A….-Asia-Indus-Mother Goddess

**Case no.: 3**

**Accession Number: A**

**Formal Label:** Asia-Indus-Mother Goddess

**Display Description:** This female ceramic, identified as the Mother Goddess by most scholars, has three aspects that are not mutually exclusive. First, it may be a votive image of a human birth-giving mother (as a specific votary object to assist the women of a family in their birth-giving róles). Secondly, it may be a general symbol for harvested crops or yields of animal husbandry, both products of the Earth. In the former example, these figurines, being made of clay, define their origins with the Earth. In the latter example, their association with animals may allude to their ability to command animals as the queen of all beasts, tame and wild. Thirdly, it may be the object of a fertility cult, specifically focused on the need to supply a family with children and then later with young adults, who could help manage the family’s farming and herding, as an element of the family’s security, which is still practiced by 2 billion people in the developing world. Female figurines from almost every excavated town and temple site suggest that the veneration of the Mother Goddess was wide-spread and diverse as our examples suggest.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map, GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:** **Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

a female divinity now unanimously identified as the Mother Goddess, perhaps a votive image maybe, people's reverence for the real birth-giving mother, or for the earth for all her bounties, was in the root of worshipping a deity who was primarily the 'mother' and a female in general. Otherwise also, the cult of female-worship, coupled with the fertility cult, seems to have been deep rooted in India's soil itself. The recovery of a large number of Mother Goddess figurines almost from every excavated site suggests that the Mother Goddess worship cult was very wide-spread during Indus days. The figurine has been cast with an elaborate headgear supported by a pair of bands and a brooch, tight-fitted short tunic with skirt part fastened with a broad waist-band using a medallion like clasp, and tight-fitted trousers, necklaces, ear-ornaments