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EXCAVATIONS AT AMRI, NINDOWARI AND PIRAK (1958- 1974)

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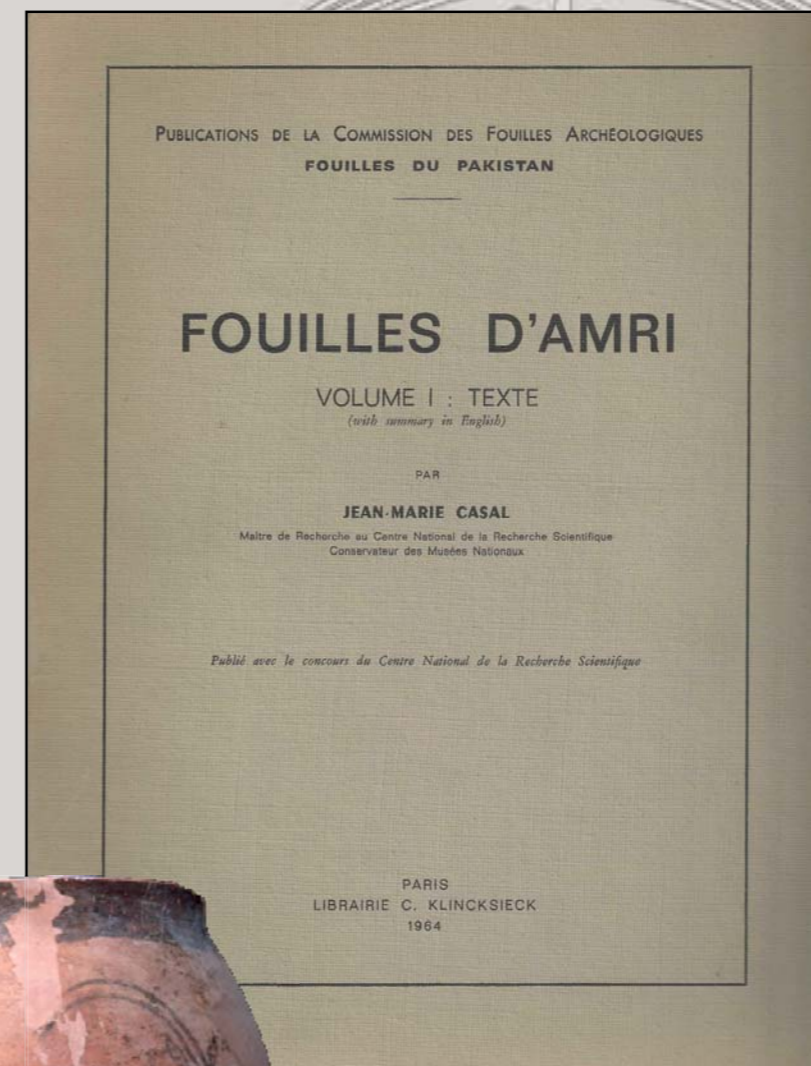
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MAI Mission, direction: Jean-Marie Casal

Cooperation: Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan

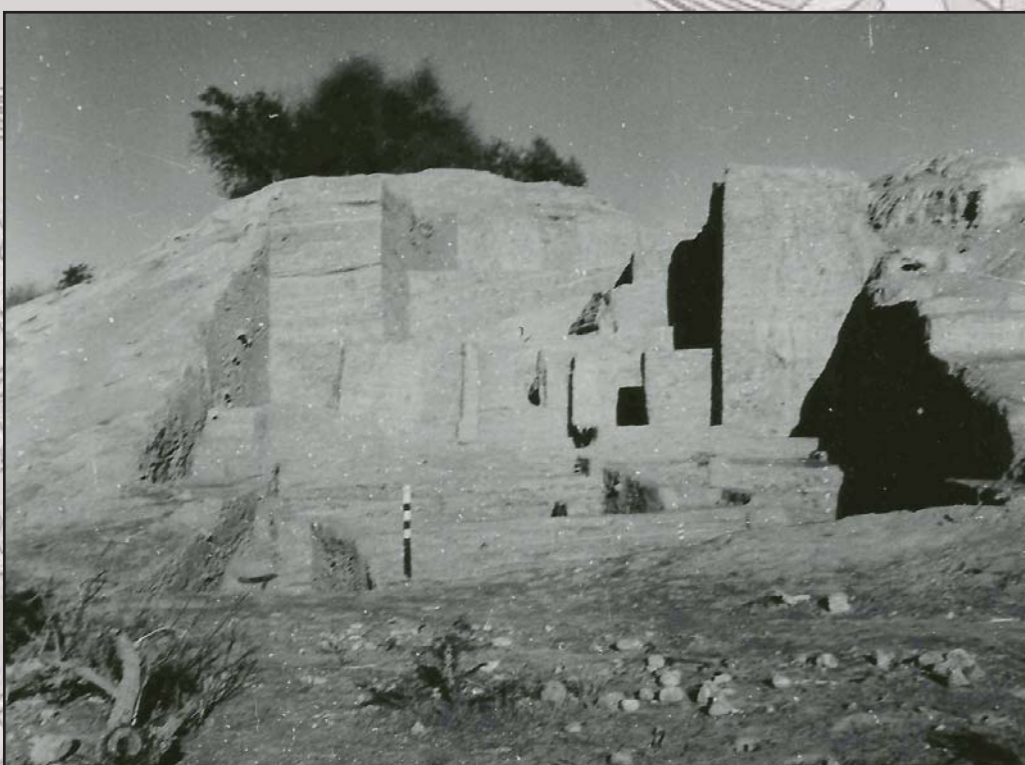
AMRI EXCAVATIONS (1959-1962)

