

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

BHORGARH A PROTO HISTORIC SITE IN NORTH DELHI



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PREFACE

BHORGARH, a proto-historic and early historic cultural site in Delhi, is located towards North of Delhi near Narela, about 30 km from Delhi Railway Station on Alipur-Narela Road. The ancient mound is situated 500 m to the west of village Bhorgarh and 2 km west of Narela Railway Station. Taking into account the potentiality of the site, the author excavated the site after taking prior approval of the Competent Authority. Archaeological Survey of India also granted permission to excavate the site as per the provisions under the AMASR Act, 1958.

This is the second site in Delhi which provided material belonging to both Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware cultures from the stratified deposit, the first site being Mandoli in east Delhi. During the field seasons from 1992-93 and 1993-94, the site was excavated. Excavations unfolded four cultural sequences comprising of late Harappan at the lower most level designated as Period-I. Parallel extended burial of this period was discovered in one of the trenches along with some burial goods in situ. It was succeeded by period-II of Painted Grey Ware period. Period-III is represented by Kushan. Finally, the site was occupied by medieval period indicated by period-IV thus pushing back the history of Delhi to proto historic times. The material discovered from the site was once displayed in the Archaeological Museum at Dara Shikoh Library Building, Kashmere Gate under the administrative control of Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



It's my foremost duty to remember with gratitude everyone who are directly and indirectly associated with this significant excavation.

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The credit also goes to **Shri Sanjay Kumar Garg, Deputy Director (Archives)-cum-Head of Office (Archaeology)** who took initiative and support to E-publish the report departmentally. **Shri Jaspal Singh, Surveyor** in the department has also taken keen interest in coordinating and E-publishing this report. I gratefully and deeply acknowledge them for their ungrudging support.

The author received great help from various technicians while excavating the site as well as at the time of preparation of the report. **Late Smt. Anita Singh and Smt. Meena Rani, the then Assistant Archeologists** participated in the excavation

Sarva Shri Pritam Singh, the then Draughtsman prepared site drawings while **Shri Jaspal Singh, Surveyor** prepared site plan and contour map where as **Shri Yashjit Singh, the then Modeller** prepared pottery and antiquity drawings. **Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari, the then Assistant Archaeologist and Shri Gajanan Katade, the then Chemical Assistant** assessed and analyzed pottery and antiquities in detail and assisted me in preparation of the preliminary report. I am thankful to all of them. A word of appreciation is to be recorded here for **Shri Jaspal Singh and Smt. Meena Rani, the then Assistant Archaeologist** who have taken active role in connection with the preparation of the final report. **Shri Tejpal Singh, Shri Rakesh Kumar the then Foreman (Works); Shri I.M. Tikoo, the then Sr. Photographer, Late Shri Jassu Ram Batra, the then Sr. Draftsman, Late Shri Vijay Kumar Arora, the then Drawing Officer and Shri Rattan Lal** have made their contributions in their respective fields. **My sincere thanks are due to all the above mentioned colleagues.**

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

TOPOGRAPHY:

The Union Territory of Delhi is a narrow strip of Indo-Gangetic Plain lying between 28° 25' and 28° 53' North latitude and 76° 50' and 77° 22' East longitude. River Yamuna flows on its eastern border in a North South direction (**Fig.-1A**). It is bounded on North, West and South by Haryana and on the east by Uttar Pradesh. The average elevation of the cities of Delhi is 213 meters above main sea level. The climate of this area is characterized by high chill in winter and dry scorching summer with maximum ranges from 43° to 47° C and annual average rainfall of 66cm.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Delhi being one of the most ancient historic cities of India has been the Capital of mighty Empires and powerful Kingdoms. The ruins of Delhi mark the sites of various cities both ancient and medieval. The origin of the name of Delhi is lost in antiquity and the early history of Delhi is shrouded in mystery.

Indraprastha, recorded in Mahabharata mentions the city built along the bank of the river Yamuna is generally identified with the present Purana Qila. It was also known under alternative names of Yoginipura and Khandava Prastha. The forest known as Khandava Prastha came into possession of the Pandavas after the division of their ancestral estate. Indraprastha is generally believed to be one of the five Prasthas asked by the Pandavas, the other four are known as Panipat, Sonapat, Baghpat, Tilpat.

Delhi is referred for the first time during 2nd century A.D. by Ptolemy; the Geographer who visited India at that time has identified Daidala close to Indraprastha which was midway between Mathura and Thaneswar. However, Firishta, author of Tarikh-i-Firishta in the 7th century A.D. mentioned that Delhi derived its name from Raja Dhilu of early times whose date is not definitely known.

Whatever the fact may be, it is fairly certain that Delhi was a city of little importance during the time of imperial Mauryas, whose capital was Pataliputra. However, there is an inscription of Ashoka, the third Mauryan Emperor (273-236 B.C.) engraved on a rock near Srinivasapuri in Delhi which shows that Delhi was under Mauryan hegemony.

As per the reliable tradition, Delhi was founded in 736 A.D. by Tomaras, a clan of Rajputs. The name Dhillika occurs for the first time in the inscription of 1170 A.D. from Bijolia, District Udaipur which mentions the capture of Delhi by the Chahamanas. The Pehowa inscription of the Pratihara King Mahendra Pala-I mentions that the Tomaras ruled over the Hariyana country with Dhillika as their capital. Palam Baoli inscription of 1276 A.D. refers Dhillika in the Hariyana country. Another inscription of 1328 A.D. found in the village Sarban, five miles south of modern Delhi contains a sketch of the history of Delhi from the earliest times till the date of the inscription. According to this inscription, Delhi was founded by the Tomar Rajputs. Anang Pal, the Tomar Ruler of Delhi built a fort known as Lalkot in the 11th century AD. Tomars were over thrown by the Chahamanas King, Vigraharaja IV (1153-63 A.D). The greatest monarch of this dynasty was his nephew Prithviraja III or Rai Pithora (1179-92 A.D). During his reign, the Fort of Lalkot was further strengthened by an exterior wall and was known as Qila Rai Pithora. In 1191 A.D., Muhammad Ghouri invaded and defeated by Prithviraja. In 1192 A.D., Muhammad Ghouri invaded again with a re-organized force to avenge his defeat. This time, Prithviraja was defeated, captured and killed in cold blood.

Five dynasties known as Sultanate, ruled thereafter from Delhi (1206 A.D. to 1526 A.D.) were Mamluk, Khalji, Tughluq, Sayyid and Lodi. Later on, the Mughals came into the picture who ruled till 1857 A.D.

In 1857, there was an organized fighter for the country's independence from the British regime who occupied Delhi after the Mughals and ruled up to 1947 A.D. till the country attained independence.

THE SITE AND ITS ENVIRONMENT:

Bhorgarh is located at a distance of about 30 Km from Delhi Railway station towards North of Delhi. The ancient mound at Bhorgarh (28° 49' 50" North latitude and 77° 5' 15" East longitude) was situated 500 m to the West of village Bhorgarh and 2 km South of Narela Railway Station (**Fig.-1B**). The maximum available height of the mound before excavation was 5.50 m.

Originally the site consists of 3 mounds spread over several acres of land, but the villagers have converted most of the mounds into agricultural fields. From among the three mounds, one is almost inhabited by the villagers, another was already leveled by them and the third one is gradually being sliced from all sides for making more leveled land for agriculture fields. Traces of the mound may be seen on the eastern side of the village behind Government School near the bus stop. This clearly shows that a part of the village is settled on the ancient mound itself.

DISCOVERY OF THE SITE:

The ancient mound at Bhorgarh was discovered by a team of Archaeologists from the Archaeological Survey of India who explored the area during the year 1973-74 headed by Ms. Madhu Bala and again in 1991-92 by joint team led by Shri C.L.Suri and Dr.B.R. Mani from the same organization.

Finally, officials from the Department of Archaeology, Delhi Government headed by the present author visited the site during 1992-93 in order to assess the potentiality of the site and finally decided to excavate the area. It was finally decided to excavate the site with the following main objectives:

- (i) To investigate the nature and extent of late Harappan element,
- (ii) To find out the horizon of the Painted Grey Ware culture and
- (iii) To establish the cultural sequence of the site.

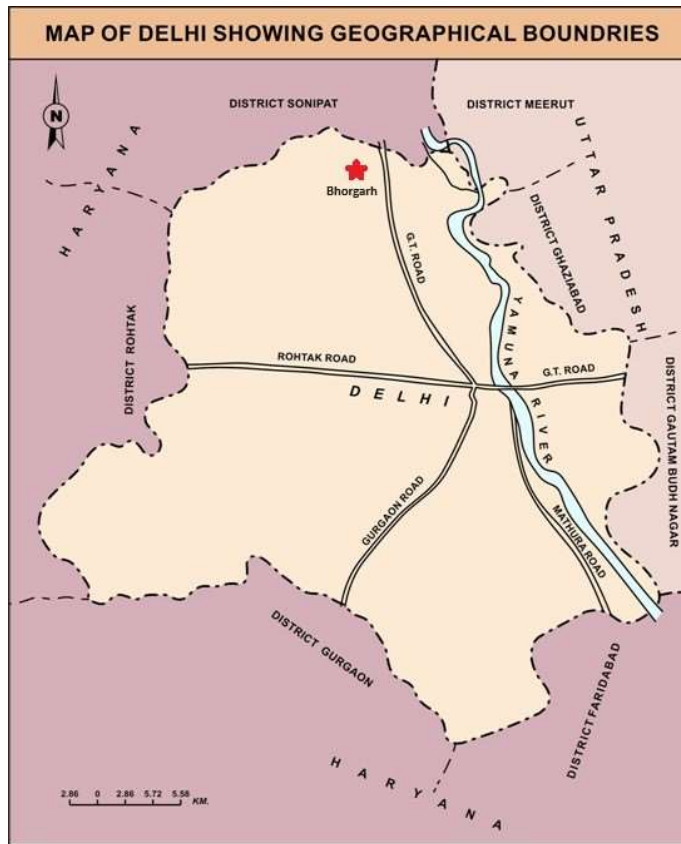


FIG.-1A: UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES

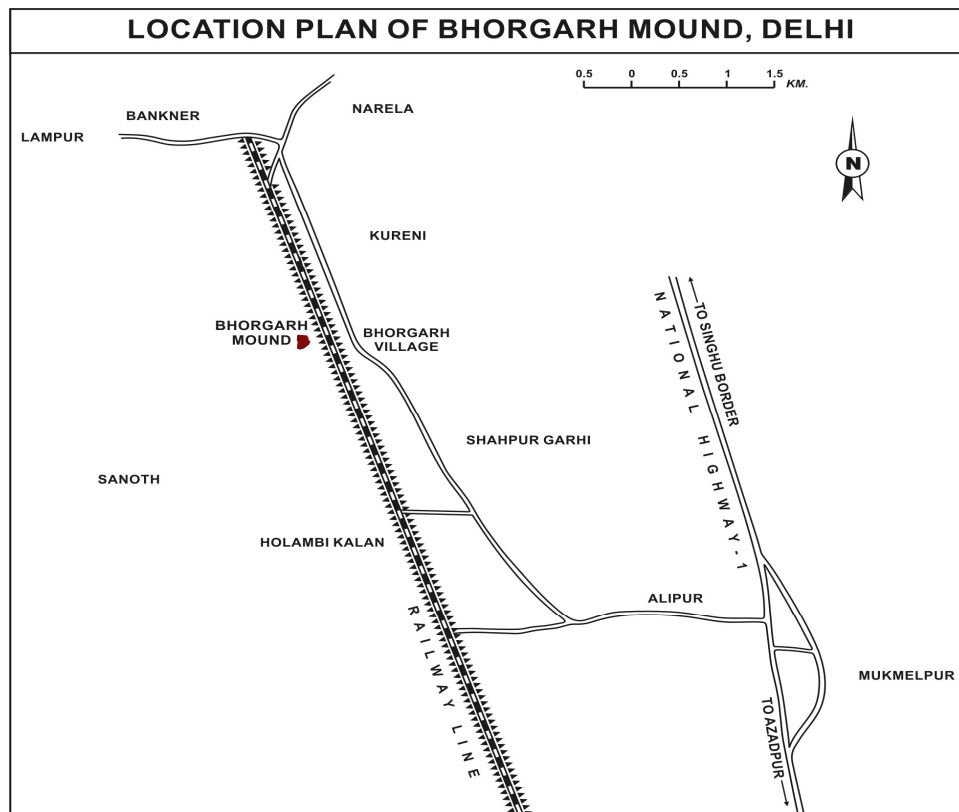


FIG.– 1B: MAP SHOWING BHORGARH MOUND AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

CHAPTER - II

LAYOUT AND CUTTINGS

PLANNING AND LAYOUT:

On the basis of previous explorations, the Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Delhi under the directions of the present author had taken up the work at the site and excavated for two successive seasons during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94. The main aim of the excavation was to get the picture of cultural sequence of the site and to study the settlement pattern.

The contours of the mound were first studied for regular excavation. The contour plan of the existing mound showing its extent was prepared (**Fig.-2**). The maximum height of the mound from the adjoining plain area was more than 5.50 m and the highest point of contour is 219.50 m. The surface area of the mound and its periphery was marked into grids of 10 m. Each square was further sub-divided into four quadrants leaving 1 m baulk. The trenches were laid out in a row of North-South and East-West direction.

NOMENCLATURE AND CUTTINGS:

After taking into account the highest point of the mound, it was divided into grids into 10m X 10m square and were further divided into quadrants and excavations were undertaken in 25 quadrants of the total 41 squares.

In the first session 1992-93, the excavations in Bhorgarh were confined to a limited area. Trenches were laid in quadrant 1, 2, 3, 4 of square YA1; quadrant 1,3,4 of ZA1; quadrant 1, 2 of square XA1; quadrant 1, 2 of square A1; quadrant 3,4 of sq. YA2; quadrant 1, 4 of square ZA2 and quadrant 4 of square ZB1.

In the 2nd session (1993-94), the excavations were taken up in quadrant 1,2,3,4, of square YA2; quadrant 2, 3 of square YB2; quadrant 3 of square YE3; quadrant 4 of square XA1; quadrant 1 of A1; quadrant 1, 4 of square ZD5; quadrant 1 of ZD4; quadrant 1 of ZD3; quadrant 3 of YB3; quadrant 1 of YE3 and quadrant 4 of YA2. Natural soil was encountered in quadrant 1 of YA2 after cutting through 14 layers of period I, II & III as well as some sterile layers.

CHAPTER - III

STRATIFICATION

The study of stratification is mainly confined to the trench YA-2 Qdt.1 where Late Harappan, Painted Grey Ware and Kushan periods succeeded each other from bottom upwards (**Fig.-3**).

TRENCH YA-2 Qdt.1. FACING SOUTH

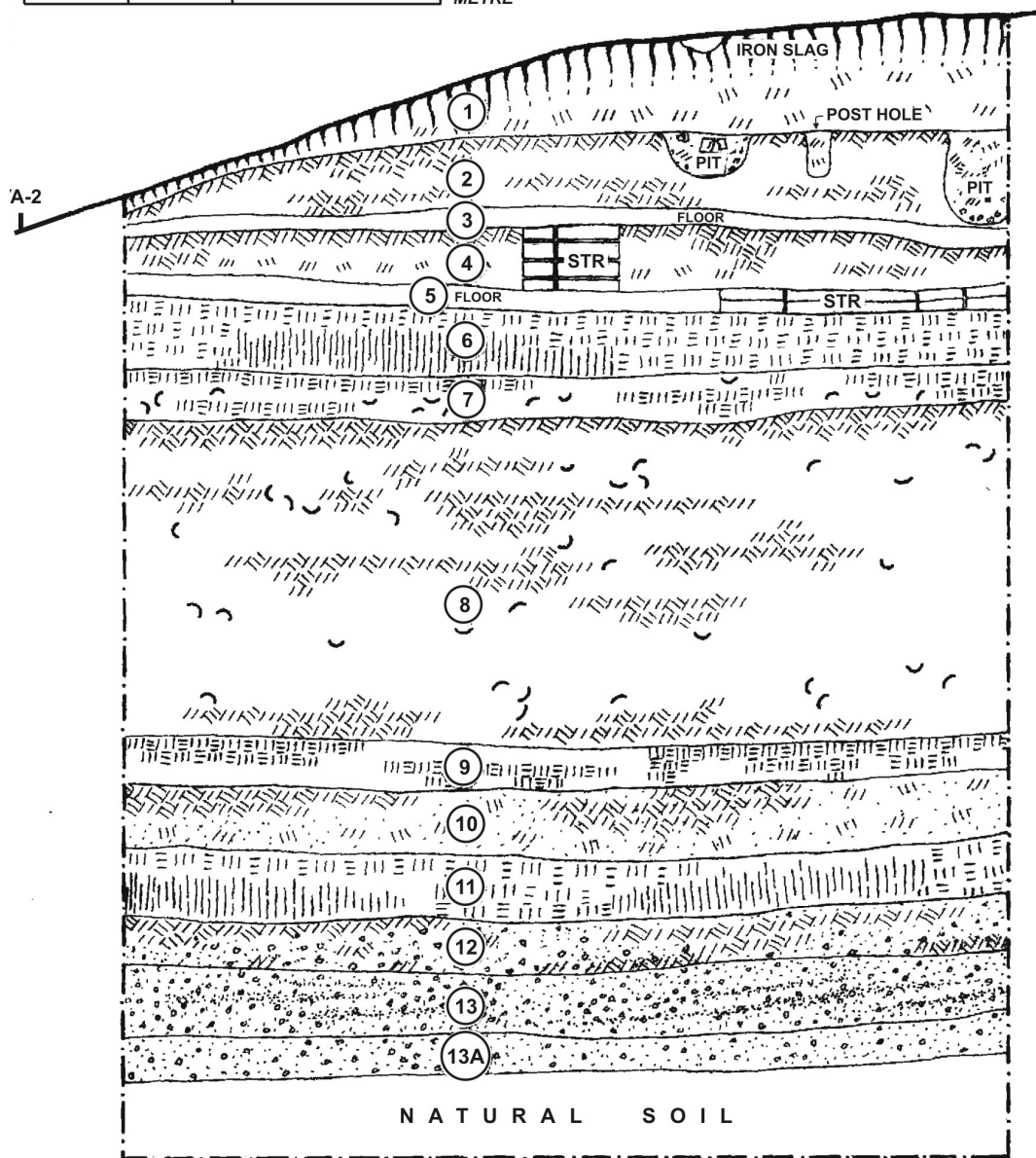
Layers 1 to 4: Represent Kushan period. Red ware basins, bowls, vase, dull red ware jar, fragment of spout, Terracotta figurines, basins, bowls, vase, sprinklers, Terracotta bead, stone pestle, ink-pot type small vase, spout were recovered. A coin at the depth of 142 cm, another coin at the depth of 176 cm. were also discovered. The total depth of Kushan period was upto 183 cm. Traces of some brick structure was also noticed in layer 4.

Layers 5 to 7: Represent Painted Grey Ware culture. At layer 5 there was grey ware upto 220 cm. and later, PGW increased in good number from 232 cm. onwards. Associated ware of PGW along with Ghat shaped beads were found between 239 to 255 cm. A floor was also noticed at the level between 200 to 213 cm.

Layer 8: Represent Late Harappan period and the thickness of this layer was 58 cm. ranging from 263 to 321 cm. The very important find from this layer was a skeleton of this period. It is an extended burial. The body was buried almost in north-south orientation; three pots were placed behind the head as burial goods out of these one is a small bowl, while other two are small globular vases of two different sizes.

Layer 9 to 14: All layers were sterile and natural soil was touched in the layer 14 at 6.12m. No useful material was noticed.

BHG , TRENCH YA-2, Qdt.-1



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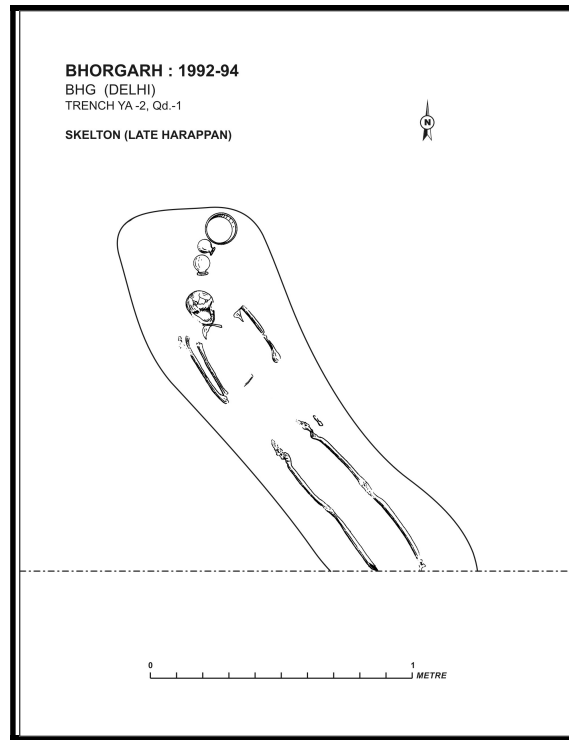
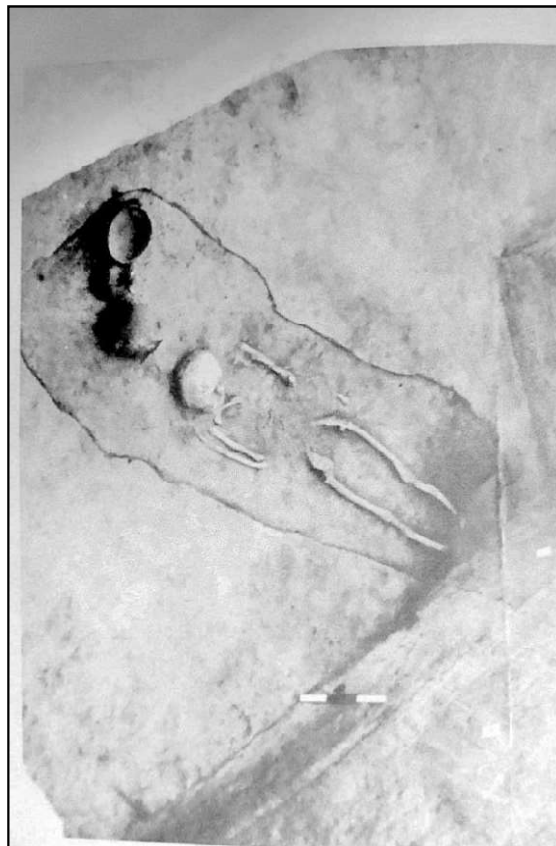


FIG.- 4 & PLATE-I: LATE HARAPPAN BURIAL DISCOVERED AT THE DEPTH OF 321 CM



The skeleton has a long stature with a calculated length of 176 cm. Both hands were folded from elbow and seem to be placed besides the shoulder, skull is slightly damaged and the face is turned towards the west, eyes orbits and lower jaws are intact. Extremities of the long bones are missing; pelvic girdle was in a much damaged condition.

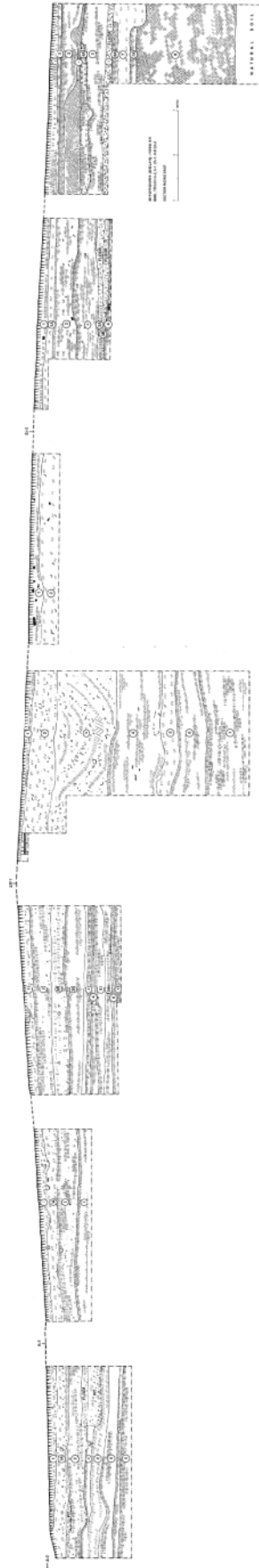
TRENCHES A-2, A-1, ZA-1 AND ZA-2

Trench A-2: Total layers in this trench are 6 and there are two floors one at layer 6 and the other at layer 3 cut by a pit.

Trench A-1: Maximum layers in this trench are 7 and a post hole appeared at layer 4.

Trench ZA-1: Though there are maximum 6 layers in this trench nothing specific occurred worth mentioning.

Trench ZA-2: There are total 8 layers followed by natural soil in this trench. A floor was noticed at layer 6. The same floor continued in the other quadrant of the same trench at 3A and 3B.



CHAPTER - IV

CULTURAL SEQUENCE AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT PERIODS

SETTLEMENT PATTERN:

PERIOD-I : Bhorgarh yielded Late Harappan settlement at the lowest level, fragments of pottery of various shapes and sizes were recovered from this level included vases with an outturned rim, elongated neck, bowl with incurved and featureless rim, pottery were all made on fast wheel with striation marks, made up of well lavigated clay of fine sturdy fabric, kiln fired and occasionally coated with dull red slip. The excavation shows that the earliest occupants at Bhorgarh were Late Harappan people. Material found in the excavation did not reveal any habitation remains but the discovery of the burials and pottery of Late Harappan suggest that the habitation remains must have been within the periphery of the mound, which might have either been damaged by the cultivators or it might be still underneath on which agricultural fields have come up. Though in the lower level, a floor and two damaged post holes have been observed in Quadrant-I of square YA2 but nothing definitely could be proved about the habitation pattern, as these have been noticed in the same trench where burials have been found.

