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Fig. 1. Det udgravede runde gravanlæg ved Hili i Buraimi oasen i Abu Dhabi. På bjergtoppene i baggrunden, ved Muscat-grænsen, kan skimtes flere gravhøje, der sandsynligvis er yngre.

The round tomb-structure at Hili, in the Buraimi oasis of Abu Dhabi, after excavation. Other tumuli, probably of later date, can be made out on the summits of the mountains in the background, on the Muscat border.

ARABIENS ARKÆOLOGI

Dansk arkæologisk ekspeditions 11. kampagne, 1965

Af GEOFFREY BIBBY

D. 25. januar 1965 kom fortroppen for Dansk arkæologisk ekspeditions 11. kampagne i Den arabiske Golf til Bahrain for at åbne lejren inden for det portugisiske forts bastioner, mens resten af ekspeditionen fulgte en halv snes dage senere, d. 3. februar. Når sæsonen startede så forholdsvis sent, var det for at undgå Ramadhan-månedens faste, de korte arbejdsdage og efterfølgende festdage. Til gengæld fortsatte man arbejdet hele april måned og sluttede ikke før d. 5. maj, betydeligt senere end tidligere år. Men vejret var behageligt mildt uden den sædvanlige hedebølge i april, og kun en enkelt dag stod termometret over legemstemperaturen.

Ekspeditionen under ledelse af professor P. V. Glob og T. G. Bibby havde denne gang kun tolv deltagere, da udgravningerne efter afslutningen af arbejdet på Qatar var begrænset til Bahrain og Abu Dhabi. Økonomisk støtte

ydedes som sædvanlig af olieselskaberne i de to lande og desuden af Bahraíns regering og Carlsbergfondet. Med hjælp fra Arabian American Oil Company blev der igen rekognosceret i det østlige Saudi Arabien. Lejrens køkken blev påny dygtigt forestået af Lillian Bue-Madsen. De øvrige deltagere nævnes i forbindelse med de forskellige udgravninger.



Fig. 2. Steatit-seglsten fra det centrale område ved Qala'at al-Bahrain.

Steatite stamp-seal from central area of Qala'at al-Bahrain. Diameter: 1.6 cms.

Bahrain

Årets udgravninger på Bahrain var en fortsættelse af det 2-års program, der blev begyndt i 1964 og var hovedsagelig begrænset til byhøjen på øens nordkyst, Qala'at al-Bahrain, hvor ekspeditionen har gravet hvert år siden 1954. Desuden blev der undersøgt en uforstyrret gravhøj, bragt til ekspeditionens kendskab af amatørarkæologer fra Bahrain Petroleum Company.

Qala'at al-Bahrain. Midt på byhøjen fortsatte Karen Frifelt og Henning Nielsen den fladeudgravning, der var påbegyndt året forud, nu ned gennem Kassiter og Barbar lag.

Men først foretoges en nøje undersøgelse af den bedst bevarede af lerbænkene med de fastmurede kar (Kuml 1965). En teori om, at det kunde være skålblæsebølge bestyrkedes, da det igen kunde fastslås, at anlæggene ikke var bestemt til opvarmning, men at der overalt omkring dem fandtes brandspor og metalklumper. Under nedbrydningen fremgik det tydeligt, at de begge var bygget op over ældre anlæg af samme slags. Endog aftryk af karrene kunde skelnes. Det tredje og ældste anlæg havde været væsentlig mindre med kun to kar.

I den vestlige del af feltet bortgravedes nu »korridoren« med det tilstødende wc, hvorved det østligste rum og østmuren i den store Kassiter bygning (Kuml 1964 s. 102) blev frilagt. Erfaringsmæssigt kunne man på gulvet her forvente et flere cm tykt brandlag med mulighed for gode fund, så hakker og skovle holdtes så vidt muligt i baggrunden, skønt laget var hårdt og besværligt at arbejde sig igennem. Men forventningerne skuffedes ikke. I rummets nordøsthjørne over for syddøren stod en tilhugget firkantet kalkstensblok, spaltet fra top til bund på to steder, så den nu består af tre nogenlunde lige store blokke. Om dette skyldes ødelæggelse ligesom den uregelmæssige afhugning foroven, er usikkert. Omkring blokken fandtes, fast indkapslet i et hårdt lag jordbeg, adskillige håndstore, rødviolette sten, nogle klumper rødt farvestof, en hel del

potteskår fra kassitiske kar samt to hele og flere brudstykker af ubrændte lertavler med kileskrift foruden to beskadigede seglaftryk i ler.

Til venstre for døren i samme rum var der en cirkelrund aftegning i gulvet. Det viste sig at være et cementlæg. Under det og yderligere forsejlet under et lag grov gruset cement og et lag fin, hård cement kom en krukke til syne, fastgipset i gulvet. Men her holdt forventningerne ikke stik. Der var kun cement og gips tilbage i krukken, et centimetertykt lag leret sand og på bunden et ganske tyndt lag lyst sand foruden et par bittesmå skålfragmenter og et par knoglestumper. Krukken var af rødt hårdtbrændt gods med rød lidt sortmeleret overflade. Skår af samme type er tidligere fundet sammen med de karakteristiske høje Kassiter bægre.

I resten af feltet var de kassitiske lag forstyrret af flere større nedgravninger, muligvis foretaget i islamisk tid. Formålet har sikkert været at få fat på de velvoksne stenblokke, som den bevarede Kassiter bygning giver imponerende eksempler på. Af og til fandtes i fylden en sådan løs »tabt« blok, og det var altid et herkulesarbejde at få den op af den flere meter dybe udgravning uden for store skader på profiler og tommelfingre.

Under det kassitiske lag kom tykke kulturlag fra Barbar perioden fyldt med knogler og skår af Barbar keramik og med rester af ret spinkle mure af håndstore sten. Her fandtes en enkelt seglsten (fig. 2), den første af den velkendte Bahrain-Failaka type, der er fundet i området her midt på byhøjen, men ellers ingen løsfund af betydning. Også disse lag var flere steder forstyrret af nedgravninger. I en bue gennem feltet gik et godt halvanden meter bredt lag af hårdt sammenkittet grønsand, der bruges som fundament under Barbar periodens mure. En nedgravning kunne følges ganske nøje langs denne »mur«, og ind imod den kassitiske mur fandtes tilmed et forhugget stykke af selve muren, af gips- og kalkstensbrokker sammenholdt af en meget hård gipsagtig cement. Denne mur fortsætter ind under Kassiter bygningen, således at dens underkant er i niveau med underkanten af den kassitiske murs fundament.

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Karen Frifelt.)

Ved den nordlige bymur fortsatte Svend Bue-Madsen og Else Roesdahl forrige års undersøgelser (Kuml 1965) i det smalle område mellem bymurens inderside og den dybe islamiske nedgravning længere mod syd.

Som nævnt i forrige års rapport var dette område blevet opdelt i en østlig og en vestlig del af en to meter bred profilbalk, der viste sig at falde ret nøje sammen med en velbygget gade fra By V (seleukidisk tid), som mod nord endte foran en spærret port i bymuren. Balken var udgravet ned til gadens niveau, mens man på begge sider var kommet så langt ned, at mure og kulturlag fra By II (Barbar tid) var begyndt at komme frem.

