INTRODUCTION.

The Problem.

Archaeological investigation in the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts of the Bombay State, India (20° 5' N - 22° 5' N; 72° 5' E - 74° E) is still in its infancy. This area attracted attention of the 19th century scholars, like Princeps, Fleet, Bhagawanlal Indraji and others; mainly due to a few copper plates and coins that were occasionally found. These were generally chance-finds and they continue to be so even to-day. No systematic effort was made by these or other scholars to trace the archaeological sites of the region.

More systematic work was carried out by Robert Bruce Foote who recorded a number of prehistoric sites in the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts, while he was engaged in studying the geology of the Baroda State. J. Burgess was also a careful observer who recorded the standing monuments in the Baroda State in his 'Archaeological Survey of North Gujarat'. As very few such monuments existed in the Baroda and Navasari Prants of the State, he concentrated his efforts on the former Kadi Prant which abounds in standing monuments.

After these initial studies, archaeological investigation came to a stop. Initiative in this field was taken by Sir Sayaji Rao III, who established a Department of Archaeology in his State. This department took note of Dabhoi, Koral, Karvan and Kamrej, in these districts, but centralized its work in North Gujarat. Systematic investigations were started by
H.D. Sankalia in 1941 in the field of prehistory. These were continued by B. Subba Rao in the field of prehistory. These were continued by B. Subba Rao in the northern part of the Baroda district; while A.V. Pandya was active in the old Rajpipila State now a part of the Broach District.

It was the historic period which drew greater attention. Efforts were made by a number of workers like M.R. Majmudar, R.V. Desai, R.N. Mehta, and U.P. Shah to study the sites and antiquities in this region. They discovered a number of new sites and antiquities. But these efforts were of local interest and the workers studied a very limited area. For a general study of the archaeology of the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts, systematically planned work was essential. The establishment of the Department of Archaeology in the M.S. University of Baroda made this possible.

Aims of Study.

With the above mentioned initial efforts in the study of archaeology of the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts, only a few sites were noted but a connected picture of the cultures in this area was wanting. Therefore, discovery and study of more sites of the region was a long felt desideratum to build up a sequence of cultures existing upto 1300 A.D., and to show their relations with the neighbouring areas of India. With this aim in view the present study was undertaken.
Sources of Study.

In this study two sources in the main have been utilized. They are (1) Literary and (2) Archaeological.

The literary sources comprise the references to the towns and places within this region and certain incidents that took place therein. Such references are found in the Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and old Sanskrit and Prakrita literature, and the records of foreigners.

The chief Hindu sources are the Puranas like Matsya, Skanda, Padma and Siva. They refer the names of the towns like Broach, Karvan, Kamrej in their descriptions of Mahatmyas and Akhyanas. These references have been carefully collected by Umashankar Joshi. Similar compilation for the references in Jain literature is made by B.J. Sandesara. K.M. Munshi has collected the vedic and Pauranic references to this area and has tried to trace the migration of Aryans in Gujarat. The Buddhist sources for Gujarat have been very well scanned by M.G. Dikshit. Occasional allusions to 'Ṛṣṭa' have been found in other Sanskrit literary and astronomical works.

These references suggest the existence of towns and villages in this part of the country. The foreign visitors

3. Munshi, K.M., *Glory that was Gurjara Desa Vol. 1*.
like Hieun Tsang have described this region. These references and descriptions give a general picture of the habitations existing in this area. But on the whole these sources are not very helpful in tracing the history and archaeology of the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts, because of the uncertainty of the identifications of various places and doubtful chronology of many literary works.

The archaeological sources consists of the inscriptions on copper plates and stones, coins, stone tools, sculptures, architecture, pottery and other antiquities that were found from time to time or systematically surveyed and recovered from old sites.

In comparison to the literary sources, these inscriptions on copper plates and stones are more reliable for information, as they are the contemporary and official documents, referring to the political sub-divisions, names of towns, villages, rivers, building activity etc. These references help us to identify the sites more accurately due to the rich geographical data supplied by them. Some of the inscriptions supply us useful data for checking the correctness of the identifications, when they give the names of the surrounding villages and boundary marks. Even forged grants are useful in this respect, since they also provide similar data. A systematic study of the names of persons and places mentioned

in these inscriptions was done by Manibhai Dvivedi\(^6\) and H.D. Sankalia.\(^7\) They have provided a list of identified ancient places. It was however to be ascertained whether these places contain any relics in the shape of mounds and monuments. This work was carried out by actual visits to some of the places identified by them.