The site is important due to the discovery of two parallel extended burials. In Quadrant-I of square YA2 in layer 8, late Harappan period burial was very important because it was found with burial goods. The other burial in different trench was plain without any burials goods. The burials were almost in North-South orientation dug out in the alluvium soil of river Yamuna and later on filled in by the same earth as such it was found difficult to trace out the pit line. Here, the author would like to record with gratitude the generous help received from Late Shri J.P. Joshi, former Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and Late Shri A.K. Sharma, retired Superintending Archaeologist, who have exposed these graves at my personal request.

Grave No.1: It is an extended burial. The body was buried almost in North-South orientation; three pots were placed behind the head as burial goods out of these one is a small bowl, while other two are small globular vases of two different sizes. A deep pit was dug to bury the dead body with in the yellowish alluvium of river Yamuna which once flowed very close to the mounds.

The skeleton has a long stature with a calculated length of 176 cm. Both hands were folded from elbow and seem to be placed beside the shoulder, skull is slightly damaged and the face is turned towards the West, eyes orbits and lower jaws are intact. Extremities of the long bones are missing; pelvic girdle was in a much damaged condition. **(PLATE-I)**

Grave No.2: It is also as extended burial with almost North-South orientation and is almost parallel to Grave No.1. The left hand of skeleton was kept straight and parallel to vertebral column. This grave did not contain any burial goods. The skeleton was in a very fragile condition.

PERIOD-II: Late Harappan period at Bhorgarh was succeeded by Painted Grey Ware culture. The average thickness of PGW layer was found to be 45 cm. This appears to be very thick deposit and yielded a large number of PGW pot remains. No structural vestiges of house complexes have been found. However, in a couple of trenches rammed earth floor and post holes in circular and arch shaped pattern were found which suggest that the people in this period lived in wattle and doab structures.

Occurrence of PGW pottery in abundance at this site proves that this culture dominated Bhorgarh settlement once upon a time. The post-holes identified in one of the trenches suggest that people used to live in circular huts supported by wooden posts **(PLATE-IV)**. In another trench, a hearth made of lump of clay was exposed.

Among pottery, important shapes are straight-sided bowls with flat base, deep bowls with sager base. Basins and vases of associated red ware fabric have also been noticed. PGW shreds were painted with black pigment either on inner or outer surface or sometimes on both sides. All designs were painted with free hand. Circles, concentric circles, semicircles, flowers with three or nine petals, dotted designs, dots inside two parallel lines, strokes, wavy lines, intersecting loops, balloon design, hook design are only some of the common designs that decorated the earthenware. Most of the designs are similar to those designs found on the pottery of this period from Hastinapur, Ahichchatra and Attiranjhi Kheda.

Beads made of carnelian, clay beads of ghat-shape, terracotta animal figurines, hop-scotches and fragments of iron implements are some of the other important antiquities of this period.

PERIOD-III: The site was re-inhabited during the Kushan period. Structural activity was noticed in two phases. The first one is the usage of mud bricks and two occupational layers as evidenced by mud floors. The second phase of activity is witnessed by burnt brick structure (PLATE-III).

STR-1: This seems to be part of a house complex. Western part of the structure was destroyed and leveled by the farmers for cultivation purpose. There are seven courses of bricks.

STR-2: Three courses of bricks of the same size as used in STR-1 forming into a wall seem to be part of a house complex. Against this wall, a mud floor has been noticed. The floor was rammed with small pot shreds, stone nodules, etc. However, at a later stage, huge pits were dug out for dumping garbage.

In one of the trenches, an oven of this period was beautifully exposed. Terracotta animal figures, one female figure probably of Mother-Goddess(?), copper coins, terracotta beads, iron implements and terracotta sealing with the legend '**SU PA KA SA**' in early Brahmi script datable to circa 2nd Cent. CE were some of the important antiquities discovered at the site.

A variety of pottery was collected from the deposits of this period. The main shapes include typical incurved bowls, dishes, basins, sprinklers, handis, lids with knobs, lamps and different sizes of vases. Pots were decorated sometime with black pigment. Geometrical designs were also noticed of which Sun motif is quite important.

PERIOD-IV: The main concentration of the medieval period is noticed on the eastern side of the mound. Unfortunately, the entire portion was destroyed by the farmers. Hence, considerable evidence of that period could not be gathered. A small wall made of lakhori bricks in four courses has been exposed. Many lakhori brick structures erected during this period may be noticed within 2 km area which includes a huge tank constructed at Narela dating back to the Mughal period. Sherds of porcelain and celadon ware have been collected along with Hukka Chelam made of red ware from this level at Bhorgarh.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE:

Discovery of Late Harappan pottery from the stratified layers is significant. It may be noticed that the Late Harappan element was first discovered at Mandoli, another important site of this period when the excavations were carried out at that place during 1987-88 and 1988-89. At both these places the Late Harappan Culture represents a transformed stage which can be easily identified as per the availability of the material but the continuity with the mature phase of Harappa was broken. No doubt, the Late Harappa culture appears to be the outcome of the normal process of cultural transformation in the Harappa culture and the internal interactions of the society due to economic decline, it has witnessed a general decline in the civic standards of the mature Harappa like planned houses which were replaced by inferior structures.

Occurrence of Painted Grey Ware from the stratified layer is again important. At Mandoli also PGW had occurred from the stratified layers for the first time. Pottery types of PGW found at this place as well as at Bhorgarh have also been reported earlier from Hastinapur, Mathura, Atranji Khera and Kausambi. On the basis of similarities of the ceramics of other sites the PGW culture at Bhorgarh may be assigned to a time bracket of 1100 and 600 B.C.

Similarly, the material such as pottery and antiquities were also of inferior quality. Different pottery types and other cultural traits unconnected with each other emerged in an individual pattern. In western UP, a large number of sites were emerged along the banks of river Yamuna and its tributaries. Hence this site can't be seen in isolation but one of the settlements in Ganga-Yamuna doab. Hence, Late Harappan culture at this site may be tentatively assigned to 1500-1200 B.C

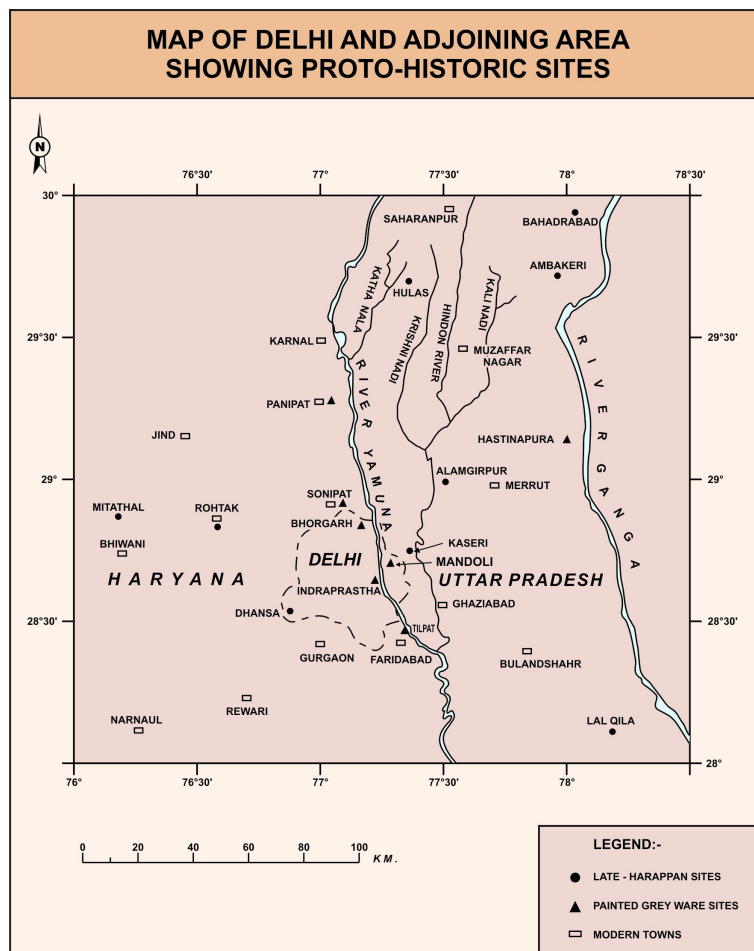


Fig. 6 : Proto-historic sites near Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

CHAPTER - V

CHRONOLOGY

The earliest cultural deposit at the lowest level was found in a disturbed state lying above the natural soil is associated with Red ware coated with dull red slip pottery belongs to Late Harappan. No sign of regular habitation such as marks of burnt organic material could be observed, because the excavations were carried out in a limited area of the mound which was partly intact at the time of excavations. The cemetery site and the other material found at the lowest level suggests that once a regular habitation existed within the periphery of the site.

The general characteristics of pot shreds found at the lowest level at Bhorgarh are almost the same as those unearthed at other Late Harappan sites. Almost complete earthen pots have been found from this period. Discovery of two parallel extended burials of this period at the site is very important. It is interesting to note that burial goods were found near one of the skeletons. The date of this late Harappan period at Bhorgarh may tentatively be fixed somewhere between 1500 to 1200 BC on the basis of material remains of similar period found at late Harappan sites around Delhi and elsewhere. It is pertinent to note that the pottery of Late Harappan was found at least half-a-meter below the depth of Painted Grey Ware culture at Bhorgarh.

Painted Grey Ware people succeeded the Late Harappans at Bhorgarh. It had a dominating phase here. Bowls, dishes with straight or convex sides and having designs like dots, dashes, loops, concentric circles, wavy lines, strokes etc. have been found painted usually with black pigment were found in abundance. The pottery was wheel thrown and well lavigated, thin to medium section. PGW was a matured phase here as in the case of other important PGW sites like Hastinapur, Mathura, Kausambi, Ahichchattrra etc. and may be assigned to the same period.

The site was rehabilitated again during Kushan period. The structural activity in this phase has been divided in too two phases on the basis of the excavated remains. The first phase contained structures made of mud bricks and in second phase two structures of burnt bricks, belonging to two house complexes were found. A large quantity of antiquities were found from the Kushan level that included terracotta sealing, terracotta beads of different shapes mostly ghat-shape beads, terracotta human figurines, terracotta animal figurines, terracotta disc & copper coins, terracotta sling-balls, iron implements are among the most important antiquities. The date of Kushan period may tentatively be fixed some were around 2nd and 3rd century A.D. on the basis of similar structures, pottery and antiquities found at other sites of Kushan period. However, there is a long gap in the settlement at the site after the Kushan period. No evidence was traced after the Kushan period till the settlement of medieval period.

The next cultural assemblage at the site appears to be the medieval period which may be fixed tentatively at about sixteenth-seventeenth centuries A.D. on the basis of its ceramics like porcelain and celadon ware, and other cultural equipment found at this place like Hukka Chilam and one incised bowl of Red ware were found from this period which suggests their association with Mughal period.

Chronologically, the following are various periods as revealed from the BHORGARH archaeological excavation.

Period-I : LATE HARAPPAN

Period-II : PAINTED GREY WARE

Period-III : KUSHAN

Period-IV : MEDIEVAL

BHORGARH SITE PHOTOS



PLATE- II : BHORGARH MOUND SHOWING EXCAVATED TRENCHES

CHAPTER - VI

STRUCTURES

Period I (LATE HARAPPAN): The earliest occupants at Bhorgarh were Late Harappan people. Though there is no direct evidence of any habitation remains at the site but the discovery of the burials and pottery of Late Harappan suggest that the habitation remains must have been within the periphery of the mound, which might have either been damaged by the cultivators or it might be still underneath on which agricultural fields have come up. As already pointed out earlier that a floor and two damaged post holes were observed in Quadrant-I of square YA2 but nothing definitely could be proved about the habitation pattern, as these have been noticed in the same trench where burials were found.



**PLATE –III : LATE HARAPPAN PERIOD-I
LATE HARAPPAN BURIAL BEFORE EXPOSING**



**PLATE –IV : LATE HARAPPAN PERIOD-I
LATE HARAPPAN BURIAL AFTER EXPOSING**

Period II (PAINTED GREY WARE): Occurrence of PGW pottery in abundance at this site proves that this culture dominated Bhorgarh settlement once upon a time. The post-holes identified in one of the trenches suggest that people used to live in circular huts supported by wooden posts (**Plate-V**). In another trench, a hearth made of lump of clay was exposed.



PLATE -V : PAINTED GREY WARE PERIOD (PERIOD-II)- Post-holes of a hut

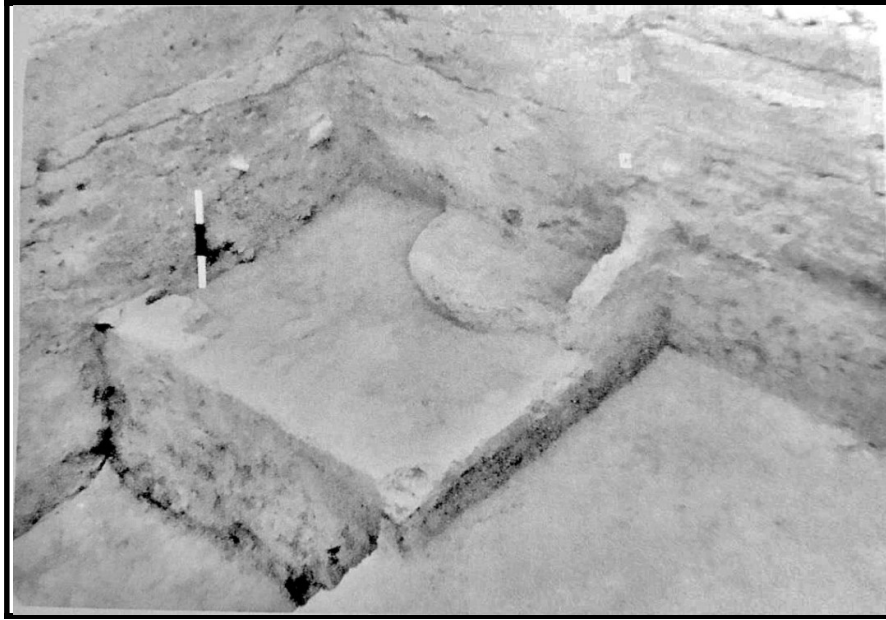


PLATE -VI : PAINTED GREY WARE PERIOD (PERIOD-II)- Hearth

Period III (KUSHAN): There were two phases of structural activity at the site. In the first phase there was usage of mud bricks along with two occupational layers as evidenced by mud floors (**PLATE-VIII**). The second phase of activity was witnessed by burnt brick structure.

STR-1: This seems to be part of a house complex. Western part of the structure was destroyed and leveled by the farmers for cultivation purpose. There are seven courses of bricks (**PLATE-VII**).

STR-2: Three courses of bricks of the same size as used in STR-1 forming into a wall seems to be part of a house complex (**PLATE- IX**). Against this wall, a mud floor was noticed. The floor was rammed with small pot sherds, stone nodules, etc. However, at a later stage, huge pits were dug out for dumping garbage.

Period IV (MEDIEVAL) : The main concentration of the medieval period is noticed on the eastern side of the mound. Unfortunately, the entire portion was destroyed by the farmers. Hence, considerable evidence of that period could not be gathered. A small wall made of lakhori bricks in four courses was exposed.

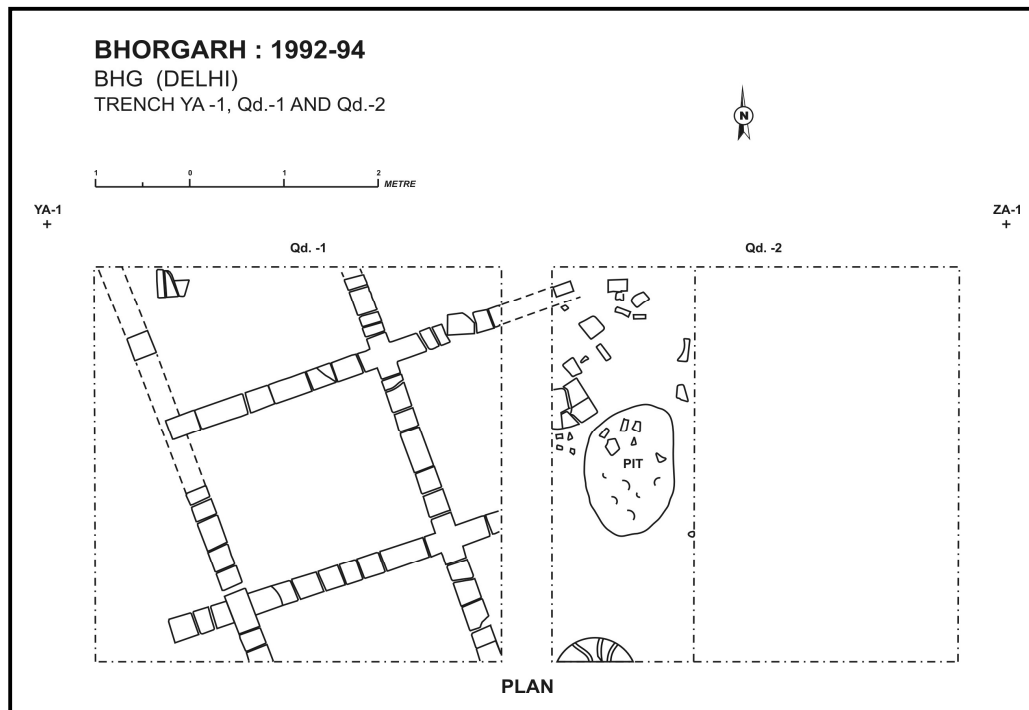


FIG.- 7: PLAN OF BRICK STRUCTURE IN TRENCH YA-1, QDT. 1 & QDT. 2



PLATE –VII : KUSHAN PERIOD (PERIOD-III)

BHORGARH (DELHI) : 1992-94
 BHG. TRENCH YA-1

STRUCTURAL ELEVATION OF A ROOM

0 1 METRE

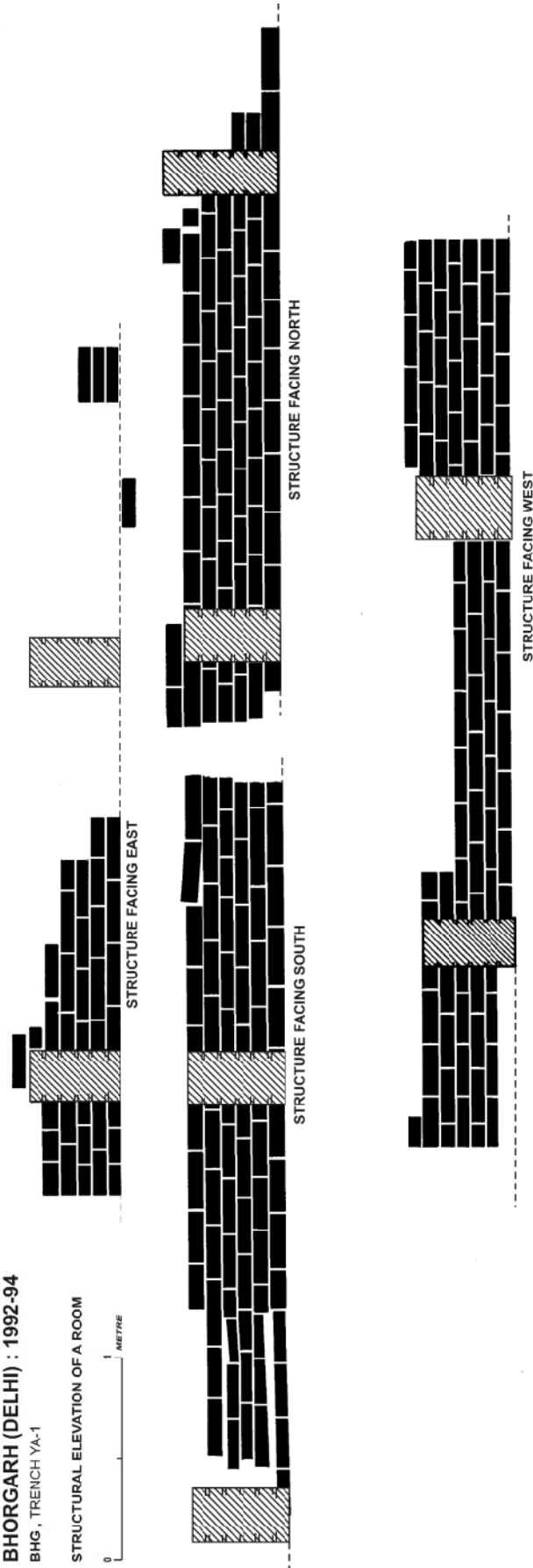


FIG.-10: STRUCTURAL ELEVATION OF A ROOM OF KUSHAN



PLATE –VIII : KUSHAN PERIOD (PERIOD-III) - MUD BRICKS STRUCTURE



PLATE –IX : KUSHAN PERIOD (PERIOD-III)- BURNT BRICK STRUCTURE



PLATE -X : KUSHAN PERIOD (PERIOD-III) - HEARTH



PLATE -XI : KUSHAN PERIOD (PERIOD-III) - Terracotta Beads

CHAPTER - VII

POTTERY

Pottery form the largest bulk available from the excavation. Their range of fabric, technology and typology is quite immense. Pottery formed one of the essential components of the day-to-day life in ancient days as it was a necessity of daily usage. As pottery was cheap and commonly available, it was the most important domestic equipment for the common man. The pottery yielded at Bhorgarh is divided into four main phases namely: Late Harappan, Painted Grey Ware, Kushan and Medieval period. The ceramics unearthed from different levels at this site are as follows:

1. Red Ware
2. Painted Grey Ware
3. Grey Ware
4. Black and Red Ware

Red Ware: The earliest level has yielded Late Harappan pottery of Red Ware coated with red slip. Though this pottery represents transformed stage of the Harappan culture showing some sort of cultural continuity with the mature Harappa, the general homogeneity of the Harappa that had persisted throughout its mature phase was broken. It is clear that some of the Harappan elements did not entirely die and different pottery types and other cultural traits emerged here and there. Bhorgarh has yielded pottery included jars with splayed out rim and vases with disc base etc. The pottery is made out of well lavigated clay. Red ware pottery was also associated with PGW and early historic period as well.

Painted Grey Ware: Painted Grey ware is the main ceramic of the period II at Bhorgarh. Made of fine grained and well lavigated clay, the ware is grey in colour having been fired under reducing conditions in kiln. The pots are often painted in black pigments with designs which include dots and dashes, vertical oblique and

cris-cross lines, concentric circles and semi circles, a chain of short spirals, and sigma etc. The colour of the pottery ranges from ashy to dark grey. Common forms are bowls and dishes with straight or convex sides. In some cases, reddish brown colour with group of black wavy lines both internally and externally and a desk ashy well baked sherds of a bowl of fine fabric with dull red coloured thick horizontal rim band were note worthy. The painted grey ware co-existed with grey ware and red ware in this period at Mandoli.

Black Slipped Ware: Featureless rim, incurved shallow dish with flat base, coated by black slipped on both the surfaces, section is thin and well fired were also found from Bhorgarh.

Grey ware: There are different shades in this ware like dark, dull grey and black grey. The shapes in this ware are dish, bowl, vase, jar and basin. Grey ware was also found during the medieval period.

Black and Red Ware: This type of pottery is prepared by inverted firing technique, while exposing the outer portion to air thus producing the basic characteristic feature of Black and Red Ware.

Various types of pottery belonging to different periods as mentioned above are dealt with by a detailed study here under.

LATE HARAPPAN
PERIOD-I

Fig. -11

1. Vase of red ware with an out-turned and featureless rim, concave neck, Globular body, slightly conical base, of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip, clay shows with mica.
2. Vase of red ware with an out-turned and featureless rim, concave neck, globular body, round base devoid of any wash and slip, of medium fabric, clay shows with mica.
3. Miniature vase of dull red ware with an out-turned with a drooping rim, concave neck, bulging at the shoulder part, rounded base of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip.
4. Vase of red ware with an out-turned rim, concave neck, globular body, rounded base of medium fabric.
5. Vase of red ware with almost vertical and flattened top, slightly horizontal with featureless rim, rounded side and flat base, of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip.
6. Vase of red ware with flaring featureless rim with a groove internally, prominently out-curved neck, rounded body and short flat base, of medium fabric, treated with slip.
7. Miniature vase of red ware with an out-turned slightly thickened rim, concave neck, rounded body, of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip.
8. Vase of red ware with an out-turned featureless rim, concave neck, rounded body, of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip.
9. Bowl of dull red ware with a slightly vertical featureless rim rounded base, thickened at the bottom, of medium fabric, treated with slip.
10. Bowl of dull red ware with an everted and externally bevelled rim and convex side, round base, of medium fabric, devoid of any wash and slip.

