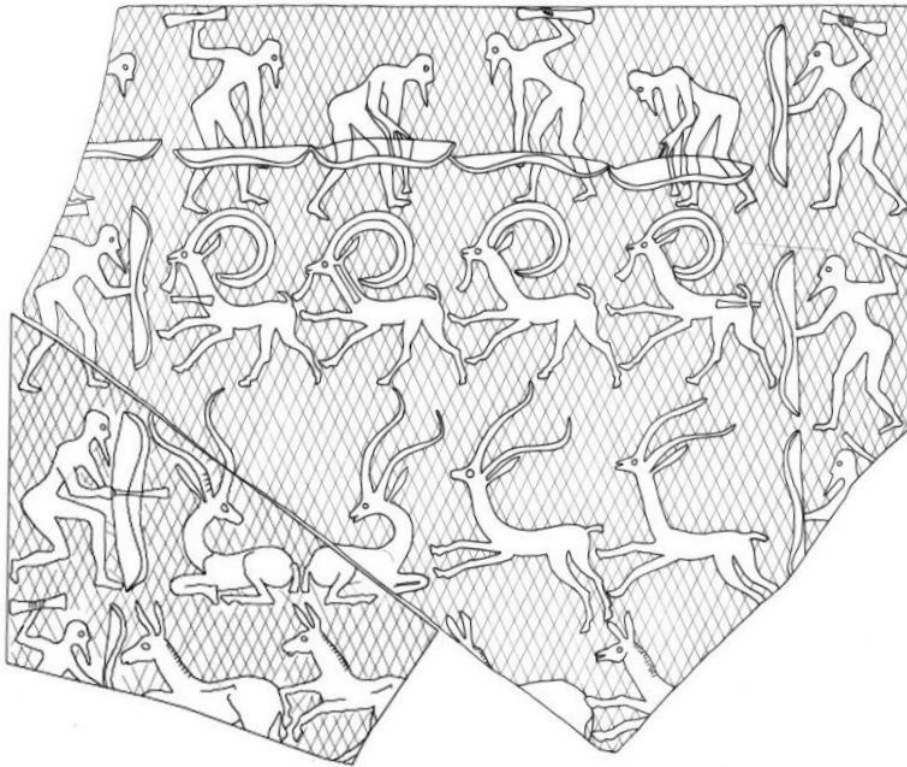




United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Social Fund for Development in Yemen



ŞAN‘Â’ NATIONAL MUSEUM

Collection of Epigraphic and Archaeological Artifacts from al-Jawf Sites

Part II

Mounir ARBACH & Rémy AUDOUIN

Şan‘â’ 2007



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AUTHORS :

Mounir ARBACH : Researcher at CNRS, Laboratoire des études sémitiques anciennes (LESA), Collège de France, Paris.

Rémy AUDOUIN : Member of the French Archaeological Mission in Yemen and a Expert for UNESCO.

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English Text: Mounir ARBACH & Rémy AUDOUIN

Arabic Text : Mounir ARBACH

Layout : YASSER FARHAN

With the collaboration of

‘Abdalazîz AL-JINDÂRÎ, Director of Şan‘â’ National Museum

Ibrâhîm AL-HÂDÎ, Deputy Manager

Ibrâhîm AL-ḤUDAYD, Photographer

Fahmî MUKRID, Ḥanân AL-DÂLÎ, Restorers

Fu’âd IŞĤÂQ, Muḥammad AL-RADÎ, ‘Abdallâh IŞĤÂQ, ‘Abduh AL-TÂLIBÎ,

Khâlîd AL-AḤMADÎ, Inventory

Rémy AUDOUIN, Rashâd AL-QUBÂṬÎ, ‘Âdîl SA‘îD, Designers

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Şan‘â’ 2007

TRANSLITERATION OF SOUTH ARABIAN SCRIPT

𐩦	'	𐩡	n
◦	‘	𐩢	q
𐩠	b)	r
𐩣	d	𐩠	s ¹
𐩨	<u>d</u>	𐩣	s ²
𐩢	ḍ	𐩨	s ³
𐩤	f	𐩢	ṣ
𐩢	g	𐩣	t
𐩠	ḡ	𐩢	<u>t</u>
𐩣	h	𐩠	ṭ
𐩣	ḥ	◦	w
𐩣	ḥ	𐩢	y
𐩦	k	𐩨	z
𐩠	l	𐩢	ẓ
		𐩣	m

TRANSLITERATION OF ARABIC SCRIPT

a	ḍ
b	ṭ
t	ẓ
<u>t</u>	‘
g	gh
ḥ	f
kh	q
d	k
<u>d</u>	l
r	m
z	n
s	h
sh	w
ṣ	𐩣 y

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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May you all find here our most grateful thanks.

To everyone who is concerned with the preservation

of Yemeni Cultural Heritage...

INTRODUCTION

Şan'â' National Museum's collections have recently received an abundance of new acquisitions originating from al-Jawf. Their acquisition was led by the GOAM and the Ministry of Culture. Unfortunately, all these artifacts have been acquired after illegal excavations.

These new collections consist mainly of about a hundred monumental inscriptions, a hundred items of pottery, five hundred funeral steles, a hundred inscribed wooden sticks, more than ten pieces of jewels and hundreds of small objects made of bronze and alabaster.

As it is impossible for us to present all of these pieces in one book, a choice was made of the most representative pieces, mainly monumental inscriptions and a few objects, among them some jewels, a few limestone statues, and a bronze statue whose restoration was carried out by the Louvre Museum.

Pottery, inscribed wooden sticks, funeral stones, bronze pieces and jewels, each of them need to have more specific study and this will be published in separate books.

Most of these artifacts have been found recently at archaeological sites at al-Sawdâ', al-Baydâ', Kamna, Haram, Inabba', Ma'în, Baraqîsh and Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir. But a number of items remain of unknown provenance. Analysis of the inscriptions and the objects, we can identify them and know they are from the Himyarite sites and therefore not from al-Jawf sites.

As a continuation of the first volume, prepared by Mounir Arbach and Jérémie Schiettecatte, this collection displays a short description of each item, its inventory number in the Şan'â' National Museum (YM...), the material it is made of, its provenance, insofar as it can be determined, and its dimensions and approximate date. We also give a short comment on the historical importance of the texts. In the case of the inscriptions, the date is decided according to paleography and textual analysis.

Some objects are difficult to date because they were taken out of archaeological context. Therefore, points of artistic interest are made. A selective bibliography of studies concerning the history of al-Jawf ends this volume.

The importance of this collection lies in the fact that it dates from the first millennium BC, with the exception of a few pieces from Ilmaqah temple in Nashq dating from the 2nd century AD. Approximately ten inscriptions from al-Sawdâ' are of importance in establishing a chronology of the 8th and 7th centuries BC. Several texts from Inabba' and Ma'în are also interesting to date this period. The inscriptions from Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir are equally important to date the period of *mukarribs* of Saba'.

Through the new inscriptions we have found documentation identifying the names of other kings of the ancient sites of al-Jawf, thus allowing us to make a complete list of all kings from the 8th and 7th centuries BC.

The aim of this collection is first to heighten awareness among the Yemeni public, national institutions and international organizations concerning the destruction and looting which are taking place in these sites. To stop looting and smuggling from the sites demands a determined intervention from the Yemeni State, as well as strong coordination between Yemeni institutions, international organizations, and scientific missions.

Our goal is to make known to the public the wealth and variety of Yemen's cultural heritage as well as the greatness of Yemen's pre-Islamic history, a history treasured by the Yemeni people. Finally, this English-Arabic book opens the door to future scientific examinations and knowledge linked to South Arabian civilizations.

The history of South Arabia is far from complete. This new collection points out our limits in both the epigraphic and archaeological fields, and in particular of our insufficient knowledge of al-Jawf in the 1st millennium BC. This book, within the scope of the Phase two of the al-Jawf Sites and Artifacts Preservation Project, funded by UNESCO and SFD, is an excellent example of cooperation between international and Yemeni institutions, and a call for such valuable interaction to be strengthened. Having completed this book, our hope now turns to the actions of the Yemeni government in protecting the sites in al-Jawf, so that scientific missions can continue legal excavations that will lead to more knowledge and better publicity of Yemen's three thousand years old cultural heritage.

CHAPTER 1

INSCRIPTIONS

This collection is composed of sixty-five inscriptions from the different sites which we have classified and numbered from one to sixty-five with their appropriate number from the museum. Seventeen texts are from al-Sawdâ', three from al-Baydâ', one from Kamna, five from Haram, three from Inabba', fourteen from Ma'în and Barâqish, eleven from Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir and eleven of unknown origin, but also from al-Jawf.

Texts from al-Sawdâ' (Nashshân) : inscriptions from this site are composed of thirteen royal texts and are engraved on sacrificial altars and tables. The oldest ones date from the first decade of the 8th century BC. Both texts numbers 14 and 15 are written in primary boustrophedon and remind us of the texts from Yalâ and Hajar Ibn Ḥumayd and Raybûn. Text number 14 is engraved on a sacrificial altar dedicated to 'Athtar dhu-Riṣâf in his *extra-muros* temple of Nashshân, which had been built during the reign of Abî'amar Ṣâdiq at the very beginning of the 8th century BC. Text number 15 is from the reign of 'Amîyatha' who was one of the first kings of Nashshân. Now we know that the kingdom of Nashshân played an important role in al-Jawf during the 8th century BC. The latest discoveries have shown that this kingdom had been allied with the kingdom of Saba'. The Aranyada's *intra-muros* temple which mentions the names of the main divinities of city-states of al-Jawf confirms this information. Text number 9 also mentions the name of the sovereign 'Amîyatha' who is possibly the same one mentioned in text number 15.

Texts numbers 6, 7, 8 and eleven are from the period of the reign of Ilînabaṭ Yada', also known as Ilîmanbaṭ. This king belongs to the Labu'an dynasty who reigned between the last quarter of the 8th century and the middle of the 7th century. From the same dynasty, we have text number ten which mentions a certain Yaqaḥmalik, son of Labu'an. This king is known from another text which mentions his son. Text number one is from the reign of Malikwaqah Rayad, king of Nashshân, a contemporary of Yada''ab Yafash, who is probably one of the first kings of Ma'în, and is known now by the inscriptions discovered in *intra-muros* Nakrah's temple at the site of Ma'în in January 2007. As for Malikwaqah Rayad, we have another king with the same name who is the son of 'Amî'alay, mentioned on a throne with other names of kings from Nashshân who reigned in the middle of the 8th century BC. Text number 12 must be from the reign of one of the sons of Sumhuyafa' Yasrân, who reigned during the first quarter of the 7th century BC.

We have three dedication texts (numbers 3, 4, 5) offered to 'Athtar in his *extra-muros* temple, Riṣâf. These texts are the only ones from the scientific excavations of the Archaeological French Mission at the end of the 80s. We also have text number 17 from the same temple from an illegal excavation. From the *intra-muros* temple of Aranyada', we have two texts (13 and 16) dating from the 2nd century AD. The first one is a dedicational one and the second is a confessional one.

The texts from al-Baydâ' (Nashq) (18, 19, 20) are offered to the main Sabaic divinity Ilmaqah in his *intra-muros* temple, Shab'ân. Text number 18 is engraved on a bronze statue from the reign Yada''îl,

king of Saba' (6th century BC). As for texts numbers 19 and 20, they date from the 2nd century AD. We know that Sabaeans settled in the old city of Nashq during the beginning of the 7th century BC.

There is only one text (21) from Kamna (Kaminahû), dedicated to Madhwû, a local divinity from the kingdom of Kamna and dating from about the 7th-6th century BC.

We have three texts (22, 23, 24) from Khirbat Hamdân (Haram), engraved on altars dedicated to 'Athtar Ba'sân, from the reign of Watar'îl, who was probably the son of Yadh-murmalik, one of the first kings of Haram. Text number 24 is interesting because it mentions a connection between Watar'îl, king of Haram and Yada'îl, one of the sons of Karib'îl Watar, *mukarrib* of Saba', at the beginning of the 7th century BC. Both texts numbers 25 and 26, are unfortunately incomplete, they are dedications to the main divinity of the kingdom of Haram, Yada'sumhû. They are actually the first ones dedicated to this deity among those discovered to date. Up to now, we still do not know the location of his temple.

We have three texts from Inabba' (27, 28, 29) dedicated to the divinity named Samî'. These texts mention, for the first time, people from Inabba'. They date from the 7th-6th century BC. Text number 27 is engraved on a sacrificial altar with a representation of a lion, which might be the holy symbol of Samî'.

From the sites of Ma'în and Barâqish (Qarnaw and Yathill), there are 14 texts, whom 5 of them which mention different kings. The oldest one, number 34, is from the reigns of Waqah'îl and Nabaţkarib. From Waqah'îl we now have texts in which he is mentioned with his father Ilîyafa'. He is also mentioned alone and with either his son or his brother in others texts. This family reigned during the 7th century BC before the unification of the tribes from Ma'în and Yathill. The other texts date from the 4th century BC. Text number 30 dates from the reign of Abîkarib Riyâm son of Alîmyada', who is still unknown to us, he is mentioned here for the first time. Text number 33 is from the reign of Abîkarib and 39 from the reign of Waqah'îl Riyâm son of Abîyatha', who is also mentioned in text number 43. The other texts from Ma'în and Barâqish (31, 32) deal with irrigation of agricultural lands. Number 35 is a funeral text. Number 36 is a dedication to priests of the divinity of Wadd. There are only few texts dedicated to individual persons. The most famous one is a dedication to the king of Awsân, son of divinity Wadd, 1st century AD. Inscription number 40 mentions for the first time a person from Yathill. Text number 41, is engraved on a bronze sacrificial table dedicated to 'Athtar Mutabaqbið. The three others (42, 37, 38) are dedications to Nakrah, and 'Athtar dhu-Qabd.

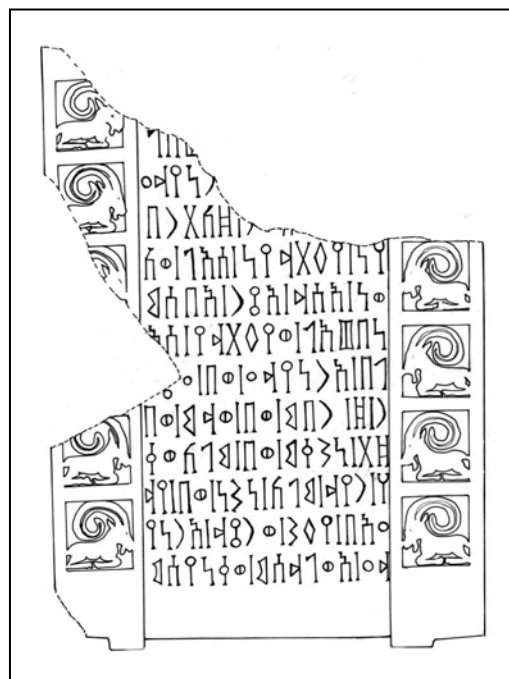
From the site of Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir, then known as Kuhâl, we have eleven inscriptions. The most important and beautiful ones in the collection all date from the beginning of the 7th century BC except number 44, which is probably from the *extra-muros* temple of Samî' dhu-Zarbat. These were found during illegal excavations in the *intra-muros* temple of Ilmaqah. However, GOAM acquired them and displayed them in the National Museum of Şan'â'. Eight texts mention names of *mukarribs* of Saba', the most important of which being number 45 which mentions a connection between Karib'îl Watar, *mukarrib* of Saba', Yada'ab, Abîkarib, and 'Amîyatha'. These last three are probably rulers from towns of al-Jawf. We know that Sabaeans have built cities linking the territories of Saba', Ma'rib and Şirwâh, and in al-Jawf region, during the 8th century BC, they built in wâdî Raghwân cities named al-Asâhl and Khirbat Sa'ûd ('Arârat and Kutal), and Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir (Kuhâl). These cities were abandoned around the 6th century BC. We have five texts from the reign of Sumhu'alay (49, 51, 52, 53, 54) and only one from the reign of Yada'îl (46). Both of them were connected to the *mukarribs* of Saba'. The others texts (47, 48, 50, 51) were written by officials of the sovereign.

The inscriptions from the al-Jawf region contain 11 texts whom the origin remains uncertain. Text number 55 is the first known dedicatory text to 'Athtar dhu-Faşad. Number 56 also mentions a new epithet

of 'Athtar Anthat, which means Woman – 'Athtar is a masculine divinity in Saba', al-Jawf and Qatabân, but feminine in Ḥaḍramawt -. The other inscriptions (57 to 62, 64) are funeral ones and are composed of human and animal representations. Inscription number 63 is engraved on wood and dates from the 7-6th century BC. Inscription number 65 is engraved on a sacrificial altar dating from the 7th - 6th century BC and its author is named 'Atharyahân Ibn 'Awhan and the text is offered to 'Ahan, mentioned for the first time here. Number 41 also mentions "the divinity of the family of 'Awhan".

This new collection shows the impressive gap in our documentation, especially regarding the first millenium BC. The new texts from the 8th and 7th centuries BC allow us to identify a chronology of the sovereigns of the city-states of al-Jawf and their connections, notably with the kingdom of Saba'. We hope to fill these gaps during our scientific excavations and to better know the very beginnings of South Arabian history.

INSCRIPTIONS FROM AL-SAWDĀ' (NASHSHĀN)



1. YM 11191

Fragment alabaster stela with two ibex borders.

Nashshân, *extra-muros* temple of Aranyada'.

H 86 cm, W 61 cm, TH 8 cm ; ibex border width 9,5 cm ; Letters size 4 cm.

Madhâbaean. 7th century BC.

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M. Arbach, R. Audouin et Ch. Robin, « La découverte du temple d'Aranyda' à Nashshân et la chronologie Labu'ides », *Arabia*, 2, 2004, pp. 23-42.

Transliteration

- 1(k)l
- 2(')rnyd'
- 3(k)rb ktrb
- 4 hn yftdyn s'l w-k=
- 5 wn 's'd 'tr 'b-s'm
- 6 Nbt'l w-yftdy s' '=
- 7 l b-'rnyd' w-b 't(t)=
- 8 r d-Grb^m w-b Wd^m w-b
- 9 dt Ns²q^m w-b Mlkwaqah=
- 10 h Ryd mlk Ns²n w-b Yd
- 11 'b Yfs² w-rtd 'rny=
- 12 d' 'wld-s'm w-qyn-s'm

Translation

- 1 all
- 2(A)ranyad'
- 3 the discharge of his obligation
- 4 because he has been confiscated, which is what he asked for,
- 5 pass one men on their father
- 6 Naba't'il and he has been confiscated which is what he asked for.
- 7 By Aranyda', 'Athtar
- 8 dhu-Garb^{um}, Wadd, and
- 9 dhat Nashq, and Malikwaqah
- 10 Rayad king of Nashshân, and Yada =
- 11 'ab Yafash. He has committed to the protection of Aranyada'
- 12 da', their children and possession.

Comment

This inscription dates from the reign of Malikwaqah Rayad, king of Nashshân, who is contemporary of Yada'ab Yafash, probably the king of Ma'in, who reigned at the beginning of 7th century BC. We know an other king of Nashshân, who had the same name and epithet, Malikwaqah Rayad (I), who reigned in the middle of 8th century BC.

As to Aranyada', 'Athtar, Wadd and dhat-Nashq, their is no questioning that they are divinities of state-city of Nashshân, during 8th and 7th century BC.

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ጻሰየኒቀ።|ጻሰቋ1።ከ|ዕቋ



A



B



C



D

2. YM 16620 + 16621

Circular limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân, *extra-muros* temple of 'Athtar, lord of Rişâf.

H 53 cm ; Diameter 47 cm ; Border width 8 cm ; Base height 20 cm ; Holy symbols ('Athtar and Aranyada') size 6 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Madhâbaean 5th-4th century BC.

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J.-F. Breton, « Le sanctuaire dhû-Rişâf d'as-Sawdâ' (République du Yémen) », *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Comptes rendus de l'année 1992*, pp. 429-453.

Transliteration

- 1 *Lhy'tt bn Ydkr'l d-B(ş/t)m s³l' 'ttr d-Rşf^m ywm 's¹y-w-m'd qny 'b-s¹ Bhr... ..(')rnyd'*
- 2 *zt-m w-s¹bql-s¹ 500 b-'ttr-d-Rşf^m*

Translation

- 1 Liḥay'athat son of Yadhkur'îl dhu-Ba(ş)m has dedicated to 'Athtar dhu-Rişâf^m, the day he has made and added the property from his father's Bakhr belongings
- 2 and 500 from his harvest. By 'Athtar of Rişâf^m

Comment

These inscriptions (YM 16620+16621, 16622 and YM 16631) come from the *extra-muros* temple of 'Athtar, the lord of Rişâf, discovered by the French Mission in 1988-1989. The temple was built in the beginning of the 8th century BC, during the reign of the first king of Nashshân, Abî'amar Şadiq.



3. YM 16622

Limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân, *extra-muros* temple of 'Athtar, lord of Riṣâf.

H 37 cm ; Base bottom width 15 cm, base top width 10 cm ; altar length 16,5 cm, altar width 15 cm, altar height 10 cm ; border width 3 cm ; ibex head size 9 cm ; letter size 3 cm.

4th century BC.

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J.-F. Breton, « Le sanctuaire dhû-Riṣâf d'as-Sawdâ' (République du Yémen) », *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Comptes rendus de l'année 1992*, pp. 429-453.

Transliteration

1 'ws'îl

2 Ḥyf

Translation

1 Aws'îl

2 Ḥâyif

YM .

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4. YM 16631

Square limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân, *extra-muros* temple of ‘Athtar, lord of Rişâf.

