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PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON
ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN KANSU

BY
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WITH A NOTE ON THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERS
OF THE PREHISTORIC KANSU RACE

BY
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The translation into Chinese of Dr. Andersson's paper has been made by Mr. S. S. Yoh of the Geological Survey staff, who has also offered most valuable collaboration in compiling data from the Chinese archæological literature.

Plates I-IV are drawn by Mr. J. F. Na, and plate XII by Mr. P. Y. Tung.

The translation into Chinese of Dr. Black's paper has been made by Dr. Li Chi.

INTRODUCTION

Already in 1919 the Geological Survey of China took the first steps towards the unveiling of the prehistory of China, until then nearly unknown. Stone implements were discovered in different parts of N. China, and in February 1920 the present writer was able to present a brief report on such finds before the Anatomical and Anthropological Association and National Medical Association.¹⁾

In the course of our reconnaissance a large dwelling site with a rich and varied pre-metallic furniture was discovered at Yang Shao Tsun in Honan, and a systematic survey and excavation of this site was undertaken in the autumn of 1921.

In the early summer of the same year a culture deposit of approximately the same age but showing certain remarkable local features was discovered in a small cave at Sha Kuo T'un in SW Fengtien. This deposit was completely excavated, and a monographic description of the topography, stratigraphy and furniture was published in 1923.²⁾ A report on the human skeletal remains found in this cave, prepared by Dr. Davidson Black is now in press.³⁾

A preliminary review of the Fengtien and Honan finds was published under the title "An Early Chinese Culture."⁴⁾ A monographic report on the painted pottery from Yang Shao Tsun and other Honan localities by Dr. T.J. Arne has just appeared.⁵⁾

The culture described in these papers has been named *The Yang Shao Culture* from the type locality in Honan. It is characterized by a furniture which is in many ways late Neolithic in type, and no metal object has ever been found in the sites of this period during our extensive excavations. Still, there are features both of the monochrome and painted ceramics which make me believe it better to place this culture in the Aeneolithic period, the transition from the true late Neolithic to the beginning of the metal ages.

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- 1) J. G. Andersson. Stone implements of Neolithic type in China. Anatomical Supplement to the China Medical Journal, July 1920.
 - 2) J. G. Andersson. The Cave Deposit at Sha Kuo T'un in Fengtien. Palaeontologia Sinica. Ser. D. Vol. I. Fasc. I. 1923.
 - 3) Davidson Black. Human skeletal Remains of Sha Kuo T'un, Fengtien, and Yang Shao, Honan. Palaeontologia Sinica. Ser. D. Vol. I. Fasc. 3.
 - 4) J. G. Andersson. An Early Chinese Culture. Bulletin of the Geological Survey of China. No. 5. 1923.
 - 5) T. J. Arne. Painted Stone Age Pottery from the Province of Honan. Pal. Sinica. Ser. D. Vol. I. Fasc. 2.

In the furniture of the Yang Shao culture there are features such as stone axes, pointed bone implements etc, which are of a general Neolithic type without special local color, there are furthermore artifacts such as the semilunar and rectangular knives which are so preponderant within the East Asiatic and the Esquimaux areas, that it is tempting to interpret them as a very ancient Mongoloid inheritance. Much of the monochrome pottery, as for instance the tripods Li (鬲) and Ting (鼎), the steamer Hsien (甗) and possibly others, are evidently related to and probably were the proto-types of early Chinese bronzes well known under the above mentioned names.

Lastly we have to draw attention to a most remarkable group of the Yang Shao furniture, namely the painted pottery, which in the patterns of decoration and in the technique in general, exhibits a most striking relationship to the large family of painted ceramics from the transition between the Neolithic and the beginning of the metal ages which has been made known from a very large number of localities in the Eastern Mediterranean, SW Russia and the Near East (Sicily, Tessaly, Tripolje, Susa, Anau etc.). In my preliminary publication "An Early Chinese Culture" I was not only able to compare the Yang Shao painted ware in considerable detail with Anau and to some extent also with Susa, but I was already at that time fortunate to add to my own incomplete comparisons an authoritative statement by British archaeologists headed by Mr. R. L. Hobson.

