EXCAVATION AT DAMKOT

By

Mr. Abdur Rahman

Damkot is a ridge opposite the modern fort at Chakdara, built by the British in 1896 to guard the iron bridge that spans the Swat river and opens the route to Dir, Bajaur, Chitral and northern areas. The ridge is topped by a signal tower, commonly known as Churchill Point, but its name, which literally means a "Fort of Dhamma", has peculiarly preserved two phases of the historical relics — the monastic establishment of the Dhamma (i.e. the Buddhist community) believers and a fort of the Hindu Shahis. Historical records speak only of a Mughal fort at Chakdara, built in the time of Akbar, but it is archaeology that has now revealed a succession of occupations and thrown light on the importance of the site. Beginning from the earliest settlement in the early first millennium B.C. down to our own time Chakdara has dominated the approaches to the Swat valley. How has the course of history been affected is revealed in the excavations at Damkot conducted by Messrs Farid Khan and Abdur Rahman, lecturers in the Depratment of Archaeology. The report, now presented in the words of Mr. Abdur Rahman, reveals the first phase of history.

(1) *INTRODUCTION*

The Chakdara-Uchh valley[1] (Pl. 1) in which Damkot[2] holds an important position, is like an irregular triangle with the base line parallel to the north and apex resting upon the river Swat in the south. (Fig. 7). Measuring nearly 8½ miles N. to S. and 7 E. to W., it is bounded on all the sides by folds of steep hills which enclose similar other valleys around it — Talash and Khadakzai to the north-west and west respectively, and Aspan and Shamozai to the north-east. Its average height above sea level is between 2217′ (near Chakdara) and 2820′ (near Uchh). Along its northern side runs the Laram Ghar hill rising to between 6560 and 7579 feet in heights and providing effective protection from that direction. The Laram Ghar hill is mostly denuded of its vegetation on the lower reaches. On the south-east the triangle is bounded by Shiva Ghar hill which reaches some 5002 feet in height and divides it off from the Shamozai valley. As it approaches the

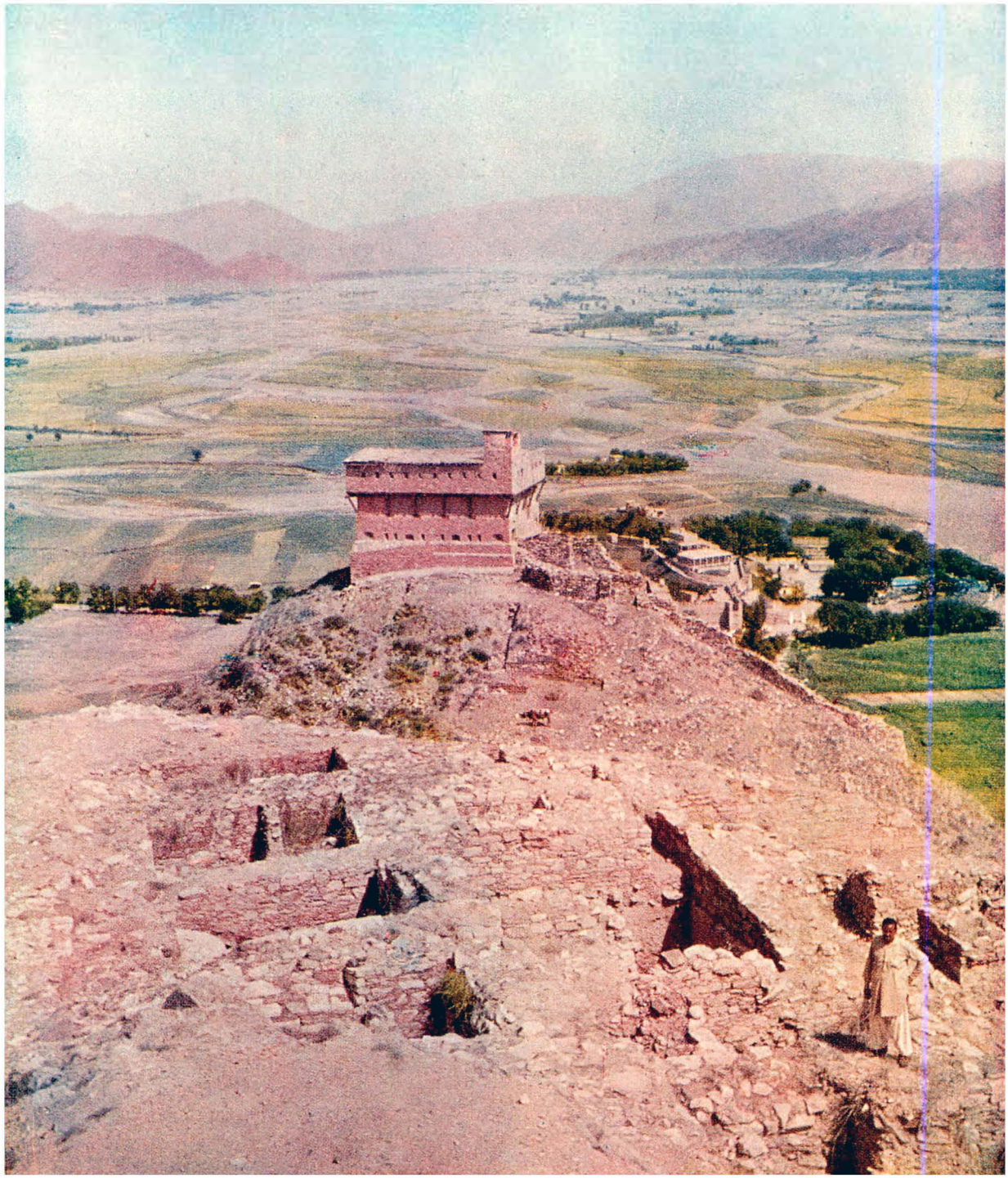
1. Also called Adinzai valley.
2. This is how the place is locally known. The word Damkot may be a corruption of Dhamma Kot (i.e. Religious Enclosure).

river the southern tip of this hill sweeps along the river bank and comes closer to Chakdara. The south-western side is marked by Bar Charai hill, of which the highest peak rises to 6680 feet. All these hills, bordering the valley, have thrown their off-shoots into the interior like the fingers of a hand creating picturesque glens or side valleys with artificially raised terraced fields and perennial springs. These lush green glens were once the home of various Buddhist establishments. The main valley is slightly tilted towards the south-west and then the whole land slopes gradually towards the river. The northern part of the valley is intersected by deep ravines and seasonal streams which ultimately unite into a vast *Khwar* debouching into the river a little above Damkot.

This natural fortification, provided by the steep hills with all their strength and protection, however, is unable to completely isolate the valley from the neighbouring tracts. The triangle is pierced by spacious gaps (or passes) in the corners which had intimate bearing upon the fortunes of its occupants, as it is only through these gaps that heavy traffic can flow in. The modern Chakdara-Dir road passing through the same passes probably marks the ancient route. The effectiveness of the defences, therefore, depended upon the degree of control over these vlunerable points; and this fact was not lost sight of, at least, in the Hindu Shahi regime. Thus we see that a cordon of forts was thrown around, each holding dominant position over a gap. (see map, fig. 7). To be more precise, Kat Kala (Fort of the Pass) with a series of out-posts along the roadside guards the western pass through Talash valley; Kala Dherai (Mound of the Fort) is strategically placed in the eastern corner protecting any approach from Aspan. The fort of Kamal Khan China guards the passage to Shamozai area along the river bank, and Damkot — the most important of all — serves the dual purpose of guarding the river crossing in the south and the approach towards Khadakzai valley to the west.

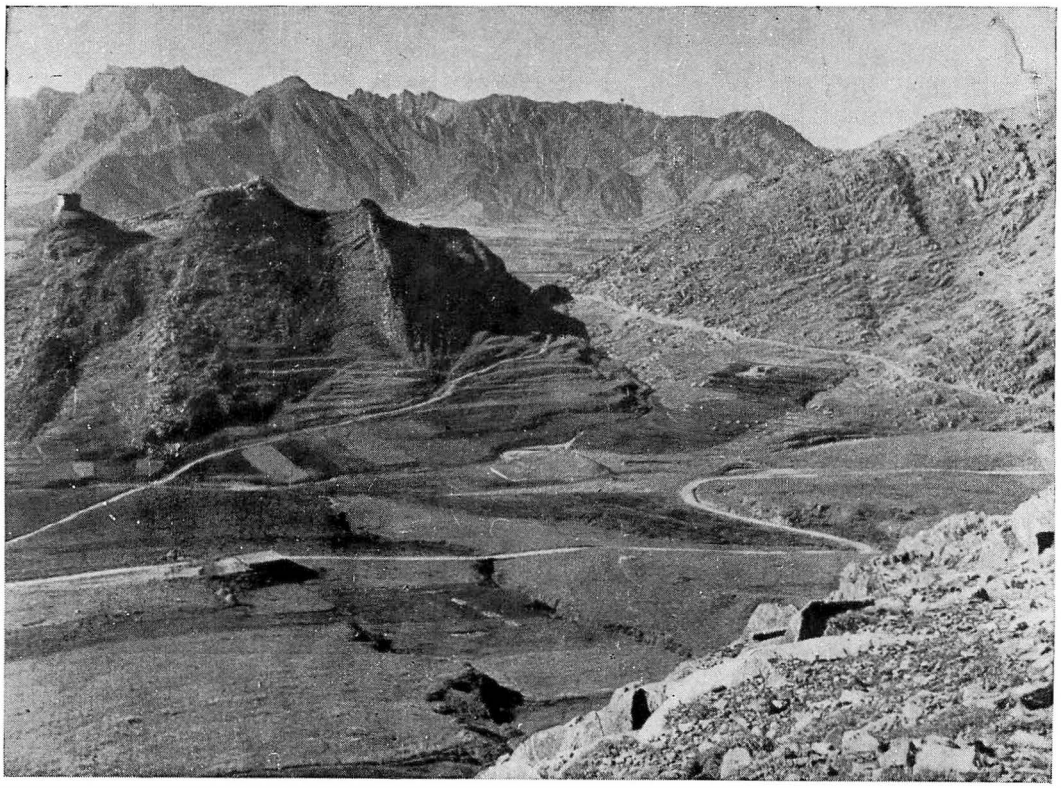
Here we can make a digression to Talash valley to acquaint ourselves rapidly with similar structures over there. Together the two valleys make an arc — high in the middle and sloping towards the ends. When we cross through the Katkala pass to enter into Talash we shall be at once struck by clusters of ruined buildings,[1] massive in construction, built upon the hill slopes to the south of the metalled road. Crumbling though they are at present, the amount of debris lying nearby is highly suggestive, and

1. Sir Olaf Caroe has identified this site with Massaga of Alexander's historians, but so far we have no evidence that the buildings go back to the 4th century B.C. See Sir Olaf Caroe, *The Pathans* p. 52.

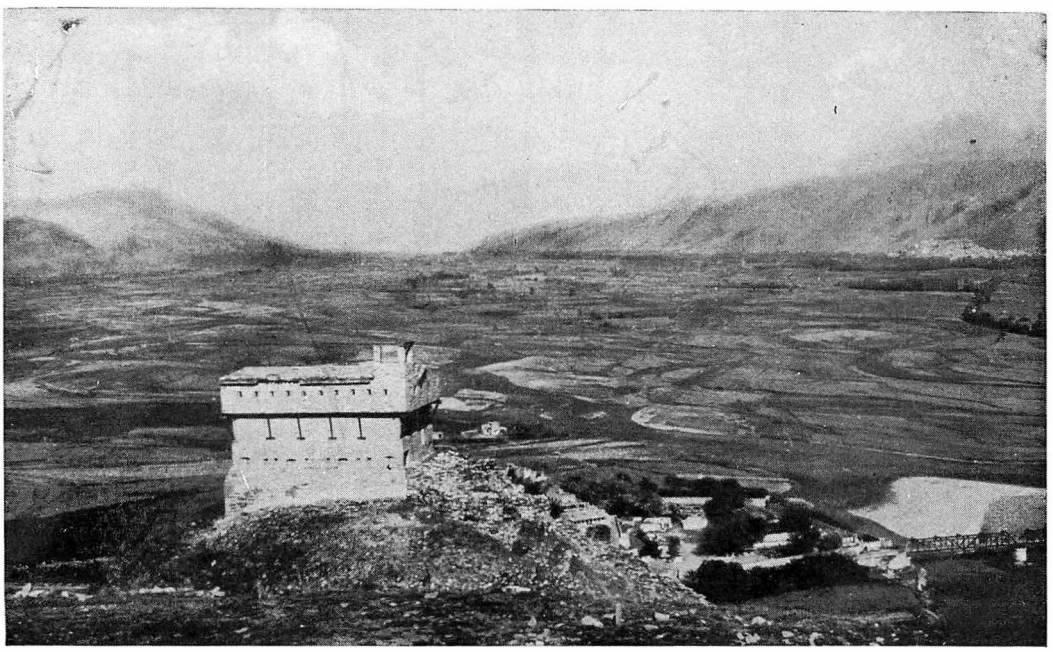


No. 129. Damkot Hill with the river Swat in the foreground.

Plate No. 66

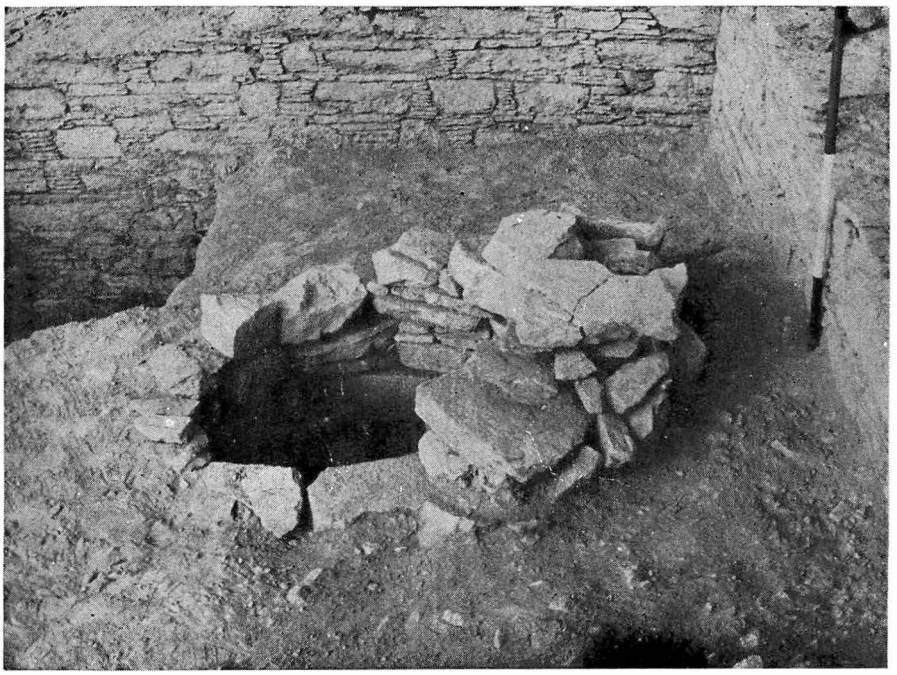


a. No. 130. Damkot hill

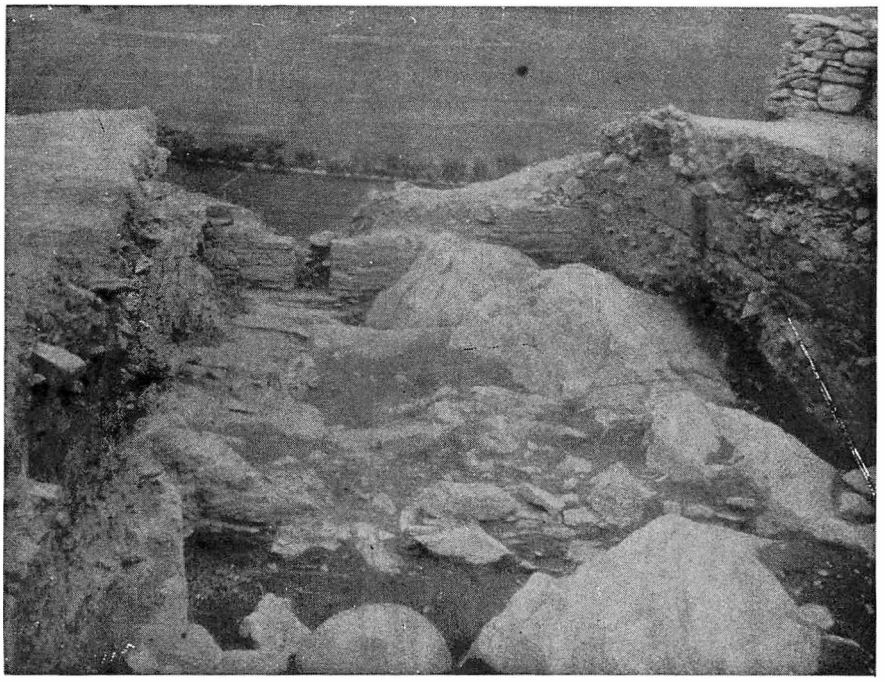


b. No. 131. Damkot— Churchill Point and modern fort.

Plate No. 67

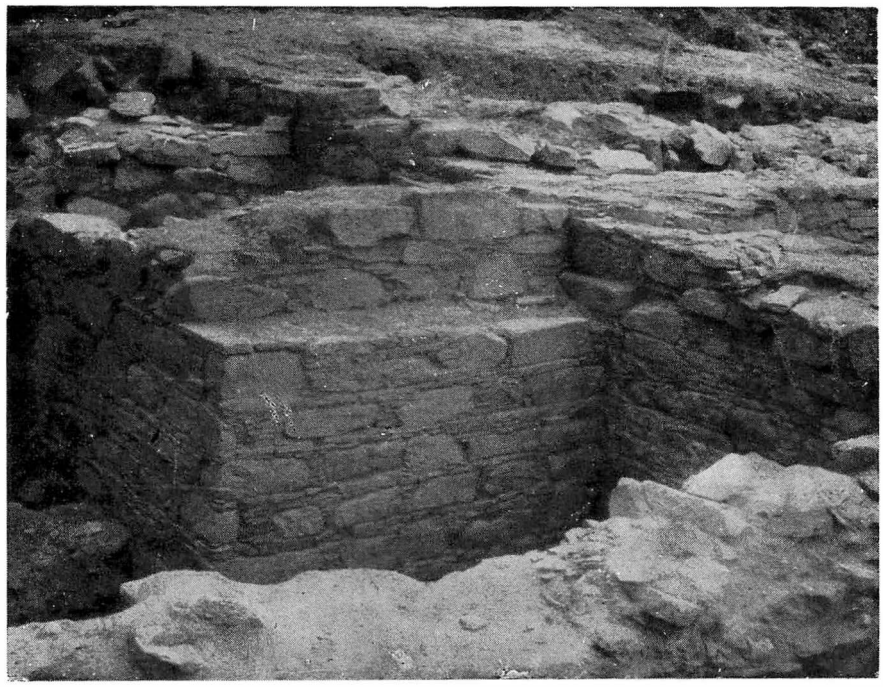


a. No. 132. Damkot — Soak-pit, Period V.

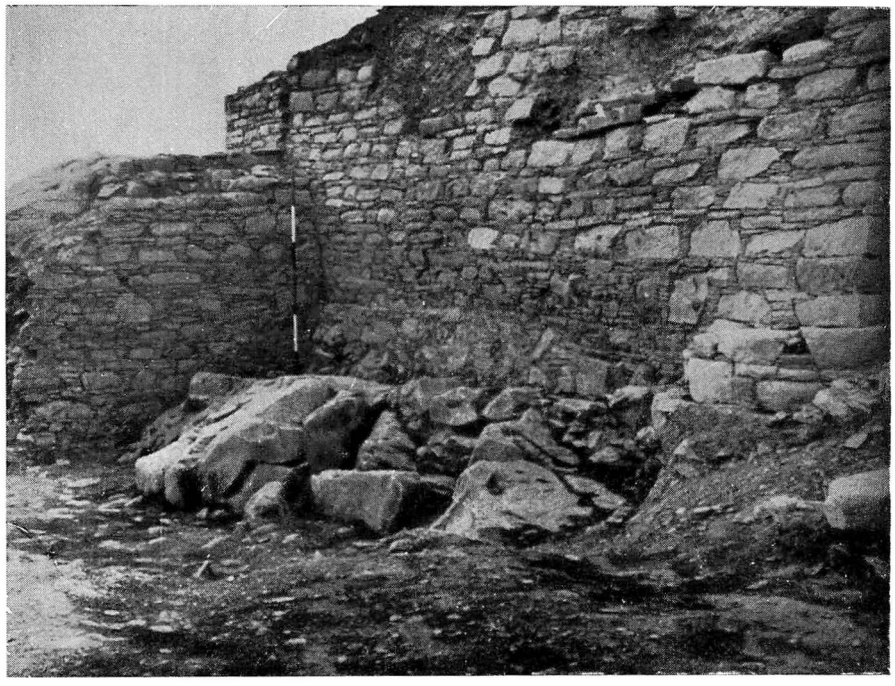


b. No. 133. Damkot — Covered drain, Period V.

Plate No. 68



a. No. 134. Damkot — Reuse of old walls in Period V.



b. No. 135. Damkot — Defensive wall and circular tower

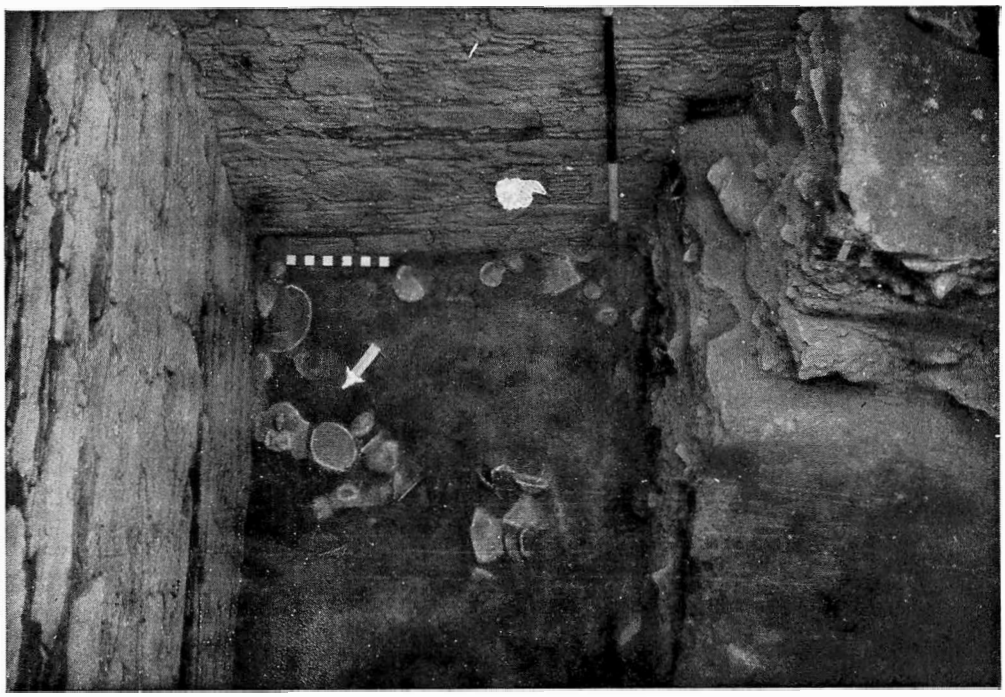


a. No. 136. Damkot — Defensive wall.

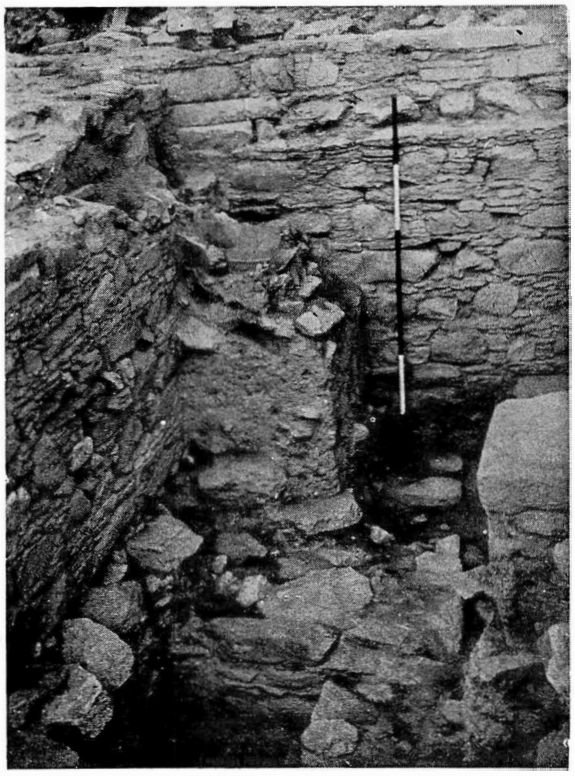


b. No. 137. Damkot. — Circular tower (Period V.)

Plate No. 70



a. No. 138. Damkot — T.C. plaque of Buddha and other materials in a water reservoir.



b. No. 139. Damkot — Storage vessel (Period IV)

Plate No. 71

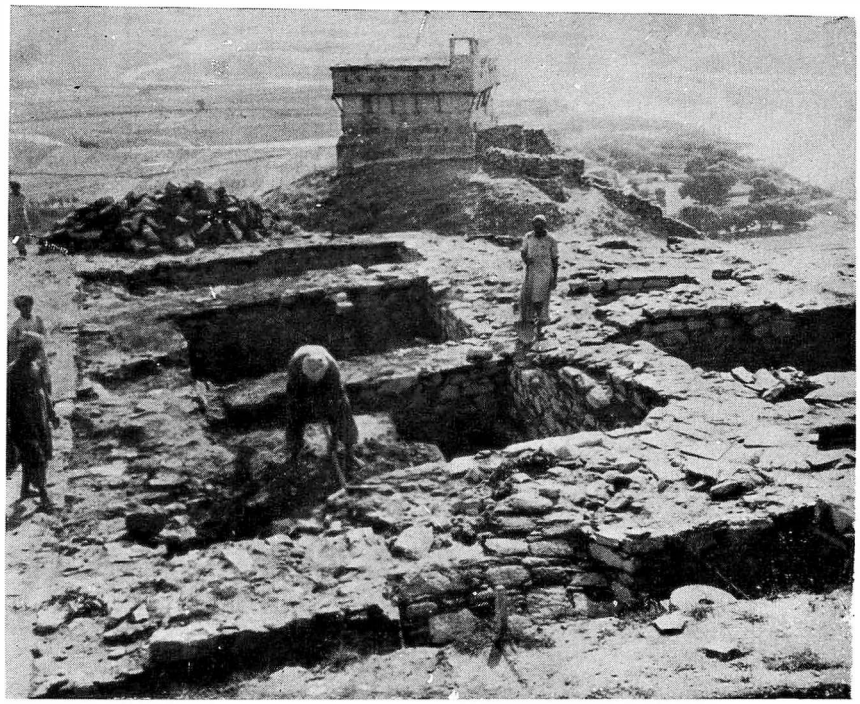


a. No. 140. Damkot — Grinding mill stone (Period IV).



b. No. 141. Damkot — Base of a column (Period IV).

Plate No. 72



a. No. 142. Damkot — Exposed walls.



b. No. 143. Damkot. — Period IV wall on layer (5) and below it Period II wall.

Plate No. 73

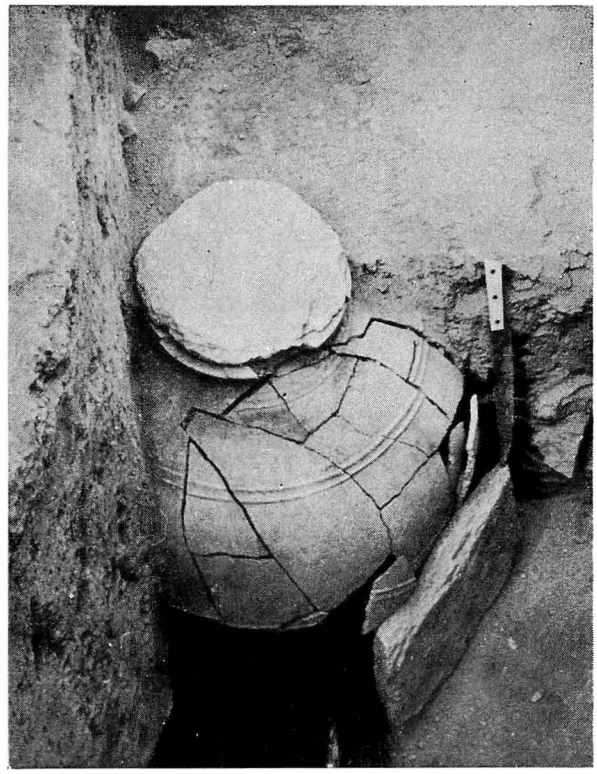


a. No. 144. Damkot — Stair way (Period II), trench C I.

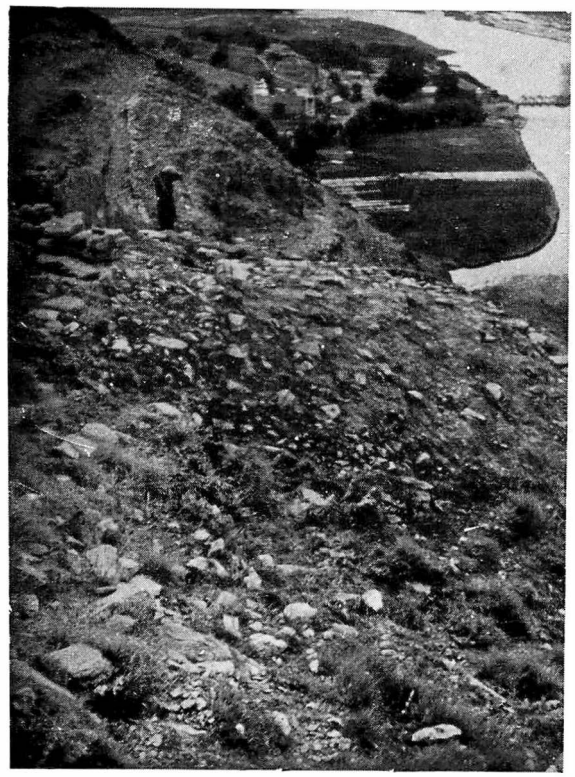


b. No. 145. Damkot — Outer wall of the reservoir on layer (6).

Plate No. 74

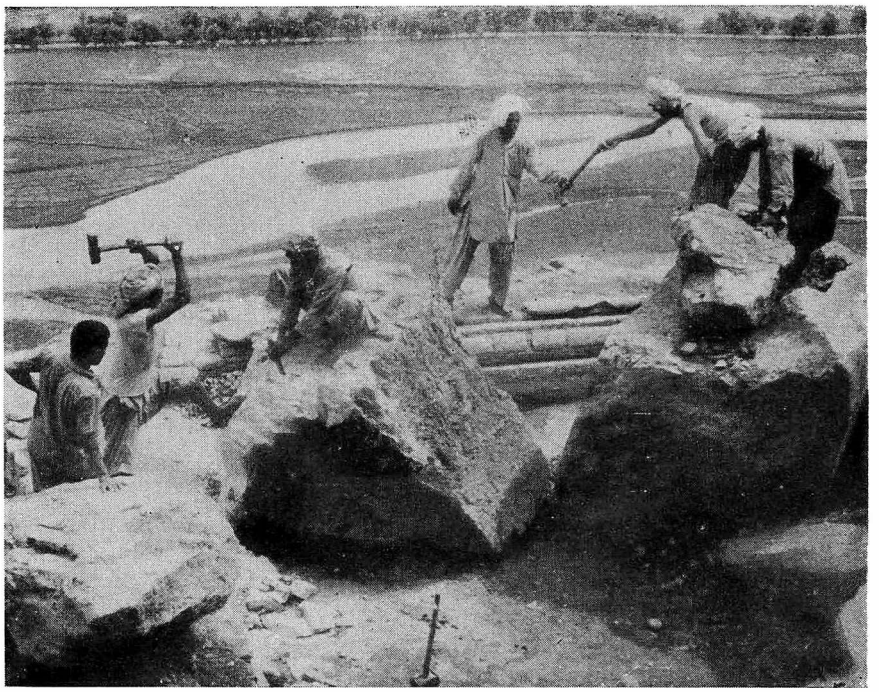


a. No. 146. Damkot — Storage jar (Period II).



b. No. 147. Damkot — Area B. site before excavation.

Plate No. 75



a. No. 148. Damkot — Fallen rocks and the stupa.

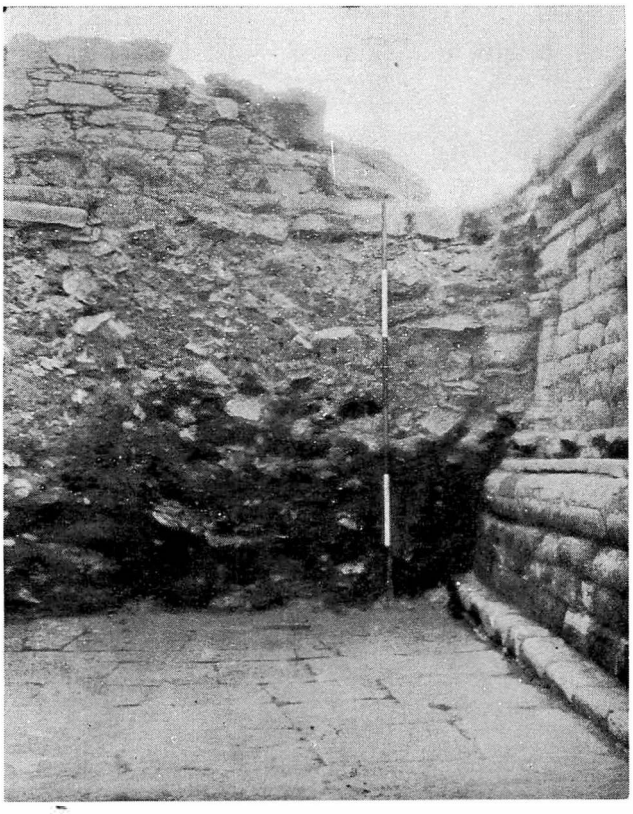


b. No. 149. Damkot — Smith snop.

Plate No. 76

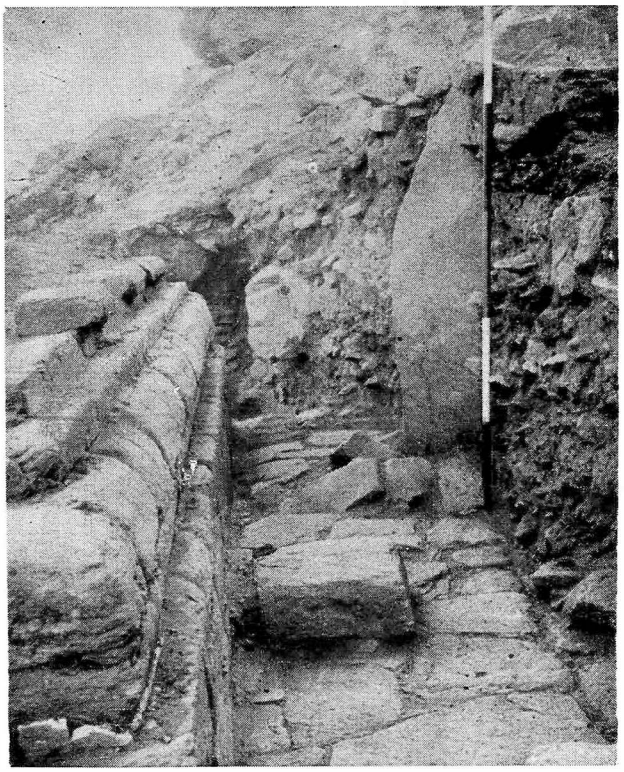


a. No. 150. Damkot In situ vases (Period V)



b. No. 151. Damkot — Lower tier
of stupa on Period V wall.

Plate No. 77



a. No. 152. Damkot — Clearing the stupa



b. No. 153. Damkot — Wall of Period V on stupa steps.

Plate No. 78

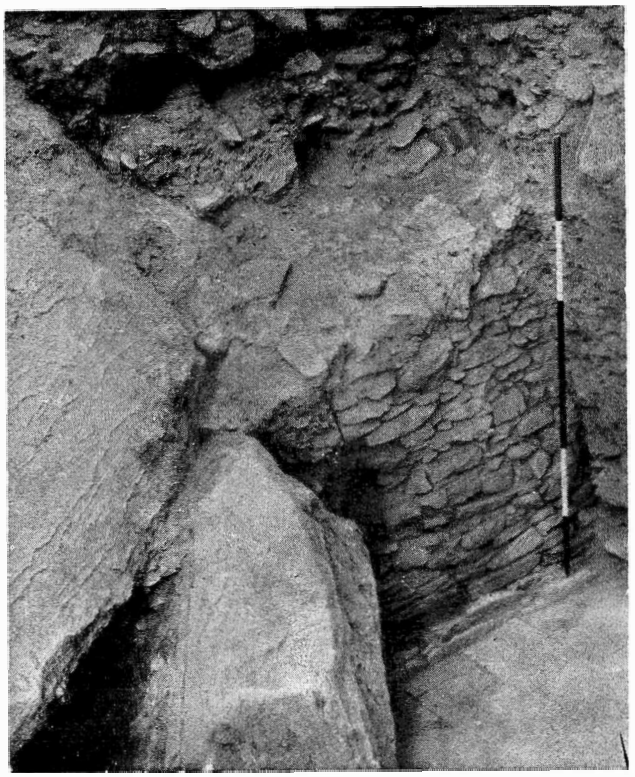


a. No. 154. Damkot — A post-stupa period wall on its floor.

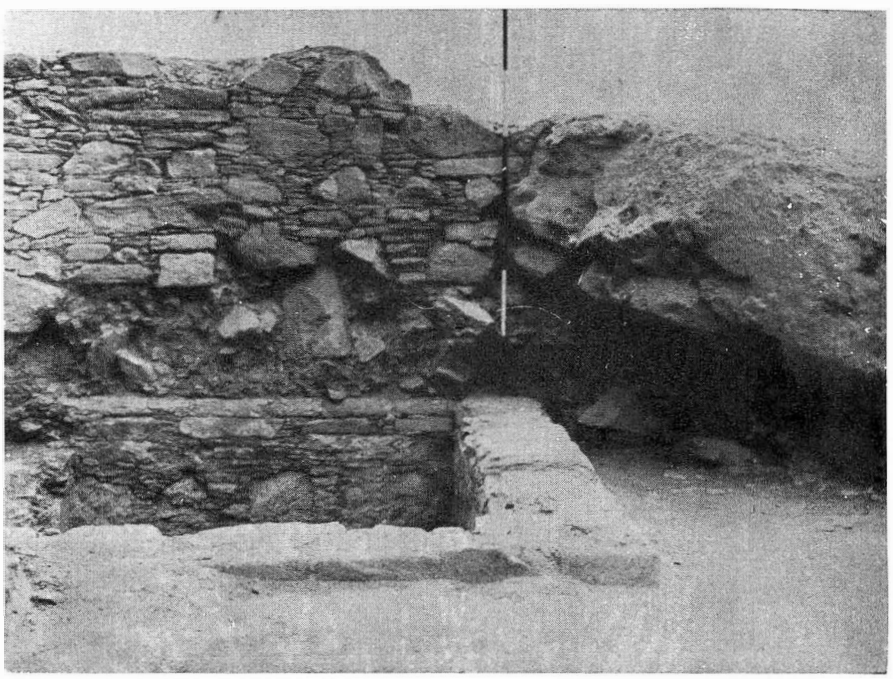


b. No. 155. Damkot — Storage vessel
in trench B 3

Plate No. 79

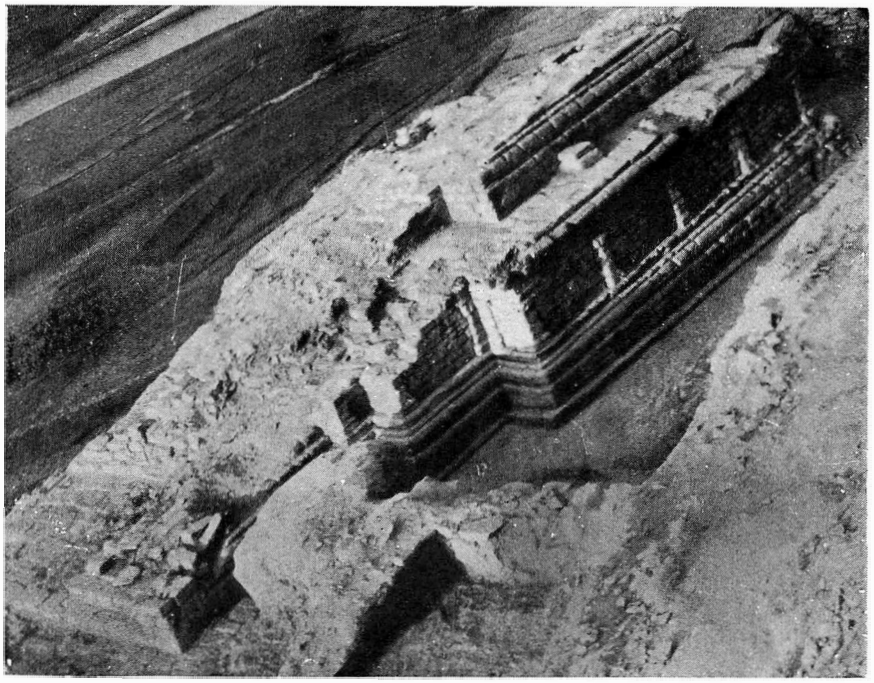


a. No. 156. Damkot — Stupa floor with rocks over it.

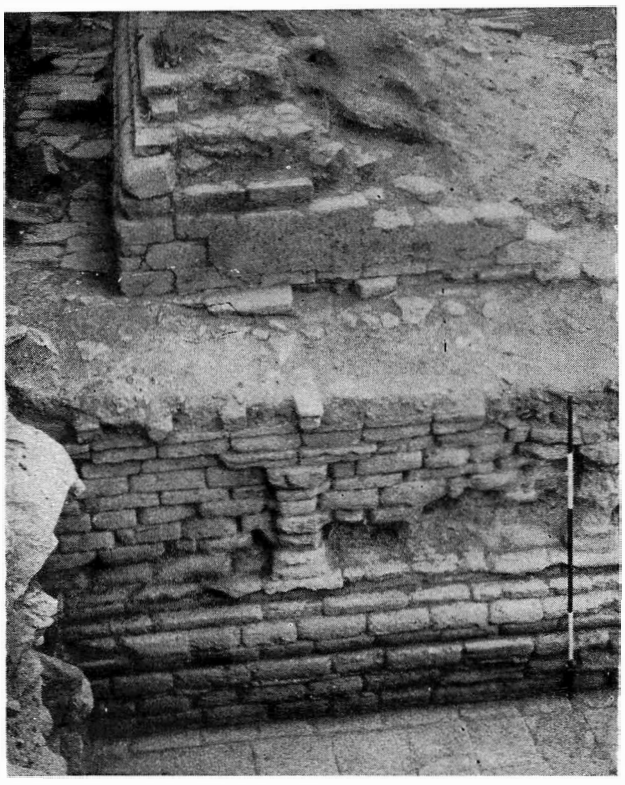


b. No. 157. Damkot — A small cell.

Plate No. 80



a. No. 158. Damkot — General view of the Stupa.



b. No. 159. Damkot — Decayed ashlar blocks in the lower tier of the stupa.

Plate No. 81



a. No. 160. Damkot — Damaged floor of stupa.



b. No. 161. Damkot — An earlier door under the stupa.

Plate No. 82



a. No. 162. Damkot — Different period structures at the stupa site.



b. No. 163. Damkot — Period II floor level marked by mill stone.

Plate No. 83

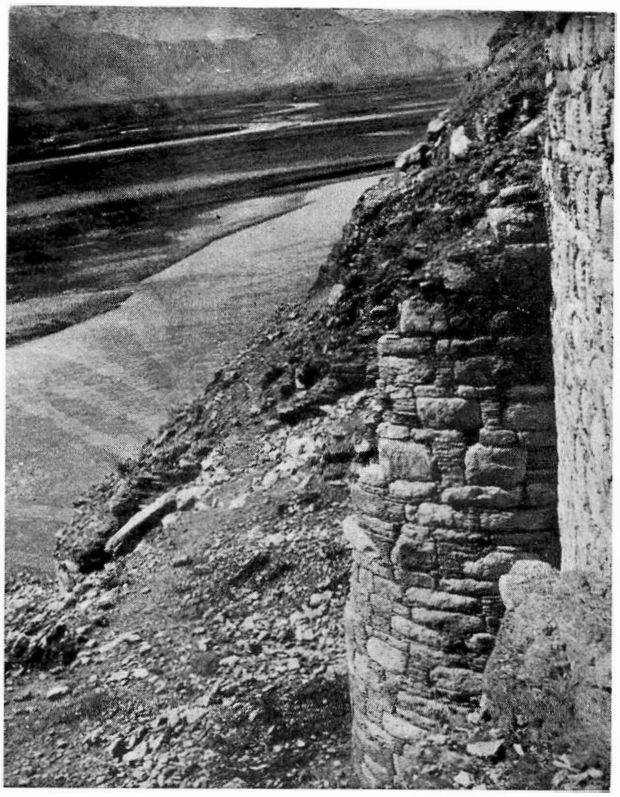


a. No. 164. Damkot — Circular tower of the defensive wall.



b. No. 165. Damkot — Defensive wall.

Plate No. 84



a. No. 166. Damkot — A semi-circular tower.

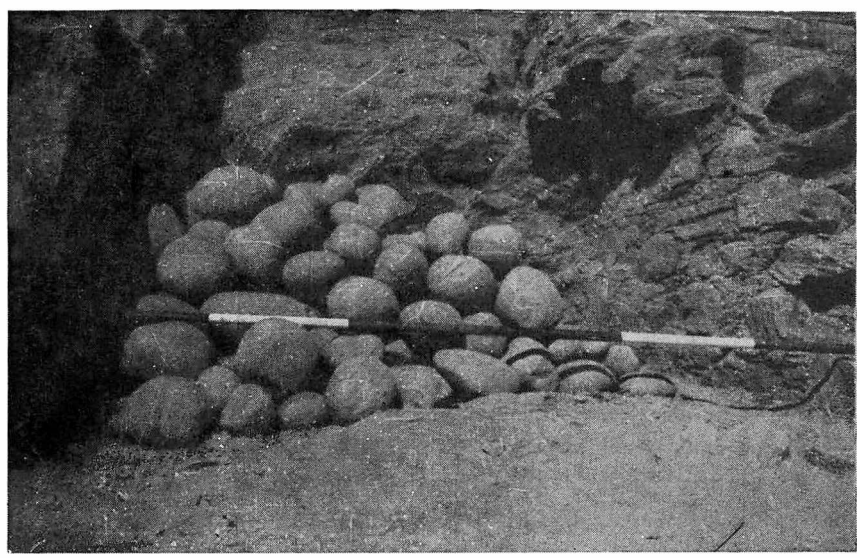


b. No. 167. Damkot — Crumbling defensive wall.

Plate No. 85

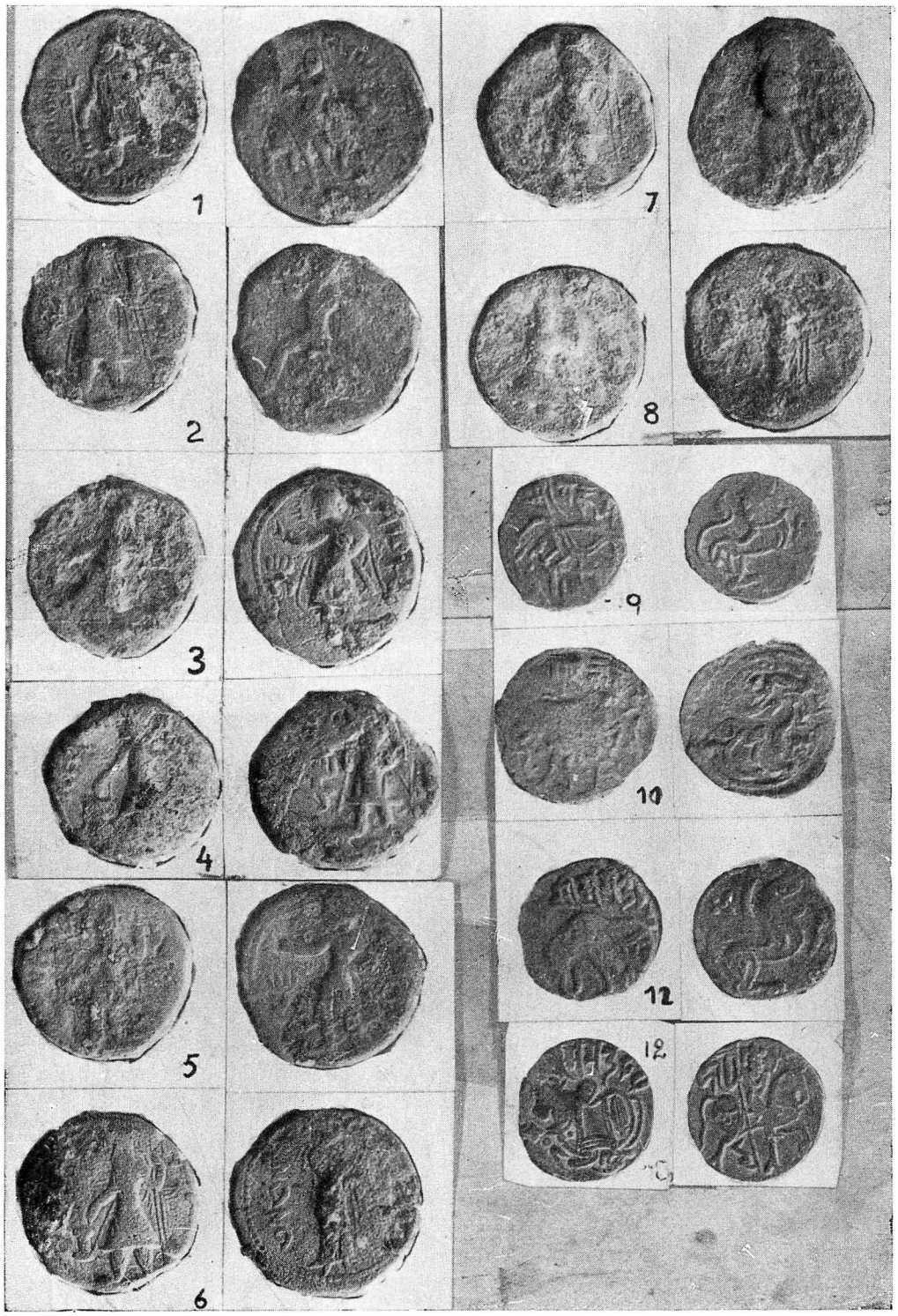


a. No. 168. Damkot — Tower damaged by rain water



b. No. 169. Damkot — Heap of rounded stones.

