A STUDY OF ARCHITECTURAL DECORATIONS
IN ANCIENT SOUTH-WEST ARABIA

By

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Abstract

The purpose of the thesis is to study architectural decorations in ancient South West Arabia. The materials are presented in the form of a catalogue of approximately fifty unpublished decorative fragments described in detail and illustrated by photographs and drawings. These pieces belong to the principal ancient kingdoms of Saba, Ma'in, Qataban, Hadramaut and Himyer. The catalogue divides the pieces into types and sub-types.

Attempts were made to discuss all the various decorative motifs, i.e. vines, animals and geometric, which were sculpted on these pieces. The discussion also includes artistic styles, methods of sculpture of each piece, and also the purposes of the various decorative motifs depicted on them, i.e. some were sculpted for purely decorative purposes, whilst others were primarily depicted for religious purposes. The discussion also includes the uses of comparative material in relation to styles, methods of carving and the purposes of particular decorative pieces and motifs. These indicate cultural connections between the various states in the region, and also show foreign influences, e.g. Palmyrene.

The results of this study indicate that the ancient South Western Arabian architectural decorative styles and methods of carving were basically genuine achievements derived from a rich local environment which provided the artist with the raw materials for developing these pieces, and also provided him with different artistic concepts and ideas which are shown in the use of different types of motifs; and also the purposes for their usages. However, foreign influences are shown in the
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borrowing of specific artistic styles, for example Hellenistic artistic influences are shown in the use of undulating style in the carving of vine stems, in the use of overlapping of different types of motifs, and in the use of decorative moulding and raised borders by the ancient South Western Arabian artists who were inspired to produce more artistic variations including further accomplishments.
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Abbreviations

A.D.S.A. Archaeological Discoveries in South Arabia
A.M.S.U. Archaeological Museum of Sana University (Yemen)
B.A. Biblical Archaeologist
B.A.S.O.R. Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
B.M.D.W.A.A. British Museum, Department of Western Asiatic Archaeology (London, England)
B.S.O.A.S. Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
D.A.M. Department of Antiquities and Museums, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
D.H.K.A.A.U. Department of History, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
G.I. Glaser Inscriptions (bearing his name)
J.A.O.S. Journal of the American Oriental Society
J.E.A. Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
J.I. Jamme Inscriptions (bearing his name)
J.W.A.G. Journal of the Walters Art Gallery
P.S.A.S. Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies
Raydan Journal of Ancient Yemeni Antiquities and Epigraphy
Y.M. Yemen Museum, Sana
Chapter 1: Introduction

A) Objective of the Thesis

The purpose of the thesis is to study architectural decorations in ancient South West Arabia, i.e. the State of Yemen (North and South), focusing on various architectural decorative elements, the different motifs employed, and the different artistic styles and techniques of sculpture utilized by the artists.

The purpose of the thesis is also to investigate, through architectural decorations, the role of art in the development of cultural contact with, and influences from, other civilizations, e.g. Hellenistic Greece, Palmyra, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Foreign artistic influences are indicated in the borrowing of specific decorative motifs and artistic styles by the ancient South West Arabian craftsmen who had shown a remarkable ability to modify and develop these foreign traits into a new and genuine South West Arabian form.

B) Method of Research

The method relies principally on archaeological fieldwork carried out in North Yemen where most of the material of the thesis is obtained, i.e. from the Archaeological Museum of the University of Sana, and the Yemen Museum, also at Sana. Some of the material is obtained from the Archaeological Museum at King Abdul Aziz University at Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whilst more is obtained from the British Museum at London, England. The material is presented in the form of a catalogue of approximately fifty unpublished decorative fragments which are described in detail, illustrated by photographs and drawings, and divided into types and sub-types. These pieces belong to the principal ancient Kingdoms of Saba, Main, Qataban, Hadramaut and Himyer. The catalogue
presented in the thesis includes all the unpublished pieces, and three which have been previously published, and they are all numbered serially.

Important and relevant information is provided for each piece, e.g. its present location and provenance, dimensions of the block plus the dimensions of the actual decorative carving, and the material from which it was made.

Attempts are made to discuss all the various decorative motifs, i.e. vines, animals (oryxes, ibexes and bulls), and geometric (dentils, recessed and grooves panels) which were sculpted on the decorative pieces.

The discussion also includes the use of comparative methods in studying artistic styles and methods of sculpture of each piece, and also the purposes of the various motifs depicted on them, i.e. some of these motifs were sculpted for purely decorative purposes, whilst others were chiefly of religious significance.

C) Previous Studies of Architectural Decorations in Ancient South West Arabia

Only a little research has been undertaken on the architectural decorations of ancient South West Arabia. Of primary importance are the scholarly contributions made by Pirenne, Cleveland, and van Beek. These scholars have discussed approximately 40 pieces of architectural decorations.

Sixteen fragments are published in Pirenne's two volumes of *Corpus des Inscriptions et Antiquites Sud-Arabes*: in Volume I (1977) she describes seven pieces, and in Volume II (1986) she describes nine. Significant aspects of each piece, e.g.
The contributions are made by Cleveland in *Ancient South Arabian Necropolis* (1965) which has nine pieces from Timna, and by van Beek in *Hajar bin Humaid* (1969), which has three pieces. This material is also important because it represents the only groups of fragments discovered through archaeological excavation and is, therefore, more reliably dated and provenanced.

These previous studies provide an important basis for further work, particularly since they have established a proper methodology for studying the material. However, the results cannot be considered final because they deal only with a relatively small number of pieces. My material (approximately fifty pieces) is twice as much as has previously been discussed, and includes several new decorative fragments. Until we have properly controlled excavations, we cannot conduct a proper study of this subject. Despite previous work, and also despite my own, the amount of material on which to base an understanding of the subject is still very small.
Chapter 2

A) The Influences of Environment on the Development of Civilizations in Ancient South West Arabia

The environmental conditions in ancient South West Arabia were greatly favourable for the development of the ancient civilizations of Saba, Ma'in, Hadramaut, Qataban and Himyar. These conditions consisted chiefly of topographical features comprising mountains, wadis and deserts; of trade routes; of climatic factors containing water resources and irrigation; and finally of natural resources including incense and raw materials. These very important environmental conditions had substantially contributed to the shaping, development and flourishing of the various South Western Arabian civilizations.

Mountains represent important topographical features in South West Arabia, having considerable effects on the development of civilizations there. Of primary importance are the mountains of the Tihama, al-Sarat, 'Asir, Sabr and Hadur Nabî Shuaib. Between these mountains exist many fertile plains and terraces providing an agricultural subsistence base for large populations by using the run-off water flowing down from the mountains to the valleys through the constructions of dams and canals.

The valleys of South West Arabia are also important topographical features contributing crucially to the development of civilizations there. Of primary importance are the valleys of Dhana, Hadramaut, Amd, Armh, al-Msilh, Du'an, Hajar, Marq and Najran. The fertility of the alluvial soils in these valleys had greatly contributed to the development of agriculture as a crucial economic subsistence activity which was substantially dependent upon the abundance of water derived from seasonal rainfall efficiently
utilized through complex irrigation systems. A variety of essential crops, e.g. millet, barley, oats, sorrel, sesame, corn, flax, palm dates, vegetables and fruits were extensively grown in the arable lands of the Dhana, Bayhān, Hadramaut, and Najran valleys. These important crops supported large populations.

The valleys of Bayhān, al-Jawf and Najran had greatly contributed to the establishment of trade routes and consequently to the development of the incense trade by connecting the incense producing areas and the principal trading centres in ancient South West Arabia with those of other civilizations. Some of the trade routes were situated or passed through these valleys where oases provided resting stations for both men and camels, for example, the Aden-Bayhān route passing through Wadi Bayhān, and the Mārib-Najran route passing through Wadi al-Jawf.

Deserts in South West Arabia form principal topographical features of the region because they occupy a vast area which is represented mostly in the great south Arabian sand desert of Rubā‘ al-Khali (The Empty Quarter) located between the highlands of Najd (in the Arabian Peninsula) on the north, and the plateau of Ḥadramaut on the south. It has a distance of 1,287 km. in length and 483 km. in width; and it also contains many sand dunes of which the heights of the largest range between 193 and 213 metres (Brice 1966, 274).

Important cities and oases, e.g. Sirwah, Marib, Khribat-Main, Baraqish, Shabwat, Ṭārim, Shibam and Hureidah had been established around and in the great desert area of Rmlat al-Ṣbtīn. There, the Sabaean, Minaean, and Ḥadramauti Kingdoms had prospered, relying on the utilization of elaborate systems of artificial irrigation and also on the incense.
The role of trade routes in Ancient South West Arabia was crucial for the success of the incense trade within the region itself, and also with others of the ancient world. The trade was substantially enhanced by the use of caravans of camels, particularly for the long distance transportation of incense to the temples and markets of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Palestine. The commercial items of frankincense and myrrh were transported via principal routes starting near the point of production and passing through various trading centres and ports to their final destinations in ancient Mesopotamia, Palestine, Egypt and Rome. In ancient South West Arabia, frankincense was transported from the growing area in Eastern Arabia to the centres of distribution, e.g. Qanā, Shabwat. The incense was shipped from Qanā to Jrhā, an important ancient commercial centre on the Arabian Gulf, now modern al-‘qīr in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where incense was shipped by sea to Mesopotamia. Frankincense was shipped from Qanā to the Indian ports like Muziris, and to the Egyptian ports of Myos Hormos and Berenice. The incense was transported from Qana by overland camel caravan to Shabwat, the principal South Western Arabian frankincense trading centre, passing Najran, to ancient Yathrib (modern al-Medinah) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the ancient Dedanite port of Leuce Come, also in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the important ancient Egyptian commercial port of Alexandria on the Mediterranean, and further to Rome.

The incense was transported by land from Timnā to the Red Sea ports of ṢAden, Muza and Ocelis in ancient South West Arabia to Alexandria. From these South Western Arabian ports myrrh was also shipped to the trading ports of Barbaricum, Barygaza and Muziris in
India which had traded in spices, e.g. cinnamon, with South West Arabia (van Beek 1958a, 145; Breton 1988, 114).

The development of the ancient civilizations in South West Arabia not only depended on topographical factors but it also crucially depended on the equally important climatic causes (water resources and irrigation) which had provided the foundation for such a development.

The fertility of the South Western Arabian region was due to the enormous amount of rainfall caused by the south-west Monsoon winds in the summer bringing moisture from the Red Sea. The annual rainfall in the south-western highlands was more than 30 inches; whilst in the plateaux it was about 15-20 inches (Rushbrooke 1946; 178, 187). Rainfall floods were efficiently utilized through the construction of elaborate irrigation systems consisting largely of dams, canals, and sluices for the purposes of containing, controlling and distributing water to the arable, fertile, agricultural lands in the different valleys, e.g. Bayhan, Hadramaut and Dhana. At Wadi Dhana, the Marib dam had provided ample supplies of water for the purpose of irrigating about 25,000 acres of cultivated lands (Daum 1988, 11). Rainfall had also substantially enhanced the practice of irrigation-farming on the dry strips of the mountainous areas in the highlands; and it had further, greatly contributed to the abundant growth of the incense trees, frankincense and myrrh.

Streams and wells were also important sources of water; and they had contributed to the development of irrigation-farming in the valleys of Hadramaut and al-Jawf and in the plateaux of South West Arabia.
Natural resources, i.e. incense and raw materials, had also their important effects on the development of ancient civilizations in South West Arabia.

Classical authors, i.e. Strabo, Pliny and the author of the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, had defined Arabia in terms of three principal divisions comprising Petraea (pertaining to Petra, the major centre of the Nabataean civilization); Deserta which was associated with the Syrian and the Arabian desert; and Felix (Arabia Felix, referring to the South Western region of Arabia, particularly the incense-producing area in Yemen). The term 'Arabia Felix' also embraced the incense-growing highlands of Oman in the southern region of Arabia which was then under the rule of Hadramaut, one of the South Western Arabian States.