H 63 cm ; base bottom width 27 cm, base top width 21,5 cm ; altar length 30 cm ; letter size 5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

5th-4th century BC.

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J.-F. Breton, « Le sanctuaire dhû-Rişâf d’as-Sawdâ’ (République du Yémen) », *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Comptes rendus de l’année 1992*, pp. 429-453.

Transliteration

- 1 ‘m... ...(s³l)’ ‘=
- 2 *ttr d-Rşf^m mşrbⁿ*

Translation

- 1 ‘Amî... ...has dedicated to
- 2 ‘Athtar dhu-Rişâf^{mm} this sacrificial table.

YM .

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5. YM 16710

Architectural limestone fragment with two fragmental inscriptions.
 Probably Nashshân.
 H 28 cm W 42 cm Th 34 cm ; letter size 5,5 cm.
 Sabaic. 4th century BC.

Transliteration

A

- 1m.mm fqhⁿ
- 2 ... (hnk)rn-hw bn mqm
- 3 ('rnyd) ' w- 'tr Ns²q^m

B

...lb 'dm strⁿ 's' yw w-s²'m

Translation

A

- 1 the half
- 2 against whoever might damage it in its his place
- 3 By Aranyada(‘) and divinity of Nashq.

B

... put up a resistance against this inscription, they made and purchased.

YM .

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 𐩧𐩢𐩣𐩠𐩢𐩣𐩠𐩢𐩣𐩠

...

𐩧𐩢𐩣𐩠𐩢𐩣𐩠𐩢𐩣𐩠𐩢𐩣𐩠



6. YM 22222

Square limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân.

H 71,5 cm ; Base bottom width 28 cm, base top width 23 cm ; altar length 32,5 cm, altar width 30 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean. 7th century BC.

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M. Arbach, R. Audouin et Ch. Robin, « La découverte du temple d'Aranyda' à Nashshân et la chronologie des Labu'ides », *Arabia*, 2, 2004, pp. 23-42.

M. Arbach, J. Schiettecatte, *Catalogue des pièces archéologiques et épigraphiques du Jawf au musée National de Şan'â'*, CEFAS-FSD, Şan'â', 2006.

Transliteration

- 1 'mdhr bn 'mkr =
- 2 b d-Mlḥⁿ s³l' 't =
- 3 tr d-Grb 's²r bn
- 4 'myd' mṣ =
- 5 rbⁿ Bḥrⁿ b =
- 6 ywm 'lnbṭ
- 7 Yd'

Translation

- 1 'Amîdhakhar son of 'Amîkarib
- 2 dhu-Malḥân has dedicated to =
- 3 'Athtar dhu-Garb ceded as tithe
- 4 'Amîyada' this altar table
- 5 Baḥrân. The
- 6 day of Ilînabaṭ
- 7 Yada'.

Comment

This inscription dates from the reign of Ilînabaṭ Yada', king of Nashshân, one of the sons of Labu'an also mentioned in YM 22223 and YM 22225.

7. YM 22223

Square limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân.

H 72 cm ; Base bottom width 31 cm, base top width 25 cm ;
altar length 30 cm, altar width 32 cm ; letter size 5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th century BC.



Bibliography

M. Arbach, R. Audouin et Ch. Robin, « La découverte du temple d'Aranyda' à Nashshân et la chronologie des Labu'ides », *Arabia*, 2, 2004, pp. 23-42.

Transliteration

- 1 W'l d-Ġwt s³l'
- 2 'ttr d-Grb mšr =
- 3 bⁿ krb bn-s^l Ĥmh =
- 4 mw b-ywm 'l =
- 5 nbṭ Yd'

Translation

- 1 Wâ'il dhu-Ghawth has dedicated to
- 2 'Athtar dhu-Garb this altar table
- 3 as his son Ĥamhumû discharged the obligation
- 4 the time of Ilî-
- 5 nabat Yada'.

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8. YM 22225

Square limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân.

H 72 cm ; Base bottom width 29 cm, base top width 22 cm ; altar length 31 cm, altar width 31 cm ; letter size 3.5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th century BC.



Bibliography

M. Arbach, R. Audouin et Ch. Robin, « La découverte du temple d'Aranyda' à Nashshân et la chronologie des Labu'ides », *Arabia*, 2, 2004, pp. 23-42.

Transliteration

- 1 'ws^lmhr
- 2 'mq̄... ..bfm s²w' '=
- 3 ttr q̄-Grb w-b-Rsf
- 4 s³l' ttr q̄-Grb
- 5 mšrbnyhn
- 6 's²r krb s¹ =
- 7 brk k-s¹ b-y =
- 8 wm 'lmbt
- 9 Yd'

Translation

- 1 Awsmhr
- 2 'Amîdha.. officiant of
- 3 'Athtar dhu-Garb and in Rişâf
- 4 has dedicated to 'Athtar dhu-Garb
- 5 these two sacrificial tables
- 6 ceded as tithe as the payment
- 7 of his obligation. The time of
- 8 Ilîmanbat
- 9 Yada'.

YM.

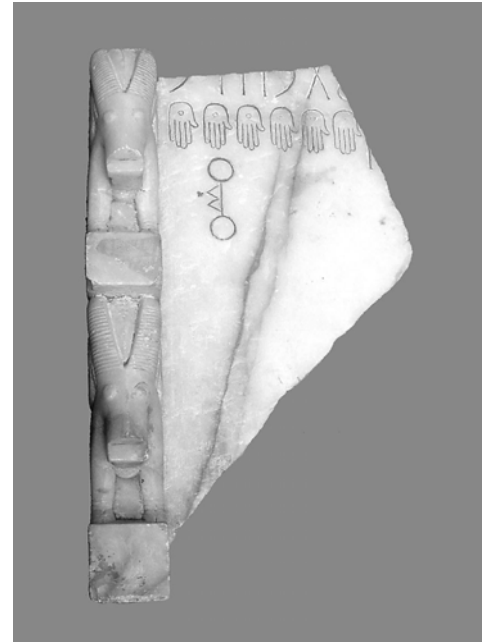
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 q̄q̄)°|°)T̄H|)Xq̄
 °)T̄H|)Xq̄°|h°T̄
 h°Y°h°)q̄q̄|
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9. YM 23249

A fragment of alabaster displaying the remains of an inscription. Nashshân.

H 54,5 cm W 28 cm Th 7 cm ; External Ibex Border : H 21 cm, W 7 cm ; H monogram 'myt' 9,5 cm
7th century BC.



Bibliography

M. Arbach, R. Audouin et Ch. Robin, « La découverte du temple d'Aranyda' à Nashshân et la chronologie des Labu'ides », *Arabia*, 2, pp. 23-42.

Transliteration

Translation

... ..
... ..
1(')ttr Gr=
2 b

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... ..
1 ('A)thtar Gar=
2 b

Monogram : 'myt'

Monogramm : 'Amîyatha'

Comment

The monogram, 'myt' is the name of a king of Nashshân, 8th century BC. These hands are probably symbols of protection.

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11. YM 26542

Limestone sacrificial table.

Nashshân.

H 67 cm ; base height 46 cm ; altar thickness 20 cm , altar length 29 cm ; letter size 4,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 Ḥywm w-bhn-s^l=
- 2 w 'hl Dḥm s³l=
- 3 ' 'ttr d-Grb
- 4 msrbⁿ b-yw=
- 5 m 'lnbt Yd'

Translation

- 1 Ḥayw^{um} and his son
- 2 of the clan of Dḥam has dedicated to
- 3 'Athtar dhu-Garb
- 4 this altar. The time of
- 5 Ilînabaṭ Yada'.

Comment

This text, as the texts YM 22222, YM 22223 and YM 22225 dates from the reign of Ilînabaṭ Yada', one of the son's of Labu'an Yada', king of Nashshân.

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ḥywm . lḥ . s^l =
 2 w 'hl dḥm s³l =
 3 ' 'ttr d-grb
 4 msrbⁿ b-yw =
 5 m 'lnbt yd'



12. YM 28168

A limestone architectural element with a bull’s head and geometrical shaped stripes.
Nashshân.

Length 55 cm W 8 cm Th 12 cm ; a bull’s head size 10,5 cm, a bull’s head width 14 cm ; Aranyada‘ holy symbol size 9 cm ; letter size 7 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

Translation

... *Yd‘b mlk Ns²n s¹hdt*

... Yada‘ab who is king of Nashshân rebuilt.

Comment

The author of this text is probably one of the kings of Nashshân who ruled during the 7th century BC. Yada‘ab is probably one of the son's of Sumhuyafa‘ Yâsirân who has been identified in various texts. This text commemorates renovation work that was probably made in the temple of Aranyada‘, as is suggested by the presence of Aranyada‘’s holy symbol.

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13. YM 28491

Limestone stele with red paint remains and a 14 line inscription.

A bull is carved at the bottom of the stele.

Nashshân, intra-muros temple of Aranyada'.

H 38,5 cm W 18 cm Th 17 cm ; Aranyada' holy symbol size 3 cm ; carved bull height 8 cm, carved bull width 10 cm ; letter size 1,5 cm.

Sabaic.

2nd century AD.



Bibliography

Christian Robin, “La vocalisation de Ns^2n , nom antique d’as-Sawdâ’ (Jawf du Yémen), d’après une nouvelle inscription sabéenne”, in *Mélanges David Cohen, Études sur le langage, les langues, les dialectes, les littératures, offertes par ses élèves, ses collègues, ses amis, présentés à l’occasion de son, quatre-vingtième anniversaire, textes réunis et édités par Jérôme Lentin et Antoine Lonnet*, Paris, Maisonneuve et Larose, pp. 569–579.

Transliteration

- 1 ... *wm* ... *M'dkrb*
- 2 *w-Rtdtwn w-Ddkrb bnw d-Twr*
- 3 *w-Mr'r'tn ... 'rnyd'-S²ym-' =*
- 4 *s²s²n 'dm d-Rš^m hqnyw mr'-h^mw*
- 5 *'rnyd'-S²ymⁿ wtnⁿ 'šlm^m w-tny w' =*
- 6 *lⁿ d-dhbⁿ hmd^m b-dt hwfy-h^mw*
- 7 *b-kl 'ml'w b-'m-h^mw-w-l-wf..*
- 8 *z'n mr'-h^mw S²ymⁿ hmr-h^mw wf=*
- 9 *y grbt-h^mw bny-h^mw w-kl-d*
- 10 *b-bt-h^mw w-l-s¹'d-h^mw 'tmr^m w-*
- 11 *'fql^m hn^m w-hzy grbt-h =*
- 12 *mw w-rdw s²'b-h^mw w-šh grbt-h*
- 13 *mw w-l-h'n-h^mw bn-nd' w-s²z =*
- 14 *y s²n^m w-mr'-h^mw S²ymⁿ w-rb'-*
- 15 *h^mw w-s²ms¹-h^mw-S²ms¹-rd'*

Translation

- 1 ... *wm* ... Ma'dikarib
- 2 and Rathadhawan and Dadkarib descendant of the lineage of Thawr
- 3 and Mara'ra'tân ... Aranyada' patron divinity of
- 4 the Nashahanites servants of the dhu-Riṣâf^{nm} have dedicated to their lord
- 5 Aranyada' tutelar divinity this stele of statues and two ibex
- 6 of bronze in gratitude because he was answered
- 7 in all his divine favours and so that they are granted
- 8 more by their lord tutelar divinity with good
- 9 health of body for their sons and for all
- 10 their house and that he grants them a good harvest
- 11 and a lot of crop and blessings to their persons
- 12 and satisfied their tribes and blessings to their persons
- 13 and so that he protects them from the malevolence and malices of
- 14 the enemy. By their lord tutelar divinity and their family divinity
- 15 and their solar divinity Shams Arda'

Comment

The adjective s^2s^2n is plural of Ns^2n , which means “from the town of Nashshân”. The sun goddess Shams Arda' seems to be a divinity depending on Aranyada'. Arda' could also be an abbreviation from Aranyada'.



15. YM 29827

Limestone altar with a bull's head and 4 lines of boutrouphedon inscription.

Nashshân.

H 35 cm W 53 cm Th 31 cm ; border width 3 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Madhâbaean.

8th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *Yd'.. bn 'lw=*
- 2 *kl s³l' d-Rşf w-q=*
- 3 *yn Wd d-Nşb w-mlk b-Qdh^m*
- 4 *b-ywm 'myt'*

Translation

- 1 Yada'.. son of Ilîwa =
- 2 kîl has dedicated to dhu-Rişâf and is also officiant
- 3 of Wadd dhu-Nişâb and owned in Qadah^{um} (?)
- 4 the time of 'Amîyatha'.

Comment

The author of this inscription was an official of the divinity Wadd dhu-Nişâb. Dhu-Nişâb, a name already known in various inscriptions found in Nashshân, is the one of a temple of Wadd whose location remains unknown.

The king 'Amîyatha' was one of the first kings of Nashshân. His name has already been mentioned, for example in al-Jawf 04.47.

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16. YM 23643

Limestone altar with 17 lines of inscription.

Nashshân, temple of Aranyada'.

H 43 cm W 17 cm Th 11 cm ; holy symbol 6 cm ; letter size 3 cm.

Sabaeen.

1st-2nd century AD.



Transliteration

- 1 *k-bn-mw Mbs²mt*
- 2 *dt Hldt Hd=*
- 3 *mrⁿ w-l ydrn b-dt*
- 4 *hht 't Mbs²mt*
- 5 *bn mr'-hw 'rnyd'-S²=*
- 6 *ymⁿ b-dt wkb.*
- 7 *f'g^m b-wst^t srh=*
- 8 *'-ln mwt wld^m (l)-*
- 9 *tnm w-wkb-hw '(d)*
- 10 *srhⁿ-w-gb 'w-w-q=*
- 11 *m 'w fg^t w-s²..*
- 12 *w-qm-hw mr'-hmw*
- 13 *S²ymⁿ w-l wz' (S²)=*
- 14 *ymⁿ n 'mt^m hwfy*
- 15 *n l-grb 'mt-hw Mbs²m=*
- 16 *t w-s²ft kl-hqnyt sl=*
- 17 *m^m dhb^m l-wfy-hmw*

Translation

- 1 Thus, Mabshamat
- 2 Dhat Khâlidat (of family of) Ḥadh =
- 3 marân. And that she makes penance
- 4 because Mabshamat committed a sin towards
- 5 her lord Aranyada'
- 6 the Protector. They went through
- 7 a catastrophe inside the house
- 8 which is the death of a child. That she
- 9 sleeps. And they received him inside
- 10 the house, and the misfortune was accepted. And
- 11 they mastered this misfortune and the Protector
- 12 established him their lord
- 13 the Protector, so that he increases
- 14 the Protector the well-being and that he saves
- 15 the person of his servant Mabshamat.
- 16 and she gave this offering, a
- 17 bronze statue, for their protection.

Comment

This inscription of penance is presented by a woman; it contains a new family name "*Hldt*" and a new word, "*fg*", which signify in the Arabic language "catastrophy / great misfortune ».

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17. GOAM 317

Limestone sacrificial altar.

Nashshân, Rişâf temple extra-muros of 'Athtar.

H 38 cm W 48 cm Th 14 cm ; inscription front part H 14 cm ;
border width 6 cm ; letter size 4 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th century BC.



Transliteration

A 1 *Twb' l d-Zrb s³l' 'ttr d-Rşf^m mşrbⁿ*
 2 *wld-s^l S²ln w- 's²hr^m w- 'z' l w- 'ws*

B 1 *d-krb s¹brr d-Rşf^m ...*
 2 *y w-b- 'dn 'ttr Twb' l w-*
 3 *wld-s^l w-qny-s^l*

Translation

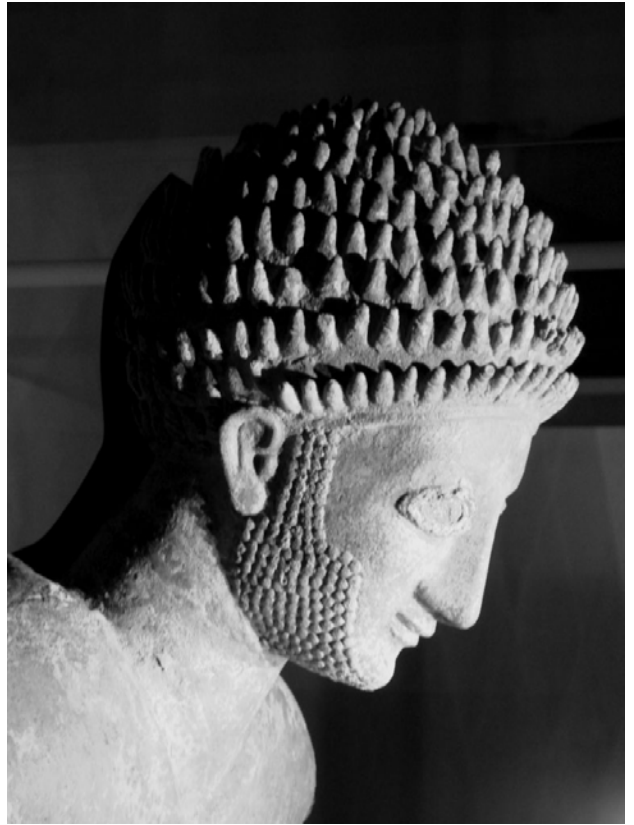
A 1 Thawb'îl dhu-Zarab has dedicated to 'Athtar dhu-Rişâf^{um} the altar sacrificial,
 2 his children Shalan, Ashhur^{um}, 'Az'îl and Aws

B 1 as the discharge of his obligation to dhu-Rişâf^{um}.
 2 By power of 'Athtar, Thawb'îl and
 3 his children and his possessions.

GOAM .

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INSCRIPTIONS FROM AL-BAYDĀ' (NASHQ)

18. YM 23206

Bronze statue of a man.

Nashq.

H 140 cm, W 46 cm, Th 16 cm. ; Bronze's External thickness 0,2-0,3 cm.

Sabaic.

6th century BC.

Bibliography

Françoise Demange (sous la direction de), Iwona Gajda, Benoît Mille, Christine Pariselle, Olivier Tavoso, *L'homme de bronze. Hawtar'athat, fils de Radaw'il, du lignage de Shalalum*, Brochure éditée pour l'inauguration, le 15 mai 2007, de l'exposition de la statue restaurée au Louvre. *Actualité du département des Antiquités orientales*, n° 10, du 16 mai au 15 octobre 2007, Direction architecture - muséographie – technique, Musée du Louvre, Paris, mai 2007.

Description

This statue was restored by a team from the Louvre Museum. It was exhibited in the Louvre Museum in Paris from May to October 2007.

The statue represents a standing man, bare-chested, wearing a long loincloth. A twelve lines inscription is engraved between the chest and the waist. The arms are broken above the elbows. The feet are not complete : the right one stops at the heel, has a fixing tongue indicating its previous position on a base. The face, which has a short beard with round in slight relief, is still : the mouth, in relief, suggests a smile. The eyes, with a hole in the middle, have some traces of inlaid lead ; the eyebrows are not very marked. The hairstyle, with a large headband, is composed of small spiral curls, made of engraved points, arranged in concentric lines. The arms were probably bent and stretched to the front, as is the case of the three other complete statues conserved in the Şan'â' National Museum(YM 262, 263, 264): the right hand might have been raised; the left one might have held a stick. The below-the-knee loincloth, with a schematic drape tied to the body, is rolled and attached to the waist; the loincloth-tails fall in the front in the same way as the futa which is still worn in Yemen today.

The inscription in Sabaean language, having a dedication to a god named Ilmaqah, gives the name, the lineage, and the place of origin of the statue.

This kind of dedicatory statue, bearing the effigy of men or women, was placed in temples so as to perpetuate devotion to the divinities. Several are in stone, the most precious ones are in bronze.

The quality of this sculpture shows the advanced technique of the bronze makers' art in ancient Yemen, and proves once again the relationship between South Arabia and the ancient Near East and the similarity of artistic trends.

Transliteration

- 1 Hwtr 'tt bn Rđw'l bn S²l =
- 2 l^m 'bd d-Mđb hqny 'lmqh bk(l) =
- 3 " Ns²q^m mt^l d-dhb" bn fr' t fr' -
- 4 hw h' w- 'b-hw Rđw'l w-Lhy' tt w-bn-
- 5 hw R' b' tt w-kl 'nt-hw w-wld-hw
- 6 w-wqny-hw w- 'byt-hw b-Mryb w-Ns²q^m w-kl 'n =
- 7 hl-hw w- 'nb-hw w- 'brt-hw b-s¹yr Ns² =
- 8 q^m ywm hwfy-hw 'lmqh dt tnb'-hw b-
- 9 'ttr w- 'lmqh w-b dt-Hmym w-b dt B' =

10 *dn^m w-b-dt Ns²q^m w-b Yd' l mlk S' b =*
 11 *' w-b mr'-hw Ys²rḥ' l w-'ls²rḥ dy Mḍ =*
 12 *b w-b- 'b-hw Rḍw' l*

Translation

1 Hawtar'athat son of Raḍaw'îl ibn Shala =
 2 l^{um} servant of dhu-Madhâb has dedicated to Ilmaqah lord of the migrants
 3 of Nashq^{um} the bronze statue that represents the first fruits of his harvest
 4 he and his father Raḍaw'îl and Laḥay'atāt and his son
 5 Ra'ab'atāt and his women and his sons
 6 and his possessions and his house in Maryab and Nashq^{um}
 7 and all his palm groves and his vineyards and his fields in the valley of Nashq^{um}
 8 when Ilmaqah granted him what he promised.
 9 By 'Athtar Ilmaqah and dhât-Ḥimyam and dhât Ba'-
 10 dân^{um} and dhât Nashq^{um} and by Yada''îl king of Saba'
 11 and by his lord Yashraḥ'îl and Ilîsharaḥ of Madhâb
 12 and his father Raḍaw'îl.