The site of Amri is located on the west bank of the Indus River, about 110 north of Hyderabad in Sindh. Situated near foothills of the Kirthar Range, the mound of 8 hectares, was excavated, providing the remains of a Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation (period I, ca. 3500-2500 BC) associated with architecture in mudbrick and stone. The period I material assemblage also evidenced close cultural and technological relationships with the craft productions of Balochistan. From 2500 BC, the site shows an occupation (period III A,B,C/D, ca. 2500-1900 BC) characteristic of the three periods of the Indus civilization. Amri remains, with Kot-Diji, a reference site for the periodization of the Lower Indus valley and for studying the transition between the pre-Indus and the Indus periods.



Jean-Marie Casal (1905-1977).

Jean-Marie Casal, curator of the Musée Guimet and seconded to the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), has founded the French Archaeological Mission of Indus (Pakistan) in 1958. Before beginning to work in Pakistan, he had excavated the 4th-3rd millennium BC site of Mundigak in southern Afghanistan. In Pakistan, Jean-Marie Casal has directed the excavations at Amri (Sindh) in 1959-1962 and at Nindowari (Balochistan) in 1962-1965. He also conducted the fieldwork at Pirak (Balochistan) in 1968-1973 before returning in France for health problems. The Pirak excavation will be completed in 1974 by Jean-François Jarrige who became the new leader of the MAI mission in 1975.

