

*Extent of the
Grave Culture and
Report on Thana
Grave Excavation*

Part V

By

PROF. AHMAD HASAN DANI

FARZAND ALI DURRANI

EXTENT OF THE GRAVE CULTURE

By

PROF. AHMAD HASAN DANI

In the *story of the discovery* (in part I) we have narrated the circumstances which led to the discovery of the grave sites. These sites have been traced in the northern hilly regions of Gandhara in Bajaur, Dir and Swat and in the northern plain of the Peshawar Valley. On the west the grave site has been found at Enayet Qila. On the east right near the bank of the Indus near Kherai the graves were found while building a road over the hills. At Panchpir near Hund they were found while digging a canal. Recently one more site is reported on the bank of the Indus at Pehur opposite Tarbela, where a dam is under construction. So far these graves are spread right upto the bank of the Indus. No exploration has been made east of the Indus. But we hope to find them in future. Meanwhile these sites are described below. We excavated only at one of these sites at Thana. The report of the excavation is also given here.

Section I

*THANA GRAVE EXCAVATION**

By

FARZAND ALI DURRANI

THE village of Thana (more correctly *Sthana* meaning "The Place") lies in the lower Swat valley (Malakand Agency), a few miles south of the Swat river and about three miles from Chakdara post. The village stands on the slope of a spur and the houses range in different heights giving a conspicuous position to this place and presenting a charming invitation to the visitors and invaders coming through the Chakdara pass. It gives way to Shahkot pass that gives a direct access from lower Swat into Peshawar valley. The name Shahkot is most probably after that of either the Kushana Shahi or the Hindu Shahi rulers, whose deserted fortress, still known as 'Kafirkot', stands on a hill, not far from this place. That Thana lay on an ancient route is clear from the fact that in between this place and Sanghao on the southern side of the hill many Euddhist ruins are to-day found. The most important of them lie in and around the village of Palai about fifteen miles from Thana. Most of the Buddhist sculptures, taken away in the last

*Thoroughly revised by the editor

century and referred to as coming from the "Eussofzai" area, actually went from this place.

It is most regrettable that we do not know the full name of ancient Thana. It is still more strange that while Alexander passed this way, his historians have not mentioned this place. But the antiquity of Thana is well attested by the archaeological remains. The present village itself stands on the top of older graves. However, the graves which we excavated, belonged to a different cemetery about a mile south-west of the village on the other side of a small streamlet that flows by the village.

The cemetery (Pl. XXXII. a) starts from the slope of a barren ridge and spreads out into the open field about a square mile in area, the whole of which is today cultivated. Not far from this old cemetery lies a modern Muslim graveyard. Intense cultivation of the area has defaced the original ground surface and numerous stones lie scattered in the fields. Some of the graves were perchance hit by the ploughmen and opened by the villagers. It is from them that the information about the graves was first obtained.

EXCAVATED AREA

An area 100' by 40' was demarcated in the flat field for excavation, the longer side being north to south. This area was divided into squares of 20 feet. But only four northerly squares could be excavated within the time and funds available (see Fig. 44, p. 217) The squares were marked from north to the square 1½ feet margin was left for the baulk and the excavation was done in the limited space square-wise.

In all only twelve graves were excavated. Three different types of disposal of the dead were noted.

- Type A:* Complete burial of the dead body alongwith funerary urns.
Type B: Fractional burial of the dead probably after exposure.
Type C: Urn burials after cremation.

Two children graves were also found: one belonging to type B and the other to type C.

TYPE-A COMPLETE BURIALS

ALL these graves lay deeper under the earth in comparison to the

graves of type B. One grave of type A lay under a grave of type C, thus giving stratigraphic evidence to the priority of the graves of type A.

There was no indication on the surface to mark out the different graves. Only a few pot-sherds and broken stones were scattered all over the area, and these again were collected and deposited on the margins of the ploughed fields. The excavators have noticed two layers of earth in the course of excavation. According to the present evidence all the graves of type A lay in layer (2), though the original working floor could not be established probably because of disturbance in the upper soil. There was a material difference between this type of graves at Thana and those at Timargarha. Here there was no upper stone-lined circle nor even the upper pit below these stones. After removing the soil, the sealing stone slabs were reached directly by the excavators. When these stone slabs were removed, rectangular grave chamber was found underneath. The grave chamber was dug through in the hard compact soil and the chamber was not lined by stone walls of masonry as was the case in Timargarha. Another fundamental difference was that here the skeleton lay on a large flat schist slab or slabs. The exceptions were grave Nos. 6, 7 and those of type C. Such slabs are available in the local rock outcrop.

GRAVE NO. 2: Pl. XXXIII b.

This grave lay in the southern half of trench A, 2 feet 4 inches below surface, in whitish compact layer (2). The sealing slabs were small and were fixed with pebble and mud lining. The grave chamber, which extended from north to south, measured 5' 7" by 4' 6". The skeleton in complete form lay on a stone slab in flexed position with the skull turning to the east. Only two funerary vessels were obtained in the grave. The vessels, Nos. 20 and 21, were open mouthed drinking cups with flaring rim in grey ware.

GRAVE NO. 3: Pl. XXXIV. a

This grave lay under grave No. 11 of type C (see below) in the western half of trench B, 2 feet 5 inches below surface, in layer (2). It was sealed by four large schist slabs placed across the grave chamber and fixed firmly with smaller stone and mud lining. The grave chamber measured 7' 7" by 3' 5". It was 3' 7" deep. Complete skeleton lay on a large schist slab, north to south, with the skull facing east and legs flexed. This was a rich grave yielding 2 vessels of red ware—a globular urn (No. 1) and a lugged vase (No. 2) and 14 drinking cups in grey ware and one narrow-necked bottle (No. 14) in red ware.

The presence of urn in a complete burial is rather suspicious. Is it connected with the urn burial on the top?

GRAVE NO. 5: Pl. XXXIV b.

This grave lay in the south-eastern half of trench C, 2' 8" below surface, in layer (2). It was sealed by large schist slabs set with small stone and mud lining. The grave chamber, which measured 5' 7" x 3' 6", extended from north-west to south-east. Complete skeleton lay on two schist slabs with face turned to east. Close to the skull was a bowl-on-stand (No. 34). Two more red ware vessels were found in the grave—a bowl with its stand gone (No. 39) and a medium sized drinking goblet (No. 35). One cooking pot with a lid (Nos. 40 and 40 a) contained darkish soil. Three grey ware vessels (Nos. 36, 37, 38) were also found. There was also one terracotta bead.

