



OpenAtlas and SHAHI

A Database System for the Humanities and Beyond

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About Us



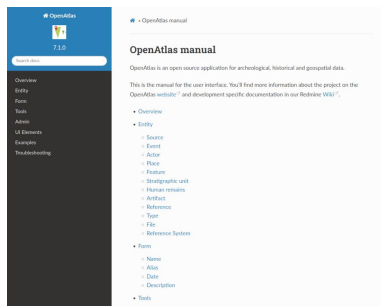
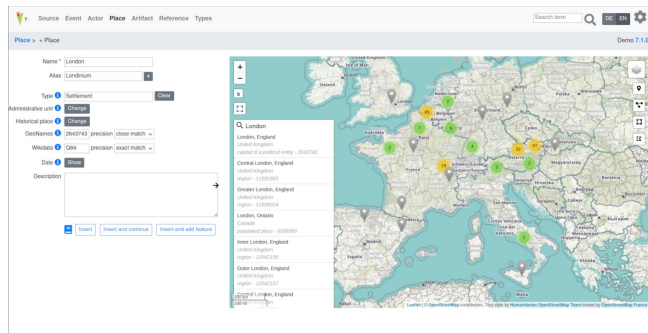
- **Andreas Olschnögger**
 - studied Software Engineering & Internet Computing at TU Vienna
 - since January 2022 developer for OpenAtlas
 - frontend development



- **Bernhard Koschiček-Krombholz**
 - studied
 - Computer Science at Applied University Technikum Vienna
 - History at University of Vienna
 - since October 2019 developer for OpenAtlas
 - API, administrator, backend development

About OpenAtlas

- Project website: <https://openatlas.eu>
- Initiated about 10 years ago by Stefan Eichert
- Mainly developed at the ACDH-CH
- Open source, browser based database software
- Acquire, edit and manage research data



OpenAtlas Collaborations

- With projects from all fields of the humanities
- Mostly historical, archaeological and prosopographic projects
- A lot of synergies between the projects

 MAMEMS

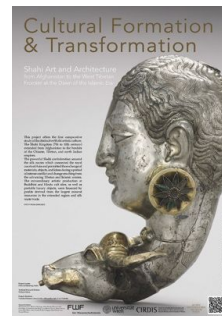
APPROACH — NG
BYZANT — UM


 Indigo

 MEDCON

 connec

 Moving Byzantium



 DPP | Digitising
Patterns of
Power



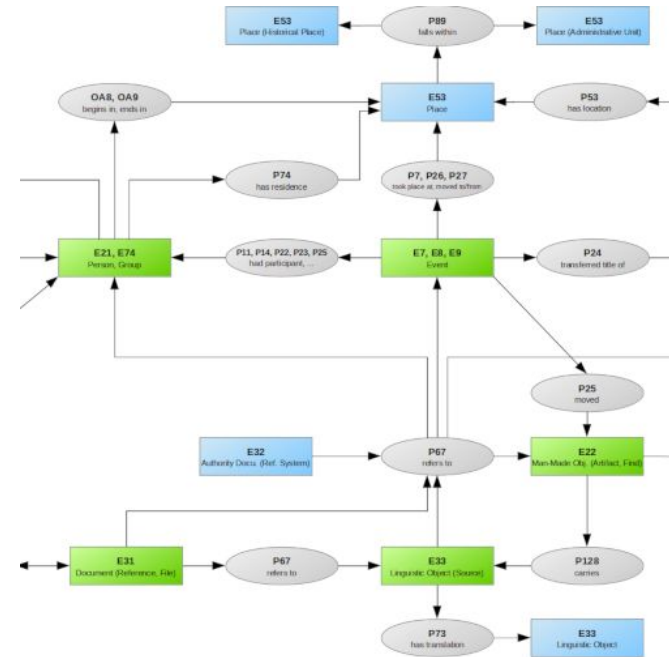
Mission Statement

- Open source – open access
- Transparent workflow and communication
- High-quality data integrity and coding standards
- Usability
- Interoperable through
 - CIDOC CRM
 - FAIR principles
 - API
 - External references