Balken blev opretholdt i 1965 ved at fjerne de seleukidiske husmure langs gaden og en del af selve gaden. Så fortsattes udgravningen øst og vest herfor, mens balkens sider efterhånden blev tegnet, og balken udgravet lag for lag. Alle potteskår blev taget med. I løbet af sæsonen blev hele det østlige felt,

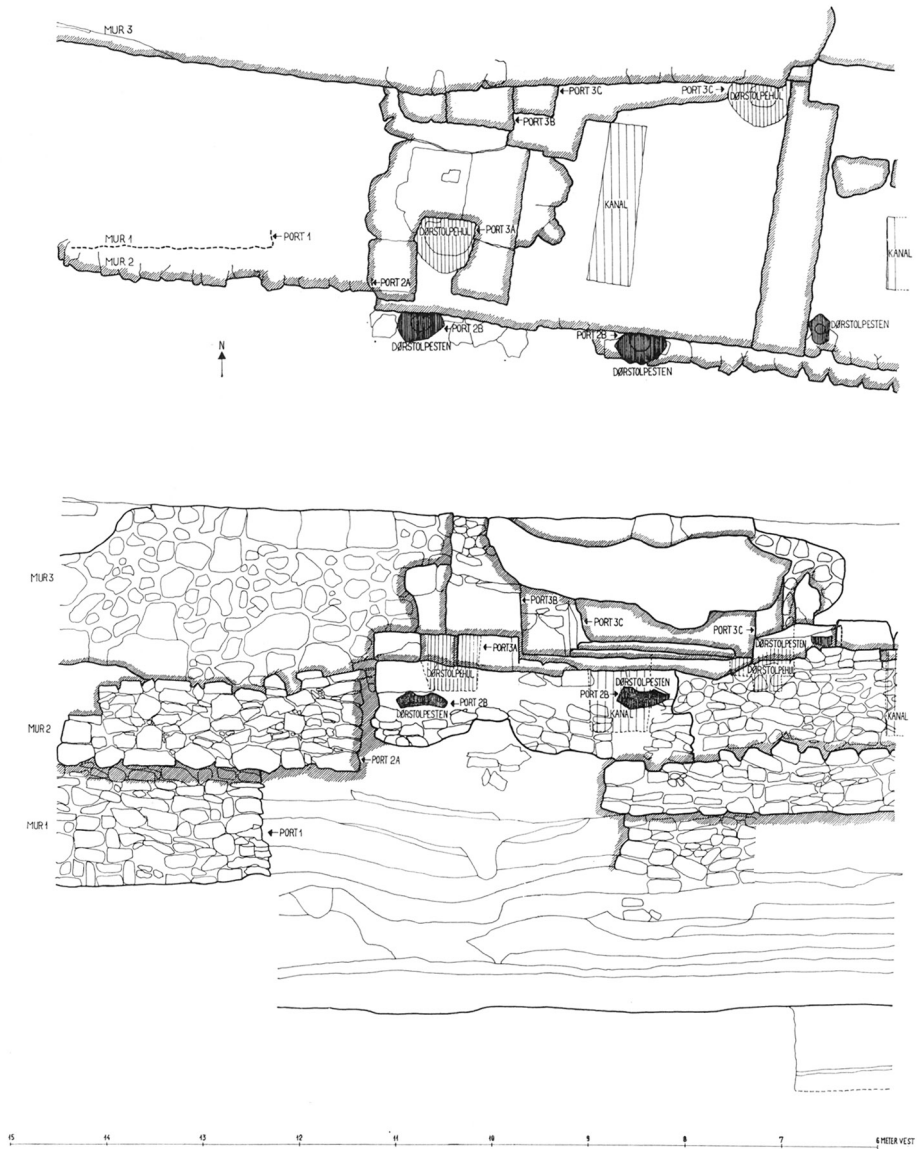
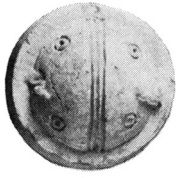


Fig. 3. Plan og opstalt af indre side af porten i bymuren ved Qala'at al-Bahrain. Porte 2 og 3 blev senere blokeret, den sidste efter to successive indsnævring. Stolpestenene er af diorit.
 Plan and elevation of inner face of gate in the city wall at Qala'at al-Bahrain. Gates (Port) 2 and 3 were later blocked, the latter after two successive narrowings. The hinge-stones (dørstolpesten) are of diorite.

Fig. 4. Ni steatit-seglsten og en bulla af ler (h) fra området inden for nordmuren ved Qala'at al-Bahrain.
 Nine steatite stamp-seals and one clay bulla (h) from the area within the north wall at Qala'at al-Bahrain.



a) diam. 2,2 cm



b) diam. 2,5 cm



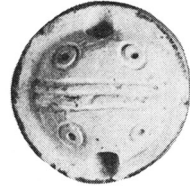
c) diam. 2,2 cm



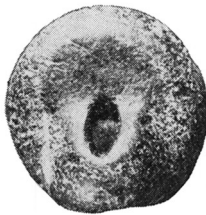
d) diam. 2,1 cm



e) diam. 2,0 cm



f) diam. 2,3 cm



g) diam. 2,6 cm



h) diam. 2,1 cm



i) diam. 2,2 cm



j) diam. 2,3 cm

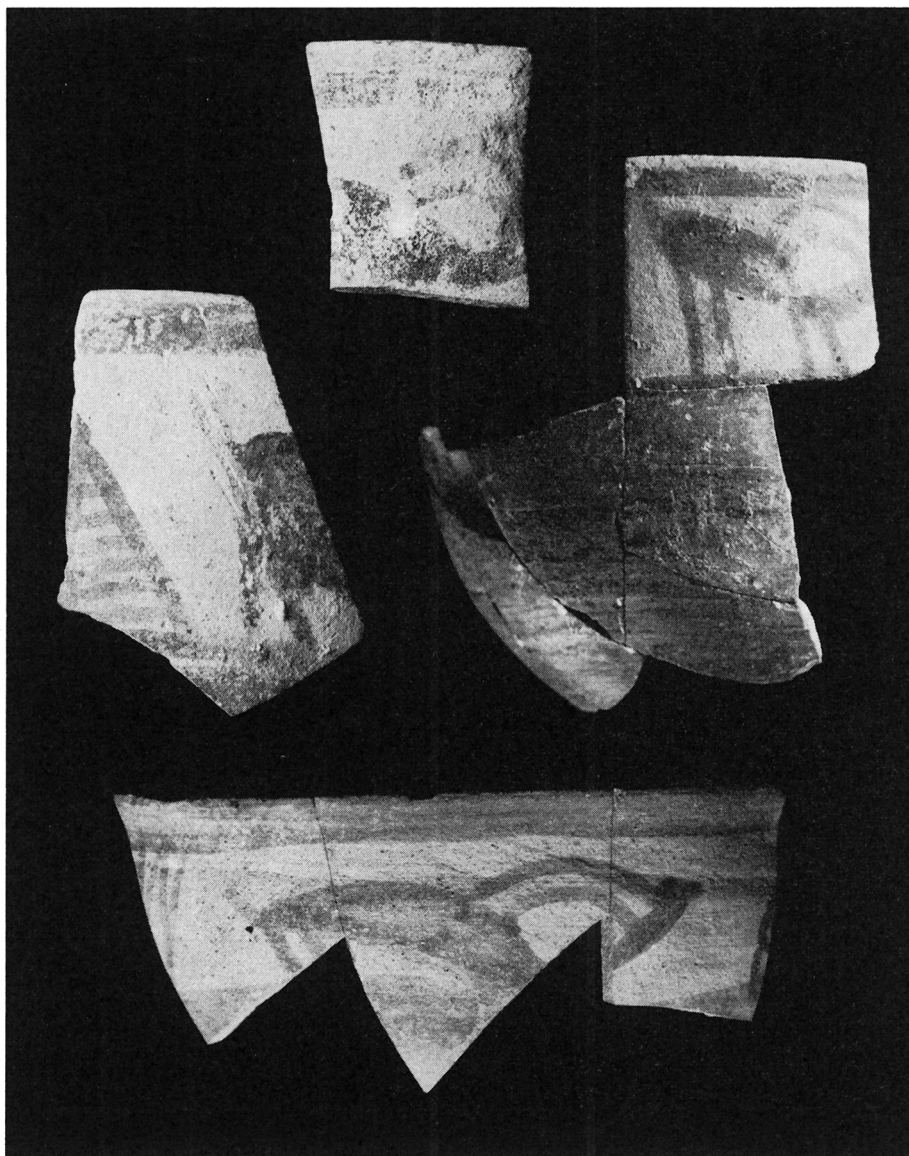


Fig. 5. Skår af tynde skåle med påmalede gazeller fra nordmur-området, Qala'at al-Bahrain. Øverst og t.h. sort, t.v. blommerød, nederst rød, alle på lys grund. Bunden af skålen t.h. er rød. 1:1.

Sherds of thin bowls decorated with gazelles from north-wall area, Qala'at al-Bahrain. Top and right are black, left plum-red and bottom red on light field (lower part of bowl on right is red). 1:1.

balken og af det vestlige felt de 2¹/₂ m nærmest balken udgravet. I resten af det vestlige felt blev 1–1 1/2 m jord stående uudgravet.