Plate No. 86

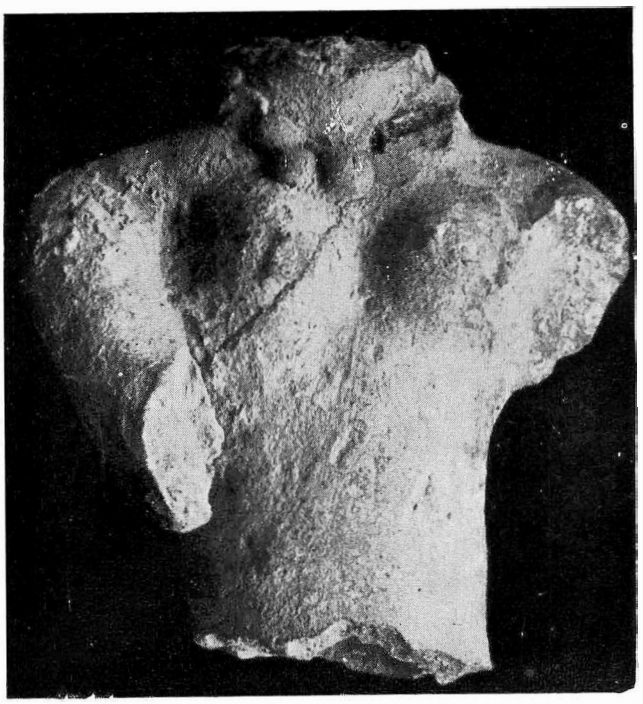


No. 170. Damkot — No. 1. Wima Ncs. 2–8 Kanishka. Nos. 9–10 Sri Vakka Deva. Nos. 11–12. Sri Samanta Deva

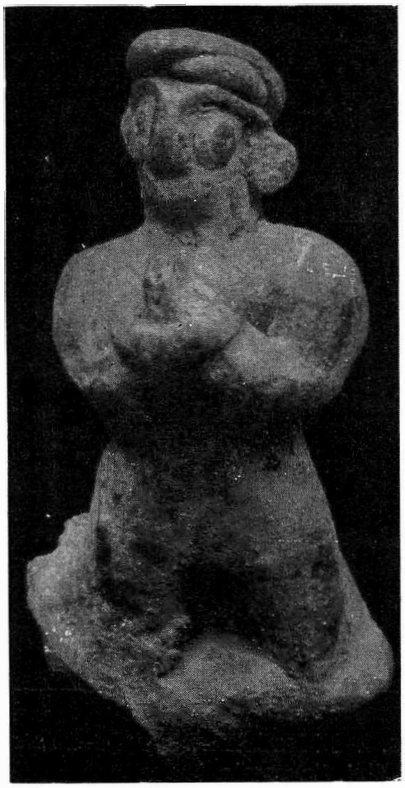
Plate No. 87



a. No. 171. Damkot — Cast of a mould.



b. No. 172. Damkot — Terracotta female bust.



c. No. 173. Damkot — Turbaned male (front view).



d. No. 174. Damkot — Turbaned male (back view)

Plate No. 88

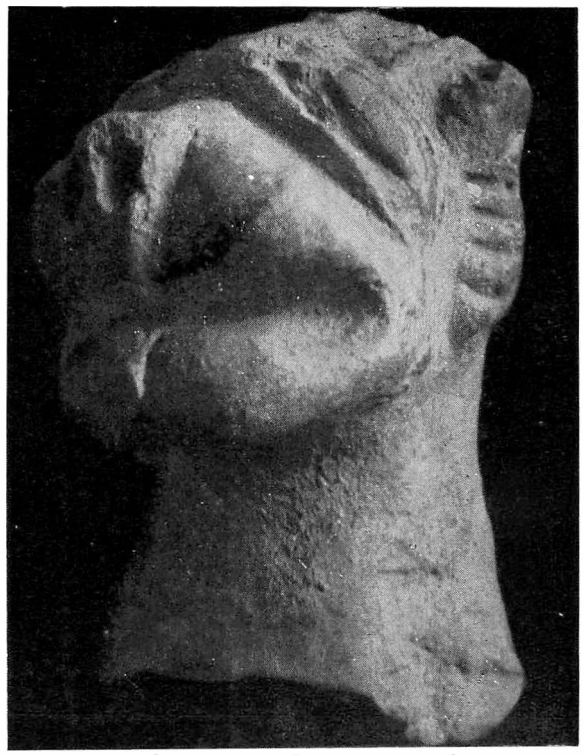


a. No. 175. Damkot — Terracota bulls.



b. No. 176. Damkot — Terracota horses.

Plate No. 89

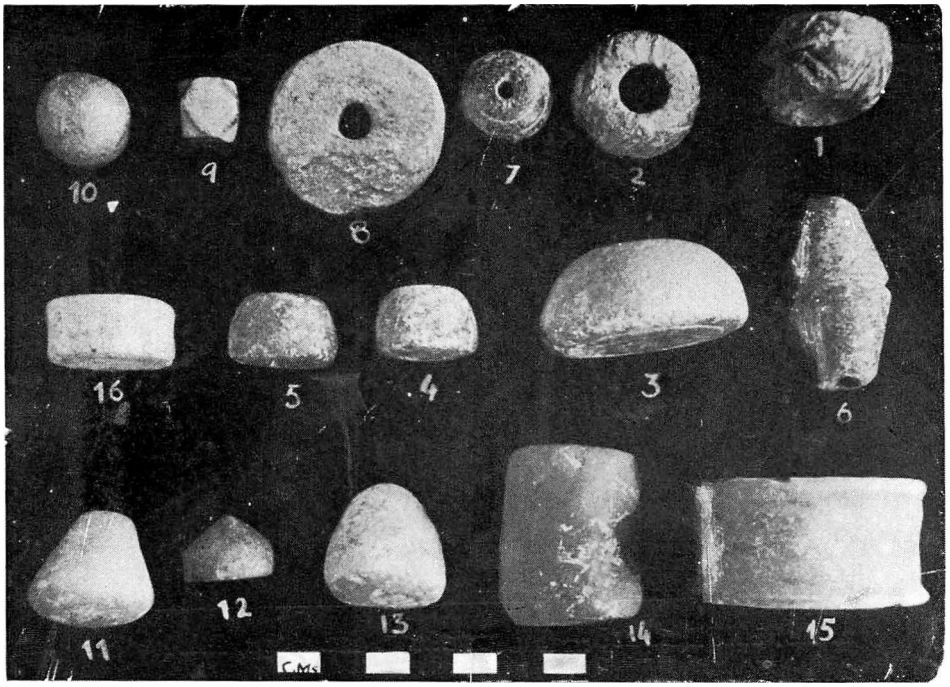


a. No. 177. Damkot — Lion-head



b. No. 178. Damkot — Seal with Buddhist creed.

Plate No. 90

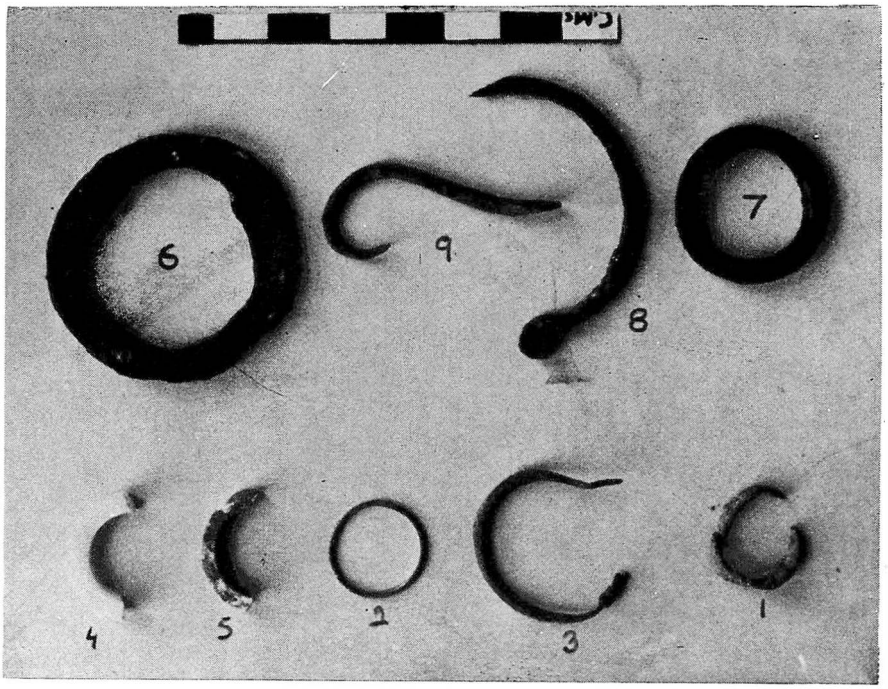


a. No. 179. Damkot — Stone beads and weights.

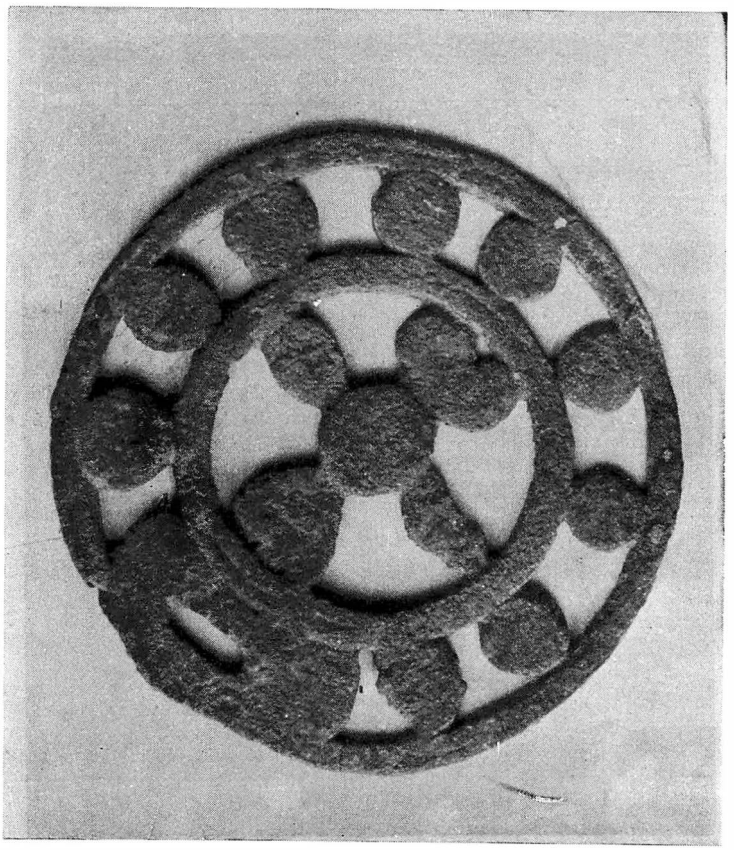


b. No. 180. Damkot — Toilet objects.

Plate No. 91



a. No. 181. Damkot — Finger rings, ear rings, fish-hooks.

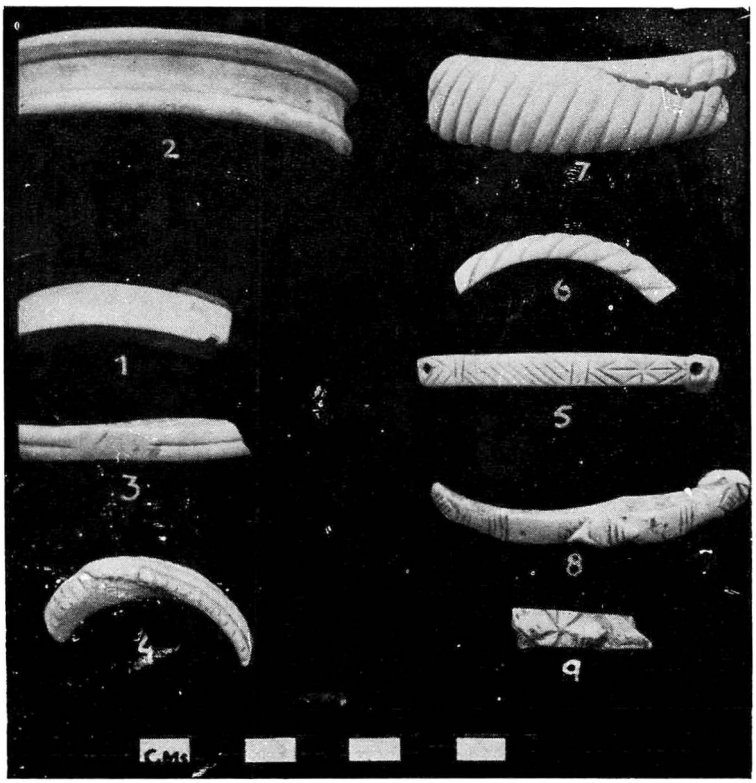


b. No. 182. Damkot — Copper floral design.

Plate No. 92

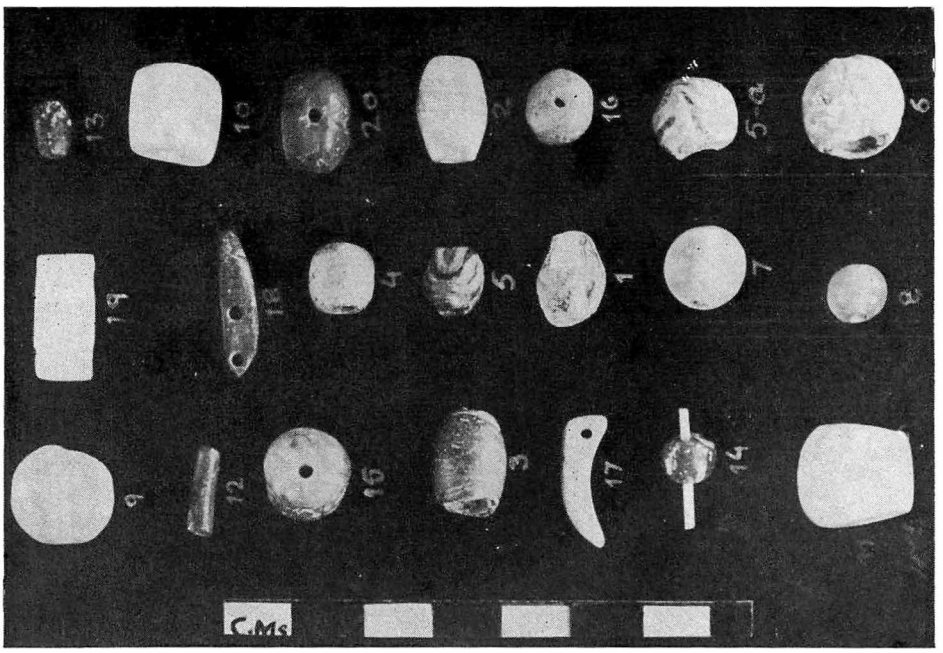


a. No. 183. Damkot — A copper design with devotees.

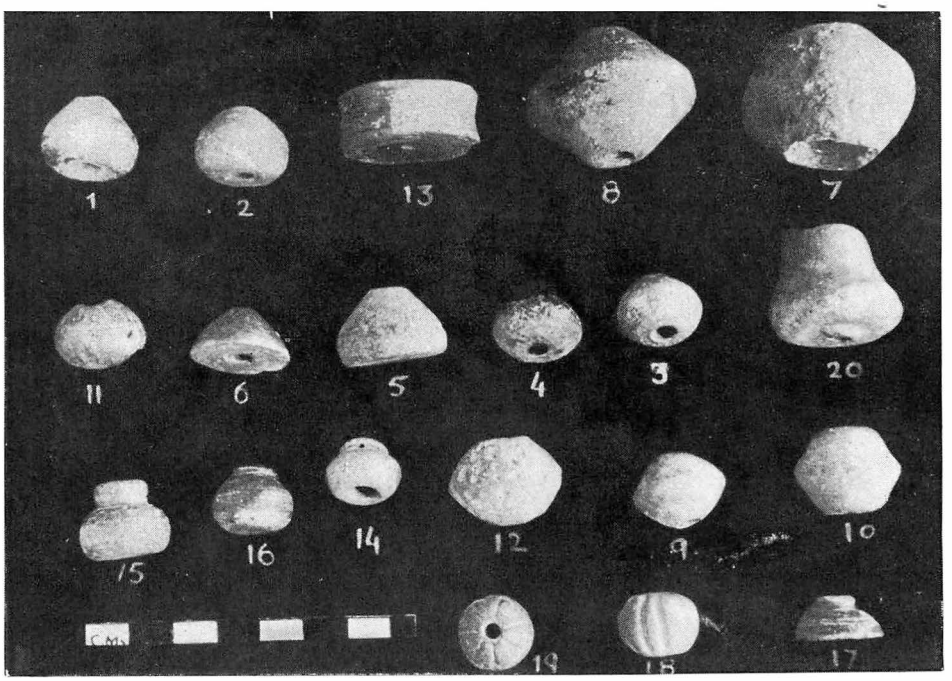


b. No. 184. Damkot — Shell bangles.

Plate No. 93

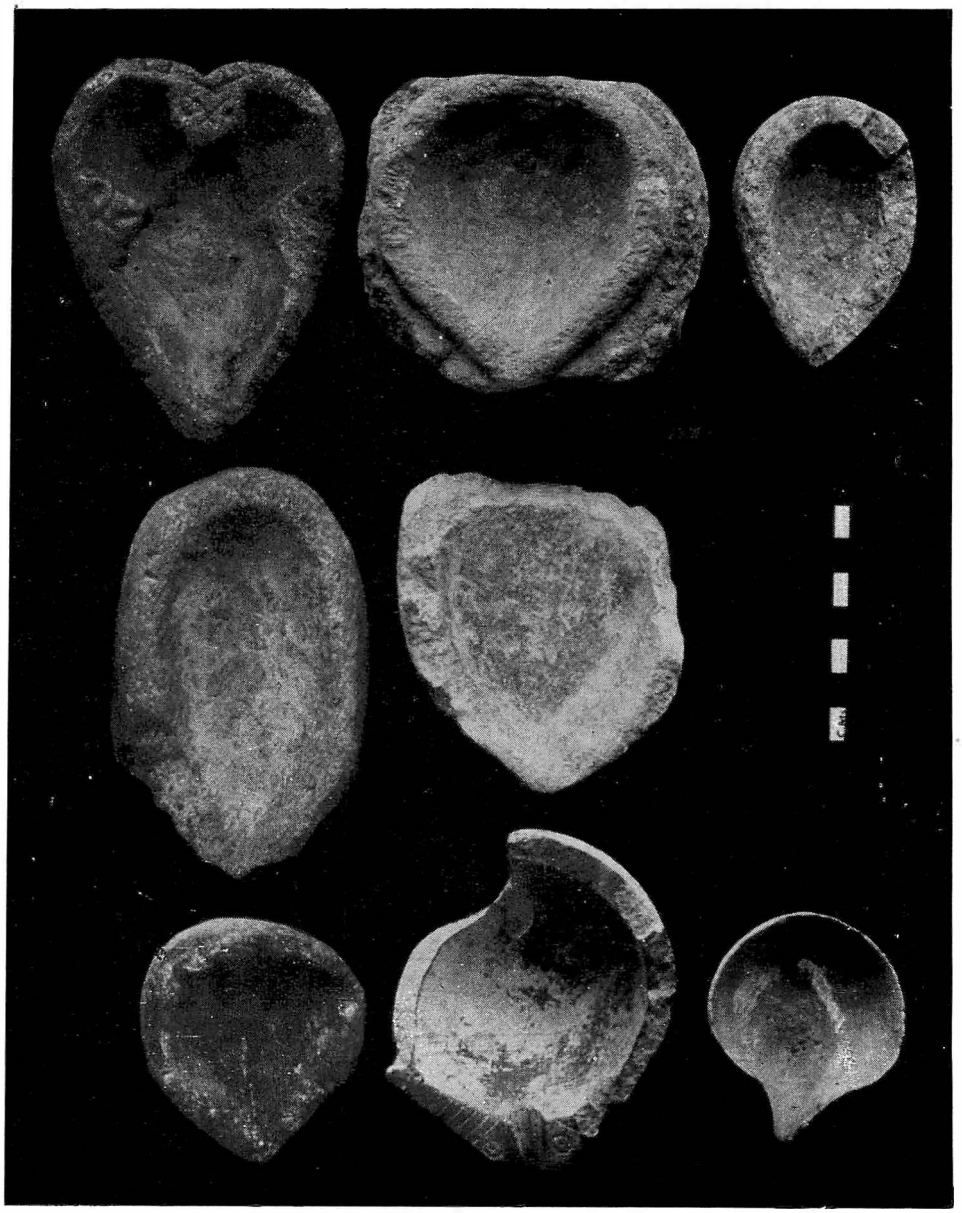


a. No. 185. Damkot — Terracotta beads.



b. No. 186. Damkot — Beads of stone glass and shell

Plate No. 94



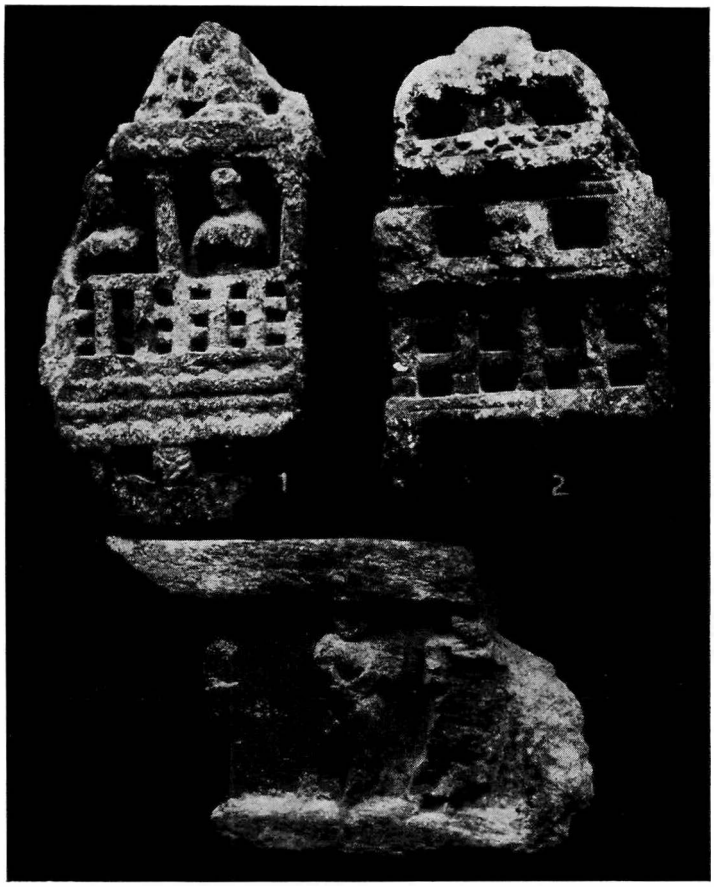
No. 187. Damkot. — Lamps.

Plate No. 95



No. 188. Damkot. — Seated Buddha (Period IV).

Plate No. 96

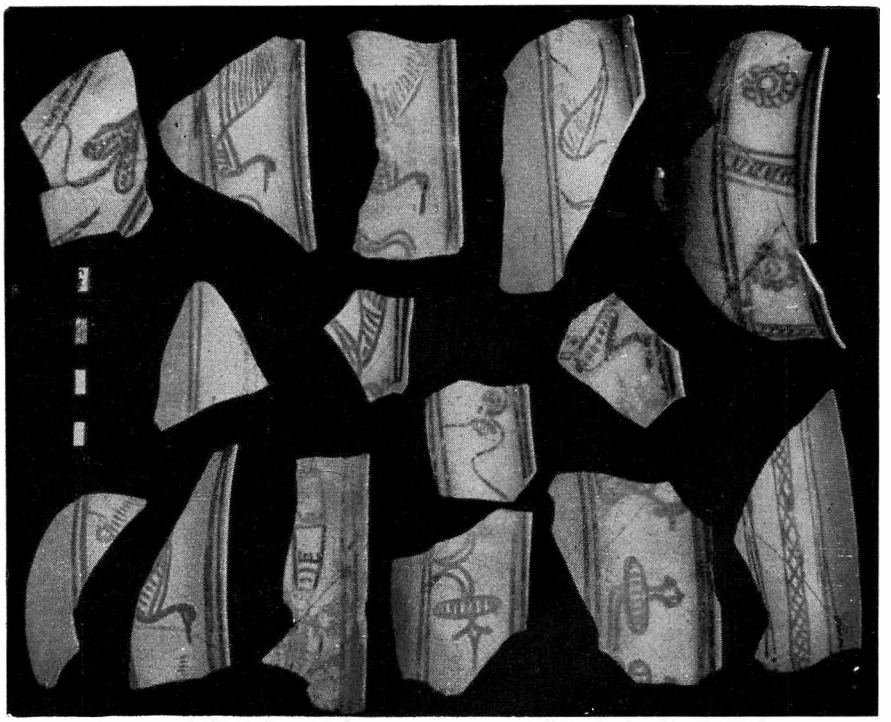


a. No. 189. Damkot — Schist sculptures.



b. No. 190. Damkot — heads.

Plate No. 97



a. No. 191. Damkot — Painted sherds of bowls.



b. No. 192. Damkot — Pedestalled bowls.

Plate No. 98

the purpose of the buildings may be unmistakably visualised. Their location on slopes or artificially raised platforms together with the absence of any cohesive has contributed much towards the total disappearance of several walls. The general features are the same in all of them. Firtsly, there is a square tower-like apartment, built solid upto the existing height of 12 to 15 feet. It is comparatively better preserved. Secondly, the rows of rooms are either straight or grouped around a courtyard. They are interlinked through entrances having lintels on the top. Several of the walls facing the main valley or gullies, through which these buildings are more easily accessible, are provided with splayed out loop-holes. Thirdly these are placed near enough to each other so as to be within the reach of the eyesight. Fourthly, the masonry is crude diaper, the blocks used in the walls appear to be only roughly dressed. Thus it seems scarcely possible to avoid the following conclusions: (i) that their situation upon dominant places — very often difficult of access, their solidarity and plan indicate their military use. (ii) That the groups of these buildings were serving as out-posts for the neighbouring forts and citadels; (iii) that the tower-like structure standing still higher than the rest of the buildings were primarily designed as watch towers. They could also be used for sending signals by burning fire.

Apart from these isolated groups of structures we come across well-fortified places in the same line of hills which divide Talash from Khadakzai valley. Among them, the name of Gumbat (Citadel), Bash Qala (fort) and Doda (fort) figure prominently. It appears that there is not a single ridge which was left unprotected in the whole of this valley. However the total absence of such structures on the northern line of hills is very curious.

The prime importance given to the defences of Talash and Chakdara-Uchh valleys may well be visualized in the presence of several[1] forts–some of them turned into citadels — and several other groups of structures at every strategic point to be found there. The substantial amount of labour involved in these architectural activities was not lavished without reason. The area occupies an important position on the route linking south-eastern Afghanistan with Swat and Buner, and through Malakand and Shah Kot passes, with the plains of Mardan and Peshawar. It may be added, parenthetically, that the location of these forts together with their rapid construction in a short period of time reflects defensive rather than offensive nature.

1. These seven forts include Damkot, Kamal Khan China, Kala Dheri, Katkala, Doda, Dl.ob and Gumbat.

(ii) *The Damkot Hill:* The line of hills dividing the Chakdara-Uchh valley from Khadakzai area abruptly ends at the right bank of the Swat (River) throwing an off-shoot to the east which accommodates, on is southern slope, the remains of an ancient fort locally known as Damkot (Lat. 343°39 N; Long 72° 1'. It is separated from the main ridge by a narrow saddle through which passes the modern road to Khadakzai (Pl. 67 a. No. 130). On the top, the hill culminates in three rocky eminences here named as Western Peak, Middle Peak and Eastern Peak. The Western Peak is a small conical projection in the rocky wall which rises steeply above the 400 ft. Contour line (see Fig. 8) and shields the western face of this hill. It is narrow on the top and is occupied by a bastion-like structure of the defensive wall. The Middle Peak rises to a little above 2700 ft. above sea level and happens to be the most important part owing not only to its towering height but also to a small plateau, which rises into two terraces on the top. This was the main target of our excavation. It is fringed by vertical heights, almost unscaleable for the upper fifty feet. On the east and west, it is connected by the other two peaks through narrow saddles. The occasional slopes and faults in the outer fringe appear to have been patched up by high masonry walls which give the impression of an inner enclosure. The Eastern Peak (also known as Churchill Point) (Pl. 67 b. No. 131) ascends steeply almost 70 ft. above the immediately surrounding area. On the top it accommodates a modern signal post (known as Shisho — gharat[1]). Beyond that the hill flattens out, and gradually slopes to the east, terminating in a rocky knoll known as Shah Dheri which is presently occupied by a British-built fort (Pl. 67 b. No. 131). It is from this side that Damkot can be comparatively easily approached. A dotted line on the contour map indicates a sloping track which winds up to the Churchill Point.

(iii) *Shamlai.* To the north of the Damkot hill is a vast glen descending from the bare mountains on the back and demarcated on the north by another parallel off-shoot which terminates on the roadside in a conical summit known as Pahlwan-o-Ghundai[2]. The modern road leading to Talash skirts the mouth of this glen. To the local people it is known as Shamlai. It is intersected by deep ravines and seasonal hill torrents which ultimately drain into the main river only a little above the modern fort. There are two perennial springs flowing out of the western ridges, under Jama Banda, and constitute the main source of water supply. The general surface of this

1. Meaning "Mirror Guard".

2. i.e. the hill of wrestler or athlete.

small plateau formed of compact clayey material slopes markedly towards the Damkot hill. That this glen or side valley was occupied in ancient times can abundantly be evidenced in the remnants of several structures, some of which may easily be recognised as small stupas robbed, though, of their sculptural wealth. Pottery finds on the surface together with crude diaper masonry, as revealed by some of the structures, are ample evidence to indicate that some of these buildings go as far back as the last occupational periods at Damkot (DK IV and V). Their purpose cannot be missed. Defending the Pahlwan-o-Ghundai off-shoot, they served as out-posts for Damkot which being connected with other forts situated on the same line of mountains, could maintain a constant supply of soldiers along the crest line of the hills. Among the notable finds made here may be mentioned some stone tools of the type 'pointed-butt-axe' (Fig. 18, Nos. 1-3)found in a rather late context in a small rock-shelter created by rock-falls. Almost three acres of land in the mouth of this glen is occupied by modern Muslim graves though its similar use in a remote age was attested by opening some ancient graves[1] which yielded materials comparable to the late phase of the Gandhara Grave Culture.

(iv) *Circumvallated Area:* The fortification wall (Fig. 8) passing along the northern side of the Middle Peak skirts around the Churchill Point and then abruptly drops to the river on the east; on the other side it rises first on the top of the Western Peak,then follows the high rocky wall for a short distance, takes a sharp westward turn and then turning south it drops to the river. The area thus marked by the perimeter wall is all spreading upon the southern slope of the Damkot hill, from the highest top down to the river. The slope on this side is not regular, nor all of it can be approached from all points. It is broken mostly by precipitous heights and bluffs accommodating small terraces which have been interconnected by artificially raised or otherwise sloping tracks. Anything once fallen from the top, on this side, would go straight down to the river bed demonstrating the steepness of the hill. Occasional buildings might also be seen on these terraces. Of necessity the greater concentration of dwellings was either on the peaks or down below along the river side.

(v) *Natural Strength of the Damkot Hill.* Rising a little les than 500 feet in height over the riverine plain, it is slightly curved in the middle and is washed at its convex side by swift waters of the Swat river below the precipitous rocky slopes which render it unassailable from this side. (Pl. 66 No. 129). On the concave side (north) unscaleable vertical heights fringe

1. The graves yielded fragments of iron which characterise Timargarha Period III. See *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. III, p. 47.

the central part of the hill except for two torrent beds. These points appear to have been strengthened by high masonry walls. On the east, however, the slope is gradual, as pointed out above. Nevertheless when we approach the defensive wall from this side the hill suddenly rises into a pinnacle (i.e. Churchill Point) with a domineering effect. Thus almost completely isolated from the main ridge, with its towering eminences over the surrounding area and one side protected by river (which also served as a source of water supply) the natural strength of the hill was a sufficient incentive to invite the attention of a military strategist.

(vi) *Strategic position of Damkot:* The choice of a site serving diverse purposes is often dictated by topography and routes which form the major lines of communication. Damkot is well-seated to guard the river crossing and all the routes traversing through the Chakdara-Uchh valley. It is high enough to keep under vigilance the Malakand and the Shah Kot passes on the one hand and Barikot[1] on the other. Thus seated safely almost in the centre of a cordon of equally important forts it not only commanded a panoramic view of the surrounding valleys but also guarded the main route linking these areas with south-eastern Afghanistan.

(2) SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

Period I: Damkot was first occupied in the first half of the 1st millennium B.C. by a people who settled on the virgin soil in a hollow, protected by rocks on three sides but open to the south, on the Middle Peak. They had burnished grey and black pottery as a significant ceramic industry. Much of the grey pottery reveals the use of slow wheel. A sizeable number of the vases have mat-impression on the bottom. The associated red ware is comparatively finer in manufacture, and is made on a fast wheel, very

1. Barikot is identified by Sir Aurel Stein with Bazira. His identification mainly depends upon the philological relation of Barikot with Bazira and the topography of the site which, according him, agrees with that given by Alexander's historians. See Aurel Stein, *An Archaeological Tour in Upper Swat and Adjacent Hill Tract*. P. 27. It may be pointed out however, that the masonry exhibited by the existing walls — rough diaper, almost approaching to rubble — is characteristic of the Hindu Shahi forts in this region. So also is the implication of the potsherds with complex rim formation found on the surface. The story revealed by the coins which Stein collected from the village Barikot also agrees with it. Specimens of coins range, he reports, from the issues of the Indo-Greeks..... Kushans to the 'mintages of the Hindu Shahis'. Stein, Ibid, P. 22. What remains on the top of the Barikot hill is therefore undoubtedly ascribable to the Hindu Shahis.

often showing reddish wash though a few sherds indicate the use of a rich red slip. A few fragments of hammered copper sheet indicate familiarity of the people with this metal. The accompanied polished stone tools probably form a dying out cultural under-current. On the whole, the material is comparable to Period III of the general stratigraphy at Timargarha and to that from layer 17, 16 & 15 at Ghaligai. Owing to the absence of any related evidence, it is not clear what happened to these people. The site was abandoned for a long time as suggested by a thick layer of hill wash and stones.

Period II: It was re-occupied probably in the 1st century B.C. or A.D. in the Scytho-Parthian times. Grey ware, at this level, is conspicuous by its total absence. A distinctive red ware is represented by a large number of pedestalled bowls having egg-shell thickness. In most examples they are painted black-on-red showing peacock, in a variety of forms, and other floral designs. A single doubtful coin found in a pit at this level is corroded beyond identification and the associated structures reveal fine diaper masonry.

Period III: The site continued to be occupied, without interruption, in the succeeding period which yielded coins of Wima, Kanishka and Vasudeva II in the similar order of succession. Pedestalled bowls with black painted peacock, represented by a few sherds in the 1st phase, died out by the time the coins of Kanishka came to be buried upon this site. It was a period of intensive occupation and suggestive of an oppulent community. The associated structures show diaper masonry, though inferior in quality both on areas A and B. By the time of Vasudeva II the accumulated debris had almost filled up the hollow so that a small plateau with fairly level surface was formed on area A to accommodate some more buildings. The plan of houses is not clear. Earlier walls continued to be re-used.

Period IV: End of the third or beginning of the fourth century A.D. witnessed major alterations in the existing structures and new additions to them where necessary. Area 'A' was converted into a monastery built afresh; the earlier structures being re-used only when they came in line wih the orientation of the monastic cells. After some time a 'water reservoir' was constructed in the eastern half of the monastery, adjacent to the cells, blocking an earlier entrance. It shows fine diaper masonry. Most important finds related to this period including the terracotta plaque depicting Buddha in low relief, clay head of Buddha, a little plaque of cast bronze depicting a flamed halo with flanking devotees, a bronze coin

mould of a smaller denomination and numerous glass bangles alongwith the distinctive goblet-on-stand ware found in this reservoir. In the eastern half of area 'B' most of the earlier structures were pulled down to accommodate a stupa built in two diminishing tiers of finely dressed ashlar blocks of granite. After sometime, as the blocks underwent sufficient decay to create small cavities on the stupa walls, it was given a thick coating of lime plaster. Only a few specimens of schist sculptures, of which one piece depict Buddha on an inverted lotus, were found fallen on the floor. The Buddhist establishment continued to flourish until the end of the fifth century A.D. Probably at the turn of the sixth century A.D. some calamity[1] befell it and the place was abandoned till the arrival of the copper coin of Sri Vakka. The catastrophe may have been in the days of the White Huns who are generally believed to have devastated the Buddhist establishments in a short span of time. The details of this wide gap are abundantly documented in the plunder that followed as we see that many of the stone blocks used in the walling of the monastery disappeared, so that we had to trace these walls with difficulty. On the stupa site also a thick layer of accumulated debris, which were washed down from the comparatively higher Area 'A', was deposited along the northern face of the stupa which prevented it from going down the slope. It was during this time that most of the important antiquities made their way into the 'water reservoir'.

Period V: Somewhere in the time of Sri Vakka Deva the site attracted the attention of some military strategist so that Damkot was once again occupied but this time it had to serve a different purpose. The peaceful Buddhist settlement which gave its name to the site was converted into a strong military resort. Some of the structures on the Middle Peak and the Churchill Point were levelled down and the two of them were put into separate enclosures. The vertical effect of the rocks fringing them was enhanced by constructing high walls all round. Some of the older structures which came in line with the requirements of its new masters were re-used as solid foundations. A fortification wall with built-in circular towers and rectangular bastions was thrown on the southern face of the Damkot hill enclosing a spacious area. Care was taken, in the construction of the defensive wall, to exploit the natural strength of rocks where they gave vertical height. To ensure a constant water supply the defensive wall was brought down to the river. The site continued to be occupied without interruption and with minor repairs in the defensive wall not long after the

1. The evidence is not sufficient to prove that there was a calamity and that this calamity was due to the invasion of the White Huns in the fifth or sixth century A.D. ——Editor.

billon currency of Sri Samanta Deva which is last datable evidence of the Hindu Shahis on this site. The constant occupation spreading over more or less two centuries turned the site into a citadel so that stables and smith shops were also included into it. In the pottery a large variety of formation with grooves, corrugations and incised lines was developed. Tanged arrow-heads, ranging from three to five inches in length, with square section, became the standard offensive weapon. What happened to the site? Violent destruction by fire is writ large in the thick layer of ashes and charcoal spreading on the top. Surely it died a violent death probably at the hands of Mahmud Ghaznavi at the end of the tenth century A.D. After that catastrophic destruction the site was again abandoned for a long time till the British built their signal post and coins of the East India Company arrived there.

(3) COMPARISON AND CHRONOLOGY

In the absence of any radio-carbon dates which would have been a surer base for dating we shall endeavour to build up the chronological framework on the evidence of coins. However, when even coins are not available we shall depend upon parallels and synchronisms from other sites, in the neighbourhood, which have already been excavated with some precision to inspire confidence. We refer to Ghaligai, Balambat, Charsadda and Shaikhan Dheri of which the former two happen to be in the immediate vicinity of Damkot in the hilly tracts whereas the other two are situated down in the plains. It appears indeed that the valleys of Swat and Dir and the plains below Malakand are so much inter-connected and inter-dependent that cultural uniformity in various aspects of human life would not be a distant matter. The sequence of cultures, therefore, would remain almost the same and the importance of a new site lies in its potentiality to furnish some missing link in the historical set-up of the region. It shall be clear from our analysis of cultural material that the sequence of cultures exposed at Charsadda[1] is not disturbed, though new details enlarge our view of some horizons.

Period 1. We shall first start our comparison with Ghaligai which happens to be just a few miles north-east of Damkot. There we have comparable material (mainly grey ware[2]) from strata 17, 16 and also 15 with which our grey ware industry conforms very well in paste, pot forms, sur-

1. i.e. Bala Hissar, as excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler. See his report on *Charsada*, Oxford, 1962.
2. Stacul has compared it with Burzahom where similar grey ware with mat-impression has been found earlier. Stacul, P. 210.

face finish, and the significant mat-impression on the bottom of many pots. Damkot–1 resembles so much with the above mentioned phase of Ghaligai that one feels to have stumbled upon the same cultural level. It may be mentioned parenthetically that no associated structures came to light at both the sites, though natural protection provided by rocks at the lowest level of Damkot may be reasonably surmised[1]. In the case of pottery it must be pointed out that whereas Stacul found a limited range of forms, as we learn from the short descriptions and few illustrations published so far, we were more fortunate in having a greater variety of pot-forms and their complete sections. For example our variety storage vessels (Fig. 24/112, 113), pitcher with thickened rim (Fig. 24/119, 121, 122 and Fig. 23/9), dish (Fig. 23/109), carinated bowl (Fig. 23/106), basin (Fig. 23/89), high pedestal base (Fig. 24/126, 127 and Fig. 23/102) find no parallels in Stacul. On the contrary his illustrated pot-forms (Fig. 6a-6b) from stratum (17) have their exact parallels in our Nos. 115, 97, 123, 100, 111, 103 and 114 in the similar order. From Ghaligai layer (16) he has illustrated one sherd of grey ware (Fig. 7-c) which can be very well compared with our No. 122 though our specimen has notched decoration on the top. Similarly his reddish brown Jar (Fig. 7-a), vase of reddish brown ware (Fig. 7-d) and reddish brown cooking tray (Fig. 7-f) appear to be the same as our Nos. 92, 98 and 79, though our cooking tray (reddish ware) has rather vertical wall and the other two are in grey ware. Inspite of this apparent uniformity of cultural material we notice the basic difference between the products of the two sites in that the vases at Ghaligai "are all hand made" and of a very course textured paste[2]. We have noted below that the majority of the grey pot-sherds which were brought to light from Damkot–I were made on slow wheel and could very well be mistaken for hand-made pottery but for the greater number of pot-sherds brought under examination by us. It would be therefore reasonable to say that, if the two different potting traditions are not confused at Ghaligai, our pottery inspite of the striking resemblance, should be placed later than Ghaligai layers (17) and (16).

But how far later? For that we shall take up the subsequent phase at Ghaligai i.e. layer (15). Regarding the potting tradition at this level it has been remarked that most of the pottery was of greyish paste and that the surface was treated more smoothly exhibiting more accurate workmanship and that

1. The deep hollow protected by high rocks at this level of Damkot (DK 1) looks very much like a rock-shelter.
2. Stacul, G. Excavations, in a rock shelter near Ghaligai, preliminary Report in *East and West*, new series, Vol. 17, Nos. 3-4, 1967, p. 208 (henceforth Stacul).

it was always carried out on the wheel. Stacul goes on to report that this pottery "clearly differs — from the greyware found in the underlying strata 16 and 17"[1] Judging from his illustrated examples it appears that this difference amounted only to the technique of manufacture, otherwise forms and shapes remained largely the same. Again all his illustrations have their analogues with us. Compare, for example, his 'large greyish vase' (Fig. 8a), another 'large greyish vase' (Fig. 8b) and 'top of a reddish ware jar' (Fig. 8c) with our Fig. 23/96, Fig. 24/118 and 117 in the similar order. Similarly the bottom of greyish vase illustrated by him (Fig. 8d) is similar to our Fig. 23/104. Even at this level the typological resemblance is very striking. Stacul has related this material to what he calls "Period of the culture of Swat necropolises".[2]

Another small detail may be added. In his strata (19) and (18) Stacul found pot-sherds characterised by very fine texture and usually pale red in colour, compact and well-baked and made on fast wheel[3]. This is actually our fine red ware. Stacul has compared it with Harappan pottery as regards the shapes, quality of the texture and workmanship. Our sherds are few in number and, moreover, they do not give full section to help reconstruction. It may be surmised however that the scant representation of a potting tradition which appears to be alien in the present context may be a distant echo from the Indus. The presence of peacock upon one of the sherds (Fig. 20/44) may also lend some support to the view. We are not sure, anyway.

Thus it appears that Damkot-1 is represented by mixed material comparable to Ghaligai strata (17), (16) and also (15). The associated red ware is however more evolved because the use of fast-wheel with comparatively finer results is not infrequently noted (see our Red Ware, Period 1). Many of the pot-forms in red ware have their exact analogues in greyware as well.[4] The obvious implication is that greyware represents only a cultural sub-current. The greyware survived even at Balambat, therefore we find that we are in a better position when we come across thick sectioned burnished pottery (red as well as grey) with mat-impression and identical forms and shapes at that site. Different sub-varieties of our dishes (Fig. 20/28 and Fig. 22/73, 74) compare well with those from Ba-

1. Stacul, P. 211
2. *Ibid*, P. 212
3. *Ibid*, P. 205-7
4. Compare our No. 83 with No. 107, No. 82 and 84 with Nos. 108, 126, 127, No. 80 with No. 104, No. 74 with No. 109 and No. 99 with No. 5 and so on.

lambat (Fig. 53, Nos. 6, 7, 12). For the dish having extended lip and sagger base, we have an exact counterpart from Balambat: our Fig. 20/27, is similar to Balambat Fig. 53 No. 9 and our Fig. 23/110 in greyware compares well with it except that it has a different decoration. Next we take up pitcher with long neck (our Fig. 19/11) which has parallels in Balambat Fig. 51, Nos. 1, 2 and 4 and Fig. 53, No. 3. Their similarity is striking not only in fabric and polished redware but also in shape, surface treatment and decoration characterised by funnel shaped mouth and corrugations on the neck. Similarly our Fig. 21/49 may also be well compared with Balambat Fig. 51, No. 10 so far as their shapes are concerned. Another point of comparison may be seen in the small vases or 'narrow necked bottles' of coarse fabric (see our Fig. 23/98 and Balambat Fig. 52, Nos. 19-21), though the portion above neck is somewhat shorter in our example. The practice of perforated lugs is common to both sites (see our Fig. 20/38 and Balambat Fig. 52, No. 25) and so is the mat-impression.[1] Again rippled rim decoration, grooved horizontal or wavy lines are found at the comparable levels at both sites: Compare our Fig. 20/28, 29 with Balambat Fig. 51, No. 2.

Another comparable form is bowl-on-stand (our Fig. 23 and Fig. 22/83 No. 107 and Balambat Fig. 52, No. 3), though one of our examples is in greyware. Its occurrence in greyware is very rare and only a few examples are reported from Timargarha[2] but more from Butkara graves. It may be pointed however that our example (in greyware) unlike those of Timargarha is finely burnished.

We may also compare Balambat Fig. 52, No. 27 with our open-mouthed large bowl (Fig. 21/61) characterised by its coarse fabric. Only few examples were found by us though sufficient to attest its presence at this level.

Another point of contact with Balambat and which has not been reported from Ghaligai is the burnishing of some of the pots, particularly on the lip area and occasionally on the main body as well. All the burnished potsherds found by us were in grey or the derivative grey brown wares, though application of this technique to redware is attested at Balambat (see Fig. 55, No. 3 and P. 266). At Balambat again we find ground stone tool[3] of the pointed-butt-axe' type comparable to those found in Damkot-1. Thus, in the final analysis one is tempted to see in the burnished red and

1) We have not illustrated any example from Balambat, though these are sufficiently lying with us
2) *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. III, P. 43.
3) Compare our Fig. 18, Nos. 4, 5 with Balambat Fig. 62 Nos. 1-4 and P. 284.

grey wares together with some pot-forms, mat-impression and ground stone tools as the standard clues to a culture which operate in the hilly tracts and which was partly comtemporary with Balambat II (Period III of the general stratigraphy of Timargarha) and a little later than Ghaligai horizon III. If so we may also extend our view down to Sarai Khola where highly burnished brown pottery, wheel-turned and made of well levigated clay has been recently found.[1] Our illustration of a bowl (Fig. 23, No. 93) finds its exact counterpart at Sarai Khola.[2] Even mat-impression on the bottom of some vessels is found there.

It is evident from the above analysis that two distinct ceramic traditions comprising of (a) burnished greyware and (b) burnished red or red brown ware, were operating side by side in the valleys of Dir and Swat as also down into the plains at a particular time. Within greyware two stages can be pinpointed — stage (i) represented at Ghaligai by plain unburnished greyware and, stage (ii) by burnished greyware like that of Balambat Period II and Damkot-1. Which of the two is earlier? We have already noted that typical forms of greyware were duplicated in redware which may lend support to our supposition that stage (i) was earlier than stage (ii). Now Ghaligai material has been dated by Stacul to within the first half of the second millennium B.C. Our material representing stage (ii) would therefore be reasonably placed after the end of the first half of the second millennium B.C. This marks the earlier bracket for Damkot-1. The end of the bracket is marked by Balambat Period (ii) which goes as far back as the 9th century B.C. and with which our material partly over-laps. But Balambat (ii) (or Timargarha (iii) are characterised by the introduction of iron in West Pakistan.[3] Since we did not find iron at this level it would be sufficiently reasonable to place Damkot-1 at the beginning of the first millennium B.C. or a little earlier.

Period II revealed fully developed cultural material stamped with more perfect use of mechanical means in the manufacture of pottery resulting in grooved as well as beaded rims and very fine fabric some with eggshell thickness. The hall-mark of this period is the bowl (our 'fashion ware' Fig. 27/186-194) with or without pedestal and very often painted on the exterior with the peacock motif as outstanding decorative feature though plain variety is also not wanting. For typological correlation when we turn to Ghaligai strata 12, 10 and 9 we come across almost similar bowls. Ghaligai

1. *Pakistan Archaeology*, Vol. V, P. 35.
2. Ibid, Pl. Va.
3. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. III, P. 47.

Fig. 10g and h, for example, correspond very closely to our Fig. 28/229, Fig. 26/185 and Fig. 25/145. This is in fact our plain variety. Stacul did not find a complete section of the pedestalled variety, though he has illustrated one such pedestal-base (Fig. 10j) which certainly belongs to this type of bowl as we know from the many examples with us. At Charsada also we come across similar bowls. Charsada 1, Fig. 29, Nos. 246-251 and 254 compare well with our Fig. 29/238, Fig. 6/183 and Fig. 25/141, 148, 143 not only in form but also in fabric. Even the egg-shell thickness — the distinctive feature of many of our bowls, is achieved there.[1] Sir Mortimer has dated these bowls to the 2nd century B.C.[2] From Charsada V, layer (7) comes an example with black painted peacock so common on our bowls. This has also been dated to the end of the 2nd century B.C.[3]

Little importance was attached to this bowl in earlier excavations because very few examples came to light. In our excavation we found a large number of them, the study of which may be good chronologically. At Charsada, again, we shall look for its proto-type. Sir Mortimer has illustrated a pedestalled globular bowl (Fig. 12, No. 24) from Charsada 1, layer 41, and another (his brandy glass bowl) from Sari Dheri (Fig. 138) of what he calls the 'soapy redware'. Both examples are made on a tournette. In form these examples have striking resemblance with our bowls except the manufacturing technique and the outward inclination in the rim area of many of our examples, though some of our bowls (particularly the plain variety Fig. 26/175, and 179-185) have almost straight rim. Moreover, in our pedestalled variety the upper and lower parts are made separately and then finally luted together when the body clay was yet leather hard. These may be the different stages in its development, which are abundantly documented in the different varieties of this bowl, till it resulted in the sophisticated form — i.e. our fashion ware. Can we see in it an evolutionary change from the 'Brandy bowl' of Sari Dheri? Sir Mortimer has dated his examples to fifth & fourth century B.C.[4] Taking into consideration the time-lag for this evolutionary change our provisional date for the type is first century B.C. to second century A.D.

For our pitcher with grooved rim (our Fig. 28/218 and Fig. 26/164) we find its counterparts in Ghaligai Fig. 9d and Charsada Fig. 29, No. 238, though the Charsada specimen has a somewhat outwardly inclined rim.

1. Wheeler, Sir Mortimer, Ch. 1, No. 247 and P. 70
2. *Ibid.* P. 70
3. *Ibid.* P. 100
4. *Ibid.* PP. 46, 48.

Again in Ghaligai 9g we find an exact analogue of our pitcher with vertical and externally collared rim (our Fig. 28/212). Another variety of the pitcher with grooved rim (our Fig. 26/158) has a parallel in Ghaligai 9e. Our storage vessel (Fig. 28/208) is similar to Ghaligai 9a and the flat base of a red vase (Fig. 9h) from Ghaligai Stratum 12 is the same as our Fig. 27/201. Similarly our large bowl (Fig. 26/171) compares well with Ghaligai 9j.

Thus we have sufficient evidence to correlate Damkot-II with Ghaligai stratum (9) and (10) and Charsada layers 20 and 19. Perfectly in line with it is the evidence to a double moulded female figurine[1] (Pl. 88 c and a) and a doubtful copper coin found in association with the painted bowls. *For Period III* we have the evidence of coins belonging to Wima, Kanishka and Vasudeva II found in the similar order of succession. None of the other Kushana Kings is represented here by their coinage, though the possibility is there. It goes without saying that chronology of the Kushanas is by itself a confused problem and the smaller number of their coins found by us little helps in solving them. Our provisional dates for this period are Ist century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D.