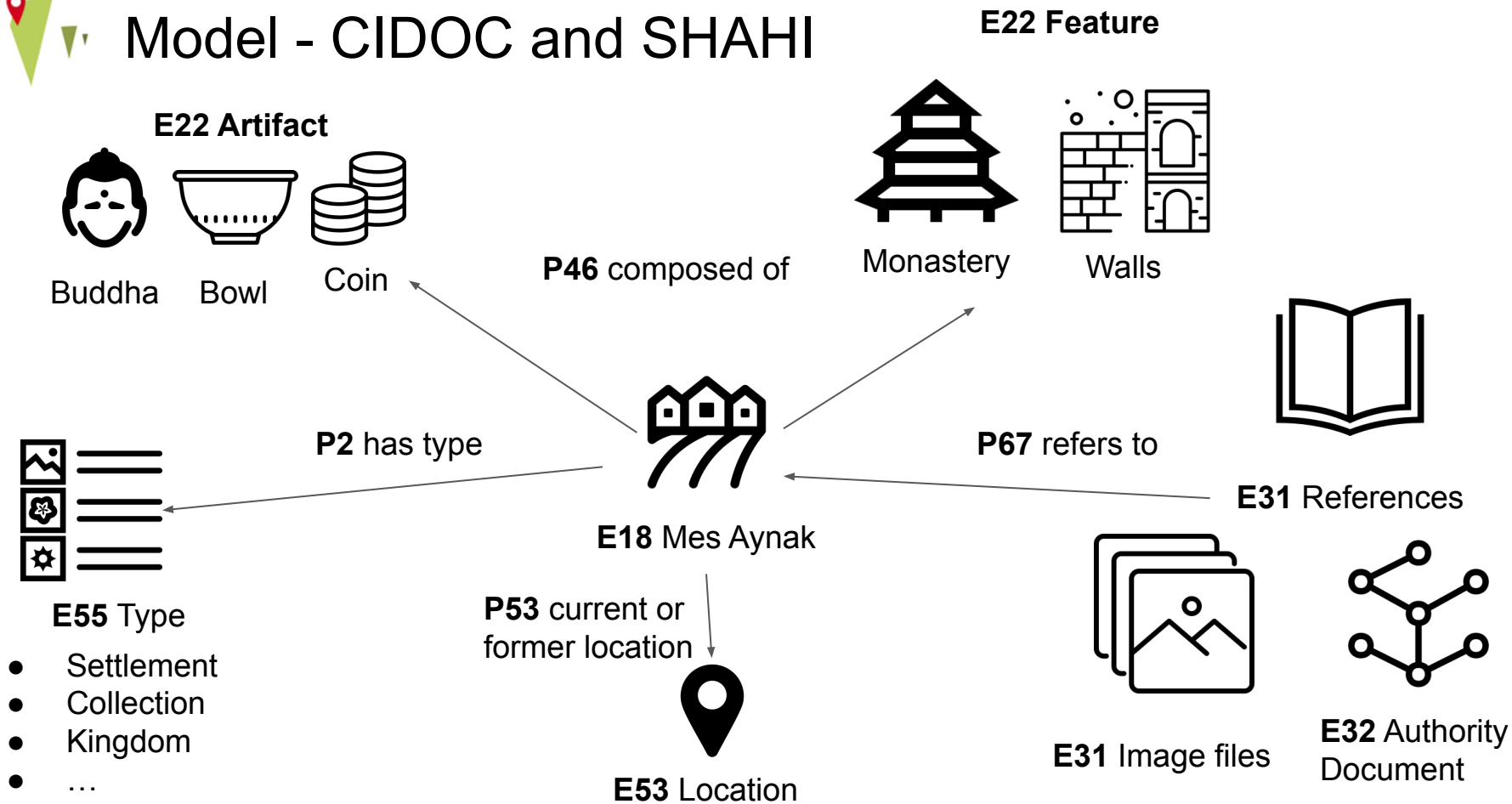
Model - CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model

- International standard (ISO)
- Developed for Cultural Heritage
- Specifies classes for entities like actor, source, event, place and rules how to link them





