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Chapter 9
The Coins

Introduction

The excavations at Paithan yielded a total of 56 coins, including two that were found on the surface. Many of these are in a very poor condition, making identification difficult and tentative or, in 17 cases, impossible. Those coins that can be identified are broadly classified in the catalogue below as pre-Satavahana (c. 370–150/100 BC), Satavahana (c. 140 BC–AD 220), post-Satavahana (2nd–7th centuries AD), Islamic (c. AD 1300–19th century) and British (AD 1818 and later), some of which are subdivided into types. Table 9.1 shows the occurrence of each of these categories and types by period.

Pre-Satavahana coins

The pre-Satavahana coins are subdivided into 'hollow cross' and 'tree' types. All are made of copper alloy.

'Hollow cross'-type coins

This type consists of a hollow cross on the obverse. These are square in shape. They are also corroded, cracked, worn out and sometimes flaked. All of these coins can be attributed to the post-Mauryan and pre-Satavahana period.

Coin 1. Find No. **574** (Context: 458), Tr. B.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish, broken, corroded and worn out.
Size: 1.75 × (-) × 0.50 cm, weight: 3.49 g.
Obv: Traces of a hollow cross are present.
Rev: Indistinct due to corrosion.

Coin 2. Find No. **504** (Context: 453), Tr. B.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish, corroded, greenish patina and cracked.
Size: 1.94 × 1.85 × 0.57 cm, weight: 5.85 g.
Obv: Hollow cross is faintly visible.
Rev: Corroded, no details visible, perhaps blank.

Table 9.1: The occurrence of coins by period.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 3-temple	Period 4	No period	Total
Pre-Satavahana (total)	**8**	**2**	**1**	**3**			**14**
'Hollow cross'	8	2		1			11
'Tree'			1	2			3
Satavahana (total)		**1**	**3**	**6**	**5**	**3**	**18**
'Elephant'		1	2	2	4	3	12
'Bull'			1	4			5
'Lion'					1		1
Post-Satavahana				**2**	**1**		**3**
Unidentified		2	1	6	5	3	17
Late Med/Islamic					2	1	3
British					1		1
Total	**8**	**5**	**5**	**17**	**14**	**7**	**56**

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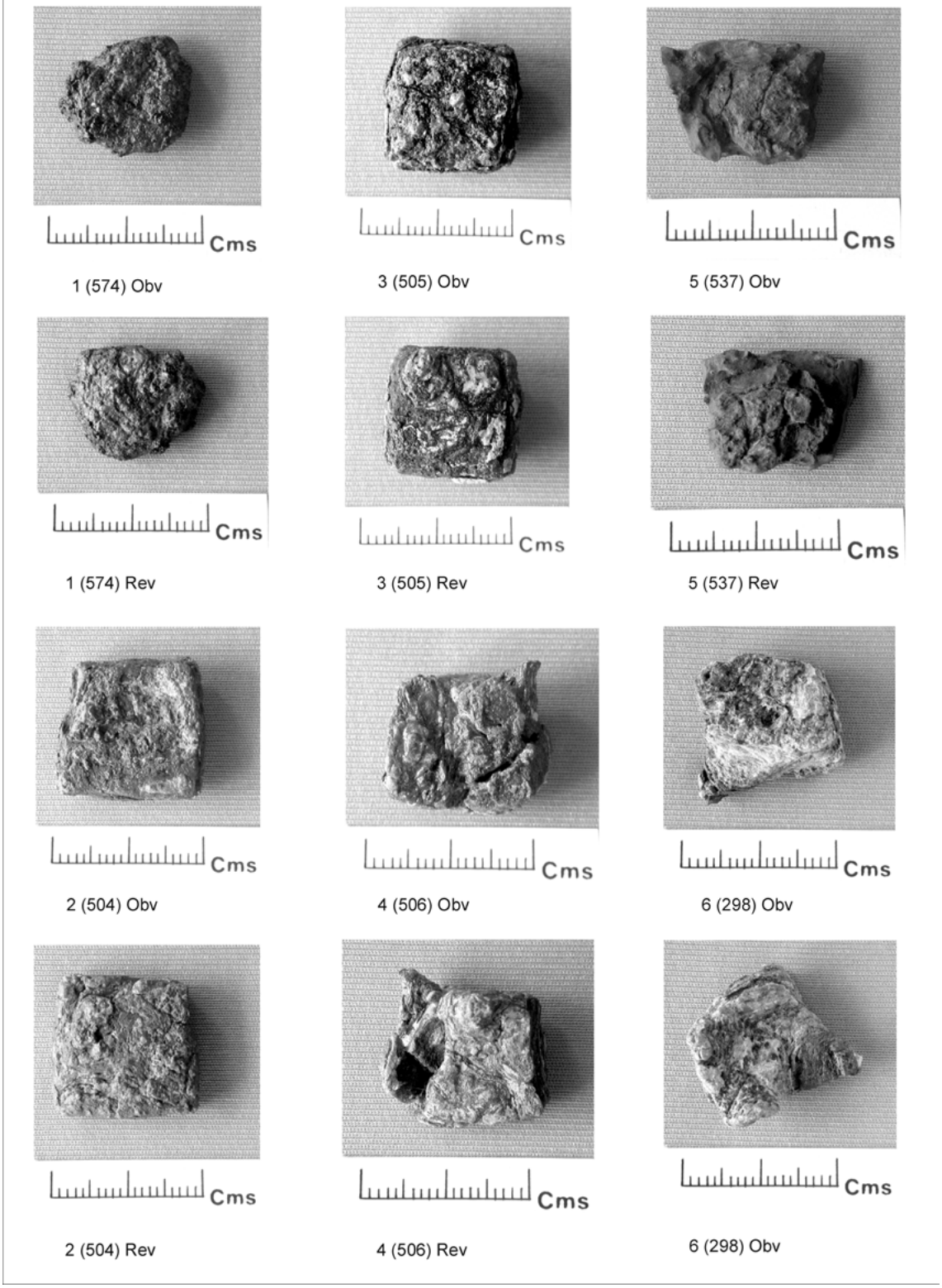

Fig. 9.1: Coins 1 (574), 3 (505), 5 (537), 2 (504), 4 (506) and 6 (298).

Coin 3. Find No. **505** (Context: 453), Tr. B.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish, corroded, slight greenish patina, cracked.
Size: 1.78 × 1.76 × 1.00 cm, weight: 8.23 g.
Obv: Hollow cross faintly visible.
Rev: Core visible with uneven surface.

Coin 4. Find No. **506** (Context: 453), Tr. B.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish, slightly broken, highly corroded, flaked, cracked.
Size: 2.06 × 1.69 × 0.75 cm, weight: 4.42 g.
Obv: Hollow cross is visible.
Rev: Corroded, no details visible.

Coin 5. Find No. **537** (Context: 453), Tr. B.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish, highly corroded, flaked.
Size: 1.88 × (-) × 0.55 cm, weight: 2.87 g.
Obv: No details visible.
Rev: No details visible, core exposed.
Note: This coin can be categorized as a 'hollow cross' type based on the fabric.

Coin 6. Find No. **298** (Context: 754), Tr. D1.
Period 1. Fig. 9.1.
Copper alloy, squarish with projection, corroded, flaked.
Size: 1.82 × 1.65 × 0.77 cm, weight: 4.38 g.
Obv: Hollow cross faintly visible.
Rev: Not discernable.

Coin 7. Find No. **299** (Context: 754), Tr. D1.
Period 1.
Copper alloy, rectangular(?), broken irregularly, corroded to core, worn out.
Size: 1.55 × (-) × 0.20 cm, weight: 1.08 g.
Obv: Worn out.
Rev: No details visible.

Coin 8. Find No. **812** (Context: 1150), Tr. A.
Period 1.
Copper alloy, fragment, corroded and encrusted.
Size: (-) × (-) × 0.45 cm, weight: not taken.
Obv: No details visible.
Rev: No details visible due to corrosion.

