

**Survey and Excavations between  
Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo:  
University of Dar es Salaam  
Archaeological Field School, 1988  
(Part 2)**

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The following article contains text omitted, due to a printing error, from an article published in *Nyame Akuma* 32, in December 1989. The original was entitled "The Coast and the Hinterland: University of Dar es Salaam Archaeological Field Schools, 1987-88". The missing section concerned the 1988 field school, and contained a brief discussion of the New Africa Hotel site in downtown Dar es Salaam, shovel-testing at the Dar Inter Hotel site, as well as the results of a survey along the Tanzanian coast north of Dar es Salaam (Dar). All that was printed of this section was the table and map, reprinted below. What we have done here is present the 1988 material in its complete form; readers may wish to refer to the first publication as well (LaViolette et al. 1989) for the related field work from 1987.

The research of the 1988 University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Archaeology Unit field school

focused on the environs of Dar es Salaam, and how the early history of this area integrates with regions elsewhere along the coast and hinterland. The field work comprised excavations at the annex, then under construction, of the New Africa Hotel in downtown Dar es Salaam, on Maktaba Street near the intersection of Sokoine Drive, and site survey along the coast between Dar and the town of Bagamoyo (Fig. 1), 50 km north along the coast (UTMs for all sites in Table 1). Our attention was first drawn to the New Africa Hotel by the chance discovery of large quantities of pottery of the Tana tradition/Triangular Incised Wear (TIW) (Horton 1984, 1996; Chami 1994), dated to the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century A.D., in the roots of an upturned palm tree on the sidewalk adjacent to the construction site. This pottery was contemporary with that from the earliest sites then documented on the Swahili coast. Three of us (ALV, WBF, and NJK) were then teaching at the Archaeology Unit, and applied for permission to examine a larger sample of the material from intact stratigraphy in the context of the upcoming summer 1988 field school. We designed the coastal survey which followed to collect data particularly on village sites without stone architecture that had been largely unrecorded on the Tanzanian coast. Ultimately, we were able to survey half of this 50-km segment of the coast during the field school, the omitted stretches due largely to the inaccessibility of private and government property. The survey was highly successful in finding archaeological sites.

### **New Africa Hotel Site (DA/IL 1)**

Much of the area that might have been of interest at the New Africa Hotel had already been capped with cement in the course of construction. In the open area between that construction and the sidewalk, we excavated six units totalling 13.5 sq. m, in 10-cm levels within natural stratigraphic layers, and dry-screened through 5-mm mesh. Most of the deposits were modified beach sand. The upper 0.6 m contained modern artifacts and construction material, from a series of hotels dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the present. Below this, within a 0.2-m-thick horizon of dark-gray to black soil, we found intact early deposits, containing local potsherds from large open-mouthed globular pots, many of which were decorated on their necks with the incised triangles,

Table 1. Summary of 1988 survey (after LaViolette et al. 1989)

