# Trial Trenches at Kojtepa, Samarkand Area (Sogdiana) (Seventh Interim Report 2015) 

Bruno Genito, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"
Mukhtar Pardaev, Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan

## Introduction

The Joint Uzbek-Italian archaeological activity of Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan - IAASU and Università degli Studi di Napoli - UNO, in Samarkand region, was aimed at detecting and investigating possible Achaemenid and postAchaemenid archaeological horizons in the area. The activities at Kojtepa after the first campaign in May-June of 2008 (Genito, Gricina 2009, 126-128) ${ }^{1}$, the second in June-July 2009 (Genito, Gricina 2010), the study activities in September 2010, continued with more ample seasons, the third in 2011 (June-July) (Abdullaev, Genito 2010-2011; Abdullaev, Genito 2012), the fourth in 2012 (AugustSeptember) (Abdullaev, Genito 2013) ${ }^{2}$, the fifth in 2013 (August-September) (Genito et alii 2014) the sixth in 2014 (August-September 2014) (Genito Pardaev 2015), and this last one, the seventh in 2015 (September-October 2015) ${ }^{3}$ through more extensive trial-trenches ${ }^{4}$.

[^0]According to the topographic results obtained by IAM of UNIBO, the city walls, though not still clearly identified, because partially cut through by modern agricultural activities ${ }^{5}$, are

Andrea Montella of UNO, who gave a further important contribution to the work, to Dr. Enzo Cocca (PhD and Research Fellow) who dedicated much time to the excavations and the innovative topographic 3D survey of the site, the workmen, and the driver Rahmatullo Rasulov. A special thank is also due to Mr. Davronbek Jurakulov for the precious help given to us in differing circumstances. Since the 2015 the activities in Uzbekistan have received the Attribuzione Riconoscimento Istituzionale per Missione Archeologica/Antropologica by the Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale on the basis of Art. no 5 of the Bando 2015, which here both are deeply thank.
${ }^{4}$ For the previous activity in the area and specially for the relationships between the Dargom and the other canals including Eski Ankhor, see Kabanov (1959, 154-174) Currently, after seven excavation seasons, the stratigraphic levels reached are no earlier than the first half of the 3rd century BC: Hellenistic period, the period of the "first phase nomadic" (Yuezhi) from the middle of the 2nd century. BC, terminal phase of this period with two periods of "decline", one related to the recycling purposes not more defensive area of the walls (the so-called Kushan period, although no trace evidently attributable to Kushan was ever actually identified in Sogdiana) and the other which would coincide with the last phase of occupation of the site (V-VI/ VII? century AD.). According to the proposed comparisons between the ceramic materials it can be considered that a part of the data from Kojtepa can reasonably be located in a period between the 1 st and 3rd century AD. Such a complex situation as that found in the previous periods can also be found in the one called "second nomadic phase", including, that is, the 4 th and 6 th centuries $A D$, in which the populations of Xionites, Kidarites Hephthalites could have been penetrated into the area of our interest (Genito, Gricina et alii 2009; Genito, Gricina et alii 2010; Abdullaev, Genito 2010-2011; Abdullaev, Genito et alii 2011; Genito, Raiano 2011, Abdullaev, Genito et alii 2012; Raiano 2012; Raiano 2013; Genito et alii 2014; Raiano 2014; Abdullaev, Genito eds, 2014; Raiano 2014 unpublished PhD Thesis). ${ }^{5}$ Kojtepa (Sheep Tepa), or Kendyk Tepa (Umbelicus Tepa) is an area 175 m long $\times$ 150 m wide $(26.250 \mathrm{mq}=2.62 \mathrm{ha})$ and the difference in the level from the top to the bottom is 9.94 m . The absolute quote is 697.30 a.s.l. The geographic coordinates of the site are $42 \mathrm{~N} 300099.77 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{E}, 4386573.90 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{~N}$ (UTM) and the geo-referencing system is WGS84 42N.
${ }^{5}$ Kojtepa (Sheep Tepa), or Kendyk Tepa (Umbelicus Tepa) is an area 175 m long $\times 150 \mathrm{~m}$ wide $(26.250 \mathrm{mq}=2.62 \mathrm{ha})$ and the difference in the level from the top to the bottom is 9.94 m . The absolute quote is 697.30 a.s.l. The geographic coordinates of the site are $42 \mathrm{~N} 300099.77 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{E}, 4386573.90$
very similar to a well-known settlement pattern of an urban system for towns in the ancient Samarkand and Ustrushana areas, in the historical and Hellenistic period.

