

Chapter 31. FINGER-RINGS AND GEMS

Finger-rings
in ancient
India

LITTLE is yet known about the use or character of finger-rings in ancient India. A few copper or bronze specimens of a simple form have been unearthed on the Chalcolithic sites of Mohenjo-daro and Harappā,¹ and—two or three thousand years later—among the sculptures of the Early School both male and female figures may be seen wearing a multiplicity of rings on their fingers and thumbs.² It is clear, therefore, that the practice of wearing finger-rings goes back to a remote antiquity in India, as it does in the Mediterranean coasts and Egypt, and it is also clear that the practice was a popular one in Hindustān and Central India during the centuries immediately preceding the Christian era. Unfortunately, no actual specimens of Indian finger-rings of this period have survived, and the representations of them on the hands of the stone statues are necessarily too rough and sketchy for us to make out the character of their design, let alone the materials of which they were composed. Nor does the collection of rings from Taxila help us to fill this gap in our knowledge, since, with few exceptions, they are of a distinctively Graeco-Roman pattern. On the other hand, it adds to our understanding of local culture in the Panjāb to find that, even in regard to an article of jewellery which had had so long a history in India itself the fashions prevailing at Taxila were derived almost exclusively from the Graeco-Roman world, thus more than confirming the evidence furnished by countless other articles of ornament and daily use as to the strength of Western influence at that time.

Rings from
Bhir Mound

The earliest finger-rings in the collection are those from the Bhir Mound, which date from the fourth, third or early second century B.C. (See Stratigraphical Chart, p. 644.) One of these (no. 18), with a shield-like bezel, is of silver, nine of copper (nos. 19, 25–30, 34 and 41), one of iron (no. 57), one of lead (no. 59), and one of shell (no. 66). No gold finger-rings of any kind have been found in the Bhir Mound and no ring of any metal inset with a stone or paste. Of the copper rings, no. 19 is a plain wire circlet with coiled ends, without a bezel; nos. 25–30 and 34 have plain bezels—six almond-shaped and flat, the seventh round and raised; no. 41 has an almond-shaped flat bezel engraved with the crude figure of an elephant. The iron ring no. 57, which has a large oval bezel extending from side to side of the hoop, is of a shape that was to become commoner two centuries later. The lead ring no. 59 has a similar bezel, but the hoop forms little more than half a circle.

Rings from
Sirkap and
other sites

Of later finger-rings, one copper specimen (no. 37) with flat oval bezel inset with

¹ Cf. *M.I.C.* p. 35, and Pl. CXLVIII, *a*.

² E.g. Cunningham, *Bharhut*, Pls. XXII, 1; XXIII, 1; XXIV, 4.

glass paste, comes from the Greek level in Sirkap and may be referable to the second century B.C.; one (no. 7) is from stratum IV; ten (nos. 2-4, 9, 17, 35, 36, 43, 46, 68) from stratum III; and twenty-eight from stratum II. Most of these rings were buried at the time of the Kushān invasion in the third quarter of the first century A.D. and, with the exception of nos. 14 and 16, which were evidently heirlooms, are no doubt referable to that century. That one of them was found in stratum IV, others in stratum III, and others in stratum II means no more than that they were buried at varying depths beneath the floors of the Parthian houses. Of the remaining specimens, four come from the surface-level in Sirkap, two from Sirsukh, eight from the Dharmarājikā and six from other Buddhist settlements destroyed by the White Huns in the fifth century A.D. The finger-rings from Sirkap, which constitute the most interesting part of the collection, comprise seventeen specimens of gold, twenty-three of copper, one of onyx and two of glass, as well as thirteen engraved gems intended to be set in rings.

The types are not numerous. They fall into the following categories: (a) plain wire circlets with coiled ends; (b) ornamental hoops without bezels; (c) hoops with plain flat or raised bezels of the same metal, the bezels being oval, almond-shaped or round in form; (d) similar to type *b*, but with engraved metal bezels; (e) similar to type *c*, but with plain or engraved stones or paste inset in bezels; (f) rings of types (c)-(e) with inscriptions. Besides these main classes, there is one gold ring, no. 12, which is of unique pattern, the hoop, which is composed of an openwork vine scroll, being nearly an inch wide, and the bezel of pyramidal shape, 1.7 in. long. Two others that deserve special notice are the gold ring no. 3, with a pair of almond-shaped bezels side by side and hoop ornamented in relief with apotropaic animal and other devices, and the copper ring no. 24, adorned with a series of Buddhist or Jaina symbols in relief round the hoop. The most favoured form of hoop among all these rings is flat within and rounded without, narrow at the bottom and expanding upwards to the bezel. It is a shape which came prominently into fashion in Greece during Hellenistic times (third to second century B.C.) and continued throughout the Graeco-Roman period. (Cf. *B.M. Cat. of Finger-rings*, p. xlii, types XXIII-XXV.)

Of the rings from the Dharmarājikā and other monastic sites, no. 40—a copper ring with bezel composed of five circlet cloisons—is probably to be assigned to the fifth century A.D.; and to the same date also belong the large inscribed copper ring no. 56 and the shell rings nos. 62-5.

Of the seventeen gold rings, seven only are of solid metal (nos. 1-3, 10, 12, 14, 16); the remainder are hollow-wrought of thin sheet-gold and filled with some substance such as lac, mastic or sulphur,¹ which in some cases has perished. Similar rings of gold with hollow cores were made by the Greeks and Romans,²

Six main types

Exceptional patterns

Commonest form of hoop

Date of rings from Buddhist sites

Fabric of gold rings

¹ Cf. Artemidorus, *Oneirocritica*, II, 5. οἱ γὰρ κενοὶ θεῖον ἔνδον ἔχοντες δόλους καὶ ἐνέδρας σημαίνουσι κ.τ.λ.