Comment

The author of the text is a man from Marib who settled in Nashq. The Sabaeans established a colony in Nashq during the 7th century BC and built the temple of Ilmaqah, also known as the temple of Shab'ân. Madhâb's family seems to have had a large control over the irrigated land in the Madhâb valley, also mentioned in RES 3945/15. The king mentioned in this text, Yada''îl, reigned over the kingdom of Saba' during the 6th century BC. Another statue dating from the same period is exhibited in the National Museum of Ṣan'â' (YM 262).

It probably dates from the 6th century BC, on the basis of paleographic and historical analysis.

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19. YM 28805

Limestone stele broken on the bottom right corner with 14 lines of dedicational text.

Nashq, temple of Ilmaqah, lord of Shab'ân.

H 44 cm, W 22 cm, Th 14 cm ; Ilmaqah holy symbol height 5 cm, Ilmaqah holy symbol width 5 cm ; letter size 2 cm.

Sabaic.

2nd century AD.



Transliteration

- 1 'mkrb ..'rs¹ w-bny-(hw)
- 2 's¹n 'dm bny Gdn^m hqn =
- 3 y 'lmqh-b 'l-S²b^m šlmⁿ d-
- 4 dhbⁿ hmd^m b-dt hmr-hmw
- 5 'lmqh-b 'l-S²b^m 'bdy-hw
- 6 'mkrb w-'s¹n t'lwⁿ b-wfy
- 7 ^m bn hgrⁿ Zrbⁿ w-s¹r-hw N =
- 8 grⁿ b-kn wqh-hmw 'mr'-hm =
- 9 w bny Gdn^m l-tnsfn b-qht
- 10 bny Gdn^m b-Ngrⁿ w-l-hmr-
h =
- 11 mw 'lmqh-b 'l-S²b^m hzy w-
- 12 ... mr'-hmw bny Gdn^m
- 13 ... bn nd' w-s²šy s²n'^m
- 14 ... S²b^{'n} w-dt Ns²q^m

Translation

- 1 'Amîkarib ... and his sons
- 2 Asan servants of the lineage of Gadan^{um} has dedicated
- 3 to Ilmaqah lord of Shab'ân this bronze statue
- 4 in gratitude for the gift of
- 5 Ilmaqah lord of Shab'ân to his two servants
- 6 'Amîkarib and Asan their return safe
- 7 from the town of Zurbân and its valleys Na =
- 8 grân because he protected their lords =
- 9 of the lineage of Gadan^{um} because they accomplished
- 10 the mission of
- 11 the lineage of Gadan^{um} in Nagrân and so that be
- 12 granted to them by
- 13 Ilmaqah lord of Sha b'ân fortune and
- 14 ... their lords of the lineage of Gadan^{um}
- 15 ... from the malevolence and malices of the enemy
- 16 ... Shab'ân and dhat Nashq^{um}

Comment

The authors of this text are two servants of the lineage of Gadan who succeeded in a mission in the region of Nagrân. It seems that this lineage was in charge of representing the king of Saba', in the region of Nagrân, which was under Sabaeen rule. The goddess dhat Nashq was the tutelar divinity of the town of Nashq.

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20. YM 28806

Fragment of an alabaster stele with four lines of dedicational inscription.

Nashq, temple of Ilmaqah, lord of Shab'ân.

H 15 cm W 10,5 cm Th 6 cm ; letter size 2 cm.

Sabaic.

2nd century AD.

Transliteration

- 1 ...d-hmw 's^lm 't_rm
- 2 ...h'nn-hmw bn nḏ'
- 3 ...'m ḏ-d'w w-ḏ-'l d'w b-
- 4 ...b'l-S²b^m w-dt Ns²q^m

Translation

- 1 ... their servant an abundant harvest
- 2 ... and that he protects him from the malevolence and malices
- 3 ...of the enemy known or unknown.
- 4 ... lord of Sha b'ân and dhat Nashq^{um}

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INSCRIPTIONS FROM KAMNA (KAMINAHÛ)

21. YM 23208

Limestone altar.
 Kamna.
 H 58 cm ; leveled base bottom width 21 cm, leveled base top width 10 cm ; altar length 17 cm, altar width 16 cm ; symbol size 18 cm.
 Madhâbaean.
 7th-6th century BC.



Transliteration	Translation
1 'ws ^l grby =	1 Aws the stone cutter =
2 ⁿ bn Tq ^l	2 son of Taq'al
3 s ³ l' Mdhww	3 has dedicated to Madhwû.

Comment
 Madhwû was the tutelar divinity of Kamna kingdom. The symbol is probably a holy symbol, because we find it on sacrificial altars from Haram (number 22 and 23).

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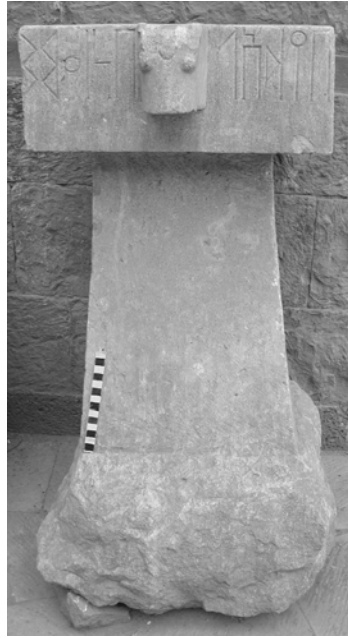
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INSCRIPTIONS FROM KHIRBAT HAMDÂN (HARAM)



A



B

22. YM 28975

Limestone sacrificial table with inscriptions carved on all four sides.

Haram.

H 96 cm ; altar width 40,5 cm, altar length 40,5 cm, altar thickness 16,5 cm ; base height 48,5 cm, base width 34 cm ; a gutter terminating in the shape of a bull's head length 11 cm, width 8,5 cm ; symbol size 9 cm ; letter size 9 cm.

Madhâbaean.

Early 7th century BC.

Bibliography

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Ch. Robin, "Documents épigraphiques de diverses origines", *Arabia*, 3, 2005-2006, pp. 281-282.

Transliteration

Byd'î bn 'ms²fq d-Şdq s³l' 'ttr (B)'s^{ln} 'l'z krb s¹brrt b-ywm Wtr'î

Translation

Biyad'îl son of 'Amîshafaq of the family of Şadiq has dedicated to 'Athtar (Ba)'sân Ilî'az as discharge of his obligation. At the time of Watar'îl

Comment

Watar'îl, also mentioned in YM 28976, is likely to be one of the first kings who reigned on Haram around the end of the 8th century and the beginning of the 7th century BC. Watar'îl is probably a son of Yadh muralik, king of Haram. 'Athtar Ba'sân is specially Haram divinity.



A



B

23. YM 28976

Limestone sacrificial table with inscriptions carved on all four sides.

Haram.

H 94 cm ; altar width 42 cm, altar length 42 cm, altar thickness 17 cm ; border width 3,5 cm ; base height 25 cm, base width 25 cm ; a gutter terminating in the shape of a bull's head length 7 cm, width 6 cm ; holy symbol size 6 cm ; letter size 9 cm.

Madhâbaean.

Early 7th century BC.

Bibliography

Ch. Robin, *Inabba', Haram, al-Kâfir, Kamna et al-Ḥarâshif*, fasc. A : *Les documents*; fasc. B : *Les planches*. (Inventaire des inscriptions sudarabiques, publié par les soins de Christian Robin, t. 1), Paris-Rome (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres et Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente), 1992.

Ch. Robin, "Documents épigraphiques de diverses origines", *Arabia*, 3, 2005-2006, pp. 281-282.

Transliteration

Ṣwrwkl bn Mt' Qdrⁿ 'bd Wtr'l s³l' 'ttr B's^{ln} Lhy'tt

Translation

Ṣawarwakîl son of Mata' of the family of Qadarân servant of Watar'îl has dedicated to 'Athtar Ba'sân Liḥay'athat.



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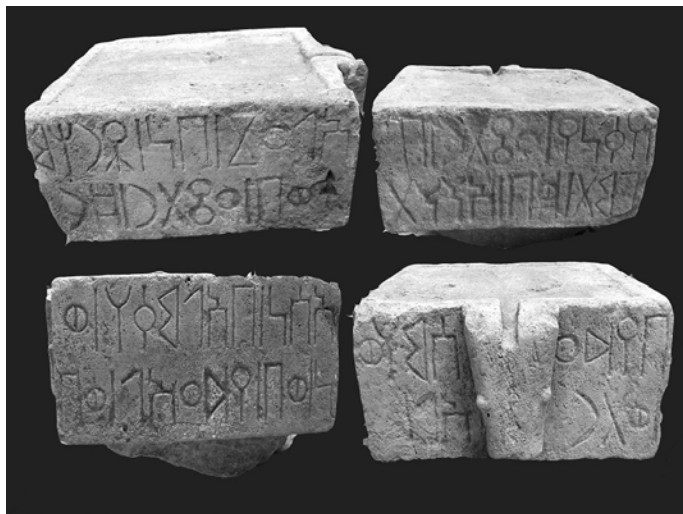


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24. YM 28823

Limestone sacrificial altar with inscriptions carved on all four sides.

Haram.

Altar width 41 cm, altar length 48 cm, altar thickness 19 cm ; border width 4 cm ; base height 25 cm, base width 25 cm ; the bull-head shaped gutter length 17 cm, width 5 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Madhâbaean.

Early 7th century BC.

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Ch. Robin, *Inabba', Haram, al-Kâfir, Kamna et al-Ḥarâshif*, fasc. A : *Les documents*; fasc. B : *Les planches*. (Inventaire des inscriptions sudarabiques, publié par les soins de Christian Robin, t. 1), Paris-Rome (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres et Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente), 1992.

Ch. Robin, "Documents épigraphiques de diverses origins", *Arabia*, 3, 2005-2006, pp. 281-282.

Transliteration

- 1 'l'z bn Ṣrḥ^{um} s³l' 'ttr B's^{ln} b-'lmqh w-b-Yd's^lmhw
- 2 w-b 'ttr d-Rgmt w-b 'hḥtⁿ w-b Yd'îl w-b Wtr'îl

Translation

- 1 Ilî'az son of Ṣarḥ^{um} has dedicated to 'Athtar Ba'sân. By Ilmaqah and Yada'sumhû
- 2 and 'Athtar dhu-Ragmat and 'Aḥḥatân and Yada'îl and Watar'îl.

Comment

This inscription makes a connection between Yada'îl, *mukarrib* of Saba', and Watar'îl, king of Haram. As for Yada'sumhû, it is the main divinity of the Haram kingdom. 'Athtar divinity of Ragmat, is mentioned here for the first time. Ragmat is the ancient Najrân. A sanctuary dedicated to dhu-Samâwî, lord of the rocks of Ragmat is known in Ragmat. The Aḥḥatân divinity is also mentioned for the first time, it is probably a divinity of Muha'mir.

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25. YM 11231

Alabaster plaque fragment with a strip of ibex and boustrophedon inscription.

Haram.

H 29 cm W 19,5 cm Th 7,5 cm ; letter size 6,5 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 .. ('b)d S^lmh'mr
- 2 hqny Yd'(s^lmhw)

Translation

- 1 ... servant of Sumhu'amar
- 2 has dedicated to Yada'(sumhû)

Comment

This fragmentary inscription and YM 29938 are mentioned for the first time in a dedication to the main divinity of the kingdom of Haram. The author of this and the next text was a servant of S^lmh'mr and is probably one of the kings of Haram, who ruled during the 7th century BC.

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(YM 29938)

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26. YM 29938

Alabaster plaque fragment with a strip of ibex and bustrophedon inscription.

Haram.

H 32,5 cm W 32 cm Th 7,5 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

1 ... *S'mh'mr hqny*

2 (*Y*)*d's'mhw*

Translation

1 ... Sumhu'amar, has dedicated

2 to Yada'(sumhû)

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INSCRIPTIONS FROM INABBA' (INABBA')



27. YM 29828

Limestone altar.

Inabba'.

H 31 cm ; W 81 cm, Th 23 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Sabaic.

5th- 4th century BC.

Bibliography

Ch. Robin, *Inabba', Haram, al-Kâfir, Kamna et al-Ḥarâshif*, fasc. A : *Les documents*; fasc. B : *Les planches*. (Inventaire des inscriptions sudarabiques, publié par les soins de Christian Robin, t. 1), Paris-Rome (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres et Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente), 1992.

Transliteration

- 1 'lr'b d-S²rwⁿ 'nb'yⁿ hqny S^l=
- 2 m' m^srbⁿ w-rtd 'lr'b S^lm' nf=
- 3 s^l-hw w-kl wld-hw w-'dn-hw

Translation

- 1 Ilîra'ab dhu-Sharwân the Inabbâ'î has dedicated to Sa=
- 2 mî' the altar, and Ilîra'ab has committed to the protection of Samî' his
- 3 person, all his children and his facultie.

Comment

This inscription, and texts numbers 28 and 29, use for the first time the adjective “Inabbâ'î”, which means “from the town of Inabba'”. As for the divinity Samî', it is a local divinity of Inabba', and is also mentioned in Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

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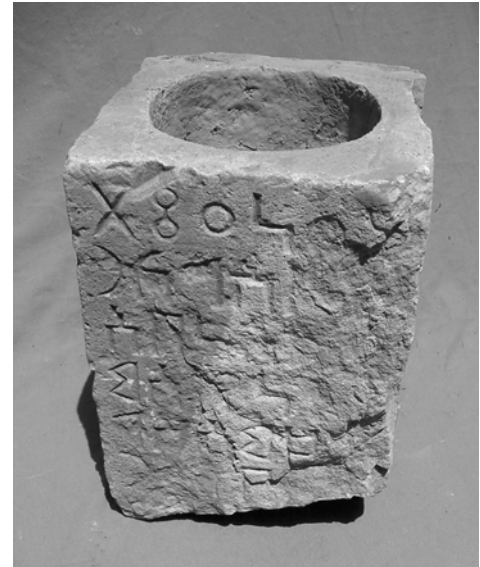
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(YM 29830, 29831)

28. YM 29830

Fragment of a limestone frankincense burner.
 Inabba'.
 H 31,5 cm ; W 21,5 cm, Th 21,5 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.
 Sabaic.
 5th- 4th century BC.



Bibliography

Ch. Robin, *Inabba', Haram, al-Kâfir, Kamna et al-Harâshif*, fasc. A : *Les documents*; fasc. B : *Les planches*. (Inventaire des inscriptions sudarabiques, publié par les soins de Christian Robin, t. 1), Paris-Rome (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres et Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente), 1992.

Transliteration

- 1 ... n'tt
- 2 ... 'lrkr(b)
- 3 ... (')nb'y
- 4 ⁿ hqny S'm =
- 5 ' d-s'l
- 6r
- 7'

Translation

- 1 ...n'athat
- 2 ... Ilîkari(b)
- 3 ... Inabbâ'î
- 4 has dedicated to Samî'
- 5 that which he asked
- 6
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29. YM 29831

Fragment of a limestone frankincense burner.
 Inabba'.
 H 59 cm ; W 21cm, Th 20 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.
 Sabaic.
 4th- 3rd century BC.

Bibliography

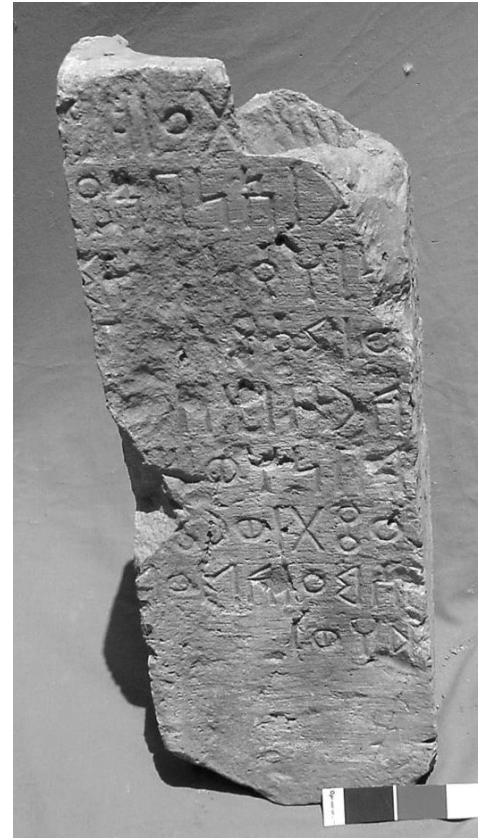
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Transliteration

- 1 ... t' d-Y=
- 2 ...r 'nb'y=
- 3 ⁿ hqny S'm=
- 4 ' mq(š)..b-
- 5 krb tbr.
- 6 l-bn-hw Ḥ(m)=
- 7 m'tt ' w-rt(d)
- 8 S'm' kl wl=
- 9 d-hw

Translation

- 1 ... dhu-Ya=
- 2 ... Inabbâ'î
- 3 has dedicated to Samî=
- 4 ' mqš...
- 5 as the discharge of his obligation
- 6 to his son Ḥam=
- 7 'athat, and has committed to the protection
- of
- 8 Samî' all his
- 9 children.



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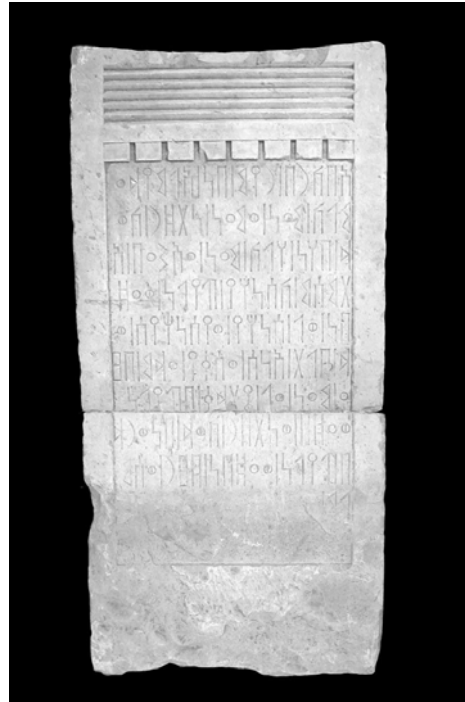
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INSCRIPTIONS FROM MA'ÎN AND BARÂQISH (QARNAW AND YATHILL)



30. YM 26106

A limestone architectural element with geometrically shaped stripes. The stone is broken into two pieces.

Qarnaw or Yathill.

H 124 cm W 61 cm Th 13,5cm ; inscription height 65 cm ; letter size 5,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

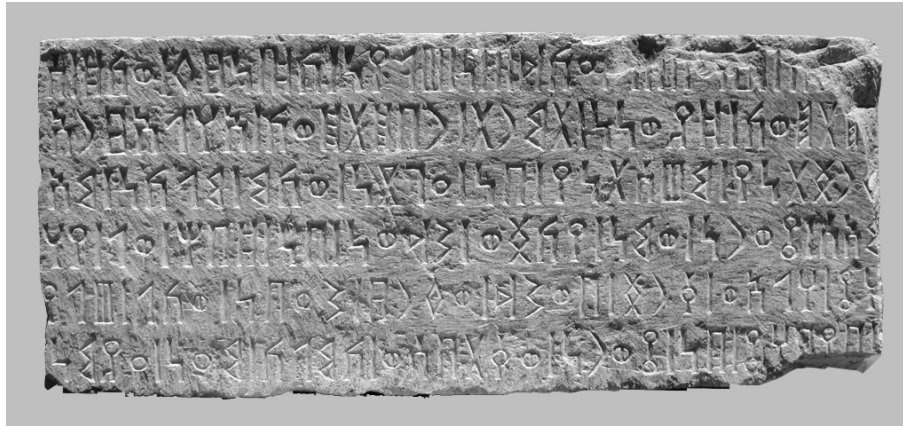
4th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *'bkrb Rym bn 'lmyd'*
- 2 *mlk M'n w-M'n ntdr k-W=*
- 3 *d b-hn hlk M'n w-'s²'b '=*
- 4 *tm-s¹m k-s¹nhy ġyl^m w-d=*
- 5 *bⁿ w-l-s¹nhy w-ys¹nhy-s¹ W=*
- 6 *d blt 'ns¹ w-s¹qy Wdm bd=*
- 7 *' M'n w-l štdq d-ġyl^m*
- 8 *w-db w-ntdr k-Wd bn-wrd*
- 9 *b-ġyl^m w-dbⁿ b-dr w-s¹(m?)=*
- 10 *lm*

Translation

- 1 Abîkarib Riyâm son of Alîmyada'
- 2 king of Ma'în and Ma'în confessed to Wadd
- 3 because he broke the truce of Ma'în and the tribal
- 4 coalition *s¹nhy* of the valley and the assembly
- 5 and in order to be forgiven Wadd
- 6 was sent a man and then granted rain to the territory
- 7 of Ma'în and fulfilled his promises to the valley
- 8 and apologised and confessed to Wadd for what
- 9 happened
- 10 in the valley and to the assembly in time of war and in
- time of
- 10 peace.



31. YM 28980

A limestone triangular architectural element with red paint remains.

Qarnaw or Yathill.

H 68 cm W 29 cm Th 28 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th-3rd century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 ... 's¹d kd bn tlyⁿ k-d ndf w-k-d s¹...
- 2 ... t w-k zwnⁿ tmtr rb t w-k 'hl-'dr' ...
- 3 ... frs³tny mts¹tny bn wgzⁿ w-k-m mlkⁿ m'...
- 4 ... m'-s¹ twrⁿ 'mn yks³w s²dwⁿ bn dbh w-l yh...
- 5 ... ht hl'w qrs³ b-ws²d w-frd s²wbⁿ w-kl tly...
- 6 ... l-bydh t bn twrⁿ w-qtb-s¹w k-mlk M'n 'smⁿ ...

