

# KUML



ÅRBOG FOR JYSK ARKÆOLOGISK SELSKAB  
1956

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1956

*With Summaries in English*

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UNIVERSITETSFORLAGET I AARHUS

1956

*Forside:*

Grauballemandens højre hånd.

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P. V. GLOB

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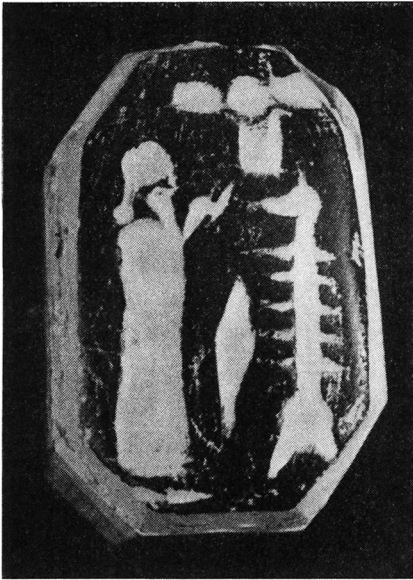


Fig. 1. Seglsten og aftryk af denne fra grav ved Qala'a. 3 : 1.  
The sealstone from the grave at Qala'a, and the impression from it. 3 : 1.

## ET NYBABYLONISK GRAVFUND FRA BAHRAINS OLDTIDSHOVEDSTAD

Af P. V. GLOB

De udgravninger, »Dansk Arkæologisk Bahrain-Ekspedition« tidligere havde påbegyndt af oldtidstemplerne ved Barbar<sup>1)</sup> og af oldtidshovedstaden ved Qala'a<sup>2)</sup>, kunne umiddelbart fortsættes, da den tredje kampagne begyndte den 8. januar 1956. I denne, som varede til den 20. april, deltog med undertegnede som leder foruden sidste års medlemmer T. G. Bibby, M.A., universitetsadjunkt, mag. art. Kristian Jeppesen og docent, mag. art. Mogens Krustrup, også museumsinspektør Harald Andersen, museumsassistent Peder Mortensen, konservator Frode Visti og Toto Koopmann fra Londons universitets arkæologiske institut. I en kortere periode fulgte endvidere Århus' borgmester Svend Unmack Larsen arbejdet, medens maleren Karl Bovin til stadighed benyttede vort hovedkvarter som udgangspunkt for sine entomologiske studier.

Bahrains regent, Hans Højhed Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah modtog som altid ekspeditionens medlemmer med stor imødekommenhed, besøgte udgravningerne og vor lejr, der i år var opslået i ruinerne af det portugisiske

fort, som er anlagt i Bahraíns oldtidshovedstad. Tilskud fra Bahraíns regering, olieselskabet BAPCO og Carlsbergfondet havde sikret ekspeditionens økonomiske gennemførelse. Arbejdet på Bahrain blev som tidligere til stadighed fulgt med største interesse og hjælpsomhed af Sir Charles Belgrave, regeringens rådgiver, og E. A. Skinner, vicepræsident i BAPCO.

Om undersøgelserne ved Barbar er der for to afsnits vedkommende gjort særlig rede af udgraverne (se side 175 og 189). Der opmålte desuden profiler af kulturlagene øst og syd for tempelbygningerne, hvor en sikker stratigrafi for de tre byggeperioder kunne klarlægges. Udgravningen af disse templer er endnu ikke afsluttet, men vil blive fortsat fremover.

Ved Qala'a fortsattes arbejdet på flere fronter: Den store undersøgelse af ruinhøjens stratigrafi med profilgravninger fra kysten ind mod højens midte fortsatte og førtes frem til lag, hvis keramik viser samtidighed med Barbartemplerne, hvorved lagfølgen af de skiftende bebyggelser i Bahraíns oldtidshovedstad nu er sikret til ned i 3. årtusinde. Samme tidsafsnit tilhører den store bygning, der fortsat er under udgravning, idet der som underste gulvlag og i dens bygningslag fandtes den samme ejendommelige riflede keramik, som er karakteristisk for Barbar<sup>3)</sup>, og som nu også er fremkommet i Bahraíns gravhøje, hvorfra fund af sådanne sikredes af pastor Alun Morris, Manama, da nogle høje sløjfedes ved vejarbejde nord for Rifa'a Al Gharbi.