The trade in incense (frankincense and myrrh) had contributed substantiably to the prosperity of ancient South West Arabia. Frankincense and myrrh were mentioned by the Classical historian Pliny as growing in Arabia (Book XII.XXX). Frankincense is an oleo-gum resin obtained from several plant species of Boswellia in the plant family Burseraceae. It requires an abundant amount of water and moisture for its growth (an estimated annual rainfall of about 30 inches). Frankincense grew at an altitude of between 700-800 metres a.s.l. (Albright 1955, 39; van Beek 1958a, 142; Hepper 1969, 66). The growth area of the plant was situated in the coastal mountainous range of ancient Zfar (modern Dhufar) in Oman in the Southern region of Arabia. Myrrh is a shrub of the genus Commiphora belonging, like the frankincense-producing Boswellia, to the plant family Burseraceae, growing in ancient Qataban at an altitude between 1,200 and 900 metres (Rushbrooke 1946, 20, 204; Bowen 1958, 41; Breton 1988, 144).
The importance of incense in the ancient trade of South West Arabia relied on its widespread use by ancient civilizations for a variety of specific purposes. Incense was burned on the altars in temples as a ritual offering to the gods of ancient South West Arabia, Mesopotamia (including Sumer, Babylon and Assur), Phoenicia, Parthia and Harahab. Frankincense was used in funerary rites by the priests of the god Amon in 18th dynasty Egypt; it was used in the worship of the Goddess Aphrodite Empedokles in ancient Greece during the 5th century B.C., and as a ritual offering to the ancient Roman goddess Venus. Frankincense was further used in ancient Rome for medical purposes, and for the making of perfumes and cosmetics (Periplus, Note 27, 120; Muller 1979, 84, 86, 127).

Myrrh was utilized for medicines in both ancient Greece and Rome, whilst it was used in the embalming of the dead in ancient Egypt. Archaeological evidence for the importance and use of incense in Ancient Egypt was shown in the depiction of incense trees on the walls of a funerary temple at Dir al-Bhri dating to the 5th dynasty, i.e. 2,800 B.C.

The importance of this trade was indicated in the construction of the ancient ports of Berenice and Myos Hormos on the Egyptian coast of the Red Sea, which were built by the Ptolemaic Pharaohs in the 3rd century B.C. to cope with the increased trade in incense between South West Arabia and Egypt. From there, commercial ships sailed to South West Arabia through the Straights of Bāb al-Māndib, extending Egypt's commercial contacts further to India (Lucas 1962, 92; von Wissmann 1964, 430; Groom 1981, 20, 62). The crucial role of incense in ancient trade was historically substantiated by the Roman military expedition which originated from Egypt in 25 B.C. for
the purpose of controlling the incense producing areas and the principal trade routes in the ancient region of South West Arabia. The important role of this region in the inter-group trading relations and arrangements among the principal different societies (i.e. Sabaeans, Minaeans, Ḥadramautis, Qatabanians and Himyerites, and also with other societies in different regions of the ancient world, was substantiated by the Classical historians Strabo, Pliny and the Periplus.

The Minaeans established and developed the incense trade. Inter-regional, i.e. inter-group trade was in operation among the cultural groups of the Minaeans, Ḥadramautis and Sabaeans of ancient South West Arabia. The Sabaeans had established a commercial partnership with the ancient Ethiopians in the trade with ancient Ptolemaic Egypt in the 3rd century B.C. Ancient Egypt received incense from the ancient South Western Arabian ports, e.g. Eudaemon Arabia (modern Aden), Qana (modern Ḥusn al-Churab), Muza (modern Mocha) and Ocelis (modern Cella), and it also received spices from the ancient Ethiopian port of Adulis.

The ancient South Western Arabian ports had traded with the ancient Eastern African ports, e.g. Avalites and Mosyllum. Spices, gold and ostrich feathers were the commercial products of ancient Ethiopia, acquired by South Western Arabian merchants (Strabo, Book VII.16.4.19; Pliny, Book XII.XXX; Periplus, Note 4, p. 63, pars. 7-10; Doresse 1959, 17).

Inter-regional trade among the principal trading centres in ancient South West Arabia, e.g. Mārib, Timnā, Hajar bin Ḥumaid and Shabwat, had greatly enhanced the transportation of the raw material (alabaster, marble, limestone) from one area to another. These materials were brilliantly used by the ancient craftsmen for the
sculpture of various architectural decorative pieces. Marble and alabaster were quarried from the Bayhān area, whilst limestone was obtained from the Qarā mountains in Dufar where the height of the limestone quarries was about 2,133 metres (Rushbrooke 1946, 205; van Beek 1969a, 369). These essential raw materials were transported from their quarry areas to the major centres of civilizations in the region where they were needed.

B) Historical Background

(1) South Western Arabian Kingdoms

These consisted principally of the kingdoms of Saba', Ma'in, Qatabān, Ḥadramaut and Himyar, forming the important civilizations of the region. The dates for the establishment of each kingdom will be discussed later, in the section dealing with chronology (Section 3). Each state was situated in a fertile, major valley, e.g. Dhana, al-Jawf, Bayhān, Ḥadramaut and Bana, where irrigation farming was undertaken, efficiently utilizing dams, sluices and canals for controlling and distributing water to the agricultural arable lands. The importance of these states was because they were the principal producers and exporters of the incense (frankincense and myrrh) and also, because of their locations, on the major incense trade routes connecting the principal trading centres in these kingdoms with those in other civilizations of the ancient world. Not only incense, but also other goods were transported from India and Africa through these routes by camel caravans to the Mediterranean ports. The great prosperity of the South Western Arabian states resulted from commercial transactions in incense and also from agricultural activities substantially enhancing cultural (i.e. architectural and artistic) achievements shown in temples constructed in dedication to
the principal deities of the Moon, Sun and the Star at the various main settlements of the principal different kingdoms.

The temples of the Moon God, 'Awam and Baran at Marib, Sirwah and Hurēdhah, and also the temples of the Star God at Qarnaw, Yathil and Timna, yielded a great deal of information about the South Western Arabian civilizations in terms of artistic achievements because they contained many different architectural decorative elements which further included numerous, various decorative motifs of different sculpturing methods.

Defensive fortifications, i.e. city walls and towers, were characteristics of the various kingdoms, indicating crucial aspects of these states, e.g. prosperity or expansion or the desire of one of these states to acquire the producing area of incense, its distribution centres, and also its trade routes.

a) The Kingdom of Saba

The location of the state of Saba is in the northern area of Yemen, where it had its early principal centre at Sirwah in the upper part of the basin of Wadi Dhana; and later at Marib in the lower part of the basin, becoming another principal Sabaean centre of civilization.

The Sabaeans were basically farmers, largely similar to the Hadramautis and Qatabānians who also undertook agriculture as their basic subsistence activity.

The Sabaean kingdom was ruled in its earliest period by Mukarribs who were ruling as secular and religious leaders of the state. Their principal duties included the initiation of temple construction such as the two great temples at Marib and Sirwah (by Mukarrib Yadail Darīh Smail); the maintenance of temple properties;
and the allocation of agricultural arable lands to particular clans (Beeston 1954, 45; Irvine 1973, 300).

The significant role of the Sabean state in the incense trade was indicated in the important location of its principal centre, Mārib. It was situated on the principal caravan incense trade routes connecting the incense-producing area in the region (i.e. in Ḥadramaut and Qatabān) with the ancient, main trading centres on the Mediterranean.

Irrigation installations, temples (already mentioned above), and defensive fortifications, i.e. towers and city walls, are the principal characteristics of the Sabean kingdom, and also of the other main South Western Arabian states. Towers were built in the highlands, whilst the city walls of al-Ashil have a circumference of 740 metres; and the walls of Khribat Saud having a circumference of 645 metres and both the latter were built by Mūkarrib Karībīl Watar (Breton 1988, 114; Audouin, Breton and Robin 1988, 76).

b) The Kingdom of Main

Its location was in the northern part of Yemen, adjoining the Sabean state in the north. It consisted principally of a group of city-states comprising communities situated in Wādī al-Jawf where Qarnaw (now Khribat Main) and Yathil (now Baraqish) represented the principal Minaean centres. The basic subsistence activity of the Minaeans was substantially based on the incense trade in which their crucial role was as trade caravaneers transporting the incense of South West Arabia to the trading centres in the north by providing security for the camel caravans passing through their territory. The Minaean kingdom had a great effect on the incense trade by controlling the long trade routes commencing from the incense
producing area to the ancient trading Mediterranean ports of Gaza and Alexandria, and from thence to Rome. Evidence of Minaean international commercial relations whereby the trade in incense was undertaken, is provided by a Minaeo-Greek inscription of about the 2nd century B.C. shown on an altar at the Greek trading centre of Delos; and also by a Minaean inscription from the sarcophagus of a Minaean merchant trading in incense during the Ptolemaic Period of Egypt, i.e. probably in the 3rd century B.C. (Winnett 1939, 7). However, agricultural practices, i.e. irrigation farming, were undertaken in Wadi al-Jawf utilizing streams and wells as the main sources of water supplies.

The Minaean kingdom was ruled by the Priest-Kings (i.e. Mukarribs) of Saba' since the 7th century B.C.; however, the Minaean state was later ruled by a succession of Minaean kings whose principal duties included the initiation of religious activities, e.g. the construction of temples (Hommel 1903, 729; Irvine 1973, 301).

c) The Kingdom of Qataban

It was located in the eastern section of South West Arabia in the fertile area of the Bayhan, Harib and Rahab valleys. The development and prosperity of this state relied substantially on agricultural practices in the arable lands of these valleys consequently contributing to the development of principal settlements at Timna and Hajar bin Humaid. The Qatabanian state was probably established in the early centuries of the first millennium B.C., and it was ruled by Mukarribs in its earliest period according to Irvine (1973, 300). Its prosperity was greatly enhanced by its crucial role in the production, i.e. the collection, of the incense
items frankincense and myrrh; their commercial transaction; and also their trade routes. Myrrh trees were grown extensively at Wadi Marqāh and from there the incense was brought to Timnā, one of the principal South Western Arabian trading centres for the storage and distribution of incense, from where it was transported to the coastal trading ports on the Red Sea. Inter-regional commercial contacts were undertaken between the Qatabānian trading centres of Timnā and Hajār bin Ḫumaid and the Ḥadrā’matūl trading centres of Shabwat and Qānā’. Substantial profits were acquired in the form of tithes levied on incense at Hajār bin Ḫumaid and similarly at Shabwat.

The role of trade contacts with other ancient civilizations had greatly enhanced artistic borrowing as shown in the different artifacts found in the various strata of the site of Hajār bin Ḫumaid. Terracotta figurines, a lead glazed crater, and the burnished slip wares were either brought to the site through trade contacts from other civilization centres, e.g. Syria, Palestine, Anatolia (Tarsus), Mesopotamia, or Phoenicia, or they were locally modelled on the styles of these artifacts (van Beek 1969a, 356, 369).

The demise of the Qatabānian state took place in the first century B.C. when it became part of the Ḥadrā’matūl kingdom, of which one of its kings had initiated the construction of irrigation installations in the ancient city of Wlan in the second century A.D. (W. F. Albright 1950, 9; Pirenne 1961, 41-42).

d) The Kingdom of Ḥadrā’matūl

It was located in the eastern section of the region, where it was separated from the Sabaean and Minaean kingdoms by the large sandy area of Rmlat al-Sbtīn. This kingdom was probably established
in the 4th century B.C., and it was ruled by Mūkarribs similar to those of the states of Saba' and Qatabān (Irvine 1973, 300; Muller 1988, 50).

The Hadramauti kingdom, like the other states, was substantially dependent on the incense trade as its principal subsistence activity. This trade contributed greatly to the rise of the Hadramauti state which became one of the principal kingdoms in ancient South West Arabia because it possessed the main incense-producing area (the frankincense forests in Dufar), and also the principal incense trading (storage and distribution) centres, e.g. Shabwat, Smhrm (ancient Mascha), and also the important overland trade routes. Incense was also transported from its producing area to the Hadramauti trading ports of Qanā and Aden, where it was shipped to various destinations in the ancient world, e.g. in India and Africa.

Irrigation farming was another substantial subsistence activity, practised chiefly in the valleys of Ḥadramaut, Ḥarmh, Ḥamd, and Al-Msilh, where important Hadramauti cities were situated, e.g. Shabwat, Hureidah, and Tarim where complex systems of irrigation were utilized.

