

ID 6103	Region Upper Egypt
Name Narmer Box, no. 3	Site Abydos
Date (Period) Dyn. 1	Locality Cemetery B
Date (King) (Narmer)	Depository British Museum (London); Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York); University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Philadelphia)
Dated By Comparison to other Narmer boxes	Registration No. BM EA35515; MMA 01.4.21; Philadelphia E9379B+D
Type Decorated box	Dimensions (Estimate based on reconstruction) Length: no data; width: 17.4 cm or 23.2 cm; height: at least 8 cm
Method of Inscription Incised	Signs
Material Bone	

References:

Petrie, 1901, RT II, pp. 21-22, pls. IIIA.2, IV.6, IV.13
Dreyer, 2005, pp. 255-257,
Campagno, 2008, pp. 695-696, p. 696, fig. 1
Patch, 2012, p. 153, no. 130,
Dreyer, 2014-2015, pp. 91-104, p. 103, fig. 8
Dreyer, 2017, p. 99,
Renée Friedman, personal communication, 2018,
British Museum (London), EA35515
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York) , 01.4.21
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Philadelphia), E9379B
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Philadelphia), E9379D

Comments

Dreyer (2005) proposed that 8 bone fragments found in Cemetery B, Umm el-Qa'ab in Abydos, of similar material and style, were fragments of a box of Narmer. In Dreyer (2016), he identified 43 fragments that he suggests were part of Narmer Boxes, and used 38 of them (the rest were too small) to reconstruct 3 boxes.

According to Dreyer (2016, p.104) all of the Boxes represent triumphs of Narmer in the tradition of representation of historical events, however in the case of Box 3 (unlike boxes 1 & 2), it does not represent the defeat of the thnw people (the event depicted on the Narmer Palette). He describes the scene on the most fully preserved fragments of Box 3 as a representations of offering bearers, who have long hair reaching down to his shoulders and wearing only a short kilt. On both of these fragments, they hold vessels, two of which are shown with handles. This type of vessel is not from Egypt, but is well-documented in the Southern Levant. According to Dreyer, in the same article, it might just show delivery of tribute from the Southern Levantine region. However, in a personal

communication (2016), he suggested that the Third Box may depict an actual military expedition by Narmer to the Southern Levant.

(The other references shown above are for individual fragments, not discussed in relation to the Narmer Boxes.)

The main fragments with dimensions (where known):

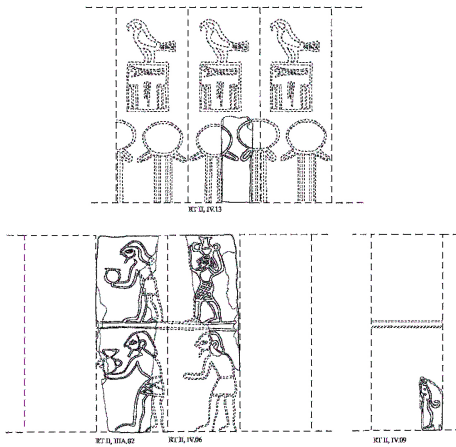
EA35515: 7.9 cm H, 2.6 cm L, 0.6 cm W

MMA 01.4.21: 5.7 cm H, 2.0 cm L, 0.4 cm W

E9379B: 3.49 cm H, 1.27 cm L, 0.32 cm W

E9379D: 2.22 cm H, 0.95 cm L, 0.32 cm W

The complete list of fragments can be found in Dreyer 2014-2015: 92-93.



Petrie, 1901, RT II

pls. IIIA.2, IV.6, IV.13



Petrie, 1901, RT II

pls. IIIA.2, IV.6, IV.13



Patch, 2012



Renée Friedman, personal communication, 2018



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Archaeology and Anthropology (Philadelphia)
E9379D