

NYAME AKUMA

No.9

October 1976.

Newsletter of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in America.

Edited by P.L. Shinnie and issued from the Department of Archaeology, The University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4, Canada. Typing and editorial assistance by Ama Owusua Shinnie.

In the last number Mr.Kense referred to comments that the letter calling for news did not allow sufficient time for replies to get back to Calgary. I have had specific requests for more time from Ghana and the Sudan. The short time between receipt by readers of the letter requesting news and the deadline has been deliberate as experience suggests that if there were longer there would be a tendency to put my letter at the bottom of the pile and forget it. A close dead-line often has the effect of rapid reply, and I note that No.8 contained much news from Ghana. I will revert to this point and ask for opinions in a letter I shall shortly be sending out to all those on the mailing list.

The geographical imbalance of news mentioned by Mr.Kense in his editorial notes may be a reflection of a similar imbalance of activity. I am not sure, but am aware of how little information comes from the French speaking areas of Africa - this is partly due to lack of contact with researchers in those countries and I would be very glad to receive names of those who might like to receive Nyame Akuma and who would provide news items.

Mr. Phillipson of the British Institute in Nairobi has written to me as follows:

" It seems to me that there is an increasing tendency for post-graduate researchers in North America to regard doctoral dissertations as publications. Fewer and fewer such theses in the field of African archaeology are being published elsewhere in even summary form. I gather that copies of most American theses (perhaps Canadian ones too) can be obtained from organisations such as University Microfilms. It is, however, difficult for those of us based outside North America to learn what theses are available and where copies may be obtained. Could authors of such theses, or their professors, be encouraged to submit such details for inclusion in Nyame Akuma, as R.M. Gramly has done (see no.6, p.3)".

I sympathise strongly with Mr.Phillipson's difficulty and will certainly publish details of theses if they are made available to me. There is another side to this - it is possible, if one has access to the catalogues, to find out and to order copies of theses from the United States (Canada is more complicated), but what can we do to get British theses? There seems to be no regular system, availability of some depends on permission of author, others, Cambridge for example, can be copied if found on the shelves of the University Library. Can Mr. Phillipson help us?

P.L. Shinnie.

1977 SAAAM MEETING VENUE

Of the small number of references received by August 1, 1976, it appears that a narrow majority prefers to meet in New Orleans with the SAA in early May. Results of the poll was as follows:

		No of Votes <u>for</u>	Total rank <u>score</u>	Mean <u>rank</u>
New Orleans	SAA Meetings early May	15	24	1.6
Calgary	by invitation April - May	10	19	1.9
Berkeley	by invitation early - May	11	23	2.02
Houston	AAA Meetings Nov. - Dec.	11	32	2.9
Seattle	AAPA Meetings April	6	16	2.66

The Steering Committee will contact the organizers of the SAA Meetings who will be asked to schedule our sessions before the opening of the SAA.

David Lubell
Sheryl Miller
Garth Sampson

SAAAM Steering Committee

(Editor's comment: Out of 128 recipients of Nyame Akuma in North America only 53 responded!)

P.A.C.P.Q.S. 1977. NAIROBI. TEL:20611, 20141
 THE VIII PANAFRICAN CONGRESS OF PREHISTORY & QUATERNARY
 STUDIES

P.O. Box 40658, NAIROBI, KENYA
 JUNE 1976

First Circular

The following are the dates of the Eighth Panafrikan Congress of Prehistory and Quaternary Studies which will take place in Kenya next year.

Arrival of members	: Sunday 4th September 1977
Opening of Congress	: Monday 5th September 1977
Free day - optional excursion	: Thursday 8th September 1977
Congress ends	: Sunday 11th September 1977

There will be various excursions in the week after the Congress: 12th - 18th September 1977.

The Joint Organising Secretaries of the Congress are Mr. R.E. Leakey and Mr. John C. Onyango-Abuje.

The Preparatory Committee proposes that the Congress and the papers shall largely be organized around given Themes. These and other details of the programme will be set out in a second circular which will be sent to those who request it in September next. Abstracts of papers relevant to the Themes will be circulated before the Congress; the presentations will be limited strictly to ten minutes.

Abstracts of proposed contributions (limited to a maximum of 1000 words, or space equivalent) should be sent to the Secretary by 31st March 1977 so as to allow for any necessary correspondence. Completed manuscripts are to be received by the Secretary no later than 31st December 1977 to allow for publication in good time. Late contributions will not be accepted.

The Registration fees will be as follows (only full members will receive the Proceedings):

1. Full members	...	...	U.S. \$100
2. Ordinary members	...	...	U.S. \$ 70
3. Student members	...	...	U.S. \$ 35
4. Persons accompanying members	...	...	U.S. \$ 35

Amounts in other currencies will be specified in a later circular.

Details of hostel/hotel accommodation and of recommended flights into Nairobi will be sent to you; East African Airways are likely to provide a useful service for most participants.

If you wish to attend or to receive the second circular, please write as soon as possible to the Organizing Secretaries at P.O.Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The editor has received the following note from Professor Morgan Tamplin, Trent University, which he has requested be published in this issue of Nyame Akuma. Please note that the report on C.K. Cooke's activities on Page 5, Issue no.7, were inserted before the final paragraph of M. Tamplin's report on Botswana. We apologize for this, and for any embarrassment which the editorial comment following these reports may have caused.

"The information provided to the editor of Nyame Akuma was of necessity short and it was not possible to thank all of the individuals who assisted me during my all too brief survey in Botswana. However, before I went into the field I had corresponded with Dr. C.K. Cooke, and he offered me considerable advice and assistance which proved to be very helpful in the conduct of my survey. We have communicated further, and I hope that cooperation will continue between myself and Dr. Cooke, as well as other archaeologists in Southern Africa. I wish to thank everyone for their assistance."

NEWS ITEMSEAST AFRICABritish Institute in Eastern Africa

In July and August 1976, David Phillipson directed excavations in a series of rock-shelters at Ele Bor, situated some 10 km. south of the Kenya/Ethiopia border 90 km. west of Moyale. Twenty-two sites were located within an area of some 20 sq. km: two major ones were excavated and trial trenches sunk in two others.

Although the accumulated deposits in no case exceeded one metre in depth, a long composite sequence was revealed stretching from a stone industry of 'MSA' aspect to recent occupation. Particular interest attaches to a succession of pre-pottery and pottery-associated microlithic aggregates, the latter being stratified with large numbers of heavily used grindstones. Identifiable faunal remains were recovered from nearly all levels. The pottery bears little resemblance to that found previously in northern Kenya: in view of Ele Bor's situation, at an altitude of almost 1000 m. adjacent to the foothills of the Ethiopian escarpment, it seems probable that the industries' affinities are with the regions to the north.

Mr. Peter Garlake (in association with the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo) carried out a second series of excavations at the zimbabwe at Manekweni (see Nyame Akuma No.7). The following persons worked in association with or were assisted by the Institute.

Michael Mehlman carried out a second season of excavation at Nasera (Apis) Rock, in northern Tanzania (sequence of Middle through Late Stone Age).

Margot Nelson carried out a programme of work on Later Iron Age and contemporary pottery in Ukambani, Kenya.

A joint expedition by the Director, Neville Chittick with Somali colleagues is planned for October 1976, with the aim of carrying out excavations at three coastal-port sites in north-eastern Somalia (See Nyame Akuma 8. 12).

Volume XII of the Institute's journal will be a special issue devoted to the 'LSA' (sensu lato) in eastern Africa. It will contain reports on David Phillipson's research in northern Kenya and at Gobedra rockshelter near Aksum.

KENYA

Dr. Odak of the National Museum of Kenya and the University of Nairobi sends this report:

As a part of the prehistoric Art project of the National Museum and National Archaeological survey and salvage project of the Institute of African Studies, a team led by Dr. O. Odak of the National Museum and the Institute of African Studies undertook, in March (12th to 26th March 1976) a two week archaeological reconnaissance in Western and Nyanza Provinces. Although the field work was oriented towards search for the prehistoric art sites in the region, late stone Age and Iron Age sites of relevance to the precolonial history of West Kenya were recorded in some detail.

The aims of the expedition were:

- (a) preliminary investigation of the already reported prehistoric art sites to ascertain the validity of the reports and to check on their preservation.
- (b) General survey of the areas surrounding the sites for possible discovery of more new sites.
- (c) cartographical work associated with the sites; and
- (d) General survey of the archaeology of the surrounding areas.

When the work was completed, considerable details were recorded concerning already reported sites and more new sites were discovered. The following is an inventory of the sites about which detailed information was collected:-

Site.	Lat./Long.	Grid Ref.	Map Ref.	District/Province
Kimothon (Formerly known as Elgon or Endebbes) (pictographs)	1°12'N 34°50'E	119700 697000	Elgony sheet 74/4 (1969) Endebbes 74/3 (1:50,000)	Trans-Nzoia/Rift Valley
Gisambai sites (Petroglyphs) (Petroglyph)	0°03'N 34°50'E	007200) Matsi- 693900) gulu 007000) Wageve- 694800) la	Yala 102/3 (1:50,000)	Kakamega /Western Province
Itone (on Mfang'ano Island L.Sango) (Pictographs)	0°26'S 34°01'E	99015 008800	Rusinga 115/3 (1:50,000)	South Nyanza / Nyanza
Abindu-Kwamundhe (Petroglyphs)	0°05'S 34°45'E	999500 689000	116/1 (1:50,000)	Central Nyanza/ Nyanza
Goti Chaki	0°45'S 34°40'E	6540742	Kisii 130/2 (1:50,000)	Kisii / Nyanza
Kakapeli (Pictographs)	1°50'N 34°/30E	see Kimothon	Malakisi 87/2 (1:50,000)	Busia / Western
Kipkulkul Cave	see Kimothon 0°03'S 34°03'E	951300 915500	Endebbes 74/3	Trans-Nzoia / Rift Valley
Kakiimba Hill	approximately 0°03'S 34°03'E	9949500 614100	115/3 (1:50,000)	South Nyanza / Nyanza
Soklo Hill (Bao holes etc)	0°035S 34°02E	9949500 614100	Sheet 115/3	South Nyanza / Nyanza

Among the sites visited Kimothon had been reported and recorded in outline tracings and photography by Wright in 1961 but little was done on its archaeology on which considerable attention is being focussed in this expedition. More photographic recordings were made and attention was paid to the bad state of preservation of the painting.

Kipkulkul cave on which are white paintings has never been reported before and it was a result of chance discovery when the team was looking for Kimothon site.

So far the most well preserved paintings were found at Kakapeli on the South Eastern side of mount Elgon in the North Teso of Busia District. Situated near Chelelemuk Hills the site is on the base of a large rocky outcrop protected by an overhanging ledge and one side of the U-shaped group of rocks which form part of Chelelemuk Hills.

The paintings are executed on a 4 x 2.5 m. panel of rocks 2 metres above the ground on a rockshelter whose cavity entrance is 10 metres wide and 5 metres high. There are about 40-50 items depicted and their mean size is from 10cms - 30 cms. Included are six humans one of whom outsizes the remaining 5, six large antelopes and two buffalos. A hunting scene is clearly depicted in which human figure is piercing an animal - possibly an elephant - with a spear. A number of abstract designs such as two probable phallic symbols, spider-web circular figures, spirals, tortoise shell, spider cross in circle, boat/basket designs as well as human finger prints are seen. Paintings are in white, black and red colours. There are about six superimpositions.

Kakapeli pictographs are, up to now, in a good state of preservation although the recent clearing of the surrounding forest for agricultural purposes has exposed them to greater erosion. It is also noticeable that children have been writing in chalk and charcoal over the painted surface.

Among the sites visited were Gisambai petroglyphs. These are three sites within the vicinity of Gisambai shopping centre in Vihiga Division of Western Province. Two of these sites are known locally as Wagevella and Matsingulu respectively and are identical in their petroglyphic execution on large outcrops of coarse granite with large crystal felspar. Some writers (e.g. Chaplin in AZANIA Vol.IX,1974) have called these sites majengo or majenga. The sites are too far from majengo shopping centre to bear such (majengo) name.

Details about these sites are being prepared for publication along with other sites at the end of the project.

In Nyanza, not far from Kisian Railway Station, is a village known as Kwamundhe, a section of Nyahera sub-Location where there is a collection of granite outcrops rising up to 15 m. from the ground. The rocks, two

of which are known locally as Abindu have at the very top large engravings which are clearly visible from afar. The figures measure from 40-45 m. in length. Some of the engraved 'figures' are reminiscent of some phoenician and greek letters while the rest which are unrecognisable resemble the engraved figures at Gisambai sites. The artificial origin of the engravings is indisputable although the people responsible for them is unclear.

