Chapter 3.

Artefacts from the Excavations at Balathal

3.1 The Ceramics

The ceramic assemblage of the Early Historic period at Balathal is made up of six wares. These are: a) Coarse Red Ware, b) Coarse Grey Ware, c) Fine Grey Ware, d) Black and Red Ware, e) Black Slipped Ware, and, f) Northern Black Polished Ware.

Mr. Abhijit Dandekar, who is working on his Ph.D. dissertation on the Early Historic ceramics at present, has studied the entire Early Historic ceramic assemblage at Balathal. The author has benefited greatly from the discussions and data supplied by him.

3.1.1 Coarse Red Ware (RW)

This is the most prolific ware seen at the site of Balathal. It is red in colour and hence its name. It is a coarse utilitarian ware, most often wheel thrown and often bearing a wash or a slip. A few examples are coated with a mica wash thereby giving it a golden hue. Decorations include bands of mica on the neck and shoulder, incised or applique decorations, and rarely, painting in white pigment. Cooking pots, storage pots, storage jars, carinated handis, bowls, cups, basins, toy pots, and
Fig. 14. Selected Pottery 1) Pear Shaped Pots, 2) Carinated pots with internally truncated rim, 3) Double carinated lamps with wick-spout, 4) Votive tank with lampllets on rim, 5) Ink-pot lid, and 6) Bellshaped lid.
lamps are the main shapes found in this ware. Important shapes include the carinated pot with inverted tapering rim and rounded base, and 'pear' shaped pots (Fig. 14).

In a pit dug into the northeastern bastion of St. 4 in trenches G6 and G7 was found a ringwell made up of seven rings of a coarse sturdy red ware. The rings taper slightly towards the top and end in a flat slightly outward projecting rim. The uppermost ring was placed upside down, i.e., flaring upwards. The ringwell contained two 'V'-shaped bowls of red ware. The ringwell from Balathal belongs to Type 4 of B.M. Pande (1966: 210). It was probably meant to be used as a soak pit (Fig. 9, Plate 1).

Similar constructs are seen almost all over the Indian sub-continent in the Early Historic period. They are found from Brahmanabad (in Sind province of Pakistan) in the west, to Mahasthangarh (in Bangladesh) to the east, and from Taxila (near Rawalpindi in Pakistan) and Shahbazgarhi (near modern Peshawar in Pakistan) in the north to Arikamedu (near Pondicherry) (B.M. Pande 1966).

3.1.2 Coarse Grey Ware (GW)

This is the second most prolific ware at Balathal. Its colour varies from grey to black. It is coarser in comparison to RW, rarely slipped or burnished. Incised patterns, stamped designs, and applique designs are the main styles of decoration found on this ware. This ware is more often decorated than the RW and often uses a combination of decorative techniques. Cooking pots, basins, storage pots, storage jars, and small pots are the main shapes seen in this ware. Unique to this ware at
Balathal are double carinated 'lamps' with wick spouts (Fig. 14). These bear a combination of incised and stamped bands.

3.1.3 Fine Grey Ware (FGW)

This ware is found in small numbers mainly from layer 3 in the central portions of the mound. It is a very fine wheel made ware, light grey in colour and has a very fine core. The surface is treated with a fine wash or slip, which is most often burnished. It is very well fired. The shapes are restricted to flat sharply carinated dishes with slightly everted featureless rims. A unique example is that of a carinated pot with inverted tapering rim and rounded base (Abhijit Dandekar pers. comm.). Some of the dishes bear stamped impressions of concentric circles at their centres on the inner surface. A few also bear graffiti marks. The FGW at Balathal is reminiscent of the Painted Grey Ware of the Ganga valley and northern Rajasthan. The only visible difference is the lack of painting on the specimens from Balathal.

3.1.4 Black and Red Ware (B&RW)

This ware is found in very small quantities and is similar to that found in north India in the period under study. It has a medium fabric, which is grey in colour. It is black on the outside and on the upper half of the inside. The remainder is red (this is in sharp contrast to the B&RW of the Chalcolithic Ahar Culture, which is black on the inside and the upper portion of the outside, the remainder being red). It is slipped and well burnished. The only shape represented is the dish with vertical sides and non-contiguous rounded base.
3.1.5 Black Slipped Ware (BSW)

This ware is also found in a very small quantity. It has a fine whitish-grey fabric and is very well fired. A burnished black slip is applied on the exterior and interior of the vessel. The shapes are limited to sharply carinated dishes with vertical featureless rim. This ware is supposed to be the precursor to the Northern Black Polished Ware (Gogte 1989).

3.1.6 Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)

This ware, as the name suggests, is north Indian in origin and black in colour. It is a deluxe 'table ware' with a very fine fabric of well-levigated clay and is extremely well fired. The core colour tends to vary from grey to red. It bears on its surface a very highly burnished black slip of very fine clay. The shapes are difficult to determine as the findings of this ware from Balathal are extremely sporadic and the few sherds in the collection are non-indicative of shape. This ware is often described as the tableware of the Mauryan period.

3.2 The Artefacts

This category comprises all the remaining artefactual or 'small' finds from the excavations at Balathal. These include bangle pieces, beads, various objects made of terracotta, iron, copper, ivory, bone, shell and stone, coins and a cloth fragment.
3.2.1 The methodology of collection and classification

The artefactual data from the seven seasons of excavations at the site of Balathal was primarily processed in the field. It was then re-processed in the laboratory at the Deccan College and categorised.

3.2.1.1 Primary Analysis

Trench supervisors at the site were asked to bag any object found during the excavations that looked remotely manmade. These were collected and labelled using the following categories: a) Trench, b) Quadrant, c) Layer, d) Lot No., e) Depth, f) Object, and, g) Material. The label also bore, where available, the three-dimensional measurements of the exact findspot. Further, the label also bore the specific contextual position, for example, pit no., structure no., furnace no., from hearth, from section, from baulk removal, etc. This was done so as to make sure that the artefact could be studied in its proper context.

The artefacts found at the site during a day were collected prior to closing work for that day and made over to the person in charge of artefacts at the excavation camp. Later in the evening the senior students at the site and the site supervisors sat together and the artefacts were registered as per the specifications on their labels into a ledger and a Registration number was assigned to each artefact bearing packet. Here the artefacts were re-examined and any non-artefacts discarded. Remarks were added to the individual entries wherever necessary.
3.2.1.2 Secondary Analysis

The secondary analysis of the artefacts was done on the return to the Deccan College. Every year the ledger was fed into computers at the college. The data was then sorted into predetermined categories. Then the artefacts were physically handled, identified and described.

3.2.1.3 Categorisation

The categories have been made to facilitate easy access by future researchers and to streamline the task at hand. The basic categorisation is similar to that seen in most excavation reports published in India in the last 50 years (e.g., Dikshit 1955; Sankalia and Deo 1955; Sankalia, et al. 1969; Sharma and Mishra 1992; Hartel 1993).

The categories are based essentially on the constituent materials. For example, Iron Objects-this category consists of all the artefacts made of iron. This is done as it has been seen that most artefacts are made of a particular material only and that they are often related typologically and technologically to other artefacts made of the same material. There are some exceptions to this where the categorisation is based upon the artefact type and not its material. Categories from this group include Bangles, Beads, and Coins. These three categories comprise objects used individually and collectively and may belong to different materials. Thus in the case of these three categories the artefact type is more relevant than the material.
In the case of the first group of categories, the first level of sub-categories is based on groups of objects that belong together; the next level of sub-categories is based on individual typology. In the case of the second group of categories the first level sub groups are made on the basis of material types and further sub-groups on the basis of individual materials.

The list of categories is as follows:

1. Bangles/Bangle Fragments
   - Glass
   - Terracotta
   - Ivory/Bone
   - Shell
   - Copper

2. Beads and Pendants
   - Crystalline
   - Cryptocrystalline
   - Glass/Faience/Paste
   - Bone/Shell/Ivory
   - Copper
   - Terracotta
   - Other Stone

3. Cowries
4. Terracotta objects
- Figurines
- Sealings
- Ear Ornaments
- Skin Rubbers
- Headscratchers
- Discs
- Cylindrical/Conical Objects/Sticks
- Toy Cart Frames and Wheels
- Miscellaneous

5. Stone Objects
- Querns
- Hammers/Mullers/Pestles
- Birdshot/Slingballs
- Discs
- Sculptural Fragment
- Headscratcher/Funnel
- Bracelet

6. Iron Objects
- Adzes/Cobbler's Knives
- Axes, Spades and Ploughshare Blades/Hoes
- Pegs, Punches and Chisels
- Projectile Points
- Clamps and Angles
- Blades
- Nails and Rods
7. Copper Objects
8. Coins
9. Shell, Bone and Ivory Objects
10. Cloth

3.2.2 Bangles/Bangle Fragments

The single largest group of artefacts from Balathal (with the exception of the Ceramics) consists of bangles and bangle fragments. These are made of glass, terracotta, ivory, shell and copper. Of these, glass is by far the most common material, followed by terracotta, ivory, shell and copper, in that order (Table 1).

3.2.2.1 Glass

Glass is the most common material used in the manufacture of bangles at Balathal. Glass bangles and bangle pieces have been recovered from all the Early Historic layers excavated at the site. The antiquity of glass bangles in India was thought to have gone back no further than 700 A.D., when the Muslim invaders introduced them into India (Sankalia 1947). The only exceptions were the Indo Greek specimens from Taxila (Marshall 1951). This was soon found to untrue, as significant numbers of glass
bangles were recovered from the Early Historic levels of almost all the excavated sites.

The bangles found at Balathal have been made by winding semi-molten glass canes. The bangles are highly irregular in shape, cross-section and thickness. This makes it very difficult to take any realistic measurements from small fragments. The glass is quite fragile and has no noticeable breakage patterns, thus making the statistics highly unreliable. The statistics have been derived by counting individual fragments of all sizes and assigning to them an equal value (Table 2). They show a marked decrease in numbers in the descending order of layers. Colours too show a decrease in numbers as one goes lower. All the bangles are essentially plano-convex/triangular in section, a very small number are thick with a tapering flattened section, sometimes ledged on the inner side. Some of the bangle pieces are decorated either by a series of grooves or a ridge, others by a series of applique glass dots either in the same colour, some other colour or in a number of colours. All the grooved bangles are rectangular in section.

The bangles from Balathal show a lot of variation based on colour and decoration and they have been sub-divided on the basis the same.

3.2.2.1.1 Monochrome

The maximum number of bangle pieces are monochromatic (Table 3) (Plate 4). Black is the predominant colour followed by blue and then green, in that order. Other colours represented in the assemblage are purple, light green, turquoise, grey and brown, in that order. Very few are
clear/transparent. These are further sub-divided on the basis of their decorations or lack thereof.

The bulk of the monochromatic bangle pieces are plain and devoid of any decoration. Black is the predominant colour here, followed by blue, green, purple, light green, turquoise, grey and brown.

A small number of bangle pieces are decorated either with a ridge, a set of one or more parallel grooves, or a series of monochromatic or polychromatic applique glass dots.

3.2.2.1.1.1 Ridged and Grooved

Grooves and ridges are seen almost exclusively only on the black bangle pieces. The ridged specimens have a rounded ridge running on the outermost edge of the bangle. The ridge is formed by making two shallow parallel grooves on the outer edge of the bangle when it is still in plastic state. The grooved specimens on the other hand are very specific in nature. They are rectangular in section. The groove was formed by running a comb like object having two to four tines slowly over their outer surface when the bangle was still in a plastic state (Plate 5).

3.2.2.1.1.2 Appliqued

4.5% of the plain glass bangles are decorated with applique glass dots (Plate 6). In all there are 60 plain or monochrome glass bangles decorated with applique designs (Table 4). 48 of these are on black, seven on blue, two on green, and one each on brown, grey and light green
respectively. They are decorated on the outer edge with a series of applique glass dots in one or more colours. The chief colour is white, followed by red and yellow. Almost all blue bangles in this category are decorated in red/maroon dots. Three of the black bangle pieces are decorated in a slightly different fashion. One has a bichrome red upon white dot then a bichrome blue upon red dot. The second has a large white dot followed by a large red dot followed by twin small yellow dots. The third has bichrome yellow/orange dots. One of the green bangles is decorated in a unique fashion. It has on its outer surface a zigzag yellow line with a light green dot in the space in-between.

The largest number of appliqued glass bangles, 22, comes from layer 2. Layers 1 and 3 surprisingly have an almost similar number, 16 and 14, respectively (Table 4).

3.2.21.2 Bichrome/Polychrome

A very small number of bangle pieces, 19 in all, are made of bichrome glass (Plate 7). Two canes of glass have been fused one on top of the other, thereby forming two distinct layers to make these bangles. There are nine different colour combinations in all. These are Dark/Light Blue, Green/Red, Orange/Green, Yellow/Green, White/Blue, Yellow/Red, Yellow/Orange, Red/Blue, and Blue/Brown. Of these, only the first five are represented by more than one piece, Dark/Light Blue by six, Green/Red by three, Orange/Green and Yellow/Green by two each. As is seen from the table (Table 5) half of the bichrome pieces are concentrated in layer 2, four in layer 1, and two each in layers 3 and 5. Layer 4 was devoid of any pieces.
All the specimens from this category, with the exception of the White/Blue piece, are plano-convex. This piece belongs to the ledged variety (Plate 7).

