

The best bit of shell-work yet unearthed at Taxila is the small portrait head in low relief (no. 42) which was found in a jar along with a number of coins and other articles referable to the middle of the first century A.D. Among the few other miscellaneous articles included in Class III are four small disks or roundels, which may have served as buttons, and a dipper or ladle, which is unique at Taxila but of a kind that had been common enough among the Indus people two or three thousand years earlier.

Portrait head
and other
miscellaneous
articles

CLASS I. *Uncut shells* (nos. 1-15)

1. Scallop shell of striking size and shape, identified by the Zoological Survey of India as a Japanese species, either *Pecten nobilis* Reeve or *Pecten crassicostatus* Sowerby, most probably the former. The route by which this interesting specimen found its way in the first century A.D. from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to Taxila was no doubt through Central Asia. First century A.D. Sk. '26-2,215/a; sq. 110.52'; stratum II. Cf. p. 168 (11) *supra*. (Pl. 202, g.)

2. *Xancus pyrum* (Linn.).¹ Length 5.62 in. A conch shell used especially in the manufacture of bangles. Bm. '20-1,515; sq. 31.34'; stratum III. (Pl. 202, b.)

3. *Murex (Chicoreus) anguliferus* (Lamk.). Length 7.12 in. Like the preceding example, this fine-looking shell may have served as a trumpet, but did not lend itself to the manufacture of bangles. Second century B.C. Sk. '29-2,711; sq. 46.88'; stratum V. (Pl. 202, d.)

4. *Arca (Anadara) granosa* (Linn.). Length 2.62 in. A mother-of-pearl bivalve. First century B.C. Sk. '19-452; sq. 62.112'; stratum IV. (Pls. 201, no. 29; 202, e.) This species occurs throughout the coastal waters of Arabia, India, Malay Archipelago, Japan, China and Australia.² It probably found its way to Taxila from the coast of Sind.

5. *Pinctada margaritifera* (Linn.).

(a) Sk. '27-560; stratum II. One valve. Diam. 8.31 in. (Pl. 202, c.)

(b) Sk. '933-51; stratum II. Similar; broken; length 5.4 in. (Pl. 202, f.)

(c) Sk. '24-270; sq. 34.48'; stratum II. Similar; length 2.75 in.

This is the pearl-oyster of the Ceylon and Tuticorin Pearl Fisheries, but Col. Sewell tells me that the shells fished at the present time average about 3.0 in. in diameter.

6. *Lamellidens marginalis* (Lamk.). One valve. Diam. 3.87 in. Sk. '22-231; sq. 12.88'; stratum II. Cf. p. 196 *supra*. (Pl. 202, i.)

A fresh-water mollusc widely distributed in the rivers of India, Burma and Ceylon, and valued for its mother-of-pearl. Several specimens of it were found among the prehistoric remains at Mohenjo-daro. (*M.I.C.* II, p. 664.)

7. *Parreysia favidens* (Benson).

(a) Sk. '29-423; sq. 46.87'; stratum III. Length 1.87 in. Cf. p. 193 *supra*. (Pl. 202, j.)

(b) Bm. '30-28; stratum II. Length 1.4 in. (Pl. 202, k.)

Another freshwater mollusc widely distributed throughout Northern India, including the Indus river and Gangetic system. Also said to have been found in East Cachar, Sylhet and the Madras Presidency. Several specimens have been found at Mohenjo-daro. (*M.I.C. ibid.*)

8. *Cypraea arabica* (Linn.). Sk. '29-487; stratum II. Length 2.5 in. (Pl. 202, i.)

A common marine species widely distributed in the Persian Gulf, coasts of India, Ceylon, Burma, New Caledonia and Australia. One specimen was found at Mohenjo-daro. (*M.I.C.* II, p. 665.)

9. *Erosaria turdus* (Lamk.). Bm. '30-43; stratum II. Length 1.45 in. (Pl. 202, n.)

A large cowrie of light purple colour.

¹ Previously known as *Turbinella pyrum* (Linn.).

² *M.I.C.* p. 665.

