

FINDS AT FIRAKDIN

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In the autumn of 1947 excavations on behalf of the Museum of the University of Ankara were begun on the höyük opposite the rock - relief of Hattuşiliş III and Queen Puduhepa¹. In 1954 restricted excavations were conducted in the same place with the purpose of checking the previous findings. The Fırakdin höyük is in an area where Hittite rock reliefs exist in large quantities² and where, due to natural causes, höyüks are very rare. The environment of the hill, which is close to the valley of the Samantı, is very favorable to the formation of a höyük. Our knowledge of the Hittite towns in this region on the immediate outskirts of the Taurus mountains being very limited, we have found it expedient to choose this höyük in order to gain an insight into the characteristics of all those belonging to the Hittite civilization. For this hill is closer to the rock - relief than the one situated between Şahmelik and Hüseyinli³, and, since it represents a Hittite town, is suitable for the investigation of the relation between the monument of Hattuşiliş III and the settlements.

The topographical chart of the höyük and its levels of civilization and section will be published by TAHSİN ÖZGÜÇ. We are confining ourselves here to publishing the most important ones of the clay, metal, and stone objects found in the last Hittite level and to pointing out their significance for that period of the Taurus region.

Two Hittite building levels have so far been investigated at Fırakdin höyük. The later level, which is under the Phrygian one, was destroyed by a violent fire. It is very rich in finds; under it there is a refuse layer of a depth of about 2 m. Of this refuse layer 70 cm. consist of sand brought in from somewhere else. The second Hittite

¹ *Belleten* 45, (Tahsin Özgüç) p. 264 ff.

² *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 1940 (K. Bittel) p. 564.

³ *OIC* 8, p. 32.

level under it has also been touched by fire. In contrast with those of the upper level, the walls of this level are built of large, not to say cyclopean, stones, and their inner and outer surfaces are covered with a mud coating. Although fewer objects were found on the earthen floors of the buildings in the lower level, it is possible to differentiate between the pottery finds of the two levels.

The pottery objects found on the floor of the house in the later level are similar to those of the Imperial period in technique and shape. However, we must mention as local peculiarities the rather careless preparation of the clay and the fact that the sections do not show the usual black core. Most of the pottery objects belong to the following categories: small jugs (Fig. 2) made according to the rough technique of the Imperial period; large jugs exhibiting insignificant local peculiarities with respect to those found in Alacahöyük⁴ from the Middle Hittite level onwards (Fig. 1); and one beak-spouted jug with knob handle (Fig. 3) resembling, except for its rough technique, Boğazköy specimens belonging to the 20th - 16th centuries⁵. On the other hand a jug with short neck and large body is peculiar to Fırakdin (Fig. 4). Plates (Fig. 5-11), bowls (Fig. 12-18), and small jugs of very rough workmanship (Fig. 19-20), similar to those found at Boğazköy⁶ and Alacahöyük⁷ and there correctly explained as votive pottery, were found under the floor of the first level close to a wall foundation and all together, just as in Boğazköy⁸. In view of their location, there can be no doubt that they are votive vessels left at the foundation of the wall in accordance with the known custom.

All the metal objects are made of bronze. Except for one axe, they were all found on the floor of the upper level. Among them a bowl of a type encountered in Karum Kaneş graves⁹, and a thin walled cup (Fig. 21) deserve special attention in view of

⁴ Hamit Zübeyr Koşay, *Alacahöyük Kazısı 1937—1939, Ankara 1951*, Pl. 59, 2; 50, 1-2.

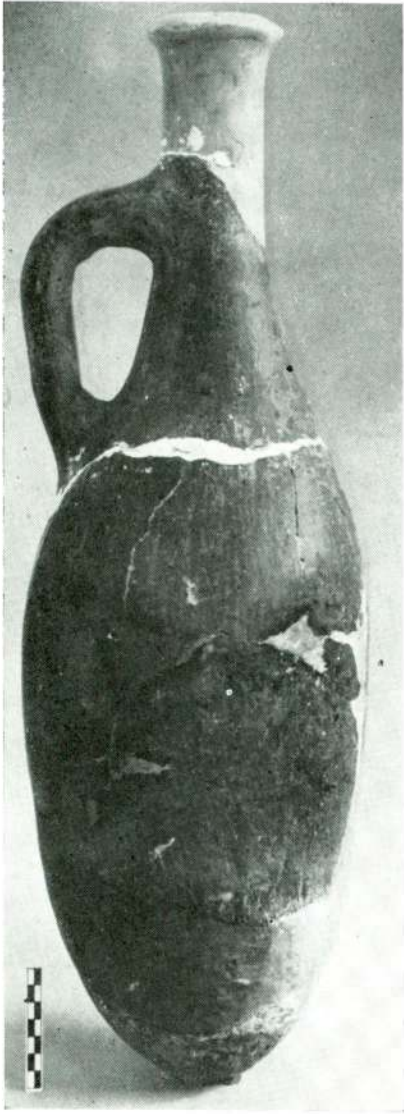
⁵ *MDOG* 77, p. 28 ff. Fig. 33.