Ved arbejdets afslutning var der i 1955 i den store bygning i Qala'a, nær det sted, hvor der det første år fandtes lerkister, afdækket en plan gipsflade, c. 1.75 × 2 m stor og indrammet af mure på alle sider. Det viste sig, at den



Fig. 2. Lerkar nedsat udenfor graven. Ca. 1/3.

The pottery vessels deposited outside the coffin. Circa 1 : 3.



Fig. 3. Lerkiste set fra vest.  
The coffin viewed from the west.

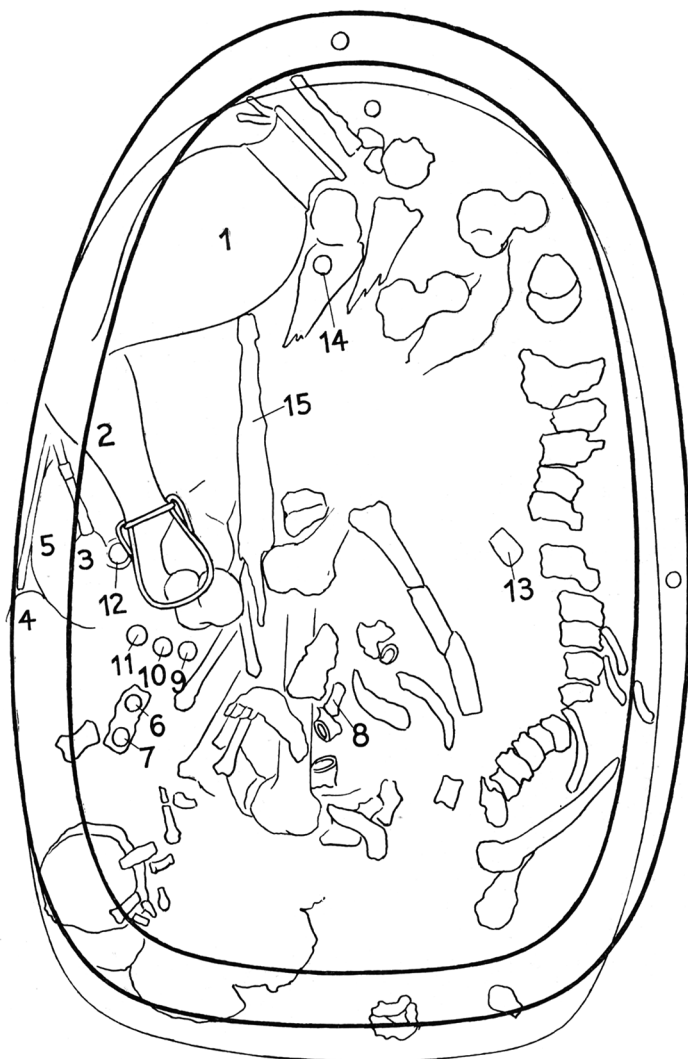


Fig. 4. Plan af kisten og dens indhold (opmålt af Kr. Jeppesen).  
Plan of the coffin and its contents.



dækkede en lignende lerkiste, der fandtes urørt og med dækstenen endnu på plads. Kisten, der var af letbrændt ler og dækket på ydersiden og overkanten af et par millimeter tykt bitumenlag, var 1 m lang og 65 cm bred foroven og stod i rummets sydlige side (fig. 3-4). Det var tydeligt, at dette rum oprindeligt havde tjent andre formål og at kisten senere var nedsat i det og overdækket først med brædder, derpå et gipslag, så med to store kalkstensfliser og endelig med det jævne gipslag, der dækkede hele rummets areal. Direkte under dette gipslag og i rummets nordvestlige hjørne fandtes tre mindre lerkar af lyst, gulligt gods og hjullavede (fig. 2), der vel er nedsat med offer til den døde. Imellem stenene i den vestlige indramning af kisten fandtes tre små pilespidser med trekantet tværsnit, kort skaft-dølle og af kobber eller bronze (fig. 5). Ved sydvesthjørnet af kisten stod et jernspyd nedstukket med spidsen nedad.

