



Glyptic Findings with Anatolian Hieroglyphs from Kilis – Oylum Höyük

Metin Alparslan¹ 



¹İstanbul Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi,
Hititoloji Anabilim Dalı, 34134 İstanbul, Türkiye
ORCID ID: M.A. 0000-0001-8354-5206

Corresponding author:

Metin Alparslan,
Metin Alparslan, İstanbul Üniversitesi, Edebiyat
Fakültesi, Hititoloji Anabilim Dalı, 34134 İstanbul,
Türkiye
E-mail: metinalparslan@gmail.com,
metinalp@istanbul.edu.tr

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ABSTRACT

The archaeological excavations at Oylum Höyük were started in 1987 by Prof. Dr. Engin Özgen. Since 2012, they have been carried out by Prof. Dr. Atilla Engin. During these excavations, a total of eight seals or seal impressions with Anatolian hieroglyphs were unearthed. This article will discuss a total of five seal or seal impressions that were found during excavations at Oylum Höyük near Kilis between 2011 and 2022. All examples are seals or seal impressions with Anatolian hieroglyphs, which give us information about the names or titles of the respective owners. So far, only a few written artefacts from the second half of the second millennium BC have been found in Oylum Höyük. However, these new finds should prove that considerably more finds are to be expected and that Oylum Höyük played an important role for the Hittites in northern Syria.

Keywords: Anatolian Hieroglyphs, Hittite, Northern Syria, Seals, Oylum Höyük



Introduction

Oylum Höyük is located about 7 km northeast of Kilis, not far from the Syrian border. With dimensions of 460 x 320 meters and a height of up to 37 meters it is a relatively large Höyük in this region. Oylum Höyük has been excavated by Prof. Dr. Atilla Engin¹ since 2012. Only a relatively small area has been uncovered to date, which is of course due to the considerable height of this settlement mound. So far, a total of six settlement layers have been identified. The settlement layers V and VI are the layers which contain completely or partly the Hittite periods.

To date, three seals or seal impressions have been found and published during the excavations in Oylum Höyük. One of these, the seal impression OY 09 025 in particular testifies to a political commitment to the Hittite secundogeniture of Kargamish and thus also to the Hittite royal house itself (Dinçol, 2011). The seals we would like to discuss in this article all come from these layers (at least see Engin, 2022a, 2022b).

OY 11.019 (Plan square: L21, Area: ÖZA 94 # 12; Layer: Va, Period: LBA II)²

The seal impression OY 11.019 was found in the layer Va which can be dated archaeologically to the Late Bronze Age II. Unfortunately, the lower part of the seal is broken off, so that neither the title nor the person name can be defined with certainty. The title of the seal owner, which we see left and right of the impression, is probably “Prince”. Since the lower part of the title is not preserved, “Princess” would also be possible, but the number of seals of princes is considerably higher than that of princesses, so that “Prince” might be more probable.

The first two signs of the person’s name are legible. The sign at the top in the middle appears to be the character *450, which would phonetically represent the sound “a”.³ With the following sign *35 (*na*) the personal name would begin with *A-na-*. Since below these two characters there is enough space as well as a small remainder of a sign, so it must have been at least one more sign here. Names beginning with *Ana-* are attested both as male and female names, e.g. ^m*Anna*, ^f*Annā*, ^f*Annayati*, ^f*Annanna*, ^m*Ananipiya*, ^f*Annanza*, ^m*Anat-Šar* in cuneiform sources or *Anamuwa*, *Ana*, *Anani*, *Ananimuwa*, *Ananiwalwi*, *Ananizi*, *Anari*, *Anaruntiya Anasa*, *Anatali*, *Anazi/a*, *Anaziti*, *Asuheni* in Anatolian hieroglyphic.

1 My special thanks to my colleague and dearest friend Prof. Dr. Atilla Engin, for his permission and all help to publish these glyptic findings.

2 A photograph of this seal impression published before in Atilla 2020, Fig. 6.

3 The sign *450 is attested in several seals as the beginning of a personal name, see Herbordt, cat. 11, 75, 80, 89, Mora 1987, Gruppo V 2.4.



