

MITTEILUNGEN

THE SILVER CYLINDER SEAL FROM MOCHLOS

Seager excavated this object in 1908 from his Tomb 1, and considered it to be Babylonian, of indeterminate date.¹ It has recently been cleaned for Ingo Pini, and the tomb where it was found has been re-excavated by Davaras and Soles.² In the light of the new evidence thus provided, the writer has undertaken a fresh and full study of the cylinder, which will be published in due course. This is an advance notice of her main conclusions.

Seager's Tomb 1 now appears to be one room of a three-chambered tomb, originally used in the period EM II–III, that is roughly the second half of the third millennium B. C.³

The Mochlos seal takes the form of a tube rather than a cylinder, 1.4 cm. high, with an outer diameter of 0.95 cm., inner of 0.6 cm. (Fig. 1). Metal seals were rare in antiquity, and the Early Dynastic Mesopotamian examples usually took the form of a metal sheet wrapped over a bitumen core, through which passed a narrow string-hole.⁴ Several hollow tube-seals of copper, gold or silver with animal designs are known from Syria or Asia Minor, but sadly without firm date or provenance.⁵

¹ R. B. Seager, *Explorations in the Island of Mochlos*, 22, 111.

² I. Pini "Zu dem Silbernen Rollsiegel aus Mochlos", *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 1982, 599ff.; J. Soles, "Mochlos", *Expedition*, Winter 1978, 5 ff.

³ J. Soles, *Expedition*, Winter 1978, 10; according to Seager, the pottery in chamber I is EM II, but P. Warren, "The First Minoan Stone Vases and Early Minoan Chronology", *Kretika Chronika* 1965, 22, would like to date some stone vases to EM III or later; an EM III jug comes from Chamber II of the tomb complex and certain seals from that context (CMS II. 1, 472, 473) are of EM III – MM IA date.

⁴ Kish ED III silver seal on bitumen core: E. J. H. Mackay, *Kish II* pl. xliii, B. Buchanan, *Catalogue of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the Ashmolean Museum I*, 37, no. 183 pl. 15. Tell Ingharra (East Kish) sheet copper cylinder on bitumen core, JN–ED I: P. R. S. Moorey, *Iraq* 1978, 42 No. 2; L. Ch. Watelin, *JRAS* 1930 pl. X, 2. Ur Royal Cemetery gold cylinder on core, C. L. Woolley, *Ur Excavations II*, 127 fig. 23, 576, 338 no. 21, pl. 142, 193.

⁵ E. Porada, *Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in North American Collections I: The Collection of the Pierpont Morgan Library* nos. 1110 and 1111 (probably mid-2nd millennium North Syrian), 909 (with Hittite Empire style design); B. Buchanan, *Ashmolean Catalogue* no. 1033, 203 ff. and pl. 62 (probably mid-2nd millennium North Syrian); *Antike Gemmen in Deutschen Sammlungen I: Munich No. 98*, p. 31, pl. 11,

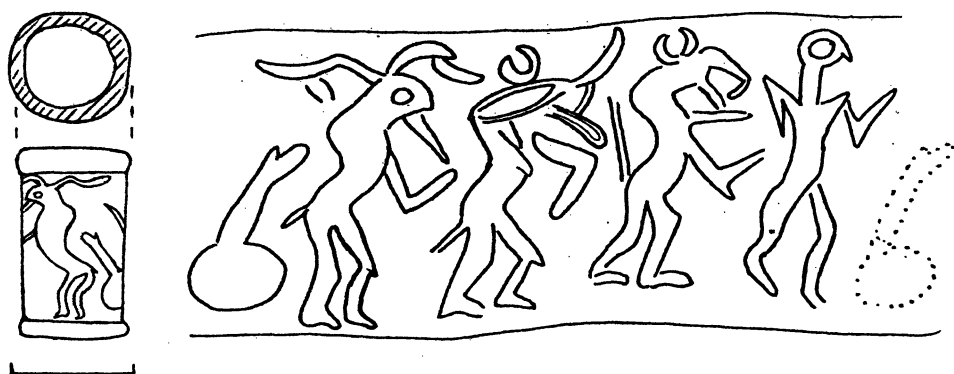


Fig. 1. Silver Cylinder Seal from Mochlos

The Mochlos design (Fig. 1) consists of a row of four figures. A human striding right is pursued by an upright lion with open jaws; behind the lion is a second upright quadruped, possibly an open jawed lion with similar ears; and finally there follows an upright horned animal with head in profile, frontal horns and perhaps a beard. Between this last animal and the human is an object which may be a detached bovine leg.⁶

