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## The Kech-Makran region in Protohistoric Times

Aurore Didier, Benjamin Mutin

► **To cite this version:**

Aurore Didier, Benjamin Mutin. The Kech-Makran region in Protohistoric Times. Ute Franke; Elisa Cortesi. Lost and Found. Prehistoric Pottery Treasures from Baluchistan, SMB, pp.297-333, 2015, 978-3-00-051309-1. halshs-02978585

**HAL Id: halshs-02978585**

**<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-02978585>**

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The rich cultural heritage of Baluchistan is well-known for its craftsmanship and beauty. The sheer amount of objects on the art market is a sad message about the loss of this legacy. The outstanding collection of several hundred vessels confiscated by the Pakistani customs in the port of Karachi provides a glimpse into this amazing past and underlines the need to protect its treasures from being lost.

The objects were documented and restored in the National Museum of Pakistan in Karachi by a Pakistani-German team, supported by funds from the Cultural Preservation Program of the German Federal Foreign Office.

Lost and Found – Prehistoric Pottery Treasures from Baluchistan

# Lost and Found

Prehistoric Pottery Treasures from Baluchistan



cover Pottery from Baluchistan,  
4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium BCE  
Fotos Elisa Cortesi  
Layout Ina Beyer, Hans D. Beyer

print **MARKINGS**

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# Lost and Found

Dedicated to

the memory of

Jean-François Jarrige †

Roland Besenval †

and the people of Baluchistan

© Museum of Islamic Art  
Pergamon Museum  
Am Kupfergraben 5  
10117 Berlin

ISBN 978-3-00-051309-1

[www.smb.museum](http://www.smb.museum)

# Lost and Found

Prehistoric Pottery Treasures from Baluchistan

edited by Ute Franke and Elisa Cortesi

2015

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*Rainer Schmiedchen*

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# The Kech Makran Region in Protohistoric Times

*Aurore Didier and Benjamin Mutin*

For a long time, the Kech-Makran region in southwestern Pakistan was primarily known from Greek texts as the territory of ancient Gedrosia and the land of the *ichthyophagous* people ('fish-eaters'), a territory that was crossed by Alexander the Great in 325 BCE, when he returned from the Indus Valley. Kech-Makran has long been considered a no man's land on the archaeological map of the Indo-Iranian borderlands, even after Sir A. Stein had conducted a one-month archaeological fieldwork (a large trench at Shahi-Tump and surveys) in 1928 in this region.<sup>1</sup> This fieldwork for the first time brought to light the important cultural heritage of this region, particularly vestiges dating to the protohistoric period. However, despite more intensive research after World War II in Pakistan and its neighbouring regions, Kech-Makran remained little investigated until a new and more comprehensive archaeological program was established by R. Besenval in the late 1980s. This program, the 'French Archaeological Mission in Makran', was a cooperative venture of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France and the Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan (DOAM). It was also strongly supported by the local population in Kech-Makran, who showed great interest in preserving the cultural heritage of the region and provided important logistical support. The research program lasted for twenty years, from 1987 to 2007, and filled a significant knowledge gap about ancient cultures

and environment in southwestern Pakistan.<sup>2</sup> In particular, it has revealed that the Chalcolithic and Bronze-Age cultures of this region were rich in their material culture and dynamic in their interactions also with southeastern Iran, the Indus Valley, and the Oman Peninsula. The objectives of the mission were to establish a chrono-cultural sequence of the region and its archaeological map and to study its protohistoric population in greater detail, particularly in the present districts of Turbat and Gwadar. The first phase of the mission's program consisted of an extensive exploration of these areas and resulted in the discovery of more than 230 archaeological sites.<sup>3</sup> The site of Miri Qalat (Figs. 11.1; 2), located 6 km north-west of Turbat on the right bank of the Kech River, was then selected for excavation in the second phase (1990–1996), for the reason that the archaeological materials collected at the surface of this site had shown that it had been occupied for a long period of time. Besenval thought that excavating at this site would provide important data for the establishment of a chrono-cultural sequence of Kech-Makran.<sup>4</sup> The results of this excavation confirmed this hypothesis. The site was occupied from the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium (Period I) to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE (Period IV). After a gap during the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE, the site was re-occupied from the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE

1 Stein 1931.

2 Besenval / Sanlaville 1990; Besenval 1992; 1997a; 1997b; 2000; 2005; 2011.

3 Besenval / Sanlaville 1990; Besenval 1992; 1997a; Didier 2013, 43, 63–64.

4 Besenval 1992; 1997a, 1997b; 2000.



Fig. 11.1  
The site of Miri Qalat  
in the Kech Valley



Fig. 11.2  
Excavations in Trench I  
at Miri Qalat



Fig. 11.3  
The site of Shahi-Tump  
in the Kech Valley

(Period V) to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries CE (Period VIIIc). The site of Shahi-Tump (Figs. 11.3; 4), located 3 km south of Miri Qalat on the left bank of the Kech River, was then excavated (1997–2006) and provided more abundant and more detailed data on the settlements and material culture of the earliest periods identified at Miri Qalat, which date from the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium to the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE (Periods I to III).<sup>5</sup> Numerous data, documenting the ancient environment and food economy in Kech-Makran, were collected and analysed on the basis of different approaches: archaeo-botanical and archaeo-zoological analyses<sup>6</sup>, a specific study of the coast which included an analysis of the past exploitation of its resources and ethnographic observations of fishery activities<sup>7</sup>, and a palaeo-geographical



Fig. 11.4  
Excavation of grave 159  
at Shahi-Tump

5 Besenval 2000; 2005; 2011; Besenval et al. 2005.

6 Tengberg 1999; Desse et al. 2009.

7 Desse / Desse-Berset 2005.



Fig. 11.5  
Shahi-Tump, Trench I  
architecture dating to  
Period I (end of the  
5<sup>th</sup> mill. BCE ?)

reconstruction of the ancient terrain, land, rivers, and coastline of the region through a geomatic approach.<sup>8</sup> Lastly, looting became increasingly frequent in 2003 and 2004, and destroyed most of the numerous protohistoric graveyards located in the Dasht Plain, south of the Kech River. The mission saved many archaeological ceramics in this area.<sup>9</sup> This exhibition catalogue, however, with about 40 ceramics most likely from Kech-Makran, reflects the large impact of looting in this region. Archaeological fieldwork of the mission stopped after 2007, as the area became instable then. The abundant archaeological data-archives, drawings, and photographs – collected by the mission are still evaluated. The text below is meant to provide an overview of the ancient occupation in Kech-Makran. It is based on the various contributions (publications, reports, and PhD dissertations) by the members

of the French Archaeological Mission in Makran, including Roland Besenval †, Cécile Buquet, Jean Desse, Nathalie Desse-Berset, Aurore Didier, Vincent Marcon, Benjamin Mutin, and Margareta Tengberg.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Millennium BCE

The earliest traces of human occupation identified in Kech-Makran date to the late 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE and correspond to Period I, which was first observed in the deep level of Excavation III at Miri Qalat. It was then more extensively studied at Shahi-Tump in the course of Excavations I and III.<sup>10</sup> The remains of circular hut-basements, built with perishable material and containing rare flints and animal bones, were excavated at the bottom of the trenches at this site. It is unclear, whether this occupation corresponds to permanent or temporary settlement. The next archaeological level consists of a large and massive quadrangular stone building (Fig. 11.5). The objects collected in these architectural levels include flints, worked stones, and some bone tools along with faunal and botanical remains. No ceramics were found in these levels; this is quite unusual in the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE in Iran and Pakistan, where ceramics are usually found in large numbers. In Period I the communities in the Kech Valley cultivated cereal crops (wheat and barley) and leguminous plants (lentils, *fabaceae*), collected fruit (jujube), and domesticated cattle (*bos taurus*), goats, and sheep. Fish bones were also found, which indicate an exploitation or exchange of resources from the Oman Sea.<sup>11</sup>

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium BCE

Following Period I in the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium is subdivided into two periods:

8 Davtian et al. 2004.

9 Didier 2013, 63–64.

10 Besenval et al. 2005.

11 Desse / Desse-Berset 2005.



Fig. 11.6  
Shahi-Tump, Trench Ia  
grave dating to  
Period II with a sea-  
shell bangle and a  
copper mirror  
(first half of the  
4<sup>th</sup> mill. BCE)

Period II and Period IIIa. Period II dates to the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, while Period IIIa comprises the second half and extends into the early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE. In contrast to Period I, the material assemblages are more abundant and include a larger variety of objects. Pottery, in particular, appears in Period II, and this new trait, along with the other categories of objects made of clay, bone, stone and copper recovered from Periods II and IIIa, allows the archaeologist to investigate a wider variety of aspects characteristic of the Kech-Makran populations in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE than was possible for the previous period. It also provides us with a better understanding of their relationships established with other communities in the Indo-Iranian borderlands by comparing the style of these objects with those observed on the vessels from these communities.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Besenval 2011; Didier / Mutin 2013; Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a.

## Period II

### Sequence and Archaeological Remains

Period II was essentially studied in the course of six excavation campaigns: Excavations II, III, and IV at Shahi-Tump and Excavations III, IV, and IX at Miri Qalat.<sup>13</sup> The excavations at Shahi-Tump provided important data as to the chronological sequence of this period. In the first part of the sequence, beginning near the bottom of the site in Excavation III, Period II is characterised by successive architectural levels and a cemetery, which also encompasses the area of Excavation IV, located immediately south of Excavation III. Additional architectural levels were observed in Excavation IV, posterior to the burials. Pottery is not very frequent in these levels. It becomes extremely common only in the later part of Period II in the following and higher layers

<sup>13</sup> Besenval 1992; 1997a; 1997b; 2000; 2005; 2011; Besenval et al. 2005; Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a.

Fig. 11.7  
Shahi-Tump, Trench I  
necklace in black  
steatite from a grave  
dating to Period II  
(first half of the  
4<sup>th</sup> mill. BCE)



of Excavation IV and those of Excavation II. These layers include more massive architectural structures and a more abundant material assemblage. In Excavation III the earliest architecture assigned to Period II consists of a quadrangular stone complex. While stone is still employed, mud brick also appears in the constructions in the levels located on top of this stone building. Mud brick walls and a chimney built with mud bricks are reported from these levels. About 25 burials were subsequently dug into this architecture. The bodies are usually placed in

Fig. 11.8  
Shahi-Tump, Trench II,  
Period II architecture  
(first half of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
millennium BCE)



foetal position and covered with ochre. The graves contain no ceramics but various other types of objects (Fig. 11.6) including necklaces made of sea-shell and steatite beads (Fig. 11.7), sea-shell bangles, sea-shells filled with ochre, a bone spatula, stone vessels, and copper objects such as an axe, a spear point, and a copper mirror. A deposit of small fish was observed in one grave.<sup>14</sup>

Fig. 11.9  
Shahi-Tump,  
Trench II, Period II,  
pottery bowl



<sup>14</sup> Besenval 2000; Buquet 2005.

