

# Rescuing from Oblivion: Ahmad Hasan Dani and Study of the Indus Civilization

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**Abstract:** This article focusses on Ahmad Hasan Dani's association with his studies on the Indus Valley Civilization. Two significant events have been explored and investigated with the help of primary documents available at the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. The first event relates to organizing a symposium on the Indus Civilization in 1979 within the framework of UNESCO's study programme for the civilizations of Central Asia. The second point of examination is the now popular book, titled *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*, edited by Dani in 1981. Both academic and professional as well as political considerations involved therein with a special concentration of Dani's role have been explored.

**Keywords:** Dani, UNESCO, Indus civilization, Symposium, Islamabad

The prolific intellect of Ahmad Hasan Dani destined him to stand conspicuous among Pakistani archaeologists and historians. His presence in pre- and protohistoric archaeology, Buddhist and Muslim archaeology, and Muslim historiography in South and Central Asian context has long been an established fact. These activities have been catalogued and described by scholars in his obituaries (Khan 2009; Olivieri 2009; Skyhawk 2008). Though such studies provide a general outline, they, except for Dani's efforts towards popularization of history/ archaeology (Khan and Shaheen 2015), do not specifically address various aspects of his scholarship. This is the situation despite the fact that there can be no different opinion as regard to great potentials and scope of historiographical investigations vis-à-vis Ahmad Hasan Dani's scholastic pursuits and socio-cultural ideals.

One of the areas in which Dani made his presence felt is the Indus Valley Civilization. A series of activities in this respect happened. For the first time, he joined Sir Mortimer Wheeler's excavation at Moenjodaro in March-April 1950 (Ray 2008: 51). It was followed by a very crucial development in South Asian archaeology with Dani's and Italian archaeologists' excavations of protohistoric graves in Dir and Swat respectively. Another significant work by Dani towards the study of Indus Civilization is his popular article titled as 'Origins of Bronze Age Cultures in the Indus Basin: A Geographic Perspective' (Dani 1975). Moreover, two most important events did happen in 1978-79 and 1981: (1) Symposium on the Indus Civilization and (2) publication of *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives* (Dani, ed. 1981a).

Furthermore, Dani also published articles on themes related to the Indus Civilization. Finally, his last work also assigns considerable space to synthesizing data about the same field (Dani 2008: 24-78).

The present study is an attempt to make an historical and contextual analysis of the Symposium, organized by the Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia (CSCCA)<sup>1</sup> of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, and *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*. It first gives the context and objectives of the event followed by an account of the Symposium on the Indus Civilization. Furthermore, some light has been shed on the publication of the *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*. Finally, some contextual observations have also been presented. Almost all the work stems from primary record available at Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations.

## Academic Background and Objectives

The idea of the study on the Indus Civilization did originate in the context of UNESCO's wider programme for the study of Central Asian civilizations. Its objectives were viewed as twofold: the academic session and deliberations on preparing a comprehensive book on the Indus Valley Civilization.

This study was conceived as a comprehensive one, especially in the field of epigraphy and in light of recent archaeological discoveries. It was planned in connection with the project on Central Asian cultures so that its results can be incorporated into the History of Civilizations of Central Asia. The council of IASCCA, at its session held in Mexico City in August 1976, felt

it desirable that specialists from the countries of the region should prepare a document to serve as a specific programme of study on this civilization and that archaeological and epigraphic materials should be main subject of study.<sup>2</sup>

The Mexico meeting was attended by Dani as representative of Pakistan. On his return, he reported proceedings of the meeting to the Ministry of Education. About the Indus Civilization study it was stated:

The Indus Valley Project came also for discussion although no details were spelled out. It was finally agreed that this proposal should go to the General Executive Body of UNESCO for final approval. It is now for us to define the exact form in which this proposal should be executed.<sup>3</sup>

In another letter Dani writes that 'it was agreed that this rich heritage to the past Civilization should be further studied by a team of International scholars. . . . For this purpose it was thought that an international cooperation of scholars will be of great help and value.'<sup>4</sup>

This idea was further discussed at Nairobi in October-November 1976 at the 19th General Conference of UNESCO. In the UNESCO's Meeting of Experts for the Preparation of a History of Civilizations of Central Asia, in Paris on 9th-11th October 1978, A.H. Dani and N.A. Baloch took up the matter with UNESCO with respect to the Nairobi decision.

