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Contribution of original nature dealing with pre-historic and field-archaeology, epigraphy, manuscripts, numismatics, archives, art, anthropology and architecture of Nepal and museum and other techniques connected with various aspects of art work are invited to "Ancient Nepal".

The contribution should be concise and well-documented and based on hitherto unpublished data, if not new interpretation of already known evidence.

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or The Department of Archaeology.

Photographs and illustrations (line drawing) may be sent. The typescript should be in double space and one side of the paper only sent to:

The Director General
Department of Archaeology
Ramshahpath
Kathmandu, Nepal
In the last few decades interest in the research and documentation of rock art has increased on a global scale. On the one hand, this has been due, in part, to recent technological developments and advances in scientific methods of dating, such as accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating. On the other hand, the growing interest in rock art has also been the result of the realization that petroglyphs (engravings) and pictographs (paintings) are not, as had long been presumed, simply graffiti which were created in early historic or prehistoric times by tribal peoples just to pass the time of day. Rather, they are cultural and historical documents which are a potential source of significant scientific information.

Only a few rock art sites are known to exist in the Himalayas. They are in India, in Ladakh and Zanskar (see FRANCFORT et al., 1990). Considering the scarcity of known rock art in the Himalayas, the discovery of the rock engravings of Kak Nyingba in Mustang (Nepal) was an important one, especially in view of the fact that no rock art had been documented in Nepal up until then. The petroglyphs were found during fieldwork on the history and geography of settlements in the southern Mustang district in 1993. Two further sites of rock engravings (Samar, Te) were found during field trips in 1995 to northern Mustang (see Fig. 1).

The studies carried out on the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba occurred within the interdisciplinary German Research Council (DFG) focus programme “Settlement Processes and the Formation of States in the High Himalayas Characterized by Tibetan Culture and Tradition” (see HAFFNER & POHLE, 1993). One primary task of the geographical project was to prepare a representative documentation of the remains (abandoned sites) in the cultural landscape of present-day Mustang district. Both abandoned sites (e.g. 1. I want to thank Philip Pierce for the translation of this paper into English.
settlement ruins) and rock art are relics of past epochs and important evidence of earlier populations, their ways of life and manifestation of beliefs. The study of both in each case had historical reconstruction as its goal. Methodologically, the work thus comes under, on the one hand, the historical settlement geography (and in particular, the geographical study of abandoned sites), and on the other, the interdisciplinary rock art research. One main goal of the historical-geographical investigations was the documentation, analysis and interpretation of the various rock art motifs, styles and techniques evidenced in Kak Nyingba. Another main objective was to integrate the rock art discoveries into the local history of the cultural landscape of Mustang and the supra-regional cultural and geographical context (see POHLE, 2000).

The petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba

The petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba are located north of the main range of the Himalayas in the middle course of the Kali Gandaki river at a height of 2,770 m (see Fig. 1). The surrounding landscape is that of an arid high mountain area with oasislike farming settlements - an area populated by Tibetan peoples and dominated by Tibetan culture and traditions. The petroglyphs were carved into flat sandstone banks abutting the Kali Gandaki river. The deserted settlement of Kak Nyingba, after which the rock art site was named, lies in the vicinity.

The petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba were hammered or chiselled into the rock with simple stone tools, and partially ground and polished. In all, 1,189 petroglyphs have been identified up until now (single cup-marks were not counted). For the most part, the petroglyphs are distributed over two large areas of rock within a radius of about 200 m. An overview of the various engraved motifs and their typology is given in Fig. 2. The approximate number of petroglyphs according to single motifs, motif categories and groups is shown in Fig. 3. The petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba are small in size and dominated by symbolic representations. Cup-marks are very common - a form typical of rock art all over the world. In addition, several human and animal figures are represented. Less common are decorative elements or patterns, and inscriptions and characters as well. The latter are, for the most part, recent Tibetan Buddhist inscriptions.

Rock art in the context of historical and geographical settlement research in the Tibetan Himalayas

The rocks of Kak Nyingba must have been used as a “writing surface” over a long period of time. This is indicated not only by the different degrees of weathering and repatination of the engraved rock surfaces, but also by the high variability in the rock art motifs, styles, and techniques represented. Indeed, further features suggest that the Kak Nyingba petroglyphs go back to prehistoric times - for example, the use of stone tools in making the pictures and the large number of superimpositions of rock art figures, signs and symbols (see POHLE, 2000).

Thus the discovery of the petroglyphs supports the thesis that the settlement and cultural history of the northern Nepal Himalayas is several thousands of years old, despite the unfavourable ecological conditions specific to this high mountainous area (see HAFFNER & POHLE, 1993). Archaeological investigations of cave systems and terrace settlements in southern Mustang provide evidence of at least three thousand years of history (see SIMONS & SCHÖN, 1998). During this time extensive migration and cultural assimilation, along with warfare and other forms of conflict, took place, as indicated by relics from previous settlements and their high concentration in Mustang (see POHLE, 2000). If one takes a look at the map (Fig. 1), the large concentration
of abandoned sites in the Mustang district is immediately apparent. Along the Kali Gandaki river and its side valleys, on a distance of about 70 km north to south, not less than 200 abandoned sites (including caves, abandoned settlements and fields, ruins of fortresses, palaces and monasteries) were documented.

One basic reason why Mustang for centuries was repeatedly the scene of military conflict is its geographical location. Being a region that stretches from north to south along the Kali Gandaki valley, it joins in a virtually ideal manner the Tibetan plateau with the foothills of the Nepalese Himalayas, and thus with India. Already in early times, therefore, the Kali Gandaki valley was a favoured trading route, on which, typically, grain from the south was transported in large caravans to Tibet, and salt from the north to Nepal (see FÜRER-HAIMENDORF, 1975). Control over such a trading route from early on signified political power, on the one hand, and economic gain on the other. If settlement remains of the most diverse type and age are massed in the region of this landscape of passes and defiles, and if all rock art sites hitherto discovered are situated there, then this is only one more indication of the special historical dynamics at work in the Himalayan transverse valley of the Kali Gandaki.

Problems of dating rock engravings

Despite all efforts, the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba have not yet been dated absolutely. Indirect and relative dating methods, however, have yielded some results. According to the degree of weathering, for example, it is obvious that the Tibetan inscriptions containing religious mantras are the youngest, not yet repatinated engravings. A darker patina is displayed by various Buddhist symbols (e.g. svastikas, stupas, vases). From the weathering of their edges, however, it is clear that they are not the oldest petroglyphs. The engravings of axes and the motifs connected with them, such as snakes, are even older (see Figs. 4.1 & 4.2). They can be interpreted as proof of the presence of pre-Buddhist religious ideas. For petroglyphs belonging to earlier periods, a more exact differentiation based on the degree of weathering becomes unreliable. Under these circumstances, bench marks for the antiquity of the rock art can only be derived - hesitantly - by an analysis and comparison of rock art styles, or by drawing on dated motifs at other locations.

One example of how age can be estimated by comparing styles is the engraving of the blue sheep next to a labyrinth (see Figs. 5.1 & 5.2). Prominent features, such as the long beaklike snout, the representation of the animal in a "warped" perspective, and the co-occurrence of a labyrinth points to the so-called "animal style" from the time of the Scythians. This specific artistic style from the middle of the first millennium BC is also known as the "Eurasian animal style", for it occurred all over Eurasia (see NOWGORODOWA, 1980). Rock art of this particular style is widely spread over Central Asia (see also JETTMAR, 1980, 1984).

One of the oldest motifs in Kak Nyingba alongside "solar discs", at least typologically, is the hoofprint (see Figs. 6.1 & 6.2), which figures 241 times. This motif is again common in the rock art of Central Asia (e.g. Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Siberia), there being no parallels in Indian rock paintings or engravings. In eastern Mongolia, one rock art site (Arasan chad) containing numerous petroglyphs of hoofprints has been described by NOWGORODOWA (1980:51). A very fortunate state of affairs for the dating of these petroglyphs came about with the discovery of one rock with hundreds of engraved pictures (including numerous hoofprints) whose lower parts were covered by a cultural layer from a Neolithic workshop. Therefore,
the petroglyphs must be older than the Neolithic settlement. The hoofprints are very similar to the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba, not only in terms of their typology, engraving style and the technique used, but also in size and the high number of engravings, and in their combination with other motifs (e.g. squares, semicircles) as well.

For the dating of the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba, the chronologies obtained with the aid of typological comparisons can be taken only as indications of a maximum age; that is, they may provide an idea of the span of time in which, for example, the hoof motif enjoyed its special status in the Central Asian realm. An exact date for the creation of the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba cannot be determined on the basis of comparison (see POHLE, 2000).

**Origins**

The rock engravings themselves provide no direct clues as to the ethnic origin of those who created them. The variety in the groups of rock art may have been produced owing both to the differing ethnic or cultural groups responsible for them, and to cultural change occurring within a single ethnic group over time. By referring to the historical context, and with the aid of comparative regional and cultural analysis, one may, however, arrive at indications of definite source cultures.

As an analysis of the rock art and an historical-geographical interpretation of the images and their sites in Mustang have shown (see POHLE, 2000), complexes of motifs (e.g. cup-marks and bowls, connected to each other by grooves) in Kak Nyingba, Samar and Te point to a formerly unified base culture in these areas. Alongside linguistic and ethnological considerations (see RAMBLE, 1998), therefore, the studies carried out on the rock art thus offer a further piece of evidence that Kak Nyingba and Samar, nowadays Tibetan-speaking areas, were once inhabited by a non-Tibetan population that spoke a Tibeto-Burman language (Seke), and whose religion was highly animistic. Whereas even today a Seke-speaking population is still living in the town of Te, the regions around Kak Nyingba and Samar have been Tibetanized in both language and culture, and so Buddhicized - a process that can clearly be traced in the rock art of Kak Nyingba.

At present no definite pronouncements can be made concerning the originators of other striking rock art motifs in Kak Nyingba - for example, the representations of hoofs or the axe engravings. To be sure, the groups of motifs can be assigned to certain cultural spheres, but it remains unclear whether it was concepts and ideas that were merely disseminating, or whether different population groups each manifested its own belief-based notions.

One thing may be said, however, with a great degree of probability: the producers of the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba were less likely to have been transients such as those along the Karakorum Highway (see JETTMAR, 1980) than local inhabitants. Several features favour this assumption, such as:

- the repertoire of motifs (e.g. the hunting scenes with local prey),
- the sacred nature of the rock art site, as well as
- the great effort in terms of time and experience which was needed in order to engrave complex scenes into a sandstone whose very hard weathered surface was difficult to work on.

