Preface

The present work is a humble effort aimed at building up the history of the Neolithic people of Kashmir around 3000-1000 BC. The entire work is based on the information drawn from the archaeological remains unearthed at the Neolithic sites of Burzahom and Gofkral in particular and other sites in general. Though the choice of the available sources is fairly limited when compared with the present methodology and tools of investigation, yet whatever archaeological evidence is available on the subject, it indeed suffices our purpose to draw a comprehensive picture of the human activities during our period of review. Doubtlessly the excavators, explorers and researchers in the field have already initiated an effort to this effect. H. de Terra and Paterson, for instance, conducted research and revealed several fascinating results on the Pleistocene epoch in Kashmir. Other than de Terra and Paterson, a group of researchers endeavoured to look around for the material on the Kashmir paleoclimate. Similarly, T. N. Khazanchi, A. K. Sharma, R. K. Pant and the like did pioneering work on the Neolithic man in Kashmir. Such researches are extraordinarily significant though most of the archaeological and stratigraphical details remain unpublished till date. With the result, a vivid and complete picture of the behaviour of the Neolithic man and his relations with the contemporary social groups could not be accurately evolved. To fill the gap, I took up the job and compiled the present work which notwithstanding my strenuous labour, may not be that perfect as one may think. However, I am optimistic that future researchers will supplement the given information and at the same time take care of whatever shortcomings
remain in my work keeping in view the fact that a large number of the Neolithic sites in the Valley still remain unexcavated.

While doing the present work, I received valuable guidance and help from a number of scholars, institutions and friends, and even though it is not possible for me to mention by name all those to whom I consider it my privilege to express my gratitude with all my humility, yet I do name those who did a lot for me. I should like to express my special gratitude to my colleague, friend and guide Dr. M. A. Kaw who infused life into the body of the work and without his constant guidance and personal attention at every stage of its preparation this work would not have seen the light of the day. I am deeply beholden to him for all that he did pleasantly, cordially and patiently, and devoted his time, skill and knowledge to guide and supervise me in preparing the work.

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Srinagar, There are many others who provided me books and articles but mention may especially be made of Prof. G. M. Buth, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir for keeping at my disposal his vast material on palaeobotany and primitive agriculture which has deepen my studies on the subject. I have no words to express my gratitude to him. My friend Shri Raj Nath Kaw of ASI, New Delhi literally kept every book at my disposal. As and when I went to him he even kept zeorx copies of many other works. I cannot but express my sincere thanks to him. Similarly I owe my thanks to Dr. D. P. Agrawal and Dr R. K. Pant for having provided a collection of their articles to me when I approached them. For various illustrations, I acknowledge the courtesy of ASI, Late Prof. H. D. Sankalia, Dr. S. B. Deo and Prof. R. V. Joshi of Deccan College, Pune, and Shri S. S. Saar of ASI. In this endeavour I acknowledge the help I received from Mr. Iqbal Ahmad of CCAS and Shri Satish Kumar Koul of JK Govt Research Library. I am indebted to my friends who made my survey and visit to some of the Neolithic sites in the Valley very comfortable and easy particularly during the present disturbed conditions. They even helped me in surface collection at many places. I also acknowledge the help I received in typing from Mr. B. A. Mir and in computer setting from M/s Computer Vision, Srinagar-6. In spite of their efforts, many inadvertent errors have crept in for which I alone am to be blamed.

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Aijaz A. Banday

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