CHAPTER IV

CATALOGUE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTIQUITIES
INTRODUCTION

Most of the antiquities from the megaliths, catalogued and discussed below such as pottery, iron objects, teracotta figurines, beads, coin in varying number, are from the disturbed megaliths of different types from different areas are owing to some probings, not scientific by curious antiquarians. So far as scientific excavations are concerned, only two sites are examined i.e., Porkalam (Thappar, 1952: pp.3-8) and Machad and Pazhayannur (Mehta and George, 1974). In the following pages first the antiquities are catalogued site-wise, type-wise such as pottery, terracotta, beads etc..

The index given to the various types of antiquities and method followed here is as follows:

Pottery - I
Terracotta - II
Beads - III
Iron objects - IV

These numbers given above against each type are common to that particular type in all the sites. In the case of various shapes that come under each type, they are denoted by letters under that particular type.
CLASSIFICATION OF THE ANTIQUITIES

A classification of the antiquities period-wise is also attempted. Among the antiquities the fragments of pottery and terracotta figurines, especially those found beneath the platform with pillars in a burrow may be classified into two groups i.e., Human figurines and vessels. Among the human figurines are fragments of head, arms, including shoulder part and feet. Some appear to be older than the others as indicated by the surface as well as more correctly by the characteristics. Accordingly these fragments may be classified into two groups i.e., early and late.

Site - I
Locality - Palakuzhy
Type of Megalith - Cist chamber
Antiquities

I. Shallow dish of coarse red ware with mat surface
   (Fig. 1, Plate XXI - 1)

II. Tiny human figurine (Fig. 18, Plate XXVII - 1 & 2)

Type of Megalith - Platform with pillars in a burrow
Antiquities (Early period)
I  
  a) Vase with sloping shoulder (Fig. 2, Plate XXI - 2)  
  b) Vessel with concave sides, sharply carinated body  
     (Fig. 3, Plate XXI - 3)  
  c) Fragment with conical protrusion with a channel spout  
     (Fig. 4, Plate XXII - 1)  
  d) Vessel with compartment on the outside having a chain  
     around the neck (Fig. 5, Plate XXII - 2).  
  e) Fragments having incised radiating lines, concentric,  
     horizontal, parallel lines (Figs. 6-10, Plate XXII - 3, 4,  
     5, Plate XXIII - 1 & 2)  

Late Period  
  f) Fragments having oblique lines with overlying folds on  
     the exterior (Fig. 11, Plate XXIII - 3)  
  g) Vessel with ledges over the shoulder (Fig. 12,  
     Plate XXIII - 4)  
  h) Small vessel with applique circular band (Fig. 13,  
     Plate XXIV - 1)  
  i) Large vessel of uneven thickness with applique band  
     (Fig. 14, Plate XXIV - 2).  

Terracotta figurines (Early period)  

II  
  a) Large human head (Fig. 19, Plate XXVIII - 1 & 2,  
     Plate XXIX - 1)
b) Hollow human head (Fig. 20, Plate XXIX - 2, Plate XXX - 1 & 2)
c) Damaged human head with 'u' shaped face (Fig 21, Plate XXXI - 1)
d) Fragment of human face - red ware (Fig. 22, Plate XXXI - 2)
e) Hollow shoulder part (Fig. 23, Plate XXXII - 1)
f) Fragments of hands (Fig. 24-27, Plate XXXII - 2 & 3, Plate XXXIII - 1 & 2).
g) Fragments of legs (Figs. 28, 29, Plate XXXIII - 3).
h) Conical elongated objects (Figs. 30, 31, Plate XXXIV - 1).
i) Front portion of a female (Fig. 32, Plate XXXIV - 2).

**Late Period**

j) Arm pieces (Figs.33-36, 37 a & b, Plate XXXV - 1 & 2, Plate XXXVI - 1).
k) Feet luted to vessel (Figs. 38, 39, Plate XXXVI - 2).
l) Hollow tapering piece - horn (Fig. 40, Plate XXXVII - 1)
m) Bird (Fig. 41, Plate XXXVII - 2).

