

MATERIAL FOR INCLUSION IN
THE INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY – A REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001
IN RESPECT OF DHARWAD CIRCLE, DHARWAD.

EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS
KARNATAKA.

EXCAVATION AT KANAGANAHALLI (SANNATI), DISTRICT GULBARGA._ In continuation of the earlier work (IAR-1999-2000), the Dharwad Circle of the Survey, under the direction of K.Veerabhadra Rao, assisted by K.V.Rao, M.V.Visweswara, A.V.Naganoor, M. Kalimuthu, S.Lingaraju, R.S.Athani, and B.N.Byadagi undertook excavation in the peripheral zone of the *stupa* site with the objectives of exposing the probable connected structural units of the *stupa-vihara* complex, the possible inter-relationship amongst them and the different structural phases along with the constructional details. The work has laid bare much ruined remnants of a number of brick-built accessory structural units, paved and sheltered passages connecting them and part of a possible monastic complex to the north-west of the main-*stupa*. A number of *Brahmi* label inscriptions, coins and ceramic repertoire characteristic of the period are also retrieved.

In all, 22 trenches (10x10m) were laid around the *maha-stupa* and dug to an average depth of 1.20 m, where the black cotton natural soil was encountered. Excavation on the eastern side has brought to light, remains of two squarish brick structures measuring about 6 m square in highly disturbed condition with extant three courses of bricks (Pl-IA and B). These structures are symmetrically

positioned on either side at a distance of about 10 m. from the eastern *ayaka-vedika* and probably were the platforms meant for the construction of votive *stupa*.

During the excavation of trenches on the southern side of the *stupa*, it was found that the limestone stumps jutting out from the surface in an alignment, were actually the remains of the pillars (Pl. IIA). At the working level of these pillars, it was noticed that there were brick pillar bases positioned at equal intervals in an east-west alignment. The area in between the pillars was found well rammed with brickbats, early historic pottery, used tiles etc. At the western end, this feature takes a right-angle turn and continues to a distance of nearly 35 m. This appears to be a covered passage probably connecting the monastic complex located at the north-west and the southern entrance of the *maha-stupa*.

Excavation in the north and north-western side of the *stupa* revealed a much-disturbed rectangular brick structure extant up to two courses. On the northern side of this structure, traces of walls extending further towards north are traced to a distance of two meters. This structure appears to be the remains of the monastic complex with a rectangular entrance porch on the south, and rectangular or square rooms (Pl. IIB). Further work in this area would reveal the extant plan and utility of this structure.

As part the of excavation, comparatively better preserved northern *ayaka-vedika* was probed by way of gradual and careful removal of the brick

layers with the objective of tracing the possible reliquary and understanding the constructional methodology followed in the *ayaka-vedika*. This *ayaka*-platform measuring 3.45m X 1.60m X 1.40m was veneered with carved drum slabs. One of these slabs is damaged exposing the inner brick core. More than 14 courses of burnt brick wall set in mud mortar was raised above the *pradakshina-patha* level, externally abutting the drum wall built of chiseled lime stone slabs. The brick (size: 7 x 20 x 41 cm., roughly corresponding to the standard Satavahana bricks of 1:3:6 proportion) wall was lime plastered and the slabs were veneered externally. These drum slabs are held in position by the carved cornices bordering the top of the *ayaka-vedikas*.

While probing the northern *ayaka-vedika*, it was further observed that, below the brick wall, at a depth of about 30 cm, parts of an inscribed Buddha-*pada* slab and another mutilated veneering slab were found. This evidence suggests that the extension of the brick-built drum, *ayaka-vedikas* and veneering them with carved / decorated limestone drum slabs were attempted probably in the second phase of the constructional / embellishment activity of the *stupa*. Even at a depth of 50 cms below the *pradakshina-patha* regular brick courses are found continuing. The work of further probing of *ayaka-vedika* is hindered due to the onset of monsoon.

