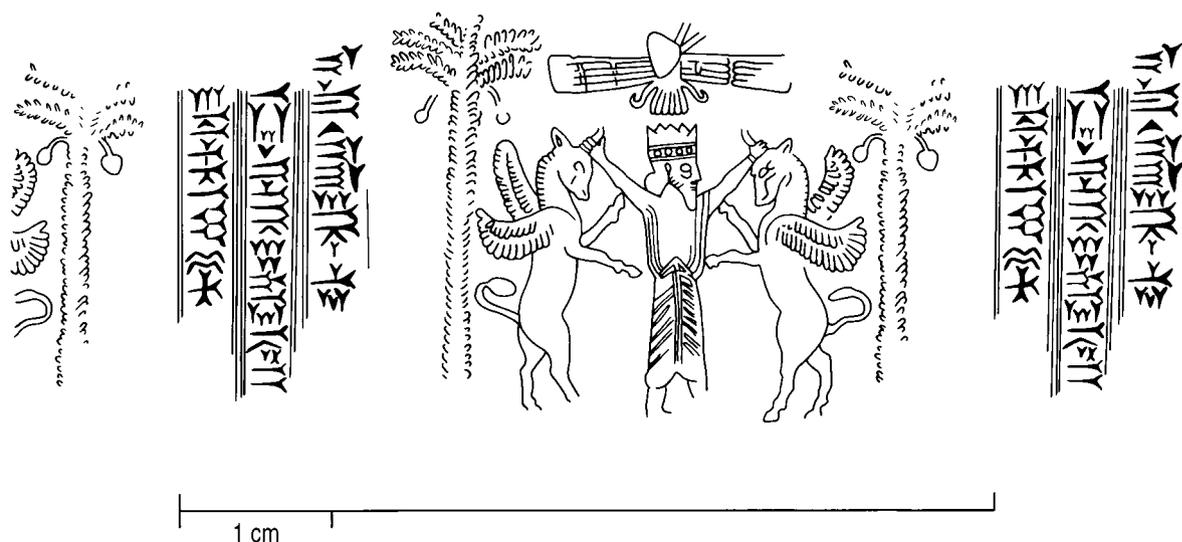


Cat.No. 4

PFS 7*



Seal Type:	Cylinder, Inscribed	Photographs:	Pl. 4a–d
Earliest Dated Application:	503/502 B.C.	Typology and Style:	I-A.2 — Court Style
Languages of Inscription:	Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian		
Preserved Height of Image:	2.60 cm (incomp.)	Preserved Length of Image:	5.40 cm (comp.)
Estimated Height of Original Seal:	3.00 cm	Estimated Diameter of Original Seal:	1.70 cm
Number of Impressions:	115	Quality of Impressions:	Many preserve excellent detail
Completeness of Image:	Almost complete except for upper edge and lower edge		

DESCRIPTION OF SEAL AS IMPRESSED IMAGE

Hero faces right, arms straight and diagonally upward above shoulder level; hero holds two rampant winged bull creatures by horn.

Each creature holds upper foreleg straight and extends it upward to place hoof at hero's arm; lower foreleg is straight and extended downward toward hero's waist; creature to right places hoof on hero's waist. Their tails curve upward with tufted terminations.

Hero wears Persian court robe; sleeves of garment are pushed up to reveal hero's bare arms; gathered folds of sleeves are indicated, as are central pleat and diagonal folds of lower part of garment. Hero wears five-pointed dentate Persian crown with studded band. Long rounded, striated beard rests over hero's left shoulder along chest; ear is clearly indicated; rounded coiffure lies at base of neck.

Each creature has two wings indicated, upper one extending diagonally upward from lower; two rows of feathers are indicated on each wing. Thick curved horn emerges from front of each creature's head; pointed ear is at back of each creature's head.

Date palms with bulbous fruit clusters frame heroic encounter. Figure emerging from winged symbol (with bird's wings and tail feathers with hooked tendrils) hovers directly above hero, facing right, and raises both arms. Figure wears Persian court robe with sleeves down. Wings are broad and rectangular with feathers indicated by long parallel horizontal lines intersected in each case by two vertical lines.

Paneled inscription is in terminal field, framed (like heroic encounter) by the two date palms.

INSCRIPTION

Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian

Line	1. [a-]da-ma : da-a-ra-ya-va-[...]
	2. [v.ú] v.Da-ri-ya-ma-u-iš [...]
	3. [ana-ku ^m]Da-ri-ia-muš [...]

Translation I (am) Darius ...