² Hence the commonly recurring δακτύλιος κατεργῶς of the Greek temple inventories. *B.M. Cat. of Finger-rings*, p. xxxi, n. 2.

and there can be no doubt that it was from them that the technique was copied, along with the shapes and most other features.¹

Rings of silver,
copper, bronze,
iron and lead

Of silver there is no specimen from Sirkap or any of the later monastic sites, and only one from the Bhir Mound (no. 18), which is of thin metal throughout. Copper and bronze, being cheaper metals, were worn mainly by the poorer classes, and among the Buddhists it was a rule that monks should wear seal-rings made of the baser materials, i.e. copper, brass, bell-metal, ivory, horn, etc.² It is possible, however, that some of the copper and bronze rings in this collection were once plated with gold, which has since worn off, like the copper bangle, no. 7. The gilding or gold-plating of bronze rings became common in Greece in the fourth century B.C. and from then onwards continued to be practised until Roman times.³ The same may also have been the case with the iron rings nos. 57 and 58, for we know that in Greece iron rings were not infrequently plated with both gold and silver.⁴ On the other hand, plain rings of iron were worn by the Spartans as well as by the Romans (even by those of high distinction) down to late Republican times; and we hear of Seleucus I wearing a ring of iron with an anchor engraved on the bezel. Under the Roman Empire, however, the iron finger-ring became the symbol of slavery, and hence the practice arose of slaves or persons not entitled to wear gold rings plating their iron ones with the precious metal.⁵ Lead finger-rings appear to have been rare in the Graeco-Roman world, and there is no mention of them at all in classical literature, but there are some seventy specimens in the British Museum from a tomb of the early fifth century B.C. at Beneventum, as well as a few from other sites in Italy, Sicily and Greece, ranging in date from the fifth to third century B.C., and one of the latter (no. 1559 from Tanagra) still bears traces of gilding.⁶

Rings of stone,
glass and shell

Specimens of jasper and rock-crystal finger-rings have been found in Greece dating back to the Mycenaean period, but most of the chalcedony and onyx rings appear to be referable to the Roman epoch.⁷ The onyx ring no. 60 in the Taxila collection is certainly of the first century A.D., and no. 61, of the same material, is probably contemporary. To the same century also belong two of the three glass rings (nos. 67-8) which are furnished with bezels. The other, no. 69, which may or

¹ It was perhaps such make-believe articles that the author of the Han Annals had in mind when he wrote that the jewellery of Roman Syria consisted mostly of sham curiosities. Hirth, *China and the Roman Orient*, ch. 88.

² Cf. *J.A.S.B.* IV (1835), p. 625. The device on a monk's seal, according to the Dulva, was to be a wheel supported by two deer (symbol of the First Sermon) and, below it, the name of the founder of the Vihāra. Dulva x, 11, 12. *As. Res.* XIX, 1886.

³ *B.M. Cat.* p. xxxiv.

⁴ E.g. δακτύλιοι υπόχρυσοι σιδηροῖ· δακτύλιοι σιδηροῖ ὑπάργυροι, etc. in an inventory of a Delos temple of the third century B.C. Michel, *Recueil*, 833, ll. 80 f. Cf. *Inscr. Att.* II, 776, l. 26; Dittenberger, *Sylloge*, II, no. 588, l. 15. *B.M. Cat.* pp. xxxiv-v.

⁵ Cf. Pliny, *N.H.* xxxiii, 21, 23, and *B.M. Cat.* pp. xxxiv-v.

⁶ Cf. *B.M. Cat.* nos. 1483-1560. Dar. et Sag. s.v. 'Anulus'. For a charm of lead with thin sheet-gold covering, see 'Jewellery', no. 80 and Pl. 191, o.

⁷ *B.M. Cat.* p. xxxvi, and nos. 1599-1618.

may not have had a bezel, is probably of later date. In the Graeco-Roman world glass rings, which were no doubt worn mainly by the poorer classes, first became common in the Hellenistic period and continued to be manufactured down to late Roman times. Shell does not appear to have been used in Greece or Italy for finger-rings. Of the five specimens of this material found at Taxila, no. 66, which has a flat oval bezel, is referable to about 200 B.C.; the other four, which are composed of carved hoops without bezels, date from the fifth century A.D.

As for the semi-precious stones and pastes in use among the jewellers at Taxila, the reader will find them discussed in detail in Beck's Memoir on *The Beads from Taxila*¹ and in the chapters on 'Stone Objects' (ch. 25, pp. 477-9), 'Jewellery' (ch. 30, p. 619) and 'Beads' (ch. 37, pp. 731-43). Here it will suffice to note that the gems found actually inset in these finger-rings or intended to be so inset are lapis-lazuli, malachite, rock-crystal, garnet, carnelian, jacinth and a grey-brown chert. The lapis-lazuli is found in a ring which dates probably from the first or second century B.C.; malachite, rock-crystal, garnet, carnelian and jacinth in rings of the first century A.D.; and the chert bezel dates from the fifth century A.D. Besides these semi-precious stones, glass paste occurs in copper rings of the second century B.C. and in a gold ring of the first century A.D. (nos. 36, 37 and 17).

Inset stones
and pastes

The devices carved on the stone, glass and metal bezels are for the most part such as are commonly found on Greek and Roman rings. The best executed is the warrior with shield and spear on the lapis-lazuli bezel no. 16, which probably dates from the first or second century B.C. The rest of the engraved bezels are referable to the first century A.D. and are of poor workmanship. Some of the figures appear to be copied from coins current at that time in the Panjāb and North-West. Thus, no. 55 is virtually the same type as the Zeus standing with outstretched arm, which is figured on coins of Gondophares and several earlier rulers.²

Devices on
bezels

The Heracles standing with club of nos. 17 and 44 appears in the same pose on coins of Hermaeus and Kujūla Kadphises,³ as well as of other kings. The Nike holding a wreath and diadem on no. 47 and the humped Indian bull of no. 53 are features of many Indo-Greek, Śaka and Parthian issues.⁴ The figures on some of the other finger-rings are more difficult to identify. Nos. 46, 49 and 52 look like Indian versions of Heracles in the guise of Śiva, holding the lion-skin in one hand and a bow or snake in the other. Other obviously Graeco-Roman motifs are the cornucopia, fluted vase and spear on no. 13, and the winged Pegasus on no. 43. On the other hand, the *nandipada* on the bezel of no. 14 and the swastika on no. 42 are just as obviously Indian.