On a hill situated to the South-West of Kisii town near Riosiri school in the direction of Ikoba, not far from Tabaka Mission in South Nyanza District, are engravings which include bao holes or pock or cup marks, concentric circles and associated items, flower shaped figures, figures of unidentified 'flying objects' with heads formed of concentric or single circles, sun figures, various scratches, circles and circular objects and others. In all there are 50 still recognisable items each with a mean size of about 30 cm. Among these the concentric circles and associated figures range first in frequency of occurrence. This order is followed by figures depicting "flying objects" with concentric circular heads. Then comes the bao holes/cup or pock marks. This distribution can be schematised this:-

	Bao holes 'Pock' or 'cup'marks	Concentric circles spirals, and associa- ted figures	Apparently flying objects with cir- cular heads (either concentric or not)	Scratches	Circles or other associa- ted objects	Sun fi- gures	Flower figures
Number recorded	10	17	14	4	3	2	2

Further South on an island of Lake Sango (Victoria) known as Mfan'g ano is a pictographic site, previously reported (J.H.Chaplin, AZANIA, IX,1974) but not fully studied. It is known locally by the name of the hill on which it is found and contains geometric and schematic paintings executed on the wall under an overhanging rockshelter. With a painted area measuring 9 x 5 m., less than half of the paintings are still visible with the rest showing nothing but red coloured paint on the rock suggesting the earlier existence of paints which have been obliterated. Still visible are about 22 items including spirals or spirally associated figures, semi-concentric circles, rectangular or rectangular associated figures cosmic or astronomically associated figures etc.

The numerical relations of the visible figures are as follows:-

Item	Number of objects still visible	Approximate % of total recognisable figures
Concentric and semi-concentric circles	4	18
Spirals of Spirals Associated figures	3	14
Rectangle and Associated figures	4	18
Figures incorporating circles, ovals and other circular bodies	6	27
Unclassifiable	5	23

This chart shows that among the preserved drawings, circles predominate. There is no reason why this tendency should not have been the case with regard to the obliterated section.

Since the completion of field work, a number of reports have been received from the public concerning the discovery of more sites with paintings and engravings in West Kenya. These will be studied, visited and recorded for further work as the project moves into new stages. What can be said at this stage is that Kenya, though little known with regard to prehistoric art, is comparable with, and perhaps surpasses the neighbouring countries about which much has been done in this line of research. This report has not included a summary of the new Late Stone Age and Iron Age sites recorded during the field work with relevance to the precolonial history of Kenya. These will be preliminarily reported later, although further details of the few Art sites mentioned can be sought from the report entitled "RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON KENYAN ANTIQUITIES Prehistoric Art in Kenya, Progress Report No.II a, Nairobi 1974." This can be obtained from the National Archaeological survey and salvage project of the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi or from the National Museum, Department of Ethnography.

Dr. L.H. Robbins of Michigan State University reports:

Additional fieldwork was carried out in the Lake Turkana area of Northwest Kenya during 1975-76. Further excavations were conducted at Lothagam and a larger sample of stone tools from the "upper area" of the site was recovered. A number of human burials were also excavated and these included the first definite grave goods found at Lothagam. Also, evidence of violence was noted for one of the burials.

A number of important new sites were discovered during an archaeological survey of ancient beaches of Lake Turkana. Excavations were conducted at the site of Lopoy which was located during the survey. This site was marked by extensive fish middens, hearth areas, ash areas and a distinct microlith-rich area. The deeply grooved ceramics which were abundant in the fish middens proved to be especially interesting since they occur in a broad area in Northwest Kenya, but prior to the discovery of Lopoy little could be said about the context and dating of the pottery. The fauna contains an abundance of tilapia, Nile perch, catfish and other species of fish as well as crocodiles and turtles. Mammals are not abundant but do include either sheep or goats. Radiocarbon samples have been submitted.

Ethnoarchaeological work which proved to be very relevant to the work at Lopoy was accomplished at the modern lake edge. A traditional fisherman's abandoned camp was partially excavated with the fisherman who formerly lived at the camp. The same individual also helped excavate and identified the fish at Lopoy.

This research was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Mr. M. Lynch, also of Michigan State University, sends the following:

During 1975-76 excavations were conducted on two mortuary sites southwest of Lake Turkana. The mortuary sites, called Namoratunga by the local Turkana, are located on two basalt hills less than 1 km. apart between the Kerio and Kangatet Rivers. The southernmost of these contained 162 stone cairns while the other contained 11. In all a total of 40 of these graves were randomly excavated. The graves consisted of a pit usually about 2 m. deep containing one burial. Approximately 80 cm. above the burial was placed one large stone slab often weighing more than 300 pounds. The remaining 1-1.5 m. of the pit was filled with large horizontally layered stone slabs. In all the graves contained from 10.5 to .5 tons of rock. Immediately circling these horizontally layered slabs was a series of upright stones placed edge to edge so as to form a circle. Some of these monoliths were as tall as 1.5 m. These circles ranged in diameter from 1.5 to 4.5 m.

About 25% of these 173 graves were decorated with petroglyphs. In all excavated cases only males were interred in graves with decorated monoliths. In addition to the decoration on the monoliths themselves, both basalt hills contained large numbers of petroglyphs. In all well over 1000 petroglyphs were recorded with 150 different designs represented. For the most part these designs were simple geometric forms, but some animal and perhaps human figures were noted.

The burials themselves displayed several patterns. In all cases they were flexed on the left side, and oriented in either a north, south, east or west direction. Variation from the four cardinal directions was less than 10°. It was also noted that only males were interred in graves over 2.2 m. in diameter. It seems that only a small percentage of the burials were female (approximately 30%), perhaps indicating that access to the site was confined to a socially defined few.

Similar sites were noted approximately 110 miles to the north near Lake Turkana and to the southeast in the Suguta Valley.

Pending radiocarbon dating, it is impossible to determine the exact temporal position and cultural affiliation of these sites. The presence of large numbers of domesticated cattle and sheep (and/or goat) bones in the grave fill seems to attest to at least a partial pastoralist mode of subsistence for the makers. It seems likely that these sites bear directly upon recent population movements in Northern Kenya, thus filling an important void in the prehistory of the area. This research was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Rolland of the University of Victoria sends the following, which is all we have on Dr. Nelson's recent activities:

My activities of this year in East Africa were as participating member in the excavation at the Masai Gorge rockshelter, NW of Lake Naivasha and on the slope of Mt. Eburru, in the Kenya Rift Valley. This activity was part of the project directed by C. Nelson, assisted by J. Bower, on an archaeological and quaternary research reconnaissance in the Kenya Rift Valley which is probably familiar to you. Essentially, my participation was in order to acquaint myself with practical aspects of field research in East Africa, which for me represents a new research orientation. Hitherto, I have been involved primarily in an analysis of the Middle Palaeolithic in Southwestern and Mediterranean France (Ph.D., University of Cambridge, 1976). I am planning further activities in East Africa for 1977, of a preliminary nature and hope to begin an independent project of my own there in the following year, events permitting.

Having typed this last item fortunately the following Stop Press news has just been received from Dr. Bower of Iowa State University.

The University of Massachusetts Archaeological Expedition to Kenya has recently completed a year of field work on the LSA in the Gregory Rift between Lake Bogoria and Mt. Suswa and neighboring areas. A stratified, systematic survey generated a sample of just over 100 sites ranging from MSA to Later Iron Age; about 10% of these were tested, and three sites were extensively excavated. Additional sites were dug at Lukenya Hill. The research focused on cultural adaptations in the time range 8000 to 2000 B.P. and included an intensive study of the Nakuru-Elmenteita basin through the exposures of lacustrine and alluvial deposits at Nderit Drift. The expedition was led by Charles Nelson of the University of Mass. (Boston) and co-directed by John Bower of Iowa State University. A preliminary account of the work is to be published in Azania XII.

TANZANIA

From Mr. Mturi, Director of Antiquities comes the following report on research in Tanzania,

(1) West Kilimanjaro

The following Carbon 14 determinations have been obtained from charcoal recovered during the 1975 excavations.

(a) Wasendo Madukani:

GX 3910	1885 ± 120	(=A.D. 65)
GX 3911	3225 ± 140	(=B.C.1275)
GX 3912	3145 ± 160	(=B.C.1195)
GX 3913	2170 ± 165	(=B.C. 220)
GX 3914	3200 ± 180	(=B.C.1250)
GX 3915	1895 ± 120	(=A.D. 55)
GX 3916	1420 ± 135	(=A.D. 530)

These dates are comparable to those obtained for the Maua Farm. Wasendo Madukani is situated to the South of the Maua Farm Site. The obsidian artefacts are broadly similar to those of Maua Farm though technologically they are less well made. The pottery is however different bearing incised grooved linear decoration.

(b) Simba Site I

GX 3917	4930 ± 180	(=B.C.2980)
GX 3918	5020 ± 160	(=B.C.3070)

Both samples came from spits with pottery sherds. This is therefore the earliest dated archaeological occurrence with pottery in Tanzania and probably in East, Central and Southern Africa.

(2) Olduvai Gorge and Laetolil

Dr. M.D. Leakey resumed her research activities in the Laetolil site in July, 1976. This research season will also include brief reconnaissance work at the Wembere basin which had previously produced fossil bones.

(3) Apis (Nasera) Rock: Mr. Michael Melham spent the period August 1975 March, March 1976 undertaking analysis of his finds from the Nasera excavations. In all he has recovered approximately 40,000 artefacts of stone, thousands of bone fragments and 200 pottery sherds.

He resumed excavations at the site during April.

(4) Lake Ndotu:

Dr.J.M. Harris, of the National Museums of Kenya, undertook the preliminary study and identification of the Lake Ndotu fauna recovered during the 1973 and 1974 excavations.

Just over 300 specimens could be identified and of these nearly two thirds are bovid fragments. Suid and Equid specimens were respectively the second and third most common remains. In all 14 taxa were recognised. The identifiable species include Elephas, Equus and among the Artiodactyl Connochaetes, Damaliscus, and Reduna. Others are a species of Gazella, Giraffa and two species of Suid including Stylochoerus. Among the identifiable species it is only the Suids and elephants which are extinct taxa.

Messrs McBrearty, Waane and Wynn of the University of Illinois report:

During the months of June and July, 1976, we undertook a preliminary reconnaissance in Mbeya Region, Tanzania. We concentrated on the drainages of three of the major rivers of the region: the Songwe (southern) which flows into Lake Nyasa and which constitutes the border between Tanzania and Malawi for much of its length; the Kiwira, which flows from the highlands west of the Rungwe volcano into Lake Nyasa; and the Songwe (northern) which flows north from these highlands into Lake Rukwa.

The southern Songwe proved disappointing. Evidence for Stone Age occupation was limited to an occasional flake or core in uncertain context. Evidence for the Iron Age fared better. Iron slag and tuyères were found at several locations and scatters of potsherds, mostly undiagnostic, were fairly common. The presence of a dimple based sherd and a copper ring from one site suggests the presence of Iron Age communities from the earliest period who perhaps had trade contacts with the copper mining areas to the west. However, the sample was not substantial enough to warrant comparisons with any known Iron Age cultures.

The survey of the Kiwira concentrated on the middle reaches of the river near the Ilima Colliery. Little in the way of Iron Age occupation was discovered but an interesting lithic assemblage was found in surface scatters of varying density on many of the ridge tops. One site at Kala waterfall was tested. The excavated assemblage is characterized by Levallois type flakes along with flakes from disc cores and occasional flakes from bipolar cores. The only formal tools are scrapers and burins. The raw material is chert, quartz and quartzite. No material suitable for chronometric dating was recovered so, for the time being, the chronological position of this assemblage must remain uncertain.

Three morphologically distinct assemblage types were re-covered from the middle reaches of the northern Songwe. The first consists of rolled chert 'Early Stone Age' artifacts: handaxes, scrapers, etc., found in the alluvial gravels of the lower terraces. Morphologically 'Middle Stone Age' assemblages, executed in various types of raw material, and including numbers of disc cores, Levallois flakes and occasional scrapers, occur both in stratigraphic context and as thin but areally extensive surface scatters around the rim of the gorge. 'Later Stone Age' type artifacts, smaller flakes, blades, and bladelets almost invariably in chert, likewise are found both as surface scatters and in stratigraphic context.

We are presently in the process of preparing a preliminary report for Tanzania Notes and Records. We would like to thank both the Division of Antiquities, Ministry of Culture and Youth, Tanzania and the Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana, without whose assistance this research could not have been undertaken.

EGYPT

Excavations at Qasr Ibrim, 1976 from Dr.W.Y. Adams,
University of Kentucky

From January to March, 1976, the Egypt Exploration Society of Great Britain resumed its biennial excavations at Qasr Ibrim, in Egyptian Nubia. This great walled citadel, once situated high on a promontory overlooking the Nile, is now an island entirely surrounded by the waters of Lake Nasser. It is the last major archaeological site in Lower Nubia which has not been inundated, and where salvage excavations necessitated by the Aswan High Dam are still in progress.

Excavation in 1976, as in the two previous seasons (see Nyame Akuma No.3, pp.42-3), concentrated primarily on village remains of the 'X-Group' or Ballana period, dating between approximately 350 and 550 A.D. A contiguous area about 70 m. square has now been cleared down to this level, revealing a dense cluster of stoutly built stone houses arranged in blocks along more or less straight, intersecting streets. Many of the buildings were originally two storeys high, and they are further remarkable for the presence of deep subterranean storage chambers below the floors. They are quite unlike anything previously known from the Ballana period.

