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SCULPTURE IN THE PARTHIAN EMPIRE
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A Study in Chronology

II - CATALOGUE
Cat. nos. 99-134.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird.
The site of Qaleh-i Yazdigird is particularly known for its decorative architectural stucco reliefs, made partly in moulds, partly carved by hand, and thereafter painted. The moulds may have been imported or, what may seem rather more natural, have been manufactured at Qaleh-i Yazdigird by craftsmen called in.

The reliefs come from a series of buildings, forming a palace which was erected in the last years of the Parthian period but remained in use in Sasanian times. The reliefs, which were applied to the walls, represent patterns of a geometric or architectural nature and scenes with figures, and only the latter have been included in the catalogue.


Cat. no. 99.
Fig. 32.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, male bust. Stucco.
H of bust c. 0.24 m.
Frontal male bust placed in a roundel. The figure has large bunches of hair at the ears and may be wearing a headpiece bound with a diadem.1

1. Herrmann 1977, 68; Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 6.1; pl. Xb. QY 76.A95.

100.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, female bust. Stucco.
H 0.115 m.
Frontal female bust placed in a roundel. The head is missing. Folds of drapery are shown in sharp-cut V-shape.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 6.2. QY 76.A72.
101. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, female bust. Stucco. H c. 0.24 m. Bust of the same type as cat.no. 100.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 6.3. QY 78.A51.

102. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, bust. Stucco. H c. 0.08 m. A roundel contains a male (?) bust. The hair is gathered in two bunches at the sides of the frontal face.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 7.3; pl. XVC. QY 78.A49.

103. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, bust. Stucco. H c. 0.07 m. A roundel contains a frontal bust.1


104. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, bust. Stucco. H c. 0.10 m. A female (?) bust is placed in a lozenge frame. The hair falls in ringlets at the sides of the face and neck.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 7.7; pl. XIXa. QY 76.A45.

105. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, bust. Stucco. H c. 0.11 m. A lozenge frame contains a frontal bust.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 7.8. QY 76.A84.

106. Fig. 33. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital with female head. Stucco. H of head c. 0.14 m. On a capital of Corinthian type with acanthus scrolls there is a relief of a frontal female head.1 Along the sides of the face there are long ringlets. At the forehead there are roll-curls. The eyes slant down somewhat towards the sides of the face.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 7.2; pl. XVIIIa. QY 78.A50.

107. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital or part of column with busts. Stucco. H of busts c. 0.14 m. Two frontal male busts in relief have been placed on a curving surface which may have been part of a column or a capital.1


108. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital with entwined beasts. Stucco. H of beasts c. 0.22 m. On the capital of Corinthian type there is a relief of two entwined winged beasts.1


109. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital with man holding fishes. Stucco. H of man c. 0.30 m. On a capital of Corinthian type is a relief of a frontally standing naked man flanked by two fishes, the tails of which he grasps.1


110. Fig. 34. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital with female head. Stucco. H c. 0.17 m. On a capital of indeterminable type is a relief of a female head, similar in type to cat.no. 106.1

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 7.5; pl. XVIIIb. QY 78.A40.

![Image of Figurine Capital](image-url)
111.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, capital with female bust. Stucco.
Fragments of capitals of Corinthian type decorated
with reliefs of female busts.¹

1. Herrmann 1977, 71; Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980,
39, fig. 14,1-5. QY 76.A77, A44, A67, A75, A78.

112.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, arch with animal frieze. Stucco.
H of animals c. 0.12 m.
 Rounded arch with a procession of a humped bull
and griffins in relief. The head of the bull is frontal,
the griffins’ in profile.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 39, fig. 15,1-4. QY
76.A16, A18, A20.

113.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, arch with animal frieze. Stucco.
Fragment of a rounded arch with griffins in relief.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 39, fig. 16,2ab. QY
76.A124.

114.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, flat arch with animal frieze.
Stucco.
H of animals 0.11 m.
Fragment of a flat arch with reliefs of a pair of
addorsed, half-rampant griffins, one of which
attacks a deer.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 39, fig. 16,1ab. QY
76.A119.

115.
Fig. 35.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, half-column with figures. Stucco.
H of figures c. 0.33 m.
Fragments of a triple-faceted half-column divided
into panels each containing a relief figure: ‘Pan’
moving right. His head is rendered in profile (?),
his chest is frontal, his legs in profile.
Standing naked female leaning the left elbow on
a pedestal. Her right hand is raised to her forehead.
Her left leg is flexed across the front of her right
leg, her right foot foreshortened, and her left in
profile. Her body is frontal, while her head is in
profile.