The end of the Hadramauti state was probably in the 4th century A.D. when it became a part of the Himyerite kingdom according to Breton (1988, 114).

e) The Himyerite Kingdom

It was situated in the fertile areas of the highlands at Wadi Bana and the coastal areas of the Red Sea. The Himyerite kingdom was probably established in the first century A.D. according to the inscription (R.E.S. 2687) mentioning the construction of the wall of
Qalat for the purpose of protecting the Ḥadramauti kingdom from the Himyerite state (von Wissmann 1964, 449; Muller 1988, 50). The Himyerite kingdom had extended its domain to include the other principal states of ancient South West Arabia where the titles of the Himyerite kings became "Kings of Saba, Dhu-Raydan, Ḥadramaut and Yamanat" (Beeston 1988, 100).

Grohmann (1936, 229-30) attributed the establishment of the Himyerite state and of its capital, Zfar (ancient Sapphar), to the migration of Sabaean communities, who were settling around the basin of Wadi Dhana, to the highlands because of the collapse of the Marib dam upon which their economic subsistence-base had depended. Terrace-farming and the trade in incense were the principal subsistence activities of the Himyerite kingdom. The role of the incense trade became crucial to this kingdom whereby it diverted the incense trade from the south coast to the Red Sea trading port of Muza, moving the trade to the area of al-Jawf and by-passing the territories of the Sabaeans and Minaeans who relied substantially on this trade.

Ancient South West Arabia was ruled by the Ḥabshite kingdom (ancient Ethiopia) in the 6th century A.D., marking the end of the Himyerite State, and also the demise of the civilizations of ancient South West Arabia.

(2) Religion

The religion of ancient South West Arabia was chiefly based upon the worship of the Moon God who was worshipped under different names in the principal kingdoms of Saba, Ḥadramaut, Qataban and Himyer. The Moon God, Ilmaqah, was worshipped by the Sabaeans in the temples at Širwaḥ and also in the temples of Ḳawm and Barān
at Marib. In Ḥadramaut, the Moon Good Sin, was worshipped in the temples at Hureidah, Smhrm and Shabwat. Wadd was the Moon God of the Minaeans; whilst Am was the Moon God of the Qatabānians.

The sun was worshipped as a deity under different names in the temples of ancient South West Arabia. The Sabaean Sun Goddess was worshipped under the name Dhat-Bdan in the temple at Hqh; whilst at Yalit it was worshipped as the deity Dhat-Himyam. Nashq was the Minaean sun deity. The Goddess Shms was worshipped by the Himyerites in the temple of Shr.

The star Venus was worshipped as the deity Athar in the Minaean temples at Qarnaw and at Baraqish; in the Qatabānian temples at Timna, and in the Sabaean temples at Arhb. This deity was also worshipped in all the principal kingdoms.

There were other deities which were also worshipped in ancient South West Arabia. The Minaeans worshipped the God of Hate, Nkrh, comparable to the Qatabānian deity Anbay, and to the Ḥadramauti deity Ḥuwal. The deities of Nasr (God of the two eagles in the sky) and of Fakhr (God of the Universe) were worshipped in the Qatabānian kingdom (Hommel 1903, 734-6).

The ancient gods in South West Arabia were represented by different animals, notably the oryx, ibex, bull, eagle, serpent and the ostrich, and they all had divine attributes (Grohmann 1914, 40, 72-5). This was illustrated in the various reliefs shown on Cat. Nos. 44 and 48, on (Plates 59-60 and 69-72), and on (Figure 30). Gods were also frequently represented by abstract symbols, e.g. a bludgeon, door flap, or thunderbolt (Ryckmans 1988, 107).

Of primary importance was the bull which was widely used in the ancient religion of South West Arabia because the bull's head was used as the religious symbol of the Moon God on account of the
similarity of the bull's horns to the crescent moon. Bucrania reliefs of bulls' heads were used in the temples for the purpose of ritual invocation for protection from the Gods (Grohmann 1914, 15; Ryckmans 1988, 110).

The oryx and the ibex were also of great importance in the religion of ancient South West Arabia because they were used as the symbols of the Moon God. The ibex was regarded as a sacred animal to the Venus Star God, 'Athar, in the ancient South Western Arabian religion (Beeston 1948, 184).

These sacred animals, particularly the oryx, ibex and the bull, were frequently and widely used as decorative motifs sculpted on various architectural decorative pieces belonging to the principal different civilizations in ancient South West Arabia.

Ritual hunting and sacrificial rites were important aspects of the ancient religion of South West Arabia. These rites were chiefly associated with the oryxes and ibexes, and they were undertaken by the priests in the kingdoms of Saba, Maín and Qatabān. The oryx and the ibex were ritually hunted in Hadramaut (Beeston 1948, 196). The purpose of the ritual hunt was to sacrifice the hunted animals to the various gods for the purpose of invoking certain aims, e.g. the fertility of the land, success in military campaigns. Sacrificial animal rites were undertaken on the altars of the temples, and they were performed by the priests as ritual initiations before the building of temples, irrigation installations and fortifications.

The belief in an afterlife was an important aspect of the ancient religion of South West Arabia. Funerary ritual practices were indicative of this belief, indicated by the large and diverse materials comprising pottery, gold necklaces, ritual stelae, and a
sacrificial altar bearing stylized frontal ibexes' heads found in Stratum A at Timna (van Beek 1969a, Pl. 44, 268).

The religious concept of fertility (of the agricultural lands) was illustrated in the fragment of a terracotta figurine, dated probably about 550 B.C. according to radiocarbon dating, discovered in Stratum J at Hajar bin Humaid (van Beek 1969a, Pl. 54a, 286, 315).

Temples and shrines were very important in the religion of ancient South West Arabia, and they were constructed in dedication to the various gods. They were regarded as sacred places where sacrificial, ceremonial and processional rites were performed by the priests. Principal temples of the ancient deities were located at important cities, e.g. Shabwat, Ḥureidah, Ṣirwah, Mārib, Timna, Khribat-Main, Baraqish, Najran. There were special temples which were encircled with sacred perimeters of which access to them depended upon the ritual purity of the worshippers, e.g. the temples of the Moon God at Ṣirwah and Mārib.

Pilgrimage rites were performed in the Minaean sanctuaries of the God Ṭāhar in the mountain of al-Lawdah where ceremonial and processional rites were undertaken forming a covenant relationship between the individual tribes (Audouin, Breton and Robin 1988, 77).

Ritual votive offering was a very important component of the ancient religion of South West Arabia whereby the offered materials were presented to the various deities in the temples for the purpose of acquiring particular favours from the gods. The offerings included chiefly ritual stelae, plaques, figurines of the gods, and statuettes; and these were placed in the cellae of the temples. Inscribed votive offerings were substantially used for religious purposes and they had formed a commercial enterprise in the
Himyerite religion (F. P. Albright 1952, 34; 1958, 229-30). A votive offering of a bronze bull's head was dedicated to the Moon God Ilmaqah at Marib, whilst two bronze statuettes were also offered to the same god by the two Himyerite kings Ilsharah Yahdub and Yazil Bayin (Jamme 1962, 134, inscription J.I.632; F. P. Albright 1952, 34).

(3) Chronology

There are two different theories concerning the chronology of the South Arabian kingdoms.

a) The High Chronology

There are several arguments to support this:

(i) The visit of the Queen of Sheba (Saba) to King Solomon was undertaken in the 10th century B.C., and was principally motivated by commercial factors (Thieberger 1947, 211-12). This visit was evidently substantiated in the Quran, the Holy Book of Islam (27: 41-3), and also in the Biblical sources (Kings I, 10: 1-8, 10-13; Chron. II, 9: 1-7, 9-12; Ps. I, 72: 10; Isa. 60: 6). These biblical references mentioned that gifts or tributes (frankincense and gold) were offered by the Queen to King Solomon at Jerusalem. This evidence indicates that there was an international relation, probably a commercial one, operating between the Sabaean kingdom and other ancient civilizations in the 10th century B.C.

(ii) The two Sabaean kings Karibi-ilu Watar and Iti-amara are mentioned in the Assyrian texts of the 7th and 8th centuries B.C. where they are associated with the two Assyrian monarchs Sargon II (about 715 B.C.) and Sennakherib (about 685 B.C.) (Hommel 1903, 740; W. F. Albright 1950, 10). The names of the Sabaean kings are
written as Karibil and Yatha'amar; and they were also referred to as Mukarrib in one of the oldest inscriptions of South West Arabia (G.I. 1703) (Pirenne 1988, 116). Therefore, by equating these Sabaeen rules with the two Mukarrib, a probable date of 8th century B.C. was assigned not only to the Sabaeen rulers, but also to the Sabaeen monuments and inscriptions (i.e. the Sabaeen civilization).

However, the theory of high chronology was evidently disputed. The principal argument against the theory was the origin of the Sabaeen kingdom which was mentioned in the Assyrian texts whereby it was associated with the northern states (e.g. Dedan, Arabia, Kedar, Tayma etc.) offering tributes (incense, gold, ivory, horses, camels) to the Assyrian kings Tiglath-Pileser III in 731, 732 and 738 B.C.; and Sargon II in 717 B.C. (Dougherty 1932, 44, 54-5; Montgomery 1934, 58-9). According to this argument the names of the Sabaeen kings indicated that the Sabaeans of North Arabia were culturally similar to those in the South, and they possibly had migrated to South Arabia, transferring their cultural traits, i.e. civilization (Montgomery 1934, 60-1; Irvine 1973, 299).

b) The Low Chronology

This theory assigned the 5th century B.C. as the date for the development of the Sabaeen language which was manifested in its boustrophedon method of writing, i.e. the inscription was written in an alternate manner whereby in the first line it was written from left to right, whilst in the second line it was written from right to left. The theory also indicated that the Sabaeen language was derived from a North Arabian source and was, further, originated from the Phoenician alphabet which was developed in the 10th century B.C. A comparison was made between the North Arabian alphabet and
the Greek one which was developed in the 8th century B.C., illustrating a similarity in the style between the two alphabets as shown by Pirenne (1988, Table 1, p. 118). The Greek inscriptions showed a stylistic development in the use of the geometric style of writing letters replacing the style of the diagonal strokes of the Phoenician alphabet. This style of writing was unprecedented either in Greek or Semitic inscriptions (Beeston 1984, 5-6).

On the basis of the general appearance of the massive architectural structures (temples) of the Sabaean civilization during the Mukarrib dynasty, these temples had apparently shown architectural similarities to the temples of the ancient civilizations of Iran and Phoenicia in the 5th century B.C. Therefore the development of the Sabaean civilization had taken place probably in the 5th century B.C. according to Pirenne (1988, 120).
Chapter 3: A Catalogue of the Decorative Elements

It includes friezes comprising four different groups of decorative motifs, of which the first contains stylized vine motifs (Cat. Nos. 1-6); the second consists of stylized oryxes' heads represented frontally (Cat. Nos. 7-27); the third stylized frontal bulls' heads (Cat. No. 28); and the fourth stylized frontal bulls' heads associated with stylized profile depictions of ibexes (Cat. No. 29).

The catalogue also includes wall pieces (Cat. Nos. 30-42), stelae (Cat. Nos. 43-7), and a lintel (Cat. No. 48).

1. Friezes Containing Stylized Vine Decorative Motifs
(Cat. nos. 1-6; PIs. 1-6, Figs. 1-6).

Cat. No. 1 (Plate 1, Fig. 1)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A.
Provenance: Marib
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 30 cm.
Height: 22.5 cm.
Thickness: 7 cm.

This block, originally used as a decorative frieze, is slightly damaged at both ends of the right and left sides. It depicts stylized decorative vine motifs; in the centre is a stylized vine leaf, from each side of which springs an undulating stem bearing leaves, bunches of grapes, tendrils, stalks and stems, finely sculpted in high relief. The details of the motifs are remarkably well executed and include fully shaped leaves and tendrils and bunches of grapes which are represented as compact triangular clusters of globules. In contrast, other motifs, including leaves, stalks and stems are lightly incised.
Cat. No. 2 (Plate 2, Fig. 2)

Present Location: Y.M. (published, Grohmann 1969, Pl. 9.1)
Provenience: Marib
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 129 cm.
            Width: 26 cm.
            Height: 23 cm.

