

Graphics and text: a show and tell

In this document we decipher the text embedded along with illustrated scene in some of the IVC tablets. We have selected only the ones that have certain dramatic element in it.





M77 [1]	Graphics	Glyphs	Syllables	Description	Tamil
Plate V - 98		𑀮𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺	tālu-utai	push-kick	தள்ளு உதை
Plate V - 103		𑀮𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺	ceru-kottu-tadu-iru	stop-fight	செருக்கொட்டு தடு-இரு
Plate V - 105		𑀮𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺	iru-vilaguar-kanni-anuppu	prevent fighting by sending guard	இரு-விலக்கார்- கன்னி-அனுப்பு
Plate VI - 114		𑀮𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺	mu-tāri-tai-kol-ūr-an	accept ancestral power transfer	முதாழிதை கொள் ஊரான்









Plate IV - 80		𑌕𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆	nal.vari-yar- velan-kal- aru- ūr	Controller of cross-way Velan sending boat along the river in the town	நால்வழியார் வேலன் கல் ஆற்றுநர்
Plate IV - 81		𑌕𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆	tan-tari- mu.ūr-kanni- ūr	Controller of many country transactions	தன்தாழி வேலப்பவர் கன்னியூர்
Plate III - 55		𑌕𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆	palla.kotta- ar-velan- kanni- anuppu-māṭi	Unity of seven (3+2+ 2) nation's Velan (controlling bureaucrat?): Elephant fort sending by vehicle to buffalo country	பல்லர் கோட்ட வேலன் கன்னி அனுப்பு மாடி/மாடு
Plate III - 54		𑌕𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆𑌃𑌆	anjih.an- ūr- ar-mel- konda-ūr-an	Five-cross- way multi- storeyed rest-house for travellers	அஞ்சியன் ஊரார் மேல் கொண்ட ஊரான்

Plate III - 57		𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓	mu- puli(malai)- velan- eṟuvanji	Three- mountain tiger country excellent rest-house for hunters	முப்புலி வேலன் எழுவஞ்சி
Plate III - 50		𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓	valan- muvan- eṟuvanji-yar- ēr-ūr	Rhino country seal: Three- mountain rest-house to tiller's land	வலன் மூவன் வஞ்சியார் ஏர் ஊர்
Plate III - 51		𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓	palla-ar- māṭṭu-vel-ūr	Markhor country seal: Elephant country loads to hunter's town	பல்லர் மாட்டு வேலூர்
Plate I - 18		𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓𑀲𑀸𑀓	koṭa-ar- konda-para- iru-ūr	Elephant country (food): Cattle herder's leader sending to messenger's town	கோட்டார் கொண்ட பறையர் ஊர்

From these above observations and observations in other seals, it seems that there are seals of five countries: tiger, elephant, rhino, markhor, buffallo, the official logos for the tablets that may indicate the country of destination. In trade related seals, the text by themselves may or may not indicate the destination of the goods. The object in front of the animal seems to indicate if the cargo is perishable (food) or goods of other types (indicated by an object stack which seem to be previously

mistaken for incense stand and other such religious symbols). There seems to be transport mediator of high authority indicated by such symbols like ✱, ④, ⌘, etc. Of course, these symbols have pluripotency like other symbols, so one has to be careful in discerning the context-specificity especially as it occurs to the left of clitic 𑀓.

References

[1] MASI 77 Indus Script: Texts, Concordances & Tables of Iravatham Mahadevan,
<https://indusscript.in/>