



Preface

Ute Franke

This publication is the second in a series of three volumes devoted to presenting the results of the work carried out by the German-Afghan Archaeological Mission in Herat Province and Herat City between 2004 and 2012. The Ancient Herat Project was developed and carried out in the general frame of the mission, which had started working in Kabul in 2002 under the auspices of the Eurasia Department of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Berlin. It took shape in discussions with the cooperation partners in Kabul during the last phase of the excavations in Bagh-e Babur, in the course of evaluating options for further research.

The project developed through time and finally included three large but closely linked components, which were complementary in an almost ideal way: an archaeological survey and a documentation of monuments and sites in Herat Province (2004–2007), archaeological excavations and explorations in Herat City (2005–2009) and the re-installation of the Herat Museum, along with the documentation and conservation of its collection (2008–2012). This last project, published in 2016 as Volume 3 in the 'Ancient Herat' series, provided the opportunity to present the mission's finds and the museum's holdings in a wider regional, cultural and historical setting and to showcase them to a general public. That volume also provides the historical background for the results of the archaeological excavations and exploration carried out in Herat and, therefore, for the present book.

The Old City Project started in 2005, following a short visit to Herat in early 2004 and the first season of the provincial survey in summer. It was concluded in September 2009, when the restored Timurid gateway was handed over to the Afghan government. For various reasons the work in Herat City focussed on the citadel, supplemented by explorations in Kuhandaz and minor investigations in the city of Herat proper. The latter explorations took place 2005 and 2008 in collaboration with the Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan (DAFA) in Kabul, directed by Dr R. Besenval and subsequently by Dr Ph. Marquis, while the conservation of the gateway was carried out in close cooperation with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, directed by Jolyon Leslie and, later, Ajmal Maiwandi.

Since only a few excavation reports are available for this region, we decided to illustrate as many finds as possible, particularly the pottery. The evidence collected during the five years is extensive, and, therefore, the archaeological and structural details and the pottery and small find catalogues occupy large parts in the publication. The book is primarily an archaeological publication, but might also be of interest for art historians and historians. Not all issues are addressed or discussed in full depth, the intension is rather to avail the material to interested readers and experts. In order to ease orientation, the structure of the book is briefly explained below.

The first chapter summarizes the genesis and perspectives of the Ancient Herat Projects, with reference to the *status quo* of archaeological research up to 2005. The focus is on Herat City, since the wider historical, geographical and cultural contexts are treated in more detail in the forthcoming volume on the provincial survey.

The subsequent chapter presents an overview of the pottery types found during the excavations, predominantly on the citadel. This chapter was included as it turned out to be difficult to treat assemblages with such a wide typological and technological heterogeneity and a chronological range of altogether 2,500 years separately for each trench without prior definition. The texts on the finds and the pottery plates that conclude the descriptions of the trenches do not offer enough space for a detailed discussion and, more importantly, the material is sorted there primarily by find spot and context, and secondarily by type. While contextual information is provided, the focus of the pottery chapter is, first of all, on the description of groups, but their distribution is addressed as well. A quantitative-qualitative in-depth study of the ceramics, however, is beyond the scope of this book.

The description of the excavations and explorations is divided into two parts. Part 1 deals with the work conducted in Qala'-e Ekhtyaruddin, commencing with Trench 1 on the upper citadel, followed by Trenches 2 and 3 at the northern foot of the citadel, where the Timurid gateway and the glacis are located. It closes

with the small sounding Trench 4, located in the lower western courtyard. For each trench the particular features and conditions, the applied methodology, analytical framework and findings of the excavations are summarised, followed by a description of the spatial, architectural and/or stratigraphic contexts leading to the definition of phases or other distinct analytical entities. The latter provide the framework for the distribution analyses of the finds, which are presented thereafter, beginning with small finds, sorted according to material, followed by the pottery. The sherds are grouped on the plates according to spatial, respectively stratigraphic criteria, then by type and shape. These catalogues complete the description of each trench. The illustration of the pottery from the Unesco-excavations 1976–1979, as far as still located in the citadel, concludes this part.

Part 2 of the book deals with excavations and explorations carried out in Kuhandaz and the Old City together with the DAFA team. The chapter on Kuhandaz follows the same structure as described above, but is less extensive due to the narrower scope of investigations. The final chapter presents a summary of the results and their implications on the history of ancient Herat.

Notes to the Reader

Pottery Catalogues

Guidelines for reading the pottery catalogues are provided before the catalogue of Trench 1 (p. 182).

Transliteration

Foreign words that have not entered English usage are italicised. Geographic and personal names are excluded from this rule. For the transliteration of Arabic or Persian words a simplified version of the system used by the Encyclopaedia of Islam is applied. The letters *ayn* and *hamza* are rendered by an apostrophe, except when they occur at the beginning of the word; other diacritical signs are not used. In addition, the Persian silent 'h' is transliterated as 'e' as in '*shah-name*', the *ezafe* as '-e'. Titles or quotations from Persian texts are transliterated with appropriate diacritical signs. Transliterations and translations were provided by Claus-Peter Haase and Gisela Helmecke (coins).

Dates

Dates are given according to the Gregorian calendar (BCE, CE), unless an object carries a precise *Hijra* date. In this case both dates are given. Islamic calendar dates are denoted with the letter 'H'.

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German Federal Foreign Office

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2005

Ghulam Zahir, wali of the ziarats and cemetery in Kuhandaz
Excavation and documentation: Ute Franke, Thomas Urban, Cécile Buquet, Benjamin Mutin, Roland Besenval (+), Khair Mohammad Khairzada, Najeb Seddiqi, Said Yunez
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2006

Excavation and documentation: Ute Franke, Thomas Urban, Stella Bickelmann, Khair Mohammad Khairzada, Najeb Seddiqi, Ajmal Ayomuddin, Said Yunez, Nik Mohammad
Documentation CAD: Thomas Urban - Object photography: Ute Franke, object drawings: Astrid Lange

2007

Excavation, city survey and documentation: Ute Franke, Thomas Urban, K. M. Khairzada, Najeb Seddiqi, Said Yunez
Documentation CAD: Thomas Urban - Object photography: Ute Franke, Amir M. Mohammady
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2008

Ghulam Zahir, wali of the shrines and cemetery in Kuhandaz
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