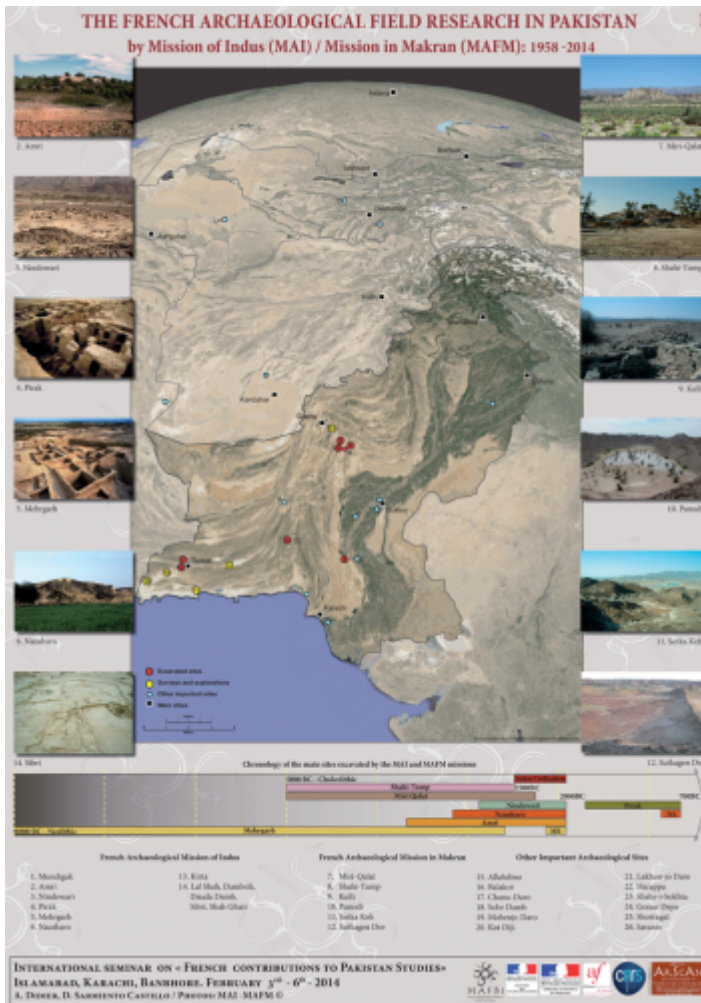


Monde Indus-Balochistan



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.S.C.I.I, 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 (1900-1977)
 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) in 1958. Before beginning to work in Pakistan, he had excavated the 4^e-3^e 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 Kutch District (Baluchistan). The field work, conducted by J.-M. Casal, is the only large-scale excavations ever carried out at a site of the 3^e millennium BC Kutch Culture, which was partly contemporary with the Indus Civilisation. The excavations results, recently published by J.-F. Leroy, G. Quémener and C. Jarrige (2011), provide unique insights into the origins and development of the Kutch 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 - objects brought back from Nindowari (period II) (2500-1900 BC).

Archaeological objects from the excavations.

PIRAK EXCAVATIONS (1968-1974)

The site of Pirak (12 hectares) is located 30 km at the East of Multan, in the Kutch-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, rudimentary wooden architecture was 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 Kutch 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 (ca. 1700-1500 BC), fig. 111.



Coin and bronze rings from the excavations.

Hand-made painted pottery.

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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 VII-VIII (3400-2000) 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. 2000-1600 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 3400 and 2000 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 (2000-1600 BC)



Period II pottery



Human figurines (clay) from period II (2000-1600 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 artifacts (tools, figurines and other objects) are typical of the Indus civilization. In period IV (1900-1600 BC), the material assemblage of Nausharo also includes some features characteristic of the Great Civilization which has developed in Central Asia (Magdalen, Bechara) between 2300 or 1600 BC. Artifacts characteristic of the Great Civilization were also discovered, mainly at graves, at Mehrgarh VII, Sibi, Daula Darab and at Quetta.



Period III pottery



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



OTHER EXCAVATIONS BY THE MAIN IN THE KACHI-BOLAN REGION



Lal Mulla double-chambered pot, Lal Mulla from period Nausharo II (2000-1600 BC)



Various pottery from Daula Darab, and Lal Mulla (period Nausharo II) (2000-1600 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 Durrani 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, Afghanistan for more the director of the French Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan between 2002-2009 and his research on the civilization of China.



Overlook from an early view of 4000-1700 of the 3rd millennium BC in the Durrani Plain. The mound (not excavated) 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 (I-VI) (2001-2006) have allowed to establish a first chrono-cultural sequence for the Kech-Makran. The oldest occupation of 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) and the 3rd millennium BC and the Indus Valley period (periods VI-VII) and the 2nd half of the 3rd millennium BC. After a gap during the 2nd millennium BC, the site was re-occupied from the Iron Age (period VI) to the Late Islamic period (period VII).



A stone wall from Trench IV. Hand-drawn from Trench IV.

Excavated pottery and other material discovered in period I (the 5th millennium BC) and beginning of 3rd millennium BC.

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

