

**SILVER REPOUSEE ROUNDELS DISCOVERED IN TAXILA VALLEY
PAKISTAN. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY REPOUSEE
ROUNDELS IN BRITISH MUSEUM LONDON, ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD AND METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NEW YORK**

Abdul Ghafoor Lone & Arshad Ullah Khan

ABSTRACT

Ancient metropolitan, Takṣasila, presently called Taxila is an important world Heritage site located in north-west of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Archaeological remains of ancient metropolitan are scattered in two provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ancient Taxila was situated at the key junction of the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia. Taxila remained under the administrative control of the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th century BCE, and successively ruled by Mauryan Empire, Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian, and Kushan.

Keywords: Taksasila, Taxila, Heritage, Archaeological Remains, Ancient, Mauryan Empire, Indo-Greek, Kushan

Taxila valley is occupied with the ruins of ancient cities and Buddhist monastic complexes. Abundance of rear antiquities reported from every archaeological sites in Taxila Valley. Due to expansion of large ancient cities and monastic complexes it is a routine matter to learn about a chance discovery of rear antiquities in Taxila valley. In 2017, during a routine conservation work at Apsidal temple, in Sirkap, a hoard of gold jewelry, discovered by labours. Unfortunately, most of the rear gold jewelry could not recovered and during investigation a minute portion of gold jewelry retrieved and deposited in the custody police station as case property. In 2018 author visited Ashmolean Museum and stunt to see on display two similar repoussé of same material, reported in 1996 and purchased by Curator of Taxila Museum in 1998. Ill trafficking is still a active danger to cultural heritage and this practice may be discouraged by authorities at national and international level.

On 10th April 1996, Curator Taxila Museum informed that a hoard of silver and gold jewelry found during the digging of foundation of a house in Mohallah Mora Shah Wali Shah Taxila.¹ Mr. Asif Hussain Shah the brother of Mr. Tahir Hussain Shah

confirmed that his brother got gold and silver jewelry but gold jewelry was taken away by the relatives of other laborer i.e.

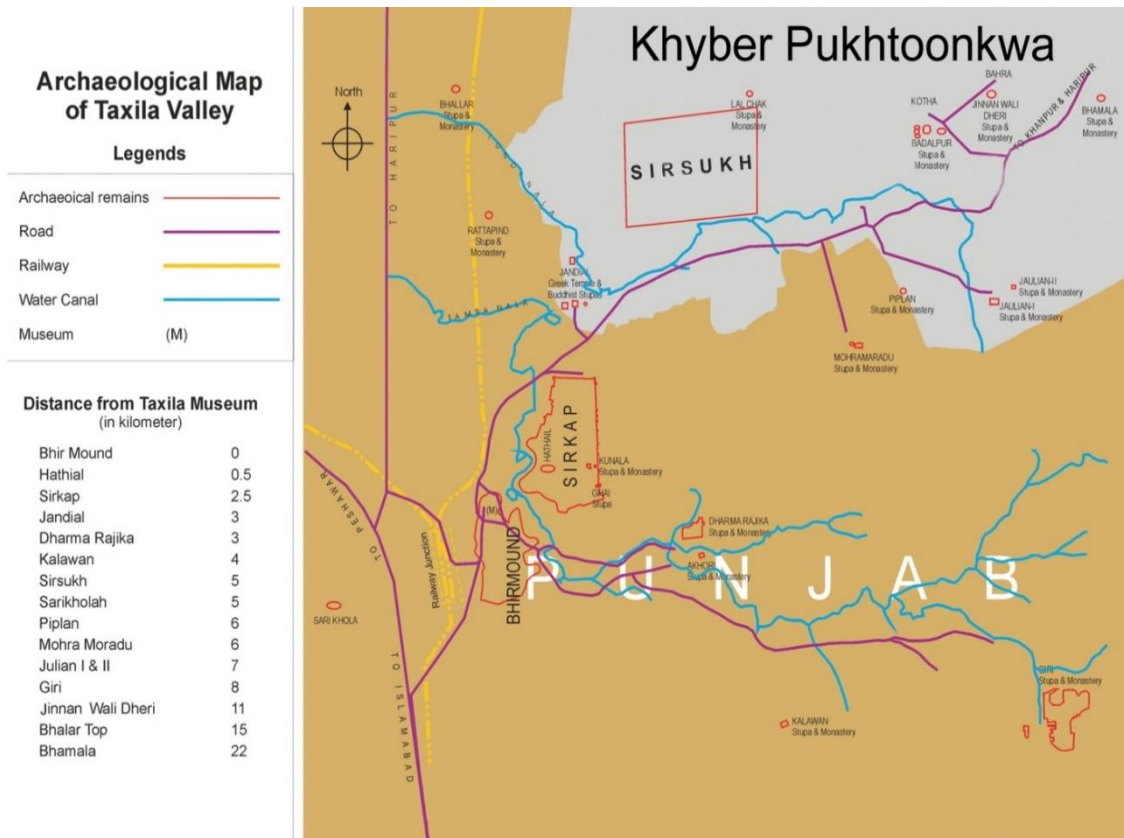


Figure 1- Archaeological Map

Mr. Muhammad Halim, Deputy Director Sub Regional Office Taxila and Mr. Sarwat Baig, Curator agreed to hand over silver jewelry on 12th April 1996 with an application of some compensation by Department of Archaeology and Museum Islamabadⁱⁱ. In order to recover the gold jewelry concerned local authorities were approached and informed but all in vain. Hoard of silver jewelry, including necklaces, bangles, finger rings, amulets and two Repousse.ⁱⁱⁱ

