

Small Finds and Pottery

Small Finds

The number of small finds from Trenches 1a and 1b is below the amount from Trench 3, but more, respectively different groups are represented. The objects are discussed separately for both trenches according to category, type and context. Although a contextual order by phases would have been possible for the trenches, some of the contexts are disturbed, some objects residual, many cannot be dated by style since they are too small or unspecific. It should also be recalled that burrows that produced Islamic pottery – and corresponding radiocarbon dates – were present until to the base of the trench, illustrating the problem of find-spot related dating. Hence, the order by type, as also applied in the presentation of the finds from the other trenches, was preferred. Comments on contexts and associated finds¹ are provided in the general texts when conclusive, the details are given in the object descriptions. The phases defined by means of the archaeological evidence have been discussed above and are summarised in Tables 5 to 7.

In general, the distribution of the objects is interesting, since out of 109 objects altogether, 32 artefacts come from Phases 1 to 3, i.e. contexts related to the massive clay structure (Tab. 5).

The object numbers comprise an alpha-numerical designation related to the object group and a running number plus the find number, such as 'Co1 06/003' or 'C2 64.103'. Objects that were added to the catalogue later (and not recorded in detail) are identified by the alpha-numerical letter for the group and '(u)' for unregistered, plus the find number, e.g. G(u) 07/011.

¹ The detailed information is also made available in the object lists (Tab. 6), sorted by units and phase (Tab. 7).

Phases	Trench 1a			Trench 1b			Σ
	1–3	4–6	7a–8	1–3	4–6	7a–8	
Coins	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Inscribed Sherds	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Clay Objects	2	1					3
Faience, Bone	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Glas	1	2	-	-	17	-	20
Metal	12	5	2	-	7	1	27
Stone	14	7	4	-	3	-	28
Architect. Decor.	1	5	10	-	5	4	25
Σ	32	21	18	0	36	5	112
Slags and related	7	8	6	-	7	6	34

Tab. 5 Distribution and amounts of small find categories by Trenches and Phases

Coins (Co1–Co4)

Three of the four coins found in Trench 1 come from the excavations (Co1–Co3), one was collected on the surface of the upper citadel courtyard (Co4). All coins are in a bad state of preservation; although treated by the conservator, only two were readable. They were studied and translated by G. Helmecke.

Co1 and Co2, both from Trench 1a, are from the uppermost layers (Units 3 and 4, Phase 8), but from contexts sealed by the brick pavement put in place by Abdur Rahman Khan around 1900. For Co1 from Unit 3, G. Helmecke proposed a date of 1240–1260 H / 1824–1844 CE. This predates the construction of the pavement, but the coin can certainly be residual or come from older deposits that were mixed up when the drainage system was installed. Co3 comes from Trench 1b, Unit 65, Phase 6a. It is illegible. Unit 65 is ¹⁴C-dated, but the date has too wide margins, from 1700 to 1918, to be useful.² Co4 is a chance find from the surface of the upper courtyard. G. Helmecke dates it to c. 1900, which fits well with the archaeological evidence and the time of King Abdur Rahman Khan.

² For the radiocarbon dates see above p. 103.

Obj. no. Co1 06/003

Trench 1a, Unit 3
Phase 8, bedding below burnt-brick pavement
coin, cu-alloy, complete; 0.5 x 2 cm
1240–1260 H / 1824–1844 CE



Avers: Dotted circle, in the field a leaf between two swords (only part of the left sword is visible).



Revers: Nasta'liq inscription (from below, partly visible)
'dharb-i fulus-i Herat' ضرب فلوس هرات (mint of coins of Herat)
Ref.: Album, Sylloge 9, 2001, No. 1632 (similar type), datable c. 1248–1297 H / 1832/33–1879/80 (No. 1635).

Obj. no. Co2 06/004

Trench 1a, Unit 4
Phase 8, substructure of Drain 2
coin, cu-alloy, complete
0.2 x 1.8 cm



Very thin and corroded coin; no images or writing visible, illegible.

Obj. no. Co3 06/014

Trench 1b, Unit 65
Phase 6a, pit, 5th and basal layer, below Unit 58
Unit 65 is ¹⁴C-dated 1700–1918 CE
coin, cu-alloy, complete; 0.5 x 2 cm



Very thin and corroded coin; no images or writing visible, illegible.