As a rule the hoops are plain or relieved only by some small and simple device, such as the pair of hearts supporting the bezel on either side in nos. 4 and 9, the clusters of granules in the same position in no. 16, or the beaded borders in no. 32.

Ornamenta-
tion of hoops

¹ *Memoirs of the Arch. Survey of India*, no. 65.

² Cf. R.U.C. nos. 190, 191, 199.

³ *Ibid.* nos. 222-34.

⁴ *Ibid.* nos. 59-62, 95-101, 192-4, 201-8, 211-21, for Nike, and nos. 49, 70, 81-5, 148-57, 235-9, for the humped bull.

But in a few examples the decoration of the hoop is more elaborate. Thus in no. 23 the outer surface is rounded and gadrooned;¹ in no. 3 the devices on the hoop consist of a pair of small ladybirds(?), a scorpion, swastika and leaf pattern; in no. 11 of a scorpion-like creature with a head at each end in the form of a *nandipada*; in no. 24 of a series of nine symbols sacred to both the Buddhists and the Jinas. In these three examples there can be no doubt that the hoops, which are probably of traditional Indian rather than Greek design, have a talismanic value. In no. 10, on the other hand, the hoop of which is made up of rosettes and lozenges alternating, and in no. 12, where it is composed of a broad openwork vine-scroll, the design may be simply ornamental.

Inscriptions

It remains to add that the inscriptions on the finger-rings appear in every instance to give the name of the owner, usually in the genitive case.

Some general remarks on the finger-rings from the Bhīṛ Mound will be found in vol. I at pp. 103, 106-7, 111, and on the finger-rings from Sirkap at pp. 203-4. Other references are given in the individual entries of the catalogue below.

CLASS I. *Gold finger-rings* (nos. 1-17)

The plain circlet of gold, no. 1, dates from the fifth century A.D. The remaining sixteen rings were found in the Śaka-Parthian city on Sirkap in houses of the first century A.D., and the majority date no doubt from that century, but no. 16 and possibly no. 14 also, both of which show signs of much wear and which are more solid than the others, may date from the first century B.C., or even earlier.

Type a. Circlet of plain gold wire.

1. Plain hoop finger-ring of round gold wire. Diam. 0.81 in. Fifth century A.D. Jn. '16-E57; cell 19; Jn. Mem. Pl. xxix, l. From same cell as 'Jewellery', nos. 95, 201-2. See vol. I, p. 385.

Type b. With bezel of same metal. Hoop plain or decorated in relief.

2. Plain solid finger-ring of gold with flattened oval bezel. Hoop flat within, rounded without and expanding upwards to the bezel. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '29-1,241/17; Block D'; sq. 62.113'; stratum III. From same hoard as nos. 3, 9, 17 *infra*. Cf. p. 187, no. 20 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 2.)

3. Finger-ring of solid gold with projecting bezel in the form of a pair of almond-shaped bosses. Diam. 0.87 in. The hoop consists of a flat band of metal with beaded borders and figures in relief on the outer surface, namely, a pair of tortoise-like creatures (perhaps ladybirds) on either side of the bezel, followed by a scorpion, swastika and leaf design. The double almond-shaped bezel calls to mind the rings with two, three or four hoops joined together at the base, but with separate bezels side by side, and it seems probable that the double bezel here may have been evolved from that type of ring. Cf. *B.M. Cat. of Finger-rings*, Pl. XLV, type 7, and nos. 167-76. Sk. '29-1,241/18. From same hoard as nos. 2 (*q.v.*) 9 and 17. Cf. p. 187, no. 21 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 3.)

Type c. With plain inset stones or paste.

4. Finger-ring of thin sheet-gold. Diam. 1 in. Round raised bezel with projecting rim inlaid with flat malachite stone. Hoop flat within, convex without, and expanding upwards to bezel. On each shoulder a heart-shaped cloison enclosed within granule beading. The core of

¹ Cf. 'Copper and Bronze', no. 15 = Pl. 171, l.

the ring was probably filled with lac, mastic or sulphur. Sk. '22-433; Block 1'; sq. 11.93'; stratum III. Cf. p. 196 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 4.)

5. Finger-ring of thin sheet-gold. Hoop flat within, rounded without and expanding upwards. Square shoulders; flat oval bezel, inset with garnet *en cabochon*. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '19-933/3; Block D'; sq. 59.114'; stratum II. Cf. p. 188, Deposit E, no. 9 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 5.)

6. Similar, with slightly raised oval box-setting; gem missing. Diam. 0.81 in. First century A.D. Sk. '29-2,193/4; Block G'; sq. 108.87'; stratum II. Cf. p. 180, no. 4 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 6.)

7. Similar and of same date, with oval setting. Gem missing. Diam. 0.81 in. Sk. '29-1,362/2; sq. 62.113'; stratum IV. Cf. p. 188, no. 3 *supra*.

8. Similar to last, with slightly larger setting. Gem missing. Diam. 0.75 in. First century A.D. Sk. '28-2,679/c; Block K (palace); sq. 157.43'; stratum II. From same hoard as no. 10 *infra*. Cf. p. 174, no. 5 *supra*.

9. Kindred type but hoop composed of band of ribbed gold. Projecting oval bezel edged with granule beading and inset with convex crystal. On either side of the bezel is a heart-shaped cloison in beaded border, once set with amber. Diam. 0.62 in. Sk. '29-1,241/19. From same hoard as nos. 2 (*q.v.*), 3 and 17. Cf. p. 187, no. 22. (Pl. 197, no. 9.)

