

Trade and Cultural Contacts between Northern and Southern Persian Gulf during Parthians and Sasanians: A Study Based on Pottery from Qeshm Island

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Abstract

The first season of survey at Qeshm, carried out during the winter of 2006, resulted in the identification of nine sites from the Parthian and Sasanian periods.

The surface pottery from these sites suggests their trade and cultural relations with contemporary sites in the southern Persian Gulf and other areas. For instance, the Parthian and Sasanian glazed types in Qeshm Island are closely related materials found from Khuzestan as well as northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf, including ed-Dur, Suhar, Kush, Failaka and Qalat Bahrain.

Parthian painted ware reveals close similarities to monochrome and bichrome painted pottery of southeastern Iran, Oman coasts and the southern Persian Gulf, specifically ed-Dur, Suhar, Kush and Tel-i-Abrak.

The so-called Indian Red Polished Ware is the other diagnostic type widespread in the northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf from the middle Parthian up to the early Islamic period. The material was being widely produced in the Indian region (Gujarat) and Indus, and exported to different places around the Persian Gulf.

The Coarse Black Ware (*ceramic noir epaisse*) with decorative raised bands recorded in Qeshm compares with coarse-black material from the southern Persian Gulf, also occurring at sites such as ed-Dur and Abu Dhabi Islands.

Plain, common Parthian and Sasanian pottery from Qeshm shows parallels with known materials of this period in the northern and southern Persian Gulf.

Keywords: Trade; Pottery; Persian Gulf; Qeshm; Parthian; Sasanian

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Introduction

During February and March 2006, Qeshm, an island in the strategic Strait of Hormuz (Fig.1), was partially surveyed by an expedition from Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research (ICAR). The island served as a main loop in the region's trade networks during historical and Islamic eras. The presence of numerous sites there with rich cultural material, demonstrate its flourishing contacts with other areas including East and South Asia, attest to the claim. Surveys and excavations on both northern and southern shores of the Persian Gulf have identified several sites associated with its trade artery leading to the Indian Ocean during the entire or part of the Parthian, Sasanian and Islamic periods. In northern region, Siraf, Suhar, Qalhat, ed-Dur, Kush and Mleiha are counted as the most important sites. All these have produced good evidences from the historical and Islamic periods for maritime trade between different regions of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. Further, archaeological activities on the Persian Gulf's islands suggest that the important trade centers were not simply limited to the coastal areas rather there existed similarly important centers at several islands

including Kish, Hormuz, Khark and Oman. With reference to its strategic location near the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz and close to the northern and southern coasts, Qeshm probably played a considerably important role in creating trade and commercial ties between northern and southern shores as well as with other areas.

The first season of field work at Qeshm yielded interesting results, including identification of some sites probably dating back from the Iron Age to the later Islamic period. The survey recorded four sites from the Parthian and five from Sasanian periods. The following sections summarize the results accruing from an analysis of pottery collections from these sites at Qeshm.

Aims and Methodology

The archaeological survey of Qeshm Island was conducted with the general objective of getting a better understanding on commercial/economic interactions between different settlements of historic period on the island with those nearby regions including southern and northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. Current data of the Persian Gulf islands are too meagre to be analyzed for reconstructing the nature and

intensity of socio-economic contacts between human communities of both sides of the Persian Gulf, but thanks to increasing archaeological fieldworks in the region there are promising windows to going through such issues. The data gathered during the first season of Qeshm Island survey enhanced our insights into the problem of cultural contacts between southern and northern settlements of the Persian Gulf as well as adjacent regions.

Generally, the aim of the survey was to look into possible answers to the following questions: 1. When the Qeshm Island was populated first and why? 2. How Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanid did affect commerce and economy of the both sides of the Persian Gulf? 3. What are the nature, distribution and size of historic settlements of Qeshm and what information they provide about the character and function of these settlements? 4. What role settlements at the Qeshm Island and Hormoz Strait coasts could play for inter and intra-regional commercial contacts and developing trade networks during Parthian onward?

Our methodology was intensive coverage of the area through 1/25000 and 1/50000 scaled topographical maps. We

followed random sampling to collected a representative samples from the visited sites. To find the sites, in addition to direct observation, we benefited from local informants. We assigned a unique code to each site which included QS as abbreviation of Qeshm Island and a number.

Parthian and Sasanian Potteries in Qeshm

As Haerinck noted (1983), during the Parthian period, pottery was generally produced locally and that situation continued up to Sasanians thus individual Iranian regions have had their own pottery style and characteristics. Qeshm falls in the southern zone of the Iranian cultural divisions. In fact, the pottery assemblage from the island shares most of its characteristics with material known from the southern Iran. The most important archaeological works conducted in this zone includes excavations at Tepe Yahya. On the southern Persian Gulf, which is much extensively excavated, sites at UAE and Oman fit into this zone. Excavations at Suhar, ed-Dur, Kush and Mleiha are the most important works carried out in the zone. Apart from excavations, several

survey programs covered the area including those directed by de Cardi and Potts. Parthian and Sasanian forms in Qeshm pottery assemblage compare more characteristically to those from the above-mentioned sites. In general, Parthian and Sasanian pottery assemblage collected on Qeshm may be classified into five types: Painted Ware, Glazed Ware, Indian Red Ware, Coarse Black and Red Ware, and Plain Ware.

Painted Ware

The examples fall into distinct categories. The first is fine, grit-tempered material with red-yellow body and a thick, red slip. The decorations tend to be geometrical designs executed with black paint on the exterior surface. The type is also known as Orange Ware with painted decorations or “Namord” Ware (Fig. 4). Sir Aurel Stein was first to record this pottery type in Iran at sites in Kerman and Baluchistan such as Damb-e Kuh, Fanuj, Hezar Mardi, Tombe Namord and Darra-shör (Stein 1937: 175). In 1983, an archaeological team led by Sajjadi surveyed Rudbâr valley in southern Kerman recording this pottery at four sites, namely Qala Khârg, Dugâri, Tombe Nomrad, and Si Tomb. The material was

dated to the post-Parthian, i.e. Sasanian period (Sajjadi, 1991; Sajjadi, 1989). At Tepe Yahya, this type was present within Period I strata attributable to the Parthian and Sasanian periods (Lamberg-Karlovsky, 1970).

