

# **JAGJIVANPUR**

**1996-2005**

**Excavation Report**

**AMAL ROY**

**Photographs : Shiharan Nandy**

**DIRECTORATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS**

**INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

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figurative details and merit of the sense of the artist. In another case, we find a kneeling devotee with a garland in his hands. It is interesting to mention here that he wears long boot.

**6.7 Animals :** Animals, which are represented in the plaques, comprise all the well known fauna of Bengal(Plate 79,80,81). Among the most successful and live depiction of animals, deers and lions are predominant. A good number of plaques depict several types of deer, though spotted varieties are common. It is interesting to note that a spotted deer has a bell around the neck, indicative of domestication. The depictions of deer bears an artistic skill, yet the delineation of hoofs is not accurate (bifurcated instead of round), which indicates the lack of anatomical knowledge of the artists. A few plaques with the depiction of lions and lioness in stylised form have been found. In most of the cases, the animals are depicted in galloping action. Sometimes the figures are in squattish form or disproportionate due to shortage of space. The tails of the animals are always vertically carved to accommodate it within the specified space. The other animals depicted in the plaques are boar, elephant, buffalo, goat, dog, bull, cow, ram (*mithuna*) and monkey. Among the reptiles, only the figures of single hooded snake with jewel above the hood are commonly depicted(Plate 82f,g).

**6.8 Birds :** Among the birds, peacocks and ducks are depicted on the plaques(Plate 82). Among the ducks, one form depicts the action of emitting pearls, a representation of an earlier tradition.

**6.9 Sacred objects :** Sacred manuscripts on lotus(Plate 74d) is represented on a solitary plaque. The manuscript is placed on a full-blown double-petalled lotus. The book is wrapped with cloth and tied with threads, showing an object of veneration. Not surprisingly, an independent representation of the sacred text was attempted by the community of artists. In all likelihood this is a unique representation of the *Prajna-Paramita Text*. One *votive stupa*(Plate 74e) has also been found. The other important variety under this category is the sacred wheel or *dharma-chakra* on lotus, depicted in a solitary plaque.

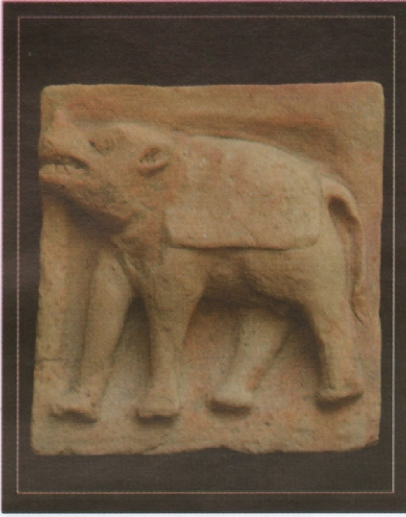
**6.10 Purpose and use :** Evidently, the plaques were used for the decoration of the outer wall-surfaces at its basal part above the base-moulding of the designed brick-panel. As per requirements, to adjust with the architectural need, the plaques were prepared in different shapes i.e. square, rectangular and elongated, and as a result, the sizes are different. The sizes of the plaques are 31×27×7 cm., 30×24×10 cm., 29×26×6 cm., 29×25×10 cm., 29×25×7 cm., 29×25×6 cm., 29×24×6 cm., 29×23×6 cm., 28×25×10 cm., 28×25×6 cm., 28×23×10 cm., 28×23×6 cm.

It has been observed that the seated figures are accommodated in the square plaques with anatomical balance, while the moving or the standing figures are not anatomically balanced due to non-availability of sufficient space.

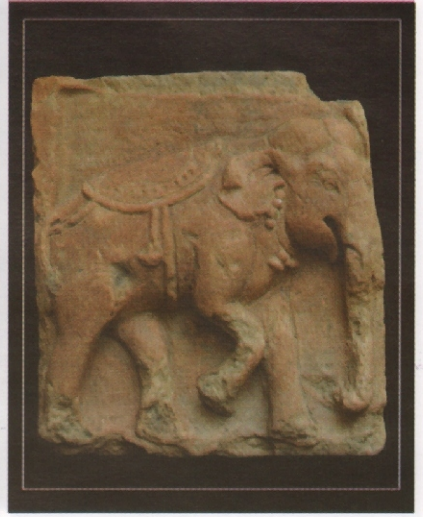




a



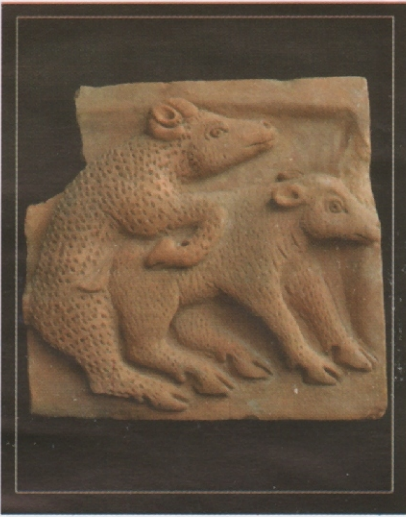
b



c



d



e



f



g

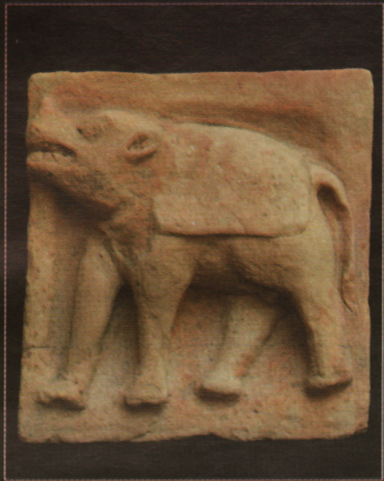


h



i





b.