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# MOHENJO-DARO AND THE INDUS CIVILIZATION

Being an official account of Archæological Excavations at  
Mohenjo-daro carried out by the Government of India  
between the years 1922 and 1927

*Edited by*

SIR JOHN MARSHALL, C.I.E., Litt.D., Ph.D., F.S.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.,

Hon. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge

*Late Director-General of Archæology in India*

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ARTHUR PROBSTHAIN

41 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C. 1

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does not appear on any of the seals or pottery of either Sumer or Elam.<sup>1</sup> It first appears in Babylonian art about the time of Gudea on a limestone bas-relief.<sup>2</sup> It is also shown on a painted sherd from Nāl in Balūchistān.<sup>3</sup>

*Rhinoceros (R. unicornis)*

This animal also rarely appears on the seals, Nos. 341-7 being the only examples that we have as yet. In every case it is the single-horned animal that is represented, probably the great Indian rhinoceros which was formerly found along the base of the Himālayas as far as Peshāwar, where it was hunted by the Emperor Babar.

This animal's thick hide is well represented on seal No. 345, where the wrinkles and folds of skin are very true to life. Rough excrescences on the skin are indicated in some of the examples by means of holes made with a fine drill. In others hatched lines are employed. In every case the animal is rendered with extreme fidelity, even to the wicked pig-like eye.<sup>4</sup> From this, I think, it can safely be affirmed that the animal was very well known to the people of Mohenjo-daro; in ancient times it was probably very common in Sind and perhaps still further west. It does not appear on any of the seals from Elam or Mesopotamia.

The rhinoceros is, curiously enough, provided with the same kind of manger—more probably a cult object—as the short-horned bull.

The animal represented on a fragment of a seal (No. 354) is difficult to identify. At first glance it seems to be a rhinoceros, especially as the fore and hindquarters bear drill-marks similarly arranged to represent roughnesses as on the other rhinoceros seals. The legs of the animal, however, are much too thin for those of a rhinoceros; they resemble rather the legs of a bull or ox.

The rhinoceros was very commonly modelled in clay and was a favourite with the children. It must, therefore, have been very well known to them (Pl. XCVII, 8-11).

*Tiger (Felis tigris)*

That the animal on seals 349-53 and 355 is the tiger is proved, I think, by its being striped. This animal is now extinct in Sind,<sup>5</sup> though it is found in most of the wilder parts of India. Unfortunately, some of the seals upon which the tiger appears are badly broken. In two (Nos. 350 and 351) the animal is very quaintly represented with a manger before it of identically the same pattern as provided for the short-horned bull and rhinoceros.<sup>6</sup> Two seals in this group are of especial interest (Nos. 353 and 355). On both a man is seated in

<sup>1</sup> It appears, however, carved on archaic bitumen vessels from Susa. *Mém. Dll. en Perse*, t. xiii, pl. xxxiv. See also Scheil, *Recueil de signes archaïques*, p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> King, *History of Sumer and Akkad*, p. 69, fig. 21.

<sup>3</sup> See Pl. XCIII, 30 of this work. Also *Mem. Arch. Surv. Ind.*, No. 35, pl. xvii. [It should be added that it is a very common motif on the Meli-Kulli ware of Balūchistān. See pp. 98-9 *supra*.—ED.]

<sup>4</sup> Seals Nos. 342-5 are good examples of this fidelity. The great Indian rhinoceros is characterized by the skin of the sides of the body being thickly studded with large rounded tubercles and also by the great folds of skin which surround the back of the head like a coil. Lydekker, *Game Animals of India*, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> The last specimen was killed in 1883.

<sup>6</sup> A seal in the Louvre bearing the device of a tiger standing over a manger is illustrated in *Recue d'Assyriologie*, xxii, 99. M. Thureau-Dangin, who published it, suggests that it came from Telloh.