The type was also recorded on Bushehr coastal areas, where the examples (found at Rishahr) were orange in color and grit-tempered, with thick orange slip applied over the surface. The black painted decorations occurred on both exterior and interior surfaces. Occasionally, the exterior and sometimes the interior surface of the sherds was polished (Whitehouse and Williamson 1973, Fig. 5A). In his survey at Minab and southern Kerman, Williamson recorded several sites containing examples of this pottery. Recent surveys at Rudân have produced considerable number of examples of this pottery at Tom-e Maroon (Khosrowzadeh, 2006). The painted forms from this site closely parallel those in Qeshm assemblage.

The type likewise occurs at several sites on the southern Gulf, such as al-Ghanam, ed-Dur, Kush, Mlieha and Tel-I Abrak, within deposits dating back to the Parthian and Sasanian periods (Fig. 2). The material is reported from ed-Dur (Salles 1984; Fig.

11, 15-18; Lecomte 1993; Fig. 12.1-4), the greatest pre-Islamic site on the southern Persian Gulf, and Mlieha (Boucharlat and Mouton 1993; Figs. 15.3-4), the greatest site in the southern hinterland of the Gulf. It is similarly found at Tel Abrak. Namord Ware was excavated at Kush and dated to the Sasanian era (Kennet 2002, Fig. 6). Surveys in northern Oman revealed forms related to the Painted Namord Ware at Parthian and Sasanian sites (de Cardi *et al.* 1975; Fig. 9.40-66). The material was present at Qana in deposits belonging to 2nd-4th centuries AD (Sedov 1996: 21-23; Fig. 6. 2-7), and at Qalat al-Bahrain (Hojland & Anderson 1997: 213-215). Namord Ware from southern Persian Gulf tends to occur in the form of jars with hanging rims and tall jar-like goblets regularly decorated with lines and horizontal and vertical bands below the rim.

The second type is similarly fine, but produced in a lower quality compared with the first type (Fig. 4). Examples of this type are orange to orange-brown in color and the paste is grit-tempered. An orange slip covers the exterior surface, and the vessel is decorated with black paint. Due to fragmentary nature of the sample, it was not possible to compare this type with the well-

dated collections from other areas. The type, however, resembles the monochrome and bichrome painted pottery described by Haerinck and dated to 1st-3rd centuries AD (cf., Haerinck 1983: 242). Similar forms are to be found at several sites in Jiroft, southern Kerman and Hormuzgan coasts. Potts, on morphological grounds, classifies Namord pottery type into earlier and later varieties. The earlier variety is attributed to the Parthian period (1st and 2nd centuries AD), while the later is dated to the early Sasanian era (i.e., 3rd century AD; Potts 1998: 211). The suggested date for the later variety is based on its presence in the Period I deposits in Area F at ed-Dur (Lecomte 1993: 200). In stratified contexts at Kush, there were 34 sherds which can be assigned to Potts' later variety; of these, 15 came from the earliest stratified phase (W-01) datable to 4th and 5th centuries; thus Kennet suggested that the type was still produced after 3rd century AD (Kennet 2004: 62).

Indian Polished Red Ware

Identification of a number of vessels from the Parthian and Sasanian periods belonging to a pottery type known as Indian Red Polished Ware was one of the most

striking results of the recent survey program at Qeshm. Most of the vessels are comparable, in their form, decoration and quality, to the contemporary material from different sites including ed-Dur, Suhar, etc.

Based on stratigraphical excavation at Suhar, Kervran identified and presented three types of Indian pottery. In 1980, he opened a stratigraphical test trench at the center of the city. In general, 8 to 9 meters of archaeological deposits were exposed, of which 3 meters belonged to the pre-Islamic era. He recorded 28 occupational levels in the trench. Based on the excavated sequence, he identified and dated three types of Indian pottery, and dated the earliest type to 1st and 2nd centuries AD (contemporary with the middle Parthian period). The second type was attributed to the Sasanian period and the third to Islamic era. Based on these findings at Suhar, it was suggested that extensive commercial ties existed between this area and southern Asia during this period as well as the Sasanian and Islamic eras (Kervran 1996).

The sites at Qeshm yielded three types of Indian ware (Fig. 6). The first category is red in color, usually with dense, consistent texture. The temper added to the paste is hardly detectable. This material, with its

polished surface, is very fine and occasionally a thick red-brown or red slip was applied on exterior or interior surface. Some vessels are decorated with carved grooves (Fig. 6, types 1-4). The type is quite similar to the Indian-type materials excavated from layers 1 and 2 at Suhar (Kervran 1996). Morphologically, the vessels are classified into three types: the first is small cooking pot with averted rim, decorated with a groove on exterior and a small projection on the interior (Fig. 6: 3-1). A similar type is found at Suhar and was in use up to 500 AD. (Kervran 1994, Fig. 4: 11, Fig. 3: 4-5; Kervran and Hiebert 1991, Fig. 4: 19). Other similar forms are reported from Rishahr, which fairly resemble the material from Qeshm (Whitehouse & Williamson 1973, Fig. 5. d-e). Umbari, Amerli and Shamaldji in India have produced quite similar type (Pinto Orton 1991; Kervran 1994, Fig. 11). Some of the vessels have a kind of unique, tall bases yet unattested at other sites in the Gulf region. Banbhore in India, however, produced small cooking pots with similar bases (*Ibid*, Fig. 11. I)

The second type resembles the first, with the exception that the interior rim lacks the projection characteristic of the first

category (Fig. 6: 4). This type is similarly dated to the Parthian period at Suhar (Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 2; Kervran and Hiebert 1991, Fig. 4: 19).

The second type of Indian-type material in Qeshm assemblage includes common and coarse material tempered with mica. The paste is red to brown-red (Fig. 6: 5) or occasionally black in color. Both interior and exterior surfaces are polished and the polishing marks are visible as regular horizontal or vertical lines, or irregular impressions (Fig. 6: 8). Both types are paralleled in middle Parthian deposits at Suhar (Kervran & Hiebert 1991, Fig. 5: 1; Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 16). According to Kennet, the type was more common during 5th and 6th centuries AD. Thirty-nine sherds of this pottery were excavated from stratified contexts at Kush, of which seventeen belonged to Phase W-01 (5th and 6th centuries) (Kennet 2004: 65-66).

