

## REVIEWS

1. LOUIS DUPREE — *Deh Morasi Ghundai: A Chalcolithic Site in South Central Afghanistan*. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. 1963, Vol. 50. pt. 2. pp. 57-136, plates 13-25, 30 text figures, 199 designs, 12 tables, Price dollars: 2.50.

The monograph reports on the excavation of the Deh Morasi Ghundai site about 16 to 17 miles south-west of Kandahar — an important station enroute from northern Iran to Quetta. This is one of the many sites that lie on the edge of the great desert region of south-west Afghanistan. All these sites are useful in tracing the influences coming from Iran and passing on to Baluchistan. Here we see the presence of both the influences from the buff-ware cultures of southern Iran and the red-ware cultures of northern Iran. And there is no doubt that the twin influences reached Quetta and also Zhob Valley. It is for this reason that Piggott's classification of Baluchi cultures into buff-ware zone and red-ware zone is now upset.

At Deh Morasi four main periods have been distinguished. The first period is known only by a few sherds, here roughly said to be comparable with Rana Ghundai I phase (see next review) but no flint tools have been reported here. The second phase is the most important period which has yielded ceramics comparable with Quetta on the one hand and Iran on the other. In this period we also get here the typical Zhob Culture mother-goddess (Pl. 23.O). It is difficult to accept the argument of Dupree (P. 98) when he suggests "that the Zhob figurines represent a primitive *Kali*". The goddess *Kali* is rooted in the primitive Indian cultural concept where grotesque and ferocious demand a particular kind of sacrifice while the Zhob figurine is related to the concept of the mother-goddesses of Western Asia. In this very period we find compartmented seals also rooted in the old civilizations. Another important find is the shouldered hoe (Fig. 12) which has also been found at Mundigak and Tepe Hissar. I picked up a few examples on the surface in the northern part of Peshawar region. Period III revealed three burials which could not be properly examined. The ceramic continued some features of the earlier period. Period IV yielded a mixed deposit which is dated roughly between 2000 to 1500 B.C. But two finds are very important. The rouletted ware (P. 113) fragments (Pl. 23. K and L), if they are really so, are the first of the kind reported from this area. Similarly the terracotta figurine (Pl. 23-P) is the well-known "baroque lady" of Gandhara.

Such monographs suggest the importance of the Kandahar area for intensive exploration.

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