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Dating the Seals of Harappa: A Radiocarbon Approach

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Abernathy Symposium Abstract

Dating the Seals of Harappa: A Radiocarbon Approach

For many years, Indus seals have puzzled archaeologists with their detailed motifs and undeciphered script. There is no pattern to the relationship between motifs and inscriptions, as each motif has been found scattered across the greater Indus region. In looking at the context of the seals and radiocarbon dating of charcoal, bone, and shell in a singular site, there may be a definitive pattern between certain motifs and the time periods they were used. This study uses contextual analysis to identify chronological patterns of seals discovered at the site of Harappa. Should any patterns arise, this research study could be useful in understanding the context of Harappan seals.

Keywords: Indus Valley, Harappa, seals, radiocarbon dating, context, biological anthropology, archaeology, Pakistan, Bronze Age, South Asia