The whole pattern seems to derive from Early Dynastic contest scenes with upright figures and similar details, such as the detached limb, rings for heads, and exaggerated knees. However, the loose relationship of our figures and their bent-legged stance recall the style of provincial Syria and Palestine of Early Bronze II–III, where standard formulae were broken down and retained little of their original significance. Our closest parallels for the Mochlos man and animals are found on a seal from Corinth (attributed by style to mid-third-millennium Syria) and on a pottery impression found in Hama J6.⁷

In short, from its material, shape and style, the Mochlos seal seems to have been of Syrian origin and of middle third millennium date. However, in view of the lack of stratified parallels, it cannot be dated with certainty and is of little value for Aegean chronology. The Mochlos seal is one of a number of silver objects found in the east Cretan cemetery, some of which have foreign features,⁸

AL 1295 (found in 8th Cent. B. C. context at Kameiros, Rhodes, possibly of earlier date).

⁶ beard: O. Weber, *Altorientalistische Spiegelbilder* no. 405; bovine leg: L. Legrain, *Ur Excavations III* pl. 14 no. 239, pl. 21 no. 393.

⁷ A. Ben Tor, *Cylinder Seals of Third Millennium Palestine*, 32 No. 68 III C3–4; O. Tunca, *Syro-Mesopotamian Studies*, October 1979 no. 4 pl. 4; H. Kuhne, *Das Rollsiegel in Syrien* No. 9; O. E. Ravn, *Catalogue of the Danish National Museum* no. 118; H. Catling, *BSA Arch. Reports 1975–76* p. 8 fig. 7, a comparison pointed out to me by Dr. E. Porada, whose comments have been very valuable for my study.

⁸ Silver seal of Anatolian 'petschaft' shape, CMS II 2 252; silver vessel, C. Davaras, *BSA* 1975, 101.

and it was probably appreciated both for its material and its exotic appearance. It may be an example of the kind of stimulus which inspired the first Minoan attempts at figural art on seals, where we also find bent-legged figures and a dim reference to oriental iconography.⁹

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EPIGRAPHISCHE MITTEILUNGEN

Early signs from the Balkans and the Aegean

In his book, *Pre-writing in Southeastern Europe*, Calgary 1981, S.M.M. Winn denies that the Vinča signs constitute a true script.

D. G. Zanotti contributes to *AJA* 87, 1983, 209–213 a note on the Tărtăria tablets in which he shows that they are intrusive into the Vinča pit from an upper stratum, probably of the Baden culture, and associated with the 'Kurgan' movements of 3400–3200 B.C.

J. A. MacGillivray publishes in *BCH* 105, 1981, 615–621 some Early Cycladic potter's marks from Mount Kynthos in Delos. He concludes that these identify the owner or maker, and do not refer to the quantity of the contents.

Frescoes

In a note entitled *More on Mycenaean at Thera*, in *AJA* 87, 1983, 83–85, J. L. Crowley draws attention to the resemblance of the blazons on the ships' hulls on the Akrotiri frescoes to the animal designs on niello daggers from mainland Greece.

Also writing of the ships of the Thera frescoes, Avner Raban, in *AJA* 88, 1984, 11–19, gives "another interpretation", that they are double-ended vessels of Cycladic and Egyptian parentage.

Glyptics

Paul Yule contributes to *BSA* 78, 1983, 359–367 some notes on Scarabs and Aegean chronology. He concludes that it is unsafe to refer to Egyptian analogies.

In *BCH* 108, 1984, 3–12, Catherine Kopaka publishes *Une bague minoenne de Malia*. The lead bezel, of LM I date, portrays a procession of three female figures giving the forehead salute.

⁹ CMS II i 446, 469.

Linear Scripts

A. A. D. Peatfield publishes in BSA 78, 1983, 273–279 a detailed study of the topography of Minoan peak sanctuaries, the source of many celebrated Linear A inscriptions. He speculates on the reasons for their decline after LM IB.

In a study of Minoan colonisation in BSA 76, 1981, 23–33, Keith Branigan refers on page 29 to the evidence of Linear A in the Cyclades.

In AJA 88, 1984, 123–134, L. V. Watrous draws on the evidence of the Linear A tablets and cretule in presenting a new perspective on the Minoan villa at Ayia Triada.