Coin 9. Find No. **337** (Context: 711), Tr. D2.
Period 2. Fig. 9.2.
Copper alloy, squarish, broken into two pieces, corroded, cracked.
Size: 1.90 × 1.78 × 0.78 cm, weight: 6.28 g.
Obv: Hollow cross is faintly visible.
Rev: Unidentifiable due to flaking of the surface.

Coin 10. Find No. **338** (Context: 711), Tr. D2.
Period 2.
Copper alloy, broken into two pieces, corroded, cracked.
Size: 1.80 × (-) × 0.50 cm, weight: 2.04 g.
Obv: No details visible.
Rev: No details visible.

Coin 11. Find No. **536** (Context: 923), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, squarish, broken, corroded and cracked.
Size: 1.52 × (-) × 0.43 cm, weight: 2.10 g.
Obv: No details visible due to corrosion.
Rev: No details visible due to corrosion.
Note: Fabric is the same as that of 'hollow cross' type coins.

'Tree'-type coins

There are three coins of this type with a tree associated with other symbols. The type occurs in the pre-Satavahana and Satavahana periods, but all three coins of this type found at Paithan are pre-Satavahana (Nos. 12, 13 and 14). Of these, No. 12 was found in Period 3, the other two, Nos. 13 and 14, were recovered from the deposits of Period 3-temple. Coin 14 is similar to coin 12 but differs in ancillary symbols.

Coin 12. Find No. **535** (Context: 921), Tr. A.
Period 3. Fig. 9.2.
Bronze, squarish, worn out.
Size: 0.77 × (-) × 0.15 cm, weight: 0.46 g.
Obv: Branched tree with taurine symbol on its right-side top corner, some indistinct symbols at the bottom that are illegible due to the worn out condition.
Rev: Some worn, indistinct symbols are visible.

Coin 13. Find No. **648** (Context: 956), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.2.
Copper, rectangular, badly worn out.
Size: 0.84 × (-) × 0.14 cm, weight: 0.35 g.
Obv: Indistinct symbols inside a square frame.
Rev: Worn out, part of a square frame is visible.

Coin 14. Find No. **538** (Context: 919), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.2.
Bronze, rectangular, obliquely broken.
Size: 0.91 × (-) × 0.16 cm, weight: 0.46 g.
Obv: Branched tree with partly visible railing, taurine symbol on right-side top corner of the tree, indistinct symbol on the left side of the tree at the bottom, the left side upper portion is cut off.
Rev: A tree with oval leaves to right.
Note: This coin is similar to No. 12 in fabric and in the main symbol.

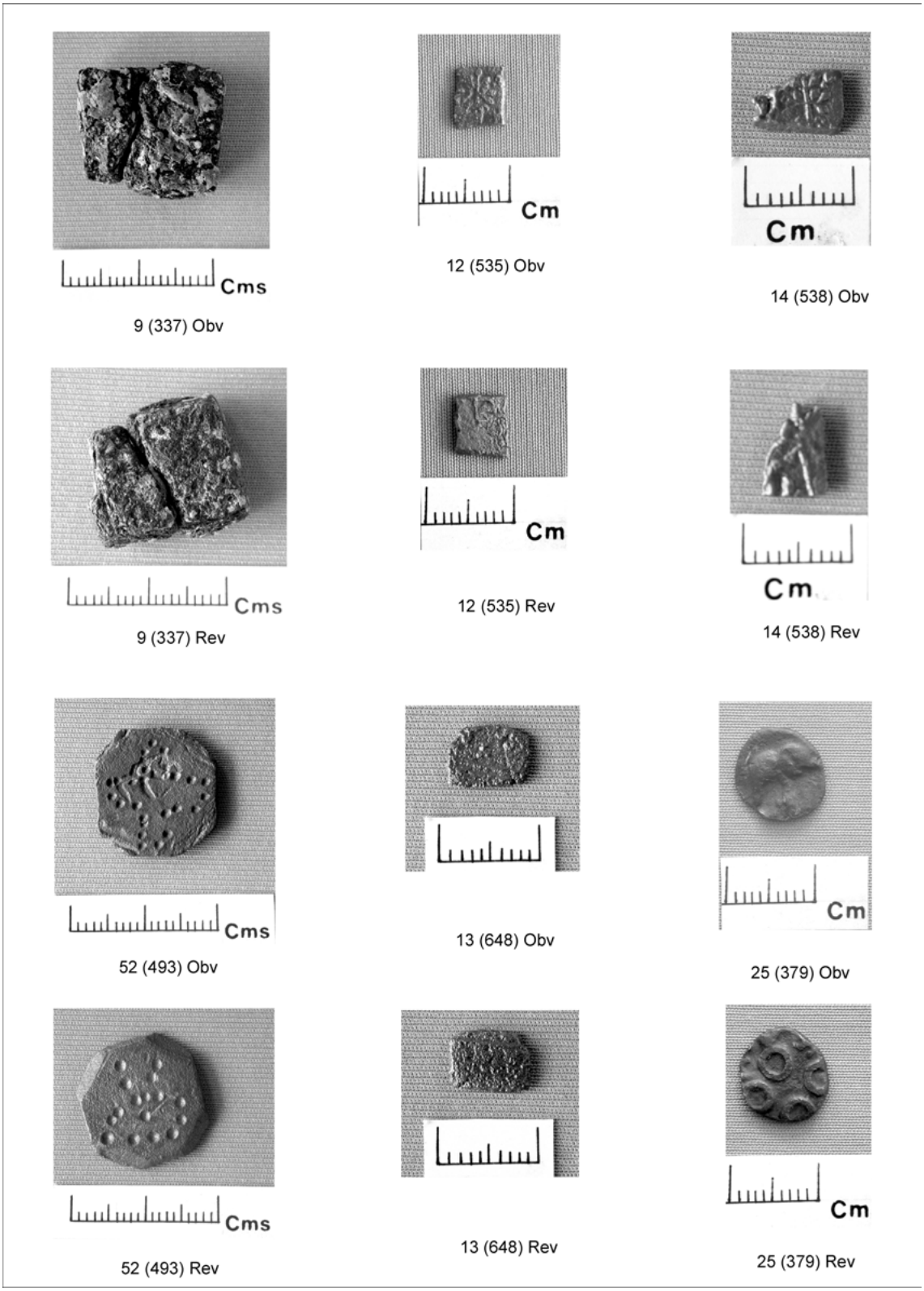

Fig. 9.2: Coins 9 (337), 12 (535), 14 (538), 52 (493), 13 (648) and 25 (379).

Satavahana coins

'Elephant'-type coins in copper

Coin 15. Find No. **724** (Context: 1072), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.3.
Copper, rectangular, worn out.
Size: 0.87 × 0.73 × 0.20 cm, weight: 0.71 g.
Obv: Traces of an elephant facing to right, traces of some indistinct letters above the animal.
Rev: Traces of Ujjain symbol.

Coin 16. Find No. **495** (Context: 700), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, squarish, fragment, corroded, worn out.
Size: (-) × (-) × 0.37 cm, weight: 0.43 g.
Obv: Traces of some indistinct symbol.
Rev: Traces of part of an Ujjain symbol.

Coin 17. Find No. **745** (Context: 1099), Tr. A.
Period 2. Fig. 9.3.
Copper alloy, broken, squarish with greenish patina.
Size: 1.70 × (-) × 0.45 cm, weight: 5.29 g.
Obv: Indistinct symbols and not discernable due to worn out condition and patina.
Rev: Corroded and worn out, however traces of two orbs of an Ujjain symbol are visible.

Coin 18. Find No. **02** (Context: surface), Tr. A.
Surface. Fig. 9.3.
Copper alloy, round, corroded, cracked, worn out.
Size: 1.49×1.50×0.36 cm, weight: 2.02 g.
Obv: Faint traces of an elephant.
Rev: Faint traces of an Ujjain symbol.

