

Catalog No. 4746**Name** Qa'a(?) *serekh* from Kharga Oasis**Date (Period)** Dyn. 1**Date (King)** Qa'a(?)**Dated By** Royal name**Type** Rock carving**Method of Inscription** Incised**Material** Rock**Region** Western Desert**Site** Kharga Oasis**Locality** Unknown**Depository** in situ**Registration No.** Unknown**Dimensions** 8.7 cm H, 7.0 cm L (inscription, *serekh*)**References:**

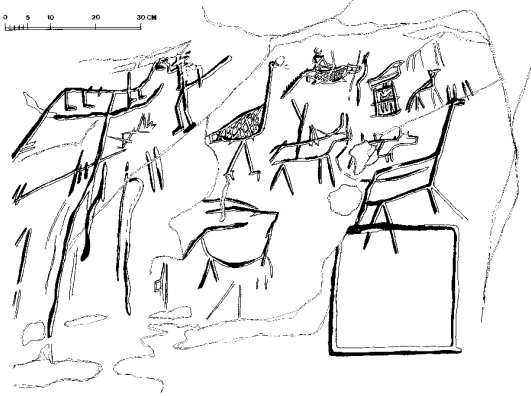
Ikram and Rossi, 2004, pp. 211-215, p. 212, fig. 1; p. 213, fig. 2
 Jiménez-Serrano, 2007, p. 309 (4D-KHR1),
 Darnell, 2011, p. 1181, p. 1181, fig. 16
 Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano, personal communication, 2015,
 J.-P. Pätznick, personal communication, 2017,
 Regulski, Database of Early Dynastic Inscriptions,

Comments

Ikram and Rossi 2004 say that the name is unlikely to be Narmer, but might be "Aa" (*aA*), a previously unattested king belonging to Dynasty 0 or the First Dynasty. According to Jiménez-Serrano (personal communication, 2015), "... this representation is a schematic version of the "classical" representation of the royal *serekh*. Ikram & Rossi's reading of *aA* has no evidence from the archaeological or epigraphic point of view. Thus, the existence of a new king called *aA* or the representation of a royal concept inserted into a *serekh* has no parallel as far as I know. The closest representation of this depiction is Narmer's name, in this case the schematic sign must be read as Nar." Darnell 2011 says that the inscription "may" be Qa'a, based on his interpretation of the sign in the *serekh* as a forearm (D36), which is one of the two constituents of name of Qa'a. According to Pätznick (personal communication, 2017) this is not Narmer. It could be a cursive form of Den, or a previously unattested local king. Regulski dates it by paleography to "(Naqada III - dyn. 2)". She reads the sign in the *serekh* as a firearm (O33), which would be consistent with a reading of Qa'a, but leaves the name of the king undetermined.

Editor's Note: In the name panel of the *serekh* is an inscription that could be interpreted as a stylized catfish, to which is appended a vertical line, carved at the left end of the horizontal catfish sign. If one were to disregard this vertical line, it would be reasonable to read the name of Nar(mer). However, to be able to do so, one needs to interpret the vertical line as being spurious – either an error on the part of the scribe or a later addition. This vertical line is unlikely to be the representation of the chisel hieroglyph - the chisel is never simply represented by a line, nor is it ever shown upright in the name panel. No convincing reading incorporating the vertical line has been proposed, thus strengthening the hypothesis that the vertical line should not be taken into consideration when reading the inscription; if vertical line is spurious it could also be Qa'a similar to *serekh* in Boat Site No. 2 near Wadi of the Horus Qa'a in Darnell 2011 (Origins 3) p 1181, fig. 16. That seems the most likely explanation for this unusual inscription.

This inscription was listed earlier in the Narmer Catalog as 6015.



Ikram and Rossi, 2004

p. 212, fig. 1; p. 213, fig. 2