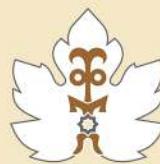
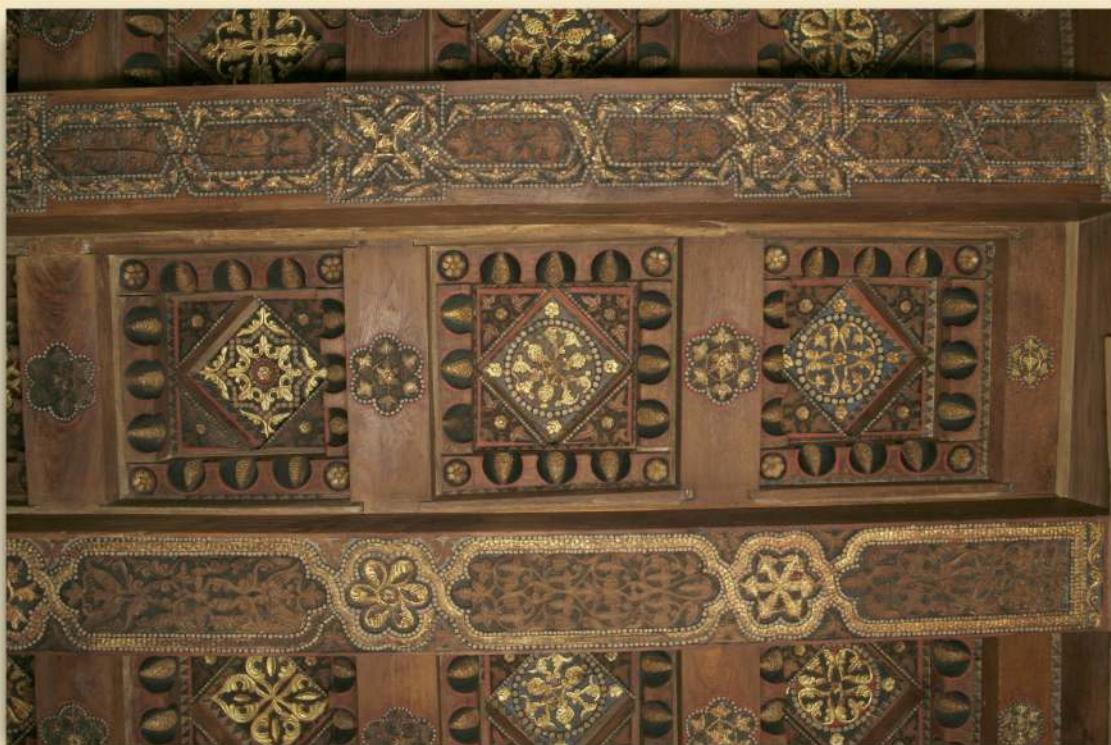


أَنْزَالٌ

١٨٤

حولية الآثار اليمنية

العدد الثامن



الهيئة العامة للآثار والمتاحف

General Organization of Antiquities and Museums

صنعاء

م ٢٠٢٥ - ه ١٤٤٧



حولية الآثار اليمنية

العدد الثامن

هيئة التحرير

المشرف العام

عبدالله بن علي الهيال

هيئة التحرير

منصور حسين محمد الحداء

عادل يحيى حسن الوشلي

صادق صالح حسن البتينة

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التنسيق والإخراج الفني

نوال محمد الحسيني



الهيئة العامة للآثار والمتاحف
General Organization of Antiquities and Museums

صنعاء

٢٠٢٥-١٤٤٧ م

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رقم الإيداع بدار الكتب الوطنية

٢٠٢٤/٣٧٥

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٧	تقرير عن أعمال الترميم والصيانة في جامع معاذ بن جبل (المرحلة الثانية).
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	حضرموت:
١٠٦	دراسة تاريخية لسور الشحر.
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١٢٠	أعمال الحفر والتنقيب في منطقة الهماد - مديرية باجل (١٩٩٤ م - ١٩٩٥ م)
١٢٧	Al Hamid Excavations 1994-95 A Preliminary Report

Al Hamid Excavations 1994–95

A Preliminary Report

The site of al Hamid was first visited by A Jamme in 1976 when a number of inscriptions that had been found at the site were brought to his attention. The site was subsequently visited by F Stone and S al Radi. The five inscriptions initially published by Jamme and subsequently re-published, along with a sixth inscription, by Stone and al Radi indicated that they came from a temple dedicated to Dhat Himyam and Almagah.

