

*Report
on the Excavation
of Balambat
Settlement Site*

Part VI

By

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with contribution from
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on "Small Finds"

Section — 1
BALAMBAT SETTLEMENT SITE: 1966

By Prof. AHMAD HASAN DANI

INTRODUCTION

In 1965 Timargarha site No. 3 was excavated. As noted earlier, here twenty refuse pits were exposed but though their chronology could be established on the basis of their contents, they remained unrelated to the life pattern of the time. About one hundred yards east of this site lay a few huts just on the bank of the river, Panchkora. Local enquiry showed that the people living there had dug underground, brought out stones and built their own walls out of the ancient material. In order to check this alleged robbery Mr. F. A. Durrani laid a trial trench in 1965 towards the close of our excavation season. The attempt did not go waste. He struck stone walls and found two periods of occupation with refuse pits similar to those excavated before. As a result, it was clear to the excavators that the actual settlement site of the grave people lay buried here. To find the exact nature of the settlement full scale excavation was undertaken in 1966. The actual excavation was conducted by Mr. Abdur Rahman, Mr. Sardar Muhammad and Mr. Mohammad Sharif.

BALAMBAT SITE (abbreviated as B.B.T.).

Balambat is the name of the area west of the river Panchkora which separates it from the village Timargarha, standing on the opposite bank. The origin of the name is doubtful, but as the last old association of the area relates it to the Buddhists, it is possible to break the word into Balam (or *Parama*) bat (or but, correctly Buddha), meaning thereby the *Great Buddha*. Today the area is marked by a modern fort (PI. XXXIX, a) which is perched on the highest point to give a commanding view and power to the authority vested here. The height is gained by the accumulated debris of centuries of occupation on a granitic outcrop, the top of which partly decomposed and flattened in ancient time. It is here that the water of the Panchkora river dashes against the outcrops and makes a beautiful bend. Centuries of struggle have cut adrift many a boulder that stands isolated in the stream. Some of the boulders have been utilized and a modern bridge gives access from Timargarha to a new Government colony of bungalows and offices on this side as well as to a road leading to Bajaur. Balambat fort towers above all these buildings and gives the needed succour and protection.

From a distance the fort appears to sit on a flattened mound which abruptly slopes on the north and the east. Both these sides are approachable by river, though today it flows only on the east, the north being blocked and strengthened for the bridge. The road to Bajaur winds up the northern side of the fort first towards the west and then sharply turns southward. This Bajaur road has cut the ancient mound in two and it was in this cutting that the ancient remains were first identified. As a result Timargarha site No. 3 was selected for excavation in 1965. From the base of the fort the ground slopes westward in a steep incline but southward the slope is gradual and the space on this side is much greater. The villagers had levelled up the area and turned it into terraced fields. They had earlier excavated a few stone sculptures from the western and the northern sides but the southern area remained unknown and undisturbed. This wide area held out a good prospect for old cultural materials.

EXCAVATED AREA

Three sites were marked out for excavation. The first and the most important spread out south of the fort (PI. XXXIX, b) with the earlier year's trial excavation as the focal point. The excavated area was divided into two sites by an approach road leading to the fort. Site No. 1 lay to the south of the road and site No. 2 to the north of the road immediately at the foot of the fort. But both the sites were brought under the same grid pattern (Fig. 48). A hundred feet east-west line was marked on the ground with AO at the westernmost end. The line was cut into a unit of 20 feet and was marked A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5. From this base line the trenches were laid northward, each measuring 20 square feet and numbered serially B0, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and then C0, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, D0, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, E0, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5 and so on until we reached the foot of the fort. Near the fort only one long trench was excavated from north to south, numbering G7, H7, I7, J7 & K7. The third site consisted of only two trenches of the same measurement, numbering TTX, on a flat area to the west of the fort. Out of these the second and third site proved to be of later historical period, showing the Buddhist materials of the Kushana period. Hence these two sites were given up after determining their exact nature. The first site (Fig. 48) was excavated in full.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS:

Four different structural periods were recovered in the excavation of these sites:

PERIOD-II. In the earliest period at Balambat were found a few disturbed graves having burnt bones and some complete pots in them. These graves lay under the walls in trenches C1, D2, and D3. Their stone structure was cut by the later walls. It appears that the builders of these walls had either no knowledge of the graves, or if they had at all, they deliberately disturbed them and erected their own houses. As these graves relate to period II of our Timargarha grave excavation, we relegate the earliest level in Balambat to period II. So far no earlier structure has been found here.

PERIOD-III. The fragmentary walls (shaded dark in Fig. 48) of the structures in trenches C, D, E, and F belong to period III. All the walls are in one alignment, the longer arms being from north-west to south-east. A number of stone-lined pits have been found among them. Besides, we find several other pits dug in the yellow hard soil in the same fashion as we found in TMG III. site. The materials include iron and copper objects, ground stone celts and ring stones, terracotta human figurines like the one found in period III grave at Timargarha. The pottery types include some of the forms seen in the graves of this period. Hence this level is attributed to period III.

PERIOD-IV. The end of this last period was abrupt. The new-comers gave up the old alignment of the houses. The new structures (walls with ruled lines in Fig. 48) have been found in trenches A and B with walls running north to south and east to west. These new walls have cut the walls of the earlier structure in trenches B (See Fig. 48 and Pl. XXXIX, b) and thus provided firm evidence of their later date. It is in these houses that we get the most advanced pottery along with improved iron objects together with arrangement for fire place in every room. For the first time diaper stone masonry is seen in the walls of this period. Not a single coin, sculpture or terracotta human figurine has been found in these rooms. But alongwith the advanced pot forms, grave pottery survives to some extent. Hence though the change is abrupt, there does not appear to have been a lapse of time. Hence period IV is placed immediately after period III.

PERIOD-V. The last period had an abrupt end with no survival at all. There is a break in the occupation. The next period is traced near the fort where we get coins from the Kushana period to the Hindu Shahis, Buddhist stone sculptures, and other materials of this period.

Thereafter, there is again a break until we come to the modern fort.

CHRONOLOGY

As may have been noticed from the summary of the results given above, the chronology of the Balambat settlement site has been linked with the general periodization scheme made for the graves found at Timargarha. These graves have been classified by us into three cultural, and chronological periods:

Period — I — Complete burial with copper.

Period — II — Cremation and burial with copper.

Period — III — Fractional and multiple burial with copper and iron.

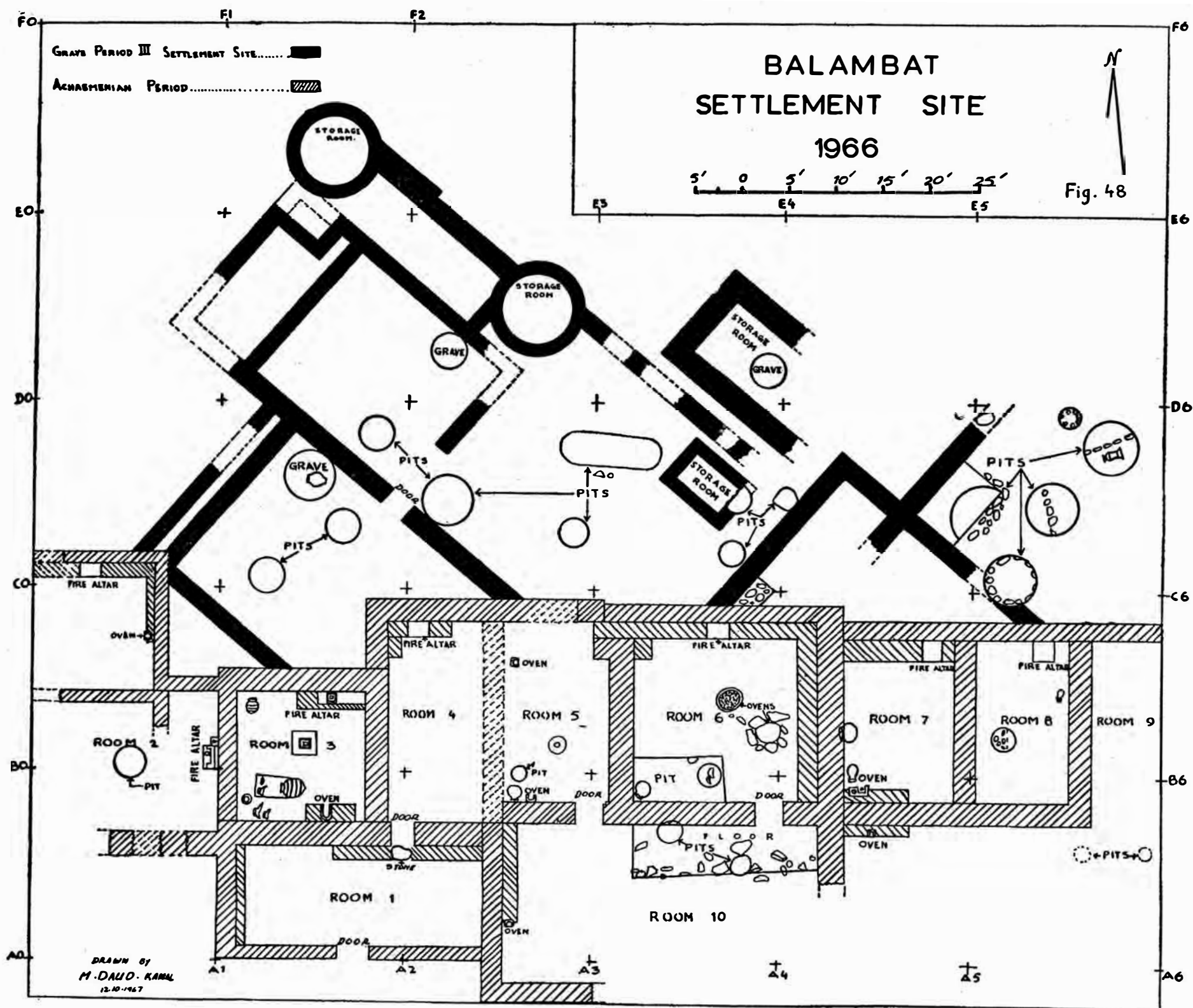
Leaving aside the last historical period, which was not exposed fully by us, we found at Balambat three main periods. In the earliest period we found a few graves with cremated bones and usual pottery associated with them. Hence we have relegated the earliest period at this settlement site to period II of the general stratigraphy at Timargarha. In the next occupation period, seen in the northern zone of our excavation, these graves were cut and spoiled by the builders of the houses above. In these rooms we obtained iron, pottery and human terracotta figurines of the same type as found in the last period graves. The stone masonry is also of rubble, very similar to the dry stone masonry seen in the graves. Hence this occupation is relegated to period III. In the next period the new settlers cut across the walls of the earlier houses and had a different alignment for their own houses, which were built of stone masonry showing a crude type of diaper. In most of these rooms we found fire altars, improved iron materials and new type of pottery along with the survival of the old. The pottery forms definitely place this occupation to the Achaemenian period (i.e. 6th to 4th century B.C.). This occupation has been referred to as period IV.

EXCAVATED REMAINS

PERIOD — II

GRAVES

A lot of pottery groups were found here and there in pits as well as along side the walls of the later period but it is not clear whether such groups originally belonged to the graves or not. Here only four graves are described in which actual burnt bones were recovered. The evidence of cremation and pottery types clearly place them in the second period.



GRAVE NO. 1

In trench C1, where the two walls meet each other along the north baulk, just at their corner, (Pl. XLV, b) about 1' 8" below the surface a group of ten almost complete pots were found in layer (2). Along with them a few burnt wood pieces and bones were recovered. Some patches of ashes were noted. A terracotta bead was also collected. The pots included one globular pitcher with a long neck and flaring rim, a bowl-on-stand, four tall drinking vases, two open-mouthed drinking cups with flaring rim, two medium-sized drinking goblets, one narrow necked bottle and two small cups of a new variety having thick set flat-base and open mouth.

GRAVE NO. 2

Right below the above pottery group was found another grave (See Pl. XLV, c) 3 feet below the present ground level. A few stone slabs had fallen into the grave chamber while the walls of the later building crossed over the grave. It was from underneath the foundation of these walls that a few burnt bones were extracted. Here we found a broken burial urn of the usual type along with other pots. Among them were two small hand-made cooking pots, one bowl-on-stand, two tall drinking vases in grey ware and another miniature specimen of the same.

GRAVE NO. 3

In trench D3 just under the baulk of D3-D4 (Fig. 48) was located another grave, 2' 6" below the present ground level in the reddish soil. Here again burnt bones along with river pebbles and funerary vessels were found. The pots included a tall drinking vase in grey ware, a narrow necked bottle in red ware of fabric (b).

GRAVE NO. 4

In trench D2, to the west of the storage room No. 1, a small grave (Pl. XLV, a) has been exposed. It is almost circular in plan and is lined by stones all round. A later stone wall in this trench robbed some of the stones of the grave. From inside the grave were recovered some burnt bones and three funerary vessels — two tall drinking vases of carinated sub-variety in grey ware and a hand-made cooking pot. Two pottery discs with a hole in the middle were also recovered.

PERIOD III

The structural remains of this period are very fragmentary as the later comers robbed many stones from their walls and built their own houses. Though the whole area must have been utilized by the subsequent builders, their own structural remains have been traced only in the trenches from A0 to A5 and B0 to B5. The top soil in trenches C, D, E and F show a mixture with the later materials. As we go upward near the fort from trenches F onward to G, H, I, J and K, period IV materials increase in number. But period III materials are mainly concentrated in the trenches from C0 to C5, D0 to D5 and E0 to E5, though pits of this period are spread all over the area, and in fact even beyond in TMG 3 site, as revealed in the excavation of 1965 season.

In this period III we have three different types of remains (1) Fragmentary walls of rubble stone masonry belonging to some houses, the plans of which are now much disturbed, (2) Circular or rectangular store rooms lined with rubble stone masonry, and (3) underground pits, rubbish or otherwise, which have yielded animal bones, ash, and lots of pottery. These will be described in their proper order. Stratigraphically all these structures belong to a single phase of occupation. This occupation layer (2) consisting of dark loose soil, mixed with ash and charcoal, lies immediately below the cultivated soil of the top layer (1) and is formed on the top of the hard compact red soil forming layer (3). The graves, noticed in period II, are all dug in layer (3) and underlie the floors and walls of period III. The stone-lined store rooms are above the floor level of this period but the other pits are dug underground from this floor level into the red soil and hence stratigraphically they belong to this period.

(1) If we leave aside the odd walls in trenches C3, C4 and D3 (See Fig. 48), we get two nice rooms adjacent to each other and connected by a door in trenches C1 and D1. The rooms spread over the neighbouring trenches. They are all built of dry masonry of rubble stones in the same fashion as the stone walls of the graves. The difference was that here the surface of the wall was plastered with mud. The door is facing north-east and the walls are aligned north-east to south west while the cross walls cut almost at right angles going north-west to south-east. The room in D1 has a long antechamber to its north-west while to its north-east there is a long rectangular platform in between two large circular storage rooms. This platform must have some connection with the grains stored in the circular rooms. Eastward the structures continue and two rectangular storage

rooms are easily identifiable, in between which runs a straight rubble wall. In trench C0 we have two walls of the later period. All over the area the occupation layer was full of ash, charcoal, pottery and other materials. Iron objects were rather rare. A number of broken terracotta human figurines of the same type, as was found in TMG graves, of the third period, were obtained here. Two terracotta bulls were also recovered. The other most important find relates to a limited number of polished stone tools—pointed butt stone axes and ring stones so well known from South India. The significance of these tools has been discussed below. On the whole the structures and their materials convincingly relate them to period III of Timargarha grave people.

