

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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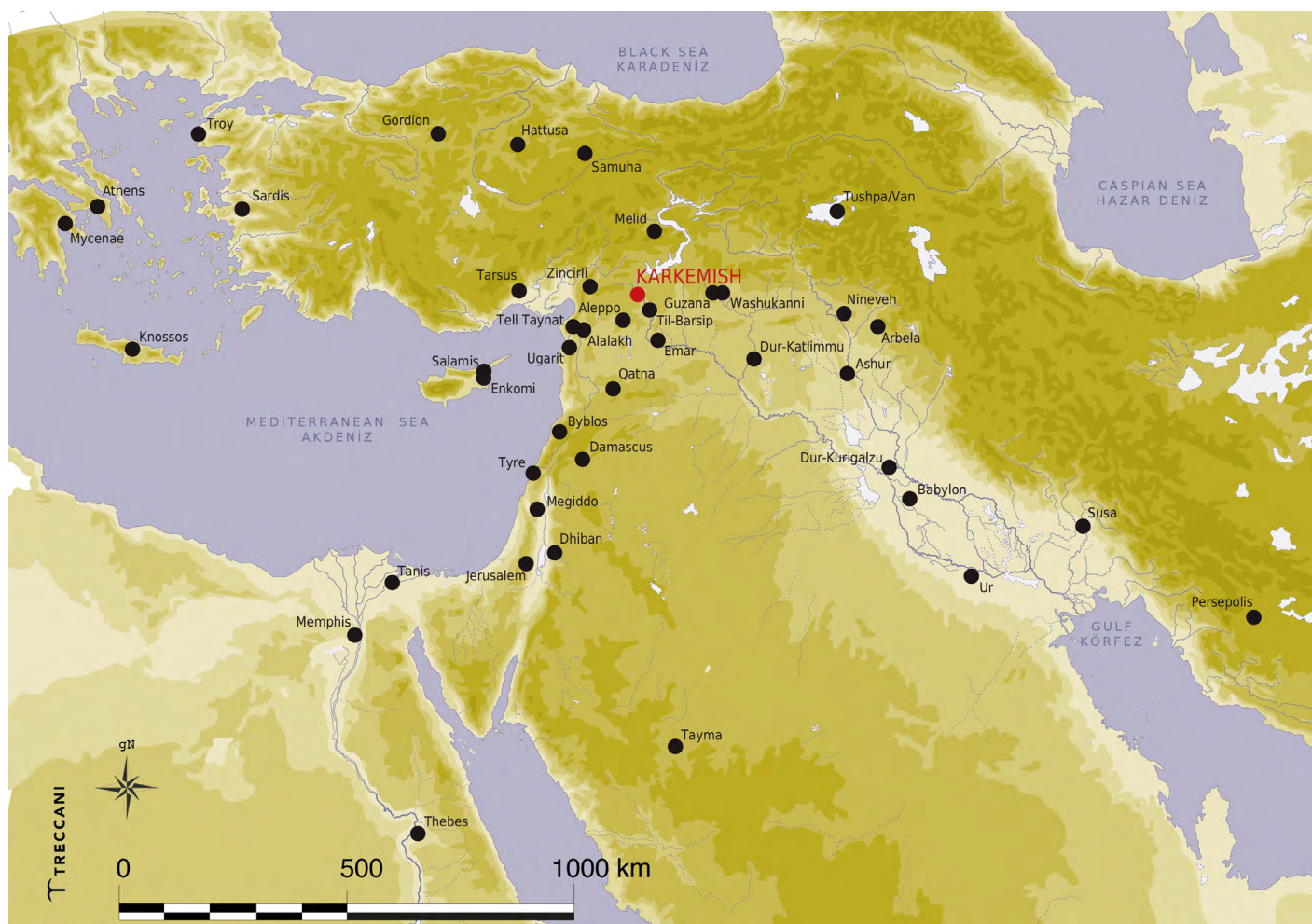
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Kohl box

Museum no. 6974 (Istanbul)

Material: Limestone

Dimensions: h. 4.7; w. 7; th. 1.4 cm (perf. diam. 0.2 cm)

Context: British Museum excavations, Inner town

Date: Iron II, 9th-8th centuries BCE

Cat. 42

Description

Rectangular kohl box, made of limestone and with three parallel cylindrical hollows (intended to contain the cosmetic substance) on the top short side, while the suspension holes at the corners are broken. The front side has a figurative scene depicting a man looking backwards while riding a bull with the arms stretched out. The rider, with a large almond-shaped eye and a pointed helmet with two strands of hair on the back, is likely an archer, with his bow depicted on the upper right corner (for representations of bull riders on glyptic, see Meyer 2008: 129-130, no. 314, fig. 102.1). The back side shows geometrical patterns with crosshatch between notched borders and parallel lines. On one short side there is an unclear motif, possibly a zig-zag. Another smaller kohl box, made of steatite and with two hollows and incised decoration, from the British Museum excavations at Karkemish is unpublished (Istanbul Museum inv. no. 6973). Rectangular cosmetic containers of this kind are a popular class of objects across different sites in North Syria during the earlier Iron age period, with examples from Hama (Riis 1948: 179-180, 230.d,e), Tell Afis (Cecchini 2010: 412-413, figs. 1-3), and Chatal Höyük (Pucci 2019: 237-239, cat. nos. 361-380, 383-390, fig. 97, pl. 176).

CDO

Woolley and Barnett 1952: pl. 71.e1

References