

MUSEUM MONOGRAPHS

CAVE EXPLORATIONS IN IRAN  
1949

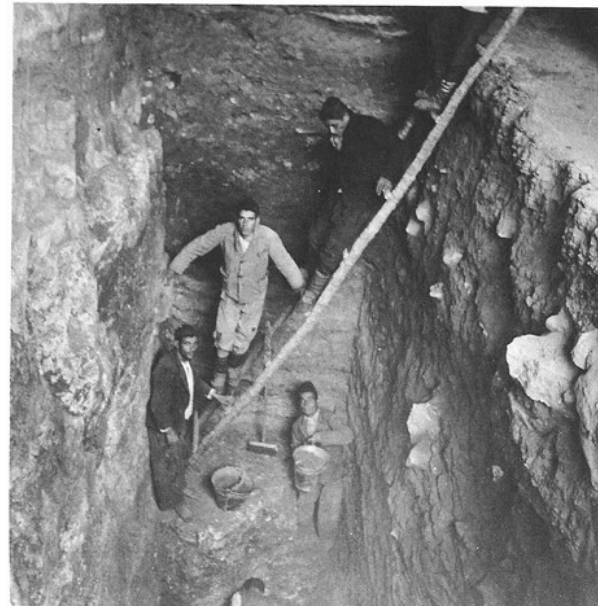
CARLETON S. COON

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PHILADELPHIA  
1951

# Carleton Coon's excavations



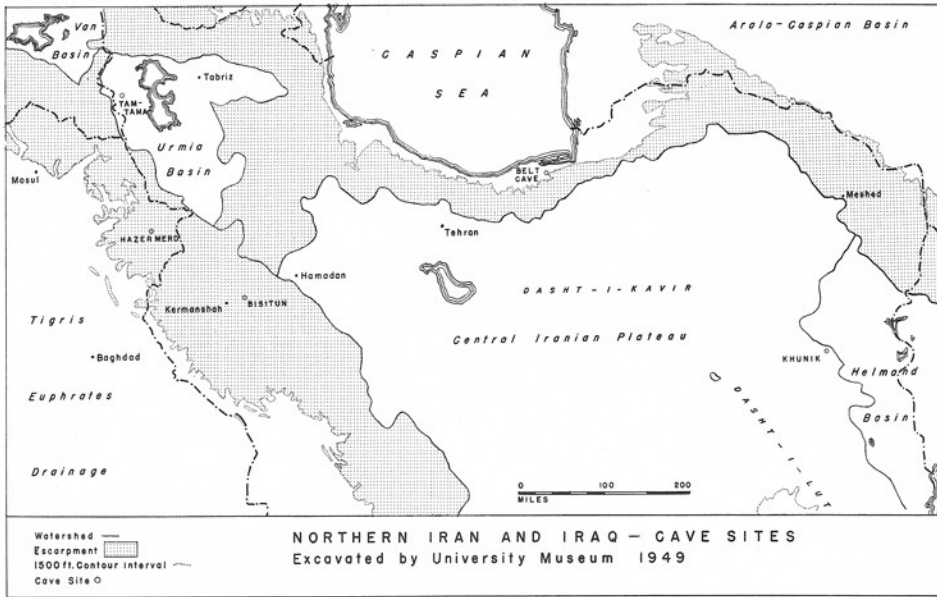
View over the Caspian from the sifting platform.



Belt Cave.

The bucket line.