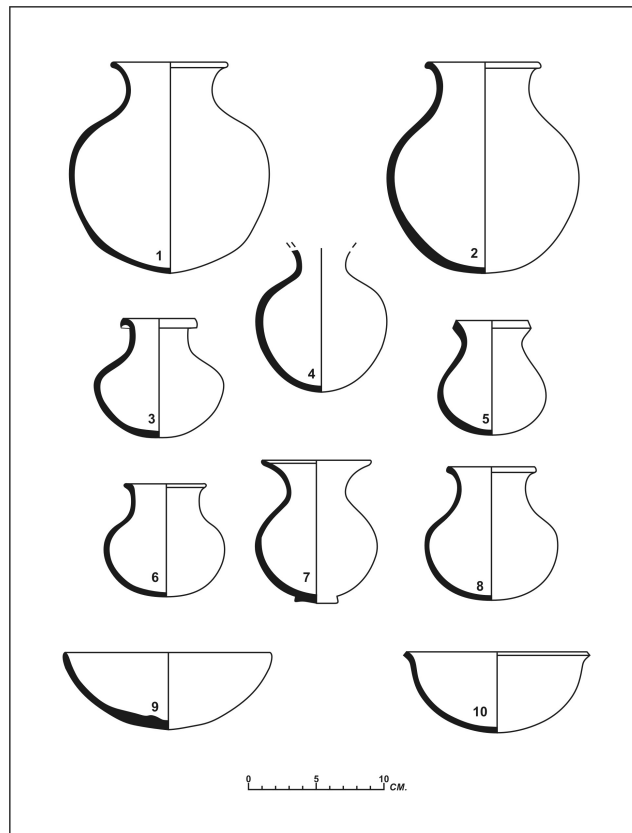


FIG. -11 & PLATE - XII : 1-8 VASES, 9&10 BOWLS

PAINTED GREY WARE

PERIOD-II

Fig. -12

1. Miniature bowl of grey ware with a vertical sharpened rim and round base. It is painted in black externally with a horizontal rim band and one vertical stroke where as internally two curved strokes start from rim and gradually thickened at the lower end.
2. Deep bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim and straight side carinated to convex base. It is painted in black having a horizontal rim band on both sides externally depicted with three groups of two concentric circles one above the other with rows of dots on either side of the circle. Two vertical wavy lines starting from the rim band are shown internally.
3. Bowl of grey ware with an everted internally sharpened rim and straight sides. Painted in black externally with a rim band and four concentric circles where as on inner side there is a rim band and two parallel lines starting from the rim.
4. Bowl of grey ware with an averted internally sharpened rim and slightly incurved sides with a thin rim band both sides. On outer side, the third hook is missing but traces are still available. A dot is shown on inner side.
5. Bowl of grey ware with a vertically internally sharpened rim and straight sides. Painted in black on both sides. Externally has a design consisting of one loop enclosing one row of dots and two thick horizontal strokes below the rim band whereas a horizontal rim band with a thick vertical stroke is seen on inner side starting from the rim band.
6. Miniature 'HANDI' of grey ware having featureless out-turned rim with convex body and a sharp carination in the lower part convex base, painted internally having all along the body slightly oblique strokes thickened on the top and externally a sharp ingestion near carination all along the body.
7. Deep bowl of grey ware with a vertical averted internally sharpened rim and straight side and saggar base. Painted externally with black having two groups of two rows of dots in a horizontal manner enclosed by two parallel lines starting from a circle and one group of dots without parallel lines.
8. Deep bowl of grey ware with an internally sharpened rim with slightly tapering sides and carinated to a saggar base. Internally two vertical strokes are painted in black where as depicted externally a set of three balloon shaped loops join at a common point. Each loop has two rows of dots.
9. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical sharpened rim slightly out-curved bulging at the lower portion. It has a horizontal band at the rim portion on both side with four rows of dots in a vertical fashion on outer side and six rows of dots along with thick horizontal rim band at the inner side in a slanting manner.
10. Bowl of grey ware with featureless rim and straight sided painted in black having a horizontal rim band on both sides while outside two hooks join in opposite direction bisecting by a horizontal band at the lower portion.

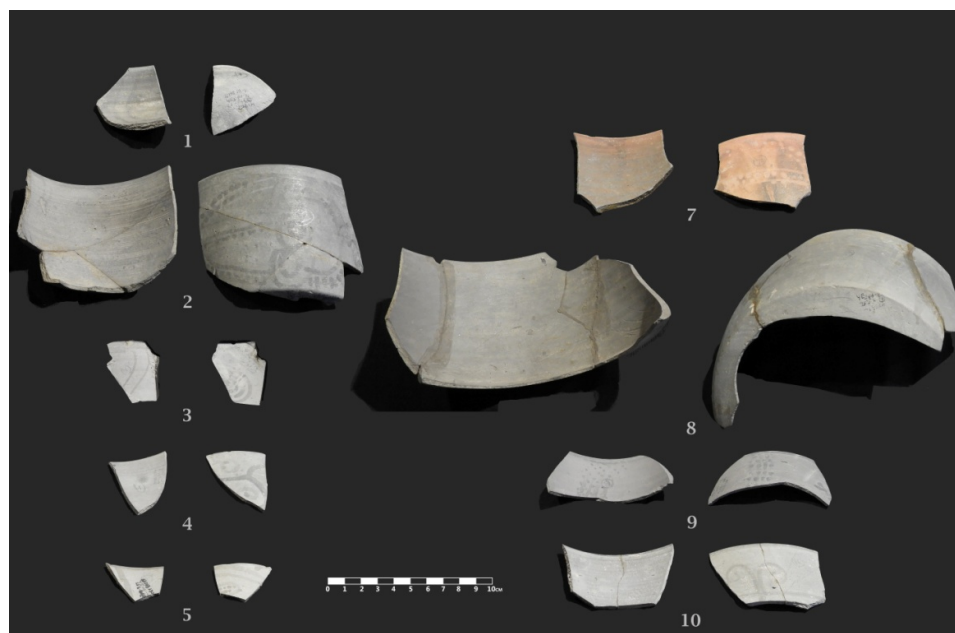
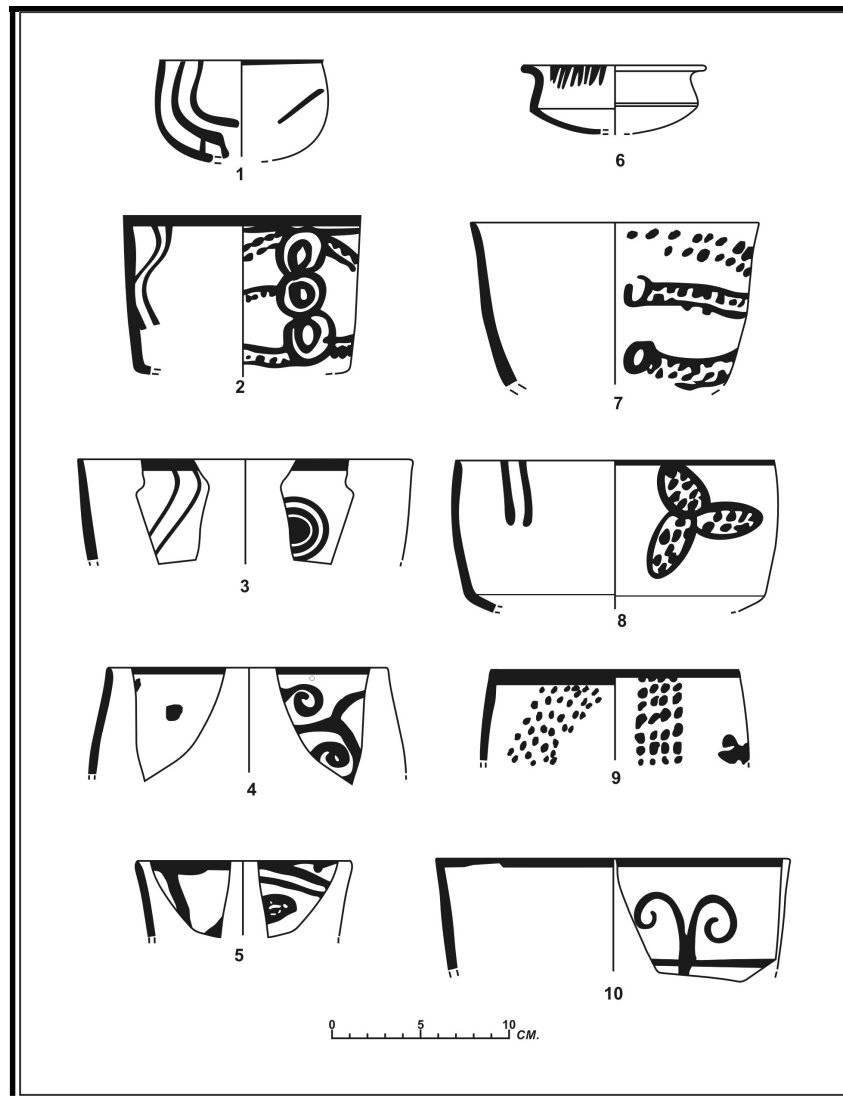


Fig.-12 & PLATE- XIII : BOWLS OF PAINTED GREY WARE

PAINTED GREY WARE - DISHES

PERIOD-II

Fig. -13

1. Dish of grey ware with a roughly vertical featureless rim. It is painted in black internally having a series of dots.
2. Dish of grey ware with vertical and internally sharpened rim, incurved side having horizontal rim band on both sides. Four vertical strokes start probably from rim band followed by a row of dots on the inner side.
3. Dish of grey ware with a roughly vertical featureless rim and saggar base. It is painted in black internally having five curved strokes followed by a row of two dots below each stroke.
4. Dish of grey ware with a sharply inturned featureless rim painted in black internally having a rim band and part of loop as well as two vertical rows of dots and externally two strokes starting from the rim band.
5. Dish of grey ware having slightly inturned featureless rim carinated and saggar base painted with black both externally and internally, on the inner side two loops overlapping each other filled with three row of dots while on outer side a thin horizontal rim band and four uneven horizontal strokes.
6. Dish of grey ware with an inturned featureless rim and sides carinated to a saggar base. It is painted in black on both sides having horizontal rim band. Externally depicted with oblique strokes where as internally two sets of intersecting loops with vertical rows of dots and another set of loops slightly away.
7. Dish of grey ware with an inturned featureless rim and sides carinated to a saggar base painted internally with black having six slightly oblique vertical strokes thickened at the bottom and two groups of dots one in a slightly horizontal manner and the other in a vertical man

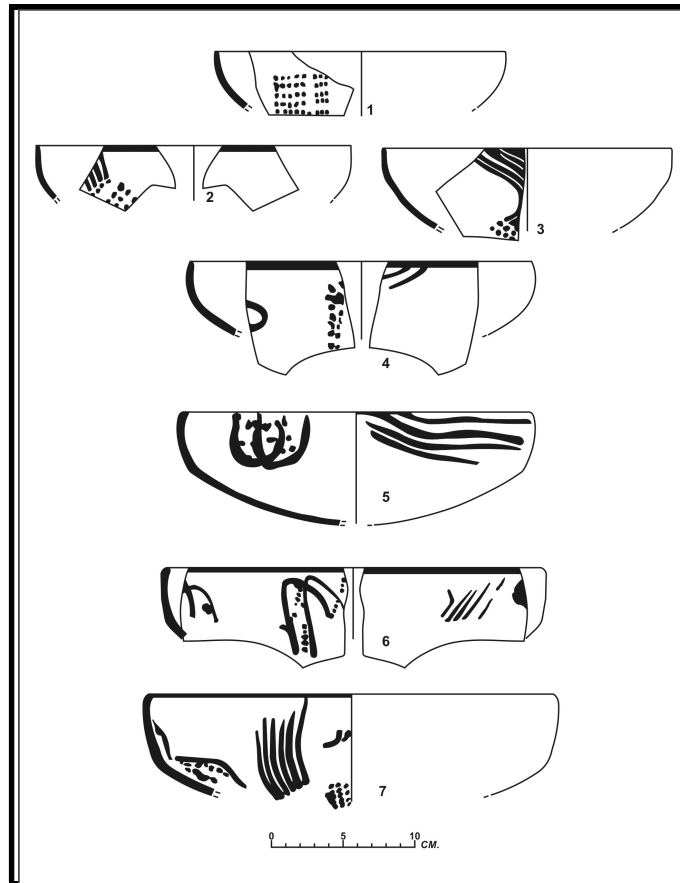


FIG. – 13 & PLATE- XIV : DISH OF PAINTED GREY WARE

PAINTED GREY WARE – BOWLS & DISH

PERIOD-II

Fig. -14

1. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical sharpened rim and flattish base having corrugated profile. It is painted on both sides in black pigment, on the outer side with intersecting two line looking like cross decorated with dots, whereas on inner side only with three group of diametrical strokes.
2. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim and slightly convex sides weakly carinated to flattish base, it is painted in black on inside with two vertical lines starting from the rim on the outer side with a set of three balloon shaped loop join at a common point, each loop has a group of dots and added with an additional loop without dots.
3. Bowl of grey ware with roughly straight side internally sharpened rim, convex base. It is painted in black with rim band and one stroke. Design consisting of two hooks joined with one loop on the inner side and with eight hooks raising from a circle on the outer side forming a flower design.
4. Deep bowl of grey ware with a slightly inturned, externally clubbed rim of grey fabric, painted in black on both sides in form of thick band gradually thinning down externally, where as internally having thick band gradually thinning up in grooved profile.
5. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical featureless rim rounded side, and a flattish base. It is painted in black inside thick horizontal rim band above a group of five vertical parallel strokes over lying a group of dashes and on the outer side six oblique strokes below the rim band.
6. Dish of grey ware having slightly inturned featureless rim carination to the saggar base, painted with black on both sides, on the inner side two intersecting loop filled with three row, whereas externally four horizontal strokes on upper part of the body.
7. Deep bowl of Grey ware with an inturned rim and convex side, painted on both side in black pigment. On the inner side design formed by thick wave of which the outer border is of black colour and the inner part of the wave is decorated with dots which are extending outside the border of the wave where as externally depicted group of five oblique strokes, in grooved profile.
8. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim with slightly carination and a saggar base, it is painted on inside with an intersecting loop covering of the body from rim to rim superimposed by row of dots, on outer side with a rim band and oblique strokes gradually with thickened upper hand.
9. The bowl of grey ware with an incurved externally clubbed rim and convex side. A mild groove on the inner rim. It is painted in black pigment on both sides in a form of thick band with free hand brush stroke.

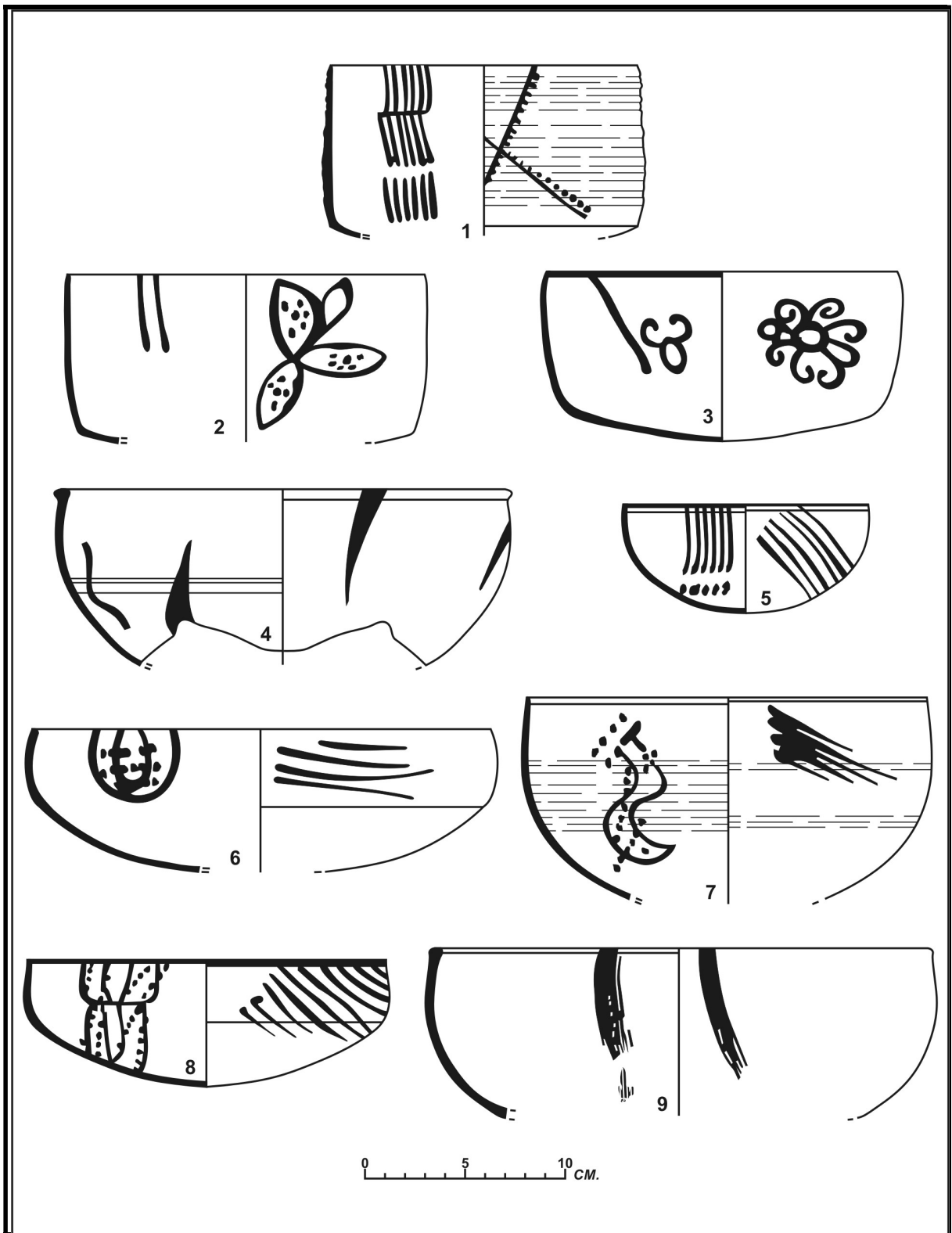


FIG.-14 : PAINTED GREY WARE BOWLS (1-5 & 7-9) & DISH (6)

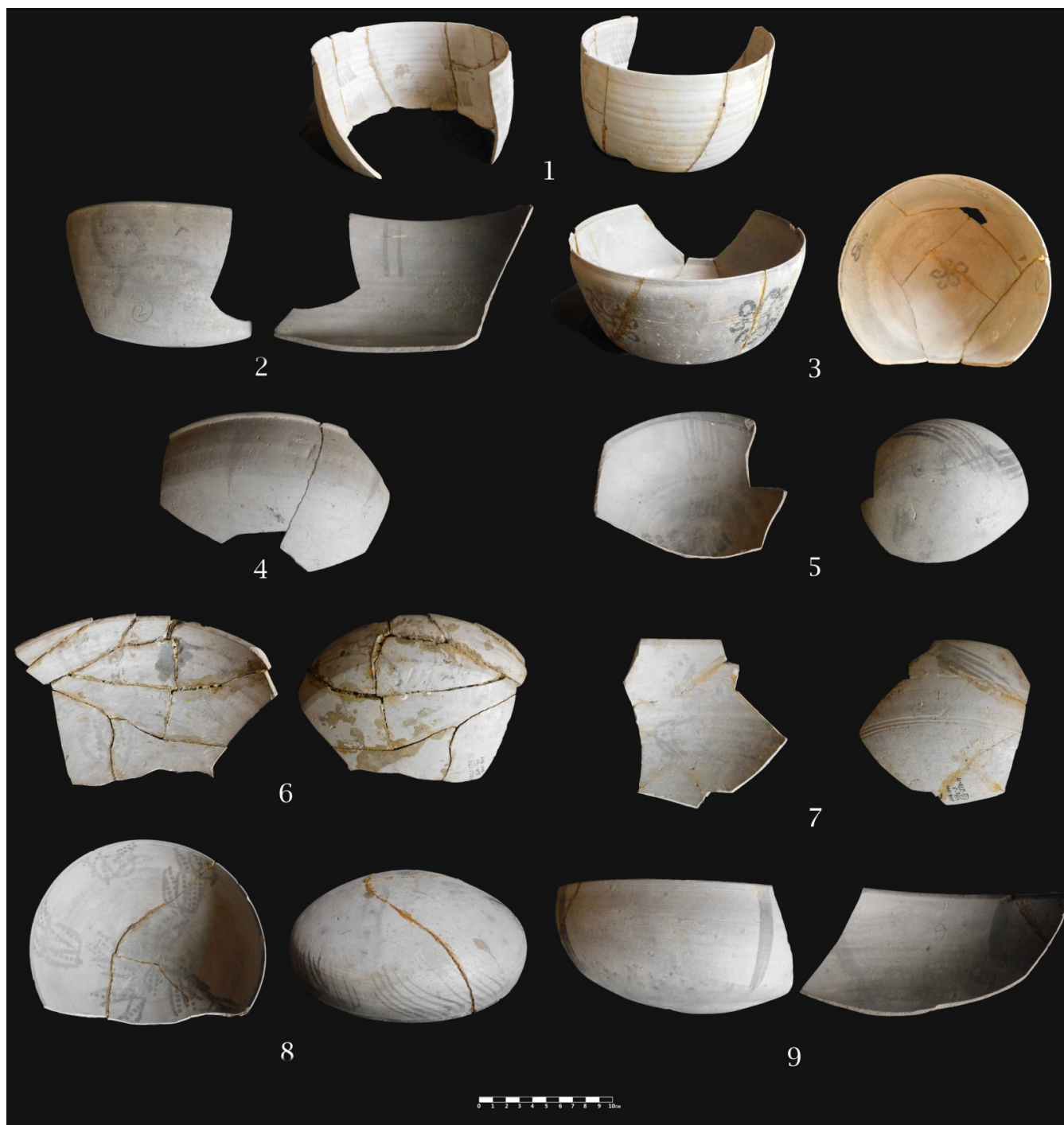


PLATE – XV : PAINTED GREY WARE BOWLS (1-5 & 7-9) & DISH (6)

PAINTED GREY WARE – BOWLS

PERIOD-II

Fig. -15

1. Bowl of grey ware with beveled rim painted in black internally with six vertical strokes and externally with six oblique strokes thickened at the bottom.
2. Bowl of grey ware having slightly out-turned featureless rim convex sides and saggar base painted both sides internally and externally. One loop starts from the horizontal rim band having a vertical stroke on inner side while on the outer part, three thin oblique strokes are depicted in a slanting manner from right to left.
3. Bowl of grey ware having slightly out-turned sharpened rim, convex side and saggar base. Painted on both sides internally having two parallel lines thickened at the bottom enclosing a few dots along with another group of six vertical strokes starting from the rim and externally a very thin rim band externally with five oblique strokes thick at the top gradually thinning down.
4. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim and convex sides. It is painted in black internally having a very thin rim band and five concentric circles where as externally there are five oblique strokes starting from the rim band.
5. Bowl of grey ware having slightly out-turned rim, convex side and saggar base painted on both sides. Internally painted in black with groups of disconnected oblique strokes some of them with curvature having dots along with one of the strokes while externally having two groups of oblique strokes thickened at the top and gradually thinning downwards.
6. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim and convex sides. It is painted in black internally having eight vertical strokes starting from rim.
7. Deep bowl of grey ware with a slightly inturned externally clubbed rim of grey fabric painted in black on both sides in forms of thick bands gradually thinning down externally, where as internally the thick band has uneven shape.
8. Bowl of grey ware with a vertical internally sharpened rim and straight side painted on both sides. Internally there is a thin rim band with two oblique thick strokes and externally also having two vertical thick strokes but without rim band.