**The petroglyph site and the deserted settlement**

Although investigations into the relationship between the rock engravings and the nearby deserted settlement of Kak Nyingba have not been completed yet, we can assume that the petroglyph site was formerly used by the inhabitants of the village. A mortar hole testifies to this, along with several engraved stone game boards of *rama rildok*, a Tibetan pastime commonly played by herders. In contrast
to this profane use in the more recent historical period, the original purpose of the site was of a sacred nature, and is likely to go back to prehistory. It is not possible to conclude at present, though, whether the site was being used by the local population as a ceremonial location already in pre-Buddhist times, particularly since the period of the settlement’s origin is still unclear. Initial results for the cultural layers of the deserted houses, using radiocarbon dating of charcoal and thermoluminescence dating of fritted soil, indicate habitation between the 11th to 15th centuries AD (see POHLE, 2000). The local oral tradition also confirms this (see RAMBLE, 1983).

**The function of the place**

A great deal of evidence indicates that the rock art site was of religious significance, that it was used as a ceremonial setting, and in particular as a possible site for cult and offering activities. Some evidence of this is as follows:

- the large number of symbolic representations (see Fig. 3);
- the placement of a large number of the same motifs together (e.g. hoofprints [see Figs. 6.1 & 6.2], footprints, “solar discs”, snakes), which can often be interpreted as an expression of cult or ritual activities;
- the engraving of the “sacrifice scene” (see Figs. 4.1 & 4.2) and close to it the discovery of a rock niche, covered with soot, in which fire sacrifices were presumably offered;
- the large number of cup-marks and bowls connected to each other by grooves, and which may have been used for libations, and finally
- the more recent engravings of Tibetan Buddhist symbols and inscriptions.

It is remarkable that the religious character of the site can be inferred during all periods of the rock art, and that the site had, and indeed still has, the status of a “sacred place” both in pre-Buddhist and Buddhist times. It thus reflects a certain cultural continuity expressive of a sense of allegiance to previously consecrated sacred places.

**Features relating to landscape ecology**

Inferences concerning environmental conditions may often be drawn from the representation of historical fauna in rock art. In Kak Nyingba, the significance of the rock engravings of deer (see POHLE, 2000) has been heightened by archaeological discoveries in the Muktinath valley: bones of primarily forest animals— including the deer— which no longer exist in Mustang (v. d. DRIESCH, 1995). Deer are dependent on extended forest areas for their habitats. The present-day landscape of Mustang, however, may be characterized as basically high mountain semi desert. In this context, the engravings of deer could be a further indication that the area of southern Mustang used to have a more dense forest cover than it does today. This, however, should be treated with caution: since the deer is an important mythological animal in the whole of Central Asia, drawing conclusions as to its natural distribution from rock engravings may be misleading.

**Economic activities**

Statements about the economic activities of those who produced the petroglyphs can be made on the basis of interpretations of the rock art motifs and their groupings into scenes. The rock engravings of Kak Nyingba also contain clues regarding the economic activities of their creators, such as specific hunting practices, including the different weapons used and animals ridden, as well as the various animals hunted. In one hunting scene, for example, a dog, a blue sheep and a rider on horseback can be identified. Hunting blue sheep obviously took place as a battue with dogs. In this way, the animals were driven downhill into traps, as is confirmed by local informants. Hunting blue sheep has a long tradition
in Nepal, in the area north of Dhaulagiri and Annapurna Himal. This is confirmed in the oral tradition (see KRETSCHELMAR, 1985).

In contrast to blue sheep, the hunting of wild yaks obviously took place on horseback, with bows and arrows, or even spears (see Figs. 7.1 & 7.2). Despite this, it is reasonable to conclude that the hunting scene of wild yaks is not a realistic one; rather, the disproportionately large arrow suggests imitative magic, according to which the result of the hunt is magically anticipated or ensured by creating the picture itself. Finally, it is remarkable that there is no information about agriculture or animal husbandry in the rock engravings of Kak Nyingba, unless the numerous hoof engravings in them be interpreted as magical symbols and the expression of a fertility cult intent on securing and increasing the number of livestock (see NOWGORODOWA, 1980; CHEN ZHAO FU, 1989).

**Rock art motifs and cultural regions**

The specific geographical location of the rock art in the border region between two cultural territories, the South Asian and the Central Asian, is reflected, among other things, in the art itself. Numerous motifs from the rock engravings of Kak Nyingba - examples are the hoofprints (see Figs. 6.1 & 6.2) and the blue sheep engraving next to a labyrinth (see Figs. 5.1 & 5.2) - appear to be related to Central Asian rock art, especially to what is located in Mongolia. Other common motifs in Kak Nyingba - for example, axes - have no equivalents in the rock art of Central Asia, but have been found in the rock engravings of the upper Indus valley (see JETTMAR & THEWALT, 1985), and in the rock art of central and southern India as well (see NEUMAYER, 1993). In the wider context, analogies to the axe engravings are also found in the European rock art of the Alps and of Scandanavia.

**The universality of rock art motifs**

Rock art motifs of the same kind which appear in different areas very far away from each, on the one hand, may reflect large-scale exchange of information, ideas and trading goods. On the other hand, they do not necessarily imply cultural contact, but may simply be representations of universal phenomena (i.e. rock art archetypes; see ANATI, 1991). Examples of widely found patterns are motifs such as “solar discs”, spirals, hand- and footprints, and cup-marks and bowls, all of which occur in the rock engravings of Kak Nyingba. Is it now the theory of a large-scale exchange of ideas, information, trading goods and products of the material culture that might fit as an approach to understanding? Or are the motifs simply representations of universal phenomena and activities that have their roots in a common human system of association? Many aspects of rock art, including some exhibited by the petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba, will necessarily remain a mystery for some time to come.

**Bibliography**


PETROGLYPHS


Fig. 1: Petroglyphs and abandoned sites in Mustang (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 2: Repertoire and typology of rock art motifs in Kak Nyingba (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 3: Approximate number of petroglyphs in Kak Nyingba according to motif category and group

Fig. 4.1: Photograph of the "sacrifice scene" (P. Pohle)

Fig. 4.2: Drawn copy of the "sacrifice scene" showing a human with an axe in his raised hand, an anthropomorphc figure in motion (dance?), one unspecified "sacrificial animal", one dog, two snakes and four axes beside linings and cup-marks (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 5.1: Photograph of the blue sheep engraving next to a labyrinth (trap?) (P. Pohle)

Fig. 5.2: Drawn copy of the blue sheep looking back at a labyrinth (trap?). The motif has been artistically engraved into rough sandstone (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 6.1: Photograph of hoofprints together with "solar discs", lines and geometric signs (P. Pohle)

Fig. 6.2: Drawn copy of hoofprints together with "solar discs", lines and geometric signs (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 7.1: Photograph of the hunting scene (P. Pohle)

Fig. 7.2: Drawn copy of the hunting scene showing five men on horseback with bows and arrows or spears hunting wild yaks (three figures). At a later point in time, an axe was engraved in superimposition to the hunting scene. In the lower part of the scene, a blue sheep can be identified. (Draft: P. Pohle)
Petroglyphs

TIBET

DOLPO

MUSTĀN

DOLPO

TIBET

China

India

Mustān District

Classification of deserted places

- Caves, anthropogenic
- Settlement, abandoned
- Fort / castle / fortified settlement, ruin
- Watch-tower, ruin

* Monastery, ruin
o Building, ruin

Petroglyphs

Fields, abandoned
Fig. 2: Repertoire and typology of rock art motifs in Kak Nyingba (Draft: P. Pohle)

Fig. 2

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* identification uncertain

Fig. 3: Approximate number of petroglyphs of Kak Nyingba according to motif categories and groups
The Sinja Valley Excavation in 2000 A.D.*

Christopher Evans & David Gibson
with U. Acharya, T. Harward & R. Kunwar

Our brief fieldwork season in October, 2000 was primarily directed towards the testing of the main ridge-top ruins and only summary inspection could be made earlier survey findings in the wider environs. However, even in this, our programme was curtailed. Due to Maoist insurgency the army had just been deployed in the region, and the local villages were divided whether they would allow the fieldwork to progress. Throughout our Nepalese HMG partner, Mr. U. Acharya (assisted by Mr. R. Kunwar), adroitly handled what was clearly very tense and potentially volatile circumstances with admirable perseverance and sensitivity.

Background

It was through his researches in western Nepal that Yogi Naraharinath first identified Sinja as probably being the site of the summer palace of the Mallas (1956/2013), and this interpretation was furthered by Tucci (1956 & 1962). Thereafter followed Joshi's summary investigations in the 1970s (1971/2028), with the current fieldwork programme arising from Mr. T. Harward's more recent surveys within the region. Documenting decorated architectural fragments, sculpted remains, pipe-irrigation systems and an extraordinary array of small finds (e.g. copper alloy tablets and figurines), it was through his instigation that the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) became involved in the area. In 1998 a preliminary season formally surveyed the earthworks and building foundations along the 'palace' ridges and documented other local findings (Evans, Gibson & Harward 1999). Most impressive amongst the latter are eight lion sculptures and a number of standing 'hero' stones (inscribed.)

Given local conditions and attitudes, in the course of the 2000 season it was initially decided to only 'regularize' the main north-south sondage of Joshi's earlier excavations on Terrace D (the traces of his cuttings and spoil heaps were much evident; fig. 1) and in no instance were walls dismantled.

1. Seeming to consist of no more that a day's rapid 'wall chasing', his work was not officially sanctioned and no records or finds can be located from it.

Eventually, however, we were able to proceed with greater confidence and could excavate meter-wide cross-trenches along the faces of main walls:

**North/South**
- Trench II (13.00m long)

**East/West**
- Trenches I, III & V (18.70m long, Trench VI denotes a sunken porch/alcove bordering the southern side of Trench II that had evidently been cleared by Joshi).

Through the cutting of bush, and the judicial probing and exposure of the tops of walls, we were able to determine the complex's plan across this swathe of the hill-side. In order to investigate the obviously 'artificially' levelled terrace summit bordering the western side of this complex, a 2.00 x 2.00m trial exposure was made in its middle (Trench IV). In addition, the larger scale recording of the ridge's earthworks was completed, with the southern end of Terrace H and the two terrace knolls beyond that surveyed (I & J; the former is the moat-enclosed rise on which the Kanaksundari Temple sits; pl. I & fig. 1). Showing a c. 12.00m variation across the top of the ridge itself, the following features have now been identified:

1. Small mound with traces of walling along its eastern side
2. Sub-rectangular mound of rubble (6 x 7.00m), probably building-related
3. Main building range/ruin; site of Joshi's investigations and 2000 excavations
4. Large dry ditch, c. 7.00m across and 2.00m deep, with upcast rampart to north
5. 'Square' foundations (c. 5 x 5.50m), said to be the site of a former shrine to water god, Jalapa, approached by walled (largely robbed) sunken way from south
6. Outline of possible sub-rectangular structure (c. 5 x 10.00m)
7. Masonry 'block', possible wall corner
8. Rest house (extant)
9. Bridge access to Terrace I
10. Large rock-cut ditch c. 7.00m across and 2.00m deep
11. Kanaksundari Temple
12. Large rock-cut ditch, c. 6.00m across and 2.00m deep.

