

KUML



ÅRBOG FOR JYSK ARKÆOLOGISK SELSKAB
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UNIVERSITETSFORLAGET I AARHUS

1958

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Restaurering af jættestue i Tustrup
Restoration of passage grave at Tustrup

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P. V. GLOB

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Fig. 1. Nederste skift af kalkstenssøjle i den store bygning.
Lowest course of limestone pillar in the large building.

SLANGEOFRE I BAHRAINS OLDTIDSHOVEDSTAD

Dansk Arkæologisk Bahrain-Ekspeditions 4. udgravningskampagne

Af P. V. GLOB

Stadig bringer udgravningen af oldtidshovedstaden på Qala'at al-Bahrain nye overraskende fund. Sidst slangeofre i den store bygning, som »Dansk Arkæologisk Bahrain-Ekspedition« fandt under sin første kampagne i foråret 1954, og hvor der siden da hvert år har været gravet. Siden dens opførelse engang i 3. årtusindes sidste halvdel har den gennem mere end halvandet årtusinde fristet til forskellig benyttelse og er gentagne gange ombygget¹). I tidlig islamisk tid er een af dens hovedmure omstyrtet, og efter den tid har den kun været brugt som fun-

dament til forskellige boliger, indtil portugiserne for c. 400 år siden anlagde deres fort i de gamle oldtidstell.

Under den omstyrtede mur i bygningens østside afdækkedes i foråret 1957 et fundament af to svære kalkstensblokke på en sokkel. Det var kvadratisk, 95×95 cm, og 60 cm højt, medens soklen, der bestod af gips og sten, var godt 20 cm høj og ragede 25–20 cm ud på de tre sider, medens den fjerde side var afhugget i senere tid (fig. 1–2). Dette fundament har utvivlsomt oprindeligt været den nederste del af en kvadratisk pille, der har båret bygningens tag, men har måske

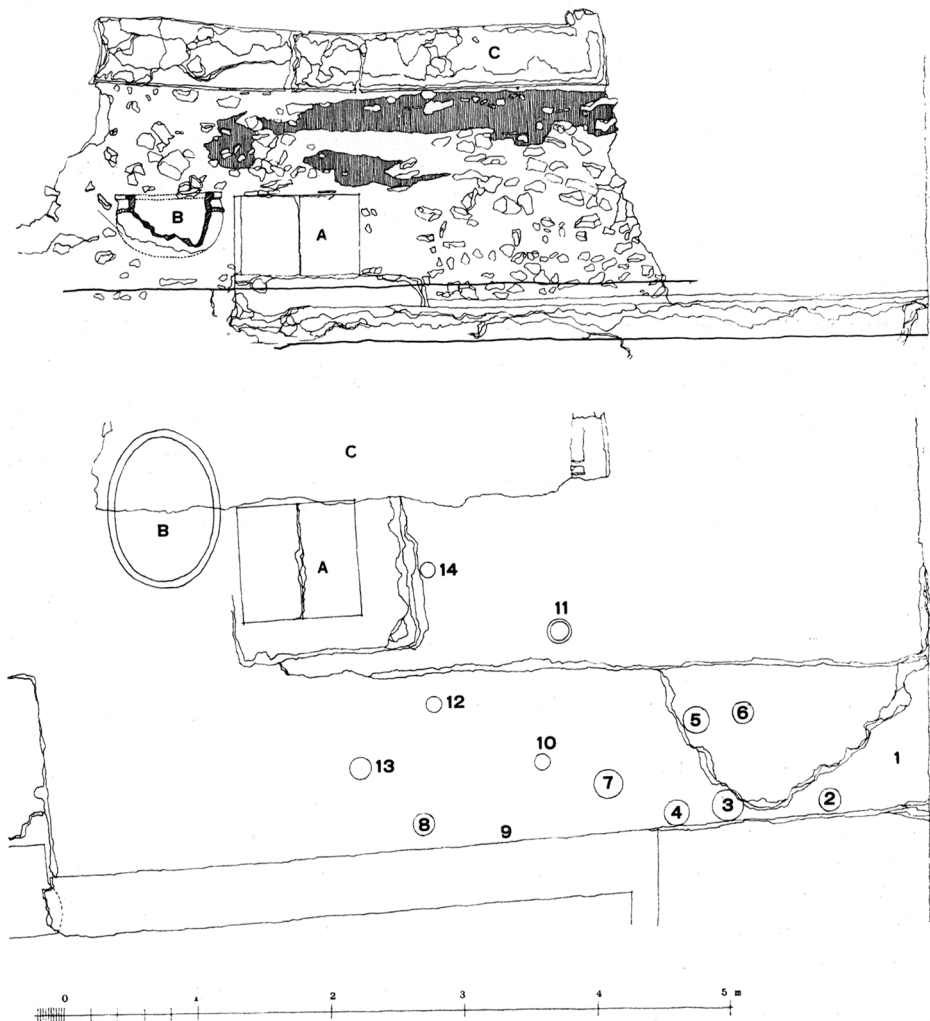


Fig. 2. Plan og snit fra den store bygning med »slangegravene« indtegnet (nr. 1–14); A, kalkstenssøjle; B, kvindegrav (fig. 7); C, væltet murstykke.