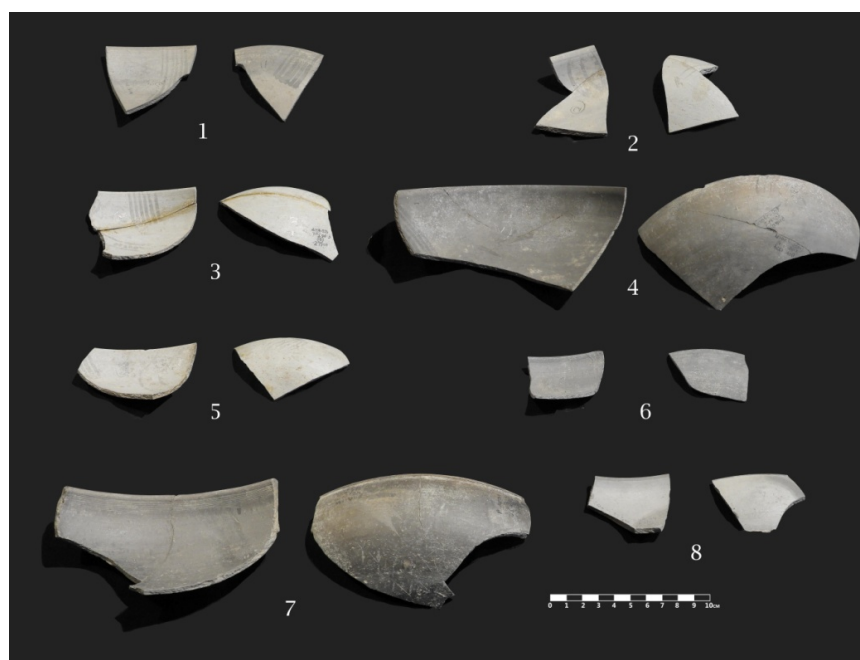
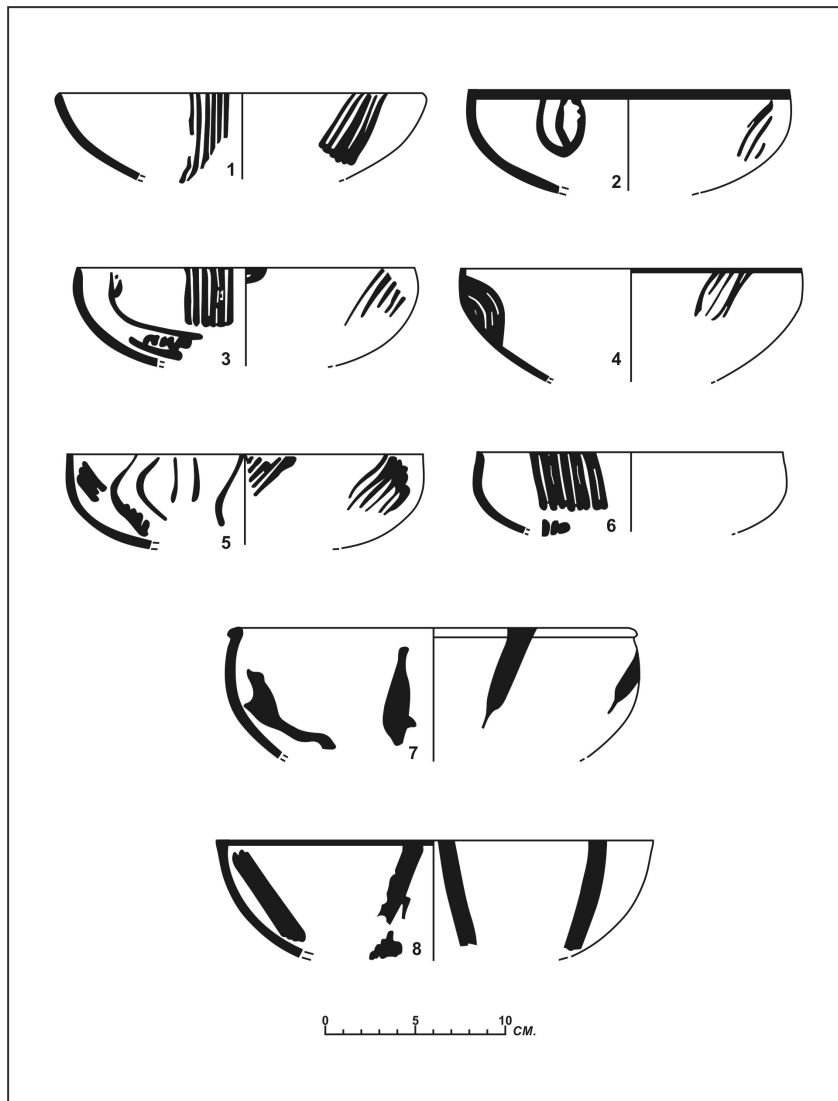


FIG.-15 & PLATE – XVI : PAINTED GREY WARE BOWLS

PAINTED GREY WARE – BOWLS & DISHES
PERIOD-II

Fig. -16

1. Deep bowl of grey ware with a slightly interned externally clubbed rim of distinctive grey fabric. Internally painted with four horizontal rows of dots superimposed by a kite design.
2. Bowl of grey ware with an incurved sharpened rim and incurved sides. Internally painted with two intersecting loops.
3. Bowl of grey ware with a vertically internally sharpened rim and convex side painted in black inside with a rim band and small horizontal strokes. On the outer side is shown with a small oblique stroke starting from the rim.
4. Dish of grey ware with a sharply inturned featureless rim and saggar base. It is painted with black internally having a rim band and four strokes starting from the rim. Externally the colours of fabric turned to radish grey.
5. Dish of grey ware with a roughly vertical featureless rim and saggar base painted in black internally a horizontal rim band and rows of dots at two places and externally with two groups of oblique strokes started from thin rim band.
6. Dish of grey ware with a vertical featureless rim and roughly straight sides weakly carinated towards the base. Painted on both sides. It has a thin rim band and six slightly oblique vertical strokes thin at the top and gradually thickened downwards, the first three strokes having a turn towards the right and on the external side a thick rim band with four oblique strokes thickened on the top and slightly thinning downwards.

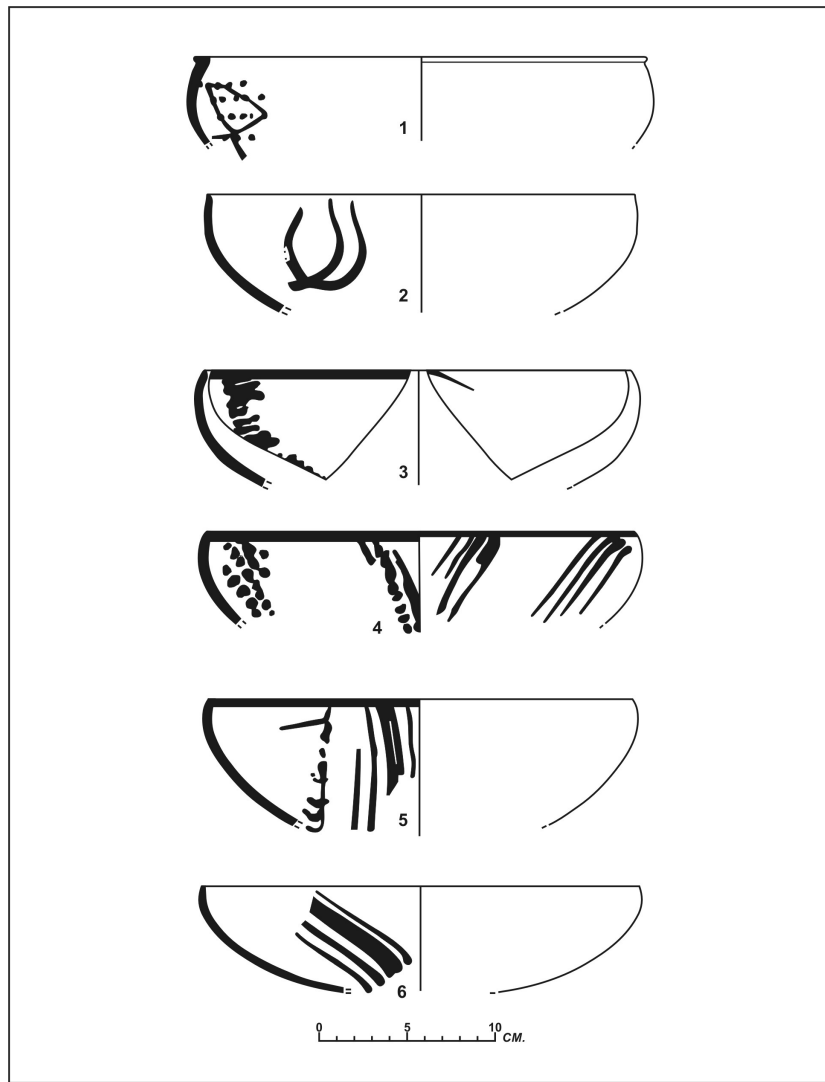


FIG.-16 & PLATE – XVII : PAINTED GREY WARE BOWLS (1-3) & DISHES (4-6)

PAINTED GREY WARE – DISHES

PERIOD-II

Fig. -17

1. Dish of grey ware with a slightly vertical, featureless rim painted in black internally with two intersecting loops enclosing row of dots one below the other and on outer side with five horizontal strokes below the rim.
2. Dish of grey ware with slightly incurved featureless rim painted in black on both sides with a horizontal rim band. Inside depicted with two balloon shaped loops joining at different points forming into a small circle. These loops contain rows of dots.
3. Dish of grey ware with an inturned featureless rim and carinated to a saggar base. Painted in black a horizontal rim band on both sides with two parallel lines joining at the top forming like a finger internally and seven oblique strokes on the exterior.
4. Dish of grey ware with a vertical and internally sharpened rim painted inside with a horizontal rim band and a design formed by a group of eight semi circle lines and a concentric circle superimposed by rows of dots while there is a horizontal rim band on outer side with five strokes in two sets parallel to each other in a slanting manner starting from right to left.
5. Dish of grey ware with a vertical featureless slightly inturned rim with convex side and saggar base and internally painted in black with thick oblique strokes.
6. Dish of grey ware with a roughly vertical featureless rim painted in black with a thin horizontal rim band on the exterior with three strokes thinning to the other end while two curved lines join at the bottom on the interior.
7. Dish of grey ware with a vertical featureless rim painted in black internally on the base portion five long strokes with a row of dots at the top. On outer side of the dish painted with oblique strokes on thick rim band and appears to be slightly brownish grey.

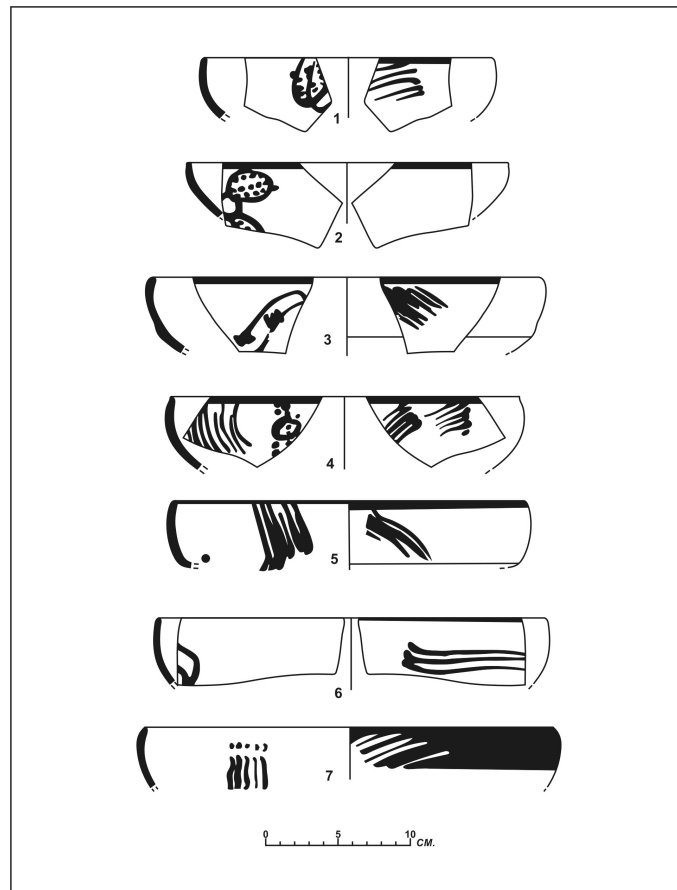


FIG.-17 & PLATE – XVIII : PAINTED GREY WARE BOWLS (1-7)

PAINTED GREY WARE – FRAGMENTS

PERIOD-II

Fig. -18

1. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted with black internally with two sigma sign.
2. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black having seven strokes with slight curvature.
3. Base fragment of dish of grey ware painted in black having thick black lines super imposed by white pigment dots.
4. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black externally with six oblique strokes slightly thickened at one end.
5. Bottom carrinated portion of the deep straight sided bowl painted in black externally having oblique strokes on either side.
6. Lower portion of a bowl of grey ware with convex sides and flat base, painted in black with a design consisting of honey-comb pattern on the inner base.
7. Base fragment of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally having two intersecting loops enclosing four rows of dots.
8. Fragment of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally having two curved parallel lines filled with two rows of dots.
9. Base fragment of grey ware painted in black with two groups of row of dots with one stroke.
10. Lower portion of the straight sided bowl painted in black showing four oblique strokes gradually thinning on the other end.
11. Base fragment of grey ware painted in black design consisting of a loop and a few strokes and dots.
12. Lower portion of fragment of grey ware design consisting of four oblique lines.
13. Fragment of grey ware painted in black with rope design within two lines.
14. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black having two parallel lines enclosing rows of dots.
15. Base part of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally having four parallel lines superimposed with small dots in white pigment.
16. Base fragment of dish of grey ware painted in black having a design of one loop formed by two lines enclosing row of dots at one corner and on the other side is shown two parallel horizontal lines enclosing few dots.

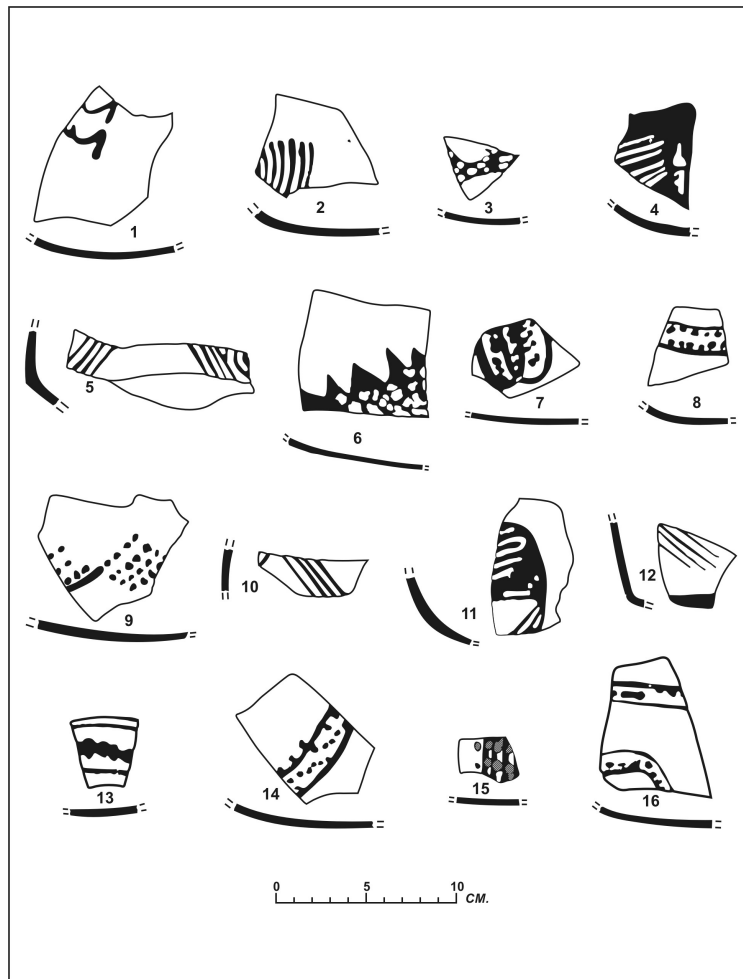


FIG.-18 & PLATE – XIX : PAINTED GREY WARE FRAGMENTS

PAINTED GREY WARE – FRAGMENTS

PERIOD-II

Fig. -19

1. Fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally with two loops joining together and further joined by a horizontal line superimposed by row of dots.
2. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black with a group of six strokes.
3. Fragment of a dish of gray ware painted in black internally with two loops joining together.
4. Fragment of a bowl of grey ware externally painted in black having two sets of curved lines facing opposite direction to each other and above them is shown a horizontal line.
5. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally with two small circles having distance in between and join each other with two rows of dots.
6. Base part of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally having three sets of strokes, each set having six strokes.
7. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted with black simple strokes slightly Thickened at the end.
8. Base fragment of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally having four concentric circles.
9. Bowl of grey ware painted in black internally with two intersecting loops filled with rows of dots and on the other side one horizontal line followed by two rows of dots.
10. Fragment of a bowl of gray ware painted in black internally with two parallel lines filled with three slanting row of dots.
11. Fragment of a straight side deep bowl of grey ware painted in black externally with two oblique lines in opposite direction followed by the row of dots.
12. Fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black having a design consisting of two sets of parallel lines enclosing row of dots, one in a horizontal manner and the other in a vertical manner.

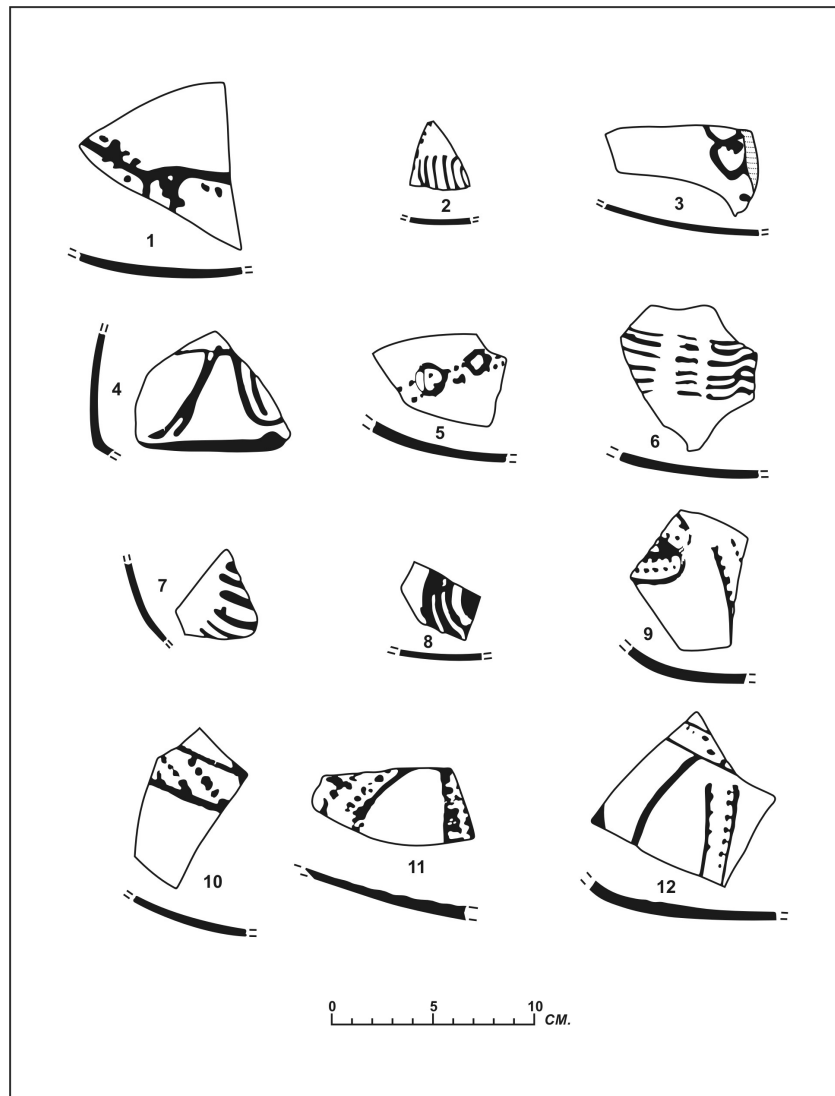


FIG.-19 & PLATE – XX : PAINTED GREY WARE FRAGMENTS

PAINTED GREY WARE – FRAGMENTS

PERIOD-II

Fig. -20

1. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted with black internally having concentric circles.
2. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally having two concentric circles with a dot in centre and vertical strokes radiating from the outer circle.
3. Base fragment of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally having three rows of dots from different angles join together at one place.
4. Fragment of grey ware painted in black on both side internally having two parallel rows of dots.
5. Fragment of grey ware painted on both sides design consisting with two parallel strokes internally while externally two parallel strokes filled with a row of dots.
6. Base fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally having three concentric circles.
7. Shred of grey ware painted in black with two rows of dots within two parallel lines.
8. Base part of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally showing a few horizontal strokes within two parallel vertical lines.
9. Base part of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally having four concentric circle, along with a horizontal stroke connecting a circle completely filled with black colour. Another concentric circle is shown at the bottom of the horizontal stroke.
10. Fragment of painted grey ware with oblique strokes and a few dots.

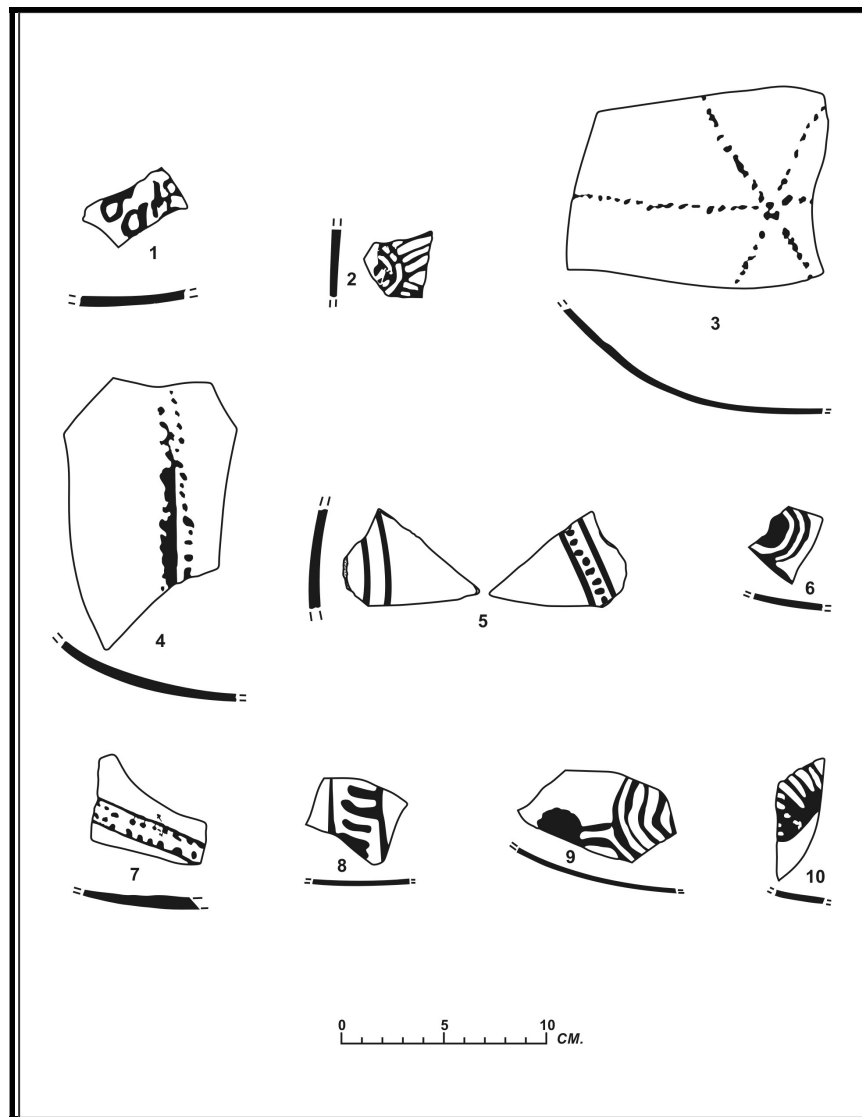


FIG.-20 & PLATE – XXI : PAINTED GREY WARE FRAGMENTS

PAINTED GREY WARE – FRAGMENTS

PERIOD-II

Fig. -21

1. Fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black having four waving lines decorated with dots.
2. Shred of grey ware painted in black with three curved strokes with a design consisting of honey-comb pattern on the inner base.
3. Base fragment of a deep straight sided bowl painted in black externally with two sets of six parallel strokes and internally one oblique line with row of dots on either side showing like a creeper joined with thick black spot.
4. Base fragment of grey ware design with two sets of oblique lines in opposite directions.
5. Fragment of a dish having a group of cursive hooks.
6. Base fragment of grey ware design consisting of two lines joining perpendicular in T shape with dots.
7. Fragment of grey ware painted in black with three strokes coming from a horizontal line.
8. Base fragment of dish of grey ware painted in black internally with loop design.
9. Base fragment of a bowl of grey ware painted in black internally with two lines joining together and forming into a single line filled with rows of dots.
10. Base fragment of a bowl of grey ware. The design consisting of three groups of strokes pointing to a central spiral design.
11. Lower fragment of a deep bowl externally painted having a triangle filled with black colour showing a loop on one side filled with dots adjacent to the triangle.
12. Base part of a shallow dish having a design formed by two intersecting double lines along with rows of dots.
13. Fragment of a dish of grey ware painted in black internally with two lines joining together forming reverted V-shape filled with rows of dots

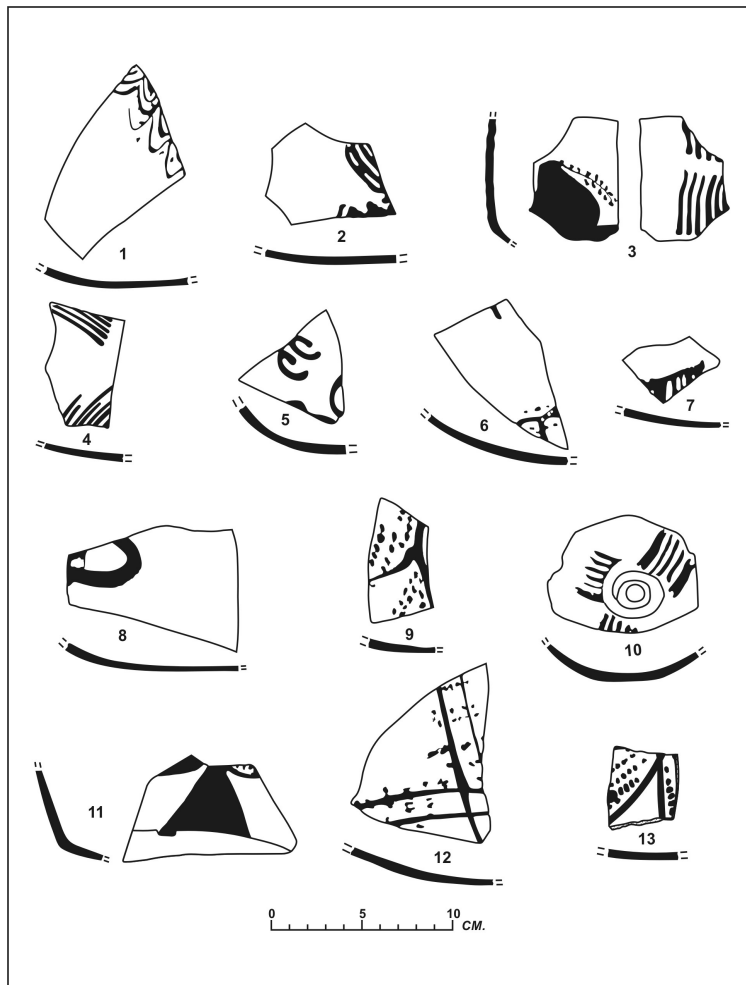


FIG.-21 & PLATE – XXII : PAINTED GREY WARE FRAGMENTS

ASSOCIATED POTTERY OF PAINTED GREY WARE

PERIOD-II

Fig. -22

1. Bowl of dull red ware having closed mouth internally undercut featureless rim of fine to medium fabric, incurved side to a sager base, treated with a wash.
2. Bowl of dull red ware with flared externally slightly thickened sharpened rim roughly of course fabric.
3. Basin of dull red ware with slightly inturned and externally thickened rim, convex side, fine to medium fabric treated with a wash externally.
4. Fragment of deep basin of red ware with an oblique clubbed rim of medium fabric treated weith a light red slip internally.
5. Fragment of a basin with a slightly inturned and externally clubbed rim of red ware of course fabric treated with a wash.
6. Fragment of basin of dull red ware with a slightly inturned and externally clubbed rim, roughly convex side treated with a wash.
7. Basin of red ware with an incurved collared and elliptical thickened rim externally, prominently convex side, course fabric, with parallel grooves externally on the collar.

