

# The ZODIAC of SENENMUT (Egypt, 15th century BC) is the oldest representation of the heavens recognized by mainstream scholarship.

The graphic of the Zodiac of Senenmut is found in original size at Dr. Karl H. Leser's website at <http://www.maat-ka-ra.de/english/>. Leser writes: "... the astronomical ceiling from Chamber A, TT353 ... is the oldest astronomical presentation known - the next one was found in the tomb of Sethi I. - and naturally, it is the only one in a private tomb (from Dorman, 1991). The astronomical ceiling measures approx. 3x3.6 m at its greatest dimensions.

The ceiling of Chamber A is divided into two sections representing the northern and the southern skies.

The southern - upper part shown in the picture above - is decorated with a list of decanal stars, as well as constellations of the southern sky belonging to it like Orion and Sothis (Sopdet). Furthermore, the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and Venus are shown and associated deities who are traveling in small boats over the sky. Thus, the southern ceiling marks the hours of the night.

The northern - lower part - shows constellations of the northern sky with the large bear in the center. The other constellations could not be identified."

We see here a similar astronomical theme to the bull Taurus and the spear thrower Orion at Knossos in Minoan Crete. Moreover, we can easily identify the middle vertical line running to the tail of the Bull and to the head of Cetus at Menkar, here a young woman, as marking the line of the Equinoxes.

We can date this starry heaven to March, 1476 BC, when the four planets depicted in Senenmut's tomb (Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and Venus) all conjuncted at the point of the Vernal Equinox.

The upper graphic is used pursuant to the fair use exception to the copyright laws and is reduced in size from the original drawing found at the website of Dr. Karl H. Leser at [http://www.maat-ka-ra.de/english/personen/senenmut/sen\\_t353.htm](http://www.maat-ka-ra.de/english/personen/senenmut/sen_t353.htm).

The lower graphic was made by Andis Kaulins using the above graphic as a model. The decipherment of the lower drawing and the setting of the date of Senenmut's heaven to March, 1476 BC, was made by Andis Kaulins on March 11, 2005.