Den seleukidiske gade med kanalsystemet havde ind mod bymuren et sæt

dørstolpesten af kalksten (fig. 3, port 3A) som de i 1964 i badeværelset afdækkede og viste sig at have forgængere langt tilbage i tiden, idet den løb hen over tidligere tiders byporte. I de øverste Barbar lag kom to blåsorte portstolpesten af diorit (fig. 3, stolpesten, port 2B) i bymurens indre (sydlige) flugt, og herunder fulgte flere portsystemer (port 1, port 2A), hvis forskellige faser endnu ikke er klarlagt.

I det vestlige felt afdækkedes og tømtes en delvis plyndret brønd og ved siden af denne to trug af den cementhårde lokale gips, det ene som afløser lagt direkte over det andet. Her har været en lille rasteplads, hvor dyrene kunde vandes, før eller efter man passerede byporten.

Ved afdækning af husene på begge sider af gaden (der holdt stand gennem tiderne) kunne der udskilles flere byggefaser.

Mest udpræget øst for profilbalken viste sig ca. 1½ m over klippen et tydeligt brud i bebyggelsen i form af et kraftigt udjævningslag. Husmurene herunder var bygget af de almindeligt anvendte koralkalksten, der lokalt går under navnet *farush*, men i større blokke end dem i de højereliggende mure. Når de lå under disse, var der næsten altid et tyndt, skillende lerlag, og bymuren er fire steder bygget hen over de få resterende skifter af denne periodes husmure. I forbindelse hermed afdækkedes mod øst fire »krukker« uden bund, de tre halvt inde under bymuren, måske brødvogne. Dette endnu spinkle materiale tyder altså på, at bymuren ikke er anlagt samtidig med de første stenhuse, men ret kort herefter.

Under udjævningslaget lå karakteristiske mørke kulturlag med talrige skår af kædekeramik. De nederste lag var helt uden murværk, og den sidste halve meter over klippen bestod af strandsand med skår og kobberrester. Da klippen, der

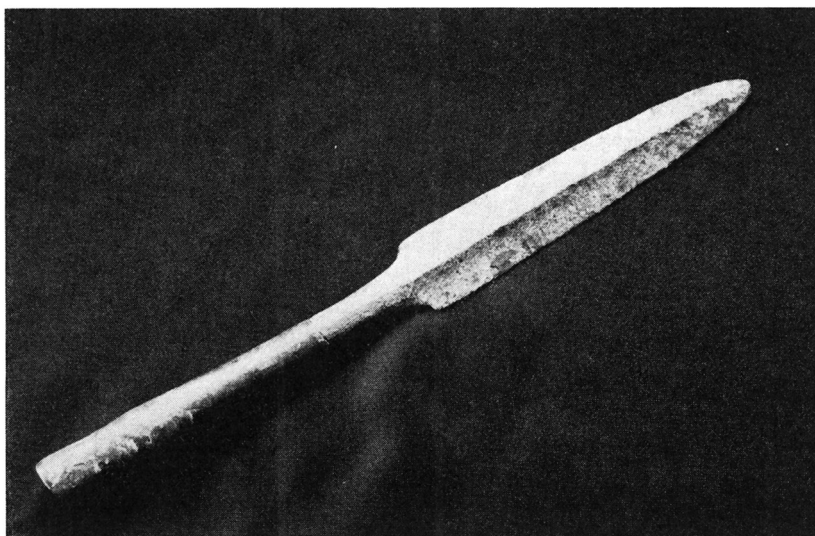


Fig. 6. Kobber spydspids med døjle, fundet inden for nordmuren, Qala'at al-Bahrain.
Længde 31 cm.

Socketed spearhead of copper, from within the north wall, Qala'at al-Bahrain.
Length 31 cms.

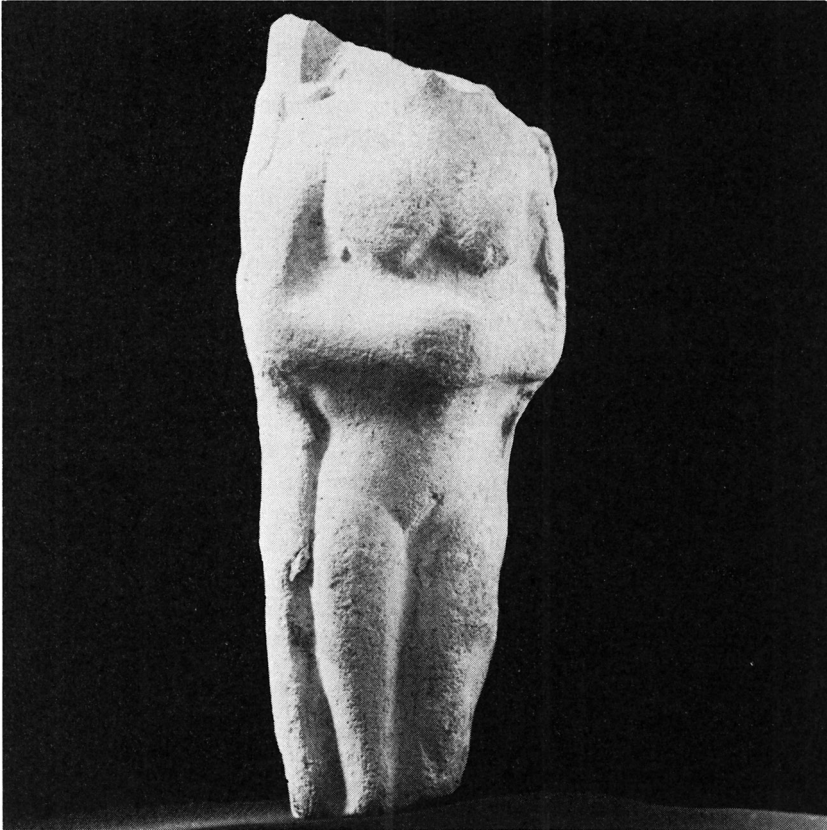


Fig. 7. Kvindefigur af terracotta, længde 9,5 cm, fundet inden for nordmuren, Qala'at al-Bahrain.

Female figurine of terracotta, length 9.5 cms., from within the north wall, Qala'at al-Bahrain.

her bestod af vandrette lag af *farush*, også indeholdt potteskår, blev en del af den langs med bymuren i østfeltet brudt op, og det viste sig, at der fandtes potteskår ind imellem og fastkittet i lagene endnu 30 cm ned, hvor *farush* erstattedes af et tyndt lag grus fulgt af rent grønsand. Mellem skårene fra *farush* lagene var der nogle få af kædekeramik, men de fleste var af en helt ny type, en ret tyk, stråmagret vare med kraftige, udkrængede rande.

Året var rigt på fine fund, heriblandt 9 seglsten, en af dem med rester af snor i hullet, et seglaftryk på et typisk Barbar skår og en ler-bulla med aftryk af samme type som seglstenenes (fig. 4). Endvidere fandtes et vægtlod af steatit lige til Induskulturens, samt et overordentlig rigt varieret skårmateriale, bl. a. fra bægre med elegant påmalede gazeller (fig. 5).

Alle seglstenene lå over det ovenfor omtalte udjævningslag, mens der i kulturlagene under det fandtes en 31 cm lang spydspids af kobber (fig. 6) og en lille kvindefigur af terracotta (fig. 7).

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Else Roesdahl)

For at lokalisere Barbar bymuren mod øst anlagde Peter Crabb og Malene Møller-Jensen to profilgrøfter ca. 70 m sydøst for udgravningen omkring nordmuren. Levninger fra denne periode manglede helt i den østlige grøft, derimod bestod tell'en på dette sted af anselige seleukidiske rester fra By V. Foruden den lokale grønglaserede keramik fandtes et antal sorte attiske skår.

