

A Late Prehistoric Burial System in Indonesia: Additional Notes on Gilimanuk, Bali

R. P. Soejono

Late Prehistoric Burials

Many forms of interment of the dead have existed during the late prehistoric period on the big island of western Indonesia as well as on the smaller islands in the eastern part of the archipelago. Two main systems of burying during this period are observable which is the uncovered burials or burials without the use of containers (open burials) and the covered burials or burials using containers made of stone/rock, earthenware and metal. Uncovered burials include the primary and the secondary burials, while covered burials used various sorts of containers of stone (stone-cist, sarcophagus, stone-chamber, dolmen grave, stone vat roof-shaped cubical hollowed stone pillar), earthenware (urn, jar) and bronze (kettledrum). Each of both systems comprising one or several particular forms (subsystems) has developed in confined areas, for instance uncovered stretched burials in caves of South Sulawesi and Flores; uncovered stretched and secondary burials in Central Java and Bali, whereas stone chambers are restricted in South Sumatera, stone cists in Central Java, dolmen graves in East Java, stone vats or *kalamba* in Central Sulawesi, cubical stone pillars or *waruga* in North Sulawesi, sarcophagi in Bali, earthenware jars in Sumba etc.

Both systems could be applied side by side as such as the burial system at Plawangan (Central Java) comprising

uncovered primary stretched burials and secondary burials combined with covered burials using earthenware jars and a bronze Heger-I kettledrum; at Anyer (West Java) comprising covered (earthenware jars) and uncovered (primary stretched) burials; at Kalanganyar (Bali) consisting of covered (sarcophagi) and uncovered (stretched primary) burials; and at Gilimanuk consisting of uncovered (primary and secondary) and covered (earthenware jar) burials.

Research on the late prehistoric burial systems has been continuously attempted at burial sites which are considered as the most potential because of their extended yet uninvestigated surrounding areas like the stone chambers in South Sumatera, *kalamba's* in Central Sulawesi, uncovered burials in Central Java and Bali, sarcophagi in Bali, and jar burials in Sumba.

Recent discoveries has been done in Bali in particular on the burial system at Gilimanuk which sofar has been known as an burial site comprising mainly primary and secondary burials combined with jar burials at some points in the burial area.

The Gilimanuk offshoot

The burial site at Gilimanuk is situated along the southern shore of the Gilimanuk Bay, Northwest Bali. Excavations started in 1962 after the discovery of fragments of human bones, decorated potsherds,

R. P. Soejono : Senior Researcher, National Research Centre of Archaeology, Indonesia
印尼國立考古研究中心高級研究員

fragments of bronze and iron artefacts, coloured glass beads, and fragments of shell artefacts on the beach below a ca. 3 meters high coastal terrace. Until 1993 ca. fifty boxes have been excavated within an area of $\pm 400 \times 300$ m: 120,000 m²/10 ha. The results during 32 years excavations comprise human burials, artefacts of bronze-iron-gold and shell, animal bones, coloured glass beads, and complete and broken earthenware containers.

The focus of this writing will be on burial system which was implemented amongst the prehistoric Gilimanuk coastal people. About 240 buried individuals were unearthed comprising about 153 adults and 87 children of which 12% were found in disturbed condition. 30% showed the stretched as well as the flexed primary burial position and about 70% were buried in the secondary disposal. There were several ways of burying dead persons which consisted of the primary and the secondary interment with or without the use of containers.

Only two covered burials using large earthenware jars were found so far which contained primary burial in squatted position as well as fragmentary secondary burials of about five individuals. It was until recently accepted that the burials at Gilimanuk mainly comprised primary burials in stretched and flexed positions, secondary burials with special pattern of skeletal arrangements (skull on top of the remaining bones) and a very rare jar burial pattern using two large earthenware jars as lid and coffin.

Primary burials were frequently found associated with secondary burials. The skeletons were usually provided with

funeral gifts of different sorts of which the quality and quantity of goods varied one from the other. Most frequent was the net impressed decorated round bottomed pottery which was placed in several directions towards the skeleton. Bronze axes of the small and large type of the local Bali type, iron lance-heads, iron swords, gold eye-covers and gold ornaments were provided to a number of dead persons who could have filled certain social status.

