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dence (based on the mortality patterns of gazelle and the distribution of bird species) that hunting at Sabi Abyad mainly took place in autumn and winter, when the herds were generally large and confined within a limited territory. In view of its very considerable meat yield, the aurochs undoubtedly was a much appreciated prey.

But the hunting of this large and fierce animal must have been a rather tiresome task, most likely involving the joint efforts of a group of hunters, not only during the kill itself but also during the subsequent stages of butchering and/or transport of the heavy carcass to the settlement. The small but sharp Haparsa point was an effective weapon, deeply penetrating its target and immediately lethal when hitting vital organs, such as the throat artery, lungs, heart and spinal cord. But this was not the case at Sabi Abyad, and many more hits may have been required to bring the animal to its knees.

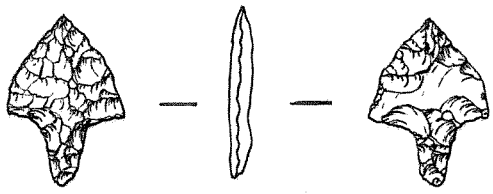

Fig. 2. Complete Haparsa Point with traces of a black adhesive on the tang; from Level 6 of the Burnt Village at Tell Sabi Abyad, *ca.* 6000 B.C. <drawing by Pieter Collet, scale: 1:1>.

Undoubtedly, the animal, once frightened, would have tried to flee in a direction away from its assailants, but as we have seen, the hunter using our Haparsa point must have stood somewhere in front of his prey. This position makes sense only when assuming that the animal was either caught in ambush or stood isolated from the rest of the herd and surrounded by a group of hunters, who were shooting from various directions while coming closer.

To the best of our knowledge, the present scapula with its arrowhead and unhealed lesion is unique for the Near East of this period. Evidence for similar injuries on aurochs shoulder-blades and other skeletal elements mainly comes from northwestern Europe, in particular from Mesolithic sites and peat bogs in Denmark, such as at Grønge Mose and Vig (Noe-Nygaard 1974: 220-21). At Stellmoor in northern Germany, it was the shoulder blades, vertebrae and ribs of reindeer that showed numerous unhealed fractures due to the impact of hunting weapons. Notably, in many cases the flint implements were still present in the bone, as at Sabi Abyad (Bratlund 1991).

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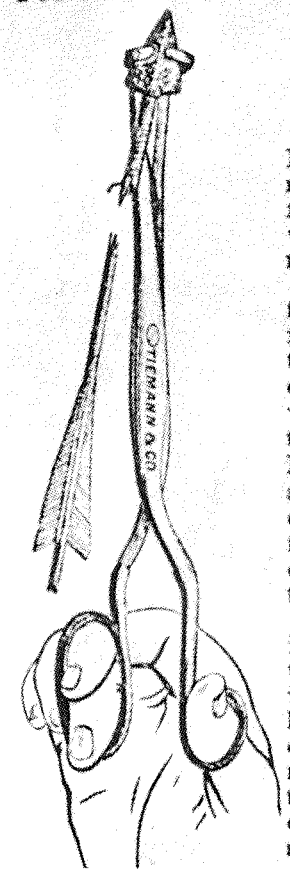
FORCEPS FOR THE EXTRACTION OF ARROW-HEADS.

By J. H. BILL, M.D.,

SURGEON U. S. ARMY.



I HAVE devised the forceps represented in the wood-cut for the extraction of arrows, which have been made for me by Tiemann & Co.

The cut describes itself sufficiently, but I will add that for arrows not lodged in bone they should be introduced closed, and used as a snare by which the iron or flint point of the arrow may be entangled. For an arrow lodged, they are to be introduced closed, carried down alongside the flat surface of the arrow-head, opened, and then closed on the foreign body.

In length they are nine inches. From the points to the joint—which must be very strong—is two and a half inches. The handles are crossed, and provided with a ring large enough to admit three fingers. The points are one-half inch or a little less across.

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A Third Little Head From LPPNB Basta, Southern Jordan

Hans Georg K. Gebel (Free University of Berlin) and
Bo Dahl Hermansen (Carsten Niebuhr Institute, Copenhagen)

During the 1999 season of excavations at Ba'ja, local residents brought a small human head carved from steatite to one of the authors (HGKG), explaining that it was found in Basta while digging in a building plot, and that it was kept to hand it over to one the excavators of Basta. The find was then reported to the Department of Antiquities in Petra and Amman, and inventoried with the finds of Ba'ja 1999 (Field number 11803). It is now stored in the Department of Antiquities, Amman, with other exceptional finds from the Ba'ja 1999 season.

The head is roughly similar both in size and shape to the two heads already published from LPPNB layers in Basta (Hermansen 1997: Plate 4:A-B.). The styles of all the three are different, however, as are their raw materials. The new head is made from a hitherto unknown exotic mineral at Neolithic Basta, a soft schist-

like steatite of an ochre-greenish colour with "cloudy" black and brown bands. All the surfaces are smooth and bear a greasy gloss, which is characteristic for the raw material but is possibly also the result of rubbing wear ("Taschenglanz", or "pocket polish"). The direction of the stone grain follows the longitudinal axis of the artefact.