Model - CIDOC and SHAHI





Name *

Alias

Type

Administrative unit

Collection

Historical place

Kingdom

Patron

Religious affiliation

GeoNames

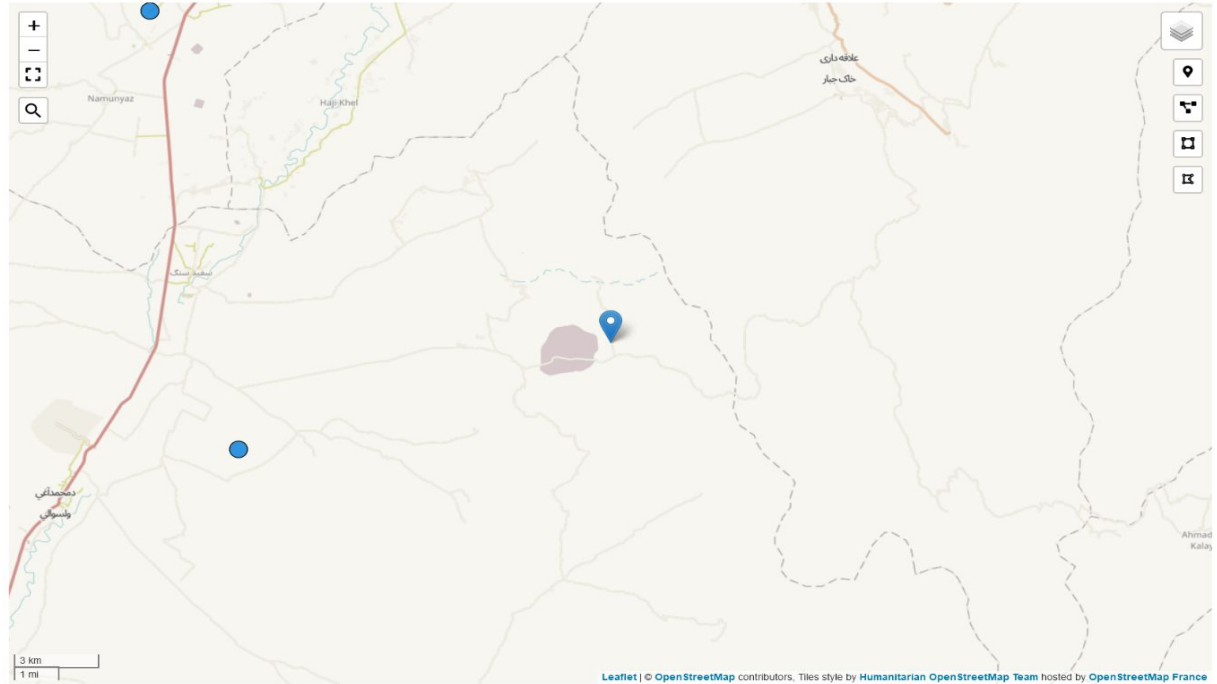
Wikidata

Date

Begin

End

Description





Types

Shahi 7.11.1



Standard types

Custom types

Place types

Value types

System types

+ Type hierarchy

Category of Authenticity



Collection



Type to search

+ Type

Edit

Delete

Selection: multiple

Required: false (make required)

Classes: artifact, place

Multiple linked entities: show

Untyped entities: show

- Bronzes of the Paṭola Śāhi 9
- Clay-based Architectural Decoration 162
- Coins of the Śāhi Kingdoms 214
- Cult objects 55
- Inscriptions of the Śāhi kingdoms 80
- National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul 141
- Paintings 2
- Red Clay-based Buddhist Sculpture 107
- The Salt Range Temples of the Śāhi Period 10
- The Swat Style Group of Copper Alloy Sculptures 16