Pakistan National Commission for Cooperation with Unesco [PNCCU] had already requested Unesco in this regard. The matter was included in the agenda of the meeting of Experts for the preparation of History of Civilization of Central Asia. The proposal put forward by the two Pakistani scholars that an up-to-date illustrated book on Indus Civilization should be produced and a meeting of Experts should be convened to establish a frame-work for such a book, was accepted. The proposal was further discussed with the concerned officials of Unesco and it was decided that a Symposium on the Indus Civilization be held in Pakistan from 30th December 1978.<sup>5</sup>

Apropos of this decision, a meeting was convened by the Education Secretary on 15th October 1978 in the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan. It was decided that an

international symposium on the Indus Civilization should be held at Karachi for four days starting on 30th December 1978. Three days were specified for papers presentation while the fourth one was assigned to developing a framework for the proposed illustrated book. The delegates' visit to Moenjodaro was also to be arranged; furthermore, that invitations should be sent to 'the experts on the provisional list'; that all formalities about the participants' participation should be completed within the limited time available; that the PNCCU and the University Grants Commission (UGC) should join hand in sponsoring the symposium; that UNESCO would sponsor foreign scholars (contributing 13000 dollars) and the UGC would provide 10 to 15 thousands rupees for local hospitality. Furthermore, a Preparatory Committee for the arrangements was also constituted. It was also decided that the Preparatory Committee would meet on 17th October 1978 'in the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Pakistan National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO to chalk out further details of the proposal.'<sup>6</sup> The meeting was accordingly held. It was attended, with N.A. Baloch in the chair, by Rafiq Ahmad, Executive Secretary, PNCCU, Asghar Butt, Joint Secretary, Cultural Division, Ahmad Hasan Dani, Zafar Ali, A.E.A., Cultural Division and Abdur Rashid Khan, A.E.A., Ministry of Education. In the meeting Dani was appointed as the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. It was decided that the symposium be held at Karachi and letters of invitation to experts be sent in order to confirm their availability and, as such, communicating proposed titles of papers. The papers were to be sent before 20th December 1978 to the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Moreover, the Chairman, in consultation with the Secretary, of the Preparatory Committee would prepare the agenda details and PNCCU would coordinate between the UNESCO and the Preparatory Committee to finalize the agreement.<sup>7</sup>

The agreement was finally prepared and signed by E. Pouchpa Dass, Director of the Division of Cultural Studies, on behalf of the UNESCO and by Rafiq Ahmad, as Contractor, on behalf of PNCCU (on 10th and 15th November respectively). Beside the pecuniary matters and issues of property rights concerning the symposium, the agreement furnished the above-mentioned broader two-point

agenda of the event viz. sharing latest research by experts and publishing an illustrated book.<sup>8</sup> It also elaborately laid down that the Contractor shall

. . . take all necessary measures with the Government of Pakistan with a view to ensuring that all persons invited to the symposium may enjoy the privileges and immunities as provided in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, and Annex IV thereof relating to Unesco, to which Pakistan has been a party since 15 September 1961 and that no restrictions shall be imposed upon the right of entry into, sojourn in and departure from the territory of Pakistan of any persons entitled to participate in this symposium, without distinction of nationality. . . .<sup>9</sup>

### **Proceedings of the Symposium**

In the meanwhile Ahmad Hasan Dani had sent invitations to experts conveying them that they were on the UNESCO's provisional list of experts for the symposium. Their confirmation was sought for. It was further explained, 'In order to make the symposium lively, interesting and purposeful, I have ventured to suggest possible topic (list attached) in which you have made special contribution. Presentation and review of the latest researches are thought to be of permanent importance not only to us who are participating in the symposium but also to others who may have the chance to read them later.' Invitees were also given the freedom if they wished to present papers on topics of their choice. They were also requested that, in case of their availability, the submission of their papers by 20th December 1978 would be of great advantage.<sup>10</sup> Almost letters of similar contents were issued by N.A. Baloch to the UNESCO experts and Dani as such also received invitation.<sup>11</sup> On the desire of the Preparatory Committee local scholars were also added to the list of UNESCO experts. But they were asked to arrange their finances themselves.<sup>12</sup>

List of the UNESCO delegates includes names of Gul Mohammad Khan (Afghanistan), B.K. Thapar (India), B.B. Lal (India), F.R. Allchin (Britain), F.A. Durrani (Pakistan), A.H. Dani (Pakistan), N.A. Baloch (Pakistan), M. R. Mughal (Pakistan), G.F. Dales (USA) and J.F. Jarrige (France).<sup>13</sup> Available documents at TIAC show that B.B. Lal, B.K. Thapar and G.F. Dales confirmed their participation. However, J.F. Jarrige

regretted to attend as he was so busy in Mehrgarh and Pirak excavations with a focus on pre- and post-Harappan periods that he could 'hardly present any paper dealing specifically with the Indus Civilization.'<sup>14</sup> However, Appendix II and Appendix-III (Programme of the Symposium and List of Participants respectively) of the final report of the Symposium include the name of Jarrige.<sup>15</sup> We do not know how he finally managed to participate. Mughal with the permission of his Department also confirmed his participation. He reworded the proposed topic as 'The Indus Civilization: New Evidence from Cholistan, East-Central Punjab'.<sup>16</sup> Durrani also consented to attend and present a paper on the proposed topic.<sup>17</sup>

Participation of the UNESCO scholars was fully sponsored by the UNESCO as is clear from the record.