He sold the accidently discovered antiquities to the authorities of Taxila Museum, on the pretext that he got this hoard by his brother while digging in a house Mohallah Mora Shah Wali Shah. On the recommendations of Compensation Committee-Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM), Authorities of Taxila Museum purchased the antiquities.^{iv} In 1999, silver jewelry displayed in the



Figure 2 - Find spot (Trench 1996) of Silver repousse in Taxila, Mohallah Mora Shah Wali Shah (Courtesy DOAM)

so-called, Jewelry Room of Taxila Museum. Apparently, both repousee roundels, included in hoard depicted with similar style and design. However, it can be observed

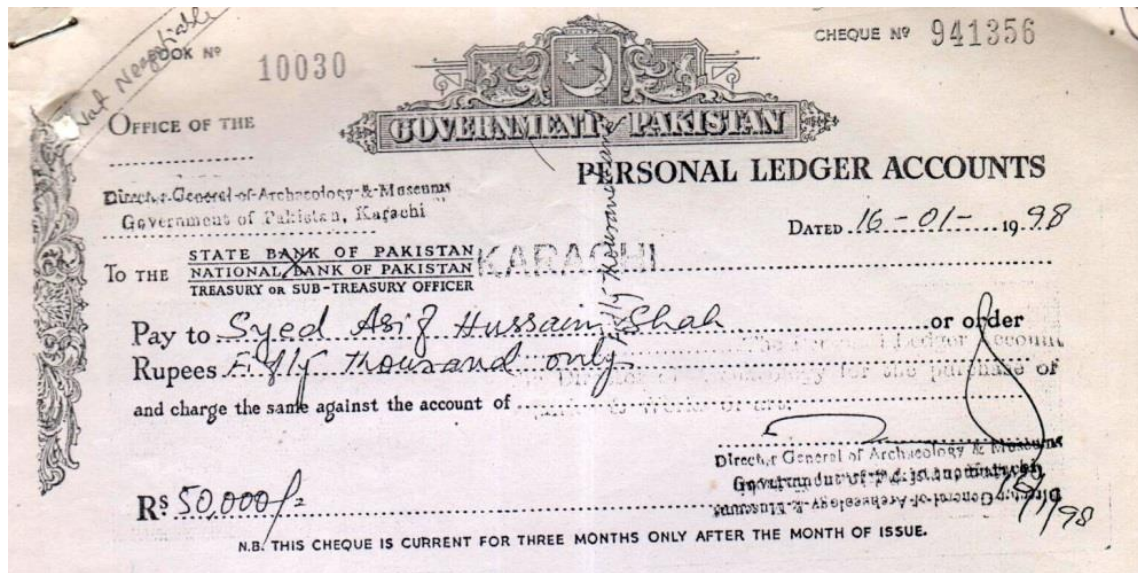


Figure A - Copy of Cheque Paid to Syed Asif Hussain Shah by DOAM

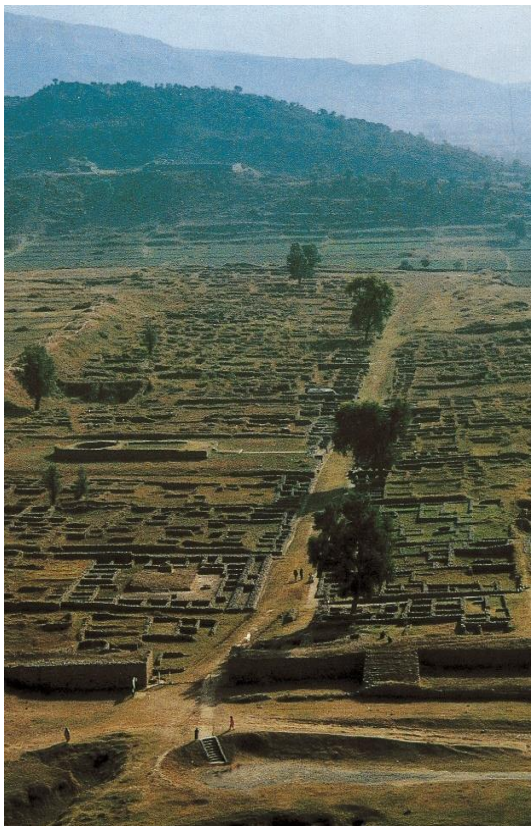


Figure 3 - Aerial View of Sirkap City Taxila (200 BCE-200 CE)

that there are minor differences in the execution of details of repousee. In March 2018, Geography of Gandhara Art, 2nd workshop of Gandhara Connections, held in Oxford.^v During a visit to Ashmolean Museum-Oxford author stuck to see, two similar repousee

displayed in a showcase and my curiosity increased to see the caption mentioned with the acquisition date of 1996.^{vi}

