

Title: Sand (2 of 27)





Title: Apr 9 - 3:55 PM (4 of 27)



Title: Apr 9 - 3:23 PM (5 of 27)





Title: Apr 9 - 3:27 PM (7 of 27)



Title: Apr 9 - 3:30 PM (8 of 27)



Title: Apr 9 - 3:31 PM (9 of 27)



EGYPTIAN SCARABS



By far the most important amulet in ancient Egypt was the scarab, symbolically as sacred to the Egyptians as the cross is to Christians. Scarabs were already known in the Old Kingdom, and in the First Intermediate Period the undersides were decorated. They were probably sacred in the Prehistoric Period and had a role in the early worship of animals, judging from the actual beetles that were found stored in jars buried with the deceased and from those found in graves during the time of King Den of Dynasty I. A scaraboid-shaped alabaster box from Tarkhan seems to confirm that the scarab was already venerated at the beginning of Dynasty I. Scarabs are the most numerous amulets and were produced well beyond the dynastic periods.

The Egyptian scarab is the image of a dung beetle and sacred to the sun god. Dung beetles lay eggs in a pellet which they roll along and the Egyptians regarded this action as an image of the sun and its course through the heavens, rolled by a gigantic beetle.



M.C. Escher

TYPES OF SCARABS

Among the kinds of scarabs are: ornamental scarabs, heart scarabs, winged scarabs, scarabs with the name of a king or queen, marriage scarabs, lion hunt scarabs, commemorative scarabs, scarabs with good wishes and mottoes, scarabs with symbols of unknown meaning, and scarabs decorated with figures and animals.

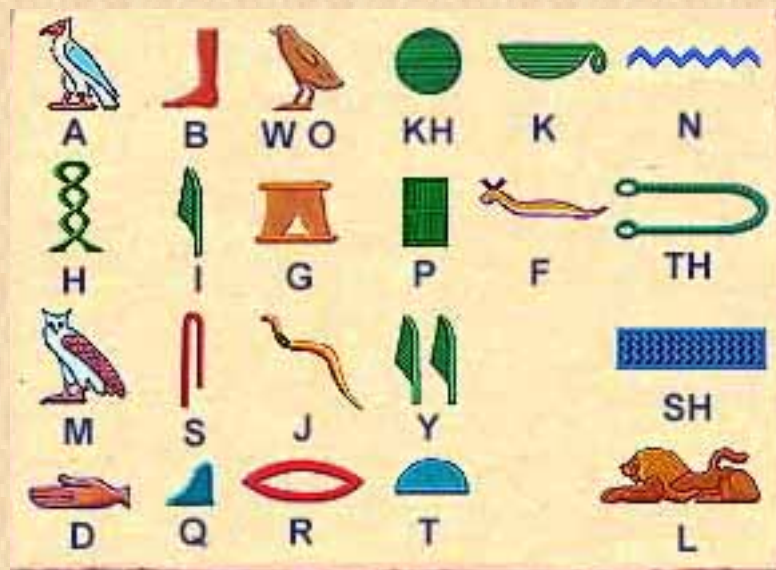
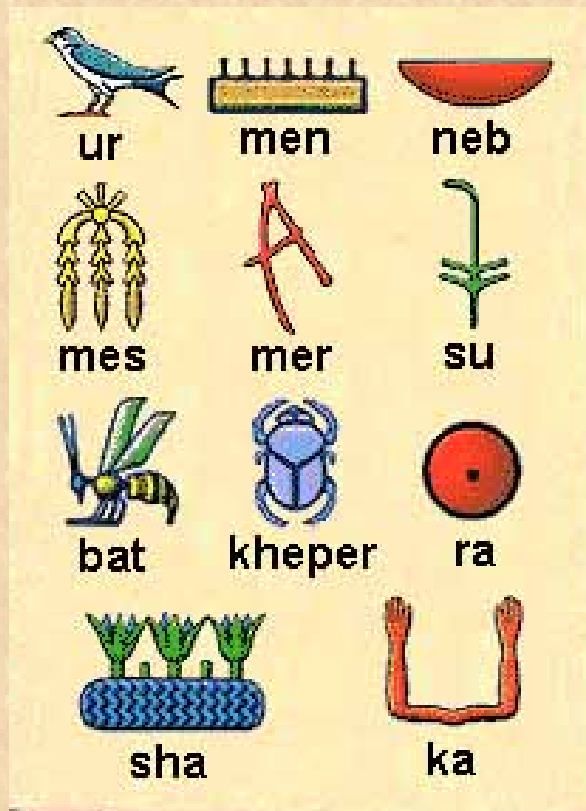
Most of the scarabs in these categories were probably used as seals, as proven by impressed clay fragments.



