

# Explorations and Excavations in Balochistan: An Overview of Archaeological Investigations in the Post-Independence Period

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## Abstract

*Archaeological activities in Balochistan have been started during the British time in 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, a landscape of diverse culture traditions was discovered. In this phase of archaeological research in unearthing the cultural history of the Indo-Pak Sub-continent, several renowned archaeologists, such as Sir Aurel Stein (1905-43), Harold Hargreaves (1919-29), Brigadier E. J. Ross (1935-48) and Stuart Piggott (1943-50) did commendable efforts and identified several cultures, periods and wares in many parts of Balochistan. However, period-wise classification and putting them into a proper chronological order on scientific basis is yet done. In the Post-Independence Period, keeping in view the cultural significance of Balochistan in mind, more energetic archaeologists equipped with scientific techniques and methodologies started re-investigation and presented new paradigms. Most of these archaeologists are affiliated with foreign missions who could not confine themselves to a region but rather carried out research in several parts of Balochistan resulted into establishing a chrono-cultural sequence of the region from Aceramic Neolithic to Pre-Achaemenid Period without any cultural gap/break. Nonetheless, there are still large areas in Balochistan which have yet to receive proper attention.*

**Keywords:** Balochistan, Archaeology, Cultures, Periods, Wares, Foreign Missions, Explorations, Excavations

## Introduction

Post-Independence period of Pakistan is marked with commencement of a new era of archaeological investigation in Balochistan especially by team members of foreign archaeological missions who took keen interest in archaeological research. Sporadic and limited archaeological investigations executed in the past seventy years have yielded close cultural relations of the regions of Balochistan with its adjacent regions of north, northwest and west since long. After Independence in 1947, field explorations were conducted in various regions in the Indus Valley highlighting role of Balochistan in the development of cultures before the rise of the Indus Valley Civilization in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE. These field investigations revealed that diverse cultural groups occupied Balochistan in the prehistoric times, which were not in isolation

but rather closely in interaction with counterparts in the Indus Valley (Mughal 1971-72: 137-158). Soon after the Independence, the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan was established in Karachi in 1947. The Circle Offices were at *Rajshai* and Lahore, each under a superintendent.

In the beginning, archaeological work was confined owing to lack of staff and financial resources. The Department made a moderate initiation and focused on the preservation and conservation of the major monuments and excavated sites (Khan 1964: 1). The Department was guardian of the nation's rich cultural heritage, in which both tangible and intangible cultural properties were their prime focus. The conservation and preservation of historical monuments and archaeological sites fell in the accountability of the Department (Zaman 2011: 93-103).

## A. The British Expedition to Kalat

The British Expedition to Kalat started its archaeological tours under the supervision of Beatrice de Cardi, who made a 1073-km field survey to Kalat State from 1948 to 1957, in association with the Department of Archaeology and Museums Government of Pakistan (hereafter DOAM). The first season of survey was carried out in 1948 beginning from Sarawan District north of Kalat. This expedition aimed at to know the actual distribution of *Quetta Culture* with its adjacent realms (de Cardi 1951: 29-33; Piggott 1947; 1950). She explored 47 sites in her campaigns, ranging from Quetta to Khuzdar. In results of these archaeological surveys, she postulated two types of wares: *Togau*, which is a quite fine red pottery with black designs characterized by schematic animals irregularly; and *Londur Ware*, a late period pottery with rather elaborative motifs (Fairervis 1952: 3). In addition, she also laid down trial pits at few sites and recorded fifty-four sites only in Kalat and Southern Balochistan including Panjpai (Khan 2002: 145).

Beatrice de Cardi with the help of report of Fairervis's works in the Quetta Valley, launched her new season in the Sarawan south of Quetta in 1957. She aimed to know the distribution of *Quetta Culture* in the south of Quetta. Therefore, she decided to initiate her work with some excavations mainly at the sites of Anjira and Siah Damb in the Surab region (now a district) so that to know the depth of cultural profile in the Central Balochistan (de Cardi, 1965).

