

# Chogha Mish and Chogha Bonut

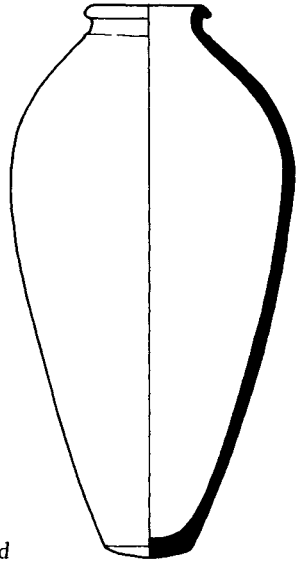
*Helene J. Kantor*

The expedition has again been prevented from returning to the field by conditions beyond its control. Thus, instead of new discoveries, this year it can only report on progress with the preparation of publications in Chicago. The analysis and the presentation of the data are sometimes frustratingly time-consuming. Eventually, however, the elements fall into place. For example, recent analysis has brought out clearly that Chogha Mish makes important contributions to the archeology of Iron Age Iran, even though the expedition's emphasis has always been on the study of early stages of development—the Protoliterate period and the preceding prehistoric phases. Pottery and other evidence to be published in the forthcoming OIP 101 indicate that Chogha Mish, after having been uninhabited since the abandonment of the Elamite fortress of the early second millennium B.C., was settled about the middle of the first millennium B.C. by people whose pottery was not of Late Elamite type. Rather, their vessels belonged to the ceramic tradition known in the highland areas of Iran from the late second mil-



*A cylinder seal of the Achaemenid-Persian period showing a kneeling archer shooting at a wild goat*

IV-168 (J23, Grave 28, 1,49 B.S.)



*A jar of the Achaemenid-Persian period*

lennium B.C. and usually assumed to be linked with the spread of Iranian groups who eventually founded the Median and Achaemenid kingdoms. The date at which Iranians began to settle in the lowland Susiana (Khuzestan) area is a much discussed historical question; the Chogha Mish materials are contributing important evidence to its solution.

Before archeological evidence can be utilized for such cultural and historical reconstructions, the data must be recorded in minute detail. The records and drawings from many seasons, as one works with them in Chicago, remind one vividly of the expedition members who prepared them. Particularly prominent in the sherd-list books and registers of Chogha Mish is the handwriting of Miss Johanne Vindenäs. After she retired from her long years as head of the Oriental Institute library, she joined the Chogha Mish expedition and entered upon a new career as an archeological field registrar. She set us an untiring example, whether in the house, where after a long day she could hardly be dislodged from her work late in the evenings, or on the mound, where she gallantly huddled under an umbrella to complete last-minute sherd recording despite rain and the lightning striking in a nearby field. For the great body of archeological work which she accomplished, and for the patience, cheerfulness, and friendship which added so much to our life in the field, the Chogha Mish expedition owes Miss Vindenäs an immeasurable debt which it can only acknowledge, but never repay.