10. Finger-ring of gold composed of narrow band surmounted by five diamond-shaped cloisons alternating with five cinquefoil rosettes. The former are inlaid with white orthoclase felspar. The inlay in the rosettes, which was possibly turquoise, has perished. Diam. 0.75 in. First century A.D. Sk. '28-2,679/d. From same hoard as no. 8 *supra* (*q.v.*). Cf. p. 174, no. 6 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 10.)

11. Gold finger-ring with round projecting bezel enclosed in double-beaded circlets. Diam. 0.81 in. The hoop is composed of two plaited bands in beaded border, which are joined together at the base and branch out above on either side of the bezel. On the outside of the hoop is a double-headed scorpion-like creature, with one head supporting the bezel on either side. The heads resemble the familiar *nandipada* symbol, and the creature doubtless had an amuletic value. Sk. '26-4,136; Block 1; sq. 10.54'; stratum II. Cf. vol. 1, p. 142 and *A.S.R.* (1926), Pl. xxvi, 2; p. 177, no. 1. (Pl. 197, no. 11.)

12, *a, b*. Pair of highly elaborate gold finger-rings. Diam. 0.8 in. The hoop is 0.9 in. wide and composed of an openwork vine scroll between fine reel borders. In the scroll are trefoil cloisons, once enriched with stones or paste. The bezel, which is pyramidal in shape, 1.7 in. long by 0.7 in. at the base, comprises three oval box-settings diminishing in size towards the top, and nine smaller cloisons, some heart-shaped, others leaf-shaped or circular. The topmost cloison is set with white orthoclase felspar; the gems from the others are missing. Sk. '33-667; Block D'; sq. 63.85'; stratum I. Cf. p. 191 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 12.)

Type *d*. *With engraved stones or paste inset in bezels.*

13. Gold finger-ring of thin metal on core of lac or mastic. Hoop flat within, rounded without and expanding upwards to bezel. Type similar to that of nos. 5-8 above. Oval carnelian setting engraved with cornucopia, fluted vase and spear, in the late Hellenistic style. Diam. 0.87 in. First century A.D. Sk. '13-194/9; Block E; sq. 77.66'; stratum II. From same hoard as nos. 14, 15, 16. Cf. p. 159, no. 15 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1912), p. 27, no. 9, Pl. xxi, *b*, 7. (Pl. 197, no. 13.)

Type *e*. *With inscriptions.*

14. Solid gold finger-ring with flattened oval bezel engraved with Kharoshthī legend and *nandipada* symbol. Diam. 0.75 in. Hoop flat within, round without. Inscription reads: *Sadhalasa* = 'Of Sadhala'. (Cf. *Corpus Inscr. Ind.* vol. II, pt. 1, p. 100 (1), and see below, 'Seals and Sealings', ch. 34, no. 22.) This finger-ring is much worn and it is possible that it may date from the first or second century B.C., though the hoard in which it was found belongs

STRATIGRAPHICAL CHART OF FINGER-RINGS

Class	Bhir Mound strata				Sirkap strata				Other sites ¹	Class
	IV 5th to 6th century B.C.	III 4th century B.C.	II Maurya	I Surface	VII ?Pre- Greek	VI-V Greek	IV Early Śaka	III-II Late Śaka- Parthian	I Surface	
I. Gold (nos. 1-17)	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2-6, 8-11, 13-17	12, a, b	I from Jn.
II. Silver (no. 18)	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	II
III. Copper and bronze (nos. 19-56)	—	25, 26	19, 27-30, 34, 41	—	—	37	—	20, 21, 31, 35, 36, 39, 42-51, 53, 55	22, 23, 38, 52 from Dh.	III
IV. Iron (nos. 57, 58)	—	—	57	—	—	—	—	—	40 from Bp. 56 from Bh. 58 from Ghai	IV
V. Lead (no. 59)	—	—	—	59	—	—	—	—	—	V
VI. Stone (nos. 60, 61)	—	—	66	—	—	—	—	60	61 from Dh. 62 from Pl.	VI
VII. Shell (nos. 62-6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63 from Ss. 64, 65 from Dh.	VII
VIII. Glass (nos. 67-9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67, 68 70, 71, a-i, 72, 73, a, b	69 from Dh. 74 from Ss. 75 from Jn.	VIII
IX. Engraved gems of stone or paste intended for finger- rings (nos. 70-5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	IX

Note. Objects found in trial trenches or spoil earth are not included in the above Table.

¹ Bp. = Badalpur; Bh. = Bhamāla; Dh. = Dharmarājika; Jn. = Jauliān; Pl. = Pippala; Ss. = Sirsukh.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF FINGER-RINGS
IN SIRKAP

Block	Strata VI-V Greek	Stratum IV Early Śaka	Strata III-II Śaka-Parthian	Stratum I Surface
EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET				
I	—	—	11, 36	—
A	—	—	31	—
B	—	—	—	—
C	—	—	43, 48, 55	—
D	—	—	45	—
E	—	—	13-16, 20, 71, a-i, 72, 73	(71, a-i)
F	—	—	—	—
G	—	—	44	33
H	—	—	—	—
I	—	—	—	—
J	—	—	—	—
K	—	—	8, 10, 42, 53, 67	—
L	—	—	—	—
WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET				
I'	—	—	4	24
A'	—	—	—	—
B'	—	—	21, 47	—
C'	—	—	—	—
D'	37	7	2, 3, 5, 9, 17, 60	12, a, b
E'	—	—	39, 46, 68, 70	—
F'	—	—	49	—
G'	—	—	6, 51	—
H'	—	—	—	—
K'	—	—	—	—
Main Street	—	—	35	—
Eighth Street (east)	—	—	58	—

Note. Nos. 32 and 54, which were found in spoil earth, are not included in the above Table.

to the first century A.D. Sk. '13-194/8. From same hoard as preceding. Cf. p. 159, no. 16 *supra*; A.S.R. (1912), p. 27, no. 8; Pl. XXI, b, 6. (Pl. 197, no. 14.)

