

Some Comments on a Few Intriguing Seals Found in the EBA Settlements at Hacılar Büyük Höyük and a Seal from Burdur Museum

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Located 27 km. southwest of Burdur and named after the nearby village of 'Hacılar' (Fig. 1) the settlement was discovered in 1956 by James Mellaart, who was investigating a group of painted pottery that had been found at Burdur, and he began excavations here the following year¹. The Hacılar excavations, which continued for four years, brought to light impressive and authentic finds that revealed the existence of a culture previously unknown on the Anatolian Plateau and also introduced concepts such as the Neolithic and Chalcolithic to the world of scientific research. The fact that the excavations site where significant and impressive finds had been uncovered was left without the work being completed led to unfortunate consequences in the following years, such as illegal digs and damage to the settlement. As a result of the research project that was started in 1976 in the same region by Refik Duru long after the end of the Hacılar Excavations, all the stages of which the writer of this article was involved in², Burdur and its surrounding area has become one of the best known regions for the prehistoric periods of Anatolia.

Hacılar Büyük Höyük Excavations: The excavations that began under my direction in 2011³ represent the latest stage in this long term project. The höyük, an oval shaped settlement approximately 280 x 240 m in dimension, is located around 400 m north of the mound previously excavated at Hacılar⁴. It is not easy to estimate the height of the höyük due to the

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- 1 James Mellaart, who passed away a few months ago, was a very significant figure known for his discovery of Hacılar and as the person who began the first prehistoric research in the Burdur Region. We remember him with respect.
- 2 The Kuruçay Excavations (1978-1988), the Search for the Hacılar Necropolis (1985-1986) and the Höyücek (1989-1992) and Bademağacı Excavations (1993-2010).
- 3 This project was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Directorate of Floating Assets Enterprises and the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums and İstanbul University Secretariat of Scientific Research Projects (Project nos. 15305/2011 and 23708/2012), for which I am sincerely grateful.
- 4 J. Mellaart paid virtually no attention to this höyük. However, it is extremely important to understand the relations between the two mounds of Hacılar that continued for several thousand years. It is very likely that the excavations to be carried out at Hacılar Büyük Höyük and its vicinity will provide insight into the Early Chalcolithic Period settlement known from the Mellaart period excavations at Hacılar; there is also a strong possibility that phases representing the Late Chalcolithic culture, as yet not seen at any other höyük in the same region apart from Kuruçay, and phases of the Early Bronze Age not represented at Kuruçay or Bademağacı (Antalya) will be uncovered.

complexity of the topography of the area surrounding it (Fig. 2). The excavations were begun in two areas, in the highest section at the top of the höyük and on the western slope.

Sondages at the Top of the Höyük: During the first excavations season work was carried out in Sondages A and B at the highest point on the northern side of the mound and in Sondage C, in an area to the 40 m southwest of this section, with the aim of finding out about the cultural sequence of the höyük. In the 2012 season Sondages A and B were combined and the excavations area was extended (Fig. 2). Three separate building levels were identified in each of these three trenches. On the basis of the finds uncovered that were already known from the Burdur Region, especially the pottery, these levels are thought to date to the middle of the Early Bronze Age (EBA)⁵. Some badly damaged stone foundations were uncovered immediately below the surface of the field but these foundations did not provide much information about the building plans they belonged to.

Sondage on the Western Slope (*Batı Yamaç Açması - BYA*): This sounding was initially opened up in the first year on the western slope of the höyük as a Trial Sondage (DA2) 5 m in diameter, and was then extended in every direction in 2012 until it reached 130 x 15 m in dimension. In the Western Slope Sondage a multi-roomed defence system, dating to the Early Bronze Age I, with carefully planned large “saw edge” bends on a north-south axis was uncovered. So far 14 small rooms / sections have been excavated and among these an entrance gate into the city / Western Gate (*Batı Kapısı-BK*) that was obviously used over a long period as it had been restored and added to several times (*Propylon*) (Fig. 3-4). The outer walls made of medium sized stones that formed the western boundary at this point were 1.50-1.60 m in thickness and reached a height of 2 m in places. The upper sections of the defence system walls were constructed of mud bricks (*kerpiç*). The small rooms (*casemates*) adjacent to the defence wall had average dimensions of 3.85 x 6.10, 4.5 x 5.5, 3.60 x 5.00 m and the thickness of the inner walls was 1.10 m, 1.30 m and 1.45 m; the doors opened up to an area on the eastern side. The door openings of some of the doors of these rooms were 1.10 m - 1.20 m in width and the stones that the door shafts turned on were found *in situ* in the form of a plaque on the inside of the door wings of some of them shows that the doors opened inwards.