Selve kisten, der næsten var helt fri for fyld og kun ved bunden delvis dækket af et gråligt lag (fig. 3), var indvendig 65-75 cm dyb. Den var orienteret øst-vest med den lige side, hvor den dødes hovede hvilede, vendt mod vest (fig. 4). Kistens bund var dækket af skeletdele og oldsager. Den døde, efter udstyret og de svære knogler at dømme sandsynligvis en mand, hvilede på venstre side i stærkt sammenbøjet stilling, med knæene presset helt op mod brystet og hænderne foran ansigtet, der vendte mod nord (fig. 4). Skeletdelene gengav endnu i hovedsagen den stilling, hvori den døde oprindeligt har været anbragt, idet kun placeringen af knoglerne i vestenden lå noget i uorden, måske som følge af slangebesejg i kisten, idet en slanges ham fandtes mellem kistens dæksten.

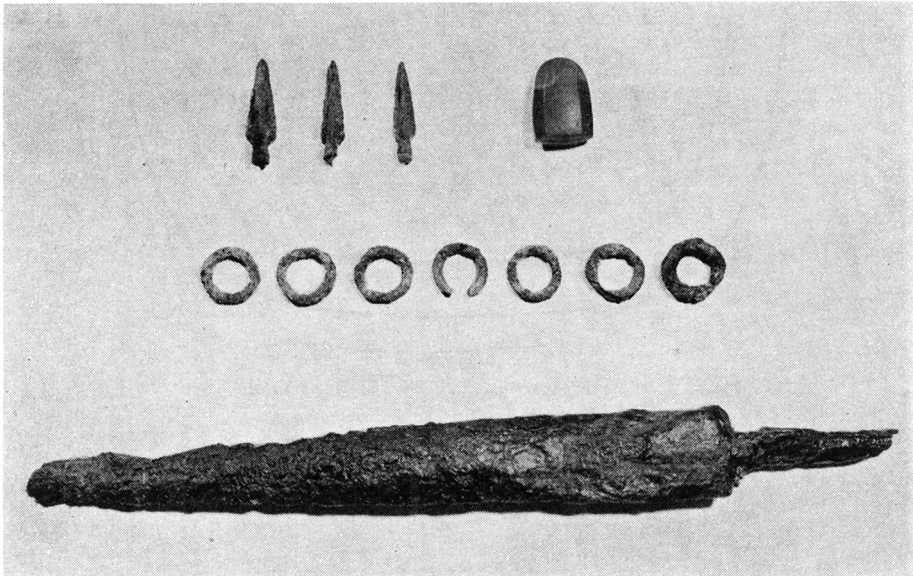


Fig. 5. Tre pilespidser, seglsten, syv kobberringe og jerndaggert fra graven. Ca.  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

Three arrowheads, the sealstone, seven copper rings and the iron dagger from the coffin. Circa 1 : 3.

Fig. 6. Vase med grønlig glasur omkring  
mundingspartiet.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Vase with greenish glaze around the rim. 1 : 4.