Translation

- 1 ... the man was endangered (?) by a sheep, then he *ndf* and ...
- 2 ... four and for the family of *zwnⁿ* counted for him four units of measurement and four of the clan of 'dr' ...
- 3 ... the two walls of the fields of *wgzⁿ* and of the ownership one hundred ...
- 4 ... one hundred bulls which fill up the irrigated land with the sacrificial...
- 5 ... *hl'w* food and *b-ws²d* the entrance of the field and all the sheep ...
- 6 ... *l-bydh* eight of the bulls and their load for the king of Ma'în '*smⁿ* ...

Comment

This incomplete inscription states new words the meaning of which is hard to understand, *ndf*, *zwn*, *wgz*, *ws²d*, *byd* and '*sm*. It discusses mainly the organization of pastures, legal organization, and taxes to be paid to the king of Ma'în.



32. YM 28981

A limestone triangular element broken on two sides.

Qarnaw.

H 38 cm W 90 cm Th 11 cm ; letter size 4 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 ...w-s¹trdw 'ttr d-Qbd ... S²rqⁿ hym-s¹ ...
- 2 ...rklnⁿ y¹tmr w-s¹ttrf b-bd' Qrnw 'hd ms¹h dy...
- 3 ...'t trf w-b ḥs¹b w-l yḥtllqn'b'l 'ns¹ 'm s¹...
- 4 ...y¹ms¹ḥn w-s¹wfy 'd d-'s²r ymh bn-hn ys¹'ny nwyⁿ w...
- 5 ...y d-ys¹'by b-'ms¹ḥⁿ 'ms¹k-s¹m s²kn 'hd w-s¹qm 'ttr d-...
- 6 ...yhty fill k-bd' Qrnw hn y¹ms¹ḥn w-s²tkw'b'l w...
- 7 ...w-s²rg y¹tmr b-s¹ w-kwn d-ngw dn s¹trⁿ 'hrbⁿ 'ms¹ḥh ym...

Translation

- 1 ... and they satisfied 'Athtar dhu-Qabḏ ... Shâriqân hym-s¹ ...
- 2 ... the land that gives fruits and s¹ttrf in the land of Qarnaw one ms¹h dy...
- 3 ...'t trf and ḥs¹b and for him to prepare the non arable land of a man...
- 4 ... y¹ms¹ḥn and to offer on the tenth day from this he delimits the surrounding territories...
- 5 ... that he establishes in 'ms¹ḥⁿ 'ms¹k-s¹m as decided and ordered 'Athtar dhu-...
- 6 ... this territory became part of the territories of Qarnaw and he sacrificed and s²tkw the territory of...
- 7 ... and the river that waters the fruit trees. It was notified and protected from all damage and deterioration...

Comment

Like text YM 28980, this inscription has unrecognizable words, *trf*, *ḥs¹b*, *ms¹h* *ms¹k* and *s²kw*. It refers mainly to irrigated fields bordering the land of Qarnaw, the ancient capital of the Ma'în kingdom.

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33. YM 28488

A limestone architectural element with geometrically shaped stripes. The element is broken into two pieces, each piece bearing a different inscription concerning the same topic.

Qarnaw.

H 117,5 cm W 64 cm Th 11,5 cm ; inscription height 28,5 cm ; letter size 5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th century BC.

Transliteration

A

- 1 *b-m ḥg 'ttr d-Qbd wf' 'b=*
- 2 *krb mlk M'n 's²q w-ms²qš*
- 3 *dbḥ d-Qbd w-Wd b-'ḥdr w-k=*
- 4 *yl kyl 'l't M'n w-kyl*
- 5 *s²ym d-Qbd k-mlk M'n*

B

- 1 *b-m ḥg Wd wf' 'bqwm w-N=*
- 2 *bṭkrb s²w'y Wd 's²q w-ms²q*
- 3 *š dbḥ Wd w-d-Qbd b-'ḥdr w-*
- 4 *kyl kyl 'l't M'n w-kyl*
- 5 *s²ym Wd k-s²w'y Wd^m*

Translation

A

- 1 So has ordered 'Athtar dhu-Qabḏ that has to fund Abî-
- 2 karib king of Ma'în the drilling and the *ms²qš*
- 3 He must sacrifice to dhu-Qabḏ and Wadd on the holy square
- 4 and decorate the divinities of Ma'în and decorations
- 5 have been set for Qabḏ by the king of Ma'în

B

- 1 So has ordered Wadd that has to fund Abîqawam and
- 2 Nabaṭkarib the two officiants of Wadd the drilling and the *ms²qš*
- 3 They must sacrifice to Wadd and dhu-Qabḏ on the holy square
- 4 and decorate the divinities of Ma'în and decorations
- 5 have been set for Wadd by the two officiants of Wadd.

Comment

These two texts give us a glimpse of the divine hierarchy of the kingdom of Ma'în. Wadd and 'Athtar dhu-Qabḏ are the main divinities of Ma'în, and seem to share the same rank.



34. YM 30135

Broken alabaster stele with remains of a sculpted ibex and incomplete inscription.

Qarnaw or Yathill.

H 87 cm W 95 cm Th 6 cm ; Ma'în kingdom symbol size 12,5 cm ; letter size 6 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th century BC.

Bibliography

Ch. Robin, S. Antonini de Maigret et F. Bron, « Nouvelles inscriptions de Ma'în », *Arabia*, 3, 2005-2006, pp. 279-280, fig. 172.

Transliteration

-
- 1 y 'ttr bn
 - 2 ... ('mdhr d-Hbzⁿ s³l' 't(tr)
 - 3 Mtbqbd ywm qyn mr... =
 - 4 '-s¹ d-Hrb b-'l'lt M'n
 - 5 w-b 'ttr Nkrh w-b dt-H=
 - 6 mym w-b 'mdhr b-ywm W=
 - 7 qh'l w-Nbtkrb

Translation

-
- 1 y 'Athtar son of
 - 2 ... ('A)mîdhakhar of the lineage of Khabzân has dedicated to the divinity
 - 3 Mutabaqbid the day he was officiant of his...
 - 4 ... of the lineage of Ḥarîb. By the divinities of Ma'în
 - 5 and the divinity Nakrah and dhat-Ḥi=
 - 6 maym and 'Amîdhakhar the time of Wa-
 - 7 qah'îl and Nabaṭkarib.

Comment

In spite of its bad condition, the inscription sheds a new light on the pantheon of the kingdom of Ma'în. 'Ath(tar) is described as Mutabaqbid, and also Nakrah and Ḥimyam. Here, 'Ath(tar) is probably a common noun meaning 'divinity, goddess'. This text only mentions the divinities of Ma'în, and not those of Yathill. It can therefore be deduced that this text dates from before the confederation of the tribes of Ma'în and Yathill, and thus to the 7th century BC.

The king Waqah'îl of Ma'în is known from other new inscriptions (Ma'în 101, in which he reigns along with his father Ilîyafa'). Here, he reigns along with Nabaṭkarib, probably his son. It must be understood that both of them cannot have been kings at the same time.

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 ለሥነ ምግባር ስራ ለህዝብ ጸጋ
 ለሥነ ምግባር ስራ ለህዝብ ጸጋ

(Ma'ân 101)

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35. YM 28334

A limestone architectural element used as a grabstone.

Qarnaw.

H 34 cm W 17 cm Th 7 cm ; letter size 5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

5th-4th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *zlt 'ws' w-bhn-s'*
- 2 *'hl Hrd*

Translation

- 1 Grave of Aws and his son
- 2 of the clan of Haraḏ

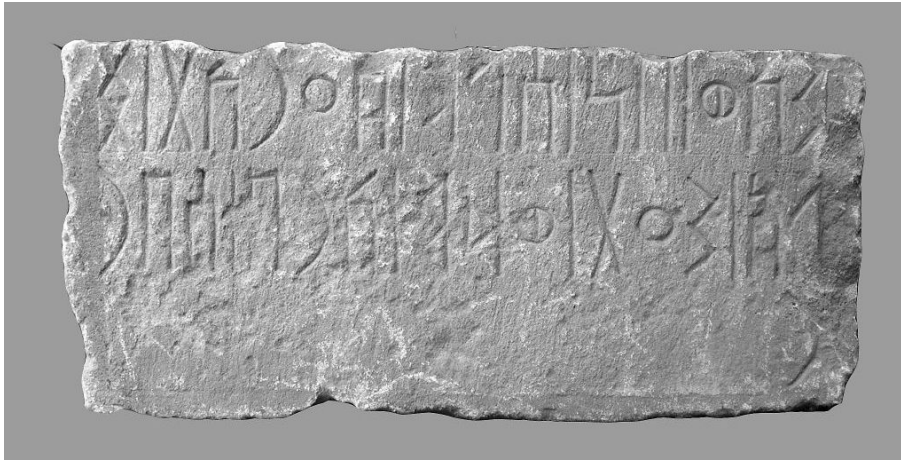
Comment

The name of the clan of *Hrd* was also identified in another inscription found in Qarnaw (M 73).

YM.

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.(M 73)



36. YM 28335

A limestone architectural element.

Qarnaw or Barâqish.

H 33 cm W 15 cm Th 6 cm ; letter size 4 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th-3rd century BC.

Transliteration

1 S²kw bn S¹lm d- 'rkt s³ =

2 l' s² 't Wd^m krb s¹br...

Translation

1 Shakaw son of Sâlim of the family of 'Arakat

2 has dedicated to the priests of Wadd as the discharge of his obligations...

Comment

The importance of this inscription lies in the fact that it addresses gratitude to the priests of a divinity Wadd.

YM .

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37. YM 28336

A limestone architectural elements with red paint remains.

Yathill.

H 36,5 cm W 19,5cm Th 7 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th-3rd century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *Mrd bn S^l 'd'î*
- 2 *d-Mlḥ s³l' bḥt=*
- 3 *n*

Translation

- 1 Mârid son of Sa'd'îl
- 2 of the lineage of Milḥ has dedicated an
- 3 offering.

YM .

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38. YM 28162

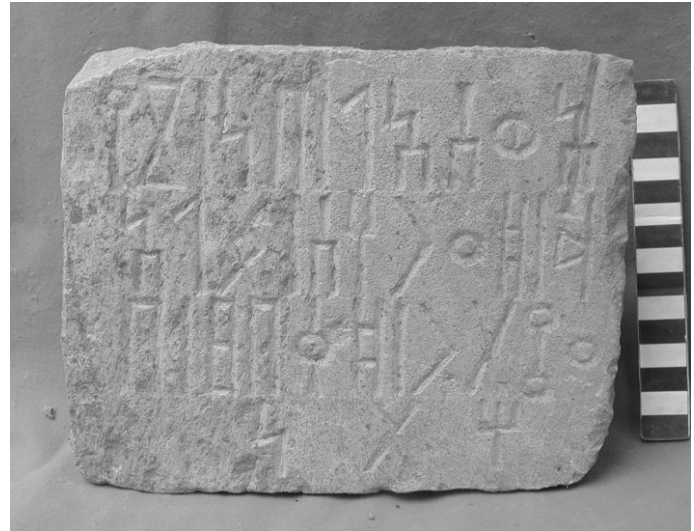
A piece of limestone with four lines of dedication inscriptions.

Qarnaw.

H 18 cm W 22 cm Th 8 cm ; letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

3rd century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 'ws' l bn Zy
- 2 d d- r'hs' s'l'
- 3 'ttr d-Qbd b =
- 4 ht''

Translation

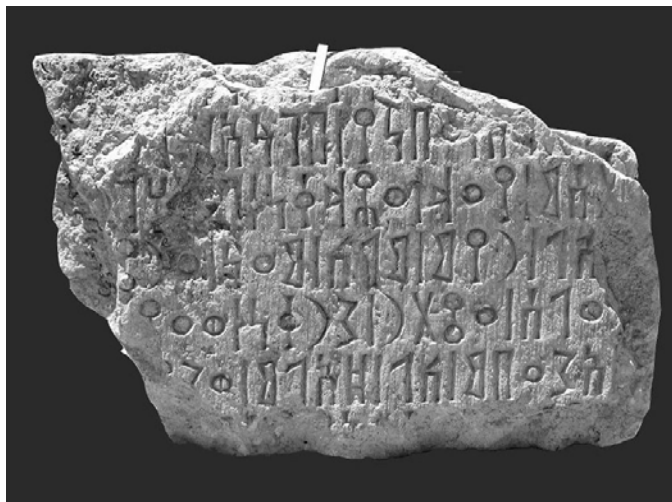
- 1 Aws'il son of Zayd
- 2 of the lineage of 'Arhas has dedicated to
- 3 'Athtar dhu-Qabd
- 4 an offering.

YM .

ʾḪl ʾbn ʾl bn ʾz
 ʾd d- r'hs' s'l'
 ʾttr d-Qbd ʾb =
 ht''

39. YM 26117

A piece of limestone, broken at the top right angle.
 Qarnaw or Barâqish.
 H 45 cm L 67 cm Th 25 cm ; letter size 5,5 cm.
 Madhâbaean.
 4th century BC



Transliteration

- 1 *bny b-gn'*
- 2(by)t-s¹m Y'd w-šdqⁿ ... (Wq)h =
- 3 'l Rym mlk M'n w-r^t(d)
- 4 ... 'l-s¹ 'ttr S²rqⁿ w-'t(tr)
- 5 ... 's²'b-s¹ kl d-'lm w-s²y(m)...
- 6

Translation

- 1 built inside the walls
- 2 their house and fulfilled ... (Waq)h-
- 3 'il Riyâm king of Ma'în and put under protection
- 4 ... 'Athtar Shâriqân and 'Ath(tar)
- 5 ... their tribes and the assembly and the tutelar divinity
- 6

Comment

This king of Ma'în, Waqah'il Riyâm, son of Abîyada' Yatha', is often mentioned in inscriptions and reigned around the middle of the 4th century BC.

YM .

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40. YM 28988

Rectangular limestone sacrificial altar.

Yathill.

Length 101 cm ; Width 38,5 cm ; Thickness 10 cm ; gutter in the shape of a bull's head, length 10 cm, width 4 cm ; letter size 8 cm.

Madhâbaean.

6th century BC.

Transliteration

'b'ns¹ bn Lhy'tt bn Şbhyd' Ytly

Translation

Abî'anas son of Laḥay'athat ibn Şubḥyada' the two Yathillî.

Comment

This inscription uses for the first time the adjective “Yathillî”, which means “from the town of Yathill”.

YM .

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41. YM 24942 + 24943

Bronze sacrificial table broken into two pieces, with two strip dates and geometric designs.

Qarnaw.

Surface table: H 29W 65 cm, Th 3 mm ; Inscription face : H 13 cm W 64 cm ; External border W 2 cm, the bull-head H 16 cm, letter size 3 cm.

Madhâbaean.

5th-4th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *Wdd'l w-S' d'l w-Zyd'l w-'l'ws' bhny Mtⁿ d-Mrⁿ s³l=*
- 2 *' ttr Mtbqbđ 'l 'whⁿ w-'whⁿ ms¹lm w-mfhmy dhbⁿ*

Translation

- 1 Wadad'îl and Sa'd'îl and Zayd'îl and Il'aws sons of Mat'ân dhu-Marrân have =
- 2 dedicated to god Mutabaqbiđ divinity of 'whⁿ and 'whⁿ altar and two sacrificial bronze tables.

Comment

This inscription mentions a new epithet for the god Mutabaqbiđ : “divinity of 'whⁿ”; 'whⁿ is here probably the name of a town or family. The divinity Mutabaqbiđ is mentioned in Minaean inscriptions.

+ YM.

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42. GOAM 314

Limestone stele with geometric stripes.

Barâqish.

H 55,5 cm W 26,5 cm Th 10 cm ; external border width 3,5 cm ;
letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 S' lmt dt H=
- 2 db nthyt w-
- 3 ntqr k-Nkrh
- 4 s²ymh-s¹ b-dt '=
- 5 rht b-wldh-s¹
- 6 b-dl^m b-'mr
- 7 w-mrdwhy Nk=
- 8 rh

Translation

- 1 Salmat (wife) of Kha =
- 2 dhab has confessed and
- 3 made penance to Nakrah
- 4 her patron because of
- 5 what she had
- 6 done during her son's
- 7 illness. By authority
- 8 and goodwill of Nak =
rah.

GOAM .

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YIXHIXQ1H
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IY)NLNIDHXLY
HIXHPIHYZQZ
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43. GOAM 315

Fragment of a limestone stele.

Ma'în or Barâqish.

H 70 cm W 56 cm Th 13 cm ; family name monogram H 9,5 ; letter size 3,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

4th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 wt-s^l ... ms^l...
- 2 s^l w-bt-s^l w-s³l'-s^l b-gwbn wq...
- 3 ty bn d-ys^lnkr-s^l ywmy s²ms^{1m} w-
- 4 'rđ^m b- 'ttr d-Qbd^m w-b Wd^m
- 5 w-b Nkrh^m w-b 'ttr d-Yhrq
- 6 w-b 'byd' Yt' mlk M'n w-b
- 7 s²'bh-s^l M'n w-d Ytl w-b Yt'k=
- 8 rb Nbt d-Ĥdt w-b 'lrm Ṣdq
- 9 d-Yd' s²w'y Wd^m

Monogram : *Mlh*

Translation

- 1
- 2 his offering, and his dedication in sanctuary ...
- 3 against any harm under the sun and
- 4 on earth. By 'Athtar dhu-Qabđ and Wadd
- 5 and Nakraḥ, 'Athtar dhu-Yuhriq
- 6 and Abîyada' Yatha', king of Ma'în and
- 7 their tribes of Ma'în and Yathill, and by Yatha'ka =
- 8 karib Nabaṭ dhu-Ĥadath and Ilîram Ṣadiq
- 9 dhu-Yada' two priests of Wadd.

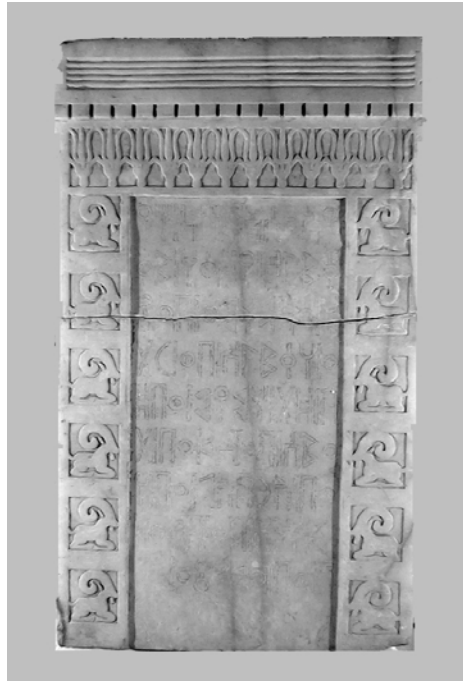
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45. YM 18344

An alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 118,5 cm W 67 cm; letter size 7 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 Y'ws' l bn Hy =
- 2 w^m hqny 'lmq =
- 3 h 'ndhmw b-'t =
- 4 tr w-b 'lmqh w-
- 5 b dt Hmym w-b-d =
- 6 t B'dn w-b S'm'
- 7 w-b Krb'l w-b Y
- 8 d''b w-b 'hkr =
- 9 b w-b 'myt'

Translation

- 1 Ya'was'il son of Hay =
- 2 w^{um} has dedicated to Ilmaqa =
- 3 h 'Indahumu. By 'Ath =
- 4 tar, Ilmaqah, and
- 5 dhat Himyam, dha =
- 6 t Ba'dan and Sam'it',
- 7 and Karib'il, Ya =
- 8 da'ab, Akhkari =
- 9 b and 'Amiyatha'.

Comment

These inscriptions (YM 18344, 18345, 18346, 18347, 18348, 18349, 18350, 18351, 18352 and YM 18355) are from the *intra-muros* temple of Ilmaqah, Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir (Kuhâl). They are texts of offerings that relate to the consecration of a person to the *intra-muros* temple of Ilmaqah. This inscription mentions a connection between Karib'il, *mukarrib* of Saba', and Yada'ab, Akhkari and 'Amiyatha', probably kings of cities of al-Jawf.

In order to have control over the frankincense trade, the Sabaeans built cities in wâdî Raghwân – Khirbat Sa'ûd and al-Asâhil (Kutal and 'Arârat) - and in the south-east of wâdî al-Jawf, Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir, old Kuhâl.

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(YM 18344, 18345, 18346, 18347, 18348, 18349, 18350, 18351, 18352, 18355)

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46. YM 18345

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 117,5 cm W 74 cm ; Th 9,5 cm ; letter size 7 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 Ṣdq'mr bn Dr^m bn Mḥ=
- 2 wr^m hqny 'lmqh Lḥy b-
- 3 'ttr w-b-'lmqh w-b dt-Ḥ=
- 4 mym w-b dt-B'dn w-b S'm' w-
- 5 b Yd'ʾl

Translation

- 1 Ṣadaq'amar son of Miḥ =
- 2 war^{um} has dedicated to Ilmaqah Luḥay. By
- 3 'Athtar, Ilmaqah, dhat-Ḥi =
- 4 myam, dhat-Ba'dan, Samî' and
- 5 Yada'ʾl.

Comment

Yada'ʾl who was probably one of the sons of Karib'îl, *mukarrib* of Saba'. The order of divinities: 'Athtar, Ilmaqah, dhat-Ḥimyam and dhat-Ba'dan is an official divinity hierarchy of Saba', it was respected during the first millennium BC and the first and second centuries AD. The Sabaeans usually added new local divinities when conquering new lands. In this inscription, we have Samî', the divinity of the city of Kuhâl.