(2) *Circular storage room No 1:* (Fig. 48). This room lies in the centre of trench E1. Its stones were visible immediately below the top soil and its foundation goes down into the compact red soil, layer (3). It is built of rubble stone masonry, circular in plan with a diameter of 8 feet. Inside was loose dusty soil mixed up with some ash. The pottery includes sagger-based *thulis*, hand-made cooking pots, and fragments of drinking vases. One biconical terracotta bead was also found in it.

Circular storage room No. 2 (Fig. 48). This room lies in trench D2. Its stones were noted only 4" below the present ground level and its foundation was dug into the compact red soil layer (3). It is also built of rubble stone and is circular in plan with a diameter of 8 feet. The inner face of the stone lining is smooth while the floor is also made of stone pitching. Inside was loose soil mixed with ash and charcoal. Abundant pottery of red and grey ware was found from inside this room. One important find consisted of a blade of iron knife.

Rectangular storage rooms: There are two of them. No. 3 is in trench C3 and No. 4 starts in trench D3 and extends into the neighbouring trenches. No. 4 is partly missing. Both of them have their rubble walls starting from the red soil of layer (3). They were full of loose soil, ash and pottery.

(3) *Refuse pits:* The number of these pits is large. They are also found in the trenches of A and B. They are all dug from the existing floor level of these houses and hence belong to this period III, but some of the pits in the trenches of A and B are of later period as their contents will show. These pits are generally oval in shape and they broaden out as they go down. Inside the pits loose earth, ash, potsherds and some bones were found. In one pit there was an iron object. All these pits are marked in the plan (Fig. 48).

PERIOD IV

In this period eleven well-formed rooms were found, ten of which are numbered in the plan (Fig. 48). The eleventh is lying north of room No. 2. The walls of these rooms were aligned in a regular north-south or east-west direction, cutting the earlier period walls, which lay at an angle of 45° . While the earlier walls were of rubble stone masonry, these walls showed rough kind of diaper. The walls were standing hardly 3' from the original floor level. The first layer was full of ash, charcoal and signs of burning. From room Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 large pieces of burnt logs of wood were recovered along with other roof materials. It seems that the logs of wood were used in the roof and these fell down as a result of firing. In the opinion of the excavators the firing was deliberate, caused by the destructive hand of some invaders. As in all these rooms there was only a single period occupation, it seems that the end of this period of occupation was abrupt. The site was not occupied immediately after the destruction. The later settlers of period V came here after a long break and brought coins, iron weapons, new type of pottery and also stone sculptures. Who brought about an end, is difficult to surmise. Even if we recall the march of Alexander the Great through this part and his fight against the Gourais, generally located in this neighbourhood, the archaeological material has not produced any evidence to identify the invader.

All the rooms, except Nos. 2 and 11, are facing southward. Evidences of four definite doors have been found, one each in room Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 6. Room Nos. 2 to 9 are in one row. There were more rooms on the east but now that area is occupied by some village huts. Originally the rooms must have extended right upto the river front on the east as the modern huts do today. Room Nos. 1 and 10 are large halls facing the northerly rooms. There may have been another hall in trench A0. When we find that the room Nos. 2 and 11 are facing westward, it is possible that the rooms on the river side faced the river, i.e., eastward. It is unfortunate that the walls of this period in the northern zone are all destroyed. However, it is likely to surmise that the existing rooms were at the margin of the main building that might have stood over the walls of period III.

In almost all the rooms two types of ovens or fire places were discovered. One type definitely served the purpose of hearth, as can be seen in the southern side in room Nos. 3 (Pl. XLI, c), 5, 7 and in the middle of room No. 6. The other type was placed on a high platform or bench. We find them on the northern side of room Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9. In room No.

9 (not shown in the plan but see P1. XLIII b) there was an elaborate arrangement above the bench. In the centre stood a square solid altar of mud with side alleys on right and left. The altar as well as the bench were plastered with mud. The altar showed signs of redness. In the side alleys ashes were found and signs of burning on the altar. Not far from this place was a pit dug under the floor. The pit widened as it went down. It was full of pot-sherds, ashes and charcoal. In other rooms the altar was not so well preserved but pits were found to be full of ashes and pot-sherds. In room No. 4 just above the altar lay burnt logs of wood. It was difficult to determine the purpose of these altars until we hit upon an indubitable ritual seat for fire worship (P1. XLIII, a) in room No. 2 facing westward. Close to it was the usual pit with similar material. The eastern wall of this room, which measured 15' 3" in length and 1' 11" in width, had an off-set projection in the middle. About a foot and half above the floor level stood the ritual seat on this off-set projection. The seat, which was made of mud and plastered with lime, was supported by two pillars in front. Right above the tops of pillars were lotus flowers carved in mud. On the seat was a terracotta lamp. Below the seat was an incense burner. On the east was an ash-tray (Saucer-like) and on the west a terracotta model, shaped like a truncated cone. The whole is an elaborate construction, associated with the worship of fire or flame. No image or terracotta figurines have been found in these rooms. Obviously the seat was not meant for installing any image. The presence of huge quantity of ash in the nearby pit suggests fire burning in the room. This ritual seat as well as other altars found in other rooms must have served some religious purpose. The obvious comparison is with the "altar-ovens" found at Dahan-i-Ghulaman by the Italians in their excavations (*East and West*, Vol. 16, Nos. 1-2, 1966, Figs 9 and 22). The Italians could recognise them easily as they discovered almost complete religious building. In our case the destruction had left little of the original evidence. However, the sanctity with which the altars have been raised on benches, suggests the presence of the people in whose life fire worship played a dominant part. When we remember that the whole complex belongs to the Achaemenian period, the presence of such fire altars is all the more justified. So far we have not found any other example of fire altars in Pakistan. These are the first of the type.

Several complete jars were found buried under the floor in the rooms. One jar (P1. XLII, a) was in room No. 4. The most elaborate storage jar (P1. XLII, c and P1. XLVII, c) was found in room No. 3. From the same room came a round stone grind stone with its inner side blackened. It was placed along the wall, as can be seen in P1. XLI, C. It may have been used

for grinding medicinal herbs. In general the rooms yielded iron objects, net sinkers, terracotta weight and lots of pottery, plain and painted. Among the plain pottery red ware predominated. The grey ware pots were small in number.



Section — 2

POTTERY FROM BALAMBAT EXCAVATION

By Prof. AHMAD HASAN DANI

PERIOD—II

POTTERY FROM THE GRAVES

The forms of pottery from these graves are limited. Almost all the forms are of the same types as those found in the cremated graves. But we have three exceptions. Among the tall drinking vases in grey ware we have the carinated sub-variety (Fig. 49, No. 3), which has been earlier noted only in period I graves. However, the present examples have broader base. We also have a new variety of crucible-like cups with thick set heavy sides and flat base (Fig. 50, Nos. 4 and 5). Finally we have pottery disc with a single hole in the middle (Fig. 50, No. 6). Other forms are of the usual type. Not a single piece of period III forms is found in these graves. This is quite in keeping with the fact that these graves were disturbed by the settlers of period III who built their houses here. Selected specimens are illustrated and described below.

VARIETY—I: *HAND-MADE COOKING POT.*

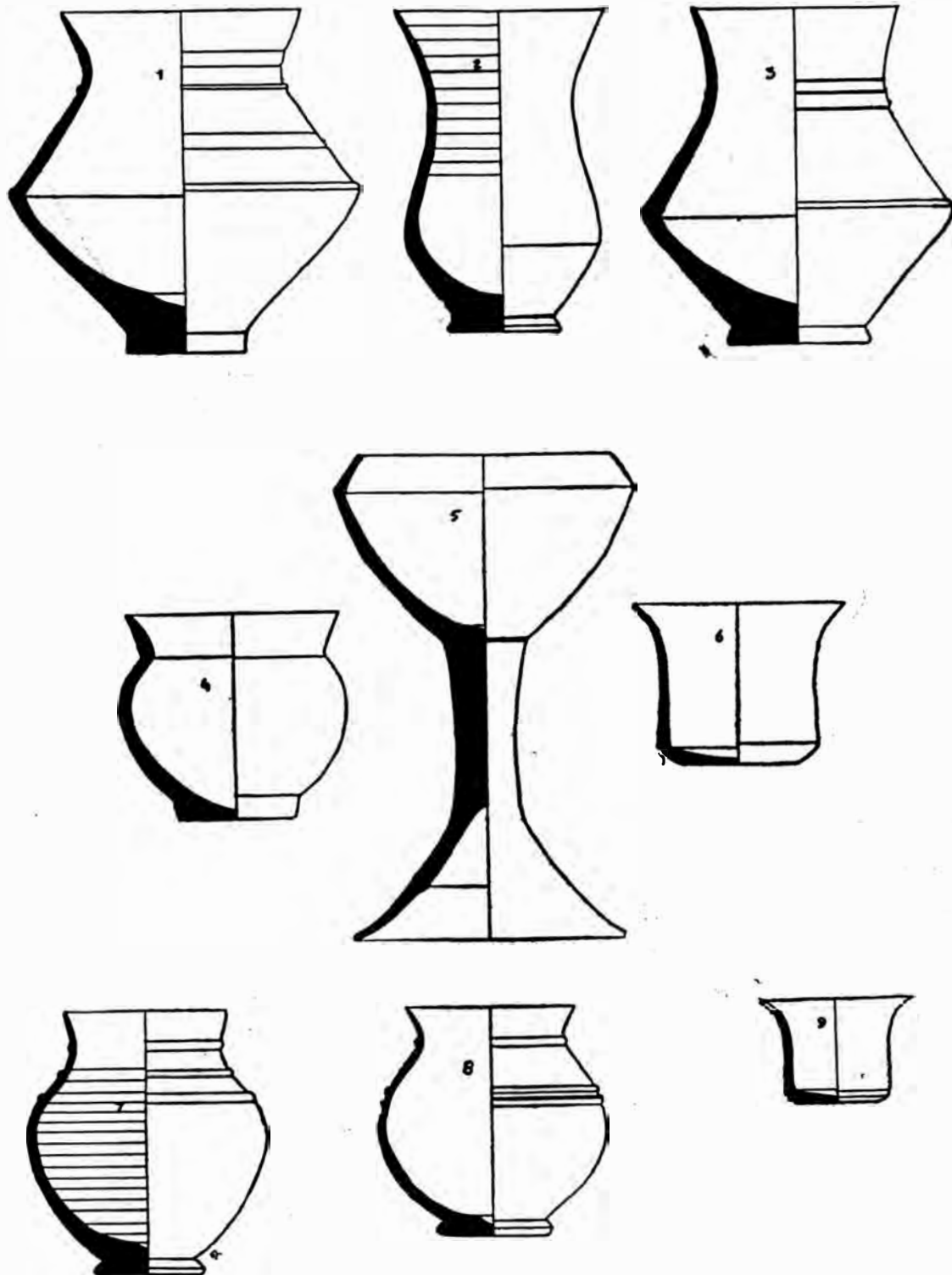
A well-fired hand-made cooking pot of miniature size, red ware of medium texture. In this case the rim is not rippled but other examples are known where the rims are rippled. Trench C1 grave No. 2 (Fig. 49, No. 4).

VARIETY—II: *BOWL-ON-STAND*

A very well fired bowl-on-stand with a hollow stem on an inverted saucer. The bowl is tapering with an inverted rim and hence belongs to sub-

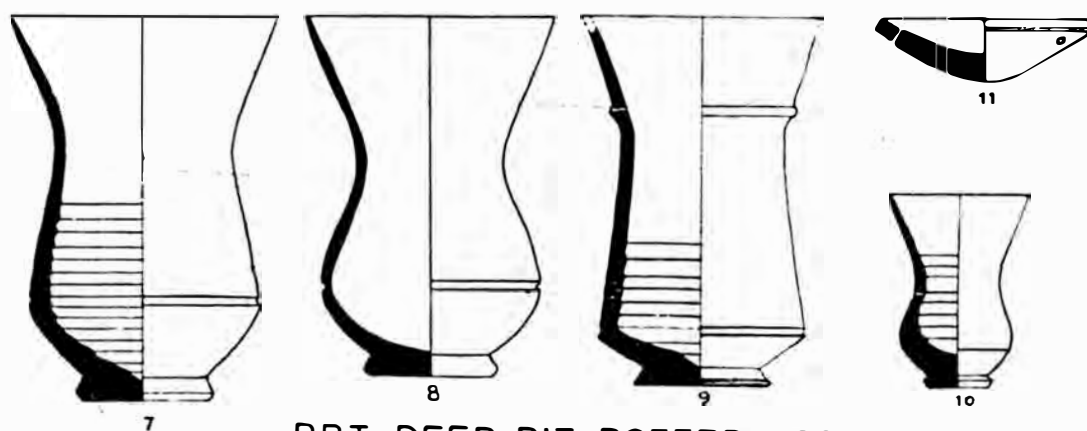
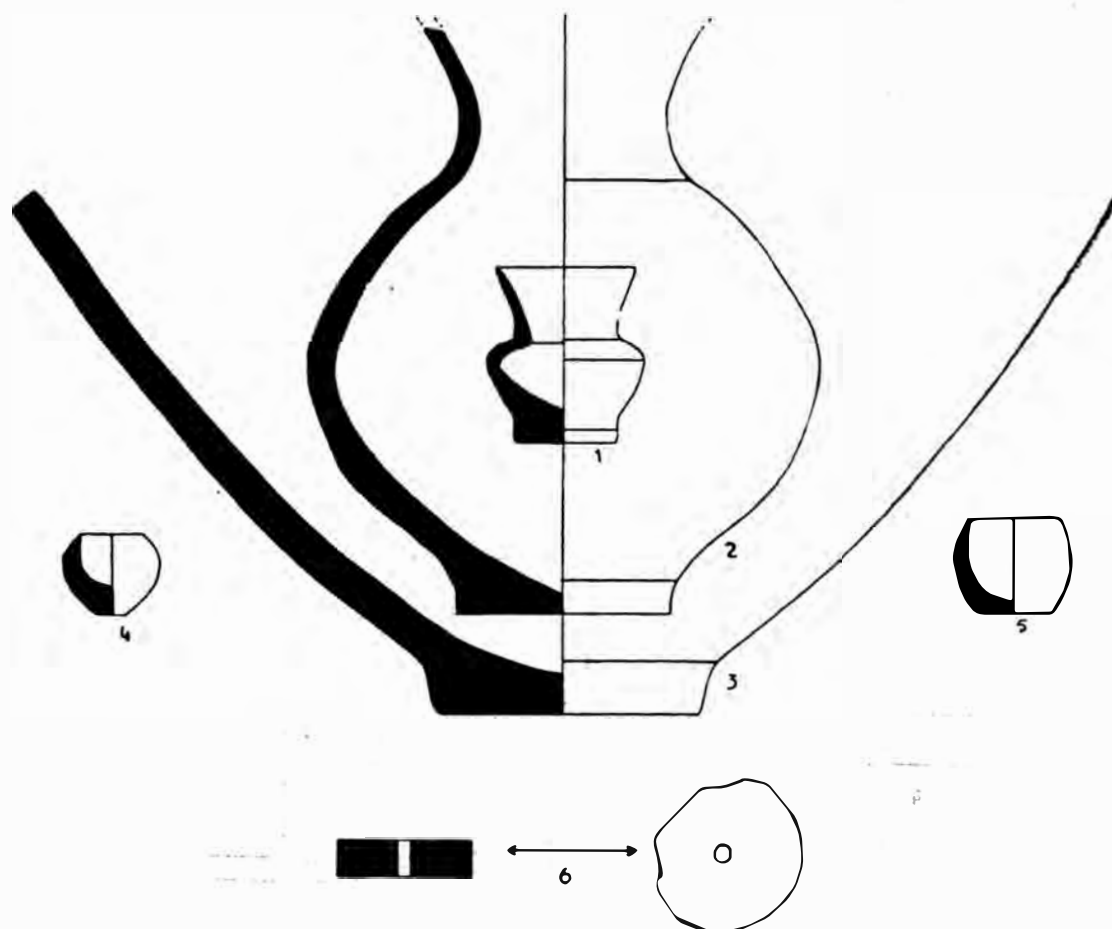
BBT GRAVE POTTERY 1966