### **Academic Session**

The Symposium started on 30th December, 1978 with the welcome and inauguration addresses of N.A. Baloch and M. Ali Khan of Hoti, Minister of Education, respectively. Ahmad Hasan Dani read the objectives of the Symposium and thanked the audience. It was followed by presentation of papers from 30th December 1978 to 2nd January 1979. The following papers were read out:<sup>18</sup>

1. G.F. Dales: Balakot and the Evidence from Baluchistan
2. M.R. Mughal: New Evidence from Bahawalpur (Cholistan)
3. G.M. Noorzai: Mundigak and the Evidence from Afghanistan
4. B.K. Thapar: Mosaic of Indus Civilization Beyond the Indus Valley
5. G.M. Khan: Late Harappan Culture at Jhukar
6. F.A. Durrani: Rahman Dheri and the Evidence from Gomal
7. F.R. Allchin: Excavation and Exploration in Tochi Valley
8. B.B. Lal: Some Reflections on the Structural Remains at Kalibangan
9. S.M. Ashfaque: Lunar Mansions on the Indus Valley Seals
10. Parveen Talpur: A Model for the State of Society in the Indus Civilization

11. J.F. Jarrige: The Harappan Problem in the Kacchi Plains
12. M. Tosi: Cultural and Economic Interactions Between Indus Valley and Iran
13. A.M.K. Lundkhwar: Prospects of Further Excavations at Moenjodaro
14. Abdur Rauf Khan: Kot-kori: a Site of Indus Civilization in Sindh
15. A.H. Dani: Indus Civilization in the Perspective of Recent Research

On 1st January 1979 the participants visited Mohenjo-daro and next day they were taken to the Excavation Branch of the Department of Archaeology to show them the newly excavated material.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Deliberations on a Framework for a Comprehensive Book***

The second item of the event was to develop a framework for a comprehensive book on the Indus Civilization. A resolution was adopted in this respect as follows:

The participants wish to record their opinion that a new comprehensive book on Indus Civilization is a great necessity in view of the vast amount of material produced in recent years and that this book be prepared under the sponsorship of UNESCO with the cooperation of international scholars.<sup>20</sup>

The book was perceived to incorporate the recently procured data in the field. UNESCO was urged for materialization of the idea. A preliminary framework was worked out and a Steering Committee for the preparation of the book was also constituted on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1979. The Steering Committee included A.H. Dani, M. Rafique Mughal, B.B. Lal, B.K. Thapar, M. Tosi, F.R. Allchin, G.F. Dales and V. Sarianidi. It was further demanded that the UNESCO should 'call a meeting of the members of the Steering Committee in order to work out the detailed scheme of the proposal.'<sup>21</sup>

The UNESCO accepted the proposal concerning the book. Pouchpa Dass stressed that the meeting of the Steering Committee 'should be held when all or most of the foreign scholars [. . . would] be working in Pakistan, that [. . . was] in December 1979 or January 1980.'<sup>22</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, D.I.B. and Interior Division initially

cleared names of these scholars for the meeting; N.A. Baloch, A.H. Dani, M.R. Mughal, M.I. Khan, F.A. Khan, B.K. Thapar, F.R. Allchin, G.F. Dales, M. Tosi and Head of the French Archaeological Mission in Pakistan. Dani was requested to 'issue the invitation accordingly to all under intimation to this commission [PNCCU].'<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, A.H. Dani sent invitation letters to these scholars so as to confirm their availability to attend the meeting from 25th to 27th January 1980 at Islamabad. He further elaborated, 'The Committee is to propose detailed chapterization, select the names of contributors, proposal for photographs, and work out the detailed instructions to be given to the contributors.'<sup>24</sup> It was also to be decided as to who would be assigned the responsibility of editorship of the book.<sup>25</sup>

