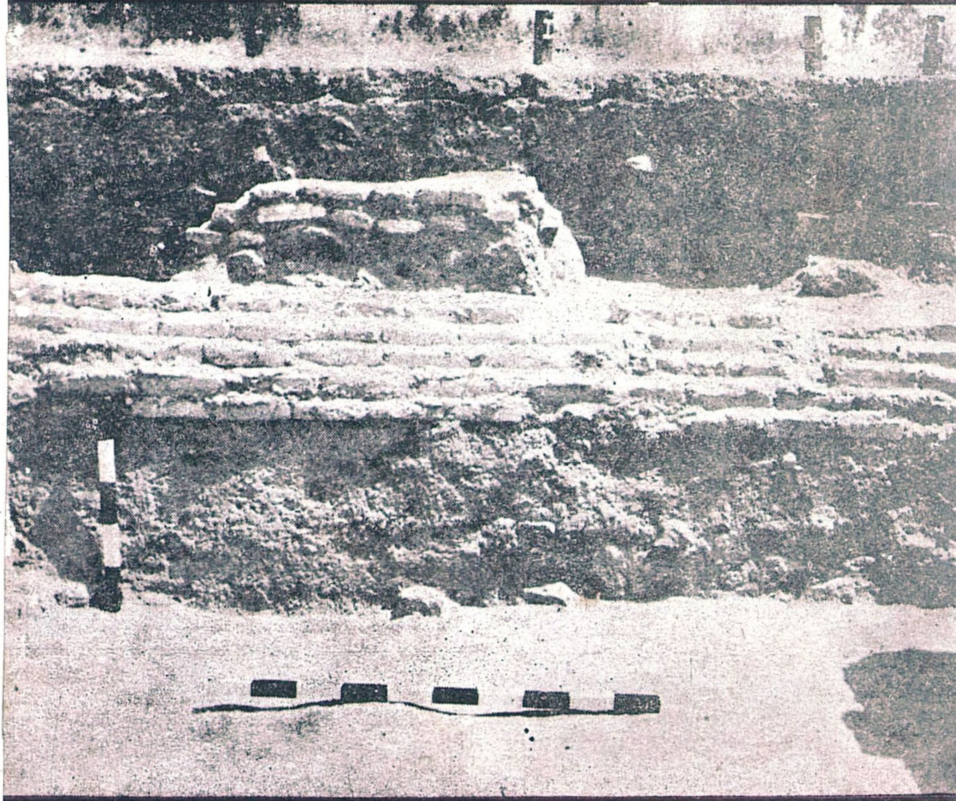
PADAVEDU EXCAVATION
(1993)

AUTHOR

NATANA. KASINATHAN



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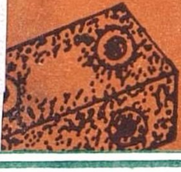

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PREFACE

Government of Tamilnadu have pleased to sanction a considerable amount for conducting excavations under the Part II Scheme for the year 1993-94. Padavedu was one of the historical places selected for the excavation during that year and it yielded very valuable antiquities and revealed the habitational structures belonging to the period of Sambuvaraya who ruled during 14th century A.D.

I avail this apportunity to thank the Government of Tamilnadu and our respectful Chief Minister for the allotment of funds and the Hon'ble Education Minister for his kind encouragement and advice and the Secretary, Tamil Development and Culture department for his valuable guidance. I owe very much to the following staff for their tireless service rendered during excavation.

1. Thiru A. ABDULMAJEED,
   Deputy Superintending Archaeologist.
2. Thiru M. KALAIVANAN,
   Curator.
3. Thiru S. SELVARAJ,
   Archaeological Officer.
4. Thiru K. S. SAMPATH,
   Pre-Historic Archaeologist.

But for their help, this excavation and the preparation of this report would not have been completed. I also thank the Director General of ASI, for having kindly accorded permission to carry out excavation at this site. My thanks are

due to Dr. D. V. Devaraj, Director of Archaeology, Govt. of Karnataka and Dr. A. Zaibuniza, Urdu Pandit of Oriental Manuscript Library for their help in deciphering the legends found on Vijayanagar Coins and Mughal Coin respectively.

I am beholden to the following land owners of Padavedu for having kindly permitted us to dig in their fields and to the following villagers for their timely help in our ventuer.

Land Owners :

1. **Thiru Kannappan,**
2. **Thiru Kuppuswamy Gownder** of Padavedu and
3. **M/s. T.V.S.**

Villagers :

Tiruvalarkal

1. **Annadurai,**
2. **Sekar** and
3. **Arumugham** of Padavedu and
4. **Ramalingam**, Village Administrative Officer.

My thanks are due to Messers. S. Sreekumar, Technical Assistant, K. Muralidharan, Senior - Artist - cum - Designer, V. Makuteswaran, Moulder, M. T. Sridhar, Photographer, Thangavelu, Draughtsman and Palanisamy, Sthapathy for their unstinted co-operation and to the staff of the printing section, for their quick service in bringing out this publication in neat and beautiful manner. I thank one and all of our department for having shown their enthusiasm in bringing out this report.

NATANA. KASINATHAN

Director of Archaeology

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Padavedu in Polur Taluk of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District is situated at a strategic point and was the most important capital of Sambuvarayas. In the initial stages the Sambuvarayas had Munnur, Virinjipuram and Kanchipuram as their temporary capitals; but finally they picked up Padaividu which is corrupted as Padavedu as their permanent capital. It lies in the latitude of 12° 40' 16" North and longitude of 79° 6'30" East. Situated amidst hills and thick forests the natural location of this place had made them to fortify the capital city of theirs for defencive purposes to protect it from the on-slaughts of the enemies. This place is bordered by the thick forest known as Malayalam forest, Senbagattoppu (Grove of Sanbagam), Attimalai on the North West, the Vallimalai on the North East, Kaliyathu Kundu on the South east and the Sandhavasal reserve forest on the South. A rivulet called Kaundala Naga nadhi gently flows through this plateau putting a natural block to the entry of the invaders.

There are a few villages which seem to be closely associated with this Padavedu in its period of zenith. Sandavasal which appears to have been the entry point to this illustrious capital, Sauthankottai, reminding the ancient fort at this place, Vettagiripalayam, suggesting its chief position during Vijayanagara and later periods, and Kaniyanpadi leading one to surmise that it could have been gifted to Kaniyan of

the family of astrologer of the Sambuvaraya period are a few places of importance that would defy the inroads of enemy forces.

This area is referred to in Sambuvaraya's inscriptions as 'Rajagambhira Rajyam'[1] after the name of Rajagambhira Sambuvarayan and 'Padaivittu rajyam' after Padaividu, the capital of Sambuvarayas. That the hillock which bordered this rajyam was called as 'Rajagambhiran Malai'[2] is mentioned in an inscription found engraved on the hillock itself. This glorious rajyam had the privilege of having the capital city known as 'Marudaraisan Padaividu'. During the period of its zenith it seems to have had the palace building encased by a fort wall and a moat.

Padaividu literally means the house of Padai *i.e.* a military camp or cantonment. Hence it is understood that the army was stationed at this place. It is not known if the army of Sambuvarayas were stationed here. In an inscription[3] of the present Padavedu village this place is mentioned as **Marudaraisar Padaividu** meaning the Padaividu of Marudaraisar. Nowhere does Sambuvarayar appear to have been referred to as Marudaraisar. On the other hand Marudu being the corrupted form of Madurai, it could be meant as the Padaividu of the king of Madurai. The king of Madurai at that time

1. A.R.E 18 of 1889
2. Inscription discovered recently by Madras University; A.R.E. 220 of 1919
3. டாக்டர் கோ. தங்கவேலு, இல. தியாகராசன்; 'சம்புவராயர் வரலாறு', பிற்சேர்க்கை பக்கம் 327, வரிசை எண். 3; S.I.I. Vol. 1 No. 81

was Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I of the Pandya family who ruled from 1250 to 1268 A.D. He was a powerful monarch. He had brought under his control a comparatively larger area upto the Tungabhadra in Andhra Pradesh. During his reign a Sambuvaraya, *viz.* Sundara Pandya Sambuvaraya seems to have been incharge of the area of Kanchipuram as gleaned from an epigraph of Kalavai.[1] According to this the gift of Sundara Pandya Sambuvaraya to the temple Tirukkārīsvaramuḍaiya Nayanar of Kalavai was endorsed by the Pandya king Jatavarman Sundara Pandya. The name Sundara Pandya Sambuvaraya also suggests that he was a feudatory of the Pandya king Sundara Pandya. Sundara Pandya Sambuvaraya and his successor Vira Pandya Sambuvaraya were the loyal feudatories of Pandya overlords.

In order to protect the capital from the onslaughts of the Sultans from the North, the Sambuvaraya king could have stationed his army at Padaividu on behalf of the Pandyas. Hence, this place was made known as **Marudaraisar Padaividu**.

In due course, when the Pandyas were completely uprooted by the Delhi Sultanate, Sambuvarayas seem to have declared themselves as independent rulers and had this Padaividu as their own and began to rule from this place when the Vijayanagara kingdom arose in Karnataka under the leaderships of Harihara and Bukka in the year 1336. Tirumallinathan Rajanarayana Sambuvaraya, and his younger brother Ponnin

1. S.I.I. Vol. XII, No. 446

Tambiran Rajanarayana Sambuvaraya, the sons of Venrumankonda Sambuvaraya were ruling the northern part of Tamilnadu, having their capital at Padaividu. In the year 1363 Vira Kampana attacked Rajanarayana Sambuvaraya, probably the son of Tirumallinatha Sambuvaraya in the Padaividu fort and captured him as prisoner.

The unapproachable nature of this fort is elaborately described in "Madura Vijayam" written by Gangadevi, the queen of Vira Kamapana. The poetic description is as follows :

"King Kampana, then converted the Tamil king's town into an encampment for his own forces, and from there began to lay seige to the hill fortress named Rajagambhira (Rajagambiramalai) in which the enemy had sought asylum.

The sound of his war-drums raised echoes from every cave of the hill and it looked as if the hill itself had begun to yell out in fright.

With flags flying in the direction of high winds, the hill (fort) gave the impression that it was greeting king (Kampana) and welcoming him with its arms (the flags) to come to its top.

Again, fierce fighting commenced between the two sides, and the weapons falling down and shooting up, lit up both earth and sky by their resplendance.

Heads severed by arrows resembled palmyra-fruits as they fell down from the ramparts and caused an

illusion that the balls belong to the deity of war (for playing (with).

