

PART II
THE CORPUS OF THE SCULPTURES
Catalogue and Photographic Documentation

INTRODUCTION*

The field research

The first information regarding stelae and rock sculptures with a Buddhist subject came from A.E. Caddy's fieldwork in the Malakand Agency (Caddy 1896), followed by A. Stein's reconnaissance carried out in Buner in 1898 (Stein 1898; Id. 1899).¹ Stein nevertheless believed he could identify a "purely Hindu character" in these works (Stein 1899: 14). He himself, with hindsight, then recognised the Buddhist nature of these monuments after the extremely important inspection he carried out in the Swat Valley in 1926 (Stein 1930), the starting point for all the subsequent archaeological and historical research conducted in the region. Without overlooking the research carried out by E. Barger and Ph. Wright in 1938 (Barger and Wright 1941), it was necessary to wait for the year 1956 before new and important data became available on these monuments. The inspection carried out by G. Tucci that year (Tucci 1958) may be said to have marked the beginning of the study and interest focused on these monuments. Between the late 1950s and early 1960s, the archaeologists of the Italian Archaeological Mission (hereafter MAI) carried out research in this field, in particular in the Saidu Valley (e.g. Taddei 1962). A first systematic reconnaissance was performed in 1964-1965 in the Jambil Valley by E. Cimmino and P. Guj, during the work that led to the compiling of the archaeological map of the Jambil Valley (Faccenna 1980-1981: pls. 1, 2; Faccenna *et al.* 1993: pl. XXIX). An important contribution to the study of these monuments came, in the late 1960s, from the publication of the results of the research carried out by A. H. Dani in the neighbouring district of Dir and the Malakand Agency (Dani 1968-69a). In the 1980s, the research continued and was expressed in the form of reports or specific finds both in Swat and in the surrounding areas (Callieri 1985, Callieri 1986, Callieri 1990, Taddei 1985).

In 1987 Domenico Faccenna decided to undertake, as a research project, the comprehensive survey of these monuments, both those still *in situ* and the ones preserved in museums and collections, also including archival data.

A preliminary inspection of the rock carvings was then made in the autumn of 1987. In spring 1989 an intensive reconnaissance was carried out over a period of about three months. Further reconnaissances were performed in 1990-1993, 2004, 2006, and 2010-2011. Our fieldwork was based extensively on the previous reconnaissances by the MAI, the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM) and others in the Swat Valley and neighbouring areas.

Particular interest was focused on the study of the location of the surveys in the territory and on the attempt to come up with a functional interpretation. As mentioned earlier, the autumn 1987 reconnaissance was preliminary in nature and served to frame the reconnaissance problem in its various aspects, ranging from topography to catalogue type and photographic documentation.

During the spring 1989 reconnaissance, an initial census and documentation was made of monuments (some of which already known) located in valleys that were well known from previous work: the Jambil and Saidu Valleys. Consideration was later given to the Ugad Valley (N of Jambil). After the exploration of the valleys of these three tributaries of the left bank of the Swat, the reconnaissance was then focused on the left side and subsequently on the right side of the Swat Valley as far as the Chakdarra area.

Following P. Callieri's research work in Puran (Callieri 1985), it was endeavoured to verify whether the sculptured monuments of the type under investigation might be located in the vicinity of the ancient communi-

* The Introduction and the geographic data for each area are by Luca M. Olivieri (LMO), while the description of each monument is the work of Anna Filigenzi (AF)

¹ Caddy's fieldwork has been examined in Olivieri 2015 (documents 6 and 42, the latter with commentary), and Behrendt (*ibid.*, Appendix 1).

cations routes and in particular of the mountain passes linking Swat and Buner (along the southern watershed), Puran, and the upper reaches of the Indus (eastern watershed; Callieri 1985: 205-206, pl. VII; Callieri 1990: 120; Faccenna *et al.* 1993: 137). The most important mountain passes in this sense are those situated at the end of the valleys of Saidu (principally the Moi-kandao, 2195 masl), Jambil (Kalel-kandao, 1946 masl), and Ugad (Bar-kandao, 2669 masl). In this connection research was carried out (1990-92) in all these areas, with a further extension to the area N of Bar-kandao, along the Rani-sar range, and on the southernmost passes of the so-called “Buddhist roads” (in particular from the S: Cherat-kandao, 1013 masl; Morah-kandao, 1175 masl), leading into the Mardan area, as well as on the extremely important Karakar-kandao (1236 masl). Subsequently (1993) archaeologists turned their attention to several zones situated beyond these passes, specifically Buner and Puran (Olivieri 1994; followed by Saeed-ur-Rehman 1996), where rock reliefs had actually been reported in the past (Stein 1898, Callieri 1985).