Interest in Gandhara was flashed in the West in late nineteenth century (early 1830) as collections of coins, reliquaries and sculptures were assembled by adventurers such as Charles Masson, and by British military units who amassed objects during punitive raids into tribal area (Errington,1987:32). Sadly, before the establishment of Archaeological Survey of India subcontinent specially present India and Pakistan remained prime victim of irresponsible digging of invaders (Pia and Behrendt 2006:1). Unsophisticated excavation methods of the past prevent us from understanding weather the: heaps of ‘buts(stubs) found were recent collections or were ancient deposits of damaged sculptures (Taddei 2006:48). Most of treasure hunters were uniformed personals of East India Company British, army and then Administrators i.e Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners. 1863, report for the year Cunningham speaks that the Nave of apsidal temple (Sirkap Taxila) had been excavated by Major Cracroft, Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi and still earlier by Major Pearse (afterwards General) (Marshall 1951:151).

Unfortunately, Taxila valley and Museum were deprived several times from rare antiquities. Recently, in 2017 at Sirkap Taxila, another attempt, made by the labours engaged in conservation work and they had stolen rare antiquities revealed during work.^{vii} Authorities are helpless to chalk a comprehensive plan for stopping the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage from Pakistan.

There are nine repousee roundels reported from different parts of world. Eight are in different museums i.e. Metropolitan Museum New York USA,

Ashmolean Museum Oxford, British Museum London, Taxila Museum Pakistan and one in private collection. All repousee roundels are made of silver, skillfully embossed and depicted with similar adoration,



Figure B - Taxila Museum (Display)



Figure C - Ashmolean Museum Oxford (Display)

except sizes. However out of nine, six repousee roundels (S.No.1 to S.No.6) are depicted with comparable theme and subject i.e Hariti but three repousee roundels (S.No.7 to S.No.9) are depicted with procession of an elephant.

S#	Location	Quantity	Source	Year Reported
1	Private U.S. Collection Acquired in London ^{viii}	1	Purchased Ref.Bonhams	1990s
2	Taxila Museum-Pakistan	2	Purchased	1997/98
3	Ashmolean Museum Oxford UK	2	Purchased	1997/98
4	Metropolitan Museum New York USA	1	Gift	1981
5	British Museum London UK	3	Acquired	1937

Table 1 Detail of distribution of repousee roundels discovered in Taxila Valley

Repoussé roundel date from Antiquity and had been used widely with other metals like gold and silver for fine detailed work and with copper, and bronze for larger sculptures. Use of silver ornaments was very common in ancient Taxila, particularly in Sirkap (200 BC-200 CE) located on the other side of the Tamra nala to the north east. Roundel discussed here are kind of early metal work.^{ix} Stone toilet trays are well-known kind of similar style of production in Taxila. These toilet trays are the first efforts on the part of the sculptors of Gandhara to give that art a new lease of life in this region (Marshall.1951 Taxila Vol.I.:133).

Sirkap Stratum (Feet)	VII	V-VI	IV	II-III	I
	(18-23): 4	(13-18): 5	(9-13): 4	(2-9): 7	(0-2): 2
Period	Pre-Greek	190-90 BC	90 BC-25 AC	30 CE	c.60 CE
		Greek	Early Saka	Later Saka and Parthian	Kushan Surface
		No silver objects. ^x	7 toilet trays. ^{xi}	Hoard of gold and Silver ^{xii}	Hoard of gold jewelry (2017).

Table 2 - Stratification of Sirkap-Taxila by Sir John Marshall

DETAIL DESCRIPTION OF THE REPOUSEE ROUNDELS

S. No.	1
Object.	Roundel, Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Taxila
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C 1 st Century C.E.
Dimensions.	7 cm (Dia.)
Material	Silver
Source.	DOAM. Purchased, 1997/98.

Accession No.	Tx-01/97
Location	Exhibited in Jewelry Room-Taxila Museum

Description. A repousee roundel embossed with the image of a female, facing right, well dressed, bejeweled with variety of jewelry, is seated on a high throne. She is dressed in long tunic and mantle. Grooves of her drapery are quite solid and thick layered.^{xiii} She is wearing heavy ear pendants and chain of necklaces of varying design, bangles, armband in her left arm, and anklets. Her facial features are prominent, broad face, quite open globular eyes, heavy cheeks and thick lips (Faccenna & Anna 2007:130). Her bibulous breasts are obvious. Her headdress, on her back, is falling like a braid and its tips/knots are quite visible (Faccenna & Anna 2007: 178-179). She is holding an infant in her lap. She is seated bare feet. Left leg of throne is visible while remaining legs of the throne are hiding behind folds of her drapery.

