

Forging the Past: The Examples in the National Museum Pakistan, Karachi. Catalogue

Cat. No. 756

Globular pot

Central Baluchistan, late 4th millennium BCE, recently reworked and repainted

Earthenware, orange-red;

w/m, attached rim (?), trimmed and carved; red slip, over rim

Size (cm): d. (rim) 10.1; d. (base) 11.7;

h. 27.2

Large jar with short upright neck and slightly convex base. The decoration on the outer upper part shows two friezes crossed and framed by a blue band. A

small frieze below the neck comprises six crosses filled with red and blue. The patterns are painted inside a lozenge-like shape. As dividers serve opposing, standing/hanging stepped motifs, which are painted with the same filling pattern. The main frieze shows three large elongated humped bulls. The bodies are hatched with wavy lines, painted with red and yellow infill. The black legs are solid, the horns 'en face', the eye is dotted with eyebrows. As filler motifs serve cross patterns like those in the upper

frieze and comb motifs filled with blue. The painting colours and the designs as well as the colour schemes and execution raise doubts about the manufacture and point to a modern reworking. The vessel, however, is original and belongs to an older ceramic tradition. In some places underneath the whitish substance on the outer surface the underlying Kili Ghul Mohammed pattern is visible, below follow multiple crossed diagonal lines painted on a thick red slip.

Doc. No. 1234–584



756



756 757



757 758

Cat. No. 757

Pear-shaped jar

Central Baluchistan, mid-3rd millennium BCE
reworked and repainted

Earthenware, orange;

w/m, attached rim (?), carved, cruder
lower body; red slip, over rimSize (cm): d. (rim) 9.9; d. (base) 12.0;
h. 27.9

Medium-sized squat jar with convex upper and concave lower body, short neck and ring base. The decoration on the outer wall shows three superimposed friezes, framed and subdivided by a blue band with black contours. Painted on top and at the bottom are geometric patterns. A zig-zag line below the neck is filled with red and blue standing resp. hanging triangles. The lower frieze comprises squares with stepped motifs with red and yellow infill. The central larger frieze shows 17 fish arranged in three rows. The fish on top and at the bottom of the frieze are



facing right, while the ones in the central frieze are turned to the left. The bodies are hatched with wavy lines or lozenges and triangular patterns filled with red and blue. The shades of the colours together with differences in surface treatment and patterns point to a modern decoration, but the pot is probably genuine. Traces of the original decoration are still visible at places.

Doc. No. 1235–583

Cat. No. 758

Pear-shaped jar

Central Baluchistan, mid-3rd millennium BCE
reworked and repaintedEarthenware, pale red; w/m, assembled
and joined; whitish buff slip, over rimSize (cm): d. (rim) 11.0; d. (base) 14.8;
h. 21.1

Medium-sized squat jar with convex upper and concave lower body, short neck and flat disc base. The upper frieze shows three

polychrome fish with wavy hatched bodies, dotted eyes, blue heads, red pins and tails. The frieze is framed by a red horizontal band with black contours. The main decoration below shows two elongated and stylised horned bulls bearing the same hatchings as the fish. The tail is pipal-shaped, the horns 'en face', with a sun-motif with red and blue infill in between. The two bulls alternate with two pairs of fish, painted one above the other. Sometimes, the fish have wavy or cross-hatched bodies, red fins, tails and eyes, blue heads and a yellow or red band between body and head. The frieze is framed below by an irregular horizontal black line. Apart from the clumsy execution, the combination of motifs and fillers along with the shades of the pigments, the reworked shape of the body does not fit the pattern. Above all, the black line above and the reddish band below the upper fish frieze are original, although re-painted.



758



Along with cat. no. 647 the pot is typical for pear-shaped vessels known from Quetta/Damb Sadaat and Sohr Damb Period III, dated to c. 2700 BCE.

Doc. No. 1233–553

Cat. No. 759

Biconical pot

Central Baluchistan

earlier 3rd millennium BCE

reworked and repainted

Earthenware, reddish brown; h-w/m (?),
trimmed and carved; slip, over rim

Size (cm): d. (rim) 10.0; d. (base) 7.6; h. 13.8

Medium-sized pot with upright rim and slightly concave base. The frieze on the upper body is subdivided into six metopes painted with polychrome patterns. Three fields show animals on a yellow ground with plants, *sigma* signs and concentric circles as filler motifs. The other metopes contain very unusual abstract, geometric patterns with multiple contours and



759



colours. The motifs, their execution and the shades of the pigments, particularly the yellow and green, reveal a crude modern painting on an early 3rd millennium vessel.

