

# BACK TO ALIGRĀMA

## A LOOK TO A CRUCIAL SITE OF THE SWĀT VALLEY, PAKISTAN

The protohistoric graveyard near the village of Aligrāma (Swāt Valley, Pakistan) was discovered by Prof. G. Tucci, during one of his first surveys in Swat.

Later, the site was excavated from 1966 to 1983 by S. Tusa (STACUL G., TUSA S. 1975, 1977). In the 80's, part of the local cemetery, too, was explored by P. Zolese.

In the last year of fieldwork the mission rescued a grave casually exposed during some construction works. This find so far remained unpublished.

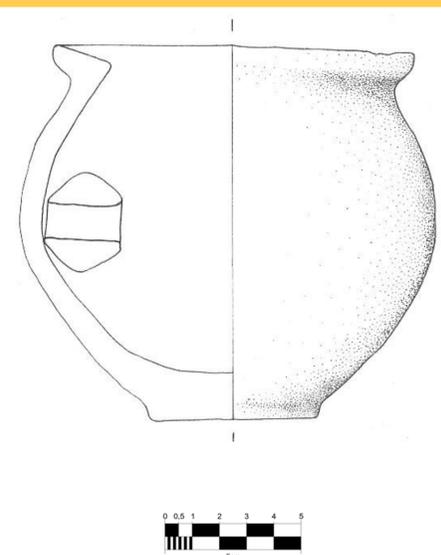
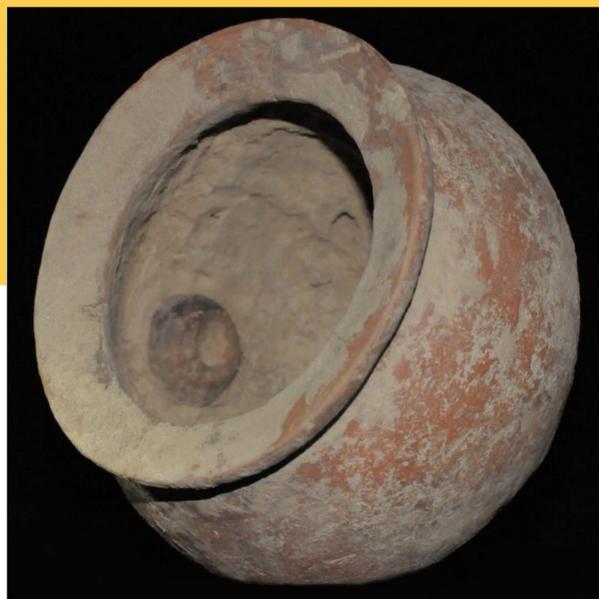
Comparing the grave furnishings here published with those from other graves recently excavated at Godgara and Udegram (VIDALE M., MICHELI R., OLIVIERI L.M. 2016), dated in a systematic way by radiocarbon, it is possible to date this funerary assemblage from the XIII<sup>th</sup> to the XII<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.



This grave is relevant for the presence of two iron objects, very rare in the inventories of the graveyards published by C. Silvi Antonini and G. Stacul (SILVI ANTONINI C., STACUL G. 1972). These early iron artefacts (a dagger and a possible axe) confirm the importance of the Swat valley in the early development of iron and other technologies in the Subcontinent.



This assemblage contains a small cooking pot (half-sized in respect to other vessels found at Godgara and Udegram). A spindle-whorl confirms a ritual gesture already observed in grave 28 of Udegram and grave C of Godgara IV); is it a female element within a male-oriented assemblage? The position of the spindle whorl shows that it was supported by a now decayed material.



### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This grave assemblage is also important for the presence of a cylindrical chlorite vessel,

a type so far not reported in the published inventories of the protohistoric graves of Swat. Its typological and chronological implications are currently under study.

Many thanks are due to S. Tusa, for the permission to publish this find of the Aligrama excavations.