

Recent Research on Hittite Archaeology in the “Upper Land”

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Our knowledge of the Hittite territory apart from the capital is still very limited. Only a few places have been investigated, while many important ruins are being destroyed by building operations, clandestine excavations and first of all the normal agricultural use of the country.

In 2005, we had the chance to start from our main project Kuşaklı with a new rescue excavation at Kayalıpınar in the former “Upper Land” of the Hittites¹. The place is situated at the north bank of the Kızıl Irmak (ancient Halys or Marašantija in Hittite times) about 55 km southwest of Sivas in Eastern Cappadocia. The ancient city area lies in the center of the wide and fertile river-valley on a flat terrace with several hills (fig. 1).

Before starting the excavations, a team from Kiel University did a geophysical survey of the area. In 2003, the eastern part of the city-terrace was surveyed using a special trailer with six magnetic probes or gradiometers and a GPS-antenna. This trailer is being pulled by a small tractor (fig. 2). The mapping of the collected geomagnetic data shows a lot of archaeological structures from different periods. Most of them are foundations of several buildings: Small houses, districts with domestic architecture, as well as big public buildings, and also long linear structures, most probably the city wall, could be detected.

We decided to start our excavations at the southeastern hill, because we had to assess the most serious destructions of mud-brick walls by plowing there. The geophysical survey revealed traces of two big buildings on top of this hill: one in the south, another one in the north, between them are structures with a different orientation, obviously from a different period.

Indeed, mainly two public buildings from the times of the Hittite Kingdom could be found by excavating this area. Between these big buildings, Early Hittite domestic architecture had been preserved. We can also expect remains from earlier periods. Sherds from the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age could be found on the surface, but up to now, the oldest layers in our excavation are from Early Hittite times, the first quarter of the second millennium B.C. (layer 6 and 5).

In some parts of the excavation-area, level 5 is very well preserved. Small walls made of mud-brick are characteristic. These walls covered with plaster are sometimes preserved up to a height of 1,3 m (fig. 3). Several rooms, doors, and even windows could be distinguished. They represent normal domestic architecture, which is very similar to the Kārum Kaniš about 120 km away².

The pottery and other objects from level 5 in Kayalıpınar can be also compared with material from Kültepe/Kaniš, for instance various pitchers with tubular and beaked spouts

¹ Müller-Karpe 2006a, b.

² Özgüç 2003.

(fig. 4). Also, pieces of the very typical so called "Cappadocian" painted ware were found in this layer in Kayalıpınar.

Beside the "normal" pottery, we also have fragments of rytha in form of animals. For example a leg with claws should have been part of an eagle, like a well known example from Kültepe³.

The clay bullae with impressions of stamp-seals and cylinder-seals are of special importance. Some show an astonishing good quality, for example one with a lying animal turning back its head (fig. 5). Another impression shows the head of a lion with a half-open mouth, his tongue and a spiral in front of it. The motive can be completed as a whirl of three heads of lions with their heads turned to the right in the typical style of Early Hittite art (fig. 6). Similar whirls of animal heads, also with griffons and other animals, were found in level 5 in Kayalıpınar. In one case, the whirl is surrounded by a gouilloche frame (fig. 7).

Comparable seals are known from other Early Hittite sites, e.g. Kültepe⁴, Acemhöyük and Boğazköy⁵. Like the gouilloche frame, the motive "whirl of animal-heads" found its way from Anatolia to Minoan Crete, too (fig. 7)⁶. But this motive has its roots very far away: As R. M. Boehmer pointed out, the "animal-whirl" derives from the Dilmun glyptic of the late third millennium⁷.

Furthermore, a small fragment of an Old Assyrian tablet, a purchase document, was found in level 5⁸. The clay-sealings and the tablet indicate trading activities during the Early Hittite time in this district. Such objects would not be expected in a simple rural settlement. Pieces like these refer to a *wabartum* or even a *kārum*.

The Early Hittite settlement at Kayalıpınar ended in a disastrous fire. Sometime later, this hill was occupied once more, but the character of the settlement changed completely. A new orientation of the buildings and notably wider walls using much more bigger and better worked stone-blocks indicate a discontinuity between level 5 and the succeeding level 4. The two big public buildings called A and B now dominated the occupation of the southeastern hill in Kayalıpınar. Most probably they were erected in Old Hittite times. Unlike level 5, only little of the former mud-brick walls have been preserved. In most cases, just the stone foundations could be found.