The more recent phase of Period II, in which pottery is found in greater quantities, is essentially documented at Shahi-Tump by Excavations II and IV as well as at Miri Qalat by Excavations III and IV. A more massive architecture was constructed during this phase (Fig. 11.8). Successive complexes of houses were excavated in Excavation II at Shahi-Tump. Well-preserved floors, fireplaces including hearths connected to mud-brick chimneys, trash areas, and circulation alleys were found inside. The walls were built with stones and mud brick; and the presence of carbonised beams and vegetal imprints in clay shows that they were roofed with layers of clay alternating with vegetal layers. In two instances, a burning led to the partial or total reconstruction in the area of Excavation II. The material assemblage of this later phase of Period II is mostly composed of ceramics. The most common ceramic type is designated as Miri Ware.<sup>15</sup> It is characterised by very fine, painted vessels (Fig. 11.9). The potters of Period II made bowls, goblets, pots, and jars in this style for the consumption of food and liquids as well as for storage. They painted these ceramics mostly with geometric motifs, while animal motifs – the ibex in particular – are less frequently observed. The colour of the painting ranges from brown to black. The decoration on the bowls is painted on the inside and on the other vessel types on the outside. A painted line covers the rim and a few millimetres downwards on both the inner and outer surfaces. Painted decoration is also frequently observed on the bases of the bowls, and a few potter marks have been recorded. The paste of Miri Ware is well-levigated. The manufacturing technique of this pottery could not be determined for every single sherd recorded; technological observations, however, were made on some complete ceramics, showing that these vessels were produced by means of the coiling technique. They were then shaped on a rotative device, probably a *tournette*, as marks observed on both their inner and outer



Fig. 11.10  
Shahi-Tump, Trench II  
amulet in mother-  
of-pearl dating to  
Period II

surfaces tend to indicate. This ceramic type is well-fired and mostly of buff, pink, red, or grey colour. The grey vessels are among the oldest examples of grey ceramics known at present from Pakistan and Iran. Their colour results from piling the vessels within the firing structures, a process that is identified through mirror impressions, or transfers of decoration from one vessel to another. The same method was used for the following Period IIIa. These fine vessels were supplemented with a coarse cooking ware and Basket Ware, a type of vessels moulded into baskets.<sup>16</sup> The other categories of objects include alabaster and steatite vessels, a stone-macehead, bone awls, a few copper objects, terracotta bangles with or without mat-imprints, sea-shell beads and bangles, and pendants such as a unique small fish-figurine made of mother-of-pearl (Fig. 11.10).

### Food Economy

The Period II communities at Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump cultivated wheat and barley, while date palm was also present. They domesticated mostly cattle and goat, whereas hunting was extremely limited. Lastly, the sea-shell objects and fish bones recovered at Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump indicate that they exploited or exchanged resources from the Oman Sea and consumed fish, probably dried.<sup>17</sup>

15 Didier / Mutin 2013; Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a.

16 Mutin 2006; 2007; 2013a.

17 Besenval 2011; Desse / Desse-Berset 2005.



Fig. 11.11  
Miri Qalat,  
Trench IX grave  
dating to Period IIIa  
(second half of  
the 4<sup>th</sup> mill. BCE –  
beginning of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> mill. BCE)

### Surveys and Comparisons

Beyond Miri Qalat, Shahi-Tump and the Kech Valley, approximately ten sites dating to Period II were found in Kech-Makran. Sherds of painted ceramics similar to Miri Ware were also found at a few sites in the Bampur Valley in southeastern Iran, while more distant resemblances are observed with ceramics from Kerman.<sup>18</sup>

### Period IIIa

#### Sequence and Archaeological Remains

Following Period II, Period IIIa is known mostly through graves excavated in the course of Excavations I, II and IV at Shahi-Tump and

Excavation IX at Miri Qalat<sup>19</sup> (Fig. 11.11), therefore this period is also called Shahi-Tump Cemetery Culture. It was first recognised by Stein at Shahi-Tump. In the 1928s, the scholar excavated an impressive trench at this site and found graves with important quantities of very fine, painted ceramics.<sup>20</sup> Stein mistakenly thought that these graves were subsequent to the Kulli Culture dating to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE. At both sites, Shahi-Tump and Miri Qalat, however, 70 years later Besenval and his team demonstrated that they date to the 4<sup>th</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennia BCE, that is more than one millennium earlier than Stein's interpretation. As in Period II, the bodies in the graves are usually placed in foetal position; and the usage of ochre was also observed.<sup>21</sup> An important difference between Period II and Period IIIa is the very common – but not systematic – presence of ceramics in the burials of the latter period. The material assemblage of these burials is also richer than that of Period II as to the variety of objects recovered (Fig. 11.12). The most common ceramic type is a very fine, painted ware designated as Shahi-Tump Ware.<sup>22</sup> This pottery is very similar to Miri Ware in its texture, fabrication and firing marks, and certain forms and painted motifs. It is, however, also characterised by new decorative compositions, forms, and profiles. The forms recorded from the graves include bowls, goblets, pots, jars, and rarer forms such as bowls on stands and twin vessels. The bowls are decorated on their insides, and a frieze is painted on their outer rims (cat. nos. 672–679). The other forms are decorated on the outside, and parallel short lines hanging from the rim are frequently observed on their inner surfaces. The most common motifs are geometric, while animal motifs – antelope (?) and scorpion – are rare. The colours of the painting are mostly blackish to brown and red (Fig. 11.13). The

19 Besenval 1997b; 2000; 2005; 2011; Besenval et al. 2005; Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a.

20 Stein 1931.

21 Besenval 2000; Buquet 2005.

22 Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a; Didier / Mutin 2013.

18 Mutin 2007; Mutin 2013a; Didier / Mutin 2013; Stein 1937.



Fig. 11.12  
Ceramic assemblage  
of the Shahi-Tump  
cemetery culture  
(Period IIIa)

colours of the vessels are mostly buff, pink, red, and grey. A second ceramic type reported from the burials consists of short and tall conical goblets. They are mostly plain, while a few specimens are painted using one to three shades of ochre (black, red, and white). These ceramics are reminiscent of conical goblets labelled as Aliabad Ware and widely observed in southeastern Iran in Kerman and the Bampur Valley.<sup>23</sup> Some examples of Basket Ware and ceramics with painted decorations similar to styles typical for oriental Baluchistan were found in

these graves. Ceramics evidently play an important part in the burial practices of Period IIIa. The forms found in the graves include vessels used for the consumption and storage of food and liquids, forms that could have been used for banqueting at the funerals or to provide provisions for the dead. The other objects in the burials include stone vessels; copper objects such as a mirror, an impressive copper-lead weight with a sea-shell decoration<sup>24</sup> (Fig. 11.14), and compartmented seals (Fig. 11.15); sea-shell bangles similar to those from Period II; and a broader variety of necklaces

23 Beale / Lamberg-Karlovsky 1986; Caldwell 1967; Mutin 2013a; Mutin 2013b; Prickett 1986.

24 Mille et al. 2004; Mille et al. 2005.



Fig. 11.13  
Traces of manufacture  
(cat. no. 676,  
Period IIIa)



Fig. 11.14  
Shahi-Tump, Trench II  
weight in lead and  
copper, decorated  
with shell inlays  
(Period IIIa)

Fig. 11.15  
Shahi-Tump, Trench II  
seal in copper  
(Period IIIa)

and bracelets made of sea-shell, steatite, lapis lazuli, and carnelian beads (Fig. 11.16) than in Period II.

In addition to the graves a series of architectural levels were excavated on a narrow strip of land at Excavation IX in Miri Qalat. These levels, located on top of the Period IIIa burials, provided sherds of Shahi-Tump Ware as well as monochrome and polychrome, fine ceramics relating to traditions from oriental Baluchistan. These ceramics are observed for instance at Mehrgarh, Anjira, Sohr-Damb, and Amri. Their styles include typical Togau bowls decorated with friezes of hooks on their rims. Fragments of bevelled-rim bowls, a type of pottery characteristic of the Uruk and Proto-Elamite Civilizations in Mesopotamia and Iran, were also found in these levels.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Besenval 1997a; 1997b; Mutin 2007; 2013a; Didier / Mutin 2013.



### Surveys and Comparisons

Approximately 20 sites bearing ceramics of Period IIIa were found in Kech-Makran, including sites located near the shoreline. The discovery of a few misfired fragments of Shahi-Tump Ware in the Dasht Plain, approximately 30 to 70 km south of the Kech Valley, points to this area as one of the potential production centres for this type of ceramics. This assumption is also supported by the fact that clay is abundant and pottery workshops from the following Period IIIb were observed in this plain. The presence of Shahi-Tump Ware reported across Kech-Makran, sea-shell objects in the tombs of the Kech Valley, and the presence of sites dating to Period IIIa close to the shoreline show that, likewise during Period II, a regional network of relationships including the coast of the Oman Sea existed in Kech-Makran during Period IIIa. Similarly as for Period II, sherds of Shahi-Tump Ware were found in the Bampur Valley, but a later variety of this style, characterised in particular by bowls with painted



Fig. 11.16  
Necklace from  
Shahi-Tump  
(Period IIIa)

*swastika* motifs (cat. nos. 672–678), is noted as far as at Tepe Yahya and Shahr-i Sokhta at the time of the Proto-Elamite civilization in Iran, in the late 4<sup>th</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennia BCE. Sherds of Shahi-Tump Ware were found in the Proto-Elamite complex of Tepe Yahya, Period IVC. This building contained typical tablets, seals, sealings, and ceramics.<sup>26</sup> Furthermore, numerous complete ceramics of Shahi-Tump Ware were recovered at Shahr-i Sokhta from burials dating to Period I<sup>27</sup>, as well as typical Proto-Elamite seals, sealings, and a tablet fragment.<sup>28</sup> The styles of the ceramics typical for oriental Baluchistan recorded in Kech-Makran/Period IIIa date from the mid-4<sup>th</sup> to the early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennia BCE. Parallels for these ceramics are observed at Mehrgarh (Periods III–VII), Sohr-Damb (Periods I–II), Anjira (Periods III–IV)/Siah-Damb

(Period II), Amri (Period IA), and Balakot (Period I).<sup>29</sup> In comparison with Period II, the ceramics from Period IIIa in Kech-Makran indicate that new and more distant relationships developed in the course of this period, which is illustrated by the later type of Shahi-Tump Ware identified up to Tepe Yahya and Shahr-i Sokhta as well as ceramics with styles relating to sites in eastern Pakistani Baluchistan found in large quantities in Kech-Makran; these were absent in Period II. Along with the ceramics, the additional types of objects and materials recovered from the tombs in Kech-Makran such as copper artefacts and steatite, carnelian, and lapis lazuli beads imply that, compared to Period II, the communities in this region were part of wider and more differentiated networks of exchange extending from southeastern Iran to northeastern Afghanistan and the Indus Valley.