Like messengers (tax-collectors) sent by the stronghold themselves claiming the tolls for the entry (of the Karnataka troops) the stones let down from catapults fell just in front of the king.

The hill, with the houses lit up by the fire from the missiles of bow-men looked like holding lamps in readiness harati for the happy ceremony to mark the auspicious victory of the king.

The ascent of the hill was accomplished by heroic men by means of rows of lances planted as ladders and climbing upto the tops of sala trees.

With all means (and chances of escape) coming out completely blocked, the stronghold was subjected to such great distress that the embryos of women, big with children, slipped out at the very sight of the fierce troops jumping in, and people immersed in the river of blood of the slain prayed for their lives.

The Sambuvaraya monarch, with drawn sword, came out of his palace in great anger, even as a snake with its lolling tongue might come out of a mole-hill.

Though many a soldier of valour eagerly came forward to fight saying "let me do it," King Kampana preferred to face the Sambuvaraya himself.

With the forepart of their bodies bent and eyes fixed, the two kings sword in hand, stood still for a moment like a picture on a piece of painting.

The gods were thankful for the total absence of of winking in their eyes, as they were looking on with fixed gaze, the flight (of the two horses) their bodies divided at the waist.

Kampana's sword, reflecting as it did the image of the Sambuvaraya monarch, looked like a pregnant daughter about to give birth to a husband for the celestial nymphs.

Then escaping deftly a sword thrust, King Kampana despatched the Sambuvaraya (monarch) as a guest to Indra's city.

Having thus reduced (killed) the Sambuvaraya in the field of battle, king Kampana received the decree of his father that he should rule (the territory thus conquered)"

It is well attested from the above description that there were a palace and huge fortwall both of which were guarded by large number of army personnel, weilded by bow and arrow and lances. This citadel situated on Rajagambira hill, was seiged and the ruler was stabbed to death by Vira Kampana according to Madura Vijayam.[1]

But in an inscription[2] it is mentioned that Venrumankonda Sambuvaraya was conquered and imprisoned and seized Rajagambhiran hill by Kandar Kuli Maraya

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1. S. Tiruvenkatachari, Maduravijayam, Gangadevi, Canto IV. Slokas 67 to 83

2. A.R.E. 267 of 1919

Nayakkar, the general of Kamapana in Saka 1285 corresponding to 1363 A.D. It is also said in the same epigraph that for this victory the general was awarded Annamangalappurru and in turn he had built a gopura in the second prakara of Tiruvagnisvaramudaiya Mahadevar temple of Kulattur of the same Annamangalappurru. This inscription is still found on the gopura of Kullattur (Madam). In another inscription found engraved on the same gopura, it is described that the general Kandarkuli Maraya Nayakkar had destroyed many boundaries and imprisoned Champan, the king of Sambuvaraya.[1]

Though these two sources differ in identifying the conqueror they uniformly agree that the fort of Sambuvarayas was very strong, protected by many boundaries and guarded by armed soldiers.

The existence of the palace and the fort wall were ascertained by the archaeologists while they conducted the exploration in this area. On the west of the present village Padavedu there is a raised mound, locally known as **Kottaimedu.** By the side of this mound there are two Vishnu sculptures, one being called as Chinna Kottoi Varadar (Varadar of small fort) and the other as Periya Kottai Varadar (Varadar of big fort). On Kottaimedu itself there are sculptures of Kottai Talaiyari, Vira Anjaneya, Maha Ganapathi and two Tirthankaras. These remains clearly indicate that this was the place where the fort of Sambuvaraya should have been in existence.

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1. A.R.E. 286 of 1919

This view is further strengthened by the occurrence of cart-loads of bricks and considerable number of ring wells while the farmers plough this Kottaimedu for cultivation. Further, the traces of fort gates situated on Attimalai which is identified to Rajagambhiran Malai of Sambuvaraya period and the existence of Venugopala temple and granaries built of bricks though assignable to Nayak period, attest the fact of its continuous importance.

DIGGING AT PADAVEDU

On the basis of the above literary, epigraphical and the archaeological evidences the Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology carried out systematic excavation during the year 1993-94 at two sites namely Vettagiripalayam and Kottaikaraimedu. Altogether 16 trenches (two for trial and fourteen for actual digging) were laid bare. Contraction of the name of Padavedu is given as PDV.

PDV - 1

First trench PDV - 1 (5 × 4 mts.) was put up adjacent to a naturally exposed ancient structure in the land of Kannappa Gownder, Vettagiripalayam. Contrary to our expectation, continuity of this structure was not encountered in the trench. Generally, soil, red in colour, is loose and compact. Content of the soil shows admixture of clay and sand of varying preportions.

As far as pottery is concerned coarse red pot sherds were collected in huge quantities. The significant finding of this trench is a Terracotta tube with a tiny hole at the tapering end. It is believed to be a blow-pipe made up of clay and quartz particles, for making glass objects. To corraborate this fact, a glass slag piece was also collected. The carbon residues noticed in 0·75 mts. depth indicate the existence of an oven at this place suggesting further that it was a habitational site.

PDV - 2

It was laid bare in an extent of 4 × 4 mts. on an elevated area, west of PDV-1. On the eastern side, the remnants of a fortified wall, in south-east and north-west orientation was noticed at 0·15 mts. depth. It is built of rough granite blocks with mud binding. Besides this, a broken ring well was also encountered at 1·60 mts. depth. Important findings of this trench are two copper coins collected at the depth of 0·75 mts. and 0·80 mts.

PDV - 3

Third trench 4 × 4 mts. in extent, was excavated at Kottaikaraimedu which is at the vicinity of Kottaithalaiyari a village deity. Two pits filled with river sand and granite pebbles were noticed on the southern side of this trench. At the centre of this trench at 0·80 mts. depth a structural remain, in north-south orientation, was noticed. The wall built of bricks is of 8 courses. The size of the brick is 23 × 13·5 × 3·5 cms.

PDV - 4

Trench - 4 was cut to an extent of 4×4 mts. A lime flooring at 0·30 mts. depth and a structural remain in southern side were exposed. Only one course of the bricks of this structure is available.

PDV - 5

Hoping to find the extension of lime-flooring, exposed in trench-4, PDV-5 with the usual extent of 4×4 mts. was laid north of PDV-4. As expected, the lime-flooring was encountered at the same level of PDV-4. It was also found extending towards east.

PDV - 6

PDV - 6 of 4×4 mts. extent was deepened at the east of PDV-5. The lime-flooring noticed in PDV-4 and PDV-5 occurred in this trench too extending horizontally by 1 mt. length in the east. Beneath this, a brick channel running east-west was exposed.

PDV - 7

In order to find out the continuity of the structural remain exposed in PDV-3 this trench was put up. At 0·70 mts. depth a brick channel, sloping towards north, was exposed in the eastern side. It is found constructed with four layers of bricks. Despite closed type channel, an opening probably for clearing blackade is left at one point.

PDV - 8

Trench 8 was laid with 4 × 4 mts. extent. The main aim was to find the continuity of the brick channel exposed in PDV-7. Lime-flooring and the structural remains occur in this trench too.

PDV - 9

PDV-9 was also laid with an extent of 4 × 4 mts. Besides the continuity of Lime-flooring exposed in PDV-6, a granite channel in north-south orientation was also found at 0·50 mts. depth. Unlike the former brick channel, it is an open type. In addition, the flooring paved with the bricks was also exposed at 0·80 mt. depth in the southern side.

PDV - 10

It was laid bare to an extent of 4×4 mts. It revealed the continuity of granite channel and brick flooring exposed in PDV-9.

PDV - 11

A trench was laid here to trace the extension of Lime-flooring exposed in trench-8. But, the flooring was not encountered. The coarse redware pot sherds in considerable quantity were collected from this trench.

PDV - 12

Trench 12 in 3 × 5 mts. extent revealed the mud covered fortified wall, built up of granite boulders. It lays in east-west direction. The length and breadth of this wall is found to be 2·45 mts. and 1·35 mts. respectively.

Significant findings of this trench are two copper coins.

PDV - 13

It was laid South of PDV-10. The area of excavation was 3 × 4 mts. This trench has yielded coarse redware pot sherds in large quantity. Granite channel found in PDV-10 is not encountered in this trench.

PDV - 14

It was laid bare on the east of PDV-6 to trace the extension of brick channel. As expected, brick channel was found extending further east. It is strongly built of bricks that are found in five courses.

Trial Trench 1

Trial Trench-1 was laid to know the extent of brick structure exposed between the trench 1 and 2. Hence it was laid in between these two trenches. But, it was known to be a brick structure of smaller dimension.

Trial Trench 2

Trial Trench 2 was laid near Ramalinga Chowdeswari Amman Temple which is south west of A. K. Padavedu. The area of excavation was 4×4 mts. It exposed a structural remain constituting granite boulders and brick layers at 0·75 mts. depth. Of these, the granite boulders are aligned above the brick layers which rest on virgin soil. Bricks are found in eight courses. This structure appears to have been built by the Sambuvarayas.

STRUCTURAL REMAINS AND LIME - FLOORING

This small scale excavation has exposed structures of considerable importance. These structures seem to have been built in different periods.

PDV - 2 has exposed a remnant of granite wall, treading south-west. It consists of one granite black layer. Since brick bats are noticed adjoining to this, it is inferred that this wall may be the foundational one.

In Trench - 3 remains of a brick structure, in north - south orientation was encountered, at 0·80 mts, built of eight brick layers. It appears to have been raised on the dumped mud, having it as foundation. In addition, four brick walls with lime plaster were also noticed in PDV - 7,8,11 and 12. These walls encircle the lime - flooring.

Even trenches 4,5,6,9 and 14 have also exposed a few brick structural remains. Of these, structural remains noticed in PDV-4 and PDV-10 are found to have been built systematically. Examination of these structures has revealed that they extend downward below lime-flooring level. It is obvious that the period of lime-flooring and the brick wall are not contemporary. Hence it is ascertained that brick wall found below the level of the lime-flooring must have belonged to the earlier period.

A part of lime-flooring was exposed in the trenches 4, 5, 6 and 9 in 0·30 mts. depth. Length and breadth of this area was 5·30 × 5·20 mts. A few post-holes, probably intended for pillars, were found in all four corners. This lime flooring has been formed of the mixer of lime, river sand and granite pebbles. Adjoining this floor are noticed bricks aligned in the form of a square box. The purpose of this structure appears to be for storing water.

