



BAMPŪR I. PREHISTORIC SITE

i. Prehistoric Site

The position of Bampūr near a river and major routes explains the presence there of prehistoric and later settlements at the foot of a fortress on a high mound. While the mound has not been excavated, Sir Aurel Stein carried out sondages nearby during reconnaissance in the Bampūr valley in 1932 (1937, pp. 104-31). In 1966 Beatrice de Cardi initiated further excavations to establish a ceramic sequence for the region, trenches Y and Z producing consistent results within six successive occupational phases designated Periods I-VI (de Cardi, 1967; 1968; 1970).

The earliest occupation contained no material like that known farther west at Čāh-Ḥosaynī or Yaḥyā V a-c (Lamberg-Karlovsky, 1970, p. 95). While its absence does not preclude such deposits elsewhere on the site, no firm date was assigned to Period I, though links with Yaḥyā IVC suggest a settlement existed by the late 4th millennium (Lamberg-Karlovsky, 1972, p. 97). The range of gray and cream-slipped wheel-made wares and associated objects from the mud-brick building comprising Bampūr I-IV reflected strong ties with the Helmand culture as exemplified at Shahr-i Sokhta (Šahr-e Sūkta) from late II-III and in Mundigak IV 1-2 (Tosi, 1970, p. 13; 1974, p. 32) and is of relevance to the concept of interaction spheres in and around the Indo-Iranian borderlands (Lamberg-Karlovsky, 1972, p. 99).

New ceramics appeared at the end of Bampūr IV, suggesting contact with Fārs, Makrān, and Oman. Buff and red-slipped wares became dominant in Periods



V-VI, when streak-burnished, black-on-gray and incised gray wares like those in Shahr-i Sokhta IV (ca. 2200-1800 b.c.) were introduced. Both gray wares occur also in collective burials of the Umm an-Nar (Omm al-Nār) culture of Oman (cf. de Cardi, 1970, figs. 38 and 42; During Caspers, 1970, figs. 45-46, pp. 319-25; de Cardi et al., 1976, figs. 15 and 17, pp. 118-23), and though few of them can be closely dated Hili North Tomb A is ascribed to the last quarter of the 3rd millennium (Cleuziou and Vogt, 1983, p. 43).

While the evidence from Sīstān and Oman points to a terminal date for Bampūr VI in the late 3rd millennium, radiocarbon determinations for Yaḥyā IVB (Lamberg-Karlovsky, 1971, p. 94) suggest an earlier dating and the matter remains unresolved.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

R. Biscione, "The Burnt Building of Period Shahr-i Sokhta IV. An Attempt of Functional Analysis from the Distribution of Pottery Types," in G. Gnoli and A. V. Rossi, eds., *Iranica*, Naples, 1979, pp. 291-306.

S. Cleuziou and B. Vogt, "Umm an Nar Burial Customs. New Evidence from Tomb A at Hili North ", *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 13, London, 1983, pp. 37-52.

B. de Cardi, "The Bampur Sequence in the Third Millennium B.C.," *Antiquity* 41, 1967, pp. 33-41.

Idem, "Excavations at Bampur, South-East Iran: A Brief Report," *Iran* 6, 1968, pp. 135-55.

Idem, "Excavations at Bampur, a Third Millennium Settlement in Persian Baluchistan, 1966," *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History*, New York 51/3, 1970, pp. 233-355.

B. de Cardi, S. Collier, and D. B. Doe, "Excavations and Survey in Oman," *Journal of Oman Studies* 2, Oman, 1976, pp. 101-75.



E. C. L. During Caspers, "A Note on the Carved Stone Vases and Incised Grey-ware," apud de Cardi, 1970, pp. 319-25.

C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky, "Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran, 1967-1969, Progress Report 1," *Bulletin of the American School of Prehistoric Research* 27, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, 1970, pp. 1-134.

Idem, "Tepe Yahya 1971 Mesopotamia and the Indo-Iranian Borderlands," *Iran* 10, 1972, pp. 89-100.

C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky and D. Schmandt-Besserat, "An Evaluation of the Bampur, Khurab and Chah Husseini Collections in the Peabody Museum and Relations with Tepe Yahya," *Bibliotheca Mesopotamica* 7, Malibu, 1977, pp. 113-34.

C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky and M. Tosi, "Shahr-i Sokhta and Tepe Yahya: Tracks on the Earliest History of the Iranian Plateau," *East and West*, N.S. 23/1-2, 1973, pp. 21-53.

Sir Aurel Stein, *Archaeological Reconnaissances in North-Western India and South-Eastern Iran*, London, 1937.

M. Tosi, "Excavations at Shahr-i Sokhta, a Chalcolithic Settlement in the Iranian Sistan: Preliminary Report on the First Campaign, October-December 1967," *East and West*, N.S. 18/1-2, 1968, pp. 9-66.

Idem, "Excavations at Shahr-i Sokhta. Preliminary Report on the Second Campaign, September-December 1968," *East and West*, N.S. 19/3-4, 1969, pp. 283-386.

Idem, "A Tomb from Damin and the Problem of the Bampur Sequence in the Third Millennium B.C.," *East and West*, N.S. 20/1-2, 1970, pp. 9-50.

Idem, "Bampur: A Problem of Isolation," *East and West*, N.S. 24/1-2, 1974, pp. 29-49.

Idem, "The Dating of the Umm an-Nar Culture and a Proposed Sequence for Oman in the Third Millennium B.C.," *Journal of Oman Studies* 2, Oman, 1976, pp. 81-92.