

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

Ankara, Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, February 2nd to March 26th, 2026

edited by
Nicolò Marchetti

Ante
Quem

OrientLab
Research on the archaeology of the ancient Near East
Series editor: Nicolò Marchetti

www.orientlab.net/pubs

Editorial staff: Vittoria Cardini, Claudia D'Orazio

Text and images are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution CC
BY-NC-SA 4.0 of the Authors and Ante Quem S.r.l., if not credited otherwise



All images, if not credited otherwise, refer to monuments and material from the site of Karkemish and are the copyleft of the Turco-Italian Archaeological Expedition at Karkemish.

Published by Ante Quem S.r.l. and the Department of History and Cultures – University of Bologna
Via Senzanome 10, 40123 Bologna – tel. and fax +39 051 4211109
www.antequem.it

Printed in January 2026

ISBN: 978-88-7849-212-7 (paperback)
ISBN: 978-88-7849-213-4 (online)
doi: 10.12878/orientlab3

FOUNDING UNIVERSITIES



Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna
Department of History and Cultures



Istanbul University
Faculty of Letters - Department of Ancient Languages
and Cultures



Gaziantep University
Faculty of Architecture

FINANCIAL SPONSORS



Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



SANKO Holding

PARTNERSHIPS



Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Directorate General for Cultural Heritage and
Museums



Museum of Anatolian Civilizations Directorate



Istanbul Archaeological Museums Directorate



Gaziantep Archaeological Museum Directorate



Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality



Turco-Italian Archaeological
Expedition at Karkamış Höyük

TABLE OF CONTENTS

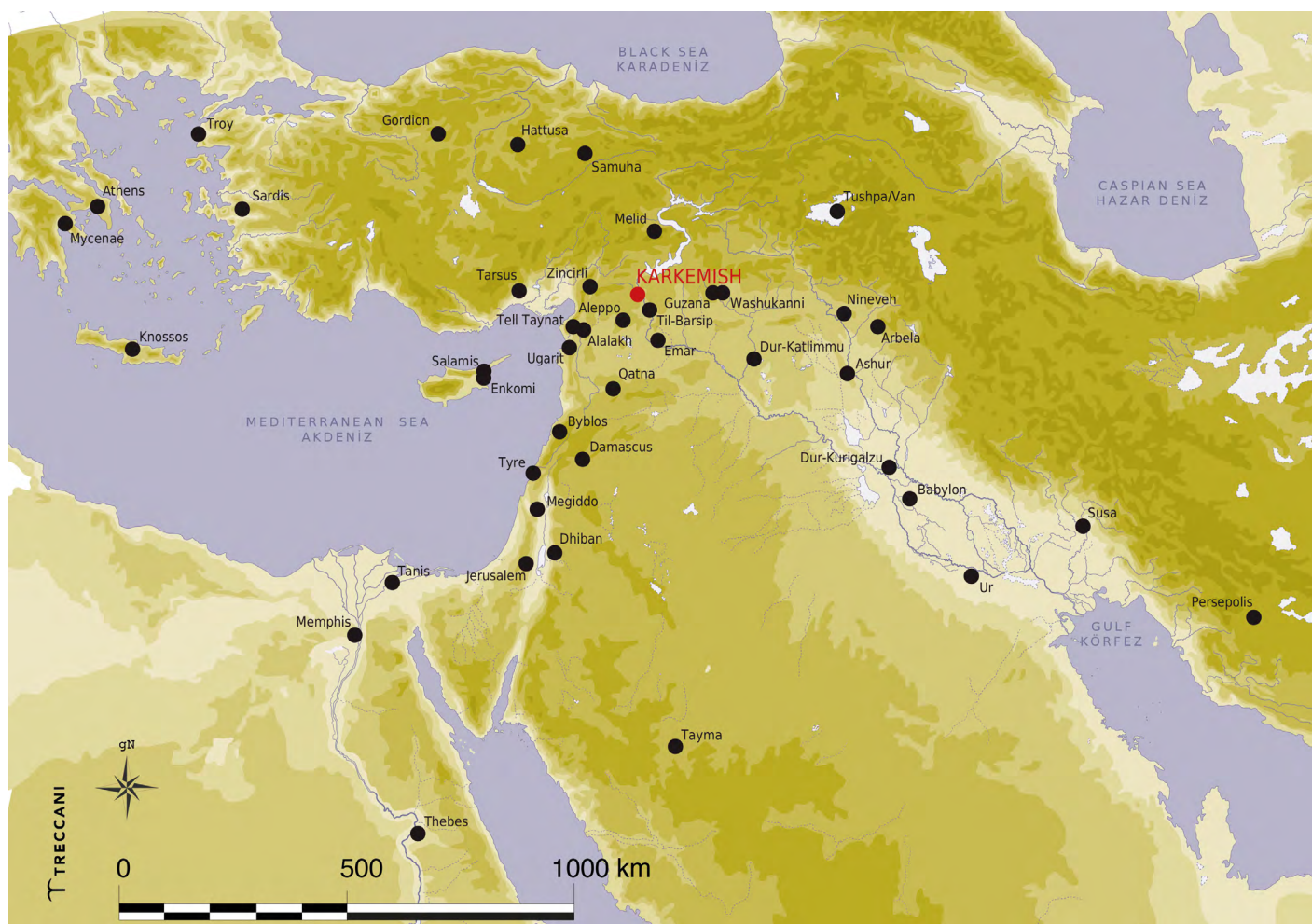
Forewords.....	7
Visual communication at Karkemish between the Imperial and Late Hittite periods NICOLÒ MARCHETTI.....	14
Anatolian hieroglyphic writing at Karkemish HASAN PEKER.....	24
The Late Bronze II and Iron I-II layers at Karkemish VITTORIA CARDINI, CLAUDIA D’ORAZIO, GABRIELE GIACOSA, SARA PIZZIMENTI, ROSA RIVOLTELLA.....	28
The Hittite Empire period sealing archive from Karkemish: a web of officials and economic tasks GIACOMO BENATI, CLAUDIA D’ORAZIO, NICOLÒ MARCHETTI, HASAN PEKER.....	40
A unique Late Hittite monumental cuneiform inscription from Karkemish GIANNI MARCHESI.....	44
The Karkemish archaeological landscape between Late Bronze II and Iron II periods GABRIELE GIACOSA, MEDYA KARAKAYA, MERVE ÖZYİĞİT, BEYAZIT SÖYLEMEZ, İBRAHİM ÜNGÖR.....	46
The bioarchaeology of Karkemish between Late Bronze II and Iron II periods MÜGE ERGUN, ELENA MAINI, ELEONORA SERRONE, RULA SHAFIQ, ALEXANDER WEIDE.....	50
The museum collections from Karkemish in Türkiye UMUT ALAGÖZ, RAHMİ ASAL, ÖZGÜR ÇOMAK, RAMAZAN EKER, YUSUF KİRAÇ, MUSTAFA METİN.....	54
The new arrangement of the Karkemish sculptures in the central hall of the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations UMUT ALAGÖZ, NICOLÒ MARCHETTI, MUSTAFA METİN.....	58
The digital repository for the Late Bronze II sealing archive and the 3D model of Late Hittite Karkemish JACOPO MONASTERO.....	60

