

South Asian Archaeology and Art 2014

Papers Presented at the Twenty-Second International Conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art held at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities/National Museums of World Culture, Stockholm, Sweden, 30th of June to 4th of July 2014

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Table of Contents

Preface by the President of EASAA 22 <i>Eva Myrdal</i>	vii
List of Contributors	ix
Representing the Past: Early India <i>Romila Thapar</i>	1
Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology	
Late Pleistocene Microlithic Industries in the Ayodhya Hills, West Bengal, Eastern India: Reconstructing a Past Use of Landscape <i>Bishnupriya Basak</i>	13
Investigating Adaptation to Climate Change in the Archaeological Record: A Conceptual Framework and an Isotopic Approach in the Indus Civilisation <i>Penelope J. Jones, Ravindra Nath Singh, Cameron A. Petrie, Tamsin C. O'Connell and Martin K. Jones</i>	27
Regional Variations of the Harappan Seals in Light of Their Design and Carving Techniques Observed through SEM and PEAKIT (3D) Analyses <i>Ayumu Konasukawa</i>	43
New Ivory Rods from Mohenjo-daro and an Exploration of This Object Class <i>Heidi J. Miller</i>	61
Inscriptions Incised on Harappan Ivory/Bone Rods and Their Parallels among Other Types of Inscribed Objects <i>Asko Parpola</i>	71
Weight Metrology in the Harappan Civilization <i>Lorenz Rahmstorf</i>	77
Historic Archaeology and the History of Art and Architecture	
Aristobulus of Cassandreia: An Engineer at the Court of Alexander the Great <i>Manuel Albaladejo Vivero</i>	99
Pastoral Elements in Mathurā Art (c. 1 st -3 rd centuries CE) <i>Chandreyi Basu</i>	115
Contextualizing the Representation of Avalokiteśvara and Tārā in the Buddhist Clay Moulded Tablets in Eastern India and Bangladesh (7 th -13 th centuries CE) <i>Suchandra Ghosh</i>	125

Śiva Dakṣiṇāmūrti or Sage Nārāyaṇa? Reconsidering an Early Terracotta Panel from Ahichhatrā <i>Laxshmi Rose Greaves</i>	135
The Production Landscapes of Southern Andhra Pradesh: The Swarnamukhi River Valley Survey 2013-2014 <i>Praveena Gullapalli, Shinu Anna Abraham and K. P. Rao</i>	153
The Elephant in the Room: Archaeology and the Early Medieval Period in India <i>Jason D. Hawkes</i>	169
A Forgotten Source about the Ancient Indian Ocean Trade <i>Klaus Karttunen</i>	185
The Religious Background of Mahasthan <i>Vincent Lefèvre and Jean-François Salles</i>	191
The Pottery from Mazar Excavations at Mahasthangarh (Bangladesh) and Its Implications for the Early Medieval Period of the Ancient North Bengal <i>Coline Lefrancq</i>	205
New Architecture in Old Pakistan: Mari-Indus, Zalamkot, and Katas <i>Michael W. Meister</i>	215
Devapaṭṭas at Gaya, Bihar <i>Gerd J. R. Mevissen</i>	223
Shell Bangles, Body Adornment and 'Indianization' Process: Some Insights from the Late Kushan Phase at Bir-koṭ-ghwaṇḍai (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan) <i>Roberto Micheli</i>	243
The Chronological Benchmarks for Gandhāran Sculptures <i>Satoshi Naiki</i>	259
Inscribed Images Donated by Merchants in Bihar and Bengal (8 th -12 th century) <i>Sayantani Pal</i>	271
Messing Up the System: Gupta Gold Coin Forgeries <i>Ellen M. Raven</i>	283
A New Glimpse on Hypaethral <i>Yoginī</i> Temples of India <i>Caroline Riberaigua</i>	297
From Narrative to Iconic Picture: When the Image Becomes a 'Pictogram' <i>Marion Le Sauce-Carnis</i>	309
Far and Wide Across the Indian Ocean: An Analytical Investigation into Distribution Networks Across the Indian Ocean and Beyond <i>Joanne E. Shoebridge</i>	321
Mauryan Pāṭaliputra: A Re-assessment of the Structural Remains <i>Daniela De Simone</i>	329
A Study on a Newly Found Triton Image from Gandhāra <i>Tadashi Tanabe</i>	341

Preface by the President of EASAA 22

Eva Myrdal

From June 30 to July 4, 2014 one hundred researchers, curators, and PhD students from twenty nations and three continents met in Stockholm, Sweden for discussions and exchange of ideas during the 22nd conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art (EASAA).

The National Museums of World Culture (NMWC) hosted the conference that was held at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (MFEA). We would like to express our gratitude to NMWC for agreeing to host the conference, to the Museum Director (2013-2015) Michel D. Lee for his warm welcome speech, and to the staff at MFEA for the practical arrangements that made the Museum a hospitable and inspiring venue for the conference. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Professor Dr Phil. Kristian Kristiansen, archaeology, Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg and to the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities for financially supporting EASAA 22, allowing us to sponsor the participation of some South Asian guests.

It is a long way from the Indian Subcontinent to Sweden in the north-western periphery of Eurasia. Thus, we were very happy that Professor emerita Romila Thapar, despite of the distance, accepted our invitation to travel to Stockholm to deliver the opening address. Based on textual sources she reminded us, amongst other things, that people in ancient societies also represented, reflected over and used their own past in their own present time - a perspective that is equally relevant whether one studies literary works, inscriptions, objects, built environments or production landscapes.

As stated in the homepage of the EASAA, the association has been the principal European forum in its field since its foundation in 1970. Its aim is to bring together and forge links between scholars from around the world working in the disciplines of South Asian archaeology, art history, architecture and heritage for a biannual conference, following which proceedings are published. The publication of research papers is essential for the wider communication of results and their critical evaluation.

With the peer-reviewed Proceeding's aim of communication in mind, a few editorial remarks should be added. Before the final editing in 2019, the authors have had the possibility to update their references and bibliographies from 2015 when it was found necessary in order to keep the scholarly relevance of the papers. Further, we were happy to include a paper which was born out of a discussion about Harappan signs during the conference. Professor Asko Parpola's paper "*Inscriptions Incised on Harappan Ivory/Bone Rods and Their Parallels Among Other Types of Inscribed Objects*" forms a comment and answer to specific questions raised in the paper concerning Harappan signs on ivory rods presented during the conference by Heidi Miller. Its inclusion in the volume thus gives an added value to readers who were not present during the discussion.

We wish to thank the senior lecturer in Comparative Indo-European Linguistics Dr Phil. Christiane Schaefer, Uppsala University, for her support at the start of the publishing process. Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to Dr Phil. Heinz Werner Wessel, professor of Indology and the Indoiranska stiftelsen (Indo-Iranian Foundation) at the Department of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University and to the NMWC for the financial support to publish this volume. A heartfelt thanks also to Mr Pankaj D. Jain and the staff of Dev Publishers & Distributors in New Delhi for their patience during the editing process.

Stockholm, December 2019

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