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Part 6
Prehistoric Pottery from the Marv Dasht Plain, Iran

by

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The Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition, headed by the late Professor Namio Egami, carried out three seasons of excavations in the Marv Dasht plain, southwestern Iran, from 1956 to 1965 (Fig. 1). Their excavations yielded a large pottery collection uniquely derived from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods of this part of Iran. The pottery specimens documented in this catalogue represent a selection of those generously granted by the then Directorate-General of Archaeological Service of Iranian Government to the University of Tokyo. They include replicas of the specimens stored at the Teheran Museum as well.

The excavations took place at the following sites, all prehistoric mounds situated in the vicinity of Persepolis (Fig. 2).

1956: Tall-i Bakun A, and Tall-i Bakun B
1965: Tall-i Mushki

One of the major contributions made by the Japanese excavations was revision of the chronology suggested for this plain by the previous investigators, notably by L. Vanden Berghe, a Belgium archaeologist in the 1950s. As Fig. 3 shows, the pottery occurrences at these sites consist of all the known cultural entities of Mushki to Bakun, covering a long uninterrupted sequence of nearly two millennia.

The ways of documenting the specimens in this catalogue follow the previous volume (Y. Nishiaki, Rart 5: Prehistoric Pottery from Telal eth-Thalathat, Iraq, 2000). Plates and descriptive data are presented according to sites in the order defined in Fig. 3, and in principle by chronologically preceding ones earlier within each site group. The descriptive data incorporates unpublished information on pottery provenance. An index by specimen numbers is attached to the end of the present volume.

Details of the Japanese excavations and their finds, including the typological description of the pottery, will be found in the following publications.

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