

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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

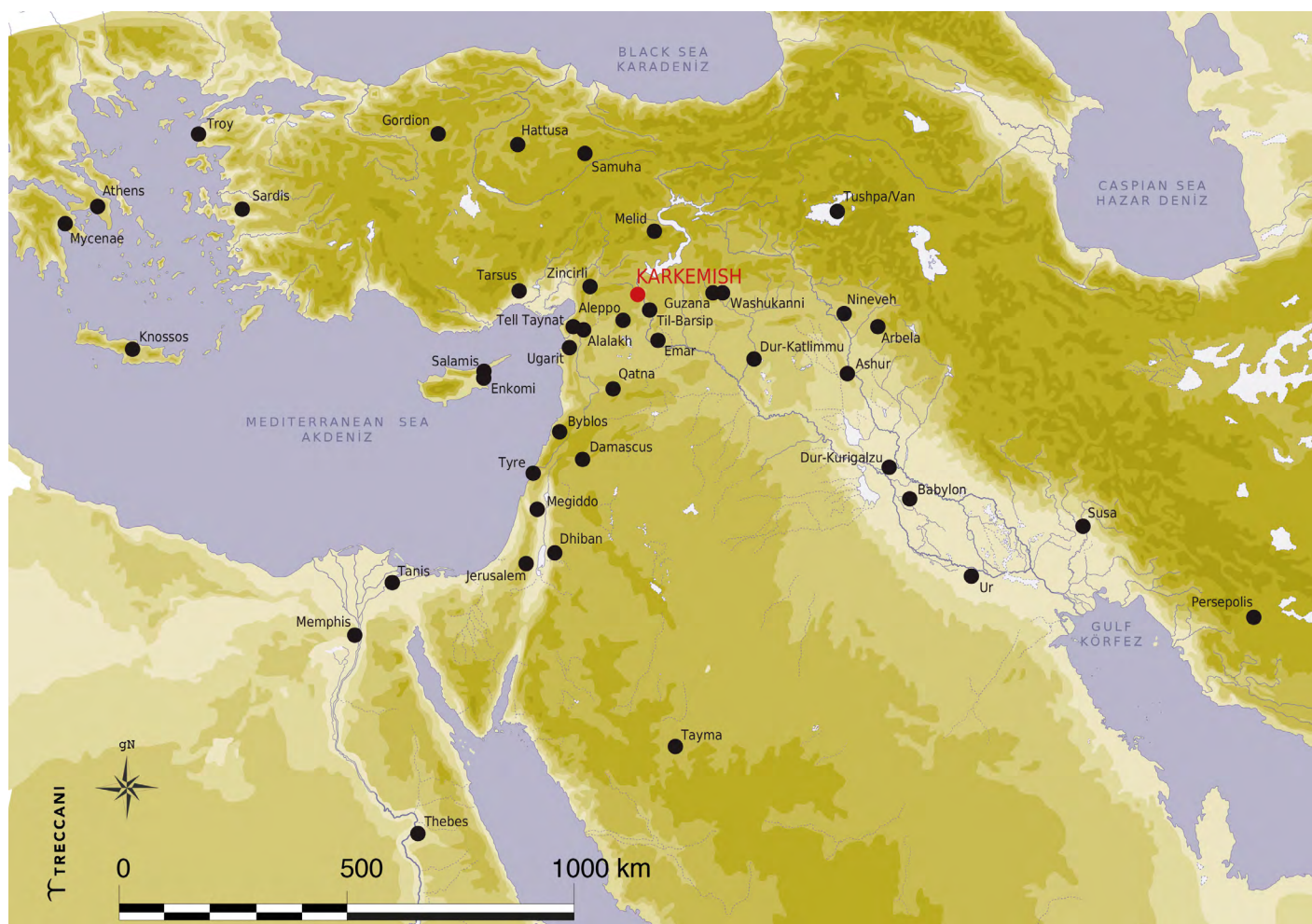
Forewords.....	7
Visual communication at Karkemish between the Imperial and Late Hittite periods NICOLÒ MARCHETTI.....	14
Anatolian hieroglyphic writing at Karkemish HASAN PEKER.....	24
The Late Bronze II and Iron I-II layers at Karkemish VITTORIA CARDINI, CLAUDIA D’ORAZIO, GABRIELE GIACOSA, SARA PIZZIMENTI, 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

