

Chapter 10

Summary of the Finds from the 1996 and 1997 Excavations

The excavations carried out during the 1996 and 1997 seasons in Trench C yielded a number of small finds that were stored in the office of the Aurangabad Circle of the ASI. Because these excavations were carried out according to a different methodology and because detailed trench reports and a site matrix are not available, a study of these finds is not included in this publication. However, based on a list of small finds made during the 1997 season, the finds can be categorised into coins, beads, ear-studs, pendants of various materials, hair pins, points of bone and ivory, household objects of stone, terracotta, iron etc., toy objects such as marbles, discs, hopscotch, toy wheels, toys, bangles and rings etc.

A total of 91 coins were recorded during the 1996–1997 seasons, including 18 coins from the surface; two of them are lead, the rest being copper alloy. Most of the copper coins are badly corroded and encrusted, and sometimes, they are cracked and flaked. The copper coins exhibit different shapes and are found in different sizes, whilst some are thick and squarish or rectangular in shape. A few round or ovalish coins are also found. Although corroded and cracked, some of the squarish coins (Field Nos. 480, 500, 774 and 849) are decorated with a hollow cross symbol on the obverse and a blank reverse. The fabric, the shape, the condition and the symbols on the obverse compare well with the coins obtained from Period 1 of the 1998 and 1999 seasons, which belong to the post-Mauryan but pre-Satavahana period. A small, squarish copper coin (Field No. 429) has an Ujjain symbol, a sun and an arched hill on one side and is blank on the other side.

Some of the coins bear symbols like elephants, horses and possibly lions. One of the ovalish copper alloy coins from the surface (Field No. 425) has an elephant facing right, trunk uplifted with the extant legend ‘...MAVISA’ on the obverse and a tree with big leaves in a railing on the reverse. This certainly belongs to one of the Pulumavi’s of the Satavahana period. A similar reverse symbol is found on one large lead coin (Field No. 282), which has an indistinct and

illegible symbol on the obverse. Due to the bad condition of the obverse, it cannot be attributed to a particular king, although it clearly belongs to the Satavahana period. There are also round copper alloy coins (Field Nos. 225, 361 and 375), which have an elephant on the obverse and a Ujjain symbol on the reverse. Another round coin (Field No. 455) from the surface contains a horse on the obverse and a crude representation of a bow and arrow. Mention may also be made of a terracotta seal obtained from the excavation, which has the reverse motif of a thunderbolt and arrow and which can be attributed to the Kshatrapas. Two copper coins that were obtained from the surface belong to the Islamic period. In summary, the coin collection of the 1996–1997 seasons contains coins belonging to the post-Mauryan, Satavahana and Kshatrapa periods in addition to two coins of the Muslim period.

Other small finds were also found during the excavations, beads being the most frequent. They occur in various shapes and sizes and are made of materials such as carnelian, agate, chalcedony, jasper, crystal, glass, paste, shell and terracotta. The carnelian beads exhibit spherical, barrel-faceted, bicone barrel, pentagon cylinder and disc shapes. One of the spherical beads has etched decoration. Crystal beads are also spherical, barrel, faceted, barrel-eared and disc shaped. Both banded and plain agate beads were found in small quantities with long cylinder, barrel and disc shapes. Barrel-faceted beads of garnet and almond-shaped chalcedony were also found, as well as rectangular and spherical beads of jasper. Among the shell beads, spherical, cylindrical, barrel-eared and disc shapes were recorded. A few paste beads of the barrel-eared variety were also found. Spherical beads of chert and rectangular and oblong-shaped beads of lapis lazuli were also present. Glass and terracotta beads are also very common. The shapes noted in glass are spherical, short cylinder truncated, barrel-eared, bicone and a bird shape. Arecanut is a predominant shape amongst the terracotta beads. The other shapes in terracotta are globular, squat globular, hemispherical, conical

with flat shaped, bicone, long cylindrical, rectangular eared and grooved, flat based with conical profile, barrel and bell shaped. Pulley-shaped ear-studs and flat-based pendants with a conical profile were found in small numbers.

Small cylinders used as stoppers, skin rubbers with a herringbone pattern and cylindrical ceramic weights were also recorded. A number of pottery discs, hopscotch discs, toy wheels, spindle whorls and toys are the play objects found at the site. Among the bone objects, mention may be made of pins, double-ended points, discs, carved bangles and a stand with a knob-like design.

Broken elephant and bird-like terracotta objects, a plaque fragment of a god and a kaolin fragment were also found. A few bangles of terracotta and glass, along with a few finger-rings, were noticed.

Among the iron objects, nails predominate, a total of 96 being found, and occur in different sizes. These are mostly broken, corroded and encrusted. Other iron objects include tanged, thick arrowheads, needles, chisels and blades of knives.