The Ballana village grew up around the remains of a much older temple, originally built by the Nubian Pharaoh Taharqa in the 7th century B.C. and subsequently repaired many times.

The excavations of 1976 disclosed a portico which had been added to the temple in Meroitic times (?100-300 A.D.); they also revealed that the building was converted to a church during, and apparently well before the end of, the Ballana period. This suggests an earlier date for the introduction of Christianity to Nubia, or at least to Qasr Ibrim, than has usually been supposed.

Near the end of the season a very curious and so far unexplained complex of structures came to light at the southern edge of the site. The central feature is a large circular enclosure between 15 and 20 m. in diameter, within a heavy wall of cut stone. Adjoining the stone enclosure is a network of stoutly built but improbably curving brick walls which do not seem to reflect any overall pattern. Both the stone and brick walls are mortared with lime cement in place of the usual mud and dung found in Nubian sites. These structures are evidently older than either the Ballana houses or the Meroitic temple portico, and may be of Roman origin. Their investigation will be a main feature of the next season's excavations at Qasr Ibrim, planned for January, 1978.

Once again, and for the third season in a row, the excavations at Qasr Ibrim yielded textual materials of unparalleled importance. On the floor of a Ballana house was found a collection of four papyrus documents, of which three are largely intact. The largest and most important is a letter in a rather colloquial local version of Greek, addressed either by a King of the Blemmye to a King of the Nobatae or vice versa. (Uncertainty results from the fact that conventional case endings are missing throughout the document.) The letter speaks at some length of the depredations of a certain Silko, and calls for an alliance between the two kings to suppress him. This document establishes beyond doubt the co-existence of two ethnic groups, the Blemmye and the Nobatae, in the Nile Valley during Ballana times--an issue which has previously been subject to much controversy. It also gives us a good deal of detail about Silko, a shadowy king whose name has previously been known only from an inscription of his own at Kalabsha.

The three documents accompanying the aforesaid letter are all in Coptic, and represent the earliest known occurrences of that language in Nubia. They were addressed by a high Christian official in Egypt to someone named Moses, who was evidently also a Christian. Here again is evidence for the practice of Christianity well before the date usually suggested for its introduction in Nubia. None of the four documents is actually dated, but the archaeological context virtually rules out a dating later than the end of the 5th century A.D.

As in every year since 1963, the excavations at Qasr Ibrim were directed by Prof. J. Martin Plumley of Cambridge University and were supported mainly by the Egypt Exploration Society. Additional support was provided by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program, and the University of Kentucky (USA).

PREHISTORIC STUDIES OF THE SIWA OASIS REGION
NORTHWESTERN EGYPT

by

Fekri A. Hassan

BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The region of Siwa oasis, located in the northern part of the Egyptian Sahara, is of key importance in understanding the link between the several cultural provinces where systematic archaeological research has been undertaken. These provinces include the Levant, the Nile Valley, the Maghreb, and the southern portion of the Egyptian Sahara. Researchers have always puzzled about the place of Siwa in prehistory. Therefore, the preliminary results published by McBurney (McBurney and Hey, 1955) on the un-systematic collection made by an amateur archaeologist, Dr.C.Willett-Cunnington in 1918, have been repeatedly cited in the literature. This is indeed an unfortunate situation because the collection made by Willett-Cunnington was from many localities, definitely of different ages. Professor McBurney's study was limited to a description of the major typological characteristics and treated the collection as a single entity.

The first survey, supported by the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution, was conducted during the first season (1975) of the present project, which was preceded by a short visit to the oasis in the summer of 1974. The objective of the first season was to undertake an intensive survey and to test the archaeological potential of the Siwa oasis region and to explore the Quaternary geology of the region. A second season was conducted this year (1976) and has been successfully completed. This communication summarizes the preliminary results of the first season.

Surveying was undertaken in the area east of the town of Siwa to the Gara oasis, (also known as Qara oasis) one of the many little oases, which belong to the Siwa oasis region (Fig.1,). The area west of Siwa oasis, visited briefly in the summer of 1974, was inaccessible as a result of the political situation between Libya and Egypt at that time.

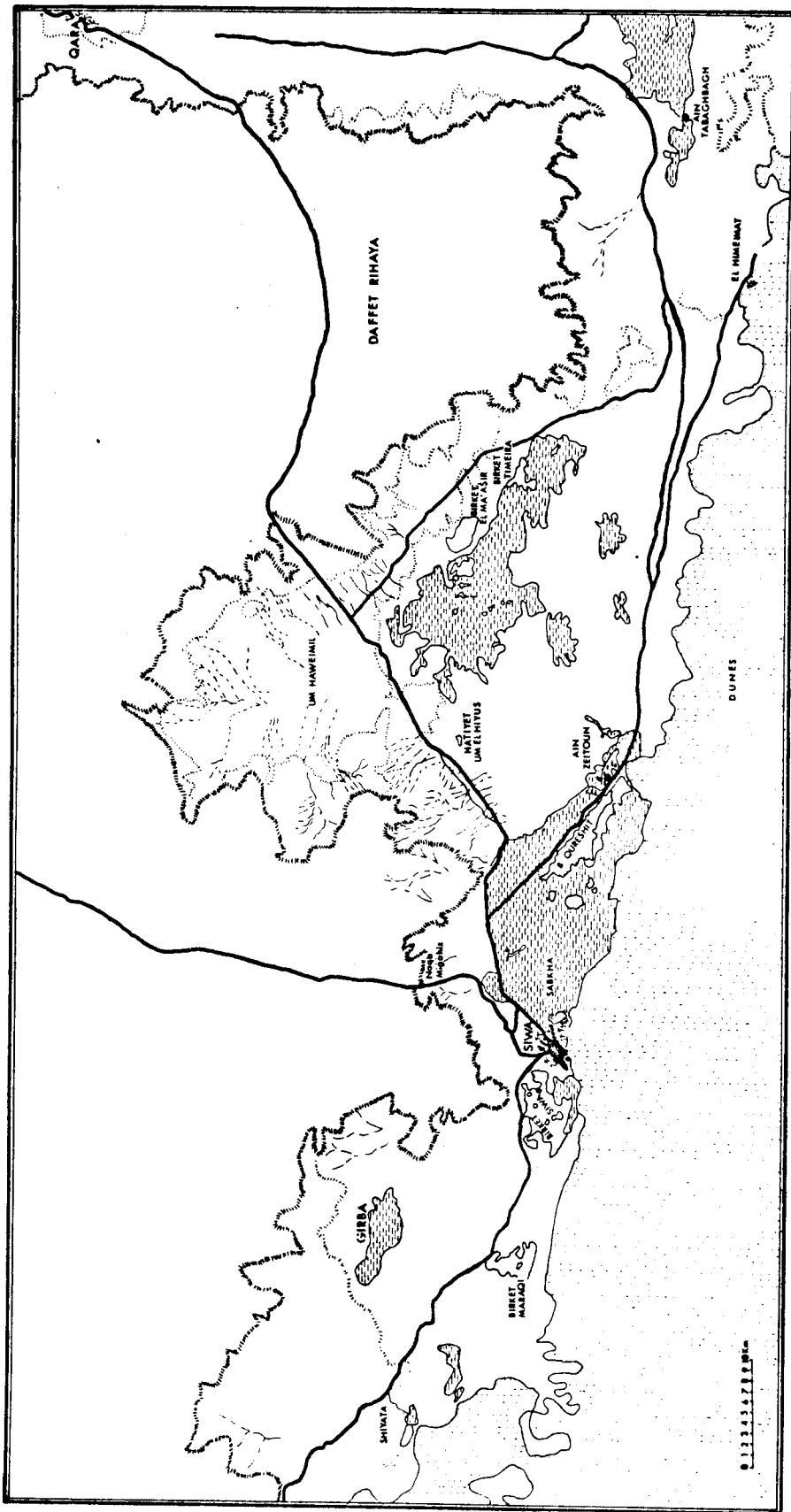


Fig. 1--Location map of Siwa oasis

Our results revealed the presence of 35 occurrences and sites.

Although the distribution and content of all these occurrences is important for interpreting the pattern of human habitation and occupation of the Siwa oasis region, the sites which promise to provide the greatest amount of information are the Hatiyet Um el-Hiyus site complexes 75/6 and 75/31, the Shiyata Site No.1, the Gara site complex 75/22-28, and Zeitoun Himeimat 75/29 and 75/30.

The Hatiyet Um el-Hiyus Site Complexes

The Hatiyet Um el-Hiyus is a "mud" pan situated 30 km east of the town of Siwa (Fig.1). It is accessible through the Siwa-Gara road.

The Hatiyet (Arabic for area of vegetation, also Hattiya) is 2 km south of the road. It is a dish-shaped shallow depression, a few meters below the surrounding Miocene pediment. Its floor consists of loamy clay, covered at the edges by slope wash sand. The surface of the loamy clay is slightly rubefied and shows evidence of contemporary dissection by rillwash and deflation. The pan is dotted by small phytogenic dunes which are in general below 2 m in height.

The major site complexes are 75/5 & 75/6 on the northern edge of the pan and 75/31 on the southern edge. The 75/5 & 75/6 site complex covers an area about 25 x 40 m. A sample collected from an area 6 x 9 m in site 75/5 showed the predominance of backed microlithic blades, mainly of the straight backed variety. Burins, perforators and microburins were present (Fig.2). Ostrich eggshell fragments were abundant. A date on ostrich eggshell of 8154±65 B.P. was obtained placing the site into the earlier part of the Holocene.

In contrast with the 75/5 & 75/6 complex, site 75/31 covers an area of 70 x 100 m. The site showed a predominance of burins, represented by single dihedral, and double, varieties. The burin facets were either snapped or truncated. Endscrapers, perforators, denticulates, and microburins, in

