

# KUML



ÅRBOG FOR JYSK ARKÆOLOGISK SELSKAB  
1957

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1957

*With Summaries in English*  
*Mit deutschen Zusammenfassungen*

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UNIVERSITETSFORLAGET I AARHUS

1958

*Forside:*

Restaurering af jættestue i Tustrup  
Restoration of passage grave at Tustrup

*Redaktion:*

P. V. GLOB

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Fig. 1. Palads i oasen Umm es-Salal.  
Palace in the oasis of Umm es-Salal.

## OLDTIDSFUND I QATAR

Af P. V. GLOB

Da det under en kortvarig rekognoscering i 1956 indenfor sheikhdømmet Qatars område i Den persiske Golf lykkedes at finde et par flintpladser og en gruppe oldtidshøje<sup>1</sup>), blev en mere omfattende undersøgelse planlagt for det følgende år efter indhentet tilladelse fra Qatars regent, Hans Højhed Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani. Denne undersøgelse fandt sted i dagene 1.-30. marts 1957 og blev bekostet af Qatars regering med tilskud fra Qatar Petroleum Company. Heri deltog, med undertegnede som leder, museumsinspektør T. G. Bibby, arki-

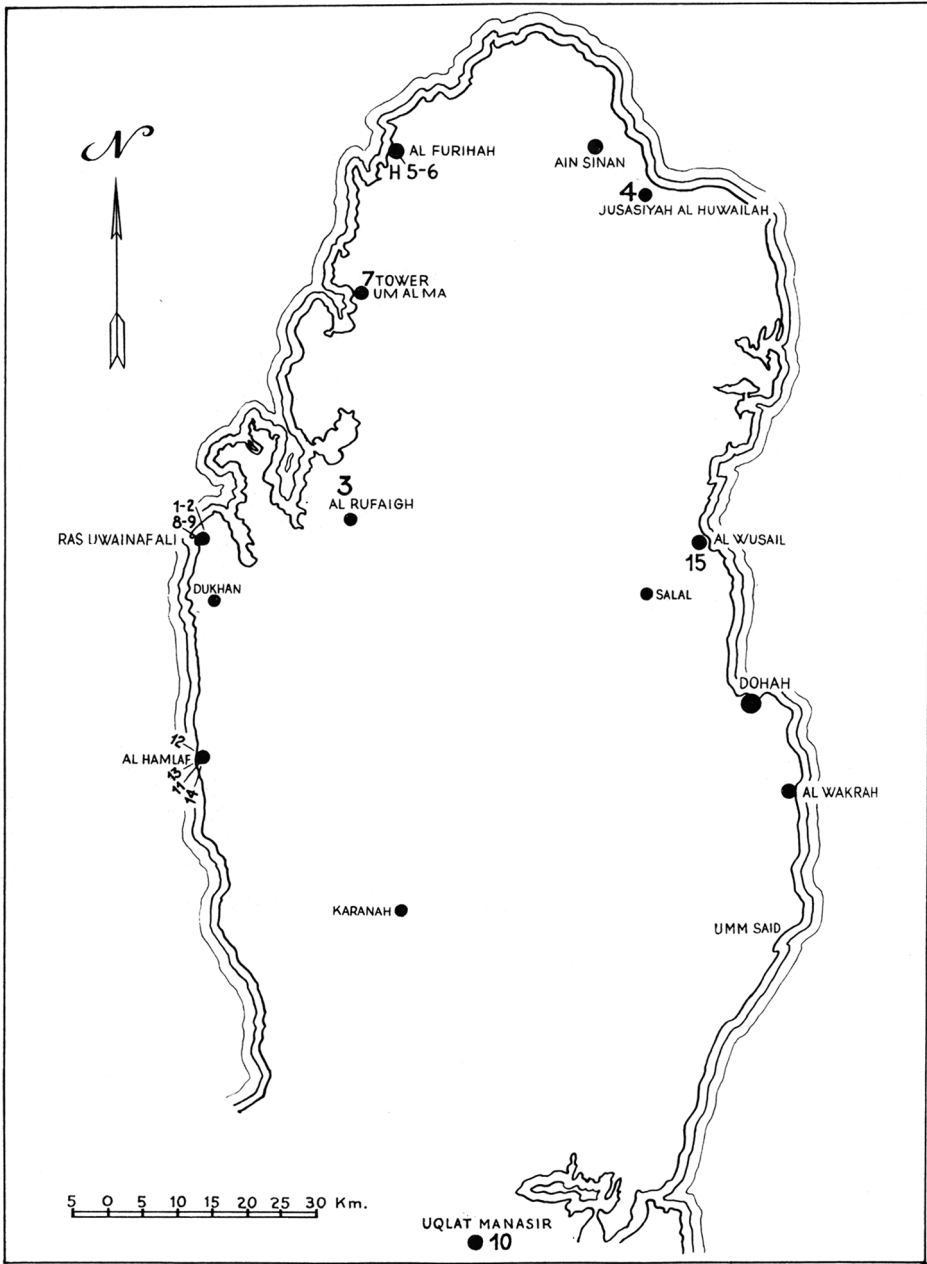
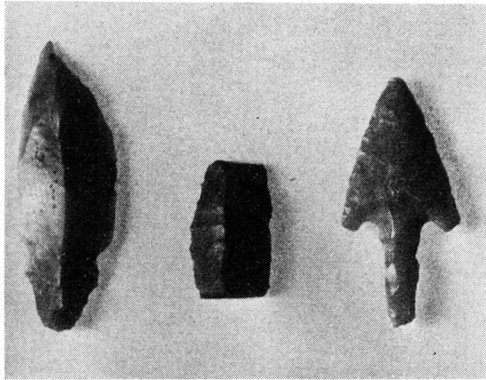


