

Mother is Coming

An
Exhibition of the images
of
Mother Goddess On Terracotta

Curated by
Rajesh Purohit, Director



Allahabad Museum
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India



Coordinated by : Dr. Sunil Gupta

**Assisted by : Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra
Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra
Dr. Sanju Mishra**

Photographed by : Pradeep K. Srivastava

© Allahabad Museum 2016

**Published by : Allahabad Museum
Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, Kamla Nehru Road, Allahabad-211 002
Tel. : +91 532-2408237 Email : allahabadmuseum@rediffmail.com
website : www.theallahabadmuseum.com**

Designed & Printed by : Durga Computronix, 4B/6B/9A, Beli Road, New Katra, Allahabad-2

Preface

Generally the entire collection of a museum is never displayed in any museum because of paucity of space as well as to avoid clumsy and overcrowded display. It is only fifteen to twenty or twenty-five percent of the collections of a museum are exposed to public viewing in most of the national museums in India. But what happens to the remaining collections of the museum? Well the answer is how judiciously you give justice to the valuable artefacts that tell you so many stories and narratives. Therefore we will have to create either space for the display of the objects kept in the reserve collection or we will have to circulate them at regular intervals so that the entire collections of the museum are displayed thematically, chronologically in a story telling manner. Thus it all depends how creatively you organise different exhibitions on different themes to accommodate the rich collection of the museum. It should be educative and informative as well to entertaining to the audience of varied nature and class. Besides one more issue is important that is in order to give attention to the reserve collections for the safety of the objects from the point of the health of the mute artefacts. Therefore from the point of monitoring objects either you have to facilitate the audience and researchers to have an access to the reserve where they can comfortably see the objects or through rotation of the entire collections by mounting exhibitions on different themes for their display so that the artefacts are cared and attended as well. This also enables and facilitates the audience to view the objects which have not been displayed for years together.

The objective of the exhibition titled “**Mother is coming....**” is to bring into light many of its rare terracotta images from the huge collection which is there in the reserve collection of the Museum for their display and dissemination.

The art of terracotta is an age old tradition which is still in vogue. The valleys of Ganga and Yamuna has many centres of this tradition as can be seen from the collections which have been recovered from excavations and exploration from the principle sites of Ahichhetra in district Bareilly, Bhita, Jhusi, and Lachhagir in district Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, Rajghat in district Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Sankissa in district Farrukhabad Uttar Pradesh and above all from the most important site is Kaushambi in Uttar Pradesh.

Allahabad Museum has one of the largest collections of terracotta artefacts in the country. While doing the pen portrait of the collection for choosing the objects for the present exhibition it was felt that audience segmentation exercise is head to be done. The audience segmentation revealed that the family audience can boost the number of visitors and then started thinking what theme should be appropriate and go in consonance with the

forthcoming festival of *Durga Puja* for the family audience. Eventually it was decided the theme of mother goddess which is associated with Durga will be more audience centric keeping an eye on the festival which is celebrated in our country during this month. Now, in the family audience what objects should be projected as an attraction or of interest to the kids? I realised that children can be engaged with multiple stories and narrative with moral values depicted in the images and the parents can be engaged with the philosophy and research oriented subjects on historical artefacts like terracotta and the theme of Mother goddess as well as the intricacies of the terracotta art through ages.

This exhibition is a part of the commitment made by Allahabad Museum for the month of September-October 2016 as fulfilment of the MOU2016. The exhibition is curated by me with the support of my team. It is organised by a team of curators of our museum coordinated by Deputy Curator Dr Sunil Gupta and assisted by Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Asstt. Cuator, Dr Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Asstt. Curator and Dr Sanju Mishra, Guide Lecturer.

Rajesh Purohit
Director

Timeline on Mother Goddess (40,000 BCE - 21st Century)

40,000 BCE

21st Century

MOTHER IS COMING.....

40,000 BCE

10,000 BCE

2500 BCE

3rd Century BCE

2nd Century BCE

1st Century CE

4th-6th Century CE

16th Century

21st Century

Pre-Historic



Venus von Willendorf, Upper Paleolithic period. It was probably carved during 24,000-22,000 BCE

Neolithic



Neolithic female figurine. Neolithic culture, ca. 5500-2750 BCE. It is handmade and show cased in Archaeology Museum Piatra Neamt.