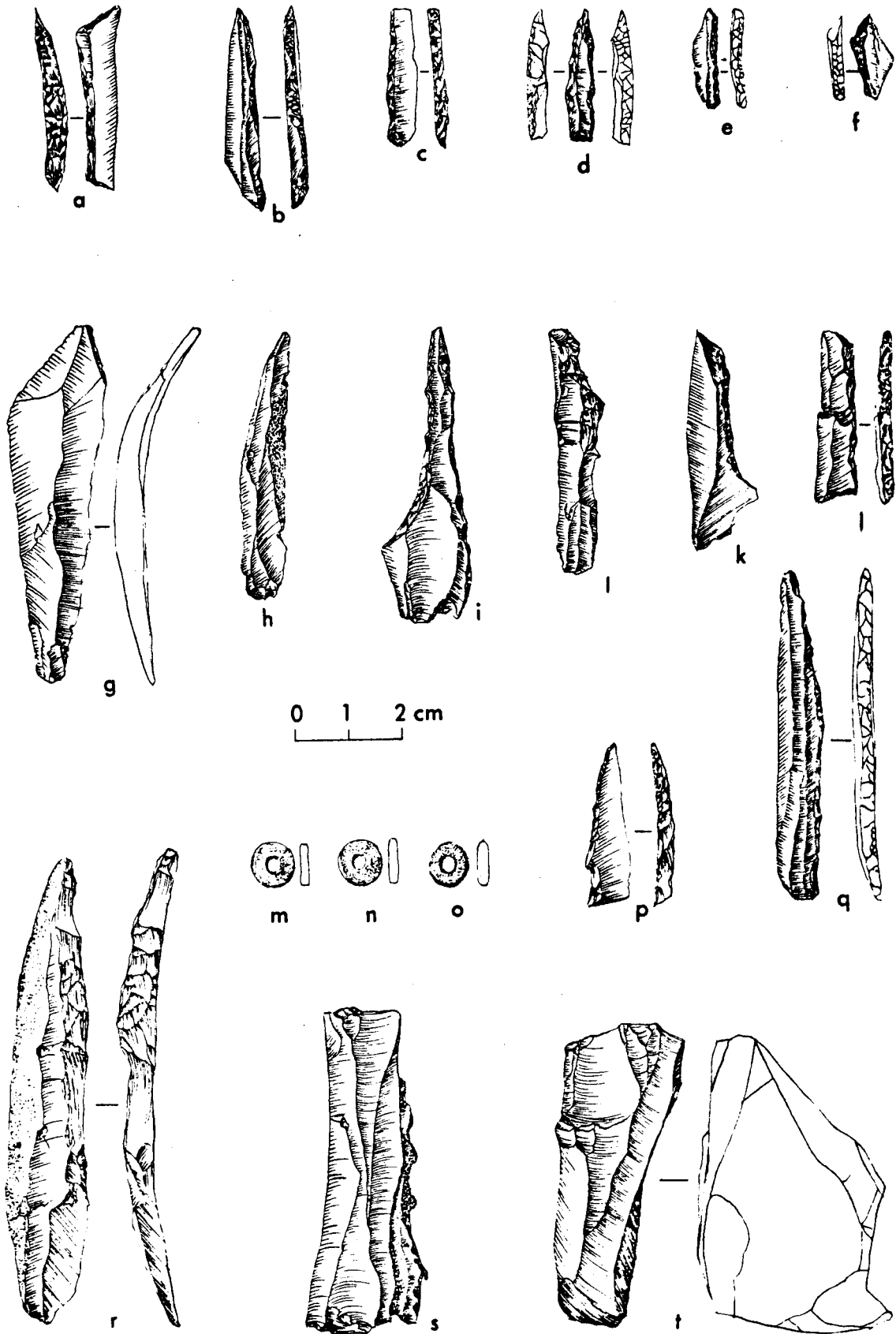


Fig.2--Artifacts from site 75/5

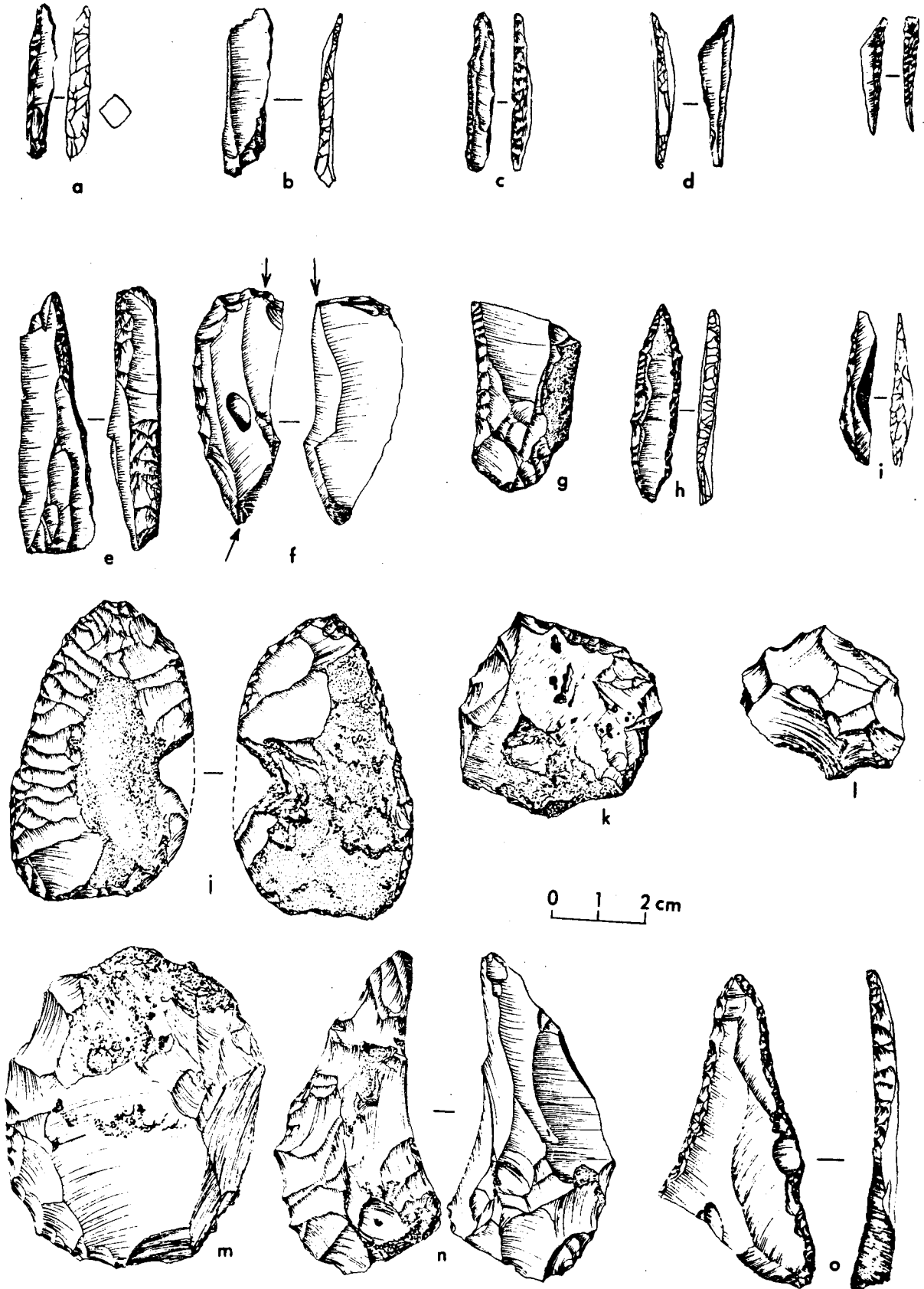


Fig.3--Artifacts from site 75/31

addition to backed microlithic and macrolithic blades. A pressure flaked biface and a Levallois core were identified (Fig. 3). Hearth clusters on extinct dunes are present at Um el-Hiyus (e.g. 75/12). They seem to belong to late Holocene occupation.

Shiyata Site No. 1

Shiyata is a small deserted depression 37 km northwest of the town of Siwa. The depression is filled in part by a saline lake. The site was located on a narrow pediment overlooking the lake. It consists of a semi-circle of stones with a thin concentration of artifacts within the stone enclosure (Fig. 4). A scatter of artifacts was also noticed surrounding the enclosure. A systematic study of a part of the enclosure revealed the presence of clusters separate of cores, and tools, and thermally discolored sand associated with fire-cracked stones (a hearth). The site represents undoubtedly a transient encampment. The stone semi-circle is apparently the foundation of a windshelter. It was observed that the opening in the stone enclosure was opposite to the direction of the predominant northerly wind. The tools included a denticulated end-scraper, a simple endscraper on a blade, a simple perforator, a double burin, a backed bladelet, notched piece, and a microlithic geometric triangle. Ostrich eggshell fragments from the site yielded a radiocarbon date of 8817₊₇₇ B.P.

Zeitoun-Himeimat

The village of Zeitoun is about 35 km southwest of the town of Siwa. El-Himeimat, three dark hills, are situated about 50 km east of Zeitoun. Site 75/29 was located 30 km east of Zeitoun on the Zeitoun-Himeimat trail. The two sites are 1.1 km apart. Site 75/29 yielded an endscraper, a composite tool, a raclette, and a biface (Fig. 5). A radiocarbon date on ostrich eggshell from

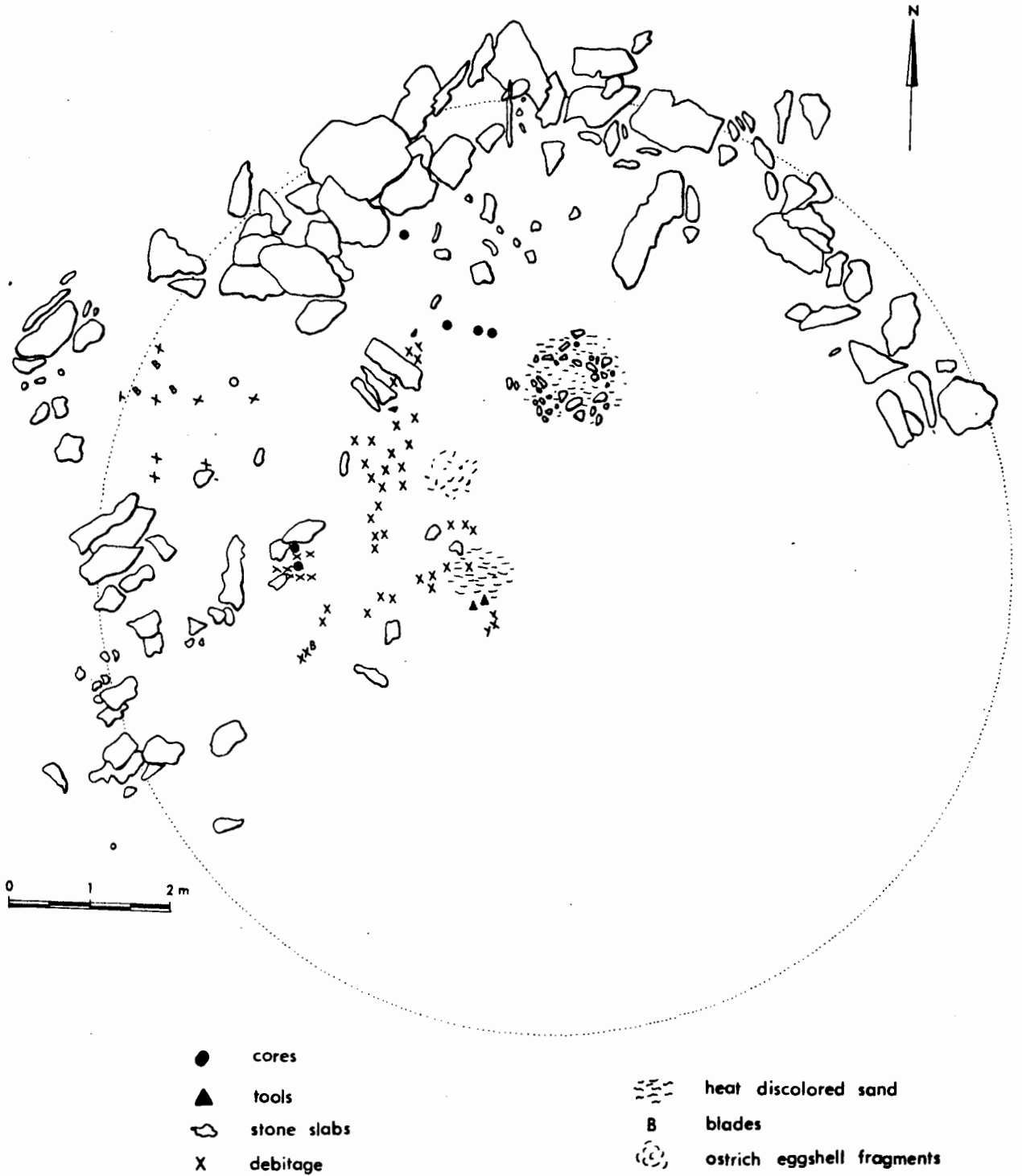


Fig.4--Floor plan of Shiyata Site No.1

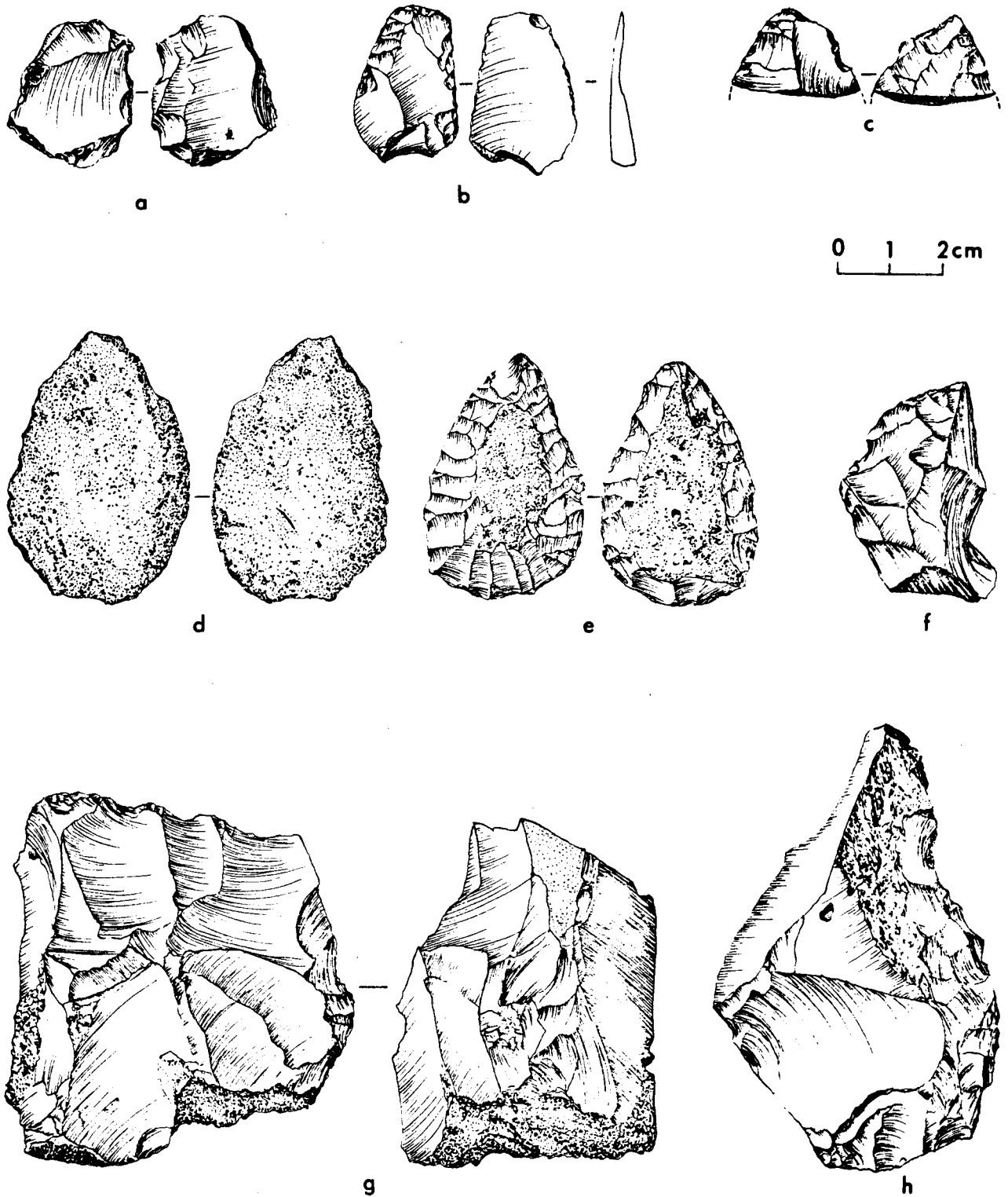


Fig.5--Artifacts from Zeitoun Himeimat Site No.29

75/29 provides an age of 6811_±76 B.P.