Coin 19. Find No. **188** (Context: 435), Tr. A.
Period 4. Fig. 9.3.
Copper alloy, ovalish, slightly worn out.
Size: 1.54 × 1.34 × 0.23 cm, weight: 1.98 g.
Obv: Elephant walking to right, trunk and back partly off the flan, *Shrivatsa* symbol in front above the forelegs and below the mouth, legend along the flan is partly cut off, the extant legend starting at 2 o'clock reads '(PU) TASA SIRISADA (KA)...'
Rev: Tree with five oval leaves was found towards the left side of the reverse of the coin.
Note: This coin belongs to a type markedly oriented to the Nevasa-Paithan region in terms of its distribution (see the discussion at the end of this chapter). The inscription on it can be read as '(PU) TASA SIRISADA (KA)...', leaving out the complete metronymic. Although the full legend is not clear, the coin can be safely attributed to Kosikiputa Siri Satakani, by comparison with published specimens (Chumble 1991: 41–50) and also on the basis of a distinct ancillary symbol, a *Shrivatsa* placed below the mouth of the elephant.

Coin 20. Find No. **57** (Context: 320), Tr. A.
Period 4. Fig. 9.4.
Copper alloy, round, corroded and worn out, cracked.
Size: 1.90 × 0.51 cm, weight: 4.76 g.
Obv: Traces of an elephant facing to right, trunk hanging, swastika (or *Shrivatsa*) above the head of the animal, indistinct letters.
Rev: A series of dots in groups, a crescent like symbol is visible but unidentifiable.

Coin 21. Find No. **55** (Context: 303), Tr. A.
Period 4. Fig. 9.4.
Copper alloy, squarish, slightly broken with greenish patina, corroded.
Size: 1.25 × 1.15 × 0.35 cm, weight: 2.02 g.
Obv: Elephant facing to right, trunk hanging is visible.
Rev: Worn out and traces of indistinct symbols.

Coin 22. Find No. **46** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP–3).
Period 4. Fig. 9.4.
Copper alloy, round with greenish patina, worn out, slightly cracked.
Size: 1.45 × 1.40 × 0.30 cm, weight: 1.47 g.
Obv: Faintly visible elephant facing to right with trunk hanging, enclosed in a dotted circle that is partly visible, legend along the flan is illegible.
Rev: Worn out, nothing can be made out.

Coin 23. Find No. **118** (Context: 513), Tr. A.
Unattributable period.
Copper alloy, round, slightly broken, cracked to the core, worn out.
Size: 1.10 × (-) × 0.21 cm, weight: 0.48 g.
Obv: Indistinct symbols, unidentifiable.
Rev: Indistinct symbols, unidentifiable.

Coin 24. Find No. **390** (Context: 801), Tr. E.
Unattributable period. Fig. 9.4.
Copper alloy, round, slight greenish patina, corroded, worn out.
Size: 1.52 × 1.35 × 0.30 cm, weight: 1.88 g.
Obv: Traces of elephant standing to right, trunk hanging.
Rev: Traces of some indistinct symbols.

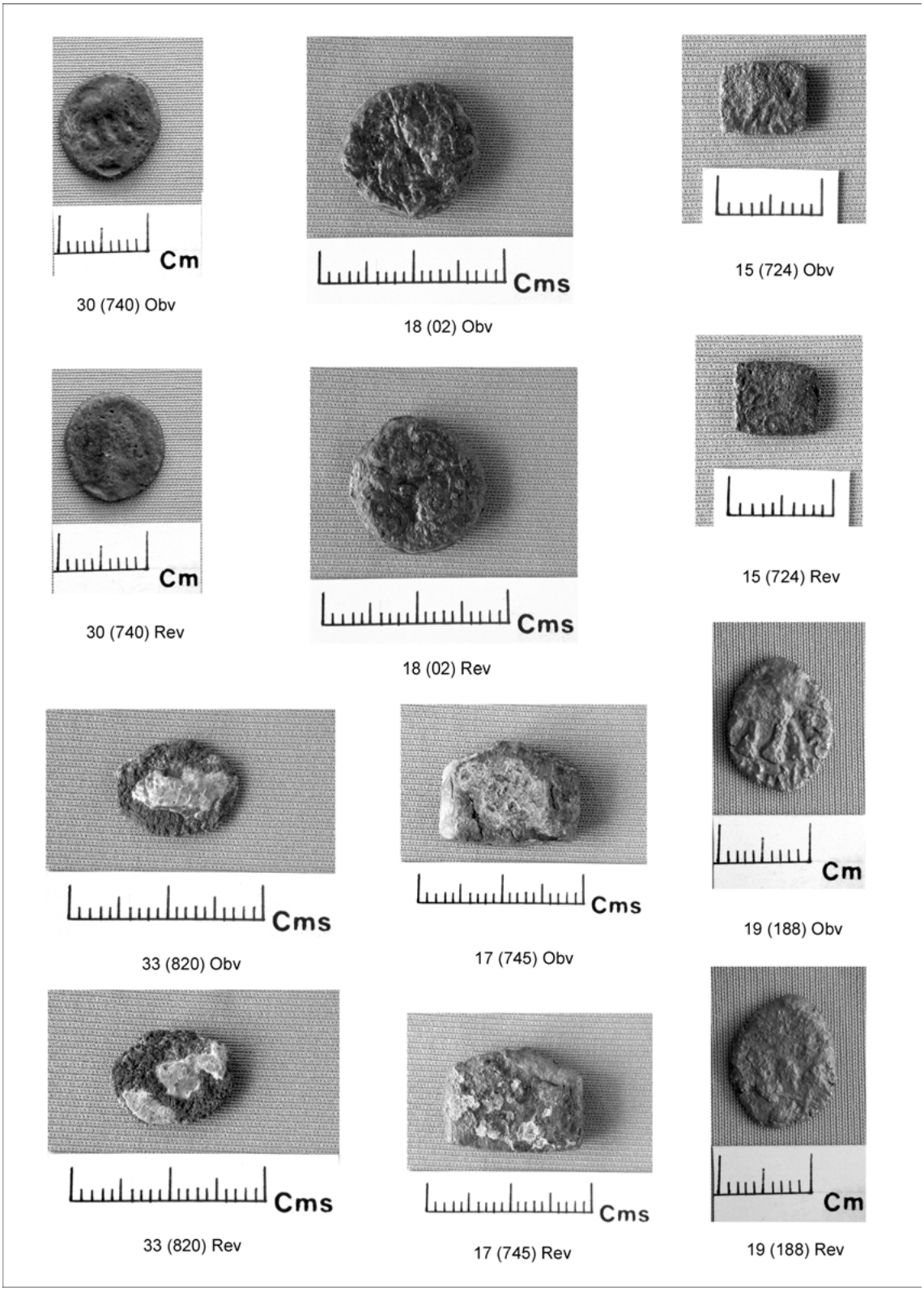

Fig. 9.3: Coins 30 (740), 18 (02), 15 (724), 33 (820), 17 (745) and 19 (188).

'Elephant'-type coins in lead

Coin 25. Find No. **379** (Context: 642), Tr. A.
Period 3. Fig. 9.2.
Lead, roundish, small.
Size: 1.15 × 1.07 × 0.17 cm, weight: 1.21 g.
Obv: Elephant facing to the right, trunk partly cut off, legend along the flan partly cut off and worn out. However, the letter 'sa' is visible below the fore legs.
Rev: Four unconnected circles, one of the circles is surmounted by a crescent and part of a swastika is visible in between the two circles.

Coin 26. Find No. **494** (Context: 650), Tr. A.
Period 3.
Lead, round, broken, worn out.
Size: 1.15 × (-) × 0.20 cm, weight: 0.62 g.
Obv: Traces of an elephant facing to right, legend worn out.
Rev: Ujjain symbol faintly visible.

'Bull'-type coins

Coin 27. Find No. **651** (Context: 993), Tr. A.
Period 3.
Copper alloy, broken, corroded up to core, cracked.
Size: 1.18 (diam.), 0.31 cm, weight: 0.62 g.
Obv: Traces of bull(?).
Rev: Worn out.