Harappan



Female figure, possibly a fertility goddess belongs to Harappan civilization. It dated back BCE. 2500 - 1900. It is also handmade but the figure is wearing the jeweleries made of applique designs.

Mauryan



Bust of a mother goddess having auspicious symbols on either side of the head stamped on a long strips of clay. Hands have been lost. Nose, one cheek and chin are broken. It is made with grey clay.

Shunga



PA mutilated plaque preserving the torso of a female holding a child. There is seen a beaded girle at the waist. It is made with grey clay

Kushana



Seated figure of a mother goddess shown with rounded middle portion. Hands and legs have been lost. She has small and pointed breast. She wears an incised necklace. Face is shown raised upward.

Gupta



Mutilated bust of a female figure is shown holding a child. Face of the child and hands of the lady have been lost. She is wearing round earrings. Hairs of the lady are shown in layers.

Bankura



The mother is shown holding a pot and carrying a child from Bankura district of West Bengal. This represents the folk and village culture of this region.

Bishnupur



Ten armed goddess Durga is shown on the terracotta Panels from Vishnu Temple, Bishnupur, West Bengal. The deity is shown killing demon Mahshasura.

1. AM-TC-K4056
Mother and Child
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
20.5 x 7 cm

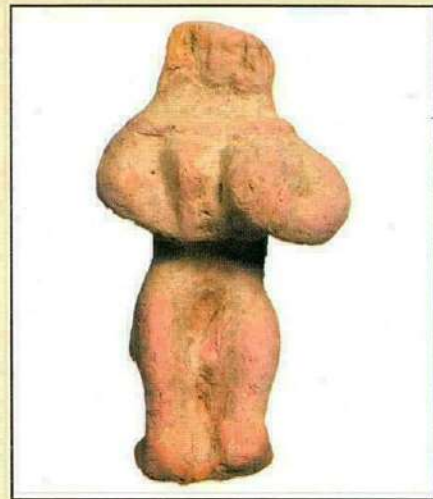
Headless and seated figure of a female is shown feeding a baby. Right hand, left leg and breast have been lost.
Neg. No.4446(1),4446(2)



2. AM-TC-K4502
Mother and Children
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Ageless
20.5 x 10 cm

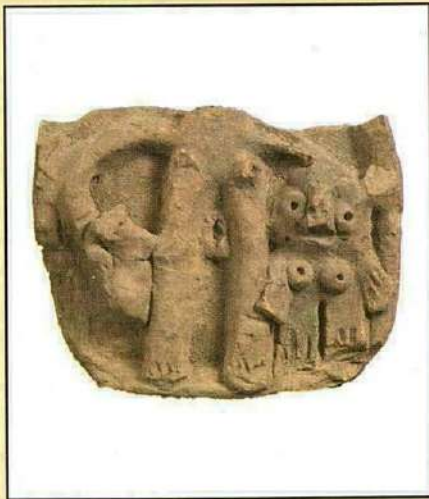
A seated female figure is shown suckling two children from both of her breast. Right hand has been lost. Face is damaged.
Neg.No.-9392(1),9392(2),9392(3)

3. AM-TC-K4563
Mother and Child
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Ageless
11 x 6 cm
Seated female figure is shown suckling milk to her child and holding it on both of her hands. Part above the forehead has been lost.
Neg. No.9107



4. AM-TC-K4603
Mother and Child
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Ageless
12 x 9 x 7 cm

Seated female figure holding a star shaped child stuck to her left breast. There is kept a cup in between her legs.
Neg. No.9459(1),9459(2)



5. AM-TC-JH5092
Plaque
Jhansi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Ageless
8.5 x 7 cm
A mutilated terracotta plaque is preserving a mother goddess with a female figure on the left and an animal on her right side. Head of the figure is lost. It is an example of a crude workmanship.
Neg. No. 11110