In surrounding, two plants of lotus are swimming in the air, on her left, bud of lotus on long stalk and on her right, lotus on long stalk is fully blossomed. In far background a pigeon? is sitting on the rear edge of her throne.^{xiv} Border of throne is engraved with wavy lines and dots. Another bird probably pigeon is also sitting at the left end of rear side of throne. A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer edge (ibid:115). Signs of soil incrustation on outer edge and inside, on deep curves of repoussé. Her elaborated headdress, studded ornament, badly damaged due to soil corrosion and right ankle is also affected with same problem and partially missing.^{xv} Forehead, headdress and left anklet are partially missing.

S. No.	2
Object.	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Taxila
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C 1 st Century C.E.
Dimensions.	7 cm (Dia.)
Material	Silver
Source.	Purchased, 1997/98.
Accession No.	Tx-02/97
Location.	Exhibited in Jewelry Room -Taxila Museum
Description.	Similar as S.No.1

S. No.	3
Object.	Repoussé decoration

Provenance.	Gandhara (place of creation) most probably Taxila
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C-1 st Century CE ^{xvi}
Dimensions.	8.1 cm (Dia.),1 cm (Thickness)
Material	Silver
Source.	Purchased, 1997.
Accession No.	EA1997.202
Location:	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Ground floor, Room 12, Tag.No.14 http: jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/object/EA1997.202

DESCRIPTION

A female, facing to left, clad in a tunic and mental is seated in angled pose, on a high throne. Grooves of her drapery are quite solid and thick. She is fully bejeweled. She is wearing heavy ear pendants, studded ornaments heavy necklaces, armband, bangles and pairs of anklets. Double tips/knots of her headdress, falling on her back, are quite prominent. Her facial features are embossed with prominent broad face, quite open, globular eyes, heavy cheeks and thick lips (Faccenna & Anna 2007:130). Her fabulous breasts are prominent. She is nursing an infant in her lap. Infant is wearing a girld around his waist and anklets in his feet. She is seated bare feet. Right leg of throne is visible while remaining legs of the throne are hiding behind the flare of her drapery.

In surrounding, two flowers of lotus holding on long and turning stalks are depicted. In her right, a bud of lotus flower is swinging and on her left a lotus flower is fully blossomed. In far background two birds, pigeon? are sitting on the both rear edges of throne, engraved with wavy lines and dots. A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer edge (Faccenna & Anna 2007:115). Soil incursion on outer edge and inside on deep curves of repoussé. Her elaborated headdress is badly damaged due to soil corrosion. Forehead and left anklet are partially missing.

S. No.	4
Object.	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Gandhara, most probably Taxila
Period ca.	1 st century BC 1 st Century C.E. ^{xvii}
Material.	Silver
Dimensions.	8.8 cm (Dia.) 0.6 cm (Thickness)
Source.	Purchased, 1997.
Accession No.	EA1997.24
Location	Ashmolean Museum-Ground floor, Room 12, Tag. No.13

<http://jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/object/EA1997.24>

Description. Repousee Roundel is embossed with the image of a female, seated on a throne. She is sitting on a high engraved throne flanked by an auspicious goose (hamsa) on her right. She is wearing a mantel but partially she is naked. Left half of her body is, almost exposed. She is looking in a mirror, hold in her right hand, while she is setting her floral hair dress with her left hand, adorned with eight bangles. Her left arm, bent to her head, is resting on the left back column of throne. She is seated bare feet as previous repousee roundels. Her both feet are resting on the earth. Her facial features are depicted with prominent broad face, quite open, globular eyes, heavy checks and thick lips (Faccenna & Anna 2007:130). Her fabulous breasts are prominent but partially damaged. To her right, a nude child is standing. On her right a bird is seated on the right edge of the back of throne. A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer edge (Faccenna & Anna 2007:115).

Soil incursion on outer edge and inside on deep curves of repoussé. Her elaborated headdress is badly damaged. Forehead, headdress, nose, mouth, and left breast are partially missing. Some of embossed beads of circle around the scene are badly corroded and missing. This repousee roundel is displayed under S.No 13 at Ashmolean museum and female figure is suggested as Aphrodite attended by an Eros.

S. No.	5
Object	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Gandhara most probably Taxila
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C 1 st Century C.E.
Material.	Silver with gold foil.
Dimensions.	8.9 cm (Dia)
Source.	Gift of Steven Kossak, The Kronos Collections, 1981. New York (until 1981; donated to MMA)
Accession No.	1981.460.2
Location	New York. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Met Fifth Avenue in Gallery 235, South Asian Hindu-Buddhist and Jain Sculpture. ^{xviii}

DESCRIPTION

Repousee roundel is embossed with the image of a female, facing to her right, seated on a throne. Her throne is flanked by auspicious goose (hamsa) on the corners of her throne. She is fully clad in tunic and mental. Grooves of her mental are thick layered.