I vestgrøften blev velbevarede rester af et industrielt anlæg delvis frilagt. Det bestod af en række regelmæssige forhøjninger i cementgulvet i et aflangt rum mellem over to meter høje kvaderstensmure. Disse ribber målte i tværsnit ca. 25 cm på begge leder og havde en indbyrdes afstand på op til 50 cm (fig. 8). Foruden slangegravsperiodens (By IV) tyndvæggede keramik bestod aflejringen mellem ribberne af sort kulturjord med formuldede planterester. Den nærmeste parallel er de moderne anlæg til udvinding af daddelsaft, men med den forskel, at det gamle anlæg savner afløb for saften. Et stykke over denne bygnings gulvniveau fandtes en stor, grønglaseret krukke med høj hals og een hank stående ved siden af en skål med lysere glasur (fig. 9).

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Peter Crabb)

Gravhøj i det sydlige højområde. To km vest for Bahraíns højeste punkt, Jebel Dukhan, på toppen og ned over vestskråningen af de klipper, der omslutter den lavereliggende del midt på øen, ligger en isoleret højgruppe, en udløber af de højområder, der dækker øens nordlige og nordvestlige del. Her fandt Cliff Bennett og Harvey Blackmore fra Bahrain Petroleum Company et uforstyrret gravkammer i en af højene og sendte meddelelse til ekspeditionen, der på dette tidspunkt var ved at slutte årets gravninger. Der er i årenes løb undersøgt mere

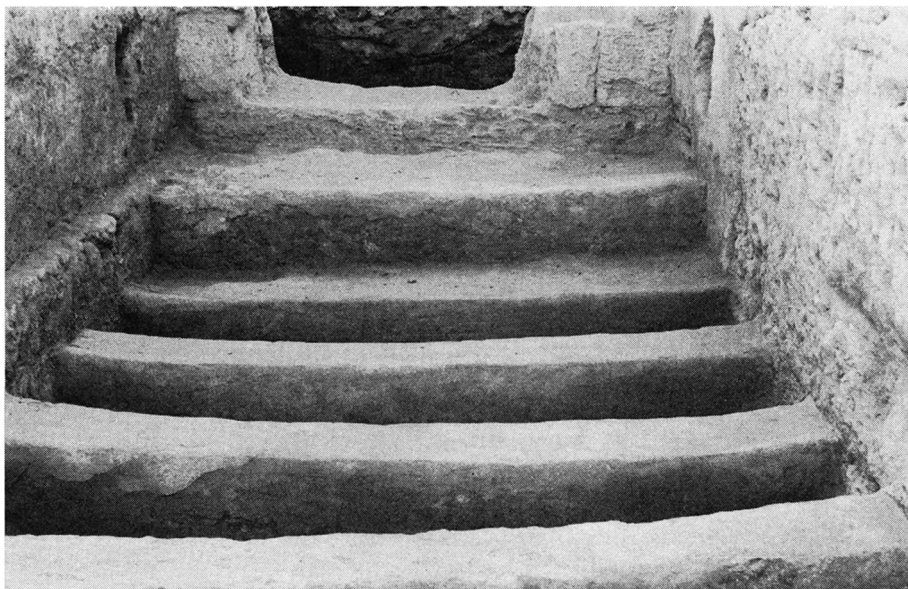


Fig. 8. Cementribber i gulvet af en bygning, Qala'at al-Bahrain.
Cement baulks in floor of room, Qala'at al-Bahrain.



Fig. 9. Grønt glaseret hankekar og fad ved tærskel til bygningen i Fig. 8. Højde af karret 36,5 cm.

Green-glazed handled vase and dish found on the threshold of the room in Fig. 8. Height of vase 36.5 cms.

end 50 bronzealderhøje på Bahrain (Kuml 1954, 1964), uden at det nogen sinde er lykkedes at finde en helt uforstyrret grav, og kun i to tilfælde (Kuml 1954, s. 119 og en upubliceret nøddudgravning ved Buri i 1959) har man nogenlunde kunnet bestemme skelettets stilling. Gravkammeret blev som afslutning på sæsonen afdækket og udgravet af Jørgen Lund og Malene Møller-Jensen (fig. 10).

Stenkammeret lå midt i højen mellem nordøst og øst-nordøst (ca. 60° afvigelse fra nord). Det var 183 cm langt og 65 cm bredt i vestenden, ca. 70 cm i østenden, målt i gulvhøjde. De 78 cm høje tørstensmure skrånede indefter til en bredde af ikke meget mere end 30 cm foroven, hvor kammerets tag bestod af fem dæksten. I østenden var der en enkelt niche (oftest er der to) i nordvæggen, 25 cm bred og 32 cm dyb og knapt så høj som kammeret.

Skelettet, hvis kranie og større lemmeknogler var velbevarede, lå midt i kammeret med hovedet mod øst. Det lå på højre side med ansigtet mod nord og med benene højt optrukne, så underbenene næsten dannede en ret vinkel med kammerets længdeakse. Hænderne lå foran ansigtet, tilsyneladende sådan

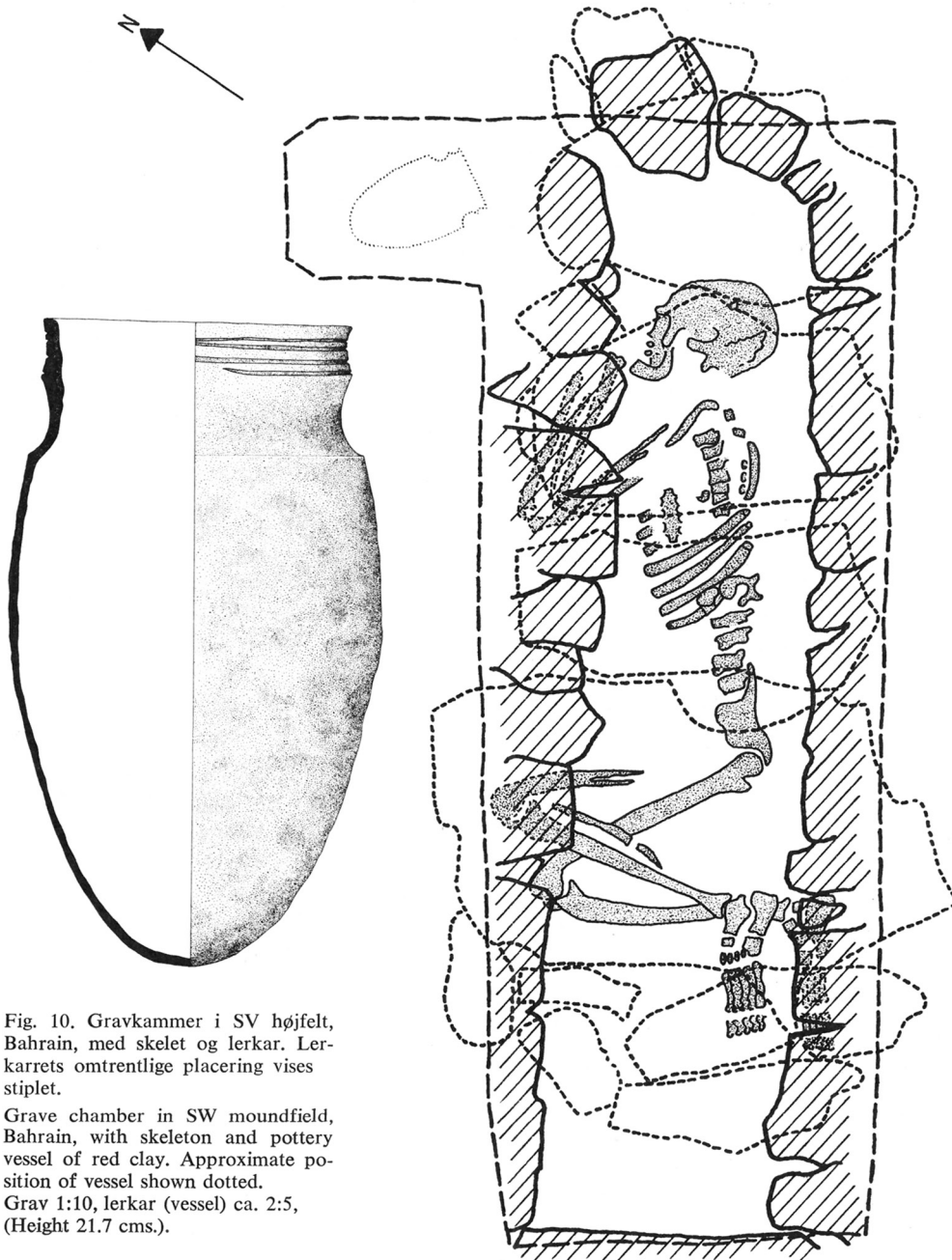


Fig. 10. Gravkammer i SV højfelt, Bahrain, med skelet og lerkar. Lerkarrets omtrentlige placering vises stipt.