An Austrian archaeologist, Dr. L. Franz, has in a review of my papers made further very interesting comparisons between the Yang Shao culture and sites of the Near East.¹⁾ By means of comparisons with Anau and excavations made in Mesopotamia he has arrived at the first tentative determination of the age of the Yang Shao culture, a question to which we will return in much greater detail in a following chapter.

Quite recently, Dr. T. J. Arne in an elaborate monograph²⁾ on the whole material of painted pottery collected in the Yang Shao sites of Honan has made an exhaustive survey of the relationship of the Honan ceramics with those of the Near East, including several important localities such as the Zhob valley in Baluchistan and Tepe Mussian near Susa which were unknown to me when I wrote "An Early Chinese Culture".

1) *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien.* Bd. LIV. P. 79-82.

2) Arne *Loc. cit.* *Pal. Sinica.* Ser. D. Vol. I, Fasc. 2.

Already before the appearance of the important contributions presented by Franz and specially by Arne, the evidence of consanguinity between these prehistoric groups of ceramics from the Near and the Far East had become so convincing that we found it imperative to extend our archaeological research further west to regions where we could expect to find relics of the hypothetical connection between the sites in Honan and those of SW Asia. The topographic features of Western China and its borderlands pointed to Kansu, specially the surroundings of the provincial capital Lanchow, with its several fertile river valleys, as the most promising second stage of such a regional effort to trace the migration of cultures at the end of the Neolithic age.

The archaeological reconnaissance of a considerable part of Kansu, which I undertook during 1923 and 1924, has realized our hopes of success far beyond the boldest expectations. Not only did I meet with a surprisingly rich development of the Yang Shao culture including several dwelling sites with very fine furniture, but still more important was the discovery of extensive grave fields from which were obtained large numbers of unbroken painted funeral urns, which undoubtedly must be counted among the most splendid of Neolithic ceramics in the whole of Eurasia.

In addition to this enlarged and deepened knowledge of the Yang Shao culture we have found a site, Ch'i Chia P'ing (齊家坪), practically devoid of painted pottery but with monochrome vessels of very characteristic type and very beautiful and distinct decorations of impressed patterns. For reasons which are given below, I consider this Ch'i Chia P'ing type to be slightly older than the Yang Shao period.

On the other hand we have found a sequence of cultural stages, marked by the growing use of copper and bronze and characterized, each by a varied and well defined assembly of ceramic types which enable us to establish a number of post-Yang Shao periods, among which the Hsin Tien and the Sha Ching stages at present seem most important.

The relative age of these archaeological periods, six in number, is not in each case established beyond doubt, and the absolute ages can only be told by very vague approximations. Still it seems fairly probable that our reconnaissance has unveiled some preliminary outlines of the prehistory of Central Kansu covering one and a half to two milleniums, say from 3500 or at least 3000 to about 1700 B. C.

It is needless to say that these conclusions are preliminary. The laboratory study of the material from the 1923-24 expedition has hardly begun, and furthermore it can be foreseen that the conclusions based upon this first reconnaissance must be revised by continued field-work, for which plans are already in preparation. However, it has been found necessary to prepare a number of publications based on the material already at hand. A first preliminary report is given in this brief paper. At the same time a full description of the field observations accompanied by maps, plans and photographs, and containing also a general review of the furnitures of the different stages will in a short time be published in the *Palaeontologia Sinica*. Parallel with this preliminary review and detailed topographic description will proceed monographs on the different groups of artifacts and ceramics.

A detailed itinerary of the journey will be found together with the topographic description.

I take this occasion to express my respectful thanks to their Excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture and Commerce, the Director of Mines Mr. T. L. Lin and the Directors of the Geological Survey Dr. V. K. Ting and Dr. Wong Wen Hao who all permitted me the widest freedom of action in this purely scientific enterprise and gave their warm-hearted support.

