The Narmer Catalog

Catalog No. 0121

Name: Unusual Narmer serekh from Minshat Abu Omar

Date (Period): Dyn. 1

Date (King): Narmer

Dated By: Royal name

Type: Vessel (wine jar)

Method of Inscription: Incised

Material: Pottery

Region: Delta (east)

Site: Minshat Abu Omar

Locality: Tomb 44

Depository: Egyptian Museum (Cairo)

Registration No.: MAO 44.3

Dimensions

References:

Wildung, 1981, pp. 35-37, p. 37, fig. 33 (left)
Kaiser, 1982, pp. 262-264, pp. 266-267, fig. 15.38, p. 263, fig. 14.38
von der Way, 1993, p. 99, p. 100, fig. 22.2
Kahl, 1994, p. 179,
van den Brink, 1996, pp. 140-158, p. 142, Table 1, no. 20; p. 145, fig. 2, III.20; pl. 30b-c
van den Brink, 2001, pp. 58-59, p. 59, fig. 31
Ciałowicz, 2001b, p. 25,

Comments

Wildung 1981, Kaiser 1982, Kahl 1994, van den Brink 2001, Pätznick 2009, and Regulski identify this inscription as Narmer. Although there is general agreement that this is a serekh of Narmer, opinions are divided over whether the horizontal line in the serekhs is a structural part of the serekh, dividing the implied palace façade from the (empty) name panel, or whether it is a simplified catfish (nar). Van den Brink (2001:59), Pätznick (2009: Appendix A.2), and Dreyer (2019, personal communication) describe it as part of the structure of the serekh. Kaiser (1982: 262-264, n. 194c) considers both possibilities, but concludes that it is more likely that it is nar. Regulski (2010: 474) classifies it as nar, but subsequently in Database of Early Dynastic Inscriptions, she suggests that it is uncertain. Kahl (1994: 179) identifies it as Narmer, but does not interpret the horizontal line as nar. Ciałowicz (2001: 25) reads it as a simplified catfish.