

A NEW HOARD FROM TAXILA (BHIR MOUND)

By G. M. YOUNG

The discovery in 1924 of a hoard of coins and jewellery of about 300 B.C. in the earliest of the three cities of Taxila (the Bhir Mound), one of the principal cities of north-western India at the beginning of the historical period, was the first decisive evidence of date unearthed there. Recently, in 1945, a somewhat similar hoard has been found on the same site and at the same level. It includes elements of local origin together with two remarkably fine gems in a style derived from western Asia and illustrating the mixed origin of the cultural elements in the Indian frontier region at this time. The new hoard is here described by the Director of the British School at Athens, who was at Taxila at the time of the discovery.

MOST of the objects discussed in this article were contained in a deposit of coins and jewellery brought to light during the excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India in the Bhir Mound at Taxila, Punjab, in January and February, 1945. The deposit, evidently the property of a jeweller, consisted of eighteen bent-bar silver coins, some gold and silver jewellery, two Ionian Greek gems, an amethyst bead and a rock-crystal bead. With these have been included for description a third Ionian Greek gem found in another part of the same excavations: five miscellaneous bent-bar silver coins (pl. VIA), three bent-bar copper coins (Appendix, Part III) and a number of single-type coins (Appendix, Part VI) bearing similar impresses, all discovered in the Bhir Mound at different times: and finally, two bent-bar silver coins from the collection of Mr. Cuthbert King, who has kindly allowed me to publish them (pl. VIA).

1. THE BENT-BAR COINS

Thirty-three coins of this type formed part of a hoard discovered in the Bhir Mound in 1924 and published by Walsh from photographs in 1939.¹ This hoard was lying at precisely the same depth as the deposit of 1945, and is dated by a fresh coin of Philip Aridaeus to about 317 B.C. Including the five specimens unearthed at different times between 1920 and 1937, the Bhir Mound has thus produced fifty-six of these coins. There are nine bent-bar silver coins in the British Museum²; three of these were acquired by Whitehead in Rawalpindi, and four from the Stubbs collection are presumed to have come from N.W. India. There are nine bent-bar silver coins also in the Indian Museum.³ Owing to war-conditions these are not available for study at the time of writing. The hoard found in the territory of Bajaur (which lies between the Chitral and Swat rivers) in 1942 is said to have included two separate deposits, one of which consisted entirely of punch-marked coins. Most of these were of the usual type, but there was a considerable number of bar coins also. According to report, a large proportion of this deposit was virtually in mint condition.⁴ A photograph of six bar coins from this hoard shows five of them bearing

¹ *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India* (Delhi, 1939), No. 59, pp. 1, 3, 100, Pl. IV.

² J. Allan, *Coins of Ancient India* (B.M. Catalogue, 1936), pp. xvi, 1, 2, Pl. I.

³ *Indian Museum Catalogue* (1906), p. 136, and *Supplementary Catalogue* (1923), p. 8.

⁴ See Major-General H. L. Haughton's note in the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*, IV, part I, p. 61.

versions of the Taxila mark as a countermark. All six are of the Bhir Mound type.⁵ Mr. King's two specimens acquired recently in Rawalpindi are alleged to have come from Charsadda, but are remarkably like the coins from Bajaur. One of them bears what appears to be the Taxila mark, partially obliterated by a later countermark. A feature of General Haughton's and Mr. King's coins is their excellent state of preservation. In spite of their numerous countermarks they seem to have had little if any common circulation.

The eighteen coins of the present find (pl. V) also show few traces of wear. They are, however, more corroded than those found in 1924. This is not surprising, as they were found lying in the ground, whereas the coins of 1924 were in an earthenware jar. It is for this reason, no doubt, that their average weight after cleaning is 166 grains only, as compared with 175.6 grains, the average weight of the 1924 coins.

