Gujarat is archaeologically a rich area of the Indian Sub-Continent and has archaeological wealth which ranges from the remote prehistoric age right up to recent period. A systematic and detailed archaeological examination of all the districts of Gujarat has not been carried out yet, although districts such as Baroda, Broach, Surat, Panchmahals, Kheda and Banaskantha have been examined in details by other workers. It was decided, therefore to take up another district of the State of Gujarat for a detailed archaeological survey. Ahmedabad district was selected for this purpose. This district lies in the central plain of the Gujarat and thus appeared to be a promising area for such a survey. The material discovered during the course of exploration of Ahmedabad district and a systematic co-relative analysis of this material forms the basis of this Ph.D. thesis.

The field work carried out in the district was spread over the years 1977 to 1978. Almost every part of the district was explored. These fresh explorations brought to light 69 new sites varying in nature and character, throwing light on a variety of antiquities extending from pre-historic to historic period.
Although, this area has drawn the attention of scholars like Prof. R.N. Mehta, Dr. Trivedi, Dr. Dhruve, M.A. Dhanky, Dr. H.R. Gaudani, S.R. Rao - the whole area was not covered by a detailed survey which was undertaken by the present author. The results of their work are presented in this thesis. The thesis is divided into an introduction and five chapters. Their details are as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

Introduction first explains aims and objectives of the thesis. This is followed by description of the scope and limitations of the thesis. Here an outline of archaeological chronology of the district is described and explained in context of available archaeological data. The following chronological order seems to emerge from it:

i) **Pre-historic period:**
   (i) Microlithic Age

ii) **Pre to historic period:**
    (i) Chalcolithic period

iii) **Historic period:**
    (i) Historic period I & II
    (ii) Historic period III & IV

After this, methods of the research are described which are mainly explorations, collection of material, classification
and interpretation. Exploration includes village to village survey of the sites in relation to topography, geography etc. and collection and classification of antiquities was done in the department for this purpose antiquities were first classified into various periods and then studied. Interpretation is based on their technical or stylistic affinities with the known material from other sites from Gujarat as well as other parts of India.

CHAPTER-I

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

This chapter deals with the geographical background of the district. Here, first district and its political divisions are described. This is followed by a study of physiography. This describes topography and details like hills, rivers, etc. and also the soil, minerals etc. After this, climate, temperature and flora and fauna are described. Finally general information about people and language is given. Thus, this chapter provides a background for understanding and interpretation of the cultures which flourished in Ahmedabad district from prehistoric times upto historic period. It also explains the reasons for the development of this culture.
CHAPTER-II

POLITICAL HISTORY

This chapter deals with the political history of the district. Here a detailed account of various dynasties beginning from the Mauryas and ending about 1300 A.D. i.e. end of the Karna Vaghela is given. Thus, this chapter provides a historical background of the thesis. Help was taken of epigraphic records in reconstructing this historical background. This is done in general outline only to provide a historical background for the study.

CHAPTER-III

EXPLORATION

This chapter describes all explored sites in which their topography, geographical background are first described. After this, every site is taken up one by one. For this purpose, sites are arranged in chronological order. The total number of sites belonging to various periods discovered in each Taluka are noted below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Taluka</th>
<th>Number of sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Dhegam</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Dholka</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Dhandhuka</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Daskroi</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Sanand</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Viramgam</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>84</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER-IV**

**Architecture, sculpture & Iconography**

This chapter covers architecture, sculptures and Iconography of this district.

In architecture temples and tanks of Viramgam and Dholka are described.

In sculptures and Iconography, Hindu as well as Jain Pantheon and memorial stones are discussed.

**CHAPTER-V**

**MINOR ANTIQUITIES.**

This chapter deals with the description of explored antiquities such as microliths, pottery, Terracotta objects, coins, inscriptions and other minor antiquities found in the Ahmedabad district.
(1) **Microliths:**

Microliths are classified into geometric and non-geometric groups and studied in details with respect to their materials etc.

(2) **Pottery:**

Pottery is divided into protohistoric and historic pottery. Further, each group is studied in details comprising its forms, fabric and decorations. As such Chalcolithic and historic potteries are undertaken for detailed study.

(3) **Terracotta objects:**

Terracotta objects include protohistoric antiquities like seals and sealing figurines, animal and human figurines, triangular cakes, toy cart and historic objects like, beads, animal figurines etc.

(4) **Coins:**

A few coins of historic period like those of Guptas, Gadhyaya etc. are described.

(5) **Copper-plate grants:**

Two copper plate grants of Maitrakas are also included in this chapter.

**Beads and ornaments:**

Beads are studied in details; their material, shape and decorations. As such we have beads from lothal and others from explorations collections.
Ivory and bone and shell objects:-

This is a small group of objects like beads and scale (from lothal). A few shell objects are also studied.

**CHAPTER-VI**

**CONCLUSION**

Chapter VI is a chapter on conclusions. Here, an attempt is made to trace the activities and life of man of Ahmedabad district on the basis of archaeological antiquities described and discussed in the previous chapters. This will provide an overall picture of human life in the Ahmedabad district right from the microlithic period up to historic times.