

CHAPTER III

EXCAVATIONS AND SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This chapter is divided into three parts. Part one deals with the detailed account of the excavations of four seasons. The second part is confined to general interpretation of stratigraphy. The third - i.e. the final - part is devoted to a short summary of results.

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EXCAVATIONS

The excavations at Devanimori were undertaken with the following objectives :

1) To decide whether both rectangular mound and the conical mound were formed on structures. And if they were formed that way, then find out the characteristic features of these structures.

2) To get stratigraphic evidence to put the monuments as well as other antiquities in a chronological sequence.

3) To study in full details various aspects of architectural as well as decorative features of these structures.

4) To find out the reliquary casket from the Stupa, if it was deposited there.

The excavations at Devanimori were undertaken for four

consecutive seasons:

- 1959-60 : February to April
- 1960-61 : February to April
- 1961-62 : November 1961 to April 1962
- 1962-63 : December 1962 to March 1963

During the first two seasons, excavations were conducted with a view to expose the plan and elevation of the monuments and establish their chronology with the help of stratigraphic as well as other archaeological evidences. Last two seasons' excavations were planned mainly to discover the relic casket and to study the technical aspects of the masonry of the Stupa.

Considering the extensive area of the site, contrasting topographies of the mounds and the nature of the problem, it was decided that these excavations should be planned in such a way that they can serve the purposes of horizontal as well as vertical excavations. For covering the whole area, it was necessary to plan the trenches in such a way that their correlation and identification of locus would be easy. Moreover, local stratigraphy at various spots was also to be studied.

Due to such a nature of work, the excavations were planned both to trace the structures and to study their stratigraphy at various crucial points. Moreover, the thickness of layers was not uniform throughout the site

due to the irregular elevations of the ruined structures. Therefore, some layers terminated at various places owing to walls etc. In such circumstances, stratigraphy can be studied only at such places where complete sequence of layers was preserved. Due to such nature of the problem, coherence of plan was an inevitable factor of the whole planning for the first two seasons. But the last two seasons' work was a concentrated effort centered mainly on the Stupa, to get the reliquary casket and to study the technical aspects of the structure.

Season I (1959-60 : February 1960 to April 1960)

The main objective of this season's excavations was to study the nature of the site and to fix a tentative chronology. To pursue this aim, it was necessary to expose the structures hidden in the mounds. For this purpose, the site was divided into two areas:

- (a) The rectangular mound
- (b) Conical mound.

The rectangular mound was named as the Vihara mound after its nature was known and the conical mound was named as the Stupa mound.

The Vihara mound was a low mound having about eight feet of archaeological deposit and covering an area of about 180' x 170'. As its central part was having a broad depression, the surface of this mound resembled the shape of a

saucer. The conical mound was about 40' high. It had a base of about 120' diameter. It was a tapering mound having a blunt but slightly convex top measuring about 20' diameter.

Due to such totally different topographies and shapes, both mounds had an uneven deposits of debris - overlying the remains proper. Therefore, it was decided to tackle one mound first and then link - if possible - both the mounds gradually when the basic problem of one mound was solved.

In the first instance, it was planned to lay the trenches in such a way that both mounds can be encompassed with least labour and their relative stratigraphy can be linked, checked and cross-examined.

For such a purpose, a diagonal trench was laid south-west to north-east right across the Vihara mound. The southern end of the trench was covering the south-western corner of the mound in such a way that it extended upto the ground level of the adjoining field. By this method, it was hoped that the south-western corner of the concealed structure could be exposed first without damage. The further north-eastern extension of this trench would expose the further details of the central part of the structure. Finally, the north-eastern end may expose the north-eastern corner of structure. If needed, this trench can be extended further and can be linked with the Stupa mound. By this plan, the

natural soil can be exposed at the south-western end of trench which was outside the mound area, and it can help to study the natural elevation of the soil.

To serve all these purposes, a trench measuring 100' x 12' was laid. It was divided into equal sub-squares measuring 12' x 10'. The sub-squares were named alphabetically beginning from south-western end.

To begin with, digging was undertaken from the south-western end where the natural soil was supposed to be underlying within a few feet (as this end was near the adjoining field). Natural soil was exposed at a depth of 1'-6". After studying this, the higher part of the mound was opened, where it was covered by sub-squares D, E and F. This digging revealed the existence of a part of a structure. Further cleaning of debris indicated that this was probably a part of the plinth of some structure. For getting further details of this structure, sub-squares B and C were also opened which were to the north-east of A.

Leaving the adjoining sub-squares F and G, sub-square H was opened which revealed the outer wall of the south-western corner-room of Vihara.

Thus, after revealing some important features of the building, it was felt that it might be a large rectangular structure - a monastery. Trench I was extended 20' towards north-east, to study the central part of the mound. Here, a

pavement of burnt-bricks and mud-mortar was exposed at a depth of 6'-3". It looked like the central courtyard. It came to view after removing the sticky blackish earth which seemed to have been formed due to vegetation after water-logging.