Plan and section of part of the large building, with the "snake-graves" plotted in (nos. 1–14); A, limestone pillar; B, woman's grave (fig. 7); C, fallen wall.



Fig. 3. Offerkar nr. 14, dækket af lerskål, i sin nedgravning. Sacrificial vessel no. 14, covered by a pottery bowl, in situ.

senere været brugt sekundært som et alter. Syd og vest for »alteret« og helt op til dets fod fandtes nemlig nedsat i gruber i et 30 cm tykt bundlag 14 offerfund, der alle på eet nær bestod af lerkar (fig. 2, 1–14). Fire af disse (nr. 3, 4, 8 og 11) var dækket med en omvendt skål eller tallerken, der sluttede helt tæt til det underliggende kar (fig. 3), medens fire andre var dækket af et stort, groft skår fra et forrådskar (nr. 2, 6, 13 og 14). Karret nr. 8 var dækket både af et groft skår samt halvdelen af en flad skål. Måske har de kar, der nu tilsyneladende var udækkede, oprindelig været dækket med et låg af andet materiale, eksempelvis en drejet træ tallerken, da aftryk af en sådan fandtes oven over kar nr. 5, bevaret som aftryk i det gipslag, den yderligere har været dækket med (fig. 5). Som låg har man anvendt både ituslåede kar som ved nr. 8 og kar, der på grund af for stærk brænding har været uegnet til brug (fig. 4). Under et af dæklågene, en skål (nr. 7) fandtes kun en grube i jorden, men uden påviseligt indhold.

Ikke mindre end syv af lerkarrene indholdt et skelet af en sammenrullet slange, hvoraf nogle har været ganske små, medens andre har været omkring 1,5 m lange (fig. 4–5). Yderligere tre lerkar rummede nogle få hvirvler af krybdyr, muligvis slanger, men en zoologisk undersøgelse har endnu ikke fundet sted. I en lille grube, der var dækket af et tykvægget lerkarskår, fandtes en perlekæde, bestående af 26 perler af agat, amethyst, blåt glas og porcelæn²) samt en lille sølvring. Lignende perler, en enkelt eller et par sammen, fandtes endvidere i fem af lerkarrene (nr. 10–14), medens tre lerkar med godt bevarede slangeskeletter (nr. 3–5) endnu ikke er færdigundersøgt og derfor godt kan indeholde perler, der i flere af de ovennævnte tilfælde er ganske små.

Hovedkarakteren af disse fund tegner sig ganske klart: En kombination af perler og slanger nedlagt i lerkar eller gruber omkring et »alter«, hvilket kunne tyde på, at de har været nedsat som offer til en slangegudinde. At fundene som

helhed er nogenlunde samtidige fremgår af fundomstændighederne. I broklaget ved siden af alteret og under den væltede mur fandtes et ovalt lerkar med et sammenbøjet kvindeskelet, der som gravgods havde en lille lervase (fig. 2 B og 7), og i samme lag fandtes endvidere fire barnebegravelser nedsat i ens lerkar (fig. 8). Disse grave tilhører midten af 1. årtusinde f. Kr., hvorfor slangeofrene må være ældre. På grund af manglende sammenligningsmateriale fra det omliggende område og de endnu ubearbejdede fund fra profilerne i selve byhøjen, til hvis datering et stort materiale af trækul allerede haves, kan en nøje tids-

