

2. WALTER A. FAIRSERVIS (Jr.) — *Archaeological Surveys in the Zhob and Loralai Districts, West Pakistan*, Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, 1959, Volume 47, Pt. 2. pp. 273-448, 25 Plates, 84 text figures.

The monograph under review is the third in the series describing archaeological research in Baluchistan and Afghanistan by the American team. The survey relates to an area locked up by the Sulaiman Range on the east and the Tobakakar Range on the West and includes mainly two valleys, the Zhob valley that slopes to the north towards the Gomal river and the Loralai that slopes south-west, both being approachable from Quetta. The Zhob has also a direct access to Afghanistan via Qamruddin Karez and there are passages across the Sulaiman into Sind. The Loralai has also other routes along the river valleys to Sind. But the direct route from Afghanistan through Kandahar, Quetta, Bolan Pass to Sibi lies further south of this area. Thus Zhob-Loralai Zone is an intervening pocket between the Sind plain of the Indus and southern Afghanistan away from the direct communication line between Southern Afghanistan and Sind. However, the zone is important in so far as it connects Quetta — the gateway to Bolan Pass — with the Gomal pass which opens another passage across the Indus to Multan in the Panjab. So far the cultural complex noted in this zone has not been found north of the Gomal river¹. The zone was first surveyed by Sir Aurel Stein² who started from the north in Waziristan and came down to Quetta. Stein's work brought to light number of sites, but real chronological sequence to this complex was given by Ross³ in his stratigraphic study of the Rana Ghundai site. On the basis of these works Piggott⁴ defined the "Zhob Culture", and characterised it mainly by its pottery types and the peculiar figurine of the mother-goddess. The present study of Fairservis is to arrive at a more definitive evaluation of this culture complex and relate the different phases of its growth with those that were earlier established in Quetta region. For this purpose he started his survey from the south in Quetta and went northward. The limited time of three weeks at his disposal enabled him to revisit the sites of Stein and add a few more. Though his own work was of a general nature, he succeeded in redefining the phases at Sur Jangal, Rana Ghundai and Dabar-Kot in Loralai and at Periano Ghundai, Mughal Ghundai and Kaundani in Zhob. According to his analysis the earliest phase in Rana Ghundai is later than the earliest period at Kille Gul Muhammad, but still more important is the recognition that this Zone had contact with the Quetta group as is illustrated in some pottery types, flint implements and the so-called Zhob figurines. Evidence has also been produced to show direct contact with the Harappan Culture in Rana Ghundai III phase and also with the cultures on the west. But so far Rana Ghundai I phase remains ill defined. Not much is known about

1. My recent visit to the sites in the Gomal valley in Dera Ismail Khan district has convinced me that these sites appertain to the same cultural complex.
2. An Archaeological Tour in Waziristan and Northern Baluchistan. *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*. No. 37. (1929).
3. 'Rana Ghundai — A chalcolithic site in northern Baluchistan. *Journal of the Near Eastern Studies* (1946) Vol: 5. No. 4. pp. 291 - 315.
4. See his *Prehistoric India*, Chapter IV.

the character of the flint tools and the nature of the nomadic stage of life. It is, however, being realized that the Zhob culture was not an isolated growth. It is an adaptation of the general bronze-age cultural developments of the ancient world in the environmental background of this region, in which the route from Quetta onward to the Gomal Pass must have played an important part. So far the study of this culture has been made on the basis of the sites lying mainly on this route. The Survey of Fairservis is an overgrowth of his *Excavations at Quetta*.

A. H. Dani.