The third type is the so-called Indian painted ware. The forms have a paste similar to the common type, and are vegetable and grit tempered; mica is heavily used as temper as well. The exterior surface is covered with a red or brown-red polished slip, and designs in the form of parallel horizontal bands in black paint are applied

on the interior rim. Fig. 6: 6-7 belong to this type, and resemble the painted examples from Suhar Layer 3 and 4, dated to the Parthian and Sasanian periods (250-500 AD). In spite of their slightly differing forms from those in Qeshm assemblage, they have similar paintings and technical characteristics (Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 13, Fig. 4: 2). The type is also found in late Sasanian and early Islamic levels at Kush (Kennet 2004: 56-66).

Glazed Ware

The glazed type collected from the surface of the sites in Qeshm are manufactured with a yellow, yellowish cream, buff or beige paste. The vessels are tempered with grit and sand, and are well-fired. Cream, blue and turquoise glazes were applied on the surface. The glaze tends to be cracked and lusterless. The glazed type was recorded at Ramchâh and Dofâri (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5:3 resembles the glazed forms from the Parthian period contexts in Bahrain (Boucharlat 1986, Fig. 150:2); No.4, a necked jar, belongs to the type widely in use during Parthian period at Susa (Boucharlat & Labrosse 1979, Fig. 34:18); No. 3 belongs to a very pervasive glazed types of Khuzestan reported from Susa and

Mianab (Khosrowzadeh & 'Ali 2005, Fig. 22:9; Boucharlat 1987, Fig. 63:2; Miroschedji 1987, Fig. 19:10) For the other examples no parallels are presently available from sites on the Persian Gulf. Qeshm glazed pottery relates to the glazed types of Khuzestan and Mesopotamia. It also displays striking resemblance to related material from southern Persian Gulf area, in particular ed-Dur, Suhar, Bahrain, Kush, Mlieha and other sites. Given the nature and quality of the glaze, it seems to date back from the middle Parthian period onward.

Large Coarse, Black and Red Ware

The vessels were manufactured with black, red or dark grey paste. The temper includes grit and sand, and occasionally white particles. Occasionally, a black slip covers the exterior of the vessels. The surface pottery assemblage from Dofâri (QS5) includes many examples of this type (Fig. 7). The entire sherd comes from some large vessels, pithoi and jars with walls over 1cm thickness. The forms have squared rims, which tend to be grooved on the exterior. The pottery is found from several areas in southern and southwestern Iran. Pithoi almost similar to Nos. 4-7 are reported from

Tepe Yahya, although their paste is in different color (Lamberg-Karlovsky 1970, Fig. 5.C). Related pithoi with similar characteristics and forms were excavated at ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 10: 90-98; Lecomte 1993, Fig. 9.8, Fig. 13.14). A similar form is likewise reported from Qalat al-Bahrain (Boucharlat 1986, Fig. 151:7). Three styles of decoration appear on this pottery: raised designs with square cross-section sometimes decorated with deep grooves. The decorative style finds parallels at different regions in southern and southwestern Iran, of which one can refer to Hajjiabad (Azarnoush 1994, Fig. r) dating from Sasanian era, and Noorabad (Khosrowzadeh & Zaidi 2006, Fig. B5. TNP 2064) from the Parthian period. Related decorations occur at Persepolis in the post-Achaemenid period (Schmidt 1958, Pl. 73. 7). At ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 11. 110) and Abu Dhabi islands (King & Tanghini 1998 Fig. 5.d) similar designs can be found. Raised bands with triangle or square cross-section and finger-impressed grooves are the second decorative style, which have parallels in Parthian assemblage of Kahur Langarchini, Minab (Khosrowzadeh *et al.* 2006, Fig. 5: 6), Noorabad (Zaidi *et al.* 2006, Fig. 6.24. MSP

1731), ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 11.106) and Abu Dhabi islands (King & Tonghini 1998, Fig. 5.b). And, the third style concerns horizontal grooves applied with finger.

Common Ware

The vessels are of orange, red, buff and brown colors tempered with grit, sand, fine white particles and sometimes vegetable. Some of these types have orange or cream slip on their exterior surface.

The most frequent types in Qeshm assemblage include jars with vertical rims usually decorated with a groove on its exterior (Fig. 8: 1-4). Similar forms are found at the Parthian and Sasanian sites of ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 6.43; Lecomte 1993, Fig. 11:6) and eastern Arabia (Potts 1987, Fig. 13.15).

The other forms include necked jar with triangle, averted rims (Fig. 8:1) or simple, rounded or flat rims turned outwards (Fig. 8:8,10,15) that resemble Parthian examples from ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 4.21; Lecomte 1993, Fig. 12.6, Fig. 9.1). A similar example with a triangle rim is reported from Parthian and Sasanian sites in northern Bushehr (Whitcomb 1978, Fig. G). Necked jars with flat, almost squared,

vertical rims and rounded rims with a groove below its exterior surface, and flat-rimmed bowls with semicircular body (Fig. 8: 11) are of the types also found at UAE sites (de Cardi 1984, Fig. 9.6; King and Tonghini 1998, Fig. 4.C, Fig. 3.i). Necked jars with a rounded vertical rim (Fig. 5) resemble forms excavated at ed-Dur (Salles 1984, Fig. 6.43) and Tepe Yahya (Karlovsy 1970, Fig. 6.g).

The last analyzed category includes necked jars with rounded rim, similar forms of which are known from sites in Bahrain (Boucharlat 1986, Fig. 149.5) and Khuzestan (Khosrowzadeh & Aali 1385/2006, Fig. 3.6).

Discussion and Conclusion

The Persian Gulf has always served as a main artery in exporting goods to different centers and areas. The commercial activities on the Persian Gulf undoubtedly contributed to the international contacts and commercial ties between different nations. The interactions have unquestionably benefited the entire local cultures along the Gulf. Through this major artery not only peoples and merchandise were moving but also ideas were traveling throughout the region.