Obj. no. Co4 surface

Trench 1a, Unit 0
surface find, 2008
coin, cu-alloy, complete
0.3 x 2 cm
c. 1900 CE



Avers: only about half of the die; in a hatched circle a stylised mosque (?) with pointed dome and columns; inside a minbar and a star, outside a flag on each side,
below an inscription:

do shahi
دو شاهي
(two kings)
and date (according to more complete exemplars). The building is often called a mosque, but probably it is rather the representation of a *darbar* (audience hall).



Revers: in a hatched circle a flower: a blossom between two leaves; on each side of the blossom: the number '1', under the flower a Nasta'liq script:
dharb-i Herat
ضرب هرات
(mint of Herat)
Ref.: Album, Sylloge 9, 2001, similar to no. 1640, c. 1314 (no. 1639) – 1319 (no. 1901, with another presentation of the mosque); ANS 0000.999.18962 and ANS 0000.999.18963.

Sherds with Inscriptions (C1–C3)

Inscribed sherds are few, only three, they are also described in the pottery catalogue (Pls. 48,9; 91,2 and 101,5). Two of the three sherds are from moulded jugs (C1; C2), the third belongs to an unusual type with on-glaze painting (C3). They all come from Trench 1b, Phases 5 (C1), 6b (C2) and 6a (C3). Readings by C.-P. Haase.

Obj. no. C1 73.102; see also Pl. 48,9

Trench 1b, Unit 73
Phase 5, transition or erosion layer between deposits or waste dumps, above Unit 65 and mud structures



jug, earthenware, fragment; 13th CE (?)
Moulded ware; below (overhead [?]); in vegetable Kufi possibly: [m](?)lik wa...
above, in square blocks, repeated:
'(?) li (m(?), or: ahl '(?)[(?)] 'People of the Sublime (God)'

Obj. no. C2 64.103; see also Pl. 101,15

Trench 1b, Unit 64
Phase 6b, transition or erosion layer
jug, earthenware, fragment; 13th CE (?)



Moulded ware; on shoulder, in Naskh, probably well-wishings:
[sa](?)[d]ah, a... s... (?)

Obj. no. C3 65.010; see also Pl. 91,2
Trench 1b, Unit 65
Phase 6a, pit, 5th and basal layer, below
Unit 58
Unit 65 is ¹⁴C-dated 1700–1918 CE



bowl, fritware, fragment
diam. 18 cm; 17th/18th CE (?)
underglaze blue, onglaze painted
(cp. Fig. 65a–f)
Ta'liq-Duktus, possibly: ...lay(?)l(?) g....

Clay Objects (C4–C6)

The few clay objects, all from Trench 1a, include two biconical 'spin tops' (C4; C5) from the living horizon embedded in the massive clay structure (Phase 3). A fragmentary clay tripod (C6), used in pottery production, comes from Unit 17, Phase 6a.

Obj. no. C4 07/027

Trench 1a, Unit 84
Phase 3, loose, ashy, habitation deposits, near eastern section
Unit 84 is ¹⁴C-dated 762–681 BCE
clay object, spin top (?), complete



Biconical clay object (4.3 x 4.3 x 4.3 cm);
solid, gaming piece (?)

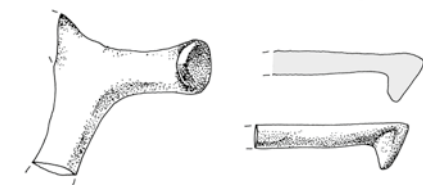
Obj. no. C5 07/038
Trench 1a, Unit 93
Phase 3, silty clay, disturbance fill
clay object, spin top (?)
complete, 3 x 4 cm



Biconical clay object, solid
gaming piece (?)

Obj. no. C6 07/038

Trench 1a, Unit 17
Phase 6a, Pit 17, upper part
5.7 x 6.0 x 1.7 cm



Fragment of clay tripod.

Bone Objects (B1)

A thin bone platelet from Trench 1a, Phase 6a, may have served as inlay piece.

Obj. no. B1 06/027

Trench 1a, Unit 61
Phase 6a, Pit 18, basal layer (with Unit 21)
bone object (?), slightly damaged
5.3 x 2 x 0.1 cm
Flat platelet, curved at one side, straight
on the other, both ends broken, inlay (?)



One surface is smooth, the other with
shallow, diagonal grooves, from a tool
(saw ?).