For facilitating more working space near the *stupa* to assemble and arrange the mutilated parts of the drum slabs and dome slabs, the one meter baulks

around the *stupa* were removed. During the process, a fragment of the sculpture of a lion carved of reddish sand-stone in round, in seated posture (Pl. IIIA) probably forming part of the capital of a free standing pillar, part of an ornate Buddha-*pada* and other carved fragments forming part of dome and drum slabs were retrieved.

The excavation has brought to light, three fragmentary donatives inscriptions in Brahmi script of 1st – 2nd century AD characters in *Prakrit* language. One of them engraved on the octagonal part of an umbrella-shaft (*chhatra-danda*) in two lines reads.-

L1. (a) *machiya Velinika(ya)*

L2. *deya dhama chhata [1*]*

It records the pious gift of a *chhatra* (umbrella) by *Velinika*, wife of a minister (*amachi*). The second, single line record engraved on the front side of a fragmentary Buddha-*pada* slab found below the brick wall of the northern *ayaka-vedika* reads .. *na bodhi parigrahakasa vaniyasa Budhilasa payasa pato deya dhamma [1*]*, probably meaning the pious gift of a *paysa-pata* (the slab bearing the feet impression of the Master) by Budhila a merchant and a *bodhi parigahaka* (attainer of true knowledge). The third much fragmentary record engraved on the octagonal part of a *chhatra-danda* refers the *maha-stupa* as (***adhalika maha-chaitya***).

The other significant finds from the excavation include twelve lead coins and a fragmentary sculpture of a female figure. The small lead coins have on

their reverse, faint *Ujjain* symbol and on the obverse bear much eroded legends. The fragmentary female image in round (36.5 cm in height, 22 cm in width and 12 cm thick), available only up to the waist, was found to the east of the *stupa* at a depth of 65 cm. The left hand is kept on the waist holding the loose ends of the upper garment. It is in tune with the typical Satavahana style of 1st – 2nd century AD, in having slender waist, fleshy thighs and ornamentation pattern. She wears a diaphanous cloth, which is held at the waist by a beaded girdle. The drapery flows on either side with wavy folds carried on to the back side of the sculpture. The image probably is of a *Yakshi* or a *Salabhanjika*.

Pottery: As the complex is primarily of religious affinity, the ceramic industry of the period is not well represented in this site. The trenches laid on the southern side of the *stupa* have yielded a small quantity of pottery comprising polished red ware, red slipped ware, ordinary black ware and chocolate brown ware akin in shapes to the early historic pottery from other well known sites of Karnataka – Andhra region. The polished red ware, available in larger quantity, is represented by wide mouthed storage jars, thick shallow vessels with beaded and collared rims with conical bottom, globular water vessels of medium size and small carinated pots. The ordinary red ware largely has flat-based bowl with tapering profile of a variety of size and corresponding platter-like lids. One of the black ware sherds has an engraving ‘*Hogalikasa*’ in *Brahmi* characters of 1st – 2nd century AD.

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS
MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Dharwad Circle

KARNATAKA

01. CHICKKI GUDI, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The leaky roof of the temple was suitably water tightened by pointing the joints by using combination mortar.

02. DURGA TEMPLE, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-To regulate the rain water in the garden area and pathways around the temple, rubble masonry drainage was provided along the eastern periphery with a gradient from east to west.

03. JYOTHIRLINGA GROUP OF TEMPLE, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- The dislodged and disturbed architectural members such as roofslabs, beams, capitals, pillars and walls of the entire temple were completely dismantled after proper documentation. The temple was reconstructed using the original architectural members following the original plan and elevation up to the plinth level after duly strengthening the foundation (Pl.IA and B).

04. RACHI GUDI, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-In order to avoid men and cattle entering and misusing the protected premises around the temple, 1.80m high rubble masonry compound wall in combination mortar was raised to a length of

90m along the northern periphery of the protected area. The area around the temple on the northern and southern sides was levelled with proper gradient.