Among the most important goods involved in the long-distance maritime trade via this channel was pottery. The Parthian and Sasanian pottery types in Qeshm assemblage attest to this claim. The typological and comparative study of Parthian and Sasanian materials from Qeshm reveals the following facts, regarding individual pottery types:

As Potts put it (1998: 211), Namord Ware could have been exchanged as part of a limited, local trade between northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf. The reason for this was probably the distinct fabric and quality of the pottery itself, and the nature of the goods and substances carried within them. Namord Ware occurs more frequently on the eastern Persian Gulf, in particular, at ed-Dur, Kush, Tel-i-Abrak, Meleiha, Suhar and al-Ghanam. It was similarly very common in southern and southeastern Iran, where it is reported from several sites (490 sites). Given the identical manufacturing and technical characteristics and similar decorations, it seems that the pottery radiated from a single production center. Sajjadi recorded Namord Ware at large number of sites in Rudbâr, Jiroft, which suggests that the pottery may have been produced in the region and exported to

the other areas, in particular northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf (Sajjadi 1989: 50). The absence of the type from Kuwait, Bahrain and Arabian Peninsula may be an indication of the close ties of eastern Persian Gulf (UAE and Oman) with southern and southeastern Iran. Further, the pottery present at Qana, and suggests the extension of the pottery trade up to the eastern shores of the Indian Ocean (Sedov 1996: 21-23; Fig. 6: 2-7).

The same obtains for the Red Polished Ware widespread during the Parthian and Sasanian periods. The type likewise occurs with higher frequency at the eastern coast of the Persian Gulf and southern Iran, implying that the most part of the trade with Iranian sites was conducted through these sites, although related pottery types are also reported from other regions of the Persian Gulf. Similar examples were recorded in 2nd-4th centuries AD deposits at Qana (Sedov 1996, Fig. 6: 8-10). The pottery was probably produced in India and made their way to Qeshm during flourishing sea trade of the Gulf. Indian Red Polished Ware could have been produced in Gujrat, where considerable amount of similar forms occur, and exported to the surrounding regions (Kennet 2004: 70). Almost all

examples found at Qeshm are in the form of small, carinated cooking pots. The form was similarly common at Suhar, Kush and ed-Dur.

Unfortunately, the available evidence of trade between Iran under Parthians and Sasanians with South Asia is too limited to contribute to our understandings of the interactions between these two cultural zones. The nature and volume of the maritime trade during Parthians and Sasanians seems relatively elusive compared to the earlier and later periods. Given the available evidence from Qeshm and the Strait of Hormuz as well as southern shores of the Persian Gulf, in particular Kush, Suhar and ed-Dur, the trade must have been relatively higher in volume.

Based on this limited evidence, Kennet suggests that Indian pottery reveals two or three distribution phases in western Indian Ocean during the Sasanian to the middle Islamic period. It was traded generally in the Persian Gulf coasts and probably Red Sea during these periods. After 9th and 10th centuries AD, the trade of this pottery increased on the Persian Gulf and it was still circulating on Red Sea, and expanded considerably on eastern African coasts. The

pottery trade between South Asia and the Persian Gulf ceases completely in 14th century (Kennet *ibid*).

Given the scarcity of glazed ware at Qeshm and the Parthian and Sasanian sites on northern and southern Persian Gulf and given that no indication of the mass production and export of the pottery type has so far been made in any area on the southern and northern regions of the Persian Gulf, it is probable that the type made its way to Qeshm and other areas of the Persian Gulf as imported item through maritime trade. Given its mass production in Khuzestan and southern Mesopotamia, the glazed ware seems to be imported into the region from centers in these areas.

Thus, the presence of glazed forms, such as Fish plates and amphorae which are found at most of the Parthian sites along the Persian Gulf, indicates the existence of extensive commercial relations in large parts of the Persian Gulf during the Parthian and Sasanian periods.

Coarse Red and Black Ware in Qeshm assemblage belongs to a particular type that parallels the coarse black material from ed-Dur and other areas in UAE. The type is recorded from eight sites in Abu Dhabi (Hellyer & King 1999; King & Tonghini

1998: 131-32). Hellyer and King described the type as thick black-fired earthenware with white inclusion (Hellyer & King 1999: 120-21). They erroneously dated it to 3rd and 4th centuries BC (King & Hellyer 1997: 26) based on its similarities to ed-Dur *Ceramic noir epaïse*. However, they later realized the error and reassigned it to 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Hellyer & King 1999: 120-21). Suggesting India as the place of origin of this pottery, Salles regarded its occurrence at ed-Dur a result of contacts between these two regions during Parthians (1984: 246-47). However, the presence of large number of this pottery at several sites in southern Iran, specifically the Persian Gulf region, suggests that it was probably originated in Iran, and its discovery at UAE sites is a function of cultural ties between those sites and Iranian southern coasts.

Although, the analyzed pottery sample from Qeshm is small, through its careful analysis and comparative study, one can suggest that there existed two major trade routes in the Persian Gulf region. First concerns the local relations between Qeshm sites and centers on the southern and northern Persian Gulf (eastern portions, UAE and Oman). For instance, the painted type could have been exported through

Minab to Qeshm and other sites on the southern Persian Gulf including ed-Dur and Suhar.

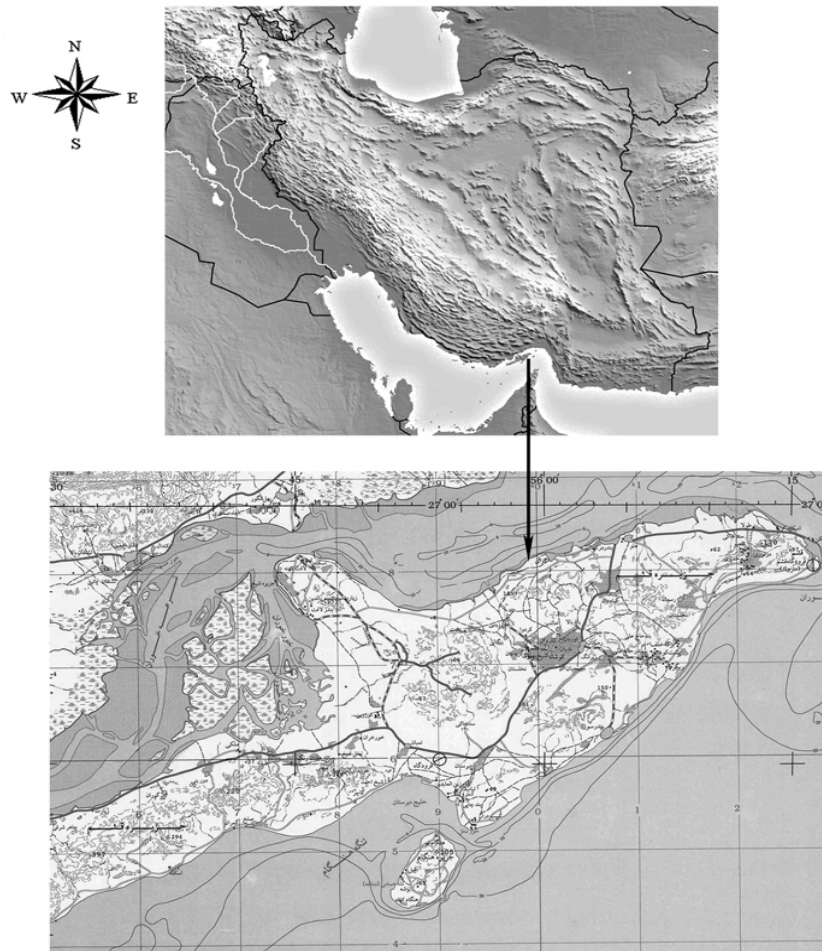
The second route involved in extensive, long-distance trade with regions on Indian Ocean and western Persian Gulf, Khuzestan and Mesopotamia. The claim hinges on the evidence of the presence of glazed and Indian-type pottery.