The block has an upper surface which is extensively damaged. Its upper, right, and left sides are substantially damaged, whilst its lower section consists of a mostly damaged, decorative raised border. The block was used as a decorative frieze bearing stylized vine decorative motifs which are difficult to see on Plate 2, being very coarsely sculpted in low relief on a very roughly polished surface, but are better distinguishable on Figure 2. They include a long, undulating, incised stalk bearing completely shaped, incised leaves and scrolls, and an oval representation for the bunches of grapes.

Cat. No. 3 (Plate 3, Fig. 3)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
                 (Accession No. 633), unpublished
Provenience: al-Jawf
Material: Marble
Dimensions: Length: 12 cm.
            Height: 13 cm.
            Thickness: 7 cm.

This is a section of a block used as a decorative frieze. The frieze has a decorative moulding coarsely carved in low relief, very roughly polished, and has been substantially damaged.

The frieze also has decorative borders, coarsely carved in low relief and roughly polished. The lower border is very roughly indicated, whilst the right hand part of the upper border is extensively damaged. The subject of a stylized vine motif, including a stalk engraved in low relief, two very finished scrolls, and two bunches of grapes carved in a compact, triangular shape.
There are also two curved stalks carved in high relief, to which the bunches of grapes are attached.

**Cat. No. 4 (Plate 4, Fig. 4)**

<table>
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<th>Present Location:</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provenance:</td>
<td>Nat. Accession No. 75), unpublished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Alabaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions:</td>
<td>Length: 22 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Height: 12 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thickness: 4.5 cm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is part of a block which was used as a decorative frieze. It is extensively damaged on the upper and right sides, and the left side has sustained partial damage. It depicts stylized decorative vine motifs, very coarsely sculptured on a very rough surface. The vine surmounts a moulding in high relief, also coarsely carved. The motifs consist of two stalks curving to form a semi-circle around a third. This middle stalk includes a partially damaged leaf incised in low relief. The vine motifs comprise two scrolls which were carved attached to a stalk. These motifs contain two compact bunches of grapes, one of which (carved on the upper left hand section of the frieze) is much damaged. The other, carved on the lower left hand part of the frieze, is only slightly damaged. In addition, in the lower right hand section of the frieze is carved a very small part of a stalk and four very roughly carved grapes.
Cat. No. 5 (Plate 5, Fig. 5)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 1679), unpublished
Provenance: Binun
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 37.5 cm.
Height: 18.5 cm.
Thickness: 15.5 cm.

This block was used as a decorative frieze. It is quite badly damaged along the left and right sides, whilst the upper and lower edges are somewhat better preserved. The design consists of an upper moulding, very coarsely carved in low relief and substantially damaged. The vine motifs are difficult to see on Plate 5, being very coarsely carved in low relief on a very roughly polished surface, but are better distinguished on Figure 5. They include a stem, a stalk, an incised leaf and two bunches of grapes of the familiar oval form. A stylized bird is very roughly depicted, carved in low relief in the upper left hand section of the frieze.

Cat. No. 6 (Plate 6, Fig. 6)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 295), unpublished
Provenance: Natı
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 21 cm.
Height: 14 cm.
Thickness: 6.5 cm.

This block has an upper surface which is extensively damaged. Its left and right sides are mostly damaged. It was used as a decorative frieze containing stylized vine motifs which were very coarsely carved in high relief. These motifs are very roughly depicted and include a large, curved stem, an engraved leaf attached to a stalk, a scroll attached to a stem, and three bunches of loosely carved grapes.
2. Friezes with Stylized Frontal Oryxes' Heads  
(Cat. Nos. 7-27; Pls. 7-27; Figs. 7-15)

a. Elongated and Cylindrical Oryx Faces  
(Cat. Nos. 7-13; Pls. 7-13; Figs. 7-12)

Cat. No. 7 (Plate 7, Fig. 7)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 85), unpublished  
Provenance: Nat  
Material: Limestone  
Dimensions: Length: 19.5 cm.  
Width: 15 cm.  
Height: 8.5 cm.

The block consists of an upper plain surface which is partially damaged and roughly polished. The upper surface has a decorative border which was coarsely polished and roughly carved in high relief. The block contains a decorative frieze comprising nine stylized oryxes' heads which were coarsely sculptured in high relief on its roughly polished frontal surface. The first and the second on the right side of the frieze are partly damaged, whilst the first on its left side is extensively damaged. Each, except the first on the left side of the frieze, has two horns which were coarsely carved in high relief. The horns start at the top edge of the block, and are carved extending back onto the top. Each head has two round, protruding eyes finely carved in high relief. Between the horns of each head is a semi-circular motif, roughly engraved in low relief. The oryxes' faces were well carved in high relief and in elongated and semi-cylindrical shape.

The lower section of the front of the block, beneath the oryx frieze, is substantially damaged.
Cat. No. 8 (Plate 8, Fig. 8)

Present Location: A.M.S.U. (Accession No. 620), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 19 cm.
           Width: 6.5 cm.
           Height: 15.5 cm.

The block has an upper surface which is very roughly polished, and bears a decorative frieze comprising seven stylized oryxes' heads which were coarsely carved in high relief. Each head has two protruding eyes from which two horns are carved springing from the eyes upwards and backwards onto the upper surface of the block, forming a rounded upper edge. The eyes and the horns were coarsely carved in high relief. Each head has a semi-circular motif roughly carved in low relief. The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief, in elongated and cylindrical shapes.

This oryx frieze surmounts two decorative mouldings, very coarsely polished and roughly carved in low relief, the lower of which is wider than the upper. The frieze and the two mouldings are flanked by two sections of the block of which the right section is damaged at its upper, lower and right sides, whilst the left part is substantially damaged at its upper, lower and right sides. It was very roughly polished.

Cat. No. 9 (Plate 9, Fig. 9)

Present Location: A.M.S.U. (Accession No. 350), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Marble
Dimensions: Length: 22 cm.
           Width: 12 cm.
           Height: 7.8 cm.
The block is badly damaged at its right lateral sides. It has an upper surface which is substantially damaged at two of its sides. It was roughly polished. It also has two borders, both coarsely carved in high relief and somewhat damaged. The block consists of a decorative frieze containing nine stylized oryxes' heads of which the first on the right side is particularly badly damaged. The heads are coarsely carved in high relief on a roughly polished surface. Each head has two protruding eyes roughly carved in high relief. The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief and in elongated and cylindrical shapes.

**Cat. No. 10 (Plate 10, Fig. 10)**

- **Present Location:** Y.M. (Accession No. 279), unpublished
- **Provenance:** Marib
- **Material:** Alabaster
- **Dimensions:**
  - Length: 28 cm.
  - Width: 9.5 cm.
  - Thickness: 8 cm.

The block was used as a decorative frieze. It consists of thirteen stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs, coarsely carved in high relief on its roughly polished surface. Each head bears two horns carved in high relief, which curve backwards to the upper section of the frieze. Each one has two round, slightly protruding eyes which were roughly carved in low relief.

The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief and in elongated and cylindrical shapes.
Cat. No. 11 (Plate 11, Fig. 11)

Present Location: Y.M. (Accession No. 280), unpublished
Provenance: Marib
Material: Alabaster
Dimensions: Length: 35.5 cm.
Depth: 8 cm.

The left side of the block is partially damaged. Principally it consists of a decorative frieze containing twelve stylized oryxes' heads, very coarsely carved in high relief on a roughly polished background. The first figure on the right is somewhat damaged, whilst the last right is badly damaged. Each head has two protruding eyes roughly carved in low relief, and bears two horns very coarsely carved in high relief, which curve upwards and backwards to the upper part of the frieze. The oryxes' faces were very coarsely carved in high relief and in elongated and cylindrical shapes.

The animal heads surmount a roughly polished moulding which was coarsely carved in low relief. Beneath this moulding is a row of twelve dentils, used as decorative motifs. Each motif was very roughly carved in low relief and in rectangular shape.

Cat. No. 12 (Plate 12, Fig. 12)

Present Location: A.M.S.U. (Accession No. 115), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 16.5 cm.
Width: 10 cm.

The block has been roughly polished at its lateral side, and is broken at its left lower section. It consists of a decorative frieze containing seven stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs. They were very coarsely carved in high relief on a roughly polished surface of the frieze. The heads surmount an extensively
damaged moulding. Each head except the first on the right side of the frieze has two horns very coarsely depicted and very roughly carved in high relief, which curve backwards to the upper, curved surface of the frieze. Above each of the remaining six heads on the left side of the frieze is a semi-circular motif, very coarsely engraved in low relief between the horns of each head.

Although most of the faces (and in particular the four to the left of the frieze) are damaged, it is evident that they were very roughly carved in high relief and in elongated and cylindrical form.

Cat. No. 13 (Plate 13)

Present Location: Y.M. (Accession No. 10), (published, Costa 1978, Pl. 24A)

Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 171 cm. Height: 32 cm.

The block was used as a decorative frieze. Its left and lower sections are substantially damaged. It bears eight stylized oryxes' heads, very coarsely sculpted on a roughly polished surface. Each head carries two horns, except the right of the first head on the right side of the frieze which is mostly damaged.

The horns were very coarsely carved in slightly incised layers and curved backwards to an upper part of the oryx frieze. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in elongated and cylindrical shapes, of which the three on the left side of the frieze are largely damaged. Furthermore, each face is surmounted by two round eyes, very coarsely carved in low relief. Each of the four faces on the right side of the frieze has a beard very roughly carved in low relief and in a rectangular form.
Beneath each face there are two stylized forelegs and shoulders, but both forelegs of the second animal, and the left foreleg of the third animal on the left side of the frieze, are substantially damaged. They were also coarsely carved in high relief, in circular shapes extending down to a lower section of the frieze. The stylized, visibly depicted hoofs were carved on the forelegs of the six heads on the right side of the oryx frieze. Beneath the beards and the foreparts, there are stylized sections of the lower parts of the animals's bodies which were roughly carved in high relief and in semi-circular forms directly beneath the beards.

b. **Elongated and Semi-Cylindrical Oryx Faces**  
   (Cat. Nos. 14-15; Plates 14-15)

**Cat. No. 14 (Plate 14)**

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 77), unpublished  
Provenance: al-Jawf  
Material: Limestone  
Dimensions:  
Length: 13 cm.  
Width: 11 cm.  
Height: 6 cm.

The block consists of an upper plain surface which is substantially damaged at its right and left sides and carries a decorative frieze comprising four stylized oryxes' heads. To the right of the frieze is a very roughly polished surface which was presumably intended to be occupied by two more oryxes' heads. The four heads were very coarsely sculptured in high relief on a very roughly polished surface of the frieze. Each has two protruding eyes from which two horns were very coarsely carved in high relief, springing upwards until they meet the upper surface of the block. The horns were very coarsely carved in high relief. Between the horns of each head is a triangular motif which is partially damaged.
It was very roughly engraved in high relief within the pair of horns of each head. The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief and in elongated and semi-cylindrical forms.

**Cat. No. 15 (Plate 15)**

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 213), unpublished  
Provenance: al-Jawf  
Material: Marble  
Dimensions: Length: 22 cm.  
Width: 19 cm.  
Height: 12 cm.

The block is badly damaged at its left and right lateral sides. It consists of an upper plain surface which is extensively damaged. It was very roughly polished. The surface contains a roughly polished border which is damaged at its left side. It was very coarsely carved in high relief. The block bears a decorative frieze comprising six stylized oryxes' heads which were substantially damaged, the horns and the eyes being worse affected. The heads were used as decorative motifs, very roughly represented and very coarsely carved in high relief on the roughly polished frontal surface of the frieze. The horns and the eyes are completely damaged. The horns apparently curved up and back until they meet a border. The oryxes' faces are substantially damaged, very roughly represented and very coarsely carved in high relief.

Beneath the oryx frieze the block also carries a moulding, very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief.
Elongated and Semi-Flat Oryxes' Faces
(Cat. Nos. 16-9; Plates 16-19; Figs. 13-16)

Cat. No. 16 (Plate 16, Fig. 13)

Present Location: Y.M.
(Accession No. 1739), unpublished
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 17 cm.
            Width: 31 cm.
            Height: 31 cm.
            Height of Relief: 3.50 cm.

