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STONE SCULPTURE IN THE ALLAHABAD MUSEUM

A Descriptive Catalogue



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northern part of the Indian sub-continent notably Taxila, Rupar, Mathura, Sankisa, Kausambi, Banaras, Jhusi, Vaisali, and Patna. When a central hole is present, the sloping sides along it are generally carved with representations of four standing Mother Goddesses in the four directions alternating with a palm tree or a floral motif. Cable moldings frequently divide the upper surfaces of these discs into two circular bands, each filled with tiny four-sided pyramids in compartments or by animal motifs (Cat. 12-14). The Allahabad Museum possesses three fragments of a somewhat unusual shape (Cat. 5, 11, and 15) which must have had fairly large holes in the center, Cat. 15 being decorated with a graceful design of honeysuckle and buds.

The discs are of polished stone and are carved and finished with the great care and technical competence characteristic of the refined workmanship of the Maurya period.

Related to the stone discs in style and material are an interesting seal carved with a rhinoceros (Cat. 3) and a small plaque with a nude Mother Goddess accompanied by her consort (Cat. 7).

3 SEAL WITH THE REPRESENTATION OF A RHINOCEROS

Bhita, Allahabad District, Uttar Pradesh

c. 3rd century B.C.

Red and grey soapstone, .066 × .063 m.

AM Mor 16

Plate II

The animal, in what seems to be a flying gallop, moves to the right. The bulky body is divided into two globular parts, each enclosed by a ridged border. The small tail hangs close to the back and a horn is visible at the end of the snout.

4 FRAGMENT OF A STONE DISC WITH STAR PATTERN

Bhita, Allahabad District, Uttar Pradesh

c. 3rd century B.C.

Grey and red sandstone, .035 m.

AM Mor 15

Plate II

Between the prongs of the stars can be seen a crescent moon and two *nandipada* motifs. Instead of the central hole there is a circular protuberance, a feature characteristic of stone discs discovered in Murtaziganj, Patna [cf. S. A. Shere, "Stone Discs at Murtaziganj," *Journal of the Bihar Research Society* XXXVII, Parts 3-4 (1951), Pl. IX, Fig. 19].

5 FRAGMENT OF A GRANULATED STONE DISC

Jhusi, Allahabad District, Uttar Pradesh

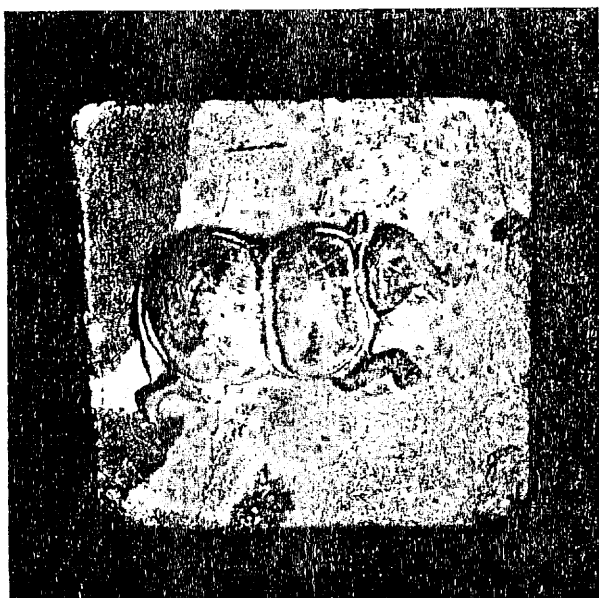
c. 3rd century B.C.

Streaked sandstone, .065 m.

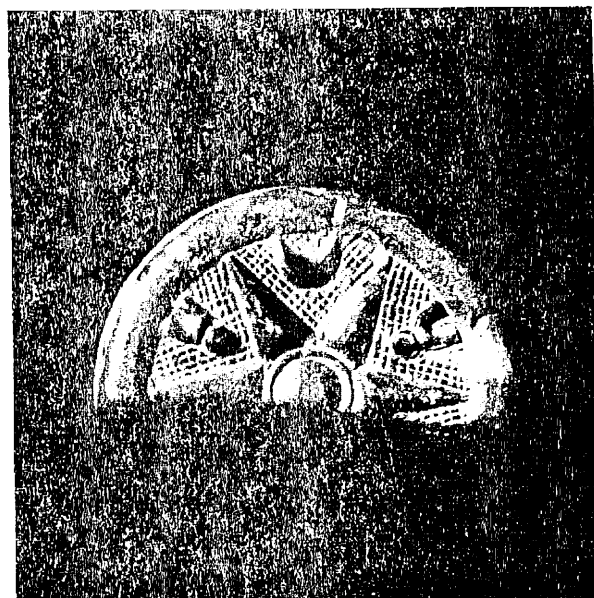
AM Mor 30

Plate II

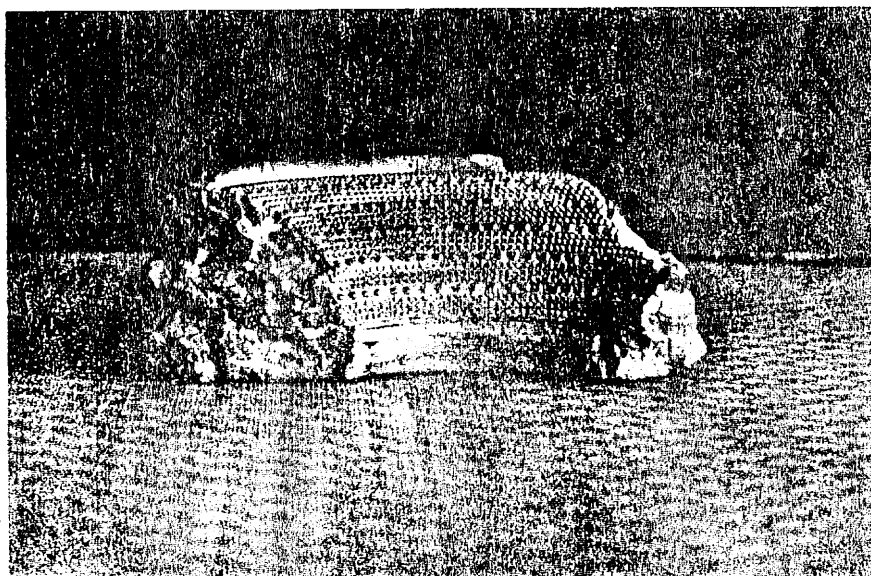
In shape the fragment is similar to Cat. 15, Pl. VI except that it bears a much simpler design consisting of five rows of beads forming six bands, each filled with three parallel rows of granules.



3 Seal. Bhita, Allahabad District, U.P., c. 3rd century B.C.; .066 × .063 m.



4 Fragment of a stone disc. Bhita, Allahabad District, U.P., c. 3rd century B.C.; .035 m.



5 Fragment of a stone disc. Jhusi, Allahabad District, U.P., c. 3rd century B.C.; .065 m.