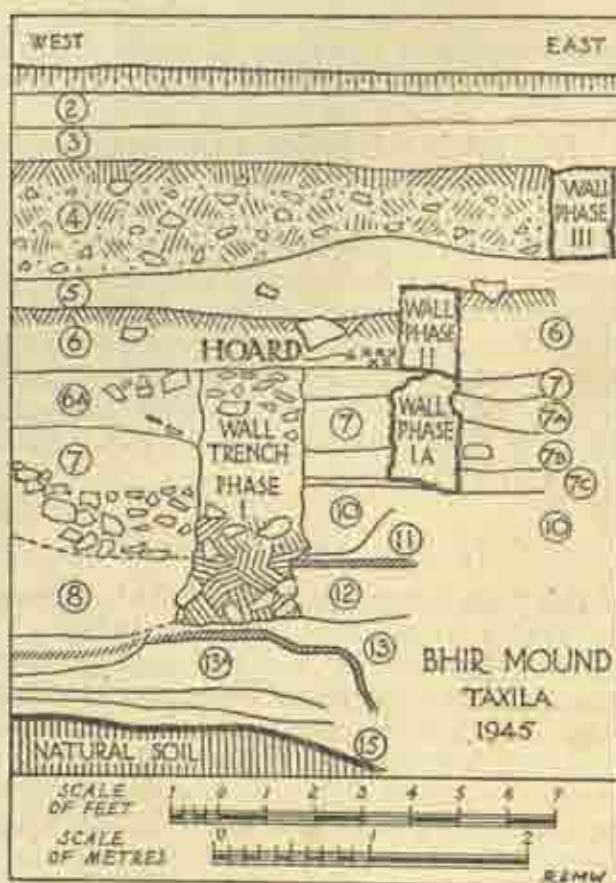


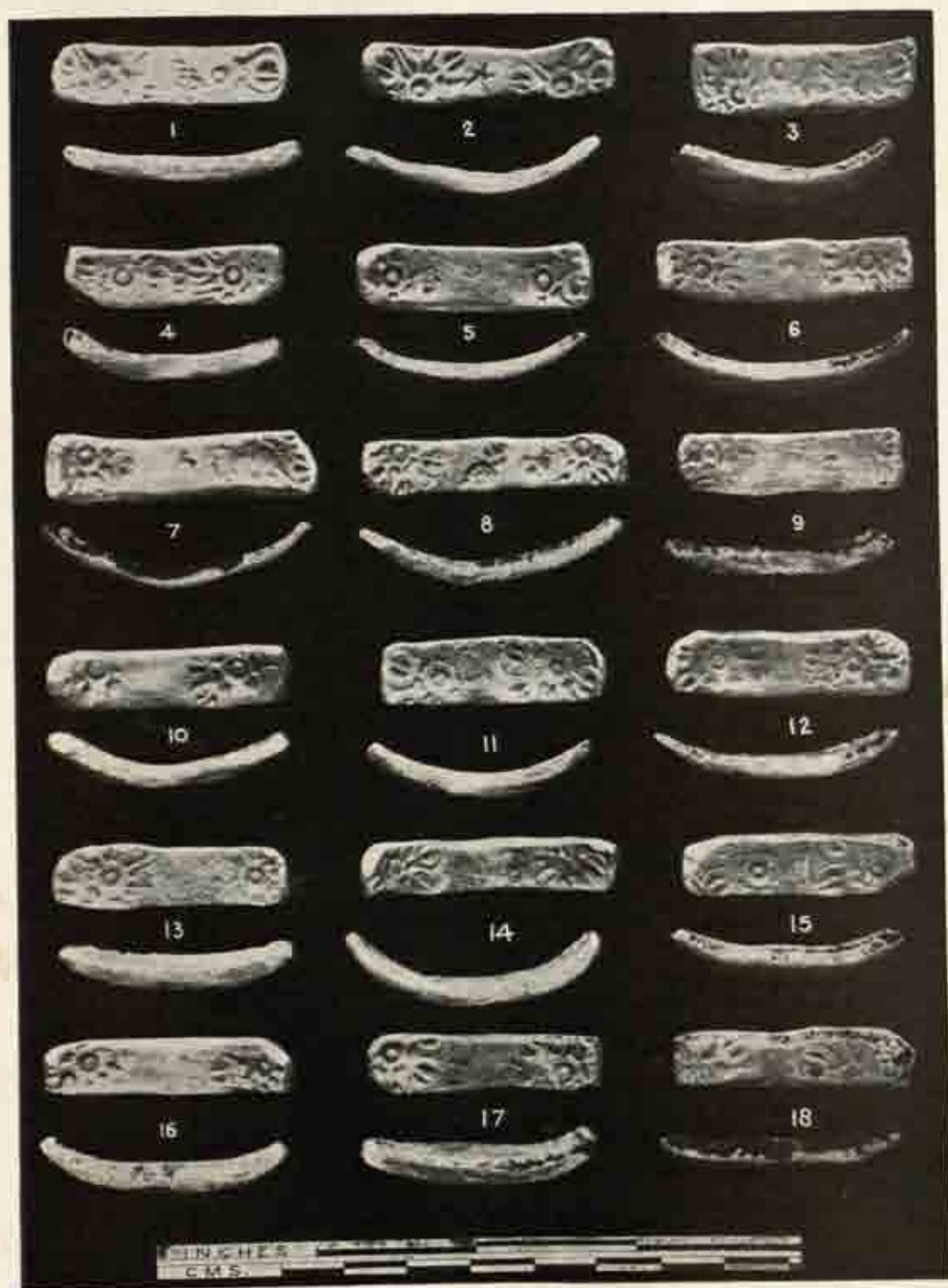
FIG. 1. Section indicating the stratigraphical position of the 1945 hoard.

The metrology of bent-bar silver coins is discussed by Walsh.⁶ Allan, referring to the specimens in the British Museum, had suggested that coins of this type were struck on a Persian Standard, and represent double sigloi or stater.⁷ Walsh points out that there is evidence for ancient Indian coins of a similar weight, namely 100 *ratīs* or 180 grains, and that the standard need not therefore necessarily be Persian. Whatever the origin of the

⁵ General Haughton, to whom the coins belong, has kindly permitted me to refer to them.

⁶ *Op. cit.*, pp. 2, 3.

⁷ *Op. cit.*, p. xvi.



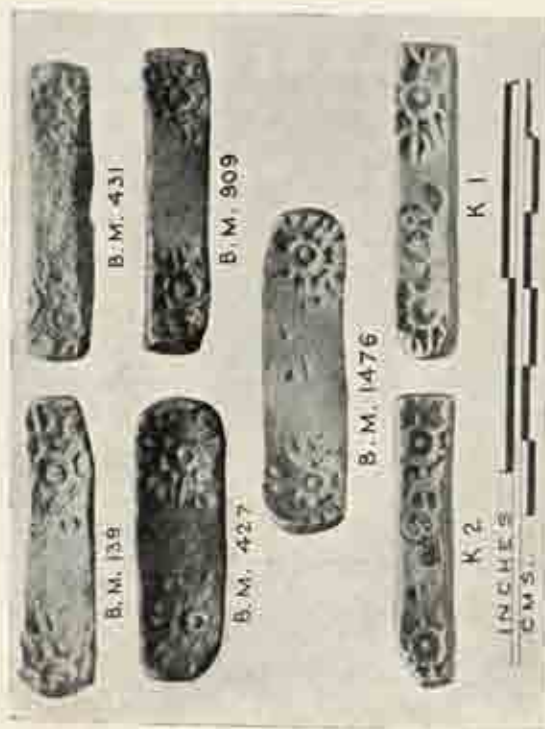
Taxila (Bhir Mound): silver bent-bar coins from the 1945 hoard.



C. Terracotta mould and pendant from Bhir Mound. Scale 1:1



B. Bhir Mound: part of 1924 hoard. Scale 1:1



A. Five miscellaneous bent-bar coins from Bhir Mound, and two (K 1-2) from Mr. King's collection. Scale 1:1

standard, it is clear that all the known bent-bar silver coins belong to it. The British and Indian Museum coins, however, are shorter than those from the Bhir Mound, and differ in certain other particulars to which reference will be made later. For the moment I propose to consider only those coins which I have been able to examine personally, i.e. those from the Bhir Mound and Mr. King's two specimens.

These coins consist of thickish silver bars ranging from about 1.2 inches to about 1.7 inches in length, and averaging about .4 inch in width. They are all bent or curved to a degree varying directly with their length and inversely with their thickness. Experiment has shown that the curvature is due to their having been struck while hot on a wooden anvil. They bear on the obverse or concave side a common symbol which varies in minute details only, and is impressed twice, once at each end of the bar (to prevent shortening). The faces of the dies were circular and convex, thus producing a concave incuse and accentuating the curvature at the ends of the coins. The dies were mainly of three sizes, the largest .8 inch in diameter, the next, and commonest, rather under .7 inch, and the smallest .6 inch. With one exception the dies are substantially wider than the bars on which they are impressed, so that the complete impress is never seen. The exception is No. 20 of the 1924 hoard, which will be considered later. The bars appear to be strips cut from oblong ingots. The width of the ingot determined the length of the coin, the thickness remained the same and the strip was therefore cut to a width which, combined with the other two dimensions, would give approximately the weight required. After being cut, the bar was adjusted more exactly to the correct weight by chiselling at the corners and along the obverse sides. The latter process was carried out very neatly in some coins and somewhat roughly in others. The effect in either case was to reduce still further the width of the surface presented to the die. A few coins that seem to broaden uniformly towards one end, e.g. No. 2 of 1924⁸ and No. 3 of 1945⁹ may represent the last piece from an ingot.

Several coins bear countermarks punched on the obverse, between the two impresses of the symbol if there is room, or over them if there is not. For the nature of these countermarks see Walsh.¹⁰ The countermarks on the coins now published are shown in Part V of the Appendix to this article. The reverse of these and all other bent-bar coins is blank.