⁶ *MDOG* 73, p. 21-22, Fig. 8-9; 75, Fig. 10 a-b and *Boğazköy I, 1935*, p. 34, Pl. 7, 1-2, 5-8.

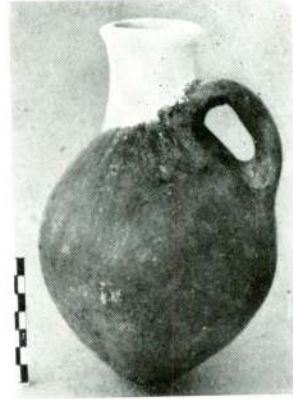
⁷ *Alacahöyük Kazısı 1937—1939*, Pl. 42.

⁸ *MDOG* 73, p. 22.

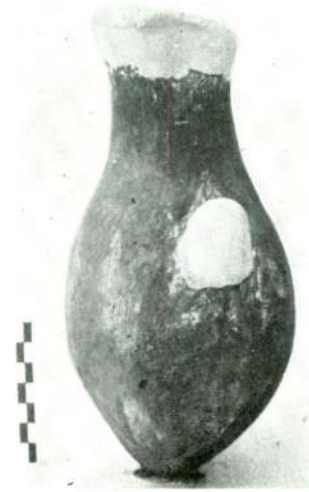
⁹ Tahsin ve Nimet Özgüç, *Kultepe Kazısı Raporu 1949, Ankara 1953*, Fig. 456-457.