Only one bangle piece is truly polychrome. It is from layer 2. It is yellow with red and green dots. These specimens are not appliqued but are stratified within the yellow glass (Plate 8).

3.2.2.1.2.1 Decorations

Ten bichrome bangle pieces are decorated with appliqued designs (Table 6), mainly of dots.

All the Dark/Light Blue bangle pieces are decorated with applique dots generally in red/maroon coloured glass (Plate 9). In one case the glass used for dotting has a thick wavy band giving the bangle a trichrome look. One of the dark/light Blue bangle pieces is unique in that the dots are also in blue and not in another colour. One bangle piece each of Orange/Green, Green/Red, Blue/Brown and Red/Blue bears applique dots. Five appliqued bichrome pieces are from layer 2, three are from layer 1 and one each from layers 3 and 5 (Table 6).

3.2.2.2 Terracotta

The second category in order of quantity amongst the bangles is terracotta. There are 487 pieces in all. Terracotta bangle pieces occur in all the Early Historic layers. They are either circular or plano-convex in section. Surprisingly, they are all plain and unadorned. None of the pieces
in this category is decorated. They are made of well-levigated clay, are fine in section and, as a rule, are well fired under oxidizing conditions. They occur in their greatest frequency in layer 3 and decrease in layers 2 and 1, respectively (Table 7).

Similar bangles are found from all the Early Historic sites in India.

3.2.2.3 Ivory

Next in order of percentage are ivory bangles. There are 70 pieces in all. These are slim and fragile pieces, rectangular in section and mostly undecorated. The ivory is a deep creamy yellow and very fragile. Most of the fragments were broken. Some are decorated with a series of lines incised along the length of the bangle. One unique piece from Tr. H4, layer 3, is very beautifully decorated. The decoration consists of two slim borders enclosing an 'X' which has a central hollow dot and both of its arms have an incised groove, the X is bordered by a series of hollow dots. What is really interesting is that the incised spaces were originally filled with a pink paste, traces of which are still visible (Plate 10).

3.2.2.4 Shell

Only fifteen shell bangle pieces were found in the excavations. These are plain and undecorated. Five of them are from layer 1, seven from layer 2, one from layer 3 and two from layer 5. Similar bangle fragments are found from Early Historic sites all over India.
3.2.2.5 Copper

Only four copper bangle fragments were recovered. One of them is from layer 1, two are from Layer 2 and one is from layer 5. These are curved copper rod fragments, circular in section. They may have been part of one or more bangles.

3.2.3 Beads and Pendants

A very large number of beads along with a small number of pendants were recovered from the Early Historic layers at Balathal. They have been divided into sub-categories on the basis of raw materials. Their shapes have been identified by using parameters set by H.C. Beck (1941: Pl. XI, XII) and W.G.N van der Sleen (1974: 34-35, 39, 44-46).

3.2.3.1 Crystalline Materials

This group consists of crystalline minerals, viz. amazonite, amethyst, aquamarine, citrine, (rock) crystal, garnet, and a red material of unknown origin (Table 8).

3.2.3.1.1 Amazonite

Only one amazonite bead was found in the excavation, in layer 5 (Plate 11) (Table 8). It is a barrel disc with off-centre perforation.
3.2.3.1.2 Amethyst

In all 26 amethyst beads were recovered (Plate 11), three from layer 1, five from layer 2, 15 from layer 3, two from layer 4 and one from layer 5 (Table 8). All the beads are of a single type, the bi-truncated flattened hexagonal barrel. There is no variation in type and the only variation seen is in size.

3.2.3.1.3 Aquamarine

Only one aquamarine bead was found, in layer 2 (Table 8). It is a flat rectangular prism (Plate 11).

3.2.3.1.4 Citrine

Citrine is a very light clear yellow variant of amethyst. It is often mistaken for topaz, yellow sapphire or 'pushkaraaj'. Four specimens were unearthed during the excavations (Table 8). Of these two, one from layer 3 and one from layer 5 are bi-truncated flattened hexagonal barrels (Plate 11) and the fourth and fifth are irregular facetted pendants (Plate 11).

3.2.3.1.5 Crystal

There are 16 crystal beads from the Early Historic levels of Balathal, two from layer 2, eight from layer 3, four from layer 4, one from layer 5, and, one from other contexts (Table 8) (Plate 11).
Of the two from layer 2, one (Reg. No. 6336) is an irregular spheroid and the other (Reg. No. 5323) is a hexagonally faceted bitruncated barrel.

Of the eight beads from layer 3, three (Reg. Nos. 6530, 8220 & 9220) are hexagonally faceted bitruncated barrels. One of them (Reg. No. 5461) is an ellipsoid, split into half down the perforation. The second one (Reg. No. 6853) is a bicone barrel broken at one end. The third one (Reg. No. 6696) is a hexagonally faceted barrel disc. One (Reg. No. 3448) is a cornerless/faceted-cornered cube. One is a faceted short truncated bicone hexagon.

Of the four specimens from layer 4, one (Reg. No. 3888) is a short heavily abraded, hexagonally faceted bicone disc. The remaining three (Reg. No. 5726, 5918 & 5921) are hexagonally faceted truncated bicones.

The bead from layer 5 (Reg. No. 2813) is a hexagonally faceted bitruncated barrel. The last (Reg. No. 2226) is a flattened hexagonally faceted bitruncated barrel. It was found on the surface of the levelled southern portion of the mound.

3.2.3.1.6 Garnet

Balathal lies in an area naturally rich in garnet. Though a large number of natural garnet crystals were found in the excavations, only two garnet beads were recovered (Table 8). The first found in Tr. OII1, layer 1, is a rectangular prism with bevelled sides, with a hexagonal cross-section (Plate 11). The second one is a bicone from Tr. OC2, layer 2.
3.2.3.1.7 Unidentified Red crystalline material

One cuboidal prism bead, with bevelled edges and a hexagonal section, was found from Tr. OA2, layer 3 (Reg. No. 8449A) (Table 8) (Plate 11). It has been drilled from both sides and has highly polished surfaces. It is red with an orangish tint and totally transparent. The colour is closest to that seen amongst red spinels.

3.2.3.2 Cryptocrystalline Materials

This group of materials consists of agate, chalcedony, chert, carnelian and jasper (Table 9). The carnelian beads are further divided into two groups: etched and plain, on the basis of their surface treatment (Table 10).

3.2.3.2.1 Agate

Altogether nine beads of agate were found from Balathal, one from layer 2, seven from layer 3 and one from layer 5.

The one from layer 2 is from Tr. OI 11, which lies on the periphery of the mound and consists mainly of slope wash debris. It is a flattened hexagonal prism (Plate 12).

Of the seven specimens from layer 3, the first (Reg. No. 5765) is a flattened 'leech' bead (Plate 12). Two are bitruncated barrels, the first (Reg. No. 6516) is an 'eye' bead (Plate 12) and the second (Reg. No. 5458) is flattened (Plate 12). The other four beads were found together (Reg.
No. 8278). Of these, one is a hexagonally facettted bicone, the other three are discs. The lone bead from layer 5 (Reg. No. 3057) is a broken black and white banded agate barrel/bicone (Plate 12).

3.2.3.2.2 Chalcedony

Chalcedony is represented by only one bead. It is a broken globular bead (Reg. No. 79) with a pale orange band, from layer 2 (Plate 12).

3.2.3.2.3 Chert

Only two chert beads were found at Balathal (Plate 12). The first one is a biconvex annular disc (Reg. No. 312) found on the surface of the mound. The second one (Reg. No. 2742) is a large thick barrel, broken at one end. It is dark maroon and is speckled all over in white. Its large perforation and overall appearance make it quite likely of Chalcolithic origin.

3.2.3.2.4 Carnelian

Ninety-nine carnelian beads were recovered from Balathal. Of these 78 are plain (Plate 13) and the remaining 21 are etched (Plate 14). One bead was found from the surface, 13 from layer 1, 15 from layer 2, 53 from layer 3, eight from layer 4, seven from layer 5, and, two from other contexts (Table 10).

The bead found on the surface of the mound is an unfinished/unperforated tabular bead.
Of the 13 beads from layer 1, ten are plain and three are etched. The shapes represented amongst the plain beads are globular, multifaceted, barrel, and bicone. Of the etched beads, two (Reg. Nos. 1757 & 5109) are thin and tubular. One is etched with six white bands and the other with two white bands. The third (Reg. No. 5068) is a broken globular bead with rows of white etched dots.

Of the 15 beads from layer 2, 13 are plain and two etched. Amongst the plain beads, new shapes include - lozenge-form, annular disc, tabular, and oblate. Of the two etched beads, the first (Reg. No. 2655) is globular with two bands of interlocking pentagons etched in white. The second (Reg. No. 5431) is a truncated bicone etched in white with a band of hexagons interlocked on each side to a band of pentagons. This is, in turn, bounded by a plain white band at each end.

There are 53 carnelian beads from layer 3, eleven of these are etched. Amongst the plain beads, new shapes include - bicone disc, truncated hexagonally faceted barrel, double chamfered cylinder, flat rectangular prism, and, a tabular trapezoid pendant.

Of the 11 etched beads, two are globular, etched with rows of white dots. Four are tubular, three (Reg. Nos. 738, 1851 & 8407) with three white bands etched on each, and, one (Reg. No. 5892) with two white bands etched upon it. Two are globular (Reg. No. 3516 & 9037), each with twin bands of interlocking pentagons. One (Reg. No. 6901) is a bicone with twin white bands at each end, the inner bands bounding five horizontal interweaving bands from each side which form a hatched design. Two
(Reg. Nos. 654 & 728) are identical; they are etched in black with a design of scallops between two bands.

There are eight carnelian beads from layer 4. There are no new shapes. The two etched specimens are both tubular. One (Reg. No. 5876) is etched with four white bands and the other (Reg. No. 2295) with three.

Of the seven carnelian beads from layer 5, two are etched and the remaining are plain. The new shapes include hexagonally faceted bicone, tabular disc with convex faces, tabular ellipsoid. The single etched bead (Reg. No. 969) from layer 5 is globular with two bands of black etched interlocking pentagons.

There are two more beads both recovered from the slope next to the destroyed southern portion of the mound. Both are etched. The first (Reg. No. 4643) is a bicone barrel etched in white with two interlocking bands of pentagons within two thin bands. The second is a bicone barrel etched in white with a band at each end enclosing five rows of dots.

3.2.3.2.5 Jasper

Jasper was not a very common material at Balathal. In all 14 jasper beads were found (Table 9). Three are from layer 1. The only shape represented is that of the multifaceted bead (Reg. Nos. 6801 & 795) (Plate 15). There is only one bead in this category from layer 2 (Reg. No. 2625). From layer 3 there are 10 pieces. One of them (Reg. No. 8371) is multifaceted (Plate 15), one (Reg. No. 6956) is a tubular bicone (Plate 15), four (Reg. Nos. 818, 3634, 7068 & 8530) are barrel shaped, and, four
(Reg. Nos. 980, 981, 1846 & 2934) are globular. Of the four globular beads two are plain, one has two interlocking circles inscribed on it, and, the fourth is an 'eye' bead with two interlocking circles etched in black (Plate 15).

3.2.3.3 Lapis lazuli

Only one lapis lazuli bead (Reg. No. 982) was recovered (from layer 3) at Balathal. It was a broken cubical prism, with a square section. One of the corners had been subsequently worn down in what seems to be an attempted reworking.

3.2.3.4 Glass/Faience/Paste

Since all the three materials - glass, faience and paste are man made, require heating in their manufacturing process, and are made of similar siliceous raw materials they have been grouped together.

3.2.3.4.1 Glass

In all 125 glass beads have been excavated from the Early Historic levels at Balathal (Table 11). Two are from the surface, 17 from layer 1, 14 from layer 2, 66 from layer 3, 15 from layer 4, seven from layer 5, and, four from other contexts. The beads are made of opaque as well as transparent glass. Colours represented include black, maroon, green and blue (Plate 16). The predominant colour is black followed by opaque maroon. A large number of the beads have been made by wrapping molten class canes on rods. Many beads have very visible winding patterns.
Two beads were found from the surface of the mound. One is an annular bichrome. It is red on the outside and white on the inside. The second is a black bicone barrel (Plate 16).

Seventeen beads were discovered from layer 1. Five are microbeads; four are black and one yellow (Plate 17). Five are barrels; four are black and one blue. One is an annular disc, one is a half white and half black oblate (Plate 16), one is a badly pitted black faceted hexagonal bicone (Plate 16), and one is a black pentagon with very clear winding marks (Plate 16). There is also a brown globular bead and two irregular beads, one black and one yellow.

Fourteen beads were recovered from layer 2. Two are microbeads, one whitish and one black. Three are black and annular. One is tubular and black. Three are globular; two are black and one yellow. One of the black beads has a wound white spiral of stratified glass. Two are truncated barrels: one blue and one black. There are three oblates: one green, one red and one blue.