The obverse symbol (Appendix, Part V) is a circular design in relief composed of six tridents radiating from a central ring. It is obviously akin to the six-armed symbol of punch-marked coins. The outer prongs of the tridents curve inwards in semicircles until their tips touch or nearly touch the upright middle prong, at or just before the point where it reaches the rim of the incuse. All the coins of which we are speaking have a pellet in the central ring and a straight line extending, like the six arms, from that ring to the outer edge. Walsh conjectures that this straight line represents a pole for carrying the emblem as a standard.¹¹ Most, and probably all, of the impresses contained in addition a pellet between two of the tridents. If we think of the emblem as the dial of a clock, with the pole standing at six and the tridents at the odd hours, this pellet will be found either on the left, at ten, or on the right, at two.

These details are often hard to verify owing partly to corrosion or wear, more to uneven stamping, and most of all to the narrow width of the bars. The pole can usually be made out, as it takes off from the central ring. If the outer edge of the ring is complete, one has merely to count seven lines radiating from it. There are only three coins in which the pole does not actually appear. These are Nos. 4 and 5 of the 1924 hoard, and No. 18 of the present find. The pellets are more difficult. Of the two possible pellet points, only one is likely to be on the coin, and sometimes both are missing. The duplication of the symbol on each coin gives less help than one might expect as the two impresses,

⁸ Walsh, *op. cit.*, pl. IV.⁹ Pl. V.¹⁰ *Op. cit.*, p. 2, pl. III.¹¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 2.

stamped no doubt in quick succession, are generally more or less in line, so that if the pellet misses the coin laterally in one impress it will probably miss it in the other also. Pellets can be seen on twenty-nine coins. They can be inferred, by comparison, in the impresses on twenty-four more. This leaves five coins, Nos. 4, 11, 22, 25 and 26 of the 1924 hoard, which contain no evidence of a pellet. Equally, they contain no positive evidence against one.

An analysis of the impresses is given in Part IV of the Appendix. Seven dies are represented on two or more coins each, and twelve dies on one coin each. The dies can be classified in the first instance according to their sizes in conjunction with the position of the pellet. But there are other small variants to be noticed. A few coins, which appear to be oldest, have the pellet closer in towards the central ring than the rest. These are No. 3 of 1924 in the .8 inch class, with pellet l.; No. 1476 in the .68 inch class, with pellet l.; and No. 20 of 1924 in the .6 inch class with pellet r. (pl. VI, A and B). No. 20 alone among Bhir Mound coins has the prongs of its tridents open, like the short bar coins in the British Museum.¹² The .6 inch class, with 11 coins, is the smallest, and the only one with a high proportion of pellet l. It also includes most of the older-looking coins. The .68 inch class, with thirty coins, is the largest. Only five coins in it have the pellet l. Among those with pellet r., three separate dies can be distinguished. One, marked *d* in Appendix IV, with thirteen coins, has no distinctive features. Another, marked *e*, with ten coins, has the pole leaning at a tangent against the trident on its right; while a single coin, No. 12 of 1925, has the pole leaning similarly against the trident on its left. The same feature appears in an older coin, No. 1476, with pellet l. The .8 inch class, with sixteen coins, contains only three with pellet l. Of those with pellet r., twelve have a common die with no peculiar features, leaving one, No. 10, by itself. This coin shows the pellet in both impresses. The base of the pole, which can just be seen in one impress only, lies two-thirds of the way from the base of the trident on its left to that of the trident on its right. The pole in this die, therefore, probably touches the trident, like those in the .68 inch class. We may notice there that the short bent-bar coins in the British Museum have either a pole, or a pellet, or neither, but not both.¹³ The long bar coins have both. No. 26 of the 1924 hoard, which shows the pole only, and is as short as the longer of the British Museum coins, might at first sight seem to belong to that class. But there is a wide space between the second and third trident to the right of the pole. There can be little doubt that the pellet would be there if the impress were complete, and that the shortness of this coin is accidental.

The above details would not be easy to recognize, even when visible, on coins in circulation. Their purpose, if any, must have been to distinguish the dies themselves. They may have been useful in maintaining a check on issues. If so, it seems odd that the coiners should ignore the three other positions available for the pellet, but perhaps there was a symbolical reason for sticking to the two equidistant points.

We have still to account for the persistent use of broad circular dies on pieces that are mostly narrow and rectangular. The Whitehead short bar coins in the British Museum¹⁴ are an exception. They are suitably shaped and broad enough to carry the circular impresses stamped upon them. Among the long bar coins there is only one that answers to this description, No. 20 of the 1924 find (pl. VIB). This coin which, as we have already seen, appears to be one of the oldest from the Bhir Mound, is also the only one with open tridents, which are a characteristic of the short bar coins. Its width as given in the measurements supplied to Walsh is .55 inch, but I make it just over .6 inch. It carries a .6 inch impress which exactly coincides with its shape. It is in fact a model of its class. No other Bhir Mound coin is equally well proportioned and finished. Thus No. 3 of the 1924 hoard

¹² Allan, *op. cit.*, pp. 1, 2.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Allan, *op. cit.*, pl. I, 1, 2.

(pl. VIB), which also is an older coin, has a width of .5 inch, but is stamped unsymmetrically with a .8 inch die. The other older coins are not more than .45 inch wide. The less worn coins, which form the great majority, are rarely more than .4 inch wide, and sometimes considerably less. They are all very much narrower than their dies. An extreme case is No. 5 of the 1924 hoard, which has an obverse surface varying from .2 to .3 inch, and an impress of .8 inch diameter.

We may conjecture therefore that bar coins were originally intended to be of uniform width and to carry circular impresses of a like diameter. The Whitehead coins and No. 24 of the 1924 hoard are examples of this intention, which began, however, to be abandoned even in the older types, owing presumably to the difficulty of obtaining ingots of the right shape. In the later types, all relation between the dimensions of coin and die have disappeared.

We may turn now to the question of date. The recent find includes coins of the later type only. As far as I can judge, these are on the whole neither more nor less worn than the corresponding coins in the find of 1924. This suggests that the two finds are roughly contemporary, a conclusion which is acceptable also on other grounds. The former find is already dated to about 317 B.C. The fact that there are several older coins in the find of 1924 and none in that of 1945 presents no difficulty. The one was a genuine hoard of over 1100 silver coins laid up in a jar together with a few ornaments. The other (to anticipate a little) was part of the contents of a jeweller's workshop, including an amount of cash which might represent no more than a single purchase.

Allan suggests¹⁵ that the present of 80 talents of stamped silver which, according to Curtius, was made by Omphis, King of Taxila, to Alexander in 326 B.C. may have consisted of bar coins. Assuming that Curtius's story is founded on fact, the evidence of the Bhir Mound coins supports this suggestion. The high proportion of relatively little-used pieces would be consistent with a period of exceptional activity in the Taxila mint a few years before. Arrian mentions a present of 200 talents of silver, but does not say that it was coined. According to Plutarch, it was Alexander who gave 1000 talents in coined money to Omphis.