The location of the Gilimanuk burial site at the coast and its rather far distance from the closest distribution areas of sarcophagi in the east (± 60 km: Busungbiu) and the southeast (± 20 km: Ambinarsari) has stimulated the opinion that there could not have happened intrusion of the sarcophagi using burial tradition from the hinterland in the Gilimanuk uncovered burial system, although there have been discovered two double jar burials amidst the dominant uncovered burials.

The latest excavation executed in mid-1984 at Gilimanuk was based on the report of the local inhabitants on the discovery of a sarcophagus ± 30 m southwest from the Field Museum building. The cover of the sarcophagus of the Ambinarsari type which was made of yellow-white limestone was partly damaged during the digging of a garbage pit in the back garden of a villager. The area of discovery has further been systematically excavated. The excavated pit measured 5 x 4 m with a depth of 1.5 m and a North-South orientation with the smaller side (4 m) situated in the North. The excavation resulted in the unearthing of the lid immediately below the cover which was previously dug out by the villager. A second sarcophagus (B) made of gray tuff stone was discovered about 1 m on the right side

of the first discovered sarcophagus (A). Sarcophagus B was of the Busungbiu type which has two rounded flat knobs on the front side of coffin and lid and single flat, but broader knob on the back side of coffin and lid. Human bones were not found but only small fragments and several teeth. Numerous potsherds and several complete pots were found in close distance of both sarcophagi, consisting of pots and bowls of larger size, plates, bowls on stand, a furnace and other pottery types, some of them were ornamented with incised (human face with semicircular eyes and long ears, wavy lines, triangles etc.) and net impressed patterns.

The Gilimanuk Sarcophagi

Both sarcophagi of Gilimanuk have already been disturbed and emptied in older times before systematic excavation took place, proved by the stratigraphical condition of the excavated pit which seems to be undisturbed. Sarcophagi B of the Busungbiu type belongs to the common Bali type which used geometric principles to design and decorate sarcophagi to place the corpse in a seemingly boat-shaped container with the intention to bring the soul to his last destination, the land of soul.

Sarcophagus A of the Ambiansari type has a very specific meaning regarding the shape of this object. Beside its symmetrical form of lid and coffin, which symbolized the boat with keeled or flat bottom, the lid was carved in a very stylistic way approaching the form of the buffalo. This sarcophagus measures 117 cm in length, 48 cm in breadth and the total height of coffin and lid is \pm 83.5 cm. The Ambiansari type coffin and lid has similar size, form and carved decoration on the upper and lower surface representing the female genitals in a stylistic form. The coffin maintains its local

Ambiansari pattern (stylized female genital parts) while the lid shows an extension on one of the small side and another smaller one on the other small side which look like unfinished buffalo heads. This sarcophagus A still maintains strongly the local decorative pattern, but is closely related to a newly discovered sarcophagus at the village of Munduk Tumpeng, about 37 km southeast of Gilimanuk. The lid of this sarcophagus is rather intact showing a dynamic stylized female genital pattern. The entire carving implicates a bold buffalo with upheaved neck, short horns and standing on stable legs. The opposite part of this head is carved into another buffalo head for symmetric reason of whole structure.

The Munduk Tumpeng sarcophagus give us the idea that the use of this type of sarcophagus strengthens the goal that after rebirth the soul will be brought by the buffalo, the vehicle of the dead to the land of soul, in a safe and fast way. This implies the double meaning of the Munduk Tumpeng sarcophagus, namely rebirth and the safe arrival in the land of ancestors.

The occurrence of both sarcophagi, particularly of the Munduk Tumpeng type close to the Gilimanuk burial area, as well as the occurrence of developed type of pottery (burnished, the human face decoration which is unique in this area etc.) indicate a late intrusion of the inland sarcophagus tradition in the Gilimanuk uncovered burial tradition.

C-14 datings from the newly discovered sarcophagi burials and intensive comparative research of pottery here and the existing Gilimanuk pottery, beside expansion of excavated area of the Gilimanuk sarcophagi is necessary to solve

internal as well as external correlations of the burial tradition in western Bali.

