

Alexander Ahrens

A "Hyksos Connection"? Thoughts on the Date of Dispatch of Some of the Middle Kingdom Objects in the Northern Levant

Abstract: The article deals with the presence of Middle Kingdom objects in Levantine contexts, focussing on the chronological and historical aspects of the objects. It is argued that at least some of the statuary was dispatched only during the Second Intermediate Period (i.e. the late Middle Kingdom period), when the tombs and pyramids of the Middle Kingdom were looted for the first time. Some of the objects may have come to the Levant via the Hyksos and their capital Avaris (modern Tell el-Dab'a).

Keywords: Middle Kingdom – statuary – northern Levant – Qatna – Tell el-Dab'a

Bettina Bader

Contacts between Egypt and Syria-Palestine as seen from the Late Middle Kingdom Settlement of the late Middle Kingdom at Tell el-Dab'a

Abstract: This article provides an overview of the development of the settlement of Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris up to the late Middle Kingdom (ca. 1750–1710). It focuses on the organically grown settlement of late Middle Kingdom date in the area A/II in local phase G/3-1. Special attention is given to the presence of Syrian cultural traits in this early phase of the site, that ca. 80–1710 was the capital of the 'Hyksos'. To this end the tombs belonging to this period are taken together in their entirety and analysed according to their content and compared with other contemporary burials at the site. The general settlement patterns were contrasted with other sites in the Levant with cultural parallels more closely linked to Egypt than to the Levant. The settlement could be traced due to a lack of well excavated sites in both areas. Finds are also considered, especially pottery. Remains of a small volume of cooking ware that finds ready parallels in Syria (e.g. 'cooking pot') and occurs both as import and local copy. Several of these were copied locally. This implies that at least a small group of non-Egyptians lived at the site in the settlement, and fleshes out data from the burial sphere with very strong affinities to Syria-Palestine. It seems that in every sphere the cultural component was stronger than in the burial sphere.

Keywords: late Middle Kingdom – settlement – Avaris/Tell el-Dab'a

Christopher Brinker

“Are you serious? Are you joking?”

Wenamun’s Misfortune

at Dor in its Ancient Near Eastern Legal Context

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Abstract: The Tale of Wenamun is known from a single papyrus reportedly recovered from el-Hiba in Middle Egypt more than a century ago. The literary composition takes the form of an official report which relates the journey of an Egyptian bureaucrat Wenamun and his unfortunate robbery at Dor.

By means of a legal analysis of the composition, drawing on Ancient Near Eastern legal principles known from the Amarna letters and elsewhere, this study identifies the source of Wenamun’s misfortune specifically as a lack of Egyptian ships and crews in the Mediterranean at the time of the tale’s composition. It furthermore supports recent hypotheses that the text was meant to convey an implicit political argument for Egyptian unification.

Keywords: Tale of Wenamun – Dor – Mediterranean – Ancient Near Eastern law

Joachim Bretschneider,

Anne-Sophie Van Vyve and Greta Jans

Tell Tweini: A Multi-Period Harbour Town at the Syrian Coast

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Abstract: The coastal site of Tell Tweini (ancient Gibala), 40km south of Ugarit, is one of the larger mounds in the Jebleh Plain. Since 1999, a Syrian-Belgian team has uncovered a long sequence of occupational deposits from the Early Bronze Age until the Iron Age.

Excavations and a geomagnetic survey revealed the well-preserved plan of the city as it was during the Iron Age II/III period. The plan is dominated by an elaborate street system connecting several public urban structures including a Phoenician temple district with domestic and industrial areas. The Early Iron Age is represented by two main architectural levels, dated to the 12th and 11th centuries B.C.E. In the LB II period Tell Tweini was part of the Kingdom of Ugarit and is mentioned as Gibala in the treaty between the Hittite king Muršili II and Niqmepa, king of Ugarit. The material culture of the LB II parallels that of Ugarit with imports from all over the Eastern Mediterranean including a wide range of Cypriote and Mycenaean ceramics. Domestic structures with underground communal tombs are known for the LB I to MB I periods. The first urbanisation of Tell Tweini started in the Early Bronze Age III-IV period and is represented by a sequence of two main architectural levels including mudbrick constructions.

Keywords: Late Bronze Age – Iron Age – Syria – Tell Tweini – archaeology – ceramics

Violetta Cordani

Aziru’s Journey to Egypt and its Chronological Value

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Abstract: This article reappraises the chronology of the Amarna letters written by Aziru, chief of Amurru, to the Egyptian pharaoh Amenhotep IV–Akhenaten. Letters EA 157 and EA 164–167 are reordered according to a different reconstruction of the so-called “One-Year war” over a time span of five years. By comparing Aziru’s correspondence with other Amarna letters, especially from Rib-Hadda of Byblos, the author investigates the historical frame within which Aziru’s journey to Egypt took place and discusses the length of Aziru’s stay at the Egyptian court.