### Anj Anjira Site

Known after Anjira River, Anjira site is located about 25 km south of Surab village, which came to prominence in 1947. It measured 225x105x2.5

m (de Cardi, 1983). Three trial-trenches were laid down that exposed 5 distinct cultural occupations at Anjira. *Period I* is a sedentary Neolithic occupation without any permanent settlement remains and could be attributed to KGM II; *Period II* is the continuity of the former occupants with a permanent mud-brick structures with parallel to KGM III; *Period III* is a transitional phase with the advent of Togau B-C and Kechi Beg cultural wares; *Period IV* authenticated to be an expanded inhabitation with a sub-regional tone of *Nal* and *Quetta Cultures*; *Period V* is the final stage of the human occupation attested to be a cultural group of Damb Sadaat III (de Cardi 1964; Bridget & Allchin 1982; Asthana 1985).

### Sia Damb Site

The mound of Siah Damb came to light when de Cardi was busy with her survey in 1947 mainly in the Central Brahui Range. It is situated 7.6 km southwest of Surab on the bank of Rej River. The site towers to a height of 12 m from the surrounding level with a rough-rectangular shape. The 120-m long site was opted for trial trenching in 1957 (de Cardi 1983), yielding a number of good wares that established three main cultural periods. *Period I* provides scanty findings with inclusion of handmade and basket wares of Anjira II; *Period II* is more fruitful with three sub cultural phases Siah II (i-iii), the first sub-phase contains KGM and Togau B types pottery, the second has Togau C and Zari wares whereas the last sub-phase mainly shows Anjira and Togau D wares. *Period III* is attributed to Anjira IV (de Cardi 1965).

## B. The American Museum of Natural History's Expedition to West Pakistan

On August 23, 1950, The American Museum of Natural History led an expedition to West

Pakistan in collaboration with DOAM to carry out a survey in Quetta Tehsil. The interest of the expedition aroused when the team examined the Neolithic site of Kili Gul Muhammad. Before Kili Gul Muhammad, merely six prehistoric sites were known in the region. For understanding the cultural sequence of the site, the excavator put a vertical trench and obtained flint-flakes, grinding stones, polyhedral cores, and the bones of domesticated animals. The team conducted survey in *Gwandin* Valley, located at the head of Bolan Pass in Sibi where a group of thirty-seven sites were documented. On the same route, they visited a mound in Noshki, no name of the site is mentioned but it is written there that the site was in intrusive condition due to the modern construction then. Nevertheless, the work of de Cardi clarified that it was the site of Noshki headquarter on which the Bungalow of the Political Agent stood atop (de Cardi 1983: 16-41). Besides, they visited Pishin in Northern Quetta and documented eight artificial mounds. Fairservis has also mentioned in his reports that some mounds were already reported by Stein during his survey in 1929 (Fairservis 1956).

The Second Expedition was carried out in 1950-1951 under Rose Lilien, Howard W. Stoudt, George W. Maclellan, L. D. Kelsey and Fairservis undertaking survey in Zhob, Loralai, Pishin, Quetta, Bolan Pass, Noshki, Chagai, Mastung and Kalat Districts. They excavated five sites in Quetta and only one in Loralai. Moreover, after the extensive surveys carried out by Fairservis and his team, they became successful by discovering 39 sites in the whole Quetta Valley. He revisited the sites surveyed and discovered already by Piggott in mid 1940s, thus, persisted the sequence of his coding technique as (Q + site number). Furthermore, he enriched his contributions to

the Quetta Valley by carrying out small scale earthworks at couple of sites, including Q8, Q13, Q14, and Q24 (Pre-and Proto-historic sites); while, Q10 was the only historic period site with limited diggings. During the post-excavation process he applied another series of code words for assigning distinct cultural periods and phases he classified (Fairservis 1952; 1956). These codes along with the present cultural sequence of Balochistan has been explained in the following tables with actual names of cultures and periods he assigned for the Quetta Valley.

### **Kili Gul Muhammad Site**

Kili Gul Muhammad has been coded by the excavator as Q24 during his surveys in the Quetta Valley. The cultural mound was extensively occupied by Muslim graves on the uppermost level which resulted limited space for scientific excavations. The first trench was laid down on the southern fringe and measured 7×7 m. Notwithstanding, after a depth level of 2 m, the trench was refilled as several Muslim grave-pits were exposed. Anon, as a compulsion, they only opened a sondage measuring 3.5×3.5 m to record the cultural profile of the site. However, it was reached to the bedrock at a depth of 11.4 m reduced to an area of 1.7×1.7 m. Providentially, this small Pre-pottery sounding set the earliest Chrono-cultural strata of not only Balochistan but as whole of South Asia (Fairservis 1952; 1956; de Cardi 1965; 1983).

