

**Religions, Society, Trade and Kingship:  
Archaeology and Art in South Asia  
and along the Silk Road,  
5500 BCE-5<sup>th</sup> Century CE**

Research Presented at the Twenty-third Conference of the  
European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art,  
Cardiff, 2016

Volume 1  
Archaeology, Seals and Inscriptions,  
Iconography and Artistic Expression

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# Preface

This edited volume is the outcome of the conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art (EASAA) which took place at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, at the start of July 2016. The following twelve panels were held across five days: Origins (prehistory); Prehistoric Central Asia and Pakistan; North West India and Environmental Studies; The Gupta and Vākāṭaka Periods; Architecture; Heritage, its Conservation and Display; Medieval Settlement and Society; Painting; Prehistoric Seals, Scripts and Iconography; Oceanic Trade; The Early Historic Period; and Sculpture and Iconography. The papers span a period of over a million years, commencing with Paleolithic archaeology and culminating with 21st century Pakistani truck art. They advance knowledge of our field on many fronts, and the lively debates prompted by the talks at the Cardiff conference are sure to continue as the papers reach a wider audience.

Volume I of the proceedings is divided into three parts: Archaeology, Seals and Inscriptions and Iconography and Artistic Expression dating from *circa* the mid-sixth century BCE to the fifth century CE. The papers are organised as much as possible into a chronological sequence within each section. There is a notable emphasis in this volume on the archaeology and sculpture of Pakistan, in addition to papers on the history of Bangladesh, Chorasmia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Soqatra and India.

Volume II of the proceedings is divided into three parts: Architecture, Sculpture and Painting dating from the third century BCE up to the present day. This volume is largely focused on the architectural and artistic heritage of India, enriched by contributions on Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

We extend our immense gratitude to the authors who have contributed an astonishing range of scholarship; to the EASAA committee for their guidance; to the peer-reviewers; to Raphael Greaves of Printed Goods for cover designs; and to Pankaj Jain and his team at Dev Publishers and Distributors for all their hard work and patience in realising this project.