Fig. 49



BBT GRAVE POTTERY 1966

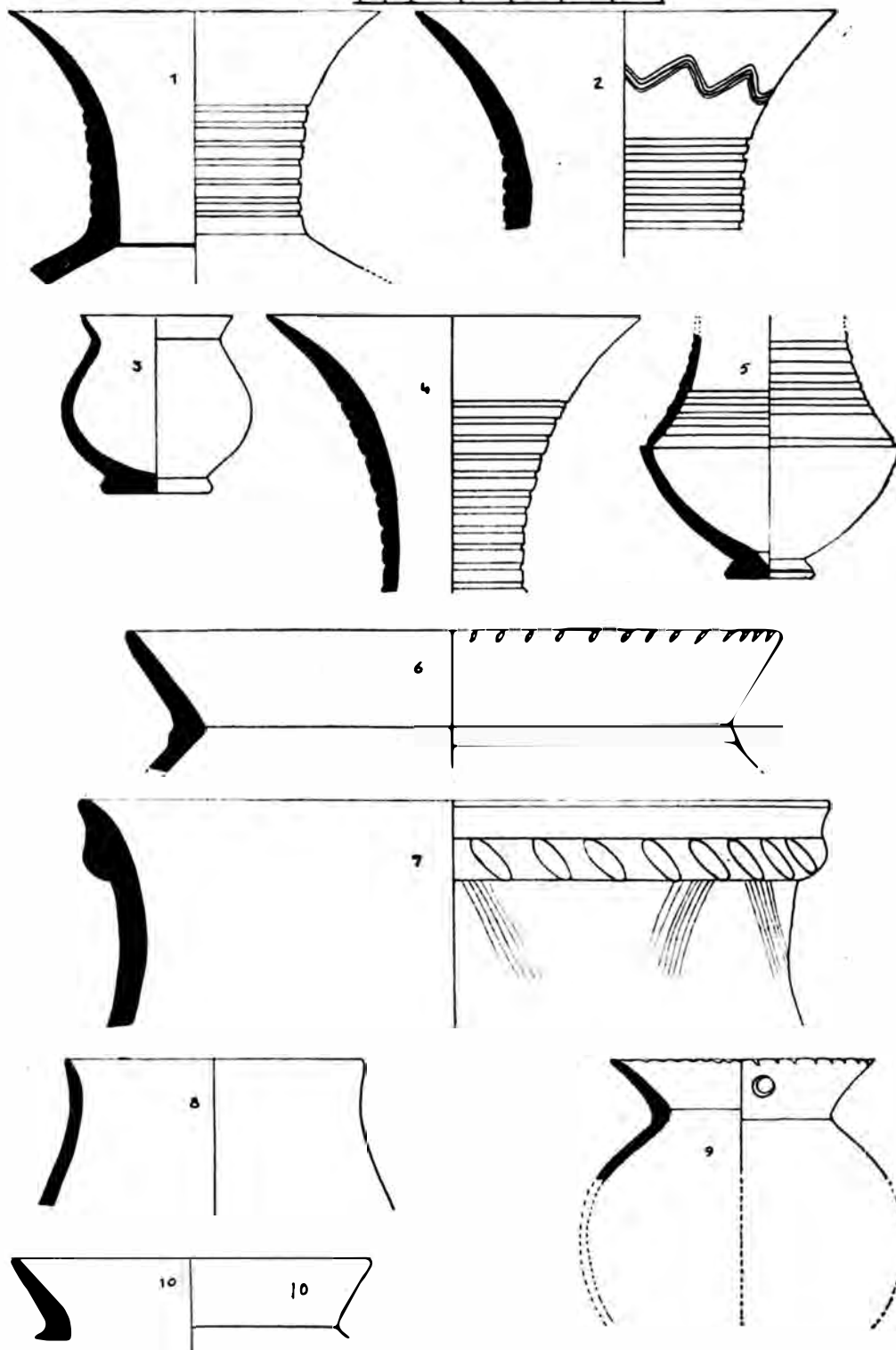
Fig. 50



BBT DEEP PIT POTTERY 1966

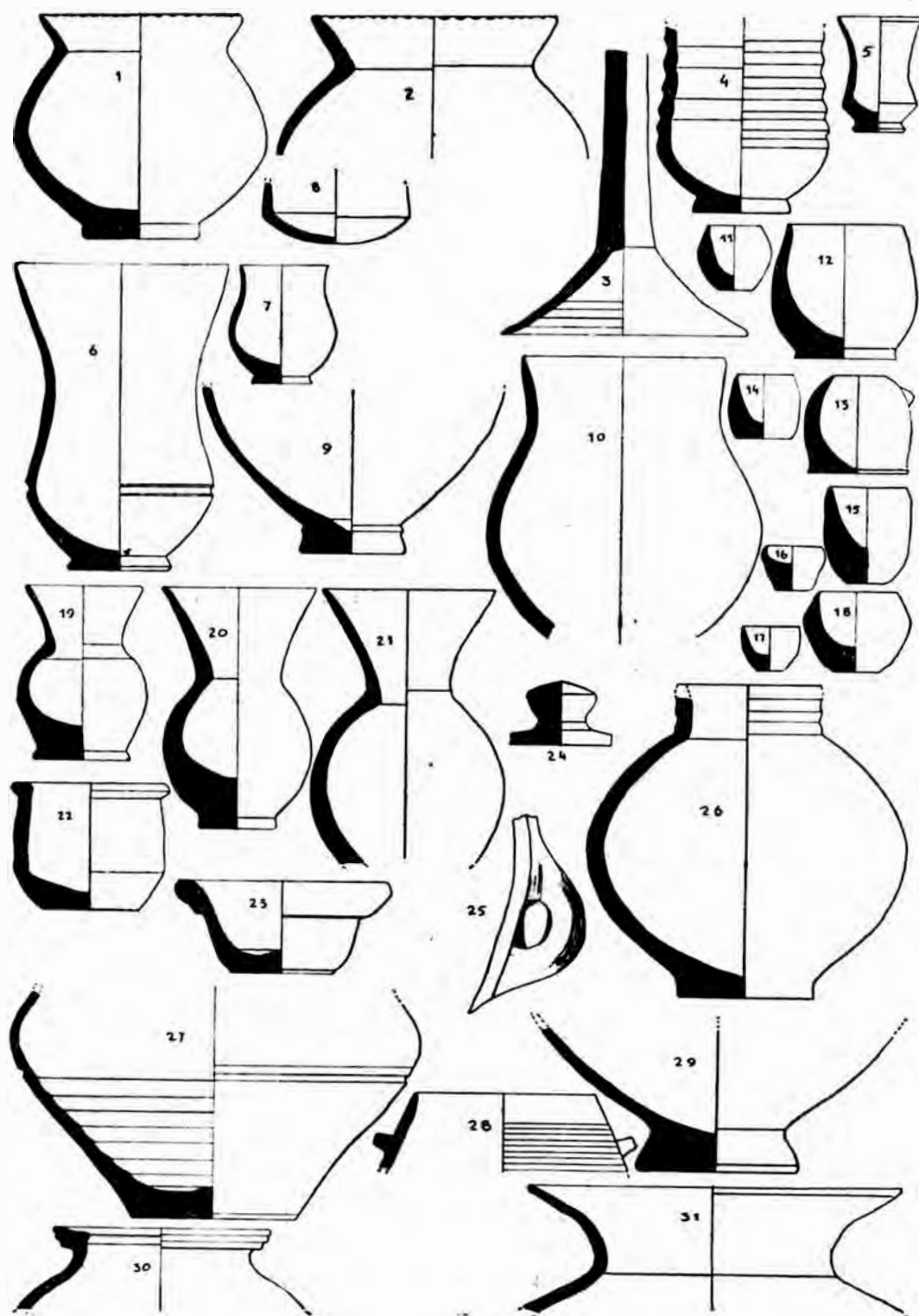
BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE
DEEP PIT POTTERY

Fig. 51



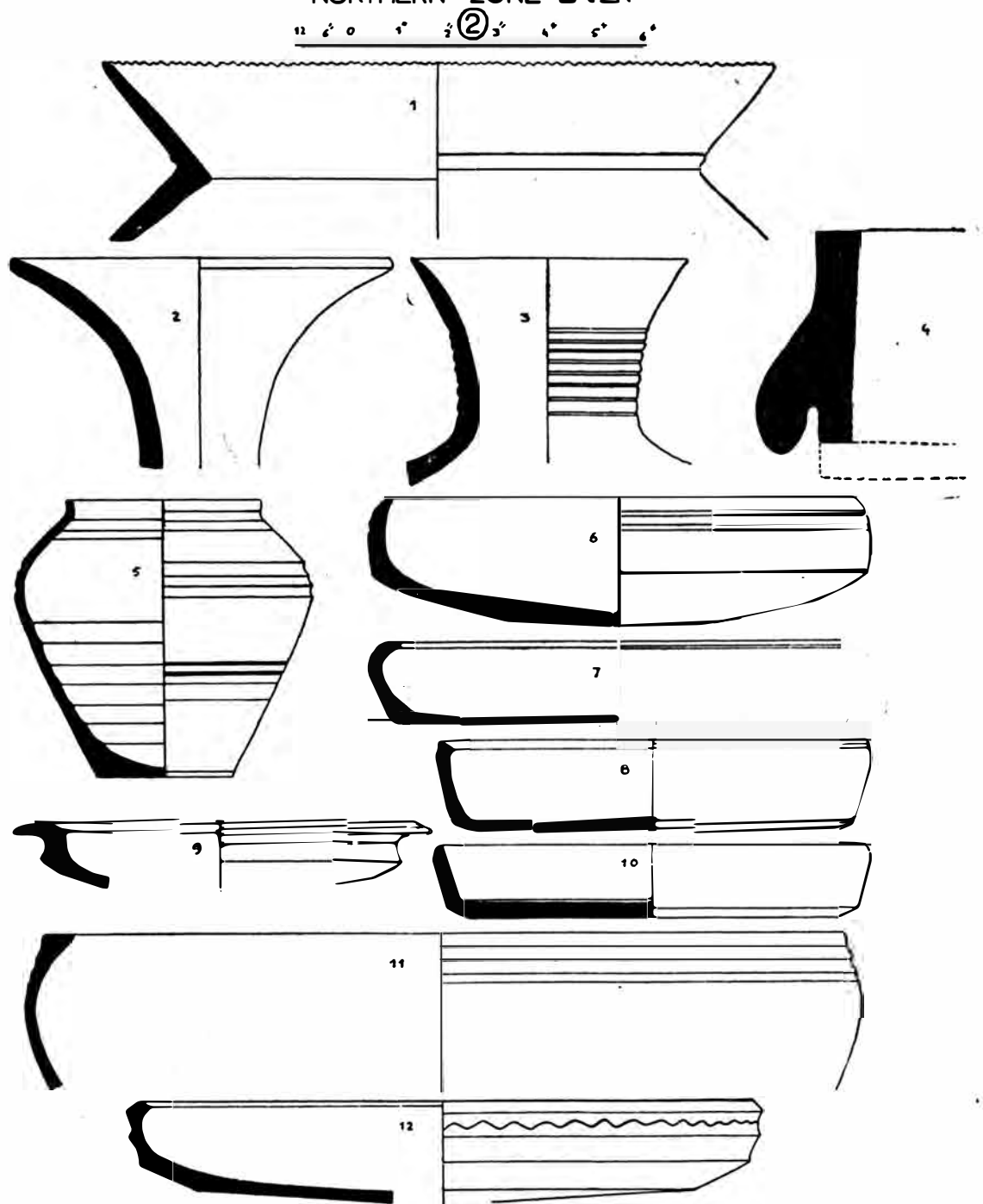
BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE LAYER ②

Fig. 52



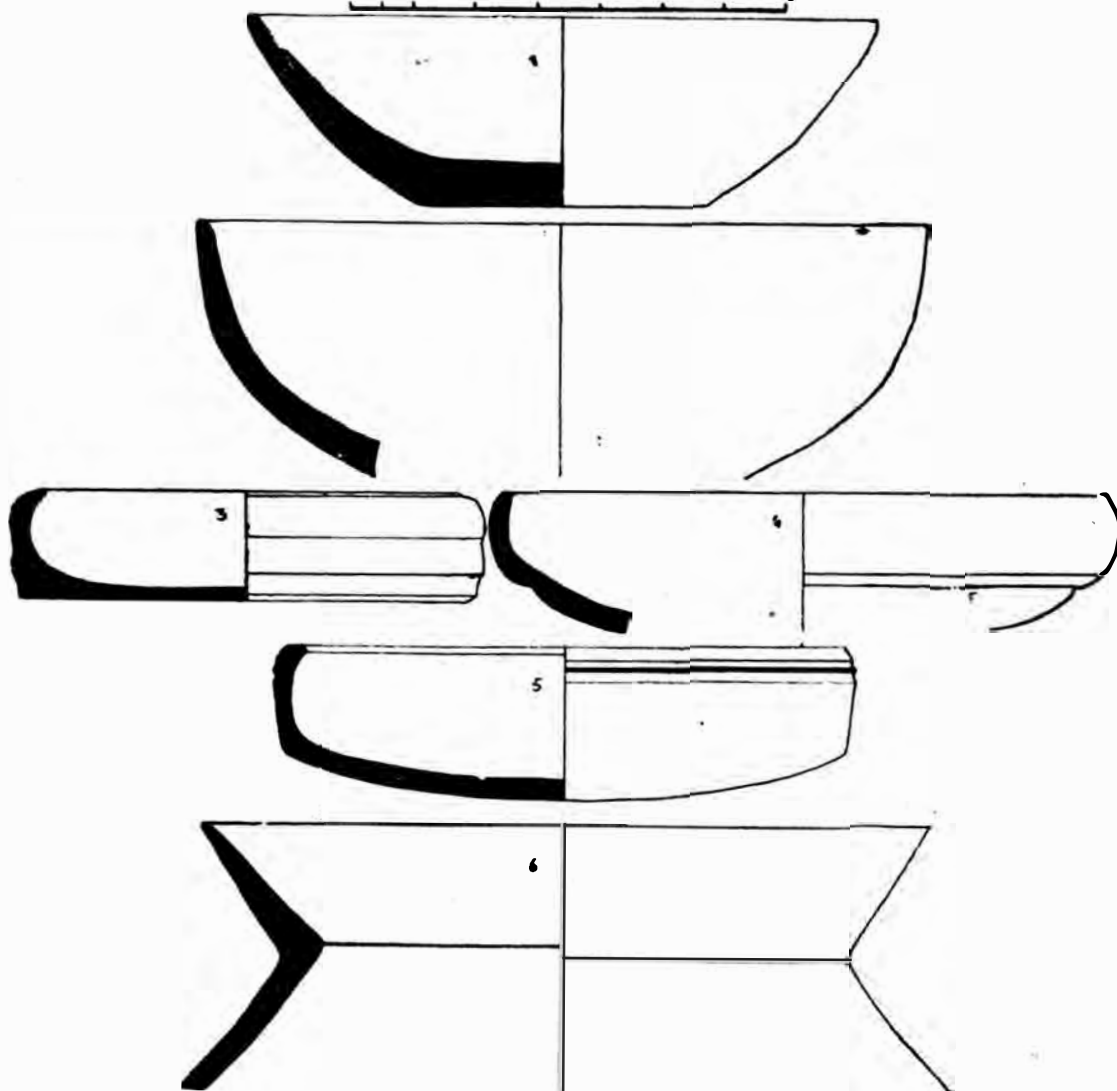
BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE LAYER