**Site - 2**

**Locality - Thompadom**

**Type of Megalith**  - Cist burial

**Antiquities**

I a) Rim portion of a shallow dish of red ware (Fig. 15, Plate XXIV - 3).
b) Bowls with slightly convex profile with white painting under russet coating (Figs 16a & b, Plate XXV - 1 & 2, Plate XXVI - 1).

Site - 3
Locality - Chataparamba (Babington, 1823, pp. 324-340)
Type of Megalith - Kudaikal

Antiquities

I
a) Large jar with a carinated neck and wide mouth (Fig.17B-5)
b) Four legged jar of medium size with design on the neck (Fig. 17B - 8)
c) Rimless jar with bulging base and rectilinear line design (Fig. 17B - 10)
d) Shallow vessel of medium size with wide mouth (Fig. 17B - 10)
e) Large vessel with wide opened mouth having conical base (Fig. 17B - 19).
f) Small vessel with carinated neck and bulging body (Fig. 17B - 12)
g) Small jar like vessel, rimless with straight sides and round bottom (Fig. 17B - 17)
h) Small vessel, rimless, curved sides and flat base (Fig. 17B - 21)
1) Small shallow bowls, rimless (Fig. 17B - 20, 24)

j) A shallow tulip shaped vessel (Fig. 17B - 3)

k) Funnel shaped lid (Fig. 17B - 23)

**Beads**

III  
a) Oval shaped beads (Fig. 17B - 4)

b) Small cylindrical beads (Fig. 17B - 15)

c) Circular beads (Fig. 17B - 16)

d) Circular beads (Fig. 17B - 6)

e) Barrel shaped beads (Fig. 17B - 14)

**Iron objects**

IV  
a) Trident (Fig. 17B - 1)

b) Tripod (Fig. 17B - 11)

c) Suspension lamp (Fig. 17B - 13)

d) Long iron bar like weapon with a hilt (Fig. 42 - 1)

e) A spike (Fig. 42 - 2)

f) Dagger (Fig. 42 - 3)

g) Sword (Fig. 42 - 4)

h) Axe (Fig. 42 - 5)

i) Knife with flat blade portion and pointed tip (Fig 42 - 6)

j) Small axe (Fig. 42 - 8)

k) A spade (Fig. 42 - 9)

l) Knife with a flat roughly curved working portion (Fig. 42 - 10)
m) Small knife with flat working edge, pointed at the tip
   (Fig 42 - 11)
n) Sword with a hilt (Fig. 42 - 12)
o) Dagger with flat working portion and pointed tip
   (Fig. 42 - 14)
p) Hammer (Fig. 42. 15)
q) Dagger (Fig. 42 - 16)
r) Rod with rounded ends (Fig. 42 - 17)
s) Spear head (Fig. 42 - 19)
t) Wedge (Fig. 42 - 20)
u) Arrow head (Fig. 42 - 21)
v) Spear (Fig. 42 - 22)

Site - 4
Location - Periyakanal (ARADT ; 1941 pp 14-17
Type of Megalith - Menhir
Antiquities (Fig. 17-A)

I a) big burial urn having thick rim
   b) A small shallow bowl (chatty) of red ware with round
      bottom.
   c) One small pot black, glazed, with sides narrowing
      downwards.
   d) Large pot with narrow bottom
   e) One small glazed pot, broken
f) A pitcher red and glazed

A pot red and glazed

h) One coarse red pot

i) One glazed black pot

j) One pot with conical shape

Description

Pottery

Site 1

Type of Megalith - Cist burial

The shallow dish is of coarse red ware with mat surface. The core is blackish and coarse with small particles of sand used as grit. It is hand made. The interior, very shallow, is undulated. The edge is blunt with hands. The bottom is bluntly truncated. On the bottom exterior is an irregular circle with hatched short lines more or less at regular intervals with radiating double lines having hatches between the two lines all at regular intervals. The entire design is incised before firing and the incision is deep. It is a dish of very rare type and fabric (Fig. 1, Plate XXI - 1).

