

Archaeological Survey of Charsadda District in the Peshawar Valley

Qasim Jan Mohammadzai & Muhammad Nasim Khan

Aim of the Survey

Pushkalavati (Ancient name of the Charsadda district) is strategically located at the confluence of Swat and Kabul rivers, previously connecting ancient commercial routes of the east and west. It was because of its geographical location that Alexander possibly wanted to subdue it and establish a Macedonian garrison here. Charsadda has been under archaeological explorations and excavations for more than a century and half. General Court was the first to begin archaeological research in Pushkalavati in 1836. For the first time he diverted attention of archaeologists to the high mound of Bala Hisar, which afterwards became the focus of archaeological activities in Charsadda (Marshall and Vogel 1902-3: 142). Subsequently, General Alexander Cunningham concluded that it was the site of Pushkalavati, which was the first ancient capital of Gandhara, when Alexander attacked this region. (Cunningham 1990: 42). Garrick, John Marshall, Wheeler, Dani and other local and international teams carried out excavations and surveyed the area, as a result the ancient past of Pushkalavati began to be unfolding before us.

The earlier archaeologists had confined their activities to Bala Hisar, the dominant landmark of Pushkalavati, and its immediate neighbourhood i.e. Mir Ziyarat, Palatu Dheri, Ghaz Dheri, Sar Dheri, Sulai Kamar Dheri and Shaikhan Dheri. Other ancient settlements in the vicinity were either not considered appropriate for investigation or they had not properly understood the true cultural significance of these smaller mounds, which in actuality served as the suburbs of the capital. We observe that the marginal mounds dotted around the Bala Hisar are rings of the ancient historical chain, which if properly analysed will significantly help in piecing together the ancient history of Charsadda.

The main aim of the present study is to focus on the smaller mounds situated around Bala Hisar, that have not yet been excavated. There are positive signs and clues that could also be taken help of in understanding the ancient history of the area. The smaller mounds did not catch attention of the previous explorers. Because at that time, probably nothing of cultural importance was procured from these sites. Bala Hisar attracted their attention because of its great height. Inscriptions, Indo-Greek silver and Kushan gold coins, as well as Gandhara Art sculptures, intaglios, terracotta figurines and other items of cultural importance were constantly coming from those smaller and considered less significant mounds. It seems that other un-excavated mounds too could contribute a lot in reconstructing the ancient past of Charsadda, for the reason that procurement of ancient artifacts has accelerated. Consequently we planned for a more extensive surface survey in quest of finding the missing links in the history and archaeology of the district.

As the author of this work could not carry out excavation at some new site due to the unavailability of funds, therefore focus was made on surface survey of the archaeological sites in the area and to the study of already excavated material and published reports. It looks that surface collection can also sometimes reveal valuable information that in future could lead to new discoveries. The collected objects if comprehensively analysed with scientific methods could modify the cultural and historical profile of the district. Previous researches were aimed at uncovering only the chronology of some specific sites, while other aspects of its past were unfortunately not explored duly. In the present study we will not confine ourselves to the chronology of the area only, but will also focus on the study of different artifacts that came to light for

the first time in the area and its significance in the cultural history of Charsadda.

Location

The ancient Pushkalavati, the present Charsadda district is one of the five Districts of Peshawar Valley occupying its northwest portion. Up to the British period the area was also known as Hashtnagar. It is located at 34.2 and 34.32 degrees N and 71.30 and 71.56 degrees E that comprises of an area of 995 square kilometers. It is surrounded by the districts of Peshawar and Nowshera in the south, Mardan in the East, Malakand Agency and Mohmand Agency in the North and West. Due to the presence of various rivers, which go through the area, Charsadda can truly be called the land of rivers. Charsadda district comprises of Tehsil Shabqadar, Tehsil Tangi and Tehsil Charsadda. Geographically, it can be divided into Doaba and Hashtnagar sectors. Doaba is the area between the rivers while Hashtnagar lies to the northeast of the rivers.

Strategic Significance

Charsadda is situated in the central part of the Peshawar valley, within the river valley zone of the Peshawar basin (Gazetteer of the Peshawar District 1897-98: 14). The vale of Peshawar is surrounded by the hills of Khyber Pass in the west to Afghanistan, the Malakand Pass in the north leading to Chakdara, Dir and Swat and on to Chitral via the Lowari Pass and the Kohat Pass in the south leading to the Kohat basin. These passes have been used for trade, movement and invasion throughout history and prehistory. The area seems to have been connected with the regions of east and west. Evidence of this large distance trade could be indicated by the presence of exotics such as cowry *Turbinella pyrum*, carnelian and lapis at Bala Hisar.

After the decline of the Indus Civilization until the emergence of the Achaemenid kings in the middle of the sixth century BC, Peshawar valley was the battlefield of local rulers, jealous of each other. The Persian Empire provided an opportunity of peace and prosperity to this region, thus long-distance communications were secured. Centres like Begram, Charsadda

and Taxila situated on these trade routes thrived when came under the Achaemenid rule. These places were already existing before the extension of Persian power across the Hindu Kush, but were not that much in the lime light as they did later in the Achaemenid times.

The earliest human habitation in the Charsadda district has been traced at the site of Bala Hisar, located on the junction of Kabul and Swat rivers. Fertility of the soil, the leveled ground and availability of plenty of water for irrigation were some of the factors that paved the way for the emergence and development of a site like Bala Hisar (Coningham et al 2007: 11).

It was indeed the strategic location of Charsadda that a commercial center sprang up on the very spot. Bala Hisar, the capital of this area was placed on the spot, which is in the center of the wide and teaming plain of Gandhara. It is situated at the junction of the rivers Swat and Kabul, due to which the surrounding lands were under cultivation from the times immemorial. Moreover from this point onwards, the waters of these two rivers are jointly capable of carrying sizable river-craft. But it was the great trade route which this spot commanded, that started from Inner-Asia to the Indo-Pakistan cities and coasts. That trade route starting from the ancient east-west axis of Asian commerce at Bactria in Afghanistan and piercing the Hindu Kush, made its way down the Kabul valley towards the Indus valley and to the plains of India (Wheeler 1962: 4).

The routes lying in the Mohmand hills to the north and northwest of Charsadda were connected to the Silk Road. These also led to the northern parts of Iran and along the Old Silk Road, to Asia Minor and beyond to Europe. The Silk Road again provided access eastwards to China. Along this main line of communication, many Chinese travellers made their way to Pakistan (Dani 1967: 7). On one such route passing from Charsadda via the Mohmand hills and passing onward to Afghanistan and connecting with the Silk Road we have discovered a large number of rock carvings (Mohammadzai 2005: 199). Charsadda town

has still been home to hundreds of date palm trees, another indication of its continuation since ancient times. According to the local lot, there were thick groves of date palm trees even in the near past. These trees in such a large number are not encountered anywhere in the whole of Peshawar valley. Existence of its fertile flood plain provided opportunity for outsiders to settle here and practice agriculture. Moreover temporary migrants from the Northern valleys have also contributed to the development of the area from the time immemorial. (Young 2003: 6).

Rainfall, Temperature and Climate

Rainfall is always a source of relief to the population. Charsadda receives a major portion of its total rainfall in the winter season. These rains are brought from the clouds rising from the Mediterranean Sea, known as the western disturbances. These rains sometimes continue for days posing danger to the houses and crops. The area is at the extreme end of the monsoon winds, these clouds when reach the region, are almost dry and bring very little rain as compared to India or eastern part of Pakistan. Nevertheless, whenever it rains in summer, it is usually in the forms of quick, heavy shower, which inflates the rivers immediately. The area being flat plain, results in the inundation of regions close to the rivers or to the dry torrents, which results in loss of lives and property. The average yearly rainfall is between 270-340 millimeters.

The temperature in Charsadda is severe and extreme on both ends. In summer, it can rise to as high as 50 degree centigrade; while it can also go below freezing point in winters. Four seasons are recognized in the area that are Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. From May till August is the hottest time of the year and latter part of the period witness the arrival of Monsoon. In Autumn the temperature slowly cools off after the arrival of monsoon. Winter is generally very cold and the people enjoy the season as it also distinguishes the maturing of the sugarcane crop, which is the major cash crop of the area. The temperature at times goes below freezing point. Spring is usually in the months of March and April, which is the most pleasant time of the year.

Rivers

Charsadda has a very unique feature of three main rivers flowing through its territory. This is the reason it used to be very fertile even before the introduction of canal-fed irrigation system by the English, and agriculture thrived before their arrival. Of the three main rivers, river Kabul forms the boundary between Peshawar and Charsadda. After entering the Peshawar valley near Warsak, the Kabul River divides into many branches. One comes across all these tributaries namely Budhanai, Shah Alam, Nagoman and then the main river Kabul known as Sar Daryab, while coming from Peshawar to Charsadda by road.

These rivers and their numerous channels, not only provided waters for agricultural purposes during the ancient times, but most probably were used for communication as well. Discovery of a terracotta seal impression from Majuki Dherai shows two boats with two men sitting in it. It indicates that boats were not only used for transporting commercial goods, but were also utilised for human transportation as well (Mohammadzai 2010: 173).

The River Kabul

Alexander's historian Arrian has called it Kophen in his Anabasis (M'Crindle 1992: 59). It originates from Chiantar Glacier situated in the northeast of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Baroghal valley of Chitral, the river is called Chiantarogh, meaning the water of Chiantar. It travels 380 km in the Chitral valley before entering into Afghanistan. In the Afghan territory it flows through the Kunarh province and again enters into Pakistan through the Khyber hills (Faizi 2010: 6). The river enters the Charsadda district at village Mahzara, tehsil Shabqadar. About three km below Warsak it divides into two branches. The northern branch, known as the Adezai or Hajizai, now carries the main body of the river and divides the Peshawar district from Charsadda for twenty six km. With the name of Sardaryab it then passes through part of the district for twenty km upto Nisatta (Gazetteer of the Peshawar District 1897-98: 7).

Annual floods in the river during the Monsoon period, is a routine phenomenon. One such flood, which caused many damages in the Charsadda area was witnessed on June 16 1841. But the recent flood of 2010, which almost devastated about 70 % of the district's agriculture and infrastructure, will be

remembered for a long time, because of its destruction on large scale. There is a thriving picnic spot at Sar Daryab on the bank of this river where hundreds of makeshift shops serve roasted fish caught in its water.

The River Swat

The Swat rises in the hills north-east of upper Swat. Its course is at first south-westerly through the Swat valley; but after being joined by the Panjkora river from the north near Chakdara, it turns southwards till it enters the Peshawar valley above Abazai, thence it flows south-east till it joins the Kabul river at Nisatta. The river enters the district just above the head of the canal in the Abazai village, and almost at once divides into two main branches known as the Jindai and Khialai. These rejoin after a separate course of about 41 km near Prang and fall into the Kabul about 3 km lower down.

On this river almost the whole irrigation of the Doaba or triangular tract between the Kabul and Swat rivers depends. The Swat canal draws its supply from the same source, as do also the village canals irrigating the strip of country below the high bank of the east, which is known as the Sholgara or rice-growing tract.

It flows in a stony bed, but the silt brought down during the hot weather is valuable as a fertilizer agent. The main stream is liable to shift between the two branches. During the last land settlement, the greater volume of water passed down the Khialai, but this is now almost dry in the cold weather, and the Jindai carries most of the water. The Khiali is the most important branch from the point of view of the irrigation depending on it. The river is navigable by boats from Utmanzai down stream, furthermore the bulk of the produce of Charsadda, mainly *Gur* (raw sugar) and *Sholay* (rice) was transported by river to markets in Nowshera, Attock and points further down the Indus, before the development of road transport.

The River Jindai

The Jindai river with its steady flow of water runs along the eight ancient villages of Charsadda. Willow trees grown on its banks, is the distinctive feature of this river. Along with

variety of fish, tortoise and eel or snake fish, known as *Mar-mahai* are also extra specialties of the river. According to the older Hindu inhabitants of this neighbourhood, so late as the commencement of 19th century, this river was generally known as by the Hindu name of *Son-Bhadra* or *Son-Bhadrat*. (Garrick 1881-82: 98).

The Kabul, Swat, and Bara rivers and Budnai streams with all the drainage of the north-west, west and south-west, unite at Nisatta; and from that point to where the combined waters join the Indus, the stream is known as the Landai or short river, in length only 58 km (Gazetteer of the Peshawar District 1897-98: 12).

Geology

Charsadda is part of the plain, which is commonly known as Peshawar Valley. This Valley presents the appearance of having been in remote centuries, the bed of a vast lake. Its banks were formed by the surrounding mountains and its waters fed by the rivers that are now channeling throughout its former bed. Hills encircle it on every side except one, where the Kabul river flows out to join the Indus river. This large lake was drained by the deepening of the Attock gorge either by a sudden change in the geology of the mountains or through gradual change. The plain itself consists of fine alluvial deposits, the composition and depth of which varies in different localities and at different distances from the surface. In most part of the plain, the soil is light and porous and contains more or less sand in depth of 1-6 meters.

Flora

The trees in Charsadda district are mainly mulberry (*Tut*), Sissu (*Shiwa*), Tamarisk (*Ghaz*), Poplar (*Supaidar*) and Eucalyptus (*Lachi*). Trees are normally grown on the boundaries of the fields and on water channels. The trend of growing trees as cash crops, is growing. Fruit gardens are also numerous and the area is known for its fine guava and peaches. Vegetables are also grown due to persistent demands from the cities. The improved means of communication has led to more people growing vegetables and they now fetch better prices.

Fauna

Apart from domestic animals there are no considerable wild animals found in the district. As the district is arable since many centuries, the inhabitants have killed the wild animals long ago. Wild boar is still however found, as the cultivated sugar cane provides them with good cover (Young 2003: 18).

A number of wild animals ranging from tiger to wolf and leopards used to roam around here in the past. Babur has recorded the presence of rhinoceros in the jungles of Peshawar and Hashtnagar or Charsadda (Beveridge 1979: 490). Some of the common fauna found in the district is jackal, mongoose, rat/mouse and porcupines. However traces of bones belonging to sheep-goat, cattle, pig and deer have been reported from Bala Hisar (Young 2003: 58-9).

Similar is the case of game animals. It is due to hawking, use of firearms of all classes and absence of forests that the district has no game animals. The only worth mentioning game is flocks of ducks which travel from Siberia to lakes in Sindh where they spend their winters. While travelling they always find the watercourses flowing from north to south. All the rivers of Charsadda being the natural transit points of these birds, the months of October, November, March and April find many hunters roaming on the rivers of Charsadda. Fish are found in large quantities in the rivers of Charsadda. People catch these not only as a hobby but also as a means of livelihood. In fact this has already become a thriving trade. Among the fish Mahasher, Rahu and China are favorites, due to their taste.

Agriculture

Charsadda is by far one of the most fertile tracts of the Province. Unlike other parts, where agriculture started after introduction of irrigation system by the English, this region was in remote antiquity the centre of agricultural activities. Similarly, the presence of rivers has made this land fertile and arable since long. As attested at Bala Hisar, rice, wheat, lentil and certain grasses were grown in Charsadda during the ancient times (Young 2003: 56).

The major crops of the area are wheat, barley, tobacco, different kinds of vegetables, sugarcane, rice, maize, clover, melon etc. Previously the farmers used to grow all the crops necessary for self-sustenance in a village, but now cash crops have taken over as the lions share in the total land under cultivation. Perhaps this is the reason that Charsadda is facing flour crisis for the last few years. The major cash crop of this land is sugarcane. There is a Sugar Mill in Charsadda, which can absorb almost all the sugar cane of the district. Some of the sugarcane is also transported to Khazana sugars mills Peshawar and Premier sugar mills Mardan. But for the last many years the production of *Gur* has increased manifolds giving a severe blow to Sugar production. It finds a huge market in Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries. Once considered as inferior; this product now fetches better price than sugar (District Records).

The second cash crop of the region is Tobacco. Although the chief areas of its cultivation are Mardan and Swabi, parts of Charsadda, especially tehsil Tangi also have large tracts of land under tobacco cultivation. Another reason is the export of tobacco to Central Asian Republics, which has resulted in over procurement and hence more demands. Apart from these two main cash crops, vegetables and fruits are also grown. These are transported to Peshawar and other towns and cities.

Irrigation

The district has got a very extensive irrigation system. Majority of the area is canal fed. A recent study revealed that 98 % of the total area of land under cultivation in Charsadda is irrigated (Young 2003: 21). The British Government starting in 1880 dug these canals. Three main ones are worth mention. The first one is the Doaba Canal, which irrigates the extreme southwestern portion of the district. This canal originates from river Swat near Munda head. The second canal is the Sardar Garhi canal that irrigates the area between river Khialai and river Kabul. This canal emanates from Doaba canal near its origin. The third canal is the Lower Swat Canal starting from Munda Headwork near Abazai. This canal

irrigating almost half of the total district is the main source of irrigation water. It has a total of six distributaries irrigating the central and eastern parts of Charsadda.

Lower Swat Canal

It is due to the rich waters of river Swat, which had helped the fertile lands of Charsadda to turn into the breadbasket of the Peshawar valley. Much of Charsadda's agricultural prosperity depends on the waters of river Swat taken from the Lower Swat canal system. The canal takes off from the left bank of the Swat river soon after it enters Charsadda district about 5 km above Abazai, at Munda, in the northwestern end of the district, right on the border with Mohmand Agency. The regulator is built across the river a short distance below the take off of the canal and is built on a foundation of rock, which extends across raising a sufficient head of water to fill the canal. The canal gates are raised by a heavy iron crane, which moves on rails. During the recent flood of 2010, almost 80% of this facility was washed away, which was reconstructed in the record period of 21 days.

From Abazai the canal runs generally in a southeasterly direction, distributaries taking off at intervals from the south bank. This canal was opened for irrigation in 1885; the main canal system stretches for 57 km, while there are 448 km of distributaries. The cultivated area under its command is 143,314 acres, while the average area irrigated annually is 159,744 acres; owing to the richness of the soil. The whole of the southeastern part of Charsadda and the middle tract of Mardan, receives irrigation from this canal. It is designed to discharge 700 cubic feet per second (N.W.F.P. Province Gazetteer 1931: 199).

Previous Archaeological Activities in Charsadda

Charsadda or Pushkalavati is positioned in the center of the Peshawar plain, commanding the confluence of the Kabul and Swat rivers. It was from this area that the numerous archaeological mounds showed cultural artifacts of immense

beauty that attracted the Europeans to turn their attention to the area. Moreover the high mound of Bala Hisar and over a dozen others in the vicinity, had a natural appeal to be investigated. Easy access to the area from Peshawar was another factor that lured interested ones in these ancient monuments.

The area was known to the Europeans well before 1826 as a place of archaeological importance (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 142). In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the discovery of Greek coins and stone sculptures in Gandhara provided an opportunity to the Western scholars, who had been interested in its Classical history and archaeology (Dani 1967:17). Small-scale diggings (not proper excavations) began at some mounds, the sole aim of which was only to acquire stone sculptures.

In 1882 the then Punjab Government deputed a company of Sappers and Miners to Charsadda to carry out excavations at some selected archaeological mounds headed by Lieutenant Martin. They made some hurried digs at the sites of Bala Hisar and Mir Ziyarat (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 142). The company worked only for twelve days and soon withdrew, leaving their work incomplete. During these digs Martin found an inscribed pedestal, which later became known as the Charsadda Pedestal, it is now housed in the Lahore Museum. In a letter addressed to the secretary Public Works Department, Government of the Punjab, he made a brief description of these excavations (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 143, foot note No. 5). What they found was never known, although they had sufficient labour force and the necessary tools as well.

In 1881-82 on the directives of Alexander Cunningham, Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, H.B.W. Garrick was deputed to Charsadda to explore the ruined fortress of Bala Hisar. He gives detail measurements of Bala Hisar and describes the general shape of the entire mound as an irregular triangle. There were twelve bastions or towers at its four corners, built of rubble stone

and bricks (Garrick 1881-82: 101, 106). To him the fort had 3 gates, wide enough for two elephants, in a row, to pass through it. He further adds that on this fort was situated the Raja's palace, the harem, bath-houses, treasury, servants or soldiers quarters, a large hall, barracks and stables.

He then mentions the neighbouring ruined city of Shahr-e- Napursan. He states that its remains are extensive and interesting. To him the dig of Sappers at the site was fruitless and felts sorry for their hasty withdrawal from the scene without any progress at this important site of ancient history in this area. He also mentions a high-peaked mound north of the Bala Hisar, almost parallel to Utmanzai, which at that time was called the Gumbaz, or cupola. There were many ruins around that tower. To him it probably represented the monastery that could be Xuanzang's stupa to the north of the city (Garrick 1881-82: 104). Garrick made his excavation on the site of Shahr-e-Napursan by selecting a spot where according to him its ground sounded very hollow. After a dig of 3 meters, he encountered a natural cavity where he did not find any thing notable, except a polygonal copper bead. Sensing archaeological importance of the site he suggested that in future a thorough exploration will bring to light many interesting objects (Garrick 1881-82: 110).

The Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavations at the site of Bala Hisar and its immediate vicinity in 1902-3 under the guidance of John Marshall and J.P. Vogel. They followed the then prevailing hypothesis that this high mound was the site of Pushkalavati mentioned by the earlier explorers and referred to also in the classical literature (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 143). Leaving Muslim period buildings in the center of the mound previously mentioned by Lieutenant Martin, they sunk trial pits on the east, west and northern edges of the high mound. In the western section a stone built wall was encountered at the depth of five feet. It was fashioned in the typical diaper style, common in the Buddhist period buildings and was standing to a height of three and a half

meters. They presumed that an ancient gateway might have existed at these walls, which has been termed as fortification wall of this high fort. The excavators did not believe Foucher's suggestion that it was the site of Eye-Gift stupa (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3:150). In order to confirm existence of any stupa on the site, the same party conducted excavations at Mir Ziyarat. Trenches were laid at different portions of the site. Shallow trenches were sunk around the base of the mound to strike the outer platforms of the stupa if there was any, but only wall foundations were encountered just a few inches below the surface. The excavation revealed four distinct settlements. Two of the Buddhist period and two of the Muslim (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 156).

At Palatu Dherai also two mounds were excavated where a brick wall running towards the north and east was hit upon in the lower mound. Another wall of Buddhist period stone masonry was found running westward for a distance of 31 meters. To the northern side of this stonewall a good number of sculptural remains were discovered (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 161). Four earthenware jars were found, three of these had Kharoshthi inscriptions of the Kushana period (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3:164).

Ghaz Dheri mound was situated about a quarter of a kilometer to the south of Palatu Dheri. Here during excavation a stupa base measuring ten meters square was discovered. But the most noteworthy find of this excavation was the discovery of a relic casket in the center of the stupa base. Sculptures found from this mound include nineteen pieces of Buddha and Bodhisattva statues, including eight heads. Among the stone fragments is to be specially mentioned, pedestal of a standing Bodhisattva statue. On the pedestal of this relief is a fragmentary Kharoshthi inscription, which reads in "in the district of Pushkala" (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 176).

Simone Corbiau in 1932 made some random and hasty excavations at the mound of Sar Dheri, about ten kilometers east of Bala Hisar.

It was Major D.H. Gordon mentioned its terracotta figurines in quite detail. Her excavation revealed the earlier period grave material such as a vase along with an iron dagger. Archaic figurines from the earliest levels were found from here, while numerous Hellenistic fragments were found in the upper layers (Corbiau 1937: 3). Close to the village of Rajar was the site of *Sulai Dheri*. It is now called *Sulai Kamar* where there is no trace of the ancient mound today. Here her digs were not that much disappointing as were in the previous mound. Remains of the same periods as attested in Sar Dheri were also noted here, which showed similar sequence of cultures. The Hellenistic period remains were found on the top and of the archaic period, in the lower levels of the mound. (Corbiau 1937: 3) The mound is no more existing, as the modern houses have occupied the site. Some of the Terracotta figurines of Sar Dheri excavation are housed at the Peshawar Museum.

In 1958 S.M. Wheeler attempted to unveil the buried history of Bala Hisar. It was a joint project of the British Academy, through its Stein-Arnold Fund and the Pakistan Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Education. It was the first vertical digging in the Peshawar valley. At the eastern face of the mound a complete vertical section called Ch. 1 was cut down from top to bottom, which showed fifty-two layers, labelled from 1 - 50a.

A defensive ditch was traced north and south along the eastern side of Bala Hisar. Traces of a timber-lined back door were also discovered, which was assumed to have existed at the time of Hephastion's siege in 327 BC.

By taking advantage of its height and commanding position in the middle of the Peshawar plain, the high mound of Bala Hisar was said to have been utilized as a fortress or police-post during the later Muslim rule of Durrani and of Sikhs (Wheeler 1962: 36). According to the excavator the early layers of Bala Hisar has yielded iron, on the basis of which he has dated the foundation of Bala Hisar coincide with the arrival of Achaemenian rule in

this region (Wheeler 1962: 13). But the later investigations proved that the city was founded much earlier (Coningham et al 2007: 94). Among the human figurines found were the well-known female figurines that are found throughout Gandhara in general and in Charsadda in particular. Gordon calls them the mother goddess of Gandhara, while Wheeler calls them Baroque ladies, because of their extra decorations of headdress and jewelry (Wheeler 1962: 104).

During this excavation quite many sherds were found, however eight key types of pottery were noted, which except one were all new and not previously known from any site (Wheeler 1962: 37). These include rippled rim ware, soapy red ware, wavy-line bowls, tulip bowls, lotus bowls and Northern Black Polished ware. Of all these, the lotus bowl has been termed "a present from Pushkalavati (Wheeler 1962: 35).

Taking hint from Wheeler's description of the buried city of Shaikhan Dheri, Dani of the Department of Archaeology University of Peshawar excavated the site in search of the second city of Pushkalavati. Two-season excavations were carried out in 1963–1964, that revealed three main streets and different strata of occupation. Thus it was confirmed that the original planning of the city was made during Bactrian Greek period. Stratigraphically three main phases of construction were distinguished at Shaikhan Dheri. These include, 1. Kushan 2. Scytho-Parthian and 3. Greek phases of occupation. Over 475 coins were found at different stratas of occupation, thus the three phases of construction are dated firmly well, on the basis of coin evidence (Dani 1956-66: 21, 23).

During excavations a number of structures were exposed covering all the three main periods (Indo-Greek, Scytho-Parthian, Kushan). The structures were super-imposed one above the other (Dani 1956-66: 26).