Denomination



Dynasty



Findspot



Has inscription



Issuer

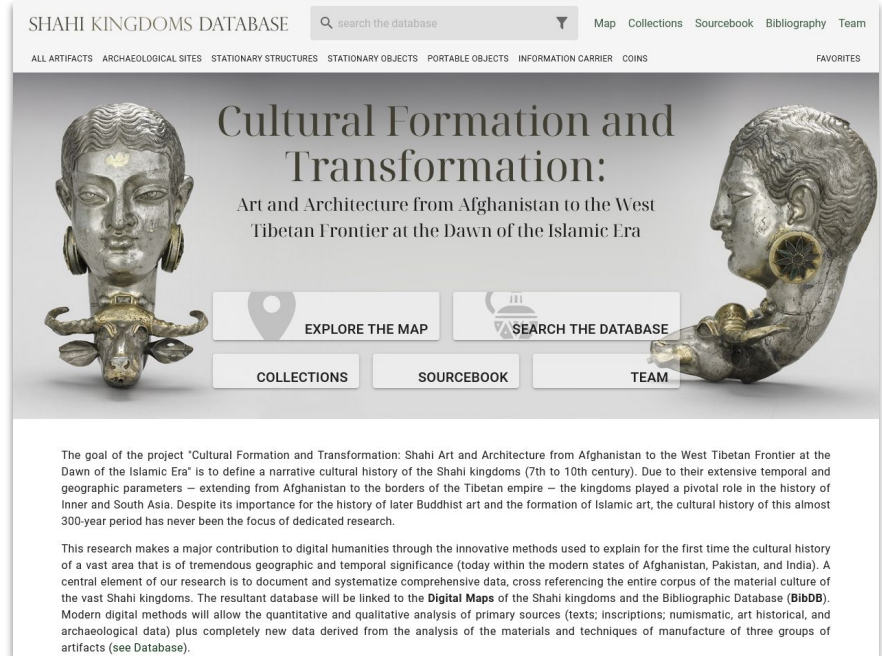




Shahi Kingdoms Database

- Map
- Detail page
- Collections
- Search functionality
- Sourcebook
- Bibliography

<https://shahi.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/>



SHAHI KINGDOMS DATABASE

search the database

Map Collections Sourcebook Bibliography Team

ALL ARTIFACTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES STATIONARY STRUCTURES STATIONARY OBJECTS PORTABLE OBJECTS INFORMATION CARRIER COINS FAVORITES

Cultural Formation and Transformation:

Art and Architecture from Afghanistan to the West Tibetan Frontier at the Dawn of the Islamic Era

EXPLORE THE MAP

SEARCH THE DATABASE

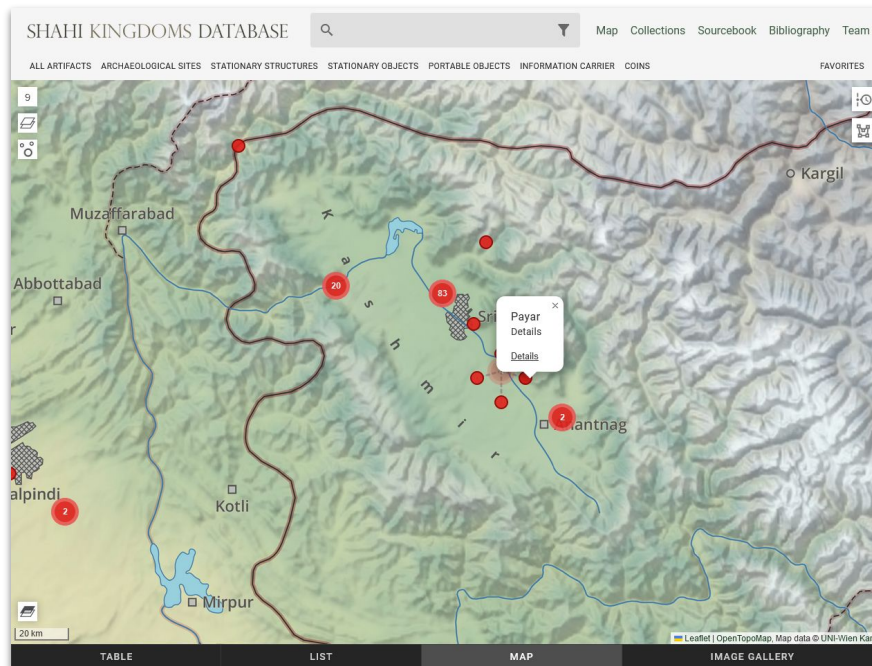
COLLECTIONS SOURCEBOOK TEAM

The goal of the project "Cultural Formation and Transformation: Shahi Art and Architecture from Afghanistan to the West Tibetan Frontier at the Dawn of the Islamic Era" is to define a narrative cultural history of the Shahi kingdoms (7th to 10th century). Due to their extensive temporal and geographic parameters – extending from Afghanistan to the borders of the Tibetan empire – the kingdoms played a pivotal role in the history of Inner and South Asia. Despite its importance for the history of later Buddhist art and the formation of Islamic art, the cultural history of this almost 300-year period has never been the focus of dedicated research.