Fig. 2. Kort over Qatar med fundpladserne indtegnet (nr. 1-15).  
 Map of Qatar, with the discovery sites marked (nos. 1-15).



a.                      b.                      c.

Fig. 3. Flintsager fra Qatar: a-b, pilespids og tilhugget flintstykke fra Al-Wusail (nr. 15); c, pilespids fra Al-Hamlah.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Flint artifacts from Qatar: a-b, arrowhead and worked flint from Al-Wusail (no. 15); c, arrowhead from Al-Hamlah. 1 : 1.

tekt K. R. de Fine Licht, museumsinspektør P. Kjærum, docent M. Krustrup, magister Viggo Nielsen og assistent Bjørn Stürup.

Målet for »Dansk Arkæologisk Qatar-Ekspedition« var en berejsning af de c. 10.000 km<sup>2</sup>, som sheikhdømmet omfatter, for at finde så mange forhistoriske lokaliteter som muligt og planlægge udgravninger på steder, der viste sig egnede. I første omgang berejstes kystområderne fra Dohah til halvøens nordspids og derfra langs vestkysten til Dukhan, hvorefter den sydlige del af området indtil Uqlat Manasir blev gennemkørt. Derefter foretoges udgravning af en enkelt af de stenrøser, som blev opdaget under den nordlige rekognoscering ved Umm al Ma.

Ialt blev der gjort opdagelser af interesse på 11 steder, hovedsagelig i nærheden af kysten, samt foretaget opsamlinger på de i 1956 fundne flintpladser på vestkysten ved Ras Uwainat Ali, hvor yderligere to nye flintpladser fandtes (fig. 2). Der kendes således nu 11 fundpladser med tilhugget oldtidsflint fra Qatar, hvor der tidligere ikke var gjort et eneste oldtidsfund. De fleste af fundene er dog endnu så sparsomme, at en nærmere bestemmelse af dem ikke lader sig foretage. Dette gælder således flintopsamlinger ved Jebel Jusasiyah's sydende og Uqlat Manasir, samt flere pladser ved Al Hamlah. Fra sidstnævnte sted er en pilespids af neolitisk type (fig. 3 c), medens flinten på et par af pladserne ved Ras Uwainat Ali har samme mellempalæolitiske karakter som fundene langs Bahrains sydvestkyst<sup>2</sup>). På en af pladserne her dominerede ganske små spåner og afslag, der viser mesolitisk bosættelse.