Fig. 53



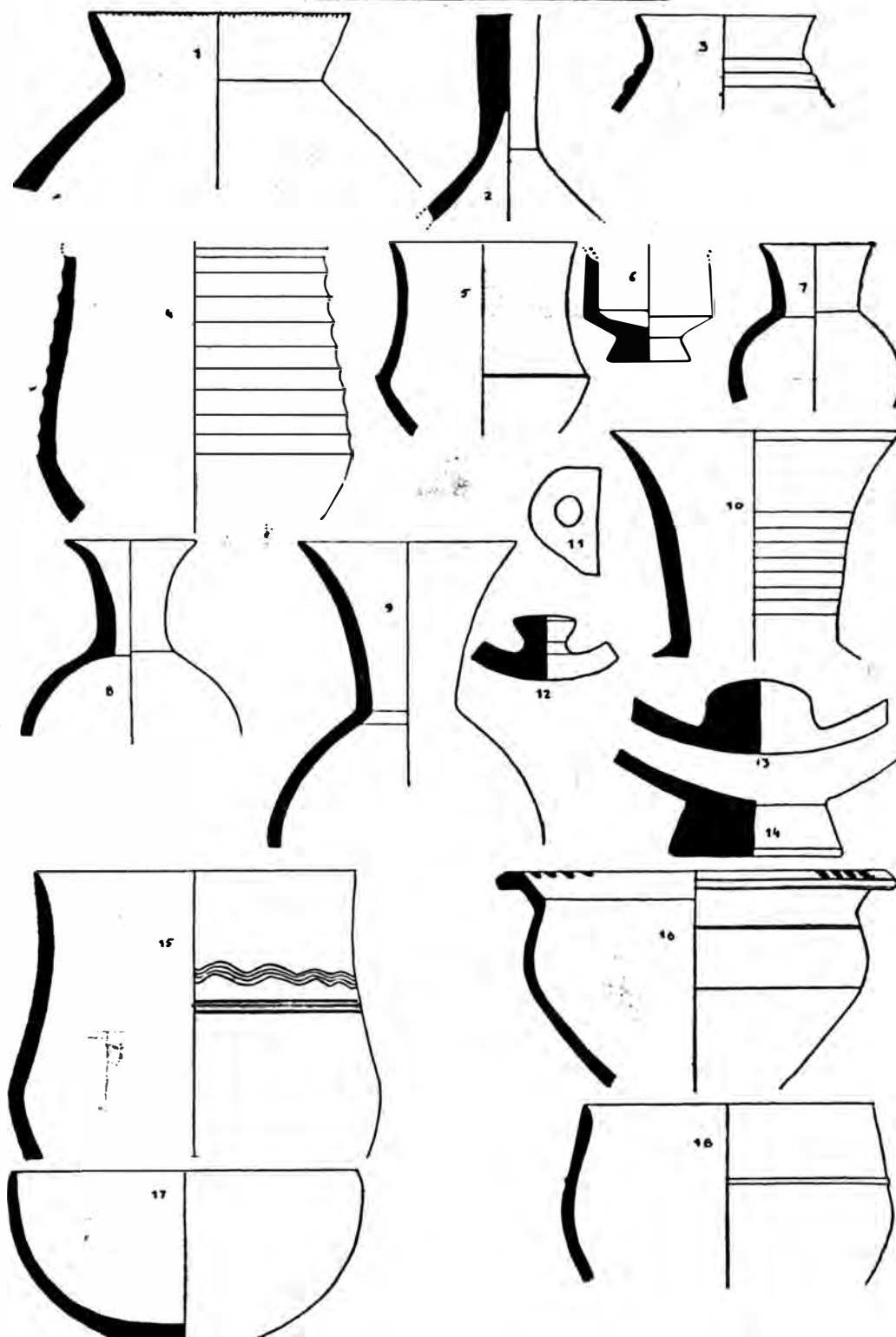
BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE LAYER ①

Fig. 54



BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE LAYER ①

Fig. 55

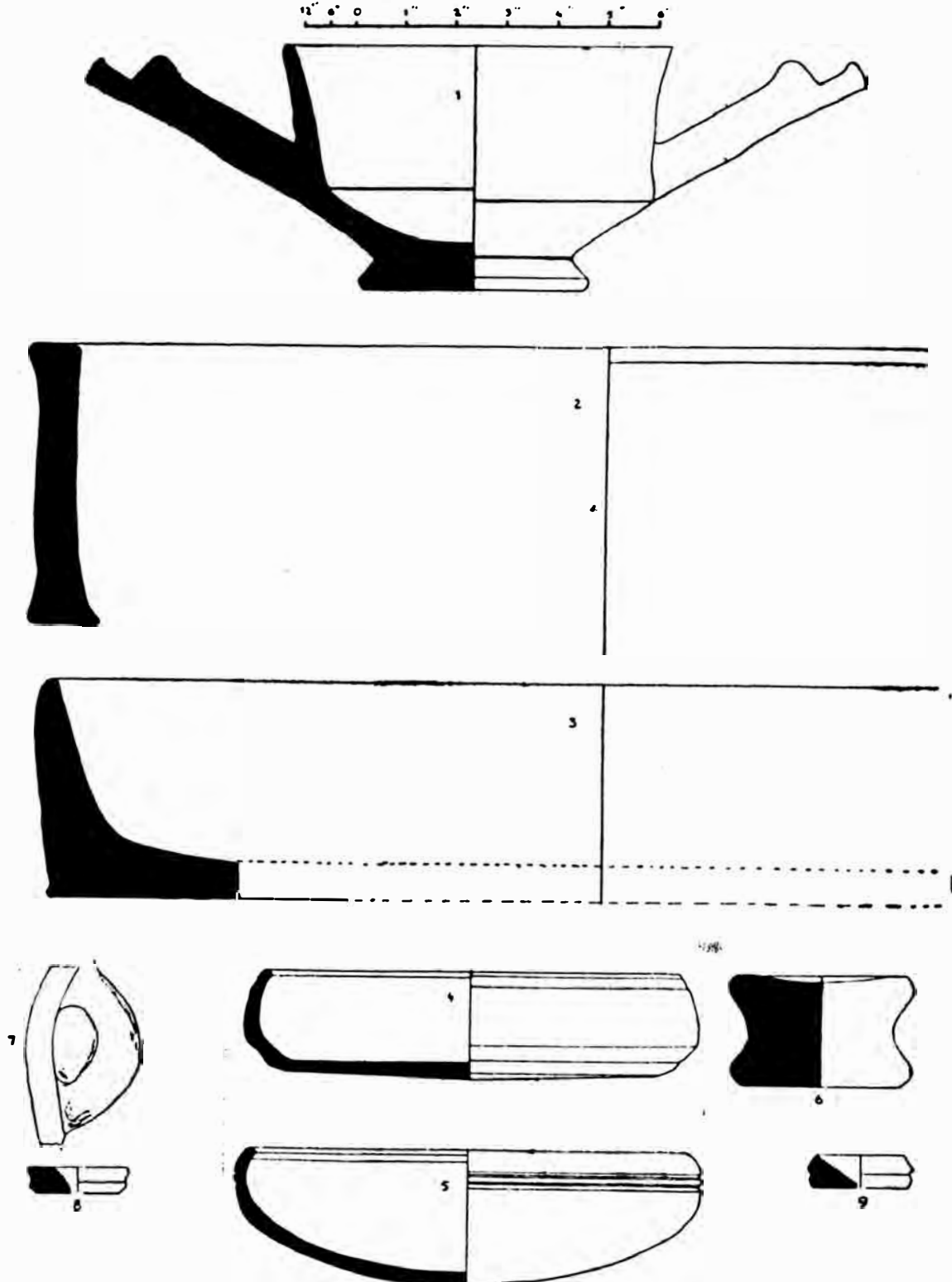


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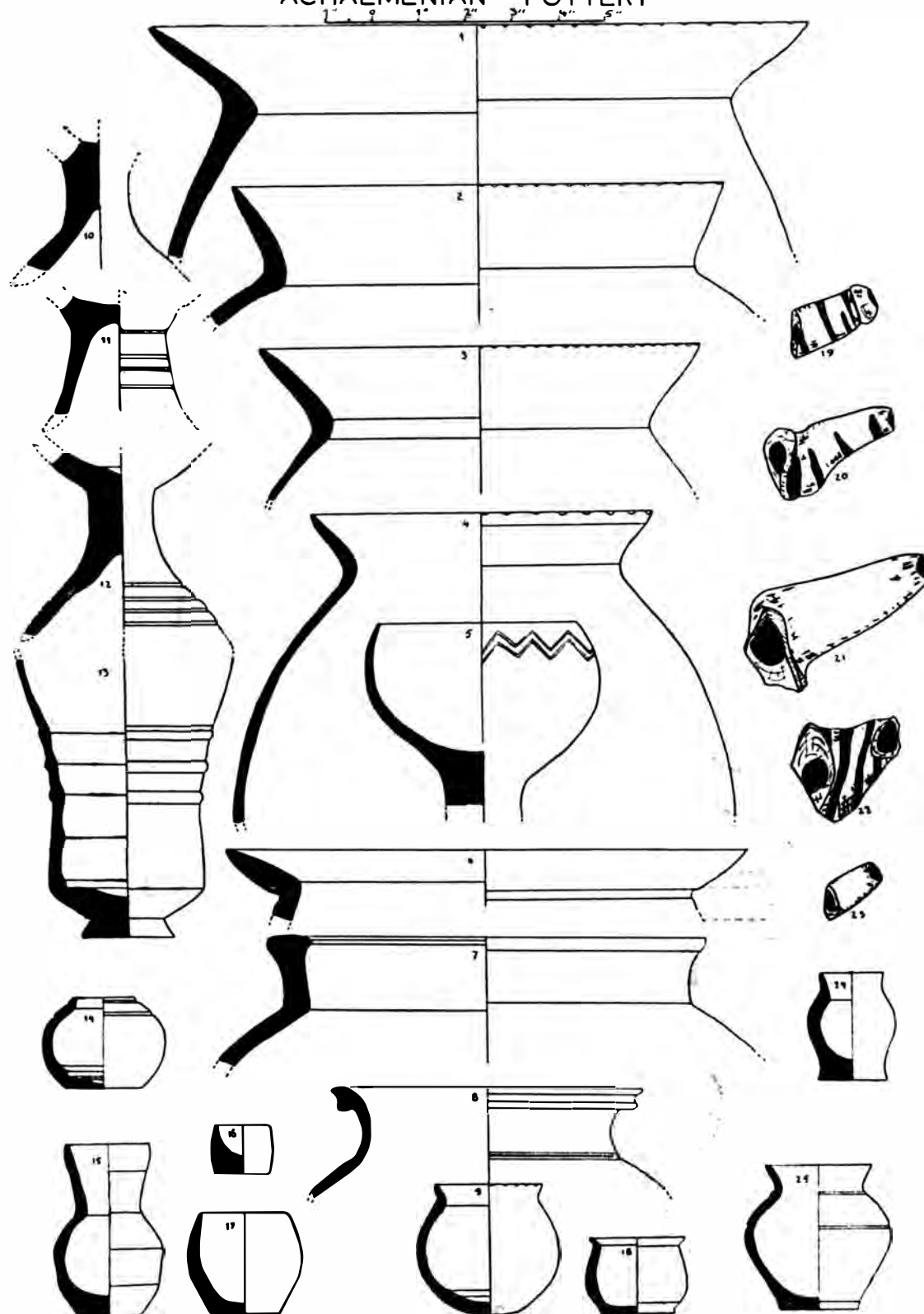
BBT SETTLEMENT SITE 1966
NORTHERN ZONE
STORAGE ROOM POTTERY

