PART IX

HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY
Occurrence of the cultural remains of the early historic period along with the Pre and proto historic remains has been referred to in Chapter I, Part I. In the region explored no site exclusively with early historical remains like the site in Naṣagāon-Nādhavapur, has been encountered. But this is not unusual. Most of the sites usually are found to have been occupied from the neolithic or chalcolithic upto the end of the early historic or historic period in Karnataka and in neighbouring region, for single culture sites either neolithic or early historical like Tekkalakote (Nāgārāja Rāp., S. and Nālboṭra, K. C.: 1965); Dīmarbād (Dhavalikar, M. K.; 1969: p. 35), Ināṣāghor (Sankalia, H. D., et al., 1974), Chandrawalli (Wheeler, H. E.: 1947: p. 270), Rāmakṣi (Śehārī, M.; 1971: p. 56), Tēr (Dāvēdī, V. P.; 1976), are few and far between. As the population was increasing through the ages from the neolithic stage onwards new habitation areas had to be searched for besides those that were already occupied since long. It
is only in such circumstances that single culture sites could come into existence.

Since most of the sites were found to have been inhabited even during the late historical period the early historical remains were overlain by the cultural remains of the subsequent periods. Naturally in such sites cultural remains of the early periods are not easily and profusely found on the surface. But various activities like pit digging, channel cutting, house building, etc., of the people living there in the subsequent periods may result in the exposure of the underlying remains. In most of the sites in Bidar region, the region explored, the early historic antiquities are generally sparse. They are pottery of black-and-red ware occasionally with russet coated white paintings, red ware, bright red ware, coarse dull red ware, fragmentary terracotta figurines, beads, shell bangle pieces etc., are commonly found in these sites. But it is noteworthy that in most of these sites pottery of black-and-red ware is less striking. The most dominant fabric is red ware comparatively speaking a noteworthy feature. In none of the sites indications of the existence of the brick structures usually found in such early historic
sites, could be had. Even brick bats characteristic of the early historic period have not been noticed. But this situation does not indicate the reality. Excavation may bring to light brick buildings.

In the trial pits of each of 1 meter square laid in Khini-Brājāl and Yenkur referred to above in Chapter V, Part I at the appropriate place are found mostly early historical remains.

The ancient site of Khini-Brājāl is on the southern outskirts of the village. The river Karanja is to the south of the site. The site is locally called "Nelu nela". Nelu nela is a local Kannada term. Nelu means ruins and nela place. Numerous pottery, of grey ware and its varieties, eoliths in few numbers and microoliths etc., have been found scattered in the site. On the basis of the availability of the antiquities ranging from neolithic in chalcolithic stage, early historic to modern periods the area was selected for excavation. A trial trench of one square meter was laid on the southern corner of the site which is being disturbed by the local people for domestic purposes. The natural soil was reached at a depth of 140 cms. (Pl. 5, No. b).
The other ancient site of Yenkura is to the east, east-south and south in a cultivated field. The site is slopy towards a null, tributary of the river Karanja. The site is under cultivation. It is locally called "Salu hola". Numerous pottery of grey ware and its varieties and black-and-red ware, iron slags etc., have been found scattered in the site. And a disturbed Iron Age Megalithic pit was noticed in the site. Therefore, the area was selected for excavation. A trial trench of one square meter was laid on the southern term corner of the site, which is being disturbed by local people. The original soil was reached at a depth of 106 cm.

In Khini-Banjol four layers could be distinguished. The layer 1 contains early historical and medieval antiquities. Layer 2 yielded early historic pottery only. And layer 3 is gritty black cotton soil. No antiquities were found but a pit was found cut in layer 3 sealed by layer 2. In the pit was found a complete ivory doll indeed very interesting. (Plate 6, No. 10). Below the layer 3 on the original soil of layer 4 it is interesting to note, are found numerous irregular cores, few parallel sided blades and pointed crescents and numerous small irregular flakes. Besides cores, flakes, tools, ivory doll have been collected from the excavated pit.
In the trial pit at Yenkura three layers could be marked. Layer 1 contains modern, medieval and early historical antiquities. Layer 2 yielded a few pottery of black-and-red ware, red ware pottery in compact black cotton soil. The layer 3 yielded hard compact black cotton soil.

The selected antiquities of the early historic culture are described below.

A. Russet Coated White Painted Sherd

1. There are a few russet coated white painted sherds of usual type. One from Sangavi is a bowl of black-and-red ware. Has russet coated white painting on the shoulder. (Fig. 7, No. 1).