The newly established Provincial Directorate of Archaeology and Museums conducted excavations at Shaikhan Dheri for two seasons

during 1993-94. One of the aims of this excavation was to acquire antiquities for the newly established Pushkalavati Archaeological Museum. A high ground was selected in the northwestern portion of the mound, just west of the spot where Dani had earlier conducted excavations in 1963-64. Ten trenches of 5x5 meters were laid. The trenches were dug up to the virgin soil and the area was later turned into a single large trench. Stonewalls resting on round river stones were encountered, which seemed to be the walls of ordinary houses. A large number of cultural material consisting of terracotta animal and human figurines, fragmentary schist stone sculptures, as well as different kinds of household vessels of terracotta were among the numerous other finds. Several hundred beads of semi-precious stone, mostly of carnelian were recovered. More than hundred copper coins mostly round in shape were recovered, majority of which belonged to the Kushan period. Report of the excavation is not yet published. (The above note is based on personal observation of the writer, who was part of the excavation team).

The Buddhist site of Khan Mahi is situated about thirteen kilometers north east of Charsadda on the Rajar Takht-Bhai road. The site occupies the building of a police station as well as a mosque. The Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar made rescue excavations at the site in 1992. The treasure hunters had already robbed the main stupa of its antiquities. They had disturbed the cultural profile of the site by making pits and tunnels at various points of the mound. The excavation exposed portion of the main stupa base, which was square in shape and coated with lime plaster. Very little artifacts and other archaeological material except some fragmentary stone sculptures were recovered, now stored in Sir Sahabzada Abdul Qayum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Peshawar. Report of the excavation is not yet published, however the recovered fragmentary sculptures are documented here for the first time for benefit of the researchers.

A joint project of the Department of Archaeology University of Peshawar and the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, headed by Prof. Ihsan Ali surveyed Charsadda district in 1993.

The main aim of the survey was to prepare a gazetteer of existing archaeological sites and get information on the size, chronology and surface condition. Surface collection at these sites showed copper coins, beads and good number of potsherds (Ali 1994: 15).

Bala Hisar was once more under investigation by a joint team of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar and the Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford (Ali et al 1997-98: 15; Cuningham et al 2007). To the east of the mound, geophysical survey was undertaken with the aim to detect subsurface features. The area including Wheeler's sondage trenches across the ditch (So 3-So 5), the buried riverbed and the foot of the eastern mounds were selected for study. Earth resistance survey was carried out to identify buried remains that were invisible from the surface (Coningham et al 2007: 35). Wheeler's trench Ch. III was reopened to further study the course of the ditch.

In order to determine the nature and date of the earliest occupation at the site, 13 samples of charcoal and bone were utilised to provide an absolute framework for the site. Radiocarbon measurements of these samples suggested that the earliest occupation of the site has a date between 1420 and 1200 BC (Coningham et al 2007: 93-97).

To understand more about the subsistence strategies and economic organization in the northwest of Pakistan during the 2nd millennium BC, Ruth Young in her Ph.D thesis made reassessment of the published archaeological and environmental material. For this purpose two zones were selected, one was the flat alluvial plain of the Peshawar Valley, with its major urban site of Bala Hisar and its immediate surroundings and the other was the

Northern Hill Valleys of Swat and Dir. The chronological period under study was the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The study revealed that intensity of agriculture was greater in Charsadda than in Swat and Dir, where rainfall is greater than Peshawar plain (Young 2003: 1, 5).

The collected animal and plant remains at Bala Hisar were subjected to analysis (Young 2003: 56). Rice grain and husks in some quantity have been noted from the later context (Young 2003: 50). During the study it was noted that rice in small quantities were available at Charsadda.

Rice, lentil, wheat, weed seeds of dock, goosefoot or fat hen and bedstraw were present in small quantities at Bala Hisar. Animal bones were collected from two trenches located at the base of the mound. In total 57 bones were identified, associated to different species, including cattle, sheep/goat, buffalo, pig and deer. Deer was the only known wild animal, which suggests that hunting was a known activity. Because of the developed agriculture and pastoral exploitation of the surrounding area, Bala Hisar emerged as a major city of this region during the Iron Age or Early Historic Period (Young 2003: 57, 59, 82).

In 2006 Bala Hisar was again under archaeological excavation by a joint team constituted of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar and the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Topographic surface survey was carried out at the main mound, which revealed that especially those parts of the site, where Wheeler had dug his trench Ch.1, are badly affected by erosion. Furthermore the surrounding fields have also encroached upon the land of this mound, particularly on the northern and southern sides.

An un-disturbed section on top of the mound was selected for excavation at the north-eastern side of the mound, in order to know about the top layers (late period) of this huge mound. A small trench was laid on the edge of the steep slope to determine position of later occupation at the site. A good number of cultural materials

were encountered having resemblance with that of the 1st millennium AD. Architectural remains of the time included mud brick and mud lump walls, besides a fireplace.

Objectives of the Survey

- To make surface collection from the whole of the district in order to correlate the new material with each other as well as get tentative chronology of the area.
- To study the private collection from the area.
- To know about the early inhabitants of the area.
- To know about the missing links in the history of the area.
- To know about the practice of religions other than Buddhism.

In order to carry out the survey, government land records were consulted to find out exact location of the ancient sites. Moreover topographic map sheets of the Survey of Pakistan as well as published report of the earlier archaeological activities in the district were consulted for cross-references. Extensive foot walking was done to reach to the sites situated in far-flung areas, some of which are quite away from the road. One hundred and forty six sites were visited, some were visited several times. During the survey a limited number of artifacts were collected from the surface of various mounds in the district. As majority of the artifacts discussed in this study belong to private individuals therefore the persons possessing such artifacts were approached who in majority of the cases were quite cooperative because of the author's personal connections in the area. They allowed the author to study and photograph their artifacts.

All the material collected and observed with private individuals were compared for correlation with the material from Charsadda

earlier excavated and with those from Swat, Dir, Chitral, and other localities surrounding Charsadda. Published reports of Survey of India excavation reports in Charsadda, Bala Hisar, Shaikhan Dheri, Sardheri as well as Charsadda archaeological report of 1993 were of course the main sources of reference.

Distribution of the Settlements

The overall settlement perspective after the survey, indicated that Charsadda area was very thinly populated during the period upto the arrival of the Indo-Greeks. During the Gandhara Grave Culture phase, we have noted their presence at three localities at the northwest of the district. It is generally believed that the settled agricultural phase in the Peshawar plain begins with this phase. Other sites of this phase outside Charsadda have also been noted mainly in the west of the Peshawar valley, as well as in the hill zone of Gandhara. Other than the cemeteries no settlement of this phase has so far been noted in Charsadda.

During the second half of the sixth century BC, Achaemenid presence has been noted at Bala Hisar and Nisatta. During the survey a third site of this period has been noted at Ghurambak also. All the three sites are located in the southwest of the district lying close to the rivers.

From the late fourth century BC to the end of the second century BC, the period is generally associated with the Mauryan period. Four sites of this period have earlier been noted in the Charsadda area, no new site was encountered during the recent survey. These sites too, like the earlier phase, are located in the southwest of the district close to the rivers. It seems probable that communication through rivers was preferred as compared to the land during the Mauryan and Achaemenian periods.

With the arrival of the Indo-Greeks after the end of the second century BC, the Charsadda area seems to be gradually increasing in population as we notice increase in the sites belonging to this period. In the previous survey fourteen sites belonging to the Indo-Greek period are

recorded. During our survey we encountered eleven more sites belonging to this period, thus reaching its total to twenty-five. During the period not only the riversides but the non-irrigated plains, away from the rivers were also occupied. However majority of the sites are noticed in non-irrigated zone, in between the Swat and Kabul rivers. For the first time we see human activities in the centre and south of the district. This pattern seems to have continued during the Scytho-Parthian and Kushan times as well.

The Scytho-Parthian phase in the history of this region falls in the first century BC. Quite a large number of settlements as attested through the discovery of their coins have been noted during the survey. A total of sixty-four sites were noted belonging to this period. The earlier survey records forty-one sites, while we have encountered twenty-three new sites of this period. During this period also, not only the central part of the district was occupied but settlements of this period spread in the north, east and south as well.

From the first century AD to the third-fourth century AD the area of Charsadda was occupied by the Kushans. Coins are the widely found objects of that time, which bespeak not only the economic stability and relative peace, and prosperity of the time but also maturity of the Gandhara Art. Although the Kushans shifted the capital of Gandhara from Charsadda to Peshawar, yet the area was well populated during the Kushan times. The survey indicates that Charsadda was densely populated at this time. A total of one hundred and forty one sites belonging to this period were encountered, which include eighteen new sites. The settlement distribution of this period indicates that nearly the whole of district was occupied in which the northern and eastern portion of the district was equally occupied. The density of sites during the period as usual was concentrated round the two major rivers of Kabul and Swat as well as the area in between.

After the Kushans we see presence of the Kushano Sassanians on the historical canvas of the area. The only site of the period was for the

first time noticed in Charsadda at Majuki Dherai. Two of their coins have been found from this site. May be in future other sites of this period could also come to light, anyhow at the moment we have a single site of this period in the district.

After the Hun invasion of Gandhara, once again we see a rapid decline in the number of settlements of the succeeding periods in the district. The Hindu Shahi dynasty, which was in constant tussle with the Ghaznavids, has little opportunities for activities other than saving their rule. During this dynasty the settlements in the district drastically declined and only eleven of the sites show evidence of the Hindu Shahi period, as attested through the discovery of their coins and ceramics. Six new sites of this period were noted during the recent survey. All these settlements are strictly located close to the Swat and Kabul rivers. Majuki Dherai seems to have been a major site of this period in the Peshawar plain other than Hund.

In the beginning of eleventh century AD the Peshawar valley came into the Ghaznavid rule. The Buddhist and Hindus of the area preferred to shift for their safety and migrate to the surrounding hilly glens, thus once again we see a sudden decline in the number of settlements in the valley. Only four of the settlements have been noted in Charsadda that shows evidence of the presence of early Islamic rule. All these sites are located close to Bala Hisar, which served as administrative centre during the period.

Gazetteer of the Sites

Archaeological sites in Charsadda Tehsil

The following archaeological sites in the whole of the district were surveyed.

1. Bala Hisar-Hisara Dherai (BLH)

Period: Pre Achaemenid- Early Islamic
Reference: Court 1836, Cunningham 1871: 43, Garrick 1881-82: 104, Gopaldas 1874, Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 274, Survey 1902-3,

Wheeler 1962, Ali 1994: 35, Coningham 2007, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010.

It was because of this huge mound, which attracted attention of the European explorers in the late 18th century.

Their interest turned in to enthusiasm when Alexander Cunningham who stated it to be the site of ancient Pushkalavati. Archaeological activities on the mound actually began in 1862 with the reports of General Court. Later on the site was subjected to extensive investigations, which still continues. Much work still is to be done to know about one of the main sites in the Peshawar valley.

Copper and silver coins of the Hindu Shahis are for the first time noted during the recent survey. Apart from terracotta animal and human figurines a number of bronze seals, gems of semi-precious gemstones used as seals and terracotta tokens were noted with the locals. It is also to be noted, that from here was obtained a white marble head of Vishnu in 1923, that is now on display at the Hindu Gallery of the Peshawar Museum (PM. 02881). This point, if taken for research in future, will throw fresh light on the presence of Hinduism in the Peshawar valley.

2. Shaikhan Dheri-Marchakai (SHK)

Period: Kushan-Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 289, Survey 1902-3, Wheeler 1962, Dani 1965-66, Ali 1994: 35, Mohammadzai 2010.

Gandhara Art stone pieces were found by the local since long, some of which were later purchased by the Peshawar Museum before partition. These include stone panels depicting coffin carrying Buddha (PM. 02835), stupa worship (PM. 02840) and meditating Buddha (PM. 02823). The site was later on excavated by Dani in 1964-65, its material is on display at Sir Sahabzada Abdul Qayum Museum of the Peshawar University. Later on the site was again excavated in 1993-94. but plundering of antiquities from this vast site still continues.

Quite a large number of artifacts were noted at this site which include beads, bronze objects, Gandhara Art architectural pieces, galiptic seals, a large number of terracotta tokens and animal and human figurines.

3. Shahr-e-Napursan-Rajaro Dherai,

Rajar (SHN)

Period: Kushan, Early Islamic, Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 289, Garrick 1881-82, Survey 1902-3, Ali 1994, Mohammadzai 2010.

The site was excavated during 1902-3 and its material is housed in the Peshawar Museum. Besides a number of bronze seals a Hindu Shahi coin was for the first time noted here during our survey.

4. Palatu-Angar Kali Dherai (PLT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Survey 1902-3

Its excavated material is housed in the Peshawar Museum. The site is entirely covered by the modern houses.

5. Ghaz Dheri-Gitkai-Shaikhabad (GHZ)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Survey 1902-3

Most of the excavated material is in the Peshawar Museum. This site too is entirely covered by the modern dwellings.

6. Sulai Kamar (SUL)

Period: Pre Kushan-Kushan
Reference: Corbiau 1937: 3

Its excavated material is in Belgium. This site also is covered by the modern houses. Besides terracotta animal and human figurines a bronze seal was also noted with the locals.

7. Mra Dherai (MRA)

Period: Scythian-Kushan, Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 287, Survey 1902-3, Survey 1918-19, Ali 1994: 18, Mohammadzai 2001, 41, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010

Once an extensive site with mounds of considerable height, only agricultural fields could be seen on the spot today. Soil of the entire mound was taken away and used as foundation of the M1 motorway, which passes close by the site. Besides other cultural material of the site, bronze and terracotta seals and tokens were noted during the recent survey.

8. Arbapano-Baretai-Hindu Dherai (BRT)

Period: Greek, Scythian
Reference: Gopaldas 1874:287, Survey 1918-19, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010

Remarks. The entire mound is covered by Muslim graves. Besides other objects bronze seals and terracotta tokens were also noted during the survey.

9. Majuki-Akhtar Dherai (MJK)

Period: Greek-Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 287, Survey 1902-3, Survey 1918-19, Ali 1994: 19, Mohammadzai 2003, 79, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010

Remarks. Besides collection of other small finds a notable feature of this site is the presence of large quantity of stamped sherds of over three hundred different designs, not encountered anywhere else in the region. As compared to the other surrounding mounds, here gray ware potsherds are relatively encountered in larger number on its surface. Bronze and terracotta seals as well as terracotta tokens were noted with the inhabitants. Coins of Hindu Shahis and signs of Shiva worship found at the site. Two Kushano-Sassanian small copper coins are found from here for the first time.

10. Mya Kali/ Prang/ Kharono/ Daramsal Dherai (PNG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 287, Survey 1902-3, Ali 1994: 19, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010

Deva or Shiva temple was reported here by Xuanzang. Only a small portion of the mound is intact. Besides copper coins of the Kushans some bronze seals were also noted here.

11. Kanizaka Dherai (KN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Survey 1902-3, Survey 1918-19, Ali 1994: 19

The mound is entirely covered by modern dwellings.

12. Kula Dher (KLD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Survey 1902-3, Ali 1994: 19

Several stone statues and other Buddhist period artifacts have been found from this site. Peshawar Museum has two schist stone stupa models inscribed with Kharoshthi characters (PM. 0328, 03219). These stupa models were unearthed from here and were purchased for the Museum in 1935.

13. Malka Dher (MLD)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan-Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Ali 1994: 21, Mohammadzai 2008

On top of the mound is a 3.5 meters long Muslim grave, attributed to an un-known saint. People visit it for various wishes to be fulfilled. Encroachments have been made recently from the northern side to get space for agricultural fields and a government primary school has been constructed to its southern side, which has greatly reduces its size. During the recent survey besides other finds a number of terracotta token were noted with the locals. This

site is the find spot of stone toilet tray, obtained by the Peshawar Museum in 1935. Its four compartments contain four griffins (PM. 03172).

14. Maho Dherai, Malkadher (MHD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874:289, Mohammadzai 2010

The site is covered with agricultural fields as well as irrigation canal, here dressed stone walls with lime plaster are recently exposed. A terracotta token depicting Nike was noted here during the survey.

15. Sar Dheri-Shaikhano Kale (SRD)

Period: Ancient Graves, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Corbiau 1937, Gopaldas 1874: 274, Ali 1994: 20

The mound has been entirely engulfed by the modern houses

16. Mani Khela (MNI)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 16

17. Qadim Patai-Manikhela(QDP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 17

18. Dwasare/Dosehra Dherai (DSR)

Period: Kushan
Reference.: Ali 1994: 17

19. Bubak Dherai (BBK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Survey 1918-19, Ali 1994: 17

20. Sparli Dherai, Nisatta-Dosehra road (SPR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 17

21. Ibrahimzai Dherai (IBR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 17

From this Buddhist site was found a well preserved schist stone panel (PM. 03012), that was purchased for the Peshawar Museum in 1915. It represents Hariti and Panchika in seated position.

22. Dheri Zardad (DZR)

Period: Kushan
Part of the site is occupied by the modern houses, while the rest is disturbed.

23. Nisatta Dherai (NST)

Period. Achaemenian-Early Islamic
Reference. Ali 1994: 18

24. Momin Khan Dherai (MMK)

Period: Scythian-Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 18

25. Ghunda Karkana Dherai, Firdos Khan Patai (KRK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 18

26. Zndo Dherai, Zarin Abad (ZND)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Survey 1918-19, Ali 1994: 18

27. Kashmiryan Dherai, Manga (KSH)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 19

28. Sumbarai Dherai, Dargai (SMB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 20

It was from this site that the Peshawar Museum acquired in 1926, a schist stone fragment, depicting standing and seated human figures (PM. 01024).

29. Muftipur Dherai, Gul Abad (MFT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 20

A schist stone piece was obtained from here for the Peshawar Museum in 1909 (PM. 03134). It depicts seated Buddha on a high throne in preaching pose with attendants on either side.

30. Khan Mahi (KMH)

Period. Kushan
Reference. Ali 1994: 20

The site was excavated by Dr. Abdur Rahman who exposed parts of a robbed stupa. Its report is unpublished. The stupa cum residential site is badly devastated for antiques, however the portions covered by a mosque and police station are still intact.

31. Wardaga Dherai (RDG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 21

32. Ghani Dherai-Irrigation Rest House (GND)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 21

On top of the mound is now constructed a library and Pushkalavati Archaeological Museum.

33. Qala Koroona, Rajar-Mohammad Nari road (QLK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 21

34. Shahidano Dherai, Utmanzai-Mohammad Nari road (SHD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 21

35. Tambulak Dherai, Bahlola (TMB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 22

36. Sarki Msharan Dherai, Utmanzai (SRK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 22

37. Khkari Baba Dherai, Utmanzai (KRB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 22, Mohammadzai 2010

The site is covered by trees and Muslim graves. During the survey Kushan period copper coins and a bronze seal was also noted with the locals. Peshawar Museum houses a number of Buddhist period artifacts that had its origin from the village of Utmanzai. These include a bearded stucco head (PM. 03392), three schist atone round shape relic caskets (PM. 03217, 03225 and 03227), and a schist stone toilet tray (PM. 0370) showing Queen Maya standing with other attendants.

38. Jangi Dherai, Turangzai (JNG)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 285, Ali 1994: 23

39. Hindu Kamar, Turangzai (HDK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 23

The site is covered by Muslim graves.

40. Hamid Mya Dherai (HMD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 33, Mohammadzai 2010

This well-known stupa site is favorite spot of antique hunters since long. human size stone sculptures are said to have been found from here, the locals inform. Reports of stone sculptures still come up. However part of the

site is still intact that is under the mosque and modern houses.

Besides fragmentary pieces of Gandhara Art a few copper coins of the Kushan dynasty and a bronze seal was also noted with the locals. The piece obtained from here, that is on display at the Gandhara Art Gallery of the Peshawar Museum was purchased in 1937. It is a rectangular schist stone panel depicting a multitude of human figures, including an enthroned king and Naga Rajas (PM. 02985).

41. Durmarjan Dherai (DRJ)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 34

This known stupa site is now left very small in size. Its remaining portion will soon be covered by agricultural fields.

42. Nimaorai Baba (NMB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 34

Western art of the mound is covered by modern Muslim graves, while of its top is the shrine of Bahauddin Nimaorai Baba.

43. Sartor Baba, Nimaorai (SRT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 34

The site is surrounded by thick woodland.

44. Parsa Baba (PRB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 34

Silver coins of the Mughal period are found here. The site is surrounded by thick trees.

45. Spinkai Dherai, Sholgara (SPN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 34

46. Haji Faqir Patai, Solgara (FQR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 35

47. Dost Muhammad Koroona, Nimaorai (DMK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 35

48. Spera Dherai, Torapana (SPR)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 36, Mohammadzai 2010

Lion and bull copper coins of Azes II, a bronze seal and terracotta tokens were seen with the locals.

49. Tora Pana (TRP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 289, Survey 1902-3, Ali 1994: 36

The entire site has been covered by modern dwellings.

50. Girawar Dherai (GIR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 289, Ali 1994: 36, Mohammadzai 2008

The site was stupa cum residential mound, from where Buddhist stone sculptures and Kushan period copper coins were found. Some bronze seals and terracotta tokens were also noted here. Nearly all the mound has now been bulldozed and turned in to agricultural fields.

51. Myana Dherai, Tarnab-Kot area (MYN)

Period: Kushan, Hindu Shahi
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 36

52. Jogyano Dherai, Hameed Mya Kale (JOG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 36

53. Pla Dherai (PLD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Ali 1994: 37

The entire mound has been covered by modern houses.

54. Spinavarai Dherai (SPW)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Survey 1918-19

Part of the mound has been converted in to agricultural fields while modern dwellings have covered the rest.

55. Pkhana Dherai (PKN)

Period: Greek, Kushan, Hindu Shahi, Islamic
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Ali 1994: 37, Mohammadzai 2010

Remarks. Part of the mound is still preserved while the rest is incorporated in to agricultural fields. Besides other minor antiquities copper coins of Menander, Azes II, of the Kushan kings and early Muslim rulers are note. A bronze seal was also noted with the locals.

56. Chathli Dherai, Tarnab (CHT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 37

57. Khazana Dherai, Tarnab (KZN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 37

The site is find spot of several pieces of Gandhara Art that were purchased for the Peshawar Museum in 1930. These include four

Persipolitan pilasters (PM. 02911, 02952, 02958 and 02900), one Indo-Corinthian pilaster (PM. 02957), three schist stone panels depicting worship of Buddha's turban (PM. 02843), child seated on a dragon (PM. 02914) and marine bull in a triangular panel (PM. 02907).

58. Sandasar Dherai, Cheena (SND)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 38

59. Dagi Ghulam Qadir (DGQ)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 38

60. Adamghar Baba, Tarnab (ADM)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 38

Archaeological Sites in Tangi Tehsil

61. Rai Dherai, near Munda Head Works

(RAI)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 16

The site has been turned in to agricultural fields.

62. Bangle Dherai, Ali Jan Kale (BNG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 24

63. Malakano Dherai, Ali Jan Kale (MLK)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 24

64. Jhara Sikander Abad Dherai, Kanewar

(JAR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 24

65. Mir Alam Patai, Sherpao (MAP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 24

66. Momin Abad Dherai, Sherpao (MMN)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 25

67. Aslam Patai, Sherpao (ASL)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 25

68. Mumano Dherai, Sherpao (MUM)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 279, Ali 1994: 25

Remarks. One of the notable pieces of Gandhara Art collection in the Peshawar Museum "visit of Indra to the Indra Shala cave" was obtained in 1928 from this site. Various authorities of the Art have discussed this arched shaped schist stone panel. It presents the figure of seated Buddha in meditation pose and various other scenes containing human and animal figures. At the lower edge is inscribed Kharoshthi inscription (PM. 02805). Another notable piece from here was obtained for the Museum in 1931. It is a well-preserved Buddha head moulded in stucco (PM. 03417).

69. Sher Muhammad Patai, Sherpao (SHP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 25

70. Bachano Kale Dherai, Sherpao (BCH)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 25

71. Jamal Kale Dherai, Tangi (JMK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 26

72. Dab Koroona Dherai, Sherpao (DAB)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 26

73. Sokana Dherai, Kanewar (SKN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 26

74. Kanewar Dherai, near Petrol Station**(KNR)**

Period: Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 26

75. Bajaoro Kale Dherai, Tangi (BJR)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 26

76. Akhun Baba, Sherpao (AKN)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 27

77. Said Abad Dherai, Gandheri (SDB)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 27

78. Faqir Khan Patai, Gandheri (FQP)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 27

79. Chehil Ghazi, Gandheri (CHL)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 27

80. Kandase Baba, Buchi Pul (KND)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 28

81. Sre Dherai, Marghuz (SRE)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 28

82. Dobandi Kandare, Palai (DBK)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 28

83. Hamesh Gul Koroona Dherai. Sherpao**(HGK)**

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 28

84. Dherai Kale, Station Koroona (DRK)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 28

85. Kharono Dherai, Jura road (KRN)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 29

86. Jura Kale Dherai (JUR)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 29

87. Pirano Adira, Jura (PIR)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 29

88. Kas Koroona, Sherpao (KSK)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 29

89. Mirza Dher Adira (MZD)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 30

90. Sra Makha Dherai (SRM)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 30

The site is associated with the conversion of Hariti Jataka, which Foucher has discussed in detail. Coins from the early historic up to the Sikh period are reported from here. There are even reports of bent bar silver punch marked coins from the site.

91. Totakai (TTK)

Period: Kushan
 Reference: Ali 1994: 30

The site is covered by the modern dwellings.

82. Ghandaghar-Gotki Dherai, Totakai**(GGR)**

Period: Scythian, Kushan
 Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 274, Ali 1994: 30

93. Spilano-Dherai, Gumbati-Sherpao (SPL)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 30

94. Mula Dherai, Kochakai (MUL)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 30

95. Mughal Dherai, Mandani (MGL)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 31

96. Momin Khan Dherai, Cheena (MOM)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 31

97. Chalagram Dherai (CHL)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 31, Mohammadzai 2008 & 2010

Remarks. Traces of stupa bases and monastic cells are still to be seen. During the survey Gandhara Art pieces in stone and stucco as well as bronze seal and terracotta tokens were noted at the site.

98. Ghazo Dherai (GHZ)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 31

The mound is covered by modern houses.