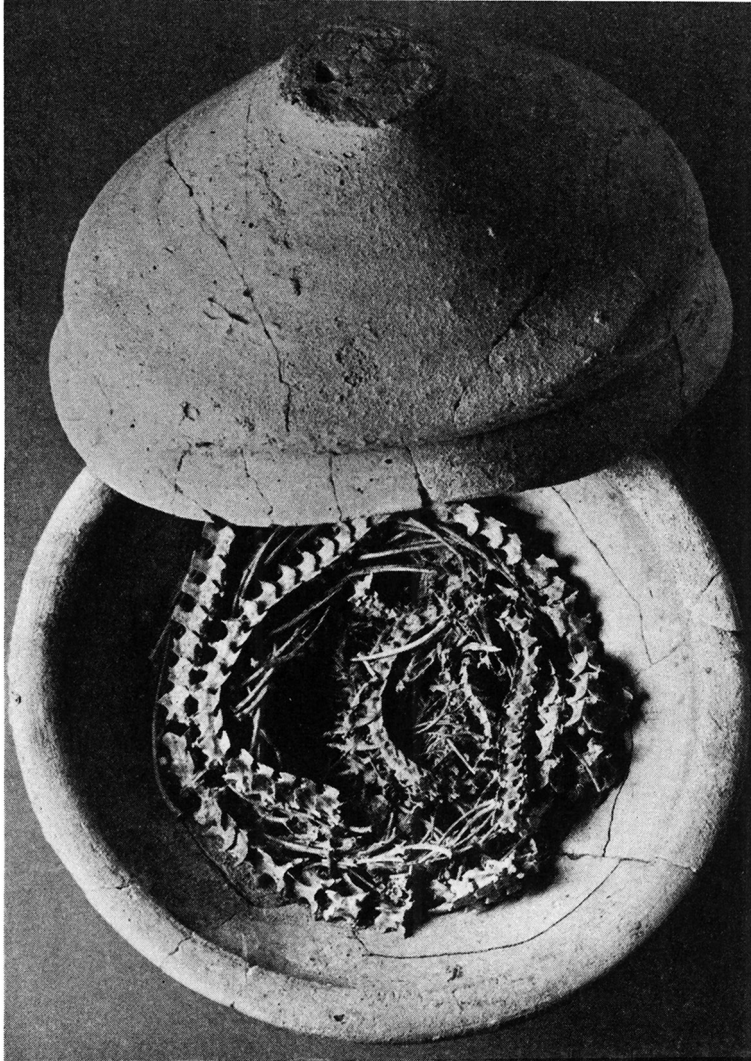


Fig. 4. Offerkar nr. 4 med låg og slangeskelet.
Sacrificial vessel no. 4, with lid and snake skeleton.

fæstelse af slangeofrene endnu ikke foretages, men de må i almindelighed henføres til midten af 2. årtusinde f. Kr.

Hvem den dengang herskende slangegudinde var, kan endnu ikke bestemmes, men at en sådan gudinde har været dyrket for frugtbarhed over vidtstrakte områder netop i samme tidsrum og fremover til vore dage er utvivlsomt³). En slangegudinde samtidig med fundene fra Qala'a kendes eksempelvis fra Kreta⁴) og af noget yngre dato fra Danmarks yngre bronzealder. Begge har de vel samme rod i Østens lande. I en række religioner optræder slangen senere som de dødes sjæle og kendes som sådan både hos grækere og romere⁵) og i vore dage hos primitive folkeslag⁶). Som følge af Bahrains oldtidskulturs forbindelse med Induskulturen vil disse slangeofre være af betydning for bestemmelsen af de gamle lag i hinduismen, der ligger forud for Rig-Veda og det indoeuropæiske indslag i Indiens religioner.

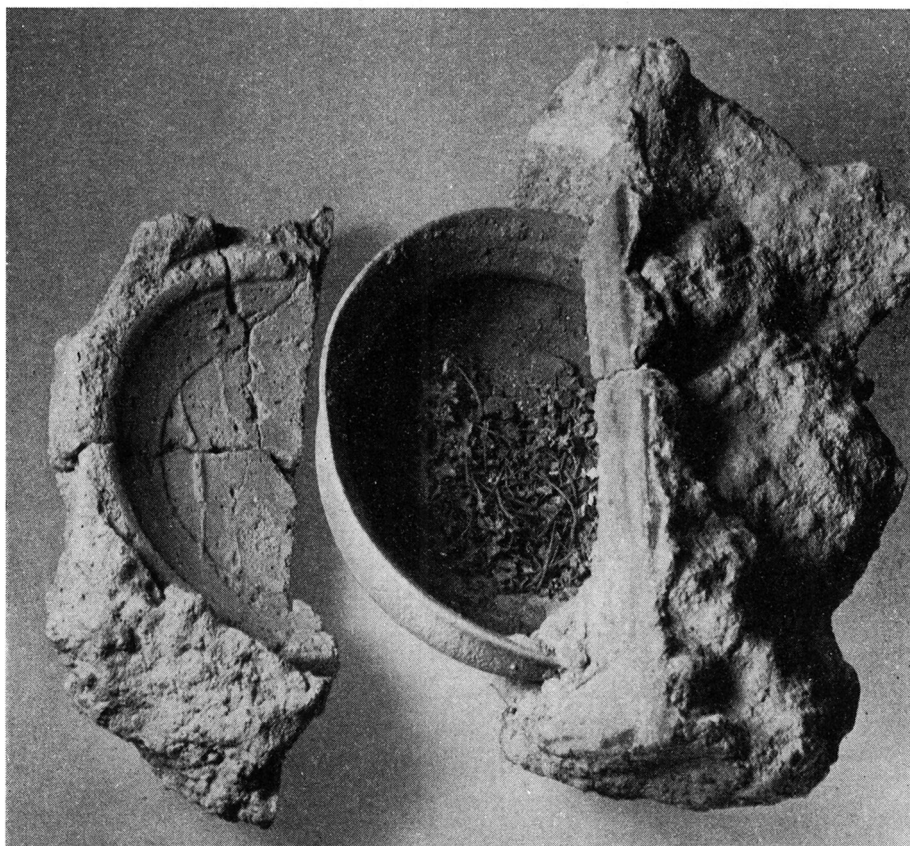


Fig. 5. Offerkar nr. 5 med slangeskelet og aftryk af træ tallerken i dækkende gipslag.
Sacrificial vessel no. 5, with snake skeleton and impression of wooden platter in the gypsum layer which covered it.