Gravens udstyr var meget rigt. Midt i kisten, nær rygsøjlen, lå en seglsten af agat, gennemboret foroven og med gennemboringen vendt mod den døde hals, hvilket kunne tyde på, at den har været båret foran på brystet i en snor omkring halsen (fig. 4 nr. 13). Seglstenen, der er 31 mm høj, har konisk form, afrundet foroven, let konveks forneden, hvori seglets billede er skåret (fig. 1). Bredsiderne har en facet, der fra bunden følger kanten rundt (fig. 5). Stempel-segl af denne type kommer igen i brug i Mesopotamien i sen neo-assyriske og neo-babyloniske tid, og den tidligste gruppe kan henføres til 8. årh. f. Kr.<sup>4</sup>). Dette segl forestiller en mandlig tilbeder med fuldskæg, der med løftet hånd er vendt mod livstræet. Imellem ham og dette ses en fiskefigur og derover den vingede sol (fig. 1). Hele denne sammenstilling af figurer, men i mere detaljeret udførelse, kendes fra cylindersegler fra sen 8. eller 7. årh.<sup>5</sup>), hvortil denne seglsten og gravens udstyr som helhed må dateres. På grund af den store lighed med de første år i samme bygning fundne grave, hvoraf en højere alder tidligere har været foreslået<sup>6</sup>), er der nu grund til at henføre også disse til 8.-7. årh. f. Kr.

I fodenden af kisten lå en 29,5 cm høj, drejet, glaceret vase (fig. 4 nr. 1 og fig. 6). Glasuren, der dækker hele overfladen, men er noget medtaget af forvitring, har omkring hals- og mundingspartiet et let grønligt skær. Foran den døde lå fire forskellige kobbergenstande: en flaske, 19,5 cm høj, med bevægelig hank (fig. 4 nr. 2 og fig. 7 nr. 1); en cirkelrund skål, 20,5 cm i tværmål og 4 cm høj, med let udadbøjet rand (fig. 4 nr. 5 og fig. 7 nr. 2); en si, hvis tværmål er 10 cm, med et 11,5 cm langt tilbagebøjet skaft, der ender i et andehovede



Fig. 7. Kobberflaske og skål. Ca. 1/3.  
Copper flask and bowl. Circa 1 : 3.

(fig. 4 nr. 3 og fig. 8 nr. 1); et øsekar, 7 cm højt, og med et 25 cm langt skaft, tilbagebøjet i den ene ende og tungeformet udvidet over mundingsranden (fig. 4 nr. 4 og fig. 8 nr. 2). Foran den døde og midt i graven lå endvidere en 30 cm lang jerdolk med skafttunge (fig. 4 nr. 15 og fig. 5), samt 6 kobberringe (fig. 4 nr. 6-7 og 9-12), og en lignende ring lå ved fodknoglerne (fig. 4 nr. 14 og fig. 5).

Som de tidligere år fortsattes rekognosceringen i Bahraíns ørken på helligdage, hvor arbejdet med de større udgravninger måtte hvile, og herunder gjordes en ny række fund af flintsager af palæolitisk og neolitisk oprindelse, men af samme typer som de tidligere fundne<sup>7</sup>). En dag blev der ved særlig imødekommethed fra Hans Højhed Sheikh Sulman lejlighed til at besøge den store ø Umm Nasan, der ligger ud for Bahraíns vestkyst og som er jagtreservat, og her bemærkedes i den sydvestlige side af øens bjerg en række firkantet udhuggede klippegrave c. 3-4 m<sup>3</sup> store, som dog alle helt var tømte for indhold.

Som de tidligere år blev vort arbejde mødt med største interesse fra alle kredse på Bahrain. Talrige var de besøg, der til stadighed blev aflagt både på udgravningspladserne og i vor lejr. Gæstevenskab og hjælp nød vi fra mange