The soil of the floors in these rooms had been well compressed and smoothed over; most of the rooms had the remains of a horse-shoe shaped hearth in the centre and some of them contained supports/platforms made of mud bricks on top of layers of stone, usually adjacent to the southern wall, that were suitable for large jars to be placed on. A large amount of burnt grain and fragments of burnt wood was found inside these jars and scattered on the floors of the rooms. The general appearance of the EBA I architecture uncovered in the BYA / WSS does not fully resemble the architecture of any settlement so far excavated in the Anatolian Plateau. As described above this is a circular settlement that seems to be integrated into the defence system designed to protect it as it is formed by the indentations and protrusions of the “saw tooth” serrations that surround it (Fig. 3-4). Although we know nothing about the character or details of this settlement, it is clear from the EBA I buildings such as the houses, the residence / palace of the ruling class and the temple that the settlement was rich enough to need to be protected by such an extraordinarily strong defence system as the one described above. The 14C readings carried out on the burnt grain particles found at this settlement in 2011 gave dates of 3010-2980 BC.

5 In view of the likelihood that the results of future excavations seasons could alter those of the early years, these settlement levels were not given definite names.

A rich pottery repertoire, a number of clay and stone idols, metal pins and stamp seals made of clay and stone were uncovered in the EBA I and EBA II settlements at Hacılar Büyük Höyük. Three seals found in the first two seasons of excavations and one seal kept in the Burdur Museum will be evaluated below. The first of the two seals (Fig. 5) that belong to EBA I settlement was found among the pieces of a broken jar on a raised work surface made of *kerpiç* in front of the gate of Building G1 that forms the outer circle of the defence system. The seal was probably originally kept inside the earthenware jar. The other small seal was found inside Building G4 (Fig. 6). The pinkish beige clay seal was made of a very well purified paste and had been fired. The long conical handle of the seal had a horizontal string pierced hole and its quadrangular stamp surface was divided into four equal sections within a frame. In these sections there are, in order, seven dots arranged in the shape of a flower and eight smaller dots between them; four chevrons one inside the other with open edges and six miniature squares on the end; an orderly composition consisting of 4 x 6 rows that form a square; three quadrangular motifs one inside the other containing two dots in the centre. The composition on the stamp surface was neatly and carefully applied (Fig. 5, Table).

The second seal was carefully formed from black stone, the top of the handle is broken, the stamp surface is quadrangular with rounded corners and the composition inside a frame consists of three chevron motifs one inside the other and a circle placed in front of them. This stamp surface closely resembles the lower right hand square of the four separate compositions on the stamp surface of the clay seal described above (Fig. 6, Table).

A seal from the EBA II settlement of our höyük was carefully shaped from clay and its colour after firing is greyish beige. The composition on the round stamp surface contains two symmetrical spirals; there is a cross motif roughly added to the stamp surface that divides it into four sections and each section contains three quadrangles with a dot in each; three small dots inside a quadrangle; a 'V' and a series of 'V' motifs one inside the other, zigzag lines, broken and parallel lines and comb shaped (?) motifs (Fig. 7, Table).

Another seal being examined here is one that was purchased by Burdur Archaeology Museum. It resembles the Hacılar Büyük Höyük EBA II example from the point of view of dimensions and stamp surface⁶. The outer section of the stamp surface is surrounded by three rows of wavy lines/water swirls (?), in the middle there are three single centre circles placed one inside the other and right at the centre there is a "swastika" motif (Fig. 8, Table).

A similar example to the seal from Hacılar Büyük Höyük EBA I, seen in Fig. 4, is a small beige coloured clay seal found at Bademağacı in the storage area of the Multi-roomed Complex in the southern part of the EBA II settlement. The stamp surface of the seal is divided into four equal sections by a cross-shaped motif inside a frame and contains the following compositions: seven dots and three dotted lines; three chevrons one inside the other and open at the front; undulating and broken lines; a symbol resembling a back-to-front 'A' placed inside a quadrangle with rounded corners (Fig. 9).

