CHAPTER IV

POTTERY
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The importance of pottery can not be minimized in archaeological surveys as this is the chief element found at proto-historic and historical settlements. It serves as a diagnostic trait for the identification of material culture and for understanding the sequence of cultures in region.

The author, during the course of his explorations in Sirmaur district discovered a variety of ceramic industries including the late - Harappan Ochre Coloured Ware, the Painted Grey Ware, the N.B.P. - Grey Ware, Kushana red ware, early medieval red ware and the medieval pottery.

The late-Harappan pottery explored in the district includes a red ware having affinities with the late-Harappan variety and the O.C.W.

It is wheeled made and has medium fabric and red core. The plots have thick to medium section. The main types includes storage jars with wide as well as narrow mouths, medium sized and smaller vases, and dish-on-stand with short drooping rim. In appearance the pottery look like the O.C.W. of the upper Ganga-Yamuna doab and with the late-Harappan ware found at Badholi and other sites in the Run Valley in Haryana. The ware shows linkage with the Harappan and pre-Harappan traditions.
The pottery was treated with red slip. But due to weathering effect on the pots it has almost disappeared and occurs only in patches. Some of the vases were painted with black band at the neck and the rim.

The characteristic ceramic types are described figure-wise at the end of the chapter.

The Painted Grey Ware (PGW) consists of thin vessels of grey colour. The colour varies from ashy grey to darkish grey. It is generally of thin section and has fine to medium fabric. The clay is well levigated. The main types include deep bowls with vertical rims, dishes with convex profile and small basins with flanged rims.

The pottery is painted with variety of black designs over grey surface. The main designs include horizontal, oblique, curved and painted horizontal lines, groups of vertical and curved lines, semi-circular arcs with dots in the centre and parallel lines with dots in between on the top. The paintings are done on both the interior and exterior.

The selected shapes of the PGW are described figure-wise at the end of the chapter.

The unpainted Grey Ware is found both on the PGW as well as the N.B.P. ware sites. The Grey Ware has thin fabric and is wheel made. It is slightly inferior in fabric than the Painted Gray Ware. The main shapes include basins, bowls and dishes sometimes with blunt carinations.
The N.B.P. period pottery also includes the black-slipped ware with bowls and dishes and the Red Ware of medium fabric and dull red surface. The main shapes in the red ware are oval vases with collard rim grooved on the exterior.

Selected pottery types of the NBP period are described figure-wise at the end of the chapter.

The Kushana pottery is distinguished by red ware. It is generally treated with wash or red slip. The clay used is inferior mixed with kankar. It is wheel made, but ill fired. The main shapes include vases with out curved or collard rims, bowls with impressed designs and large jars with thick nail headed rims and externally ribed. The sprinklers and bottles are rare.

The selected types are described figure-wise in the chapter.

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The early medieval pottery is also distinguished by a red ware treated with red slip. It is wheel made and has medium fabric. The main shapes comprises of vases with nail headed or externally collard rims, vases with long averted rims or internally grooved or externally grooved rims, knife edged bowls and bowls with oblique cut rim.
A few selected shapes collected during his explorations are described figure-wise at the end.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

The medieval pottery is also a red ware. The red slip or wash is fairly preserved. Sometimes it is treated with dark red slip and is ill fired. The pottery is well made, but it has a gritty and medium fabric. The main shapes include neckless handis with flaring rims, knobed lids and vases with flaring rims. The pottery includes jars with flaring rims, handis with wide mouths, basins and bowls with oblique cut rims and thin knife edged bowls. The pottery has incised decorations.

Selected pottery shapes are described figure-wise in the chapter.

Fig. 1: late-Harappan Ware (OCW)

1. Large storage jar, clubbed rim, wide mouth, fine fabric, mixed with sand particles, worn off surface. From Parduni.

2. Storage jar, clubbed rim, wide mouth, convex profile, worn off surface. From Ambwala.

3. Fragment of a lamp, grey core, surface worn off. From Hatwar.

4. Fragment of a vase scored on the shoulder, surface worn off. From Ambwala.

5. Fragment of a water vessel with flaring rim, high neck, worn off surface. From Ambwala.
Fig. 1 LATE HARAPHAN WARE (OCW)
6. Handi with wise mouth, out turned rim, worn off surface. From Ambwala.