Sixty-six glass beads were found from layer 3 (Plate 16). Of these 21 are oblates (14 black, 3 opaque red, 2 yellow, 1 green and 1 black with white bands), 11 are annular (5 black, 5 opaque red and 1 green), nine are barrels (3 opaque red, 3 black with white spirals, 2 black and 1 blue), eight are tubular (5 black, 1 green, 1 light blue, and, 1 light green with grooves and square sides), six are microbeads (3 black, 1 blue, 1 turquoise, and, 1 opaque red), four are cylinders with convex ends (2 black, 1 opaque red, and 1 whitish), two are lenticular (1 black and 1 brown), one black bicone, one black irregular bicone, and one broken sea green transparent
globular bead with trapped air bubbles and no perforation. Two of the beads are in a fragmentary state and shape identification is impossible, one is black and one blue.

Of the 15 beads from layer 4, three are globular (2 sea green [1 unperforated (Plate 16)] and 1 black), three barrels (2 black, 1 whitish), two are black tubular barrels, two are annular (black), one is an opaque red truncated barrel, one is a globular bicone (black), one is a black oblate with a white spiral, and one is an irregular black bead. One of the beads is too fragmented to identify. The fragments are black.

There are seven beads from layer 5. Of these: two are microbeads (1 black, 1 opaque red), two are tubular (black), one is annular (black), and one is an irregular truncated bicone (black) (Plate 16).

Four of the beads are from other contexts. One is a black microbead. One is an opaque red and annular. One is a brown thick tubular cylinder (Plate 16). One is an irregular black oblate.

3.2.3.4.2 Faience

In all 22 faience beads or parts thereof were recovered from the Early Historic levels at Balathal (Table 12). Interestingly they occur only from layer 3 and below. Of the 22 beads, 16 are from layer 3, four are from layer 4, and, two are from layer 5. They are all barrel shaped (Plate 18). The beads are very delicate and friable. Most have been recovered in a broken or crumbling state.
3.2.3.4.3 Paste

These beads are not actually made of paste but of an inferior quality glass. This material does not look as polished as regular glass but has a chalky finish. The beads of this material from the Early Historic levels at Balathal are restricted to just one basic shape - the small flat circular disc. Three colours are seen - orange, red and black (Plate 19). Orange is the predominant colour. There are 96 beads in all (Table 13). Of these, 82 are orange, six are black and eight are red. The beads are restricted chiefly to layer 3. Of the 26 beads recovered from layer 1, 22 beads are from Tr. OD2 and are probably also from layer 3 as the mound slopes here and the layers have merged. Also found from the excavations are seven small sticks of the same material as the beads. Two are red and the remaining are orange. Two each are from layers 3 and 4. Three are from layer 1; these are from the northern portion of the mound (North of the F row of trenches), which was inhabited very sparsely by the Early Historic occupants. These sticks or canes point to a possibility of the manufacture of these beads at the site. (Plate 20)

3.2.3.5 Bone/Ivory/Shell

Bone, ivory and shell are represented by 25 specimens.

3.2.3.5.1 Bone/Ivory

Bone and ivory have been grouped together as it is often impossible to tell them apart. There are 12 bone /ivory beads (Table 14). Two are from layer 1, five from layer 2, three from layer 3, and, two from layer 5. The
shapes represented include barrels, truncated bicones and oblites. From layer 2 there is a bone pendant. It is shaped like a flattened pencil. It is perforated at the base. The perforation is followed by two incised parallel bands, which are repeated just before the apex (Plate 21).

3.2.3.5.2 Shell

Shell is represented by 12 specimens (Table 15) (Plate 22). Two are from the surface, three each from layers 1 and 2, two from layer 3, one from layer 4, and one from layer five. The most common shape is the disc. There is one disc from each layer. A triangular very thin disc (Reg. No. 2329) was found from the surface, an irregular barrel disc (Reg. No. 6482) from layer 1, a thick flat circular disc (Reg. No. 1842) from layer 2, an irregular bicone disc (Reg. No. 2551) from layer 3, and a very thin irregular disc (Reg. No. 5667) from layer 4. Five shapes are represented by one piece each. One is an annular bead (Reg. No. 5047) from layer 1. The second one is a cuboid with an octagonal section and faceted ends (Reg. No. 5210) from layer 1. This bead has been made from an older one as is evidenced by a perforation scar along one side. The third one is a short truncated convex cone (Reg. No. 3285) from layer 2. The fourth one is a flat oval bead collared at both ends (Reg. No. 8020) from layer 2. The fifth (Reg. No. 3034) is a small curved portion of a shell that has been perforated.

3.2.3.6 Copper

Only four beads/possible beads of copper were found from Balathal (Table 16). One was found from the surface. One bead, one bead
fragment and one probable bead were found from layer 3. The beads were all probably spheroids. They are heavily corroded and very fragile.

3.2.3.7 Terracotta

In all 119 terracotta beads and pendants were found at Balathal (Table 17). These have been divided into four categories: 1) Arecanut beads, 2) Spheroids, 3) Other beads, and 4) Pendants.

3.2.3.7.1 Arecanut Beads

These number 95 and constitute the single largest group of beads (Table 17). They are shaped like the fruit of the ‘betel-nut’ or Arecanut palm and hence the name (Plate 23). Five beads are from the surface, 19 from layer 1, 29 from layer 2, 36 from layer 3 and three each from layers 4 and 5. The beads are found in grey and red colours. Some of the grey beads bear a burnished black slip.

3.2.3.7.2 Spheroids: Globular and Irregular Beads

The next category, size-wise, is that of irregular rounded beads. These are not truly globular or even oblate. They are rounded but are irregular and asymmetrical. They vary in diameter from 0.5 to 3 cm. There are 60 such beads in all, eight from layer 1, 10 from layer 2, 26 from layer 3, 11 from layer 4 and five from layer 5 (Table 17).
3.2.3.7.2 Other Shapes

There are 20 terracotta beads in other shapes. Three (Reg. Nos. 216, 217 & 1229) are shaped like tiny hubbed toy cartwheels. The first two are from layer 1 and the third from layer 2. They were probably used as spacers.

Three (Reg. Nos. 3273, 3292 7 5566) are long barrels. One of these (Reg. No. 3273) was found from the surface, one (Reg. No. 3292) from layer 2, and one (Reg. No. 5566) from layer 3. Two are grooved, of which one (Reg. No. 2645) looks like a small pulley, and the other (Reg. No. 6370) looks collared. Both are from layer 2.

There are two flattened bicones. One (Reg. No. 5919) from layer 4 is large with concave sides. The other (Reg. No. 8356) is a plain flattened bicone. There are two (Reg. No. 361 & 5812A) large flat discs and one (Reg. No. 28) small flat disc with an off-centre perforation. All three are from layer 2.

There are two (Reg. Nos. 6229 & 6297) short bicone beads with oblique longitudinal grooves from layer 3.

There is one (Reg. No. 1920) hexagonally facetted barrel from layer 5.

There are three unique pieces among the terracotta beads. The first (Reg. No. 8345) is a small flat horizontally perforated disc (tabular bead) from layer 2. The second is a flattened barrel with oblique longitudinal grooves, also from layer 2. The third (Reg. No. 4771) was found from the
surface of the mound. It is a large bead and it looks like a flat-bottomed pot with a pedestal base.

3.2.3.7.3 Pendants

Twelve terracotta pendants were found at Balathal (Table 17) (Plate 24).

Two are conical objects perforated at the apex. One (Reg. No. 6663) is from layer 1 and the other (Reg. No. 5283) from layer 2. Two (Reg. Nos. 66 & 8883) are cylindrical objects perforated at the apex. Both are from layer 2. One (Reg. No. 8290) is a terracotta stick from layer 3, perforated near one end. Two, one (Reg. No. 6249) from layer 2 and one (Reg. No. 4149) from layer 3, are curved and 'hook-like'. Two (Reg. Nos. 5542 & 5840), from layer 3, are broken close to the apex.

One (Reg. No. 624) is 'clove-like'. It looks like a cone attached to a globule and has some incised decorations where the cone meets the globe. It is perforated near the apex of the cone.

The last two antiquities from this category may be classified either as beads or pendants. The first (Reg. No. 5031), from layer 3, is a large flat bead with a single large vertical perforation close to the edge. The second (Reg. No. 886), from layer 5, is a round flat vertically perforated nine-armed star/toothed wheel, with two arms/teeth broken.
3.2.3.8 Other Stone

There are six beads of materials other than those described above (Plate 25). There is one each from the surface and from layers 1, 3, and 4, and, two from layer 2 (Table 18).

The first (Reg. No. 3277) is a very well executed arecanut bead made of soapstone from the surface of the mound. It looks like a concavely bitruncated convex cone. It has three incised parallel lines near its apex. The second (Reg. No. 5101), from layer 1, is a broken piece of a large irregular soapstone bead found on the surface of the mound. The third (Reg. No. 6408) is an oblate bead of schist from layer 2. It bears a black slip on part of its surface. The fourth (Reg. No. 6303) is an irregular barrel and is also from layer 2. Its raw material is ambiguous, perhaps sandstone. The fifth (Reg. No. 5422) is a barrel of a greenish/greyish stone from layer 3. It has a very wide perforation. The sixth (Reg. No. 5727) is a large badly battered limestone/talc bead from layer 4. It is a convex barrel with sharply truncated ends and a deep groove below the apex. The lower portion bears traces of a pattern of chevrons incised around its circumference.

3.2.3.9 Cowries

Four cowrie shells (*Moneta moneta*) were found in the excavations at Balathal. One each is from layers 1 and 3, and, three are from layer 2 (Table 19). These shells had their backs modified by grinding down. This makes the shell flat and bead-like (Plate 26). Shells are similarly modified today and used for ornamenting clothes in Gujarat and
Rajasthan. They are also extensively used to adorn male loin-cloths amongst the Naga tribes (Imtirenba Changkija pers. comm.).

3.2.4 Terracotta Objects

Terracotta is one of the most readily available materials to craftsmen. A large number of terracotta objects falling into diverse categories have been recovered from Balathal. These include human and animal figurines, sealings, ear ornaments, skinrubbers, headscratchers, discs, cylindrical/conical objects, sticks, weights, toy cart frames and wheels, balls/birdshot, lamps and other miscellaneous objects.

3.2.4.1 Figurines

A large number of terracotta figurines were found at Balathal. They are divided into two categories, human figurines and animal figurines (Table 20).

3.2.4.1.1 Human Figurines

Twenty-one human figurines or parts thereof were found from Balathal. Most of them are female figurines or parts of figurines. One is a Naga figurine of the type seen at Vaisali (Deva and Mishra 1961: Pl. XII, XIII, XV; Sinha and Roy 1969: Pl. XL, XLIV, XLV). Two each were found from the surface of the mound and layers 1, 2 and 4, and 10 figurines were found from layer 3 (Table 21). There are only three representations of males, two in the form of heads, and one in the form of an upper torso. Two different types of figurines are met with- moulded and handmade.
Of the two from the surface, the first (Reg. No. 8898) is a small broken hip portion and right leg of a handmade female figurine (Plate 27). It was identified solely on the basis of a small intact applique band engraved with vertical lines that formed a girdle around the waist of the figurine. The second (Reg. No. 2271) is a handmade human figurine with a rounded apex pinched to suggest a face (Plate 28). The right hand and foot are intact whereas the left limbs are broken. It is very similar to one from layer 3 (Reg. No. 6632).

Of the two figurines from layer 1, the first (Reg. No. 987) is a handmade female figurine with the right arm and breast and both legs intact, the left arm and breast being missing. The figurine has a girdle around its hips, denoted by an appliqued band with parallel vertically engraved lines. The face is made up of a flat disc with nose suggested by pinching (Misra et al. 1995: 78; Fig. 14a). The second (Reg. No. 6703) is the lower portion of a handmade figurine of which only both the lower limbs are present.

There are four representatives of this category from layer 2. The first (Reg. No. 2867) is an arm. It ends in a clenched fist with outstretched thumb and was probably the right arm of a figurine (Plate 29). The second (Reg. No. 8545) is also an arm, broken at the wrist and shoulder (Plate 29). It is bent at the elbow and sports a bangle on the upper arm. It also seems to bear a red wash. The third (Reg. No. 6616) is the lower portion of a moulded figurine or plaque (Plate 30). It is badly weathered. The figurine is broken below the chest and at the ankles. The only ornamentation visible on the torso is a girdle around the waist. Lower portions of both arms are seen besides the torso, both wrists seem to
have bangles. The left arm seems to be holding some long slightly curved object. The recessed tapering *mons pubis* indicates that this was probably a female figurine. The back is plain and rounded. The fourth (Reg. No. 5483) is an anthropomorphic 'Naga' figurine (Plate 31) of the type commonly found from Vaisali (Deva and Mishra 1961: Pl. XII, XIII, XV; Sinha and Roy 1969: Pl. XL, XLIV, XLV). The specimen from Balathal is devoid of decorations. It consists of a triangular pinched apex, followed by a short torso with both upper appendages broken, widening into broad hips curving inwards as you go lower, and terminating in a pair of pointed appendages with a shallow arch in-between them.