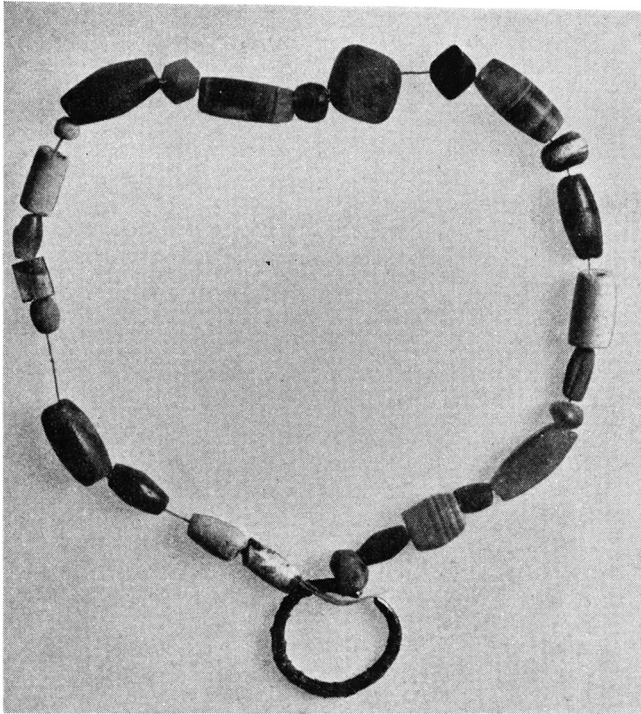


Fig. 6. Perlekæde og sølvring, fund nr. 9.
Necklace of beads and silver ring, discovery no. 9.

Foruden udgravningen i den store bygning blev undersøgelser på Qala'a foretaget omkring bymuren i nord og i det indre af det portugisiske fort, hvorom særlig beretning forefindes s. 128. I Bahraíns ørkenområder fortsattes eftersøgningen af flintpladser, og flere nye fra palæolitisk og neolitisk tid fandtes ved den gamle kystlinie nord for Mattala, hvor ekspeditionen tidligere har gjort mange lignende fund⁸⁾. Her undersøgtes den tidligere fundne køkkenmødding ved Ras al Jazayir, der i oldtiden har været en ø beliggende en 4–5 km fra den kystlinie, hvor stenalderens flintpladser hovedsagelig findes. Mindre prøvegravninger blev i samme område foretaget i sheik Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalifahs have nord for Zallaq, hvor der ved planering var fremdraget to slanke stensøjler, sandsynligvis phallossymboler, der i lignende form er fundet som smykke af lapis lazuli imellem offergaverne i det øverste af Barbartemplerne. Disse phallosbilleder, der er afhugget fornedet, er henholdsvis 130 og 73 cm høje og meget smukt tilhugget i Jida-kalksten (fig. 9). Skafterne er fint afrundede, på midten 18 cm i tværmål, tiltagende jævnt i tykkelse mod hovedet, der på det største og bedst bevarede stykke er let ovalt, 27×30 cm, og med hvælvet overside. Ved prøveundersøgelsen fremkom på deres fundsted riflet keramik af samme type som fra Barbar⁹⁾, hvorfor disse to stykker sandsynligvis må henføres til 3. århundrede f. Kr.

Ved oldtidstemplerne nær Barbar fortsattes undersøgelserne under hele udgravningskampagnen, særlig på den sydlige og vestlige side, hvor nye interessante



Fig. 7. Kvindegrav i lerkiste.
Woman's grave, in earthenware coffin.

anlæg fremkom. Her afdækkedes bl. a. i sydvesthjørnet en brønd med forskellige trappeanlæg (fig. 10), der har været i brug fra det første tempels tid, men senere gentagne gange har været ombygget og oprenset, sidst i islamisk tid, hvorfra et stort keramisk materiale stammer (fig. 11). En nord-sydgående profilgrøft førtes gennem de indre tempelanlæg og helt til bunds. I denne gjordes flere interessante fund, bl. a. to mærkværdige stykker af kobber, som var nedlagt i lerfundamenterne, der hører til det mellemste tempel (fig. 12). Det ene af disse har form som et halvmåneformet økseblad med skaftrør og bringer således en type fra Det mellemste Østen i erindring, der kendes fra mange fund fra 3. årtusinde og senere, uden at den dog på nogen måde ligner disse i enkeltheder (fig. 12 a)¹⁰). Stykket er 18,5 cm langt og 5,5 cm bredt på midten. Det er lavet af en kobberplade, der i den ene side er bukket sammen til et c. 1,7 cm tykt skaftrør, men dette er meget uregelmæssigt formet, fastbanket i den