The joint Uzbek/Italian team spent c. 4 weeks in the area (from 12th September to 12th October 2015), acting with the following new field operations ${ }^{6}$.

Among the others, the activities had the following main objectives, all aiming at investigating:

- the area of Trench no 9 between the main tepe and the north-eastern corner of the encircling wall on the top part and possibly along the northern half in order to check any internal consistency and layout, and a new East Extension;
- new Trenches: no 19, contiguous to North to Trench no 12 and to South-East of Trench no 13; no 20, to north of Trench no 19; no 21, to East of Trench no 20; no 22, to West of Trench 19; nos 23 and no 24 on the possible North-Western corner of the tepe;
- as much as dating material culture possible, in order to obtain a more detailed typological and possibly chronological stratigraphic differentiation;
- a 3D reconstruction of different areas of excavation


## Trench no 9

On the eastern side a $6 \times 5$ meters trench is open on the top part in order to better clarify the concrete extension and the structural vertical continuity of the wall/platform SU75 ${ }^{7}$.

The work focuses on the eastern part of the trench, always above SU75, deepening down to 15 cm . ( 8 cm thick per cutting). This cut gives confirmation of the presence of lines of $40 \times 40$ cm mud-bricks. north and south of this cut, there are some smaller and rectangular mud-bricks ( 10 $\times 50 \times 50 \mathrm{~cm}$ ); this new architectural layout is characterized by a grey-yellow colour, and a soft consistency.

More or less in the centre an hard and compact clay layer (SU404) is removed and some potsherds are found there. South-west of SU404 a mud brick line about 45 cm wide composed by regular and vertical positioned bricks, is now denominated as SU405 and it is once again put in relationship with an analogue row of vertically located mud bricks in the

[^1]southern part. These two rectangular shaped area with vertically located bricks, though not symmetrically positioned, probably represent a sort of the limits of the structure/platform to south and north (Fig. 1).

To north a new unit SU407 which looks like a small pit contains some burnt potsherds, among which a fragmented painted high necked jar (Fig. 2) (Inv. Object 0248, no 2), and two other fragmentary vessels one above the others. Other pottery fragments are located inside. Still it is not clear in particular the reason of such a concentration of pottery fragments, a situation absolutely unique in the entire Trench no 9 and all its extensions since the beginning (Fig. 3).

After cleaning operations on SU406, in the eastern area, a terracotta figurine, not far from the segmented profile of the mud brick structure, with the representation of a Venus pudica (Fig. 4) (Inv. Object 0236) is found out.

To south-west of SU420, SU405, which has given evidence to have bricks vertically located, seems to be over a rather soft layer of soil which most probably could not constitute its base.

In the northern half, along the western border of the Trench two new SU414 (an almost circular lens) and SU415 (a very irregular outline), is identified and topographically positioned; these layers close to SU405 and SU407 are constituted by a very hard compactness, but do not look like brick line.

In the northern part of the trench, SU420, where is coming a pottery disk (Inv. Object 0243), covers SU426; in the same area some baked potsherds are found out. It could be easily related to a kiln which will be interested to put or less in relation with SU75. This "kiln" is evidenced and excavated. In the inner side SU426 is a cut of a quadrangular structure measuring about $80 \times 70 \mathrm{~cm}$. Its walls are reddish due to the thermic alteration. Starting to remove SU427, a structural elements with a diameter of 13 cm is found out. It is interpreted as pillar and named SU433. On the base of SU433 a cooking plane formed by terracotta about 2 cm thick is also found out.

## Trench no 9 East Extension

A new extension in the trench 9 to East is open $(1 \times 5 \mathrm{~m})$. The work focuses on digging SU411. To south, SU412 is identified and excavated; the soil of the layer is brown coloured and of a silt composition; some potsherds are found out inside. The work continues digging SU412 for a depth of 8 cm .

The soil is still grey coloured, and presents an hard consistence. The walls 441 and 442 are pointed out.

A similar height and basically the consistency of the soil, to north of the structural elements SU75 and US405, give confirmation that it is most probably the same unit. SU406 in this part as in the rest of the trench contains some potsherds and some damaged mud bricks or mud blocks.