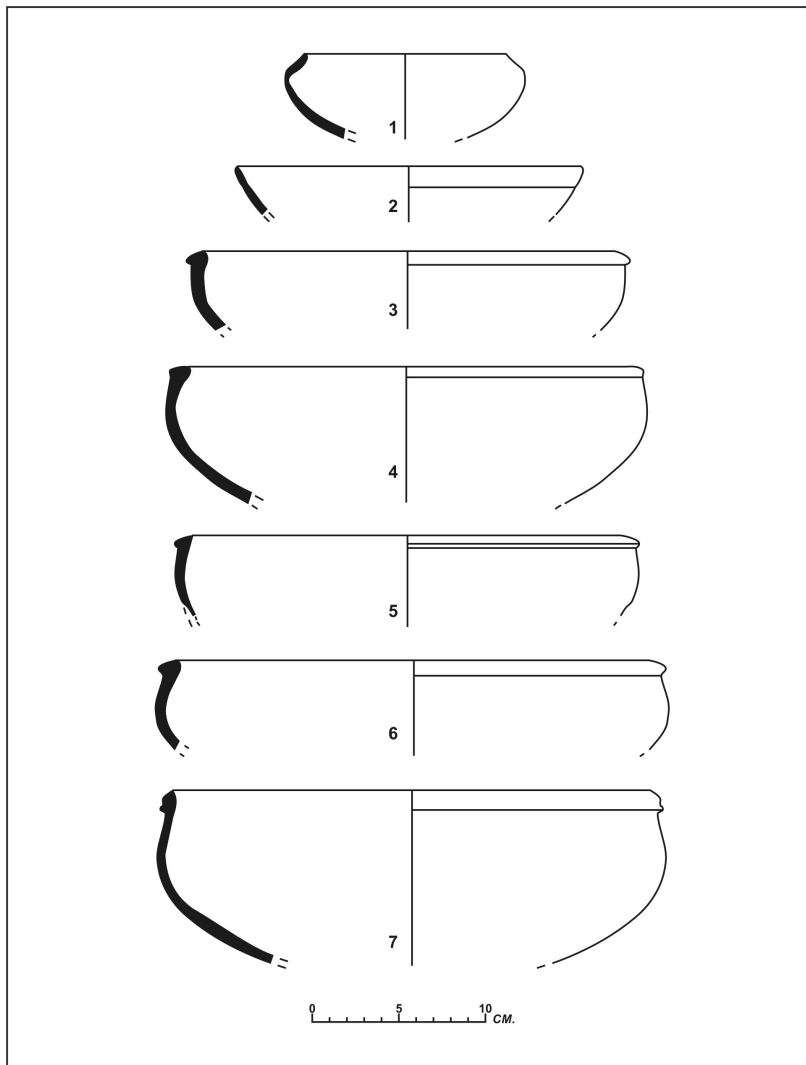


FIG.- 22 & PLATE – XXIII : BOWLS (1 & 2) AND BASINS (3-7) OF ASSOCIATED RED POTTERY OF PAINTED GREY WARE

ASSOCIATED POTTERY OF PAINTED GREY WARE

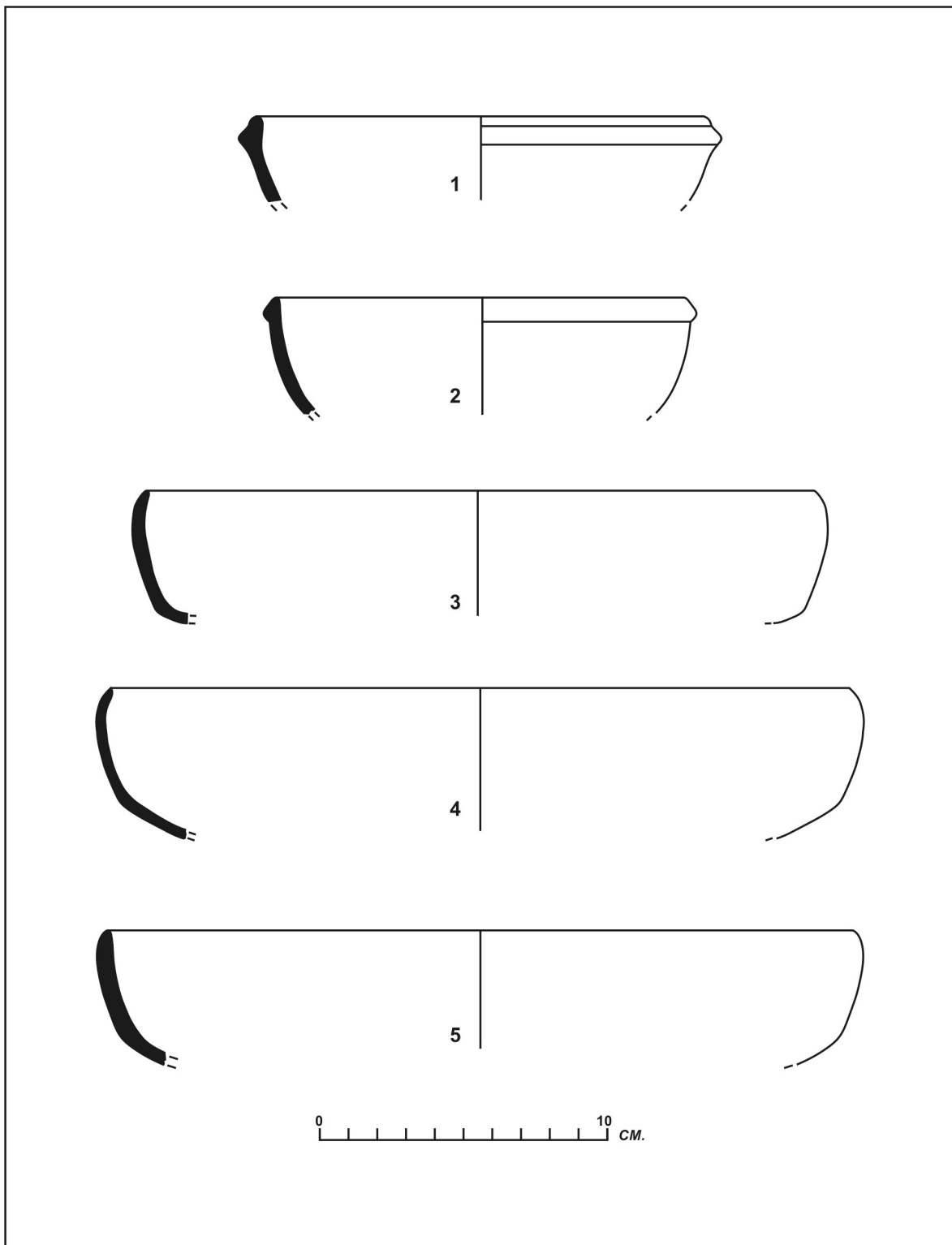
PERIOD-II

Fig. -23

1. Bowl of grey ware with an inturned and externally thickened and grooved rim incurved sides.
2. Bowl of grey ware vertical externally collared grooved rim and roughly convex side, of medium to fine fabric.
3. Dish of grey ware with an inturned internally roughly sharpened rim, blunt carination at the base, of fine fabric, devoid of any wash or slip.
4. Dish of grey ware with an inturned internally sharpened and beveled rim and blunt carination at the base, of fine fabric.
5. Dish of grey ware with a vertical featureless rim, having carination at the base part, of medium thick fabric.



PLATE – XXIV : BOWLS (1 & 2) AND BASINS (3-5) OF ASSOCIATED RED POTTERY OF PAINTED GREY WARE



**FIG.- 23 :BOWLS (1 & 2) AND BASINS (3-5) OF ASSOCIATED RED POTTERY OF
PAINTED GREY WARE**

BLACK SLIPPED WARE

Fig. -24

1. Featureless rim, incurved shallow dish with flat base, coated by black slipped on both the surfaces, section is thin and well fired.

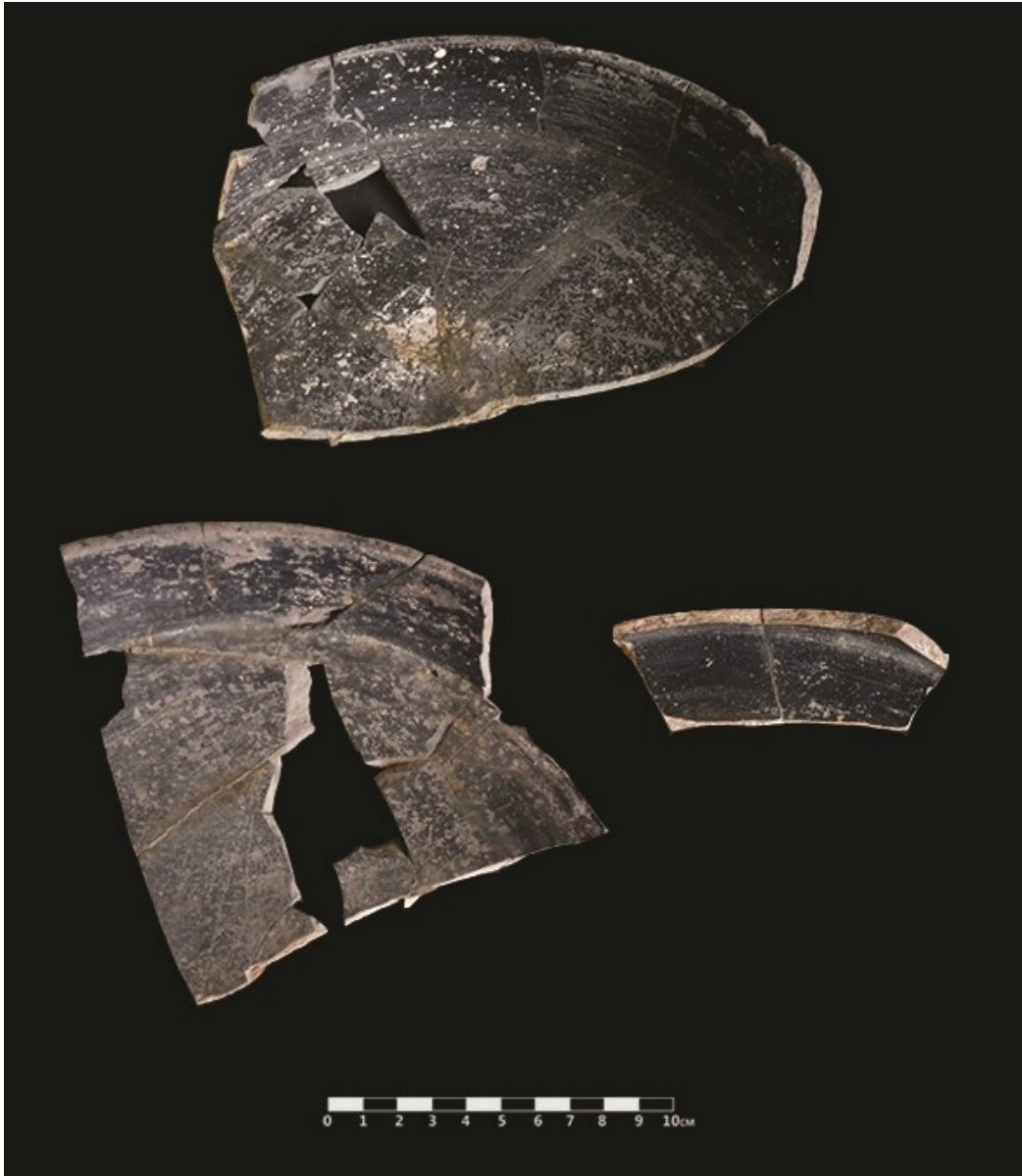


PLATE – XXV : BLACK SLIPPED WARE

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -25

- 1 Lid of dull red ware with a thickened undercut rim and flat terminal base of medium fabric.
- 2 Fragment of a rim portion of vase with vertically featureless rim convex at the upper portion and concave at the lower portion having flaring mouth.
- 3 Fragment of plate with a flared featureless rim of red color, medium fabric.
- 4 Fragment of a basin with an inturned and roughly nail headed and thickened grooved rim having prominent ridge below the rim externally.
- 5 Fragment of basin of red ware with an inturned externally oval collared grooved rim, thick fabric.
- 6 Fragment of vase of red ware having horizontally projected thickened rim externally.
- 7 Fragment of vase of red ware having flaring mouth and oblique beveled thickened undercut rim with carination internally, externally painted in black pigment around the neck.



PLATE – XXVI: LID (1), PLATE (3), BASINS (4 & 5) & VASES (2,6 & 7) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

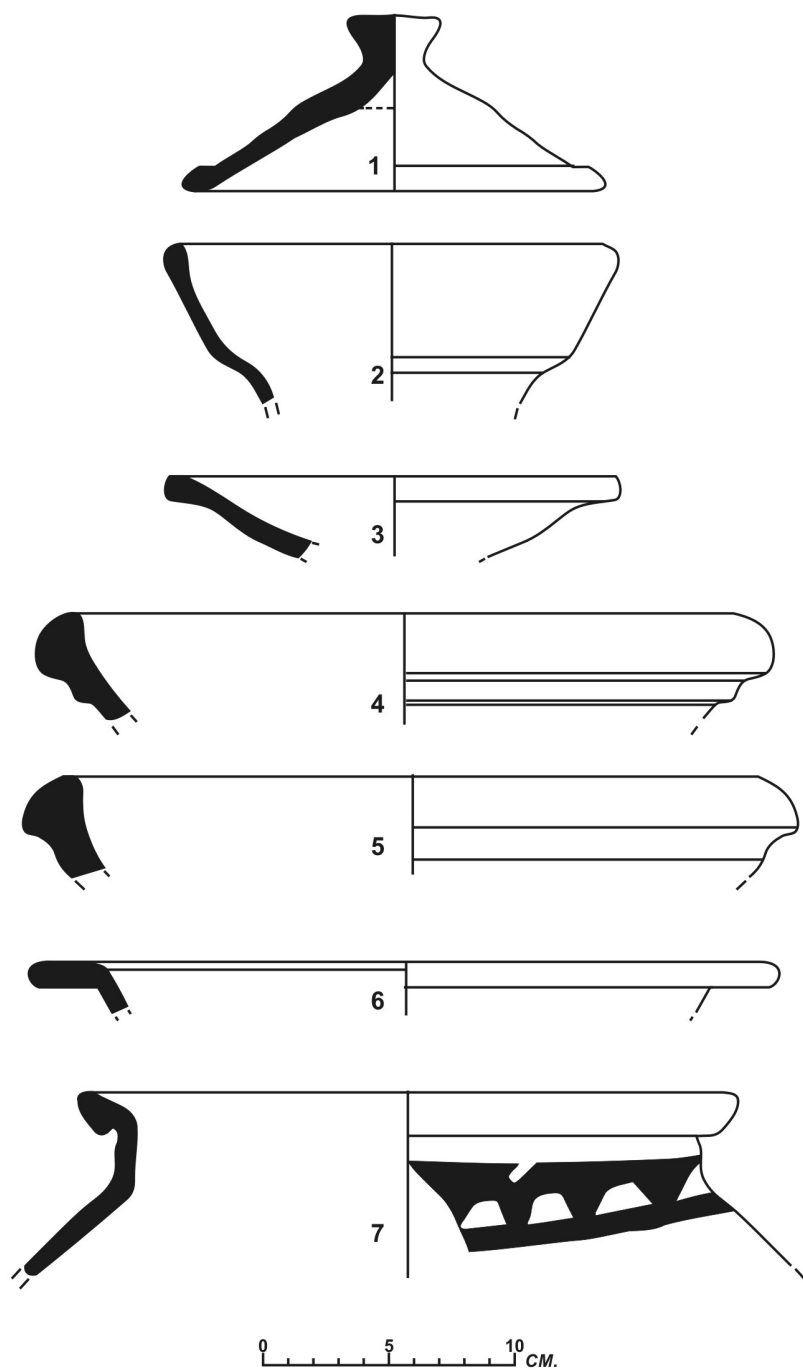


FIG.- 25: LID (1), PLATE (3), BASINS (4 & 5) & VASES (2,6 & 7) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -26

1. Rim part of vase of dull red ware having out-turned thick clubbed rim with flattened top and elongated neck with thick fabric.
2. Fragment of vase with an out- turned externally thickened collared rim with long concave neck.
3. Fragment of vase of dull red ware with an out -turned slightly drooping rim having grooved externally on the neck probably globular body, of medium fabric, short concave side.
4. Upper part of a vase of red ware having out- turned undercut externally thickened rim and thick fabric.
5. Fragment of vase having out- turned and featureless carinated under cut rim and narrow neck having groove on externally below the rim, of medium thick fabric.
6. Fragment of basin of red ware with an out turned featureless rim internally thickened squatish neck, convex side having prominent ridge middle part externally, of medium fabric.
7. Rim part of basin having a slightly out -turned, featureless rim having prominent ridge externally below the rim slightly convex side.
8. Fragment of vase out- turned and thickened oval collared rim having a mild depression below the rim internally, roughly concave neck.
9. Fragment of vase having out- turned externally thickened and oval collared rim, squatish curved neck and convex side, thick fabric.
10. Fragment of vase of dull red ware with an in-turned roughly oval collared rim, having a depression internally painted in black pigment at the rim portion

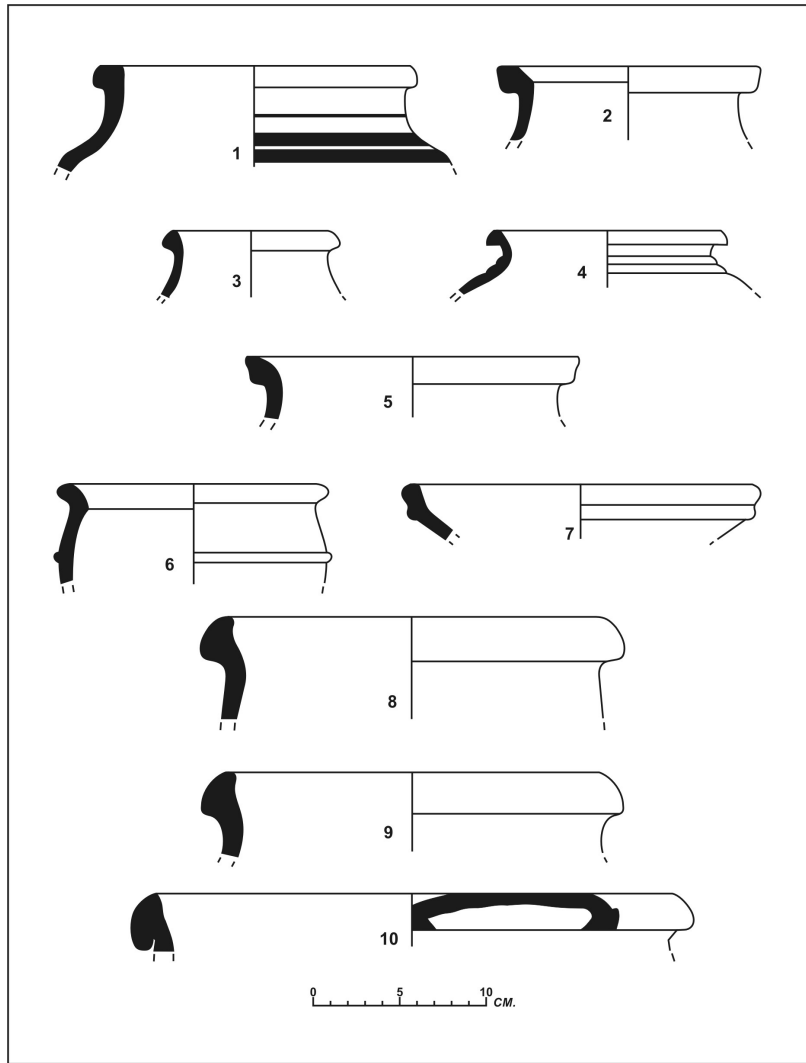


FIG.- 26 & PLATE – XXVII: VASES (1-5 & 8-10) AND BASINS (6 & 7) & OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -27

1. Small vase of red ware with an out- turned featureless rim, convex side, thin fabric.
2. Fragment of vase part of dull red ware, having pointed vertically drooping rim and out -turned carinated neck of medium fabric.
3. Fragment of a bowl having internally thickened vertical featureless rim convex sides.
4. Fragment of a bowl of Red ware with an inturned featureless rim incurved side, medium to thick fabric.
5. Fragment of Shallow basin inturned externally nail headed grooved rim, convex side of medium fabric treated with a wash.
6. Upper part of a vase of dull red ware with an out-turned, featureless rim, long concave neck, thin fabric.
7. Fragment of carinated "Handi" having out turned featureless rim and a sharp carinated on the mid part, convex side and a deep insized line all around the neck.
8. Small shape Handi Vase of red ware with an out turned featuress rim painted in black one line on externally and small carination on outer side.
9. Vase of red ware with a drooping rim, having lipid on the rim decoration by incised bead row externally on the neck portion treated with a bright red slip.
10. Fragment of vase having splayed out and nail headed rim with a flattened top and prominent ridge below the rim, convex neck treated with a wash.
11. Fragment of vase of dull red ware having vertically roughly nail headed rim and lining in black pigment all around the vase at shoulder part.

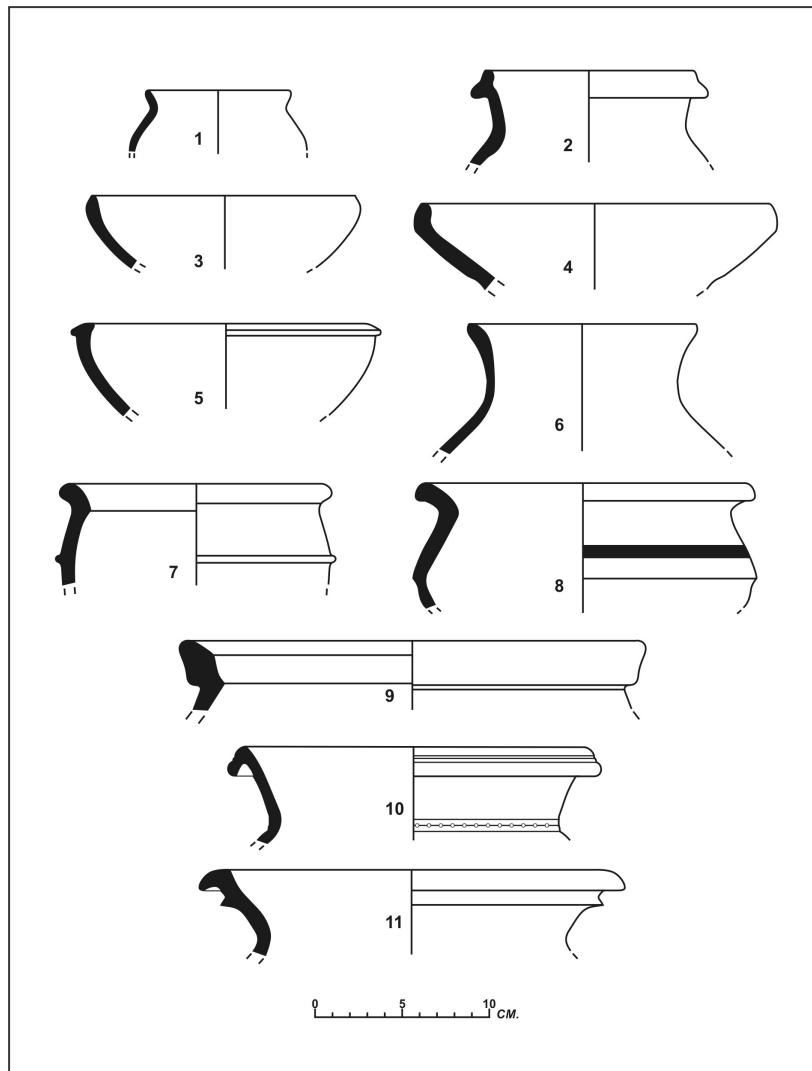


FIG.- 27 & PLATE – XXVIII : VASES (1,2,6 -11) AND BASIN (5) & BOWLS (3 & 4) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -28

- 1 Fragment of vase having out- turned obliquely cut colored rim with flattened top out- curved neck and convex side, thick fabric and white pigment.
- 2 Fragment of vase with an out -turned externally thickened rim long concave neck.
- 3 Fragment of vase of dull red ware with an out- turned thickened featureless rim of medium fabric treated with a wash, concave neck.
- 4 Fragment of a small vase having featureless out -turned rim having depression below the rim, concave neck of medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 5 Vase of red ware with prominently out-turned and obliquely bevelled externally with groove on rim, curved short neck, red ware of medium fabric.
- 6 Fragment of narrow neck elongated vase having slightly out turned rim and prominent ridge above the neck forming a depression internally of medium fabric.
- 7 Fragment of plate with a flared featureless thickened rim of red color medium fabric.
- 8 Fragment of vase almost flattened having round collar with expending mouth, roughly vertical neck of thick fabric.
- 9 Bowl of red ware with an out projected and roughly bevelled internally, roughly convex side and round base, medium fabric, treated with red wash (corrugated profile).
- 10 Fragment of dish with inturned and featureless rim having prominent carination to round flat base.
- 11 Fragment of vase of red ware, having horizontally projected thickened rim externally.