STRATIGRAPHICAL CHART OF SHELL OBJECTS

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	VI-V Greek	IV Early Saka	III-II Late Saka- Parthian	I Surface		
I. Uncut shells (nos. 1-15)	—	2	7, b, 9-11, 13	—	3	4	1, 5, a-c, 6, 7, a, 8, 12, 14 30	—	15 from Dh.	I
II. Bangles (nos. 16-41)	—	—	16, 17, 21, a-d, 22, 27, 28	—	—	18	—	—	19, 23, 24, 26, 29, 31-3, 36, 37 from Dh. 20, 38 from Mm. 25, 34, 40 from Ss. 35, 39, 41 from Jl. 43 from Mm. 45 from Dh.	II
III. Miscellaneous objects (nos. 42-50)	—	—	—	50	—	—	42, 44, 46- 9	—	—	III

¹ Dh. = Dharmarājika; Jl. = Jarāial; Mm. = Mohrā Morādu; Ss. = Sirsukh.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF SHELL OBJECTS IN SIRKAP

Block	Strata VI-V Greek	Stratum IV Early Saka	Strata III-II Saka-Parthian	Stratum I Surface
EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET				
I	—	—	—	—
A	—	—	—	—
B	—	—	—	—
C	—	—	47	—
D	—	—	5, c, 12	—
E	—	—	—	—
F	—	18	—	—
G	—	—	14	—
H	—	—	1	—
I	—	—	—	—
J	—	—	—	—
K	—	—	—	—
L	—	—	30, 44	—
WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET				
I'	—	—	6	—
A'	—	—	—	—
B'	—	—	—	—
C'	—	—	—	—
D'	3	—	7, a	—
E'	—	4	42, 49	—
F'	—	—	—	—
G'	—	—	—	—
H'	—	—	—	—
K'	—	—	—	—

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

10. *Erosaria helvola* (Linn.). Bm. '30-882; stratum II. Length, 1.1 in. (Pl. 202, o.)
Smaller than the preceding and of pale colour.
11. *Erosaria* (*Monetaria*) *annulus* (Linn.).
(a) Bm. '30-773; stratum II. Length 0.85 in. (Pl. 202, s.)
(b) Bm. '30-720; stratum II. Length 0.8 in. (Pl. 202, r.)
12. *Erosaria* (*Monetaria*) *moneta* (Linn.).
(a) Sk. '24-1,155; sq. 41.45'; stratum II. Length 0.7 in. (Pl. 202, p.)
(b) Sk. '24-82; sq. 41.51'; stratum II. Length 0.65 in. (Pl. 202, q.)
13. *Oliva irisans* (Lamk.). Bm. '24-267; stratum II. Length 1.2 in. (Pl. 202, m.)
14. *Engina mendicaria* (Linn.). Formerly known as *Pusiosoma mendicaria* (Linn.). Sk. '13-389; sq. 93.57'; stratum II. Cf. p. 166 *supra*.
15. *Pyrene flava* (Brug.). Dh. '17-51; 2 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*.

CLASS II. *Bangles* (nos. 16-41)Type a. *Plain*.

16. Fragment of shell bangle, with outer face bevelled to sides. Length 2.5 in. Bm. '19-270; sq. 15.11'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 4.)
17. Similar. Length 2.62 in. Bm. '21-437; sq. 23.60'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109. (Pl. 201, no. 5.)
18. Similar with plain outer face and ribbed sides. Length 2.5 in. Repaired with two copper rivets at ends. Sk. '14-1,077; sq. 72.65'; stratum IV. Cf. p. 135 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 6.)

19. Similar to preceding, with projecting flange on either edge of outer face. Length 2.12 in. For this type of flanged bangle in metal, cf. nos. 7-9 in 'Copper and Bronze', ch. 28. The depression between the flanges may have been intended for enamel. Dh. '16-361; G8; 1 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 8.)

20. Similar to preceding. Two fragments. Length 2 and 2.12 in. respectively. Mm. '15-2; mon.; 4 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 363 (20) *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 25.)

Type b. Decorated with simple incised designs.

21, a-d. Four shell bangles bevelled on outer face and with a simple cross incised on each. Diam. 2.75 in. Bm. '21-467; sq. 33.12'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 1.)

22. Fragment of shell bangle with repeat of hooked triangles incised. Length 1.75 in. Bm. '13-28; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 17.)

23. Similar, with file-edged outer rim and diamond pattern incised. Length 2.31 in. Dh. '16-726; mon. court A; 16 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 278 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 10.)

24. Similar. Length 1.87 in. Dh. '13-1,606; J (west); 2 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 11.)

25. Similar with two rows of alternating lines. Length 1.75 in. Ss. '15-50; Piṇḍorā; 3 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 220 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 23.)

26. Three fragments of shell bangle with chequered pattern incised. Length 1.5-2.37 in. Dh. '15-1,402; mon. court A; 10 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 278 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 13.)

Type c. Decorated with designs in relief.

27. Fragment of shell bangle with cable pattern in relief. Length 1.25 in. Bm. '21-467; sq. 38.12'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 2.)