99. Dre Khule Thana, Harichand (DKT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 32

100. Baram Khan Dherai, Shakoor (BRM)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 32

101. Karim Jranda (KRJ)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 32

102. Siwano Kale, Shakoor (SWN)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 32

103. Hari Chand Dairy Farm Dherai (HRI)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 32

104. Qaroon Dherai, Tangi (QRN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 33

105. Fazle Karim Patai, Hameed Mya Dherai (FKP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 33

106. Pappu Dherai, Hameed Mya Dherai (PPD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 33

107. Akhun Dheri (AKN)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 33

A number of Buddhist period artifacts were found from this mound, some of which are exhibited in the Peshawar Museum. These include a schist stone figure of seated Buddha in Dhayana pose (PM. 0145) and four armed Shiva, standing with his bull, which has put its head on the ground (PM. 03017).

108. Skaro Dherai, Umarzai (SKR)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 23

109. Sartor Baba (SRT)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 284, Ali 1994: 24

Remarks. There is a Muslim shrine on the top. This site too is sometimes associated with the conversion of Hariti Jataka.

110. Lande Rud Cemetery (LND)

Period: Gandharan Grave Culture

Remarks Traces of inhumation burials and typical grave material like those of Swat and Timargara are found.

111. Deo Dherai Cemetery (DEO)

Period: Gandharan Grave Culture
Reference: Mohammadzai, 2007: 28

Remarks. The cemetery is scattered in to a wider area, where stone built graves could still be seen on the slopes of hillocks west of the village.

Archaeological sites in Shabqadar Tehsil**112. Kula Dhand Dherai (KDD)**

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 8

113. Khar Bandai (KBD)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 8

114. Khro Sha Dherai (KHR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 8

115. Ghurambak Dherai (GBK)

Period: Achaemenian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 8

116. Sikandar Khan Dherai (SKN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 8

117. Sarwani Dherai (SRN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 9

118. Saidano Dherai (SDN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 9

119. Goongi Dherai, Haryana (GNG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Gopaldas 1874: 281, Ali 1994: 9

120. Sandasar Dherai, Daulatpura (SDS)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 9

121. Tawani Dherai, Jamata (TWN)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 9

122. Daulatpura Dherai (DLP)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 10

123. Ambadher Dherai (AMB)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 10

124. Tarkha Dherai (TRK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 10

124. Shibli Dherai, Tarkha (SHB)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994:10

126. Katyala Dherai (KTL)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 10

127. Nima Dherai, Tarkha (NMA)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 11

128. Gula Jan Dherai, Kangra (GUL)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 11

129. Mahboob Khan Dherai (MBB)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 11

130. Usmani Dherai (SMN)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 11

131. Sukkar Dherai (SKR)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 11

132. Nahqai Dherai (NHQ)

Period: Greek, Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 12

133. Spinorai, Kharakai (SNW)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 12

134. Batagram Dherai (BTG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 12

135. Kandar Adira Dherai (KDR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 12

136. Yaghiband Adira Dherai (YBN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 13

137. Gonda Adira Dherai (GND)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 13

138. Marsin Dherai, New Mathra (MRS)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 13

139. Sreekh Adira Dherai (SRK)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 13

140. Mandezai Dherai (MDZ)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 14

141. Kotak Dherai, Tarnab (KTK)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 14

142. Kamangar Dherai, Mirzai (KMG)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 14

143. Uchawala Dherai (UCH)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 14

144. Sokhta Dherai, Sokhta (SKT)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 15

145. Shah Darga (DRG)

Period: Scythian, Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 15

146. Changanro Dherai, Kotak (CHN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 15

147. Mirzai Dherai (MIR)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 15

148. Spinkai Dherai (SPN)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 15

**149. Mughal Kas Dherai, Matta Mughal
Khel (MUG)**

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 16

150. Katozai Dherai Koroona (KTZ 1)

Period: Kushan
Reference: Ali 1994: 16

151. Katozai Adira (KTZ 2)

Period: Gandharan Grave Culture
Reference: Mohammadzai 2001: 122

Apart from the usual Grave Culture material a Five-cup ritual pot is also reported from here.

Stone Objects

During the survey only a limited number of stone objects were noted, because sculptures and other stone artifacts bear good market value. Moreover, the owners, if had any stone sculpture or other worked stone piece, were hesitant to show it, because of the fear of confiscation. Stone sculptures recovered during various excavations in the Charsadda area have been documented in the relevant excavation reports and mostly housed in the Peshawar Museum. Excavation at the Buddhist site of Khan Mahi in 1992-93 revealed a limited number of fragmentary stone statues, which have been housed in Sir Sahabzada Abdul Qayum Khan Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Peshawar. As report of that excavation is still to be published, therefore preliminary description of its stone sculptures is presented here for the first time, for the interest of scholars and benefit of the students of archaeology.

The following Gandhara Art schist stone pieces were recovered during the excavation.

No: 1
 Object: **Illustrated Panel**
 Plate: 1: 1
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 23.5 cm.
 Width: 16 cm

Stone panel though considerably damaged and its right portion broken, yet two standing figures are seen wearing Gandharan monastic dress, reaching up to the feet, covering their entire body. Though their faces are much damaged, yet their style of standing indicate that they may be devotees as are normally seen in Gandhara Art panels in which Buddha is also depicted standing or seated, accompanied by other figures. The figure to the right side standing near the pilaster, has folded hands in *namaskara mudra*, the like figures are usually found round that of Buddha.

No: 2
 Object: **Illustrated panel**
 Plate: 1: 2
 Material: Greyish-black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 23 cm.
 Width: 17.3 cm

This fragmentary panel has two standing figures wearing the typical Gandharan monastic dress. Their heads are broken while the lower bodies up to the feet are preserved. The figure to the left may be that of Buddha, because it is not only taller than the other one, but its right broken arm may have been raised in *Abhaya mudra*. Furthermore the lower garment and folds of his dress also resemble with the Buddha's dress in other Gandhara Art panels.

No: 3
 Object: **Decorative architectural piece**
 Plate: 1: 3
 Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 34 cm.
 Width: 16 cm

The upper portion of this rectangular architectural piece, consists of a floral design in the shape of a laurel leaf, while the lower one has several square designs in the shape of chessboard motif. A series of Greek style crosses is also formed of these squares, which has a hole in the middle.

No: 4
 Object: **Buddha sculpture**
 Plate: 1: 4
 Material: Grey schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 22.5 cm.
 Width: 21 cm

Description: Sanding figure probably of Buddha in *Abhaya mudra*. Here too the figure wears Gandharan monastic dress with lower garment. The typical long wavy folds as seen in other Buddha figure are also present here. The head and right shoulder is missing.

No: 5
 Object: **Sculptural piece**
 Plate: 1: 5
 Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 28.8 cm.
 Width: 12 cm

Description: A detached fragmentary piece of a statue, in which only the bare legs of a human figure are preserved. The figure is shown in seated position with the left leg bent while the right leg may be in vertical position.

No: 6
 Object: **Illustrated Panel**
 Plate: 1: 6
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 21.5 cm.
 Width: 18 cm

Detached stone piece from a panel shows a kneeling human figure with folded hands in *Anjali mudra*. Its entire body is covered with dress and is shown looking to his left. The head is damaged.

No: 7
 Object: **Buddha head**
 Plate: 1: 7
 Material: Light-black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 10.5 cm.
 Width: 8 cm

A skillfully carved stone head of Buddha with portion of the neck. The hair are beautifully set, while on top of the head is a well-formed Ushnisha. The eyes are half closed. The Urna on the forehead is also well indicated. Nose as well as the right side of the face is damaged.

No: 8
 Object: **Head**
 Plate: 1: 8
 Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 7.5 cm.
 Width: 11.2 cm

A human head probably of a lady. The figure has beautifully combed hair and is also wearing an ear ornament. It has fleshy lips while the nose is slightly broken. To the left of the head is an inverted lotus flower.

Apart from the above mentioned stone pieces from Khan Mahi the following stone objects were observed during the recent survey.

No: 9
 (Marshall 1951: 703, plate No. 213- No. 18, Marshall 1960: 21, plate 21, fig. 25)
 Object: **Figural bracket**
 Plate: 2:9
 Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 22.4 cm.
 Width: 9.2 cm

Schist stone bracket in the form of a winged female figure was noted at Shaikhan Dheri. In India and Central Asia the practice of adding brackets called *nagadanta*, to the Buddhist stupas was prevalent during second and first centuries BC. These were set at regular intervals round the dome of the stupa and garlands were hung to it as offerings. In Gandhara these were particularly added with the figures of winged *devas* and *devis*, supposed to bring offering to the stupa. The figure wears a necklace, a bracelet and is holding offering in the shape of flowers in both of her hands close to the chest. This seems to be the only reported piece from the Charsadda area. A similar piece has been reported from Taxila as well.

No: 10
 Object: **Pendent**
 Plate: 2:10
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 5.1 cm.
 Width: 3.4 cm

Description: Black stone pendent of heart shape; both of its sides are highly polished. It has three incised rings with a dot in the middle. The upper portion is decorated with two horizontal lines. A horizontal hole for suspension has been

made in its upper portion. No such specimen has so far been reported earlier from the area.

No: 11
 (Marshall & Vogel: plate XXV; Dani: 1965-66: 38-46, plates XVII, XX)
 Object: **Head**
 Plate: 2 11
 Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Khkari Baba
 Length: 2.4 cm.
 Width: 2 cm

Small head of schist stone in fragmentary shape, only the nose, one eye and part of the hair or headdress is preserved. The head seems to be that of Buddha or Bodhisattva, with half opened eyes Buddha and Bodhisattva statues in stone are widely reported from the Charsadda area.

No: 12
 (Marshall 1951: 506-7, plate 142, Nos. 148-149)
 Object: **Jewelry mould**
 Plate: 2:12
 Material: Greenish soap-stone
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 23.5 cm.
 Width: 16 cm

Square tablet of soapstone, which has two circular depressions carved on its surface, with two outlet passages. The upper circle is carved in emboss with the figure of a standing lady, wearing a long gown and probably holding a lotus flower stalk in her right lap. The piece may have served as a mould for casting of metal ornaments. This piece looks to be the only reported one from the Charsadda area, however a number of such jewelry casting stones have been found at Taxila.

No: 13
 Object: **Decorated toilet plate**
 Plate: 2:13
 Material: Light-green schist
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: Un-Known
 Width: 6.8 cm

A blue-green soapstone plate, though broken at the edges, but still well preserved. It is highly incised on the inner side. A well-formed lotus flower is incised in the center, while the edges are decorated with net design. This may be the only specimen so far reported from the area.

No: 14
 (Dani 1965-66: 117, figure 9, No. 13)
 Object: **Lid of relic casket**
 Plate: 2:14
 Material: Grey-black schist
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 9.5 cm.
 Width: 16 cm

Lid of a container, turned on lithe is decorated with two double incised lines. It also has a flat round catch in the middle At Shaikhan Dheri one such lid (No. 1189) has been reported from trench B2.

No: 15
 Object: **Relic casket container**
 Plate: 2:15
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Length: 9.3 cm.
 Width: 1.5 cm
 Round schist stone container turned on lithe.

No: 16
 (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 157, figure No. 21)
 Object: **Relic casket container**
 Plate: 2:16
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan
 Length: 3 cm.
 Width: 3.5 cm

Description: Schist stone round relic casket, its outer surface is highly decorated with floral designs. It has been turned on lithe; its lid portion is missing. Almost identical relic casket was found at the stupa in Ghaz Dheri during 1902-3 excavation.

No: 17
 (Dani 1965-66: 118, figure 9- No. 14)
 Object: **Oil lamp**
 Plate: 2:17

Material: Grey schist
 Provenance: Bala Hisar
 Length: 8.2 cm.
 Width: 6.7 cm

This well-preserved stone lamp is heart shaped; its outer surface is decorated with incised floral motifs. It has three lugs or catches, two smaller ones at the pointed end and the other a little bigger in semi-circular shape at the broader end. Its rim is also decorated with dental designs. Similar stone lamp (No. 1845) at Shaikhan Dheri was recovered from trench C5 (1).

No: 18
 Object: **Relic casket lid**
 Plate: 2:18
 Material: Greenish black schist
 Provenance: Mya Kali Dherai
 Length: Un-known
 Width: 5.2 cm

Lid of a relic casket having catch, that is round in shape. The outer surface has been made extra smooth and is decorated with incised and floral designs. The upper half is incised with lotus flower leaves.

No: 19
 (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 153. figure 24, No. 2; Dani 1965-66: 116-119, figure 9, V; Coningham *et al* 2007: 169, plate 11.1, Nos. 112, 189)

Object: **Cup**
 Plate: 2:19
 Material: Grey schist
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Length: 9 cm.
 Width: 6.5 cm

Cup turned on lithe, has out curved rim and disc base. Its outer surface has been made smooth by burnishing. Fragmentary stone vessels have been recovered from various localities of Charsadda.

No: 20
 (Dani 1965-66: 117, figure 9-No. 5)
 Plate: 2:20
 Object: **Worked stone shaft**

Material: Black schist
 Provenance: Baretai Dherai
 Length: 11.5 cm

Stone shaft, carved with six small beaded objects, it originally might have been part of another stone object of considerable size. One such stone rod with three umbrellas (No. 251) has been found at Shaikhan Dheri.

Inscribed Sherds

Charsadda area is the find spot of a number of inscriptions, incised mainly on the pedestals of stone statues and relic caskets. These reported inscriptions are almost written in Kharoshthi characters and the language was Gandhari. Shakoor has recorded a number of inscriptions from the Charsadda area, which include Umarzai slab inscription, Kula Dher relic casket inscriptions, and Mamane Dheri Inscription (Shakur: 1946, 34). Marshall & Vogel have also recovered a number of Inscriptions during 1902-3 excavations at Charsadda (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 176). Likewise at Bala Hisar, inscribed potsherds have been recorded (Wheeler 1962: 125, plate XLV; Coningham *et al* 2007: 114, plates 1.2h & 8.12). Dani also recorded thirty-seven Kharoshthi inscriptions on ceramics and stones at Shaikhan Dheri (Dani 1965-66: 109).

During the survey were found only a few potsherds that have single or a few letters scratched on its outer surface, which could be the name or initial of the owner. The following potsherds with inscriptions are found at various mounds.

No: 1
 Plate: 13:13
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 4.4 cm
 Width: 3.2 cm

Description:

Upper broken portion of a supposed closed pot in red ware has a single inscribed Kharoshthi letter *ha*. Its style is that of the Kushan period.

No: 2
 Plate: 13:14
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Length: 7.5 cm
 Width: 5 cm

Open mouthed jar in red ware having flat base. On its surface is probably inscribed a single Kharoshthi letter *mi*.

No: 3
Plate: 13:15
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 6.2 cm
Width: 4.5 cm

Rim sherd of a red ware pot has double incised lines below the rim. Below the lines is part of a Kharoshthi inscription in fragmentary shape. Lower part of the letters are missing, preliminary reading could be *cigi [ta] +*.

No: 4
Plate: 13: 16
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 7.6 cm.
Width: 6

Rim piece of a red ware pot has thin sections and shiny surface. It has a fragmentary Kharoshthi inscription which could probably be read as *dukharahi*. Its style seems to be that of the Kushan period.

No: 5
Plate: 13:17
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 5.5 cm
Width: 5 cm

Red ware body sherd having medium fabric has fragmentary Kharoshthi inscription in which only two letters are preserved. That could be *[pada]*. Its style probably belongs to that of the Kushan period.

No: 6
Plate: 13: 18
Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan
Length: 5 cm
Width: 3.8 cm

Rim sherd of red ware has fragmentary Kharoshthi inscription. The first letters is incomplete, the following could be *[zo- zo]*.

No: 7
Plate: 13: 19
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 5x3 cm
Width: 5x3 cm

Rim piece of a grey ware vessel in fine thin fabric has partly preserved Kharoshthi inscription, in which only the two letters, may be *[sa-sa]* are preserved. Its style resembles that of the Kushan period.

No: 8
Plate: 13: 20
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 7.2 cm
Width: 6 cm

Description: Shoulder piece of potsherd in grey ware has only portion of a Kharoshthi inscription, in which the middle portion may be read as *[dhutadasaa]*.

Coins

The earliest punched mark coins are occasionally being found, however the first reported coins from the Charsadda area were those obtained during Marshall & Vogel's excavations. They have reported a copper coin of Kanishka (Moon-god type) and two Indo-Scythian copper coins from the Bala Hisar mound. Also obtained from here were fourteen Indo-Scythian, fourteen Muslim period copper coins, including those of Muhammad Ghori and Allauddin ibn Takash of Khwarizm (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 152). From the mound of Mir Ziyarat, were excavated coins of Hermaeus, Azes, Wima Kadphises, Kanishka and those of Indo-Scythian kings (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 158). Also found at this site was a hoard of 87 coins, these according to the excavator were of the Ghaznavid period (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 157). Similarly, from excavation at Palatu Dheri was obtained a hoard of 57 copper coins of late Kushans including those of Wima Kadphises, Kanishka and Indo-Scythian kings (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 172). From the site of Ghaz Dheri were retrieved coins of Indo-Scythian, Muslim and Sikh period. From the debris of its Buddhist stupa was recovered a

relic casket which besides other relics, also contained a copper coin of the lion and bull type of Azes (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 152). Although the excavators intended to publish a list of coins from the Charsadda area, but the scheme did not materialize (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 152).

Afterwards, Wheeler, while excavating at Bala Hisar recovered a single silver coin of Menander from the well of an excavated house (Wheeler 1962: 30). He also reported about the discovery of two coin-hoards from the near-by site of Shaikhan Dheri found earlier, which contained mostly coins of the Indo-Greeks (Wheeler 1962: 17).

Shaikhan Dheri is the only site in Charsadda, from where well-stratified coins have been recovered, starting from the punched mark to the late Kushan period. Thus, it helped great deal in dating all its cultural material as well as its building phases on the basis of numismatic evidence. All the three periods of the city have yielded a total number of 475 coins, in which 291 coins, after treatment were clearly identifiable. Besides, two Punch-Marked coins of debase silver from the lower Indo-Greek levels, 16 other coins of the same dynasty were recovered. Those include coins of Agathocles, Menander, Apollodotus, Antialkidas, Heliocles, Lysias, Telephos and Philoxenus. Apollodotus was represented with the largest number of coins of five (Dani 1965-66: 35). A total number of 54 coins were obtained from the combined Scytho-Parthian levels. These were mostly of the lion and bull type coins of Azes (Dani 1965-66: 35). However, the bulk of coins were obtained from the Kushan levels, reaching to a total number of 219. It included the gold coin of Wima Kadphises of the king and Shiva-bull type. All the main kings of the greater Kushans, like Kujula, Wima Takto (Soter Megas), Wima Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva are well represented by their coins. Kanishka is represented with the largest number of 77 coins (Dani 1965-66: Chart No. 2). This time also the excavator had intended to publish the full catalogue of Shaikhan Dheri coins, but this scheme, like the earlier one of Marshall & Vogel too, unfortunately did not materialize. During the survey of 1993 two

unidentified and a square copper coin of Kanishka are reported (Ali 1994: 92).

Besides these we also found a limited number of coins during the survey, while others were noted with people who obtained it from the mounds. Among these are two silver punch marked coins while the rest are either of silver or copper. No gold coin was noted, on the other hand there are authentic reports of such coins in large number from Shaikhan Dheri. The area of Charsadda has been under cultivation since the proto-historic times because of the presence of Kabul and Swat rivers and their numerous tributaries, therefore the ratio of salinity in the soil is all times high. In majority of the cases these coins are highly rusted. However, a few of them were in good condition, detail of which is presented in the following list.

Punch Marked Coins
Silver Rectangular Type
No. 1

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 80-89, Dani 1965-66: 38)
 Plate: 3, No. 1
 Obverse: Various punched symbols
 Reverse: Un-identified mark
 AR, 14.3 x 14mm
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

At Shaikhan Dheri two punch-marked coins of debase silver were found at the Greek levels. No detail of these coins is available. Coins of this type have been assigned to the Mauryan period.

Ditto
No. 2

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 80-89)
 Plate: 3, No. 2
 Obverse: As on the preceding coin
 Reverse: As on the preceding coin
 AR, 14 x 9mm
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Punch-marked coins are said to have been issued during the period the 8th--4th century BC (Bopearachchi 1995: 24).

Indo-Greek Period**Copper Rectangular Autonomous Type
No. 3**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 134-140)

Plate: 3, No. 3

Obverse: Walking elephant to the right

Reverse: Walking lion to the left

Æ, 20 x 17mm

Provenance: Bala Hisar

There is a dimly visible monogram in front of the lion. This coin type is attributed to the time of Agathocles.

Apollodotus I, Square Type**No. 4**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 80-89, Dani 1965-66: 36, LI-4, Dani 1991: 147. pl. V. No. 1)

Plate: 3, No. 4

Obverse: Apollo standing to front, holding arrow in his right hand and bow in the left, which rests on the ground. Greek legend to three sides

Reverse: Tripod and a monogram in the lower right field.

Æ, 23 x 2mm, 8.80g

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Coins of this type have also been excavated at Shaikhan Dheri.

Antimachus II, Round Type**No. 5**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 218-30, Dani 1991: pl. IV. No. 4)

Plate: 3, No. 5

Obverse: Nike standing to left holding a palm branch and a fillet. Greek letters around.

Reverse: King on horseback to right. Kharoshthi characters around.

AR, 16.8mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

This is the only reported coin of Antimachus II from the area of Charsadda

Menander, Round Type**No. 6**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 363-369, Dani 1991: pl. III. No. 5)

Plate: Plate: 3, No. 6

Obverse: Obverse: Diademed bust of king to right, wearing a crested helmet. Greek letters all around.

Reverse: Reverse: Athena standing to left hurling thunderbolt with her right hand and holding aegis in the left. Kharoshthi letters all around.

AR, 26.6mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Remarks Though Menander coins have been reported earlier from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri, but this piece has been observed for the first time in the area.

Ditto: Square Type**No. 7**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 266-281)

Plate: 3, No. 7

Obverse: Diademed bust of king to right, wearing a crested helmet and Greek legend to three sides.

Reverse: Heavily rusted

Æ, 20 x 20mm

Provenance: Bala Hisar

Ditto: Small Square Type**No. 8**

(Dani 1965-66: 36; Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 294-7, Nasim Khan 2008: 45, No. 3)

Plate: 3, No. 8

Obverse: Elephant head to the right wearing a bell. Monogram is in the lower field, and Greek legend to the three sides.

Reverse: Club of Heracles. Monogram is in the lower field, Kharoshthi legend to the three sides.

Æ, 15 x 15mm

Provenance: Pkhana Dherai

This type of Menander coins have been reported earlier from Shaikhan Dheri.

Antialcidas Square Type**No. 9**

(Dani 1965-66: 36, Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 460-62)

Plate: 3, No. 9

Obverse: Bust of Zeus to the right. Greek legend to the three sides.

Reverse: Palms and pilei of the Dioscuri. Kharoshthi legend to the three sides and monogram in the lower left field.

Æ, 18 x 18mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Two coins of this type are reported from Shaikhan Dheri earlier, this is the third one from the same spot.

Philoxenus Square Type**No. 10**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 481-83, Dani 1965-66: 37. No. 10)

Plate: 3, No. 10

Obverse: Goddess standing to the left holding a cornucopiae in her left hand. She is making gesture with her right hand. Monogram in the lower left field. Greek legend on three sides.

Reverse: Humped bull standing to the right. Kharoshthi legend is on the three sides. There is also a monogram in the lower field

Æ, 19 x 19mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Three coins of this king are found during Shaikhan Dheri excavation, but their exact types are not known.

Apollodotus II, Square Type**No. 11**

(Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: No. 659, but in round shape)

Plate: 3, No. 11

Obverse: Apollo is standing to right. Greek legend on three sides. Monogram to the right.

Reverse: Tripod lebes with Kharoshthi letters to the three sides and two monograms to its right and left.

Æ, 22 x 21mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Indo-Scythian Period**Azes II, Round Type****No. 12**

(Whitehead 1914: 106, Pl. XI, 56; Dani 1965-66:37; Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 950-956)

Plate: 3, No. 12

Obverse: Mounted king to right, long diadem floating behind, holding a whip in his right hand.

Reverse: Zeus standing to left with long scepter in left hand and Nike on his outstretched right hand. Monogram is in the left field.

AR, 15.8mm

Provenance: Baretai Dherai

Two coins of this type have been found in a hoard of nine coins of Azes in Shaikhan Dheri. The other coins were those of the bull and lion type.

Azes II, Round Type**No. 13**

(Whitehead 1914: 125, Pl. XII, 263; Dani 1965-66: 37, Pl. LI, 11, 12, 13 15,16; Bopearachchi & Amanurrahman 1995: Nos. 965-72)

Plate: 3, No. 13

Obverse: Humped bull standing to right on a line. Greek legend all around and monogram above.

Reverse: Walking lion to right with Kharoshthi letters all around and monogram above the lion

Æ, 10.50mm

Provenance: Spera Dherai

Coins of this type are widely found in the Charsadda area.

Azelises, Square Type**No. 14**

(Dani, 1965-66: Chart No. 2; Whitehead 1914: 139, Pl. XIV, 358)

Plate: 3, No. 14

Obverse: King on horseback to the right with Greek letters to all the four sides.

Reverse: Humped bull to the right and Kharoshthi letters to all the four sides.

Æ, 25 x 22mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Only three coins of this king have been found during Shaikhan Dheri excavation.

Early Kushan Period

Kujula Kadphises: Round Type

No. 15

(Whitehead 1914: 178, 179, Pl. XVII, 1, 8, Dani 1965-66: chart No. 2, Rosenfield 1993: 12, pl. I, 1-3)

Plate: 3, No. 15

Obverse: Diademed bust of king to right with Greek legend all around.

Reverse: Herakles standing in frontal position. He is holding a club in his right hand which rests on the ground, while there is also lion's skin over his left arm.

Æ, 23.10 mm

Provenance: Majuki Dherai

Wima Takto: Soter Megas

No. 16

(Whitehead 1914: 160, Pl. XVI, 94, Rosenfield 1993: 25, pl. II, 29)

Plate: 3, No. 16

Obverse: Diademed bust of king to right, holding a long scepter.

Reverse: King on horseback to right. He is holding ankus in his right hand, ends of diadem floating in the air and Greek legend around.

Æ, 21mm

Provenance: Pkhana Dherai

Wima Kadphises: Round Type

No. 17

(Whitehead 1914: 160, Pl. XVI, 94, Rosenfield 1993: 18, pl. I, 14-15, Nasim Khan 2008: 52, No. 36)

Plate: 3, No. 17

Obverse: Standing king to front, head turned to left, wearing log heavy coat. He is making an offering with his right hand over a small altar.