On the sixth day of excavation (17th February), nine silver coins were found which on further cleaning and examination were found to be belonging to Western Kshatrapas. They were found in a lump on the floor of a room in sub-square E (S.W. corner of Vihara). Later on, this room was named as room No.18. They were found just by the side of the entrance. Four of these coins were deciphered, the latest belonging to Kshatrapa Visvasena (A.D.295-304). This evidence clearly indicated that this site belonged to early centuries of Christian Era. Therefore, to study more architectural details of the rooms and its other features, sub-squares D and E were extended respectively 10' to west and 12' to east, leaving a baulk of 2' between the original trench and this extension. These new sub-squares were named as D2 and E2. The digging of these sub-squares exposed the south-western corner of the structure as well as its outer face. The angle of this corner was a right-angle. The rectangular shape of the mound suggested that the other three corners of this mound may also reveal such corners of this structure.

Thus, this evidence provided a clue that this monastery was an angular structure - i.e. probably a rectangular structure. The details of the rooms (No.18 and 19) near this corner clearly indicated that this structure must have been a four-sided structure with rooms on all sides which opened towards the central court-yard. A part of a thick wall-like structure which, on later investigation, turned out to be the outer plinth of the structure was also exposed to the south of the structure. This construction seems to be extending towards east as well as north - thus indicating that this may be a uniform feature all around the structure.

Deeper digging in D and E on the Vihara mound revealed a covered drain (damaged) in the south-western corner of court-yard. This drain seems to end on the outer face of Vihara.

The digging on the Vihara mound upto this stage had revealed the following features :

- 1) The south-western corner of the structure
- 2) Rooms of this corner opening towards central court-yard
- 3) Part of open court-yard
- 4) The inner verandahs bordering the central paved court-yard.

These features of south-western portion of the structure suggested that the remaining three corners of the structure also might be on the same plan. Hence, to expose the rows of rooms of southern and western wings, field of excavation

was extended towards east to expose the southern row, and towards north to expose the western row.

To correlate the Vihara trench with the conical mound, the Vihara trench was extended to 100' towards north-east in such a way that it can cover the south-western portion of the Stupa mound. This extension was also divided into sub-squares measuring 10' x 12'. Sub-squares T and U in this extension cover the south-western corner of the conical mound. To cover more area of the conical mound, sub-squares T and U were extended towards east.

Cleaning of conical mound was simultaneously undertaken. This primary cleaning revealed a torso and legs of a terracotta Buddha image found from the southern slope of the mound at a height of 14' from ground level. This discovery proved that the conical mound was formed as a result of the destruction of the Stupa adorned with terracotta Buddha images. This discovery gave a great impetus to excavations, and in a due course gave a new turn to the whole excavation.

To study the architectural features of the Stupa, a new trench - Trench III - was laid on the Stupa mound. It was also laid diagonally at 315° north covering the south-western corner of the mound. This trench measured 90' x 15' and was divided into sub-squares measuring 10' x 15'. Digging or rather cleaning of the structure was started from the top of the mound. But this portion of the structure appeared to

be highly damaged, hence for about 2', no more structural details could be traced there.

The cleaning along the slope was also undertaken with a view to study details of side elevation. To study the details of base and corner, cleaning of debris was resumed at the south-western end of the trench. After about 4' digging the damaged corner was exposed. It was found to be in a right-angle. It was, therefore, evident that the base of this structure was angular on plan. The angle further suggested that this structure had probably four sides. While removing the debris a number of decorative terracotta pieces of arches, bricks etc., were found, which indicated that this monument must have been decorated with these pieces.

While cleaning the area near south-western corner of Stupa, segment of a circular structure was exposed which after further excavations during next season turned out to be an apsidal-ended structure facing west.

Further, clearance of the area around the image and the apsidal-ended structure exposed the details of the base platform of Stupa. This platform was found to be about 8' high. It had a plain base with only one roll-moulding at this place. Above this moulding remains of three pilasters were exposed, at intervals of 6'-9". The top roll-moulding of cornice and its decorative frieze of bands were found to be completely missing at this part of the structure.

Thus, when various digs at several spots on both mounds revealed the probable plans and elevations of these structures, the Stupa and the Vihara were clearly identified. After this identification, it was decided to cover the whole site with a new plan of trenches. This was necessary because the excavation was spreading in a wide area where a uniform numbering of sub-squares and trenches was necessary. For this purpose, it was decided to plan new trenches in a grid system. The Stupa and the Vihara mounds were now covered with two separate grids. These grids were laid in such a way that the unexposed structures along with the adjoining area could be investigated completely. The Stupa area was divided into 49 sub-squares and the Vihara area was divided into 81 sub-squares. Each sub-square measured 20' x 20' and was separated from the adjoining sub-squares by a baulk of 3' on all four sides. The sub-squares were named alphabetically as well as numerically. The extensions of Trench I and Trench III had exposed the south-western corner of the Stupa as well as part of the southern face of platform I of the Stupa. Hence, now it was decided to find out the dimensions of the base as well as other features of Platform I. Therefore, sub-square A7 which covered the south-eastern corner of the mound was opened. After this, sub-squares A3, A4 and A5 which were covering the southern side of the Stupa, were also opened one by one to expose the whole southern side of Platform I. While removing the debris accumulated on Platform I, a number

of decorative terracotta pieces such as arches, pilasters, decorative bricks and fragments of three Buddha images were discovered lying loose in disorder.