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47. YM 18346

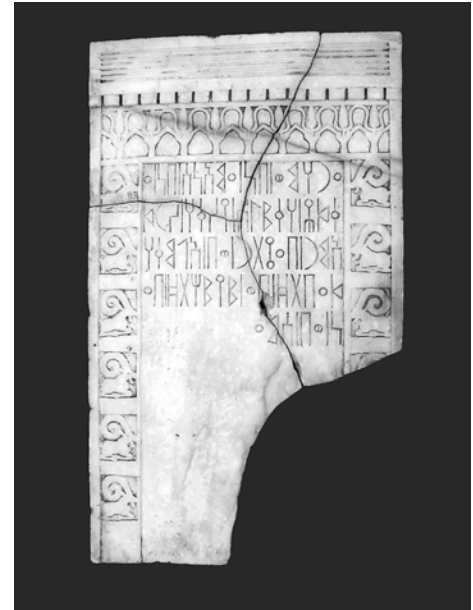
Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 118,5 cm W 67 cm; letter size 7 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 'rhmw bn 'm'ns^l bn '=
- 2 drⁿ hqny 'lmqh Ṣdq
- 3 'mr b- 'ttr w-b 'lmqh
- 4 w-b dt-Hmym w-b dt-B'd=
- 5 n w-b S^lm'

Translation

- 1 'Arhumu son of 'Amî'anas, ibn 'A =
- 2 darân has dedicated to Ilmaqah Ṣadiq =
- 3 'amar. By 'Athtar and Ilmaqah
- 4 and dhât-Himym and dhât Ba'd =
- 5 ân and by Samî'.

YM .

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 ḥ | 3 | 4 | 1 | ḥ | 1 | ◦ | 1 |) | ḫ | 3 | ◦ | 1 | 1 |) | 3 | ḥ |
 ◦ | 1 | ḫ | ḫ | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | ◦ | 1 | ḫ | ḫ | 1 | ◦ | ቁ
 ◦ | 3 | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | 1 | ◦ | 1 | 4

48. YM 18347

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 119 cm W 68 cm Th 8 cm ; ibex border width 3 cm ; letter size 7 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 'l'z bn bn 'm'ns^l bn '=
- 2 drⁿ hqny 'lmqh Ṣb=
- 3 ḥhmw b-'ttr w-b 'lmq=
- 4 h w-b dt-Ḥmym w-b dt B' =
- 5 dn w-b S'm'

Translation

- 1 Ilî'az son of 'Amî'anas, ibn 'A =
- 2 darân has dedicated to Ilmaqah Ṣub =
- 3 ḥahumû. By 'Athtar and Ilmaqah =
- 4 h and dhât Ḥimyam and dhât
- 5 Ba'dân and by Samî'.

YM .

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 ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ
 ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ
 ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | ḥ | 1 | ḥ

49. YM 18348

Alabaster stele fragment with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 52 cm W 55 cm Th 6.5 cm ; holy symbol H 7,5 cm; letter size 5,5 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 *S'm 'tt bn Hbrr' l*
- 2 *mwd S'mh 'ly hqny*
- 3 *s' m b- 'ttr*
- 4

Translation

- 1 Sum'athat son of Habrar'il
- 2 friend of Sumhu'alay has dedicated to
- 3 By 'Athtar
- 4

Comment

The author of this inscription is the “*mwd*” “friend” of Sumhu'alay, *mukarrib* of Saba'. The title of *mawadd* was used during the period of Sabaean *mukarribs* (8th-6th century BC). This title was also used by the Minaeans (6th-1st centuries BC). The date of the reign of Sumhu'alay, *mukarrib* of Saba', is at the beginning of the 7th century BC.

YM .

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50. YM 18349

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 118 cm W 71 cm Th 11 cm ; ibex strip width 11 cm ; letter size 7 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 Yḥm' l bn 'm'ns' bn ' =
- 2 dr' hqny 'lmqh Yh =
- 3 qm b- 'ttr w-b 'lmqh
- 4 w-b dt-Ḥmym w-b dt-B' =
- 5 dn w-b S'm'

Translation

- 1 Yaḥam'îl son of 'Amî'anas ibn 'A =
- 2 darân has dedicated to Ilmaqah Yuha =
- 3 qim. By 'Athtar and Ilmaqah
- 4 and dhât Ḥimyam and dhât Ba' =
- 5 dân and by Samî'.

YM .

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 ቅር | ሂዕሂየ | ሰገጭሂየሂ
 ሂዕገላ | በ |) ጸጸ። በ | ጃፋ
 ◦ በ | ሰጸሂየገገ | በ | ሰጸገ።
 ◦ ጃሰገ። | ሄጋ



51. YM 18350

Alabaster stele with bustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 95 cm W 50,5 cm Th 13 cm ; ibex strip width 4,5 cm ; letter size 4 cm ; holy symbol size 10 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *Nwd^m bn 'bkrb*
- 2 *'bd S^lmh 'ly*
- 3 *kbr Ktl^m hqn =*
- 4 *y 'lmqh Hyw^m*
- 5 *ywm bny ms²s³ 'H =*
- 6 *rbⁿ w- 'tl^m ms²s³ =*
- 7 *'Šqbⁿ w- 'tl^m*

Translation

- 1 Nawd^{um} son of Abîkarib
- 2 servant of Sumhu'alay
- 3 chief of Kutal^{um} has dedicated
- 4 to Ilmaqah Hayw^{um}
- 5 the day he built *ms²s³* 'Ha-
- 6 ribân and tamarisks and *ms²s³* =
- 7 'Šaqbân and tamarisks.

Comment

The author of this inscription and next inscription is the *kabîr* of the town of Kutal, actually Khirbat Sa'ûd, in wâdî Raghwân. The title of *kabîr* was used during the *mukarribs* period (8th-6th centuries BC) and referred to the head of a city, family or tribe.

This town and 'Arârat were founded by the Sabaeans during the second half of the 8th century BC to gain caravan access to the al-Jawf area. These two cities were abandoned around the 6th century BC.

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52. YM 18351

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 96 cm W 54,5 cm Th 15 cm ; external border width 5 cm ; internal border width 4 cm ; letter size 4,5 cm ; holy symbol size 11 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.



Transliteration

- 1 *Nwḏ^{um} bn 'bkrb 'bd*
- 2 *S'mh 'ly kbr Kt^{um}*
- 3 *hqny 'lmqh Nymⁿ*
- 4 *ywm hḥdt byt ' =*
- 5 *lmqh w-tbtⁿ*

Translation

- 1 Nawḏ^{um} son of Abikarib servant of
- 2 Sumhu'alay chief of Kutal^{um}
- 3 has dedicated to Ilmaqah Naymân
- 4 the day he renovated the house of
- 5 Ilmaqah and the sanctuary.

YM.

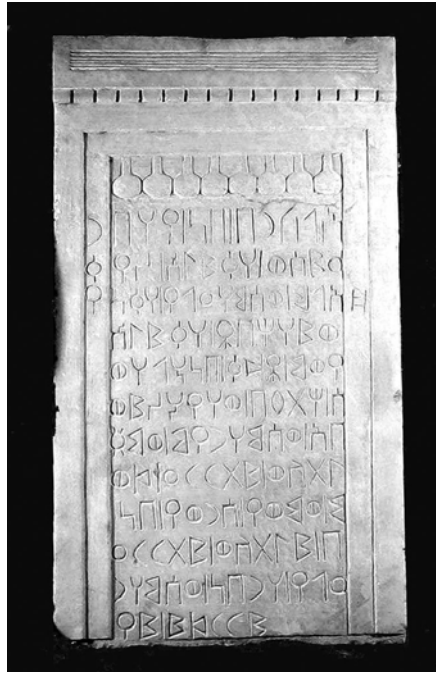
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53. YM 18352

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 103 cm W 58 cm Th 13 cm ; Date strip width : 7,5 cm ; External border width 5 cm ; letter size 4 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

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Sabina Antonini, *I motivi figurativi delle Banāt 'Ād nei templi sudarabici* (Repertorio iconografico sudarabico, tome 2), Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris, Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome, 2005, tav. 65b.

Transliteration

- 1 'lkrb bn Yhbr
- 2 qyn 'lmqh w-S^lm'
- 3 d-'lm w-S^lmh 'ly hqny
- 4 'lmqh Šbħhmw
- 5 ywm šdq b-nħl-hw
- 6 w-mnh^y-hw b-ftħ S^l =
- 7 b' w-S^lmhr^ym w-ms³ =
- 8 wd 'rrt^m w-Ktl
- 9 ^m w-mwy s^lrwy bn
- 10 'rrt^m w-Ktl^m b-
- 11 'ly Hrbⁿ w-S^lmhr =
- 12 ym mdr^m

Translation

- 1 Ilkarib son of Yuhbir
- 2 officer of Ilmaqah and Samî'
- 3 dhu-Alîm and Sumhu'alay has dedicated to
- 4 Ilmaqah Šabħahumû
- 5 the time of payment of his palmgrove tax
- 6 his canal according to the judicial order of Saba'
- 7 and Sumhriyâm and the chief
- 8 of 'Ararat^{um} and Kutal^{um}
- 9 and the water of the two valleys from
- 10 'Ararat^{um} and Kutal^{um}
- 11 to Haribân and Sumhuri-
- 12 yâm is the regulator of irrigation.

Comment

This text mentions two *mukarrib's* of Saba', Sumhu'alay and Sumhuriyâm, two sons of Karib'il Water, son of Dhamar'alî Dhârih, mukarrib of Saba'. Samî' was a local divinity of Kuhâl and dhu-Alîm is probably a temple name which is mentioned for the first time.



54. YM 18355

Alabaster stele with boustrophedon inscriptions from Ilmaqah *intra-muros* temple.

Jidfir Ibn Munaykhir.

H 100 cm W 55 cm Th 18 cm ; external border width : 4,5 cm ; letter size 5 cm.

Sabaic.

7th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *Hls^lm' bn Šbh^m 'bd*
- 2 *S'mh 'ly hqny*
- 3 *'lmqh 'myd'*

Translation

- 1 Khilsamî' son of Šabh^{um} servant of
- 2 Sumhu'alay has dedicated to
- 3 Ilmaqah 'Amîyada'.

YM .

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56. GOAM 313

Sacrificial limestone altar .

Al-Jawf.

H 31 cm W 81 cm Th 31 cm ; Front ibex head part Th 28 cm ; border width 5 cm ; letter size 4 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th-6th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 *l'z bn d-Rkl w-'mr^m d-Qydⁿ s³l=*
- 2 *' ttr 'nt^m mšrbⁿ ywm qdm*
- 3 *w-bny byt-s^l w-b 'dn 'ttr 'nt*
- 4 *t s^lmy w-wld-s^lm w-'qny-s^lm*

Translation

- 1 Ilî'az son of dhu-Rakal, and Amîr^{um} dhu-Qaydân has dedicated
- 2 to 'Athtar Woman, the sacrificial table, when he was responsible
- 3 and built his house. By the authority of 'Athtar Woman,
- 4 they and their children and their possessions.

Comment

This inscription mentions for the first time a new epithet of 'Athtar, 'nt^m, which means “a woman”.

GOAM.

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57. YM 28033

Funerary clay stele, engraved and in slight relief, showing eyes with an inscription.

H 26,5 cm W 14 cm Th 5 cm ; letter size 3 cm.

Madhâbaean.

6th-5th century BC.



Transliteration

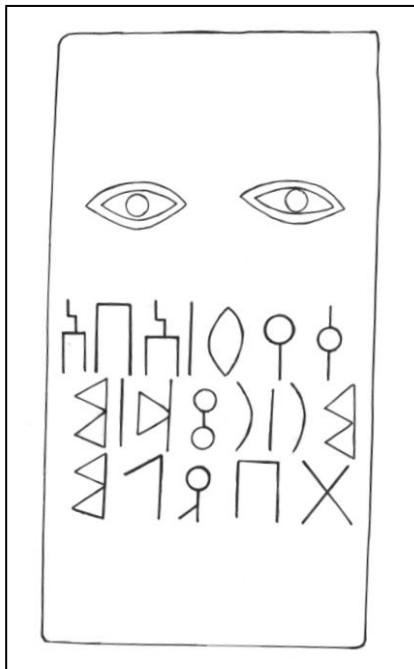
- 1 *qyf 'b=*
- 2 *'mr rtd M=*
- 3 *tbzlm*

Translation

- 1 Memorial of Abî-
- 2 'amar under the protection of Mu-
- 3 tabazlim

Comment

This inscription dates from the reign of Malikwaqah Rayad, king of Nashshân, who is contemporary of Yada'ab Yafash, probably the king of Ma'in, who reigned at the beginning of 7th century BC. We know an other king of Nashshân, who had the same name and epithet, Malikwaqah Rayad (I), who reigned in the middle of 8th century BC. As to Aranyada', 'Athtar, Wadd and dhat-Nashq, their is no questioning that they are divinities of state-city of Nashshân, during 8th and 7th century BC.



YM .

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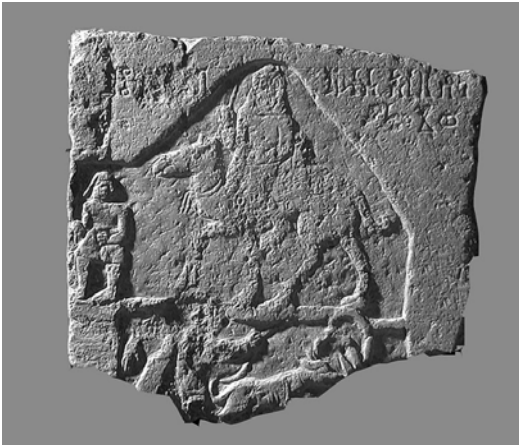
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(YM)



58. YM 2538

Limestone stele with cameler and fragment of a hunt presentation.

H 27 cm W 28,5 cm, Th 5 cm ; letter size 2 cm.

South Arabian.

1st-2nd century AD.

Transliteration

Translation

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | <i>nšb 's^ld^m bn (.)l^m</i> | 1 | Stele of Asad son of (.)math ^{um} |
| 2 | <i>Wz^{an}</i> | 2 | Waz'ân |

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59. YM 8877

Funerary clay stele, in slight relief, showing a warrior or a hunter, with an inscription.

H 32 cm, W 22 cm, Th 10 cm ; letter size 3 cm.

South Arabian.

1st-2nd century AD.

Transliteration

- 1 *nšb Mšr^m b =*
- 2 *n 's'l^m w-S²b =*
- 3 *m*

Translation

- 1 memorial stone of Mišr^{um} son of
- 2 Aslam and Shib =
- 3 âm.

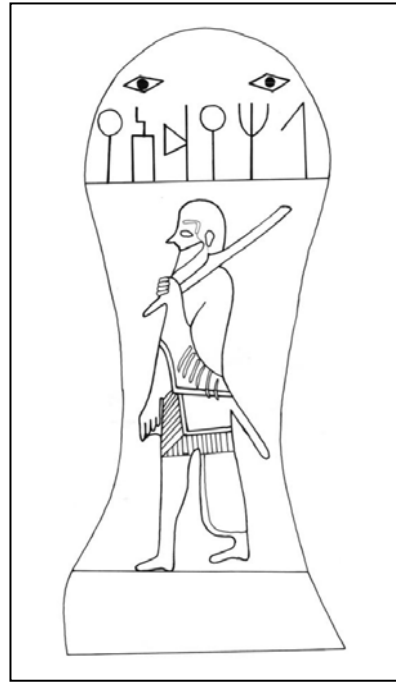
Comment

The scene represents a warrior holding a bow and a stick, his skirt is pleated and the top of the stele is crenellated like a tower.

8877 YM .

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61. YM 10881

Funerary clay stele (?), engraved in slight relief, showing a warrior, drawings and an inscription.
 H 37 cm : base bottom width 16 cm, in the top 14 cm, Th 9 cm ; letter size 5 cm.
 4th-3rd century BC.

Transliteration

Lhyd'y

Translation

Luhayda'ay

Comment

The shape of the stele and the succession of the patterns are unusual: above a warrior wearing a long Assyrian coat, there is a drawing of two eyes with an inscription. The person's name is *Lhyd'y* and he is probably from North Arabia.

YM.

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62. YM 12925

Funerary clay stele, in slight relief, showing a warrior, with an inscription.
 H 32 cm W 25 cm, Th 10 cm ; letter size 3 cm.
 South Arabian.
 1st-2nd century AD.

Transliteration

nšb 'lyⁿ bn 's¹(l)(m)

Translation

Stele of 'Alyân son of As(la)(m)

Comment

The scene shows a standing warrior holding a spear in his right hand and a round shield in his left hand.

YM.

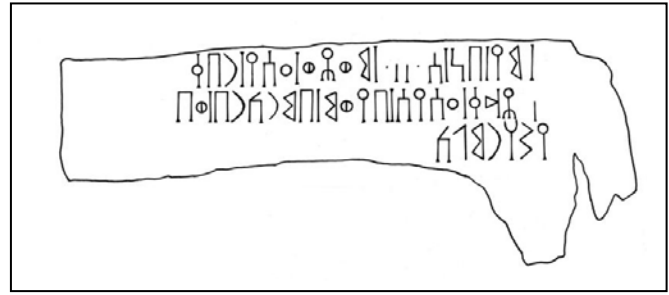
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63. YM 19608

Wood transversal-cut with inscriptions.
 H 34 cm W 86 cm, Th 9 cm ; letter size 5 cm.
 Madhâbaean.
 6th-5th century BC.

Transliteration

- 1 .my bn m.w 's^ly Rb =
- 2 şdq 's^ly-s^l b-ywm Dmrkrb w-b
- 3 Ys²hrml(k)

Translation

- 1 .my son of ... m.w has made Rab =
- 2 şadiq has made it. The time of Dhamarkarib and
- 3 Yshhurmali(k).

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64. YM 20660

Limestone stele with ritual presentation.
 H 28 cm W 24 cm, Th 8 cm ; letter size 2 cm.
 South Arabian.
 1st-2nd century AD.

Transliteration

zlt S²(f)n bt 'lyt

Translation

Grabstone of Shafan daughter of Alyat.

YM .

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XI 7 ʾH I X P I 4 0 3 I X 1 ʾ

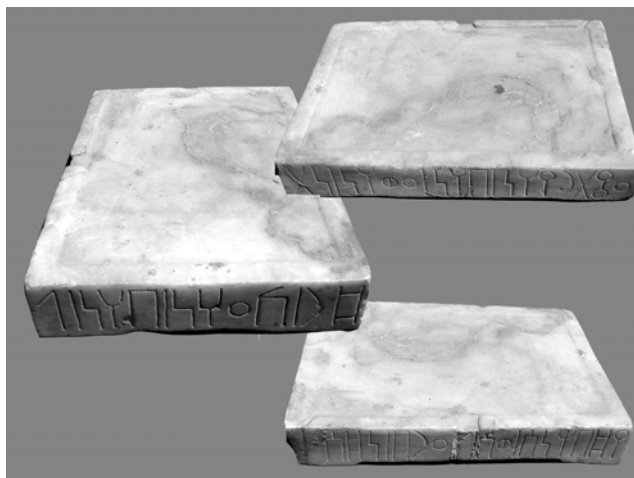
65. YM 24905

Alabaster altar.

L 55,5 cm W 39 cm, part of inscription H 7,5 cm ;
external border width 3 cm, letter size 6,5 cm.

Madhâbaean.

7th-6th century BC.



Transliteration

'ttryhn bhn 'wh" nt= dr k-'hn b-hn l- ydbhn-s' w-'l 'rb nd-s'

Translation

'Athtaryahân's son of 'Awhân has apologised to 'Ahan because he sacrificed but he didn't offer his penance.

Comment

As to family name 'whn, see comment on YM 25942 + 25943. The divinity 'hn is mentioned here for the first time.

YM .