7. Fragment of a water vessel with a collard rim and convex neck, surface worn off. From Ambwala.

8. Fragment of a Jar, out turned rim, worn off surface. From Ambwala.


10. Fragment of a water vessel, with beaked rim, grey core, surface worn off. From Ambwala.

11. Water vessel, narrow mouth, beaked rim, worn off surface. From Ambwala.


14. Footed basin with medium coarse fabric, surface worn off, with medium thin section. From Hatwar - 1.

Fig. 2:

15. Storage jar with wide mouth, flanged rim, convex profile, worn off surface. From Ambwala.


17. Storage Jar, wide mouth, collard rim, convex sides. From Ambwala.
Fig. 2 LATE HARAPAN WARE (OCW)
18. Deep dish on stand with under cut rim, worn off surface. From Parduni.


20. Medium dish-on-stand, with under cut rim, surface worn off. From Ambwala.

21. Cup-on-stand with flanged rim, surface worn off. From Hatwar.

22. Dish-on-stand with drooping rim, surface worn off. From Ambwala.

23. Dish-on-stand with drooping rim, sturdy, surface worn off. From Parduni.

**Fig. 3: Painted Grey Ware**

1. Dish with convex sides, thin section, painted with black linear and dotted designs.

2. A sherd of PGW, painted with black lines. From Hatwar.

3. Bowl with convex sides, painted with black lines. From Moinand.

4. Bowl with convex sides, painted with lines. From Moinand.

5. Sherd painted with panel of hooked strokes. From Hatwar.

6. Bowel painted with black lines. From Hatwar.

7. Fragment of dish painted with loops. From Nurpur Kotla.

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Fig 3 PAINTED GREY WARE
8. Bowel painted with black lines. From Mirpur Kotla.
10. Sherd of a bowl, painted with line at rim. From Kotla.
11. Sherd of the bowl, painted with intersecting curved lines. From Gulabgarh.
12. Fragment of a dish painted with groups of black strokes. From Mirpur Kotla.
13. Fragment of a bowl painted with thin flowing lines. From Kotla.
14. Sherd painted with dots between parallel lines. From Kotla.
15. Sherd of a bowl painted with strokes. From Hatwar.
17. Fragment of PGW ware. From Hatwar.
18. Fragment of a PGW. From Moginand.
19. Fragment of PW painted with dotted designs. From Hatwar.
20. Sherd painted with dotted designs. From Kotla.
21. Sherd painted with flowing lines. From Moginand.
22. Sherd painted with concentric arcs. From Hatwar.
23. Fragment of PGW painted with concentric arcs and dots. From Hatwar - II.
24. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
25. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
26. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
27. Fragment of PGW. From Mirpur Kotla.
28. Fragment of PGW painted with lines of strokes in panel. From Moginand.
29. Fragment of PGW. From Mirpur Kotla.
30. Fragment of PGW. From Mirpur Kotla.
31. Fragment of PGW. From Mirpur Kotla.
32. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Hatwar.
33. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Mirpur Kotla.
34. Fragment of gray ware bowl. From Manpur Devra.
35. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Kotla.
36. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Parduni.
37. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Gulabgarh.
38. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Mirpur Kotla.
40. Fragment of gray ware. From Rasalu-Ki-Tibbi.