Type of Megalith - Platform with pillars in a burrow

Ia A vase with sloping shoulder and indistinctly carinated body. Just below the carination at one spot are two projections
of uneven level, broken. They are applied. What these applique are, is very difficult to know at this present state (Fig. 2, Plate XXI - 2).

**Ib** 
Vessel with concave sides, sharply carinated body. The lower part is unevenly thick and undulating, on account of application of more clay on both the sides. The form and the nature of this modelling are not known. The concave part has clear regular stration marks indicating that it is wheel made (Fig. 3, Plate XXI - 3).

**Ic** 
Fragment of uneven thickness with very much undulated interior and there is a leg like conical protrusion with a channel spout projection beside it. The form and the nature of the vessel are difficult to determine (Fig. 4, Plate XXII - 1).

**Id** 
Another vessel with compartments on the outside having a chain around the neck. Near the compartment wall is hung to the chain a bell with gong. It is very difficult to determine the shape of the pottery (Fig. 5, Plate XXII - 2).

**Ie** 
A few fragments of pottery having incised designs on the exterior such as radiating lines or vertical parallel lines with deep notches, series of two notches, looking like a leaf within the lines (Figs 6-10, Plate XXII - 3-5, Plate XXIII - 1 & 2).
If Fragment having oblique lines has overlying folds on the exterior. Indeed a peculiar vessel (Fig. 11, Plate XXIII - 3).

Ig Vessel with two ledges on the shoulder, the lower ledge has leaf like motifs with horizontal incision on them looking like a festoon (Fig. 12, Plate XXIII - 4).

Ih A piece, small, has an applique band with almost circular flat applique design hanging from it like the coins probably like a coin necklace. The thumb impression on the circular motifs is very clear (Fig. 13, Plate XXIV - 1).

Ii Large vessel of uneven thickness with applique band on the shoulder near neck, dull red and hand made (Fig. 14, Plate XXIV - 2).

Site - 2

Type of the megalith - Cist burial

Ia The dish is too shallow almost flat with edges slightly curving upwards. It is red ware of coarse fabric (Fig. 15, Plate XXIV - 3).

Ib A deep bowl with slightly convex profile tapering towards the rounded bottom with featureless edge. One is larger than the
other. They are bright red ware Botji have russet coated white painting both inside and outside. In the bigger one there are parallel vertical lines slightly curved or straight at four points. Each set consists of five lines on the outside from the top down to the bottom. There are parallel zig-zag lines as many as fourteen in number allround. The zig-zag is not uniform throughout. In the smaller bowl there is similar pattern of painting in the interior. Each set consists of as many as seven lines. All the lines are wavy. On the outside there are similar wavy lines but rather in oblique way. The painting nearly in the half of the area is worn out (Fig. 16a & b, Plate XXV - 1 & 2, Plate XXVI - 1).

Site 3

Type of Megalith - Kudaikal

Ia A highly glazed jar with a short neck, globular body with a rounded base. At the exterior of the body there is a chain of 'V' like design. The rim of the jar is thick and the mouth is wide (Fig. 17B - 5).

Ib Four legged jar of medium size with flaring rim globular body and rounded base. On the exterior of the body below the neck portion there are three groves with herring bone pattern design (Fig. 17B - 8).
Ic  A jar of medium size with round bottom and the side tapering upwards. It has no neck portion and rim. On the exterior of the body there is curvilinear line design (Fig. 17B - 10).

Id  A shallow medium sized vessel with sloping shoulder and body wide mouth with rim and slightly concave bottom (Fig. 17B-18).

Ie  A large Tulip shaped vessel with wide mouth and flaring and everted rim and round bottom. It has radiating line design inside (Fig. 17B - 19).