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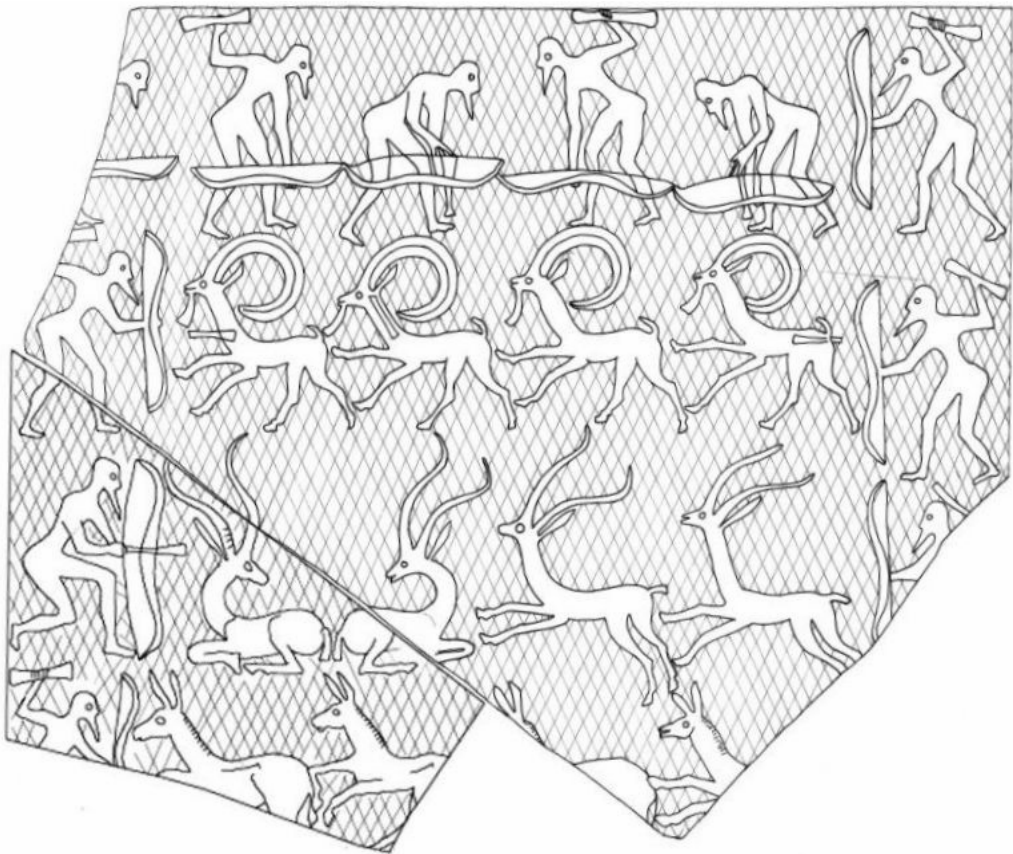
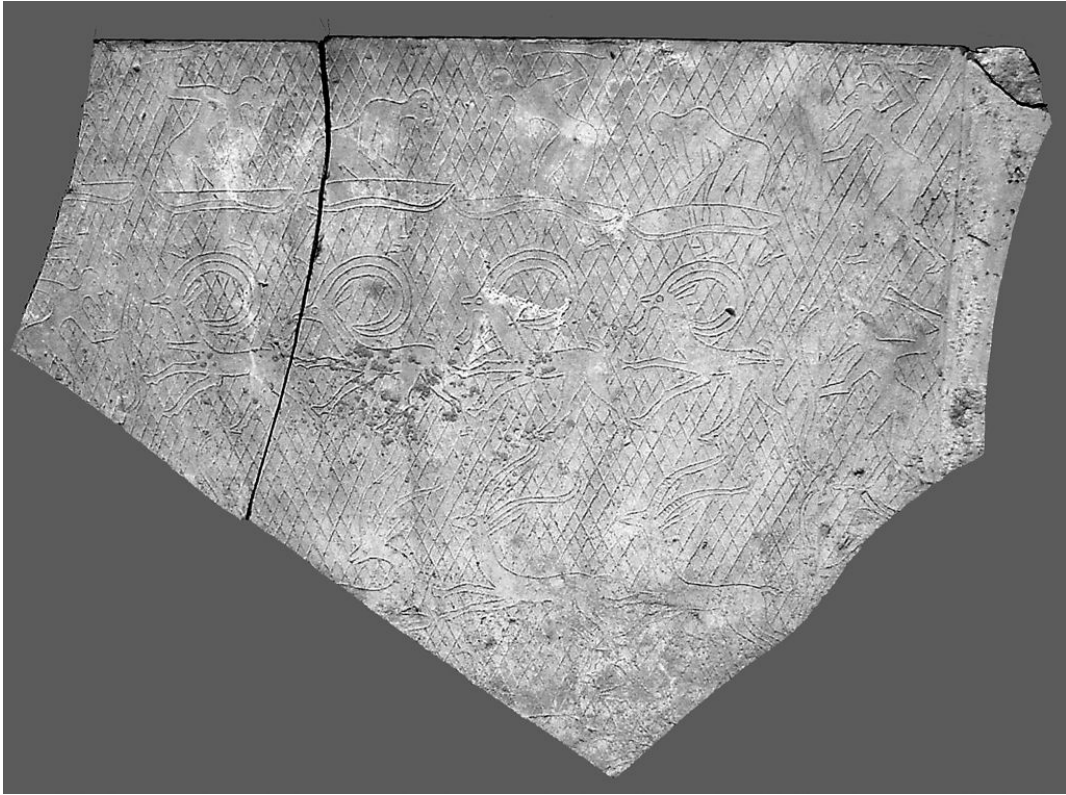
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YM 24942 +

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24943

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CHAPTER 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

The archeological items include a selection from four collections, iconographical witnesses of the cultural wealth of al-Jawf :

- a collection of stone items richly illustrated, linked to the theme of the temples of Banât 'Âd ;
- a collection of bronze items, displaying the bronze wealth of al-Jawf ;
- a small collection of terracotta figurines which seem to have been numerous in al-Jawf.
- A small collection of gold jewels recently purchased by the Museum.

I. STONE COLLECTION

We have selected all the items that could be linked, by their iconography, to those from the *intra-muros* temple discovered in 2004 at the site of as-Sawdâ', and we have tried to characterise their main features. On the one hand, we have hunting scenes, with hunters, warriors and animals. On the other hand, we have some already known patterns, most of which are associated with the temples of Banât 'Âd.

66. YM 16774

Votive limestone plaque with engraved decoration showing a hunting scene.

H 76 cm W 92 cm, Th 3 cm.

Possibly 9th- 8th century BC.

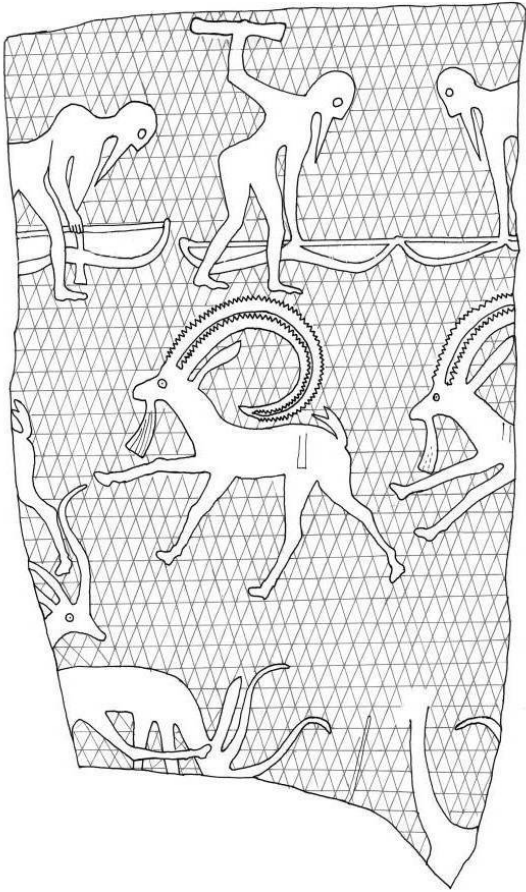
Comment

The patterns show hunters and rows of animals with a background streaked with crossed lines forming a square pattern which may represent a net.

YM.

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67. YM 25478

Votive limestone plaque decorated in relief showing a hunting scene. In the middle, we can observe the same scene as on plate YM 16774, with a few small changes, like the fluted ibex horns or an antelope scratching its neck with its rear paw.

H 70 cm W 41 cm, Th 3 cm.

Possibly 9th - 8th century BC.

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- Sabina Antonini, *I motivi figurativi delle Banāt 'Ād nei templi sudarabici* (Repertorio iconografico sudarabico, tome 2), Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris, Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome, 2005.
- Rémy Audouin, « Etudes des décors des temples des Banāt 'Ād », in *Arabia antiqua. Early origins of South Arabian States* (Ed. Christian Robin and Iwona Gajda). Proceedings of the First International Conference on the Conservation and Exploitation of the Archaeological Heritage of the Arabian Peninsula, held at the Palazzo Brancaccio, 28th- 30th May 1991, (Serie Orientale Roma, LXX, 1), IsMEO, Roma 1996, pp. 121-142.
- Alessandro de Maigret, *The Sabaeen Archaeological Complex in the Wādī Yalâ (Eastern Khawlân aṭ-Ṭiyâl, Yemen Arab Republic)*, with contributions of G. GARBINI, M. al-Eryânî, B. Marcolongo, A. M. Palmieri, IsMEO Reports and Memoirs XXI, Rome 1988.
- Jacques Ryckmans, « La chasse rituelle dans l'Arabie du Sud ancienne », in *Al-Bahit, Festschrift Joseph Henninger zum 70. Geburtstag am 12. Mai 1976* (Studia Instituti Anthropos, 28), St. Augustin bei Bonn, 1976, pp. 259-308.
- R. B. Serjeant, *South Arabian Hunt*, London, 1976.

Comment

We believe that we now have the entire width of the first plate (YM 16774). The left vertical limit is available thanks to a fragment originally published by Mrs Sabina Antonini, whose collage fits perfectly with the lower left corner of the panel. Owing to the overcall composition and with this valuable graphic-simulated complementary piece, we can now evaluate that we have 4/5^{ths} of the scene. The hunters use bows against the animals they surround. They are located on the margin of the panel and are around the animals which are in the middle on three horizontal lines. The scene is shown on a background covered with streaked, zigzagged crossed lines which may represent a net. It seems that the hunters are naked, with bald heads and long beards. They have the same faces as in the two other scenes retrieved on fragments of pillars from Ma'în. They are in action : figures standing up, bent or kneeling. They hold their bows in the right hand and a undefined projectile weapon in their left hand. The three types of animals which are represented are in rows and are jumping, walking or, in one case, sitting. Top to bottom: on the first row there are ibex, the symbolic animal of the region, on the second row are antelopes, and on the third wild donkeys.

The scenes of the two plates are similar. Plate number YM 25478 has a piece of the same scene from the upper left corner of plate number YM 16774 (same composition, same characters and same stylistic treatment) which seems to belong to the same decorative whole. Like the first plate, two bent hunters flank another one standing with a raised arm holding the same kind of projectile weapon. Beneath, a line of springing ibex, and under that again, the antelopes are represented in the same manner with small variations.

The constant features of the cross streaks background could truly represent a net. We may have here an illustration of net hunting which made it possible to catch the animals without harming them. In this case, it would be more appropriate to talk of a hunt to catch livestock (ibex, antelops) or for domestication (donkeys). The type of weapons linked with the bow is not identified (throw weapons,

arrows or group of arrows... ?). The location of the hunters in the scene suggests that this is a beat hunt (without dogs). Thus we have the final scene. Some of the animals are tracked, injured or killed by these projectiles weapons launched by bows, which can be seen on some bodies. Others are sitting, like the two antelopes face to face, or the one scratching its neck with its rear paw. For the first time, we have some wild donkeys : are they either to be eaten or, as the catching mechanism seems to hint, to be domesticated?. It is important to note that the horse was still unknown in these regions at that time.

Can we clearly imagine a ritual hunt on these panels?. We have almost every element of the composition. We notice the absence of any important character as well as any symbolic, royal or religious representation. A good hunt meant a good crop, as it proved that the vegetation on the mountains was sufficient to feed the animals even before seeing the result of a good harvest.

A link can be made between these panels and the pictures from the temples known as Banât 'Âd, which are dedicated to agriculture (fertility) and to breeding (fecundity). The engraved scene of the panels, like the one on the pillars, suggest that they can be dated between the end of the 9th century and the beginning of the 8th century BC. The bas-relief treatment is later, from the 8th-7th century BC.

YM .

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68. YM 60

Fragment of a granite pillar decorated in relief with two hunting scenes.

H 47 cm W 33 cm, Th 15 cm.

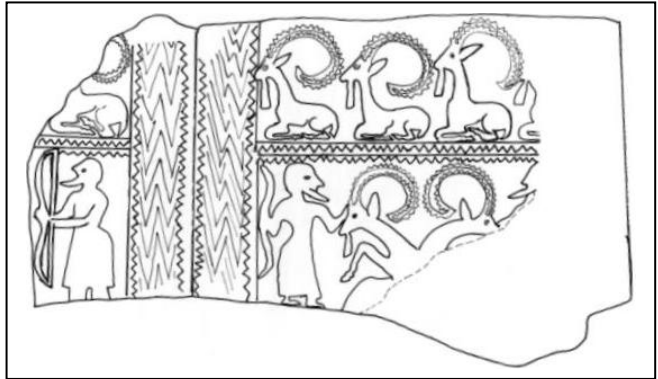
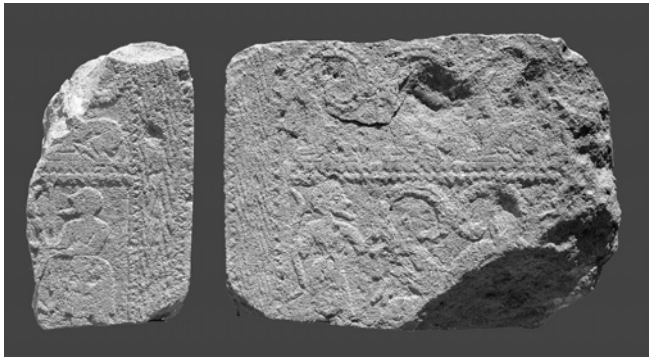
Possibly 8th - 7th century BC.

Comment

First scene : top to bottom: a hunter with his bow and his dog face a jumping ibex.

Second one : two ibex face each other around a date palm tree with big bunches of dates.

YM .



69. YM 1016

Fragment of a granite pillar decorated in relief on both sides and showing hunters and ibex, separated by a strip of chevrons.

H 24 cm, W 32 cm, Th 12 cm

Possibly 8th - 7th century BC.

Comment

First line (top to bottom): row of sitting ibex.

Second line: hunter holding his bow in his right hand and stroking an ibex with his left one. After a vertical separation line on the right, we can glimpse the beginning of the same scene which was repeated in the opposite scene. The other side of the pillar represents, from top to bottom, an ibex on the ground and a hunter with his bow, ready to shoot.

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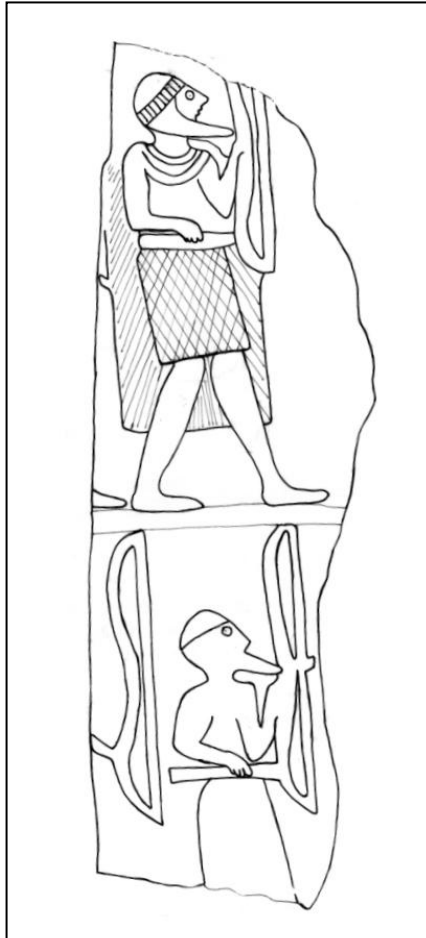
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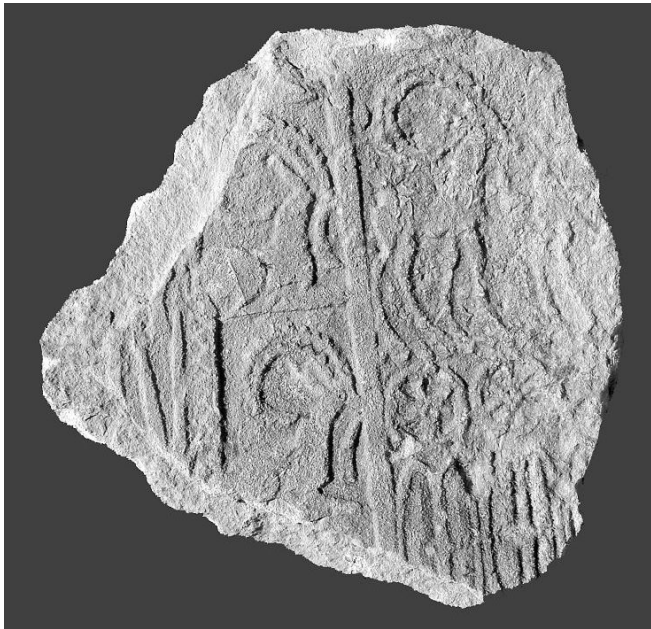
70. YM 29937

Fragment of a granite pillar, decorated in slight relief, showing two hunters walking.
H 37 cm, W 10 cm, Th 11 cm.
Possibly 7th - 6th century BC.

Comment

The first warrior (from top to bottom), whose clothes are shown in detail, wears a fringed coat or cape (Assyrian style?). The second one is more roughly represented.

YM.



71. YM 773

Fragment of a granite pillar, decorated in slight relief, showing a line of ibex, oryx heads and shields.

H 16 cm, W 16 cm, Th 10 cm.

Possibly 7th - 6th century BC.

Comment

The small shields are usually used for ceremonies or fighting. The long shields (example in this collection YM 22188) are used for hunting and war. These shields were still used in Eastern Africa, especially in Ethiopia, until recently. The shields which are also visible on certain pillars from Banât 'Âd were given to the temple.

YM .

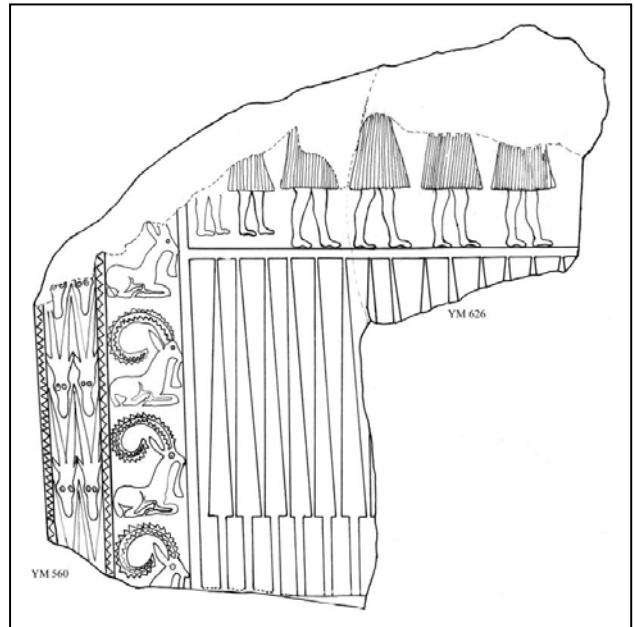
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(YM 22188)

ICONOGRAPHY AROUND THE THEME OF TEMPLES OF BANÂT 'ÂD



72. YM 560 + 626

Two fragments from the same granite pillar, decorated in slight relief, representing men walking in line.

YM 560 : H 43 cm, W 30 cm, Th 11 cm.

YM 626 : H 23 cm, W 23 cm, Th 11 cm.

Possibly 8th - 7th century BC.

Bibliography

Jacqueline Pirenne, *Corpus des inscriptions et antiquités sud-arabes*, Tome I, fascicule 2, Editions Peeters, Louvain, 1977.

Comment

These two assembled fragments show in the upper row a line of four male characters walking towards the right, wearing similar pleated skirts. They are followed by two smaller people: children or servants (?). The left side of the scene is decorated with a line of superposed sitting ibex and oryx heads. All these traditional themes are familiar from Banât 'Âd temples. Part of the scene is still missing, which would allow us to interpret this procession. Fragment YM 560 has been published by Jacqueline Pirenne.

+ YM .

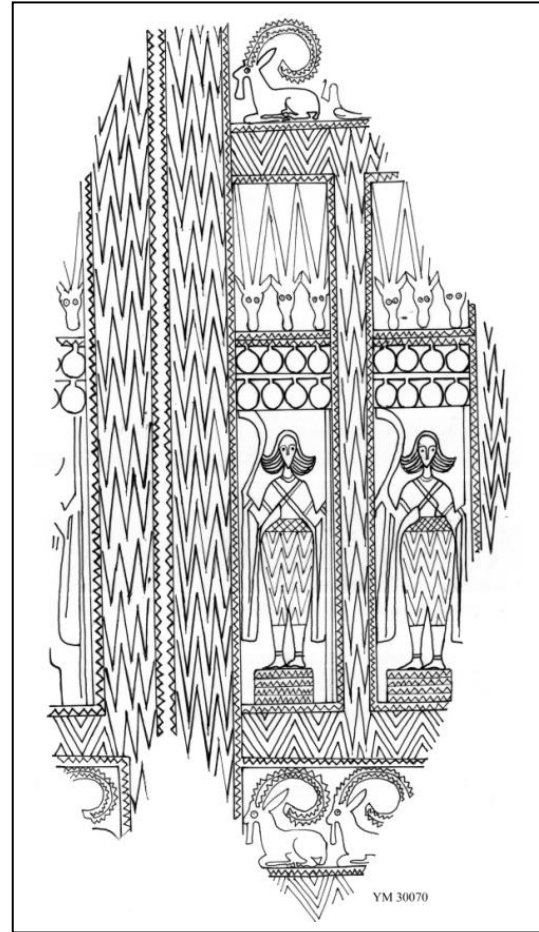
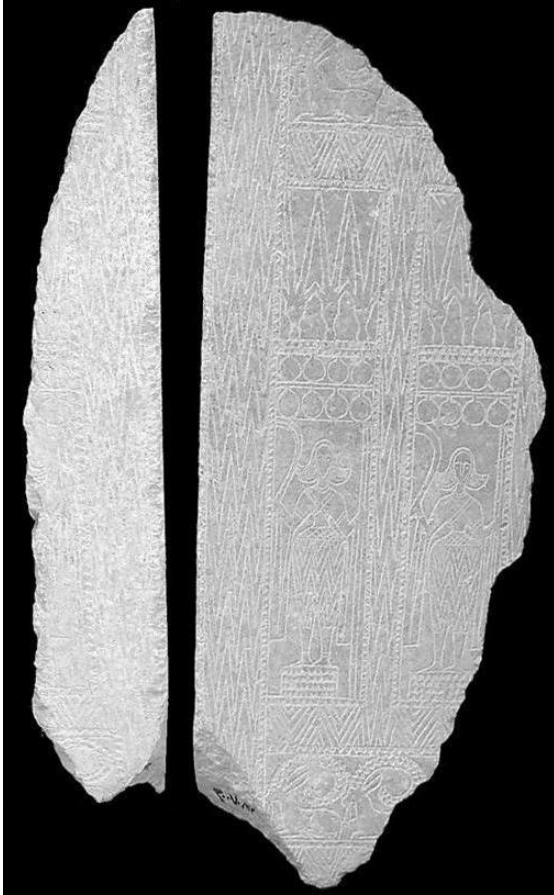
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73. YM 30070

Fragment of a granite pillar with engraved decoration showing Banât 'Âd.