**Fig. 4:**

1. Fragment of a bowl, grey ware. From Mirpur Kotla.
2. Fragment of a deep bowl, straight sides, painted at rim. From Mirpur Kotla.
3. Fragment of a bowl. From Mirpur Kotla.
4. Fragment of a bowl, painted hard at rim. From Hatwar.
5. Sherd of PGW bowl. From Gulabgarh.
Fig. 4  PAINTED GREY AND GREY WARE
7. Fragment of PGW bowl. From Gulabgarh.
8. Fragment of PGW. From Moginand.
10. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
11. Fragment of PGW. From Moginand.
12. Fragment of GW. From Burman.
13. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
14. Fragment of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
17. Sherd of PGW. From Gulabgarh.
18. Grey ware sherd. From Parduni.
22. Grey ware bowl with flat rim. From Hatwar.
23. Grey ware bowl with flat rim. From Parduni.
25. Grey ware bowl from Rasalu-Ki-Tibbi.
26. Grey ware bowl from Rasalu-Ki-Tibbi.
27. Grey ware bowl. From Burman.
29. Grey ware bowl with convex profile. From Tokio.
32. Grey ware bowl. From Burman.
33. Grey ware bowl. From Parduni.
34. Grey ware bowl. From Rasalu-Ki-Tibbi.
35. Grey ware bowl. From Rasalu-Ki-Tibbi.

**Fig. 5: Grey Ware - NBP**
2. Grey ware bowl. From Burman.
5. Grey ware bowl cum dish. From Tokion.

**Fig. 6: Grey Ware**
1. Grey ware dish with carinated base. From Hatwar.
2. Grey ware bowl carinated basin. From Manpur Devara.
5. Grey ware dish. From Kotla.
Fig. 6 GREY WARE
7. Grey ware bowl from Mirpur Kotla.
10. Grey ware bowl cum dish carinated base. From Hatwar.

Fig. 7: Red and Grey Ware (NBP)
1. Red ware basin. From Biyas.
2. Red ware basin. From Kunthal.
5. Red ware plate. From Churna.
6. Red ware basin carinated shoulder from Arandwal.
8. Red ware plate. From Churan.
10. Grey ware deep bowl from burman.

Fig. 8: Kushan and Post Kushan Red Ware
1. Sturdy Jar with narrow mouth from Burman.
2. Red ware small jar. From Mirpur Kotla.
Fig. 7   RED AND GREY WARE (NBP PERIOD)
Fig. 8 KUSHANA AND POST KUSHANA POTTERY
5. Red ware jar. From Tokion.
7. Red ware jar. From Koti Padhog.
9. Red ware water vessel. From Ram Kundi.
12. Red ware vase. From Kotla.
15. Red ware jar. From Kotla.

Fig. 9: Kushan Pottery
1. Red ware water vessel. From Kunthal.
2. Red ware water vessel. From Kiari.
4. Red ware jar. From Kunthal.
5. Red ware jar. From Jawag.
7. Red ware vase. From Churan.

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Fig. 9  KUSHAN POTTERY
Fig. 10: Red ware decorated

1. Red ware handi with flanged rim. From Kunthal.
2. Red ware handi. From Palion-1.
4. Red ware with painted base. From Koti Padhog.
5. Red ware bowl with incurved rim (pre Kushan).
6. Red ware bowl with incurved rim (pre Kushan).
7. Red ware bowl (Kushan). From Koti Padhog.
9. Red ware decorate cup. From Churan.
10. Red ware port with handle, decorated from Dhanas.
12. Red ware bowl. From Kulath.
16. Red ware vase with narrow mouth flat base decorated on exterior. From Ghotari.

Fig. 11: Kushan and late decorated pottery

1. Red ware basin, decorated. From Majhgaon.
2. Red ware bowl decorated. From Deothi.
4. Red ware dish decorated from Syarla.
5. Red ware dish decorated. From Pab.
6. Red ware jar decorated. From Ram Kundi.
Fig. 10 MEDIEVAL AND HISTORICAL POTTERY
Fig. 11 Kushan and Later Decorated Pottery
10. Red ware bowl decorated. From Ram Kundi.
13. Red ware sherd decorated. From Kota.
15. Red ware sherd decorated. From Ram Kundi.
17. Red ware sherd decorated. From Sadaur.
22. Red ware sherd decorated. From Ram Kundi.
23. Red ware sherd decorated. From Kunthal.