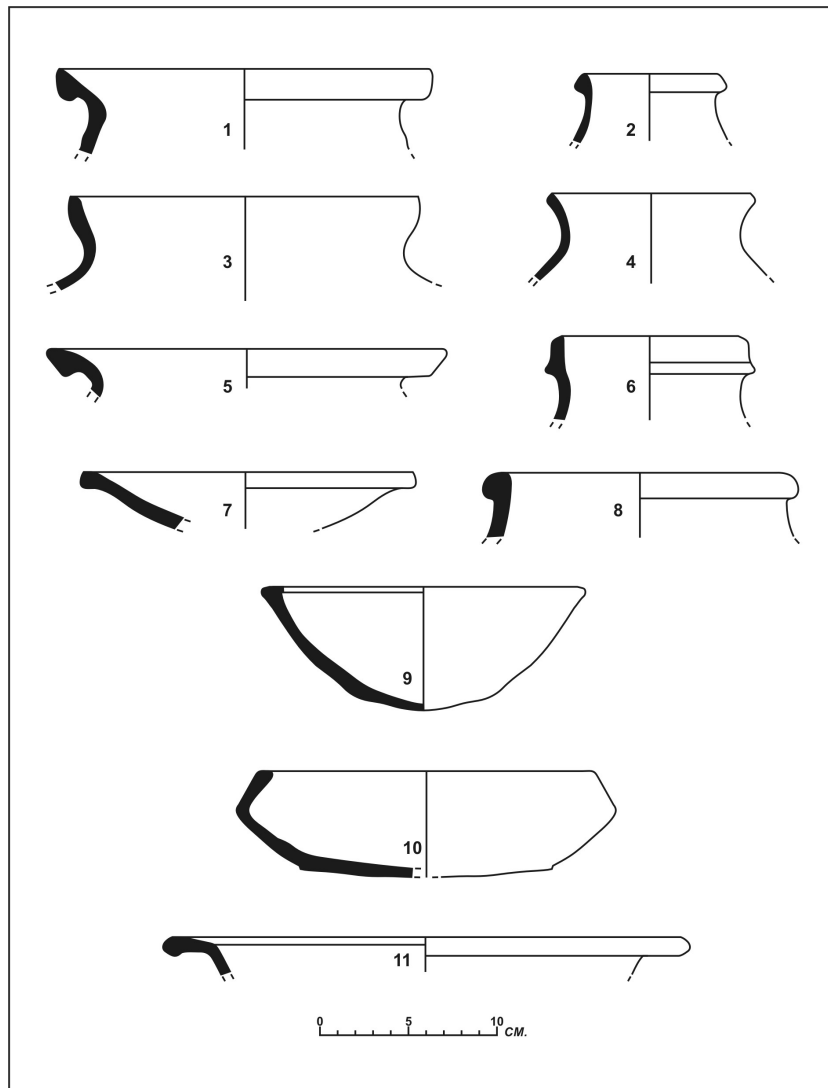


FIG.- 28 & PLATE –XXIX: VASES (1-6, 8 & 11), PLATE (7), BOWL (9) & DISH (10) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -29

- 1 Fragment of bowl having incurved featureless externally thickened rim, slightly inturned and incurved side, medium fabric.
- 2 Fragment of bowl having featureless slightly inturned rim, incurved side, and medium fabric.
- 3 Fragment of bowl having featureless slightly inturned rim, incurved side having two grooves on externally, and medium fabric.
- 4 Fragment of a bowl with a flared featureless externally thickened rim and shallow inner depression with tapering side to heavy thick flat base.
- 5 Fragment of a small bowl of red ware, inturned, featureless rim with closing mouth and convex sides of medium fabric.
- 6 Fragment of a dull red ware bowl having vertical and featureless thickened and sharpened rim, tapering side, medium fabric, un-slipped.
- 7 Bowl of dull red ware with a vertical featureless rim having slightly constricted sides of medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 8 Bowl of red ware, having slightly vertical featureless thin tapering side and thick flatish base of medium fabric.
- 9 Fragment of vase of red ware with a collared grooved rim externally, medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 10 Elongated vase of red ware with an externally thick and obliquely cut rim with oblong pear shape and side corrugated profile, with insized on the mid part externally.
- 11 Fragment of a Vase of Red ware slightly out turned externally thickened and pear shape side of medium fabric.

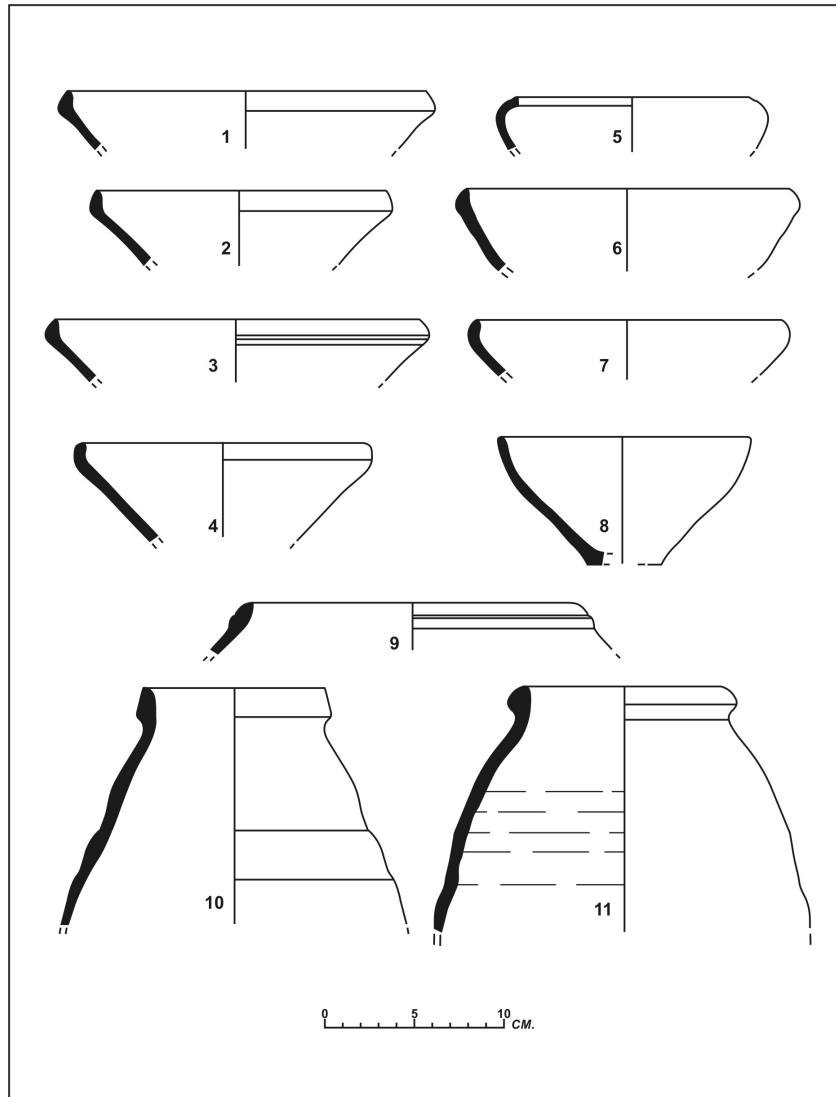


FIG.- 29 & PLATE -XXX: BOWLS (1-8) & VASES (9-11) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -30

- 1 Bowl of Red ware with a vertical sharpened rim, roughly convex side flat thickened base.
- 2 Bowl of dull red ware with vertically cut, sharpened rim and tapering side to flat thickened base of medium fabric.
- 3 Fragment of a bowl having slightly internally featureless thickened rim, convex side.
- 4 Fragment of plate with a flared featureless rim of red color medium fabric having thickened base.
- 5 Fragment of a vase of red ware with a concave shoulder, externally thickened beaded rim, painted on shoulder treated with a wash.
- 6 Fragment of vase of red ware, having horizontally projected thickened rim externally.
- 7 Fragment of a basin having externally thickened with flattened top roughly nail headed rim having black painting of coarse fabric.
- 8 Fragment of basin of red ware with an inturned externally oval collared grooved rim, thick fabric.



PLATE –XXXI: BOWLS (1-3), PLATE (4), VASES (5-6) & BASINS (7-8) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

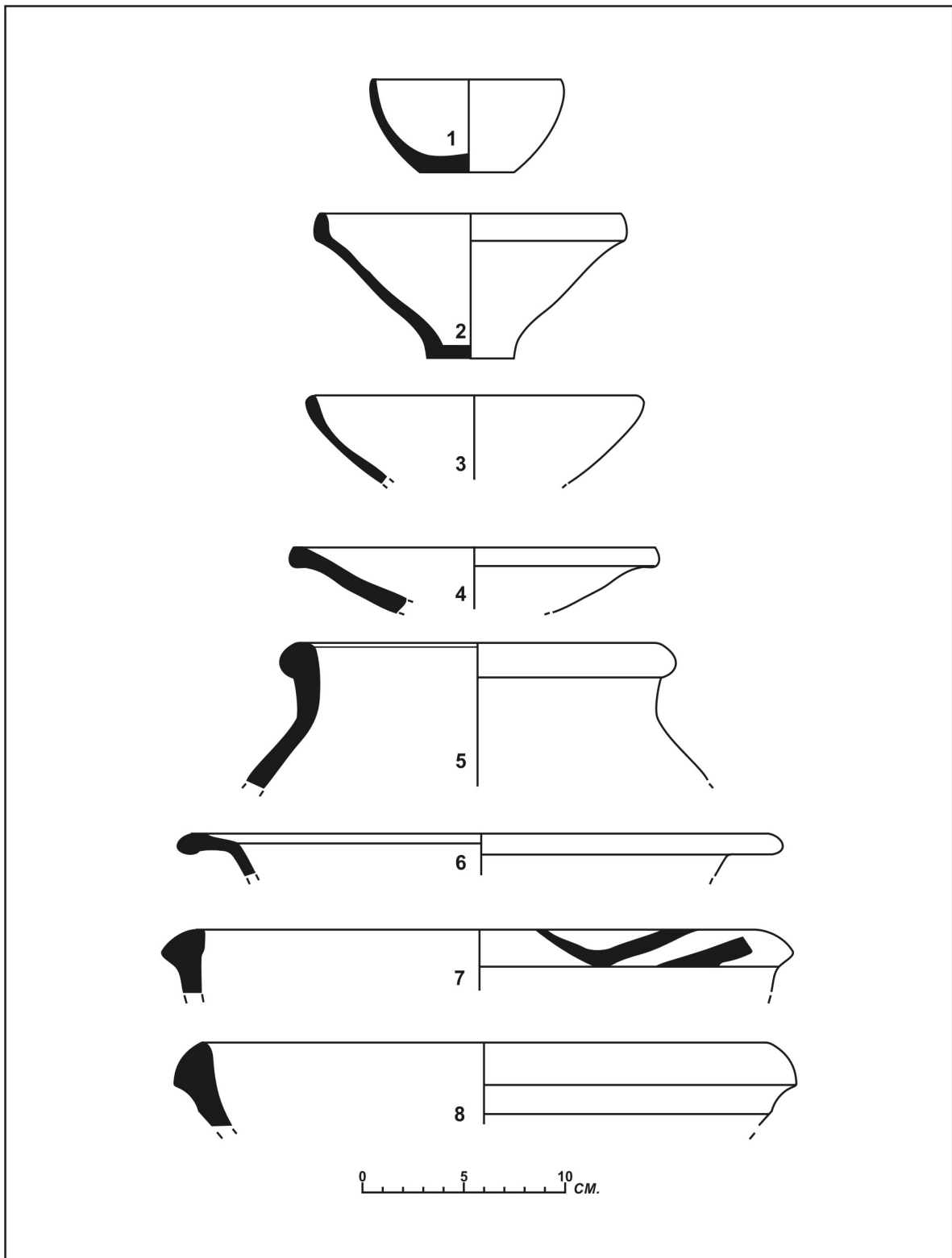


FIG.- 30: BOWLS (1-3), PLATE (4), VASES (5-6) & BASINS (7-8) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

Fig. -31

- 1 Fragment of bowl having inturned featureless rim having carination at the mid part, medium fabric.
- 2 Fragment of a bowl having slightly out-turned featureless rim and prominent ridge below the rim externally convex side.
- 3 Fragment of basin with slightly out- turned grooved rim, slightly convex side, medium fabric.
- 4 Fragment of shallow basin with flared featureless rim, splayed out side, thickened round base.
- 5 Fragment of an elongated vase slightly out- turned featureless rim with short and concave neck and oblong side.
- 6 Fragment of a vase with an oval collared rim, bulged side and curved neck of medium fabric.
- 7 Fragment of a vase with an out turned flaring mouth and obliquely bevelled thickened rim with flattened top, squattish neck and convex side, it is painted in black on externally with one band and one triangle, of medium fabric.



PLATE –XXXII: BOWLS (1 & 2), BASINS (3 & 4) & VASES (5-7) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

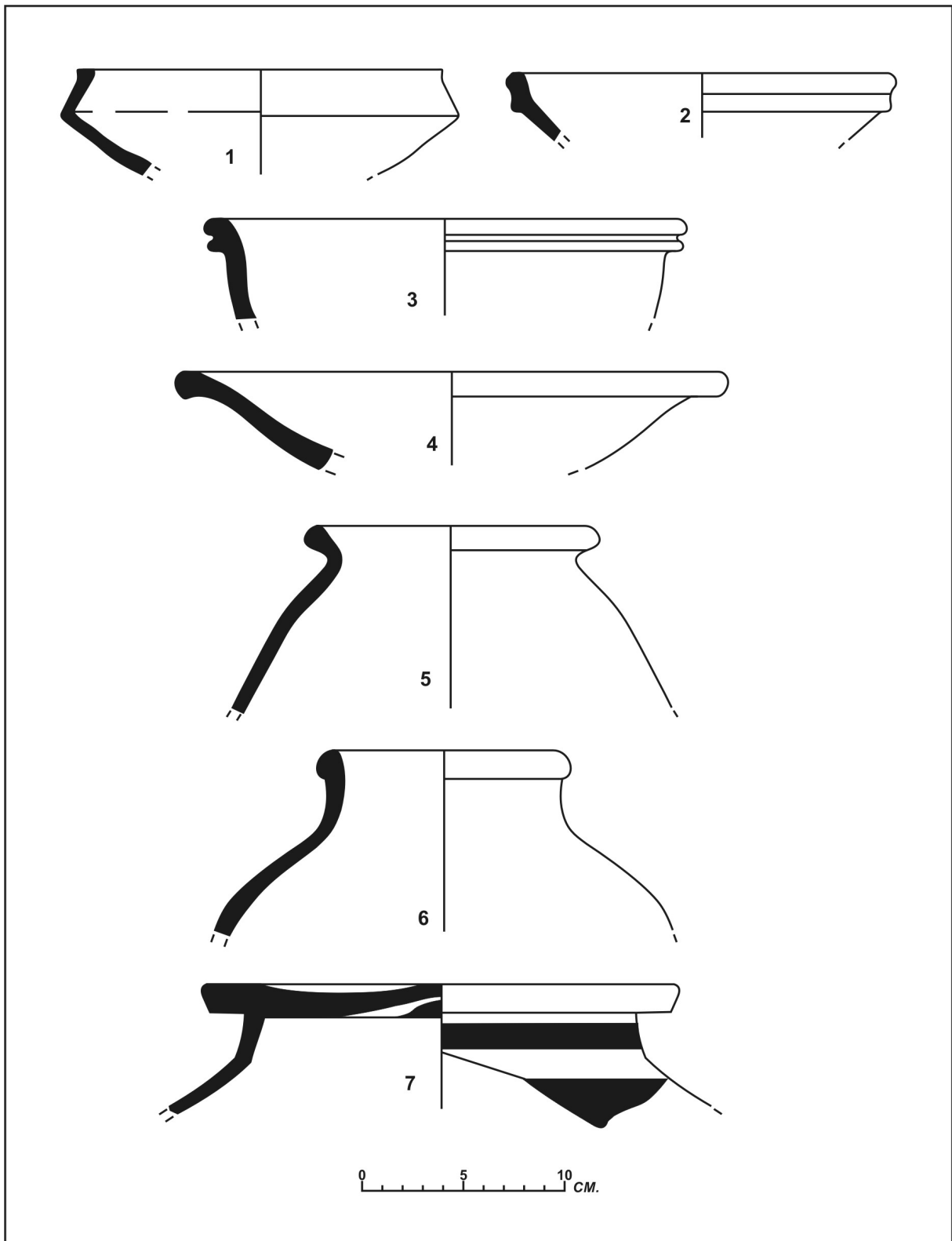


FIG.- 31 : BOWLS (1 & 2), BASINS (3 & 4) & VASES (5-7) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD
PERIOD-III

Fig. -32

- 1 Vase of red ware with an out turned oval collared grooved concave neck.
- 2 Fragment of a vase of red ware with an out-turned collared and grooved rim having a prominent notch on the neck, narrow mouth elongated neck painted design concentric semi circle on the rim portion of medium fabric.
- 3 Vase of red ware, with slightly out turned thickened rim and Vertical neck medium course fabric.
- 4 Vase of red ware, with beaded and collared rim with slightly inturned having grooves followed by ridge externally.
- 5 Basin of red ware with prominently flaring side, thickened externally rim incurved side, red ware of course fabric.
- 6 Fragment of a vase having out-turned and thick rim band of medium fabric.
- 7 Bowl of Dull red ware oblique cut rim with corrugations inside and tapering sides, medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 8 Fragment of a bowl of dull red ware with a vertical thickened sharpened rim, having incurved side of medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 9 Bowl of Red Ware with a roughly vertical and featureless rim, incurved side, medium fabric.
- 10 Fragment of a shallow bowl of dull red ware having incurved rim prominent incurved side, medium fabric treated with a wash.
- 11 Fragment of a carinated Handi, of red ware having out turned featureless rim short concave curved neck, blunt carination at the shoulder.

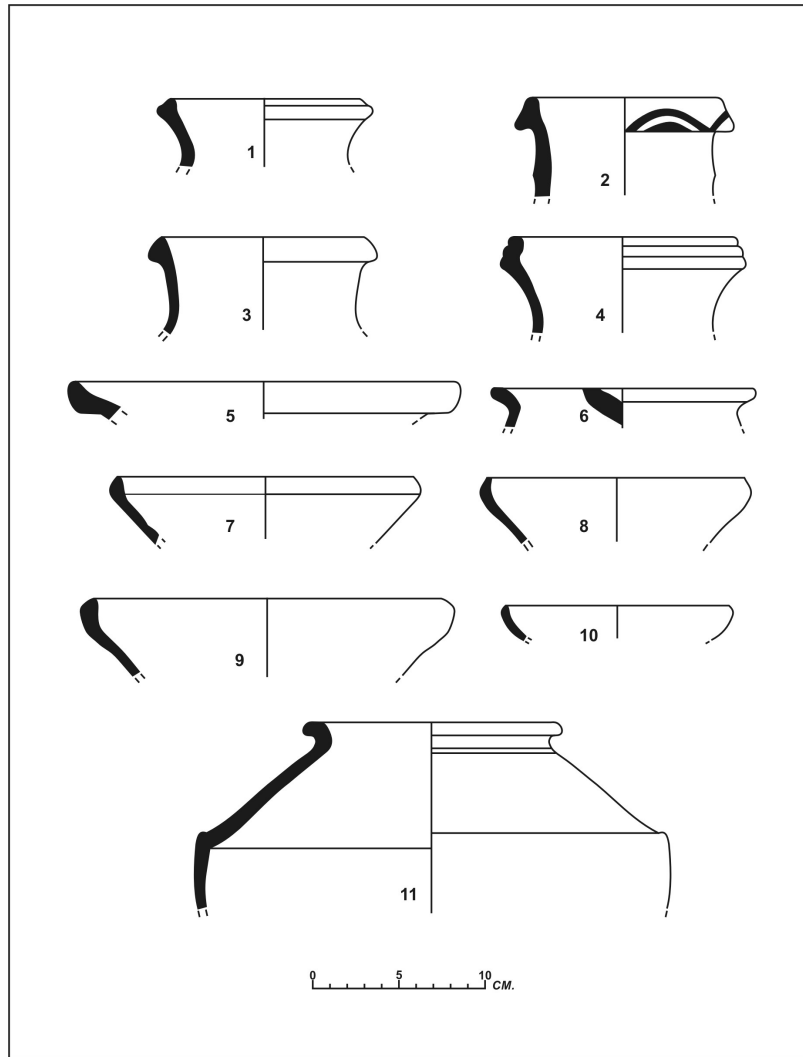


FIG.- 32 & PLATE –XXXIII: VASES (1-4, 6 & 11), BASINS (5) & BOWL (7) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD
PERIOD-III
(Fig. -33)

- 1 Bowl of dull red ware with flared featureless rim and tapering side of medium fabric.
- 2 Fragment of vase with an out turned featureless slightly turned externally expanding mouth and expanding sides thick fabric treated with a wash.
- 3 Bowl of red ware with flared rim, roughly expanding mouth, a shallow lid attach on the rim portion, medium fabric.
4. Fragment of vase of dull red ware having oval collared undercut rim and out curved squattish neck coarse fabric.
5. Fragment of bowl of dull red ware having slightly inturned obliquely rounded featureless rim, convex side thick fabric, treated with slip.
6. Fragment of bowl of dull red ware having slightly inturned featureless rim and convex side, medium fabric with externally one groove.
- 7 Fragment of bowl having splayed out and out turned, round base and medium fabric.
- 8 Pear shape vase of dull red ware, having an everted thickened clubbed and collared rim having heavy corrugated profile with thick fabric.

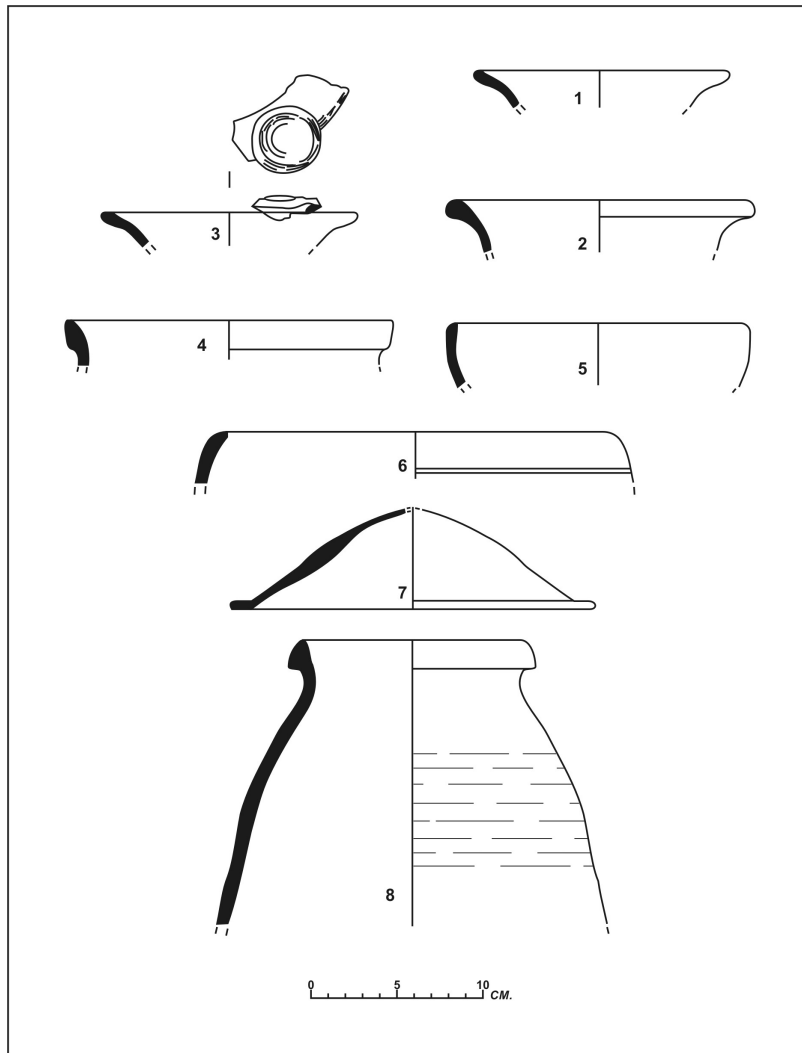


FIG.- 33 & PLATE -XXXIV: BOWLS (1,3,5-7) & VASES (2,4 & 8) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD

PERIOD-III

(Fig. -34)

1. Handi of dull red ware with an out turned, short concave neck, carination at the shoulder part ledge body, round base, is painted in black colour on outer side design consisting of diamond cut (looking like check- pattern) enclosing four lines.
2. Shallow vase of dull red ware with an out turned feature less rim, short concave neck, convex side with flat base.
3. Spouted vase of red ware with short mouth, short concave neck globular body, round base, spout on the shoulder part (broken), treated with wash.
4. Spouted vase of red ware with an out turned rim, concave neck, globular profile, with a carination at the shoulder part, painted in black two curved stroke joint each other at one point, having week rib above the base.
5. A miniature lid of red ware having out turned rim with flattened top domical side having a flat knob base on the top.
6. Vase of red ware, with an out turned feature less rim, a short concave neck, straight and tapering side, elongated body and flat narrow base of medium fabric.

