

Report on Salvaging Rock Fragments, 2007

At the Western Buddha the salvage work was continued by using two wheel loaders. Rock fragments weighing up to four tons could be recovered. In order to be able to store the great number of recovered fragments additional storage sites were erected. For this purpose in parts of the western storage hall a second level was installed. Three sections were cleared

out. The fragments affected were temporarily stored in the specially enlarged and levelled western area of the terrain. Afterwards, in the rear section of the hall about four-metre-long and one-metre-tall walls could be erected, onto which transverse steel beams with a length of four metres could be placed. On these beams – c. 50 m of additional space – we deposited smaller fragments on pallets. By 14 July the depot with its new storage space was completely full.

KONAKS Museum, Afghanistan, Bamyan	
* * * * * / Description of rock fragments / Beschreibung der Felsfragmente	
001	Fragment 227
002	
003	
004	
005	
006	
007	gelb. Kiesel
008	<p>Rechteck mit 2.5m - 1 Eckstein und gerundete Oberfläche + Profil 60x60x60cm</p>  <p>1.5m mit 1m Brd.</p>
009	
010	
011	
<p>Handwritten signature and date: Bamyan, 12.7.07</p>	

Data sheet of 12 July 2007 with description of fragment GBF 227



View from above into the niche of the Western Buddha

Storage of fragments from the Western Buddha



Storage of clay plaster fragments in zinc plate boxes.





New storage space for the fragments of the Eastern Buddha

Continuation of erecting a scaffold in the Eastern Buddha niche



View from the platform of the Eastern Buddha to the west, showing the two improved shelters ▷

In the course of this mission 110 new fragments were recovered and documented (out of a total of 230 fragments so far). Also several fragments, which had remained undocumented the year before, could now be inventoried. The documentation was done in the usual way. Every rock fragment was described on a data sheet and photographically documented with respective number so that they could be re-identified. The fragments salvaged so far (GBF_001 – GBF_230) have a visibly sculpted or coated surface with a total surface of 86 square metres. The result is that the feet of the Buddha have emerged quite clearly and that the two western caves have been cleared.

For the interim storage of the clay plaster fragments shelves were put up provisionally in the eastern cave at the entrance to the niche. There the zinc plate boxes containing the clay plaster fragments were stored. Besides, for a safe storage of the clay plaster fragments two depots were provided at the so-called Heritage Center.

At the Eastern Buddha the depots could be completed and the erection of the scaffold was continued. The storage space was slightly extended and secured by a retaining wall.

Bert Praxenthaler