The meeting of the Steering Committee was finally held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research at Islamabad.<sup>26</sup> Allchin, Jarrige and Tosi could not participate in the meeting. The last sent his proposals which were incorporated in the programme of the book.<sup>27</sup> The participants were Dupree,<sup>28</sup> Dales, Thapar, Lal, F.A. Khan, Ishtiaq Khan, N.A. Baloch, Mughal, Dani, F.A. Durrani and S.R. Dar were present as coopt members. A six-member board of editors, comprising Dani (coordinator), Lal, Dales, F.A. Khan, Thapar and Tosi, was recommended. It was also decided that the spelling of 'Mohenjodaro' could be rectified as Moenjo-daro or Mohenjo-daro. Both the general reader and the intelligentsia/scholars were viewed as the audience of the proposed book. A total of 19 chapters and 6 appendices of the proposed book, titled *The Indus Civilization*, were individuated and writer/s for each was/were also specified (see the charts below). It was also 'agreed that the book should be in one volume in the international standard size, consisting of 600 pages of the text and 100 pages of bibliography. Contents etc. with 200 illustrations, about 50 pages of line drawings and maps and 150 plates.'<sup>29</sup> It was also recommended that the responsibility for publishing the book be given to the National Commission for UNESCO, Government of Pakistan, in consultation with the Board of Editors. And the Board of Editors was said to be contacting publishing houses of great standard from various countries. Alternatively, UNESCO could itself do both publishing and

distributing the book. Funding for all this, including remunerations for editors and authors, would be provided by UNESCO.<sup>30</sup> PNCCU sent final report of the meeting to UNESCO and added, 'Acceptance to the plan of the book and the resolutions proposed by the meeting may please be communicated to us for further action.'<sup>31</sup>

### 1. Chapters

No.	Chapter	Proposed author/s
1.	Introduction	A.H. Dani
2.	Environmental Setting	B.K. Thapar
3.	The Cultural Background	J.F. Jarrige; M.R. Mughal
4.	Extent and Settlement Pattern	B.B. Lal
5.	Subsistence Pattern: Agriculture, Flora and Fauna	Vishnu-mittre; R. Meadow
6.	Town Planning and Architecture	G.F. Dales; M. Ishtiaq Khan; S.R. Dar; W. Fairservis; B.K. Thapar; S.R. Rao; J.P. Joshi; B.S. Bist; F.A. Khan
7.	Arts, Crafts and Sciences	F.A. Khan; F.R. Allchin; S.M. Ashfaque
8.	Dress, Ornaments, Pastimes	W. Fairservis
9.	Trade and Commerce	D.K. Chakravarti; M. Fentress
10.	Contacts with Contemporary World	During Caspers; M. Tosi; H. Paul; Prof. Mason and Fankfort; V. Sarianidi
11.	Political, Social and Economic Organizations	M. Tosi <sup>32</sup>
12.	Religion and Rituals	A.H. Dani
13.	Burial Practices	S.P. Gupta
14.	Script	B.B. Lal
15.	Chronology	B.K. Thapar
16.	Authors and Populations	K.A.R. Kennedy
17.	Decline of the Cities and Regional Transformation	G.M. Khan; M. Sharif; F.A. Durrani; Y.D. Sharma; K.N. Dikshit; S.R. Rao
18.	Achievements and Legacy	B.B. Lal
19.	The Preservation of Mohenjo-daro	M. Ishtiaq Khan

### 2. Appendices

No.	Title	Author/s
1.	Gazetteer of Sites	M. Ashfaq; J.P. Joshi
2.	Pottery Chart	G.F. Dales
3.	Radio-Carbon Dates	D.P. Agrawal
4.	Metal Analysis	K.M.T. Hegde
5.	Bibliography	K.S. Ramachandran; B.M. Pande
6.	Index	Abdur Rahman

The programme of the book was of much value. It was seen as a new addition to studies of the Indus Civilization not only in terms of new data from different regions but also from methodico-theoretical perspective. The scholars involved took great interest in the proposal as it is obvious from Tosi's letter:

One point I believe [. . . is] worth mentioning immediately. The book should be refreshingly innovative and this means not only new data but also new ways to illustrate them beyond the textual aspect. I mean we should draw new maps and plans according to new criteria. Very important will be the new cartographic material based on satellite pictures. The general map should not be too schematic in terms of geographical data. The editors should stimulate authors to produce new graphic and photographic materials and to make as little use as possible of the old Marshall-Mackay-Wheeler stuff, no matter how splendid it was.<sup>33</sup>