Building B is now unearthed nearly completely. It is a rectangular building at least 32m long and 18m wide (fig. 8). The inner walls are not exactly right angled to the outer walls. So the plan is not as perfect as the Old Hittite buildings in Kuşaklı-Sarissa⁹. The Hittite stone foundations of building B are generally well preserved. As the southwestern part of the building is dug into the slope of the hill, not only the foundations, but also the entire

lower section of the walls are made of stone up to the height of about 1,1 m. The upper part of the walls was erected in the technique of half-timbering with mud-brick. Especially the western front of building B indicates this technique quite clearly: The surface of the stone-blocks is smoothed exactly horizontally, and along the well worked edges, a narrow ledge was chiseled. This ledge shows projections and leap backs. The chiseling of the stones was done in a way to create a bed for horizontal beams lying on.

As the chiseling indicates, the outer side of the wall was not straight but angular with narrow projections and leap backs. According to these observations, we can try a tentative reconstruction showing the structured façade (fig. 9).

This building from level 4 was destroyed completely at least once and rebuilt afterwards. The plan of the new building from level 3 is quite similar to the first one, but only some sections from the old walls were re-used. Most of the new walls were erected parallel immediately next to the old walls. Sometimes a wall was not renewed completely after the destruction, but only a second line, a shuttering, was erected in front of the old wall to support and strengthen it. This fact might indicate the cause of the destruction: an earthquake followed by a disastrous fire would be a possibility.

Most of the archaeological objects found within building B belong to a later destruction from the end of level 3. Pottery, clay bullae with seal impressions and fragments of cuneiform tablets from this burning level can be dated to the Middle Hittite period. A great part of this finds did not come from the floor but from the conflagration-debris of the building. This observation points to the former existence of an upper storey. As a consequence of the fire disaster, the inventory of the upper floor fell down into the rooms of the ground-floor respectively cellar.

Also some big pithoi obviously fell down from a higher position. One piece from such a pithos shows counting marks on its rim (fig. 10). They are very similar to the famous examples from the big temple in Boğazköy¹⁰. No doubt, these marks are related to the contents of the vessels and especially to the control of the contents. Neither such big pithoi nor this kind of counting marks are known from private houses in the Hittite Empire. They belong to a re-distributive system of palace/or temple economy. It is an important fact to be regarded when discussing the function of building B.

Beside pottery for purposes of storage, normal domestic kitchenware and tableware, also several fragments of animal-shaped rytha, especially terracotta-bulls, were found. From the pieces a pair of bulls can be reconstructed tentatively, which should have been very similar to rytha excavated at Boğazköy and Kuşaklı (fig. 11)¹¹. These objects most probably were used in connection with rituals for the weather-god as its escort Hurri and Šeri. More cult devices can be very well compared with objects from other Hittite centers, like fragments of libation arms.

Up to now, 13 bullae with seal impressions were found in the same level (3), too. They belong to three groups: seals with hieroglyphic inscriptions, cuneiform seals and one bigraphical seal. Nine pieces show names and titles in Anatolian hieroglyphic writing. But

³ Op. cit. 203.

⁴ Özgüç – Tunca 2001: Pl. 1 St 1; 17 St 36; 20 St 59; 21 St 65; 22 St 67; Özgüç 2006: Pl. 3 St 86; 6 St 36; 9 St 98; 78 St 111; 81 St 112.

⁵ Boehmer – Güterbock 1987: 25 Abb. 4; Taf. IV, 44.

⁶ Platon 1977: Nr.118.232.274.295.299.

⁷ Boehmer – Güterbock 1987: 25.

⁸ Sommerfeld 2006.

⁹ Müller-Karpe 2002.

¹⁰ Neve 1969: 14 Beil 5.

¹¹ Bittel 1983: 96 ff.; Müller-Karpe 2002: 189.

not all of them are completely readable, like the bulla with excavation number Kp 05/267 (fig. 12). In the center the flower-like sign L.175 (“LINGUA”) with the syllabical value -la-, but at least one more sign above and one below it can not be identified any more. In a typical middle-hittite manner, the name is surrounded by a special kind of gouilloche frame.

Another example shows much more clear impressions of a seal, but the clay bulla is partially broken (Kp 06/15, fig. 13). Although the same hemispherical seal was impressed at least three times on the lump of clay, only the second half of the name in the center of it can be identified: x – L.177 – L.376 (x – LINGUA+CLAVUS – zi/a)¹². The title of this person begins with “Great . . .” (L.363/MAGNUS).

Bulla Kp 06/92 was found in a better condition (fig. 14). The name in the middle of the flat, round stamp seal probably can be read from up to down as *Ni-zu-zu-li* (L.55-285-285-278)¹³. As the sequence in reading, the signs can vary, also *Zunizuli* might be possible. It seems strange that two different variants of the sign -zu- follow each other. This indicates a different spelling. Probably the second sign should be read as -zuwa-. Lateral to the personal name, the signs L.390 and 326 (SCRIBA) are given in a turned way of about 90° as the title UGULA DUB.SAR.