Sub-square A2 which covered the old Trench III on the southern slope of mound was opened to trace the plan and architectural details of the platform and the surmounting drum. But, this facet of the Stupa was found to be highly damaged.

In spite of this damage, the base portion of Platform II was found to be still in tact. About 4' of the base was plain. It terminated in a roll-moulding (1'-6"). The cleaning of western side of the Stupa was also undertaken by opening B3 which covered the southern end of this side. Gradually, B4, B5 and B6 were taken up to study the western elevation of the structure, and to find out the base of the surmounting drum.

After getting this much information about the southern and western side of the Stupa, it was decided to expose the eastern side as well. So, sub-squares B6 and C6 were opened. This side of Platform I was found to be damaged. Sub-squares B7 and C7 were also opened to expose further details of layers to the east of the Stupa. Simultaneously, C3 and D3 were also opened to expose the north-eastern side of the Stupa.

These excavations revealed some parts of Platform I which were highly damaged in B7. About 7' of the decorative

cornice was found to be in tact. The details of roll mouldings, pilasters and other decorative features of this side are much damaged. Top of a plinth like structure was exposed in B7 and C7 to the east of Stupa. The top of this structure was in an even level of base of the Stupa. Its alignment seemed to be oblique to the Stupa.

E3 was opened to study the north-eastern side of the Stupa along with its stratigraphy.

The north-western corner of the Stupa was also exposed which turned out to be highly damaged. A small wall-like structure running north-south was exposed touching the north-western corner of the Stupa.

In short, during this season, first diagonal trenches were laid on both the mounds. But after the discovery of Kshatrapa coins and the Buddha images the field of excavations was enlarged and the plans changed to suit the nature of problem. For convenience, the site was divided in trenches laid in a grid system.

At Vihara, following features were exposed:

- (1) Southern row of rooms
- (2) Western row of rooms
- (3) Verandah along these rooms
- (4) The south-western part of central court-yard
- (5) Parts of southern and western outer plinths.

The following features of Stupa were exposed :

- (1) The top of Stupa
- (2) The southern side of Stupa, particularly Platform I and damaged parts of Platform II. The details of cornice and pilasters of Platform I.
- (3) Western side of Stupa - part of Platform I.
- (4) Some portion of north-eastern side.

Thus, this season's excavations provided ample evidence about the nature of the site, its chronology and plans and elevations of the Stupa as well as the Vihara.

Season II (1960-61)

This season's excavations were resumed for achieving following objectives:

- (1) To get further details of the architecture of the Stupa and the Vihara.
- (2) To correlate the phases of building activities on the Stupa and the Vihara.
- (3) To expose and study other structures exposed around the Stupa.
- (4) To find out further details of Phase I of the Vihara.

STUPA :

During previous season's excavation, top of some part of a platform or plinth-like structure which was aligned

obliquely to the Stupa was exposed. During this season, it was taken up for further investigations. This structure was to the east of the Stupa. Its top level corresponded with the ground-level of the Stupa.

For further investigation of this oblique structure, digging in A7, B7, C7 and D7 was resumed. After cleaning the top of this structure, its eastern edge and flank was also exposed by digging deeper just by the side of this structure. This section clearly indicated that this structure was built on the natural soil which was sloping towards north i.e. towards the river. The foundation of this structure was rammed with small pebbles, sand and brick powder. In all eighteen courses of this structure were exposed. The ground level sloping towards the river, the existence of sand and small pebbles just by the side of the base of the structure, and its oblique alignment suggest that this structure was most probably built for protecting the Stupa against the erosion under the base.

The cleaning of its top revealed some holes which seemed to have been made haphazardly. From this, it was clearly evident that they were not made for any structural purposes but were probably meant as flag-posts. To study the extension of oblique platform towards north, digging was resumed in D4 and E4 where it was clearly proved that this structure ended near north-eastern corner of the Stupa. But where this

structure ended, another structure (this was also proved at a later stage to be a protection wall) was exposed. This protection wall was running towards west. It was pursued at the later stage of excavations, when it turned out to be a compound wall or a protection wall, buttressing against the river, which coming from north almost at right angle to the Stupa, may damage it.