The block was part of a decorative frieze. The left and lower sections of the frieze are partially damaged. It consists of seven stylized oryx heads, roughly polished and coarsely sculptured in high relief on a roughly polished frontal surface. Each head bears two horns roughly carved in high relief, which curve backwards to an upper section of the oryx frieze. Above each head a semi-circular motif is coarsely engraved in low relief between the horns. The faces of the animals are roughly carved in high relief, in elongated and semi-flat forms. The faces have coarsely carved, low relief beards of rectangular shape. Beneath each face there are two stylized forelegs and shoulders, but the right foreleg and shoulder of the first oryx on the right of the frieze have been completely destroyed. They were roughly carved in high relief and in circular forms extending down to a lower section of the frieze. The stylized hoofs are visibly depicted on the forelegs of the five heads on the right side of the frieze. Beneath the beards and the foreparts there are stylized parts of the lower sections of the oryxes' bodies which were coarsely carved in high relief and in triangular shapes directly beneath the beards whereinto they were attached.
Cat. No. 17 (Plate 17, Fig. 14)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 621), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 16.5 cm.
Width: 12 cm.
Height: 10 cm.

The block has an upper surface which is substantially damaged and very roughly polished. The block has a decorative frieze of seven stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs. The heads were very coarsely sculpted in high relief on the frieze's frontal surface which was roughly polished. Each head has two horns, very coarsely carved in high relief, which curve backwards to the upper section of the frieze. Above each head a semi-circular motif was very coarsely engraved in low relief between the horns. Each head has two protruding eyes, very coarsely carved in low relief. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in high relief and in elongated and semi-flat forms.

The oryx frieze surmounts a moulding which is extensively damaged. It was very coarsely carved in high relief. The lower section of the frontal surface of the block beneath the moulding is substantially damaged.

Cat. No. 18 (Plate 18, Fig. 15)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 622), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 21 cm.
Width: 11 cm.
Height: 10.5 cm.

The block has an upper surface which is damaged on all sides, and was very roughly polished. It has a decorative frieze containing seven stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs,
carved in high relief on the very roughly polished frontal surface of the block. Above each head, between the horns, is a semi-circular motif, very roughly engraved in low relief. Each head, except the fourth on the right side of the frieze and the two on the left, has two slightly protruding eyes from which two horns were coarsely carved in high relief, springing upwards until they meet the upper surface of the block. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in high relief and in elongated and semi-flat shapes.

The oryx frieze surmounts a moulding, very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief.

The lower section of the frontal surface of the block, beneath the moulding, is substantially damaged.

Cat. No. 19 (Plate 19, Fig. 16)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Present Location:</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Provenance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions:</td>
<td>Length: 17 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Width: 11 cm.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Height: 10 cm.</td>
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</table>

The block consists of a decorative frieze of seven stylized oryxes' heads surmounting a moulding which was very coarsely polished and very roughly carved in low relief. The heads were used as decorative motifs and were very coarsely sculptured in an inferior method of sculpturing and style of decoration. The upper parts of the six heads on the right side of the frieze are badly damaged, whilst the last one on the left side of the frieze is less damaged. This last head bears two curved horns, very coarsely carved in high relief, springing upwards until they meet the upper section of the frieze. Above the last head, between the horns, is a semi-circular motif, partially damaged and very roughly engraved in
low relief. The oryxes' faces were very coarsely carved in high relief and in elongated and semi-flat forms.

d. **Short and Cylindrical Oryxes' Faces**  
(Cat. Nos. 20-22; Plates 20-22)

Cat. No. 20 (Plate 20)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 84), unpublished  
Provenance: al-Jawf  
Material: Alabaster  
Dimensions:  
Length: 19 cm.  
Width: 11.5 cm.  
Height: 11 cm.

The block bears a decorative frieze containing seven stylized oryxes' heads of which two are completely damaged, whilst the remaining five are partly destroyed. The heads were used as decorative motifs and were very coarsely sculptured in high relief. Each head has two horns which curve backwards to the upper section of the frieze. Above each head is a semi-circular motif, very roughly engraved in low relief between its horns. Each head, except the second partially damaged one on the left side of the frieze, has two slightly protruding, round eyes which were coarsely carved in low relief. The oryxes' faces, except the second partially damaged one, were very roughly carved in high relief and in short and cylindrical shapes.

The block bears two mouldings below the oryx frieze. The lower moulding is partially damaged. Both mouldings were very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief.
The lower part of the frontal surface of the block, beneath the two mouldings, was badly damaged.

Cat. No. 21 (Plate 21)

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<th>Present Location:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provenance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Granite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions:</td>
<td>Width: 8 cm.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Height: 7 cm.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The block is broken into two parts horizontally. It has a substantially damaged upper surface which was very roughly polished. It carries a decorative frieze containing eleven stylized oryxes' heads, of which only three are completely destroyed. The oryxes' heads were used as decorative motifs. The remaining eight heads were very coarsely sculptured in high relief. Each head bears two horns, roughly carved in high relief and curving upwards into the upper surface of the block. A semi-circular motif is very coarsely engraved in low relief above each head, between the horns. Each head has two round, protruding eyes, roughly carved in high relief. The oryxes' faces were roughly carved in high relief, in short, cylindrical shapes.

Cat. No. 22 (Plate 22)

<table>
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<th>Present Location:</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>al-Jawf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions:</td>
<td>Length: 21.5 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Width: 11 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Height: 22 cm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The block has an upper surface which is partially damaged and roughly polished. It carries a decorative frieze containing seven stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs. They are substantially damaged, particularly the first on the right of the
The frieze which is completely damaged, whilst the eyes of the remaining six heads being worse affected. The remaining six oryxes' heads were very coarsely sculpted in high relief on the frontal surface of the frieze which was very roughly polished. Each head has two horns, very coarsely carved in high relief, and curving backwards to the upper surface of the block. Above each head there is a semicircular motif coarsely engraved in low relief between the horns. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in high relief, in short, cylindrical shapes.

The oryx frieze surmounts a mostly damaged moulding. Beneath this moulding there is a row of eleven dentil decorative motifs of which, specifically, the first on the right side of the frieze is completely damaged. They were very coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular forms. The lower frontal section of the block beneath the moulding and the dentils is substantially damaged.

e. Short and Semi-Cylindrical Oryxes' Faces
(Cat. No. 23-24; Plates 23-24)

Cat. No. 23  (Plate 23)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 116), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 27 cm.
Width: 16 cm.
Height: 8 cm.

The block is damaged partially on the right and left lateral sides. It has an upper surface which is substantially damaged. The block contains a decorative frieze comprising ten stylized oryxes' heads used as decorative motifs. They were very coarsely sculpted in high relief on the upper surface of the frieze, which was very roughly polished, and has been partially damaged. Most of the
oryxes' heads have sustained some damage, the second on the right being worst affected. Each head, except the first and second on the right side of the frieze have horns, very coarsely carved in high relief, and curving upwards and onto the upper surface of the block. Each head has a triangular motif, mostly damaged and very roughly engraved in low relief between the horns of each head. Each head, except the second on the right side of the frieze, has two protruding eyes which were very coarsely carved in high relief. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in high relief, in short and semi-cylindrical forms.

The third face on the right side of the frieze, and the first, the second and the fourth on the left side of the frieze, are partially damaged.

Cat. No. 24 (Plate 24)

Present Location: D.H.K.A.A.U., unpublished
Material: Marble
Dimensions: Length: 10 cm.
          Width: 6.5 cm.
          Height: 10.5 cm.

The block is badly damaged at its left and right lateral sides. Its upper surface is extensively damaged. The block bears a decorative frieze comprising four stylized oryxes' heads of which, particularly the first on the right side of the frieze is completely damaged. The remaining three heads were very coarsely carved in high relief on a very roughly polished surface of the frieze. They were also used as decorative motifs; each bears two horns very coarsely carved in high relief and curve backwards to an upper surface of the block. A rectangular motif was very roughly engraved in low relief between the horns of each head. Each head has two protruding eyes coarsely incised in low relief. The oryxes' faces
were coarsely carved in high relief, in short and semi-cylindrical forms.

f. Short and Semi-Flat Oryxes' Faces
   (Cat. Nos. 25-27; Plates 25-27)

Cat. No. 25 (Plate 25)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
                  (Accession No. 111), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Width: 22.5 cm.
           Height: 6 cm.

The block is substantially damaged at its right and left lateral sides. It has an upper surface which is extensively damaged. It bears a decorative frieze containing ten stylized oryxes' heads, used as decorative motifs. The heads were coarsely sculptured in high relief on the roughly polished frontal surface of the frieze. Each oryx's head, except for that on the extreme left which is badly damaged, has two horns, very coarsely carved in high relief, curving backwards into the upper surface of the block. Above each head is a semi-circular motif, very roughly engraved in low relief, between the horns. The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief and in short and semi-flat shapes.

Cat. No. 26 (Plate 26)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
                  (Accession No. 114), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 19 cm.
           Width: 13.5 cm.
           Height: 9 cm.

The block has an upper surface which is badly damaged. The block carries a decorative frieze comprising five oryxes' heads, used as decorative motifs. The heads were very coarsely sculptured
on the very roughly polished frontal surface of the frieze. The upper part of the first head on the right side of the frieze is destroyed, but each of the other four have two horns very coarsely carved in high relief and curved backwards to the upper surface of the block. Each head has a triangular motif of which the first on the right side of the frieze is badly damaged, whilst the other four are partially destroyed. The four motifs were very roughly engraved in low relief between a pair of horns of each head. Each of the five heads has two protruding eyes, very roughly depicted and very coarsely carved in high relief. The oryxes' faces were very roughly carved in high relief and in short and semi-flat forms.

The block also carries a very coarsely carved and very roughly polished low relief mouldings beneath the oryxes' frieze. The lower section of the frontal surface of the block is substantially damaged.

**Cat. No. 27 (Plate 27)**

<table>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Provenance:</td>
<td>al-Jawf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Marble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions:</td>
<td>Length: 20 cm.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Width: 19 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Height: 12 cm.</td>
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</table>

The block is particularly damaged at its right lateral side. It has an upper surface which, in common with the rest of the block, was very roughly polished. The block has a decorative frieze of six stylized oryxes' heads of which the first on the right side of the frieze and the first on the left side are substantially destroyed. The heads were used as decorative motifs. The four undamaged heads were very coarsely sculptured in high relief. Each head bears two horns, very coarsely carved in high relief and curved upwards and
backwards to the upper surface of the block where the right horn of the first head on the right side of the frieze is specifically projecting out slightly of the right lateral side of the block. Above each head is a semi-circular motif, very coarsely engaved in low relief between the horns of each head.

Each oryx head has two protruding eyes, very roughly carved in low relief. The oryxes' faces are very coarsely carved in high relief and in short and semi-flat shapes.

Beneath the oryxes' frieze is a very roughly carved moulding which is substantially destroyed, but has been partly restored. The lower section of the frontal surface of the block is very badly damaged.
3. **A Decorative Frieze Containing Stylized Frontal Bulls' Heads**  
(Cat. No. 28; Plate 28)

**Cat. No. 28 (Plate 28)**

- **Present Location:** A.M.S.U.  
  (Accession No. 299), unpublished
- **Provenance:** al-Jawf
- **Material:** Alabaster
- **Dimensions:**  
  - Length: 15 cm.
  - Width: 12 cm.
  - Height: 5 cm.

The block is partially damaged at its left and right sides, a section of its upper right side being substantially damaged. The block has an upper surface, lightly damaged and roughly polished.

The block carries a decorative frieze of four stylized bulls' heads which were sculpted in an inferior method of sculpture and style of decoration. The heads were used as decorative motifs and each head was sculpted within a decorative panel. Each head is separated from the next by a decorative border which was very coarsely carved in high relief and in semi-circular shape. Each bull has a pair of ears carved parallel to its widely curved horns. The ears and the horns were very roughly carved in high relief.

Above each head is a very small motif, very coarsely engraved in low relief. On each bull's forehead is a small triangular motif, very roughly incised in low relief. The bulls' faces were very coarsely carved in high relief and in flat forms. Each of the second and the third faces on the right side of the frieze has a snout containing very roughly incised and widely curved lines.
4. A Decorative Frieze Containing Stylized Frontal Bulls's Heads and Stylized Ibexes in Profile  
(Cat. No. 29, Plate 29)

Cat. No. 29 (Plate 29)

Present Location: D.H.K.A.A.U.  
(Unpublished)

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: Length: 57.5 cm.
            Height: 22 cm.
            Thickness: 8 cm.