Besides mentioning the towns and villages of this part of India the copperplates describe the genealogy of the donors who are mostly local rulers. Hence this is useful for tracing the various rulers and their dynasties that were ruling here and their peaceful and aggressive activities.

Interesting details are supplied by the coins known from this area. The inscribed ones give us the names of those who issued them, and suggest the possible rulers of this region. The uninscribed coins, with only symbols marked on them, show affinity or differences from similar coins found from the neighbouring region of India and suggest the uniformity or differences in the coinage as well as the power, that issued them.

The other antiquities such as stone tools, pottery, sculptures etc., enable us to identify and study the sites. Their find sport indicate the existence of older habitations. They also help one to date these habitations.


Archaeological investigation in this area is still not much advanced. Hence the published works are rare. Important data about the prehistoric sites are supplied by the works of Robert Bruce Foote, H.D. Sankalia, B. Subba Rao. The data about historic sites have been supplied by the work of J. Burgess and Cousens, DrR. Bhandarkar, H.D. Sankalia, Hiranand Shastri, A.S. Gadre, M.R. Majmudar, Manibhai Dvivedi, U.P. Shah, R.N. Mehta, B. Subba Rao and A.S. Alterkar.

1 Bruce Foote, R., Catalogue Reasonne and Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities. Notes on Age and Distribution.
2 Sankalia, H.D., Investigations into the Prehistoric Archaeology of Gujarat.
4 Burgess, J., Archaeology of North Gujarat, and Antiquities of Town of Dabhol.
6 Sankalia, H.D., Archaeology of Gujarat.
7 Shastri, Hiranand, Annual Reports of the Director of Archaeology, Baroda State.
8 Gadre, A.S., Ibid and Inscriptions of the Baroda State.
10 Dvivedi, Manibhai, Puratana Daksāni Gujarāt and Pānc Hajar Varsha Pahelānu Gujarāt.
13 Subba, Rao B., "Baroda Through the Ages".
Coins from this area were found from time to time and are noted in various Journals such as JRAS, JNSI, JBU and the "Annual Report of the Department of Archaeology of the Baroda State."

The sculpture from this area are also similarly noted in various stray papers published in the "Bulletin of the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery", "Journal of the Oriental Institute", Prince of Wales Museum Bulletin", "Kumar" and other Journals.

Method of Work.

With the help of the work done in the past, it was discovered that the inscriptions were more reliable as the source of information due to the rich geographical and genuine historical data supplied by most of them. A list of the ancient place names, of this area was prepared, after consulting those that were prepared by H.D. Sankalia and Manibhai Dvivedi, and critically analysing the original sources. The names identified by these workers were checked up and an effort was made to identify some of the remaining, by consulting the one inch to one mile sheets of the Survey of India, and the list of villages published by the Government of Bombay. The old names such as Golikā grāma, Aṇkottaka, Kaviṭhasādhi, Sraddhikā were much altered to Origorī, Akota, Kosad, Sadhi, due to the passage of time, and sometimes due to the change in their pronunciation, and transliteration. Sometimes the old names such as Kaliyari were dropped and new names like Dildostapur were current. So the identification of the places was rather a difficult task. Hence places were identified by the use of
the following two principles:—

(1) Linguistic affinities.
(2) Geographical position.

In certain cases where the old place names, such as Morundaka, Korilla, Kāvikā, underwent very little change in pronunciation, the work of identification was easy. Sometimes two or more modern place names show only one original name as is the case with Vadapadraka. This place name has the alternative derivatives like Vadodara, Wardla, Madadala. With these different names the identification becomes very difficult. But this difficulty was removed with the help of second principle which takes into account the geographical position of the place. With the help of the names of the surrounding villages mentioned in the inscriptions these places were accurately identified as Baroda, Wardla in Jambusar taluka and Madadala in the Surat district.