While we were concentrating our efforts on these areas outside the Swat valley, Pakistani colleagues continued the research in Swat proper, a fact that eventually led to the discovery of various new monuments (Ashraf Khan 1996c; Sardar 2003, 2004-2005, 2005; see fn. 3).

The last steps of our reconnaissance were carried out in 2004, 2006, and 2010. The two campaigns in 2004 and 2006 fortuitously led – in the framework of the Archaeological Map of the Swat Valley Project (AMSV)² – to the discovery of previously unknown carvings in the areas of Manyar (Tindo-dag) and Arabkhan-china (Jambil). Finally, more newly discovered stelae were documented in 2010.³

In our documentation fieldwork we were assisted by members of the MAI staff, namely Mr Dowar Khan (1989), Mr Aziz-u-Rahman (1989), Mr Akhtar Manir (2000-2010), Mr Shafiq Ahmad (2006-2010), and the late Mr Zamani (1987) and Mr Fazal Wahid (1991-1992).

As shown by the catalogue, it was found that the majority of the rock monuments were situated in the immediate vicinity of the sacred areas, or along the paths accessing them. In no case (except for the Spinubo stela S105; II: Figs. 105a,b,c) were they found at any great distance from the places of worship, and certainly not along the ridges or in the vicinity of the mountain passes. This is without doubt of considerable significance. It must also be considered significant that rock monuments were not found in all the known sacred areas of Swat (not, for instance, in Abbasaheb-china, Tokar-dara, Najigram, Nawagai, Nimogram, or Gumbatuna, to mention only the most important ones; see Olivieri and Vidale 2006). The area of diffusion of the rock sculptures is restricted to the principal valleys around the Mingora area; the more outlying finds of reliefs and stelae (at the present state of our knowledge) seem more like fragments of a rather circumscribed phenomenon than further centres of diffusion (for instance, at Parrai, Damkot, Mane-tangai, or several areas in Buner and Puran). As far as stela S105 (Spinubo) is concerned, the fact that it was found outside its specific context, in an advanced stage of processing inside the quarry from which the stone slab was extracted, demonstrates that the production of these sculptures must have been linked to a complex system (commissioning-quarrying-processing-transport in the case of the stelae; commissioning-processing in the case of the reliefs) that implied an economic life in the centres of worship that was neither static nor recessive.

² The AMSV project is currently directed by L.M. Olivieri and M. Vidale, but the project was first conceived in the late 1950s by Domenico Faccenna. A first form of the project was attempted in the early 1960s with the reconnaissance of E. Cimmino and P. Guj for the archaeological map of the Jambil Valley (Faccenna 1980-1981: pls. 1, 2; Faccenna *et al.* 1993: pl. XXIX; see above). The first AMSV phase was completed in 2006 and published in Olivieri and Vidale 2006.

³ The first catalogue of this class of sculptures was attempted by Badshah Sardar 2005. The MAI specialists also contributed to this catalogue with data and photographs concerning the MAI collection in Saidu Sharif. However, Sardar’s work exhibits many gaps (documentation technique, photographic standards, and basic data) that unfortunately undermine its otherwise extremely useful documentary value. Nonetheless we refer to it when necessary. By the end of the MAI research in 2010 the following papers had already been published: Ashraf Khan 1994; Filigenzi 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2000-2001, 2003, 2010a; Olivieri 1993, 1994, 2003; Humera Alam and Olivieri 2011. Moreover, 2010 saw the publication of the first preliminary catalogue of the coeval Buddhist rock sculptures of Ladakh (Dorjay 2010).