### **Kechi Beg Site**

Kechi Beg (Q14) in the Quetta Valley is also selected for excavation by Fairservis though a sondage measuring 8×3 m that reached to virgin soil at 2.5 m depth. Similarly, this trench was also disturbed by a Muslim burial chamber due

to which the trench was subsequently reduced to 6.5×3 m only. However, it revealed a single cultural horizon named as Kechi Beg culture/ware after the site's name. Nonetheless, this ware was later met during KGM IV and culturally ordered with that site too (Fairservis 1956; de Cardi 1983).  
Damb Sadaat Site

Damb Sadaat (Q8), (hereafter DS) is also excavated by Fairservis by putting 3 trenches on the surface. However, two cuts were taken to natural level with a maximum deposition level of 10.2 and 9.5 m revealing three distinct periods. The earliest period is termed as Kechi Beg though absent at KGM sequence and perhaps later than KB with several phases; the second one is Quetta Ware/Period; and the last one is named as Sadaat Ware/Period (Fairservis 1956; 1959).

### **The Formulated Hypothesis of Fairservis**

Fairservis introduced new scientific approaches in his discoveries for to analyse and interpret the data wherever he worked in Balochistan. This followed a dynamic clash with the leading British archaeologist of the time, Sir Mortimer Wheeler (Kenoyer & Meadow 2004: 195-197). Wheeler was not ready to agree to come up with his assumptions he had for Balochistan. Wheeler did not credit that there would be sufficient evidences regarding development of cultures in Balochistan to support understanding the indigenous development of the Indus Valley Civilization. Even though, later Wheeler agreed to change his concept. Further, he mentioned to appeal the mechanisms of cultural diffusion to elaborate cultural change (Wheeler 1968). Fairservis hypothesized the stratigraphic units in the time of his excavations "as arbitrary units in a time within which cultural solidity and change could be distinguished." He used

to observe Balochistan and the other regions of the world ethnographically. He was in the view considering for a cultural evolution that interlinked the early settled communities of Balochistan to the emergence of Harappan or Indus Civilization. The significance of Balochistan in relation to the entire advancement of Indus Valley region was predicted by the work of Fairservis. To some extent this assumption has been long-established by the explorations in Afghanistan and Balochistan by Shaffer, Dales and Flam and Besenval. Mehrgarh, the discovery of Catherine and Francoise Jarrige, brought the most important confirmation to support the assumptions of Fairservis (Shaffer 1971; 1972; 1974; 1978; Dales 1962; 1965; Besenval 1992; 1993; 2005; Jarrige et al. 1995; 2011; 2013). However, Fairservis set the Chrono-cultural order of Quetta Valley with the help of his scientific samplings (C14) which helped him to set a date sequence for these cultural periods.

### **The Dedications of Fairservis**

Walter Ashlin Fairservis is also one of the eminent archaeologists, who contributed the archaeology of Balochistan in multiple ways by filling many lacunae regarding its past historical glory and culture. His unforgettable works (1952; 1956; 1959; 1961) have yielded a lot to reconstruct the prehistoric and historic age of Balochistan. At the time of his surveys, he along with his colleagues located many potential sites in Balochistan. At the sites of KGM and DS in Quetta Valley, he carried out small-scale excavations and revealed the presence of pre-ceramic Neolithic and early

Chalcolithic settlements that anticipated extensive discoveries alike the Harappan site of Allahdino near Karachi. He conducted surveys in Lasbela where he conducted excavation too. His



contributions of prehistoric figurines, ceramics, and other remains have lasted a point of reference for all succeeding researches (Fairervis 1952; 1956; 1959; 1961; 1984).

The expedition of Peabody Museum of Harvard University, USA in collaboration with Department of Archaeology and Museums, was led in Balochistan and Bahawalpur under the direction of Henry Field in 1955. The team aimed at tracing out the Stone Age Cultures and record anthropometric and ethnological data to establish linkage with Southwest Asian and Indian Cultures. At the time of reconnaissance, the expedition paid visit to twenty-three sites in the Kech Valley and Lower Balochistan where pottery and other findings were collected (Field 1964) with a close resemblance between the culture of Shai Tump, Kulli, and some sites in Iran. The major visited sites by the expedition are Tump, Miri Fort, Nodiz, Kohna-Kalat, Kapoto Rock Shelter, Nasirabad, Thale-Damb and Kalat-Damb (Khan 2002: 145-51).

