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The Commencement of the Archaeological Reconnaissances in Balochistan, 1875-1947: A Chrono-historical Overview

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Abstract

The archaeological consideration of Balochistan has been known long ago to the British travelers, army officers, and explorers, such as Henery Pottinger (1810) Charles Masson (1843), Major Mockler (1875), and Colonel Holdich (1891); they all experienced the archaeology of this region in different time periods. In general, the proper archaeological approach (cultural-historical) has been applied by Stein (1904), Hargreaves (1924), Ross (1935), Piggott (1943-44), Matheson (1945), and de Cardi (1948-57). Moreover, these all archaeologists gave a brief introductory switch to the later extensive archaeological activities carried out by foreign and local missions in Balochistan. The cultural-historical approach hypothesized that the Indus Valley Civilization is posterior to early Meso-Iranian Civilization; while in later stages it was theorized after the exceptional discovery of Mehrgarh. The discovery changed the course of the ancient history of South-West Asia. Prior to the discovery of Mehrgarh serious academic debates were going on regarding the buff-ware and red-ware cultural sites between South Asia and South West Asia. Both Piggott and McCown professed the red/buff ware cultures of IVC are the early products of Iranian provinces. Mehrgarh the parental site of buff ware culture, and Killi Gul Muhammad for red ware culture, manifested these two cultures as indigenous products of this region.

Keywords: Archaeology, Balochistan, Sites, discovery, exploration, excavation

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Introduction

It was the European sailors and travelers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, who noticed the living temples and ancient monuments of India for the first time in archaeological history of the subcontinent (Chakarbarti 326:1982). In 1814 the first Indian Museum was established in Calcutta, India aimed at to assemblage the antiquities of the subcontinent, such as the arts, science, literature, and so on (Morley 1981: 10). On 15th January 1784, William Jones pioneered the annual journal Asiatic Society; it was published in 1788 for the first time. The technical and proper archaeological explorations began in the Subcontinent in 1861 under the direction of Sir Alexander Cunningham (1814-1893). Later on, however, he was deemed as the father of Archaeological Survey of India. He was both a British army engineer and archaeologist (Imam 1963: 194). James Fergusson, successor of Cunningham, was motivated by the practice of architectural studies. Therefore, he initiated an archaeological journal entitled as Indian Antiquity. This journal earned a fabulous name for its detailed historical studies and inscriptional information collected and written (Baloch 2007: 77). It is very interesting to add here, that for the first time the British Government did not seek any interest in the archaeological explorations of the subcontinent, but when Alexander Cunningham's great discoveries and relevant information that he published in twenty-three volumes, compelled the British Viceroy to have a systematic exploration in the Indian subcontinent.

Sir Edward Bulwer (1881), the Viceroy, figured out that conservation and preservation of the ancient monuments was a crucial duty, therefore, he appointed Major H. H. Cole as the curator of these monuments (Ibid. 1963). For 19 years Cunningham worked mostly in the North-western Frontier regions. Meanwhile, James Burgess was engaged working in the Western India. Lord Curzon (the Viceroy of the Sub-continent 1899-1905) took interest in the subcontinental archaeology and laid the foundation of Archaeological Survey of India. His extreme eager necessitated him to appoint Sir John Marshall as the Director of Archaeological Survey of India. Marshall brought with him an entire modification in the archaeological methods carried out in the subcontinent. He contributed the South Asian archaeology and remained as the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of British India from 1902-1934. His major contribution was the legislation that was called "Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904." This Act controlled the movement and selling of the noteworthy antiquities (Mughal 2010: 104).

Balochistan is filled with remains of the past. Sometimes even these remains are experienced after rains or just by surface walking. Balochistan embraces a virgin field to the archaeologists, which until now has been discovered merely with a scanty division of its area. Thousands of ruins, mounds, and archaic monuments occur throughout Balochistan which are decorated in great amouns. By the time when arsenal at Quetta was under construction accidently a statuette of Hercules came to the hand of workers (Imperial Gazetteer of India: 21). Many of such ancient and old relics unintentionally were discovered at some time in domestic diggings. In addition, a golden pedestaled-bowl with incised lines below the orifice as well a golden bull was found by the workers at the time when Serena Hotel in Quetta was under construction. The earliest coins like Punch-marked coins were accumulated from Zhob, and in the same way from Kharān coins of Shāis of Kabul were discovered. In Jhalwān region the gabrbands, or embankments of the fire-worshippers are very usual scenes.

