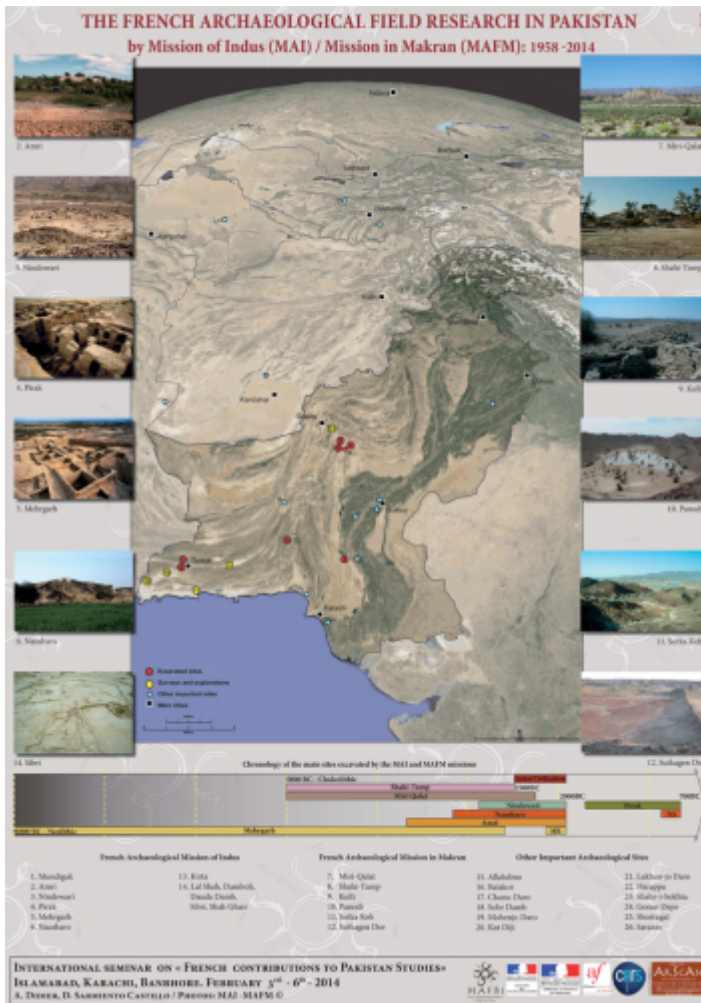


Monde Indus-Balochistan



The French Archaeological Field Research in Pakistan 1958 - 2014

MAI Mission, direction: Jean-Marie Casal

Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

AMRI EXCAVATIONS (1959-1962)

The site of Amri is located on the west bank of the Indus River, about 130 north of Hyderabad in Sindh. Situated in the foothills of the Kirthar Range, the site of 8 hectares, was excavated, providing the remains of a Chalcolithic-Late Bronze Age occupation (period I, ca. 3500-2500 BC) associated with industries in metalwork and stone. The period I material assemblage also evidenced close cultural and technological relationships with the craft productions of Baluchistan. From 2500 BC, the site shows an occupation (period II, A.D.C.II, ca. 2500-1800 BC) characteristic of the Harappan period of the Indian civilisation. Amri remains, with Kot-Diji, a reference site for the production of the Lower Indus valley and for studying the transition between the pre-Indus and the Indus periods.



Westward view of the mound of Amri.



Period II pottery (ca. 2600-2500 BC).

Jean-Marie Casal (1900-1975)
 Jean-Marie Casal, member of the Académie Française and awarded to the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) distinguished the French Archaeological Mission of India (Indus Valley) in 1958. Before beginning to work in Pakistan, he had excavated the 4th-3rd millennium BC site of Vahaghigh in southern Afghanistan. In Pakistan, Jean-Marie Casal has directed the excavations at Amri (1958) to 1970-1962 and at Nindowari (Baluchistan) in 1962-1963. He also conducted the excavations of Pirak (Baluchistan) in 1968-1973 before returning to France for health problems. The Pirak excavation will be completed in 2016 by Jean-François Leroy who became the new leader of the MAI mission in 2015.