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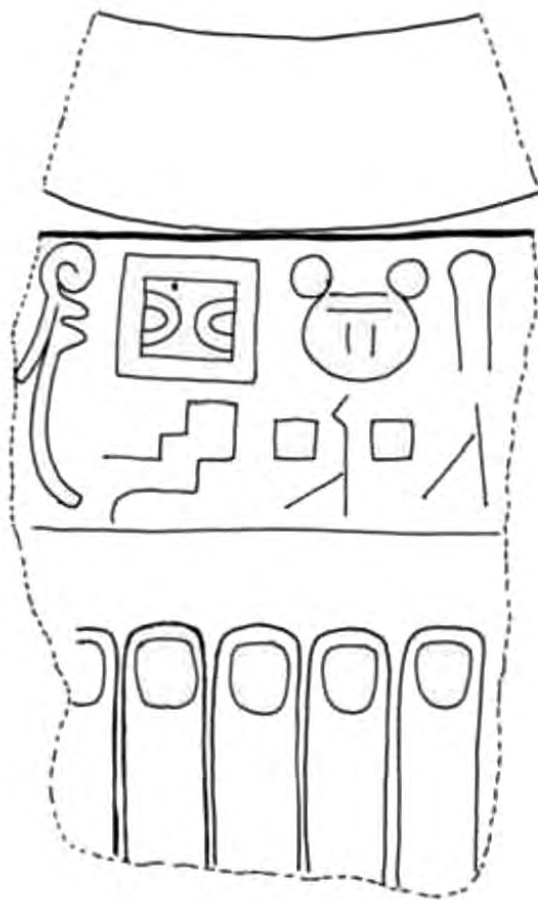
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*



Inscribed and decorated mortar

Museum no. 2037 / 10896 (Ankara)

Material: Basalt

Dimensions: h. 27; w. 21; th. 7.5 cm

Context: British Museum excavations, Lower Palace area, surface find

Date: Late Iron II, 8th century BCE

Cat. 36

Description

Fragment of a large mortar found together with a second piece, currently lost. The vessel has a rim with a thick banded lip flat on top, with an incised hieroglyphic inscription on the outside, under which the body is decorated with a continuous frieze of five human fingers with nails, carved in low relief. The inscription on the two fragments reads as follows: No. 2: ...-*m*]i²-*sa* SERVUS-*la/i* [... / No. 1: ... -*t*]ara/i²-*i-pa-wa/i+ra/i* DOMUS-*ní*-L375 [... = ...] servant [of ... / ...] but they [...] Parnili [... Parnili is clearly a personal name who is possibly the same individual attested in ASSUR letter *d* § 1 (Peker 2023b: 363, 365 with note 25). Two inscribed basalt vessels similar to the Karkemish mortar are known: one shows a more elaborate decoration (Hawkins 2000: 558, XII.3 BEIRUT, pl. 317), while the second comes from Babylon and says “These bowls Runtiyas placed before the Storm-god of Aleppo” (Hawkins 2000: 396-397, VIII.3 BABYLON 3, pl. 212), an indication that these objects might have been connected to sacred areas. In Ankara there are another two basalt container fragments from Karkemish with thick rims, but without inscription, and human fingers on the outside (unpublished, TR001009112 and TR01009253).

CDO, HP

Woolley 1921: pl. A.16e, e*1-2; Hawkins 2000: 198, no. 62, KARKAMIŠ A16e, pl. 78. Both are reproduced here, by courtesy

References