

Dem einen Manuskript mag man religionsethnologische, den Memoiren allgemein völkerkundliche Bedeutung zuerkennen, auch wenn man einräumt, daß der Verfasser von Kindheit an starken außerafrikanischen Einflüssen ausgesetzt war. Lebensberichte der Art, wie sie 1938 WESTERMANN in seinem „Afrikaner erzählen ihr Leben“ wiedergab, sind heute nur noch selten aufzunehmen. Daß sie aber noch gelingen und sogar als Basis thematisch wie regional begrenzter Untersuchungen dienen, hat E. FISCHER<sup>3</sup> kürzlich bewiesen.

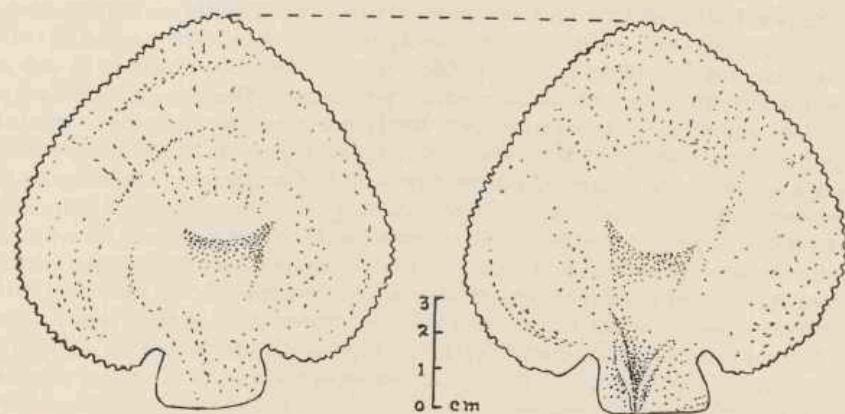
Im Institut für Völkerkunde der Universität Freiburg im Breisgau werden Mikrofilme der beiden hier summarisch vorgestellten Schriften aufbewahrt, die jederzeit zugänglich sind.

ROLF HERZOG.

<sup>3</sup> Der Wandel ökonomischer Rollen bei den westlichen Dan in Liberia. Wiesbaden 1967.

**An Ancient Shell Object at Rupar, East Punjab.** – In 1954–55 I took part in the excavation of proto-historic human and animal skeletal remains belonging to the Harappan culture discovered at Rupar, a District town of East Punjab in Northern India. Rupar, formerly known as Rupnagar, is considered one of the most valuable archaeological sites in Northern India because of the discovery of an almost uninterrupted chain of cultural activity from the Harappan level up to the present<sup>1</sup>. The site, a fairly extensive mound on the bank of the river Sutlej, has been much disturbed by local people.

The shell object which is represented below is a well preserved surface find. It has been obtained from the habitational site of which some portions were excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India.



The object is made of shell-placenta (Linneanes). It is shaped like a spade and has a trimming like saw-teeth all round except at the tang. One of the surfaces of the tang bears a roughly V-like crest.

Because the object is a solitary specimen, I could not yet ascertain whether it was imported ready-made or fabricated locally from imported raw material. It may have served as one of the luxury articles for hair dressing.

BIMAL CHANDRA DUTTA.

<sup>1</sup> Y. D. SHARMA, Past Patterns in Living as Unfolded by Excavations at Rupar. Lalit Kala Nos. 1 and 2, April 1955–March 1956; Pl. XLII.