Site Number	Site Name	UTM Coordinates	Elev m	Area Sq.m	Thk	Date	C	T	Remains 1234567890	Ty
DAIL 1	New Africa	37EC532392468	5	6000	15	8-10	1	1	1101000000	5
DAIL 2	Dar Inter	37EC533092466	8	14300	30	16-19	1	1	1101000000	24
DAIL 3	Mzizima	37EC532792476	2	500000	100	9-19	1	1	1100001000	1
DAIL 4	Magogoni	37EC532692468	10	200	30	19	0	0	0000000100	8
DAKI 1	Msasani	37EC529892533	10	30000	30	18-19	1	1	0101000101	2
DAKI 2	Kunduchi	37EC523792641	8	80000	40	9,15-	1	1	0101001101	1
DAKI 3	Bahari Bch.	37EC521792669	10	50000	15	20	1	1	0100000000	6
BAMA 1	Bagamoyo	37EC489992884	5	400000	50	18-20	1	0	1111111111	1
BAMA 2		37EC490992874	25	400	10	11-15	1	1	1100000000	5
BAMA 3	Bomgwa	37EC493192864	10	12000	50	19	1	0	1100000000	4
BAMA 4		37EC491692869	20	400	30	20	1	1	0100000000	7
BAMA 5A		37EC495292857	3	800	10	91	1	0	1100000000	5
BAMA 5B		37EC495392857	5	100	10	19	1	0	1100000000	5
BAMA 6		37EC494592857	10	2010	80	9-14	1	1	1101000000	5
BAMA 7A	Kaole (old)	37EC494592859	15	150	100	13-18	1	1	1111011101	1
BAMA 7B	Kaole (new)	37EC493892859	20	50000	30	19-20	1	0	1101111101	2
BAMA 8		37EC494192857	30	1050	30	19	1	0	1100000000	5
BAMA 9		37EC494392856	10	40000	50	9-14	1	1	1101100010	3
BAMA 10		37EC494992854	10	600	30	19	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 11		37EC494892853	10	225	30	19	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 12		37EC494792853	10	3600	30	19-20	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 13		37EC495392853	15	50000	10	19-20	0	1	0000000000	6
BAMA 14		37EC497492845	15	200	20	16-18	1	1	1100000000	5
BAMA 15		37EC497892844	10	1500	30	16-18	1	1	1100000000	5
BAMA 16	Kasiki	37EC498092844	10	6000	30	15-16	1	0	1100000000	5
BAMA 17		37EC498292842	10	1500	30	15-16	1	1	0101000000	7
BAMA 18A		37EC498492842	15	900	30	18-19	1	0	1100000010	5
BAMA 18B		37EC498592842	15	3600	30	18-19	1	0	1110000010	5
BAMA 19	Dunda	37EC498592838	20	30000	30	19-20	0	0	1101100010	3
BAMA 20		37EC499392844	15	1250	30	20	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 21		37EC499492844	15	1500	30	19-20	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 22		37EC499592844	10	1250	30	19	1	0	0000000000	7
BAMA 23	Mlingotini	37EC500092840	15	300000	30	19-20	1	0	1101100111	23
BAMA 24	Kilege	37EC501292831	5	2000	30	19	1	0	1110000000	5
BAMA 25		37EC401292829	15	7000	30	19-20	1	0	1100000100	5
BAMA 26	Gwazo I	37EC502392823	13	40000	30	20	1	1	1100000000	4
BAMA 27	Gwazo II	37EC502492823	5	40000	50	19	1	0	1100000100	4
BAMA 28	Gwazo III	37EC503392819	10	450	20	18	1	0	0100000000	7
BAMA 29A		37EC503492818	10	2000	20	18	1	0	1101000000	5
BAMA 29B		37EC503492818	10	16000	20	18	1	0	1101000000	5
BAMA 30		37EC504292811	10	2400	10	18	1	0	0100000000	7

**Key**

Number Two-letter district and ward abbreviations followed by sequential site numbers