GRAVE NO. 9: Pl. XXXVI b.

This grave lay in the south-western half of trench D., about 2' below the surface, in layer (2). It was sealed by large schist slabs set with small stone and mud lining. The grave chamber, which extended from south-east to north-west, measured 5' 11" by 3' 3". Complete skeleton lay on four schist slabs with face turned to east and legs flexed. Two funerary vessels were found in the graves—one grey narrow necked bottle (No. 31), and the other red medium sized drinking goblet (No. 30).

TYPE B FRACTIONAL BURIALS

This type of graves lay comparatively higher in the soil in layer (1), as observed by the excavators. There was again no indication on the surface nor could be seen any stone-lined circle or upper pit. As such the grave pit was first observed when the sealing stones were reached. The grave chamber was made in the same fashion as in those of type A and the dead were placed in the same way. The only difference was that here the bones were fractional. No sign of burning was there. These graves included one of a child.

GRAVE NO. 1 Pl. XXXIII a.

The grave lay in the north-western half of trench A, 1' 5" below the surface in layer (1). The sealing was done by three schist slabs placed across

the grave chamber and fixed with small stone lining. The grave is box-like, squarish in shape, 1' 3" deep. On a slab were only a skull and a few bones of a child—the skull on the north, facing west, and the lower bones on the south in flexed position. Inside the grave were found 2 funerary vessels—a bowl on stand (No. 17) and a medium-sized drinking goblet (No. 18) and a silver ring.

GRAVE NO. 4:

The grave lay in the eastern half of trench C in layer (1), hardly 10 inches below the surface. Part of this grave was concealed in the baulk, which was not removed. The grave was sealed by three schist slabs fixed with small stone lining. The chamber was 1' 3" deep. On a small slab lay only half skull and a leg bone together with one medium-sized drinking goblet (No. 33) placed near the skull.

GRAVE NO. 6: Pl. XXXV a.

The grave lay in the north-western half of trench C, 1' 6" below the surface, in layer (1). The sealing stones consisted of three large schist slabs placed across the grave and fixed with small stone lining. The grave chamber, which extended from north-west to south-east measured 4' 8" by 3' 9". On the floor, made up of beaten earth and grits, was placed a partly preserved skeleton. No pots were found.

GRAVE NO. 7: Pl. XXXV b.

The grave lay in the western half of trench C in layer (1). The grave was sealed by three large schist slabs fixed with small stone lining. It measured 6' by 3' 4" and was 2' 6" deep. On a schist slab, now broken, lay the skull on the north, facing west, and a few lower bones on the south. There were four funerary vessels in the grave—a bowl on stand (No. 41), two open-mouthed drinking cups with flaring rim (Nos. 31 and 44) and another cup (No. 43).

GRAVE NO. 8: Pl. XXXVI a.

The grave lay in the south-eastern half of trench D, 1' 7" below surface in layer (1). The sealing stones consisted of three schist slabs placed across the grave and fixed with small stone lining. The soil inside the grave was compact and gritty. The grave chamber measured 6 feet by 3 feet and was 2 feet 10 inches deep. On a schist slab, measuring 3' 7" x 1' 9", lay the

fragmentary bones — a broken skull and some other bones. On a lower slab stood the funerary vessels — a bowl on stand (No. 24), a storage jar (No. 27), a grey cup (No. 25), a bowl (No. 23), one cooking pot (No. 28), a drinking vase (No. 26) and three jars (Nos. 29, 22). The skeleton lay on the right side with the skull facing east. Orientation south to north.

GRAVE NO. 10: Pl. XXXVII. a.

The grave lay in the north-eastern half of trench D, 1' 6" below surface, in layer (1). The sealing stones consisted of three large slabs placed across the grave and fixed with small stone lining. The soil inside the grave was compact and gritty. The grave chamber measured 5' 3" by 3' 8" and 1' 9" deep. On a schist slab measuring 3' 2" x 1' 9" lay partly preserved bones—skull on the north and leg bones on the south—along with a red ware vessel—a medium sized drinking goblet (No. 32). The skull was facing west.

TYPE C: URN BURIALS

Of the two examples found here one urn contained ashes and some burnt bones, while the other had only a pot but no bones were found in it. On the analogy of similar pot burials in site II at Timargarha this is taken to be a child's grave, in which case the bones are decomposed.

GRAVE NO. 11: Pl. XXXVII. b.

The grave lay in trench B above grave No. 3, hardly 7 inches below surface in layer (1). A circular pit was dug in the earth, but no lining was given to the pit. Inside the pit was a long narrow necked vase with flaring rim and globular body, containing the ashes and the burnt bones. The upper portion of this grave was disturbed.

GRAVE NO. 12:

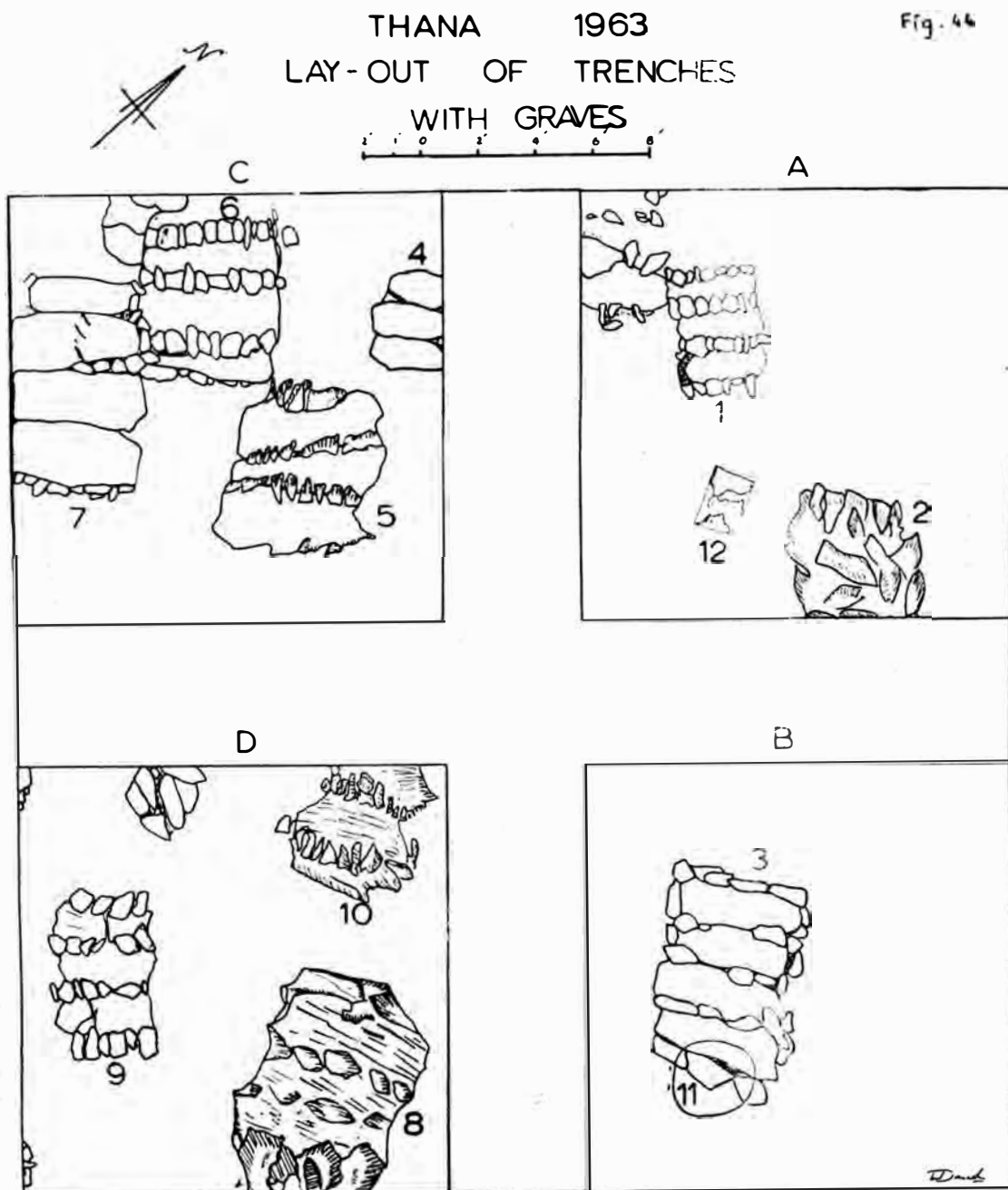
The grave lay very close to grave No. 2. It was a small grave, measuring 2' 3" by 1' 9". It was hardly 1 foot deep and was covered by schist slabs. Inside was only one grey cup.

Section 2

By *PROF. AHMAD HASAN DANI*

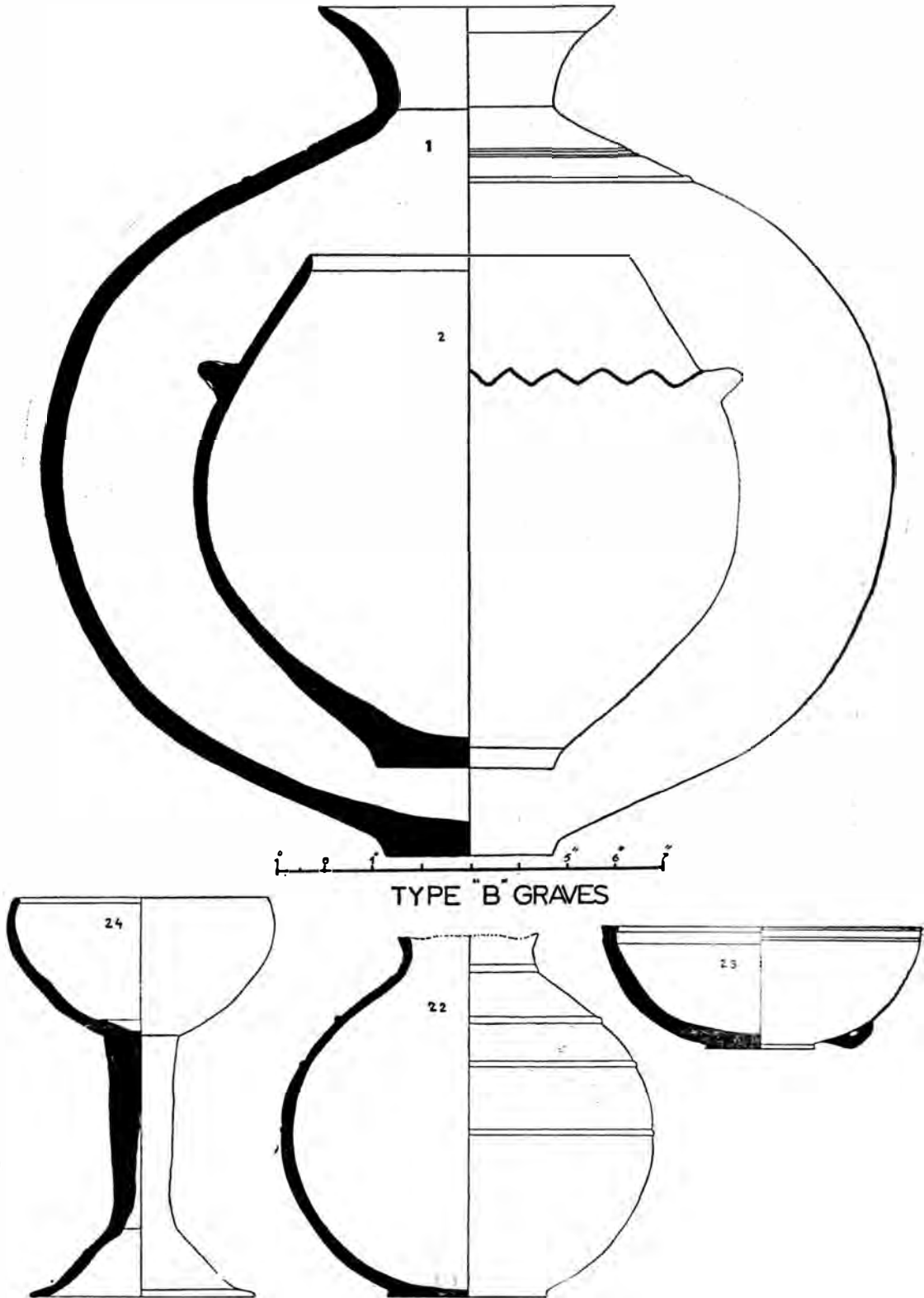
COMPARISON WITH TIMARGARHA GRAVES

On the basis of rituals these graves have a great similarity with those found at Timargarha. Though grave digging and its make-up show