Incomplete record shows that PNCCU called on Dani to hold another meeting of the Steering Committee 'in the Pakistan National Commission for Unesco on April 3, 1981, at 10 a.m. in connection with the academic and practical issues . . .'.<sup>34</sup> However, presently due to lack of evidence, it cannot be said whether the meeting and subsequently continuation with the idea of the proposed book were in place or not. Still it can be deduced from record of various reports on the annual activities of the Centre between late 1970s and early 1980s that neither another meeting was held nor the book could be produced. It is presumed that some of the proposals were included in *History of Civilizations of Central Asia* edited by A.H. Dani and V.M. Masson (Dani and Masson, eds. 1992). However, one can guess that all this did not take place without any personal and institutional ruptures. Dani had clear minded idea about the separate scope of both the projects. When Dales signed a contract with UNESCO for contributing a chapter to the *History of Civilizations of Central Asia*, vol. 1, he asked Dani as to clearing up his confusion if this assignment was different from or tantamount to the Indus book project. The latter replied that the project of *History of Civilizations of Central Asia* was 'entirely different from our on Indus Civilization. If you remember, that is very big project only on Indus Civilization while the

present history covers all the period.'<sup>35</sup>

### *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*

Publication of the *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives* makes sense when it is integrated to the Symposium. The book includes many papers presented at the Symposium while some other studies were also incorporated. It is difficult to say how the idea of such a volume emerged. Initially it had been decided in the meeting of experts held at UNESCO headquarters, Paris (9th-11th October 1979) that all the papers would be published in *Journal of Central Asia (JCA)*, newly-started by Dani as UNESCO publication, Vol. 2, No. 2, December 1979.<sup>36</sup> Whatever might be the situation, all this ended up in the production of *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*.

The book consists of eleven papers out of which four – by F.A. Khan, J.G. Shaffer, L. Dupree and A. Parpola – did not make part of the Symposium proceedings. Dani writes in the preface to the book that while editing the articles he noticed gaps in the material. He, therefore, requested these scholars for contributions to the book so that the work would be 'useful in understanding the new perspectives of the Indus Civilization' (Dani 1981b: 1).

It is also intriguing to note that some of the papers of the Symposium could not appear in *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*. One can but wonder why this happened. Probably, some, despite Dani's reminders,<sup>37</sup> could not be finally submitted while some others were not considered for publication due to insufficient quality. In the latter case, Ali M. Khan Lundkhwar's submission, 'Prospects of further excavations at Moenjodaro', may be referred to as an example.<sup>38</sup> Other presenters whose works are missing in the book include Noorzai, Gulzar M. Khan, Allchin, Ashfaque, Talpur, Jarrige and Tosi. The absence of Noorzai is somewhat compensated by the contribution of Dupree on Shortugai, chapter 9. Shaffer's paper<sup>39</sup> has covered distribution of protohistoric culture in the Eastern Punjab and prelude to the mature Indus period has been explained by F.A. Khan with a focus on Kot-diji culture. Parpola's paper<sup>40</sup> has filled in the gap concerning the Indus script.

In retrospect, one can presume that while the proposal of the comprehensive book could not be materialized, Dani's publication of *Indus*

*Civilization: New Perspectives* no doubt made a judicious contribution of great worth at that time.

### Concluding Contextual Observations

Many insights can be drawn from whatever has been said above. One is the impression about A.H. Dani's pivotal role with respect to organizing the Symposium, the subsequent efforts about producing an up-to-date book on the Indus Civilization and finally his editing and publishing of *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*.

From contextual point of view, political and national factors behind Dani's works concerning the Indus Civilization can be delimited. Throughout his life he tried to make Pakistanis claim and own this historical heritage. Simultaneously, Dani wanted to show the world the historical actuality of Pakistan. It has been precisely done in his works of 1975 and 2008 in a historical and geographical sense (Dani 1975, 2008). In a letter to the Secretary of Education Ministry he wrote about *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives* that it was 'a collection of articles on the latest researches on a civilization that belongs to Pakistan.'<sup>41</sup> The same nationalistic and political considerations can be ascertained in relation to the above-mentioned Symposium and book. From the very beginning of the idea of the Symposium on the Indus Civilization, Dani had been in contact with the Ministry of Education. In June 1976 he wrote to Joint Educational Advisor of the Ministry that in the next meeting of the Consultative Committee of the International Association for the Study of Central Asian Civilizations there was on the agenda, among others, the issue of the Indus Civilization research. He proceeded to state:

I would like to be guided by you so that I may have definite opinion of the Government and the line of approach that I should have in this meeting. . . . On this issue I believe Department of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan has its own opinion. I would like to be informed as to what line of approach I should have if this scheme is brought before the Committee.<sup>42</sup>