15. Gold finger-ring with raised disk-like bezel engraved with Kharoshthī and Brāhmī legends. Diam. 0.87 in. The gem from the centre is missing. The hoop is of rounded drawn-out wire with the ends coiled back round the base, like the copper examples, nos. 19 and 20. First century A.D. The inscription reads: *Mahayaśa putrasa Manavasa* = 'Of Mānava, the son of Mahāyaśa'. Cf. C.I.I. vol. II, pt. I, p. 100 (2), Pl. xx, 2. Sk. '13-194/10. From same hoard as preceding. Cf. p. 160, no. 17 *supra*; A.S.R. (1912), p. 27, no. 10. (Pl. 197, no. 15.)

16. Solid gold finger-ring with flat rectangular bezel and clusters of four drops on shoulders. Diam. 1 in. The hoop is flat within, rounded without, and expanding upwards. The inlaid stone is lapis-lazuli engraved with the figure of a warrior armed with spear and shield, with an early Brāhmī inscription to his proper left. The style of the engraving is Hellenistic and it is likely that the ring, which is much worn, dates from the first or second century B.C. The inscription reads: *Samanavasa* = 'Of Samanava'. Sk. '13-194/11. From same hoard as preceding. Cf. p. 160, no. 18 *supra*; A.S.R. (1912), Pl. XXI, b, 9, p. 27, no. 11. (Pl. 197, no. 16.)

17. Gold finger-ring with flat oval bezel. Similar to nos. 5-8 above. Diam. 0.87 in. The inlaid gem is glass engraved with a standing figure of Herakles holding a club in right hand. To

the left of the figure is a Kharoshthi inscription, partly concealed by the gold rim. The reading is uncertain. First century A.D. For the figure of Heracles, cf. no. 44 below. Sk. '29-1,241/16; sq. 62.113'; stratum III. From same hoard as nos. 2 (*q.v.*), 3 and 9. Cf. p. 187, no. 23. (Pl. 197, no. 17.)

CLASS II. *Silver finger-ring* (no. 18)

18. Plain silver finger-ring with oval shield-like bezel. Diam. 0.75 in. The hoop is a thin band of metal and the bezel is curved to the shape of the finger. Third century B.C. Bm. '24-181; sq. 10.59'; stratum II. Cf. p. 106 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 18.)

CLASS III. *Copper and bronze finger-rings* (nos. 19-56)

Type *a*. *Of plain wire, partly coiled*. Made on the same principle as the copper bracelet no. 6, and gold bracelets nos. 104-5. Rings of this type date from the third century B.C. to the first century A.D.

19. Finger-ring of copper wire with coiled ends. Diam. 0.75 in. Third to second century B.C. Bm. '20-1,495; sq. 22.32'; stratum II. See pp. 106-7 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 19.)

20. Similar, but wire twisted round at ends in imitation of a bezel. Diam. 0.87 in. First century A.D. Sk. '14-1,990; Block E; sq. 76.55'; stratum II. Cf. p. 162, n. 1 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1914), Pl. XXIV, 35. (Pl. 197, no. 20.)

21. Similar and of same date. Diam. 0.93 in. Sk. '17-283; Block B'; sq. 35.77'; stratum II. Cf. p. 194 *supra*.

Type *b*. *With hoop ornamented but without bezel*. Nos. 22 and 23 are probably of the early medieval period. No. 24 is of the first century A.D. The last-mentioned, as well as no. 23, are Indian rather than Hellenistic in form and decoration. The symbols on no. 24 are all typically Indian.

22. Copper finger-ring composed of thin band of metal with incised herring-bone pattern on outside. Diam. 0.75 in. Probably fifth century A.D. Dh. '15-1,058; mon. court A. Cf. pp. 278, 294 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 22.)

23. Copper finger-ring, flat within, rounded and gadrooned without. Diam. 1 in. Probably fifth century A.D. Dh. '16-66; mon. court A; 5 ft. below surface. Cf. pp. 278, 294 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 23.)

24. Copper finger-ring composed of metal band with beaded edges, flat on the inside and relieved on the outside with nine bosses bearing symbols in relief. On the largest boss, which takes the place of the bezel, is a 'shield' device, and on either side of it a *triratna*. The other devices include a pair of fishes, swastika, *vajra* and lotus rosette. The devices, which may be either Buddhist or Jaina, more probably the former, were all endowed with amuletic properties. Diam. 0.93 in. Sk. '20-746; Block 1'; sq. 13.79'; stratum I. The form and decoration of the ring suggest that it is an Indian pattern. For the *triratna*, cf. 'Beads', p. 747 and footnote; for the fishes, 'Copper and Bronze', no. 28, 'Jewellery', no. 78; for the swastika, *ibid.* no. 85. Cf. p. 196 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 24.)

Type *c*. *With plain bezels*. The bezels are usually almond-shaped but occasionally oval or round. Of the ten specimens listed below, seven come from the Bhir Mound and are referable to the fourth to second century B.C.; three come from Sirkap and belong to the first century A.D.