Egyptian Hieroglyphics

A  'a' as in water	A  'a' as in bat	B  'b' as in boat	CH  'ch' as in church	N  'n' as in not	O  'oo' as in zoo	P  'p' as in pet	Q  'q' as in queen
CH  'ch' as in loch	D  'd' as in dog	E  'e' as in money	F  'f' as in foot.	R  'r' as in right	S  's' as in saw	S  'ss' as in glass	SH  'sh' as in show
G  'g' as in gone	H  'h' as in hat.	H  'h' as in ich.	I  'i' as in pin	T  't' as in top	U  'u' as in glue	V  'v' as in viper	W  'w' as in win
J  'j' as in adjust	K  'k' as in basket	L  'l' as in lion	M  'm' as in man		Y  'y' as in money	Z  'z' as in zebra	

The Hieroglyphic Alphabet



Scarab(top)



Scarab(bottom)



Scarab Designs



Scarab Designs



Scarab(top)



Scarab(bottom)



top



bottom





Scarab amulet (right) carved in stone and pierced longways for wearing on a necklace - the flat underside of this example is inscribed with three hieroglyphs depicting the dwarf-god, *Bes*, with tail and plumed head-dress - a protective deity to avert evil, especially during childbirth (*circa 500 BC, 35 mm long*).



ORNAMENTATION

The underside of the abdomen, or flat side, of the scarabs was usually inscribed with the names of pharaohs and officials, private names, magical mottos, formulae, volute designs and other patterns, images of deities, sacred animals, and religious symbols.

Nor did the power of the amulet go unnoticed outside Egypt's borders. Numerous scarabs have been found in Palestine and other areas of the Near East, Spain, Italy, Sardinia, Greece and elsewhere, verifying the spread of Egyptian religious beliefs way beyond its borders. Most of these scarabs seem to have been accumulated as a result of contact from war and conquest, administration or trade, or through diplomatic relations.

USE

In one form, scarabs were a cheap and common form of "charm" which everyone could afford and easily wear strung on a cord on their person. Most scarabs were made for the living. The small magical object was believed imbued with particular protective powers that warded off evil and provided good things for the owner for this life and also for the next, particularly when sewn to mummy wrappings. This was especially true when worn as a heart scarab or winged scarab to provide a safe journey into the Afterworld of the gods.

Although the scarab amulet may have been degraded by its utilitarian use as the everyday seal, it still retained its religious and magical importance throughout the dynastic period and later. In the Greco-Roman period scarabs were sanctified by sacred rites performed in the elaborate "ceremony of the beetle," performed only on nine particular days of the month.

Common Good Luck Charms



Egyptian Gods and Goddesses



Thoth, the Ibis-Headed



Osiris, King of the Underworld



Thoth, the Dog-Headed



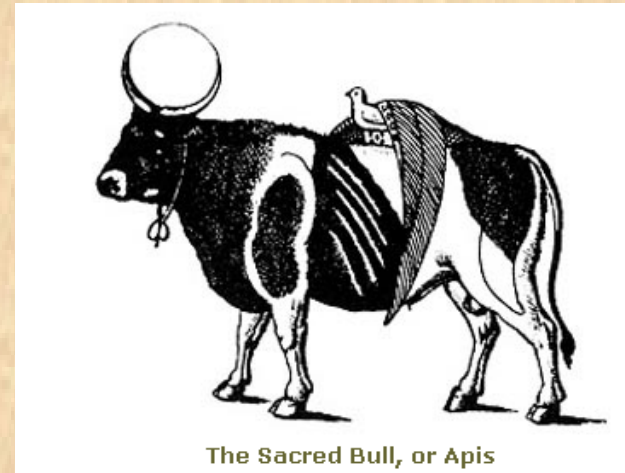
Isis, Queen of Heaven



The Crux Ansata (the Ankh)



