

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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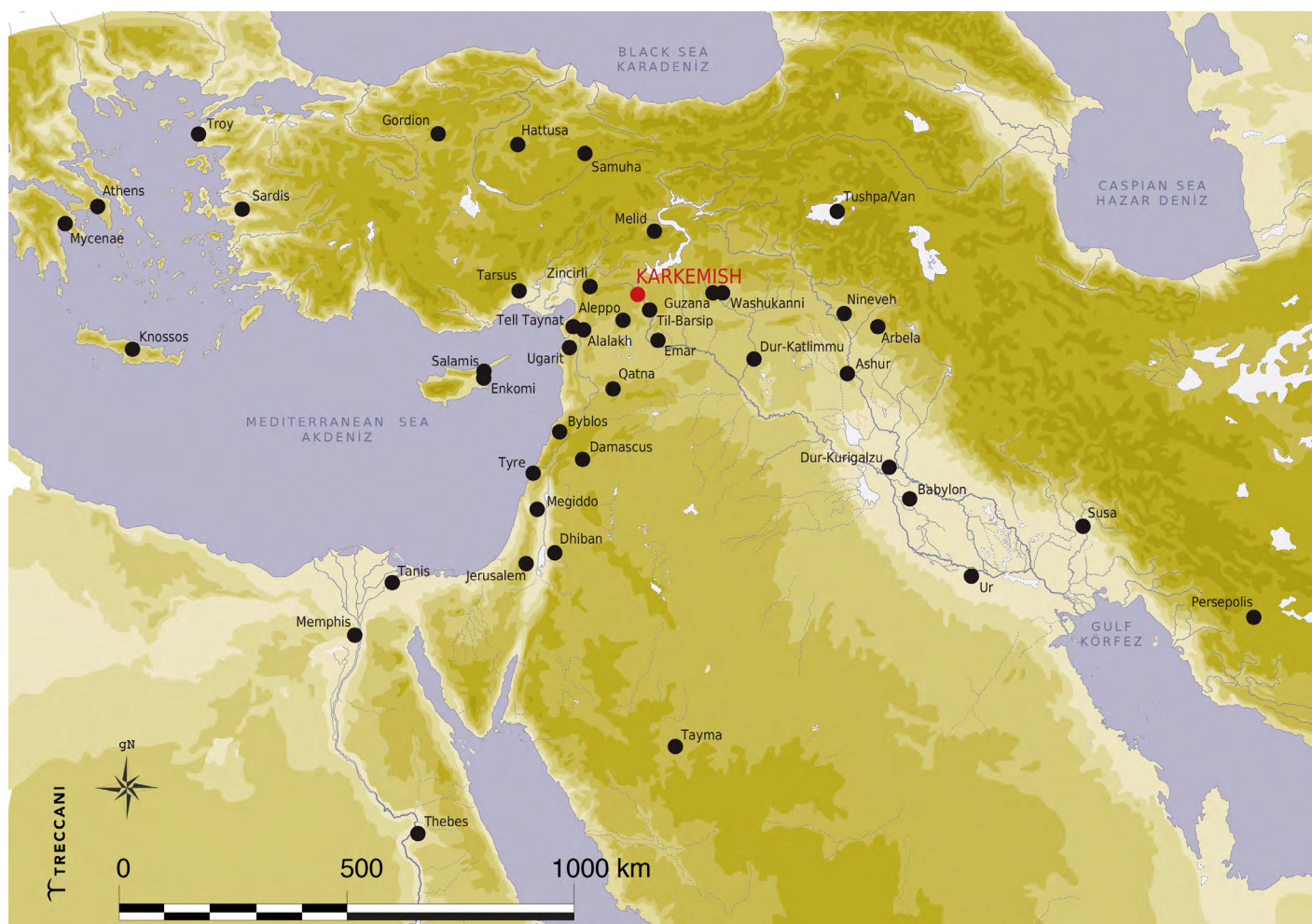
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Pyxis

Museum no. 6976 (Istanbul)

Material: Steatite

Dimensioni: h. 5.1; w. 7 cm

Context: British Museum excavations, acropolis mound, trench C

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

Cat. 40

Fragmentary round pyxis container with at least two inner compartments, made of steatite. It was retrieved in 1911 by Hogarth on the acropolis, in his trench C, located above the Water Postern and near the Roman temple, in association with seemingly Iron III materials, although the pyxis dates to the Iron II period, based on typological and iconographic parallels. The scene features, on the left, a deer above a recumbent bull, and, on the right, a tree with three curving branches, carved in low relief. The deer and the bull find comparisons with the contest scenes among heroes and animals of the Herald's Wall (Hogarth 1914: pl. B10.a, B13.a; Woolley and Barnett 1952: pl. B49.b); volute trees are a common theme in small-scale arts in the Northern Levant during the earlier Iron age, but they feature also on large monuments, e.g. on an orthostat of the Herald's Wall (Hogarth 1914: pl. B13.b).

CDO

Description

Woolley 1921: pl. 28.1; Woolley and Barnett 1952: 206, n. 2; D'Orazio 2022: 89, cat. no. 4, fig. 6

References