The work continues where the state of the soil is still characterized by SU423. SU412 is excavated extending it a little bit to west (50 cm ). The east-western line of mud brick (continuing the lines of SU75) and put into the light this year is continuously evidenced and the line face to south keeps on going deeper ( 10 cm ); SU423 to north of the wall is excavated, and some potsherds are found. Digging SU423, another part of the mud brick line face to north, is evidenced; this face is composed by a very irregular line of mud brick.

A new mud brick line is pointed out, denominated SU442 (west of SU412). SU442 is perpendicular to SU441, east/west oriented and it is, at the same level, of SU75. North of SU423 another mud brick wall is evidenced (SU440) east/west oriented. Moreover SU420 is dug.

## Trench no 13

A small trench $1.45 \times 1.35 \mathrm{~m}$ is open in SU324 the base of the wall SU317, in order to see how it goes down (Fig. 5). The results for the moment are not particularly significant.

## Trench no 19

On the top area of the tepe a new area of excavation is open and denominated no 19; it is located East from Trench no 12 and measures 7 $\times 3 \mathrm{~m}$.

SU0 is a yellowish-brown compact clay matrix layer of natural formation process. There is no archaeological elements on its surface. It should be noticed the presence of diagnostic pottery fragments in this layer, a pottery disk and a stone pendant.

One has started to remove SU400 (where are coming also Tall-i Barzu type pottery bases, and a pottery basis with an outlaying channelling rim (Inv. Object 0250 ), which is covered by SU0. In this layer one has found many pottery fragments like a circular base of a vessel, a millstone and a pottery disk.

It has been decided to continue to remove SU400, from where is coming another pottery
disk. SU401 is covered by SU400 and consists of a yellow-brownish semi-compact matrix of clay. On its surface potsherds, mud-brick fragments and some remains of charcoal are found. SU401 is located between SU402 (East) and SU403 (West). It fills SU402 and SU403. As stratigraphic definition, it should be a filling, whereas as interpretative definition it constitutes a collapse deposit. SU402 is the continuous section of SU317, and consist of mud-brick measuring $40 \times 30 \mathrm{~cm}$. Its entire width is $1,2 \mathrm{~m}$ and in the western side consists of baked soil. Moreover, the northern section of SU402 is better preserved than the southern. SU403 is possibly to be defined as a wall consisting of grey mud-brick and it is placed in the western side of the Trench (Fig. 6).

Furthermore the jar fragments are removed. In order to remove the pottery fragments it has been decided to go deep down to 20 cm . Among the finds in SU401 one should emphasize the presence of one small bronze object pin-shaped (Fig.7) (Inv. Object 0245), two Tall-i Barzu type bases of vessel of which one is complete (Fig. 8) (Inv. Object 0233 ) and one pottery disk.

The western side of SU402 structure is highlighting; it consists of baked plaster - in a bad state of conservation - and big pottery fragments placed in the northern side of SU401. In the middle of the section of SU402, an elongated stone as well as four stones in horizontal line, probably inserted beneath SU401 pottery fragments is placed in vertical position (Fig. 9). Moreover its eastern side (Trench no 13-18 SU308-317) is removed and one can see only the lower part of the wall.

As stratigraphic interpretation, it constitutes a collapse and covers SU402. Then SU456 has removed in order to point out SU458, defined as frequentation layer. Its soil is constituted by a clay matrix with charcoal remains and dark brownish coloured. Its surface is regular. On it, a hole is pointed out, named 460-461 (cutting and filling). In north-eastern corner of SU451 a hole in the wall is found out, probably a drainage pipe that passes through the wall in order to reach the outer side.

Every mud-brick measures $38 \times 38 \times 12 \mathrm{~cm}$, just like the mud-bricks belonging to SU445 (Fig. 10). The work continues to be focused on the excavation of SU446 ( 30 cm deep). SU445 and SU467 are pointed out. The layer consists of loose silt clay matrix with charcoal remains. Some of them are collected in order to do some
analysis. A new layer, named SU471 is pointed out. It consists of semi-compact clay matrix of brownish colour, with red stains, caused by anthropic deed. It is covered by SU446 (Fig. 11).

## Trench no 20

A new area is open to the northern side of Trench no 19 ; and it is named no 20 , measuring $3 \times 3 \mathrm{~m}$. After having removed SU0, SU402 and SU401 were pointed out. SU402 seems to end about 1 m from the southern side of Trench no 20, and the remaining part seems to be SU401 as well. It has been started to be removed, in order to reach the pottery fragments in SU401 of Trench no 19.