Keywords: Amarna letters – Aziru – Rib-Hadda – chronology – “One-Year war” – Amenhotep IV–Akhenaten

Marcin Czarnowicz

Between Core and Periphery – Early Contacts between Egypt and the southern Levant in Light of Excavations at Tell el-Farkha, Eastern Nile Delta

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Abstract: Since 1998, the Polish team has been excavating a site called Tell el-Farkha in the Eastern Nile Delta. Archaeologists believe that the so-called “Chicken Mound”, as it is known in English, played an important role in the relations between the southern Levant and Egypt. The time of the site’s greatest prosperity corresponds with the development of the so-called Egyptian colony in Palestine. According to various surveys conducted in the Nile Delta, Tell el-Farkha was a nodal point en route from Upper Egypt to the southern Levant, located at a crossroads with a route leading into the Western Delta. The large number of fragments of imported pottery and its locally made imitations underlines the role of the site in long-range trade. In his article the author once again re-examines the arguments supporting this theory, highlighting the most important objects of Levantine provenance and locally made imitations. The paper further presents non-pottery evidence of the contacts, including, among others, commodities that Tell el-Farkha was able to send to the Levant.

Keywords: Tell el-Farkha – Eastern Nile Delta – pottery – imports – imitations

Elena Devecchi and Jared L. Miller

Hittite-Egyptian Synchronisms and their Consequences for Ancient Near Eastern Chronology

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Abstract: The first part of this paper attempts to identify a plausible point in time at which a third peace treaty between Hatti and Egypt – in addition to the earlier Kuruštama Treaty of uncertain date and the later Eternal Silver Treaty between Hattušili III and Ramesse II – might have been ratified, and if so, between which Hittite and Egyptian sovereigns. Based on the combined analysis of old and new Hittite sources it is suggested that the reigns of Muršili II and Horemheb represent the most likely scenario for the conclusion of this third peace agreement. The second section seeks first to address a number of issues that have been discussed lately concerning the interpretation of a recently published historical narrative of Muršili II (KUB 19.5 + KBo 50.24), in which he describes a standoff with a certain *Ar-ma-a* of Egypt, whereby it is suggested that (a) the identification of *Ar-ma-a* with Horemheb before his ascension to the throne remains likely and (b) that the king said in col. ii 2’ to have ascended the throne, but whose name is almost entirely broken away, is likely to have been Ay, i.e. Hēper-ḥepu-re. It next attempts to reconcile the recently proposed shortening of the length of Horemheb’s reign to some 14 years with available evidence concerning synchronisation with Babylonian chronology. The synchronism based on EA 3 placing the ascension of Burna-Buriyaš II within the last ca. six years of Amenhotep III’s reign is retained, while that based on KBo 1.10+ placing the ascension of Kadašman-Enlil II at ca. year 16 of the reign of Ramesse II is rejected, which would necessitate the raising of the dates of Horemheb’s successors by some 25 years.

Keywords: Late Bronze Age – chronology – synchronisation – Egypt – Hatti – treaty

Florian Klimscha

Long-range Contacts in the Late Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant. Excavations at Tall Hujayrat al-Ghuzlan and Tall al-Magass near Aqaba, Jordan

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Abstract: The author discusses the imports and influences of Tall Hujayrat al-Ghuzlan at a late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age tell site in southern Jordan. The archaeological materials show parallels with Predynastic Egypt and can be securely dated to before the

beginning of the Early Bronze Age when traces of Egyptian presence can be seen at various other sites in the Southern Levant.

Keywords: Late Chalcolithic – Early Bronze Age – Tall Hujayrat al-Ghuzzlan – Tall el-Magass – Jordan

Florian Lippke

The Southern Levant in context. A brief sketch of important features considering the religious symbol system in the Bronze Ages 211

Abstract: The present article discusses the encounters of different (religious) symbol systems in the Southern Levant throughout the Bronze Ages. In a methodological introduction, important implications and inspiration (originating in philosophy, art history and sociology) are presented and briefly discussed. The Southern Levant is referred to as a connected space (land bridge, Sacred Bridge, etc.) which also partakes in the conventions of representation in the Eastern Mediterranean (aspective rendering, parallelism of structure/constellation). The iconographic mechanisms predominant in the Southern Levant are also discussed (reduced quality, reduced scope). In selected case studies (“the falcon-headed and Seth”, “snake iconography”, “overlapping iconographic spheres”, “one sphere supplementing the other” and the “importance of Jerusalem as a place for the *histoire longue durée* of the monotheistic religions”) iconographic material (mostly) from the Bronze Ages is presented. An excursus introduces the recent research project IPIAO and an appendix gives some further hints considering the discussion about crossroads (architecture, stamp-seals, anthropomorphic figurines/statues). In summary, the article argues for a reasonable integration of the diverse ancient symbol systems when analysing the history of religions in the Southern Levant. It gives reasons for consideration of archaeological material indicating different cultural spheres and their interaction.