There are 10 human figurines and fragments from layer 3. The first (Reg. No. 3775) is the lower portion of a handmade female figurine. Of which only the portion below the waist has survived. It is slipped in red. The figurine bears a girdle denoted by an appliqued band with impressed dots (Plate 27). The second figurine (Reg. No. 5424) (Plate 27), belongs to the same category as the first, albeit it is more impressively decorated. It is also handmade and female. It is slipped in red and studded with tiny black stone fragments. The figurine is almost complete, only the head and the hands are missing. Two small high breasts are seen with two necklaces, denoted by applique bands with impressed dots, encircling them above and below. The figurine also sports a girdle denoted by an applique band incised with a design of running X's. The third (Reg. No. 2649) is a handmade arm which seems to have been originally luted to a human figurine (Plate 29). The arm is slipped in red. It is uneven and ends in a hand formed by pinching. The fourth (Reg. No. 4090) is also probably a human arm and was in all probably luted to a figurine (Plate 29). The fifth (Reg. No. 8142) is also another probable human arm. It represents the
upper portion and shoulder only. The sixth (Reg. No. 6632) is a very crude hand made figurine similar to Reg. No. 2271 (Plate 28). It too has a rounded apex with features denoted by pinching. Both arms and the left leg are intact; the right leg is slightly broken. The figurine has a small mark denoting its navel and is perforated at the crotch. The perforation was perhaps meant for inserting a stick so as to aid in keeping the figurine upright. The seventh (Reg. No. 6632) is a human head (Plate 32), probably male. It has a handmade oval face, with an appliqued 'horned' headdress with small incised dots, denoting a hairstyle (?). The right ear is broken off and the left ear is shown wearing an earplug/tatankachakra. The eyebrows are appliqued and are thick and they merge into a flat broad nose. The eyes are made of appliqued, almond shaped ovals each with a deeply incised central dot denoting the eyeball. The mouth is denoted by a deeply impressed oval with applique lips. The figure appears to be laughing. The chin is clear and deep. A small part of the neck is visible. The back is plain and the method of attaching the hairstyle is very clear. The eighth (Reg. No. 1269) is another human head broken at the neck. It is also probably male. It is cruder than the previous one and sports a bun shaped hairstyle, the coiffure is piled upon the left side of the head and above the left ear. The eyes are flattened almonds outlined above and below. The nose is prominent, broad and flattened. The mouth is a horizontal gash bordered by an applique oval denoting lips. Part of the neck is still extant. The right ear is missing. The ninth (Reg. No. 1237) is a female head. It is an extremely graceful depiction. The figurine from which it has broken off was probably in tribhanga pose as the head is inclined to the right on a neck inclined to the left. The expression is very serene. The eyes appear closed, as they bear no impressed dots. The nose is slightly damaged, but appears to have been of the broad variety. The
mouth is closed, and denoted by a pair of pursed lips. The hair is worn flat against the head and sweeping down both sides. Both ears seem to be wearing earplugs/tatankachakras. The tenth (Reg. No. 3618) (Plate 30) and last figurine is the upper portion of a moulded terracotta figurine, similar to the one from layer 2. The figurine is broken from the waist and below. It is very badly weathered and the features are worn. The figure appears to be that of a female (deity?). It sports a topknot, over an oval face. The features are very faint. Large suspended ears sport earplugs. There is a hint of an upraised bosom. It is covered partially by a long necklace extending to the navel, where it ends in a round pendant. The arms and neck are faintly visible. The right arm possibly sports some bangles. The back is smooth and rounded.

There are only two figurines from layer 4. The first (Reg. No. 3108) is an ill fired broken torso and head (Plate 28). The figurine is quite crude. The head is flattened and the features made by pinching. The head is perched on a thick bull neck, which slopes into the arms that are denoted by outthrust stumps. The arms continue into a narrow waist at which point the figurine is broken. Three small impressed dots denote the nipples and navel. The second (Reg. No. 4018) is a small fragment, probably the head of a figurine similar to Reg. No. 3108.

3.2.4.1.2 Animal figurines

As many as 93 terracotta animal figurines and broken parts of animal figurines have been excavated from the Early Historic strata at Balathal (Table 20). Of these, one was found from the surface of the mound, 14
from layer 1, 20 from layer 2, 40 from layer 3, 10 from layer 4, seven from layer 5, and one from another context.

The animals represented are chiefly bulls, followed by elephants, dogs, horses, a pig, and a tortoise.

The majority of the figurines are of humped bulls and parts of the same. They are handmade. They are mostly naturalistic. Made of fine clay, they are often ill fired and almost always devoid of any slip or surface decoration. A thin wash is visible only on some specimens. Almost all are broken and even those fairly intact have either horns or legs, and often faces broken off. The bulls are represented with backward curving or straight horns.

The elephant figurines are finer and larger in comparison to the bull figurines. They seem to have been handmade over a wheel thrown body portion (Plate 33). They show better surface treatment and some show signs of a red slip. One of the fragments has the lower part of the rider still attached to it. The best amongst these figurines is an almost intact one from layer 3 (Reg. No. 8162) (Plates 34, 35). It is made of extremely fine, well-levigated clay and has been treated with a fine red slip. The depiction is extremely realistic and can be compared well with the elephant figurines from Dhauli and Sankisa and with the elephant on the Sarnath abacus (Gupta, S.K. 1983: Pl. 8, Fig. 5; Gupta, S.P 1980: Fig. 4b, 47a, 54b). Two of the legs and a part of the trunk and tusks are broken. The legs are the only parts not truly realistic; they are made like tapering cylinders.
Next in number are small dog figurines. These are handmade and have pointed ears and a small pointed face. There are also two stylised horse figurines with elongated curved necks. There is one figurine of a pig. It is a small figurine with a short barrel shaped body and a flattened nose.

One of the most enigmatic and unique figurines from the site is that of a life-size tortoise (Reg. No. 955). It was found in the centre of St. 1, layer 1. It has a hollow flattened barrel-shaped body, with appliqued stumps that were originally its appendages. It has a small round opening at the centre of its upper surface, making it a vessel of sorts. The legs and the front portion of the head are broken. It has a small broken aperture at its rear end. The broken stump of the neck also exhibits an aperture, this one seems deliberate and made pre-firing. The figurine is 30 cm long, 16.5 cm wide and 15 cm in height. The leg stumps have a diameter of approximately 6.5 cm. The diameter of the upper aperture is 1.9 cm and that at the base is 4.4 cm. The diameter of the aperture in the neck is 2.5 cm. The thickness of the body is 0.8 cm at the rear break. The figurine was definitely one with some religious symbolism. It is red slipped. A similar type of animal vessel is seen at the Ahar Museum. It was found at Ahar and is that of a horse.

3.2.4.2 Sealings

"A seal is an engraved stamp bearing, singly or collectively a device, mark or letters pertaining to the owner. A sealing is an impression of such a stamp on paper, parchment, or some substance as clay, wax, etc..." (Thaplyal 1972: 1).
Ten terracotta sealings were found in the course of excavations at in the Early Historic levels at Balathal. Of these two each are from layers 1 and 2, five are from layer 3 and one was from layer 4 (Table 21).

Of the two from layer 1, the first (Reg. No. 1735) is broken, thus resulting in an imperfect circular sealing (Plate 36). Depicted on it is a bullock cart with the bullocks shown lying on their sides. The feet of both the bullocks point in the same direction. They are crudely depicted with a small hump in the middle of their respective backs. The cart is triangular with two small wheels attached to it. At the 'apex' of the cart, on the left margin of the sealing, is a hollow cross. At the top, above the bullock cart, is a three-arched hill with crescent shown lying on its side. Below the hollow cross diagonally opposite the three-arched hill is a slightly damaged symbol which looks like a triskele or a curly armed swastika. The sealing has a flat surface on which these symbols are depicted. The reverse is convex, thus resulting in a 'bun' shaped sealing. As mentioned earlier, the sealing is broken thus resulting in an imperfect shape.

It may be noted here that Tr. OD2, where this sealing was found, lies on the slope of the mound where layers 1, 2, and 3 have merged into one another.

The second sealing from layer 1 (Reg. No. 8083) is a simple circular sealing bearing one symbol (Plate 36). This is either a 'nandipadd/taurine or a stylised Brahmi 'ma'. The lower portion or loop, is slightly upraised and unlike a 'ma', solid. The back of the sealing is uneven.
Of the two sealings from layer 2, the first (Reg. No. 8213) is almost identical to No. 8083 (Plate 36). It, too, bears a single similar symbol. The sealing is circular with a part of its circumference broken. The seal from which it was struck seems to have been square as it has left the impression of a small straight ridge behind. The back of the seal is uneven and has a depression, which may be the result of the pressure of a finger in the process of applying the seal.

The second sealing from layer 2 is also a simple circular sealing (No. 8133) (Plate 36). It has a single symbol, that of a circle with four semi-circles attached at the cardinal points. The central circle has a dot in its centre. The symbol is slightly off-centre. The reverse of the sealing bears a very clear fingerprint. The sides of the sealing are slightly cracked.

The first of the five sealings from layer 3 is bun shaped (Reg. No. 2674) (Plate 36). It bears the mark of a rectangular seal. The sealing depicts a bullock cart with rider in profile. The bull is shown in a very naturalistic form with its right foreleg raised, thereby depicting motion. The cart is made up of three horizontal lines crossed by two vertical ones. The cartwheel has a distinct hub and what seem to be spokes emanating from it. The driver is shown seated at the apex of the cart. His arm is raised up, holding what seems to be a whip. This sealing is much smaller than the others found at the site.

The second sealing from layer 3 (Reg. No. 6259) is a circular flat piece (Plate 36). It has a single symbol depicted on it. The symbol has been marked deep thus resulting in eight deep depressions in a circle around a central boss. The central boss has tiny dots along its circumference. The
entire symbol is enclosed within a circle. The symbol is in all probability the same as depicted on No. 8133, the only difference being that the space between the arms and within them has been deeply gouged out and that each arm of the semicircles ends in another tiny semicircle. It was obviously used to seal a package tied with string, as the entry and exit holes for the string are clearly visible.

The third sealing from layer 3 (Reg. No. 6257) is identical in all respects to the one described above (Plate 36). The only difference is that it is slightly worn out, and the symbol less distinct albeit the tiny semicircles are clearer on this specimen. Both sealings were found in close proximity to one another.

The fourth sealing from layer 3 (Reg. No. 5302) is almost globular (Plate 36). It bears the imprint of a square seal. The sealing is very small, measuring approximately 1 cm x 1 cm. The symbols on it are very indistinct. No positive identification was therefore possible.

The last sealing from layer 3 (Reg. No. 6600) is the impression of a rectangular seal (Fig. 15). It has been made on a large ball of clay. The ball bears a series of Brahmi letters on the back. These have been inscribed by making multiple tiny puncture marks. The initial deciphering reads - 'ge va sa nam thā/the (?) ku thā bra? theē'.
Fig. 15. Terracotta sealing/token
The sealing is very complex and depicts a number of symbols and animals. It seems to narrate either a single event or a series of events. In the top left hand corner is a square with a perpendicular line rising out of its base through its top and two short curved lines emanating from the point where the line exits the square. This symbol seems to represent a tree or plant in an enclosure. The bottom left hand corner bears a three-arched hill with crescent. The bottom right hand corner has a hollow cross. The top right hand corner bears what seems to be a peacock. This corner was imperfectly impressed by the seal. Below the peacock is a pair of upright human figures facing one another. The figure on the left seems to be stabbing or punching the figure on the right with its left arm. The figure on the right has thrown up its arms and gives the impression of falling backwards. Between the three-arched hill and the hollow cross is shown a horse with rider holding a weapon (?) and walking to the left. The right foreleg of the horse is raised, thereby suggesting motion. Immediately above this horse and rider are two symbols. The left hand symbol is of a curly armed swastika lying on its side. The other symbol to the right is the Brahmi 'ma' or nandi pada. To the left of these two symbols and above the three-arched hill is an animal that seems to be either a caprid or a deer. Immediately above the curly armed swastika is a feline animal jumping upon the caprid/deer. To the left and above the three-arched hill along the left lower margin of the sealing is a lizard with its head pointing downwards.

The above-described impression is in all probability not a sealing in the true sense but a token.
The sealing from layer 4 (Reg. No, 3111) is a flat circular sealing bearing indistinct devices (Plate 36).

3.2.4.3 Ear ornaments

Eighty-eight ear ornaments of terracotta were recovered from the Early Historic levels at Balathal (Table 22). Of these 64 are 'ghata'-shaped earstuds and 14 are 'damru'-shaped earplugs. Similar earstuds and earplugs of terracotta, stone and glass are found from all large Early Historic sites belonging to the Mauryan and Sunga periods (see Chapter 4.4).