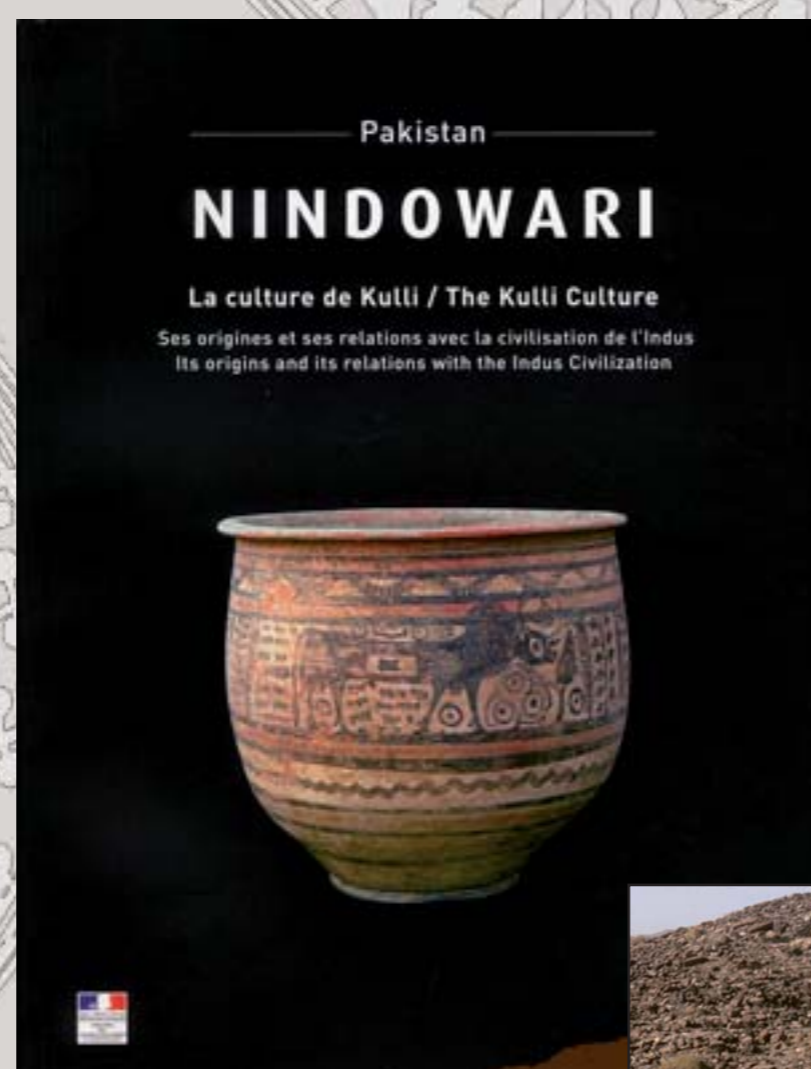


Period ID pottery (ca. 2600-2500 BC).

Northern view of the mound of Amri.

NINDOWARI EXCAVATIONS (1962-1965)

The site of Nindowari is located in the Ornach valley in Kalat District (Balochistan). The field work, conducted by J.-M. Casal, is the only large-scale excavation ever carried out at a site of the 3rd millennium BC Kulli Culture, which was partly contemporary with the Indus Civilization. The excavation records, recently published by J.-F. Jarrige, G. Quivron and C. Jarrige (2011), provide unique insights into the origins and development of the Kulli Culture (2600-1900 BC) characterized, among other features, by an original pottery style.



Period II (2600-2300 BC) and period III (2300-1900 BC) pottery from Nindowari.



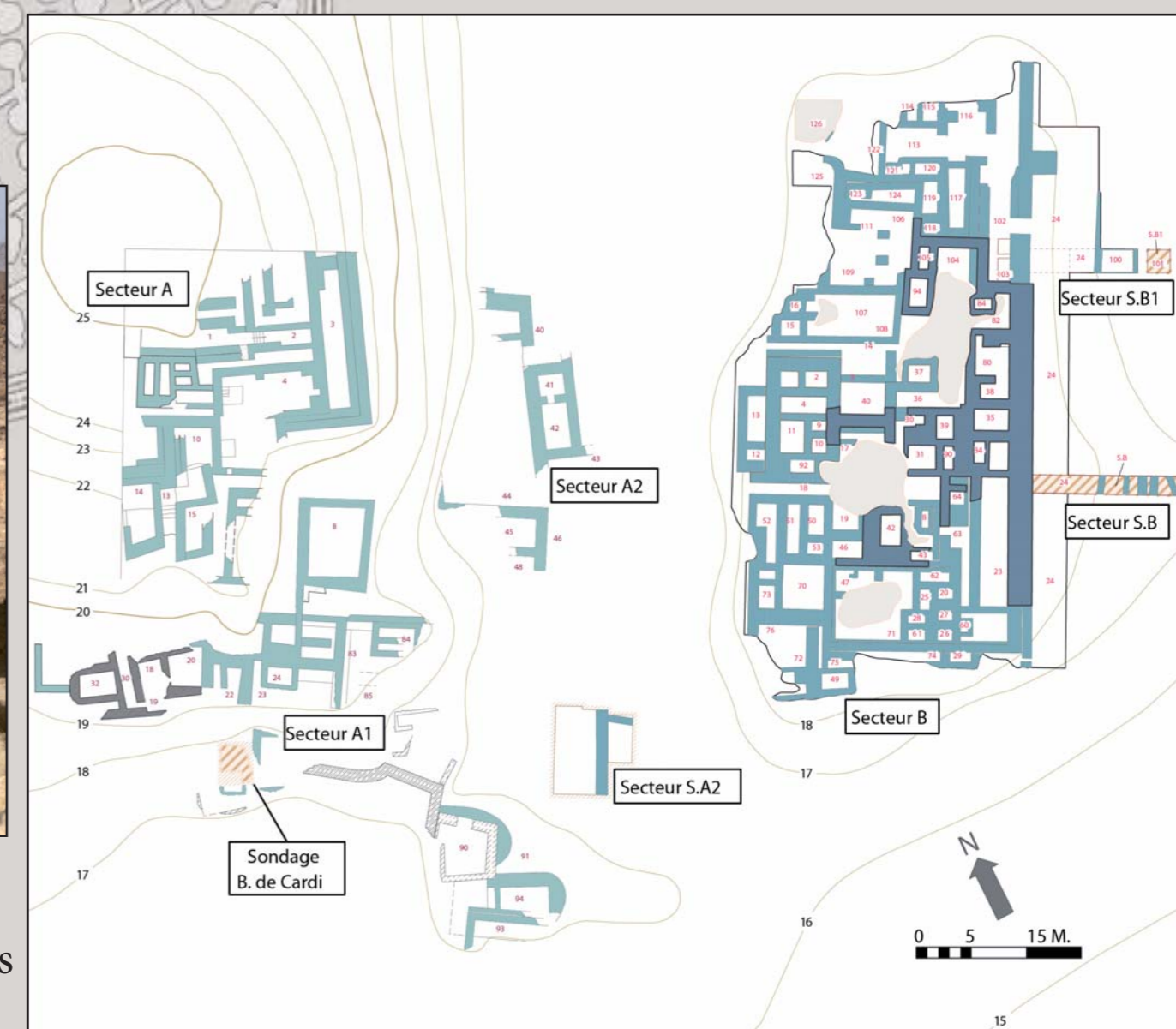
Indus Civilization steatite stamp seals from Nindowari period III (2300-1900 BC)