This research makes a major contribution to digital humanities through the innovative methods used to explain for the first time the cultural history of a vast area that is of tremendous geographic and temporal significance (today within the modern states of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India). A central element of our research is to document and systematize comprehensive data, cross referencing the entire corpus of the material culture of the vast Shahi kingdoms. The resultant database will be linked to the **Digital Maps** of the Shahi kingdoms and the Bibliographic Database (**BibDB**). Modern digital methods will allow the quantitative and qualitative analysis of primary sources (texts; inscriptions; numismatic, art historical, and archaeological data) plus completely new data derived from the analysis of the materials and techniques of manufacture of three groups of artifacts (see Database).

Map

- Artifacts and Sites
- Clusters
- Layers
- Timeline



Detail View

- Entity details
- Image gallery
- Related artifacts
- Related places
- Map

SHAHI KINGDOMS DATABASE [Map](#) [Collections](#) [Sourcebook](#) [Bibliography](#) [Team](#)

[ALL ARTIFACTS](#) [ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES](#) [STATIONARY STRUCTURES](#) [STATIONARY OBJECTS](#) [PORTABLE OBJECTS](#) [INFORMATION CARRIER](#) [COINS](#) [FAVORITES](#)

Mes Aynak

100 - 900

[Related Artifacts >](#)


Fieldwork:
1977 CNRS - geological survey;
2009-2014 AIA and international teams - excavations (rescue archaeology)

Collections:
DAFA - sherds

One of the most important archaeological sites in the greater Kabul region. Situated ca. 40 km southeast of Kabul in the Logar Valley and along one of the ancient subsidiary pilgrimage/trade routes to India. The site is a vast area, usually said to be .2.2 kilometers square, it lies at an average of about 2,500 meters above sea level and is surrounded on three sides by mountains. The most intensive concentration of archaeological remains at Mes Aynak lies on the right bank of the Logar Valley between two streams of the Baba Wali River. The streams traverse the Koh-I Baba Wali and join below Gul Hamid village, eventually emptying into the Logar River at Zayadabad. It is also one of the largest copper deposits in the world (Klimburg-Salter 2018: figs. 1 and 2). The site is threatened both by imminent mining activities and widespread looting. Accordingly, salvage archaeology began in 2009 in partnership with DAFA.

Four groups of sites have been to varying degrees explored: civil architecture (primarily defensive structures at the crown of the mountain); domestic housing and related urban structures at the base of the mountain; mines and other evidence for copper extraction and working; and religious sites, the latter of which has received the most attention. Six sites have been to varying degrees explored:

- Tepe Kafiriat,
- Shah Tona



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Photo credit: Deborah Klimburg-Salter, 2010, Western Himalaya Archive Vienna (WHAV), with thanks to the Afghan Institute of Archaeology.

[All Images >](#)

Red Clay-based Buddhist Sculpture

During the Śāhi period (7th-10th century CE), unfired clay was the preferred medium to decorate Buddhist establishments in eastern Afghanistan. A unique aesthetic and technical development was the use of red clay (and red clay surface treatments) which became popular from the 7th century for sculpture production at sites in the Kabul Valley, Logar, Ghazni, and the Hindukush, as well as one site at the eastern periphery of the kingdoms in Jammu, India.

[Explore Collection >](#)

[Open license](#)



The Salt Range Temples of the Śāhi Period

The history of the northern Indian Nāgara tradition of temple architecture in the early medieval period needs to take account of a distinctive, outlying branch in the region between ancient Gandhāra and the Punjab. Fewer than twenty monuments survive, much dilapidated, straddling today's Punjab and