It is a seal found at Kusura that most closely resembles the general characteristics of the seal from Hacılar Büyük Höyük EBA II (Fig. 10)⁷.

6 I extend my thanks to H. A. Ekinci, the Director of Burdur Archaeology Museum, who gave permission to work on this seal, as well as offering help, and our colleague G. Gülseven, who provided inventory information.

7 W. Lamb, Excavations at Kusura near Afyon-Karahisar II (1938) 253 Fig. 18.1.

Before the excavation of Hacılar Büyük Höyük, the place that provided the most satisfactory information on glyptic art in the Burdur Region was the Bademağacı Early Bronze Age II settlement. During the 18 years of excavations at this centre over 100 seals were found, mostly made of clay but also including a small number made stone and bronze; these seals provided important information about the production and use of seals in this region in the Early Bronze Age⁸. Most of the stamp seals found at Bademağacı have a short pointed string pierced handle and the stamp surface of most of them is round, although some of them are quadrangular or triangular. The decoration on the stamp surfaces is usually a standard type composition consisting of a cross motif that divides the area into four sections, which are filled with some geometric motifs or symbols (?), swastikas or simple filling motifs such as groups of straight or slanted lines, wind vanes or linear designs and very plain images. However, in a few unusual examples it is possible to think that these could represent some symbols or signs⁹. From a cultural point of view, there are close similarities between Hacılar Büyük Höyük¹⁰ and the Bademağacı EBA II settlement and some parallels with the simple/plain stamp seal traditions of contemporary settlements at Karataş-Semayük¹¹ and more distant neighbours such as Kusura Höyük¹², Beycesultan¹³ and Aphrodisias¹⁴. It is likely that, in these periods, stamp seals were very valuable items that not only identified ownership but also indicated the status of the owner and perhaps were considered to have some magical power.

Some of the stamp seals described here (Fig. 5, 7-8) are different in size from the seal types and dimensions usually associated with the Early Bronze Age. It is likely that the function and use of these larger carefully made seals are different from those of the other type of seals. It is apparent that in this period stamp seals were not really made according to individual preferences but, especially the seals with symbols and signs on them, were made with the permission of a central authority. The fact that one of the seals from Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Fig. 5) was found among the pieces of a broken jar and scattered grain kernels on a work surface is mentioned above. There are very interesting examples of valuable items kept in grain storage areas from the Early Neolithic Period onwards¹⁵. The defence system that surrounded the Hacılar Büyük Höyük EBA I settlement was undoubtedly built to be extremely strong in order

8 Some of these seals were published in the annual excavations reports and articles and in a monograph: R. Duru, MÖ 8000'den MÖ 2000'e Burdur-Antalya Bölgesi'nin Altıbin Yılı (2008) Res. 344-345; G. Umurtak, "A Study of three numerical (!) Tablets and a Stamp Seal from the Early Bronze Age Settlement at Bademağacı Höyük", Adalya XII, 2009, 1-10; "Questions Arising from a Bulla found in the EBA II Settlement at Bademağacı", Adalya XIII, 2010, 19-27.

9 R. Duru, "Bademağacı Höyüğü'nde Bulunmuş İki Mühür", Muhibbe Darga Armağanı (2008) 236-242.

10 G. Umurtak - R. Duru, "Hacılar Büyük Höyük Kazısı - 2011/Hacılar Büyük Höyük Excavations - 2011", MÜZE 5 2012, 44-48; "Hacılar Büyük Höyük 2011 Yılı Kazıları / Excavations at Hacılar Büyük Höyük 2011", Anmed 10, 2012, 21-26.

11 M. J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karataş-Semayük in Lycia, 1964", AJA 69.3, 1965, Fig. 33a-b, 37a-b; M. J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karataş-Semayük in Lycia, 1966", AJA 71.3, 1967, Fig. 54a-b, 55a-b, 56; "Excavations at Karataş - Semayük and Elmali, Lycia, 1969", AJA 74.3, 1970, Fig. 23a-b; "Excavations at Karataş - Semayük and Elmali, Lycia, 1971", AJA 76.3, 1972, Fig. 4a-c; J. L. Warner, Elmali-Karataş II. The Early Bronze Age Village of Karataş (1994) Pl. 186-187/a-e.

