

Star, Prince of Harappa, announces his wedding; decipherment of Harappa copper plate #1

*A wedding invitation from Star,
Prince of Harappa, to attend his
marriage to Feather by ship or
wedding cart; it will feature beer
fermented in casks, a sauna for sex,
and Taian the wizard to charm the
heart.*

Stuart L Harris, July 2020, Ellenville NY

Translation of Copper Plate #1

[Tähti 'Star' speaks] =====

The greatest women of Häräpää (Bull Head) will meet for a great courtship. In a small cabin of my pleasure, Feather, likewise my heart, will become Rani.

The best wedding food for men and women will be made. We will fetch through the night full female salmon. Meet many handsome, gallant first families. 200 wedding-carts for Star will come here. Table beer from the first producer of beer will be fermented in casks. Proceed to an overhanging roof to fetch a great weasel from Mother. Salt the cask's speech with many songs.

The people of Great Star will clear many milking pails of the very best beer, and visit male and female chiefs and maidens again. Food from the log fire will be left in the threshing barn first. Tough guys, men with great blades, tough women's sons, will cleft the heads of cattle by sword for the wedding feast.

200 maidens of Feather will accompany Star. The fair families will leave, then poor families will consume with pleasure most of the cattle and casks from the wedding.

A maiden marries to have an up bringer, likewise a big man.

Po's (Son's) ideas for the wedding:

At dusk, many hungry salmon, game for the wedding, are caught from a rowing bench.

Common people grow fond of beer from a storehouse given freely.

To carry by vessel many together, the best transport vessels, the best of many, will be found. Likewise, unbroken masts. Great sails to become attached to the top as well.

Likewise, many families will drive carts to convey women, crops and beer.

Thus, vessels will go and fetch livestock and poor visitors to the wedding.

Come to get full during a riverbank wedding. Superior casks will be nourishing Feather's great wedding.

Fetch 30 wagons of casks of wood to ferment the malted grains. Utilize yeast to ferment to a bloated state the maiden.

I end now the speech of ideas.

[Taian the magician speaks] =====

Thank Star for a feast for many during a family wedding. Meet maidens, many from the high ground.

Verse making for the family wedding banquet now.

A gallant magician during the banquet will advise the heart. Star's valiant one will drink the first toast. Many people will have sex in the sauna. The wizard's voice will ring out with pleasure from the heart.

A banquet calls for family men to stop working, to meet fresh maidens, to nourish long limbs, to become bawdy. Then a great, shabby wizard will cry out:

"Dear friends, noble families and wedding guests, utter strangers likewise: a banquet of pleasures to consume now, a feast for handsome people. Beautiful as well the poor old ladies and wives of this wedding party. A hundred maidens and men will conduct the wedding; men will lead the new man; and Magic-maker will conjure up harmony, integrity, perfection, unity, one."

Needed are dear companions to escort the maidens; also needed are rich men.

Table of Contents

Translation of Copper Plate #1	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	2
Printing on paper	4
Table of Harappan Syllabary	4
Translation into Finnish	5
Summary by line in English	5
Details of each line	6
Line 1.1 (Bull head, Häräppä)	6
Line 1.2 (Palace with pillars)	7
Line 1.3 (Wedding cake)	7
Line 1.4 (Fish smoker)	7
Line 1.5 (Meeting of families)	7
Lines 1.6 and 1.7 (Wedding cart)	7
Line 1.8 (Bubbles in bear foam)	7
Line 1.9 (Roof over beer dispenser)	8
Line 1.10 (Upturned beer goblet)	8
Line 2.1 (Gulping beer from a milk pail)	8
Line 2.2 (Food served inside barn)	8
Line 2.3 (Beheading of a steer)	8
Lines 2.4 to 2.6 (Families in enclosure)	9
Line 2.7 (Maiden in a cart)	9
Line 2.8 (Ideas for the wedding)	9
Line 2.9 (Hook for salmon)	9
Line 3.1 (Salmon on a platter)	9
Line 3.2 (Beer flowing from a tap)	9
Lines 3.3 to 3.6 (Person sitting in boat)	10
Line 4.1 (Spinnaker at prow)	10
Lines 4.2 to 4.4 (Cart and tracks)	10
Line 4.5 (People and livestock in vessel)	10
Line 4.6 (Livestock carrying load)	10
Line 5.1 (Casks piled in a wagon)	11
Line 5.2 (Maiden starter for making beer)	11
Line 5.3 (Kneeling in thanks)	11
Line 5.4 (Mountain maidens)	11
Line 6 (Flowers)	11
Line 6.1 (Leaf of a flower)	11
Line 6.2 (A bleeding heart)	12
Line 6.3 (Drinking from a chalice)	12
Line 6.4 (Sex in the sauna)	12
Line 6.5 (Wizard singing)	12
Line 7 (Seated Wizard)	12
Line 7.1 (Right horn of Wizard)	12
Line 7.2 (Left horn of Wizard)	12
Line 7.3 (Face of Wizard)	12
Line 7.4 (Left side of Wizard)	13
Line 7.5 (Right side of Wizard)	13
Line 7.6 (Center of Wizard)	13
Line 8.1 (Alabaster chalice of beer)	13
Rules for writing in Old European	14
Bibliography	14

Introduction

This paper deciphers Harappan Copper Plate #1 into Finnish and English. It is the largest out of nine plates published in 2014 by Vasant Shinde and Rick Willis from the Harappan civilization of the Indus Valley.

These copper plates resemble steatite seals of the same genre, with both text and a rebus figure, but are larger and more complicated. Fine engraving, worn surfaces from cleaning, and tests with printing on paper confirm they were used to print on paper rather than on clay. Shinde and Willis estimate they were created between 2600 BC and 2000 BC (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Nine copper plates from the Harappan civilization (Shinde and Willis, 2014).



