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2017 EXCAVATION REPORT OF RABAT CEMETERY IN BOYSUN, UZBEKISTAN

ABSTRACT In 2017, the Joint Central Asia Archaeological Team of China and Uzbekistan conducted excavation in the Cemetery No.1 on the north of Rabat Village. The excavation recovered 52 burials, of which 37 were earthen cave burials with sideway chamber, 11 were vertical earthen shaft pit burials, and four had unidentifiable forms. The burial occupants were mostly in extended supine position heading north, and the grave goods unearthed from these burials included pottery wares, bronzes, iron objects, stone implements, glass wares, etc. The burial structures and artifacts unearthed from these burials all had unique characteristics compared to their counterparts found in the nearby areas, and the date of this cemetery is from the end of the 2nd century BC to the early 1st century AD. It would be the remains of the Da Yuezhi (Greater Yuezhi) people and could be named as Yuezhi Culture. The excavation of this cemetery provided important data for the archaeological exploration of the Greater Yuezhi people.

Key words: Uzbekistan, Boysun, cemetery,

ABSTRAKT Publikacja jest raportem z wykopalisk prowadzonych wspólnie przez archeologów chińskich i uzbeckich na cmentarzysku Boysun nr 1, na północ od wsi Rabat. Cmentarzysko datowane jest od końca II w. p.n.e. po wczesny I w. n.e.

I Introduction

Boysun is a city in Surxondaryo Region, south of Uzbekistan, located in a valley running through a hilly region and overlooked by the Boysuntoq Ridge of the Gissar Range, which rises to 3,100 m here and as even higher to the west. The landscape is dramatic but arid, and varies from grassy areas to exposed rock. Thousands of years in the narrow mountain gorge, the merchant caravans have passed through Iron Gates. This region has been passed by the Armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamerlane. The Teshik-Tash caves contain remnants of the Neanderthal people. The nearby Kugitang Mountains nearby still contain wall paintings known as “magic bull hunting”, dating from the Mesolite period.

1985-1986, archaeologist from institute of Archaeology of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences found some damaged graves, and then excavated human skeletons, bronze and pottery.¹ In 2003,

Institute of Art History of Uzbekistan investigated 52 sites in Boysun, including Rabat cemetery, there are 11 sites dating before 3rd AD.² Rabat cemetery is located about 2 kms south of Boysun urban area, on the north and south of the Rabat village (Fig 1), on the platform on the west bank of the Boysun river, it is about 2000 meters long from north to south and 300 meters wide from east to west. According to the number of graves, it can be divided into Rabat No.1 cemetery and No.2 cemetery. The No.2 cemeteries is about 1.3 km to the south of No.1, mounds and circles made by stones can be seen on the earth's surface. Those tombs belong to different times and once collected pottery such as ear jars and high foot cups at this cemetery.³

древняя и средневековая культура сурхандарьи, Ташкент 2001.

² The Fine Arts Scientific Research Institute of the Academy of Art of Uzbekistan, the Boysun culture and Art Support Fund, History and Traditional Culture of Boysun, Review of the Boysun Scientific Expedition, Issue 2, Tashkent 2005.

³ Abdullaev K., Nomad Migration in Central Asia, Proceedings of the British Academy 133, 2007, p. 73-98.

¹ Абдуллаев К.А., Т.Д. Аннаев, Новый могильник кушанского времени на юге гиссарского хребта,

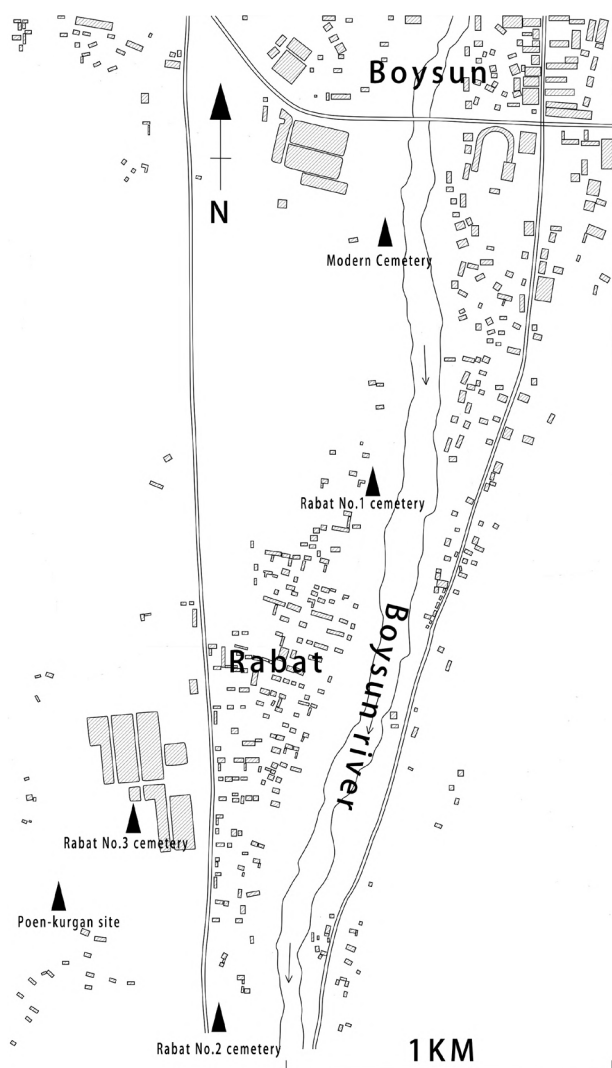


Fig. 1

There is Poen-kurgan site 1.6 kilometers southwest of No.1 cemetery, it has excavated the stratum of the Kushan period and the pottery fragment stratum of the Hellenistic period.⁴ Ancient cemeteries that had been found near site so called Rabat No.3 cemeteries have been destroyed.⁵

May to June 2017, We started our work at No.1 cemetery that in the north of Rabat village, and 52 graves were excavated in this season. The excavation area is long strip shape, on the terrace on the right bank of the Boysun river (Fig 2). Because the villagers took soil, the ground in the west of

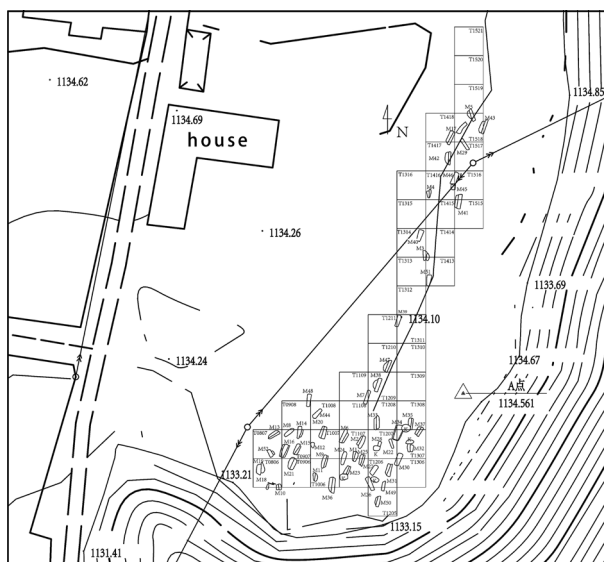


Fig. 2

the cemetery was dug 2 meters down, the eastern part still retains the original landscape. We have arranged a total of 43 archaeological grids, and the size of each exploration square is 5x5m. All graves were found below the topsoil layer.

II. Graves

The Graves were relatively densely distributed, but only one group had a phenomenon of break each other, i.e. M46 breaks M45. Most of the tombs had been destroyed, and only the bottom of the graves remains. There were 48 graves with clear structures, including 37 pit-cave graves and 11 shaft graves. There were also 4 graves whose structures are unknown.

The pit-cave graves had a north-south shaft tunnel. The plan of the shaft is narrow rectangular, trapezoidal, or oval, 1-2.4 meters long and 0.35-0.73 meters wide. The lower part of the shaft was filled with stones or mud bricks, which might be used to seal the burial chamber. The pit-cave was on the west side of the shaft, and the plan is semi-elliptical in the north-south direction, with a diameter of 0.4 to 0.9 meters. The plan of shaft graves was a north-south rectangle or ellipse, 1.6 to 2.3 meters long and 0.4 to 0.73 meters wide. Some of shaft graves were stacked with stones on both sides of the opening of the shaft, and some are filled with mud bricks. Most of the graves had no coffins. The direction of the head of the dead body was north, the body was straight and up, and a few lower limbs were slightly flexed. Burial gifts included bronze mirrors, hairpins, needles, bells,

⁴ The Fine Arts Scientific Research Institute of the Academy of Art of Uzbekistan, the Boysun culture and Art Support Fund, History and Traditional Culture of Boysun, Review of the Boysun Scientific Expedition, Issue 2, Tashkent 2005.

⁵ Abdullaev K., Nomad Migration in Central Asia, Proceedings of the British Academy 133, p. 73-98. The British Academy 2007.

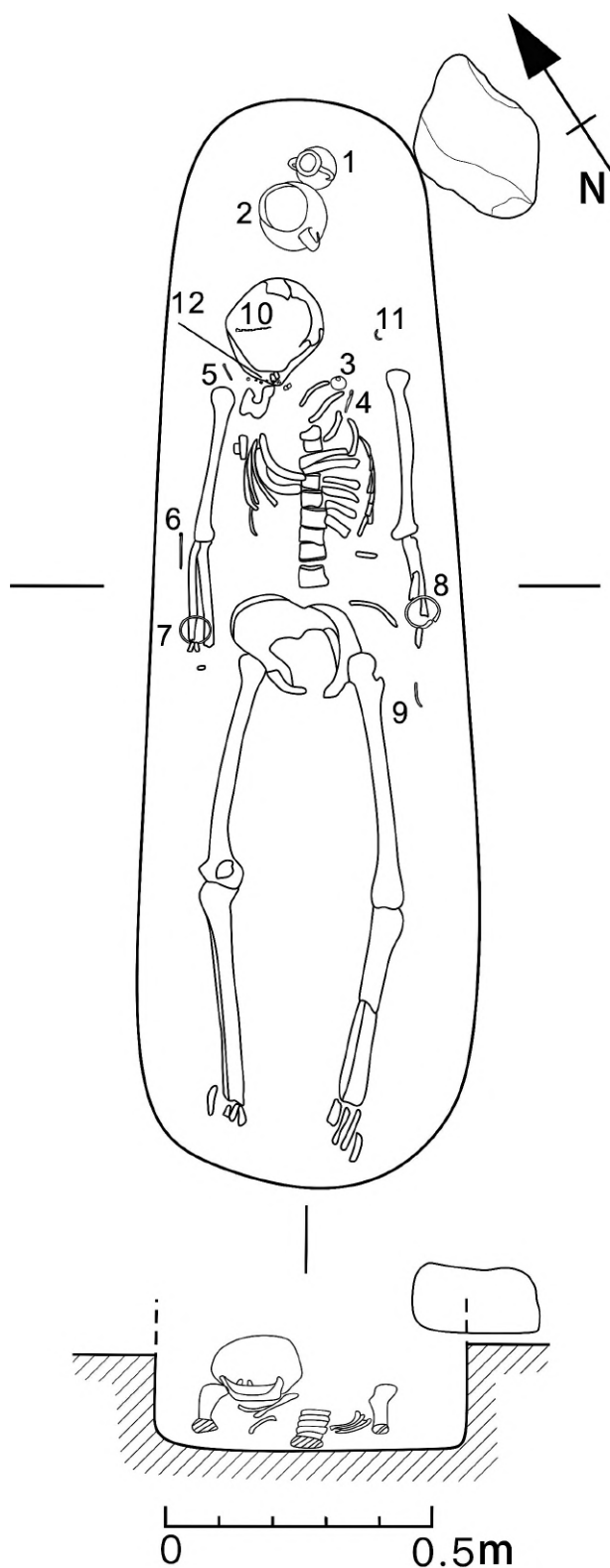


Fig. 3

earrings, rings, bracelets, signboards, etc., ceramic jars, bowls, cups, cans, pots, iron daggers, arrowheads, rings, buckles, knives, etc., as well as a large number of decorative beads, gold foil ornaments, bone tools, seashells, etc. Female graves had more decorations, and male graves had more weapons. Representative graves are as follows:

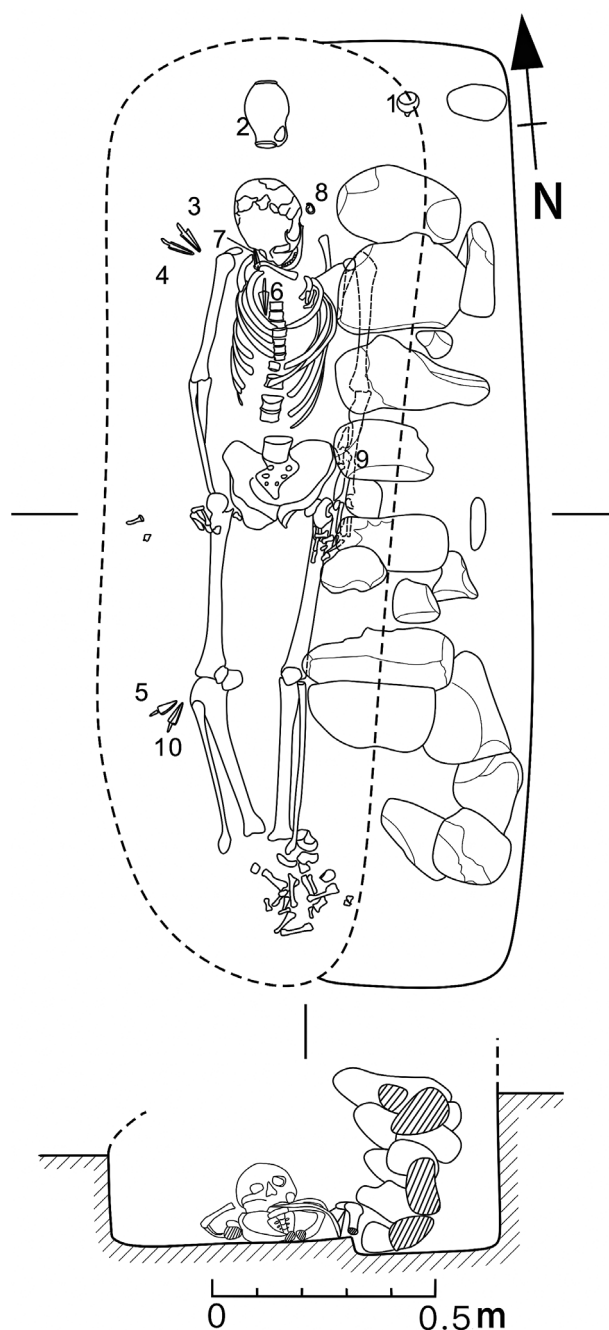


Fig. 4

M8 was a shaft grave with a direction of 50°, the shaft was opened on the surface and there was a stone in the northeast of the grave. The plan was oval, 2 meters long from north to south, 0.65 meters wide from east to west, and 0.1 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The death body was an adult female, and her head pointed northeast. In the north of the head, a double ear pottery pot and a one ear pottery cup with one ear were found. On the left ear, a remnant bronze earring was found. There was a bronze hairpin under the skull. On the left side of the head, there was a 1 piece of round bronze with a glass bead embedded. Three bronze needles was found on both sides of the shoulder

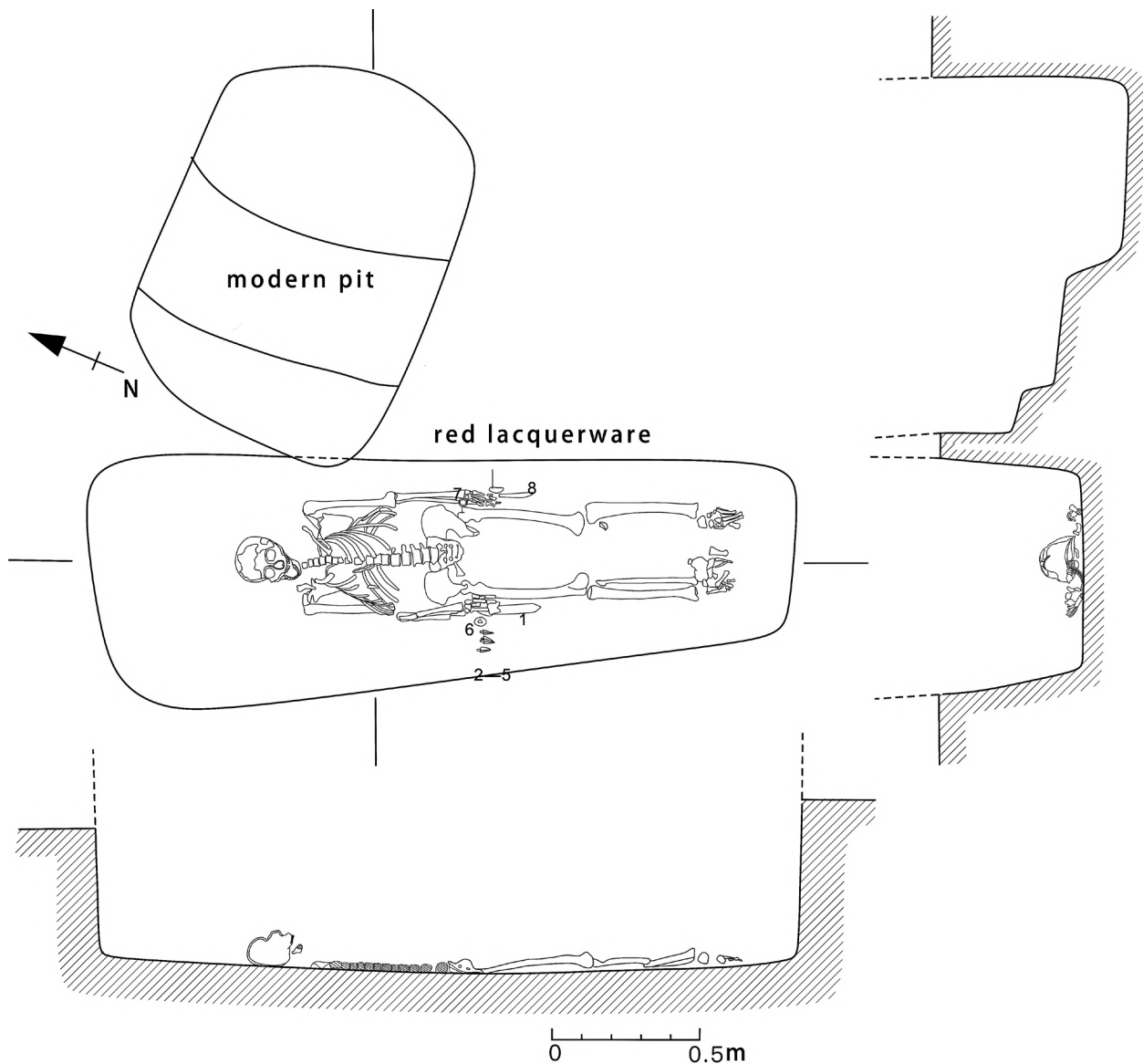


Fig. 5

and on the right arm. On the left hand, there was a bronze ring. There was a bronze bracelet on the each of wrist. There were 7 beads on the neck, including 5 glass beads and 2 agate beads (Fig. 3).

M17 was a pit-cave grave with a direction of 20° . The shaft tunnel was opened on the surface. The plan was a rounded corner rectangle, 2.12 from north to south, 0.42 of south wall, 0.36 of north wall, and 0.1 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The burial chamber was on the west side of the shaft. The plan was nearly semi-oval, with 2.2 meters long from north to south, 0.6 meters wide. The north end of chamber was 0.13 meters longer than the shaft, and the south end was 0.16 meters shorter than the shaft. The bottom of the chamber was 0.08 meters deeper than the bottom of the shaft, and its upper structure was unclear. The skeleton was poorly preserved, and

the dead body was straight and up, headed north, might have been be a 30-35 years-old female. There was a pottery pot without ears on the outside of the skull, and was covered with a stone chip; a small jar was also available in the northwest of the skull; a bronze belt buckles was found between the two jars. A bronze ring on the left side of the skull. A bronze bell was found at the right shoulder and left ribs. There was 1 bronze bracelet on each wrist, 2 bronze rings and 1 iron ring unearthed in the right hand. The dead body's chest was scattered with a large number of small jewelry, and the outer ring was composed of 14 faience beads; the inner ring was composed of 17 jewelry, including 13 glass beads, 3 agate beads, and 1 sea shell. 6 pieces of square gold are found on the jaw, which might have been decorated on the collar. There was a circle of necklaces on the neck, consisting of