An Egyptian Phoenix



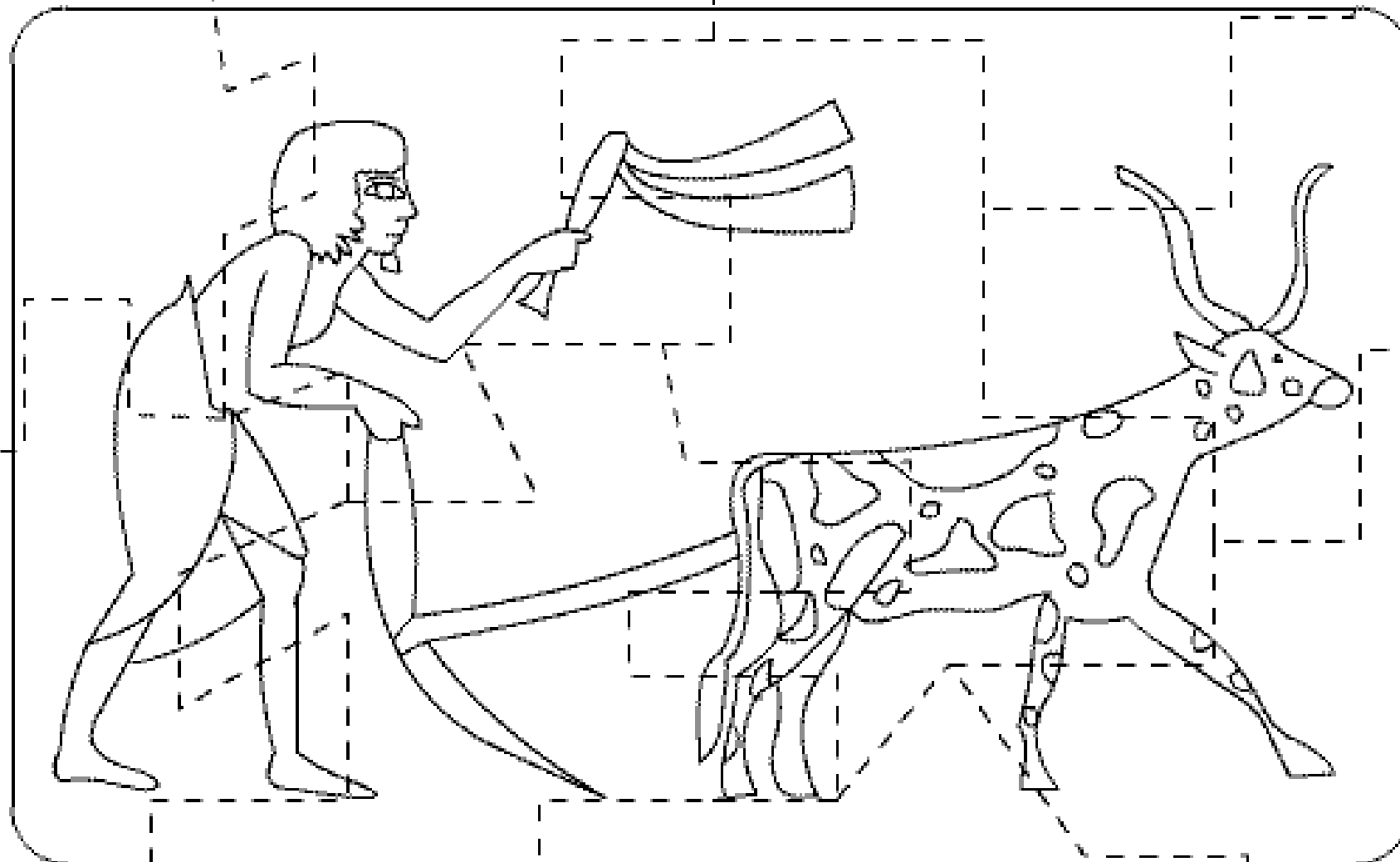
The Sacred Bull, or Apis



The Winged Globe of Egypt

Egyptian Symbols





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