

# The Outcomes of the Scientific Mission to Nepal in Brief

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The main tasks facing us in two-months period of staying in Nepal were the following:

1. Establishment of contacts with the Department of Archaeology of Nepal.
2. Acquaintance with the system of protection of cultural heritage of Nepal.
3. Acquaintance with the work of Nepalese archaeologists.
4. Finding out possibly perspective spots for investigation of the ancient periods of the history of Nepal.
5. Finding out the possibilities for the organization of common archeological research of the Nepalese and Soviet archaeologists.

In two months this programme has been fulfilled with positive results.

Accompanied by the representative of the Department of Archaeology of Nepal, Mr. J. L. Sharma, we've travelled along the country, got acquainted with the field work of Nepalese archaeologists, with their methods of conservation and reconstruction of ancient monuments especially in Lumbini and Tilaurakot, the ancient city of Kapilvastu (in Nepal).

Along with this we had the opportunity to get acquainted with the vast archaeological collection of materials, extracted by the Nepalese and Japanese archaeologists from Rissho University in 10 years of excavation (1967-1977).

We've managed to make some important scientific discoveries 36 km to the west from Narayangarh on the first above flood-landed terrace of the Danda river (tributary to the Narayani river) the place of Kot-tandi (District Nawalpur). Here on the flat square of the river-cape adjoining to the State Reserve in the east, we came across the signs of at least two settlements.

The scattered cultural stratum of the first one has shown the residues of dwelling constructions (the form is not identified so far) made of mud bricks, fragments of ceramics and three specimens of instruments made of polished stone. One safe stone axe of trapezia-form with lens-section and sharpened butt has numerous analogies in archaeological complexes of India, Pakistan and Kashmir in Neolithic and Bronze Ages dated back to III-II millennium B. C. One more fragment of one axe and splinters of a hole are made of the same material-schist. The other settle-

ment is situated on the opposite bank of a narrow dry channel, cutting the terrace and falling into the Danda river. You can outline a right-angled fortress (30m x 30m) here in the corners of which massive ruins of counter-forts-bastions can be definitely seen. The height of the safe walls of the construction erected of mud polley reaches I-I, 5m above the plain. This settlement can be dated approximately from 9-8 cen. B. C. by five types of ceramics. In the main Grey Ware type of ceramics which was found for the first time in the stratum sequence in the south of Nepal (Tillaurakot-the ancient Kapilavastu) prevails here. In the dry bed of the channel stone implements of the Early Palaeolithic Ages were found. They remind of the stone industry of Soan Valley (Pakistan) and can be dated back to Middle Pleistocene.

The second place where we have found some Palaeolithic implements is located in Kathmandu not far from Budhanilkantha in the bed of Dhobi-Khola river. We suppose that the Palaeolithic site itself is situated upstream in the foothills of the Himalayas. This complex has some analogies in Mongolia, China and Soviet Primorye where gobien cores also have been found and can be dated back to 30 millennium B. C.

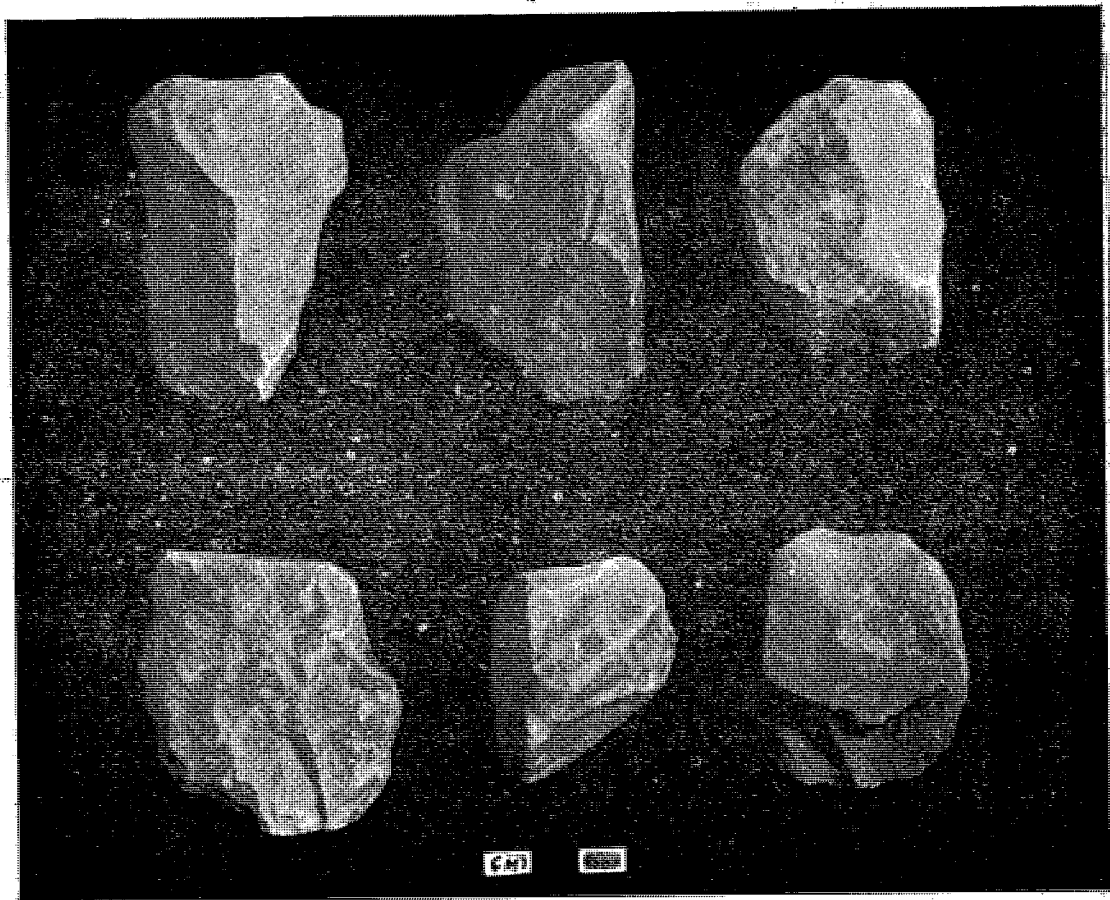
So as the results of our discoveries we pointed out some key problems the solution of

