EXCAVATIONS AT MANGUDI



Editor

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PREFACE

Mangudi is situated on the banks of river Deviyaru in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the prehistoric places in the south Tamil Nadu selected for the excavation during the year 2001-2002 and it had yielded the Microlithic, Megalithic artefacts belonging to the prehistoric and historic periods.

I wish to thank the Government of Tamil Nadu for sanctioning a sum of Rs.4 lakhs under Part II scheme during 2001-02 towards archaeological excavations at Mangudi in Tirunelveli district and Perur in Coimbatore district (for which a separate report is being brought out). In particular, I would like to thank Thiru P.A.Ramiah, IAS, Secretary to Government, Tamil Development, Culture & Religious Endowments Department, and my predecessor, Dr.R.Kannan, IAS (who was the Commissioner of Archaeology then) for the efforts taken by them to get these projects sanctioned. The credit for the successful completion of the Mangudi excavations must go to Dr.R.Kannan.

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INTRODUCTION

Mangudi (9° 21' 12"N and 77° 31' 22"E), a place of prehistoric as well as historic importance, is situated in the Sivagiri firka of Sankarankoil Taluk, Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu and about 20 kms south of Rajapalayam town. The village can be reached from Madurai by bus through Thirumangalam, Srivilliputhur and Rajapalayam. It can also be reached from Tirunelveli via Sankarankoil, Karivalamvanthanallur and Perumalpatti. Mangudi is situated on the northern bank of the small river, Deviyaaru, which originates from the Western ghats. Another small stream Koraiyaaru and some jungle streams joins the river Deviyaru. The excavation was carried out in the ancient mounds at Nayakkarpunchai and Lingathidal (Avudaiyapuram) located 2 kms east of Mangudi.

The antiquity of the village may be traced to the Microlithic period. The Microlithc tools and fragments were discovered on the banks of the river Deviyaaru and in the excavation sites. Microliths were also collected in the neighbouring places like Puttur and Manatheri. The Microliths are datable to 4000 BCE. The black and red potteries of early historic period were also unearthed in good numbers at Nayakkarpunchai suggesting the continuous occupation of Mangudi in the early historic period. The Sangam Literature also refers to the existence of an ancient settlement at Mangudi. The Sangam poet Mangudi Maruthan was obviously a native of Mangudi. He was a highly educated and esteemed poet in the court of the Pandya king, Nedunchezhiyan, who won the battle at Thalaiyalankanam. Hence, we may assume that the village Mangudi was an important settlement of Sangam age.

Sangam literature such as Maduraikkanchi, Kurunthokai (poems 144 & 173), Akananuru (89) and Narrinai (123) were also

written by Mangudi Maruthan. Mangudi Kilar, another poet from Mangudi was also mentioned in the Sangam literature. His poems were in praise of the chief of Tiruvattaru Vattarru, Elini Atan, another ruler of the Sangam Age. (Puram,372.) Some scholars are of the opinion that Mangudi Maruthan and Mangudi Kilar are different poets hailing from the same village. Others are the opinion that both refer to the same person (Puram 24,26, 372).

After the Sangam period, Mangudi became an important trade centre which connected the ancient trade centres, Madurai and Tirunelveli. One trade route from Madurai, the Pandya capital of the Sangam age, led to Cheranadu (Kerala) passing through Thirumangalam, Srivilliputhur, Rajapalayam, Thenkasi and Senkottai. Another route branched at Rajapalayam and led towards Tirunelveli via Karivalamvandhanallur and Sankarankoil. On the first trade route, important historical centres like Nathampatti, Srivilliputhur, Sethur, Devadhanam, Vasudevanallur, Puliangudi and Kadayanallur are situated. From the beginning of historical period intense trading activities were carried out on this route between Chera and Pandya countries.

During the medieval period, this area established its trade links with the neighbouring areas. Two villages Sethur and Devathanam, situated close to Mangudi, became important commercial centres due to the extensive trade relations that existed between the Pandya territory and Cheranadu. The significance of this highway is referred to in the epic Silappathikaram. A Vedic Scholar, Parasaran after receiving awards from the Chera king travelled on this route and reached the place called Thangal (Thiruthangal) on his way to Cholanadu[1]. In the 1932 a hoard of Roman coins (6 numbers) was unearthed from Karivalamvanthanallur which is situated 15 kms

south east of Mangudi village. These coins are now in the Chennai Museum.[2] Recently, a hoard of 9 Roman gold coins of 4-5th Century ACE were also collected from Naththampatti village, near Srivilliputhur[3]. Hence the trade between the Cholanadu and Pandya nadu flourished during the 4th and 5th century ACE.

Politically, Mangudi was a part of the Pandya kingdom from the Sangam period. At the end of the Sangam period, the Kalabhras are supposed to have occupied this area. The Kalabhra occupation must have come to an end due to the rise of the Pandyas under Kadungon. The control of this area must have passed to the Pandyas and was administered by them from the 6th century to the late 10th century ACE. When the Pandya power declined, the country came under the rule of the Cholas. The control of the Cholas was only for about two centuries. However the Pandyas regained their power during the 13-14th Centuries ACE and Mangudi became a part of the Pandya kingdom.

Remains of the medieval period were unearthed at Lingathidal. Relics datable between 600 ACE and 1400 ACE were also collected from this place. Potshards and tiles of medieval period, coins, stone sculptures of the later Chola and later Pandya period were collected from this place during surface exploration. Not only the indigenous potshards, Chinese porcelain (Celadon wares) datable to 1300 ACE were also collected. Copper coins of Rajaraja I, Maravarman Sundara Pandya I and tiny coins of the Nayak period were the other noteworthy findings during the exploration.

Some sculptures and mutilated stones of a Siva temple datable to the medieval period were found in this mound. A sculpture of Nandhi, datable to 900 ACE, an image of Vinayaga, datable to 11-12th Century ACE, a mutilated image of Durga and an image of Kali were

also found here. A flight of steps of stone in a mutilated condition noticed in the vicinity could be a part of an old temple. Some of these stones of the dilapidated temple were later utilised in the construction of a small dam across the river Deviyaaru. Parts of adhistana, niche, kapotha and kudu are still found on the walls of the dam. The remains found here confirm the the existence of a temple. One fragmentary inscription dated to 13th Century ACE is also found on one of these stones.

An inscription in Tamil and Grantha scripts on a pillar datable to the 11-12th Centuries ACE was also found here.

It refers to a habitation or colony numbered as 12th Division. This colony might have been allotted particularly for warriors of a standing army. Such standing army was positioned in various places on the highways in Pandya country. For the warriors of this army, house sites and cultivable lands were allotted for their livelyhood and such places were called 'Parikraham'. Such Parikrahams were established in the villages Puttur, Vanaramutti and Urimaialagiyan, in this region. A similar warrior settlement existed here at Lingathidal and was numbered as the 12th division.

During 16-17th Century ACE the area was controlled by the Nayaks of Madurai and Pandyas of Thenkasi alternatively. In the 16th Century, Sivagiri Poligars got this region for governance from the Madurai Nayaks as their sub-ordinates. Subsequently in the 18th Century, the Nawabs of Arcot ruled the area, and finally it came under the possession of the British.

A field survey was conducted to understand the past and archaeological potentials of the locality. The following is the short historical account of the neighbouring villages.

Puttur

This village is situated in about 4Km south west of Mangudi. Close to the village is a small hillock with some natural caverns overlooking an irrigation tank. On the southern slope of this hill, Microlithic tools and broken pieces of tools were collected. It is possible that some of these caverns were occupied by the people of the Microlithic period.

Punalveli

During the later Pandya period, 12-13th century ACE, the villages Mangudi and Punalveli were in Anmarnadu, a subdivision of Pandyanadu. An inscription of the Nayak period (1595 - 1601 ACE) refers to the assignment of fishing rights in the irrigation tank of Punalveli to those people who desilted the tank annually.[4]

Settur

This village is situated to the west of Mangudi on Tenkasi highway and flourished as a trade centre in the medieval period. The trading village was named Semmaram alias Kulasekara puram[5]. Kannudaiya Isvaran and Seranarayana Vinnagar are the two main temples situated here. A stone image of a Jain Thirthankara dated to the Pandya period is also found here.

Devadhanam

It is an important village located close to Sethur. Urn burials of Megalithic period are found here at Nedumparambu[6]. A Siva temple, Nachchadai Thavirtha Nayanar, of the 11th century ACE was renovated by the later Pandyas and Tenkasi Pandyas.

Rajapalayam

Megalithic period urn burials were noticed at a place called

Kondaneri on the outskirts of Rajapalayam[7]. Later Pandya inscriptions are also found in the Venkatesaperumal temple. Karunkulam alias Sathavasakanallur, a village situated close to Rajapalayam[8] has Paravaivannam Kaththar temple, a temple dedicated to Siva.

Muthukudi

This village is located midway between Rajapalayam and Sankarankoil. An inscription found here mentions the donation of Uthirappatti to one hero Periyadevapallan who sacrificed his life for the well being of the village[9].

Cholapuram

This village is situated on the banks of Deviyaru, where Microlithic tools, urn burials, black and red ware of the megalithic period, were located. Coins of the later Cholas, later Pandyas and Nayaks were collected here. Some Chinese coins, and Celadon pieces were also collected. A trading community from the southern Ceylon (Sri Lanka), namely the Valanjyars[10] were engaged in trade activities during the 13th century ACE. Siva and Vishnu temples of later Pandyas, were renovated by the Thenkasi Pandyas.

Karivalamvanthanallur

This village lies between Cholapuram and Sankarankoil. Six gold coins of Roman origin were collected from this site. A Siva temple named Palvannanathar, constructed during the rule of the later Pandyas and subsequently renovated by the Thenkasi Pandyas, is located here. The inscription engraved on the walls of this temple mentions the name of the village as Karivaranallur [11].

Thenmalai

This village is located on the southern side of Mangudi. The later Pandyas constructed a Siva temple on the slopes of the hill. A hero-stone and some Sathi stones are also found in this village.

Arukankulam

This village is located on the southern side of Mangudi. Microlithic tools were collected from this village and also at Achchankulam, Senthatiyapuram and Karisathan and on the slopes of Manthimalai.

Mudivanankankanmai

The irrigation tank is situated in a deserted village called by the local people as Mudivalanku Pandyapuram. It lies in between Mangudi and Perumalpatti villages. A number of tools, flakes were found on the catchments area of the irrigation tank. A later Pandya temple dedicated to Siva is found in ruins.

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CUTTINGS

The Department of Archaeology selected the site after carefully analysing the literary and epigraphical materials and the fieldwork data to carry out systematic excavations during the year 2002 at Mangudi. To assess the potentiality of the area, trial digging was initially done at 3 selected places. Later, ten trenches were laid out in the mound called Nayakkanpunchai and Lingathidal which were located about 2 km east of Mangudi. The height of the mound is about 2.50 metres and extends to an area of 15 acres. The area is now under the occupation of private owners. Adjacent to this mound, a small river Deviyaru flows from west to east. The river is mostly dry excepting the monsoon period when it gets some rain. It originates from the Western Ghats about 15 Km from Mangudi and runs through the southern side of the mound. This Deviyaru joins with the Vaippar river at a distance of 25 Kilometres in Virudhunagar district and finally flows into the Bay of Bengal.

MGD-1

This trench was laid in Nayakkarpunchai area. The size of the trench is 4 metres x 4 metres. It was dug up to a level of 2.25 metres. The trench revealed only two layers. The soil for the first layer was ashy grey in colour, loose compact in texture. The soil showed an admixture of clay and sand in varying proportions. Pits were noticed in the eastern and southern sections of the trench. Red slipped ware, black and red ware, coarse red ware were collected in large quantities. Antiquities like terracotta beads, potshards with graffiti marks, and inscribed shards of black and red ware were also collected.

The soil of the second layer is hard clay and yellowish in colour. It yielded less number of red potshards. A good number of quartz pieces and pebbles were collected.

MGD-2

This trench measured 4 metres x 4 metres. It had two layers. In the first layer the soil was ashy in colour and loose in texture. It yielded coarse red ware, black and red ware, potshards with graffiti, paste beads, spindle whorl, spouted knob and a portion of a storage vessel. The second layer consisted of hard soil and yellowish in colour.

MGD-3

The trench measured 4 metres x 4 metres. The soil in the first layer was ashy in colour and loose in texture. This layer yielded terracotta beads, perforated pot with graffiti marks resembling fish, spouted knobs, animal bones, deer horns, dice and gamesmen. Pits were noticed in this trench. Large quantities of bone pieces were collected in the pit. They were sent for analysis. The results are enclosed (refer page 62).

The soil in the second layer was compact and hard clay and yellowish in colour. Less number of potshards and some pieces of quartz were found in this layer.

MGD-4

The MGD-4 was laid out at a distance of about 100 metres from the trench MGD I, II & III on the eastern side at the same Nayakkarpunchai. It measured 4 metres x 4 metres. Two layers were exposed here. The soil in the first layer was loose in texture and ashy in colour and mixed with limestone and brickbats. From this layer, antiquities like a broken copper needle, gamesmen, terracotta beads, hopscotches, perforated shards, paste beads and a spindle whorl were collected.

In the second layer, the soil was hard and mixed with gravel and limestone. In this level, a number of Microlithic tools and broken pieces of quartz were obtained.

MGD-5

It measured 4 metres x 4 metres and yielded two cultural periods. The first layer consisted of loose soil which was ashy in colour. This layer yielded hop-scotches, spouted knob, terracotta beads, iron objects etc. The second layer was hard clay and yellowish in colour. Less quantity of potshard were found in this layer.

MGD-6

This trench measured 4 metres x 4 metres. Two layers were exposed in the trench. The soil in the first layer was ashy in colour. This layer yielded stone beads, terracotta beads, terracotta lamp, spouted knob and potshards with different graffiti markings.

The second layer consisted of hard clay yellowish in colour. Less number of potshards and a good number of Microlithic tools and broken pieces of quartz were collected from this layer.

MGD-7

The dimensions of this trench were 4metres x 4 metres. It was laid out on the southern side of MGD 4. It was laid out to assess the occurrence of Microlithic tools in this site. Two layers were exposed in this trench. The soil in the first layer was loose in texture and mixed with limestone and brickbats. In the northern section, a portion of mutilated terracotta ring well was found. Broken pieces of such rings were collected and one among them contained a graffiti marking. Antiquities like spindle whorl, hopscotch, perforated potshards and decorated lamp were collected. Beads of chalcedony and potshards with graffiti marks were considered significant antiquities in this level. In the second layer, the soil was very hard and mixed with gravel and clay. Some Microlithic tools were also found in this layer.

MGD-8

This trench was laid out with the dimensions of 4 metres x 4 metres on the southern side of MGD 3. Two layers were exposed in this

trench. The first layer yielded pot shards with graffiti mark, terracotta beads, spouted knob, hopscotches and a piece of broken copper bangle. The soil was ashy in colour and it might have been used for making hearths. The second layer yielded broken pieces of quartz and chart.

MGD-9

The dimensions of this trench were 4 metres x 4 metres. It was laid out on the northern side of MGD-3. The texture of the soil in the first layer was very loose and the colour of the soil was ashy. Broken pieces of potshards were collected in this layer. Large numbers of bone pieces and deer horns were collected at a depth of 1.50 metres to 2.00 metres. The occurrence of deer bones and horns may suggest that the people who lived in this cultural level had the habit of eating deer flesh. In this trench a small iron dagger was found which might have been used for hunting animals.

MGD-10

On the western side of the trench MGD-7, this trench was laid out with the same dimensions. It also yielded two layers. The first layer yielded fewer potshards and painted potshards. Significantly this type of pottery was obtained only in this trench. A large number of Microlithic tools were collected in the second layer.

Trial trench: No. 1

The trial trench was laid out at Lingathidal with dimensions of 2 metres x 2 metres. The trench yielded medieval pottery, tile pieces and spouted knobs.

Trial trench No. 2

This trench was laid out at the eastern end of the mound Nayakarpunchai. In order to find out the extension of the cultural phase, a trial trench was laid. A copper coin of Nayak period and a few medieval potshards were collected.

Trial Trench No.3

The trench was laid out on the eastern slope of the Nayakarpunchai. One copper coin datable to 16-17 Century ACE was collected from this trench.

Stratigraphy

Humus: This mixed layer usually contains potteries, tiles and occupational debris.

Layer 1:

This layer consisted of powdery earth giving comparatively large materials and potshards which included a large number of fragmentary black and red ware, russet coated painted ware and one or two rouletted shards. This layer was the most important one and denotes single cultural period i.e., Megalithic period. The soil was brown in colour, loose in texture. In this layer there was a large pit. Both the pit and the layer had a mixture of Black and red ware, Russet coated painted ware, Red ware and Red slipped ware.

Layer 1A:

This layer was compact and clayey and yellow in colour without any artifacts. This layer is sterile and having a thickness of 25 cm.

