

traditions. Oral traditions list Asantemanso and Adansemanso amongst the five original Akan towns, and archaeological results have found these two sites to be the two oldest. Similarly, archaeological finds place the occupation of Esiease in the late seventeenth century, while oral tradition claims Esiease to have been settled after leaving Denkyira during the time of troubles at that date.

This last field season culminated with the archaeological staff hosting an exhibition of artefacts found during the 1991 season at the Kyekyeku Hotel in Kokofu. Residents of Kokofu, Anyinam, and Esiease delighted in the opportunity to see and learn about the many objects that could be found by digging in the ground.

Future Research

In summary, finds from this last season have greatly contributed to understanding the development of Asante through the historic period, and to the greater understanding of Akan culture over the last thousand years.

The amicable relationships with local residents and enthusiastic support of the Asantehene ensure a positive future for on-going research in the Asante region. Many questions on Asante history and culture remain to be answered. Work is being planned to explore the early occupation of Kumasi and continue excavations at the site of Adansemanso.

■ **KENYA**

Report on a "Stone Pillar" Site Northeast of Jarigole Burial Mound, East Turkana

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This paper reports the discovery of a possible new stone pillar site (Bjjj 4) by the author near the eastern shores of Lake Turkana, Kenya. The site is located in North Horr Location, Marsabit District, and lies just beyond the southern boundary of Sibiloi National Park. It is approximately 2 km northeast of Jarigole waterhole and 0.5 km off the road to Allia Bay rangers' camp. The site lies 34° NE of Jarigole Stone Pillar Site/Burial Mound at a distance of approximately 600 m. The part of the site that contains the highest artefact density measures about 7.6 x 9.1 m while the maximum area of artefact distribution covers 14 x 16 m.

Stone Pillars

The site exhibits upright columns of basalt which are thought to be stone pillars. Though they are small compared to the pillars found in Jarigole (personal observation) and Namoritunga (Lynch and Robbins 1978), there is little doubt about the sites' potential in understanding recent culture history in the Lake Turkana basin.

To the north of the site are two standing stones with a maximum height of 18 cm and 6 cm. These are presumed to be double pillars for they are only 4 cm apart. They have a maximum width of 13 cm and 7 cm, while the thickness is 10 cm and 15 cm, respectively. To the south, approximately 3.5 m from the north double pillars, are two other stones standing 3 cm apart. They are also presumed to be double pillars and measure to a height of 12 cm and 9 cm. They

have a maximum width of 11 cm and 17 cm, and a maximum thickness of 17 cm and 13 cm, respectively. About 2.3 cm northeast of the north double pillars is a single pillar, with a maximum height of 11 cm, a maximum thickness of 8 cm, and a maximum width of 7 cm. Opposite this single pillar, 65 cm to the southeast, is another single pillar, with a height of 9 cm, a maximum thickness of 16 cm, and a maximum width of 14 cm. On the western side of the site is another single pillar with a maximum height of 11 cm, a maximum width of 15 cm, and maximum thickness of 18 cm. The number of possible pillars at the site might be more than seven. However, until excavations are carried out, it is hard to ascertain whether some of the stone blocks embedded in the surface are a result of human activities. There are at least five possible basalt pillars lying on the surface that are presumed to have been knocked out of the ground by people or animals.

Pottery

The surface is littered with potsherds that exhibit a reddish brown to light orange colour. Three sherds have a coating of calcium carbonate inclusions. The pottery exhibits decoration similar to the Nderit ware of Central Kenya (Bower et al 1977) and also resembles the pottery excavated from the nearby Jarigole Stone Pillar Site (Merrick, personal communication).

Possible pothandles and/or figurine parts (n = 4) were also found. A figurine measuring to a maximum length of 13 cm lies on the surface. Three sherds were noted to be protruding from the surface and are presumed to be in situ. The biggest undecorated sherd found on the surface has a maximum length of 5 cm and a maximum width of 4 cm. The biggest decorated rim sherd is 5 cm long and 7 cm wide.

Lithics

Preliminary survey indicates that few Late Stone Age tools lie on the surface, although two obsidian flakes were found. Another three basalt flakes and a core scraper reminiscent of Early Stone Age or Middle Stone Age types were also found.

The possible ESA and MSA artifacts are probably not related to the stone pillar occurrence, for similar surface finds occur at the Jarigole Pillar Site, but never in situ (Merrick, personal communication).

Importance of the Site

The stone pillars of northern Kenya have generated much interest since Lynch and Robbins (1978) described them as the first evidence of archaeoastronomical construction in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, this interpretation was subjected to a devastating critique by Soper (1982), and the function of the stone pillar sites remains undetermined.

The GbJj4 site is important partly because of its proximity to the Jarigole site, with which it shares Nderit pottery and sherds representing other types of similar age. Nderit pottery is dated to 4000 b.p. in the Lake Turkana basin (Barthelme 1985) and is associated with domestic stock (Marshall et al. 1985). Thus the GbJj4 site may shed light upon the advent of pastoral economies in the basin.

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Plant Remains from a Sirikwa Culture Site at Hyrax Hill, Nakuru, Kenya

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This article reports a preliminary examination of plant remains and the tentative implications that have so far been deduced from them. The plant samples were acquired by archaeological excavations at one of the Hyrax Sirikwa sites within Nakuru Municipality, Kenya. Hyrax Hill has numerous prehistoric sites that represent occupations dating as far back as the Neolithic period. Several of the Neolithic sites have been studied (see Leakey 1945, Onyango-Abuje 1977, Merrick 1983). However, of specific relevance to this report are the Sirikwa culture sites that are found in a group throughout the lower northwestern portion of the hill. There are at least 13 of these Sirikwa occurrences comprising about 13 hollows and 13 mounds.

Generally, Sirikwa sites are characterised by the presence of shallow circular depressions (hollows) about 20 m in diameter with an average depth of about

2.4 m. The hollows are always flanked by low-lying garbage mounds on one side of their entrance. The mounds rise to an average height of about 1 m. Other site characteristics include the occurrence of pot sherds representing Sirikwa/Lanet ware, pottery spouts and handles, crude obsidian implements, bone tools, domestic faunal remains, and structural features in the form of house remains.

Sirikwa culture is believed to have originated shortly after 1000 A.D. and possibly long before (around the seventh century A.D.), and survived up to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries A.D. It is possible that Sirikwa culture was a development from the Pastoral Neolithic Elmenteitan culture and represented a local transition from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Several Hyrax Hill Sirikwa sites have been archaeologically studied (e.g., Leakey 1945, Sutton 1987, Kyute 1991b), and it was during the most recent project in 1990 that considerable effort was made to recover floral remains from one of the site's mound deposits. Earlier efforts by Sutton (1987) yielded a few seeds that were poorly carbonised though identifiable to local grass species. Both previous excavations and my own work have yielded large quantities of faunal remains that strongly indicated a pastoral economy, but it is only the 1990 excavations that have led to the recovery of botanical samples sufficient to shed light on possible cultivation or the gathering of wild plants.

The site that was excavated is comprised of both Mound K and Hollow L, and represents the northernmost relic amongst the Sirikwa concentration at Hyrax Hill. The mound covers about 1560 m². Excavations were done largely on the mound part of the site by the author in 1990 by way of exposing six pits (Kyule 1991a). The preferred method of excavation involved the digging of 2 x 2 m pits that were subsequently enlarged owing to the occurrence of structural features, concentrations of artefacts, and faunal remains. Spatially, about 70 m² representing 4.5% of the mound, were excavated in arbitrary levels of 10 cm spits to an average depth of 140 cm below the