12 W. Lamb, Excavations at Kusura near Afyon-Karahisar (1937) 230 Fig. 12/17-20.

13 S. Lloyd - J. Mellaart, Beycesultan I. The Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Levels (1962) Fig. F.4./7-8; Pl. XXXII/6.

14 M. S. Joukowsky, Prehistoric Aphrodisias. An Account of the Excavations and Artifact Studies I (1986) 383 Fig. 318/4-6; Prehistoric Aphrodisias. An Account of the Excavations and Artifact Studies II (1986) 606 Fig. 437/19, 611 Fig. 440/22.

15 G. Umurtak, "Silos in Neolithic Settlements of Burdur-Antalya Region", Adalya X, 2007, 8.

to protect a large, distinguished city and its significant wealth. A similar situation can be seen in the Bademağacı EBA II settlement. A *bulla*¹⁶ with a stamp impression on it found in one of the storage buildings in this settlement and numerical tablets and unusual seals, metal objects¹⁷ found in the same building group give some insight into the central authority mentioned above and the use and functions of these seals. In this context, as discussed above, it can be assumed that the small size ordinary seals with plain designs on the stamp surfaces were used in various tasks of everyday life, usually to express ownership (as is generally accepted), for example in the closing of containers and securing of boxes and the sealing of the doors of storage rooms¹⁸. The larger size seals from Hacilar Büyük Höyük described here with symbols on the stamp surfaces and the small number of examples with compositions that could be considered unique were probably only produced to be used at settlements for the official tasks of a central authority.

Is it possible to say that the designs on the stamp surfaces of the unusual seals from Hacilar Büyük Höyük are only emblems, graphic symbols or decorative motifs? It can be seen that the compositions on these seals are deliberate applications and that these “symbols” can be repeated on the same seal or another one (Fig. 5-6, 9; 7, 10). The stages that societies go through before the knowledge and use of writing are not yet adequately attested to or understood. Some of the incised symbols found at Tordos, a Vin a settlement in Romania, appear on pottery; the symbols on baked clay tablets found at Tartaria and the Gradeshnitsa plaque and the Karanovo seal dated to 1000 years earlier than the Hacilar Büyük Höyük EBA I settlement are extremely interesting but are not usually accepted as being logographs or phonographs¹⁹. I do not want to make suggestions that cannot be proved concerning the meanings of the symbols on the seals being studied (Table) and am aware that if one of these signs (or some of them) also represents a word, it should also have a phonetic equivalent. The view put forward by H. Th. Bossert that “there can be no cultures that have owners of seals but are without a knowledge of writing”²⁰ has lost its effect in the approximately half a century that has passed since it was put forward due to new concrete archaeological finds that prove otherwise. However, I believe that the subject of whether unusual seals containing symbols/signs that belong to pre-writing periods played any prior (forerunner) role in the development of future writing systems needs to be discussed²¹.

Could the appearance of architectural preferences not previously seen in Anatolia, the pottery groups different to earlier ones and the unusual seals seen at the Hacilar Büyük Höyük EBA I settlement be explained by the arrival of a new ethnic group into the region or, to use a more specific expression, by the Luwian factor?²²

16 G. Umurtak, “Questions Arising from a Bulla found in the EBA II Settlement at Bademağacı”, *Adalya* XII, 2010, 19-27.

17 G. Umurtak, “A Study of three numerical (!) Tablets and a Stamp Seal from the Early Bronze Age Settlement at Bademağacı Höyük”, *Adalya* XII, 2009, 1-10.

18 C. Renfrew, *Archaeology and Language. The Puzzle of Indo-European Origins* (1987) 351; G. Umurtak, “Neolitik ve Erken Kalkolitik Çağlarda Burdur-Antalya Bölgesi Mühürçülüğü Üzerine Bazı Gözlemler”, *Adalya* IV, 1999-2000, 1-19.

19 S. R. Fischer, *A History of Writing* (2005) 22-24.

20 H. Th. Bossert, “Bild-Luwisches”, *Festschrift für Johannes Friedrich* (1959) 79.

21 D. Hawkins, “Writing in Anatolia: imported and indigenous systems”, *World Archaeology* 17.3, 1986, 363-376; D. Hawkins, “Scripts and Texts”, H. C. Melchert (ed.), *The Luwians* (2003) 165-169.