Methodology

The reconnaissance results are set out on the following GSP maps (scale 1:50.000): 38 N/14, 43 A/8; 43 B/1, 2, 5, 6, 9 (2nd edition). It should, however, be borne in mind that at the time of the first reconnaissances (i.e. until 1992) these publications were not available, as Swat was considered a restricted area. The fieldwork was therefore initially dependent on partial mapping supports (Stein 1930: map 1; Tucci 1958: 287; Faccenna 1980-1981: pls. 2a, XXIX), and then on the general map elaborated by C. Faccenna on the basis of the available GSP maps, further elaborated by S. D'Acchille in Spagnesi 2006. Subsequently, the data were fed into a database interfaced with a GIS georeferenced system based on available GSP and satellite data. The digitising of the mapping and Landsat photo-satellite data was performed first by S. Laurenza (Vidale and Laurenza 2005) and then by E. Morigi as part of the AMSV Project directed by M. Vidale and L.M. Olivieri (Olivieri and Vidale 2006).

The final maps published here (Maps 1, 2) were developed by the University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research, in the framework of the FWF Stand-alone Project P 21902 "The cultural history of Uddiyana 4th to 5th century CE", held by A. Filigenzi. They visualise all the relevant thematic data so far available, based on various geographic data and map sources, both of recent and older acquisition.

No specific data form was devised for recording data during the reconnaissance; however, account was taken of the indications provided by the MBBCCAA/CNR concerning the data structure of the archaeological monument data sheet (Parise Badoni and Ruggeri 1988). Wherever possible, special attention was focused on lithological analysis. The latter was performed by S. Lorenzoni and E. Zanettin Lorenzoni (Geomineralogical Department, Bari University) who monitored the archaeological reconnaissance in the field (Faccenna C. *et al.* 1993) and later by P. Rockwell, who also analysed the sculpture techniques used (see for example Rockwell 2006). Lastly, as far as photographic documentation was concerned, consideration was given to the peculiar nature of these monuments, situated as they often are in mountain areas and in sometimes inaccessible places. They have not always been well preserved and, as they are mostly carved on rock surfaces, present particular photographic problems relating to their exposure to sunlight, which in some cases emphasises them and in others conceals them.

When illustrating the position of all the monuments mentioned in the literature or documented during our reconnaissances with reference to their geographic and archaeological context, the order followed was that of the reconnaissance, discovery, and documentation of the principal areas: Mingora, with the related Jambil and Saidu Valleys; and Manglaor, with the Shaldara-tangai, Landai, Ugad, and Charbagh Valleys. The valleys of the tributaries were documented by following their courses upstream from the zones of greater concentration, first on the right bank and then on the left bank. The Swat River area was surveyed in a downstream direction, first the left bank (where the majority of sites were reported) and then the right bank. Lastly, the Buner and Puran areas were explored, though in a non-systematic way.

The monuments *in situ* and the stelae of ascertained provenance are illustrated in the first section. The monuments are broken down by area, by valley, by site, and then by individual location. For each valley the general bibliography is given, and for each monument the specific bibliography. Wherever possible, it has also been attempted to achieve a positive association between the monuments (or sites) and the individual sacred areas. When possible, the data sheets include a topographic reference to the site. Geographic coordinates, map references, AMSV nos. and the bibliography are given for each site (not for each monument); each monument is identified by an inventory number preceded by an acronym in capitals specifying whether it is a relief (C) or a stela (S),⁴ and, for the stelae, by the present location (SM, PM, MNAOR, or MAI Headquarters).⁵ Any missing information is conventionally indicated with [information] *vacat*.

⁴ The cross-references between AMSV nos., Inventory Repertory nos., MAI Inventory nos., Figure nos. and Maps in this text are illustrated by Tabs. 1-2. Preliminary inventory nos. and serial nos. have been used during our fieldwork and are mentioned in different MAI documents, like survey logs, draft maps, etc.

⁵ For these abbreviations, see the list given at p. 13.