## Trench no 19 and 20

After removing SU401 pottery fragments among which another Tall-i Barzu type or pottery disk (Fig. 12) (Inv. Object 0235), a new layer named SU413 are pointed out. It is filled by SU401 (Fig. 13).

SU401 in north-western part of Trench no 20 has been started to be removed, descending down about 5 cm . A new layer consisting of grey mud-bricks is pointed out, and they are interpreted as wall structure supporting SU402. Indeed, in the western corner of that structure, is possible to see a burnt section whose limits have not well-defined. Instead in the southern part of Trench no 19 descending down of about 10 cm , a layer consisting of potsherd as SU401 is pointed out. This layer is named SU417 (Fig. 14). Due to the compact nature of the soil one does not have any idea of the stratigraphic relationship with SU417, the mud-brick pointed out is named SU418. The surface of SU417 in Trench no 19 is documented and, then, potsherds are removed.

It has been started to clean out the surface of SU402 and potsherds are removed. These fragments are dipped in a loose soil. It has been started also to remove SU417, where two terracotta pedestals are found. This layer is named SU421, covered by SU417.

On the top of SU421, a ceramic turned foot is found, its surface is green colour SU421, and then is removed pointing out SU424 (Fig. 15).

It has been continued to point out SU424. SU425 consists of a clay matrix soil with chalk remains, it is located in the southern side of SU424 and it is interpreted as cultural layer (it is the same SU306 of Trench no 12.1). The layer pointing out is SU410. It should be noticed that
on the eastern side of Trench no 19 near SU402 and 409, a pit, named SU428-429 (cut and filling) (Fig. 16) is pointed out. The latter, SU429, consists of loose clay matrix soil of greyish colour. It is no possible to point out archaeological elements in this layer. Its diameter is 20 cm . It has been decided to clean out also SU317 of last year in Trench no 13. A small pottery disk is found out there.

SU413 is cleaned out starting to the line wall SU402. Furthermore nearby SU409, a new structure, named SU445 is pointed out.

## Trench no 21

A new trench nearby the north-western side of Trench no 20 is open. It should be noticed that on the western limit a small hole is found. It is named SU431 and has a diameter around 10 cm . It is covered by SU0 and cuts SU430. Its filling, named SU432, consists of silt-clay compact matrix of brownish colour. After cleaning operation, furthermore 5 cm are removed in order to point out a new layer, named SU436. Inside some pottery fragments are found and one white stone pendant too. SU436 is covered by SU430. It has been started to remove SU 436 . On its surface some potsherds are found out. Removing SU436, continuous section of SU403, named SU437, is found. In the eastern area of Trench no 21 some fragments of a big dolium, named SU438 (Fig. 17) is pointed out. A pottery disk is found in SU438 too. Removing SU436, a small oval-shaped stone with a hole in its middle (Fig. 18) (Inv. Object 0247).

A new trench in the eastern side of Trench no 20 and on the northern side of Trench no 13 is open, measuring $5 \times 2 \mathrm{~m}$. In southern section of SU436 a painted vessel neck is found out.

It has been continued to dig SU436 (Fig. 19). During the removal of SU436, the limits of SU439 are pointed out. The removal of SU436 continues. Regularizing and levelling the cutting, it has been noted, in south-western part, a change of the soil, that now presents a more soft and silt composition and brownish colour. After the cleaning operation, a new SU is pointed out SU450. This layer is characterized by a brownish silt and clay matrix with some mud-bricks irregularly positioned.

Thus, the irregular mud-bricks highlighted are removed. It has been decided to remove other 10 cm ca. of soil, but, during the removal, it has been observed that no structural remains
are found in this level, so it has been decided to remove the small mud-bricks alignment. Brushing the soil, in south-eastern part of the Trench, a fragment of pottery and one small hole in which some rodents' bones, came to light.

The work continues with cleaning operation on SU450. One can observe, in south-eastern part of SU450, a black stone object characterized by different size of circles of uncertain interpretation (Fig. 20) ${ }^{8}$. For this reason, it has been decided to give another number to SU (SU466). During the excavation some pottery fragments came to light in southeastern corner of SU466. The excavation activity starts with a further cutting of about 10 15 cm of SU466. It has been decided to start cutting from south-western corner, where some potsherds are found. During cleaning operation, in north-eastern side of the trench, two potsherds (two possible covers) and another pottery disk came to the light. A new SU is named SU470.