25. Copper finger-ring with flat almond-shaped bezel. Hoop flat within, angular without. Diam. 0.75 in. Bm. '20-708; sq. 31.29'; stratum III. Cf. p. 103 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 25.)
26. Similar. Diam. 0.75 in. Bm. '21-598; sq. 9.52'; stratum III. Cf. p. 103 *supra*. (Pl. 197, no. 26.)
27. Similar to preceding. Diam. 0.68 in. Bm. '21-378; sq. 12.60'; stratum II. Cf. pp. 106-7 *supra*.
28. Similar, but with two decorative bosses supporting the bezel. Diam. 0.62 in. Bm. '21-1,047; sq. 52.47'; stratum II. See vol. I, *ibid.* (Pl. 197, no. 28.)
29. Similar to nos. 25-7. Diam. 0.68 in. Bm. '20-1,551; sq. 15.27'; stratum II. See vol. I, *ibid.* (Pl. 197, no. 29.)
30. Similar to preceding. Diam. 0.87 in. Bm. '21-154; sq. 30.46'; stratum II. See vol. I, *ibid.*
31. Similar to preceding, but of more flimsy make. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '20-943; Block A; sq. 19.55'; stratum II. Cf. p. 146 *supra*.
32. Of kindred type to above, but bezel smaller and beading on either side of hoop. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '13-566; spoil earth. (Pl. 198, no. 32.)
33. Copper finger-ring with large raised oval bezel. Hoop flat within, rounded without. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '26-2,215; Block G; sq. 109.52'; stratum I. Cf. p. 169 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 33.)
34. Similar to the last, but with raised round bezel. Diam. 0.75 in. Bm. '20-1,310; sq. 26.29'; stratum II. See p. 107 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 34.)

Type *d. With stones or paste inlaid in bezel.* No examples of this class of finger-ring have been found in the Bhir Mound. The earliest is no. 37 from Sirkap, which dates from the second century B.C. Of the others, nos. 35, 36 and 39 are of the first century A.D., and no. 40 of the fifth century A.D.

35. Silver-bronze ring with almond-shaped bezel containing two depressions for gems. Hoop flat within, rounded without, and expanding upwards to bezel. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '14-629; sq. 56.71'; stratum III; Main Street. Cf. *A.S.R.* (1914), Pl. xxiv, 37. (Pl. 198, no. 35.)
36. Similar, but with oval bezel inlaid with glass paste which is now decayed. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '12-57; Block I; stratum III. Cf. p. 142 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 36.)
37. Similar, with single depression inset with glass paste, which is fractured. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '19-1,698; Block D'; sq. 59.116'; stratum V. See p. 129 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 37.)
38. Bronze finger-ring with projecting oval bezel containing jacinth. Hoop composed of flat band of metal with protruding knob on each side of bezel. Diam. 0.75 in. Date uncertain. Dh. '22-35-E3; 4 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 38.)
39. Bronze finger-ring similar to no. 37. Stone of bezel missing. Diam. 0.87 in. First century A.D. Sk. '16-481; Block E'; sq. 74.180'; stratum II. Cf. p. 185 *supra*.
40. Copper finger-ring of round wire with raised bezel consisting of five cloisons arranged quincunxwise. Gems missing. Diam. 0.93 in. Probably fifth century A.D. Bādalpur '16-42; south of main stūpa. 5 ft. below surface. Cf. *B.M. Cat. of Finger-rings*, nos. 818 and 853. (Pl. 198, no. 40.)

Type *e. With devices or figures engraved on metal bezel.* No. 41, from the Bhir Mound, dates from about 200 B.C. Nos. 42-51, from Sirkap, are of the first century A.D. No. 52 is of the early medieval period.

41. Fragment of copper finger-ring with almond-shaped bezel engraved with figure of elephant. Diam. 0.87 in. Bm. '19-427; sq. 15.13'; stratum II. See p. 107 *supra*, and *A.S.R.* (1919), Pl. xi, 1. (Pl. 198, no. 41 and Pl. 207, no. 16.)
42. Bronze finger-ring with flat almond-shaped bezel bearing swastika and two marks in roughly beaded border. Hoop flat within, angular without. Diam. 0.87 in. Sk. '14-382;

Block K (palace); sq. 161.43'; stratum II. Cf. p. 177 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1914), Pl. xxiv. (Pl. 198, no. 42.)

43. Similar, with oval bezel engraved with a winged horse (Pegasus) intaglio. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '24-891; Block C; sq. 44.53'; stratum III. Cf. p. 149, no. 6 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1924), Pl. xi, 6. (Pl. 198, no. 43 and Pl. 207, no. 27.)

44. Similar, with rough engraving of standing Heracles, holding club in right hand. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '13-170; Block G; sq. 96.55'; stratum II. Cf. p. 169 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 44.)

45. Similar, with almond-shaped bezel engraved with standing Nike to left. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '13-2,019; Block D; sq. 63.54'; stratum II. Cf. p. 155 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 45.)

46. Similar, with projecting oval bezel engraved with dancing female figure wearing loose drapery, which leaves the upper part of body and legs from knees downward bare. Hands hold uncertain objects. Diam. 0.68 in. Sk. '28-945; Block E'; sq. 70.101'; stratum III. Cf. p. 185 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 46 and Pl. 207, no. 33.)

47. Similar, but of copper. Oval bezel engraved with standing figure of Nike holding diadem in right hand. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '20-405; Block B'; sq. 36.89'; stratum II. Cf. p. 194 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 47.)

48. Similar to last, but with round bezel. Standing female figure with flowing draperies; damaged. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '24-872; Block C; sq. 43.45'; stratum II. Cf. p. 149, no. 6 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 48.)

49. Similar, but with raised bezel engraved with a standing male figure (? Śiva) dancing with arms akimbo. Much corroded. Diam. 0.62 in. Sk. '28-2,095; Block F'; sq. 94.87'; stratum II. Cf. p. 183 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 49.)

50. Bronze finger-ring with flat oval bezel engraved with miniature seated figure on throne. Diam. 0.62 in. Sk. '13-131; sq. 94.56'; Eighth Street; stratum II. (Pl. 198, no. 50.)

51. Circular bezel of a copper finger-ring engraved with standing draped figure holding snake or bow in right hand, and perhaps dancing. Hoop missing. Diam. 0.68 in. Sk. '29-2,340; Block G'; sq. 109.85'; stratum II. Cf. p. 181 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 51 and Pl. 207, no. 18.)

52. Copper finger-ring with raised oval bezel. Engraved on the bezel is a dancing figure (? Śiva) wearing *dhotī* and turban (?) and holding snake or bow in left hand (as seen in impression) and lion skin (?) in right. Diam. 0.87 in. Probably early medieval. Dh. '16-221; north-east of F; 3 ft. 6 in. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 52.)