6. AM-TC-JH3108
Bust of Mother Goddess
Jhansi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Ageless
7.5 x 6 cm
A crude figure of headless bust of a mother goddess is shown holding a child in her arm.
Neg. No.8596



7. AM-TC-M4370

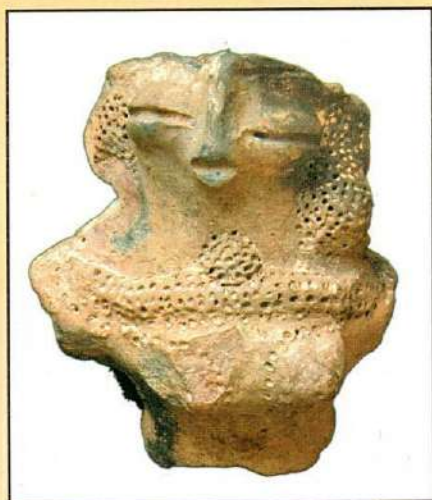
Mother Goddess

Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

14.5 x 9.5 cm

Mutilated terracotta figure of a mother goddess shown in a seated posture. She is holding bowls in both of her hands resting on knees. Belly, legs and left hand are broken.

Neg. No. 4482(1), 4482(2)



8. AM-TC-Jh5022

Mother Goddess

Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Ageless

6.5 x 5.2 cm

Bust of a female shown wearing a thick necklace decorated with dots. Eyes and mouth indicated by incised lines. Hands have been lost. It has crude features.

Neg. No. 00150

9. AM-TC-Jh4971

Mother Goddess

Jhunshi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Ageless

8 x 5.1 x 1.7 cm

Terracotta mother goddess having prominent breast and stump like hands and legs. Traces of drapery are seen on her arms. It has budging eye balls. There is a hole at the back of the head. The figure is crudely modelled.

Neg. No.00137



10. AM-TC-AH4184
Mother Goddess
Ahichchhatra, Bareilly
Ageless

15.5 x 7.4 x 3.8 cm

Crude female figure having pointed breasts and slit cut mouth. Hands are totally lost. Left leg is partly broken. Right ear is damaged. Eyes are not indicated.

Neg. No. 00149



11. AM-TC-K369

Mother Goddess

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Ageless

6 x 6 cm

Bust of a mother goddess shown with stretched hands. Nose and mouth are made with pinching technique. It is made with grey clay.

Neg. No. 04015

12. AM-TC-98.31

Goddess

Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh

C:6th Century CE

10.5 x 5 cm

Mutilated terracotta figure of a mother goddess shown standing. She has goat like ears and beautiful female face. Necklace is shown by circular patterns and cloths by incised lines. There is a one prominent hole at top of the head. This might be made for hanging purpose. Hands and parts below waist have been lost.

Neg. No.15820



13. AM-TC-JH355

Female Figure

Jhansi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Kushana Period

C.3rd Century CE

12 x 8 cm

Mutilated female figure of a mother goddess. She has prominent breasts. Part below the waist has been damaged. She is wearing a broad and short neckless decorated with figure impression.

Neg. No.17619(1), 17619(2)



14. AM-TC-K5426

Seated Mother Goddess

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Kushana Period

C.1st-3rd Century CE

Ht. 20 cm

Seated figure of a mother goddess shown with rounded middle portion. Hands and legs have been lost. She has small and pointed breast. She wears an incised necklace. Face is shown raised upward.

Neg. No.11013

15. AM-TC-M4700

Mother Goddess

Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

Mauryan Period

C.3rd Century BCE

13.3 x 8 cm

Terracotta figure of a mother goddess is shown wearing a necklace. In the center of the neckless a taurine symbol is shown as a pendent. Hands and legs have been lost.



16.AM-TC-M2427
 Mother Goddess
 Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
 Mauryan Period
 C. 1st-3rd Century CE
 14 x 9 cm
 Bust of a mother goddess having auspicious symbols on either side of the head stamped on a long strips of clay. Hands have been lost. Nose, one cheek and chin are broken. It is made with grey clay.
 Neg. No.4162



17. AM-TC-Ah4192
 Gajalakshmi
 Ahichchhatra, Bareilly
 Gupta Period
 4th-6th century CE
 19.5 x 13.4 cm

The Terracotta panel shows a deity seated on a full bloomed lotus depicted inside a shrine. She is flanked by two elephants standing on pilasters on left side. Elephant along with the pilaster has been lost. On either side of the lotus flower there are two birds facing opposite directions. The goddess holds a trisula in her upper right hand. The panel is badly damaged.