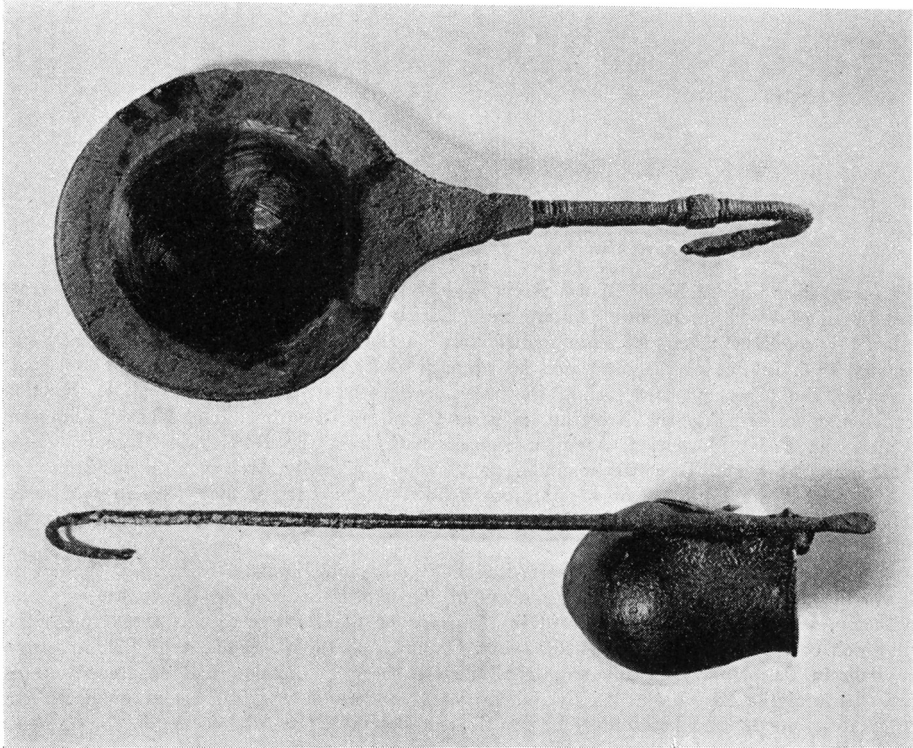


Fig. 8. Kobbersi og øsekar. Ca.  $\frac{2}{5}$ .  
Copper strainer and filler. Circa 2 : 5.

sider. I en kortere periode havde vi alle logi i Petroleum Concessions Ltd.s gæstehus, hvor M. E. Welford modtog os med stor elskværdighed. Regeringens leder af arbejdsdepartementet, ingeniør M. Leeds, ydede velvillig hjælp, når tungt materiel var nødvendigt. Fra Bahrain Petroleum Company's ledelses side var interessen usvækket, og dets produktionschef J. R. Keith ydede på mange områder personlig støtte. En særlig tak skylder ekspeditionen vicepræsident E. A. Skinner, der fra de aller første dage mødte vort arbejde med venlighed og forståelse og sammen med sin frue ofte var vor gæstfrie vært. Efter ekspeditionens afslutning er vicepræsident Skinner afgået ved døden og vil fremover blive dybt savnet som ven af »Dansk Arkæologisk Bahrain-Ekspedition« og alle dens medlemmer.

## SUMMARY

### *A Neo-Babylonian Burial from Bahrain's Prehistoric Capital.*

The excavations on which the Danish Archeological Bahrain-Expedition had in previous years been working – the prehistoric temples near Barbar<sup>1</sup>) and the prehistoric capital city at Qala'a<sup>2</sup>) – could be taken up again immediately on the opening of the third campaign 8th January 1956. In this campaign, which lasted until 20th April, the present author took part as leader, the other members being, from the previous year, T. G. Bibby, M. A., Kristian Jeppesen, mag. art., Mogens Krustrup, mag. art., and, for the first time, Harald Andersen, Keeper, and Peder Mortensen, Assistent Keeper, both from the Prehistoric Museum, Frode Visti, conservator, and Toto Koopmann of the London University Archaeological Institute. For a short period the Lord Mayor of Aarhus, Svend Unmack Larsen, took part in our work, while Karl Bovin, artist, used the Expedition headquarters throughout as the centre for his entomological studies.

The Ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Shaikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, showed as always the greatest kindness to the members of the expedition, visiting the excavations and our camp, which this year was erected in the ruins of the Portuguese fort that crowns the tell which covers Bahrain's prehistoric capital. Grants from the Government of Bahrain, from the Bahrain Petroleum Company and from the Carlsberg Foundation had ensured the economic basis of the Expedition. As always, our work in Bahrain was followed throughout with the greatest interest and helpfulness by Sir Charles Belgrave, the Adviser to the Government, and by E. A. Skinner, the Vice-president of the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

Two phases of the investigations at Barbar are described separately in some detail by the excavators (cf. pp. 195 and 186). In addition sections through the occupation levels east and south of the temple buildings were cut and drawn, enabling a definite stratigraphy of the three building periods to be established. The excavation of these temples is not yet complete but will be continued in further campaigns.

At Qala'a work continued on several fronts. The large-scale investigation of the stratigraphy of the "tell", consisting of the cutting and drawing of a section from the seashore towards the centre of the mound, was continued, and reached levels with a pottery content proving contemporaneity with the Barbar temples. The succession of strata representing the successive occupations of the ancient capital of Bahrain are thereby now determined from the present day back as far as the third millenium BC. To this latter period also belongs the large building which is still being excavated, as is shown by the fact that its lowest floor level and its construction level contain the same characteristic ridged pottery as is typical for Barbar<sup>3</sup>). This ware has also now been found in the Bahrain grave-mounds, a characteristic vessel of the type being rescued by the Rev. Alun Morris of Manama when some mounds were razed in the course of road construction north of Rifa'a Al-Gharbi.

Towards the end of the 1955 season, near the point in the large building at Qala's where earthenware sarcophagi were found in the first campaign, a level stretch of plaster had been discovered, measuring about  $1.75 \times 2$  metres and surrounded on all sides by walls. At the commencement of this season it was discovered that this plaster covered a similar sarcophagus, this time untouched and with its roof-stones still in position. The sarcophagus was of lightly fired clay, covered on the outside and upper edge with a layer of bitumen a couple of millimetres thick; it was one metre long and 65 cms. wide at the top, and stood in the southern half of the space bordered by the walls (Fig. 3). It was obvious that this space had originally been used for other purposes and that the coffin had been later deposited in it and covered, first with planks, then with a layer of plaster, then with two large limestone slabs, and finally

with the level plaster layer covering the whole area. Immediately under this plaster layer, in the northwest corner of the room, lay three small vessels of light yellowish clay, wheel-made, (Fig. 2) presumably placed there as funerary offerings. Between the stones that adjoined the sarcophagus to the west were found three small copper or bronze arrowheads, of triangular section and with a short shaft-socket (Fig. 5). By the southwest corner of the coffin stood an iron spearhead, stuck into the floor with the point downwards.

The actual sarcophagus, 65-75 cms. deep - interior dimension -, was almost completely empty of soil, the bottom being only partly covered with a grayish layer (Fig. 3). It was oriented east-west, with the rightangled end, where the head of the occupant rested, towards the west (Fig. 4). The bottom of the coffin was covered with skeletal parts and funerary furnishings. The dead body - to judge by the size of the bones and the type of furnishings probably a man - rested on its left side in a sharply contracted position, with its knees pressed right up against the breast and with its hands in front of its face, which was turned to the north (Fig. 4). The bones still showed in the main the position in which the dead man had originally been placed; only at the western end of the coffin were they in some disarray, perhaps disturbed by a snake as the cast skin of a snake was found between the roof-stones of the coffin.