Layer 2 :

This layer was of compact clay and yellow in colour. In the lower most level of this layer, a few Microlithic core and a few tools were also found. In the eastern side of the mound (MGD IV, VII, X) considerable numbers of Microlithic tools and cores were collected. The texture of the soil of this layer was mixed with gravel and limestone. This might have been the earliest cultural stratum of this site.

MICROLITHS

The Palaeolithic cultural phase was usually followed by the Microlithic phase. It is also called Mesolithic since it was a cultural phase between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic phases. This cultural phase is named as the Microlithic phase since the tools found in this cultural phase were smaller in size which included very small blades, triangular, crescents, and trapezoidal forms. The stone tool technology of this cultural phase was characterised by the predominance of geometric designed Microliths. These tools were small they were to be tied in a small handle. The ancient users of these tools hafted the small tools in a bone or wood. The tools were tied after making a small groove to insert the tool.

The small tools were used for various purposes. Some of them were individually hafted and used as an arrow- head or fishing harpoon. The compound tools were used as a harvesting sickle and the blades as long knives. Thus these small tools were very important step towards the technological development of mankind.

The present excavation brought to light several Microlithic tools. This was the earliest cultural deposit found in the trenches excavated at Lingathidal. The Microlithic tools were also found in the nearby villages, namely Arugankulam, Mudivananganka nmai, Puttur, Cholapuram and Thenmalai. Microlithic tools were also collected on the banks of Vaipar, Arjuna rivers and its tributaries.[1]. In the excavation conducted at Thiruthangal in Virudhunagar District by this Department, similar tools[2] were collected.

Though tools were collected form the surface in and around Mangudi and also in the excavated trenches at Tiruttangal, the stratigraphical position was not clear. But, the stratigraphy and

occurrence of Microliths in the stratified layers were very clear at Mangudi. A sterile layer below the Megalithic cultural phase was also noticed. Under this sterile layer, the Microliths were found. So far such a clear stratigrphy for the Microlithic cultural phase was not found in Tamil Nadu. From this it can be assumed that after the Microlithic phase, the area was not occupied for some time. And later on, the Megalithic people occupied this area.

According to H.D. Sankalia the earliest cultural phase of southern Tamil Nadu was represented by Microliths and was followed by Megaliths[3]. The Microliths were mostly of semiprecious stone like chert and jasper.

Neolithic Stone tool

A broken piece of a Neolithic celt was found at a depth of 1.35 metres in the trench No. MGD IX. This celt was collected from a pit found in the northern section.

POTTERY

The potteries collected from the Mangudi are grouped under the following six types:

1. Black and red ware
2. Russet coated and painted ware
3. All black ware
4. Red slipped or polished ware
5. Coarse red ware and
6. Rouletted ware

These pottery could be fitted into a chronological frame ranging from 300 BCE to 300 ACE.

Black and red ware

Black and red ware was the predominant type of pottery found during the excavations and they occur in all the Iron Age settlements of megalithic and early historic period in South India. The pottery was subjected to inverted firing i.e. the pots were placed upside down in the kiln with a fair quantity of carbonaceous matter stuffed inside. As a result, the whole of the interior and the rim portion of the exterior, which came into contact with the fuel, turned jet black and the remaining portions of the exterior became red under oxidizing conditions. They were made of fine clay with thick and thin varieties. The shapes collected here were vessel, bowl, dish and basin with flanged, inverted, sharpened, and featureless, incurved, clubbed and beaded rims. Fully shaped pots with graffiti marks were also found in the excavation.

Russet coated ware

The russet coated and painted red ware and the russet coated

and painted black and red ware varieties were also encountered here. The shapes of this ware were mostly bowl, cup and basin. It has tapering and convex type in the sides with slightly sharpened, slightly blunted, clubbed, inverted, internally thickened and featureless rims. The painted designs were made by the application of kaolin on basic red slip. Designs include wavy bands, arches, curves, concentric circles, oblique lines, bands and criss-cross pattern. Although russet coated shards were fewer in number, a full shaped pot was obtained in the trench MGD-2.

Red slipped ware

This type of pottery is found in large quantities. It is made out of fine clay. The slip was applied mostly on the exterior surface, but in some cases it was applied on both sides. The slip was a thick paste of fine clay. The shapes of the vessels were pots and dishes. The pottery is decorated with nail impression, leaf design etc.

All Black ware

This ware was found in good numbers with black and red ware. Both interior and exterior of this ware were black in colour. It occurs in a thin and polished variety and a thick and less polished variety. The main shapes include flat dishes with straight or incurved rims, deep bowls and short flaring mouth the lids and ring stands were also common types.

Coarse red ware

This was the predominant variety found in large numbers in the upper levels of excavation. It was a dull red ware made of impure clay mixed with sand and grass. The surface was rough and was not uniformly fired. The shapes include vases with flaring rims, inverted rims, flaring out-turned rims, basins with incurred beaded rims and

jars with out-turned thickened rim. The shapes were utilitarian in character.

Rouletted ware

Excavation at Mangudi has yielded a few rouletted ware shards from the upper levels. They resembled the Arikamedu type and were mostly confined to two colours, Grey and Black. They were wheel turned and had a shining slip. The shapes represented in this ware were mainly dishes with incurved and convex side. The inner flat portion of the dish normally had the rouletting design.

Perforated Shards

The perforated shards were of regular occurrence at all the Sangam period sites in Tamilnadu. Pieces of perforated pottery were collected from neolithic sites like Piklihal in Andhrapradesh and megalithic sites like Alagankulam, Korkai, Kodumanal and Karur in Tamilnadu. A copper perforated vessel was obtained in a megalithic burial at Kodumanal. Most of the available pieces were fragmentary it is very difficult to find out the actual shape of the pots. Nearly 20 shards were collected at Mangudi and they belonged to the coarse red ware variety. Perforations were noticed mostly in the central portion of the pot. Most of the perforations in the pottery were in the form of a floral design. In the trench MGD-3 a full pot having the perforations at its rounded base was collected. The pot looks like a small vase. A graffiti mark is found on the shoulder portion of the pot. The graffiti resembled the fish symbol found in the Sangam Pandya coins. Since it was found in association with the black and red ware and russet coated ware, it may be dated to 300 BCE - 300 ACE.

The holes were pierced from inside a pot with a small needle but some time they were made from outside. Perforation on the vessel was done by the potter when it was wet. The perforated ware was used

to steam the food. Cooking the food with steam using perforated vessels is a recognised practice of the Tamil people from very ancient times.

In some pottery the perforations were made on the lid portion; these were probably used for burning incense. Some of the russet coated and rouletted shards also had perforations.

Black and red ware

Type 1	Fragment of a hemispherical rimless bowl with a slightly inturned rim.
Type 2	Variant of Type 1
Type 3	Fragment of a shallow carinated dish with internally thickened and slightly inturned rim.
Type 4	Fragment of a shallow, slightly carinated dish with internally thickened and slightly inturned rim.
Type 5	Fragment of a simple, slightly carinated bowl.
Type 6	Fragment of a dish or bowl with a slightly rounded base.
Type 7	Fragment of a hemispherical rimless bowl with a slightly inturned rim.
Type 8	Fragment of a hemispherical rimless bowl with a slightly inturned rim.
Type 9	Fragment of a bowl with slightly outturned rim and then smoothened edge.
Type 10	Small bowl with a round base and convex everted rim.
Type 11	Fragment of a basin with thick grooved rim.
Type 12	Fragment of a bowl with an inturned rim.
Type 13	Fragment of a dish with a slightly rounded base.
Type 14	Fragment of a deep Bowl with nail headed rim.
Type 15	Fragment of a deep Bowl with nail headed rim.

Type 16 Fragment of a deep bowl with internally thickened and beaded rim. Grooves found on shoulder portion.

Type 17 Fragment of a bowl with an inturned rim. Below the rim grooves are found.

Type 18 Fragment of a bowl with an inturned thick rim with nail incisions outside at the shoulder portion.

Type 19 Fragment of a small rimless bowl with inturned and slightly thickened rim.

Type 20 Fragment of a small bowl with thickened inturned rim.

Type 21 Deep bowl with an inturned rim and tapering edge.

Type 22 Fragment of a bowl with slightly out turned rim and then smoothened edge.

Type 23 Fragment of a bowl with an inturned rim.

All black ware

Type 1 Fragment of a bowl with an out-turned rim.

Type 2 Fragment of a bowl with a smoothened in turned beaded rim

Type 3 Fragment of a bowl with a slightly everted and sharpened rim.

Type 4 Fragment of a bowl with a concave body and out-turned elongated thickened rim

Type 5 Fragment of a dish with an internally beaded rim.

Type 6 Fragment of a dish with an internally smoothened rim.

Type 7 Fragment of a small pot with outturned thickened rim.

Type 8 Fragment of a bowl with an internally beaded rim.

Type 9 Fragment of a bowl with a sharpened and smoothened rim.

Type 10 Fragment of a bowl with an inturned beaded rim.

Type 11 Fragment of a bowl with a sharpened rim.

Type 12 Fragment of a small pot with a tapering smoothened rim.

Red slipped ware

Type 1 Fragment of a pot with a concave neck and everted and thickened rim slip upto the rim on both the sides.

Type 2 Fragment of vessel with an everted and externally collared rim, grooves found at the rim portion.

Type 3 Fragment of vessel with an externally out-turned rim.

Type 4 Fragment of a vessel with an everted, thickened and externally collared rim with grooves at the shoulder portion.

Type 5 Fragment of a vessel with an externally out-turned rim.

Coarse red ware

Type 1 Fragment of a vessel, internally beaked and thickened rim.

Type 2 Fragment of a vessel, internally beaded rim.

Type 3 Fragment of a vessel externally out-turned thickened rim.

Type 4 Fragment of a vessel with an out-turned round and beaded rim

Type 5 Fragment of a vessel with a flat out-turned beaked rim

Type 6 Fragment of a vessel with a thick and sharpened rim.

Type 7 Fragment of a pot with sharp and out-turned grooved rim.

Type 8 Fragment of a pot with an in-turned thickened rim and grooves at the shoulder.

Type 9 Fragment of a vessel with an in-turned flat and thickened rim.

Type 10 Fragment of a vessel with a thick and semi-circle beaded rim.

Type 11 A deep carinated bowl with an everted and externally thickened round rim.

Type 12 Fragment of a pot with an out-turned flat rim.

Type 13 Fragment of a pot with in-turned beaded rim.

Type 14 Fragment of a pot with a thick and out-turned beaded rim.

Type 15 Fragment of a pot with a ridged shoulder and beaded rim grooves and incised designs found at the shoulder portion.

Type 16 Fragment of a pot with a thick flat and grooved rim. The outer surface found with grooves and corrugated incised designs.

Type 17 Fragment of a short-necked globular pot with an externally thickened rim with incised design on the shoulder.

Type 18 Fragment of a concave necked vessel with an out-turned rim and grooved shoulder.

Coarse red ware

Type 19 Fragment of a vessel with an everted rim. Incised designs are in the shoulder portion.

Type 20 Fragment of a pot with an everted and beaked rim and grooved shoulder and a bulging body.

Type 21 Fragment of a storage jar with slightly out-turned rim. Leaf design incision is found on the shoulder.

Type 22 Fragment of a vessel with flanged and externally thickened rim and grooved shoulder.

Type 23 Fragment of a pot with an everted thick rim and with grooved shoulder.

Type 24 Fragment of large basin with externally coloured rim and decorated body. The designs consist of slashed strokes. A slight groove is also visible just below the neck portion of the jar.

Type 25 Fragment of a pot with an everted rim and with grooved shoulder.

Lids

Type 26 Fragment of a lid with out-turned and beaked rim and a rounded log.

Type 27 A small lid cum bowl

Type 28 A small lid cum bowl.

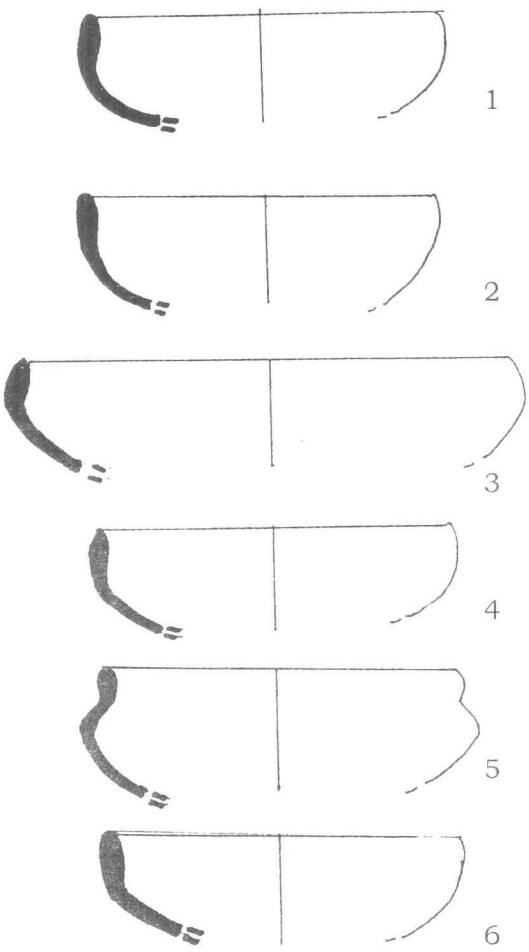
Type 29 Fragment of a lid with out-turned rim.

Type 30 Fragment of a lid with out-turned and beaked rim and rounded top.

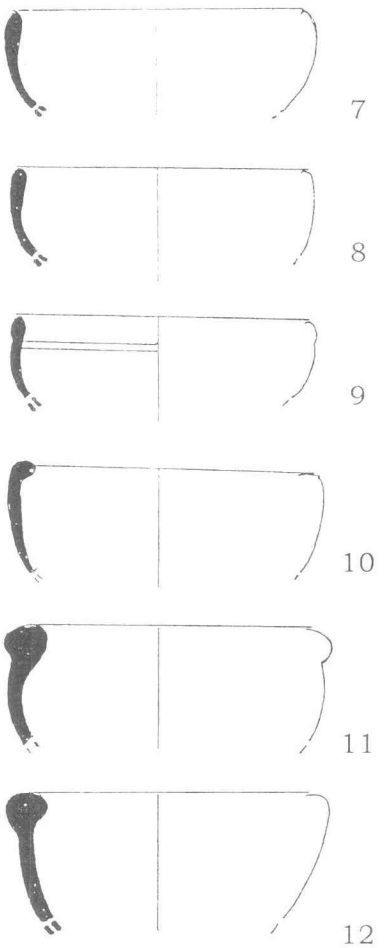
Cups

Two terracotta cups were unearthed in this excavation at depths of 1.75 metres and 2.05 metres respectively. The heights of the cups were 5 centimetres and 4 centimetres each. One cup was of the black-ware variety.