Moreover, with respect to failure of the proposed book on the Indus Civilization some professional and institutional snags seem involved. Raymond Allchin was probably suggesting another type of study to UNESCO. He replied to Yasushi Kono's questions about the volume on the Indus Civilization:

The project has been rather slower than we had originally envisaged, and I believe that its final form will be somewhat different from its first. The original proposal was for a collaborative work of four or five authors covering the Early and Mature Indus Civilization in a broadly descriptive manner. As such I believe it would have been very close to the Pakistani proposal. However, I believe that in the present modified form there is little likelihood of significant overlaps, and I do not think that our book need be seen as likely to clash with it. Our time scale is still very uncertain, and I feel sure that there is ample room for more than one book on this subject, particularly as our approaches are now likely to differ very considerably.<sup>43</sup>

It is appropriate in this respect to refer to Allchin's letter of 24th March 1980 to Dani in which he expressed his inability to attend meeting of the Steering Committee.

I am sorry to have to miss your meeting. I am still in the same position as when we spoke of this matter in Karachi in December 1978, namely that I am under contract to edit and contribute to a book on the Indus Civilization and while this is still on the table, I personally cannot enter into another commitment of a similar nature.<sup>44</sup>

There is likelihood that B.B. Lal in his letter to Dani, much after his return to India from the meeting of the Steering Committee, refers to this very situation.

I hope you are now going ahead with the scheme that we drafted. I know there will be people in Europe who would like to sabotage our scheme, but I am sure, with the perseverance that you command you would be able to see things through. I also hope that you have kept the names of the editors in the order discussed by us [see for the editorship above].<sup>45</sup>

Beside these personal and institutional rivalries, some other points are also of great concern to us today especially in the context of Pakistani and Indian archaeology. The study shows that there were very much strong academic ties between Dani and his colleagues from across the world. It garners special significance in relation to India as since long archaeological research in both the countries has been suffering from lack of mutual help and collaboration. Dani had always been in close contact with Indian scholars, or for that matter,

colleagues from whole South Asia. Furthermore, it has also surfaced that institutional resources such as assistance from UNESCO and other national agencies were prudently utilized by Dani with a strong sense of responsibility and accountability. It may also be noted that all the components of the project of the Indus Civilization study were pursued in a consistent way so as to achieve their full materialization. Similarly, the record shows that A.H. Dani was much serious and selective enough in connection with procuring materials for the *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives*. He endured great hardships in perusing and editing the book. Most importantly, it can be argued that Dani was always rather receptive to new ideas and researches. Primarily trained as a culture-historical archaeologist, he seems to have appreciated new methodological and theoretical trends in the field of archaeology. It is clear from his proposed topics for the Symposium and contents of the never-published comprehensive book. One can also notice, in this respect, modification in his views about the Indus Civilization as the contrast can be found in his "Origins of Bronze Age Cultures in the Indus Basin" (Dani 1975) and "The Indus Civilization: New Perspectives" (Dani, 1981c). In short, Dani had made his presence felt in the field of archaeological discourses in South and Central context.

From the book *Indus Civilization: New Perspectives* it becomes obvious that Dani was very much calculated about distribution of his publications. It was sent to a number of scholars and distributors both from Pakistan and abroad. In the former case, Dani envisaged the practice as 'to promote learning' and 'to improve the quality of the material'. About the latter instance the aim was to make '... others know the current opinions in Pakistan.' He further elaborates, 'Both these methods can lead to interaction of ideas and a gradual improvement in producing better material.'<sup>46</sup>

### Acknowledgements

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### Notes

- 1 Renamed as Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations (TIAC) from 1998.
- 2 Annex II: Annotated Agenda, CC-78/CONF. 636/3, Annex II to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Meeting of the Experts for the Preparation of a History of Civilizations of Central Asia (Unesco, Headquarters, Paris, 9-11 October 1978), Final Report, CC-78/CONF. 636/3, Paris, 12 February 1979, Original English, PF/01/1979, 1977 to 1979, Dr. A.H. Dani.
- 3 Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Cultures of Central Asia Held in Mexico, 4-6 August, 1976, Dr. A.H. Dani, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, File No. nil, Central Asian Studies File, Dr. Dani's Correspondence.
- 4 Dr. A.H. Dani, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, No. 1-1/73:76/589, Sept. 8, 76, to Mr. S.H.R. Rizvi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, File No. nil, Central Asian Studies File, Dr. Dani's Correspondence.
- 5 No. F. 5-4/78-Unesco-SSC. Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Education, Islamabad, the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1978, Subject:- MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE SYMPOSIUM ON INDUS CIVILIZATION OCTOBER 15, 1978, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 No. F. 5-4/78-Unesco-SSC, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Education, Islamabad, the 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1978, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
- 8 Unesco form 205 H (v. 78), Secteur/Bureau ref: 590-253, Contract for Seminars and Meetings, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Leftover invitation letters in File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
- 11 N.A. Baloch, Chairman, Preparatory Committee, Indus Civilization Symposium, Pakistan National Commission for