H 70 cm, W 27 cm, Th 10,5 cm.

Possiblky 9th - 8th century BC.

Comment

This fragment is illustrative of the art of the incised line: the scene may come from Banât 'Âd, and is composed of a succession of resting ibex, chevrons, oryx heads, two bunches of dates, Banât 'Âd women on their podium, chevrons and resting ibex.

YM .

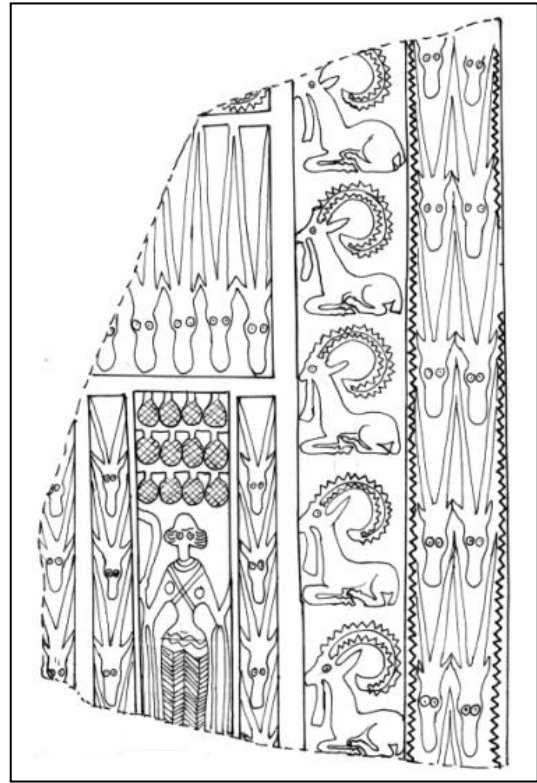
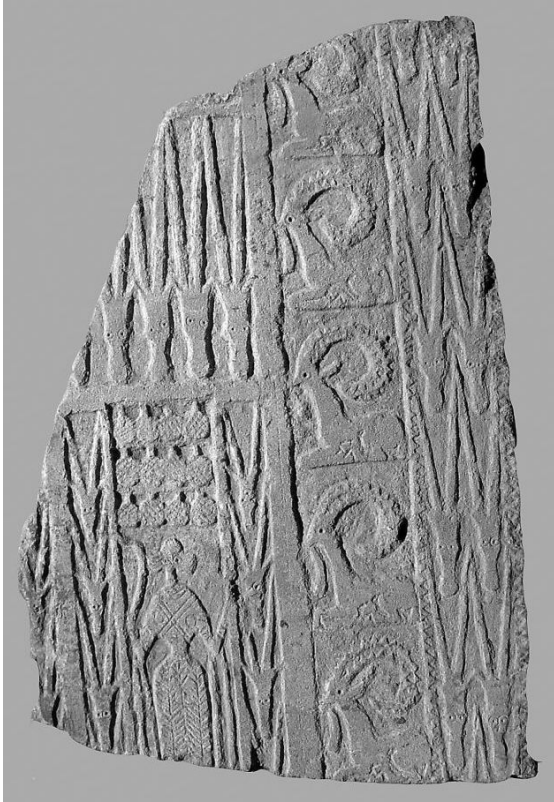
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74. YM 630

Fragment of granite pillar, decorated in slight relief, showing Banât 'Âd.

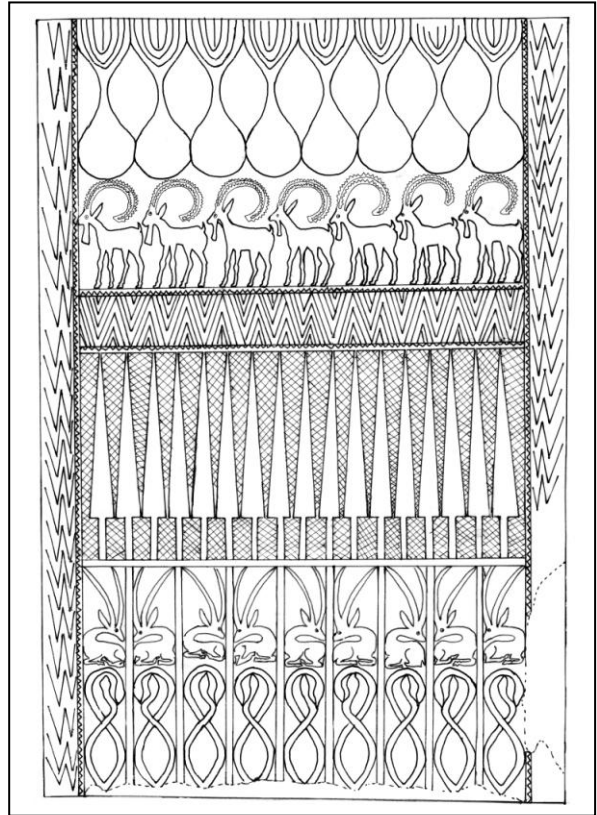
H 45 cm, W 28 cm, Th 12 cm.

Possibly 8th - 7th century BC.

Comment

In comparison with the previous pillar (YM 30070) which is incised, it appears that the relief technique is of a later period. The iconography seems to be similar to that of the previous pillar. The main feature is the presence of three rows of bunches of dates above the head of Banât 'Âd instead of two. Although there are more than 20 copies of this pattern, this is the only one with three rows known to date.

YM.



75. YM 28487

Al-Bayḍā' (Nashq).

Fragment of granite pillar with an engraved decoration.

H 98 cm, W 65 cm, Th 23 cm.

Possibly 9th - 8th BC.

Comment

The top of this pillar has a drawing which shows a well-known classical sequence. From top to bottom: a couple of snakes head-to-tail, two gazelles face to face, rows of spears on a cross hatched background (net ?), chevrons, a line of walking ibex, and then what may be arrows, ears of corn or spiral stylized vases.

YM .

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76. YM 29202

Fragment of a granite pillar with engraved decoration.

H 50 cm, W 23 cm, Th 12 cm.

Possibly 9th - 8th BC.

Comment.

Fragment of a classical stringed scene: chevrons, resting ibex and a pair of snakes.

YM .

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77. YM 28167

Fragment of a granite pillar decorated in slight relief,

H 74 cm, W 27 cm, Th 12 cm.

Possibly 8th - 7th BC.

Comment

Fragment of a classical stringed scene: chevrons, resting ibex and snakes.

YM .

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78. YM 1885

Limestone fragment decorated in slight relief showing of a small scene, which might be part of an altar or other piece of furniture.

H 17 cm, W 10 cm, Th 5 cm.

Possibly 7th - 6th BC.

Comment

In a scene showing false windows, two resting ibex are around a date palm. On the edge, the scene continues with two false windows.

YM .

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80.YM 25850

Votive alabaster stele in slight relief decorated with two ibex. Each row represents one moving ibex.

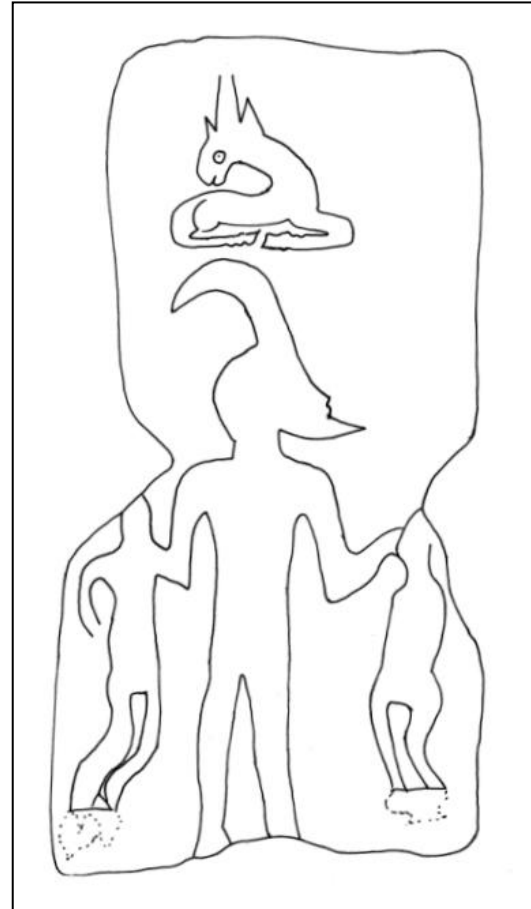
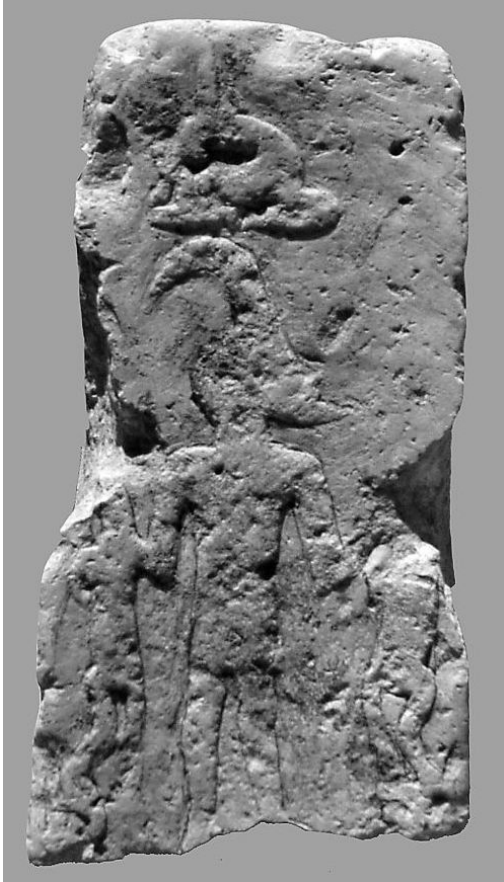
H 33 cm, W 29 cm, Th 5 cm.

Possibly 2nd century BC.

YM .

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79. YM 1000

Fragment of a small limestone pillar in slight relief showing a hunter/ibex.

H 26 cm, W 11-13 cm, Th 11 cm.

Possibly 1st - 2nd century AD.

YM.

Bibliography

Jacqueline Pirenne, *Corpus des inscriptions et antiquités sud-arabes*, Tome II, fascicule 2, Editions Peeters, Louvain, 1986.

Comment

Under a resting ibex, a standing hunter, wearing an ibex horn, holds two animals in his outstretched arms (ibex ?). Albeit roughly engraved, this hunter wearing an ibex head or horn is reminiscent of a similar representation of a scene which is kept on a capital in Aden Museum, and was published by J. Pirenne. The ibex hunters up to now, still hunt the animal once a year in the Ḥaḍramawt, and often come back wearing an ibex head on top of their own head. Can we imagine the representation of a highly symbolic animal, a divinity ?



81. YM 29939

Votive alabaster stele, in slight relief, showing an architectural setting.

H 53 cm, W 23 cm, Th 10 cm.

Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC

Comment

In an architectural setting this is reminiscent of the entrance of a temple or a palace decorated with a moon crescent surrounding Venus. Here Venus is more important than usual : we cannot exclude the possibility that this may instead be the sun.

YM .

II. BRONZE COLLECTION

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STATUARY

82. YM 29784

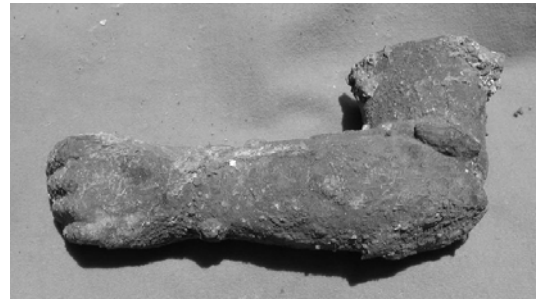
Head of a man

H 12 cm, W 8 cm, Th 9 cm.

Possibly 5th century BC.

Comment

The lower part of the neck is complete and was probably welded to the rest of the body. The face is without expression. The forehead is crowned with a headband decorated in relief. The hair which has disappeared was added one. This artifact is still well preserved.



83. YM 28645

Left arm of a statue.

H forearm 5 cm, L 14 cm, forearm diam. 4-5 cm.

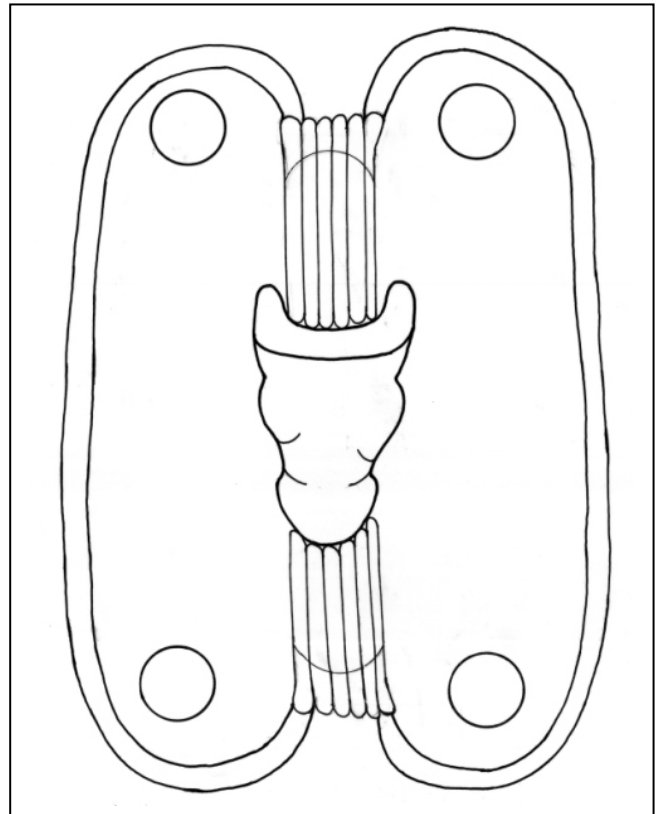
Possibly 5th century BC.

Comment

The folded arm is complete and was probably welded to the torso. It wears two bracelets, one on the forearm, the second one on the wrist. The hand is closed. This arm could be part of the same statue as the head YM 29784. The sculptural treatment and the quality of the bronze are similar.

YM .

YM .



WEAPONS

84. YM 22188

Small elongated votive shield.

H 25 cm, W 18 cm, Th with tenon 5 cm.

Possibly 6th century BC.

Comment

Small votive shield offered to the temple. It is in a very classical shape that we can observe on several pillars of the temples of Banât 'Âd (see YM 773).

In the middle, it is decorated with the head of a bull. On the back, two tenons could be used to fix the shield on an altar or on the wall of a temple.

YM.

(YM)



85. YM 26509

Dagger. Blade decorated with a central incised rib. Restored piece.

L 25 cm, blade L 17,5 cm, L max. 5 cm, handle Th 1 cm.

Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Widely used dagger in South Arabia, especially in Oman, where several date from the middle of the second millennium. Numerous copies of this type have not yet been studied and restored in the collections of Şan'â' National Museum.

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86. YM 26512

Headspear. Restored piec. Rare example.

L 6 cm, W 2 cm.

Beginning of first millennium BC.

YM .

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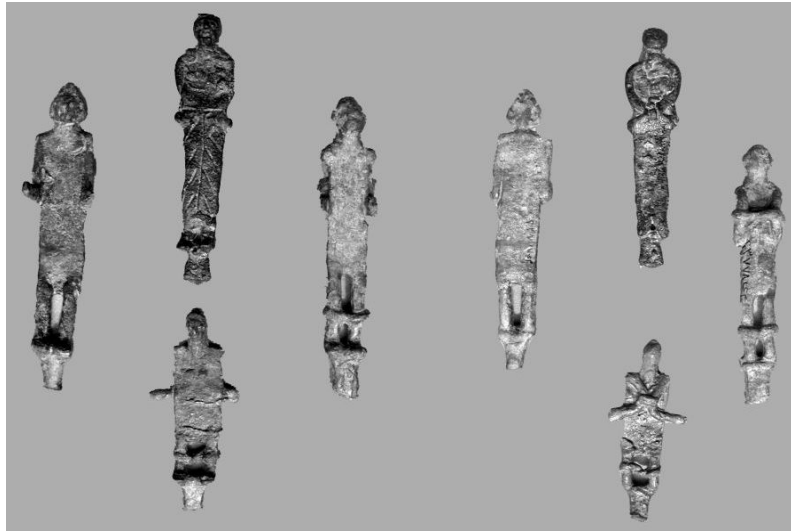
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SMALL HUMAN-FACED STATUETTES : EX-VOTO OFFERED TO THE TEMPLE

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87. YM 23764

Prisoner wearing a skirt, his arms tied behind his back. Under his feet, a tenon could be fixed on a pedestal.

H 9 cm, W 2 cm. Possibly 3rd century BC.

YM .

88. YM 23778

Prisoner, arms tied behind his back with fetters.

H 8,5 cm, W 2 cm. Possibly 3rd century BC.

YM .

89. YM 23765

Prisoner, arms tied behind his back with fetters.

H 6,5 cm, W 3 cm. Possibly 3rd century BC.

YM .

90. YM 23777

Man in praying pose.

H 10 cm, W 2 cm. Possibly 3rd century BC.

YM .



91. YM 28755

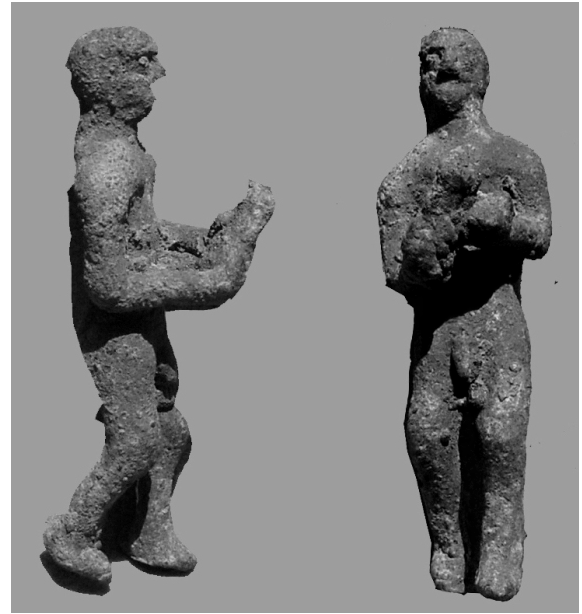
Warrior (?), wearing baggy trousers (Persian type), his right arm raised.

H 7,5 cm, W 5 cm.

Possibly 2nd century AD.

YM .

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92. YM 28757

Naked man holding an offering, which could be a child, in his outstretched arms.

H 7,5 cm, W 2,5 cm.

Possibly 2nd century AD.

YM .

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93. YM 28756

Woman holding an offering in her left hand (?).
H 9 cm, W 3 cm.
Possibly 3rd century AD.

YM .



94. YM 29331

Small human figure wearing a hellenistic-style garment. A clip is fixed at waist level.
H 8 cm, W 3,5 cm.
Possibly 3rd century AD.

YM .

SMALL ANIMAL-FACED STATUETTES: IBEX AND SNAKES

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95. YM 25455

Standing ibex with fluted horns, that might have rested on a pedestal or a lid.
H 11 cm, W 8 cm., Th 3,5 cm.
Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC.

96. YM 28745

Standing ibex on a pedestal, its head turned to the right.
H 6 cm, W 5,5 cm. Th 4 cm.
Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC.

YM .

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97. YM 29110

Standing ibex with short horns, wearing a collar and its head turned to the right.
H 3 cm, W 4 cm., Th 1 cm.
Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC.

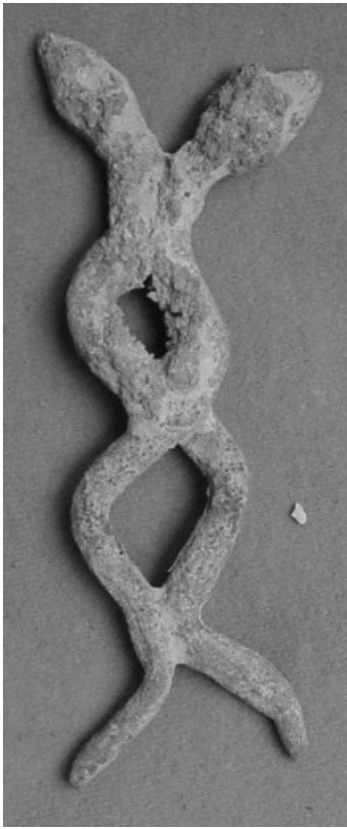
YM .



98. YM 28836

Stylized ibex on top of a lid
H 7,5 cm, L diam. 8 cm.
Possibly 2nd century AD.

YM .



99. YM 28628

Intertwined snakes pair.
 L 11 cm, W 4 cm., Th 0,5 cm.
 Possibly 4th century BC.

YM .



100. YM 28984

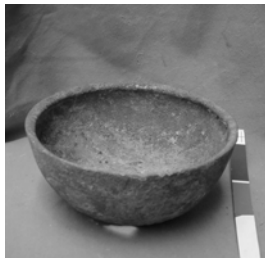
Snake with a hanging ring in its middle.
 Probably an amulet.
 L 8 cm, W 2 cm., Th 0,3 cm.
 Possibly 4th century BC.

