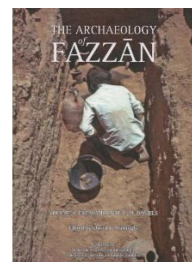

BOOK REVIEW



The Archaeology of Fazzān: Volume 3, Excavations of C.M. Daniels. By David J. Mattingly (ed.). Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahariya Department of Antiquities, Tripoli, and The Society for Libyan Studies, London, 2010, xxv + 548 pp., 21 pp. Arabic summary, 488 figures, 65 tables, index. ISBN 978-1-900971-10-2 (Hardcover). £ 60.00.

This third of four planned volumes in the *Archaeology of Fazzān* series, edited by David J Mattingly (hereafter 'DJM'), publishes pioneering excavations conducted during the 1960s–70s by the late Charles Manser Daniels (hereafter 'CMD') in the *Fazzān* region of the central Sahara Desert, southwest Libya. This volume brings to light hitherto unpublished data, making an important contribution to our knowledge about the ancient Saharan African people known as the Garamantes.

The Garamantes are believed to have emerged out of localised late-pastoral traditions, movements of people from the Nile Valley, sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean from the beginning of the first millennium BC, peaking in the Greco-Roman period. Thought to have been key to early Trans-Saharan trade, the Garamantian territories are centred round the urban centre of *Jarma* in the *Wādī al-Ajāl*.

Split into four parts, *Archaeology of Fazzān volume 3* includes an incredible 435 colour photographs, 40 black and white photographs and many more plans and drawings of sites, sections, pottery profiles, lithics and other finds from the original CMD excavations, complemented by photographs and drawings from more recent fieldwork. Summary tables on site-phasing, diagnostic pottery and find-types serve as useful quick-reference tools for what is an unavoidably data-intensive text. The absence of an introduction to the Garamantes, however, does demand prior knowledge or a reading alongside the previous volumes in the *Fazzān* series (MATTINGLY 2003, 2007).

The introductory chapter provides an overview of CMD's career. Keeper of the Museum of Antiquities and Lecturer at the University of Newcastle, CMD made ten research campaigns to Libya between 1958 and 1977 as well as conducting research in Sudan during the 1980s. A perfectionist, CMD published only one

short book and nine articles on the Garamantes before his premature death in 1996. He nevertheless left a significant corpus of data in an accessible archival format. This volume represents the culmination of a Leverhulme funded project to fully publish CMD's Libyan Sahara excavations by DJM, John Dore, David Edwards and John Hawthorne. The wealth of the archive and the sudden death of John Dore in 2008 contributed to a delayed publication, nevertheless admirably carried forward to completion by DJM. CMD's data is supplemented throughout with findings from DJM's *Fazzān Project* (1997–2002, hereafter 'FP') and *Desert Migrations Project* (2007–2011, hereafter 'DMP').

The first chapter in part one consolidates in a gazetteer format CMD's published early excavations with unpublished site surveys on and around the detached escarpment promontory of *Zinkekrā*. Defensive wall systems and rock-art identified in FP surveys provide higher resolution to the data whilst radiocarbon dating has enabled up-to-date phasing of CMD's excavated sites. *Zinkekrā* is identified as an early and proto-urban hill-fort settlement — architecturally akin to recent Dogon settlements in Niger — occupied between 1000 BC and *ca* AD 100. Escarpment settlements are later supplanted with cairn cemeteries.

Chapter two presents data from smaller scale surveys and excavations at three escarpment settlements of oval hut footings to the west of *Zinkekrā*: the proto-urban (*ca* 500–1 BC) site of *Tinda*, the early Garamantian (*ca* 1000–500 BC) site of *Al-Khara'iq* and the less securely dated site of *Ikhliif*, probably occupied from the late pastoral to early Garamantian periods.

Part Two deals with the excavations of the oasis settlements of *Sāniat Jibrīl* and *Sāniat Sulaymān Krayda* in chapters three and four, respectively. Both are located in the *wādī* floor, east of the escarpment

settlements and are dated to the Classical Garamantian period (*ca* AD 1–400), consistent with the view that settlements shifted from the escarpment to the wādī floor in the Classical Garamantian period. While the full excavation report of *Jarma* in the *Archaeology of the Fazzān 4* remains in preparation, this, together with Liverani's excavations at *Aghram Nadarif* (LIVERANI 2005), represents the only recent publication of Garamantian settlements.