Besides the above flooring, another lime-flooring was also encountered at 0·65 mts. depth. Thickness of it is 0·15 mts. It was also made up of the same raw materials that were found in the later level flooring. This flooring is contemporary to the channels which were found adjacent to it. It is clear from these two level floors that this area had been continuously occupied. Considering the well established lime-flooring and the strongly built brick structure, it is presumed that this place might have been occupied by some higher dignatory or royal personage.

Fortified wall

It is believed that there were two forts namely Chinnakkottai (small fort) and Periakottai (big fort) existing in Kottaikaraimedu of Padavedu. The remnants of the fort wall are available. In a few places, the fort wall is admirably intact. People are engaging in digging out granite blocks for building their houses from this fort wall. Trench-12 was laid to find out the formation of the wall. It was found that the wall was built of

granite blocks. Just below this construction, well dressed natural granite rock, was found aligned in two rows. The gap between these rows was found filled with boulders and mud. The dimensions of the granite block used for this wall are 76 × 60 cms. 53 × 60 cms. and 58 × 62 cms. Height and breadth of the wall are 1·15 mts. and 2·45 mts. respectively. If the remnants of this wall are not properly preserved it is feared that there would be no trace of this wall.

CHANNELS

Channels :

Interestingly the excavation has thrown light on four types of channels. These were built with extraordinary skill and care.

Channel type : 1

The channel exposed in the trenches PDV-3 and 7, is taken here as type 1. It was encountered at 70 cm. depth. It is found built up of brick comparably in simple method. One brick is found laid on the floor horizontally and two bricks are put on either side vertically while one brick is placed over the two vertical bricks in order to cover. In this method the whole channel is found built up. This channel could be called as closed channel. It originates from a tub which is in the size of 88×55 cm. This tub occurred in trench PDV - 7 having the provision of a hole at the bottom suggesting that the waste water was flushed out from it through the closed channel. The exposed length of this channel is 3·35 mts. and the depth and breadth of its passage is about 10 cm. and 16 cm. respectively. Unfortunately this channel ends abruptly.

Channel type : 2

This channel is found built of granite blocks. It is exposed at the depth 0·50 mtr. in the trench PDV-9 in north - south orientation. The run way of water is found scooped out of the granite blocks. It is found that

this channel is formed by laying five granite blocks of various sizes. The size of the granite blocks from 1 to 5 are as follows :

2·27 mts. 2·13 mts. 1·30 mts. 0·70 mtr. and 0·80 mtr. The total length of this exposed channel is 7·20 mts. This also appears to have been used for draining out the sewage water.

Channel type : 3

The most significant and very interesting channel is the one exposed in the trenches PDV - 6 and 14 Though built of brick and stone it is airtight. The granite slabs are found laid on the floor while the bricks have been used for constructing the other parts of the channel. Exposed total length of this channel is 6·18 mtrs. To strengthen the channel on either side river sand and granite pabbles are put up throughout the entire length. Since this channel has been built airtight with due care on hygiene and supported by the river sand and granite pebbles, it leads one to presume that this channel might have been used to supply drinking water for the royal family.

Channel type : 4

This channel is formed with well-designed terra-cotta pipes which are found placed one fitting the other, leaving no room for leakage. It also seems that the joint points of the pipes were plastered with lime. The diameter of the pipe is about 15 centimetres in the front side and 11 centimeters in the rear side. The length of the pipe is 20 cm.

Ring Well

In PDV-2 and PDV-4 ringwells have been exposed. A broken ring of a ringwell was uncovered at 1·60 mts. depth in PDV-2. It is found decorated externally. The height and thickness of the ring is 45 cm. and 8 cm. respectively. It could be the top most ring of a well.

In PDV-4 two broken rings were noticed at a depth of 34 cm. The occurrence of these ring wells indisputably indicate that this site was a habitational one.

TERRACOTTA OBJECTS

(i) Spouted Vessel

Interestingly, the excavation at Padavedu has yielded varied antiquities of archaeological interest depicting the socio-cultural aspects. Of the artefacts, spouts of various shapes with fascinating decorations draw our attention, Majority of them are of coarse red variety. As the accurrence of the spouts are found in large number, it might be visualised that the usage of spouted vessels was predominant among the pottery of these days.

Spouted vessels appear to have been manufactured by fixing the separately prepared spouts at the shoulder portion of a pot. This vessel is generally found decorated in the rim portion. Some of these vessels are found decorated with the figures of Sun, Moon and Trident on either side of the spout. The occurrence of this kind of vessel in Tamil Nadu is found from Megalithic period. Fine varieties of this kind has been noticed from Korkai, the ancient port of the Pandyas of Sangam age It may be noted that these vessels have been used in temples exclusively for keeping holy water for bathing the deity.

(ii) Terracotta Lamp

Padavedu seems to be famous for terracotta lamps of various sizes with a number of facets. The lamps collected from this site could be distinguished as lamps with decoration, lamps without decoration and Deepak-kalasams. Most of them are made of course red and balckware variety.

(1) Lamps with decoration

Decorated lamps have been encountered from 0·55 mtr. onwards down to 2·10 mts. depth. Among them, black variety lamps were colleted in large numbers. Made of fine clay, these lamps also have flat bottom with circular rim of a height of 3 cm. having the provision of sharp and deep protruding lip for wick. Displaying good workmanship these lamps are found decorated with grooves, flower designs, and fish like lines.

The trench PDV - 3 has yielded a broken piece of lamp with golden colour at 1 mtr. depth, resembling like a golden lamp.

(2) Lamp without decoration

This type of lamps are of coarse redware variety with flat bottom. Appearing as a tiny bowl, it has thick round rim. The nature of the rim is such that it facilitates to place the wick of the lamp in any desired direction. The diameter of these lamps vary from 7 to 12 cm.

3. Deepakkalasam

Two types of deepakkalasams were gathered being one decorated and the other plain. For convenience, these are provided with handle and stand. Plain types of deepakkalasam found in PDV - 2 is 5 cm. height. Diameter of the upper and lower portion of deepakkalasam are 9 cm. and 7 cm. respectively. The decorated deepakkalasam was found in about 1·40 mts. depth.

ANTIQUITIES

(i) Blow pipe

A long cylindrical T. C. Pipe was encountered in PDV-1. It is made of clay and quartz particles which are in less quantity. It is provided with a tiny hole at the tapering end. Nature of this suggests that it might have been a blow-pipe. It appears to have been used for making glass objects. A glass slag collected in the same level strengthens this view.

Few broken pieces of crucibles were unearthed in PDV-1. These are believed to have been used for melting metals and making ornamets out of it. During exploration a full sized crucible with lid was also collected.

The occurrence of the above antiquities and the traces of the existance of a furnace clearly lead to suggest that a full fledged industry for making iron objects and ornaments of other metals might have prevailed in this city.

(ii) Dice

A well preserved dice, believed to be made of either ivory or steatite was found in PDV-6 at 0·56 mtr. depth. It is rectangular in shape bearing rounded dots numbering to 1,3,5 & 6 on the four sides. The length of it is 2·05 cm. while breadth is 0·50 cm. This might suggest that games of dice was very popular during those days.

Another antiquity resembling the dice was also unearthed in PDV-11 made of steatite, all four sides of which have only three beautiful round dots. It is 0·6 cm. in length. A longitudinal hole is found through this object suggesting that this could have been used to tie as an amulet around the neck.

(iii) Coin Mould

Few terracotta coin moulds hove been unearthed in PDV-1, PDV-3 and trial trench. These are square-shaped and partitioned to have pits in rows. The general belief is that the coins are moulded with the help of these pits by pouring the requisite molten metal into them and marked with the emblem of the then ruler.

MINOR ANTIQUITIES

The minor antiquities collected such as beads, bangle pieces, iron objects, copper objects etc. were only fewer in number.

(a) Beads

Few beads made of terracotta, semi-precious stones and soap stone were unearthed. Among them the bead in octagonal shape of green colour is a remarkable one.

(b) Bangles

Bangle pieces In considerable quantity, were gathered from this excavated site. They constitute both black and other colour bangles. Black bangles displaying fine workmanship have been collected from the deposit of Late Chola period contemporary of early Sambuvaraya period, while the other colour bangles seem to have been used during the Vijayanagara period. Bangle pieces of yellow, red and white colour were frequently met in the upper layer assignable to Vijayanagara period.

(c) Copper Objects

A copper bangle piece and a long octogonal pipe (broken) were collected. This pipe was found at 0.60 mtr. depth in PDV-1A. It is in a tapering shape, the utility of which is not clear.

(d) Iron Objects

Iron objects collected in this excavation include nails, knives, rings and daggers. Nails were collected

in considerable number while the other three objects were lone finds. The occurrence of large number of iron nails indicate that the superstructure of the domestic houses and palace buildings might have been built of wood using nails for fastening. The tradition of building the superstructure with the help of wood continued from the Chola period.

In PDV-1 A, a dagger provided with a handle was collected. The nodal point is flat and broad. It is 12 cm. in length and 1·5 cm. in breadth.

(e) Steatite Object

Long cylindrical steatite objects with sharp ends were unearthed in large number from all trenches. Besides this, core materials that are believed to have been used for colouring or writing purpose, were also gathered.

Coins

Totally, five copper coins were unearthed from this excavation. Two coins were collected from PDV-2. One of them belongs to Jalaluddin Ashan the subordinate of the Delhi sultan who ruled during 14th century A.D., the other coin is identified as the issue of Devaraya. The legend on this is written in Kannada characters reading "Sri Devaraya". He was probably Devaraya I. The details of the coins are as follows :

Coin of Jallaludin Ashan

Trench	:	PDV - 2
Depth	:	0·80 mtr.
Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Round
Weight	:	8·730 gms.
Size	:	1·8 cm. diameter
Obverse	:	Legend in Arabic
Reverse	:	Legend in Arabic

Coin of Devaraya

Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Round
Weight	:	3·490 gms.

Obverse	:	Pellets in circle, a humped bull turning to right, sun and moon are found above and the dagger is in front.
Reverse	:	Legend in Kannada character written in two lines. Sri Deva raya

Another coin, picked out from PDV-6 at 0·84 mtr. depth has been identified to be an issue of Rajaraja I.

In PDV-12 two copper coins, similar in all respects were encountered. These are probably the issues of Bukaraya II of the Vijayanagar dynasty. The description of these coins are given hereunder.