05. TARABASAPPA TEMPLE, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The uneven and undulated area around the temple is leveled with proper gradient to avoid stagnation of the rain water. Iron grill gate was provided at the main entrance.

06. VENIYAR GUDI, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT. -The sunken and dislodged stone members of foundation, plinth, *kakshasana*, pillar bases, capitals, ceiling slabs etc. of the main temple were dismantled carefully after proper documentation, and stacked in a convenient manner near the site for reconstruction. The foundation courses were reset after laying P.C.C bed of requisite thickness (Pl. IIA and B).

07. AGASTYA TEERTHA TANK, BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- The dislodged and fallen stone members of the stone masonry retaining wall along the periphery of the tank on the southern side of the Durgamma temple were dismantled after due documentation and reconstructed to the plumb following the original plan after providing suitable P.C.C foundation (Pl. IIIA and B).

08. BHUTANATHA TEMPLE, BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The dislodged and out of plumb wall and the flight of steps on the northern side of the main

temple were carefully dismantled and reconstructed as per the original using the same sand stone members after duly strengthening the foundation.

09. MUSEUM BUILDING, BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-Requisite earth work including cutting of bedrock for laying the foundation for the proposed extension to the Museum building and laying of foundation in size stone masonry is completed.

10. NORTH FORT AND TEMPLES BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The eroded and undulated flight of steps were neatly repaired using combination mortar and the surface is matched with the original by suitable colour washing.

11. PALLAVA INSCRIPTION, BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The damaged and ugly looking barbed wire fencing over the compound on the northern frontage was removed and new crimped wire fencing to the requisite height was provided.

12. JAINA TEMPLE, HALLUR, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The area around the temple is levelled with proper gradient. The work of providing new flight of steps is in progress.

13. JATAVEDAMUNIGADDUGE, KUDALA SANGAMA, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-Dismantled portion of the temple is being reconstructed following the original

plan and elevation using the same old architectural members and replacing with new ones wherever necessary.

14. SANGAMESWARA TEMPLE, KUDALA SANGAMA, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- Reconstruction of the dismantled *mahamandapa* using the original members and providing new ones wherever required is in progress. The joints of the reconstructed portion are pointed using combination mortar.

14. GROUP OF TEMPLES, PATTADAKAL, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The undulated and out of plumb original U.C.R stone masonry wall set in mud mortar on either side of the steps leading to the sculpture shed was completely dismantled and useful material was stacked for reuse. New R.R. stone masonry compound wall set in combination mortar was raised after laying P.C.C foundation of requisite thickness.

14. SANGAMESWARA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The sunken and undulated stone slabs of the temple were removed and neatly re-laid over a P.C.C. bed of suitable thickness.

15. SCULPTURE GALLERY, PATTADAKAL, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The decayed and dead lime mortar laid over the roof of the gallery was completely

removed and reinforced cement concrete of requisite thickness was provided to arrest seepage of rainwater.

16. VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.-The broken and damaged roof slabs of the *Sabhamandapa* were carefully removed and newly fabricated sand stone slabs matching with the original in colour and texture were provided. The joints were pointed with combination mortar. The leaking roof was suitably water tightened by laying brick jelly –lime concrete to a thickness of 40cm with proper gradient to avoid seepage of rainwater. The top surface was plastered in combination mortar to a smooth finishing. The joints in the wall were as well filled and pointed using combination mortar with colour finishing to match with the original. New flight of steps with balustrades was provided at the eastern entrance. New concealed electrical wiring and lighting arrangements were made with all accessories so as to give the interior of the temple a better aesthetic look.

18. HIKKALINGESWARA TEMPLE, KONNUR, DISTRICT BELGAUM.-The leaky roof of the temple is suitably water tightened by removing the dead and decayed concrete and relaying lime surkhi brickbats with suitable ramping. The joints of the main *shikara* were raked and refilled with grouting. The superstructure of the compound was raised to requisite height and crimped wire mesh with M.S angle posts was fixed over it.