- Cooperation with UNESCO, 4, School Road, F. 7/4 Islamabad. 15th November 1978 to Dr. Dani, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
- 12 Leftover letters in File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization. Dani's hand written letter in the same file also shows as attached to it 'List of observers' which includes: (1) S.R. Dar (2) F. Sehrai (3) Aurangzeb Khan (4) Taswir Husain Hamidi (5) Farid Khan (6) Yar M. Khan (7) Hamida Khuhro (8) Abdur Rauf (9-15) to be nominated by Director of Archaeology (16) Parveen Talpur (17) Abdul Hamid Alvi. Director of Archaeology is mentioned as participant.
  - 13 Names of UNESCO Delegates in File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
  - 14 J.F. Jarrige, Mission Archeologique De L'Indus, French Archaeological Mission, Musée Guimet-6, Place d'léna - 75116 Paris, Tel. 723 76-70, Paris, November 6th, 1978 to Prof. A.H. Dani, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Civilization of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
  - 15 Proceedings of the Symposium on Indus Civilization, Held at Karachi, From 30 Dec. 1978 to 3 Jan. 1979: Under the Auspices of the Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, with the Assistance of UNESCO and the University Grants Commission of Pakistan, p. 22, File No. CAS/PUB-4/80, Subject: Indus Valley Civilization.
  - 16 Dr. M. Rafique Mughal, Superintendent of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan, Department of Archaeology, Exploration and Excavation Branch, 57-Jamal Court, Shahr-e-Faisal, EXP/7/9/78-2088, Karachi, the October 28, 1978 to Professor Ahmad Hasan Dani, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
  - 17 F.A. Durrani, Chairman, Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar, No. 475/ARCH, 29-10-1978 to Dr. A.H. Dani, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (4), Indus Civilization.
  - 18 Proceedings of the Symposium on Indus Civilization, Held at Karachi, From 30 Dec. 1978 to 3 Jan. 1979, pp. 18-21.
  - 19 Ibid., pp. 19-20.
  - 20 Ibid., p. 13.
  - 21 Ibid.
  - 22 Yasushi Kono, Division of Cultural Studies, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, Reference: CC/CS/302, 5 Sept. 1979 to Mr. P.M. Abbasi, Education Officer, for Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, Ministry of Education, Islamabad, File No. Pub/8/1979 (1), Indus Civilization.
  - 23 Mukhtar Ali Malik, Education Officer, Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, F. No. 4-18/79-Unesco-SSc, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Education, Islamabad, the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1979 to Dr. A.H. Dani, Chairman, Department of Social Science, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Pub/8/1979 (1), Indus Civilization.
  - 24 Handwritten unnamed letter duly signed by Dani in File No. Pub/8/1979 (1), Indus Civilization.
  - 25 Ahmad Hasan Dani, Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Ref. F. No. 4-18/79-UNESCO-SSC dated 29-9-1979, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1979, Islamabad to Mukhtar Ali Malik, Education Officer, Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, File No. Pub/8/1979 (1), Indus Civilization.
  - 26 The meeting had previously been scheduled first in January and then in March but due some unavoidable circumstances was postponed both the times.
  - 27 Proceedings of the Steering Committee on the preparation of a book on Indus Civilization, held at the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, 3-5 May 1980, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed.