She is wearing heavy ear pendants, necklaces, bangles, and anklets in both feet. Her elaborated headdress, studded ornaments are badly damaged. Her forehead is covered with straight fringe of hair. Her prominent facial features are broad face, quite open globular eyes, nose, high checks and thick lips (Faccenna & Anna 2007:130). Her fabulous breasts are fully exposed. She is holding an infant, in her lap. She is holding her right breast with her left hand to feed her infant. From head to chest and hair dress is golden foil. Front left leg of throne is visible.

In surrounding, two lotus with long and bent stalks are embossed. In her right, a bud of lotus flower is swinging while on her left a lotus on long stalk is fully blossomed. In far background, two goose are sitting on the corner of her throne, decocted with wavy lines and dots. A row of bead and reel is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer edge (Faccenna & Anna 2007:103:115). Forehead, headdress, eyes and right of head dress are perished due to soil corrosion. Extreme left edge of outer circle is also partially perished, damaged and missing.

S. No.	6
Object.	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Most probably Taxila
Reported find Spot.	Rawalpindi, Punjab Province in Pakistan
Period.	1 st Century B.C.-1 st Century C.E.
Dimensions.	7.46 cm (Dia.)
Material.	Silver
Acquisition date.	1937
Acquisition name.	Donated by: Mansel Longworth Dames. ^{xix}

Accession no. 1937,0319.4 (Additional IDs 123261,1922,1109.1) Location
British Museum London (© The Trustees of the British Museum)

(a) Bibliography. Dalton 1964a 198

Description. Repousee roundel is embossed with the image of a female, facing right, well dressed, fully bejeweled with variety of ornaments, is seated on a high throne. She is dressed in long tunic and mantle. Grooves of her drapery are solid and thick layered.^{xx} She is wearing heavy ear pendants and chain of necklaces of varying design, bangles, armllet in her left arm, and double anklets in both feet. Her prominent facial features are broad face, quite open globular eyes, heavy checks and thick lips in smiley pose (Faccenna & Anna 2007:130). Her bibulous breasts are prominent. Her elaborated headdress, studded ornament, badly spoiled due to soil corrosion and left ankle is also damaged and partially missing.^{xxi} Her head dress, on her back, is falling like a braid and its tips/knots are quite visible (Faccenna & Anna 2007: 178-179). She is presenting a

bunch of grapes with her right hand to a devotee, standing on her right. Devotee, fully clad in a mantel, is holding a bowl in his both hands. In central Asia dress are often depicted as devotees in Buddhist sculpture throughout the region (Rosenfield, 1967). She is seated bare feet. Left leg of throne is visible. In background two birds, parrot? are sitting on the rear corners of her throne. decocted with wavy lines and dots.^{xxii} A beaded circle is running around the main scene, but the state of preservation is very poor so outer circlet is missing (ibid:115).

S. No.	7
Object	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Most probably Taxila
Reported find Spot.	Rawalpindi, Punjab Province Pakistan
Period.	1 st Century B.C- 1 st Century C.E.
Dimensions	7.16 cm (Dia.)
Material	Silver
Acquisition date.	1937
Acquisition name.	Donated by: Mansel Longworth Dames
Accession no.	1937,0319.5 (Additional IDs 123260,1922,1109.2),
Location.	British Museum London (Exhibited in 1977 British Museum, Animals in Art, presently not Displayed)

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Bibliography Dalton 1964a 200

DESCRIPTION

Repousee roundel is embossed with the image of an elephant adorned with heavy drape and robes. Elephant is moving to right. The tusks are elongated incisor teeth, distinctive features of elephant include a long and heavy trunk decorated with two circles, large ear flaps, massive pillar like legs. Earth is depicted with wavy lines and dots pattern.

Three human figure are seated on the elephant. In front, an elephant wrangler, “mahout” is driving the elephant. Muscular *Mahout* is controlling the elephant with the help of an elephant goad, ankus (from Sanskrit añkuśa or ankusha). Central seated figure is fully clad in heavy cloths and holding a large umbrella. In rear, third man is seated with bent legs and holding something like a portable fire stand? with round shaft or something kept on a shaft under a drape.

A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer edge (Faccenna & Anna 2007:115). Repousee roundel is in good state of preservation, but the details of the facial features are ambiguous. From left, outer circlet of repousee roundel is partially damaged and missing.

S. No.	8
Object	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Taxila
Reported find Spot.	Rawalpindi, Punjab Province Pakistan
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C -1 st Century C.E
Dimensions	7.16 cm (Diameter)
Material.	Silver
Acquisition date.	1937
Acquisition.	Donated by: Mansel Longworth Dames
Accession No.	1937,0319.6 (Additional IDs 123262,1922,1109.3),
Location	British Museum London (Exhibited in 1977 British Museum, Animals in Art, presently not Displayed)

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Description. Repousee roundel is embossed with the image of an elephant, lavishly adorned with decorated robes and drape. Drape is decorated with wavy pattern and a large rosette of six petals. Elephant is moving to left. The tusks are missing, distinctive features of elephant include a long trunk, large ear flaps, floral tuft and massive pillar like legs. Two heavy necklaces are adorned around the neck of elephant. Earth is distinctive with dots pattern depicted with wavy line. It is probably a procession scene.

