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Source: *Anatolian Studies*, Vol. 35 (1985), pp. 99-101

Published by: British Institute at Ankara

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3642875>

Accessed: 23-02-2017 13:54 UTC

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DATING THE CAPE GELIDONYA SHIPWRECK

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The scarabs found with the wreck at Cape Gelidonya¹ are important for the dating of the ship. The group has been discussed in detail by Schulman² in a chapter of the publication of the wreck. A new look at the scarab group after so many years may be worthwhile.

We have the following comments on Schulman's dating of these scarabs:

Scarab 1: "Late 18. or 19. Dynasty."

In the discussion of this object "Gaza" is mentioned as the site of origin of one of the parallel pieces. However "Ancient Gaza" is the name of the 5 volumes by Petrie dealing with the excavations at Tell el-Ajjul, seven kilometres south of modern Gaza. The closest parallel to Scarab 1 is, however, at Tell el-Far'a.³ It has two horizontal lines under the *nb* sign, showing that "Lord of the Two Countries" (= Egypt) is intended in all these cases.

Scarab 2: "New Kingdom" "Early New Kingdom, more specifically ... 18. Dynasty."

It should be noted that the "short apparently meaningless vertical lines" are a duplication of the sign which usually follows an ideogram Z.1 in Gardiner's sign list. It is often duplicated thus, or appears as sign V.20 or Q.3.

Scarab 3: "Hyksos".

No such plaques are known in the period and we regard this as one of the many New Kingdom imitations of Hyksos designs.

Scarab 4: "Second Intermediate Period."

The design (especially the form of the *nh* signs) and the material ("ivory or bone") make a Hyksos date unlikely. We regard this object as another New Kingdom imitation of Hyksos design.⁴

Scarab 5: Schulman dates in his comments⁵ on this object "Dynasty 13"; one page later he groups it with Scarab 2 as "Early New Kingdom."

¹G. F. Bass, *Cape Gelidonya*, Philadelphia, 1967; Joan du Plat Taylor, *AS XI* (1961), 26–7; see also: G. F. Bass, "Cape Gelidonya and Bronze Age Maritime Trade," in: H. A. Hoffner (ed.), *Orient and Occident* (FS Gordon), *Alter Orient und Altes Testament* 22, Kevelaer 1973, 29–38. The wreck has been discussed in *Anatolian Studies* several times, for instance: J. Mellaart, "Anatolian Trade with Europe and Anatolian Geography and Culture-Provinces in the Late Bronze Age", *AS XVIII* (1968), 191 note 5 a; Christopher Mee, "Aegean Trade and Settlement in Anatolia," *AS XXVIII* (1978), 128; Jak Jakar, "Hittite Involvement in Western Anatolia," *AS XXVI* (1976), 126, note 53.

²Alan R. Schulman, Chapter XI "The Scarabs" 143–7 in the book by Bass (see note 1, above). See also: A. R. Schulman, "Three Shipwrecked Scarabs", *Expedition* 3, 1961, 24–5.

³E. Macdonald, J. L. Starkey, L. Harding, *Beth-Pelet II*, London 1932 Pl. L, 61 (abbreviated here as *B.-P. II*).

⁴The similarity with the Byblos-scarab quoted by Schulman is indeed striking. However there is no Hyksos-stratum and no Hyksos-context in Byblos.

⁵Schulman, *op. cit.* (above, note 2), 146.

The early dating (13. Dynasty) is based on a parallel from Gezer. It seems that the object referred to is a scarab from Gezer discussed and illustrated by Rowe.⁶ This comparison and the reference to two specimens in Cairo⁷ are based on a complete misunderstanding of what is depicted on the base. One has to look at the photograph as published in figure 150, that is, vertically and not as suggested “to be viewed horizontally with the broken edge at the top”. We illustrate here the drawing as previously published (Fig. 1, *a*), as shown on the photograph (reconstruction with dotted lines) (Fig. 1, *b*), and one of the many parallels, this one from Tomb 984 at Tell el-Far’a⁸ (Fig. 1, *c*):