26 Lamberg-Karlovsky / Tosi 1973; Potts / Lamberg-Karlovsky 2001; Mutin 2013b.

27 Bonora et al. 2000; Sajjadi 2003; Salvatori / Tosi 2005; Piperno / Salvatori 2007.

28 Amiet / Tosi 1978; Tosi 1969.

29 Mutin 2013a; Didier / Mutin 2013.



Fig. 11.17  
The Nilag Kaur area in  
the Dasht Plain

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium BCE

The subsequent Periods IIIb (2800–2600 BCE) and IIIc (2600–2500 BCE), also referred to as the ‘Dasht Plain Culture’, saw the continuation of very dynamic interactions between Kech-Makran and its neighbouring regions along with the development of new connections and trade networks with the Oman Peninsula. These periods are also characterised by significant developments in ceramic production, which became more abundant and more highly-specialised then.<sup>30</sup>

#### Period IIIb

##### Sites and Economy

Kech-Makran Period IIIb, the levels of which were inaccessible to excavation at Miri Qalat and almost absent at Shahi-Tump, is mainly known through surveys conducted in the western

part of the region and in the coastal area.<sup>31</sup> Eighty archaeological sites dating to this period were discovered, which shows a significant increase in the population density during this period compared to Period IIIa. One of the most populated regions was the Dasht Plain, a large sedimentary basin located southwest of the Kech Valley. While it is nowadays quite desert-like and sparsely inhabited (Fig. 11.17), the remains of numerous settlements, graveyards, and potter’s workshops associated with huge amounts of ceramic fragments were identified in this plain.<sup>32</sup> The Dasht Plain is fertile and suitable for pluvial agriculture. The hills in this area, formed by soft clays and eroded limestone, are sources of clay of very good quality. The ancient habitats are mostly situated on the slopes of these hills, and the potter’s workshops, which are literally covered with ceramic waste and remains of kiln walls,

30 Didier 2013.

31 Besenval / Sanlaville 1990; Besenval 1997a; 2005; 2011; Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

32 Didier 2013.



Fig. 11.18  
Pottery firing area in  
the Dasht Plain

are usually located in open areas, not far from the habitats (Fig. 11.18). The ceramics produced in these workshops were distributed over the neighbouring habitats and most likely transported to more distant sites located outside the Dasht Plain. The systematic and large-scale looting of graveyards in the Dasht Plain dating to this period unfortunately gave us almost no chance to collect more data. We could only observe that, as in Period IIIa, Period IIIb graves had very rich funerary deposits including necklaces and metal objects (Fig. 11.19). In addition to the ceramics, fragments of metal objects and carnelian beads were collected on the surface of graveyards and habitats. Similarly, the architecture and economy of this period could not be studied before the program of the mission was interrupted. However, it seems evident that the economy in Period IIIb benefited from increasing interactions with communities settled in the coastal area, particularly in the region located between the

modern towns of Pasni and Jiwani. Indeed, Period IIIb ceramics manufactured in the Dasht Plain were found at the coast, particularly in the Pishukan area, which is rich in sites devoted to the exploitation of marine resources (fish, sea-shell).<sup>33</sup>

### Pottery

Pottery is the major source of information on the people from Period IIIb in Kech-Makran.<sup>34</sup> The style of painted ceramics from the Dasht Plain dating to this period is very homogeneous and reported in large numbers across many sites in the region. This fact led to the designation of Period IIIb as 'Dasht Plain Culture' and the style of its painted ceramics as 'Dasht style'.<sup>35</sup> The pottery tradition, which shows continuity with the previous periods, is characterised by a high technical quality and diversity, reflected in the

<sup>33</sup> Desse / Desse-Berset 2005.

<sup>34</sup> Didier 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Didier 2013.



Fig. 11.19  
Looted graveyard of  
Durrah-i Bast in the  
Dasht Plain

appearance of new vessel forms and decorative techniques<sup>36</sup>. The most emblematic pottery produced during this period is the Dasht/Emir Ware, a production characterised by painted vessels with a very fine paste. The shapes include bowls with very thin walls (1–2 mm thick; cat. nos. 680–689; **Fig. 11.20**), small goblets, globular pots (cat. nos. 704–708), and canister pots (cat. nos. 709–711). As in Period IIIa, regularity in wall thickness shows standardisation in ceramic production, although the degree of standardisation seems higher in Period IIIb compared to Period IIIa. The paint colour is mostly black to brown, more rarely reddish brown. The bowls are often painted on the upper part of their outer surfaces and sometimes on their insides or on both surfaces. The decorations mainly consist of geometric motifs (mostly triangles and lozenges) arranged in friezes. Decorative patterns with vegetal and animal motifs (trees,

palms, leaves, goats, ibexes, fish, rarely scorpions or bees) are more frequent and diversified than in Period IIIa. It is worth noting that plain vessels are frequently observed among the material collected in the graveyards. The Dasht/Emir assemblage also includes a smaller amount of Incised Grey Ware, a new type of ceramic that appears during this period. The forms and decorations of Incised Grey Ware are very limited and consist mostly of small goblets with architectural motifs or the 'hut' motif. The complete *chaîne opératoire* of fabrication for the fine painted pottery was not reconstructed, but technological observations show that the coiling technique combined with a shaping and finishing on a rotative device were used to form the vessels. Further experiments should be conducted to determine, whether a potter's wheel was used for shaping certain types of vessels. Overall, the ceramics were also better fired and the colours of their surfaces (light grey to bluish grey, pink, buff, red) are

36 Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

more homogeneous than in Period IIIa. Ceramics collected on the surface of pottery workshops in the Dasht Plain indicate that the bowls were produced in large series; they were piled and fired at around 900–1000 °C in a reducing atmosphere. The firing was better controlled than in Period IIIa, as witnessed by the near absence of mirror impressions of decorations on the ceramics. The Period IIIb ceramic assemblage



also includes large bowls, basins, wide-mouthed jars, and short-necked jars with a slightly less fine paste. Their surfaces are often brownish light red and the thickness of their walls is about 5–8 mm. Large bowls and basins are decorated with a great variety of geometric motifs painted on the outer surface (below the rim) and/or on the inside, sometimes combined with applied cordons characteristic of the so-called 'Ridged Ware'. Tripartite or quadripartite patterns including ibex motifs are often depicted on the inner surface (cat. nos. 690–691). Some jars are painted with complex geometric patterns, which show diversified motifs arranged in friezes or metopes (cat. nos. 694–695). Other examples are decorated with realistic or abstract figurative motifs such as goats, ibex, fish, felines, bulls, and birds as well as vegetal ornaments (cat. nos. 692–693; 696–701; Fig. 11.21). The Period IIIb assemblage also comprises Basket Ware and new types of ceramics such as Wet Ware, a pottery type with a treatment executed by finger-impressions

on its surface, Comb-Incised Red Ware, and Dasht Polychrome Ware. Dasht Polychrome Ware is so far attested only for funerary contexts and is decorated with friezes or metopes of geometric designs painted in black and filled in red, yellow and white (Fig. 11.22). Naturalist patterns are rarely observed. Archaeometric studies show that the decorations were applied after firing.



Fig. 11.20  
Bowl in Dasht/Emir  
Grey Ware dating to  
Period IIIb  
(2800–2600 BCE)

Fig. 11.21  
Fragment of a  
painted jar dating to  
Period IIIb

### Comparisons and Relationships

Similarly as in Period IIIa, the Dasht painted pottery tradition has strong connections with ceramics reported from southeastern Iran.<sup>37</sup> Similar vessels were found in the Bampur Valley, particularly at Bampur I–IV,<sup>38</sup> Damin<sup>39</sup> and Khurab, in Kerman (Tepe Yahya IVC-B and in the Jiroft area)<sup>40</sup>, and at Shahr-i Sokhta II<sup>41</sup>. The wide spread of the Dasht/Emir style (and most likely vessels from the Dasht Plain) in the southern part of the Indo-Iranian borderlands suggests the existence of close interactions between the communities in these regions, and distribution networks that indicate population movement over long distances. A limited number of Dasht/Emir Grey Ware was also found at Mundigak III.5–IV in

37 Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

38 De Cardi 1970.

39 Tosi 1970.

40 Potts / Lamberg-Karlovsky 2001; Madjidzadeh 2003; Madjidzadeh 2008; Mutin 2013b.

41 Salvatori / Vidale 1997.

Fig. 11.22  
Fragment of Dasht  
Polychrome Ware  
dating to Period IIIb  
(2800–2600 BCE)



Fig. 11.23  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
excavation of a level  
dating to Period IIIc  
(2600–2500 BCE)

southern Afghanistan.<sup>42</sup> However, this style is not represented in oriental Baluchistan (in the Quetta, Zhob/Loralai, and Kachhi-Bolan regions), where the Faiz Mohammad Grey Ware, sharing a similar technology but different in style, was preeminent at that time.<sup>43</sup> Although cultural and technological parallels can be observed with the polychrome vessels produced in the Nal region (Sohr Damb/

Nal Period II) or at Shahr-i Sokhta II, the Dasht polychrome pottery seems to have been distributed only in western Kech-Makran. On the other hand, composition analysis carried out on a selection of fine painted ceramics from Kech-Makran and Oman has shown that most of the fine grey and red ceramics related to Periods IIIb, IIIc and IV styles found on the Oman Peninsula were imported from the Kech-Makran region.<sup>44</sup> The increasing demand for luxury ceramic vessels on the Oman Peninsula may have stimulated the pottery production in Kech-Makran during Period IIIb, a production that extended beyond local and regional distribution.

### Period IIIc

#### Material Assemblage at Miri Qalat

The following Period IIIc is mainly documented for the Miri Qalat Excavation I, in levels that immediately precede an occupation relating to the Indus Valley Civilization.<sup>45</sup> Few architectural structures were excavated; the archaeological remains consist mainly of burnt layers filled with ceramic deposits dated by <sup>14</sup>C to 2600 to 2500 BCE (Fig. 11.23). Pottery is very abundant and shows stylistic continuity with the previous period.<sup>46</sup> Few innovations are observed in the *savoir-faire*, although the fabrication processes were better-controlled, the wheel-throwing technique was more widely used for shaping the vessels and the production became more standardised. The colours of the vessels are more visibly distinguished. The majority of the ceramic assemblage is very homogenous in colour, ranging from brownish light red to pinkish buff. The fine Grey Ware, painted or incised, that emerged in Period IIIb, is still frequent, but, compared to this period, the vessels of this type in Period IIIc have thicker walls. The ceramic assemblage also includes new vessel forms such as large dishes (Fig. 11.24), footed bowls,

42 Casal 1961; Didier 2013.

43 Wright 1984; Didier 2013.

44 Méry 2000; Méry et al. 2012; Méry et al., in press.

45 Besenval / Didier 2004; Didier 2013.

46 Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

carinated bowls or dishes, truncated-conical jars, and canister pots with a low truncated-conical body (cat. no. 712). Ridged Ware, Basket Ware, Wet Ware and Comb-Incised Red Ware from Period IIIb are still attested for Period IIIc, but Dasht Polychrome Ware disappeared during this period. The assemblage is also marked by the development of new decorative techniques such as the streak burnishing treatment executed on the outsides or insides of bowls, dishes and jars. This surface treatment is often combined



Fig. 11.24  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
pottery dating to  
Period IIIc



Fig. 11.25  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
sherds in fine painted  
Grey Ware dating to  
Period IIIc

with painted decorations and applied cordons. The painting colour is more homogeneous than in the previous periods (only black or brownish black). A great variety of painted decorations is observed at Miri Qalat. Complex geometric patterns are combined with naturalistic designs including new fish and bird motifs. The goat and ibex motifs became more stylised and mostly represented in movement (jumping or running) such as on fine grey ceramics (Fig. 11.25). The adapted variant of

the *swastika* motif of Period IIIb was replaced by wavy bands associated with leaf motifs. Among the new painted decorations observed on bowls and dishes during Period IIIc, friezes of 'eye' motifs, a motif that is hardly known in the Indo-Iranian borderlands, are relatively frequent. Other popular patterns are friezes of small slanted spirals, which could represent a very stylised variant of the caprid-horn motifs. The decorative patterns of the Incised Grey Ware are more various and complex than in



Fig. 11.26  
The site of Sotka Koh  
in the Shadi Kaur  
Valley



Fig. 11.27  
Pasni-Dune area

Period IIIb; they include braiding motifs, wavy lines, festoons, hatched triangles, and hut-motifs. Apart from pottery, other categories of materials were found in very low quantities at Miri Qalat. These include alabaster vessels, steatite vessels and seals, sea-shell bangles, terracotta balls, bangles, beads, and animal figurines, bone tools, flint arrowheads and blades, carnelian and lapis lazuli beads, and copper pins and beads.