Coin 28. Find No. **829** (Context: 1172), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.4.
Copper alloy with lead coating, squarish, tiny, worn out.
Size: 0.60 × 0.55 × 0.17 cm, weight: 0.28 g.
Obv: Traces of humped bull facing right.
Rev: Traces of three-arched hill.
Note: Before conservation this coin was identified as lead rather than copper.

Coin 29. Find No. **492** (Context: 667), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple, Fig. 9.4.
Lead, round, corroded.
Size: 1.45 × 1.37 × 0.27 cm, weight: 2.50 g.
Obv: Humped bull facing to right.
Rev: Corroded and indistinct symbol.

Coin 30. Find No. **740** (Context: 1083), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.3.
Lead, round, thick coin.
Size: 1.30 × 1.20 × 0.22 cm, weight: 2.27 g.
Obv: Bull walking to right, partly visible.
Rev: Faint traces of Ujjain symbol.

Coin 31. Find No. **462** (Context: 666), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.5.
Copper, rectangular.
Size: 1.07 × 0.84 × 0.22 cm, weight: 1.08 g.
Obv: A humped bull with prominent horns walking to left. A symbol comprising of four interconnected circles seen partially above its hump.
Rev: Traces of some indistinct symbols.

'Lion'-type coins

Coin 32. Find No. **120** (Context: 519), Tr. A.
Period 4. Fig. 9.5.
Lead, squarish, thin, worn out.
Size: 1.50 × 1.30 × 0.14 cm, weight: 1.70 g.
Obv: Lion facing to right, fore leg lifted up as if jumping, tail raised up, *triratna* motif above the neck.
Rev: Worn out.

Post-Satavahana coins

Three coins can be dated to the post-Satavahana period, two are from Period 3-temple and one from Period 4.

Coin 33. Find No. **820** (Context: 1161), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.3.
Copper alloy, ovalish, corroded almost up to core, worn out.
Size: 1.30 × 1.00 × 0.23 cm, weight: 0.67 g.
Obv: Legend along the flan is indistinct and illegible.
Rev: Worn out and not discernable.
Note: Possibly a Western Kshatrapa coin.

Coin 34. Find No. **496** (Context: 700), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple. Fig. 9.5.
Copper alloy, round, cracked, one flake peeled off on the obverse, worn out.
Size: 1.60 × 1.55 × 0.20 cm, weight: 1.72 g.
Obv: Some indistinct symbols are found but are unidentifiable due to the flaking of metal and the worn out condition.
Rev: Trident with traces of crude Brahmi characters, enclosed within traces of a dotted border.
Note: For dating and possible attribution see discussion below.

Coin 35. Find No. **29** (Context: 320), Tr. A.
Period 4. Fig. 9.5.
Silver, round, heavily worn out.
Size: 1.64 × 1.60 × 0.20 cm, weight: 3.00 g.
Obv: Bust of a king (?), legend illegible.
Rev: Worn out.
Note: For dating and attribution see discussion below.

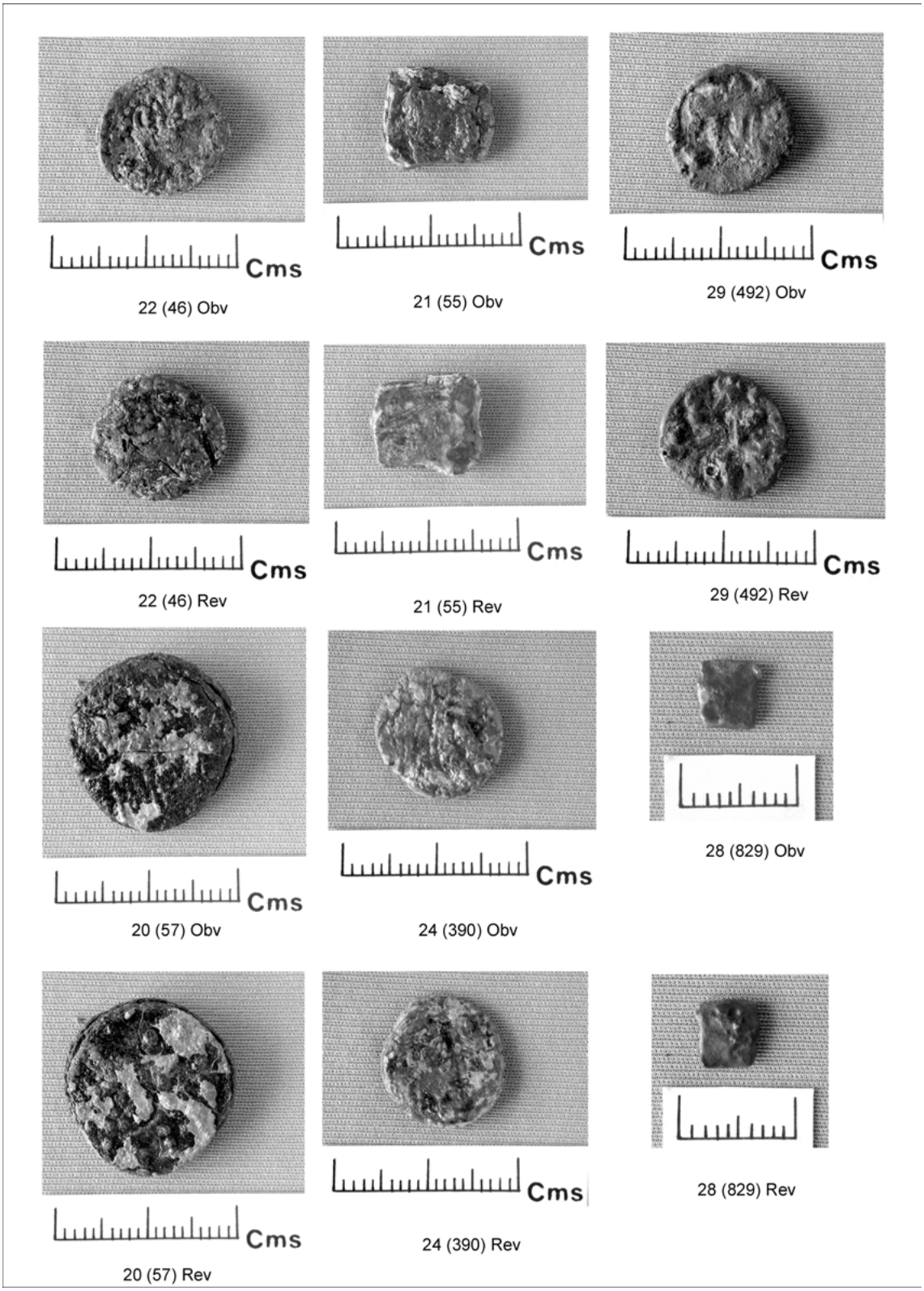

Fig. 9.4: Coins 22 (46), 21 (55), 29 (492), 20 (57), 24 (390) and 28 (829).

Unidentifiable coins

Among the unidentifiable coins, some are complete and others are fragments. These coins cannot be attributed to particular type due to the poor condition, although, to judge by the fabric, many of these coins may be Satavahana.

Coin 36. Find No. **259** (Context: 703), Tr. D2.
Period 2.
Thin fragment of a coin, greenish patina and metal eaten away to core.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 37. Find No. **524** (Context: 921), Tr. A.
Period 3.
Copper alloy, fragment, corroded.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 38. Find No. **819** (Context: 1157), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, ovalish, broken, corroded, worn out, cracked.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.
Note: This was identified as lead before conservation. There was a lead coating, which survives as patches on the copper.

Coin 39. Find No. **796** (Context: 1130), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, thin fragment of a coin.
Obv: Traces of a symbol but indistinct.
Rev: No details visible.

