



SIDON, BURIAL 27 SKELETAL REPORT

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These very incomplete remains were found in association with many metal and pottery artefacts (see p. 21). The bones were badly fragmented when found and, not surprisingly, crumbled when lifted. As with many of the Sidon skeletons the bone proved much softer than the surrounding sandy matrix and this made retrieval doubly difficult. The cranium was completely flattened with only the tooth crowns surviving relatively intact. Little of the spine and pelvis had survived, both knees were crushed and no long bones were sufficiently intact to give a precise estimate of stature. The flexed right elbow and the bones of the left wrist had been completely destroyed.

The body had been laid on its right side in a flexed position, with the head to the East and feet to the West. The back, sacrum and left humerus were against the south wall of the grave. The arms were flexed, with the left forearm on the chest. Of the many artefacts found in the grave, those most intimately related to the skeleton were a silver headband, a silver anklet on the right ankle, a silver bracelet on the right wrist and a gold and carnelian bracelet on the left. Silver studs and pins around the abdomen and behind the lumbar region suggest the original presence of a belt.

The head and right foot had apparently been placed on large white stones as had a bronze duck-billed axe. The right foot was sent to Bradford still strongly attached to its white stone.

With so much of the skeleton fragmented or pulverized most of the precise osteological clues to age and sex were missing. However the diameters of the right femoral head and the head of the left radius strongly suggest that this individual was male. On-site measurements of the femora suggest that this individual was tall for the period, being 182 ± 3 cm in height. All surviving epiphyses were fused which indicates a minimum age of 30 years and the morphology of a single surviving sternal rib-end and moderate wear on the third molars (only erupted and functional from 19 years) suggest an age of 30 to 40 years.