

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Belonging as he does to the famous centre of Indian archaeology founded by my old friend Professor Dr H. D. Sankalia, Dr Paddayya hardly needs to be introduced. During the year he spent in the Netherlands he showed me a copy in typescript of the thesis on the basis of which he received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Poona in 1968. After reading the manuscript I suggested that it might be a good idea to publish part of it in book-form as more scholars would then be able to make use of his interesting material.

The present publication confines itself to that part of the thesis which deals with the Neolithic culture of the southern Deccan. Basing himself on his excavations at Kodekal, the author gives a regional survey of the Southern Neolithic complex in the Shorapur Doab dealing with all its various aspects, including the external contacts with other areas. Not only did Dr Paddayya's excavation produce the earliest C-14 date known so far for a Neolithic site, but during his field-work he also discovered nine new habitation sites and seven ashmounds. The latter play an important role in the archaeology of the southern Deccan and we now know that they definitely belong to the Neolithic period. However, they still form a vexed problem and Dr Paddayya therefore reviews the various theories suggested by several scholars. It is hoped that the publication of his work will further the investigations in this, as well as the many other problems of South Indian archaeology which still await solution.

This book appears in the series "Studies in South Asian Culture" published by the Institute of South Asian Archaeology of the University of Amsterdam at the happy occasion of the Second International Conference of the Association for the Promotion of South Asian Archaeology in Western Europe, which will take place in the Institute in the first week of July 1973. We sincerely hope that this third volume in our series may be a modest contribution to the work of the small dedicated band of South Asian archaeologists who are trying to unravel the many unsolved problems of Indian archaeology.

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