Therefore, given the available material from the sites on the Persian Gulf, the Gulf zone can be divided into two sub-zones. Though it is not possible to give a full and accurate account due to limited excavations on the Iranian coastal areas, and given the general characteristics of the Parthian and Sasanian materials from sites on southern and northern Gulf, the sites in UAE and Oman seem to exhibit more relations with the southern (Hormuzgan region) and southeastern Iran. Thus, they corresponded with south and southeastern cultural zone in Iran; while the material from Kuwait, Bahrain and northeastern Arabia has more connections with that from Khuzestan and Bushehr and fall within this cultural zone. For instance, one can refer to Failaka pottery which closely resembles, in its every respect, the Seleucid and Parthian materials from Khuzestan and southern

Mesopotamia.

On the whole, it can be inferred, based on the analysis of pottery assemblage from Qeshm, that Qeshm and the southern Iran,

in general, engaged in much more extensive commercial contacts with regions such as Oman and UAE than with western parts of the Persian Gulf including Kuwait, eastern Arabia and Qatar.



F **Fig.1.** Location of Qeshm Island in the map of Irang

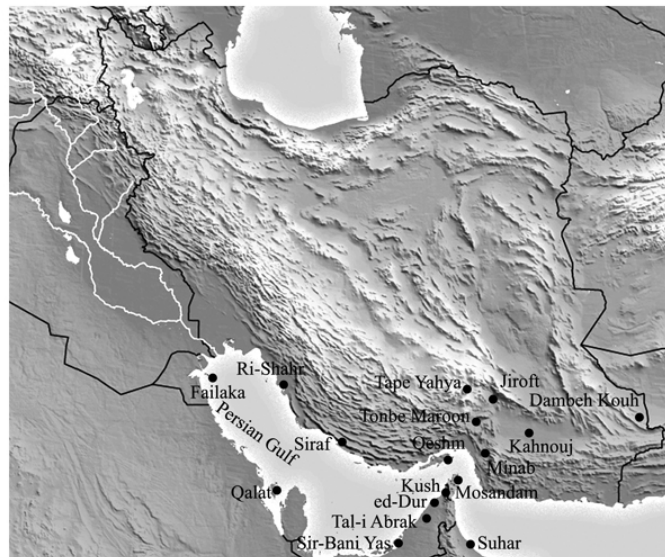


Fig.2. Distribution of Glazed ware and Namord ware within

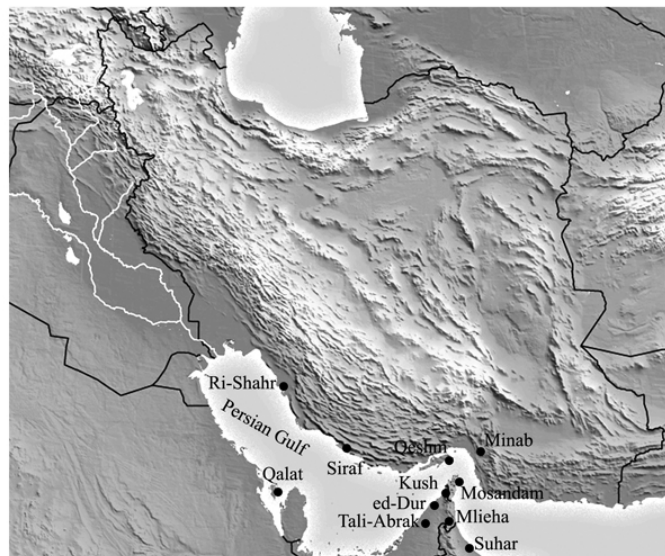


Fig.3. Distribution of Indian red Polish ware within Persian Gulf area



Fig.4. Parthian, Sasanian Painted Ceramics

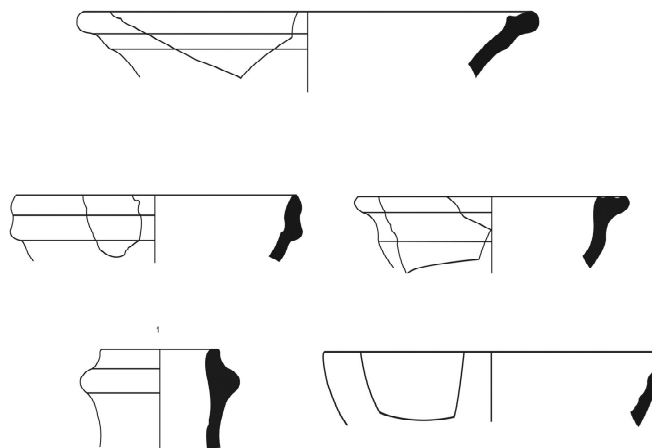


Fig.5. Parthian, Sasanian Glazed Ceramics

Number	Site	1. Manufacture 2. Firing 3. Fabric Color (Ext/Int. Core.) 4. Inclusion 5. Finish 6. Decoration 7. Interior Coating. Color Treatment 8. Exterior Coating. Color Treatment	
1	QS 6	1. Wheel 2. Well Fired 3. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. 4. Sand. 5. Medium 7. Glaze. Turquoise 8. Glaze. Turquoise	
2	QS 6	1. Wheel 2. Well Fired 3. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. 4. Sand. 5. Medium 7. Glaze. Turquoise 8. Glaze. Turquoise	Boucharlat 1987, Fig. 63:2; Fig.59:14 Miroshedji 1987, Fig. 19:10
3	QS 5	1. Wheel 2. Well Fired 3. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. 4. Sand. 5. Medium 7. Glaze. Blue 8. Glaze. Blue	Boucharlat 1979, Fig. 50: 2
4	QS 31	1. Wheel 2. Well Fired 3. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. Yellowish Cream. 4. Sand. 5. Medium 7. Glaze. Turquoise 8. Glaze. Turquoise	Boucharlat and Labrosse 1979, Fig.34: 18