Coin of Vijaya Bukaraya

Trench	:	PDV-12
Depth	:	1·05 mts.
Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Round
Weight	:	3·85 and 3·75 gms.
Size	:	1·8 cms. Diameter
Obverse	:	Legend in Devanagari Vi ja ya Buka ra ya

Reverse :	Standing bull turning to right with a sword in front and the crescent and sun above the bull.

POTTERY

On the basis of the occurrence of the potteries, two broad cultural sequences could be classified as Period I and Period II.

Period I is characterised by the occurrence of red ware and black ware in association with the 'L' shaped typical Chola period tiles of various sizes. The shapes of the red ware potteries are vases, spouted vessels, jars and basins. The vases are huge in size with everted out turned grooved rim having multiple grooves on the top portion. Inside these vases a prominent ledge is seen below the rim portion. In some cases corrugations are noticed inside the neck portion. Being these vases are wheel made, the red ochre wash is found applied externally and internally upto the rim portion. They are not made of well lavigated clay, but of medium fabric only.

Many of the jars with out turned beaded rim and some having flat rim with external grooves and basins of flaring out turned grooved rims of red ware occur in this cultural period.

Generally potteries of this period are wheel made, bigger in size with red ochre wash and of medium fabric. They are all utilitarian in character.

Black ware occurs scarcely in the period and the shapes of them are cups with flattened rim and rounded base, tiny basin with incurved grooved rim and rounded

base and a few basins with flaring out turned grooved rim with round base. These type of basins have corrugations inside the neck portions and they are decorated with zig zag lines. The finger nail incisions are seen within the corrugations. Black wash is found applied internally. These potteries are also of wheel turned and of medium fabric.

Period II is characterised by the occurrence of coarse red ware only. The shapes of the red ware are the vases, lids, storage jars, and basins. They occur in association with the less quantity of the 'L' shaped tiny roofing tiles.

There are two types in red ware vases. The first type has splayed out rim with corrugations externally on the neck portion and round bases, while the second type vases are found with flaring out turned rim with grooves externally on the neck portion. Lids with incurved beaded rim having grooves; storage jars with clubbed, flattened and out turned beaded rim and basins with incurved thickened rim having carination below the rim and everted out turned rim with concave neck and round base occur in this period.

The earthern wares of this period are generally smaller in size in comparison with the earthern wares having thin section, devoid of any wash of Period I. Being wheel made and utilitarian in character these too are made of coarse fabric.

POTTERIES OF PERIOD - I

A. RED WARE

Type 1 : Fragment of a globular vase of a red ware with out turned thickened rim, short neck with two ledges externally around it and globular profile; wheel turned with the red ochre wash. The illustrated specimen is of a medium fabric.

Type 2 : Fragment of vase of a red ware with flaring out turned beaded neekless rim. A decorated cordon is seen below the rim portion. The illustrated specimen has globular profiles and rounded base of medium fabric. The Red ochre wash is applied both externally and internally.

Type 3 : A red ware with flattened out turned grooved rim with a prominent ledge internally around the neck. The upper portion of the rim has multiple grooves on the shoulders externally with globular profile of medium fabric. This is the special type of vase noticed at Padavedu only. This type of pottery is not occurred in any other places of Tamilnadu. The red wash is applied whole-length externally but upto the neck portion internally.

Type 4 : Varient of Type 3 with flattened raised ledged out turned rim without any grooves. The illustrated specimen has globular profile.

Type 5 : Another varient of Type - 3

Type 6 : Rim portion of a red ware vase with gradually raised corrugations inside the neck portion with out turned grooved. The illustrated specimen also is a special variety of red ware of Padavedu. The red ochre wash is applied only internally. The section of the ware is seen with tampering materials and is of a medium fabric.

Type 7 : Fragment of a red ware vase with collared rim and globular profile. The red wash is applied both externally and internally. The illustrated specimen is of a medium fabric.

Type 8 : Fragment of a wide mouthed globular vase with everted grooved rim. Grooves are seen internally on the upper and lower portion of the rim and externally below the neck portion. The illustrated specimen is of a medium fabric.

Type 9 : Fragment of a red ware vase with everted out turned grooved rim. The lower portion of the rim is decorated with finger nail incisions externally. The illustrated specimen has short neck decorated with the bands of finger nail incisions and wavy lines on the shoulder.

Type 10 : Varient of Type-9. Red ochre wash is applied whole-length externally and upto the rim portion internally.

Type 11 : Fragment of a red ware vase decorated with finger nail incisions and elongated triangles. The illustrated specimen has globular profile. Externally the neck portion is decorated with grooves and the Red wash is applied.

Type 12 : Fragment of a red ware spouted vessal with globular profile. It is decorated with finger nail incisions and a row of triangles around the shoulder. Red wash is applied externally.

Type 13 : Fragment of a red ware basin with splayed-out rim having short neck. Ledges are seen below the neck. It has blunted carination at the base. It is treated with red wash externally.

Type 14 : Varient of type - 13.

Type 15 : Fragment of a red ware basin with everted and grooved rim. A prominent ledge is seen internally below the rim. The everted portion is finely decorated with ten grooves. The illustrated specimen has ledges around the neck externally. It is decorated with finger nail incisions on the shoulder within the corrugations and carination above base. Red wash is applied whole-length externally but upto the rim portion internally.

Type 16 : Fragment of a basin with splayed rim. Ledges are seen around the neck externally. The illustrated specimen has a rounded base.

Type 17 : Fragment of a huge straight sided jar with incurved beaded rim. It is decorated with grooves externally.

Type 18 : Fragment of a jar with everted out turned grooved rim having concave neck and globular profile. It has rounded base. The illustrated specimen is of medium fabric.

Type 19 : Fragment of a red ware jar having flat rim with corrugation around the neck portion. The illustrated specimen has straight sides.

B. BLACK WARE

Type 20 : Fragment of a black ware vase with everted out turned grooved rim. A prominent ledge is seen around the neck. The everted portion is picturesquely decorated with ten thin grooves. The ledges are seen around the neck externally. It is decorated with finger nail incisions on the shoulder. The illustrated specimen is treated with black wash externally but upto the rim portion internally.

Type 21 : Varient of Type - 20.

Type 22 : Fragment of a tulip shaped basin having gradually raised corrugations in interior surface, decorated with zig zag lines and finger nail incisions within the corruga-

tions. The illustrated specimen has out turned collared rim and is treated with black wash internally. The rim portion is decorated with finger line incisions externally.

Type 23 : Fragment of a black ware basin with incurved beaked rim having shallow base. A prominent ledge runs around below the rim portion.

Type 24 : A fragment of a tiny cup with slightly splayed rim and rounded base. The illustrated specimen is of medium fabric.

POTTERIES OF PERIOD - II

COARSE RED WARE

Type 25 : Fragment of a coarse red ware vase with everted out turned grooved rim. The illustrated specimen is of a globular vase smeared with sand particles externally and devoid of any slip.

Type 26 : Varient of Type 25

Type 27 : Fragment of a coarse red ware vase with prominent ledge inside below the rim. The illustrated specimen has the flat, ledged, grooved rim. It is decorated with grooves below the neck.

Type 28 : Fragment of a coarse red ware vase with flaring out turned rim. It is decorated with grooves around the neck externally.

Type 29 : Fragment of a red ware vase with everted out turned grooved rim. The illustrated specimen is decorated with grooves on the neck portion and is devoid of any wash.

Type 30 : Fragment of a red ware vase with a prominent ledge inside below the rim portion. The illustrated specimen has everted out turned grooved rim.

Type 31 : Fragment of a red ware vase with splayed out turned rim and globular base.

Type 32 : Varient of Type 31

Type 33 : Fragment of a globular vase with everted out turned grooved rim. A prominent ledge is seen around the neck portion internally.

Type 34 : Fragment of a red ware vase with splayed out turned rim and decorated with corrugations below the neck portion externally. The illustrated specimen is of coarse fabric.

Type 35 : Fragment of a coarse red ware vase with out turned thickened rim. It is decorated with grooves around the shoulder. The illustrated specimen has the globular profile.

Type 36 : Varient of Type 35. It is not decorated with external grooves.

Type 37 : Varient of Type 35. It has out turned grooved rim. The illustrated specimen is of coarse fabric.

Type 38 : Fragment of a vase with flanged out turned rim with a prominent ledge on the shoulder.

Type 39 : Fragment of a globular vase of coarse red ware with prominent out turned grooved rim having short neck. The illustrated specimen is decorated with grooves on the shoulder.

Type 40 : Fragment of a vase of coarse red ware with flaring out turned grooved rim having short neck and globular profile. The illustrated specimen is treated with smeared sand particles externally and is made of coarse fabric.

Type 41 : Fragment of a coarse red ware with flaring out turned rim and straight neck.

Type 42 : Fragment of a red ware vase with splayed-out thickened rim having globular profile.

Type 43 : Fragment of a vase of a red ware with short neck and two prominent ledges inside the neck portion. The illustrated specimen has a flat ledged out turned rim with globular profile. It is treated with smeared sand particles externally.

Type 44 : Fragment of a red ware vase with short neck and everted out turned rim. The illustrated specimen is of coarse fabric.

Type 45 : Varient of Type 44

Type 46 : Fragment of a coarse red ware lid with incurved sharpened rim having concave truncated profile above the rim.

Type 47 : Varient of Type 46. It is bigger in size.

Type 48 : Fragment of a coarse red ware basin with concave neck and convex profile. The illustrated specimen has incurved beaked rim.

Type 49 : Fragment of a tiny basin with everted out turned rim. It has concave neck with carination above base. The illustrated specimen is of coarse fabric.

Type 50 : Fragment of a storage jar with neckless out turned beaked rim and globular profile. The section is treated with tampering materials. The illustrated specimen is devoid of any slip and is of coarse fabric.

Type 51 : Varient of Type 50. The illustrated specimen is decorated with finger nail incisions leaving considerable intervels.

Type 52 : Fragment of a neckless storage jar of coarse red ware with out turned beaded rim. The illustrated specimen has globular profile and rounded base.

Type 53 : Varient of Type 52.

Type 54 : Fragment of a red ware with neckless out turned flatened rim. It is decorated with grooves on the neck portion. The illustrated specimen has a globular profile with rounded base.

CULTURAL SEQUENCE AND CONCLUSION

The overall cultural sequence of this site could be characterised as Period I and Period II. Period I, datable to 13th - 14th century A.D. is governed by the occurrence of the brick structure with the channels used for bringing drinking water and draining out sewage water and ring wells while Period II assignable to 15th to 17th centuries A.D. is marked by the presence of smoking pipes, Sultan coin and a number of decorated red ware sherds and bangle pieces.