The excavations proved relatively uncomplicated. Typical of many alpine sites with acid soils, nos complex strata or distinct floor surfaces could be recognised. This being said, masonry was found to survive to a height of 1.45m and cut features could be readily distinguished in the off-white marl/gypsum-derived geological sub-stratum. Whilst quantities of pottery (345 sherds), glass fragments (eleven) and some metalwork was recovered (three pieces), the paucity of bone is surely attributable to the acidity of the site's soils. Other noteworthy finds include three Tsa-Tsa statues/plaques. In the investigations, 45 features were distinguished (F. 1-45) - variously walls/footings, doorways, troughs and pits/silos - involving the recording of 52 excavation contexts ([no.]; <no.> indicates finds number).

**The Terrace C and D Excavations**

Effectively framing the excavations, the arrangement of the main building range will here be summarily outlined before progressing to the site's chronological sequence. Its upstanding masonry extends continuously over 11.00 x 25.00m, from the flat top of the ridge down its upper southwestern flank. Representing a 'complex architecture' and involving a minimum of 11 separate rooms/spaces (presuming contemporaneity of its components and omitting any upper storey arrangements or only 'slight' non-masonry room divisions), along the length of the range four main 'units' or 'cells' were identified (from east to west; fig 2):
A) A 9.00 x 7.50m 'square' (west wall, F. 1; south F. 21 & 22; east, F. 23; p. II); a southern doorway was located in the southeastern corner (F. 32; p. III & IV) and there are internal room divisions (F. 24 & 38); three walls extend south from the cell's southern wall (F. 2, 19 & 31).

B) This extends; in total, over 4.20 x 9.50m. The northern wall (F. 5) clearly abuts the side of Cell A and seems integral with its western wall, F. 6, that extends for c. 2.30m beyond the southern 'front' of Cell A, at its southern end it appears to return westwards (as F. 9). It may well be the case that the west wall F. 6 was either itself, or incorporated (i.e. built upon), an earlier terrace wall that was only later utilised within this as a building (see F. 29 below). A southern wall had evidently been added sub-dividing its length (F. 3; just before the front of Cell A). This has a doorway at its western end, at the point of its junction with (abutting) wall F. 6.

C) This is a complicated multi-roomed building (F. 7, 13-15), extending over 6.6.90 x 9.50m and includes a southern 'alcove/porch' (F. 8 & 9); its complication, in part, arise from that is seems to also incorporate an earlier terrace.

D) Extending for 5-5.50m west downslope from Unit C (7.45m long), no excavations occurred within this area and its walls were only recorded in plan (F. 34 & 35).

The eastern side of this range stopped 2.50-6.00m short of the very steep slope of the ridge-side at this point. Its edge is here supported by discontinuous lengths of walling (F. 40, 41 & 45) and, in the north, one appeared to flank the side of a stone stairway leading up to Terrace D (F. 42); the levelled interval between the ridge-side and the building range apparently served as a pathway route along the ridge.

Attesting to both the demise and scale of these buildings, much stone rubble has tumbled down the western ridge-side below this complex. This does not seem to have extended around the northern end of the terrace ('D' et al), though there - after an interval of c. 5.00m - a c. 20.00m length of terrace wall continues the line of the west wall of Cell D (F. 35). Beyond that, locally there is much rubble below the square platform ('2') on Terrace C and, too, down the side of Terrace F by the earthwork imprint of the small square shrine ('5'; fig 1).

Early/ 'pre-Range' Features

Within the northern end of Trench III a large pit had clearly been dug out by Joshi, with its 'fill' only consisting of subsequently tumbled-in stone and collapsed soil (i.e. for the most part was open/void; F. 10. fig 3). This had a bell-shaped profile (probably exaggerated through post-exavcation weathering), so that while its top was c. 0.70m in diameter, with depth its sides undercut by 0.20-30m. It was c. 1.20m deep from the top of the natural. However, paving slabs angling in relationship to the pit's edge - within the undisturbed brown silty loam soil horizon above this level must mark the true level of its top (0.20 -0.25m higher), making the pit c. 1.45m deep in total.

This upper 'soil' horizon proved to be the fill (including stone and small brick/tile fragments) of a SE-NW oriented trough (F. 25) in which pit F. 10 had been set. Only the near-vertical eastern side of this linear cut was visible (0.80m + wide). Exposed over a distance of 4.50m, and continuing beneath the northern wall of Building Cell B (F. 5), beyond which it returned westwards, this flat-based cut deepened along its axis; beside pit F. 10 it was c. 0.10m deep whereas under wall F. 5 it was 0.40m deep.

Just south of pit F. 10, a short length of drystone wall (F. 39; two courses high - 0.15m - and one stone/0.14m wide) was found to extend along the length of this cut for c. 1.00m. While possibly the stub of an otherwise robbed-out wall, it lacked any kind of
footing or rubble core and seems, possibly, to relate to a stone-lined drain.

A similar pit/trough arrangement was excavated over the southern end of the trench, just beyond its junction with Trench I. There, a void pit, F. 11 (1.00m top diameter, undercut be 5-10cm with depth; fig. 4), 1.65m deep (1.50 below top of natural), lay within a northeast-southwest oriented flat-based linear trough, 1.60m wide and with a maximum depth of 0.30m (F. 18). Crossing Trench II (and returning northward within Trench I), this continued beneath wall F. 2 and terminated in a 'squared' butt end immediately beyond the eastern side of that wall (it was also definitely sealed by the corner of Building Cell A - F. 1/21).

In the section exposed beneath the western face of F. 2 (Trench II east side), a large stone slab (10cm thick) was found set in the upper fill of F. 18 suggesting stabilisation anticipating the construction of the wall. Alternatively, this might instead relate to a more general stone paving laid within this cut. 3-5cm thick, stones up to 0.10-.20 x .10 -.20m in size had been set to support and wedge a series of very large schist slabs (0.20 -.40 x .50 -.70m) that had been set to ring around and slightly overhand the lip of pit F. 11 (p1. VI). When first excavated, balanced upon this edging and sealing the pit (and responsible for its void interior) was a large sub-circular capstone, c. 0.60m across. Aside from these stones, trough F. 18 was filled with mid brown silty clay (with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay).

Within Trench I, trough F. 30 appeared to conjoin and be a northward return of the F. 18 cut. Some 0.12m deep (east side), it too held a paving of large stone slabs which were there set within grey/black scorched silts with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay fragments ([031]). An east-west oriented trough (0.25m wide and 5-10cm deep), ran west from this paving.

Along the southern edge of this Trench (0.60m west of pit F. 11) was found the northern edge of another substantial pit (F. 27). 0.15m+ x 0.50m+, this was more than 0.30m deep (its base could not be achieved). It appeared to be backfilled with large/medium stones with brown clay silt and lenses of re-deposited natural. The [031] scorched silts sealed and bedded down into the upper fill of this feature, for which there would seem to be two possible interpretations. F. 27 may represent a backfilled pit or large structural feature (i.e. posthole); alternatively, it may also have been a 'great' pit comparable to F. 10/11 but which has had its sealing paving removed and been in-filled.

At the northern end of Trench II was found a complicated early masonry feature, F. 28. Only found at the end of our excavation, this proved difficult to distinguish and trace. With our time running out, it clearly was not defined or understood in its entirety, and this was not abetted by the fact that 'cleanly' re-deposited natural seems to have been backfilled within its associated robbing trenches. Two components were identified. The first of these, which was by far the more obvious, was an northwest-southeast oriented wall footing. This consisted of two well-laid horizontal courses of large stone slabs/ blocks (4 x 17-26 x 17-38cm) set in mid brown friable mortar with flecks of burnt clay. Above this bedded the same soil layer but with lense of mid brown loam and uncoursed stone inclusion; this evidently attests to the robbing of F. 28's upper courses.

The second component appears to be a largely robbed-out east-west return wall that extends westward. Below the level of the northwest-southeast footing, two courses of roughly laid large stones project west beyond its edge and a robbing trench (filled with re-deposited natural with lenses of dark brown silt loam with traces of burning and charcoal fragments) extended across the width of the trench.
Though the alignment and sides of its cut were not satisfactorily defined, this was definitely truncated by wall F. 5 and there can be no doubt of the 'early' attribution of this masonry (i.e. pre-main building range.)

One other possibly early masonry footing was identified. This was found at the extreme eastern end of Trench I where a footing was revealed off-set (by 0.35m) below the line of wall F. 6 (Building Cell B west wall). There, large stone blocks (c 15 x 15 x 20cm) were laid in rough courses in a cut down into the natural, where they were packed with re-deposited natural and lenses of brown/grey silt. Whilst normally given this masonry's situation one would associate it was an off-set foundation of wall F. 6, this seems unlikely as the burnt horizon associated with the F. 30 trough in that trench ([031]) extended as a 5cm think layer over the top of F. 29 and continued under wall F. 6. This, thereby, indicates that they could not be contemporary. Instead, it is likely that the F. 29 footing related to F. 26, a masonry build along the western side of wall F. 6 and whose phasing/ constructional relationship to it was unclear. 0.70m wide (though 'bowing' to 1.50m width in the north of Trench III), due to the stepping in of that trench only the upper 0.80m of F. 26 was exposed; it is presumed to go down to the natural strata and be c. 1.35m high/deep. Although possibly involving some degree of post-usage collapse, the build of this wall was irregular, involving uneven coursing and square stone blocks (5 x 10-15 x 15cm), and appeared to be terrace- rather than building-related. Yet it might, alternatively, relate to the provision of a 'second' load-bearing wall - specifically for Cell C (F. 6 relating to Cell B) - and this is an interpretation that will be further discussed below.

![Figure 4: Reconstructed profile of F. 11 pit-cistern](image-url)
Originally stone-slab capped and presumably void, the large pits, F. 10 and 11, probably both functioned as grain silos and are comparable to those still used within houses in the region today. They may relate to cuts F. 18, F. 25 and F. 30, with the latter including what was probably a length of stone drain (F. 39). The main question surrounding these features is their phasing attribution. Certainly they seem to pre-date the constructions of second cell/unit of the main building range (Building Cell B). Whilst it is conceivable that they were contemporary with the original square building (Building Cell A), this seems unlikely given that the alignment of their associated troughs/channels lies off of that structures, and that F. 18 extends beneath its southwestern corner.

Based on plan alignments, complicated building-sequence relationships would be postulated, relating the alignment of these troughs to the western and central walls of Cell C (F. 14 & 15), and together see these as constituting a large early structure whose eastern walls have been robbed out. Yet, this is too tenuous a basis of associated and, surely, the more direct interrelationship of wall F. 28 and trough F. 25 (the latter apparently) returning westwards in relationship to that wall) seems the more plausible. All the can simply be said is that there is evidence of earlier usage (but still with brick/tile in association) that we do not understand. This, of course, is not surprising given how little of this pre-range occupation was exposed. It does, however, warrant mention that the robbing of this structure seems to have been quite thorough, and that the scorching associated with its deposits could suggest that some manner of catastrophe was responsible for its demise.