18. AM-TC-K3780
 Mother and Child
 Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
 Gupta Period
 C.4th-6th Century CE
 6 x 7 cm
 Headless bust of a female is shown holding a child in her left arm. The child is holding the right breast of her mother and shown feeding. This shows the affection of mother and child between them. The mother his holding the legs of the child from her right hand and holding the back of the child from her left hand in order to provide support in her lap.
 Neg. No. 8833



19. AM-TC-Jh4279

Mother and child

Jhusi, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh

Gupta Period

c. 4th-6th century CE

9.4 x 7.5 cm

Headless bust of a female figure is shown holding a child in her left arm and a toy in the right.

Neg. No.00571



20. AM-TC-98.73

Mother and Child

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Gupta Period

C. 4th-6th Century CE

9 x 5 cm

A mutilated terracotta plaque is depicting mother a child. She wears a simple headdress divided by a bump into two parts. She puts on circular earrings. Head of the child and the part below waist of the main figure has been lost.

Neg. No.7555

21. AM-TC-R2303

Mother and Child

Rajghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Gupta Period

C.4th-6th Century CE

5.5 x 4.5 cm

Mutilated bust of a female figure is shown holding a child. Face of the child and hands of the lady have been lost. She is wearing round earrings.

Hairs of the lady is shown in tiers.

Neg. No.16831



22. AM-TC-K1538
Mother and Child
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Gupta Period
C.5th Century CE
5.5 x 5 cm

Bust of a lady is shown holding a child in her left lap. She wears round earrings. Her hairs are arranged in upward direction. She is wearing suspended round earrings.

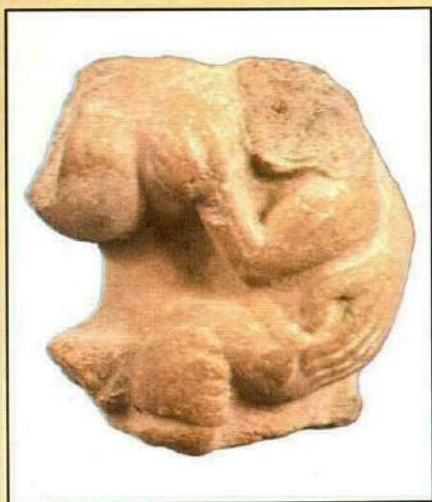
Neg. No.16542



23. AM-TC-K1010
Mother and Child
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Gupta Period
C.5th Century CE
5.8 x 5.5 cm

Headless bust of a female figure. She holds a child in her left arm. The head of the child is missing. The child is holding one of the breast of his mother and feeding the another breast. Right hand of the lady has been lost.

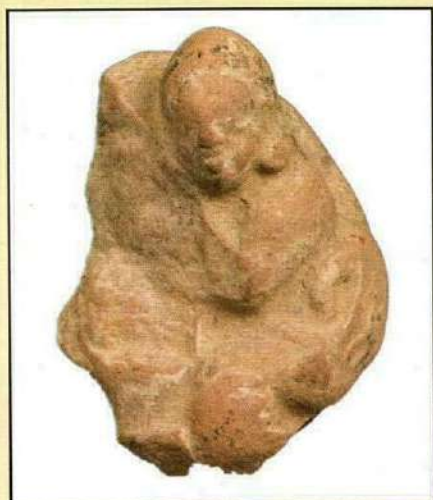
Neg. No.07472



24. AM-TC-JH4286
Mother and Child
Jhansi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Gupta Period
C.4th-6th Century CE
6 x 4.5 cm

Fragment of a plaque shows a mother and child. Only child and the left hand of the lady to which she is holding the child survives.

