

## Foreword

With his authoritative monograph, *Lords of the Mountains. Pre-Islamic Heritage along the Upper Indus in Pakistan*, Harald Hauptmann brought decades of research in the Karakoram/Karakorum region of northern Pakistan to an impressive conclusion. In a sense, this book is the scientific legacy of the last phase of his career. Unfortunately, he did not live to see it published. As a lover of books, he would certainly have derived special pleasure from holding the finished volume in his hands, as all who knew Hauptmann closely can attest. We may count ourselves fortunate that the book has been successfully completed despite his sudden death in 2018.

His wife Salwa Hauptmann was his constant companion and an important source of support in his Pakistan research work. Indeed, their shared enthusiasm for this culture area evoked the feeling that one was in the presence of kindred spirits. Special thanks are due to the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, which has funded the completion and publication of this work by its longtime member. Luca M. Olivieri of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, who has headed ISMEO's Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat for many years (and still does), kindly took on the editing of this monograph; it could have been in no better hands.

When Harald Hauptmann received his doctorate in 1964, with a thesis on the late Neolithic in Thessaly, he could not really have foreseen where his scientific career would lead him, thematically and geographically. Hauptmann was bold and always ready for an adventure, if it held the promise of exciting research topics that needed answers to questions. His work as a member of the German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul, from 1966 to 1971, had a crucial influence on the course of his scientific career, because it led him away from the Balkan-Aegean world, in which he had hitherto been at home, to the eastern regions of Anatolia.

In the course of major excavations over many years, first at Norşuntepe and then at Lidar Höyük, he won widespread admiration for the standards that he set in carrying out comprehensive archaeological excavations of huge settlement mounds in southeast Anatolia. Moreover, he had only a short window of time at his disposal before these cultural landscapes would disappear underwater behind dams already under construction. With his work in Nevalı Corı and then in Göbekli Tepe, Hauptmann laid the foundations of a completely new assessment of the Pre-Pottery period on the northern periphery of the Fertile Crescent. It was his student Klaus Schmidt († 2014) who not only continued this work, but subsequently also made sensational discoveries at Göbekli Tepe.

Hauptmann followed these successes with great satisfaction, having correctly recognized and predicted the potential of this site. He himself, however, was already much farther to the east in mind and spirit – like Alexander the Great, he was drawn to the Upper Indus River valley. Back in 1980, Karl Jettmar and Ahmad Hasan Dani had begun a large-scale research

project there, “Rock Carvings and Inscriptions along the Karakorum Highway, Northern Pakistan,” the purpose of which was to comprehensively document and study the countless specimens of rock art and inscriptions that people from a wide variety of culture areas had left there in almost every period of history. This research unit was based at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences.

In 1989, the question arose of finding a successor to Karl Jettmar for the management of this project. There were not many people who were capable of doing this, because a special set of skills was required in order to conduct field work successfully in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and, at the same time, to run the associated research unit in Heidelberg. The Heidelberg Academy of Sciences turned to its academician Harald Hauptmann, who at the time was still fully occupied with his large projects in southeast Anatolia; nevertheless, he accepted this new responsibility. Did he suspect what lay in store for him? That is a question that only he could answer.

Perhaps he saw it as an opportunity to become acquainted with a completely new culture area and to explore totally different research topics. Despite his close ties to Anatolia, Harald Hauptmann always thought in terms of larger areas that transcended borders; he was interested both in broad patterns and in wide-ranging comparisons. He was particularly fascinated by the idea of opening up an unknown area of research and having the opportunity to get to know a new country and its inhabitants in person. As a scholar, Hauptmann was no loner who kept his discoveries and observations to himself until his next publication came out. He sought to be close to people and to share his knowledge with them, whether in southeast Anatolia or the Northern Areas, and whether they were renowned fellow researchers or the driver of his off-road vehicle in Chilas.