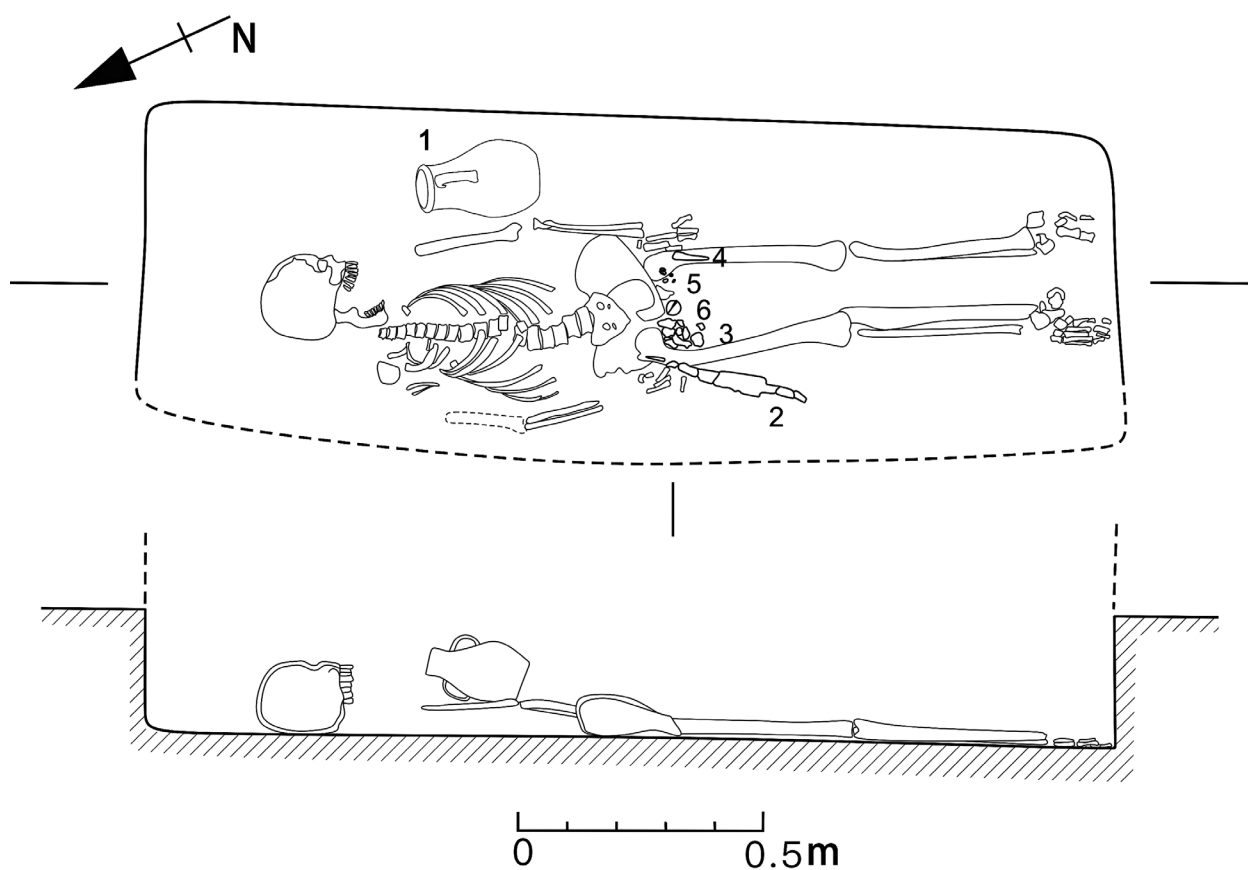


Fig. 6

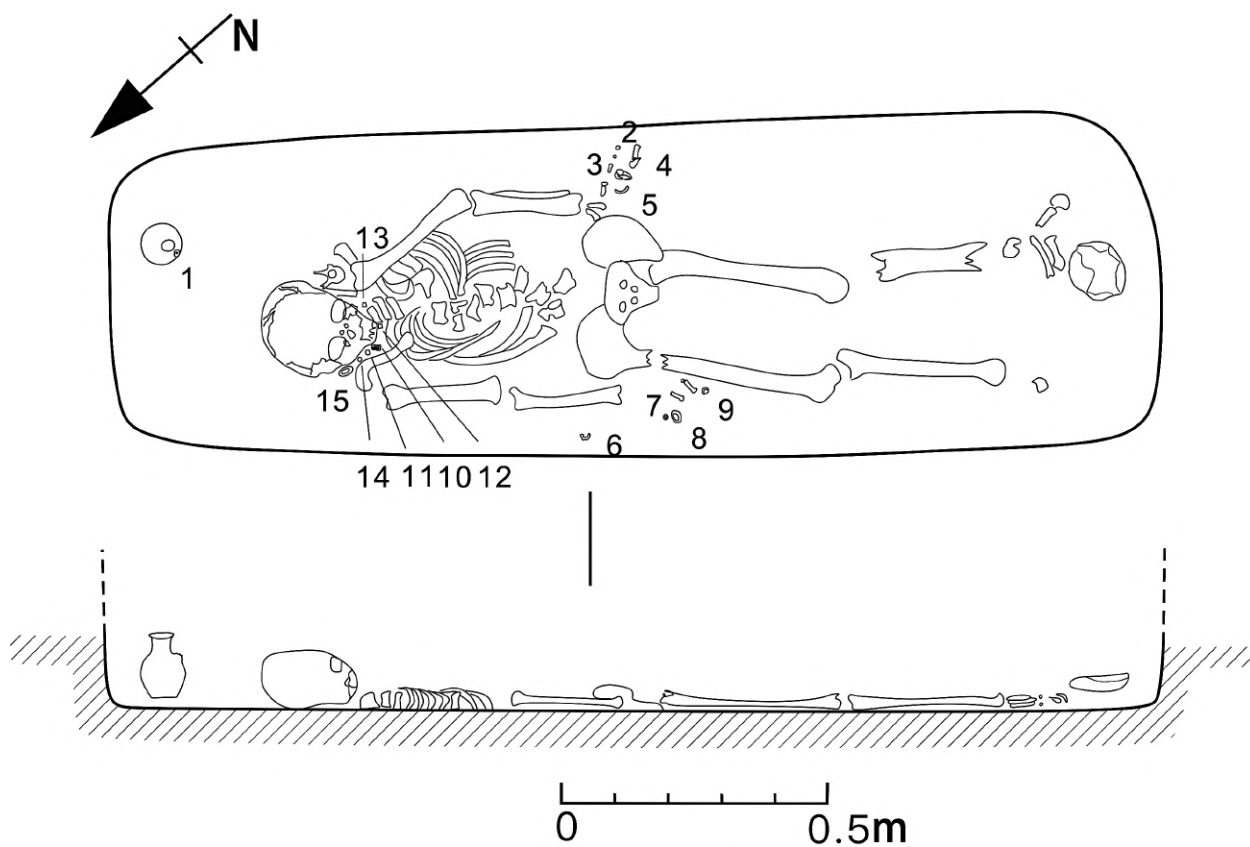


Fig. 7

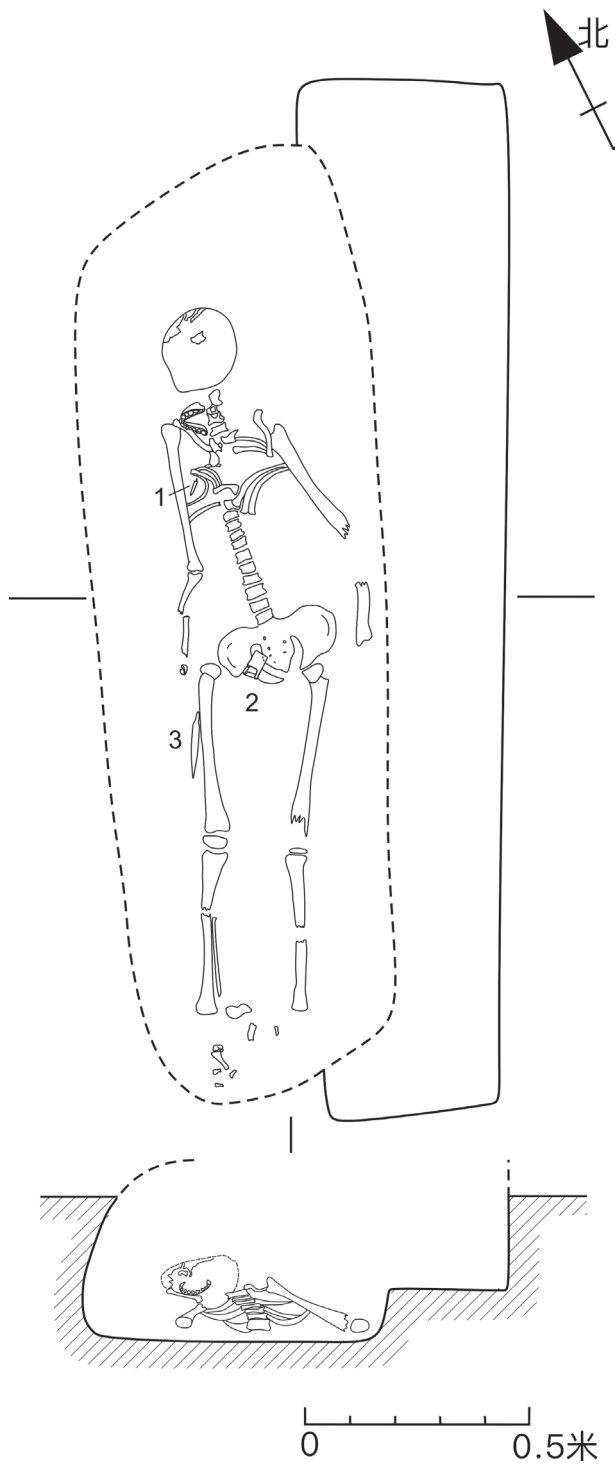


Fig. 8

50 pieces of accessories, including 46 glass beads, 1 faience bead, 2 bone accessories, and 1 bronze accessory (Fig. 9, 10).

M23 was a pit-cave grave with a direction of 29°. The shaft tunnel was opened on the surface, and the south was broken by a modern pit. The plan was a rounded corner rectangular, 1.7~1.8 meters long from north to south, 0.38 meters width, and 0.35 meters depth remained. The pebbles was filled in the shaft, which can be divided



Fig. 9



Fig. 9

into upper and lower layer. The burial chamber was on the west side of the shaft. The plan is semi-oval, 1.7 meters long with 0.5 meters width and 0.13 meters depth remained. The upper structure has been destroyed, and no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, and the foot was destroyed by modern pit. The skeleton is poorly preserved, might have been be a female aged 20-23 years-old. There were 4 bubble gold accessories on both sides of skull and on both sides of the waist. There are 26 jewelry on both sides of the skull, including 19 glass beads, 1 faience bead, 3 talc beads, and 3 sea shells. 26 jewelry was found on the chest, including 21 glass beads, 1 faience bead, 2 talc beads, 1 bone tube and 1 sea shell. On the west side of the waist, 9 jewelry were unearthed, including 8 glass beads and 1 agate bead. we also found a silver ring and a bronze bracelet on the right hand (Fig. 11).

M26 was a shaft grave with a direction of 345°, The shaft was opened on the surface. The mouth of the tomb was exposed on the surface, and the east side was broken by modern pit. The plan was a rounded hillaroid, with 2.25 north and south long, 0.65 width, and 0.55 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, north, and was a male aged 25 to 30 years old. One iron short sword, 4 iron arrows, and 1 iron belt buckle was found in the right hand. A band buckle and 1 iron were found under the left wrist bone; and a small amount of red lacquerware was found near the left hand (Fig. 5).

M33 a pit-cave grave with a direction of 0°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 2.25 from north to south, 0.35 meters wide ,0.38 meters depth remained. The bottom of the shaft was 0.08 meters deeper than the chamber, and 4 layers of pebbles was filled in the shaft. The burial chamber was on the west side of the shaft., with a nearly semi-ellipse plan, 2.1 meters from north to south, 0.6 to 0.7 meters width, 0.41 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, and was a male aged 40 to 45 years old. A pottery jar with spout was unearthed at the northern end of the shaft, a pottery jar with one ear was found on the north side of the skull. There was a bronze ear ring on the left ear. A total of 6 pieces of iron pheasant were found near the skull, on the right chest, and the west side of the humerus. A residual knife was on the east of the left wrist (Fig. 4, 12).