Period IV represents a late Buddhist phase at Damkot. Now we have the evidence of terracotta (Frontispiece) and clay Buddhist figures found in association with some very poorly carved specimens of schist sculptures (Pls. 96 and 97) and an unidentified but preferably late Kushana coin[2] mould (Pl. 88a, No. 171). Stratigraphically, these finds are attributed to post-Vasudeva II period and therefore datable to 4th and 5th centuries A.D. Stylistically these schist sculptures, characterised with linear quality of robes and flat figures, may be reasonably attributed to a decadent Buddhist phase when stucco, clay and terracotta had replaced schist as materials for making sculptures. Terracotta and clay figures exclusively Buddhist in character and very similar to the Buddhist stucco sculptures were found abundantly at Taxila.[3] Marshall ascribed them to his 'Indo-Afghan School' and dated them to fourth and fifth centuries A.D.[4] So also is the implication of Buddhist creed on a terracotta tablet found by us (Pl. 90b, No. 178) and inscribed in Gupta Brahmi character.

In consonance with the fifth century date is the evidence of some

1. At Shaikhan Dheri a number of double moulded figurines were found and they were ascribed to the Scytho-Parthian period. See *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 47
2. Only cast from the mould is illustrated. It may be attributed to some late Kushana Chief or King.
3. Marshall, *Taxila* ii, P. 468.
4. *Ibid.*

stone lamps which we recovered from stratum (3). Again we find comparable examples at Taxila[1] where Marshall recorded some similar stone lamps, some of them found in association with Buddhist establishments. His variety 'leaf-shaped' lamp (Pl. 141 and P. 500) is almost the same as our variety heart-shaped lamp (Pl. 95, No. 187) except that the Taxila example is externally lugged whereas our lamp has internal projections. Moreover we do not have external lotus leaf decoration, but the shape of the two is very much alike. As to the date of this lamp Marshall remarks that this 'is almost certainly of the fifth century A.D.' For our variety 'd' (Fig. 17/9, 8) a comparable lamp of soap stone with three conjoined handle, straps comes from Charsada from pit B at the top of Charsada.[2] Wheeler observes that this lamp 'is not likely to date from the early centuries A.D.'[3] One of the soapstone lamps with us (Fig. 17/8) has the figure of seated Buddha on the underside and therefore may be unmistakably related to the Buddhist period. Flatness of the figure exhibiting very poor carving would suggest a late date.

The ceramic industry of *Damkot-V* bears striking resemblance with that of Charsada-I as represented in its layers 6-4. The most distinctive feature of our pottery from this level is the stamped notches-and-rosette pattern (our Fig. 38/391, 386) which has analogous examples from Charsada-I (Fig. 36, No. 327 and Fig. 38, No. 357). Indeed the analogy is so complete here that even the shape of some of the related pots (to which this kind of decoration is applied) appear to be the same from both sides.[4] Another point of comparison may be seen in the striated lugs (compare Charsada, Fig. 37, No. 340 with our Fig. 42/450) though our example is striated allover. The ram's head spout found at Charsada (Fig. 37, No. 341) and the one found by us (Fig. 41/436a, 437) suggest an identical idea and appear to be vaguely analogous, though our example is somewhat longish in shape. We may also compare triple leaf decoration (our Fig. 42/446, 447 and Charsada Fig. 44, No. 433) though at Charsada it was found in an earlier context and its continuity in a subsequent phase may only be visualized. The massive cooking tray of coarse fabric of which a large number of fragments was found by us has its counterpart from Charsada–1 layer[5] (6). Even the greater variety of rim formation in Damkot-V smacks of the tradition not unpo-

1. *Ibid.* P. 500.
2. Wheeler, PL XLIV, 2 and P. 124.
3. Ibid. P. 125.
4. Compare our Fig. 38, No. 391 with Charsada Fig. 36, No. 327.
5. Compare our Fig. 41, No. 431 with Charsada Fig. 36, No. 331. Wheeler observes that this is 'a type not uncommon in the layers of Islamic period'. See P. 80.

pular at Charsada at the comparable levels. Lastly we found a few sherds showing simple decoration consisting, largely, of alternating bands in white — a tradition which may correlate it with Charsada where 'a considerable quantity of simple decoration in white was found'[1] in layer 6. Thus Damkot-V appears to be reasonably contemporary with Charsada 1 layers 6-4.

In his excavation Sir Mortimer did not find any coin at these levels, but with rare intuition he dated them 'as early as the eighth century A.D.'[2] We are fortunate in having coins of the Hindu Shahis — first of Sri Vakka Deva and then in close succession those of Sri Samanta Deva with billon currency of the latter on the top, at these levels confirming the dates already worked out independent of the evidence of coinage.[3]

Thus the convergent evidence of coins and other associated materials from Damkot-V would tend to suggest a dating which coincides with the beginning of the eighth to the end of the tenth century A.D. for this period.

4. THE STORY OF EXCAVATION

The month of March, 1968, was an auspicious time when the members of the Department of Archaeology University of Peshawar, busy in uncovering the archaeological wealth from Buddhist sites, almost tumbled upon this great fort of the Hindu Shahis. By this ime rumours were in the air that many a Buddhist stupa has been robbed of their sculptural wealth and that antiquities were pouring out of these regions with astonishingly rapid speed. An officer had already been appointed by the state authorities to put a check to these unbriddled robberies, but difficult terrain of the country presented big obstacles. At the invitation of the former Political Agent to Dir, Mr. Rahat Ullah, the Department, therefore, launched a campaign to retrieving the cultural wealth as much as possible, recording the sites, and excavating the remaining portions to have an intelligent probe into the otherwise much disturbed mounds. As a fair corollary to these efforts quite intact new sites also came to light. Thus with the headquarter at Chakdara, the Department undertook the excavation of Jabagai a few miles to the west of it. The road to Jabagai passed through Shamalai skirting the Damkot hill on its south. Meanwhile information about certain rock — carvings — *Buts* — was brought home. It was in connection with visiting

1. See our Fig. 41, No. 438 and also our pottery section and Wheeler, P. 80, No. 330.
2. Wheeler, Op Cit. P. 80.
3. For details see 'the coins'.

such rock-carvings at Damkot that Prof. A.H. Dani with other colleagues picked up a new type of pottery scattered so profusely on slope of the hill. A further probe revealed huge mounds of accumulated cultural debris. Local enquiries revealed that plenty of coins come to light in the rainy season, when the torrential showers scratch away the upper surface. The site was worth investigation. A reconnoissance team consisting of the author and Mr. Farid Khan was arranged hurriedly and the 'Middle Peak' was selected for excavation to uncover the cultural sequence. Consequently, a rectangular area measuring 40x20 ft. consisting of two 20 ft. square trenches was marked on the top. In a few weeks' time, it was dug down to stratum (9) revealing four periods of successive occupation of the site, but the virgin soil was not reached. Along with that came to light the remains of a great defensive wall. Due to some urgent duties in the University, the excavation was suspended for a short time. In July again the work was resumed which took another three months to set the problems squarely.

The University deputed both of us to excavate but as Mr. Farid Khan was soon to be appointed as Director of the Peshawar Museum, it fell into my lot to write the entire report. However the views expressed in the following report represent both of us and together we stand responsible for its merits or demerits.

In the preparation of the work we owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. A.H. Dani for his untiring guidance in the field and revealing discussion on its various aspects. He neither spared time nor trouble in giving us assistance whenever we needed. We gratefully acknowledge his help and guidance. We are also indebted to Mr. Rahatullah and Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, the former Political Agents to Dir for their financial help and hospitality which they extended to us during our stay at Chakdara. Mr. Aurangzeb Khan, incharge of the Dir Museum, very kindly extended his help in carrying out the actual excavation by putting his Inspector, Mr. Mohammad Shirin, at our disposal who proved so helpful. The photographs were prepared by Mr. Mohammad Sabir and the drawings by Mr. Mohammad Daud, respectively photographer and draftsman of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar.

I. PLAN OF EXCAVATION

Our test excavation, restricted though it was, posed some interesting questions which could not be solved without further investigation. Therefore in the second season our three-month-long excavation was mainly directed towards solving these specific problems – viz, (i) establishing

full stratigraphical sequence of the site, (ii) relationship of the defensive wall with a certain horizon in that framework and (iii) the duration for which the defences were used. The results were extremely encouraging and fruitful and provided satisfactory answers. First of all, we took up the last two questions, as much of the sequence was already known from the trial excavation. Fully conscious of the fact that due to the peculiar situation of the fort on the hill slope, torrential rains, so common to this region, must have resulted in the denudation of upper strata at the peak and a corresponding accummulation of cultural debris on the lower slopes, trenches were laid on three different points against the outer face of the fortification wall and dug down to the bed-rock. The sequence of strata thus revealed, when equated with that known from the trial excavation, decisively proved that the defensive wall belonged to the last period of occupation on this site. A detailed account of all the three trenches, numbered as T.T.X, T.T.Y, T.T.Z is given below one by one. No valuable finds were made except pottery and a few arrow heads (of iron). The solitary coin (of Vasudeva II) found in T.T.X belongs to an earlier stratum, antedating the defensive wall.

(II) TRIAL TRENCH X (T.T.X)

This was laid perpendicular to the outer face of the defensive wall on the river side about 88′ to south of the east corner bastion. (see map Fig. 8). Being on the lowest slope, a great heap of cultural debris had been accumulated on this spot mostly due to rain water which had also resulted in cutting a deep gully on one side damaging thereby the upper portion of a tower in the defensive wall (see Pl. XXI a). It was from this gully that careful observation revealed the stumps of defensive wall. The original trench measured 10′x10′ but, then it was decided to enlarge it on the left and right along the fortification wall to gather more information. The story revealed was the same as already known, though, in negative. That was already expected. Thus layer (4) revealed stamped postsherds characteristic of St. (1) on the Middle Peak. It was quite clear therefore, that layers (1–4) were deposited after the defensive wall was no longer in use. Layer (5) was contemporary with it, whereas (6) and (7) antedated it. In layer (5) again were evidenced some repairs also. As already pointed out a coin of Vasudeva II was found embedded in layer (7) — stratigraphically earlier than the fortifications. The details are as follows:—

(SECTION: FIG. 9)

On the top is humus

St. (1) .is represented by loose earth marked with sandy streaks dipping

towards the river. It lies against the defensive wall. Pottery types of Period IV and V were found mixed up. The reason of this mixing up is not altogether wanting. As already pointed a deep gully formed by rain water has been biting deep into the cultural debris only a little above this point resulting in the mixing up of this material. Some other spoil trenches again on the high slope have also contributed their share to it.

St. (2) is represented by a loose deposit of brownish earth having streaks of potsherds near the wall. On the whole the potsherds are tiny and abraded probably due to falling down the hill side. Fragments of bones were also noted. Pottery types are similar to those of Period V. It is dipping towards the river.

St. (3) is loose brownish earth having sandy streaks with occasional charcoal pieces and bone fragments, dips markedly towards the river. There were a few blocks of stone apparently fallen from above. It yielded abundant pottery comparable to that of Period V.

St. (4) is cultural debris consisting of loose earth and fallen blocks of stone. Due to the greater proportion of charcoal and ashes the soil has changed its colour from brownish to greyish. The blocks are roughly dressed on the one side and appear to have fallen from the defensive wall. It is resting against the wall and appears to have accumulated just after its abandonment. Evidence of destruction is writ large in the material contents of this layer. Potsherds are very scanty. A few sherds of stamped bowls can be equated with those from St. (1) of the test excavation. On the bottom of this layer and lying in a corner were found as much as sixty sling stones, (Pl. 86 b) largely rounded river pebbles.

St. (5) is represented by tightly packed earth and chips of stone with very occasional sherds of pottery. It may be debris of some subsequent restoration or repair done to the wall. Also related to it is small ramp of three courses of stone blocks, probably constructed to strengthen the fortification. Whether this restoration took place just after the completion of the defensive wall or at a much later date, is not clear, though the latter will be closer to reason. It is partly contemporary with the wall.

St. (6) water laid deposit of brownish earth and charcoal pieces with tiny fragments of pottery. Dipping towards the river side. The layer antedates defences.

St. (7) cultural refuse probably deposited by rain water with few stones

and a correspondingly meagre number of potsherds resembling those from Period III, above. The most significant find made at the bottom of this layer was a copper coin of Vasudeva II (see coins, No. 11) which proved that the defences were made long after the said coin got embedded there.

Below this is hill wash — natural deposit.

III-TRIAL TRENCH 'Y' (T.T.Y.)

This was laid perpendicular to the north-western fringe of the Middle Peak at a point (see map, Fig. 8) which appeared to have been well preserved. The original trench measured 10'x10' but, after the defensive wall came to light, it was extended all along it at the Middle Peak, in order to expose the external face of the wall. Here it was found that the stump of wall visible in the section, probably a later restoration was resting directly upon layer (4) which yielded fragments of schist and potsherds similar to those of Period IV. Below that was found a trilobe arrow-head (of iron) typical of the Kushana levels (Period III) at this site. There was a large concentration of ashes and charcoal in the upper two strata. The details are as follows:—

(SECTION: FIG. 10)

Top is covered by humus.

St. (1) is a most recent deposit, (of the British period) consisting of loose earth, ashes and charcoal, and a large number of rectangular blocks of stone. This is indeed the cultural debris related to the top stratum dug into by the British soldiers who not only extracted stones but also filled up the irregularities and ditches on the top to get a level surface. Potsherds with stamped patterns were found in plentiful numbers.

St. 1-a) is a thick layer of brownish earth mixed with charcoal mostly washed down from the top and partly fallen from the neighbouring structures. Dipping towards the north-west, it appears to have accumulated after the destruction of the defensive wall. Potsherds are very scanty.

St. (2) is cultural refuse consisting of compact brownish earth and potsherds with occasional pockets of ashes and bones. It is contemporary with the second building phase of Period V. The layer is markedly dipping towards the north-west.

St. (3) is compact gritty earth mixed with stones and abundant potsherds comparable to those of Period V. It appears to be a cultural refuse of the first building phase of the Hindu Shahi period. The foundation of the stump of wall visible in the section — a later addition to the defensive wall — cuts through it. A few fragments of iron nails and several arrow-heads of the square-sectioned tanged type were found embedded in it.

St. (4) is again cultural refuse. The later addition to the defensive wall, as already noted above, is resting directly upon this layer. The main pottery types of which fragments of goblet-on-stand were numerous is typical of Period IV. It produced pieces of schist and fragments of granitic stone — probably refuse of the building material used in the neighbouring walls.

St. (5) is represented by compact tightly packed earth lying directly upon the bed rock. Fragments of stone were again abundant. It is difficult indeed to tell it from the overlapping stratum except on the basis of a thin streak of ashes, sandwiched between the two, and somewhat different contents e.g. trilobe arrowheads, characteristic of the Kushana period on this site. The main pottery types are comparable to those of Period III.

IV — TRIAL TRENCH 'Z' (T.T.Z.)

This trench, measuring 10'x10' was laid against the outer face of the north-eastern side of the defensive wall, almost half way down the slope. This was presumably the most vulnerable point and archaeologically most important due to its nearness to the supposed entrance. Furthermore, it can be easily approached from the flattened tongue of the hill mentioned above. The sequence of strata and the remains of actual walls revealed that in the last phase of its reconstruction it was almost doubled in its original size and that repairs were done in between. Much of the potsherds in the upper strata appear to have been mixed up and redeposited by rain water or otherwise, subsequent to the abandonment of this fort. In layer (7), the lowest of all, was found a square-sectioned arrow-head typical of the Hindu Shahi levels on this site. The details are as follows:—

(SECTION: FIG. 11)

Top is covered by humus

St. (1) is a thick deposit of loose brownish earth with mixed pottery types of periods IV and V probably washed down by rain water from Churchill Point. There are several sandy streaks running parallel to the wall, deposited after the abandonment of the fortifications

St. (2) is represented by brownish earth with large number of roughly hewn blocks of stone, abundant charcoal and streaks of ashes. Violent destruction rather than gradual decay of this portion of the wall is very clear as witnessed in the crumbling stones. There were very few potsherds.

St. (3) is represented by a thin deposit of one foot depth — compact and resting against the defensive wall. Potsherds were quite ample. The main pottery types (stamped pattern) suggest its contemporaniety with the wall. An important find was an arrow-head of the square-sectioned tanged type.

St. (4) is debris consisting of stone fragments, probably discarded material, and compact earth with little pottery. On the inside of the defensive wall this layer partly passes below the later addition with which it appears to be partly contemporary. Very few potsherds.

St. (5) is loose earth with a fair scatter of charcoal pieces and ample potsherds comparable to Period V.

St. (6) is one and half foot thick deposit of compact earth with scanty pottery and abundant stone fragments suggestive of a minor repair.

St. (7) is represented by one foot thick deposit consisting of loose brownish earth and abundant pottery comparable to that of Period V. Here again was found a square-sectioned arrow-head. It is resting against the defensive wall.

Below that is bedrock.

V — THE MIDDLE PEAK

The problem of the citadel wall having settled conclusively, it was then decided to (i) uncover the full stratigraphical sequence giving, at the same time, (ii) more spacial extension to the Hindu Shahi levels to have an extensive idea of their cultural equipment. The small plateau on the Middle Peak was selected for this purpose. It was already partly excavated during our trial excavation. A word about the shape of the mound would be appropriate here. From the distance it looks like a huge hump placed in the middle of the hill with a somewhat flattened north-west side and enveloped in a thick cover of vegetation. A closer view, however, reveals that the accumulation of cultural debris together with several building phases,

as seen in the stumps of masonry walls still peeping through the grasses, have, ultimately resulted in the formation of this plateau which, at present, rises in two terraces — the northern half (henceforth to be called Area A) is fifteen feet higher than the southern zone (henceforth, Area B). The dividing line is marked by a rock wall (to be described below). At both the areas digging was carried out simultaneously. These are described below.

VI — AREA 'A'

(Stratigraphy and structures)

It is almost oval in shape and measures 190'x100' at the maximum points, though its width narrows down to within 80' on the south-west. In the western corner a rocky out-crop rises about four feet above the general level. (Presently, part of it is occupied by the watchman's hut). At the time of our excavation it accommodated a picket built of stones extracted from the ancient structures which has resulted in the disturbed strata at several points. Also during their exercises the army people have dug small trenches here and there. These could be easily located, however, and the debris thrown around was cleared first. In general the top surface gently slopes towards Area B, which also received its drainage, though at certain points, rain water had cut deep into the cultural debris washing down their contents as well.

Taking the trial trenches as focal point and their alignment and dimensions as guide lines, a rectangular area measuring 100' on the north-east and 120' on the south-east was marked for excavation. The whole was then reduced into a grid of trenches (each 20' sq.) Zero point was fixed in the south and trenches were marked A, B, C, D, E and F along the longer side and 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the smaller side of this rectangle. According to this scheme the trial trenches were renumbered C2 and D2. The details are as follows:—

SECTION: FIG. 12

(After removing humus and the dislocated and disturbed debris by the British period trenching and levelling which yielded coins of the East India Company):

St. (1) marks an occupation — level at the bottom, the upper portion being washed down in squares C0 and D0, while in other trenches situated in the northern quarter of the rectangle, where deposit of debris and cultural refuse was very thin due to the rocks being very near the surface, it is com-

pletely gone leaving part of the rocky out-crop bare so that it is visible on the surface. A four feet thick deposit, in square C1, consisting of loose earth having larger percentage of charcoal and ashes with several blocks of granitic stones, — probably belonging to the neighbouring walls — appears to be a filling of the British period. Only one foot below the surface was found a coin of the East India Company. Here it was probably a deep cut made by rain water amply demonstrated on Area B where much of the small bits of pottery, charcoal and fragments of bones were deposited tightly packed together right below this point (see below 'Area B'). The material for filling was evidently taken from the debris around there. In square D2 traces of an oven measuring 2'x2½' on the bottom were seen. Two rectangular slabs of granite, measuring 1½'x1' and 1.7'x2', placed side by side and a third standing on edge marked a washing place. Top of this level is marked by fallen stone blocks and large proportion of ashes and charred wood which apparently accumulated at the time of destruction of several structures, or just after that. Rounded river pebbles ranging from 2" to 3" in diameter were found in abundant number scattered all over. It yielded large number of potsherds with stamped designs and as much as nine arrowheads of the rectangular-sectioned type. Two copper coins of Sri Samanta Deva of the lion and elephant type were found in squares C0 and A2 and a billon coin of the Bull and Horseman type with the same legend (see Pl. 87 a. 12)was found just on the top and in association with the defensive wall in TR E. 4. In the same trench the defensive wall appears to have been strengthened, along the lower portion, by the addition of new structures (Pl. 69 a. and b.). Down below on the slope (towards the Churchill Point) was exposed an ironsmith's shop with the kit of tools *in situ*. It measured 18'x13½' and opened towards the north-east (see Fig. 8). Closeby were revealed several perforated stone slabs built in the wall and, at the same time, projecting externally probably used for tethering horses. This part is, again, covered by an ashy layer which indicates violent destruction. Most of the structures of the preceding period continued to be used. Masonry is of the rough diaper type without any indication of mortar or any other cohesive.

St. (2) is brownish in colour and marks a regular occupation level with several fragments of pottery oven or cooking-trays of burnt clay found on the floor. In square D3 a similar oven measuring 1'x1' in the middle was found in a fragmentary condition above an earlier wall. The layer is well represented in squares C3 and D2 where it contained several undressed stones of varying sizes and similar other fragments and refuse which gave the impression of discarded material. Here it marks a new building phase as well as major alterations in the formerly existing structures. In squares

C0 and D0 it is represented by a thin deposit and appears to have been mostly washed down. In general it covered the walls and other structures belonging to an earlier period except where they were re-used. In the corner of square C0 was found a grinding mill stone in association with a wall which appears to have been re-used in this period. In the eastern corner of this rectangle, marked for excavation, a small room belonging to an earlier period appears to have been completely filled up and a soak-pit (Pl. 68 a.) (dia. 3′) lined with undressed stones was sunk to a depth of six feet from the surface. Another soak-pit with similar diameter and stone lining, sunk to a depth of two and a half feet, was seen in square F2. On the west it was joined by a small drain which could not be investigated. Another drain (Pl. 68 b.) 10″ wide and covered with stone slabs was traced to four feet of its length where it disappeared under a wall belonging to the last building phase.

Pottery was found in plentiful numbers. Potsherds with stamped rosettes and concentric circles being most distinctive. Thirteen arrowheads of the square-sectioned tanged type were found embedded in this stratum. One copper coin (Pl. 87 a. 10) of the Lion and Elephant type with the legend Sri Vakka Deva came to light in trench D4. A copper coin of Kanishka (out of context) was found in square D1 (the place is disturbed by British period trenching).

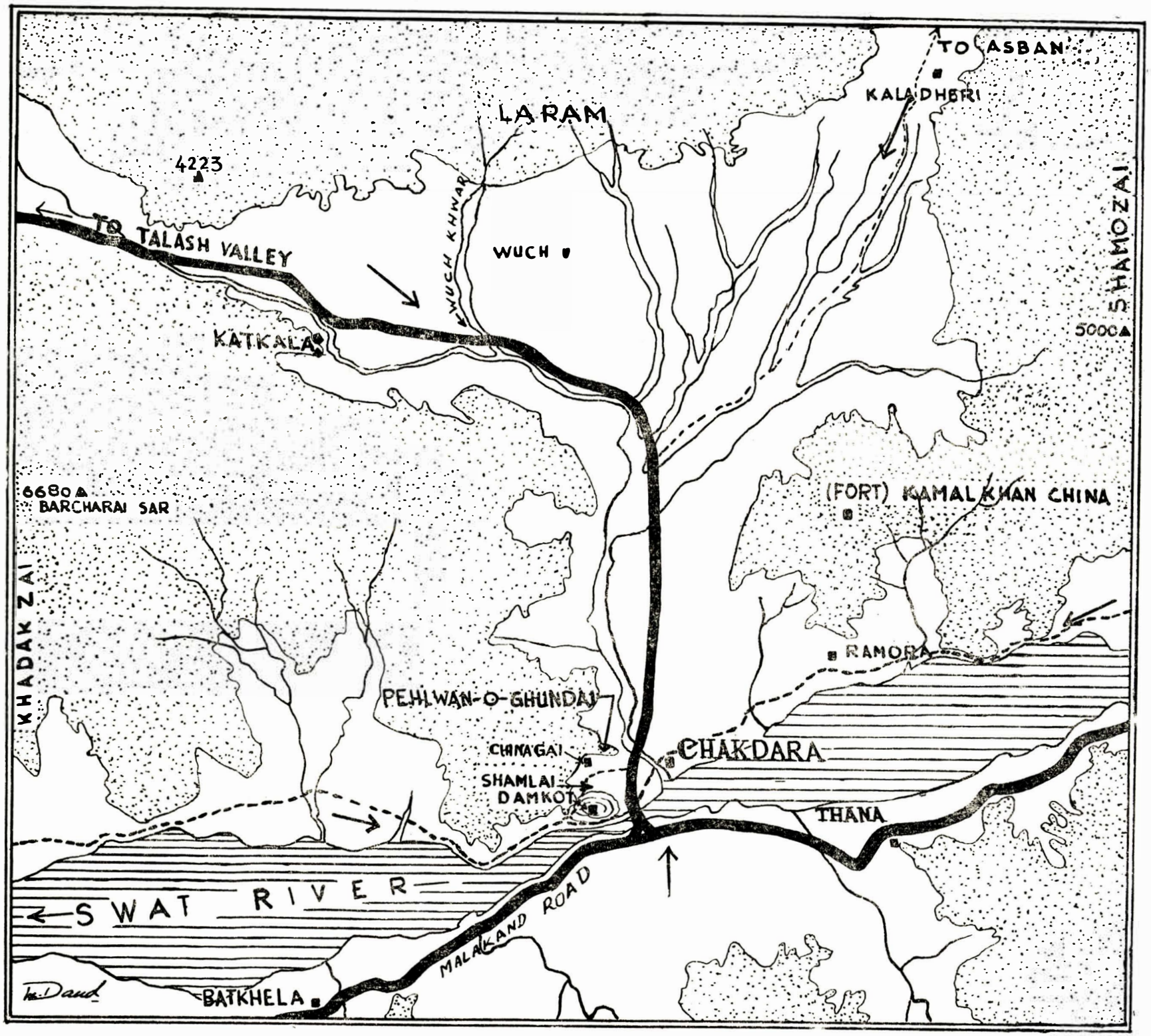
Most of the buildings related to Period V were erected afresh or reconstructed in this phase. Some of the old existing structures where they were in line with the requirements of the new masters were made use of (Pl. 69 a.) whereas the others were pulled down to get a level surface. The defensive wall, along with those of the inner enclosures, was constructed for the first time with foundations lying on bed rock. Around the rocky outcrop, referred to above, was thrown another tapering wall strengthened with circular towers (Pl. 70 a.) using the earlier structures as solid foundations.

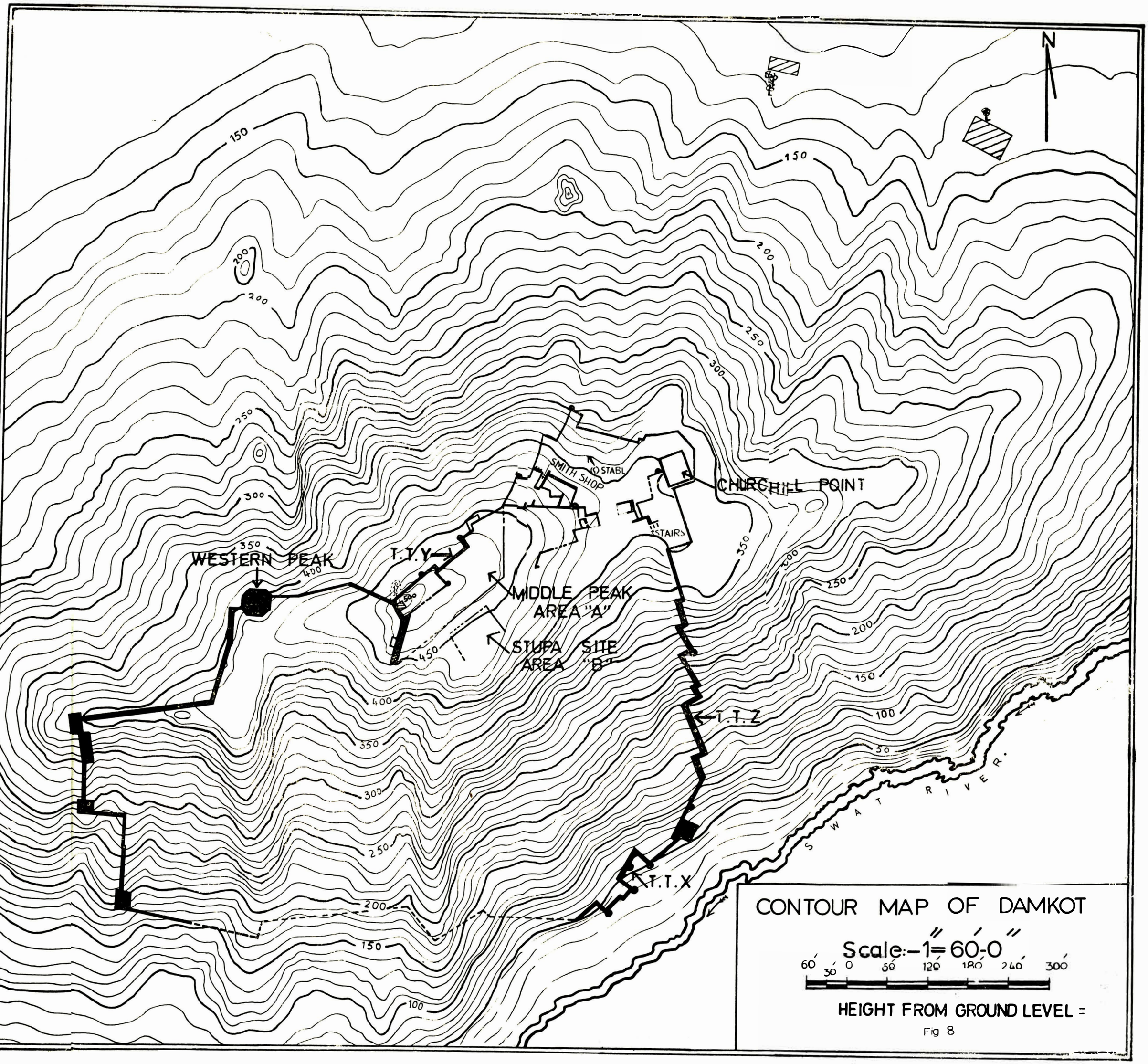
St. (3) contains ashes and a fair sprinkling of bone fragments.

It is compact earth and its thickness varies from 6″ to 1′ in different trenches. Two super-imposed floor levels of beaten earth were found in square D3 associated with walls of the adjoining room. In the underlying floor were exposed three pieces of a sculptured panel of schist (Pl. 97 a. No. 3) in fragmentary condition in the same trench. Most important, however, are two lamps of soap stone — one having Buddha carved in low-relief on its bottom. (See lamps, Fig. 17 Nos. 8, 9). Other fragments of

MAP: SHOWING CHAKDARA - WUCH VALLEY AND THE SURROUNDING HILLS.

Scale:- 1=1mile





CONTOUR MAP OF DAMKOT

Scale:- 1" = 60'-0"

60' 30' 0 60' 120' 180' 240' 300'

HEIGHT FROM GROUND LEVEL =

Fig 8

Fig. 9

DAMKOT EXCAVATION, 1968

SHOWING SECTION AGAINST THE FORTIFICATION WALL: T.T.X.

0 1 2 3 4 5 SCALE:—1=1-0 6 0 1 2 3 4 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

DATUM LINE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

FORTIFICATION WALL

N

① LOOSE EARTH WITH SANDY STREAKS HUMUS

② LOOSE BROWNISH EARTH PACKED WITH POTSHERDS

③ BROWNISH EARTH WITH SANDY STREAKS & FALLEN BLOCKS

④ LOOSE EARTH WITH ABUNDANT ASHES CHARCOAL AND FALLEN BLOCKS

⑤ COMPACT EARTH WITH CHIPS OF STONES

⑥ BROWNISH EARTH & TINY FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY

⑦ COMPACT EARTH

BED ROCK

COIN OF VASUDEVA II

C4 C5

0 2′ 4′ 6′ 8′ 10′ 12′ 14′ 16′ 18′ 20′ 22′ 24′ 26′ 28′ 30′ 32′ 34′ 36′ 38′ 40′ 42′ 44′ 46′

DAMKOT EXCAVATION, 1968

Showing section against the fortification wall: T.T.Y.

SCALE:- 1" = 2′-0" 2′ 1′ 0 2′ 4′ 6′

DATUM LINE

PEG

2′

5′ WALL

6′

8′

10′

12′

14′

16′

18′

20′

22′

22′-6"

LATER ADDITION TO FORTIFICATION WALL

COMPACT GRITTY EARTH

HUMUS

LOOSE EARTH, ASHES AND CHARCOAL

LOOSE BROWNISH COMPACT EARTH

LOOSE EARTH & ASHES

LOOSE EARTH WITH STREAKS OF ASHES

N

NATURAL ROCK

Fig.10

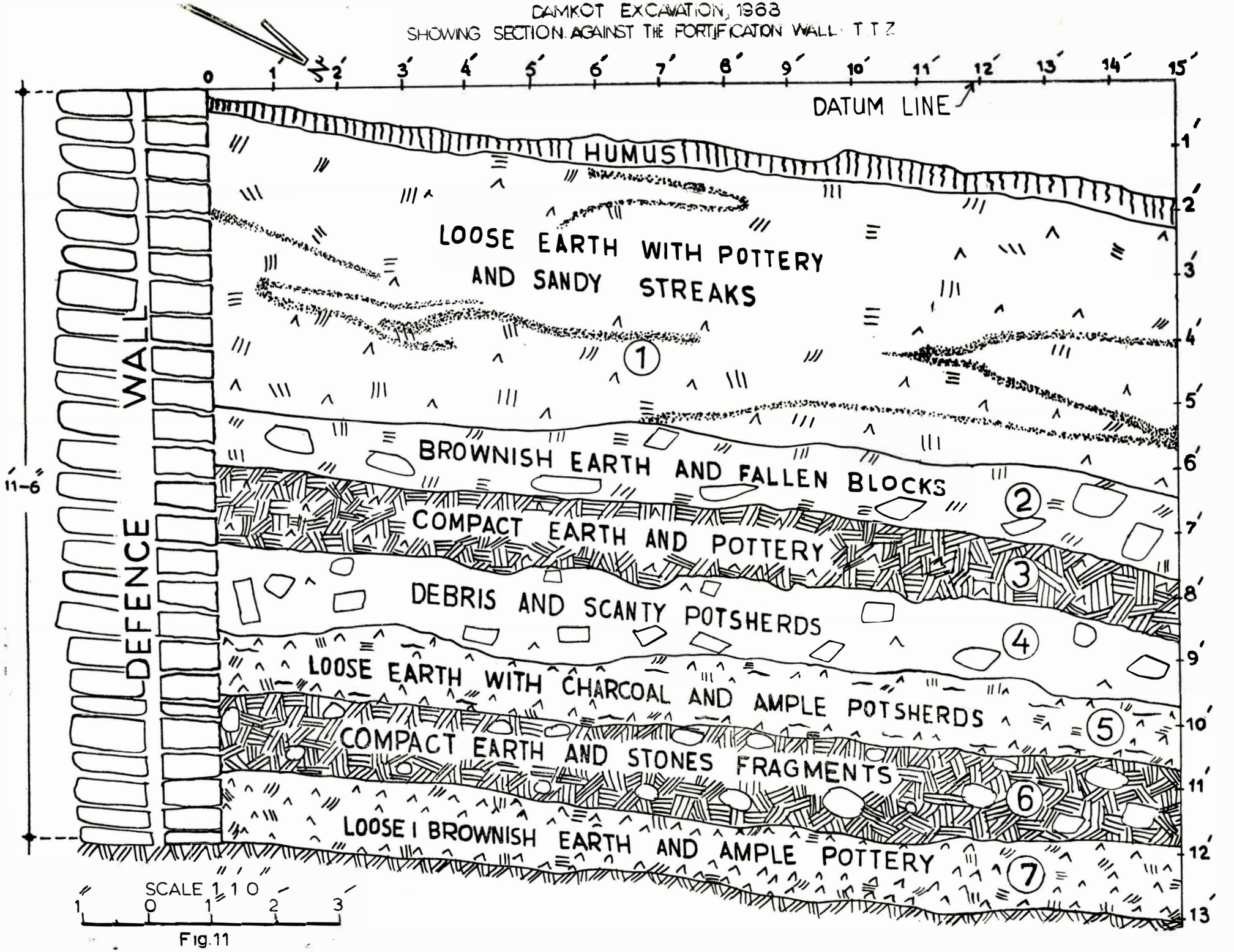

DAMKOT EXCAVATION, 1968
SHOWING SECTION AGAINST THE FORTIFICATION WALL T T Z
0 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15'
DATUM LINE
HUMUS
LOOSE EARTH WITH POTTERY AND SANDY STREAKS
1
BROWNISH EARTH AND FALLEN BLOCKS
2
COMPACT EARTH AND POTTERY
3
DEBRIS AND SCANTY POTSHERDS
4
LOOSE EARTH WITH CHARCOAL AND AMPLE POTSHERDS
5
COMPACT EARTH AND STONES FRAGMENTS
6
LOOSE I BROWNISH EARTH AND AMPLE POTTERY
7
DEFENCE WALL
11'-6"
1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13'
SCALE 1 1 0
1 0 1 2 3

Fig.11

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

DATUM LINE

PEG

D2

C2

1'
2'
3'
4'
5'

HUMUS

LOOSE BROWNISH EARTH WITH AMPLE POTSHERDS (1)

BRITISH PERIOD FILLING

PERIOD, V

OUTER WALL OF WATER RESERVOIR

PERIOD. IV

BROWNISH EARTH MIXED ASHES (2)

(3) COMPACT EARTH WITH ASHES & CHARCOAL

STONES, BROWNISH EARTH & SCANTY ASHES (4)

(5)

ASHES CHARCOAL AND FALLEN BLOCKS

BROWNISH EARTH WITH BONES & STONES BLOCKS (6)

PERIOD. III

LOOSE EARTH ASHES AND CHARCOAL

COMPACT CLAY (7)

FASHION WARE PERIOD. II

COMPACT CLAY ASHES & CHARCOAL (8)

LOOSE EARTH WITH STREAKS OF ASHES AND CHARCOAL

COMPACT (9) CLAY

(10)

STERILE - CONCENTRATION OF STONES

(11) GRITTY EARTH WITH ASHES

GREY WARE PERIOD. I

(12) REDDISH GRITTY EARTH WITH ASHES

(13) HILL WASH

NATURAL ROCK

N

DAMKOT (CHAKDARA) EXCAVATION, 1968

(MIDDLE PEAK AREA "A")

SECTION: TRENCH D2&C2

Scale:- 1" = 1'-0"

1" 6" 0 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6'

Fig. 12

schist of which an appreciable number was recorded at this level were either unworked or too fragmentary to give an idea of the nature of sculpture they belonged to. In most trenches this layer was found resting against masonry walls of stone built in diaper fashion. Of the structures related to it most important is the 'water reservoir' (Pl. 71 a.) in square DZ. Found almost at the bottom of this reservoir the most notable finds were a clay head of Buddha and a terracotta plaque depicting Buddha flanked by leographs, in low-relief (see title cover). A little higher than this, though in the same reservoir, came to light a bronze coin mould (Pl. 88 a.) and moulded plaque of cast copper depicting a flame halo and devotees found in a fragmentary condition (Pl. 92 b.). In square C2 was found a much damaged storage vessel embedded in the floor (Pl. 71 b.). No coin came to light. All this cultural material stratigraphically antedates the construction of the citadel wall. Distinctive pottery type was the goblet-on-stand. The extensive robbing of structure indicates that the site was abandoned after the accumulation of layer (3). No associated strata representing this wide break (our Gap i) came to light in Area A where it might have been washed down. The evidence is well documented in Area B below.

St. (4) represents a regular occupation at the top but there are signs of a debris of miscellaneous nature consisting of fragmentary stones with brownish earth and occasional ashes. In general it represents another building phase with new structural additions and major alterations in the former buildings, though their alignment remained the same. In TR. C2 part of the floor level is fairly well preserved and is marked by a large grinding mill-stone (Pl. 72 a.) in square D2. Similarly in squares B3 and D2 were found two storage vessels of large size standing along the walls. In square C2 was uncovered a schist base of a column (Pl. 72 b.). Goblet-on-stand in a variety of forms came up as the distinctive pottery type. A drain, 1'x1" wide, with stone lining was uncovered in square E0 and E1. There coins of Vasudeva are recorded from this level (coins serial Nos. 12, 13, 14). Of them two were found in a mixed deposit.

Spacious rooms with fairly well preserved walls built in diaper masonry covered a rectangular area measuring 66'x64'. It was enclosed by a 4 feet thick wall which appears to have been built first and then along its north-west side, covering the full length, were built four rooms of varying sizes (Pl. 73 a., Fig. 13). Two other rooms were then added — one adjoining room No. 4 and the other in the eastern corner leaving a small passage in between. Their measurements are as follows:—

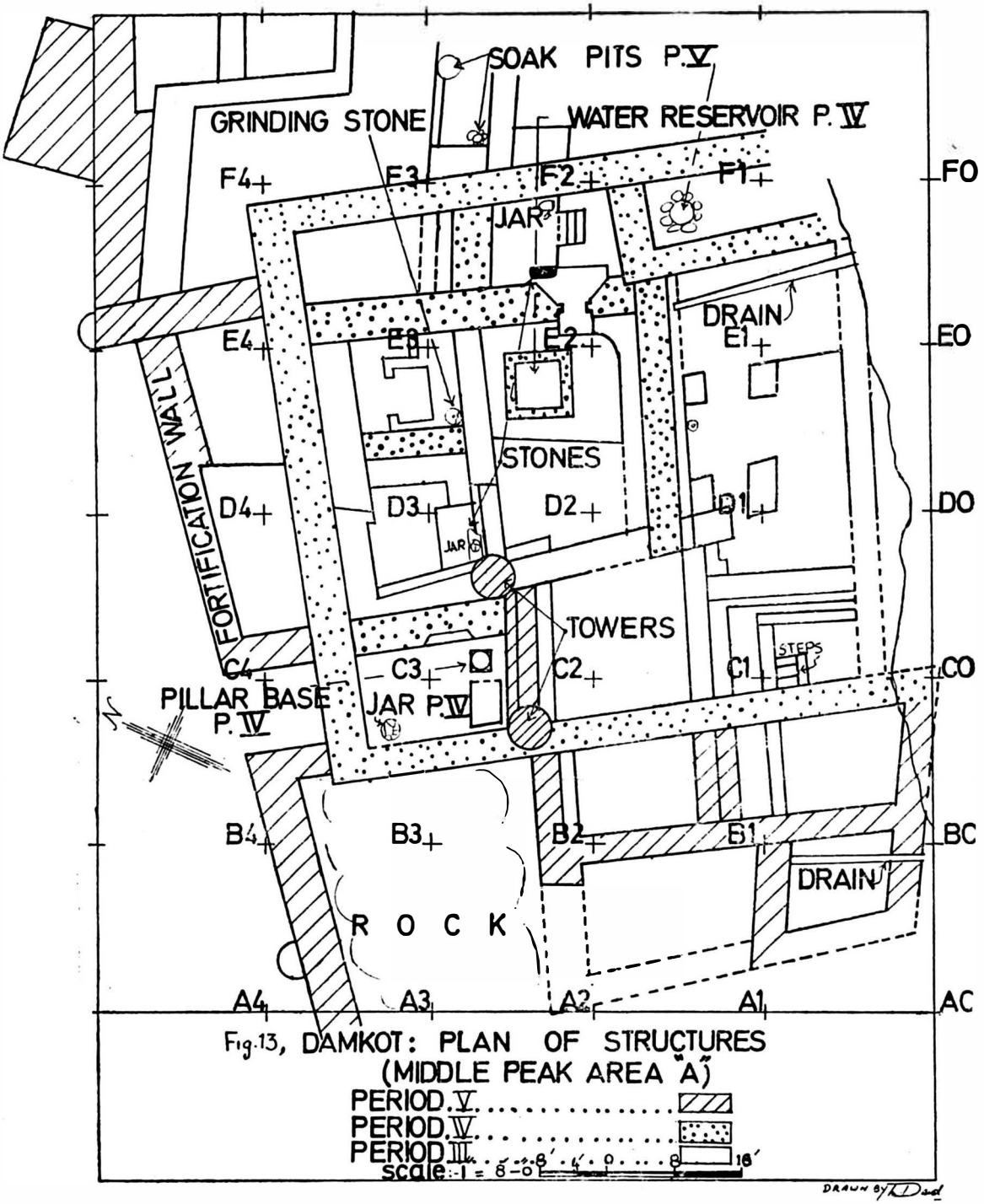


Fig. 13, DAMKOT: PLAN OF STRUCTURES
(MIDDLE PEAK AREA "A")

Room No. 1	=	16x17 feet.
Room No. 2	=	16x16 "
Room No. 3	=	16x12 "
Room No. 4	=	16x10 "
Room No. 5 Room No. 6	=	much damaged.

After sometime the passage was blocked by the construction of 'water reservoir', referred to above. The water reservoir measures 5′ 9″ feet sq. and 12′ 6″ in depth. Along the south-western arm of this rectangle a masonry stairway (Pl. 74 a.) was added of which only the lower three steps remain in tact. At the base it covers 11′x9½′ area, the existing height is 4 feet. It exhibits poor diaper masonry. The core consists of rubble with outer dressing of rectangular blocks. The deep cut made by rain water passed, as already noted above, on top of this stairway causing it considerable damage.

Average thickness of the walls related to this period ranges from 3 to 4½ feet and their surviving height varies from 1-4 feet. It is astonishing to note that none of the rooms, mentioned above, had any entrance. Evidently the structural remains are no more than foundations of which the superstructures have disappeared.

The then level of the area covered by squares D0, C0 and part of E0 was still lower by three feet than the general ground level covered by the above mentioned rooms. Therefore a straight wall, 3′ 6″ in thickness, was thrown from north-east to south-west across the rectangular area dividing the lower zone from the upper one. Thus the entire enclosed area was divided into nearly two halves — the upper plane (i.e. the north-western half) accommodating a building complex resembling a monastery and the lower one being occupied by a pillared hall.

The pillared hall (see Plan, Fig. 13), measuring 22′x36′ is surrounded by walls on all the four sides, the existing height of which varies from 1 to 3 feet. There are two rows of five masonry pillar bases, measuring 3′ 4″ sq. on the average. Their centres were placed at equal distance from each other. One of these bases appears to have been repaired so that 1′ 8″ area was added subsequently. They exhibit rubble masonry and appear to be foundations of a superstructure of some magnitude of which no other evidence was found. It is likely, however, that the column base, referred to above, belonged to this hall.

St. (5) seems to be an occupation level though in some trenches there are thin streaks of ashes and charcoal mixed with floor of beaten earth with occasional patches of burnt red clay probably indicating hearth or oven. Pottery was again in plentiful numbers. The association of this stratum with structural remains was quite clear in squares D2 and D3. Their existing height is no more than one foot at the heightes point. In square D3 it passes under a wall of Period IV (Pl. 73 b.).

The most distinctive feature characterising the top of this occupation level is the occurrence of a coin of Vasudeva II (Pl. 87 a. 9) in square D1. Almost at the bottom of this layer and embedded in ashy streaks which marked floor level in squares D2 and D3 were found six copper coins (Pl. 87 a. 2-6, 8) of Kanishka. Most of the arrow-heads of the trilobe type belong to this level. Glass bangles were found in abundant numbers.

St. (6) consisting of a thick deposit of brownish earth and stone fragments, it represents a regular occupation level. Structural remains are few. In the baulk marking C2 and D2 was noted a wall of this period showing diaper masonry. It was in association with this wall that a coin of Wima (Pl. 87 a. 1) was found. Below that we mainly depend, for our information, upon the stratigraphical sequence exposed in trench D2 dug down to the virgin soil. It should be pointed out that the area investigated was necessarily small as some of the structures revealed during deep digging could not be removed. A marked difference in the composition of layers from this level downwards was observed. In striking contrast to the upper levels consisting, largely, of ashes, charcoal or mixed debris with loose earth, these levels, down to the 2nd Gap consisted of compact clayey material resembling that in the Shamalai Valley down below. The associated structures were too scanty to give any systematic pattern of houses.

St. (7) constitutes an occupation level consisting of compact clayey material mixed with grits and very occasional charcoal pieces. Two stumps of walls showing beautiful diaper masonry were found associated with it. The most distinctive of the potsherds found at this level are those of pedestalled bowl (our Fashion Ware) with their section very often approaching egg-shell thickness and having black painted designs including peacock and sun-flower. A large storage vessel with cordoned body and covered by a stone disc was also found in the northern corner of sq. D2 (Pl. 75 a.). Again in the same trench was found in a pit a square copper coin worn off beyond identification (see coins, serial No. 1), traces of a fire-place were observed in a small patch of earth burnt red; it may be an oven, though the shape could not be determined.

St. (8) again an occupation level consisting of compact clayey material and scant pieces of charcoal. The bowl with black-painted peacock and sun-flower remains the distinctive pottery type, as noted above. A notable find was the torso of a terracotta double moulded female figurine from D2.

(St. (9) is a thin layer of compact clayey material with occasional bones and ashes. It lies upon the stone filling — 2nd Gap and is not regular throughout; in the middle of the trench it almost disappears. It yielded the earliest fragments of the pedestalled bowl with peacock motif.

St. (10) Break Period (2nd Gap) represents a thick deposit of stones mixed with gritty soil of reddish colour and hill-wash including small fragments of local granitic stone. It runs regularly throughout the excavated portion of this trench (Pl. 74 b.). Evidently it is a natural filling, with very occasional potsherds, subsequently levelled on the top. Most significantly this deposit seals off the lower strata from those above this level. Here it marks a break in the sequence of occupational strata.

St. (11) represents cultural debris consisting of hill washed gravels and brownish earth with abundant ashes and charcoal. No metal object was found except a few fragments of a heavily patinated copper sheet. Most significant, however, is the pottery almost one-third of the total potsherds are characterized by grey, grey-brown or black colour. The grey ware, in most examples, is made on slow wheel and carefully burnished though a small number of potsherds appear to have been made on fast wheel. Mat-impression in the form of the spiral on the bottom of many pots is also characteristic of grey ware. The remaining potsherds belong to red ware. Other important finds are three polished stones (Fig. 18, No. 4-6), a schist bead (Pl. 91 a. 2) and a fragment of a carved saucer (Fig. 17, No. 10).

St. (12) again hill-washed gravels topped with clayey material such as is plentiful on the hill top. Tiny fragments of bones and charcoal pieces were quite abundant. Again grey ware is the distinctive pottery. No associated structures came to light, though the deep hollow (as this place appear to be after the removal of occupying strata) protected by high rocks on three sides resembles a rock-shelter.

St. (13) Natural deposit. Consists of reddish earth and hill washed gravel covering in bed-rock. It is a natural deposit.

VII — AREA 'B'

(Stratigraphy and structure)

As noted above, Area 'B' received the drainage of Area 'A' being 10'-15' lower than the latter. Consequently rain water and several phases of rock-fall have done considerable damage to the structures and particularly the enclosure wall with the result that much of it on the south-eastern side has disappeared. Similarly cultural debris washed down from above continued to accumulate till recent times, covering consequently the whole of the stupa and later structures. The upper surface of the mound, therefore, markedly slopes towards south-east (Pl. 75 b.). Huge rocks perched on the fringe of Area 'A' adjoining to it have been a constant threat to its occupants. At the time of our excavation the top level was almost fully covered by them and they had to be cut into pieces (Pl. 76 a.) and removed before excavation could be started.

At the maximum points Area B measures 170'x80' and narrows down in the south corner where a flight of masonry steps provide access to Area A above.

Incidently erosion had revealed a stump of wall in the eastern corner. Zero point was fixed here and a rectangular area measuring 80' along the south-east side and 40' along the north-east side was marked for excavation. The whole was then reduced into 20' sq. trenches. Thus two parallel rows of trenches numbered 'A' and 'B' were obtained. Along the longer side the squares were marked 1, 2 and 3 (see Fig. 14). It was a happy coincidence that the area thus marked for excavation coincide with the area formerly enclosed for stupa.