øverste ende, hvor det følger æggens forløb, og uden hul i den nederste ende, hvor skaftet skulle indsættes. Denne lukning fornedden skyldes imidlertid sandsynligvis, at stykket har været på bål, inden det nedlagdes, idet overfladen bærer spor af ild og har påsiddende, smeltede metalstykker på siderne. At stykket dog ikke har været bestemt til brug, men som votivgave, hvilket vel også forklarer dets særlige form, viser endvidere den omstændighed, at en æg ikke er udslebet eller udhamret, men at ægkanten er ujævn og afrundet, et par millimeter tyk. Det spyd- eller dolklignende stykke (fig. 12 b), der var nedlagt sammen med øksen, bærer samme ejendommelige træk som denne. Også det er lavet af en kobberplade, som i den ene ende er sammenbukket til et skaftrør, der er uden hul. Det bærer ligeledes spor af ild, og æggen er uden særlig tildannelse, men dog noget tyndere udhamret end øksebladets, c. 1 mm tyk. Begge stykker er derfor efter al sandsynlighed fremstillet med nedlægning i tempelfundamentet for øje, som votivgaver.

Dansk Arkæologisk Bahrain-Ekspeditions fjerde kampagne påbegyndtes den 16. januar 1957 og fortsattes til den 9. april 1957. Med undertegnede som leder deltog museumsinspektørerne T. G. Bibby, M. A., og mag art. Poul Kjærum, docenten mag. art. Mogens Krustrup og sekretær, mag. art. et cand. jur. Viggo



Fig. 8. Barnegrav i lerkar.
Child's grave in earthenware bowl.



Fig. 9. Phallossymboler af kalksten fra Zallaq.
Limestone phallos symbols from Zallaq.

Nielsen, assistenterne cand. mag. Hellmuth Andersen, Peder Mortensen og Bjørn Stürup, samt arkitekten K. R. de Fine Licht og konservator Frode Wisti. For egen regning var endvidere maleren Karl Bovin tilsluttet ekspeditionen, hvis gennemførelse sikredes ved tilskud fra Bahraíns regering, olieselskabet BAPCO og Carlsbergfondet.

Som vanligt mødte vort arbejde den største interesse fra Bahraíns regent, Hans Højhed Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, regeringens rådgiver Sir Charles Belgrave og olieselskabet BAPCOs leder C. R. Barkhurst. For materiel hjælp takker vi direktøren for offentlige arbejder i Bahrain, M. Lees og for gentagen assistance lederen af P. C. L. i Manama, L. P. D. E. M. Brown-Greaves. De højeste engelske myndigheder, ambassadøren Sir Bernard Burrows og konsul C. A. Gault, støttede os ofte inden for deres særlige områder og fulgte ivrigt udgravningerne.

Et festligt punktum blev en udstilling af de mange fund i undervisningsministeriets bygning, åbnet af Hans Højhed Sheikh Sulman i spidsen for et farverigt følge af Bahraíns fornemste sheiker. Både i denne anledning og ved fremkomsten af særlige fund udsendte Bahraíns radio reportager, tilrettelagt af ekspeditionens mangeårige ven, direktøren for radioen, James Belgrave og hans førstemand, Ibrahim Kanoo. Ved udstillingens tilrettelægning var undervisningsdirektøren Ahmed al-Umran og Yusuf Sharawi en afgørende støtte, medens le-

deren af BAPCOs kulturelle afdeling, Copp Collins og cheffotografen Ron Startup hjalp os med billedmateriale. Den store tilstrømning til udstillingen af vore mange venner og talrige andre af øens indbyggere var for os et synligt vidnesbyrd om den almene interesse vort arbejde har vundet på Bahrain.