### Comparisons and Relationships

Although for the ceramics found in Kech-Makran Period IIIc parallel forms and decorations are observed at Nindowari Period I<sup>47</sup>, Sohr-Damb/Nal Period III<sup>48</sup>, Nausharo Periods IC–ID<sup>49</sup>, Shahr-i Sokhta III–IV<sup>50</sup> and Mundigak IV.2–3<sup>51</sup>, the best connection for these ceramics is the Bampur Valley, where the craft tradition seems to follow the same evolution, particularly at Bampur Periods IV.2–VI.<sup>52</sup> Although stylistic variants occur in the painted decorations, reflecting distinct tastes and local adaptations, several categories of pottery such as Painted Grey Ware, Ridged Ware, Incised Grey Ware and Streak-Burnished Ware indeed developed in the same way in both areas. Exports of fine painted or incised vessels from Kech-Makran to the Bampur Valley and the Oman Peninsula are evidenced by petrographic and geochemical analysis.<sup>53</sup>

### Period IV and the Indus Civilization

The transition between Period IIIc and Period IV in Kech-Makran, around 2500 BCE, coincides with a period of important change in the cultural landscape of Baluchistan. A large number of sites are abandoned (particularly in the northern and central regions) and new cultural horizons such as

the Kulli Culture (around 2600 BCE) and the Indus Civilization (around 2500 BCE) appear. Survey data shows that the eastern plains and valleys of Kech-Makran (eastern Kech, Kil, Kolwa Valleys) are integrated into the Kulli Culture during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE, while the local Dasht tradition (or Period IV local pottery) continues to be preeminent in the Dasht Plain and in the coastal area and is observed in southeastern Iran.<sup>54</sup> However, the number of sites dating to Period IV has significantly decreased compared to the previous periods and rare settlements and graveyards were recovered. Several types of vessels show continuation between Period IIIc and Period IV, such as bowls, globular pots, canister pots and miniature vessels of fine Painted Grey Ware; large bowls, jars, and pots of Ridged Ware; various vessels of painted red or brownish light Red Ware; and a low proportion of Incised Grey Ware, Comb-Incised Red Ware, Wet Ware and Basket Ware.<sup>55</sup> Overall, the painted decorations are less diverse and designed with less care than in the previous period, but the pastes of the ceramics are still fine, the wheel-throwing technique is most commonly used, and the firing is well-controlled. The assemblage includes new ceramic forms such as carinated footed-bowls, canister pots with a truncated-conical body, more marked than in Period IIIc (cat. no. 713), and tall conical goblets. For the first time; in this period red slip is used for the decoration of some vessels of the local assemblage. Other ceramic styles that have parallels at Nindowari Period III and Mehi (Kulli B style) as well as with Bampur Period VI were found in a graveyard at the site of Shahin Jump (Dasht Plain) dating to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE. The discovery of fine Painted Grey Ware and Incised Grey Ware characteristic of the Kech-Makran tradition on the Oman Peninsula, from funerary contexts dating to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE, shows that pottery exchanges

47 Jarrige et al. 2011.

48 Franke-Vogt 2005.

49 Quivron 1994.

50 Biscione 1979; Tosi 1983.

51 Casal 1961.

52 De Cardi 1970; Didier 2013.

53 Méry et al. 2012; Méry et al., in press.

54 Didier 2007; Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

55 Didier 2007; Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.



Fig. 11.28  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
Indus pottery  
dating to Period IV  
(2500–2300 BCE)



Fig. 11.29  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
Ivory comb dating to  
Period IV



Fig. 11.30  
Miri Qalat, Trench I  
pottery of 'local style'  
dating to Period IV

with this region continued during this period.<sup>56</sup> However, the locations of the production centres dating to Period IV are not identified.

It is important to recall that at that time two Indus outposts were established in the coastal area of Kech-Makran, a region which offers an important economic potential for the exploitation of marine resources: Sotka-Koh, located 15 km

north of Pasni (Fig. 11.26), and Sutkagen-Dor (50 km from the coast, near the Iranian border). These sites are currently known as the westernmost sites of the Indus Civilization and were most likely settled for trade activities.<sup>57</sup> It is probable that most of the Indus ceramics that cover their surfaces were produced locally, since firing structures were located nearby these sites. In the coastal dune area of Pasni (Fig. 11.27), the presence of local Dasht ceramics mixed with Indus material, fish and shell remains shows that a trade existed between local fishermen and the people settled at these Indus sites.

56 Méry 2000; Méry et al. 2012; Méry et al. in press.

57 Dales / Lipo 1992; Besenval 1997a; Davtian et al. 2005; Desse / Desse-Berset 2005; Didier 2013.

A third Indus occupation was discovered in 1987 by Besenval at Miri Qalat during Excavation I.<sup>58</sup> Excavation I provided four meters of deposits assigned to the Indus Civilization. It is difficult to assess change and continuity in Period IV architecture at Miri Qalat in comparison with the previous periods, since no architectural remains dating to Periods IIIb and IIIc are known. On the other hand, this occupation contains house units, silos, cells, storage jars, storage rooms, cooking areas, and water installations (drains, sewage disposals, bath rooms) very similar to those of other Indus sites excavated in the Greater Indus Valley. The majority of ceramics found at Miri Qalat/Period IV is typical of the Indus Civilization ceramic assemblage, including red-slipped painted jars (Fig. 11.28), black-slipped jars, dishes on stands, perforated vessels, and cooking pots. According to stylistic studies, these ceramics more specifically relate to the first period of the Indus Civilization (2500–2300 BCE) as defined for Nausharo/Period II, Amri/Period IIIa and Harappa/Period 3A.<sup>59</sup> Archaeometric studies carried out on a limited selection of Indus ceramics show that they were most likely locally produced. The Period IV levels at Miri Qalat also provided other kinds of artefacts related to the Indus culture, such as terracotta objects (fragments of carts, animal figurines, bangles, spoons, and pawns), steatite seals, stone beads, ivory combs (Fig. 11.29), cubic stone weights, metal objects, shell bangles and wastes of shell working. It is worth noting that the number of fish remains significantly increased in Period IV.

The originality of Miri Qalat is undoubtedly the presence of ceramics that are characteristic of the local pottery tradition within this Indus occupation (Fig. 11.30).<sup>60</sup> Most of the ceramic types known from Period IIIc (fine Painted Red and Grey Ware, Ridged Ware, Incised Grey Ware, and Basket Ware) are observed in the ceramic assemblage

of Period IV, but the pottery also witnesses a decrease in the quality of manufacturing and decorative treatment and in the variety of the stylistic repertoire. A higher proportion of plain Ridged Ware is attested, while the motifs painted on large vessels are more simplified. Kech-Makran thus shows an original evolution in the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE with the integration (but not full acculturation) of the Indus Civilization in a territory marked by a strong local tradition, along with the development of the Kulli Culture in the northern and eastern areas, both creating new socio-economic interactions.

### The End of a Ceramic Tradition: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BCE

The ceramic tradition that emerged in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE in Kech-Makran and then became preeminent in the Indo-Iranian borderlands at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium and during the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium continued to exist during the times of the Indus Civilization, but this period already witnessed its decline. Like in many other areas of Pakistan and Iran, many regions and sites of Baluchistan were abandoned after the Indus Civilization, from about 1900 BCE onwards and during most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE. This hiatus was observed during Excavation I at Miri Qalat and in the survey assemblages which do not report vestiges dating to this period.<sup>61</sup> The only exception in Kech-Makran are sites dedicated to fishing in the Pishukan area, sites that are covered with large amounts of faunal remains.<sup>62</sup> These sites date to the last third of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE and their pottery is a coarse handmade product with no relation to the ceramic tradition that emerged almost three millennia before.

58 Besenval 1992; 1997a; 1997b, 2005; 2011; Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

59 Quivron 2000.

60 Besenval 1997a; Didier 2013; Didier / Mutin 2013.

61 Besenval 1997a.

62 Desse / Desse-Berset 2005.



## The Kech Makran Region in Protohistoric Times. Catalogue

### General Remarks on Cat. Nos. 672–678

Based on stratigraphic and typological analyses as well as stylistic comparisons with ceramics from Iran, it appears that two phases of Period IIIa can be distinguished, one early and one late. The main type of funerary pottery, produced during the second phase of Period IIIa (end of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium / early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE), is Late Shahi-Tump Ware. It is a very fine-tempered, painted ceramic. It is essentially characterised by hemispherical bowls, decorated with a *swastika* motif painted on the inner surface. A frieze of geometric motifs such as loops, hatched triangles, and diagonal lines is painted along the rim on the periphery of the *swastika* motif (Mutin 2013a, 264–267). Cat. nos. 672–678 have *swastikas* with four branches. However, the ceramic assemblages collected by Sir A. Stein at Shahi-Tump (Stein 1931, 100 Pls. XV–XVI), by the French Archaeological Mission at Miri Qalat Trench IX (Levels VI–II), and on the surface of additional sites in Kech-Makran also include vessels decorated with *swastikas* with three to six branches (Mutin 2007, 2013a). Detailed analysis carried out by B. Mutin (2007) shows that the fabrication of Late Shahi-Tump Ware combined coiling technique for the forming of the vessels and a careful finishing using rotative devices. This method is the same as that observed on Early Shahi-Tump Ware in Early Period IIIa and on Miri Ware in Period II. The colours of the vessels vary from grey to brown-light grey or red on the same surface, which shows that the temperature in the firing structures was not perfectly controlled. Ceramic wastes

dating to Period IIIa were collected in the Dasht Plain. These indicate that production centres were present in this plain at that time. Bowls with painted *swastikas* are also attested in the Parom Basin, located north of the Kech Valley (Stein 1931, Pl. III), and in southeastern Iran in assemblages collected in the Bampur Valley (sites of Katukan, Kanuch, Khurab), at Tepe Yahya Period IVC (Phases IVB6–IVC2), and at Shahr-i Sokhta I (for a detailed comparative study, see Mutin 2013a, 264–267). These strong parallels show that Kech-Makran was part of a vast interaction system during this period. Later variations of the *swastika* motif design are observed in Kech-Makran Period IIIb (c. 2800–2600 BCE); it is made with curved lines instead of curved bands such as on cat. nos. 690–691 or using palm motifs such as on cat. nos. 680–681 (Mutin 2013a, 266; see Didier 2013, 103 Figs. 64; 68).