Gara Sites

The Gara oasis is one of several oases which constitute the Siwa oasis belt. It lies 130 km northeast of the town of Siwa. The oasis is located in a depression 16 km in length and 8 km in width. The total number of inhabitants was 156 during our visit to the oasis. The depression is fed by numerous brackish springs and sabkha soils are abundant. There are no saline lakes in the oasis at present. A site complex of 7 sites, one of which 75/27 with an area of 70 x 70 m consisting of numerous sub-concentrations were located 1.85 km east of the Gara settlement. The tools are predominated by burins, denticulates, perforators, and backed macrolithic and microlithic blades. Microburins are absent. Endscrapers, scaled pieces, and notches are present. There is also an abundance of small points (arrowheads). A radio-carbon date on ostrich eggshell of 8258_±73 B.P. was obtained from site 75/27.

Quaternary Geology

Geologic observations of surface exposures and from stratigraphic test pits reveal intensive erosion prior to the Late Pleistocene. Destruction of younger deposits has also occurred in the areas now covered by sabkha and saline lakes. A stratigraphic sequence and a series of climatic events are here suggested. Further analyses now underway and future work in the second season will serve to test this initial formulation.

- (1) Erosion down to Miocene bedrock.
- (2) Accumulation of loamy deposits shallow depression under a climatic regime of sub-arid conditions, with gentle rains. Average annual precipitation was perhaps around 50 mm.
- (3) A period of aridity like that of today prevailed. The transition was gradual. This led to the formation of a sheet of slopewash

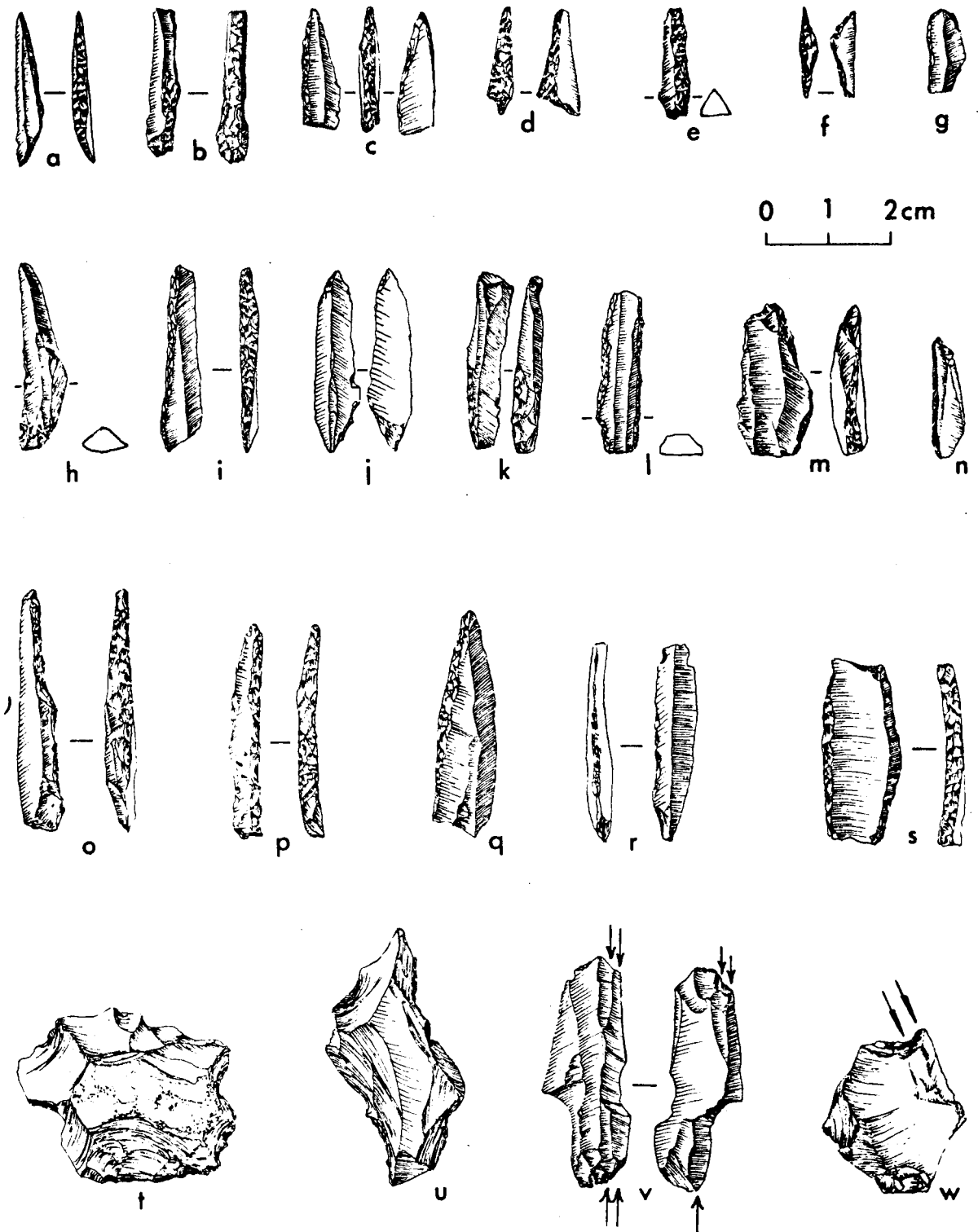


Fig.6--Artifacts from Gara oasis site 75/27

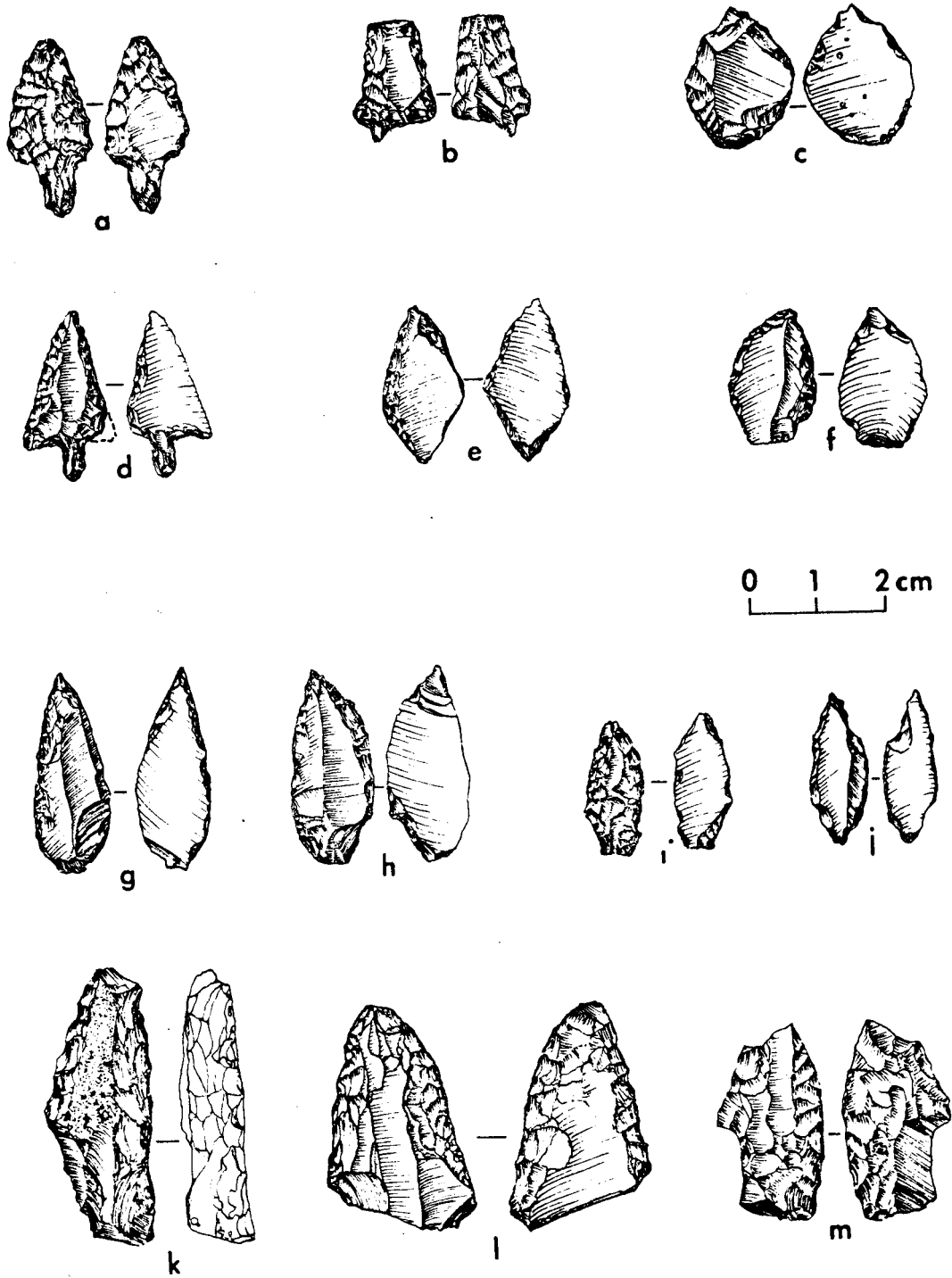


Fig.7--Artifacts from Gara oasis site 75/27

sands on top of the older loamy deposits with salt incrustations.

- (4) A return to slightly moist conditions and formation of an upper unit of loamy deposits. The deposition of the sediments of (2), (3), and (4) perhaps range from ca. 20,000 or before to ca. 8,000 B.P.
- (5) A period of erosion at ca. 8,000-7,000 B.P. in the areas covered by ground water fed lakes. The lakes shrank in size, dunes advanced along lake shores, small unvegetated to slightly vegetated dunes formed in areas perhaps at ca. 7,000-4,500 B.P., formerly the sites of the accumulation of loamy material in shallow ponded pans. This period reflects both local aridity and a drop in the water table.
- (6),(7) Progressively arid conditions led to increasing shrinkage of lakes and dessication of lake evaporites. Gypsum dunes were formed along the lake shores (?4,500-2,500 B.P.). Under this arid regime, the dunes in the pans developed a pronounced salt crust.
- (8),(9) Slightly increased precipitation (?ca.2,500 B.P.) supported some vegetation. The dunes in the pans were colonized by Tamarix. The vegetation today is declining and a salt crust is developing on top of the dunes. Slopewash sand is now accumulating at the edges of the deflated pans.

Discussion

The results of the first season reveal that the region of Siwa oasis provides evidence for human occupation during the earlier part of the Holocene. The dates now available indicate that the occupation was associated with the later part of a moist episode. The oasis was also inhabited subsequently perhaps ca. 4,000-3,000 B.P. The remains of this occupation consist predominantly of hearths which were laid on top of the dunes in some of the pans.

The archaeological assemblages of the early Holocene are within the overall technological framework of North Africa of that period. However, they are distinct. Their closest similarities are with the earliest Neolithic and terminal Palaeolithic of Haua Fteah and the terminal Palaeolithic of the Fayoum. They are distinguished from the Capsian by the absence of trapezes and the scarcity or lack of lunates (Vaufrey, 1955; Balout, 1955, Lubell et al. 1976). The assemblages are also distinguishable from the Nilotic industry of that period which include the Kabian and (Vermeersch, 1970) and the Shamarkian (Schild et al. 1968). The Kabian, dating back to ca. 8,000 B.P., is predominated by backed bladelets and microburins. The Siwan assemblages share with the Kabian the presence of backed bladelets and Krukowski microburins, but the Kabian lacks burins which are predominant in some Siwan assemblages. The Shamarkian dating around 7,700 B.P. is characterized by backed bladelets and truncated flakes. Truncated flakes are rare in the Siwan assemblages. Like the Kabian, Krukowski microburins are shared with the Siwan assemblages. The Qadan (Shiner, 1968) spanning a long interval from ca. 15,000 B.P. to 6,000 B.P. is distinguished from the Siwan assemblages by its emphasis on scrapers, lunates, and truncated microlithic flakes. Leaf shaped points which are common in the later stages of the Qadan, however, are represented at Siwa.