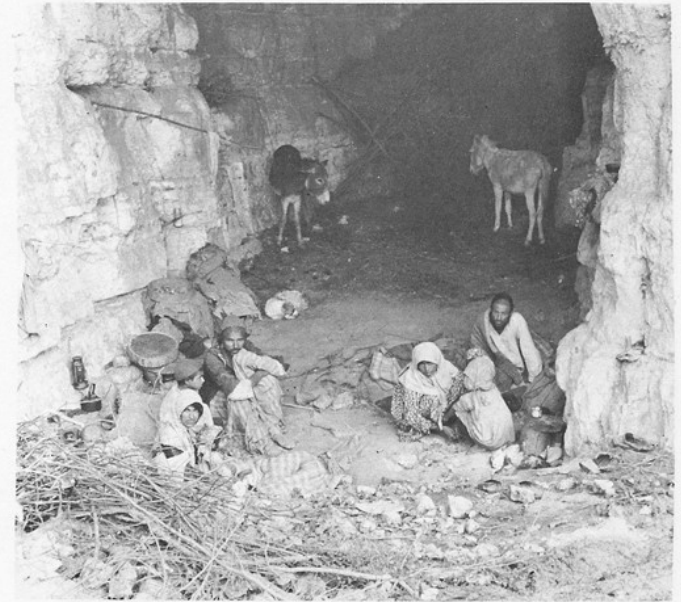
Belt Cave on the Caspian Sea



# Belt Cave and Occupants



From across the stream.

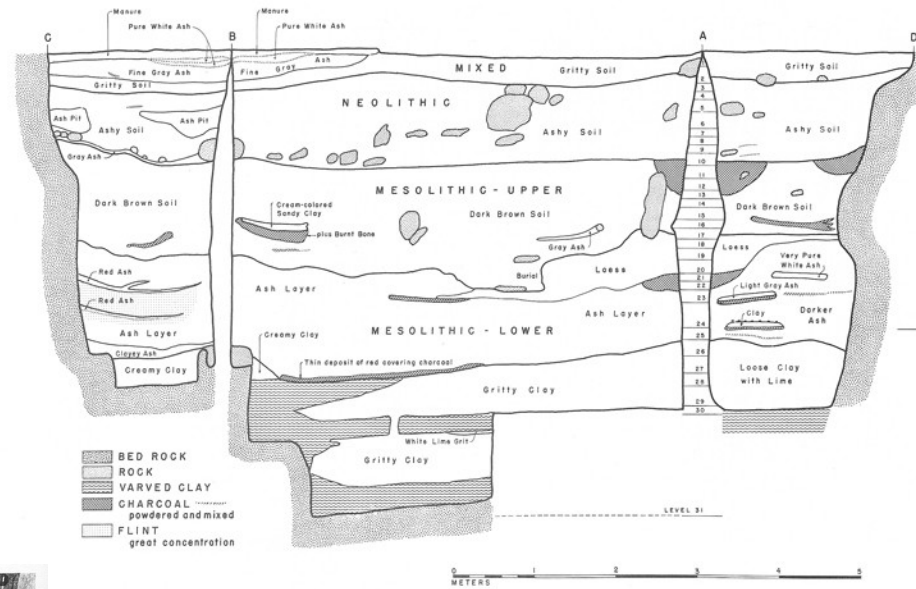
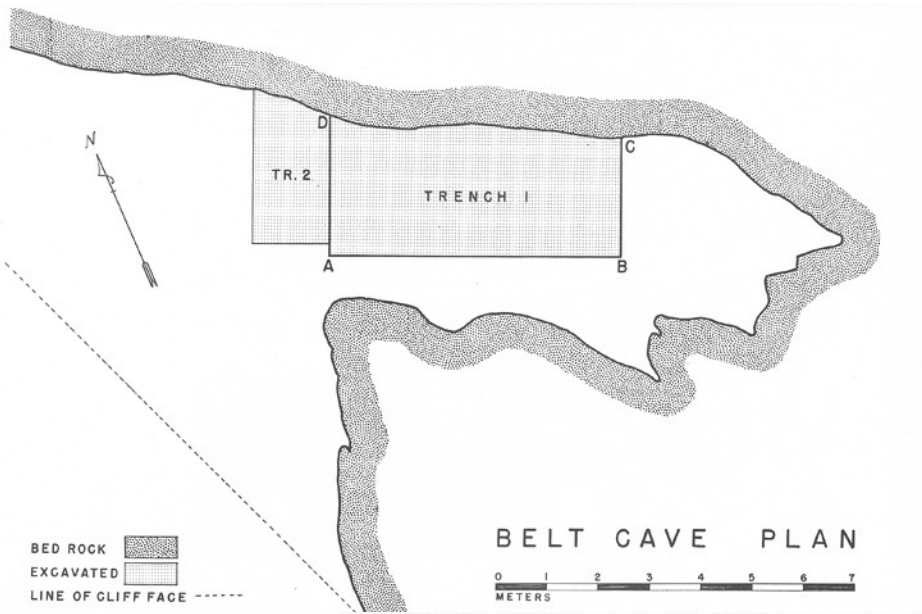


Belt Cave.

fishes in residence.

