

Karkemish of the Hittites on the Euphrates New Discoveries and New Acquisitions



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA CULTURE CIVILTÀ

Karkemish of the Hittites on the Euphrates New Discoveries and New Acquisitions

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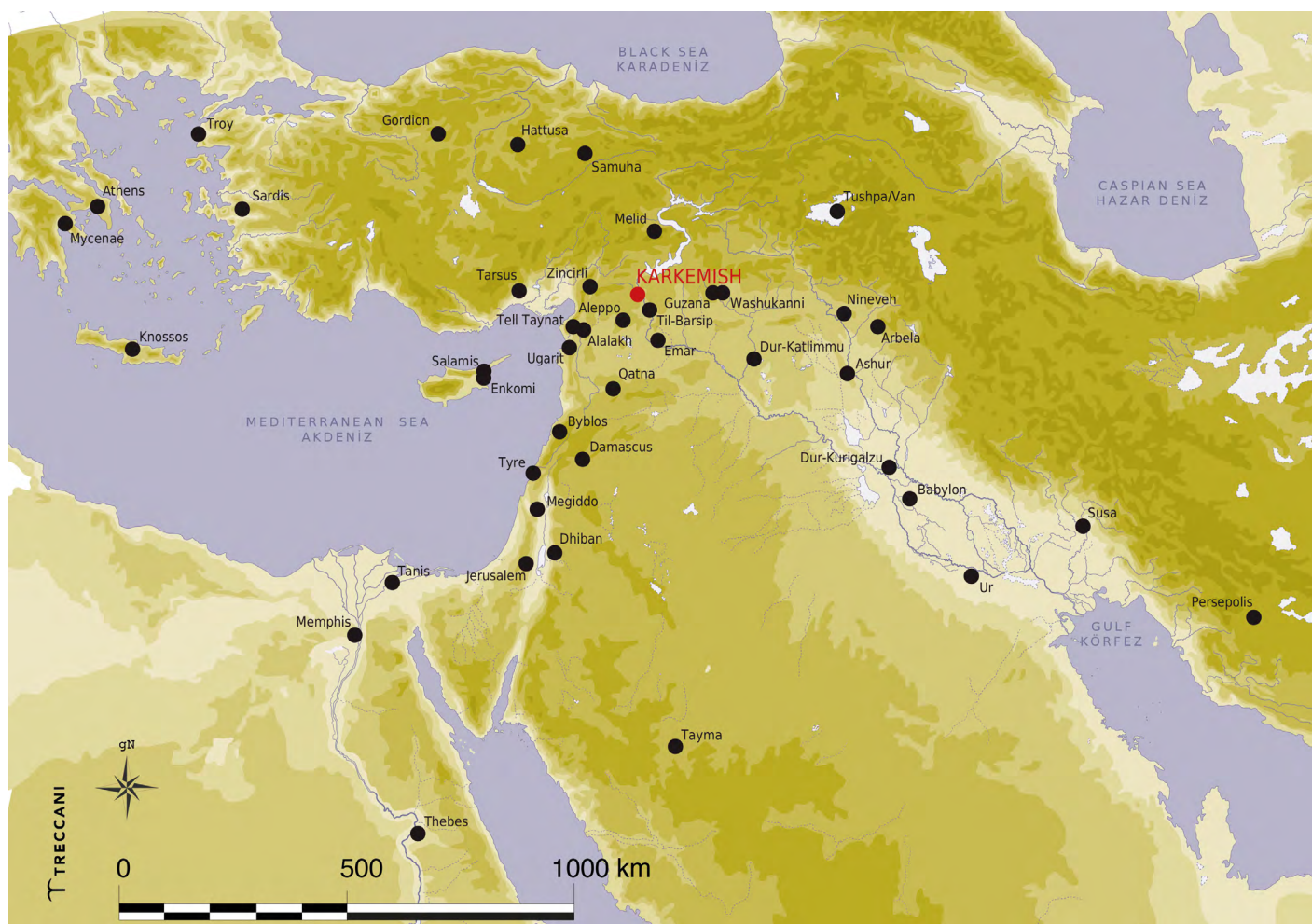
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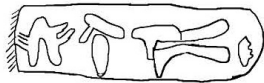
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Impressed sealing

Excavation no. KH.17.O.89 (Gaziantep)

Material: Clay

Dimensions: h. 3.6; w. 5.2; th. 2.4 cm

Context: Lower Palace, area C East, fill F. 8051

Date: Late Bronze IIB or early Iron I, 13th or 12th century BCE

Cat. 11

Description

Because the sealing was found within the fill of an Iron II pit (P.8050) cutting into the Late Bronze IIB and Iron I layers, we cannot date it by stratigraphic means and it may well belong to an immediately post-Imperial phase. It was applied against the neck and rim of a juglet (diam. ca. 5 cm), probably markedly outturned, covered with a piece of fabric, perhaps an open weaved gauze made out of fine threads, bound with two rows of cord (0.2 cm diam.), the negative signs of which can be seen along the broken section of the sealing. On the obverse it bears two impressions of the same signet ring engraved with Anatolian hieroglyphs giving the owner's name: *i(a)* (L209) – *zi/a* (L376) – *tá* (L29) which can be read as Iz(z)ita, a name hitherto not attested. This seal is distinct from other 13th century BCE signet ring examples (as Cat. nos. 2, 8, 10) and it may also date from a slightly later period having no decoration and a simple linear arrangement of the signs, thus its date can be broadly determined as between the late 13th and the mid-12th centuries BCE (in the latter case, being contemporary with Cat. nos. 24-30).

CDO, NM, HP

Peker 2020: 318-319, fig. 5

References