

Before proceeding to describe the remains outside the town, reference must be made to the group of four Stūpas built on the top of the walls in the north-western corner. As appears from the photographs in Figs. 241, 248, one of these Stūpas, which rises above the corner bastion, is still almost intact and forms a very conspicuous object in the general view of the ruined town. From the plan and elevation in Pl. 19 it will be seen that this Stūpa stands on a podium 18 feet square, and including it rises to a height of close on 30 feet in its present state. The crowning member which, as the still extant central pole indicates, must once have risen above the thirteen Chattras of the Tee, has fallen. The portion corresponding to the hemispherical dome of the original Stūpa form is reduced here, as in the smaller Stūpas outside the walls, to a bulb shape disproportionately low, thus giving to the whole structure a somewhat dumpy appearance distinctly reminiscent of Stūpa forms now common in Tibet. The whole is built of bricks set on edge, as are all the Stūpas of the site, and still retains a good deal of its thick white plastering.

Stūpas on
top of town
wall.

While this corner Stūpa has escaped with comparatively little damage, another standing farther south has been completely destroyed except for its threefold base or podium. The same fate has overtaken two small Stūpas, seen in the plan, Pl. 18, flanking the head of the terrace on the north wall over which led the approach to the corner Stūpa.

Judging from the condition of the miniature votive Stūpas in clay which lay in masses among the debris around the bases of the wrecked Stūpas, it would appear that the work of destruction was here of recent date. As shown by corresponding observations at all Stūpas outside the walls, these little model Stūpas had been originally packed by the hundreds within the hollow drum resting on the top of the Stūpa base and also around the wooden shaft passing through the bulb portion of the Stūpa proper. I had found exactly corresponding deposits at the Stūpas of the So-yang-ch'êng site where burrowing had taken place.¹⁰

Miniature
votive
Stūpas.

Specimens of these votive model Stūpas taken from different Stūpas of Khara-khoto are described in the List below under K.K. 090-101. They were everywhere produced from the same moulds, two types being distinguishable among these. In one type which is represented also by K.K. 1. 0225 (Pl. LIII), the base or podium reproduces almost exactly the elaborate arrangement of the Rawak Stūpa base with its projecting plinth and flights of steps. In the other type a conical base, with four tiers of miniature Stūpas of similar shape shown close together in relief, takes the place of the above-described base. Both types are found, in sizes practically the same, also among the miniature Stūpas of So-yang-ch'êng, a fact that points strongly to contemporary occupation of the two sites. In both types the shape of the Stūpa dome and base differs strikingly from that shown by the actual Stūpas of the two sites, being evidently derived from a much more ancient model to which conservative tradition adhered in the case of votive offerings, while actual architectural practice had departed from it long before. The procedure of packing the interior of Stūpas with masses of such miniature models may well have been meant to symbolize in a modest—and cheap—fashion the ancient Buddhist custom, so well attested in India, of depositing under Stūpas built by royal patrons, &c., a multitude of sacred relics collected from earlier Stūpas.

Types of
votive
Stūpas.

SECTION III.—REMAINS OUTSIDE KHARA-KHOTO

Our survey of the ruins examined outside the town walls may well start with the group of Stūpas which, as seen in Fig. 241, stood close to the north-western corner. They had all been badly damaged by burrowing, apparently long ago. In shape and manner of construction they resembled very closely those on the town wall. The northernmost and largest, though completely laid open

Ruined
Stūpas
outside
NW. corner.

¹⁰ See *Serindia*, iii. p. 1105.