His approach was completely different from that of his predecessor, the Heidelberg ethnologist Karl Jettmar. Jettmar, who first traveled to this region in 1955, was a man of spontaneous, sometimes ingenious ideas, but he also approached his objectives erratically. His field work in the Upper Indus River valley lacked the necessary long-term planning and a correspondingly suitable team. Hauptmann delivered all of this. As an experienced leader of long-term, large-scale research projects, he was used to planning field work carefully. His strategy was to record each individual rock art station systematically, prepare comprehensive documentation of it, and ensure that this was published in catalogue form. He established a new publication series, the “Materials for the Archeology of the Northern Regions of Pakistan” (MANP), which brought forth many sizeable volumes, in which all of the material from the sites that he investigated was systematically processed and presented.

Today the Karakoram / Karakorum region, with its rock art and inscriptions, is one of the best documented regions in Central Asia and beyond – and it is therefore highly accessible for research. At times, the seemingly endless presentation of much the same rock art subjects for pages on end was remarked on with amusement. But Hauptmann knew that a selection of motifs would never be anything other than subjective and would have no lasting value to researchers. From the beginning, he aimed to make the best possible use of the time available to him on site and to document as many sites as possible comprehensively. This would form

a basis upon which subsequent, more extensive historical and cultural studies could build. The present volume shows that he also saw himself as having a duty in this respect. This book underlines how intensively Hauptmann dedicated himself to communicating knowledge of this region over the years, seeking to understand it and to place it in the context of the neighboring culture regions. As a leader of digs, however, the proper sequence was clear in his mind: first the documentation, then the analysis.

It was not the task of the Heidelberg research unit to conduct excavations. As an archaeologist, Hauptmann greatly regretted this restriction. Of course, he knew perfectly well that the material and personnel resources available to him would not be sufficient for that, and that the documentation of the rock art and inscriptions had to take priority. He also understood, however, that without excavations in this largely unexplored landscape at the intersection of important connecting routes and long-distance highways through the heart of Central Asia, any insights gained into the early history of the region would remain limited. He did not find it easy to drive past pre- and protohistoric settlements and burial grounds, because it was obvious to him that they must have been directly related to the rock art stations. This grew even more difficult for him over the years as illegal excavations became more common, destroying more and more of these sites for ever.

That was when I became involved. Hauptmann could not conduct any excavations himself, but he could try to get other people interested in the region. The Eurasia Department of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, which I was in charge of at the time, was running various research projects however, that without excavations in this largely unexplored landscape at the intersection different parts of Central Asia and Siberia. The Karakorum region on the southern route of the Silk Road, leading into the Indus Valley, was of great interest, because the known artefacts unearthed in illegal excavations and haggled over in the bazaars of Chilas and Gilgit indicated that there had been far-reaching, long-distance connections to different parts of Central Asia and Siberia.

I shall never forget a visit to the Karakorum Highway in the spring of 1998, during which Hauptmann sought to awaken my enthusiasm for the region – and succeeded. This initial trip was followed by another; a promising site was selected and arrangements were made to investigate it together with the Pakistani partner responsible for the Northern Areas. The work was supposed to start in September 2001, but then came September 11 and the attack on the Twin Towers in New York, which changed things everywhere, including northern Pakistan. After the interruption, Hauptmann was able to resume his field work in the Karakorum region, but conducting excavations was now out of the question. The megalithic tomb selected for investigation with Hauptmann's help has since been looted and totally destroyed. Furthermore, we still do not know what period these structures can be dated to and what culture they can be assigned to.

Hauptmann was an important archaeologist, a brilliant excavator with an extraordinary feel for special places. He had a sure instinct and diplomatic skill, coupled with daring and tenacity. With this combination of traits, he often achieved what others thought to be impossible. He always felt great respect and affection for his host country, whether in Turkey or

## Foreword

Pakistan, yet he always maintained a certain distance and never ingratiated himself. For many of his colleagues, Hauptmann was first and foremost an irrepressible excavator who could happily stay in the field for months. This book offers us another side of Harald Hauptmann: someone who has ventured and achieved a great synthesis of his vast store of knowledge.

Hermann Parzinger