Figure 1a: Seal impression Oy11.019

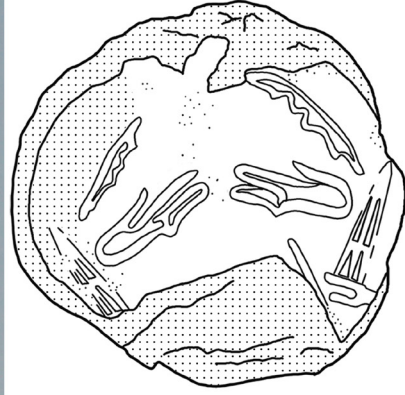


Figure 1b: Drawing of the seal impression Oy11.019

OY 14.206 (Plan square: J20 Area: ÖZA 24#2, Layer: Oylum Va, Period: LBA II)⁴

Like the seal impression before, this impression is also on a conical clay bulla. The rim around it is unfortunately partially destroyed. On the left the half of a figure in adrant position can be seen. The figure wears a long robe, which falls from her right arm down to its feet. To the right of this figure are hieroglyphic signs. The characters *439 (*wa/i*) and *55 (*ni*) can be read with certainty. The vessel in front of the figure below is probably the sign *336 (PITHOS), which according to Hawkins is to be distinguished from the similar sign *338 (CULTER) by the fact that the sign PITHOS never has more than one horizontal stroke, while CULTER always has several (Hawkins in Herbordt, 2005: 302f.). Above the outstretched hand there seems to have been the rest of another sign, an animal or an object, but it is not identifiable. Seals in which a similar person carries a ram, a healing symbol, a bull, a rosette or a TONITRUS sign in the outstretched hand are known⁵. In our opinion, the name of the seal owner should be read as *x-wa/i-ni*. Names ending in *-wanni* are not uncommon and are documented in cuneiform Texts as both male⁶ and female names⁷ (*fAnnawanni*). The sign PITHOS, on the other hand, is probably the title of the owner of the seal.

4 A photograph of this seal impression published before in Atilla 2020, Fig. 6..

5 See also Herbordt, 2005: Cat. 3, 4, 9, 219, 302, 389, 391, 408, 494, 518, 563, 580, 760.

6 *mAllawanni* (Noms Cat. 28), *mAmmaškuwanni* (HKM 99 Obv. 14), *mLuggawanni* (KBo 40.17 4), *mWanni* KUB 18.9 II 22

7 *fAnnawanni* (KBo 55.204, 8').



Figure 2a: Seal impression Oy 14.206

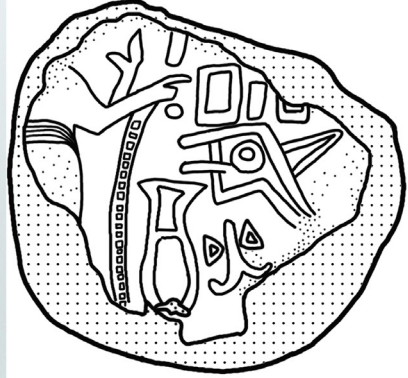


Figure 2b: Drawing of the seal impression Oy 14.206

**OY 20.003 (Plan square: L24, Area: ÖZA 148 #
2, Layer: Oylum Va, Period: LBA II)**

This seal impression consists of two rings framing the central field, which should decorate the seal surface. The inner ring is better preserved and consists of triangles and circles. The arrangement of the signs in the central field is already known from several other seals. In the center of the impression is the character *186 (*lu*). Starting from this, the next characters are arranged in all four directions, so that the name of the seal owner is on the seal a total of four times. In our case it would be *186 (*lu*), *439 (*wa/i*) and *209 (*i(a)*) = *Luwia/Luwaia*. Several comparable seal impressions are already known from Boğazköy⁸. Especially the seal SBo 2 204 is similar to our seal, because also here the inner ring consists of triangles and circles⁹. However, in all examples from Boğazköy, the last sign *209 (*i(a)*) of our seal impression is missing, which is the reason why the name on the Boğazköy seals is to be read as *Luwa*. Incidentally, this name is also known from cuneiform texts. A personal name *Luwia* or *Luwaia*, on the other hand, has not yet been attested either in cuneiform sources or

8 See Dinçol & Dinçol, 2008: Cat. 78; Herbordt, 2005: Cat. 211, 212, 213; SBo 2, Cat 204. An other seal with the same order of signs is the seal impression of *Lupakki* see Dinçol & Dinçol, 2008: Cat. 77; Herbordt, 2005: Cat. 207.

9 The name *Luwa*, or a name beginning with *Luwa*, is also found on seals of the common type: see Herbordt 2005, cat. 209, 214, 215; Dinçol & Dinçol, 2008, cat. 148, 126 and also from Şarhöyük in Western Anatolia see Baştürk & Doğan-Alparslan, 2018, fig 5-6.

on other seals or seal impressions. The title of the seal-holder is defined four times with the sign *326 (SCRIBA), just as on his related impressions from Boğazköy¹⁰.



Figure 3a: Seal impression Oy 20.003

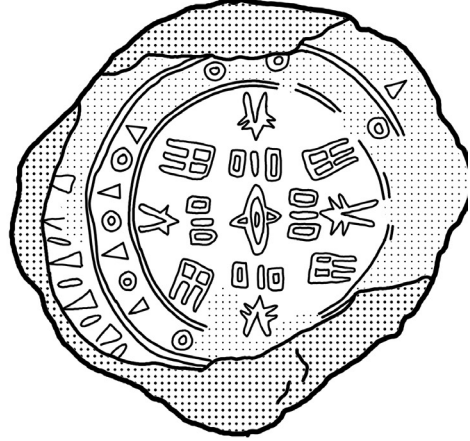


Figure 3b: Drawing of the seal impression Oy 20.003

OY 21.025 (Plan square: K23, Area: ÖZA158 #1, Layer: Oylum Va, Period: LBA II)

