

Preface

*This study is dedicated to the memory of
Karl Jettmar (Vienna, 1918 – Heidelberg, 2002)
and Ahmad Hasan Dani (Basna, Rajpur 1920 – Islamabad, 2009)
to whose work all scholars of archaeology and
history of the Northern Areas are deeply indebted.*

The project ‘Rock Carvings and Inscriptions along the Karakorum Highway, Northern Pakistan’ as a joint Pakistani-German research project was inaugurated by the ethnologist Karl Adam Jettmar (1918–2002) and the archaeologist Ahmad Hasan Dani (1920–2009) as his official counterpart in 1980. The first field season in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, since 2009 renamed in Gilgit-Baltistan, started on behalf of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and was sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and Volkswagen Foundation. As an independent research department, it was established at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in 1984, supported jointly by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Baden-Württemberg in the frame of the ‘Academy Programme’. The fieldwork of the ‘Pak-German Study Group for Anthropological Research in the Northern Areas’ was organized by Volker Thewalt between 1980 and 1988. In 1989 the directorship of the research department at the Academy and of the re-established ‘Pak-German Archaeological Mission to the Northern Areas’ (PGAM) was handed over by Jettmar to the author. The presidents of the Heidelberg Academy, particularly Albrecht Dihle, Gisbert Freiherr zu Putlitz, Peter Graf Kielmansegg and Hermann H. Hahn, showed a keen interest in the research project. The main aim of the project since 1989 was to attain a systematic documentation of all archaeological monuments, particularly of the rock carvings and inscriptions along the ancient routes in the lower part of the Upper Indus River valley between Shatial in Indus Kohistan, part of the province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP, formerly known as the North-West Frontier Province, NWFP), and Raikot in the Diamar District, but also in the other regions in the northern part of Gilgit-Baltistan, in the Gilgit District, Punial, Ishkoman, Yasin, Hunza and in Baltistan. The mapping and cataloguing of the rock carving sites, the ancient monuments and routes along the Upper Indus were undertaken by members of the Institute of Geodesy at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), the former University of Karlsruhe (TH). The original challenge for the team, the reconstruction of the habitation history since the early Holocene, which only could be achieved by systematic archaeological excavations of selected ancient sites, could however not be realized. A special permit for such an excavation program unfortunately was guaranteed at least in 2006 before the end of the field activities. The last field campaign in Diamer District took place in 2012, when in accordance to the closing of the research department at the Heidelberg Academy the since 1988 established expedition

camp at Chilas was finally also given up. Final field researches were made in 2013 in Baltistan in cooperation with Ernst Pohl of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn, and supported by the Gerda Henkel foundation.

First of all the project is obliged to the Ministry of Culture of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to the Department of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Pakistan (DoAM) in Karachi and Islamabad for guaranteeing the licence to undertake archaeological field researches in the high mountain region. The mission is grateful for the support of the different director generals of the DoAM, Dr. Muhammad Ishtiaq Khan, director of the Department of Antiquities & Museums since 1974, and appointed as director general since 1980 until 1986, DG Dr. Ahmad Nabi Khan 1987–1994, DG Dr. Muhammad Rafique Mughal 1994–1996, DG Mr. Niaz Rasool 1996–1998, DG Mr. Saeed-ur-Rehman 1998–2003, and DG Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar 2003–2012.

The Department of Archaeology and Museums in Islamabad was devolved on 31 March 2011, and the responsibility for archaeological sites and museums was handed over to the provincial governments. Its sub-regional office in Gilgit, placed under the Ministry of Tourism, has since then been supervised by the regional government of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Karl Jettmar always with gratitude remembered his friends who supported his anthropological field researches in the Northern Areas since his first stay there in 1955: Rhabar Hassan from Hunza, the former chief of the porters for the early German Nanga Parbat expeditions and later Deputy Superintendent Police in Gilgit, acted as guide and interpreter during his first field researches. The lawyer Ghulam Nabi accompanied him during his studies in Brokpa villages of East Baltistan. His personal highest esteem during this period was held for Shahzada Hussam-ul-Mulk, prince of Chitral and former governor of Drosh, who disclosed to him the rich past of Chitral, and also for Hussain-ul-Mulk (1977). Mohammad Ismail Khan, 1955 Assistant Political Officer in Darel and Tangir, and since 1973 Deputy Commissioner of the Diamer District in Chilas, showed him, then retired, the most spectacular rock carving sites downstream up to Shatial in autumn 1979. During his anthropological research in Baltistan and in other regions of Gilgit-Baltistan since 1978 he was accompanied by his student Adam Nayyar, who finished his doctorate at the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg.

The author remembers the occasional support by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, especially under its ambassadors Jürgen Kleiner and Hans-Joachim Daerr. Their attachés Matthias Kiesler and Patrick Heinz showed keen interest in raising awareness for the endangered archaeological monuments along the Upper Indus by organizing exhibitions and seminars in Islamabad. The great exhibitions of 1997 and 2009 at the National Art Gallery of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad, the last entitled 'Talking Rocks along the KKH, Northern Pakistan – Unfolding a magnificent chapter of human evolution through centuries', again referred to the rich cultural heritage under threat of the future dam constructions along the Upper Indus River Valley. As a result of these endeavours 'The Petroglyphs in the Diamer-Basha Dam Area, Northern Areas, Pakistan' were included by the World Monuments Fund in New York in the list of the '2010 Worlds Monuments Watch'. The 'Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority' (WAPDA) in Lahore, particularly

Mr. M. Shakil Durrani, chairman until 2012, supported a conservation program for the most important rock images and the installation of a local museum at the former British Fort of Chilas. The PGAM is also grateful to various local authorities of the Diamer District in Chilas Tehsil and of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan in Gilgit.

The cooperation with the Aga Khan Culture Service (AKCSP) in Gilgit, especially with Fazal Karim (by Salman Beg), stimulated the project also in building up an archive of historical monuments.

The results of the earlier Pak-German Study Group between 1980 and 1988 have been published in numerous articles by Jettmar and in special studies and editions by his epigraphists Gérard Fussman, Collège de France in Paris, and Oskar von Hinüber, also in the special series 'Antiquities of Northern Pakistan. Reports and Studies' (ANP). The additional reading of the inscriptions in Middle Iranian languages during the early years of the project is owed to Helmut Humbach and for the final publications to Nicholas Sims-Williams, School of Oriental and African Studies at London, and the reading of the Chinese and Tibetan graffiti to Thomas O. Höllmann and Klaus Sagaster respectively. The results of the systematic field research of the later 'Pak-German Archaeological Mission to the Northern Areas' (PGAM) since 1989 were presented in the final publication series 'Materials for the Archaeology of the Northern Regions of Pakistan' (MANP).

Photographs and drawings, when not otherwise stated, are property of the research department, kept in the Rock Art-Archive of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.