



The Kech Makran Region in Protohistoric Times. Catalogue

General Remarks on Cat. Nos. 672–678

Based on stratigraphic and typological analyses as well as stylistic comparisons with ceramics from Iran, it appears that two phases of Period IIIa can be distinguished, one early and one late. The main type of funerary pottery, produced during the second phase of Period IIIa (end of the 4th millennium / early 3rd millennium BCE), is Late Shahi-Tump Ware. It is a very fine-tempered, painted ceramic. It is essentially characterised by hemispherical bowls, decorated with a *swastika* motif painted on the inner surface. A frieze of geometric motifs such as loops, hatched triangles, and diagonal lines is painted along the rim on the periphery of the *swastika* motif (Mutin 2013a, 264–267). Cat. nos. 672–678 have *swastikas* with four branches. However, the ceramic assemblages collected by Sir A. Stein at Shahi-Tump (Stein 1931, 100 Pls. XV–XVI), by the French Archaeological Mission at Miri Qalat Trench IX (Levels VI–II), and on the surface of additional sites in Kech-Makran also include vessels decorated with *swastikas* with three to six branches (Mutin 2007, 2013a). Detailed analysis carried out by B. Mutin (2007) shows that the fabrication of Late Shahi-Tump Ware combined coiling technique for the forming of the vessels and a careful finishing using rotative devices. This method is the same as that observed on Early Shahi-Tump Ware in Early Period IIIa and on Miri Ware in Period II. The colours of the vessels vary from grey to brown-light grey or red on the same surface, which shows that the temperature in the firing structures was not perfectly controlled. Ceramic wastes

dating to Period IIIa were collected in the Dasht Plain. These indicate that production centres were present in this plain at that time. Bowls with painted *swastikas* are also attested in the Parom Basin, located north of the Kech Valley (Stein 1931, Pl. III), and in southeastern Iran in assemblages collected in the Bampur Valley (sites of Katukan, Kanuch, Khurab), at Tepe Yahya Period IVC (Phases IVB6–IVC2), and at Shahr-i Sokhta I (for a detailed comparative study, see Mutin 2013a, 264–267). These strong parallels show that Kech-Makran was part of a vast interaction system during this period. Later variations of the *swastika* motif design are observed in Kech-Makran Period IIIb (c. 2800–2600 BCE); it is made with curved lines instead of curved bands such as on cat. nos. 690–691 or using palm motifs such as on cat. nos. 680–681 (Mutin 2013a, 266; see Didier 2013, 103 Figs. 64; 68).

Cat. No. 672

Globular bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 20.1; d. (base) 6.7;
h. 8.3



Medium-sized bowl with outward-turned rim and flat base. A thick horizontal band and double-contoured, hanging interlaced loops decorate the outer upper surface. The inner surface shows a frieze with broad bands and 15 double-contoured standing loops. Visible in the centre is a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. Similar examples were found on Dasht Plain sites dated to the Late Period IIIa.
See: Mutin 2007, Figs. II, 276; II, 279
Doc. No. 0444–112

Cat. No. 673

Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, red; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.3; d. (base) 6.7;
h. 8.8





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techn. detail

Cat. No. 674

S-shaped bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, red; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 21.6; d. (base) 7.4;
h. 10.4

Medium-sized bowl with outward-turned rim and flat base. A horizontal band is painted on/over the rim. On the inner upper surface, the decoration shows a frieze with opposing diagonal lines (four to six) and a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. The outer surface presents the same upper pattern due to mirror impressions as a result of firing in a stacked position. Quite similar decoration occurs on Kech-Makran ceramics dated to the Late Period IIIa.
See: Mutin 2007, Fig. II, 284
Doc. No. 0445–107

Cat. No. 675

Globular bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 20.9; d. (base) 7.9;
h. 8.5

Medium-sized shallow bowl with slightly everted rim and flat base. The outer surface shows a frieze with two standing loops in the upper part. The decoration on the inner surface shows two friezes with hatched hanging triangles and a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms in the centre.
Similar examples were found at Shahi-Tump, Late Period IIIa, and on contemporary Dasht Plain sites.
See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15; Stein 1931, Pl. XV
Doc. No. 0442–110

Cat. No. 676

Globular bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, reddish grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.9; d. (base) 6.2; h. 7.9
Medium-sized bowl with upright rim and shallow disc base. The decoration on the outer surface comprises a large wavy band framed by two horizontal bands. The inner surface shows five sets of double loops, wide and very irregular, a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms in the centre and sets of plant motifs in arrowhead style. Similar examples are also known from Kech-Makran Late IIIa sites.
See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15
Doc. No. 0441–111