To expose the above mentioned compound wall, sub-squares D2, D3 and D4 were opened. Here in D2 and D3, the collapse of the upper part of the Stupa was exposed in the section of the baulk between D2 and D3. This collapse was composed of an in tact toppled portion of either Platform II or some surmounting part. This big lump of the collapsed portion was resting at an angle of about 100° to Platform I. This fall was about 10' high. Keeping some part of this collapse in tact (for study), other debris was removed from D2 and D3 to expose the further details of the compound wall. The base of the wall was exposed at a depth of 7'-2" from its top. To expose the further western extension of this structure, D2 and part of D1 were also brought to the level of this wall. From this cleaning, it was testified that this wall was still running towards west where at some places its core, formed of rubbles was already exposed. Deeper digging in D3 brought to light all the architectural features of this wall. They clearly indicated that the core of this structure was built of big rubbles and was covered within a casing of brick work.

The outer face (northern face) of this wall was found to be buttressed, hence in section, its northern side was sloping. The top of this wall which was on the ground level has horizontal recesses and roll-mouldings which suggest that this wall was probably having some decorative features like votive stupas on it. But these decorations are completely missing.

Apsidal-ended Structure

Excavations were resumed in A2 on the Stupa mound to expose the details of the segment of the structure traced near south-western corner of the Stupa. This sub-square was further extended 10' towards south. Eastern portion of A1 was also opened to study the entrance end of this structure. These digs revealed the plan of an apsidal-ended structure of burnt bricks and mid-masonry. Only some segmental part (about 15') of the apsidal end was found to be in tact while the remaining features of the plan of this structure were traced by the study of ghost-walls, foundation trenches and flooring patches (Fig.5). From these details, it was concluded that this structure was having two parallel walls, with eastern end apsidal and western one angular. The entrance of the structure was in the western side. The flooring was found to be prepared by ramming small pebbles, brick-powder and earth.

Votive Stupas to the west of the main Stupa

The cleaning of debris to the west of the Stupas/ revealed two more votive Stupas near the north-western corner of the main Stupa. A square structure was also exposed to their south. Thus, in all, four votive stupas are exposed. The square structure is situated mid-between these small structures.

Vihara

At the Vihara mound, following problems were taken up:

1. East-west cross-section of the whole structure.
2. Shrine room.
3. Details of main entrances and their approach.
4. Unexposed rooms

To expose the east-west cross-section of Vihara in relation to its adjoining area, the whole row of sub-squares B, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7 and B8 running east-west was taken up for excavation. B and B1 covered a part of western row of rooms and its adjoining outer field, and B6 and B7 covered the part of eastern row of rooms with its adjoining fields. The remaining sub-squares covered the central court-yard and the side verandahs. By maintaining a section thus covering the central court-yard, the verandah and the rooms, it was possible to study the stratigraphy which may shed light on the building activity of the site. The debris over-

lying phase II monastery did not reveal any layer like formations except ~~the surface debris~~, the silting caused by water logging and the debris on the surface of the pavement of Phase II. The yellow silt-filling between the pavements of Phase I and Phase II was uniform throughout the section. The yellow silt filling between verandah and the outer wall of rooms was also uniform. This filling did not reveal any antiquity and hence it suggested that the yellow silt filling was intentional. It seems that the silt was brought from some natural deposit nearby. The south-eastern corner of the court-yard was damaged and was found to be missing. But a local section in B4 and B5 was interesting. This section clearly revealed two separate constructions of Verandahs of both the phases. The addition of Phase II was clearly marked. From the details of alignment, bonding, and plan, it was clearly evident that the monastery of Phase II is built almost on the same plan as Phase I. Only the verandah of Phase II is slightly enlarged.

Digging on the eastern side of Vihara was resumed. Here some portion of an independent structure (like a wall) was exposed which rested on the virgin soil. This structure suggested that the area to the east of the Vihara was also inhabited. From local inquiry, it was gathered that this area was levelled up by digging off foundations of structures and turning it into a field.

Shrine Room

Further cleaning in A2 which covered the central part of the southern row of rooms exposed the central room which was used as shrine-room. It had a low platform with projections and recesses on plan. This plinth is attached to the side walls of the room. The southern part of this plinth which might have a pedestal for an image is destroyed by brick-robbers. But, part of its floor of green-schist slabs is still preserved. After studying the details of this shrine-room, it was decided to expose the shrine room of Phase I, which was supposed to be underlying the present shrine room. For this purpose, a small pit was sunk right through the flooring. Even after removing fifteen courses of bricks, no traces of the earlier shrine room could be exposed.

E3 and E4 which covered the entrance of the Vihara and the adjoining area to its south, were opened to study the details of section on the outer side of the entrance, as well as other architectural remains near it. This dig revealed a plinth-like structure at about 10' to the south of the entrance. Its bonding and elevation clearly suggested that the plinth was the foundation for flight of steps which led to the outer plinth of Vihara and then to the main entrance of Vihara.

