

The Etymology of Chinese 辰 Chén

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ABSTRACT

In the course of the present study the original signification of the Chinese 辰 chén pictogram is demonstrated from graphic, semantic, and phonological perspectives. On the basis of an examination of the extant Chinese material from all historical periods, it is shown that the 辰 sign is in fact a representation of a scorpion in striking position as seen in profile. It is likewise shown that this representation bears directly upon the once vigorous traditions relating to the ancient equinoctial position of the star Antares in the Breast of the Celestial Scorpion. It is demonstrated that, while certain stellar concepts betray the likelihood of an early (pre-OBI) Sino-Mesopotamian relation, these concepts nevertheless took peculiar Chinese form, such that it is possible to demonstrate the cognacy of Chinese 辰 and 'scorpion' words in Sino-Tibetan.

《辰字的原始義》

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提要

本文從古文字、轉義、音韻三個方面對漢字‘辰、晨、農’的原始意義進行了研究。在對現存的各個曆史時期的漢文資料檢驗的基礎上，說明‘辰、晨、農’這三個符號實際上是表示一只蝎子的尾螯胸形象。本文同樣還說明某些異體的古代文字直接與大火星（大晨、氐房心尾宿）的古代二分點的位置有關。某些有關恆星的概念表明遠古（先甲骨文）時代中國與美索不達米亞之間關係的可能性，然而，這些概念卻以獨特的中國形式表現了出來。因此，我們有可能證明在漢藏緬語中的字‘蠱’、‘蠹’與‘辰’是同源的。