Three human figure are seated on the elephant. In front, an elephant wrangler, “mahout” is driving the elephant. *Mahout* is clad in *uttariya* on left shoulder and *paridhana*. He is holding his *uttariya* with his left hand. His facial features are protuberant, high cheeks, wide lips, nose, open eyes and long ears. Probably have an *ankus* in his right hand, missing here. Bracelets in both arm are visible. Second figure, a turbaned man, seated in center, is fully clad in *uttariya* and *paridhana*. His facial details are quite prominent, high cheeks, wide lips, nose, open eyes and long ears. He is holding a flywhisk in his left hand and a long shaft umbrella in his right hand, Upper part of

umbrella is missing here. Crenellated hems of his drapery are bellowing downward. Last in row, the third man is also turbaned, fully clad and seated with bent legs and holding a portable fire stand? with a long round shaft.

A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer circlet (Faccenna & Anna 2007:115). Repousee roundel is in good state of preservation but from left, outer edge of repousee roundel is partially damaged and missing.

S.No.	9
Object.	Repoussé decoration
Provenance.	Most probably from Taxila
Period ca.	1 st Century B.C.–1 st Century C.E.
Dimensions.	8.6 cm (Diameter)
Material.	Silver
Acquisition date.	1990
Acquisition. ^{xxiii}	Private Collection in U.S, sold for 22500 USS inc. premium Acquired in London

DESCRIPTION

Repousee roundel is embossed with the image of an elephant, extravagantly adorned with decorated robes, riddles and drape. Drape is decorated with wavy pattern and lotus leaves. Elephant is moving to right. The tusks are distinctive features of elephant include a long trunk decorated with three wide rings and bead, large ear flaps, decorated with heavy tuft, massive pillar like legs. A twin robe is connected from ear, neck to rear back of elephant. Body of elephant is decorated with small cluster of three to four dots at some distance. Elephant's paws are obvious and sharp. Earth is distinctive with dots pattern depicted with wavy line and depression of earth with the load of elephant. It is probably a procession scene.

Three human figure are seated on the elephant. In front, an elephant wrangler, "*mahout*" is driving the elephant. *Mahout* is clad in *uttariya* and *paridhana*. His chest is exposed. His facial features are prominent, high cheeks, wide lips, nose, half closed eyes and long ears. Bracelet in his hand is visible. He is holding an *ankus* in his right hand. Second figure, a turbaned man, seated in center, is fully clad in *uttariya* and *paridhana*. His facial details are quite projecting, with old look, high cheeks, wide lips, nose, open eyes and long ears. He is holding a flywhisk in his right hand and a round umbrella on long shaft, in his left hand. Hems of his drapery are thick and wrapped around his body. Third man is also turbaned, fully clade and seated with bent legs and holding a long

round shaft emblem with bellowing flag. A beaded circle is running around the main scene and adorned with a row of bordered ogival (up right) leaf and dart design on outer circlet (Faccenna & Anna 2007:115). Repousee roundel is in good state of preservation but from right, outer circlet of repousee roundel, and inside features are partially damaged and missing.

CONCLUSION

Claringbull suggests that these would have ornamented the cockade of a turban, harness or belt. Behrendt also suggests a box or piece of furniture (Behrendt 2007, p.13). Depiction of female figure in repousee roundels (S.No.1-6) is probably the earliest representation of Hariti. Hariti, the ancient smallpox goddess(yaksi) who, in Buddhist legend, was converted by Sakyamuni into a giver and protector of children. (Rosenfield 2006:17). Buddhist texts tell us that Hariti originally stole and devoured children, but with the Buddha's intervention she became their protector.

The goddess Hariti is shown nursing a child and sitting on a throne flanked by lotuses and surmounted by auspicious geese (hamsa), the Buddha's messengers. Virtually all these repousee roundels (S.No.1-6) are continuation of different poses of Hariti, i.e. preparation and dressing (S.No.4), offering of bunch of grapes to a devotee (S.No.6), nursing of an infant (S.No.1-3) and feeding of her infant (S.No.5). Most probably stylistically these repousee roundels (S.No.1-6) can be related to first century B.C/CE finds from the Taxila, a dating that would make it one of the earliest known representations of Hariti. In the first century CE, workshops in Mathura and Gandhara began producing the first anthropomorphic images of high deities (Rosenfield, 2006:23). Chronological frame of Gandhara chiefly relayed on the interpretation of inscription, coins and stylistic analysis (Taddei 2006:41)