The Catalogue refers principally to the data sheets compiled by the MAI during the surveys from 1987 to 1992 with the addition of finds made in 2004-2006 and 2010. It also includes the reliefs and stelae recorded and photographed in the past and subsequently lost: these monuments will have their own Inv. Rep., accompanied by the indication *vacat*. The Catalogue will therefore not provide a detailed analysis of the reliefs reported by other authors for which the original photographic documentation is not available or whose analytical data could not be verified. However, these monuments are mentioned in the topographic analysis referring to each area and assigned with their own Inv. Rep. no., basic description, and bibliography. In this way the quantitative census may be said to be complete as far as the current state of research is concerned.⁶ In the second section of the Catalogue all the Swat stelae conserved in museums or collections of which the provenance is unknown will be presented. Wherever possible the location will be followed by the relative bibliography. As it refers to Swat *strictu sensu*, the Catalogue does not include the so-called monuments of Dir⁷ (Middle Swat, lower section), Buner, and Puran, which were published separately (Dani 1968-69a, Ashraf Khan 1994, Olivieri 1994).⁸ With reference to these areas, the Appendix at the end of the Catalogue will give only the geographic information, while their monuments will receive an Inv. Rep. number, again for the purpose of numerical completeness.

Inv. Rep. numbers are not in serial sequence.

The Photographic Inventory follows the Catalogue's order: to each monument is given a single Fig. no.; in case more than one photograph is published for the same monuments, the individual Fig. no. is followed by an alphabetic letter (example: Fig. 2; Fig. 5a; Figs. 7a,b).

Additional notes⁹

“Lotus” or “lotiform throne”: unless otherwise specified, this refers to the most common form – tall, with rows of petals at the base and projecting cushion at the top; the variants, if any, are indicated.

The Padmapāṇi lotus: this always has a long stem. “Type a” is the most common form: undulating stem, first corolla fully opened and viewed in profile, which reveals the closed second corolla concealing the pistil, facing in the direction of the bodhisattva's face. Any variants are specified. The lotus (although present) is not mentioned when it is insufficiently well conserved to identify the type with any certainty.

“Central hem of *p.*”: circular, with inner hem falling vertically, with crenellated points.

Measurements are given in centimeters, in the following order: height, width, depth. The latter is not always given, particularly if the relief is badly worn; measurements given in parentheses generally indicate the height of the figure without nimbus.

Modern toponyms are transliterated without diacritical marks.