På den modsatte side af Qatar ved Al Wusail fandtes nær kysten ved den sydvestlige side af et enligt liggende klippeparti, der krones af ruiner af et fæstningsanlæg fra nyere tid, en større mesolitisk boplads. På overfladen fandtes et stort antal flækker og spåner, samt enkelte tildannede redskaber. Jordlaget er omkring en snes cm tykt og rummer meget bearbejdet flint, så en nøjere undersøgelse her vil utvivlsomt give gode resultater. Af redskaber fandtes kun en pilespids lavet af en lille flække, der er gjort spids ved tilhugning i den ene side af den forreste ende og med en kort skafttunge i slagbuleenden oven for hvilken der på begge sider er et lille indhug til fastbinding (fig. 3 a), samt et brud-

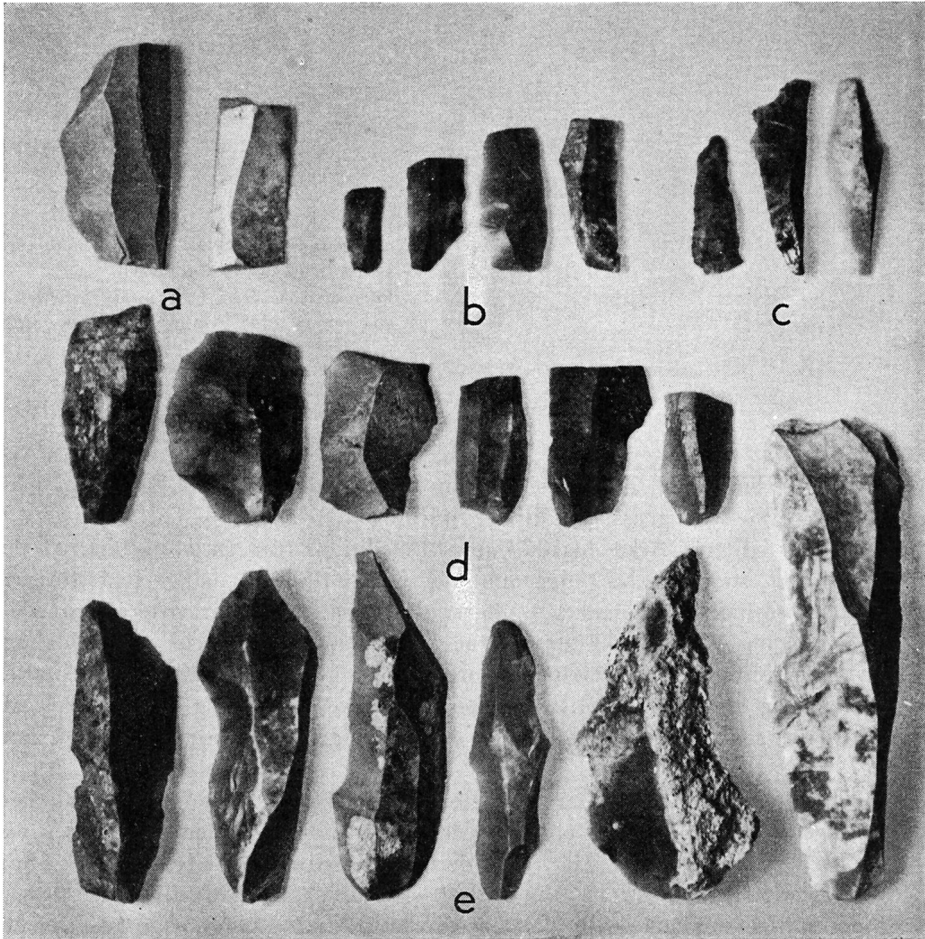


Fig. 4. Flintflækker og spåner fra Al-Wusail (nr. 15). C.  $\frac{3}{4}$ .  
 Flint blades and flakes from Al-Wusail (no. 15). Appr. 3 : 4.