3.2.4.3.1 Earstuds

There are 64 ghata-shaped earstuds from Balathal. These are essentially small round terracotta bobbin-like reels (Plate 37). They consist of two terracotta rings placed one top of the other and joined with either a slight waist or groove. The rings are of unequal sizes. The waist/groove is meant to keep the earstud in place. It also has a tubular perforation in the centre. Similar earstuds made of silver and other metals are used in rural India even today and they are very common in the area around Balathal. The modern specimens are made of silver. The archaeological ones are found predominantly in red ware and are made of fine clay. They are unslipped and most often well fired.

Of the 64 specimens, eight are from layer 1, 12 from layer 2, 40 from layer 3, 13 from layer 4, and one from layer 5 (Table 22).
3.2.4.3.2 Earplugs

These are essentially waisted terracotta cylinders with flattened or rounded ends (damru shaped). They vary in width at the ends from 1.5 to 4 cm, and in length from 1 to 4 cm. They are not very well fired. All except one are plain and undecorated. The decorated one (Reg. No. 3756) is from layer 3 and has rounded ends which bear upon the edges a series of small indentations. These earplugs are said to be the ‘tatankachakras’ mentioned in Sanskrit literature (Dhavalikar 1999: 44, 87, 216, 232).

There are 14 earplugs from the excavations (Table 22). One is from layer 1. There are two each from layers 2 and 4 and nine from layer 3.

3.2.4.4 Skin Rubbers

Altogether 35 skin rubbers were recovered from the excavations. Of these, one is from the surface, five from layer 1, four from layer 2, 16 from layer 3, seven from layer 2, and, two from layer 5 (Table 23). Skinrubbers are as the name suggests devices utilised for rubbing skin during ablutions. They are used in India even today. The skinrubbers from Balathal are basically of two types: 1) cuboid, and 2) double 'axe-head' (Plate 38).

The surfaces of these skinrubbers are roughened either by incising grooves, dots, triangles or chevrons. Sometimes the surface is pitted by applying organic materials, which burn off leaving behind negative impressions. In rare cases small bits of stone or quartz are also found embedded on the surface.
3.2.4.5 Headscratchers

In all eight headscratchers have been recovered from the excavations at Balathal (Tables 23, 24) (Fig. 16). They are confined mainly to layer 3, where there are seven specimens. The eighth is from layer 4. They are essentially flat-based hemispherical objects, shaped like a half lentil. They are hollow at the base and bear a small perforation at the apex. They often bear a decorative pattern along the ridge. Of the seven specimens from layer 3, four are intact, one is partially damaged, and two are only fragments. The one from layer 4 is also a fragment. These objects are made of fine well-levigated clay and are extremely well fired.

Of the seven found in layer 3, three (Reg. Nos. 742, 2403 & 5683) are almost identical and plain. Their bases are slightly concave. The fourth (Reg. No. 6292), which is slightly broken, has two lines running along its ridge. These lines have been made by impressing upon the artefact a pair of strings whilst it was still unfired. The fifth (Reg. No. 5291) is a small fragment which has been ground for an as yet unknown purpose. It is a portion of the ridge and bears a decoration of stamped dots bound by three parallel incised lines on each side (Fig. 16). The lines are made by pressing strings onto the surface while it was unfired. It is made of fine well-levigated clay, slipped but not very well fired. The sixth (Reg. No. 4073) is also a fragment of the ridge of a headscratcher. It is unslipped and has a rough surface. It is decorated along the ridge by a series of dot-like puncture marks. Every alternate one of which is enclosed within a '(' like symbol. A pair of lines incised with string encloses the dots. The seventh (Reg. No. 3463) is more robust and intricately decorated. It has a slightly concave base. It is made of well-levigated clay and is extremely
Fig. 16. Terracotta headscratchers
well fired. It is unslipped but bears a very fine wash. All the decorations
have been made by impressing strings and consist of two concentric
circles incised around the apex. A line of further rings these '?' like
symbols. The ridge is decorated with three incised parallel lines bounded
on both sides by a line of scallops (Fig. 16).

The lone representative of this artefact type from layer 4 (Reg. No.
5009) is a broken fragment. It is made of well-levigated clay and is very
well fired. It bears on its inner and outer surfaces a very fine red
micaceous slip. It is much thinner than its other brethren and is a part of
the base and ridge. It bears on the ridge a series of symbols that look
like the Brahmi letter 'md. Three and a half such symbols are visible with
the open end pointing towards the apex (Fig. 16).

3.2.4.5 Discs

In all 223 terracotta discs were found at Balathal. These discs are made
on potsherds. A few are perforated and others are partially perforated.
The perforation is made from both sides. The discs occur in all the wares
from the site. Four discs were found from the surface, 39 from layer 1,
56 from layer 2, 63 from layer 3, 27 from layer 4, 30 from layer 5 and
four from other contexts (Table 25).

Similar discs are found from the Chalcolithic period onwards at all the
sites in India. They are thought to be either hopscotches or some other
toys, the perforated ones may have been crude spindle-whorls.
3.2.4.6 Cylindrical/Conical Objects, Sticks and Weights

This is a group of interlinked objects; all made of the same material—terracotta. All the objects are essentially variations of the same basic shape, the cylinder. The objects are seen throughout the Early Historic layers at Balathal (Table 26) (Plate 39).

1. Cylindrical objects
These are tapering cylinders with truncated ends. They are between 3 and 6 cm in length. The width varies from a maximum of 2 cm at the base to a minimum of 0.5 cm at the apex. There is usually a concave depression at the apex. These objects are of indeterminate use and may have been gamesmen or stoppers. A very small number of these were found perforated very close to the apex. These have been included with terracotta pendants. There are 119 of these in all. There is one from the surface, 10 from layer 1, 27 from layer 2, 63 from layer 3, 12 from layer 4, seven from layer 5, and one from another context.

2. Conical objects
These are variants of the above type of artefact. The main variation or difference is that the apex is not truncated but is pointed, and the base flares slightly more in this case. There are 30 conical objects in all. One from layer 1, five from layer 2, 19 from layer 3, three from layer 4 and two from layer 5. The function that these objects served is not as yet clear.
3. Sticks

These are also variants of type 1. They are slim terracotta sticks with an average diameter of 0.5-1 cm. Their ends are slightly rounded. There are 48 in all, almost all occur in layer 3. Two were found from layer 1, three from layer 2, 42 from layer 3 and one from layer 4. Twenty-two of these were found together in Tr. B, layer 3.

These may have been used as kohlsticks or applicators for some unguents.

4. Weights

These look more like weights than anything else but whether they are really so cannot be said with certainty. They are morphologically very akin to cylindrical objects, the only difference being that in the case of this category the height is equal or less than the width at base. They are found from all the Early Historic levels at Balathal. Two were found on the surface, 12 from layer 1, 19 from layer 2, 47 from layer 3, eight from layer 4 and four from layer 5. They were probably used either as gamesmen or stoppers.

3.2.4.8 Balls/Birdshot

A large number of spherical terracotta objects, with a diameter of 1-3 cm, have been recovered from the excavations at Balathal. Apart from two balls (Reg. No. 1025A and 1025B) from Tr. D layer 1, which were incised (Plate 40), the rest are plain. These balls are most probably toys or missiles used in pellet bows for hunting small game and birds, such as is seen in rural India even today. They are spread pretty evenly on the site during the Early Historic. There are 66 of them (Table 27). Two are from
the surface, 15 from layer 1, 17 from layer 2, 21 from layer 3, one from layer 4, and seven from layer 5. Two are from other contexts.

3.2.4.9 Toy cart-frames and wheels

Four toy cart-frames (Plate 41) and 47 toy wheels were recovered from the excavations (Table 28).

1. Toy cart frames
Five toy cart frames were recovered (Table 28). Of these, one each was found from layers 2, 4 and 5, and two were found from layer 3. These are rectangular terracotta tablets with two perforations, one lengthwise and one breadthwise. These perforations were meant to accommodate wooden twigs that represented the axle and the yoke of the cart. The breadthwise axle would then be attached to a toy wheel on either side. One of the cart frames from layer 5 has not been fired and is made of sun-dried clay, it bears a number of perforations along the length of its faces, these were meant to hold twigs suggesting the side frames of the cart.

2. Toy wheels
These are essentially handmade terracotta discs with projecting hubs at the perforation. They look very similar to the cart-wheels used in rural India even today. They are well fired and plain. There are 48 such artefacts from the Early Historic levels at Balathal (Table 28), five are from layer 1, 10 each from layers 2 and 5 respectively, 19 from layer 3, and four from layer 4. One toy wheel from layer 3 is unfired and made of sun-dried clay.
3.2.4.10 Lamps

A very large number of lamps were recovered from the excavations at Balathal. There are essentially four types of lamps at Balathal: spouted lamps, small lamps, lamplets, and toy lamps.

1. Spouted lamps
These are unique to the site of Balathal. They are vessels made of grey ware. They are double carinated with a rounded base, a small wick-spout/channel at the shoulder, and a small opening with an out-turned rim at the apex, and are decorated with a series of parallel lines and stamped triangles (Fig. 14) (Data kindly provided by Abhijit Dandekar). There are three complete specimens and parts of at least five others (Table 29). Of these, two are from layer 1, one from layer 2, three from layer 3, and two from layer 5.

2. Small lamps
These make up the majority of the lamps. They are small shallow terracotta vessels with a small circular base and inturned, featureless rims. The base often shows clear string marks where it has been cut from the potter's wheel. They have no wick channels. There are 96 examples of this sub-category (Table 29) of which, six were found on the surface of the mound, 10 from layer 1, 19 from layer 2, 49 from layer 3, seven from layer 4, two from layer 5, and two from other contexts.

3. Lamplets
The lamplets are essentially tiny lamps that were originally part of the rim of a votive tank (Fig. 14). There are 12 examples of these (Table
4. Toy lamps

There are only two specimens in this category (Table 29). One (Reg. No. 742) is from layer 2 and the second (Reg. No. 2684) is from layer 3. The lamps are actually made up of a small lump of clay with a deep depression made by inserting a finger into it. One edge of the rim has been then pinched to make a wick-channel.

3.2.4.11 Miscellaneous

This category consists of the remaining terracotta artefacts from the Early Historic levels at Balathal.

1. Dabbers

In all, only two dabbers were found. One complete (Reg. No. 3017), and one half (Reg. No. 1044) were found, both from layer 3 (Plate 42).

2. Ghungroos

Three broken ghungroos were found from the excavations, one each from layers 2, 3 and 5. They are perforated at the apex, which is flat and the body consists of two rounded halves with a dividing groove (Plate 43).

3. Bricks

Two bricks also find themselves in the list. The first (Reg. No. 130) was found in layer 1, and is a large fragment with a checkered pattern on its surface. The other (Reg. No. 656), from layer 3, is a round lump with a
clear deep round depression in one face. It was probably the base of a
doorjamb, used as a door-pivot.

4. Key-mould
A unique example of what appears to be a key-mould was recovered from
layer 3 (Plate 44). It is a flat rectangular terracotta tablet with a
keyhole like opening on one face.

5. Pipe bowls/droppers
Two specimens of an object closely resembling the bowl of a tobacco pipe
were recovered from the Early Historic levels, one from layer 1 and the
other from layer 5 (Plate 45). They may also have been droppers of some
sort. An identical object was recovered from the excavations at Rairh,
where the excavator identifies it as a feeding cup (Puri 1940).

6. Tuyere
This is the only piece of a tuyere from the entire site (Plate 46). It is
from layer 2, found in the vicinity of the furnace in Tr. BX1. It is burnt
bright red on the inside. Identical tuyeres were found from the
explorations at the site of Iswal.

3.2.5 Stone objects
A large number of stone objects have been found from the excavations.
Most of these are implements used in the processing of cereals and other
foods, viz. querns, mullers, hammers/pounders and pestles. The rest are
comprised of birdshot/slingballs, discs, one sculptural fragment and a
headscratcher/funnel.
Altogether 37 querns were found at Balathal (Table 30). They are divided into four categories, essentially on the basis of their shapes. They are all functionally equal and are made for grinding various materials such as grain and other plant foods.

1. Saddle Querns
The majority of the querns from the site are simple saddle querns. These are simply large roughly rounded blocks of hard stone, such as granite or quartzite, which have been used for grinding various substances. The process of grinding slowly wears away the stone leaving a shallow oval depression. Sometimes this hollow becomes too deep, or the quern breaks. In this case, the quern is sometimes turned onto its back, and reused. A number of broken querns were seen reused by the modern inhabitants in boundary walls for their fields, surrounding the site. In all 20 saddle querns were recovered from the excavations, only from layers 2, 3 and 5. There were three in layer 2, one of which was used on three surfaces. Nine were found in layer 3 and eight from layer 5. Of the eight from layer 5, six were found dumped together at the base of the layer, in a soundage taken in Tr. B6. These in all probability belong to the earlier Chalcolithic occupation at the site.

2. Four-Legged Querns
These are essentially rectangular on plan and are supported by four stumpy legs, forming a small stool/table. The upper surface is used for the purpose of grinding and is well polished due to this activity. At Balathal, these querns were limited to layer 3 (Table 30) where one
complete piece and parts of three others were found. Two more fragments were seen in layer 3. Part of a four-legged quern was found from the surface of the mound and a complete quern broken into four pieces was found in layer 2.