Res. 1 — Fig. 1



Res. 2 — Fig. 2

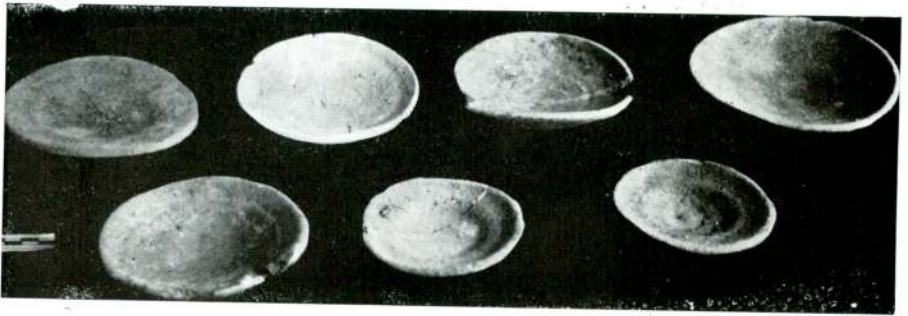


Res. 3 — Fig. 3

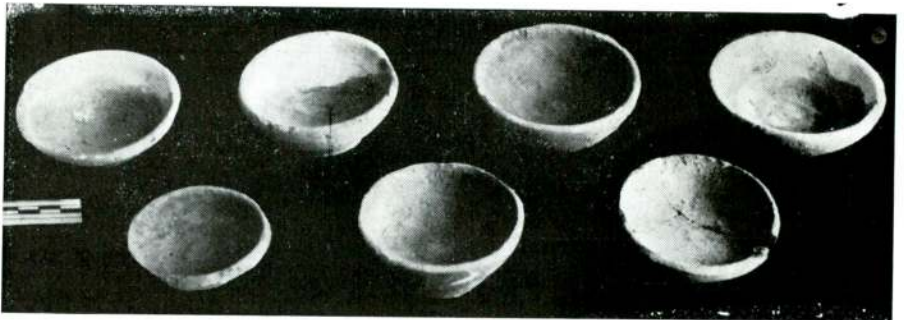
N. Özgüç



Res. 4 — Fig. 4



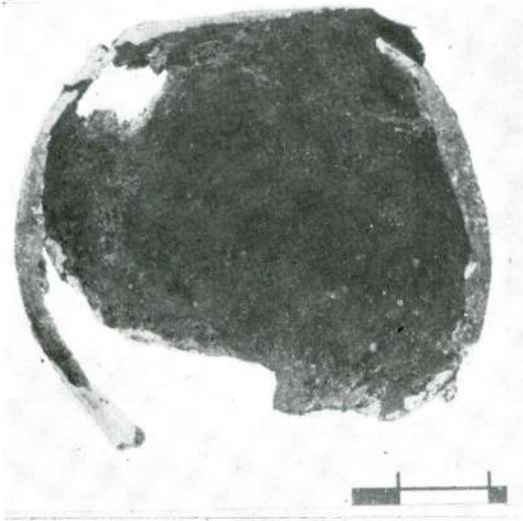
Res. 5 - 11 — Fig. 5 - 11



Res. 12 - 18 — Fig. 12 - 18



Res. 19 - 20 — Fig. 19 - 20

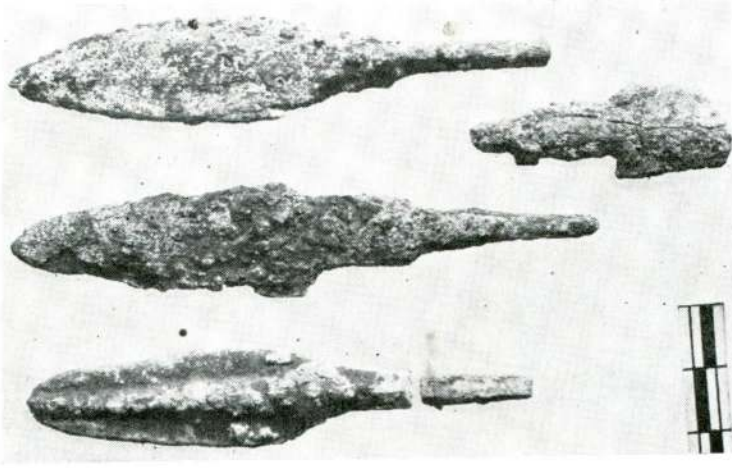


Res. 21 — Fig. 21

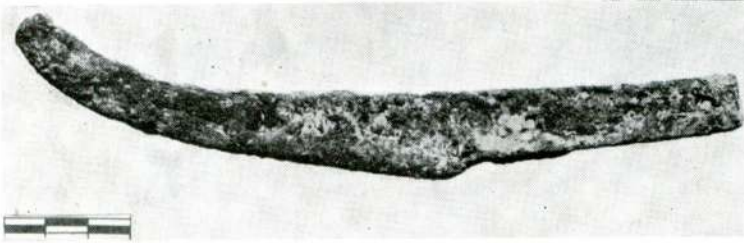
N. Özgüç



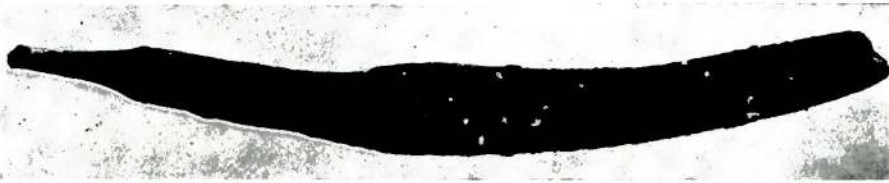
Res. 22^a - 22^b — Fig. 22^a - 22^b



Res. 25 - 28 — Fig. 25 - 28

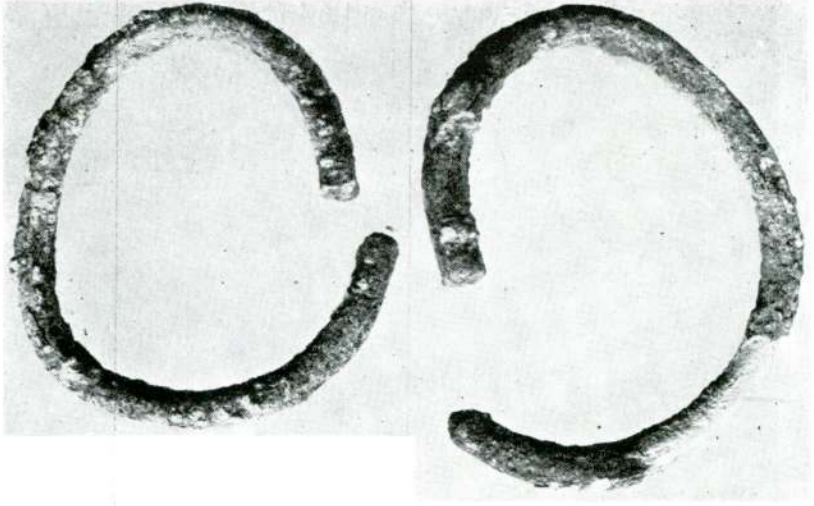


Res. 24 — Fig. 24

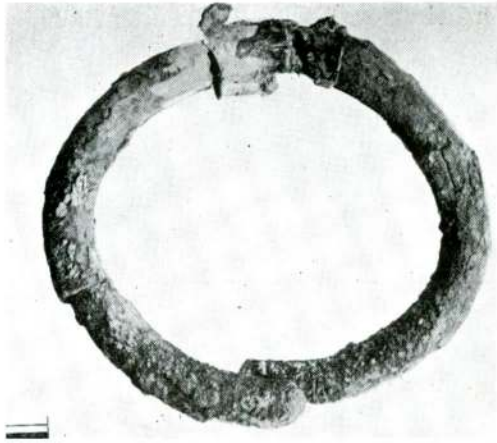


Res. 23 — Fig. 23

N. Özgüç



Res. 29 - 30 — Fig. 29 - 30



Res. 31 — Fig. 31



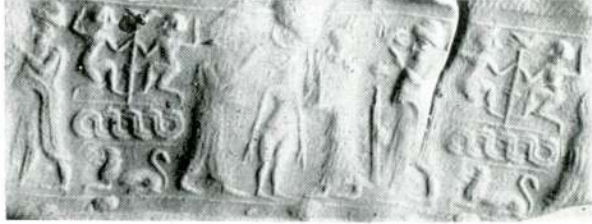
Res. 32 — Fig. 32



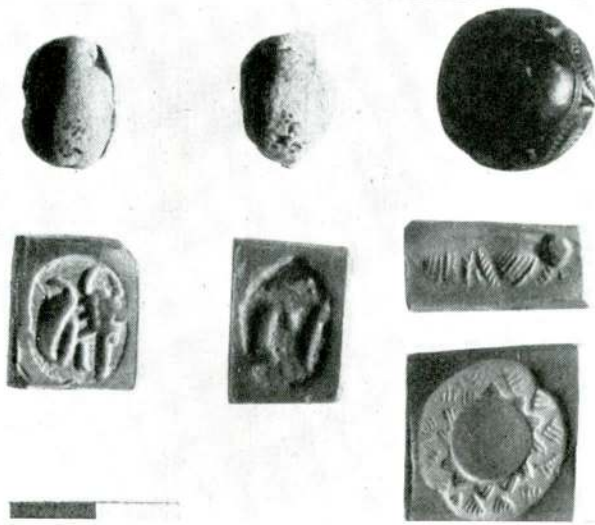
Res. 33 — Fig. 33



Res. 34 — Fig. 34



Res. 35 — Fig. 35



Res. 36 - 34 — Fig. 36 - 38

the fact that they were found on the floor of a house and because they represent rare specimens. A shaft-hole axe discovered here is the first one to have been found *in situ* on the floor of a house belonging to the late phase of the Imperial period¹⁰ (Fig. 22 a-b). This axe has, on both sides of its oval shaft-hole, a straight lug serving to hold the shaft from below. It differs in some unimportant details from Boğazköy¹¹ or Syrian¹² (!) specimens. It is possible to differentiate