My geological assistant Mr. P. L. Yuan occasionally took an interested part in the archaeological work and carried out the topographic survey of the Hsin Tien area.

My best thanks are also due to H. E. Lu Hung T'ao, Governor of Kansu, as well as many of his subordinates, who afforded me all facilities and protection within the province.

I am also under the deepest obligation to Rev. George Findlay Andrew of the China Inland Mission Station in Lanchow (recently appointed member of the staff of teachers of the British School, Chefoo, Shantung), to Mr. N. B. Doodha, Postal Commissioner, Lanchow, and to Dr. George E. King, Head of the Borden Memorial Hospital, Lanchow.

Mr. Andrew not only helped me most materially in locating the first large, complete funeral urns, but he also undertook during his vacation in January 1924 a very successful archaeological reconnaissance to Titao and Tsinchow and brought in April of the same year the first consignment of our collections safely to Peking.

Mr. Doodha, in addition to the most pleasant hospitality always shown to me, rendered most vital help in safeguarding the scientific results of our work. Dr. King, always untiringly helpful as our medical aid, finally arranged our return by raft in a way which secured for us with our collections a safe and pleasant homeward journey.

With deepest gratitude I wish to acknowledge the unfailing help given to me by the Swedish Research Committee, headed by H. R. H. the Crownprince of Sweden, which was formed some years ago to support my scientific work and which has financed not only the work of 1923 but also the extension over the larger part of 1924 which was decided upon at the end of the 1923 field season.

DWELLING-SITES AND BURIAL-SITES.

Before passing over to the descriptive chapters it may be well to define the two main types of sites with which we have been working, the dwelling sites and the burial places.

The former are the remains of the ancient villages. No surface indications are as a rule discernable, except fragments of pottery and other artifacts. Of house-foundations we have never found any trace, probably because the ancient people most likely built huts of the everywhere present, easily handled and easily eroded loess. Foundations of kilns, presumably used for burning pottery, have been noticed in one instance namely at Lo Han T'ang (羅漢堂) in Kuei Te Hsien (貴德縣), Yang Shao stage.

Mud-walls thrown up for defense, have been noticed only in the case of the sites of the Sha Ching stage, and the existence of the defense walls in these localities may be attributed to the fact that these village sites are situated on perfectly level ground lacking the natural protection of big ravines, which we meet almost everywhere round the sites situated on the edge of terraces in the river valleys (type: the Hui Tsui site of the Hsien Tien stage).

The remains of the ancient villages consist of more or less thick deposits of refuse, charcoal and ash from the fires together with potsherds and artifacts. A characteristic feature of the dwelling sites is that the ceramics and most of the other artifacts are nearly always broken. Only small objects, such as sewing needles, beads etc. are often found complete, evidently because they have been lost and not recovered. The bigger artifacts are often broken, and the pots in

many cases represented only by small fragments. They were well taken care of as long as they were whole, and only when broken and useless were they thrown out upon the refuse heap.

The broken condition of the ceramics in the dwelling sites stands in striking contrast to the often perfect condition of the urns which are found in the graves. When this term is used for the burials excavated by me, it must be made clear that there is never any setting of stones, no mark of remains for a coffin, but simply a skeleton associated with one or more funeral urns and eventually some objects of stone, bone and (in the case of the younger cultural stages) metal.

The burials are in most cases of the same type: the dead rests horizontally upon the back with the head turned more or less exactly to the north. In some few cases the body is in reversed position lying horizontally with the ventral side turned downwards, sometimes the head is turned westward or in other directions.

A strange and noteworthy exception from the horizontal-dorsal position are the graves at the Pan Shan area in Ning Ting Hsien (Yang Shao stage) where the bodies (at least in two cases) were laid down resting on the left side in a contracted position ("liegende Hocker").

Another exception from the common rule are some graves in the Hsin Tien burial site (Hsin Tien stage) where the skeletons rest on their backs in a straight dorsal position which is not however always horizontal but in a number of cases with the body sloping under an angle of 20-37° from the head to the feet.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE SITES.