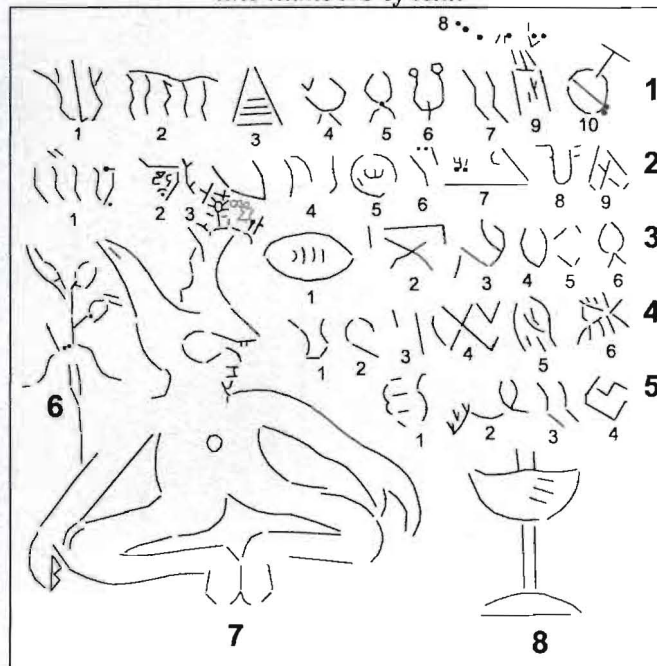
Copper Plate #1 has five lines of text and three rebus figures (Figures 2)

Figure 2: Photograph of Harappan copper plate #1 (reversed). (Shinde and Willis, 2014)



Both text and rebus figures were written in Old European script, attested throughout Europe and Asia from the age of mammoth hunters circa 34,000 BC to the last inscriptions by Masons circa 1850 AD. Initial sound values for each letter came from a hundred bilingual signatures from Scandinavia. Figure 3 breaks the complex images into 290 Old European letters.

Figure 3: Details of Harappan copper plate #1 with line numbers of text.



Printed copies were distributed throughout Harappa and beyond, an invitation to a royal wedding between Star and Feather. The text is difficult, a game for readers to puzzle out. With 290 consonant-vowel characters, it may be the longest surviving text from the Indus Valley civilization, a masterpiece, suitable for a one-person skit.

Star, Prince of Harappa, speaks first. He invites the men and women of Harappa to a wedding between himself and Feather, who will become a *rani*, meaning princess. He details the people, food, beer, conveyances and entertainment that he will provide. The text is very dense, each complex character being a rebus, whose many letters make up a sentence. Each rebus resembles the subject of the sentence, an astonishing tour-de-force.

Wizard of Harappa speaks second, a bard and scribe who writes in reverse. His text lies within three large rebuses of himself dressed as a court jester seated on the floor, with a bouquet of flowers to his right, and a chalice of beer to his left.

Printing on paper

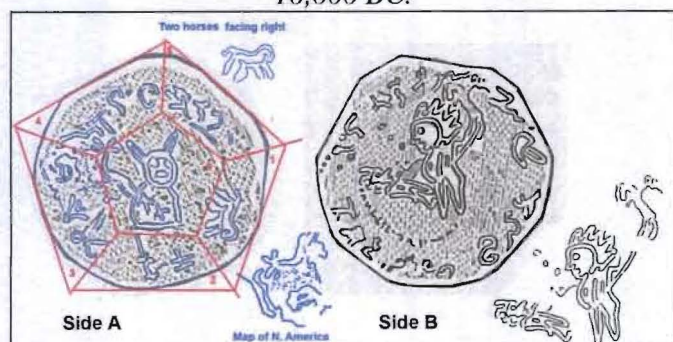
Shinde and Willis tested the copper plates by printing on paper made from rags and silk that are still employed today.

Another possibility is paper made from retted nettles, which was an important export from Belgium and the Netherlands circa 2150 BC. For record keeping and legal documents, they used paper bound in books, and wrote with a feather and cuttlefish ink. The technology most likely existed 500 years earlier. Only one example survived, called Oera Linda Boek, which includes images from plates to explain the writing system.

An older technique scribed in wax that covered the surface of a portable wood tablet. Norse mythology mentions these tablets circa 6000 BC.

An even older example is an etched copper medallion found in Illinois, written by an explorer from Magdalenian France, circa 10,600 BC. Both sides are covered with writing, rebuses and maps, not reversed.

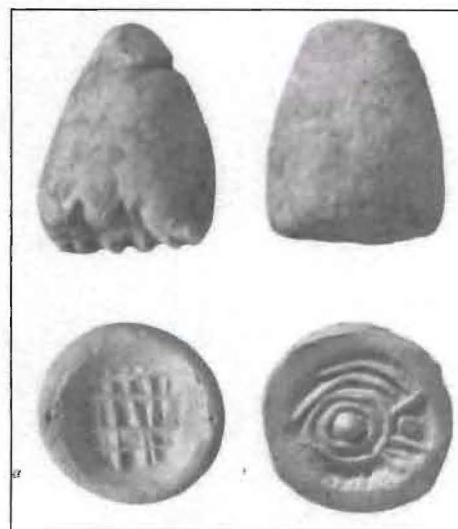
Figure 4: Etched copper medallion from Illinois, circa 10,600 BC.



Before a mega-catastrophe in 2193 BC wiped out northern Europe, Frisland had established a network of trading centers and factories in the Mediterranean Sea (Oera Linda Boek). Archaeology bears this out, with copper mines in Spain, Beehive tholos tombs in Crete, and metal fabrication in Cyprus. At this time, stamp seals from Cyprus comprised inscriptions in Old European, arranged to form a rebus (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Limestone stamp seals comprised of writing from Cyprus, Late Chalcolithic (2800-2400 BC).

(a) Kissonerga-Mosphilia KM 597; (b) Lemba-Lakkous LL 211. Photograph E. Peltenburg. (Webb and Weingarten, 2012)



Until about 1750 BC, a sailing route passed through a channel in Egypt now occupied by the Suez Canal. This allowed easy trade between the Mediterranean Sea and India.

Part way along this route was Dilmun. The mainland adjacent to Dilmun, called Dharan, was settled around 2600 BC by advanced sea-farers who constructed 50,000 burial mounds. Its name **Dharan** means 'Father of Bull', which suggests that it preceded the founding of the advanced civilization at **Harappa** meaning 'Bull Head' (Harris, 2020).

Harappans were expert at making rebuses with their script. In nearly every case, the figure on a copper plate or stamp seal is also text, which greatly lengthens an inscription. The same is true for the copper plates.

Thus, it is possible that the idea for printing on paper with etched copper plates was transmitted from Frisland to India circa 2600 BC, where local products were substituted, such as retted hemp.