M34 was a shaft grave with a direction of 15°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the upper part of the northeast corner was

broken by a modern pit. The plan was rectangular, 2.2 meters from north to south, 0.73 meters width, and 0.65 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. There were 4 rectangular mud bricks on each side of the east and west, arranged north-south, with a length of 34-37 and a width of 20-23 cm. The mud bricks on the west side were well preserved, 11 to 12 cm thick and the mud bricks on the east side were poor, 8-9 cm thick, and pebbles were placed on the mud bricks on both sides. Mud bricks were found in the shaft, and 13 of them are well preserved, with a length of 35-39 cm, a width of 30-35cm, and a thickness of 10-13 cm. The rest of the shaft also filled with broken mud bricks. The dead body was straight and up, headed north. All skeleton except the skull were poorly preserved, might have been a male aged 35-40 years old. There were two stones on the north of skull, a pottery high -foot cup and a bronze ring were found on the left side of the skull, 2 iron knife unearthed on the left side of the left femur, and a bronze ring on the right ankle (Fig. 13, 14).

M36 was a pit-cave grave with a direction of 6°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 2.37 from north to south, 0.45 meters wide, 0.6 meters depth remained. The bottom of the shaft was 0.08 meters deeper than the chamber, that was filled with upper and lower pebbles layers and soil. The burial chamber was on the west side of the shaft, with a nearly semi-ellipse plan, as long as the shaft path and 0.75m wide, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, who was a female aged 20-23 years-old. There was a hairband on the head, with 13 square gold trim with heart-shaped patterns on it. Both ears were wearing bronze earrings, and 1 bronze mirror was found in the northwest of the head. The neck and chest of the owner were scattered on the 5-circle necklaces: from the inside to the outside, named No.1 to 5. There were 26 pieces of jewelry in the No.1 necklace, including 21 glass beads, 2 talc beads, 1 Lapis lazuli bead, 1 agate beads, and 1 fine coal bead. There were 26 pieces of jewelry on the No.2 necklace, including 16 of the garnet beads, 7 fine coal beads, 2 glass beads and pendants, and 1 talc beads. The No.3 necklace was scattered between the jaw and the sternum, with a total of 60 jewelry, including 19 glass beads and faience pendants, 12 fine coal beads, 11 talc beads, 11 garnet beads, 4 gypsum stone beads and pendants, 3 agate beads. A total of 127 pieces of jewelry on the No.4 necklace, including 88 fine coal beads, 22 glass beads and faience pendants, 10 agate beads, 4 garnet beads, 2 talc beads, and



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

1 gypsum stone beads. The No.5 necklace was scattered on the chest, with a total of 56 jewelry, including 23 glass beads and faience jewelry, 13 fine coal beads, 8 sea shells, 5 garnet beads, 3 agate beads, 2 talc beads, 1 gypsum stone bead, 1 bronze bell. Two bronze bracelets on each wrist. There were a total of 6 rings on the left hand, 1 bronze ring on the little finger, 1 bronze ring and 1 iron ring on the third finger, 1 bronze ring on the middle finger, and 2 bronze rings on the thumb, and 4 rings on the right hand, 1 iron ring on the thumb, 1 bronze ring on the index finger, and 1 bronze ring and 1 iron ring on the middle finger (Fig. 15, 16).

M39 was a shaft grave with a direction of 25°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 1.9 from north to south, 0.55 meters wide, 0.15 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, faced east, The skeleton was poorly preserved and the sex was unknown, about 35 years old. There was a double ear pottery jar on the east side of the left hand, one iron short sword between the right hand and the waist, a iron tube and a iron knife on the east side, 21 bronze ring strung on

the left wrist, and an iron buckle above pubic bone (Fig. 6).

M44 was a shaft grave with a direction of 37°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 1.95 meters from north to south, 0.49-0.61 meters wide, 0.1 meters depth remained, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, faced west, might have been an adult female. On the northeast side of the skull, there was a pottery jar with spout. There was a bronze earring on the right ear, a bronze ring, an iron relic and two glass beads near the left hand, a bronze ring, a bronze relic and two iron relic near the right hand, and a necklace with five jewels, which were composed of glass beads and pendants (Fig. 7).

The M46 was a shaft grave with a direction of 340°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and there were residual stones on the northwestern and southwestern part of the shaft. The south of the grave broke the northern part of M45. The plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 2.23 meters from north to south, 0.65 meters wide, 0.1 meters depth remained, and the upper structure was destroyed. The traces of wooden coffin was found on bottom, with length 2.02 meters,



Fig. 13

width 0.47 meters, and the thickness of the coffin is about 0.03 meters. The dead body was straight and up, headed north, and their hands were placed between the chest and abdomen. The owner was an adult female about 30 years old. A pottery jar with one ear was placed between the two feet. A bronze earring was found at each ear, and a golden leaf was unearthed under the skull. The neck has a necklace composed of 110 pieces of jewelry, including 50 pieces of talc beads and pendants, 27 glass beads, 5 pieces of faience beads and pendants, 16 agate beads, 7 bronze accessories, 2 gypsum pendants, 2 plaster pendants, 1 crystal bead, 1 sea shell, 1 iron sheet. There were 9 jewelry on the left wrist, 7 of which were agate beads and 2 glass beads; 5 jewelry on the right wrist, 3 of them were agate beads, 1 glass beads, 1 gypsum pendant (Fig. 17, 18).

M47 was a pit-cave grave with a direction of 13°. The opening of the shaft was exposed to the surface, and the plan was a rounded corner rectangular, with 2.28 from north to south, 0.38-0.44 meters



Fig. 14

wide ,0.24 meters depth remained. The bottom of the shaft was 0.11 meters higher than the chamber. The burial chamber was on the west side of the shaft, with a nearly semi-ellipse plan, shorter than the shaft path and 0.5-0.64 meters wide, no coffin was found. The dead body was straight and up,



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

headed north, who was a male aged 25 years-old. There was an iron arrow on the right chest, a bone belt buckle at the pelvis, and 1 iron knife on the outside of the right femoral (Fig. 8).

III. Grave Goods

The materials of grave goods include pottery, bronze, iron, gold, glass, stone and bone.

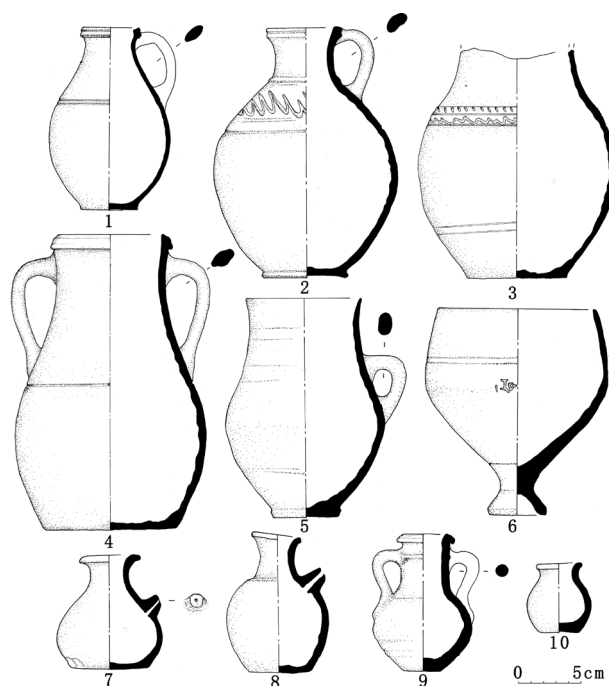


Fig. 63

(1) Pottery

10 pottery vessels were found, including pots, jars, cups.

- a. 4 Pots, made of light yellow clay containing fine sand. There were three different styles including single ear pot, double ears pot and earless pot.

2 Single ear pots. Specimen M33:2, straight mouth slightly converged, folded flat edge, wide square lip, oblique length at the lower part of the bundle neck, sliding shoulder, a single ear, round body and flat bottom are connected between the lower part of the mouth edge and the shoulder. There is a concave chord pattern in the middle of the lip, two concave chord patterns on the shoulder, and cutting marks at the bottom. The height is 14.5, the caliber is 4.6 and the bottom diameter is 6.5 cm (Fig. 19, 63:1). Specimen M46:1, straight mouth, flat edge, wide square lip, short bundle neck, round shoulder, bulging

body, solid cake bottom. There is a chord pattern in the middle of the lip, a convex edge around the lower part of the neck, a parallel concave chord pattern on the upper part of the shoulder and two parallel concave chord patterns on the lower part, and continuous wavy lines are filled between the upper and lower chord patterns. Caliber 6, bottom diameter 6.7, height 20.2 cm (Fig. 20, 63:2).



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

1 double ears pots. Specimen M8:1, light red paint on the surface, most of which are peeling off. Straight mouth, wide oblique edge, thick square lip, long straight neck, oblique shoulder, folded body, small flat bottom. There are symmetrical S-shaped ears on both sides of the neck, which are connected to the upper part of the neck and attached to the shoulder. There are two concave chord lines on the mouth edge, a convex edge between the ears of the neck and shoulders. A concave string pattern. The caliber is 4.5, the bottom diameter is 3.1, and the height is 10.9 cm (Fig. 21, 63:9).



Fig. 21



Fig. 23

1 earless pot. Specimen M17:1. Purple red remained on the surface. The mouth and neck are incomplete, sliding shoulder, round belly and flat bottom. There are two groups of patterns divided into three concave string patterns on the shoulder. The upper group of string patterns is filled with a circle of vertical wheat grain like stamp patterns with uniform spacing of about 0.5cm; Continuous wavy lines are filled between the lower group of chords. The rotation marks are obvious. Residual caliber 8.7, bottom diameter 8 and residual height 18 cm (Fig. 22, 63:3).



Fig. 24



Fig. 22

1 small jar, specimen M17:2, a little extravagance, round lips, tied neck, sliding shoulders, round drum belly, large flat bottom. No decoration on the surface, black ash remained inside and outside of mouth. The caliber is 1.9, the bottom diameter is 3.5 and the height is 5cm (Fig. 25, 63:10).



Fig. 25

b. 4 jars, made of red clay containing fine sand, including spout jar, small jar and double ears jar.

2 spout jars, straight mouth slightly open, narrow flat edge, round lip, long bunched neck, sliding shoulder, shoulder with protruding spout, round belly and flat bottom. Plain noodles. Specimen M33:1, caliber 4.9, bottom diameter 6 and height 9 cm (Fig. 23, 63:7). Specimen M44:1, with a slightly incomplete flow mouth, 2 cm long. The caliber is 3.9, the bottom diameter is 4.5, and the height is 11 cm (Fig. 24, 63:8).