If  A small vessel with carinated body, bottle neck, round mouth with rim and concave body. There are three such small vessels (Fig. 17B - 12).

Ig  A small vessel with wide mouth rimless and partially straight sided body sloping downwards straightly with a round base. Another vessel with bottle neck, round mouth, sharply carinated body and a concave base, squat in shape (Fig.17B-17).

Ih  A small vessel with slightly curved sides, neckless with everted rim and wide mouth and flat base (Fig. 17B - 21).

Ii  Three shallow circular bowls with wide mouth, beaded rims and circular bottom (Fig 17B - 20, 24).
Ij A shallow Tulip shaped vessel with flared and everted rim and a rounded base with a ring at the bottom (Fig. 17B - 3).

Ik Funnel shaped lid with knobbed terminal and incurved lip (Fig. 17B - 23).

Site 4 (Fig. 17A)
Type of Megalith - Menhir

Ia A big burial urn having thick rim.

Ib One (Chatty) shallow bowl, red ware with round bottom.

Ic One small pot, black glazed, with sides narrowing downwards slightly flat at the bottom center.

Id One large pot with narrow bottom glazed and black.

Ie One broken small glazed pot, top black and bottom red.

If A pitcher red and glazed.

Ig A pot red and glazed.

Ih One coarse red pot with chain design on its rim.

Ii One glazed black pot, broken

Ij One conical shaped pot with flat bottom, glazed having black top and red bottom.
Terracotta

Site 1

Type of Megalith - Cist burial

II. A tiny figurine 6.5 cms high, solid. It is seated with hand and legs widely stretched forward. The forehead is almost absent. The nose so sharply protrudes forward that the sides are pressed. The oval shaped eyes are prominently shown below the nose. The chin is flat with deep cut above indicating the mouth. It wears a plain necklace indicated by incised lines. It wears dress probably of hanging leaves or reeds. The model and technique of make are archaic. On the whole the figurine is typologically very interesting and may belong to the megalithic culture of the state (Fig. 18, Plate XXVII - 1 & 2).

Type of Megalith - Platform with pillars in a burrow

IIa. The biggest human head. The hairs are clearly and minutely twisted, bound by a hair band right over the forehead. The forehead steadily curves back, the eyebrows are sharp, thin but bold. The nose is prominent, sharp even the nostrils are distinct, indicated by incised lines. The lips are thick, prominent and distinctly protruding. The chin and the cheek are supple, plumpy and gracefully curved round the
neck is what appears to be many stranded necklace. A small part of it remains on the left shoulder. The figurine looks as though solid but it is hollow and double layered. It measures horizontally 10 cms and vertically 15 cms (Fig. 19, Plate XXVIII - 1 & 2, Plate XXIX - 1).

IIb Human hollow head has large disc like headgear, the hair line indicated by two incised lines. The forehead is curving back, consequently the eyebrows are sharp and thin. The eyes are oval shaped but not symmetrically placed below the eyebrows. The right eye is abnormally at a lower level than the left. The protruding lips are prominently distinct. The nose partially damaged. However, it appears to be sharp and somewhat wide at the base. The cheek elegant bulges but the chin is pressed so much so it is receding and indistinct. The interior has irregular stratification lines. The figure is broken at the neck. It somewhat resembles characteristically the figure described above (Fig. 20, Plate XXIX - 2, Plate XXX - 1 & 2).

IIc Human head partly damaged, as a result the details about the head and eyes cannot be known. The eyes are more roundish indicated by the curved lines. The face appears to be 'u' shaped. The lips are very prominent. The lower lip
is thicker than the upper lip. Thick moustache is clearly shown by an applique strip with puncture over the upper lip. The chin is supple. Attached to the chin at a lower part is an applique thick band—may be indicative of beard. The figurine is coarse and made of clay mixed with sand. On the inner side are what looks like stratification marks. There are also distinct depressions caused by two fingers. Obviously therefore, it is not a single figurine but part of a vessel perhaps meant for ritualistic purpose. It is shaped on a moving wheel with hands. The mouth is wide and crescendical and thus the countenance is handsome. Thus technically, characteristically different from the above figurine (Fig. 21, Plate XXXI - 1).