Grave chamber in SW moundfield, Bahrain, with skeleton and pottery vessel of red clay. Approximate position of vessel shown dotted.

Grav 1:10, lerkar (vessel) ca. 2:5, (Height 21.7 cms.).

at fingrene dækkede dette. Denne stilling, der snarere må benævnes knælende end bøjet, svarer nøje til den, der er vist i Kuml 1954 (s. 119). (Buri skelettet lå derimod på venstre side med overbenene i en ret vinkel med kammerets akse og ryg og underben lidt skråt – en langt mere almindelig bøjet stilling; som gravgave var medgivet en rød rillet Barbar krukke).

Det nu fundne skelet havde fået en rundbundet, rød 23 cm høj lerkrukke med sig i graven. Den blev fundet i skår i nichen over den døde's hoved og optaget af de to findere.

Abu Dhabi

Umm an-Nar. Abu Dhabi holdet, der bestod af Jørgen Lund, Claus Malmros og Niels Bech, sidstnævnte som arkitekt, tilbragte tiden fra d. 25. februar til d. 20. marts på Umm an-Nar. Med en styrke på op til 17 lokale folk blev der arbejdet på bopladsen for at få stratigrafisk materiale fra dens tykkeste lag og dermed få klarlagt, om stedet har været beboet i mere end een kulturfase. En 2 1/4 m bred nord-sydgående grøft blev gravet tværs gennem bopladsen på dens højeste sted. Halvdelen af grøften – i længderetningen – blev udgravet ned til klippen, og mure, sten- og kobbergenstande og karakteristiske potteskår blev indmålt. Derefter blev grøftens sider tegnet og resten udgravet lag for lag, hvorfra alle potteskår blev medtaget. Foreløbig kan der ikke siges andet om udgravningens resultater, end at det tilsyneladende drejer sig om en forholdsvis kort bebyggelse, da skårmaterialet forekommer ret ensartet fra top til bund.

Hundrede meter nord for profilgrøften blev der foretaget en mindre prøvegravning på en anden af bopladsens klippefremspring. Foruden en mængde potteskår kom der et hus for dagen svarende til det i 1962/63 udgravede. I husets vestende stod en næsten hel krukke med bunden i vejret og munden tilstoppet af en lerklump, og ved siden af en tærskelsten lå en kobbermejsel. Der var kun een byggefase.

Buraimi. Efter 3–4 ugers arbejde på Umm an-Nar rejste holdet d. 21. marts ind til Buraimi oasen og slog lejr et par km øst for landsbyen Hili for at gøre den udgravning af det runde anlæg færdig, som var begyndt året i forvejen. 12 lokale arbejdere blev ansat, og hele anlægget blev udgravet, en kvadrant ad gangen for at få et snit gennem det hele. Profilerne blev dog ikke tegnet, da de ikke fjede noget nyt til det foregående års resultater. Alle skår blev opsamlet i hver kvadrant for sig.

Efter udgravningen blev anlægget tegnet, fotograferet og beskrevet (fig. 1). Det indre af anlægget var meget ødelagt, men havde dog rester af indvendige mure, og der kan ikke være tvivl om, at det drejer sig om et gravkammer af samme slags som dem, der kendes fra Umm an-Nar. Der blev fundet skår fra flere hundrede kar, de fleste af rødt gods med sortmalede geometriske mønstre. Formerne svarer nøje til Umm an-Nar krukernes, men der er tillige flere nye typer. Den grå keramik fra Umm an-Nar er meget fremtrædende. Især lægger man mærke til krukker med friser af sortmalede antiloper eller geder [1] og til høje krukker med indridsede mønstre, bl. a. »dørmønstret«, der kendes på

steatitkar fra Mesopotamien til Indus (fig. 11 og 12). Om Indus minder også stykker af små steatitkar med flere rum. Tillige blev der også denne sæson fundet et kort kobbersværd (fig. 13). Det var umuligt uden videre at rejse de store sten fra kammeret. Desværre, for mange potteskår ligger gemt under dem og et relief af en oryx, der lige netop kan skelnes på en sten inde under en anden blok, antyder, at der også kan skjule sig flere billedsten.

Sheikh Zaid glædede ekspeditionen med flere besøg, hvor han viste stor interesse for arbejdet, en interesse, der også gav sig udslag i, at hans sekretær udpegede en større byhøj lidt sydvest for Hili. På overfladen lå talrige fragmenter af steatitkar, bronzestumper og potteskår. Mange af skårene var af samme type som dem, der det foregående år blev fundet ved Dibba på østkysten af Oman halvøen (Kuml 1965). Der var ingen islamiske skår og heller ingen Umm an-Nar skår. Hvad tell'ens dybere lag gemmer, kan ingen vide. Men det bør undersøges.

(Ovenstående bygger på en rapport af Jørgen Lund)

Saudi Arabien

Fra d. 9. til d. 17. marts besøgte T. G. Bibby Dhahran i Saudi Arabien for på 3. år i træk at undersøge de pladser og oldsager, der bliver fundet af Aramcos amatørarkæologer. Han tilbragte desuden to dage i Riyadh for at diskutere arkæologiens formål og metoder med direktøren, Mohamed al-Ibrahim, og andre fra det nyoprettede Antikvitetsdepartement og med undervisningsministeren, dr. Abd al-Wahhab. Direktøren for det nye departement besøgte kort efter Bahrain og aflagde flere besøg i udgravningerne.

Under årets rekognoscering blev der igen aflagt besøg på øen Tarut (Kuml 1965), hvor der blandt mængden af Barbar skår på overfladen af højen neden for det tyrkiske fort fandtes et enkelt fragment af kædekeramik. Stedet er åbenbart endnu ældre end først antaget.

Under et kort besøg i Jubail og Jebel Berri området ca. 150 km nordøst for Dhahran opdagedes et kalkstensbrud, nu halvt skjult af sand, hvor der engang er brudt stenblokke i større stil, og hvor de øverste skråninger er dækket med helleristninger af dyr, fiskeruser og geometriske figurer.

En dag gik med besøg på et sted knap 25 km nord for Uqair, hvor luftfotografier havde vist flere kvadratkilometer gennemkrydset af gamle vandingskanaler og et sted de tydelige omrids af et lille fort. En undersøgelse viste, at hele området bestod af *sabkha* (salt-sletter), hvor grøfternes bund var let hævet over den almindelige overflade, antagelig fordi leret, der er afsat i grøfterne, har været mere modstandsdygtigt mod vinderosion end de marker, de i sin tid vandede. Fortet var vanskeligt at finde, da det var næsten helt druknet i *sabkhaen*, og befæstningsvoldene kun ragede ca. $\frac{1}{2}$ m op over overfladen. Alligevel gav en overfladeopsamling mellem vandingskanalerne og inden for fortet forbavsende godt resultat: en flintspids med modhager, to 5 cm lange bladformede bronzepilespidser, adskillige perler af karneol og blodsten, en rund

HILI, BURAIMI OASIS ABU DHABI

Fig. 11.

Keramik fra det runde gravanlæg.
Gråt gods med sortmalede mønstre.
Pottery from the round tomb-structure.
Grey ware with black-painted
ornamentation.