#### Cat. No. 672

Globular bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 20.1; d. (base) 6.7;  
h. 8.3



Medium-sized bowl with outward-turned rim and flat base. A thick horizontal band and double-contoured, hanging interlaced loops decorate the outer upper surface. The inner surface shows a frieze with broad bands and 15 double-contoured standing loops. Visible in the centre is a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. Similar examples were found on Dasht Plain sites dated to the Late Period IIIa.

See: Mutin 2007, Figs. II, 276; II, 279  
Doc. No. 0444–112

#### Cat. No. 673

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
Earthenware, red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.3; d. (base) 6.7;  
h. 8.8





673 674



673,  
techn. detail

**Cat. No. 674**

S-shaped bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
Earthenware, red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 21.6; d. (base) 7.4;  
h. 10.4

Medium-sized bowl with outward-turned rim and flat base. A horizontal band is painted on/over the rim. On the inner upper surface, the decoration shows a frieze with opposing diagonal lines (four to six) and a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. The outer surface presents the same upper pattern due to mirror impressions as a result of firing in a stacked position. Quite similar decoration occurs on Kech-Makran ceramics dated to the Late Period IIIa.

See: Mutin 2007, Fig. II,284  
Doc. No. 0445–107

Medium-sized shallow bowl with slightly outward-turned rim and flat base. A frieze of irregular wavy lines is painted below the rim on the outer surface. The decoration on the inner surface consists of a frieze of six cross-hatched hanging triangles and a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms in the centre.

Similar examples were found at Shahi-Tump, Late Period IIIa, and on contemporary Dasht Plain sites.

See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15; Stein 1931, Pl. XV  
Doc. No. 0440–104

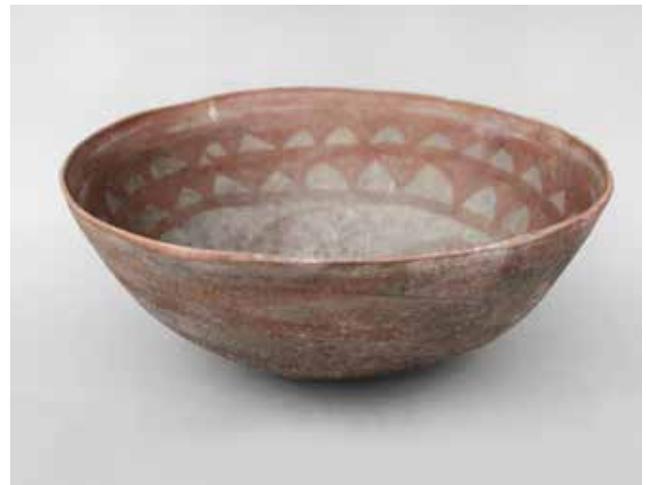
**Cat. No. 675**

Globular bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 20.9; d. (base) 7.9;  
h. 8.5

Medium-sized bowl with slightly everted rim and flat base. The outer surface shows a frieze with two standing loops in the upper part. The decoration on the inner surface shows two friezes with hatched hanging triangles and a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms in the centre.

Similar examples were also found at Shahi-Tump, Late Period IIIa, and on contemporary Dasht Plain sites.

See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15; Stein 1931, Pl. XV  
Doc. No. 0442–110



675



676 678

**Cat. No. 676**

Globular bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
 Earthenware, reddish grey; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.9; d. (base) 6.2; h. 7.9  
 Medium-sized bowl with upright rim and shallow disc base. The decoration on the outer surface comprises a large wavy band framed by two horizontal bands. The inner surface shows five sets of double loops, wide and very irregular, a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms in the centre and sets of plant motifs in arrowhead style. Similar examples are also known from Kech-Makran Late IIIa sites.  
 See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15  
 Doc. No. 0441–111



Medium-sized bowl with everted rim and slightly concave base. Visible on the outer surface is a frieze with a wavy band and traces of a decorative pattern transferred from another bowl during firing. The decoration of the inner surface comprises an upper frieze with ten stylised arrowheads pointing right, connected to standing plant motifs (palms). Painted below, in the centre, is a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. A similar decoration is known from Late IIIa bowls from Kech-Makran sites.  
 See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15  
 Doc. No. 1250–545



678

a *swastika*-like motif formed by two lines in the centre. Quite similar decorations occur on Kech-Makran Late IIIa/Early IIIb ceramics.  
 See: Didier 2013, Figs. 80; 83  
 Doc. No. 0754–160

**Cat. No. 677**

Conical bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
 Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.5; d. (base) 7.4; h. 9.5



**Cat. No. 678**

Conical bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
 Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 17.3; d. (base) 5.9; h. 9.1  
 Medium-sized deep bowl with everted rim and a sharply cut base. Visible on the outer surface is an impression of a frieze with irregularly shaped loops transferred during firing. The decoration on the inner surface consists of a frieze with hatched loops and



679

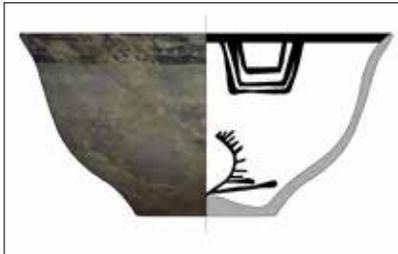
**Cat. No. 679**

Globular bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)  
 Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.9; d. (base) 7.3; h. 9  
 Medium-sized deep bowl with everted rim and flat base. A horizontal band is painted on the inner/outer rim. The inner quadripartite decoration is composed of a cross of four arms with triple loops facing left. Similar decorations occur on Kech-Makran Late IIIa bowls.  
 See: Mutin 2007, Fig. II,283  
 Doc. No. 0443–108

**Cat. No. 680**

S-shaped bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)



Earthenware, grey; w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 14.5; d. (base) 5.9; h. 9.1  
 Small shallow bowl with slightly S-shaped profile, outward-turned rim and flat base. Three horizontal bands decorate the upper outer surface. Painted on the inner surface below the rim are eight hanging, double contoured squares. The centre of the base is decorated with a whirl with three palm branches. Similar examples were collected on Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 64–66; 69  
 Doc. No. 0609–754

**Cat. No. 681**

Conical bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
 Earthenware, grey; w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 17.9; d. (base) 5.8; h. 7.6



Medium-sized bowl with everted rim and concave base. The inner decoration consists of seven vertically hatched, elongated hanging loops. Below, three vertical sets of short horizontal lines alternate with horizontal plant motifs (palms). Similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain sites dated to Period IIIb.  
 See: Didier 2013, Figs. 66; 70  
 Doc. No. 0000–785

**Cat. No. 682**

Conical bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
 Earthenware, grey; w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 16.1; d. (base) 4.3; h. 8  
 Medium-sized bowl with slightly outward-turned rim and very concave base. Three



horizontal bands were painted in the upper part of the outer surface. The quadripartite decoration on the inner surface consists of four palm trees with open stems and branches with short vertical leaves pointing down. Similar decorations were identified on medium-sized and large bowls collected on Dasht IIIb sites.  
 See: Didier 2013, Figs. 69; 76  
 Doc. No. 0604–582



**Additional Description for  
Cat. Nos. 683–685**

The fine painted ware from Kech-Makran Period IIIb (c. 2800–2600 BCE), produced at a large scale in potter's workshops found in the Dasht Plain, shows strong elements of continuity with Period IIIa, particularly in the texture of the ceramic paste, the fabrication (combining coil building technique with finishing by rotative devices) and the wide use of some geometric decorations (Didier 2013, 215). However, we can also observe significant change in the stylistic repertoire used by the local potters, which now includes a high proportion of vegetal patterns (Didier 2013, 103).

Palm motifs or 'palm trees' represented with ascending branches and short vertical lines hanging as leaves are the most frequently depicted, particularly on small bowls in fine grey ware related to the Dasht/Emir stylistic tradition. Several dozens of bowls similar to cat. nos. 683–685 were collected by the French Archaeological Mission in non-looted and looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain, where a part of the exhibited collections most likely came from.

A large amount of overfired sherds and ceramic wastes decorated with the same motifs were also collected on the surface of potter's workshops, particularly in the Panodi area. They demonstrate that such bowls, produced in series by the Dasht potters, were stacked during

firing in reducing atmosphere, obviously processed in open areas outside the habitat.

As for the previous period, the best comparative examples come from southeastern Iranian sites such as Bampur Periods I–IV (de Cardi 1970) and Khurab (Lamberg-Karlovsky / Schmandt-Besserat 1977) in the Bampur Valley.

**Cat. No. 683**

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m



Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.2; d. (base) 4.5; h. 7.6  
Small carinated bowl with slightly everted rim and concave ring base. The outer decoration shows five metopes with trees

with two branches and short vertical lines hanging as leaves, divided by 15 sets of vertical lines. A horizontal band is painted on the rim on both surfaces.

Similar examples were found on Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68  
Doc. No. 0610–753

**Cat. No. 684**

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m; buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.5; d. (base) 4.4; h. 8



Small bowl with everted rim and small ring base. A horizontal band is painted on/over the rim. The outer decoration consists of six slightly irregularly painted metopes with trees with two branches and short vertical leaves pointing down. Dividers are formed by sets of ten vertical lines.