A small hoard of thirty-seven silver and lead coins was

found from E5. These coins were put in a tiny red pot which was buried in the yellow silt-filling (depth 5'-4" from the present ground level, and about 9" from the floor level) near the entrance of the room (Room No.2) adjoining the main entrance of Vihara. This yellow silt filling belonged to Phase II, because it seems that the layer of this filling was laid to raise the level for Phase II construction.

Exposing the remaining portions of eastern and western rows of rooms

The remaining unexposed portions of the eastern and western rows of rooms was also taken up by resuming work in B7, C7 and D7 in eastern side and B1, C1, D1 and D1 in western side.

Thus, during this season, all the four sides of the Vihara were completely exposed. An extra room was exposed attached to the outer side of the south-eastern corner of the Vihara.

Season III (1961-62)

The main objectives of 1961-62 excavations were as follows:-

1. To discover the relic casket from the Stupa.
2. To study further details of following structures :
 - A. Protection wall to the north of the Stupa.
 - B. Apical-ended structure.

C. Votive Stupas.

D. Rectangular structure to the west of ^{the} Stupa.

E. Complex of structures to the north of ^{the} Vihara.

F. Pavement between ^{the} Stupa and ^{the} Vihara.

Stupa:

The tentative date of the site was already fixed on the basis of numismatic and other archaeological evidences. So, to support them, it was decided to get some direct concrete evidence from the Stupa itself. It is a well-known fact that Stupas are generally built to commemorate something - either the place itself where they are built or to enshrine the relics of some prominent personality¹. Therefore, some Stupas contain relic caskets, occasionally with inscriptions on them, which may provide a good evidence of date. Hence, during this season, it was planned to discover the casket from the Stupa - if there was any. To pursue this objective, it was necessary to open the Stupa itself. By the way, it was planned to study its constructional details also. Its relation with the protection wall to the north, and the oblique platform to the west, was also to be studied. For this purpose, it was planned to open the north-eastern quarter of the structure.

The top courses of the structure were highly dilapidated. From this debris, a number of decorative bricks and a fragment of a Chaitya arch was discovered. All these pieces were found to be dumped in disorder. After removing about ten courses,

1. Fergusson, History of Indian and Eastern Architecture, p.50, note 2.

the circular alignment of courses was clearly exposed. These circular courses ceased at the 49th course, i.e. at a depth of 13'-9" (23'-6" high from the base of the Stupa), indicating that this level must be the base of the circular drum. Under this, the courses were laid in headers and stretchers bonding, suggesting an angular construction. A decorative arch fragment was discovered at a depth of 16'-3". After this, no other decorative fragments were found from the core. The base of the structure was exposed after removing 141st course (From top 1st course from base). The foundation of the structure was found to be composed of yellow silt-filling.

To study the further details of the outer architectural features of the Stupa, cleaning of all sides of the Stupa was resumed. It was also planned to find out some positive clue to reconstruct the platform or platforms between Platform I and the base of the circular drum. But, no evidence of other platforms could be detected. The other interesting feature of platform II which was exposed by this year's cleaning were four built-in niches at cardinal points on all the four sides. These niches were found to be plain and were devoid of any other architectural features. The niche in the northern face contained some lime lumps and a number of flat-based bowls usually assigned to Kshatrapa period. In the southern side, niche were placed two moulded bases of pilaster, probably to prepare something like a pedestal.

But from their irregular arrangement, it was clearly evident that they had been placed there at a later stage, i.e. during Phase III, when the Stupa was repaired. The niches in the eastern and western sides did not reveal any special feature.

Protection Wall:

Further tracing of the extension of protection wall to the north-west of the Stupa was also undertaken by opening part of D1 on the Stupa mound. Here, only its rubble part was exposed. Its covering brick work is completely destroyed. It was pursued upto about 10'. It was found to be extending towards the west upto about 380 feet and then taking a turn towards south. Some rubble construction of its western side is already exposed by natural erosion.

Rectangular Structure:

Further cleaning of the rectangular structure between the votive stupas was also undertaken. This cleaning exposed some remains of a big storage-jar having gritty core. It was placed on the outer pavement of the structure. The inner details of this structure are completely destroyed due to brick-robbing.

Section between the Stupa and the Vihara:

Sub-square A1 was extended to 10' towards south to link the Vihara, apsidal ended structure and the Stupa, by a cross-

section. But, this did not reveal much interesting stratigraphic details as the top of the remains of all the three structures were at different levels and hence the debris and other accumulations of deposits were at uneven levels and much disturbed by brick-robbing, tilling of land and the present road.

Further cleaning of the so called "complex of structures" near the main entrance of the Vihara clearly indicated that they were the damaged parts of the Vihara itself - the outer plinth and the plinth for steps.

Season IV (1962-63):

Last season's excavation of the Stupa was confined to its north-eastern quarter only which did not reveal the casket, hence during this season, it was planned to open the Stupa with other plan. To pursue this objective, a square trench on the Stupa was considered an ideal plan of approach.