Robert L. Raikes was a hydrologist who visited Pirak mound in 1956. He worked in the Museum's project at Sybaris, Italy. While working in the Indus Valley, he was primarily concerned with the questions, such as how and why this major civilization vanished. However, Pirak mound is situated about 10 km South of Sibi that measured 300 x 1500 x 7.5 m. Due to extensive rain water, the mud-brick structures were vividly visible then. The long corridors and large halls are regularly and lavishly decorated (Jarrige, 1983). The pottery has not been found from any other prehistoric site of that time, like open-mouthed one from Shahi-Tump was also one of the finds.

The Las Bela and South-West Sind Expedition initiated archaeological reconnaissance in Balochistan from 1959-1960. Essentially, this was the team of American Museum of Natural History Expeditions to West Pakistan under the leadership of Fairervis. The USA team marched through the areas of Malir, Hub, and Porali River drainages and exposed some Harappan sites. Walking to the Upper Hub River valley of Balochistan, a remarkable site was discovered by the team (Franke et al. 2015). This site had impressively preserved the structures in the form of cut-stone buildings. From the ceramics' cross-dating, it rather demonstrated as a pre-Harappan settlement. The major discovery of the team in Northern Lasbela in Walpat tehsil (de Cardi 1964) was the re-examination of the site of Niai Buthi discovered by Stein. The phenomenal site complex of Edith Shar emerged out between the Porali River and the town of Welpat. This was a vast complex running more than 1 km in north, and remained with a series of almost attached stone remains. These wall structures were raised high with boulders for maintaining sequence of tiers. They divided the complex into two parts i.e. Complex A and B (Possehl 1986: 58-61).

Following the same year probably earlier or later the University Museum of Pennsylvania USA, Expedition, under Gorge F Dales to Makuran, got indulged in carrying out explorations in 1959-60 in collaboration with DOAM Dales sought out unlocking the mysteries regarding the ancient Indus River Valley Civilization (Saxon 1992). For better comprehending the ancient traditions of the Sumerian Ancient Sea Routes of merchants, Dales selected the old routs of seafaring merchants in the Persian Gulf. This was the only objective which compelled Dales to come across these routes of Makuran. The major objectives were to search out

the rise of civilization in South Asia and tracing out the commercial and cultural ties between the Near East and Indian subcontinent (Dales 1968). The entire Makuran coastal line was explored heading to Ras Malan reaching to Jiwani. The two famous visited sites were Suthkagen-Koh on the bank of Shadi Khor, and Suthkagen-Dor on the bank of Dasht Khor belonging to Indus Valley Civilization. From the exposed trench at Suthkagen-Dor, three phases of cultural occupation were revealed (Dales 1964).

### **Matheson in Bugti-Hills**

In 1959, Matheson after her empirical perception with Wheeler and DAFA team, became able to conduct a survey in the Bugti Hills in North-eastern Balochistan where she and her husband found the first *dhamb* (mound) Philawagh. According to Matheson the mound was 7.6 km north-east to Philwagh Levy Thana, close to River Ghand. From the surface were collected dish-on-stands, Harappan wares decorated with pipal leaves and plant and one agate bead. In 1959, she also visited Kourdan dhamb near Serani and heard rumour about a buried treasure from the native people. She collected a couple of beads and pottery from this site (Matheson, 1967; Ali 1991: 1-25). Matheson, however, again made an archaeological trip to Dera Bugti in December 1961, nevertheless, this time she organized a trip with the company of General Haya-ud-Din, the then Director of Pakistan Oil and Mineral Resources. From the Bagh-i-Kumb mound they were gifted many outstanding collections of miniature decorated bowls by the wife of Chieftain (Khan 2002).

### **The French Archaeological Mission to Balochistan**

Jean-Marie Casal, the curator of the Guimet

Museum, established the French Archaeological Mission to carry out scientific studies on the Indus Civilization in 1958. Originally, the mission was founded from its major branch of French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan (DAFA), of which Casal was a member since 1951. But this mission began its archaeological activities in Balochistan in early 1960s (Casal 1961; 1966; Jarrige et al. 2011).