Similarities between Saharan assemblages and Siwan assemblages are vague, with the possible exception of the Adrar Bous and Grebon assemblages (Clark et al. 1973). The assemblage from Oued Grebon is similar to that of Gara in the abundance of burins, points, but differs in the prevalence of Ouchtata backed bladelets.

Comparison with material from the southern part of the Egyptian Sahara reveals a distant similarity. The assemblages from Gilf Kebir (McHugh 1974) are distinguishable by a high content of scrapers and notched and denticulated

pieces. The terminal Palaeolithic sites recently located by Wendorf (personal communication) share the presence of microlithic backed blades of the straight variety and triangular Microlith geometrics. The rarity of endscrapers is also shared with the Siwan assemblages. However, the rarity of burins contrasts sharply with the predominance of burins in some Siwan assemblages. Also some of the assemblages from the southern Egyptian Sahara are dominated by notched and encticulated pieces which are not that common in the Siwan assemblages. The Neolithic from the southern part of the Egyptian Sahara dating to 8,000 B.P. characterized by crescents, short lunates, and J-lunates, ground and pecked celts, chipped adzes, and bifacial elements. While bifacial elements are present in some Siwan assemblages, the scarcity of lunates is evident.

Close parallels exist between the Siwan assemblages and the Qarunian of the Fayoum. The Qarunian dating from 8,100 B.P. to 7,140 B.P. (Wendorf et al. 1970). The assemblages share common elements such as méche de forêt, burins, triangles, stemmed arrowheads, and bifacial elements (the collections were examined by the writer in 1973, courtesy of Professor Fred Wendorf).

The closest similarities between the Siwan assemblages and any other regional units are those with the assemblages described from Haua Fteah (McBurney 1967). Siwan assemblages closely resemble those with the so called Libyco-Capsian and the earliest Neolithic assemblages also called "ante-Neolithic" or "proto-Neolithic". The "Libyco-Capsian" or what we may call the Haua Fteah terminal Palaeolithic dates from approximately 10,000 B.P. to 7,000 B.P. It contains the same elements found in the Siwan assemblages; backed macrolithic and microlithic blades, burins, scaled pieces, and micro-burins. Geometric microlithic are rare as in the Siwan assemblages. The "proto-Neolithic" shows the same elements with the addition of pressure flaked

arrowheads and bifaces identical to those found in 75/27 at Gara and in other localities in Siwa. The initial date of the "proto-Neolithic" at Siwa is 7,000 B.P. The Gara 75/27 site yielded a date of 8,258 B.P.

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NIGERIA

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
CARRIED OUT IN THE WUSHISHI AREA DECEMBER 1975 to MARCH 1976
 Under the auspices of the Centre for Nigerian Cultural Studies,
 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, by Dr. Thurstan Shaw.

OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

This area was chosen as a starting point for what is planned as an on-going piece of fieldwork spread over a number of successive seasons. Long ago I had observed that the road between Bida and Zungeru cut through three mounds of archaeological material. Such mounds of material are well worth noting for further investigation and excavation as providing some depth of stratigraphy, whereas with systems of shifting agriculture and settlements moving every few years, African occupation sites often fail to provide any useful succession of deposits. I argued that if a more or less straight road had cut through three mounds in the course of less than 100 km. the chances were that there were others in the area which did not happen to be cut through by the road.

The first part of the fieldwork was therefore designed to explore the area for further sites. Another reason for investigating sites in this area was that it was archaeologically virgin territory, lying between the known 'Nok Culture' area and two sites in the Niger Valley just below Yelwa which were excavated in connection with the Kainji Rescue Archaeology Project, and which produced early 'Iron Age' material extending back into the first millennium B.C. One of the unsettled issues of West Africa archaeology is the source of introduction of an iron technology. If, as some believe, this was from the area in North Africa under Carthaginian influence, across the Hoggar to the Niger Bend and thence down the Niger, the area under investigation lies in the general region where early Iron Age sites might be expected.

Another subject of importance in the history of Africa concerns the development and spread of indigenous agriculture, but archaeological evidence upon this is scanty. By employing the flotation technique, it was hoped that it would be possible to obtain some such evidence.

RECONNAISSANCE AND SURFACE COLLECTION

The first period of fieldwork was spent in exploring for further sites, in which the assistance of Mallam Tuburna of Wushishi, assigned for the purpose by the Sarkin Wushishi, Alhaji Ibrahim Abubakar, was invaluable. As a result of this work, 14 sites were visited and recorded, and another 7 possible sites were noted! No detailed oral tradi-

tions were collected about them, as my information was given in Hausa translated by an Igbo, and it was felt that oral traditions would be more reliably collected by speakers of the indigenous languages. In most cases, Mallam Tuburna simply said: 'Deserted Gwari village', except in the case of Makera, which was an old iron-smelting village (NUPE). Here, estimates on when iron was last smelted there varied between 40 and 100 years, but it was agreed that there was no one alive nowadays who knows how to do it.

Some of the sites discovered are remarkable for their size, extending even to a height of 9 m. Even if much of the height is made up of collapsed mud walls, the mounds must represent a considerably extended period of occupation. As a matter for future investigation, it raises economic and ecological questions as to why it paid these populations to remain living upon the same spot throughout the period involved. In addition, the associated demographic questions should be tackled. Such sites are conspicuous and with further work it should be possible to satisfy oneself that all sites in the area under investigation have been identified; they ought to be visible on suitable air-photographs and this is a matter which should be pursued. The air-photographs which I examined in 1968 used for map-making were taken from too great a height to be of much use for the purpose. Once all the sites of a given period are known, it should be possible to give some logical account of the pattern of settlement. This might in turn throw some light on the much-vexed question of the scarcity of population in the 'Middle Belt'.

Systematic surface collections were made from 3 sites in a manner to provide material suitable for Mr. Daniels to apply his statistical techniques. I began making a contoured plan of Kongon Makeri, but could not complete it owing to the indisposition of my assistant.

EXCAVATION:

One site was chosen in which to make two trial trenches. This is the site known as Kongon Rafin Ndoko, Site No. TS 74/3. It lies 5 km. south of Wushishi, $09^{\circ} 41' 20''$ N, $06^{\circ} 03' 30''$ E. It is one of the sites cut through by the Zungeru-Bida road, and was selected for three reasons. Surface examination revealed a concentrated patch of quartz flakes having the appearance of Late Stone Age material, and it was hoped it might be possible to obtain a Late Stone Age/Early Iron Age interface; secondly, some small terracotta figurines were found on the surface; and lastly, it appeared to be of a manageable size to sink a test pit through the highest part of the mound in the time available. A contoured plan of the whole site was made before excavation commenced.

The test pit, 2m. square, extended to a depth of a little over 2½m. before the natural undisturbed ground was reached. There was no sign of the source of the quartz flakes nor of a Stone Age/Iron Age interface. No terracotta material was encountered, but there was a number of polished quartz beads. A pottery sequence was recovered for Mr. Daniels's statistical treatment; there was a large number of rubbing and pounding stones, and occasional pieces of iron. Charcoal for radiocarbon dating was collected. A feature which had been noted in the exposures in the road cutting was a number of large pottery jars, some of which were seen to contain fragmentary bones. The rims of such jars, flush with the present ground surface, were also observable on eroded areas of the site. One such jar, almost complete and estimated to have had an original height of about 75 cm. occurred in the middle of the test pit, apparently covered by a collection of worn-out rubbing-stones. The base of the jar was at a depth of 1.45 m. Inside the bottom of the jar there was a small quantity of fragmentary bone material difficult to identify except for the crown of a human molar tooth. It looks as if these jars, kept in houses or compounds, were used as repositories of human remains, probably after some sort of 'second burial' ceremony, as they are not large enough to contain an adult corpse.

Across the ridge on which the site was situated, on the eastern and western sides, were visible two low earth 'walls', apparently of defensive character. These did not appear to be very effective defences, and there was surface evidence that at very one time at any rate the settlement had extended beyond the western 'wall'. It was therefore decided to put a trial trench through it, 8m x 1m, to see if the wall had an exterior ditch or not, and to see whether it overlay earlier occupation deposits. The trench demonstrated quite conclusively that there was no ditch, that the 'wall' only consisted of surface material roughly scraped together, and that it overlay a considerable depth of earlier occupation deposit. This defensive wall, therefore, appears to represent the most recent feature at the site, hurriedly erected partially to protect a smaller area than the fullest extent of the settlement. Perhaps it reflects attempts to check slave-raiding Fulani cavalry in the nineteenth century.

A van-load of earth samples was taken from both cuttings, transported to Ibadan and processed through the Department of Archaeology's flotation plant; no seed remains were found. Samples of charcoal have been sent for radiocarbon dating but the results have not yet been received.

All the finds have been deposited in the Centre for Nigerian Cultural Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, together with a copy of the Finds Register and Field Notes.

RWANDA

Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, Belgium.
Institut National de Recherche Scientifique, Rwanda.

Excavation of four iron smelting furnaces at Kabuye.

During the Winter 1975-76, Prof. F. Van Noten excavated the remains of 4 iron smelting furnaces. From the typical decorated bricks often associated with Early Iron Age iron smelting activities, as well as from the discovery of a Urewe-type pot at the base of a furnace it may safely be assumed that these furnaces date to the E.I.A., if not V.E.I.A. TL and C¹⁴ samples taken from each furnace will probably produce new dates for the badly known beginning of the Iron Age in Central Africa. The 4 furnaces being quite different as far as their construction is concerned, they might represent different periods or may eventually reflect a non-standardized technology.

Stone Age Research.

During a prospection tour especially for Stone Age, Prof. Van Noten was assisted by Dr. J. Moeyersons, geomorphologist. A series of large caves was discovered near Ruhengeri. Test pits were dug in two of these caves. The archaeological deposit contained in each cave, was mainly pottery and animal bones. The collected charcoal will give us the first C¹⁴ dates for the type "B" pottery.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. F.R. Schweitzer, Chief Archaeologist of the South African Museum reports that:

Analyses of the Byeneskranskop sample, which accumulated during the period 13000 - 3000 BP is now complete and a preliminary report dealing with this material is at present being prepared. A further excavation at this site is planned for November - December in order to enlarge the sample.

The Archaeological Data Recording Centre is cooperating in the production of the 2nd edition of the Atlas of African pre-history. Mr. G. Avery has completed a thesis on coastal shell middens. Mrs. M. Leakey is analysing the microfauna from a number of cave excavations in the southern Cape.

Mr. Thomas P. Volman (University of Chicago) is at present visiting the Museum in order to study and analyse stone artefact assemblages from "Middle Stone Age" horizons at Montagu Cave, Peers Cave, Klasies River Mouth Caves, Kangkara Cave and Paardeberg Cave.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Mr. L. Jacobson of the State Museum, Windhoek, sends the following summary of his research activities and a list of publications.

- 1) A recent field trip to the Brandberg resulted in some interesting finds being made. The excavation of the "Girls School Shelter" revealed a shallow sequence extending back to the Pleistocene. Excavation and mapping of open station sites attributed to the Brandberg Industry revealed an interesting range of pottery types in addition to the usual range of stone structures.
- 2) A recently discovered fossil site near Gobabis on the edge of the Kalahari will be investigated in October. A sample of the fauna has been analysed by R.G. Klein who has assigned an Upper Pleistocene date to the site. The site is linked to a series of pans and will probably yield information on previous lake levels. Geological mapping will probably be undertaken next year.
- 3) A further series of excavations is also planned for the middens at Wortel near Walvis bay. The analysis of the faunal remains is providing interesting information on the dietary habits of these midden dwellers. These middens are situated in the delta of the

Kuiseb river and the C^{14} dates are providing interesting information on the apparent shifting of the river mouth in response to blocking by dune sands.

4) The following publications may be of interest:

Carr, M.J., A.C. Carr, L.Jacobson, & J.C. Vogel. 1976. Radiocarbon dating of the Zerrissene Mountain open station settlement complex. S.Afr.J.Sci. in press.

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SUDAN

Dr. L. Krzyżaniak of the Museum Archeologiczne, Poznan, Poland writes:

The short, fifth season of field work was carried out at Kadero in March, 1976.

The report on the mammalian animal remains, excavated from the Khartoum Neolithic settlement at Kadero, was recently delivered to me by an archaeozoologist. It deals with the remains excavated during the first four seasons.

The archaeozoologist was able to identify 1,260 pieces of various skeletal remains out of several thousand heavily fragmented bones and teeth of mammals, (Only about ten fish-bones were found at Kadero up to now!). These all come from 384 square metres of the settlement deposit.

88.17 per cent of the mammalian skeletal remains from Kadero turned out to be of domestic animals. Among these, 74.26 per cent are the remains of cattle (Bos primigenius f. taurus), and 22.05 per cent of sheep (Ovis sp.) and/or goat (Capra sp.). Several tens of bones of domestic dog (Canis sp.) and few skeletal pieces of domestic cat (Felis silv. f. catus) were also found.