1 double ears jar, specimen M39:1, Sharp lip, oblique straight mouth, two concave chord lines on the outer edge, long straight neck, one concave chord line on the shoulder, sliding shoulder, double ears, round body and flat bottom between the neck and shoulder. Caliber 10, bottom diameter 10.5, height 23.7 cm (Fig. 26, 63:4).



Fig. 26



Fig. 28

- c. 2 cups, made of red clay containing fine sand, including single ear cup and high foot cup.

1 Single ear cup, specimen M8:2, straight mouth slightly extravagant, wide neck, sliding shoulder, oblique body, annular bottom, semi oval single ear at the junction of neck and shoulder. There are five concave chords on the neck and three concave chords on the body, and there are obvious scraping marks on the instrument surface. Caliber 9, bottom diameter 5.6 and height 17.3 cm (Fig. 27, 63:5).



Fig. 27

1 high foot cup, specimen M34:1, light red paint on the surface, mostly peeling off. Sharp round lips, straight mouth slightly convergent, round folding between mouth and body, oblique body adduction, and horn shaped ring feet are connected below. There are two concave chords in the mouth and three concave chords in the body. The body is marked with "I" shape and triangle. The caliber is 12.5, the bottom diameter is 4.5, and the height is 16.5 cm (Fig. 28, 63:6).

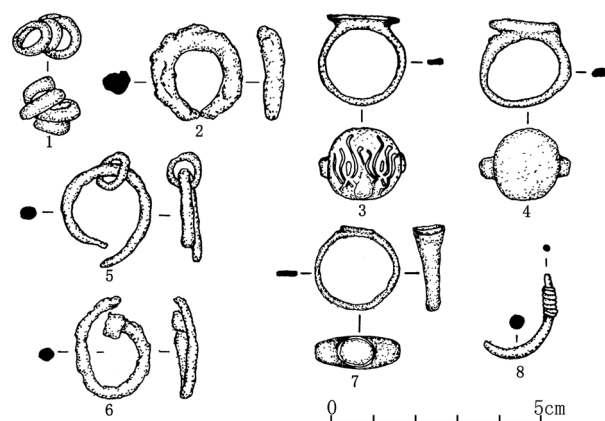


Fig. 64/1

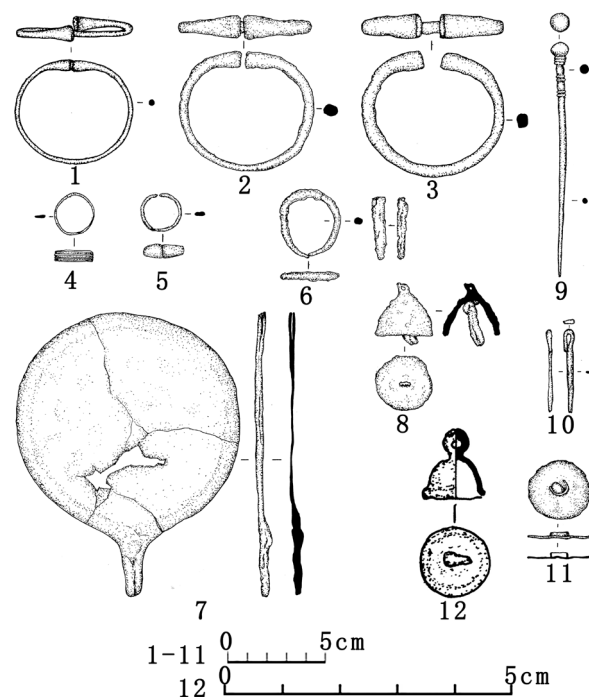


Fig. 64/2

- (2) Bronze

70 bronze wares were found, including ear-rings, bracelets, rings, rings, mirrors with

handles, buckles, needles, bells, hairpins, brand decorations, rings, beads, etc.

- a. 21 Ring string decorations, specimen M39:5-3, 4 bronze rings rusted together. Outer diameter 1, inner diameter 0.5cm (Fig. 64:1).
- b. 8 Loops, specimen M34:2, with an interface in the middle and a circular section. The outer diameter is 2.3 and the inner diameter is 1cm (Fig. 64:2).
- c. 8 Rings. Closed ring with circular ring surface. Specimen m17:47, the ring surface is a pattern of double dancer, and there is a drop shaped bulge in the dancer. The inner diameter is 1.8, the outer diameter is 2.1 cm, the diameter of the ring surface is 1.7 and the thickness is 0.4 cm (Fig. 29, 30, 64:4). Specimen M36:26 is too rusted to recognize the ring surface decoration. The outer diameter is 1.8~2.2, the inner diameter is 1.6~2, the thickness is 0.15~0.35 and the width is 0.3cm, the diameter of the ring surface is 1.75 and the thickness is 0.2~0.35 cm. Specimen M44:4, oval ring surface, concave in the middle, embedded with beige stone. The outer diameter is 2.1, the width is 0.4 cm, and the long diameter and short diameter of the ring surface are 0.9 and 0.7 cm (Fig. 64:5).



Fig. 29



Fig. 30

- d. 8 earrings. There are 2 was found in M8, M36 and M46 respectively, and 1 was found in M33 and M44 respectively. The specimen M8:11, with 7 parallel bronze wires hooped

in the upper section, and the lower section becomes thicker and curved in an arc. The distance between the head and tail is 2.3 and the sectional diameter is 0.3 cm (Fig. 64:7). The specimen M33:8, annular, with two ends bent and connected, and one end is wrapped with a copper sheet, the section is round. The outer diameter is 1.8~2.4 and the inner diameter is 1.4~1.6 cm (Fig. 64:6). Specimen M36:13, unclosed ring, slightly pointed at both ends, thick in the middle and round in section. The outer diameter is 2.1 and the inner diameter is 1.8 cm. Set a small copper ring with an outer diameter of 0.9 and an inner diameter of 0.6cm (Fig. 64:3).

- e. 6 bracelets. It is gradually thicker from the middle to both ends, in a horn shape, there is a gap between the two ends, and the port section is oval. There are 2 pieces of M8, M17 and M36 respectively. Specimen M8:7, diameter 5.3~6, middle section diameter 0.3, end face diameter 0.6~0.7 cm (Fig. 64:10). Specimen M17:45, diameter 6~6.3, middle section diameter 0.5, end face diameter 0.9~1.15 cm (Fig. 31). Specimen M36:15, diameter 6.3~7.1, middle section diameter 0.65, end face diameter 0.9~1.2 cm (Fig. 32, 64:11).



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

- f. 3 rings. The specimen M36:16 is made of a long strip of bronze, with four string patterns on the ring. The width is 0.55, the outer diameter is 2.05 and the inner diameter is 1.8 cm (Fig. 64:14). Specimen M44:8, wide at the interface. The outer diameter of the ring is 2.1 and the width is 0.4~0.7 cm (Fig. 64:8).
- g. 3 needles. Specimen M8:4, needle tip damaged, residual length 4.3 cm; The tail end is twisted back into a needle eye, in the shape of water droplets, with a pore diameter of 0.2~0.4 cm (Fig. 64:12).
- h. 3 bell. Horn shape, arc top, oval mouth. Specimen M36:3-5, with an iron tongue in the bell cavity, hooked with the internal top bridge button. The full height is 3.1, the maximum diameter is 2.8 cm, the outer diameter of the button is 0.6, the inner diameter is 0.2 cm, and the tongue is 2.3 cm long (Fig. 64:13).
- i. 1 Handle mirror. Specimen M36:12. It is composed of a circular mirror and a strip mirror handle. The edge of the mirror is thick, and there is a circle of string pattern in the edge of the back of the mirror. The thickness of the mirror surface is 0.05, the thickness of the mirror edge is 0.3, the diameter is 11 cm, and the length of the mirror handle is 3.3, the width is 0.9, and the thickness is 0.4 cm (Fig. 33, 64:18).



Fig. 33

- j. 1 buckle. Specimen M17:23. Annular, with thin interface and thick middle. The diameter is 3.05~3.4 and the sectional diameter is 0.2~0.55 cm. When unearthed, a strip-shaped iron tongue was adhered on the ring, with a length of 3.15 and a width of 0.4~0.65 cm (Fig. 34 and 64:15).



Fig. 34

- k. 1 hairpin. Specimen M8:10. The head of it is oblate and spherical, with a diameter of 0.95 cm. The hairpin body is slender and slightly curved, with a total length of 11.5 cm. There are three groups of convex string patterns on the upper part of the hairpin, a total of seven. The section of the hairpin body is round, tapering from head to tail, with a sectional diameter of 0.2~0.5 cm (Fig. 64:9).
- l. 1 plate inlaid with glass bead. Specimen M8:3. Disc-shaped, flat margin, round lip; A semicircular bronze ring remains in the middle of one side, a blue and white glass bead was inlaid in the ring. The diameter of the round plate is 3.2 and the central ring diameter is 0.9 cm (Fig. 35, 64:16).

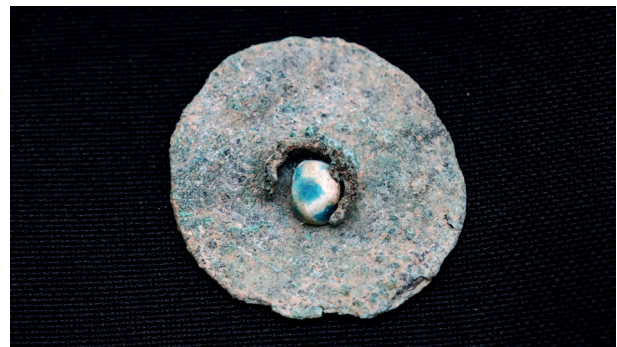


Fig. 35

- m. 2 shell shaped decoration. Specimen M46:2-56, with holes at one end and dense bumps on the surface. 2.4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide.
- n. 1 seabe shell shaped decoration. Specimen M17:28, horn shaped, with a ring button at the top. Caliber 1, the outer diameter of the ring is 0.5, the inner diameter is 0.1, and the height is 1.15 cm (Fig. 36, 64:17).



Fig. 36

- o. 1 bead. Specimen M46:2-54, tube shaped, perforated in the middle. Diameter 0.55, pore diameter 0.1 cm.

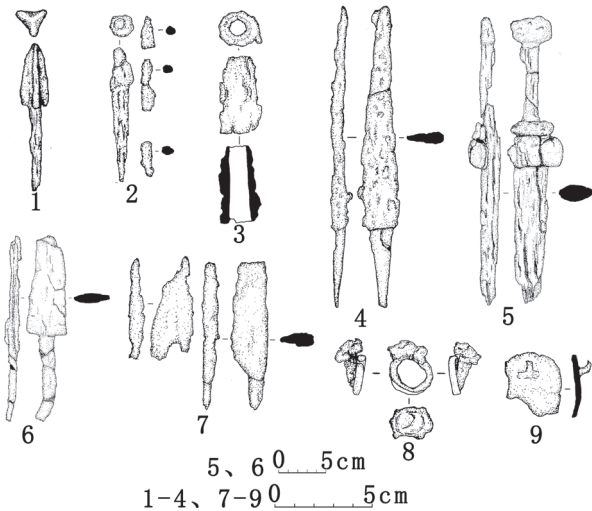


Fig. 65/1

(3) Iron

31 iron wares were found, including daggers, arrowheads, knives, buckles, rings, etc.