Similar examples were also found on Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68  
Doc. No. 0618–633





685 686



685,  
detail

**Cat. No. 685**

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 11.7; d. (base) 4.7;  
h. 6.9  
Small bowl with everted rim and flat disc base. The outer decoration consists of six slightly irregularly painted metopes with trees with two branches and short vertical leaves pointing down, divided by sets of vertical lines. Similar examples were found on Dasht IIIb sites.  
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68  
Doc. No. 0622–595

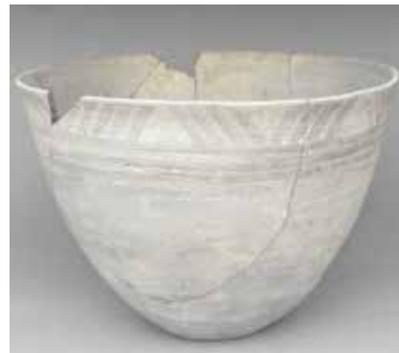
**Cat. No. 686**

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 6; d. (base) 2.3; h. 4.5  
Miniature bowl with everted rim and slightly convex base. The outer upper surface shows two horizontal bands. The decoration on the inner upper surface comprises four sets of five to six vertical

lines, hanging from a band painted on the rim. Similar examples were found in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.  
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 61; 64; 67  
Doc. No. 0933–335

**Cat. No. 687**

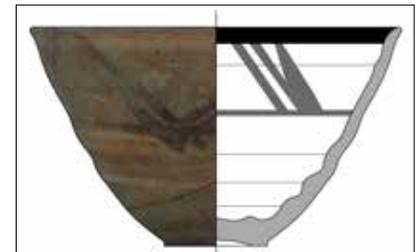
Conical bowl



Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.9; d. (base) 4.2; h. 9  
Small bowl with everted rim and flat base. The decoration on the upper outer surface consists of twelve sets of diagonal lines laid down in a zig-zag pattern. A horizontal band is painted on both sides of the rim. Similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.  
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 67  
Doc. No. 0000–787

**Cat. No. 688**

Conical bowl  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)



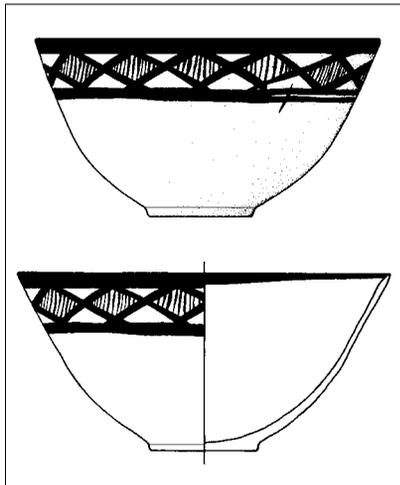
Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; thin creamy slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 13; d. (base) 3.4; h. 7.5  
 Small bowl with outward-turned rim and flat, slightly concave base. A frieze of two diagonal zig-zag lines is painted in the upper part of the outer body. Imprints of transferred decoration with triple diagonal lines are visible on the inner surface. Similar examples were excavated at Miri Qalat in Early Period IIIb levels.

See: Didier 2013, Fig. 184  
 Doc. No. 0000–202

**Cat. No. 689**

S-shaped bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
 Earthenware, grey; w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 14; d. (base) 4.2; h. 7.2  
 Small shallow bowl, slightly S-shaped, with everted rim and disc base. A horizontal



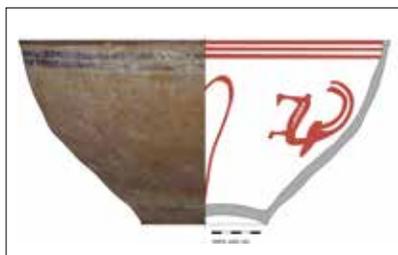
band covers the inner/outer surface of the rim. A frieze of vertical, hatched, linked lozenges is painted on the upper part of the external body. Many similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.

See: Didier 2013, Fig. 67  
 Doc. No. 0000–094

**Cat. No. 690**

S-shaped bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb)  
 Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 38.9; d. (base) 13.7; h. 18.7

Large bowl with slightly channelled rim and concave base. Painted above and



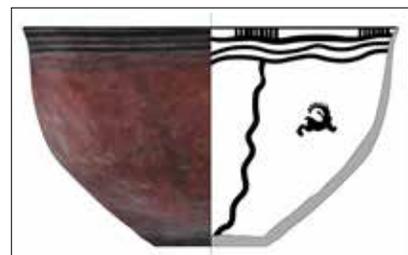
below the external/internal rim are three horizontal bands. The tripartite composition on the inner surface depicts three standing ibexes with hatched bodies divided by horn-shaped arms. Similar examples were collected on Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 81; 83; 84  
 Doc. No. 0486–542

**Cat. No. 691**

S-shaped bowl  
 Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
 2800–2600 BCE? (Kech-Makran IIIb?)  
 Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
 Size (cm): d. (rim) 36; d. (base) 10.7; h. 20.6

Large and deep bowl with slightly outward-turned rim and concave base. A horizontal





692

band runs on/over the rim. The outer surface below the rim is decorated with four horizontal bands, and the inner surface comprises four sets of eight to nine short vertical lines framed by the band on/over the rim and three horizontal wavy lines. Painted below are three radial wavy lines with a jumping ibex in the centre. Such a representation of ibex is unusual on Kech-Makran vessels and brings up questions as to the provenance.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 81; 83; 84  
Doc. No. 0437–113

**Cat. No. 692**

Globular jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 20.9; d. (base) 14.6;  
h. 36.2



Large, wide-mouthed jar with outward-turned rim and flat disc base.

Below the rim, a frieze of vertical hatched lozenges is framed by horizontal bands. The main decoration on the body is a frieze of seven palm trees with branches pointing up, divided by rectangular cross-hatched motifs. Only one small branch occurs as filling pattern. The frieze is bordered by applied and painted ridges. Shape and decoration can be related to Dasht IIIb ceramics.

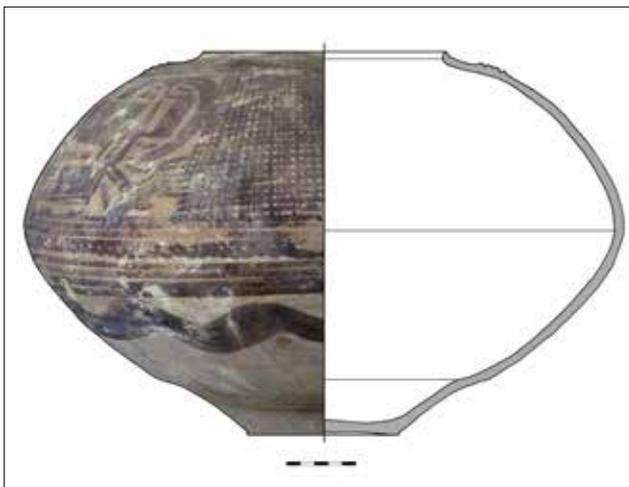
See: Didier 2013, 122–132  
Doc. No. 0524–118

**Cat. No. 693**

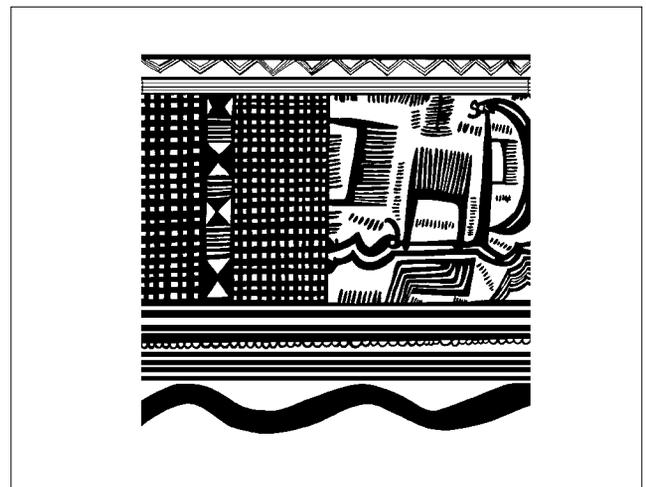
Globular jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m;  
thin buff slip

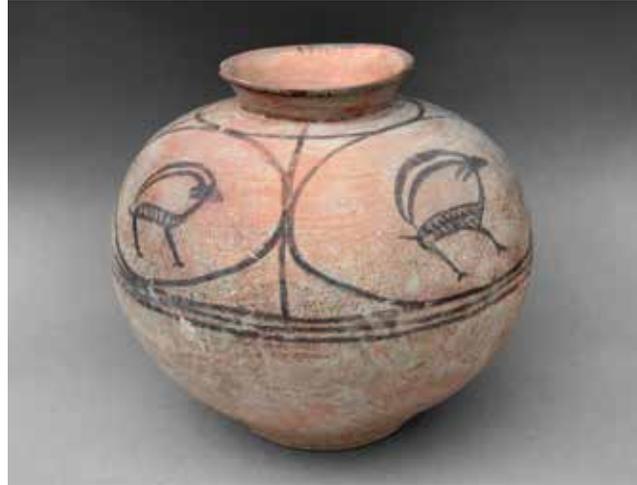


Cat. No. 693, detail



693,  
assembly  
and detail





695 696

Size (cm): d. (rim) 17.6; d. (base) 10.6; h. 25.9

Large, wide-mouthed jar with slightly inward-turned rim and concave base and four applied painted ridges below. The main decoration consists of six fields divided by two cross-hatched rectangles framing a vertical divider composed of four metopes with hourglass motifs.

The figurative fields show an abstract jumping ibex surrounded by comb, plant and tree motifs, sets of strokes and wavy lines.

Similar examples were found in Period IIIb graveyards of the Dasht Plain.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 88; 95

Doc. No. 0528–119

**Cat. No. 694**

Necked jar

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb)



Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 22.2; d. (base) 16.4; h. 39.1

Large pear-shaped jar with everted rim and flat base. The external decoration consists of a frieze of three wavy bands and one with hatched lozenges. The large frieze below shows four large rectangular metopes with square frames filled with concentric circles, multiply contoured loops and dots. As dividers serve four vertical cross-hatched bands and superimposed hourglass motifs.

Similar decorations occur on Dasht IIIb ceramics.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 84; 88

Doc. No. 0488–571

**Cat. No. 695**

Necked jar

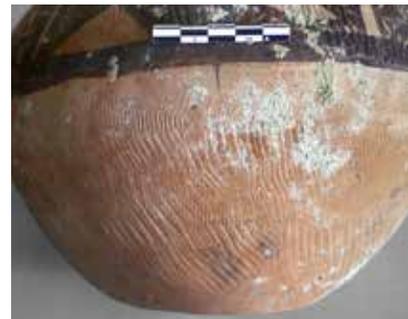
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

c. 3000 BCE? (Kech-Makran Late IIIa?)

Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m; thin buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 8.3; d. (base) 11.3; h. 21.6

Carinated globular jar with outward-turned rim and concave base. The outer surface displays a frieze of five stylised



plant patterns (palm). Below are nine very irregularly shaped rectangular metopes with two rows of horizontal opposing triangles, diagonally hatched and very irregular. No similar example was excavated in Miri Qalat or Shahi-Tump. The geometric decoration could be related to Makran Late Period IIIa or to Shahr-i Sokhta I.

Doc. No. 0497–532

**Cat. No. 696**

Necked jar

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2800–2600 BCE? (Painted Ware)

Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m; thin buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 10.4; d. (base) 10.6; h. 20.9



697 698

Globular jar with outward-turned rim and slightly concave, restricted base. The painted frieze, framed by horizontal bands, is sectioned into quarters filled with a large elliptical circle showing an ibex with hatched body. The decoration could be related to Early Dasht IIIb ceramics, but is unusual in style.