stykke af en lille og tyk flække, der er afbrudt i begge ender og har den ene side omdannet til skrabeæg ved retouche (fig. 3 b). Den øvrige del af fundet bestod af dårlige flækker og spåner (fig. 4), samt en stor del flintaffald fra tilhugning af redskaber. Flækkerne er uregelmæssige og dårlige, 5–6 cm lange, og kun en enkelt er større, 8,5 cm lang (fig. 4 e). Et par af dem er afhuggede i begge ender (fig. 4 a), medens nogle mikroflækker (fig. 4 b) og spåner (fig. 4 d) er afhugget i enden modsat slagbulen. Tre små stykker må betegnes som mikroflækker (fig. 4 c).

På højsletten en lille kilometer øst for Umm al Ma fandtes en gravplads bestående af et halvt hundrede røser, indtil 10 m i tværmål og 1 m høje. Hul i toppen af flere af dem viste, at de tidligere har været udsat for plyndring, og ved et af hullerne fandtes skår af en hårdtbrændt rød keramik, samt et randskår



af en flad alabasterskål. Den knappe tid tillod kun undersøgelse af en enkelt af dem, der havde en diameter på 6 m og var 0,6 m høj. Den viste sig at indeholde en stenkiste med tre dæksten omgivet af mindre stenblokke (fig. 5). Kisten, der var orienteret N-S og indskåret i klippeundergrunden, var 1,9 m lang og indeholdt et skelet med hovedet i nordenden og hvilende på højre side med bøjede arme og ben. Da den ikke indeholdt gravgods af nogen art og de ved de andre røser fundne skår er lidet karakteristiske, kan kun en fortsat undersøgelse give en tidsbestemmelse af denne højgravplads. Lignende røser kendes fra Bahraíns sydligste højgrupper på kystskrænterne inden for Wasmiya og Mattala og hører der sandsynligvis til de yngste fra Bahraíns kobberalder.

Et klippeparti nordvestligt på Qatar, syd for Al Furaihah, hvor der tidligere har været brudt sten til bygningerne i ruinbyen Al Zubara, havde talrige helle-



Fig. 5. Uåbnet stenkiste i røse ved Umm al-Ma.  
Unopened stone cist in cairn at Umm al-Ma.



Fig. 6. Stenkisten fig. 5 efter åbningen.  
Stone cist from fig. 5 after opening.

ristninger, utvivlsomt af meget forskellig alder. Klippen, der ligger frit i det kuperede terræn, er c. 350 m i NV-SØ og c. 100 m bred og har på den østlige og nordøstlige side og den del af toppen, der endnu er bevaret, mange hundrede skålgruber indhugget, ofte anbragt parvis i rækker (fig. 7) eller samlet om en større grube i rosetter (fig. 8). Den øverste top, der er c. 3 m<sup>2</sup>, er fuldstændig dækket af gruber. Gruberne er fra 5–23 cm i tværmål og 2–10 cm dybe, almindeligvis 5 cm i tværmål og 1–3 cm dybe og svarer således i størrelse til de tilsvarende i Vest- og Nordeuropa. En enkelt grube er 50 cm i diameter og 26 cm dyb. Også flere ovaler findes, hvoraf den største måler 28×40 cm og er 16 cm dyb. Et enkelt sted er gruberne forbundet med 3 cm brede render.

Sammen med skålgruberne findes en halv snes fodspor, alle gengivende en nøgen menneskefod med alle tærne udhugget (fig. 9). De er fra 10–27 cm

lange og sammen med enkelte skålgruber utvivlsomt de senest indhuggede tegn. Flere af dem ses at være indhugget senere end stenbrydningen til Zubara og kan således godt være mindre end et par århundreder gamle. De er alle udført med den almindelige helleristningsteknik, prikflugning.