The Pre-Independent Period

The Pre-Independence Period brought a lot of archeological explorations in Balochistan. Many foreign archaeologists took interest to carry out surveys in various parts of the region. These explorations and random surveys increased the attention of its explorers. Eventually these casual visitors sensed the significance of these sites and antiquities and started full-fledged surveys and excavations in every nook and cranny of Balochistan. Nevertheless, many of the areas remained intact due to its vast rough territory. When these unique findings were shifted to foreign museums they brought more famous archaeologists with them.

Major E. Mockler (1875)

Major E. Mockler was a Political Agent at Gawadar during the British Colonialism. He conducted an archaeological survey (1875) at the coastal belt of Balochistan. Mockler discovered some ancient archaeological buildings and tombs in Makran. In the course of the survey he discovered two well-known cultural mounds namely, Suthkagen-Kho (the burnt hill) and Suthkagen-Dor) (the burnt-up torrent) (Besenval 1990: 80). The site of Suthkagen-dor sites in Dasht River Valley was 40 miles northwest of Gawadar. It was attributed to be either temples or for water activities. G. F. Dales mentioned them considering as Harappan Sea forts connecting Indus Delta to West (Dales 1962: 86). The findings from this site were fine shaped flint knives, exactly similar flint knives have been discovered from Sakhar on

the Indus. Other than these, wheel-made pottery were also ascertained. Among the pottery there was a masterpiece of a vessel just resembling a drinking cup. According to Mockler he also ascertained some toys of children, cubes similar to dice cut in stone, stone beads, spheres of burnt clay and some copper ornaments from the very site. Another site was also discovered Damba1-Koh, or Dambani Koh (the hill of mounds) just 40 miles west of Suthkagen-Dor. It was located at the south-east of Dashtian (modern Persian Makran). This site housed quite beautiful shaped collection of pottery. The pottery consisted of small orifices and well-formed spouts (Mockler 1877:121-128; Blanfold 157: 1887).

Colonel Holdich (1892)

The British government planned to engage topographical explorations in the Bombay Presidency, Balochistan, the Himalayas, Mergui and Lower Burma. They were amounted to carry out the survey to the area of 9909 square miles. In Southern Balochistan a great amount of new country was mapped (The Surveys of India 1891: 152). Colonel Holdich compiled a field work and later on published it. He titled this work "History and Ethnography of Makrān"; his works says that Makrān does not possess any early written history prior to the writing of Herodotus. He claimed that the history of Makrān goes back to some 2000 BCE. He stated this statement because Mockler already discovered the remarkable dambs or rough stone-built tombs, which were present everywhere in the region. Holdich further goes on mentioning that Makranis prepare their subsistence pattern from fish. That is, the Makranis had also been mentioned as *Ichthyophagi* by Aryan, the Greek historian of Alexander (Raza 2006: 65-69). They also had the local industry of its preservation process, as it was dried and salted which could last for even months. They also exported this fish inland to the other countries, likewise China. A large area of the shore was soaked with the fish for the purpose of preservation. The fishermen erected their huts from the bones of whales where they could set and work out with the fish (Holdich 1896: 387-402).

Fritz Noetling (1898)

Fritz Noetling, who worked as a geologist for the Indian Geological Survey (IGS) in Northern Balochistan, was the first to collect archaeological data from the sites of Preiano Ghundai (Zhob) and Dabarkot (Loralai). He not only sampled pottery from these two sites, as well other artifacts, such as pearls (jewelries), metal and stone finds, clay objects, and some bone

[1] *Damb* or *Dumb* (ðʌm b) is a Balochi word used to refer an archaeological mound.

fragments. Later on, however, the Noetling collection has been studied by Pedde and later it was published in 1993 (Pedde 1993: 215; Prabhakar 2013: 2-3).1 This collection was for the first time beheld in the Museum of Indian Art in Berlin-Dahlem (Noetling 1898: 250). After the pioneering visit of Noetling at PG, the site has considerably been visited by Stein during his second campaign in Balochistan in 1927-28 (Stein 1929; Ross 1935; Piggott 1943; Fairservis 1952; Mughal 1971). M. R. Mughal laid down a sondage (trial trench) in order to investigate and record the cultural profile of the site, but, however, could not reach the natural soil and confined himself to the top/upper entrenchment (Mughal 1972: 139-41).