In the case of the grants of the Traikuṭakas the inscriptions mention only the name of the village, without giving the boundary of the donated area. In this case the position of the village was always undecided for want of definite data. Even when the data was complete, difficulties were encountered because some times the old names such as Kaliyari were dropped and new names like Bīldostapur were adopted as already mentioned. In this case the identification would be very difficult. In such cases occasionally the old name persisted with the new names and this tendency helped
one to identify the old site. In certain cases it was noted that the deserted village such as Golikā was not recorded on the map, but in the field work, it was found that tradition existed about these deserted villages. This tradition when fully supported by the geographic data of the copperplate and the discovery of antiquities from the site helped one to correctly locate the old village, as was the case of the village Golikā, to the east of the village Samipadraka. This village site is today in the jurisdiction of the village Kasampur. But in Čmoranda, Sondarna and Kasampur, the tradition about the existence of a village called Origori was current. Upon examining this site it was found that the tradition was correct and the site represented the old Golikā grāma.

After identification of these sites it remained to visit these places in the field. While doing so two principles were followed:

1. visiting the sites mentioned in the inscriptions, and those that were more or less securely identified.
2. Wherever possible, to undertake the river valley survey.

The first principle is based on the assumption that the places identified should show some traces of antiquities of the period in which they are mentioned. Generally it was supported, but in a number of cases it was difficult to trace the antiquities, due to the continued occupation of the same
site, and the expansion of the small villages into larger ones. But in some cases like Pariya, Salad etc. where the modern village covers up the old remains, the identification was possible because of accidental digging etc. Sometimes the early antiquities were dug out by agricultural activity as can be noted for the sites like Gopi-chuhan no Vago, Dhagsada Timba, Vasam, Vaki Talavadi. These sites are suffering from heavy destruction due to agriculture, whereas sites like Borik mound at Timbarva, Dhan tekri at Akota, and Darthanah were destroyed by the earth quarrying activity of the local inhabitants. When the old sites were visited, inquiries about the remains of destroyed villages were made. These older villages were deserted probably due to social and/or natural agencies. Sometimes the phenomena of shifting villages was also observed. The name in the later case was transferred to the new habitation, as in the case with Timba, Jetalpur etc. While in other cases the population of these villages went and occupied an already existing village. This inquiry about the old sites resulted in discovery of new historic and prehistoric sites like Vaki Talavadi, Gopichuhan Vago, Darathanah, Borik, Phophalia, Khanpura, Sherpura, etc.

After visiting a number of known sites in a locality it was found more convenient to follow some of the river valleys. In the region under consideration water problem is acute, as drinking water is not easily available due to brakish nature of under ground water. Hence rivers are much better source for supplying this need, and other facilities
including transport. As such the river valley survey on Tapi and Narmada resulted in the discovery of many prehistoric and historic sites.¹

When a site was discovered it was plotted on either the 1"-1 mile or 1"-4 mile sheet.

The initial study of the material previously collected in museum helped to identify the sites. The excavations conducted at Akota, Baroda, Timbarva and Variav gave a ceramic and cultural sequence and establish relative chronology, so that the study of the material discovered in the field could be followed up and the chronology of the sites could roughly be ascertained. The following outline of the chronology is based on the stratigraphic studies in the Baroda, Broach and Surat districts.²

Chronology:

*Palaeolithic culture.*

The Palaeolithic, culture, is the oldest known culture in this region. The artefacts of this period are found in the gravels laid down by the rivers according to F.S. Zeuneur, in the Mid-pleistocene period.

These gravels are overlaid by the alluvium and wind-borne water deposits. No artefacts are found in this deposit so far, suggesting that a long gap or hiatus exists between

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¹ For the results of this work see Appendix 1. Infra p.276 pp.
² Details of this study see Ch.III, p.132 ff.
the paleolithic and the succeeding phase known as 'Microlithic'.

**Microlithic Culture.**

The microlithic industry of this region, as well as the whole of Gujarat is a typical 'Geometric Industry'. These microlithic sites are found on the top of the river cliffs, or on the small dunes in the interior. These sites are difficult to date. In the present state of our knowledge we can say that they are earlier than the early historic culture I and later than the palaeolithic culture. These microliths have affinities to the Langhanaj industry. They may be earlier than "Harappan" cultures of Rangpur, Lothal etc., because at the base of this culture at Rangpur, microliths with affinities to those of Langhanaj industry were discovered.