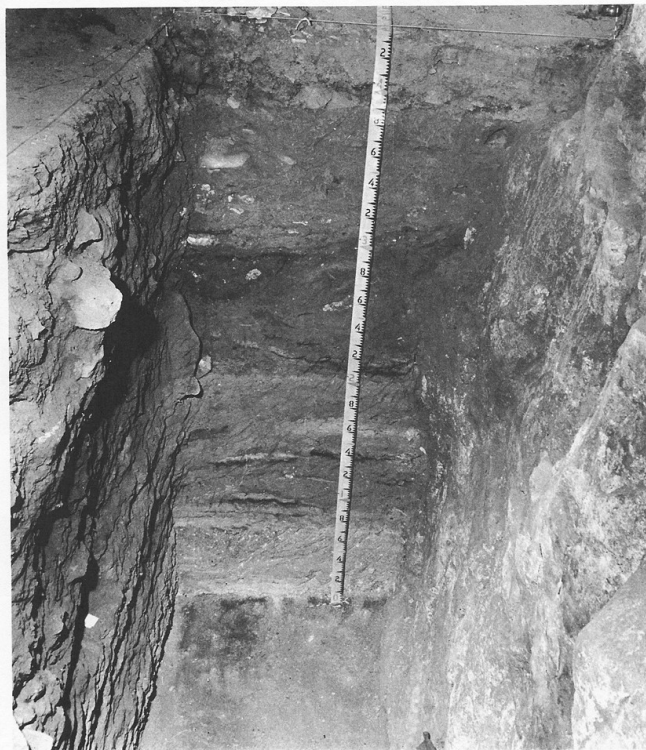
# Belt Cave

- 6 km from Caspian Sea between forest and grassland and marshes
- Wadi in front flooded lower layers
- 28 levels, Early Mesolithic, Late Mesolithic and Neolithic
- Lower Mesolithic was “flint factory” with few faunal remains
- Upper Mesolithic had few flints, but lots of bones – a living site



BELT CAVE - SECTIONS AB, AD, AND CB

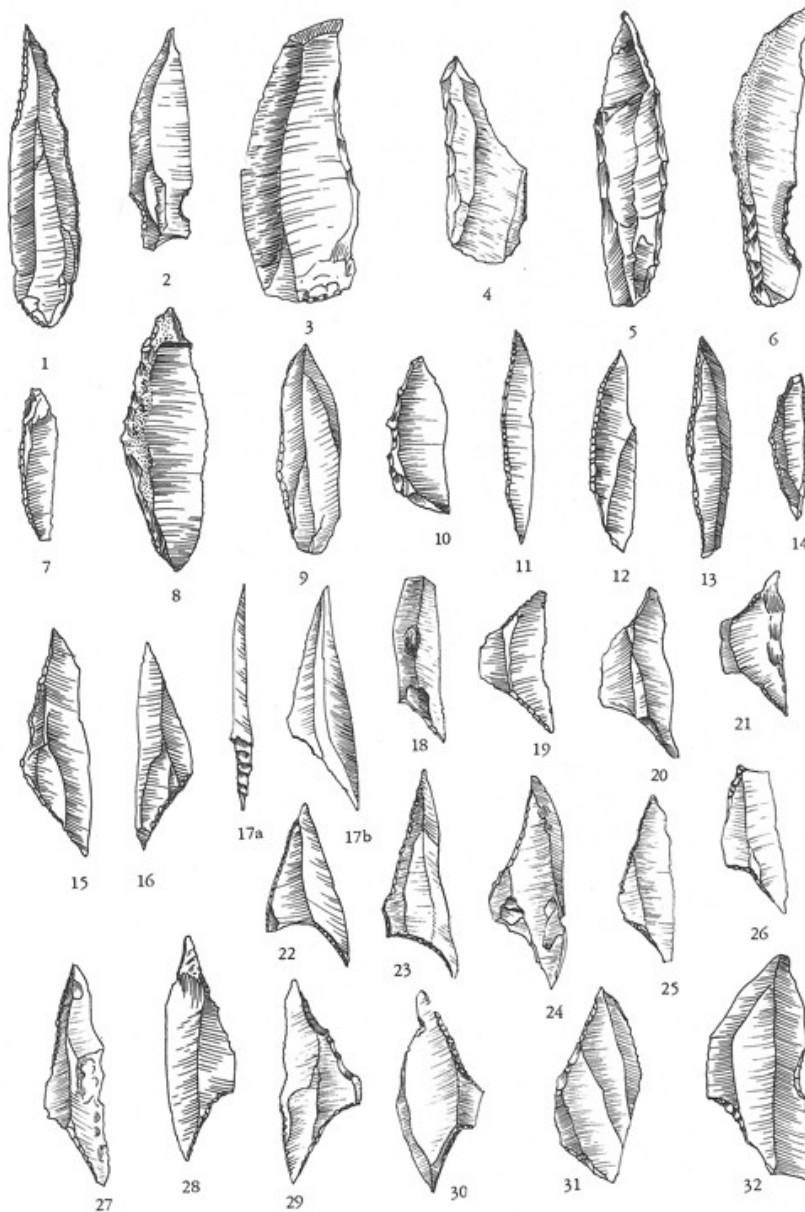
# Belt Cave – Upper and Lower Mesolithic