Thk Thickness in cm of cultural deposits

Date Approximated date of the occupation, in centuries

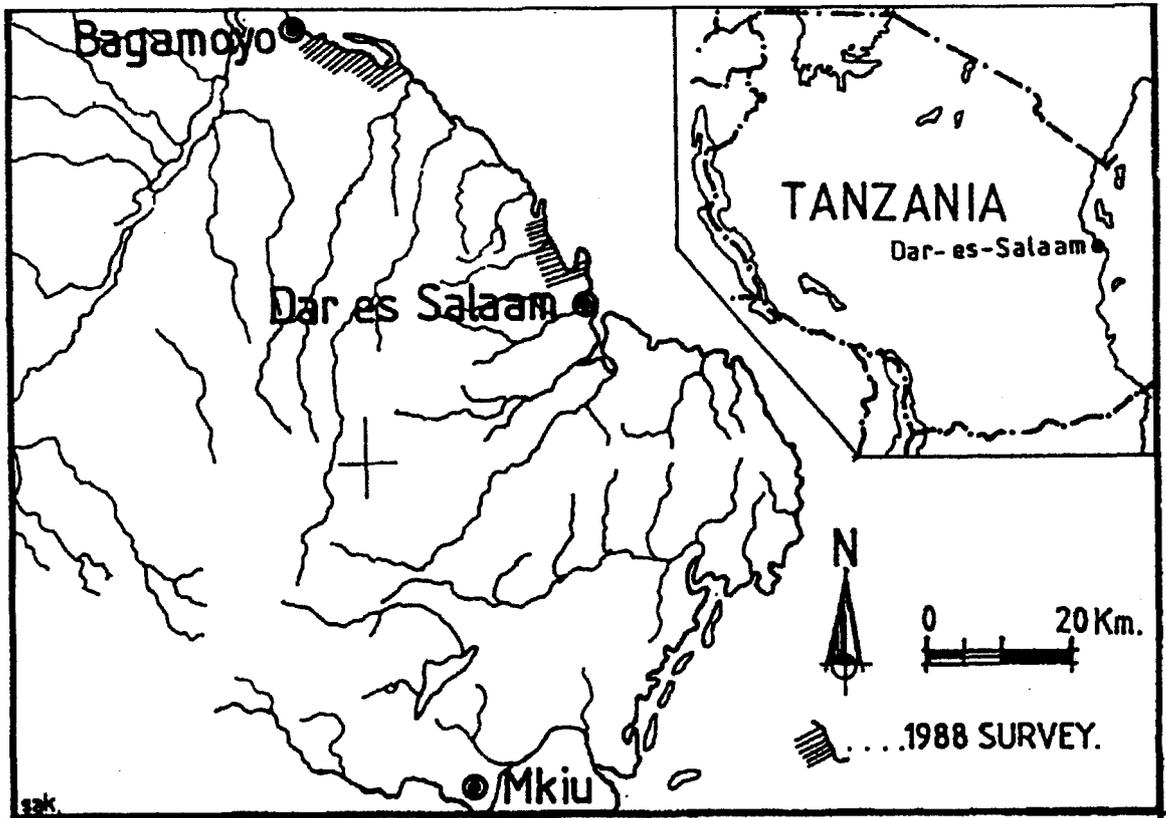
C 1=surface collection carried out, 0=no collection

T 1=shovel-test dug, 0=no tests

Remains 1=present, 0=absent for following categories:  
 1=daub 2=shell 3=slag 4=charcoal 5=midden 6=hearth  
 7=stone architecture 8=tomb or grave 9=postholes 0=stone mosque

Ty Suggested site types as follows:  
 1=large settlement with stone and wattle-and-daub architecture (> 4 ha)  
 2=small settlement with stone and wattle-and-daub architecture (< 4 ha)  
 3=large wattle-and-daub settlement 4=small wattle-and-daub settlement  
 5=homestead (sherd scatter with daub or postholes) 6=extensive sherd scatter (> 1 ha)  
 7=small sherd scatter 8=isolated tomb(s)

Figure 1. Location map for 1988 survey.



cross-hatching, diagonal lines, and rows of round punctates associated with Tana tradition/TIW pottery (Table 1). The sherds were identical to those found in the palm tree roots. We found no intact evidence of architecture or living floors, but in several units, found daub bearing pole and stick impressions. We also recovered marine shells, a limestone sharpener or 'bead-grinder', and the tip of a small tusk, probably warthog because of its size, but possibly elephant (Table 1).

Although the excavated area was not large, we can say with some confidence that the New Africa Hotel site was part of an 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. settlement, as small as a single dwelling or as large as a village, comprised, if the latter, of scattered wattle-and-daub houses. We have leaned toward identifying this as a village or small town due to its prime location on a waterfront. Inhabitants would have pursued a mixed economy including fishing. A seriation and examination of cross-datable artifacts from the subsequent survey support the early dating of this site. While 'bead

grinders' and TIW pottery, along with imported items, are found at many early coastal villages and towns of the 8th to 10th centuries, there is no in situ evidence at the New Africa Hotel site for involvement in the Indian Ocean trade. A single piece of sgraffiato (c. A.D. 1000-1300) was found, in the soil mass of the tree roots mentioned above. The near absence of associated imports, at a site only 50 m or so from the coastline on a good harbor, and near contemporary sites with significant amounts of imports (Table 1) underscores the potential variability among TIW-associated sites on the coast. Mkiu (LaViolette et al. 1989, Karoma et al. 1989, Fawcett and LaViolette 1990), 66 km south/southwest of Dar and the subject of the 1987 UDSM field school, is another example of a TIW-bearing site with no imports present (also Chami 1994, Kessy 1997, Chami and Mapunda 1998). The presence of TIW ceramics at virtually all sites of this period found on the coast suggest commonalities among the settlements, but these do not preclude economic and social variations including the differential access to and consumption of imports.