The block was used as a decorative frieze. It has four very coarsely carved, high relief borders which have sustained some damage. The block carries two rows of stylized animal decorative motifs which are separated by a decorative central moulding. The motifs and the moulding were characterized by an inferior craftsmanship in terms of sculpturing method and artistic style.

The first row consists of seven stylized bulls' heads carved on the upper surface of the frieze. Each head has two widely curved ears of which the left ear of bull no. 1 touches the right ear of bull no. 2 and so on. Each head bears two horns extending to the upper border of the frieze whereinto they are attached. The bulls' faces were carved in high relief, extending to the moulding whereinto they are attached.

The second row was carved on the lower surface of the frieze. This row has five stylized ibexes carved in profile and in couchant position facing towards the left side of the frieze. Details of the ibexes include the faces which were very coarsely carved in elongated shapes, and the mouth was indicated, while each head bears a very coarsely incised horn which curves over the back of the animal. The bodies being merely very roughly carved in semi-rectangular forms except the one on the right side of the row which
was very roughly carved in semi-squared shape. Each animal has a curved-down tail and a stylized fore and back leg in opposition.
B. Wall Decorative Elements
(Cat. Nos. 30-42; Plates 30-42; Figs. 17-26)

Cat. No. 30 (Plate 30, Fig. 17)

Present Location: A.M.S.U. (Accession No. 206), unpublished
Provenance: Binun
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 34 cm.
           Width: 11 cm.
           Height: 8.5 cm.

The lower surface of the block is partially damaged and roughly polished. The block consists of two similar groups of decorative recessed panels, roughly polished and coarsely sculpted on the right and left sections of its frontal, upper surface. Each group includes three panels of which, particularly, the first one contains four raised decorative borders, whilst the other two panels comprise three raised borders. All the panels in both groups were coarsely carved in rectangular shapes, but the carving of the panels on the right part of the block was in low relief, whilst the carving of those on the left section was in high relief. The block also comprises a third decorative, rectangular panel which is flanked by the two groups of recessed panels. This third decorative panel consists of four raised decorative borders roughly polished and coarsely carved in high relief. It also includes four decorative grooves roughly polished, deeply and coarsely engraved in high relief. The grooves-panel surmounts six dentil decorative motifs, roughly polished and coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular forms, surmounting a very roughly polished moulding which is coarsely carved in low relief.
Cat. No. 31 (Plate 31, Fig. 18)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 108), unpublished  
Provenance: al-Jawf  
Material: Alabaster  
Dimensions: Length: 39 cm.  
Width: 29 cm.  
Height: 7 cm.

The block is partially damaged at its upper, lower and right sides, being mostly damaged at its left lateral side. It consists of six different groups containing various decorative motifs roughly polished and coarsely sculpted on its frontal surface. The first group includes five uniformly stylized frontal oryx heads, coarsely sculpted in high relief on a roughly polished surface. Each has two protruding eyes coarsely carved in high relief. Each also comprises two horns, roughly carved in high relief and in V-shapes, extending upwards to an upper side of the frieze. Above each oryx head there is a motif coarsely incised in low relief and in a semi-circular form. The oryxes' faces were coarsely carved in high relief, in elongated and in cylindrical shapes.

The second group of motifs consists of three partially damaged dentils which were coarsely carved in low relief, in rectangular forms beneath the oryx frieze. The third group includes a plain moulding, coarsely carved in low relief beneath the dentils. The fourth group comprises a decorative panel containing four grooves deeply and coarsely engraved in high relief. The fifth group contains two recessed decorative panels extensively damaged at their lower parts, coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular shapes beneath the grooves-panel. Each was further divided into two sections carved in rectangular forms. The sixth group includes two raised decorative borders, partially damaged at their lower sections.
and roughly polished, coarsely carved in high relief. They also flank the other five groups of motifs, and they are themselves flanked by two roughly polished, plain surfaces of the block.

Cat. No. 32 (Plate 32, Fig. 19)

Present Location: A.M.S.U. (Accession No. 204), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 36.5 cm.
Width: 11 cm.
Height: 7 cm.

The block is extensively damaged at its upper and right sides, whilst its left lateral side is substantially damaged. Its frontal surface was partially damaged and very roughly polished. The block consists of three decorative panels of which, specifically, the first contains five decorative grooves deeply and coarsely engraved in high relief, whilst the other two were coarsely engraved in high relief, in a recessed style and in rectangular shapes of which each is further divided into two sections carved in rectangular forms.

The three panels surmount a mostly damaged decorative moulding, very coarsely carved in low relief.

Cat. No. 33 (Plate 33, Fig. 20)

Present Location: Y.M. (Accession No. 1869), unpublished
Provenance: Marib
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 39.5 cm.
Width: 35 cm.
Height: 19.5 cm.

The block consists of two small, similar decorative panels sculpted at its upper section, each including four extensively damaged decorative raised borders carved in high relief. Each also comprises a substantially damaged decorative vase, very coarsely
carved in high relief in an incised style, and in a round shape, on a very roughly polished surface of the panel. Each vase surmounts a small stand very roughly carved in an engraved style and in a semi-triangular form, and it is attached to a lower raised border of the panel. On the upper part of each vase there are two handles very coarsely sculpted in high relief, in an engraved style and in a semi-triangular shape. These handles are surmounted by a roughly depicted small, triangular motif which in turn is surmounted by a coarsely carved, tiny, oval-shaped motif attached to an upper raised border of each panel. The vase-panels flank a partially damaged decorative moulding which was coarsely carved in low relief, and it surmounts seven decorative motifs coarsely carved in high relief. The block also consists of a third decorative panel sculpted at its lower section beneath the moulding and the other two panels, and it is larger in size than each of the above panels. This third panel includes four decorative raised borders, mostly damaged and very coarsely carved in low relief. It also contains two very roughly depicted, stylized birds which were used as decorative motifs, of which particularly the left one has sustained more damage than the right one. They were very coarsely carved in high relief on a roughly polished surface of the panel. The right bird comprises feathers carved in an incised style, in long and short layers attached to a left raised border of the panel, whilst the left one was mostly carved in an incised style. The birds flank a stylized, compact bunch of grapes used as a decorative motif. It is partially damaged and very coarsely carved in high relief and in an oval form.
Cat. No. 34 (Plate 34, Fig. 21)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 258), unpublished
Material: Alabaster
Dimensions: Length: 28 cm.
Width: 20 cm.
Height: 8 cm.

The block is substantially damaged at its right lateral side. Its left section comprises a completely damaged group of decorative recessed panels and grooves. The upper and lower sides of the block are partially damaged, and a part of its upper surface is extensively damaged. The block includes two groups of decorative recessed panels of which each contains two panels very coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular forms. The two groups are separated by a long, mostly damaged decorative raised border which extends from the lower to the upper sections of the block. The two groups are surmounted by decorative grooves of which, particularly, the ones on the right upper section of the block have sustained more damage than those on the left. They were very coarsely carved in low relief, and surmounted by decorative dentil motifs, deeply and very roughly engraved in high relief. The lower panel of the group on the right side of the block is divided into two sections, of which its upper part consists of small, rectangular motifs, whilst its lower one forms another rectangular recessed panel. The motifs and also the panel were deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. The second group of panels includes two, of which one comprises rectangular-shaped motifs, deeply and very roughly engraved in high relief.
Cat. No. 35 (Plate 35)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 292), unpublished

Material: Limestone

The block is substantially damaged at its four sides. The right section of its surface is partially damaged; however, the left one consists of a decorative panel surmounting a partially damaged, very roughly polished, decorative raised border which is completely damaged at its left section and very coarsely carved in low relief.

The panel contains two dentil decorative motifs, very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular shapes; and further, carved in smaller size than the three large ones depicted on the lower left section of the block beneath the moulding. The two small dentils also surmount six decorative grooves deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. This panel is surmounted by a mostly damaged upper decorative moulding, very coarsely carved in low relief, and is also flanked, at its left side, by a very roughly polished decorative raised border very coarsely carved in low relief. This raised border is further flanked on its left side by a stylized frontal oryx head, very coarsely sculpted in low relief, and in an inferior style of carving, on a very roughly polished surface of probably another decorative panel. The oryx head comprises two horns, very coarsely carved, of which the right one was carved upwards to an upper moulding, whilst the left was carved shorter in size than the right one. Above the head there is an oval-shaped motif, very coarsely carved between the horns; and is also surmounted by a very roughly depicted motif which was very coarsely carved in a semi-round shape attached to an upper moulding and representing a crescent moon.
The oryx's face was very roughly depicted, very coarsely carved in low relief, in elongated and in a semi-flat shape. Both the panel and the oryx's head surmount a very roughly polished decorative moulding which is completely damaged at its left section, and was very coarsely carved in low relief. It also surmounts a row comprising three large decorative dentil motifs which are extensively damaged at their lower ends, of which, specifically, the third one on the left side of the dentils row is largely damaged at its left section. These dentils were very roughly polished, very coarsely carved in low relief and in rectangular forms.

Cat. No. 36 (Plate 36, Fig. 22)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 221), (published, Nur al-Din, 1985, p. 265)

Material: Stone

The block consists of two decorative wall panels of which the four raised borders of the upper panel are substantially damaged. The upper one contains a stylized bird used as a decorative motif, and was coarsely carved on a very roughly polished surface of the panel. The artistic details of the bird include a semi-round head comprising a small curved mouth consisting of a tiny, incised line. The bird's head also contains an engraved, tiny, round eye. Below the head, the body comprises variously incised lines, and also consists of very coarsely incised feathers extending backwards to the left raised border, where they are attached. Beneath the body there are two legs, sculpted in curved shapes extending downwards to the lower raised border, where they are attached. The upper panel also comprises stylized decorative vine motifs, including a loosely depicted bunch of grapes and a scroll. The motifs were coarsely
carved in high relief on a right section of the panel, and attached to the upper and right raised borders. The lower panel is mostly damaged, and contains only three decorative dentil motifs, of which particularly the first on the right side of the dentils row is completely damaged, whilst the remaining two are substantially damaged, very roughly polished, and very coarsely carved in high relief below the lower raised border of the upper panel.

Cat. No. 37 (Plate 37, Fig. 23)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
               (Accession No. 342), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 32 cm.
           Width: 12.5 cm.
           Height: 6 cm.

The block is extensively damaged at its upper, lower, right and left lateral sides, and it is completely broken into two sections. It consists of four groups containing different decorative motifs, very roughly depicted on its very coarsely polished surface. The first group includes a decorative panel comprising four grooves of which, particularly, the upper one is substantially damaged, whilst the remaining three are partially damaged. They were deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief, surmounting a second group which contains a partially damaged moulding very coarsely carved in low relief.

The third group consists of four dentils very roughly polished, very coarsely carved in high relief and in squared shapes directly beneath the moulding. The fourth group comprises two similar types of recessed panels, of which each includes two largely damaged ones completely damaged at their lower sections, and very coarsely carved
in low relief and in rectangular shapes. The lower panels of each type consist of small motifs, deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief.

**Cat. No. 38** (Plate 38, Fig. 24)

**Present Location:** A.M.S.U.  
(Accession No. 217), unpublished

**Material:** Stone

The block is substantially damaged at its four sides, being extensively damaged at its lower part. It consists of three groups of coarsely sculpted, recessed, decorative panels. The first group was depicted on the right section of the block and contains two mostly damaged panels of which, specifically, the lower one is very roughly polished. The panels were carved in low relief and in rectangular shapes. The second group was sculpted on the middle section of the block, including two largely damaged panels carved in low relief and in rectangular forms of which, particularly, the lower, roughly polished one comprises rectangular-shaped motifs deeply and coarsely engraved in high relief. The third group of panels were depicted on the left section of the block including three substantially damaged panels carved in low relief and in rectangular forms.

The middle and lower panels were very roughly polished, containing three partially damaged decorative grooves which were deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. The upper part of the lower panel consists of rectangular-shaped motifs deeply and coarsely engraved in high relief, whilst its lower section is extensively damaged.
Cat. No. 39 (Plate 39)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 389), unpublished

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: Length: 23.5 cm.
Width: 23 cm.
Height: 6.5 cm.