22 H. C. Melchert, “Prehistory”, H. C. Melchert (ed.), *The Luwians* (2003) 26.

Catalogue

(Fig. 5)

Location of Find: Hacılar Büyük Höyük

Place of Find: Inside a large jar on a work counter in front of Building G1

Excavations Inventory No: HBH 2012/12

Burdur Archaeology Museum Inventory No: P.17.23.12

Period : EBA I

Substance: Clay

Height : 3.6 cm

Width : 4.0 x 4.0 cm

(Fig. 6)

Location of Find: Hacılar Büyük Höyük

Place of Find: Building G4

Excavations Inventory No: HBH 2012/32

Burdur Archaeology Museum Inventory No: P.37.23.12

Substance: Stone

Period : EBA I

Width : 2.4 cm x 2.2 cm

(Fig. 7)

Location of Find: Hacılar Büyük Höyük

Place of Find: Sondage A

Excavations Inventory No: HBH 2011/1

Burdur Archaeology Museum Inventory No: P.5.14.11

Period : EBA II

Substance: Clay

Height : 2.9 cm

Diameter : 5.8 cm

(Fig. 8)

Location of Find: It was purchased by Burdur Archaeology Museum

Burdur Museum Inventory No: 2025

Substance: Clay

Period : EBA

Height : 4.0 cm

Diameter : 5.0 cm

Özet

Hacılar Büyük Höyük İlk Tunç Çağı Yerleşmeleri'nde Bulunmuş Olan İlgi Çekici Bir Grup Mühür ve Burdur Müzesi'nden Bir Mühür Üzerine Bazı Yorumlar

Hacılar, James Mellaart'ın 1956 yılında Burdur'da kendisine gösterilen bir grup boya bezemeli çanak çömleğin izini sürmesi sonunda saptanmış ve ertesi yıl kazılmasına başlanmıştı. 4 yıl süren Hacılar kazıları, genişliğine çıkan seçkin ve özgün buluntuları ile o zamana dek Anadolu Yaylası'nda bilinmeyen bir kültürün varlığını ortaya koymuş, Neolitik ve Kalkolitik gibi kavramları bilim dünyasının gündemine taşımıştır. Çok önemli ve çarpıcı buluntuların ele geçmekte olduğu kazı yerinin gerekli çalışmalar tamamlanmadan bırakılması, izleyen dönemlerde kaçak kazılar ve tahribat gibi bazı istenmeyen gelişmelere neden olmuştur. Hacılar Kazıları'nın son bulmasından uzun zaman sonra, 1976 yılında aynı bölgede Refik Duru tarafından başlatılan ve bu satırların yazarının da tüm aşamalarında yer aldığı bu araştırma süreci ile Burdur ve yakın çevresi, Anadolu tarihöncesi dönemlerinin en iyi bilinen bölgelerinden biri haline gelmiştir.

Hacılar Büyük Höyük daha önceleri kazı yapılan Hacılar'ın yaklaşık 400 m. kadar kuzeyinde yer alan, oval biçimli, yaklaşık boyutları 280 x 240 m olan bir yerleşme yeridir (Res. 2). 2011 yılında yönetimimizde başlanan kazılar yukarıda sözü edilen uzun soluklu projenin şimdilik son basamağıdır. İlk kazı mevsiminde Höyüğün kültür sıradüzeni hakkında bilgi edinmek amacıyla kuzeydeki en yüksek kesimde A, B ve C açmalarında çalışılmış, 2012 sezonunda A ve B açmaları birleştirilerek kazı alanı genişletilmiştir. Her üç açmada da, Burdur Bölgesi'nin daha önceden bilinen bulgularına, özellikle çanak çömleğine dayanılarak, İlk Tunç Çağı'nın (İTÇ) ortalarına tarihlendirilmesinin doğru olacağı düşünülen üç ayrı mimarlık katının varlığı saptanmıştır.