This excavation is significant as it has brought into light some valuable fresh evidences on the social, political, cultural and religious aspects of Sambuvarayas.

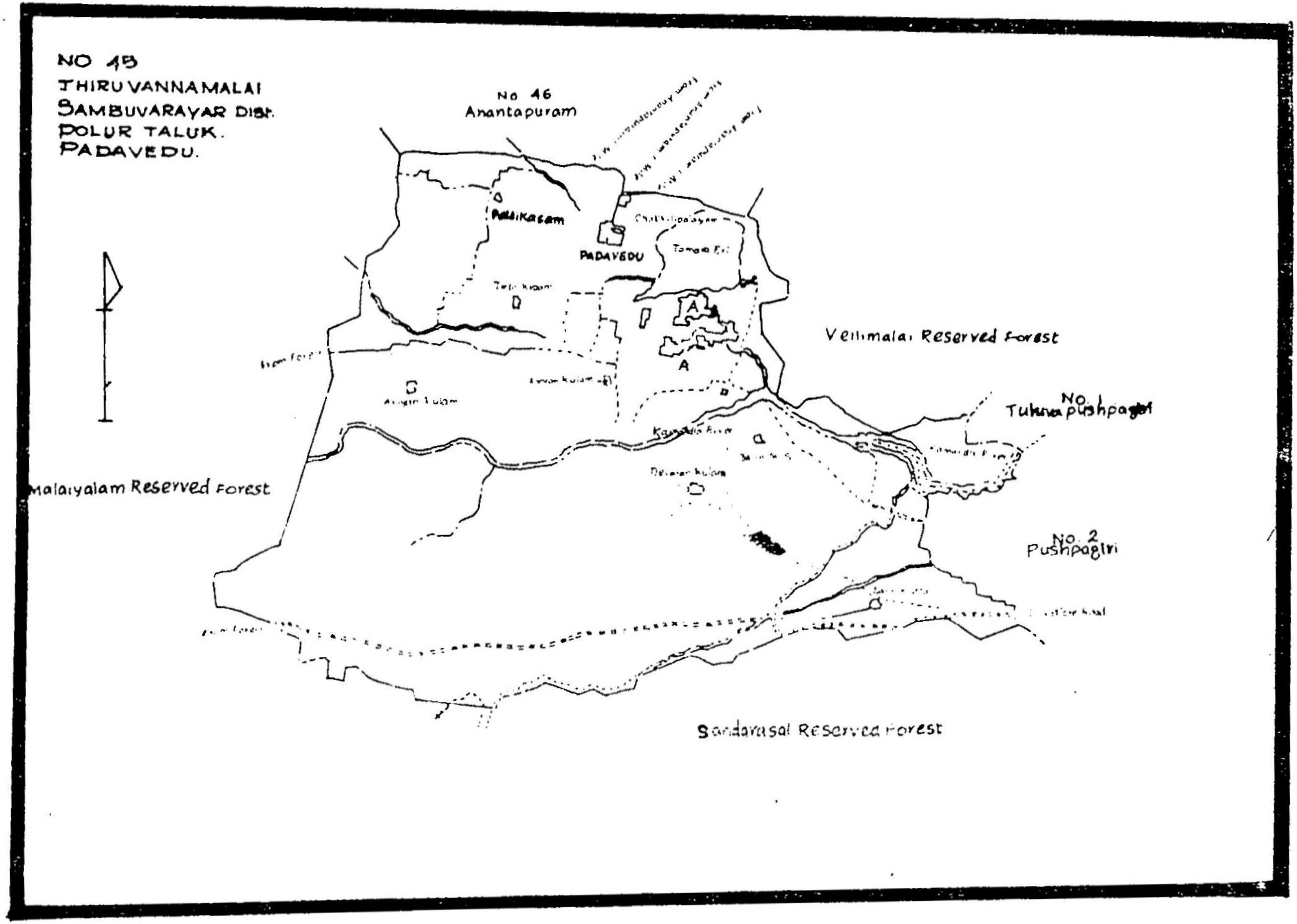
As far as social history is concerned, it is understood that the king lived in a palace guarded by a fort wall and a moat and the location of his palace itself is naturally protected by the hillocks situated around the entry points that were protected by the weilded soldiers. The residential quarters of his officials and citizens were made to situate just around his palace building.

All the buildings are found caused to be built of bricks with lime mortar. The floors are also seen laid out of lime mixture and well protected drinking water and drainage system had been adopted. It seems that due care was taken to get uncontaminated drinking water. In addition to the river water brought through

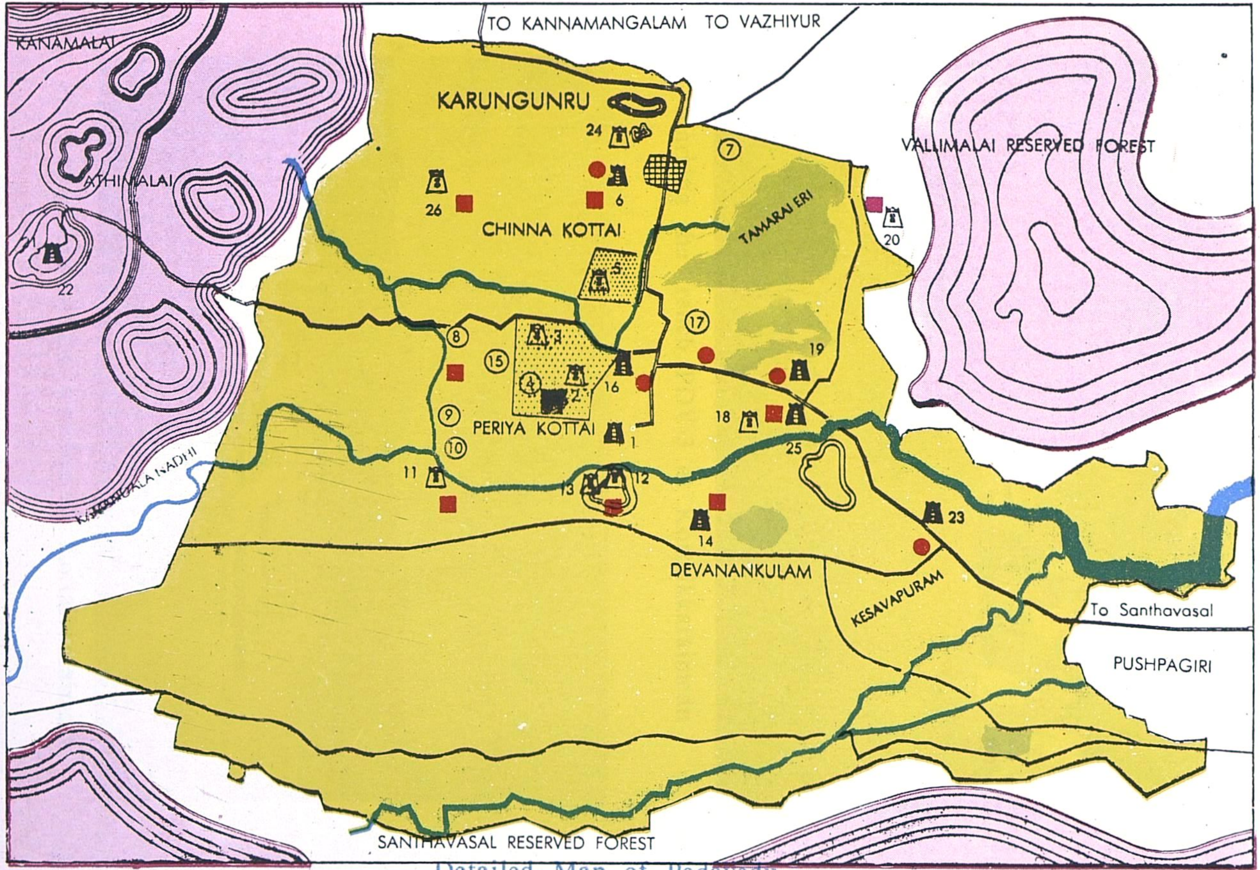
terracotta pipes, it appears that every residential place was provided with a ring well. The houses were covered with tiles in order to protect them from rain and bruning heat. For bearing the load of the super-structure they seem to have used wooden pillars with stone bases. Nails and clamps of different sizes are found to have been used for fixing the wooden reapers and joining each other respectively. During this period only fire wood hearth is found used for cooking food in earthern utensils by the common citizens and brass vessels by the royal families. Number of earthern vessels in different forms such as pot, vase, jar, bowl, cup etc. and the spouted vessels and dish on stand for some special purposes are fouud to have used. Terracotta lamps lit of oil prepared by oil press were in large use. Terracotta lamps of single, three, five, seven and nine facets have been used of which a few are found painted with different colours. Commodities for their daily life seem to have been easily available and some of them were purchased for cash. Artisans like goldsmith, brazier, ironsmith, carpenter and sculptor were also living along with the other communities.

The discovery of beads, dice, amulet like object, bangles etc. indicate the cultural life of that period suggesting that they used to wear chains made of beads, played with dice to spend their leisure time, feared for the ghosts, adorned themselves with a number of ornaments made of glass and copper. The coin moulds, the blow pipes and the traces of furnace all indicate that there were industries of minting coins, producing glass and iron objects.

As far as their religious allegiance is concerned, they appear to be the strong supporters of Saivism as Sambuvaraya kings boast themselves that they were the descendants of Sambu. Lord Siva. Their emblem 'Bull with a dagger in front' and the terracotta figurines of lingas (phalluses) collected from surface at this site support this presumption.



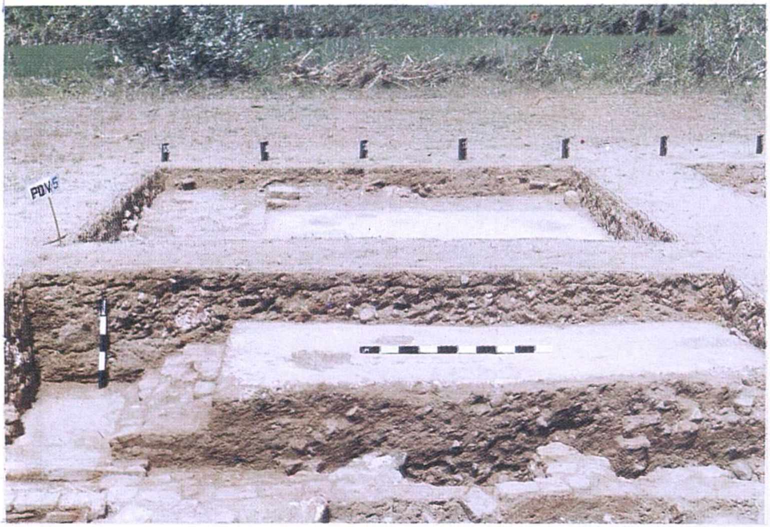
Map showing the location of Padavedu in Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.