Fig. 56



B B T 1966
ACHAEMENIAN POTTERY

Fig. 57



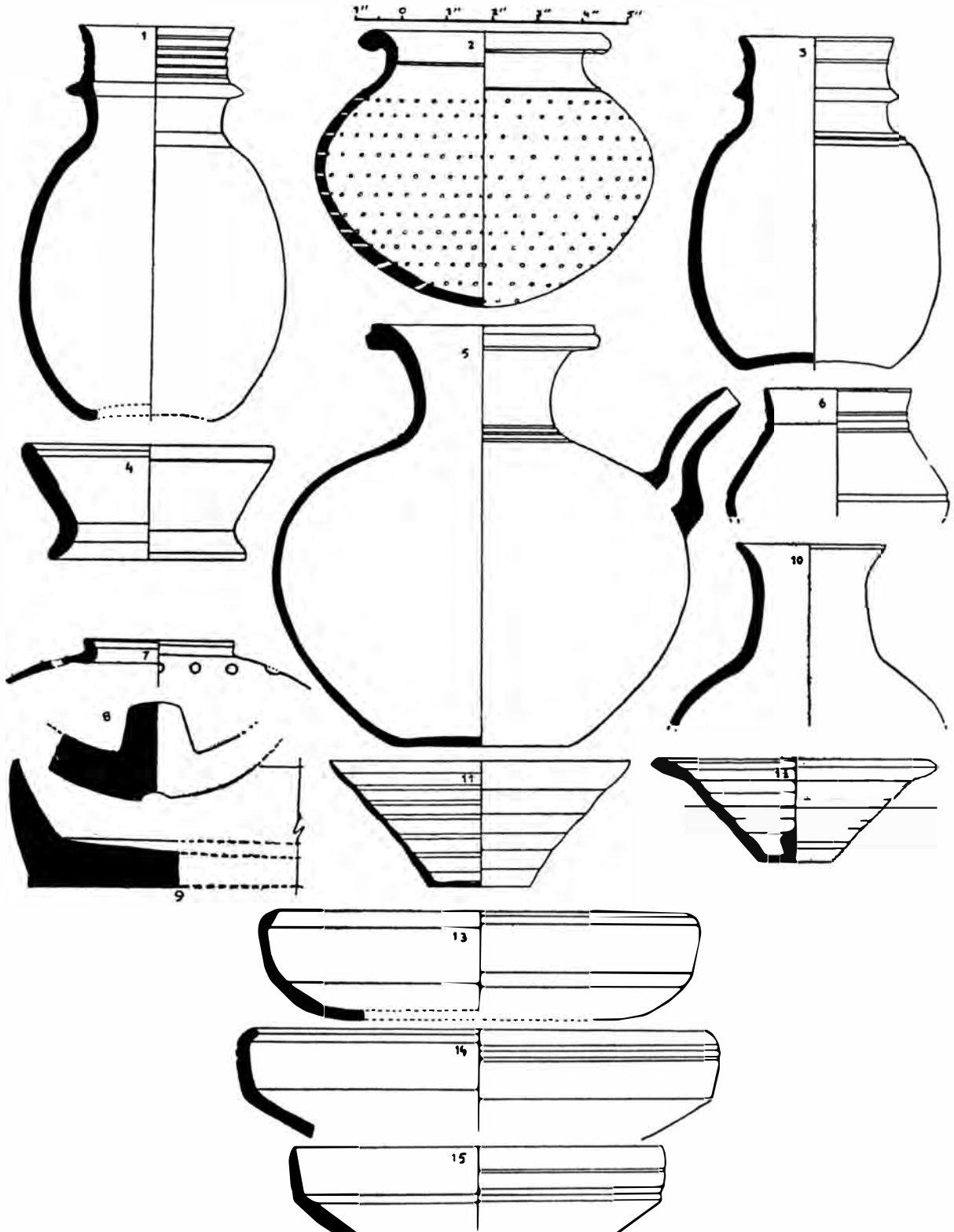
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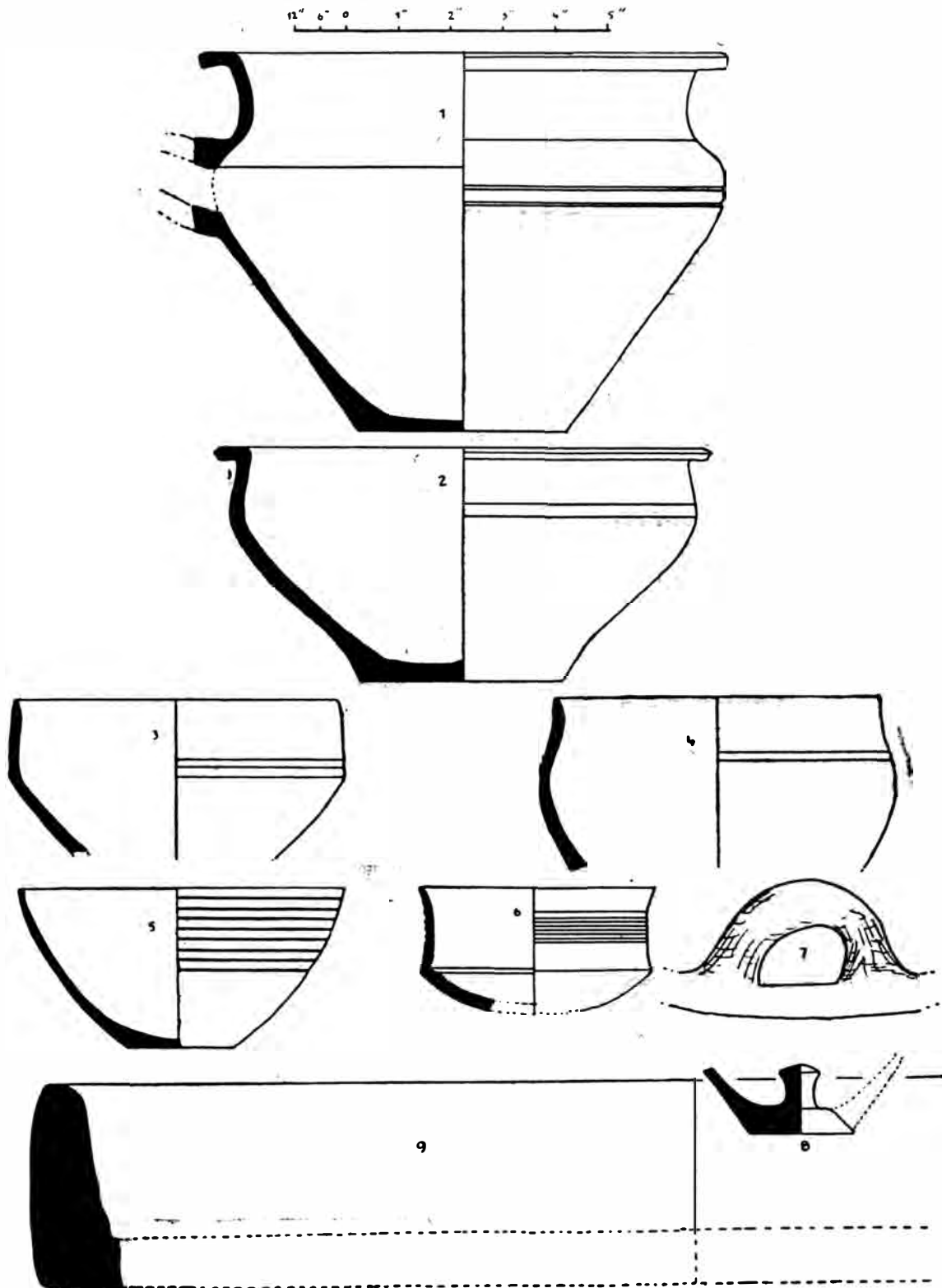
ACHAEMENIAN POTTERY

Fig. 58



B B T 1966
ACHAEMENIAN POTTERY

Fig. 59



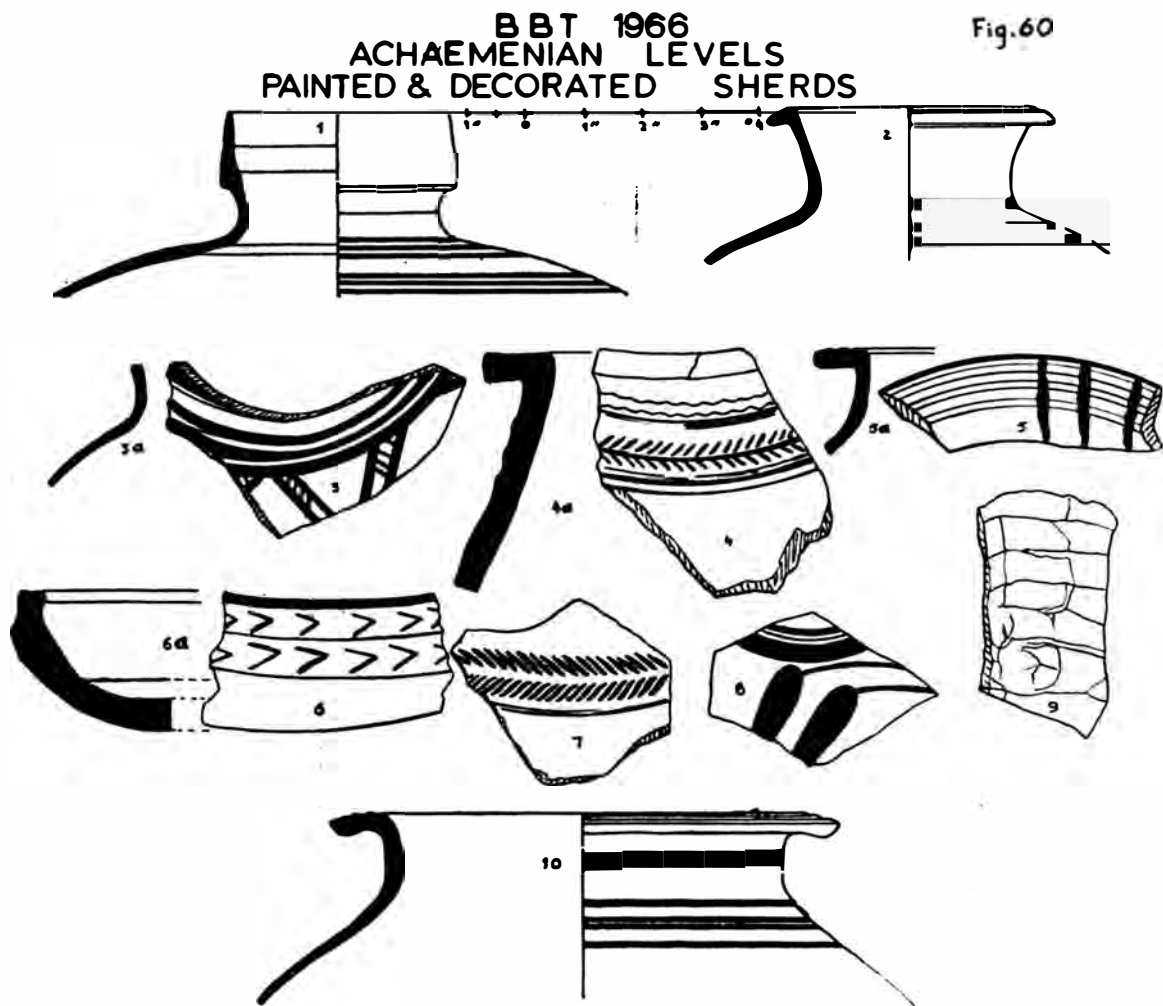
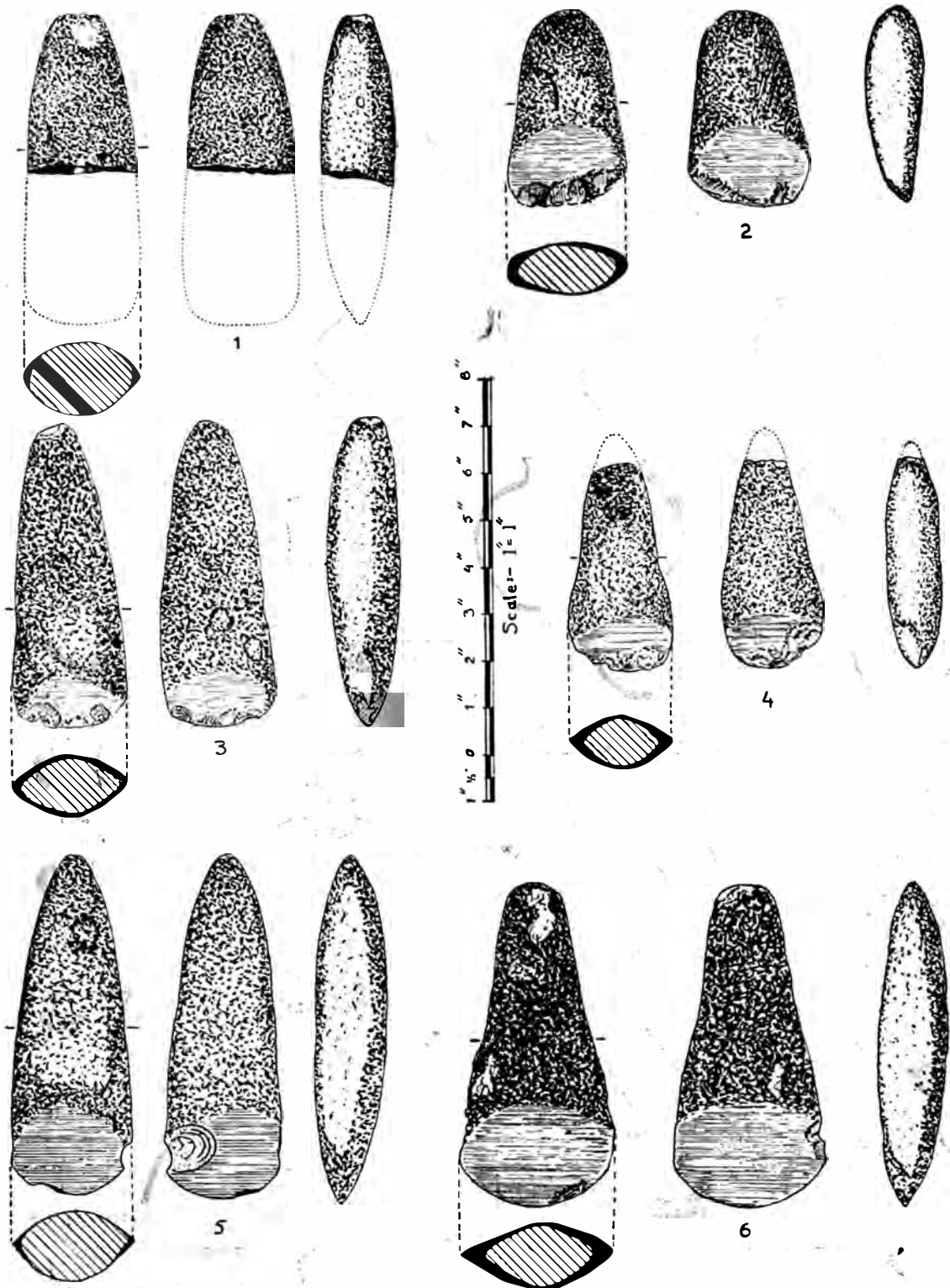


Fig. 61





GROUND STONE TOOLS
1-4 FROM TIMARGARHA
5-6 FROM SWAT

Fig. 62

variety (b). It is made of well-levigated clay of fabric (b), red slipped. Trench C1 grave 1. (Fig. 49, No. 5).

VARIETY—III: *TALL DRINKING VASES*

All are in grey ware. Only three examples are illustrated here.

Sub-variety (C):— One example from trench C1 grave No. 1 is illustrated. It is a complete pot having a graceful contour with narrow waist, globular lower half, disc-base and rim gradually curving out. (Fig. 49, No. 2).

The following two are absolutely new sub-varieties:

A complete example from trench C1, grave No. 1. It has a broad carinated body with a disc-base, narrow neck and flaring rim. Incised lines are given at the shoulder and the neck (Fig. 49, No. 1).

Another example, almost complete, from trench D2, grave No. 4. It is similar to the above but it has grooved lines at the narrow neck (Fig. 49, No. 3).

VARIETY IV: *OPEN-MOUTHED DRINKING CUP WITH FLARING RIM*

All of them are in grey ware and have flat base. The bigger specimen (Fig. 49, No. 6) from trench C1 grave No. 1 has slightly chamfered corner at the base.

The smaller one (Fig. 49, No. 9) also from the same grave has a grooved line just near the base.

VARIETY—V: *MEDIUM SIZED DRINKING GOBLETS*

Two examples are found in grey ware from trench C1, grave No. 1.

The bigger one (Fig. 49, No. 7) has a globular body, small disc-base, narrow neck with cordons and almost straight rim.

The smaller one (Fig. 49, No. 8) is rather stumpy with a constricted neck and slightly flaring rim.

VARIETY—VI: *NARROW-NECKED BOTTLE*

It is a poor example of narrow necked bottle (Fig. 50, No. 1) in red ware of fabric (b), not well-made. It is roughly prepared by hand. From

trench C1, grave No. 1.

VARIETY—IX: *GLOBULAR URN WITH FLARING RIM*

The urn was found in trench C1, grave No. 2 but was crushed into pieces. It contained some bones. The burial urn has a globular body, narrow neck and flaring rim. It is in red ware of fabric (b). (Fig. 50, No. 3).

VARIETY—X: *LONG-NECKED PITCHER OR URN*

It is a small example of this variety (Fig. 50, No. 2) from trench C1, grave No. 1 in red ware of coarse fabric, made by hand. It has a simple long neck and flaring rim.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NEW VARIETIES.

