

*Harappan Terracottas in the Collection of the National Museum*, National Museum, Vedams (New Delhi 2003)

By Deo Prakash Sharma

Contents: Preface. 1. Introduction. 2. Harappan terracottas. 3. Male figurines. 4. Female figurines. 5a. Animal figurines. 5b. Bird figurines. 6a. List of terracotta figurines from the sites in Pakistan. 6b. List of terracotta figurines from the sites in India. 7. Plates. 8. References.

From the Preface: "The present book on Harappan terracotta documents rare figurines in the collection of the National Museum, New Delhi.

Beginning with an introduction to the Harappan Civilization. The next chapter introduces the Harappan terracottas, its technique of making, colour treatment and method of firing etc. The third chapter describes the male terracotta figurines and the fourth chapter is on female terracotta figurines. The study shows that the female figurines outnumber the male figurines and on this basis it could be concluded that the Harappan society was matriarchal. The female figurines have thin waists, broad-hips with a loincloth and girdle and are adorned with a series of necklaces and head-ornaments. The over-ornamental female figurines, which were found at places of worship, were regarded as Mother-goddesses. The subsequent chapters deal with the animal and bird figurines. Among the terracotta animal figurines bull is predominant. The bulls without hump from Mohenjodaro and Kalibangan, the bulls with moveable head from Mohenjodaro and Lothal and unicorns from Chanhudaro are of special attraction. The birds include figurines like man holding a duck, mythical bird with wheel, bird in cage, peacocks and hens, which are of unique artistic value. Under Chapter VI A and VI B are given the list of terracotta from the sites of Pakistan and India respectively."