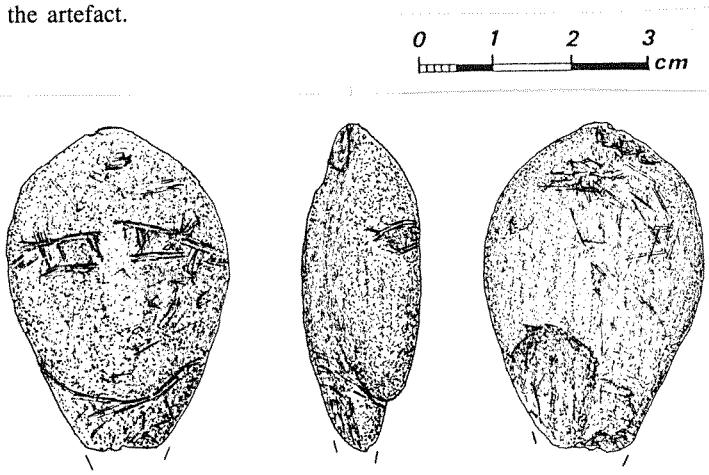

Fig. 1. The new head from Basta (steatite, preserved length: 44.3mm, max. width: 29.4mm, max. thickness: 15.3mm; drawing by H.G.K. Gebel).

The state of preservation is unclear: obvious damage in the neck area indicates that at least the neck was longer than preserved. If the completely preserved Green Head from Basta represents a common figurine type (amulet), we may not reconstruct more than the stump of a neck here. If it represents part of a human figurine with a body, we would not be able to quote parallels with such a head style. However, the neck of such a piece would have been the weakest part and vulnerable to breakage.

Fig. 2. Enlargement of the new Basta head (view of face).

It also is not certain whether the modeling of the head's details was finished. While the general shape of the head looks finished and possibly results from a combined carving/ grinding process (there are no traces of carving, except for below the chin), only the squarish-rectangular eyes were marked by linear cut marks that meet in approximately rectangular angles (as deep as 1.2mm). No mouth or nose is indicated, but the presumed nose area is the most prominent elevation in the section. Some cut marks in other parts of the face may represent earlier attempts to shape the head (it would be going too far to interpret these as representations of tattoos).

The new head has a common style of shape with the two other heads (Hermansen 1997), which would allow us to speak of a distinctive LPPNB type:

1) an inverted drop-shaped face with a somewhat pointed head,
2) similar dimensions ("micro-heads")
3) flattish, plano-convex longitudinal section (between the back of the head and the face), and
4) massive, plano-convex transverse section (between the head and the face)

To our knowledge, this type of artefact is so far known only from Basta. Their original meaning remains insecure, but some context of their finding might be related to reciprocal practices between living and dead (*cf.* Hermansen 1997). As for their original meaning (use), we think that they may be fetishes that are unconnected with gender representation. Subrecent and elsewhere, similar small miniature masks (pendants, called *ikhokho*) are reported from the Middle Pende groups on the Kwilu in southwestern Zaire. Here they are reported to occur in two contexts: as made by relatives to represent an ill person in a healing ceremony, or pieces manufactured by specialists as ornaments (pendants) in order to testify to the good taste of the bearer (Biebuyck and Herreman 1995/96: 262 *f*).

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Flint "Bowlets" from the LPPNB of Southern Jordan

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We report here a distinctive but rare flint item that so far -according to our knowledge- has only been recorded in southern Jordan, from Basta (Nissen, Muheisen and Gebel *et al.* 1991: 25*f*, Pl. III: upper left) and now from Ba'ja. In both sites these naturally concave flint "bowlets" occur in very small numbers (from each site there are only 3 specimens). With their shallow concavities, which are mostly natural depressions in the raw material, they appear bowl-like after having been flaked to have a rounded shape. Their general characteristics are:

- -round shapes (diameter 5-10 cm) cvreated around a natural depression
- -concave-convex sections
- -concave natural surfaces that result from thermal impacts (hea ting or freezing, so-called "weather pops") or represent a cortical depression (e.g. the above quoted example from Basta)
- -convex bottoms which either represent the spherical/ rounded parts of a nodule (bearing either cortex or wadi battering) or which were flaked in the manner of a one-sided discoidal core
- -lateral flaking and chipping along (parts of) the perpendicular obverse in order to create a more round shape and smooth edges.

The three pieces presented here (Fig. 1: a-c) all were found in the 1999 season of Ba'ja excavations (*cf.* report to come in *Neo-Lithics* 3/99), and are described here in detail in order to draw attention to these items among the flint specialists and excavators.

Ba'ja 12026 (Fig. 1:a). The basic form is one half (a natural fragment) of a small flat nodule with preserved cortex. Over most of the (upper) surface of the break, natural heat spalls (flakes) created a depression. The bottom surface is abraded cortex (with