1. A convex-sided thick-set cup with flat base and truncated top in red ware, hand-made, from trench C1, grave No. 1 (Fig. 50, No 5).
2. A smaller example of the above, almost round with truncated top from the same grave (Fig. 50, No. 4).
3. A roughly made pottery disc with a hole in the middle in red ware with one face blackened, from trench D2, grave No. 4 (Fig. 50, No. 6).

PERIOD—III

POTTERY FROM THE DEEP PITS IN B.B.T.

NORTHERN ZONE

The following selection of pottery is made from those found in the deep pits in the northern zone below the settlement site. These pit sherds are of the same type as found in the graves as well as in the floor of the settlement here but in these pits no bones were found. Therefore we have not taken these pits as proper graves. However, the pottery suggests that they belong to the same period as the settlement in this area.

FIGURE — 50

- No. 7. Tall drinking vase, variety (iii), sub-variety (b), with a deep groove at the lower half, grey ware. D1 (1b) pit.

- No. 8. Tall drinking vase, variety (iii), sub-variety (b), with a deep groove at the lower half, grey ware, F2 (1b), pit.
- No. 9. Tall drinking vase, variety (iii), sub-variety (a), with a cordoned line at the middle where the flaring starts, red ware of fabric (b), C5 (2), pit.
- No. 10. Miniature drinking vase in grey ware, variety (iii), sub-variety (b), D1 (2), pit.
- No. 11. Shallow saucer-like lid in red ware, with a hole on one side. C0 (2), pit.

FIGURE — 51

- Nos. 1, 2 & 4. These are rims of long necked pitcher, variety (x), sub-variety (b), in polished red ware. No. 2 has incised zigzag decoration below the lip. All come from D3 (2) pit.
- No. 3— Is a small cooking pot, hand-made, coarse ware, variety (i), sub-variety (a), D2 (1b) pit.
- No. 5 Is a tall drinking vase, variety (iii), sub-variety (d), in grey ware. D3 (2) pit.
- No. 6 Is a rim of a storage jar, the rim being flaring and rippled, red ware. D1 (2) pit.
- No. 7 Is a rim of a storage jar, grey ware, having an applique rope design, the lower portion being combed. D2 (1b) pit.
- No. 8 Is a rim fragment of an open-mouthed globular jar, variety (xxix), in polished red ware. D3 (2) pit.
- No. 9 Is a fragment of a cooking pot with rippled rim having an additional hole at the rim in coarse red ware. D3 (2) pit.
- No. 10 Is a fragment of a cooking pot-like vessel in red ware of fabric (b), polished. D3 (2) pit.

POTTERY FROM THE ROOMS

The pottery from the settlement has been divided into two main groups: those coming from the rooms in the northern zone, which has revealed the settlement of the last period of the grave people above the graves of period II. It will be seen that all the types seen in the graves are not

found here. We do not get here the fine ware specimens of hour-glass and *Surahi*. We have found a few sherds of fine ware. The long-necked jar is rather rough and crude. The number of troughs and dishes is very large. The trough has not been found in the graves. We also get here many examples of storage jars showing proper rim formations. The pottery coming from the southern zone belongs to the Achaemenian period. There are many new forms, new ware as well as painted designs. The bowl is a typical form, also known from Dahan-i-Ghulaman (*East-West*, Vol. 16, Nos. 1-2, 1966, Figs. 58 and 59), a typical Achaemenian site. The most significant are the rim formations and new varieties of storage jars whose photographs are published here. In this period some of the pot forms of the grave people also survived, as will be seen in the illustrations.

The following selection of pottery is made from layer (2) in the northern zone of the rooms where the last period of the grave settlement has been found.

FIGURE — 52

- No. 1. A complete cooking pot in coarse red ware with rippled rim, trench C1.
- No. 2. Fragment of a rippled rim of a cooking pot-like vessel in coarse grey ware, trench C1.
- No. 3. Stand of a bowl-on-stand in red ware of fabric (b), trench C5.
- No. 4. Lower part of a tall drinking vase in grey ware, trench D1.
- No. 5. A miniature drinking vase in grey ware, complete, trench C1.
- No. 6. A tall drinking vase, variety (iii), sub-variety (b), in grey ware, trench D2.
- No. 7. A miniature goblet in light grey ware, trench C2.
- No. 8. Fragment of an open-mouthed cup in grey ware, trench C1.
- No. 9. Lower part of a big size tall drinking vase in grey ware, trench D3.
- No. 10. Medium-sized drinking goblet in red ware, coarse fabric trench D2.
- No. 11-18. Thick-set straight sided small crucible-like cups, all in coarse red ware, of these No. 13 has three lugs and its sides are

slightly curving. Nos. 13, 15 and 17 from trench D1, Nos. 11, 14 and 18 from trench C1, No. 12 from trench D2 and No. 16 from trench E1. This is a new type.

- Nos. 19-21. Are narrow necked bottles in coarse red ware. No. 19 from trench D1, No. 20 from trench F2 and No. 21 from trench C1.
- No. 22. A straight-sided open-mouthed cup with flat rim, the base having chamfered corners in coarse red ware from trench D1.
- No. 23. A small bowl with thickened rim in coarse red ware from trench C0.
- No. 24. Is a knob of a lid in red ware from trench C2.
- No. 25. A holed handle of a jar in red ware from trench C1.
- No. 26. A narrow necked vase in coarse red ware, from trench C2.
- No. 27. A deep bowl with tapering sides, from trench C2.
- No. 28. A fragment of a rim in fine red ware of fabric C. It has a lug, from trench C1.
- No. 29. Lower part of a cooking pot in coarse red ware from trench D1.
- No. 30. Rim fragment in fine red ware from trench E1.
- No. 31. Rim fragment of a storage jar in coarse red ware, from trench F2.

FIGURE — 53

- No. 1. Rippled rim of a large storage jar, coarse red ware, trench D4.
- Nos. 2 & 3. Necks of long-necked pitchers, variety X. No. 2 from trench C2 is plain, sub-variety (a) and No. 3 from the same trench has grooves, sub-variety (b).
- No. 4. Fragment of a straight-sided trough with a lug. This is a new variety. It is in coarse red ware, from trench D4. This is a very common type in the settlement area both in this period as well as in period IV.
- No. 5. A complete flower-vase like pot with tapering sides and flat base, rim flat. It has incised lines on the exterior, light red ware with blackish marks because of ill firing, made in a slow wheel. This is a new type. From Trench C0.

Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12: Varieties of dishes, showing different forms of rim (variety No. XIV), No. 9 has extended lip and sagger base. Nos. 6, 7 and 12 from trench D2, No. 8 from trench D4, No. 9 from C4 and No. 10 from C5. All are in red ware of fabric (b) and red washed but not polished.

No. 11. Is a rim fragment of a bowl. It has a flat top, red ware of fabric (b), from trench C5.

The following selection of pottery is made from layer (1) in this northern zone.

FIGURE — 54

Nos. 1 & 2 Are flat-based bowls, almost semi-circular in shape and having simple rims. No. 1. is in grey ware but of coarse fabric from trench D1. No. 2 is in red ware of fabric (b), from trench E1.

Nos. 3, 4 & 5 Are varieties of dishes in red ware of fabric (b). No. 3 is flat-based while Nos. 4 and 5 are sagger-based. Nos. 3 and 4 from trench F1, and No. 5 from trench F2.

No. 6. Rim fragment of a large storage jar in coarse red ware. It is similar to No. 1 Fig. 53 but the present example has no ripples at the rim.

FIGURE — 55

No. 1. Fragment of a cooking-pot like vessel with rippled rim in coarse red ware from trench C0.

No. 2. Stem of a bowl-on-stand in red ware of fabric (b) from trench F2.

No. 3. Fragment of a medium sized goblet in fine red ware of fabric (c), outer surface is slipped and burnished, from trench D1.

No. 4. Fragment of a tall drinking vase with cordoned lines in grey ware. It is of sub-type f, variety (iii). From trench C0.

No. 5. Fragment of a tall drinking vase in grey ware, variety (iii), sub-variety (d). From trench D1.

- No. 6. Lower portion of a tall drinking vase in red ware. It is of drinking glass type, sub-variety (a), variety (iii) from trench D1.
- Nos. 7, 8 & 9. Long necked *Surahis* in red ware of fabric (b). This is a coarse imitation of the fine ware type. All from trench D1.
- No. 10. Neck of a long-necked pitcher having grooved lines at the neck in red ware of fabric (b), from trench D2.
- No. 11. Holed handle of a pot in red ware of fabric (b), trench D1.
- Nos. 12 & 13. Are knobs of lids in red ware. No. 12 from trench C5 and No. 13 from trench C0.
- No. 14. Disc-base of a cooking pot-like bowl in red ware from trench E1.
- No. 15. Simple rim fragment of an open-mouthed globular jar in red ware, having incised decorations consisting of zigzag lines and straight lines, from trench D1. (Variety xxix).
- No. 16. It is a flat-topped bowl with a constriction at the neck, having black painted lines on the flat rim. This is a type very common in period IV. Here it may be a mixture from a later period. From trench C4.
- No. 17. Fragment of a flat-based bowl in red ware from trench E1. This type has been found in the graves near Kherai by the Italians.
- No. 18. Fragment of a bowl in red ware from trench D1.

The following selected vessels are taken from the stone-lined storage rooms belonging to period III.

FIGURE — 56

- No. 1. A straight-sided bowl on a disc-base, having handles on either side in coarse red ware. This is a new type.
- No. 2. Fragment of a trough in coarse red ware. This has generally a lug for holding (see Fig. 53, No. 4).
- No. 3. Fragment of a trough in coarse red ware. Similar to above.
- Nos. 4. & 5. Are varieties of dishes in red ware of fabric (b).

- No. 6. Pottery stand but solid in coarse red ware.
 No. 7 Is a holed handle of a pot in red ware.
 No. 8. & 9. Are pottery rollers with a hole in the middle.

PERIOD — IV

The following selection of pottery is made from the Achaemenian levels. The selection includes the pots surviving from the earlier period as well as those that were introduced in this period.

FIGURE — 57

- Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Are rim fragments of large storage jars, the rims having ripples, in red ware. No. 3 has a highly burnished red surface. No. 1 from trench B3 layer (2), Nos. 2 and 3 from layer (1).
- No. 4. Fragment of a cooking-pot-like vessel having rippled rim in coarse red ware, rough surface, from trench B0 (2).
- No. 5. Bowl of a bowl-on-stand in red ware having a burnished surface. Below the rim there is an incised zigzag decoration, from trench (2).
- No. 6. Rim fragment of a large storage jar in coarse grey ware. It is a new type from trench A1 (2).
- No. 7. Flat-topped rim fragment of a storage jar. It is also a new type, red ware, from trench B3 (2).
- No. 8. Rim fragment of a small jar in coarse red ware, from trench A1 (2).
- No. 9. A small flat-based pot having rippled rim in coarse red ware, ill fired, from trench B3 (2).
- Nos. 10, 11 & 12 Are a new variety of bowl-on-stand having short stems. No. 11 is in red ware having burnished surface from trench B3 (2) and Nos. 10 and 12 are in grey ware. No. 10 from trench A2 (2) and No. 12 from trench B3 (2). Probably incense burners.
- No. 13. Is a drinking glass type of tall drinking vase in grey ware from trench B0 (2).

- No. 14. Is a narrow mouthed little vase having flat base in light red ware from trench B4 (2).
- No. 15. Is a long narrow necked vase in coarse red ware from trench B0 (2).
- Nos. 16 & 17 Are thick set type of little pots in red ware from trench B3 (2).
- No. 18. Is a little squat type of pot having everted rim and flat base in coarse red ware, from trench B3 (2).
- Nos. 19-23 Are all spouts of pots. The first four are in red ware while the the last is in light grey ware. Nos. 19, 20 and 22 have black paint on red surface. No. 19 is from F1 (1), No. 20 from B3 (2), No. 21 from B3 (2), No. 22 from E1 (1) and No. 23 from B3 (2).
- No. 24. Is a narrow-mouthed little pot in coarse red ware, from B3 (2).
- No. 25. Is a small vase having flaring rim, constricted neck, wide shoulder and flat thick base. It is in coarse red ware, from B3 (2), pit 1.

FIGURE — 58

In this sheet are drawn typical examples of Achaemenian (period IV) pottery. Except for Nos. 8, 10, 13, 14 and 15, the other types are entirely new. They introduce not only new forms but also new ware. They are all red ware but of a lighter fabric. Their exterior surface is not polished.

- Nos. 1 & 3 Are elongated pear-shaped vase (*martban-like*) having a concave base, a flange above the constricted neck and gad-rooned rim. No. 1 is from B5 (2) and No. 3 from B0 (2).
- No. 2. Is a perforated jar having a beaked rim and rounded base from trench B3 (2).
- No. 4. Is a pottery stand from B3 (2).
- No. 5. Is a big spouted vase having a flat base, narrow neck and grooved out-turned rim from trench B0 (1b).

- No. 6. Is a new variety of medium-sized goblet with a simple cordoned rim but it is in thin red ware. From trench B2 (2).
- No. 7. Is a fragment of a big jar, probably having a pointed base. It has an insignificant rim and a series of holes at the shoulder. From trench B1 (2).
- No. 8. Is a saucer-like lid having a rider knob in the middle so well known from the graves. From trench A0 (2).
- No. 9. Is a trough in a coarse clay, not well fired. From trench A2 B5 (1).
- No. 10. Is a fragment of a narrow-necked *Surahi* in light red ware, not well fired, from trench B1 (2).
- No. 11. Is a new type of bowl in fine red ware of light texture, having tapering sides and flat base. This type is not found in the graves at all.
- No. 12. Is a complete lid consisting of a bowl of the type No. 11 above but this ware is rather thick. It has a rounded knob in the middle. This type is not found in the graves but is known from Taxila. From room No. 6 pit 4.
- Nos. 13, 14 & 15 Are varieties of dishes in the usual red ware. No. 13 from room No. 6 pit 4, No. 14 from B3 (2) and No. 15 from A5 (2).

FIGURE — 59

- No. 1. Spouted vase of a deep bowl type, having constricted neck, flat rim and narrow base ending in a flat bottom. Except for the spout, this is typical in the Achaemenian sites. It is thick red ware of coarse fabric. From trench B2 (2).
- No. 2. Is a variation of the above deep bowl, but this has no spout and the neck does not have marked constriction. It is in a better red ware. From trench B3 (2) pit 1.
- Nos. 3, 4, 5 & 6 Are rather varieties of bowls in fine ware. No. 3 is in grey ware from trench A5 (2). No. 4 is in red ware from room No. 6 pit 4. No. 5 is in red ware from A2 (2). No. 6 is in grey ware from B3 (2).

- No. 7. Is a holed handle in red ware from trench B3 (1).
- No. 8. Is a lid having rounded knob in the centre. From B3 (2).
- No. 9. Is a fragment of trough in coarse ware, not well fired. From (2).

FIGURE — 60

A few selected examples of painted and decorated sherds are illustrated here. Earlier in P1.57 a few painted spouts have been illustrated. All these sherds, except No. 10, have deep red slip and are painted black. The painting is generally thick line, except in No. 3 where we have ladder design and No. 8 where we see long wing-like blobs with a connecting shoot. Again some of the sherds are a new type of fine red ware but heavy in weight. No. 10 has an alternate red and buff colour in between black painted lines. The other designs are incised lines, or applique decoration and a new type of sherd in light red ware having irregular design in raised lines.