Coin 40. Find No. **649** (Context: 964), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper, squarish, broken and worn out on either side.
Size: 0.83 × 0.81 × 0.17 cm, weight: 0.40 g.
Obv & Rev: Trace of indistinct symbols.
Note: Based on the fabric this coin may be 'tree' type.

Coin 41. Find No. **516** (Context: 918), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, fragment, highly corroded, worn out.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 42. Find No. **497** (Context: 700), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, rectangular, corroded up to the core.
Size: 1.24 × 0.95 × 0.35 cm, weight: 1.54 g.
Obv & Rev: No details visible due to corrosion.

Coin 43. Find No. **580** (Context: 342), Tr. A.
Period 3-temple.
Copper alloy, fragment, highly corroded.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 44. Find No. **424** (Context: 649), Tr. A.
Period 4.
Copper alloy, squarish, half-broken, worn.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 45. Find No. **01** (Context: 303), Tr. A.
Period 4.
Copper alloy, squarish, slightly broken, corroded to the core and worn out.
Size: 1.15 × 1.00 × 0.13 cm, weight: 0.70 g.
Obv & Rev: No details visible due to corrosion.

Coin 46. Find No. **43** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP-3).
Period 4.
Copper alloy, round, corroded and worn out, cracked.
Size: 1.63 × 1.56 × 0.36 cm, weight: 2.61 g.
Obv: Some indistinct animal and letters are visible.
Rev: Indistinct symbols.

Coin 47. Find No. **47** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP-3).
Period 4.
Copper alloy, ovalish with projection, greenish patina, worn out, slightly cracked.
Size: 1.55 × 1.25 × 0.47 cm, weight: 1.65 g.
Obv & Rev: Some indistinct symbols are visible.

Coin 48. Find No. **44** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP-3).
Period 4.
Copper alloy, round, broken, corroded, cracked.
Size: 1.37 × 1.20 × 0.30 cm, weight: 1.59 g.
Obv & Rev: No details visible due to corrosion.

Coin 49. Find No. **836** (Context: 1191), Tr. A.
Unattributable period.
Copper alloy with lead coating, squarish, corroded and worn out.
Size: 0.90 × 0.90 × 0.20 cm, weight: 0.55 g.
Obv & Rev: Indistinct symbols.
Note: Before conservation this coin was identified as lead.

Coin 50. Find No. **837** (Context: 1191), Tr. A.
Unattributable period.
Copper alloy, fragment, corroded.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 51. Find No. **660** (Context: 827), Tr. E.
Unattributable period.
Copper alloy, rectangular, corroded to the core, badly worn out.
Size: 1.55 × 1.33 × 0.20 cm, weight: 1.71 g.
Obv & Rev: No details visible.

Coin 52. Find No. **493** (Context: 451), Tr. B.
Period 2. Fig. 9.2.
Copper alloy, octagonal.

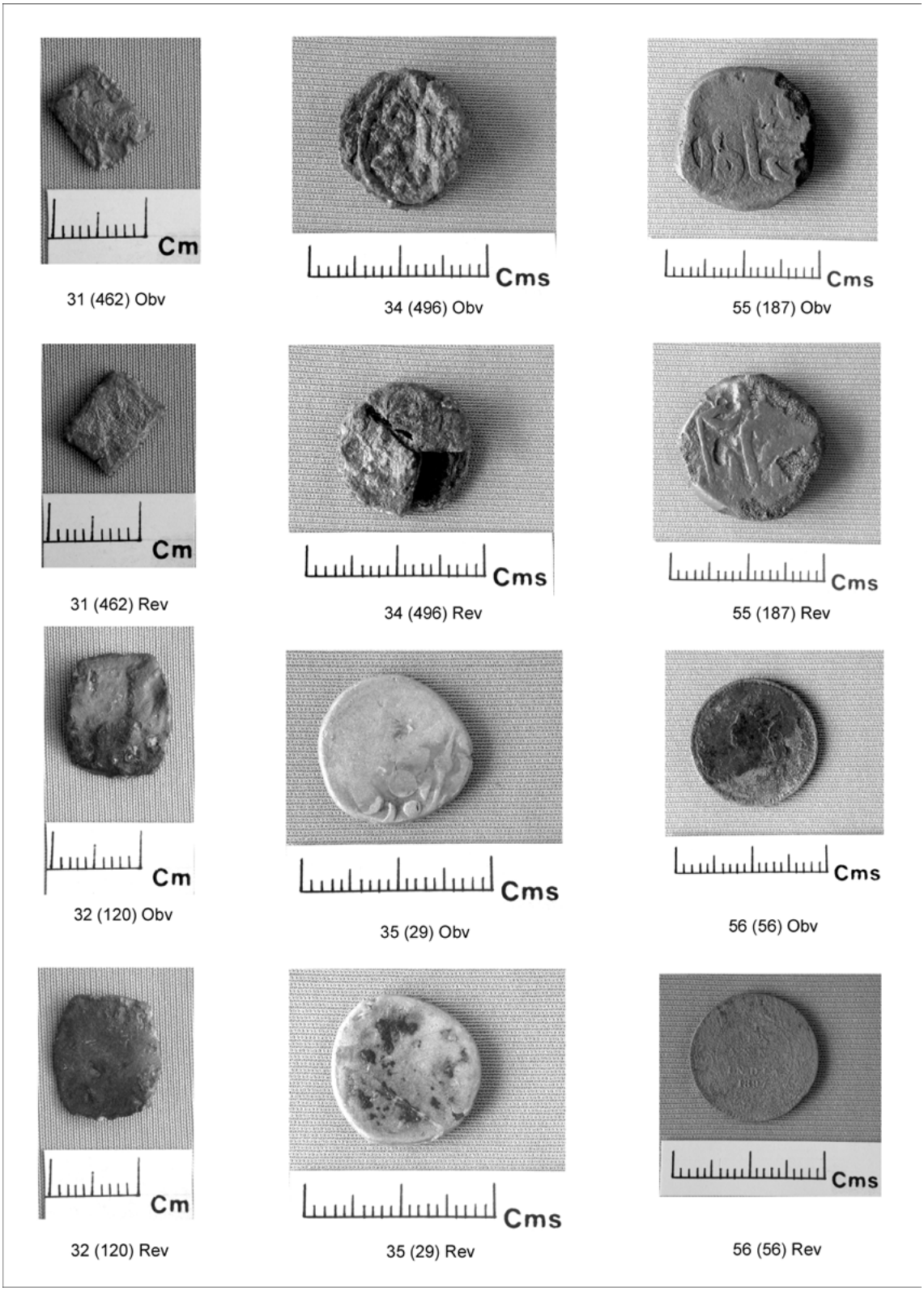

Fig. 9.5: Coins 31 (462), 34 (496), 55 (187), 32 (120), 35 (29) and 56 (56).

Size: 1.77 × 1.69 × 0.23 cm, weight: 4.23 g.
Obv: Hollow cross symbol is executed in incised dots.
Rev: Taurine symbol is executed in incised dots.
Note: This is almost certainly not a coin, but a roughly octagonal metallic object made of copper bearing the hollow cross on one side and a taurine symbol on the other. Both these symbols have been incised using a pointed tool. On the taurine-side, two strikes have resulted in scratches, thus giving an indication for the slipping of the tool while the punches were being struck. The exact purpose of this object is difficult to ascertain, but it is more likely to be intended for a non-monetary use, given the curious method of its manufacture. But the motifs on it are clearly derived from coins.

Islamic coins

Of the three Islamic coins, two were recovered from Period 4 deposits and one from the surface.

Coin 53. Find No. **45** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP–3).
Period 4.
Copper alloy, round, thick, heavily worn out.
Size: 1.72 × 1.58 × 0.30 cm, weight: 4.81 g.
Obv: Traces of Arabic inscription.
Rev: Arabic inscription partly visible.
Note: For attribution see discussion below.

