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THE EXCAVATION OF KAOLE RUINS

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an archaeological report of excavations that took place at the site of Kaole Ruins in July 2000. Kaole is located 5 km south of the town of Bagamoyo (see Fig. 2.1 in *Kwekason* this volume). It should be noted here that Kaole area comprises three sites. The area with the earliest occupation dating from about AD 600 to about AD 700, is located 2km south of the Kaole Ruins at the point where the Kaole/Mbegani creek ends. This site was discovered during survey work in June-July 2000. From a layer 40cm below surface pottery of the early Triangular Incised Ware (TIW) tradition (see Chami 1994, 1998) was found.

The second site known as "Kaole Hill" is located on the upper-terrace (Mtoni Terrace) just before one descends to the ruins (Fig. 1). The 1990 excavations showed that the area was occupied by the people of the Later TIW Phase dating back to AD 800. The area continued being occupied up to about AD 1800 (Chami 1994).

The third site is Kaole Ruins (Fig. 3). This occurs at the "beach terrace" (see Chami 1994; *Kwekason* in this volume). The site comprises several monuments, whose dates range from AD 1400 to AD 1800. The site of Kaole Ruins is of

interest to this discussion because it attracts many visitors. However, apart from several expeditions to the site, no major archaeological report has been published.

The earliest archaeological work at the site of Kaole Ruins is that of the Tanganyika Antiquity Department led by Neville Chittick between 1958 and 1959. Excavations in the mosque to the north, in the house nearby and the mosque to the east were conducted. Two anecdotal reports of those excavations can be seen in Chittick (1970) and Mturi (1974). No other known work took place in the area until 1989 when the University of Dar-es-Salaam Field School excavated some parts of the site. Bill Fawcett, who led the expedition, reported this work at the 2000 World Archaeological Conference in Cape Town. Another expedition is that of 1998 by some Tanzania Antiquity members led by Mr. Msuya.

SURVEY WORK

The survey work was conducted in the area south of Kaole Ruins extending about 2km. It was a random walk, first following the shoreline running along the creek, and turning inland towards cultivated farms and the road which crosses the margin of the creek to Kaole