

Archaeological Research and Conservation Program, India and Pakistan (ARCIPIP) activities at the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin

Participants of the *Archaeological Research and Conservation Program: Pakistan and India* (ARCIPIP) gathered at the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin, November 16-19th, 2014. During these meetings leading archaeologists and museum specialists from Pakistan, India and the USA shared data from recent excavations and collaborative research in India and Pakistan as well as information on new linkages that have been formed in Oman. Archaeologists and historians have long known of the important connections between South Asia and the Arabian Peninsula, but recent archaeological studies in Pakistan, India, and Oman have begun to reveal new aspects of the prehistoric interactions between these regions. The presentations included the discussion of recent excavations from the Palaeolithic, Chalcolithic, Harappan, early Iron Age, Gandhara period, Islamic period and Sikh period. The diverse methodologies being used in Pakistan, India and the USA reflect the historical process of archaeological research and these sessions allowed scholars from all three countries to discuss ways in which to compare and share data and develop new collaborative research programs. In addition, there were presentations about the development of new museum and conservation projects as well as outreach programs that include web based gazetteers and information that can be accessed by the local as well as the international public.

The ARCIPIP has been supported by a grant from the US State Department through the US Embassy in Islamabad to the Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Participants in the sessions included scholars from the three main institutions that have been part of this program as well as additional scholars who have become involved in related projects.

ARCIPIP Preconference session

A one day preconference session dedicated to the ARCIPIP was held on Thursday, Oct 16, 2014, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm at the Madison Concourse Hotel. Each scholar was allotted 30 minutes – a 15 minute overview of a topic based on their own research experience and then the remaining 15 minutes were used for discussion among the conference participants and attendees. A final discussion period served to help summarize the major issues that face collaborative fieldwork, museum development, conservation, publication, education and public outreach in South Asia.

Prof. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin, Madison and ARCIPIP Director) opened the session with an *Overview of the Shared Archaeological Heritage of India, Pakistan and Oman*. The broad themes and major objectives of the ARCIPIP were synthesized in this introductory presentation. This program was developed to facilitate Indian and Pakistani scholars, along with US colleagues, to work together on archaeological research projects in both countries. This project has succeeded in building common methodologies, terminologies, develop critical thinking and interpretive frameworks that will continue after the project is over. The encouragement and inclusion of women and minorities in cultural heritage management and archaeology has also been an important goal of the project. Finally, scholars in both India and Pakistan can begin working together to develop

stronger antiquities laws and educate the general public about their responsibilities as stakeholders of regional and national cultural heritage.

Dr. Abdul Samad, (Chair, Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan) discussed *Chronological and Methodological issues in Gandharan Archaeology: A Case study of Bhamala Stupa Excavations*. The excavations at the Bhamala Stupa in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan, is one of the important excavation project partly sponsored by ARCPIP. This site is a World Heritage Site associated with the other sites in the Taxila Valley, near Islamabad. Two Indian archaeologists from the Maharaja Sayajirao University visited the site in 2013 at the beginning of the ARCPIP project. Dr. Samad also presented his plans for continued work at the site which has now begun under the directorship of Hameed Chitrali and Muzzafar from Hazara University. He also presented some initial information on regional surveys carried out and other collaborative projects that have been undertaken by their University.

Prof. K. Krishnan Nampoothiri (Chair, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda) presented his work on the *Palaeolithic Archaeology of South Asia: New perspectives from the central Narmada Basin*. Excavations at the site of Dhansi in Madhya Pradesh were presented with the results of stable isotope analysis and paleomagnetic dating. This site is one of the most important sites for documenting the local presence of early human populations in South Asia. The data from this region can be compared with discoveries in Pakistan to help develop a more complete picture of the process of early human development in South Asia.

Dr. Randall Law (Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison) provided an update on the *South Asian Archaeology Database-Gazetteer Project (SAADGP)*. This database is a research tool that organized in a FilemakerPro database with links to Google Earth web resources. All excavated and surveyed archaeological sites that have been documented in Pakistan and India are eventually going to be entered into this database. Currently the sites that have been uploaded into the database are those relating to the Indus Civilization along with any additional sites from any historical period that have been documented in recent surveys by participants of the ARCPIP program. Participants will be able to access the database to plan future research and compare data between the two major regions of India and Pakistan.