Four main periods were recognised and equated with Periods II-V of area A. The occurrence of pedestalled bowl with black painted peacock conclusively proved that the earliest occupation (Period IV) here was comparable to Period II of Area A and thus datable to the Ist century B.C. It continued to be occupied in the succeeding Kushana period. Sometime in the late Kushana period, probably in the time of Vasudeva II, the site was converted into a stupa but probably at the end of the fifth century A.D. it met with a catastrophic end.[1] The site was abandoned till the arrival of the

1. There is no significant evidence of catastrophic end (see below). All that is clear from the excavation report is that there was the rock fall and debris washed down from the upper terrace. This may be a cause of the abandonment of the site. But there does not seem to be any long gap. —Editor.

Hindu Shahis in the eighth century A.D. In the time of the Hindu Shahi occupation (i.e. Vakka Deva) part of the stupa was pulled down to accommodate secular buildings. After removing the huge rocks and humus the stratigraphic sequence revealed there is as follows:—

St. (1) is a thick layer of loose soil with profuse potsherds which appear to have been largely wahed down from Area A, above. There is a pocket of tightly packed sherds in B1, again deposited by rain water. The antiquities include a much damaged hand (of Bodhisattva) and the characteristic stamped pottery. This layer came to be deposited after the final abandonment of this site, and thins out as it slopes to the east corner.

St. (2) is represented by patches of hill wash and huge rocks fallen from Area A. It is not regular throughout. It was with great difficulty that the huge rocks were broken and removed. Deposited after the final abandonment.

St. (3) is an occupation level. In sq. B0 it is represented by two superimposed living floors of rammed earth associated with structures. The uppermost of these two floors is marked by a smith's workshop (Pl. 76 b.). Found in association with this floor level an open mouthed bowl probably meant for keeping water for cooling down metal objects after they were heated and hammered into shape and a small furnace. At the same level were found three small vessels, with stamped decoration, lying upon an offset of the adjoining wall (Pl. 77 a.). Exactly one foot below it, the other living floor is marked by flattish stone slabs with scratches made by metal implements, probably, while sharpening them. Ashes and charcoal occurred profusely and represent, mainly, domestic rubbish. In sq. B1 and B2, where no associated structures were found, it is represented by a thick deposit of domestic rubbish consisting of compact brownish soil, and ashes accumulated against the stupa on the north and west. In this filling of miscellaneous nature, and in the room mentioned above, were found three lamps of schist (Pl. 95, 1, 3, 6).

The stupa itself appears to have been hidden by this time. Therefore some of the structures related to this stratum pass over it. (Pl. 87 b.). Of the exposed structures as many as eight rooms — all doorless, of varying sizes (see plan Fig. 14) can be recognised. Thickness of walls ranges from 2′ 6″. Rough diaper masonry characteristic of the late structures upon this site is noteworthy.

St. (3-a) is again an occupation level associated with masonry walls rest-

ing directly over the paved floor of the stupa. (Pl. 83 a.). In the southern half of B0 the paved circumambulation path of the stupa was used as living floor (Pl. 79 a.). It should be pointed out that this part of B0 was subjected to maximum denudation due to its peculiar situation on the outskirts of Area B. Used in these structures can be seen several carefully dressed ashlar blocks (which once formed upper tier of the stupa) and other sculptured schist panels. Other three walls connected with each other in the shape of a room (measuring 12'x18') were seen in squares A2 and A3. In the east corner of square B3 was found a big storage vessels with cordoned body (Pl. 79 b.). Another room measuring 14'x15' related to this stratum, and found in a better state of preservation was seen in squares B0 and A0, partly covering the northward extension of these trenches. Apart from the potsherds with stamped concentric circles the most important find was a copper coin of the Lion and Elephant type with the legend Sri Vakka Deva found only few inches above the stupa floor in square A1 (Pl. 87 a. 9). It is noteworthy that southern half of sq. A1 is much denuded of its contents as the retaining wall which supported it on the outside collapsed long ago. It was here that we first saw a corner of the stupa before excavation.

St. (4) intermediate between the stupa period and the formation of stratum (3-a), there is a thick layer of accumulated debris of miscellaneous nature (Pl. 77 b.) with tightly packed streaks of potsherds which appear to have been washed down from Area A above, and some ashlar blocks fallen from the stupa itself. At this time there occurred a rockfall as well and consequently huge rocks came tumbling down to rest upon the paved floor of the stupa in square B1 and B0 (Pls. 80 a. and b.). In the succeeding period it was used as a support for new structures. The great proportion of ashes, charcoal and pockets of potsherds suggest destruction[1] as well as abandonment for a considerable length of time.

St. (5) represents an occupation level marked by a stupa, with paved floor, a small cell (Pl. 80 b.) to the north of the stupa and an enclosure wall all around this sacred area. The circumambulation path built af rectangular granitic slabs of varying sizes is found fairly well preserved except in the south and east corners where it was completely robbed or washed down by rain water. It measures 5' 5" on the south-east side and covers slightly wider area on the north and west marked by the enclosure wall. Only the inner face of this wall could be exposed.

1. This is the only place where the excavator found some charcoal and ash in the excavation in this period. The accumulated deposit of debris and pottery need not suggest destruction. The charcoal and ash could as well be wash from the upper terrace —Editor.

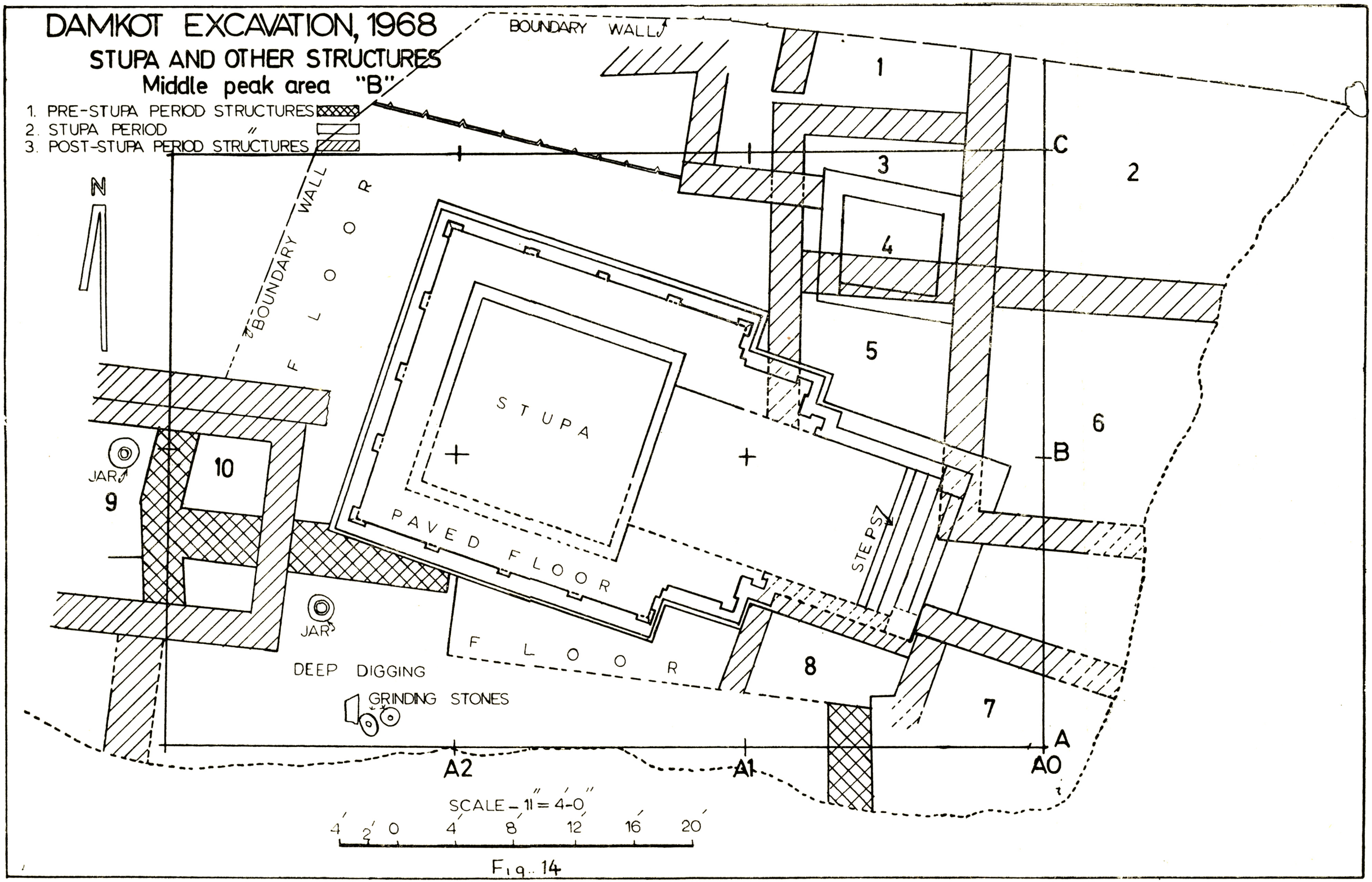

DAMKOT EXCAVATION, 1968
STUPA AND OTHER STRUCTURES
Middle peak area "B"
1. PRE-STUPA PERIOD STRUCTURES
2. STUPA PERIOD "
3. POST-STUPA PERIOD STRUCTURES
N
BOUNDARY WALL
BOUNDARY WALL
FLOOR
STUPA
PAVED FLOOR
STEPS
FLOOR
JAR
JAR
DEEP DIGGING
GRINDING STONES
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
A
B
C
A0
A1
A2
SCALE – 1" = 4-0"
4' 2' 0 4' 8' 12' 16' 20'

Fig. 14

As it stands, the stupa is about 9′ feet in height and rests upon an almost square base measuring 23′ 8″ a side (Fig. 14). It rises into two diminishing tiers (Pl. 81 a.). The top most tier was probably originally crowned by an umbrella of which two pieces were found. The lower one is marked with a moulding at the bottom and a cornice supported by projecting brackets on the top. It is decorated with a series of simple pilasters. The second tier is plain. The core of the stupa is built of rubble stones. The outer facing, however, consists of carefully dressed ashlar blocks of granite. On the east a flight of steps leads to the top of the stupa.

Owing to their exposure to the changing weather conditions for a long time, the ashlar blocks used in the lower tier underwent tremendous weathering (Pl. 81 b.). It is evident that the coating of lime plaster (Pl. 82 a.), half an inch thick, was done at a date subsequent to the original construction of the stupa. Then also repairs were made in the circumambulation path where some of the blocks had sunk down by 2 to 3 inches below its actual level. The irregularities thus created (upon the surface) were filled up by lime plaster. Also at this stage was constructed a small cell referred to above, cutting a portion of the paved floor.

Associated with the stupa and lying directly on the paved floor in square A2 was found a figure of Buddha seated upon an inverted lotus throne sculptured in schist (see Pl. 96, No. 188), and a Bodhisattva head with elaborate head dress much worn. Upon the steps was found a marble hand of a Bodhisattva. Apparently the stupa was completely deprived of its sculptural wealth, which it must have once contained, as evidenced in some schist fragments depicting folds of drapery in low-relief found on the lower slope, long before it came to be buried under the debris.

For the rest of our information we depend upon two small trenches, here named as Deep Digging I (D.D. 1) and Deep Digging II (D.D. II). The former, measuring 6′ 10″x12′ was sunk in square A0 to the total depth (as measured from the paved floor) of 5′ 4″ down to the bed rock. It is in this trench that most of the sherds of the pedestalled bowl depicting black painted peacock were found. D.D. II, measuring 12′x11′, was sunk in square A2 to a depth of 4′ 7″, reaching the bedrock. The paved floor was already damaged here.

St. (6) is represented by a small deposit accumulated in the doorway in the underlying wall which served as a solid foundation for the stupa (Pl. 82 b.). Consisting of loose brownish earth with occasional traces of ashes

and abundant potsherds, it came to be deposited after the pre-Stupa period structures were pulled down to accommodate the stupa itself.

St. (7) again represents an occupation level consisting of brownish earth and profuse potsherds. It was found associated with structures revealing diaper masonry in D.D. II as well as in D.D. I. The structures could not be traced further due to the overlying stupa floor.

St. (8) is an occupation level marked by two grinding mill-stones and a rectangular sitting bench of slabs measuring 1'x1'x6" in D.I. II (Pl. 83 b.). At the same level was found a much damaged storage vessel, the actual size of which could not be determined. At the maximum it is 1' 7" in thickness and consists of brownish loose earth with small amount of ashes and charcoal. The significant find made at this level, in D.D.I, was the large number of fashion ware potsherds. Only two such sherds came up in D.D. II. Thus layer (8) can be equated with Period II of Area A.

V — THE DEFENSIVE WALL

(a) General features:

1) Its foundations lie directly on the bed rock, and is strengthened, at places, with sloping ramps.

2) It generally follows steep contours and vertical rocks, the concomitant natural protection provided by them being exploited to the maximum.

3) The core consists of rubble and mud with external dressing of roughly shaped blocks arranged in rough diaper fashion.

4) Externally, it tapers upward and is strengthened by built-in semi-circular towers and rectangular bastions.

5) The wall is brought down, to within fifty feet of the river, in a zigzag way probably to ensure water supply.

6) Thickness of the wall varies according to the strategic position and the contour of rocks, being four feet on the average. At the vulnerable points, particularly on the north-east side, it appears to have been almost doubled its original size at some subsequent period.

7) It forms an irregular rectangle and measures above 3300 feet along the four sides. (At some points it could not be traced and the measurements were taken approximately on the most probable places).

8) At no point it is preserved to its top.

9) The repairs are not uniform all over; the strategic points being regularly repaired.

10) The 'Churchill Point' and the 'Middle Peak' which probably housed the most important buildings were each put in a separate inner enclosure.

11) The towering eminence of 'the Churchill Point' also guarded the Main Entrance.

(b) Description: (See Fig. 8)

We shall start from the 'Churchill Point' and move on along the north-western arm of this rectangle.

Right under our feet we see that the defensive wall, after skirting the Churchill Point on its north along the 400 feet contour line drops gradually to a little above one hundred feet to span a broad scoop in the hillside and, further on, touches the 300 feet contour line to join a square bastion (measuring 19'x19') with a built-in tower in the western corner. From here the wall ascends towards the 'Middle Peak' after taking two sharp turns the upper one being strengthened by a semi-circular corner tower (5' in diameter) (Pl. 84 a.). The external facing and top of the wall around the 'Churchill Point' has disappeared since long though its core still stands sufficiently high ranging from 6 to 8 feet at places to give an idea of what it originally might have been. It follows, moreover, an unscaleable precipitous height at this point which adds much to its strength — a feature fully perceived by the British army, who later on selected this point for constructing a singal-post in the midst of a hostile country. Thickness of the wall, here, varies from 3½ to 5 feet and, in general, exhibits poor diaper masonry characteristic of the Hindu Shahi levels at this site — featureless and forbidding but, at the same time, speaking of strength and solidity.

Here also can be seen the most extensive repairs and additions under which the original wall remained hidden for a long time only to be exposed,

more recently, by the British soldiers who needed blocks of stone for constructing their own pickets, and, incidentally, found it as an excellent quarry quite at hand. Several blocks of roughly hewn stones used in the walling and particularly in the lower courses of the signal-post are a sufficient testimony to the damage done to it. Part of the wall was used as a firm foundation for the new structure.

After reaching the 'Middle Peak' we shall pause for a moment and look back towards the 'Churchill Point' to find, right under our feet, a walled structure (see Fig. 8) with similar towers and masonry running towards it. The whole of it, taken together with part of the defensive wall, we have already seen, would appear to be a rough triangle with somewhat irregular western arm. If the finds can be relied upon as an index to the function of a particular place, we can confidently suggest that the triangular area thus marked housed a stable as indicated by built-in perforated slabs projecting from the walls which appear to have been used for tethering horses. An iron-smith's shop was also found with complete kit of tools (Fig. 15, Nos. 3-9) in this area. Stratigraphically these are related to the last occupational level (Period V).

Along the north-western fringe of the 'Middle Peak', the defensive wall runs, for 250′ in a zigzag way, frequently re-inforced by bastions and circular towers (Pls. 69 b. and 70 a.). Here it gently tapers upward and stands to a height of 9 to 11 feet. Here again some later additions are noticed which appear to have given it exceptional strength and solidity. The reason for this reinforcement may be the important position of this peak. Our trial trench 'Y' was laid here.

From the western corner of the Middle Peak, the wall drops down to within fifty feet and then stretches, for 217′ across a broad saddle marked by the 'Middle Peak' on the one side and the 'West Peak' on the other. Here, it was buried deep under debris and had to be traced out at certain points. It appears that the original 4½′ thick wall was reinforced by a three feet addition at some subsequent date. A little bit of careful observation would reveal two rows of several rooms along the inner face of this wall. The diaper masonry is the same which we have noted above.

After skirting the conical rocky eminence which the 'West Peak' is, the wall first turns due south and follows a precipitous rocky wall for a distance of 187 feet, and then towards south-west where it travels along the crest line of the hill for nearly 212′ and joins an almost dilapidated corner bastion. Here, on our right we shall find that the Damkot hill abruptly

ends and stoops low to meet the main ridge — the point from where the modern road passes. Parenthetically it may be noted that due to its proximity to the road, this part of the defensive wall has been subjected to much plundering by the road builders.

From the corner bastion mentioned above it drops south-ward down to the 300′ contour line, where once again it meets a square bastion. Here it can still be seen standing to a height of 7 to 8 feet above its own debris which cover much of its lower portion. Another notable feature is that all along the inner face of the wall can be seen several raised platforms probably to facilitate movement along the inside of the defensive wall. Then, after a small turn towards the east, as conditioned by the steep contours of the rock it follows, it further drops for a little less than one hundred feet and joins a square bastion (Pl. 85 b.) in the extreme south end. Below this corner bastion the hill markedly slopes down to the river bed. The defensive wall, therefore, turns due east where it can be easily traced for 150′. Beyond that it is either buried deep under debris washed down from the hill top or, as indicated by spoil trench, it has disappeared due to the organised plunder by some contractors who needed ready made blocks of stone for constructing ramps in the riverside. Here the measurements are taken on the most probable points which appear to have accommodated the fortification wall.

We shall again go to the 'Churchill Point' to travel along the north-eastern arm of this vast rectangle. Right below this point the defensive wall follows crags and steep rocky walls for the upper 150′ of its length. To the east of it, however, the hill flattens out gradually and must have accommodated the main entrance of the fort. That it was approached by the British soldiers from this side and that there are abundant remnants of an old sloping path again reaching the same spot would lend additional support to this view. Below the 300′ contour line the defensive wall appears to have been doubled in its original size (5′ thickness) revealing, also, considerable alterations due to repairs which appear to have been made subsequently as reflected in the excavation of a trial trench (T.T. z) laid against the external face of this wall. Below this, it runs in a zigzag way following the gradual slope of the hill down to the river and joins a rectangular bastion of which only traces remain at present. Built in towers can again be seen (Pl. 85 a.). A well-frequented modern foot-path skirting the Damkot hill on the south-east passes over this bastion, though it served on the contrary in the life span of the fort. The strategic position of this bastion measuring almost 16′x12′ can be well imagined from the fact that it is perched upon a huge rock overhanging the river, and thus prevented effectively any ap-

proach from the east along the lower slope of the hill. It also guarded the water supply about 88′ away to the south-west.

From the east corner bastion the defensive wall gently turns to the south and appears to have been brought close to the river bed for securing a constant water supply. It is here that our second trial trench (T.T. x) was laid against the outer face of the wall. The excavation revealed built-in semi-circular towers (Pl. 86 a.) and two building phases as elsewhere noted (See T.T. x). Beyond that, as the wall started running along the riverside, it can be traced for fifty feet of its length as represented by stumps standing here and there. Attached to the inner face of the fortification wall (10′ in height) can be seen several other structures probably living rooms. Again we leave it here buried under debris or partly removed by stone robbers.

VI — COINS

Apart from the more recent issues of the British East India Co., as many as nineteen coins of Kushana and Hindu Shahi Kings were found in the excavation.[1] Of the total, billon is represented by one (of Sri Samanta Deva) and the remainder are of copper. Some of the coins are much corroded with obliterated legends and some others, particularly of Vasudeva II, are much damaged; but their size and the context in which they were found along with better examples of the same king is highly suggestive and probably sufficient testimony for their attribution to the Kushana period. The larger number of coins, however, are in a good state of preservation so that, after cleaning, they have been clearly identified. Their distribution at various levels is as follows:

Scytho-Parthian (?) = 1; Wima Kadphises = 1; Kanishka = 7

Vasudeva II = 5; Sri Samanta Deva = 3; Sri Vakka Deva = 2

The copper coin (No. 541) which we attribute to the Scytho-Parthian period is corroded beyond identification. Moreover it was found in a pit, therefore reliable only in association with other materials. Apparently, the larger number of the coins go to the Kushana period and, in that, particularly to Kanishka, probably indicative of an oppulent community. On his coins, Kanishka is represented by three types: those (i) with goddess Nanaia, (ii) Miiro, (iii) and wind-god. Separated from them only by one

1. There was no occupation between the first arrival of the coins of East India Co., and those of Sri Samanta Deva.

floor level measuring a little more than three inches in depth, was found the solitary coin of Wima. These are described below:

1. Reg. No. 541. Not illustrated — Copper coin, round and thin with broken edge making almost squarish. It is much corroded. Legend or figure, if there was any, has disappeared. Owing to the context (immediately preceding Wima) it is assigned to the Scytho-Parthian period. Weight: 3.20 gm Area A, TR. D2, St. (7).

2. Reg. No. 58. Copper coin, round, thick and edge corroded.

Pl. 87 a. 1 Obv. King standing in typical Kushana dress with face turned to left; right hand putting something into the incense burner below; left hand akimbo; marginal legend (obliterated) in Greek; monogram[1] to left.

Rev. Siva and the Bull with legend much obliterated; Weight: 15.73 gm. TR. D2, St. (6) Attributed to Wima Kadphises.

3. Reg. No. 264. Copper coin, round, thick and edge corroded.

Pl. 87 a. 2 Obv. Standing King in typical Kushana dress with face turned to left; right hand putting something into the incense burner below; left hand upraised with spear; marginal legend in Greek is obliterated.

Rev. Wind god (OADO) running to left but legend gone. Weight: 17.39 gm. TR. DZ St. (5). Attributed to Kanishka

4. Reg. No. 542. Copper coin, round, thick and edge much corroded.

Pl 87 a. 3 Obv. Similar to No. 3, above.

Rev. Within a beaded border, a standing deity to left, with right hand extended and left hand akimbo; hand rayed. Below right hand is the typical Kushana Symbol[2] (four prongs on a double edge). To right the name of the diety reads MIIRO in Greek.
Weight: 16.61 gm. TR. D3, St. (5).
On typological ground it can be attributed to Kanishka.

1. SYMBOL 

2 SYMBOL 

5. Reg. No. 545 Copper coin, round, thick and rough edge.

Pl. 87 a. 4 Obv. Rude figure of King as above. Part of the Greek legend reads NANO.

Rev. Rude figure of MIIRO as in No. 4, above, but the legend is missing. It is a very poor issue;
Weight: 17.24 gm. TR. D3, St. (5).
Attributed to Kanishka.

6. Reg. No. 69. Similar.

Pl. 87 a. 5 Weight: 17.19 gm. TR. D2, St. (5).
Attributed to Kanishka.

7. Reg. No. 544. Copper coin, round, thick, better preserved.

Pl. 87 a. 6 Obv. Standing King as in No. 3, above. Legend gone.

Rev. Goddess Nanaia to right, nimbate and diademed within beaded border; sceptre in the right hand is indistinct. On the left Greek legend reads NANA.
Weight: 17.03 gm. TR. D3, St. (5).
Attributed to Kanishka.

8. Reg. No. 543. Copper coin, round, thick, edge corroded.

Pl. 87 a. 7 Obv. Standing King as in No. 3, above. Greek legend obliterated.

Rev. Goddess NANAIA to right with traces of Greek legend on the left.
Weight: 16.62 gm. TR. D1, disturbed pit, St. (2).
Attributed to Kanishka.

9. Reg. No. 56. Similar.

Pl. 87 a. 8 Weight: 16.22 gm. TR. D2, St. (5).
Attributed to Kanishka.

10. Reg. No. 329. Copper coin, round, thin, edge broken making it almost squarish.

Not illustrated

Obv. Crude figure of a standing King in Kushana dress, the lower end of the upper coat making a deep curve. Face is missing and hands not well formed. Portion below knee is gone. Legend completely effaced.

Rev. Seated deity (Ardoksho) with traces of cornucopiae in her left hand.
Weight: 3.84 gm. TR. D1, St. top of (5).
On stylistic grounds it can be attributed to Vasudeva II.

11. Reg. No. 269. Copper coin, round, thin, heavily corroded.

Not illustrated. Obv. Figure completely effaced.

Rev. As in No. 10, above.
Weight: 2.94 gm. TR. T.T. x, St. (7).
Attributed to Vasudeva II.

12. Reg. No. 95. Copper coin, broken.

Not illustrated. Obv. Half figure of a standing Kushana King as in No. 10, above.

Rev. Traces of a seated goddess holding cornucopiae as in No. 10, above.
TR. A0, St. (4) (mixed deposit).
Attributed to Vasudeva II.

13. Reg. No. 142. Similar.

Not illustrated. TR. A0, St. (4) (mixed deposit).
Attributed to Vasudeva II.

14. Reg. No. 514. Copper coin, round, thick but comparatively smaller in size.

Not illustrated.
Obv. Traces of standing King as in No. 10, above.
Rev. Completely effaced.
Weight: 2.28 gm. TR. C1/C2 BK, St. (4).
Attributed to Vasudeva II.

15. Reg. No. 267. Copper coin, round, thin comparatively well preserved.

Pl. 87 a. 9 Obv. Elephant standing to left. Above, along the margin legend in Sarada characters reading Sri Vakka De . . . . .

Rev. Lion to right with front paw raised and tail ending in plume curved over back; mane consists of three dots.
Weight: 2.21 gm. Area 'B' TR. A1, St. (3-a) (Comp. Macdowall, *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1968, Pl. XIX, Fig. 37).

16. Reg. No. 270. Copper coin, round, thin, and double struck.

Pl. 87 a. 10 Obv. Elephant standing to left, above, legend Sri Vakka Deva.

Rev. Lion to right, front paw raised and double curve of tail over back. No letter in the field.
Weight: 2.59 gm. TR, D4, St. (2).
(Comp. Macdowall, op cit. Pl. XIX, Fig. 37).

17. Reg. No. 354. Copper coin, round, thin, and well preserved.

Pl. 87 a. 11 Obv. Elephant standing to left, above, legend Sri Samanta Deva.

Rev. Lion to right with front paw raised and curved tail over back having four petalled rosette and a dot inside the bend. It has beaded border.
Weight: 2.54 gm. TR, C4, St. (1).
(Comp. Macdowall, op cit. Pl. XIX, Fig. 42).

18. Reg. No. 327. Copper coin, round, thin and badly cut edge making it

Not illustrated. almost squarish.

Obv. Elephant standing to left, above, legend Sri Samanta Deva.

Rev. Lion as in No. 17, above.
Weight: 1.97 gm. TR. A2, St. (1).
(Comp. Macdowall, op cit. Pl. XIX, Fig. 39).

19. Reg. No. 507. Billon coin, round, thin and well preserved.

Pl. 87 a. 12 Obv. Recumbent humped bull to left with trident on rump, and a star and dot in front. Above legend Sri Samanta Deva.

Rev. King holding lance (and banner with two streamers) to right, riding on horse to right, with symbol No. 1 in the left field and a sign resembling symbol No. 2 over the horses head. Neater treatment.
Weight: 3.16 gm. TR, E4, St. (1) almost on the top.
(Comp. Macdowall op cit. Pl. XVIII, Fig. 33).

No. 1. ৰ

No. 2 ৱ

Copper coins of the Kushana Kings found in the excavation are represented by their common types and do not call for any comments; their value is rather as an index to the stratigraphical horizon they indicate than as a substantive development in the solution of the chronologically vexed problems of these kings. At best we can gather from them that the coin of Wima appears first of all. The Kushana coins close to a still earlier deposit have greater affinities with Scytho-Parthian cultural elements. It is closely followed by the coins of Kanishka which,in turn, appear to have been followed by those of Vasudeva II. What happened to the coinage of several other Kushana Kings whose reigns come after Wima and before Vasudeva II, is not clear. May be the coins were washed down as is so common a phenomenon upon this site.

Coinage of the Hindu Shahi Kings, however, invites attention owing to their potential chronological value in the present context. Two of them (one copper issue of Vakka and the other billon coin of Samanta) were found in association with the defensive wall proving unmistakably its contemporaneity with them. More revealing, however, is the sequence which revealed the succession of these two kings, as represented by their coins, in the stratified deposit.

The basic difficulty as to the chronological sequence and identification of the Hindu Shahi Kings hinges upon the fact that most of the names[1] given by Alberuni — the best source of our information — do not correspond very closely to those so commonly found on the coins. In addition to it several names (or titles) found on the coins do not find any place in Alberuni's list. The legend Sri Spalapati Deva of some silver and copper coins, for example, do not have any remote equivalent in historical records, Copper denominations of the Hindu Shahis with legend Sri Samanta Deva[2] and Sri Vakka are quite abundant in Dir and Swat, readily available in the streets, but few finds have been made systematically; thus giving us little help in establishing the chronological sequence of the principal issues.

An attempt has been made by Macdowall to probe into the problem. Relying mainly on the evidence of metrology — the general weight reduction of certain coin types which, incidentally, coincided with the progressive deterioration of the type and stylisation of letter forms Macdowall has worked out a sequence of the principal denominations in silver and copper.

1. Kallar, Kamalu, Jaipal, Anandapala, Tarojanapala, see *Alberuni's India* II, P. 18.
2. Cunningham has identified Samanta Deva of the coins with Samand of Alberuni. See Cunningham, *coins of Mediaeval India,* P. 56.

His reconstruction of the general chronological development is as follows. He remarks: "Successive issues of Sri Vakka Deva (lion and elephant type) can be distinguished by a series of privy marks. The earliest issue seems to be the one in a bold spirited style. The second issue can be recognised by the distinctive way in which it treats the rear leg of the lion. The third issue has (No. 1)[1] beneath the lion, the fourth and fifth issues have (No. 2) or (No. 3) beneath the lion and the sixth has (No. 4) beneath the lion and a quarter foil rosette above. The rosette in a similar form is found also on the first issue of copper coins of Samanta, which seems to have been the issue that followed the sixth issue with the legend Sri Vakka Deva. The first two of these letters already known from silver coins of issue V of Spalapati, thus offering additional evidence to that drawn from metrology that the copper coins of the Lion and Elephant type with the legend Sri Vakka Deva were contemporary with the second stage of the silver of the Bull and Horseman type with the legend Sri Spalapati Deva, and provided the small change for that silver". (Macdowall, op. cit. P. 202).

Our coins of the Lion and Elephant type with the legend Sri Vakka Deva are similar to the fourth or fifth issue with the privy mark (No. 2 above) of Macdowall's reconstruction as given above. These coins should be contemporary therefore with the second stage of silver of the Bull and Horseman type with the legend Sri Spalapati Deva. According to this scheme our coins can be dated to the end of the 8th or beginning of the 9th century A.D. Elsewhere it has been shown that a similar date can be given to the stratigraphical level which yielded these coins on the basis of other associated materials.

We did not find any coin of Vakka with rosette probably due to the meagre number of these finds; however, we have one with the similar rosette but the legend reads Sri Samanta Deva. According to the reconstruction of Macdowall, it seems to have followed the last issue of Vakka in his copper denomination. The other coin of Samanta, found in our excavation, having no privy marks and no rosette and moreover struck to a lower weight standard with a less spirited treatment of the type than the other Samanta issues, is comparable to those of Macdowall which constitute a final copper issue with Sri Samanta Deva parallel to the last silver issue with the same legend. It must have reached Damkot after cerca A.D. 850

1. 

2.

No. 3.

No. 4. 

The final stage is marked by the billon coin of the Bull and Horseman type with the legend Sri Samanta Deva. According to the same scheme it must be dated to round about A.D. 1000. Stratigraphic evidence provides a striking confirmation of part of the results worked out by Macdowall if the meagre number of the coins found at Damkot would allow any such conclusion. Anyway the Lion and Elephant type of Vakka confined to stratum (2) and that of Samanta to Stratum (1) along with his billon coin of the Bull and Horseman type found on the top inspires our confidence in the succession of the two kings in the similar order. Thus Sri Vakka Deva of the coins becomes the immediate predecessor of Samanta Deva whose name sounds so similar to Samand of Alberuni. But Vakka does not find any place in Alberuni's list; instead, he gives the name of Kallar who appears to have preceded Samand. Can we find the coinage of Kallar in the Lion and Elephant type bearing the name of Sri Vakka? On the face of it, the two names appear to be unlike each other, though archaeological evidence is somewhat inclined towards such an identification.

7. TERRACOTTA AND CLAY OBJECTS[1]

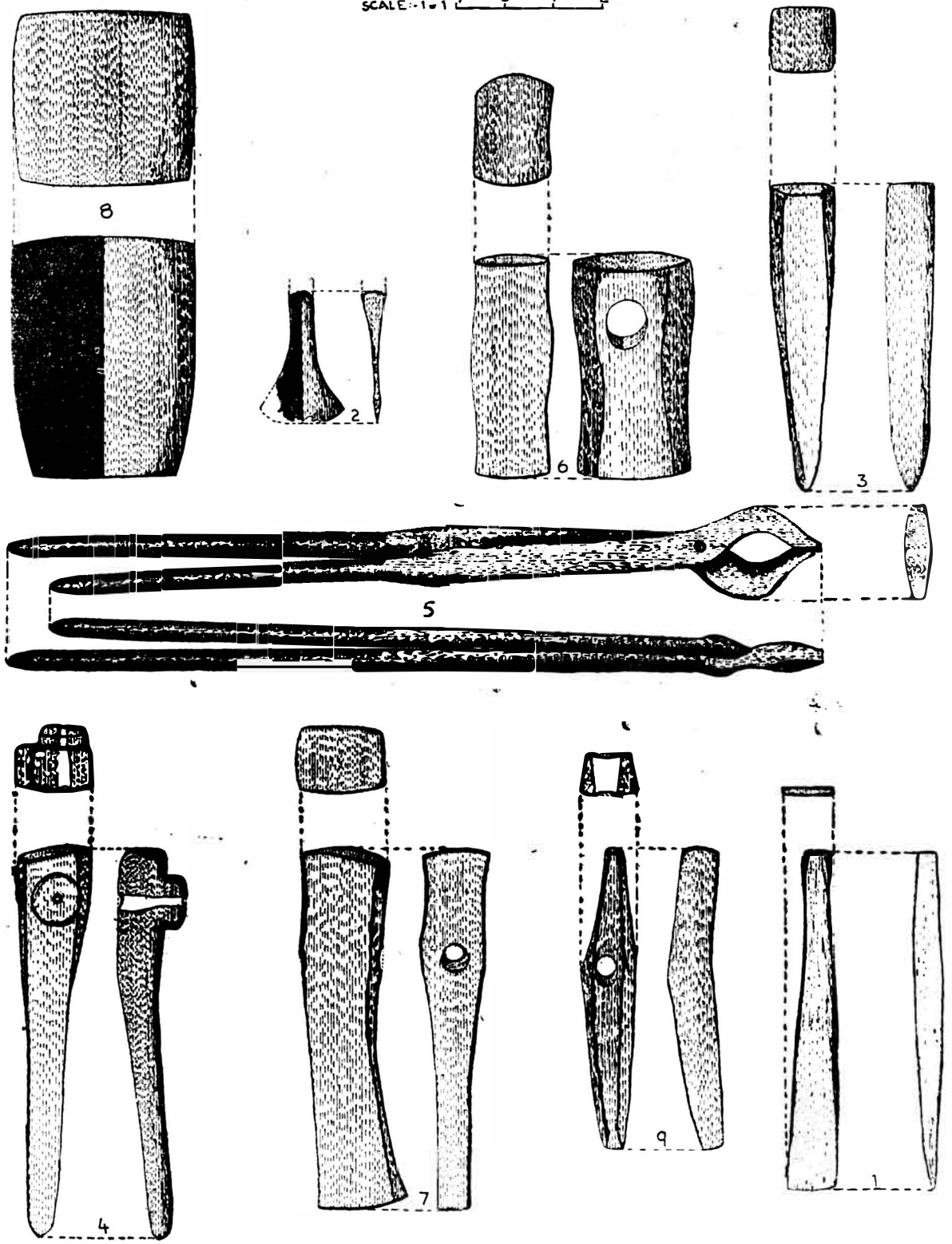
A sizeable number of terracotta objects including human and animal figurines, rattles, skin rubbers, playing dice, one bangle, an inscribed tablet, gamesman, birds, and a lotus mould were brought to light in the excavation. Most important among the terracottas, however, is a plaque depicting seated Buddha (to be described under Sculptures) exhibiting remarkably fine moulding of facial features, the effect of which was enhanced by the application of several colours in order to bring out certain parts into prominence. Equally important is a damaged head of the Buddha made of kneaded clay and merely dried in the sun. All other examples — particularly those meant for rough handling as play objects, (as indicated by their somewhat crude modelling) were baked red probably in kiln, with surfaces generally finished off with red slip so that it resulted in uniformity of colour all over. This uniformity was, however, occasionally broken by black painted bands as observed on some examples.

It is a curious fact, though certainly biased by the restricted digging at lower levels, that with the exception of a toy bird (Fig. 18, No. 11) and a moulded human figurine (Pl. 88 b) none of the terracotta human or animal figurines come from levels earlier than those assignable to the Kushanas — even the number of those from this period is few and far between,

1. For terracotta beads see section II 'Terracotta and Stone Beads'. For terracotta and clay Buddhist sculptures see section 14 'Sculptures' (of stone, terracotta and clay).

Fig. 15, IRON OBJECTS : PERIOD V

SCALE 1" 0 1" 2"



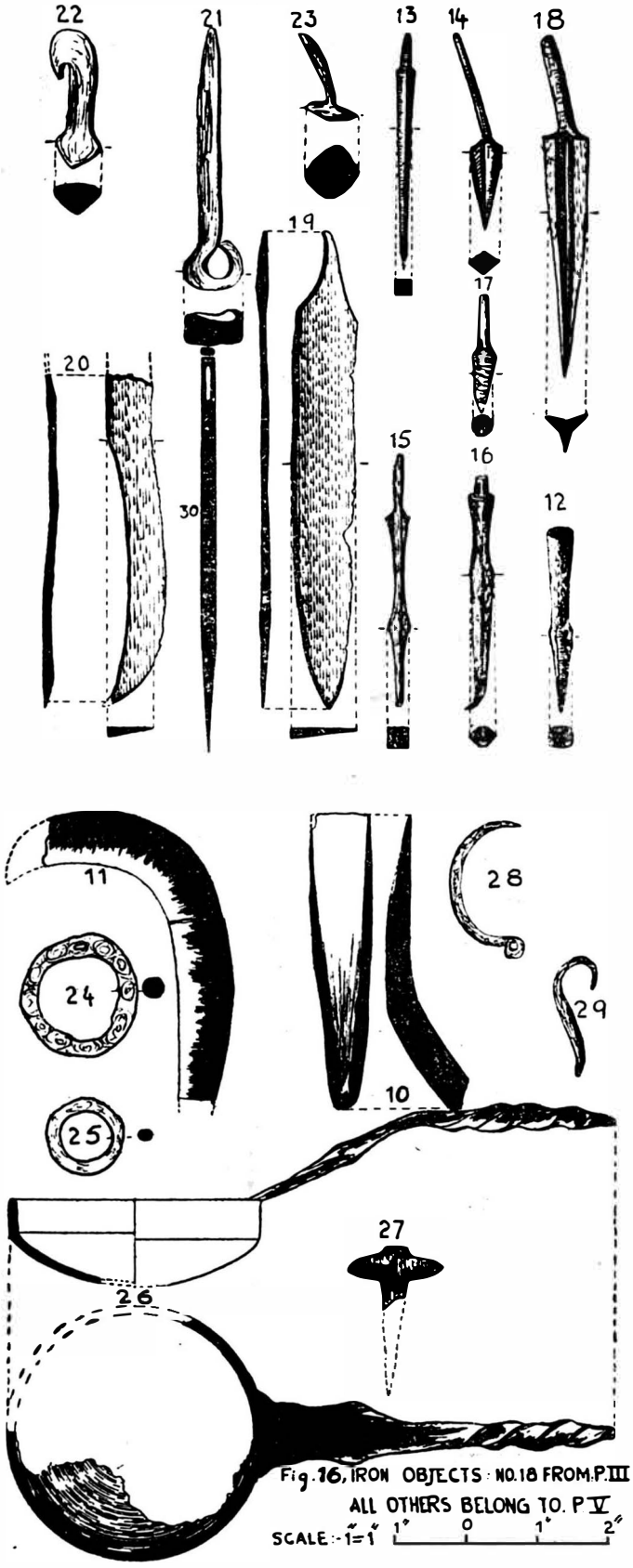


Fig. 16, IRON OBJECTS NO.18 FROM P.III
ALL OTHERS BELONG TO P.IV
SCALE :- 1=1" 1" 0 1" 2"

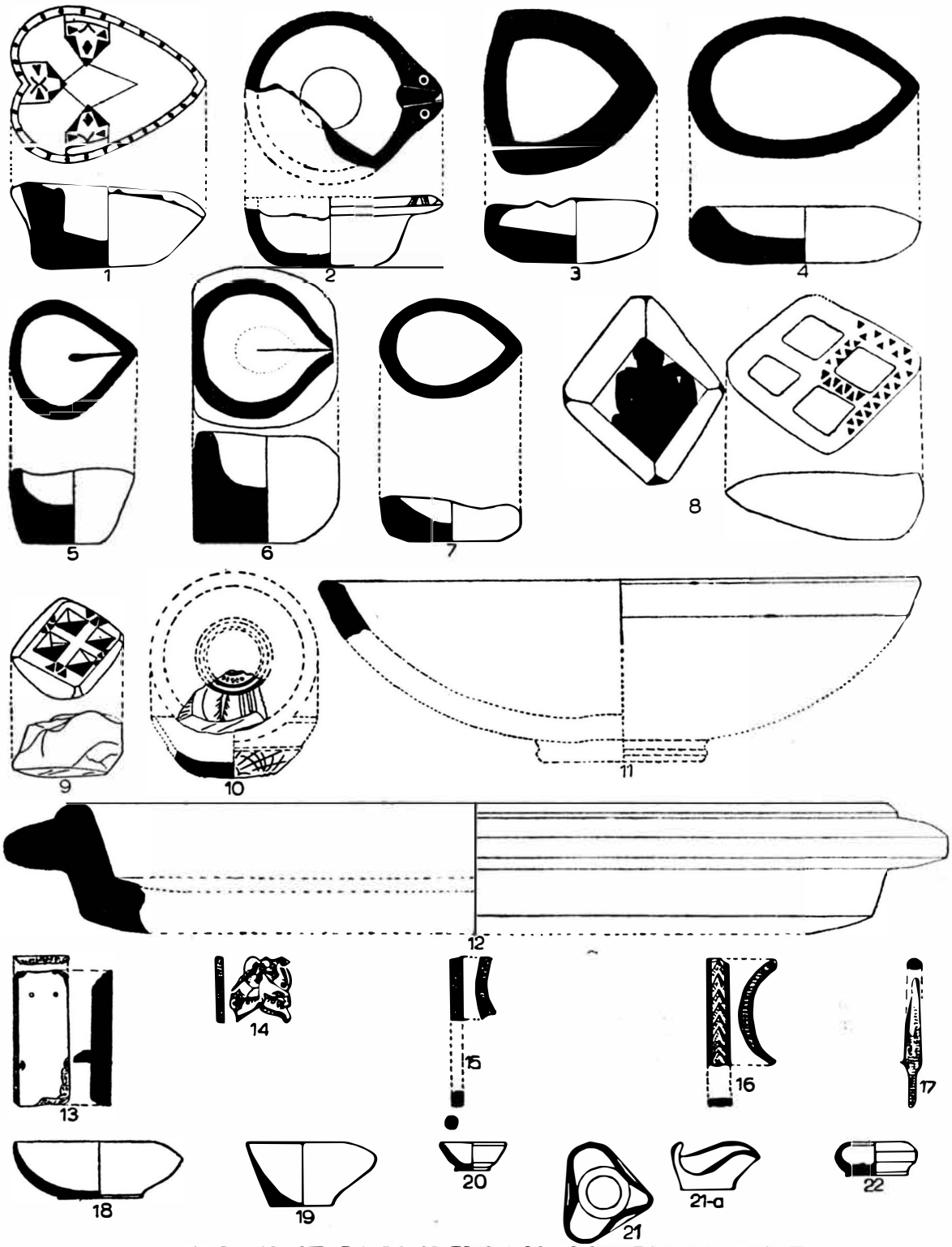


Fig.17, IVORY, STONE & T.C. OBJECTS: NOS.1-9 STONE LAMPS PERIOD.IV, NO.10 PERIOD.I, ALL OTHERS BELONG TO PERIOD IV

Scale-1=1

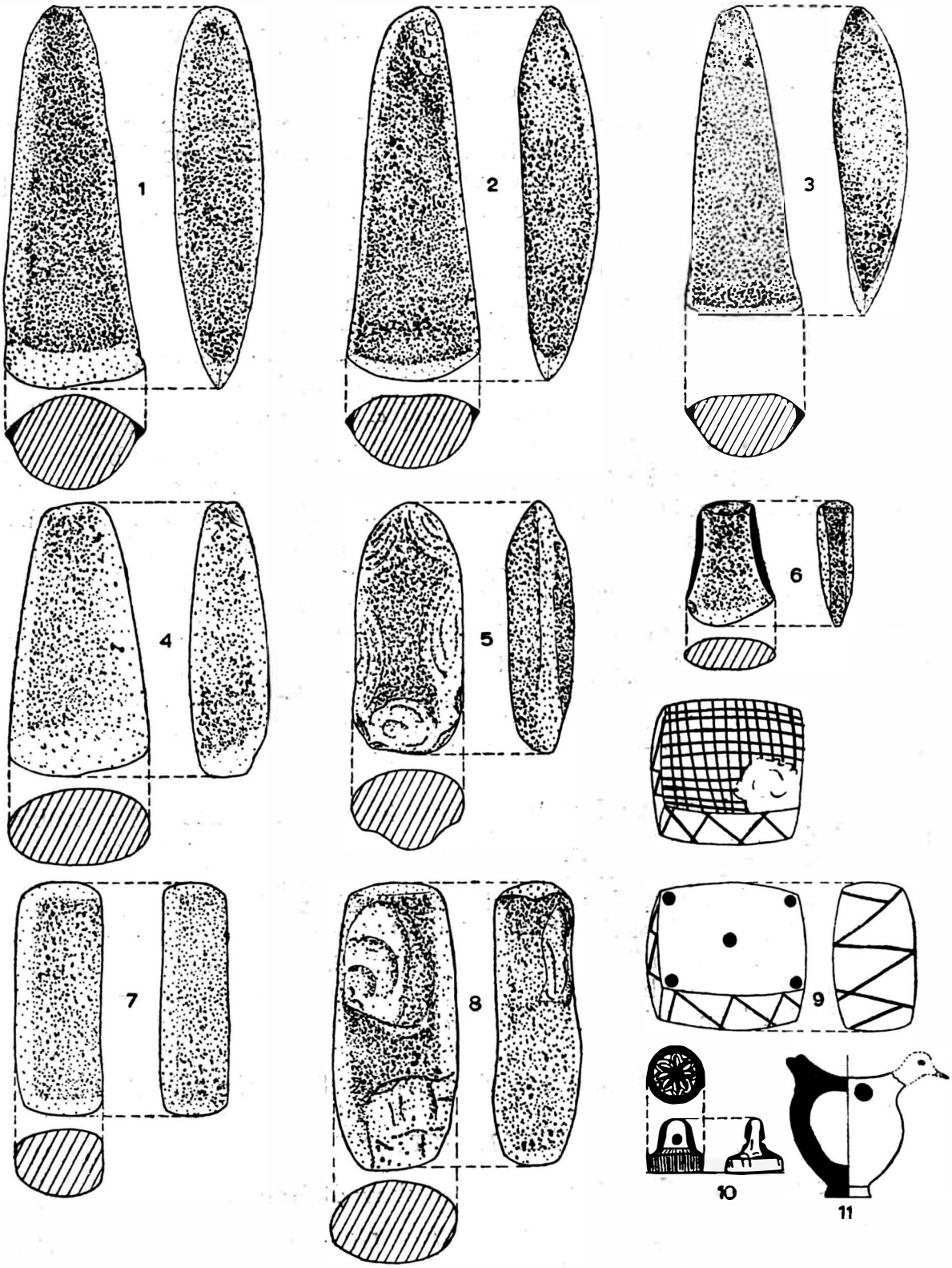


Fig. 18, STONE TOOLS & T.C. OBJECTS : NOS. 4-6 PERIOD I,
NOS. 7,8 PERIOD IV, NOS. 1-3 FROM SHAMLAI; NOS. 9-11 T.C. OBJECTS,
Scale -1=1

the major axis being, as the evidence stands at present, the uppermost two strata ascribed to the Hindu Shahi period. More striking, however, is the difference — technological and qualitative — between the products of the Kushana and the Hindu Shahi periods if the meagre number of objects would allow any such generalisation. Almost all the best specimens including those of Buddhist significance were found in the stratigraphic level (i.e. Period IV) immediately succeeding that which yielded coins of the late Kushanas (Vasudeva II). It hardly needs stressing that the greater number of terracottas from the uppermost two strata, except for the numerical superiority, is much inferior in quality to all that was produced in the preceding phase. The reason is not far to seek. Terracotta art that flourished in the pre-citadel period at this site was particularly inspired by the Buddhist models for which clay had been adopted, due to its easy availability and great plasticity, as a suitable material for making sculptures. The figure of the seated Buddha and the clay head referred to above bear sufficient witness. It may be interpolated here that even the stratigraphical evidence of these objects is perfectly in line with the evidence produced by architectural details and lay-out of structures, which take the form of a central court surrounded by rooms resembling a monastery and for that matter a most befitting recipient of objects having religious significance. The very few horses and bulls from this level might be written off as strays from earlier levels. With the advent of the citadel period, however, as the site assumed a secular significance the number of the terracotta playing objects increased but much degenerated and perfectly in consonance with the new requirements where Buddhist Sculptures had no place.

Chronologically, no less important is the occurrence of a double moulded figurine (Pl. 88 b.) in the level immediately preceding the early Kushana period and assignable to the Scytho-Parthian period. The present example is much damaged and heavily encrusted but the characteristic features of this type as described by Gordon[1] elsewhere can abundantly be seen here. At Shaikhan Dheri where the excavation has put this type somewhat squarely in the chronological framework it dominantly characterises the Scytho-Parthian and subsequent level.[2]

Selected specimens are described below from the technical viewpoint.

1 — HUMAN FIGURINES

These are only three in number but show different methods of manu-

1. Gordon H.D. Early Indian Terracotta, *Journal of the Indian Society* of Oriental Art 1939, Calcutta, of CF *Ancient Pak:* Vol. II, P. 57.
2. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 47.

facture. Technically they can be divided into two distinct types — (i) double moulded hollow from within, (ii) hand made. Type (i) is represented by a single specimen and is stratigraphically separated from Type (ii) by a considerable depth of deposit. Prepared in a double mould, its body is rounded and hollow from within and shows a good naturalistic depth. Moreover it displays better plasticity and accuracy of anatomy than the latter (i.e. Type ii). Type ii is characterised by crudely modelled and pinched facial and bodily features. Two specimens are illustrated below:—

1. Pl. 88 b. No. 172: (Reg. No. 422) T.C: Type i; bust of a hollow double moulded female figurine in round with high breasts and a necklace consisting of small applied pellets hanging in front. Head and part of arms missing. Coated with fugitive red slip. The position of stumps of the arms indicate that hands were kept in front of the breast. It is heavily encrusted and part of the body has turned grey due to burning at some subsequent period. Area A, TR. D2, St. (8). Period II.