The Bhir Mound has produced also three bent-bar copper coins and about twenty round or square coins which resemble the silver bar coins in bearing versions of the same symbol, impressed with a convex die. For completeness, particulars of these coins have been added in Parts III and VI of the Appendix. The copper bar coins, as I have already noted, are short-bar coins akin to the silver coins in the British Museum.

The round or square coins, several of which are in poor condition, may be compared with the similar coins in the British Museum.¹⁶ Two silver coins, Nos. 450 and 747m, weigh only about 7 grains each. Both of these are beautifully finished. The former is unique among concave pieces in being stamped with the ordinary six-armed symbol of punch-marked coins. It is worth noting that the 1924 hoard, in which bent-bar coins were found together with 1055 flat punch-marked coins, did not contain any of these concave single coins: nor, if reports are correct, did the Bajaur hoard, in which there were at least 500 flat punch-marked coins together with an unascertained number of bar coins.

As for the bar coins themselves, there is no evidence that they continued beyond the fourth century. The hoard unearthed in another part of the Bhir Mound in 1912, and dated by a coin of Diodotos to about 248 B.C., contained none of them. There is no hint of their existence in Mauryan Taxila, still less in the succeeding Indo-Greek period. In the absence of further information it may be conjectured that they came to an end with the

¹⁵ *Op. cit.*, p. xvii.

¹⁶ Allan, *op. cit.*, pp. 2, 3; Pl. I, 4, 5.

dynasty of Omphis, in the confused period which accompanied the rise of Chandragupta to power in North-West India.

2. THE GOLD ORNAMENTS

(1) Eighty-four round beads, ribbed and collared, 12 to 14 ribs. Length .23 inch. Total weight 177 grains. Eighty-one beads shown in pl. VII.

A number of similar ribbed beads, with very ornate spacers, formed part of the Bhir Mound hoard found in 1924 and are shown in pl. VIII.

(2) Three conical terminals with grooved decoration. Total weight, 14 grains.

Two of these, measuring $.55 \times .3$ inch, have three openings at the broad end suitable for receiving three strings of beads of the above size. The third, measuring $.55 \times .4$ inch, has two openings and is large enough for two rows of the beads next following. This terminal is shown in pl. VII as intended for the back of the neck, where, however, it would be awkward to handle, and incidentally concealed by the hair. It seems more likely that it was one of a pair of terminals for the beads next following.

(3) Sixty round beads, also ribbed and collared, 8 to 10 ribs. Length .35 inch. Total weight 170 grains. Forty-nine shown in pl. VII (outermost string).

These beads appear in the plate with the smaller beads, but belong to another necklace. The ribs are not the result of simple grooving, but are prominent and angular in outline, recalling the flanges in the fruit of the *amla* which was afterwards so frequent a motive in Hindu architecture. The fact that the tree is not indigenous in the Northern Punjab, is of no consequence. The form might well have been established in India at an earlier date. [It remained in use at least to the beginning of the first century A.D., the date of a similar example, also of gold, found with Arretine pottery at Arikamedu near Pondicherry, on the Coromandel Coast, in May 1945. R.E.M.W.]

(4) Fifty-five zigzag beads. Length .4 inch, with two terminals. $.56 \times .4$ inch. Total weight 96 grains, pl. IX, 3.

The beads are in the form of a broad letter W lying on its side, and are pierced through the two outer angles for stringing on two threads. The terminals are triangular, with bases modelled to fit the beads. The whole forms a continuous flat chain 7.5 inches in length, i.e. long enough to be worn across the base of the throat. This was probably the intention, and the ornament may be assumed complete. The beads are not suitably shaped for a deep necklace, nor substantial enough for a girdle. Long chains constructed on a similar principle, with closely fitting but more massive beads, were worn as girdles in Sirkap in the first century A.D. For the style we may compare also a silver necklace from the 1924 hoard in the Taxila Museum.

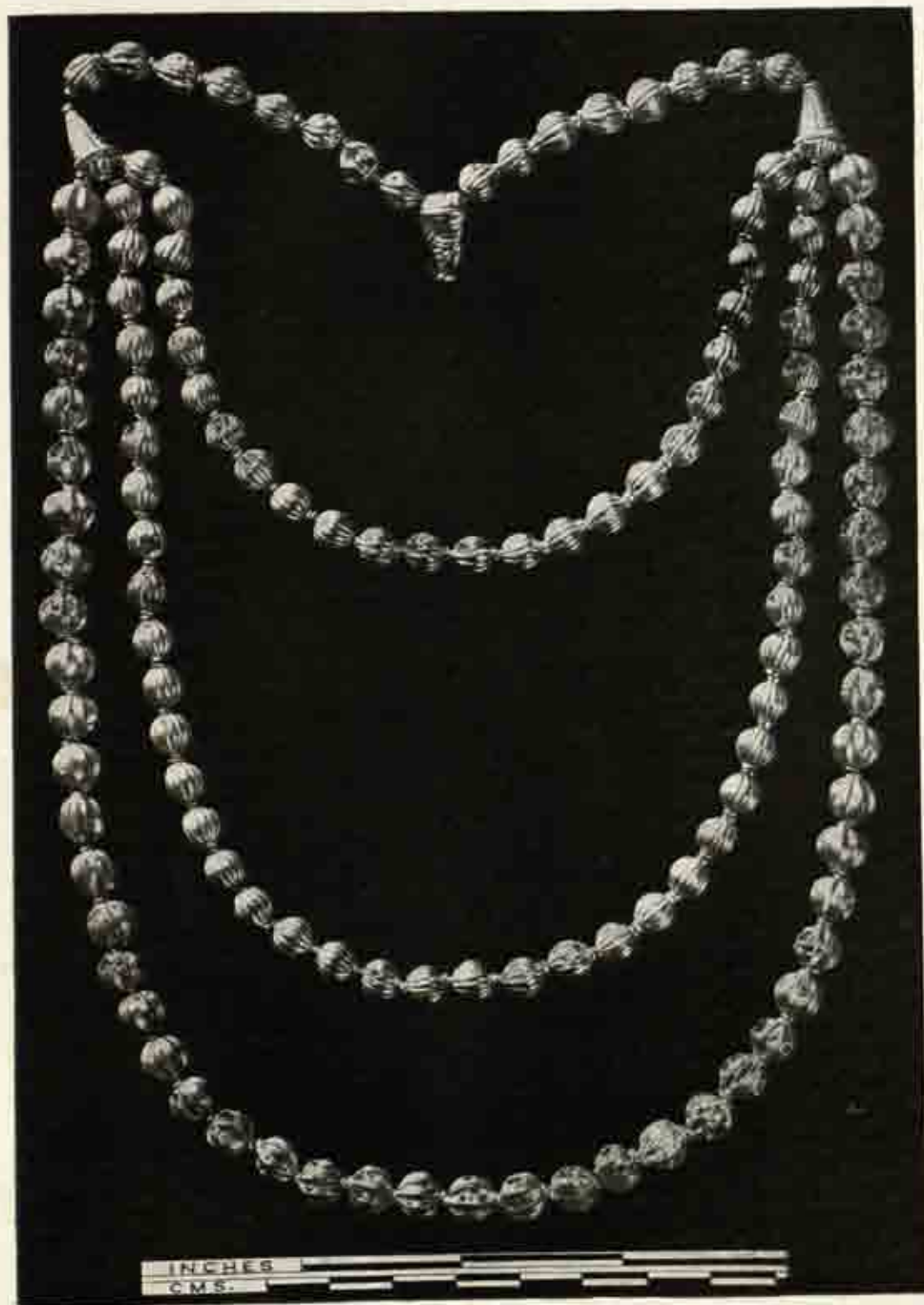
(5) Disc pendant. Diam. 1.5 inches. Weight 22 grains. Pl. IX, 1.