Dr. Ambika Patel (Department of Museology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda) presented a report on *Research, Documentation and Conservation of Museum Collections at the Department of Archaeology, MSU*. As part of the ARCPIP, the archaeological collections of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda have been reorganized, conserved and re-documented. This process had begun with support from the Global Heritage Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India, and ARCPIP funding has been able to expand the scope of the project and involve more students and faculty. The documentation will be linked to the South Asian Archaeology Database-Gazetteer Project (SAADGP).

Mrs. Zubaida Yusuf (Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology University of Peshawar, Pakistan) discussed *Clothing and Power: the kaftan in Gandharan art*

and its legacy. This paper presented an overview of the archaeological and ethnohistorical evidence for different forms of clothing in the northwestern subcontinent, with a focus on the *kaftan*, or open front coat. The wide variety of cultural styles and contexts for this form of dress showed the incredible depth of South Asian history and the shared heritage of Pakistan, India and other regions of the world.

Prof. Ajitprasad Pottentavida (Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda) presented details of *Excavating Regional Harappan sites: Comparing Goladhor and Shikarpur.* Excavations at the site of Shikarpur, which have been supported by ARCPIP, have produced a rich source of new data on the regional nature of Harappan settlements in Kutch, Gujarat. These new data can now be compared with earlier sites excavated by the department and with sites excavated in Pakistan. Due to the development of shared methodologies and terminologies it is now possible to make more meaningful comparisons between these regions.

Dr. Asma Ibrahim (State Bank Museum, Karachi) discussed *Excavations at Banbhore: New Discoveries and Future Goals.* This important Sytho-Parthian and early Islamic Period site in southern Sindh Province, Pakistan has been the focus of new excavations using modern approaches and scientific analysis. Dr. Asma Ibrahim presented some important new data on the analysis of glass and glazed ceramics at the site, which has major implications on sites found in nearby Gujarat, India as well as Oman. Her research is opening up a whole new set of questions regarding the trade and exchange networks linking South Asia with West Asia and the Gulf during the period prior to and during the expansion of Islam.

Prof. Kuldeep K. Bhan (Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda) shared with ARCPIP participants the results of his most recent *Studies of Harappan and Late Harappan Technology: Data Sharing and Experimental Studies.* As a leading scholar in the study of specialized craft technologies, Dr. Bhan provided some important critical reviews of the terminologies used to describe the ceramic and lithic technologies revealed in excavations of Harappan sites in Gujarat, India. This discussion is very important for developing broader terminologies that can incorporate the new discoveries being made in Pakistan as well as Oman.

Dr. V.N. Prabhakar (IIT-Gandhinagar and the Archaeological Survey of India) discussed *Science and Archaeology in India: Challenges and Outcomes.* This paper provided an overview of the important developments in archaeological science in India and the potential for sharing resources and expertise between the USA, India and Pakistan. He also introduced the major challenges that archaeologists are dealing with regarding conservation and preservation of sites due to agricultural and urbanization processes. This led to important discussion comparing the ways that each country deals with these issues.

Dr. Rajesh Sasidharan Vasantha (University of Kerela, India) presented the initial results of *Regional Surveys in Western India: Landscape and Environmental approaches.* This paper provided a very comprehensive overview of the history of regional archaeological surveys in South Asia prior to 1946 and then in India during the subsequent period. He presented a critical

evaluation of various approaches to the use of declassified Corona satellite images and systematic sampling and comparison of archaeological plant remains to modern samples. These data provide an important window on the changing environmental conditions and localized climate fluctuations that have impacted human settlement of the northwestern subcontinent.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan (Chair, Taxila Institute for Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan) discussed *Strategies for Archaeological Research in Pakistan: Local and International Collaboration*. Archaeological and historical research in South Asia has involved a wide range of approaches that include work by both national and international scholars. This paper provided an overview of the major projects undertaken in what is now Pakistan, prior to and after 1947. Dr. Ashraf Khan emphasized the importance of long-term, collaborative endeavors like the ARCPIP for future archaeological research in Pakistan and also in India.

Dr. Shakirullah (Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan) detailed *The role of archaeology in national identity: Muslim archaeology in Pakistan*. An important aspect of archaeology in Pakistan is the study of Islamic monuments that developed over the course of the spread of Islam in South Asia. This paper gave an overview of Islamic Period archaeological remains in Pakistan with some comparison with monuments found in India as well as links to other architectural traditions outside the subcontinent.

Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari (Chairman, Management Board of Antiquities, Government of Sindh, Pakistan) discussed *Cultural Heritage Management and Museum Development in Sindh, Pakistan*. This paper presented a critical analysis of the issues facing scholars who are trying to protect and document the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Pakistan. Dr. Lashari provided a very frank and insightful discussion of issues such as the lack of political will, negative market forces and intra-departmental rivalries that have to be overcome. He was able to show how he and others have been able to make significant progress in preserving the archaeological heritage in Sindh. This presentation resulted in considerable discussion comparing India, Pakistan and the USA.

Dr. Richard Meadow (Department of Anthropology, Harvard University) was asked to provide comments on the overall session. He was able to identify major areas where scholars in both regions shared problems and also shared solutions. He also commended the presenters on their frank and meaningful discussions that had the potential for a long term impact on the field of collaborative studies in South Asia.

43rd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin

On Friday and Saturday, Oct 17th and 18th, 2014, ARCIIP participants joined other scholars for a series of sessions covering a range of topics related to South Asian archaeology.

New Insights on Ancient Technologies of South Asia: Part 1: Copper, Ceramics and Glass Technologies

Mr. Brett Hoffman (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Dr. Ambika Patel (Department of Museology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda)

Prof. K. Krishnan Nampoothiri (Chair, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda) and Sneh P. Patel (New York University)

Dr. Asma Ibrahim (State Bank Museum, Karachi)

In this session the focus was on the complex technologies of copper metallurgy, ceramics and glass. Both of these technologies reflect the use of non-local ores or raw materials as well as locally available fuels and some raw materials. The end result of the production of copper and copper alloys is a high value material that can be recycled and used in multiple facets of daily life. The first paper by Brett Hoffman examined the diverse uses of copper and copper alloy in the Indus Civilization, with a special focus on Harappa. The second paper by Ambika Patel examined the composition, manufacturing and conservation of copper objects from the same general time frame. Comparing the data from Harappa and Gujarat shed new light on the overall complexity of Indus metallurgy. The third paper by K. Krishnan focused the production of specialized glazed pottery at the Indus sites in Kutch that were subsequently traded to far distance regions of the Indus Valley. In final paper, Asma Ibrahim presented new analysis of glass objects that were used and in some cases produced at the coastal site of Banbhore, Pakistan. Glass at Bhanbore provides evidence for trade with Iran and Iraq as well as indigenous production in Afghanistan and South Asia.

New Insights on Ancient Technologies of South Asia: Part 2: Beads and Craft Production

Prof. Kuldeep K. Bhan (Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda)

Dr. Randall Law (University of Wisconsin – Madison)

Mr. Geoffrey E. Ludvik (University of Wisconsin – Madison)

Dr. Gwendolyn Kelly (University of Wisconsin – Madison)

In this session the main focus was on bead technology and associated crafts from both Pakistan and India. The beads produced in the Indus Civilization, 2600-1900 BC represent distinctive technologies that can be linked to specific indigenous developments as well as to regional styles of bead making. The two most distinctive groups of beads produced in the Indus region are steatite microbeads and long carnelian beads. The first paper by Kuldeep Bhan discussed the major aspects of bead production and the relationship between bead production and other

specialized crafts. The second paper by Randall Law focused on the technology and implications of steatite microbeads. The third paper by Geoffrey Ludvik addressed the issue of long distance trade in carnelian beads and long term curation of beads in areas that may have had very little direct contact with the Indus Valley region. The fourth paper by Gwen Kelly examined the important new information that she had collected relating to the distinctive bleached carnelian beads from the Iron Age period in South India. Together these papers encompass the most recent studies of beads in South Asia and related regions.

Ancient Technologies of South Asia: Part 3: Craft technologies and Multiregional Interaction

Mr. Gregg M. Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Dr. Dennys Frenez (University of Bologna)

Prof. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin, Madison and ARCPIP Director)

Ms. Mary Davis (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Studies of ancient technology and the organization of craft production continue to provide important new insights regarding the emergence of complex social organization, trade, and both ideological and political structures in the past. Due to the lack of written texts for the prehistoric period in South Asia, these studies are an essential mechanism for gaining a better understanding of the past. The origins of many craft technologies can be traced to the early periods of plant and animal domestication, but the use of specialized crafts to support hierarchical society is closely linked to the emergence of cities and towns, and eventually cities.