Among the wild mammals, skeletal remains of antelopes and gazelles predominate (46.98 per cent) but, surprizingly, the remains of carnivores constitute a rather unexpectedly high frequency (32.28 per cent). This might be explained by the deliberate hunting of species valued for their skins.

The discovery of the large amount of the remains of domestic animals at Kadero seems to change radically the traditional view on the economy of the Khartoum Neolithic populations, which had been regarded as only incipient herders of sheep and goat, living mainly on hunting, fishing and gathering. The data yielded by the Khartoum Neolithic burial ground at Kadero, contemporary with the settlement and used by its inhabitants, suggest that the Kadero population was composed of heavily negroid individuals with, for example, heavy facial prognathism. It seems that this group was autochthonous on the Upper (main) Nile. The domestic animals of Khartoum Neolithic were undoubtedly adapted from alien groups of people.

The results of the examination of the plant impressions found on the potsherds from the settlement at Kadero and the radiocarbon datings from this site are not yet available.

Jebel Barkal

The following report comes from Professor Donadoni of the Missione Archeologica nel Sudan dell Università di Roma;

The activity of our mission in 1976 had to be reduced to a rather short period of about 25 days of actual digging, from March 17th to April 10th. The staff of the expedition was also less numerous than in the previous seasons, and we had to regret that some members have been prevented by different reasons from joining the excavation.

In spite of these facts, the results of our period of activity are not void of interest. In our earlier campaigns we had discovered elements of two buildings not far from each other, even if their mutual connection is still undetermined. The orientation of one of them viewed the Holy Mountain, while the other is built on an axis roughly North-South. The second one had occupied most of our interest in 1974, when we had discovered that it represented the complete plan - but little more than that unhappily - of a temple with a pronaos consisting of four rows of columns, a pylon, an hypostyle hall and an ante-chamber characterised by the presence in its middle of a block with an nh-njn. During this reason we have found the sanctuary, of which the only important part still in place is an "altar", or, perhaps better, a base for a naos or a sacred boat. A puzzling feature of its architecture is what seems to be a double girdle-wall, leaving between its two faces a space definitely not sufficient to be used as a passage or a store place. It is just here that we found two bronze heads of rams, with sun disk and uraei on their top, which are clearly the terminal part of two insignia. The most important discovery has been an inscribed fragment of architrave, giving two short texts, intended as labels to designate a king and a goddess in front of him. Each of the two labels gives two columns of Egyptian and one of Meroitic hieroglyphs. Although much battered, it is possible to read the name of the king, Hpr - k - R (Natakamani) and the titles of a goddess, probably Mut.

The other building was till now known through a trench, dug in 1973. It is made of large blocks of the bad local sandstone, of which only the first course often remains. An inspection has shown that its foundations are surrounded by loose blocks of the same stone, which seem to point out that there was an earlier building which had been destroyed for some unknown reason. By a fortunate chance our digging is proceeding from the end of the building towards its entrance. We have therefore determined that here too we have a temple. We have its sanctuary, with an 'altar' in a central cella, at the sides of which two small rooms are placed at a higher level. Before the cella there is an ante-chamber with two pillars in its middle, and before this a sort of hypostyle, with four columns. The entrance proper has still not been reached, but we can already assume that we are in the presence of a rather important building, showing some similarity in its plan with the other one near by, a third aspect of our excavations is related to

some earlier observation that we had made in the area NW of the temple of Natakamani. We had found there (1974) some modest buildings at about 20 m. distance from the temple itself; and having on the outer walls of one of them a big heap of potsherds. The very fact that they were mostly quite usual and poor vessels has originated a research about them, considering them as a whole, and trying to quantify them.

In this same connection, we have tried to get some indications from a stratigraphical pit, in an empty space between the temple and the houses. We have collected ceramic fragments for some two metres of depth, and then we reached and cut a mound of sand, the surface of which seems to have been covered ground, under which remains of burnt animal bones and broken vases have been brushed out. At this moment we were obliged to close our period of activity. We hope that 1977 will give us an easier opportunity for work and that we may again be at Jebel Barkal.

S o l e b: La mission Michela S. Giorgini (Sous la direction de Mme Michela S. Giorgini, l'équipe habituelle comprenait MM. J. Leclant et Cl. Robichon ainsi que Mlle D. Girardin.) a travaillé a Soleb du 17 Novembre 1975 au 2 Mars 1976. Divers travaux de consolidation ont été réalisés, surtout a l'intérieur des caissons du môle Sud du grand pylône. L'effort principal a été porté sur la rédaction au contact même du monument des prochains volumes de la série Soleb : Soleb III, comportant la description des bas-reliefs du temple et Soleb IV, volume des planches architecturales; ceci a entraîné quelques fouilles complémentaires pour confirmer ou rejeter les hypothèses relatives à certains points de détails.

Miss Rebecca Bradley of the University of Calgary has supplied this report:

MEROE 1975/1976.

The Calgary/Khartoum Joint Expedition to Meroe operated from 10 December 1975 to 28 March 1976. The excavation was financed with a Canada Council grant to Prof. Shinnie, with facilities and supervisory assistance contributed by the University of Khartoum. The staff consisted of: Director; Prof. P.L.Shinnie; Co-Director: Ahmed M.Ali Hakim; Assistant Director: J.H.Robertson; Excavation Supervisors: R.Bradley, J.Gelfand, R.Heitzmann, C.Reed, and Faisal al-Sheikh. Archaeological Assistant: B.Rostkowska; House Assistant: A.Shinnie; Small Finds Recorder: D. Camp Reed; Photographer: S. Gerszonowicz; and Draughtsmen: E.Poniecki, B. Williams. Dr.J.H.Kelley spent the month of December on the site assisting with the pottery analysis.

This season's activities were concentrated in the area directly east of the great Amun Temple. The foundations of M720 and KC100, the two small temples excavated in the 74/75 season, were investigated further, yielding in the first case re-used sandstone blocks from an earlier building, and in the second a foundation deposit of gilded but uninscribed glass and stone "wafers".

Two new temples were also excavated. KC101 is a small stone structure with a raised interior, now denuded to floor level. We noted traces of several renovations. KC104 is a brick temple of peculiar design, with twin entrances, forechambers, and sanctuaries sharing a number of subsidiary rooms. Notable finds from here included fragments of a ba-statue inscribed with the titulary of Aspelta, and sherds of painted plaster bearing the names of Amanitare and Arikhankharer.

The four new temples are apparently components of a complex lining the approach to the Amun Temple. KC101, M720, and KC100 are in a row to the north of the "avenue", with KC104 facing them to the south of it. The resulting monumental approach, hitherto unsuspected, was one of the most exciting observations of our season.

To the north of this area is KC102, a sandstone-faced temple abutted on the north by a rambling complex of additional rooms, and on the east by a large enclosed courtyard. In one of the rooms were fragments of colossal sandstone figures; in strata above the fill of another was a mass burial of twenty-eight individuals, some showing marks of butchering. An age in Mameluke times has been suggested, and a sample taken for dating purposes.

Other activities included further sampling of the domestic mound, and exposure of the Amanishakhate stela in order to make a new facsimile of the inscriptions.

ZAMBIA

Several news items and reports have been received from Miss Emily Maluma:

For the National Monuments Commission, Mr. Robin Derricourt has returned to England this month, following the completion of his contract, his address is; R.M. Derricourt, c/o Centre for Southern African Studies, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, England. Dr. Gudrun Corvinus has been appointed as Secretary/Inspector from February 1977. In the meantime Miss Emily Maluma has been appointed as Acting Secretary/Inspector.

Miss Emily Maluma has continued her studies on iron smelting and related sites east of Lusaka, especially in the Chongwe/Kanankata drainage area. This included the excavation of a smelter site and an associated debris mound. As from the beginning of September 1976 another season of site survey and selective excavation will be conducted in this same area.

From Mr. Musonda:

Mr. F.B. Musonda has returned from Ghana where he successfully completed his M.A. course. He has since joined the staff of the Livingstone Museum.

If funds become available, Mr. Musonda hopes to undertake an archaeological reconnaissance of northeast Zambia (Isoka Area). The proposed research project is aimed at a detailed investigation of the Isoka District from Later Stone Age to the earliest Iron Age times. Reconnaissance work will aim at locating Later Stone Age sites with archaeological deposit which it is hoped will be excavated. The research will be conducted with a view to establishing the cultural and chronological sequence in the area as well as studying cultural changes, if any, that took place during the period under study. The archaeological assemblages from the area will be studied with a view to establishing their relationship in time and space. Professor J.D. Clark has established a cultural and chronological sequence of northern Zambia from his work at Kalambo Falls prehistoric site while Mr. D.W. Phillipson has also established another sequence for eastern Zambia. The area envisaged for future research remains archaeologically unknown. It is hoped however that archaeological finds from this region will be compared with contemporary finds from Kalambo Falls, Mwela rock, Nachikufu, Nsalu, Bimbe wa mpalabwe, Thandwe, Kalembe and those from further afield.

Mr. N.M. Katanekwa has just completed his Iron Age excavation in the Upper Zambezi of the Western Province of Zambia. The project is in the short term aimed at reconstructing the Cultural and Chronological sequence of the area. He is currently analysing the finds. He is going back to Birmingham University in October to complete his M.A. studies. He hopes to use the materials for an M.A. thesis.

Mr. N.M. Katanekwa, Prehistory Dept. Livingstone Museum, himself has sent this report:

As a follow - up to his 1974 survey of the Upper Zambezi basin between Sesheke and Senanga District centres, in Western Zambia, Mr.N. Katanekwa undertook another survey along the Machili river, a tributary of the Zambezi, and its associated interfluves and streams, during the hot season months of October and November 1975. This is actually the best season for Iron Age site location here in Zambia since all the grass and shrub vegetation is already burnt down. The major objective of the survey, was to locate Iron Age sites representative enough to enable the establishment of an Iron Age chronological and cultural framework for further detailed work. Test excavations were also planned for the survey, in order to establish the Iron Age sequence and to obtain radio carbon dates for the area.

The methods of site location adopted were very flexible so as to minimise some of the limitations of site survey like the non-randomness of located sites. Methods used were as follows:-

- (a) Use of local guides and interviews with local peoples to obtain such information as where finds of pottery, slag, tuyeres etc. have been noticed; or where, when they first settled in the area, did they suspect old settlements or fields. Also to elicit information as to whether pits and trenches dug anywhere locally for toilets, foundations etc. have shown unusual stratigraphy or exposed finds. This method proved very successful, in all accounting for 75% of the more than 50 sites so far located by the author.
- (b) Another very useful method has been the taking of (authorised) walks on foot along dambo edges, around villages, behind built-up areas where there is always a possibility of erosion gullies, rubbish pits or foundation trenches.

- (c) Particular attention was also paid to pits, road cuttings, soil color changes along roads and other exposures, especially those made by burrowing animals which are usually quite deep.

Although an attempt to use sampling techniques was made in the collection of surface samples, it proved unsuccessful because of the nature of most of the sites, especially the very early sites. These sites are usually deeply buried, at least 75 cm to two metres deep - so that no exposure is usually deep or large enough to be worth any sampling for finds.

In all thirty Iron Age sites were located along the Machili river and its interfluves and seasonal streams. Thirteen of these sites are typical Early and Later, Iron Age sites, the rest are either Recent Iron Age sites or Historical and/or 19th century Totela "Refuge sites". These sites range in age from the beginning of the first millennium to the end of the 19th century and reveal a very interesting settlement pattern, in a range of environmental settings in this area. Generally site location is along dambo and river valley fringes. However, Early Iron Age (Phase I and II) sites are generally located on Mutemwa margins fringing streams and dambos. These areas are not occupied to-day as they are forest reserve areas, although they are reputed to be very rich agriculturally. The Early Iron Age Phase III sites - "later Iron Age" or "Kalomo Culture elsewhere" - tend to favour the sand knolls in the more open woodland country of the Upper Machili drainage basin. It is these areas that are intensively utilized and settled to-day. Recent Iron Age sites seem to follow the same settlement pattern as modern sites. Totela "refuge sites", however depict a somewhat different settlement pattern. They are found, almost in all cases, deep in woodlands and far from stream valleys and dambos. This however looks to be an artificial settlement pattern, as it is believed that these sites were so located for defense purpose against marauding tribes like the Lozi during the 19th century.

On the basis of C14 dates and pottery finds from this area, the Iron Age sequence in the area can tentatively be visualized thus:

- (i) A very Early Iron Age Phase - to represent perhaps an initial settlement community. Sites under this period include Situmpa (Machili) site, Namakala site and possibly Basal Nanga (as revealed by my excavations at this site during July, 1976).

These sites are characterised by pottery with a multiplicity of vessel forms and complex decorative motifs. A preliminary analysis of the pottery from these sites revealed at least six vessel forms: a concave necked globular bodied pot, a straight necked carinated pot form, a necked pot with a slight eversion above the rim, a beaker bowl form, a spheroidal bowl form and an open bowl form. Decoration techniques include broad grooving (channelling), combstamping and other

single stamp forms. The significance of these traits and the geographical implications are the subject of another paper; all we can say here is that there is a possible link with basal Kalundu, Kabondo, Kabondo Kumbo and Kumadzulo.

