P R E F A C E

Till the early fifties of this century very little was known of the prehistory of Rajputana. A few sporadic discoveries had been made here and there but no systematic work had been carried out. In the Eastern Rajputan as early as the eighties of the last century C. Allah {at} and A.C.L. Carleyule respectively of the then Geological and Archaeological survey of India had found palaeoliths and microliths in Bundi and Jaipur districts. More discoveries of this nature have been made in the last eight years. But these too, have remained confined to Eastern Rajputana. The area west of the Aravallis comprising nearly three-fifths of the total area of Rajputana remained a Terra incognita as far as prehistory was concerned till as late as 1957. This area however had yielded cultural evidence for later periods. Sir Aurel Stein had found traces of Harappan and later settlements in the dry bed of the Ghaggar in the then Bikener State and present day Shri Ganganagar district. Stein's discoveries apart from their archaeological significance, also showed that Western Rajputana enjoyed in the past a more favourable climate for human habitation than what obtains today. More evidence of the protohistoric cultures has been brought to light by A. Ghosh and currently excavations on a large scale are being conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India at two of these sites, viz. Kalibanga and Sardargarh.

Apart from these and some other discoveries (See chapter II) no systematic work of a prehistoric nature had been done in Rajputana. Meanwhile rich evidence of stone age cultures has had been obtained from all area surrounding Rajputana. To the south east in Malwa a sequence of stone
age cultures from Lower Palaeolithic to Mesolithic had been worked out by A.P. Khatri. Further south in Gujarat first Bruce Foote and later H.D. Sankalia had found ample data of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures. In the discoveries of flakes and blades had been reported from Sukkur and Rohri in Sind and in the North a remarkable sequence of Pleistocene formations and associated human cultures had been published in the Potwar region of the Punjab by De Terra and Paterson.

It was with this background in view that in June, 1958 my teacher Dr. H.D. Sankalia suggested to me that I should undertake a systematic exploration of Rajputana. The work was immediately taken up and luckily my efforts were soon rewarded by the discovery of a few flakes in the river Bandi near Pala. The exploration was further continued and a large number of sites of Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic and Mesolithic were brought to light in several districts of Rajputana. More attention and time was devoted to areas which were prehistorically little known or not known at all such as the Luni basin in Western Rajputana and the Banas valley in Eastern Rajputana than to the areas which had already yielded some evidence, such as the Chambal and the Gambhir valleys in Eastern Rajputana.

The present study is based primarily on my own field work during the last three years but other evidence—both published and unpublished—where it could be obtained has also been included. Nearly all the sites discovered in recent years have been reported in the successive issues of *Indian Archaeology—A Review* and these have been mentioned in chapter III. Large collections of palaeoliths and microliths made respectively by S.R. Rao of the Archaeological Survey of India and members...
of the Exploration Branch of the same Survey under K.N. Puri were studied at Baroda and Delhi and their main features are included here. Unfortunately it was not possible to secure illustrations from these collections.

This work was begun toward the end of June, 1958. Of the three year period taken in completing it nearly eleven months in the field—a little more than seven in Rajputana and three and a half in other areas.—The remaining period was spent in the laboratory in the analysis of the data. For two months in the winter of 1958-59 I participated in the excavation of the Chalcolithic mound at Navdatoli and an exploration of the Narmada around Maheshwar. Later in April-May, 1959 along with Mr. Shaikh and Mr. Ramesh Khatri of the respectively of the Deccan College, Pooma and M.S.University, Baroda, I carried out a topographical survey of the Chalcolithic mound at Nêvasa and studied the stratigraphy of the Pravara. In February, 1960 I visited the Palaeolithic site of Valasana on the Sabarmati with Dr. B.Subbarao and the site of Vasad on the Mahi to obtain a first hand knowledge of the stratigraphy of these rivers. In December, 1959 I studied with Dr. Sankalia the stone age sites around Bombay, originally discovered by K.R.J. Todd. Later in the same month I got an opportunity to study the stratigraphy of the Pravara and the Godavari at a number of sites with Prof. Sankalia and Prof. Zeuner.

These field trips were interspersed with prolonged seasons of independent field work in Rajputana and the knowledge gained in these different areas was utilized in my field work in the latter region. At the conclusion of my field work, a visit was paid by Dr. Sankalia along with Dr. Subbarao to some of the sites which had yielded valuable stratigraphical evidence. This gave me an opportunity to discuss the stratigraphical
problems with these authorities in the field itself.

The scope of the present study is confined only to the stone age cultures. It may be stated at the outset that this work is essentially in the nature of a reconnaissance. It merely presents an outline of the prehistory of Rajputana. Much further work will be needed to fill in the details of this outline.

It is my pleasant duty to record my thanks to all those who have helped me in some way or the other in the completion of this work. I can not specify in words my gratitude to my teacher Dr. H.D. Sankalia. He has throughout given me generous guidance in my work and in spite of his extremely busy routine, always found time to go through and discuss every thing which I wrote. This has enabled me to refine and elaborate my ideas in the light of his valuable suggestions. He provided me numerous opportunities for studying the stratigraphy and archaeological sequence to both prehistoric and protohistoric - in several areas of the country and always explained things to me in the field in great detail. Besides this academic help he has also taken affectionate care of me and done me numerous favours which have made my stay in Deccan College highly comfortable.

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V.N. Misra