Red Clay-based Buddhist Sculpture

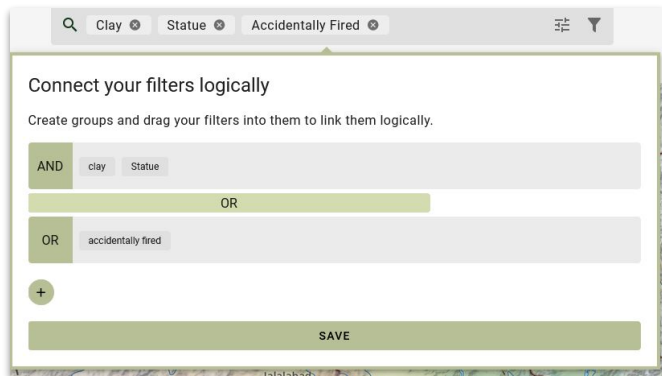


Description

During the Śāhi period (7th-10th century CE), unfired clay was the preferred medium to decorate Buddhist establishments in eastern Afghanistan. A unique aesthetic and technical development was the use of red clay (and red clay surface treatments) which became popular from the 7th century for sculpture production at sites in the Kabul Valley, Logar, Ghazni, and the Hindukush, as well as one site at the eastern periphery of the kingdoms in Jammu, India.

Search

- Search by
 - Name
 - Description
 - Types
 - Time
- Logically concatenate filters



Connect your filters logically

Create groups and drag your filters into them to link them logically.

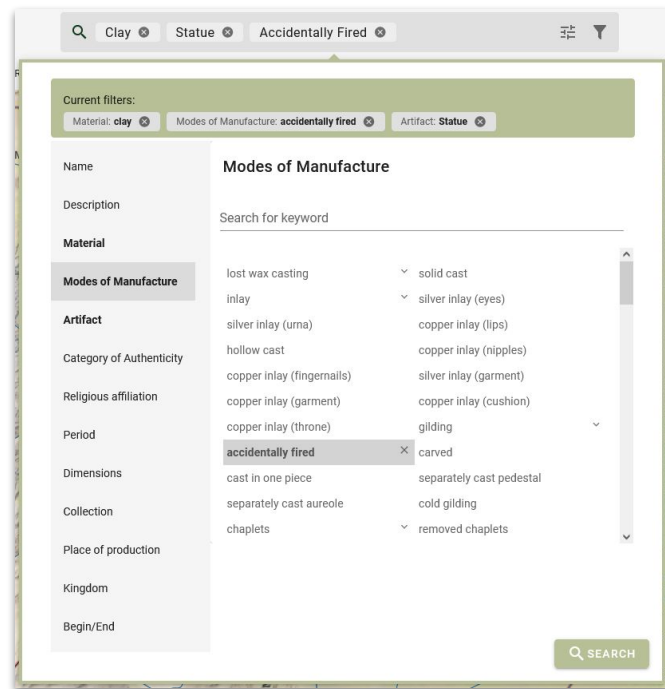
AND clay Statue

OR

OR accidentally fired

+

SAVE



Clay Statue Accidentally Fired

Current filters:
Material: clay Modes of Manufacture: accidentally fired Artifact: Statue

Name

Description

Material

Modes of Manufacture

Artifact

Category of Authenticity

Religious affiliation

Period

Dimensions

Collection

Place of production

Kingdom

Begin/End

Search for keyword

lost wax casting	solid cast
inlay	silver inlay (eyes)
silver inlay (uma)	copper inlay (lips)
hollow cast	copper inlay (nipples)
copper inlay (fingernails)	silver inlay (garment)
copper inlay (garment)	copper inlay (cushion)
copper inlay (throne)	gilding
accidentally fired	carved
cast in one piece	separately cast pedestal
separately cast aureole	cold gilding
chaplets	removed chaplets

SEARCH



Sourcebook

SHAHI KINGDOMS DATABASE



Map Collections Sourcebook Bibliography Team

ALL ARTIFACTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES STATIONARY STRUCTURES STATIONARY OBJECTS PORTABLE OBJECTS INFORMATION CARRIER COINS

FAVORITES

Sourcebook

The Shahi project team has produced this collection of Sourcebook entries to inform each other of developments in their own respective research and provide information pertaining to the cultural history of the Shahi kingdoms to a wider audience. Each concise entry attempts to more precisely define a research problem or summarize key sources and includes relevant bibliographic and digital references that can be cross-referenced in the Shahi Kingdoms Database, Bibliographic Database, and scientific publication series of the project.