### **Jean-Maire Casal**

In 1962, Jean-Maire Casal (1905-1977) the Director of French Archaeological Mission again undertook his archaeological investigation in Makuran and Bela regions in collaboration with DOAM, focusing on the site of Nindowari (*Nindowadhi*) on the bank of the Kud River, a tributary of the Porali River in Ornach Valley southern Balochistan. Casal in his report of 1966, mentions that the houses were made of reed huts as observed at the adjacent site of Nindowari (Casal 1966). Nindowari was first discovered in 1957 by Beatrice de Cardi when she was in search of archaeological sites in the areas of Kalat. Nindo-Damb and Nindowari-damb is extending over an area of 1 km with a height of 22.5 m. This is a Proto-historic site and dates back to ca. 2800-1700 BCE (Jarrige et al. 2011). By far, this is the largest site of Kulli Complex reported ever in Balochistan (Fagan 2004). Essentially, this site has the same size as the lower town at Mohenjo-Daro, Sindh (Possehl 1986). Only after three-years of excavation further progress at Nindo-Damb was halted due to the war of 1965 broke out between Pakistan and India (Jarrige et al. 2011).

In 1968, the Indus Archaeological Mission in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology of Pakistan, was established to conduct research in the Kacchi Plains, Balochistan, under the

MR (Mehrgarh), KGM (Kili Gul Muhammad), Anj (Anjira), RG (Rana Ghundai), SD (Siah Damb), MK (Miri Kalat), DS (Damb Sadaat), KB (Kechi Beg), FM (Faiz Muhammad), Nindo (Nindowari)														
(BCE)	MR	KG	Anj	RG	Togau	SD	MK	DS	KB	Naal	FM	Kulli	Nindo	Nausharo
Bronze Age														
2800-2600	VIIA-C		V	?			IIIB	III		?	I	I	I	IA-B
3100-2800	VI		IV	IIIA		III	IIIA	II		I				
Chalcolithic														
3500-3100	V		III-ii-iii	?	D	II-i-iii		I						
3700-3500	IV		III-i	II	B-C	II-i-ii	II		I					
4300-3700	III		II	IB	A	I?	I?							
Ceramic Neolithic														
5000-4300	IIB	II	I	IA										
Aceramic Neolithic														
8000-6000	IA	I												
(Jarrige <i>et al.</i> 1995: 186-87; Jarrige <i>et al.</i> 2011: 29/83-93/113-117; Jarrige <i>et al.</i> 2013: 148-154; de Cardi 1965: 100-110; de Cardi 1983: 7-10; Fairservis 1956: 354-360; Posschl 1986: 57-58; Besenval 2001: 1-8; Franke 2008: 33; Franke <i>et al.</i> 2005: 105-14; Franke 2015: 5).														

**Table 1:** The Chrono-cultural Sequence of the Major Sites of Balochistan

supervision of J. M. Casal that carried out excavations at Pirak and revealed a settlement of several hectares occupied persistently almost the whole millennium (Jarrige et al. 1995). It is an exceptional case in the subcontinent, where for the first time a continuous sequence of dwelling-sites yielded chronologically from ca. 8000-700 BCE by the discoveries of Pirak, Mehrgarh, and Nausharo (Indus and Mehrgarh Archaeological Mission, 2011). Pirak was first accidentally discovered by Robert L. Raikes in 1956 in southern Sibi. In 1960, he revisited the site and made a collection of materials from the surface (Raikes 1963). Later, Pirak, measuring 228x109x7.5 m, was excavated from 1968 to 1974 revealing existence of a variable agricultural revolution in the post-Harappan eras. The cultivation of crops including rice, millet, and sorghum were practiced and for the sake of transportation, the people domesticated camel, horse, and donkey (Jarrige, 1985).

### **Mehrgarh**

Mehrgarh, located in the northern part of Kacchi Plains at the foot of the Bolan Pass, is occupying a strategic location between the Iranian Plateau and the Indus Basin. Covering more than 200 hectares area, excavations at Mehrgarh, resolved many of the raised problems and questions regarding the mystery of the Indus Valley Civilization. The French archaeologists carried out eleven seasons of excavations from 1974-2000 under the directorship of Jean François Jarrige and Cathrine Jarrige, dividing the Neolithic occupation into four principal phases, such as IA (Aceramic Neolithic), IB, IIA, and IIB (Ceramic Neolithic) (Jarrige et al. 1995; Jarrige et al. 2013).