From a topographic point of view the sites examined by me can be conveniently classified under the following five headings:

- 1: Sites round Kokonor.
- 2: River-valley sites.
- 3: Grave fields of Ssu Shih Ting.
- 4: Grave fields of the Pan Shan area.
- 5: Sites in the desert W of Chen Fan.

Sites round Kokonor: During our journey round this famous salt-lake we noticed fragments of prehistoric pottery in many places. In two places I located small dwelling sites, of which one at the eastern end of the lake is of special interest.

At many places along the southern side of the lake, where the topography is favourable for observations of this kind, I had noticed an abandoned shore-line situated about 3 meters above the present level of the lake. At the eastern end of Kokonor this shore-line, above which there were no higher indications of any former extension of the lake, occupied a level of six meters above the present water level. This abandoned beach forms a low but conspicuous hill-ridge, at the top of which there is a culture deposit with primitive pottery together with stone and bone implements. It goes without saying that the lake has not been higher any time since the formation of the culture stratum, and it is even fairly probable that it has during this period never been considerably lower than at present. This observation that Kokonor during the last four thousand years has been at most six meters higher than at present will certainly become a fact of importance in the discussion of the changes of climate in Central Asia.

River-valley sites. The majority of my excavations have been made in three fertile river valleys, that of the Huang Ho in the Kueite (貴德) basin, that of the Hsining Ho and that of the T'ao Ho. Apparently the ancient populations, specially of the Yang Shao and Hsin Tien stages, settled with preference in these beautiful valleys which at that time probably were largely wooded and abounding in game, at the same time as they offered the best opportunities for cattle raising and for the beginnings of agriculture.

In order to understand the location of these river valley sites it is necessary to know something about the physiographic development of these Kansu valleys. The T'ao valley, which is best known to me, may be taken as a good example (Pl. XII, fig. 2).

Originally the drainage system was located at a much higher level than the present one to judge from an ancient, now deeply dissected peneplane at about 500 meters altitude above the present level of the T'ao river. From this peneplane the vertical erosion has cut down deeper and deeper during a considerable space of time, as manifested by spurs and terraces representing a sequence of now abandoned river levels. The oldest of these terraces are not very much lower than the peneplane (one of the most conspicuous terrace levels has been marked in the section Pl. XII, fig. 2 as 'upper terrace, unexplored'). The youngest and consequently lowest of these terraces is situated only about ten meters above the present river level. It is a quite modern terrace, still unde-

formation in many places. In the Huang Ho valley round Lanchow this young ten meter terrace is also well developed, and the numerous big wooden water wheels which are seen here everywhere are for the purpose of lifting water to irrigate the fertile fields of this ten meter terrace.

Half way in altitude between the high seated old terraces and the modern ten meter terrace, is a terrace in 50-100 meters altitude above the present level of the river. This terrace is by far the most conspicuous feature of the T'ao valley. Especially on the east side of the river it can be followed continuously for tens of li, and it forms a sharp demarkation-line between two contrasting agricultural regions: below this terrace the modern river bed (including the ten meter terrace) with richly fertile irrigation land, and, at the top of this 50-100 meter terrace cliff, a vast expanse of nearly level, but now deeply dissected land where only dry farming is possible. Physiographically this terrace is so remarkably similar to the somewhat lower Ma Lan terrace which I have distinguished as one of the outstanding physiographic features in the Western hills of Peking, that I have not hesitated to designate this main terrace of the T'ao valley by the same term. Because of the great distance between the two regions it must not however be taken for granted that the Ma Lan terraces of the Peking western hills and the 50-100 meter terrace of the T'ao valley are exactly contemporaneous.