The inscription on PFS 7* has been known for some time and has been published, with previous bibliography, by Schmitt (1981). Schmitt's reading of the inscription is based on a letter that he had received from Hallock (Schmitt 1981, p. 22). The beginnings and ends of the lines are not preserved in any impression that we have studied. The beginnings of the Elamite and Babylonian lines are restored based upon the Old Persian. Restoration of the ends of the lines is more problematic since no known impression of any royal name seal of Darius preserves the ends of the lines. Published restorations of the ends of the lines follow the inscription preserved in the London Darius cylinder (Schmitt 1981, p. 19 sub SDa).

Known as SDe, the inscription is one of the standard trilingual (Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian) inscriptions of Darius I. The inscription is oriented along the vertical axis of the seal design, each line enclosed in its own panel, reading (from top to bottom): Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian. The visible signs in SDe are very similar to those found on SDa (the London Darius cylinder); the signs in SDe are slightly taller compared to the length of each line than in SDa. This may be a function of the rollings, where even a slight slippage would create a substantial difference in these proportions. It is also noteworthy that each line of the inscription in SDe appears to have its own case, which results in double lines between the Old Persian and Elamite inscriptions, and between the Elamite and Babylonian inscriptions. No other inscription on a seal of heroic encounter in the PFS corpus exhibits this characteristic. Seals with images of heroic encounter that have case lines enclosed in panels and oriented along the vertical axis of the seal are limited to PFS 7*, PFS 1* (Cat.No. 182), PFS 64* (Cat.No. 173), the royal name seal PFS 113* (Cat.No. 19), and PFS 526* (Cat.No. 216).

COMMENTARY

PFS 7* seems to have belonged to an office in charge of provisioning the king with food supplies (see Garrison 1996b; Hinz 1971, "Hofspeisenmeister"; cf. Tuplin [1998] who voices skepticism). The seal occurs only on a special type of transaction (J texts). The seal has no geographical restriction, and it seems to have important administrative authority. The seal occurs alone, or as a counter seal with PFS 66a* (II), PFS 66b* (II), or PFS 66c* (II), which are also office seals (overseeing flour deliveries) and are also found only on the J texts. The seal has, furthermore, been identified on an Achaemenid administrative tablet now in the Louvre (MDP 11 308). This tablet is a J text, and it is thought to have been found at Susa (Garrison 1996b). If MDP 11 308 is indeed from Susa, it vividly documents the wide administrative range of PFS 7*. Much of the bibliography focuses on the administrative use of the seal (e.g., Hallock 1977, Hinz 1971, Koch 1990, Garrison 1996b). Lewis (1994) considers PFS 7* one of Darius's personal seals that he gave out to a subordinate.

This masterfully carved seal is the largest preserved seal in the PFS corpus of seals of heroic encounter. The seal design is one of the early dated examples of the fully developed Court Style, formally and iconographically related to Court Style seals used on the slightly later Persepolis Treasury tablets.¹

The identity of the figure emerging from the winged symbol, traditionally associated with the god Ahuramazda, is still a subject of dispute.² The disk element of the typical winged symbol with figure emergent as we know it from the monumental art of the Achaemenids (viz., Root 1979) is not included in the symbol as rendered on any examples of the motif in the PFS corpus of hero seals. Compare PFS 7* with PFS 774 (Cat.No. 58), PFS 1053 (Cat.No. 45), and PFS 1071 (Cat.No. 29). See Garrison 1988 and 1991 and Root 1989, for discussions on style and selected iconographical features of the seal design. See Porada 1979, p. 85, and Dusingberre 1997b, pp. 107–14, for commentary on the date palm and its royal associations.

For comparative illustrations including PFS 7*, see pls. 179a (Persian court robes with sleeves pushed up), 188a (Persian crowns and fluted tiaras), 190a (beards), 197b (hands), 203a (arm positions of heroic control), 218a (comparative heroic proportions), 220a (bulls and bull creatures), 232f (spectacular animal studies), 248a (deities emergent from winged symbol), 259a (date palms), 261b (paneled inscriptions with vertical case lines), 265g (trilingual [royal name] inscriptions), and 281c (office seals).

1. Schmidt 1957, pp. 7–10, 18–33, pls. 1–14; see Amiet 1972, no. 2203, for a sealing preserved on a bulla from Susa, similar in style and iconography.

2. Root (1979) advocates the identification with Ahuramazda, reinforced, for example, by Lecoq 1984 and Sancisi-Weerdenburg 1993 but disputed most notably by Shahbazi 1980. Brief reviews of the problem include Kaim 1991; d'Amore 1992, pp. 210–11.