Neg. No.8962



25. AM-TC-JH4386

Mother and Child

Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

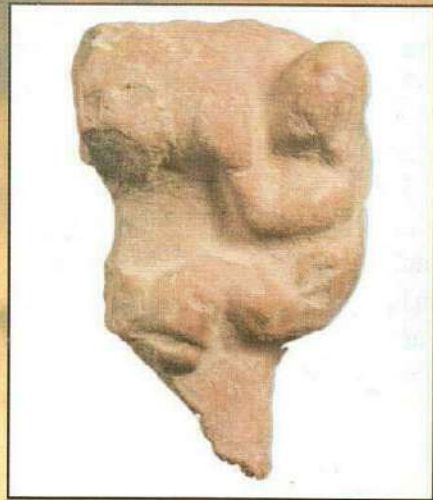
Gupta Period

C.4th-6th Century CE

8 x 5.3 cm

Headless bust of a female figure is shown with her child. She is holding the child in her left arm. Right hand has been lost.

Neg. No.8997



26. AM-TC-98.37

Mother and Child

Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh

Gupta Period

C.4th-6th Century CE

8 x 3.5 cm

Small figure of a mother and child is shown in terracotta. She is holding a child in her left lap. Hairs are arranged in a bump. Hands and feet are specified. It has painted face and raised nose. Features of the figure are not clear.

Neg. No.15817

27. AM-TC-JH4449

Mother and Child

Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

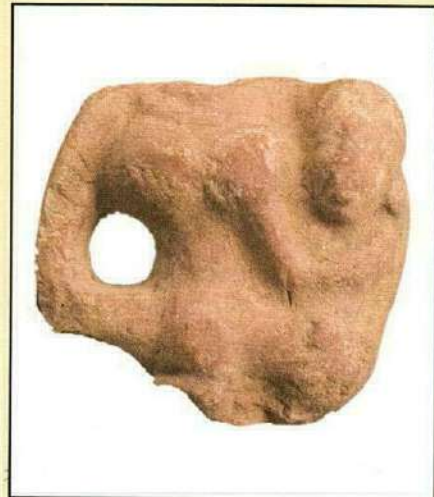
Gupta Period

C.4th-6th Century CE

5 x 5.3 cm

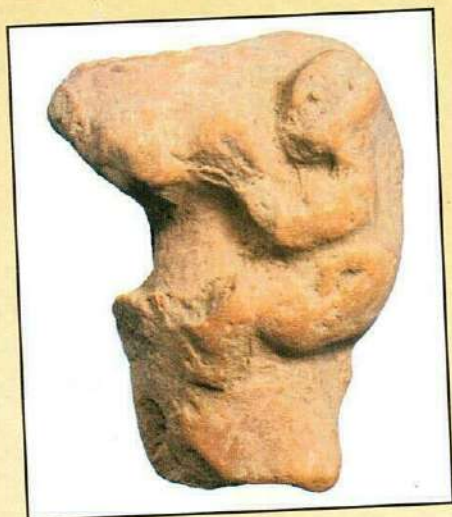
Headless bust of a female figure is shown holding a child in her left arm.

Neg. No.9010



28. AM-TC-R2208
Mother and Child
Rajghat, Varanasi
Gupta Period
C. 4th-6th Century CE
8 x 3.3 cm

Standing female figure is shown holding a child in her hands. She wears an *ekavali* on her neck. Her left breast is damaged. She is wearing neckless and ear rings.
Neg. No.16783



29. AM-TC-JH3583
Mother and Child
Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Gupta Period
C. 4th-6th Century CE
7.7 x 6.3 cm

A mutilated female bust is shown holding a child in her arms. Right hand has been lost. Breasts are broken. The figure of the child is damaged.
Neg. No. 17575

30. AM-TC-JH3580
Mother and Child
Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Gupta Period
C. 4th-6th Century CE
9.3 x 7.4 cm

Mutilated bust of a female figure is shown holding a child in her arms. The figure of the child is damaged. She wears a beaded chain around her waist.
Neg. No.17576