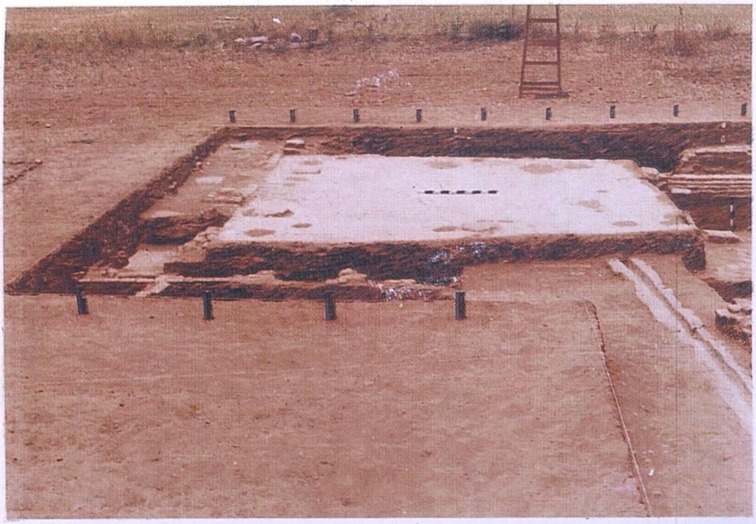
Detailed Map of Padavedu

Marking the trench PDV-3 at Kottaikkaraimedu

An Areal view of the trenches at Kottaikkaraimedu



Lime flooring encountered in PDV-4 and PDV-5

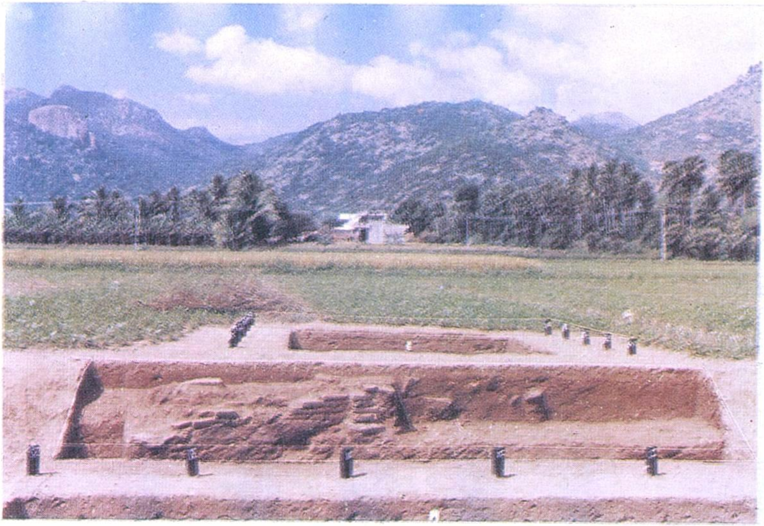


Close up view of the lime floor with the granite open channel and the brick closed channel

Flooring paved with the bricks and the granite channel exposed in PDV-9 and PDV-10

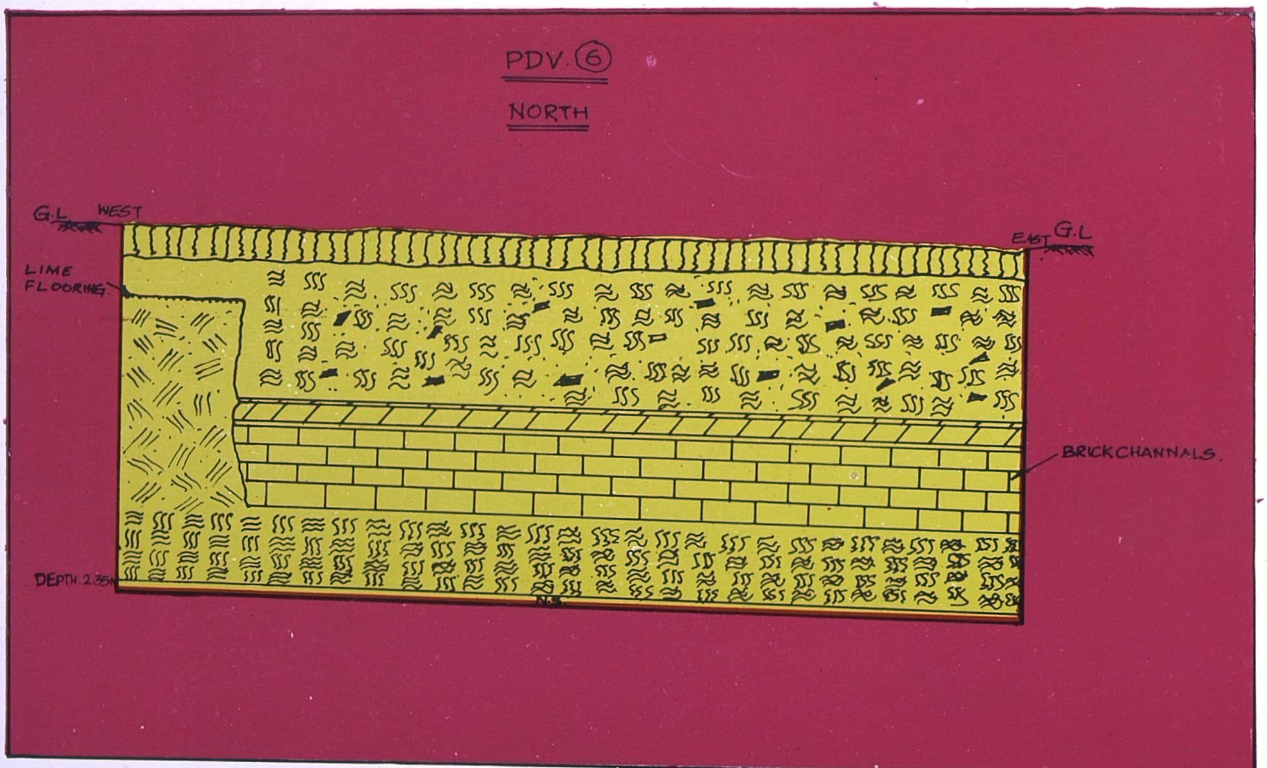
Brick channel with an opening encountered in PDV-7

E. 15603

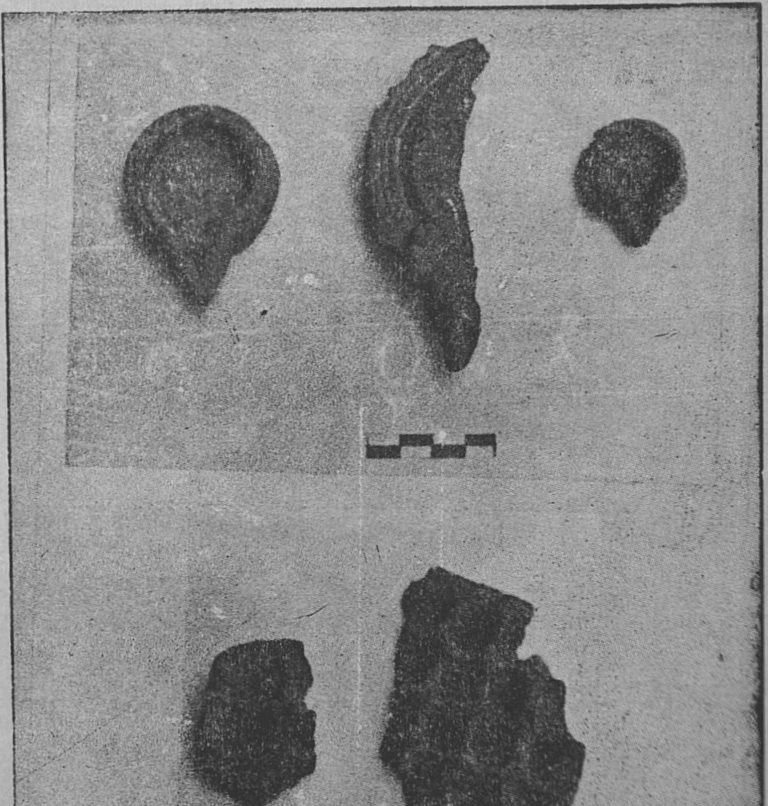


View of the exposed brick structure in Trial Trench-I

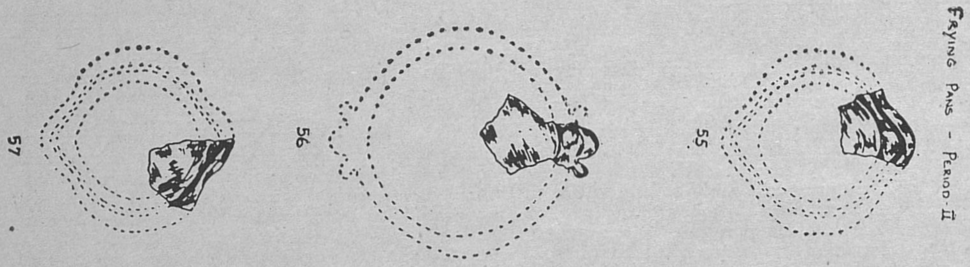
Lime flooring and a brick structure occurring in PDV-4