Et særligt tegn bestående af en bue, der i midten er opdelt af en streg, findes i fire eksemplarer (fig. 10). Buerne, der er fra 11–15 cm brede og 11–12 cm høje, stregen 10–18 cm lang, er prikflugget i c. 2 cm brede furer.

Alle disse tegn må utvivlsomt ses i sammenhæng med en ældgammel frugtbarhedskult, der på dette sted har holdt sig op mod vore dage. Skåltegnet, der i Barbar-templerne på Bahrain er fundet i lag dateret til midten af 3. årtusinde, gengiver således utvivlsomt kvindeligt køn, den grube, hvori linga-symbolet har været anbragt. En fundamentsten til en linga er således fundet nær alteranlæggene i den indre tempelgård i Barbar og her er gruben forbundet med en rende<sup>3)</sup>, som det så ofte ses på vesteuropæiske helleristninger af denne art<sup>4)</sup>. Måske er det oven for omtalte tegn af bue og streg (fig. 9) en særlig udformning af samme symbol.

Sydligst på dette klippeparti med helleristninger fandtes en flintplads af nyere dato, idet man her i stor udstrækning havde tilhugget flint som slagsten til de gammeldags flintbøsser.



Fig. 7. Skålgruber ordnet parvis i række på klippe syd for Al-Furaihah.  
Cup marks arranged in pairs in a row on the cliff south of Al-Furaihah.



Fig. 8. Skålgruber ordnet i rosetter på klippe syd for Al-Furaihah.  
Cup marks arranged in rosettes on the cliff south of Al-Furaihah.

Selv om fundene fra Qatar endnu er sparsomme, giver de dog glimt fra bosættelse gennem 50.000 år og et godt grundlag for videre arkæologiske undersøgelser. Når det har været muligt i løbet af det meget korte tidsrum at forsyne den lille del af det forhistoriske verdenskort, som Qatar omfatter, og som tidligere har været helt hvidt, med en række punkter, skyldes det imødekommenhed fra mange sider. Som regeringens førstemand under Hans Højhed Sheikh Ali's fraværelse fulgte Hans Excellence Sheikh Ahmed vort arbejde med stor interesse, ligesom regeringens rådgiver G. M. Hancock stadig var os til megen støtte. Under opholdet i Dohah var vi gæstfrit indkvarteret hos Shell, hvor lederen R. P. R. McGlashan gav os husly og A. F. Godfrey var vor hyggelige vært, medens vore rejser i ørkenen gennemførtes med stor hjælp fra politichefen, commander R. Cochrane og hans stab: Briggs, Smith og Tarling.

For forskellig hjælp er vi endvidere P. R. A. Ensor og A. Livingstone, Q. P. C. og W. Garden, H. R. M.s politiske agent stor tak skyldig. En særlig tak retter vi til Sheikh Jasem bin Mohammed bin Jasem Al-Thani for venskab og gæstfrihed i hans ørkenlejre.



### *Prehistoric Discoveries in Qatar.*

Consequent upon the discovery, during a short reconnaissance in 1956, of two flint sites and a group of prehistoric burial-mounds within the sheikhdom of Qatar in the Persian Gulf<sup>1</sup>), a more comprehensive investigation was planned for the following year, with the approval of the Ruler of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Ali bin Abdulla Al-Thani. This investigation took place during the period 1st-30th March 1957, and was financed by the Government of Qatar, with a contribution from the Qatar Petroleum Company. The expedition was led by the undersigned, and the remaining members were T. G. Bibby, M. A.; P. Kjærum, M. A.; M. Krustup, M. A.; V. Nielsen, M. A.; K. R. de Fine Licht, architect, and B. Stürup.

The object of the Danish Archeological Qatar-Expedition was to survey the area of approximately 10,000 sq. kms. which the sheikhdom comprises, with a view to locating as many prehistoric sites as possible and to making plans for excavation of locations which appeared suitable. The first survey covered the coastal areas from Dohah to the northern extremity of the peninsula, and from there along the west coast to Dukhan. Subsequently the party traversed the southern portion of the area as far as Uqlat Manasir. Finally one of the stone burial-cairns discovered during the northern reconnaissance near Umm al-Ma was excavated.