Keywords: Southern Levant – Bronze Age – symbol systems – iconography – religions

Jana Mynářová

Wretched Fallen One of Ḫatti or Hero? An Image of the Hittite King in the Egyptian Sources 235

Abstract: It has been already suggested that the diplomatic language of Akkadian texts written down in Egypt during the Amarna age and in the Ramesside era differ significantly from one another. These dissimilarities might well correspond to a mutation of epistolary traditions that underwent significant changes related to the development in the relations between the Great Powers of Egypt and Ḫatti between the 14th and 13th centuries B.C.E. It is beyond dispute that for the relations between the two partners in the 13th century B.C.E. at least three historical phenomena were crucial – the Battle of Qadesh in the 5th regnal year of Ramesse II, royal correspondence between the two courts and the conclusion of the Silver Treaty. All three occasions provide us with an outstanding and unique opportunity to study the language of diplomacy including the manner and forms of royal titulary employed in the respective texts. It is the aim of this paper to discuss various aspects in the identification of the Hittite representatives.

Keywords: Egypt – Ḫatti – royal titulary – Battle of Qadesh – royal correspondence – Silver Treaty

Zsolt Simon

The Identification of Qode. Reconsidering the Evidence 249

Abstract: Qode, an Ancient Near Eastern region known from Egyptian sources, is commonly identified with the Hittite territory of Kizzuwatna, though this view neg-

lects both the published criticism and the alternative suggested as early as 1969. This reconsideration argues that this traditional identification is excluded by the historical, geographical and linguistic data provided by our sources and this is increasingly valid for the recent modifications of this theory involving the identification with Tarḫuntašša or with every Luwian land in South Anatolia. Based on our knowledge to date, we can identify Qode with a toponym attested in Ugaritic sources and once perhaps in the Hittite–Egyptian correspondence. Its precise localisation is still not possible, but North Syria, more precisely, the territory of Naharina / Mittani, is certain. Finally, as a by-product of this investigation, we could eliminate a Late Bronze Age ghost country (“Qawe”) and an alleged Egyptian reference to a Luwian sovereign and to identify the Hieroglyphic Luwian toponym Kawa that was long held to be a hapax.

Keywords: Anatolia – Syria – Qode – toponym – Luwian

Hanadah Tarawneh

Amarna Letters: Two Languages, Two Dialogues

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Abstract: This paper deals with the issue of translation in the Amarna letters. It discusses the various parties involved in creating the tablet: the scribe inscribing the tablet or the messenger delivering it. The paper starts with the messenger’s role in this communication process and then proceeds to the role of the scribe in this language exchange. The role of the trained scribe in this communication exchange is of great importance due to the need for two-way translation. The Amarna text was written and read by people who were not native speakers of the language of the text (excluding 11 letters from Babylon and two letters from Assyria). This leads to the need to translate content at both ends when transferring the message from the mother tongue of the sender into learnt Akkadian or when reading text written in Akkadian in the mother tongue of the recipient.

Keywords: Amarna letters – communication – messenger – scribe – translations

Anna Wodzińska and Mary Ownby

Tentative remarks on Levantine combed ware from Heit el-Ghurab, Giza

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Abstract: Levantine combed ware jars are well known in Egypt. Complete vessels have been found at many Old Kingdom sites, although the Giza plateau seems to be the main place of their occurrence. Imported jars are usually associated with the tombs of prominent people. However, a few examples were found in domestic contexts at the Heit el-Ghurab site excavated by the Ancient Egypt Research Association directed by Mark Lehner. The site generally dates to the reign of Menkaure (approx. 2539–2511 B.C.E.) and represents a large settlement divided into three main parts, regularly planned galleries and two quarters called Eastern and Western Towns. Eighteen sherds of combed ware jars were identified among the ceramic material from the settlement. Following a preliminary microscopic examination it appears that they may come from the coastal area of Lebanon.

Keywords: Old Kingdom – Giza plateau – Heit el-Ghurab – pottery – combed ware

Silvie Zamazalová

Before the Assyrian Conquest in 671 B.C.E.: Relations between Egypt, Kush and Assyria

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Abstract: In 701 B.C.E., the Neo-Assyrian king Sennacherib fought a battle at Eltekeh against a coalition of Philistine city-states and Egyptian and Kushite forces, dispatched by the Kushite ruler Shebitku. The encounter marked an important watershed in the

relations between Assyria and Egypt / Kush: although Egyptian involvement in Philistine affairs was not without precedent, Shebitku's unambiguous opposition to Assyria signalled openly hostile relations which would eventually culminate in Egypt's conquest, and temporary integration into Assyria's impressive empire, by Sennacherib's successor Esarhaddon thirty years later.

The paper focuses on key events which preceded the battle of Eltekeh and led to the interaction between Egypt, Kush and Assyria in the buffer zone of the southern Levant, as well as on the individuals who acted as a catalyst for these events. The growing awareness of the two regions in the political – as opposed to cultural or economic – arena was reflected in the increasing prominence accorded to Assyro-Egyptian and Kushite relations in historical sources, which provide the focal point of the examination with an aim of placing the struggle in a wider Near Eastern context.

Keywords: Egypt – Kush – Assyria – southern Levant – 8th century B.C.E. – political history

Indices

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