Table of Harappan Syllabary

The table below combines letters from Copper Plate #1 (dark black) with previous letters from other Indus Valley translations (light black).

Figure 6: Table of Indus Valley syllabary.

A	Ä	E	I	O	Ö	U	Y	
1	5	10	20	100		uro		Indus
+	ä	e	i	o	ö	u	y	
ha	hä	he	hi	ho	hö	hu		H
ja	jä			jo	jö			J
ka	kä	ke	ki	ko	kö	ku	ky	K
la	lä	le	li	lo	lö	lu	ly	L
ma	mä	me	mi	mo	mö	mu		M
na	nä	ne	ni	no	nö	nu	ny	N
pa	pä	pe	pi	po	pö	pu		P
ra	rä	re	ri	ro	rö	ru		R
sa	sä	se	si	so	sö			S
ta	tä	te	ti	to	tö	tu	tasa	T
va	vä	ve	vi	vo	vö			V

Translation into Finnish

[Tähti puhuu] =====

Äijeäin kaveet Häräpään yhyttävät äijeän riiuu. Hönnihin ratoni, Höyhen, niin raahini, käy Rani.

Yli hää-rehua miesten muijien saadaan. Käyvät yöhön täytä neitiä lohta. Yhdytä äijäin puhdasta urheata yhtä perhettä. 200 hää-ratia Tähän tarvitahan tän'. Sahti yhden lyödäjän kaljan kävydä saaveihin. Käy röytähän käydä äijän karpän Äidin. Höystä uurten puhuvien äijässä virttä.

Rahvas Äijän Tähti selvittää paljon raintaa ylen yli kaljan, käy miehein maisten päiden kaveiden yhä. Ruo'a nuotion jäettävä riiheen yksi. Äijää, miehet äijineen rauain, näiväin akkojen pojat, loveavat päiden karjan miekkan ää-peijaan.

200 neitia Höyhen saattavat Tähän. Puhtaiden perhet jäävät, niin rähjain perhet käyttävät huviin äijää karjaa saavia äiden.

Kave nai saada kasvattajan, niin äijän miehen.

Pon mieltät häisää:

Yön, äijä nälkää lohia, riista häiden, puututaan teljon.

Rahvas mieltyy kaljan aitasta löyhät.

Viedä purttan äijän yhtehen, yks viejien purttat, yks äijän löytää. Niin, puuhut eheät. Äijät purjehet mieltä ylös niin.

Niin, äijät perhet kaiotavat ratien viedä akkojen, kasvun, kaljan.

Niin, purttat käyvät viljan, rähjain kävijöiden äihin.

Käy täyttää äyrään hää. Yli-uurtet ravitaan Höyhen äijän hää.

Tuo 30 redaa uurtea puun käydä maltahia. Käytä käyten käydä pöhön neien.

Häädän niin puheen mielten.

[Taian puhuu] =====

Kiitä Tähän peijaan äijän perhen hää. Yhdytä kavetta, äihjät yli-maan.

Virtten perhen hää-perjaan nyt.

Urhea katehe peijaan neuvoo raahin. Tähän urhean yksi kaataa yhen paahton. Äijät miehet maatavat salvoksen. Taian ääntä kajahtaa rattosti raahin.

Peijas vaatii perhen miestä seistä käydään, yhdyttää raitista neitia, ravita äijää raajaa, käydä rivoa. Niin äijeän rähjän taika huutaa:

“Viljot, yliperheet ja häävierat, ventot niin; peijaa rattojen viedä mi, peijas puhtaiden miehien. Lydia niin rahjaa muijaa ämmää nistä häihin. Sata neitiä miehiä vie hää, miehet käyvät uuen miehen, Tenhote loihii Eheys.”

Tarvitaan tuttavaa viedä neittä; se'a tarvitaan ri'as miestä.

Summary by line in English

Line 1 (61 letters)

- 1.1 The greatest women of Häräpää (Bull Head) will meet
- 1.2 for a great courtship: In a small cabin of my pleasure, Feather, likewise my heart, will become Rani (an Indian princess).
- 1.3 The best wedding food for men and women will be made.
- 1.4 We will fetch through the night full female salmon.

Stuart Harris, Harappa Copper Plate #1

Details of each line

- 1.5 Meet many handsome, gallant first families.
 1.6-7 200 wedding-carts for Star will come here.
 1.8 Table beer from the first producer of beer will be fermented in casks.
 1.9 Proceed to an overhanging roof to fetch a great weasel from Mother.
 1.10 Salt the cask's speech with many songs.

Line 2 (58 letters)

- 2.1 The people of Great Star will clear many milking pails of the very best beer,
 2.2a and visit male and female chiefs and maidens again.
 2.2b Food from the log fire will be left in the threshing barn first.
 2.3a Tough guys, men with great blades,
 2.3b tough women's sons, will cleft the heads of cattle by sword for the wedding feast.
 2.3c 200 maidens of Feather will accompany Star.
 2.4 The fair families will leave,
 2.5 then poor families will consume with pleasure
 2.6 most of the cattle and casks from the wedding.
 2.7a A maiden marries to have an up bringer,
 2.7b likewise a big man.
 2.8 Son's ideas for the wedding.
 2.9 At dusk, many hungry salmon,

Line 3 (22 letters)

- 3.1 game for the wedding, are caught from a rowing bench.
 3.2 Common people grow fond of beer from a storehouse given freely.
 3.3 To carry by vessel many together,
 3.4 the best transport vessels,
 3.5 the best of many, will be found.
 3.6 Likewise, unbroken masts.

Line 4 (32 letters)

- 4.1 Great sails to become attached to the top as well.
 4.2 Likewise, many families
 4.3 will drive carts
 4.4 to convey women, crops and beer.
 4.5 Also, vessels will go and fetch livestock and poor visitors to the wedding.
 4.6a Come to get full during a riverbank wedding.
 4.6b Superior casks will be nourishing Feather's great wedding.

Line 5 (27 letters)

- 5.1 Fetch 30 wagons of casks of wood to ferment the malted grains.
 5.2a Utilize yeast to ferment to a bloated state the maiden.
 5.2b I end now the speech of ideas.
 5.3 Thank Star for a feast for many during a family wedding.
 5.4 Meet maidens, many from the high ground.