- a. 11 arrowheads. Three bladed with tang, the widest at the tail of the blade, extending to form barbs. Specimen M47:1, the tang is cylindrical, the section is round, and the tail end is thin. The full length is 7.5, the collar length is 4.5, the wing length is 3, and the widest part is 0.5 cm (Fig. 37, 65:1).



Fig. 37

- b. 4 rings. Specimen M17:48-1, the outer diameter of the ring is 1.8 and the inner diameter is 1.5 cm. The ring surface is rectangular, severely rusted and no pattern is found. It is 1.9 cm long and 1.6 cm wide (Fig. 65:8).
- c. 4 knives. Long strip, seriously rusted. Specimen M33:9, broken into two sections. Fragment 1 is 6 long, 1.5~1.7 wide and 0.35~0.8 cm thick, and fragment 2 is 5.5 long, 0.8~2 wide and 0.4~0.8 cm thick. The specimen M47:3 is composed of handle and body. The end of the knife handle is thin and the cross section is square; The back of the blade is thick, the section of the blade is an acute triangle, and the middle part is broken. Full length 15.3, handle length 4, width 0.4~1.2. The thickness is 0.2~0.5 cm, the length of the blade is 11.3, the widest part is 2, and the thickness of the back is 0.35~1 cm (Fig. 38, 65:6).



Fig. 38

- d. 3 buckles. Specimen M26:6, the remaining part is rounded square, and one side is connected with a hook. 3.4 cm long and 2.8 cm wide. The cross section of the hook is round, the sectional diameter is 0.3, and the residual length of the hook is 1.4 cm (Fig. 65:11).
- e. 2 daggers. The specimen is M26:1, the full length of the dagger is 30.2 cm, the pommel is rectangular, the length is 4.1, the width is 1.5 and the thickness is 0.8~1.1 cm. The grip is long strip, 8.3 cm long; The section is elliptical, with a long diameter of 1.4 and a short diameter of 1 cm. The guard is a rounded rectangle with a transverse length of 4.8, a width of 1.4 and a thickness of 1.2~2.4 cm. The

section of the blade is diamond, the upper end is wide and flat, and the lower end is gathered to the edge. The point is damaged. The length of blade is 17.2, the widest part is 3.7 and the thickness is about 1.8 cm. The scabbard hoop remains at the guard, with the plane of rectangular, the length is 6.8, the width is 3.1 and the thickness is 0.4 cm (Fig. 39, 65:7). Specimen M39:2, the connection between the grid and the blade is at right angles, and there is no ridge. Traces of wooden scabbard are attached to the surface of the it, which can be broken into multiple sections. It is 19.4 cm long. The grid of the sword stem is rectangular, 8.5 long, 1.4 wide and 0.8 cm thick. The residual length of the blade is 10, the width is 2.3~4.1, and the thickness is 0.3~1 cm (Fig. 40, 65:3).



Fig. 39



Fig. 40

- f. 1 Cone. Specimen M26:8, one end is sharp, with rust block in the middle, and the other end is thick and broken. The section is round. The length is 6.8 and the maximum diameter is 0.7 cm (Fig. 65:2).
- g. 1 Tubular apparatus. Specimen M39:3. Perforated in the middle, with different thickness at both ends. The length is 3.8 cm and the outer diameter is 1.4~1.7 cm (Fig. 65:4).

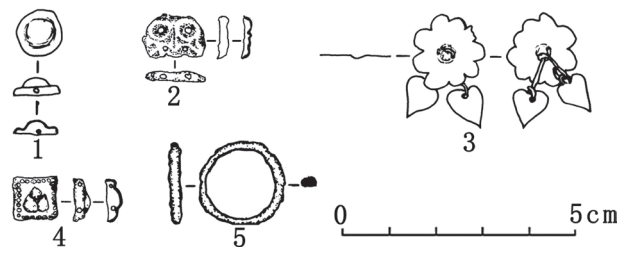


Fig. 65/2

(4) Gold

24 gold wares were found, including bubble ornaments, double bird head ornaments, heart-shaped square ornaments, and gold flower with leaves ornament.

- a. 4 Bubble ornaments. All of them come from M23 and has the same shape. The specimen M23:5, round, raised in the middle, with a linear impression on the surface, a circle of uplift on the edge and a perforation on both sides. Diameter 1, aperture 0.1, diameter of circular bulge 0.5 cm (Fig. 41, 65:1).

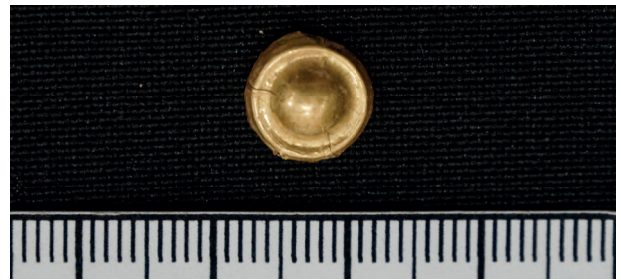


Fig. 41

- b. 6 double bird head ornaments. All of them come from M17 and has the same shape. The plane is trapezoid, the edge is folded inside, there are two perforations along the upper and lower folding edges, and the two bird head images are embossed on the front. Specimen M17 54-1 has a side length of 0.9~1.3 and a pore diameter of 0.1 cm (Fig. 68; Fig. 65:2).



Fig. 68

- c. 13 heart shaped square ornaments. All of them come from M36 and has the same shape. the plane is square, the edge is folded in, and there are two perforations on both sides. A heart-shaped pattern composed of three water drop shaped protrusions is hammered out in the middle of the plane, and a row of convex points are decorated on the surrounding edges. Specimen M36:1-1, side length 0.9, pore diameter less than 0.1 cm (Fig. 69: Fig. 65:4).

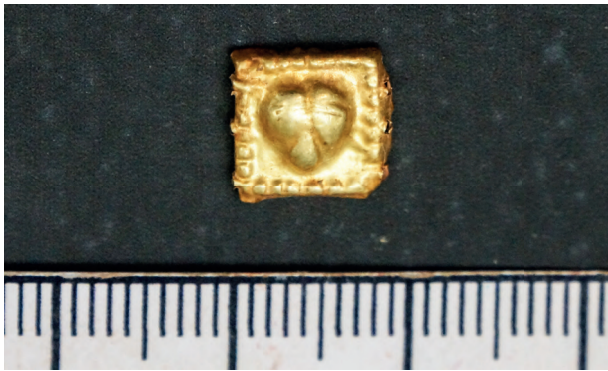


Fig. 69

- d. 1 gold flower with leaves ornament. Specimen M46:5. Nine petal flower shaped ornament, two perforations in the middle are penetrated by gold wires, and two heart-shaped leaves are respectively hooked after the gold wires are knotted. The diameter of the golden flower is 1.6, the maximum width of the heart-shaped piece is 0.9, and the length of the gold wire of the hanging part is 0.9 cm (Fig. 70, Fig. 65:5).



Fig. 70

(5) Silver

- a. 1 ring. Specimen M 23:8, circular section. The diameter is 1.45~1.9 cm (Fig. 65:9).

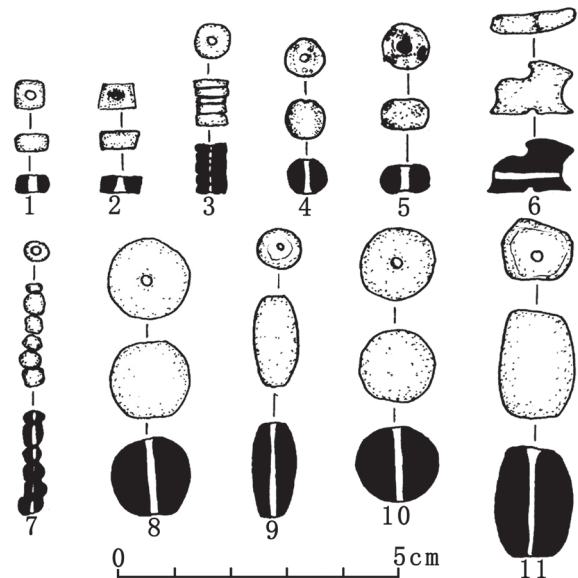


Fig. 66

(6) Gemstone

289 gemstones were found, including fine coal beads, talc beads, agate beads, garnet beads, gypsum beads and pendants, lapis lazuli beads and crystal beads.

- a. 121 fine coal beads, specimen M36:5-1, 5 in series, with round section and central perforation. The diameter is 0.6~0.7, the pore diameter is 0.2 and the thickness is 0.9 cm (Fig. 42, 66:1).

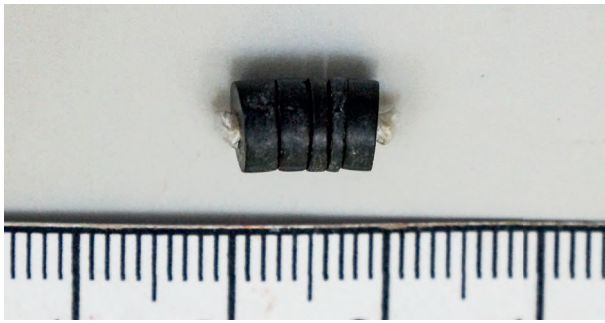


Fig. 42

- b. 72 talc beads. Center perforation, white, oblate and tube shaped. Specimen M36:9-12, oblate, composed of 6 oblate beads in series. The overall length is 2.1, the diameter is 0.3~0.5, and the pore diameter is 0.2 cm (Fig. 43, 66:4). Specimen M46:2-75, tubular, approximate cuboid. The side length is 0.5, the aperture is 0.15 and the thickness is 0.3cm (Fig. 66:11).



Fig. 43

- c. 49 agate beads. Dark red, perforated in the center, spherical and olive shaped. Specimen M36:2-2, spherical, perforated at one end and concave around. The diameter is 1.5, the pore diameter is 0.15 and the thickness is 5.4 cm (Fig. 66:6). Specimen M4:2-20, spherical, with layered natural texture. The diameter is 1.3, the pore diameter is 0.2, and the thickness is 1.35 cm (Fig. 44, 66:7). Specimen M46:2-61, olive shaped, with black banded plaques. The length is 1.65, the diameter is 0.6~0.75, and the pore diameter is 0.2 cm (Fig. 45, 66:8).



Fig. 44



Fig. 45

- d. 36 garnet beads. Brownish red. Specimen M36:2-19, nearly cuboid, central perforation. The side length is 0.55~0.6, the height is 0.35, and the aperture is 0.1cm (Fig. 66:2).
- e. 9 gypsum beads and pendants. White, with animal shaped pendants and spherical gypsum stone beads. Specimen M46:7-4, lion shaped pendant, prone, perforated in the chest and body, penetrating the front chest and tail. Length: 1.4, width: 1, thickness: 0.35, aperture: 0.1cm (Fig. 46, 66:9). Specimen M36:9-6, spherical, central perforation. The diameter is 0.75 and the pore diameter is 0.1 cm (Fig. 66:3).