Sir Marc Aurel Stein (1903-04)

The proper archaeological survey was introduced and pioneered in Balochistan by the greatest explorer Sir Aurel Stein in 1903-04 (Besenval 80: 1990). He was the advisor of education as well the in charge of Archeology of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly NWFP) and Balochistan. Sir Aurel Stein was basically a trained Hungarian-British archaeologist and was very influenced by Sven Hedin's work of 1898 which he carried out in Asia. It was also the Stein, who was successful ascertaining manuscripts in the previously lost Tocharian languages of the Yarim Basin at Marin. He recorded a great number of archaeological ruins especially in Balochistan and Iran (Stein 1934: 119). He made his directions towards those places which were filled with archaeological remains and historically crucial. At the time of his campaign, Stein discovered the sites of Dabarkot and Rana Ghundai in District Loralai, and Periano Ghundai in Zhob. He went towards the Districts of Pishin and Quetta, where he documented a great number of cultural mounds and collected too many pottery and other noteworthy findings by surface walking. Further going to NW (1904) Stein documented only two archaeological sites in Noshki i.e. a prehistoric mound buried below the bungalow of the Political Agent of British India and an Islamic period tomb locally called Mah Gul-e-Gumbaz (Stein 1906: 46-49).

Mr. Hargreaves (1924)

Between the borderlands of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, archaeological expeditions were commenced by Mr. Hargreaves (1924). He visited the famous potential site Sohr Damb/ Naal in Jhalawan valley of Khuzdar. It is a 4.5-ha-large, elevated mound of 13m high subterranean in low-hills of

[1] See Friedhelm Pedde (1993). Keranik aus Nord-Belutschistan. Die Sammlengen Noetling and Heneekmann in Museum für Indische Kunst, Staatiche Museen zu Berlin.

Balochistan (Marshall 1904-5: 104-105). The site was discovered on a gravel gathering close to a small river. For the first time the site was discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1904-05. Several years after, the site was excavated by Colonel Jacobs (1908) of Hazara Pioneer. The Naal Culture is very famous for its stylistic ware of third millennium BCE. The cultural activities had started here roughly 4000 to 2000 BCE (Franke 2005: 105). Hargreaves's excavation exposed a burial ground of chalcolithic time. These grave chambers contained a large number of grave including the remains of 16 individuals. In tomb 739 and 740, more than twelve bodies were found. These tombs contained 60 complete grave-potteries. These all chambers placed multiple fractional burial styles, because from the bodies it could be evaluated that these were deposited sometime after their demise. The potteries found from these chambers, belonged to different cultural styles, likewise Togau (Kalat), Killi Gul Mohammad, and Kechi Beg (Quetta Valley) (Gorsdorf 703: 2007). Its first stratigraphy belongs to a period of 4000 BCE, though there is not any appropriate framework of its dating, yet its findings were dated through cross-dating technique. The conclusion was drawn to Mehrgarh III and IV and Shai Tump II in Makran (Saeed 2006-7: 65).

Resumption of Surveys by Stein (1927)

After a long gap of two decades Sir Marck Aurel Stein again resumed the archaeological tours in Balochistan in 1927-28 by visiting Sarawan, Loralai, Zhob, Jhalawan, Makran, Chagai, and Kharan (Hussain 2013: 10). This time he not only surveyed and documented the archaeological sites as well put trial trenches on some of the mounds of northern Balochistan and Quetta valley; such as Dabarkot, Periano Ghundai in northern Balochistan, and Kachi Beg, Killi Gul Muhammad, Damb Sadaat, and Fiaz Muhammad sites in Quetta surroundings (Khan 2004: 2). Periano Ghundai was for the first time excavated by Stein (1927) and after him the mound was excavated in 1952 by Fairservis and then1972 by R. Mughal (Fairservis 1958: 329; Mughal 1972: 139). These excavations revealed a fair amount of dishes and pottery; on which fish, birds, and animal motifs were depicted. Besides, another series of male and female figurines were discovered from the very site (Baloch 2007: 77). Stein discovered another potential site Kulli, located in Kolwa, (Awaran) a region in the Southern Balochistan and Mehi, a companion site of Kulli, likely, with analogous materials discovered from Kulli. Mehi site was excavated by Stein on 27th March, 1928 Sten began a three-day excavation with the assistance of some 90 workers. He opened a sondage trench just to establish the inter-connectivity of the site with the other adjacent regions. The elevation of the site measured 5.5 meters from the

surrounding plain with 360 yards, slightly smaller than the mound of Kulli (Possehl 1986: 14).