Given the importance of such a site, located on the Tihama, and the general lack of knowledge concerning the pre-Islamic occupation of the area, permission was sought in September 1994 to visit the site with a view to beginning excavations there. Later the year. Following this visit, and the positive impression that was gained of the site, further permission was sought in order to begin excavations in December 1994 under the joint agreement established between GOAMM and BAMY. Excavation at the site commenced on the 15th of December and continued until the 8th of January. In addition to the work done at al Hamid a second Pre-Islamic site was located at Waqir. A short report on the results obtained is given below...

At al Hamid the excavation was centered on the temple where the above-mentioned inscriptions had been found. The temple structure was completely excavated, showing a simple rectangular plan approximately nine meters by eleven meters. The long side is orientated west–east and there was evidence for the entrance was found in the west wall of the building. The walls of the temple are approximately one meter thick and built of wadi boulders and stones, the outer walls faced with ashlar masonry. The ashlar masonry had been completely robbed from the west side of the temple and a single course remained along the north and south walls. At the east end of the temple the ashlar facing comprised two courses preserved above the foundations, a height of seventy centimeters. Inside the temple structure evidence of a floor surface was located at approximately the same height as the outside foundations. This was formed by a dark burnt layer, which could also be traced outside the temple, above which were traces of a plastered surface. This probably formed the initial floor of the temple. This was overlain by a thick deposit of rubble and plaster fragments, possibly indicating a phase of abandonment and dereliction, or refurbishing, as it was followed by a subsequent phase of occupation. The area surrounding the temple was excavated and the presence of additional building

structures near the west end of the temple prompted the extension of excavations in this area.

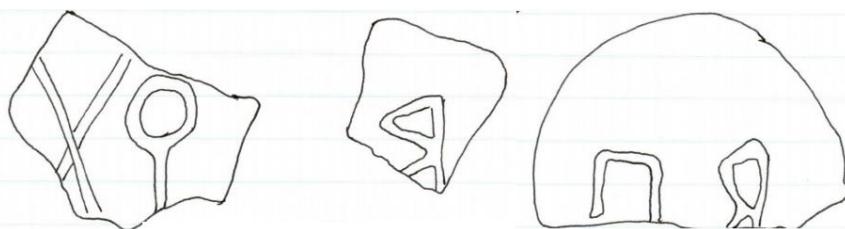
The excavations were extended a further fifteen meters beyond the west wall of the temple. A somewhat enigmatic structure was excavated near the entrance to the temple along with part of a significant building. Also excavated were parts of walls which may have acted as retaining walls for a terrace on the west side of the temple.

In the course of the excavations a large number of finds was recovered. The most common category of find was pottery, including a number of inscribed pot sherds and numerous ceramic discs. A clay figurine, a carnelian bead, obsidian flakes, organic remains and three inscriptions were also recovered.

Pottery

Approximately 12,000 pot sherds were recovered from the excavations. These consist of mainly undiagnostic body sherds. However, there is a large number of feature sherds which have enabled the formation over basic typology of forms. This initial typology consists of about one hundred and thirty forms amongst which there are about eight basic recurring forms and a number of miscellaneous types. The fabric of the pottery is quite uniform and typical of the pottery found over the entire site of al Hamid. A number of pot sherds have been shaped into small discs the precise function of which is unclear. Also found was a number of inscribed pot sherds which have up to three characters inscribed in recognizable ESA letters. The pottery recovered so far should enable comparisons to be made with other pre-Islamic sites and also help in defining the character of pre-Islamic

pottery in the Tehama. This will be important for future surveys



Clay Figurine:

A further clay object was the head of a figurine, provisionally identified as that of a bull. It was found in the debris of one of the buildings near the west wall of the temple



Carnelian

A single bi-conical shaped carnelian bead was found in the north east corner of the temple.

Obsidian

The use of obsidian at the site was indicated by four flakes.

Organic Remains

The excavation of the temple and adjacent buildings produced a small amount of animal bones which will give an indication of part of the economy of the site. A number of charcoal samples was also found within the temple. It is intended that these will be of use in obtaining a number of C14 dates as well as indicating what tree species were present. Interestingly, some of the charcoal deposits also contained traces of a vitreous material that might be the remains of burnt incense and it is hoped that chemical analysis will confirm this and possibly indicate precisely what incense was used.

Inscriptions

Three new inscriptions were recorded.

The first is a short inscription inscribed on a large boulder approximately ten meters from the cant wall of the temple. It reads as follows

181621

The second was located in the debris of one of the buildings excavated on the west side of the temple. It comprises two lines inscribed on a block 37 cm by 19 cm and is part of a longer dedication written in boustrophedon. It reads as follows



Additional work at al Hamid

A general awareness of the layout of the site and surroundings of al Hamid was obtained in order to plan future work at the site.