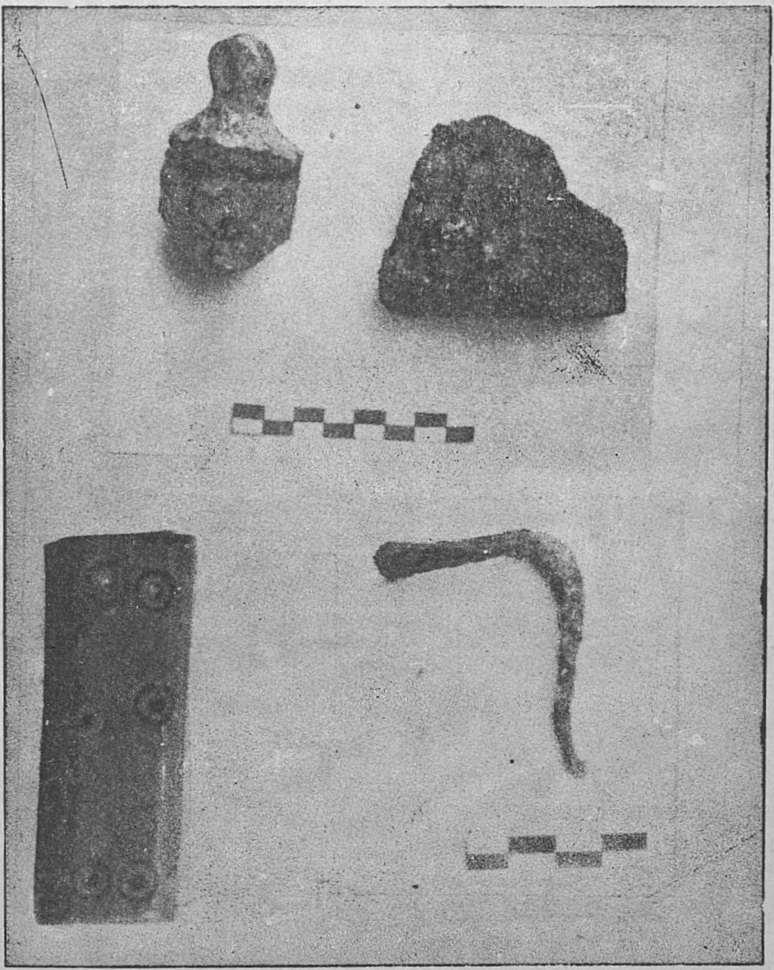
A section depicting the formation of the brick closed channel in PDV-6



Terracotta Lamps and Coin moulds.



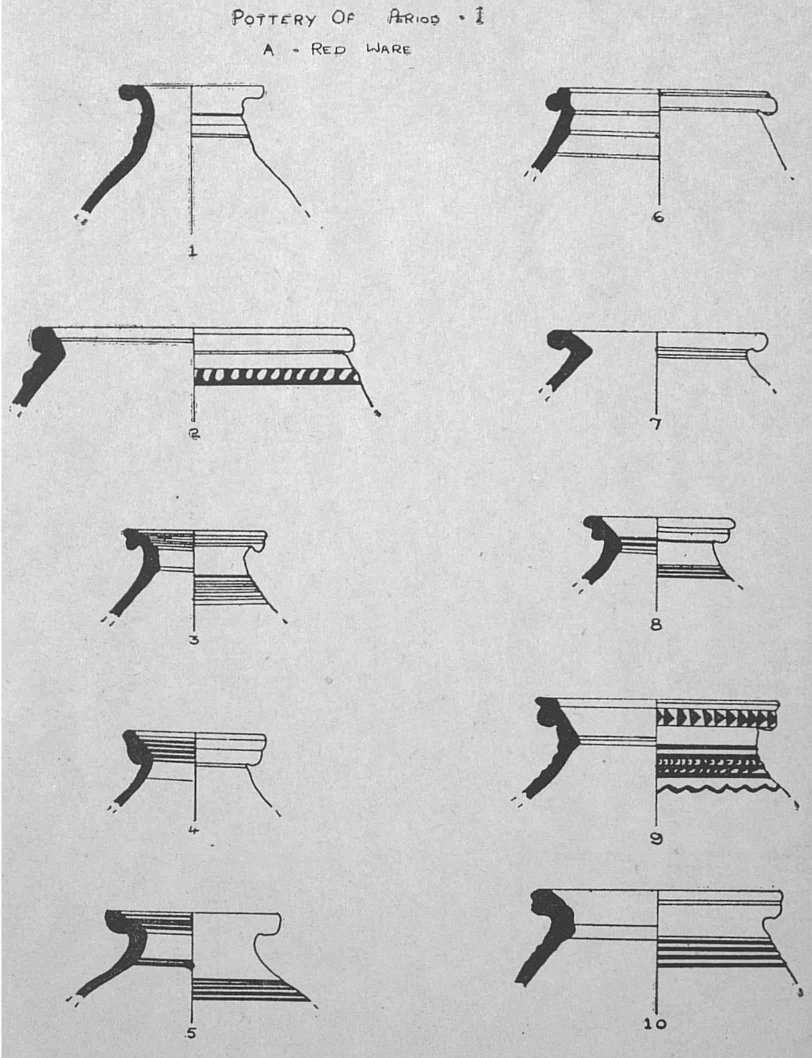
Terracotta frying pans of different shapes.



Crucible with lid, iron objects and a dice.

Copper Coin of Vijayanagara King Sri Dēvarāya.

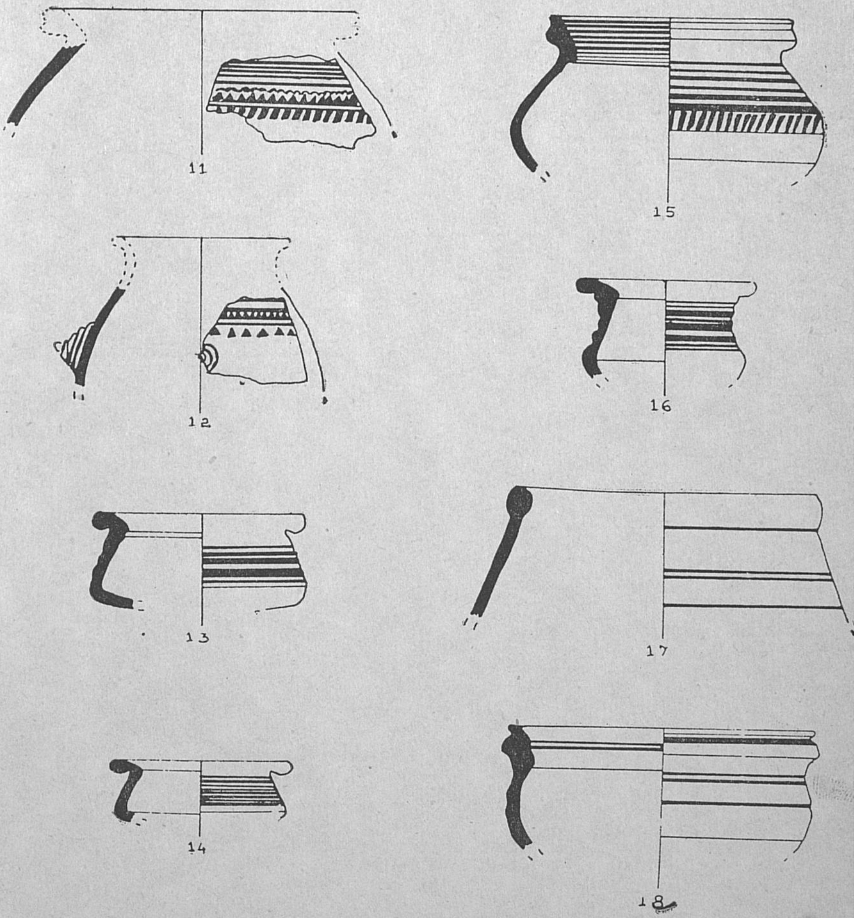
Copper Coin of Jalaluddin.



