

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

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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

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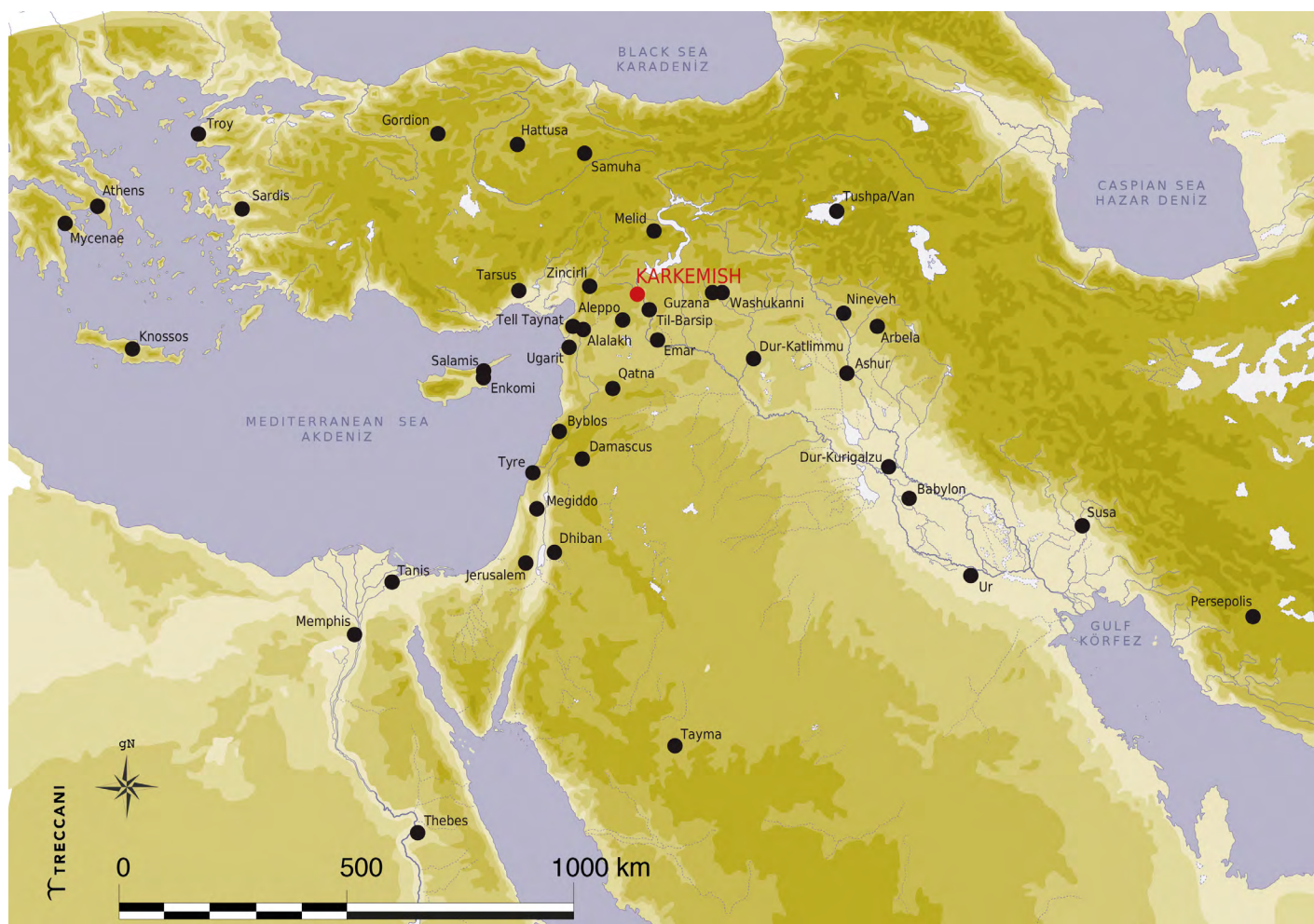


Turco-Italian Archaeological
Expedition at Karkamış Höyük

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Cat. 5

Impressed sealing

Excavation no. KH.20.O.99 (Gaziantep)

Material: Clay

Dimensions: l. 5.7; w. 4.0; th. 2.4 cm

Context: Lower Palace, area C Center, Seal-house, fill F.10825 (phase B)

Date: Late Bronze IIB, 13th century BCE

Description

Sealing originally placed against the rim and neck of a vessel, covered with a piece of fabric tied with at least three laps of strings. On the obverse of the sealing there are three impressions of two different cylinder seals. One of them is very partially preserved, showing a guilloche and the beginning of a name written in cuneiform Aza... The other seal (h. 3.3 cm) is the product of the Karkemish glyptic workshop, with carefully executed and arranged figures between guilloches. The left part of the field is not fully preserved, the main deity was present there, certainly the Storm-god because an arm with a mace in smiting position is preserved along the cuneiform legend (he stands on two Mountain-gods with curved necks). In front of him there are the Great King under a winged sun disk behind whom is a god (of uncertain identification, perhaps Nergal or Karhuha, see Marchesi and Marchetti 2019: 528-529, note 26) with single-horned cap, bow and spear, each standing above a kneeling genie. The legend (known also from other sealings) reads in hieroglyphic:]-*pari-ki-sà* AULA = Abarikisa loyal (noble)man; and in cuneiform: 1. ^N[^{A4}KIŠIB] 2. ^mA-*ba-r*[*i*-... ^L] ^ÜD[UGUD?] = S[eal] of Abar[ikisa] the di[gnitary]. The first part of the name is composed with Abari, a local Hurrian god.

CDO, NM, HP

References

Peker 2023a: 127, no. 2, fig. 1, p. 128, no. 4, fig. 3, table 1