Line 6 (26 letters) (a flower)

- 6.1 Verse making for the family wedding banquet now.
 6.2 A gallant magician during the banquet will advise the heart.
 6.3 Star's valiant one will drink the first toast.
 6.4 Many people will have sex in the sauna.
 6.5 Taian's (wizard's) voice will ring out with pleasure from the heart.

Line 7 (56 letters) (the seated Wizard)

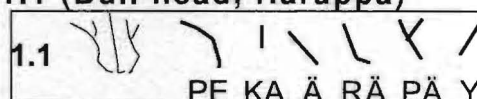
- 7.1 A banquet calls for family men to stop working,
 7.2 to meet fresh maidens, to nourish long limbs, to become bawdy.
 7.3a Then a great, shabby wizard will cry out,
 7.3b "Dear friends, noble families and wedding guests,
 7.4a utter strangers likewise: a banquet of pleasures
 7.4b to consume now, a feast for handsome people.
 7.5 Beautiful as well the poor old ladies and wives of this wedding party."
 7.6a A hundred maidens and men will conduct the wedding;
 7.6 men will lead the new man;
 7.6c and Magic-maker will conjure up harmony, integrity, perfection, unity, one.

Line 8 (8 letters) (a chalice)

- 8.1 Needed are dear companions to escort the maidens; also needed are rich men.

Details of each line

Line 1.1 (Bull head, Häräppä)



Indus: Ä KA Ä-RÄ-PÄ Y

Finnish: Äijeäin kaveet Häräpään yhyttävät

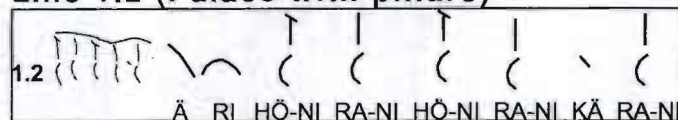
English: The greatest women of Häräpää will meet

Stuart Harris, Harappa Copper Plate #1

Details of each line

Notes 1.1: *Häräppä* means 'Bull Head'. The shape could represent Harappa. HÄ was often written as Ä without the leading H. *Äijä* means 'great, much, many; tall, long'.

Line 1.2 (Palace with pillars)



Indus script

Ä RI:
HÖ-NI RA-NI,
HÖ, NI RA-NI,
KÄ RA-NI.

Finnish decipherment

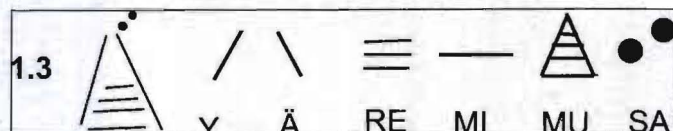
äijeän riiuu.
Hönnihin ratoni,
Höyhen, niin raahini,
käy Rani.

English translation

for a great courtship.
In a small cabin of my pleasure,
Feather, likewise my heart,
will become Rani (an Indian princess).

Note 1.2: The image resembles a palace with pillars.

Line 1.3 (Wedding cake)



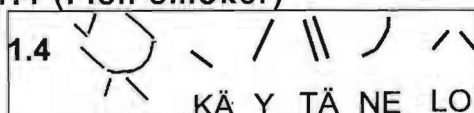
Indus: Y Ä RE MI MU SA.

Finnish: Yli hää-rehua miesten muijien saadaan.

English: The best wedding food for men and women will be made.

Note 1.3: Image of a layered wedding cake. 'Wedding' was written both Ä and HÄ. Letter MU completes the phrase. Finnish does not require 'and' between two items in a list.

Line 1.4 (Fish smoker)



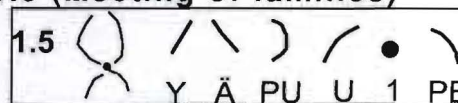
Indus: KÄ Y TÄ NE LO.

Finnish: Käyvät yöhön täytä neitiä lohta.

English: We will go and fetch through the night full female salmon.

Note 1.4: The image resembles a smoker for fish and fish roe.

Line 1.5 (Meeting of families)



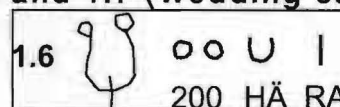
Indus: Y Ä PU U I PE.

Finnish: Yhdytä äijäin puhdasta urheata yhtä perhettä.

English: Meet many handsome, gallant first families.

Note 1.5: the image resembles a dancer.

Lines 1.6 and 1.7 (Wedding cart)



Indus: 200 HÄ RA TÄ TA TÄ.

Finnish: 200 hää-ratia Tähän tarvitahan tän'.

English: 200 wedding-carts for Star will come here.

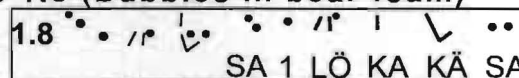
Note 1.6: The image resembles a traditional Indian bullock wedding cart with two wheels (Figure 7).

Note 1.7: In tablets from France and Italy, Star was the War Chief and Hand of the Realm. The image resembles a set of parallel tracks.

Figure 7: Model of a traditional Indian bullock wedding cart. (Desiclick.com)



Line 1.8 (Bubbles in bear foam)



Indus: SA 1 LÖ KA KÄ SA.

Finnish: Sahti yhden lyödäjän kaljan kävydä saaveihin.

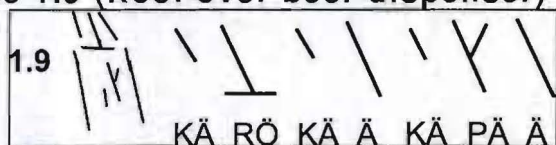
English: Table beer from the first producer of beer fermented in casks.

Stuart Harris, Harappa Copper Plate #1

Details of each line

Note 1.8: Lots of dots like bubbles. Letter LÖ is constructed from letter LO. Lyö was written LÖ. The last three letters resemble a spigot pouring beer into a cup.

Line 1.9 (Roof over beer dispenser)



Indus: KÄ RÖ KÄ Ä KÄ PÄ Ä.

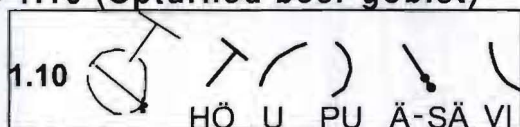
Finnish: Käy röytähän käydä äijän kärpän Äidin.

English: Proceed to an overhanging roof to fetch a great weasel from Mother.

