

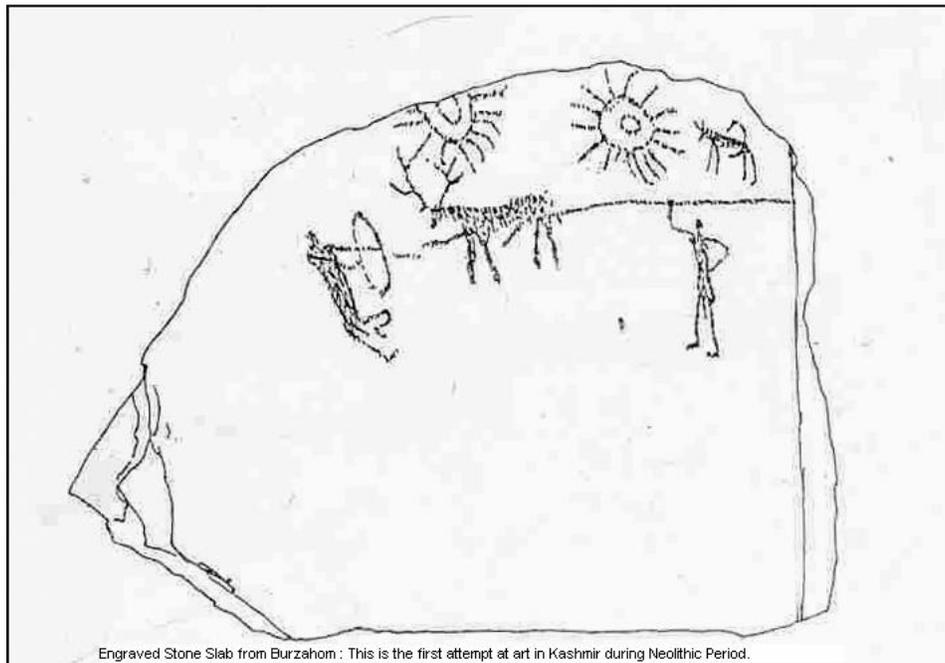
FIRST ATTEMPT AT ART IN KASHMIR

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Kashmir was once a lake known as *Sati-Saras*, the Lake of *Sati*. After the lakes dried up, land formations started and Stone Age Man started living on *Karewas*. This happened in 2500 B.C.

The area was ideal for fishing, fowling and hunting, which is exactly what the earliest settlers did about 4500 years back

The earliest attempt at art DURING STONE AGE has been discovered from scientific excavations at Burzahom from \bar{e} level dating back to 1800 BC. An engraved stone slab was found, fixed in a rectangular structure forming some sort of a tank. The engraved face was placed upside down, making it non-functional in the place in which it has been found. The stone slab (base width 70 cm.) is flat on both faces the engraved side being smooth compared to the un-engraved one. Towards the top it is partially damaged, as a result the uppermost part of the scene is slightly lost.



Engraved Stone Slab from Burzahom : This is the first attempt at art in Kashmir during Neolithic Period.

The engraving depicts a hunting scene showing an antler being pierced from behind with a long spear by a hunter and an arrow being discharged by another hunter from the front. The topmost portion shows two suns and a dog.

This is the first attempt at Art in Kashmir so far discovered.

Showing two suns may probably have some symbolic value and perhaps may indicate hunting in daylight. If the presumption is correct then one sun may be depicting the rising sun and another setting sun.



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Sh. R.N. Kaw retired as Chief Photographer from Archaeological Survey of India. He was associated in Excavations at Burzahom- Kashmir from 1963 to 1970. Due to his association in this excavation he wrote many article.