This fragment has receding forehead, sharp thin eyebrow but again not similar and therefore, not symmetrical. The elongated eyes indicated by incised lines are prominent. The nose is prominent and sharp. The interior is very much undulated. The modelling of the eyes, eyebrows and the nose are similar to Figure 1a (Fig. 22, Plate XXXI - 2).

The human figurines described above are varying in size and usually proportionate and large about 0.60 mts to 1 mt presumably.
The hollow shoulder part of the right hand is thickly, shapely and somewhat slender. The forearm is stretched forward but broken near the elbow (Fig. 23, Plate XXXII - 1).

Four fragments of hands -

1. Left hand holding the lotus bud at the stalk. The petals of the lotus bud, finely shaped are indicated by the incised lines (Fig. 24, Plate XXXII - 2).

2. Right hand with closed fingers forming a socket holding some objects. There are four bangles on the forehand indicated by incised lines. The modelling of the figurines indicate that they are more or less of the same period (Fig. 25, Plate XXXII - 3).

3. Right hand with closed fingers round the wrist has a bangle (Fig. 26, Plate XXXIII - 1).

4. Solid, short, elbow part is gently curved. The fingers and the bangles on the wrist are indicated by incised lines (Fig. 27, Plate XXXIII - 2).

Two fragments of legs - one right and other left. Both are bent at the knee downwards suggesting that they are the parts of a seated figurine considerably large. There are bangles above the ankles indicated by incised lines (Fig. 28, 29, Plate XXXIII - 3)
There are two elongated conical objects. They are plain steeply tapering with undulated surface. They are probably flower like object held in hand (Fig. 30, 31, Plate XXXIV - 1).

The front portion of a female with prominent breast. But the middle part below the breast recedes sharply backwards which is not natural and should be plain and gracefully vertical. Above the breast is a necklace indicated by single row of punctured dots (Fig. 32, Plate XXXIV - 2).

Five arm pieces, all are fragments. The arms are of various size. In one case there is 'nagabandha' around the arm very near to the shoulder. They are hollow and probably bent at the elbow. Another piece has what looks like an amulet attached to the arm (Fig. 33-36, 37a & b, Plate XXXV - 1 & 2, XXXVI - 1).

Each right foot is actually luted to a vessel. The part below the heel is like a cube inserted to a vessel. Tracing of luting of the left foot is visible on the exterior. The shape of the pot unfortunately is not clear. The foot on the top is flat and the toes are long. Similarly the other foot also was probably luted to a vessel. The modelling is more natural. The back of the foot is rounded and the toes are proportionate. The method the luting the foot is same as described above (Fig. 38, 39, Plate XXXVI - 2).
One piece of hollow, steeply tapering to a pointed but end looks more like a horn (Fig. 40, Plate XXXVII - 1).

The head of a bird, solid, with lengthy beak curved downwards. The eyelids are applied. The left eyelid has disappeared (Fig. 41, Plate XXXVII - 2).

Beads

Site 3

Type of Megalith - Kudaikal

IIIa Transparent, plain, oval shaped, beads inside a cup shade. It has perforation. 21 such beads are joined by a string to form a chain (Fig. 17B - 4).

b Transparent, small, cylindrical shaped plain beads, perforated (Fig. 17B - 15).

c Transparent, circular shaped beads having design on them. The design is indistinct (Fig. 17B - 16).

d Transparent spherical beads of varying size. All the beads have some sort of design on them. In some instances the designs are indistinct. There are flower designs, parallel and radiating lines, rectangular, chequer pattern designs etc. Some of the beads are plain (Fig. 17B - 6).
33 barrel shaped carnelian beads etched in white with designs such as sharp zig-zag lines enclosed within double marginal lines (Fig. 17B - 14). This same design and shape is found in a late level of period II (M.S.K.-10 - 651) (Thapar, 1957. 4 - 142).