## Trench no 22

Trench $5(\mathrm{~N}-\mathrm{S}) \mathrm{m} \times 2(\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{W}) \mathrm{m}$, strongly sloping to West, and contiguous to Trench 19/20 on the eastern side, is open and SU0 is immediately removed. After, a SU443 is soon identified and started to be removed too. Very few pottery fragments are coming up.

The space between SU419 (wall) and wall SU402 is still worked out. Some fragments of mud greyish clay are coming up irregularly distributed and not contiguous. The soil to West is rather soft, whilst to East it becomes more and more hard. These fragments of soil, result after few cuttings as real spots and do not have any lower consistence. That is why one decides to remove the fragments of mud greyish clay (SU465). The situation is still controversial and SU402 is going down with a more enlarged basis (foundation). Still some stones are coming up. To east the soil is more and more hard where the level remains SU433 with SU462 along the border of the Trench.

## Trench no 22 and Trench no 20

The removal of SU453 continues in the whole sector in cleaning the north-western area where the small wall SU419 and wall SU402

[^2]meet each-other in Trench no 20 (Fig. 21). The sloping edge of the trench allows one in contemporary to follow the external area of wall SU402, which in its limits and faces is not very clear, even if it is more than 1 m wide. The northern face (unclear) of the wall is made by compact hard clay and is not formed as brick and/or paxa. Very few fragments of pottery are coming up. In the low part of this area, unlikely from Trench no 20, the soil is less compact and goes against the area of SU419 and SU401. Along SU402 it is developed a hard compact grayish around SU455 and probably this gives a contribution in understanding the wall (one polisher and one pottery disk are coming up from this area).

In trench no 22, SU443 is cleaned out, starting along the wall named SU402. A new layer along the eastern side of SU402, named SU455 is pointed out. It consists of a compact clay matrix soil with some potsherds of light grey colored. It is covered by SU443.

One is finishing the cleaning out of SU455, and just along SU402 a hole is coming up, probably a drain hole (SU457) which correspondingly is coming up also in Trench no 19 (SU459). SU462 is found along the eastern border of the trench, 45.60 cm wide (E-W). It has been defined a SU463 in the space between SU419 and SU402. One is starting to remove SU463, two stones (1 diagnostic) and two pottery fragments, including two pottery disks.

## Trench no 23

Furthermore, a new trench named Trench no 23, far from Trench no 21 about 20 meters to west is set up.

The work started digging trench SU0, positioned in the north-western part of the top of the tepe, the superficial layer is cleaned up. As stratigraphic interpretation is possible to identify it as a deposit because some ruined structures on Tepe are pointed out. In fact one can notice some mud-bricks of brownish colour.

SU444, then is dipped down 20 cm about in the whole trench. In north west corner a turtle's shell of medium size is found. Moreover in south-eastern corner a part of a circular pseudostructure constituted by mud-bricks of grey colour is found out. It is named SU452.

A new layer named SU454 is pointed out, consisting of a compact clay matrix soil with mud-bricks remains. SU454 is covered by 444 and covers SU452.

## Trench no 24

It has been decided to open a new trench nearby Trench no 23, named trench no 24. It has been decided that in order to point out the continuous section of the structure that it is found out in Trench no 23, and named SU452. In this layer, a vessel's base fragment and two stone objects are found. During the removal of this layer, a new layer, named SU464 is pointed out. It consist of some mud-bricks grey coloured. They are covered by SU444. This new layer has not well been defined yet.

After that it has been started to remove SU464 in order to reach SU452.

SU464 is removed in southern area of trench. Along the eastern and the southern sections, a group of small mud-bricks is pointed out. They are placed about $20-30 \mathrm{~cm}$ from the surface of the layer and belonging to a previously structure compared to SU452 (Fig. 22)

One continues to remove SU494 and then after the detailed cleaning with trowel 15 new mud bricks SW-NE oriented and 38 wide $\times 38$ cm long, are found.

