

CHAPTER FOUR: THE SCARABS

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L04-152, B. 04-1685 (fig. 128:1)

OBJECT: This scarab is a type II scaraboid with right-angled sides (Keel 1995: § 133 and 135). The object is very worn, with the engraving being hollowed out. It is constructed of a composite material, and has on it the remains of a light bluish glaze (Keel 1995: § 392-401). The scarab measures 15 x 12 x 6.5 mm.

BASE: The base depicts a human figure without any particular attributes sitting on a chair or throne. Two abnormally long forearms (one more prominent than the other) are raised in a gesture of veneration or blessing. A similar figure, though better proportioned, appeared on a bulla from Tell Jemmeh (Keel 2013: 52f no. 117). In front of the figure are the hieroglyphs *nfr* «perfect, beautiful» (F35) and «*nb* «life» (S34).

DATE: Uncertain; probably Iron Age IIA (ca. 980-830) or somewhat later.

L04-20, B. 04-126 (fig. 128:2)

OBJECT: This scarab features a double lunate head (A8), a simple pronotum line and a double line that separates the two elytra. Three legs are shown on both sides and the hair is indicated by tiny incisions (d6). The engraving is delicately hollowed out. The scarab is made of heated steatite and measures 13 x 9.5 x 6.5 mm.

BASE: The scarab depicts a seated god with a ceremonial beard, a uraeus on the front of its head, and a counterweight of the necklace on its back. A comparable figure appears on a scarab from Gezer (Keel 2013: 274f no. 242), except that the counterweight looks different. The seated figure most probably represents the god Ptah, although he usually has no uraeus. On his knees is the hieroglyph *usr* «strong» (F12). A scarab from Carthage (Vercoutter 1945: no. 64) and several scarabs of the former Matouk-collection show the god seated with the *wls*-scepter (S40) on his knees (Matouk 1977: 378 nos. 233-236), which has some similarities with the hieroglyph *usr*. A scarab from Tell el-Far'ah, South, and two scarabs from Carthage show the seated god with a *usr* in front of him (Keel 2010a: 240f no. 496; Vercoutter 1945: nos. 262f). The combination with the hieroglyph *nb* (V30) below and the sign *hst* (W14) in front of the deity may form the divine epithet «Lord of favor(s)». On a second scarab from Tell el-Far'ah, South, Ptah is combined with the epithet *hwj hs<wt>* «rich of favors» (Keel 2010a: 184f no. 363). On a scarab from Harageh, Egypt (Engelbach 1923: pl. 21, 226) and on one from Vetulonia, Italy (Hölbl 1979: II Taf. 91,1a-c) the god sits on an *nb* and has the *hs*-vase on his knees.

DATE: The combination of a seated figure (Ptah or any other unknown deity) with an *hs*-vase seems to be typical of the second half of the 22nd dynasty through to the beginning of the 26th dynasty (850-600 BCE).

L04-154, B. 04-1670 (fig. 128:3)

OBJECT: This scarab has a lunate head with eyes being indicated (A3). The pronotum and elytra are both rendered by simple lines and the humeral callosities are stylized as V-notches (vIv). Three legs are shown on both sides and the hair is indicated by tiny incisions (d6). The rim of the base is slightly damaged, and the engraving is hollowed out. The material is probably heated steatite, and the scarab measures 14 x 11 x 6 mm.

BASE: The upper half of the base depicts a seated god with a ceremonial beard and an «*nb* «life» (S34) on his

knees. In front of the figure is a large *hs*-vase (W14). Seated figures with an *nb* on their knees but without *hs*-vase in front were found in Perachora, Greece (Pendlebury/James 1962: no. 644), and in Pithekoussai, Italy (De Salvia 1993: 793 no. 549-8). The seated figure with the *nb* on the knees and the *hs*-vase in front is generally the goddess Maꜥat (Matmar, Egypt: Brunton 1948: pl. 63:91; Cerveteri, Italy: Hölbl 1979: Taf. 72,3a-c). In the lower half of the base is an S-spiral flanked by two rectangles standing on end. Very similar parallels for the composition on this scarab can be seen on Kition, Cyprus: Clerc/Karageorghis/Lagarce/Leclant 1976: no. Kit. 1044; Newberry 1907: pl. 6:36616; and Petrie 1925: pl. 13:763.

DATE: A seated figure (Ptah or any other unknown deity) combined with an *hs*-vase seem to be typical of the second half of the 22nd dynasty through to the beginning of the 26th dynasty (850-600 BCE).

L02-154, B. 1079 (fig. 128:4)

OBJECT: This scarab has a lunate depressed head (A6 or 7), with its pronotum separated from the elytra by a simple line. The elytra are separated by a triple line. Three legs are shown on both sides but without any indication of the hair (d5). The engraving is hollowed out along, with hardly visible cross-hatching. It is made of heated steatite and measures 11 x 8 x 6 mm.