Note 1.9: **Weasel** was a cask of beer in Parappa; **Wizard** was a cask of mead in Poland and Minoan Crete. A **Great Weasel** might be a keg.

Note 1.9: The image presents a roof in perspective over an open area with two people inside. The scribe placed letter KA low to indicate ground level.

Line 1.10 (Upturned beer goblet)



Indus: HÖ U PU Ä-SÄ VI.

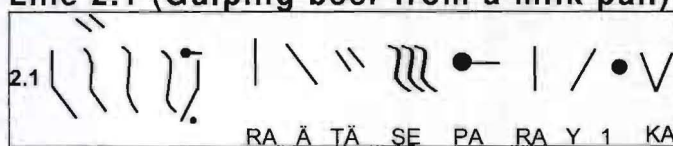
Finnish: Höystä uurten puhuvn äijässä virttä.

English: Salt the cask's speech with many songs.

Note 1.10: -SÄ is normally two small lines that cross the main stem. Here the scribe replaced both lines with two dots.

Note 1.10: Image of a goblet of beer up-ended.

Line 2.1 (Gulping beer from a milk pail)



Indus: RA Ä TÄ SE PA RA Y 1 KA.

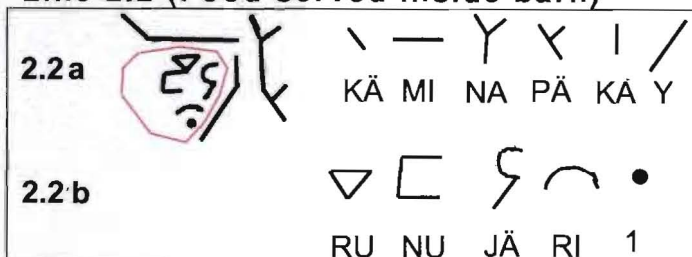
Finnish: Rahvas Äijän Tähti selvittää paljon raintaa ylen yli kaljan.

English: The people of Great Star will clear many milking pails of the very best beer.

Note 2.1: 'will clear' is depicted as successive gulps of beer from a milk pail.

Note 2.1. Rainta meaning 'milking pail' is a village in India.

Line 2.2 (Food served inside barn)



Indus script

2.2a KÄ MI NA PÄ KA Y.

2.2b RU NU JÄ RI 1.

Finnish decipherment

2.2a käy miehein maisten päiden kaveiden yhä.

2.2b Ruo'a nuotion jäettävä riiheen yksi.

English translation

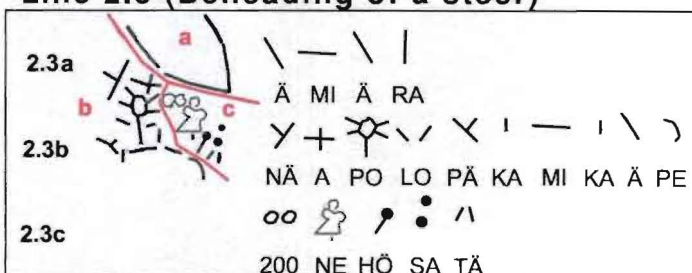
2.2a visit male and female chiefs and maidens again.

2.2b Food from the log fire will be left in the threshing barn first.

Note 2.2. Finnish does not require 'and' in a list.

Note 2.2: *Ruo'a* 'food' comes from *ruoka*.

Line 2.3 (Beheading of a steer)



Indus script

2.3a Ä MI Ä RA,

2.3b NÄ A PO, LO PÄ KA MI-KA Ä PE.

2.3c 200 NE HÖ SA TÄ.

Finnish decipherment

2.3a Äijää, miehet äijineen rauain,

2.3b näiväin akkojen pojat, loveavat päiden karjan miekkan ää-peijaan.

2.3c 200 neitia Höyhen saattavat Tähen.

English translation

2.3a Tough guys, men with great blades,

2.3b tough women's sons, they will cleft the heads of cattle by sword for the wedding feast.

2.3c 200 maidens of Feather will accompany Star.

Note 2.3: Image of a head of a steer, ending at the neck.

Note 2.3b: *Akka* is the name of letter A and thus does not require two syllables to write *akkojen*. *Hää*-meaning 'wedding-' could be written *ää*-.

Note 2.3b: A steer in profile has a horn, front leg and back leg; a slight gap exists between head and body.

Lines 2.4 to 2.6 (Families in enclosure)



Indus script

2.4 PU PE JÄ,

2.5 NI RÄ PE KÄ HU

2.6 Ä KA SA Ä.

Finnish decipherment

2.4 Puhtaiden perhet jäävät,

2.5 niin rähjään perhet käyttävät huviin

2.6 äijää karjaa saavia äiden.

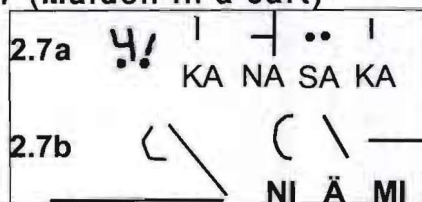
English translation

2.4 The fair families will leave,

2.5 then poor families will consume with pleasure

2.6 most of the cattle and casks from the wedding.

Line 2.7 (Maiden in a cart)



Indus script

2.7a KA NA SA KA,

2.7b NI Ä MI.

Finnish decipherment

2.7a Kave nai saada kasvattajan,

2.7b niin äijän miehen.

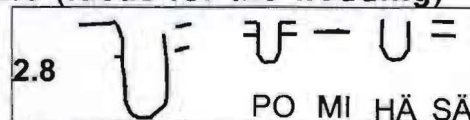
English translation

2.7a A maiden marries to have an upbringer,

2.7b likewise a big man.

Note 2.7a Image of the pair riding in a cart.

Line 2.8 (Ideas for the wedding)



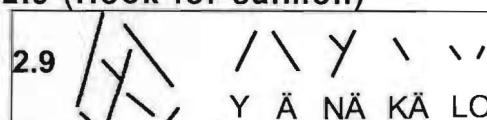
Indus: PO MI HÄ-SÄ.

Finnish: Pon mieltät häisää.

English: Son's ideas for the wedding.

Note 2.8: The letters combine to make letter PO.