It is on the dissected edge of this Ma Lan terrace that we find most of the sites in the Huang Ho, Hsining Ho and T'ao Ho valleys. Pl. XII, fig. 1 illustrating a Hsin Tien site in the T'ao valley, shows a typical instance of this kind of ancient habitations. In addition to the sites which are situated on the edge of this Ma Lan terrace there are others located on lower terrace formations, and in Kueite Hsien some sites were found quite close down to the present river courses. From these observations we can infer that the present topography is in its main features much the same as at the time when the Yang Shao people inhabited the region about five thousand years ago. It is quite likely that some of the ravines cut in the Ma Lan terrace are at least partly of younger age and that locally even the front of the terrace has been reduced by lateral erosion of the river. But as a whole the topography is at present much the same as in Yang Shao time. In several cases, as for instance the Hui Tsui site, Pl. XII. fig. 1, it is apparent that isolated islands of the once continuous Ma Lan terrace plain were selected for those early settlements because the surrounding deep and steep-walled gullies offered excellent protection against attack.

I want to lay special stress upon this fact because in the Yang Shao Tsun area in Honan the conditions are different. Sites like Yang Shao and Pu Chao Chai were formed upon a gently undulating plain with shallow water courses, and only after the culture strata were deposited did a period of vertical erosion set in, which dissected the sites with ravines of more than 40 meters in depth.

With the new experience from Kansu I would feel inclined not to draw too far reaching conclusions from the observations at Yang Shao Tsun and Pu Chao Chai. It might happen that continued research in Honan will in other parts of the province reveal sites of Yang Shao age in topographic environments like those just recorded from Kansu.

The grave field of Ssu Shih Ting (四時定). In Tao Ho Hsien, just opposite the hsien city on the west side of the T'ao river, there is a grave field of the Hsin Tien stage which topographically offers considerable interest. Mountainous hills consisting of the Kueite red beds rise here to something like 300-400 meters above the river, and from these hills some short, steeply sloping spurs project so far that their river front is subject to continued lateral erosion by the river. Along one of these sloping spur crests we found a grave field, the higher part of which is 76 meters above the river. The place is not very easily accessible, it is bordered on the east by the river cliff, on the west by the steep mountain slope and on the north and south by steep-walled gullies. It is a position swept by wind and bathed in sunshine, and the visitor can hardly doubt that the people of the Hsin Tien stage selected this desolate spot for their burials because of the commanding view which it offers over the T'ao valley.

In this respect the Ssu Shih Ting grave field forms a transition from the typical sites at the edge of the Ma Lan terrace to the high seated mountain grave fields which will be mentioned under the following heading.

Grave fields of the Pan Shan (半山) area. On the west side of the T'ao valley in Ning Ting Hsien there is on some dominating hill tops of the dissected peneplane a group of grave fields of the Yang Shao stage (Pl. XII, fig. 2). They are all situated to the north of a deep ravine named Pa Yang Kou (八羊溝) and opening in the T'ao valley. The whole group has been named by me the Pan Shan area from the Pan Shan (半山) hill which carries one of the grave fields. Pien Chia Kou (邊家溝), another hill top with a grave field, is situated 1,750 meters E of Pan Shan, Wang Chia Kou (王家溝) is situated 2,100 m. N of Pan Shan and Wa Kuan Tsui (瓦罐嘴) 1,875 m. SW of the first mentioned central

point. As already indicated, all these four grave fields are located on the tops of hills which are remnants of the old peneplane surface 400 meters above the Pa Yang Kou ravine and about 450 m above the nearby T'ao river. The Pan Shan and Pien Chia Kou grave fields are located on small hill tops, but the Wa Kuan Tsui site extends far down on the steep southwards facing slope of the Pa Yang Kou ravine.

All these ancient burial places have a very dominating location with a free view of fifty li range or more in every direction, and there can hardly be any doubt that the sites have been chosen because of their commanding position. We do not know the dwelling sites corresponding to these large grave-fields, but there is little doubt that they are to be looked for in the T'ao valley, probably on the Ma Lan terrace. If so, the dead were carried at least 15 li from their homes and to places situated about 400 meters above the village sites.