BASE: On the base is a seated figure on a *nb*. The figure looks familiar, probably because it resembles the block-statues «Würfelhocker» and «kuboider Statuentypus» (Schulz 1992), which were popular in the Late Period (see Riefstahl, ed., 1960: pl. 4:8-10; 28-32:62-76). No exact parallel is known to the writer.

DATE: Uncertain. The triple line dividing the elytra is typical for the Late Period.

L04-122, B. 04-1191 (fig. 128:5)

OBJECT: The scarab is seen to have a small triangle engraved in an «hour-glass» shaped head. The pronotum and elytra are separated by simple lines and the legs are reduced to a horizontal bulge. The same features are found on a scarab from Achziv and one from Marsiliana, Italy (B. Brandl, in: Keel 1997: 66f. no. 136; Hölbl 1979: II Taf. 90:2a-c). V. Boschloos attributes this type of scarab to a workshop which was most probably located in Tyre (mail from June 13, 2012). The engraving is quite delicate, hollowed out with hatching. It is made of heated steatite and measures 14.5 x 11 x 7 mm.

BASE: Set in a horizontal composition is a stylized striding anthropomorphic figure with a human head, and not—as it looks on the photograph—a falcon head, and has two wings hanging down on each side of the body. In each hand the figure holds an ostrich feather, the sign of the goddess Maꜥat. A scaraboid from Tell el-Farꜥah, South, depicts a striding falcon-headed figure with four wings and an inverted sign of life (*nb*) in each hand (Keel 2010a: 398f no. 878). Four-winged anthropomorphic figures of this period are, however, usually human-headed as on the present piece and on a scaraboid from Dan, and on a scarab from Dor (cf. Keel 2010: 380f no. 1, and 480f no. 41, both with parallels, see also Keel/Uehlinger 1998: 195f with figs. 210-213).

DATE: Iron Age IIB (830-700 BCE) or somewhat earlier.

L02-421, B. 4177 (fig. 128:6)

OBJECT: This scarab has a head type that can be classified between lunate and trapezoidal (A4 and D4). The pronotum and elytra are separated by a double line and the wings by a single line. There are only two legs shown on both sides (for the features of the scarab, see B. Brandl, in: Keel 1997: 66f no. 133). The lower part of the scarab is broken and the whole scarab, particularly the base, is worn. The engraving is hollowed out and the material from which it is made is a whitish-yellowish composition (Keel 1995: §392-401). The scarab measures 14 x 10 x 7.5 mm.

BASE: To the right is a very tall and slim figure facing left, most probably representing the lion-headed goddess Sekhmet, although it is unclear whether the head is that of a lion. Typical of Sekhmet, however, is the papyrus scepter in the hand of the figure (cf. Keel 1997: 32f no. 30, 38f no. 52, 66f no. 133). There seems to be two more figures to the left, the one below squatting and the one above standing. Given the state of preservation of the piece, it is impossible to offer a more precise description.

DATE: Early 26th dynasty (664-ca. 600 BCE).

L1528, B. 7281/5 (fig. 128:7)

The description of this scarab is based on the only documentation available: a roughly sketched drawing.

OBJECT: This scarab seems to have an inverted triangular head, with the pronotum and elytra being separated by a single line. There appears to be only two legs. The material and measurements are unknown.

BASE: Set in a horizontal composition is a roughly drawn quadruped whose hind part is quite strange. Be-