Line 2.9 (Hook for salmon)



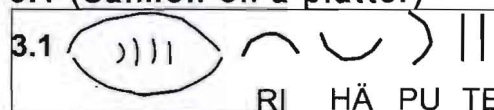
Indus: Y, Ä NÄ-KÄ LO,

Finnish: Yön, äijä nälkää lohia,

English: At dusk, many hungry salmon,

Note 2.9 The image somewhat resembles a hook.

Line 3.1 (Salmon on a platter)



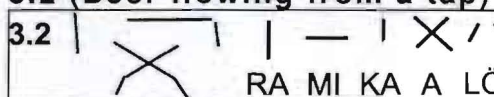
Indus: RI HÄ, PU TE.

Finnish: riista häiden, puututaan teljon.

English: game for the wedding, are caught from a rowing bench.

Note 3.1 Image of a fish split open with rib bones.

Line 3.2 (Beer flowing from a tap)



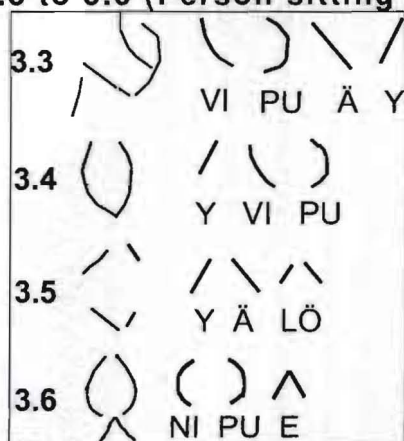
Indus: RA MI KA A LÖ.

Finnish: Rahvas mieltyy kaljan aitasta löyhät.

English: Common people grow fond of beer from a storehouse given freely.

Note 3.2. Image of a keg of beer in a storehouse.

Lines 3.3 to 3.6 (Person sitting in boat)



Indus script

- 3.3 VI PU Ä Y,
3.4 Y VI PU,
3.5 Y Ä LÖ.
3.6 NI PU E

Finnish decipherment

- 3.3 Viedä purttan äijän yhtehen,
3.4 yks viejien purttat,
3.5 yks äijän löytää.
3.6 Niin, puuhut eheät.

English translation

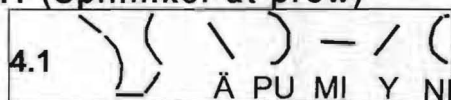
- 3.3 To carry by vessel many together,
3.4 the best transport vessels,
3.5 the best of many will be found.
3.6 Likewise, masts unbroken.

Note 3.3: Image of a person sitting down.

Note 3.4: Image of prow of boat

Note 3.6: Image of front sail from stern.

Line 4.1 (Spinniker at prow)



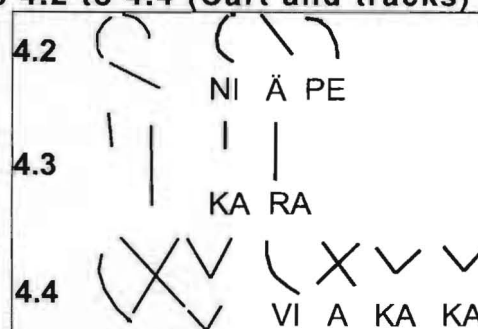
Indus: Ä PU MI Y NI.

Finnish: Äijät purjehet mieltä ylös niin.

English: Great sails to become attached at the top as well.

Note 4.1: Profile of a ship with sails.

Lines 4.2 to 4.4 (Cart and tracks)



Indus script

- 4.2 NI Ä PE.
4.3 KA RA
4.4 VI A, KA, KA.

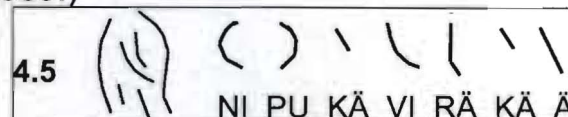
Finnish decipherment

- 4.2 Niin, äijät perhet
4.3 kaiotavat ratien
4.4 viedä akkojen, kasvun, kaljan.

English translation

- 4.2 Likewise, many families
4.3 will drive carts
4.4 to convey women, crops and beer.

Line 4.5 (People and livestock in vessel)



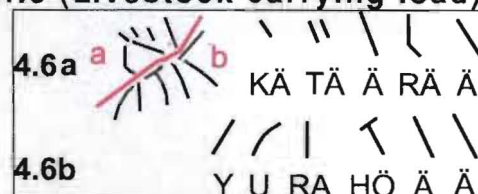
Indus: NI, PU KÄ VI, RÄ KÄ Ä.

Finnish: Niin, purttat käyvät viljan, rähjain kävijöiden äihin.

English: Also, vessels will go and fetch livestock and poor visitors to the wedding.

Note 4.5 Image depicts from above the prow of a vessel filled with people and livestock.

Line 4.6 (Livestock carrying load)



Indus script

- 4.6a KÄ TÄ Ä-RÄ.
4.6b Ä U RA HÖ Ä Y Ä.

Finnish decipherment

- 4.6a Käy täyttää äyrään häät.

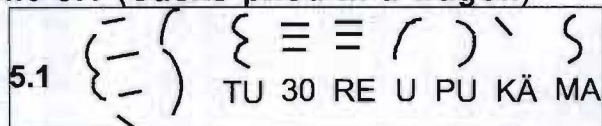
4.6b Yli-uurtet ravitaan Hoyhen äijän häät.

English translation

4.6a Come to get full during a riverbank wedding.

4.6b Superior casks will be nourishing Feather's great wedding.

Line 5.1 (Casks piled in a wagon)



Indus: TU 30 RE U PU KÄ MA.

Finnish: Tuo 30 redaa uurtea puun käydä maltahia.

English: Fetch 30 wagons of casks of wood to ferment the malted grains.

Note 5.1: The spread-apart lines of 30 and its slight inclination indicate it should be used as both a number and a letter to indicated the number of casks.

Note 5.1: Letters U and PU combine to make MA.

Note 5.1: English 'malt' comes from Finnish *maltahia*, attested in *Kalevala* 23.400, 23.408, 25.558, 35.314.

Line 5.2 (Maiden starter for making beer)



Indus script

5.2a KÄ KÄ KÄ PÖ NE.

5.2b HÄ NI PU MI.

Finnish decipherment

5.2a Käytä käyten käydä pöhön neien.