between the Hittite shaft-hole axes and the other Near-Eastern shaft-hole axes investigated by R. MAXWELL-HYSLOP¹³, and to establish a Hittite type within the larger Near-Eastern group. It is impossible to say at this time whether the Fırakdin axe is, like the others, ornamented with flutings, since it has not yet been cleaned¹⁴. Another shaft-hole axe¹⁵ was unearthed at a distance of half a meter from the votive pottery beside the stone foundations. Its very small size and the place where it was discovered lead us to believe that it is a votive object rather than a battle-axe. The lugs near the round shaft-hole are at such a distance from it that the shaft could not have rested on them and show that the axe did not possess a shaft.

For a 28.6 cm. long knife which curves slightly towards its broken-off point there is no parallel in the Imperial period. Grooves on the two sides of the handle show that the knife was ornamented with (bone) inlay (Fig. 23). It is of interest that the two specimens most closely resembling the Fırakdin knife are two knives from Değirmendere¹⁶ in Western Anatolia, which belongs to the Aegean civilization. On the floor of this same level a Mycenaean stirrup-jug was found, which will be published by TAHSİN ÖZGÜÇ. His article will show more clearly the relations between this region and

¹⁰ *Bellethen* 45, p. 265. Length 16.7 cm., width of blade 1 cm.