OY 21.025 is a double-sided button seal, whose sealing surface is framed by a circle. The center of the seal face, which we have named side A, is unfortunately damaged, so that only the signs at the edge are readable. An astral symbol can be seen on the left side while on the right the hieroglyphs *370 (BONUS₂) - *79 (FEMINA) designate the owner of the seal as a woman. However, the name of this woman is partially destroyed. It should begin with the sign above, namely *209 (*i(a)*). One or two signs below are not preserved. The end of the name should be the two hieroglyphs *215 (*ha*) - *334 (*pa*), with which we have the woman's name *i(a) - x - ha - pa*. A similar name is known from KUB 60.121 (rev. 18) (Zehnder, 2010: 171): Yaruhepa

The side B of our seal is unfortunately even worse preserved. More than half of it is destroyed. Only the signs *370 (BONUS₂) and *41 (CAPERE, *tà*) are preserved. Since there was certainly a woman's name on page A and the BONUS₂ sign is also present on page B,

10 It is interesting to note that the persons on this type of seals are all scribes, so it can perhaps be assumed that it was a favoured type by scribes for a time.

it can be assumed that there was a VIR₂ under the Bonus₂, a small rest of this sign is still present. This would then result (BONUS₂VIR₂) in a male name beginning with *ta-* for side B.

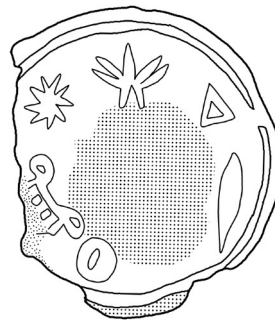
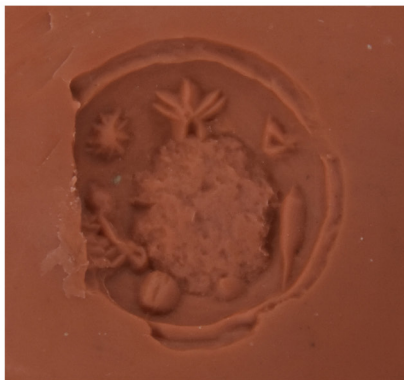


Figure 4a: Side A of the seal OY 21.025 and its impression

Figure 4b: Drawing of side A of the seal impression OY 21.025

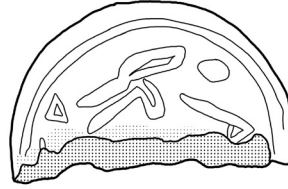


Figure 4c: Side B of the seal OY 21.025 and its impression

Figure 4d: Drawing of side B of the impression of seal OY 21.025

OY 22.022 (Plan square: K24, Area: ÖZA 140#1, Layer: Oylum Va, Period: LBA II)

This seal impression is framed by a band of triangles and circles. The centre field contains the signs *370 (BONUS₂) and *79 (FEMINA), the name of the owner, a healing symbol and a circle. The name should be read from top to bottom. Sure to read are the signs *107 (*mu(wa)*) and *439 (*wali*). Female names beginning with *Muwa-* are well known from both the cuneiform texts and the hieroglyphic corpus. The most common are *Muwa* and *Muwatti* (besides *Muwazi*). In general, the element *muwa* is represented on seals, only with the sign *107. However, there are also examples which show with *107 (*mu(wa)*) also the sign *439, as it is the case with our seal impression (Herbordt, 2005 cat. 255 and Dinçol & Dinçol, 2008 cat. 24). Below the latter sign, traces of a third sign are visible, which we would like

to interpret as *90 (*ti*). The name of the seal owner is thus to be read as *Mu-wa-ti*¹¹. Whether the mentioned circle is only a filling motif or whether it should indicate the title of the seal owner cannot be said for sure. If it is a title it would be the sign *402 which would be SCUTELLA according to Dinçol (Dinçol, 2007: 228230; Dinçol & Dinçol, 2008: 68-70), but SIGNACULUM according to Payne (2017).



Figure 5a: Seal impression Oy 22.022

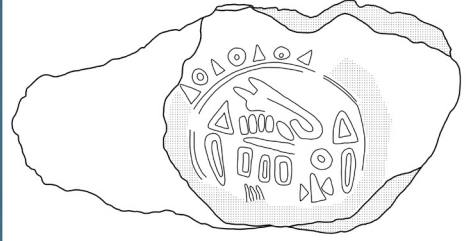


Figure 5b: Drawing of the seal impression Oy 22.022

Conclusion

With these five seals, the number of seals from Oylum Höyük now rises to eight. There is also a clay tablet fragment published by A. Ünal. Oylum Höyük in the Hittite period was undoubtedly an important centre within the administration of the Kargamish secundogeniture, as the seal impression of *Ini-Tesup* proves. As a prince's seal has now also been found, it can be assumed that many more written finds will be unearthed in the next few years, so that we will learn a lot more about the history of the Hittite period Oylum Höyük.

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¹¹ The Name *Muwati* is attested in several seals of Boğazköy see Herbordt, 2005, cat. 260-270 (with the titles REX.FEMINA and REX.FILIA) and Dinçol & Dinçol, 2011 cat. 24 (without any title).

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