Discoveries of interest were made at a total of 11 sites, mainly in the neighbourhood of the coast, while flints were also collected from the chipping-floors discovered in 1956 on the west coast near Ras Uwainat Ali, where two new flint sites were also discovered (fig. 2). Thus 11 sites producing worked flints of prehistoric date are now known in Qatar, an area in which no single prehistoric discovery had previously been made. The



Fig. 9. Fodspor i klippe syd for Al-Furaihah.  
Footprint in the cliff south of Al-Furaihah.



Fig. 10. Buetegn i klippe syd for Al-Furaihah.  
Arc-and-line pattern in the cliff south of Al-Furaihah.

majority of the sites have, however, as yet produced so few artifacts that it is impossible to attribute them to definite cultures and periods. This is the case for example with the flints collected near the south end of Jebel Jusasiyah and at Uqlat Manasir, as well as those from several sites near Al-Hamlah. From this last-named site came an arrowhead of neolithic type (fig. 3c), while the flint on two of the sites near Ras Uwainat Ali showed the same Middle Palæolithic characteristics as the discoveries along the southwest coast of Bahrain<sup>2</sup>). One of the sites in this area, however, was dominated by exceedingly small flakes and chippings, indications of a Mesolithic settlement.

On the opposite side of Qatar a larger Mesolithic settlement was discovered at Al-Wusail near the coast on the southwest side of an isolated rock outcrop, which is crowned by the ruins of a fortress of recent date. A large number of blades and flakes was discovered on the surface, as well as a small number of worked tools. The topsoil is here about 20 cms. deep and contains much worked flint, so that a more detailed investigation here will undoubtedly give good results. The only artifacts found were an arrowhead formed of a little blade, with a point formed by chipping one side of the front end and with a short tang at the end bearing the bulb of percussion, with, above this on both sides, a small notch for binding (fig. 3a); and a fragment of a little thick blade, broken off at both ends and with one side retouched to form a scraper edge (fig. 3b). The remainder of the objects found consisted of poor flakes and blades (fig. 4), together with a large amount of flint chippings derived from the flaking of artifacts. The blades are poor and irregular, 5-6 cms. long, with the exception of a single larger blade, measuring 8.5 cms. (fig. 4e). Two of these are broken off at both ends (fig. 4a), while some micro-blades (fig. 4b) and flakes (fig. 4d) are broken across at the end distant from the bulb of percussion. Three small specimens must be classified as micro-blades (fig. 4c).

On the raised plain somewhat under a kilometer east of Umm al-Ma a cemetery was discovered consisting of about fifty cairns, measuring up to 10 meters in diameter and 1 meter in height. Depressions in the top of several of them showed that they had been

subject to robbery at an earlier period, and besides one of these depressions were found sherds of a hard-fired red pottery, as well as a rim-herd of a shallow alabaster bowl. Shortage of time only permitted the investigation of a single cairn, measuring 6 meters in diameter and 0.6 meters in height. It proved to contain a stone cist with three roofing slabs surrounded by smaller boulders (fig. 5). The cist lay in a north-south direction and was cut down into bedrock. It was 1.9 meters long and contained a skeleton with its head in the northern end, resting on the right side with bent arms and legs. As this grave contained no funerary furnishings of any kind, and as the sherds found by the other cairns are not easily characterised, only a continued investigation can succeed in dating this field of burial mounds. Similar cairns are known from the southernmost of Bahrain's moundfields on the coastal slopes inland from Wasmiya and Mattala, and there probably belong to the latest period of Bahrain's Copper Age.