- No. 1. Is a fragment of a jar, probably having pointed bottom with a straight rim and black painted lines on the shoulder. From room No. 6 pit 4.
- No. 2. Is a fragment of a pitcher with a beaked rim having black painted lines on the shoulder. From room No. 6 pit 1.
- No. 3. Is a fragment of a pitcher having ladder painted design below thick black lines. From B3 (2).
- No. 4. Is a fragment of a jar having flat-topped rim and incised decoration. From trench A5 (2).
- No. 5. Is a rim fragment having grooves on the flat topped rim and painted lines. From B3 (1).
- No. 6. Is a fragment of a dish having incised decoration at the exterior. From A1 (2).
- No. 7. Is a fragment having applique decoration imitating rope design. From A2 (2).
- No. 8. Is a fragment having black painted design. From room No. 6 pit 1.
- No. 9. Is a fragment with irregular lines raised above the surface. From B3 (2). This is typical in this period and is widely known in Waziristan as well as in Kurram Valley, as is attested by surface exploration.

- No. 10. Is a rim fragment of a jar having grooved flat-topped rim and variegated painted design in multi-colour at the neck and shoulder. The outer body is buff and is polished. From B3 (2).

PLATE XLVII, a

Painted Jar.— Round bottomed jar having broad shoulder, the body gradually narrowing at the lower end, neck narrow and flat topped rim. A series of black painted horizontal lines on red slipped ware from the neck to the middle of the body.

PLATE XLVII, b

Achaemenian Jar.— A medium-sized storage jar in red ware with its lower half rough. It has a triangular shaped rim and double incised lines below the neck.

PLATE XLVII, c

Pointed bottom Storage Jar.— A large storage jar in red ware, having angular rim and pointed bottom. It has six rows of applied horizontal bands from the neck downward. This type of jar has also been found at Udergram in Swat by the Italians.



SECTION—3

MINOR ANTIQUITIES

By ABDUR RAHMAN

The excavations conducted at the settlement site of Balambat has brought to light one hundred and twenty eight specimens of minor antiquities consisting of beads (both of terracotta and stone), whorls, pins, weights, sling balls, terracotta pedestals, bangles of glass and iron, terracotta animal and human figurines, spinning weights, various iron objects, worked stones, a few ivory and shell objects, ground stone tools and two non-descript pieces of lead. As mentioned above, stratigraphically three distinct periods of successive occupation have been identified at this site. It may be mere happy co-incident that different types of objects and also their materials tend to concentrate in one period or the other with the consequent strong associative relationship. Thus a certain type of terracotta bead generally labelled

as 'pear shaped' is exclusively, as evidenced at this site, associated with the last occupation period (Period IV). Similar is the case with glass and iron objects which, only with a meagre scatter in Period III, tend to concentrate in the last period. Terracotta animal and human figurines, on the contrary, have different story to tell. With the exception of a solitary example of a much damaged specimen of (?) bull which, having striking resemblance with those found in Period III, might be written off as a probable stray from an earlier deposit, all the terracotta human and animal figurines are conspicuous by their absence from the last occupation period. On the other hand they are abundant in the earlier stratigraphical horizon (Period III). Let it be pointed out that period II has yielded no antiquity other than pottery discs and a solitary terracotta bead.

The antiquities are grouped, according to their materials, under the following heads. Those made of:

- 1) **Iron.**
- 2) **Terracotta.**
- 3) **Ivory and Shell.**
- 4) **Glass.**
- 5) **Stone.**

1) *IRON OBJECTS*

It is already indicated that the two rows of trenches marked A0 — A5 and B0 — B5 coincide with the last building phase (BBT IV). It is from these trenches that the major number of iron objects is obtained. The variety of these antiquities consisting of loop headed pins, nails, sockets obviously for wooden shafts, a sheep shearer, carpenter's tool (chisel), a gardening implement, an arrow head and a few other indeterminate fragments exhibit a relatively rich culture abundantly familiar with the knowledge of iron. Whether this iron was obtained locally which involves the consequent knowledge of smelting process remains anybody's guess. Anyway, the variety of antiquities and their carefully finished shapes, only consistent with a mature knowledge of working in this material, emphasize a culture resplendent with iron objects.

BBT. Period III which coincides with the rows of trenches marked Co — C5, D0 — D5 and so on produced comparatively fewer iron objects, inspite of the fact that it covered relatively extensive area. Only four specimens were found: one blade of a knife and three other fragments probably belonging to some nails. Whatever be the cultural penury of the occupants

of this phase we are here no more concerned. But the few iron fragments discovered here are highly significant in that they furnish us with the information about the earliest use of iron in this part of the country. Two copper pins were also found here in this level.

BBT. Period II, represented by a few graves did not reveal any metal objects. In the absence of any break in the occupation of this site, it is difficult to explain why copper objects are not found there, inspite of the fact that this metal was used by contemporary people living on the other side of the river (TMG II). However, the limited area under excavation and the meagre number of graves exposed here abundantly justify the complete absence of copper from this period. Selected illustrations are given below.

PLATE — LIIa

1. (Reg. No. 34) *Loop headed pin*²: made of round sectioned wire twisted at the flat end to form a ring or as incipient spiral; length 2.7". Trench B1 Str. (2). Period IV.
2. (Reg. No. 199) *Loop headed pin*: made of round sectioned wire twisted at the flat end to form a ring or an incipient spiral; length 2.5". Trench A4 Str. (2). Period IV.
3. (Reg. No. 101) *Loop headed pin*: same as above, only slightly longer; length 3". Trench B 2 Str. (2). Period IV.
4. (Reg. No. 100). *Small nail*: with a square sectioned stem and a rectangular flat top; length 8". Trench B 2 Str. (2). Period IV.
5. (Reg. No. 207). *Arrow head*³: three flanged with a considerable length of solid shank intervening between the head and tang; length 1.9". (this is the solitary example found in our excavation. It comes from the top soil of C5 and hence attributed to the last occupation period (Period IV). It can also be a subsequent intrusion).
6. (Reg. No. 224). Tip of a square sectioned walking staff with a socket at one end which tapers towards a point at the other; length 1.8". Trench B 5 Str. (1). Period IV.
7. (Reg. No. 37). *Finger ring*: made of rounded wire. Trench C2 Str. (2). Period III.

PLATE — LIIB

1. (Reg. No. 209). A long iron object, hollow from inside. It broadens like a socket at one end and is blunt at the other. Probably used for blowing fire; length 7". Trench A4 Str. (2). Period II
2. (Reg. No. 160). Carpenter's tool (chisel)⁴; with a tang and socket at one end (which shows traces of decayed wood) and a flat working edge at the other. It is 5". sq. in the middle; length 6.5". Trench B1 Str. (1). Period IV.
3. (Reg. No. 21). *Gardening tool*; made of a rectangular sectioned iron bar twisted below the socketed end. It is pointed at the tip. The blunt edges of its blade suggest some function other than cutting. It was probably used for digging. Width of blade .8". Trench A Str. (1) Period IV.
4. (Reg. No. 142). *Sheep Shearer*⁵; made of a flat iron bar which was hammered into two blades — one on each end, and then twisted in the middle with the cutting edge of blades facing each other like those of scissors; length 6.5". Trench A2/B2 BK Str. (1). Period IV.
5. (Reg. No. 9). *Knife blade*; with a rectangular sectioned broken handle made in one with the straight backed blade. Sharp at one edge; length 4", breadth of blade .9". Trench A1 Str. (1) Period IV.

2) TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

Terracotta was the material employed for the manufacture of a major portion of antiquities. They are classified into the following categories: (a) Animal figurines, (b) Human figurines, (c) Weights and sling balls, (d) Beads and Whorls and (e) Miscellaneous.

(a) Animal Figurines

The relationship of animal figurines with BBT. Period III. has already been hinted above. Out of the total number of 8 only one comes from the last building phase. All of them are hand made (not moulded) with clumsy

anatomical features and crudely fashioned beak-like snouts. The applique technique is noticed in the applied tails on a few specimens. Among the best examples is a ram's head originally designed as a catch for some globular pot. Normally the decoration consists of pin holes, but in the case of the ram's head mentioned above it consists of black painted lines upon red background. Selected examples are illustrated below:

PLATE — LIIIa

1. (Reg. No.). *Ram's head*: with closely twisted horns and beak-like snout; eyes are indicated by incised circles. It has a fine coating of red slip. It is further decorated on the horns and snout with a black painted line which travels along the curves of both horns and then drops down on the snout passing through the middle of the eyes. Trench B2 Str. (1) Period III.
2. (Reg. No. 63). *Cat*: hand made with pinched mouth and tail, which are slightly damaged. Plain. Trench F1 Str. (1). Period III.
3. (Reg. No. 124). *Pair of horns*: the main body of the animal is missing and the pair of horns with broad curves appears to have been applied after making separately. They are coated with a fine red slip: plain. Trench D1 Str. (1). Period III.
4. (Reg. No. 135). *Humped bull*: hand made with applied hump and tail; front legs are almost joined and separated only by a deep incision near the lowest ends. It is light red in colour and plain. Trench D1 Str. (1). Period III.

PLATE — LVa

- 4-a. (Reg. No. 52). Front legs of an animal figurine. Trench D1 Str. (1) Period III.

(b) *Human figurines*

All the four specimens belong to BBT. III. The technique of their manufacture is the same as already referred to in the case of animal figures. Their close resemblance to their analogue from TMG. Gr. 183 is most striking. The typical features being that they are (i) hand made (not moulded). (ii) the bodily features are very sketchily drawn, (iii) the face is

applied or indicated by a single pinch, (iv) they have depression at the back of head, (v) eyes are indicated by dotted circles, (vi) decoration consists of dotted lines. Two of them are coated with red slip. Illustrations.

PLATE — LIIIa

5. (Reg. No. 97). Torso of a human figurine with pin hole decoration below the neck indicating necklace; coated with a thin layer of red slip. Trench DO. Str. (2). Period III. Also Pl. LIIIc.
6. (Reg. No. 57). Upper portion of a human figurine; broken below the shoulders; otherwise same as above Trench CO Str. (1). Period III.

PLATE — LIIIb

7. (Reg. No. 44). Roughly made human figurine with pinched face and arms; legs broken. It has flat sides and no decoration. Grey colour. Trench DO. Str. (1). Period III.

PLATE — LIVa

8. (Reg. No. 28). A stylised miniature human figurine; arms, head and legs indicated by deep incisions. Coated with red slip. Trench C2 Str. (1). pit, Period III.
(c) *Weights⁶ and Sling balls*

Terracotta weights are of two types: (i) conical, represented by three specimens and (ii) pulley shaped, only one example. All the specimens are crudely made and ill-fired. Sling balls (total 4) however are well fired (baked red) and almost uniform. Illustrations:

PLATE — LIVa

1. (Reg. No. 13). *Weight*: conical in shape with a flat base; crudely fashioned, red colour. Trench B2 Str. (1). Period IV.
2. (Reg. No. 14). Same as above Trench B2 Str. (1). Period IV.
3. (Reg. No. 6). *Weight*: pulley shaped; concave at the waist and circular in section. Trench BO. Str. (1). Period IV.

4-7. (Reg. Nos. 1, 15, 184, 191). Spherical sling balls, red colour, Trenches A2 Str. (1), CO (1), D7 (1), D2 (1).

(d) *Beads*⁷.

Of the 42 beads obtained from the excavation only three are made of stone and the remaining 39 are of baked clay, both in red and grey colour — the last being the most favoured. Typologically these are classified into (i) barrel-bicone-circular, (ii) pear shaped and (iii) composite beads.

The most common shape in terracotta as well as stone is the barrel-bicone-circular⁸ which accounts for 28 specimens. That this type has strong associative tendency towards Period III, has already been hinted above; and is further emphasized by the fact that out of 28 only two specimens were found associated with Periods II and IV — each represented by one bead. Thus one can postulate an unbroken continuity of this type throughout the occupation periods at this site. The typical features of this type should be enumerated for the sake of a better distinction between the two types. These are: (1) biconical (2) hand made, (3) provided with wide axial hole, (4) decorated with groups of striated lines around the cones (5) having traces of white filling in the striations (6) relatively bulky in size.

Equally interesting is the association of pear-shaped (eleven) beads with the fourth period. None was found in the earlier levels. The typical features are as follows (1) all of them are wheel turned, (2) have narrow axial hole (3) they are coated with a thin layer of either light red or grey slip (4) have truncated or worn off apex (5) have incised groove, around the axial hole, at the bottom (6) they are relatively better finished.

The difference in shape and size between the two types is fundamental and it would be no exaggeration to say that they indicate different functions. In view of the big size of the biconical beads it has often been suggested that they could have been used as net sinkers, but it can be argued that in case of the present examples the white filling in the striation is, indeed, incompatible with any such function. Even the stone bead shows traces of white filling, in order perhaps to enhance the decorative effect.

Our type iii — composite or conjoined bead — is made up of two

parts one of stone and the other of shell, which appear to have been made separately and then joined together. These are only two in number, related to period IV⁹. Illustrations.

PLATE — LIVb

1. (Reg. No. 11). *Terracotta*: barrel-bicone-circular with wide axial hole, having groups of striated lines around the cones showing traces of white filling. Trench B2, Str. (1). Period IV.
2. (Reg. No. 107). *Terracotta*: pear-shaped with truncated apex and narrow axial hole and a groove at the base. It is coated with grey slip. Trench B2, Str. (1). Period IV.
3. (Reg. No. 202). *Terracotta*: pear-shaped with a fine coating of grey slip and a narrow axial hole and groove at the base. Apex is worn off. Trench A1, Str. (1). Period IV.
4. (Reg. No. 203). *Terracotta*: Same as above, but more regular in shape and slightly worn off at the apex. Trench A4, Str. (1). Period IV.
5. (Reg. No. 203a). *Terracotta*: Same as above, but relatively heavy at the bottom. Without groove. Coated with grey slip and worn off apex. Trench A4, Str. (1). Period IV.
6. (Reg. No. 206). *Terracotta*: pear shaped without bottom groove, coated with grey slip. It has scratches, obviously, made by some pointed object. Trench A1 Str. (1). Period IV.
7. (Reg. No). 81) *Terracotta*: Same as no. 6 above. Trench A2, Str. (1). Period IV.
8. (Reg. No. 217). *Stone*: Composite or conjoined bead, only one half with a central groove. Trench BO. Str. (1). Period IV.

PLATE — LVa

1. (Reg. No. 198). *Terracotta*: barrel-bicone-circular, with wide axial hole, having groups of oblique striations with traces of white filling. Trench D1, Str. (1). Period III.

2. (Reg. No. 195). *Stone*: Same as above with oblique striations around one cone and double zigzags around the other, showing traces of white filling. The tops of cones are worn off. Trench D3, Str. (1). Period III.
3. (Reg. No. 122). *Terracotta*: barrel-bicone-circular with wide axial hole and finely finished surface. Trench D1, Str. (1). Period III.
4. Reg. (No. 111). *Terracotta*: Same as above, but coated with red slip. Trench D1, Str. (1). Period III.

WHORL BEADS

5. (Reg. No. 226). *Terracotta*: Short-cylinder-circular with a wide axial hole, rough surface. Trench C1, Str. (1). Period III.
- 6-7. (Reg. No. 109, 125). *Terracotta*: Same as above, with gritty surface. Trench D1, Str. (1). D1. (1). Period III.