The Building Range

The range's masonry must be considered of modest proportions and its walls are only c. 0.60-.65m wide. Generally bonded in a brown mud mortar (with lateral 'build divides' in its coursing), though using slabs up to 0.40m length, most of the stonework is much smaller - 4-5 x 15-20cm. Larger block-like pieces, up to 15cm wide, are generally used as footings. However, apart from in the main downslope/terrace walls that have deep trench-built foundations (F. 6 & 14 and the western end of F. 7 - see below), these are only one course deep/high. Reflecting upon its scale (and limited 'grandeur'), if we add to this that the complex was not constructed in one episode, but that it sequentially extended down the slope, then it seems all the less 'monumental'.

Being internally sub-divided into three, the eastern building cell ('A') has the most obviously complex arrangement of rooms (though 'C' may have a comparably complicated structure: fig 6.2). It only appears to have been gained from its southeastern doorway (F. 32), from which a square room was accessed (A1). From there, doorway F. 44 opened onto a large western room (A2 - 3.10 x 3.20m). It is from the latter that its 'square' northeastern or 'back' room (A3) seems to have been reached, though it is possible that this may have had a separate exterior entrance onto the long-ridge pathway. It warrants mention that this building may have originally only had two north-south oriented 'long' rooms. The front southeastern room (A1) appears as if it may have been a later addition and certainly the off-alignment orientation of its walls indicates extensive modification (F. 23 & 24), whose alignment complements that of F. 19 later added to the cell's front.

The cross-/width-span of Building Cell A's rooms (3.10-3.50m) is no greater than any of the other building units; the width of 'B' and the long eastern room of Cell C also being 3.50m across. Only the span of Building Cell D is greater (4.50m), but as this was unexcavated internal divisions may have escaped detection.

Three exterior doorways were located along the southern front of the range:
In the southeast corner of Building Cell A (F. 32, c. 1.00m wide; pl. IV); in front of which there was evidence of a stone threshold paving (F. 33).

In the western end of wall F. 3 of Building Cell B (F. 37, 1.00m wide)

In the western end of wall F. 7 of Building Cell C (F. 36, 1.05m wide) giving access to the front porch recess (Trench VI).

1.00-1.05m wide with formal stone 'jambs' (i.e. dressed wall ends) and thresholds (i.e. stone slab bases), these contrast with two more ragged openings in the southern walls of Building Cells A and B (respectively in F. 21/22 and F. 3). These were both only 0.50m across and went through the full depth of the wall's fabric (i.e. down to natural), and were evidently cuttings made in the course of Joshi's investigations. (Note a 1.00m 'gap' was also recognised between the two southern rooms within Building Cell A. This, F. 44, was however only distinguished in the plan of the upper fabric - 1.10m wide - and was not exposed in depth. Similarly unexcavated, we cannot be certain that the gap in the western end of the southern Cell D wall was a doorway; its position seems appropriate, but at only 0.75m width it seems narrow.)

At the western end of Trench I an arrangement of large stone slabs was found set against the side of wall F. 6 (F. 43; pl. V). There, bedding upon a layer of mid brown clay loam with flecks and small fragments of fired clay and charcoal ([G20]), and partially supported by a large stone block projecting from (and embedded within) F. 6, a large schist slab (4cm x 0.40m x 0.55m) lay horizontal 0.12m below the surviving top of wall F. 6 ([019]). Immediately bordering its northern side was set a vertical slab, 0.50m long/high (6cm thick and 0.26m wide), whose top projected 0.15m above the level of the wall. It is difficult to know what to make of this arrangement. On the one hand, it may relate to either a box-shrine or 'shelf' (perhaps associated with food preparation as many bones were recovered from this area). Alternatively, it might attest to some manner of raised threshold access between Building Cells B and C. Unfortunately, wall F. 6 did not survive to a sufficient height to determine whether there was a raised doorway across it (it would have to be higher than the other doorways recovered). Given, however, the relationship of Cell C's eastern wall (F. 8/26; see below), the former interpretation seems the more likely.

There would seem to be a number of ways in which to interpret the slight wall footings in the eastern end of Trench V (F. 31) and the southern end of Trench II (F. 12):

1) They effectively revet a yard - from the raised long-ridge pathway along the east side of the building and against the foot of the cross-ridge dyke/rampart system ('4') in the south.

2) They define some manner of covered porchway extending the length of this building unit (Building Cells A & B).

3) They represent the true extent the range's original 'core' (Building Cells A & B), in which case the southern east-west wall (F. 12) would probably continue west to the line of F. 6.

The relationships here are further complemented by the fact that the three walls extended from the front of the Cell A core do not seem contemporary. F. 2 and F. 31 essentially complement the original Cell A alignment, F. 19 west of the doorway, lies much more west-over-south and appears to relate to later modifications of Room A1. Given this, the third of the above options seems the more plausible; F. 12/31 represent a structurally integral extension of the Building Cell A core (relating to Cell B), but which later - with the addition of wall F. 19 - may have been altered into a covered porch.
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The arrangement of the walls at the southern end of Building Cell C also proved complicated. Inserted against F. 26 and standing as much as 1.45m high (0.65m wide), wall F. 7 was clearly part of the same build as (i.e. continuous with) the western wall of this cell, F. 14 (pl. VII & VIII). Over its westernmost 1.25m, this was carried on an off-set trench-built footing (c. 0.60m deep) 'regularizing' or terracing the ground slope. At its western end a doorway (F. 36), with a large threshold slab (6cm x 0.75m), was found to be raised by c. 0.15m in relationship to the cell's interior. This gave access into some manner of sunken alcove porch to the south. Corresponding to the area of Trench VI (cleared by Joshi), as defined by the southern length of wall F. 6 and its western return (F. 9), this was 1.40m wide and 5.50m long and continued across the southern front of the cell. At the eastern end of this alcove was exposed wall F. 8. Like F. 26, this seems to abut F. 6 and while their interrelationship is uncertain it definitely post-dates wall F. 7. Its top lies 0.30m below that of F. 6, and 0.75m wide ('bowing' slightly along its length), this was exposed to a depth of 0.90m +; the base was not seen).

How are we to understand the complex relationship of these elements? Wall F. 7 clearly represents the southern front of that unit, which was accessed via the reduced alcove porch on its southern side (the Trench VI masonry), which itself was probably gained by the south and west. This arrangement was clearly dictated by the need of downslope access into Building Cell C. What, in particular, complicates the layout of this cell is the provision of a 'second' eastern wall (in relationship to F. 6 of Cell B) and that it seems to have conflicting stratigraphic associations - F. 26 predating F. 7 which the F. 8 length post-dates. Although more complex phasing sequences can be (and have been) explored - for example, the southern alcove post-dating the construction of the main bulk of this cell (or that F. 8 was the foundation of a downslope stair) - far more reasonable is to see F. 8 and F. 26 as relating to a 'second' load-bearing wall beside F. 6 that was built sequentially with and integrally to Cell C's walls. From this it could be inferred that the roof of Cell C could not have been pegged into the western wall of Cell B (F. 6) and that another wall was needed to carry its weight. It warrants mention that if F. 8/26 does represent secondary load-bearing provision, then that it extended into the front 'alcove' would suggest that this reduced southern porch was also roofed. Whether there the roof lay at the same height as the Building Cell A/B front (i.e. presenting a continuous/unified facade) - in which case Cell C may have been two-storeys - or the alcove had a lower roof height (i.e. unlikely to project above that of the main bulk of Cell C), is unknown.

Later Activities

Aside from the scars of Joshi's excavations, the only feature that seems to definitely relate to post-building range-usage was wall F. 4. Built to revet the southern side of Terrace D, and extending on top of the northern wall of Cell A, this essentially consists of a 'line' of drystone rubble, c. 0.35m high and c. 0.95m wide.

Trench IV

This 2.00 x 2.00m sondage was excavated within the middle of the wall-revetted terrace ('D') north of the main site with the express purpose of establishing whether this rise was artificial (i.e. 'mounded'). Natural soils were there encountered at a depth of only 0.15-.20m, and that no trace of any buildings or occupation was recovered (i.e. no surface finds) would suggest that this could not be the case. Two 'bulbous' cut features were, however, exposed within the trench (F. 16 & 17; fig. 5). The one appeared to be stone-packed and was thought to be a grave, leading to the possibility that the entire terrace
is a cemetery. Unfortunately, because of the sensitivity surrounding the fieldwork, we could not further investigate these features. Reviewing the trench plan it is certainly possible that, at least the north of these (F. 17), was instead a backfilled wall-robbing trench and, if so, could be contemporary with the early walls in the northern end of Trench II.

**Terracing and Building Reconstruction**

The schematic elevation shown in Figure 6 is conventionalised according to proto-typical models of Himalayan vernacular architecture (i.e. terraced with flat roofs). We did not, of course, 'sound' the depth or arrangement of Cell D. Given topographic slope and the scale of its walls, the elevation presumes a comparable drop of floor level as between Building Cells A/B and D, and therefore, implies a 3.50m difference in height along the length of this range. The reconstruction shows a four-story terraced building arrangement. This rests on the presupposition that, by the scale of its walls and square plan, that Building Cell A was two-storeys and - presuming that ridge-side view was an important factor - each cell thereafter dropped by a storey. This may, however, be reconstructed by too convenient principals. By the same precepts ('square' plan, sub-division and scale), Building Cell B could also have been two storeys high.

![Figure 5: Trench IV features](image-url)
Whilst both alternative schema and phasing sub-divisions are possible, in Figure 6.1 and 6.2 a basic 'growth model' of the range's development is presented. First, there must have been the core of the three room-divided Cell A 'square', presumed to have stood two storeys high. Subsequently a 3.50 and 3.00m wide single-story 'surround' was respectively added to its western and southern sides (all its walls abut/post-date the Cell A core; fig. 6.1). This must have been a unified 'single' building ('A/B'), which may have had exterior access from the east side of the its southeastern room (AB1) - directly onto the eastern pathway - a southern entrance being prohibited by the fact that it would have opened directly onto, and been 'crammed' by, the line of the great ditch system rampart.

Thereafter sees the western downslope addition of Cells C and D (fig. 6.2). Here, the fact that F. 8/26 seems to represent a second load-bearing wall (in relation to F. 6) and that the Cell C's roof was evidently not therefore pegged into the fabric of 'A/B' would indicate that it was itself a separate building (without further excavation whether Cell D was an adjunct of C or another discrete building cannot be determined at this time). The northeastern portion of Building A/B also goes through later modification, though there is no necessary relationship between this and the development of Buildings/Cells C and D. The fabric/alignment of Room A1 was modified and wall F. 19 - on the same orientation - was added to its southern front. Cutting off the eastern end of Room AB1, whether it and Room AB2 still then operated as closed units (presumably with an inserted southern entrance, however awkward *viz.* the rampart) or instead had been altered into a open roof-covered porch, is unknown.

**Phasing**

Given how many ambiguous relationships and 'possibilities' were apparent in our investigations, it should not be surprising that much uncertainty surrounds the site's sequence. Whilst recognising these caveats, here employing the principles of Occam's Razor a minimalist schema is proposed for this area (alone) of the ridge-top occupation:

**Phase I** - The F. 28 'building'. It is difficult to determine whether the pit/silo and associated trough system should be attributed to this phase or that which came after (or, even, an intervening occupation); the orientation of the 'troughs' does not match that of the Phase II range. Given their alignment, it is conceivable that some of the downslope Phase II walls may have had their origin in contemporary terraces (e.g. F. 14).