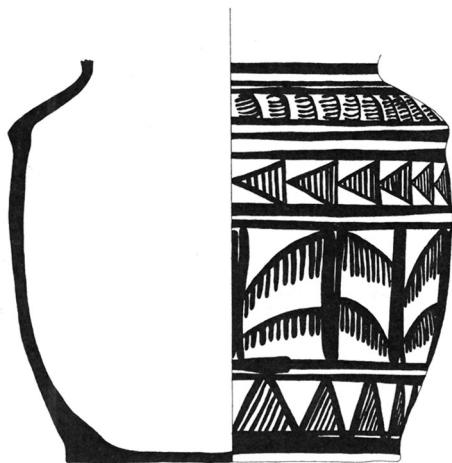
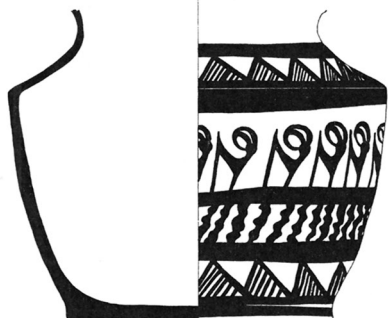
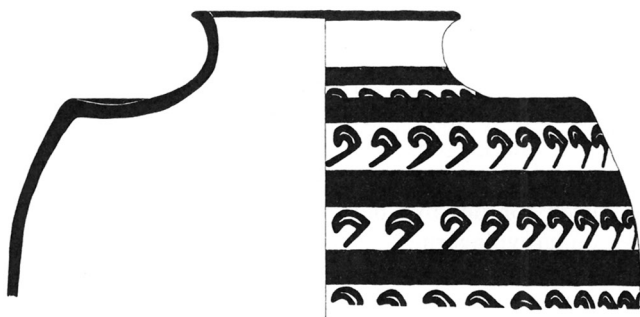
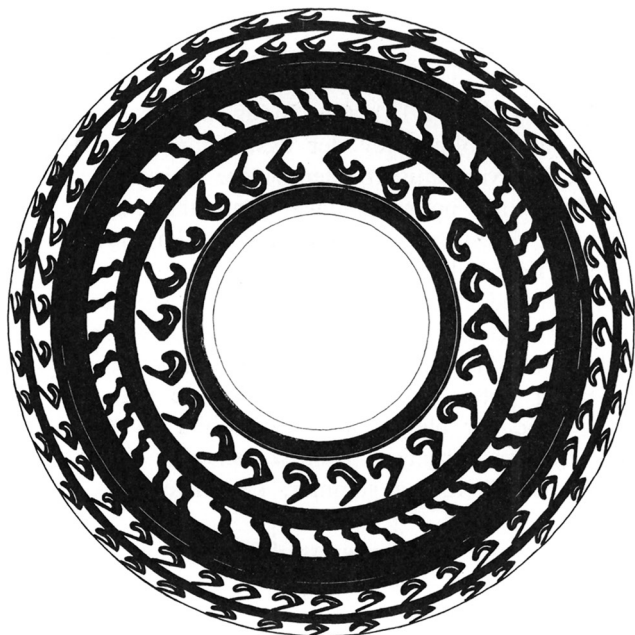


Fig. 12. Gråt gods med indridsede mønstre. Indrammet: hængekar i rødt ler med sort mønster. Grey ware with incised ornament. Inset: pendant vessel in red ware with black-painted design.

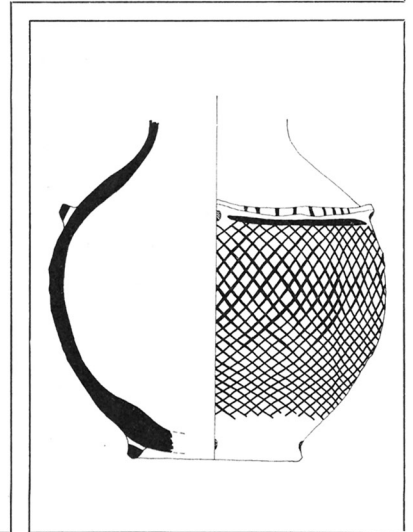
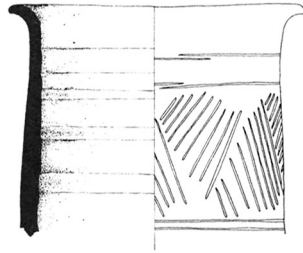
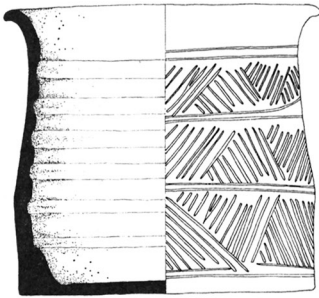
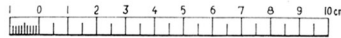
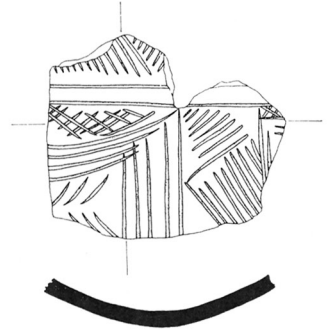
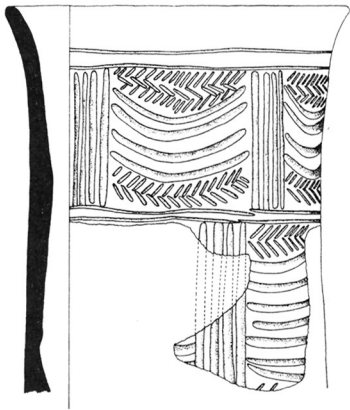
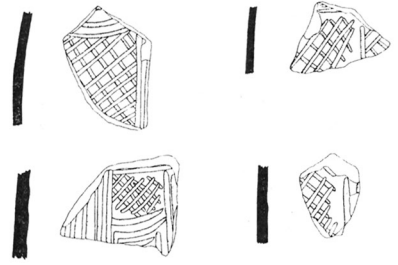


Fig. 13. Kobbersværd med 3 nagler fra det runde gravanlæg, Hili. Længde 35 cm.
Copper sword with 3 rivets from the round tomb-structure, Hili. Length 35 cms.
(Cf. Kuml 1965, p. 141, fig. 4).

benperle og mange potteskår. Der var ingen islamiske fund, og stedet blev enstemmigt navngivet »Gerrha« (i anførselstegn), den velkendte, men stadig ufundne græske by på østkysten af Arabien (Kuml 1957). Der var enighed om at denne by godt kunne ligge under de ca. 10 m høje sandklitter, der rejser sig over *sabkhaen* lidt længere inde i landet.

Arabian Gulf Archeology

The Eleventh Campaign of the Danish Archeological Expedition 1965

On the 25th of January 1965 the advance party of the 11th Danish expedition to the Arabian Gulf arrived in Bahrain to reopen the camp within the ruins of the Portuguese fort, before the main party, following nine days later, arrived on the 3rd of February. This comparatively late start to the season's work was made in order to avoid the month of Ramadhan, with its fasting, shortened working hours and subsequent public holidays. To compensate for the late start the expedition continued working throughout April and only terminated on May 5th, considerably later in the year than it had ever ventured to work before. The weather, however, was unusually mild, the customary April heat-wave with its foretaste of summer failed to materialise, and only on one day did the temperature exceed that of the human body.

The expedition, under the direction of Professor P. V. Glob, assisted by T. G. Bibby, was reduced this season to twelve persons, as, with the cessation of field work in Qatar, excavation was to be confined to Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. Generous financial support was provided, as usual, by oil companies in these two lands, by the Government of Bahrain, the Danish Carlsberg Foundation, and other well-wishers. With the assistance of the Arabian American Oil Company a reconnaissance was once more made in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. The supervision of our commissariat in Bahrain was once more in the capable hands of Lillian Bue-Madsen; the remaining members of the expedition are recorded in the reports of the individual excavations.

Bahrain

The season's excavations in Bahrain were planned as a continuation of the two-year projects begun in 1964, and were in the main confined to the tell on the north coast of the island, known as Qala'at al-Bahrain, on which the expedition has dug every year since 1954. The only other excavation of significance was that of an undisturbed burial mound brought to our attention by amateur archeologists of the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

Qala'at al-Bahrain. In the central area of the tell, Karen Frifelt and Henning Nielsen continued the area excavation begun the previous year, taking it down now through the "Kassite" and "Barbar" levels.

First, however, a careful investigation was made of the better preserved of the two clay benches with built-in pottery vessels (Kuml 1965). The theory that they might be multiple bellows was strengthened when it was again confirmed that there was no stoking system within the structure, while lumps of bronze and considerable traces of firing were found everywhere around the benches. During their removal it was clearly determined that both benches had been built up over earlier structures of the same type, even the impress left by the pottery vessels being visible. The third and earliest structure had been considerably smaller, with only two vessels.