3. Rotary Querns
These are round on plan and made up of two separate pieces. The upper portion or top and the lower portion or base. The base is a flat round block of stone with a large perforation at the centre. The top consists of a waisted, round block of stone, smaller at the top and flaring at the base, with flattened ends and a perforation at the centre and two perforations at the waist. At Balathal the rotary querns are restricted to layers 2, 3 and 4 (Table 30). There are two complete pieces from Structure 1, in layer 2 (Reg. No. 962 & 963), together forming a complete rotary quern. There is one more fragment from layer 2. From layer 3 three pieces were found, all of which are fragments. Of the two pieces from layer 4, one (Reg. No. 7027) is a complete base, found in a later pit whose upper limit was missed. The other is a broken fragment found from Tr. F, which lies on the periphery of the area occupied during the Early Historic period.

4. Miniature Quern
This is a unique artefact. It is a small palm sized saddle quern, found in layer 4 (Table 30) (Plate 47). In all probability it was used as an apothecary's quern for grinding medicinal herbs, or spices in small quantities. It could also have been used for grinding small quantities of natural dyes, ochre, etc. Used ochre nodules were also found at Balathal.
3.2.5.2 Hammerstones/Mullers/Pestles

This category consists of implements used in various crushing, grinding and pounding activities.

1. Hammerstones

Hammerstones are fist-sized spheroids of stone, chipped into shape to serve as hammers. They are often badly battered and battering marks are visible on one or more sides. They are made of quartz and quartzitic stones.

They are found in all the Early Historic layers at the site (Table 31). Three were found from the surface, 20 from layer 1, 46 from layer 2, 84 from layer 3, 182 from layer 5 and seven from other contexts. The extremely high incidence of hammerstones from layer 5 is due to a large grouping of these artefacts at the base of the layer and immediately above the Chalcolithic deposits at the site.

2. Mullers

Mullers are essentially stones used on querns to grind grain and other substances. Prolonged use leads to a rounding and smoothening of the surface of the artefact. They are made of quartz and other quartzitic stones. They too are present in all the layers at the site (Table 31). Layer 1 yielded 26 specimens, layer 2 - 28, layer 3 - 57, layer 4 - 23, layer 5 - 71, and five were found from other contexts. Their presence in such a huge number in layer 5 is due to a large grouping of these artefacts at the base of the layer and immediately above the Chalcolithic deposit at the site.
3. Mullers/hammers
In some cases the mullers have also been used as hammers and bear pitted battering marks on one surface. These are few. Three are from layer 1, five each are from layers 2 and 3, three are from layer 4, 11 are from layer 5 and two are from other contexts (Table 31). Their larger distribution in layer 5 is due to the same grouping, as mentioned above.

4. Pestles
Pestles have been found only from layers 2 and 3 (Table 31). There are only three specimens from the site. The two from layer 3 are essentially long cylindrical mullers with rounded ends used for hammering, made of quartz. The one from layer 2 (Reg. No. 5574) is made of red fine-grained sandstone (Plate 48). It is dumb-bell shaped. The central portion is ground from two sides, leaving a lenticular cross section. The ends are rounded.

3.2.5.3 Birdshot/Slingballs

These are essentially similarly shaped objects that serve more or less the same purpose. They are only separated on the basis of size. They fall into two neat size ranges. The smaller-sized artefact is called a birdshot and the larger sized ones have been labelled slingballs.

1. Birdshot
This category consists of manmade round stone objects, pecked into shape. These were probably used in small hand-held catapults or as missiles for pellet bows. They are found in all the Early Historic occupational layers excavated at the site (Table 32). One was found on
the surface, two from layer 1, four each from layers 2 and 3, two from layer 4 and nine from layer 5.

2. Slingballs
These are large round almost perfectly globular balls of stone. The preferred raw material is quartz. They are found throughout the Early Historic layers excavated at Balathal. Two were found on the surface of the site, three each from layers 1 and 2, two from layer 4 and 16 from layer 5 (Table 32).

3.2.5.4 Discs
There are 34 stone discs from Balathal (Table 33). There is one from the surface, nine each from layers 1 and 2, 10 from layer 3, three from layer 4, one from layer 5 and one from another context. They are essentially round flat pieces of stone with smooth or flaked edges. Most are identical to the terracotta discs from the site. An exception to this, is a disc from Structure 2 in layer 3. It is a large disc with a diameter of 17 cm and a flat almost polished surface.

3.2.5.5 Sculptural fragment
The complete repertoire of stone sculpture from Balathal consists of only one small fragment (Reg. No. 2464), probably part of the outer portion of a nimbus, of red sandstone (Fig. 17). It consists from the outer periphery of two stepped bands with decorations terminating in a third step or ridge. The ridge is decorated with parallel wavy lines. After the ridge comes the inner flattened portion of the nimbus. In this portion
Fig. 17. Sculptural fragment of red sandstone (Actual size)
adjacent to the ridge is a shallow groove. The back of this fragment is flat and covered with faint 'floral' designs. It is slightly upraised along its outer edge forming a collar, which is also decorated.

3.2.5.6 Headsratcher/Funnel

One of the most intriguing stone objects from the excavations at Balathal is a stone 'headscratcher' or funnel (Fig. 18). It is a short conical/hemispherical stone receptacle with a perforation at its apex. The object (Reg. No. 9615) was found in two pieces at the bottom of layer 2 in Tr. B4. It bears a fine layer of encrustation making it difficult to identify the type of stone used. The base has a diameter of 8 cm. Its rim is 1 cm thick and it stands 6 cm tall. It is internally grooved at a depth of 1.2 cm. This groove was probably formed whilst hollowing out the object. The perforation at the apex is 0.8 cm in diameter and is almost 2 cm deep. In all probability it is a stone replica of a headscratcher.

3.2.5.7 Bracelet

A fragment of a large thick alabaster/marble bracelet was recovered from Tr. OC2 (NE), layer 5 (Plate 49). This is the only representative of this category. There are no known archaeological parallels for this object. Ethnographic parallels from southeastern Rajasthan suggest that this may be an anklet similar to those of solid silver worn by the present day inhabitants of the region.
Fig. 18. Stone funnel/headscraper.
3.2.6 Iron Objects

An incredibly large number of iron artefacts were recovered at Balathal. These have been divided into various categories for convenience in analysis. The categories are, tools, weapons and other objects of daily use. Tools include, as the name suggests, various implements made for use mainly in the production of consumables, be they agricultural or otherwise. Thus, this category has within it, adzes/cobbler's knives, axes, blades, ploughshare blades/hoes, spades, clamps, chisels, picks, pegs, punches, etc. Weapons include arrow and spearheads, sword and knife blades, etc. There are sundry other objects which were used in all spheres of daily life which form the contents of the third category. They include lamps, ladles, (parts of) vessels, chain links, stirrups (?), a branding iron, nails and various unidentifiable pieces. It must be noted here that these categories are not hard and fast as many artefacts fit into more than one category. Blades, for example, could be weapons and also cutting tools, not only in fields and in the pursuit of crafts, but also in various little tasks of day to day life.

3.2.6.1 Adzes/Cobbler’s knives

This is one of the largest artefact groups. It consists of an implement that resembles the cobbler's knife or 'rap' as it is called in Hindi (Plate 50). It is an implement most suitable for the working of leather and is used by cobblers all over India even today. It is a flat triangular tanged object. It consists of a thin pointed tang splaying outward into a triangle, the flat base of which is the working edge. Sometimes this edge is convex shaped.
Altogether 102 such implements have been excavated from Balathal (Table 34). They are concentrated mainly in layer 3, from where there are 51 specimens, followed by 20 from layer 4, 13 from layer 2, 10 from layer 5, seven from layer 1, and one from the surface of the mound.

3.2.6.2 Axes, Spades, Ploughshare blades/Hoes

These are all typically tools of agrarian usage.

1. Axes

Three shaft hole axes or parts thereof have been recovered from Balathal (Table 35). Of these, only two, both from layer 3, are definitely axes (Plate 51), the others may be the blade portions of either an axe or a spade. The first (Reg. No. 5748) specimen is a small intact axe. It has a length of 11.5 cm and a width at edge of 7.5 cm. At the shaft hole it is 3.5 cm thick, the shaft hole is 5 cm in diameter and the thickness of the metal at the shaft hole is 1.2 cm. The axe flares towards its edge, which is slightly convex. The second axe (Reg. No. 7026) is a massive specimen. The blade and shaft hole have broken off but can be refitted. The blade is 12 cm long with the shaft hole another 5 cm. The blade is 10.5 cm wide at its convex cutting edge and 6.5 cm wide at its base. It is 4.5 cm thick at its base and almost 1 cm thick at the cutting edge. The shaft hole has an inner diameter of 4 cm and an outer diameter of 5.5 cm.

2. Spades

Four spades or parts thereof were recovered. Of these, one each comes from layers 1, 2, 3 and four (Table 35). The only intact one is from layer 3 (Reg. No. 5355) (Plate 52), the remaining are parts of the shaft hole or
fragments of the blade. The intact spade from layer 3, is 20 cm long, 12 cm wide at its convex working end and tapers to 6 cm at its base. The shaft hole is 8 cm in outer diameter and 5.5 in inner diameter. The blade is 2 cm thick and is heavily corroded.

3. Ploughshare Blades/Hoes
A very large number (28) of ploughshare blades/hoes or parts thereof were found (Plate 53). They are confined mainly to layers 3 and 4 (Table 35). These are all typologically similar to the one found at Dhatwa (Mehta: 18; Fig. 7.1). Of the 28 pieces in this category, two were recovered from layers 1 and 2 respectively, nine from layer 3, eight from layer 4, and three from layer 5. Of these, only three were recovered intact, two from layer 3 and one from layer 5. Of the two from layer 3, the first (Reg. No. 5330) one was recovered intact but subsequently disintegrated completely. Only the hafting socket has survived intact. The total length was approximately 25 cm. The second (Reg. No. 8229) one is almost complete. It is 16.5 cm long, 5.5 cm wide and 4 cm thick. The one from layer 5 (Reg. No. 2480) is also almost complete with only the basal portions of the hafting socket missing. It is 22.7 cm long, and 7.5 cm wide. The socket end tapers slightly and is 6.8 cm wide. The mean thickness is 3 cm.

The remaining specimens are broken fragments of the tip or socket and were, in all probability, brought back to the site to be reworked into new implements or objects.
3.2.6.3 Pegs, Punches and Chisels

In all 16 peg/punch like objects and chisels were found in the excavations (Plate 54). One each from layers 1, 2 and 5, eight from layer 3, and five were found from layer 4 (Table 36). The one from layer 1 (Reg. No. 8511) is a long peg (?) with a hollow socket-like end. It is 15 cm long, 1.6 cm wide at the tip and 3.8 cm wide at the base. The base is concave and has a 4.2 cm deep hole with a 1.6 cm diameter. This was probably a socket of some sort. The object was found at the bottom of a pit.

The object from layer 2 (Reg. No. 8574) is probably part of a chisel. It is a 13.5 cm long bar of iron with a 1.8 x 1.8 cm square section.

There are eight objects in this category from layer 3. Of these, two are punches, one is a chisel, three more are probably chisels, and one is a large peg. Of the chisels, one (Reg. No. 1935) is 12 cm long. It splays out from a 2.5 cm base into a 4.5 cm, convex, cutting edge. It may be a small axe or a large chisel.

There are five similar objects from layer 4. Of these, the first (Reg. No. 3967) is a chisel with straight sides (7.2 cm long), a square section (2.2 x 2.2 cm), and it tapers into a convex cutting edge. The second (Reg. No. 8044) is almost identical. It is 11.5 cm long with a square section (2.5 x 2.5 cm) ending though, in a rounded point, making it a punch. The third is a similar punch with a round section. It is broken at one end. Its extant length is 8.5 cm and its diameter is 2 cm. The fourth (Reg. No. 1883) is somewhat similar, though much broader. It looks like a thick peg. It has a rounded butt and its tip is broken with an extant length of 9 cm, the
thickness at the butt end being 3.5 cm and at the broken tip, 1.5 cm. The fifth (Reg. No. 8528) specimen is a 16 cm long, punch-like rod with one thick end (diameter 2.5 cm) tapering to a rounded point (diameter 1.5 cm).

The only object in this category, from layer 5, is a small drill-like punch with a truncated kite shaped tip and a small rod like tang. It is 4 cm long and is 1 cm at its widest.

3.2.6.4 Projectile points

This category has been made as a number of objects may belong to either of the two sub groups: arrowheads and spearheads (Plates 55, 56). It is possible to differentiate between the two only if the artefacts are found hafted, as it is the length of the haft that defines the category and not necessarily the size of the point attached to it. There are 74 iron projectile points from Balathal (Table 37).