SEAL APPLICATION (SEE APPENDIX ONE: CONCORDANCE OF SEALS TO TABLETS IN VOLUME I)

As mentioned above, PFS 7* is either used alone or else with PFS 66a* (II), PFS 66b* (II), or PFS 66c* (II). When it appears with any of those seals, PFS 7* always occurs only (and in isolation) on the reverse, with PFS 66a*, PFS 66b*, or PFS 66c* always on the left edge and sometimes also on additional surfaces (excluding the reverse). When it appears alone, PFS 7* tends to cover all unscribed surfaces. On PF 722, PFS 7* occurs on all six possible sealing surfaces. Other sealing patterns include: reverse, upper edge, and left edge (six tablets); reverse and left edge (six tablets); reverse, lower edge, upper edge, and left edge (four tablets); reverse, lower edge, upper edge, right edge, and left edge (three tablets); reverse, upper edge, right edge, and left edge (two tablets); reverse, lower edge, and left edge (one tablet); reverse, lower edge, right edge, and left edge (one tablet); obverse and reverse (one tablet). On the reverse of ten tablets the seal is inverted. Impressions of the seal tend to be carefully executed, although vertical and lateral distortions occur. Multiple rollings of the seal are common on the reverse; they are neatly executed and consistently oriented. The size of the seal creates over-rolling in these cases. The large size of the seal also means that few impressions preserve the complete seal design.

Of the total 115 impressions, seventy-seven show some part of the inscription. In five impressions the seal is rolled for at least one complete turn, preserving the entire length of the seal design. Of these five applications, two display the hero in the center with partial rollings of the inscription at each end of the impression; two display the hero and the creature to left in the center with a full rolling of the inscription at the left of the impression, a partial rolling of the inscription at the right; one displays the hero and the creature to right in the center with a complete rolling of the inscription at the right of the impression and a partial rolling of the inscription at the left. Of the remaining 110 partial applications, ten display a complete rolling of the inscription in the center; one displays a complete rolling of the inscription and the date palm to right in the center; one preserves only a complete rolling of the inscription and the date palm to left; one preserves only a complete rolling of the inscription and the date palm to right; fourteen display the hero in the center; eight display the hero and the creature to left in the center (of which three preserve a partial rolling of the inscription at the left of the impression); twelve display the hero and the creature to right in the center (of which eight preserve a partial rolling of the inscription at the right of the impression); one preserves only the hero and the creature to left; five preserve only the hero and the creature to right; two display the creature to the left of the hero and a date palm in the center with a partial rolling of the inscription at the left of the impression; seven display the creature to the right of the hero and a date palm in the center with a partial rolling of the inscription at the right of the impression; one preserves only the creature to the left of the hero and a date palm; fifteen display the creature to the left of the hero in the center with a partial rolling of the inscription at the left of the impression; twenty-one display the creature to the right of the hero in the center (of which eighteen preserve a partial rolling of the inscription at the right of the impression); five display the date palm to the left of the hero in the center with a partial rolling of the inscription (in one instance a complete rolling of the inscription) at the left of the impression; six display the date palm to the right of the hero in the center with a partial rolling of the inscription (in one instance preserving a complete rolling of the inscription) at the right of the impression.

On the reverse of six tablets the seal clearly was applied before the text since several cuneiform wedges cut into the top or bottom of the impressions. PF 707 is the earliest dated tablet with PFS 7* and is dated 503/502 B.C.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aperghis 1999, p. 164; Dusinberre 1997b, pp. 107, 110–11, figs. 10–11; Garrison 1988, pp. 220, 255, 367, 372, 376, 377, 390, 391, 394–401, 414, 416, 474, 480, 489, 491, 530; Garrison 1991, pp. 3, 13–21, figs. 21–22; Garrison 1996a, pp. 42–45, figs. 14–15, pl. 6; Garrison 1996b, pp. 15–35, figs. 6–7; Garrison 1998, p. 128 (n. 24), p. 131 (n. 30); Garrison 2000, pp. 128–29, 130–31, 156; Garrison in press; Garrison and Dion 1999, pp. 10, 14 (n. 39); Garrison and Root 1996, pp. 11–12; Hallock 1977, pp. 127–28, pl. E (3); Harper et al. 1992, pp. 260, 273, no. 191; Hinz 1971, pp. 229–30; Koch 1990, p. 88; Lewis 1994, p. 31; Mayrhofer 1978 p. 16 sub 3.11.1; Miller-Collett and Root 1997, p. 360; Root 1979, pp. 121, 303; Root 1989, pp. 40–42, fig. 2; Root 1990b, pp. 36–37; Root 1992, pp. 445–46, fig. ART.35; Root 1996b, p. 22, figs. 6–7; Root 1997, p. 233; Root 1999a, pp. 170, 173, fig. 6; Scheil 1911, no. 308; Schmitt 1981, pp. 22 sub SDe; Stolper 1992a, p. 273, no. 191; Tuplin 1998, pp. 78–79.