Type f. *With inscriptions engraved on bezels.*

53. Ring of copper wire with square raised bezel. Diam. 0.93 in. The hoop is flat within, rounded without. Engraved on the bezel is the figure of a humped bull, and an inscription in Kharoshthī, viz.: *Yavala(le?)trasa* = 'Of Yavalatra' (or 'Yavalettra'). Cf. *C.I.I.* II, pt. 1, p. 100, Pl. xx, 4. First century A.D. Sk. '24-1,556; Block K (palace); sq. 154.63'; stratum II. See p. 177 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1924), Pl. xi, 5. (Pl. 198, no. 53 and Pl. 207, no. 35.)

54. Copper finger-ring with flat oval bezel. Diam. 0.87 in. The hoop is flat within, rounded without, and expanding towards the bezel. On the bezel is engraved a maned lion asleep. To left is a swastika, and above and below, a Kharoshthī inscription: *Mahajhanaputrasa jhana-priyasa* = 'Of Dhyānapriya, the son of Mahadhyāna'. Cf. *C.I.I.* II, pt. 1, p. 100 (3), and Pl. xx, 3. First century A.D. The engraving of the lion is well executed. Sk. '20-18; spoil earth; from south-west of palace. (Pl. 198, no. 54 and Pl. 207, no. 36.)

55. Similar to preceding, engraved with a standing male figure intaglio. Diam. 0.56 in. Inscription corroded: *Mahajha(na)putrasa... jhaṇasa* (?) = 'Of... dhyāna, the son of Mahadyāna'. Cf. *C.I.I.* II, pt. 1, p. 101 (6), Pl. xx, 5. Sk. '24-1,416; Block C; sq. 50.43'; stratum II. Cf. p. 149, no. 6 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1924), Pl. xi, 3. (Pl. 198, no. 55 and Pl. 208, no. 46.)

56. Copper finger-ring with irregular hoop and large almond-shaped flat bezel. Length of bezel 1.57 in. On bezel, Gupta-Brāhmī inscription in single-line border which appears to

read: *Babhacha(ta)rṇa* = 'Bacharaṇa (?). Fifth century A.D. Bl. '30-293. For a gold coin of Bacharaṇa, see R.U.C. no. 270. Cf. p. 396 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 56 and Pl. 208, no. 58.)

CLASS IV. *Iron finger-rings* (nos. 57, 58)

Only two specimens of iron finger-rings have been found at Taxila. One dates from the third to second century B.C.; the other, which has a copper bezel, probably from the fifth century A.D.

57. Finger-ring of iron with flat oval bezel. Hoop rounded. Diam. 0.93 in. Bm. '19-746; sq. 13.11'; stratum II. Cf. p. 107 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 57.)

58. Finger-ring of iron with oval bezel covered with plate of copper. Diam. 0.87 in. Engraving on copper plate consists of two standing figures, but is indistinct. Ghai '25-7; west side; 2 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 354 *supra*. (Pl. 198, no. 58 and Pl. 208, no. 47.)

CLASS V. *Lead finger-ring* (no. 59)

There is only one finger-ring of lead in the collection. It comes from the Bhir Mound and dates from about 200 B.C.

59. Finger-ring of lead with an almond-shaped bezel bearing figure of a tiger engraved intaglio. Diam. 0.93 in. Rough workmanship. Damaged. Bm. '19-116; sq. 12.28'; stratum I. Cf. p. 111 *supra* and A.S.R. (1919), Pl. XI, 4. (Pl. 198, no. 59 and Pl. 208, no. 42.)

CLASS VI. *Stone finger-rings* (nos. 60, 61)

Both of these finger-rings are of banded grey and brown onyx. No. 60 belongs to the first century A.D.; no. 61 is probably of the early medieval period.

60. Finger-ring of onyx, with projecting almond-shaped bezel. Diam. 1.12 in. Hoop flat within, rounded without. Sk. '19-1,003; Block D'; sq. 54.117'; stratum II. Cf. p. 191 *supra*. (Pl. 209, g.)

61. Finger-ring of onyx with plain elliptical bezel. Diam. 1.12 in. Partially damaged. Dh. '15-1,375; mon. court A; 10 ft. below surface. Cf. pp. 278, 294 *supra*. (Pl. 209, f.)

CLASS VII. *Shell finger-rings* (nos. 62-6)

The earliest of the shell finger-rings is no. 66, which dates from the third or early second century B.C., and is provided with an oval bezel. The other specimens are probably of the early medieval period.

62. Finger-ring of mother-of-pearl shell in form of *makara*. Diam. 1 in. Pl. '21-148; north of monastery; debris. Cf. p. 367 *supra*. (Pl. 209, b.)

63. Finger-ring of white shell with floral design on one face. Diam. 1.12 in. Ss. '15-41; Pinḍorā; 5 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 220 *supra*. (Pl. 209, c.)

64. Similar, with gadrooned surface. Diam. 0.87 in. Dh. '17-1,050; spoil earth. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 209, d.)

65. Similar to preceding. Diam. 0.81 in. Dh. '16-343; mon. court A; 3 ft. below surface. Cf. pp. 278, 294 *supra*. (Pl. 209, e.)

66. Fragment of shell finger-ring with plain elliptical bezel. Diam. 0.81 in. Bm. '24-64; sq. 11.59'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*.

CLASS VIII. *Glass finger-rings* (nos. 67-9)

Nos. 67 and 68 are of the first century A.D.; no. 69 of uncertain date, probably early medieval.

67. Fragment of glass finger-ring with flat almond-shaped bezel. Diam. 0.81 in. The glass is colourless and transparent. Sk. '14-193; Block K (palace); sq. 163.52'; stratum II. Cf. p. 177 *supra*.