Medium-sized bowl with everted rim and slightly concave base. Visible on the outer surface is a frieze with a wavy band and traces of a decorative pattern transferred from another bowl during firing. The decoration of the inner surface comprises an upper frieze with ten stylised arrowheads pointing right, connected to standing plant motifs (palms). Painted below, in the centre, is a *swastika*-like motif composed of four hatched arms. A similar decoration is known from Late IIIa bowls from Kech-Makran sites.
See: Mutin 2013a, Figs. 14; 15
Doc. No. 1250–545

Cat. No. 677

Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.5; d. (base) 7.4; h. 9.5



Cat. No. 678

Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 17.3; d. (base) 5.9; h. 9.1
Medium-sized deep bowl with everted rim and a sharply cut base. Visible on the outer surface is an impression of a frieze with irregularly shaped loops transferred during firing. The decoration on the inner surface consists of a frieze with hatched loops and



a *swastika*-like motif formed by two lines in the centre. Quite similar decorations occur on Kech-Makran Late IIIa/Early IIIb ceramics.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 80; 83
Doc. No. 0754–160

Cat. No. 679

Globular bowl



675

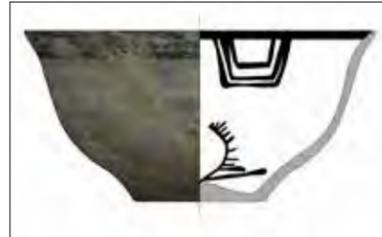
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679

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
c. 3000 BCE (Kech-Makran Late IIIa)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 18.9; d. (base) 7.3; h. 9
Medium-sized deep bowl with everted rim and flat base. A horizontal band is painted on the inner/outer rim. The inner quadripartite decoration is composed of a cross of four arms with triple loops facing left. Similar decorations occur on Kech-Makran Late IIIa bowls.
See: Mutin 2007, Fig. II,283
Doc. No. 0443–108

Cat. No. 680
S-shaped bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)



Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 14.5; d. (base) 5.9; h. 9.1
Small shallow bowl with slightly S-shaped profile, outward-turned rim and flat base. Three horizontal bands decorate the upper outer surface. Painted on the inner surface below the rim are eight hanging, double contoured squares. The centre of the base is decorated with a whirl with three palm branches. Similar examples were collected on Dasht IIIb sites.

See: Didier 2013, Figs. 64–66; 69
Doc. No. 0609–754

Cat. No. 681
Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 17.9; d. (base) 5.8; h. 7.6



Medium-sized bowl with everted rim and concave base. The inner decoration consists of seven vertically hatched, elongated hanging loops. Below, three vertical sets of short horizontal lines alternate with horizontal plant motifs (palms). Similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain sites dated to Period IIIb.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 66; 70
Doc. No. 0000–785

Cat. No. 682
Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 16.1; d. (base) 4.3; h. 8
Medium-sized bowl with slightly outward-turned rim and very concave base. Three



horizontal bands were painted in the upper part of the outer surface. The quadripartite decoration on the inner surface consists of four palm trees with open stems and branches with short vertical leaves pointing down. Similar decorations were identified on medium-sized and large bowls collected on Dasht IIIb sites.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 69; 70
Doc. No. 0604–582

Additional Description for Cat. Nos. 683–685

The fine painted ware from Kech-Makran Period IIIb (c. 2800–2600 BCE), produced at a large scale in potter's workshops found in the Dasht Plain, shows strong elements of continuity with Period IIIa, particularly in the texture of the ceramic paste, the fabrication (combining coil building technique with finishing by rotative devices) and the wide use of some geometric decorations (Didier 2013, 215). However, we can also observe significant change in the stylistic repertoire used by the local potters, which now includes a high proportion of vegetal patterns (Didier 2013, 103).

Palm motifs or 'palm trees' represented with ascending branches and short vertical lines hanging as leaves are the most frequently depicted, particularly on small bowls in fine grey ware related to the Dasht/Emir stylistic tradition. Several dozens of bowls similar to cat. nos. 683–685 were collected by the French Archaeological Mission in non-looted and looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain, where a part of the exhibited collections most likely came from.

A large amount of overfired sherds and ceramic wastes decorated with the same motifs were also collected on the surface of potter's workshops, particularly in the Panodi area. They demonstrate that such bowls, produced in series by the Dasht potters, were stacked during

firing in reducing atmosphere, obviously processed in open areas outside the habitat.

As for the previous period, the best comparative examples come from southeastern Iranian sites such as Bampur Periods I–IV (de Cardi 1970) and Khurab (Lamberg-Karlovsky / Schmandt-Besserat 1977) in the Bampur Valley.

Cat. No. 683
Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m



Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.2; d. (base) 4.5; h. 7.6
Small carinated bowl with slightly everted rim and concave ring base. The outer decoration shows five metopes with trees

with two branches and short vertical lines hanging as leaves, divided by 15 sets of vertical lines. A horizontal band is painted on the rim on both surfaces.

