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- 1 The authors are since many years the co-directors of the Iranian-Italian archaeological Expedition in Khuzistan, south-west Iran. The region was the seat of the kingdom of Elymais, a Parthian vassal state ruled by la local dynasty. To pay homage to Prof. Boucharlat's activity in the same region, the authors present the main cultic sites connected to the kingdom's ruling dynasty and brought to light by past expeditions: Majid-e Sulayman and Bard-e Nechandeh, two large religious complexes build on terraces. They continue then presenting the results of the recent investigations conducted by their expedition. The site of Kal-e Chendar, in the valley of Shami, where the famous Shami Prince bronze statue was discovered, has been explored. To the fragments of other statues and the column bases already known from the site, the expedition's activity added a-traces of defensive buildings a series of 32 graves, five of

them constituted by an underground chamber with ritual benches. The most recent discovery concerns the site of Kal-e Bardi, 20 km north-west of Kal-e Chendar. Also there the expedition found an ancient terrace along with fortified structures. The latter two terraced sites share some characteristics like the proximity to watercourses or the presence of defensive structures that led to authors to think about a different typology of sites from Masjid-e Sulayman and Bard-e Nechandeh.

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