5.2b Häädän niin puheen mielten.

English translation

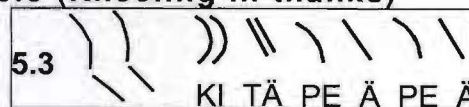
5.2a Utilize yeast to ferment to a bloated state the maiden.

5.2b I end now the speech of ideas.

Note 5.2a: Unique sequence of three KÄs in a row; adding one additional line makes two more letters.

Note 5.2a: Allowing wet grain to ferment by adding maiden yeast ends up with either bread or beer, depending upon how much water is in the mix. This yeast is still called 'the maiden' because it bloats.

Line 5.3 (Kneeling in thanks)



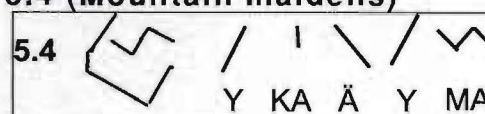
Indus: KI TÄ PE Ä PE Ä.

Finnish: Kiitä Tähän peijaan äijän perhen häät.

English: Thank Star for a feast for many during a family wedding.

Note 5.3: Image of a person on their knees in thanks. Another instance of reusing letters to make new letters.

Line 5.4 (Mountain maidens)



Indus: Y KA, Ä Y MA.

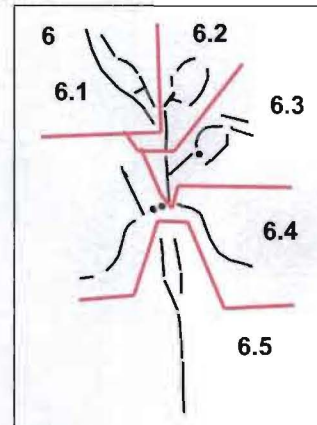
Finnish: Yhdytä kavetta, äihjät yli-maan.

English: Meet maidens, many from the high ground.

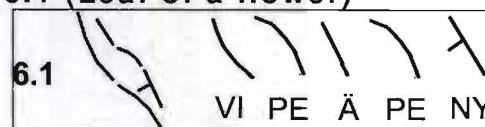
Note 5.4: Image of low grounds around a mountain.

Line 6 (Flowers)

Line 6, the image of a stalk with leaves and flowers, divides into five sentences.



Line 6.1 (Leaf of a flower)



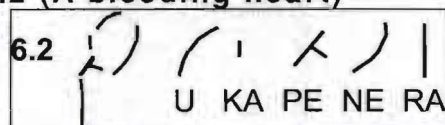
Indus: VI PE Ä PE NY.

Finnish: Virtten perhen hää-perjaan nyt.

English: Verse-making for the family wedding banquet now.

Note 6.1: Image of a leaf of a flower.

Line 6.2 (A bleeding heart)



Indus: U KA PE NE RA

Finnish: Urhea katehe peijaan neuvoo raahin.

English: A gallant magician during the banquet will advise the heart.

Note 6.2: Image of flower shaped like a bleeding heart. The magician is both scribe and seated figure.

Line 6.3 (Drinking from a chalice)



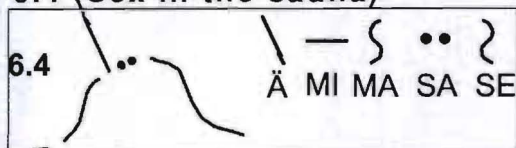
Indus: TÄ U 1 KA Y PA.

Finnish: Tähän urhean yksi kaataa yhen paahton.

English: Star's valliant one will drink the first toast.

Note 6.3: Image of two lips drinking beer from a chalice. 'Toast' can also be 'roast'.

Line 6.4 (Sex in the sauna)



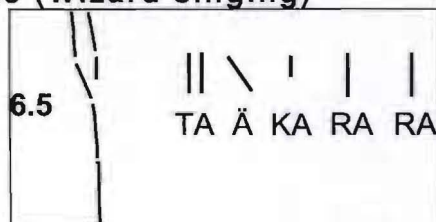
Indus: Ä MI MA SA SE.

Finnish: Äijät miehet maatavat salvoksen.

English: Many people will have sex in the sauna.

Note 6.4: Image of a woman with legs spread.

Line 6.5 (Wizard singing)



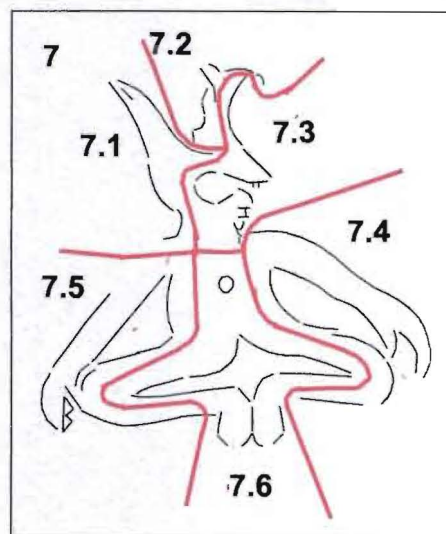
Indus: TA Ä KA RA RA.

Finnish: Taian ääntä kajahtaa rattosti raahin.

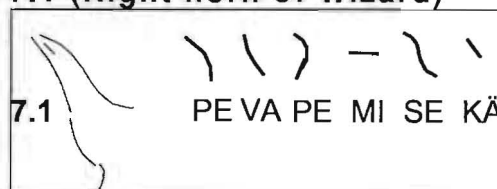
English: Taian's (wizard's) voice will ring out with pleasure from the heart.

Line 7 (Seated Wizard)

The rebus of the seated wizard divides into six parts.



Line 7.1 (Right horn of Wizard)

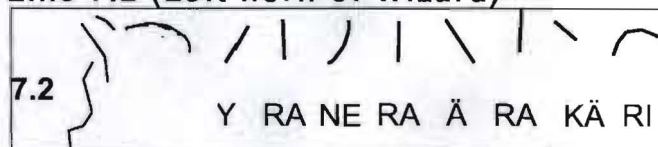


Indus: PE VA PE MI SE KÄ

Finnish: Peijas vaatii perhen miestä seistä käydään,

English: A banquet calls for family men to stop working.