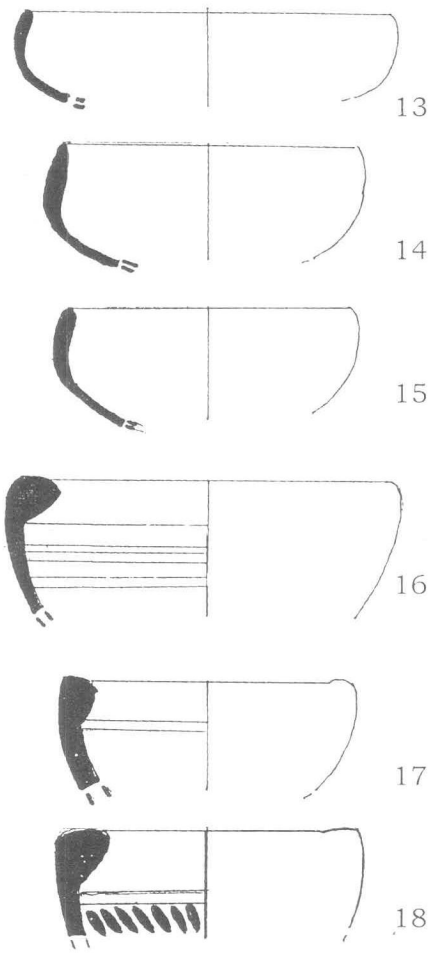
POTTERY - Black and red ware



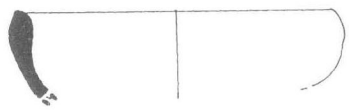
POTTERY - Black and red ware



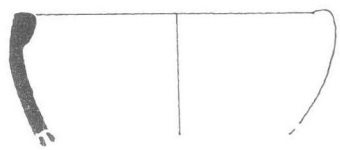
POTTERY - Black and red ware



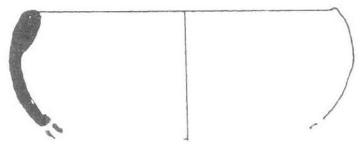
POTTERY - Black and red ware



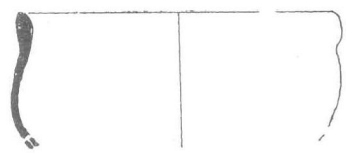
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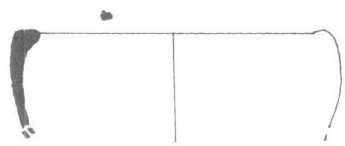
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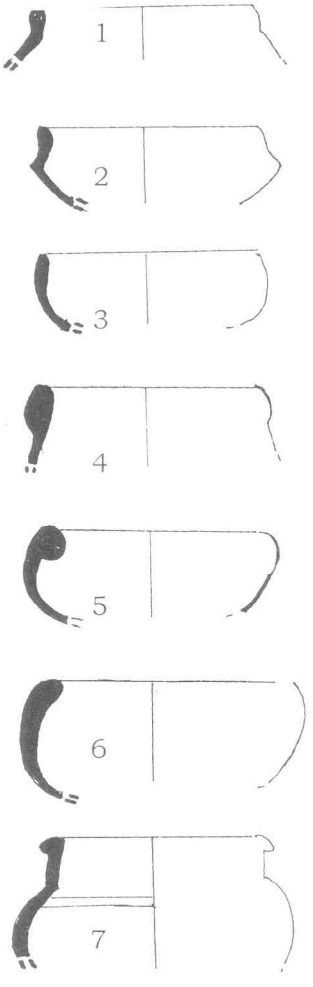


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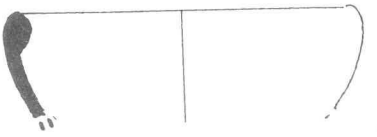


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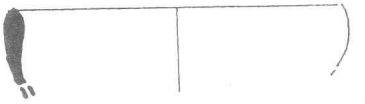
POTTERY - Black ware



POTTERY - Black ware



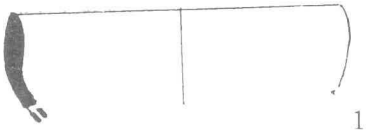
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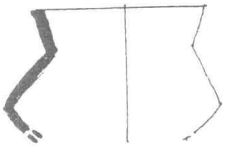
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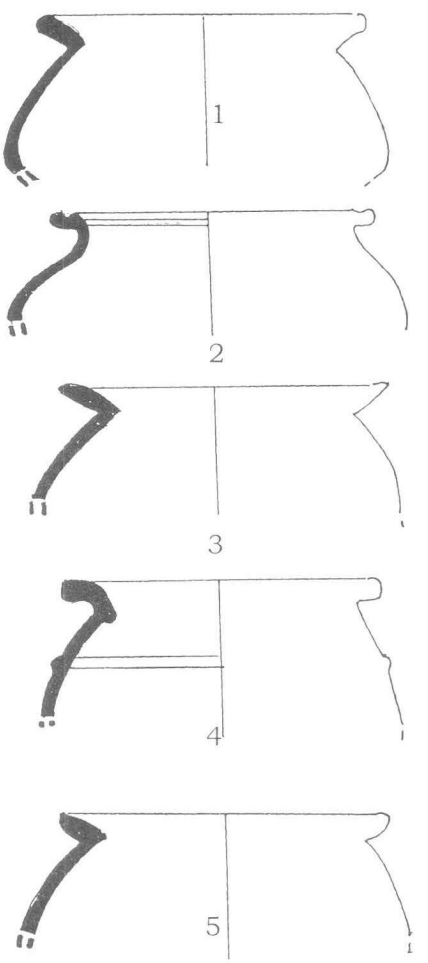


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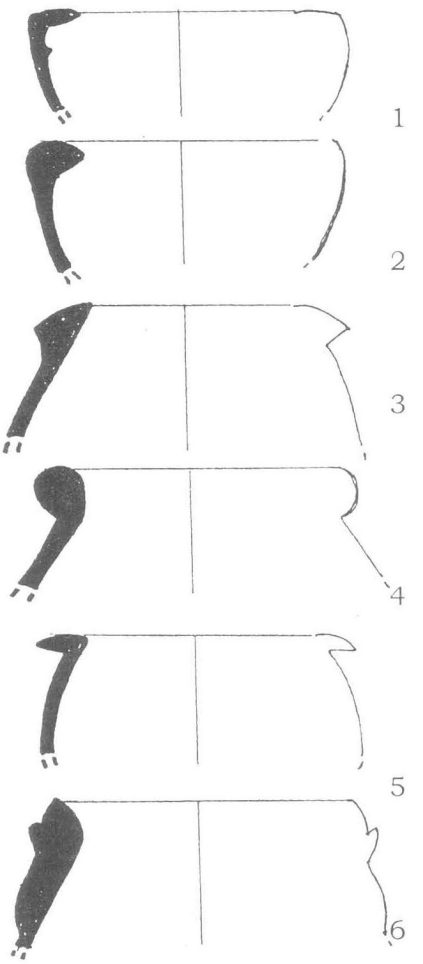


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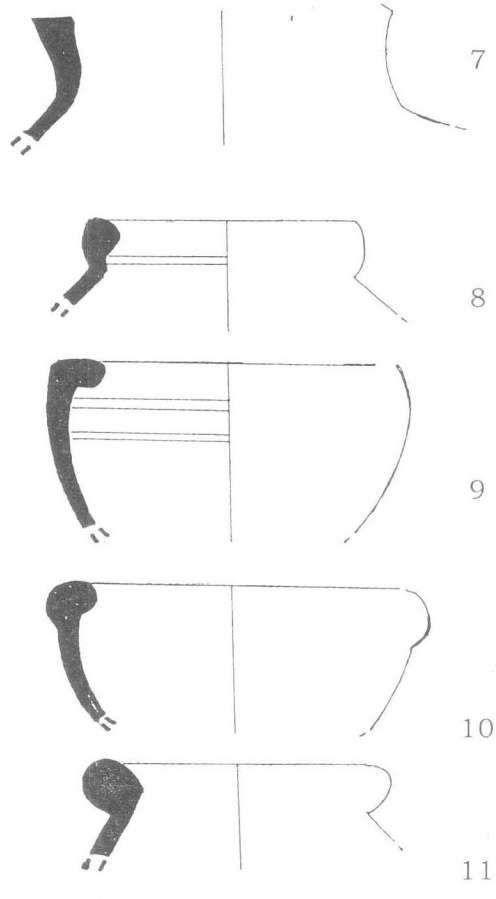
POTTERY - Red slipped ware



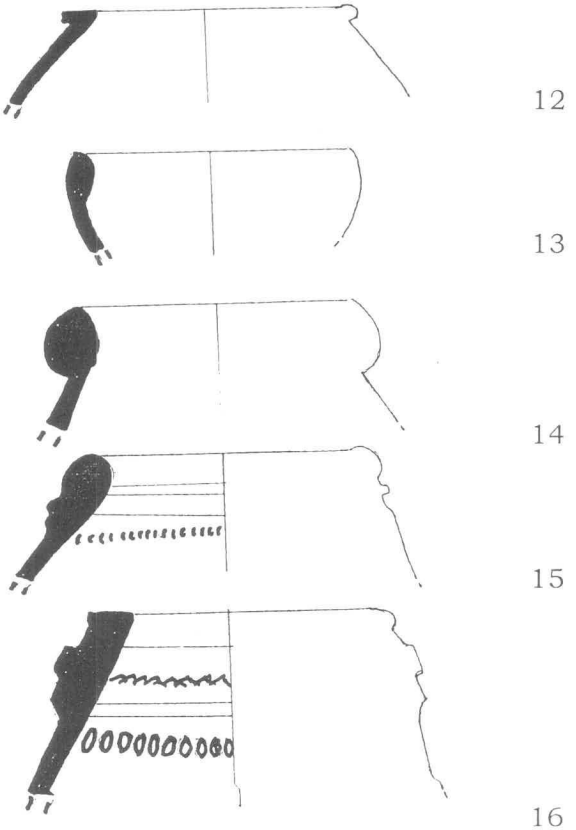
POTTERY - Coarse red ware



POTTERY - Coarse red ware



POTTERY - Coarse red ware



12

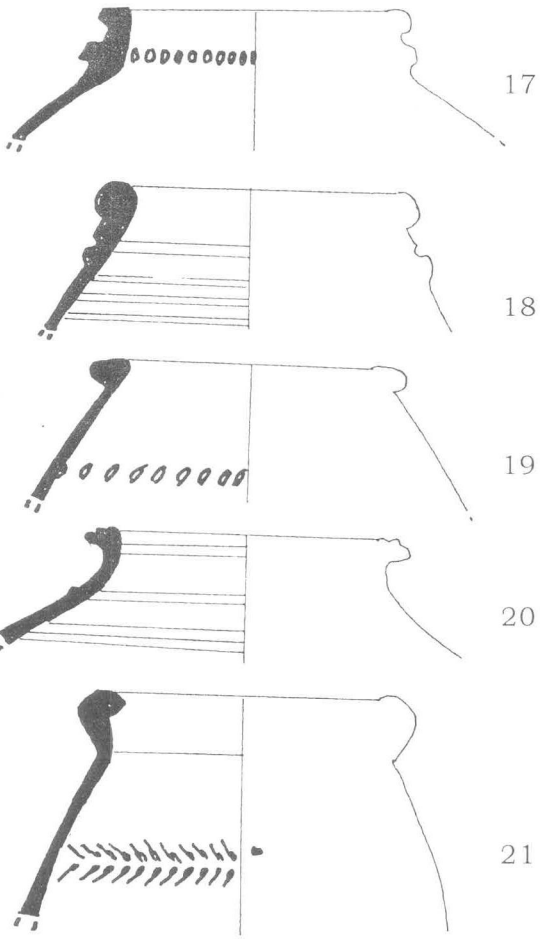
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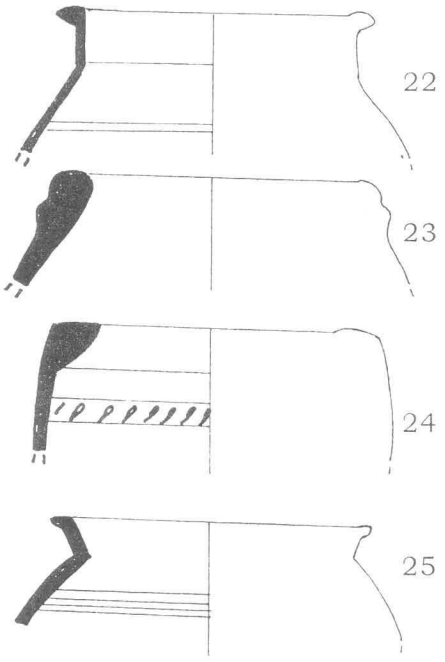
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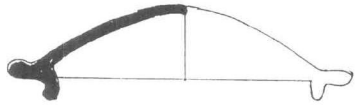
POTTERY - Coarse red ware



POTTERY - Coarse red ware



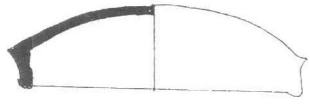
POTTERY - Lids



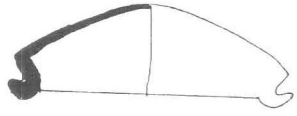
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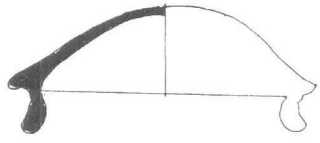
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28

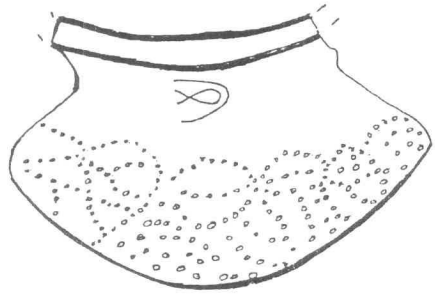


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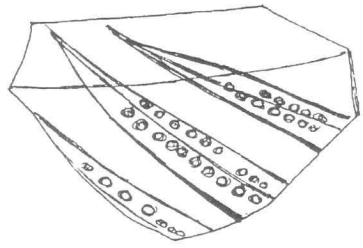


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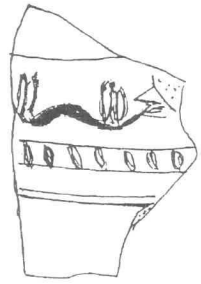
Perforated pot shards



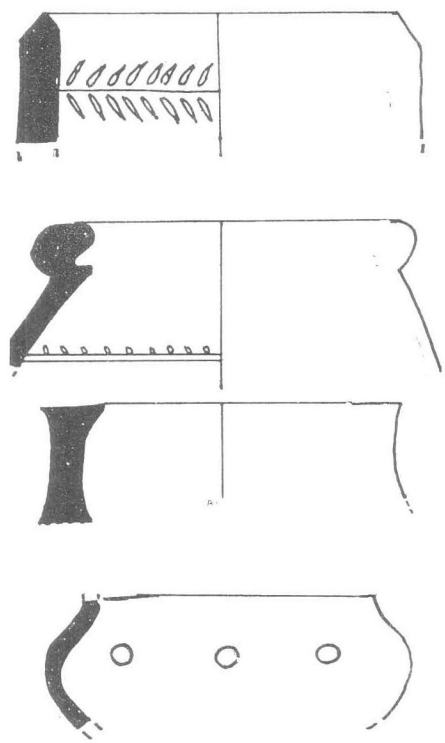
Paintings on pot shards



Decorated coarse red ware



Perforated pot shards



A.GRAFFITI

Potshards with Graffiti

About 200 shards with graffiti were collected from Mangudi excavation. They were available in almost all the trenches. The markings were usually made on the exterior after firing. They were engraved mostly on the shoulder portion of the pots. Some of the markings were found also in between the rim and the base. On some jars, cups and plates they are found at the bottom. In the case of one pot, the grafitti was found engraved on the interior - it was clearly made before firing.

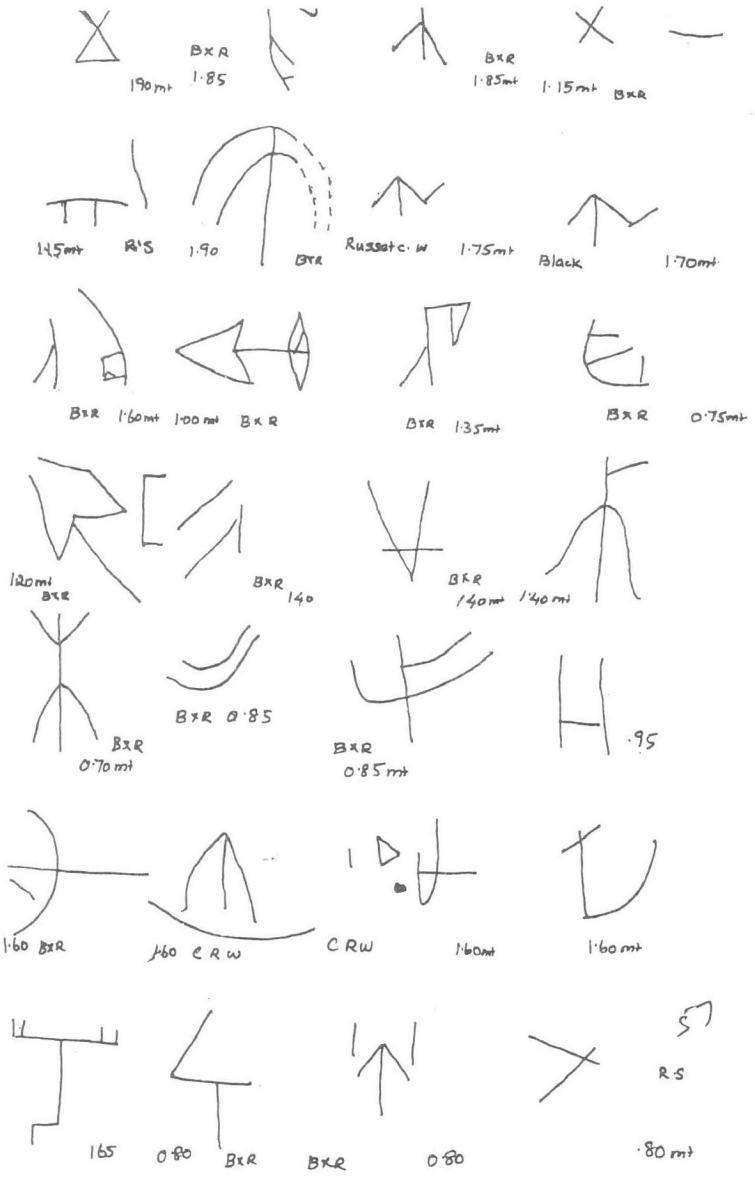
All the graffiti were found on the shoulder portion of the pots and post firing. The symbols can be classified into single and multiple graffiti. The study of these graffiti can be anaylised on the basis of their gradual development. The graffiti marks from Mangudi have much in common with their counter parts in other sites of Tamilnadu. Single symbols are with various forms. Single line, two oblique lines joining at the top, arrow head like forms, curved lines, Brahmi, 'ma' like symbols, double arrow heads are some of the symbols found at Mangudi.