Elephants have been the subject of religious beliefs. In Asia, the animals are depicted as motifs in Jain, Hindu and Buddhist shrines and temples. Three repousee roundels S.No (7-9) each one embossed with the image of a giant elephant rode by three figures. Such depiction may be closer to the mention of the Philostratus. The temple of Jandial in the north of Sirkap site is described by Philostratus in his "Life of Apollonius" and according to his narration; *"Its walls were bronze panels on which were portrayed the deeds of Porus and Alexander; the elephants, horses, soldiers, helmets and shields are depicted in brass, silver, gold and copper, the lances, javelins and swords all in iron.* (Marshall 1951 Vol.I:227)




Porus or Poros (from Ancient Greek: Πῶρος, *Pôros*), was an ancient Indian king whose territory spanned the region between the Hydaspes (River of Jhelum) and Acesines (Chenab River), in the Punjab. He is credited to have been a legendary warrior with exceptional skills. Porus fought against Alexander the Great in the Battle of the Hydaspes (326 BC). Though the event is not recorded in any available ancient Indian



source, Ancient Greek historians describe the battle and the aftermath of Alexander's victory.^{xxiv} Elephant was back bone for Indian warriors, and it was symbol of royal dignity and power. Such procession scenes embossed in repousee roundels (S.No.7-9) are more reflective of the occasion and period of those events in the history.

It is difficult to determine the precise location of discovery of repousee roundels. None of these repousee roundels is result of any regular excavation or documentation. All these nine repousee roundels are result of accidental, chance discovery or illegal excavations in Taxila Valley. In 1937, reported location of acquisition of one of the repousee roundel (S.No.6) is, Rawalpindi which confirms the origin i.e. Taxila. Philostratus statement may links repousee roundels (S.No.7-9) to the site of Jandial temple though during regular excavations under the lordship of John Marshall during 1902-13, such kind of cultural material has not been reported.^{xxv} Archaeological sites of Bhir Mound (600-200 BC) and Sirkap (200 BC-200 CE) have been excavated by Archaeological Survey of India and then deptt. Pakistan Archaeology but buffer zone between these two earliest historic cities of Taxila valley, is under the serious threat of development and modern construction.

Broadly speaking, these repoussé belongs to 1st century BC 1st Century CE. Craftsmanship of the metal work is highly remarkable and probably done by same skillful person or workshop. Comparison of the details of the repousee roundels is enough evidence that all these repoussé belong to Taxila, most probably in or around the Sirkap city.

S.No	Location/Accession No.	Figure
1	Taxila Museum Pakistan Provenance: Taxila	

2	Taxila Museum Pakistan Provenance: Taxila	
3	Accession no. EA1997.202 Ashmolean Museum (Oxford) United Kingdom Provenance: Taxila	
4	Accession no. EA1997.24 Ashmolean Museum (Oxford) United Kingdom Provenance: Taxila	

<p>5</p>	<p>Accession Number: 1981.460.2 New York Museum USA Provenance: Taxila</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Museum number: 1937,0319.4 British Museum London Provenance: Taxila</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Private U.S. Collection Acquired in London, 1990s Provenance: Taxila</p>	

8	<p>Museum number 1937,0319.6 British Museum London Provenance: Taxila</p>	
9	<p>Museum number 1937,0319.5 British Museum London Provenance: Taxila</p>	

NOTES

1. Mohallah Mohra Shah Wai Shah is located across the Railway Berar in the NorthWest of Bhir Mound (600-200 BCE) and North east of Sirkap (200 BCE-200 CE).

2. Detail of antiquities received by Curator Taxila Museum vide letter No.40/96-189 dated 12 April 1996
Sub Regional Office Taxila: Drum shaped flat beads (192 nos), Bell shaped necklace pieces (9 nos), Conical shaped necklace pieces (14 nos), Bell shaped pendants pieces (71 Nos), Pyramid shaped beads (12 nos), Circular disc of different dia. (15 nos), Circular plate depicting a female deity (2 nos), Barrel shaped beads (20 nos), Cylindrical beads (62 nos), Round shape beads (150 nos), pieces of pendants (11 nos), pieces of pendants and amulets etc (23 nos), silver bangles D- shaped (4 nos), miniature sword shaped pendants pieces (6 nos), perfume containers (3nos), Circular beads (5 nos), Silver Necklace pieces (Two depicted human heads and an elephant) (3 nos), Finger rings (13 nos), miscellaneous pieces in different material. Total weight 1.5 kg.

3. Repousse, method of decorating metals in which parts of design are raised in relief from the back or the inside of article by means of hammers and punches; definition and detail can then be added from the front by chasing or engraving. Name Repousse is derived from the French pousser, “to push forward”.

4. On the recommendation of Dr.A.H Dani, member Advisor committee, Advisory Committee allowed the compensation to Mr. Asif Hussain Shah for the repatriation silver jewelry. Compensation made, in term of sub Section 3 of Section 5A, Antiquity Act 1975 and a cash award of Rs.50,000 (Fifty thousand rupees) paid vide Cheque No. 941356 dated 16-01-1998. (Fig.A)

5. Author presented a paper titled: The Scope of the Buddhist workshops and artistic centers in the Swat Valley, Ancient Uddiyana in Pakistan.