Reverse: Shiva standing front with his bull behind.

Æ, 27.17 mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Kanishka

No. 18

(Whitehead 1914: 186, Pl. XVII, 53)

Plate: 3, No. 18

Obverse: Standing king to left wearing long coat and heavy boots, sacrificing over a small altar. He is also holding a long spear in his left hand.

reverse: Sun god to left with right hand advanced and left one akimbo. Monogram in the left field.

Æ, 26.28 mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Ditto

No. 4.3.19

(Whitehead 1914: 189, Pl. XVII, 83, Rosenfield 1993: pl. VIII, 150)

Plate: 3, No. 19

Obverse: Standing king to left wearing peaked helmet, long heavy coat and trousers.

Reverse: Wind-god running to left.

Æ, 26mm

Provenance: Chalagram

Ditto

No. 20

(Whitehead 1914: 192, Pl. XVIII, 106, Rosenfield 1993: pl. VIII, 158)

Plate: 3, No. 20

Obverse: Standing king to left, wearing peaked helmet, long heavy coat and trousers, sacrificing over a small altar with right hand. He is holding a long spear in the left hand.

Reverse: Four-armed standing Shiva to the left. He is holding various objects in his four hands. Monogram is to the lower left

Æ, 26.80 mm

Provenance: Sartor Baba

Ditto

No. 21

(Whitehead 1914: 189, Pl. XVIII, 76)

Plate: 3, No. 21

Obverse: Standing king to left wearing peaked helmet, long heavy coat and trouser. He is sacrificing over a small fire altar with right hand, and holding a scepter in his left. Greek

legend Mao in the right margin, while a monogram is in the left.

Reverse: Moon-god standing to left which is seen radiate. His right hand is extended and also holding a long scepter in the left.

Æ, 21.50 mm

Provenance: Chalagram

Huvishka, Round Type

No. 22

(Whitehead 1914: 204, Pl. XIX, 194, Rosenfield 1993: 66, pl. III, 45)

Plate: 3, No. 22

Obverse: King seated cross-legged facing, like in Buddha's meditation pose. Greek legend all around.

Reverse: Moon-god standing to left with right arm extended while the left one is akimbo.

Æ, 25 mm

Provenance: Mra Dherai

Ditto

No. 23

(Whitehead 1914: 198, Pl. XVIII, 137)

Plate: 3, No. 23

Obverse: King riding on elephant to right. Greek legend all around. He is diademed and holds spear in his left hand while an elephant goad in the right.

Reverse: Sun god standing to left.

Æ, 25 mm

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri

Ditto

No. 24

(Whitehead 1914: 199)

Plate: 3, No. 24

Obverse: King riding on elephant to right.

Reverse: Goddess Ardoksho standing to left holding a cornucopia. Monogram in the left field.

Æ, 25.23 mm

Provenance: Girawar Dherai

Kushano-Sassanian Period

Shapur II (?): Small round Type

No. 25

(Cribb 1985: fig. 41 (Hoard 450) 4.26, 4.05, 3.49; fig. 42 (hoard 451) 3.53, 3.52, 4.16, Nasim Khan 2008: 72, No. 134)

Plate: 3, No. 25

Obverse: Bearded bust of king to right.

Reverse: Unclear

Æ, 1.2 x 1cm, 2.32g

Provenance: Majuki Dherai

The first ever reported coin of the Kushano-Sassanian in the area.

Ditto

No. 26

(Cribb 1985: fig. 41 (Hoard 450) 4.05; fig. 43 (hoard 451) 3.43, 3.42, 3.39, Nasim Khan 2008: 72, No. 134)

Plate: 3, No. 26

Obverse: Fire altar with floating ribbon.

Reverse: Defaced

Æ, 1.3 x 1.2 cm, 3.20g

Provenance: Majuki Dherai

The second reported coin of the Kushano-Sassanian in the area.

Hindu Shahi Period

Spalapati Deva (?): Copper

No. 27

Plate: 3, No. 27,28

Obverse: Reclining bull to the left.

Reverse: Horseman to the right.

Æ, 1.9 cm

Provenance: Mya Kali Dherai

Shri Samanta Deva: Silver

No. 28

(Nasim Khan 2008: 210, No. 705)

Plate: 3, No. 29

Obverse: Bull to left with Brahmi letters

Horseman to right holding a lance in his right hand

AR, 1.9 cm

Provenance: Sartor Baba

Vaka Deva: Round Type**No. 29**

(Nasim Khan 2008: 210, No. 704)

Plate: 4, 30-53

Obverse: Elephant waking to the left

Reverse: Lion standing to the right with up curved tail

Æ, 1.8 cm (average)

Provenance: Bala Hisar, Pkhana Dherai, Majuki Dherai, Shahr-e-Napursan

Islamic Period**Small Round Type****No. 30**

Plate: 4, No. 54

Obverse: Bull standing to right, uncertain Nagri letters above

Reverse: Kalma, Abu Alfatah, Sultan, written in Arabic script

Æ, 1.2 cm

Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan

Seals and Sealings

The most interesting finds during the survey are the one hundred and thirty one seals, sealings and tokens, made in semi-precious stones, burnt clay and metal, mostly bronze. Six intagios carved in stones were noted, while sixty-four metallic seals were noted which include forty-one ring seals and twenty-three knobbed seals of various shapes. The rest are made of terracotta, which include seals as well as sealings and tokens. Majority of these are in red ware except the four, which are in grey ware. A good number of it came from the sites of Shaikhan Dheri, Majuki Dherai, Bala Hisar and Shahr-e-Napursan. Some of the seals and sealings contain inscriptions as well in Kharoshthi script, which usually bear name or initial of the owner. The general theme of these are the depiction of human figures in seated or standing position, figures of deities, animals including the bull, lion, elephant and birds. Floral and geometrical patterns are also portrayed besides religious symbols like stupa, swastika, trident, wheel and lotus flower. Sometimes mythical animals are also the favourite theme of the ancient artists (plate 5).

Earlier, these were excavated from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri in a few number and reported from the other sites as well (Wheeler 1962: 21, plate XL A, Dani 1965-66: 120, plate XLVII, Nasim Khan 2005: 13-23, figs. 10-45). At Bala Hisar the two specimens of terracotta token or seal impressions have been estimated to be of the 3rd-2nd century BC that belong to the Greek period. Likewise at Shaikhan Dheri these have been excavated from the Kushan and Scytho-Parthian levels. From Mir Ziyarat (Shahr-e-Napursan) a single chalcedony intaglio was found during 1902-03 excavation (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 160). However, no ring-seal has so far been reported earlier from any site in Charsadda.

Ceramics of the area

Earlier excavations that were carried out at various localities of Charsadda have brought to hand some knowledge about the ceramic tradition of the area (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3, Wheeler 1962, Dani 1966, Coningham et al 2007). Marshall & Vogel have attempted to describe the pottery of Charsadda for the first time with reasonable detail. They have reported the pre-Islamic period pottery of the area as entirely wheel made, with the exception of some larger storage jars and a few grey ware vases that were made by hand. The delicate vessels are also applied with smooth reddish-brown slip (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 181). They have classified the pottery on the basis of functional types as cups, bowls, dishes, goblets, saucers, water pots, storage jars etc. (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 183). The two wares they illustrated were the red and the grey-black ware. The former ware was used for larger and medium fabric vessels, while the latter or smaller ones are also usually ornamented. This later ware, they compared with the *Bucchero-nero* of ancient Etruria (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 180).

The Charsadda vessels are decorated in incised, relief, appliqué and stamped designs. The appliqué designs are known in early Greek period vessels in the shape of eyes, flowers, foliage, birds and small lamps, set on the rim of pots. Such decoration was also found on early Khotanese pottery (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3:

182). The stamped designs include circles, concentric circles, spoked wheels, triskels, flowers, leaves, ornamental lozenges and swastikas. Usually water pots, locally called *Mangai* are attractively decorated with these stamped designs on the shoulder below the neck (Marshall & Vogel 1902-3: 181). Though specimens of black painted pottery also were encountered during these excavations, yet its proportion was to a great deal lesser in amount as compared to the other types of decoration. The general tendency was to the appliqué, moulded and particularly to the stamped decoration.

Some fifty-six years later, Wheeler in his excavation at Bala Hisar, arranged the pottery on the basis of form and fabric. He divided his pottery assemblage into eight types (Wheeler 1962: 37). In its earliest levels he found the rippled rim type followed by soapy red ware. Wavy-lined, incurved sided and carinated bowls, tulip and lotus bowls as well as Northern Black Polished wares were noted in the succeeding layers (Wheeler 1962: 41). The lotus bowl sherds, he adds, are exceptionally associated with Pushkalavati, not traced anywhere else. He is also of the view that the association of lotus bowls with the lotus city is a present from Pushkalavati (Wheeler 1962: 35, also see our plate No. 13).

Wheeler also discusses pottery of the so-called Muslim period which he terms though not associated with coinage, however some of the pots from layer 6-4 may belong to a date as early as eighth century AD. The pottery from this category is from buff to reddish buff. It includes bowls, jars, cooking pots, handled cups etc. These pots have typical examples of stamped decoration in palmettes, rosettes, lozenges, triangles and broken oblique lines (Wheeler 1962: 84). Stamped patterns of this and allied kinds are characteristic of the early centuries AD (Wheeler 1962: 84, 89).

At the site of Shaikhan Dheri, Dani found a good number of pots in complete form and a lot of potsherds at all the three main periods of Indo-Greek, Scytho-Parthian and Kushan. The pottery was classified on the basis of form and ware at each period, that was grouped under three heads; A. Black polished ware, B. Grey

ware and C. Red or reddish-buff ware.

The group A pots consisted only a few fragments of highly polished bowls, both inside and outside. The ware according to the excavator seemed to be a local imitation of Northern Black Polish Ware (Dani 1966: 135). This ware was witnessed at all the three periods. The group B ware of grey colour was found in large number in Greek and Scytho-Parthian period, while the Kushan levels had a few fragments only. In the Scytho-Parthian period the coarse variety of this ware was found in great number. They consisted of *Thali*, bowls and incense burner (Dani 1966: 138, 144). The group C or the red ware was present in all the three periods of the city, it is further classified in to A. *fine fabric* and B. *medium fabric*. The fine fabric is similar to Wheeler's soapy red ware. The medium fabric consisted of thalis, bowls, goblets, torches, lids, jars, basins, stands and water bottles. The fine fabric class also included the stamped and painted ware. Four lotus bowls in complete shape were noted during the excavation, which fall in the fine fabric red ware group (Dani 1966: 184, 189, 218). Kushan tamghas are also found stamped on some of the coarse fabric sherds belonging to some vessels.

The Pak-UK project excavation at Bala Hisar also recovered a large number of potsherds in different wares, potter's marks, inscriptions and decorated body sherds (Coningham et al 2007: 99). (We have also collected potsherds from the surface of Majuki Dherai bearing potter's mark see plate 12-A). The pottery assemblage was grouped in to fine wares, coarse wares, potter's marks, inscriptions and decorated body sherds. In the fine wares, beakers, cups, pedestal vessels, dishes and bowls were recovered. Some body sherds of black grey-burnished ware, a sherd of NBP, lotus bowl and black slipped body sherds were also noted in the fine ware category. In the coarse ware were found rims, sherds of bowls, troughs, jars as well as bases of various forms, lids, lugs, handles, spouts and votive tanks (Coningham et al 2007: 104-114). A limited number of glazed ceramics are also noted at Bala Hisar, where Wheeler records the discovery of seven of these sherds, which he presumed belong to the Islamic period (Wheeler

1962: 84, plate xviii). Coningham with his team, however recovered a total number of 87 sherds of glazed ceramics from mix contexts. They have been divided in to 12 groups, mostly based on colour and decoration. The fabric as a whole appears to be a localized production of the post medieval period, probably between the 16th and the 19th/20th century, although some of the sherds have stylistic similarities with those found at Iran. According to the excavator there is no local stratified excavations with a reliable chronology, that can be used to date such material. Sherds of glazed ceramics have been found on a number of excavated sites in Pakistan, UAE and East Africa. In the same way the Williamson collection of glazed potsherds from Southern Iran and the Gulf coast as well as Stein Collection of his surveys of Southern and Western Iran also contain glazed potsherds (Coningham et al 2007: 231, 227).

Likewise in our recent survey, apart from the site of Bala Hisar, from where glazed sherds in sizable number were picked up from its surface, other mounds were also identified where similar glazed sherds are to be found. These include the mounds of Shahr-e-Napursan, Majuki Dherai, Arbapano Dherai, Pkhana Dherai, Khkari Baba Dherai, Bibi Saida Dherai, Sre Makhe Dherai, Rai Dherai and Mughal Kas.

During our survey a good number of selected sherds were encountered, both in red as well as in grey ware, but it is to be noted that red ware sherds are more in number as compared to the grey ware. Grey ware sherds were found in equal proportion at the sites of Majuki Dherai, Pkhana Dherai, Mandezai mounds, Mra Dherai and Mughal Kas. At Mandezai mounds were also picked up sherds of Northern Black Polished Ware, that are highly polished on both sides. Another notable feature in the pottery of Charsadda is the scarcity of spouted vessels. But it does not mean that spouted vessels were not in much use at this area as only the pottery of Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri has so far been systematically documented, while very little is known about the hundreds of other sites that are yet to be properly examined and its pottery documented.

It is generally believed that the initial ceramic tradition in Charsadda started locally with

evidence of links to the pottery of Gandhara Grave Culture (Vogelsang 1988; 1992, Coningham 2007: 116). Latter on the Indian element became dominant in the shape of carinated bowls and flat tray or *Thali* forms. Still latter the Western or Aegaeic elements got prominence in the forms of red burnished and rippled rim ware (Vogelsang 192: 246).

The most natable and interesting pot observed during the survey is the five cup ritual pot, originating from the cemetery of Katozai Qasim (Jan 2001). This is the third vessel of its kind so far noted. The second one was excavated at Butkara II in Swat while the third one was found at Marlik in Iran. These vessels seem not to be intended for ordinary use, as their infrequent occurrence could be taken as a strong clue of their exceptional utility. Furthermore it also strengthens the idea that the early period pottery of Charsadda was influenced by the Swat pottery, associated with Gandhara Grave Culture (Stacul 1970: 99, Vogelsang 1992 : 246).

Nearly all type of decoration is applied to the vessels of Charsadda. The stratified pottery from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri indicates that some of the vessels were highly burnished, furthermore red or reddish-brown slip was usually provided on the outer as well as on the inner surface of the pot. Some of the vessels were also decorated with moulded and appliqué designs. However the most widely used medium was that of stamp decoration which first appeared in the Indo-Greek period and continued without break up to the Islamic period. Our survey has yielded more than a thousand stamp decorated potsherds from different mounds of the area. From Majuki Dherai alone were collected more than six hundred stamped sherds which comprise over three hundred different designs in floral patterns, leaves, circles, concentric circles, wheel designs, solar symbols, stars, crescents, tridents, swastikas as well as numerous geometrical designs (plate 14). (The stamped decorated pottery of Charsadda will be discussed in a subsequent paper).

A good number of thin-sectioned sherds were collected from various mounds during the survey. From the mound of Majuki Dherai in

particular were found sherds of this type that belong to bowls of various types, shallow dishes and basins (Figure 1, No. 1-21). These are well burnished on the exterior, specially the bowls. Red slip is also applied to these vessels. Bowls in particular were noted in large number at Majuki Dherai, which are of various sizes and generally decorated with incised lines on the exterior (Figure 3, No. 1-9). The medium fabric vessels with various rim shapes were also noted, they include jars of various sizes, pitchers and bowls in varied shapes and sizes (figure 4, No. 1-21). The coarse ware pottery observed, include deep bowls, long and narrow-necked vessels, storage jars with open as well as narrow mouths, flat-based saucers and pitchers with broad sided rims (Figure 6, No. 1-17). Grey ware pots were also observed at various mounds specially, at Majuki Dherai and Mra Dherai. These are of the thin sectioned and medium sectioned variety, including open and narrow mouthed jars, bowls of various sizes and small cup on stand (Figure 2, No. 1-10 and Figure 5, No. 1-12). Painted decoration was observed at Majuki Dherai on a pitcher and open-mouthed bowl (Figure 4, No. 2, 11). Potter marks were also observed on some vessels including storage jars from Majuki Dherai (Figure 2, No. 4 and Figure 4, No. 20).

Presence of the lotus bowls is also exclusively associated with the Charsadda area. Seven body sherds of thin sectioned bowls were collected during the survey from Shaikhan Dheri, Bala Hisar and Majuki Dherai (plate 13). These are as usual stamped on the interior with a lotus flower design. These are red in ware with highly burnished surfaces on the inner and outer sides. All these seven lotus stamp designs are different in style from the ones already published and excavated from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri. From Shaikhan Dheri were obtained thirteen, while from Bala Hisar was got one lotus bowl sherd. Coupled with our survey's seven sherds of the lotus bowls, it makes twenty-one lotus stamps of varied designs, which means that the possibility of other lotus flower designs is always there and more varieties of it could be found in the future. The lotus flowers have so much fascinated the imagination of the ancient dwellers of

Charsadda that they portrayed this flower widely on their ceramics. Apart from the lotus bowls, pitchers were also decorated on the shoulder with lotus flower stamps, which are comparatively smaller in size as compared to the bowl stamps. These have already been attested from Shaikhan Dheri along with the other body sherds of pitchers with stamped lotus flowers that were collected from the mound of Majuki Dherai. Following are few of the pots noted during the survey.

1. Pedestal cup

Plate: 12: 1
 (Dani: 1965-66: 200-202, 211-12, Figures 40,41,45, 57)
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 8.5 cm.
 Width: 6.2 cm
 Description: Red ware pedestal cup in fragmentary shape, which seems to be the product of a mould with embossed geometric decoration in the shape of lines, circles and dots. Potsherds decorated with moulded designs have earlier been noted at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri. From the later site was also found a water bottle or Wine flagon, decorated with animal and floral designs, associated with the Scytho-Parthian period. However other sherds having the same decoration were found from the Kushan levels as well.

2. Pedestal cup

Plate: 12: 2
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 5.6 cm.
 Width: 5 cm

Description: Small terracotta pedestal cup in fragmentary shape. Like the previous one it too has embossed decoration in the shape of zigzag lines and dots.

3. Water vessel

Plate: 12: 3
 (Dani 1965-66: 197, figure 34, No. 1)
 Provenance: Girawar Dherai
 Length: 35 cm.
 Width: 25 cm

Terracotta large size water vessel with flat base and short spout, while rest of the body is closed. This type of vessel is widely reported from other sites of Charsadda, specially from Shaikhan Dheri, where it is present in all the three periods. On some fragments of this type, a Kushan Tamgha is also stamped below the spout. (for Kushan Tamghas see plate 12).

4. Polychrome spouted vessel

Plate: 12: 4
Provenance: Bala Hisar
Length: 12.7 cm.
Width: 4 cm

Small red ware spouted vessel with out curved rim, round bottom and a short spout. Its surface is decorated with two incised lines round the body. White colour is also used for its decoration. The broad white colour lines run below the neck while two other white lines run round the body just below the incised lines. Above this are series of double semi-circles in white paint, covering the entire body of the vessel. This is the only specimen found from the Charsadda area.

5. Lugged vessel

Plate: 12: 5
(Dani 1965-66: 188, 200, figure 20, No. 2, 3 & 3a, figures 40, Nos. 15, 16, 17, figure 41, Nos. 1a, 1b)
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 6.5 cm.
Width: 5.8 cm

Disc shaped lugged water vessel in red ware with broken neck and round base. The lugs with holes may have been used for suspension. The entire body is decorated with floral designs in appliqué fashion. At Shaikhan Dheri such vessels termed as water bottles or wine flagons are reported from the Greek as well as the Scytho-Parthian levels.

6. Narrow necked bottle

Plate: 12: 6
(Dani 1965-66: 196, figure 31, No. 1&2)
Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
Length: 7.3 cm.
Width: 5.3 cm

Narrow necked bottle with straight base in red ware, red slip is also applied to its exterior. There are three grooved lines on its body. The bottle is thin-sectioned. Its nearest parallel have been found at Shaikhan Dheri, where two fragmentary jars, called by the excavator inkpots, were recovered from the Scytho-Parthian levels. The only difference is that the Shaikhan Dheri jars have longer and straight-sided necks.

7. Toilet tray

Plate: 12: 7
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Width: 2.4 cm

Terracotta toilet tray in broken state was seen at Majuki Dherai. It has the bust of a lady in high relief. The lady has round fleshy smiling face, who wears a decorated headdress and has well-combed hair. She is also wearing a beaded necklace round her neck and long earrings hang from the ears. No such piece has earlier been recorded from the area earlier.

8. Five-cup ritual pot

Plate: 12: 8
(Antonini 1963: 21, Stacul 1970: 99)
Length: 26 cm.

Description: Multiple cup pot of un-usual shape was observed at the cemetery of Katozai, which has five round connected cups at the top. So far two other such pots with multiple cups on a pedestal have been found at the cemetery site of Butkara II in Swat and a mound at Marlik in Iran.

9. Globular vessel

Plate: 12: 9
(Stacul 1966: 54, fig. 74.b)
Provenance: Protohistoric cemetery of Lande Rud
Length: 10.5 cm.
Width: 11 cm

Globular vessel with broken handle and spout has thin sections, which is made of well-levigated clay. Red slip is also applied on the highly patinated exterior. A comparable type

from the Swat proto-historic cemeteries is No. Cd/XII, a high vertical necked jug with flat base. It too is made of red ware with thin sides and highly refined clay.

10. Spouted and handled vessel

Plate: 12: 10
Provenance: Khan Mahi
Length: 12.3 cm.
Width: 16 cm

Globular pot of red ware is relatively shorter than the former. It has a broad but short spout, handle and flat base, while the portion above its neck is missing. It too is made of well-levigated clay in medium texture with red slip applied to the patinated exterior.

11. Beaker on pedestal

Plate: 12: 11
(Antonini 1972: 26, fig. 10. j)
Provenance: Katozai protohistoric cemetery
Length: 13.2 cm.
Width: 9 cm

Small beaker in red ware, its body is thin textured with concave sides. The beaker is provided with low stem and low pedestal. Red slip is also applied to the exterior. The outer surface has been made smooth by burnishing. Similar specimen has been found at the cemetery of Loebanr.

12. Pedestal drinking glass

Plate: 65: 12
(Antonini 1972: 26, fig. 10. k)
Provenance: Katozai protohistoric cemetery
Length: 13 cm.
Width: 7.4 cm

Small hour-glass shaped beaker has thin textured body. The pot is provided with low stem and low conical pedestal. The pedestal is hollow from the inside. Like the previous one, this pot too is applied with red slip on the exterior, and its outer body has been made well burnished. A similar beaker has been found at Butkara II. Terracotta Figurines.

The Terracotta Art

Terracotta animal and human figurines have been noted at the sites of the Pre-Indus and Indus Valley Civilization earlier. These are also recovered from the protohistoric graves of Swat, Dir, Zareef Koroon and other localities. In the early historic period in the Peshawar valley, these are noted at the sites of Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri in Charsadda (Wheeler 1962: 104, Dani 1965-66: 48). The earliest terracotta figurines of animals and humans in Pakistan have been noted at Mehrgarh dated between 6th-5th millennia BC (Hinkley 2001: 23). These are also noted at the sites of Indus Valley Civilization as well as at the cemeteries of Gandhara Grave Culture (Khan 1973: 60).

Human Figurines

Human terracotta figurines have been found extensively from the mounds of Charsadda and studied by Coomaraswamy, Gordon, Corbiau and Wheeler (Hinkley 2001: 23). Gordon's 'archaic figurines' or 'Sari-Dheri type' which later became Wheeler's 'Baroque Ladies' are the well-known terracotta figurines widely found from the mounds of Charsadda (Wheeler 1962: 104-108, Dani 1965-66: 48-56, Coningham 2007: 188). This type of figurines are found at Shaikhan Dheri as late as Kushan times, but their concentration is mainly in the Greek period. It is believed that these figurines are representative of the mother goddess cult, associated with fertility and creativeness (Hinkley 2001: 23).

We have also found and observed a number of terracotta human and animal figurines during our survey, their detail is as follow;

No. 1 Female figurine

Plate: 6: 1
(Khan 1973: 59)
Provenance: Deo Dherai protohistoric cemetery
Length: 12.2 cm
Width: 5.2 cm

Female terracotta figurines are reported from other protohistoric cemeteries as well. Its nearly identical parallel has been noted at the cemetery

of Zareef Koroona period III, dated 9th-6th century BC.

No. 2 Baroque Lady figurine

Plate: 6: 2
(Corbiau 1937: 3; Wheeler 1962: 104, plates XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII-XXV; Dani 1965-66: 48, plates XXIV-XXVII)
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 9.5 cm
Width: 6.2 cm

The figurine has the typical headdress with a broken rosette to the right, while the neckband consists of two sets. Two small pellets are applied as breasts. The typical hip girdle is indicated as a horizontal line across the body. The name Baroque Lady was first applied to this special type of figurine by Wheeler, when he found these widely at Bala Hisar and also reported from other parts of the Peshawar Valley. Earlier Corbiau had also found the same type of figurines at Sar Dheri and Sulai Kamar, which she called then archaic figurines. Later the same type of figurines were obtained from Shaikhan Dheri in large number.

No. 3. Bust of a Baroque Lady

Plate: 6: 3
(Wheeler 1962: plate XXV, No. 1; Dani 1965-66: plate XXV, No. 2)
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 7.9 cm
Width: 7.2 cm

Its right arm is missing and has well set hair covering both the ears. The neckband consists of two strips incised vertically. The third strip is hanging between the breasts, of which the right one is missing. Its nearest parallel could be found at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 4. Baroque Lady head

Plate: 6:4
(Wheeler 1962: plate XXIII, Nos. 3,8; Dani 1965-66: plate XXV, Nos. 1,4,6,11, plate XXVI, Nos. 1-4, 11)
Provenance: Mra Dherai
Length: 4.5 cm
Width: 4.2 cm

This Baroque Lady head has well-set hair; the typical rosette is set to the right side. The lady is also shown with a well-executed pair of earrings. The two applied eyes and lips are well intact. The nearest parallels are found at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri

No. 5. Baroque Lady bust

Plate: 6: 5
(Dani 1965-66: plate XXVI, No. 1)
Provenance: Baretai Dherai
Length: 5.8 cm
Width: 2.2 cm

Description: Both arms and the headdress are missing, while portion below the neck is mutilated. The lady is wearing a neckband with vertical as well as horizontal incisions. At Shaikhan Dheri a similar lady wears the same type of neckband.