Acknowledgement

The author wishes to express his thanks to Dr. I. Made Sutaba, Head of the Bali Branch Office of the National Archaeological Institute of Indonesia, for his kind invitation to participate in the Gilimanuk excavation in July 1994.

Bibliography

Hoop, A. N. J. Th. van der. 1949. The Kerbao. In *Indonesian Ornamental Design*. Bandung, Indonesia, 137.

Soejono, R.P. 1968. On Prehistoric Burial Methods in Indonesia. *Bulletin of the Archaeological Institute of the Republic of Indonesia* No. 7, 1969.

1979. *Sistim- Sistim Penguburan pada Akhir Masa Prasejarah di Bali* (Late Prehistoric Burial Systems in Bali). Jakarta, Indonesia.

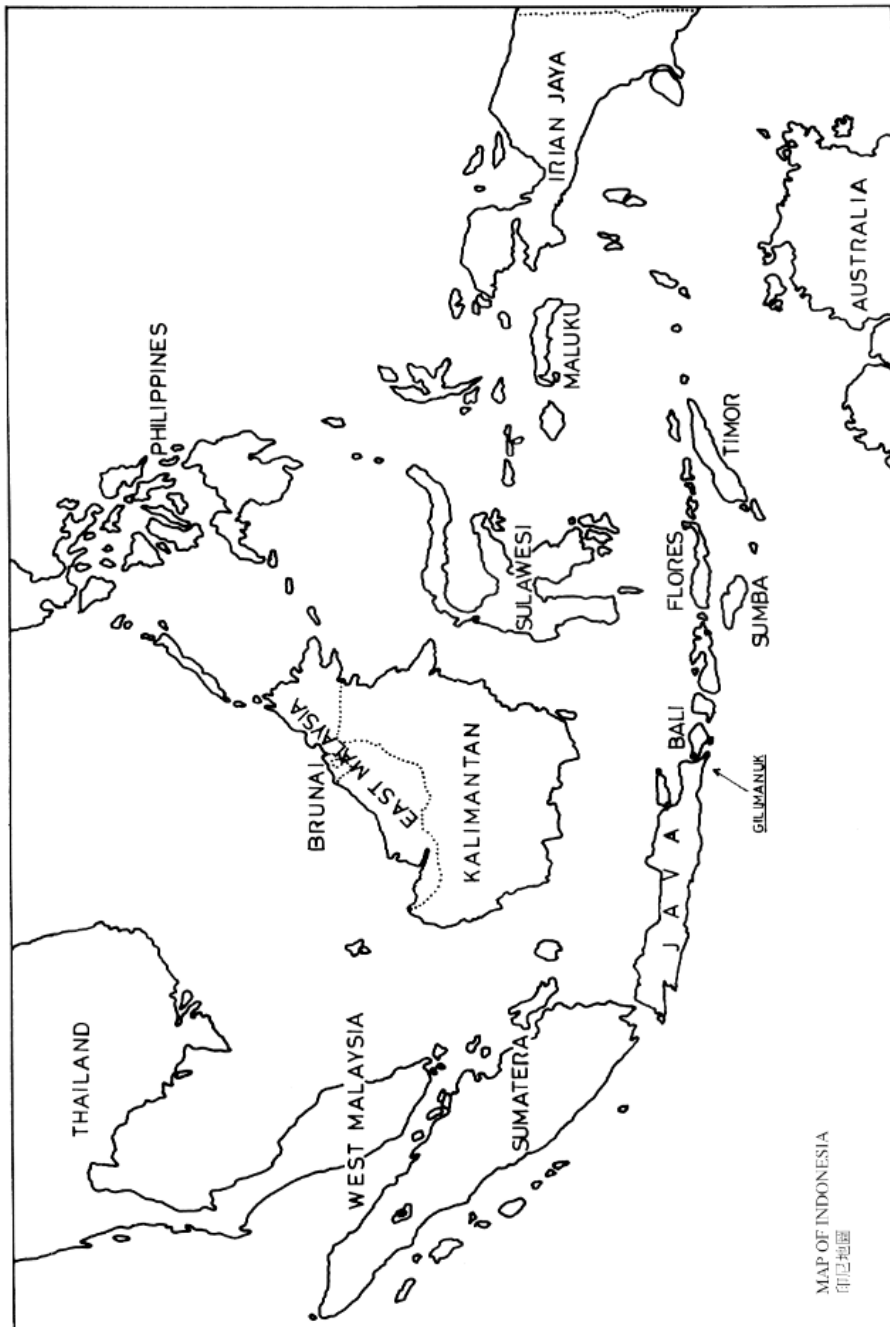