The furnishings of the grave were very rich. In the centre of the sarcophagus, near the vertebral column, lay an agate seal, pierced at the top and with the pierced hole towards the neck of the dead man, which would suggest that he had carried it on his breast on a cord hanging from his neck (Fig. 4 no. 13). This seal is 31 mms. tall, conical in form, rounded at the top and slightly convex at the base where the design is engraved (Fig. 1). The sides are faceted, the facet following the edge at the base (Fig. 5). Stamp seals of this type came into use again in Mesopotamia in late Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian times, the earliest group being dateable to the 8th century BC<sup>4</sup>). This seal shows a male worshipper with a full beard and raised hand, turned towards the tree of life. Between them there is the figure of a fish, and above them the winged solar disk (Fig. 1). Identically the same group, though represented in greater detail, is known from cylinder seals from the late 8th or 7th centuries<sup>5</sup>), to which date therefore the seal and the remaining contents of the grave must be dated. The great resemblance between this grave and those found during the first campaign in the same building, for which an earlier date was previously proposed<sup>6</sup>), makes it now reasonable to attribute these also to the 8-7th centuries BC.

At the foot-end of the coffin lay a glazed vase, wheel-made and 29.5 cms. high (Fig. 4 no. 1 and Fig. 6). The glaze, which covered the entire vessel but is somewhat corroded, is of a light greenish colour around the neck and lip. In front of the dead body lay four different objects of copper or bronze: a flask, 19.5 cms. high, with a swivelling handle (Fig. 4 no. 2 and Fig. 7 no. 1); a circular bowl, 20.5 cms. in diameter and 4 cms. deep, with a slightly outturned rim (Fig. 4 no. 5 and Fig. 7 no. 2); a strainer, 10.5 cms. in diameter, with an 11.5 cm. long handle, bent round at the end and ending in a duck's head (Fig. 4 no. 3 and Fig. 8 no. 1); and a pouring vessel, 7 cms. high, with a 25 cm. long handle, bent back at the free end and broadening out into a tongue where it meets the lip (Fig. 4 no. 4 and Fig. 8 no. 2). In addition there lay in the centre of the coffin and in front of the dead man a tanged iron dagger, 30 cms. long (Fig. 4 no. 15 and Fig. 5), together with 6 copper rings (Fig. 4 nos. 6-7 and 9-12), while a similar ring lay by the bones of the feet (Fig. 4 no. 14 and Fig. 5).

As in the former campaigns, reconnaissance in the desert areas of Bahrain was continued on the weekly holidays, when the major excavation work ceased, and in the course of this reconnaissance a further series of discoveries was made of flint artifacts of palaeolithic and neolithic derivation, but of the same types as those earlier discovered<sup>7</sup>). On one of these days an opportunity was provided by the particular generosity of His Highness Shaikh Sulman of visiting the large island of Umm Nasan, which lies off the west coast of Bahrain and is protected as a game reserve. Here a number of cubical rock tombs, about 3-4 cubic metres in size, were found cut out of the southwestern side of the southerly of the two rocky hills of the island. They were all, however, completely empty.

As in previous years our work aroused very great interest among all circles in Bahrain. A large number of visitors continuously honoured our excavations and our camp. We received

help and hospitality from many quarters. For a short time we were all living at the guest house of Petroleum Concessions Limited, where we were very kindly received by M. E. Welford. The director of the Public Works Department, M. Lees, gave us ready help when heavy equipment was required. The leading figures of the Bahrain Petroleum Company showed unfailing interest, and the General Manager, J. R. Keith, gave us his personal support in many matters. The expedition owes a particular debt of thanks to the Vice-President of the Company, E. A. Skinner, who from the first showed the greatest friendship and understanding to us and to our work, and who, together with Mrs. Skinner, frequently offered us the hospitality of his beautiful home. The news of his recent death caused a deep sense of loss to all members of the Danish Archeological Bahrain-Expedition.

*P. V. Glob.*

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#### NOTER

1) KUML 1954 s. 142; 1955 s. 178. 2) KUML 1954 s. 164. 3) KUML 1955 s. 188 fig. 12. 4) *Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Seals*, Vol. I s. 96, The Bollingen Series XIV, 1948. 5) Note 4 pl. CXVII nr. 773. 6) KUML 1954 s. 166. 7) KUML 1954 s. 106.