**Early Historic I 400 B.C.- 0 A.D.**

The next culture that is found here is characterised by iron using agriculturists, who used red-and-black pottery N.B.P., lacquer red, and plain red pottery. This culture belongs to the later part of the first millenium of the Christian era, and has strong affinities with the cultures of contemporary Malwa and Maharastra and Orissa. This culture is described as "Early Historic Culture I".

**Early Historic II.0 A.D.-600 A.D.**

The overlying culture is characterised by the Red
Polished Ware, crude gritty pottery with brown to red outside and Black inside, Kshatrapa coin, and Roman objects, etc. In this region this culture can be dated from the beginning of Christian era to the sixth century A.D. from the excavations at Baroda, Akota, Timbarva, Vadnagar and Amreli. It is noted as the "Early historic culture II."

**Mediaeval Period I. 600 A.D.-1000 A.D.**

This culture was succeeded by the Mediaeval culture. In this period the early pottery types disappear. The new pottery types, the red-slipped ware with designs in black over white background, mediaeval red and black ware, burnished black ware, burnished red ware, and sculpture stylistically earlier than those of the Chalukyan period make their appearance. This is the mediaeval period I, which can be dated from 600 A.D.-1000 A.D.

**Mediaeval Period II from 1000 A.D.-1300 A.D.**

This represents the continuation of the preceding period. In this period glazed pottery makes its appearance. The sculptures are of the typical Chalukyan affinity, and some standing monuments of this period are also found. This is the last period discussed in the present work.

**Short summary of the results.**

With this method it was possible to list about one hundred and fifty two sites in the region. These sites range from the palaeolithic to the mediaeval period. The
following classification will give some idea about the sites of the various periods:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palaeolithic Sites</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microlithic Sites</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Historic I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Historic II</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediaeval I</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediaeval II</td>
<td>63</td>
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The paleolithic sites were already noted by the previous workers. But many new microlithic sites were discovered in this region. They were generally open isolated sites. The river valley survey was more important in the discovery of these sites.

The discovery of the existence of culture with the red-and-black and the northern black polished ware in the Baroda district in the early historic period I, showing affinities to the cultures existing in contemporary Malwa and Maharashtra and Orissa suggest that the general unity of material culture in western India was achieved very early.

In the early historic period II, the material proofs in the form of bronze handles, cameo and coins of the existence of Roman trade have been discovered. Red Polished Ware, the crude gritty pottery with inside black and brown or red outside suggest the cultural unity of a large part of India. The former indicates its use in whole of India in this period.
Another important point is the difference between the culture of this region and that of the North Gujarat. In North Gujarat tradition of red pottery with paintings in black persists while it is absent in the central and southern Gujarat. Important architectural and sculptural material of this period was also discovered. Numerous coins were collected from the sites in the region under survey. These antiquities also suggest the general unity of material culture of Western India.

The third historic period called "Mediaeval period I", marks a distinct change in certain pottery types. The characteristic pottery of this period is a red slipped ware with designs in black over white background, the mediaeval red and black ware, burnished red ware and burnished black ware. These varieties are fairly widespread. Specially the mediaeval painted ware is distributed from Rangmahal near Suratgarh in the Bikaner area to Jamrej on the Tapi. This ware can be dated from the 6th century in Baroda District, and continues for about 12 centuries more. The large hoard of bronze sculptures from Akota, and other sites in this region with strong affinity to sculptures in Rajasthan also point to the general uniformity of culture in Gujarat, Saurashtra and Rajasthan. The wide spread use of the Gadhaiya coins also suggest the same fact. New copper plate from this period add to the information on political condition of this region, and point out its contacts with the other parts of India.

The mediaeval period II, can be called the Golden age in the cultural history of Gujarat. The material culture of
this period follows the earlier tradition. Much architectural activity took place in this period. Numerous relics, mostly in the form of architectural fragments and sculptures are found scattered in the region. The memorial stones also fairly numerous point to the rather disturbed political conditions of the 13th century. All these relics bear close affinity with those from north Gujarat, pointing close contact.

This survey points out incidentally the importance of the fertile central belt for habitation, and the eastern hilly and jungle track did not support higher cultural activity but was probably opened up, at a rather later date.