

Finds in  
cellas v, v. a.

Better results rewarded the clearing, here complete, of two small cellas that lay next on the north. In v there were found numerous pieces of painted wood-carving, most of which appear to have served for the decoration of the walls. Among them may be mentioned the part of a miniature carved wooden arch, Mi. v. 003 (Plate CXXVIII), formed of two dragon-like beasts supporting a flaming jewel in the centre; the wooden plank, Mi. v. 008, showing an all-over pattern of lattice-work painted in silver on dark red ground; the head of an elephant, vigorously carved in wood, Mi. v. 009; and about a dozen square blocks of wood hollowed out into a rough representation of a lotus flower, of which Mi. v. 006, 0010 are specimens. In the adjoining small cella, v. a, about 9 feet square, there survived on either side portions of four seated Bodhisattvas in relief, showing elaborate ornaments over their breasts and arms and, in spite of the softness of the stucco, retaining a good deal of the bright colouring of the robes. A large seated Buddha figure, which appears to have occupied a central pedestal, was almost completely destroyed.

Clearing of  
cellas vi, vii.

Nothing was found in the four apartments continuing the line to the north-west. But in front of the last cella the side walls of a large outer room, vi, partly destroyed through erosion of the slope over which it was built, still retained each the lotus base of a large statue. Of these statues only the upper part of a colossal arm was found, decorated with a monster's head resembling that seen in Mi. xviii. 003 (Plate CXXXVIII), and evidently representing the shoulder-piece of armour such as appears on some of the Lokapālas in the Ch'ien-fo-tung banners. The stucco fragment was too badly decayed for removal, but looked as if the bases once were occupied by Lokapālas. A low shapeless mound adjoining to the north-west proved to mark the position of a small cella, vii, with anteroom, almost completely destroyed down to the foundations of the wall, but retaining under its débris a number of interesting relics. First there emerged, from below layers of loose earth and charred wood, a narrow panel of wood richly painted in floral designs along its bevelled edge and bearing above this five detached lines in large Central-Asian Brāhmī script and Kucheian language. It may have formed part of the frame for a picture painted on plaster over string matting, of which several fragments, none any longer recognizable in design, turned up close by (for a specimen see Mi. vii. 0024).

Painted  
panels in  
Gandhāra  
style.

Close by, at the foot of an image base occupying a small niche, was found the fine painted panel Mi. vii. 0019 (Plate CXXIV), broken into three pieces but complete. It shows a well-painted Bodhisattva seated in European fashion upon a throne under a flattened horseshoe arch. All details of the figure and drapery are drawn in the style of Gandhāra. The columns supporting the arch are decorated in a fashion that recalls late classical motifs. Two other painted panels, Mi. vii. 0016, 0018, 0017, each with the figure of a standing Buddha, were discovered in the same spot; they are of equally good workmanship, but have suffered by abrasion and in parts by fire. The three panels have a uniform height, and, as the return edge at each side of Mi. vii. 0019 proves other panels to have once adjoined at right angles, it is probable that all three originally belonged to one piece. The wood left bare on the top and bottom of Mi. vii. 0019 suggests a covering framework which might perhaps have joined the whole into a base capable of supporting a small relief image. There were found also numerous fragments from stucco reliefs (Mi. vii. 001-14, 0020-3), some apparently from larger images and the rest likely to have belonged to relief friezes on the walls of the type to be described further on. What little remained of a thin dividing wall at the back of cella vii showed traces of frescoes with small worshipping figures.

Reliefs  
of carved  
panel.

The adjoining cella, viii, only yielded several pieces of wood, jointed but without decoration, which may have belonged to the base of some statue. The next three cellas were cleared without any finds, but an interesting relic came to light in the small shrine ix. Within its walls, still standing to a fair height but washed completely bare by rain, hard clay filled the interior to a height of over