Batı yamaçta 5 m. çapında bir Deneme Açması (DA2) olarak başlanan, daha sonra her yönden yapılan eklerle 2012 yılında 130 x 15 m ölçülerine ulaşan Batı Yamaç Açması'nda (BYA) İlk Tunç Çağı I'e ait, dikkatle planlanmış "testere dişi" şeklinde kırılmalarla kuzey-güney doğrultusunda gelişen çok odalı bir savunma sisteminin bugüne kadar 14 mekânı ve bunların arasında pek çok yenileme evresi ve eklemelerle uzun zaman kullanıldığı anlaşılan bir kente giriş kapısı / Batı Kapısı (BK) açığa çıkartılmıştır (*Propylon*). Burada batı sınırı oluşturan dış duvarlar 1.50 - 1.60 m kalınlıkta, orta boy taşlardan örülmüş olup, yüksekliği yer yer 2 m'yi bulmaktadır. Savunma sisteminin duvarlarının üst kesiminin ise kerpiçle örüldüğü görülmektedir. Sur'a bitişik ve ortalama 3.85 x 6.10, 4.5 x 5.5, 3.60x5.00 m boyutlarındaki mekânların (*kazamat*) iç duvarları 1.10 m, 1.30 m ile 1.45 m kalınlıkta ve kapıları doğu yöndeki bir alana açılmaktadır (Res. 3-4). Nitelikleri ve ayrıntıları hakkında şimdilik hiçbir bilgimiz olmamakla birlikte, İTÇ I'in evleri, yönetici sınıfların ikametgâhı (residans / saray), tapınak vs. gibi yapılarıyla bu yerleşme yukarıda tanıtılan olağanüstü güçlü bir savunma sistemi ile korunmaya alınacak kadar zengin bir kent olmalıydı. 2011 yılında bu yerleşmeden ele geçen yanmış tahıl kalıntılarında yapılan C14 analizleri M.Ö. 3010-2980 tarihlerini vermiştir.

Hacılar Büyük Höyük'te İTÇ I ve İTÇ II yerleşmelerinde zengin bir çanak çömlek repertuarı ile pişmiş toprak ve taştan idoller, maden iğneler ve pişmiş toprak mühürler ele geçmiştir. Kazıların ilk iki sezonunda ele geçen üç mühür ile Burdur Müzesi'nde saklanmakta olan bir mühür bu makalede değerlendirilecektir. İTÇ I'e ait olan 2 mühürden ilki (Res. 5) yerleşmenin savunma sistemini oluşturan dış halkasında G1 yapısının kapısı önünde, kerpiç ile yükseltilmiş bir tezgâh üzerindeki kırık küp'ün parçaları arasında bulunmuştur. Büyük olasılıkla mühür küpün içinde saklanmaktaydı. Diğer küçük taş mühür (Res. 6) ise G4 yapısında ele geçmiştir.

Burada tanıtımı yapılan mühürlerin bir kısmının (Res. 5, 7-8) boyutları İlk Tunç Çağı'nın alışılmış mühür tipleri ve boyutlarından farklıdır. Bu iri boyutlu ve özenle işlenmiş mühürlerin işlevinin ve kullanım alanlarının da farklı olduğu akla gelmektedir. Bu çağda mühür yapımcılığının kişisel bağımsız tercihlere pek bağlı olmadığı, özellikle bazı semboller ve işaretlerin yer aldığı mühürlerin merkezi otoritenin izni ile yapıldığı düşünülmelidir. Hacılar Büyük Höyük'te bulunmuş olan mühürlerden bir tanesinin (Res. 5) bir ışık tezgâhındaki kırık durumdaki bir küpün parçaları ve etrafa dağılmış tahıl kalıntıları arasında ele geçtiği yukarıda belirtilmişti. Değerli eşyaların tahıl depolarında saklandığına ilişkin çok ilginç örnekler Erken Neolitik Çağ'dan başlayarak rastlanmaktadır. Hacılar Büyük Höyük İTÇ I yerleşmesini çeviren savunma sisteminin önemli bir zenginliği ve büyük, seçkin bir kenti korumak üzere bu denli güçlü inşa edildiğine kuşku yoktur. Benzer bir durum, Bademağacı İTÇ II yerleşmesinde görülmektedir. Söz konusu yerleşmede depo binalarından birinde ele geçen mühür baskılı bir *bulla* ile aynı yapılarda karşımıza çıkan sayı tabletleri ve sıra dışı mühürlerle, maden eşyalar yukarıda sözünü ettiğimiz merkezi otoritenin egemenliği ve bu mühürlerin kullanım alanı ile işlevleri hakkında fikir verilebilir. Bu bağlamda, küçük boyutlu ve yukarıda değinildiği gibi, baskı alanında yalın desenler bulunan sıradan mühürler günlük yaşamda, genelde kabul edildiği gibi mülkiyeti ifade etmek üzere, örneğin kap kapatmalarında, bazı kutuların güvenliğinin sağlanması ve depo odalarının kapılarının mühürlenmesi gibi çok çeşitli işlerde kullanılmış olabilirdi. Burada tanıtılan Hacılar Büyük Höyük mühürleri gibi iri boyutlu, baskı alanındaki işaretler ve kompozisyon bakımından ünik ve az sayıda örneklenen parçaların ise sadece önemli yerleşmelerde, merkezi otoritenin resmi işlerinde kullanılmak üzere üretildiği akla gelmektedir.