Fig. 46

- f. 1 lapis lazuli bead. Specimen M36:11-13, dark blue ball. The diameter is 0.8 and the pore diameter is 0.2 cm (Fig. 47, 66:5).

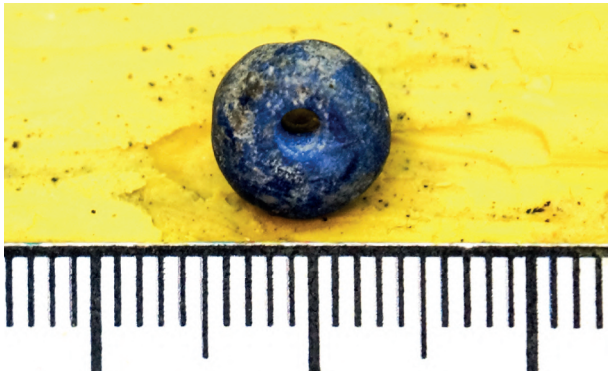


Fig. 47

- g. 1 crystal bead. Specimen M46:2-66, white transparent olive shape, one end section is hexagonal, one end is nearly square, and the center is perforated. Length 1.9, width 1~1.4, aperture 0.2 cm (Fig. 66:10).

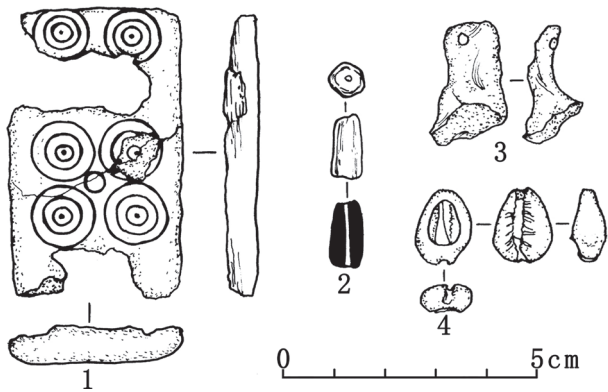


Fig. 65/3

(7) Bone artifacts

4 Bone artifacts were found. The shapes include buckle, tubular decoration and irregular ornaments.

- a. 1 Buckle. Specimen M47:2, rectangular, with rectangular holes at the short sides on both sides, all broken. Six groups of decorative patterns remain on the front of the buckle, each of which is covered by three concentric circles, with a maximum circle diameter of 1.2, a spacing of 0.2 cm, and a concave point in the center; There is a circular perforation in the center of the buckle with a hole diameter of 0.4 cm. The buckle is 5.7 long, 3.6 wide and 0.7 cm thick, and the square perforation is about 2 long and 1 cm wide (Fig. 48 and 65:14).



Fig. 48

- b. 1 Tubular ornament. Specimen M23:4, the section is nearly circular, and there are machining marks on the surface. The length is 1.38, the diameter is 0.6 and the aperture is 0.1 cm (Fig. 65:15).
- e. 2 Irregular ornaments. Specimen M17:11, white, irregular, flat at one end, with circular perforation and damaged at the other end. The length is 2.35, the width is 1.1~1.16, and the aperture is 0.25cm (Fig. 65:17).

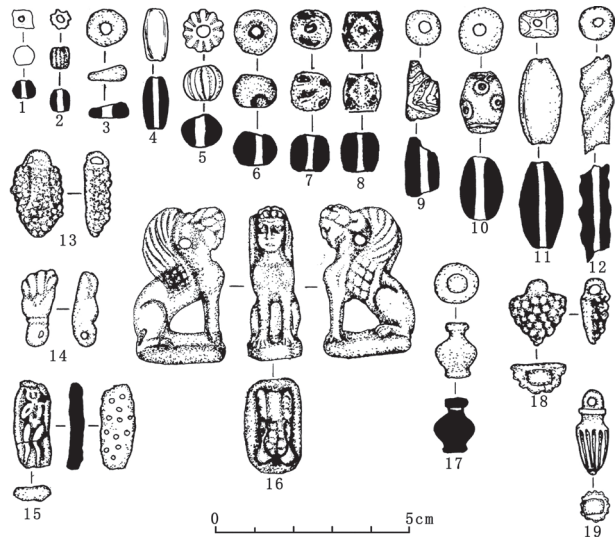


Fig. 67

(8) Glass and Faience

259 glass and faience wares were found, including spherical, melon prism, beaded, annular, polyhedral, tubular, olive shaped glass beads, melon prism faience beads and faience pendants and so on.

- a. 12 faience pendants. There are fish shape, corn cob shape, bottle shape, Sphinx shape, hand shape and strawberry shape. Specimen M36:6-13, blue-green fish shape, oval plane, button on the upper part, semicircular, with transverse perforation. The lower part of the button

is decorated with dense and regular convex points, and the middle part is raised. Length 2.15, width 1.3, thickness 0.6, aperture 0.2 cm (Fig. 49, 67:1). Specimen M17:40, green corn cob shape, with annular button at the top and bundle neck, and 15 longitudinal convex edges at the lower part. The length is 2.15, the diameter is 0.8 and the aperture is 0.15 cm (Fig. 50, 67:18). Specimen M46:2-5, beige bottle shape, bulging body and perforation at the mouth of the bottle. The height is 1.35, the abdominal diameter is 0.9, and the pore diameter is 0.1 cm (Fig. 51, 67:13). Specimen M44:10, blue-green Sphinx shaped, with human head, nose, eyes and mouth clearly visible, and hair braided from the forehead to the back of the brain. The lion's forelimbs stand upright and its hind legs squat down, and the muscle contour is expressed in relief, the lower end of the limb shows the details of the claw with scribed lines. The wings extend upward from the abdomen, and the tail of the wing bends forward, which is connected with the braid and forms a circular perforation with the back. The surfaces of the wings on the abdomen are decorated with checkered convex points, and the wing tips are parallel scribed to show feathers. The four claws stand on the square base. Height 1.9, length 1.25, width 0.55 cm, base length 1.2, width 0.75, thickness 0.4, aperture 0.15 cm (Fig. 52-54, 67:2). Specimen M36:2-14, green hand shape, perforated wrist, palm shape on the front and smooth on the back. Length: 1.85, width: 0.5~0.9, thickness: 0.55~0.7, aperture: 0.2 cm (Fig. 55, 67:3). The specimen is M17:30, green strawberry shaped, with annular buttons on the top, continuous circular bumps on the surface and flat back. Length 1.7, width 1.4 and thickness 0.7 cm (Fig. 56, 67:5).



Fig. 49



Fig. 50



Fig. 51



Fig. 52

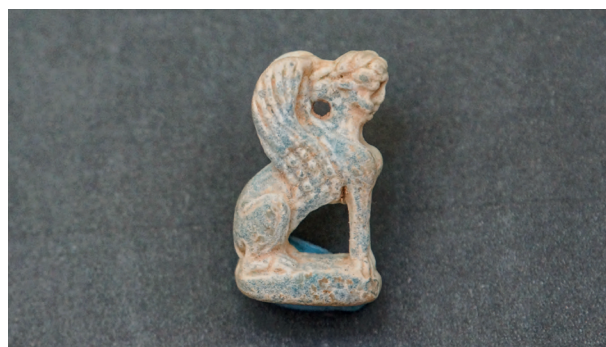


Fig. 53



Fig. 54



Fig. 57



Fig. 55



Fig. 56

- b. 29 melon prism glass and faience. The surface of the instrument is decorated with strip-shaped convex edges connecting the upper and lower parts, with central perforation and petal shaped cross section, there are blue-green, black, yellow green, dark blue and other colors. Specimen M23:3-3, blue-green faience beads, with 11 convex edges. The thickness is 1.1, the diameter is 1.25, and the aperture is 0.4cm (Fig. 57, 67:7). Specimen M46:2-74, yellow green glass beads, with 7 convex edges. Length 0.6, diameter 0.5, aperture 0.2cm (Fig. 67:8). Specimen M23:3-53, dark blue glass beads, with 7 convex edges. 1.1 in diameter and 0.4 cm in diameter.

- c. 158 spherical glass beads. The cross section is round and the center is perforated, with black, dark blue, yellowish brown and dragonfly eye decoration. Specimen M36:2-10, black. The diameter is 1.15 and the pore diameter is 0.35 cm (Fig. 58, 67:11). Specimen M36:9-1, yellowish brown Dragonfly eye decoration, composed of five flat concentric circles, with black in the center. The diameter is 1.1 and the pore diameter is 0.25 cm (Fig. 59, 67:12).

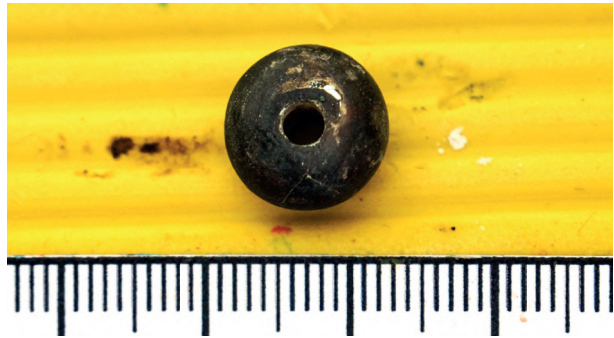


Fig. 58

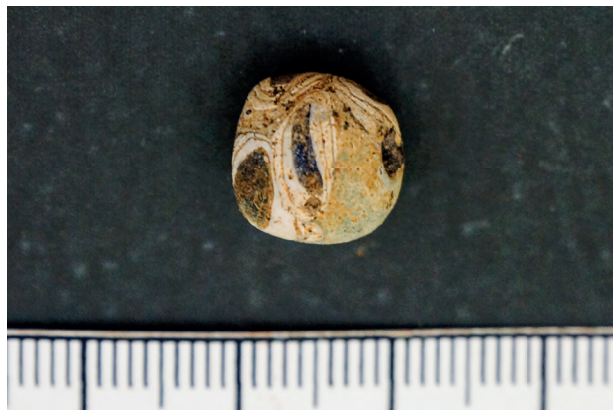


Fig. 59

- d. 23 beaded glass beads. The center is perforated and the section is round, with black, light blue and other colors. Specimen M36:2-28-1, black four beads. Length 0.75, diameter 0.5, aperture 0.15 cm. Specimen M36:2-28-2,

black triplet. Length 0.65, diameter 0.5, aperture 0.15cm.

- e. 12 annular glass beads. The center is perforated, with light blue, black brown, tan and other colors. Specimen M44:3, light blue, multilateral ring. The length is 0.55, the aperture is 0.15 and the thickness is 0.45 cm (Fig. 67:9). Specimen M46:7-3, brownish red ring shape. The outer ring diameter is 1, the inner diameter is 0.4 and the thickness is 0.45 cm (Fig. 67:10).
- f. 12 polyhedral glass string ornaments. With perforations inside, octahedron, decahedron, tetrahedron, cube, pyramid, hexagonal prism, etc., there are yellow brown, black, light blue, green and other colors. Specimen M17:33, yellowish brown octahedron, rectangular at both ends, long hexagon on both sides, and two narrow rectangles on both sides of the ridge. Length 2.2, width 0.6~1.1, thickness 0.5~0.75 cm (Fig. 60, 67:14). Specimen M36:8-2, light blue transparent tetrahedron. Width 1, aperture 0.2, thickness 1 cm (Fig. 67:17).