Largely unpublished material from *Sāniat Jibrīl* is consolidated in a lengthy third chapter: CMD's survey and excavations in 1965, 1971 and 1973; FP survey in 1997–98 and 2000; and DMP sampling from CMD's spoil heap in 2009. A contextual overview of the area based on the FP survey (*pp.* 126–130) is followed by the details of the CMD excavations (*pp.* 131–154) and an interpretative discussion of the dating (*pp.* 154–204), including subsections on building function and date (*pp.* 154–160), pottery assemblage (*pp.* 161–189) and manufacturing and economic activity (*pp.* 189–204). The site, occupied from before *ca* AD 50–80, displays various phases of rectilinear mud-brick constructions, declining in use and eventually abandoned after the fourth century. Evidence of food processing, bead, glass and pottery manufacturing, weaving and metalworking activities associated with U-shaped structural features, suggests a domestic settlement with multi-purpose social and functional areas used for cottage industry type activities. Systematic sieving of CMD's spoil-heaps in 2009, nonetheless suggests higher industrial activity (of bead production especially) than previously appreciated, highlighting the importance of systematic sieving during Saharan excavations, especially given the significance of beads in Saharan society (*p.* 194). Only a single trench of a mud-brick structure was excavated during CMD's last season in 1977 at *Sāniat Sulaymān Krayda*, which is presented in a shorter chapter four, supplemented by data from FP survey in 1999.

The third and largest part, chapters five to seven, are devoted to Garamantian cemeteries, particularly CMD's unpublished excavations at *Sāniat Bin Huwaydī* conducted in 1973 and 1977. These are published in the format of a burial catalogue (*pp.* 244–298), which integrates results mainly from poorly published excavations in 1962–63 by Ayoub (*pp.* 222–243). Used from the later first century to the fourth or fifth century, the cemetery occupies an area of *ca* 100 meters diameter and consists of several phases of overlying and intercutting mud-brick tombs, forming a raised sandy mound. Tombs have rectilinear or circular superstructures typically furnished with stelae and offering tables. Circular shafts contain crouch burials of various orientation, wrapped in red-stained cloth or leather shrouds, accompanied by grave

goods: a panoply of locally manufactured and imported (mainly Roman) wares from the Mediterranean region. Separate sections are dedicated to these grave-goods, including fine-wares (*pp.* 313–327), lamps (*pp.* 327–331), amphorae (*pp.* 332–336), imported wheel-made coarse-wares (*pp.* 337–338), local handmade wares (*pp.* 338–340), glass and faience (*pp.* 340–341), and saddle querns and mortars (*p.* 341). Findings of excavations conducted at the cemetery in 1995 by Helmut Ziegert displayed at the *Jarma* museum could provide useful comparanda, but remain unpublished.

Chapter six presents CMD's excavations at stone-built cairn cemeteries around the escarpment sites of *Tāqallit* (*pp.* 344–351), *Zinkekrā* (*pp.* 352–358), *Al-Khara 'iq* (*p.* 372) and *Ikhliif* (*p.* 373), a mud-brick pyramid tomb cemetery at *Al-Hatīya* (*p.* 352), the so-called Royal cemetery of giant stepped-tombs close to the *Jarma* escarpment (*pp.* 359–369) and two ashlar-stone built Mausolea at *Tuwash* and *al-Fugār* (*pp.* 370–371). This data is a useful precursor to the publication of the DMP project, which has conducted further work at some of these cemeteries (MATTINGLY *et al.* 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010a/b, 2011) and builds on knowledge of Saharan burial rites, developed particularly by Gabriel CAMPS (1961) and, more recently, Savino DI LERNIA & Georgio MANZI (2002).

Paleodemographic and paleopathological analyses of human osteological material conducted by anthropologists Efthymia Nikita, Federica Crivellaro, Jay Stork, Robert Foley and Marta Lahr are presented in chapter seven. The samples of 56 individuals (from 68 recorded in CMD's cemetery excavations) display little evidence of trauma and infectious diseases, but a high incidence of dental diseases, osteoarthritis and nutritional disorders, comparable with other African populations. Nonmetric cranial and mandibular traits are used to determine biological affinities between the Garamantes and other African populations, interestingly suggesting closer affinities with sub-Saharan Africans and Roman Egyptians, followed by Tunisian and Algerian populations, then Nubian and other Sudanese populations.

The fourth and final part, "Other Excavation Finds", includes non-ceramic finds from CMD and Ayoub's excavations in chapter eight, with significant contributions by Birgitta Hoffmann and Charlotte Tagart, including catalogues of glass and faience (*pp.* 412–460); beads (*pp.* 461–470); bead grinders, (by Franca Cole, *pp.* 470–474); stone rings or bangles (*p.* 474); metal artefacts (*pp.* 475–481); stone objects (*pp.* 481–484); other miscellany (*pp.* 484–485); and textiles and pottery with impressed matting decoration (by John Peter Wild, *pp.* 486–488).