The striking phases of Neolithic subjugation at Mehrgarh in Balochistan are IB and IIA, which had placed about twenty architectural phases in addition to revealing the first agricultural

settlement of Indo-Iranian Borderland. The pre-pottery period (IA) had been formed by the early settlers for a long period. As per Jarrige, during the time of excavations, they have noted the existence of many sites in Kacchi Plain which have not come across the flood-plain caused by continuing changes of the Bolan River as it changes its direction time to time. These sites include Nausharo, Dehlura Damb, Chhargari, and Budhani. However, Mehrgarh appears to be the most prominent Neolithic sites of all.

Jarrige with his team excavated 311 graves attributed to Neolithic period I-II and many copper beads have been ascertained along with the deceased too. But, however, for the first time in a grave attributed to 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, an exceptional case containing mineralized fibres from a copper bead came in the excavator's hand. The fibres established and let the earliest known paradigm of cotton use in the Old World (Moulherat et al. 2002). Significantly, Mehrgarh also provided adequate evidences of dental variation among the people of the Indus Valley Civilization, in spite of the recovery of abundant human skeletons discovered from Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Prior to 1970s, the Indus Basin was devoid of certain evidence, but due to the French Mission's exertions this huge discovery took place. This was the first finding of well-preserved dentition in South Asia ascertained from the land of early agriculturalists of Mehrgarh. The skeletons discovered were eleven in number including four females, two males, and three unidentified genders were present with drilled permanent crowns. The drilled evident was present in both jaws. This discovery came in the light of the excavation of a Neolithic cemetery dates between 8000 to 6,000 BCE (Lukacs 1986; Coppa et al. 2006; 2007; Jarrige et al. 2013).



According to F. A. Khan, “some 6,000 years ago, there grew up amidst the rugged windswept valleys and foothills of Balochistan small village communities which were taking the first hesitant steps in human progress were, in fact, paving the way for the ultimate growth of a great civilization in the Indus Plain. This early struggle in the borderland of civilizations is a fascinating study, nonetheless, there at present is a long and unbridged gap between the early agriculturists in these parts and their Stone-Age predecessors” (Khan 1964: 3). However, aftermath the discovery of Neolithic site at Mehrgarh, compelled many of the scholars’ perceptions and started writing Mehrgarh as the building bridge to understand the first steps of Indus Civilization. Contrary to this point of discussion, it is deemed “Mehrgarh is now seen as a precursor to the Indus Valley Civilization.” While, A. H. Dani says “Discoveries at Mehrgarh changed the entire concept of the Indus Valley Civilization. There (in Balochistan) we have the whole sequence of cultural settlement, right from the beginning to a more complex settled life” (Zaman 2011: 93-103).

### **Nausharo**

Nausharo lies about 6 km from Mehrgarh and about 1.5 km east of Sibri site, where small-scale excavations were carried out from 1980-81 and 1981-82. It was the beginning of December 1986, when Jarrige conducted twelfth season of excavation at the site of Nausharo with the help of Department of Archaeology and Museums Government of Pakistan.

Department of Archaeology and Museums, Pakistan In 1972, the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan launched a program of systematic investigations in Balochistan in order to thoroughly mark all kinds

of archaeological sites and monuments. Therefore, a Central Archaeological Mission to Balochistan (CAMB) was formed under the direction of Muhammad Rafique Mughal. Essentially, the team of eight members aimed at to make entry of the discovered sites under the protection of Antiquities Act of 1968 whether reported or excavated prior. During the spring of 1972, the first survey was carried out in the northern areas of Balochistan including Zhob, Loralai, and Quetta-Pishin districts. Some parts of the upper Kalat were traversed down towards Khuzdar too. The team did not do excavation; however, they carried out some diggings at Damb Sadaat and Periano Ghundai. More generally, the collected data came from the surface with exception of the foregoing sites. The entire survey brought 99 sites into consideration while 35 sites were newly visited. According to Mughal, the reported sites indicated multicultural assemblages (Mughal 1972; de Cardi, 1983).

### **The Explorations in Makuran by Italian Mission (1987)**

An archaeological exploration by the Italian Historical, Ecological and Archaeological Mission devised to have two phases of research in Makuran region under the supervision of Valeria Fiorani-Piacentini. The first phase had a general survey of Makuran crudely to map the already explored sites and to collect pottery from the surface. The second phase dealt to remedy the chronological problems of the said division. At the time of first survey, three small-scale surveys carried out in 1982-85 (Besenval 1992). The prerequisite objective of these two surveys was to map and study the ancient settlements. The boundaries of these explorations encounter within the current districts of Turbat and Gwadar, ranging from

the coastal-belt including Ormara, Basol Khor, Kalamat, Pasni, Pishukan, Jiwani subsequently the lower Dasht Plateau (Besenval 1992; Fiorani 2003).