Fig. 60

- g. 4 spiral glass ornaments. The section is circular, the long neck is hollow, and the surface is provided with spiral convex edges in black, blue, red and other colors. Specimen M36:2-1, blue, with four convex edges. The residual length is 2.55, the diameter is 0.7~0.85, and the pore diameter is 0.2 cm (Fig. 67:6).
- h. 4 olive shaped glass beads. There are perforations, dragonfly eye decoration and brown yellow. Specimen M46:2-1, yellowish brown Dragonfly eye decoration, round white circle surrounding dark brown mastoid, with a sectional diameter of 0.6~1.2, a length of 1.6 and a pore diameter of 0.4 cm (Fig. 61 and 67:15). Specimen M23:3-17, brownish yellow, translucent, nearly cuboid. Length 1.6, width 0.7, height 0.7, aperture 0.2 cm (Fig. 67:19).



Fig. 61

- i. 1 cylindrical glass bead. Blue, decorated with white wave band decoration, with perforation inside, cylindrical section, one end is thick, the other end is thin and damaged. The length is 1.4 and the aperture is 0.3 cm (Fig. 62 and 67:16).



Fig. 62

- j. 1 human glass relief. Specimen M36:10-20. Brownish black, yellow matrix in the weathered layer, flat cuboid, perforated in the center; The portrait relief with lines on the front shows that the right hand is bent and supported under the jaw, the left hand is placed on the abdomen, the left knee is retracted close to the right knee, the lower body is slightly to the right, and there are dense point protrusions on the back. It is 2.2 long, 0.9 wide and 0.35 cm thick (Fig. 67:4).

(9) Seashell

14 seashell ornaments were found. Specimen M17:14, the back of the shell is cut off to form an opening. It is 1.5 cm long, 0.5~1.1 cm wide and 0.35~0.6 cm thick (Fig. 65:16).

IV. Conclusion

Compared with similar discoveries in surrounding areas, such as Aruktau cemetery⁶ and Tulhar cemetery⁷ excavated in the Beshkent Valley in southwest Tajikistan in the 1950s, the Tillya-tepe cemetery⁸ excavated in Sheberghan in northern Afghanistan in the 1970s is helpful to judge the age of Rabat cemetery.

Among the pottery, the single ear cup M8:2 is similar to the cup of M5 in Aruktau 8 area, which is in the style of wide neck and solid sole; The neck tied single ear pot M46:1 is similar to that of Aruktau 14m4, with parallel string patterns on the neck. High foot cup M34:1, small pot M17:2, spout jars M33:1, double ear pot M39:1 and double ears pot M8:1 are similar to similar goods of Aruktau 5M19, Tillya-tepe M6, Tulhar 15M1, Tulhar 5M3 and Tillya-tepe M3 respectively. The shape and decoration of the ear less pot M17:1 are similar to goods of Aruktau 5M15 and Tulhar 6M3, and the shoulder is decorated with string pattern, ripple and stamp pattern.

Among articles for daily use and ornaments, the bronze handle mirror M36:12 is similar to that shown in Tulhar 16M1; The bronze earrings M8:11 are similar to those of Aruktau 5M5, 14M2 and Tulhar 11M2, and are wound with multiple bronze wires; The bronze ring M17:47 is similar to that of Tulhar 7M6, with oval ring surface; The bronze bracelet is the same as the gold bracelet or ankle ring shown in Tulhar 7M21 and Tilyatpe. Both ends are gradually thicker and the end face is oval; The shape of copper bell M36:3-5 is the same as that shown in Tulhar 16M27 and M3.

Among weapons and tools, iron knife M33:9 and iron dagger M26:1 are similar to those of Tulhar 1M21 and Tulhar 7M14 respectively; The iron arrowheads are the same as those of Aruktau 14M4, Tulhar 2M32 and M4. They are all in the style of three blade shaped.

Among string ornaments and pendants, melon edge beads are also seen in Tulhar 15M1; Square gold ornaments of M36:1 can also be seen in the

Tillya-Tepe M1, both of which are decorated with convex points, but the center of the latter is embedded with turquoise. Can shaped pendant of M46:2-5 can also be seen in Tillya-Tepe M1 and Tulhar 16m1. Bell shaped pendant of M17:28 is similar to that of Aruktau 8M4, Tulhar 4M1, Tillya-Tepe M6. Hand shaped pendant of M36:2-14 can also be seen in Tillya-Tepe M2; The shape of M46:5 gold flower with leaves ornament is slightly different from that of Tillya-Tepe, but its structure and function are the same, which obviously belongs to the same period.

Tillya-Tepe is dated in the second quarter of the 1st century.⁹ The excavators believe that the age of the Aruktau cemetery is around epoch year. As for the Tulhar cemetery, A.M. Mandelstam believes that "we have sufficient and reliable basis to classify them into clear stages: only from the last third of the 2nd century BC to the beginning of the 1st century AD; the possible deviation will not exceed 25-30 years."¹⁰ This judgment is realistic, and the age of Rabat cemetery should be equivalent to it.

To sum up, Rabat cemetery dates from the late 2nd century BC to the early 1st century AD. The last king of Greco-Bactrian Kingdom was Heliocles, from 145 to 130 BC. The style of Rabat's artifacts is quite different from those of the Hellenistic period from the sites of Ai-Khanum and Takhti-Sangin. Scholars generally believe that the Kushan Empire was established in the middle of the 1st century (50-55 AD),¹¹ but no coins of the Kushan Empire were unearthed in the above four cemeteries, including Rabat. Therefore, the four cemeteries were dated after the collapse of the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom and before the establishment of the Kushan Empire.

During this period, in the west of Pamir, the south of West Tianshan Mountain, the east of Iron-Gate (Uzbekistan) and the north of Amu Darya, the so-called "North Bactria" area, there were a kind of nomadic cultural relics with strong commonalities and quite consistent features; Known sites include Rabat and Airtam cemetery¹²

⁶ Мандельштам А.М., Памятники кочевников кушанского времени в северной бактрии, издательство наука ленинградское отделение, Ленинград 1975.

⁷ Мандельштам А.М., Кочевники на пути в индию, материалы и исследования археологии СССР, р.136, Москва. 1966.

⁸ Sarianidi V., BACTRIAN GOLD: Bactrian Gold from the Excavations of the Tillya-Tepe Necropolis in Northern Afghanistan. Leningrad: Aurora Art Publishers. 1985.

⁹ Amiz J., Valtz Fino E., Afghanistan: Forging Civilization along the Silk Road. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art Symposia. 2009

¹⁰ А. М. Мандельштам, Кочевники на пути в индию, материалы и исследования археологии ссср. No.136, Москва. 1966, p. 160.

¹¹ 黄靖. 贵霜帝国的年代体系, 中亚学刊, 第二辑, 中华书局, 1987 年.

¹² Kazim Abdullaev, Nomad Migration in Central Asia, Proceedings of the British Academy 133, 73-98. The British Academy 2007.

in Uzbekistan, Aruktau, Kokkum and Tulhar cemetery in the Beshkent valley of Tajikistan, and Ksirovs cemetery¹³ in Danghara (Tajikistan). As mentioned above, its relics are represented by wheeled pottery with necked and eared pots or jars, high foot cups and other pottery, handle mirrors, wire wrapped earrings, trumpet port bracelets, rings with raised oval surface, arc top trumpet bronze bells and other artifacts and ornaments. weapons, such as vertical cross-guard iron daggers, three bladed iron arrowheads with tang, and a large number of beads of various textures and shapes. There are no mound or low and flat stone mound on the surface of the graves. Pit-cave grave are popular in shape. Most of the burial chamber are opened on the west side of the shaft tunnel, and the shaft is often filled with stones or mud bricks. For example, in the Aruktau cemetery, 73 are pit cave graves in 111 graves excavated in this period, accounting for 65.8%. In Tulhar cemetery, 183 are pit cave graves in the 219 graves excavated, accounting for 83.6%. The vast majority of burials are single person burials and the dead body was straight and up with head to the north. This cultural relic has its own characteristics, which is obviously different from the culture of other regions at the same time, and can be regarded as an independent archaeological culture.

Which ethnic group does this archaeological culture belong to in history? During this period, North Bactria was an area directly ruled by Yuezhi, with its Imperial Court (王庭). According to the *Shiji* (*Records of the Grand Historian* 史记)¹⁴ of Sima Qian: "Originally, Yuezhi (月氏) lived between Dunhuang and Qilian Mountain. Later, it was defeated by the Xiongnu (匈奴), so it moved to a further place, passed Dayuan (大宛), attacked Greco-Bactrian (大夏) and conquered it. And then established its Imperial Court in the north of Oxus river (Amu Darya 妫水)." "Yuezhi is located about two or three thousand miles west of Dayuan, near the north of Oxus river. Greco-Bactrian on the south, Parthia on the west and Kangju on the north." "Bactria is located more than 2000 miles southwest of Dayuan, to the south of Oxus river." In the Western Han Dynasty, Oxus was the boundary river between Dayuezhi and Bactria; But North Bactria had already surrendered to Yuezhi, and the

south of Oxus is the indirect ruling area of Yuezhi. From 132 to 130 BC, Yuezhi moved westward to Central Asia. Yuezhi has a large population, with 100000 to 200000 soldiers, 100000 families, 400000 people and 100000 troops.¹⁵ It can be seen that Yuezhi was the main nation and ruling nation of North Bactria at that time. The time range, spatial distribution and cultural characteristics of this archaeological culture are more consistent with that of Yuezhi after moving west to Central Asia. It should be the cultural relics of Yuezhi.

Following the practice of naming archaeological culture by nationality, the culture of Rabat cemetery can be named Yuezhi culture. The excavation of Rabat cemetery and the identification of Yuezhi culture provide a reliable starting point for Yuezhi's archaeological research, which is of great significance academic value.

The Chinese leader of the project was Wang Jianxin, and the Uzbek leader was Berdimurodov Amridin. The Chinese team members included Wang Jianxin, Liang Yun, Liubin, Cao Hui, Wang Ga, Wu Chen, Pei Jianlong, Khamdamov Sukhrob, Tang Yunpeng and Li Weiwei. The Uzbek team members included Rakhmanov Ulugbek, Hasanov Muttalib, Annaev Tukhtash and Khujamov Sanat. The drawing of artifacts was completed by Sultonova Munira. The protection of cultural relics was completed by Wu Chen. The identification of human bones was completed by Zhao Dongyue.

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¹³ National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan, General Editors: Academician R. Masov, S. Bobomulloev, Dr. M. Bubnova, Dushanbe. 2005, p. 109.

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