Fig. 1 Two excavated sarcophagi at Gilimanuk in July 1994.
Sarcophagus A: coffin (below) and B: coffin and lid (above).
兩具雕花石棺

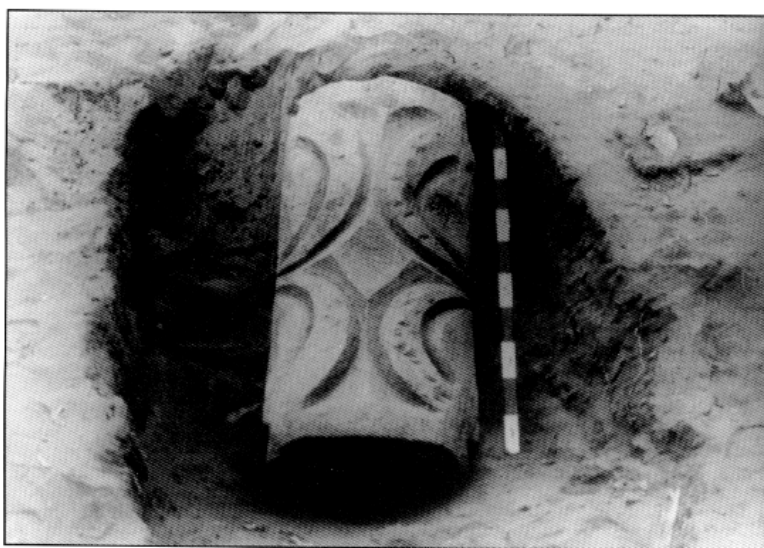


Fig. 2 Sarcophagus A: coffin in upside-down position, Gilimanuk.
石棺



Fig. 3 Sarcophagus A: lid; lateral view; unfinished buffalo head on the right side, Gilimanuk.
石棺蓋



Fig. 4 Sarcophagus A: lid; projection from left uppercorner, Gilimanuk.
石棺蓋



Fig. 5 Sarcophagus from Munduk Tumpeng: lid: lateral view; buffalo head on the right side.
石棺蓋・飾有牛的頭部



Fig. 6 Sarcophagus from Munduk Tumpeng: lid: projection from right upper-corner.
石棺蓋

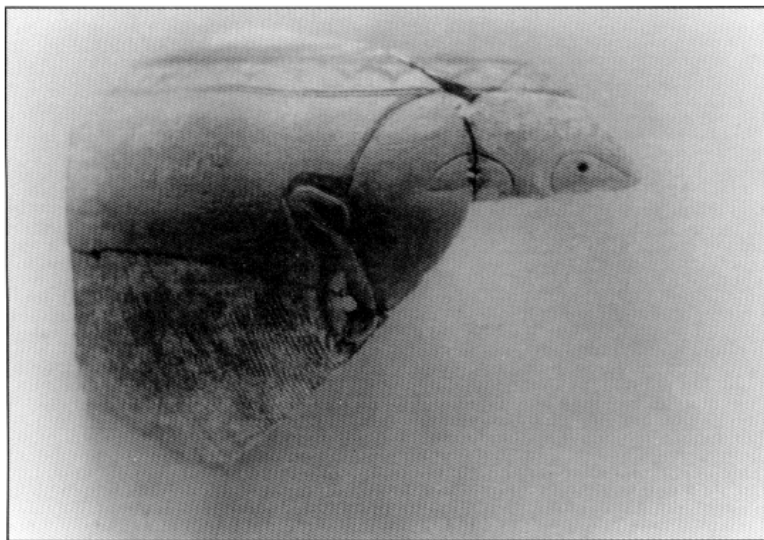


Fig. 7 Red burnished pottery fragment with unique incised human face motif, Gilimanuk.
刻人面紋陶器殘片