**Phase II** - The Building Range, which can itself be sub-divided:

i) Cell A (F. 1, 21-23), possibly with contemporary yard-terracing along its western side (F. 29); subsequent addition of single-storey surround on western and southern side (Building A/B; F. 5, 6, 3, 12 & 31)

ii) Addition of Building/Cell C on west side (F. 7, 13, 14, 15 & 26) with sunken 'alcove' porch (F. 8 & 9); addition of Cell D (F. 34 & 35) and alterations to southeast corner Building A/B (F. 19 *et al.*)

**Phase III** - Destruction of building range; later use of ridge-top, including the construction of terrace wall F. 4.

In terms of the excavated sequence - apart from that other occupation episodes may well either sub-divide Phase I or intervene between it and Phase II - the main point of ambiguity focuses upon the interrelationship between the Phase I silos/troughs and the F. 26/29 terrace wall (the latter possibly, though, relating to Building C's load-bearing needs). Whereas the latter seemed to truncate the F. 30 trough system, the Phase I scorched horizon extended over
Figure 6: Reconstructing the Range
Figure 8
The Sinja

and sealed the F. 29 masonry. The evidence seems contradictory; in the schema above it is presumed that the F. 29 terracing related to Phase II activities, but this is obviously an issue that will only be resolved by further excavation.

Artefact Assemblages

The pottery assemblage recovered consists of 345 sherds. Although it is not sufficiently large to allow detailed statistical analysis, a number of general comments can be made following an examination with a 10x hand lens. Four fabrics were recorded:

Fabric A - Uniform mid-dark red/brown colour. Smooth feel. Irregular sorted inclusions of quartzite up to 1mm. Larger sherds show irregularity of firing.
Fabric B - Uniform orange-red colour. Smooth feel with occasional burnish. Mica and quartzite inclusions up to 1mm.
Fabric C - Uniform dark red colour. Smooth feel with burnished outer surface. Mica inclusions <0.5mm but larger possible organic inclusions either leached out or burnt out during firing.
Fabric D - Dark grey black colour. Smooth feel. Mica inclusions <0.5mm. Appears reasonably well sorted.

All of the pottery is hand-formed (i.e. without the use of centrifugal force) and there was little refinement in the sorting of the clay prior to the manufacture of the vessels. This is evidenced by the frequency of blowouts by the incorporation and use of inappropriate inclusions during firing. The majority of fractures are hackly, with very occasional laminated fractures. It is likely that these were fired in bonfire clamps as is witnessed still in Bhaktapur in Kathmandu valley today.

A discussion of vessel form is difficult due to the condition of the assemblage collected. No complete vessel profile was recovered; the majority of vessels appear to be open jars with the occasional spout (fig. 7.1), and the bases are flat (fig. 7.13 & 1.16) or with the occasional pedestal (fig. 7. 14 & 1.15). The decorative motifs on the pottery are extremely limited and consist of incised lines particularly on the shoulder of vessels' horizontal grooving and occasional impressed lozenge shapes probably stamped. An attempt at burnishing is apparent on a number of vessels.


Illustrated Small Finds (fig. 8):

A) Glass
1) Decorated bracelet fragments with red ground/core with applied green and ochre bands and raised blue-on-white 'knobs' (<11> [026]; Tr. I/II)
2) Complete decorated bangle/bracelet with applied decoration (red curvilinear pattern - blackened on figure - with green strips; <7> [005]; Tr. III)
3) Decorated bangle/bracelet fragment (as 2; <9> [005]; Tr. III)
4) Decorated bangle/bracelet fragment with applied linear pattern (alternating red and green lines - both blackened on figure - on ochre ground/core; <18> [039]; Tr. V)
5) Decorated bangle/bracelet; dark green core with applied blue exterior surface with oblique opaque white line motifs (<19> [001]; Tr. I)
6) Decorated bangle/bracelet fragment with dark blue ground/core with opaque white
line inlay line pattern alternating between chevron and vertical/longitudinal line 'panels' (the latter vertical patterns being on an applied red coat; <19> [001]; Tr. I)

7) Faceted red bangle/bracelet fragment (<19> [001]; Tr. I)

8) 'Ring' fragment, opaque white coat of dark reddish core (the latter exposed on interior surface <19> [001]; Tr. I)

9) Dark blue bangle/bracelet fragment (<3> [001]; Tr. I)

10) Green glass bead, 6mm diameter (<10> [005]; Tr. III)

B) Other

11) Cowrie Shell (?) bead with pierced hole (<17> [031]; Tr. I)

C) Ironwork

12) Square-section object, 70mm long with tapering headpoint above shaft; possibly an arrowhead or awl/punch (<14> [027]; from scrub clearance area of Cell D)

13) Broken fitting; circular top with holes for attachment (17 x 24mm+; <4> [005]; Tr. III)

14) Object with angularly flattened head (15mm across) attached to shaft; key or, more probably, a latch (<5> [005]; Tr. III)

D) Clay - Tsa-Tsa (fig. 9):

1) Circular plaque fragment (c. a quarter), 36mm thick and c. 6.5cm in diameter. Rough rounded back and impressed flattened face; the latter is divided into five concentric ring with an impressed dot exterior border. No pattern is apparent within the central ring/core, common to the remainder are four-tier stupa images. In the fourth ring these alternate with spread-eagled 'stick figure' images; the second ring includes a single image of a cross-legged seated figure (<16> [028]; Tr. V).

2) Damaged flat plaque (5.7 x 7.7cm x 22mm) with central image of a stupa with? Chained line flanking both sides ending in flower motifs; there is writing on either sides (<12> [026]; Tr. III).

3) Complete, though damaged, conical/pyramidal statuette; 7.5cm high, with rough rounded base (7.4cm in diameter) with faceted upper body/cone and smooth finished apex (<15> [031]; Tr. I).

Overall the pottery assemblage is remarkably uniform and there is nothing to suggest a high status component. Unfortunately given the state of knowledge of the region's pottery studies, the assemblage cannot be more closely dated than to a general 'Medieval' ascription (?14-15/16th centuries).

Of the other finds recovered, the only category that seems to offer any basis of tighter assignment are the three Tsa-Tsa statuettes/plaques (fig. 9), thought to be of 14th century date (U. Acharya, pers comm.). Otherwise, of the site's small finds, noteworthy are an iron arrowhead, a key or latch and a perforated fitting (fig. 8.12-14), and cowrie shell bead (fig. 8.11). As mentioned above, the quantity of its glass pieces seems remarkable. Apart from one possible window pane fragment (?intrusive) and a bead, these are decorated bangle/bracelets (nine). While it is conceivable that some of the latter were introduced through the Joshi's diggings (?fig. 8.7 & .9), most are unmistakably 'old' and, therefore, may tell of the building's residents.

Dating Evidence

Two radiocarbon dates were obtained:

1) F. 28 ([041]) - 630±60BP/Cal. AD 1270-1420 (2 sigma)

2) [031] - 210±60BP /Cal. AD 1650-1680 and Cal. AD 1740-1810 and Cal. AD 1930-1950 (2 sigma)
Figure 9: Tsa-Tsa-statuettes/plaques

Figure 10

The Malla Gateway. Above (Fig-10) sketch plan

Figure 11
Although obviously too few determinations to anchor the sequence with assurance, the dates suggest that only the fragmentary Phase I remains potentially relate to the Malla investment of the ridge. The second date ([03 11]) derives from the burnt deposit in Trench I and must relate to the Phase II building range, and indicate would seem to be consistent with the attribution of most of the site's finds assemblage (17/18th century).

The Malla Gateway

On our last afternoon in Sinja we were called to view stonework exposed in the backside of a house terrace alongside the main pathway down from the ridge (fig. 1). This proved to be truly monumental, though unfortunately our departure schedule did not permit its detail recording (fig. 10; pl. IX). Exposed in section were two great walls flanking a robust metalled surface (3.40m across and 0.40m thick). The walls per se stand 1.10m high and are 0.80m wide, and consist of large well-laid/regularly coursed slabs (5-18 x 15-30cm) bonded in a red mud mortar. These are carried on massive footings (1.20m wide and 1.40m deep), built of large roughly dressed blocks (8-10 x 30 x 60cm). Walling was observed to extend for c. 5.00m south from the parallel walls.

Given its careful construction, the size of the stone and the absence of brick/tile within its fabric, this certainly seems more 'ancient' (and massive) than the up-slope building range. It would appear to relate to some manner of tower gateway with a gravelled surface passing through it and with a conjoining room/building coming off of its southern side. Large and 'fancy dressed' stone was also observed incorporated within the fabric of the house of the site's present occupants (i.e. the stone being 'derived'/robbed) and, taken as a whole, the evidence suggests that what is there exposed is the gateway approach into the main Malla palace complex. If so, and given the evidence of the main excavations, this could suggest that its core lies on the south end of the ridge, perhaps beneath the area of the Kanaksundari Temple (fig. 1.11).

Sitting across much of the width of the ridgetop at this point, the extant temple is, in effect, isolated by very large dry moats (c. 6.00m across and 2.00m deep) and, across which, access is bridged. Extending over the width of the ridge and cutting off long-ridge movement, together they delineate a compound of 40 x 50m (fig. 1.1). This has the appearance of a defended enclosure, and these earthworks seem unlikely to relate to the temple (i.e. pre-date it). If attributable to the Malla occupation, then given written accounts, it seems unlikely that it would have been confined to this area alone. By the discovery of the probable Malla gateway - which if associated with the ditched compound suggests that 'imposing' defence was a concern - then it is logical to presume that the earlier palace complex extended north to, at least, the great ditch and rampart line separating Terraces E and F. But this, of course, it has been argued faced southward and encloses 'something' to the north. If a valid interpretation, this raises the possibility that the entire length of the ridge was then utilised.

Discussion

The relationship of this building range to the dyke/rampart system along its southern side is uncomfortable (fig. 1.4) and it is difficult to see the two as being contemporary. Accordingly, the range would have to of been subsequently set against the rampart and evidently made use of the earlier defensive earthwork to provide a measure of security. Although the arcing layout of this great ditch could suggest that it enclosed occupation along its south side (i.e. Terrace F), the arrangement of its rampart on the northern side indicates that what was actually
protected lay in that direction. If so, it could theoretically have been associated with the Phase I F. 28 building (and the square platform tower on Terrace C; fig. 1.2). Given this, and the difficulties of distinguishing re-deposited natural within the robbing cuts at the northern end of Trench II, we cannot be absolute assured of the negative evidence of Trench IV as regards the possibility of early occupation across Terrace D's obviously levelled crown.

When compared, for example, to the two structures attributed as 'King's Houses' at the 11-13th century settlement at Kohla, Kaski District (Evans 1999), the Sinja range is not that substantially larger (fig. 11). It is, however, more complex in the number and arrangement of its rooms. Yet its layout is not particularly sophisticated; it is without corridors so that all 'backspace' was gained by through-room access alone.