(ii) A Second Early Iron Age Phase - identified on chronological grounds to include village sites like Kazindu I & II, Mulobezi Old Bridge site, and Nanga site with an approximate age of around 9th century A.D. Typologically the pottery from these sites is intermediate between Phase I and the next later Iron Age. Vessel forms are more or less like those of the first phase, except for the occurrence of another additional pot form, the globular neckless pot commonly found in later phase materials. Decorative techniques and in some cases motif themes remain similar with phase I.

(iii) A Third Early Iron Age Phase - or "later Iron Age". Identified on typological and chronological grounds. Sites are Bulila I, II, III and IV, Muchinga I, II, III Kanyanga Forest camp and Chiundu site. All are small village sites unlike the larger early sites. This phase is characterised by very thin pottery and a few vessel forms. There is however a continuity of decorative techniques and motifs from the Early phases. Affinities here are more close to Kalomo Culture sites especially Kalundu, Kamangoza and Simbusenga. This preliminary Early and later Iron Age sequence must be regarded as highly tentative, until it is supported by more dates and large pottery samples.

(iv) Recent Iron Age sites - these have been identified purely on stratigraphical and typological grounds. The pottery from these sites is typologically distinct from the Early and later Iron Age ceramics, but resembles that of the Totela Refuge sites. Sites included within this category are Chiundu II & III, Mundeke site, Ilaba I, and II. These sites duplicate the ecological setting of the Early Iron Age Phase 3 or later Iron Age sites, although they tend to favour the top of the sand slopes in woodland adjacent to the dambos, whereas the Early sites are almost invariably at the edges of the woodland along dambos or river valleys. The reasons for this changed pattern could be cultural or ecological. The pottery inventory appears to be an earlier phase of the Totela Refuge ware and looks similar to Mali ware from sites like Sinde and Makoli in the Livingstone area.

(v) The last group of sites are the Historical Totela Refuge sites. According to Totela elders these were refuge sites. These sites are numerous scattered deep into woodlands of the Machili valley. The predominance of these sites compared to other earlier sites can possibly be attributed to a number of factors: (1) the fact that these were refuge sites could have made them vulnerable to

detection and so frequent shifts could have been a defensive manoeuvre to evade such detection; (ii) according to Old Totela tradition, the death of a senior member of the family could result in a possible abandonment of the site (Pers. Comm. N.L. Mataa, who carried out oral tradition studies in this area during July 1976) and (iii) large populations resulting in quick depletion of these less fertile soils would result in frequent moves. Since the completion of this survey, and after the study of the finds from it, the author has carried out excavation work at Namakala Early Iron Age site and Nanga site. This latter site was elected for a dig as surface scatter from there exhibited either a double or multi-component situation and indeed preliminary excavation results depict affinities to the earlier Namakala site and to the later Bulila sites. It is hoped that a complete study and analysis of these excavations, together with that of the above survey, will provide a provisional framework of pottery styles and radio-carbon chronology to which a number of Early and later Iron Age problems of the area could be related.

The following note has been received from Mr. M.S. Bisson of McGill University:

I am presently engaged in the statistical analysis of pottery from Brian Fagan's excavations at Basanga and Mwanamaimpa mounds in central Zambia. Papers describing my research on pre-historic copper mines in Zambia are being submitted for publication this Fall.

And this from Mr. J.O. Vogel who has moved to Northern Illinois University, DeKalb:

The news of recent research is limited to a two month survey of the Upper Zambesi Valley in western Zambia, sponsored by the National Geographical Society and Northern Illinois University. We covered a lot of ground between Katima Mulilo and Senanga. We discovered indications of further sites producing Sioma pottery. Unfortunately river action had reduced these to surface scatters. In the Lusu area some further E.I.A. sites related to the Gokomere Tradition were found as well as evidence of a new ceramic tradition, apparently dating to the early second millennium and related to the materials found further east from the Machili forest and Batoka plateau.

News from Universities

McGill University -

The Department of Anthropology at McGill University is pleased to announce the inauguration of a Masters Degree program in archaeology. Members of the department who have done archaeological research in Africa are Professor Bruce Trigger, who has studied Meroitic sites in Nubia, and Dr. Michael Bisson, who has excavated Iron Age sites in Zambia. Applications from prospective graduate students interested in African prehistory are encouraged. For general information about the McGill graduate program in archaeology please contact the Graduate Secretary, Department of Anthropology.

(The editor is very pleased to see another Canadian University offering a degree in African archaeology, but regrets it is restricted to prehistory so that students will not have the benefit of Professor Trigger's expertise in Meroitic studies).

Cambridge University:

The following is a list of students working for Ph.D. degrees in topics in African archaeology:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mrs. E.M. Aldworth | Comparative Study of the Typology and Chronology of the Middle Stone Age Industries of Southern Africa. |
| R.M. Derricourt | Variability in the Later Prehistoric and Protohistoric Societies of the Ciskei and Transkei. |
| Y.M. El Amin | The Old Stone Age in Sudan with Special Reference to the Middle Upper Palaeolithic Transition. |
| R.A. Foley | Aspects of East African Prehistory. |
| J.A.J. Gowlett | The Study of Human Cultural Development in the Lower Palaeolithic Period in Africa. |

- R.J. McIntosh Archaeological Studies in Mud Wall Architecture with Special Reference to W. Africa.
- A.A.S.A. Mohamed Early Farming in the Northern Sudan.
- N. Nzewunwa Prehistoric Economies in Eastern Nigeria.
- M.J. Hall Later Prehistory of Natal.
- V. Morse Prehistoric East Africa: Resources, Potential and Human Exploitation Patterns.
- J.E. Parkington Follow the San: An Analysis of Prehistoric Seasonality in the South Western Cape, South Africa.
- A.J. Anderson The Relevance of Archaeological Sites in North Africa, Southern France and Northern Scandinavia to Mobile Economies.
- P.L. Carter Territories, Economy and Material Culture of Some Prehistoric Sites in South Eastern Lesotho and Adjacent Areas.

Ali Osman is writing a thesis on a topic concerning Medieval Nubia in the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Simon Fraser University:

Mr. F.T. Masao's Ph.D. dissertation "The Late Stone Age and Associated Rock Paintings of Central Tanzania" is now completed and awaiting defence.

The University of Calgary:

Offers an M.A. (Archaeology) on African topics, and also (with permission from the Dean of Graduate Studies) a Ph.D.

The following theses have been submitted and the writers awarded the M.A. :

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Ali Osman, | Christian Nubia: Contribution of Archaeology to its Understanding. |
| Abbas Sid Ahmed, | A Reassessment of the Neolithic Period in the Sudan. |
| J.H. Robertson, | Continuity and Change in Meroitic Pottery. |
| E. Keteku, | The Iron Age in Ghana. |
| R. Heitzmann, | The Temples of Kush: An Examination of Form and Ideas. |
| K. Robertson, | Artifacts from the Ancient City of Meroe, Sudan. |

Two more students are approaching the end of their work and will shortly defend their theses:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| F. Kense, | The African Iron Age. |
| C. Reed, | Relief Decoration on Meroitic Pottery. |

Several of these theses are studies of material from the excavations at Meroe, but many other topics can, and are, being studied.

PUBLICATIONS

Basil Cooke reports from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, that a substantial volume on the evolution of African mammals is in the final stages of editing and will be published late next year by Harvard University Press. Dr. Vince Maglio initiated the project and is co-editor. The volume contains a general survey of the geological setting of the major deposits, followed by chapters written by individual specialists who deal with the main groups of mammals, largely from the palaeontological viewpoint. The volume should provide useful background material for archaeologists and anthropologists, especially in the sections on the primates and the hominids.

Volume X (1975) of AZANIA, the journal of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, contains...

- Laurel Phillipson, "Survey of the Stone Age Archaeology of the Upper Zambezi Valley: I. The Northern Part of the Valley".
- Joseph O. Vogel, "Kabondo Kumbo and the Early Iron Age in Victoria Falls Region".
- Celia K. Washbourn-Kamau, "Late Quaternary Shorelines of Lake Naivasha, Kenya".
- Gerhard Liesegang, "Some Iron Age Wares from Central Tanzania".
- Richard M. Gramly, "Meat-feasting Sites and Cattle Brands: Patterns of Rock-shelter Utilization in East Africa".
- Sir John M. Gray, "A Portuguese Inscription and the Uroa Coin Hoard: Some Discoveries in Zanzibar".

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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865-2509

August 30, 1976

Dr. Peter L. Shinnie
Department of Archaeology
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2N 1N4

Dear Peter,

I am happy to report that the book Axum written by Yu. Kobischanov will be available in English sometime next year. The work was originally published in 1966 by the Africa Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. With the author's active assistance and with the cooperation of the Copyright Agency of the USSR a fully revised, English version will be published by The Pennsylvania State University Press.

The work provides a thoroughly researched analysis of the political history of the Axumite Kingdom. Kobischanov approaches the task with a broad anthropological perspective; exploring Axumite political structure, economic behavior, social organization, and ideology. His discussion of the political and economic relations between Rome and Axum, and the detail with which he has reconstructed the turbulent history of contact between South Arabia and Axum provide a new and fascinating perspective on one of Africa's oldest kingdoms.

The volume will also include a translation and fully revised version of Kobischanov's 1968 essay Sources on the History of Axum. This is a concise introduction to the documentary sources available to Axumite historians. Kobischanov critically evaluates and classifies primary documents - ranging from coins to clerical epistles - so as to give the reader some insight as to where to look for certain kinds of information pertaining to Axumite culture and society.

I have contributed an essay to the volume on Axumite archaeology which attempts to summarize past research and to identify those topics which are currently the focus of attention among Axumite archaeologists.

The actual translation of both works by Kobischanov was accomplished by Professor Lorraine Kapitanoff of the Department of Slavic Languages at Penn State. I served as scientific editor.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Michels
Professor of Anthropology.

EINLADUNG ZUR SUBSKRIPTION

INVITATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

FRANCIS VAN NOTEN

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CENTRAL AFRICA

with contributions by

Daniel Cahen, Pierre de Maret, Jan Moeyersons and Emile Roche

New publication. 1 vol., approx. 100 pp. text, 24 black-and-white plates, 8 colour plates, 36 pp. line drawings and 4 maps. Size: 18,5 x 27 cm. Cloth.

Pre-publication price: öS 600,— (approx. DM 88,—)

The later list price will be approx. 30 % higher. Prices without value added tax.

This volume is a synthesis of all archaeological work undertaken in Zaïre, Rwanda, Burundi, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville and the Central African Republic. Such a synthesis has never been written before. This study summarizes all the work done since the end of the 19th century, but especially the fieldwork undertaken during the last years. It therefore yields a mass of unpublished material on the subject, as well as some 80 recently obtained radiocarbon dates. It covers the complete prehistory from the first appearance of man in this part of the world up to the excavation of protohistoric graves and historic kings' tombs. The problems about the spreading of metallurgy and the migration of Bantu-speaking peoples, as well as the Iron Age Societies in general, are particularly well documented.

For reasons of comparison references are made to sites in Uganda, Zambia and Angola.

Prof. Van Noten is head of the Section Prehistory-Archaeology of the 'Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale' at Tervuren, Belgium. All the members of his interdisciplinary team contributed to this volume. Dr. Moeyersons writes a chapter on Geomorphology and the Quaternary; Dr. Roche on Palaeo-Botany. Their contributions summarize the evolution of the climate in the past. Prof. Cahen is responsible of the Early, Middle and Late Stone Ages. The microlithic Late Stone Age is dealt with by Prof. Van Noten, who also writes on the 'Neolithic', the initial stages of the Iron Age and on archaeology and oral tradition; de Maret composes a chapter on the 'Neolithic' of Lower-Zaïre, a chapter on the Iron Age Societies and another on art.



AKADEMISCHE DRUCK- u. VERLAGSANSTALT
GRAZ / AUSTRIA

Graz, Juni 1976

150.76

CONFERENCES.

News of two conferences that may be of interest has been received:

The Fourth Triennial Symposium on Traditional African Art will be held at the Museum of African Art, Washington D.C. April 13-16, 1977.

Dr. J. Bellis is chairman of a panel on "Archaeology and Traditional Art in Africa". Those wishing to present papers should inform him at: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

The inaugural meeting and conference of the West African Archaeological Association will be held at the Enugu Campus of the University of Nigeria from 15 to 19th December 1976. Full details can be obtained from the Secretary, Dr.F.N. Anozie, Department of History/Archaeology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

The following letter has been received:

Box 73,
Road Town,
Tortola,
British Virgin Islands.

May 27th 1976.

Dear Mr.Shinnie,

I would be very grateful if you would insert a small notice in the next issue of NYAME AKUMA asking any of your readers who may have any information that could possibly be of interest to me in research that I am doing into past 'Indonesian' contact with Africa, to get in touch with me at the above address.

Many thanks,
Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Robert Dick-Read.