19. KAMALA BASADI, BELGAUM, DISTRICT BELGAUM.-Old damaged wiring and lighting arrangements were removed and new concealed wiring electrification was done in the interior of the monument and for fixing lights at vantage points on the exterior.

20. SAFA MASJID, BELGAUM, DISTRICT BELGAUM.-The interior of the mosque is provided with concealed electrical wiring and lighting. For exterior lighting of elevational aspects concealed lighting arrangements are made at vantage points. The damaged walls of the ruined old well are dismantled and reconstructed in combination mortar and grills were provided to avoid untoward incidents. Pumpset and other requisite arrangements were installed for lifting water to ensure continuous water supply for the visitors, conservation works and gardening etc. The stone cut fountain and damaged portions of the pond were repaired and rendered functional. The dead lime plaster on the interior walls and roof was racked out to expose the original stone and engraved surfaces and suitably chemically treated.

21. GROUP OF MONUMENTS AT ASTHUR, BIDAR, DISTRICT BIDAR.-The dome of the tomb of Noorjahan Begum was rendered water tight by grouting the cracks with lime mortar. The decayed and dead lime plastering on the exterior surface of the super structure was removed and replastered as per the original. The ugly looking accretion wall blocking the arches was dismantled and welded mesh

doorframe has been fixed. The dilapidated flight of steps leading to the monument was completely dismantled and reconstructed as per the original.

22. MADARSA OF MOHAMMAD GAVAN, BIDAR, DISTRICT BIDAR.-The damaged concrete apron on the northern, southern and rear sides of the monument was re-laid with proper gradient to avoid stagnation of rain water and finished with lime mortar.

23. ASAR MAHAL, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-An *U.C.R.* stone masonry footing over *P.C.C.* bed was provided on the eastern and northern sides of the monument. The height of the compound wall was increased by constructing a rubble masonry wall over the footing.

24. BADIKAMAN, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-The damaged and ugly looking barbed wire fencing was removed and new G.I steel grills of approved design were fixed in combination mortar over the dwarf wall. The joints of the dwarf wall were pointed and plastered.

25. GAGAN MAHAL, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-Missing portion of the compound wall was constructed in rubble stone masonry set in combination mortar. The joints were pointed and coping layers of concrete was laid and

plastered. The disturbed flight of steps were dismantled and reconstructed as per the original.

26. IBRAHIM RAUZA, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-The rusted and damaged barbed wire and M.S angle fencing was removed and U.C.R compound wall set in combination mortar was raised to requisite height and newly designed structural grill was fixed over the compound with a coping in combination mortar. The damaged and weather worn original wooden doors were consolidated and repaired. The damaged pathway connecting the Ibrahim Rauza and the ancient toilet block within the complex is repaired and rendered functional.

27. JOD GUMBAZ, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-The dead and decayed old plaster over the walls, floor etc were removed completely by chipping and raking and were replastered in combination mortar after levelling the floor and grouting the voids and refilling joints of the walls wherever necessary. The top surface was rendered smooth and colour washed to match with the original.

28. JUMMA MASJID, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-After earth work *P.C.C* bed was laid and *U.C.R* masonry footing and basement were raised in the northern, western and eastern sides of the monument for the construction of the compound wall.

29. KARIMUDDIN MOSQUE, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-U.C.R. stone masonry wall set in combination mortar of requisite height was constructed over P.C.C. bed and crimped chain wire mesh was fixed over it and suitably painted.

30. MEHTARI MAHAL, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-The cracked portion of the arch and walls were dismantled and stacked for reuse and constructed the same in lime mortar with rubble stone. Repairs of the Chajja stone are in progress.

31. SANGEET AND NARI MAHAL, TORVI, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.-The rank vegetation grown in the protected area is removed. The undulated area is levelled with proper gradient to drain of the rainwater. The U.C.R. Compound wall of requisite height was constructed over a P.C.C. bed. The joints were neatly pointed and coping concrete course is laid. G.I steel grill gate is fixed and suitably pointed to match with the environs and colour of the monument.