31. AM-TC-Jh4170

Mother and Child

Jhunsi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

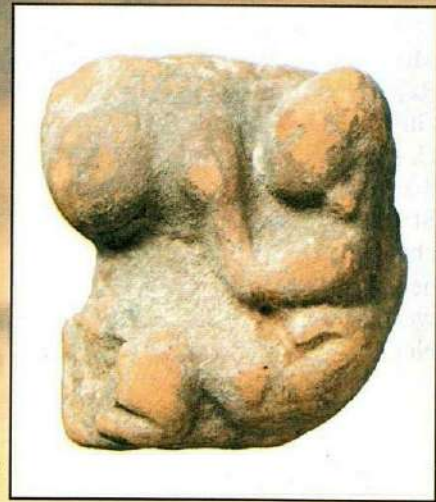
Gupta Period

C.4th-6th Century CE

5.5 x 5.3 cm

Headless bust of a female (mother) figure holding a child in her left arm. Hands have been lost.

Neg. No.3824



32. AM-TC-S4396

Bust of Gajalakshmi

Sankisha, Farrukhabad

Shunga Period

C.1st century BCE

7.3 x 6.5 cm

Upper part of a mutilated plaque preserving the bust of Gajalakshmi. The elephants stand on pedestals on either side of the goddess. They are pouring water over her head.

Neg. No.00157

33. AM-TC-K4865

Female Figure

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Shunga Period

C. 2nd Century BCE

7 x 5 cm

A mutilated female figure is depicting the below part from the waist. Her leg are stretched on sides and the reproductive parts are shown prominently. It can be accepted as the figure of mother goddess.

Neg. No.17591



34. AM-TC-M2385
Mother and Child
Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
Shunga Period
C.2nd Century BCE

Pamutilated plaque preserving the torso of a female holding a child. There is seen a beaded girdle at the waist. It is made with grey clay.
Neg. No.4248



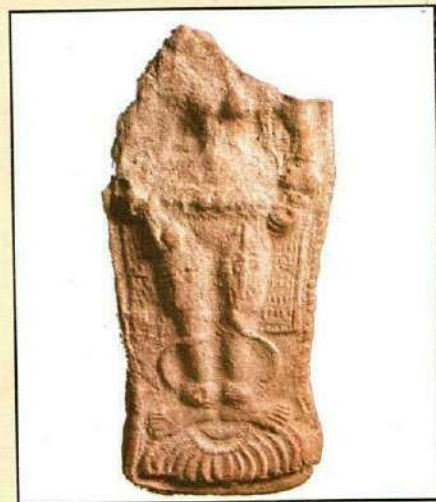
35. AM-TC-94.190
Lakshmi
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Shunga Period
2nd Century BCE
9 x 7.5

Mutilated terracotta mould showing Lakshmi standing on lotus. Lower part of the plaque has been lost.
Neg. No.15870



36. AM-TC-4.14
Standing Lakshmi
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Shunga Period
C.2nd Century BCE
20 x 10 cm

Headless figure of standing Lakshmi is standing on lotus with their lowered hand. Part above shoulders have been lost.
Neg. No. 15900



37. AM-TC-K4852

Goddess Lakshmi

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

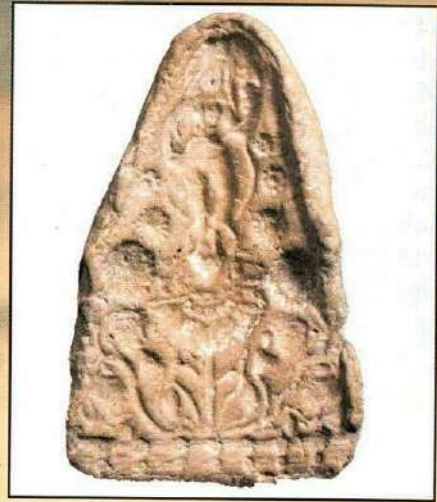
Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

10.6 x 6.5 cm

Terracotta mould preserving the figure of goddess Lakshmi standing on a lotus.

Neg. No.11105



38. AM-TC-96.39

Terracotta Plaque

Chandraketugarh, Kolkata, West Bengal

Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

10 x 5.3 cm

A thin terracotta plaque depicting a standing female figure holding a lotus in her right hand while the left is resting on the waist. She wears a sari up to knees. Hair arranged in three foliage. There is a hole at the top of the head. Probably Lakshmi.