The multi symbols are with more than one symbol. The symbols include two arrow heads placed side by side with a hook like form, arrow head like form intersection at the bottom, oblique like (with x mark and vertical lines) worth to be mentioned from Mangudi graffiti.

GRAFFITI


C R W
90
B x R
·90
C R W
90
0·90 mt
B x R
1·00
C R W
1·05
1·05
C R W
B x R
1·10 mt
C R W
1·15 mt
B x R
1·25 m
C R W
1·25
C R W
0·80 mt
C R W
R·S
0·80 mt
0·80 mt
R·S
B x R
1·15
C R W
1·15
B x R
1·15
R·S
1·15
1·15
1·15 mt
1·15 mt
1·15 mt

GRAFFITI


B x R
190mt 1·85
B x R
1·85mt
1·15mt B x R
1·45mt R·S
1·90 B x R
Russet c·w 1·75mt
Black 1·70mt
B x R 1·60mt 1·00mt B x R
B x R 1·35mt
B x R 0·75mt
120mt B x R
B x R 140
B x R 1·40mt
1·40mt
B x R 0·70mt
B x R 0·85
B x R 0·85mt
·95
1·60 B x R
1·60 C R W
C R W 1·60mt
1·60mt
165
0·80
B x R
B x R
0·80
R·S
·80mt

GRAFFITI



B x R
0·72 mt



0·90



R·S
0·90



B x R
0·95 mt



B x R 1·02 mt



B x R
1·03 mt



B x R
1·08 mt



C R W
1·08



B x R
1·15 mt



C·R·W
1·23 mt



R·S·W
1·30 mt



R·S
1·75 mt

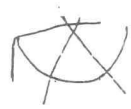


H





B x R
0·80 mt

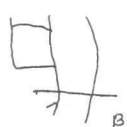




0·98 mt



B x R 0·95 mt



B x R
1·10 mt

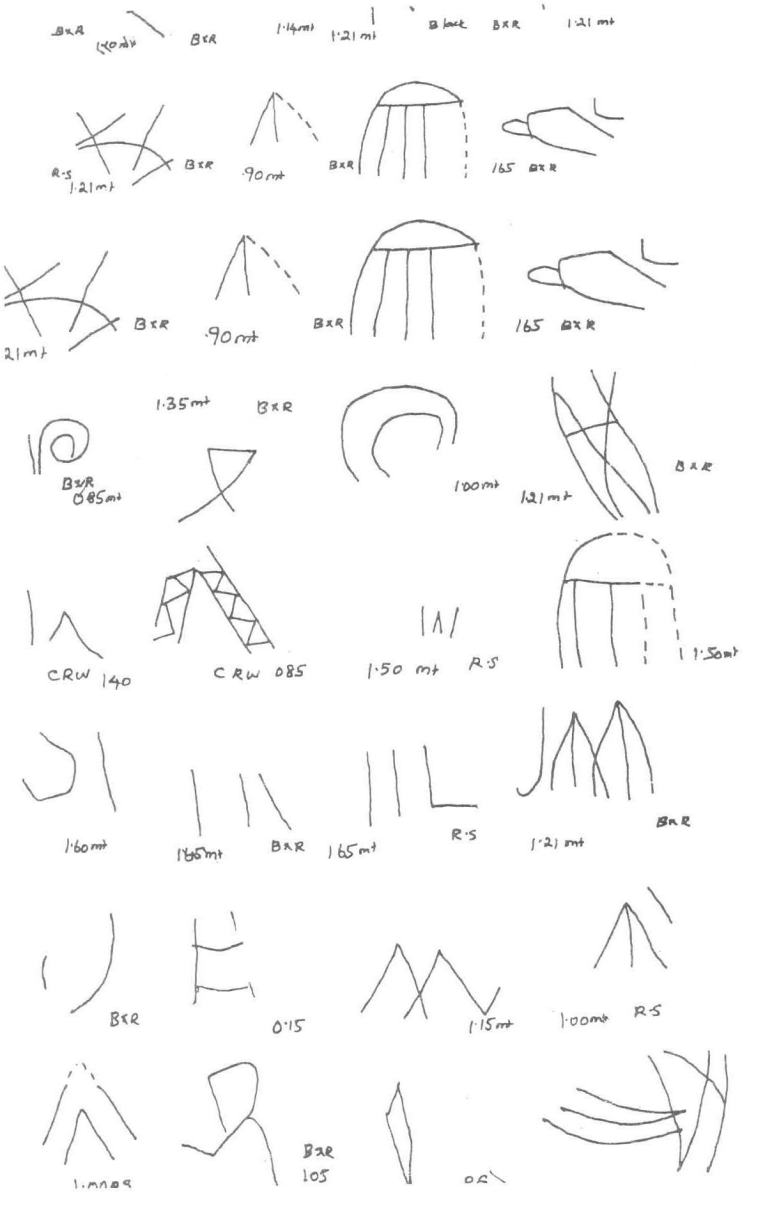


1·10 mt
B x R

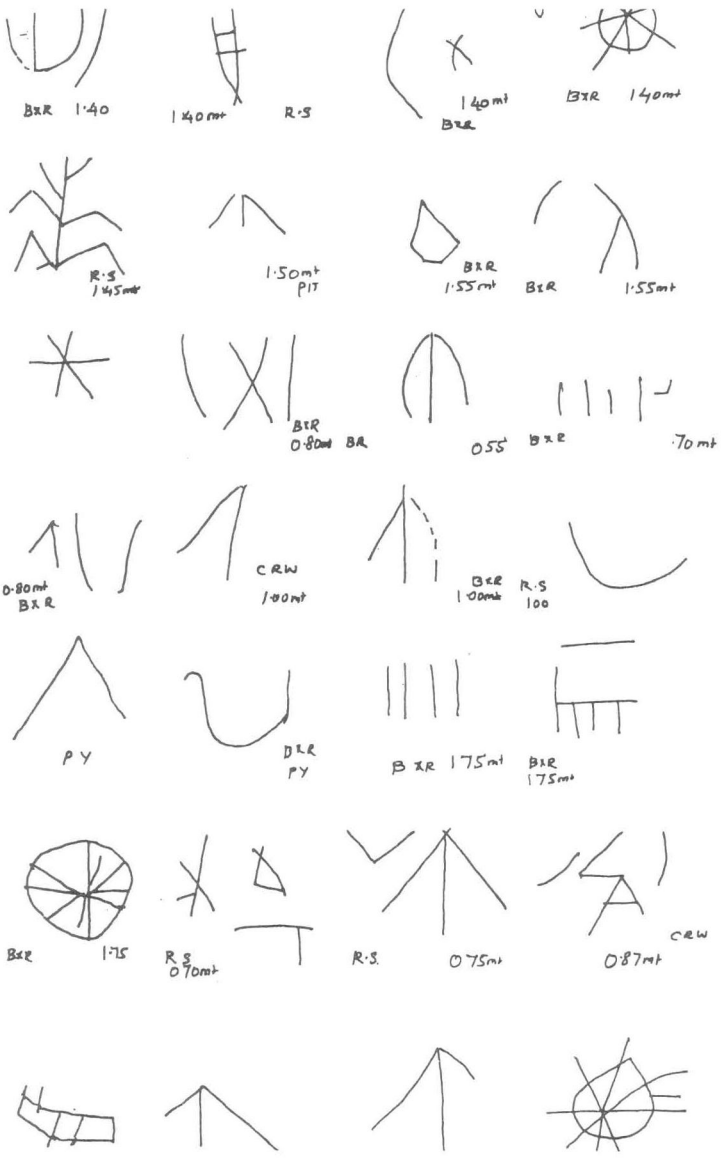


1·10 mt

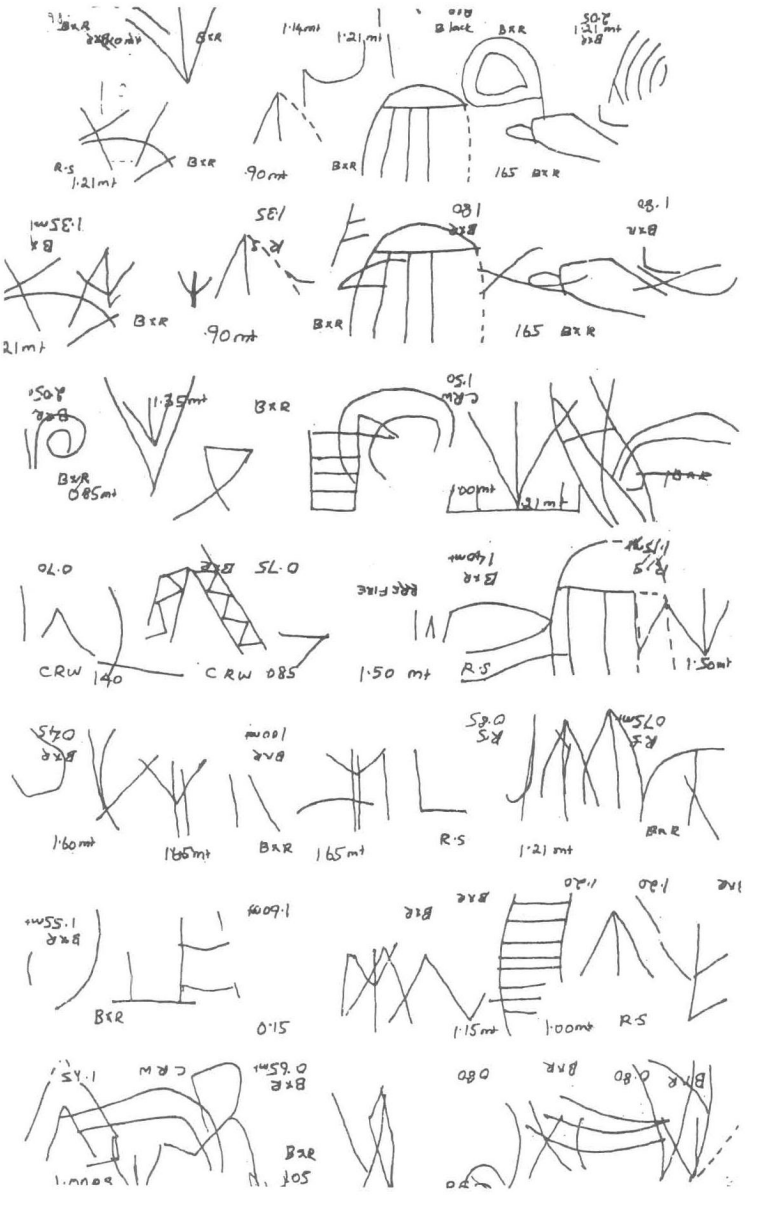
GRAFFITI


B&R
1.40mt
B&R
1.14mt
1.21mt
Black
B&R
1.21mt
R·S
1.21mt
B&R
.90mt
B&R
1.65 B&R
21mt
B&R
.90mt
B&R
1.65 B&R
1.35mt
B&R
B&R
.085mt
1.00mt
1.21mt
B&R
CRW 140
CRW 085
1.50 mt
R·S
1.50mt
1.60mt
1.95mt
B&R
1.65mt
R·S
1.21 mt
B&R
B&R
0.15
1.15mt
1.00mt
R·S
B&R
105

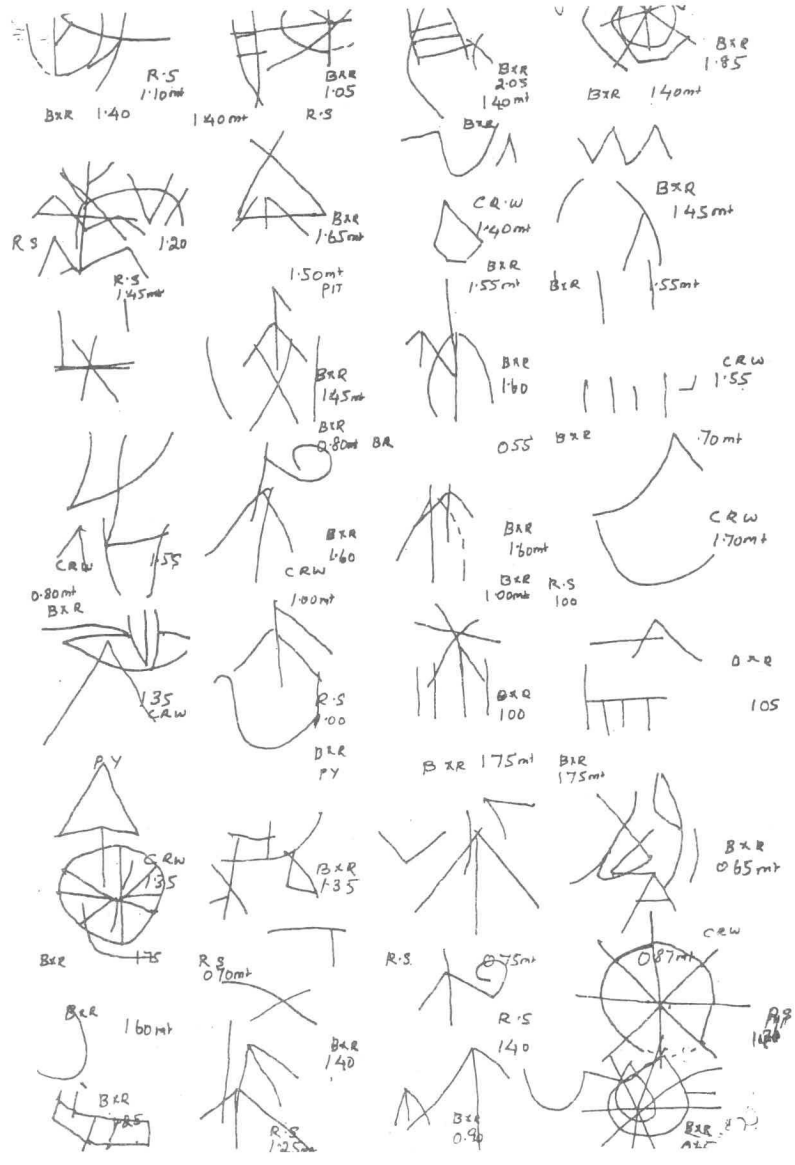
GRAFFITI


BxR 1·40
1·40mt R·S
1·40mt BxR
BxR 1·40mt
R·S 1·45mt
1·50mt PIT
BxR 1·55mt
BxR 1·55mt
BxR 0·80mt BR
055 BxR
·70mt
0·80mt BxR
CRW 1·00mt
BxR 1·00mt R·S 100
PY
BxR PY
BxR 1·75mt
BxR 1·75mt
BxR 1·75
R·S 0·90mt
R·S 0·75mt
0·87mt
CRW

GRAFFITI



GRAFFITI


R·S 1·10mt
B x R 1·40
1·40mt
B x R 1·05
R·S
B x R 2·05 140mt
B x R
B x R 1·85
B x R 140mt
R·S 1·20
R·S 1·45mt
B x R 1·65mt
1·50mt PIT
C R·W 1·40mt
B x R 1·55mt
B x R 145mt
B x R 1·55mt
B x R 145mt
B x R 0·80mt B R
B x R 1·60
055
B x R
C R W 1·55
70mt
C R W 1·55
0·80mt B x R
B x R 1·60
C R W
1·00mt
B x R 1·70mt
B x R 1·00mt R·S 100
C R W 1·70mt
135 C R W
R·S 1·00
B x R PY
B x R 100
B x R 175mt
B x R 175mt
B x R 105
P Y
C R W 1·35
B x R
B x R 1·35
B x R 0·65mt
R·S 0·70mt
R·S
0·75mt
0·87mt
C R W
B x R 1·60mt
B x R
B x R 1·40
R·S 1·25mt
R·S 140
B x R 0·90
B x R

Catamaran, boats, ferry are the different types of boats drawn as the symbols on these potshards at Mangudi.

A graffiti of a fish found in a full shaped pot and in a potshard at Mangudi. These fish symbols were engraved both vertically and horizontally and resemble the fish symbols found in the square copper coins of the Sangam age Pandyas. Some double symbols and trident shaped signs and bow and arrow symbols were also found on some shards.

Observations

Scholars have agreed that graffities are the proto types of earlier scripts. Occurrence of scripts and graffiti markings in the same site and in the same period potshards lead us to consider that it may represent a transition period. But the graffiti and scripts were found simultaneously.