For this purpose, first of all the centre of the Stupa was located. And after removing about two to three feet of damaged portion of the top, a trench measuring 17' x 17' was laid in such a way that its centre may roughly coincide with the centre of the Stupa.

The method of excavating was not actually what may be called 'digging', but it was a slow process of removing the

brick courses one after another by means of crow-bars. This precaution was quite obvious because the bonding of every course and its masonry was to be studied in detail. Moreover, it was difficult to forecast the nature of the underlying course at every dig. It was also difficult to trace at first instance the markings of pitline, or some peculiar construction of the chamber or pit of casket.

The very first dig clearly revealed that the bricks were laid in a circular alignment. After removing a few courses, the volute plan of alignment was clearly traced.

After removing eighteen courses, top portion of a Buddha image was exposed. It was in the centre of the Stupa. To study its stratigraphic position and relation with the structure, a quarter section along its body-line was dug out. This revealed that the partly broken image in Dhyanamudra was facing east and was partly covered by masonry. It was placed very carefully in such a way that the edges of packing bricks may not inflict any damage. Its base was at a height of 31.5 feet from the base of the Stupa.

The volutes under this image were arranged in a Pipal-leaf pattern with their pointed tips changing directions in clock-wise direction at every course.

After removing course No.44, the top knob of the schist-casket was exposed in a pit-like depression. Removal of course No.45 exposed the circular top of the casket with

inscription on it. The casket was found placed in a red slipped broken pot having sagger base. But the shoulder, neck and rim portions of this pot were missing. To fix the casket perfectly, some packing of brickbats was also put around it.

Course No.49 was laid in a peculiar plan. Its central part was composed of a rectangle formed by obliquely laid bricks. The volute was encircling this rectangle.

The circular alignment of courses ceased at 49th course under which bricks were laid in straight alignments either east-west or north-south. Some of the courses under this were in headers and stretchers, but this technique was not followed regularly. Sometimes, the same alignment was repeated for two courses consecutively. Sometimes, bricks were laid even in irregularly east-west as well as north-south alignments in the same course. In spite of all these irregularities, it was beyond doubt that the circular drum ended at 49th course (as the circular courses ceased at that course) and square construction started at 50th course, at a height of 23.5 feet from base of the Stupa.

After removing course No.63, a dump of decorated Chaitya-arch pieces was exposed in the eastern part of the trench. Their twisted forms and deteriorated core suggested that they were spoiled during their manufacture while firing and were, therefore, discarded, and hence dumped in the core

of the Stupa itself. After removing three courses, it was clearly evident that the dump was resting on course No.67 at a height of 20.05 feet from the base of the Stupa.

After taking out these arch-pieces, further digging was resumed upto course No.78, under which another dump of decorative jambs was exposed - placed on course No.82, at a height of 14.5 feet. This dump was deposited in the western part of the trench.

Top of a built-in structure of bricks having pinkish colour and finer fabric was exposed after removing course No.90. For stratigraphic position, first a cross-section was cut on its two sides, i.e. eastern and western keeping the structure intact. After this, the quarter section of the structure itself was cut to study its inner construction and if possible its contents. This revealed the top of a pot placed under it. To get a section of the whole structure and its relation to the pot itself, half of the structure was removed. Thus, the whole section depicting the pot, the stepped structure, its section, and the relative section of the Stupa were exposed. After this study, the whole structure was demolished upto the top level of the pot. Gradually, the bricks surrounding the pot were removed. And finally, the pot was taken out. It was a red slipped globular pot with slightly outturned externally beaded rim and high neck. From this pot were found eight silver coins belonging to western Kshatrapas, some fragments of blue glass, tiny gold foils and

other unidentified substances. The pot as well as the stepped inner structure were resting on course No.106, i.e. top of platform I at a height of about 8' from the base of the Stupa. The pot was actually placed in a small cavity-like depression prepared in course No.106.

Digging through platform I was continued by the same method. But here the masonry and bricks changed. The bricks of platform I were like those of the stepped structure, i.e. having pinkish colour and finer ^{but rough texture} core. The mud masonry was of ordinary nature. It was found that at every course a layer of mud (about 1" thick) was spread and the course of bricks was laid on it. The cavities between bricks were not filled with mortar.

After removing course No.120, top portions of two Buddha images were exposed. After removing other eight courses, their position was clear. These images were arranged in two rows facing opposite directions - east and west - with their backs supporting each other. Some more images were exposed in the section facing north. Hence, to retrieve them, the trench was extended to about eight feet towards south. For this purpose, the section facing north was scrapped down upto the level of the images. By this dig, the whole hoard was exposed completely. There were six images arranged in the same way as mentioned above. One of them had wavy hair. Two square bricks having sitting Buddha images in relief were also found from this hoard. The whole group was resting on course No.128.