2. Pl. 88 c. No. 173: (Reg. No. 43) T.C. Type ii; hand-made, male figure shown in kneeling position with hands tied in front. It has pinched facial features with high arched nose and punctured eyes. Mouth is indicated by a slit. It has roundles in the ears and wears a turban on the head with one end of the turban falling on the back. Coated with a thick layer of red slip and painted black on the eyebrows, arms, waist and feet. It appears to have been placed upon a stand which is presently missing. Area, A, TR. D2, St. (2) Period V. The placing of this figure upon a stand and its kneeling position with hands tied in front like a prisoner may be reminiscent of the local conditions after the Hindu Shahis captured this site. The mediocrity reflected in the facial features, the turbaned head and the position of hands, unlike a devotee, might be calculated to show the humble position of a local chief *vis a vis* the new overlords whose strength of arms weighed heavily upon the local populace. Anyway it remains a guess and should not be pressed far.

II — BULLS

Among the terracotta animal figurines bulls have the largest number (total: 18), though none of them was found complete. There are sufficient number of fragments, however, to give different details of their bodily features. Except for a few examples — with pinched features — all the others are coated with a thick layer of light red slip. The decoration,

though very occasional, consists of pin-holes scattered on the flanks of the main body or black painted lines. The general method used for the manufacture is rolling a lump of clay in hand and then pressing in the middle so that a mass of clay accumulate on both ends which would be utilized for shaping legs — on the under surface and as in variety (a) for fashioning other limbs of the body which is solid without exception. The legs are always solid and stumpy. Except in variety (a) the horns, prominently given over the head, are invariably projecting upwards with a little inward incline at the top.

On the basis of technological principles it is possible to classify them into three varieties. Those having:

(a) Pinched features
(b) Limbs made separately but luted before firing
and (c) Limb made separately and joined by tenon.

Variety (a) is represented by three specimens. In comparison with other two varieties these are crudely modelled without any care for symmetry or proportion so that if there were no hump it would have been difficult to tell them apart from animal figurines other than bulls. They are characterised by a short pinched nozel like a parrot-beak and a semi-circular fan-like projection over the head pinched twice at the ends to indicate horns. Similarly the close-set hump is also pinched up from the main body. The whole is indeed fashioned out of a single lump of clay. The absence of any mark for eyes, mouth and nostrils is peculiar. None of the present examples exhibits any sign of slip. All of them, except one, belong to the Hindu Shahi levels.

Variety (b) represented by a larger number (total: 14) is comparatively much beter in modelling and finish. All the figurines are coated with a thick layer of red slip. The characteristic feature of this variety is that neck, horns, dewlap, hump and eyes were made separately and then luted to the actual body before firing. After that a coating of slip finished off the surface. Nostrils and mouth are indicated, in all cases, either by piercing holes or deep incisions. Only four specimens come from the Kushana levels. The rest of them belong to the upper strata.

Variety (c) is represented by a solitary specimen from the Kushana level. It is again carefully modelled and shows fine red slip. It has two holes — one each at the back and front, which indicate that head and tail were made separate and then joined by means of a tenon probably after firing.

Selected examples are illustrated below:— (Pl. 89 a. No. 175).

1. (Reg. No. 337) T.C: variety 'a'; front part of a bull with pinched nozel, ears, horns and hump. Crudely modelled; no slip. Area A, TR. D4, St. (3), Period IV.

2. (Reg. No. 29) T.C: variety 'b'; bull with legs, tail and part of muzzle broken. Its neck, horns, tail, ears and dewlap were made separately and luted to the main body before firing. It is bulky in size. Coated with a thick layer of red slip. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 215) T.C: variety 'b'; bull, only front part, tips of horns and lower part of legs broken. Thick-set prominent features. Nostrils indicated by piercing two holes whereas mouth is slitted. Fine reddish slip Area A, TR. A2, St. (2), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 242) T.C: variety 'b'; bull, neck and part of the front legs missing. Coated with red slip. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 303) T.C: variety 'c'; bull, part of front legs, tail and neck missing. Has two deep holes — one each at back and front for neck and tail to be tenonned to the main body. Red slip. Area A, TR. A1, St. (2), Period V.

III — HORSES

Horses (total: 6) were found equally distributed in the pre-Hindu Shahi levels. These are all fragmentary in condition but their necks (and in one case back also) are sufficiently preserved to give details of the muzzle. In three cases they have hollow necks from which it can be concluded that their bodies were also hollow from within. They are fired red, occasionally with a grey core. Majority of them are treated with a thick coating of red slip. It is noteworthy that horses are more truthfully modelled than bulls described above. No example of a horse on wheel was found, though the type was much earlier known at Taxila.[1] Almost all of them are decorated; The decoration consists of elaborate head stalls, saddle in one case, and black painted lines. As indicated by the position of head, most of the horses have been provided with high arched necks.

1. Marshall, *Taxila* Vol. II, P. 455.

The head stalls are composed of vertical cheek-straps with horizontal face-and nose-bands and ear-straps decorated (in one case) with small slitted pellets on the forehead. The saddled horse with us, almost dull red in colour, is a crudely fashioned little toy and all that can be made out of it is that the saddle was held in place by a crupper behind and a breast band in front. These are classified as follows. Those:

(a) with solid body.
(b) with body hollow from within.
(c) with saddles.

Types (a) and (c) appear to be very common in this region and were found in large numbers at Shaikhan Dheri,[1] Charsada[2] and Taxila[3] in a comparatively earlier context. Here it appears to be a continuation of the same tradition. Type (b) with horses bigger in size was also found at Taxila,[4] though their number was meagre.

Four specimens are illustrated below: (Pl. 89 b. No. 176)

1. (Reg. No. 252) T.C: variety (a); head and neck of a terracotta solid toy horse with pierced ears and nostrils and open mouth. The head-stall consists of applied vertical cheek-straps, nose-band and ear-straps. The eyes are made of applied circlets, with a hole in the centre and each placed within an oval device attached to the cheek-straps, probably representing blinder. It shows fine red slip. Area A, TR. B3, St. (2), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 412) T.C: variety (b); muzzle of a red terracotta toy horse with anatomical features more realistically delineated. The head-stall, of which the upper portion is missing, consists of applied vertical cheek-straps and nose-band painted black. The actual body was probably hollow from within. It is coated with a fine rosy red slip having greater mica contents. Area A, TR. D0, St. (4), Period IV.

3. (Reg. No. 39) T.C: variety (b); head and part of neck of a terracotta horse hollow from within. It appears to be more ornamental and less truthfully modelled. It has slitted mouth, pierced nostrils and ears standing erect. The eyes are made of applied circlets with a hole in the centre, each placed within an oval device probably representing

1. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol II, P. 85.
2. Wheeler, *Charsada,* P. 112.
3. Marshall, op cit. P. 455.
4. Ibid.

blinder. The head stall consists of applied vertical cheek-straps and face-straps comprising nose-band which is knotted, at both ends, with the cheek-straps and front bands. Around the ears the straps are decorated with small slitted pellets. Slipped red. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 389) T.C: variety (c); crudely fashioned terracotta saddled horse; head, tail and part of legs missing. The saddle (much damaged) has two peaks — one each on the back and front and is held in place with crupper behind and a breast-band (not clear in the picture). It is burnt dull red on the surface, but the core is grey. Without slip. Area B, TR. B1, St. (2), Period V.

IV — MISCELLANEOUS

1. Pl. 90 a. No. 177: (Reg. No. 390) T.C: head and neck of a terracotta grotesque lion with open mouth and applied tongue. The nostrils are indicated by piercing a pair of holes and eyes — rather longish in form — are shown in low relief. Ears are standing erect and mane is indicated by incised parallel lines. Back of the neck is coated with a thin layer of deep red slip whereas the front portion is treated with buff slip which, having greater mica contents, has consequently made it somewhat shiny. There are painted bands of deep red colour on the underside of its neck. Area B, TR. A1, St. (2) Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 96) Crude figure of a solid red terracotta dog shown in running position. Neck missing. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V. Not illustrated.

3. Fig. 18/11 (Reg. No. 433). Toy rattle in the form of a hen with disproportionately swollen body placed upon a solid stand. It has a hole in the centre. Buff colour, no slip. Area B, TR. B1, St. (5), Period III.

It can be well compared with those from Taxila where exactly similar examples were found (see Marshall, *Taxila,* Vol. III, P. 468). Marshall observed that toy rattles having separate legs were restricted to Bhir Mound whereas those from Sirkap had solid round base. The evidence conforms well with the present example.

4. Fig. 18/9 (Reg. No. 200) Skin-rubber of red terracotta, cubical in form

and hollow from within. Striated lines crossing each other on one face and stamped circlets on the opposite one. It has a stone within and could also be used as a rattle. Very fine surface treatment consisting of deep red slip. Area A, TR. D1, St. (1), Period V.

5. Pl. 89 b. (Reg. No. 117) Toy elephant of solid reddish brown terracotta with applied trappings on the back. Part of legs, trunk and eye and ears are damaged. The tusks are inserted into sockets. Reddish slip. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

6. Pl. 89 a. (Reg. No. 408) Crude figure of a solid grey terracotta camel; much damaged. Trappings indicated by pin-holes running in a single line on the flanks and back of the animal. Dark grey slip. Found along the defensive wall. St. (1). Period V.

7. Fig. 18/10 (Reg. No. 85) Circular lotus mould of red terracotta having sunk lotus design and a perforated boss at the back for hondling or suspending. Dia. 1 in. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 331) Bangle of grey terracotta, flat on the inside and concave on the outside; externally burnished, Dia. 3.4 in. Area A, TR. D4, St. (1), Period V.

V — T.C. TABLET WITH BUDDHIST CREED FORMULA

(Pl. 90 b. No. 178)

It was found in the 'water reservoir' almost two feet above the T.C. plaque depicting Buddha and some schist sculptures to be described below: It reads:

Ye dharmma hetu-prabhavā hetum teshām tathāgato hyavadat teshāñcha yo nirodha. evam vādi mahās'ramaṇaḥ

(Of all dispositions proceeding from a cause, the *Tathagata* (i.e. Buddha) has explained the cause, and he has explained their cessation also. This is the doctrine of the great *Sramana*, i.e. the Buddha).

VI — TERRACOTTA WEIGHTS

Only eleven examples were found in the excavation. According to shape these are classified as under:

(a) Conical (Pl. 91 a., 10-13)
(b) Cylindrical (Pl. 91 a., 14)
(c) Reel-shaped (Pl. 91 a. 15, 16).

Variety 'a' is represented by seven, variety 'b' and 'c' each by two specimens, both in red and grey colours. Variety 'b' has the finest specimens of all and shows fine slip which appear to have been smoothly rubbed. It appears to be wheel turned. All the others are hand-made. In one case (from variety 'a') there is an impressed dot on the top face. In section they are always circular. It may be pointed out here that all the specimens vary considerably among themselves in size as well as in weight and do not lend themselves to any consistent or uniform pattern. Nor is their number sufficient to fix their value ratio, which they bear to each other, with a virtual accuracy.

VII — TERRACOTTA PLAYING DICE

Two identical specimens of reddish brown terracotta playing dice were found in the uppermost stratum. Each of these is marked with one to six dots or dotted circles on all the six sides. The number of dots is regular so that one side is marked by one dot or dotted circle, the next by two, the third by three and so on upto six. No two sides repeat the same number. These are described below: None of them is illustrated.

1. (Reg. No. 276) Cubical die of reddish brown terracotta having one to six dots on each consecutive side. The numbering scheme is as follows: One is opposite to six, two to five and four to three. Area A, TR. B1, St. (1), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 268) Similar, having dotted circles; the numbering scheme is like this: one is placed opposite to four, two to five, and three to six. Area A, TR. C2, St. (1), Period V.

VIII — GAMESMEN

These are only two in number. They have smoky core and reddish brown surface. Reg. No. 527 from layer (4) is almost reel-shaped being slightly constricted at the waist and flat at the top and bottom. Its height is 0.7 inches. The other example (Reg. No. 3) from layer (1) is like a miniature tower having circular flat base and a projecting boss on the rounded top. Its height is 1¼".

8. — COPPER (BRONZE) OBJECTS

The use of copper had already been substantially replaced by iron since the second occupational period of this site but it continued to be a favourite material for fabricating small articles like antimony rods, bangles and bells and other house-hold utensils of which several fragments came to light. The apparent paucity of these fragments from layer (3) down to the second Gap may be due to restricted digging at these levels. Copper objects tend to concentrate in the upper two strata ascribable to the Hindu Shahi period, though their larger number may be biased by comparatively larger area brought under excavation.

A study of these objects has revealed two different techniques—simple hammering and solid casting, employed in the manufacture of copper or bronze objects. The latter is evidenced in the copper plaque depicting an embossed flame halo and two flanking devotees (to be described below). Copper (bronze) objects are grouped into:

i. Toilet Objects
ii. Personal Ornaments
iii. Miscellaneous.

i - TOILET OBJECTS

Toilet objects consist of antimony rods, ear-cleaners and tooth-picks of which as many as twelve[1] specimens were found in the excavation. These are placed under one head for the simple reason that an antimony-rod is occasionally combined with a tooth-pick or an ear-cleaner.The usual shape of an antimony rod is that of a rounded copper(or iron) rod measuring from three-and-a-quarter to seven inches in length. The particular shape of the ends of a rod was, however, determined by its function so that when used as a tooth-pick it was pointed at the ends; on the contrary, when required for smearing antimony it was thickened at the ends. It was furnished with a tiny scoop at one end in case when the rod was used as an ear-cleaner. In the case of a simple antimony rod, it is clubbed at both ends and,not very often, slightly raised in the middle.

Antimony-rods, tooth-picks and ear-cleaners and their combinations also were found abundantly by Marshall at Taxila[2]. As to their date he re-

1. Of the total copper is represented by nine and iron by three.
2. Marshall, *Taxila* ii, P. 585 and iii, Pl. 173.

marks: "The earliest specimens found at Taxila date from the third, or possibly fourth, century B.C. the latest from the first century A.D.[1]" At Damkot we did not find any example in ivory or bone, though we have iron for three rods[2]. Moreover none of our examples goes earlier than our stratum (3).

Selected examples are illustrated below: (Pl. 91b, No. 180).

1. (Reg. No. 503) Copper (bronze) antimony-rod with clubbed ends which appears to have been smoothly rounded off. Length: 4⅓ inches within Area A, TR. D1/R2BK, St. (3), Period IV.

2. (Reg. No. 90) same as above but raised in the middle. Length: 4 inches. Area A, TR.D2, St. (2). Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 233) same as No. 2 above, but the material is iron. Length: 4¾ inches. Area A, TR.B2, St. (2). Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 447) Copper antimony-road-cum-tooth-pick, thickened at one end and pointed at the other. It is subsequently bent and encrusted. Length 3½ inches. Area A, TR.S3, St. (3). Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 83) Copper: combination of ear-cleaner and antimony-rod with a little scoop at one end and damaged at the other. Length: 3¼ inches. Area A, TR. C2, St. (1). Period V.

(b) HAIR-PINS.

Only three were found in the excavation. These are described below:

6. (Reg. No. 414) copper hair-pin with a blunt point at one end and knob at the other. It is heavily encrusted Length: 3 inches. Area A, TR.C2, St. (3), period IV.

7. (Reg. No. 468) same as above. Length: 2⅓ inches. Area A, TR.C2, St. (2). Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 463) Copper hair-pin with umbrella top; it is damaged at the other end. Length 1½ inches. Area A, TR.B2, St. (3). Period IV.

1. Ibid, P. 657.
2. At Taxila iron is not recorded as a material for making antimony-rods.

ii – PERSONAL ORNAMENTS.

(a) BANGLES.

Eight specimens were found in a fragmentary condition. Among them six are made of copper and two of bronze. It is noteworthy that all the copper bangles, unlike those of glass and shell, are of the simplest form consisting of a plain circlet of wire, round or oval in section. This form persists throughout without any change. In this circlet provision was made for slipping the bangle onto the wrist by keeping it open on one side. In many examples the ends are thickened. Two examples are described below. None of them is illustrated.

1. (Reg. No. 460) Copper: bangle of plain circular wire with open ends brought close to each other. Dia. 2.2 inches. Area A, TR.B2, St. (2), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 496) Copper: bangle wire, almost round in section with open ends. Dia. 2.2 inches. It was found in association with the defensive wall. Area A, St. (2), Period V.

(b) FINGER RINGS.

Total: 4. All the four specimens are made of copper. Stratigraphically the earliest example belongs to layer (3) at this site. All of them were found in very poor state of preservation except one (Reg. No. 517). Typologically they can be classified into: (1) simple circlet of rounded wire, (ii) with plain bezel, (iii) with bezel having small depression for semi-previous stone. Only two examples are illustrated below, as the rest of them happen to be in a fragmentary condition.

1. Pl. 92a. (Reg. No. 450) Copper finger-ring of a rounded wire somewhat flattened at the bezel. Dia, 0.7 inches. Area A, TR.E2, ST (2), Perod V.

2. Pl. 92a: (Reg. No. 517) Copper or bronze finger-ring of thin rounded wire with file edge marks on the outer face. Dia. 0.65 inches. Area A TR.C1, St. (3). Period IV.

iii – MISCELLANEOUS

1. (Reg. No. 37) A small bell made of beaten copper sheet and having

an almost closed mouth and a stone ball within. The size and form of the bell indicate that it was intended to give a lower note. Similar bells are reported from Taxila (Comp. Marshall, *Taxila* iii, Pl. 176, 352). Two examples were found in the present excavation from layer (2). Height: One inch. Area A, TR.C2, St. (2). Period V. Not illustrated.

2. Pl. 88a: Circular coin mould of bronze showing, in profile, head of a male figure characterized by broad prominent features, big nose, and curly hair. The present illustration shows a cast from this mould. Area A, TR.D2, St. (3). Period IV.

3. Pl. 92a: (Reg. No. 494) Copper ear-ring of a thin rounded wire coiled at the ends, but subsequently opened Dia. 0.9". Found in association with the defensive wall. St. (1). Period V.

4. Pl. 92b: (Reg. No. 55) A wheel-shaped object of solid cast copper or bronze depicting a four petalled flower in the middle. It has elliptical holes on the outer ring. Two specimens were found in the excavation. Dia, 2½". Area A, TR.D2, St. (3). Period IV.

5. Pl. 93a: (Reg. No. 160) plaque of solid cast copper or bronze with embossed human figures on one side only; the other is flat. In the top centre is a flame-halo with two flanking devotees (also haloed) at a lower plane. The devotees are in a standing position with left proper hand of one and right proper hand of the other pointing downwards. The figures are outwardly inclined. There are four rectangular holes in the middle and the lower portion. It was found in parts. Area A, TR.D2, St. (3). Period IV.

9. SHELL AND IVORY OBJECTS.

Of the 40 examples found at Damkot bangles are represented by 38 and finger-rings by 2 specimens. Reg. No. 306 (Pl. 92a. 5) from TR. D4, St. (2) is a finger-ring consisting of a square-sectioned plain hoop. The other specimen (Reg. No. 131, TR.D2, St. (4), Pl. 92a. 4) exhibits comparatively finer finish and consists of a plain square sectioned hoop and a slightly raised bezel. Of the bangles, the major portion comes from the Hindu Shahi levels, though the earliest examples come from the Scytho-Parthian period at this site. It is worth pointing out that, notwithstanding the greater number of shell bangles from the uppermost strata, almost all the better examples are either referrable to Period III or IV. The types and forms established in these horizons were carried on into the succeeding

phase but degenerated in quality. In period V shell bangle with projecting flange on either side of the outer face comes up as the arch-type.

The favourite motifs are: cable pattern, pipal leaf, chevrons, chequered design and file-edge pattern. The pattern is usually shown in low relief or by deep incision. In a few cases the design was sunk in the surface and filled up by red paste or precious stones. Traces of red paste are still visible in Reg. 116. Cable pattern first appears in period II at this site and so also the inlay technique. Bangles are classified as follows:—

(a) Plain, with or without projecting flange on either edge
(b) Decorated, with simple incised design.
(c) Decorated, with design in low relief
(d) Inlaid, with coloured stone or paste.

Selected examples are illustrated below: (Pl. 93b, No. 184)

1. (Reg. No. 473) Type a: fragment of shell bangle with square section and plain outer face. Area A, TR. B2, St. 1, period V.

2. (Reg. No. 106) type a: similar, with projecting flange on either side of the outer face. Area A, TR. C2, St. (2), Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 440) Type b. fragment of shell bangle with an incised line running in the middle of the outer face. Area A, TR. D2, St. 8, Period II.

4. (Reg. No. 505) Type b: similar, with file-edge pattern on the outer face. Area A, TR. D2, St. (9) Period II.

5. (Reg. No. 438) Type b: similar, with incised chequered design and opposite traingles on the outer face. It has holes for inlay. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

6. (Reg. No. 425) Type c: fragment of shell bangle with cable pattern shown in relief on the outer face; smoothly polished from within. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2) Period V.

7. (Reg. No. 459) Type c: similar, with cable pattern on the outer face and smooth from within. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 152) Type c: similar, with conch-shell pattern and hatched diamonds shown in relief. Area A, TR. D2, St. (3), Period IV.

9. (Reg. No. 297) Type c: similar with flower pattern shown in relief. Area B, TR. B1, St. (1) Period V.

10. Fig. 17/16 (Reg. No. 125) Type c: similar, with over-lapping *pipal* leaf contained within border marked by incised line on either side. It comes from the 'water reservoir'. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

11. Fig. 17/15 (Reg. No. 16) Type D: fragment of a shell bangle with *pipal* leaf decoration shown in relief and filled up with red paste of which traces are visible. Area A, TR. D2, St. 2, Period V.

12. Fig. 17/17 (Reg. No. 509) ivory; arrowhead, round in section, with a flange for fixing into wooden or reed shaft on one end; at the other it tapers towards a point. Area A, TR. C0, St. (3), Period IV. It can also be an antimony rod.

13. Fig. 17/14 (Reg. No. 73) Ivory; a small plaque (measuring 1.3 x 1.4 in.) depicting a pair of winged horses kept face to face, in low relief. The piece is cut along the outer contour of the horses' bodies. It is damaged at one end. Area A, TR. C2, St. (1) Period V.

10. GLASS BANGLES AND RINGS

More than two hundred specimens consisting of fragments of finger-rings (total; 10) and bangles (total: 191) were found in the excavation. Glass bangles of various shapes and colour tend to concentrate in the upper two layers so that only 13 fragments were found in layer (3) and this being the earliest level where they first appear. The relative number of specimens or their complete absence from certain horizons should not be taken as an index to their relative popularity or unpolpularity for the simple reason hinted at below. Black glass seems to have been manufactured at Taxila from very early times (See Marshall, *Taxila*, ii, P. 684). Also the number of glass bangle fragments, when they make their first appearance, is quite appreciable at this site. Therefore the absence of glass from levels antedating layer (3) may be due to the restricted area brought under excavation.

Black and yellow with several shades are the favourite colours from first to last, having the largest number in layers (2) and (3). In the top stratum black is outnumbered by yellow and its variations. The black colour is often very shiny and can be mistaken for obsidian. The other

colours being voilet, amber, blue and green in the similar order of frequency. Green is represented by the smallest number of specimens found mostly in the top layer. In some cases of glass bangles the colour of core is different from that of the surface. A few examples show strips of yellow and blue running parallel to each other or the outer face.

The most usual shape is that of a circle averaging from 1.8 in. to 2 inch in diameter. Forms of the section vary from elliptical, oval and very occasionally rectangular (with blunt angles) to circular. The most prominent type is flat on the inside and convex on the outside. Two specimens in black tend to be rather conical in section. A rare variety (only two pieces) is that of which yellow and blue strips are twisted like a cable (this is also referrable to the top stratum). Another variety is relieved on the external face by means of a midrib (it is represented by three fragments from layer (2)). Another variety represented by a solitary specimen, in blue glass, is relieved by parallel horizontal grooves on the outer face which taper to one side making an almost triangular section. Still another variety shows the midrib having projecting bosses of different colours on the outside.

Selected examples are described below. None of them is illustrated.

1. (Reg. No. 529) Whitish: fragment of a glass bangle with black core; round in section. Dia. 2.4 in. Area A, TR. D1, St. (3), Period IV.

2. (Reg. No. 61) Green: fragment of a glass bangle, externally grooved and oval in section. Dia. 3 in. Area A. TR. D2, St. 2, Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 136) Black: small fragment of a glass bangle having yellow strips on the outer surface. It is elliptical in section Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 189) Black: fragment of a glass bangle with yellow coating. It is plano-convex in section. Dia. 2.1 in. Area A, TR. E2, St. (2), Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 445) yellow: fragment of a glass bangle relieved by deep horizontal grooves on the outer face. It is almost triangular in section. Dia. 2.3 in. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

6. (Reg. No. 262) Black: fragment of a glass bangle with a mid-rib on the outer face. Dia. 3 in. Area A, TR. C1, St. (3), Period IV.

7. (Reg. No. 417) combination of green and amber: fragment of a glass

bangle with mid-rib relieved by bosses of different colours. Dia. 2.3 in. Area A, TR. C1, St. (2), Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 9) combination of blue and green: fragment of glass bangle with yellow and green strips twisted in the fashion of cable pattern. It is almost round in section. Dia. 2.5 in. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

9. (Reg. No. 136) Whitish: fragment of a glass bangle with grooved outer face. It is round in section. Dia. 2.6 in. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

11 — BEADS

(of terracotta and stone)

Out of 130 beads obtained from excavation terracotta alone accounts for 84; the remaining 56 are represented by glass and stone. Most of the beads (as many as 122) are referrable to periods IV and V; of the rest, three examples come from the lower-most two layers (see Distribution charts) and five from periods II and III. Evidently the beads tend to concentrate in the upper strata which covered comparatively larger area of the ground brought under excavation.

Of the various materials used for manufacturing beads terracotta apparently happened to be the prime favourite at all periods, probably owing to its easy availability. The second place is held by glass whereas carnelian, phyllitic schist and shell having equal representation come in the third place in the order of frequency. Lapis-lazuli, crystal and quartz also appeared in equal number. Agate and gold were only sparingly used.

The biconical beads (our type ii) are, invariably, hand-made and without any slip and characterized by a wider axial hole with striated lines or pin-hole decoration around the conical ends. These are often bulky in size and are occasionally provided with a prominent central ridge. This type is also duplicated in stone with the same distinctive features. The common use of this type and its wide chronological and spatial distribution on prehistoric as well as historic sites hardly needs stressing. At Kot Diji[1] and Mohenjodaro[2] biconical terracotta beads were found in abundant numbers. So also at Timargarha[3] where they came to light in all the three periods.

1. Khan, F.A. *Pak: Archaeology* Vol. II, Excavation at Kot Diji, Pl. XXIX b.
2. Marshall, *Mohenjodaro and the Indus Civilization,* Pl. CIII, 16.
3. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. III P. 193, Pl. L, 1-4.

Similarly 26 specimens were obtained from the excavation of Balambat[1] where an unbroken continuity of this type was observed throughout the occupational period of this side. At Charsada it was a long-lived unspecialized type,[2] associated with material datable from 6th to 2nd century B.C. A fair sprinkling of them is recorded from Shaikhan Dheri.[3] Available evidence from the excavated sites nearer to Damkot would apparently reveal some sort of associative tendency of the biconical beads yith prehistoric times in this region. Its approximate position in the chronological framework will be better visualized when studied in association with conical beads (our type i).

Our type (i) is always wheel-turned and coated with a thin layer of light red or grey slip. It is characterized by a narrow axial hole and a somewhat convex sided cone and (as seen in many cases) there is a grooved circle at the bottom. In some examples it appears to have been burnished so that it resulted in a uniformity of colour on the surface. This is not entirely a new type in this region. Conical beads were found in association with Gandhara material, at Charsada, datable approximately from the second to the fourth century A.D.[4] The evidence from Shaikhan Dheri conforms well with that of Charsada as the earliest occurrence of the type 'convex-cone with grooved-base' is assignable to the Scytho-Parthian levels.[5] Presently, at Damkot, it makes its first appearance in layer (6) (ascribed to the 1st century B.C. and A.D.) and is preceded by type (ii) by a considerable depth of deposit. It would be reasonable therefore to say that the biconical beads have stronger affinity with the centuries preceding the Christian era.

Collared beads, having no analogues in stone at this site, are divided into two varieties. Variety (A) is collared at one end and flat at the bottom. It is often wheel turned and coated with fine greyish slip which nearly gives the effect of polish. The earliest specimen occurs in layer (9). Variety (B) is rather 'pot-bellied' in shape and is characterized with a pronounced lug-collar at one end and an almost rounded bottom It is handmade and without slip. Stratigraphically the former is earlier than the latter and is technologically related with type (i) mentioned above.

1. Op. Cit. P. 278, PL. LIV. b.
2. Wheeler, *Charsada,* P. 116 and Pl. XXXVII 1-9, Pl. XXXVIII, 1-3.
3. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 129 (see distribution charts).
4. Wheeler, *Charsada,* P. 118, and Pl. XXXIX, and type III, variant, P. 118.
5. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II P. 129 (see Distribution Chart).

Distribution charts of Beads.

(of Stone, glass, shell and semi-precious stones)

(a):— According to material

Stratum.	Glass	Carnelian	Lapis-Lazuli	Crystal	Green Schist	Phyllitic schist	Agate	Shell	Gold	Quartz	Total
1	5	3	2	1	x	5	1	x	x	1	18
2	8	x	1	2	1	2	–	5	x	2	21
4	6	4	x	x	x	x	x	2	2	x	14
9	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2
11	x	x	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	x	1
Total.	20	8	3	3	2	7	1	7	2	3	56

(b):— According to shapes

	i	ii	iii	iv	v	vi	vii	viii	ix	x	xi	
Stratum.	Conical	Biconical	Spherical	Cylindrical	Disc-shaped	Tiny Beads	Cornerless cube	Oblate	Pendant	Spacer	Elliptical	Total.
1	3	8	4	x	1	x	x	1	1	x	x	18
2	1	7	1	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	x	21
4	x	x	2	2	x	8	x	1	x	x	1	14
9	x	x	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2
11	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	1
Total	5	15	8	6	2	12	1	3	2	1	1	56

TERRACOTTA BEADS
(Distribution chart)

Type	i			ii	iii	iv	v	vi		
Variety	A.	B.	C.							
Stratum.	Conical with out-groove	Conical with flat bottom	Conical with grooved bottom	Biconical	Spherical	Cylindrical.	Collared	Gad-rooned.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1	5	6	8	7	2	x	5	x	x	33
2	13	8	4	4	x	1	6	1	2	39
4	4	x	x	2	x	x	1	x	x	7
6	1	x	x	x	x	x	1	x	x	2
9	x	x	x	x	x	x	1	x	x	1
11	x	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	x	1
12	x	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	x	1
Total	23	14	12	15	2	1	14	1	2	84

Of the stone beads a smaller number of specimens exhibit fine polish speaking of some skillfulness on the part of the lapidaries. A solitary example of an unfinished crystal bead, found on the surface, may suggest the existence of local lapidaries. Be it as it may, an appreciable number of the beads shows that axial perforation was made with the help of a drill in a single operation which, in some cases, resulted in a small cavity or fracture at one end. There is only one example to illustrate that drilling was also occasionally practised from both ends but not very adroitly since it resulted in an obtuse angle.

There is only one etched carnelian bead. The pattern consisting of horizontally laid convex lines is etched in white on the natural colour of the stone.

Selected examples are illustrated below:

1. TERRACOTTA BEADS (Pl. 94 a. No. 185)

1. (Reg. No. 224) T.C: type 1; convex cone with a deep groove at the

bottom around the axial hole. Turned and slipped light grey. Area A, TR. F4, St. (2), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 483) T.C: type 1; similar, but the cone is short. Found in association with the defensive wall. St. (2), Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 163) T.C: type i; variant; similar, but without groove. Light red colour. Area A, TR. A1, St. (1), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 342) T.C: type i, variant; similar, with long cone and grey colour. Area A, TR. E3, St. (2), Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 331) T.C: type i; convex cone with flat bottom. Coated with light grey slip. Area A, TR. C4, St. (2), Period V.

6. (Reg. No. 261) T.C: type i; similar. Area A, TR. B3, St. (1), Period V.

7. (Reg. No. 420) T.C: type ii; short barrel-bicone circular. It is a heavy bead with wide axial hole, hand-made and grey in colour. Area A, TR. D2, St. (12), Period I.

8. (Reg. No. 510) T.C: type ii; similar, with a central ridge. The axial hole is comparatively narrow; light red in colour. Area A, TR. D0, St. (3), Period IV.

9. (Reg. No. 526) T.C: type ii; similar but smaller in size; light red colour. Found with the defensive wall. St. (2), Period V.

10. (Reg. No. 292) T.C: type ii, variant; similar, with closely truncated cones; light red in colour. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

11. (Reg. No. 435) T.C: type ii; short barrel — bicone circular with a central groove. It is damaged at the apex of the cones and shows deep striations caused by some pointed object; grey in colour. Area A, TR. B1, St. (2), Period V.

12. (Reg. No. 166) T.C: type ii; barrel — bicone circular having pin-hole decoration around the cones. It shows striations caused by some metallic object. Light red in colour. Area A, TR. C3, St. (1), Period V.

13. (Reg. No. 229) T.C: type IV; short cylinder circular with slightly bevelled edges. It is light red in colour and wheel turned. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

14. (Reg. No. 338) T.C: type V; small bead, light grey in colour, having a pronounced collar at one end; no slip. Area B, TR. A1, St. (2), Period V.

15. (Reg. No. 406) T.C: type V; similar, found with the defensive wall. St. (1), Period V.

16. (Reg. No. 521) T.C: type V; turned bead showing fine dark slip and collar at one end. Area A, TR. C1, St. (4), Period V.

17. (Reg. No. 465) T.C: type V, variant; similar, but having flat bottom. Area A, TR. C2, St. (3), Period IV.

18. (Reg. No. 154) T.C: type VI; *amalaka*-shaped or gadrooned bead of light grey colour. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

19. (Reg. No. 344) T.C: miscellaneous; conical at one end and almost convex at the bottom. Decorated with incised radiating lines on the conical end. Light grey in colour. Area B, TR. B3, St. (2), Period V.

20. (Reg. No. 283) T.C: Miscellaneous; rough bead of grey colour with truncated long cone at one end and almost flat bottom. Area A, TR. R2, St. (2), Period V.

II — BEADS OF ORDINARY STONE (Pl. 91 a. No. 179)

(only better examples are illustrated)

1. (Reg. No. 328) Phyllite: type i; approximately conical bead with wide axial hole and double zigzags. Area B, TR. A1, St. (1), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 512) Greenish Schist; type i; similar, having casual groups of triple zigzags. Area A, TR. D2, St. (11), Period I.

3. (Reg. No. 377) Phyllitic Schist: type i; similar, without any decoration. Area A, TR, C4, St. (1), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 325) Greenish Schist: type i; conical bead with wide axial hole. Without decoration. Area A, TR. C1, St. (2), Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 376) Phyllitic Schist: type i; similar, plain. Area A, TR. A4, St. (1), Period V.

6. (Reg. No. 201) Phyllitic Schist: type ii; biconical bead with a deep central groove and comparatively narrow axial hole. Area A, TR. A4, St. (1), Period V.

7. (Reg. No. 30) Grey Schist: type v; discoidal bead with concentric grooves on one face. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 535) Phyllitic Schist type v; discoidal bead, plain Area A, TR. F3, St. (2), Period V.

9. (Reg. No. 430) Green Schist: type vii; cornerless cube, plain. Area A, TR. B3, St. (2), Period V.

III — BEADS OF SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES, GLASS AND SHELL

(Pl. 94 b. No. 186)

1. (Reg. No. 263) Crystal: type ii; barrel biconical hexagonal. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

2. (Reg. No. 149) Agate: type ii; barrel biconical elliptical. Area A, TR. C2, St. (1), Period V.

3. (Reg. No. 34) Blue glass: type ii; barrel biconical circular. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

4. (Reg. No. 379) Pale glass: type ii: short barrel biconical circular. Area A, TR. C4, St. (1), Period V.

5. (Reg. No. 202) Black glass: type ii; short barrel biconical circular. Decoration consists of whitish strips in the form of loops. Area A, TR. C1, St. (1), Period V.

6. (Reg. No. 248) Yellow glass: type ii; short barrel biconical circular with traces of gold wash. Area A, TR. D4, St. (2), Period V.

7. (Reg. No. 552) Crystal: type iii; spherical. Area A, TR. D3, St. (2), Period V.

8. (Reg. No. 432) Carnelian: type iii; spherical. Area B, TR. A3, St. (3), Period V.

9. (Reg. No. 162) Quartz: type iii; similar. Area A, TR. C2, St. (1), Period V.

10. (Reg. No. 183) Shell: type iv; short cylinder circular. Area A, TR. F2, St. (2), Period V.

11. (Reg. No. 110) Shell: type iv; short cylinder nearly circular. Area A, TR. D2, St. (1), Period V.

12. (Reg. No. 79) Glass: type iv; cylinder circular. Area A, TR. D2, St. (3), Period IV.

13. (Reg. No. 151) Lapis-lazuli: type iv; short cylinder circular. Area A, TR. D2, (top soil), Period V.

14. (Reg. No. 523) Carnelian: type viii; Oblate spheroid. This is the only example of an etched bead. The pattern consists of horizontally laid convex lines in white on the natural colour of stone. Area A, TR. D1, St. (4), Period IV.

15. (Reg. No. 394) Rosy quartz: type iii; oblate spheroid. Area B, TR. A1, St. (2), Period V.

16. (Reg. No. 33) Carnelian: type viii; similar. Area A, TR. D2, (top-soil), Period V.

17. (Reg. No. 429) Shell: type ix; dagger pendant. Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

18. (Reg. No. 260) Lapis-lazuli: type ix; drop pendant with two holes. Area A, TR. C3, (top soil), Period V.

19. (Reg. No. 243) Shell: type x; spacer, tabular double holed. Area A, TR. A4, St. (2), Period V.

20. (Reg. No. 453) Carnelian: type xi; elliptical and nearly tabular. It has a sunk human design on one face. Area A, TR. B2, St. (3), Period IV.

12 — IRON OBJECTS

Iron is represented by an appreciable number of implements, tools and weapons and by innumerable fragments (some of them rather tiny and indeterminate, others too oxidised to leave anything behind except a discolouration of the soil). Stratigraphically, the earliest of the iron frag-

ments, very few in number, were seen in layer (10). In the subsequent levels, however, their number increased considerably. Iron objects from the uppermost two layers were found in a comparatively good state of preservation. Most of the tools (to be described below) found *in situ* come from the smith's shop. Scattered in the living rooms were found various types of nails, hooks, timber-joiners, series of chains, rings and other household objects like needles, knives, sickles and a spoon. The most remarkable finds consist of arrow-heads of differents types. The associative tendency of some of the arrow-heads (particularly our type b) is noteworthy. Iron objects fall into the following functional groups:

i) Blacksmith's and Carpenter's tools,
ii) Agricultural implements,
iii) Arms,
iv) Miscellaneous.

I — BLACKSMITH'S AND CARPENTER'S TOOLS

With the exception of two examples (Reg. No. 52, and 540) all these tools come from the smith's shop (as indicated above) and must be considered contemporary with it. Let it be repeated here that the said workshop is stratigraphically assigned to Period V. The entire assemblage of these tools may be classified into (a) chisels, (b) fire tongs, (c) hammers and (d) anvil. These are described below:

(a) CHISELS

Four specimens were found in the excavation: two of them in a good state of preservation and the rest heavily encrusted and partly damaged. According to their shapes the chisels may be divided into (1) square bar tool (Fig. 15/1) with slightly splayed double slope cutting edge and squared off top apparently made so for insertion into a metal sheath which not only covered it on the top but also at all sides. The sheath itself was supported in its position by small protuberances at the shoulders of the tools. As indicated by the sharp cutting edge and thin profile this type of the chisel looks very suitable for woodwork. Type (2) is a round bar carpenter's chisel (Fig. 15/2) tapering gradually from the top downward to a splayed crescentic cutting edge. The present example is damaged at the top. Type (3) is again a round bar tool (Fig. 15/3) tapering gradually to a circular point. It was probably used for piercing holes into metal sheets or similar other hard materials. Its top appears to be much hammered and almost rectangular in form.

The distant prototype of our type (1) can be traced back to the Indus Civilization. A large number of vaguely analogous tools was found in Mohenjodaro[1] and Harappa showing somewhat broadened shoulders and slightly splayed cutting edge. Even the earliest examples from Bhir Mound[2] also indicate the same idea. The common use of similar chisels at present in the same region is highly representative of the force of conservatism. It seems indeed that the smith's kit of tools was subjected to leave change in the course of centuries.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Fig. 15/1 (Reg. No. 540) Iron: type (1); square bar chisel for woodwork, nearly square in section, showing slightly splayed cutting edge. Top sheath missing. Length: 7 in. Area A, TR. C4, St. (2), Period V.

2. Fig. 15/2 (Reg. No. 52) Iron: type (2); round bar metal chisel for woodwork with double slope and splayed crescentic cutting edge. Top is missing. Length: 2.5 in. Area A, TR. D2, St. (2), Period V.

3. Fig. 15/3 Reg. No. 557) Iron: type(3); round bar metal chisel with horizontally pierced square top and a rounded point. It is slightly curved below the neck. Length: 8 in. From smith's shop. St. (2), Period V.

(b) FIRE TONGS

Only one pair (Reg. No. 556) was found at Damkot in layer (2) from the smith's shop. It is of the ordinary type and shows striking resemblance with those found at Taxila (Comp. Marshall *Taxila* iii, Pl. 167, No. 130). Similar fire tongs were very common in the Mediterranean from the Roman times onwards (see Petrie, *tools and weapons*, P. 41). The present example measures sixteen and a half inches in length.

(c) HAMMERS

Two specimens are recorded. Reg. No. 558 (Fig. 15/6), assignable to Period IV, is a square-sectioned flat-faced and thick-set hammer, 4.5 inch in length with a round hole (dia. 1 inch) almost in the middle for receiving wooden handle. It was most probably used for ordinary hammering. Reg.

1. Marshall, *Mohenjodaro and the Indus Civilization*, Pl. CXXX, 1
2. *Taxila* ii, P. 553.

No. 560 (Fig. 15/9) from the same workshop is a different type. It is much smaller in size and is socketed in the middle. It has gradual slope towards both arms — round at one end and oblong at the other. Of the two, the former can well be compared with those found at Taxila (Comp. Marshall, *Taxila* iii Pl. 167, No. 138).

(d) ANVIL

Only one example (Reg. No. 561, Fig. 15/8) came to light. It is of solid bar type, square in section, and tapering downwards to 3". Square bottom. The working face is slightly convex and measures 4.5 inches square. Height: 4.5". It reveals striking rese nblance with those found by Marshall (Comp. *Taxila* iii, Pl. 167, No. 149).

II — AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

These implements are represented by three *rambis* and two sickles. Stratigraphically all of them are assignable to Period V. It may be noted that our *rambi* — an ordinary tool used for breaking ground and weeding purposes, is of the unsocketed type w:th a narrow chisel-like blade and curved tang for wooden grip. The sickles are of the curved blade type quite familiar at Taxila (Comp. Marshall, Taxila iii, Pl. 169, No. 203, 204). Whether there was a tang or socket at the end which received wooden grip cannot be determined due to the poor state of preservation of these specimens. It can be said, however, on the analogy of those from Taxila that the end was probably flattended out and pierced with a hole and slightly curved at the sides for the attachment of wooden handle.

(ILLUSTRATIONS)

1. Fig. 16/10 (Reg. No. 478) Iron: *rambi* with a narrow blade thinned out and splayed towards the nearly crescentic working edge at one end; at the other, it has a curved tang to be fitted into a wooden grip. Breadth of blade: 1 in; length including tang: 5.5 in. Found in association with the defensive wall. St. (2), Period V.

2. Fig. 16/11 (Reg. No. 480) Iron: sickle with curved blade and plain inner edge. It is much damaged. Area A, TR. F2, St. (2), Period V.

III — ARMS

Weapons of the offensive nature consist of arrow-heads (total: 37) and

two knife blades. Devoid of any special feature the knife blades are made of straight iron bar sharpened at one edge only. Reg. No. 275 (Fig. 16/19) is 6.5″ in length and 0.9″ in breadth. Back of the blade is 0.19″ thick. It is provided with a small tang for fixing into wooden grip. The other (Reg. No. 413) is much damaged and equally featureless. It shows a slight curve near the tip. Measurements: breadth = 0.1″ actual length could not be determined. It is illustrated in Fig. 16/20.

Of the arrow-heads 37 are represented by iron and one by ivory. They reveal not only a variety of shapes but also tend to concentrate in specific groups assignable to certain horizons. The earliest among them come from the fourth stratum. It may be a mere coincidence that all the specimens found in this layer are of the trilobed or flanged type. That this type is conspicuous by its absence in the upper strata is very clear in the exacavation but should not be emphasized without further probe. As the evidence stands at present one can say that the type 'trilobe' arrow-head was the prime favourite when layer (4) accumulated on this site. In Period V when human activity was at its best, the arrow-heads have a different story to tell. These are classified as under:

a) Socketed
b) Tanged
c) Double tanged
d) Conical
e) Trilobe.

(a) Socketed

This type is represented by four specimens all referrable to layer (2). They were found in a good state of preservation. Intended primarily for receiving shaft made of wood or reed, the socketed arrow-head is provided with a circular hollow socket (Dia. 0.4″) and a square sectioned tip gradually tapering towards a pointed end. Reg. No. 92 still shows the remnants of decayed wood. It is noteworthy that unlike others, the socketed arrow-heads are somewhat squattish, measuring 2″ on the average.

(ILLUSTRATION)

1. Fig. 16/12 (Reg. No. 378) Iron: socketed arrow-head with circular hollow socket and square-sectioned tip which gradually tapers towards a point. Length: 2.5″. Area A, TR. C4, St. (2), Period V.

(b) Tanged

Tanged arrow-heads have the largest number — 22 in all, of which nine come from layer (1) and thirteen from layer (2). The smallest and the largest among them measures 3″ and 5″ respectively. Long, thin and square-sectioned, they show small tang intended for insertion into wooden or reed shaft. These are comparatively light in weight and well-suited to cover long range. Their occurrence in the uppermost two strata in larger numbers reveals that the tanged arrow-heads superceded their tri-lobed and socketed counterparts almost to the complete extinction of the former on this site. It may also be significant to note that our type (b) does not go earlier than layer (2) and is associated with the Hindu Shahi coins. At Taxila however it makes an early appearance and seems to have been relegated to secondary position at a later date by other sophisticated types.[1] But here, it comes up as the principal type. Most simple in manufacture to economise material and most effective for covering long range, it appears to be perfectly in line with the mountain strategy. A variant of this type (one specimen) is rather short and squattish.

(ILLUSTRATION)

1. Fig. 16/13 (Reg. No. 290) Iron: type b; tanged arrow-head with square cross-section and slightly damaged tang. Length: 3 in. Area A, TR. D4, St. (1), Period V.

2. Fig. 16/14 (Reg. No. 168) Iron: type b; variant; tanged arrow-head with square cross-section showing heavy and squattish tip and a long thin tang. Length: 3 in. Area A, TR. D3, St. (1), Period V.

(c) Double Tanged

This type is represented by 7 specimens assignable to the top-most stratum. The distinctive feature of this type is the considerable length of solid shank intervening the two tangs — the one at the base being intended for inserting into wooden arrow-shaft. Sir John Marshall who found similar arrow-heads from the uppermost stratum of Bhir Mound remarks that this type forms 'a compromise between the socketed and tanged' arrow-heads (see Marshall, *Taxila* ii, P. 547).

(ILLUSTRATION)

1. Fig. 16/15 (Reg. No. 259) Iron: type c; arrow-head with square cross-section and double tang. Length: 3.6 in. Area A, TR. D3, St. (1), Period V.

1. Marshall, *Taxila* ii, P. 547.

2. Fig. 16/16 (Reg. No. 363) Iron: type c; arrow-head with rhombic cross-section and double tang. Length: 3.6 in. Area A, TR. B4, St. (1), Period V.

(d) Conical

This type is represented by two specimens — one each of iron and ivory (for the latter see 'ivory objects'). The former bearing Reg. No. 466 from Area A, TR. C2, St. (2) (Fig. 16/17) is conical in form and tapers gradually towards the pointed end which is slightly damaged. The tang is likewise circular in section. Length: 1.6" (For comparison see Marshall, *Taxila* iii, Pl. 165, No. 87). The two examples are almost identical.

(e) Trilobe

Trilobed arrow-heads (total: 3) are stratigraphically referrable to Period IV. All the specimens are heavily encrusted. They differ from other types not only in shape but also in bulk and weight. They have their exact parallels at Shaikhan Dheri[1] and Taxila.[2] Marshall suggested that this type of arrow-head was introduced by the Sakas at Taxila and probably used by the White Huns who wrought havoc to the Buddhist monastries in the fifth century A.D.[3] At Shaikhan Dheri the type goes back even to the post-Greek levels[4] with a larger concentration, however, in the Kushana Period.

(ILLUSTRATION)

1. Fig. 16/18 (Reg. No. 454) Iron: type c; trilobe arrow-head with slightly curved tang. Length: 4.8 in. Area A, TR. C2/B2 BK, St. (4), Period IV.

IV — MISCELLANEOUS

1. Fig. 16/21 (Reg. No. 403) Iron: nail with looped head. Length: 3.6 in. Area A, TR. E4, St. (1), Period V.

2. Fig. 16/22 (Reg. No. 221) Iron: nail with conical top and curve at the pointed end. Length 2". Area A, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

3. Fig. 16/23 (Reg. No. 336) Iron: nail with umbrella-shaped top. Length: 1.5". Area A, TR. E4, St. (2), Period V.

1. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 119.
2. Marshall, *Taxila* III, Pl. 206, No. 42 and Pl. 165, No. 88.
3. Ibid, *Taxila* II, P. 548.
4. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 119.

4. Fig. 16/24 Pl. XXVIII, 6 (Reg. No. 255) Iron: ring made of oblong sectioned beaten wire with a pierced hole along the perimetre. Dia. 1.5" Area A, TR. B4, St. (1), Period V.

5. Fig. 16/25 Pl. XXVIII, 7 (Reg. No. 231) Iron: ring made of round beaten wire. Dia. 0.8". Area A, TR. D4, St. (2), Period V.

6. Fig. 16/26 (Reg. No. 334) Iron: laddle with shallow bowl measuring 3.2" in diameter and a long handle rolled in the manner of a rope. Much damaged. Area B, TR. A2, St. (1), Period V.

7. Fig. 16/27 (Reg. No. 286) Iron: ornamental door boss with a nail in the centre; much damaged. Area A, TR. B0, St. (2), Period V.

8. Fig. 16/28 Pl. XXVIII, 8 (Reg. No. 31) Iron: fish-hook with a small loop at one end for holding skin.Area A, TR. E4, St. (2), Period V.

9. Fig. 16/29 Pl. XXVIII, 9 (Reg. No. 277) Iron: fish-hook with one end flattened to be tied to string. The pointed end is sharply curved. Area A, TR. A2, St. (1), Period V.

10. Fig. 16/30 (Reg. No. 238) Iron: long needle with an eye at one end and pointed at the other. It is round in section and measures 5.5" in length. Area A, TR. D4 St. (2), Period V.

13 — STONE OBJECTS

(i) *TURNED STONES*

Four pieces of turned stone were found in the excavation. Of these, two fragments (from layer (2)) appear to be the parts of a shallow basin of schist with externally projecting triangular lugs. These are heavier and thick-sectioned. The fourth piece comes from layer (11) and is lighter in weight and decorated. These are illustrated below:

1. Fig. 17/12 (Reg. No. 498) Schist: fragment of a shallow basin with triangular lugs projecting externally a little below the rounded rim. It shows remnants of ashes. Area A, TR. E4, St. (2), Period V.

2. Fig. 17/11 (Reg. No. 235) Soap stone: rim fragment of a large open-mouthed bowl with sloping sides. Area B, TR. B2, St. (2), Period V.

