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EXCAVATIONS AT SHAHI-TUMP (MAKRAN) AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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SHAHI-TUMP EXCAVATIONS (1997-2006)

The site of Shahi-Tump (10km south from Miri Qalat) is located on the left bank of the Kech River. The objective of the field-campaigns was to broaden our knowledge of the Chalcolithic occupation (5th-4th millennium BC) in Makran. Circular hut basements dated to period I (5th millennium BC) were excavated in Trench I, while several Period II (1st half of the 4th millennium BC) architectural levels with quadrangular rooms built in stone and mudbricks were unearthed in Trench II on the top of the site. The period II occupation is also characterized by the discovery of burials which form the "oldest cemetery of Shahi-Tump". A later cemetery, dated to period IIIa (2nd half of the 4th millennium/beginning of the 3rd millennium BC), has also provided the remains of 120 individuals buried with rich funerary deposits which included numerous painted pottery and highly elaborated craft products: metal objects (seals, tools, mirrors...), beads, stone vessels, etc.



Period II architectural levels in Trench II (1st half of the 4th millennium BC).



Period II grave
(1st half of the 4th millennium BC).



Period II pottery and fish-pendant in mother-of pearl (1st half of the 4th millennium BC).



A period IIIa grave with the 'leopard weight' (2nd half of the 4th millennium /beginning of the 3rd mil. BC).



At right: detail of the 'leopard weight' analyzed in the Center for Research and Restoration of the French Museums (C2RMF, Paris, France).



Funerary pottery from period IIIa (2nd half of the 4th millennium/beginning of the 3rd millennium BC).

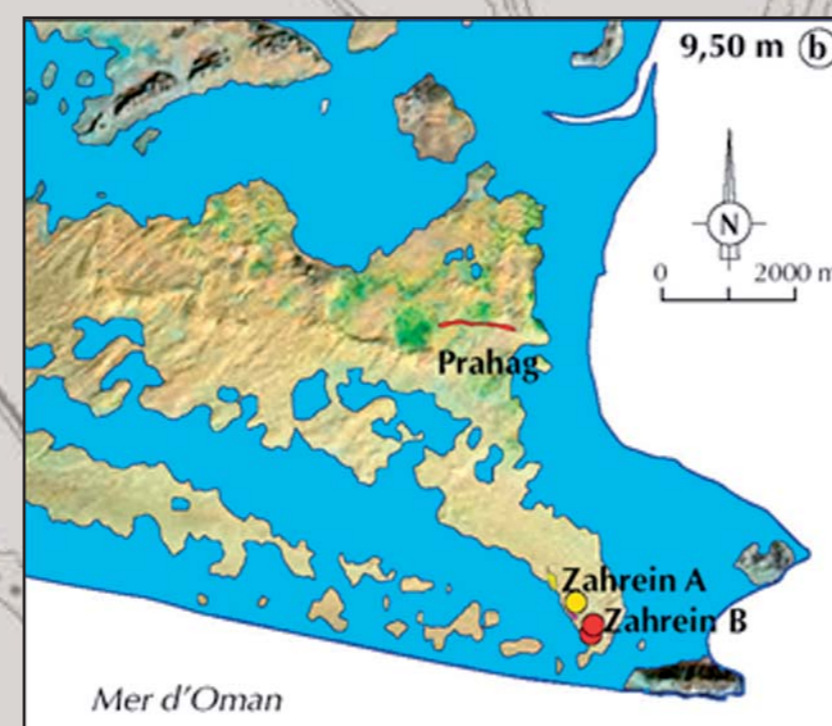


Metal seals and necklace (beads in fired and unfired steatite, cornelian and lapis-lazuli) discovered in period IIIa graves (2nd half of the 4th millennium/beginning of the 3rd millennium BC).



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

In parallel with the work carried out at Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump, the MAFM mission has conducted environmental studies for reconstructing the ancient economy in Makran. The study of the exploitation of ancient marine resources and of protohistoric fishermen settlements were conducted by J. & N. Desse (CNRS-CEPAM) in accordance with ethnographic observations and with a reference sampling of fish bones and sea-shells in the Pasni, Gwadar and Pishukan areas. Archaeobotanical studies (by M. Tengberg, University of Paris 1) and archaeozoological studies (by J. & N. Desse) have allowed to determine the species of cereals, plants, fruits and animals exploited by the protohistoric population in Makran. The results of the palaeoclimatological studies suggest a more humid phase in the region between 8000-4000 BC, linked with an increasing of the monsoon rains, before a continuous regression towards barrenness with a maximum around 2000-1800 BC. The palaeogeographical reconstruction of the ancient coastline of Makran (by G. Davtian, CNRS-CEPAM) also shows important modifications since the 3rd millennium BC.



Current view of Pasni area and reconstruction of the 3rd millenium BC coastline.



Protohistoric grape seed and flotation treatment processed by M. Tengberg to collect archaeobotanic remains.



Studying mammal and fish bone remains.