NINDOWARI EXCAVATIONS (1962-1968)

The site of Nindowari is located in the Ghazal valley in Kalat District (Baluchistan). The field work, conducted by J.-M. Casal, is the only large-scale excavations ever carried out at a site of the 3rd millennium BC Kalh Culture, which was partly contemporary with the Indus Civilisation. The excavations results, recently published by J.-F. Leroy, G. Quenec'h and C. Jarrige (2011), provide unique insights into the origins and development of the Kalh Culture (2600-1900 BC), characterised, among other features, by its original pottery style.



Period II (2600-1900 BC) and period III (1900-1500 BC) pottery from Nindowari.



Plan of the excavated remains in area A and B, Nindowari (2011, fig. 42).



Indian Civilisation - beads along with from Nindowari (period II) (2500-1900 BC)

Indus-type white pottery in Nindowari.

PIRAK EXCAVATIONS (1968-1974)

The site of Pirak (12 hectares) is located 30 km at the East of Multan, in the Kachi-Indus region (Baluchistan). The excavations has shown the existence of an occupation dated between 1700 BC and 500 BC. The oldest levels (ca. 1700 BC) evidenced the setting of a new rural economy, involving the cultivation of rice, which requires well-controlled irrigation systems. At this time, rectangular mudbrick architecture were developed in a rather standardized plan with symmetrical sections on several levels inside the houses a type of plan which was still in use in the Kachi region some 80 years ago. Pirak also provided the remains of hand-made painted pottery and the first occurrence of bronze items: rings, armlets and bangles. In the following periods (1500-1250 BC), wheel-made pottery and iron objects start to be produced.



Plan of level I at Pirak, Amri (at least 1970, MAI, fig. 11)



Coin and bronze rings from Pirak (1970)

Hand-made painted pottery

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EXCAVATIONS AT MEHRGARH (1974-1985 and 1997-2000)

MAI Mission, direction: Jean-François Jarrige

Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

MEHRGARH NEOLITHIC
(7th - 6th millennium BC)

The site of Mehrgarh, located in the North-Western part of the Indo-Pakistan region (Baluchistan), in a vast archaeological area of about 300 ha covered with remains left by a continuous occupation from the 8th to the 3rd millennium BC. The excavation of the Neolithic levels (period I, II, ca. 7th - 6th millennium BC) has provided the so far earliest evidence of farming economy in South Asia involving tanning the dressed and spiced goats, sheep, cattle, horses and wheat. For period I, 7 metres of strata (depth 17700 m²) were excavated and 27 small square buildings built in mud-brick were exposed. Also excavated were three brick-lined, earthenware jars, dug in the debris of the abandoned houses were documented (118 graves). The majority of the burials provided a rich funerary material assemblage which included shell beads, necklaces in shell, in carnelian and fired mud-brick, clay figurines, stone objects, lithics and the first evidence of the use of copper and cotton in South Asia. The study of several human skeletons also provided the earliest evidence of dentistry in the archaeological records. From around 6000 BC, period IIa, pottery occurred in the Neolithic levels at Mehrgarh and several hand structures now include large compartments (three-chambered) and a platform.



The site of Mehrgarh ca. 7th millennium BC

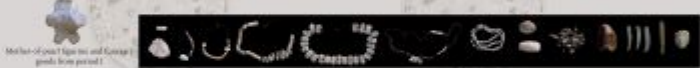
Dr Jean-François Jarrige
Member of the Institut de France, General-Captain Paragon, Honorary member of the Musée Carnavalet, from 1994 to 2000, Research Superior at CNRS, Member of the Institut Archéologique de Chateaubriant in France and the Musée Galois's superior, (Director of the site of Mehrgarh and Pakistan from 1974 to 1975, from 1975, MAI Director and excavation Director at Mehrgarh and Pakistan, the first scientific publication, with Catherine Jarrige and Catherine Quenec'h, the site of Mehrgarh I (1971) and the site of Mehrgarh II (1974, 1975). He was also preparing the publication of the site of Mehrgarh, New Pakistan Series was granted in 1997 with the French Government.



