

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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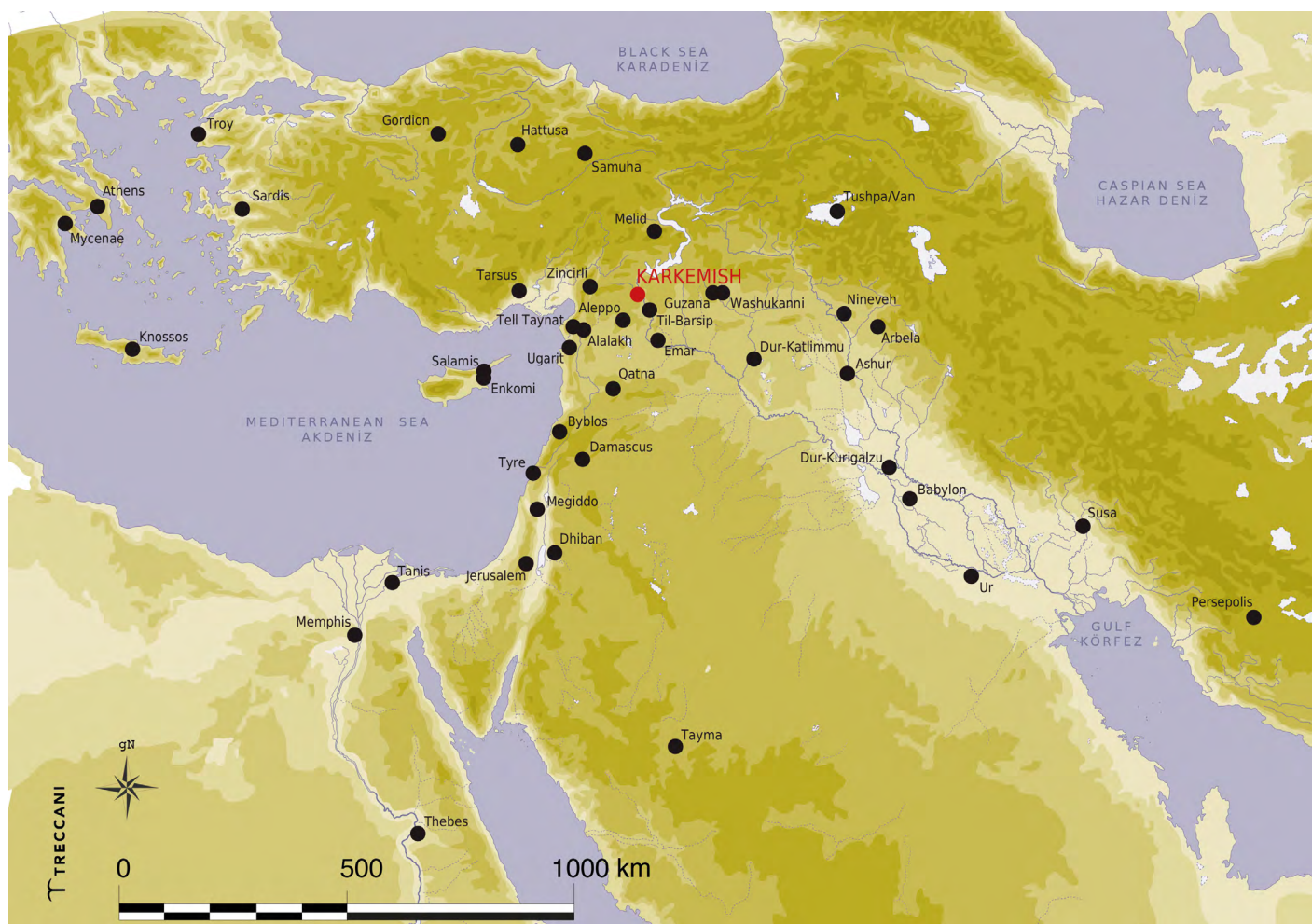
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Pyxis lid

Excavation no. KH.17.900

Material: Limestone

Dimensioni: l. 8.9 cm; w. 5.0 cm; th. 1.1 cm

Context: Acropolis mound, area AA, fill F.9947

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

Cat. 38

Description

Pyxis lid found on the edge of Hellenistic pit P.9448 cutting one of the rooms of the Late Bronze Age II palace on the Acropolis mound, area AA. The rounded lid, of which only a half is preserved, has two vertical grooves framing the side hole for the pivot of the sliding lid. The top is carved with a heraldic scene showing two standing bull-men on the sides of a palm tree (the lower edges are preserved), framed by a guilloche motif. Another guilloche is carved along the edge, interrupted by three rosette panels. Stone pyxides (see also Cat. nos. 39 and 40) are a peculiar class of object from North Syrian sites manufactured between the 10th and 7th centuries BCE (see Winter 1983; Mazzoni 2001; 2005). Karkemish was one of the centers of their manufacture, alongside Tell Afis and Chatal Höyük (D'Orazio 2022; 2025). The Karkemish workshop was active during the Iron II period (possibly continuing also in the Iron III) featuring an elaborate/narrative style, including hunting and contest scenes on the containers, while on the lids there are animal combats and heraldic figures. Rosette panels and guilloche frames, which appear on this lid, are also characteristic elements of the Karkemish production.

CDO

D'Orazio 2022: 82, 89, cat. no. 1, fig. 2

References