If leaving aside for the moment issues of dating, could this be a late manifestation of the palace of the Mallas? Assembling the available sources, Pandey describes its appearance in the 14th century:

The King ruled the state from his four-storeyed white-washed moon-complexioned magnificent palace of imposing dimensions of Semja which was strongly protected by ramparts and ditches on all the sides and was perpetually resplendent with the fragrance of the sweet-smelling flowers and echoes of the songs of amorous ladies of delicate fancies on the flowing rhythms of various musical instruments of the artists. A huge banner, marked with the emblem of Garuda fluttered in the air on the palace (Pandey 1997: 144,139).

Not surprisingly, the evidence of our limited excavations is ambiguous. As noted above, the pottery seems remarkably uniform. It does not itself suggest trade and, apart from the sea-shell bead (and, possibly, the glass), there is no real indication of long-distance connections within the site's assemblages. This being said, its finds seem unusual on a number of accounts. There is the number of Tsa-Tsa statuettes recovered from such limited excavations, and the quantity of glass, particularly bracelets, obviously attesting to women in residence (?'ladies') - seems remarkable. Equally, is the absence of a range of domestic items, such as stone mortars and rubbers, that otherwise could have been expected. The latter strands of evidence might attest to a 'special' residence, but one - at least within the portions of the site we investigated - seems without long-distance trade connections.

Against this, does the range's architecture offer clearer evidence? Again, unfortunately not. On the one hand, it is not particularly monumental or sophisticated, and nor is it substantially larger than many of the more complicated conjoining houses standing in the Valley's villages today. Yet such judgements are, of course, entirely dependent upon what expectations one would have of a palace in such a remote area (and the 'measure' of contemporary

2. Although largely dismissed by 'foreign' scholars as an attempt by the Thakalis of north-central Nepal to link themselves to the Thakuri past - and thereby aspire to Nepalese caste hierarchies - their oral traditions and written clan histories relate their origins from Sinja and the Malla kingdom (Fisher 2001: 47, 50-51). One strand revolves around the controversial story of the Hansa Raja, the son of the Hindu Thakuri king of Sinja who wandered the Himalayas until he settled at the town of Thini in Thakalis territory. The moot point being whether these high-caste roots relate Hansa Raja as the ancestor of all or only some of the Thakalis. Important in terms of sub-sector migrations and the roots of kingships in Nepal in general, Fisher relates the apparent discovery of the crown and spectre of the Hansa Raja in the storeroom of the clan house of the Pomparghyu of the Sherchan sub-clan. He describes a collection of 'rusted and pitted sword blades, an innocuous metal alloy helmet, and a two-and-a-half foot-long club' (2001: 204-5). Obviously unimpressed by what he saw (and going onto to ironically play on the idea of the crown as Cevantes shaving bowl as the helmet of Mambrino), this anecdote striking elucidates the potential for the displacement of material culture with the movement of peoples. Could the vestiges of the latter days of the Malla have migrated east and be mouldering in the clan houses of the Thakalis?
domestic buildings). In terms of the descriptions of the palace at Sinja two points warrants emphasis. Firstly, is the mention of its whitewash finish. So rendered, there would have been no need to employ large well-finished masonry - but only modest materials as in the range - as these would have been masked. Secondly, is the mention that the palace stood to four-storeys. The range we investigated stood no more than two. Yet, by the terracing of its buildings/cells down the western slope, viewed from that perspective it would have appeared four storeys high. On top of this, Pandey's mention of the Malla palace's protective ditches and ramparts could have direct correlates with the ridge's earthworks, but then, so too, would these be found on less aspiring fortified hill-tops in the region.

Weighing the evidence - the occurrence of lion sculptures and evidently 'ancient' irrigation systems in the area, the ditched enclosure surrounding the Temple's rise, the discovery of the 'monumental' gateway and the radiocarbon dating of the Phase I walls in our excavations - it does seem reasonable to identify the ridge-top site as the summer palace of the Mallas. Against this, the standing masonry remains of the main Phase II building complex is evidently much later. Whether a 'modest palace' or the grand abode of an aspiring local, it must post-date the Malla occupation.

Acknowledgments

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References


The Sinja

Plate 1-(A) Satellite image of Sinja Environ; (B) Detail of 'Palace Ridge' (note location of temple; cf. fig.1)
Plate (11) Looking south-east along the length of Trench II and the western exposure of wall F. 1 (in foreground abutted by wall F.5)
Plates (III & IV) Top, looking north to southern front wall of Building Cell A (F.21/22), with doorway F.32 left and later wall F.19 extending south into central foreground; below (III), detail of doorway threshold F.32 (cell A; Trench V)
Plates (V & VI) Top, looking west to F. 43 'box slab' arrangement set against the foot of the wall F.6 (Trench I): below (V), the F.11 pit-cistern with central capstone removed with paving slab 'lip' in situ (Trench II)
(VII & VIII) Trench III (Cell C) - Top, looking southeast with wall F.6/26 exposed at east end of trench (the corner of the southern 'alcove' F.8/9 is visible upper right): below (VII), looking west with wall F.7 exposed left and F. 14 in background
Plate (IX) photograph of north wall.
Note the quality and size of the masonry
संवत् ४०७ को विमल संघको शिवलिङ्ग र त्यसमा अंकित
दुरुस्त अभिलेख

- श्राम सुन्दर राजवंशी

अभिलेख प्राप्त भएको स्थान : देवपाटन स्थित रत्नेश्वर
शिवलिङ्गदेखि पूर्वपपटि पुरिएको जमीनबाट

फेला परेको समय : वि.सं. २०५७ वैशाख

अंकित मिति : संवत् ४०७ अष्टाढ्ठ शुक्ल प्रतिपदा

भाषा : संस्कृत

लिपि : पूर्व लिखित

सन्दर्भ-

(१) गोरखापत्र दैनिक भिति २०५७/१/३० मा समाचारको रूपमा प्रकाशित

(२) गोरखापत्र दैनिक भिति २०५७/२/७ मा प्रतिक्रियाको रूपमा सम्पादकीय चिठ्ठी प्रकाशित

(३) Rolamba को Millennium Issue Vol 20 Jan-June 2000 Page 180

(४) The Brick and the Bull (An account of Handigaun, the ancient capital of Nepal- S.R. Tiwari, chapter 16 page 146.

पवित्रसम्मतफ कुलाहो लागै गएपछि बाटोको बारापट्टि रत्नेश्वर (रतन संघ) को शिवलिङ्ग रहेको ठाउँमा पुगिन्छौ। यही शिवलिङ्गको पूर्वपपटि शादा अधिकारीको जर्गामा घर निर्माण हुन्छ जगबाट लिखितकालीन अभिलेखगत शिवलिङ्ग भेटिएको थियो। त्यस शिवलिङ्गलाई रत्नेश्वर शिवलिङ्ग के समीपमा सुरक्षित साथ स्थापना गरिएको छौ। त्यहाँ रहेको ती दुई लिखितकालीन शिवलिङ्गमध्ये पहिलो गोलो तथा दूवो वृताङ्क जलहरि भएको शिवलिङ्ग रत्नेश्वर हो। रत्नेश्वर भन्निको तात्पयर रतनसंगले राखेको शिवलिङ्ग भएर हो। पछि भेटिएको दोस्रो शिवलिङ्गलाई विमलेश्वर पनि भन्न सकिए सन्तर भनिएको लागेत घरेलू विश्वासको हो। विश्वासको शिवलिङ्गमा अंकित लिखितकालीन अभिलेख अप्रकाशित भएकोले गोरखापत्र दैनिकमा समाचारको रूपमा सर्वप्रथम पुरातत्त्व विभाग मानिसमा छैपिए। यसको लगायत केही दिनपछि सोही अभिलेखको सन्दर्भ गोरखापत्र दैनिकको भित्री पृष्ठमा सम्पादकलाई चिठ्ठीको रूपमा एउटा प्रतिक्रिया छैपिए। तर त्यो प्रतिक्रियारम्भ वातावरक इतिहास नै अत्यन्त भ्रामक, अविश्वसनीय एवं मनगढ्नते कुराले प्रश्न पाउने हो।
स्थिति नै उत्पन्न हुने देखिएकोले विमल संघको अभिलेखको दुरुस्त पाठको नितान्त जरुरी देखिए। त्यसैले Rolamba को Millennium Issue मा सो अभिलेखको पाठ तथा छन्द तुलनात्मक छिन्न तथा छिन्न छिन्न छिन्न। त्यस वाचक रहीला प्रकाशित भई सार्वजनिक महाकाव्य “The Brick & The Bull” नामक पुस्तकबाट नभन्दे नगरसभाको सामाजिक तथा आर्थिक हो भनेप विश्वास छिन्न देखि दिन्त जगत नै आश्चर्यमा पर्दछ।

विमल संघको शिविरिङ्ग भेटिएको छ तथा अभिलेखको शाखाको स्थान पर्दछ। भन्न समयको वर्गमा रहेको प्रमाण तथा आसार बिना नीति २९९ र रत्नशर्व तर वस्तु २०२ को प्रमुक्त नेपालको दिव्य निकल हेतू लाई रक्षा दिन्त भएको छ। तस्वर वस्तु ४०७ को शिविरिङ्गको अवस्था रहेको छ। भन्न समयको वर्गमा रहेको प्रमाण तथा आसार बिना नीति नेपालको दिव्य निकल हेतू लाई रक्षा दिन्त भएको छ। दिन्त भएको छ।

अभिलेख पाठको स्वरूप-

विमल संघको शिविरिङ्गको जलहरी पीठको बायां पाटामा जम्मा ६ तरहका पत्रको रूपमा अर्हत कृपिया छन् ती मयामा पत्रहरू पत्रको अन्ति खेप थप श्वेत तलात छिन्न दिन्त भएको छ। कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ। अर्हत कृपिया छन् दिन्त भएको छ।

अभिलेख पाठको विषयस्तरस्तरहुँ–

1) शिविरिङ्ग स्थापना भएको मिति वस्तु ४०७ र आधार शून्य प्रतिष्ठा हो।
2) सार्थक सुनिश्चित भवानल्पिका (शिविरिङ्ग) को स्थापना गराए।
3) सुनिश्चित विवरण संक्षेप गर्ने कार्य पूरोकाल प्रतिवर्तन केरलादिर गराईने।
4) राजको अनुक्रम पार्थिव, विमल संगठन अर्द्ध ५०० मूल प्रदान गरिएको।
5) बोकाइंक ग्राम (बोसियाउर्स), दियातिल्पल प्रदेश, धेरूमू ग्राम भन्ने तीन ठाउँको नाम उलेख आएको छ।
6) शिवालेखको शृंखला टिक्किनिक तथा मनोगतिक स्वीकार, रूपस्वरूप दिन्त भएको छ। दिन्त भएको छ। दिन्त भएको छ। दिन्त भएको छ।
7) स्वामित्व रूपमा राजको (मनोविश्व) हित कल्याण र पयाव बुढाको कामाकर्म गरिएको छ।
भाविनेको मूल पाठ-