No. 6. Painted Head of a Lady

Plate: 6: 6
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 4.7 cm
Width: 4 cm

Head of a Hellenistic lady made in double mould (hollow from within). The head is crowned with a wreath. Its execution is very naturalistic. The head is unusually painted with appropriate colours. The wreath is painted green, the hair and eyebrows light brown, the face pink, the lips red and the eyes light green. This is the only piece from Charsadda, which has been applied with paint. It is on display at Lahore Museum.

No. 8. Baroque Lady bust

Plate: 6: 7
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 5.2 cm
Width: 4.5 cm

Its right extending arm is intact while the left one is completely missing. The hair is decorated with two sets of applied rosettes. The neckband is also worn having stamped circles. There is also an applied garland having incised oblique lines and stamped circles.

No. 10. Baroque Lady bust

Plate: 6: 8
 Provenance: Spera Dherai
 Length: 4.5 cm
 Width: 4 cm

It has the typical neckband, with three rows. The lady has thin elongated braids indicated at the back with thin vertical incised lines.

No. 12. Baroque Lady bust

Plate: 6: 9
 Provenance: Durmarjan Dherai
 Length: 6.7 cm
 Width: 4 cm

The head of this well-preserved Baroque lady bust is highly bejeweled and decorated with two rosettes. It has also two earrings, while the neckband is decorated with incised vertical and horizontal lines, and a garland with applied pellet is also seen. There are round pellets attached to its lower portion, these are five in number, which are decorated with incised horizontal lines. Another round pellet is placed below the chest with a single vertical line.

No. 13. Baroque Lady bust

Plate: 6: 10
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 7.5 cm
 Width: 6.5 cm

The lady has two thick braids touching her ears and reaching up to the shoulders, decorated with incised dots and short lines. A muffler is rounded twice round her neck; its one end hangs between her breasts.

No. 14. Baroque Lady head

Plate: 6: 11
 Provenance: Mughal Kas
 Length: 9.4 cm.
 Width: 8 cm

The head has well-decorated headdress, topped by two prominent rosettes. There are also two round pellets indicating ears. The broad necklace is decorated with horizontal incised lines.

No. 15. Baroque Lady: Head

Plate: 6: 12
 (Wheeler 1962: 104, ; Dani 1965-66: 48)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 5.2 cm
 Width: 4.5 cm

This well preserved head has neatly combed hair, decorated with the application of small rosettes all round the head. Another special feature of this figurine is the presence of a round depression on its forehead, which may have been intended for placing a jewel in it, like the third eye of Buddha. This is another characteristic feature of the Baroque Lady figurine, not reported earlier.

No. 16. Baroque Lady: Torso

Plate: 6: 13
 Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan
 Length: 4.5 cm.
 Width: 4 cm

The head-less torso has a neckband, decorated with incised dots and round pellets.

No. 17. Baroque Lady: Lower body

Plate: 6: 14
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 9.5 cm
 Width: 3.5 cm

A well-preserved lower broken body of a Baroque Lady figurine. The incised hip line and legs separating line are well indicated. There are also eight horizontal incised lines at the end of the legs on the face side.

No. 18. Female figurines

Plate: 7: 15
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 75-6 cm

The three un-backed female figurines have highly decorated headdress and joined legs. Their arms are broken and have thin waists, prominent breast and hips. Heads and other body pieces of such un-backed female figurines were also found with the same figurines. Probably these were making ready

for backing. These seem to be the product of a single mould as their backs are flat.

No. 19. Female Torso

Plate: 7: 16
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 4.5 cm
Width: 3.6 cm

The torso is light red in ware, with prominent breasts. Its front is smooth while the back is flat. The figurine was produced through moulding process.

No. 20. Female Torso

Plate: 7: 17
(Dani 1965-66: 62-64, type V, plate XXX, No. 8)
Provenance: Mra Dherai
Length: 5 cm
Width: 7.18 cm

Both the arms, head and half of the body of this torso is missing. Its nearest parallel has been found at Shaikhhan Dheri.

No. 22. Female Torso

Plate: 7: 18
Provenance: Malka Dher
Length: 6.5 cm
Width: 5.5 cm

Torso of this lady has busty body and thin waist. Two thick braids of hair hang up to her shoulders. It too is the product of a mould with flat back.

No. 22. Torso of a male figurine

Plate: 7: 19
(Dani 1965-66: 57, type III, plates I, XXIII- No. 2)
Provenance: Jura graveyard
Length: 5 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

The right arm of this torso is un-covered while the left one is draped with a piece of cloth. This fragmentary figurine is the product of a mould.

Such moulded terracotta figurines are reported from Greek levels of Shaikhhan Dheri.

No. 23. Female head

Plate: 7: 20
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 4.3 cm
Width: 3.5 cm

The lady has round face with prominent cheeks and broad chin. There are signs of two braids hanging from either side of the face, while two rosettes also decorate the hair.

No. 24. Head of human figurine

Plate: 7: 21
Provenance: Mra Dherai
Length: 4.3 cm
Width: 3.5 cm

The figurine has applied eyes like those of Baroque ladies and wearing a kind of headdress with horizontal folds. The nose is flat and chin round, its execution is rough.

No. 25. Head of female figurine

Plate: 7: 22
(Dani 1965-66: 57-64, plates XXVIII, XXIX, XXX)
Provenance: Malka Dher
Length: 23.5 cm
Width: 16 cm

The figure has round head with tightly set hair. The like moulded terracotta figurines are found at Shaikhhan Dheri.

No. 26. Human figurine

Plate: 7: 23
Provenance: Rai Dherai
Length: 23.5 cm.
Width: 16 cm

The figure has fan-shaped head dress with right leg and arm missing. It has wide-open leg, as if made to be placed on some terracotta toy animal, from which it has detached.

No. 27. Violent shaped human figurine

Plate: 7: 24
 (Wheeler 1962: 109, plate XXIII- No. 13; Dani 1965-66: plate XXX- No. 9)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 7 cm.
 Width: 3.5 cm

This flat-backed figurine is also called fiddle shaped figurine. It has disc shaped lower body with a round depression in the middle. The fragmentary arms join at the waist level. Its head is flat and round from which the nose is made with a pinch. The figurine is decorated with a garland of three sets having incised oblique lines. The like figurines are reported from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 28. Human figurine

Plate: 7: 25
 (Wheeler 1962: 111, plate XXVII, No. 6; Coningham 2007: figure 12.6 No. 685)
 Provenance: Shah Darga
 Length: 7.6 cm
 Width: 6.3 cm

Broken body of a human figurine with spreading arms and wide-open legs. Its head and right leg is broken. There is also a hole in the tip of its left arm. Its nearest parallel has been noted at Bala Hisar.

No. 29. Bust of female figurine

Plate: 7: 26
 Provenance: Sra Makha Dherai
 Length: 5.2 cm
 Width: 5 cm

Bust of a female figurine having concave back. It has round head and fleshy body.

No. 30. Figurine with extended arms

Plate: 7: 27
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Length: 8.6 cm
 Width: 7 cm
 Description: Fragmentary figurine, probably of a lady has open arms with broken ends. Part of the right leg is preserved while the left one is completely missing. It has partly preserved eyes,

nose and neckbands, like these of the Baroque Ladies. It has well-decorated headdress and two round earrings.

No. 31. Figurine

Plate: 8: 28
 Provenance: Khkari Baba Dherai
 Length: 6.2 cm
 Width: 5.4 cm

Its left arm and leg is missing. The figure may have been detached from an animal figurine, on which it was riding.

No. 32. Figurine with joined hands

Plate: 8: 29
 Provenance: Ghani Dherai
 Length: 7 cm
 Width: 5.3 cm

The figurine has round pinched head and frontally extended hands joined together. Its lower part is broken and is very crudely made.

No. 33. Human feet

Plate: 8: 30
 (Dani 1965-66: plate XXIX, No. 5)
 Provenance: Hameed Mya Dherai
 Length: 3.5 cm
 Width: 3 cm

Broken terracotta feet, seems to be made in a mould. Its nearest parallel has been found at Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 34. Human legs

Plate: 8: 31
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 5 cm
 Width: 1.5 cm

Broken legs of a terracotta figurine in pink ware.

Animal

Animal terracotta figurines are widely found from all the mounds of Charsadda. These have been found during various excavations, carried

out earlier in the area. Moreover, occasional digs at the mounds for earth also reveal animal figures. During the survey we have found a number of terracotta animal figurines in broken form as well as seen and observed with the locals. Following are a selected number of animal figurines from the area of Charsadda.

No.1 Bull

Plate: 8: 32
(Wheeler 1962: 113, plate XXXI, Nos. 1, 2; Dani 1965-66: 71-84, plate XXXVI, a; Coningham et al 2007: 190, plate 12.5, figure 12.8)
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 9.5 cm
Width: 7 cm

Fragmentary body of a terracotta bull with intact hump, its legs, horns and part of the head are broken. There is also a hole in the hump. Terracotta bull figurines are quite common in all the ancient sites of Charsadda.

No.2 Bull

Plate: 8: 33
Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
Length: 13.5 cm
Width: 8.6 cm

Head and front legs of this bull are missing. The rear legs have a hole for attaching it with a terracotta wheel.

No. 3 Bull

Plate: 8: 34
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 8 cm
Width: 6.2 cm

Description: Body of a bull with missing legs and head has a prominent hump. Above the forelegs is a broad portion, decorated with series of incisions.

No. 4 Small bull

Plate: 8: 35
Provenance: Khan Mahi

Length: 9.2 cm
Width: 16 cm

A small hand made stylized bull. It has a short neck and also short legs, while its forelegs are bent.

No. 5 Bull

Plate: 8:36
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 5 cm
Width: 3 cm

A terracotta bull figurine having broken legs. It has a large hump, larger even than its head.

No. 6 Head of a long necked animal

Plate: 8: 37
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 7.4 cm
Width: 4.6 cm

Head of a long necked animal with two applied eyes and inverted V shaped ears. The long neck indicates probably a giraffe. If its producer had really a giraffe in his mind, he must have seen the animal. But the animal is not found in this part of the world.

No. 7 Horse

Plate: 8: 38
(Wheeler 1962: 111,112, plates XXIX, XXX; Dani 1965-66: plate XXVI, BC)
Provenance: Khkari Baba Dherai
Length: 9.4 cm
Width: 8.9 cm

Its rear legs and tail are broken but is well saddled and harnessed. Terracotta horses are found at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri too.

No. 8 Horse

Plate: 8: 39
Provenance: Kanewar
Length: 10.2 cm
Width: 8 cm

A terracotta horse with broken legs, arched neck and a hole in the snout.

No. 9 Head of a horse

Plate: 8: 40
Provenance: Majuli Dherai
Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 2 cm

Head of this terracotta horse figurine is decorated with incised dots in a vertical line. Another dotted incised line runs over the forehead. A hole is passed through the snout.

No. 10 Owl's head (?)

Plate: 8: 41
Provenance: Hameed Mya Dherai
Length: 5.3 cm
Width: 3.6 cm

Head of an owl or probably a monkey figurine, with large applied eyes.

No. 12 Elephant's head

Plate: 8: 41
Provenance: Chalagram
Length: 11 cm
Width: 9 cm

Broken head of a terracotta elephant with signs of broken tusks.

No. 13 Tiger's head

Plate: 8: 43
Marshall 1951: plate 131, Nos. 252, 53, 54;
Dani 1965-66: 102, plate xxxix, No. 8
Provenance: Majuli Dherai
Length: 5 cm
Width: 4.5 cm

Description: This tiger head has round applied eyes and incised horizontal lines, indicating its mouth as well as its moustaches. The head seems to have been attached to some pot.

No. 14 Ram

Plate: 8: 44
Provenance: Sartor Baba
Length: 10.2 cm
Width: 8.3 cm

This well-built ram has outward curved horns and incised eyes. The horns first curve inwards then curve round to the front.

No. 15 Camel's head

Plate: 8: 45
Provenance: Malka Dher
Length: 4.9 cm
Width: 3.8 cm

This camel figurine with only its head intact, has a hole in the snout. It has also two impressed circles on its forehead and an incised dotted line over the snout.

No. 16 Camel's body

Plate: 8: 46
Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
Length: 8 cm
Width: 7.3 cm

Entire body of this head-less terracotta camel is decorated with incised marks.

No. 17 Monkey's head

Plate: 8: 47
Provenance: Baretai Dherai
Length: 8 cm
Width: 7.3 cm

Head of a terracotta monkey having pinched nose, applied eyes and round ears.

No. 18 Seated monkey

Plate: 8: 48
(Wheeler 1962:111, plate XXVIII; Dani 1965-55: 94-99, plate XXXVIII; Coningham et al 2007: 192, plate 12.7, figure 12.11)
Provenance: Majuli Dherai
Length: 6.7 cm.
Width: 3.8 cm

Body of a seated monkey with missing head, arms and legs. Such sitting terracotta monkeys are found at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri as well.

No. 19 Monkey's head

Plate: 9: 49
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 4.5 cm
 Width: 3.4 cm

Head of a monkey with round incised eyes.

No. 20 Bull

Plate: 9: 50
 Provenance: Shah Dargah
 Length: 7 cm
 Width: 6.5 cm

Broken figurine of an animal, probably of a bull, as a hump is also indicated behind the neck. The horns as well as the body below the neck is missing. There are series of incisions all around the neck.

No. 21 Animal

Plate: 9: 51
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 14 cm
 Width: 9 cm

Broken terracotta animal, round the neck, it has an applied strip with a bell hanging. There is also sign of a rider.

No. 22 Bird

Plate: 9: 52
 (Wheeler 1962: 114, plate XXXV, Nos. 1-4, 8; Dani 1965-66: 103-106, plate XL; Coningham et al 2007: plate 12.8, sf 894)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 9.2 cm
 Width: 2.8 cm

A schematic bird in complete shape has a tri-cone tail and head resembling an animal. It has a hole across its sides, probably for attaching wheels. Another hole is also made across its mouth, which seems to have been used for attaching a string. Terracotta birds are reported from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri as well. Similar birds are found at Bhir Mound-Taxila, dated to the Mauryan times, approximately third century BC.

No. 23 Toy bird

Plate: 9: 53
 Provenance: Girawar Dherai
 Length: 15 cm
 Width: 1.3 cm

Terracotta bird with pointed tail, it has a hole pierced through its body for attaching terracotta wheels through an Axle. The tail has horizontal incised lines. There is also a hole passing through its beak. Similar bird figurines have been found at Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 24 Bird

Plate: 9: 54
 Provenance: Hindu Kamar
 Length: 5.3 cm
 Width: 16 cm

Body of a terracotta bird with missing head. The body as well as the tail is decorated with incised lines, representing feathers.

No. 25 Toy hen

Plate: 9: 55
 Provenance: Sartor Baba
 Length: 5 cm
 Width: 3.6 cm

Terracotta red ware hen figurine, with broken beak has an upward spreading tail and a very smooth body. A hole is made across the head for attaching a string. Another hole has been passed through its body for attaching wheels.

No. 26 Flying Falcon (?)

Plate: 9: 56
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Length: 5.7 cm
 Width: 3.3 cm

Broken piece of probably a flying falcon in red ware. This flat piece has a smooth surface on both sides. Only the spreading tail and open wings are preserved, but the upper body is missing. Its parallel has not been recorded previously from the Charsadda area.

No. 27 Animal's head

Plate: 9: 57
 Provenance: Nisatta graveyard
 Length: 8 cm
 Width: 6.5 cm

Head of an un-identified terracotta animal with long snout and broad ears. A vertical incised line pass from the neck up to the head. It has oblique incisions on its either sides, representing hair.

No. 28 Animal's head

Plate: 9: 58
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 2.9 cm
 Width: 2.4 cm

Head of an un-identified animal. It has a hole running through its snout while the forehead is decorated with incised dots.

Miscellaneous Artifacts**No. 1 Tile brick**

Plate: 9: 59
 (Marshall 1951: plate 119)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 13 cm
 Width: 11.5 cm

Broken piece of a terracotta patterned tile with front showing floral design, while the back is flat. No other specimen of its kind has so far been reported from any site in the vicinity. In the Bhamala stupa at Taxila, such patterned tiles are found in large number at the pavement in front of the western steps of main stupa.

No. 2 Cart frame

Plate: 9: 60
 (Wheeler 1962: 114, plate XXXVI, A; Dani 1965-66: 108-9, plate XLI, a)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 10 cm
 Width: 6.8 cm

Animal cart frame of terracotta having several holes, intended for the attachment of wheels. At

Shaikhan Dheri such terracotta toy cart frames have been noted.

No. 3 Toy cart wheels

Plate: 9: 61
 (Wheeler 1962: 114, plate XXXV, Nos. 5,6,7; Dani 1965-66: 106, plate XLI-b, 3,7,9; Coningham et al: 2007: 195, figure 12.15, 646, 1013)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 23.5 cm
 Width: 16 cm

Two terracotta toy-cart wheels, having curved ends and a hole in the middle. These were also supposed to be used with terracotta animals having a hole in their sides. Such terracotta wheels are widely found from the mounds of Charsadda.

No. 4 Pyramidal weight

Plate: 9: 62
 (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 153; Wheeler 1962: 114, plate XXXVI, A-2, 3, 4; Dani 1965-66: 116, plate XLII, B, 1-8)
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 4.7 cm
 Width: 2.5 cm

This pyramidal weight also has a whole in the top portion. On its flat bottom is incised a swastika sign. Pyramidal weights are widely found at the Charsadda area, these have been reported from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 5 Pyramidal weight

Plate: 9: 63
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 7.8 cm
 Width: 3.2 cm

Terracotta pyramidal weight with a hole at the top. Its exterior has been made smooth by burnishing.

No. 6 Pyramidal weight

Plate: 9: 64
 Provenance: Khan Mahi
 Length: 23.5 cm
 Width: 16 cm

It too has a hole in the upper part and has smooth exterior.

No. 7 Rosette
 Plate: 9: 65
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
 Width: 3.4 cm

Such rosettes were attached to the head of Baroque Ladies. As these rosettes were separately made and then attached to the figurines, so were more its chances of detachment.

No. 8 Rosette
 Plate: 9: 66
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Width: 2 cm

The rosette seems to have been detached from the head of a Baroque Lady figurine.

No. 9 Sherd stamped with lotus flower
 Plate: 9: 67
 Provenance: Chalagram
 Width: 5 cm

Worked terracotta sherd, decorated with Pushkalavati stamp.

No. 10 Stamped flower
 Plate: 9: 68
 Provenance: Adamghar Baba
 Width: 6 cm

A round terracotta stamped flower, detached from some other vessel.

No. 11 Beads
 Plate: 9: 69
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai

Five terracotta beads of different shapes and sizes.

Metal Objects

Discovery of metal objects made for ordinary use is a routine occurrence in the settlement sites. Metal objects that are mainly made of bronze and iron were also collected or seen during the survey. It includes jewelry items, household objects, weapons etc.

No. 1 Finger ring
 Plate: 10: 1
 Material: Gold
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Diameter: 1 cm

Small finger-ring made of gold; its top is decorated with geometrical designs.

No. 2 Jewelry piece
 Plate: 10: 2
 Material: Gold
 Provenance: Majuki Dherai
 Length: 01 cm
 Weight: 01 gr

A tiny piece of gold jewelry, which has a holed catch and zigzag end where a gem seems to have been fixed in it.

No. 3 Antimony rod
 Plate: 10: 3
 (Marshall & Vogel 1902-03: 153; Dani 1965-66: 133)
 Material: Copper
 Provenance: Sandasar Dherai
 Length: 7.5 cm

Copper antimony rod, tip of its pointed end is broken. On the top is a disc, which is decorated on both sides with a stylized sun design. Copper antimony rods are found at Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri as well. At the later site fourteen copper antimony rods were recovered.

No. 4 Antimony rod
 Plate: 10: 4
 Material: Copper
 Provenance: Kotak Dherai
 Length: 6.2 cm

Copper antimony rod, its top portion is decorated with incised horizontal lines.

No. 5 Antimony rod

Plate: 10: 5
(Marshall 1945: 586, plate 173, No. 224)
Material: Copper
Provenance: Gandaghar Dherai
Length: 6.7 cm

Both ends of this copper antimony rod are clubbed. Its nearest parallel is reported from Taxila.

No. 6. Antimony rod

Plate: 10: 6
Material: Copper
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 4.2 cm

Copper antimony rod with broken tip, its top shows a female standing figure with joined hands at the waist. The back also indicates a long braid.

No. 7. Antimony rod

Plate: 10: 7
Material: Copper
Provenance: Mra Dherai
Length: 4.5 cm

Top of a copper antimony rod, having a rooster with broad curved tail and a crown on the head. Only a small part of its rod portion is intact.

No. 8 Antimony rod

Plate: 10: 8
Material: Copper
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 6.4 cm

Copper antimony rod having a short pin, top of which is decorated with floral design. It seems that no such specimen has so far been reported from the Charsadda area.

No. 9 Bull

Plate: 10: 9
Material: Bronze
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 3.6 cm

Small bull made of bronze has prominent hump and horns. This is probably the only reported bronze bull from the Charsadda area.

No. 10 Key

Plate: 10: 10
(Marshall 1951: 599, plate 164-Nos. 48, 49, 50, plate 176-Nos. 353-55)
Material: Bronze
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 3 cm
Width: 2 cm

Bronze key, having three teeth and a handle with hole. It seems that this is perhaps the only specimen so far reported from the area. At Taxila such keys are reported in sufficient number.

No. 11 Arrowhead

Plate: 10: 11
Material: Iron
Provenance: Bala Hisar
Length: 5.3 cm

A three-pronged iron arrowhead, it has short end.

No. 12 Disc

Plate: 10: 12
Material: Bronze
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Diameter: 1.9 cm

A round disc incised with a walking stag to the right. It seems to have served as the top of a finger ring from which it has detached.

No. 13 Bell

Plate: 10: 13
Material: Bronze
Provenance: Pkhana Dherai
Length: 5 cm

Bronze bell with a holed catch on the top.

No. 14 Leaf

Plate: 10: 14
(Marshall 1951: 603, plate No. 185, j)
Material: Bronze

Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 6.2 cm
 Width: 4 cm

A well-preserved copper leaf with a small ring for suspension. Both of its sides are representing the same scene. It seems to be the product of a double mould, in which the supposed veins are clearly visible. Probably no specimen of its kind is so far reported from Charsadda, however at Taxila a bronze sheet of copper, embossed with vine-leaf design was found.

No. 15 Dragon's head ring

Plate: 10: 15
 Material: Bronze
 Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
 Length: 6.5 cm
 Width: 5 cm

A ring with dragon head made of bronze, which could be seen from both sides. It looks that no such specimen is reported from the area earlier.

No. 16 Spearhead

Plate: 10: 16
 (Antonini 1972: 38, figure. 22 a, c, e; Dani 1963: 84; Wheeler 1962: 119)
 Material: Iron
 Provenance: Lande Rud protohistoric cemetery
 Length: 12.3 cm
 Width: 16 cm

A three-sided spearhead of iron, was seen at the protohistoric cemetery of Lande Rud. It has three blades and a short-socketed tang. Spearheads have been noted at the protohistoric cemeteries of Katelai and Loebanr in Swat. At the cemetery of Timargara too a spearhead has been excavated, associated with fraction burial. At Bala Hisar was also excavated an iron spearhead from layer 29 of Ch. I dated to 4th-3rd century BC.

No. 17 Dagger

Plate: 10: 17
 Material: Iron
 Provenance: Lande Rud protohistoric cemetery
 Length: 8.4 cm

Dagger made of iron with long built in handle.

No. 18 Arrowheads

Plate: 10: 18
 (Wheeler 1962: 19; Antonini 1972: 38, Stacul 1969: 95)
 Material: Iron
 Provenance: Deo Dherai protohistoric cemetery
 Length: 6.5-9.6 cm

Five arrowheads of iron with tangs.

1. Length 6.5 cm Three sided blade
2. Length 7 cm Four sided blade
3. Length 8.9 cm Four sided blade
4. Length 9.6 cm Three sided blade
5. Length 8.4 cm Three sided blade

Iron arrowheads have been found at the Swat and Chitral proto-historic cemeteries. Tanged iron arrowheads have been found at Bala Hisar as well.

No. 19 Modern Bullets

Plate: 10: 19
 Material: Lead
 Provenance: Various ancient mounds

Twenty-Four modern bullets of lead collected from the surface of various mounds.

Minor Objects

In the minor group the following objects were noted.

No. 1 Shells

Plate: 11: 1
 (Marshall 1951: 667, plate 202, No. 7)
 Provenance: Pkhana Dherai

Three small shells with a hole at the shorter end which may have been used in ornaments. Such shells (*Parreysia favidens*) are found at Taxila as well.

No. 2 Shell

Plate: 11: 2
 (Marshall 1951: 667, plate 202, No. 7)
 Provenance: Gandaghar
 Length: 6.5 cm

Spoon shaped shell is off-white in colour and has parallel lines on its outer face. Such shells (*Pinctada margaritifera*) are also reported from Taxila.

No. 3 Shell

Plate: 11: 3
(Marshall 1951: 667, plate 202, No. 5)
Provenance: Hameed Mya Dherai
Length: 5.2 cm
Width: 16 cm

Shell with round shape has red-brown patches on its white surface. At Taxila such shells (*Xancus pyrum*) are reported.

No. 4 Shell

Plate: 11: 4
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Length: 2.5 cm
Description: Cream colour shell of the *Xancus pyrum* type.

No. 5 Bangle

Plate: 11: 5
(Coningham et al 2007: 236)
Material: Shell bone
Provenance: Spera Dherai
Length: 5.8 cm

Piece of a shell bangle has a very smooth surface. Pieces of shell bangles are reported from Bala Hisar and numerous other sites at Charsadda.

No. 6 Playing ball

Plate: 11: 6
(Marshall 1951: 506, plate 147-h,i,j,k,l,m,o,p)
Material: Glass
Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan
Diameter: 2 cm

Glass ball of blue colour with white patches. Probably no such parallel is previously reported from the Charsadda area, however such stones with inlay, incrustation are found at Taxila, belonging to 1st century AD.