3. Fig. 17/10 (Reg. No. 508) Green schist: fragment of a small saucer with

a carved wheat plant pattern placed in a loop on the interior and a band of criss-cross pattern on the exterior. Area A, TR. D2, St. (11), Period I.

(ii) *LAMPS*[1]

Nine lamps of stone (and several of terracotta) were brought to light in excavation. Most of the lamps are made of schist of which several varieties — green, grey and micacious, are represented whereas soap stone accounts for two. Only one specimen (Reg. No. 500) is of the ornamental type. It has three small projections carved in the pattern of lotus flower along the inner face of its rim which shows a rough bead-and-reel moulding. The rest are devoid of any ornamentation except striated lines or circles here and there. The usual shapes are: (a) shallow bowl, (b) heart-shaped, (c) elliptical in form, (d) with conjoined handle straps. Our type (b) has close parallels from Shaikhan Dheri,[2] Charsada[3] and Taxila.[4] Most remarkable among the stone lamps is our type (d). Cut out of a cubical lump of stone this lamp is divided on the upper face (not on the inner bottom) into four nearly equal compartments. Reg. No. 562 is most peculiar in that it has the figure of a seated Buddha carved in low-relief. These are described below (Pl. 95, No. 187):—

1. Fig. 17/2 (Reg. No. 511) Grey schist: type a; lamp in the form of a shallow bowl with flat-topped externally projecting rim having groups of incised lines and two circles with a central dot flanking the wick channel partly damaged. Area A, TR. D2, St. (3), Period IV. No. 1-a is of terracotta and has a shallow bowl.

2. Fig. 17/3 (Reg. No. 195) Grey schist: type a; variant; much damaged small lamp in the form of a shallow bowl with sloping sides and provision for wick; plain. Area A, TR. C3, St. (1), Period V.

3. Fig. 17/6 (Reg. No. 501) Grey schist: type a, variant; lamp in the form of a shallow bowl carved, only internally, out of a lump of stone. Externally it is not detached from the core; plain. Area B, TR. A2, Period V.

4. Fig. 17/1 (Reg. No. 500) Micacious schist: type b; heart-shaped lamp with provision for wick on one side. It has three internal projections

1. Pottery lamps are also included.
2. *Ancient Pakistan* Vol. II, P. 118, No. 14.
3. Wheeler, Fig. 51, No. 8.
4. Marshall, ii, 500.

carved in the pattern of lotus flower. Area B, TR. A2, St. (3), Period IV.

5. Fig. 17/5 (Reg. No. 355) Green schist: type b, variant; approximately heart-shaped lamp; plain. Area B, TR. A2, St. (3), Period IV.

6. Fig. 17/4 (Reg. No. 534) Grey schist: type c; plain lamp elliptical in shape with provision for one wick. Area A, TR. E4, St. (2), Period V.

7. Fig. 17/7 (Reg. No. 490) Green schist: type c, variant; plain lamp elliptical in shape with provision for one wick and external striations. Area A, TR. E4, St. (1), Period V.

8. Fig. 17/9 (Reg. No. 563) Soapstone: type d; almost cubical lamp of stone with four conjoined handle straps; probably provision for four wicks. It is decorated with sunk triangles on the upper surface; the bottom remains uncarved and shows original lump stone. It is 1.7" square and 1" deep. Area A, TR. D3 St. (3). Period. IV.

9. Fig. 17/8 (Reg. No. 562) Soapstone: type d; similar, but bigger in size. Decoration consists of two rows of upright and inverted triangles sunk on the compartmented top face. It is a unique example among the lamps in that it has the figure of seated Buddha in *dhyanamudra* carved in low-relief on the bottom (underside). Its corners are blackened by soot. Area T, TR. D3, St. (3), Period IV.

Terracotta lamps came up in large number. Except for a few examples which show grey patches on the surface, probably, due to ill-firing, all the lamps are fired red. Several of them, particularly from the 'water reservoir' are brand new betraying not the slightest sign of use. These are grouped into: (a) cup-shaped with flat base (the cup being pinched upon one side for wick). (b) cup-shaped but pinched upon three sides for three wicks, (c) ash-tray type. Our type (a) (Fig. 17/18-20) has the largest number. These lamps have, invariably, straight featureless rim and in most cases sides of the cup are somewhat slanting so that they taper down towards the bottom. Type (b) (Fig. 17/21, 21a) is represented by two examples from the uppermost layer. The ash-tray type (Fig. 17/22) is characterised with thick sides having an inward inclination and rather stumpy proportions. As the evidence stands at present, it is difficult to pinpoint any one type having associative tendency towards a particular stratigraphical horizon, except that most of the terracotta lamps which fall under our types (a) and (c) were found in layers (3) and (4).

III — WHETSTONES AND POUNDERS

Apart from the harder portions of rock of the hill used for sharpening implements, a sizeable number of whetstones or sharpeners came to light in excavation, mostly from the upper two strata. The whetstones are invariably rectangular shaped lumps of stone very often not carefully modelled except the smooth upper face which (in one case) shows irregularities caused by deep scratches which appear to have been made in the course of sharpening some implement. An interesting example, in calcite, from TR. D0, St. (3) (Fig. 17/13) is nearly rectangular with a projected ridge on the underside and two narrow holes on one end. It measures three inches in length. The rest are made of granite or quartzite.

Grinding stones or pounders (Fig. 18/7, 8), made of gneiss or granite are usually cylindrical in shape. As the river pebbles were quite at hand those of the suitable shape were occasionally picked up and used for the same purpose. Some of the specimens are worn off in the middle by long use and appear to be flattened on one side. Others are almost elliptical in section. Still others have rounded or flat ends meant for crushing (may be used as pestles). They measure from 4 to 6 in. in length, on the average.

IV — GRINDING MILLS

As much as eight grinding mill stones were found at different levels. In one case from layer (3) the grinding mill was found complete with the upper and lower parts intact. In most cases the individual stones were found scattered or lying topsy-turvy. In shape they are very much similar to each other and do not exhibit any change. These are all made of granite which is locally available in ample quantities. Two similar stones (parts of one grinding mill) from Area B, TR. D.D. II, St. (7) can be seen *in situ* in Pl. 83 b.No. 163. Here, as in all other cases, the upper stone is slightly concave on the bottom while the bottom stone is correspondingly convex on the top face. These are pierced in the middle to receive an iron axil. The upperstone is also furnished with a socket for wooden handle. Similar grinding mills are reported from Taxila (see Marshall, *Taxila* ii, P. 488 and iii, Pl. 140, Nos. 27, 29). Two other specimens of much bigger size and rather flat on the working side with a wider central hole were found marking the floor level in TR. C2 (Pl. 72 a.) and D2.

V — POLISHED STONE TOOLS

Three ground stone tools of the type 'pointed — butt-axe' were found in layer (12), associated with the grey potsherds. Two of them are made of

gneiss which is abundantly available in the form of rocky outcrops and river pebbles and suggestive of their local origin. The unfinished state of Reg. No. 551 (Fig. 18/5) is indicative of the process involved in the manufacture of such tools. It appears that rolled river pebbles of the suitable shape were given preference as it saved some labour necessary for primary flaking. With a little bit of effort the desired shape was obtained by means of pecking. The finishing touch was given by grinding the tool, particularly on both sides of the cutting edge.

Highly significant as the occurrence of these tools in a stratified deposit is, it is no less important in view of the context in which they were found. The unmistakable association of the ground stone tools with burnished grey ware having characteristic mat-impression is for the first time known in this region. Now burnished grey ware is coming up as the principal ceramic tradition of the second half of the second millenium B.C. in this part of the country (for details see Chronology and comparison). Therefore it may not be a mere guess to say that the ground stone tools of the pointed-butt axe type also belong to the same period of time.

A group of three other similar polished tools were found embedded in the floor of a rock-shelter at Chinagai opposite Damkot. Buried under a three-feet-thick deposit which yielded rather late pottery types, the tools were here unaccompanied by any grey sherds. All the six examples are described below.

1. Fig. 18/6 (Reg. No. 502) Serpentinised Peridotite:[1] a small ground stone tool of the 'pointed-but-axe' type with a slightly splayed crescentic cutting edge and elliptical section. It is damaged on the butt-end and there are small cavities on one face of the cutting edge probably made by rough handing. It is highly polished all over. Present length: 2.6". Area A, TR. D2, St. (11), Period I.

2. Fig. 18/4 (Reg. No. 409) Gneissic Diorite: this is also flattish but much bigger than the one described above. It is almost oval in section. The cutting edge is completely broken and only flake scars can be seen on both sides indicating the rough kind of job to which it was put. Pecking is visible on the surface. Area A, TR. D2, St. (11), Period I.

3. Fig. 18/5 (Reg. No. 551) Hornblende felspar gneiss: this is an unfinished specimen and shows signs of pecking as well as primary flaking.

1. The stones were very kindly identified by Mr. M. Qasim Jan of the Geology Deptt. Peshawar University.

Originally a river rolled pebble it shows a rounder curve upon one side; the other is somewhat flattish. Flake scars can be seen on the surface. Length: 5.6". Area A, TR. D2, St. (11), Period I.

4. Fig. 18/1 (Chinagai Rockshelter) Reddish gneiss: is a longish ground stone tool with pointed butt-end and slightly curved medial cutting edge. It is almost asymmetrical in shape and oval in section. Both faces of the cutting edge are highly polished. Pecking is observable on the main body. Length: 8.2". in.

5. Fig. 18/2 (Chinagai Rockshelter) Reddish gneiss: is a longish ground stone tool with somewhat flattened butt-end. It is oval in section and shows a medial cutting edge slightly curved in the middle. Both faces of the cutting edge are highly polished. It is slightly damaged at the butt-end. Length: 8.4 in.

6. Fig. 18/3 (Chinagai Rockshelter) Reddish gneiss: same as above but smaller in size. The cutting edge is srtaight. Length: 6.7 in.

14. — SCULPTURES

(of stone, terracotta and clay)

Almost all the sculptures were found in a much worn out and fragmentary condition; even their number is few and far between. It has been pointed earlier that all the interesting examples were found lying topsy-turvy (see Pl. 71a) in the 'water reservoir', only a little above the bottom, in association with several tiny stupa models of clay, a large number of pottery lamps and innumerable glass bangles. A little above that came to light a terracotta tablet with Buddhist creed formula and a copper (bronze) coin mould and a plaque of cast copper with embossed figures on one side.

The most remarkable among the sculptures is the one (Reg. No. 88, see title cover). It consists of a rectangular panel, measuring eight-and-a-half by six inches at the maximum points with the upper side slightly projected upwards to accommodate the halo. Raised against one side of this panel and carved in low-relief is the figure of the Buddha in *dharmachakra-mudra* seated cross-legged upon a throne which is supported by lions — one in each corner; The throne or seat is provided with a solid back rest and is marked by lotus petals on the lowest margin. Hair of the Buddha, shown in small ringlets passing over the prominent *ushnisha,* is rather conventionalised though in line with the whole scheme. On the forehead and just between brows a small *urna* is shown in relief. Half opened and

somewhat oblique eyes, full fleshy cheeks, well rounded chin and elongated earlobes are the characteristic facial features. Tip of the nose is slightly injured. The drapery, covering both the shoulders, is well-delineated with deep incised lines making formal curves (those below neck are slightly raised in V-shape pattern); while lappets of the garment fall in the form of loops. Near the knees of the Buddha can be seen two elephants(head of one is visible; the other on the left proper is slightly damaged) emerging from the back-ground with leogryphs upon their heads. In the upper zone and flanking the flame halo there are two makaras ejecting scrolls from their mouths.[1]

A word about the technique of making would be appropriate here. It appears that after moulding the figures into shape, the plaque was baked red and then treated with limewash. Subsequently blue (on the eyes) and red colours were applied. The finishing touch was given by gold wash which can be seen on the face and halo.

Equally impressive is a Buddha head (Reg. No. 87) in clay, not baked in this case, found in the same context. The facial features are moulded upon the core which consists of kneaded clay mixed up with grits. The overall finish was done by a thick layer of limewash. Traces of some shiny substance are also visible. Pupils of the eyes are marked with red colour whereas eyelids are provided with blue margins. Size of the head, measuring six-and-a-half inches in height, is medium. It has half opened eyes, a prominent *ushnisha*, elongated ear-lobes, well rounded chin, not very high nose and full fleshy cheeks. *Urna* is absent in this case. The hair is plain as if smoothly combed back. Top of the head is given black colour probably suggesting black hair. Most remarkable however is the facial expression so successfully rendered that one is at once struck by the lovely smile characteristic of a young countenance. In style it is very much close to Buddhist stuccoes from Taxila which probably served as a source of inspiration. Much of this success however may be due to the plasticity of the material.

Terracotta and clay figures exclusively Buddhist in character and several among them 'pieces of surpassing merit' found at Taxila were as-

1. This type of plaque manufacture is unique in Gandhara. Even the style of decoration of the sides by leographs standing on elephant and makara ejecting scrolls, is unknown in Gandhara. But in the Ganges Valley this style is known from the Gupta period onwards. Compare, for example, the well-known Sarnath Buddha *(V.A. Smith: A history of Fine Art in India and Ceylon,* Pl. 60 a.) where we note this type of representation on either side of the Buddha. It is therefore clear that this type, if not an actual import, was based on the Gupta period model. —Editor.

cribed to fourth and fifth centuries by Marshall (*Taxila*, ii, P. 468). Damkot, being situated in the same orbit where Buddhist art in its later stages appeared in stucco and clay, must conform to the prevailing traditions. Implication of this evidence is not inconsistent with that of other finds. Recent archaeological reconnaissance in Dir has brought to light several Buddhist stupas where stucco and terracotta mark the final stage. At Bambolai it was found that towards the end of this site schist was only very sparingly employed for making sculptures as the meagre number of specimens in this material would indicate; whereas the use of stucco, clay and terracotta emerged as the dominant tradition. All sorts of Buddhist sculptures like the figures of Buddha with traditional features,Bodhisattvas with profusely ornamented headress, yaksas or atlantis with grotesque physical features and those of laymen appear to have been successfully practised there. Now Bambolai can be very well equated with Damkot-IV in that the use of clay (baked or otherwise) and rectangular plan of stupas is common to both sites. It is not unlikely that stucco held its dominance at this site as well but has been washed down in the course of time. This idea is corroborated by a corresponding paucity of stone sculptures on both sites.

(LIST OF STONE SCULPTURES)

1. Pl. 96, No. 188 (Reg. No. 234) Grey Schist: (part of the jamb af a false niche) slab showing the figures of Buddha in two successive tiers; the lower one is completely missing with the exception of top-knot and part of head. In the upper tier is the figure of Buddha, in high relief, seated upon an inverted lotus throne in *Abhayamudra*. Head is missing. Folds of the drapery are indicated by double lines starting from the V-shaped curve in front of the neck. It must be late Gandhara product. Height: 10". Area B, TR. A2, St. (4), Period IV.

2. 97 a. No. 189. 1(Reg. No. 148) Grey Schist: (part of a false niche jamb with tenon on one side). It depicts balcony scene in low-relief. Two ladies separated by a column can be seen looking down the railing which itself consists of upright posts and horizontal bars. In the much damaged upper tier of which only a small portion remains can be seen a human figure seated upon an inverted lotus throne with one hand in the lap. It may be the figure of Buddha in *dhyanamudra*. Height: 6" Area A, TR.D2, St. (3), Period IV.

3. Pl.97 a. No. 189. 2 (Reg. No. 387)Grey Schist: (part of a false niche jamb yith tenon on one side). It depicts railing in low relief, consisting of three upright posts and two horizontal bars. Height: 5" Area B, TR. B2, St. (4), Period IV.

4. Pl. 97 a. No. 189. 3 (Reg. No. 388) Grey Schist: part of panel depicting Buddha and two devotees on his right proper. The figures are much worn off and damaged. Height: 3.6" Area A, TR. D3, St. (3), Period IV.

5. 97 b. No.190. 1. (Reg. No. 147) Grey Schist: highly ornamented head of a Bodhisattva in high relief with half closed eyes and a cavity for *urna* on the forehead. The hair, visible near the ears, is finely combed back. Much worn off and damaged. Height: 5" Area A, TR. D2, St. (3), Period IV.

6. Pl. 97 b. No.190. 2 (Reg. No. 72) Green Phyllite with particles of magnetite: head of a lady, in low relief,wearing a triple pointed crown shown against a circular halo. Eyes are fully opened. She wears something in the much elongated ear lobes. Much worn off. Height: 4" Area A, TR. D2, St. (3), Period IV.

7. (Reg. No. 388-a) Grey Schist: a much damaged part of a panel depicting flower. Area A, TR. D3, St. (3), Period IV. Not illustrated.

8. (Reg. No. 566) Grey Schist: much damaged torso of a human figure showing folds of drapery, in low relief, flowing from a V-shaped curve in front of the throat. Height: 6", surface find. Not illustrated.

9. (Reg. No. 356) Grey Schist: much weathered head of a Bodhisattva in high relief showing elaborate headdress and prominent ushnisha. Height: 3.6 in. Area B, TR. B2, St. (4), Period IV.

15. — THE POTTERY

The great mass of pottery found in plentiful numbers at all stratigraphical horizons in the excavation comprised, largely, of sherds, though a number of complete pots were also recovered from some occupational strata. A few large storage-jars with tall as well as globular body very often decorated with applied cordons were found *in situ* and almost complete in form (see Pls. 71 b, 75 a. 79 b.).

A careful analysis of hundreds of potsherds, their succession and overlapping in srtatigraphical strata has revealed a sort of associative tendency of some ceramic types towards specific periods which lends them special interest. The Grey Ware, for example, does not extend beyond Gap II (i.e. St. (10). So is the case with the 'Decorated Pedestalled Bowl' the

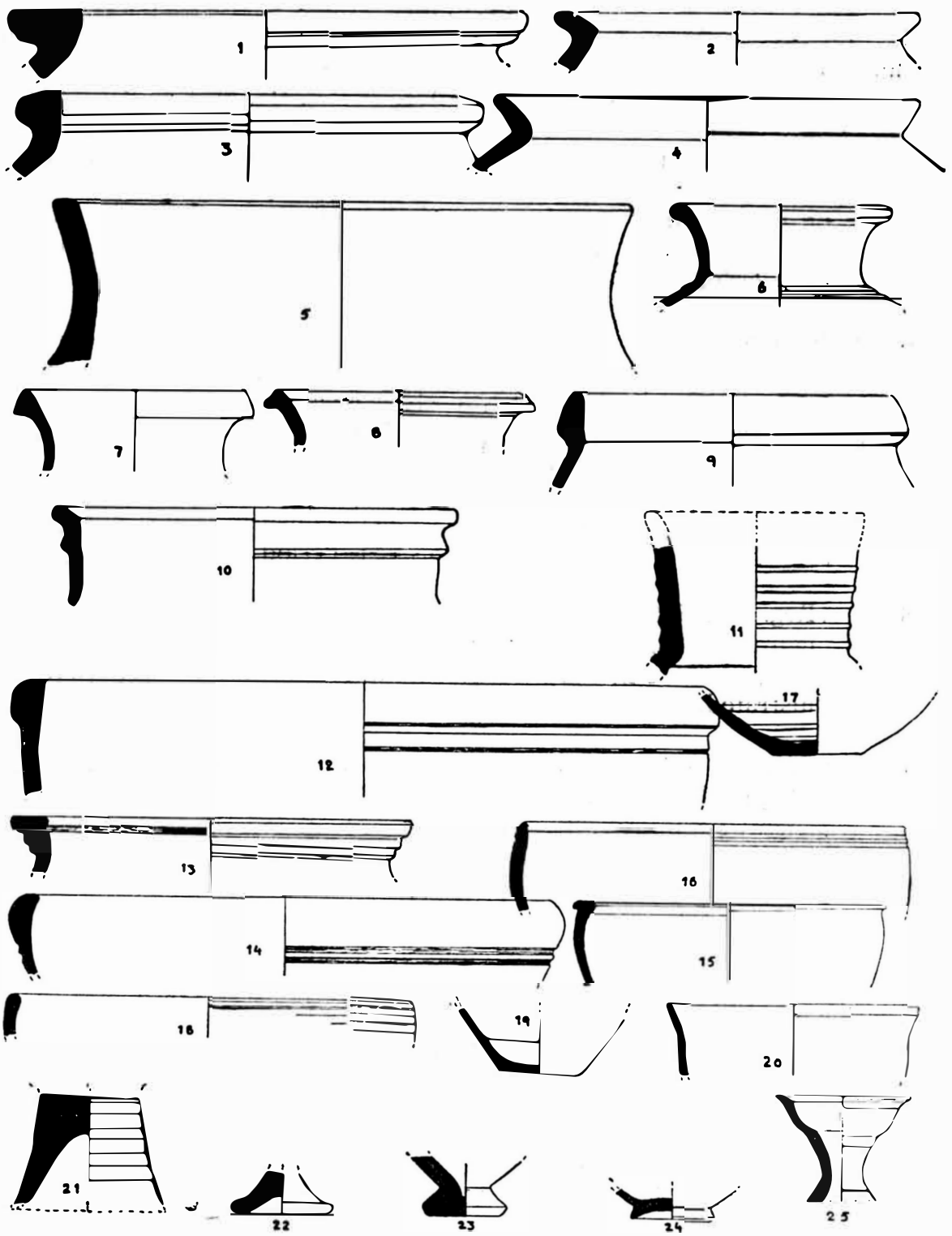


Fig. 19, RED WARE: PERIOD I
Scale:- To 1" 0 1" 2"

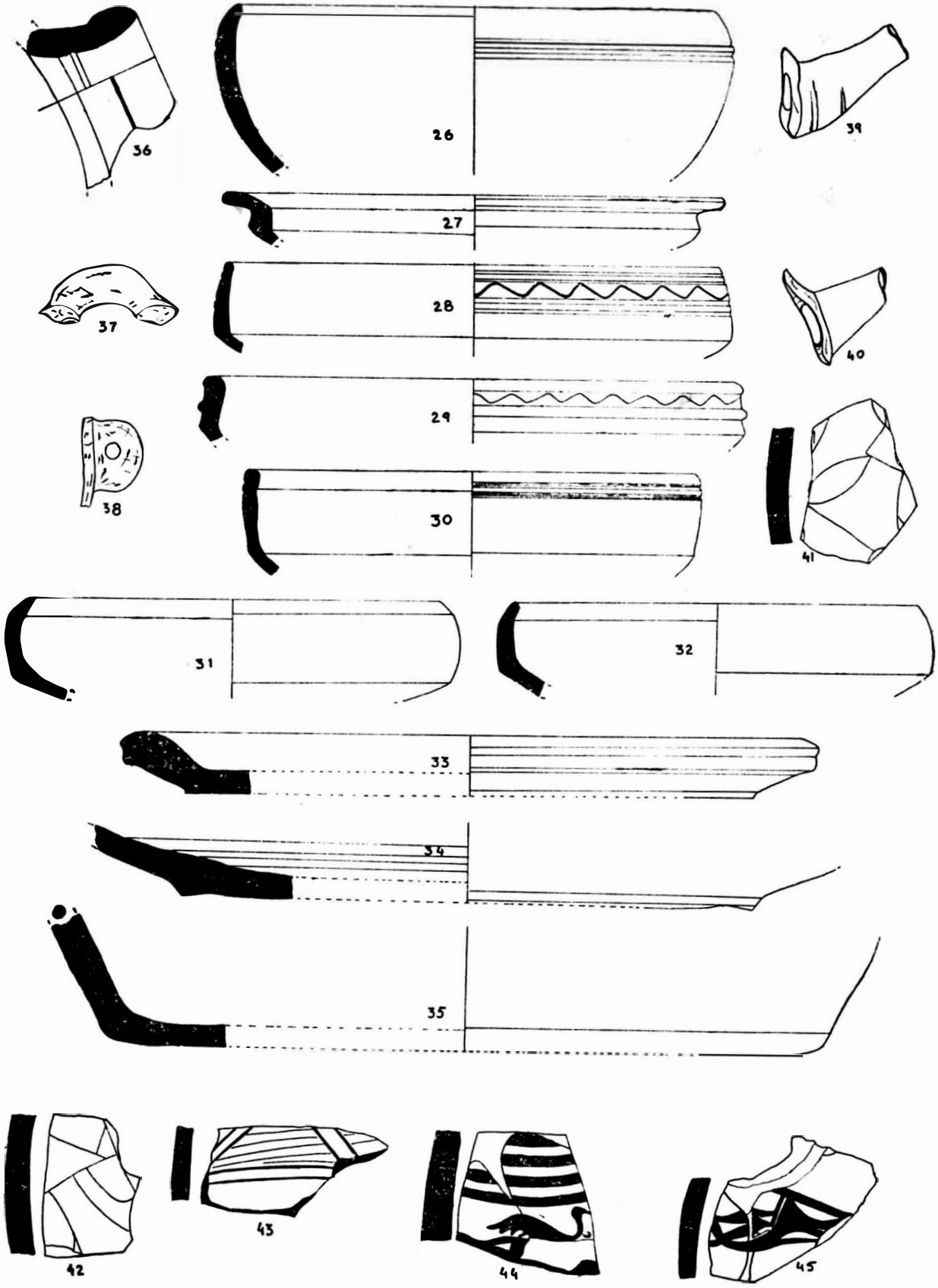


Fig. 20, RED WARE: PERIOD I

Scale 1=1' 1' 0 1' 2'

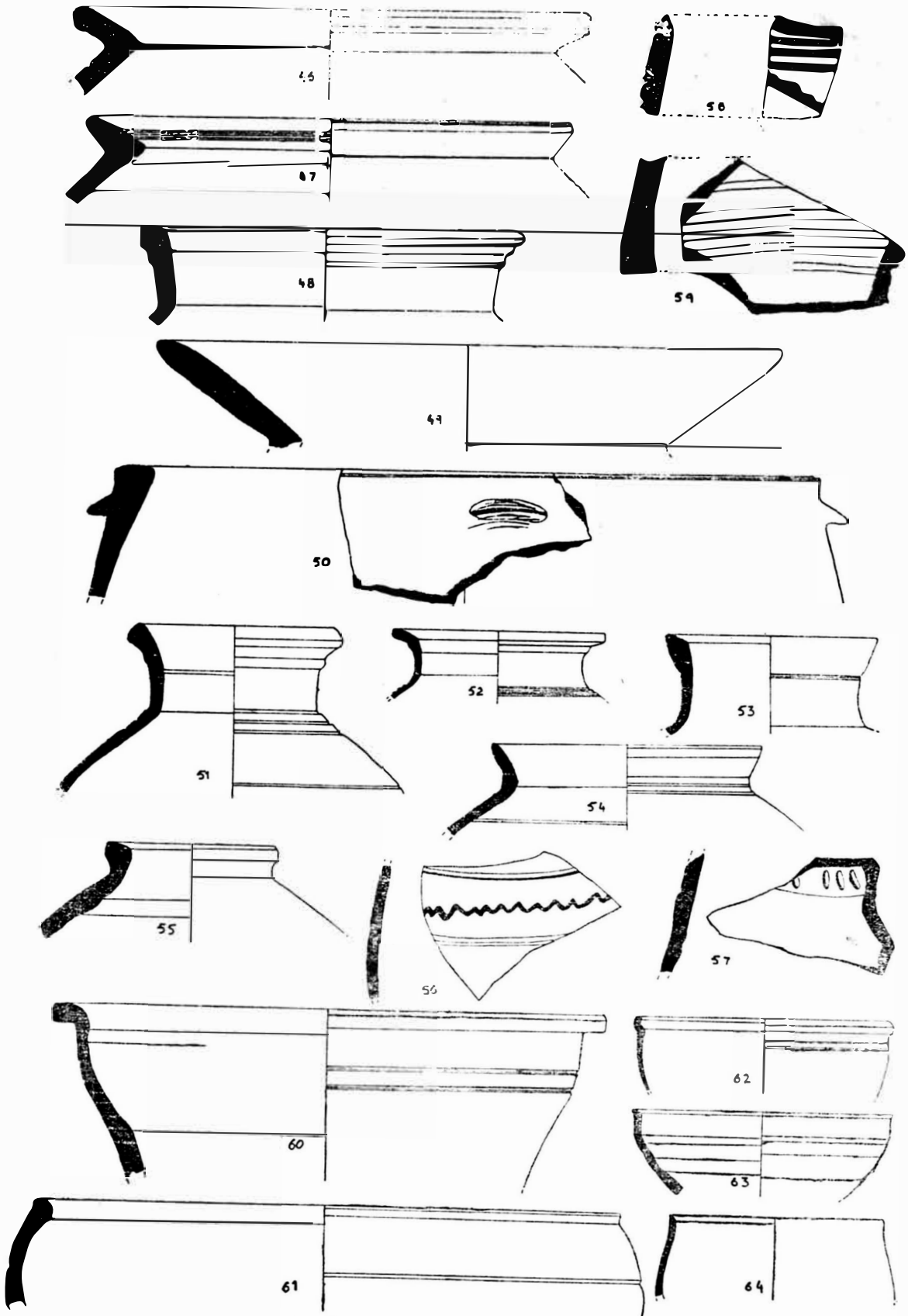


Fig.21 RED WARE: PERIOD I

Scale:- 1" = 1'

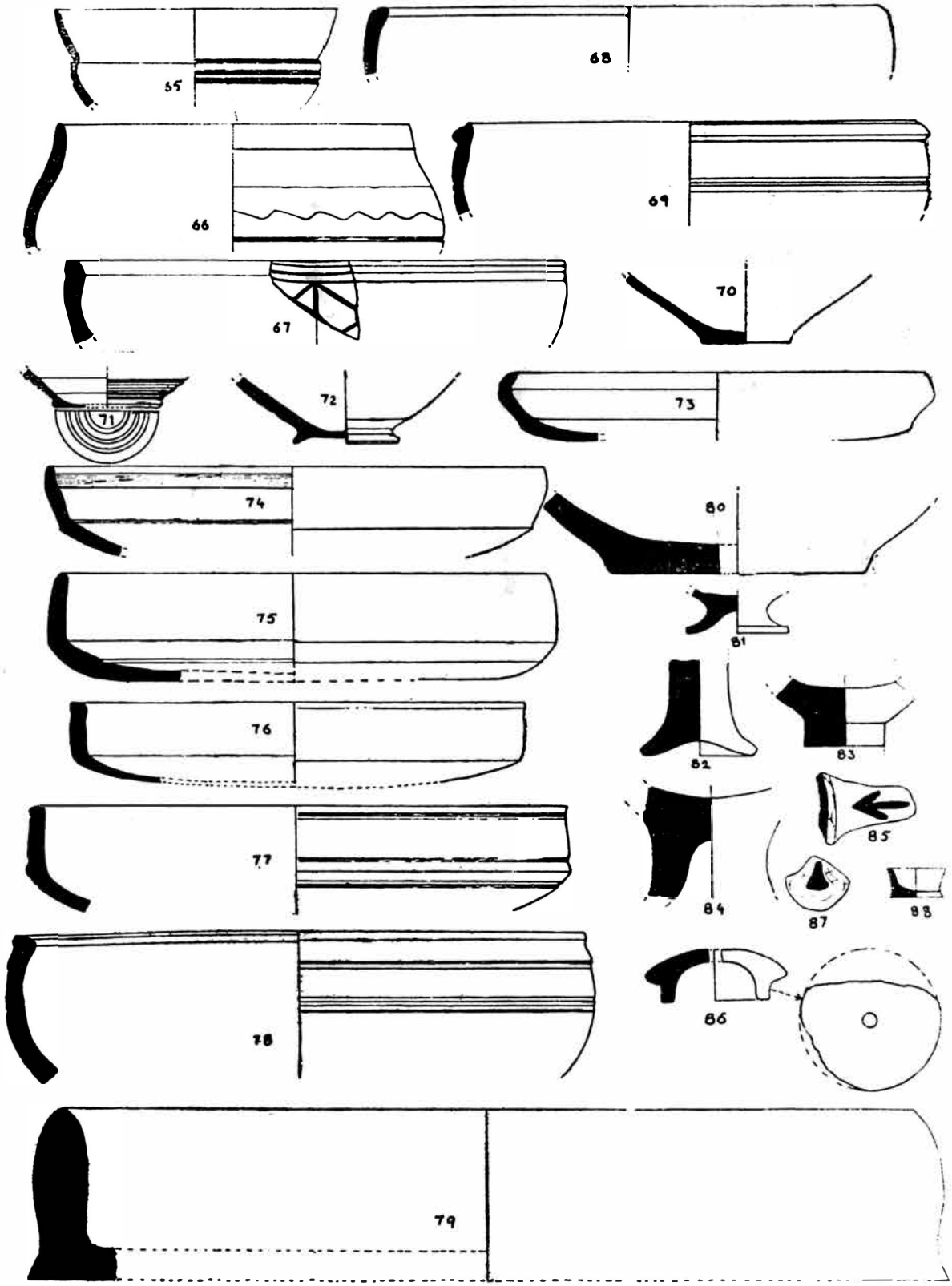


Fig.22. RED WARE: PERIOD I

Scale - 1 0 1 2

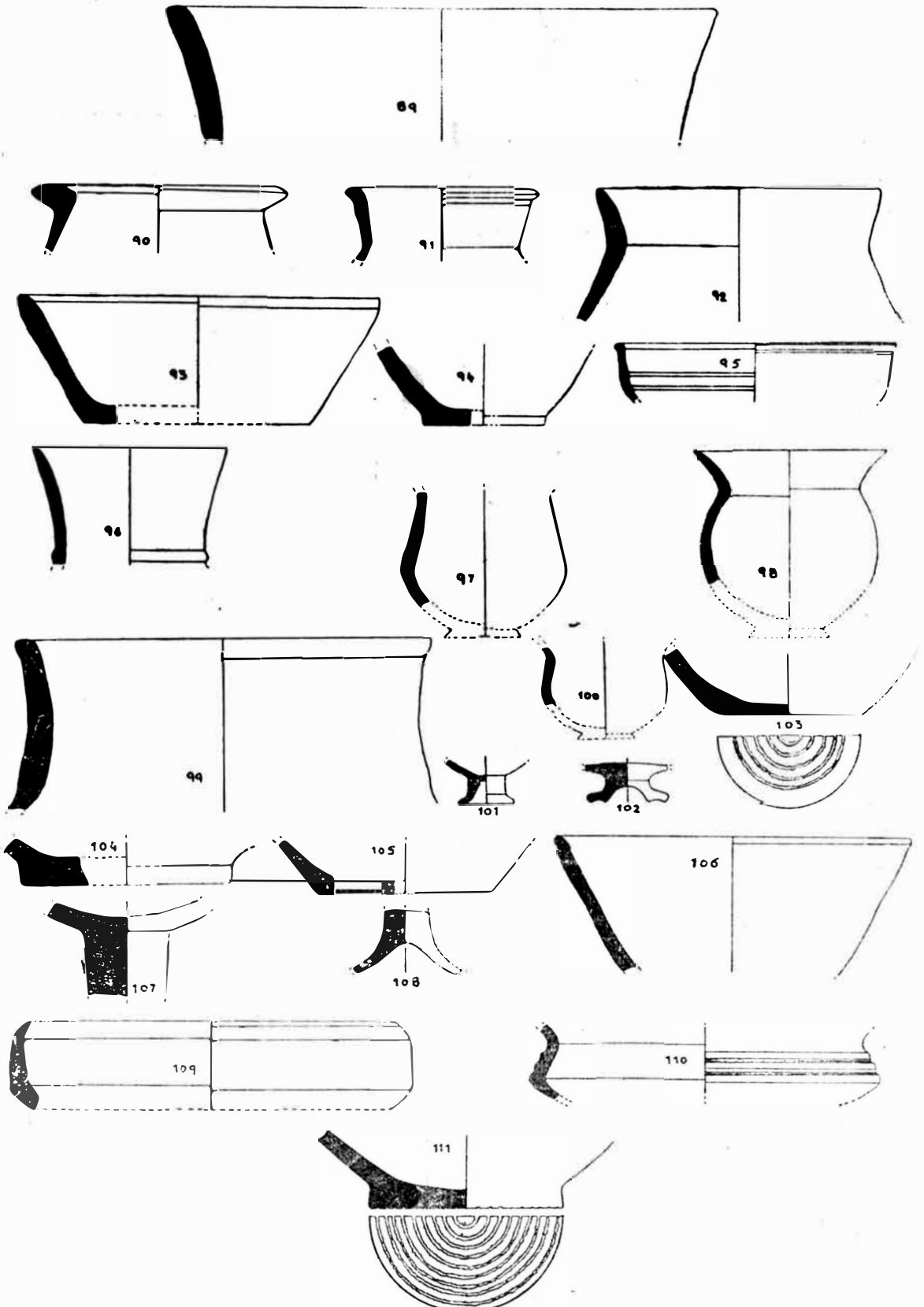


Fig23, GREY WARE: PERIOD I

Scale-1"=1' 0 1' 2'

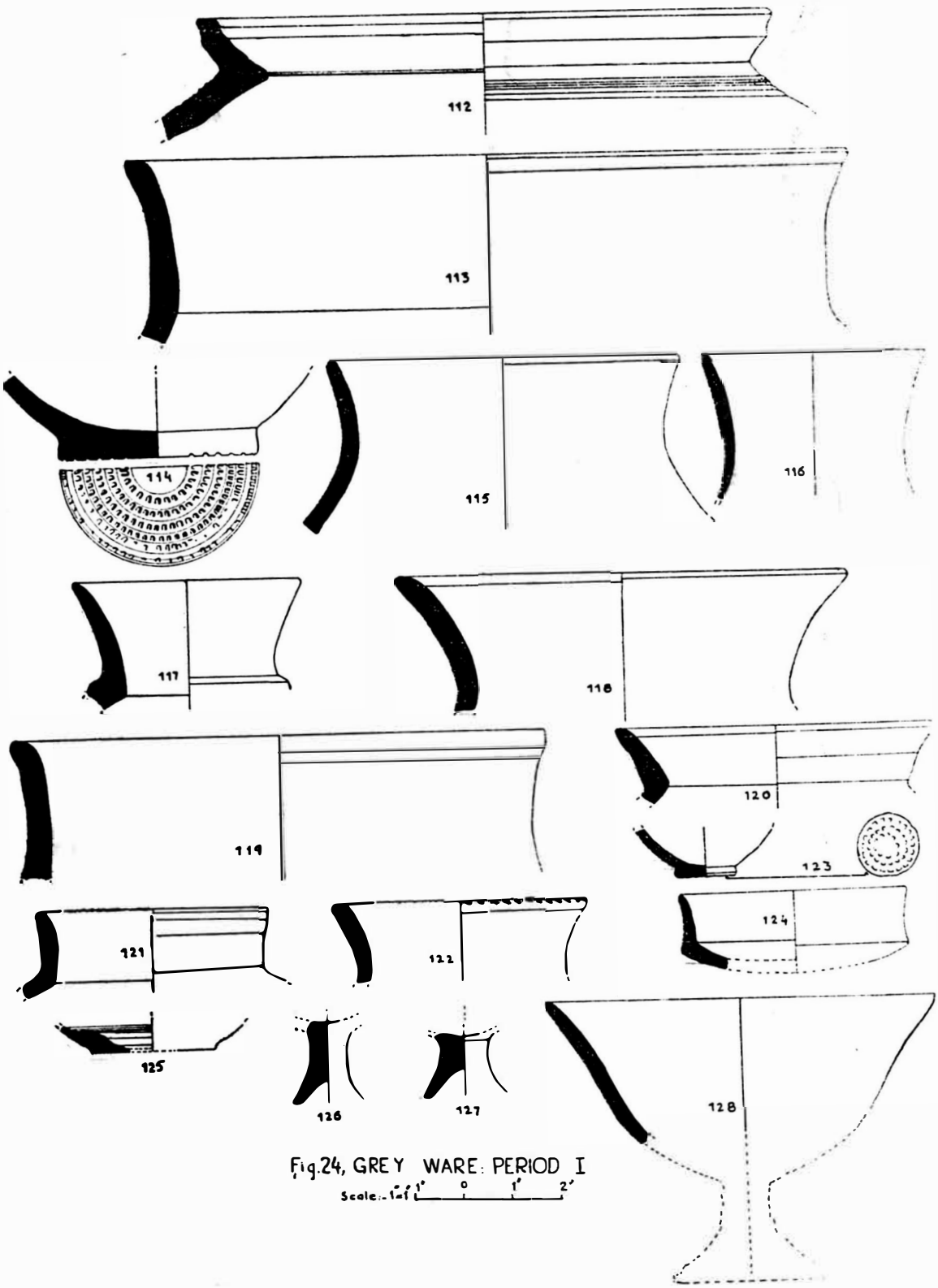


Fig.24, GREY WARE: PERIOD I

Scale: 1" 0 1" 2"

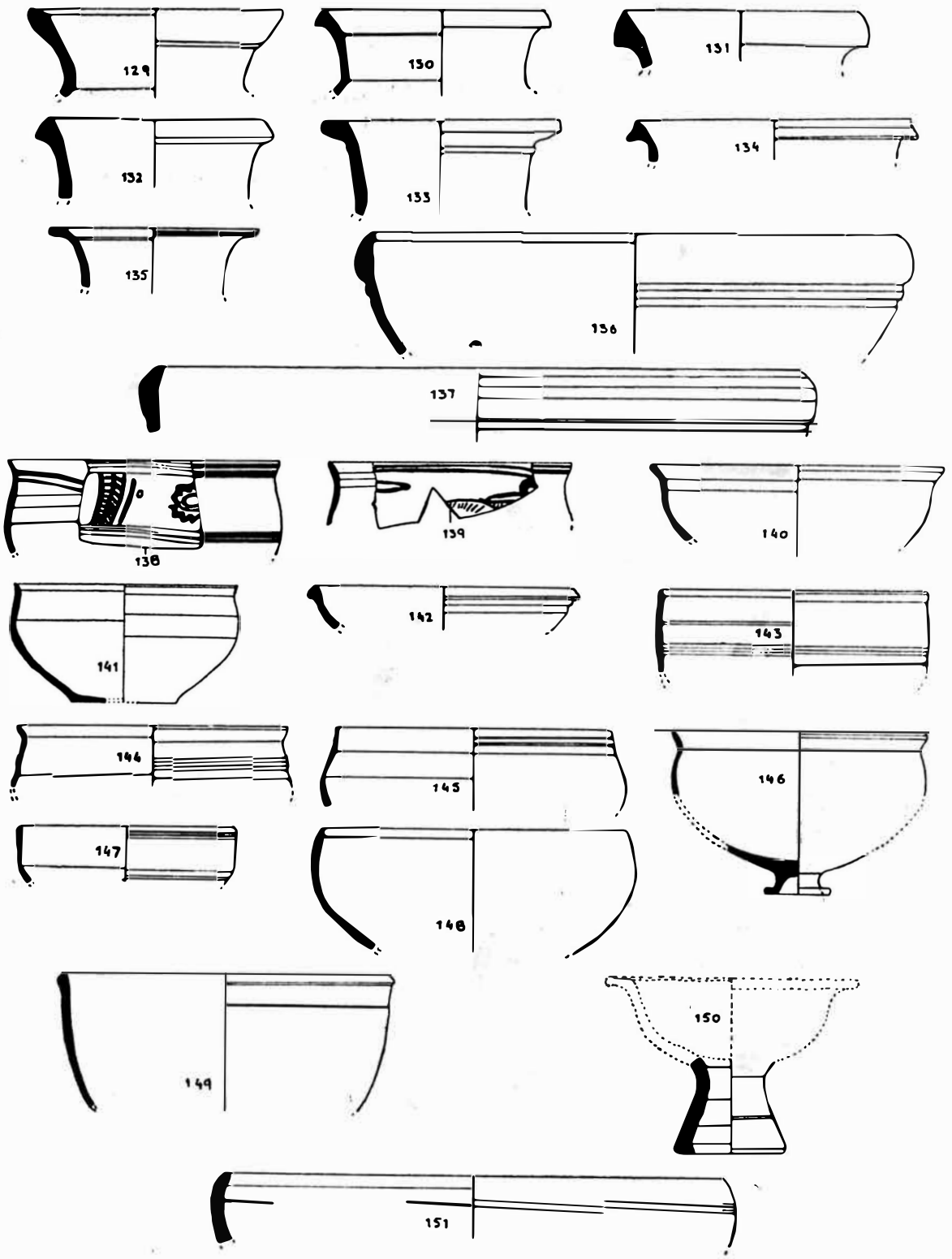


Fig25, RED WARE : PERIOD II

Scale - 1=1' 1' 0 1' 2'

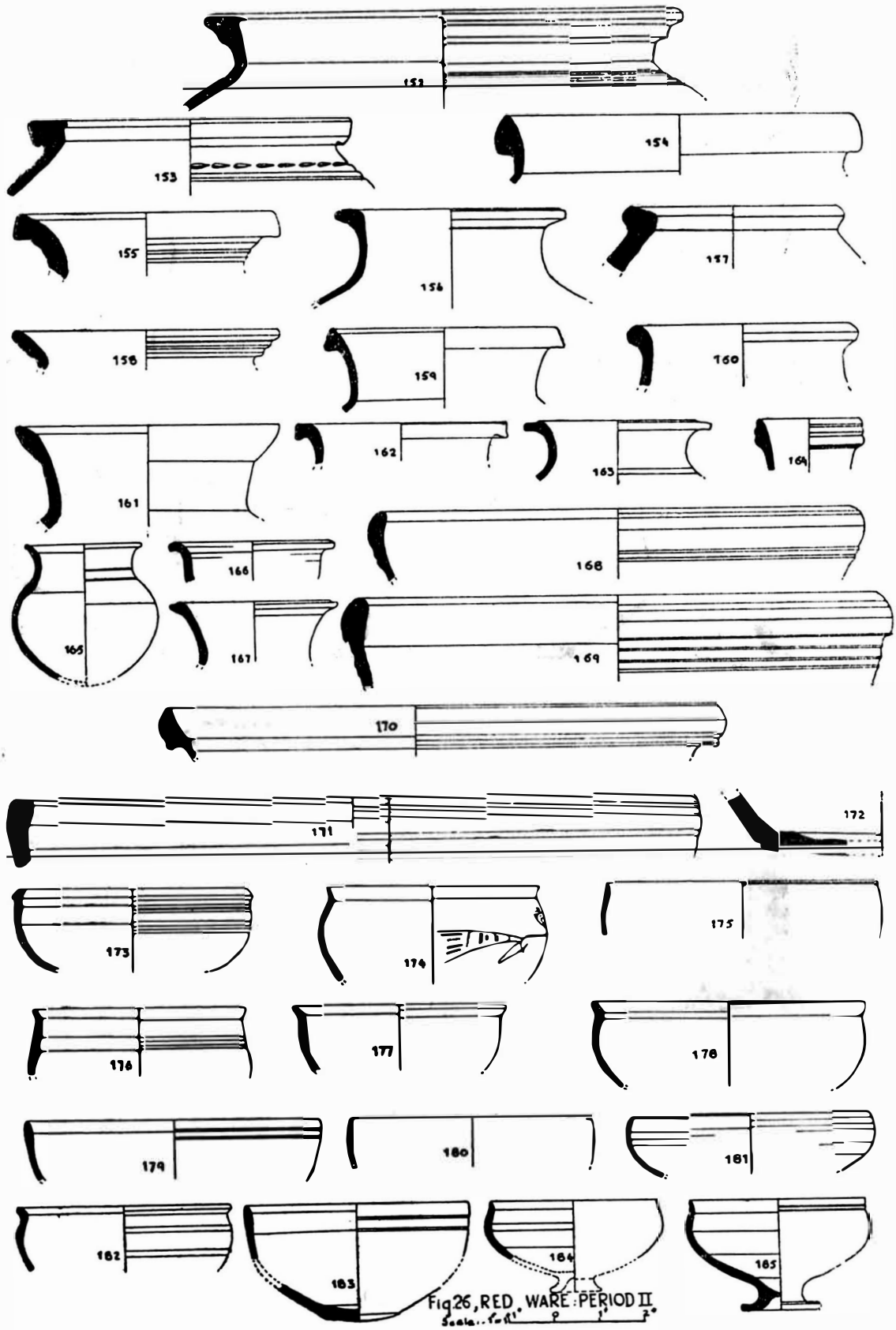


Fig.26, RED WARE PERIOD II

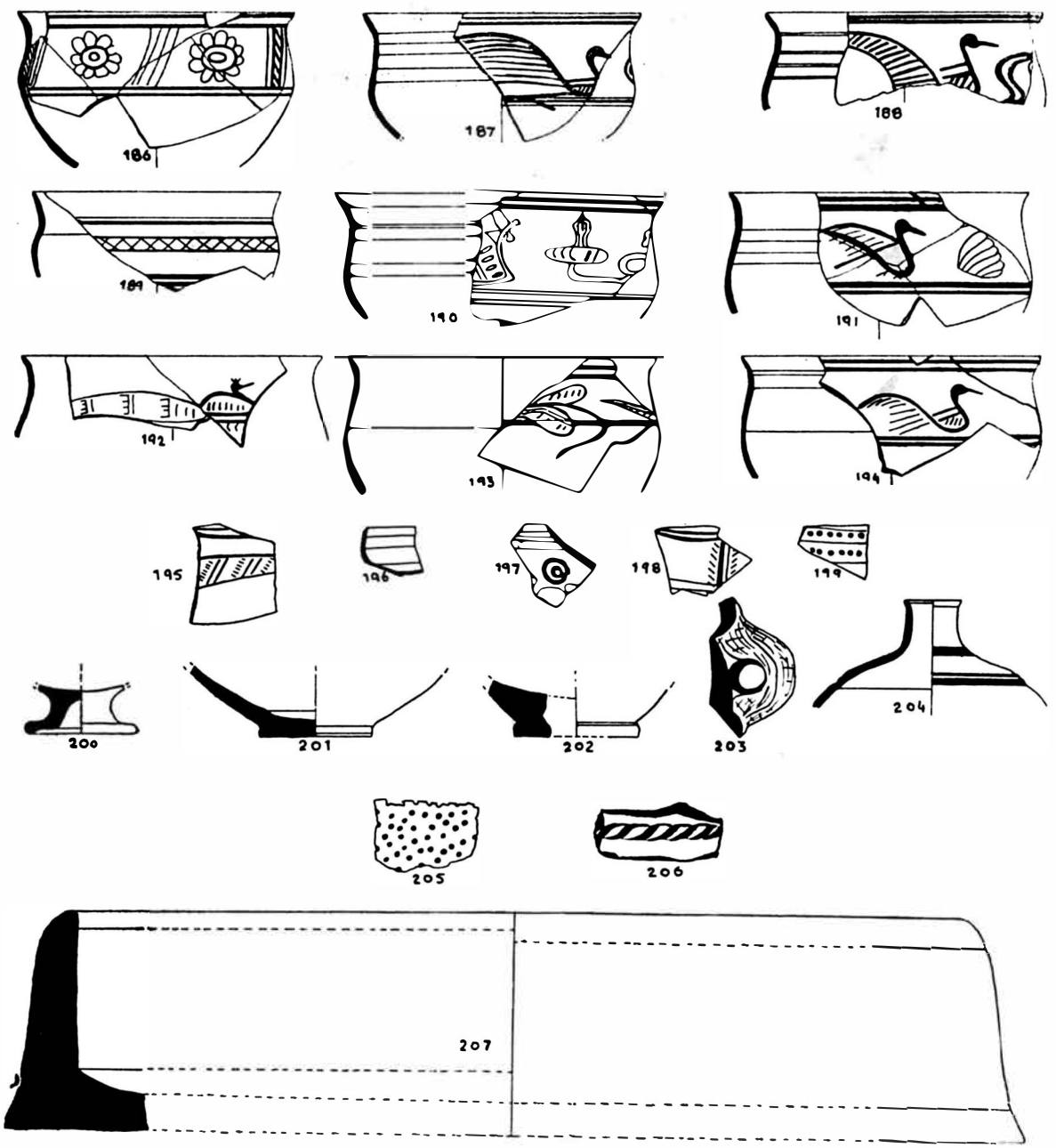


Fig 27, RED WARE: PERIOD II

Scale - 1=1" 0 1" 2"