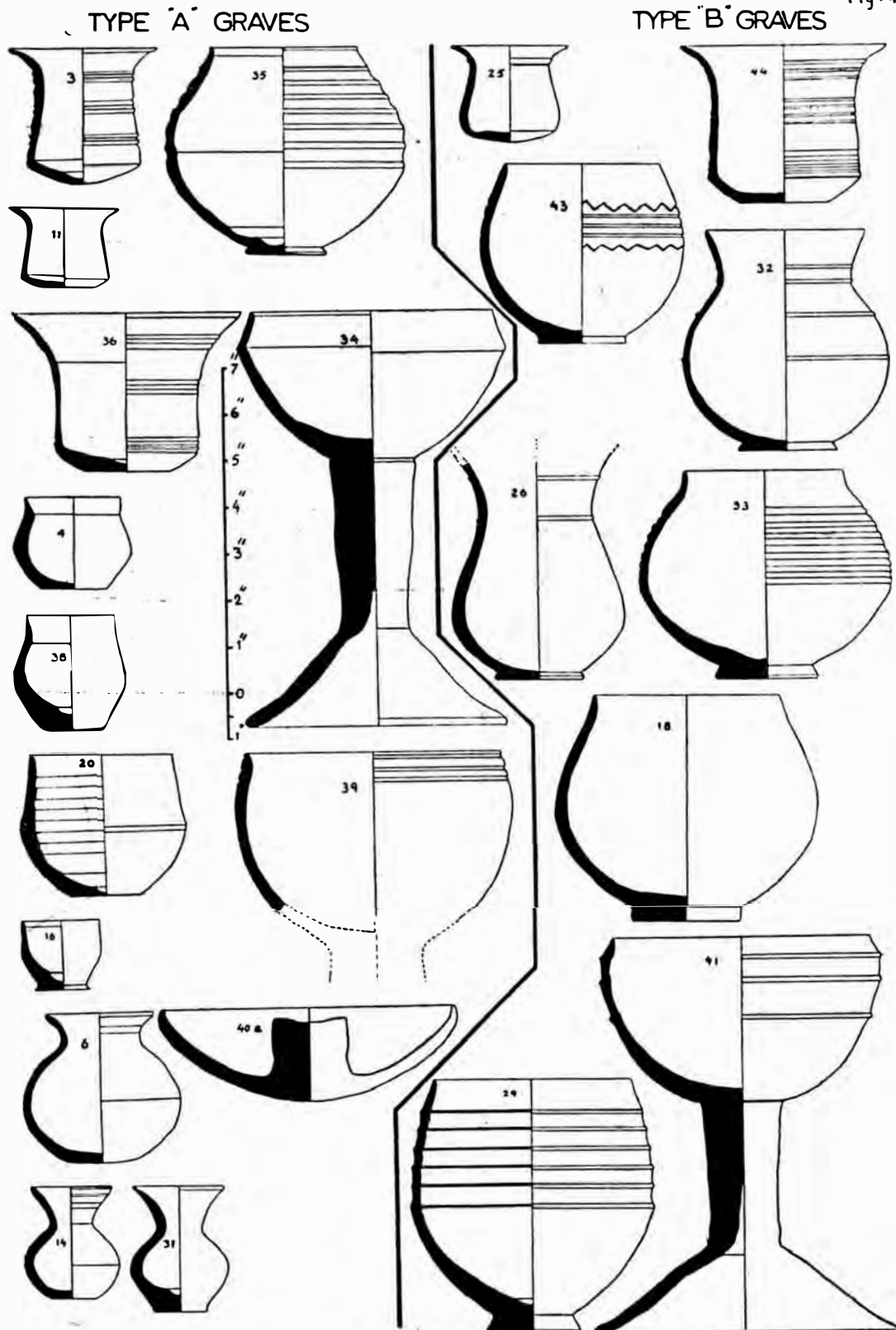
POTTERY FROM THANA
TYPE "A" GRAVES

Fig. 45



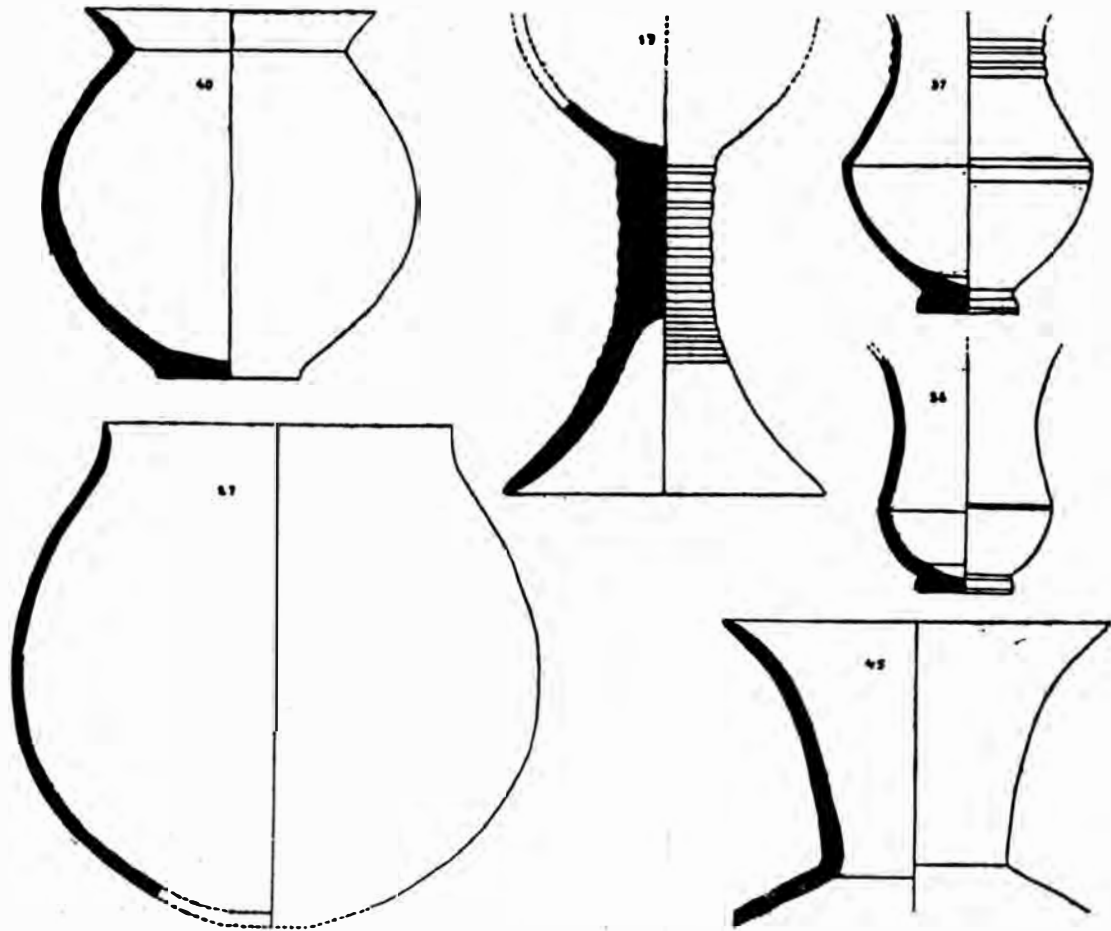
POTTERY FROM THANA

Fig. 46



POTTERY FROM THANA

Fig. 47



variation, the actual burial produces three ritual practices—complete burial, fractional burial and urn burial. The manner of the disposal of the dead is also the same. Along with the skeletons funerary vessels are found buried. The metal objects are scarce at Thana. Only one grave (No. 1) has produced a silver ring. No other metal has so far been found. At Timargarha copper and iron were found in the graves. The iron was confined only to the graves having fractional burial. Though here urn and fractional burials are stratigraphically known to be later than complete burials, the exact dating of the last type of graves has to be determined on the basis of the contents. The pottery being the most important find, we turn to that evidence.

THE POTTERY FROM THANA

The pottery from Thana is most interesting. As far as ware is concerned, we have the same texture as noted at Timargarha. Grey ware and red ware vessels are both found but among the red ware examples we did not find the extremely fine fabric, sub-variety (c), nor even the forms of vessels, associated with this fabric, have so far been found. Again the hand-made red ware vessels are few and far between. The majority of them is wheel-thrown. While in the graves of type A the pots appear to have been made in slow-moving wheel, in those of type B fast-moving wheel was definitely used, as is indicated by the regular lines of cordons on the neck of some of the pots. Except for one cooking pot from grave No. 8 all other pots in type B graves were made of finely levigated clay and fired well. In these graves only four grey ware vessels were found. In type A grave the majority of the pots were of grey ware. The red ware vessels have red slip applied to the outer surface. The typological description is first given below before the question of chronology is taken up.

TYPE A GRAVES

Variety (i): HAND-MADE COOKING POT (Fig. 47 No. 40)

Only one example, Reg. No. 40, along with a lid, Reg. No. 40-a, has been found from grave No. 5. It was full of darkish soil mixed with ash. It belongs to sub-variety (a) as it is made of coarse material. The form is also of the usual type, having globular body, disc-base, constricted neck and sharply everted rim inclined at an angle of 45°. The lid (Fig. 46, No. 40-a) is saucer shaped with a rider-shaped knob in the inner side. It belongs to variety (xi), sub-variety (a).

Variety (ii): BOWL-ON-STAND

Only two examples in red ware of fabric (b) have been found, both coming from grave No. 5.