Anthropomorphic figurines in terracotta

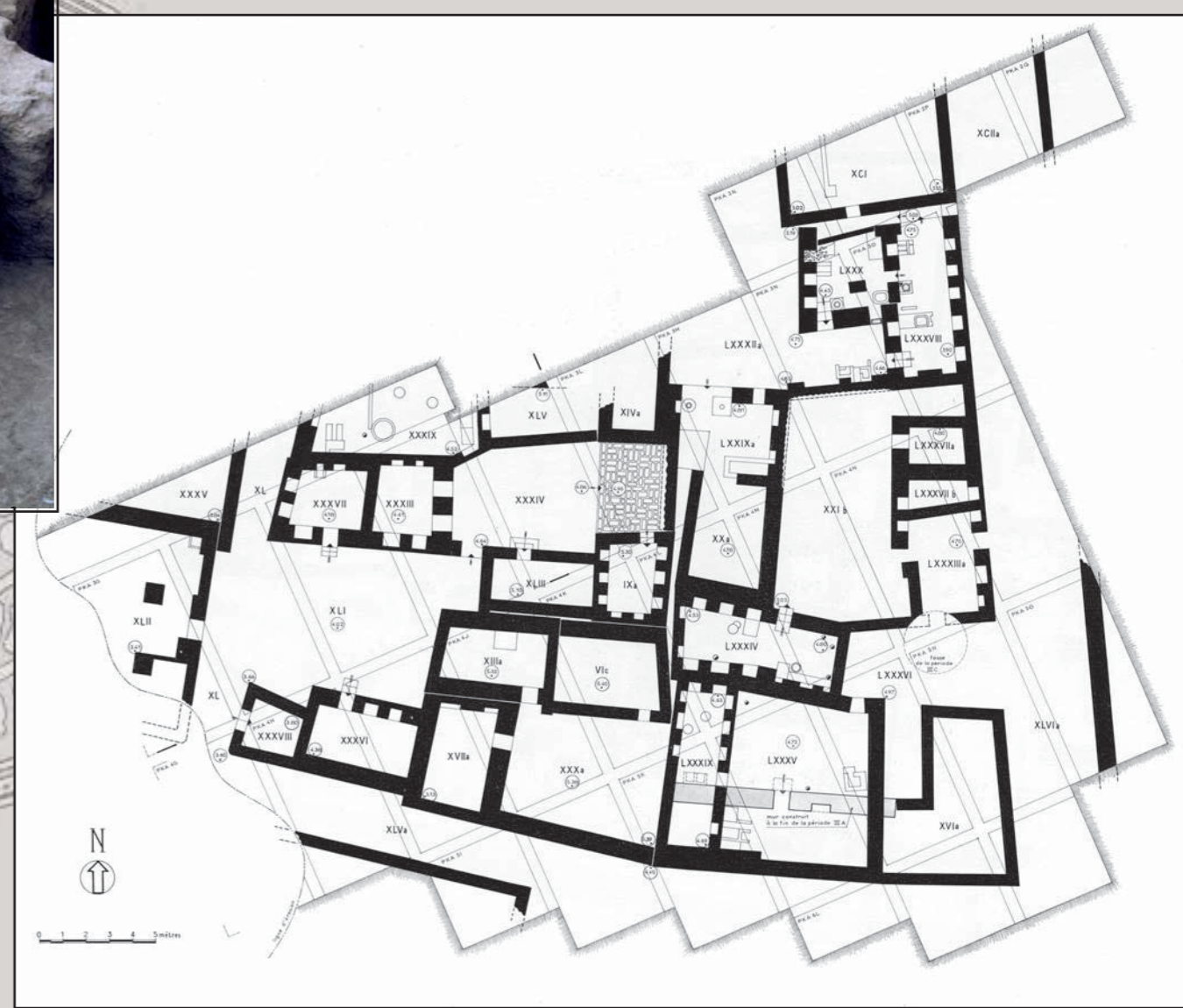


Plan of the excavated remains in Areas A and B. Nindowari (2011, fig. 42).