The decoration consists of a double border of bosses in repoussé arranged crescent-wise round a circular gap. There are two small holes, one on either side of the gap, reinforced with wire rings on the obverse side. Some kind of hook for attaching the pendant must have passed through these holes. Terra-cotta discs of identical width and design, and similarly pierced, together with moulds for making them, have been found in the Bhir Mound (pl. VIC). The ornament was most probably an ear-pendant.

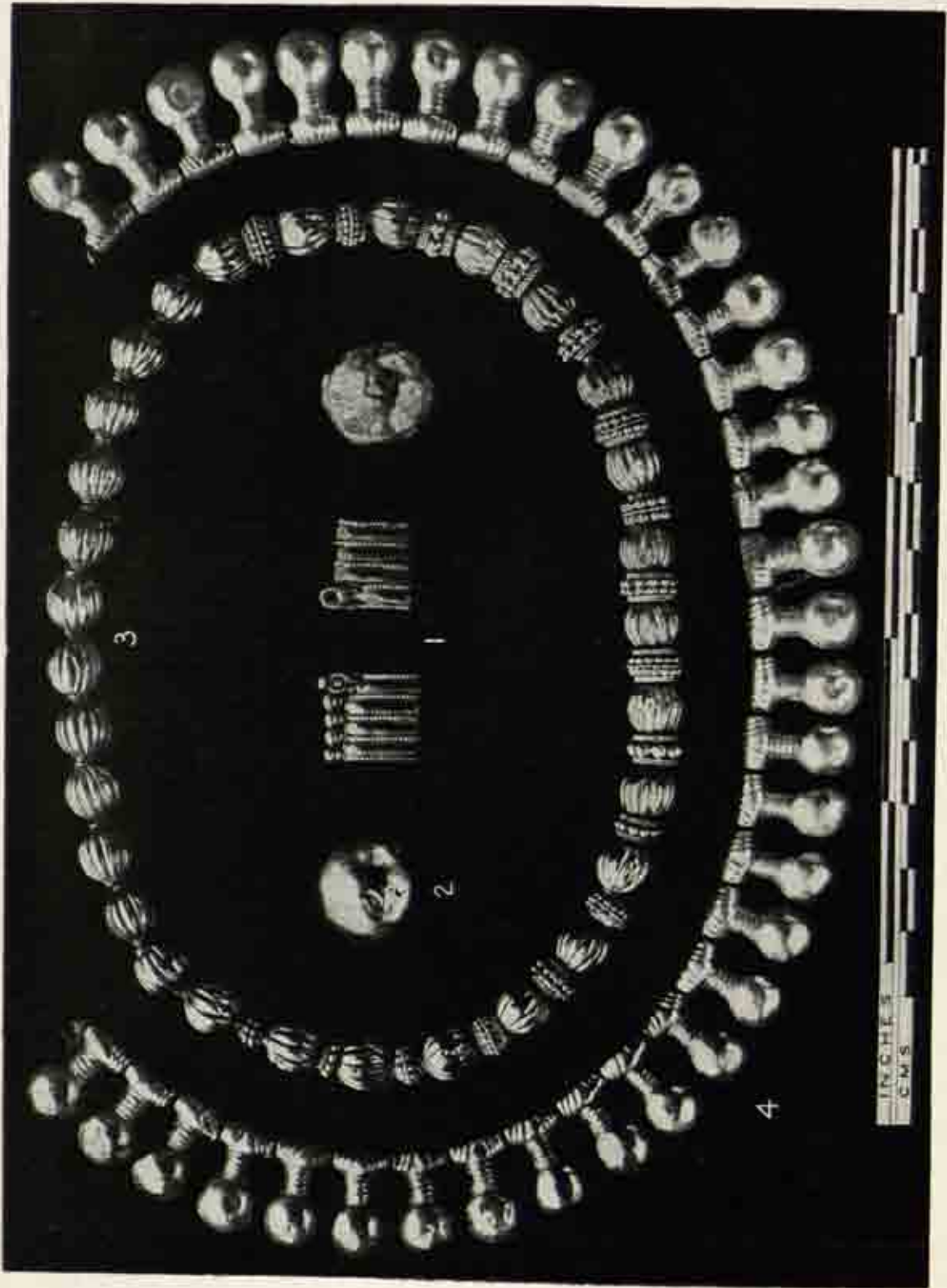
(6) Twenty-six bosses with narrow raised rims. Diam. .7 inch. Total weight 62 grains. Pl. IX, 2.

The bosses are plain and have no perforation or attachment to indicate their purpose or how they were mounted. They are too thin to be worn without a filling of some kind. Two early types of terra-cotta female figurines, published by D. H. Gordon,¹⁷ wear brow-

¹⁷ *Journal of the Indian Society of Oriental Art*, XI, 153, pls. IX, 4, XI, 4.



Gold beads from the 1945 hoard.



Ornaments from the 1924 hoard: 1-3, gold; 4, silver.

bands and other ornaments which seem to be studded with similar bosses in a manner recalling, on a larger scale, the decoration of No. (5) above. A single boss of identically the same pattern was found in a house in the Bhir Mound in 1921. Two bosses without rims were found in the 1924 hoard and are shown in pl. VIII, 2.

3. THE SILVER ORNAMENTS

(1) Eleven bell-shaped pendants, $.5 \times .8$ inch. Pl. XA, 1-8, 10, 12-13.

(2) Five tubular spacer-beads, four measuring $.75 \times .25$ inch, with spiral decoration, and one measuring $.9 \times .26$ inch, with bead and reel. Pl. XA, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22.

The above go together.

(3) Six finger-rings with plain oval convex bezels. Pl. XA, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21.

These rather second-rate ornaments are not without interest. In the first place the decoration of the spacer-beads is purely Greek. Secondly, the presence of no fewer than six cheap silver rings confirms a suspicion, already aroused by the gold ornaments, that we have here not a private hoard, but the contents of a jeweller's shop.

