

Sheep on Indus Seals

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Thousands seals found in the ruins of towns like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro give us a sight on the Indus culture as it existed about four-thousand years ago. These seals are early predecessors of the lacquer stamps that were used by people to seal their letters not long ago. These stamps had a personal nature and contained stylistic initials and family arms. The nature of the Indus seals was also personal, but instead of initials and family arms, inscriptions and animal figures were carved on them. Every inscription may show the month of conception and the month of birth of a child and occasionally give us an indication the profession of his father. Like in present a father registers his newborn child at the city hall, at that time, a father would have ordered a birth seal from a seal master. When the child was grown up it may be able to wear it.

In the Indus Culture the constellations Sagittarius and Aries both could be represented by Sheep. At that time these constellations were the backgrounds of the sun in October and March. Sheep were mating in November and their lames started to be born in March. Like buffaloes represented the earth, elephants represented the wind and the unicorns represented the light, as in Sumer, sheep represented the stars, or better: the seven planets. At the same time the seven planets could represent sheep.

First seal



The child, for whom this seal was intended, was conceived during the monsoon and was born in March, in which lengths of days and nights were almost equal.



This sign was primary the symbol of the monsoon that usually moved into the Valley in July. This sign also was used for the coitus.



The second sign that looks like ca crab was compound by the Yoni and a sign which symbolized both March and September.



When the Yoni was shown, it didn't have the meaning of coitus, but of birth.



This sign, derived from the sun symbol, only shows the "light" and the "dark" period of the sun. It expressed that these periods were balanced. In this way it indicates both March and September.



This symbol marks the four major positions of the sun.



This compound sign also symbolized both March and September.



This little line represented "light", "day", "all the spring months" and "all the summer months".



This little curve represented "valley", "night" or "winter".



Together these two signs symbolized both March and September in which lengths of days and nights were almost equal. This sign only emphasize that the child was born in March



Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

Placed above the names of the months it becomes clear that the child was conceived in July and born in March. Usually the Kashmir Markhor, a screw-horned goat, represented March.

Second seal



The child, for whom this seal was intended, was conceived in March and was born in November.



This sign is the symbol of both March and September. On this seal it is evident that this sign symbolized March.



This sign meant: "seven planets". Like in Sumer sheep represented stars; in the Indus Valley they represented the seven planets. By placing this sign vertically it precisely meant November: the month of the sheep or seven planets, in which sheep were mating.



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

It is evident that the child was conceived in March and born in November.

Third seal



This seal was made for a child that was conceived in March and was born in November.

II This sign is usually symbolized the rutting season of cattle starting in October. But like on his seal it also is a symbol of the coitus.



When the Yoni has been shown, it didn't have the meaning of coitus, but of birth.



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Because of the image of the sheep it becomes evident that the child was conceived in March and born in November.

Fourth seal



The child, for whom this seal was intended, was conceived in March, when the holy tree was sacrificed, and was born in November, when barley and vegetation were growing.



After the winter rains and melting snow in February a flood revitalized the banks, vegetation could grow in March. In that Month vegetation was honored by sacrificing the holy tree, therefore the sign of the holy tree also represented March.



After the monsoon rains a flood revitalized the lands vegetation could grow and barley could be sowed. By placing this sign vertically the seal master made clear that conception took place when vegetation started growing and barley was sowed.

IIII Sign of raising barley



Sign of growing vegetation



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

It is evident that the child was conceived in March and born in November. They both took place in fertile periods.

Fifth seal



This seal was made for a child that was conceived in March, when lambs were born and was born in November when sheep started mating.

⊕ Sheep symbolized planets, but planets could also symbolize sheep. In this case the circle, symbol of the starry sky, pointed at Aries that was the background of the sun in March at that time. In that month lambs were born. The cross symbolized the bull and also symbolized mating. Thus this sign may have meant: "mating in the month of Aries, when lambs were born."

|| This is usually the sign of the rutting season of cattle starting in October, November. Although it thus is a symbol of the coitus on this seal it marks the month of birth.