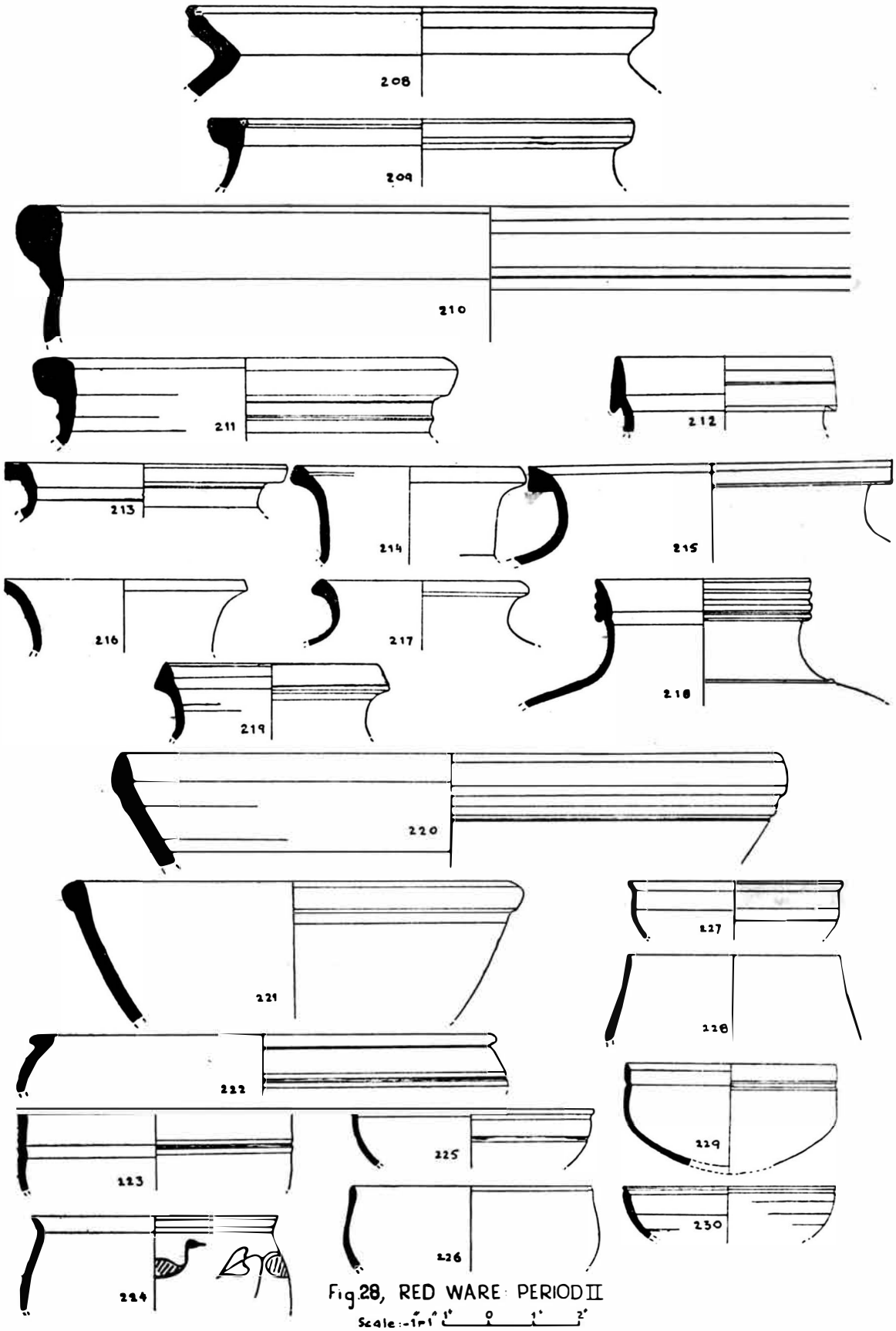


Fig.28, RED WARE PERIOD II

Scale:-1" 0 1" 2"

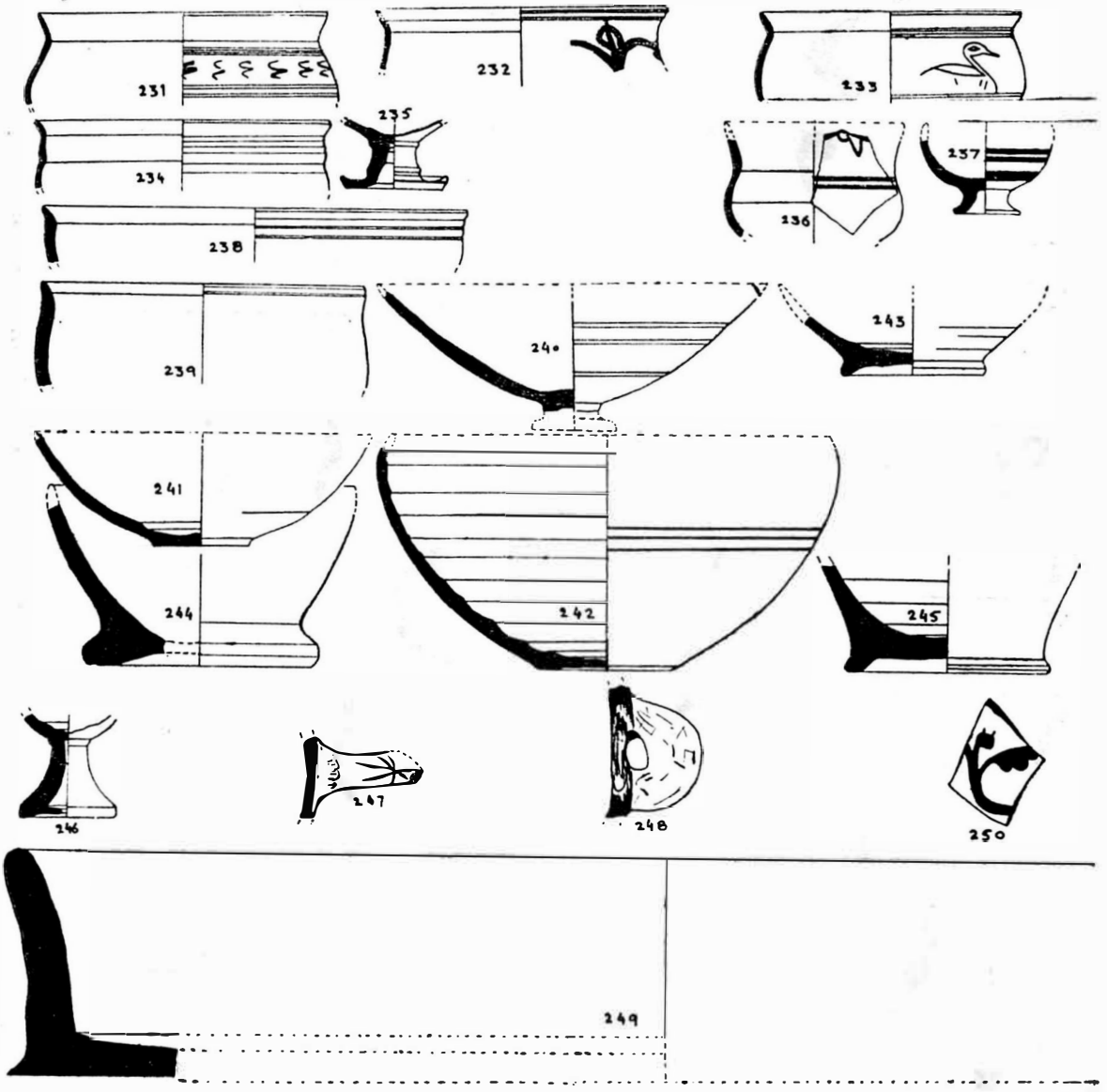


Fig.29, RED WARE: PERIOD II

Scale: 1" = 1' 0 1' 2'

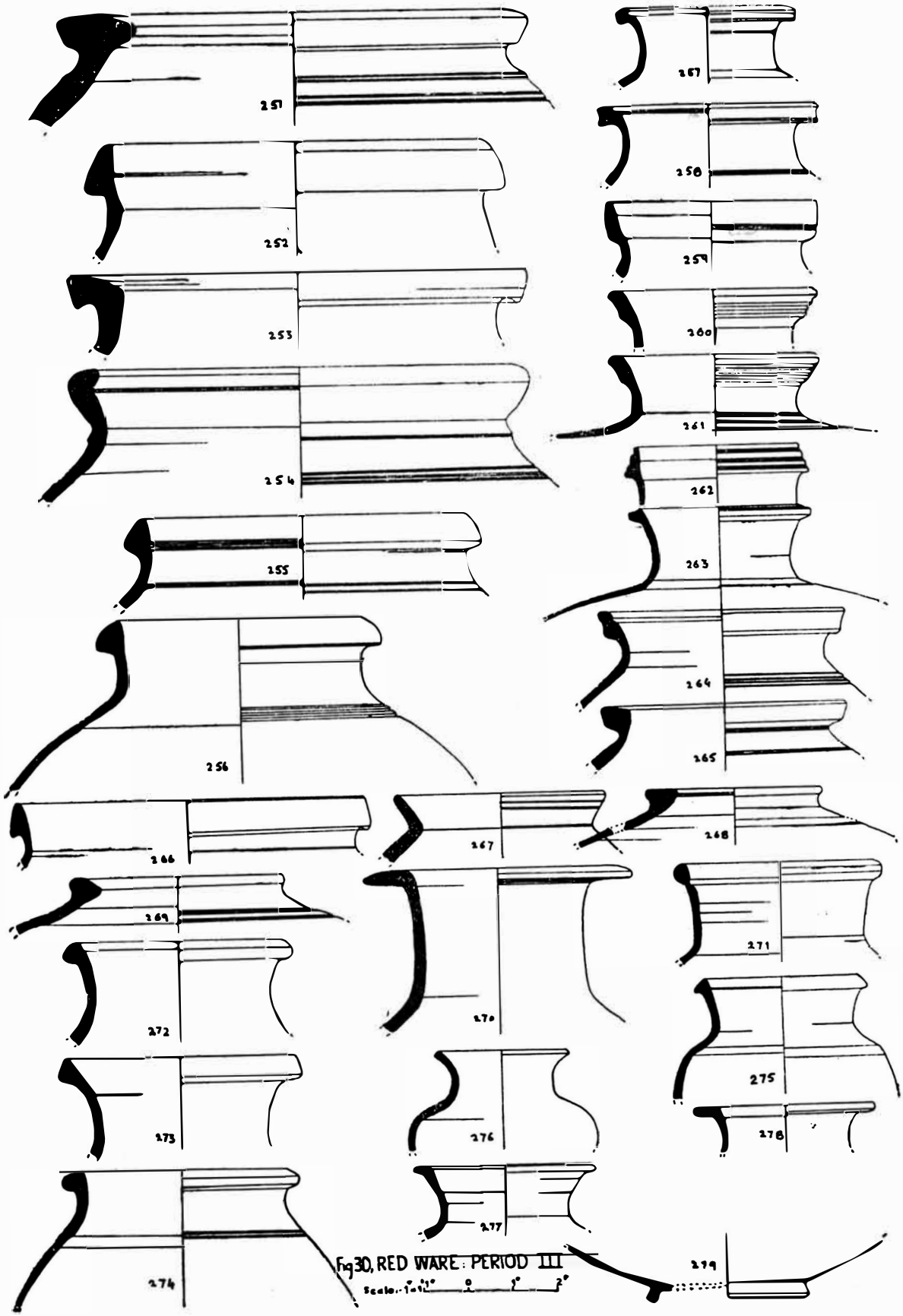


Fig 30, RED WARE : PERIOD III

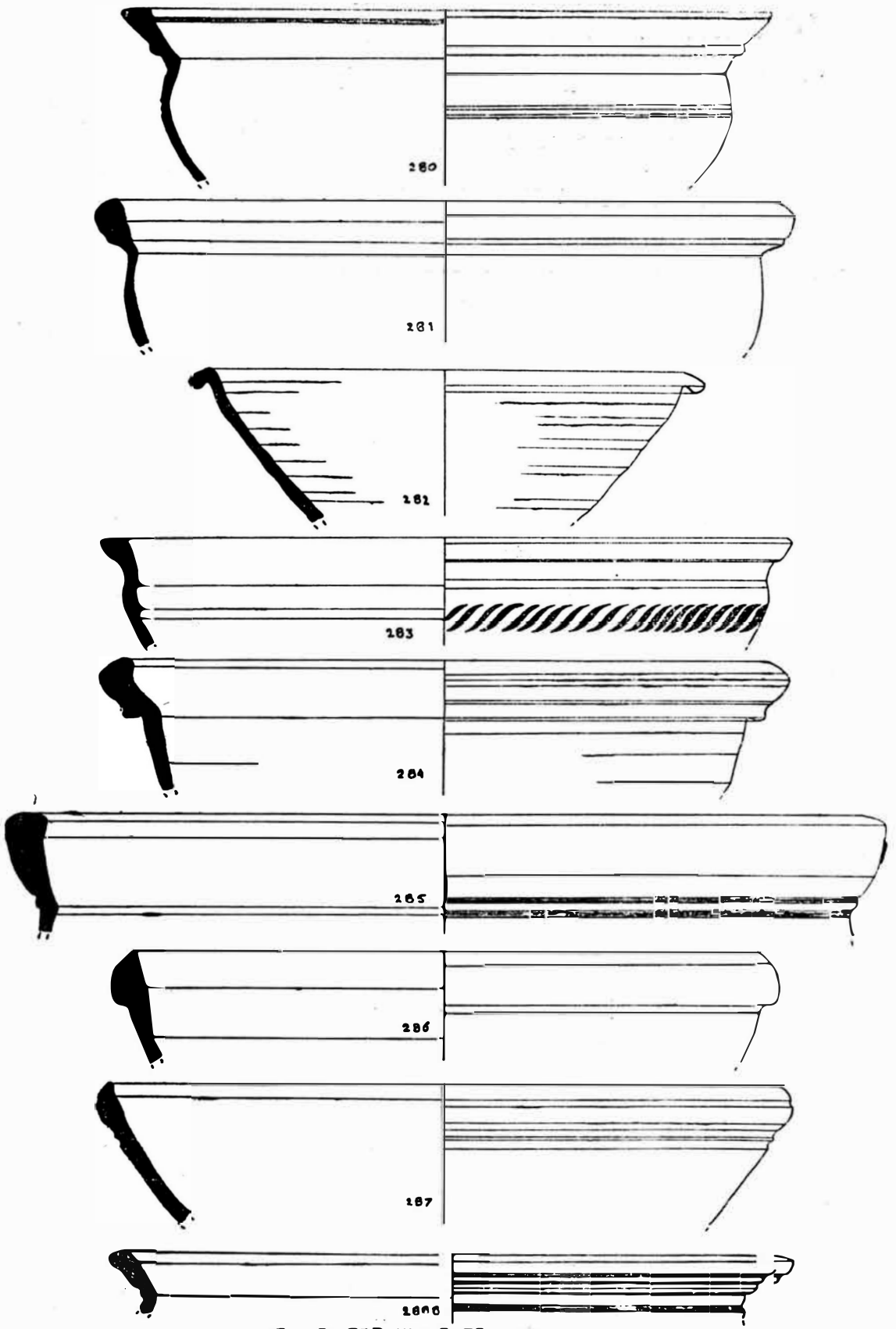


Fig. 31, RED WARE: PERIOD III

Scale:- 1=1 1' 0 1' 2'

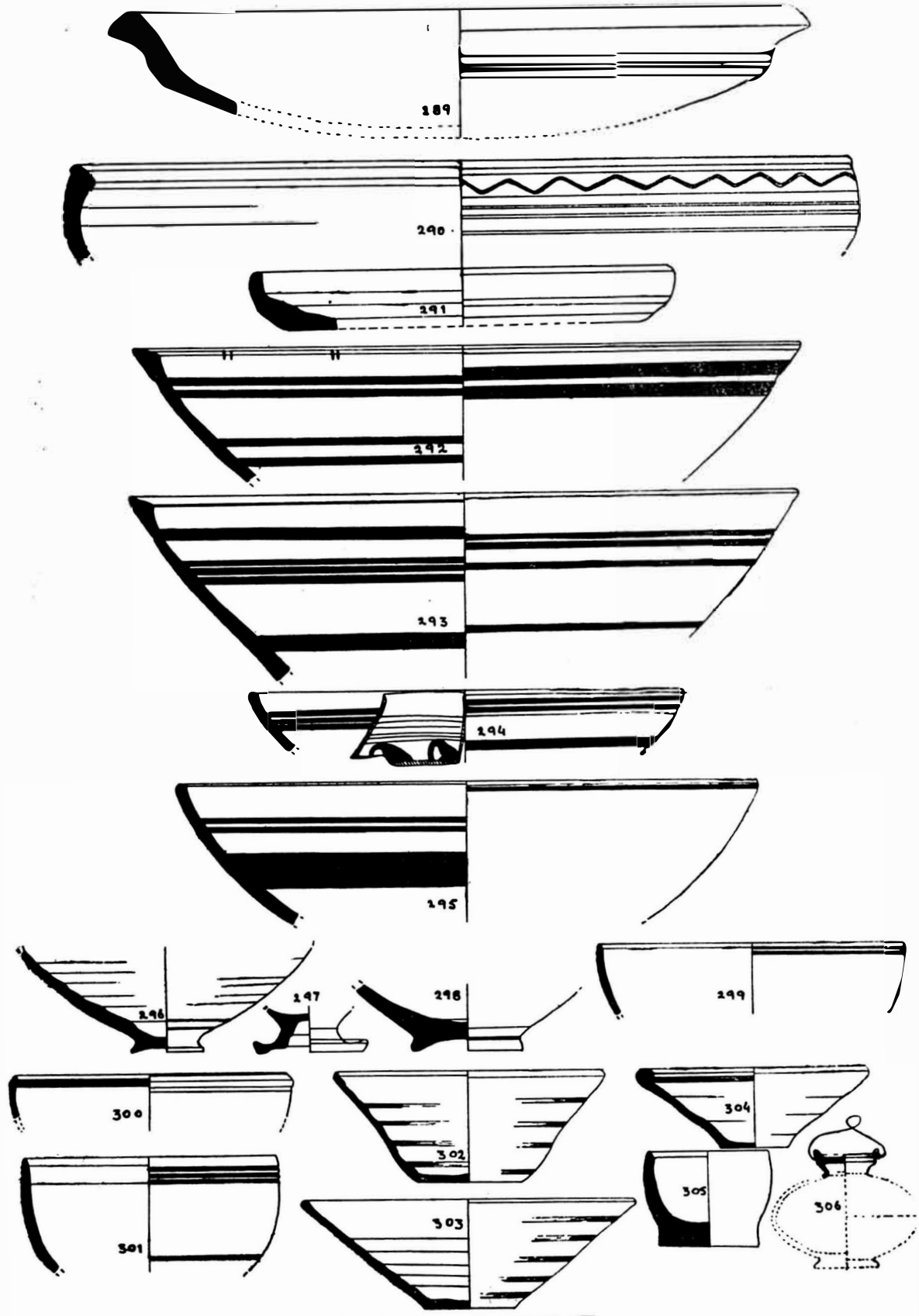


Fig32, RED WARE: PERIOD III

Scale 1"=1" 1" 0 1" 2"

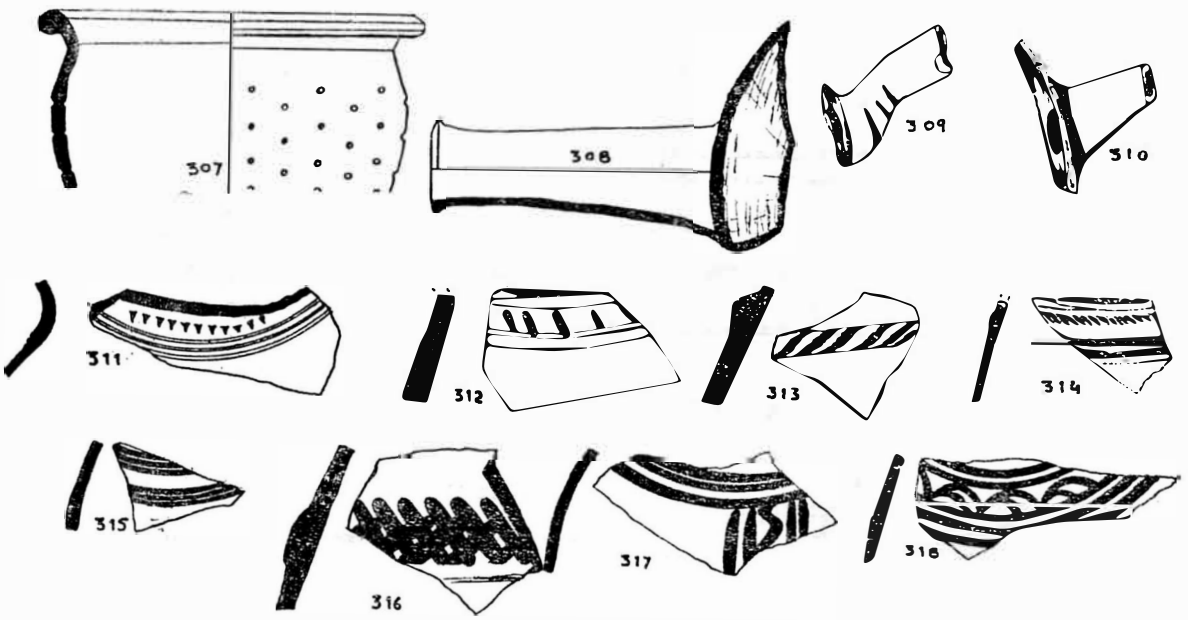


Fig.33, RED WARE: PERIOD III

Scale:-1'-1' 1' 0 1' 2"

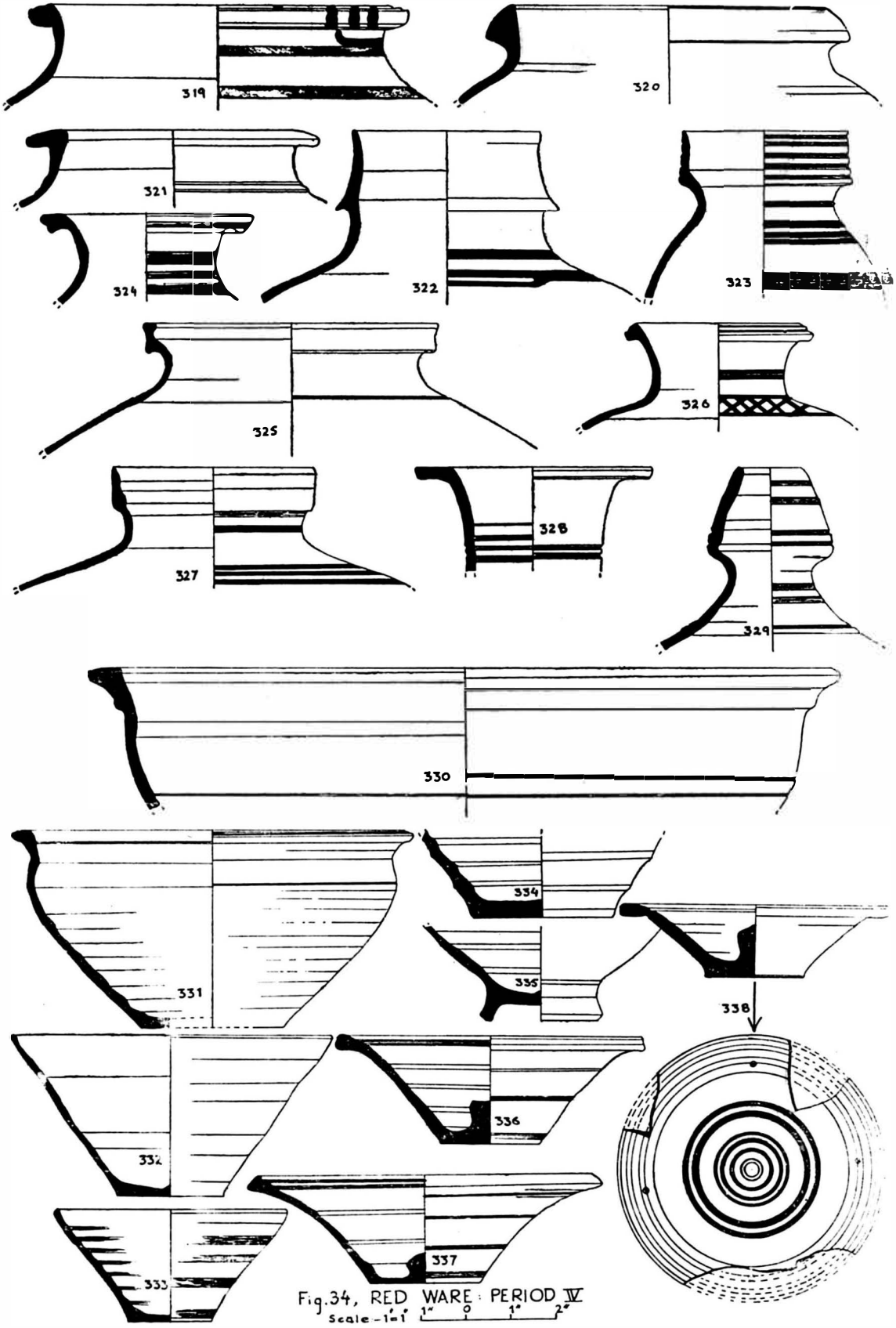


Fig.34, RED WARE: PERIOD IV
Scale - 1=1'

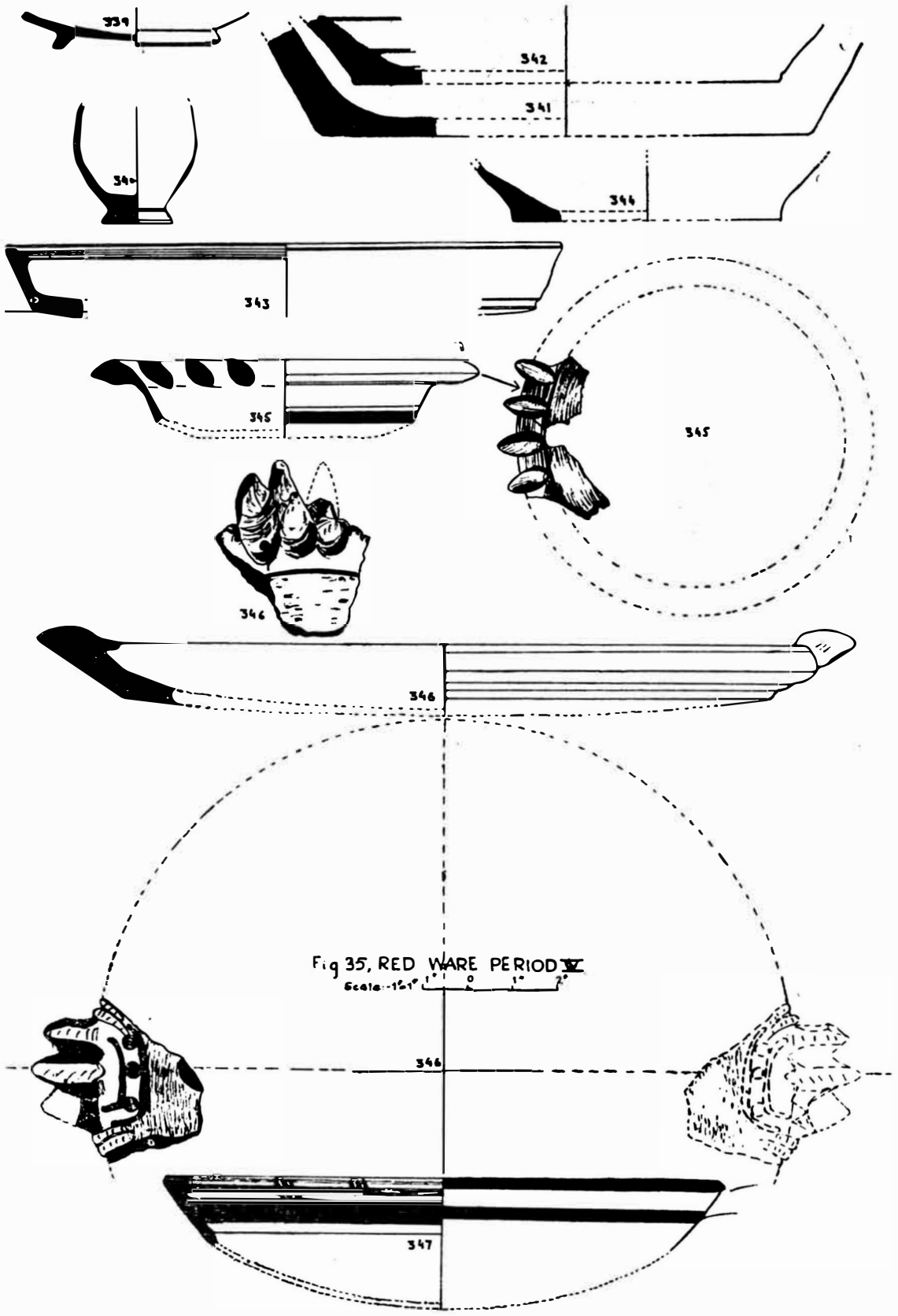


Fig 35, RED WARE PERIOD IV

Scale - 1½"

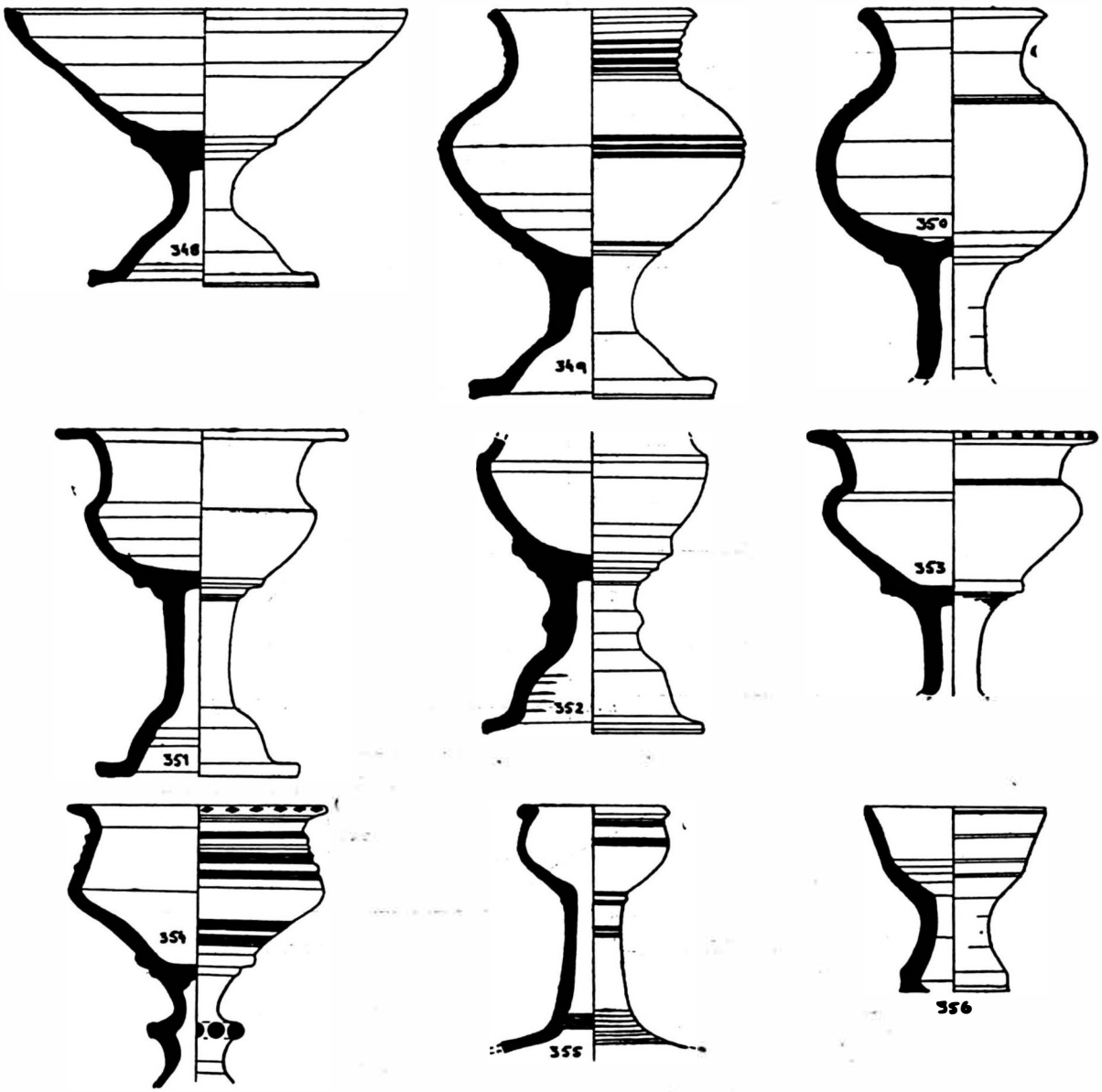
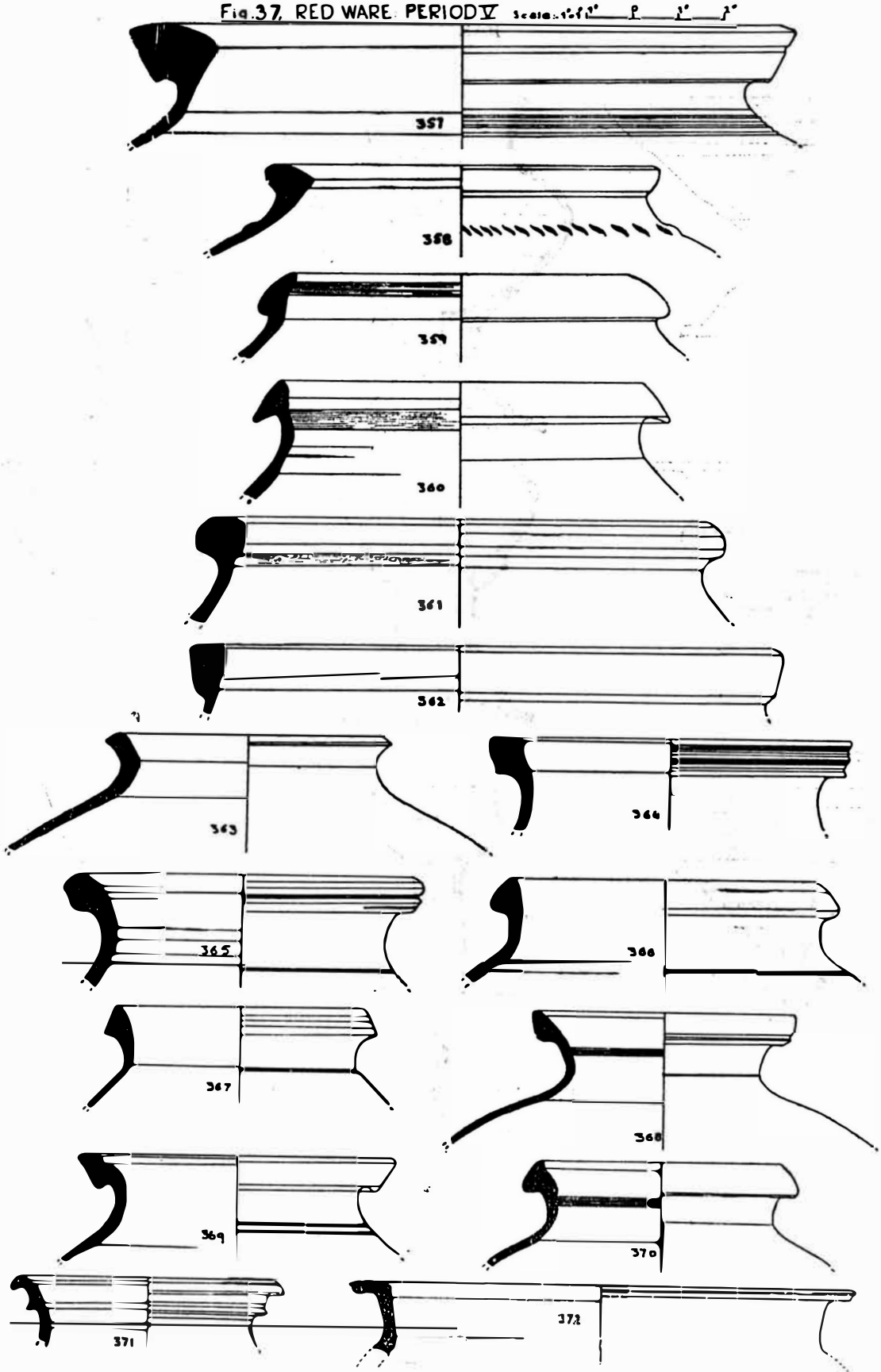


Fig.36, RED WARE: PERIOD IV

Scale: 1"=1'

Fig. 37. RED WARE PERIOD V



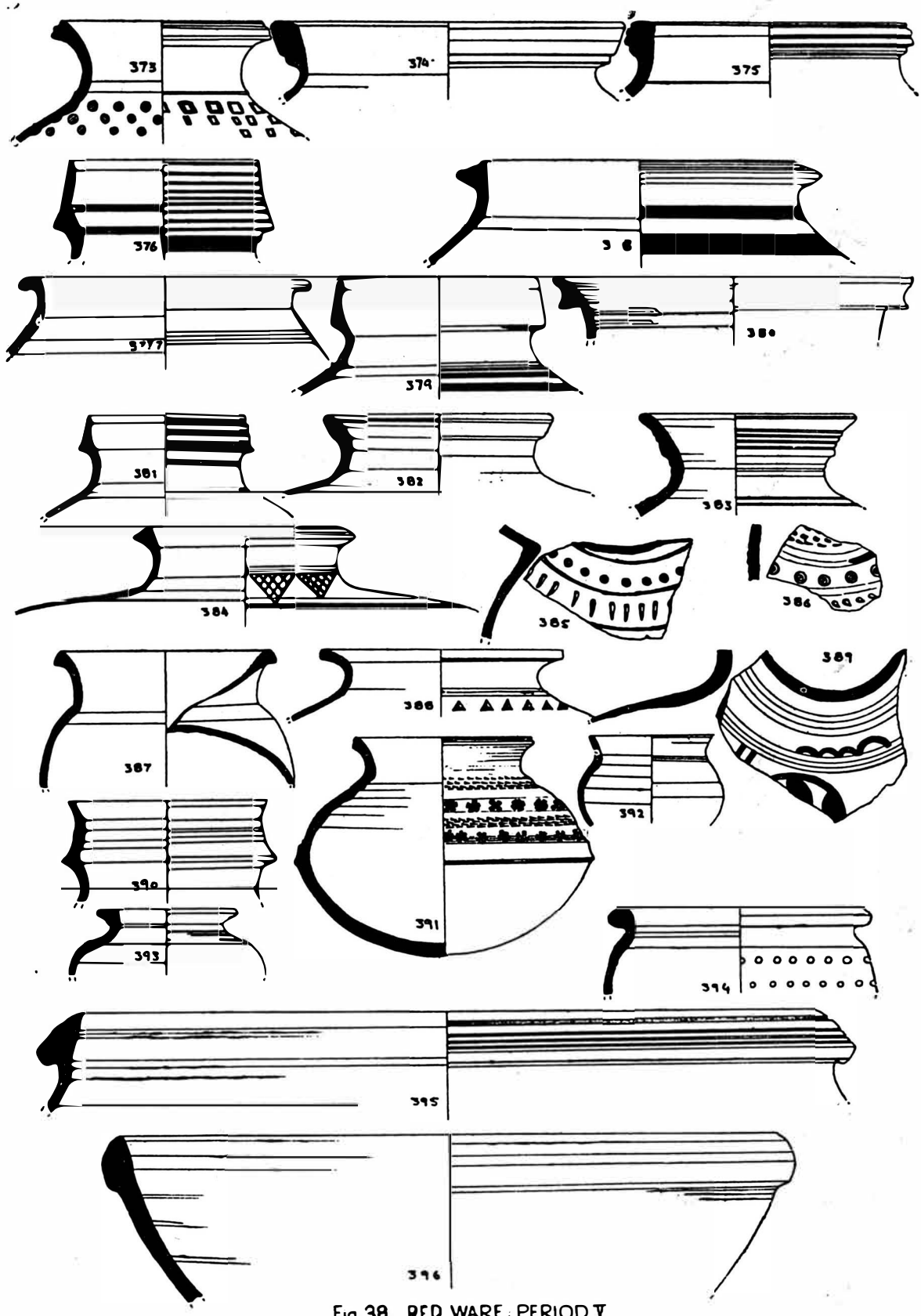


Fig. 38, RED WARE. PERIOD V

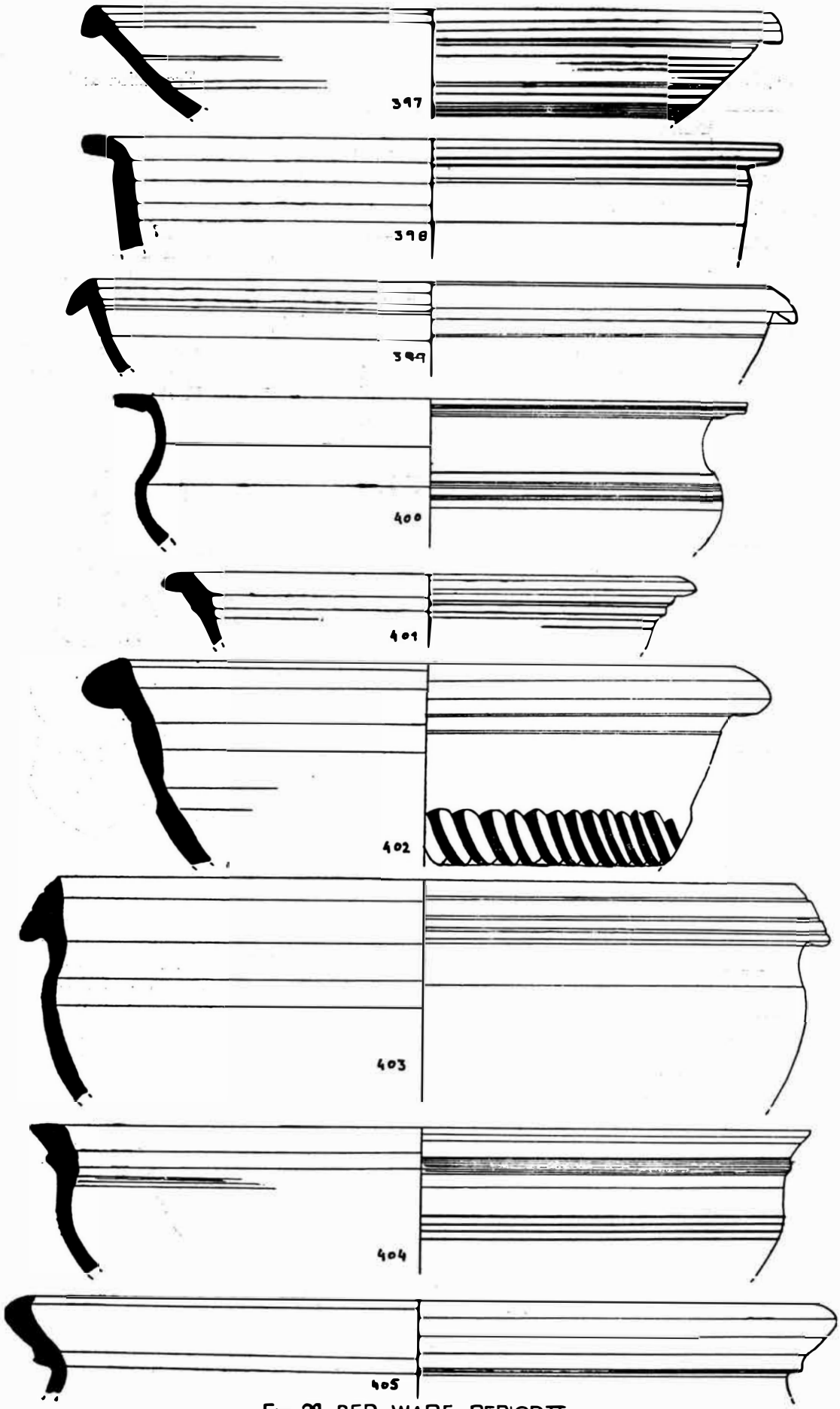


Fig. 39, RED WARE: PERIOD V

Scale :-1"=1'

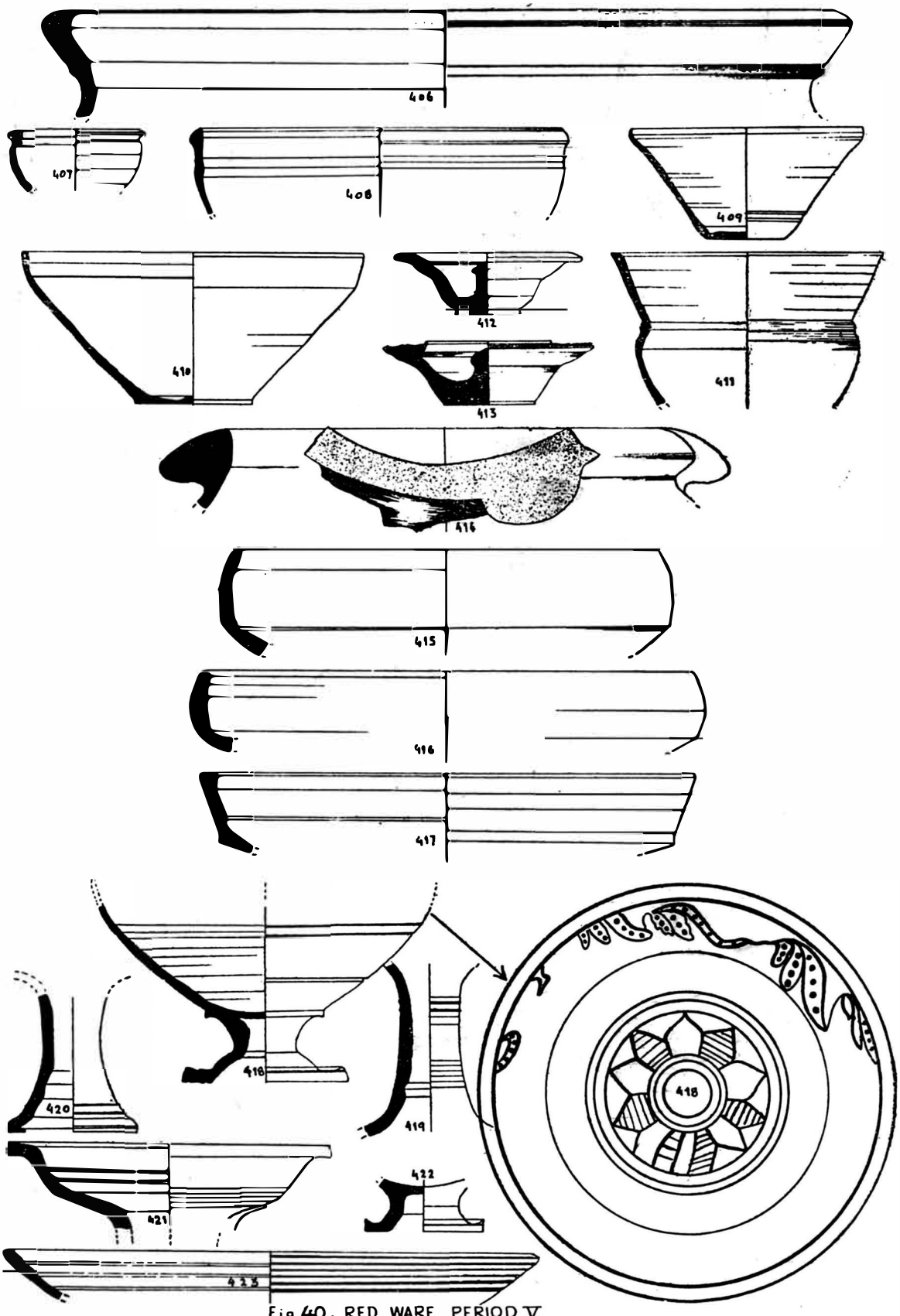


Fig 40, RED WARE PERIOD V

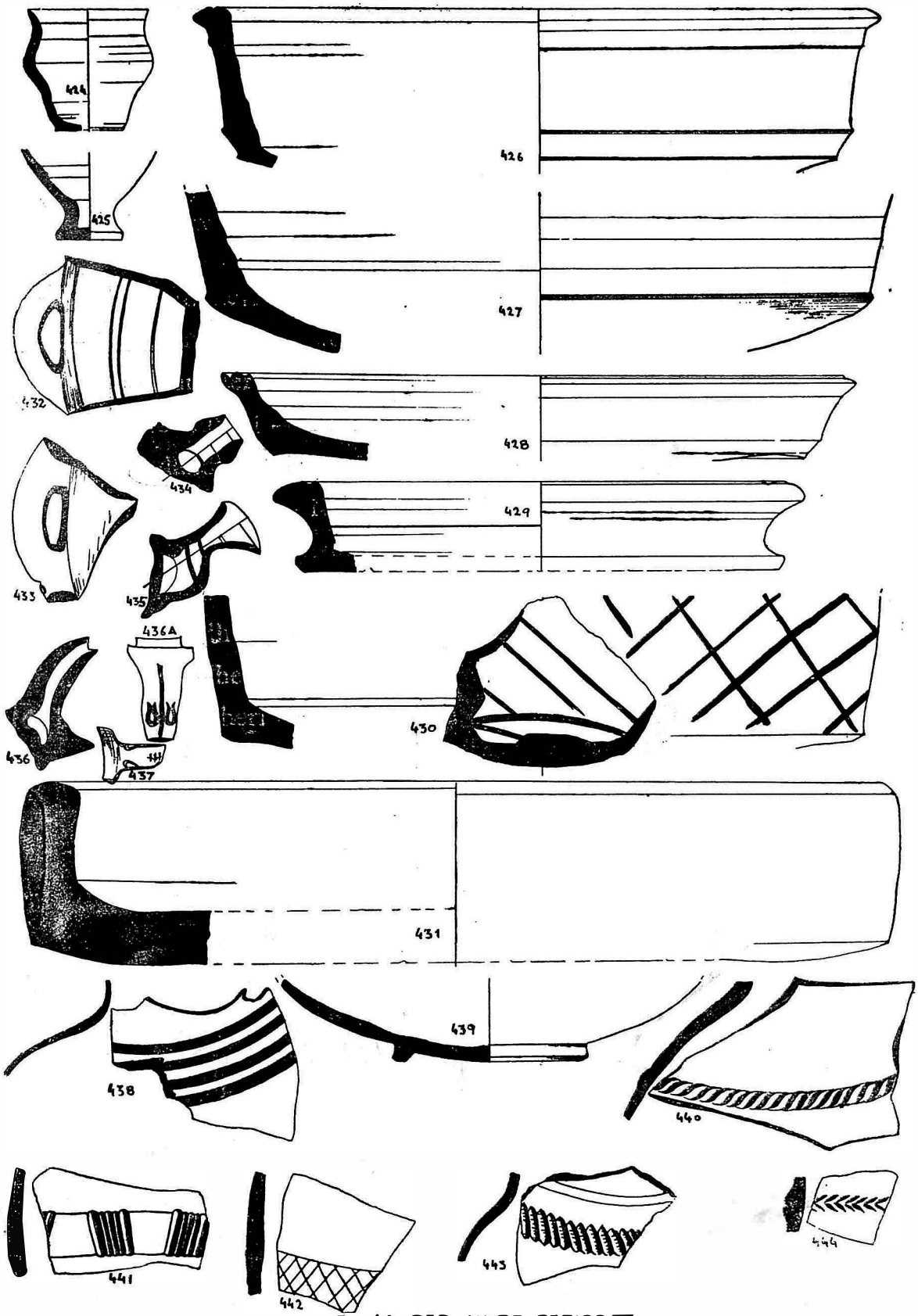


Fig. 41, RED WARE: PERIOD V

Scale 1=1' 0 1' 2'

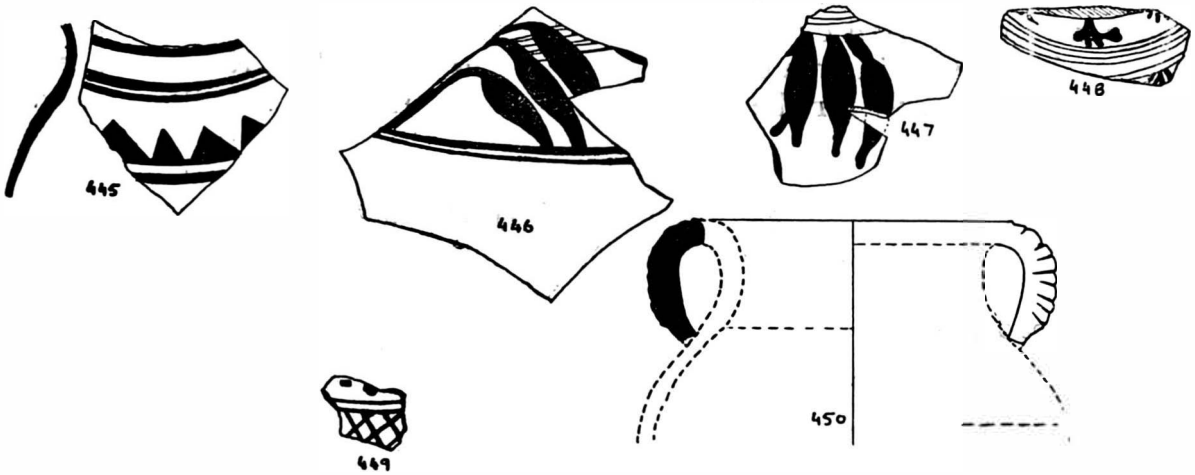


Fig. 42, RED WARE PERIOD V

Scale - 1" = 1'

earliest sherds of which appear, long after the Grey Ware tradition had ceased to function, and end before the earliest Kushana coin (i.e. Wima) came to be buried upon this site. Similarly 'goblet-on-stand', in a variety of shapes, occur subsequent to the Kushana occupational strata. Potsherds with stamped decoration are restricted only to the Hindu Shahi levels. Moreover, the association of coinage, which can be fairly closely dated, with certain types of pottery has further enhanced their chronological value.