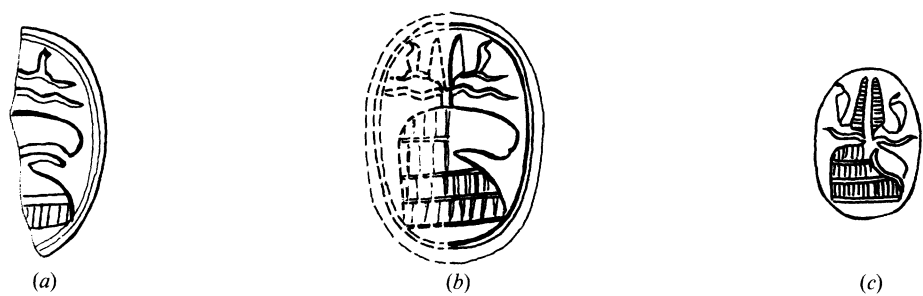


Fig. 1

Scarab 5 shows the head of Amon as a ram with the Atef-crown. This dates the object to the New Kingdom.⁹

Scarabs 1, 2 and 5 have very near parallels in two tomb groups at Tell el-Far’a.¹⁰ Both tombs contained also royal scarabs, essential for the dating.

	Tomb 984	Tomb 934
Scarab 1	Pl. LVII, 381	Pl. LII, 159, 164
Scarab 2	Pl. LVII, 382	Pl. LIII, 186, 188
Scarab 5	Pl. LVII, 383 (our Fig. 1, <i>c</i>)	Pl. LIII, 192, 193
Royal scarabs in tombs:	Thutmosis III Amenophis III Ramses II Ramses III	Ramses II Sethos II (?) Ramses III Ramses IV ¹¹

⁶Alan Rowe, *A Catalogue of Egyptian Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals and Amulets in the Palestine Archaeological Museum*, Cairo 1936, 8; Pl. I, 25.

⁷P. E. Newberry, *Scarab-shaped Seals*, London 1907 (Catalogue Général des Antiquités Egyptiennes du Musée du Caire), Pl. XV, 36889, 37063.

⁸*B.-P.* II Pl. LVII, 383.

⁹Erik Hornung and Elisabeth Staehelin (eds.), *Skarabäen und andere Siegelamulette aus Basler Sammlungen*. Mainz 1976, 326. This is a close parallel, discussed with ample literature.

¹⁰*B.-P.* II, Pls. LII, LIII, LVII.

¹¹In Tomb 934 there is a scarab with the inscription *hq3 m3't mry 'Imn-R'*, alternative reading *hq3 m3't R' mry 'Imn*, which is reminiscent of the prephenomen of Ramses IV: *hq3 m3't R'*. Gardiner has related the expression *hq3 m3't* in Papyrus Turin 1882 to Ramses IV (in *JEA* 41, 1955, 30, Pl. XI and *JEA* 42, 1956, 8: I thank Dr. Raphael Ventura for this

The close parallels found in these tombs date the Gelidonya scarabs clearly to the time of Ramses III of the 20. Dynasty, with a possibility of an even later date, Ramses IV, who ruled immediately after Ramses III and belonged also to the 20. Dynasty.¹² The chronological difference between this and the previous dating (Ramses II) is not very great: from the death of Ramses II to the accession of Ramses III there are less than thirty years; if we regard the scarab with *hq3 m3't* as belonging to the reign of Ramses IV, we have to go down another thirty years or slightly more. However the international situation had changed by then very much, affecting cultural contacts and trade.

There is nothing in the style of the Gelidonya scarabs which would indicate non-Egyptian manufacture. Many parallels for these scarabs can be found in scarab groups from Egypt and collections of Egyptian origin. The Palestinian parallels are, in our view, imports from Egypt. The ship which foundered at Cape Gelidonya had some material on board which originated directly or indirectly in the Egypt of the 20. Dynasty.

reference). In two inscriptions of Ramses IV at Medinet Habu we have the nomen of the king *R'ms -sw* with the epithet *hq3 m3't mry 'Imn* (Juergen von Beckerath, *Handbuch der aegyptischen Koenigsnamen*, Muenchen 1984, 94. Similarly at Edfu: see C. A. Christophe, "Le Pylone 'Ramesside' d'Edfou," *ASAE* 55, 1958, 8 (reference due to Dr. R. Ventura). Whether we regard this scarab in Tell el Far'a as naming Ramses IV or not, it seems definitely related to this reign.

¹²The group can certainly not be dated to the Hyksos period. W. Helck, *Die Beziehungen Aegyptens und Vorderasiens zur Aegaeis bis ins 7. Jahrhundert v. Chr.* Darmstadt 1979, 95: 285.