Coin 54. Find No. **141** (Context: surface), Tr. B.
Surface.
Copper alloy, ovalish, thick, heavy, depression at the centre on one of the surfaces, greenish patina, worn out.
Size: 2.06 × 1.95 × 0.45 cm, weight: 10.74 g.
Obv: No details visible.
Rev: Arabic inscription partly visible.
Note: Attributed to Mughals: Aurangzeb (see discussion below).

Coin 55. Find No. **187** (Context: 435), Tr. B.
Period 4. Fig. 9.5.
Copper alloy, squarish, edges slightly cut, worn out.
Size: 1.84 × 1.88 × 0.40 cm, weight: 9.87 g.
Obv: Arabic letters faintly visible.
Rev: Arabic letters faintly visible.
Note: Attributed to the Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golkonda (see discussion below).

British coins

Coin 56. Find No. **56** (Context: 303), Tr. A (TP–3).
Period 4. Fig. 9.5.
Copper alloy, round, thin, worn out.
Size: 1.75 × 1.73 × 0.10 cm, weight: 1.93 g.
Obv: Bust of Queen Victoria facing to left with legend in front.
Rev: 1/12 ana, India, 1897 within a circle encircled by a floral pattern.

Discussion

The occurrence of the coin categories and types by period are shown in Table 9.1. The pattern of occurrence suggests that Period 1 should be dated to the pre-Satavahana period and Period 2 to the Satavahana period, but the dating of Period 3 and Period 3-temple is more complicated. According to the pottery, these two periods are contemporary, but only Period 3-temple levels contain post-Satavahana coins. This may simply be due to statistical chance because post-Satavahana coins are very much rarer and it may be that the greater total number of coins from Period 3-temple deposits has made it more likely that rare coins would be found. It is not therefore clear, on the basis of the coins alone, whether Period 3 should be dated to the Satavahana or post-Satavahana period. Finally, Period 4 can be dated to the Late Medieval and British periods. Table 9.2 shows the occurrence of the main categories of coins as percentages of the total number of coins found in each period. The chronology of the four periods has already been discussed in Chapter 6.

The tables also show high levels of residuality in all periods bar Period 1. In the Period 3-temple deposits, at least 53% of the coins are residual (i.e. all of the pre-Satavahana and Satavahana coins), but this number could be as high as 88% if all of the six unidentified coins were Satavahana or earlier. Were it not for the two post-Satavahana coins that have been found in these deposits, this period might easily have been erroneously dated to the Satavahana period on the basis of the other coins that it has yielded. The deposits of Period 4 also contain very high levels of residual coins. Such high levels of residuality make it clear that the simple presence of large numbers of coins in an excavated layer or period must always be treated with caution when establishing a date. This is especially true in the post-Satavahana period during which time post-Satavahana coins

appear to have been relatively rare, whilst Satavahana coins continued to be deposited, either as part of secondary deposits or because they continued in use.

Pre-Satavahana coins

Silver punch-marked coins of the Magadha-Maurya 'Karshapana' series are noticeably absent, although they do appear to have been found elsewhere at Paithan or in the vicinity (Chapter 11, coins 1 to 7). They are classified as GH VIb-570 (two coins), GH IVd-416 (2 coins), GH VIb-566, GH IVd-456 and GH IVd-450 (GH numbers refer to Gupta and Hardaker 1985). According to the dating scheme proposed by Gupta and Hardaker (1985: 10, table 1), all these coins are dateable to the 'Nanda' and 'Maurya-Sunga' periods, or c. 370–150 BC. Three punch-marked coins are illustrated in Yusuf's excavation reports (Yusuf 1938: pl IXa top; 1939: pl. XXc) but as the picture is of poor quality, nothing more can be said about them, except that they are all rectangular in shape.

The 'hollow cross' coins therefore seem to be the earliest of the coins from the excavations, being the only coins that occur in Period 1 deposits and are also the most common type in Period 2 deposits (Table 9.1).

Yusuf reported 'numerous copper coins' from his excavations at Paithan and his report contains two illustrations; the first, a lump of ten or so coins and the second, a single specimen, which clearly has the hollow cross on it (Yusuf 1938: pl. IXa right, IXb; 1939: pls XXd, e, f). Yusuf, however, identified the hollow cross seen on the solitary coin as a swastika and attributed the coins to the Andhras. He also drew attention to coins with a similar motif found at Taxila by Alexander Cunningham (Yusuf 1939: 42, pl. XXf). He does not make it sufficiently clear whether the coins that are lumped together are of the same type as the solitary specimen, but, to judge by the shape and fabric, it seems very likely that they are. If this is the case, then the reverse of the 'hollow cross' coins would carry a tree-in-railing motif, seen clearly on one of the coins from the lump illustrated by Yusuf. This tree-in-railing motif, which Yusuf identified as a Bodhi tree (Yusuf 1939: 42, pl. XXd), is flanked by a taurine symbol on its left.

Taking a broader perspective, 'hollow cross'-type coins have been found in the excavations at Adam (Nath 1993: 20–21). They have also been reported along a Vidarbha-Telingana regional axis, lying to the east of the Marathwada region, wherein Paithan is located (Maheshwari 1977: 4–7, coins 7–10; Todywalla/Hurmuz Kaus 2004: lots 11a–c). These are generally dated to between 200 and 150 BC (Maheshwari 1977). But there are significant differences between the Paithan and the Vidarbha-Telingana coins. Firstly, the Paithan specimens are square or irregular, whereas most of the others are round. Secondly, most other specimens of this type are cast copper coins, whereas even though the condition of the Paithan specimens is too poor to allow any firm conclusions as to how they were manufactured, from their appearance it seems very probable that they are die-struck. The prevalence of die-struck square coins of this type at Paithan may suggest the existence of a contemporary regional sub-series of uninscribed post-Mauryan copper coinage in Marathwada.

Apart from the 'hollow cross'-type coins, the other coins of a possibly pre-Satavahana date to be found at Paithan belong to the 'tree' type. In fabric and weight, they conform to a genre of post-Mauryan coins, widely recognized as 'Ujjain' coins and encountered at Maheshwar and Prakash (Sankalia *et al*. 1958: 73–74; Thapar 1967: 130, pl. XXVII-C 1, 3). They are gener-

Table 9.2: Occurrence of coins by period as an approximate percentage of the total number of coins found in each period.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 3-temple	Period 4
Pre-Satavahana	100%	40%	20%	18%	
Satavahana		20%	60%	35%	36%
Post-Satavahana				12%	7%
Unidentified		40%	20%	35%	36%
Late Med/Islamic					14%
British					7%
Total coins	**8**	**5**	**5**	**17**	**14**

ally dated to between 200 and 100 BC (Bopearachchi and Pieper 1998: 21–22). Similar coins, but of different types, have also been found in the excavations at Bhokardan (Deo and Gupte 1974: 63–65). It cannot be said with certainty whether the Paithan coins belong to a distinct regional series of uninscribed die-struck copper coins of the post-Mauryan period.

Satavahana coins

Amongst the coins classified as belonging to the 'elephant' type, the most common at Paithan is one that occurs specifically in the Newasa-Paithan-Bhokardan region and which occurs from Period 2 onwards in the Paithan sequence (see Table 9.1). The type may be described as follows:

- Obverse: The obverse has an elephant walking to the right with an upraised trunk. It also has a legend inscribed in exergue, usually beginning at 7 o'clock, with the word *Rajno* followed in order by the metronymic, the ruler's first name and the dynastic appellation, usually ending below the feet of the elephant. A symbol composed of four circles touching each other tangentially, with one modified with a crescent, rests above the elephant's back. Variations include the presence of a *Shrivatsa* symbol below the elephant's mouth.
- Reverse: The reverse has a tree with (usually) five broad leaves, flanked by symbols such as *Shrivatsa* and the *Nandipada*. Prominent variations include the way the leaves emanate out from the stem and the arrangement of ancillary symbols.