Iranian Kurdistan
Draped female standing frontally. There are vertical drapery folds in the area between her legs, but horizontal folds on the legs proper. Her head was probably frontal. Her left hand is on her left hip. The position of her right arm is unknown.

Standing draped male figure. The person, who wears a belted tunic and trousers and a pointed headpiece with flaps at his ears, has his right leg flexed in across his left one. His left foot is foreshortened, his right is in profile. Head and body are frontal. His left hand is on his left hip. His right hand is raised and held at the side of his head. There are V-folds on his chest and U-folds on each thigh and on the upper part of the trousers. The lower part of the trousers and the sleeves are decorated with a zig-zag pattern.


116.
Fig. 36.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, half-column with figures. Stucco.
H of figures c. 0.15 m.
Fragments of a half-column divided into panels each containing a relief of an animal or a naked male figure. The body of the male who thrusts a spear at the animal is rendered in three-quarter profile from the rear. His head is in 'normal' three-quarter profile. The animal—a lion, or more likely a boar—sits on its haunches and raises one foreleg. ¹


117.
Fig. 37.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, winged figure. Stucco.
H c. 0.42 m.
A winged and naked boy, 'Eros', stands frontally and leans his left elbow on a pedestal. His hand is covered by drapery. His right hand is placed on his left shoulder. His head is slightly tilted, but frontal. His left leg crosses his right leg. ¹

1. Herrmann 1977, 72; Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 8,1-2; pls. XId, Xla. QY 76.A48, A93.

118.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, head. Stucco.
H c. 0.10 m.
Frontal male (?) head.¹


Fig. 36. Cat. no. 116. Half-column with reliefs from Qaleh-i Yazdigird (photograph by courtesy of E. J. Keall).

119.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, winged figure. Stucco.
H of figure c. 0.22 m.
Standing draped and winged female, interpreted as Nike, in a rectangular panel. Her head is tilted and shown in three-quarter profile.


120.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, 'inhabited vine'. Stucco.
H c. 0.25 m.
Fragment of 'inhabited vine' with a person with arms raised.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 38, fig. 10,6; pl. XVb. QY 76.A159.

121.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, 'inhabited vine'. Stucco.
H of figure c. 0.14 m.
Fragment of 'inhabited vine' with kneeling person who raises both hands above his head.¹

122. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief, ‘inhabited vine’. Stucco. L of figures c. 0.25 m. Fragment of ‘inhabited vine’. One figure gathers the grapes, another reclines on his left elbow and reaches for them with his right hand.¹


123. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H c. 0.21 m. Panel with Corinthian column, crenellation with arrow pattern, vase and part of a winged figure.¹


124. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H c. 0.19 m. Panel with crenellation with arrow pattern, Corinthian column and winged female figures in profile.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 38, fig. 10.2. QY 76.A25. The fragment probably derives from the same frieze as cat.no. 123.

125. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H c. 0.32 m. Part of a panel or frieze with two dancing (?) nude female figures. The one on the left has a heavy ring round her neck. Her head is rendered in profile.¹


126. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H 0.13 m. Part of a panel with crenellation with an arrow pattern flanked by two vases. Below may be part of a wing.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 38, fig. 10.4. QY 76.A252. This fragment apparently comes from a frieze of the same type as cat.nos. 123, 124.

127. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H of figures c. 0.19 m. Part of a panel with two nude winged boys, ‘cupids’, sporting with the tail and head of a panther-like animal. The bodies are foreshortened, and the heads may be in three-quarter profile.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 9.1ab; pl. XIIa. QY 76.A49.

128. Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco. H 0.24 m. Fragment of the legs of a naked male figure. His left leg is bent, his foot in profile. His right leg is stretched out behind him.¹

1. Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 37, fig. 9.2. QY 76.A52.
129.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.28 m.
Fragment of an animal, perhaps a sphinx, sitting with its haunches in profile and forepart frontal.¹


130.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.24 m.
Sphinx (?) rendered frontally.¹


131.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.22 m.
Fragment with an indeterminable representation, perhaps a nude female figure carried by a hybrid creature. A nereid mounted on a sea-monster (?).¹


132.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.34 m.
Fragment with protomes of griffins.¹

1. Herrmann 1977, 72; Keall, Leveque and Willson 1980, 40, fig. 17.1-3; pl. XXab. QY 76.A76, QY 78.A22, A60.

133.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.16 m.
Fragment with head of antlered deer, grasped by hand (?).¹


134.
Qaleh-i Yazdigird, relief panel. Stucco.
H c. 0.11 m.
Fragment of half-rampant griffin.¹