*The Shahi Kingdoms Digital Research Platform employs two transliteration systems. To ensure accessibility across scholarly disciplines and for general audiences, simplified phonetic transcriptions are used for frequently-used terms on the platform (e.g., Shahi). Diacritics are employed in individual scholars' contributions, such as Sourcebook entries (e.g., Śāhi).

ALL ENTRIES VIEWER

Archaeological Evidence for a Climatic and Agrarian Crisis in Swat By Luca M. Olivieri
Page 1

Hindu Śāhi Coinage: Towards a New Chronology By Arturo Annucci
Page 2

Kharwar (Kafir Kot), Afghanistan: Buddhist Clay-based Sculpture from the Early Period of the Śāhi Kingdoms
By Natasha Kimmeth
Page 3

Red Clay-based Buddhist Sculpture in the Shahi Kingdoms: Material and Technical Considerations from the
Kabul Valley to the Himalayan Foothills By Natasha Kimmeth
Page 4

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FAVORITES

What Archaeological Evidence is there for the Śāhi Political Center at Hund
(Udabhāṅgapura)? By Natasha Kimmeth

1 von 5 Automatischer Zoom

SOURCEBOOK FOR THE SHAHI KINGDOMS¹

What Archaeological Evidence is there for the Śāhi Political Center at Hund (Udabhāṅgapura)?

Natasha N. Kimmeth

The rulers of the Śāhi kingdoms maintained two political centers—the western capital at Kabul (Afghanistan) and eastern political center at Udabhāṅgapura² (modern Hund, Pakistan).³ The significance of these sites is attested in historical written sources and material remains. But while there is abundant material evidence from the Śāhi periods at Kabul, the remains at Hund are limited. Why would so little exist from this crucial center of Śāhi political authority and economic wealth? This brief inquiry explores the archaeological evidence at Hund.

Hund is strategically positioned on the right bank of the Indus River, at the major crossing⁴ of the river and along one of the main trade routes connecting the western Śāhi capital at Kabul

¹ Online publication of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) project "Cultural Formation and Transformation: Shahi Art and Architecture from Afghanistan to the West Tibetan Frontier at the Dawn of the Islamic Era" (P31244) directed by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Deborah Klimburg-Salter in collaboration with National Research Partner FR. Doz. Dr. Michael Hahn.

² Rahman (1979: 16-17) discusses the etymology and variants of Udabhāṅgapura as found in literary sources. See Verdon (2021) for discussion of the transliteration of this Sanskrit toponym as 'Wayhind' in Arabic and Persian sources.

³ Scholars frequently identify Kabul as the principal Turk Śāhi capital and Udabhāṅgapura as the winter headquarters (e.g., Rahman 1979: 4; Kowwama 2002: 243, also 265), referring to the travel account of the 8th-century Korean monk Huihao, notes that the Kabul Valley and Gandhara were ruled by one and the same king who resided in Jhin in summer and in Gandhara, or more precisely at Udabhāṅgapura on the north bank of the Indus, in winter (see also Saha 2010: 448). Kowwama (2002: 263) further states that "some thirty years later, Wukong, the vice-ambassador of the Tang Mission to the king of Jhin, arrived at Udabhāṅgapura and clearly



Bibliography

SHAHI KINGDOMS DATABASE

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Bibliography for the cultural history of the Shahi Kingdoms

This is an online resource of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) project 'Cultural Formation and Transformation: Shahi Art and Architecture from Afghanistan to the West Tibetan Frontier at the Dawn of the Islamic Era' (P- 31246) directed by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Deborah Klimburg-Salter in collaboration with National Research Partner HR Doz. Dr. Michael Alram. The following list includes publications relevant for the study of the cultural history of the Shahi Kingdoms compiled by the project core team and expanded through the contributions of Prof. Dr. Minoru Inaba, Dr. Noémie Verdon (primary literary sources) and other project consultants. Last update 08.11.2021

Search

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A large, light green, semi-transparent map pin icon is centered in the background. To its right, there are two smaller, identical map pin icons, one above the other, also in light green and semi-transparent.

Thank you for your kind attention!

OpenAtlas:

Web: <https://openatlas.eu>

GitHub: <https://github.com/craws/OpenAtlas>