Faience (F1; F2)

Two turquoise-glazed paste objects were found in Trench 1a. Most important is a broken platelet (F1) with perforations, a relief pattern on the obverse and a flat reverse. It comes from the lowest layers reached in Trench 1a, Unit 117, and belongs to Phase 1. The pattern is illegible and no comparisons have been found. The second object, not illustrated, is a small fragment from a light-green spheroid, perforated bead from Unit 84, Phase 3.

Obj. no. F01 08/051

Trench 1a, Unit 117
Phase 1, compact clay, below compact
clay structure, southern part of trench
Attachment (?), faience, fragment (1/2)
3.28 x 1.58 x 0.7 cm



Small piece of pendant, ornamentation
or application made of turquoise-glazed
faience; iridescent glaze. Moulded geo-
metric decoration, flat back. One half is
preserved with one complete and three
broken perforations.
Disturbances in this context are possible
since in a close by burrow, recorded as
Unit 117A, glazed pottery was found.

Obj. no. F02 07/001, not illustrated

Trench 1a, Unit 84.1
Phase 3, loose, ashy, habitation deposits,
¹⁴C-dated 762–681 BCE.
bead, greenish faience or paste, com-
plete; 0.4 x 0.4 x 0.25 cm
Spheroid bead; drill hole 1 mm.

Glass (G1–G15)

Apart from three small glass objects from Trench 1a³, all finds come from Trench 1b, Phases 4 and 6b. They are mostly small fragments and often in a bad condition.

The sherds belong to thin-walled bottles, often with applied impressed cordons, small bowls and/or beakers, some with fluted bodies (G1–G7). Usually, the fragments are too small for further identification. Ten fragmentary coloured glass bangles in different states of preservation were found in various layers in the large pit, all belonging to Phase 6b.⁴

The bangles (Obj. Nos. G8–G15) are monochrome, some have impressed cordons applied onto the outer surface, five have a faceted pattern.⁵

They represent frequently found and long-lasting types, reported at e.g. Julfar, in the United Arab Emirates, where J. Hansman links them to the 16th/17th-century Persian occupation, a date that also fits our context.⁶ On Bahrain they date from the 12th–17th century.⁷

Obj. no. G(u) 07/011

Trench 1a, Unit 96
Phase 2, compact clay
¹⁴C-dated c. 748–688 BCE
2.2 x 0.8 cm
Greenish glass vessel, fragment.



3 G(u) 07/011, Unit 96, Phase 2; G1, G2, Unit 20, Phase 6a.

4 Units 58, 56, 48.

5 G8b, G10–G12, G15.

6 No faceted examples; Hansman 1975.

7 Frifelt 2001, 163 Figs. 358–364.

Obj. nos. G1 20.300 + G2 20.301
Trench 1a, Unit 20
Phase 6a, compact light brown clay,
habitation layer, above massive clay
structure



Two small, greenish transparent glass
fragments, iridescent; one neck from a
bottle, applied cordon.

Obj. no. G3a 07/015a

Obj. no. G3b 07/015b

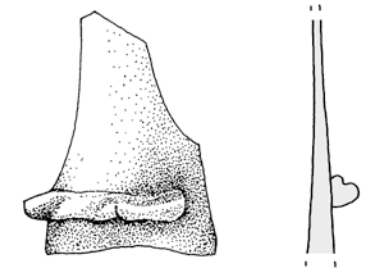
Trench 1b, Units 76, 75
Phase 4, removal of 'mudbrick wall',
northern part of trench



Two fragments from Units 76 and 75:
one small, whitish-iridescent base of
a beaker ([?], Unit 76, diam. 2.7 cm)
and a light-green body sherd (Unit 75;
l. 3.5 cm).

Obj. no. G4 06/013

Trench 1b, Unit 65
Phase 6a, pit, 5th and basal layer, below
Unit 58; Unit 65 is ¹⁴C-dated 1700–1918



glass, fragment; 4.2 x 3.5 cm
Long bottle neck, green glass, now with
light bluish-golden iris; with an applied
impressed cordon.

Obj. nos. G5 06/025 + G5b

Trench 1b, Unit 48
Phase 6b, pit, upper layer
Bottle neck, glass, fragment
1.8 x 2.6 cm, diam. 3 cm



Bottle neck, light greenish-blue glass;
attached cordon with vertical impres-
sions. From the same context come a