Neg. No.-15867

39. AM-TC-K5243

Lakshmi on Lotus

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Shunga Period

2nd Century BCE

11 x 6.5 cm

Triangular plaque depicting the figure of Lakshmi standing on a lotus issuing forth from a tank bounded by a railing. Her right leg is slightly bend. Her right hand is raised up while the left hand is rest on the hip. Left corner of the plaque is damaged.

Neg. No.00209



40. AM-TC-K5274

Lakshmi

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Shunga Period

2nd Century BCE

11 x 7.3 cm

Triangular plaque depicting goddess Lakshmi standing on full blossomed lotus inside a tank. A railing around the tank is shown below. The figure from the breast up to its thighs has been chopped off. The right lower corner of the plaque is partly missing. Several rosettes are shown around the figure.
Neg. No.00235



41. AM-TC-K2560

Bust of Female

Kaushambi

Shunga Period

2nd-1st Century BCE

7.5 X 6.3 cm.

Fragment of a plaque preserving bust of a female. She is holding a lotus stalk. The headdress is supported by rosettes and fillets.
Neg. No.00228



42. AM-TC-K2514

Bust of Female

Kaushambi

Shunga Period

2nd-1st Century BCE

6.2 X 6 cm.

Fragment of a terracotta plaque preserving the bust of a lady. A lotus is shown on the top of her right shoulder. It seems that she is holding the lotus flower with stalk. Hands have been lost.
Neg. No. 00233



43. AM-TC-K5019

Bust of Female
Kaushambi, U.P
Shunga Period
2nd-1st Century BCE
7.5 x 6 x 2 cm

Bust of a female figure wearing an elaborate headdress studded with rosettes and large suspended earrings. She holds a lotus stalk.
Neg. No.00390



44. AM-TC-S4690

Bust of Male
Sankisa, Farrukhabad
Shunga Period
C.1st Century BCE
8 x 7.5 x 2.7 cm

Bust of a male shown holding three lotus & talk in its right hands. It wears a necklace composed of superimposed rosettes.
Neg. No. 00160

45. AM-TC-S4393

Plaque with Female Figure
Sankisa, Farrukhabad
Shunga Period
C.1st century BCE
9 x 6 cm

Plaque containing a standing female figure. She is holding a lotus stalk in her upraised right hand. Left hand rests at the waist. Head-dress tilted towards her left.
Neg. No. 00156



46. AM-TC-K3398

Plaque showing a female bust

Kaushambi

Shunga Period

C. 2nd-1st century BCE

8 X 5.7 cm.

Plaque showing a female bust. She holds a stalk of a lotus in one hand. Head-dress covered with band of rosettes.

Neg. No.00223



47. AM-TC-K515

Bust of Female

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

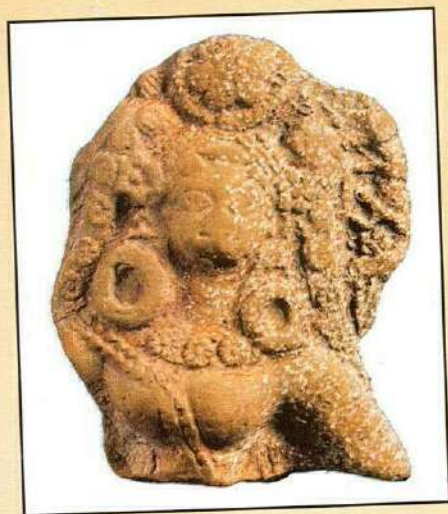
Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

8.5 x 7 cm

Upper part of a plaque showing bust of a female. She is wearing round earrings. Two fillets stamped with rosettes fall on either side of the head while a lotus flower is placed at the top. Right hand has been lost.

Neg. No.17417



48. AM-TC-R2345

Shalabhanjika Type

Rajghat, Varanasi

Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

9 X 4 cm.

Plaque preserving the figure of a lady holding a lotus stalk in her right hand. Her head is turned towards the right. The left hand is raised above indicating some dancing *mudra*. A strip of cloth passes over her thigh. The art below the knees has been lost.