32. SOMESWARA TEMPLE, DAMBAL, DISTRICT GADAG.-The dead and decayed lime mortar over the leaky roof of the temple has been removed completely. The work of relaying water proof course and the pavement around the temple is in progress.

33. MAHADEVA TEMPLE, ITTAGI, DISTRICT GADAG.-The dead and decayed lime mortar and other debris accumulated over the roof of the *mandapa* on the southern side of the temple was completely removed. The undulated area around the temple is levelled with proper gradient.

34. CHANDRA MOULESWAR TEMPLE, UNKAL, DISTRICT GADAG.-Requisite P.C.C bed has been laid for raising the compound wall around the monument.

35. FORT, GULBARGA, DISTRICT GULBARGA.-The rank vegetation grown over the fort wall and bastions as well as within the protected area is removed completely.

36. GREAT MOSQUE, GULBARGA, DISTRICT GULBARGA.-The dead and decayed plaster over the exterior of the domes was carefully removed. As a measure of water tightening, fresh lime surki concrete has been laid over the domes and surface is finished with lime mortar to match with the original.

37. HAFT GUMBAZ, GULBARGA, DISTRICT GULBARGA.-The fallen portion of the platform on the south eastern corner of the tomb of Feroz Shah Bahmani has been reconstructed as per original.

38. SIDDESWARA TEMPLE, HAVERI, DISTRICT HAVERI.-Compound wall was raised on the southern and eastern sides of the temple in size stone masonry. The interior of the temple was provided with electrification and lighting.

39. ADIKE NARAYANA TEMPLE, BHATKAL, DISTRICT UTTARAKANNADA.- The damaged and out of plumb compound wall on the northern and eastern sides of the temple are dismantled and reconstructed with new laterite stone blocks set in combination mortar after providing proper foundation and damp proof course in P.C.C. The dead and decayed old brick jelly concrete over the roof was completely removed and fresh course of brick jelly concrete was laid after suitably pointing the joints of the roof slabs.

40. KETPAI NARAYANA TEMPLE, BHATKAL, DISTRICT UTTARAKANNADA.- On the northern side of the temple fresh stone pitching was done for strengthening the foundation. Dead and decayed old brick jelly concrete over the leaking roof was completely removed. The joints of the roof slabs were pointed afresh with water proof course of brick jelly concrete was laid.

41. CHATURMUKHA BASTI, GERSOPPA, DISTRICT UTTARAKANNADA.-The damaged and bulged out compound wall of the temple was dismantled and reconstructed by using new dressed laterite blocks as per the original.

42. FORT, MIRJAN, DISTRICT UTTARAKANNADA.- The rank vegetation grown on the fort walls, excavated structures and the open area in the monument is cleared. The debris accumulated due to collapsing of the bastion and fort wall is cleared and reusable earth and laterite blocks were stacked. The bulged out and breached portions of the fort wall were re-constructed by using new dressed laterite stone (Pl.4A and B). The top surfaces of the excavated structures were given a waterproof course and the joints were pointed using combination mortar.

43. SARVESWARA TEMPLE, NAREGAL, DISTRICT UTTARAKANNADA.-A new approach road leading to the temple from the village limits was laid by spreading stone jelly and murrum after duly levelling the undulations besides constructing a rubble masonry stone culvert with R.C.C. pipe.

III. MUSEUMS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- A porch was constructed at the main entrance of the museum building by using stone pillars and R.R. stone masonry for better aesthetic appearance. The existing gallery was expanded by adding new wooden showcases for displaying sculptures.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, BADAMI, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- Spot lights were provided in the galleries to highlight the aesthetic appeal of the sculptures.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT:BIJAPUR.-Glass showcase was provided to the Mahakuta pillar inscription in the Gallery no.2 in order to avoid touching by the tourists. Masonry pedestals were prepared in the under ground vault for storing the reserve collection. Chain railing was provided to the displayed inscriptions in Gallery No.3.

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