After removing 131st course, a dump of yellow silt and black mud patches was exposed in the south-western corner of the trench. A number of decorative pieces such as arches, jambs, etc., were also exposed in the remaining space of the trench. The plan of this course was very irregular. The silt and mud dump in the south western corner was bordered in north and east by bricks in oblique alignments. While rest of the course was in irregular alignments in headers and stretchers. All this was exposed at a height of .71 foot from the base of the Stupa.

A half finished casket like container of Schist was retrieved from the dump of silt and mud. It was partly broken and like casket I was placed in a pot. This pot had crumbled due to the weight of the superimposed weight of the structure. Removal of course No.140 in eastern side and course No.141 in western side (There was a difference of one course in two sides) of the trench exposed the foundation of yellow silt filling. This filling was 2'-8" thick. It was laid to level up the uneven ground level of blackish earth. A thin layer of mud mortar was laid on this filling. The Stupa was erected on it. The details of courses and levels of antiquities will be clearly understood from the following tabular chart:

Sr.No. from the top.	Align- ment.	Size of bricks.	Levels from base of Stupa.	Antiqui- ties.	Remarks
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.		17"x11"			
13.		"			
14.		"			
15.		17"x11"-17½"x11"			
16.		17"x11"			
17.		"			
18.		17"x11"-19"x13"			
19.		17"x11"-16½"x11"	32.96		B
20.		17"x11"			U
21.		"			D
22.		17"x11"-16½"x10½"			D
23.		17"x11"			H
					A
					↓

↑
I
M
A
G
E

24.	17"x11"	
25.	"	
26.	"	
27.	"	30.96
28.	17"x11"-16½"x11"	
29.	17"x11"	
30.	"	
31.	"	
32.	17"x11"-17½"x11"	
33.	17"x11"	
34.	"	
35.	17"x11"-16½"x10½"	
36.	17"x11"	
37.	"	
38.	"	
39.	17"x10"-17"x11"	
40.	"	
41.	17"x11"	
42.	"	
43.	"	
44.	"	
45.	"	26.03
46.	"	25.80
47.	"	25.54
48.	16½"x11"	25.32
49.	"	25.07
50.	E.W.	24.79

) Casket

51.	E.W.	17"x11"-16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x10"		
52.	E.W. N.S.	17"x11"		
53.	E.W.	17"x11"-19"x13"		
54.	N.S.	17"x11"		
55.	E.W.	"		
56.	N.S.	"		
57.	E.W. N.S.	19"x13"		
58.	E.W.	"		
59.	"	17"x12"		
60.	N.S.	17"x11"		
61.	"	"		
62.	E.W.	"		
63.	N.S.	"		
64.	N.S. E.S.	17"x11"	20.62) Hoard of arches in eastern part of trench
65.	"	"		
66.	"	"		
67.	"	"	20.05	
68.	N.S. E.W.	"		
69.	E.W.	"		
70.	"	17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		
71.	N.S.	17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		
72.	E.W.	"		
73.	"	"		
74.	N.S. E.W.	"		
75.	N.S.	"		
76.	"	"		

77.	E.W.	17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
78.	N.S.	15"x10"-16"x10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
79.	E.W.	17"x11"	
80.	N.S.	"	
81.	"	17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
82.	E.W.	"	16.12
83.	N.S.	"	
84.	"	"	
85.	E.W. N.S.	"	
86.	E.W.	"	
87.	N.S.	"	
88.	"	"	
89.	E.W. N.S.	"	
90.	"	"	
91.	N.S.	"	13.26
92.	"	"	13.01
93.	E.W. N.S.	"	Dry Brick Structure ↑ S A M E ↓ Dry Brick Structure (Stepped Structure)
94.	N.S.	"	
95.	E.W.	"	
96.	E.W. N.S.	16"x10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
97.	E.W.	17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
98.	E.W. N.S.	"	
99.	"	17"x11"	
100.	"	"	
101.	"	17"x11"-17"x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
102.	"	16"x10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-17"x11"	
103.	"	17"x11"	
104.	"	"	
105.	"	"	

106.	E.W.	15"x10"-15½"x10½"	9.30	Globular pot.
107.	"			
108.	N.S. E.W.			
109.	E.W.			
110.	N.S.			
111.	"			
112.	N.S. E.W.	16"x10"		
113.	E.W.	"		
114.	N.S.	"		
115.	E.W.	"		
116.	N.S.	"		
117.	E.W.	"		
118.	N.S.	"		
119.	E.W.	"		
120.	N.S.	"		
121.	E.W.	"	5.39) EIGHT) BUDDHA) IMAGES ↓
122.	N.S.	"		
123.	E.W.	16"x10"		
124.	N.S.	16"x10"-16½"x10½"		
125.	E.W.	16"x10"		
126.	N.S.	"		
127.	E.W.	"		
128.	E.W.	"	3.42	
129.	N.S.	"		
130.	E.W.	"		
131.	N.E. S.W.	"		
132.	E.W. N.S.	15"x10"-16"x10½"	2.40	