28. Similar, with cable pattern between borders. Length 2 in. Bm. '19-286; sq. 8.52'; stratum II. Cf. p. 109 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 3.)

29. Similar, but bolder modelling. Diam. 2.5 in. Dh. '16-72; T2; 3 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 247 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 12.)

30. Similar, with overlapping scale pattern in relief. Length 2.12 in. Fine hatching on both sides. Sk. '14-363; sq. 164.44'; stratum II. Cf. p. 177 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 7.)

31. Four fragments of shell bangle, one with conch shell in relief. Length 1.75-2.62 in. Dh. '15-1,557; mon. court A; 8 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 278 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 9.)

32. Fragment of shell bangle with crude wave pattern in relief. Length 2.12 in. Dh. '15-1,263; mon. court A; 4 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 278 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 14.)

33. Similar, with beading between borders. Length 2.5 in. Dh. '12-49; H; 7 ft. 10 in. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 15.)

34. Similar, with rough bead-and-reel pattern in low relief. Length 2.5 in. Ss. '15-17; Piṇḍorā; 2 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 220 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 24.)

35. Similar with head of snake and three projecting bezels with countersunk depressions for inlay. Length 1.87 in. Jl. '12-2; Mound D. Cf. p. 229 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 16.)

36. Similar, with repeat of conventionalised bird carved in low relief. Diam. 2.5 in. Dh. '16-72; T2; 3 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 247 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 19.)

37. Similar. Length 1.87 in. Dh. '16-198; Q1; 2 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 294 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 20.)

38. Similar, with copper clamp joining broken pieces. Length 2.5 in. Mm. '15-2; mon.; 4 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 363 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 26.)

39. Similar, with repeat of heart pattern, chevrons and medallion. Traces of red paint. Length 1.62 in. Jl. '12-7; Mound D. Cf. p. 229 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 21.)

40. Similar, with repeat of conventionalised bird-head pattern in relief. Length 1.87 in. Ss. '15-38; Piṇḍorā; 6 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 220 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 22.)

Type *d*. *Inlaid with coloured stones or paste*. Cf. also no. 35 *supra*.

41. Fragment of shell bangle with 'dot and comma' pattern sunk in outer face for inlay. Length 1.62 in. Jl. '12-258; Mound C; 4 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 224 *supra*. (Pl. 201, no. 18.)

CLASS III. *Miscellaneous objects* (nos. 42-50)

42. Head of man in low relief. Height 1.42 in. He wears a moustache, whiskers and short beard. The eyes are large and wide open; the forehead wrinkled. The head, which is in profile, is a striking bit of work and no doubt a portrait. It was found inside a jar along with a number of other articles. Sk. '19-933/1; sq. 59.114'; stratum II. Cf. *A.S.R.* (1919), Pl. x, 27 and pp. 188-9 *supra*; Deposit E, no. 10. (Pl. 208, no. 51.)

43. Disk or roundel of shell with hole in centre. Diam. 1.25 in. Incised lines round edge on convex side. Mm. '15-207; cell 14; 8 ft. below surface. Cf. p. 363 (34) *supra*. (Pls. 201, no. 27; 202, *h*.)

44. Similar, with decoration of three sunk circles alternating with groups of smaller circles. Sunk beading round former and round edge of disk. Diam. 1.5 in. Sk. '14-321; sq. 163.45'; stratum II. Cf. p. 177 *supra*. (Pl. 203, *w*.)

45. Similar, with four small circles alternating with 'dot and comma' rosettes. Partly broken. Diam. 2.3 in. Dh. '31-17; mon. court A. Cf. p. 278 *supra*. (Pl. 203, *x*.)

46. Natural shell (fam. *pecten*) cut to a circle, with hole in centre. Diam. 4 in. Sk. '27; Trench D 39; stratum II. (Pl. 202, *a*.)

47. Rectangular piece of mother-of-pearl shell (? *Pinctada margaritifera*). Length 2.75 in. Sk. '24-270; sq. 34.48'; stratum II.

48. Dipper or ladle, made from a sank shell. Length 3.12 in. Sk. '29-981; stratum II. (Pl. 201, no. 28.)

49. Necklace consisting of thirty-three beads of mother-of-pearl, roughly fashioned. Each bead is pierced with two holes for threading. Sk. '29-1,241/12; sq. 62.113'; stratum III. Cf. p. 187 (24) *supra*. (Pl. 205, *f*.)

50. Numerous small seed and other pearls of irregular shapes and sizes. Bm. '12-20/11; stratum I. From same hoard as coins and jewellery described in ch. 3 (pp. 110-11). Cf. *A.S.R.* (1912), p. 41. (Pl. 205, *h*.)