here the Barbar-period wall was not located, and the presence of Barbar-period occupation

levels and house walls just above bedrock at a depth of 7–8 meters suggests that the edge of the Barbar-period city lies further to the south. However, a wall with a thickness of 2 meters, slightly sloping sides and a “glacis” 1 meter broad at the foot of the outer face was discovered at this point and proved to be dateable to the Kassite period, which was particularly richly represented in occupation levels at this point. Two burials of this period were also found here; they were simple contracted inhumations, lying on the left side and facing north. A little glazed vessel was found with one of the skeletons.

Tumuli south of Ali. A study was made during this season by P. V. Glob, Peter Crabb and Grith Lerche of burial mounds in the tumulus field south of Ali, a field which had been considerably damaged by bulldozing for gravel. The action of the gravel-diggers had frequently exposed the chamber of a mound, and it was thus possible to excavate, draw and list the contents of fortytwo mounds, even though the outer construction of the mound had in almost every case been destroyed.

Every chamber had been anciently opened and plundered, and nothing of great intrinsic value was therefore found, except for one small gold link composed of four spirals radiating outward from a central point. Nor was any skeleton found *in situ*. But a considerable quantity of skeletal material was recovered, opening the possibility of statistical analysis, and confirming that in no case was there ever more than one burial in each chamber. A large amount of pottery was found, including sufficient of the typical red ridged “Barbar” ware to confirm the contemporaneity of the tumuli with the “Barbar period”. The finds also included alabaster bowls and ostrich-egg beakers. It is noteworthy that there were none of the typical Barbar-period seals, but in two of the chambers “mock seals” were found, fossil seashells carved into the shape of a Barbar-type stamp seal, the natural spiral ridges of the shell forming the obverse of the seal.

Two areas within the same mound-field were chosen for investigation, the first (16 mounds) immediately adjacent to the group of large tumuli south of Ali, and the second (26 mounds) about one kilometer further south and uphill. The difference between the two groups was striking: in the first group the chambers were larger, with cut limestone and regular coursing contrasting with the small chambers and rough unshaped stone of the second group. The contents of the chambers of the first group were also richer than those of the second. On the other hand the actual tumuli of the second group—in so far as they survived—were generally larger than those of the first. This was largely due to the fact that the chambers of the first group were partly (and sometimes almost wholly) below the original ground surface, though never cut down into the bedrock, whereas the chambers of the second group had been built upon the original ground surface, not only where the bedrock was close to the surface but also where, in a wadi, there was a considerable depth of earth. In these cases it could be seen that the layer on which the chambers were erected was of humus (see p. 104, and Bibby, KUML 1954).

During the course of this investigation an examination was made of a large low mound just south of the Ali road in which, as a result of quarrying, a number of plastered walls could be seen protruding, while Barbar-period sherds were found mixed with Islamic sherds in the debris of the quarrying. A section through one side of the mound was cleaned up and cleared back for about a meter to give an undisturbed stratification. This demonstrated clearly that the building with plastered walls, almost certainly a large house, was of Islamic date, but built above a settlement with unmixed Barbar-period sherds. Only one wall, however, could be ascribed to this earlier settlement.

Qatar

During this season the Stone-Age survey of Qatar—described elsewhere in the issue, p. 148—was continued by Holger Kapel, Svend Bue-Madsen and Erik Bendixen, while the two latter also carried out the excavation of a settlement site of Seleucid date, found this year at Ras Uwainat Ali, immediately north of Dukhan on the west coast.

The site was identified by a scattering of the typical potsherds of the period, the thin bowls (Bibby, KUML 1957) of buff and of red or black burnished ware, on the surface

of a low hillock of sand. Though sections were dug through this hillock in two directions and down to bedrock no signs of any permanent construction were found. But nearly 800 sherds, comprising portions of at least 75 vessels, were recovered from the upper levels of the sand. Apart from the flint sites no settlement of pre-Islamic date had previously been found in Qatar, and it is clear from the objects found here that settlements of this nature must have been rare. For the thin bowls, of types used and discarded in their hundreds during the Seleucid period in Bahrain, had here been carefully repaired when they became broken, rows of holes being bored along the edge of the breaks to hold rivets or thongs.