The block is substantially damaged at all its sides except part of its upper side which is partially damaged. It consists of a group of recessed decorative panels very coarsely sculpted in a middle section of the block. The group includes two panels mostly damaged at their lower parts, and carved in low relief and in rectangular shapes of which, particularly, the lower panel contains rectangular-shaped motifs deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. This group of panels is flanked by two most damaged decorative raised borders, very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief. The panels are also flanked on the right and left sides by a group of completely damaged, decorative recessed panels.

Cat. No. 40 (Plate 40)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 300), unpublished

Material: Stone

The block is completely broken at its lower part. It is mostly damaged at its upper, lower and right sides, being substantially damaged at its left lateral side. Its frontal surface is partially damaged and very roughly polished. It contains a decorative panel comprising six decorative grooves deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. The block also consists of two partially damaged, decorative, recessed panels broken at their lower sections, and coarsely engraved in low relief and in rectangular shapes.
Cat. No. 41 (Plate 41)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 311), unpublished
Provenance: al-Jawf
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 24 cm.
Width: 17 cm.
Height: 8 cm.

The block is mostly damaged at its right, left and lower sides, being completely damaged at its upper side. The block contains two similar recessed panels of which each comprises partially damaged, rectangular motifs which were deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief. The two panels are separated by a substantially damaged decorative raised border, and flanked by two partially damaged, very roughly polished surfaces.

Cat. No. 42 (Plate 42)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.
(Accession No. 382), unpublished
Material: Marble
Dimensions: Length: 15.5 cm.
Width: 13 cm.
Height: 4.5 cm.

The block is mostly damaged at its four sides. It contains a rectangular decorative panel which is partially damaged at its right and left sides, whilst its upper and lower sections are completely damaged. It is flanked by two extensively damaged, very roughly polished surfaces. It also includes five decorative grooves deeply and very coarsely engraved in high relief.
C. Stelae  
(Cat. Nos. 43-47; Pls. 43-47, Figs. 25-29)

Cat. No. 43 (Plate 43, Fig. 25)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A.  
(Accession No. 130884), unpublished
Provenance: Bayḥân
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 34.5 cm.  
Width: 30 cm.  
Thickness: 9 cm.

The block functioned as a ritual stele containing three decorative raised borders, well polished and carved in high relief. It also consists of a brilliantly polished plain surface comprising a frontal and largely protruding stylized bull's head which was finely sculpted in high relief. It includes two short horns of which, specifically, the left one was well carved and polished, but the right one is partially damaged at its upper end.

The animal's face contains two round, protruding eyes, each being surrounded by four stylized wrinkles incised in low relief; it also consists of a snout comprising an incised, slightly curved line surmounting two tiny engraved nostrils.

Cat. No. 44 (Plate 44, Fig. 26)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A.  
(Accession No. 117934), unpublished
Provenance: Hadramaut
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Width: 19.5 cm.  
Height: 34.29 cm.

The block consists principally of two decorative panels which form sections of a large stele containing also other panels of which damaged remnants are attached to the two sculpted panels at their right sides, and further, at its upper side of the upper panel. The left side of the panels is substantially damaged. The upper one includes four decorative raised borders of which, particularly, the
left one is completely damaged, whilst the upper, lower, and right ones were very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief. However, the lower panel comprises four decorative raised borders of which, specifically, the lower one is partially damaged at its right section, whilst the remaining three were very roughly polished and very coarsely carved in high relief. Both panels contain two uniformly and similarly depicted stylized ibexes used as decorative motifs. Each animal was coarsely carved in high relief, in profile and in couchant position, i.e. sitting down rather than lying down, facing towards a right, raised border of the panel, to which its face is attached. Each ibex head consists of only one long horn extending backwards, at which point it is attached to an upper, raised border of the panel, and also extending downwards to the animal's body, at which point it is attached to an ear carved in an oval shape. Each ibex face was carved in cylindrical form and includes a beard carved in a rectangular shape. Each body comprises a short, up-curved tail, and front and back legs, each with a hoof. The legs were carved beneath the animal's body.

Cat. No. 45 (Plate 45, Fig. 27)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A.
(Accession No. 113232), unpublished
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 13.97 cm.
Width: 13.65 cm.
Height: 7.030 cm.

The block consists only of a decorative panel which forms part of a large stele. The panel comprises four substantially damaged decorative raised borders which were coarsely carved in high relief. It also contains a stylized ibex, coarsely carved in high relief on a roughly polished surface of the panel. The animal was carved in
profile and in couchant position, facing towards the left raised border of the panel, where the face is attached. The ibex head includes only one long, partially damaged, curved horn, and only one ear carved in a round form. The animal's face was carved in an oval shape, surmounted by a slightly protruding eye incised in low relief and in a round form. The face also consists of a mouth incised in the shape of a small line, and contains a beard carved in high relief and in a round form. The ibex's body has an up-curved tail attached to a right raised border of the panel, and two sections sculpted in a naturalistic style of which its frontal one carved beneath the head, whilst its lower one carved above the legs. The frontal and back legs were carved beneath the body, where they are attached to a lower, raised border of the panel. Each leg terminates in a hoof.

Cat. No. 46 (Plate 46, Fig. 28)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A. (Accession No. 135307), (published, Philby, 1981, Plate 4)

Material: Stone
Dimensions: Width: 12.2 cm.
Height: 26.5 cm.

The block consists only of a decorative panel which forms a part of a large decorative stele. The right and left decorative raised borders of the panel are substantially damaged, whilst the upper one is partially damaged and very coarsely carved in high relief, whilst further, the remaining section of the lower one is roughly polished and coarsely carved in high relief. The panel contains a stylized frontal bull's head, coarsely sculpted in high relief on a very roughly polished background. The head comprises different and significant details in terms of an artistic style and method of carving, including two long horns coarsely carved in high
relief, and engraved in layers extending upwards to an upper, raised border of the panel where they are attached. They were also sculpted in a slightly curved fashion so that they could be fitted within the panel, principally for decorative purpose. The head also contains two ears carved in high relief, in a deeply incised style extending outside the horn, and surmounting two large, protruding eyes which were coarsely carved in high relief, in a semi-round shape of which each is surrounded by a stylized wrinkle. Above the head, there is a motif roughly carved in high relief, in triangular form, and consisting of tiny and variously incised grooves.

A small motif which comprises tiny and variously incised grooves was roughly carved in low relief and in rectangular shape in the middle section of the animal's head. The slightly damaged bull's face was coarsely carved in high relief, and in an elongated form, so that it could be fitted within the panel, principally for decorative purpose. It also includes a snout comprising a low relief, roughly engraved, curved line surmounting two tiny engraved nostrils.

Cat. No. 47 (Plate 47, Fig. 29)

Present Location: B.M.D.W.A.A.
(Accession No. 103067), unpublished
Material: Limestone
Dimensions: Length: 39.37 cm.
Width: 27.94 cm.

The block functions as a decorative stele, and consists of a panel of which the upper and right sections are completely damaged, whilst the left one is substantially damaged. The left, raised border of the panel is mostly damaged, whilst its lower one is being restored. Both borders were very coarsely carved in high relief. The panel also contains a stylized frontal oryx head, of which the
upper and right parts are substantially damaged. The head has two ears, of which the right one was coarsely engraved in high relief, whilst the left one is completely damaged. The head also comprises two eyes, of which the right one is mostly damaged, whilst the left one is partially damaged. Each one consists of three stylized wrinkles, very coarsely engraved in high relief.

A small motif was very roughly engraved in high relief and in rectangular shape in the middle section of the animal's head, and extending upwards into two substantially damaged, stylized horns. They were very coarsely sculpted in high relief, in an incised style and in semi-round shapes above the oryx's head. A largely damaged, stylized and incised palm-leaf was used as a decorative motif, and was very roughly carved in high relief and in an oval form between the horns. The oryx's face was roughly polished, coarsely carved in low relief, in elongated and flat shape on a very roughly polished background. The animal's face also contains two nostrils of which the right one is largely damaged, whilst the left one comprises three stylized wrinkles, very coarsely engraved in high relief.
D. A Lintel  
(Cat. No. 48, Pl. 48)

Cat. No. 48 (Plate 48)

Present Location: A.M.S.U.  
unpublished  
Material: Granite

The upper part of the block is substantially damaged. The block principally consists of two rows of stylized ibexes of which the upper one includes six animals of which, specifically, the first on the right side of the block is completely damaged, whilst the second one also on the right side is mostly damaged, whilst the third one also on the right side is partially damaged. Similarly, the lower row comprises six ibexes of which, particularly, the first one on the right side of the block is completely damaged, whilst the third one also on the right side is extensively damaged. The animals in both rows were very roughly depicted, very coarsely incised in low relief and in profile of which the ones in the upper row were carved facing towards the right side of the block, whilst those in the lower row were carved facing the left side of the block. Both the ibex rows are separated by a decorative moulding, which is largely damaged at its right section and very coarsely carved in low relief. In the upper row, each ibex's head contains two long, curved horns extending downwards to the animal's body, whilst the horns of the heads in the lower row, except those of the first and third heads on the right side of the block extend backwards at which point they are attached to a moulding, and also extending downwards to the ibexes' bodies whereat they are attached. Each head in the lower row, except the first and the third ones, consists of an oval shaped ear carved in the back of the head.
beneath the horns. The heads of the third, fourth and sixth ibexes in the upper row, and also all the heads in the lower row, contain beards carved in long, semi-rectangular shapes.
Chapter 4: Individual Motifs

A) Vine Motifs

The stylized vine decorative motifs found on the Sabaean frieze (Cat. 1, Pl. 1) represent the highest level of artistic achievements of South Arabian craftsmanship. They were carved in a remarkably elaborate and detailed style, using the high relief technique seen in the Minaean frieze described above as Cat. No. 3, and on other ancient South Arabian decorative pieces such as the fragment of a Sabaean door jamb (Pl. 49) described by Pirenne (1957, 34, Pl. 7g), and the Himyerite wall panel (Pl. 50) described by Costa (1973, Pl. 8.2). Other similarities of Cat. No. 1 to various elements were illustrated in the carving of completely shaped and incised leaves and scrolls (see Cat. No. 8, Pls. 49-50), and in the use of the compact representation for the bunches of grapes shown on Plates 2 and 3, which was depicted on a Sabaean decorative wall piece discussed below (Cat. No. 33), on another Sabaean decorative wall piece shown on (Cat. No. 36) described by Nur al-Din (1985, 265) and on a Sabaean frieze shown on (Pl. 51) described by Pirenne (1957, 34, Pl. 7b).

The undulating shapes employed for stems and stalks on Cat. Nos. 1-2 (Pls. 1-2) are also carved on a Qatabanian decorative wall piece on (Pl. 52) described by Pirenne (1961, Pl. 2b).

The vine motifs on the Sabaean frieze (Cat. No. 1) were well drawn and brilliantly executed, in contrast to the workmanship on the other Sabaean frieze (Cat. No. 5) and the Himyerite frieze (Cat. No. 6) which were roughly drawn and very coarsely carved. The motifs on Cat. 1 (Pl. 1) were, further, carved and depicted in great contrast to those depicted on the Sabaean frieze (Cat. No. 6, Pl. 6)
which were very roughly represented, and they were carved in an inferior method of sculpture and style of decoration. The motifs on Cat. Nos. 4-5 (Pls. 4-5) and particularly on Cat. No. 6 (Pl. 6) indicated a marked decline in carving method and in the artistic style of decoration.

B) Animal Motifs

(1) Oryxes

The oryxes' faces on the decorative friezes (Cat. Nos. 7-12) were carved in elongated and cylindrical shapes similar to those carved on the upper row of the Minaean decorative wall piece shown on Cat. No. 31. The oryxes' faces on Cat. No. 7 were well sculpted in high relief; however, the faces on Cat. Nos. 8-10 were coarsely sculpted in high relief, similar to those on Cat. Nos. 14, 16, 21 and 25; whilst the faces on Cat. Nos. 11-13 were very coarsely sculpted in high relief similar to those shown on Cat. Nos. 17-20, 23, 26 and 27.