No. 7 Beads

Plate: 11: 7cm
Material: Semi precious stones
Provenance: Girawar Dherai

Beads and gems of glass and semi-precious stones observed at Girawar Dherai. To the right is a carnelian decorated tablet bead measuring 1.5 cm. It is perhaps the only reported piece from the Charsadda area.

No. 8 Beads

Plate: 11: 8cm
Material: Semi precious stones
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Semi-precious stone beads in various shapes and sizes.

No. 9 Beads

Plate: 11: 9cm
Material: Semi precious stones
Provenance: Malka Dher

Nine beads of semi-precious stones in barrel and cylindrical shape.

No. 10 Bangle pieces

Plate: 11: 11
(Coningham 2007: 162)
Material: Glass
Provenance: Majuki Dherai
Diameter: 5.5, 5.4cm

Broken pieces of two glass bangles. The upper one measures 5.5cm and is blue in colour. The lower one measures 5.4 cm. It is of black glass and painted white. At Bala Hisar pieces of 97 glass bangles were recovered mostly from mixed contexts of periods V and VI.

No. 11 Pieces of glass plates

Plate: 11: 12
(Coningham 2007: 161)
Material: Greenish glass
Provenance: Pkhana Dherai

Glass pieces of vessels in green colour that seem to be rim pieces belonging to different dishes. From

the excavation at Bala Hisar numerous pieces of glass vessels came to light. But Wheeler and Dani have not reported glass vessels from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 12 Tiger's head

Plate: 611: 13
Material: Carnelian
Provenance: Shahr-e-Napursan
Length: 1.2 cm

Head piece of a small broken tiger figurine made of red agate. It has minute details of the animal's facial features.

No. 13 Frog

Plate: 11: 14
Material: Pale glass
Provenance: Shaikhan Dheri
Length: 2.2 cm

A small frog of glass in yellow colour having full details.

No. 14 Human finger

Plate: 11: 15
Material: Stucco
Provenance: Chalagram
Length: 10 cm
Width: 6 cm

Stucco broken human finger with nail was noted at the Buddhist stupa site of Chalagram.

No. 15 Beads

Plate: 11: 16
(Dani 1965-66: 122-128, Coningham 2007: 170, Antonini 1972: 43, Stacul 1969: 99, Dani 1967: 192, plate XLIX, Khan 1973: 56)
Material: Carnelian
Provenance: Lande Rud protohistoric cemetery
Length: 23.5 cm
Width: 16 cm

Carnelian beads, mostly in red colour include barrel, cylindrical, spherical and disc shaped. Some have white colour incised decoration as well. Such beads have been reported from the

cemeteries of Swat, Timargara and Zareef Koroona. Other beads of semi precious stones in different shapes and sizes have been reported from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri.

No. 16 Decorated beads

Plate: 11: 18
Material: Carnelian
Provenance: Deo Dherai protohistoric cemetery

Carnelian beads decorated with white alkaline substance were noted at the cemetery of Deo Dherai.

Conclusion

The ancient mounds of Charsadda are being plundered of its archaeological asset since long. Treasure seekers and dealers not only purchase chance finds but also arrange for digging operations on prospective mounds. State of the art metal detectors are used in these operations. Gold objects and stone statues are of course their sole aim. Ceramics, terracottas, stucco as well as other delicate cultural objects are often crushed in the operation. The found objects rapidly vanish in to private collections, only the less valuable objects are kept for some time and that too are eventually sold away.

We are of the view that the rich cultural heritage of the area has not been properly highlighted and projected in the past. With this aim in view, archaeological sites of Charsadda district were explored to find out more clues of ancient past. During surface exploration the following new information was collected, related to the cultural history of the area.

1. Previous excavators, who pushed back the history of Pushkalavati to 14th century BC have assigned the earlier level pottery of Bala Hisar to people who had cultural contacts with the people of Swat and Dir (Coningham & Ali. 2007: 97). The said pottery has close similarity with those of the Gandhara Grave Culture. Though cultural material of the oldest time was available in the early layers of Bala Hisar but its author was un-known in Charsadda. Historical

canvas related to that specific period was misty and we were unable to guess which specific group of people were the early inhabitants of Pushkalavati. During the survey we observed a number of graveyards that had graves, similar to the ones found earlier in Swat and Dir, assigned to the Indo-Aryans, who are said to have lived here around 15th- 14th century BC. These graveyards are encountered at three different localities of Charsadda. Pottery and related grave assemblage reported from these graves, have striking resemblance with those of the Swat, Timargara and Zareef Koroona Aryan period graves. Earlier excavations at some selected sites in Charsadda and the later archaeological surveys did not stumble on any sign of the presence of peoples of particular origin before the Achaemenian period in this area. Our survey showed up clear signs of the proto-historic period graves and the accompanying grave material, that have resemblance with the so-called Aryan period graves and their material excavated in the hill zone around Charsadda. With the availability of graves at three different localities of Charsadda and resemblance of its cultural material, placed with the dead body, like those of the Gandhara Grave Culture, indicates the presence of Indo-Aryans in this area. Earlier cultural material was available, but its user was un-known. At the present, availability of the same type of material in the same type of graves, it could safely be hinted, that the same people, like those of Swat, Timargara and Zareef Koroona also lived here in the Charsadda area. Thus on the basis of the presence of these ancient cemeteries and other associated cultural material, we can presume that the earlier levels of Bala Hisar could be assigned to the Indo-Aryans.

2. During the survey a limited number of coins were encountered. Some were collected from the surface of the mounds, but in majority of the cases these were noted with the people residing near the sites. We found a total of twenty-one coins all made of copper; almost half of these were highly rusted. As the area of Charsadda is under intensive agricultural activities since long, therefore ratio of salinity in the soil is all time high. Only eleven of the

coins are clear enough to be identified with some ease. These were found at the sites of Bala Hisar, Shaikhan Dheri, Majuki Dherai, Shahr-e-Napursan, Pkhana Dherai and Spera Dherai.

The most notable feature of the coins encountered during the survey is the discovery of two Kushano-Sassanian and observation of twenty-seven Hindu Shahi coins. Coin currency of these two dynasties was not reported from the area of Charsadda earlier. It is difficult to tell at the moment which specific ruler of the Kushano-Sassanian dynasty, these coins belong to. One coin shows the bust of king, but the crown portion is broken, while the reverse side is un-clear. The other coin shows only the fire altar, its obverse is un-recognizable. Of the Hindu Shahi coins, twenty-four were examined during the survey. These include one silver coin of Shri Samanta deva at Bala Hisar, four coppers of the bull and horseman type, also at Bala Hisar, fifteen coppers of Vaka Deva of elephant and lion type at Majuki Dherai and four at Shahr-e-Napursan. The other three coins found of this dynasty were from Majuki Dherai, Pkhana Dherai and Shahr-e-Napursan respectively. These are of the elephant and lion type coins of Shri Vaka deva.

These are the first ever Kushano-Sassanian coins noted in the Charsadda area. Coins in between the later Kushans up to the early Muslim period were missing from the chronological profile of Charsadda. Presence of the Kushano-Sassanian rule in the Charsadda area could be proved for the first time through the discovery of their coins. If the search is further carried on in future, other coins of this dynasty will perhaps come to light that may help extend the historical profile of the region, which will be indeed a significant contribution.

Presence of the Hindu Shahi rule in the area of Charsadda was tallied earlier with the presence of some potsherds at a few sites that were believed to be similar to the Hindu Shahi period pottery earlier excavated at Damkot and Hund ((Rahman 1968-68: 144, Ali 2003: 93). Other than potsherds our survey has for the first time proved existence of the Hindu Shahi coins in

Pushkalavati as well. Though coins of the Hindu Shahi period were noted at some selected points in the Peshawar valley. Thus we are now in a safer position to presume that Charsadda too was under the Hindu Shahi rule.

3. Potsherds with stamp decoration have been noted at the site of Majuki Dherai along with the Hindu Shahi coins. Pottery of this dynasty is noted for its stamped decoration excavated earlier at Damkot and Hund (Rahman 1968-68: 144). Our variety of stamped designs found on Majuki Dherai potsherds outnumber those found on the Hindu Shahi pottery excavated at Hund, which was itself their capital in the Peshawar Valley. Presence of the stamped decorated pottery in Majuki Dherai along with the presence of Hindu Shahi coins could lead to the idea that Majuki Dherai too may have been another major centre second to Hund during the Hindu Shahi rule in the Peshawar plain.

In the presence of Hund as a Hindu Shahi capital of Gandhara some fifty kilometers east and Kashmir Smast, another Shivite religious center, also about fifty kilometers north east of Charsadda, how could the Hindu Shahi rulers overlook importance of the area in between the Kabul and Swat rivers. Its strategic location, from where access to the passes, situated in the west and north of Charsadda, as well as its thriving agriculture, due to its fertility of soil, could have been the reasons the Hindu Shahis wanted to have firm control over Charsadda.

As we know the only site in Pakistan where stamped decorated pottery in such a large quantity is excavated is Tulamba (Mughal 1967: 56). Its period III dated to 8-12 century AD has produced up to 200 different varieties of stamped designs on potsherds (Mughal 1967: 27, 27). We have collected more than 300 different varieties of stamped sherds from Majuki Dherai. If surface collection can produce stamped sherds in such a large number, how much more could be procured if the site is subjected to proper scientific excavation. The said site could certainly become the only site in Pakistan where the largest variety of stamped

decorated pottery could be found. It is depended on future research on this topic to take this question to its logical conclusion. Future explorations if carried out at Majuki Dherai will unquestionably unveil the factual picture.

4. New cultural material was also noted for the first time during our survey, such artifacts were not previously found at any of the excavated site in Charsadda. In the terracotta group these include a flying falcon, a terracotta toilet tray with a female figurine, piece of a decorated tile and a pyramidal weight with incised swastika sign. Several pottery stamps in negative together with a lotus bowl seal were also noted for the first time. Among other minor objects, a blue glass ball, a carnelian tablet decorated with white colour paste and a key, a decorated leaf and a dragon's head, all made of bronze were also noted. In addition to the stone objects a bracket with a winged goddess figurine, a decorated pendent and a jewelry mould were also seen for the first time.

Another noteworthy object seen was a broken piece of human finger with nail, made of stucco. It was found at the Buddhist religious establishment of Chalagram. This finger piece is 10.6 cm long, which indicates that the statue it originally belonged to, might not be of less than human size. Larger than life size stone statues are also reported from the same site. We could presume that in the Charsadda area too, there were Buddhist religious centres like the site of Chalagram, where full-size statues of stone and stucco were there.

5. The bronze square seal from Shahr-e-Napursan has a flying eagle, such seals have been found also at Bactria and Margiana. The sites from where these seals were found are associated with the movement of the Aryans (Parpola 1988: 284, Fig. 8). Thus it seems to be another indication of the presence of Indo-Aryan people in the Charsadda area. If the area is properly excavated, other items of the Aryan age might also come to light, that will certainly help in understanding the movement of the Indo-Aryans in this part of Pakistan.

6. Beads from the newly explored cemeteries of Lande Rud and Deo Dherai are of special interest. These are of various shapes ranging from spherical, disc and barrel to cylindrical. Majority is made of the semi-precious stone of carnelian, having various decorations made with a white paste. Cylindrical beads of the type have mostly round white bands, while some of them have zigzag lines of the same white substance. This is believed to be a very strong, probably alkaline white colour material, still intact after the lapse of more than thousand years. Presence of this type of decorated beads, known as etched beads has been attested from the time of the Indus Valley Civilization down to the historic period. Such beads are also collected from levels of Bhir mound, Taxila. Decorated cylindrical beads from Deo Dherai and Lande Rud cemeteries have lines and zigzag lines, such beads have been found at sites in southern India that date from the 1st-2nd century AD (Stacul 1969: 99). Similarly from our recently explored cemeteries, we have the same etched type disc or tablet shaped beads that have cross or square designs filled with the same white substance. It also hints at the presence of a well-developed art of bead making in the area of Charsadda. During the proto-historic times the lapidary art was possibly passing through its developed phase. Moreover the occurrence of these carnelian beads in the area, also indicate the existence of long-distance trade during the proto-historic times, because the raw material was of course imported from the areas outside Pushkalavati.

7. During the survey, signs of the presence of Shiva Cult in Charsadda were also noted for the first time. The special sign found on the stamped pottery at Majuki Dherai is the trident, attribute of lord Shiva. From this mound we have found five different varieties of this symbol on potsherds. Two are the simple tridents, with wide space between each blade, while three others, have a horizontal bar also in the middle. Its connection with the Shiva worship as well as the statement of Xuanzang, that a Deva (Shiva) temple existed outside the western gate of the city (Pushkalavati),

indicates that Shiva sect was most probably existing and Shiva veneration was practiced in the area. He also informs that this temple had a miracle making icon of the Deva = Shiva (Watters 1975: 24).

Moreover Mukherjee is of the view that the goddess, shown on the gold coin earlier found from the Pushkalavati area, is the consort of Shiva. He further adds that the inscription on it that reads *Ampa* could be *Amva* or *Amba*, which means a mother goddess as well as Durga, the wife of Shiva. He gives further food to this thought by saying that on the other side of the coin is depicted a bull, and also the bull in written form, in Greek and Kharoshthi letters. As bull is the mount of Shiva, so is the goddess his consort (Mukherjee 1969: 13). We are of the view that if bull, the mount of Shiva and *ampa-Amva-Uma* or Durga, the wife of Shiva are placed in such a position of esteem, then it might be possible that it was actually Shiva, who was meant to be given that much honour. It seems probable that at the time of the issue of this particular coin, Shiva cult was thriving at Charsadda.

A bronze seal from Majuki Dherai (plate 21, No. 46) shows a human figure with a staff in his right hand. We know that staff is also the attribute of Shiva; therefore it might be possible that the figure on seal could be that of Shiva itself. Moreover a bronze ring seal from Shaikhan Dheri (plate 22, No. 47) shows a human standing figure holding a long rod or scepter in his hand. If scepter is also the attribute of Shiva, consequently the figure in question may also be that of Shiva.

Terracotta tokens found from Bala Hisar and Shaikhan Dheri also show well-executed bulls, the mount of Shiva. Similarly on a bronze seal from Shahr-e-Napursan we see a standing bull to right with prominent hump (plate 5). Presence of the bull on seal and tokens hints at the presence of Shiva cult in the area. Another terracotta token depicting a stylized trident was found at Shaikhan Dheri (Mohammadzai 2008: 67). Trident is another attribute of Shiva; therefore the Charsadda area seems to have been associated with the cult since long.

Presence of the Shiva temple in Charsadda, as Xuanzang has noted in the seventh century, association of lotus goddess coin with Shiva and presence of trident symbols on stamped pottery at Majuki Dherai as well as presence of bull and Shiva on seals and tokens points to the presence of Shiva cult in Charsadda for a considerable longer period of time. It was believed before that only Buddhism was the practical religious conviction of the people of Gandhara, but clear signs of Shiva veneration at Kashmir Smast (Nasim Khan 2008) and now in the Charsadda area hints that Shiva worship was also practiced side by side with Buddhism in the Peshawar valley.

On the basis of information collected through this work, a fresh chronological table for Charsadda is thus developed.

1. Indo-Aryan Period 15th- 14th century BC (3 New Grave sites)
2. Achaemenian rule 6th-4th century BC (Ceramics)
3. Alexander's Attack c327 BC (Defensive ditch)
4. Mauryan Rule 4th-2nd century BC (NBP sherds & backed bricks)
5. Indo-Greek Rule 2nd -1st century AD (Coins)
6. Indo-Scythian Rule 1st century BC (Ditto)
7. Indo-Parthian Rule 1st century AD (Ditto)
8. Early Kushan Rule 50-230 AD (Ditto)
9. Later Kushan Rule 3rd-4th century AD (Ditto)
10. Kushano-Sassanian Rule 4th century AD (Ditto)
11. Hindu Shahi Rule 750-1026 AD (Ditto)
12. Early Muslim Rule 11th century AD (Ditto)
13. Late Muslim period 1747-1818 AD (Monuments in Charsadda graveyard)
14. Sikh Rule 1826-1848 AD (Coins)

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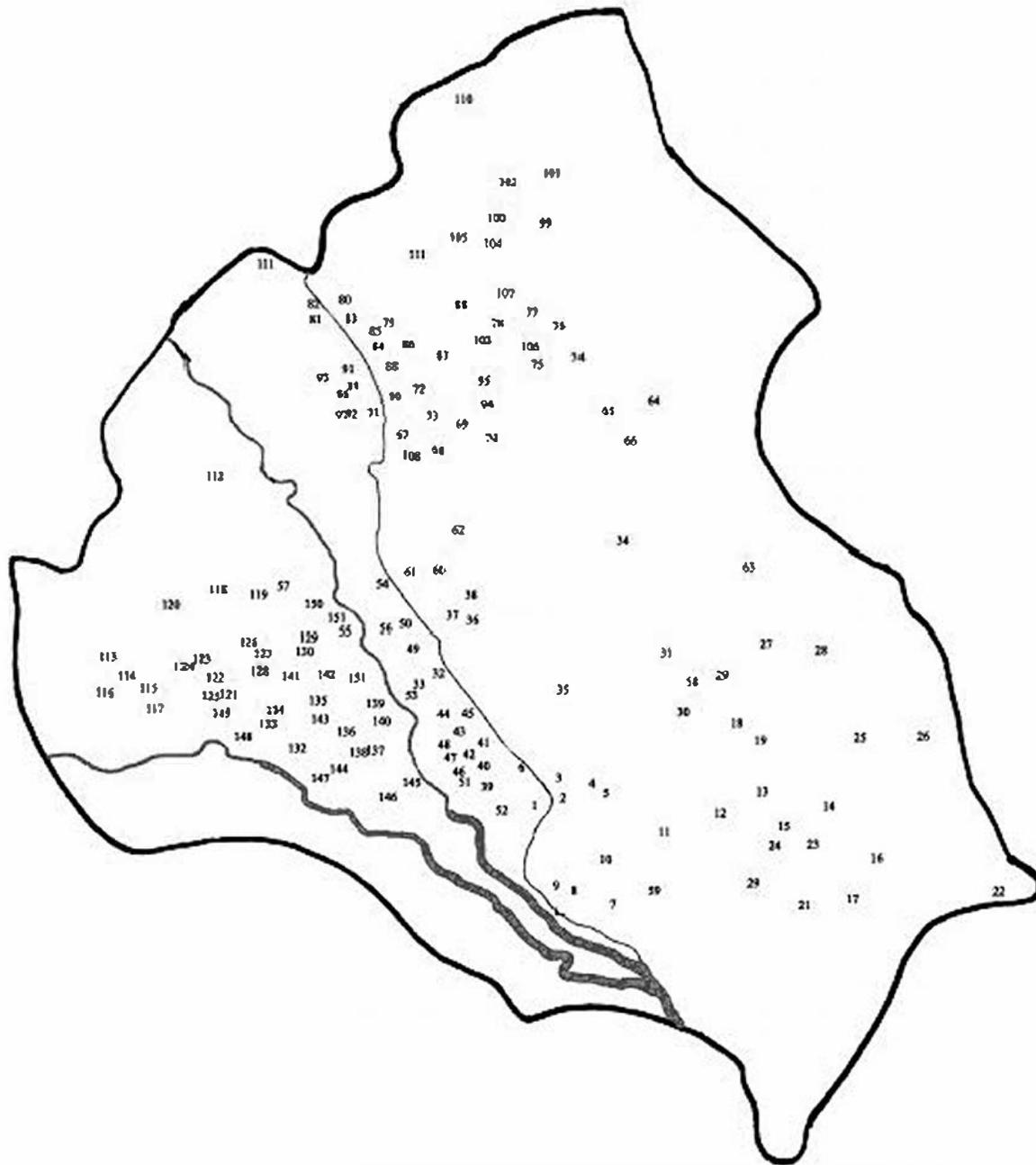
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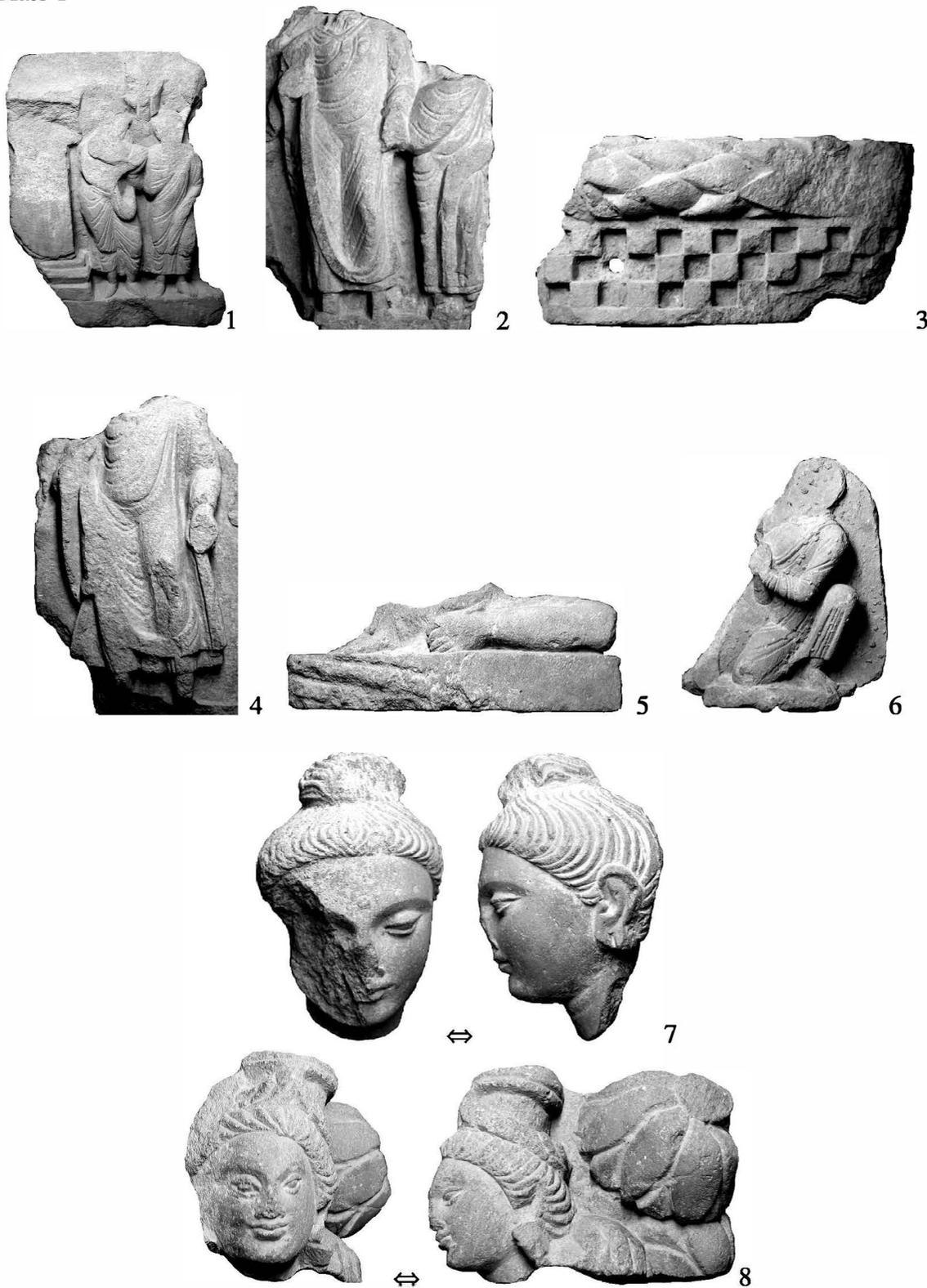
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Map:



Scale: 1cm = 3.2 km

Plate 1



Buddha head and other fragmentary statues from Khan Mahi

Plate 2



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



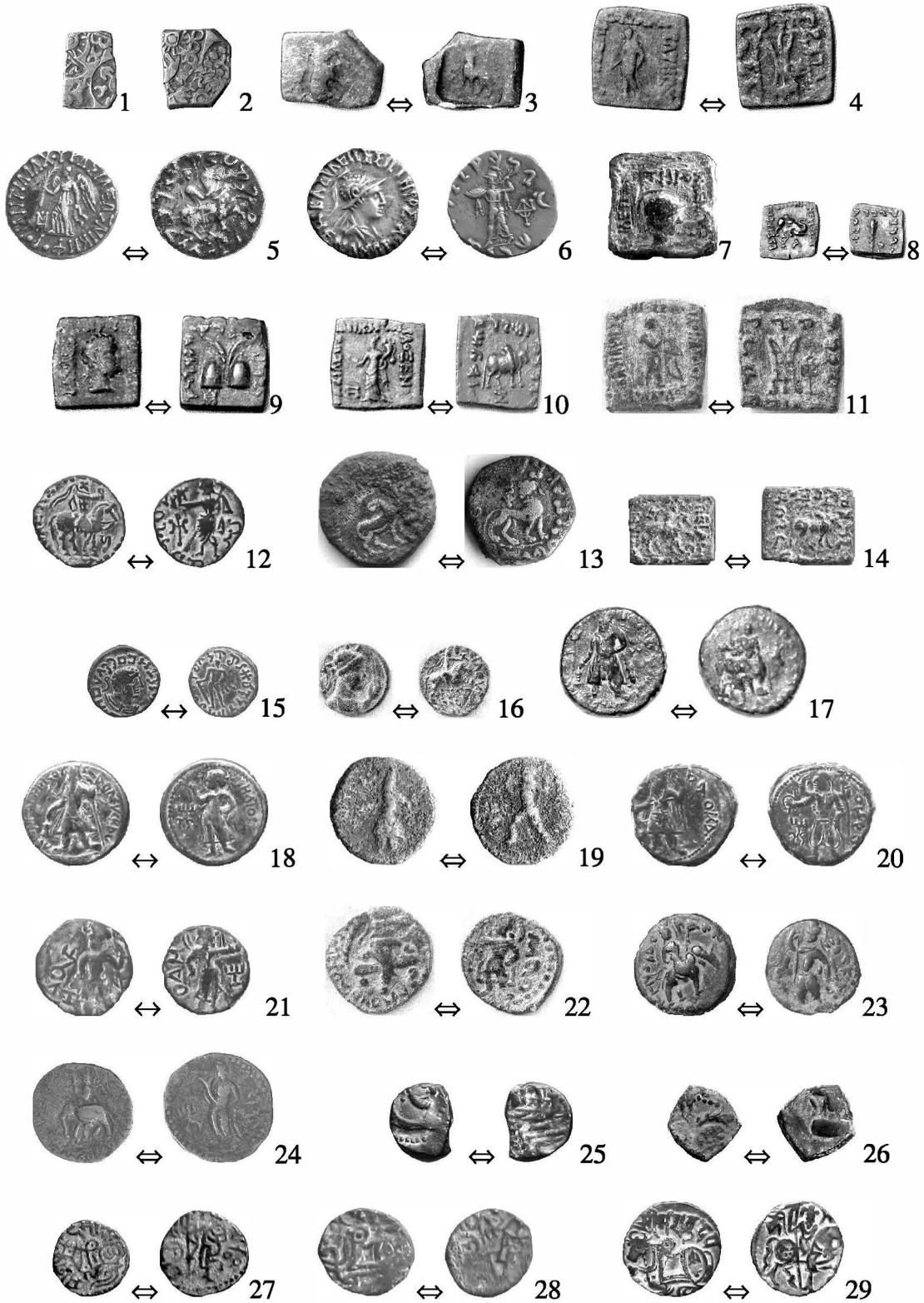
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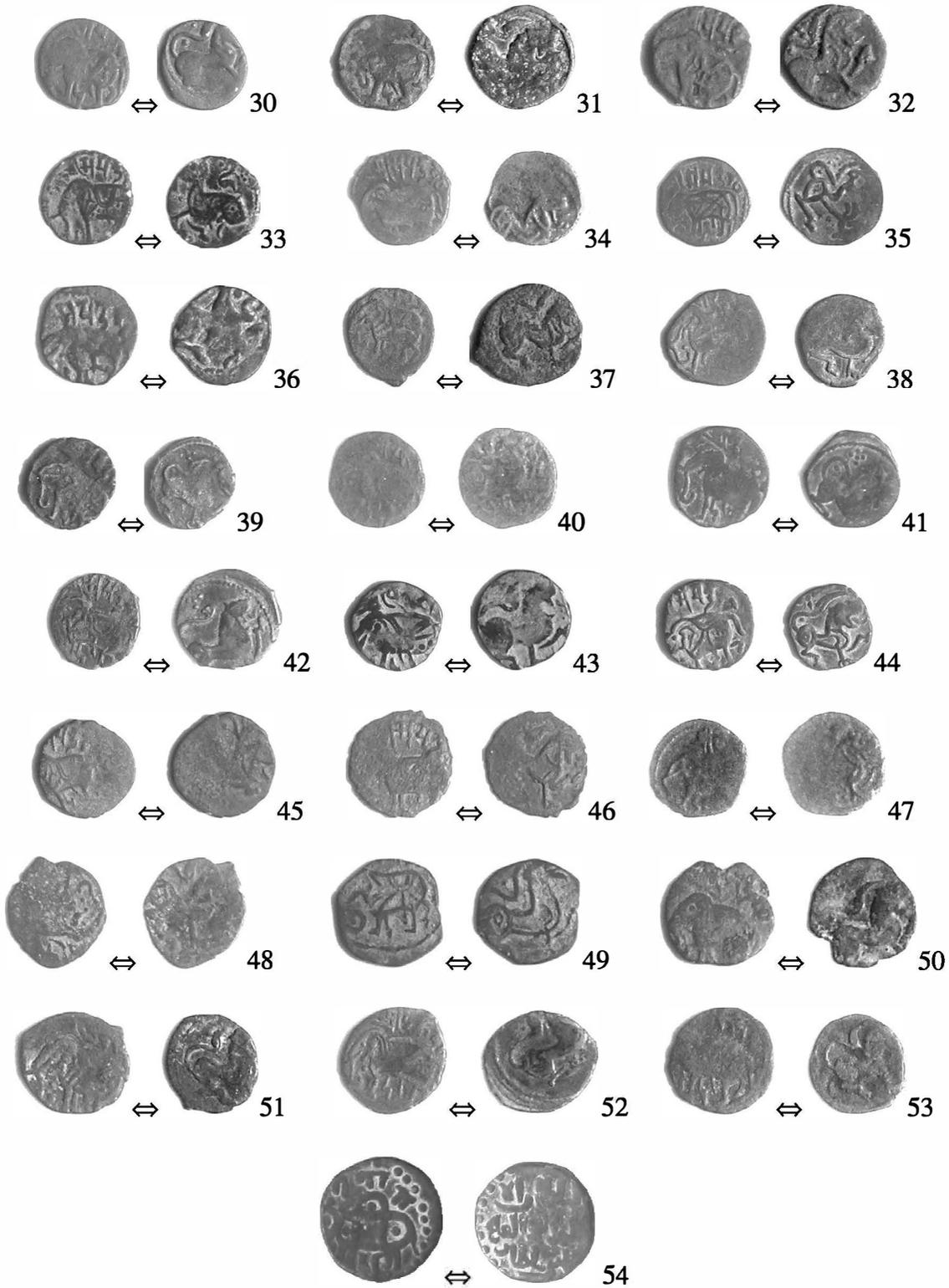
Stone objects

Plate 3



Coins of different dynasties

Plate 4



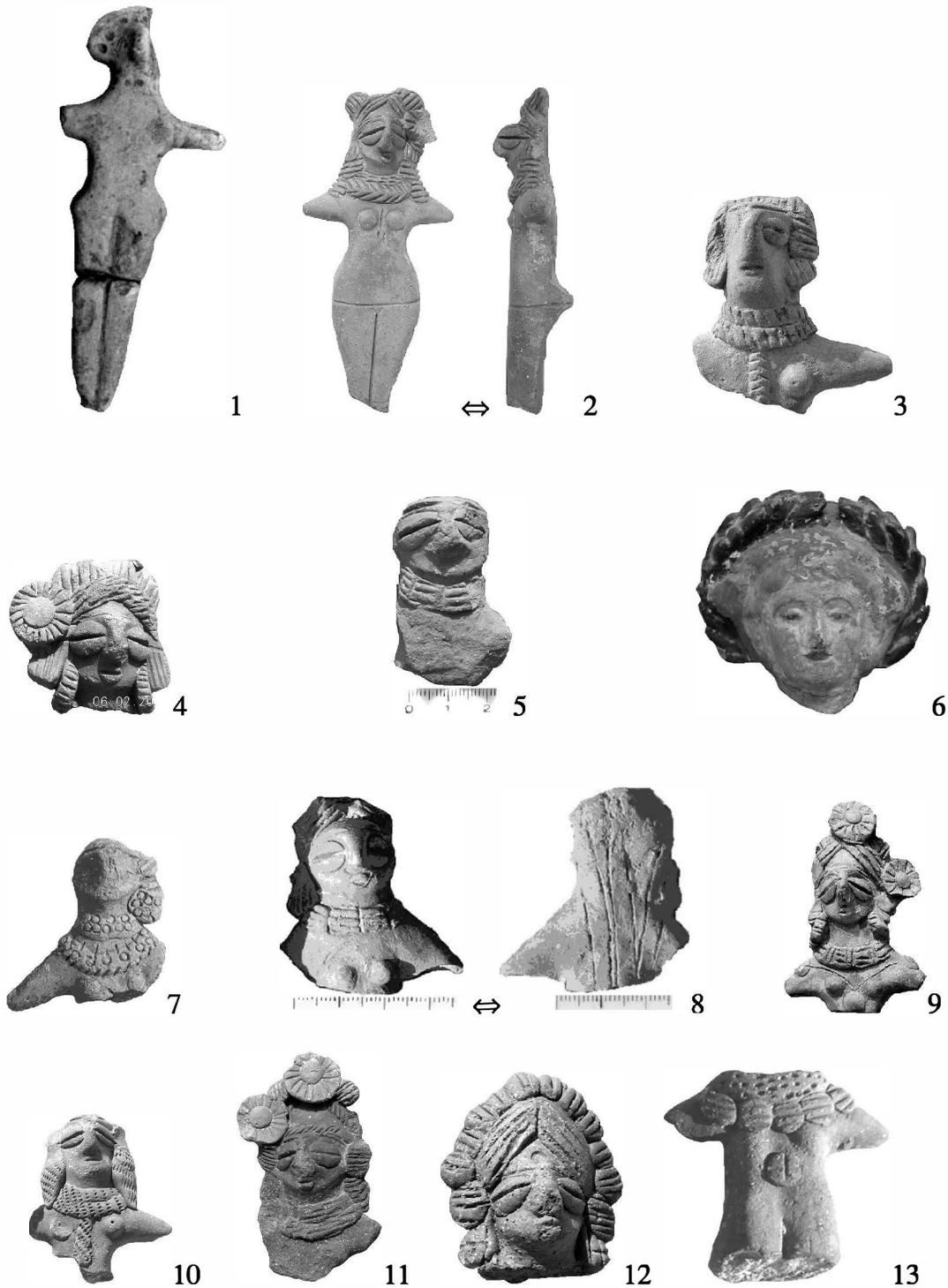
Hindu Shahi and Muslim period coins

Plate 5



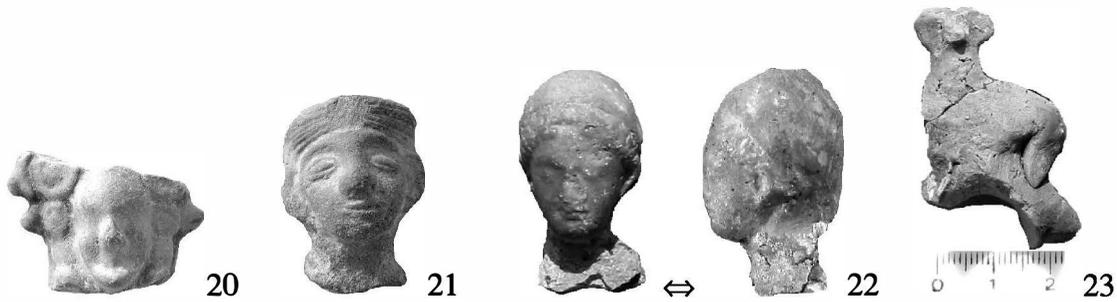
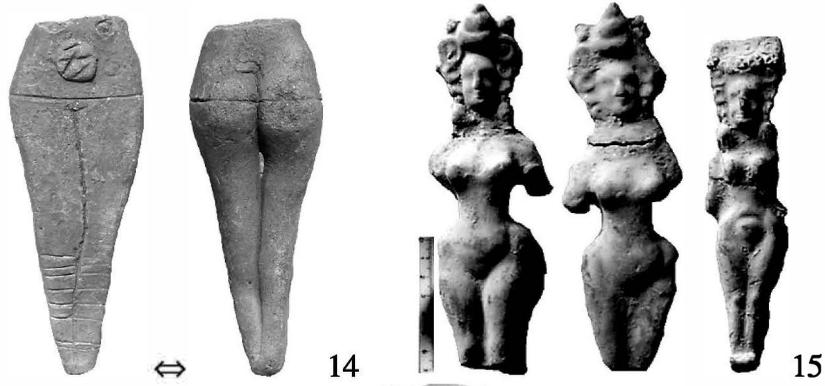
Seals and tokens