Similar examples were found on Dasht IIIb sites.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68
Doc. No. 0610–753

Cat. No. 684
Conical bowl
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m; buff slip
Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.5; d. (base) 4.4; h. 8



Small bowl with everted rim and small ring base. A horizontal band is painted on/over the rim. The outer decoration consists of six slightly irregularly painted metopes with trees with two branches and short vertical leaves pointing down. Dividers are formed by sets of ten vertical lines.

Similar examples were also found on Dasht IIIb sites.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68
Doc. No. 0618–633





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detail

lines, hanging from a band painted on the rim. Similar examples were found in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 61; 64; 67
Doc. No. 0933–335

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 12.9; d. (base) 4.2; h. 9
Small bowl with everted rim and flat base. The decoration on the upper outer surface consists of twelve sets of diagonal lines laid down in a zig-zag pattern. A horizontal band is painted on both sides of the rim. Similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 67
Doc. No. 0000–787

Cat. No. 685
Conical bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 11.7; d. (base) 4.7; h. 6.9

Small bowl with everted rim and flat disc base. The outer decoration consists of six slightly irregularly painted metopes with trees with two branches and short vertical leaves pointing down, divided by sets of vertical lines. Similar examples were found on Dasht IIIb sites.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 65; 68
Doc. No. 0622–595

Cat. No. 687
Conical bowl

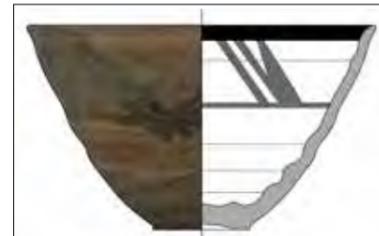


Cat. No. 686
Conical bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 6; d. (base) 2.3; h. 4.5
Miniature bowl with everted rim and slightly convex base. The outer upper surface shows two horizontal bands. The decoration on the inner upper surface comprises four sets of five to six vertical

Cat. No. 688
Conical bowl

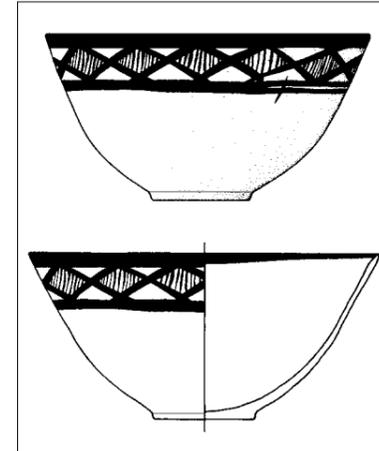
Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)



Earthenware, brownish light red; w/m; thin creamy slip
Size (cm): d. (rim) 13; d. (base) 3.4; h. 7.5
Small bowl with outward-turned rim and flat, slightly concave base. A frieze of two diagonal zig-zag lines is painted in the upper part of the outer body. Imprints of transferred decoration with triple diagonal lines are visible on the inner surface. Similar examples were excavated at Miri Qalat in Early Period IIIb levels.
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 184
Doc. No. 0000–202

Cat. No. 689
S-shaped bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (fine Dasht/Emir IIIb)
Earthenware, grey; w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 14; d. (base) 4.2; h. 7.2
Small shallow bowl, slightly S-shaped, with everted rim and disc base. A horizontal

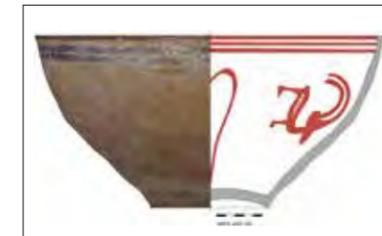


band covers the inner/outer surface of the rim. A frieze of vertical, hatched, linked lozenges is painted on the upper part of the external body. Many similar examples were collected in the looted graveyards of the Dasht Plain dated to Period IIIb.
See: Didier 2013, Fig. 67
Doc. No. 0000–094

Cat. No. 690
S-shaped bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb)
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 38.9; d. (base) 13.7; h. 18.7

Large bowl with slightly channelled rim and concave base. Painted above and

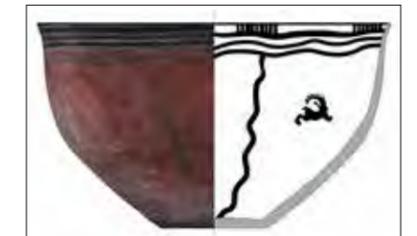


below the external/internal rim are three horizontal bands. The tripartite composition on the inner surface depicts three standing ibexes with hatched bodies divided by horn-shaped arms. Similar examples were collected on Dasht IIIb sites.
See: Didier 2013, Figs. 81; 83; 84
Doc. No. 0486–542

Cat. No. 691
S-shaped bowl

Southwestern Baluchistan (?)
2800–2600 BCE (Kech-Makran IIIb?)
Earthenware, brownish light red; h-w/m
Size (cm): d. (rim) 36; d. (base) 10.7; h. 20.6

Large and deep bowl with slightly outward-turned rim and concave base. A horizontal



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