2. One from Bharamba is interesting as far as the design is concerned. It has on the shoulder parallel lines fine clearly visible. And below it has criss-cross design presumably between two parallel lines. The lines are neatly drawn and have their coating.
B. **Decorated Pottery**

3. From Bonagapur: One shard with worn out surface has a very bold curved applique. But the applique has been done so well that it appears as if a part of the vessel.

4. Another fragment from Chitta, of a very thick possibly large vessel has presumably a relief of an elephant in view of the features of the front left leg. The thickness of the pot is about 8 cms.

C. **Lids**

5. From Mettimalkunda Wadi: A lid with flattened bottom and obliquely turned edge. It has a central knob with pointed edge of coarse red ware.

5 a. From Chitta: Variant of type 5 without central knob. Has disc base of bright red ware. (Fig. 2, No.2).

D. **Vases**

6. A shoulder part from Lanjawada presumably a globular vase of red ware. It has a thin but distinct ledge on the exterior of the shoulder. Below the ledge is
a row of pre-firing incised triangles as it is hanging from the ledge. Every triangle has criss-cross design within.

7. From Hagur-Babili: Variant of the above type 6; of bright red ware with a plain bold ledge on the shoulder. Below the ledge is an applique rope design.

8. From Metimalkunda Wali: Fragment of a shoulder part of a vase of red ware with two parallel ledges. Between the ledges is a row of pre-firing incised triangles hanging downwards. Within the each triangle are lines parallel to side line.

9. From Itigali: Edge of a globular vase, externally thickened so as to form a collar. Two parallel grooves are on shoulder just below the exterior. Below the groove is another geometrical groove, but not clear. Has thick dark slip on the exterior of medium thickness and coarse black core.

9a. From Gangāvi: Variant of 9. Has bright red ware, two parallel wavy lines on a groove of the slopy flattened edge. Has thick red slip on both sides. (Fig. X, No. 3).
9 b. From Shalki: A fragment of a vase of blachy dull red ware. Has prominent ledge with a groove on the edge. Has thick dull red slip on both sides. (Fig. X, No. 4).

9 c. From Donagapür: An out-curved rim probably of a globular vase of bright red ware. Has grooves one at the edge and other at the interior of the rim. (Fig. X, No. 5).

9 d. From Sangavi: Variant of 9c. Has depressed edge of a globular vase (?) of coarse red ware. The edge is thickened exterior. Two parallel grooves are on the shoulder. (Fig. X, No. 6).

10. From Donagapür: Edge fragment of bright red ware of globular vase. Has much worn out. The thickening is turned up right, and has two deep parallel grooves but not continuously on the interior. Below the thickened edge on the exterior is a row of circular depression with central projections, of medium black core and of medium thickness.

11. From Souralli: Rim fragment of a vase, externally heavily truncated, flattened on the side with an under cut.
Was black and red wash.

12. From Shatambra: Out turned rim of a globular vase. The rim is externally pointedly beaked. The tip of the backed part has series of pre-firing slashes. Has dark red wash of medium thickness and of coarse core. On the interior is a groove.

13. From Lanjawadia: Variant of type No. 9 of smaller size. The thickening of the exterior edge is indistinct of bright red slip and of medium thickness. The core is brick red and medium.

B. Bowls


15. From Nettimalikundia Wadi: Fragment of a bowl with lug handle of coarse red ware. The lug handle is strong heavy, luted to the bowl. It has red slip of coarse core and medium thickness.
15 a. From Bhalki: A fragment of a bowl of dull red
ware. Has a flattened edge and two parallel grooves on
the shoulder. Has thin red slip on the surface. (Fig. X,
No. 7).

Terracotta

16. From Mattimalkunda Wadi: The head and the legs
are broken. The prominent breast,atomated waist and the
heavy hips are gracefully modelled. The hands are let
down freely. It is in bas-relief. It is worn out
consequently the brick red surface here and there are
visible. (Plate 6, No. 3).

17. From Sourallii: Another torso of presumably
female figure. The deeply lowered waist band is indicated
by incised lines. And the navel is indicated by a hole.
The right hand is placed on the thigh to hold some
object but indistinct. It has reddish brown slip, worn
out. It is in bas-relief. (Plate 6, No. 2).

