

Bridge of
Takht-i-pul.

ancient fire-temple which some of those Arab geographers mention at that town. The ruined bridge of baked bricks now for the most part buried in silt, and known as *Takht-i-pul*, lies about 2 miles to NNW. of *Kārku-shāh*. As this is the direction which the main route from Zaranj (*Nād-‘Alī*) towards Juwain and Herat must have followed, there is much to support Mr. Tate's assumption that this bridge was probably the same as that mentioned by Istakhrī's itinerary between the stages of Basher (*Pēshawarān*) and *Karkūyeh*.¹³

Antiques
brought
from sites
on Afghān
side.

I may conclude this account of ruins of the Muhammadan period with brief notes on the specimens of pottery fragments and similar small remains brought back by some *Balūchīs* whom Rustam, a local 'treasure-seeker', had sent out to search on my behalf certain ruined sites in the Afghān portion of Sīstān. I had no means of verifying the provenance of the specimens brought to me and shown in the Descriptive List below, but the type of the potsherds, mainly glazed ware of Muhammadan times, seems to agree in the case of *Nād-‘Alī* and *Surhdik* with the information furnished by Mr. Tate's report as regards the occupation of these sites.¹⁴ The pieces said to have been brought from *Takht-i-Rustam* are mostly of the 'ribbed' variety and suggest an earlier date for the site, as also does the name. Its position is marked in Degree Sheet No. 30. E. on the northern edge of the *Hāmūn-i-Pūzak*. The exact position of 'Pusht-i-gau' is uncertain; it is probably the same as the *Pōst-i-gau* referred to by Mr. Tate,¹⁵ a site to the north of *Chakānsur*. *Saliān* was stated to be a ruined site to the east of the *Farāh Rūd* near *Pēshawarān*, and is marked as a modern hamlet with a query in Sheet No. 30. E. *Sār-o-tār*, from which the small bronze objects, Pl. CXVI, were said to have been brought, is an important site in the desert east of the *Helmand*.¹⁶

Decorated
pottery
from ruins
NW. of
Sīstān.

The fragments of decorated pottery, mainly glazed and painted, marked with A and B in the List, were collected by *Afrāz-gul Khān* in 1918, while engaged on survey work in Eastern Persia, at two ruined hill forts situated to the NW. of the Sīstān basin. The site of A was described by him as being on a hill about 14 miles to the east of *Sarbīshah*, a place on the Sīstān-Birjand high road. The ruins from which the pieces of B were brought stand on a hill rising some 500 feet above the same road near *Khunik* where it is joined by the road coming from *Neh*. Judging from the style of decoration, the specimens from these two places (Pl. CXVII) seem to belong approximately to the same period as the pottery of *Burj-i-Afghān*, and hence their inclusion here seemed justified.

SECTION IV.—LIST OF POTTERY SPECIMENS AND OTHER SMALL OBJECTS FROM LATER SITES IN NORTHERN SĪSTĀN

SPECIMENS OF POTTERY FRAGMENTS FROM ZĀHIDĀN SITE

Zah. 01. Fr. of pottery. Dark grey, very hard. Plain; prob. overburnt and distorted by heat. $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{5}{8}''$.

annular lines and small repeating scroll in grey within field. $1\frac{5}{8}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$.

Zah. 02, 03, 04. Frs. of pottery dishes. 02, red, coated with dark green glaze over pattern in grey. Edge grey with series of oblique narrow leaves as border on flat margin of dish. Within an annular grey line a series of willow-leaf shapes in solid grey radiate from centre. A small triangular leaf shape grows on line and points down between willow-leaves. $3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 3''$. 03, buff. Similar glaze to above. Floral border in solid grey and bold pattern. Glazed outside and a few bold grey lines. $2\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$. 04, similar to 02 but lighter colour. Edge solid grey, two inner

Zah. 05, 09. Frs. of pottery (found NW. of Z. on eroded ground). Regularly ribbed outside. 05, dark grey with brown-grey surfaces. $2\frac{7}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$. 09, red. $2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1''$.

Zah. 06, 07. Frs. of pottery, prob. from same vessel. Decoration, incised bands of triangles, with groups of lines arranged fan-wise between. Av. $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{8}''$.

Zah. 08. Fr. of pottery, from edge of dish. Graceful curve in section with change of direction emphasized on outside by slight ridge. Lip grey. Border alternate

¹³ Cf. Tate, *Seistan*, pp. 205 sq.; Rawlinson, *loc. cit.*, p. 294.

¹⁴ Cf. *Seistan*, pp. 199 sqq.

¹⁵ See *ibid.*, p. 187 sq.

¹⁶ Cf. *ibid.*, pp. 224 sqq.