Line 7.2 (Left horn of Wizard)



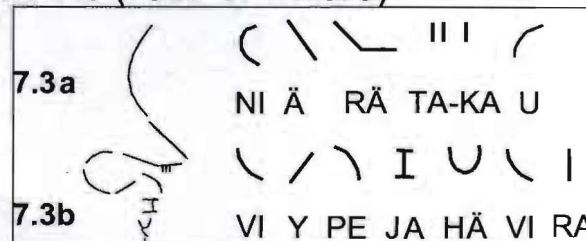
Indus: Y RA NE, RA Ä RA, KÄ RI.

Finnish: yhdyttää raitista neitia, ravita äijää raajaa, käydä rivoa.

English: to meet fresh maidens, to nourish long limbs, to become bawdy.

Note 7.2: partial profile of a female.

Line 7.3 (Face of Wizard)



Indus:

7.3a NI Ä RÄ-SÄ U:

7.3b VI, Y PE JA HÄ-VI-RA,

Finnish:

7.3a Niin äijeän rähjän taika huutaa:

7.3b "Viljot, yli-perheet ja hää-vierat,

English:

7.3a Then a great, shabby wizard will cry out,

7.3b "Dear friends, noble families and wedding guests,

Line 7.4 (Left side of Wizard)

Indus:

7.4a VE NI PE RA.

7.4b VI MI PE PU MI.

Finnish:

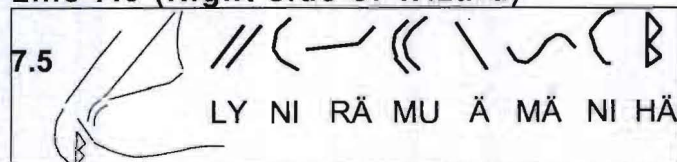
7.4a ventot niin; peijaa rattojen

7.4b viedä mi, peijas puhtaiden miehien.

English:

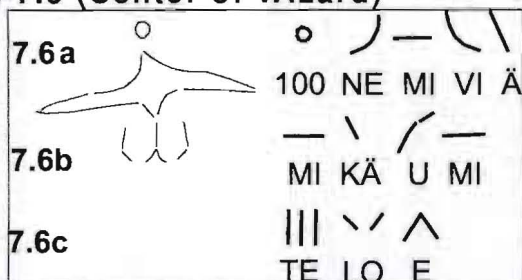
7.4a utter strangers likewise: a banquet of pleasures

7.4b to consume now, a feast for handsome men.

Line 7.5 (Right side of Wizard)

Indus: LY NI RÄ MU Ä-MÄ NI HÄ.

Finnish: Lydia niin rahjaa muijaa ämmää nistä häihin.

English: Beautiful as well the poor old ladies and wives of this wedding party.

Line 7.6 (Center of Wizard)

Indus:

7.6a 100 NE MI VI Ä,

7.6b MI KÄ U MI,

7.6c TE LO E.

Finnish:

7.6a Sata neitiä miehiä vie häät,

7.6b miehet käyvät uuen miehen,

7.6c Tenhote loihii Eheys.

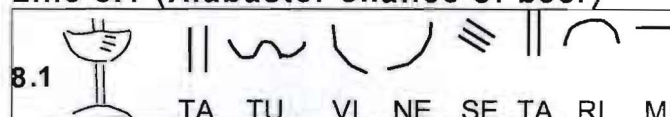
English:

7.6a A hundred maidens and men will conduct the wedding;

7.6b men will lead the new man;

7.6c and Magic-maker will conjure up harmony, integrity, perfection, unity, one.

Note 7.6c: *Eheys*, a special word used by adherents of the Goddess, appears on goddess figurines carved by mammoth hunters during the last ice age. Minoans in Crete used it for formal initiation ceremonies. It means 'harmony, integrity, perfection, unity, one', and could be written as numeral 1 or letter E.

Line 8.1 (Alabaster chalice of beer)


Line 8, the image of chalice, is just one sentence.

Indus: TA TU VI NE SE TA RI MI.

Finnish: Tarvitaan tuttavaa viedä neittä; se'ä tarvitaan ri'as miestä.

English: Needed are dear companions to escort maidens; also needed are rich men.

Notes 8.1: Image of a lathe-turned alabaster goblet or chalice, very rare (see Figure 8). *Se'ä* 'also' fr. *sekä*; *ri'as* 'rich' fr. *rikas*. I am using partitive for unspecified number of nouns.

Figure 8: Bactrian alabaster chalice, 2200-1800 BC.
Used by kings to drink ritual wine. (Pinterest)



of the square plates, which vary in size from 4.5 cm to 6.2 cm on a side. These resemble steatite seals that measure 2.5 to 5 cm on a side, and all include both text and a rebus figure.

Parpola, Asko (1994); *Deciphering the Indus Script*; Cambridge U. Press. Reissued in paperback 2009. Reviews the Indus Valley civilization and problems deciphering the script.

Webb, Jennifer M. and Judith Weingarten (2012); *Seals and seal use: markers of social, political and economic transformations on two islands*; British School at Athens Studies, Vol. 20, pp 85-104.

Wiktionary, invaluable source of how to conjugate Finnish words and suggestions for similar words.

Rules for writing in Old European

To write Finnish with Old European Consonant-Vowel syllabary, going left to right, for each word:

- Delete consonants at the end of a syllable.

- Delete internal D, H, J, T and V.

- Compress double vowels into a single vowel.

- Compress diphthongs into the first vowel.

To write Finnish with Ogham alphabet, for an entire sentence, going left to right.

- Compress double letters into a single letter.

- Compress diphthongs into the first vowel.

- No vowel if the vowel to the right is the same.

- Don't write final vowel if it is I (5 strokes).

Bibliography

Harris, Stuart L. (2020); *Decipherment of Indus Valley scripts and rebuses*; academia.edu, 20 pp. Shows how to read Indus Valley script.

Itkonen, Erkki (1992); *Suomen sanjojen alkuperä: etymologinen sanakirja*; Helsinki, 3 volume set of old words, etymology and usage. Invaluable.

Shinde, Vasant and Rick J Willis (2014); *A new type of inscribed copper plate from Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization*; *Ancient Asia*, 5, 08 Oct 2014. On line at ancient-asia-journal.com/articles/10.5334/aa.12317. Reviews nine copper plates found in private collections and publishes color photographs

Correspondence address:

Stuart L. Harris
stuhar@onlymyemail.com