

Reviews

Sudhansu Kumar Ray — Indus Script.

Published by Dr. M. K. Roy of the Indian Institute of Egyptology,
New Delhi, 1963, pp. 1-16 and 10 figures.

The pamphlet is a *Memorandum* No. 1, containing a brief resume of the thesis on the interpretation of the Indus Script. After the initial efforts made by Gadd, Sydney Smith, Langdon and Hunter to recognise the Indus signs Mr. Ray has further advanced our knowledge and placed before us the different components in the formation of the Indus signs. The analytical approach adopted here is the recognisable principle in the palaeographical world. I entirely agree with him and accept his important discovery of the two main principles underlying the formation of the Indus signs, viz.—(1) the accentuation of the original signs, and (2) combination of two or more signs—both these principles were hinted by me in my chapter on the Indus *Script*.¹ My analysis was only exploratory as I had not much time to

1. A. H. Dani, *Indian Palaeography*, Oxford, 1963, p. 19.

devote to this script, but Mr. Ray has successfully worked out in detail and further shown the evolution of simplified forms from the original recognizable animals or objects. As far as this stage is concerned, it is clearly an advance over our existing knowledge. In order to arrive at this stage it is not necessary to take help from the modern Indian scripts because too much reliance on the later scripts may defeat the very purpose of decipherment unless, of course, Mr. Ray can show a continuity from the Indus script to the later writings and establish a connection between them. Any way it is hard to comment on the values proposed unless other details are published.

A. H. Dani