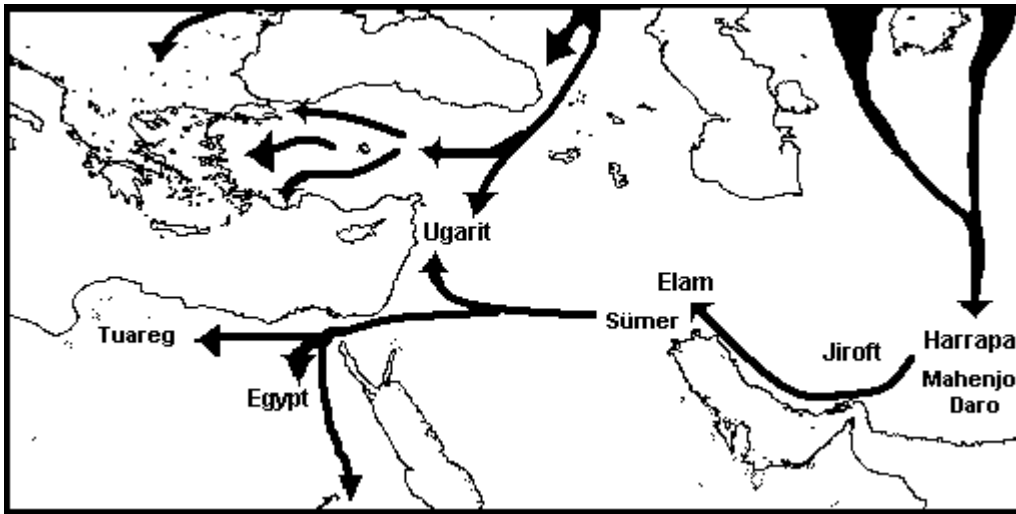


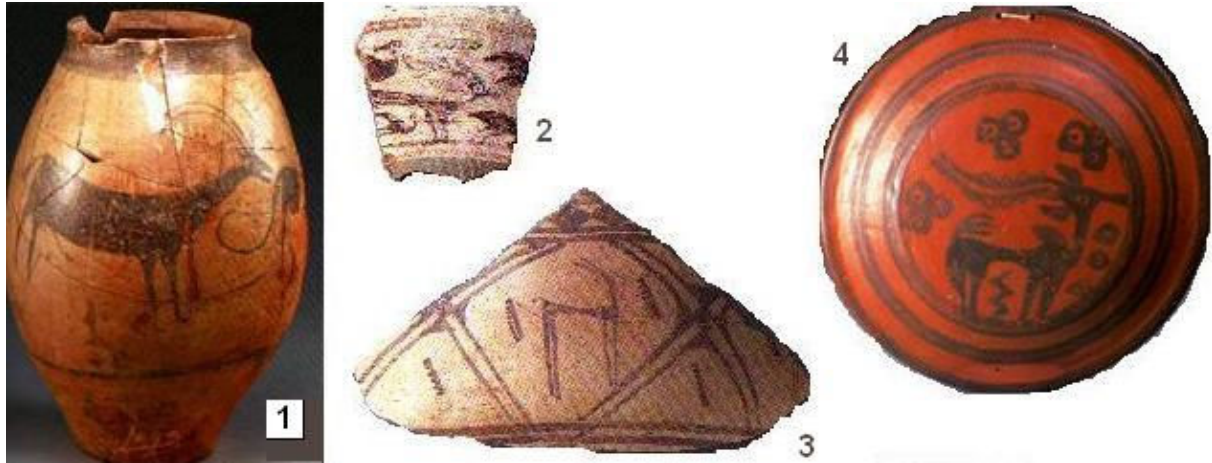
Towards Sümer and Elam

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The south-west expansion of the Uighur people did not stop at Harrapa and Mahenjo-Daro. From this region they went further west to Mesopotamia and Egypt. Another wave came from the north through the Caucasus to Eastern Anatolia and continued further south to meet the southern people on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. In this region where two groups met a new vision developed. This new vision, based mainly on trade, required a new system of writing. The reason being, that the Babylonian and Assyrian cuneiforms were too cumbersome to be used by the average trader. This is how the ***Ugaritic alphabet*** developed (see **13-Evolution of writing systems**). The eastern Anatolian branch dispersed further west to build new cities along the Aegean coast and also on the nearby Aegean and Mediterranean islands.



The symbolism of the sacred ibex can be followed in almost all of these regions, as a cultural indicator to the Central Asiatic origins. On several pots and broken pottery pieces from the Indus Valley and surrounding regions typical motifs of ibexes, gazelles and antelopes are found (1).



1. A barrel-shaped pot decorated with a row of ibexes painted in brown. **2.** Pottery fragment from the early period (circa 3,000 BC) with a gazelle among birds. **3.** A stylish ibex is found on a pottery fragment dated to the early second millennium BC. **4.** An antelope is seen on a polished plate from burial site that developed in and around Punjab following the peak of the Indus Civilization.

The sacred ibex has also found its place on the steles of Hakkari (see map of Chapter 12, **The Anatolian expansion**). These stone carvings, dated several thousand years old, suggest a very early connection between upper Mesopotamia and Central Asia (2). Two of the 12 carved steles found in Hakkari are shown below. The male figures hold drinking vessels and carry weapons, such as spears and daggers. The ibex figures (one of them enlarged) can clearly be seen above the left shoulder.



Hakkari (South-East Turkey)

Below we see a cylindrical stamp found in Susa, the main city of the Elamite culture. There are two intertwined ibexes next to an arrow (Ok). The script on each side is Elamite and has a precursor known as Proto-Elamite, still not deciphered (3). H. C. Rawlinson, who worked on the Elamite script thought that it belonged unquestionably to the Ural-Altai language group. Maurice Pope says in this regard (3):

The Elamite language had a long history behind it. Its existence is attested in cuneiform inscriptions of the second millennium BC, the so-called Middle Elamite, and probably extended back at least a further thousand years; for it is probably the language of inscriptions found at Susa in a quite different script, which are sometimes accompanied by a text, presumably a translation, in Akkadian cuneiform.



Cylindrical stamp from Susa (Elam) | Anu (Sumerian deity)

On the picture above (right) we see Anu, the main Sumerian deity. Anu is the sky-god, father and king of the Mesopotamian gods. His first consort was Antu; from them were the Anunnaki created- the underworld gods. When the name Anunnaki is split as Anu-ninki we obtain a Turkish word meaning “**belonging to Anu**” which is an appropriate name for the children of Anu. Anu wears, as almost all Sumerian gods, a headdress formed out of several superimposed horns (see Chapter 15, **The sacred horn**).

References

- (1) Ref. 3 of Chapter 17, The Indus Valley script.
- (2) **Great Stone Faces**, National Geographic, October 2000
- (3) Ref. 1 of Chapter 14, The Hittite symbolism, page 117