Abu Dhabi

A team consisting of Jens Aarup Jensen, Vagn Kolstrup and Jørgen Lund spent a month excavating in the settlement immediately to the east of the gravemounds on the island of Umm an-Nar, before proceeding to Buraimi in the interior, where they spent a fortnight excavating the gravemounds south of Al-Ain.

Umm an-Nar. Excavation here commenced at a point on the southern outskirts of the settlement mound where the walls of what was apparently a single-roomed stone hut could be seen on the surface. It soon became clear that the walls visible on the surface were only part of a much larger building, and by the end of the season 300 square meters of a large house had been excavated without the end being reached. The part excavated is almost square, measuring about 16×16 meters. It continues to the northeast, but has outer walls on the other three sides. Its interior is divided into seven rectangular rooms, all about 3 meters wide and up to 11 meters long (fig. 5).

The house was built on a fairly level rock surface, which, however, slopes slightly towards the shore, so that the east corner is about a meter lower than the west. The walls are about 90 cms. thick and preserved to a height of 80–90 cms., being about 8 courses of the flat blocks of local limestone. Clay was used as mortar, while at several points, particularly in two of the rooms, there were remains of clay plastering. Between the rooms there were doorways 80–95 cms. wide, three of them with recognizable hinge-holes. Although the upper levels excavated were full of fallen stones from the walls the quantity found is scarcely sufficient for more than a further 2–3 courses, so that, unless stone has at some later time been removed from the ruins, the upper part of the walls and the roof must have been of some lighter, more perishable material, wood, matting or palm-leaves. In two of the rooms a single large pit had been dug, while in two other rooms smaller holes, probably postholes, had been cut in the bedrock, though in no recognisable pattern that could give valid evidence concerning roof construction.

Potsherds formed the greater part of the objects discovered, and the majority of these were of thick-walled "kitchen-ware". However, the fine red ware with black painted decoration, which is known from the burial mounds of the island, was represented by some few sherds in almost every room, thus confirming that the settlement and the graves are contemporary. Sherds of this type were found mainly in the lower part of the occupation layer, but this is probably due to the fact that the surface of sherds in the upper levels had largely scaled off, destroying the painted decoration.

A large quantity of bones was recovered, including the horns of goats and sheep, bones of fish and turtle, and the bones of a whale of a length of 2–3 meters. There were also the large leg-bones of camel, which strongly suggests that the camel was a domesticated animal in the Oman during the Third Millennium BC.

Implementations found suggest an economy largely based on fishing, comprising large numbers of net-sinkers of local limestone, 3 copper fish-hooks without barbs, 3 large curved copper needles, and various objects of horn and bone, including awls and a spindle-whorl. A small rubbing-quern and a number of stones not of local origin and more or less shaped which may be weights complete the inventory. The only ornaments found were two stone beads and a bone ring. There were no figurines, seals or inscriptions.

Below the uppermost rubble layer there was, in almost every room, a conspicuous level of ash, and below this the occupation levels seemed to have accumulated slowly and without

obvious interruptions. There was nothing to suggest a division into different "culture-periods". Various alterations and additions to the house had been made from time to time, walls being added and doors blocked up. All the rooms showed signs of having been living rooms, none having obviously had any special function as kitchen, storeroom or the like.

(The above summarised from a report by Jens Aarup Jensen).

Buraimi. During the course of the fortnight spent excavating at Buraimi twenty tumuli were investigated along the lower slopes of the two lines of cliffs which border the valley leading south from Al-'Ain to Jebel Hafit. The object of the investigation was to obtain so large a body of material objects from the mounds as possible, and mounds were therefore chosen which had been subject to recent stone-plundering and therefore required little excavation to reach the central chamber. All the mounds proved also to have been robbed in more ancient times, by robbers who had broken in through the top of the chamber. The result of this modern and ancient disturbance was that it was rarely possible to do more than draw the plan of the chamber and the entrance passage. A section was, however, successfully made through one of the mounds. They all proved to be of the same construction as those excavated in the centre of the valley in the 1961/62 season: cairns built up of loosely heaped local stone around a false dome over a round or slightly oval chamber, constructed upon the original ground surface and approached by a narrow entrance passage on the southern side. The original diameter of the cairns has been about 7–11 meters, and the original height 3–5 meters. The chambers measure, at floor level, about 2 meters at their greatest length, the largest found (cairn 22) being 2.85×2.6 meters and the smallest (cairn 19) 1.35×1.25 meters. The entrance passage, at ground level about 0.5 meters wide narrowing to 0.25–0.35 below the roofing slabs, was about 1.0–1.4 meters high and normally partly or completely blocked with stones in its full length.