Potshards with graffiti marks were collected from various megalithic burials and early historical sites in Tamilnadu. They were also reported from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites in other parts of India. Study on these graffiti was initiated by Branfil, which was later on followed by the scholars like E.H. Hande, Yazdhani, B.K. Thapar, B.B.Lal and S.Gurumurthy. They were of the opinion that the graffiti represents a) The symbols of the potters, b) Symbols of the pot owners, and c) Totemic symbols.

represents a) The symbols of the potters, b) Symbols of the pot owners, and c) Totemic symbols.

The study of the graffiti marks on the potshards from Mangudi throw valuable light on the living condition of the people in the early days in this region.

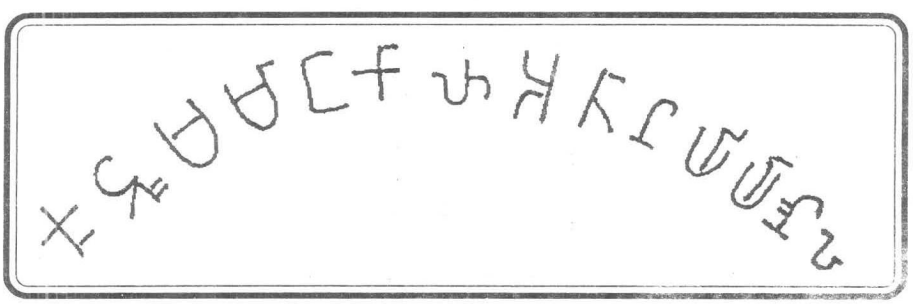
B. INSCRIBED POTSHARDS

Inscribed pot shards were collected from various excavations conduced in the ancient sites in Tamil Nadu. First reported from Arikkamedu, they were found in later excavations at Alagarai, Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Karur, Alagankulam, and Kodumanal.

Five inscribed potshards of Tamil Brahmi were discovered at Mangudi. They were inscribed after firing and found on the outer side of the pots. Generally the letters found in the potshards are few in number. But in Mangudi, there was one potshard bearing 14 letters. The remaining 4 shards bore five, three and two letters respectively.

Inscribed shard No-1

The black and red ware shard was collected at a depth of 1.08 metres from the trench MGD 1. On the outer surface 14 Brahmi letters were inscribed. The beginning and the end were lost. The inscription reads as follows.

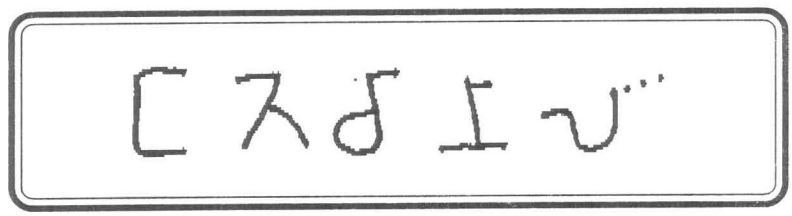


The inscription could be read as 'குறும்மாங்கள அதன் யியானை(பெ)' The beginning and end portions are damaged and therefore the meaning of the inscription could not be deciphered. However, it can be inferred that it denotes the name of an individual 'Athan Iyan, (who hailed) from (the village) Kurumankalam. Aathan is written as Athan. The name 'Kurumankalam' could be the 'kalam' or the place of settlement of a person Kuruman. The name 'Kuruman' could also be a shortened version of the name 'Kurumakan' meaning a chieftain (?). The suffix

' kalam' meaning a settlement was commonly used in ancient village names in this region and also in the Chera country. The names of ancient settlements, Thiruvanchikalam and Nedunkalam could be compared with this name. The name, 'Athan' is referred to in Sangam literature as well as in some of the Brahmi inscriptions discovered from Uraiyur and Kodumanal.

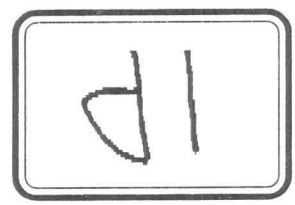
Inscribed shard No-2

The second shard containing a small inscription of five letters was unearthed at a depth of 1.75 metres in MGD-1. It is on a Black and red shard. It can be deciphered as follows: 'ங தெ ச(ா) ந(ா) ல '



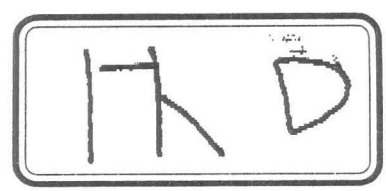
Inscribed shard No-3

This shard with 2 letters was collected from the trench MGD-5 at the depth of 0.95cm. It is of a coarse red ware. The inscription read as follows:'சா '



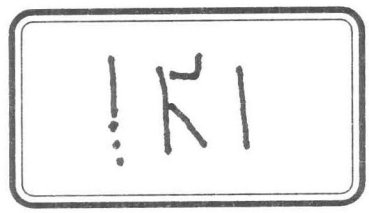
Inscribed shard No-4

A shard containing 3 letters was unearthed in the trench MGD-7 at a depth of 0.70 metres. These letters were not incised deeply. It can be deciphered as follows: 'ரதேன '.



Inscribed shard No-5

Another shard contained 3 letters was collected from the trench MGD-5 at a depth of 1.50 metres. Among the three letters the middle one could be deciphered as 'ti' .The other two letters are damaged and could not be read. Our decipherment is as follows: 'ரதிர '.



Observations

The Tamil Brahmi script in all these inscribed shards could be compared to the script of the rock inscriptions found at Mankulam, Alagarmalai, Kongarpuliyankulam and Thiruvathavur of Madurai district. This script also resembles the Battipprolu relic casket inscriptions datable to 200 BCE. On the basis of the palaeography, we can assume that the Mangudi inscribed potshards might be contemporary with the Bhattipprolu inscriptions and datable to 200 BCE.

TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

1. Head of a bull

A broken piece of a bull's head with two horns was unearthed in the trench MGD-9.

2. Female torso

A torso of a female figurine was found at a depth of 2 metres in the trench MGD 9. The height of the object was 4 centimetres.

3. Lamps

Two Terracotta lamps were unearthed at a depth of 87 centimetres in the trench MGD 2. One of the terracotta lamps was made of coarse clay with a flat bottom. The diameter of the lamp is 6 centimetres. Provision is made to place the three wicks in the rim portion. The second terracotta lamp was found at 85 centimetres in trench MGD 7. It was made of fine clay with flat bottom. The diameter of the lamp was 1 centimetre. It has provisions to place two wicks. It was decorated with grooves and incised design.

4. Spindle Whorl

Two pear shaped spindle whorls and two circular spindle whorls were collected. From the discovery of the spindle whorls at Mangudi it can be suggested that textile industry was prevalent here during the early historical period. Cotton is cultivated in the neighbourhood of Mangudi even today.

5. Beads

This excavation yielded about fifteen terracotta beads of various sizes mostly from the first layer of all the trenches. They were pear shaped with a flat projection and with circular ridges on the surface. Similar beads were also reported from earlier levels of the excavated sites at Arikkamedu, Alagarai, Karur and Thirukkampuliyur and Uraiyur.

6. Terracotta weights

Small, round shaped terracotta balls were collected in the upper levels in this excavation. About 12 such balls were unearthed. They might have been used as weights.

7. Gamesmen

This excavation yielded eight gamesmen in the first layer. They were solid, cylindrical in shape and mostly 2 cm in height. Some of them had a broad circular base and a tapering body.

8. Dice

Terracotta dice was found in this excavation at a depth of 0.80 metre in the first layer. It is rectangular in shape (5 cm. x 1.5 cm). It has four sides and no marking or dots are found in any of the sides. However it resembles the ones found in the excavations at Nasik, Ujjain and Lothal.

9. Hopscotches

Flat, broken pieces of potshards with edges ground to a circular shape were used by children to play a hopping game. These hop scotches were tokens used to mark a quarter of their choice. Such tokens were found in the Harappan sites in the Chalcolithic levels, at Kalibangan and Lothal. These tokens were usually found in all the early historical levels in the regions of central and Western India and also in parts of Deccan. The shape of hopscotche remains unchanged from the Harappan to the historical times.

At Mangudi about 5 hopscotches were found. Most of the specimens were collected in the first layer dated to 300 BCE - 100 ACE. They vary in size. They were mostly made of coarse red ware.

BEADS

(Semi Precious stones)

Beads of different materials like paste, semiprecious stones were collected from the upper levels of the excavated trenches. Beads of amethyst, soapstone, and crystal were also collected. The shapes are generally circular, elongated and barrel. There are some tiny beads also. Green coloured paste beads were found in some of the trenches in the upper levels. Mention must be made of one honey coloured (dark brown) cylindrical bead of chalcedony measuring 4 centimetres in length. A ring like bead of crystal was found at a depth of 1.25 metres.

METAL OBJECTS

1. Iron dagger

An iron dagger was collected at a depth of 1.95 metres in the trench MGD-9. It measured 30 cm in length and 4 cm in breadth. It was in a highly corroded condition. It was broken into three pieces. The tip of the dagger is "v" shaped and looks very sharp. It has the tang on the other side. The dagger is generally flat.

2. Copper objects

Copper objects like a needle, bangle pieces and rings were collected in this excavation. These objects were found in the upper level of the trenches. The bangle piece has a diameter of 7 cm. The length of the copper needle is 12 cm.

STONE OBJECTS

Three stone objects were discovered in the excavation. One of them is a polishing stone, semi circular in shape, with a smooth body and a flat bottom. The upper portion has the shape of the dorsal side of a tortoise. This stone might have been used for pounding and polishing. The other one is a grinding stone used for grinding objects like corn, species and other provisions. Such types of stones were collected from historical sites like Gangaikondacholapuram. Another object was a steatite lamp. It was collected at surface level during exploration.

OTHER OBJECTS

1. Bangle pieces

Two pieces of bangle of conch were collected at a depth of 1.45 metres in the trench MGD-8. They may be dated to the early historical period. Small shells were also collected in upper levels.

2. Deer horn

About 20 pieces of broken deer horns were collected from this excavation. Most of them were found in the trench MGD-9. The length of the horns varies from 5 cm to 20 cm and some pieces have branches. The abundant collection of deer horns reveal that people of this area were engaged in hunting of deer for their livelihood. The abundance of deer in this locality in the ancient period also could be suggested.

3. Arrowheads

Arrowheads made of deer horns were also found in the excavation.

4. Sling stone ball

One spherical shaped stone of quartz, with a diameter of 3 centimetres and obtained from the depth of 0.65 meter in trench MGD 2. It might be a sling stone, which could have been used for attacking small animals. Sling balls were collected from the Mesolithic levels in Europe. In India, they were reported from the Harappan sites. The sling stone at Mangudi could be dated to the early historical period.

5.Terracotta Ring Well

Portions of ring wells were unearthed in the trenches MGD-4 and 7. The rings are made up of terracotta and are circular in shape. They are placed one over the other. Two pieces contain some markings. One of the marks is a square and another is two parallel lines. They were made before firing.

CULTURAL SEQUENCES AND CONCLUSION

The overall cultural sequences of this site could be summarised as below:

Period I - Microlithic Period around 4000 B.C.
Period II - Early historical Period 300 B.C. - 300 A.D.

Period I

The antiquities unearthed at Mangudi throw fresh light on the history and culture of the people of this region. The habitation dates to the Microlithic phase, and the Microlithic settlements at Mangudi could have started around 4000 BCE. The lower most level comprising gravel mixed with limestone had yielded Microlithic tools and broken pieces.

In the southern part of Tamil Nadu, the culture starts from the Microlithic period. The earliest settlements were those situated at Teri sites in and around Sayerpuram. Microlithis were collected in good quantities and in the excavation at Tirutangal. Here at Mangudi the earliest evidence points to the Microlithic period.

Period II

This is represented by the early historical culture. Black and red ware, black ware, red slipped ware were predominant varieties found here. A good number of graffiti marks, especially on the black and red ware shards were found. The Russet coated ware was found in lesser quantities.

From the artefacts we may suggest that the main occupation of the people was agriculture. One section of the people were engaged in the ceramic industry and produced a good amount of pottery to fulfil the needs of the people for storing grains and other food products and

for cooking food. They also engaged in Textile industry. The spindle whorls discovered in the trenches suggest that spinning and also weaving were important occupations of the people. A few rouletted ware potshards found here show the trade links between Rome and Tamilnadu.

Considerable number of terracotta objects, beads and conch bangles were found in the excavation. They point to the other occupations followed by the people. The terracotta making suggest the nature of the rural art practised in this locality during the early centuries of the Christian era. The hopscotch uncovered in the excavation indicate the indulgence of children in past time and playing games.

The excavation yielded a good number of potshards with graffiti in this level. They may be the proto-type of script from this the later script could have evolved. The potshard with Brahmi inscriptions found in this level suggests the adoption of the script as well as their proficiency in the Tamil language.

The history of the area extends in to the historical period also. The trial trenches dug in different parts of the locality to find the potentiality of the site yielded medieval pottery and tile pieces. These exploratory diggings revealed some stone sculptures of the 9th Century ACE. In one of the trail trenches one coin of Rajaraja I (985-1014 ACE.) was found. A few later Pandya coins were collected here during the exploration. Some later Pandya Inscriptions were also noticed in this area. Fom the above material it is clear that this area was continuously under occupation probably from the early historical times to the late 14th Century ACE. Thus the excavation at Mangudi revealed the history of the area from the Microlithic period to the Medieval Period.

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1593
स. No. GI/KA/PAL/SR/03/37

दिनांक / Date 9.4.2003.
24

सेवा में / To

Thiru K.Ashok Vardhan Shetty
I.A.S.,
Commissioner,
Department of Archaeology,
C.I.T. Campus,
Tharamani,
CHENNAI-113.

निदेशक
क्षेत्रीय जीवाश्म प्रयोगशालाएं
भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण,
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र, जी. एस. आई. कॉम्प्लेक्स
बंडलागुडा, हैदराबाद - 500 068.
Dr. K. Ayyasami
Director
Regional Palaeontological Laboratories
Geological Survey of India
Southern Region, G.S.I Complex, Bandlaguda
Hyderabad - 500 068.

Laboratory Report on the material submitted by the Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Sample No 1. Bone sample excavated from Mangudi village, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

The material examined is a non mineralized bovine distal shaft with Extremitas distalis of posterior left stylopodium, whose Epicondylus medialis, a portion of medial condyl, patellar articular area with a prominent medial lip/ridge and a portion of lateral lip/ridge are preserved. Large distal articulation, the placement of condyl farther to the rear of the axis of the shaft, prominent medial lip of the patellar articular area and flat fossa plantaris are among the characters of the cattle ruminants.

This unfossilised specimen does not attach palaeontological value as it comes from a historical site of recent past and, being fragmentary, it does not permit venturing specific determination.

Sample 2. Three bone pieces excavated from Mangudi village, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

Bone pieces are not fossilized. These are pieces of a shaft bone and are beyond the scope of palaeontological determination. However, the archaeological interest, if any of the sample may be ascertained by the respective organization.

Specimens examined and report prepared by

Dated 7-04-2003
Hyderabad

(K.Shankar)
Geologist Sr.