5	QS 41	1. Wheel 2. well Fired 3. Buff Orange. Brownish Orange. Buff Orange. 4. Sand. Vegetal 5. Medium 7. Glaze. Turquoise 8. Glaze. Turquoise	

Fig.5.Descriptions and Parallels for Glazed Ceramics

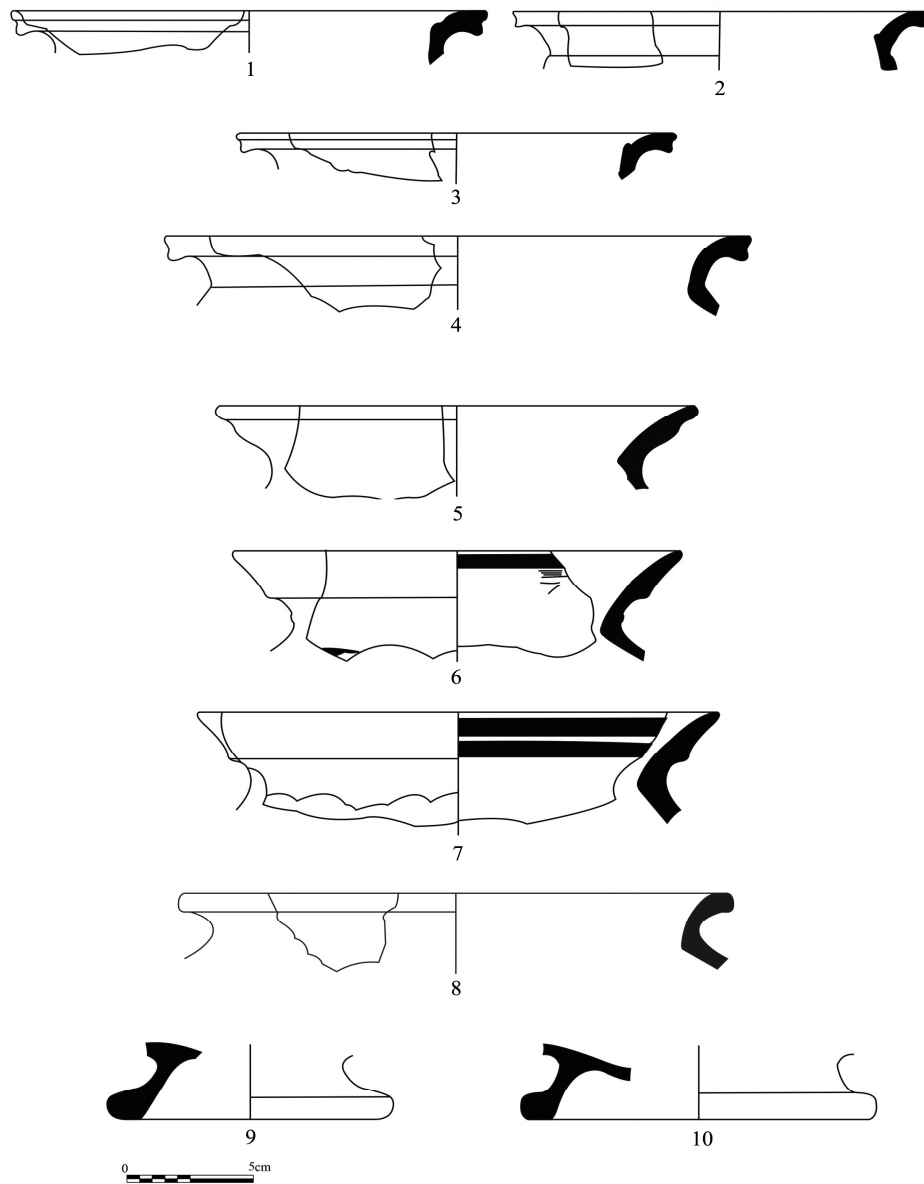


Fig.6. Parthian, Sasanian Indian Red Polish Ceramics

Number	Site	1. Manufacture 2. Firing 3. Fabric Color (Ext/Int. Core.)4. Inclusion 5. Finish 6. Decoration 7. Interior Coating, Color Treatment 8. Exterior Coating, Color Treatment	
1	QS5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange. 4. Fine Grit 5. Fine 7. Slip. Red. Burnished 8. Slip. Red. Burnished	Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 2 Kervran and Hiebert 1991, Fig. 4: 16
2	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange. 4. Fine Grit 5. Fine 7. Slip. Red. Burnished 8. Slip. Red. Burnished	Whitehouse & Williamson 1973, Fig.5:D-E Kervran and Hiebert 1991, Fig. 4: 19 Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 5; Fig.4: 11 Kervran 2004, Fig. 12: 18
3	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange. 4. Fine Grit 5. Fine 7. Slip. Red. Burnished 8. Slip. Red. Burnished	Whitehouse & Williamson 1973, Fig.5: D-E Kervran & Hiebert 1991, Fig. 4: 19 Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 5; Fig.4: 11 Kervran Oman Fig. 12: 18
4	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange. 4. Fine Grit 5. Fine 7. Slip. Red. Burnished 8. Slip. Red. Burnished	Kervran & Hiebert, 1991 Fig.5
5	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Red. Red. Red. 4. Fine Grit 5. Medium	Kervran & Hiebert 1991, Fig. 5: 1
6	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. . Red. Red. Red. 4. Fine Grit. Vegetal 5. Medium 6. Black Painted 8. Slip. Red.	Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 13; Fig. 4: 2
7	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange Red. Orange Red. Orange Red. 4. Fine Grit. Vegetal 5. Medium 6. Black Painted 8. Slip. Red.	Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 13; Fig. 4: 2
8	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Black. Black. Black. 4. Fine Grit. Vegetal 5. Medium 7. Burnish 8. Burnish.	Kervran 1994, Fig. 3: 16 Kervran 1996, Fig. 8: 10
9	QS5	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange. 4. Fine Grit. Vegetal 5. Medium	
10	QS 5	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Orange. Orange. Orange.4. Sand 5. Fine 7. Slip. Red. Burnished 8. Slip. Red. Burnished	