CATALOGUE

Nos. 1-57.....66

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....

188





CATALOGUE

Authors' initials:

BB Barbara Bolognani

CDO Claudia D'Orazio

GG Gabriele Giacosa

GM Gianni Marchesi

HP Hasan Peker

LB Lorenzo Bellaviti

MM Mustafa Metin

MYM Mehmet Yiğit Meydan

NM Nicolò Marchetti

SB Sara Bottino

UA Umut Alagöz

*Photos and drawings are reproduced at the scale indicated at the bottom of the page, where present, with the exception of details marked with * and of the 3D models. The museum where the piece is kept is indicated in parentheses after its inventory number.*



Cat. 2

Impressed sealing

Excavation no. KH.17.O.531 (Gaziantep)

Material: Clay

Dimensions: l. 2.3; w. 3.5; th. 3.4 cm

Context: Lower Palace, area C East, fill F.8867 (phase A)

Date: Late Bronze IIB, 13th century BCE

Description

The reverse of the sealing shows the negative impression of an angled wooden surface, which suggests that the sealing was placed on the edge of a wooden box. On the obverse there are two seal impressions made from two different seals, a cylinder seal and a signet ring, both belonging to the same prince named Taya (meaning “man” in Hurrian), one of the few who is attested in both phases and who in total had three cylinder seals (C1-3), four button seals (B1-4) and four signet rings (S1-4), see also Cat. nos. 6-7 (Peker 2023a: 131-133, no. 22, table 3, fig. 22a-n). The cylinder seal (C2; h 3.2 cm) features, between guilloches, a Storm-god in smiting position (in other impressions by the same seal, the mace and the tall horned cap are visible) holding a large axe (Beyer 2001: 303-304, fig. 33 calls him the Syrian Ba'al), in front of, probably, two other deities, a female one crowned and with a long flounced dress with rolled vertical border (possibly the Aleppine Hepat), and a male figure with tall cap, dress to the knee and an object in his right hand. The legend reads in hieroglyphic writing: *tá-i(a)* AURIGA₂ (DEUS) *ku*+AQUILA = Taya, Charioteer of the goddess Kubaba; in cuneiform: 1. ^{NA4}KIŠIB 2. ^mTá- 'e-e 3. AŠ LUGAL = Seal of Taya, (elder) son of the king. The signet ring (S2), with a fine ladder motif along the edge, has the same hieroglyphic legend as above. In other impressions, Taya carries also the title of vizier, thus having had diplomatic and commercial responsibilities in addition to his cultic ones.

CDO, NM, HP