A rock outcrop in the northwest of Qatar, south of Al-Furaihah, where formerly stone had been quarried for building in the ruined city of Al-Zubara, contained numerous rock-carvings, undoubtedly of very varying date. The outcrop, which stands alone in the otherwise rolling terrain, measures about 350 meters from NE to SW and about 100 meters in the other direction. On its eastern and northeastern sides and on the part of the summit which still survives, many hundreds of cup-marks have been carved, often arranged in paired rows (fig. 7) or grouped in rosettes around a larger depression (fig. 8). The actual summit of the outcrop, measuring about 3 sq. m., is completely covered with cup-marks. The marks vary from 5-23 cms. in diameter and from 2-10 cms. in depth, being most commonly 5 cms. in diameter and 1-3 cms. in depth, and thus corresponding in size to the cup-marks of West and North Europe. One single depression is 50 cms. in diameter and 26 cms. deep. There are in addition several ovals, the largest of which measures 40 x 28 cms. and is 16 cms. deep. At one point the cup-marks are joined together by runnels 3 cms. wide.

In addition to the cup-marks there are about ten footprints, all representing a bare human foot with all the toes carved (fig. 9). They vary from 10-27 cms. in length and, together with certain of the cup-marks, undoubtedly belong to the more recent of the carvings. Several of them can be seen to have been carved subsequent to the stone-quarrying for Zubara and may therefore well be less than two hundred years old. They are all carried out in the usual rock-carving technique, that of hammering with a pointed implement.

One particular design, consisting of an arc bisected by a straight line, occurs in four places (fig. 10). The arcs are 11-15 cms. across and 11-12 cms. high, and the straight lines 10-18 cms. long; both are prick-carved in grooves of about 2 cms. in width.

All these designs must undoubtedly be viewed as evidence of an ancient fertility cult, which has survived in this area up to modern times. Cup-marks have been found in the Barbar temples on Bahrain in levels dated to the middle of the Third Millennium BC, and undoubtedly represent the female sexual characteristic, the depression in which the linga symbol was placed. A pedestal stone for a linga was, for example, found close to the altar complex in the inner temple courtyard at Barbar, and here the depression was connected to a runnel<sup>3</sup>), as is so often seen in West European rock-carvings of this type<sup>4</sup>). It is possible that the arc and line design described above (fig. 10) is a special form of the same symbol.

At the southern end of this outcrop bearing the rock carvings a flint site of more modern date was found, a place where flint has been struck in considerable quantities for use in old-fashioned flintlock guns.

Though the discoveries from Qatar are still of limited extent, they nevertheless give glimpses of settlement over a period of 50,000 years, and provide a good basis for continued archeological investigation. That it has been possible in so short a time to enter a series of sites on that portion of the map of the prehistoric world, formerly completely blank, which comprises Qatar, is due to assistance received from many sources. As Regent during the absence of His Highness Sheikh Ali, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed followed our work with great interest, while the Adviser to the Government, Mr. M. G. Hancock, rendered us once more great assistance. While in Dohah we were hospitably quartered with the Shell Company of Qatar, through the kindness of the General Manager, R. P. R. McGlashan, where A. F. Godfrey made us very comfortable. Our journeys in the desert were greatly

helped throughout by the active assistance of the Chief of Police, Commander R. Cochrane, and by his staff, Inspectors Briggs, Smith and Tarling.

We are also very grateful for help in a variety of forms received from the Qatar Petroleum Company through its General Manager, P. R. A. Ensor and through A. Livingstone, and from H. B. M. Political Agent in Qatar, W. Carden. A special word of thanks is due to Sheikh Jasem bin Mohamed bin Jasem Al-Thani for friendship and hospitality in his desert fortress.

*P. V. Glob.*

#### NOTER

- 1) KUML 1956 s. 199. 2) KUML 1954 s. 107 fig. 2 f-i og s. 108 fig. 3. 3) KUML 1955 s. 186 fig. 10.  
4) Seán P. Ó Ríordáin: Antiquities of the Irish Countryside (1953) fig. 66; R. Sobrino Buhigas: Corpus Petroglyphorum Gallaeciae (1935) fig. 29 og 59.