See: Didier 2013, Fig. 85  
Doc. No. 0498–115

**Cat. No. 697**

Necked jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE? (Painted Ware)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m;  
thin buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 10.1; d. (base) 7.5; h. 18.5  
Biconical jar with outward-turned rim and concave base. The decoration painted on the shoulder consists of a frieze framed by horizontal bands and filled with four stylised



ibexes with hatched bodies in elliptical metopes. Dividers are opposing hatched spiky leaves. The decoration is typical for Early Dasht IIIb sites, but not the shape.  
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 85  
Doc. No. 1230–552

**Cat. No. 698**

Necked jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE? (Painted Ware)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m



Size (cm): d. (rim) 11.1; d. (base) 11; h. 22.4  
Globular jar with outward-turned rim and flat base. Visible on the shoulder is an ellipsoid frieze with three metopes showing stylised ibexes with elongated hatched bodies and long curved horns. Dividers are formed by two opposing curves with triangular hatched leaves bordered by horizontal bands. The decoration is typical for Early Dasht IIIb sites, but not the shape.  
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 85  
Doc. No. 0469–162



699



700 701

**Cat. No. 699**

Necked jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE? (Painted Ware)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9.1; d. (base) 9.6;  
h. 20.5  
Globular jar with outward-turned rim and concave base. The frieze on the shoulder bordered by horizontal bands displays two ibexes in rounded frames.  
A similar decoration is found on Early Dasht IIIb ceramics.  
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 85  
Doc. No. 0499–586

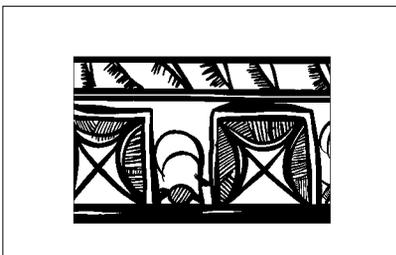
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9.4; d. (base) 13;  
h. 25.7  
Carinated globular jar with outward-turned rim and flat base. The upper decoration shows a frieze of stylised plant patterns (palm). Below: four separated and double contoured squares divided into quarters are filled with variously hatched semicircles. Three metopes are separated by jumping ibexes with checked body and long stylised horns.  
The shape and the decoration could be related to ceramics from Kech-Makran, Late IIIa/Early IIIb.  
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 89; 181; 182  
Doc. No. 0000–130



701

**Cat. No. 700**

Necked jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
3000–2700 BCE? (Painted Ware)

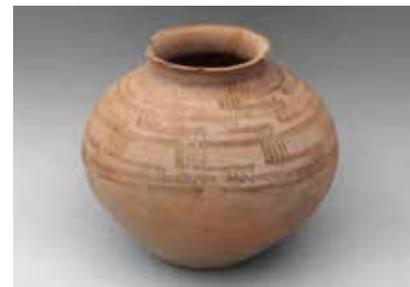


**Cat. No. 701**

Necked jar  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
3000–2700 BCE?, Painted Ware  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9.2; d. (base) 10.4;  
h. 21.4  
Carinated globular jar with outward-turned rim and slightly concave base. The shoulder is decorated with a frieze of stylised plant motifs (palm). The main frieze below shows two metopes enclosing two standing ibexes and a single ibex. Dividers are sets of vertical bands and vertical stylised fish, variously hatched. Shape and decoration could be related to ceramics from Kech-Makran, Late IIIa/Early IIIb.  
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 88; 95  
Doc. No. 0000–132

**Cat. No. 702**

Globular pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m;  
thin buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9.1; d. (base) 8.9; h. 15.8



Necked pot with outward-turned rim and flat base. An upper frieze below the neck consists of oblique lines. A main frieze of three superimposed rows with same pattern alternatingly repeated and a set of short horizontal bands attached to frame



704 705

lines with sets of four to five vertical lines at the ends can be discerned below. The two friezes are bordered by horizontal bands. This decorative pattern is known from Makran IIIb–IIIc ceramics. See: Didier 2013, 107–111 Doc. No. 0500–533

**Cat. No. 703**

Globular pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m; thin buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9; d. (base) 9.3; h. 16.4  
Necked pot with outward-turned rim and



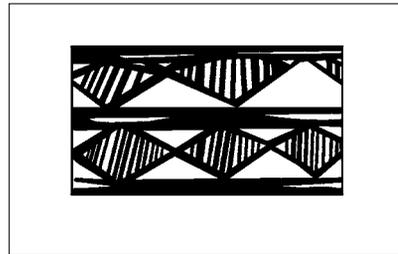
flat base. The decoration painted on the upper body displays three friezes framed by horizontal bands and filled with irregularly shaped lozenges, internally hatched in two directions.

Similar examples were found at Miri Qalat and in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75; 182  
Doc. No. 0453–116

**Cat. No. 704**

Globular pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; thin buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 4.6; d. (base) 3.5; h. 6.7  
Miniature pot with outward-turned rim and

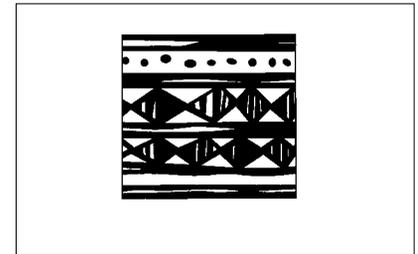


slightly concave disc base. The decoration on the inside of the neck consists of five hanging sets of multiple vertical lines. The outer surface displays two superimposed friezes of attached, vertically hatched lozenges framed by horizontal bands. Similar examples were found in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75  
Doc. No. 0920–330

**Cat. No. 705**

Globular pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, brownish light red/grey; w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 7.2; d. (base) 5.6; h. 9.3  
Small pot with everted rim and a slightly concave disc base. Sets of short vertical



stripes are painted on the inner surface of the neck. The decoration on the outside of the body is composed of a frieze of aligned dots, and two friezes of irregularly shaped and vertically hatched lozenges framed by horizontal bands. Similar examples were found in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75  
Doc. No. 0000–299

**Cat. No. 706**

Globular pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 6; d. (base) 4.9; h. 8.3  
Small pot with outward-turned rim and concave disc base. On the inner surface of the neck are sets of five–three–seven hanging vertical lines. Painted on the



outer surface, at the base of the neck, is a frieze of dots. The decoration below depicts two friezes of vertically hatched lozenges framed by horizontal bands. Similar examples were found in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75

Doc. No. 0600–756

#### Cat. No. 707

Globular pot

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)

Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; thin buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 5.3; d. (base) 3.9; h. 8.1

Small pot with everted rim and shallow



ring base. The inner surface of the neck shows five sets of five vertical lines. On the outer surface of the body, a high frieze framed by horizontal bands consists of double-contoured zig-zag bands with sets of six to four hanging/standing vertical and thick lines as filler motifs. Quite similar examples were found on the surface of the Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Fig. 74

Doc. No. 0922–429

#### Cat. No. 708

Biconical pot

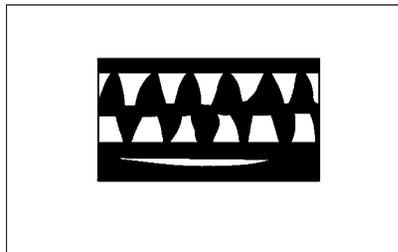
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)

Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 3.9; d. (base) 3.5; h. 5.3

Miniature pot with everted rim and slightly concave base. The decoration shows a frieze of alternating standing/hanging, solid triangles, irregularly shaped and



framed by one horizontal band above and two below. The decorative pattern that plays with black-and-white effects can be related to Dasht IIIb ceramics.

See: Didier 2013, Fig. 74

Doc. No. 0925–331

#### General Remarks on

#### Cat. Nos. 709–713

Cylindrical canister pots in fine grey or buff/red ware started to be produced in Kech-Makran during Period IIIb (2800–2600 BCE). Their painted decorations include motifs similar to those represented on bowls but depicted in more complex patterns organised in friezes.

The vessels collected during archaeological explorations in the Dasht Plain, which mainly include medium-sized vessels (d.: 8 cm –12 cm) and, in a lower proportion, small and miniature pots (d.: 3 cm –7 cm), exclusively come from funerary contexts (Didier 2013, 110 Figs. 74; 75). When rescue operations were conducted on looted graveyards by the French team in 2004–2006, it has been noted that the small and miniature pots such as cat nos. 709 and 710 were preferentially collected by looters, which partly explains their under-representativity in the scientific publications. It seems that the production of canister pots in Kech-Makran increased significantly during the following Period IIIc (2600–2500 BCE). Excavations at Miri Qalat, Trench I, indeed provided several examples of pots with a lower cylindrical body, but also with truncated-conical body such as cat. nos. 712 and 713. The pots with truncated-conical body significantly prevailed in the Period IIIc assemblage, but also in the Period IV assemblage (second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE). Their decorations include a



709 710



high proportion of naturalistic motifs (friezes of stylised caprids, trees or leaves, 'eye' motifs). It is worth stating that miniature pots dated to Periods IIIc and IV were also collected in some Dasht Plain sites.

Overall, the cylindrical canister pots produced in Kech-Makran Periods IIIb–IIIc offer good parallels with ceramic vessels found in limited numbers in southeastern Iran at Bampur IV.2 and V.1–2, Shahr-i Sokhta II and IV, Tepe Yahya IVC and in the Jiroft area (Jarrige et al. 2011a, 27–28 Fig. 18; Didier 2013, Figs. 214; 220–222). Miniature and medium-sized pots with cylindrical or truncated-conical body decorated with patterns similar to those on Kech-Makran IIIc–IV vessels were also collected in a higher proportion on the Oman Peninsula (Didier 2013, 278 Figs. 228; 229; Méry et al. 2012; Méry et al. in press). From recent provenance studies carried out on various fine, painted ceramics from Makran and Oman (including canister pots), we know that most of the fine grey and red pottery related to Kech-Makran IIIb–IV style found on the Oman Peninsula was obviously imported from the Kech-Makran region (Méry et al. in press). Along with the identification of numerous potters' workshops in the Dasht Plain, these results show that the production of fine painted vessels in Kech-Makran went beyond a local or regional distribution and that Kech-Makran has played, directly or indirectly, a significant role in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE regional exchanges and maritime trade.