Grams : Geosurvey Telex : 0425 - 6257 Fax : 040 - 4020958
Phone : 4020949 - 4020957, Extn. - 2450

"हिन्दी में पत्राचार करने में सुविधा होगी"

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MAP OF LOCATION OF MANGUDI



Figure-1

LOCATION OF MANGUDI & DEVIYARU

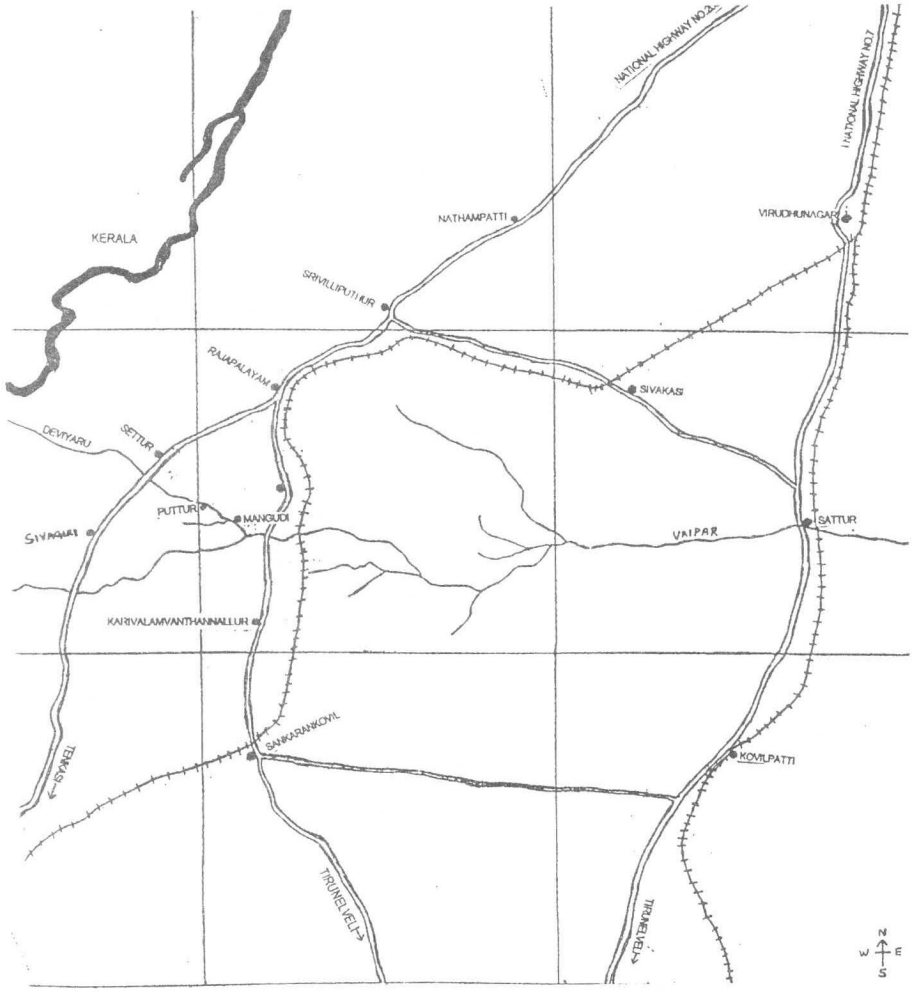


Figure-2

CONTOUR MAP OF NAYAKARPUNJAI
EXCAVATED SITES AT MANGUDI

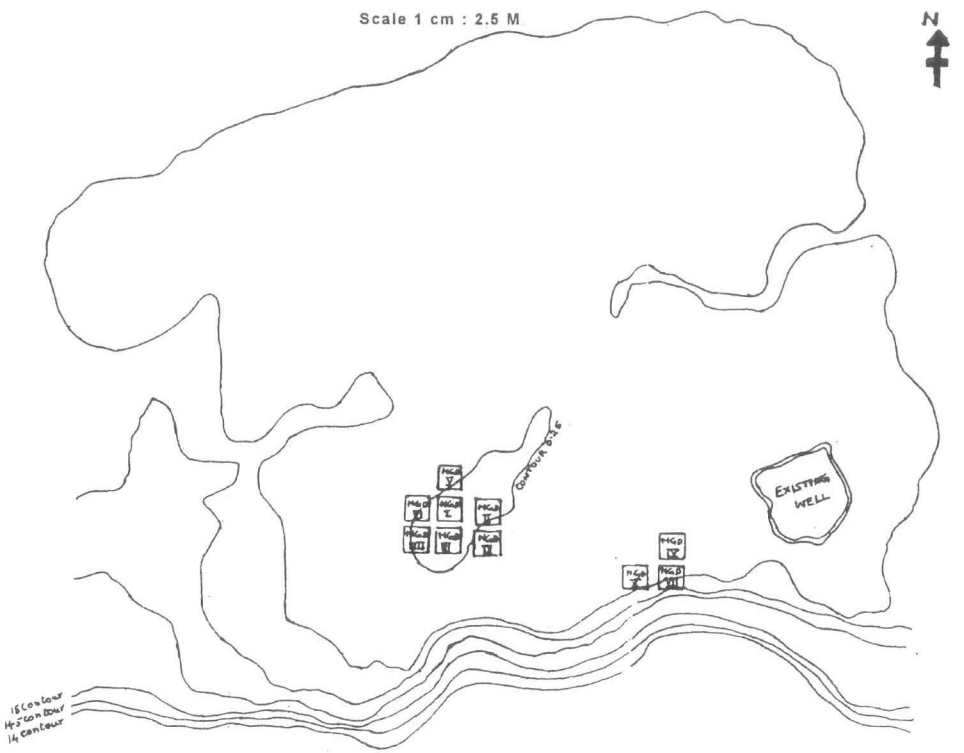


Figure-3

MGD-1-EAST

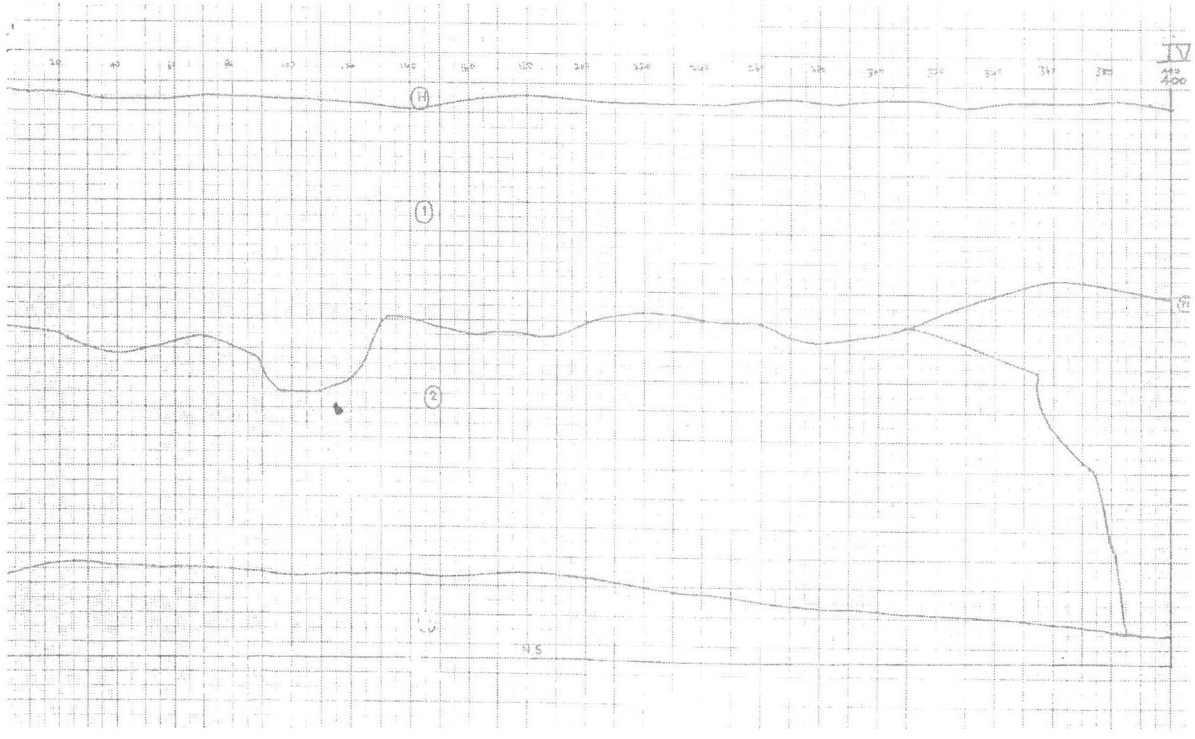


Figure-4

MGD-2-WEST

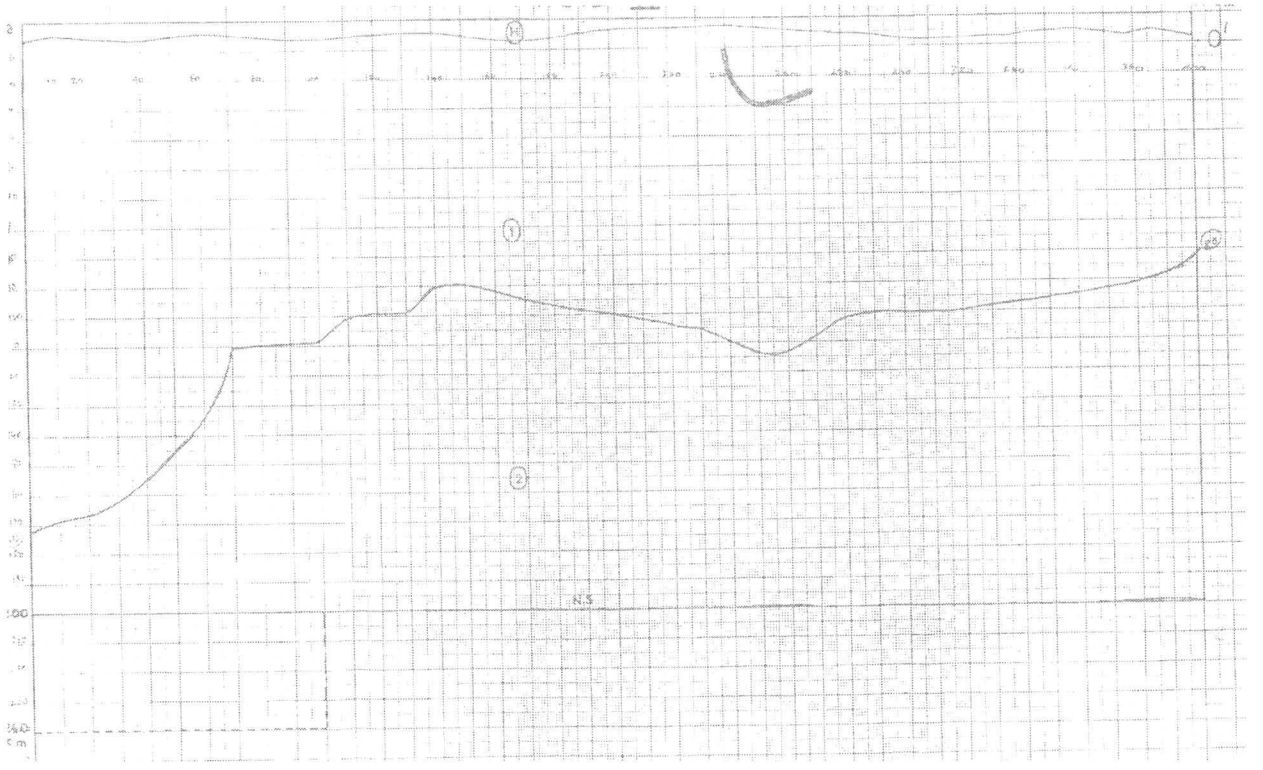


Figure-5

MGD-3-NORTH