Neg. No.00189



49. AM-TC-K3389

Female Figure
Kaushambi, U.P.
Shunga Period
C.2nd Century CE
13.5 X 6 cm.

Mutilated plaque preserving a standing female figure holding a lotus stalk. Headdress is damaged from one side and broken at the waist.
Neg. No.00273



50. AM-TC-K1570

Female Figure
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Shunga Period
C.2nd Century BCE
6.8 x 4.5 cm

Thick and mutilated plaque showing a female figure resting her hand on her hips. On either side of the figure are seen lotus rosettes.
Neg. No.16538

51. AM-TC-K527

Bust of Female
Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh
Shunga Period
C.2nd Century BCE
7 x 7 cm

Upper part of thick plaque preserving bust of a female. She wears a high headdress from which stamped bands with lotus rosettes are shown falling down.
Neg.No. 17416



58. AM-TC-K534

Female Figure

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

9 x 5.2 cm

The mutilated plaque is showing a female figure. She wears a high headdress compared of the rolls one of her hands is lower while the other is shown touching her earring. Part below the thigh has been lost.

Neg. No.17420



59. AM-TC-K3321

Female Bust

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Shunga Period

C.2nd Century BCE

5.7 x 5.5 cm

Fragment of a plaque preserving a female bust. Headdress covered with lotus rosettes. Breast is damaged.

Neg. No.8725

60. AM-TC-K5290

Female Figure

Kaushambi

Shunga Period

C.1st Century BCE

10 x 4.5 cm

The lady wears heavy headdress with one band decorated with rosettes falling on either sides, up to her respective lowered hands. Part below knees has been lost.

Neg. No.00232





AM-TC-K5158

Panchchuda

Kaushambi

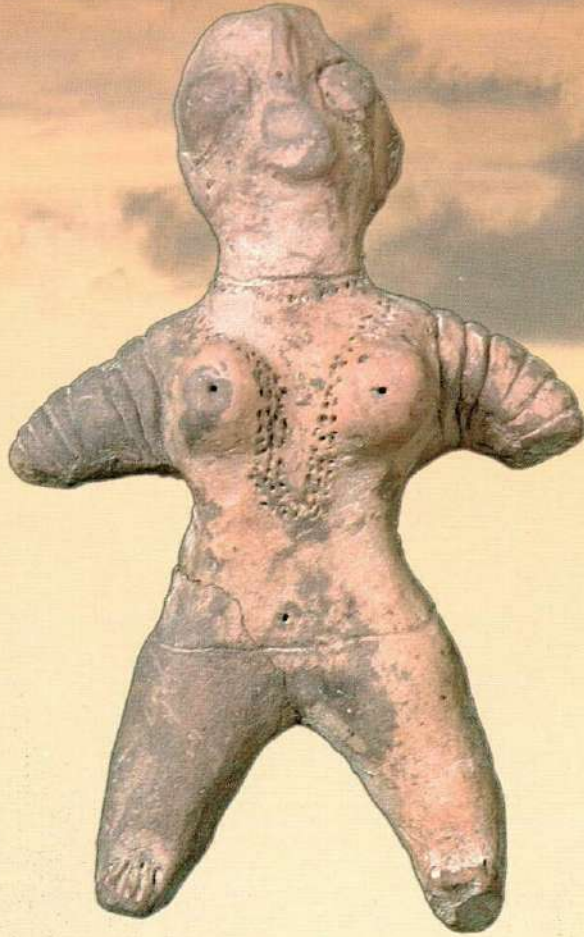
Shunga Period

2nd Century BCE

25.5 x 10 cm

The figure is delicately moulded. Five auspicious symbols and five ears of corns are set on the head-dress. Both of her hands are placed on near the thighs. The braids of hair fall on either side of the breast. The plaque was broken in three pieces which was later joined.

Neg. No.00242



Allahabad Museum

Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India



Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, Kamla Nehru Road, Allahabad-211 002
Tel : +91 532 2408237 Email : allahabadmuseum@rediffmail.com
Website : www.theallahabadmuseum.com