### **The French Mission to Makuran**

In 1989, Roland Besenval headed towards Kech-Makuran and conducted excavations at the site of Miri Qalat; indeed, a large project was created aiming to know the strata along with its paleo-economical and paleo-environmental context. Miri Qalat had been inhabited from the late 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE until the advent of Islamic in the locality (Didier & Besenval 2004). This is also noteworthy to mention here that this site was for the first time discovered and explored by A. Stein in 1927. However, Besenval carried out his excavations for seven seasons commencing from 1990 until 1997. During the seventh season-excavations, eleven trenches were laid down that not only provided stratified data but also manifested distinct cultural phases.

Besenval also conducted excavations at Shahi-Tump in 1997, which was earlier discovered by A. Stein in 1927. Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump sites are located on the opposite of the Kech River, few kilometres away from Turbat city (Thomas et al. 2012). The oldest occupational level goes back to an Aceramic Neolithic arrival. The subsistence economy was mainly based upon a limited number of domesticated animals as well as plants. From the inception, hunting had never played a key role in the survival economy at Shahi-Tump (Desse et al. 2008). The domestic animals including sheep, goats and cows were also herded together with agricultural activities, such as cultivation of wheat, barley and pulses likely irrigated from the seasonal flooding of the Kech River. Moreover, the people of Shahi-Tump were skilled enough

at making craft industries. Besides, during the excavation of 2005, archaeologists found a carbonized net under the debris of a large building dated to II period (half of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE). The net was made by twisting palm leaves. The building was constructed of mud-bricks as well as stones. From the collapsed debris, it suggested that the destruction was rendered by some sort of fire activity. Some around 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, the relics of a cotton string preserved inside a carnelian bead was discovered from a burial chamber. The same case took place in Dhuweila, Jordan, where a woven cotton fabric was found having the akin temporal-context. As per the excavator, this could be an import from the Indian subcontinent (Besenval, 2000).

### **Concluding Remarks**

Balochistan has always been a core region for the growth and diffusion of human cultures over the millennia. Every nook and cranny of Balochistan has chronologically produced a cultural sequence where ever these missions have showed archaeological interest, although with a distinct remarkable culture or ware. To put it simply, one can observe the ancient cultures get differed as a valley, plateau or a mountain range runs along with the bank of a major river due to the vast geographical stretched land. The Northern Balochistan has exemplified the Red Ware Culture which is mostly found in Zhob and Loralai Valleys; only the Quetta Valley is responsible for the Kili Gul Muhammad Cultural Ware (a Chalcolithic Ware encountered during KGM III), following the Kechi Beg Ware (an Advanced Chalcolithic Ware found in KGM and Mehrgarh IV), and Quetta Ware (occurred in Mehrgarh V & VI); the Central Brahui Range (mainly Kalat Plateau), has yielded the Anjira

Ware, Zari Ware, Togau Ware and Londu Ware; the Southeastern most Balochistan (Lasbela) has showed the Early Harappan and Harappan Wares; the Southern Balochistan (Awaran) regions have developed its own Kulli and Mehi variant wares; while, the Southwestern Balochistan (Makuran) has demonstrated the Iranian Cultural Wares and Emir Ware. In result, these cultures and cultural wares have born a cultural sequence from 8<sup>th</sup> millennium to 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE not mentioning any major cultural break.

If today, one can claim a great deal of ancient cultural diversity within the territory of Balochistan, so it is mainly owing to the contributions and dedications of these foreign missions in Balochistan ever since the British Colonialism. Nonetheless, they have also over-looked many regions which too possess a rich and diverse cultural history like the other explored regions of Balochistan. It is very unfortunate to mention here that whenever there is any sort of archaeological diggings, it follows human vandalism in the post-excavation process. Such foreign missions have 99% ignored the post-excavation plans and subsequently resulted the destruction of the site. Today, one can hardly find a well-preserved site in Balochistan excavated by archaeologists and have escaped from the ravages of time.