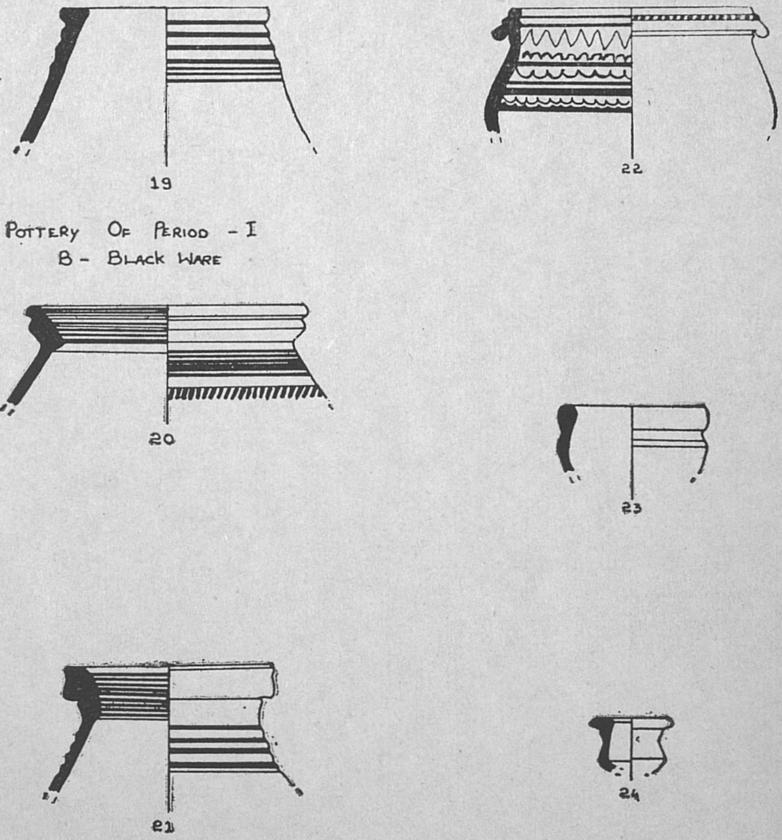
Red Ware Potteries of Period - I

POTTERY OF PERIOD - I

A - RED WARE

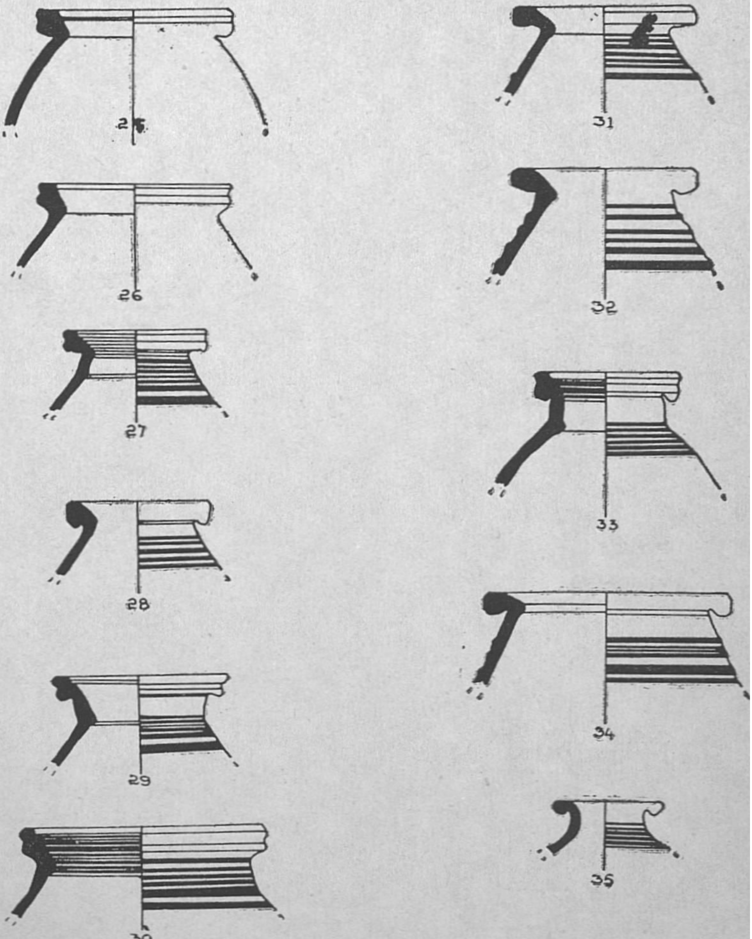


Red Ware Potteries of Period - I



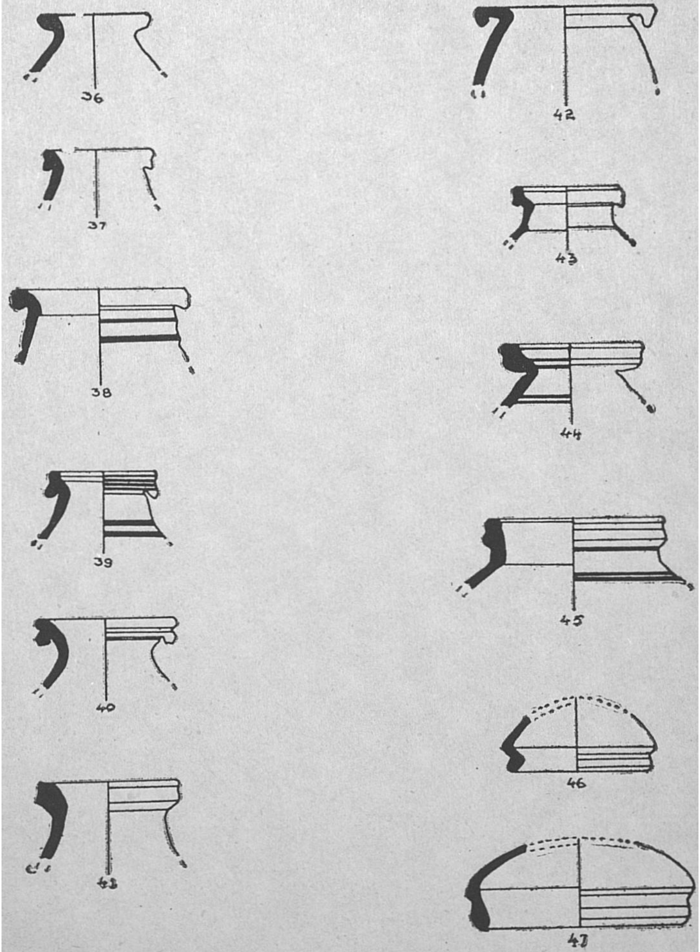
Black Ware Potteries of Period - I

POTTERY OF PERIOD - II
COARSE RED WARE

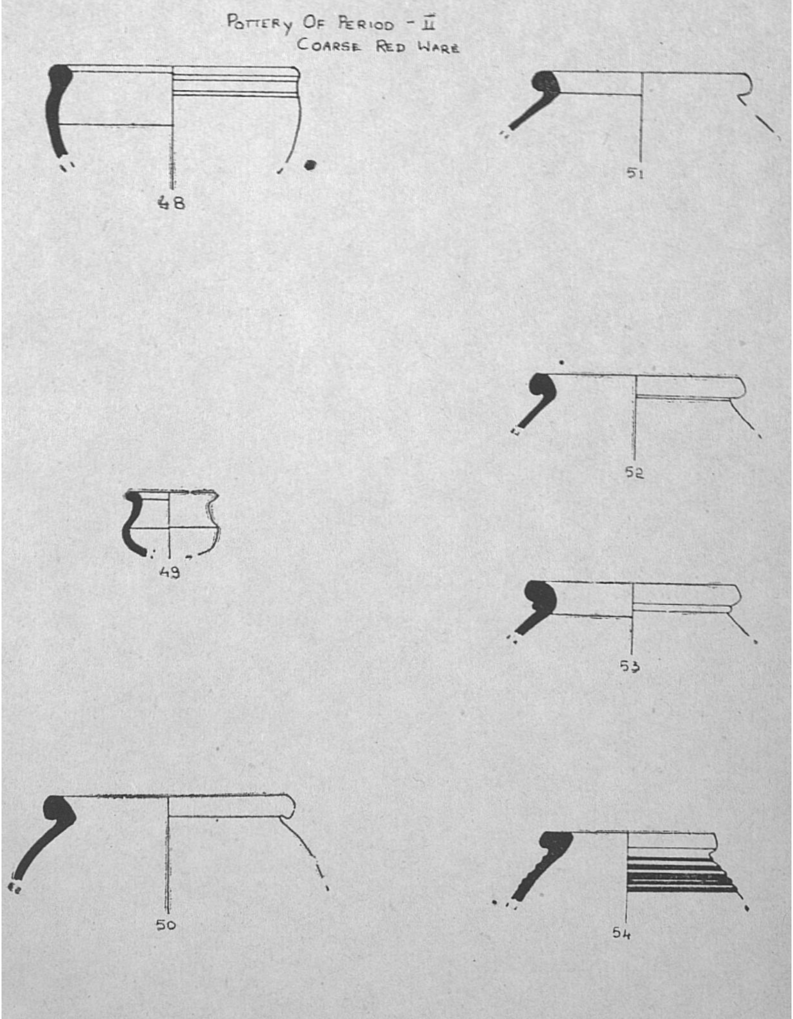


Coarse Red Ware Potteries of Period - II

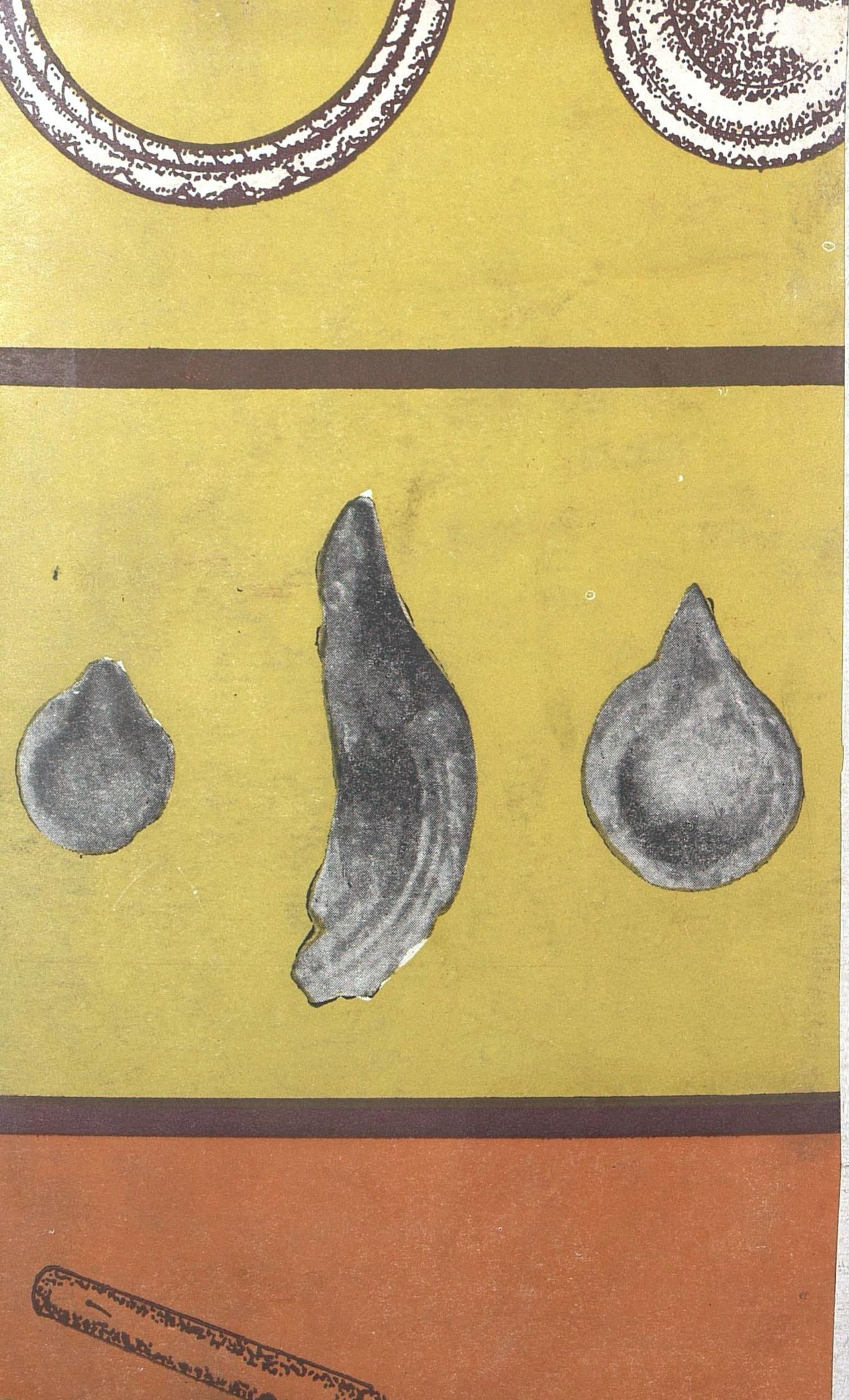
Pottery Of Period - II
Coarse Red Ware



Coarse Red Ware Potteries of Period - II



Coarse Red Ware Potteries of Period - II

ERRATA

Page	Line	For	Read
27	12	Rajaraja I	possibly a Sambuvaraya king