¹¹ Kurt Bittel, *Boğazköy, Die Kleinfunde der Grabungen 1906—1912*, p. 21, Pl. 13, 2 and *Boğazköy I*, 1935, p. 29, Pl. 10, 1.

¹² Stefan Przeworski, *Die Metallindustrie Anatoliens, Leiden 1939*, p. 35, Pl. 20, 5.

¹³ *Iraq XI*, 1, p. 113, Type: 22.

¹⁴ As it was the opinion of specialists that an attempt to clean the axe might lead to its destruction, this operation has not yet been performed.

¹⁵ *Bellethen* 45, p. 265, pl. 55, 12.

¹⁶ *Die Metallindustrie Anatoliens*, p. 47, Pl. V, 2-3.

the West. A 16.7 cm. long knife with a flat handle pierced by two holes (Fig. 24) resembles rather the Boğazköy dagger¹⁷, although the latter has a shorter handle and a straighter blade.

We also discovered some arrow-heads of the type met with in the Imperial period levels of the most important Hittite towns¹⁸ and used also during the Phrygian period¹⁹ (Fig. 25-28). These arrow-heads, some of which have wide central ridges, have the following lengths: 7.9; 8.3; and 9.1 cm. Three bronze ankle-rings were unearthed near the big shaft-hole axe (Fig. 29-31). We cannot recall any other Hittite ankle-rings of such large size and thickness²⁰. To sum up we can say that the pottery found in Fırakdin-höyük does not exhibit any marked peculiarities, while the metal finds are remarkable both because of their richness and because of the existence of some original types.

Among the small finds a number of seals and scarabs are of importance. Of the seven seals found two are scarabs, three cylinder and two stamp seals. Among the cylinder seals the most important one is of marble and can be seen from its inscription to belong to the period of HAMMURABI the Great (Fig. 32). This seal was discovered in the refuse layer near the votive pottery and may thus belong to the second level (length 2.7 cm. diameter 1.8 cm). On the seal we find, in a schema widely used from the beginning to the end of the Old-Babylonian period, a tutelary goddess and the NIN-SUBUR group²¹ with the following inscription :

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1—[Qi-i]š-ti- ^d IM | 1—[Qiš]-ti- ^d Adad |
| 2—[DUMU 𒀭] a-at-nu-a-bi | 2—[son of 𒀭]-atnuabi |
| 3—[ARAD 𒀭] a-am-mu-ra-bi* | 3—[servant of 𒀭]ammurabi |

¹⁷ *Boğazköy I*, 1935, p. 31, Pl. 10, 4.

¹⁸ *MDOG* 74, p. 23, Fig. 18 a-b; 77, p. 18, Fig. 19, b; Hamit Koşay, *Alacahöyük Hafriyatı* 1936, Pl. 49, 41-42; *Alacahöyük Kazısı 1937—1939*, Pl. 85, upper row, second and third pictures from the left. Tahsin - Nimet Özgüç, *Karahöyük Hafriyatı Raporu* 1947, p. 93, Pl. 36, 1, 3, 6. The oldest and most highly developed, examples in Anatolia were found in level I b of karum Kaneş.

¹⁹ *Kleinfunde*, p. 20, Pl. 13, 13-14; *Karahöyük Hafriyatı* 1947, p. 33, Pl. 36, 4 and *OIP* 29, Fig. 496, d 1447, d 739, d 678, e 1156.

²⁰ Inner diameter 8.5 and 9 cm; thickness 1 and 1.5 cm.

²¹ Anton Moortgat, *Vorderasiatische Rollsiegel*, Berlin 1940, p. 28 ff. No. 331; E. Porada, *Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern seals I. The collection of the Pierpont Morgan Library*, Washington 1948, p. 435; *Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Dergisi IV*, 1, 1945, p. 20 (M. O. Tosun) and *Kultepe Hafriyatı* 1949, p. 232, n. 480.

* This inscription was kindly read for us by Dr. Kemal Balkan.

Both the inscription and the representations on this seal clearly show that it was imported from Babylonia.