Iron objects

Site 3

Type of Megalith - Kudaikal

IVa A trident with a long shaft (Fig. 17B - 1).

b A tripod with a round base for keeping the vessels with conical base (Fig. 17B - 11).

c A hanging saucer lamp which was hung on the roads with rounded ends (Fig. 17B - 13).

d A long thick round bar with pointed ends, probably used as crow bars (Fig. 42 - 1).

e A flat long bar with a pointed tip. The tip appears to be attached to the tip of the bar. It may be a spike (Fig. 42-2).

f A double edged sword with a rib in the middle. It has a long handle part, probably hafted to a wooden handle (Fig. 42 - 3).
A sword having double edge with handle for hafting to the wooden handle. The tip portion is broken (Fig. 42-4).

An axe with a flat working edge and a curved tip, and a butt end with a detachable ring for hafting (Fig. 42-5).

A flat blade like weapon with a pointed edge probably a hoe blade (Fig. 42-6).

An axe with flat working edge and a hilt. The tip portion is broken (Fig. 42-8).

A flat spade with a tanged handle for hafting (Fig. 42-9).

A knife with a leaf shaped sharp working edge slightly curved at the tip, with narrow handle probably hafted to a wooden handle (Fig. 42-10).

A knife with flat working edge and roughly pointed tip, having a notch like cut at the handle portion, and hafted to a handle (Fig. 42-11).

A sword with a narrow socket base for hafting to a handle, the working edge broad at the hilt portion, narrowing towards the tip portion with a pointed tip (Fig. 42-12).

A dagger with a flat working edge and a pointed tip, broad handle, at the back of the handle a small socket base (Fig. 42-14).
p  An iron rod with a rounded end probably a hammer (Fig. 42-15).

q  A small dagger with pointed tip and a socket base at the butt end (Fig. 42-16).

r  Rods with rounded ends, looking like a weighing scale (Fig. 42-17).

s  A sharp spear head (Fig. 42-19).

t  A wedge, both ends wider than the middle portion (Fig. 42-20).

u  A small pointed arrow head (Fig. 42-21).

v  A long shaft, on the tip, a spear head is inserted (Fig. 42-22).
1. Fragment of shallow bowl.

2. Fragment of a vessel with carinated body.

3. Fragment of a vessel with projections on the body.
1. Fragment of a vessel with pointed leg and channel spout.
2. Fragment of a vessel with chain design, bell with a gong.
3. Fragment of a vessel with radiating line design.
4. Potshred with horizontal incised line design.
5. Potshred with vertical incised line design.
1. Potshred with slanting lines in between parallel lines.
2. Potshred with notches inside a hatch.
3. Fragment of a vessel with engraved lines and overlying folds.
4. Fragment with ledges on the body and applique hatching design.
1. Fragment of a vessel with circular applique design.
2. Fragment of a vessel with applique chain design.
Russet coated bowl with wavy line design, profile view.
Hollow terracotta human head - Profile view.

Hollow terracotta human head - Frontal view.
Fragment of human face - Red ware

Fragment of 'U' shaped human face.
Fragment of a hand holding lotus bud.

A hollow elbow portion.
Plate XXXIV

2. Fragment of a breast portion of a female.

3. Conical objects.
1. Fragments of arm, shoulder portions.

2. Fragments of arm portions.
1. Fragments of arm portions - one has 'nagabandjela' other has an amulet.

2. Fragments of feet luted to vessels.
If I Beads, Chatties, Iron Instruments, found in the Kodey Hulls at Chataperaham, on the Beypoor River.
FIG 42 IRON INSTRUMENTS FOUND IN THE KEBEY KULLS AT CHATAPERAMBAH