The bigraphic seal impression Kp 06/13 (fig. 15) is of special interest. The hieroglyphs can be read as usual from up to down: L.56-283/84-278 = *Ka(n)-tuzzi-li*. On the left side, we find sign L.173 with L.363 upon it (MAGNUS HASTARIUS), the well known title GAL *MEŠEDI*, “Commander of the Royal Bodyguard”¹⁴. The surrounding cuneiform inscription is only partly preserved: m *Ká]n-tu-zi?-li*. The personal name Kantuzzili occurs several times in Hittite history. As bigraphic seals seem to have been reserved to members of the royal family, the owner of this seal must have been a very important person. Furthermore, the title GAL *MEŠEDI* is attested for members of the royal family, e.g. the later King Hattusili III served temporarily as “Commander of the Royal Guard”¹⁵.

On seals this title occurs with the name Tuthalija for instance¹⁶. A very important seal impression found in 1978 in Boğazköy published by Ali Dinçol shows the name Kantuzzili, who carried the title GAL *MEŠEDI* “together with Tuthalija”¹⁷. The latter has in this case the title GAL LÚ^{MEŠ} GIŠ^{PA}, another high rank.

In the region of Kayalıpınar, one more Kantuzzili seal with the title GAL *MEŠEDI* was found. It was published by Suzanne Herbordt and is now kept in the Museum of Sivas¹⁸. The title looks a little bit different to the normal form of GAL *MEŠEDI*.

To which Kantuzzili does our new seal from Kayalıpınar belong?

The most famous one is the murderer of Muwatalli I. But he was not a GAL *MEŠEDI* but a UGULA LÚ^{İŠ}.GUŠKIN¹⁹. He might be the same person, who was the father of

Tuthalija I as we know from a seal-impression found in 1999 in Boğazköy (fig. 16)²⁰. I think we can also exclude the late Kantuzzilis from the time of Muršili II and Hattusili III. Most probably, our seal impression belongs to that Kantuzzili, who was – according to the Boğazköy-sealing found in 1978 – GAL *MEŠEDI*, when Tuthalija wasn’t a king yet, but still a GAL LÚ^{MEŠ} GIŠ^{PA}. If this proposal could be confirmed, it would be also of great importance as a *terminus post quem* for the destruction of level 3 in Kayalıpınar. As Ali Dinçol convincingly showed, the seal-impression Bo 78/56 should belong in all probability to Tuthalija III/II, husband of Tatuhepa. But also Tuthalija “the Younger”, brother of Suppiluliuma I, could not be excluded²¹. That means seal-impression Bo 78/56 has to be dated either between ca. 1390 and 1370 B.C. or between ca. 1370 and 1344 B.C. This result has consequences for the new seal from Kayalıpınar, too. Our Kantuzzili was either an uncle or brother of Suppiluliuma I.

During this period, the reign of Tuthalija III/II, one of the most serious crisis in Hittite history happened: the so called “concentric invasion”. As Hattušili III reported, most of the Hittite territory was lost, very likely including the region of Kayalıpınar: “From afar, the Azzian enemy came and sacked all the Upper Lands”²². Accordingly, the burning-debris, which marks the end of level 3, might be interpreted as a result of this invasion.

Three seal impressions from Kayalıpınar show pure cuneiform inscriptions. They are all from Queens with the title Tawananna (fig. 17). The inscriptions from two of the impressions (Kp 05/168 and Kp 06/109) can be completed as follows: MUNUS LUGAL.GAL^{MUNUS} *ta-wa-na-an-na*. They have just one ring with cuneiform signs.

The third bulla has two rings of inscriptions (Kp 06/2): NA⁴KIŠI[B^{MUNUS} *ta-wa-na-an-na*]
n]a MUNUS LUGAL.GAL [MUNUS L]UGAL.GAL^{MUNUS} *ta-wa-na-a[n-na]*.

Similar impressions are known from Boğazköy²³ and Kuşaklı²⁴. It seems strange that “Queen Tawananna” is mentioned twice on this last type of seals. In 1967, Thomas Beran came to the conclusion, that the first mentioning of Tawananna is due to the title and the second one is the name of the third wife of Šuppiluliuma I, whose personal name was also Tawananna²⁵. Bin-Nun agreed to this interpretation in her book “The Tawananna in the Hittite Kingdom” in 1975²⁶. But now our new examples from Kayalıpınar show clearly, that very similar seals with only one and with two rings of inscription, with one and two mentions of Tawananna, were used together. This fact indicates that they were no personal seals, but stamps of a royal office, like the so called “anonymus Tabarna-Seals”. Tawananna is not a personal name at these seals but always a title.

