

Report on Salvaging Rock Fragments, 2006

By beginning of July 2006 around 150 rocks with recognisable sculpted surface had been recovered at the Western Buddha. Around 70 square metres of original hewn stone surface had been salvaged and documented at the Western Buddha; most of them were stored in the two shelters. Typical for the stone surface here are the rows of smaller reinforcement holes (conical, c. 4 x 6 cm). West of the niche the depot for sand, small boulders and rocks without sculpted surface was enlarged.

The salvage work at the Eastern Buddha was carried out by means of a small wheel loader, steel rope chain hoists and

leverage force. The Buddha fragments were pulled to the exit of the niche by using pulleys. Leverage force and manpower were also used for this action. The pulled-down fragments could then be transported to the depot with a wheel loader. As in the year before, sand and small boulders were piled up southeast beneath the niche's platform, using separating foils and a wall as barrier. A large part of the recovered rocks were temporarily stored west of the niche's platform. By autumn, the storage sites for this material had been enlarged and roofed. About 200 rock fragments were salvaged.

Bert Praxenthaler



△ Depot for sand, small boulders and rocks without sculpted surface

▽ Depot for rocks with sculpted surface

▽ Storage site for remains of exploded bombs, grenades and mines in the shelves of the office building

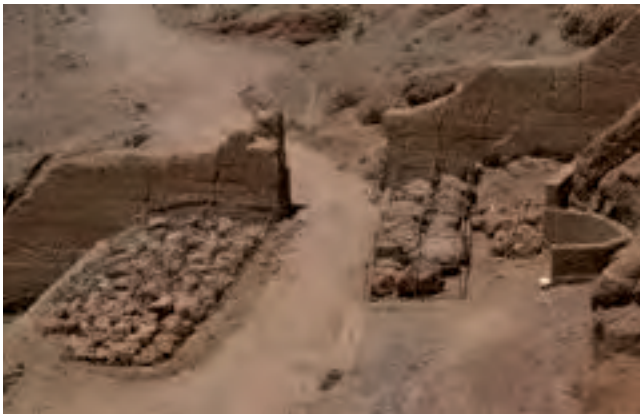




△ a



△ d



△ b



△ e



△ c



△ f

▽ g

- a) Sand and small boulders piled up southeast beneath the niche's platform
- b) Construction of new provisional shelters west of the Buddha niche
- c) Niche of the Eastern Buddha from above with excavated platform and stairs
- d) Moving of large fragments of the Eastern Buddha
- e) Moving of large fragments of the Eastern Buddha
- f) Transporting the pulled-down fragments with a wheel loader
- g) Fragment of the Eastern Buddha with typical sculpted surface





△ Eastern Buddha niche, the ground level with the destroyed caves in the background has been reached
▽ Parts of the niche's back wall had to supported as stone slabs kept on falling down

