## A GLIMPSE

OF THE

ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

IN SWAT - PAKISTAN

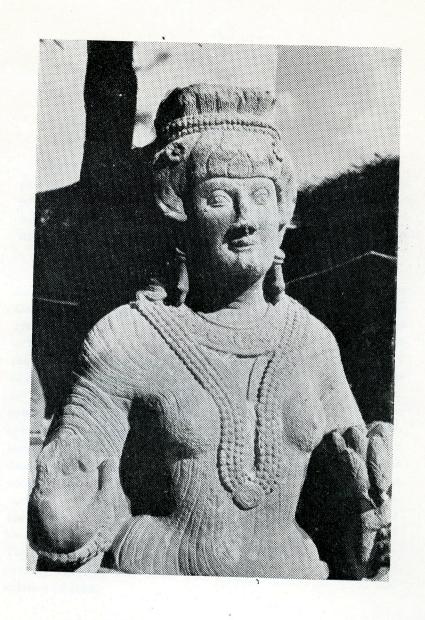
an unusual succession of phases and levels. Eighteen layers have particularly difficult, on account of the sloping nature of the site collapsing. They represent the remains of a complex building of coins and a very rich ceramic documentation the absolute chronological time of which have been fixed through been identified, corresponding with as many building-periods and because of the condition of the structures which wind up in particular importance. Scientific investigation here has been interesting works of elevation now partially demolished or with the remains of many buildings at the top of which are very Udegram on the East, there rises a rocky pyramidal spur covered locality of the excavation that was conventionally called the guished. The ceramic material unearthed in the last layer of this place finds correspondence with the first layers of the third single rooms of an elongated rectangular plan which were most residential part. In some cases it has been possible to recognize "bazar", by which this particular place of excavation is distinprobably shops. From this fact is derived the conventional name the old wooden structures. Along the roads there were rows of proportions which opened into a courtyard serving the real were built on a similar plan. There was an entrance of small the mountain that rises to the East. Another important result and the increasing insecurity of the land caused a retreat towards 4th century A. D. At the end of this period new devastations buildings and the layout of the roads. In general, all the houses was the individuation of the urbanistic net-work, the plan of the city started in about the 4th century B. C. and lasted up to the they were discovered, permit one to reach an absolute chronology. We are thus in a position to state that life in this quarter of the these regions, and also for dating the very rich ceramic material. which is extremely important for the historical knowledge of From the slope of the hill which closes the plain of

We may say that life here started towards the middle of the 6th century, when the "bazar" came to an end and life moved to the slope of the mountain. However, the greatest development of the "Castle" may be placed between the 7th and the 10th

centuries, when the biggest entrance staircase was built which represented one of the more spectacularly and significant parts of the castle. Then there was the occupation of the place by Mahmood, documented archaeologically by coins, glazed ceramics and other finds of the Ghaznavid period. After this there appears to have been a new devastation followed by the return of the population which was not totally converted to Islam.

Near Mingora, the diggings took place in a locality called Butkara where there existed the largest Buddhist settlement of the country. Here more than 7,000 pieces of sculpture were discovered which form one of the most imposing collection of Gandhara art. They come, for the most part, from the fourth layer, formed by the general and final collapse of all the monuments consisting of both the central stupa and the minor stupas surrounding it, amounting to more than 200. The probable date of this collapse can be placed between the 6th and the 7th century A.D.

events up to his death and the scattering of his ashes. Then the first preaching, the many miracles and the various march towards illumination which he reached under the Bodhi tree. of Buddha and was meant to decorate the sacred monument with content decidedly Buddhistic. This art depicts events in the life occasionally appears which shows up in its iconographic scheme of his worship. Here are the scenes of the birth of the Bodhisattva, stupa with spiritual edification, so as to accomplish the ceremony images and to fill the souls of the devotees walking round the within the limits of the classical world, there is always within it a so much so that it may be considered an artistic manifestation we already know of this art. For instance, a profane character touches exist however, which defy an easy comparison with what his childhood, the renunciation, the departure from his town, the framework. However even if its form is principally Western, classification that shows the unreliability of an effective historical Buddhist or Roman-Buddhist art with an attempt at a stylistic known as Gandhara Art. It is also called by some authors Greek. The sculptures belong to that form of art which is generally



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