पंक्ति १ - संवत ४०७ आपात मासे शुक्ल पक्ष दिवसे प्रतिपदा निर्दर्शकको नाम गणो नियोगाधिकारी देवसंग महेश्वर सन्तप्त जाम्बुनाद (मिंघ वनमु कुलम जज भूविन विष्णुवीनाम)

पंक्ति २ - दुःखेदो यो नव किकुम्ब्रा धार्यानि सृजो जगतो हितकार सृष्टो शक्ति चक्रवर्ती दुष्क्रमं गुरुः सृजिंद्रवेंति वा भिति - २ यो विध केदार मुखेश

पंक्ति ३ - हिरण्य वृष्ण विषम्याधानां गुप्ताय पत्थोतः पुष्प केरिति - श्री मानदेवस्य हिताय चैव - ३ सार्धवा (सुलेखानि) संसार भव भीरुणा

पंक्ति ४ - दुःख चन्द्र निवृत्तिथे भूतुः पुष्प वृद्धे भगवान स्थाविन्त: समयक - ४ राज पाद प्रस्तुत: भक्त्या विमल सह्येन

पंक्ति ५ - सत्यवलोक शिव: शिव: क्षेत्रे यथा वोशिकाम दक्षिणुः प्रदेशे शत्रुप्रयास भूमि: २०० भूमि त्रैया पञ्चचारः भूमि ५० दीतापेल्लि प्रदेशे

पंक्ति ६ - असीतभूमि: ५० वेमुड़गम पूर्व प्रदेशे शत्रुप्रयास भूमि: २०० भूमि त्रैया पञ्चचारः भूमि ५०

(यहां Rolamba को Millenium Issue मा छापिएतो पाठवाई सामाज्य सुधार गरी स्थापत गरिएतो छ।

भाविनेको भावार्थ-

मिति संवत ४०७ आपात महिना शुक्ल पक्ष प्रतिपदा तिथिको दिनमा निर्धारणको जो (पशुरुखो नायक) नाम कहालिएको गणहरुको अधिपति देवेदिको महादेव (महेश्वर) प्राणीहरुको पालन हुन्छ। दुःखेज हर्षी धर्मको वाण (जाम्बुनाद) वनमा पुणा सातो भूमि मिल्छ। लघुसेत्र लिङ्गविवर्तियहरु यज्ञलाई आपनो शंको कृष्ण मानी र कुलिमार हटाउने कामको लागि श्रेय पाएको छ।

ब्रह्माले ब्रह्मेति गरेका जगतुको हितको लागि चर्म भूमि रहोका यो संसारमा सबैको हहुँदा सदस्यवात तुलियो भइ मति सुधियास। पुष्प लाभ गर्ने पुरोहित केदारको मुख्याका संकल्प गराउँ सृजन दान सहित अनुदान विसर्जन गराउँ। यसको पुष्प केरिति श्री मानदेवको समेत हित कल्याण गरून।

सामाजिक दुःख भए विद्येष्ठ कवितारण गरी राजको पुष्प अभिवृद्धि गर्न सर्वाङ्ग सुतेरायले भागवान (शिवलिङ्ग) को स्थापना गरए। राजको अपार अनुकूल प्राप्त आपनो इतिलोक परलोकमा शिवविष्णव प्राप्त होमेस्त्र भूमि कामना गर्ने भक्ति विमल संघात भूमि प्रदान गरियो। ती भूमि यस प्रकार छ।

वोशिकाम भन्दा दक्षिणपट्टि रहेको र्वेदशको २०० भूमि तथा फेरि त्यसको पुनः र० भूमि तथा दियता पिन प्रेदशको असी ५० भूमि र वेमुड़गम पूर्वपट्टि रहेको २०० भूमि पुनः त्यसको ५० भूमि।

गाणना

यस भाविनेको आक्षेप तिमिता संवत ४०७ आपात शुक्ल प्रतिपदा तिथिमाय बिसर्जन उलंि छ। तर बार उलंि नभएको हुदा बार गणना गर्न सकिन्छ। यसलाई इसी सनत्तमा परिणत गर्न तरीक नसे नैरातिर्थ उपयुक्त हुन्छ र इतिहासको लागि त्यसको बङ्गले महत्त्व राखेछ। तर बार तथा तरीक गणना गर्न इसी सन ४०४ जून १३ तरीक ब्याख्या आएको छ।

भाविनेको आक्षेप संवत ४०७ लिङ्गविवर्ति समूह भएकोल शक संवत्तमा परिणत गर्दा कार्तिक लिङ्गविवर्ति समूह र चैत्र शक संवत्तको अन्तरलाई ह्याल राहेनुपर्छ। कार्तिकदेखि फागुनसम्मको भिम्ता भए २ घटाउनु पर्नुभत्र भने चैत्रदेखि आश्विनसम्मको भिम्ता भए १ मात्र घटाउनु पर्नु। यसलाई लिङ्गविवर्ति समूह शक संवत्त भन्दा ५ महिना अग्र आश्रम भएको हो। यस कुमाले प्रतिपादन मेधो लिङ्गविवाहील संत्तको निन्याय नामक पुस्तकमा भितलको छ।

पाद टिप्पणी-

१. घरको जग खन्दा लिङ्गविवाहीलको भाविनेको पैला: कायमडौं, बैलाखान २९ गते। पशुपृष्ठ क्षेत्र देउपाटन
स्थित रत्नेश्वर शिवलिङ्ग नजिके घर निमार्णको कक्षमा शिवलिङ्ग सहित लिङ्धविकालीन अभिलेख फेला परेको पुरातत्त्व विभागले जनाएको छ। स्थानीय जर्गासे शारदा अधिकारीले आफ्नो घर निमार्णको कक्षमा जग खन्दा फेलापारेको सो अभिलेख नेपालको प्राचीन इतिहास सम्बन्धी यस जानकारी पाउन उपयोगी हुने देखिन्। सो शिवलिङ्गलाई त्यही रत्नेश्वर शिवलिङ्गसँग स्थापना गरिएको शिवलिङ्गको जलहरि चारकने आकारको छ र त्यसको वायुपद्धतिको आटोमा ६ हरभर्मा पूर्वलिङ्गबी लिपिले कुरौको हुन्छ। अभिलेख कूदिएको भागको तथापि ९६ से.मि. र चौडाई ३० से.मि. रहेको । वि.सं. ५४३ पनि आफ्नो अभिलेखको प्रारम्भमा सबै ४०५ आपाट शुक्ल दिविभाग उलेख भएको र अभिलेख राजा मान्देरको नाम पनि उलेख छ । सो अभिलेखमा बुधिशिरामाम, दारिमापरिपत्र प्रेषण, श्रीमुखार्जु जस्ता ठाउँहरूको नाम पल्टो पटक देखिएको छ । बुधिशिराम मन्नाले हालको बोद्धे, (दर्शन) परिपत्र प्रेषण त्यसको नकटको एक ठाउँ र श्रीमुखार्जु हालको धिमी हुन मन्नासा संदेहन नरहेको विभागले जनाएको छ । अभिलेखको मुख्य विषयमा तात्कालिक एक साधारण व्यापारीहरूको यात्रा। ले आफ्नौ एक राजाको युक्त अभिलेखको कम्यता गरी शिवलिङ्ग स्थापना गरेको र शिवलिङ्गको आयताको लागि विभिन्न ठाउँका भूमिहरू द्वारा गरिएको उलेख गरिएको छ ।

रासस (गोरखपत्र बैलाब सय ३०, २०५६)  

प्रतिक्रिया:- बैलाब ३ गते उत्तमित अभिलेख सहितको शिवलिङ्ग २७ विशेष राससका लागि समाचार बनन पुरातत्त्वको वैलाब ३० गते प्रकाशित भएको छ । पुरातत्त्व विभागको हवाला दिन राससहारा वितरित खरको मूल कुराहरूले उजवा भएको मेरो पूर्व लिङ्धविग्रह लिम्पि तथा संकृत भाषाको सीमित दखलन मात्रको आधारमा समेत स्पष्ट देखिएको हुनाले यो पत्र लेखिएको हो। सो अभिलेख सहितको शिवलिङ्ग कुनै सार्थक बा व्यापारीले राखिएको नभए महेश्वर राजा धर्ममा देखाको छोरा मान्देरको स्थापना गरेका हुन । भन्ने कुरा अभिलेखमै उलेखित छ। शिलालिङ्गमा ६ सोभाको हरफका साथ एक चप पनि तेस्रो पारी कूदिएको छ। अभिलेखको व्यवहा यससो अर्थको हुन्छ। जलालको भाग बनन गएका विवेक महेश्वर धर्ममा देखाको पुन्यतिथि आपाट शुक्ल प्रतिपदा सबै ४०५ मा दुर्घोष राजा मान्देर नौकुण्डमा धूपातहरू राखी काठिएको देखिएको उदाहरण १९० चर्क दक्षिण (अर्ण गुड्डुन । ज्योतिषपालिका राख्य र तेजस्वी नाम गरेको वाहनको राजबाट अन्यथा भए आफ्नै काम पर्ने राजदेखि राज गर्दा भएको ठाउँको नितीको तिमिलाई देखि अलै तिमिलाई पाउँ (हेरौ) कहाँ? श्री मान्देरको मन्नाको देख। सत्य उजागर गर्न दुर्घोष तथा सबैको डरु, रिस र दुर्घोष तीनवटै हटाउनको लागि साथी राजहरूको सम्भव वास्तव र भौविकमा फेरि कुरा नदीहो आपाट आमा राजबाट गरी हितमसिदी हुन परेको निमाने रूपमा सबै लोकमा शिव-शिव: जर्गा ठूलीशिग्रा ग्रामको दक्षिण प्रदेशमा २०० रोपनी आयताल १००। तस्वर शिलालिङ्गवार देखाको आफ्नो वायुसँग काठको जिध पनि भने कथा सत्य भएको स्पष्ट पर्दछ। यो कार्य ज्योतिषाचार्य र राजपुरेतहरूले गरिएको थिए। - सुदर्शन राज तिवारी, पुल्चोक काम्प्स। (गोरखपत्र, जेस्त ५, २०५५)।

देवधािनको विमल बंधको अभिलेख मुण्डाठ - सबै ४०५ आपाट दास शुक्ल भएको दिनस्वरुप प्रतिपदा निर्देशका नाम गणो निधान ज्योतिषाचार्यले देखि महेश्वरस्य संतन जाम्बुद广 झधुको (कलादी) जज भूवी लिङ्धविनाम।

dhrayatayा नव किकुमात्रा धात्रानि सृष्टो जगती हिताय - १
संवत् ४०७ ...............