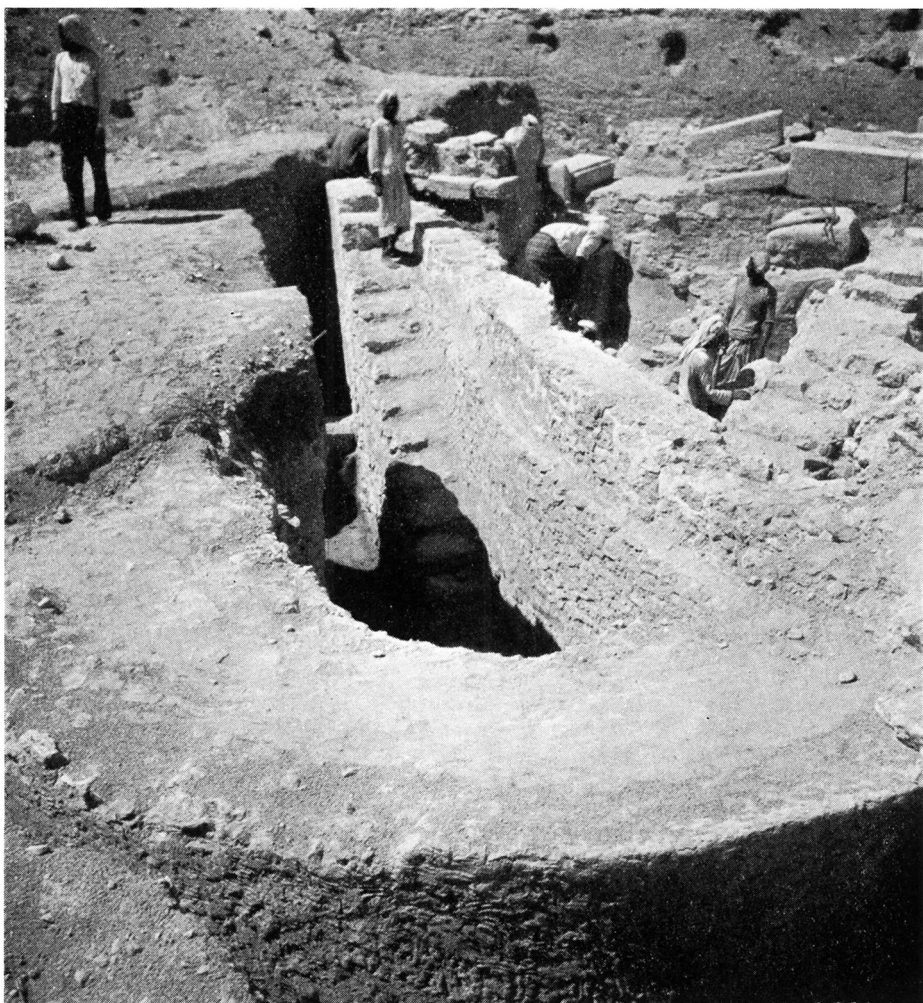


Fig. 10. Brønd fra templerne i Barbar.
Well, belonging to the temples at Barbar.

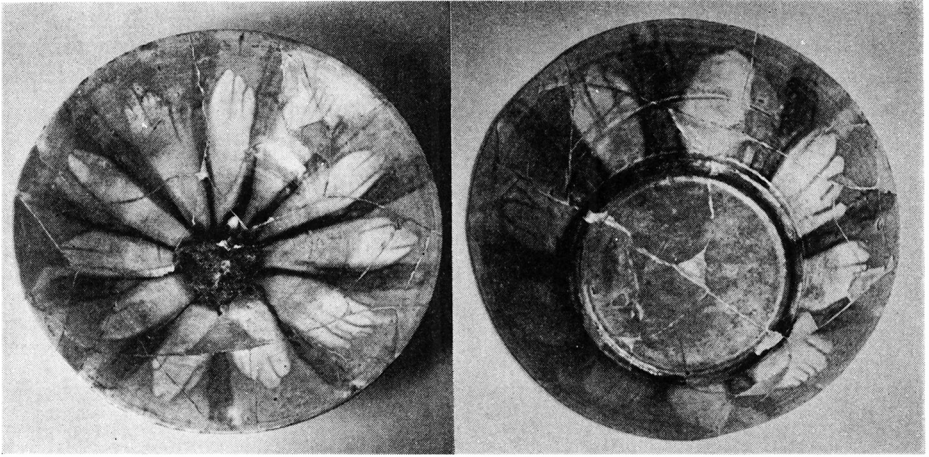


Fig. 11. Glaseret skål fra brønden ved Barbar-templerne.
Glazed bowl from the well at the Barbar temples.



Fig. 12. Økseblad (a) og dolk (b) af kobber fra tempel II i Barbar. C. $\frac{1}{3}$.
Axe-blade (a) and dagger (b) of copper from temple II at Barbar. Appr. 1 : 3.

Snake Sacrifices in Bahrain's Ancient Capital.

The Danish Archeological Bahrain Expedition's Fourth Campaign of Excavation.

The excavation of the prehistoric capital at Qala'at al-Bahrain continues to produce new and unexpected discoveries. The latest consists of snake sacrifices within the large building which was discovered by the Danish Archeological Bahrain Expedition during its first campaign in the spring of 1954 and in which further excavations have taken place in each subsequent year. Since its erection some time in the latter half of the Third Millennium BC this building was used for a variety of purposes during more than fifteen hundred years and was repeatedly altered and adapted¹). In early Islamic times one of its main walls collapsed, and after that time it was only used as a foundation for various dwelling houses, until the Portuguese about 400 years ago constructed their fort on the ancient mound covering the prehistoric city.