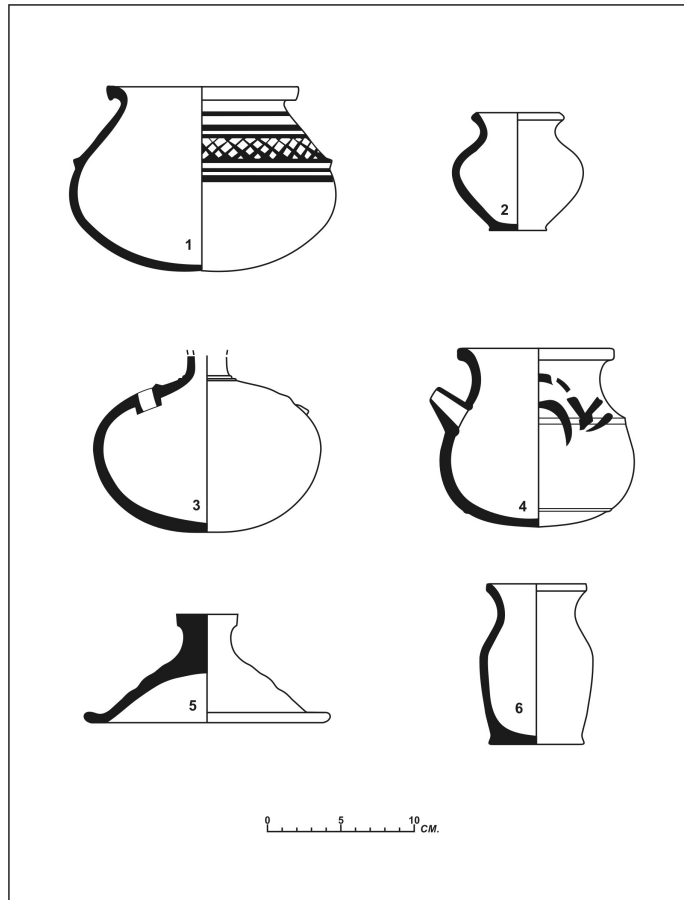


FIG.- 34 & PLATE –XXXV: RED WARE POTTERY (VASES & LID) OF KUSHAN PERIOD

POTTERY OF MEDIEVAL PERIOD

PERIOD-IV

(Fig. -35)

1. Fragment of deep bowl with an out-turned thickened and square featureless rim and ring base with incised circle. It is decorated with incision outer side design formed by diamond cut of grayish sandy fabric.
2. Bowl with vertical slightly internally featureless rim and rounded side, of red medium course, it is painted in bluish green on brown glaze surface, design consisting with two bands and one on concentric circles with incomplete design on inner side and externally to set off two bands.
3. Bowl fragment of red medium core. It is painted in brown on pin blazed surface, design consisting leafs and flowers with incised design on externally.



FIG.- 35 & PLATE –XXXVI: POTTERY OF MEDIEVAL PERIOD- IV

CHAPTER - VIII

OTHER FINDS

In this chapter, minor antiquities are being dealt with which were made to meet the needs of day-to-day life of the people in bygone ages. They include terracotta objects, beads, objects made of bone, and other miscellaneous items.

Terracotta Objects: It is well known factor that clay being plastic, gets any required shape very easily. Due to its easy availability and being non-expensive it always met the demand of the common man in ancient India. Hence, terracotta objects were made to meet the needs of life. They supply valuable information about the life and culture of the people of a particular period. In fact, they are integral part of general masses and being the source material which not only acquaint us with day-to-day life of particular era but also their feelings clearly brought out by the creators of this plastic art. A large number of terracotta objects were recovered from the excavation. They occur in all the levels right from the Late Harappan period. They include animal and human representations, personal ornaments, house-hold objects and other miscellaneous items.

Out of the animal figurines, bulls are good in number. Some of them have prominent hump. There are some ornaments made of terracotta like ear studs, beads (ghat-shape, arecanut, pear-shape, circular and globular) and bangles. Other items include hop-scotch, disk, cart-wheel etc.

Bone Objects: Tools made of bone recovered from the excavation were limited. Bone was mainly used for making stylus. The technique of manufacturing of the bone objects is to flake off the bone to required shape. This is evident because of flake scars. They are smoothened, sharpened and polishing the surface.

Semi-precious beads: Carnelian beads, carnelian pendent, quartz transparent faceted pentagonal having perforation near tapering and a black jasper, standard truncated bicone square in diamond shape are interesting.

T.C. ANIMAL FIGURINES

Fig.-36

1. Terracotta humped bull with high domical hump, partially broken pin-hole eyes legs face are partially missing , treated with red slip.
2. Terracotta humped bull face missing, horn, tail and legs are also missing, body decorated with two grooves lines treated with red slip, ill fired.

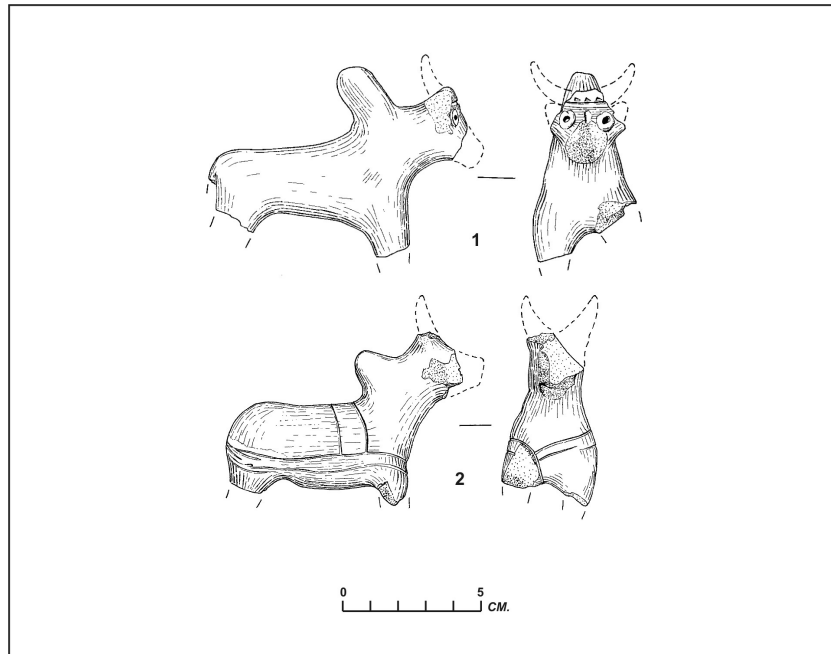


FIG. – 36 & PLATE – XXXVII : T.C. ANIMAL FIGURINES.

TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

Fig. -37

- 1 Terracotta plain disk, irregular spherical having groove on the middle part in the section, smooth surface.
- 2 Terracotta plain ear stud, ill-fired, slipped.
3. Terracotta small toy cart wheel treated with red slip and fabric.
4. Terracotta plain disk, roughly spherical.

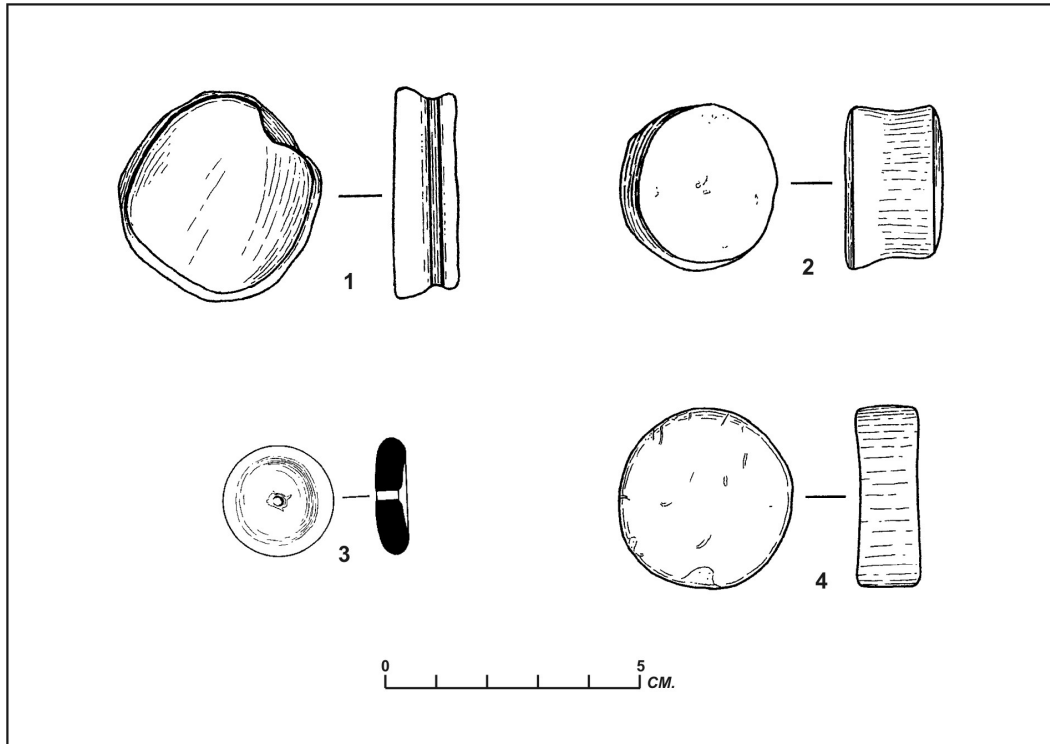


FIG. -37 & PLATE – XXXVIII : TERRACOTTA OBJECTS.

TERRACOTTA DISCS

Fig. -38

- 1 Terracotta disc with usual notches formed by U shape round on the edge linked each other in incised pattern all around, of medium grey fabric.
- 2 Terracotta disc with usual notches round by the edge with some incised groove on one side, of medium fabric.
- 3 Terracotta disc having usual notches design formed by U shape round by the edge linked together each other in incised pattern on the both sides in red colour, of medium fabric.
4. Terracotta disc having usual notches round the edge with incised grooves on either side, of medium fabric treated with red slip on both sides.
- 5 A partially broken disk having usual notches around the edge with two incised lines cutting each other at the center on either side, of dull red color and smooth surface.

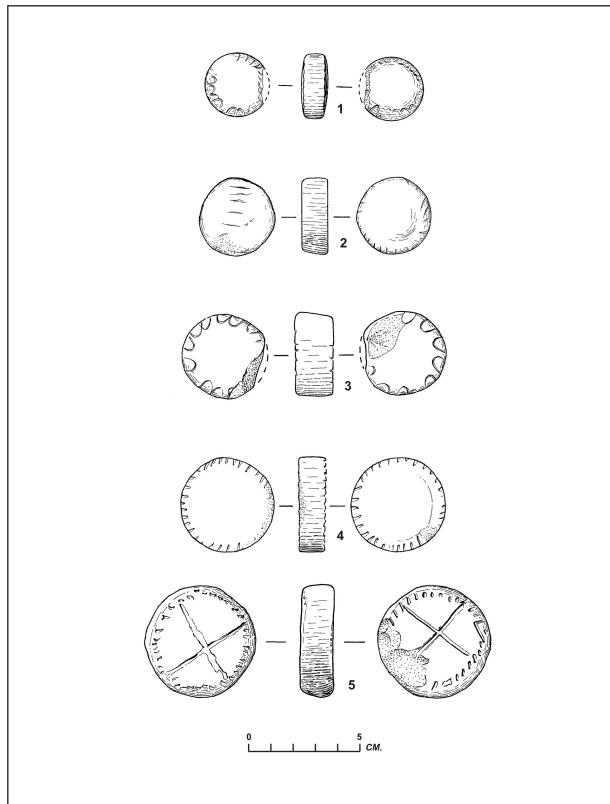


FIG. -38 & PLATE – XXXIX : TERRACOTTA DISCS.

TERRACOTTA DISCS

Fig. -39

1. A complete disc having depression on the middle in section looking like ear stud shape.
2. Terracotta circular disc, no decoration on both side, treated with red slip.
3. Terracotta plain disc with dull red color circular in shape (Partially broken)
4. Terracotta plain disc, smooth surface.

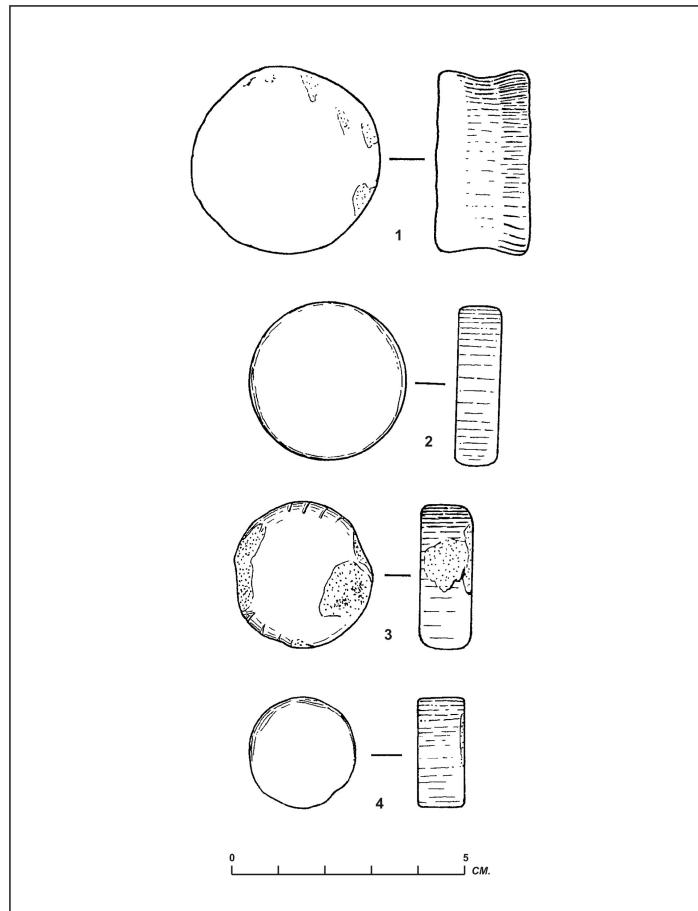


FIG. -39 & PLATE – XL : TERRACOTTA OBJECTS.

TERRACOTTA WHEELS

Fig. -40

1. Terracotta toy cart wheel red color with prominent hub and sharp round edge, of medium fabric, partially broken
2. Terracotta small toy cart flat on both sides in red sand stone colour.
3. Terracotta small cart wheel depression on one side, irregular spherical edge.
4. Terracotta ill baked clay toy cart wheel with a small hub on one side, having sharp edge.
5. Terracotta toy cart wheel of medium fabric roughly spherical, broken
6. Terracotta plain toy cart wheel having small hub on one side, of red colour.

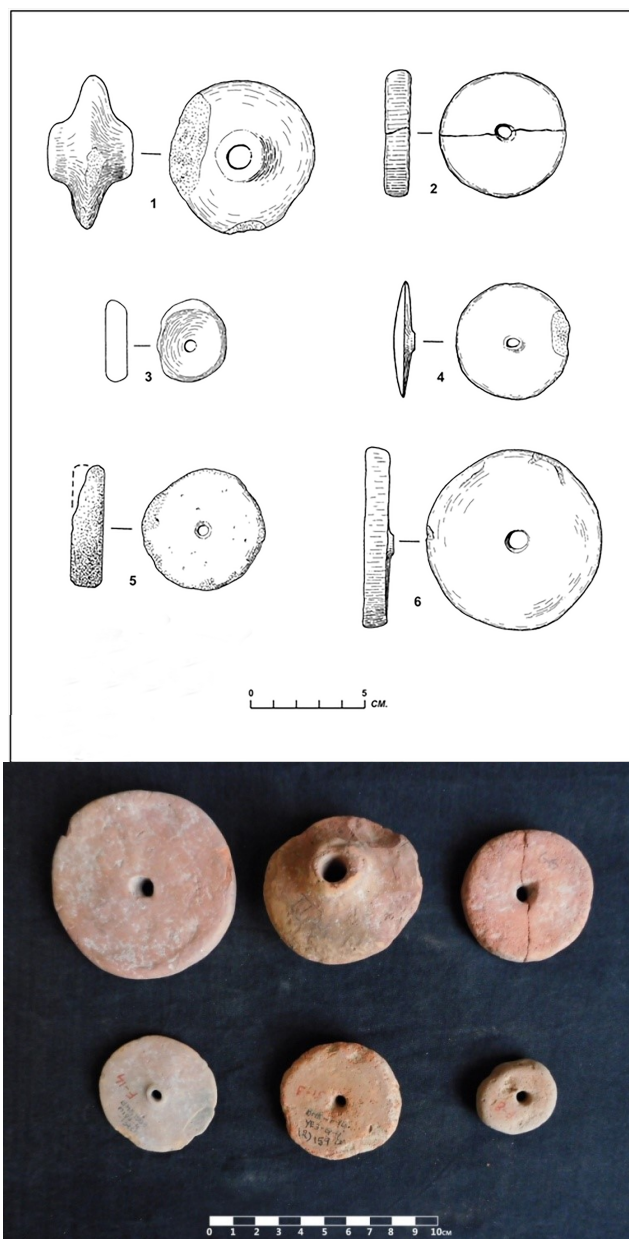


FIG. -40 & PLATE – XLI : TERRACOTTA WHEELS

TERRACOTTA BEADS

Fig. -41

1. Terracotta arecaunt shape bead, rough surface, partially broken line on the rim portion
2. Terracotta standard truncated bi-cone circular bead, ill fired.
3. Terracotta short bi-cone truncated circular bead.
4. Terracotta short barrel truncated, circular bead.
5. Terracotta, arecanut shaped bead with convex base.
6. Terracotta arecanut shaped bead with flat base.
7. Terracotta spherical bead, treated with slip.
8. Terracotta, arecanut shaped bead with convex base greyish slipped.
9. Terracotta arecanut shaped bead with convex base, ill fired.
10. Terracotta roughly, truncated bi-cone circular bead.
11. Terracotta arecanut shaped bead with convex base.
12. Terracotta arecanut shaped bead with convex base having one groove slipped and ill-fired.
13. Terracotta, short blunt edge, truncated circular bead ill fired.
14. Terracotta bead standard truncated bi-con circular dull red color wash.
15. Terracotta bowl shape bead convex base.

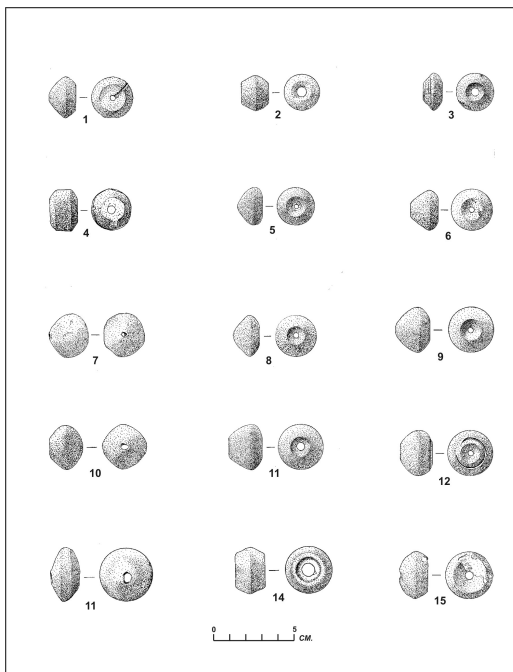


FIG. -41 & PLATE – XLII : TERRACOTTA BEADS

TERRACOTTA BEADS

Fig. -42

16. Terracotta small shape bead partially broken.
17. Terracotta small arecanut shape bead.
18. Terracotta small arecanut shape bead with convex base.
19. Terracotta small arecanut bead groove near the concave base.
20. Terracotta arecanut shape conical bead flat base.
21. Terracotta bowl shape truncated bead circular with flat base.
22. Terracotta short blunt edge, truncated circular bead.
23. Ghata shape, small truncated rounded constructed collar, flat groove top and rounded base.
24. Standard Ghata shape bead, elongated body building toward rounded base and rounded collar, red slipped.
25. Standard Ghata shape bead, elongated body building toward rounded base round collar brown slipped.
26. Standard Ghata shape bead, circular flaring toward, flattish base, incurved rounded collar, brown slipped.
27. Standard Ghata shape bead, elongated body building toward rounded base, brown slipped.
28. Standard Ghata shape bead, a small truncated rounded constructed groove top, and rounded flat base, brown slipped.
29. Standard Ghata shape bead, globular incurved rounded collar flattish base, dull red slip.
30. Standard Ghata shape bead, globular bead incurved rounded collar flattish base, red slip.

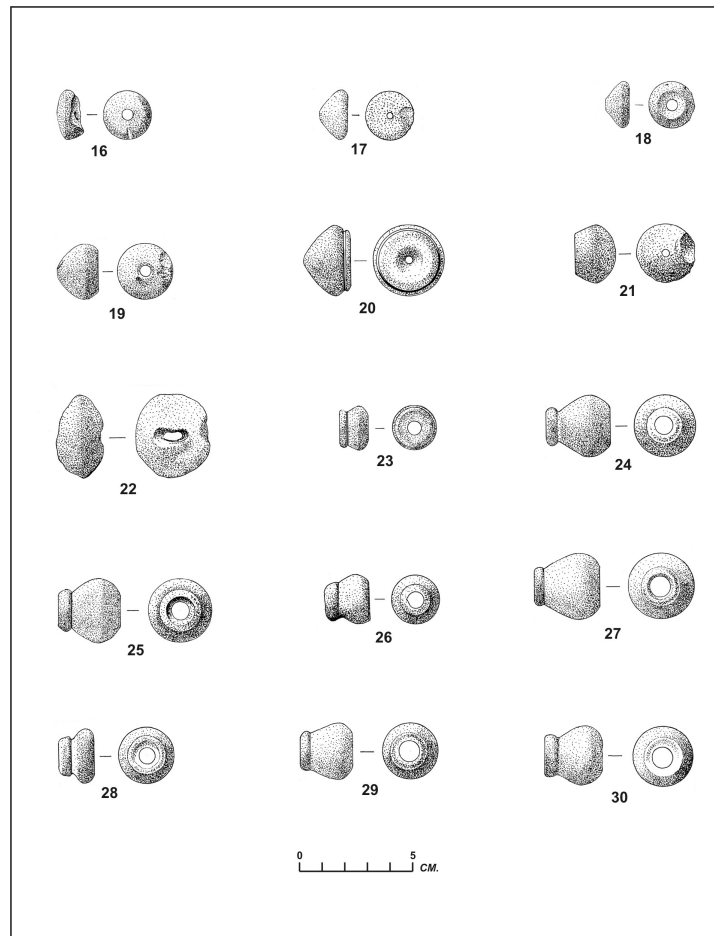


FIG. -42 & PLATE – XLIII : TERRACOTTA BEADS



BONE ARTIFACTS

Fig. -43

- 1 Reel with perforation in the middle and having incised concentric circle at one end. It is taken out of nice mould.
- 2 Bone pointed in roughly rectangular in shape at the lower portion and other having sharp point.
- 3 Bone point in an elongated shape and having roughly round in section.

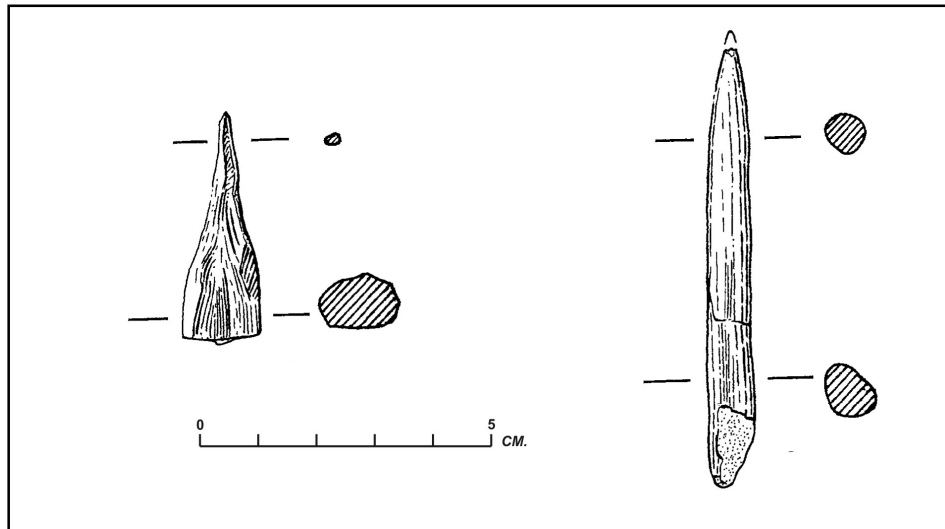


FIG. -43 & PLATE – XLIV : BONE ARTIFACTS



SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE BEADS

Fig. -44

- 1 Carnelian small circular irregular spherical bead.
- 2 Stone ornament shaded in red and black on both side circular in shape.
- 3 A flat square bi-conical side with diagonal perforation, carnelian pendent.
- 4 Small bead in circular shape, carnelian.
- 5 Quartz, transparent faceted pentagonal, perforation near tapering.
- 6 Stone ornament, irregular spherical, rough surface.
- 7 Black jasper, standered truncated, bicone square in diamond shape.