Architectural and plan view (depth 17700-18000 BC)



Overview of period I (ca. 7000 - 6000 BC)



Metal of gold, silver and copper beads from period I



Period II building with staircase, pottery in situ

MEHRGARH CHALCOLITHIC (5000-3000 BC) AND MEHRGARH VII (1800-1500 BC)

Period IIa at Mehrgarh (5th millennium-beginning of the 4th millennium BC) is characterized by the development of various specialized craft techniques, particularly in the pottery. Finely spun fabrics with coil building and wheel-thrown techniques, and decorated with geometric and floral motifs in black, red, and white. During this period, the first metal objects using the lost-wax casting technique and copper alloy with lead were produced while decorative goods include earthenware necklaces with glass-stone beads. Periods IV, V (3000-2500 BC) are distinguished by a production of fine-painted ceramic vessels. Periods VI and VII (1800-1500 BC) marked the development of high technical complexes, of new ceramic techniques such as the painted grey ware with of very fine and elaborated terracotta human figurines linked to a long tradition starting in the Neolithic. About 1000 BC, the site is recognized as a cemetery in the end of the 5th millennium BC. Mehrgarh VII, ca. 2000-1800 BC, thousands of material on locally linked with the Oxus Civilization in Central Asia were discovered in the Mehrgarh VII burials.



Polychrome and terracotta figurines from Mehrgarh from Period IV-VII millennium BC



Pottery and metal from period II-VI (3000-5000 BC)



A glass furnace, Mehrgarh I (ca. 7000-6000 BC) with metal objects from the Chalcolithic period.

EXCAVATIONS AT NAUSHARO (1985-1996) AND OTHER SITES

MAI Mission, direction: Jean-François Jarrige
Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

NAUSHARO, FROM THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC TO EARLY BRONZE AGE (2100-2000 BC)...

The site of Nausharo is located 6 km south of Mohenjodaro in the Kachi-Bolan Region (Baluchistan). Remains of the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age period (Nausharo period I) similar to those of Mehrgarh V-VII (4100-3000) were found in the northern part of the mound. They included well-preserved mudbrick houses and structures associated with a rich material assemblage. In period II (c. 2800-2600 BC) massive houses of complete ceramic, pipes, etc. (which) were discovered along with such human figurines, pottery's tools and ceramic vessels. The first stage of period I (period II) at Nausharo, dated between 3000 and 2500 BC, brought to light significant evidence for understanding the setting of the Indus Civilization.



Mudbrick architecture of period II



Nausharo: Plan of the site and representative house of period II (2100-2000 BC)



Period II pottery



Human figurines (clay) from period II (2100-2000 BC)



Period II pottery

... TO THE INDUS CIVILIZATION (2500-1900 BC)

The excavated remains from Nausharo periods II and III (2nd half of the 3rd millennium BC) show the features of a classical Indus Civilization site with a planned architecture associated with drains and sanitary installations. The pottery has evidenced a stylistic and technological evolution similar to those of other Indus sites in the Greater Indus Valley. Besides pottery, all the other artefacts (tools, figurines and other objects) are typical of the Indus civilization. In period IV (2100-1900 BC), the material assemblage of Nausharo also includes some features characteristic of the Great Civilization which has developed in Central Asia (Magdalen, Bechar) between 2300 or 2600 BC. Artefacts characteristic of the Great Civilization were also discovered, mainly in graves, at Mehrgarh VII, Sibi, Daula Dumb and at Quetta.



Period III pottery



Terracotta figurines (clay) from Nausharo, 2nd half of the 3rd millennium BC



OTHER EXCAVATIONS BY THE BASIN OF THE KACHI-BOLAN REGION



Earthenware pot (Lal Muhi) from period II (2100-2000 BC)



Various pottery items (Daula Dumb, Sibi and Sibi) from period II (2100-2000 BC)



MAFM Mission, direction: Roland Besval

Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

EXTENSIVE SURVEYS AND EXPLORATIONS (1996-1998 / 1998-2006)

228 archaeological sites were discovered in Makran (Baluchistan) during an extensive survey and exploration program conducted in Kech-Makran (southeastern Baluchistan). Their dating was defined from the study of collections of surface pot sherds. Some areas of Makran coast are very little inhabited, have shown the remains of an important occupation during the protohistoric period, particularly in the Dakhli plain where dozens of 3rd millennium sites were discovered.