Sites in the desert W of Chenfan. Chen Fan Hsien is in the true sense of the word a large and flourishing desert oasis. A river fed from the Nan Shan slopes, not far from Liangchow flows in NE direction into the desert.

In the desert area west of Chenfan city a number of sites were found which all belong to one culture period, probably the youngest studied by me and named the Sha Ching stage after a village situated 30 li W of Chen Fan city. Three dwelling sites and two grave fields are all in an area largely covered by sand dunes which certainly are of much later date than the sites. However, as modern habitations are to be found at short distance from the sites, their occurrence in the dune area can hardly be counted as the proof of a marked change of climate after the Sha Ching time.

All the Sha Ching sites lie on absolutely level ground, and mud walls were found round all the dwelling sites of this stage.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FURNITURE OF THE KANSU CULTURAL STAGES.

Considering the fact, as best exhibited by Arne's comparative research on the painted pottery from Honan, that the early cultures studied by us offer comparatively little relationship to objects of early Chinese dynasties, but have very much in common with the Æneolithic cultures of the Near East, it has been found necessary to bring the larger part of our Kansu collections to Europe

for comparative study where full access is possible not only to libraries and museums, but also to the help and advice of the numerous European archæologists who have already, by correspondence, contributed most materially to the progress of our archæological research here in China.

The funds, by means of which the work in Kansu was carried out, were raised in my home country by a research Committee headed by H. R. H. the Crownprince of Sweden, as already acknowledged in the introduction to this paper. In return for this help the Chinese Government has granted to that Committee a share in the collections. For this reason the Swedish archæological state museum has offered me the necessary facilities, and this museum, Statens Historiska Museum, Stockholm, will become my scientific headquarter for the next year or until the preparation and study of the material has been entrusted to a number of expert collaborators.

Before the collection was sent to Sweden, a representative set was selected to serve in the museum of the Geological Survey of China as illustrations of our Kansu finds, while awaiting the return from Sweden of the much fuller material, which will be available for exhibition when the whole collection has been described. The present preliminary paper will so far as the description of the furniture is concerned be based in large part upon this collection which is now on exhibit in the Museum of the Geological Survey.

The cultural stages met with in Kansu will hereafter be described in the order, which, as shown in the following chapter, is most likely that of their succession.

The Ch'i Chia stage: This stage is represented by a number of small finds, as for instance the Hsin Tien C finding place in T'ao Sha Hsien, and by a very considerable deposit, the Ch'i Chia P'ing site in Ning Ting Hsien, from which place the stage has derived its name. So far only dwelling sites of this stage have been found, and its burial furniture remains for the present unknown.

The stone implements of this stage are very much the same as those of the Yang Shao period, comprising chiefly polished stone axes and knives. There are also pointed bone instruments of different types.

The ceramics of the Ch'i Chia stage are practically all monochrome, and three main types can be distinguished.

I: Pottery of grey ware with mat-impression or impressed basket pattern resembling the surface of some vessels described by me from the Yang Shao sites of Honan (compare *An Early Chinese Culture*, Pl. XVI, fig. I & 7.).

II: Pottery of grey ware much resembling the preceding group, but collar and handles, sometime also a large part of the vessel are decorated in beautifully executed impressed pattern (Pl. V. fig. 1 & 2) of a type which very closely resembles, and might eventually be found to be related to the "Kamm-Keramik" of northern Europe and Siberia (compare for instance Ailio: Fragen der russischen Steinzeit, Zeitschrift der finnischen Altertumsgesellschaft. XXIX: 1, Figures 14 & 15).

III: A remarkable, elegantly shaped, thin-walled vase of a light greyish yellow ware (Pl. V, Fig. 3). It is a high-collared vase with smooth surface and two large handles, the whole somewhat resembling the *amphora* of the Greek and Roman antique. The specimens of this amphora-like vase which we have encountered in our excavations are comparatively small, but much larger specimens have been obtained by purchase.

The Yang Shao stage: Of this period we have met in Kansu with numerous sites, both dwelling places and grave yards.