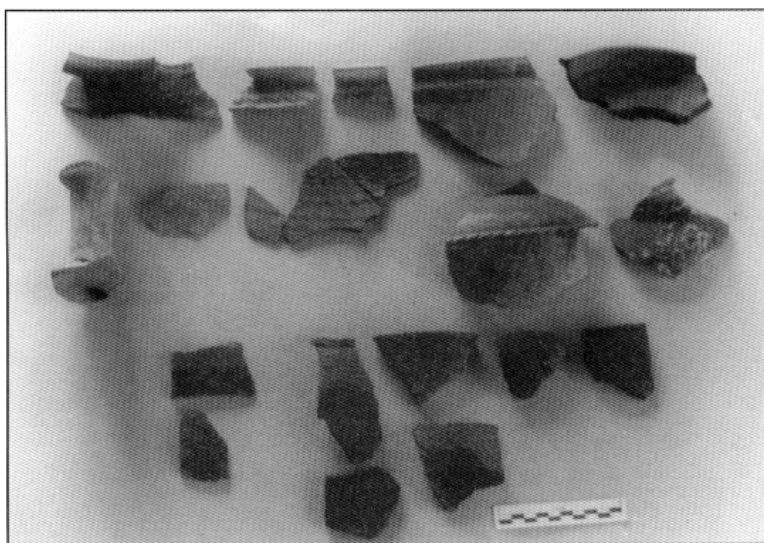


Fig. 8 Decorated potsherds in the context of sarcophagi A and B at Gilimanuk.
石棺墓葬出土的陶片

印尼史前時代晚期的殮葬形式及巴里島GILIMANUK的墓葬遺存

R. P. Soejono

【摘要】

印度尼西亞群島史前時代晚期的殮葬形式主要分無殮器和有殮器兩大類。前者有屬原葬，亦有屬移葬；後者所用殮器有各種石棺、石櫃、石室、石缸、陶罐、陶甕及銅鼓等。殮葬形式隨地域而異，但有些地區如中爪哇的Plawangan，西爪哇的Anyer，巴里島的Kulanganyar和Gilimanuk則二者並存。

Gilimanuk位於巴里島西北部濱海地區，發掘工作於1962年展開。1993年發現墓葬遺存，包括240具人類骸骨，伴以青銅、鐵、黃金及貝殼製品、動物骸骨、顏色玻璃珠及陶器。墓葬中有三成屬原葬，另七成屬移葬。只發現兩件陶甕殮器，原葬與移葬各佔其一。據出土遺存顯示，原葬多伴有各式陪葬物，其中最常見為一種圓底網紋陶器，而一些社會地位特殊的則伴有各式大小銅斧、鐵槍頭、鐵劍、金製眼罩及飾物等。

1994年中，又於Gilimanuk發現兩具雕花石棺。其一設計屬Ambiarsari式，以黃白色石灰石雕成，作南北向；另一具與之相距一米，設計屬Busungbiu式。棺內無屍首，只有些碎骨及牙齒；雕棺不遠散佈大量陶器碎片，部份飾有當地典型的人面紋飾。Busungbiu式石棺造型及紋飾皆採幾何設計，是巴里島傳統風格；棺作船形，用意是以棺作船，將死者的靈魂載到另一個世界去。Ambiarsari式石棺造型對稱，亦代表著船隻。棺蓋圓雕作圖案化的水牛形，兩端伸出類似水牛角的設計，棺蓋及棺身則刻有圖案化的女性生殖器紋飾，都是Ambiarsari的典型風格。此棺看似尚未完工或經重刻，至於其完成後的形貌，可參考Gilimanuk鄰近地區Munduk Tumpeng出土的一具水牛形石棺。此類石棺造型和設計，充份反映出當地人相信人死後會到另外一個世界去，或得到再生。