In the eastern side of the building, underneath the collapsed wall, a foundation consisting of two massive limestone blocks on a plinth was uncovered in the spring of 1957. It was square in plan, measuring 95 × 95 cms., and was 60 cms. high, while the plinth, consisting of stone and plaster, was a little over 20 cms. high and projected 20-25 cms. on three sides, the fourth side having been cut away at some later period (figs. 1-2). This foundation had undoubtedly originally been the lower part of a square column bearing the roof of the building, but it had perhaps later been used secondarily as an altar. For to the south and west of the "altar", and extending right up to its foot, 14 sacrificial deposits were found, all except one consisting of pottery vessels (fig. 2, 1-14), laid down in pits in a floor layer 30 cms. in thickness. Four of these vessels (nos. 3, 4, 8, and 11) were covered by a downturned bowl or saucer fitting closely to the vessel beneath (fig. 3), while four others were covered by a large sherd of coarse ware from a storage vessel (nos. 2, 6, 13, and 14). Vessel no. 8 was covered both by a thick sherd and by half of a shallow bowl. It is possible that the vessels which were now apparently uncovered had originally been covered by a lid of other material, for example a turned wooden platter, as the impress of such a platter was found above vessel no. 5, preserved as an impression in the layer of plaster with which it had in addition been covered (fig. 5). As lids were used both broken vessels as in the case of no. 8 and vessels which were unservicable on account of too fierce firing (fig. 4). Under one of the lids, a bowl (no. 7), nothing was found except a hole in the ground, without any apparent contents.

No less than seven of the vessels contained the coiled skeleton of a snake, some of them quite small while others have had a length of about 1.5 meters (figs. 4-5). Three more of the vessels contained some few vertebrae of reptiles, perhaps of snakes, but the zoological investigation is not yet complete. One small pit, covered by a thick potsherd, contained a necklace consisting of 26 beads of agate, amethyst, blue glass and porcelain²), as well as a little silver ring. Similar beads, singly or in pairs, were moreover found in five of the vessels (nos. 10-14), while three vessels with particularly well-preserved snake skeletons (nos. 3-5) have still not been completely investigated and may therefore well contain beads, which in some cases are quite small.

The main characteristics of these discoveries form a clear pattern: a combination of beads and snakes, deposited in vessels or in pits around an "altar". This would suggest that they were deposited as sacrifices to a snake goddess. The circumstances in which they were found make it clear that the whole discovery is approximately contemporary. In the layer of building debris besides the altar and beneath the collapsed wall an oval earthenware coffin was found containing a contracted skeleton of a woman, with funerary furnishings consisting of a little pottery vase (figs. 2 B and 7), while in the same layer were also found four child burials in identical pottery bowls (fig. 8). These graves belong to the middle of the First Millennium BC, so that the snake sacrifices must be of earlier date. Shortage of comparative material from the surrounding area, and the still incompletely systematised discoveries from the sections in the tell (for the dating of which a large number of specimens of carbon has already been obtained), prevents a close dating of the snake sacrifices at this point, but they must in general be attributed to the middle of the Second Millennium BC.

Which snake goddess it was that at this period was worshipped here cannot yet be determined, but there is no doubt that just such a goddess of fertility was in fact worshipped over considerable areas at just this period, and thereafter up to our own day³). In Crete, for example, a snake goddess is known contemporary with the discoveries from Qala'a⁴), and at a somewhat later date in Danmark in the Late Bronze Age. Both have probably a common origin in the East. In a number of religions the snake appears later as the soul of the dead, and is known as such among the Greeks and Romans⁵), and in our own day among primitive peoples⁶). As a consequence of the connections between the prehistoric cultures of Bahrain and the Indus civilization these snake sacrifices will be of importance in identifying the older layers in Hinduism, which precede the Rig-Veda and the Indo-European contribution to the religions of India.

In addition to the excavation within this large building investigations were also carried out within the Portuguese Fort and around the city wall to the north. A separate report on this excavation will be found p. 152. In the desert areas of Bahrain the investigation of flint sites continued, and several new sites of Palæolithic and Neolithic date were discovered by the old beach level north of Mattala where the expedition has previously made many similar discoveries⁸). Here the kitchen-midden previously found at Ras al-Jazayir was investigated, a site which in prehistoric times was an island lying 4-5 kms. from the coastline along which the prehistoric flint sites in the main lie. In the same area smaller trial excavations were carried out in a garden north of Zellaq belonging to Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalifah. In the course of ground-levelling there two slender stone columns had been found, probably phallos symbols, similar in shape to the ornaments of lapis lazuli found among the offerings in the upper temple at Barbar. These phallic sculptures, which are broken off at the base, are 130 and 73 cms. tall respectively and very well carved in Jida limestone (fig. 9). The shafts are finely rounded, 18 cms. in diameter at the half-way mark and thereafter increasing evenly in diameter towards the head, which in the case of the larger and better preserved of the specimens is slightly oval, 27 x 30 cms. and possesses a domed top. The trial excavation produced at their place of discovery ridged pottery of the same type as that from Barbar⁹), making it probable that these two sculptures should be attributed to the Third Millennium BC.