which depends on further archaeological research in Nepal:

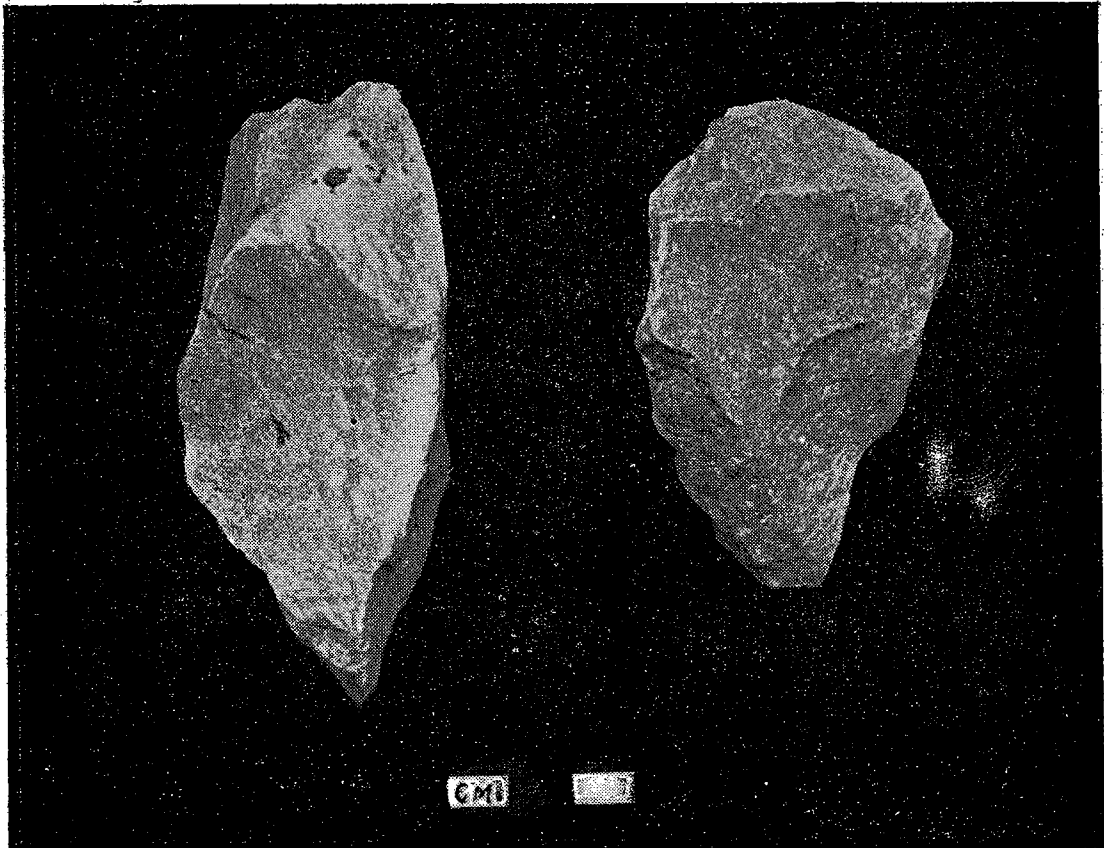
1. The problem of the emergence of a protoman in Nepal, the directions of his settling and chronology of this period.
2. The problem of the Older Palaeolithic civilization in view of the contacts of the Europeoid and Mongoloid races. (Civilization of gobien cores)
3. The problem of the establishment of the food production estates and its connection with Neolithic civilizations of Nepal.
4. The problem of the penetration of first Indo-Aryans, their connection with the complexes of Grey Ware and with the complexes of Northern Black Polished Ware.

His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev correctly said, "Although Gautam Buddha was born in Nepal, he belonged essentially to the whole world and to all times".

Completing my report I would like to say that the cultural heritage of Nepal is not more local phenomenon but belongs to the whole mankind and contributes substantially to the development of the world civilization. International cooperation in protection and research of the cultural heritage of Nepal could produce the most positive results.



Tools from Budhanilakantha (Kathmandu Valley)



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