यस्यो रसो दक्षिण तत्व चक्रम् चिराणि सुरेदर्दत्तमतीव भूति - २
यो वि प्रकटर मुखेश्वर तीक्ष्ण्म् हिरण्या कृप्ति विसृज्यातान्त्याम्
पुष्पाय तययोतपम पुष्प कीर्ति श्रीमानदेवस्य हिलाय चैव - ३
सार्थवाह स्वतेनात्रिस संसार भय भीरणा दुहेतर निबोध्यात्म भूपते: पुष्प वृद्धे भगवान् स्थापित: सम्यकः - ४
राजः पाद प्रसादत भक्त्या विमल सङ्ख्यान सर्वनोक्षने शिवः शिवः
क्षेत्र यथा वोशिक्रुग्राम दक्षिण प्रदेशे शताब्रुयस्य भूमि २००
भूम तत्तैव पञ्चाशतो भूमि ५० दयिता पल्लि प्रदेशे अशीते भूमि ५० ध्वंक्रुग्राम पूर्व प्रदेशे शताब्रुयस्य भूमि २००
तत्तैव पञ्चाशतो भूमि ५० \=.

Rolamba, Millennium Issue Page 180

On the first day of the bright fortnight of Asadha 407 Sambat, king Dharma Dev, whose body had been made a share of those who light the funeral pyre king Mandev (The Lichchhavi who had taken to the role of deer in a forest), still in pain, in order to enable the passage of the cut body to the heavens offered here, as a closing ritual one hundred coins in the auspicious ghee-filled patras placed in the nine pits. As advised by the priest kedar, himself guided by the opinion given by the astrologers. I slew you as your headless body was seen in the rain of blood, alas the lord of the heart of Sri Mandev will not be seen anywhere anymore! As the truth is revealed, this (ritual) has been made for the relief of all the three dukha: fear anger, and pain. This clarification is also made to seek the understanding of the resent kings and those of the future. With the heartfelt and assailed love bestowed by (my mother) Rajyavati this Siva (will become) Siva of all the lokas. A grant of land, to the south of Thumaislingrama 250 bhumi royal land of 80 bhumi at Mayatapalli 250 bhumi to the east of Thempringrama (is here by made).

(The Brick and the Bull, Page 138–139)

The Brick and the Bull नामक पुस्तक का पृष्ठ १४६ मा पुस्तकका लेखक श्री सुदार्शन राज तिवारीले पढ़नुभएको पाठ यस्य छ।

उहाँको पढ़नुभएको अभिलेखको पाठ कति शुद्ध कति अशुद्ध भने कुरा लिपि पढ़न पढन्छ जाने सामान्य जाताहैले पनि छूट्याउन सक्छन्छ भने अंग्रेजीमा शिलालेखको transliteration गर्दा पनि प्राविधिक दक्षता प्रयोग गर्नसनुभएन। आश्चर्यको तर यो हो कि अभिलेखको व्याख्या गराइमा पनि उहाँले आफ्नो ननलागे जस्तो मनोमानी ठंगले गर्नुभयो। त्यो उहाँको खुसी हो। तर अभिलेखमा उल्लेख नभएको शब्द कल्पना गरी पाठ पढनु भने विलकुल उचित भएन।
सतपत्र जाम्बुनद

तिछ बनस्

कुलभि जज भूवि लिच्छवीनामस्

दछुङ्ते यो नव किष्कुमात्रा

धारानि सृष्टिस्ते जगतोहिताय
प्रस्तोतसो दिक्षिण तथा चक्रकम्

फिरण धूरेद्वलमति वा भूति र

यो विप्र केदार मुखस्व भीषणम्

हिरण्य दृष्टि विसृज तथान न्याम्
पुण्याय तस्योतम पुण्य कीर्ति:

श्री मानवेक्षा हिताय चैव - ३

सार्थवाह सुतेनात्रि

संसार भय भीरणा
धुःख त्रय निन्यत्वत्त्या

भूपते: पुण्य वृद्धये

भगवान स्थापित: सम्यक ४
राज पाद प्रसादतः

भक्त्या विमल संग्रहन

सर्वलोक शिव: शिवः
क्षेत्रं यथा वोशिष्ठाम कर्णिण

प्रदेशं शत्रुपस्य भूमि: २००

भूयं तत्रेव पञ्चाशतो भूमि ५०
दधितापलिन प्रदेशो

असीतेप्पूर्वम् : ८० थेम्पुड़ग्राम

पूर्व प्रदेशो शत्रुवस्य

भूमि : २००

भूमि तत्रवं पञ्चाशातो भूमि ५०
प्रधानमन्त्री जंगबहादुर राणाको समयको नेपाल-भोट युद्धको ऐतिहासिक सामग्री

(गतांको बाँकी)

कै खु डिनलाई नाहाद सीता आली मासभा जेजवटी ३० रोज ४मा जगदलू १० पक्षी कार्ति परि वलोवोजनु ह नेय ६ ने तरो परिवर्तनामा मनो मयो मुक्तमकी है थुक्सा।

आसिनत्र दकार्थि क पतज्जात

जन्मत करिमानसा रुजेकुटरा साखा जी बाहेर फिदे काजी लाई लिखियो गयो कृपा जिन्हें सरल र तत्काल निर्यात दिनी चौथो नकारर थे। साखा बाहेर यह नकारा चक्कर थाना टालनु परि कृपा जिन्हें को क्षेत्र निस्कर्त देखियो। जन्मत करिमानसा रुजेकुटरा साखा जी बाहेर फिदे काजी लाई लिखियो गयो कृपा जिन्हें सरल र तत्काल निर्यात दिनी चौथो नकारर थे। साखा बाहेर यह नकारा चक्कर थाना टालनु परि कृपा जिन्हें को क्षेत्र निस्कर्त

विकसन अधिकारी जी बाहेर जन्मत करिमानसा रुजेकुटरा साखा जी बाहेर फिदे काजी लाई लिखियो गयो कृपा जिन्हें सरल र तत्काल निर्यात दिनी चौथो नकारर थे। साखा बाहेर यह नकारा चक्कर थाना टालनु परि कृपा जिन्हें को क्षेत्र निस्कर्त देखियो।
नाथाकी श्रीधारनिनिर्देशः यानकाल्पम् श्रीनिधिकारणम् नरसा लेखे च। निधि प्राशकारे तिहलाई सुभद्रानं लिखित क्याः। धोराशिया का रसदवीकरक मिन्नतारूपनु भीमनायनदीवियं ते एस। नामितविशारद सहीन्द्रनामस्वरूपी नालाई से लेकर श्रीमानको देवेश भीमनायनदी स्वरूपिका महानं दक्षिणात्त रक्षाकर्मा स्वरूपिका युज्याहो। नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न तेजस्विकर्षके युज्याहो युज्याहो नैक न
प्रधानमंत्री

जैक्स बार्टन से जुड़े मामले

नॉर्थ-वेस्ट इंडीज मित्रदेश की मुख्यमंत्री रसल्ड जूड़ ग्रेगर्स जीबा तले की-चार्ल्स पायर के जेक्स बार्टन, पूर्वोत्तर, सन् 1976 में समस्त भारत के बंपल नवायक के उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में, जो मध्यमांडल की भाषा में जीवित रहीं थीं, इनके मृत्यु के बाद से इनके अंतर्गत राजनीतिक तथा राजविद्यु मामलों की सूची अध्यायिक रूप में जारी की गई है। इनके मामलों में से कुछ मामलों में इनके अंतर्गत राजनीतिक तथा राजविद्यु मामलों की सूची अध्यायिक रूप में जारी की गई है।
हुजुर रामपानी लेशी चुड़ई महायात्रा के दौरान पनी लिखितहै सा रामकुमार। याद नहीं चोटा की गिर गई दुनि में भी श्रीमान नारायण। हुजुर चारा आइ परीक्षा। हुजुर जना गई। भीम नारायण हुजुर रामपानी। राम नामण के आई। नूह याद। भावना रामजान। १९२६ में राम जात। आराम श्रीकृष्ण वधेनी प्रवीण। क्षेत्रिय ती। हुजुर पनी का। लेखती है विद्यार्थी हुजुर ३४ जनादित्य पनी है श्रीमान लेखा। श्रीमान। जेकडी रोज़ेर्स।

श्रीमानी नितिक का हुजुर राम। भीमनारायण रामकुमार देवकुमार गांव जाती। बाण देवी। इंडिस्क का जेकडी रोज़ेर्स का दिवान नेमे। नामा पत्र यानके। ने प्यार अधिक। के गन्नी चुड़ई मुग्धाकेदर चेरियर के। उन्नी से लाइ पनी पढ़ाई बजाना। अत्यन्त। लन रस्तक का। आदि अन्या भवन के जिन नारायण पनी की आसमान १२ दिन। श्रीमान गड़। आदि नारायण आई प्रभाकार के। नूह आई वाहने। हुजुर पनी का। रहता कलीवत्ता वर्त्तानी। सपना। जेकडी श्रीराज का दिनसु नारा। श्रीमानो का नाम।

श्रीकृष्ण श्रीराज

नारायण जी भी निमित्त जनन रङ बांट। भीमनारायण रामकुमार जी ने जी नारायण जाती। लेख। गांव जाती। श्रीमानी नितिक देवकुमार हुजुर नारा विद्यार्थी। नी श्रीमानी ने रचित गरिमा पद्मा ती के। उठे एक आई। भीमनारायण हुजुर राम। हुजुर बांट। नूह आईमा आई। प्रेम विद्यार्थी गरित को। भीम। ने श्रीमान आई। हुजुर बांट। श्रीराज।
योगी रामकुमार सिन्हा

जेठभरी शोजेरा मा

श्री सिन्धुरजनन्दार श्रीजनपर और संकेतक जसे पूर्ण जीलाई लेकर
गयको चौदी द्वारा कालाभित्रिता हैं। उत्तराधिकारी आदरस्या नायक उठाई शान्ति सुखदार आदर दा भक्ति नायक नाले भन्न सक्छेत्र भनी आयका अधिकारी नीतीश गवाहा द्वारा हस्ताक्षर। पहिर उभय समय सिल्पमा भाषित दिन नाको नाम भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या नाम स्हार्धिक दिन छान्न भनी लेख्या का सुर लाईव चक्षु रात्रिको जग्या धौङ्गाल छिन्न तिमिलेको निम्को स्वातिता सुन्या
प्राथमिक तदन्तः यादृच्छिकताओं के हैं इंडी-एक्स मामलों के रूप में लाइव मीडिया को कांट्यू भांसेनियों ने आज तक के स्वाधीन जनताको के लिए उपयोग करने लगी है। इससे निश्चित है कि इंडो-मार्केटिंग, समस्याओं से संबंधित है। 

श्रीमती दुर्जयानंद के द्वारा कर्मचारी संकल्प के माध्यम से वार्ता की चुनाव प्रक्रिया का अंत तक तीन दिनों के अंदर समाप्त होने का संकेत मिला। इसके अलावा, नव-नवक तिथियों के संबंध में भी अधिक जानकारी दी गई।

लेफ्ट वर्टी रेज़ॉल्युटनः

गद्य प्रद्यूः श्रीमती सिंहरुदुहित ने इंडी-एक्स के लिए गायकों के साथ एक समारोह का आयोजन किया।
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