Cairns 10, 15 and 17 were completely empty, cairns 6, 18, 24 and 25 contained only scattered bone fragments. Of the remainder most contained a pottery vessel of the type found the previous season, flat-based, biconical, with a short cylindrical neck and a flat outturned collar-rim. In cairn 22 three vessels of this type were found, together with nearly 400 beads and a leaf-shaped bronze arrowhead, while in cairn 23 were two of the vessels, two bronze pins 11–12 cms. long and a bronze dagger blade of triangular shape measuring 21.5×6.3 cms. with a slight central rib and two rivets. The richest grave, however, was cairn 20, containing an ornamented steatite bowl, two bronze bowls, one with a spout, a large flat button of polished shell, a belt buckle of bronze and a short bronze sword, 42.5 cms. long (fig. 6).

This sword, with a bronze hilt recessed to take an inlay and with a decoration of raised concentric circles at the junction of hilt and blade, has no exact parallels elsewhere in the Middle East. The closest resemblance, however, is seen in swords from Luristan [1] dating to the 13th and 14th centuries BC, suggesting a date within this range for the burial cairns of Buraimi.

Little evidence concerning burial practice was found to have escaped the grave robbers, but in the rich cairn 20, where a roof collapse seems to have prevented complete plundering, some bones seemed to lie in a position suggesting that the body had been placed on its side with head to the east. The two bronze vessels and the steatite bowl lay by the head, probably nested within each other, the shell button by the hips. The sword lay with its point towards the skull, but may not belong to the same burial, as all chambers have room for several burials, and the remains of four different skulls were found in cairn 14. No cremated bones or charcoal were found in any chamber. A blade knife of flint was found in cairn 7 and an oval scraper close to cairn 20.

After the completion of the excavating programme a number of reconnaissance trips were made within Abu Dhabi territory. These revealed that similar cairns, though some up to three times the size of the largest at Al-'Ain, were to be found along the eastern side of Jebel Hafit, though none were to be seen along the west side. To the east of the villages of Sa'ara and Hili several hundred cairns could be counted (at a distance as the border is uncertain) on the summit and slopes of Jebel Auha.

A circle of stones protruding from the ground in the savannah southeast of the village of Hili, which had been discovered the previous season, was revisited and a large number of potsherds collected from within the ring. They were of Umm an-Nar type, and this site and a number of the neighbouring hillocks are probably the remains of Umm an-Nar-type burial chambers on a larger scale.

(The above based largely on a report by Jens Aarup Jensen).

Saudi Arabia

During the period 4–9th December 1962 a short but intensive reconnaissance trip to Saudi Arabia was made by Vibeke and Geoffrey Bibby, as the guests of the Arabian-American Oil Company. On the morning after arrival an aerial reconnaissance was made, covering a tumulus field south of Dhahran airport, an area among the dunes further south along the coast where an extensive pattern of former irrigation ditches was to be seen, and the ruins of a walled city at Uqair still further south. The flight then went inland to the oasis of Hofuf, and from there north to Thaj where, surrounding a small modern village, there were the clear remains of a large walled city with, outside its walls, a number of large tumuli and of large disc-shaped mounds. The return flight to Dhahran was by way of a small water-hole called Ain as-Subaighawi where remains of buildings had been uncovered during road construction, Jawan where a cruciform tomb of Seleucid date had been excavated by Ric. Vidal of Aramco, and the island of Tarut north of Dhahran where a ruined fort crowned a conspicuous “tell” in the centre of the island.

During the following days most of these sites were visited by motor vehicle, in every case guided by enthusiastic and knowledgeable amateur archeologists from Aramco. Ground reconnaissance was made at all sites visited and surface collections of potsherds made.