The site appears to be of one period with no later Islamic occupation. The site covers a significant area, approximately 600 by 500 meters being a minimum estimate, and a large number of structures are apparent from the surface. These usually consist of a large courtyard associated with a number of attached rectangular or square structures. On the outside of the courtyard there is usually a circular structure approximately five meters in diameter.

At the most eastern point of the settlement, approaching the foot of Jabal Dhamir, there is a cemetery area contemporary with the site. An example of one of the tombs was excavated.

The excavation of al Hamid tomb 1

Prior to excavation the tomb appeared as a circular structure with a central chamber formed by a number of large upright boulders. The area around the structure was cleared in order to define the circular structure. This turned out to be approximately four meters in diameter and stands forty centimeters above the surrounding ground surface. Between the outer circle and the central chamber there is a surface formed by small stones. The central chamber was approximately eighty centimeters deep and measures two meters east-west by one meter north-south. The floor of the chamber is formed by the underlying bed rock. The tomb had been disturbed prior to excavation and the only artifact recovered came from the cleaning of the circular structure around the central chamber. These finds comprised a single bi-conical carnelian bead and the rim of a

pottery vessel. The fabric of the vessel is comparable with that of the pottery found elsewhere at al Hamid. The fragmentary bone remains appear to suggest a single inhumation placed on its right side in a flexed position. The burial was orientated east-west, facing south.

Waqir

when an initial visit was made to Hudayda Museum in September 1994 my attention was drawn to a large altar with a one-line inscription. This had been found in the vicinity of al Qutay but its precise location was unknown. Given the possibility that this had initially come from al Hamid further enquiries were made in December 1994. The possibility of there being a second pre-Islamic site located on the Wadi Siham, near al Qutay, appeared probable. A visit was made to Waqir where abundant evidence of a second site was observed. Unfortunately, construction work associated with a new irrigation project was in process and access to the area was restricted. However, a collection of pottery was made and this was seen to be identical both in fabric and forms with that from al Hamid, thus indicating a degree of contemporaneity between the two sites. In addition, we were shown a second inscription from the site. This inscription is still in situ, traces of a large wall being visible below.

- : The inscription on the altar now in Hudayda reads as follows

- : The second, in situ inscription, at Waqir reads as follows

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Conclusions and future programmer

The excavations at al Hamid have already provided important information about this pre-Islamic site on the Tihana. During the next season it is intended to map the buildings visible at the site so as to set the temple in the context of the surrounding settlement. Excavations will continue in the area around the temple as well as in other locations, in order to find out more about the surrounding domestic structures. The excavation of the domestic structures should enable us to go some way in reconstructing the economy of this pre-Islamic site.

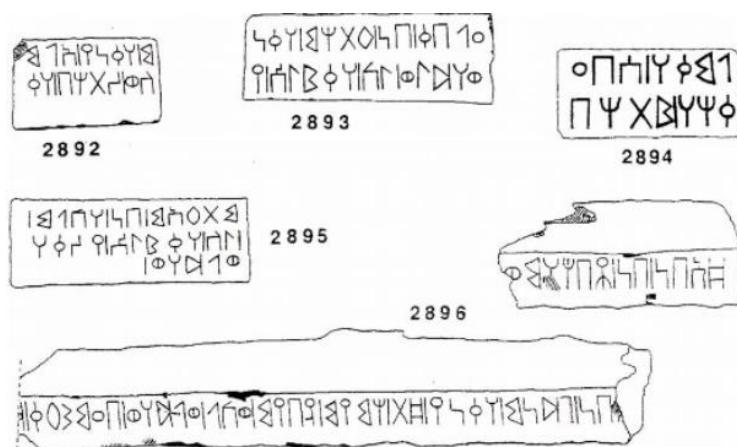
Further comparative work on the pottery should help confirm the date of the site and any contacts with other regions. It is hoped that a number of C14 dates will also be obtained in order to further clarify the date of the site.

Familiarity with the pottery from al Hamid should help in the identification of other

Pre-Islamic sites in the Tihama region, as already shown with the site at Wagir. It is intended therefore that further survey be conducted along the course of the Wadi Siham.

The site at Wagir is clearly of great importance. By the end of 1995 the construction works currently taking place there should be completed and more detailed survey of the area possible.

Consequently, by the end of the 1995-96 season we hope to be able to offer an even more complete picture of the pre-Islamic occupation of this part of the Yemen



Jamme,A1981,pl.1



حولية الآثار اليمنية

العدد الثامن



الهيئة العامة لآثار ومتاحف

صنعاء

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