No. 34 (Fig. 46) has its bowl having curved sides and in-turned rim. The stem is solid while the base is in the shape of an inverted saucer. It belongs to sub-variety (c).

No. 39 (Fig. 46) has lost its stand. The bowl gently curves and bears three incised lines just below the rim. It belongs to sub-variety (f).

Variety (iii): TALL DRINKING VASE

Two examples of tall drinking vase in grey ware have been found.

No. 37 (Fig. 47) from grave No. 5 is of a broad size, having a carinated lower half, narrow waist, disc-base but the upper portion is broken. It belongs to sub-variety (d). (Fig. 47) No. 36 from grave No. 5 is a beautiful vase of sub-variety (b). Its globular lower half has a grooved line at the bulge.

Variety (iv): OPEN-MOUTHED DRINKING CUP WITH FLARING RIM

Here they are all in grey ware and are made of finely levigated clay. They are of the usual form. All but one from grave No. 3 (Fig. 46, No. 11) bear regular incised lines in twos or threes. They fall into two sub-varieties: *Sub-variety (a): SAGGER-BASED TYPE*: Reg. Nos. 3, (Fig. 46), 5, 7 and 10 — all from grave No. 3.

Sub-variety (b): FLAT-BASED TYPE: To this sub-variety belongs the plain cup, Reg. No. 11 (Fig. 46.) from grave No. 3. From the same grave two cups, Nos. 9 and 12.

Variety (v): MEDIUM-SIZED DRINKING GOBLETS

Only two examples are found—Reg. No. 35 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 5 and No. 30 from grave No. 9. Both are of red slip. In form they are globular but gradually narrowing from the waist upward and have a disc-base. The narrow neck has a series of scourgings at the outside. They belong to sub-variety (a).

There are other miniature examples of this goblet type, which may be termed as cups but their rims are not flaring. They are all found in grey ware. These miniature examples may be grouped in three sub-varieties.

Sub-variety (a): They have a bulging body, flat base and straight rim. Nos. 4 (Fig. 46) and 15 come from grave No. 3. These are rather squattish in form.

Sub-variety (b) In form they are similar to (a) but these are longish in appearance as they have either longer body, No. 38 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 5, or longer neck, No. 20 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 2.

Sub-variety (c): There is only one example, Reg. No. 16 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 3 with a straight side on a disc-base.

Variety (vi): NARROW-NECKED BOTTLES

Only two examples have been found. Reg. No. 14 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 3 is in red ware and Reg. No. 31 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 9 is in grey ware. Both of them are miniature examples of the usual type. They are not found in type B graves at all. They are most important for the purpose of chronology.