Comment

Snakes, alone or in groups, engraved and in slight relief, are often represented on the pillars of Banât 'Âd.

YM .

CROCKERY -



101. YM 28623

Small dish with a ring-shaped base. Outside surface decorated in its middle part with two horizontal lines and above the other.

H 5 cm, opening diam. 9 cm, base diam. 5,5 cm. Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC.

YM .

102. YM 29804

Small dish with a convex bottom. Outside surface decorated on its upper part with two horizontal lines. Inner base decorated with two concentric circles.

H 6 cm, opening diam. 13 cm. Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC

YM .

103. YM 28619

Spherical vase, closed shape and with a flat bottom. Outside surface decorated between the edge and the shoulder with four double horizontal lines one above the other.

H 12 cm, opening diam. 12 cm, belly diam. 17cm. Possibly 3rd - 2nd century BC.

YM .

104. YM 28624

Tumbler, with a slightly concave outside surface decorated on its upper part with two horizontal lines one above the other.

H 11 cm, opening and base diam. 7 cm. Possibly 4th century BC.

YM .



105. YM 25461

Miniature jar with a flat base. It is with two handles hidden by corrosion.

H 10 cm, opening diam. 2 cm., widest diam. (with handles) 4 cm, base diam. 1,5 cm. Possibly 2nd century BC.

YM .



106. YM 25462

Miniature amphora with a cone-shaped bottom. It is shaped like amphora with two handles.

H 10 cm, opening diam. 3 cm., widest diam. (with handles) 4 cm. Possibly 2nd century BC.

YM .



107. YM 25460

Miniature box, with a lid sealed by corrosion.

H 5 cm, W 7 cm., depth 3,5 cm.

Possibly 3rd century BC.

Comment

These miniature items are usually found in tombs. The custom was to bury the dead with several everyday items, sometimes miniaturized ones, that could accompany him to the next world.

YM .

INCENSE-BURNERS



108. YM 22232

Cylindrical incense-burner with a raised base, in bronze and copper.
H 19 cm, opening diam. 11 cm, base diam. 10 cm.
Possibly 1st century BC.

Comment

The upper part of a small cylindrical-shaped container, is partly decorated in slight relief with architectural motifs in the shape of a round crenellated tower, and having in its middle a small copper application with a sitting ibex profiled between two ibex standing face to face. The raised base is not decorated. The edge of the container, at the back of the ornate part, shows a raised recess.

YM .



109. YM 20900

Cylindrical incense-burner, with a raised ring-shaped base.

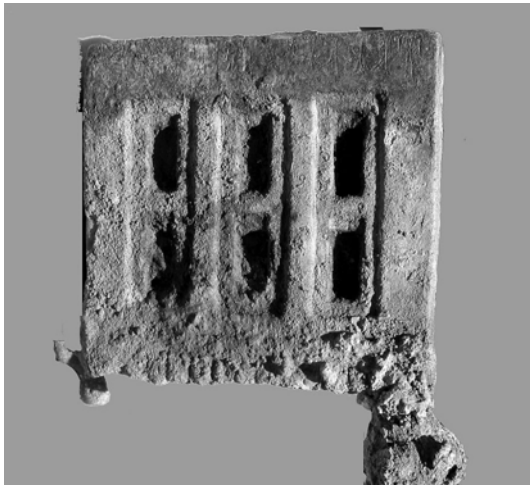
H 11 cm, opening diam. 9 cm, base diam. 6 cm.

Possibly 7th - 5th century BC.

Comment

The upper part, cylindrical-shaped container, is partly decorated, in relief, with the classical patterns of incense-burners: Venus is above the moon crescent, which is here surrounded by two snakes. The lower part, its raised-base, has no pattern. The edge of the container at the back of the decorated part, shows a raised recess.

YM .



110. YM 28614

Cubic incense-burner with four feet and inscriptions.
 Whole H 13 cm, paws H 3 cm, face L 10 cm.
 Possibly 2nd century AD.

Comment

The container is square and rests on four feet shaped like lions' paws. The four faces are decorated with three rows of pretend windows, in relief and intaglio. Several have some traces of inlaid mother-of-pearl. Two faces have illegible inscriptions, except for the word *hmd^m*.

YM .

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111. YM 28615

Cubic incense-burner, with four feet.
 Whole H 11 cm, paws H 2 cm, face L 10 cm.
 Possibly 2nd century AD.

Comment

The container is square and rests on four feet shaped like lions' paws, linked by a rod. The four faces are decorated with three rows of pretend windows, in relief and intaglio. Several windows have some traces of inlaid mother-of-pearl.

YM .

MISCELLANEOUS



112. YM 28632

Rectangular seal composed of 9 letters. An example of seal collection
 L. 5 cm, W 3 cm.
 Middle of 2nd century AD.

Comment

Seal with an openwork design and composed of a succession of nine letters, equipped on the back with a hanging clip. If our reading is correct, we have here the name of *Dmr'ly Yhbr*, king of Saba' and dhu-Raydân, who reigned in the middle of the 2nd century AD.

YM .



113. YM 28626

Small votive altar (?).
 Whole H 11 cm, torso H 4 cm, upper base diam. 5 cm, base diam. 8 cm.
 Possibly 1st - 2nd century AD.

Comment

Votive altar or top of another unidentified composite item. On the base shaped like the base of a column is fixed a female chest, holding the breasts with her hands. Both the face and the hairstyle are of hellenistic style.

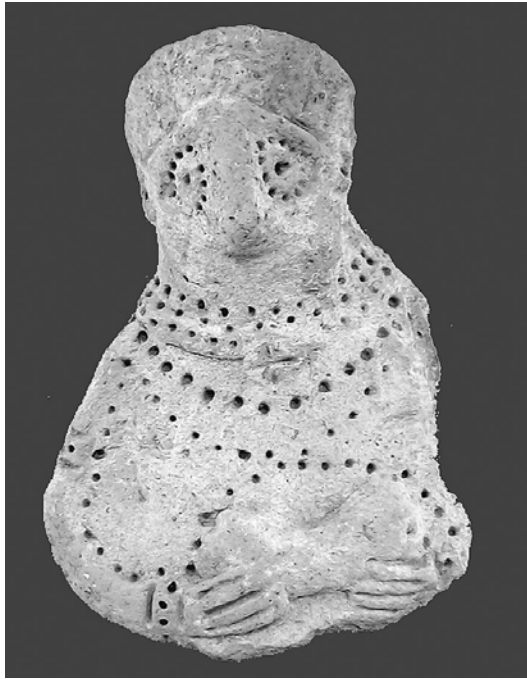
YM .

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III. TERRACOTTA FIGURINES

The fourteen terracotta figurines displayed here have been selected for a single main reason : they all come from al-Jawf. This first selection gives a good idea of the importance of the terracotta collection from the Şan‘â’ National Museum. It is only a small part of it.

Terracotta figurines are among the most stable artistic demonstrations in the cultures of the ancient Near East. They originally expressed the primary belief in the strength of fecundity. The oldest technical tradition which lasted the longest was modelling : by shaping rolled clay, a figurine was created on which incisions can be made or pieces of clay added to indicate features or decorations. These shaped statuettes were then fired and even sometimes painted. The most frequent shapes are figurines in the round and, more unusually, pieces added one various objects to bases (container, stele, votive tablets...).



114. YM 1616

Female terracotta figurine-plaque.
 H 17 cm, W 12 cm, max. Th 6 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurine, stamped and engraved. The figure wears headgear or a crown. The outline of the eyes are drawn by a succession of small holes and the pupils by two bigger holes. The coat is indicated in the same way with a succession of little holes. The arms, with represented hands, carry a kid or lamb as an offering.

YM .



115. YM 1335

Female terracotta figurine.
 H 14 cm, max. W 9,5 cm, Th 3 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurine, partly stamped and decorated with added "pastilles", standing with crosswise arms. The breasts are marked. The face is shaped like a bird beak, the eyes are almond-shaped, in slight relief, it has a hook nose and headgear or a crown (?). The figurine wears two necklaces: one thick and ordinary round-neck and a second one with pendants on the breasts. Frequent in the Middle-East, this kind of pendant dates from the 15th century BC. In this context, it could be dated between the 10th and the 6th centuries BC.

YM .



116. YM 1340-1341-1389-1392

Series of four female terracotta figurines of the same kind.

YM 1340 : H 12 cm, max. W. : 8 cm, Th 3 cm ;

YM 1341 : H 12,5 cm, max. W : 6,5 cm, Th 3,5 cm ;

YM 1389 : H 14 cm, max. W 7,5 cm, Th 3 cm ;

YM 1392 : H 14 cm, max. W 8 cm, Th 3 cm.

Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurines, standing with crosswise arms. The breasts are marked. The head is topped by headgear with plaits near the ears and a bun (?) on the back of the head. The eyes in slight relief, are almond-shaped. They still have some traces of red paint at the waist (belt ?), crossed lines in the back. There was probably a similar pattern on the breasts which has disappeared. Both the navel and the sex are sometimes indicated by a small hole.

1340-1341-1389-1392 YM .116

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117. YM 29499

Female terracotta figure.
 H 14 cm, max. W 9 cm, base diam. 6 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurine, standing, with crosswise arms. The breasts are apparent. It has a face barely marked, on a long neck decorated with a necklace of six rows, composed from top to bottom as follows: five rows of engraved lines and one of small holes. It is possible that it is wearing a coat whose lower flared part forms the base of the whole figurine.

YM .

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118. YM 1332

Female terracotta figurine. The left foot is missing.
 H 16 cm, max. W 11 cm, Th 4 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurine, standing, with crosswise arms. The face is not well indicated. The eyes, in slight relief are almond-shaped. The sex is indicated with a hole.

YM .



119. YM 1330

Terracotta figurine sitting female.
 H 7,5 cm, max. W 7 cm, base Th 8 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female figurine, sitting with legs outstretched and closed. The breasts are shaped and prominent. The head and the arms are not complete. Both the navel and the sex are indicated by holes. It wears a necklace decorated with two rows of small holes. The head was probably from the same style as the one from YM 1433.

120. YM 1433

Terracotta figurine head.
 H 5 cm, max. W 3 cm, Th 2,5 cm.
 Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped female head, broken at the neck. The eyes are indicated by two holes. It wears a turban headgear (?) composed of three superposed headbands in relief, crowned with a row of 'pastilles'. The fragmentary necklace is designed in the same way: rows in relief topped by a single line of "pastilles".

YM .

YM .

SERIES OF FOUR CAMEL TERRACOTTA FIGURINES



121. YM 1486

H 10 cm, base. L. 11 cm, base. W 7 cm.

YM . 121

122. YM 1480

H 8 cm, base. L. 10 cm, base. W 6 cm.

YM .122

123. YM 1468

H 10 cm, base. L. 13 cm, base. W 7 cm.

YM .

124. YM 1472

H 11 cm, base L. 10 cm, base W 7 cm.

Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Shaped figurines representing running dromedaries, with outstretched necks and raised heads. The first two (YM 1486 and YM 1480) have saddles schematically shaped on the back of their humps.

YM .



WOODEN STATUE

125. YM 2401

Kamna

Statue of female bust.

H 57,5 cm, W 24 cm ; Th 16 cm.

Beginning of first millennium BC.

Comment

Female bust : complete shape, damaged, with vertical cracks on the left side of the torso and corroded at eye and nose level. We can identify some traces of red paint in spite of the poor condition of the surface which has been covered with a coat of resin during earlier strengthening restoration and treatment work. The detailed head, with a big neck rests on a large bust, roughly sketched. It is hewn in a pillar-shape where the shoulders and the breasts are indicated. The right breast is the only one still visible. The face is oval, holes mark the eyes and the eyebrows were almost certainly inlaid. The nose was long and the mouth barely sketched out. The hairstyle is thick, with lines undulating in relief, and falls behind the ears to the mid-neck. These iconographic features are also visible in the representation of female characters, either engraved or in relief, on pillars from temples in al-Jawf : this female character is represented full-face, she is standing on a pedestal and usually called Banât 'Âd, formerly Banât Îl, a revered divinity in South Arabia.

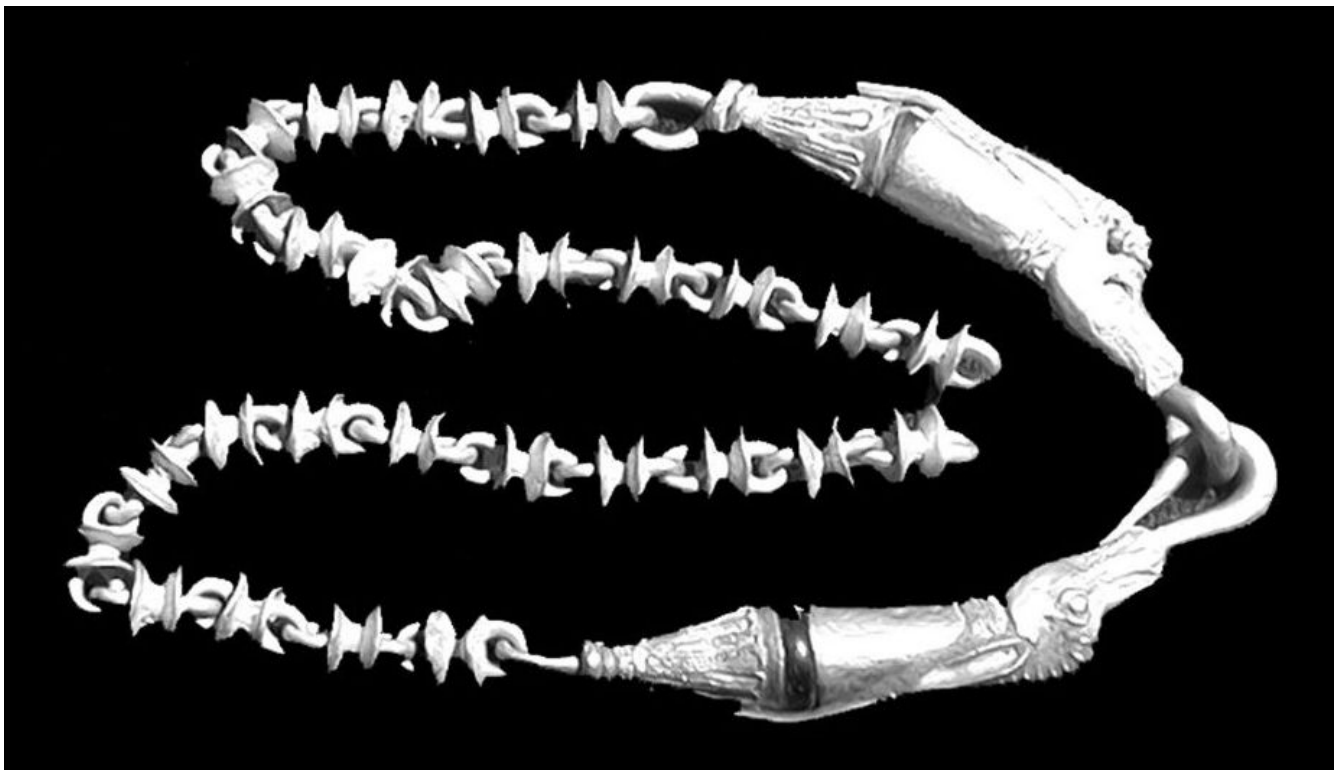
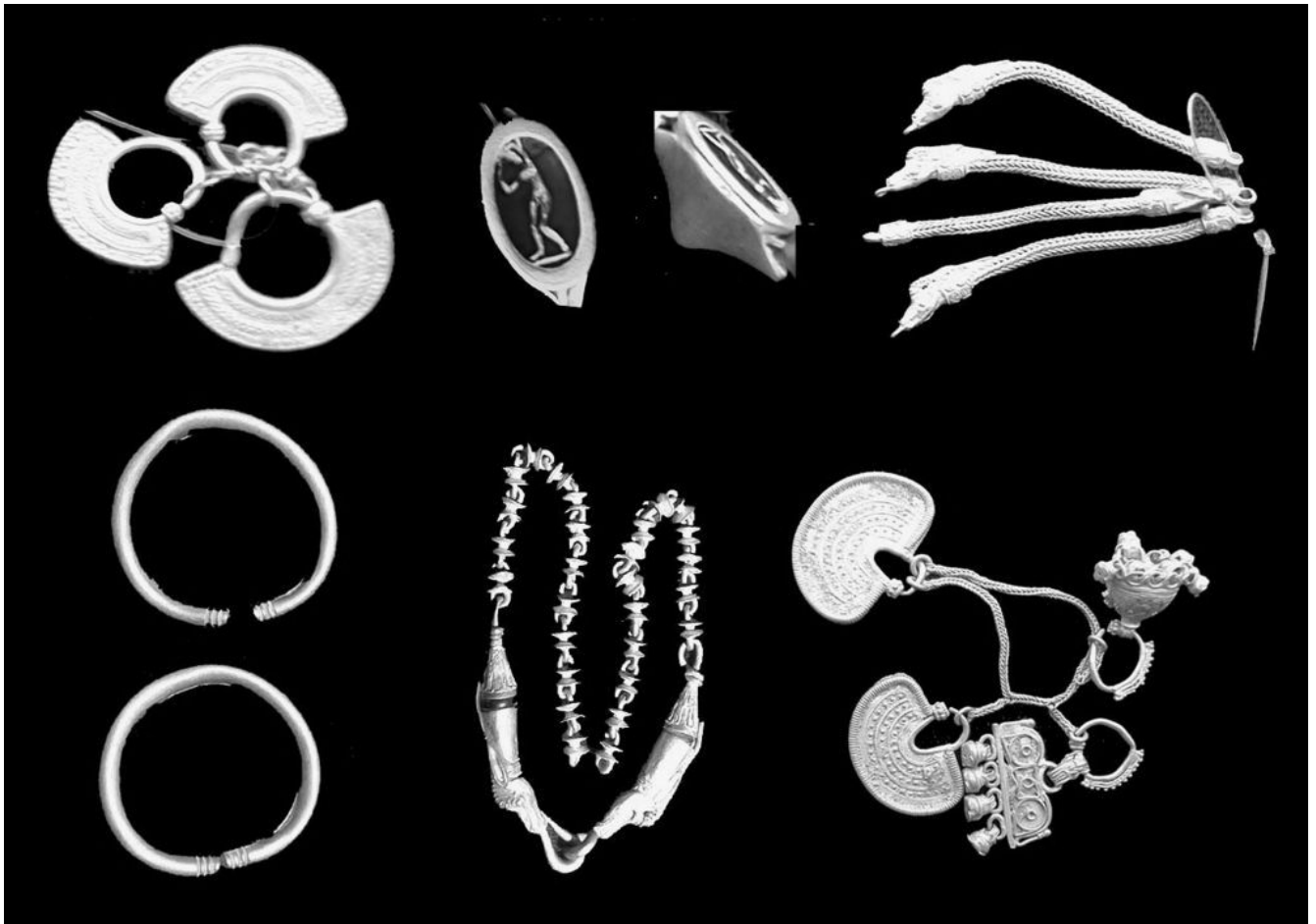
This kind of statue has similarities with other stone steles, from the Qataban period (6th – 2nd century BC), held in Aden Museum. The Kamna statue is the only wooden representation of a woman on a pillar which we have found to date. It represents a Banât 'Âd.

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COLLECTION OF JEWELS

To complete this book, we briefly present a batch of golden jewels originating from al-Jawf, site of Haram, and recently purchased by the Şan'â' National Museum at the request of the President of the Republic of Yemen, 'Alî 'Abdallâh Şâliḥ. This collection, which will later be published in full, increases the already important jewellery collection of the Şan'â' National Museum.

These items may come from Khirbat Hamdân (former city-state of Haram). The numerous jewels and other goldsmiths' trade items which have been found so far come from the tombs of the same region. This selection of about ten items shows the diversity of the collection which is composed of around 30 items (YM 25384 to 25406) necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pendants.

126-130. YM 25390-25395, 25399, etc.

All these jewels are made of gold.

- **YM 25392** : Complete necklace, composed of a chain decorated in the middle with two goat heads, face to face, linked themselves with two embraced hooks and linked to the chain by two conical elements. The chain is composed of 28 small reel-shaped chainlink elements, linked by two rings. L 40 cm, weight 85,5 g.
- **YM 25395** : Three fan-shaped earrings, decorated with granulations. Diam. 2 cm, weight 1-3 g.
- **YM 25390-25391** : Two open rings with circular section: small bracelets (?).Diam. 5,2-5,4 cm, weight 27-27,5 g.
- **YM 25393** : A composite group of jewels formed of small pieces linked by a close knit chain: two pieces in a fan-shape (similar to the earrings), two rings partly decorated with granulations, and two pendants, a rectangular and a rounded triangle one, decorated with tiny pendants.
Weight 35-36 g.
- **YM 25399** : An incomplete ring (?) with a setting stone ring in cornaline with intaglio female character, with her arms raised. Diam. 2 cm, weight 5 g.
- **YM 25394** : Total weight 18 g. Groupe of four similar items: short chains composed of a triple-meshing, decorated on one side with a goat head. They are ended in both sides by a small ring. L 5,7 cm, weight 4,5 g.

Possible dating : this batch of jewels may date from the period between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. All the jewels found so far in al-Jawf date from the period between 3rd century BC to 3rd AD.

Comment

In Yemen, jewelry work was transformed at the beginning of the 3rd century BC, in the same way as its iconography. After the cultural changes resulting from the conquests of Alexander the Great, the hellenistic style imposed its technical and artistic rules: a more naturalistic iconography, with a great deal of human, animal and plant representations, such as grape foliage, which was omnipresent in ancient Yemeni art. Around the first century BC, Parthian influence added the representation of chimeras, winged griffins and facing animals: a good example, in the current collection, is the necklace with the goat heads facing each other.

(- YM)

YM.