Shared Archaeological Heritage Pakistan and India - Part 1

Dr. V.N. Prabhakar (IIT-Gandhinagar and the Archaeological Survey of India)

Dr. Abdul Samad (Chair, Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan)

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan (Chair, Taxila Institute for Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan)

Mrs. Zubaida Yusuf (Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology University of Peshawar, Pakistan)

The shared archaeological heritage of India and Pakistan reaches back over 2 million years and continues up to the historical period, providing an optimal and sustainable field for collaborative research and analysis. The foundations of South Asian archaeology as an academic discipline were established throughout the subcontinent during the period of British rule, but the directions of research and methodologies used to approach the study of the past have diverged significantly since the separation of India and Pakistan in 1947. There are however several areas of study that provide a common ground for collaboration and data sharing, the Indus Civilization (2600-1900 BCE), the Early Historic Period (800 BCE-500 CE), the Islamic and Medieval Period (8th to 18th century). This session included a discussion by V. N. Prabhakar on his recent excavations at a Harappan site in India, with a focus on the detailed documentation of the Early Harappan and Harappan settlement and diagnostic artifacts. This presentation was followed by the discussion

of surveys and excavations of chronologically later settlements in the region of Hazara, Pakistan by Abdul Samad. These surveys include sites from several periods, with a major focus on the Gandharan Period and later historical sites. A third paper by Muhammad Ashraf Khan presented the excavations of a Gandharan period Buddhist Monastery near Taxila. The third presentation in this session was by Kaleemullah Lashari, who presented on the documentation of the world heritage site of Makli, Sindh, which is one of the largest and best preserved Islamic grave yards in South Asia. The presentation of archaeology methods along with interpretive models used in each period and region of the subcontinent is important for developing future collaborative research within the region as a whole. Mrs. Zubaida Yusuf ended the session with a detailed discussion of the origin and history of the traditional item of clothing known as the kaftan.

Shared Archaeological Heritage Pakistan and India - Part 2

Prof Ajithprasad Potttentavida (The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda)

Dr. Rajesh Sasidharan Vasantha (University of Kerala)

Dr. Brad Chase (Albion College) and Dr. David Meiggs (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Dr. Shakir Ullah (Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan)

In this session, the first paper by Ajithprasad dealt with hunting foraging communities and their overlap with more settled agro-pastoralists of the Chalcolithic period. Special attention is paid to a unique burial and the associated materials. The second paper by Rajesh S.V. reported on the first stage of research on what is planned as a long-term research collaboration between Indian and US scholars. The main focus is on the local adaptive strategies of Harappan communities in southern Kachchh, Gujarat. The third paper by Brad Chase and David Meiggs presented the results of ongoing isotopic analysis of agro-pastoral adaptations and the changes in agricultural production and exchange of livestock and other commodities during the Early Harappan and Harappan periods. The final paper in this session provided an overview of the burial traditions found in northern Pakistan. Together these papers provide evidence of distinct regional patterns of cultural adaptation as well as some important overall similarities in material culture that can be explored through future collaborative research.

Shared Archaeological Heritage Pakistan and India - Part 3

Dr. Zulfikar Ali Kalhoro (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics)

Dr. Ghaniur Rahman (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan)

Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari (Chairman, Management Board of Antiquities, Government of Sindh, Pakistan)

Mr. Junaid Ahmad (Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan)

The first paper in this session by Kalhoro focused on the large variety of stupa designs found in the form of rock art in the Kirthar hill along the western edge of the Indus valley. The Buddhist period rock art is part of a longer tradition of rock art that has its roots in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. The second paper by Ghaniur Rahman addressed the long term adaptive

strategies of Buddhist communities in one of the major trade networks from Swat to the Indus River. The third paper by Lashari presented an overview of the extensive documentation program that he directs at Makli Hills, Pakistan. The final paper by Ahmad dealt with the sites and monuments of Sikh communities who once lived in the Hazara region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These four papers highlighted the various complementary methods used for documenting sites and presenting the information to the academic community as well as the general public. Many of the sites are being destroyed through development projects that are expanding out from modern towns and along new highway projects.