These cuneiform seals were also found in the destruction debris of level 3 in Kayalıpınar. After this fire disaster, building B was – at least partly – reconstructed once more. This reconstruction-phase belongs to level 2. Blocks from older buildings, which

¹² Herbordt – Hawkins 2005: 292.

¹³ Compare *Zuzuli*: Laroche 1966: No 1590; *Nizuwana*: Herbordt – Hawkins 2005: 266 No 290.

¹⁴ Herbordt – Hawkins 2005: 304.

¹⁵ Pecchioli Daddi 1982: 548 ff.

¹⁶ Herbordt – Hawkins 2005: Kat. No. 468.

¹⁷ Dinçol 2001.

¹⁸ Herbordt – Alkan 2000.

¹⁹ de Martino 1991.

²⁰ Otten 2000.

²¹ Dinçol 2001.

²² Bryce 1998: 158.

²³ Güterbock 1940: 44; Beran 1967: No.154.

²⁴ Müller-Karpe 1998: 105.

²⁵ Beran 1967: 69.

²⁶ Bin-Nun 1975: 51. 167.

had been destroyed earlier, were now re-used. During the excavation, some of these blocks turned out to be sculptured ones. They prove the former existence of a relief, supposedly a sculptured wall, in this area. All sculptured fragments are made of a strikingly white limestone. One piece shows the hind legs of an animal with paws and a long tail (fig. 18). It could belong to the representation of a lion, standing or jumping to the right. As the fragment is just about 55 cm high, the relief is about one third life-size.

Another, even better preserved block was found in building A (fig. 19).

Only a part of this building is excavated up to now. The block was fallen over, the relief being on the upper side. The right side is badly damaged by the plough. Other parts would also have been destroyed within the next years, if we had not begun with our work at Kayalıpınar. The block is about 1,2 m high and 95 cm wide. It shows a seated figure looking to the right. In one hand, it has a drinking bowl, in the other one a bird. It is a typical representation of a god, most probable a goddess.

This motive is known from early Hittite glyptic, like representations from Kültepe-seals²⁷. We can find the combination of a bowl and a bird from female deities (fig. 20,1) as well as male gods (fig. 20,2). We also know of a representation of a seated god with a drinking bowl in one hand and a bird in the other (fig. 20,3) at the silver deer-shaped rhyton from the so called Schimmel-Collection, which is now in New York. The same motive is shown by a relief in Alacahöyük, but in this case the upper part of the stone is broken off and the sculpturing art is much more simple (fig. 20,4).

Our new relief from Kayalıpınar shows best quality of Hittite sculpturing-art. It is a real masterpiece. The style can be compared with the best examples in the capital, like the faces from the Sphinx-Gate or the Kings-Gate. The small parallel lips, pressed to each other, are very typical, as well as the remarkable great nose and eyes.

Level 2 in Kayalıpınar can be dated to the 13th century B.C. on account of the pottery. Because of stratigraphical reasons the reliefs should be older. This observation is of certain importance for chronology of Hittite art in general, considering the fact, that nearly all examples of stone sculptures and reliefs in Hattuša are dated to the late 13th century B.C. by most of the scholars. The new evidence from Kayalıpınar might give the occasion to think about stylistic development and dating of Hittite art over once again.

²⁷ Özgüç – Tunca 2001: Pl. 219, 192; 221, 235; 225, 320. 321. 332; 226, 349. 354; 231, 481. 491. 492; 232, 508. 511. 512; 233, 529. 531. 534. 536; 234, 549. 552. 563. 565; 235, 579. 580. 581; 236, 599. 603. 608. N. Özgüç 2006: Pl. 12, CS 314. 318; 20 CS 77; 22 CS 366; 24 CS 381; 27 CS 403; 28 CS 406; 34 CS 457; 35 CS 462; 37 CS 479; 38 CS 487; 44 CS 527; 45 CS 538; 47 CS 553; 49 CS 569; 50 CS 574; 53 CS 592; 54 CS 597; 55 CS 608; 56 CS 613. 614. 616; 59 CS 637. 638; 60 CS 643. 646; 61 CS 654; 62 CS 656. 662; 68 CS 703. 704; 69 CS 710. 712; 70 CS 719; 71 CS 726. 728; 74 CS 752; 77 CS 770; 83 CS 819; 84 CS 827.

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