(c) *Miscellaneous* (Not illustrated)

1. (Reg. No. 5). *Pottery lamp*: consisting of a plain simple bowl with a disc and almost straight rims pinched on one side for wick. Wheel turned. Trench BO, Str. (1). Five other similar specimens were obtained together from trench B5, Str. (1).
2. (Reg. No. 93). *Pottery lamp on stand*: Same as above, except that it is provided with a grooved stand instead of disc base. Trench B2, Str. (1). Not illustrated.
3. (Reg. No. 64). *Terracotta pulley shaped object* with cavity on two sides. Probably used as a toy. Trench F1, Str. (1). Period III.
4. (Reg. No. 230). *Terracotta miniature cot or table* having four legs — one on each corner. The rectangular upper surface measures 7" length and 4.5" in width. It is ill fired, made of clay mixed with husk. Trench B1, Str. (1). Period IV.
5. (Reg. No. 4). *Terracotta (?) spinning weight*: rectangular at the bot-

tom, pyramidal in shape, tapering upwards to a point. It has rectangular hollows on all the sides. Well fired, height 3.5" (It comes from a pit in layer 1— of trench BO and may be a subsequent stray).

3) *IVORY AND SHELL OBJECTS*

Very few objects of ivory and shell were found in the excavation. Thus ivory is represented by four and shell by two antiquities. These are illustrated below:

PLATE — LVb

1. (Reg. No. 121). *Ivory awl*: elliptical in section in the middle, it tapers towards a point, damaged. Trench D3, Str. (1). pit. Period III.
2. (Reg. No. 123). *Ivory antimony rod*: round in section, flat at one end and broken at the other. Tr. D1, Str. (1). Period III.
3. (Reg. No. 123a). *Ivory antimony rod*: round sectioned tip which has been smoothly rounded off at the end. Tr. D1, Str. (1). Period III.
4. (Reg. No. 8). *Ivory antimony rod*: round in section, slightly swollen in the middle and tapering towards ends which have been smoothly rounded off. Tr. C1, Str. (1). Period III.
5. (Reg. No. 16). *Shell*: Conve-convex circular disk with a central perforation. Trench C1, Str. (1). Period III.
6. (Reg. No. 1967). *Shell*: fragment of a bangle. Tr. D5, Str. (1). Period III.

4) *GLASS OBJECTS*

Glass was pre-eminently used for making bangles. Of the eleven fragments obtained in the excavation five come from the top stratum of period III, and the remaining six belong to Period IV.

It is noteworthy that for bangles favourite colour from first to last was blue and of this there were several shades from pale to dark. Except one or two specimens, all of them are coated with a thick layer of vitreous

paste which gives it a yellowish lustre. Other colours are green and black—each represented by one specimen. Black glass looks very much like obsidian.

As to the shapes the most common type is circular, two inches diameter being the average. It is flat on the inside and either convex or relieved by a line on the outside. In one specimen of yellowish colour the outer surface is indented or relieved by raised dots.

The regular use of glass for making bangles in this part of the country is still shrouded in mystery. The Indus Valley people appear to be abundantly familiar with various vitreous substances which they employed for the decoration of pottery. These vitreous substances though closely related to glass little help us in pinpointing the discovery of true glass in that period. At Hastinapur¹⁰ (Period II) a few fragments of glass bangles were brought to light and further south in Andhra culture at Brahmagiri¹¹ it looms large in still later context. However when we refer to the earliest stratum at Bhīr Mound¹² we notice the first appearance of true glass. There is a wide gap stretching over more than a millennium between the eclipse of the Indus Valley cities and deposition of the first stratum of Bhīr Mound with absolutely no substantial evidence about the use of true glass in between. Before the excavation at Balambāt we could only hope that glass might have been discovered or, at least, introduced at any time during this interval. This confident hope is justified by the evidence brought to light at this site. Thus the fragments of glass found in Period III are highly suggestive of an early date, certainly earlier than that of Bhīr Mound. Selected examples are illustrated below:

PLATE — LV Ia

1. (Reg. No. 2). Fragment of glass with yellowish coating of vitreous substance upon blue core; flat on the inside and convex on the outside. Trench B2, Str. (1). Period IV.
2. (Reg. No. 213). Fragment of glass bangle with yellowish coating of vitreous substance upon blue core. It is almost elliptical in section. Trench A2, Str. (1). Period IV.
3. (Reg. No. 20). Same as above but outside is relieved by a line. Trench B0, Str. (1). Period IV.

4. (Reg. No. 23). Fragment of glass bangle, green in colour, with smooth inner face and irregular outside. Tr. C1, Str. (1). Period III.
5. (Reg. No. 99). Fragment of a glass bangle with greenish tinge and elliptical in section. Trench B2, Str. (1). Period III.
6. (Reg. No. 45). Fragment of glass bangle smooth inside and indented outside¹³. Tr. E2, Str. (1). Period III.
7. (Reg. No. 158). Fragment of blue glass bangle, almost round in section; it is narrower in proportion to its thickness. Trench B2, Str. (1). Period III.
8. (Reg. No. 218). Fragment of an iron bangle made of a wire twisted in the manner of a cable. Tr. B5, Str. (1). Period IV.
9. (Reg. No. 25). Same as above. Trench A2, Str. (1). Period IV.

5) STONE OBJECTS

The stone objects, 22 altogether, consist of: ring stones-14, pounder-2, lamp-1, axes-4. All of them except one lamp and two pounders, are made of granite locally available in ample quantities. Limestone is the material for pounders and scist for the lamp.

The ring stones vary in size averaging from 2" to 7" in diameter and from 1" to 2.6" in thickness. They are, without exception, circular in form. No. 1 (Pl. LVI-b) is slightly irregular but evidently it is due to subsequent wear and tear. They fall under two categories (1) perforated and (2) unfinished.

Those representing category (1) (Pl. LVIa 1-2) are fairly symmetrical and finely ground. The central perforation pierced across, was made from both sides with the resultant cup-shaped cavity at both faces. These are very few in number. Those representing category (2) (Pl. LVI Nos. 3-4) appear to be unfinished as they show primary flaking all round the circumference, whereas their bottom and upper surface is smoothly rubbed off. They, too, have a small cup shaped cavity not pierced across, at both faces. It is interesting to note that all the better examples among them come from Period III.

The pounders made of rounded river pebbles belong to Period IV. One is illustrated in Pl. LVII-a, No. 5.

More interesting among the stone objects is a schist lamp consisting of a circular deep bowl and flat rim which is nearly rectangular in form. Three of its angles are slightly damaged and the fourth accommodates a deeply carved channel for wick. The flat rims are decorated with incised circles. It is different from the leaf shaped lamps of the historic period and belongs to period IV. It comes from Trench B5, Str. (1). pit; may be a subsequent intrusion.

Of special interest among these antiquities is a flat circular shallow basin with straight sides and two lugs—one on each side, evidently the whole carved out of a granite slab. It is 11" in diameter and 3" in thickness from bottom to rim. Its bottom is carved below with deeply incised lines crossing each other at right angles. It might have been used for grinding medicines. (Reg. No. 231, Trench A1, Str. (1). Period IV).

No less important is the occurrence at Balambat of pointed-butt ground stone axes of the neolithic type commonly known in south India. Of the four (total) two were found in actual excavation and two on the surface. All of them may be strays from earlier deposits. These are illustrated below. These are made of granite. The process of their fabrication involved three stages: (1) primary flanking of the stone to give it an approximately required shape (2) removal of irregularities upon the surface by 'pecking'; (3) the final shape was given by grinding the tool, particularly, its working edge on both sides. These are illustrated below:

PLATE — LVIIa

1. (Reg. No. 76). Pointed-butt polished stone axe with ovoid section. The working edge is smoothly polished on both sides. Found in the top soil of Trench F1 Fig. 62 No. 3.
2. (Reg. No. 232). Surface Find. Similar as above, but broken in the middle. Fig. 62 No. 1.
3. (Reg. No. 154). Similar as above, but smaller in size. Tr. C1, Str. (1). pit. Found in association with antiquities belonging to Period III. Fig. 62 No. 4.
4. (Reg. No. 233). Surface find. Similar, but slightly flattish in the centre. The working edge is broken. Fig. 62. No. 2.

- 1) There are two fragments of iron bangles, These are discussed along with other bangles of glass.
- 2) For discussion see TMG — small finds (part IV) and Pl. No. XLVIII b. 14.
- 3) Similar arrow heads occur at Bhir Mound, See. *Taxila* Vol. II, P. 547 by Marshal. J.
- 4) Compare, Petrie, F. *Tools and Weapons* Pl. XXI, No. 117 & 115.
- 5) This type of shears enjoyed wide spacial and chronological distribution. See Petrie, F. *Tool and Weapons* Pls LXXIII and LIX. But his remark as to their Italian origin may need amendment if the proposed chronology of this site is to be accepted.
- 6) In the absence of large number of specimens it would be hardly feasible to work out their gradation.
- 7) Apart from terracotta beads there are three examples made of stone. As they do not exhibit any unusual shape, therefore, for the sake of convenience they are discussed along with their terracotta analogues.
- 8) Biconical beads go back to the sixth century B.C. at Bala Hissar see Wheeler, Sir Mortimer, Charsada P. 116, Type I. Noteworthy are the traces of white filling. In Swat white filling is noticed on vases from Katelai I (see *East and West*) Vol. 14., Nos. 1-2, 1963: P. 25. At Charsada it is noticed on biconical beads (see Wheeler) Pl. XXXVII, 7, 8: P. 117).
- 9) For similar Other beads see TMG, Pl. XLIX b. see also *East & West*, Vol. 14-Nos. 1-2, 1963, P. 23 (here these are described as "disc-shaped objects with central groove, whose use is still unknown").
- 10) *Ancient India* Nos. 10 and 11 (1954 and 1955) "Excavation at Hastinapur and other explorations", P. 13.
- 11) *Ancient India* No. 4, 1948: "Brahmagiri and Chandravalli; 1947: Megalithic and other cultures in Mysore State", P. 263.
- 12) Marshall, Sir John, *Taxila*, Vol. II, P. 683.
- 13) It was found in top soil and many be a subsequent stray.



SECTION — 4

NOTE ON GROUND STONE TOOLS

By Prof. AHMAD HASAN DANI

Long ago Sir John Marshall found ground stone tools in his excavation of the historic site at Taxila.¹ As these tools were very late survivals in the archaeological context, Sir John took them to be ceremonial objects. No further discovery was made thereafter. De Terra² used the term "proto-neolith" to describe a late blade and flake complex found by him in the Pothwar region. Similarly Paterson³ put forward the term "neolith" for a type of Kota industry. But it was left to Fairservis⁴ to assert in clear term the occurrence of the neolithic culture in his lowest levels at Kile Gul Muhammad. But in all these later works the ground stone tools are absent. The evidence brought forth by Fairservis clearly shows a nomadic people with a crude blade and core industry gradually settling down to a village life probably under the influence of distant cultural relationship. In our review⁵ of the excavated materials from Baluchistan, Afghanistan and Sind, we have clarified the position and drawn attention to the particular type of the so-called "neolithic" culture in that region.

This picture of the neolithic complex in the Indus region was first changed by the discovery of the true neolithic culture at Burzahom⁶ in Kashmir. Unfortunately the report of this excavation has not yet been published and therefore it is difficult to define the culture in clear terms.

In view of this hazy picture in the Indus region Sir Mortimer Wheeler⁷ and the late Col. D.H. Gordon⁸ have attempted to derive the Indian neolithic culture from the east. In our thesis⁹ we have distinguished two different traits in the Indian neolithic culture, one of which definitely came from the east but the second one was shown by us to be fundamentally different from the East Asiatic neolithic complex. Later Dr. Allchin¹⁰ tried to connect this second type with the materials from Western Asia but he found no comparable material in the intermediate region. It is in this context that we shall now have to consider the new materials now brought forth from Timargarha. Just a few days back one site at Sarai Kala¹¹ near Taxila has been discovered, where similar ground stone tools have been found along with the materials of the Kot Diji culture. Two such tools (described below) have also been found in Swat.

Unfortunately we have not been able to excavate a neolithic site but we have made a field study of the different hill pockets in the Frontier region, where such tools have been found. In these areas we still find cultivation limited to terraced fields on the hill slopes depending mainly on seasonal rainfall. Several measures for catchment of water are taken and it is channellised from the top field to the lowermost ones. As the soil on the hill slopes is not very deep, furrowing to a greater depth is not possible. Removal of the weeds and slight loosening of the soil are the only means that could help better cultivation. Both these processes are possible by the type of tools that we find in the neolithic period. It is therefore believed that the environment in this region was suitable for the adoption of the neolithic culture. Two main tool types are known in our region — ring-stones or mace-heads and pointed butt stone axes. So far the latter type was hardly known in this region. The distribution of this tool type here will go a long way in throwing light on the neolithic culture of South and Central India. So far the Southern neolithic was thought to have some connection with the complex at Baluchistan¹² (Kile Gul Muhammad) but the two are different in character. It is for this reason that we have earlier (in part I section 7) suggested a connection between our neolithic pattern and the Veddid people. If this connection is proved, it is

possible to visualise their migration into Central India and possible spread of this neolithic culture in Central and South India.

The ring-stones and the pointed butt stone axes from Timargarha have been described by Mr. Abdul Rahman above. We describe the two tools from Swat (Fig. 62, Nos. 5 and 6). Both of them have come from Swat, exact find-spot unknown, and are now preserved in the Central Museum, Lahore. They are made of local granite stone — a material which confirms the locality of their origin. No. 5 is of a greenish texture but no. 6, which has a wider edge, is rather darkish. Both of them are pointed butt stone axes so well known from South India. In West Pakistan these are the earliest discovered.

Both of them are longish tools carefully worked by the technique of pecking. They do not show any scar of flaking. If at all flaking was resorted to for obtaining the shape the scars have been totally removed. But it is more likely that the river-rolled long granite pebbles were picked up and by means of pecking the desired shape was obtained. Grinding is observable only towards the cutting edge in a curved fashion so that along with the cutting edge the ground surface makes a rough ellipse. The cutting edge is medial, obtained by grinding both the faces in the same fashion. The cross section in both cases is oval.

No. 6 is rather flattish and has a wider butt end. The unground portion is rough showing natural scars and roughness. At the tip there is a slight break. The unground portion shows reddish streaks but these streaks do not spread over the ground surface, suggesting that the stone got these streaks in the natural condition when it was in association with the red earth so widely spread in the slopes of hills in Swat away from the modern dark alluvium of the Swat river. This confirms that the stone was picked up from the red earth and then turned into tool. At the same time it is understandable that the tool maker was then living on such hill slopes where he must have been practising terrace cultivation.

No. 5 is rather asymmetrical, the upper surface has a rounder curve than the lower one. Its butt is pointed and there is just one natural scar-mark. The reddish streaks are again spread over the unground portion. There are two recent breaks, one at the cutting edge and the other at one side in the ground portion. The taper from the butt to the cutting edge is gradual and uniform.

NOTES

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6. H.D. Sankalia, *Prehistory and protohistory of India and Pakistan*.
7. *Ancient India*, No. 4, 1947-48, P. 295.
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12. B.K. Thapar, "Neolithic problem in India", In *Indian Prehistory, 1964*, ed. by V.N. Misra and M.S. Mate, PP. 87-112.