Nevertheless, the materials of two mounds resemble the materials of Shāhi-Tump's lowest occupational levels. Stein says through the way of Mālār, he noticed some Gabar-bands, which were obviously used to keep the drainage just for watering terraced alluvial fields. Three miles off the same road brought them to notice the mound of Kulli which was opposite to the gabar-bands. The length of the mound was 400 yards from north to south, while the width was 330 yards with a height of 10m (Stein 1931: 116). The major findings from this site were small coins in shape of stone circles just as unearthed from Moghal-gundai and Gatti sites. From the surface collection advance painted potsherd, a number of terracotta figurines and fragmental pieces of humped-bulls were accumulated. From the trial trench, several walls were exposed which were 60cm thick, and erected with regular courses of roughly dressed slabs (Ibid. 119).

The mound of Shāhi-Tump (the royal mound), is another interesting discovery of Stein. He for the first time surveyed this site in the course of his first reconnaissance at Kech. The name of the mound is probably suggested from the Tump village, as the site is subterranean within the akin village. The mound is located along the left bank of the Kech River (Ibid. 88) The size of the mound is 77 meters from east to west with an elevation of over 9 meters. Through the surface collection a great deal of fragments of alabaster bowls and cups were collected. There are, moreover, enough evidences of chert blades or scrapers available. The other findings were red ware with geometrical motifs and painted in black resembling Suthkagen-dor. In terms of fineness of body, 85 terracotta figurines of humped-bulls, numerous stone blades, shred of bangles of clay, a stone-ring, and other copper fragments from the trial trench were unearthed. The remains of a human body with fragile condition of skeleton, was dug out, but without any funery deposits (Ibid., 89).

Brigadier E. J. Ross (1935)

Brigadier E. J. Ross was in command of the troops of British Balochistan. He was the command in charge of Loralai and Zhob districts. The antiquarian concern of Ross, led him to visit the nearby sites of his command during 1935 to 1949. Many of these sites were known previously while some were discovered by him. One of the famous known prehistoric sites he revisited was Periano Ghundai (Zhob) (Ross 1946: 291). From the surface finds, he collected painted pottery and sent this collection to the Archaeology

Department Government of India. Some samples of Periano Ghundai were accumulated near the Zhob River and dispatched them to the British Museum. Ross sent this collection thinking that it would be suffice for seriation dating of the Chalcolithic sites of Balochistan, and better be ecological manifestations for the other sites of the similar periods (Ibid. 293).

The Third Expedition of Aurel Stein (1941)

Stein third and last time stepped in Balochistan in 1941 in order to follow the alleged tracks of Alexander the Great. He moved along with the Hangol and Naal rivers prior to reaching Las Bela. His enthusiastic passion once again compelled him to look and search for archaeological sites; consequently, his exploration brought another imperative site Niai Buthi into light, however, the reports of the sites he documented, remained unpublished. Additionally, this is the largest and most preeminent site of its nature in the whole area. This is a comprehensive site with inclusions of Naal/Kulli relation (Franke 2008: 34). Hence Stein pioneered the archaeological activities in district Las Bela. Lake Siranda was another site he visited. This site is also reported in other papers devoted to diligence of Stein (Biagi 2013: 337).

Stuart Piggott (1942)

Stuart Piggott was manifested by the beautified and stylistic cultural ceramics of Balochistan displayed in the Central Asian Antiquities Museum in New Delhi. This pottery was dated to second or probably the third millennium BCE. The pottery was assembled from different regions of Balochistan and contextually they were not sort-out (The British Academy 1998: 429). In 1942-44, however, Stuart commenced working on this corpus of pottery in New Delhi, and he found them in the reserve collection (Piggott 1947: 131). A large number of sherds were collected by Hargreaves in 1925 from the Quetta valley. Piggott himself visited Quetta regions in 1944 and became able enough to draw a limited quantity of field work in the neighborhood where Hargreaves already explored. During his exploration he marked five major sites and collected a large number of pottery collection by the surface walking (Piggott 1950: 72).

Killi Gul Muhammad (Neolithic Mound)

Killi Gul Muhammad site was discovered by Piggott (1943-44) and was named by the nearest village. This site is located on the north side of Baleli and comprises a low irregular stony mound. It measured ca. 91×54 meters

(northwest to southeast). He collected a large amount of pottery from the surface, and these were sparsely scattered on the northern foot of the mound. The pottery was buff/red-ware with black painted decoration; the same type of pottery has also been reported from Mughal Ghundai in the Zhob valley (Piggott 1947: 131; Fairservis 198: 1956).