17 a. The other from Nāipalli has drapery. And the
hands are resting on the waist. (Plate 6, No. 1).
Comparable to the figure of Maki. Plate XXVIII, B
(Thapar, B.K.; 1957).
18. From Göroinhollisi: Another fragment perhaps—
the bust of the human figure in highly abstract form with
dropping shoulder and hands bent and brought forward is
quite interesting. It is in round and appears to be of
simple mould. (Plate 6, No. 5).

The first two are most probably of the early
historical period is doubtful. There are two more
fragment terracottas.

19. One is probably the lower part of the leg of an
elephant. (Plate 6, No. 6).

20. The other is of indeterminate shape.

Terracotta Ornaments

21. From Yenkura: One is a fragment of a thick disc
like spool with depression on the flat edge on one side
there is a mat impression. (Plate 6, No. 9).

21 a. Other has pendent. (Plate 6, No. 11).

22. From MuchMamb: One is a arcanest shape terracotta
bead. (Plate 6, No. 4) and others from Yenkura etc.
(Plate 6, No. 4a, 4b).
Shell Pendants

23. From Yenkura: One is a arrow shape shell pendant with tang. The tang has perforation. (Plate 6, No. 7).

Shell Bangle Pieces

There are numerous shell bangle pieces. Some of them with decorative parallel incised lines on the edge. (Plate 6, No. 8). It indicates that they were locally manufactured.

General Observation

The study of the pottery types and their fabrics indicates that some of the most distinct types of the early historical cultures found for example in Maski (Thapar, R.K., 1957: pp. 72-82), Vadagam-Mahavpur (Sundara, A.; 1991: p. 69) etc. are scarcely found in this region. For example flat based simple cups with flaring profile of coarse dull red ware, lid with flanged waist are not found as frequently and abundantly as in the sites of the other regions. The black-and-red ware, flat based shallow dishes with slightly convex sides and truncated edge similar to the rouletted dish type. red
polished sprinkler have not been encountered in any of the sites. In fact vases of bright red ware are also not so common. Of course occasionally russet coated white painted bowls are found. On the other hand red ware pottery of thick section such as kundas, troughs, vessels with externally heavily beaded or collared or thickened with an under cut edge probably for storage purposes etc., are far more common. Of course vases of medium size and bowls do occur but less in number. Most of the pottery have red slip or wash neither bright nor burnished. Most of the beads, pendant etc., are of burnt clay and of simple types. Beads of semi-precious stones such as carnelian, agate, and rarely lapis lazuli that found there in sites of the other area have not been noticed in spite of search for such antiquities. Shell bangles and pendants as usual do occur. The terracottas solid and in bar-lief mostly are of local style. Stylistic terracottas of humans heavily ornamented with head-gear varieties and of graceful of anatomy in Kushāna or Amācāvatī style as found in Sannatti (Seshāthri, A.; 1966: p. 6), Vadgaon-Malhe vapur (Sundara, A.; 1981: p. 90) have not so far been encountered in these sites. But the occurrence of the ivory doll is strikingly important. North of Bīdar in Osmanabad district from Tēr many ivory
figurines with distinct features have been reported (Swivedi, V.P.; 1976: p. 81). It appears that ivory working was flourishing in that early historic site. The occurrence of the ivory doll showing affinity in style and technique with that of Ter indicates the contact the people of the area had with them. On the whole the picture of the life of the people reflected in these antiquities is of average standard not as flourishing and rich as that of Sannatti or Vadagaon-Madhavapur. Of course Ter, Sannatti, Vadagaon-Madhavapur, Chandravalli were important towns probably carrying out trade on large scale unlike Manki which does not indicate such luxury and high standard. The sites of Sider region, therefore, seem to be advanced rural type rather than highly urbanised. Lastly the discovery of these sites may appear to be of numerical importance i.e., to say they do not seem to add considerably to our knowledge of the early historic culture in the Lower Deccan. But they are really important in one sense as explained below.

The region under study till the commencement of the Chalukyan rule from Kalyana is historically a blank neither inscriptions nor literature refer to this region upto 11th century. In any way it appears as though that
history of this region with some noteworthy facets appear to begin with the Chalukya of Kalyana, (Desai, P.B.; 1981: p. 3). It is against this background the occurrence of the early historic sites considerably narrows the gap in our knowledge about the early part of the historical period of this region. The region was culturally very active though not glamorous like some of the sites of the other regions. Further investigation on these sites may improve our knowledge and reveal even the highly urbanised aspects of the life comparable to any of the important sites like Tar, Sannatti etc., for this region occupies conveniently the intermediary position between Tar in the north and Sannatti in the south not very far away from the sites.