Anj. I (Late-Neolithic)	KGM II	Sialk I-III
Anj. II (Togau A)	KGM II-III	Siah I
Anj. III (Togau B-C/KB)	KGM IV	Siah II-iii DS I/Amri/
Nal I		
Anj. IV (Anjira ware)		Siah III
DS II/Q ware	Kulli culture	
Anj. V Periano Reserved Slip	Mundigak IV, 2-3	

**Table 2:** Major Cultural Sequence of Central Balochistan, after de Cardi

KGM IV/H2 (P.1-4)	1-2 unidentified? 3- Kechi Beg Pottery (Polychrome and red-paint wares) 4- Kechi Beg & KGM II types
KGM III/H1 (P.5-13)	Types (Wheel-made + Hand-made, Wheel-made pottery dominates) Main type (KGM Black-On-Red Slip)
KGM II/I (P.14-19)	Types (Hand-made + Burj Basket-marked + Adam Sandy & Nazim Hard-Clay Temper + little Wheel-made) Main type (Wheel-made & Burj Basket-marked)
KGM I/J (Phase 20-45)	Aceramic (18 Floor Levels)

**Table 3:** The KGM cultural sequence along with periods and their codes after Fairervis

Main Periods	Cultural Phases	Cultural Phases & Pottery
DS III/G3	2-6	Quetta Motifs Sadaat Motifs Unassigned Motifs
G2 (upper levels) DS II/ & G1 (lower levels)	7-21	Quetta ware Prototype (DS I)
DS I/H2	22-39	Kechi Beg wares

**Table 4:** Damb Sadaat cultural sequence after Fairervis

Stratigraphic Position	Sample No.	Time Range
Kili Gul Mohamad I	1	1- 3100-3500 B.C.
Damb Sadaat I	2	2 -1900-2400 B.C.
Damb Sadaat II	3	3 -1850-2250 B.C.
Damb Sadaat II-III	5	5 -1650-2450 B.C.

**Table 5:** The proposed scientific dates for the Quetta Valley until 1960s after Fairervis

Pottery	Periods	Variants
Mian Ghundai Buff Plain	G1/G2	Single
Mian Ghundai Fine Plain	I-G3	1-fine Brown 2-Fine Red
Sultan Purple	H2	1-fine 2-Coarse
Sirdar Coarse Buff	H2	Single
Kechi Beg Oxidizing	H2	Single
Mustafa Temper	H2	1-Black Temper 2-Brown Temper 3-Red Temper
Quetta Micaceous	H2	Single
Wali Sand and Gravel Temper	H2	Single
Nazim Hard-Clay Temper	G	1-Fine 2-Coarse
Adam Sandy	I/H1	Single
Quetta Slate Temper	G2	Single

Table 6: Classifications of Plain Wares after the works of Fairervis in Balochistan

Pottery	Periods	Variants
Mian Ghundai Buff Plain Slip	G2	Single type
Charikar Red Slip	H2 H1	1-Coarse Wheel-made 2-Frequently Hand-made
Malik Dark Slip	H2	1-Fine Dark Slip 2-Coarse Dark Slip 3-Fine Black Slip 4-Coarse Black Slip
Quetta Black-On-Buff/Q ware	G2	1-Buff-slipped 2-Black-On-Buff Surface
Kechi Beg Black/Brown-On-Buff Slip	H2	Single type
Kili Ghul Muhammad Black-On-Red Slip	H1	1-Fine Paste 2-Coarse Paste

Kechi Beg White-On-Dark Slip	H2	1-White-On-Reddish Slip 2-White-On-Black Slip
Burj Basket-Marked	I	Single type
Kechi Beg Polychrome	H2	Single type
Quetta Black-on-Surface	G1/G2	1-Black-on-Brown 2-Black-on-Red 3-Coarse Black-on-Brown
Kili Ghul Muhammad Red Paint	I	Single type
Kechi Beg Red Paint	H2	Single type
Quetta Red-Brown-On-Dark Slip	G2	Single type
Faiz Muhammad Grey-ware	G2	1-Fine Grey, Undecorated 2-Black-on-Grey 3-Red-on-Grey
Sadaat Single Line	G3	Single type
Spezand Black-and-Red Rim	H2	Single type
Mian Ghundai Dark Rim	H2	1-Fine Black-Brown Rim 2-Coarse Black-Brown Rim 3-Fine Red Rim 4-Coarse Red Rim
Khojak Parallel Striated	H2	Single type
Kechi Beg Wet	H2	Single type
Quetta Wet	G2	1-Variegated Wet 2-Dendritic Wet
Quetta Circle Stamped	G2	Single type

Table 7: Classifications of Painted Wares after the works of Fairervis in Balochistan

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