#### Cat. No. 709

Canister pot

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2700–2500 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb–c)

Earthenware, grey; w/m

Size (cm): d. (rim) 4.7; d. (base) 5.8; h. 7.3

Small cylindrical canister with outward-turned rim and flat base. Three sets of four strokes are painted on the neck. The outer decoration depicts a frieze of vertical strokes and one with horizontally hatched triangles on the shoulder. On the body is a frieze with hatched lozenges and a larger frieze with a hatched zig-zag band filled (in empty spaces) with alternating hatched triangles. Similar examples were collected in two Dasht IIIb graveyards.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75

Doc. No. 0543–138

#### Cat. No. 710

Canister pot

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2700–2500 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb–c)

Earthenware, grey; w/m

Size (cm): d. (rim) 6.5; d. (base) 6.7; h. 9.9



Small cylindrical canister with outward-turned rim and flat base. The decoration consists of

two friezes of hatched triangles painted on the shoulder and upper body. Below, a frieze with hatched zig-zag band delimits spaces filled with alternating hatched triangles and vertically arranged *sigma*-signs. Similar examples were found in two Dasht IIIb graveyards and at Miri Qalat, Period IIIc. See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75; 165; 166 Doc. No. 0542–137

#### Cat. No. 711

Canister pot

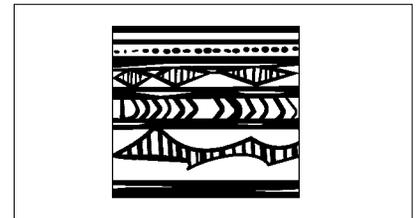
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)

2700–2500 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb–c)

Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; thin buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 5.6; d. (base) 6.4; h. 7.3

Small canister with outward-turned rim and concave base. Horizontal bands are painted on the neck. The decoration on the shoulder shows a frieze of aligned dots, just above a frieze of elongated and vertically hatched lozenges. Below is a frieze of stylised ibex's heads and a larger frieze showing a large festoon-like, vertically hatched band. Similar decorations were



identified on canister pots from Dasht IIIb sites and at Miri Qalat IIIc.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 74; 75; 165; 166 Doc. No. 1074–378



711 712

**Cat. No. 712**

Canister pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2600–2300 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIc–IV)  
Earthenware, reddish brown; w/m  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 5.1; d. (base) 3.7; h. 7  
Miniature carinated with everted rim and slightly concave disc base. Horizontal

cross-hatched linked lozenges and a frieze of hanging loops are framed by several horizontal bands. Similar examples were excavated at Miri Qalat, Periods IIIc and IV. See: Didier 2013, Fig. 165  
Doc. No. 0923–430

strokes and one with diagonally hatched triangles on the body. The frieze below shows standing ibexes facing right. Similar examples were excavated at Miri Qalat, Periods IIIc–IV, and in a contemporary Dasht Plain graveyard. See: Didier 2007, Fig. 321  
Doc. No. 0756–153



bands are painted on the rim and neck. The decoration on the shoulder shows a frieze of stylised ibexes. Below, a frieze of

**Cat. No. 713**

Canister pot  
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)  
2600–2300 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIc–IV)  
Earthenware, grey; w/m; thin buff slip  
Size (cm): d. (rim) 9.4; d. (base) 8.7; h. 16.4

Medium-sized carinated pot with outward-turned rim and concave base. The outer decoration depicts a frieze with diagonally hatched, standing triangles on the neck, two friezes with chains of dotted circles on the shoulder, a frieze with short



713, detail



713

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## Acknowledgements

We wish to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the following institutions and persons for their support and contribution to the project and this publication:

### Government of Sindh, Sindh Secretariat

Our gratitude is due to the Government of Sindh, Sindh Secretariat, for granting permission to carry out the documentation of the collection and to organise this exhibition:

Sharmila Farouqi, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh/Minister for Culture & Tourism, Government of Sindh, and Dr. Niaz Ali Abbasi as present Secretary Culture

Qasim Ali Qasim, Director, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums

Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari, former Director, Department for Antiquities

Shakkir Ali Shah, Deputy Director Exploration Branch, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums

Sajeed Hussain Khan, PR to the Special Assistant of the Chief Minister Sindh

Without the custom officers at the Custom House Karachi, the vessels would not be in Karachi. We wish to appreciate the efforts of:

Tariq Hudda, Collector Custom, S.A. Haleem, DEC, seizing officer, Rehan A. Jaffery, S.P.O./DEC and Mahsood Ahmed, S.P.O./DEC

### National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi

Muhammad Shah Bukhari, Superintendent and Acting Director of the Museum, greatly supported our work and took care of all administrative issues.

Mazar Mirani, former Director of the Museum, supported our proposal of the project and brought it to a good start.

Ejaz Elahi, Curator Archaeological Section, generously provided access to the stores, for many discussions and his help in finding the best solutions.

Rashid Ali Khan and Attiq Mohammad, Museum Attendants, for their untiring assistance

Fayaz Ahmad Shah, Administration Assistant to Museum Staff, and

M. Yousuf, Officer Superintendent

### National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, Conservation Laboratory

Zubeyr Ahmad Madi, Senior Paper Conservator, for providing us his facilities

Ali Danish, Laboratory Attendant, Farhan Ali and Saerteg Elem, Book Binders, Haroon Rashid, Conservation Assistant.

### National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, Exhibition Facilities

Ali Raza, Cabinet Maker, for his advice and guidance through the local markets

Anwar Hussein Khan, Modeller, for his help in acquiring conservation materials

Tahir Hassan, Electrician, for his control of all electric issues

Nahib Qasim, Museum Attendant, and Aqueel Uddin Ahmad Ghazi, Display Assistant

### Exhibition Showcases

The preparation and finishing of the showcases in Karachi proved to be a challenging task. The cabinets could finally be realised thanks to the support of the following people:

Rabia Hassan for her competence and intuition in transforming our ideas into excellent showcases, and her diligence in supervising production.

Riffat Alvi, Gallery Director of the Rangoonwala Centre, for spending much time and her advice in the initial stages

her Gallery Attendant Ali Hassan, and Shakeel, her Cabinet Maker, who produced the first showcases.

Anbrin Naz Qureshi, Gallery Manager of the Indus Valley School of Architecture

Asif Lukmani, Cabinet Maker

We also thank Dr. Asma Ibrahim, Director; Museum of the National Bank of Pakistan, for her advice and time, and for introducing us to various specialists in the wide fields of cabinet production and printing issues.

### Catalogue

Kiran Aman, Director, and Tuba Arshad, Assistant, at Markings Publishing for their time, competence and diligence during the printing process of the catalogue under great pressure of time.

### Cultural Preservation Program of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Consulate General in Karachi

The Project 'Lost & Found – Prehistoric Treasures in the National Museum Pakistan in Karachi' would not have been possible without the Cultural Preservation Program of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Consulate General in Karachi. We are sincerely grateful for the provision of funds from 2013 to 2015, and for the enduring support and advice in a wide array of matters.

*At the Cultural Preservation Program of the German Federal Foreign Office:*

For their strong support and invaluable advice in administrative issues related to this project and a workshop organized in Berlin in April 2015:

Irmgard Fellner, former Head of Division 602 (Cultural Preservation), German Federal Foreign Office, and Catalina Cullas Skrijinskaia, present Head of Division 602 (Cultural Preservation), German Federal Foreign Office

Renate Reichardt, Cultural Preservation Programs, Maghreb, Maghreb, Asia, Northamerica, Near and Middle East

Maryam Tutakhel-Azimi, Coordination Culture-Political Co-operations

Kirsten Petersen, Cultural Preservation Programs

Silvia Nissen-Hülse, formerly Cultural Preservation Programs, Maghreb, Asia, Northamerica, Near and Middle East

Kathleen Burde, Office for Federal Administration

*At the German Consulate General, Karachi:*

The project was initiated and implemented through the support of Dr. Thilo Klinner, former Consul General, and is now completed with the exhibition under the present Consul General Rainer Schmiedchen, to whom we wish to extend our thank for organising an eventful inauguration.

David Punzelt, Cultural Attaché, took care of the project since its beginning and accompanied it throughout, along with Ali Akhtar and Aisha Abdul Qayyum

Klaus Reyl, Attaché, provided indispensable help in innumerable logistic matters

Shirin Ghazali, P.A. to the General Consul, who was always ready to support us, and

Shazia Shaikh, at the Administrative Section

### Friends and Colleagues

We are very grateful to our friends in Karachi, for their support in so many occasions and long friendships:

Dr. Asma Ibrahim and Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari, who not only helped with the present project, but also made possible my work in Baluchistan

Taimur and Patricia Mirza with their intimate knowledge of Baluchistan, who also provided many images to this catalogue

Christa Majid, Shirin, Jehanzeb (†) and Afroze Ghazali for their interest, support and hospitality

Yasmeen and Zuhail Lari, President of the Pakistan Heritage Foundation

We also wish express our appreciation to our colleagues from the French Archaeological Missions for their support and advice, for sharing information and providing images from their projects and for writing a thorough summary and interpretation of their work in Makran to this catalogue: Dr. Jean-François Jarrige (†), Catherine Jarrige, Dr. Roland Besenval (†), Dr. Aurore Didier, and Dr. Vincent Marçon.

### Project Team in Berlin

It is our pleasure to deeply acknowledge the contributions of the following persons to the catalogue and the exhibition:

Elisa Cortesi, Research Assistant, for diligently recording the objects and taking all the images under often difficult conditions, for effortless investigating the showcase market and supervising production, for keeping control of the drawings and object images during processing, and for her contributions to the catalogue, including the object descriptions.

Carmen Gütschow, Conservator, for carefully restoring the objects to their original shine, sharing her knowledge with the museum staff and her help in putting the exhibition up.

Drawings, vectorisation, and mountings: Andrea Gubisch, Solveig Kemsies, Mada Saleh, and Astrid Lange  
Image Processing: Sandra Grabowski and Hans D. Beyer for amazingly improved the pictures published in the catalogue.

Text editing: Dr. Daniel Lau, Susanna Wittmann and Dr. Thomas Urban, who were always ready to take over, for their diligent and fast editing.

Language editing: Julia Böttcher for always promptly, swiftly and thoughtfully improving the texts.

Layout: Ina Beyer and Dr. Thomas Urban for developing the design and realising the layout under great time pressure with enthusiasm and endurance.

### Museum for Islamic Art, National Museums Berlin

With many thanks we acknowledge the support of our colleagues in the museum in Berlin during the organisation of the workshop, the compilation of the catalogue, and technical issues:

Yelka Kant, Marna Schneider, Svenja Budziak, Sara Moini and Viktor Denninger,  
Claudia Poerschmann and Dorte Riemenschneider

We would like to extend our appreciation to Ines Hasse and Doreen Siegert, SPK, for handling the financial and administrative matters of the project.

### Further Acknowledgements

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all institutions and team members who supported the explorations and excavation in Baluchistan carried out between 1996 and 2007 by the Joint German-Pakistani Archaeological Mission to Kalat: The Department of Monuments and Sites, Federal Government, Headoffice and Exploration Branch, particularly Niaz Rasool, Saidur Rahman, Saleem ul-Haq, Mohammad Khan Khattak, Dr. Asma Ibrahim, Shakkir Ali Shah, Tahir Saeed, the Home Secretariat Baluchistan, the German Archaeological Institute, Eurasia Department (2001–2008), and the Cultural Preservation Program of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for providing the funds for these projects, and LASMO/ENI who provided crucial logistic support in the remote areas between 1996 and 2000. Without the support of the people and the teams, who accompanied me throughout and too many to name them here, this work would not have been possible. We deeply regret that St. Langer could not live to complete her studies.

### Personal Thanks

With great gratitude I acknowledge the unconditioned support of Thomas Urban throughout the emergence of this book and the endless amount of time and energy he invested in making it happen. Without his efforts, it would not have seen the light of the day. I also apologize to family and friends who were badly neglected over the past months.

*Ute Franke*

I would like to express my special thanks to Klaus Reyl for supporting and always helping me, especially in the very stressful final moments. A special thought also for Jehanzeb Ghazali for his great interest and curiosity, we miss you.

*Elisa Cortesi*

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24;27–40 \* **9.1**;2;4–7;9–11 \* **B9.1**–25 \* **10.1**–46 \* **12.3**–6a,b;23–32 \* **13.1**

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**B7.3**;7

# Imprint

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Printed with funds from the German  
Federal Foreign Office, Division 602

**ISBN 978-3-00-051309-1**

Printed in Pakistan