Variety (xi): LID

One specimen already described under variety (i).

Variety (xii): NARROW-NECKED PITCHER (OR URN).

Only one example, Reg. No. 1 (Fig. 45) from grave No. 3, in red ware of fabric (b). It has traces of red slip at the outside. It differs from the usual type in so far as the present example has a disc-base, extremely narrow neck, globular body, like that of sub-variety (a) and everted rim. From the shoulder downward the surface is rough, probably because it was meant for burial. At the shoulder there are traces of twin small lugs at four places, equidistant from one another. Above these lugs there are three grooved lines.

There is another miniature example, Reg. No. 6 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 3, in grey ware, of this narrow necked vase but this has a flat base.

The presence of these urns in grave No. 3 having complete burial is rather unusual.

Variety (xv): LUGGED VASE

Only one example, Reg. No. 2 (Fig. 45) from grave No. 3 in red ware. It has a slightly bulging body, disc-base and simple rim. From the shoulder downward the exterior surface is rough. Above the shoulder red slip is applied. At the shoulder there are two holed lugs on one side while traces of two more on the other are visible. Immediately above the lugs there is an incised wavy line. The vase belongs to sub-variety (a).

*TYPE B GRAVES**Variety (i): HAND-MADE COOKING POT*

Reg. No. 28 (not illustrated) from grave No. 8. It belongs to sub-variety (a). It is blackened with smoke.

Variety (ii): BOWL-ON-STAND

Three examples in red ware of fabric (b) have been found. Reg. No. 17 (Fig. 47) from grave No. 1 belongs to sub-variety (d) as it has a grooved pedestal stand. Reg. No. 24 (Fig. 45) from grave No. 8 and Reg. No. 41 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 7, both belong to sub-variety (b), as they are light in weight with a hollow stem. No. 24 has a plain bowl.

Variety (iii): TALL DRINKING VASE

One example in red ware, Reg. No. 26 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 8. It has a narrow waist with its lower portion globular and a disc-base. The upper part is broken.

Variety (iv): OPEN-MOUTHED DRINKING CUPS WITH FLARING RIM

Only two specimens in grey ware. No. 44 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 7 belongs to sub-variety (b) and No. 25 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 8 belongs to sub-variety (a).

Variety (v): MEDIUM-SIZED DRINKING GOBLETS

Four examples have been found No. 33 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 4, No. 29 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 8, No. 18 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 7 and No. 42 from grave No. 7. Only No. 33 is in grey ware while others are in red ware. No. 33 resembles in form No. 35 of type A grave. No. 29 is a replica of No. 30 of type A grave with the difference that the present example is rather longish. No. 18 is severely plain. No. 42 is extremely fine with narrow neck, straight rim, disc-base. The shoulder and neck have cordoned lines. It is red

slipped and burnished. There are two new sub-varieties of drinking goblets.

Sub-variety (c): No. 43 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 7 is rather squattish, has a disc-base and a gently curved body like that of a cup. At the shoulder three incised lines are crudely drawn in between zigzag lines. It is in red ware of rather coarse fabric.

Sub-variety (d): No. 32 (Fig. 46) from grave No. 10 has a globular body on a disc-base with a narrow neck and flaring rim. It has cordoned lines on the body. It is also in red ware but of finely levigated clay.

Variety (xii): *NARROW-NECKED WATER PITCHER*

Only one example, No. 22 (Fig. 45) from grave No. 8, of medium size in red ware of fabric (b), well fired, red slipped. It has a disc-base and cordons at the outside.

Variety (xxix): A broken example of open mouthed globular jar No. 27 (Fig. 47) from grave No. 8 in red ware of fabric (b). It gets smaller at the neck and has a simple rim.

Variety (xxxii): A bowl with a holed lug, No. 23 (Fig. 45) from grave No. 8, in grey ware. It has a disc-base, flat-topped rim and incised lines just below the rim. The holed lug is attached near the base on one side only.

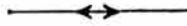
TYPE C GRAVE

Variety (x): A long necked pitcher or urn No. 45 (Fig. 47) with flaring rim and globular body was found to contain burnt bones and ashes. Its neck is plain and hence it belongs to sub-variety (a). Such urns have been found in large number at Timargarha.

CHRONOLOGY

Having obtained the detailed knowledge of the pottery types, we are now in a position to link these graves chronologically with those found at Timargarha. Though type A graves have the same ritual practice as seen in the Timargarha graves of period I, the pottery does not place them in that period. From the point of view of dating the most important types are variety (vi) narrow-necked bottles, variety (xii) narrow-necked urn and variety (xv) lugged vase. These varieties are known at Timargarha only from period II onwards. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this type of graves at Thana belong to the second period of Timargarha. The

pottery forms found in type B graves are known from period III at Timargarha, though some of the typical examples of period III are absent here. Thus according to the present evidence Thana graves are later than the earliest graves known from Timargarha.



Section 3

SWAT

By *PROF. AHMAD HASAN DANI*

The Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan have excavated several cemeteries in Swat — a state that comprises the upper reaches of the Swat river. So far four articles¹ have been published on them. The excavations have been conducted at three sites in the vicinity of Saidu Sharif, one site near Kherai and one site near Barikot. Summary descriptions are available only for the sites near the first two localities. The following analysis is extracted from the published articles so that the readers of our journal may have some idea of the Swat graves in the light of the terminology adopted here. Until the complete report is published, the analysis is provisional and no definite correlation can be established between these graves and those found in Timargarha. The same remark applies to the comment on pottery.

Professor Tucci in his article speaks of the wide-spread nature of these cemeteries, and besides those excavated near Saidu Sharif, he says how "I discovered other extensive graveyards of the same kind and containing the same pottery and grave furniture in Chakdara, Gogdara, Gumbatuna, Charbag, along the route to Kalam; pottery of the same type, though coarser and more primitive has been found along the Indus River". He correctly judged, "The fact is certain that they are pre-Buddhistic". He goes a step further and says, "Returning to the subject of cemeteries, it seems to me that it can hardly be doubted that they should be attributed to Assakenoi of Alexander's historians". This attribution is rather too premature.

