

Catalog No. 6021**Name** Unusual representation of Narmer(?) name from
Megiddo**Date (Period)** EB1b (Naqada IID - Dynasty 1)**Date (King)** Narmer(?)**Dated By** Archaeological context**Type** Paving stone**Method of Inscription** Incised**Material** Stone (limestone)**Region** The Southern Levant**Site** Megiddo**Locality** Sq. N-15, Str. 19, Locus 4008**Depository** Oriental Institute Museum (Chicago)**Registration No.** A23830**Dimensions****References:**

Loud, 1948, pp. 6, 176, pl. 280.25

Yekutieli, 2008, pp. 826-832, p. 827, fig. 13; p. 828, fig. 15 (left)

Kuhn, 2016, p. 24,

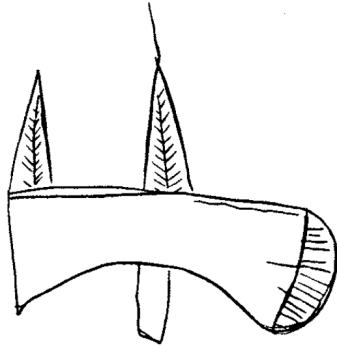
Jurgielewicz, 2020, p. 405,

Oriental Institute Museum (Chicago), A23830

Comments

According to the Oriental Institute Museum's registration card, the limestone incision features an ax head and leaves. According to Yekutieli (2008:829) the graffiti on this slab (which was a paving stone in the temple), shows Narmer's name in a "macabre treatment". According to the author, "the Nile Catfish is slain and cut in half and a chisel (or two) is stabbed in its body." The author interprets this in the context of the discovery of four Egyptian weapons, also found in the temple, which are either damaged, or, according to the author, deliberately defaced (p.831). Together these discoveries are interpreted as symbols that "the Egyptian dominance is mutilated, deformed, and smashed." Kuhn 2016 interprets the inscription as being Narmer, but does not comment on Yekutieli's theory of its meaning. Jurgielewicz 2020 reads this inscription as a Nar catfish, but does not discuss Yekutieli's interpretation of the inscription.

Editor's Note: This interpretation is based on the theory that the inscription was done by people from the Southern Levant, not Egyptians, so a strict conformity to Egyptian conventions cannot be expected. Nevertheless, neither the "catfish" or the "chisel(s)" are entirely convincing. The "whiskers", the defining characteristics of a catfish, are confined by a curved line, thus denying the whiskers their fundamental characteristic – that they stick out from the fish. In this graffito, there are 14 "whiskers"; the greatest number of whiskers previously attested is four. The "fin" described by the author is not articulated and is only on one side of the fish. The comparison shown in his Fig. 15, to catfish on the Narmer Palette, emphasizes the differences between the graffito and a Narmer catfish, rather than the similarities. The "chisel" on the left is simply a triangle. What should be the handle of the chisel is actually a crack in the tile. The "chisel" to the right is also just a triangle. The place, where the handle should be, is damaged, and one cannot draw any conclusions on what was there originally. Finally, as is more clearly shown in the drawing by Loud, the "chisels" have an interior detailing that would not be expected if they were intended to represent known chisel representations. Thus, the interpretation of this graffiti as a representation of Narmer cannot be supported.



25(=d 278)

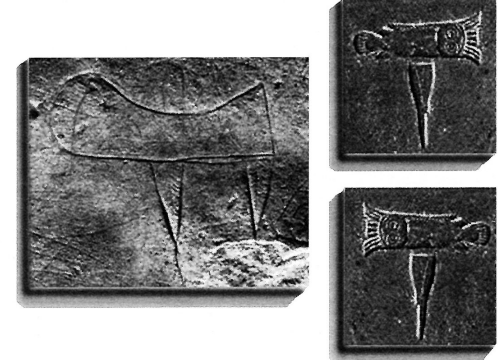
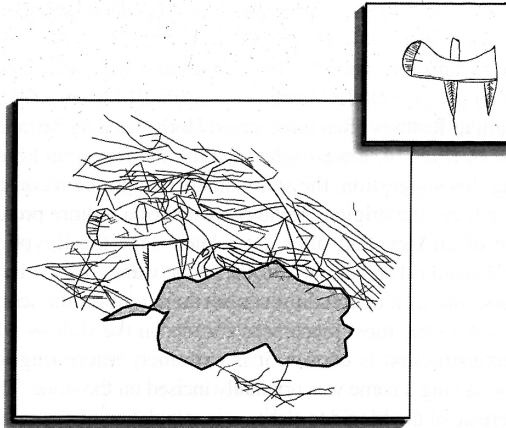


Fig. 15. The icon on slab 25 (left; scanned from Loud 1948: pl. 280:25) and detail from the Narmer Palette (right).

Yekutieli, 2008

p. 827, fig. 13; p. 828, fig. 15 (left)



25

Loud, 1948

pl. 280.25