There are five projectile points from layer 1. The first (Reg. No. 360) is probably part of a spearhead. It is a notched triangular object, 7.4 cm long, with a basal width of 4.1 cm and a mean thickness of 1.8 cm. The second (Reg. No. 1756) is a small waisted arrowhead with a rounded tip. It is 3 cm long and 1.5 cm broad. The third (Reg. No. 1778) is a long arrowhead with a kite shaped head and two small projections on its sides. It is 11.5 cm long. The shaft is 8.5 cm long and the head is 3 cm long. The width of the head is 2 cm. The fourth (Reg. No. 2849) piece is a broken arrowhead with only the lower part of the head and the tang. The fifth (Reg. No. 6474) is a small thick triangle and might be the point of a spearhead.
There are nine projectiles from layer 2. The first (Reg. No. 27) one is a small straight sided pointed arrowhead narrowing along both edges. It is broken. The second (Reg. No. 108) one is a thick triangle of iron, 7.4 cm long with a basal width of 4.4 cm. It is 2.7 cm thick and is broken at both ends. It may also be part of a ploughshare blade. The third (Reg. No. 418) one is a long narrow arrowhead 11.7 cm long, 2.2 cm broad and 0.5 cm thick. The fourth (Reg. No. 1761) one is probably the tip of an arrowhead. It is broken, with three surviving pieces. The fifth (Reg. No. 1815) specimen is small arrowhead 4.9 cm long. Its basal width is 2.4 cm and a small portion of a tang with a diameter of 0.8 cm is still visible. The sixth (Reg. No. 2206) one is barbed and tanged, with a long tang. It is 8.4 cm long. The width at the barbs is 2.7 cm and the diameter of the tang is 0.7 cm. The seventh (Reg. No. 5386) piece is a 16.8 cm long, leaf-shaped spearhead. It is 3.5 cm wide. The eighth (Reg. No. 8216) one is a quarrel-shaped arrowhead. It resembles a long thick cigar. The length is 11 cm and its maximum diameter is 1.5 cm. The ninth (Reg. No. 8298) one looks like a short curved spearhead. It is 8.5 cm long, 2.5 cm wide and is 0.5 cm thick. It may be a knife.

There are 44 iron projectile points from layer 3. The first (Reg. No. 223) one is probably a spearhead. It is too corroded and fragmented to make a positive identification. The second (Reg. No. 442) one is a small arrowhead with a concave base. The third (Reg. No. 443) is an arrowhead with a broken tip. The fourth (Reg. No. 518) one is long arrowhead, broken at its distal portion, with straight sides tapering to a sharp point. The fifth (Reg. No. 526) piece is a small, 4 cm long arrowhead, with a highly corroded head. The sixth (Reg. No. 545) one is a small portion of a broken arrowhead. The seventh (Reg. No. 580) one is a small bent arrowhead with
a leaf shaped head. It is 8.1 cm long and 1.7 cm broad. The eighth and
ninth (Reg. Nos. 816 & 817) pieces are small triangular arrowheads. The
tenth (Reg. No. 822) specimen is actually three arrowheads fused
together. The eleventh (Reg. No. 855) one is a spearhead. The twelfth
(Reg. No. 1859) one is a leaf shaped arrowhead, 6.8 cm long and 3 cm
wide. The thirteenth (Reg. No. 1870) one is a fragment. The fourteenth
(Reg. No. 1871) one is a broken spearhead. The fifteenth (Reg. No.1872)
one is a broken triangular arrowhead. The sixteenth (Reg. No. 2053)
piece is part of a broken spearhead. The seventeenth (Reg. No. 2054)
one is a rounded leaf shaped arrowhead, 5 cm long and 2.4 cm wide. The
eighteenth (Reg. No. 2194) one is a small arrowhead with a broken tip.
The nineteenth (Reg. No. 2303) one is a long thick shaft, possibly a
spearhead. The twentieth (Reg. No. 2438) one is a long rounded rod,
which may have been some sort of arrowhead. The twenty-first (Reg. No.
3517) piece is a broken arrowhead from St. 19. The twenty-second (Reg.
No. 3529) piece is a small narrow arrowhead, 10.5 cm long and 1.2 cm wide.
The twenty-third (Reg. No. 3573) one is a barbed arrowhead with a
broken tang. The bars are thin narrow and curve slightly inwards. Its
length is 4 cm and its width at the bars is 2.2 cm. Each barb is 1.3 cm
long. The twenty-fourth (Reg. No. 3609) one is probably a spearhead. It
is too fragmented to identify clearly. The twenty-fifth (Reg. No. 3610)
one is a leaf shaped spearhead and it tapers towards both ends. The basal
end is flat and 3.2 cm wide. The length is 10.5 cm and its maximum width
is 4 cm. The twenty-sixth and the twenty-seventh (Reg. Nos. 3631 &
3649) pieces are the tang portions of two arrowheads. The twenty-eighth
(Reg. No. 3682) one is a small barbed arrowhead with a tapering tang. It
is 4 cm long and 1.5 cm broad. The twenty-ninth (Reg. No. 3689) piece is a
triangular fragment, probably part of a spearhead. The thirtieth (Reg.
No. 3729) one is a broken arrowhead. The thirty-first (Reg. No. 3744) one is probably an arrowhead. The thirty-second (Reg. No. 3903) one is an arrowhead with a long broken tang. It is 6.7 cm long and 3.5 cm broad. The thirty-third (Reg. No. 3914) specimen is a thick huge spearhead with a round section and a broken tip. Its extant length is 21 cm, maximum diameter is 4.5 cm and the diameter at the broken apex is 2 cm. The diameter of the tang is 0.5 cm. The thirty-fourth (Reg. No. 3993) one is a long leaf shaped arrowhead, 9 cm long and only 1.8 cm broad. The thirty-fifth (Reg. No. 3998) piece is a broken tang. The thirty-sixth (Reg. No. 4001) one is part of a spearhead similar to No. 3914. The thirty-seventh (Reg. No. 4695) specimen is a small heavily corroded arrowhead. The thirty-eighth (Reg. No. 5325) one is a barbed and tanged arrowhead, 5 cm long and 2 cm wide (at the barbs). The thirty-ninth (Reg. No. 5446) one is a broken arrowhead. The fortieth (Reg. No. 8261) one is a 9 cm long arrowhead with a 2.3 cm wide kite shaped head. The forty-first (Reg. No. 8338) one is probably an arrowhead. The forty-second (Reg. No. 8380) one is a small triangular arrowhead, broken at the tang. It is 3.3 cm long and 1.7 cm wide. The forty-third (Reg. No. 8394) one is probably a part of a broken arrowhead. The forty-first (Reg. No. 8414) one is a quarrel/cigar shaped arrowhead with a round section. It is 7 cm long and has a maximum diameter of 1.2 cm.

There are 10 iron projectile points from layer 4. The first (Reg. No. 303) one is a leaf shaped straight sided arrowhead. It is 5.8 cm long and 2.2 cm wide. The second (Reg. No. 777) is a unique specimen. It is a hollow tanged or socketted arrowhead with a small head and a long narrowing socket. The arrowhead is barbed. It is 11.3 cm long, its barbed head is 2.5 cm long and the sides measure 2.5 cm each. The breadth of the head is
2.2 cm. The diameter of the base of the shaft is 1.1 cm and where it meets the head, 0.7 cm. The third (Reg. No. 957) specimen is a long narrow shaft, probably a spearhead. It is 12.3 cm long and has a maximum diameter of 1.5 cm. The fourth (Reg. No. 2774) one is really two triangular arrowheads fused together. The fifth (Reg. No. 2811) piece is a leaf shaped arrowhead with a broken tip. Its extant length is 6.5 cm and maximum width is 2.5 cm. The sixth (Reg. No. 3699) piece is similar to the previous one. Its length is 7.2 cm and maximum width is 2.5 cm. The seventh (Reg. No. 3831) specimen is a small arrowhead. It has a kite shaped head. It is 4 cm long and 1.8 cm wide. The eighth (Reg. No. 5879) one is a small thin arrowhead, 6.8 cm long. The ninth (Reg. No. 5993) one is a barbed and tanged arrowhead, with a concave base and two small barbs, one of which is missing. It is 4.4 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. The tenth (Reg. No. 5997) specimen is part of a triangular spearhead. It is 10.5 cm long and 4.5 cm at the base.

There are five iron projectile points from layer 5. The first (Reg. No. 349) one is a flat long arrowhead with slightly curving sides and it is broken at the distal end. It is 4.5 cm long, 1.9 cm wide and 0.5 cm thick. The second (Reg. No. 2831) specimen is a rounded triangular arrowhead, 5 cm long. Its base is 3.2 cm broad and it has a tang with a diameter of 0.7 cm. The third (Reg. No. 8581) one is a large thick triangle, 4.5 cm long, 3 cm broad and 1 cm thick. It may be part of a spearhead. The fourth (Reg. No. 2953) one is a part of a spearhead. It is 7 cm long and its maximum breadth is 5 cm. The fifth (Reg. No. 3787) piece is the distal portion of a broken arrowhead.
3.2.6.5 Clamps and angles

There are 35 specimens that fall into this category. The first half of the category are clamps. These are iron rods, square in section, with pointed ends. The ends are bent either at a right angle or an acute angle (Plate 57). These are essentially used in woodworking to join two planks, uprights or architectural members. They are used in the construction of door and window frames and by all cabinetmakers, even today. The second half of the category consists of objects that are made up of a thick flat iron strip, often with a triangular end or ends, that has either been bent at a right angle to make an angle/clamp used for purposes similar to those described above.

The bulk of the artefacts are from layer 4. The remaining are distributed throughout the other Early Historic layers. There are two examples from layer 1, six from layer 2, 21 from layer 3, five from layer 4, and one from layer 5 (Table 38).

3.2.6.6 Blades

A large variety of blade and blade like objects were recovered from Balathal (Table 39). Many are fragmentary. Some may be parts of a spear or any other sharp edged object. They have been divided into two major categories: 1. Knives, Daggers and Swords, and 2. Sickles. The categories are based, mainly on the straight v/s curved shapes of the respective categories. Most of the objects in this category have a triangular cross-section. The apex represents the cutting edge. An exception is the dagger sub-category, which is two edged and has a lenticular cross-
section. The swords are essentially massive blades and are all fragments; they are usually gently curved.

1. Knives, Daggers and Swords (Plate 58)

There are 79 separate artefacts in this category. Most are small blade fragments. Only a few can be attributed to a particular type with certainty. These have been described below. Of the 79 blades, six were recovered from layer 1, 14 from layer 2, 45 from layer 3, eight from layer 4, and six from layer 5.

Of the six from layer 1, one (Reg. No. 1372) is a large, thick, slightly curved fragment that was probably part of a sword. A second (Reg. No. 1938) is a long knife blade and was recovered from St. 12. The others are indeterminate blade fragments.

Of the 14 bladed iron artefacts from layer 2, one (Reg. No. 1841) is the butt end of a knife and has a tang attached to the blade along its thicker end. Two (Reg. Nos. 2721 & 2897) of these are parts of swords, the first being the apex portion of a sword with a large rounded end. The blade is curved and has a triangular cross-section. It measures $8 \times 4 \times 1.5$ cm. The second one is the middle portion of a large thick blade. There is one more possible sword fragment (Reg. No. 6612). It is a massive long rectangular piece and was probably the middle portion of a sword. It measures $15 \times 4.5 \times 0.5$ cm. Another fragment (Reg. No. 6404) is part of the butt of a knife with a part of the tang attached. It measures $6.5 \times 5 \times 0.5$ cm. There is also one fragment with a mid-rib (Reg. No. 8686). It is broken at both ends and measures $3.5 \times 3 \times 0.7$ cm.
There are, in all, 45 bladed artefacts from layer 3. Of these, one (Reg. No. 1830) is the tip of a knife, two (Reg. Nos. 1831 & 2422) are butt portions with a part of the tang, and one (Reg. No. 3242) is a small intact knife with a curved rounded tip. Layer 3 has also yielded two complete daggers. The first (Reg. No. 3691) is a long thin dagger, 28 cm long, 4 cm broad and 0.7 cm thick. The second (Reg. No. 3692), which was found alongside the first, is almost identical. It is 25.5 cm long, 4 cm broad, and 0.7 cm thick. The third dagger (Reg. No. 6264) is similar to the first two. It measures 24.5 x 5 x 1 cm. There is also a large curved sword fragment (Reg. No. 6361) from layer 3.

There are nine bladed iron artefacts from layer 4 of which, only two are worth mentioning here. The first (Reg. No. 3769) is a heavily corroded curved fragment, probably of a sword. The second (Reg. No. 8269) is similar to the first.

Five bladed iron artefacts were recovered from layer 5. They are all small fragments and very heavily corroded.

2. Sickles

There are 11 sickles/parts of sickles from Balathal. These are clearly tools used for cutting plant materials. Of these, two each are from layers 1 and 2, three are from layer 3, and four are from layer 4.

There are essentially two types of sickles from Balathal. The first is one with a long gently curving blade attached to a flattened tang that is almost perpendicular to the blade (Plate 59). The second is a crescent shaped blade attached to a horizontally placed tang (Plate 60). These
have a small rounded inward projection of the blade where it meets the tang.

There are two examples of the first type. The first (Reg. No. 5891) is from layer 3 and the second (Reg. No. 6136) is from 4 and is intact.