Quetta Miri (Mound)

Miri-Kalat site Quetta was one of the five sites Piggott discovered. Before his visit it was already occupied by the Arsenal. He merely studied the potsherds discovered from Miri Kalat during 1887. First time these sherds were experienced in McMahon Museum, Quetta, which collapsed in a heap after the massive earthquake of 1935; however, this collection was later on transferred to CAAM in Delhi (Balochistan District Gazetteer 1907: 45). Besides, another group of glazed Islamic sherds were also reported from the occupational debris of the above mentioned site (Fairservis 1956: 197).

Ahmad Khanzai I & II/North-South (Mounds)

These two sites have been named by Piggott after the name of the nearest village Ahmad Khanzāi North and Ahmad Khanzai South. Piggott noticed the sites by the pottery displayed in the CAAM. The documentation of these sherds with their actual provenances was carried out by H. Hargreaves (Archaeological Survey of India 1925: 59). As Piggott made its exploration (1943-44) at these sites he found two mounds, the southern and northern. The southern site was subterranean 91 meters west of the Quetta-Sibi Road 5.2kms south of Quetta City. It was towering 8 meters from the surrounding surface with 73 meters in diameter. The cultural-heap was occupied by a Muslim Period graveyard with an illegal trench at the top most. The second northern mound had a distance of 3.5kms south of Quetta downtown. It was circular in shape expanded in area of 91mtrs in diameter. It was 4 meters tall from the ground level. The site was slightly encroached by the moisture of nearby irrigated fields and trees (Piggott 1947: 34).

Mian Ghundai/Damb Sadaat (Mound)

Originally, this site has been mentioned by the name of Mian Ghundai in the official records of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), while other explorers, such as Walter A. Fairservis, Jim G. Shaffer and son on, referred to this site as Damb Sadaat. Piggott noticed the mentioned site from the pottery corpus of CAAM, collected by Hargreaves. However, it is a large mound measured 180 meters in diameter with an elevation of ca. 14 meters from the

surrounding level (Piggott 1947: 134; Shaffer 1978: 123). The surface structure of the site was stony somehow. Due to the post excavations, the western area revealed a loam composition with the exposer of mud-walls. The collected sherds had the same morphological characteristics as Quetta-wares (more often Quetta Tradition) (Fairservis 1956: 197).

Later in 1944, Piggott brought into light a great number of pre/early Harappan sites in Balochistan. Further he analyzed and interpreted different types of archaeological relics from Kechi-Beg and Damb Sadaat. In his concluding remarks, he subsumed this pottery as an indigenous cultural ware. This pottery was classified by Piggott into two types: buff-ware and red-ware. These two wares were further sub-divided the buff-ware from the Quetta and Sarawan (Mastung, Kalat) regions and Red-ware from Northern Balochistan (Zhob, Loralai). For better grasping these cultural typologies of pottery the underneath lines will better classify them (Piggott 1950: 47).

A. Buff-ware cultures

- *The Quetta-Culture* (sites ranging between the Bolan Pass, Sarawan, Iranian Sistan, and Helmand Valley)
- *The Amri-Naal Culture* (the sites of lower Sindh and the Naal Valley in Kuzdar, Balochistan)
- *The Kuli-Culture* (Kolwa sites of the Southern Balochistan and Jahlawan)

B. Red-ware Culture

1- *The Zhob-Cultures (the sites of Northern Balochistan)*

The Zhob Culture was first assigned by Piggott after the visits he paid in Northern Balochistan. Due to the less and proper archaeological activities, the Zhob Culture is the least known Cultures of Balochistan. This is a red-slipped pottery with the execution of black bovine and geometric friezes and is merely defined to the Northern Valleys of Balochistan ranging from Quetta, Loralai, Killa Saifulla, Killa Abdullah, Barkhan and Zhob (Shaffer 1978: 125).

On the other hand, Piggott in his book "Prehistoric India," has also eulogized the work of E. J. Ross for Northern Balochistan. It was between 1942 and 1945 when Piggott himself led an exploration in Northern Balochistan especially at the two famous mounds of RG and perhaps PG. The

measurement he recorded at RG at that time was 12.5 meters high. He also discussed that the mound has been illegally dug by the local treasure hunters, not for only treasures but they also took away the ash-laden soil from the ancient occupational levels in order to use it for their agricultural lands (Ross 1947: 291; Piggott 1947: 133; Pedde 1993: 215-17). For the convenience of common readers Stuart made an easy table even easier than the original reports of the main works of the time.

