

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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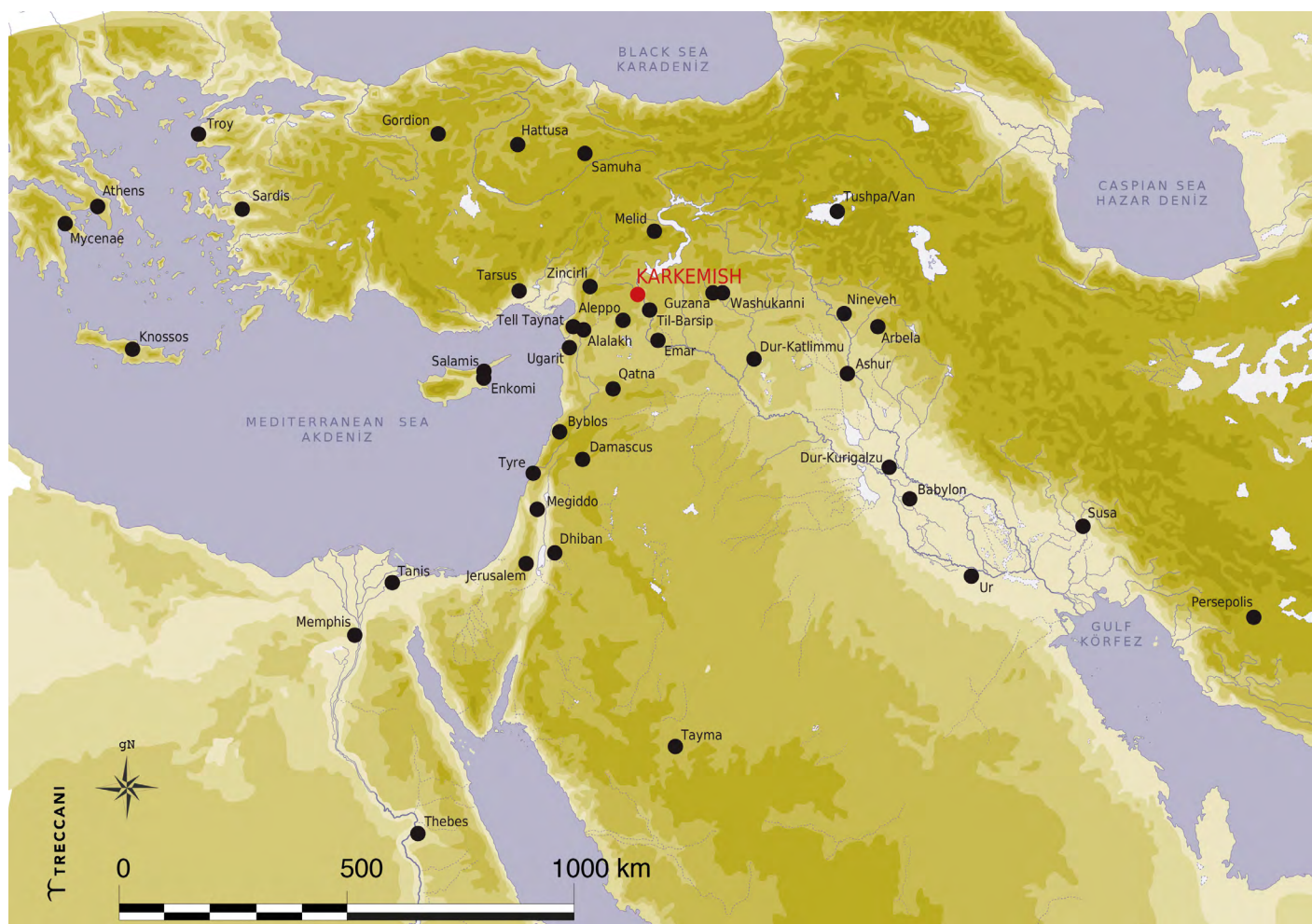
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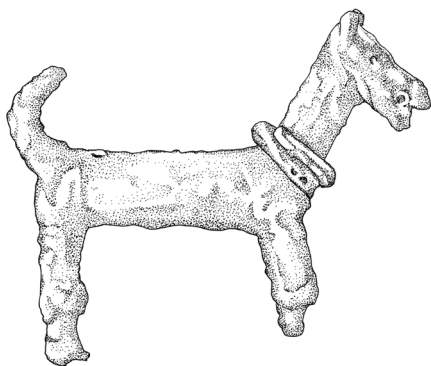
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*



Dog figurine

Excavation no. KH.12.O.142 (Gaziantep)

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: h. 8; w. 11.8; th. 2.9 cm

Context: Lower Palace, area B, “Hilani” temple, fill F.809

Date: Late Bronze II or Iron II (14th-13th or 9th-8th centuries BCE)

Cat. 43

Near the stone threshold (L.828) that led to a staircase to the roof of the temple in area B (mistakenly called “Hilani” by the British excavators in 1914), on a floor covered by a fill (F.809) containing Iron II pottery, there was a bronze statuette of a quadruped, most likely in a secondary position. The figurine appears to depict a dog with a collar around its neck, with claws also visible on its front paws. Although the short, curved tail could also suggest a lion, the collar supports an identification for it as a domestic animal rather than a wild one. A tenon under each pair of joined paws was intended to be inserted into a lost base. Although it was initially dated to Iron II, it is also possible that it dates back to Late Bronze II on the basis of its resemblance with three bronze canid figurines, probably with a votive function, from Middle Assyrian levels at Tell Rimah (Mallowan 1986: 149-151, pl. 28). If the later dating is confirmed (Marchetti 2014b), it seems that it rather had an apotropaic function, without specific references to a divine figure, while, if it dates back to Late Bronze II (as it seems more likely), then it would retain a votive character and a connection with the goddess Nikarawa/Gula (see Marchetti 2024a), the possible titular deity of the temple.

NM

Description

Marchetti 2014b: 315-317, fig. 4, pls. XXX-XXXI; 2024a (note that the correct inventory number is KH.12.O.142, and not KH.12.O.464)

References