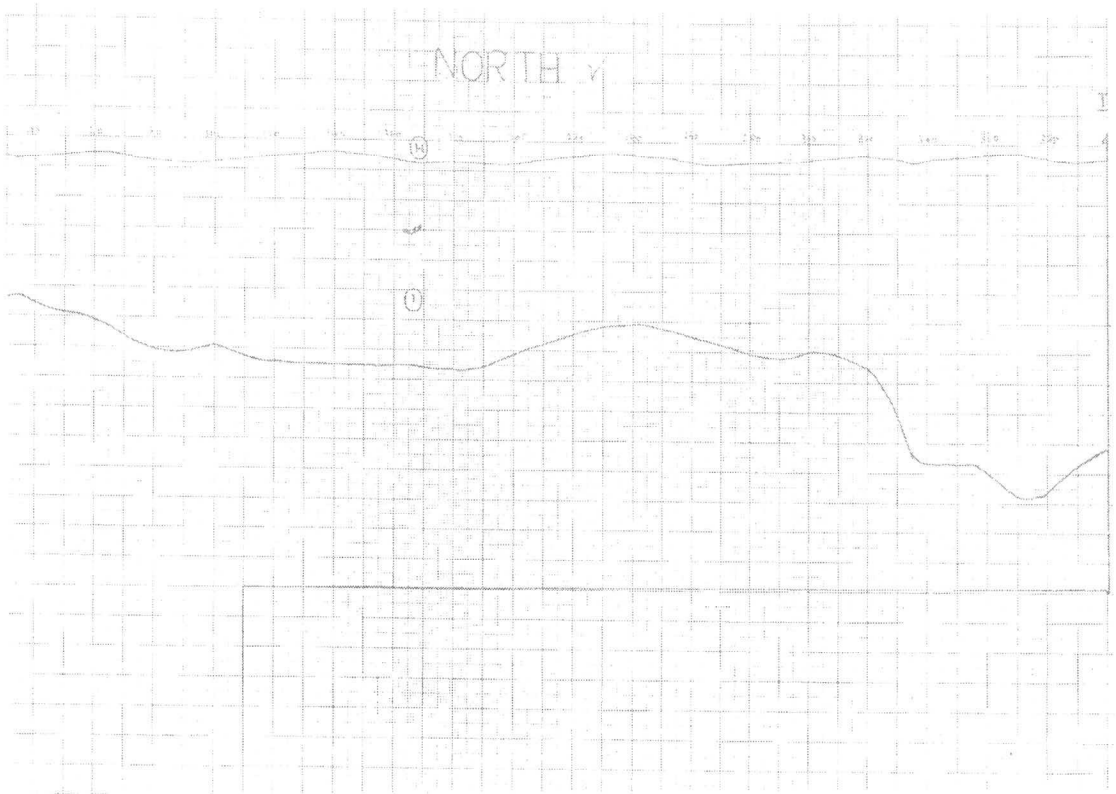


Figure-6

MGD-4-SOUTH

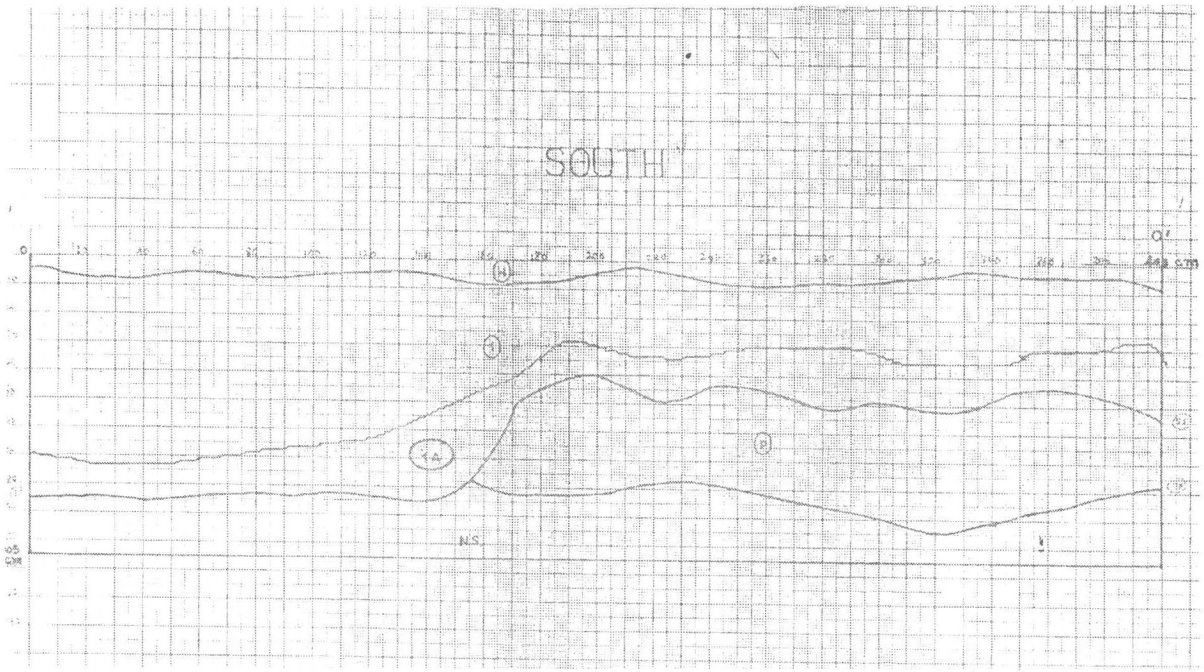


Figure-7

MGD-5-EAST

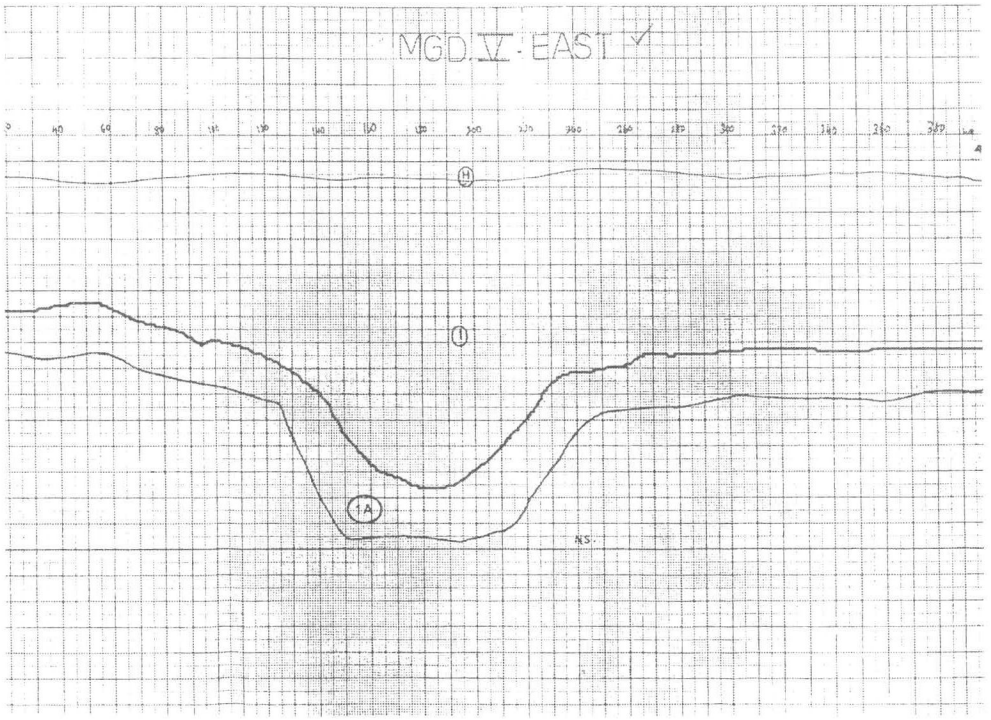


Figure-8

MGD-6-WEST

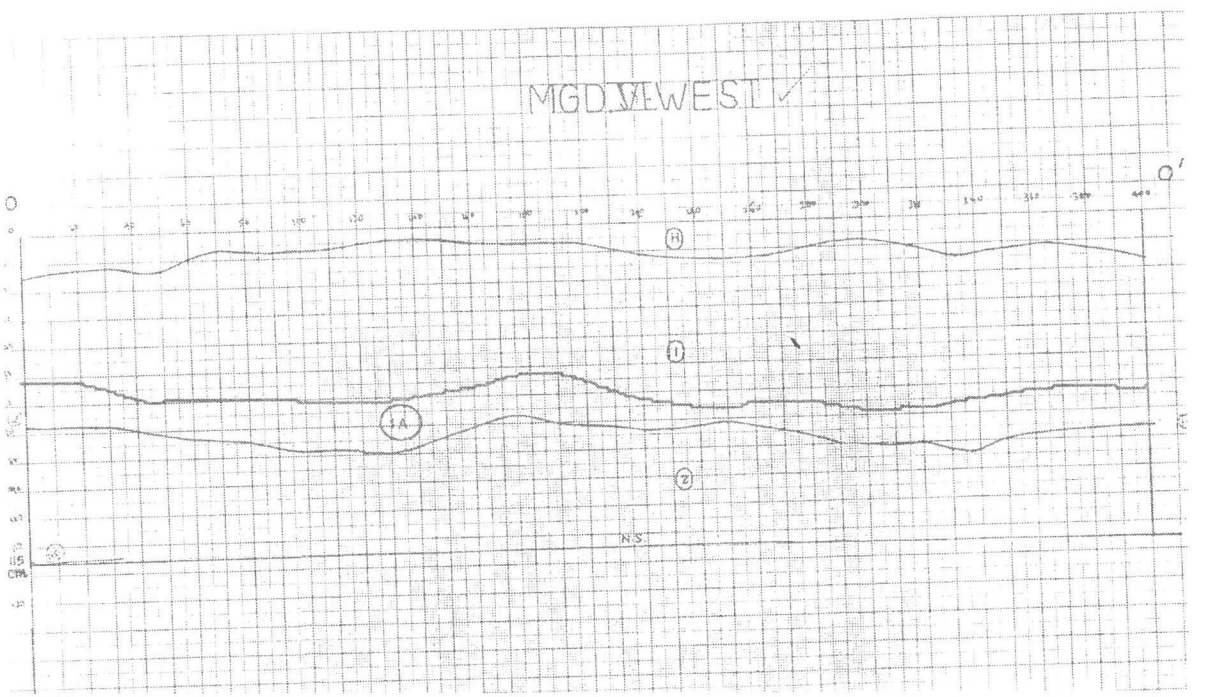


Figure-9

MGD-7-NORTH

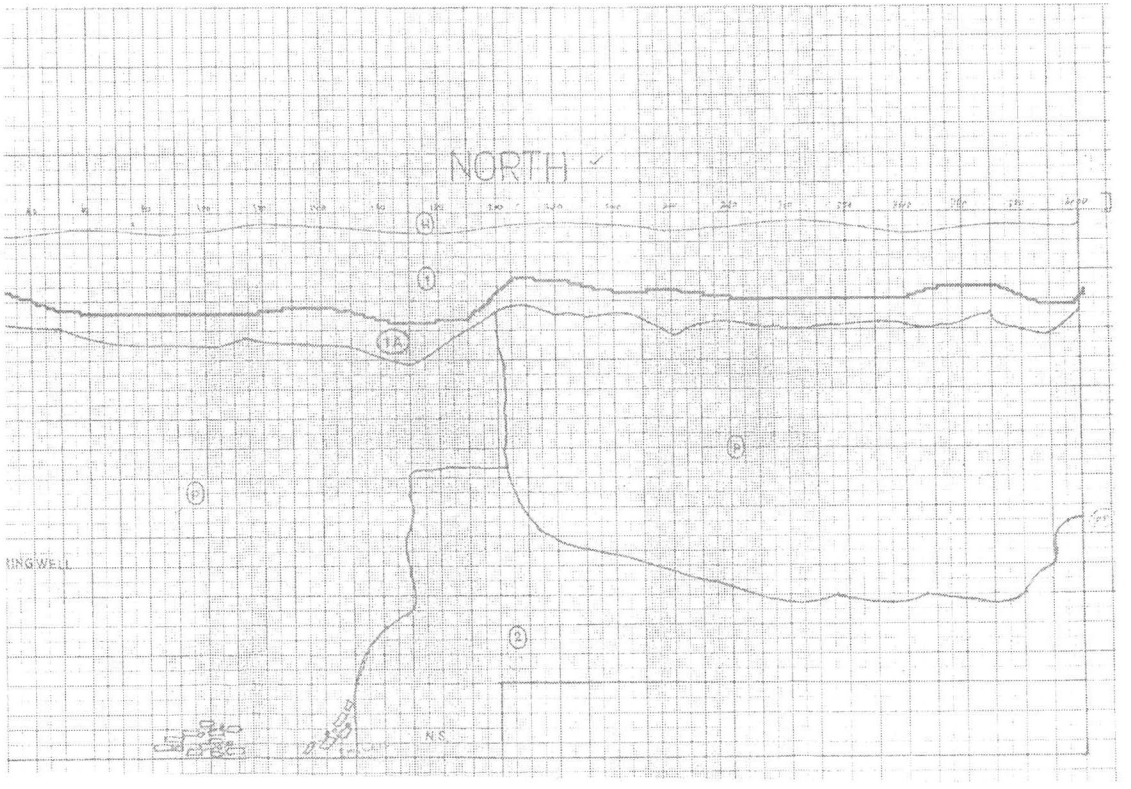


Figure-10

MGD-8-SOUTH

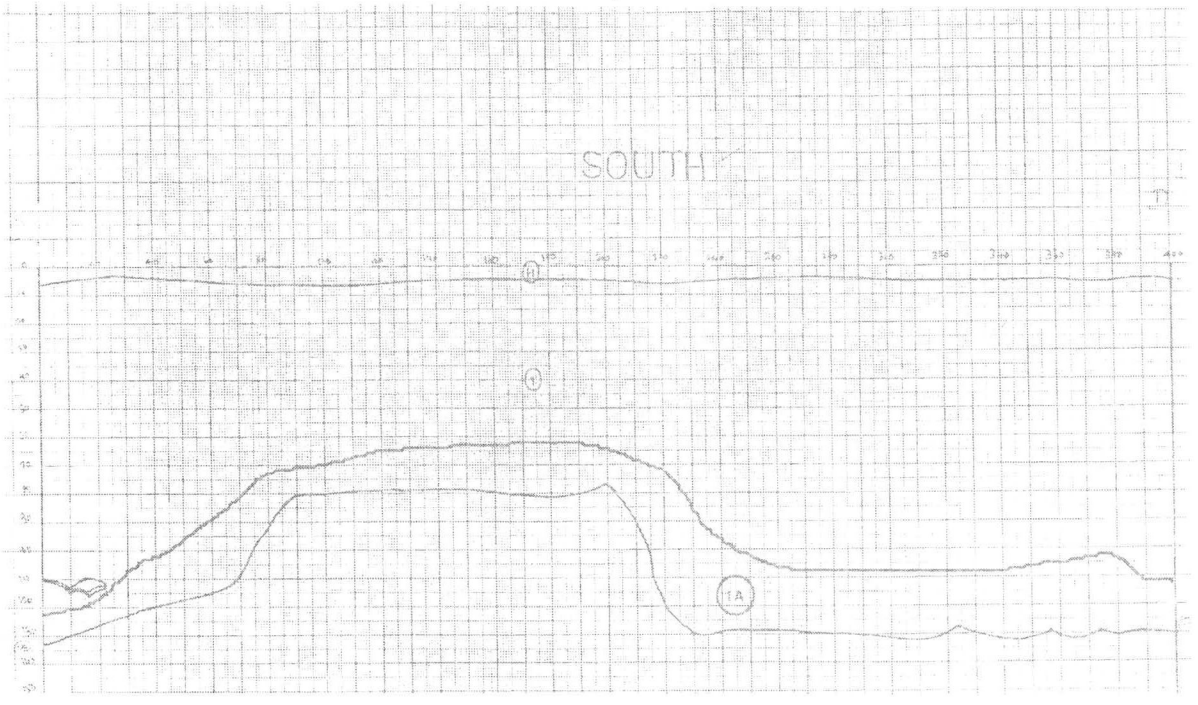


Figure-11

MGD-9-EAST

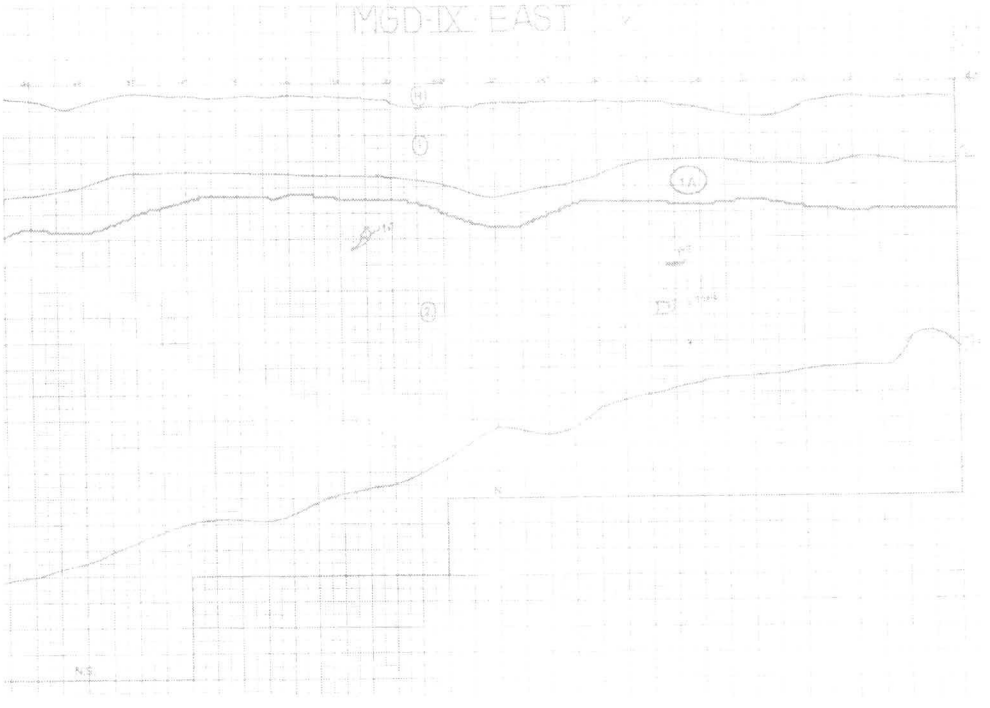


Figure-12

MGD-10-WEST

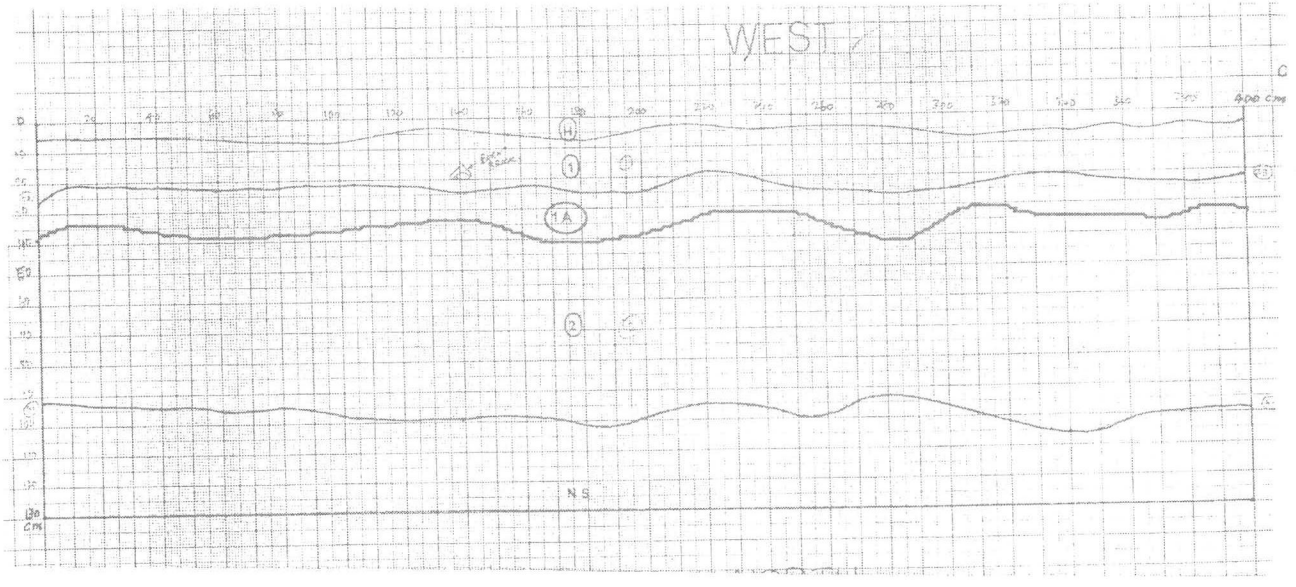
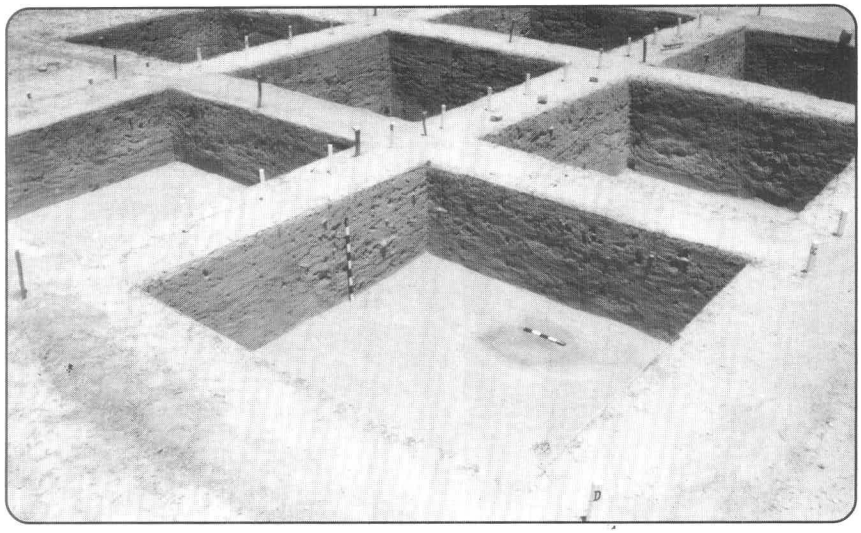
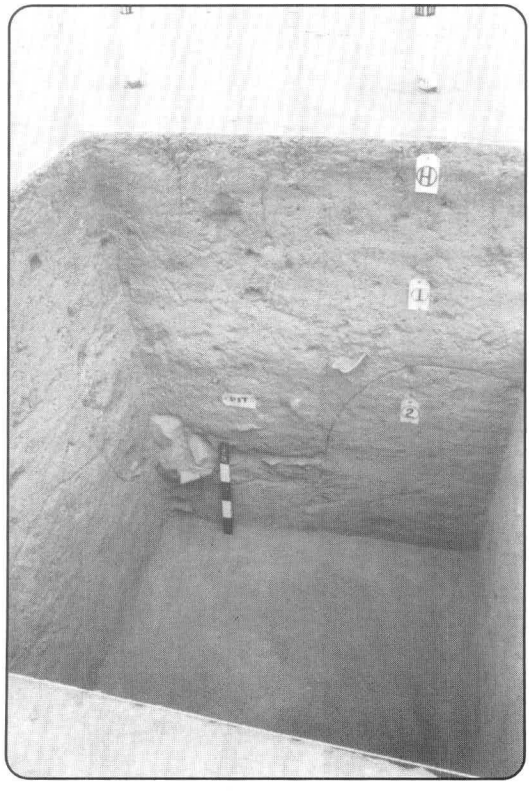