## Dar Inter Hotel Site (DA/IL 2)

For two days we carried out shovel-testing at what was then an intended hotel construction site by the Kigamboni ferry on Dar es Salaam harbor, where Kivukoni Front turns into Ocean Road. We suspected that an archaeological site might be present at this prime waterfront location, due to the New Africa Hotel site; the presence of an early settlement directly across the harbor entrance at Ras Makabe; and another at Mzizima, only a couple of km to the north, visible in the eroding sea wall. Thirty-six shovel-test pits (STPs) of 0.5 m x 0.5 m were dug to about a meter in depth, across the top of the ridge to the northwest of the ferry. The deposits were dry-screened through 5-mm mesh. A site was indeed located, which covered an area of about 130 m x 110 m, with most of the pre-19th to 20th-century artifacts concentrated at a depth of 0.45-0.65 m below surface. Nearly every STP yielded cultural material, including a single sherd of sgraffiato pottery, possibly from an earlier occupation, c. A.D. 1000-1300. Most of the other artifacts date from the mid-18th century onwards, and seem to be part of secondary middens, including shell, fish bones, local undecorated potsherds, and small amounts of daub. These appear to be the remains of a public fish-processing or marketing area, as it is today, rather than a domestic area, although the latter is also possible.

## The Coastal Survey

During the remaining three or so weeks of the field school we conducted the survey along the coast between Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo. Our intention was to examine the strip of land bordering the present beachfront. Eleven of us spaced ourselves every 10-20 m and walked along a 200-m-wide transect extending inland from the tidal zone, for a total of 25 km in two segments. We excavated an STP every 300 m where surface exposure was poor to insure that sites were not going undetected, for a total of seventy-six. Forty-two sites were thus located, of which only eleven (26%) were known previously. The overall site density was 1.2 sites/km of coastline, and sites ranged in date from the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. through the present, with the majority clustered at the two ends of this time range. The gap in the center of the range is discussed below. Information about all of the sites encountered in the survey is summarized in Table 1.

## Conclusions

Based on the survey, a considerable and consistent chronological gap occurred from A.D. 1400/1500 to 1800, witnessed in the local pottery, imported pottery, glass, and coins. Although a few major stone towns, such as Kaole and Kunduchi, date from the 13th to 15th centuries and later, none of the wattle-and-daub settlements recorded during the 1988 field school dated to this middle period. Although the results of this survey, limited in scope, need not be taken as definitive for the settlement history of this coastal stretch, the chronological pattern that emerges is suggestive. Abandonment of the coastline between Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam during the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, a period at the end of which Portuguese colonial intervention took place, is one possible explanation. Another is that coastal peoples moved their settlements inland at least 0.5 km during this period, causing us to miss them in the survey, or that the coastline in this area retreated during those centuries and the vestiges of settlement were destroyed. Transects reaching inland, perpendicular to the coast, would help illuminate this issue.

Fewer than a handful of settlements that we located date from A.D. 800 to 1400/1500. The majority of the sites dated are from the 19th and 20th centuries. Although we failed to locate any stone architecture apart from several tombs, we recorded many settlements without standing architecture, especially from recent periods. The collection of oral histories from people encountered during the survey provided additional information about relatively recent sites, including possible causes for abandonment and relocation.

The excavations carried out at the New Africa Hotel site in what was probably an 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>-century A.D. fishing village on the edge of Dar es Salaam harbor dovetailed with our efforts to record non-stone settlements on the coast. As in the 1987 field school excavations at sites near Mkiu (Karoma et al. 1989, Fawcett and LaViolette 1990), once again we found Tana tradition/TIW pottery associated with few trade items, underscoring the idea that Early Iron Age settlements on the coast need not have been tied as directly to involvement with long-distance trade as sometimes has been assumed. Since the UDSM Archaeology Unit field school of 1987 and 1988, attention to discovering and

researching wattle-and-daub sites on the coast and inland has increased (e.g., Chami and Mapunda 1998, Kessy 1997, Fleisher and LaViolette, this issue), and such research will continue to allow us to build a more inclusive picture of this period, incorporating stone towns as well as socioeconomically diverse wattle-and-daub settlements.

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