Coins 18, 20, 19 and 33 belong to this type. Additionally, coins 22 and 24 may be included, but, as they are in a bad condition, this attribution is tentative. Coin 19 is the only coin of this type that bears any legible inscription. As described in the catalogue, it is most probably an issue of the Satavahana king Kosikiputa Siri Satakani. Coins of this particular regio-specific type have only been encountered in significant numbers in the Nevasa and Bhokardan excavations (Deo and Gupte 1974: 40–49; Sarma 1980: 200–202, 204). There are also two coins of this type amongst the specimens preserved in the Balasaheb Patil Collection (Chapter 11, coins 10 and 11).

Coins 25 and 26 can also be categorized as 'elephant'-type coins, but judging by type characteristics, they belong to a later chronological horizon. Coin 25 appears to be a smaller denomination of lead coins exemplified by the Wategaon hoard, which included coins of Vasithiputa Siri Pulumavi and his successors (Mirashi 1972). Coin 26 is a small denomination of the universal 'elephant × Ujjain symbol' type in potin, which was struck by Satavahana kings post-Gautamiputa Siri Satakani (Sarma 1980: 97–104).

The 'bull' type Satavahana coins found at Paithan belong to two distinct varieties. The first, which is represented by coin 31, has the bull walking to the left with a symbol, similar to that seen above the back of the elephant in the regio-specific type just described, placed above its hump. Similar coins, with the bull walking to the right, have been published bearing legends attributing them to the Satavahana ruler Kochhiputa Siri Satakani (Maheshwari 1979). Coins with legends referring to the generic 'Satavahana' name are also known (Jha and Chumble 2003/4: type 6). It is likely that coin 31 is an uninscribed smaller denomination of the inscribed coins already published and, as such, is to be dated to the pre-Gotamiputa period. The second, represented by coins 29 and 30, may date somewhat later despite retaining a regio-specific orientation to Nevasa-Paithan. These coins are of lead and are anepigraphic. Exactly similar coins have been found at Bhokardan (Deo and Gupte 1974: 26–27, pl. XVI–11,12). Two similar coins have also been reported as having a 'Western India' provenance in the British Museum Catalogue of Satavahana coins (Rapson 1908: 54, no. 219 and 56, no. 232). Both are from the collection of Pt. Bhagwanlal Indraji (cf. Sarma 1980: 170–171).

Two more Satavahana coins, of an anepigraphic variety, were found amongst those excavated. One of them, coin 32, is a lead coin of the 'leaping lion × tree' type. Similar coins were found in the Nevasa excavations (Sarma 1980: 187). Coin 15 belongs to the 'tree × Ujjain symbol' type. Some coins of this type are known from the Bhokardan excavations (Deo and Gupte 1974: 50–52). Some others appear to have been counterstruck by the Kshaharata Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana with his dynastic emblem (Jha and Rajgor 1994: 105–106, nos. 159–161), and the undertype can therefore be safely dated to the mid-1st century AD.

From a chronological perspective, all of the identifiable Satavahana coins at Paithan can be dated to the immediate pre- and post-Gotamiputa Satakani period, that is to say from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD based on the dates proposed for this ruler (Cribb 1992: 132–136). Specifically, the earliest coin is probably coin 31 and the latest is coin 26, both of which have been discussed above. It is noteworthy that no coins that can be attributed conclusively to Gotamiputa

Siri Satakani were found although the Balasaheb Patil Collection is known to include one silver coin of Nahapana (c. AD 33–78) counterstruck by Gotamiputa, of a variety that is found in the Jogalthembi Hoard (Scott 1908; Chapter 11, coin 14). The Patil collection also includes two silver portrait coins of Satavahana rulers Vasithiputa Siri Pulumavi and Gotamiputa Siri Yana Satakani (Chapter 11, coins 12 and 13). A fragment of a silver coin of Vasithiputa Siva Siri Pulumavi has also been reportedly found at Paithan (Dhopate 2004: 51, coin 1).

Post-Satavahana coins

The post-Satavahana to Early Medieval period at Paithan is represented by very few coins. Coins of the Western Kshatrapas are not represented amongst those excavated, except for a fragment, coin 33, which can only tentatively be attributed to one of these rulers and should therefore be datable to the 2nd to 4th century AD. A few Western Kshatrapa specimens exist in the Patil collection (Chapter 11). Three coins, struck in the name of Kumara Gupta (c. AD 415–455), but belonging to the posthumous debased series, are also known from the Patil collection (Chapter 11, coins 15, 16, 17). Amongst the excavated finds presented here, coin 34 is particularly noteworthy. This coin is in a bad state of preservation, but distinct traces of a trident symbol surrounded by crude Brahmi letters and a circular border of interrupted dots are apparent. These aspects help us tentatively to identify it as a degraded copy of the silver coins of the Sarvva-Bhattaraka and Maitraka dynasties of peninsular Gujarat. The dating of these coins with reference to the Gupta conquest of Gujarat and from the analytical perspective of 'type vis-à-vis metallic degradation' has recently been discussed in some detail (Maheshwari and Rath 1996: 190–194; Maheshwari and Rath 1998: 310–311; Bhandare 2006: 98–100). If we accept the chronological schema outlined in these contributions, the extent of deterioration in type characteristics might suggest that the Paithan specimen dates to about the 7th century AD. Degraded Maitraka coins of a similar type have also been illustrated by Mitchiner (1978: 609, nos. 4897–98).

Another Early Medieval coin, this time found in Period 4 layers, is coin 35, which belongs to the 'Sri Vigra' variety of the 'Indo-Sasanian' genre of debased silver 'Dramma' coins. These coins bear the abbreviated form of the name 'Vigrahapala' and are referred to in many north Indian inscriptions as *Vigrahapaliya Drammas*. It is uncertain who struck them, but Deyell believes they were struck prior to the mid-9th century AD and gives a scheme of the distribution of their finds in the Gangetic Plains (Deyell 1990: 262–268). The Patil collection includes one more 'Indo-Sasanian' coin, belonging to the 'Gadhaiya Paisa' series. This coin, as is evident from its wide flan and visibly high silver content, dates to an early period (c. 9th–10th century AD) in the scheme of the evolution of the series (Deyell 1990: 115–123; Chapter 11, coin 18).

Late Medieval and Islamic coins

Late Medieval and Islamic coins are represented in the excavated finds by only three specimens: one attributed to the Bahmani Sultans of Gulbarga (coin 53), one to the Mughal Empire (coin 54) and the third to the Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golkonda (coin 55). The Bahmani coin was struck during the rule of Ahmed Shah II, who is also known as 'Wali' (AD 1435–1457), a noted patron of Sufism during whose reign Khuldabad and Daulatabad, both located in the vicinity of Paithan, flourished as centres of Sufi worship. The coin (Goron and Goenka 2001: type BH88) has Arabic inscriptions on both sides alluding to the Sultan's political and religious prowess. The Mughal coin can be attributed to the Emperor Aurangzeb (AD 1658–1707) and is a copper *Fulus* struck at the mint of Surat. This is evident from remnants of the reverse inscription (the Persian letter 'Te' clearly seen below parts of the word *Sanah*, referring to the emperor's regnal year). The Qutb Shahi coin bears the inscription *Khatama b'il-Khair wa al-Sa'adat* and is anonymous. It also gives the mint name on the reverse as *Darb Dar al-Saltanat Haidarabad*. Coins of this type (Goron and Goenka 2001: type Q73) were struck during the reigns of the last two Sultans, namely Abdullah and Abu'l Hasan Qutb Shah (AD 1626–1672 and AD 1672–1684, respectively).

The latest coin amongst the excavated finds is a 1/12th Anna of British India of 1897, bearing the effigy of Queen Victoria.

The low numbers of Late Medieval and Islamic coins that were found in the excavations are probably due to the fact that very few layers of this period were excavated during the course of the four seasons of fieldwork.

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Appendix 9.1
Coin Deposition in the Temple Foundation Deposits and Coin Residuality

As has been shown above, 39 coins were recovered from Trench A, 18 of which came from temple foundation deposits, 14 from the South Temple and 4 from the North Temple (Table 9.3). The fact that so many of the coins found in Trench A come from the foundation deposits raises the possibility that these coins may have been deliberately added to the foundations during construction of the temples.