Figure-13



PL-1 : General view of the Excavated trenches



PL-2 : MGD-I Southern Section



PL-3 : Microlithic tools



PL-4 : Microlithic tools & core



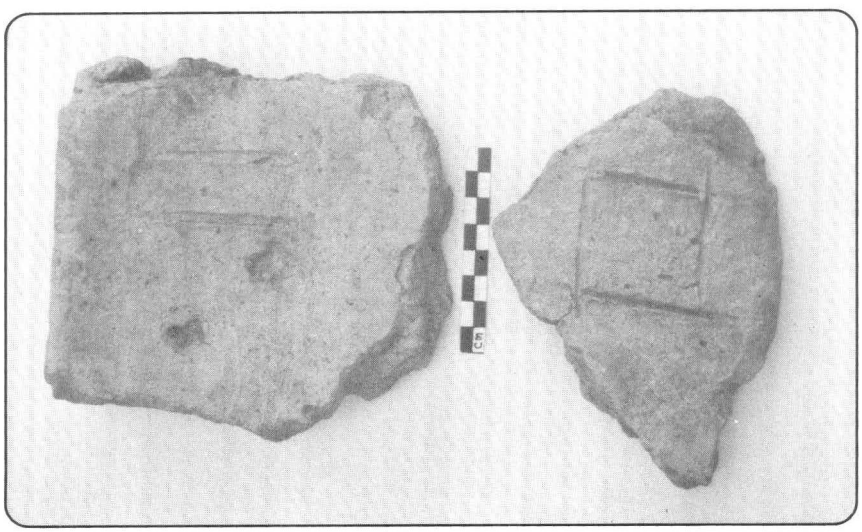
PL-5 : Neolithic celt and ring stone



PL-6 : Painted potshard



PL-7 : Pot with Graffiti Mark (Boat shaped)



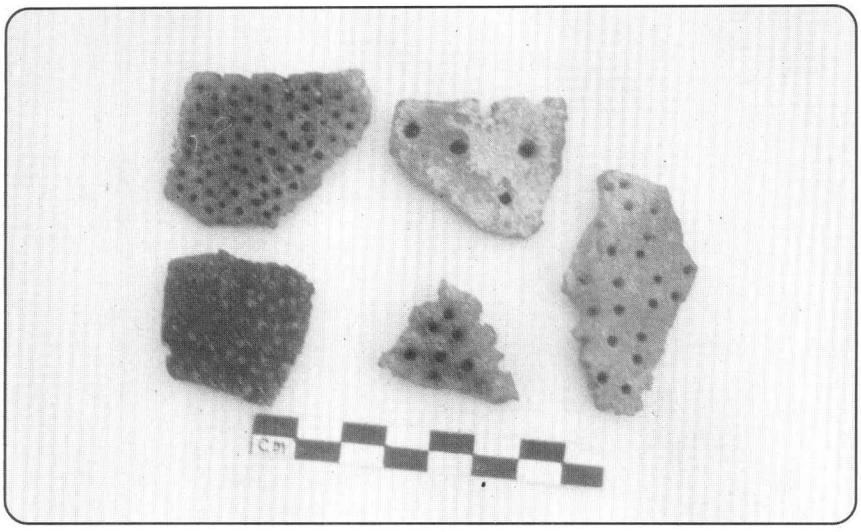
PL-8 : Pieces of ringwell with Graffiti



PL-9 : Inscribed potshard



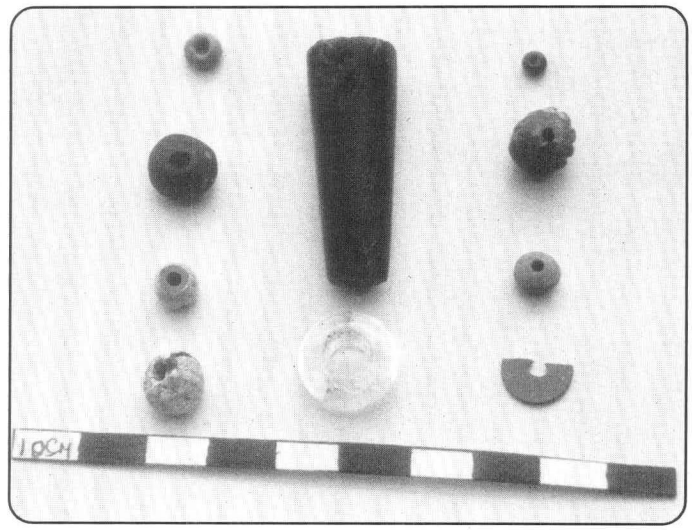
PL-10 : Inscribed potshards



PL-11 : Perforated ware



PL-12 : Perforated pot



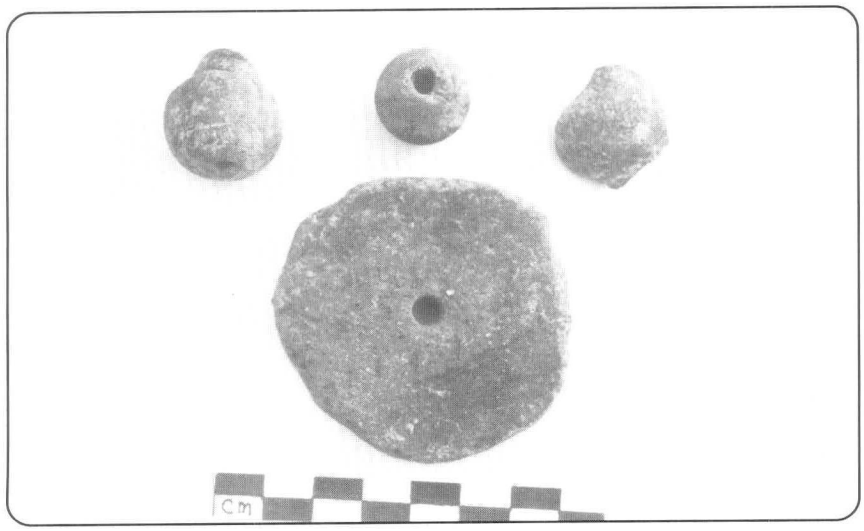
PL-13 : Beads



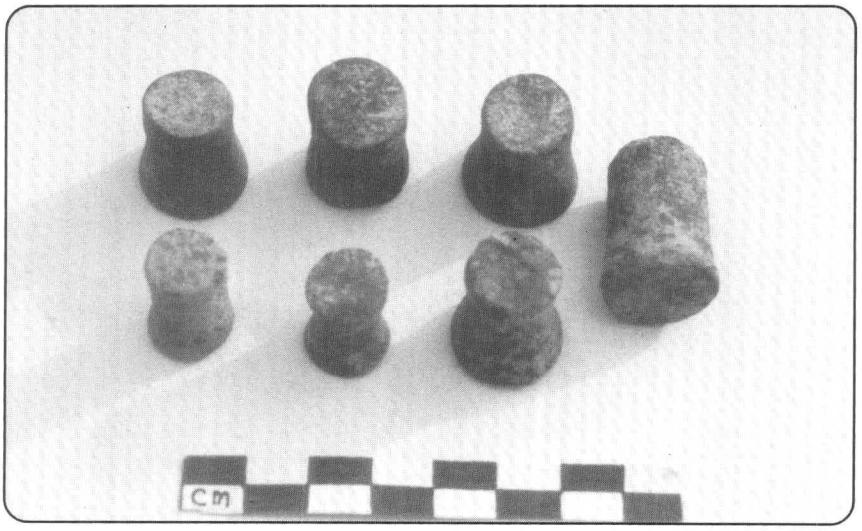
PL-14 : Terracotta beads



PL-15 : Spouts



PL-16 : Spindle whorls



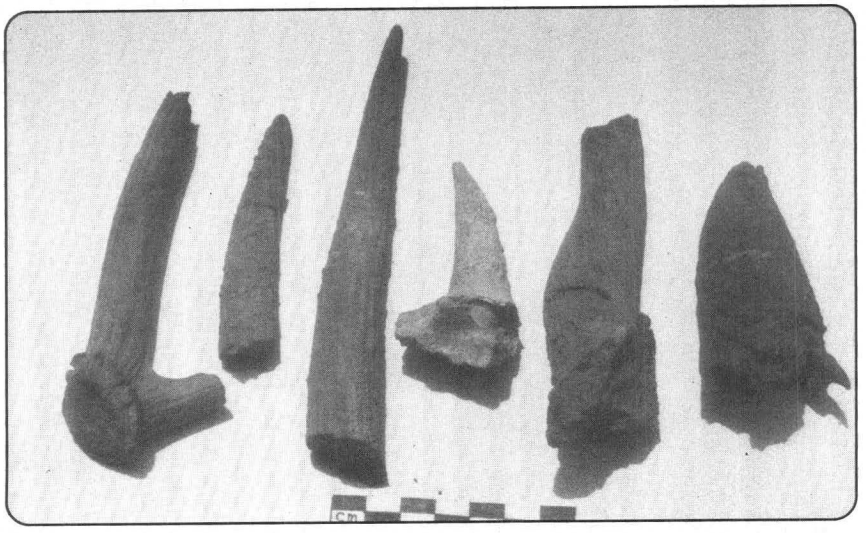
PL-17 : Gamesman



PL-18 : Dice



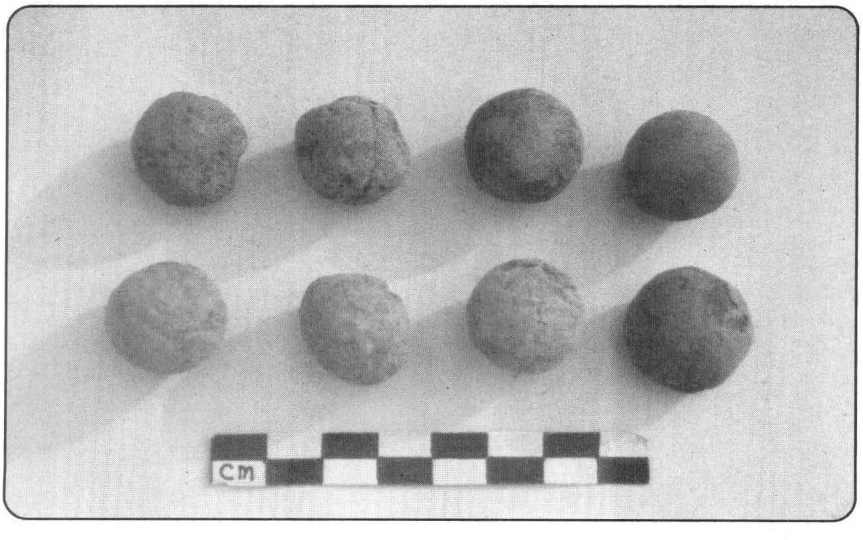
PL-19 : Iron Dagger



PL-20 : Deer Horn



PL-21 : Hop scotches



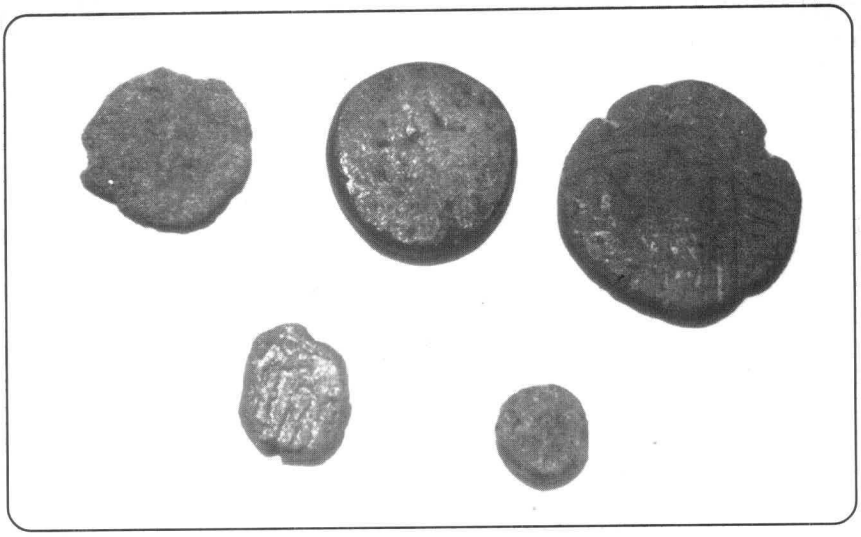
PL-22 : Terracotta balls



PL-23 : Grinding stone



PL-24 : Terracotta Lamp Portion



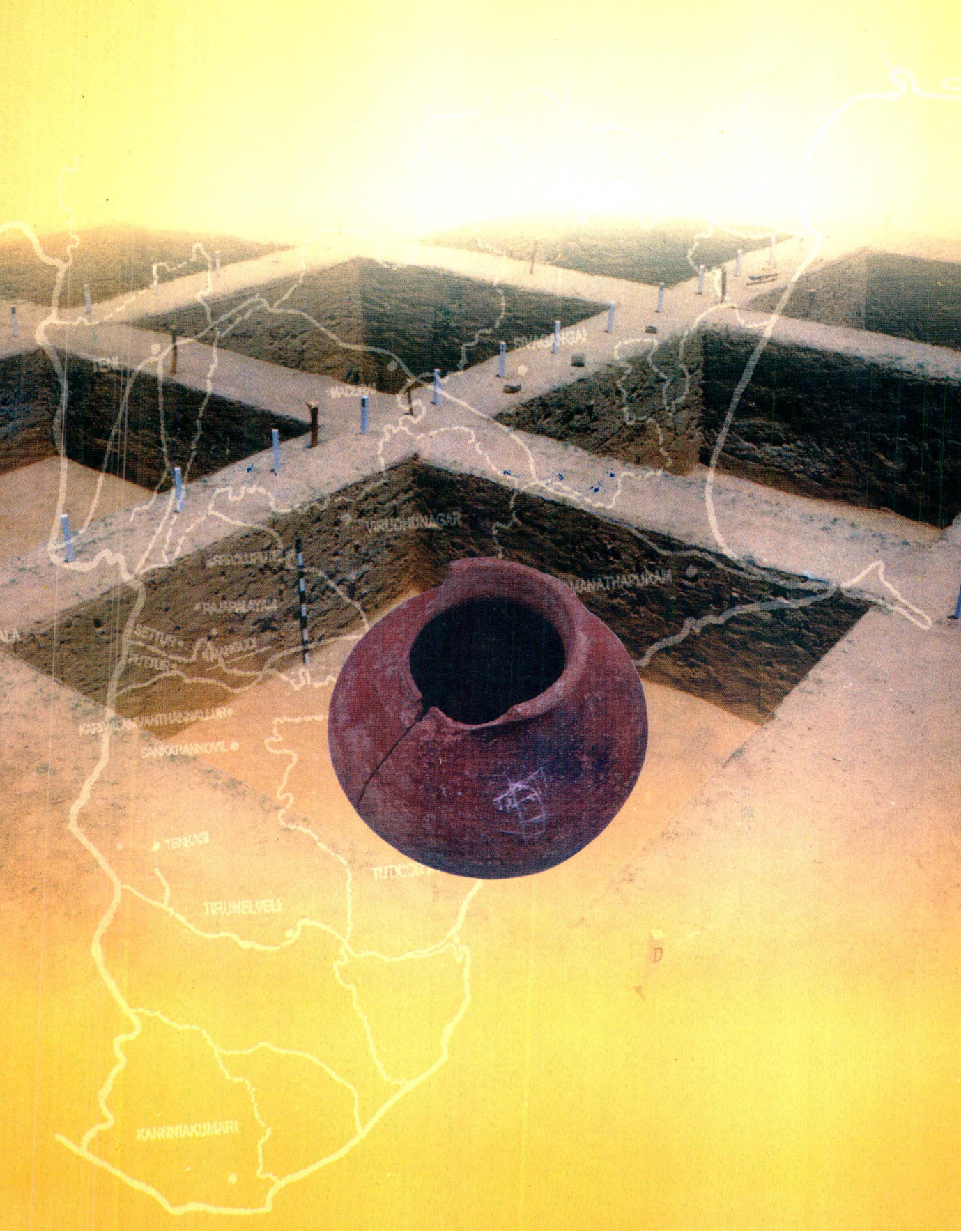
PL-25 : Copper coins



PL-26 : Terracotta – Torso



PL-27 : Stone Inscription - 11-12 . ACE.


SIVAGANGAI
VIRUDHUNAGAR
RAMANATHAPURAM
SANKARANKOVIL
TENKASI
TIRUNELVELI
KANNIYAKUMARI