In the western area of the excavation the "corridor" and the adjacent earth-closet of the "palace" building was removed, exposing the easternmost room and the east wall of the large Kassite building (Kuml 1964 p. 102). Experience had shown that at the floor level of this building a burnt layer several cms. thick could be expected, with possibilities for important discoveries; picks and shovels were accordingly kept so far as possible in the background, even though the layer was hard and difficult to dig by hand. Our

expectations were not disappointed. In the northeast corner of the room, opposite the door in the south wall, stood a cut limestone block, cubic in shape but split in two places from top to bottom, so that it now consists of three pieces of approximately equal size. It is uncertain whether this splitting, and some irregular chipping off of pieces from the top, was the result of deliberate destruction. Around this block, and firmly embedded in a hard layer of bitumen, there were found several fist-sized stones of a reddish-purple colour, some lumps of a red colouring matter, a quantity of potsherds of Kassite vessels, and two complete and several fragmentary tablets of unfired clay with cuneiform inscriptions; in addition there were two damaged seal-impressions in clay.

In the same room, to the left of the doorway, there was a circular "patch" in the cement floor. This proved to be a cement lid; below it, and further sealed below a layer of coarse gravelly cement and a layer of fine hard cement, lay a pottery vessel firmly cemented into the floor. But here expectations were disappointed; the vessel contained only fragments of cement and gypsum, a one cm. thick layer of sandy clay, and at the bottom a very thin layer of light sand containing two minute potsherds and two scraps of bone. The vessel was of hard-fired red clay with a slightly blackened red surface; sherds of the same type have previously been found together with the characteristic tall beakers of the Kassite period.

In the remainder of the excavation area the Kassite level was disturbed by several large pits, possibly dug in Islamic times and doubtless with the object of acquiring the imposing blocks of stone of the type of which the surviving Kassite building is constructed. An abandoned block of this character was occasionally encountered in the "fill", and it was always a Herculean task to remove it from the depths of the excavation without undue damage to section walls and fingers.

Below the Kassite level came thick occupation levels of the Barbar period, full of animal bones and sherds of Barbar ware, together with the remains of fairly light walls of fist-sized stones. A single stamp-seal (fig. 2)—the first of the otherwise so well-known Bahrain/Failaka type to be found in this central area of the tell—was the only interesting small-find made. These levels, too, had been disturbed at many points by later pits. A broad band, over 1,5 metres wide, of hard compacted green sand, such as is employed as foundation under walls of the Barbar period, ran in a curve across the excavation area, and one of the later "robber" excavations could be followed very exactly along this "lost wall"; close in to the wall of the Kassite building the broken-off stump of this same wall appeared. It was of limestone and gypsum conglomerate set in a very hard gypsum-like cement, and ran in under the Kassite building, its foot being on a level with the bottom of the foundation of the Kassite wall.

(The above based on a report by Karen Frifelt)

At the northern city wall Svend Bue-Madsen and Else Roesdahl continued their investigations of the previous year (Kuml 1965), in the narrow area between the inner face of the wall and the deep Islamic excavation further south.

It will be recalled that the year before the area had been divided into an eastern and a western section, with a two-metre baulk between, and that this baulk was found to coincide almost exactly with a well-constructed road of City V (Seleucid) date running north to a blocked gate in the city wall. The baulk had been excavated down to this road level, while in the sections on either side excavation below the Seleucid level had begun to reveal walls and occupation debris of City II ("Barbar") date.

In the course of the 1965 season the baulk was reestablished, involving the removal of the walls edging the Seleucid road and cutting through the solid foundation of the road itself. Excavation was then continued in the east and west sections, the sides of the baulk being drawn as they were revealed and the baulk itself excavated layer by layer, all potsherds being kept. During the period of excavation it proved possible to excavate the whole of the east section, the baulk and the 2½ metres of the west section nearest the baulk down to bedrock, while in the remainder of the west section some 1–1½ metres of soil were left unexcavated.

Where the Seleucid road, with its drain-system, met the city wall there was a pair of limestone hinge-holes for a gate (fig. 3, port 3A) similar to those discovered in the bathroom in 1964, and this system proved to have a long ancestry, as beneath it lay the city gates of the earlier periods. In the uppermost "Barbar" levels not very much deeper appeared two bluish-black diorite hinge-post-stones (fig. 3, stolpesten—port 2B) against the inner (southern) face of the inner wall, and beneath these came further gateways (Port 1, port 2A), the various phases of which are not yet worked out with certainty.

In the western section a well, partly stone-plundered, was excavated and emptied. Beside it was a trough of the cement-hard local gypsum, with another similar trough immediately below it in the previous building phase. Together the well and trough have occupied a little roadside halt where animals could be watered before or after passing the gate.

Several building phases could be distinguished in excavating the houses on either side of the road (which persisted through all phases). In some cases walls had been in use through several phases and were correspondingly high, but the phases were revealed by floor levels and by the bases of other less persistent walls.

A definite break in the sequence appeared—most obviously to the east of the baulk—about 1½ metres above bedrock. Here was a thick levelling layer, and below it the house-walls were built of somewhat larger stones than those above the layer though the material was the same, the sea-bed limestone conglomerate known locally as *farush*. Where house-walls above the layer coincided with those below they were almost always separated by a thin clay layer, while at four points the city wall was built above the surviving courses of house-walls of this period. In association with these walls four pottery vessels without bottoms were found in the east section, three of them halfway under the city wall; they may be bread-ovens. This evidence, still somewhat slender, suggests that the stone fortification wall of the city was not built at the same time as the first stone buildings, but relatively shortly thereafter.

Below the levelling layer were characteristic dark occupation levels, with numerous "chain-ridge" sherds (Kuml 1957). The lower levels were completely without stone walling, and the last half metre above bedrock consisted of beach sand, also containing potsherds and scraps of copper. As the bedrock, here composed of horizontal layers of the *farush* conglomerate, was seen to contain embedded potsherds, a portion of it, along the line of the city wall in the east section, was broken up, and the potsherds were found to persist, between and embedded in the layers, to a further depth of 30 cms., below which the *farush* ended in a thin layer of coarse gravel followed by sterile green sand. The potsherds from the *farush* levels, while containing a small admixture of "chain-ridge" ware, were in the main of a completely new type, a fairly thick straw-tempered ware with massive outturned rims.

The season was rich in "small-finds", including 9 stamp-seals, one with the remains of the cord in its suspension-hole, a seal impression on a typical Barbar sherd, and a clay bulla with an impression of the same type as that found on the seals (fig. 4). There was also a cubical steatite weight of the type known from the Indus Civilization, and a very richly varied potsherd material, including sherds of beakers with elegantly painted gazelles (fig. 5).

No seals were found below the levelling layer recorded above, whereas in the occupation levels below there were recovered a 31 cm. long spearhead of copper (fig. 6) and a little terracotta female figure (fig. 7).

(The above based on a report by Else Roesdahl)

In an attempt to locate the eastern wall of the Barbar-period city, Peter Crabb and Malene Møller-Jensen cut two trenches about 80 yards south and a little to the east of the excavation of the northern city wall. In the eastern trench traces of Barbar-period occupation were entirely absent, and the tell consisted here mainly of City V (Seleucid) remains. Besides the local green-glazed ware imported Greek black-varnished sherds were encountered.

In the western trench a well-preserved industrial establishment was partially cleared, consisting of a series of regular elevations in the cement floor of a narrow room between

ashlar walls preserved to a height of over two metres. These cross-ribs measured 25 cms. in both directions in cross-section and occurred at intervals of about 50 cms. (fig. 8). Apart from the thin-walled sherds of the City IV (snake-burial) period, the space between the ribs was occupied by decayed plant remains. The nearest parallel is to the modern floors for the extraction of date juice, with the important difference that the ancient floor lacked any kind of outlet for juice.

Well above the floor level of this building a large green-glazed vessel with tall neck and single handle was found standing beside a large shallow dish showing a lighter glaze (fig. 9).