At *Thaj* sherds of imported Greek black-on-red burnished ware were found, as well as fragments of clay figurines, and numerous sherds of the “thin bowl” type so well known from Qala’at al-Bahrain and the “Ikaros” settlement on Failaka. Gravestones with inscriptions in Nabatean script were seen built into the houses of the modern village [2], while a pot was found with a painted inscription in a more cursive script.

At *Ain as-Subaighawi* and at *Jawan* numerous sherds of the “thin bowl” type were found.

An attempt to reach the irrigation-ditch area north of Uqair proved unsuccessful as the vehicles met impassable dunes.

At *Uqair* considerable time was spent examining the ruins of the walled city, which has frequently been suggested as the possible site of the city of Gerrha so often mentioned in the Classical writers [3]. The ruins, now largely drowned in *sabkha* (salt marsh), are built largely of coral and of the sea-bed conglomerate known locally as *farush*. The type of construction resembles that of Islamic times in Bahrain, and in no way resembles the Bahrain or Kuwait architecture of the Seleucid period; there was, for example, no cut limestone. The pottery was entirely of Islamic date, with not a single sherd of the “thin bowl” type found at three separate sites the day before. The conclusion must be that there is no surface evidence for an identification with Gerrha.

A day was spent investigating a number of sites within the oasis of *Hofuf*. A large number of deserted settlements and “tells” produced only Islamic sherds and coins, while in the central area a small field of tumuli, already recorded by Ric. Vidal, was devoid of sherds or dating indications. Immediately south of this tumulus field, however, (about 1.5 kilometers out from Hofuf town on the track to Jebel Sha’ban) an immense tumulus, at least twice as big as the largest on Bahrain, was examined south of the road. It had been quarried from both sides so that only the central baulk remained, and large stones of what appeared to be a central chamber were clearly visible. No sherds or other indication of date were found.

The tumulus field south of *Dhahran airport* resembled closely the tumulus fields of Bahrain, and on one of the mounds, which showed signs of having been dug into, three sherds of red ridged ware of Barbar type were found. There can therefore be little doubt that these mounds are of “Barbar” date and of the same type as those of Bahrain.

Tarut was not visited, but a general reconnaissance tour was made over the desert inland from the coastal towns of Qatif and Dammam, where very large areas are covered with potsherds. Typical collections were made at intervals, but at all places examined the sherds were of unmixed Islamic types.

Opportunity was taken to talk to many persons who had ranged widely over Arabia and to see collections of objects found both at the sites visited and at many more distant sites. Particular mention must here be made of flint implements found in many areas of the Rub' al-Khali. Predominating among these artefacts were surface-flaked spearheads and knives which appear to have been found at many points; but a very fine collection of Acheulian-type handaxes was seen, by report collected within a very restricted area in the western Rub' al-Khali, while the same collector possessed also a number of black polished stone celts found at a single site further to the northeast.

The two members of the Danish Expedition who were privileged to make this reconnaissance trip wish to record their appreciation of the hospitality so generously offered them, and not least of the superlative organisation which enabled so much to be seen in so short a time.

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NOTER

1. The closest parallel is from Azerbaijan, illustrated in Schaeffer: *Stratigraphie comparative de l'Asie Occidentale*, fig. 27, no. 3. Other parallels are Schaeffer, fig. 44, nos. 4 & 6; 45, U; 141, A; 217, 1; 219, 1; 227, 7; 231, 1; 236, 1; 265, 15 & 16; Vanden berghe: *Archeologie de l'Iran Ancien*, pl. 117; Meldgård, Mortensen & Thrane: *Acta Archeologica*, vol. 34, fig. 31.
2. The first two inscriptions from Thaj were discovered by Capt. I. Shakespear prior to 1915, published in Douglas Carruthers: "Captain Shakespear's last journey" (*Geographical Journal* Vol. 59, London 1922, p. 321 seq.), and included in *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum* (Paris), vol. 4, nos. 984-985. A third inscription was published in H. R. P. Dickson: *The Arab of the Desert*, Appendix XI.
3. See, *inter alia*, P. B. Cornwall: "Ancient Arabia, explorations in Hasa 1940-41", (*Geographical Journal* Vol. 107).