Two stirrup-jar sherds with fragments of painted Linear B inscription from Khania are referred to by H. W. Catling in *Archeology in Greece 1980–81*, 47. One may read *ka-ka*, the other – *pu-ti*. The second of these is that illustrated in BCH 105, 1981, 82, Fig. 215 and mentioned in *Kadmos* 21, 1982, 173.

In an abstract from an AIA symposium, published in AJA 87, 1983, 133–143, H. J. Güterbock, M. J. Mellink and E. T. Vermeule argue for the identification of Ahhiyawa with Mycenaean Greece.

WILLIAM C. BRICE

1) Side. Frau Prof. Muhibbe Darga veröffentlicht in *Anadolu Araştırmaları* 9, 1983, 401–410 (mit zwei Tafeln) die im Jahre 1972 im pamphyliischen Seleukeia gefundene kurze griechisch-sidetische Bilingue (vgl. schon *KADMOS* 13, 1975, 169). Der griechische Text gibt Εὐέμπολος Σίδιδος Τερμεσσεύς ^{1/2} ἀνέθηκεν. Als Entsprechung für den griech. Personennamen *Eu.* (im Nom.) nimmt Frau Darga im sidetischen Text *e-u-[m-p-]l-u* an. Die zu erwartende Entsprechung für den Vatersnamen (im Gen.) ist im sidetischen Teil beschädigt. – Ferner erwägt Frau Darga, daß die sidetische zweite Zeile, die *t-e-e-n-e-s* enthält, dem griechischen Ethnikon „aus Termessos“ entspreche.

2) Daß das epichorische sidetische Alphabet nicht nur in Steininschriften und Münzlegenden verwendet worden ist und daß uns von seiner *literarischen* Benutzung sogar noch winzige Reste erhalten sind, macht J. Nollé in der neugegründeten Zeitschrift *Epigraphica Anatolica*, Jahrg. 1, Heft 2, 1983, 86–98, wahrscheinlich. Der aus Side stammende Mediziner Mnemon (um 230 vor Chr. Geb.) hatte in sein Handexemplar des 3. Buches der *Ἐπιδημίαι* des Hippokrates jeweils am Ende einer Krankheitsgeschichte *χαρακτῆρες* eingetragen, kurze Zeichenfolgen, die für die Griechen unlesbar waren. Obwohl die Abschreiber des Hippokratestextes mit ihnen nichts anzufangen wußten, haben sie sie mitkopiert. (Die antiken Versuche, sie als Abkürzungen oder tachygraphische Zeichen oder auch als Ligaturen griechischer Buchstaben aufzufassen, haben zu keinen brauchbaren Ergebnissen geführt.) – Nollé nimmt nun an, daß Mnemon diese Notizen – wahrscheinlich liegt jeweils *ein* Wort vor – in seiner sidetischen Muttersprache und in einer kursiven Form der epichorischen Schrift von Side eingetragen habe; diese Glossierung gebe vermutlich den einheimischen Namen der Krankheit an.

Lydien. Einen neuen Interpretationsversuch der Inschrift Nr. 30 legt F. C. Woudhuizen, in: *Talanta* XIV–XV, 1982/83, 112–114, vor.

Karien. V. Shevoroshkin hat „Materials 15“ und „Materials 16“ privat versandt. Beide handeln von „Checking of Carian Inscriptions“ (im wesentlichen aus Ägypten, aber auch von Euromos). Er gibt mehrere neue Lesungen.

Iasos. Frau Prof. Clelia Laviosa, die Leiterin der italienischen Grabung in Iasos, berichtet bei M. J. Mellink, in: *American Journal of Archaeology* 87, 1983, 438 und in: *Anatolian Studies* 33, 1983, 247 über den Fund eines schwarzfigurigen Kolonnen-Kraters, dessen Rand eine längere karische Inschrift trage. Da er unter der Pflasterung des Zeus-Heiligtums gelegen hat, muß er älter als das 5. Jh. vor Chr. Geb. sein.

Zentralanatolien. Bei den deutschen Grabungen in Boğazköy ist 1975 ein kleines Marmorfragment gefunden worden, das auf einer Seite drei Zeilen mit Schriftzeichen unbekannter Provenienz enthält. Es ist jetzt publiziert worden durch G. Neumann, in: K. Bittel et alii, *Boğazköy VI, Funde aus den Grabungen bis 1979*, Berlin 1984, 125–126.

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