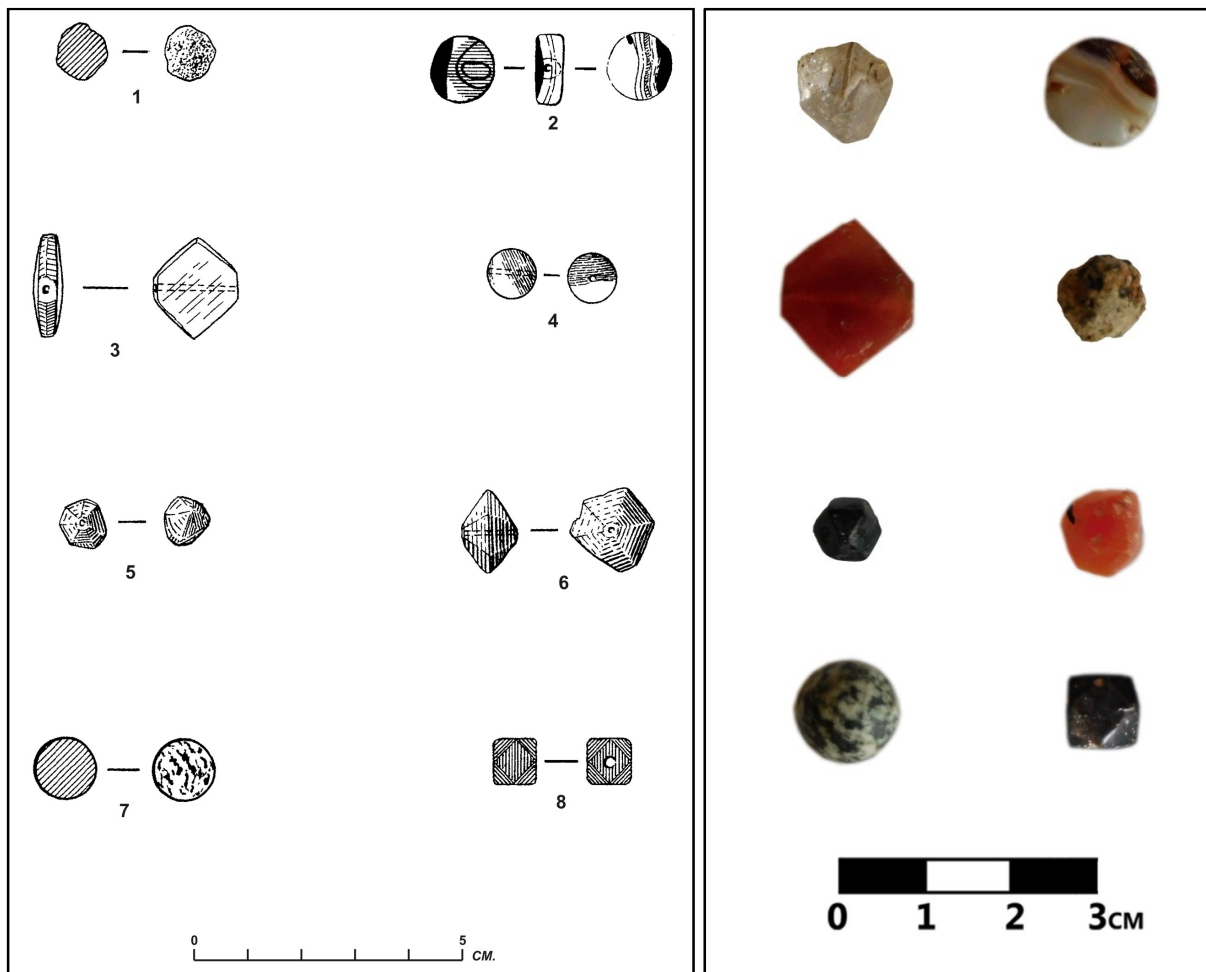


FIG. -44 & PLATE – XLV : SEMI PRECIOUS STONE BEADS

TERRACOTTA CHILAMS FROM PERIOD -IV

Fig. -45

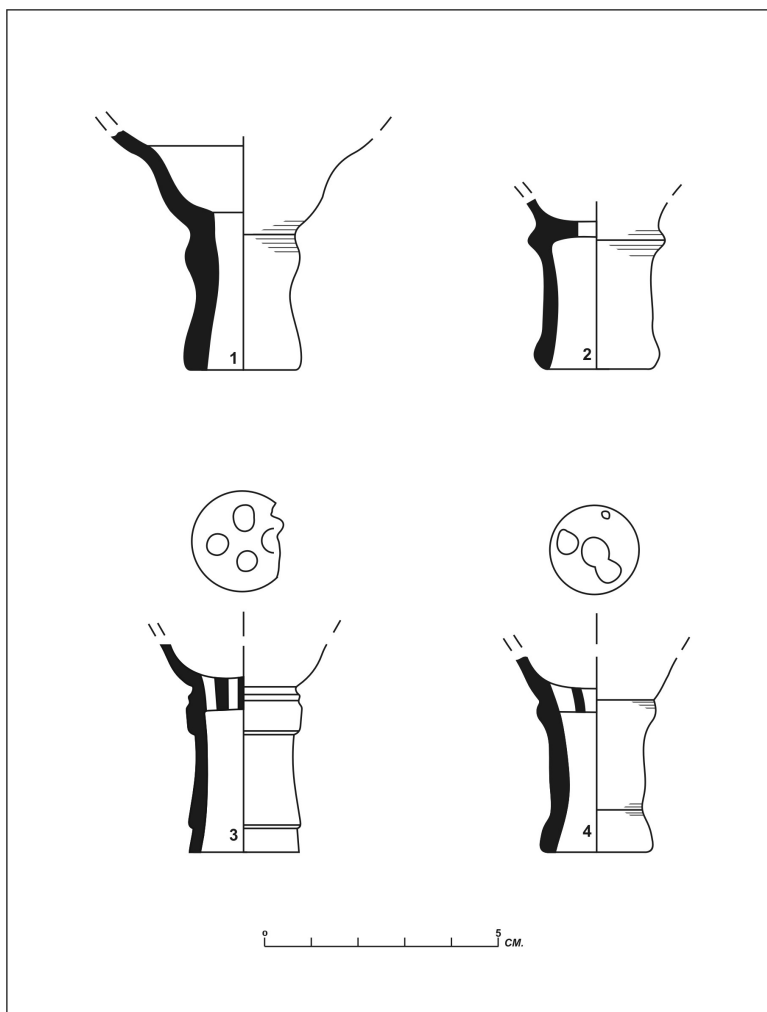


FIG. -45 & PLATE – XLVI : TERRACOTTA CHILAMS FROM PERIOD-IV

ANTIQUITIES FROM DIFFERENT PERIODS

TERRACOTTA BULL FIGURINES

1. Eight pieces of terracotta bull figurine was recovered from the excavation at Bhorgarh, all of them are broken, well fired and reddish to greyish in color, some figurines have marks as well.



PLATE – XLVII : TERRACOTTA BULL FIGURINES

UN-IDENTIFIED TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

1. Terracotta broken figure of serpent hood with incision marks showing scales and piercing eyes, well fired and red in colour.
2. Broken piece of neck portion with incised design depicting hairs; it might be a part of horse.
3. Broken piece of terracotta animal figurine with spiral horn, eyes are decorated with incision and piercing technique, it might be a Ram's.
4. Broken incised terracotta un-identified figurine.
5. Broken terracotta legs of animal figurines.
6. Broken terracotta legs of animal figurines.



PLATE – XLVIII : UN-IDENTIFIED TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

TERRACOTTA HUMAN FIGURINE & DABBERS

Broken two human figurines were found from Bhorgarh, left one is very fine in nature, well baked and decorated with incised lines and right one is very crude in nature.



Dabbers are made up of baked clay, well fired in nature and base is flat; used for pottery making process.



PLATE – XLIX : BROKEN TERRCOTTA HUMAN FIGURINES & DABBERS

SLING BALLS

Seven sling balls in spherical shape, made up of clay, well fired in nature, reddish to grayish in shade.



PLATE – L : TERRACOTTA SLING BALLS

IVORY & SHELL ITEMS

9 pieces of shell bangles were found from the excavation, all are broken pieces with spherical to square section, and only one piece shell bangle has parallel three grooved lines.



PLATE – LI : FRAGMENTS OF IVORY & SHELL BANGLES

COPPER BANGLE FRAGMENTS

3 pieces of broken copper bangles and one piece of antimony rod were found, all are spherical in section.



PLATE – LII : COPPER BANGLE FRAGEMENTS

TERRACOTTA SEALING

Well fired spherical shape sealing bearing **SWASTIKA SYMBOL** on the top and **SU PA KA SA** legend in early Brahmi script datable to circa 2nd Cent. CE, it might be name of a person.



PLATE – LIII : INSCRIBED TERRACOTTA SEALING

INCISED POTSDHERDS & KNIFE HANDLE

1. **Incised pottery (Fish scale and flower pattern):** five pieces of incised potsherds depicting fish scale and floral pattern were found from the excavation of Bhorgarh.
2. **Knife Handle:** broken knife handle is made up of ivory; section is half moon shaped and small copper nails are also visible within this object.



PLATE – LIV : INCISED POTSDHERDS & IVORY KNIFE HANDLE

TC BULL FIGURINES

1. Terracotta bull figurine with prominent hump, facing forward, piercing for showing eyes, broken horns, broken tail can also be seen, legs probably made from pinching technique, other side is partially broken, forehead is decorated with incised designs comb like pattern, nostrils can be seen also and mouth of the bull made with human nails. Holes are observed near horns it may be used as toy cart.
2. A slightly charged terracotta bull figurine with prominent hump and back and broken horns.



PLATE – LV : TERRACOTTA BULL FIGURINES

TERRACOTTA MISC. ITEMS



PLATE – LVI : TERRACOTTA BROKEN FIGURINE? & SPINDLE WHORL

TERRACOTTA MISC. ITEMS

(FIG. 46)

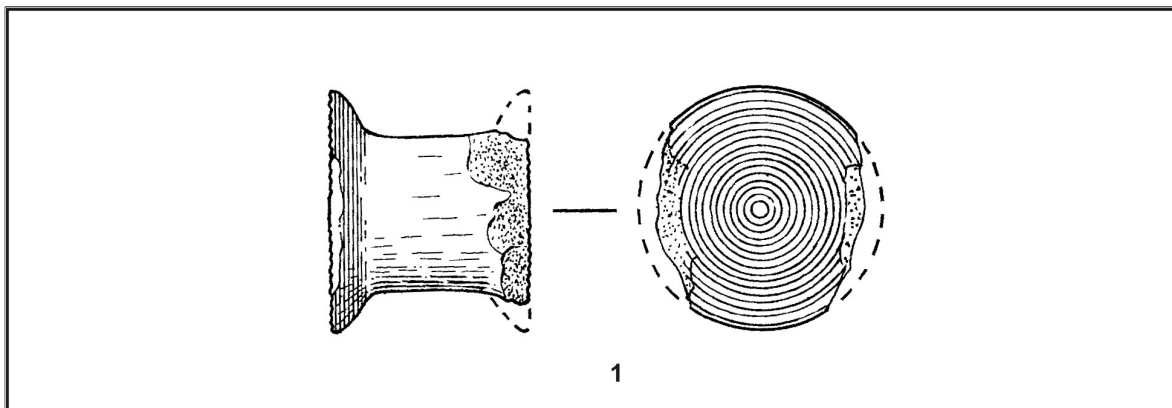


FIG. 46 & PLATE – LVII : EAR STUD

CHAPTER - IX

CIVILISATION AS INFERRED FROM THE CULTURAL REMAINS AT BHORGARH

It appears that the society consisted of agriculturists, potters, craftsmen, masons and traders. People in the early stages lived in huts and then in mud-walled houses and finally in brick-built houses. When we notice the habitational activity at the site, various structures were found at different levels. People used to live in different types of structures as per the evidences shown in different trenches.

People used to live in different types of structures The main concentration of the medieval period is noticed on the eastern side of the mound. Unfortunately, the entire portion was destroyed by the farmers. Hence, considerable evidence of that period could not be gathered. A small wall made of lakhori bricks in four courses has been exposed. Many lakhori brick structures erected during this period may be noticed within 2 km. Area which includes a huge tank constructed at Narela dating back to the Mughal period. Sherds of porcelain and celadon ware have been collected along with Hukka-chelam made of red ware from this level at Bhorgarh.

The earliest cultural deposit at the lowest level at the site was found in a disturbed state lying above the natural soil is associated with Red ware coated with dull red slip pottery belongs to Late Harappan. No sign of regular habitation such as marks of burnt organic material could be observed, because the excavations were carried out in a limited area and also because of the reason that one of the 3 mounds at Bhorgarh which is now in existence was very small and is used as a modern graveyard. Only a small portion was partly intact at the time of excavations. It appears that there was a general decline in the civic standards of the mature Harappa like planned houses which might be replaced by inferior structures. The material such as pottery and antiquities were also of inferior

quality. The disposal of the dead was graphically shown with the pots placed before the head of that person perhaps used by him shows their custom during that period. The cemetery site and the other material found at the lowest level in a disturbed state suggest that once a regular habitation existed within the periphery of the site.

The people of the Painted Grey Ware culture which succeeded Late Harappa culture at Bhorgarh might have lived in the thatched huts of rammed mud floor as evidenced by post holes. No large scale horizontal excavations have yet been carried out at any PGW site. Thus one cannot get a detailed picture of the everyday life of the people. It appears that these proto-historic cultures were essentially a village culture of agricultural-cum-pastoral base. There are no signs of urbanization found in these cultures such as town planning, large scale trade and commerce, coinage, writing etc.

The people used to wear ornaments of terracotta and bangles of copper, shell, faience and glass. Ghat-shaped beads and beads of semi-precious stones were also used by the women. They also used ear studs. But most notable is the usage of glass bangles. Skin rubbers were used for cleaning the body. The availability of hopscotch and terracotta balls point out to popular games of the children. Among important antiquities discovered were terracotta animal figurines, ghata-shaped beads, discs decorated with designs at the edges.

Bowls, dishes with straight or convex sides and having designs like dots, dashes, loops, concentric circles, wavy lines, strokes etc. have been found painted usually with black pigment. The pottery was wheel thrown and well lavigated, thin to medium section. As per the evidence available material remains, the civilization of this period was simple based on advanced pastoral economy. PGW was a matured phase here as in the case of other important PGW sites like Hastinapur, Mathura, Kausambi and Ahichchattr.

During Kushan period structural activity was noticed in two phases. The first one is the usage of mud bricks and two occupational layers as evidenced by mud floors. The second phase of activity is witnessed by burnt brick structure. A house complex constructed with burnt bricks was noticed in trenches YA-1 and YB-2. Two successive floors in Trench A-2 were noticed one at layer 6 and the other at layer 3 cut by a pit.

The floor of the houses were generally made of fine compact clay, in some cases they were found rammed with small pieces of mud clay and burnt clay lumps to provide a harder surface. The remains of the domestic hearth (chulla) was also found in painted grey ware horizon at Bhorgarh. It had roughly trapezium sides with a curve at the top suggests that big vessels were kept over it, probably used for cooking purposes.

The people realized the importance of perennial river Yamuna exploited the advantage of the river and the deposit of alluvial soil on either side of the bank which had given them the idea of farming agriculture and domestication of cattle. Moreover, there was usage of available material to build houses, extraction of ores and manufacture of ornaments, weapons and tools of utilitarian value. There was division of society in accordance with the professional skills they had acquired. Society was possibly better organized. It appears that there were separate classes of people in the society as evidenced by the occurrence of various items. Notable among them is a well fired spherical shape sealing bearing **SWASTIKA SYMBOL** on the top and **SU PA KA SA** legend in early Brahmi script datable to circa 2nd Cent. CE, it might be name of a person. Besides terracotta figurines, other antiquities found include beads of some-precious stones, shell objects, The ceramics include carinated handis, spouted vessels, spouts and miniature vessels.

Thus, the above inference gathered from the material remains unearthed from Bhorgarh of different periods give us an idea of the people, their way of life and living conditions of particular period to which they belonged.

CHAPTER-X

PROTO-HISTORIC CULTURES IN DELHI

The excavations at Purana Qila revealed continuous occupation from Mauryan times to the Early Mughal period though the excavations at this place from 1969 to 1973 did not provide any proto-historic vestiges. However, it was reported the occurrence of a PGW sherd from trial excavation in 1954-55 at the same place. A few sites in Delhi also revealed PGW phase. Khera Kalan was reported by Shri K.N.Dikshit of the A.S.I in 1968-69. Again the site was visited by a team of Archaeologist headed by Dr. B.R.Mani of the A.S.I in the year 1994 collected pottery from the surface which included PGW. The mound at Gordon Highlanders Column near Badli-ki-Sarai yielded Painted Grey Ware when the same team visited the site in 1991. A small mound towards north of Badli-ki-Sarai was noticed by Shri Rameswar Dayal in 1957-58 having Painted Grey Ware. Bankner was visited by the above team did not find PGW at that time but it was reported about PGW during earlier visit to the site. The said team also visited Jhatikara in the year 1991. Out of three mounds at Jhatikara, the largest mound yielded PGW. At Loni, 4 km north of Mandoli, outskirts of Delhi, Shri C.L.Suri of Archaeological Survey of India during 1991 found PGW in thick deposit at the site. Shri B.M.Pande of Archaeological Survey of India discovered a site near Wazirabad barrage at Timarpur in 1971-72 yielded Painted Grey Ware.

The above sites yielded only PGW where as some other sites in Delhi also provided even earlier culture. At Dhansa Prof. Suraj Bhan of Kurukshetra University discovered Late Harappan and PGW sherds At Kharkhari Nahar, Dr. Mani collected Late Harappan pottery with close affinity to late and degenerate Siswal Ware & Bara element in addition to PGW in the year 1990-91.

Bhorgarh was explored by the A.S.I. in 1973-75 by Ms. Madhu Bala and again in 1991-92 joint team led by Shri C.L.Suri and Dr.B.R.Mani collected PGW sherds. The Department of Archaeology, Govt. of NCT of Delhi excavated the site in two successive seasons during 1992-93 and 1993-94 by the present author. The importance of the site was due to the discovery of two parallel extended burials of Late Harappan period in the lowest level at the site. One of the Burials had a small bowl and two globular vases placed behind the head. This was succeeded by Painted Grey Ware culture.

Mandoli was explored earlier by Shri. D.V. Sharma of Archaeological Survey of India during 1980 discovered Late Harappan sherds from the site. The present author during his subsequent exploration in 1987 has decided to excavate the site. During the field seasons from 1987-88 and 1988-89 the site was excavated by him and discovered Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware cultures.

Brief description of the above two sites pertaining to Proto-historic cultures is given hereunder for general information.

Location of the sites:

The ancient mound at Mandoli is situated in east Delhi located towards east of Yamuna river about 14 km from Delhi Railway Station, on Delhi Ghaziabad highway near Nand Nagari. The Delhi Ghaziabad highway runs west to east towards its south side and a railway line towards its west. The maximum available height of the mound is 5.50 mtr. above the present level of the adjoining area and can only be sighted from a close distance. Some portion of the mound at the time of excavation was occupied by modern temples, grave yard and a few modern structures.

The ancient mound at Bhorgarh is located at a distance of about 30 Kms from Delhi Railway station towards north of Delhi and is situated 500 m to the west of village Bhorgarh and 2 km west of Narela Railway Station. Originally the site consists of three mounds spread over several acres of land, but the villagers have converted most of the mounds into agricultural fields. One mound is almost inhabited by the villagers, another was already leveled by them and the third one is gradually being sliced from all sides for making more levelled land for agriculture fields. Traces of the mound may be seen on the eastern side of the village behind Government School near the bus stop. This clearly shows that a part of the village is settled on the ancient site itself. The mound which was intact was only 57 m at the time of excavation.

Late Harappan Period:

Late Harappan settlement was found at the lowest level at Mandoli. Though the occupation appears to be small in size, no structural vestiges by way of house complex was noticed. Yet, yellow colour rammed earth floor with post holes in circular and arc fashion traced in couple of trenches gave an idea of the Late

Harappan residential pattern here. It is interesting to note that on this mud floor is found in situ a burnt terracotta object, coarse in fabric along with traces of ash, perhaps the remains of a hearth in one of the trenches.

Shapes of pottery reconstructed from shreds in this level include jars with splayed out or beaded rim, vase with disc base etc. All the shreds showed evidence of water logging caused by flood activity during this period. This inference is supported by the evidence of thick deposit of 30 to 35 cm water borne silt and sand immediately overlying the late Harappan settlement. Pottery was all fast wheel-thrown with regular striation marks. The ceramics have been turned out of well-lavigated clay and of fine and sturdy fabric, kiln-fired and occasionally coated with dull red slip. Antiquities of this period include a bi-conical bead and a circular terracotta cake.

In the lowest level at Bhorgarh, the excavations have also yielded late Harappan material. The two parallel extended burials at the lowest level have made the site very important though no sign of habitation of this period was found. But, some pot shreds and discovery of the graves of this period suggest that habitational area must be nearby beneath the mounds inhabited by the villagers or still be buried underneath the agricultural fields.

Though in the lower level, a floor and two damaged post holes have been observed in one of the trenches but nothing definitely could be proved about the habitational pattern. Two graves belonging to this period were exposed. Grave pits were dug out in the alluvium of river Yamuna and later filled by the same soil.

Grave No.1: It is an extended burial. The body was buried almost in north-south orientation. Three pots were placed behind the head as burial goods. Out of these, one is a small bowl while other two are small globular vases of two different sizes. The skeleton has a long stature with a calculated length of 176 cm. Both hands were folded from elbow and seems to have been placed on shoulders. Skull is slightly damaged and the face is turned towards the west. Eyes, orbits and lower jaws are intact. The epiphysis of the long bones and pelvic girdle were damaged. Bones of the leg portion (tarsel, meta-tarsel, phalanges) remained inside the section.

Grave No. 2: It is also an extended burial with almost north-south orientation and is almost parallel to Grave No.1. The left hand of skeleton was kept straight and parallel to vertebral column. Interestingly, this grave does not contain any burial goods. The skeleton was in a very fragile condition.

Painted Grey Ware:

PGW culture succeeded the Late Harappan culture at both the places. At Mandoli the site was inhabited once again by the people using Painted Grey Ware after a little gap due to flood activity of river Yamuna. The fabric of this pottery is very fine, the colour ranges from ashy to dark grey. Most of the pots are wheel-turned. Common forms are bowls and dishes with straight or convex sides. Simple designs like dots, dashes, loops, concentric circles, wavy lines, strokes etc. were painted usually with a black pigment. In some cases, reddish brown colour with a group of black wavy lines both internally and externally and a dark ashy well-baked shred of a bowl of fine fabric with a dull red coloured thick horizontal rim band were noteworthy. It is associated with a fine thin grey ware and red ware. Residential vestiges comprised of rammed mud floor and post-holes and suggest that wattle and daub structures might have been used by Painted Grey Ware people.

Among important antiquities discovered were terracotta animal figurines, ghat-shaped beads, discs decorated with designs at the edges, pyramid-shaped hollow ivory piece, ivory button, beads of banded agate including etched carnelian bead, antimony rod and nail parier made of copper, besides some iron slags.

Bhorgarh has a rich deposit measuring 45 cm. on average. Occurrence of PGW pottery in abundance at this site proves that this culture dominated Bhorgarh settlement once upon a time. The post-holes identified in one of the trenches suggest that people used to live in circular huts supported by wooden posts. In another trench, a hearth made of lump of clay was exposed.

Among pottery, important shapes are straight-sided bowls with flat base, deep bowls with sager base. Basins and vases of associated red ware fabric have also been noticed. PGW sherds were painted with black pigment either on inner or outer surface and sometimes on both sides. All designs were painted with free

hand. Circles, concentric circles, semicircles, flowers with three or nine petals, dotted designs, dots inside two parallel lines, strokes, wavy lines, intersecting loops, balloon design, hook design are only some of the common designs that decorated the earthenware.

Beads made of carnelian, clay beads of ghata-shape, terracotta animal figurines, hopscotches and fragments of iron implements are some of the other important antiquities of this period.

Large scale horizontal excavations have not yet been carried out at any PGW site. Thus one cannot get a detailed picture of the everyday life of the people. However from whatever little is known, it appears that these people played the game of causer indicated by the discovery of typical gamesmen used in this game. The children perhaps played hopscotch with terracotta disc. Women bedecked with necklaces of beads of agate, carnelian and jasper etc. They also used ear studs. But most notable is the usage of glass bangles.

The excavations at Mandoli and Bhorgarh gave complete picture of these two sites to study the settlement pattern at these places. Both the sites have yielded vestiges of Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware cultures. Occurrence of Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware cultures from the stratified layers for the first time in Delhi is note worthy.