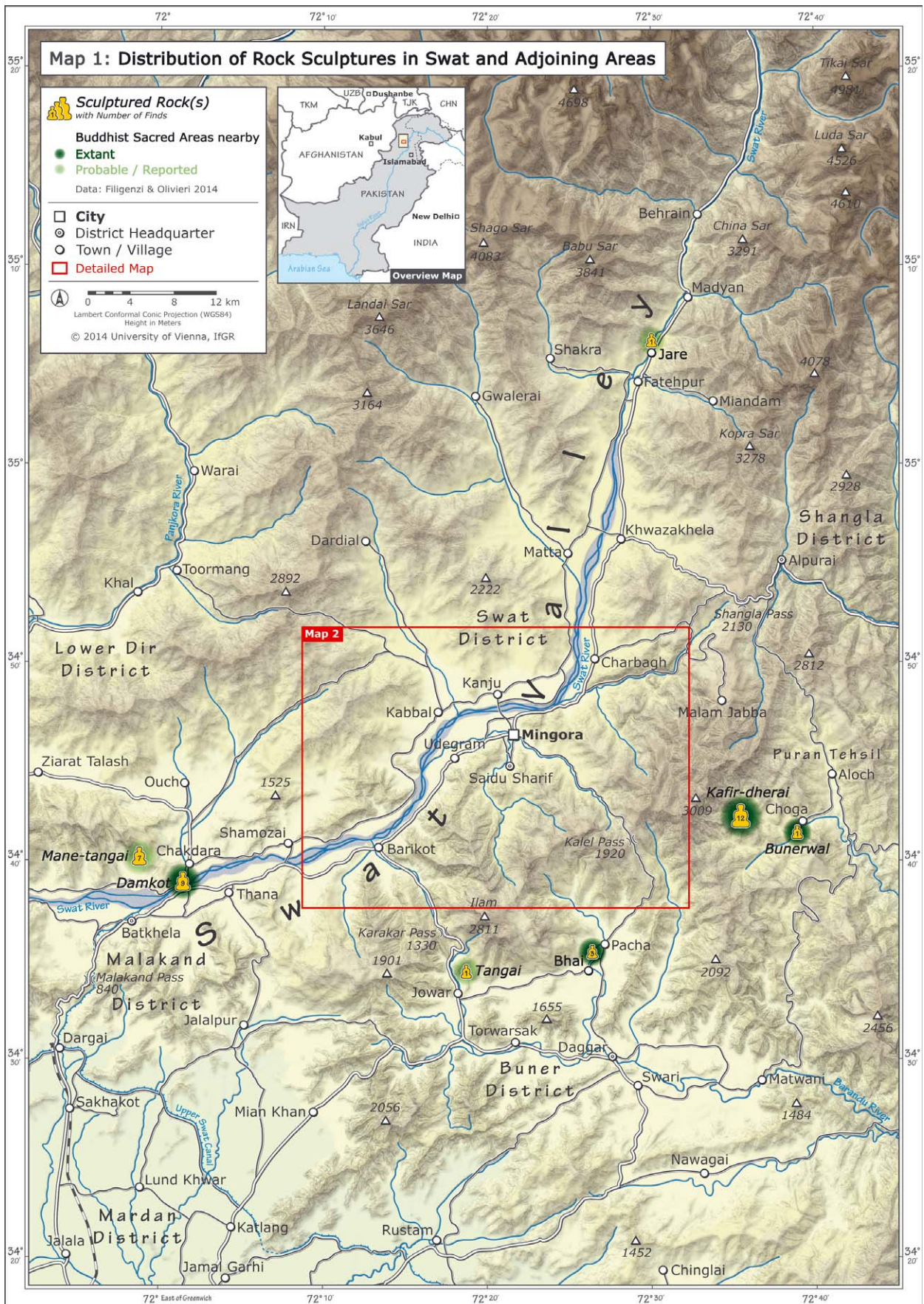
Photographs and metadata, unless otherwise indicated, were taken by L. M. O. during his fieldwork.

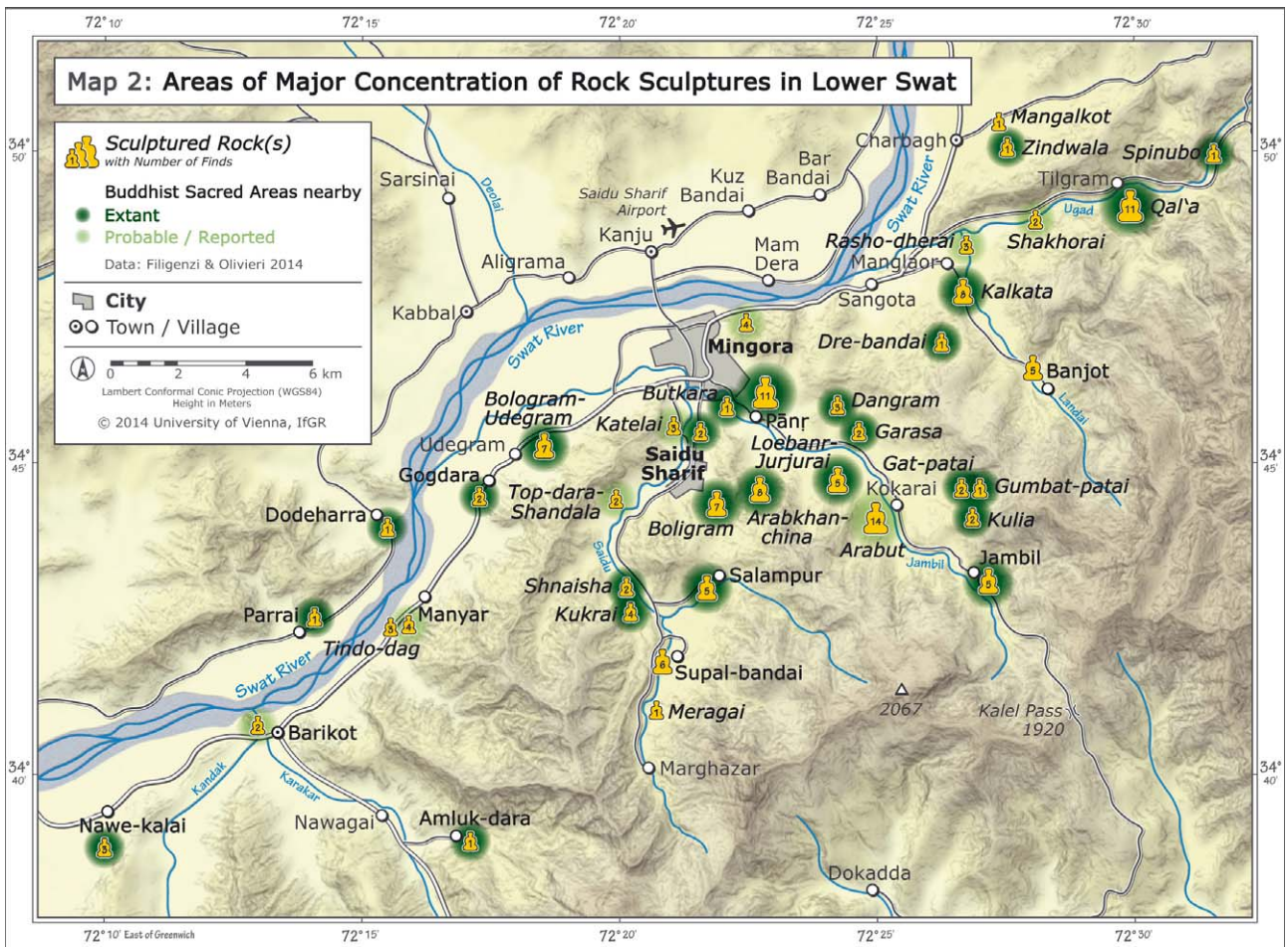
⁶ For their topographic location, see Map 2.