The remaining pieces all represent the second type. The majority is small, broken portions from the tang with a small part of the blade attached. Two are complete. The one (Reg. No. 6097) from layer 1 is a large sickle with a thick, incomplete tang. The second (Reg. No. 9204) is from layer 3. It is an almost identical, but smaller version of the previous one. Similar sickles with a long tang extending over a foot and hafted with a handle at the end are used by residents of the surrounding villages even today. This kind of sickle is locally known as a 'kunth'. These are made today by nomadic smiths called 'Gadi-lohars'.

3.2.6.7 Nails, Rods & Rod fragments

A very large number of nails and, what are possibly, nail fragments were recovered from the excavations (Table 40). Some of the nail/rod fragments may be part of other objects, for example - broken tangs, but since they are identical to the nails in all other respects it is impossible to differentiate, and have therefore been grouped together.

3.2.6.8 Fragments, Lumps and Unidentifiable objects

This is the single largest category of iron objects. It consists of fragments and lumps. The first sub-category is self-explanatory and
comprises tiny fragments (Table 41). The second sub-category consists of fragments larger than $2 \times 2 \times 2$ cm (Table 41). The third sub-category is made up of highly fragmented objects that are unidentifiable and/or impossible to put together.

3.2.6.9 Cuboids

These are large cuboidal lumps that seem to be complete. These may be ingots of smelted iron stored for future needs or as an object of barter. There are nine such cuboids from the excavations, one from layer 2, four from layer 3, three from layer 4 and one from layer 5 (Table 42).

3.2.6.10 Bells

Three bells (one each from layers 2, 3 and 4) and what could possibly be the clapper inside a bell (from layer 2) were found at Balathal. Of these one (Reg. No. 4026) has an iron core with copper sheeting on its outside. It is cylindrical with a spherical apex (Plate 61). A loop was probably attached on the inside, as well as the outside of the apex, as corresponding corroded depressions are visible at both these points.

3.2.6.11 Miscellaneous

1. Ladles/lamps

Two possible ladles (Reg. Nos. 5966 & 6460) were found from layer 3 (trenches B3 & A4). They are the bowl portions of the ladles and the handles are absent. They may also have been lamps. It is not possible to exactly determine their purpose.
2. Branding Iron

One of the most interesting iron finds from Balathal is that of a branding iron (Reg. No. 2935) from Tr. BY1, layer 3, bearing as its brand a Brahmi 'ma', with curly arms (Plates 62, 63). It consists of two rods welded together and ending in the symbol (Plate 63). The only other, somewhat similar, example comes from the Mitra levels at Sonkh (Hartel 1993: 283, 289.19), where the brand exhibits a 'nandyavartd symbol.

3. Chain link

The Early Historic levels also yielded another object that has parallels at Sonkh (Hartel 1993: 283, 290.28). It is shaped like the figure '8' and is open at one end (Plate 64). It may have been either a chain link or part of an equine cheek-piece.

4. Vessel rim

Two probable vessel rim fragments (Reg. Nos. 347 & 823) were found from layer 3. They consist of strips of iron folded over along one side to make a makeshift rim. The other ends are broken and corroded.

5. Large rod

Another unique iron artefact from Balathal is a large iron rod (Reg. No. 5361) found at the bottom of a silo in Tr. BX1, layer 1 (Plate 65). It is 36.5 cm long and has a diameter of 1.5 cm.

3.2.7 Copper Objects

Copper is very scantily represented in the Early Historic levels at Balathal, where only 99 copper artefacts were found. These include
fragments, rods, wires and rings. The copper artefacts are concentrated in layers 2 and 3 from which there are 23 and 40 items respectively (Table 43). Copper seems to have been used primarily as an ornamental material or as a material related to ornamentation.

3.2.7.1 Fragments

Since copper is a very fragile material a large number of the artefacts have been recovered in a highly fragmentary state, often impossible to identify. There are 23 sets of fragment(s), one from layer 1, seven from layer 2, 11 from layer 3, three from layer 4, and one from layer 5 (Table 43).

3.2.7.2 Rods

Size-wise, this is the second largest group. These are mainly 'antimony rods', bulbous at both ends, and slightly larger cylindrical rods with a diameter of approximately 1 cm. The rods are all heavily corroded and fragile. Often they are found freshly broken. There are 23 rods/rod fragments. One each, is from the surface of the mound and layer 1, three are from layer 2, nine from layer 3, five from layer 4 and four from layer 5 (Table 43).

3.2.7.3 Rings

A large number of rings, suitable for use as either toe-rings or finger rings and in the case of some thin ones, earrings were found. This is the single largest category of copper artefacts. There are 24 rings from the
Early Historic levels. Eight of these are from layer 1, five from layer 2, eight from layer 3, one each from layers 4 and 5, and one from another context (Table 43). Of these, two deserve special mention. The first (Reg. No. 37) one, from layer 2, consists of two coils ending in a flat round disc-like face with a small stud at its centre. The second (Reg. No. 8461) one, also from layer 2, is open ended and shaped like a snake with a hood overlapping its tail. Similar finger rings are made and worn in parts of India even today.

3.2.7.4 Miscellaneous

There are 22 objects in this category. Of these, two are from layer 1, seven each are from layers 2 and 3, five are from layer 4, and one is from layer 5 (Table 43).

Of the two objects from layer 1, the first (Reg. No. 9358) looks like a fragmented handle and part of a vessel. The second (Reg. No. 5239) is a decorated, flat disc with two pointed appendages and two small semicircular ones (Plate 66). The appendages are placed alternately and the semicircular ones have two smaller semicircles attached on either side. The entire object bears a rounded ridge along its periphery. It also bears a small circular ridge at its centre.

Of the seven copper artefacts from layer 2, two (Reg. Nos. 1761 & 8131) resemble points/projectiles, one (Reg. No. 26) is a small fine wire hook, one (Reg. No. 460) is a curved rod fragment resembling a bangle piece, one (Reg. No. 7096) resembles a clamp, one resembles a knife blade of the kind seen from the Chalcolithic levels at the site, and the last
artefact is a rim fragment of a bowl (Reg. No. 23) with a series of small square motifs along its edge.

There are seven copper artefacts from layer 3. The first (Reg. No. 268) looks like a large thumbtack with a thin flat downward curving top and a cylindrical body, tapering into a flat base. It was probably a stopper of some sort. The second (Reg. No. 597) is a flat curved strip of copper. The third (Reg. No. 602) is a conical stud with a flat apex and thin round flat base. The fourth (Reg. No. 731) is part of a broken pair of tweezers. The fifth (Reg. No. 3681) one is what seems to be part of a bowl rim. The sixth and seventh (Reg. Nos. 5395 & 8307) pieces are flat fragments that appear to be fragments of knives similar to ones from the Chalcolithic levels at the site.

There are five copper artefacts from layer 4. The first (Reg. No. 2477) is similar to the above mentioned blades. The second (Reg. No. 2734) looks like a small chisel. It is a rod with one flattened end. The third and fourth (Reg. Nos. 3884 & 9637) specimens are curved hook-like rod fragments. The fifth (Reg. No. 9002) one is a small copper ball.

Only one copper artefact has been recovered from layer 5. It is a small ball similar to the one from layer 4 mentioned above.

3.2.8 Coins

In all, 18 coins were found at Balathal. Of these, eight were found on the surface, one each in layers 1 and 2, five in layer 3, and two in layer 5.
Sixteen of the coins are made of copper, one is of lead and one of a combination of metals.

Two of the surface finds are of the Early Medieval period, one of Ghīyāṣ Shah Khaljī dated to *hījra* 888 (1489 A.D.) and the other of Sultan Nusrat Shah who ruled from *hījra* 797 - 802(?) (1395-99 A.D.) (Plate 3).

Two coins from the surface, one intact coin from Tr. Cl, layer 3, and one small fragment belong to the Uninscribed Circular Cast Copper coins, 'series p/q' of Allan (Allan 1936: lxvi-vii, 92-7) (Plate 67). These coins are always round. They bear an elephant facing to the left with or without rider on the obverse. On the reverse, these coins bear a three-arched hill with crescent on top. The three-arched hill is of the variety of separated lower arches. These coins are most often known as the 'elephant and hill' type of uninscribed cast copper coins. Some times they are also known as the 'elephant and chaitya' type of uninscribed copper cast coins.

Also found in Tr. C1, layer 3, was a rectangular copper coin, badly corroded and with what appeared to be a faint 'Ujjain' symbol on one side. After cleaning, only faint symbols are visible. These devices could not be positively identified.

Two coins were found in layer 13. One of these is a rectangular copper punch-marked coin with unknown devices (Plate 67). This coin is extremely well preserved. This has been tentatively identified as a tribal coin. The second is a one 'anna' coin of George V dated 1934. This coin was found while excavating in the southern disturbed portion of the mound. It was in an extremely good state of preservation and was probably dropped.
by one of the labourers while working in that area, either during the excavations, or in the process of prior levelling of the mound for cultivation.

The rest of the coins found in the excavations are too heavily corroded to be identified positively.

It is interesting to note that more coins have been found on the surface of the mound than from within any individual layer. A similar pattern was noticed in the excavation at Maheshwar and Navdatoli (Sankalia et al. 1958: 71; Pl. XIII.15-20). There, it was possible to ascribe this to the fact that though the mounds were extensively explored, they were only fractionally excavated. This analogy cannot be applied to Balathal because the mound here has been extensively explored and excavated.

3.2.9 Shell, Bone and Ivory Objects

Barring beads and bangle fragments, there are very few shell, bone or ivory objects from Balathal.

The shell artefacts from the Early Historic levels are mainly, used bivalve shells with ground edges, and a small mother of pearl disc that was probably used as an inlay piece.

Bone is represented by a stylus similar to the double-ended stone points found at Nasik (Sankalia and Deo 1955: 127; Fig. 57.A1), and a small broken point of bone/ivory, with the broad surviving end truncated. The
object bears an incised decoration consisting of two bands of obliquely incised grooves bordered on each side by an incised band (Plate 68).

3.2.10 Cloth

A tiny fragment of cloth was discovered in the course of preparing a section in Tr. HX2 (Plate 69). This trench is on the periphery of the Early Historic occupational area and was dotted with overlapping pits containing refuse. This cloth fragment was found in one such pit, which had cut into the Chalcolithic layers. It measures 1 cm x 0.5 cm. In almost all previous cases cloth was normally found in association with copper or silver objects/coins. The oxides of these metals greatly aided the preservation of the cloth, which is a very fragile material. One such example comes from Bairat (Sahni, [n.d.]: 21, 23; Pl. IV a) where a number of coins were found wrapped in a cloth, where the cloth remained well preserved by default. Another is from the site of Rairh where in a similar situation 535 silver punch marked coins were found in a hoard wrapped in a piece of cloth (Puri 1940: 39).

This is thus the only cloth fragment found from anywhere in India during the Early Historic period, outside a metallic setting. Its preservation was possible probably due to a very high concentration of salts at the base of the pit, and was no doubt aided by the dry, semi-arid locale of the site.
PERCENTAGES OF GLASS BANGLE FRAGMENTS VIS A VIS MATERIAL

Table 1
Table 2
Table 3.
Table 4.
### Table 5.

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Table 8.
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Table 9
Table 10.
Layerwise Distribution of Glass Beads

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</tr>
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<td>PASTE DISCS</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</table>

**Layerwise Distribution of Paste Sticks and Discs**
Table 14

Layerwise distribution of bone/ivory beads and pendants.
Table 15.
Table 16.
### Layerwise Distribution of Terracotta Beads and Pendants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAYERS</th>
<th>NO. OF OBJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 19 29 36 3 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 8 10 26 11 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 3 6 5 1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0 1 3 7 0 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Table 17
## Layerwise Distribution of Other Stone Beads

<table>
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<th>Layers</th>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18.
Table 19.
Table 20.
<table>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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Table 21.
TABLE 22.

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<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>MISC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>EARRUDS</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>EARPLUGS</td>
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<td>2</td>
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Table 23.
### Table 24.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Layerwise distribution of headscratchers.
Table 25.
Table 26.
Table 27.
Table 28.
Table 29.
Table 30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAYERS</th>
<th>4 LEGGED QUERNS</th>
<th>ROTARY QUERNS</th>
<th>SADDLE QUERNS</th>
<th>TOY/APOTHECARY QUERN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
### Layerwise Distribution of Hammers, Mullers, Mullers/Hammers and Pestles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layers</th>
<th>Hammers</th>
<th>Mullers</th>
<th>Mullers/Hammers</th>
<th>Pestles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>84</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>182</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Table 31.
Table 32.
Table 33.
Table 34.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>No. of Adzes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 35.
Table 36.
Table 37.

Layerwise Distribution of Iron Projectile Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>No. of Pieces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Layerwise Distribution of Clamps and Angles**

<table>
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<th>Layers</th>
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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Misc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clamps</td>
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<td>21</td>
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</table>

Table 38.
Layerwise Distribution of all Bladed Artefacts

Table 39.
Table 40.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAYERS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS/LUMPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAYERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 41.
Table 42.
Table 43.
Table 44.
### Table 45

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Copper</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>