Doc. No. 1237–564

Cat. No. 760

Biconical pot

Central Baluchistan

earlier 3rd millennium BCE

reworked and repainted

Earthenware, buff; w/m; whitish buff slip

Size (cm): d. (rim) 11.9; d. (base) 8.5; h. 11.0

Medium-sized pot with upright rim and

ring base. A very complex frieze decorates the upper part on the outside. Two lions facing left are painted with a red head, blue infill and yellow body. The mane is wavy hatched with red and blue infill and open, circular eye. These animals alternate with a bull design with a wavy-hatched body. The pattern is painted with red, yellow and blue infills. The tips of the tails are pipal-shaped and the horns 'en face'. A rectangular metope shows two diagonally hatched pipal leaves, which are filled with red and blue and vertically arranged with open and joined blue stems on yellow ground. As vertical dividers serve two lines filled with blue. Several stepped motifs and rectangles serve as filling patterns filled with yellow, red and blue. The entire configuration is framed above by two red horizontal bands and below by three horizontal bands, one of them in red. Both pot and painting are modern.

Doc. No. 1236–554



760



761 762

Cat. No. 761

Biconical pot

Central Baluchistan,
earlier 3rd millennium BCE
reworked and repaintedEarthenware, pale orange-red;
w/m, carvedSize (cm): d. (rim) 13.4; d. (base) 8.5;
h. 10.7

Medium-sized pot with upright rim and ring base. The upper frieze shows three main fields, separated by vertical lines. The panels comprise a combination of geometric patterns, pipal leaves, and lions. These are not original in design, arrangement and style of painting, but more carefully executed than on other fakes.

Contours and structure of the frieze and the shapes of the animals as well as their combination are not authentic. Some details are outlined with a green ball pen. The red horizontal bands above and below the frieze do not fit the decoration, but are

probably part of the original painting. The lower black horizontal band is repainted. The outer surface seems to have been treated with oil.

Doc. No. 1085–226

Cat. No. 762

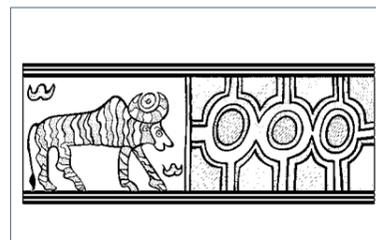
Biconical pot

Central Baluchistan
earlier 3rd millennium BCE
reworked and repainted

Earthenware, pale orange-red; finished on wheel, carved and trimmed; thin buff slip on outer and wash on inner surface

Size (cm): d. (rim) 14.8; d. (base) 10.4;
h. 11.2

Medium-sized carinated pot with everted rim and disc base. The frieze on the upper shoulder shows six metopes separated by vertical blue lines with black borders. One panel contains two concentric circles filled with yellow and blue, and triangular filling patterns in red and yellow. Three metopes



show humped bulls; red wavy lines hatch the body, legs and the crescent-shaped horns. The eyes are dotted; the eyebrows are black. Filler motifs are double circles with blue and red infill (sun-motif), and, in the upper left and lower right, stylised blue *bucranium*-shaped *omega* signs. The pot, and a red band on the carination, is probably original, but the painting is recent.

Doc. No. 0509–123

Cat. No. 763

Conical bowl

Central Baluchistan
later 3rd millennium BCE

763 764



reworked and repainted

Earthenware, light reddish brown; w/m;
thick red slip, over rimSize (cm): d. (rim) 28.5; d. (base) 8.3;
h. 16.3

Bowl with ridge and disc base. The decoration on the outside shows a pipal tree, a fighting zebu and a feline on yellow ground with red infill. The execution, style and layout betray an inexperienced potter. The vessel might be original, but the bright red slip and the black bands near the base were also reworked.

Doc. No. 0468–176

Cat. No. 764

Pedestalled beaker

Northern Baluchistan (?)
Early 2nd millennium BCEreworked and repainted
Earthenware, pale brownish yellow; w/m,

burnished outer surface

Size (cm): d. (rim) 14.6; d. (base) 9.0;
h. 21.2

Tall beaker of regular shape with two ridges on the upper part of the pedestal. Painted on the upper wall is a frieze with six polychrome fish, arranged in two rows and subdivided by *omega*-shaped signs with blue infill on yellow ground.

The shape of the vessel corresponds to types known e.g. from Mehrgahr VIII and the Historic Period.

Doc. No. 1251–619

Cat. No. 765

Biconical pot

Central Baluchistan
mid-3rd millennium BCE
reworked and repaintedEarthenware, pale red;
w/m, artificially aged (?); buff slipSize (cm): d. (rim) 11.1; d. (base) 8.4;
h. 18.2

Medium-sized biconical pot with outward-turned rim and ring base.

The decoration on the outside comprises three friezes. The narrower ones on top and at the bottom of the main frieze show sets of vertical short lines. In contrast to the polychrome vessels, the decoration of this pot is entirely black. In the central zone, five metopes show jumping ibexes separated by vertical bands. The animals have stylised, elongated and hatched bodies. As filler motifs serve hanging resp.

standing plants with linear branches and open stems, and wavy lines under the body. The rim shows sets of short vertical strokes. The decoration combines familiar Kulli with slightly older elements on an unusual shape.

Doc. No. 1240–565

765