68. Similar but of yellow glass. Diam. 0.75 in. Sk. '16-161; Block E'; sq. 68.76'; stratum III. Cf. p. 185 *supra*.

69. Fragment of finger-ring of dark blue and green opaque glass. Diam. 0.75 in. Dh. '16-254; mon. court A; 3 ft. below surface. Cf. pp. 278, 294 *supra*.

CLASS IX. *Engraved gems of stone and paste intended for finger-rings* (nos. 70-5)

Like the rings themselves which have stones or pastes inset in their bezels, these have been found only on the Sirkap and later sites. Fourteen date from the first century A.D. (Parthian); the remaining one from the fifth century.

70. Oval intaglio of malachite with figure of a winged Nike armed with spear and holding wreath and fillet in outstretched hand, as on contemporary Indo-Parthian coins. Longer axis 0.75 in. Sk. '22-566; Block E'; sq. 73.97'; stratum II. Cf. p. 185 *supra*. (Pl. 208, no. 53.)

71, *a-i*. Nine oval intaglios of jacinth cut *en cabochon* and hollowed at back. They are engraved with various full-length figures and busts. The best in point of execution is a figure of Athene (10, *f*) with helmet, spear and shield, and a snake to left. Another draped and helmeted figure (10, *a*) may also be the same goddess, but what looks like a shield may be the badly drawn wing of a Nike. On *h* and *i* is portrayed a draped goddess with cornucopia, the one on the former being helmeted. This may perhaps be the same goddess that is figured in nos. 1 and 2 of the 'Stone Sculptures', ch. 36. On *b* and *g* are figures of the winged Nike, the former with the palm of victory between her legs instead of in her hand. The three remaining intaglios are very roughly executed busts. Their head-dresses, however, are interesting. Fig. *d* wears a plumed helmet with a curious projection above the rim in front; the other two (*c* and *e*) wear turbans with the same projection in front. All the intaglios, except *a* and *f*, are of such rough workmanship that on grounds of style they might well be attributed to the third or fourth century A.D. That they date, however, from the first century is proved by the association in which they were found. Sk. '13-194; Block E; sq. 77.65'; strata I-II (in jar). Cf. p. 160, no. 4 *supra*; *A.S.R.* (1912), p. 28. From same hoard as nos. 72 and 73 *infra*. (Pl. 207, no. 10, *a-i*.)

72. Oval carnelian with flat face engraved with bust intaglio. From the same jar as the preceding. Cf. p. 160, no. 5.

73, *a, b*. Two oval intaglios of glass, the former (*a*) with flat face, banded in green, white and blue; the latter (*b*) of dull brown glass fashioned *en cabochon*. In both specimens the engraving is very worn and blurred. From same hoard as the preceding. Cf. p. 160, no. 6 *supra*.

74. Oval intaglio of carnelian with figure of Nike holding wreath and fillet in right hand, cornucopia in left. Face flat; back convex. Longer axis 0.5 in. Ss. '15-95; Piṇḍorā; 3 ft. 6 in. below surface. Cf. p. 220 *supra*. (Pl. 207, no. 9.)

75. Oval intaglio of chert, engraved with legend *Śrī Kuleśvaradāsa* in Brāhmī characters of the fifth century A.D. Longer axis 0.75 in. Jn. '17-F586; cell 3; 8 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 385 *supra*. (Pl. 207, no. 15.)

Chapter 32. BONE AND IVORY OBJECTS

BONE AND IVORY were used at Taxila for the manufacture of a multitude of small objects of daily use: personal ornaments, toilet and domestic articles, gamesmen, toy furniture, and other miscellaneous things. All of these objects, however, were not manufactured at the same time. Some classes of them have been found only in the Bhir Mound; others only in Sirkap; while others are common to both sites. Those which come only from the Bhir Mound and are anterior to the middle of the second century B.C. are: ear-reels (nos. 5-7), gadrooned beads (nos. 8-11),¹ flesh-rubber (no. 60), spindle-whorls (nos. 82-4), draughtsmen or counters (nos. 85-91), and a doll (no. 121). Those which occur only in Sirkap and are referable to the period between the second century B.C. and the first century A.D. are: combs (nos. 18-23), ear-cleaners and toothpicks (nos. 39-42), handles of mirrors and fan (nos. 43-5, 47-52, 54-7), knife-handles (nos. 61-5), spoons (nos. 67-8), playing dice (nos. 92-8), knuckle-bones (no. 99), toy furniture (nos. 100-4) and cheek-bars for horses' bridles (nos. 115-17). Articles that are found on both sites comprise: bangles (nos. 1, 2), pendants and amulets (nos. 12-15, 17), hair-pins (nos. 24-34), antimony-rods (nos. 35-8), comb-handles (nos. 58, 59), writing stili (nos. 69-81)² and arrow-heads (nos. 105-14).

Many of these articles are traceable to a Greek or Western Asiatic origin. Such are the hair-combs, hair-pins with comb and cock heads, ear-cleaners and toothpicks in combination, mirror-handles, writing stili, knuckle-bones (ἀστράγαλοι), the tooth amulet no. 17, the ivory ram's head no. 119, and the ivory pendant or handle with the two philosophers' heads no. 120. The two last, indeed, were in all probability imports from the West. The cheek-bars for horses' bridles (nos. 115-18) seem likely to have been introduced by the Parthians from Central Asia.

Some general remarks on bone and ivory objects from the Bhir Mound will be found in vol. I at pp. 102, 105 and 109, and on those from Sirkap at pp. 129, 135, 204-9. Other references are given in the individual entries of the catalogue below.

GROUP A. PERSONAL ORNAMENTS

Comprising bangles, ear-reels, gadrooned beads, pendants and amulets.

CLASS I. *Bangles* (nos. 1-4)

The materials commonly used for bangles were shell and copper for the cheaper sorts, silver and gold for the more expensive ones. Bone or ivory was occasionally used in place of shell, but only one or two specimens of these materials have been

¹ Gadrooned beads of faience, however, are common in the Śaka-Parthian period.

² Only one doubtful specimen (no. 69) comes from the Bhir Mound.