Fig.6. Descriptions and Parallels for Indian Red Polish Ceramic

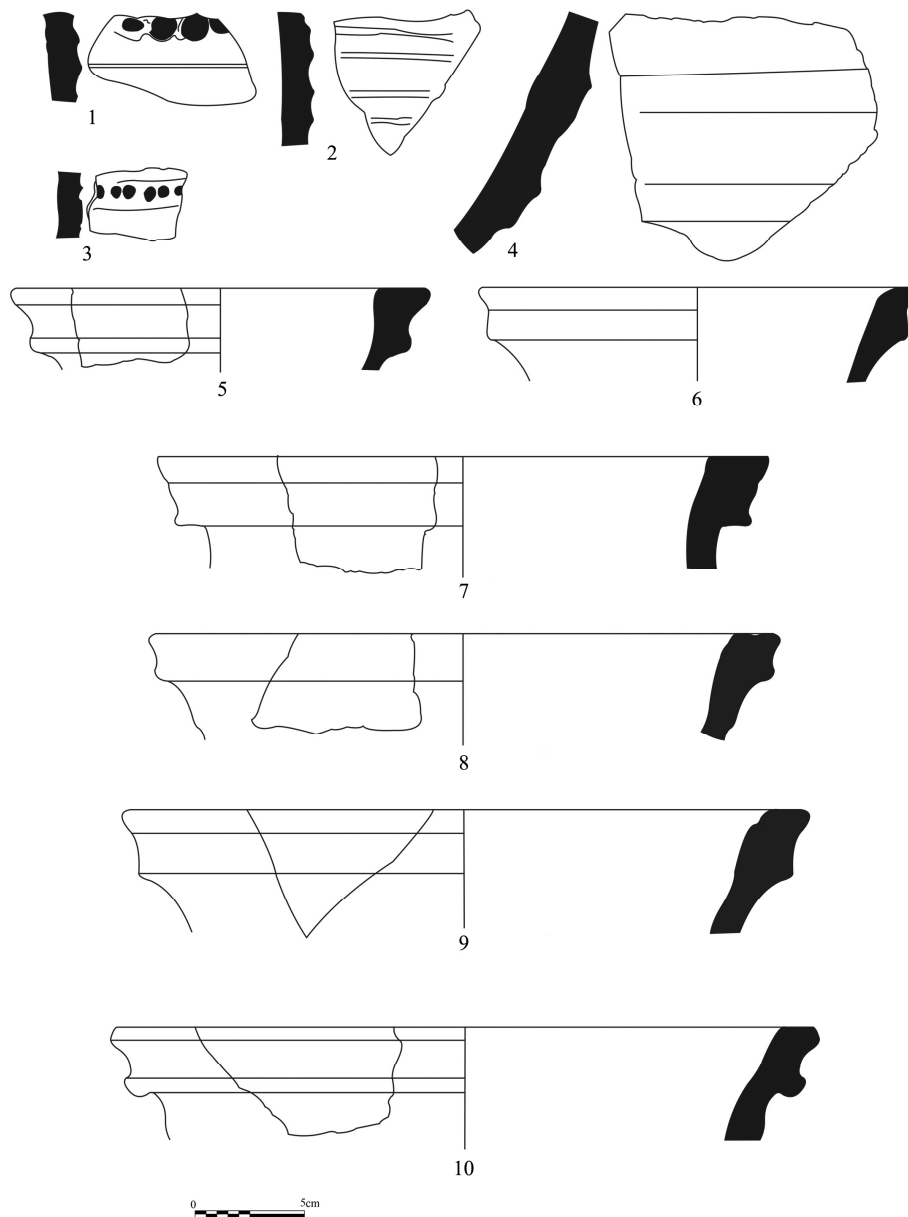


Fig.7. Parthian Coarse Black Ceramics

Number	Site	1. Manufacture 2. Firing 3. Fabric Color (Ext/Int. Core.) 4. Inclusion 5. Finish 6. Decoration 7. Interior coating. Color treatment 8. Exterior coating, Color treatment	
1	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Reddish Grey. Reddish Grey./ Reddish Grey. 4. Fine. Medium Grit 5. Coarse ././ 6. Impress. Incised Decoration 7. Slip. Black 8. Slip. Black	Salles 1984, Fig. 11: 110 Azarnoush 1994, Fig. 180: p
2	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Reddish Grey. Reddish Grey. Reddish Grey. 4. Fine. Medium Grit 5. Coarse 6. Impress. Incised Decoration 7. Slip. Black 8. Slip. Black	King & Tanghini 1998, Fig. 5:b Jasim 2006, Fig. 27: 3 Zaidi et al 2006, Fig. 6.24. MSP. 1731 Khosrauzadeh et al, 2006, Fig 6:5 ^a
3	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse 6. Impress. Incised Decoration	
4	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Brown. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse 6. Impress. Incised Decoration	Schmit 1958, Pl.73:7; de Cardi 1984, Fig. 9:12; Salles 1984, Fig.11:110 Azarnoush 1994, Fig. 180: r; King & Tanghini 1998, Fig. 5:d; Khosrowzadeh & Zaidi 2006, Fig. 3.135. TNP 2064; Jasim 2006, Fig. 27: 2
5	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse 8. Slip. Black	
6	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Medium 8. Slip. Black.	Salles 1984, Fig. 10: 88 Boucharlat 1986, Fig. 151: 7 Lecomte 1993, Fig. 9:8
7	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse to Medium 8. Slip. Black	Salles 1984, Fig. 10: 98
8	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Brownish Red. Brownish Red. Brownish Red. 4. Fine. Medium Grit 5. Coarse to Medium	Salles 1984, Fig. 10: 90
9	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.well Fired 3. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. Dark Grey. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse 8. Slip. Black	Karlovsky 1970, Fig. 5:c Boucharlat 1986, Fig. 150: 7 Salles 1984, Fig. 10: 98 Lecomte 1993, Fig. 9:8; Fig. 13: 14
10	QS 6	1. Wheel 2.Well Fired 3. Brownish Red. Dark Grey. Brownish Red. 4. Fine. Medium. Coarse Grit 5. Coarse	