C.S. Antonini, in her article, sums up the excavations conducted in 1961 and 1962 and speaks of three localities — Butkara II, Katelai I, and Loebanr I. She has classified the graves on the basis of two funeral rites that she could detect — A. inhumation, and B cremation. Later while giving some details she speaks of three different types of A — Single burial, double

or tripe burial, and burial after exposure. Similarly she records that "the remains of two or more persons are present even in the jars containing burned bones". One important point of stratigraphy is noted: At Butkara II "in the filling of the upper cavity of some tombs were found the remains of the cremation itself, with some fragments of bone, ashes and coal". But no advantage is taken of this stratigraphic evidence to classify the graves on chronological basis. The manner of grave digging was the same, as has been noticed at Timargarha site No. 1. We have here also the upper pit, below which were the sealing stones covering the lower pit. The circle stones demarcating the upper pit were almost absent. Similarly only a few of the graves had dry stone masonry lining the lower pit. At Butkara the stratigraphic evidence was available to show that the graves were earlier than the Buddhist remains but the section published is too poor to give any definite idea. We are not made wiser whether there was any break between the grave period and the Buddhist occupation. At Katelai a few tombs were super-imposed over others but the author could not detect variations in the ceramic material of the graves. Among others, there were only two cremation burials, three are double burials, and two contain "secondary deposition". Two complete horse skeletons were also found here. At Loebanr 27 had cremation, 28 had inhumation, of which "7 are double, one triple, 18 single, 2 are almost certainly secondary depositions". Ten more graves had either fragmentary bones or no bones at all. The description of the pottery is given together as if falling in one period site-wise, and hence not of much value, except that many new forms are known here. The most noteworthy are a cup on a long stemmed stand, a tall drinking vase on a stand, a lid with a horse-handle and a triple pot on a stand — last variety is also known from Marlik². Of the other objects illustrated, the most noteworthy are the two terracotta human figurines. Her Fig. 10 has a close resemblance with an alabaster effigy from Hissar III³, and her fig. 11 has much in common with the bronze figure from Marlik⁴. The Peshawar Museum specimen, quoted by the author, does not come from Baluchistan. At the end without giving any particular example, the author concludes on the pottery: "It seems to us particularly close to the ceramic production of the locality of Hissar II B".

Now we take the second report of Stacul dealing with the Kherai necropolis. Here only twelve graves were excavated. All of them were of one type. In our terminology we would call them box-like graves with schist slabs forming the sides: Generally babies are buried in this type of graves. Stacul also found the skeleton of two babies in nos. 6 and 10. These along with the one in no. 3 were lying in the inflexed position on one side. The

remaining graves had either fractional bones or no bones at all. Quite in keeping with this type of the graves Stacul did not find the upper pit in these examples. According to our chronology they belong to TMG period III. They may be even later in this far off place. Among the potforms the flat based cups⁵ are dominant. His fig. 4 No. c is a deep bowl with hollow pedestal, found also from grave No. 111 a in TMG I. The finger rings (wrongly called ear-rings) are similar to those found in Timargarha (see ante P. 192).

Now, we take up Stacul's first article, which deals with his further excavations at Katelai and Loebanr in 1964 and 1965. The analysis is very important as stratigraphic evidence is available to confirm the classification made by us at Timargarha. We made the classification on ritual basis as little of stratigraphic material was available to us. Here because of the superimposition of tombs it was possible to draw better conclusions.

His first classification is based on the association of metals. Those graves, in which only copper is found, are placed in category A, and those, in which both copper and iron or only iron objects, were found, are placed in category B. His next basis is the ware. The graves characterised with ware having "thin sides" are grouped under AIII and B. This ware is the same, which we have termed "fine ware of fabric C" (ante P. 122). In our graves they are found only in period III. Stacul places the graves having ware with "thick sides" in groups AI and AII. This ware is the same which we have called "medium clay ware of fabric B" (ante P. 122). In our case this ware is found from period II onwards. Stacul's AI graves are further distinguished by "box-urns", which we have not found. In his AII graves visage urns are found, as we have also found in period II. Stacul further clarifies the ritual position. In graves of groups AI and AII, 24 cases of cremation and 14 examples of inhumation of single burial were found. It is unfortunate that the author has not separated these two types of burials along with their equipments. In our case we have found a few graves of the first period, in which only single burial is found. Stacul further observes that, in group AIII, 94 cases of inhumation with single or multiple burials and only 14 of cremation were found, while, in group B, 20 examples of inhumation and one of cremation. The evidence can now be summarised:

A I: thick ware, box-urn, more cremation and a few single burials, and copper.

A II. thick ware, visage urn, more cremation and a few single burials, and copper

A III. thin ware, multiple burial, a few cremation and copper.

B. thin ware, multiple and single burial and only one cremation, copper and iron.

His superimposition of graves further shows that the graves of group B lie over all other types, those of group AIII lie over AII and AI, and those of AII over AI. After noting this succession he makes three periods.-

Period I — In this period he brackets both groups AI and AII, probably because both have cremation ritual along with single burial, and have "thick side" vessels.

Period II — In this period he places graves of group AIII.

Period III — In this period he places graves of group B.

According to our classification his periods II and III fall in our period III as they are characterised by thin ware pottery of an entirely different tradition, and secondly they introduce new ritual practice of multiple burial, generally of fractional bones. Stacul's period I has been classified by us into two periods — our period I has only inhumation of single individuals and period II has only cremation. It is our belief that inhumation and cremation are two separate rituals and the graves must be distinguished accordingly. We have earlier shown the chronological difference on the basis of the evolution of pottery.

The material objects illustrated by Stacul add new varieties to those published by us. His terracotta human figure (his Fig. 66) has a close resemblance to the one seen in the Peshawar Museum. Many new types of vessels in fine red ware are illustrated by him. Most of them come from period III. His Fig. 49 has tall-necked *surahis*. There are quite a number of new varieties of pedestalled vases (see his Fig. 71 and 73). A complete specimen of dish-on-stand is illustrated (his Fig. 74e). In conclusion Stacul has made a typological comparison with the pottery types from Tepe Hissar, Shah Tepe, Tepe Giyan, and other sites in north-east Iran. His references to chalcolithic sites in Anatolia, or even to Harappa, Baluchistan and Bampur sites are not very striking. But when he makes a determined comparison with Wheeler's material at Charsada and wants to bring down the date to 6th — 4th B.C.—the date of the deepest levels at Charasada—one may wonder what is the necessity then of three period classification of the graves? Even if we accept that his period III belongs to the earliest time of Charsa-

da, as it is here that iron is found, his first two periods must ante-date Charsada. It is unfortunate that the author is silent on this point. Even in the case of Charsada material, he has not taken into consideration the entire range of the objects found. In the areas so near to each other and particularly when we know that between 6th and 4th centuries B.C. the two areas were united under the rule of the Achaemenians, there should not be striking cultural difference. As we have said elsewhere, the grave pottery types at Charsada are survivals in the Achaemenian age.

