A000-ME-Neo Elamite-Two Ibex and Tree of Life-Ram in Thicket-675-725 BCE



**Case no.: Cylinder Seals**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** ME-Neo Elamite-Two Ibex and Tree of Life-Ram in Thicket-675-725 BCE

**Display Description:**

The Elamites were a people located in southwestern Iran, in what is now [Khuzestan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khuzestan), [Ilam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%AAl%C4%81m_Province), [Fars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fars_Province), [Bushehr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bushehr_Province), [Lorestan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorest%C4%81n_Province), [Bakhtiari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaharmahal_and_Bakhtiari_Province) and [Kohgiluyeh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kohgiluyeh_and_Boyer-Ahmad_Province) provinces. Their language was neither [Semitic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semitic_languages) nor [Indo-European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European_languages), and they were the geographic precursors of the Persian/Median empire that later appeared. In Mesopotamia and Iran, the ibex have thick horns, which sweep back in a saber-like curve, and are flattened underneath; the upper surface is ornamented by a number of protuberances inclined backward and extending across the whole width of the upper surface, like ribs (Harrington 1977).

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:** 675-725 BCE, during reign of Humban-Kitin, King of Susa, last quarter of 7th century, son of Shutur-Nahhunte III. After https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_rulers\_of\_Elam

**Geographical Area:** Susa

**Map:**



**After https://pp.userapi.com/c845216/v845216156/e14b7/NMvmTHMrsSc.jpg**



**After http://www.ancientpages.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/susamap.jpg**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

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

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

Elam is a historical region and an ancient state (third millennium - middle of the 6th century BCE), located in the southwest of modern Iran (Khuzestan and Lurestan provinces).The Elamites themselves wrote (V. Hinz, "The State of Elam") the name of their country with the cuniform "hal-ta-am-ti", which perhaps should be expressed by "hal-tampt", and "hal" means "country", and "tampt" means "lord." Thus, the Elamites perceived their homeland as “the country of the Lord. It is also believed (D.T. Potts, "The Archeology of Elam") that the term "Elam" is an artificial construction, the name was coined by Mesopotamian scribes, who looked from their river alluvial valleys to the Iranian Plateau. In the Sumerian sources of the middle of the third millennium BCE, the name Elam was written by the NIM sumerogram, the value of which was simply “high”, it was often accompanied by the defining designation KI “land, country”. In the Akkadian form, the KUR elammatum or “land of Elam” was used, as a rule. However, it should be noted that the original name of Elam did not apply to the whole country. The country had a number of areas that in the early period retained their political independence: Avan, Adamdun, Anshan, Varakhse, Simashka, Susa, etc. The names of some areas often appeared in the titles of the Elam kings. All these areas from the end of III millennium BCE were united under the auspices of Elam.

In the lower Mesopotamian river valley the eighth to the sixth centuries BCE were exemplified by incessant conflicts created by the incessant ambitions of Assurbanipal to control the Elamites, which reached its climax during the second half of the seventh century BCE, the probable date of this cylinder seal.

In 653 BCE Assurbanipal advanced beyond the border town of Der, confronted the Elamites at the Ulai River and killed the Elamite king Teumman (Tepti-Humpan-Inshushinak, 663–653 BCE). Then Assurbanipal installed a suzerainty with the pro-Assyrian Humpan-nikash II (Huban-nugash) as king of Elam and his brother Attamet (Atta-hameti-Inshushinak) as Susa’s viceroy. Assurbanipal created the city of Hidalu as a kingdom for a third brother, Tammaritu II. Then, in the next year Assurbanipal was challenged by his brother Shamash-shum-ukin [(](http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/Art/Decorative-Arts/arjan_bowl.htm#_ftn5)Brinkman 1984: 93-104; Waters 1999: 99-107; Waters 2000; Russell 1999). Seeing this wedge in Assurbanipal’s power the Elamite king Huban-nugash broke his oath of alliance and sided with Shamash-shum-ukin. Another anti-Assurbanipal alliance was made in Hidalu between Huban-nugash, his brother Tammaritu II, and the people of the land of Parsuash. Assurbanipal, challenged on all sides, waged a brutal war and defeated the Elamite king Kurash (Cyrus), son of Teispes, who was forced to surrender his son Arukku as hostage to Assurbanipal. Assurbanipal was still not in total control of Elam; so in 646 BCE he sent his army to lay siege to the city of Madaktu (Mirochedji 1985: 215), to ravage Susa and thereby to fragment Elam into three disempowered suzerainties of Susa, Madaktu (Potts 1999: 13-28) and Hidalu (Boucharlat 1994: 220).

The two ibexes on this seal that are confronting each other before the tree of life suggests that this seal was an emblem of the aspirations of Elamites to establish a union in order to confront Assurbanipal.

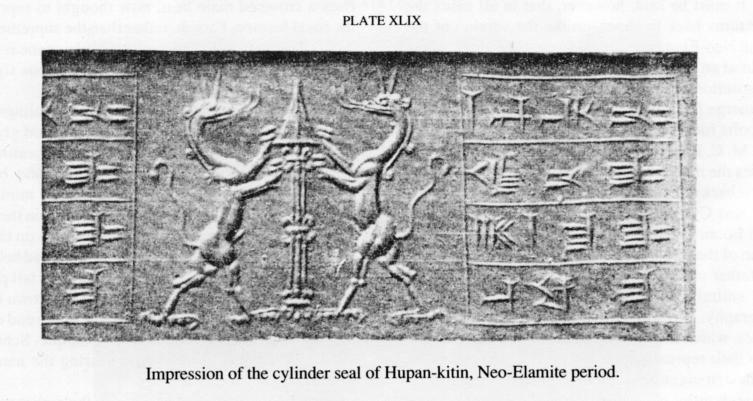


Column showing two reclining bulls in opposition from the Apadana of the Susa Palace during the reign of Darius I in the Louvre after[***https://pp.userapi.com/c845216/v845216876/e3f8e/yilGYMGot4U.jpg***](https://pp.userapi.com/c845216/v845216876/e3f8e/yilGYMGot4U.jpg)



Column showing two reclining bulls in opposition from the Apadana of the Susa Palace during the reign of Darius I in the Louvre afterhttps://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Bull\_capital\_Apadana\_%286%29.jpg

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