The stone and bone furniture of these sites is on the whole so similar to that of Honan that it will suffice to call attention to certain differences in detail. A striking fact is that arrow points, which are quite common in Honan, and are there executed in several varied materials (slate, bone, mussel-shells) were exceedingly rare in Kansu.

Beads and pendants which are very rare in Honan are numerous in Kansu, and in this respect as well as in some other features there is closer relationship between the Kansu Yang Shao and the findings in the Sha Kuo T'un cave in Fengtien than with the sites in Honan.

An interesting fact is the occurrence in one of the grave fields of some cut pieces and even Yuan rings of jade of a type which we are accustomed to ascribe to Khotan in Chinese Turkestan. Apart from the light which this remarkable find seems to throw upon the trade connections of the Neolithic inhabitants of Kansu, it is surprising that these people who, as far as we know, lacked metal, were able to cut these thin rings from such a hard stone.

In the Kansu sites we found a few specimens of a group of implements which were never encountered in Honan, namely knives of bone, provided with a cutting edge, which was produced by inserting thin flint-flakes in a groove in the edge of the implement (Fig. 1).

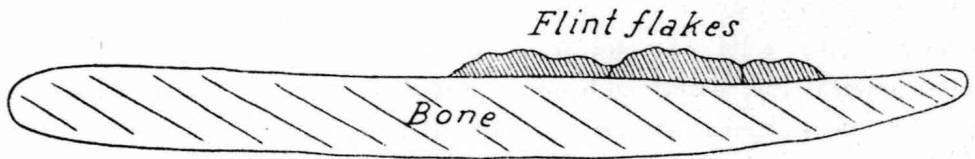


Fig. 1. Bone-knife with cutting edge formed by inserted flint-flakes. Yang Shao stage. Hsi Ning Hsien, Chu Chia Chai. Half nat. size.

第一圖：仰韶期之骨刀，其切口乃燧石薄片所嵌成，（見西寧縣朱家寨，照原式縮小二分之一）

The ceramics of the Kansu Yang Shao differ from those of Honan in that the coarse monochrome pottery is much less abundant and that tripods of the Ting and Li types are missing or at any rate exceedingly rare.

The painted pottery of the dwelling sites is very closely related to that of Honan, though the color of the ware is paler than the beautiful deep red of the pot sherds from the type locality Yang Shao Tsun. The painting is much of the same designs as on the Honan bowls etc., but a new feature is that in Kansu many household vessels are also painted on the inside.

In the graves of Yang Shao Tsun we found a very poor burial furniture. In the Kansu graves were discovered large and gorgeously decorated sepulture vessels (Pl. VI-VIII) which certainly belong to the most marvellous products of the Neolithic ceramic art. The patterns are very varied, only a small selection being represented in our plates. However, in nearly all these varied designs there is one motive which reoccurs with striking persistence, namely a

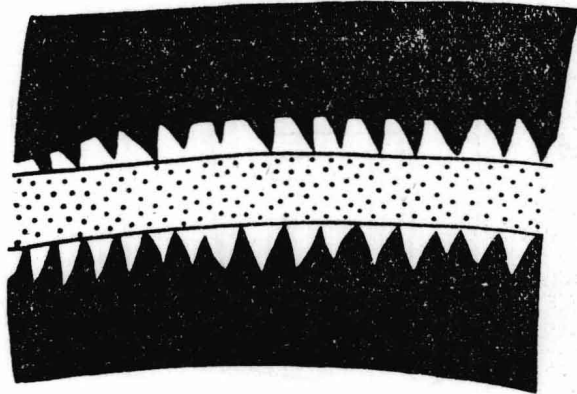


Fig. 2. The "death pattern", a design reoccurring upon most of the funeral urns of the Yang Shao stage. A red band (dotted) surrounded by two black bands with saw-like indentations. Nat. size.

第二圖：仰韶期之葬紋，為殉葬陶甕上所常見之圖案，乃一種紅色條紋，外加夾黑色之鋸齒紋二道。（原式）