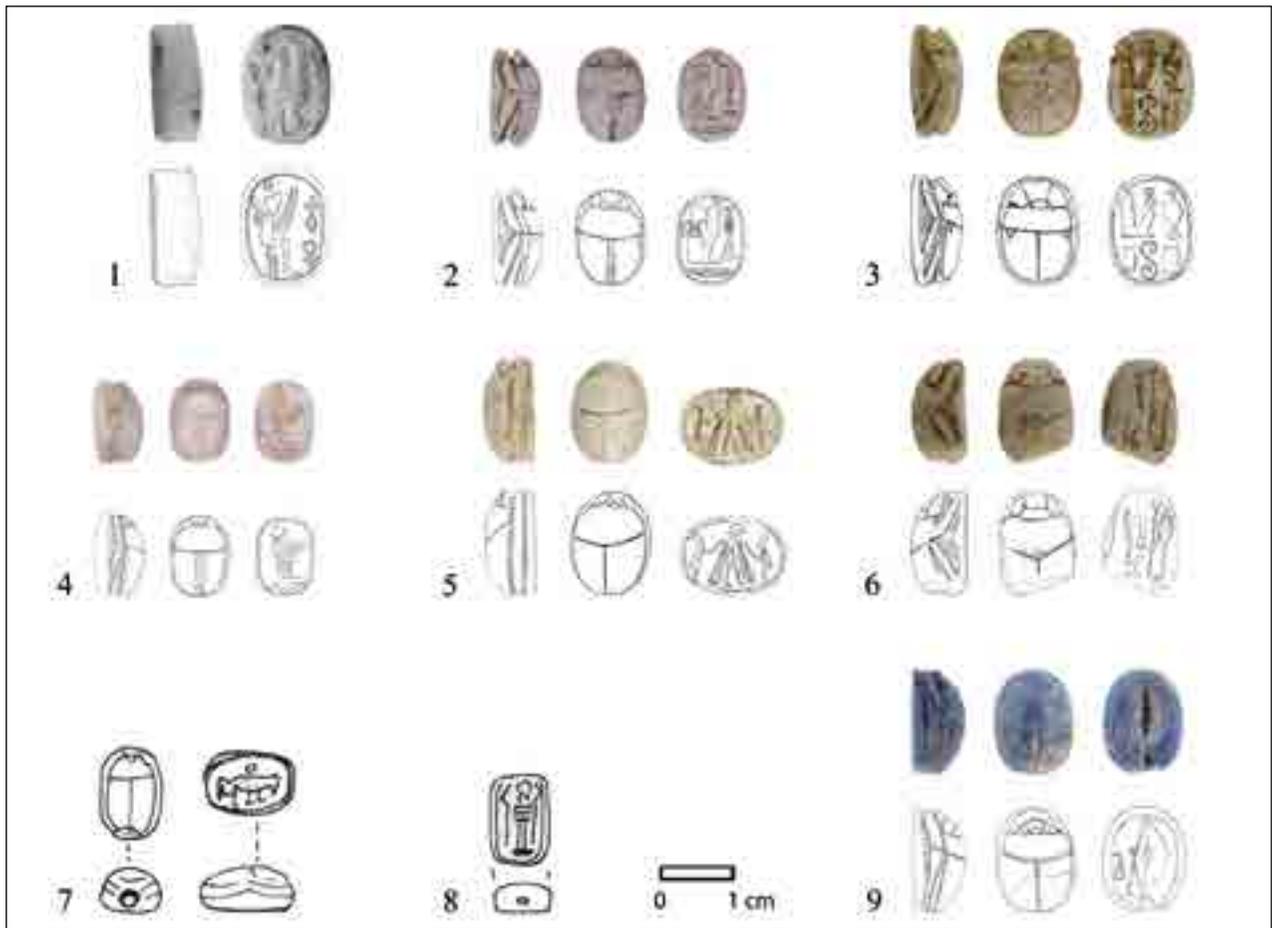


FIGURE 128.

tween the third leg and the fourth leg or tail is an element which looks in the drawing like an udder. That would be unique. Above the quadruped is a sun-disc. A roughly sketched bull or cow is shown on a scarab from Bet-Shemesh (Keel 2010: 284f no. 156) and on two stamp seals, one from Tell el-Far-ah, South (Keel 2010a: 150f no. 283) and the other from Lachish (Tufnell 1953: pl. 45,150).

DATE: Uncertain.

L1750C, B. 7880/3 (fig.128:8)

The description of this scarab is based on the only documentation available: a roughly sketched drawing.

OBJECT: The scarab appears to be a type II scaraboid (Keel 1995: § 133 and 135) or a rectangular piece with a domed top (cf. Keel 1995: § 229-231). It appears that the upper side was not engraved. The material and measurements are unknown.

BASE: The only element reminiscent of a familiar motif is the one in the center, which looks like an Egyptian djed-pillar (cf. Keel 1995: § 451).

DATE: Uncertain.

L04-63A, B. 04-656/1 (fig.128:9)

OBJECT: This scarab has a rather complex head-type consisting of a triangle flanked by two disc-like eyes. The pronotum and elytra are separated by a single line, and three legs are shown on both sides but without indication of the hair (d5). The center of the base and its lower end are broken, with only a small part of the engraving remaining, which was linear. The material from which it is constructed is dark blue, but does not look like lapis lazuli (Keel 1995: § 379f). It may be blue glass used in imitating lapis lazuli (Ibid. § 396f). The scarab measures 14 x 11 x 7 mm.

BASE: The only element clearly visible is the hieroglyph of the forearm with the phonetic value (D36). It is found very often on Middle Bronze Age scarabs (Keel 1995: § 448), though it is also found, though rarely, on Iron Age seals, such as on a name seal of unknown provenance (Avigad/Sass 1997: no. 328) and a Phoenician or Northern Israelite scarab from the Jerusalem-Gihon excavation directed by R. Reich and E. Shukron (registration no. 19313 = Keel 2011: 65 Abb. 39, 1). A bent line, shaped like an L, may be interpreted as a striding leg; however, it is too long to make sense as part of a human figure.

DATE: Uncertain.

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