Bell-shaped pendants occur in a silver girdle of the archaic period from Cyprus in the British Museum (No. 1576, Catalogue, pp. 162-3, pl. XXVI).

4. THE GEMS

(1) (a) Irregular pear-shaped scaraboid. Banded agate. Pierced. $.9 \times .65 \times .55$ inch. Lion to l.; tearing stag to l. Pl. XB, 1.

(b) Square table-cut gem. Banded agate. Pierced. $.7 \times .7 \times .3$ inch. Lion to r.; tearing stag to r. Pl. XB, 3.

Ionian Greek work of the fourth century B.C. The two stones were lying in the ground close together. The scaraboid, which was found first, presented something of a problem, as it is unfinished. In particular, the drilling of the lion's claws on the flank of the stag has only just been begun and the engraved surface is unpolished. The problem was solved by the discovery nearby of a second, and completed, gem of the same material, with the same subject, and evidently by the same hand. Furtwaengler's *Antike Gemmen* includes three Ionian Greek gems engraved with very similar versions of this favourite theme. One in Berlin¹⁸ is from Athens, another is of unknown provenance,¹⁹ and a third in Paris²⁰ is said to have come from the East. All these show the animals to left, as in the Taxila scaraboid, but in the third, the stag's head is turned round, almost in profile, to right. The second shows the lion's hind paw planted against the stag, as in the square gem. The best example of this pose occurs, however, in a well-known fifth-century gem from Athens in the British Museum,²¹ with lion and stag to right.

In both the Taxila gems the engraver has evaded a difficult perspective, not very skilfully, by showing the lion's head and jaws in profile above the stag, instead of turning them to the front and enabling the jaws to close on the stag's neck or withers. He has also omitted the usual stylized rendering of the lion's thigh-muscles, and added a string of heraldic dots along the inner sides of its hind legs.

The gems might have been ascribed to the first half of the fourth century or even the end of the fifth, if the evidence of the coins, combined with the fact of one gem being unfinished did not point conclusively to the last quarter of the fourth. That this Greek craftsman, at work in distant Taxila, should be following a style and tradition current in the Mediterranean two or three generations earlier is exactly what we should expect. A

¹⁸ Furtwaengler, *Antike Gemmen*, pl. XI, 22.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 447, fig. 229.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, pl. XXXI, 5.

²¹ B.M. No. 125. Furtwaengler, pl. XIII, 36.

similar trace of archaism may be detected in his silver spacers and the smaller of his gold ribbed beads. The full result of the excavations will possibly throw more light on the circumstances which brought him to India, and help to explain the suddenness with which his activities apparently came to an end.

(2) Scaraboid. Green jasper. Pierced. $.75 \times .65 \times .4$ inch. Stag galloping to l. Pl. XB, 2.

This lively if not very finely carved gem comes from another part of the excavation, and was found at a depth of 9 feet. Like the others, it is the work of an Ionian Greek, but the subject and its treatment with the forelegs 'flat out' are Persian. The depth and stratum at which it was found indicates an earlier date than the hoard, probably not later than the middle of the fourth century B.C. and possibly somewhat earlier. The stone is a true scaraboid, that is, a regular oval, with rounded back and steep, almost vertical sides.

(3) Hexagonal barrel bead. Amethyst. Length $.65$ inch. Pl. IX, 4.

This beautiful stone is by far the finest amethyst hitherto found in the Bhir Mound. Pliny in his *Natural History* praises Indian amethysts above all others for their exquisite colour (XXXVII, 8).

(4) Square table-cut bead. Rock-crystal. Pierced. $.7 \times .7$ inch. Pl. IX, 5.

This bead is of the same size and shape as the gem 1(b) above and was probably intended also for an intaglio.

