

Catalog No. 0116

Name Ny-Hor(?) *serekh* from Tura

Date (Period) Naqada IIIB-C1

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

Dated By Typological comparison

Type Vessel (wine jar)

Method of Inscription Incised

Material Pottery

Region Memphite region

Site Tura

Locality Tomb 16.g.9

Depository Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna)

Registration No. ÄS 6808

Dimensions 61.5 cm H, 24.5 cm diam. (object)

Signs (O33)

References:

Junker, 1912, pp. 45ff, 63, p. 47, fig. 57.4
 Fischer, 1963, pp. 44-47, p. 46, fig. 3d
 Helck, 1982, p. 349,
 Kaiser, 1982, pp. 262-264, pp. 266-267, fig. 15.7, p. 263, fig. 14.7
 Helck, 1987, pp. 90, 94,
 von der Way, 1993, p. 99, p. 100, fig. 22.4
 Kahl, 1994, p. 179,
 van den Brink, 1996, p. 140-158, p. 142, Table 1, no. 7; p. 143, fig. 1, IIb.7; pl. 25b-d
 Dreyer, 1998, p. 179,
 Wilkinson, 1999, p. 54,
 Ciałowicz, 2000, p. 63,
 Hendrickx, 2001, pp. 90-95,
 Jiménez-Serrano, 2003, p. 118 (2E-TU2),
 Raffaele, 2003, p. 116,
 Pätznick, 2009, Appendix A, no. 9.1,
 Jucha, 2012a, pp. 633-634, Table 1, no. 4,
 Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano, personal communication, 2017,
 Günter Dreyer, personal communication, 2017,
 Renée Friedman, personal communication, 2017,
 Stan Hendrickx, personal communication, 2017,
 Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna), ÄS 6808
 Regulski, Database of Early Dynastic Inscriptions,

Comments

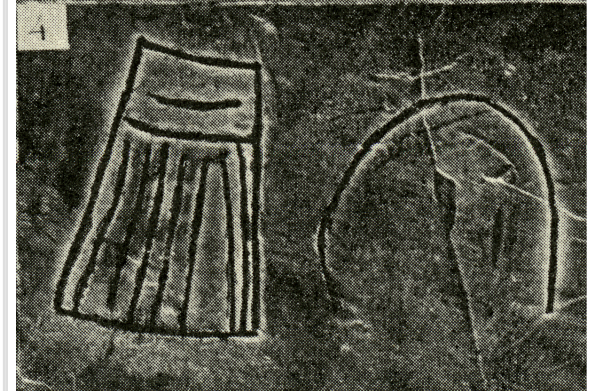
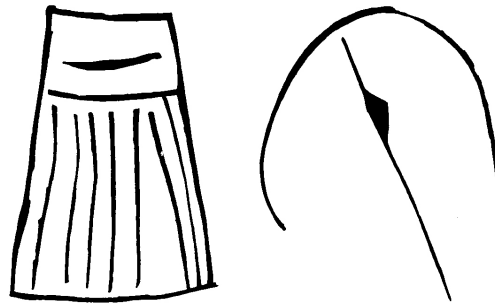
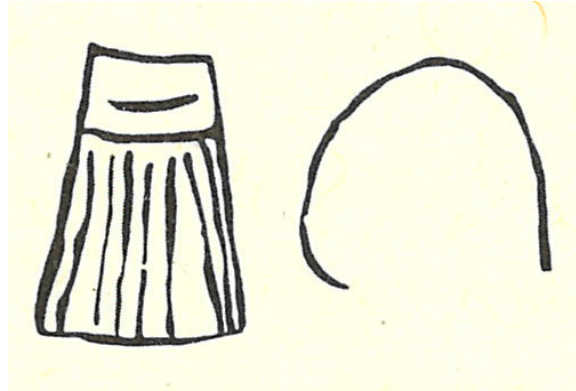
The basis of the controversy over this inscription is how to interpret the horizontal line in the name panel of the *serekh*. At first it was read as a stylized catfish (Nar), hence an abbreviation for Narmer. This interpretation was adopted by Fischer 1963, Helck 1987, Kahl 1994, Pätznick 2009, Regulski, and von der Way 1993.

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 horizontal line as a simplified *n(j)* sign, and read the inscription as the name of king Nj-Hr. The Hr (Horus) is implied since it doesn't appear on the inscription. This interpretation has been adopted by van den Brink, 1996. Wilkinson, 1999 and Raffaele, 2003 say that it could be either Narmer or Ny-Hor (another transliteration of Nj-Hr). Jucha 2012 identifies it as either Ny-Hor or king "Nar", a ruler earlier than Narmer.

Jiménez-Serrano 2003 argues that the absence of a falcon rules out the name Nj-Hr, and suggests just Nj instead. The problem with this interpretation is that N (j) means "(one) who belongs to". It doesn't work grammatically without an object.

A recent proposal by Heagy and Dreyer (personal communication 2017) suggest that since the *serekh* shows a palace façade, but not a falcon, it should be read as "(one) who belongs to the palace", a generic reference to the king or kingship. Friedman, Hendrickx, and Jiménez-Serrano (personal communications, 2017) have endorsed this interpretation.

Editor's note: The interpretation as either king Ny-Hor/Ny or as a generic *serekh* is based on interpreting the horizontal line as the water sign - N35. However, there are no examples in the early period of this sign being shown as a horizontal line. Consequently, the most likely interpretation of this sign is as a simplified catfish, hence the *serekh* is probably Narmer's. However the pottery type suggests an earlier date, so this conclusion is tentative.



Junker, 1912

p. 47, fig. 57.4



van den Brink, 1996

p. 142, Table 1, no. 7; p. 143, fig. 1, IIb.7; pl.



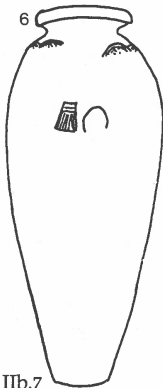
van den Brink, 1996

p. 142, Table 1, no. 7; p. 143, fig. 1, IIb.7; pl.



van den Brink, 1996

p. 142, Table 1, no. 7; p. 143, fig. 1, IIb.7; pl.



IIb.7
Turah 16.g.9.
(KHM Wien 6808)