

# INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY 1962-63

## —A REVIEW

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI  
1965

*Price : Inland Rs. 12.00  
Foreign 28 Sh. or 45 32 cents.*



**1965**

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**PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, FARIDABAD**

(pl. LXXXIV), beads, sprinkler-shaped vases, etc. The structural remains were represented by walls of baked bricks and a mud-oven (pl. LXXX B).

78. EXCAVATION AT RAJBADI-DANGA (JADUPUR), DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD.—With a view to identifying Karnasuvarna, the traditional capital-city of Sasanka with its *stupas*, monasteries and other monuments mentioned by Hiuen Tsang, the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, under Dr. S. R. Das, conducted excavation at Rajbadi-danga at Jadupur, District Murshidabad. The site lies at a distance of over 1 km. from the Chiruti railway-station. The south-eastern portion of the mound with the maximum extant height was selected for excavation. The excavation revealed five phases of structures (pl. LXXXV). Noteworthy among these were: remains of a platform, two circular basements (probably of a *stupa*) (pl. LXXXVI A) and lime-plastered steps (pl. LXXXVI B) in Phase III and four square structures showing carved brickwork and having *pradakshina-patha*, etc., in Phase V. The structural remains of Phases I and II were represented by brick pavements and those of Phase IV by a wall running over the circular basements of the preceding Phase.

On the basis of terracotta sealings and figurines, Phase I could be assigned to *circa* third-fourth century and Phase III to sixth-seventh century A.D. The two subsequent Phases belonged to *circa* eighth-twelfth century A.D. Some of the seals recovered from the excavation bore the Buddhist formula and point to the existence of a Buddhist monastery. One of them, from Phase III (pl. XC D), mentioned *Rakta-mrittika-mahavihara*, described by Hiuen Tsang to be situated in the suburbs of Karnasuvarna, the capital of Gauda in the seventh century. Beautiful stucco mouldings (pl. LXXXVIII B), terracotta lamps (pl. LXXXIX), two stucco heads (pl. XC A and B) belonging to the Gupta period and a copper *chakra* (pl. XC C) of *circa* eighth century A.D., terracotta figurines (pl. XCI), including those of a votive nature (pl. XCI A) and a female deity (pl. XCI B), constituted the other noteworthy finds. Amongst pottery, mention may be made of a few sherds of grey ware, painted in black (pl. LXXXVII A), decorated ware showing such designs as crosses, triangles, wavy lines, cheques etc. (pl. LXXXVII B) and bottle-necked sprinklers (pl. LXXXVIII A). A few pieces of the Northern Black Polished Ware were also recovered from a pit, evidently out of any stratigraphical context.

79. EXCAVATION AT CHANDRAKETUGARH, DISTRICT 24-PARGANAS.—The resumed excavation (1961-62, p. 62) at Chandaketugarh by the Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, University of Calcutta, under Shri G. R. Roychoudhury, brought to light interesting information about the structural remains of the various Periods. The sequence of Periods revealed by present season of excavation was as follows. Period I, represented the level above the natural soil hitherto unplumbed due to the high water-table obtaining at the site. The finds included punch-marked copper coins with ship-motifs, cast copper coins, bone objects and the Northern Black Polished Ware. Period II, assignable to *circa* second-first century B.C., yielded a thick grey ware, terracotta objects including human figurines (pl. XCIV A and B), beads and a few cast copper coins. The occurrence of tile-fragments indicated that the structures had been built of perishable material like bamboos or wood, etc., with tiled covering. Period III, datable to first to third century A.D. was characterized by the occurrence of the Roulettes Ware and exquisitely-moulded terracotta figurines showing elaborate coiffure and drapery (pl. XCIV C), and an erotic plaque (pl. XCIV D). Period IV, ranging from fourth to sixth century A.D., coincided with the Gupta period and produced, besides pottery, seals and sealings and terracotta objects (pl. XCV). Periods V and VI related to *circa* seventh-tenth century A.D.

## **EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS**

Noteworthy structures uncovered by the present excavation included: (i) a massive brick structure built on wooden piles belonging to Period III (pl. XCII); (ii) moulded brickwork showing a series of dentils, offsets, niches, etc., of Period IV (pl. XCIII A); (iii) a circular brick basement with moulded offsets of Period IV (pl. XCIII B), and (iv) a circular brick basement of Period V. While the moulded brickwork of Period III related to the so-called Gupta temple, the circular basements of Period IV and V represented perhaps the remains of the votive *stupas*.

It may, however, be mentioned that the incidence of Periods in this season's excavation differs appreciably from that obtained last year (1961-62, p. 62). A correlation of the strata belonging to the various cuttings is, therefore, necessary for a proper understanding of the sequence at the site.



A



B



C



D



E

*Chandraketugarh: terracotta objects, Period IV*