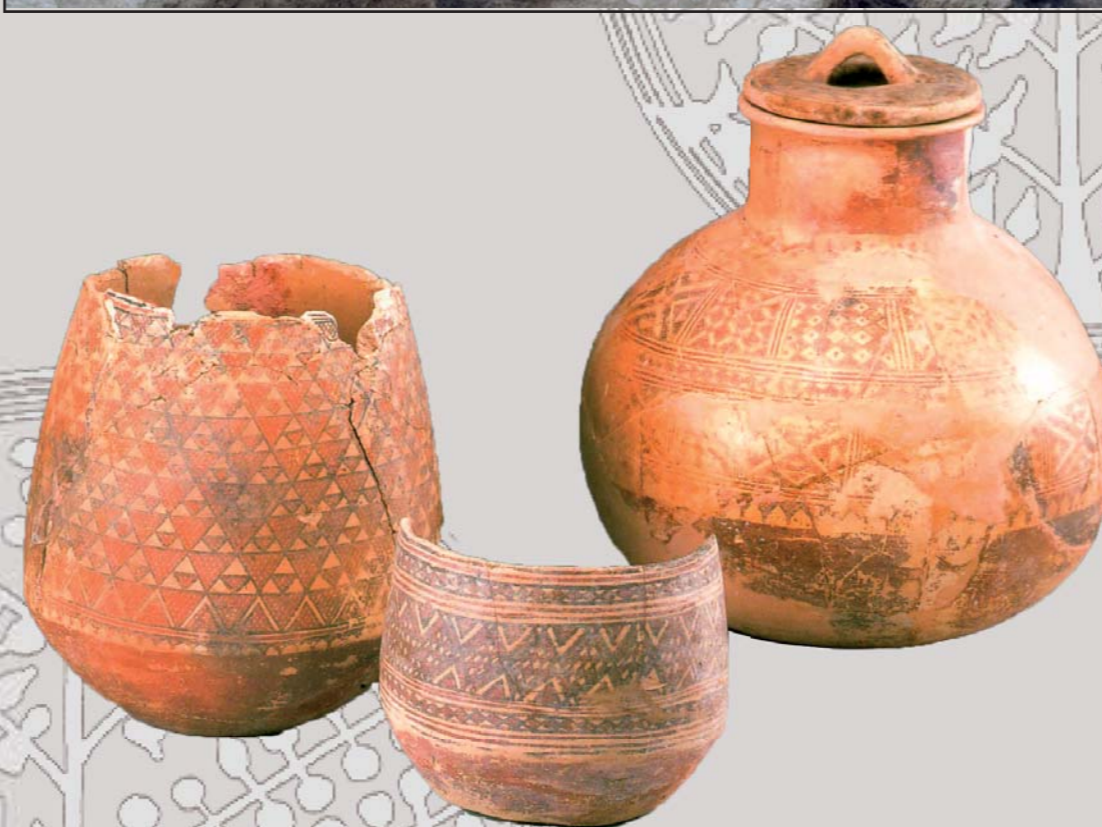


PIRAK EXCAVATIONS (1968-1974)

The site of Pirak (12 hectares) is located 20 km at the East of Mehrgarh, in the Kachi-Bolan region (Balochistan). The excavation has shown the existence of an occupation dated between 1700 BC and 700 BC. The oldest levels (ca. 1700 BC) evidenced the setting of a new rural economy, involving the cultivation of rice, which requires a well-controlled irrigation system. At this time, substantial mudbrick architectures were developed in a rather standardized plan with symmetrical niches on several levels inside the rooms, a type of plan which was still in use in the Kachi region some 60 years ago. Pirak also provided the remains of hand-made painted pottery and the first occurrence of horse, horse rider, camels and donkeys figurines. In the following periods (1500-1200 BC), wheel-made pottery and iron objects start to be produced.



Plan of level 9 at Pirak. *Fouilles de Pirak* (1979, Vol II, fig 15)



Camel and horse-rider terracotta figurines

Hand-made painted pottery