Table 1- The chronological periodization of RG site.

I	Rana Ghundai	Handmade pottery (virgin soil)
IIa	Rana Ghundai	
Cultural Break/gap		
IIIa	Rana Ghundai	
IIIb	Rana Ghundai	
IIIc	Rana Ghundai	
Stoppage in pottery continuity		
IV	Rana Ghundai	
End of painted pottery		
Va	Rana Ghundai	
Vb	Rana Ghundai	
Vc	Rana Ghundai	

Sylvia Matheson (1945)

Sylvia Matheson, the wife of the Political Agent of India in Noshki, collected pottery from Rakshan and Sulaiman areas of Balochistan, between 1945 and 1961. Originally, Matheson's interests rose when she noticed the painted potsherds scattered below the bungalow she was residing in. She collected some of these sherds and went to London where she discussed them with Sir Mortimer Wheeler (Matheson 1967). In fact, the pottery she collected belonged to a prehistoric mound, which earlier was visited by Stein during his first exploration in Balochistan in 1904 (Stein 1906:47). At a later time, her interest towards archaeology developed and she did a six-month archaeological course under the supervision of Wheeler. The accomplishment of this short training led her to the Bugti hills of Balochistan where she discovered some other protohistoric sites in 1959, then 1961-62 (Ali 1991: 1).

The pottery collected by Matheson was dispatched to the Institute of Archaeology in London. Due to unknown reasons, they were neither systematically studied nor accessed to the Institute's collection. This collection was unknown until Miss B. de Cardi and Dr. Glover carried out rendering works on the pottery of Balochistan. Miss Matheson made some notes from the same arrival of pottery in 1966. In 1984, Miss de Cardi commented in a letter to Dr. Glover, that the pottery was "worth studying." But worse luck some sherds collected from the sites of Wadh (Mastung), Siah Damb (Kalat) and Dawaroo Tul (?) were missing as their presence were experienced prior (de Cardi 1965).

General Conclusion

The pre-Independent Period of Indian Subcontinent outlined a lot of archeological explorations in Pakistani province of Balochistan. The archaeological start was launched by Major E. Mockler (1875) in the coastal area of West Pakistan. In the Aftermath of such explorations lot of foreign archaeologists took interest to carry out surveys in various parts of Balochistan. These unique findings brought more famous archaeologists to explore the Province. After the Independence of Pakistan, several foreign missions were installed in Balochistan which led to the discovery of many other sites. The ancient remains of the first pastoral-farming were found at Mehrgarh (1973), a small village of Meer Ghous Bux Raisani in the valley of Kachi-Bolan. Mehrgarh laid the aceramic-ceramic Neolithic foundation (8000 millennium BCE) of not merely Balochistan rather to the whole South-Asia, South-West-Asia, as well Central Asia. Prior to this major discovery, many sites of Balochistan were attributed to be the continuity of SW Asian Archaeology.

Before the partition, a couple of more sites were brought into light ranging from 4500 BCE to late Bronze Age 1500 BCE. The cultural-historical archaeologists have extensively excavated these sites but without reconstructing an absolute Chrono-Cultural sequence. These Chalcolithic sites include, Rana Ghundai, Periano Ghundai, Mughal Ghundai, Dabarkot (hitherto two cultural periods are known: Harappa and Buddhist); while the Protohistoric sites were Sothkagen-koh and Sothkagen-dor. These sites are quite above from the surrounding levels as it became the cause of not reaching to their virgin soils. It is an open fact that without the deep exploration a cultural stratigraphy properly can -not be established. If these Chalcolithic sites were reached to the deepest levels they would perhaps be contemporary to Kill Gul Muhammad or even earlier. The Killi Gul Muhammad site was declared as an-ceramic Neolithic site by Fairservis by just laying out a small sondage of only 3.5×3.5 meters and went down to a

deep level of 11.5 meters. The first statement as considering it as a pre-pottery site may not be reaching to a rational conclusion within such a small area of trial entrenchment; secondly the depth level as he mentioned in his reports is not possible to reach within a small sondage of just 3.5×3.5 meters as it gets to narrow and deep along with the staircase for dismounting in the pit. Again to say, these all sites need to be reexamined conventionally and scientifically with absolute dating methods.

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