

Catalog No. 0110

Name Unusual Narmer(?) *serekh* from Tarkhan

Date (Period) Naqada IIIB

Date (King) Uncertain (unknown or Hat-Hor(?) or Narmer(?))

Dated By Royal name

Type Vessel (jar)

Method of Inscription Incised

Material Pottery

Region Memphite region

Site Tarkhan

Locality Tomb 1702

Depository Petrie Museum (University College London)

Registration No. LDUCE-UC16084

Dimensions 60 cm H, 24 cm diam. (object)

References:

Petrie, 1914, Tarkhan II, p. 10, pls. VI, XX.1, XXX.74b (right)
 Hertz, 1931, p. 85,
 Godron, 1949, p. 217,
 Fischer, 1963, p. 44, p. 45, fig. 2 (right)
 Helck, 1982, p. 349,
 Kaiser, 1982, pp. 262-268, pp. 266-267, fig. 15.6, p. 263, fig. 14.6
 Helck, 1987, pp. 90, 94,
 von der Way, 1993, p. 99, p. 100, fig. 22.3
 Kahl, 1994, p. 178,
 van den Brink, 1996, pp. 140-158, p. 142, Table 1, no. 9; p. 145, fig. 2, IIb.9; pl. 26a
 Dreyer, 1998, p. 179,
 Wilkinson, 1999, p. 54,
 Ciałowicz, 2000, p. 63,
 Hendrickx, 2001, pp. 90-95,
 van den Brink, 2001, pp. 39-40, 94, no. 16, p. 40, fig. 16
 Ciałowicz, 2001b, pp. 23-25,
 Jiménez-Serrano, 2003, p. 118 (2E-TAR1),
 Raffaele, 2003, p. 116, p. 141, no. 13
 Pätznick, 2009, Appendix A, p. 314, no. 17.4,
 Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano, personal communication, 2017,
 Günter Dreyer, personal communication, 2017,
 Renée Friedman, personal communication, 2017,
 Stan Hendrickx, personal communication, 2017,
 Mawdsley, 2020, pp. 40, 223-225, p. 224, fig. 9.11

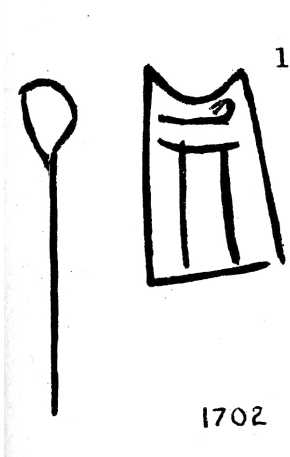
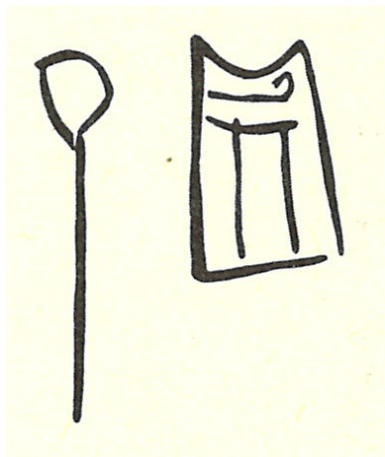
Sperveslage, 2021,
Petrie Museum (University College London), LDUCE-UC16084
Regulski, Database of Early Dynastic Inscriptions,

Comments

The basis of the controversy over this inscription is how to interpret the symbol in the name panel of the *serekh*. At first, it was read as a stylized “forepart of a lion” (Gardiner symbol F4), transliterated as “Hati” by Petrie, 1914, and *HAt* by Hertz, 1931. Later, it was read as a stylized catfish (Nar), hence an abbreviation for Narmer (Gordon 1949a, Fischer 1963, Kahl 1994, Pätznick 2009, Helck, and Regulski). Kaiser 1982: 264-265, rejects the Narmer reading based on the type of pottery and the stratigraphy of the grave site as being earlier than Narmer. He interprets the symbol as *HA.t*, and reads the inscription as the name of king *HA.t-Hr*. The *Hr* (Horus) is implied since it doesn’t appear on the inscription. This interpretation has been adopted by van den Brink, 1996 and Raffaele, 2003. Wilkinson, 1999 says that it could be either Narmer or Hat-Hor (another transliteration of *HA.t-Hr*). Jiménez-Serrano 2003 argues that the absence of a falcon rules out the name Hat-Hr, and suggests just Hat instead.

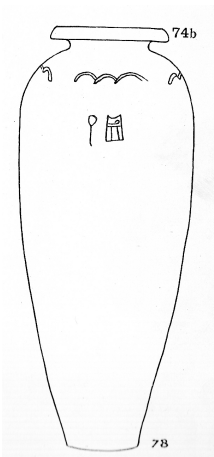
A proposal by Dreyer (personal communication, 2017) suggests that since the *serekh* shows a palace façade, but not a falcon, it should be read as “foremost in the palace”, a generic reference to the king or kingship. Friedman, Hendrickx, and Jiménez-Serrano (personal communications, 2017) have endorsed this interpretation. However, a name in the form “of the palace” is not otherwise known, so its occurrence here would be unlikely.

According to Sperveslage (forthcoming) The royal name may simply be read Ḥꜥ.tj, because grammatically it does not require another element. Hence the name would be a nisba of Ḥꜥ.t “forepart; beginning; foremost; best” and therefore means “the first one” or “the one who is in front. This approach is consistent with Petrie and Jiménez-Serrano’s approaches, but while they were just giving a transliteration, Sperveslage suggests a translation, which seems to be correct.



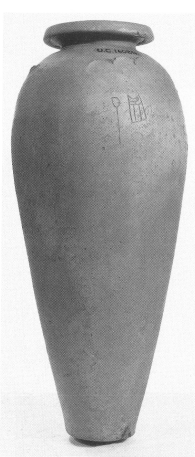
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van den Brink, 1996

p. 142, Table 1, no. 9; p. 145, fig. 2, IIb.9; pl.



Petrie, 1914, Tarkhan II

pls. VI, XX.1, XXX.74b (right)



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