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## Mud bricks vertically located to North



Fig. 1 - Trench no 9, the top part area of excavation, North and South layout of vertically located mud bricks, 3D by E. Cocca


Fig. 2 - Trench no 9 SU407, painted bowl, Inv. Object 0248, by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 3 - Trench no 9 SU407, Dep. Neg. UNO, DSCN4789, by B. Genito


Fig. 4 - Trench no 9 SU406, Terracotta figurine (front to the left, and back to the right) Inv. Object 0236, by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 5 - Trench no 13 SU317-308, Dep. Neg. UNO, DSCN5465, DSCN5360, by B. Genito


Fig. 6 - Trench no 19 SU403, wall consisting of grey mud-bricks placed along the western side of the Trench, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2278, by E. Cocca


Fig. 7 - Trench no 19 SU401, bronze pin, Inv. Object 0245, by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 8 - Trench no 19 SU401, Tall-i Barzu type basis (inner side to the left, external to the right), Inv. Object 0233 , by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 9 - Trench no 19 SU402, an elongated stone and four stones in horizontal and vertical position, beneath SU401, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2257, by B. Genito


Fig. 10 - Trench no 19 SU445, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_3404, by E. Cocca


Fig. 11 - Trench no 19 SU446, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_3416, by E. Cocca


Fig. 12 - Trench no 19-20 SU401, pottery neck or basis (external side to the right, inner side to the left) used as pottery disk, Inv. Object 0235, by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 13 - Trench no 19-20 SU401, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2379, by B. Genito


Fig. 14 - Trench no 19, SU417, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2556, by B. Genito


Fig. 15 - Trench no 19-20 SU424, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2679a, by B. Genito


Fig. 16 - Trench no 19-20 SU428-429, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_2774, by B. Genito


Fig. 17 - Trench no 21 SU438, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_3074, by B. Genito


Fig. 18 - Trench no 21 SU436, stone pendant, Inv. Object 0247, by M.F. Pullia


Fig. 19 - Trench no 21 SU436, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_3278, by A. Di Pinto


Fig. 20 - Trench no 21 SU450, stone object of uncertain function, Inv. Object 0313, by B. Genito


Fig. 21 - Trench no 22-20, two walls SU401-419, Dep. Neg. UNO, DSCN5334, by B. Genito


Fig. 22 - Trench no 24 SU452, Dep. Neg. UNO, IMG_3920, by B. Genito


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The choice to analyze the site was suggested by the Italian Archaeological Mission (IAM) of the Università degli Studi di Bologna, Alma Mater (UNIBO), which had identified different other sites of the period (Genito, Gricina 2009, 126-128)
    ${ }^{2}$ The results of these campaigns from 2008 to 2012 have been collected in a collective volume just published in 2014 (Abdullaev, Genito eds, 2014).
    ${ }^{3}$ For the seventh campaign I take the occasion here to express my deepest thanks to the Director of IAASU Dr. A. Berdymuradov for his kind participation to all the stages of the activities, from the organizational to the scientific related aspects. The realization of the work has been possible from the Italian side, for the particular availability of the Rector of UNO Prof. Elda Morlicchio and the staff of the International Relationships Office of UNO. The financial support has been also granted by the Centro Interdipartimentale di Servizi per l'Archeologia (CISA), UNO and for that, many thanks are devoted to the President Prof. Fabrizio Pesando, the colleagues Profs. Irene Bragantini, Rossella Pannain, Drs. Antonella Sannino, Andrea D'Andrea of the Directive and Technical-Scientific Committee, and Rosario Valentini. Thanks are also due to the Italian Archaeological Mission in Uzbekistan of UNIBO and in particular, to the Director Prof. M. Tosi, and his staff. A particular thank is also due to Dr. Mokhtar Pardaev co-author of this report, Sherzod Pardaev, PhD student of IAASU, BA students Edoardo Cefariello and Alexia Di Pinto of UNO, archaeologists, MA student Francesca Pullia of University of Pisa, and PhD Candidate

[^1]:    m N (UTM) and the geo-referencing system is WGS84 42N.
    ${ }^{6}$ The work has been possible thanks to the renewal of the official agreement between IAASU and UNO, signed first time in 2008 and 2009 and renewed in 2012 in September in Samarkand and in Autumn in Napoli.
    ${ }^{7}$ SU75, Hard and compact wall or platform made in mud bricks in Trench no 9 and its following extensions.

[^2]:    ${ }^{8}$ In one of the tombs of Filippovka (Orenburg district) (Russia), for the first time it was found a complete set for tattoos and among the objects related there was also a stone palette to mix colours, very similar to the object here uncovered.