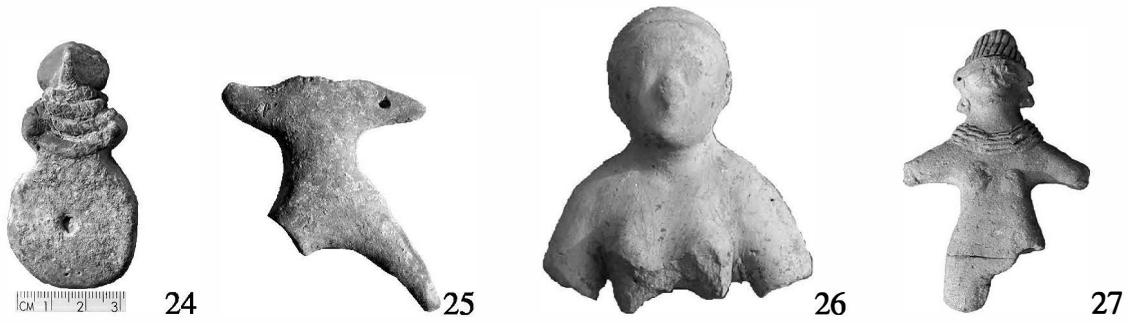
Plate 6



Baroque lady figurines

Plate 7

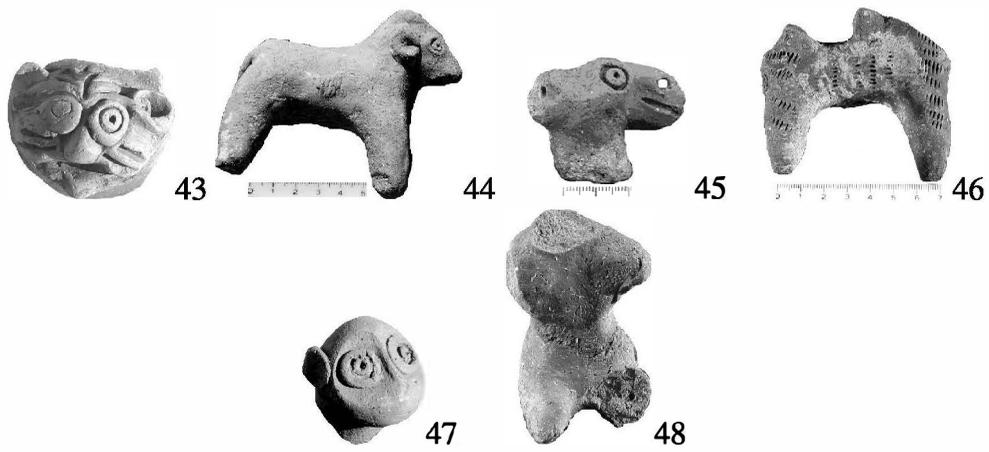




Moulded terracotta figurines

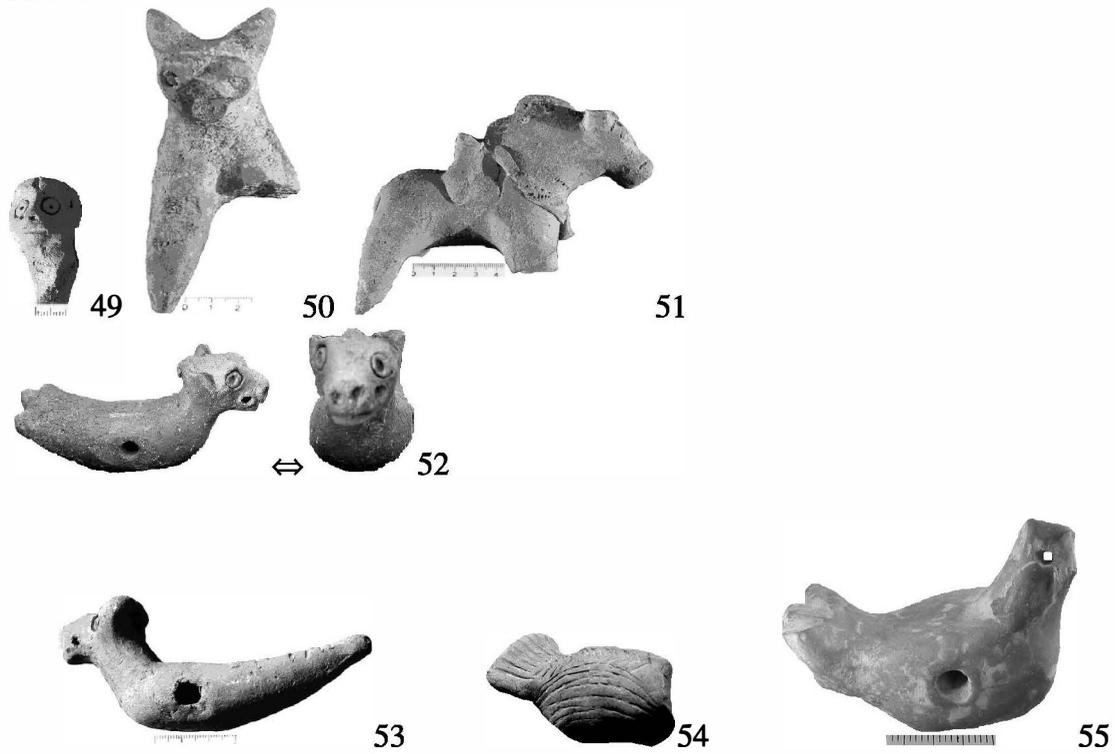
Plate 8

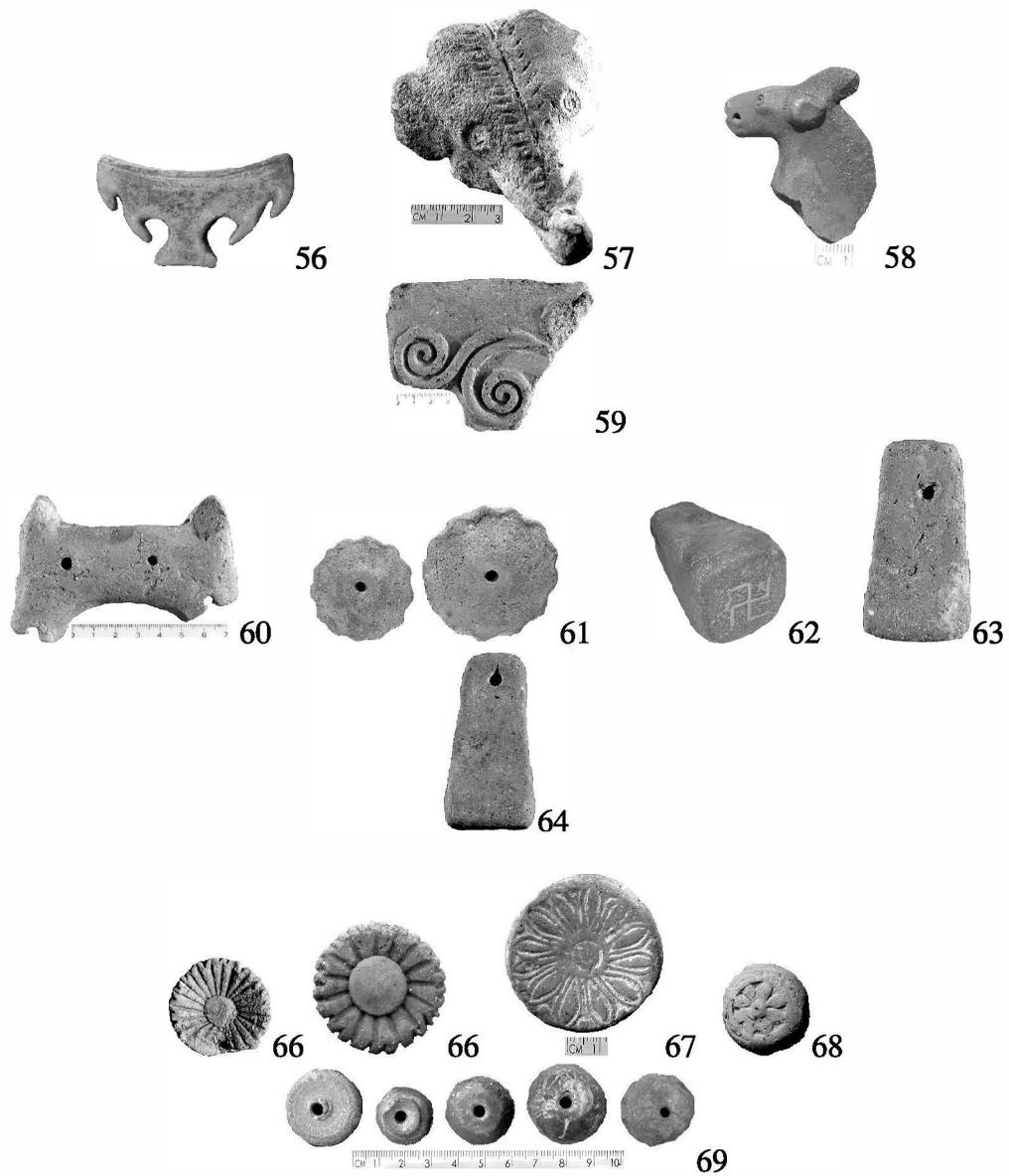




Terracotta animal figurines

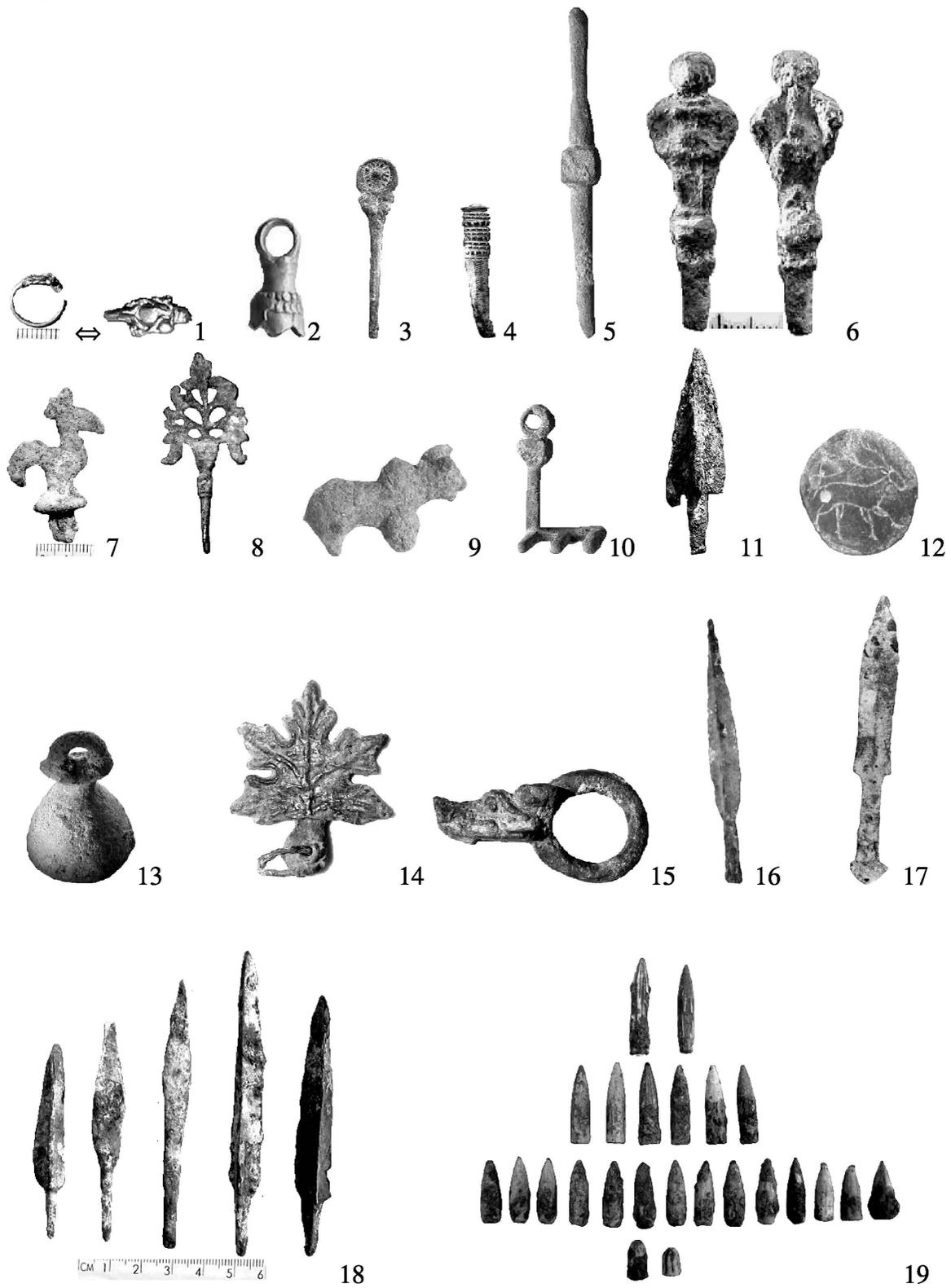
Plate 9





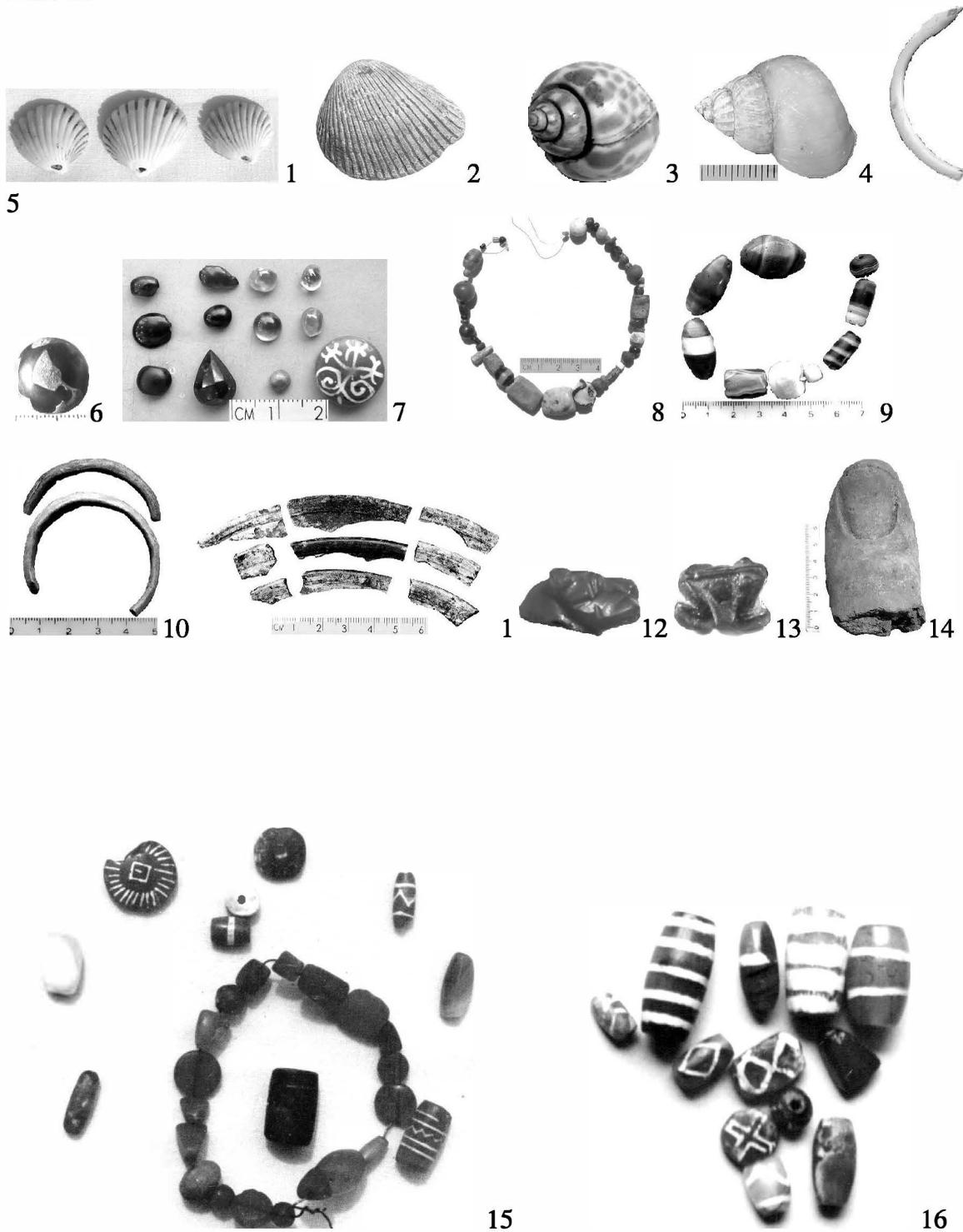
Terracotta objects and animal figurines

Plate 10



Various metal objects

Plate 11



Shells, beads and other minor objects

Plate 12



Potter's Marks

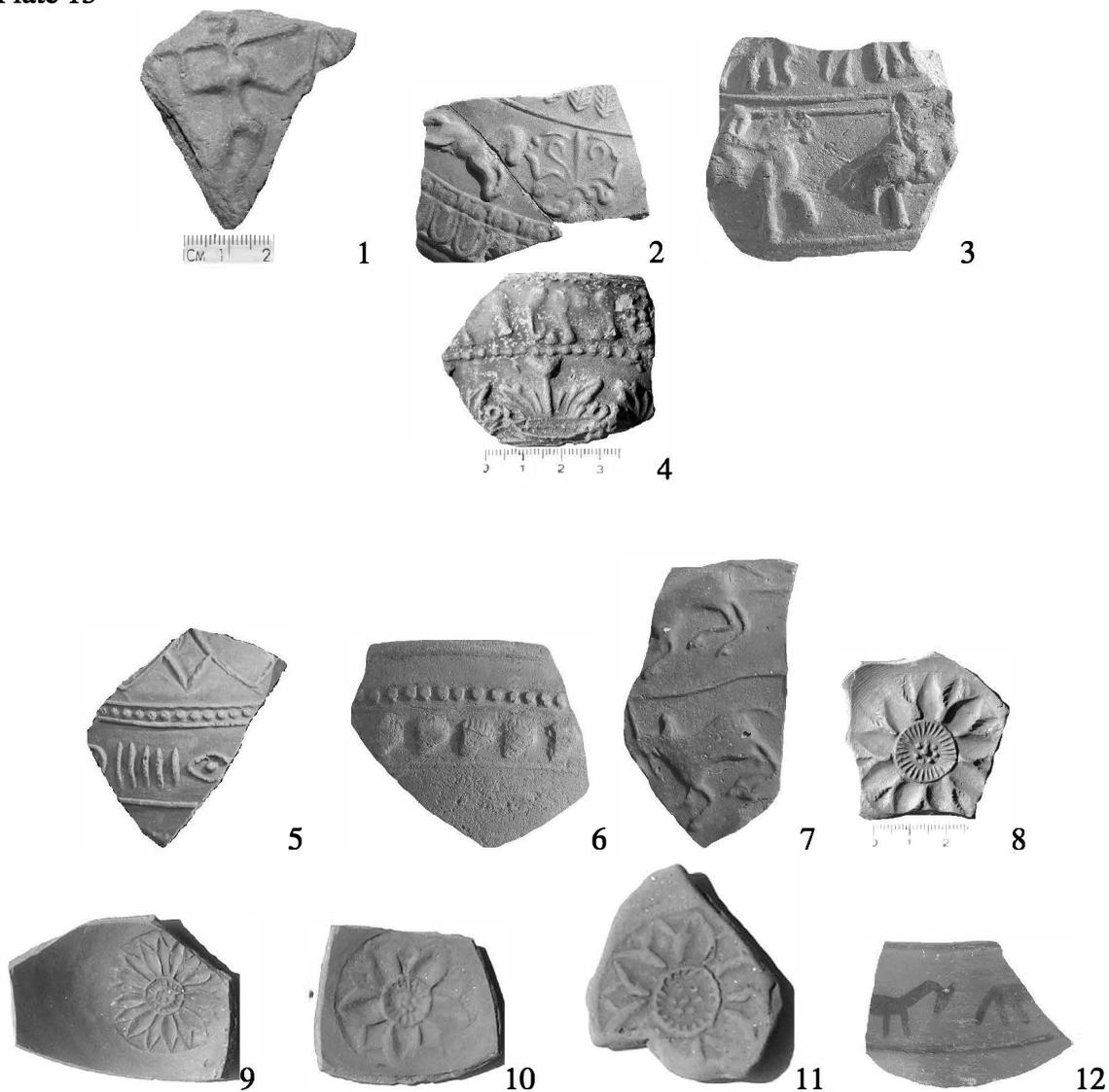


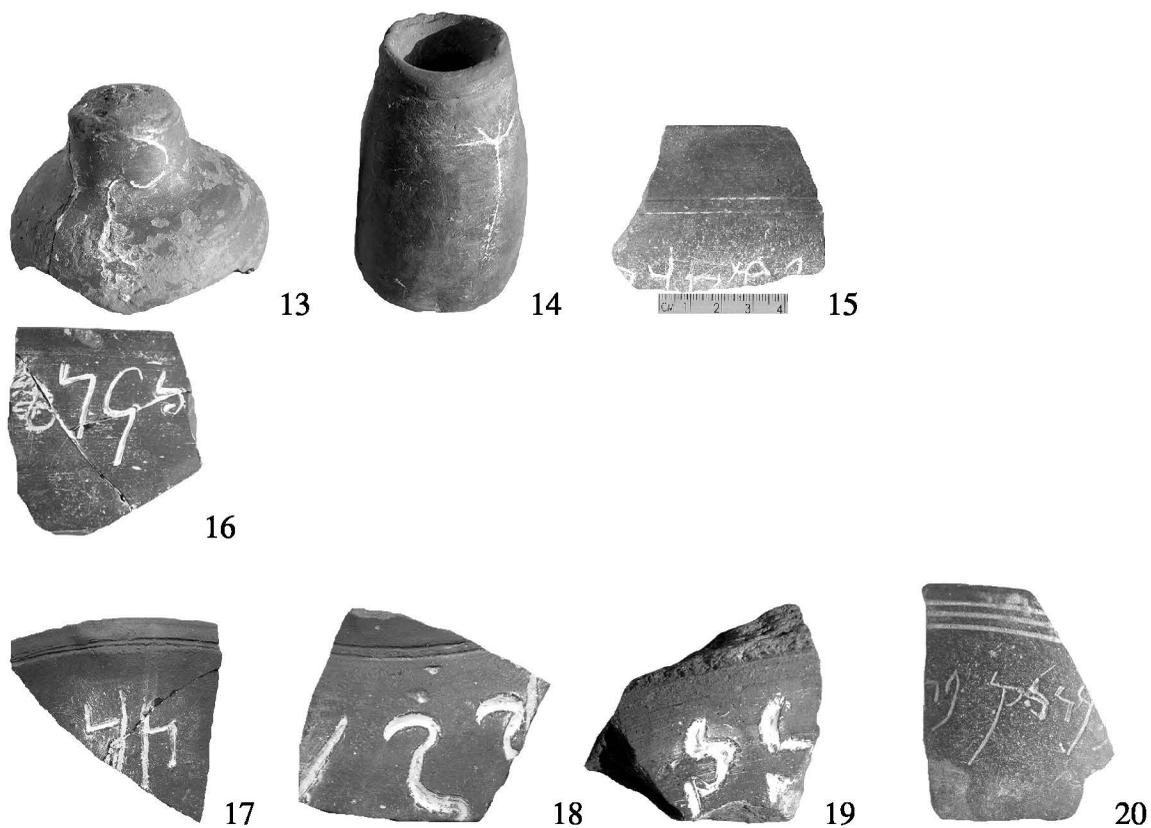
A

B

Terracotta pots, potter's marks and Kushan tamghas

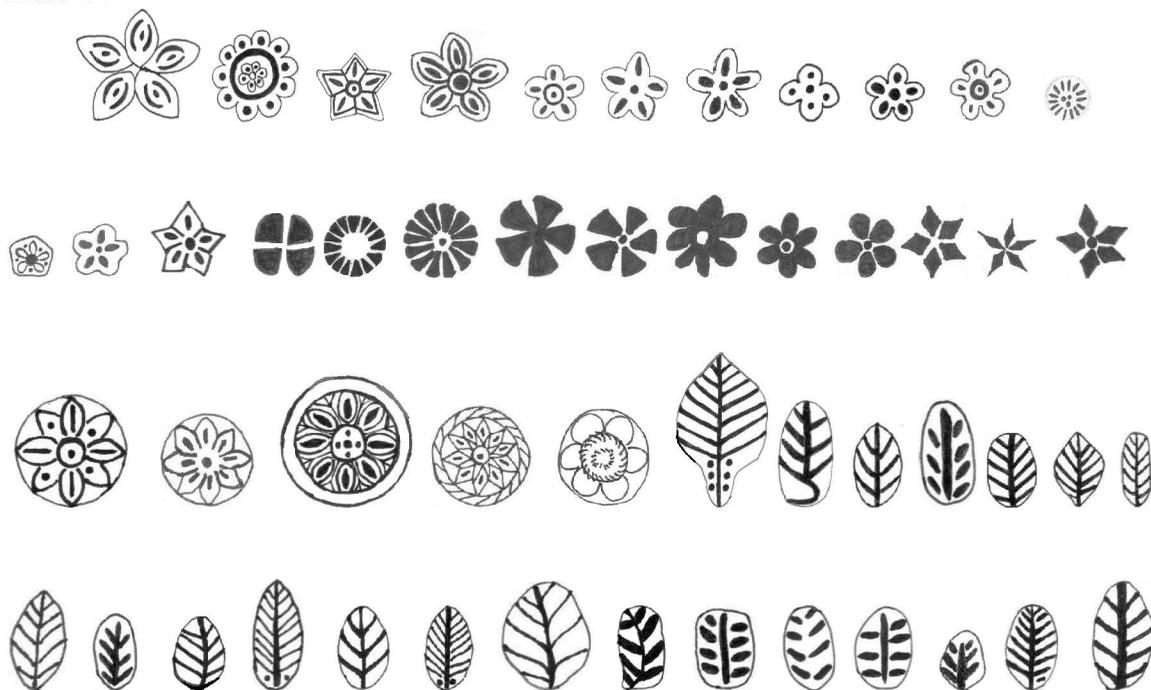
Plate 13

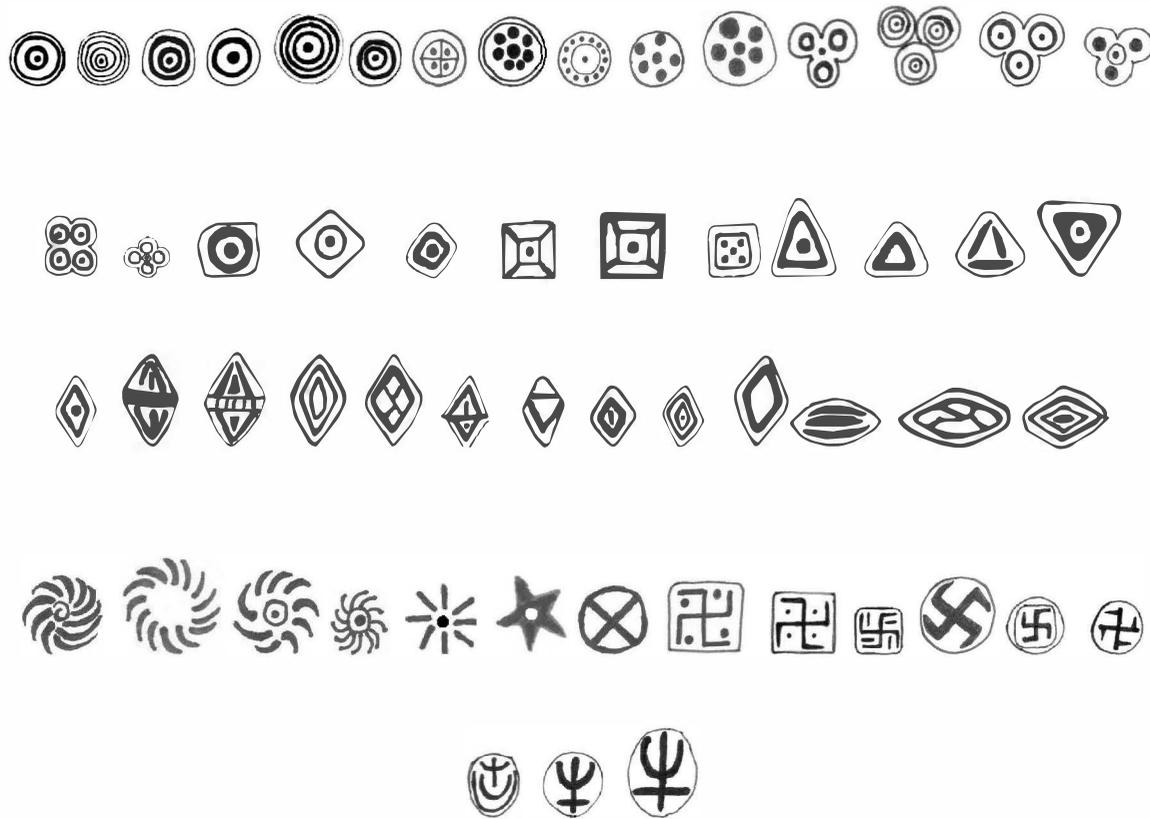




Decorated and inscribed sherds

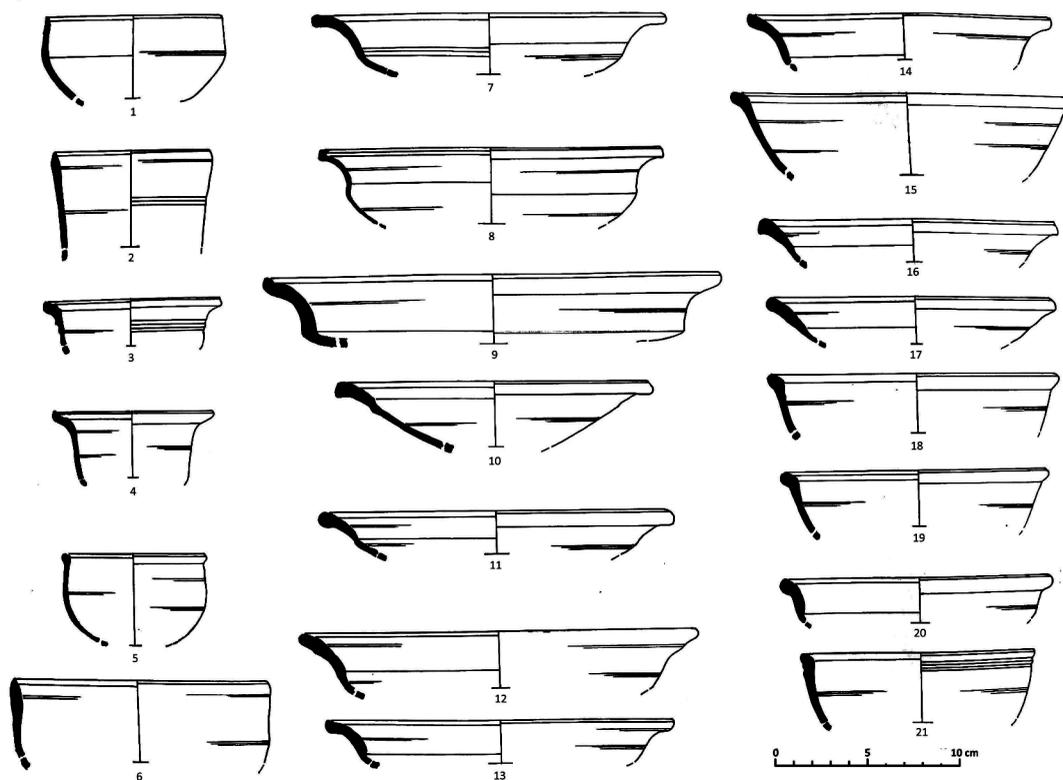
Plate 14





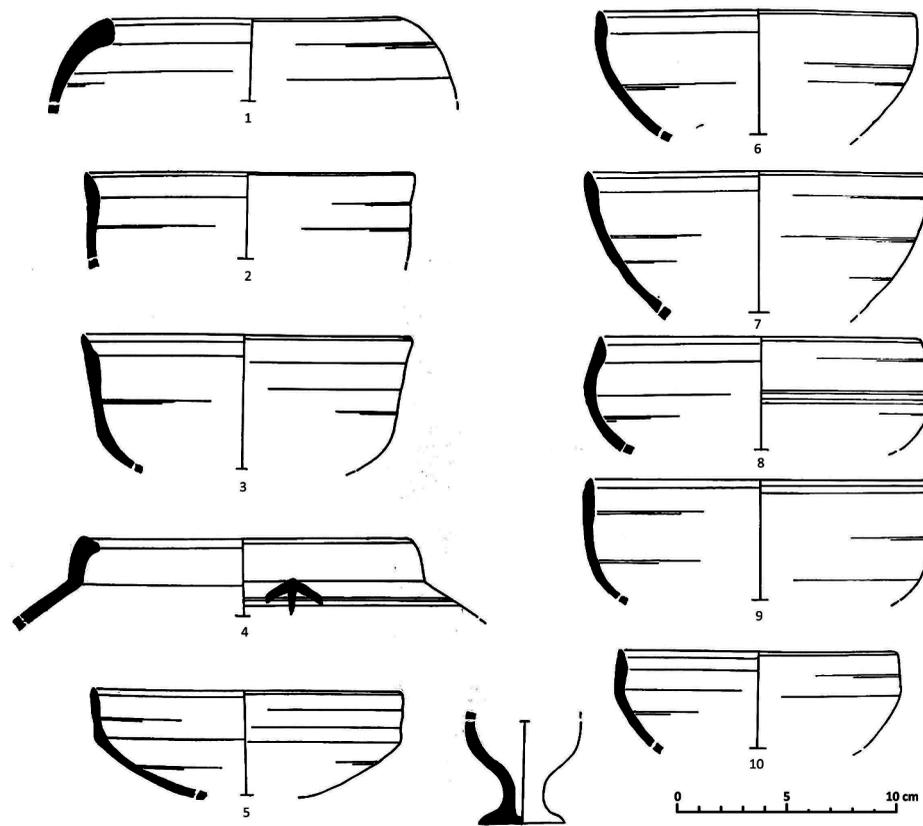
Symbols on the stamped pottery of Majuki Dherai

Fig. 1



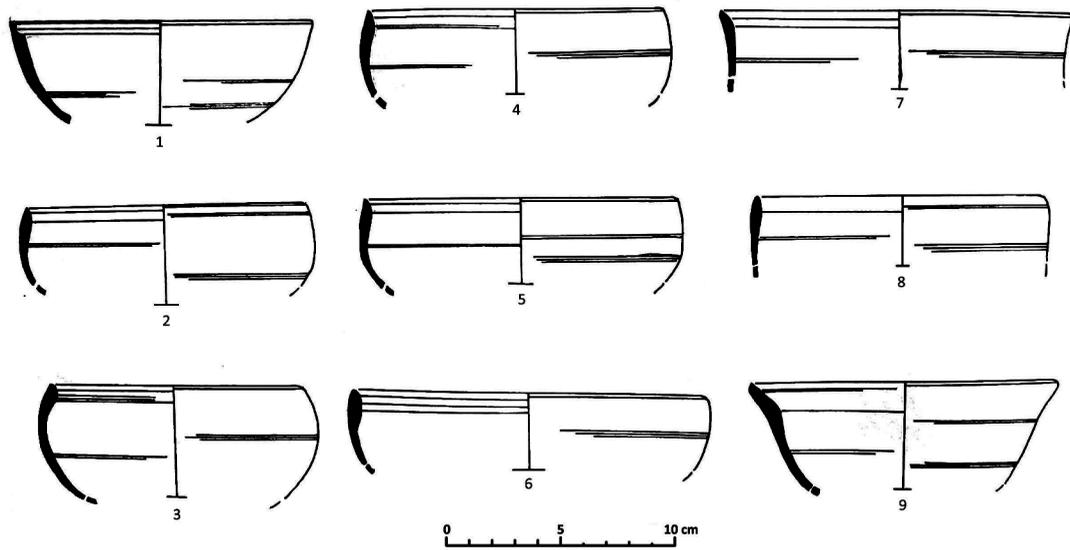
Thin sectioned pottery from Majuki Dherai

Fig. 2



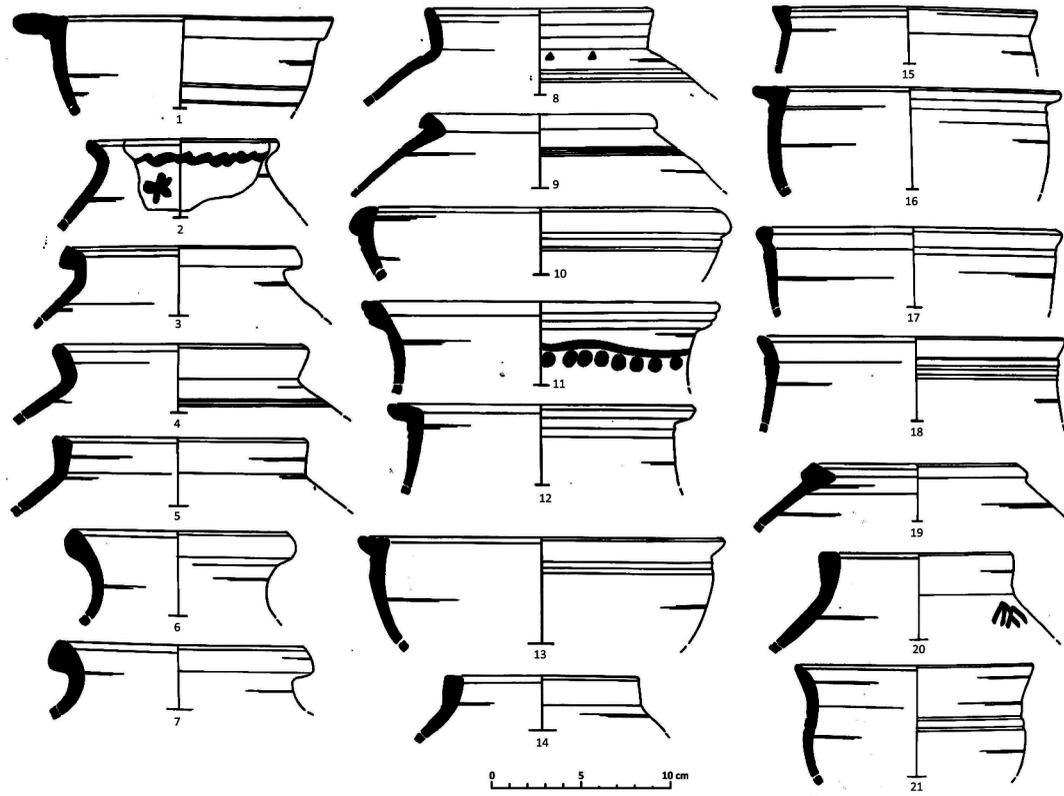
Gray ware pottery from Majuki Dherai

Fig. 3



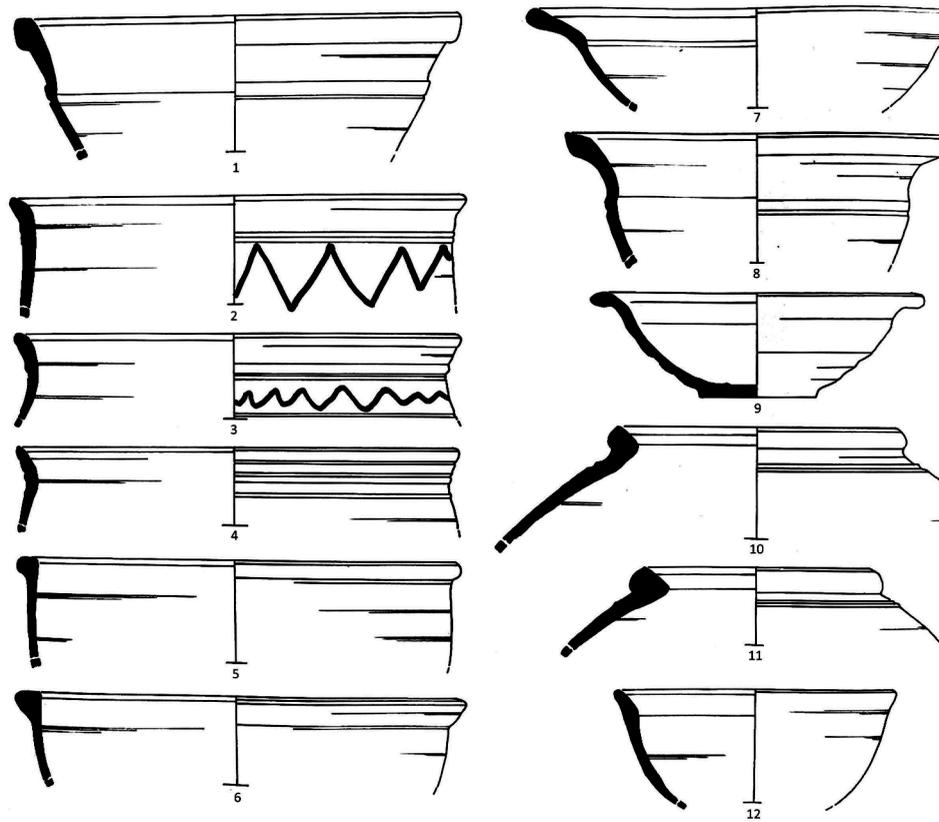
Bowls from Majuki Dherai

Fig. 4



Medium fabric pottery from Majuki Dherai

Fig.5



0 5 10 cm

Grey ware Pottery from Mra Dherai

Fig.6