APPENDIX

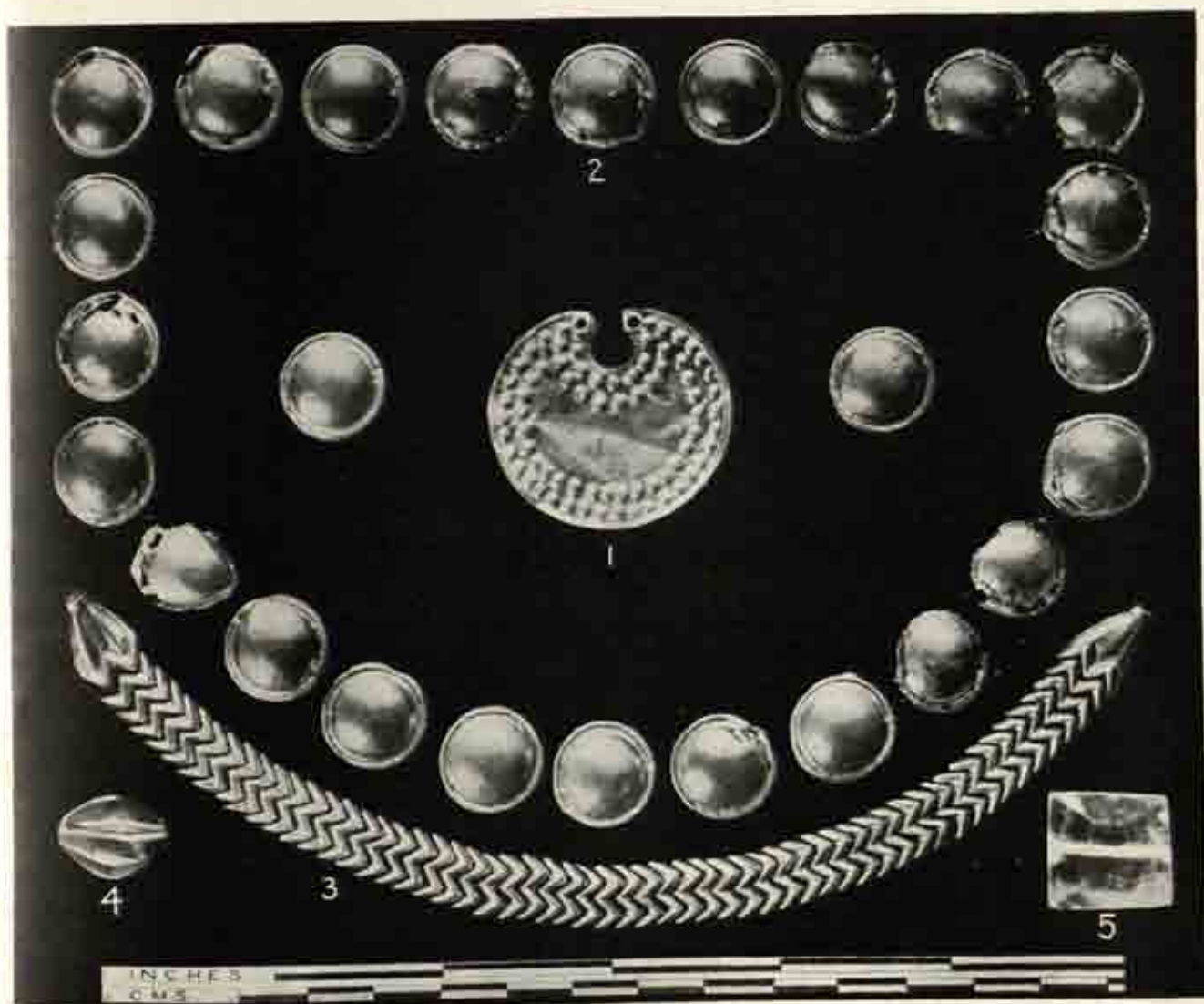
BENT-BAR COINS

I. Bhir Mound 1945 (silver)

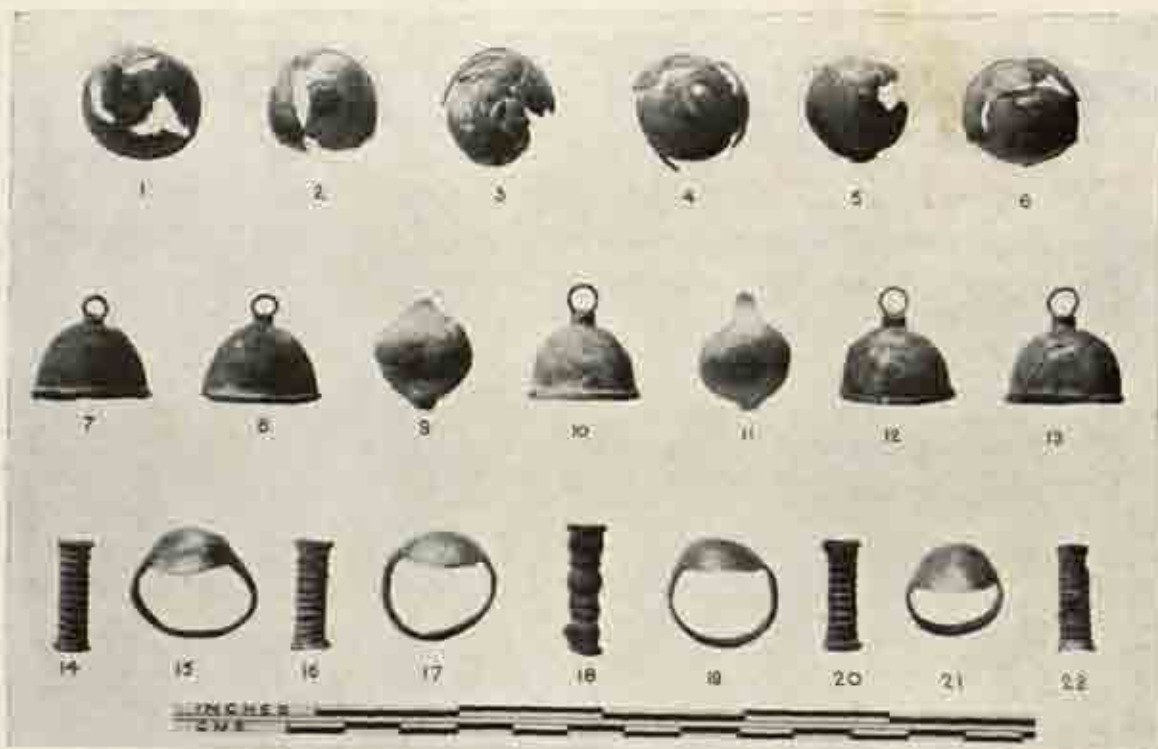
No.	Weight in grains	Size in inches	Diameter of die	Countermarks (see Part V, below)
1	168	$1.5 \times .4$	.8	(1)
2	169.2	$1.6 \times .37$	.68	(2)
3	155.9	$1.38 \times .45$	.68	(3)
4	166	$1.45 \times .4$	.68	(4)
5	171.3	$1.5 \times .4$	.68	(5)
6	166.5	$1.6 \times .4$	.68	(6)
7	161.1	$1.7 \times .4$	.8	(7)
8	164.3	$1.7 \times .4$	.68	(8) (9) (10)
9	158.9	$1.4 \times .4$	.6	None
10	162	$1.5 \times .4$	.68	"
11	167.4	$1.45 \times .45$	.8	"
12	166.3	$1.5 \times .4$	.68	"
13	163.6	$1.45 \times .4$	.68	"
14	169.3	$1.6 \times .36$	.68	"
15	169.9	$1.45 \times .4$	.8	"
16	164.1	$1.55 \times .4$	.68	"
17	171.4	$1.5 \times .4$	.68	"
18	172.1	$1.5 \times .4$	.68	"

II. From Mr. King's collection (silver)

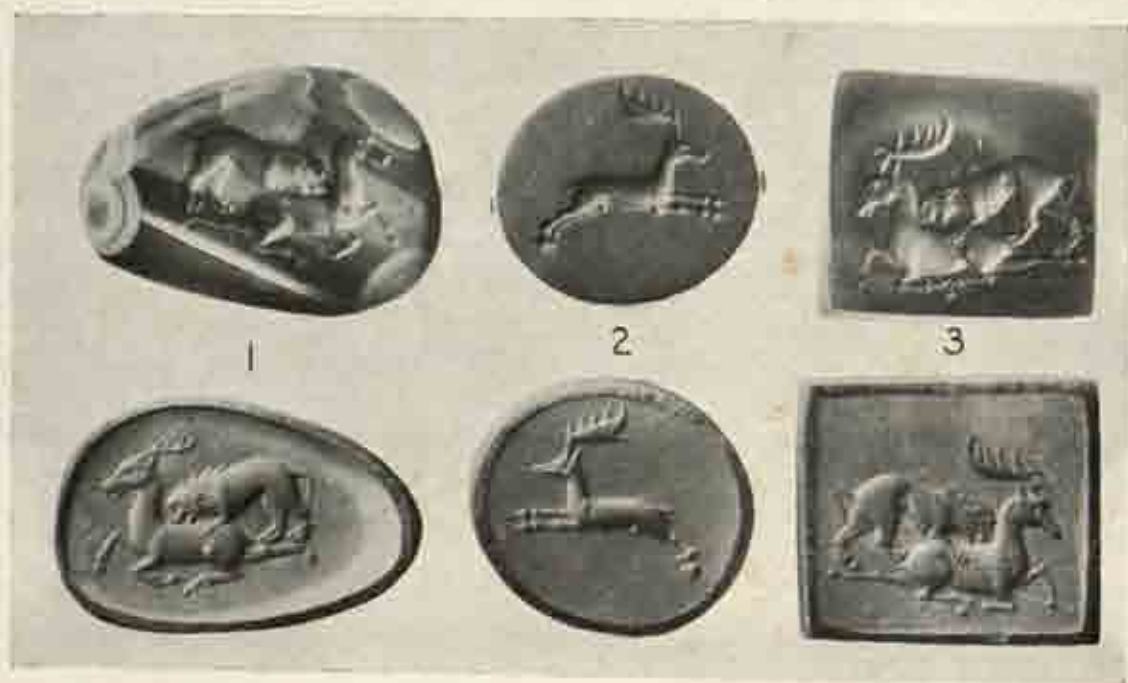
K. 1	160	$1.65 \times .35$	.68	(13) (14) (15)
K. 2	166.9	$1.5 \times .3$	.8	(16) (17)



1-3, gold ornaments; 4, amethyst bead; 5, crystal bead. All from the 1945 hoard.