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

It is evident that the child was conceived in March and born in November. They both took place in fertile periods.

Sixth Seal



This seal was made for a child who was conceived in March when the starry sky, the sun and the five elements were balanced. And it was born in November when vegetation was growing well after the winter rains had revitalized the soil.



In March the soil was fertile after the river had flooded its banks in February. Mud then was left behind and vegetation could grow. This sign expressed that the five elements were fitting well together



This sign represented the vegetation that grew in November after the winter rains revitalized the lands in October.



This third sign meant: "light". The period of "light" begun in February and ended in July.



This sign expressed the starry sky and the other three elements.



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

The fertile March and November were splendid months to be conceived and to be born in.

Seventh seal



This seal was made for a child who was conceived in March when the starry sky, the light of the sun and the other three elements were balanced, and born in November, when sheep were mating.



In March the soil was fertile after the river had flooded its banks in February. This sign expressed that the five elements were fitting well together



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Because of the image of the sheep it becomes clear that the child was conceived in March and was born in November

Eighth seal



On this seal a single sheep was carved. It also was a birth seal. As a sheep represented both March and November it was enough to show its image when a child was conceived in March and was born in November.

Ninth seal



Like on the Seventh seal it was enough to carve a sheep on a seal to make clear that the child, to whom this seal was intended, was conceived in March and was born in November as this animal represented them both.

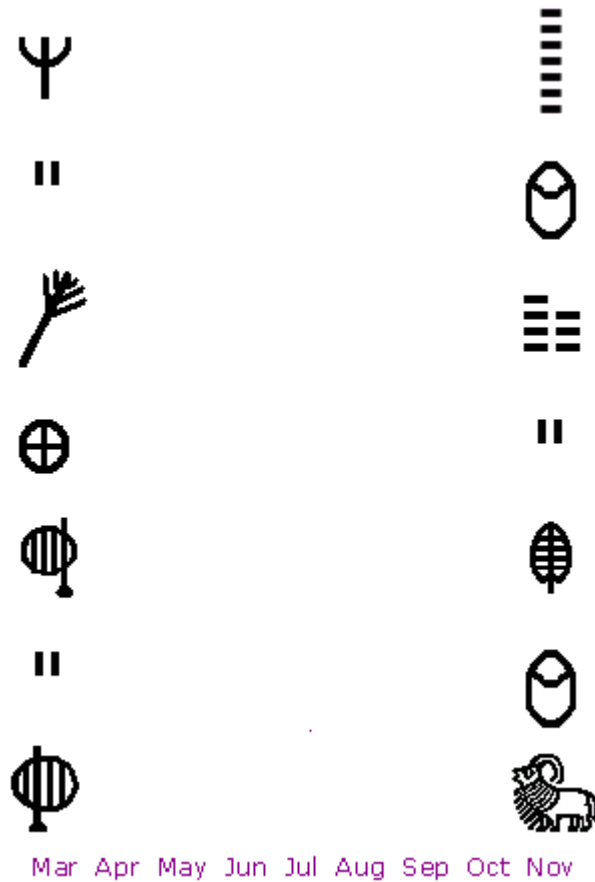


Fish was not a sign of some constellation but was only showed when there was plenty of water running through the rivers. In October and November usually the winter rains fell down, and in February the melting snow led the rivers flood it banks. This single fish may have shown that there was enough water in both months. The father of the child may have been a fisherman.



Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Only because of the image of the sheep it is clear that the child was conceived in March and born in November



The writings put together.

Pictures of the seals: www.hindunet.org/hindu_history/saravati

Tenth seal

A very well known seal, with a so called Shiva carved out, was also an identity seal. The child, for whom this seal was intended, was conceived during the winter rains and was born in July, when the heat of the sun was killing. This seal is very interesting.



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