Fig.7.Descriptions and Parallels for Parthian Coarse Black Ceramic

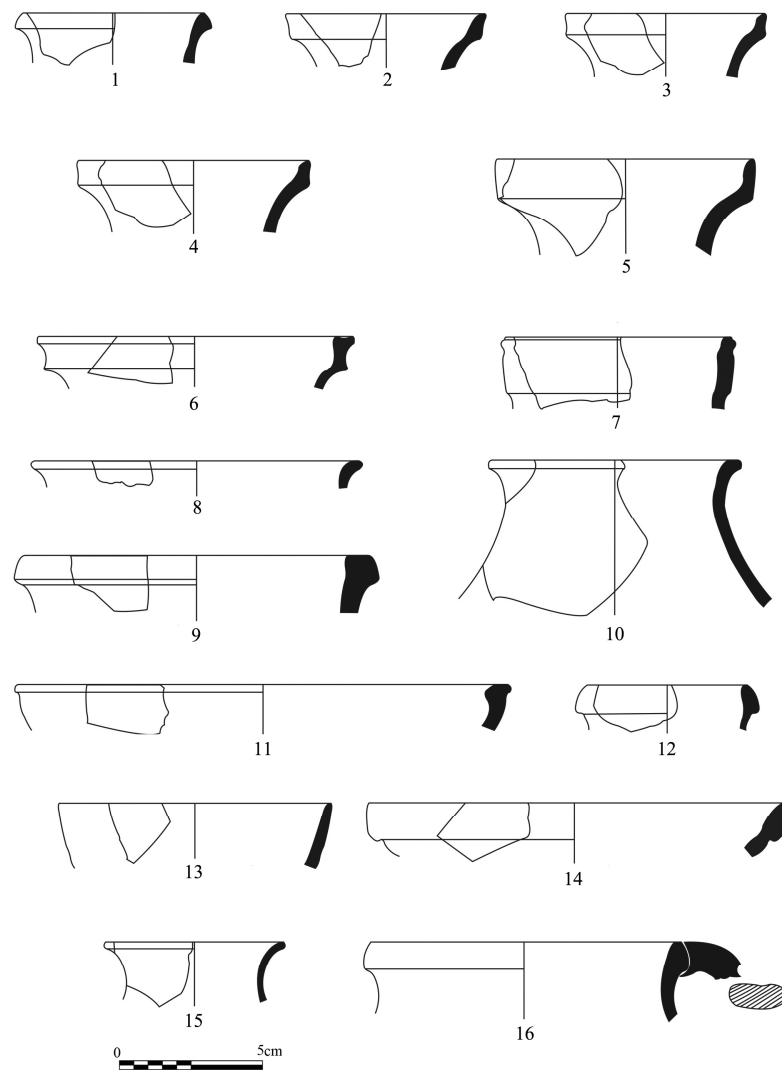


Fig.8. Parthian, Sasanian Plain Ceramics

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ارتباط تجاری، فرهنگی سواحل شمالی و جنوبی خلیج فارس در دوره اشکانی و ساسانی: بر اساس مطالعه سفالهای به دست آمده از فصل نخست بررسی و شناسایی جزیره قشم

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تاریخ پذیرش: ۸۹/۱۰/۱۳

فصل نخست بررسی و شناسایی باستان‌شناختی جزیره قشم در زمستان ۱۳۸۴ انجام شد که طی این بررسی ۹ محوطه مربوط به دوره اشکانی و ساسانی شناسایی شد.

مطالعه سفالهای سطحی به دست آمده از محوطه‌های اشکانی و ساسانی قشم نشان دهنده ارتباط فرهنگی و تجاری بین این محوطه‌ها با محوطه‌های همزمان در سواحل جنوبی خلیج فارس و دیگر نواحی است. برای مثال گونه‌ی لعاب‌دار اشکانی و ساسانی که از محوطه‌های قشم به دست آمده شباهت زیادی با گونه‌ی لعاب‌دار محوطه‌های خوزستان، سواحل شمالی و جنوبی خلیج فارس از جمله اددور، کوش و ملیحا در امارات، سوهار در عمان، فیلکه در کویت و قلات در بحرین دارند.

سفال منقوش دوره اشکانی نیز شباهتهای نزدیکی با سفال منقوش یک رنگ و دو رنگ جنوب شرق ایران، سواحل عمان و جنوب خلیج فارس به خصوص اددور، ملیحا و تل ابراک دارد.

گونه شاخص دیگر، سفال معروف به قرمز صیقلی هندی (Indian Red Polish Ware) است که استفاده از آنها از اواسط دوره اشکانی تا سده‌های اولیه اسلام در سواحل شمالی و جنوبی خلیج فارس رایج شد. این گونه به طور گسترده در منطقه‌ای در هند (گجرات) و سند تولید شده و به مناطق مختلف سواحل

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۲. دانشجوی دوره دکتری دانشکده علوم انسانی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس ایران

۳. استادیار گروه باستان‌شناسی دانشکده علوم انسانی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس ایران

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خلیج فارس صادر می‌شده است.

سفال سیاه و خشن با نوارهای برجسته‌ی تزئینی به دست آمده از محوطه‌های قشم مشابه به سفالهای سیاه و خشن حوزه جنوبی خلیج فارس است که از محوطه‌هایی همچون اددور، جزایر ابوظبی در امارات متحده عربی نیز گزارش شده است.

سفال ساده و معمولی اشکانی و ساسانی محوطه‌های قشم نیز شباهتهایی با سفالهای شناخته شده این دوران در سواحل شمالی و جنوبی خلیج فارس دارد.

واژگان کلیدی: تجارت، سفال، خلیج فارس، قشم، اشکانی، ساسانی