A. Silver ornaments from the 1945 hoard.



B. 1 and 3, gems from the 1945 hoard; 2, gem found elsewhere in the Bhir Mound, 1945. Scale 2 : 1

A NEW HOARD FROM TAXILA (BHIR MOUND)

III. Miscellaneous bent-bar coins from Bhir Mound

Museum number and metal	Date of find	Weight in grains	Size in inches	Diameter of die	Countermarks (Part V, below)
B.M. 427 AR	13-3-20	153.5	1.45 × .5	.68	None
B.M. 139 AR	31-10-21	155	1.53 × .4	.8	"
B.M. 909 AR	22-11-21	163	1.55 × .37	.68	"
B.M. 1476 AR	28-11-21	158.2	1.65 × .4	.68	(11) (12)
B.M. 431 AR	21-10-37	164.7	1.52 × .4	.68	None
B.M. 1498 AE	3-4-20	161.6	1.15 × .4	.8	"
B.M. 983 AE	29-3-20	155.2	1 × .45	.7	"
B.M. 861 AE	22-4-21	132.6	1.1 × .5	.8	"

IV. Comparison of obverse symbols

Diameter of die in inches	Position of pellet	1924 hoard	1945 hoard	Miscellaneous
.8	l.	3, 28a	7a	B.M. 139b K 2b
	r.	9b, 10, 17b	11b	
.8	not l.	8b, 12b, 23b, 31b	1b	
	?	5b	15b	
.7	?	11		
.68	l.	21	17c	B.M. 1476
	not r.	—	3c	B.M. 909c
	r.	14d, 16e, 19e 27d, 32d	8e, 10e 12, 13d 14d	B.M. 437d
	not l.	2e, 15e, 18e, 24d 26	2d, 4d 6d	B.M. 431c, K. 1d
?	7e	5e, 16d, 18d		
.6	l.	1f, 6g, 13f, 29g, 33g	9g	—
	not r.	22, 25	—	—
	r.	20, 30	—	—
	?	4	—	—

Small letters indicate groups from apparently identical dies.

V. Symbol and countermarks (enlarged to 2 diameters)

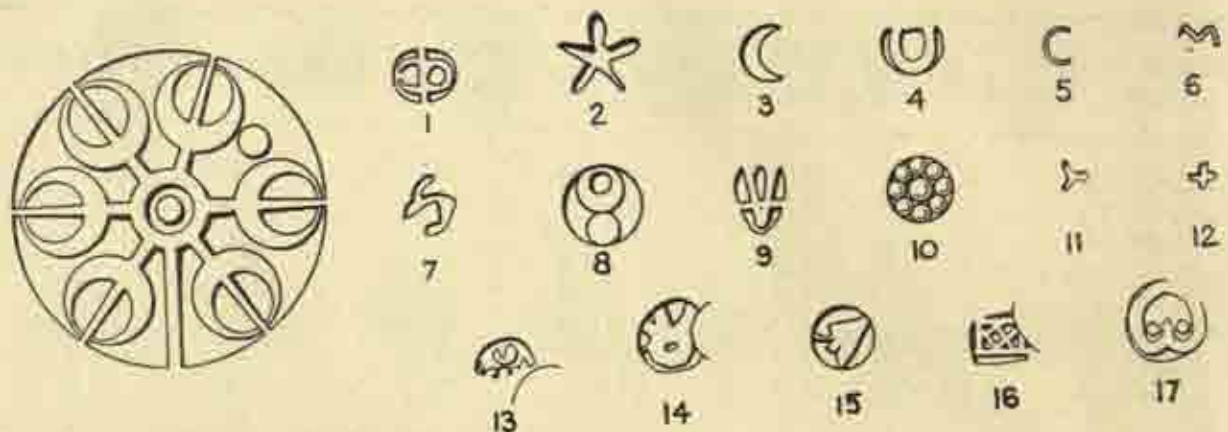


FIG. 2. Obverse symbol with pellet r., and countermarks 1-17. † (See Appendix, Parts I-III.)

Note: For countermark 5, cf. Nos. 4 and 33 of 1924 (the mark on No. 28 is a pellet in the symbol).
For countermark 10, cf. No. 14 of 1924 (Walsh, op. cit., p. 100, pls. III and IV).

VI. Single-type round or square coins from Bhir Mound (all in Taxila Museum)

Museum No. and metal	Date of find	Weight in grains	Diameter in inches		Centre	Other details
			Coin	Die		
B.M. 241 Billon	8-11-24	33.8	.5	.6	Pellet	Pole. No pellet discernible.
.. 320 AR	22-12-30	35	.55	.65	? Blank	Indistinct.
.. 450 AR	12-3-20	6.9	.35	.3	Pellet	Ordinary 6 armed symbol. Coin circular.
.. 500 AE	5-3-37	18.1	.48	.43	Cross	Pellet. No pole.
.. 609 AE	14-3-37	41.2	.55	.7	? Blank	Pellet. Room for pole.
.. 639 Billon	17-11-21	33.4	.65	.6	Blank	Pole. No pellet discernible.
.. 747 AR	20-11-20	7.5	.32	.4	Cross	? Pole. No pellet. Coin square.
.. 926 Billon	29-1-31	18.8	.5	.6	Cross	Pellet. No pole.
.. 1013 AR	29-3-20	16.3	.5	.47	Pellet	No pole or pellet discernible.
.. 1098 AR	11-2-31	35.4	.55	.5	Pellet	Pellet. No pole discernible.
.. 1100 AR	30-11-20	19.2	.45	.48	Cross	Pole and pellet.
.. 1244 AR	2-12-20	63.6	.65	.5	Blank	No pole or pellet discernible (disturbed by countermark).
.. 1391 AE	4-12-20	34.3	.6	.7	Pellet	? Pole. No pellet discernible.
.. 1407 AE	1-4-20	41.7	.58	.58	Pellet	Pole. No pellet discernible.
.. 1481 AE	29-11-21	40.5	.6	.58	Indistinct	No pole or pellet discernible.
.. 1499 AE	3-4-20	13.7	.45	.48	Cross	Ditto.
.. 1700 AE	13-6-20	36.2	.6	.65	Indistinct	Indistinct.
.. IV925 AR	21-12-44	18.3	.55	.5	Cross	Pellet. No pole.