A representative selection from the whole lot of potsherds demonstrating certain coherent and regularlyrecurring features within specific periods is given below with a view to understanding their technological, functional and chronological values. The outstanding types with strong affinities with one period or the other are selected on the basis of form or fabric and discussed in greater detail in the pages that follow. Names are given to them arbitrarily for the simple reason of describing them with some convenience.

The pottery of periods I and II is illustrated stratigraphically. Whereas that of periods III, IV and V is given period-wise to avoid much of repetition which this method involves. It may be broadly grouped under three heads:—

A. Red Ware
B. Fine Red Ware.
C. Grey Ware.

POTTERY OF PERIOD I

A — RED WARE

It is represented by an overwhelming majority of fragments almost two-thirds of the total potsherds recovered from the lower-most two strata. All the specimens are plain except a few showing incised lines or applied bands of clay. It is well-fired and ranges from medium to thick fabric with emphasis upon the latter. Thick-sectioned potsherds are indeed the characteristic of this period. There are only two sherds of reddish colour which appear to be hand-made; for the rest, the pottery is wheel turned and very often dressed with reddish slip. None of the pots appear to have been burnished. The most usual forms include storage vessel with pointed or rounded bottom and thick-set out-turned rim (Fig. 19/1-5); water-picher with flaring or externally thickened rim and almost globular body (Fig. 19/6-10); a funnel-shaped vessel with external grooves (Fig. 19/11); trough with beaded or straight rim (Fig. 20/34, 35); open-mouthed large bowl *(langri)* with incurved or externally grooved flat-topped rim (Fig. 19/12-14); dish

(thali) with flat or sagger base and simple incurved, straight or projected rim and occasional carination at the side (Fig. 20/28-33); convex sided bowl with disc or ring base (Fig. 20/26); simple straight spouts (Fig. 20/39) and perforated or curved lugs (Fig. 20/37, 38).

Exact analogue of long necked pitcher and certain other dishes can be seen in Balambat III (see comparism and chronology). On the whole the entire assemblage is comparable to Timargarha III. Representative specimens are given below:

(All vessels are wheel-turned and slipped red unless otherwise stated).

Fig. 19
St. (12)

1. Storage vessel: Large size; thick set flat rim with an external groove.
2. Similar: Smaller size; with out-curved rim and globular body.
3. Akin to No. 2, above.
4. Storage vessel: Medium size; with hammer-shaped rim and globular body.
5. Storage vessel: Large size; with slightly out-curved featureless rim and a thick profile below the neck; ill-fired.
6. Pitcher: with slightly everted rim and plain neck having grooves below.
7. Pitcher: with plain neck and obliquely cut rim.
8. Pitcher: similar with an external grooves. It is coated with a thin layer of slip having greater mica contents.
9. Pitcher: with externally collared rim; incomplete oxidation.
10. Pitcher: with external notched rim and vertical neck. The slip is rather fugitive.
11. Pitcher: with long neck having deep external grooves and black core.
12. Large bowl *(langri)*: with externally thickened and club-shaped rim; ill-fired.
13. Large bowl: with flat topped rim having grooves below.

14. Large bowl: with slightly incurved and externally collared rim, marked with double grooves.

15. Bowl: Club-rimmed with convex sides.

16. Bowl: Vertical rim with a pair of external grooves.

17. Bowl: flat base of an internally grooved bowl having string marks.

18. Bowl: with slightly incurved and featureless rim.

19. Bowl: similar to No. 17, above, but without internal grooves.

20. Bowl: with slightly flaring rim and thin sides. It produces tinkling sound when dropped on the floor; Reddish buff slip.

21. Hollow: pedestal base with external grooves. It has a gritty body, black core and fugitive slip.

22. Hollow: pedestal base of a small vase scraped on the bottom.

23. Disc-base of a thick-sided vase with string marks on the bottom.

24. Ring-base of a bowl; the bowl may be akin to No. 20, above.

25. Miniature pedestalled-vase with flaring rim and central perforation across the bottom. Ill-fired and without slip.

Fig. 20

26. Bowl: with convex sides and external grooves below the rim.

27. Bowl: with projected rim and carination at the shoulder; ill-fired and slipped internally.

28. Dish: with incurved sides having a grooved wavy line. It has sagger base with an external cordon and a wavy line.

29. Dish: club-rimmed with an external cordon and wavy line.

30. Dish: with almost straight sides; having grooves below the rim.

31. Dish: with incurved sides and sagger base; pinkish red slip.

32. Dish: with incurved sides, blunt carination and sagger base. Colour similar to No. 31, above.

33. Dish: thick sided and shallow. It has a deep groove below the rounded top.

34. Trough: thick-sided and shallow with internal grooves and granulated bottom.

35. Trough: thick-sided, with gritty section and incomplete oxidation.

36. Top of a narrow-mouthed vase with collared rim. It was probably made on a slow wheel. No slip.

37. Hand-made semi-circular handle. It was made separately and then luted to the vessel. No slip.

38. Perforated lug finely made and slipped.

39. Spout: plain, with ellipitcal out-let.

40. Similar, with circular out-let.

41. Fragment of dull red ware of medium fabric with incised decoration showing petals of a flower. It has fugitive slip.

42. Fragment of dull red ware of medium fabric with incised decoration showing superimposed loops and a triangle.

43. Similar, with incised decoration showing hatched, triangle.

('Fine Red Ware' is interpolated)

B. — Fine Red Ware

It is represented by four sherds coming from the lower-most stratum (i.e. 12) and does not appear in any other stratigraphical horizon. In the whole assemblage of pottery these sherds appear to be most distinctive in view of their fabric and surface treatment. They are thick in section and exhibit black core resulting probably from rapid firing without giving sufficient time for complete oxidation to take place. The clay of these specimens is well levigated with a fair admixture of sand and other finer refractories. There is no trace of straw or any other organic substance being mixed with it as an additional binding. The dull red original surface is coated with a thick layer of rich red slip and appears to have been carefully rubbed probably with a piece of cloth so as to create a uniform surface characterized by its smoothness and slippery touch. The precise mineralogical contents of the slip, restricted only to the outer face and applied before firing, have not been studied except that a high percentage

of mica is visible on the surface.

Owing to the small size of these sherds, the exact shape of the vessels cannot be worked out, though their slightly curved inner surface together with thick fabric is suggestive of a tall storage pot. Let it be interpolated here that storage vessels with equally thick-set rim are abundant at this level, but without the peculiar surface treatment typical of the 'Fine Red Ware'.

The motifs executed in black, before firing, consist of parallel horizontal bands, a curious floral design and a peacock looking behind. Painting is done in a free, assuring style.

The distinctiveness of these sherds becomes all the more striking as we find no other parallels in the neighbouring sites. The technique of surface dressing as demonstrated by the known pottery from Timargarha, Balambat and Ghaligai does not exhibit the excellent skill of the potter as noted here. They appear to be, in fact, alien sherds strikingly different from the local ceramic industry.

44. Fragment of 'fine red ware' showing black core and thick fabric. Painted designs executed in black, upon rich red surface, consist of multiple horizontal bands and a peacock in the lower zone.

45. Fragment of 'fine red ware' fabric and slip similar to No. 44, above. Painted designs done in black, consist of a stylised plant and a curious wedge-shaped motif in the side panel.

Fig. 21

Stratum II

(Red Ware is resumed)

46. Storage vessel: with a thick-set out-turned rim having a horizontal band of rich red slip on the inner surface.

47. Storage vessel: with out-turned rim having horizontal groove on the inside. Poor slip.

48. Storage vessel: flat topped rim with external grooves and high neck. Black core.

49. Storage vessel: splayed rim coated with orange red slip on both faces. It is burnished and has black core.

50. Basin: With a flat topped rim and a luted lug.

51. Pitcher: with straight neck and externally flanged rim; no slip. It has grooves on the shoulder. Ill-fired.

52. Pitcher: small size; with flaring simple rim and grooves on the shoulder; no slip. Ill-fired.

53. Pitcher: with externally thickened rim. Poor slip.

54. Pitcher: with out-curved simple rim and grooved neck.

55. Pitcher: with short squarish rim and globular body; black core and poor slip.

56. Fragment of dull red ware with grooved wavy pattern in the middle of a zone marked by incised double horizontal lines.

57. Fragment of dull red ware with black painted horizontal bands and a stepped motif.

58. Fragment of dull red ware with vertically notched pattern.

59. Fragment of 'Fine Red Ware' with black painted horizontal bands. It is similar to Nos. 44 and 45, above.

60. Large bowl (langri): with squarish out-curved rim and coarse fabric. Oxidation is not complete.

61. bowl: with bevelled rim and almost convex sides; fine red slip.

62. Bowl: with incurved rim and convex sides; thin fabric.

63. Bowl: with bevelled rim and internal grooves, and bloched outer surface — due to ill-firing. No slip.

64. Bowl: with slightly bevelled rim and almost straight sides.

Fig. 22

65. Bowl: with dull red colour and slight carination and grooves almost half way down the sides. Well-fired.

66. Bowl: with slightly out-curved rim and a wavy line on the shoulder; deep red slip.

67. Bowl: with slightly bevelled rim and an incised diamond pattern on the outer surface.

68. Bowl: with slightly incurved rim and convex sides.

69. Bowl: with externally flanged rim and double grooves, almost half way down the side.

70. Flat bottomed bowl — fragment with string marks on the bottom, black core and poor slip.

71. Disc base of an externally grooved small bowl. Ill-fired.

72. Ring base of a bowl.

73. Dish: with incurved plain sides.

74. Dish: with tapering sides and sagger base; fine slip.

75. Dish: with vertical sides and flat base.

76. Dish: with almost flat topped featureless rim and sagger base.

77. Dish: bluntly carinated with flat topped rim having a groove below.

78. Bowl: with bevelled rim and external grooves.

79. Cooking tray: with coarse fabric and reddish brown colour. It has thick vertical sides and flat bottom. The clay is gritty showing an admixture of straw or husk.

80. Disc-base of a large storage vessel with 'black-core' and coarse fabric.

81. Hollow-pedestal-base of a bowl of medium size.

82. Fragment of a bowl-on-stand with solid stem and hollow base.

83. Similar, with solid stem but coarse fabric.

84. Similar, with hollow-pedestal-base and coarse fabric. It is coated with a thick layer of pinkish red slip.

85. Handle of a vase with incised arrow-head design.

86. Lid: with convex upper-side and a perforation in the centre.

87. Miniature lid a of small pot with raised catch in the middle, hand-made; no slip.

C — Grey Ware

It is represented by a larger number of sherds — almost one-third of

the total pottery found in the two layers antedating the 'break'. There is no evidence to show that it continued in the subsequent periods with the same stress and numerical popularity, the same workmanship and decorative motifs which characterize it in the present context. A major portion of the grey sherds is distinguished from the contemporanious red pottery by its coarse fabric, rough surface treatment and thick section. A significant feature of a sizeable number of vases is mat-impression in the form of a spiral on the bottom. Almost all the pots are wheel-thrown. The use of slow wheel or turn table was not infrequent as noted below.

The selection of clay was determined by the size and shape of vessels. In general the clay is gritty with a high proportion of quartzitic sand. The smaller vases were, however, made of well-levigated clay of small particle size with scant, if any, admixture of quartzite fragments. The firing is not always uniform and quite a few fragments exhibit mottled surfaces. On the whole a wide range of firing from ill-burnt to well burnt pots is observed. Very often the surface is treated with a slip, the colour of which varies from the grey brown to grey and black. It must be pointed out here that the use of grey brown and black colour in the present context is very occasional. The slip was applied before firing. On the basis of surface treatment we can point out certain varieties — (i) unburnished with roughened outer surface (these are usually made on slow wheel or turn table), (ii) burnished and made on fast wheel. It is worth pointing out that variety (i) can be mistaken for hand-made pottery, but we have a large number of sherds demonstrating unmistakably the use of a slow wheel. It appears that the surfaces were rusticated with hand when the body clay was still leather hard. This treatment is restricted to the outer face only, without exception and, sub-divided into those: (a) finely burnished on both faces or, at least, both faces of the rim area (grey brown and black colours fall within this subvariety), (b) burnished on the outer faces only. Generally the burnishing lines are horizontal, though vertical strokes can also be seen in a few sherds.

Another distinctive feature of the Grey Ware is that the whole lot is unpainted and completely devoid of any decoration except some external grooves as exhibited by a negligible number of pot-sherds. The range of forms include storage vessels (Fig. 24/112, 113); with thick-set out-turned or vertical featureless rim; water pitcher with slightly flaring rim rippled or notched on the top and roughened outer surface, or with simple out-turned rim (this form is restricted to smaller size) Fig. 24/115-122); bowl with tapering sides (Fig. 23/93), pedestalled vases or those having mat-impression on the bottom (Fig. 23/100, 102, and Fig. 24/123) carinated-bowl (Fig. 23/110); dish with incurved sides (Fig. 23/109); and bowl-on-stand

(Fig. 24/126-128). A substantial range of sub-varieties having exact analogues in plain red ware also is noteworthy. The general impression is that of sturdiness rather than refinement or sophistication.

The unornamented grey ware is not entirely new to knowledge in Dir and Swat. It has been reported in abundant numbers from Ghaligai rock-shelter, Balambat (from refuse pits) and not less frequently it occurs in the various cemeteries so far excavated in Dir and Swat. In view of its technique of manufacture and the peculiar mat-impression our material appears to be strikingly similar to certain phases of Balambat and Ghaligai rock-shelter (layers 17, 16 and 15[1]). Representative Series are given below:

Fig. 23 St. (12)

89. Basin: with coarse fabric and featureless tapering side; roughened surface and unburnished. It is a very common type.

90. Pitcher: with out-turned rim and thin profile; burnished on the inside.

91. Pitcher: with slightly everted rim and straight neck. Unburnished.

92. Pitcher: with slightly flaring rim and coarse fabric; roughened on the outside.

93. Bowl: open-mouthed; with tapering sides; coated with a light grey slip and finely burnished.

94. Base of a bowl showing dark grey slip and fine burnishing on the outside.

95. Bowl: thin fabric; with mottled surface due to ill-firing; unburnished.

96. Top of a vase with sharp rim and a raised band above the shoulder. Coated with light grey slip. It is finely burnished.

97. Fragment of a vase coated with black slip; finely burnished.

98. Vase or bottle with coarse fabric and burnished on the rim area.

1. For details see 'Comparison and Chronology'.

99. Storage vessel: with slightly curved rim;coated with brownish slip; finely burnished. Very few examples.

100. Vase with light grey slip and burnished on the outside.

101. Hollow-pedestal-base of a small base having grey slip; unburnished.

102. Hollow-pedestal-base of vase having light grey slip; unburnished.

103. Fragment of a bowl having mat-impression on the bottom of the base; made on slow wheel; dark grey slip and unburnished.

104. Disc-base of a storage vessel having coarse fabric. Coated with a thick layer of light grey slip; unburnished.

105. Flat-base of a bowl coated with grey slip and burnished.

106. Rim-fragment of a bowl-on-stand; dark grey slip on both faces and finely burnished.

107. Bowl-on-stand with solid stem; coated with black slip and finely burnished.

108. Hollow-base of a bowl-on-stand; scraped on the stem; light grey slip. Unburnished.

109. Dish: with incurved sides and flat bottom; grey slip. Unburnished.

110. Carinated bowl with grooves on the shoulder; grey slip. It is burnished on the inside of the rim.

111. Disc-base of storage vessel with mat-impression in the form of a spiral. Coarse fabric.

Fig. 24 Grey Ware (continues) St. (11)

112. Storage vessel: with out-turned under-cut rim and grooved shoulder; thick profile. Unburnished. It is a rare type in grey ware.

113. Storage vessel: with slightly flaring featureless rim; coated with grey slip and burnished on both sides of the rim. It is a common variety.

114. Disc-base of storage vessel with mat-impression in the form of a spiral; coarse fabric.

115. Pitcher: with flaring rim and roughened outer surface; unburnished. It is a common variety.

116. Pitcher: with vertical rim and mottled surface. Coated with light grey slip and finely burnished. Rare variety.

117. Pitcher: with splayed rim and thick profile at the shoulder. Coated with grey slip; burnished. Common variety.

118. Almost similar to No. 117, above, but having thick body and finely burnished brownish slip. Brownish slip is very rare.

119. Pitcher: with a vertical featureless rim slightly thickened at the top; burnished grey slip.

120. Pitcher: with out-turned rim and mottled surface; burnished, grey slip on the outside.

121. Similar to No. 120, above, but having black burnished slip on both sides.

122. Pitcher: with slightly flaring rim 'rippled' on the top and roughened outer surface. No burnishing, no slip.

123. Vase: with disc-base having mat-impression in the form of a spiral. It is probably made on slow wheel. No burnishing.

124. Bowl: open mouthed, with tapering sides and blunt carination, burnished grey slip on both sides.

125. Base of a small bowl with internal grooves; burnished grey slip on the outside.

126. Hollow-pedestal-base of grey ware; vertically scraped and burnished.

127. Similar, but without scraping.

128. Fragment of a bowl (probably bowl-on-stand) showing burnished light grey slip on both sides.

POTTERY OF PERIOD II

The entire pottery of this period fall in Group -A of our classification. the two sherds of grey ware found in the excavation might be from earlier strata. The most usual forms include storage vessel, water pitcher, langri,

kneading trough, cooking tray, bowl (coarse fabric), delicate pedestalled (both painted and plain), dish and perforated vessels (probably used as strainer). In general the clay is well-levigated and firing excellent. Some of the pitchers have black painted bands upon the shoulders, otherwise the larger number of sherds is plain. Applique bands of clay appear in various forms as decoration.

The hall-mark of this period is however the delicate pedestalled bowl (Pl. 98 a. No. 192) here named as 'Fashion' Ware—having extremely thin profile of the sides, almost fringing upon 'egg shell' thickness. It was most probably not used as crockery and as such calls for further discussion. The 'Fashion Ware' appears immediately after the 'break' (layer 10) and continues to flourish till the earliest Kushana occupation (layer (6)) at this site, with focus upon layer. (8). The ware is made on fast wheel. The excellence and homogeniety of the paste selected for these specimens is abundantly demonstrated by the extremely thin walls adroitly obtained. Visibly the clay is of very small particle size with very little mica contents. Only a few sherds exhibit mottled surface resulting from ill-firing. Generally the oxidation is complete. There is no trace of burnishing and the surface treatment consists of a thin coating of slip of which the colour ranges from deep red to pinkish red and chacolate. Majority of the sherds is painted in black. By the way it should be remarked that surface treatment along with painted motifs were done before firing.

The motifs include peacock in a variety of forms, horizontal bands, sun-flower, concentric circles, dots, oblique strokes alternating with dots, stylised floral designs, sigma and a curious stepped motif. The sherds showing peacock are larger in number. The painted patterns appear to be formal rather than natural. The most usual form is that of a small bowl with convex and slightly out-turned rim. It is invariably provided with a hollow-pedestal-base. On the basis of surface treatment two varieties can be pointed out — (i) painted and (ii) plain (one complete example of variety (ii) was found in the excavation). Variety (i) may be sub-divided into those (a) painted on the upper half of the bowl and (b) painted on the entire body of the bowl. The pedestal itself is always plain.

A large number of fragments representing ordinary drinking bowls were also found. They exhibit rather coarse fabric and poor surface treatment consisting of red or reddish brown slip, and grooved sides. They have either flat, or ring base very occasionally hollow-pedestal-base as well. The mass production of these bowls suggest an ordinary purpose. Their quantity increases in the upper strata. None of them is painted.

On our estimate the 'Fashion Ware' can be dated to the Ist century B.C. or A.D. The association of a Scytho-Parthian (?) coin lends further support. (For details see 'Comparison and Chronology').

(The representative series are given below. All the specimens have red slip unless otherwise stated).

Fig. 25
Period II (Scytho-Parthian)
St. (9)

129. Pitcher: with externally collared and bevelled rim; oxidation not complete.

130. Pitcher: with externally thickened simple rim.

131. Pitcher: similar, but with a coarse variety.

132. Pitcher: with externally thickened and under-cut rim.

133. Pitcher: with straight neck and slightly projected rim having groove on the top and a cordon below.

134. Pitcher: with flaring neck and beaked rim; thin fabric. It is covered by soot.

135. Vase: with flaring rim having groove on the top. It shows extremely fine surface finish; reddish buff slip; well-fired. It was probably rubbed on the surface with a piece of cloth to create a uniform and smooth surface.

136. Large bowl (langri); with slightly incurved and externally collared rim having double groove below. Different slip on both sides — reddish buff on the inner face and pinkish red on the outer face.

137. Similar, a coarse variety.

138. 'Fashion Ware' bowl with slightly out-curved rim and fine surface treatment. It has reddish buff slip on both sides and a black painted flower and stylised leaf pattern. Double horizontal bands mark the upper half of the bowl reserved for painting. It is smoky in section.

139. Similar, it has deep red slip and black painted peacock with hatched body.

140. Similar, but plain.

141. Bowl: with slightly everted rim. It is coarse variety and has greater numerical frequency. Plain.

142. Bowl: with nail-headed rim and groove below. It is a shallow variety. Plain.

143. Bowl: with internally grooved vertical sides. The slip approaches chacolate red colour. Plain.

144. Bowl: with slightly everted rim and grooves above the shoulder. It has a thin coating of light brown slip. Plain.

145. Bowl: with vertical rim and a raised band below. Plain. This variety is quite abundant.

146. Bowl: with everted rim and hollow-pedestal-base; light red slip. Plain.

147. Bowl: with vertical featureless rim. Plain.

148. Bowl: with convex sides and fine surface treatment. Plain.

149. Ordinary drinking bowl with rim thickened on the top, no slip. It is very common throughout.

150. Hollow-pedestal-base of a bowl; coarse fabric, smoky section and poor slip.

151. Dish: with incurved sides and flat bottom; light red slip. Plain.

Fig. 26

Sl. (8) (Red Ware continues)

152. Storage vessel: large size: with short neck and flat-topped under-cut rim.

153. Storage vessel: medium size; with internally notched flat-topped rim and slashed neck; fugitive reddish slip.

154. Storage vessel: small size; with externally collared rim and light red slip showing greater mica contents. It is a common type.

155. Pitcher: with obliquely cut and slightly flaring rim.

156. Pitcher: with flat-topped out-turned rim. Oxidation is not complete.

157. Pitcher: with short squarish rim and globular body. It has reddish buff slip and 'black core'.

158. Pitcher: with externally grooved and flaring rim. Ill-fired.

159. Pitcher: with straight neck and externally flanged rim. Same as No. 51, above.

160. Pitcher: with short neck and externally thickened rim. Ill-fired.

161. Pitcher: with externally collared and bevelled rim.

162. Pitcher: small size; with almost squarish rim having a groove on the top. It is covered with soot.

163. Pitcher: small size; with flaring rim and grooved top.

164. Vase: with externally thickened and grooved rim. It has narrow mouth.

164. Vase: with out-curved rim and fine fabric.

167. Vase: similar to No. 135, above.

168. Large bowl (langri): with externally thicked rim and slightly incurved sides.

169. Large bowl (langri): with collared rim.

170. Large bowl (langri): sharp rim thickened and notched at the base.

171. Large bowl (langri): with flat-topped clubbed rim.

172. Flat-base of a large bowl; coarse fabric.

173. Bowl: with nail-head rim and corrugated sides; red slip is treated on both sides.

174. 'Fashion Ware' bowl with out-curved rim and convex sides. It has black painted peacock.

175. Bowl: with bevelled rim and semi-circular body.

176. Bowl: with slightly out-curved rim, and corrugated straight neck.

177. Bowl: with out-curved rim. It is a common and coarse variety.

178. Same as No. 174 above, but without painted motif. It shows blocked inner surface due to ill-firing. The clay has greater proportion of sand ('fashion ware').

179. Bowl: with straight and somewhat corrugated rim, fine surface treatment.

180. Bowl: with almost straight sides.

181. Bowl: with incurved sides.

182. Shallow bowl with out-curved rim; a coarse variety.

183. Bowl: with internally bevelled straight rim having corrugation on the outside.

184. Rim of a pedestalled bowl. Ill-fired ('fashion ware').

185. Similar to No. 184 above; with corrugated rim. It is a complete specimen. Plain ('fashion ware').

Fig. 27

186. Similar, with out-curved rim and black painted design showing sunflower and vertical strokes. ('fashion ware').

187. Similar, with peacock ('fashion ware').

188. Similar, akin to No. 187, above ('fashion ware').

189. Similar, with cross hatched band ('fashion ware').

190. Similar, with peacock and a curious floral design. ('fashion ware').

191. Similar, akin to No. 190, above. ('fashion ware').

192. Similar, with elongated peacock ('fashion ware').

193. Similar, with a stylised pipal leaf motif. ('fashion ware').

194. Similar,with a peacock motif. ('fashion ware').

195. Painted fragment of a bowl showing oblique strokes and double lines.

196. Painted rim of a bowl showing horizontal strokes in light red colour over chacolate slip. Vary rare variety.

197. Painted fragment of red ware showing concentric circles.

198. Painted fragment of a bowl showing vertical and oblique strokes. The slip is brownish.

199. Similar, showing dots.

200. Hollow-pedestal-base of 'fashion ware'.

201. Disc-base of an ordinary drinking bowl; ill-fired.

202. Disc-base of grey ware. It is the solitary example in this layer and may be out of context.

203. Perforated lug of red-ware.

204. Narrow necked Surahi of red-ware. It shows mottled surface and light red slip; oxidation is not complete.

205. Fragment of red-ware showing close perforations. Probably part of a strainer.

206. Fragment of red-ware showing slashed cordon.

207. Similar to No. 79, above.

Fig. 28
St. (7) (Red Ware continues)

208. Storage vessel: with out-turned under-cut rim; coated with deep red slip.

209. Storage vessel: with flat topped and internally beaked rim and thin profile at the shoulders.

210. Basin: with externally thickened flat-topped rim and double groove on the neck.

211. Pitcher: with externally rolled rim and thin profile at the shoulders; reddish buff slip.

212. Pitcher: with externally collared and under-cut rim; light red slip.

213. Pitcher: with externally projected rim grooved on the top.

214. Pitcher: with vertical neck and externally thickened out-curved rim. It is covered with soot.

215: Pitcher: with out-curved and externally grooved rim and expanded shoulders.

216. Pitcher: with simple flaring rim.

217. Pitcher: with externally thickened rim and expanded shoulders. It is covered by soot.

218. Pitcher: with slightly out-curved and externally grooved rim. It has expanded shoulder. This variety of water pitcher first appears at this level and continues upward with greater stress in the Kushana levels.

219. Pitcher: with externally flanged and obliquely cut rim. It is very common variant of the water pitcher.

220. Large bowl (langri): with collared rim and grooved neck. It has black groove.

221. Large bowl (langri): with externally thickened rounded rim.

222. Large bowl (langri): with nail-head rim and convex sides.

223. Bowl: with lightly bevelled vertical rim and double grooves on the side. It is a common variety.

224. Bowl: with out-curved rim, black painted peacock and leaf pattern; ('Fashion Ware').

225. Bowl: with slightly everted rim and thin section. Variant of 'Fashion Ware'. Plain.

226. Bowl: with vertical rim and thin section; another variant of 'Fashion Ware'. Plain.

227. Bowl: variant of 'Fashion Ware' with light grey slip.

228. Similar, with reddish buff slip.

229 Similar, with deep red slip.

230. Similar, with pinkish red slip.

Fig. 29

231. 'Fashion Ware': bowl with black painted sigma signs.

232. Similar, with floral design. ('Fashion Ware').

233. Similar, with peacock ('Fashion Ware').

234. 'Fashion Ware': the plain variety.

235. Hollow-pedestal-base of 'Fashion Ware' bowl; reddish buff colour.

236. Variant of 'Fashion Ware' bowl with slightly flaring rim and black painted lines.

237. Variant of 'Fashion Ware' showing black painted lines on the lower half. This is the only example.

238. Ordinary drinking bowl with bevelled rim and corrugated neck. Reddish slip.

239. Similar, but without corrugations.

240. Similar, with pedestal-base.

241. Similar, having coarse fabric and flat-base.

242. Similar, with flat-base and internally grooved sides.

243. Similar, with ring-base and reddish buff slip.

244. Similar, with hollow-pedestal-base and thick section; bright red slip.

245. Ring-base of a jar coated with reddish buff slip showing greater mica contents. This is a new variety; upwards it becomes more abundant.

246. Hollow-pedestal-base of internal in-turned at the bottom. This is a very rare variety.

247. Handle of red-ware; plain.

248. Lug of red work; plain.

249. Fragment of cooking tray (or hearth) having flat base. It is ill-fired and shows gritty clay mixed with straw. Four superimposed thin coatings of fine paste (clay) can be seen on the inside.

250. Fragment of red ware showing black painted floral design.

POTTERY OF PERIOD III (Kushana Period)

Almost all the principal pottery types of the preceding period continue uninterruptedly except the 'Fashion Ware' bowls of which only few sherds of plain variety were found. Now the stress is shifted to water pitchers with various rim formations and particularly to the types which only just appeared in the preceding period. The variety of water pitcher with grooved rim (grooves may be on the top or on the outer face), for example, enjoy greater numerical frequency. It is worth remembering here that this variety appears first in Period II and from Period III onward it continued to flourish with slight alteration in the rim formation. These pitchers are often painted black on red or reddish slip on the shoulders or below the neck. Surface treatment is often good. The most usual motifs include loops, wavy line (horizontal as well as vertical), parallel bands, suspended leaves and some curious floral designs. Quite a few examples show a triangular impressed design.

Decoration of the storage vessels in the form of applied cordons undergoes a variety of shapes — it may be (i) simple cordon grooved in the middle (ii) twisted and cut in the cable pattern (iii) cross hatched, (iv) or simply slashed.

On the basis of coins this pottery is ascribed to the Kushana Period.

(The representative series are given below. All specimens are slipped red unless otherwise stated).

Fig. 30
(Period III)

251. Storage vessel: large size; with internally beaked and obliquely cut rim. Smoky section.

252. Storage vessel: medium size; externally thickened and tapering rim. Oxidation is not complete.

253. Storage vessel: large size; with obliquely cut and out-turned rim.

254. Storage vessel: with externally thickened incurved rim. Oxidation is not complete.

255. Storage vessel: externally thickened tapering rim. It has reddish buff slip and grooves on the shoulder.

256. Similar, with vertical neck.

257. Pitcher: with out-curved rim having an external groove and black painted bands on the shoulder.

258. Similar.

259. Pitcher: with vertical rim having a groove at the base.

260. Pitcher: with externally thickened and grooved rim.

261. Similar, with black painted bands and expanded shoulders.

262. Pitcher: with externally thickened vertical rim having grooves on the outside.

263. Similar, with grooves on the top.

264. Pitcher: with externally notched rim having deep internal grooves and corrugations on the neck.

265. Pitcher: with a flat-topped and obliquely cut rim. It has a black painted band below the neck.

266. Pitcher: with vertical rim notched at the base. It has reddish buff slip.

267. Pitcher: with simple out-curved rim.

268. Pitcher: with flat topped rim and perforation at the shoulder.

269. Pitcher: with beaded rim and greyish slip (that is solitary example having greyish slip in this level.

270. Pitcher: with high neck and sharply out-turned rim and smoky section (this is a new type).

271. Pitcher: with thickened rim rounded on the top. Ill-fired.

272. Pitcher: with slightly out-curved and nail headed rim.

273. Pitcher: with externally flanged rim.

274. Pitcher: with small neck and externally thickened rim. It has double grooves on the shoulder.

275. Jar. with externally thickened triangular rim.

276. Similar, with slightly flaring rim.

277. Similar, with out-turned rim.

278. Jar: with externally projected rim having deep groove on the top.

279. Ring base of a similar jar.

Fig. 31
(Period III continues)

280. Large bowl *(langri):* with flat topped out-curved rim having external carination. It has double grooves on the shoulder.

281. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally thickened rim having a deep groove at the base.

282. Large bowl *(langri):* with out-curved rim and reddish buff slip. It has poor surface finish.

283. Large bowl *(langri):* with flat topped rim and a notched applique band on the shoulder resembling cable pattern.

284. Large bowl *(langri):* with incurved rim having a projection at the base. It has smoky section.

285. Large bowl *(langri):* with slightly incurved thick rim and double groove on the neck.

286. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally collared rim and double groove on the neck.

287. Large bowl *(langri):* with slightly incurved and collared rim.

288. Similar to No. 280, above, having external grooves.

Fig. 32
(Period III continues)

289. Shallow dish: with externally thickened rim and roughened base.

290. Dish: with incurved sides and an external wavy line.

291. Dish: with incurved sides; plain.

292. Rim fragment of a large pedestalled bowl in red ware showing black painted horizontal bands on both sides. It has fine surface treatment and reddish buff slip over which the painted patterns are executed. Suspended towards the

inside there are groups of double black painted strokes. Here, this is a new variety and continues upward. We have a complete example in the top startum.

293. Similar, with red colour.

294. Similar, with leaf pattern; it has thin fabric.

295. Similar, but painted on the inside only.

296. Bowl: with internal grooves and ring base. Fine surface treatment.

297. Hollow-pedestal-base of a bowl of reddish buff colour.

298. Similar to No. 296, above.

299. Bowl with externally grooved sharp rim.

300. Similar, with incurved rim.

301. Bowl: with sharp and externally grooved rim.

302. Bowl of the ordinary drinking variety with flat base and internally grooved sides. Coarse surface; quite abundant.

303. Similar, with reddish slip.

304. Similar, with internally rolled rim.

305. Small straight sided cup with flat base.

306. Top of an inkpot with two opposite holes in the rim for string.

FIG: 33.

307. Fragment of a perforated redware.

308. Handle of a large cooking pan.

309. Spout of painted red-ware (curved in the middle).

310. Similar, but straight.

311. Fragment of redware showing triangular notches.

312. Fragment of red-ware showing slashed oblique lines.

313. Similar; with slashed cordon in the manner of rope.

314. Similar; with black painted bands and slashed cordon.

315. Similar: with black painted bands.

316. Similar: with black painted criss-cross pattern.

317. Similar: with black painted horizontal bands, vertical strokes and wavy line.

318. Similar: with black painted double loops and horizontal bands on whitish back-ground.

POTTERY OF PERIOD IV.

In general the principal pottery types of the preceding period continue without interruption. However, the emphasis is shifted towards certain other types which either just appeared in the preceeding phase and become numerous or appear for the first time at this level. The water pitcher with grooved rim become more abundant and that with externally thickened triangular rim, very often with black painted pattern, become all the more predominant. A new type here named as 'goblet-on-stand' makes its first appearance and becomes the hall-mark of this period. It is made of well-levigated clay visibly free from any other organic substance. On the average the firing is excellent resulting in complete oxidation. Surface treatment consists of a thick coating of red or reddish buff slip (very often plain) though in a few specimens it is painted black on red.

An appreciable number of specimens is broken at the joint demonstrating amply that the goblet and the stand were made separately on fast wheel and then luted together when the body clay was leather hard. This joint is very carefully hidden off under a thick layer of slip. On the basis of shape the following varieties can be pointed out. Those having: (i) projected and externally notched rim (Fig. 36/353, 354), (ii) simple out-turned rim (Fig. 36/351), (iii) Vertically perforated through the stem (Fig. 36/355, 356), (iv) Slightly flaring rim and expanded shoulders (Fig. 36/349, 350), (v) resembling dish-on-stand (Fig. 36/349). The first three varieties are often externally painted.

Another significant feature is the bichrome decoration restricted, though, to certain types including spouted vessels, dishes, lids and pitchers. In these examples the original brick-red colour of the vessel is first coated with a lustrous slip resembling goldwater which serves as a back-

ground to the painted designs the range of which is, in fact, very limited. Alternating bands of bright red and greyish colour or very scantily, groups of vertical strokes form the usual motifs.

Less frequently occurs a shallow pan with claw-shaped side-handle (Fig: 35/345, 346). In one example (covered by black soot on both sides) the handle is girdled by double clay fillets separated by clay pellets or roundels applied on the inner face of the side. This is a unique type and restricted only to stratum (3). Along with it appears a narrow necked vase with S-Shaped profile (again, a solitary example). Most of the pottery illustrated below was found in the 'water reservior' in association with a large number of terracotta lamps, some Buddhist sculptures and many glass bangles as described above. No coin was found there, though cumulative trend of the evidence would suggest a fifth century date for this material.

(The representative series are given below. All the examples are slipped red unless otherwise stated).

FIG: 34

319. Storage vessel: with grooved top having groups of tripple black painted transverse slashes on top of the rim and similar bands on the shoulder.

320. Storage vessel: with externally thickened and obliquely cut rim.

321. Storage vessel: with out-turned rim and grooved shoulder.

322. Pitcher: with externally flanged high rim and black painted horizontal bands on the shoulder (this is a new variety and continues upwards).

323. Pitcher or small jar: with externally grooved rim (there are five horizontal grooves) and black painted bands on the neck and shoulder.

324. Pitcher: with externally grooved out-turned rim and black painted, bands over lustrous slip.

325. Pitcher: with flat topped rim having an internal deep grooved and expanded shoulders.

326. Pitcher: with out-turned rim having grooves on the top. It shows a black painted criss-cross pattern over the shoulders.

327. Pitcher: with tapering rim and expanded shoulders marked with painted bands.

328. Pitcher: with high neck and out-turned rim. Similar to No. 270, above. Here it occurs more often than before.

329. Bottle-necked jar of redware having black painted bands over brownish slip.

330. Large bowl *(langri):* with flat topped and externally grooved rim.

331. Large bowl *(langri):* With out-turned rim and internal grooves; coarse fabric.

332. Ordinary drinking bowl; coarse fabric.

333. Similar, but smaller size

334. Flat base of a similar bowl; coarse fabric.

335. Ring base of a similar bowl.

336. Lid of redware with central knob, coarse fabric.

337. Similar: with conical knob.

338. Lid of bichrome ware: with conical central knob and painted bands in red and black over lustrous slip on the inside.

FIG: 35
(PERIOD IV CONTINUES)

339. Ring-base of redware having lustrous slip on the outside and red slip on the inside.

340. Small vase with disc base and lustrous slip (to become more abundant in the succeeding period V, but the later examples are coarse and with lustrous slip).

341. Fragment of a deep trough; coarse fabric.

342. Similar, with grey inner surface.

343. Shallow dish having grooved top and roughened base.

344. Bottom of a coarse bowl.

345. Flaring rim of a bowl having claw shaped handle; lustrous slip. Compare with No. 346, below.

346. Shallow dish or pan with claw-shaped handle luted on the edge of the rim. The handle is girdled by double clay fillets having clay pellets in between them. It is covered by black soot and shows coarse fabric on both sides. No slip.

347. Rim fragment of a bowl-on-stand of bichrome ware having red and black painted alternating bands on both sides and groups of transverse painted slashes on the rim. It is represented by a few fragments all having lustrous slip on both surfaces.

FIG. 36
(PERIOD IV CONTINUES)

348. Bowl-on-pedestal: with open-mouthed cup and internally corrugated sides. It has hollow-pedestal-base. (Variety V).

349. Goblet-on-stand: with slightly flaring rim and corrugated neck and shoulder. It has hollow pedestal. (Variety IV).

350. Akin to No. 349, above, with grooved double lines below the neck.

351. Bowl-on-stand: with externally projected rim and hollow-pedestal-base. (Variety ii).

353. Akin to No. 351, with externally notched rim. (Variety ii).

354. Goblet-on-stand: with out-turned rim notched at the top. It has corrugations above the shoulder and black painted bands all over the body. The solid stem is collared in the middle marked with applied circular clay pellets. (Variety i).

355. Bowl-on-stand: with vertically perforated stem and black painted bands on the exterior. (Variety iii)

356. Small bowl with internal grooves and small hollow pedestal. (Variety iii).

POTTERY OF PERIOD V.

Red Ware — both painted and plain — is the chief ceramic ware of

period V. Most of the potsherds exhibit excellent firing and well-levigated clay. The surface treatment, in most cases, consists of red or reddish brown slip which also serves as a background for painted patterns. In case of drinking bowls produced in large numbers, however, the surface treatment is no more than a thin wash which cannot even hide away the wheel marks. No sign of burnishing is noticed. The fabric varies from thin to thick, with greater stress upon the latter. The use of lustrous slip continues in diminshing number.

The recurrent shapes are those of storage vessel (Fig. 37/357-365) water pitcher (Fig. 37/366-372 and Fig. 38/373-384), large bowl *(langri)* (Fig. 38/395, 396 and Fig. 39/392-405), dish (Fig. 40/415-417); kneading trough (Fig. 41/426, 427); drinking bowl (Fig. 40/407-411); cooking tray (Fig. 41/431); pedestalled bowls (Fig. 40/418) and small jar (Fig. 38/391-393). The storage vessels and large bowls *(langri)* are very often externally cordoned or decorated with an applied band which is cut in a variety of forms. The pitchers, on the whole, undergo a further change in the rim formation which amounts to greater stress upon external corrugations which become, in fact, one of the prominent feature of the ceramics of this period. There is no significant change in the fabric and shape of kneading trough and drinking bowl except their mass production suggesting a utilitarian use of them.

The decorative motifs including horizontal bands (Fig. 41/438), loops (Fig. 396/389), hatched or solid triangles (Fig. 38/384 and Fig. 42/445), vertical strokes and other floral patterns (Fig. 42/447-448 and Fig. 40/418) are usually executed in black, though, less frequently simple decoration in white (No. 41/438) is also found. It is worth pointing out that the use of white colour appears at this level without parallel in the earliar strata. Except in a few cases the painting is restricted to the outer surface of the pots. The most distinctive motif being the group of triple leaves suspended from a stem.

The hall-mark of period V ceramic industry is, however, stamped decoration consisting of rosettes, concentric circles and impressed parallel bars and dots (Fig. 38/385, 386, 391). So also is the large pedestalled bowl showing excellent surface treatment and painted designs on the inside (Fig. 40/418). The handled pots, in which the handles are very often roughly striated, tend to increase in number (Fig. 42/450) Similarly the spouted vessels, with plain or decorated spouts (Fig. 41/434-437) also enjoy greater numerical frequency.

For comparison Charsada–1, as represented in its layers 6–4, offers

exact parallels. For details see 'Comparison and chronology'. Even in the absence of coinage, Sir Mortimer observed with brilliant intuition that pottery from layers 6-4 (of (Ch. 1) "may be as early as the eighth century A.D." (Wheeler, P. 80). Here we have a confirmatory evidence of the coinage of the Hindu Shahi Kings datable from 8th to 10th century A.D. Stacul has reported similar pottery from Ghaligai rock-shelter (Comp. stacul, P. 219).

(Selected specimens are given below. All the examples are slipped red unless otherwise stated).

FIG. 37
(PERIOD V).

357. Storage vessel: with thick-set obliquely cut rim and thin profiles on the neck. It has gritty section.

358. Storage vessel: with internally beaked rim and slashed cordon on the shoulder.

359. Storage vessel: with externally collared rim and poor-surface finish showing black spots and reddish wash.

360. Storage vessel: with externally beaked rim showing reddish slip.

361. Storage vessel: with squarish rim.

362. Storage vessel: with flat topped rim and thin profile at the neck. It has light red slip.

363. Storage vessel: with out-turned rim and expanded shoulders. It shows reddish wash.

364. Storage vessel: with squarish rim having external grooves.

365. Storage vessel: with out-turned rim externally thicked and grooved in the middle. This variety is most prominent here.

366. Pitcher: with externally thickened rim and grooved shoulder. It shows light red wash.

367. Pitcher: with obliquely cut rim and thin profile below the neck. It is covered with soot.

368. Pitcher: with externally thickened out-curved rim. It is covered by lime-wash.

369. Pitcher: with obliquely cut and internally notched rim. It shows traces of soot.

370. Pitcher: with thickened rim and thin profile at the shoulder. It shows red wash.

371. Pitcher: with beaked rim having carination and grooved lines.

372. Pitcher: with externally projected rim and spout on the shoulder. It may also be a large bowl.

FIG. 38 *(Period V continues)*

373. Pitcher: with externally flanged rim and horizontal rows of impressed rectangular patterns. It has lustrous slip. (Lustrous slip is represented by very few sherds at this level).

374. Pitcher: with squarish rim and thin profile at the neck.

375. Pitcher: with flat topped and externally grooved rim (this variety becomes more abundant).

376. Pitcher: with sharp rim having external corrugations and black painted band on the neck. It is similar to No. 323, above. Here it becomes more frequent.

377. Pitcher: with out-turned rim and grooves below neck. It shows reddish wash.

378. Pitcher: with externally beaked rim having grooves on the top. It has fine red slip and black painted bands.

379. Pitcher: akin to No. 376, but without external corrugations. It has black painted bands below the neck and fine red slip.

380. Pitcher: with out-curved and externally notched rim. It has light red wash.

381. Pitcher: akin to 376, above.

382. Pitcher: with externally thickened rim having deep groove on the inside. It has brownish wash on the inside and light red on the outside — a very occasional treatment.

383. Pitcher: with slightly flaring rim having external corrugations.

384. Pitcher: with externally flanged rim and expanded shoulders. It has black painted bands and hatched triangles.

385. Jar: with stamped circles and parallel bars. It shows reddish slip.

386. Fragment of red-ware with stamped notches and concentric circles.

387. Jar: with externally flanged rim. It shows reddish wash.

388. Small jar with out-curved rim and impressed triangular design on the shoulder. It has fine red slip.

389. Akin to No. 384, with black painted loops and hanging leaves. It shows traces of soot. (This motif becomes the characteristic of this period).

390. Akin to No. 376, with external corrugations. It has slightly everted rim.

391. Buff jar with stamped rosettes and triangular notches. It has brownish slip. (Stamped decoration is typical of Period-V pottery).

392. Small jar of reddish ware.

393. Small jar with flat topped rim and grooved shoulder. Ill fired.

394. Strainer of red ware with externally rolled rim and close perforations on the body.

395. Large bowl *(langri):* with nail head rim having external grooves. It has thin profile at the neck.

396. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally collared rim. It has fine red slip on both sides.

FIG: 39. *(Period V continues)*

397. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally flanged rim.

398. Large bowl *(langri):* with out-turned rim and almost vertical sides. It is a very common variety.

399. Large bowl *(langri):* with beaked rim and red wash.

400. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally projected rim and grooved shoulder.

401. Large bowl *(langri):* with out-turned rim having grooves below.

402. Large bowl *(langri):* with externally rounded rim and obliquely striated applied band,

403. Similar to No. 395, above.

404. Large bowl *(langri):* with flat topped rim and grooved shoulder. This is an ordinary variety.

405. Large bowl *(langri):* with slightly inverted rim and reddish wash.

FIG: 40 *(Period V continues)*

406 Akin to No. 405, above, with fine red slip on both sides.

407. Small bowl: with nail head rim and convex sides. It is very rare variety at this level.

408. Bowl: with thickened rim and convex sides. It shows light red slip.

409. Bowl: with slightly inverted rim and rough surface finish. It shows reddish wash. This is an ordinary bowl found in large number.

410. Similar, but large size.

411. Bowl: with slightly everted rim and blunt carination almost half way down the side. This is a very rare variety.

412. Lid of red-ware having central knob and featureless rim.

413. Similar; having flattened rim.

414. Lugged pot of red ware showing reddish wash.

415. Dish: with incurved sides and sagger base. It has fine red slip on both faces.

416. Dish: with incurved sides and flat bottom. It has mottled outer surface.

417. Dish: with clubbed rim having grooves on the top and roughened flat bottom. It has reddish brown slip.

418. Bowl: consisting of hollow-pedestal-base and large upper bowl showing rich red slip on the inner surface upon which patterns are executed in black. On the bottom is a full blown flower with twelve petals alternately hatched. In the field above runs a floral design like a creeper. This is distinctive of Period V.

419. Hollow stem of a bowl-on-stand showing rich red slip and black painted bands.

420. Almost similar, showing brownish wash and poor surface finish.

421. Upper part of a bowl-on-stand showing red slip and black painted bands on the exterior.

422. Hollow-pedestal-base of a bowl showing red slip.

423. Rim fragment of a bowl-on-stannd showing rich red slip and black painted bands on both faces. It has fine surface finish.

FIG: 41 *(Period V continues)*

424. Small vase with everted rim and flat base. It has thin red wash and poor surface finish.

425. Small vase with disc base; poor surface finish. It shows reddish wash.

426. Kneading trough; with clubbed rim and roughened flat bottom; no slip.

427. Kneading trough: with tapering sides and roughened bottom.

428. Small trough with clubbed rim having grooves on the top and roughened bottom.

429. Shallow trough: with out-curved beaked rim and externally projected roughened bottom. It is covered by soot.

430. Trough with almost vertical sides and flat bottom. It has deep striated lines on both sides, no slip.

431. Cooking-tray of coarse red-ware showing grey section and thin reddish wash.

432. Shallow trough of fine red fabric with attached handle on top of the rim. It shows roughened bottom.

433. Similar, but handle roughly striated at the ends.

434. Spout of plain red-ware with circular outlet. It has thin red wash.

435. Spout of red ware having dimple in the middle and elliptical out-let (This variety becomes more common). It has black painted strokes.

436. Spout of plain red ware having conical projection at the base and circular out-let.

436-a. Spout of plain red ware with applied decoration imitating animal face.

437. Rim fragment of a jar of redware with roughly striated handle.

438. Fragment of red-ware showing black and white painted alternating bands. (Simple decoration in white appears for the first time).

439. Ring base of a jar of redware (Ring base becomes more frequent at this level).

440. Fragment of redware showing applied cordon cut in a cable pattern.

441. Similar, showing applied band cut in groups of oblique lines.

442. Similar, the band is cut in criss-cross pattern.

443. Similar, the band is cut by oblique slashes.

444. Similar, showing herring bone design.

FIG. 42 *(Period V continues)*

445. Fragment of redware showing black painted solid triangles.

446. Similar, showing black painted group of triple leaves suspending from a stem.

447. Similar.

448. Similar, showing a curious painted floral design.

449. Similar, showing black painted criss-cross pattern.

450. Handled pot with striated lugs.