Hacılar Büyük Höyük'ün bu sıra dışı mühürlerinin baskı alanlarındaki desenlerin sadece amblem, grafik sembol ya da dekoratif motifler olduğu söylenebilir mi? Bu mühürlerde karşımıza çıkan kompozisyonların bilinçli uygulamalar olduğu, "işaretlerin" aynı mühürde ya da başka bir mühürde de tekrarlanabildiği görülmektedir. Toplumların yazı öncesi geçirdiği aşamalar çok net olarak aydınlatılmış değildir. Romanya'da bir Vinča yerleşmesi olan Tordos'da keramik üzerine çizilmiş ya da Tartaria'da pişmiş toprak tabletler üzerinde saptanan semboller ya da Hacılar Büyük Höyük İTÇ I yerleşmesinden 1000 yıl kadar erkene tarihlenen Gradeshnitsa plağı ile Karanovo mühürü son derece ilgi çekicidir ancak bunların *logograph* ve *phonograph* oldukları genelde kabul görmektedir. İncelediğimiz mühürlerdeki işaretlerin anlamları üzerinde somut olmayan ve doğruluğu kanıtlanamayacak öneriler yapmak istemiyoruz. Bu işaretlerden (bk.: Tablo) bir tanesi ya da pekçoğu eğer bir kelime işareti ise, bunun aynı zamanda fonetik bir değeri olması beklenir. H. Th. Bossert'in, "mühür sahibi olan ama yazıyı bilmeyen bir kültür olamayacağına" ilişkin görüşü aradan geçen yaklaşık yarım yüzyıl süre içinde yeni somut arkeolojik buluntularla etkisini büyük ölçüde yitirmiştir. Ancak, yazı öncesi dönemlere ait bazı sıra dışı mühürler ve içerdikleri işaretlerin, gelecekteki yazı sistemleri için öncü işlevi olup olmadığı kanımızca tartışılmalıdır.

Hacılar Büyük Höyük İTÇ I yerleşmesinde, Anadolu'da o zamana kadar bilinmeyen mimarlık tercihleri ve eskisinden farklı çanak çömlek gruplarının ortaya çıkması, sıra dışı mühürler, yeni bir etnik grubun bölgeye gelişi ya da daha ileri bir ifadeyle Luwi unsuru ile açıklanabilir mi?