6. During my stay at Oxford, I paid a visit to Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology University of Oxford. I was astonished to see two repousse displayed in Gandhara gallery under the caption of similar dates i.e. 1996//97. I concluded that the reported hoard to Taxila Museum was not completely handed over or sold to the Taxila Museum and few objects were sold to the other museums and private antique dealers. However later on some similar silver repoussé also traced in MET USA, British museum and in private collection. (Figs.B &C)

7. On November 12, 2017, during conservation/preservation work, some labourers had accidentally unearthed a wall while removing wild growth from the in the Apsidal temple, area 2D located at the eastern side and found gold ornaments, including earrings, bangles, necklaces and other small pieces. Deputy Director of the department of archaeology Taxila Mr. Mohammad Irshad Khan had said that they had tracked down a few labourers—who belonged to nearby villages—and recovered some of the ornaments including two earrings, a bangle and a few pieces of gold. Interestingly it is same location from where John Marshall discovered a gold and silver hoard. Report published Daily DAWN, 17th November 2017

8. Despite of my efforts and contact via email, to the concern official of Bonhams, no information shared which could enable me to link sources of acquisition of the roundel sold by Bonhams.

9. Compare: Legs of throne in fifth stratum Greek era) C' (West of Main Street) The throne was of wood with copper sheeting Cf. Pl.210, h for detail of its acanthus decoration. Plate 20. Copper inkpot, ladles and other objects in a broken earthenware vessel in Block E' M-III plate 35 (a). Plate 41. (b), copper /bronze objects, Plate 178 (a.400, j.408, Silverware Pl.187(14) 188-189, Pl. 179-181,185,186 (a.397, b.418, c.419) Pl.191-197. (Marshall 1951, Taxila Vol. III). Group of copper vessels hidden in the heart of a thick wall at Mahal, (Sirkap) (Marshall 1951, Taxila Vol. I (110-111). Plate. 172 (98,109,114,420) (Marshall 1951, Taxila Vol. III)

10. Marshall John 1951, Taxila Vol.I:128

11. Marshall John 1951, Taxila Vol.I:133

12. One of the Causes of disturbance in the stratification of lower levels in Sirkap, was the practice of burying valuables deep beneath the ground floor or basement rooms, with the result that such valuables are sometimes found in the stratum next but one below that to which they properly belong. Recent event in 2017 confirms the issue.

13. Compare decoration, Pl.217 No.89. Taxila Vol.III

14. Compare decoration, Pl.213 No.10. Taxila-Vol.III

15. Compare decoration, Pl.221 No.121 Marshall 1951 Taxila Vol. III
- 16.. Era assigned by the Ashmolean museum is, 2nd century CE (C.E 101 - 200) Kushan Period (CE 50- 600).
17. Ashmolean Museum referred its era 1st century BC (100 - 1 BC) Kushan Period (AD 50 - 600).
18. The Met Collection, The Met was founded in 1870. Collection has grown to represent more than 5,000 years of art from across the globe—from the first cities of the ancient world to the works of our time. The Metropolitan Museum of Art's *Heilbrunn*. The *Timeline* currently comprises more than 1,000 essays, 8,000 works of art, 300 chronologies, and 3,700 keywords. The Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History is funded by the Heilbrunn Foundation, New Tamarind Foundation, and Zodiac Fund. Additional support is provided by Cynthia and John S. Reed.
19. Mansel Longworth Dames (1850–1922) was a scholar of oriental and Portuguese languages. Longworth Dames was born in Bath in 1850, the eldest son of George Longworth Dames and Caroline Amelia Brunswick. Longworth Dames passed the Indian Civil Service examination in 1868, and on his arrival in India in 1870 was posted to the Punjab of Oriental coins. where he served continuously till his retirement in 1897, with an interlude in 1870, when he was on special duty with the troops during the second Afghan war. Much of his service was passed in the trans-Indus districts, where he had opportunities for studying the Baluch race and became an authority on the various dialects of the Baluchi and Pushtu languages. He was also a member of the Numismatic Society and possessed a fine collection.
20. Marshall 1951 Taxila Vol.III Pl.217 No.89.
21. Marshall 1951 Taxila Vol.III, Pl.221 No.121
22. Marshall 1951 Taxila Vol.III, Plate 213 No.10
23. Despite the emails to the concern official ie. Mark Rasmussen Specialist Indian, Himalayan & South Asian Art, New York, USA Mark, Bonhams (lot 70) Rasmussen@bonhams.com. Regrettably no response made.
24. Porus, although defeated, being a valiant, proud king, stated that he be treated like how Alexander himself would expect to be treated. Alexander was reportedly so impressed by his adversary that he not only reinstated him as a satrap of his own kingdom but also granted him dominion over lands to the south-east extending until the Hyphasis (Beas). Porus reportedly died sometime between 321 and 315 BC.
25. In 1862-4 Alexander Cunningham superficially examined the Jandial temple and brought to light some walls at a depth of 7 to 8 feet from top.

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