At the site of the ancient temples near Barbar excavations were carried on throughout the campaign, in particular on the southern and western sides, where new and interesting sections of the complex came to light. Among them was a well, in the southwestern corner, together with several systems of staircases (fig. 10), which were in use from the time of the first temple but which had later been repeatedly altered and cleaned out; the last period of use of the well, which produced a large amount of pottery (fig. 11), was Islamic. A section trench in a north-south direction was driven through the innermost portion of the temple complex and down to undisturbed levels. In this trench several interesting discoveries were made, including two remarkable copper objects, which had been deposited in the clay foundations belonging to the middle temple (fig. 12). One of these had the shape of a crescent-shaped axehead with socket, and is thus reminiscent of a type well-known in the Middle East from many discoveries dating to the Third Millennium and later, without, however, resembling any of these in detail (fig. 12a)¹⁰). The specimen is 18.5 cms. long and 5.5 cms. wide at the centre. It is made of a sheet of copper which at one side is folded together to form a socket about 1.7 cms. thick. This socket, however, is very irregularly shaped, hammered flat at the upper end, where it follows the curve of the blade, and without a hole at the lower end where the helve would normally be inserted. This absence of an opening at the lower end, however, is probably due to the fact that the axe had been subjected to fire before being deposited, as the surface bears signs of contact with heat and melted fragments of metal adhere to its edges. It is, however, clear that this object was never designed for use but rather as a votive offering, a fact which probably also explains its unusual shape; for no cutting edge has ever been ground or forged to the axe, and the outer edge of the blade is uneven, rounded and about 2 mms. thick. The other object deposited with the axe (fig. 12b), which resembles a spearhead or a dagger, has the same remarkable characteristics as the first specimen. It too is made of a copper sheet, folded over at one end to form a socket without a hole.

It bears similar signs of fire, and the blade, too, shows no great signs of fashioning, though it is hammered out to a thickness of about 1 mm., somewhat thinner than the axe blade. Both objects were therefore in all probability manufactured specially in order to be deposited as votive offerings in the temple foundation.

The fourth campaign of the Danish Archeological Bahrain Expedition commenced on 16th January 1957 and continued until 9th April 1957. It was led by the undersigned, the remaining participants being T. G. Bibby, M. A., P. Kjærum, M. A., M. Krustrup, M. A., V. Nielsen, M. A. et cand. jur., Hellmuth Andersen, M. A., P. Mortensen and B. Stürup, together with K. R. de Fine Licht, architect, and F. Wisti, conservator. In addition an artist, Karl Bovin joined the expedition at his own expense. The expedition was carried out with grants from the Government of Bahrain, from the Bahrain Petroleum Company and from the Carlsberg Foundation.

As usual our work was followed with the closest interest by the Ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, the Adviser to the Government, Sir Charles Belgrave, and the Resident Vice President of the Bahrain Petroleum Company, C. R. Barkhurst. We owe a debt of gratitude for material help to the director of the Public Works Department of Bahrain, M. Lees, and for assistance on many occasions to the commercial superintendent of Petroleum Concessions Limited in Manama, L. P. D. E. M. Brown-Greaves. The principal British authorities, the Political Resident, Sir Bernard Burrows, and the Political Agent, C. A. Gault, often helped us within their particular spheres and followed our excavations with great interest.

An enjoyable interlude was provided by an exhibition of many of the objects discovered, held in the Directorate of Education and opened by His Highness Sheikh Sulman accompanied by a colourful escort of the principal sheikhs of Bahrain. Both on that occasion and in connection with discoveries of particular importance Bahrain Radio broadcast reports produced by an old friend of the expedition, the director of public relations and broadcasting, James Belgrave, and by his assistant, Ibrahim Kanoo. During the preparation of the exhibition the director of education, Ahmed al-Umran, and the assistant director, Yusuf Sharawi, gave indispensable assistance, while the manager of BAPCO's public relations department, Copp Collins, and his chief photographer, Ron Startup, supplied us with pictorial material. The very large attendance at the exhibition of our many friends and of several thousands of the inhabitants of the island gave us a clear indication of the widespread interest which our work has aroused in Bahrain.

P. V. Glob.

NOTER

- ¹⁾ KUML 1954 s. 164 og 1956 s. 164. ²⁾ For bestemmelser af perlerne takker jeg kgl. hofjuvelér Hingelberg, Århus. ³⁾ J. G. Frazer: *The Golden Bough*, 3. udg. 1955, B. VIII s. 316, B. V s. 85-86. ⁴⁾ R. M. Burrow: *The Discoveries in Crete*, London 1907, s. 137. ⁵⁾ Note 3, B. V s. 86. ⁶⁾ Note 3, B. VIII s. 288. ⁷⁾ AARBØGER 1927 s. 242. ⁸⁾ KUML 1954 s. 106. ⁹⁾ KUML 1955 s. 188 fig. 12. ¹⁰⁾ Eksempelvis Claude F. A. Schaeffer: *Stratigraphie Comparée* (London 1948) pl. XIII 37 og fig. 174, 10 og 16.