1. The Italian publications are —

- (i) C.S. Antonini, 'Preliminary Notes on the excavation of the necropolises found in Western Pakistan. in East and West, Vol. 11, Nos. 1-2, Rome 1963, pp. 13-26.
 - (ii) G. Tucci, 'The tombs of the Asvakayana-Assakenoi', *ibid*, pp. 27-28.
 - (iii) G. Stacul, 'Preliminary report on the pre-Buddhist necropolis in Swat (W. Pakistan). *ibid*, Vol. 16, Nos. 1-2, Rome, 1966, pp. 37-79.
 - (iv) G. Stacul, 'Notes on the discovery of a necropolis near Kherai in the Gorband valley (Swat West Pak), *ibid*, Vol. 16, Nos. 3-4, Rome, 1966, pp. 261-74.
2. Ezat O. Negahban, *A Preliminary Report on Marlik Excavation*, Tehran, 1964, Fig. 26.
 3. E.F. Schmidt, *Excavations at Tepe Hisar, Damghan*, Philadelphia, 1937, Fig. 114.
 4. Negahban, *op. cit.* Fig. 99. In this case the hands and the head are properly formed.
 5. These cups can be compared with the cups found in Hisar IIIc. See Schmidt, *op cit.*, Pl. XII, Nos. H. 4115, H 4305 and H 4338.



Section — 4

CHAKDARA

By

PROF. AHMAD HASAN DANI

Chakdara is probably a Mughal term consisting of the compound of *Chak* (a revenue term) and *dara* (a pass). It is really at the head of a great opening that leads into the flat plain of Talash valley, surrounded on three sides by hills and the river Swat on the south. The Mughals erected a fort at this place but no trace of the Mughal fort is now above ground. The modern fort, just overlooking the river, was built by the British on a lone ridge that dominates the entire area. A *khwar* (torrent) separates the fort from the old village of Chakdara. The northern part of the village stands on an ancient mound. The pot-sherds are strewn all over the place, and ex-

tend northward much beyond the limits of the village. Some of them relate to grave pottery. To the south-west of the State Rest House, close to a modern grave, a ditch has been dug by the villagers. It is in this ditch that the remains of the graves were noted. As no proper excavation was undertaken by us, it is difficult to assign them to any definite period.

When we leave Chakdara, cross the *khwar*, and go over towards the village of Charpat, about one mile to the west, the ground gradually rises. The whole area has been turned into fields in different terraces. The ploughshares of the villagers have struck against huge slabs in the fields. These slabs serve as the covering stones of the graves lying underneath. From these graves several pots have been collected by the villagers. Two complete pots came to our hand. They are both medium sized jars of red ware of fabric (b) and belong to variety (ix). Charpat jar No. 1 is bigger in size, light red in colour, rough at the lower portion and has an applique rope design below the neck only for a length of 3". It does not go round the whole pot. Charpat jar No. 2 is smaller in size, has deep red slip all over, but the lower half is slightly rough. It is decorated between the neck and shoulder. Just below the neck there are three cordoned lines, next is a row of incised inclines followed by an incised zigzag pattern. Both the pots have disc-base and flaring rim. These pots suggest cremation burial.

ZIARAT

Ziarat is a village almost midway between Chakdara and Timargarha. The name is derived from the fact that a locally famous Muslim saint is buried in a Gumbad here. The tomb is in the old locality just at the foot of the hill but the modern village has now shifted to the road side. To the west of the village is a Muslim graveyard that spreads out at the foot of the hill. In the slope of the hill side and underneath the Muslim graves we have traced the ancient graves, recognizable in a ditch excavated by the villagers. A few large covering stones are visible below the modern graves. As the Muslim graves are lying on the top, it is difficult to excavate the area.

ENAYET QILA

Enayet Qila is a strong fort a few miles northwest of Khar. Mamun Khwar separates this fort from that of the old mound of Shinkot. To the south of the newly-built fort spreads out an open field right upto the bank of the khwar. In a number of places erosion has cut through the fields and

made some gullies. In the field several large stone slabs are sticking out. During the course of constructing the fort some graves were hit by chance. A few complete pots were given to us. Three of them are *surahi* type of long necked water pitcher (variety xix) in fine red ware of fabric (c). They have cordoned lines on the body. The fourth is an hour-glass type of drinking vase (variety xiii) in fine red ware. The fifth is a water pitcher having a collared rim (variety xvi). All these pots belong to period III. It can therefore be said that the cemetery here includes the graves of this period. There may be earlier period graves here.

PANCHPIR

Panchpir is a village at the foot of a hill not far from Hund — the old crossing of the river Indus. The name of the village is derived from the graves of five saints. Over the hill top there are some rock engravings. The village is situated on a low mound of old. To the north of the village on either side of the newly-built canal the graves are spread out in the open field. They were discovered at the time of digging the canal.

PEHUR

Pehur is a village on the west bank of the river Indus opposite Tarbela Dam Colony. For some years past there has been an Indus crossing at this point. In winter, when the water is less in the river, a boat bridge takes the traffic from the northern areas of Mardan district direct to the Hazara district. About half a mile south of this village there is a low-lying bridge, on the top of which there are Buddhist ruins. At the foot of this ridge there is a wide sloping ground, generally washed by the Indus river, when in flood. The whole area is full of river sand and silt. At the time of digging out the earth for the installation of pump house, lot of human burnt bones and potsherds were encountered at a depth of ten feet from the ground. The sherds that came to our hand were all red ware of fabric (b) belonging to the graves. One is a complete shallow bowl with flat base of the type found by Stacul at Kherai site. The exact nature of the graves could not be determined as modern construction is standing there.