⁷ Actually they have been found in the Malakand Agency, not in the Dir District.

⁸ For their topographic location, see Map 1.

⁹ For the terminology used, we refer to Faccenna and Filigenzi 2007.





Name (Map)	Inv. Rep. No.
Amluk-dara (2)	C119
Arabkhan-china (2)	C28-34, C41
Arabut (2)	S40, S42-46, C47-48, S49, C50, S146, S189, C190, S197
Banjot (2)	C87-91
Barikot (2)	C117-118
Bhai (1)	C162-163, C198
Boligram (2)	C51-57
Bologram-Udegram (2)	C108-112, S124, S186
Bunerwal (1)	C164
Butkara (2)	C27
Damkot (1)	C148-153, C203-205
Dangram (2)	C16, S17-18
Dodeharra (2)	S181
Dre-bandai (2)	C76
Garasa (2)	C14-15
Gat-patai (2)	C19-20
Gogdara (2)	C113-114
Gumbat-patai (2)	S23
Jambil (2)	C24-25, C199, S26, S187
Jare (1)	C107
Kafir-dherai (1)	C165-176
Kalkata (2)	C79-84, S85, C86
Katelai (2)	C67, S68, C188

Name (Map)	Inv. Rep. No.
Kukrai (2)	C72-74, S75
Kulia (2)	C21-22
Loebanr-Jurjurai (2)	C35, S36-39
Mane-tangai (1)	C154-160
Mangalkot (2)	S141
Manyar (2)	C182-185
Meragai (2)	C66
Mingora (2)	C1-4
Nawe-kalai (2)	C120-122
Pānṛ (2)	C5-11, S12-13, C177-178
Parrai (2)	C123
Qal'a (2)	C94-104
Rasho-dherai (2)	C77-78, S132
Saidu Sharif (2)	S125, S192
Salampur (2)	C58-59, S60-61, C62
Shakhorai (2)	C92-93
Shnaisha (2)	C71, S179
Spinubo (2)	S105
Supal-bandai (2)	C63-65, C193-195
Tangai (1)	C161
Tindo-dag (2)	C115-116, C180
Top-dara/Shandala (2)	S69-70
Zindwala (2)	S106