However, it is not simple to demonstrate this because a far greater amount of earth was excavated from the temple foundation deposits than from any other type of deposit in Trench A, and this may explain the high number of coins from the foundations. Obviously, the number of coins needs to be considered in relation to the quantity of earth excavated if an accurate impression is to be gained of the relative pattern of coin deposition.

In order to investigate this, the amount of excavated earth was calculated for a sample of 15 period-sequences from trenches and test pits across the site, including two from foundation deposits. This data allows the density of coins per cubic metre to be compared. The number of sherds was also recorded so that comparisons of the ratio of coins to pottery sherds could also be made from the same period-sequences. A 'period-sequence' is the sequence of layers from a particular period in a particular trench.

Table 9.3: The coins from Trench A summarized by period.

Period	Total coins	% of Trench A coins
Unphased	3	7.7%
1	1	2.6%
2	1	2.6%
3	4	10.3%
3-temple	18	46.2%
4	12	30.8%
Total	39	

This data and the calculation of coins per cubic metre, sherds per cubic metre and the ratio of coins to sherds are presented in Tables 9.4 and 9.5.

On the basis of this analysis, it is possible to make the following observations: (1) the two Period 3-temple assemblages are at the higher end of the range of coins per cubic metre; (2) the two Period 3-temple assemblages are at the middle to lower end of the range of sherds per cubic metre; (3) the two Period 3-temple assemblages are at the lower end of the range of ratios of coins to sherds (Fig. 9.6) and (4) the two Period 3-temple assemblages are close or adjacent to each other in each of the three rankings in Table 9.5.

Table 9.4: The number of coins, sherds and the amount of earth excavated from a sample of period-sequences from across the site (Trench A Test Pit 1 (TP1): Periods 1–4; Trench B (TrB): Periods 1, 2 and 4; Trench D1 (TrD1): Period 1; Trench D2 (TrD2): Periods 1 and 2; Trench F (TrF): Periods 1, 2 and 3; Trench A Garbha Griha of the North Temple (GGN): Period 3-temple; and Trench A Test Pit 5 (TP5): Period 3-temple).

	Period	Coins	Sherds	Cubic metres
TrB-1	1	5	10,602	5.15
TrB-2	2	1	2,646	4.11
TrB-4	4	2	15,832	16.64
TP5-3T	3T	8	10,184	8.60
TrF-1	1	0	5,787	1.49
TrF-2	2	0	6,423	4.46
TrF-3	3	0	1,286	3.53
TrD1-1	1	2	6,772	3.53
TrD2-1	1	0	7,658	2.54
TrD2-2	2	3	4,382	4.92
TP1-1	1	1	3,500	0.32
TP1-2	2	1	17,516	4.19
TP1-3	3	2	6,263	2.42
TP1-4	4	0	837	2.02
GGN-3T	3T	2	3,088	2.45

These observations suggest that the Period 3-temple deposits have closely related depositional histories. Whilst they both contain below-average amounts of anthropogenic material more generally (as indicated by the low amount of sherds per cubic metre), they both contain a higher-than-average ratio of coins per cubic metre. This is clearly reflected in the fact that they have amongst the highest ratios of coins to sherds at the site and, perhaps most importantly, a much higher ratio of coins to cubic metre than Period 3 deposits generally (Fig. 9.6).

Some of the coins in the temple foundation deposits almost certainly found their way into these layers accidentally, along with redeposited earth containing older, anthropogenic material from elsewhere at the site. However, the analysis presented here strongly suggests that a significant proportion of the coins in the temple foundation deposits were deliberately added to those deposits at the time the temples were being constructed, possibly as part of a formal or informal ritual.

Table 9.5: Coins per cubic metre, sherds per cubic metre and the ratio of coins to sherds from a sample of period-sequences from across the site (based on the data in Table 9.4). The period-sequences from the temple deposits are indicated in bold.

	Coins per m^3		Sherds per m^3		Sherds per coin
TP1–1	3.13	TP1–1	10,938	**TP5–3T**	**1,273**
TrB–1	0.97	TP1–2	4,180	TrD2–2	1,461
TP5–3T	**0.93**	TrF–1	3,884	**GGN–3T**	**1,544**
TP1–3	0.83	TrD2–1	3,015	TrB–1	2,120
GGN–3T	**0.82**	TP1–3	2,588	TrB–2	2,646
TrD2–2	0.61	TrB–1	2,059	TP1–3	3,132
TrD1–1	0.57	TrD1–1	1,918	TrD1–1	3,386
TrB–2	0.24	TrF–2	1,440	TP1–1	3,500
TP1–2	0.24	**GGN–3T**	**1,260**	TrB–4	7,916
TrB–4	0.12	**TP5–3T**	**1,184**	TP1–2	17,516
TrF–1	0.00	TrB–4	951	TrF–1	-
TrF–2	0.00	TrD2–2	891	TrF–2	-
TrF–3	0.00	TrB–2	644	TrF–3	-
TrD2–1	0.00	TP1–4	414	TrD2–1	-
TP1–4	0.00	TrF–3	364	TP1–4	-

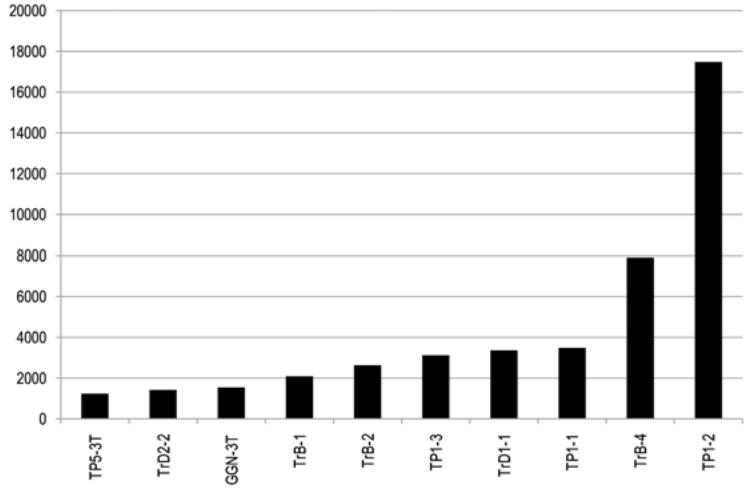

Fig. 9.6: Rank analysis of the ratio of coins to sherds from a sample of period-sequences from across the site. The two Period 3-temple period-sequences (TP5-3T and GGN-3T) are at the lower end of the range.

This provides useful insights into two things: firstly the practice of deliberately depositing coins in temple foundation deposits during temple construction and secondly the type of coins that were in circulation at the time the temples were constructed. Amongst the 18 coins from the temple foundations, three are pre-Satavahana, seven are Satavahana and six are unidentifiable due to their poor a state of preservation. In addition, there are two post-Satavahana coins, both from the South Temple deposits. One may be a fragment of a Western Kshatrapa coin datable to 2nd to the 4th century AD (No. 33), and the second a degraded copy of the silver coins of the Sarvva-Bhattaraka and Maitraka dynasties, which can be dated to the 7th century (No. 34). The latter coin provides an important *terminus post quem* for the construction of the South Temple. If most of the unidentified coins mentioned above are of Satavahana date – as is supposed on the basis of their size, shape and fabric – this indicates that a significant proportion of the coins that were put into the foundation deposits when the temples were constructed were Satavahana coins that were already several hundred years old. This adds weight to a suggestion that has already been made by other scholars based on different evidence that Satavahana coins continued to circulate widely into much later periods (e.g. Shastri 1992: 142 n. 23, 144).

Apart from being of considerable interest for the political and economic history of the Late Historic/Early Medieval period, this conclusion has profound implications for the dating of archaeological layers that may have been attributed to the Satavahana period by excavators on the basis of the coins contained within them, but which may in fact have been deposited much later.