133.	E.W. N.S.	16"x11½"	
134.	N.S.	16"x10½"	1.91
135.	E.W.N.S.	"	1.72
136.	N.S.	16"x10"	
137.	E.W.	16"x10½"	
138.	N.S.E.W.	16"x10"	
139.	N.S.	"	
140.	N.S.	"	0.00 BASE OF THE STUPA

VIHARA I

To study the north-western corner and its outer plinth, a trench measuring 17' x 24' was laid just adjoining to this corner. It was named as Trench 63 I. It revealed following features:

- 1) Plinth Phase I
- 2) Yellow silt filling overlying Plinth Phase I.
- 3) Part of Plinth Phase II
- 4) A part of a wall running north-south.

By this dig, it was proved without doubt that the outer plinth of the Vihara also has two constructional phases. Moreover, in the southern part of this trench, layers of depositions of debris of various phases were exposed. These layers were evident in the section facing south. Hence, a new trench measuring 20'x20' was laid just to the north of

this trench. This trench gave interesting results. It revealed six layers, out of which the two lowermost layers represented natural soil and yellow silt filling respectively. On the silt filling were exposed parts of three walls. One of them rested on layer (5), i.e. the yellow silt filling and two rested on layer (6), i.e. the natural soil, thus suggesting that the walls resting on natural soil belonged to Phase I, while the wall built on silt filling was built during later phase. The layers also revealed two habitation periods marked by roof tiles brick-bats and pottery. Remaining two layers represented collapsed debris and ashey brown earth.

VIHARA II

During the course of exploration and excavation, the area to the east of the Stupa and Vihara I was found to be strewn with brick-bats and pot-sherds, suggesting some human habitation. Moreover, this area had some mounds which seemed to have been formed on the remains of brick structures parts of which were even exposed due to erosion.

Particularly, a mound about 125 yards to the south of the Stupa and east of Vihara was having the shape resembling the mound of Vihara I (having a depression in its centre). Hence, it was assumed that this mound also might have been formed on remains of a monastery. A trench measuring 20'x20' was laid on the south-western corner of this mound. After

removing the debris brickbats and loose earth corner portion of a big structure - a Vihara - was exposed. This structure revealed following features :

- 1) Two rooms measuring about 8' x 8'-9" each;
- 2) Parts of outer and inner verandahs.
- 3) Drain in the south-western corner of court-yard
- 4) South-western corner of paved court-yard.
- 5) Parts of steps.

Like Vihara I, this Vihara is also built of burnt bricks (16" x 10" to 10½" x 2¼" to 2½") and mud-masonry. Some parts of steps exposed in the section facing south indicate that the main entrance of the Vihara was facing west, i.e. towards the main Stupa.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The excavations of Devanimori revealed the story of a Buddhist settlement beginning from 3rd or 4th century and ending in 7th or 8th century. First this site was inhabited by Buddhist monks who had built a huge Vihara of burnt bricks. This Vihara had thirty rooms on all four sides with their entrances towards the central open court-yard. In addition to these rooms, this Vihara had a shrine-room in its southern side and the main entrance in its northern side. This Vihara had two verandahs - outer and inner - and a flight of steps near its entrance.

The Vihara had three constructional phases marked by distinct additions which were executed after levelling the earlier construction by yellow silt filling.

After a lapse of some time (after the construction of Phase I Vihara) a massive, highly adorned Stupa was erected about 50' to the north east of Vihara. This Stupa had at least two square platforms and a surmounting hemispherical drum. The platforms and a surmounting drum were embellished beautifully with terracotta decorations of arches, medallions, pilasters, cornices, mouldings etc. All these decorations were centered around the Buddha images in Dhyanamudra. The Stupa had also undergone some renovations and repairs. During Phase II, this Stupa was partly renovated and during Phase III, some minor repairs were done.

Alongwith these monuments, other structures like apsidal-ended structure - probably a Chaitya hall - votive stupas and square structure were also exposed.

Whole settlement was protected by a strong protection wall built against the river flow to the north of the Stupa.

A beautiful circular casket of green schist with an inscription in Brahmi characters and Sanskrit language is the culmination of all the discoveries. This casket contained a circular copper box in which was placed a gold bottle which contained the relics of the Dasabalaⁿ (Buddha).

The inscription suggests that the Stupa was built during the rule of the Kshatrapas. (3rd or 4th century A.D.)

The area to the east of this site also revealed remains of a monastery and thereby suggested that this place was a cluster of big Buddhist settlement.

Besides these monuments, antiquities like coins (Kshatrapa, Maithraka, Indo-Sassanian), Pottery (Red Polished Ware), Stone and metal objects etc., were also collected. They suggest that this site was a sacred nucleus of Buddhist religion right upto the end of 7th or 8th century when once again it was deserted and the monuments crumbled to ground.