(The above based on a report by Peter Crabb)

Burial mound—southermost moundfield. A mile and a quarter due west of the southern tip of Jebel Dukhan, the central hill of Bahrain, on the summit and westward-facing slopes of the rim-rock which rings the central depression of the island, lies an isolated group of burial mounds, an outlier of the moundfields which so thickly cover the northern and northwestern parts of Bahrain. To this moundfield we were taken, one Friday towards the end of the expedition, by Cliff Bennett and Harvey Blackmore of the Bahrain Petroleum Company, who brought the news that they had found an undisturbed burial in the central chamber of one of the mounds. This was indeed news, because in the course of excavating some fifty of the Bronze-Age burial mounds of Bahrain (Kuml 1954, 1964) we had in no case found a completely undisturbed grave, and only two (Kuml 1954, p. 119 and an unpublished "rescue" dig at Buri in 1959) in which the position of the skeleton could be even partially determined. In the course of the following week the chamber was exposed and excavated by Jørgen Lund and Malene Møller-Jensen (fig. 10).

The stone chamber in the centre of the mound proved to lie between NE and ENE (about 60° from N); it measured 183 cms. in length and 65 cms. in width at the western end, perhaps 70 cms. at the eastern end. These were dimensions at floor level, but the walls, of dry-stone coursing and 78 cms. high, sloped inwards to a width of not much more than 30 cms. at the top where the chamber was covered by five capstones. At the eastern end there was a single recess (not two, as is most commonly found) in the northern wall, 25 cms. wide and 32 cms. deep, and less than the full height of the chamber.

The skeleton, the long bones and skull of which were well preserved, lay in the centre of the chamber with its head towards the eastern end. It lay on its right side facing north, with its legs sharply drawn up so that the bones of the lower legs were practically at right angles to the axis of the chamber, and its hands in front of the face, the fingers seemingly covering the features. This posture, rather a "kneeling" position than either "flexed" or "contracted", agrees precisely with that of the surviving portions of the skeleton shown in Kuml 1954 (p. 119). (The Buri skeleton, on the other hand, lay on its left side, with the *upper* leg bones at right angles to the axis of the chamber and the backbone and lower leg bones somewhat oblique—a much more conventional "flexed" position; it was accompanied by a red ridged Barbar-type jar).

The present body bore no surviving ornaments or other objects, and the only grave goods were a round-bottomed vase of red clay, 23 cms. high, which had been removed for safe keeping by the discoverers, but which had lain, in large fragments, in the alcove above the head of the skeleton.

Abu Dhabi

Umm an-Nar. The Abu Dhabi team, consisting this year of Jørgen Lund, Claus Malmros and Niels Bech, the last-named as architect, spent the period from 25th February to 20th March on Umm an-Nar. Work, carried out with the aid of up to 17 local workmen, was concentrated on the settlement on the island, the aim being to obtain clearly stratified material from the thickest deposits in the settlement and thus determine whether the settlement had been occupied during more than one cultural phase. A north-south trench

was accordingly dug clean across the settlement in a width of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ metres at the point where the depth of deposit seemed likely to be greatest. Half the width of the trench was dug all the way down to bedrock, walls, objects of stone and copper, and characteristic potsherds being plotted in. The sides of the trench were then drawn, and the remainder of the trench dug as accurately as possible by layer, all potsherds being kept. It is not possible at this stage to present the results of the excavation, but the indications point to a comparatively short occupation period, the sherd material showing considerable uniformity from top to bottom of the section.

A hundred metres north of the section trench a smaller trial excavation was made on another of the projecting rock ridges of the settlement. Here, in addition to a quantity of potsherds, a house was identified, seemingly of similar type to that excavated in 1962/63. In the western end of the house an almost whole jar was found, bottom upwards and with its mouth stoppered with a lump of clay. In the same end of the house a copper chisel lay beside a threshold stone. The house showed only one building phase.

Buraimi. After 3–4 weeks' work on Umm an-Nar the team left on 21st March for the oasis of Buraimi, pitching its camp a mile to the east of the village of Hili. The aim this season was to complete the excavation of the stone circle commenced the year before. With the help of 12 local workmen the whole structure was now excavated, one quadrant at a time in order to preserve sections through the structure. These sections were not drawn, as they added nothing to those obtained the year before. All potsherds were collected separately from each quadrant.

After the whole structure was excavated it was drawn, photographed and described (fig. 1). There can now no longer be any doubt that the structure is a burial chamber of the same type as that known from Umm an-Nar, as traces of interior walls were found in the much disturbed interior. Sherds of several hundred pottery vessels were found, the majority being of red ware with geometrical patterns in black paint. The shapes correspond closely to those of Umm an-Nar, though some new types are here met with. The grey ware already known from Umm an-Nar was also prominently represented, particularly noteworthy being jars with painted friezes of antelopes or goats in black [1], and tall vessels with incised designs, including the "doorway" design known on steatite vessels from Mesopotamia to the Indus (figs. 11–12). Another reminiscence of the Indus was the presence of fragments of compartmented steatite vessels, while a further short copper sword was also this year found (fig. 13). It proved impossible, without heavy machinery, to lift the large stones of which the chamber had been built. If opportunity arises this should be done, as undoubtedly many potsherds still lie beneath them, while a relief carving of an oryx—with difficulty discernible on one stone overlaid by another stone too massive to be moved—suggests that further reliefs might be found thereby.

We had this year the pleasure of frequent visits from Sheikh Zaid, who showed great interest in our work. This interest was further evidenced when his secretary took us to a large tell a little to the southwest of Hili. On the surface of the tell lay quantities of fragments of steatite vessels, scraps of copper, and potsherds. Many of the potsherds were of the same type as those found the previous year at Dibba on the east coast of the Oman peninsula (Kuml 1965), while there was a complete absence of Islamic sherds—and, incidentally, of "Umm an-Nar Culture" sherds. There is, of course, no telling what may lie beneath the surface of this tell. It will be interesting to find out.

(The above based on a report by Jørgen Lund)

Saudi Arabia

In the period 9th to 17th March T. G. Bibby visited Dhahran in Saudi Arabia in order, for the third year in succession, to examine sites and objects discovered by the part-time archeologists of the Arabian American Oil Company. He was also enabled to spend two days in Riyadh where he had the pleasure of a long discussion of aims and methods

with the Director, Mohamed al-Ibrahim, and the staff of the newly-constituted Department of Antiquities and with the Deputy Minister of Education, His Excellency Dr. Abd al-Wahhab. (The enthusiasm of the new Department is well shown in the fact that its Director shortly afterwards visited Bahrain and spent five days on our digging sites).

In the course of this year's reconnaissance a further visit was paid to the central site on the island of Tarut (cf. Kuml 1965), where among the Barbar sherds lying thickly on the surface of the mound below the Turkish fort one sherd of "chain-ridge" ware was picked up, showing this site to be even earlier in origin than already attested.

A reconnaissance trip to the area of Jubail and Jebel Berri, sixty miles northeast of Dhahran, discovered a limestone outcrop, now half drowned in sand, where large stone blocks had once been quarried in considerable numbers and where a quantity of rock carvings of animals, fish-traps and geometric figures covered the upper slopes.

One day was spent in the area fifteen miles north of Uqair where air photographs showed an expanse of several square miles covered with ancient irrigation ditches and, at one point, the clear outlines of a small fort. On examination on the ground the whole area proved to be *sabkha* (salt-flats), the irrigation-ditch bottoms being raised above the general level, presumably because the clay deposited in the ditches had been more resistant to wind erosion than the fields they had once served. The fort was difficult to find as it was almost completely drowned in the *sabkha*, the rampart mounds projecting scarcely two feet above the surface. Nevertheless surface collection among the irrigation ditches and within the fort gave a surprisingly rich result, comprising a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, two leaf-shaped arrowheads of bronze, 5 cms. long, a large number of beads of carnelian and bloodstone, a circular bead of bone and a large number of potsherds. Objects and potsherds of Islamic type were conspicuously absent, and the site was unanimously labelled "Gerrha" (with firmly inverted commas), the well-known but still undiscovered Greek city on the East Arabian coast, it being agreed that the actual city could well lie beneath the 30-foot sand dunes which sweep down to meet the *sabkha* not much further inland.

Geoffrey Bibby
Forhistorisk Museum,
Århus.

NOTER

1. Pottery vessels of almost exactly similar form, colour and decoration have been found by Miss Beatrice de Cardi in Period

VI levels at Bampur, S. E. Iran. They are published in *Antiquity* No. 161 (March 1967).