- 28 Dupree and Lal substituted Tosi and Allchin respectively. Dr. A.H. Dani, Director, 12-2-1980 to Mr. Mohammad Mukhtar Malik, Assistant Educational Advisor, Pakistan Commission on UNESCO, 4-School Road, F-7/4, Islamabad, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed.
- 29 Proceedings of the Steering Committee on the preparation of a book on Indus Civilization, held at the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, 3-5 May 1980, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed; see also *The Indus Civilization, Final Report*, File No. CAS/PUB-4/80, Subject: Indus Valley Civilization.
- 30 Proceedings of the Steering Committee on the preparation of a book on Indus Civilization, held at the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, 3-5 May 1980, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed; see also a handwritten page in the same file.
- 31 Mohammad Ishaq Jalalpuri, Deputy Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, No. F.4-18/79-Unesco-SSc., Islamabad, the 31 May, 1980 to the Director, Division of Cultural Studies, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, From Nov. 80 to Feb. 1981, P/F of the Director, closed on 1-3-81.
- 32 The final arrangements for the book were communicated to the scholars concerned. Tosi replied, 'I agree in general with the final arrangement, although I have been some puzzled by the worried expressions contained in the [ . . . ]presentation of chapter 11th that I should write on the economic structure of the Indus Civilization. Anyway I should do my best to use as little ideas as possible and as many facts.' Maurizio Tosi, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Seminario di Studi Asiatici, P.zza Giovanni Maggiore, 30, 80134 Napoli, Naples, June 3rd 1980 to Prof. A.H. Dani, Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (2), Indus Civilization.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Shahzada Hasan, Deputy Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for Unesco, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Education, No. F. 4-18/79-Unesco-SSc, Islamabad, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1981 to Dr. A.H. Dani, Centre for the Study of Civilization of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (2), Indus Civilization.
- 35 A.H. Dani, Director, Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Ref. CAS/PF-4/81-136, Islamabad, 6-6-1981 to Prof. George F. Dales, Chairman, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, File No. CAS/PF-4/80, P/F of Director, from March 1981 to December 81.
- 36 It is clear from Dani's correspondence: A.H. Dani, Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Ref. NV.107.79-[ . . . ], 31<sup>st</sup> March 79 to Mr. Rafiq, G. Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, File No. CAS/PF/01/1979, 1977 to 1979, Dr. A.H. Dani; Dr. A.H. Dani, Director, 21-3-1979 to Dr. David A. Scott, Department of Religious Studies, Furness College, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4 YG, Lancaster 65201, UK, in *ibid*. See also, B.B. Lal, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Nivas, Simla-5 (India), No. 5472, 9 January 1978 to Prof. Ahmad Hasan Dani, House No. 17, Street 10, Sector F 8/3, Islamabad, Pakistan, in *ibid*.
- 37 For record see, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed.
- 38 Lundkhwar's paper is intensively edited by Dani as the unpublished copy shows (see, File No. Sem/Pub/8/1979 (3), Indus Valley Material and Other.
- 39 Dani thanked Shaffer for acceding to his request. See, Dr. A.H. Dani, Director, 29-7-1979 to Dr. Jim Shaffer, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleaveland, Ohio. 44106, U.S.A., File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed.
- 40 Parpola was requested either to make

- a new contribution or allow the one he had submitted to Lal for *Fifty years of Harappan studies*, a volume which due to some reasons was difficult to publish, to be included in Dani's volume. See, Dr. A.H. Dani, Professor, Department of History, 23356, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1979, to Dr. Parpola, SE-00820, Helsinki 82, Penkaloisentie 4 D 41, Finland, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed. The same request was also made to Lal. Keeping in views the difficulties involved with the Indian volume, Parpola allowed Dani to publish the article. However, Lal's book appeared in 1984 and also included the same paper.
- 41 Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani, CAS/PF-4/81-132, 1-6-81, Islamabad, the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1981 to Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, File No. CAS/PF-4/80, P/F of Director, from March, 1981 to December 81.
- 42 Dr. A.H. Dani, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, FSS.1-3/73-76, July 7, 76 to Mr. S.H.R. Rizvi, Joint Educational Advisor, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, File No. nil, Subject: Correspondence with Pareshan Khattak Regarding UNESCO Programme for Pashto Academy.
- 43 Dr. F.R. Allchin, Faculty Board of Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cabridge, CB3 9DA, 16 February, 1981 to Mr. Yasushi Kono, Division of Cultural Studies, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France, File No. CAS/PF-4/80, P/F of Director, from March 1981 to December 81. On the letter Dani has put that 'already discussed with Mr. Kono.'
- 44 Quoted in, Proceedings of the Steering Committee on the preparation of a book on Indus Civilization, held at the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, 3-5 May 1980, File No. CAS/PUB/3/82, Indus Civilization, closed.
- 45 B.B. Lal, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Nivas, Summer Hill, Simla 171005, Phone 2235, 13 May 1980, 6/2 to Prof. Ahmad Hasan Dani, Professor of Hisory and Director of Centre for Studies of Central Asian Civilizations, Quaide Azam Univesity, Islamabad, Pakistan, from Nov. 80 to Feb. 1981, P/F of the Director, closed on 1/3/81.
- 46 Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani, CAS/PF-4/81-132, 1.6.81, Islamabad, the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1981 to Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, p.2, File No. CAS/PF-4/80, P/F of Director, from March 1981 to December 81.

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