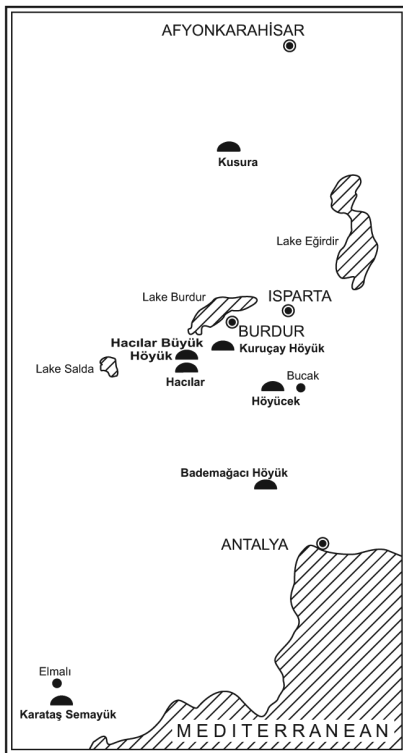


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

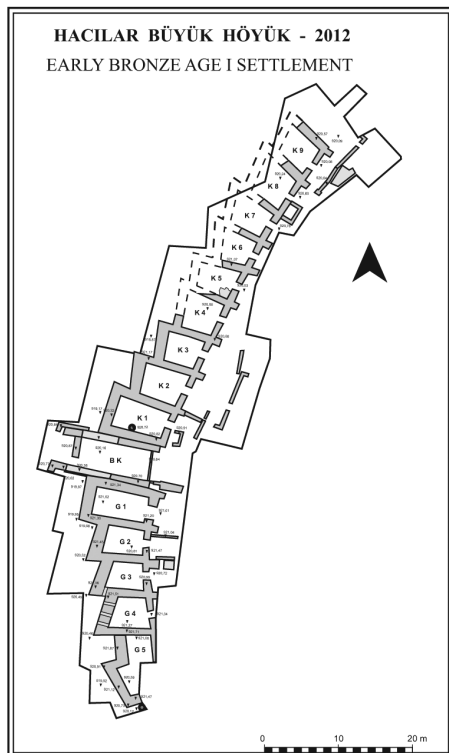


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

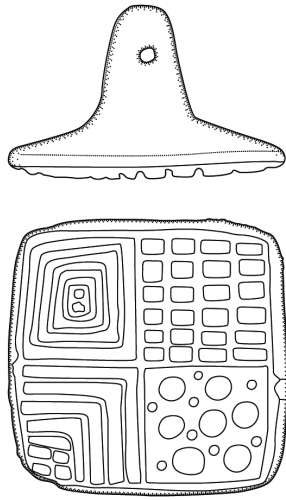


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

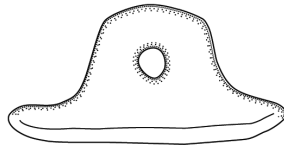


Fig. 7

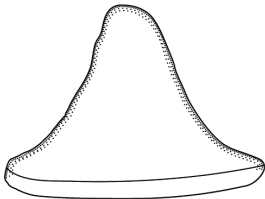


Fig. 8



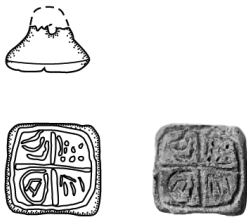


Fig. 9

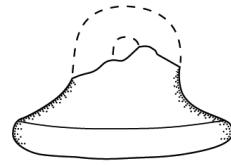
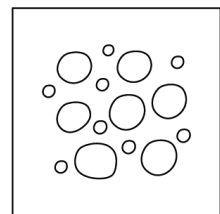
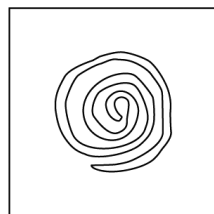
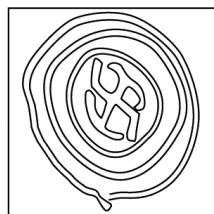
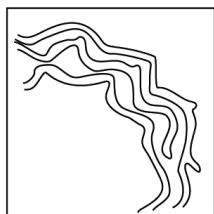
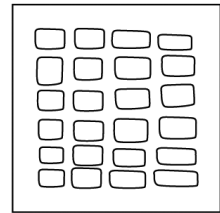
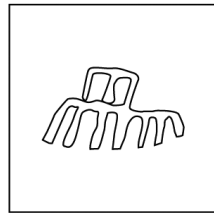
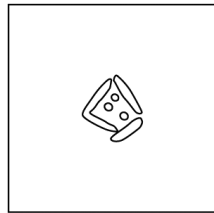
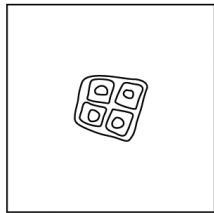
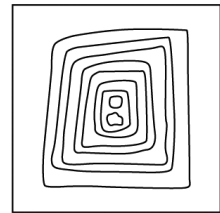
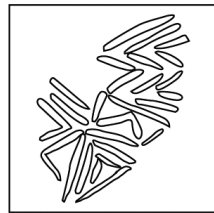
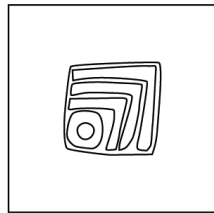
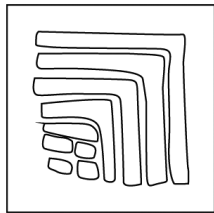
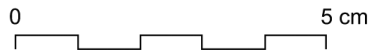


Fig. 10



Table