Belt Cave section.

BELT

Plate VIII



# Belt Cave Epipaleolithic

1-5 Points and knives

6-14 Backed blades

15-30 Geometrics

31-32 Atypical geometrics

*Coon Cave Explorations*  
Plate VIII

# Belt Cave Lithic Counts

TABLE 14E. BELT CAVE, IMPLEMENT TYPES BY LEVELS, REFINED

	Scrapers	Saws	Drills	Points	Beaks & Hooks	Backed Blades	Geo-metrics	Knives	Sickle Blades	Totals
B, 1-7	4 3.2	2 1.6	2 1.6					98 77.8	20 15.9	126
8-10	4 30.8		1 7.7				1 7.7	6 46.2	1 7.7	13
11-17	85 38.3	55 24.8	7 3.2	1 .4	9 4.1	10 4.5	1 .4	54 24.3		222
18-21	14 20.0	27 38.6	1 1.4		1 1.4	5 7.1		22 31.4		70
22-27	36 24.0	32 21.3	4 2.7	4 2.7	4 2.7	8 5.3	17 11.3	45 30.0		150
Totals	143 24.6	116 20.0	15 2.6	5 .9	14 2.4	23 4.0	19 3.3	225 38.9	21 3.6	581

# Belt Cave Fauna

TABLE 4B. BELT CAVE, MAMMALIAN FAUNA, REFINED

	UNGULATA										OTHERS									
	Bovidae										Others									
	Gazella		Capra		Ovis		Bos		Total Bovidae	% Ungulata	Cervid	Equid	Suid	Total Ungulata	% Ungulata	Phocidae	%	Others	%	Total
Ceramic Neolithic B, 1-7	4	5.6	39	54.9	15	21.1	13	18.3	71	89.9			8	79	84.0	2	2.1	13	13.8	94
Early Neolithic 8-10	1	3.0	14	42.4	12	36.4	6	18.2	33	97.0		1	34	87.2	1	2.6	4	9.2	39	
Late Mesolithic 11-17	745	81.2	13	14.2	25	2.7	134	14.6	917	98.9	10		927	98.5	4	.4	10	1.1	941	
Mixed Mesolithic 18-21	32	88.9					4	11.1	36	94.7	1	1	38	76.0	8	16.0	4	8.0	50	
Early Mesolithic 22-27	8	61.5					5	38.5	13	72.2	4	1	18	41.9	19	44.2	6	14.0	43	
Totals	790		66		52		162		1070		15	2	9	1096		34		37		1167

# Belt Cave Burials

- In base of Upper Mesolithic layer
- 3 jumbled skeletons and an isolated skull of a young female.
- Adult male's bones had red ochre