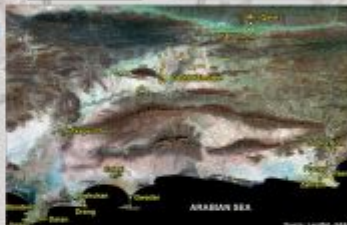
Period 3000-1600 pottery from Makran (1998-2006)



Dr. Roland Besval, founder of the French Archaeological Mission in Makran (Baluchistan) that he directed from 1996 to 2011, attached to the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), he conducted excavations at Miri Qalat and Makran being an extensive archaeological exploration in Kech-Makran. Among his other achievements an excavation and survey program in Iran, southern Turkey, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan for more the director of the French Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan between 2002-2009 and his research on the civilization of China.



Overhead view on a large mound of approximately 17' tall of the 3rd millennium BC in the Dakhli Plain. The mound is not covered with thousands of pottery sherds.



Spatial map of Miri Qalat. Each fragment with date and archaeological sites.

MIRI QALAT EXCAVATIONS (1996-1998)

The site of Miri Qalat (100 x 120 m), topped with an Islamic fortress, is located 6 km north west from Miri Qalat, on the right bank of the Kech River. It was selected for excavations because of its long occupation sequence defined from the surface material. Five field campaigns conducted in various trenches (T-VI, VII-X) have allowed to establish a first chrono-cultural sequence for the Kech-Makran. The oldest occupation at Miri Qalat was dated to the 5th millennium BC (period I). The period I levels were followed by occupations from the Chalcolithic period (periods II-III, ca. 4th millennium beginning of the 3rd millennium BC), the Early Bronze Age (periods IV-VI, first half of the 3rd millennium BC) and the Indus civilization (periods VI, 2nd half of the 3rd millennium BC). After a gap during the 2nd millennium BC, the site was reoccupied from the Iron Age (period VI) to the Late Islamic period (period VII).



Excavated pottery and other finds discovered in period I (beginning of the 5th millennium BC).

Miri Qalat site located from Miri Qalat period IV (1996-2006) with north, south, east and west pottery.

EXCAVATIONS AT SHAHI-TUMP (MAKRAN) AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 6
MAFM Mission, direction: Roland Besenval
Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

MEDI-TEMPERATURES
(1897-2006)

The site of Shahi-Tump (18 km south from Miri Qalat) is located on the left bank of the Indus River. The objective of the Franco-Pakistani work is to broaden our knowledge of the Chalcolithic occupation (3rd-4th millennium BC) in Makran. Circular bar burials were dated to period II (2nd millennium BC) sites, excavated in Trench I, while several Period III (1st half of the 2nd millennium BC) architectural levels with quadrangular rooms built in stone and mudbricks were unearthed in Trench II at the top of the site. The period II occupation also characterised by the discovery of barbed shafts for the "distal cemetery of Shahi-Tump", a later cemetery, dated to period IIIa (2nd half of the 4th millennium) beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, has also provided the remains of 128 individuals buried with rich funerary deposits which included numerous painted pottery and highly elaborated craft products: metal objects (cups, tools, mirrors, L. beads, string, beads, etc.



The 1st half of the 2nd millennium BC



The 1st half of the 2nd millennium BC



The 1st half of the 2nd millennium BC



The 1st half of the 2nd millennium BC



The 1st half of the 2nd millennium BC

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

In parallel with the work carried out at Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump, the MAFM mission has conducted environmental studies for reconstructing the ancient economy in Makran. The study of the exploitation of existing marine resources and of protohistoric fisheries settlements were conducted by IAN (Institut CNRS-CEPAM) researchers with regular observations and with a reference sampling of fish bones and sea shells in the Panz, Greater and Pishapur sites. Archaeological studies by M. Tsingli, University of Paris II and archaeological studies by J.-M. Desse have allowed to determine the species of cereals, plants, fruits and animals exploited by the protohistoric population in Makran. The results of the palaeoenvironmental studies suggest a mesothermal phase in the region between 8000-4000 BC, linked with an increasing of the monsoon rains, before a continuous regression towards hyperaridity with a regression around 2000-1800 BC. The palaeogeographical reconstruction of the ancient coastline of Makran by G. Huetten, CNRS-CEPAM also shows important modifications since the 5th millennium BC.





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[Mission archéologique française du Bassin de l'Indus \(MAFBI\)](#)

[Mission archéologique de l'Indus \(M.A.I.\)](#)

[Mission archéologique française au Makran \(MAFM\)](#)