The oryxes' heads on Cat. Nos. 7-8 and 10 were coarsely sculpted in high relief similar to those shown on Cat. Nos. 16 and 25. However, the heads on Cat. No. 12 were very coarsely sculpted in high relief, similar to those on Cat. Nos. 11, 17-18, 26 and 27. The heads on Cat. No. 8 have two protruding eyes from which two horns were carved springing upwards and backwards, similar to those shown on Cat. Nos. 14, 18 and 19. The heads on Cat. Nos. 7-8 and 12 contain semi-circular motifs similar to those sculpted on the friezes on Cat. Nos. 16-18, 20-22, 27, 31; on a fragment of a Qatabanian decorative stele (Pl. 53) described by Cleveland (1965, Pl. 54, TC 900) and on a fragment of a Sabaean decorative stele (Pl. 54) described by Pirenne (1977, I, P.1.314).
The oryxes' heads on Cat. No. 11 were associated with dentil motifs similar to those shown on Cat. No. 31 where the heads were also associated with a moulding below the dentils, with grooves below the moulding, with recessed panels below the grooves, and with raised borders flanking the oryxes' heads.

The oryxes' faces on Cat. No. 14 were carved in elongated and semi-cylindrical forms similar to those on Cat. No. 31; on (Pl. 55, provenance unknown) in Pirenne (1977, I, p. 1305); on (Pl. 56, D.A.M.) and also on those depicted on the Himyerite frieze, described by Costa (1973, Pl. I.3). However, the oryxes' heads shown on (Pis. 55-6) were excessively carved in an elongated style so that they would be fitted within the frieze, principally for decorative purposes. The oryxes' heads on Cat. No. 14 have triangular motifs similar to those shown on Cat. No. 26, and on (Pl. 64-5).

The oryxes' heads on Cat. No. 16 have stylized beards, forelegs and shoulders carved in high relief similar to those on the Aksumite frieze shown on (Pl. 57) in (Doresse 1959, Pl. 15); on a Qatabanian frieze shown on (Pl. 58) described by Cleveland (1965, Pl. 58, TC 1093), and as Cat. No. 13 (provenance unknown). In Cat. No. 16, the stylized parts of the lower sections of the oryxes' bodies were carved in high relief and in triangular shapes, in contrast to those shown on Cat. No. 13 and on (Pis. 57-8) which were carved in high relief and in semi-circular forms.

The oryxes' faces on Cat. Nos. 20 and 21 were carved in short and cylindrical shapes similar to those shown on (Pl. 57).
(2) **Ibexes**

On the lower register of the frieze shown on Cat. No. 29 (provenance unknown) the ibexes were sculpted in high relief and in profile, similar to those on the Hadramauti stele (Cat. No. 44), on a Qatabānian relief on (Pl. 59) described by Cleveland (1965, Pl. 55, TC 1071), on a decorative lintel on Cat. No. 48 (provenance unknown), on a Minaean ritual stele on (Pl. 60) described by Schmidt (1982, I, Pl. 61a) and also on (Fig. 30) in (Twfik 1951, Fig. 27). But the ibexes on Cat. No. 48 and on (Pl. 60) were sculpted in low relief. However, the ibexes on Cat. No. 29 were sculpted in an inferior method of sculpture and style of decoration, similar to those on Cat. Nos. 28, 48, and on (Pls. 61-62) (provenance unknown) in great contrast to those depicted on Cat. No. 44, and on (Pls. 59-60) which were brilliantly and artistically sculpted.

(3) **Bulls**

The bulls' faces on Cat. No. 28 were sculpted in flat shapes, similar to those on Cat. No. 29 on (Pls. 52, 63-64), on a Hadramauti decorative stele on (Pl. 63) in (Breton 1978, Pl. 11C) and also on a decorative stele on (Pl. 64 provenance unknown) in Pirenne (1986 II, p.11.378). The bull's heads on Cat. No. 28 have triangular motifs similar to those on (Pl. 64) and on a Himyerite decorative wall panel (Pl. 65) described by Costa (1973, Pl. 14.2). However, these analogous motifs were carved in inverted positions. The bulls' heads on Cat. No. 28 were sculpted in an inferior method of sculpture similar to those on Cat. Nos. 29, 35 and on (Pls. 52 and 61), in substantial contrast to those depicted on Pls. 63-65 which were remarkably sculpted of which, particularly on (Pl. 64), fine artistic details were clearly indicated.
The bulls' heads on Cat. No. 43 were sculpted largely protruding out of the surface of the stele, in great contrast to the heads shown on (Pls. 61, 63-4) which were sculpted attached to the surfaces. However, the bulls' horns on (Pls. 63-5) were sculpted attached to the surfaces, in substantial contrast to the horns on Cat. No. 43 which were sculpted in protruding style.

C) Geometric Motifs

(1) Dentils

They were used for decorative purposes on the various architectural pieces associated with different decorative motifs and were sculpted chiefly on the facades of temple courtyards, e.g. in the temple of Awam where they were used as parts of wall decorations (Bowen and F. P. Albright, A.D.S.A. 1958, Pl. 165) (see Pl. 66). They were sculpted on a Sabaean decorative frieze shown on Cat. No. 11 and also on a Minaean decorative frieze shown on Cat. No. 22, associated with stylized frontal oryxes' heads. Dentils were sculpted on wall decorative pieces associated with other geometric motifs, i.e. recessed and grooves panels shown on a Sabaean piece on Cat. No. 30, and on a Minaean piece on Cat. No. 37, associated with stylized oryxes' heads, recessed and grooves panels shown on a Minaean piece on Cat. No. 31 and also on Cat. No. 35 (provenance unknown); associated with decorative vase motifs shown on a Sabaean piece on Cat. No. 33, and associated with a stylized bird and stylized vine of a bunch of grapes and a scroll used as decorative motifs shown on Cat. No. 36 (provenance unknown).
(2) Recessed Panels

These were used as decorative motifs, mostly sculpted on decorative wall pieces, e.g. Minaean decorative ones shown on Cat. Nos. 34, 39 and 41. They were also depicted on wall decorative pieces, largely associated with other decorative motifs, e.g. with stylized oryxes' heads, dentils, and grooves panel motifs shown on a Minaean piece on Cat. No. 31; with dentils and grooves panel motifs shown on a Sabaean piece on Cat. No. 30; on a Minaean one on Cat. No. 37; on (Pl. 66) and on a Sabaean relief shown on (Pl. 67) in (A.M.S.U., Accession No. 219). Recessed panel motifs were, further, sculpted on wall decorative pieces associated with grooves panel decorative motifs shown on Minaean pieces on Cat. Nos. 32, 38 and 40) and also on a Himyerite one shown on (Pl. 2.2) in (Costa 1973). However, the recessed panels motifs were depicted on other architectural elements, e.g. on a decorative frieze associated with stylized oryxes' heads decorative motifs (see PI. 55) and on an Aksûmite ritual stele shown on (Pl. 68) in (Garbini 1966, Pl. 16).

(3) Grooves Panels

They were used as decorative motifs sculptured principally on decorative wall pieces shown on Cat. Nos. 38, 40 and 42 (provenances unknown). They were sculpted associated with recessed panels decorative motifs as shown on a Minaean piece on Cat. No. 32 and on a Himyerite piece (Costa 1973, Pl. 2.2). They were depicted associated with dentils and recessed panels motifs as shown on a Sabaean piece on Cat. No. 30, on a Minaean one on Cat. No. 37 and on (Pl. 66). They were sculpted associated with dentils motifs and also with a stylized frontal oryxes' head decorative motif as shown
on Cat. No. 35 (provenance unknown). They were sculpted associated with recessed panels, dentils and stylized oryxes' head decorative motifs as shown on a Minaean piece on Cat. No. 31.
CONCLUSION

The friezes on Cat. Nos. 1-29, the wall pieces on Cat. Nos. 30-44, and the stelae on Cat. Nos. 46-7 and on (Pl. 63) were frequently used for decorative purposes and were particularly sculpted on temples. However, the stelae on Cat. No. 43-5, on (Pl. 60), and on (Fig. 30), the lintel on Cat. No. 48, and the door jamb on (Pl. 73) were principally used for ritual purposes and were associated with temples where they depicted ceremonial, processional and sacrificial (i.e votive) rites undertaken by the priests in the different kingdoms of ancient South West Arabia.

Vine and geometric motifs were principally used for decorative purposes, whilst animal motifs were chiefly used for both ritual and decorative purposes. Animal motifs were more frequently, widely, and substantially used than vine and geometric motifs, which might have been attributable to the special divine characteristics which were particularly ascribed to the oryx, ibex and bull by the ancient peoples of South West Arabia.

Animal and vine motifs were also more widely and frequently used than geometric motifs because there were great abundances of these animals (oryxes, ibexes and bulls), and also of the vines in the environment of ancient South West Arabia.

The similarities of various decorative pieces and motifs among the principal civilizations of ancient South West Arabia indicate that there were inter-regional contacts among the peoples of the different kingdoms there. These contacts greatly enhanced the movement and the borrowing of artistic ideas, methods of sculpture and style of decorations. Many of these similar decorative pieces and motifs were probably sculpted by the same artists.
Foreign Artistic Influences

The idea that Hellenistic artistic attributes and styles did not develop in ancient South West Arabia was advocated by Carl Rathjens. He argued that this area was an arid, i.e. unsuitable area for the development of Hellenistic artistic ideas, and that Hellenistic artistic traits and achievements were substantially developed in North Arabia which was a fertile, i.e. appropriate, area for such a development because it was located near the principal Hellenistic centres of ancient civilizations, e.g. Petra, Palmyra (Rathjens 1950, 30).

However, the crucial role of trade relations between the ancient kingdoms of South West Arabia and other principal centres for civilizations using land and sea routes had substantially enhanced the movements of particular artistic ideas, decorative motifs and architectural concepts which were acquired (i.e. borrowed) in the process of international commercial transactions regardless of the great distances between these centres of civilizations (Segall 1957, 36).

The vine motifs depicted on Cat. Nos. 1 and 2 and also on other pieces already discussed (Ch. 4) in connection with these two pieces, show Hellenistic artistic attributes, i.e. the undulating stems and stalks, the overlapping of the motifs, and also the frequent use of mouldings and raised borders principally used for decorative purposes, and also for providing cohesiveness and continuity for the carved pieces and motifs. Parallel evidence was indicated on Palmyrene reliefs described by Colledge (1976, Pls. 11-12, 38, 46, 49). Parallel examples were also illustrated on a Nabataean relief described by Glueck (1965, Pl. 30a-b).
However, there are particular artistic traits which are characteristically South Western Arabian. These authentic attributes are illustrated in the sculpture of stylized ibexes in profile e.g. Cat. Nos. 44, 48, (Pls. 59-60, Fig. 30) even though parallel evidences were found in Mesopotamian civilizations as shown on (Pl. 13e) in (Frankfort 1939), on (Pl. 67) in (Strommenger and Hirmer 1964), on (Pl. 97) in (Margueron 1967), and on (Pl. 56) in (Oates 1970). These traits were also indicated in the sculpture of stylized oryxes' heads in an excessively elongated style so that they would be fitted within the architectural components for decorative purposes (see Pls. 55-6), and also in the sculpture of the stylized frontal parts of the animals' bodies, indicating a naturalistic artistic style (see Cat. Nos. 13-4; Pl. 58).

Ancient commercial relations between the two kingdoms of Sabā and Akṣūme had enhanced artistic influences of the Sabaean civilization on the Akṣūmite one (Doresse 1959, 43). Sabaean artistic attributes of the sculpted, stylized frontal oryxes' heads, and also of the stylized naturalistic frontal sections of the animals' bodies were shown on an Akṣūmite frieze on (Pl. 57) in (Doresse 1959, Pl. 15). The Sabaean geometric motifs (i.e. the recessed panels) shown on an Akṣūmite ritual stele (Pl. 68) in (Garbini 1966, Pl. 16) illustrated genuine Sabaean artistic influences. These influences indicated that ancient civilizations of South West Arabia were not only recipients of particular artistic traits, styles and methods, but were also authentic sources for artistic influences and inspirations which were substantially enhanced by international trade contacts.
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Cat. No. 1: Stylized vine motifs.
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