The second cylinder seal, which is broken, is of hematite (Fig. 33). It was found on the floor of the first level house (length 2 cm., diameter 1 cm.). On the preserved portion we see a sitting God holding an ear of some cereal and in front of him the lower half of a kneeling figure of Gilgamesh and also the right arm and locks of this figure. Behind the God there is preserved a leg which we again assume to belong to Gilgamesh. This seal, which is a nice example of the Old - Babylonian style, was imported to Firakdin from Mesopotamia. It is also important as showing for the first time - at least to our knowledge - a sitting god holding an ear. Since it belongs to a much older period than the level in which it was found, it is obvious that it must have been in use for a long time.

The third cylinder seal is of frit (Fig. 34). It too was found together with the other objects of the first level house (length 3.1 cm., diameter 1.2 cm.). On the seal we find a rearing sphinx and an eagle with open beak flying towards it. The figures, which are worked in the linear style, are hard to distinguish because they are in very low relief and have been partially erased. As this seal exhibits all the characteristics of the style beginning in the Assyrian glyptic with ASSUR - NASIRPAL (883—859), it must be dated at the beginning of the 9th century B.C. or slightly later²². We therefore conclude it to be an intrusion in the level where it was found²³. Thus, the two last - discussed seals cannot be used to date the first Firakdin level.

Since we are dealing with Assyrian - Babylonian cylinder seals we will also publish here a cylinder seal said to have been found in the same region (Fig. 35). The original of this seal is in the possession of an individual in Develi. The impression of it was kindly sent us by MR. HALIT DORAL, the director of the Kayseri Museum. It is evident from the impression that the seal is in good condition. The main scene shows a suppliant led by a tutelary goddess a nude female

²² Porada, No. 611-614 and M. J. Menant, *Glyptique Orientale II, Paris 1886*, Pl. VII, 1.

²³ *Bulleten 45*, p. 266.

figure with arms extended downwards, and another personage. Beside this main scene we find represented a couchant lion, a *guilloche*, and two figures holding a scepter on which a bird is perched. In front of the suppliant there is a libra, and above the head of the nude goddess a moon symbol. The representation of the figures and especially the characteristics of the tutelary goddess and the suppliant belong to the First Syrian style²⁴, i.e. to a Syrian group contemporary with the Old - Babylonian period. This seal was, like the others, imported into the Fırakdin region. Thus, it appears that this region, which is about 150 km. south - west of Kayseri, also was in active relation with Mesopotamia - Syria in the late phase of the Assyrian Colony period.

Of two stamp - seals one is made of limestone and has a hammer - handle and a round base. The face of the seal is entirely broken off. The other one, in the shape of a hemisphere (Fig. 38), is also a typical Hittite seal, on the seal - face and along the edge of the hemisphere there are designs made up of finely cut triangles and angles. Seals similar to this type have been mentioned by Güterbock in his discussion of the Alacahöyük seals²⁵. They were used in the Imperial and Late Hittite periods²⁶. The first one of the two stamp - seals was found in a refuse layer that had no contact with the architectural remains, the second one in another refuse layer covering the first Hittite level and yielding finds dated after 1200 B.c.

Two scarabs imported from Egypt were not found in the level in which one would have expected them. They were discovered in a refuse layer containing Phrygian pottery, 60 cm. above the last Hittite level. For this reason neither one of them can be used for the dating of the levels. If we consider that Egyptian finds with hieroglyphs were encountered as far north as Alishar²⁷ and Boğazköy²⁸, we will not be surprised at the Fırakdin discoveries. With respect to these scarabs, PROF. LANDSBERGER has been kind enough to provide me with the following information which is based on a consul-

²⁴ H. Frankfort, *Cylinder Seals, London 1939*, Pl. XLI, j-l, o; Porada, 925, 927, 931.

²⁵ *Alacahöyük Kazısı 1937—1939*, p. 191 ff.

²⁶ *MDOG 78*, p. 65, Fig. 17,2 c; *OIP 29*, Fig. 477, d 1200.

²⁷ *OIP 19*, p. 263, Fig. 345-346; 29, p. 418.

²⁸ *MDOG 74*, p. 25 and 76, p. 18.

tation with PROF. KEITH SEELE: Fig. 36: enthält den Namen des Königs AMENTHOTEP III in der Schreibung *nb-m't-R* (cf. Rowe, *Catalogue of Egyptian Scarabs in the Palestine Archaeological Museums*, Pl. XV, No. 562, 563).

Fig. 37: Es lassen sich sicher identifizieren die Zeichen Schlange (Uräus), Käfer; nicht ganz sicher ist das dritte Zeichen. Unter der Voraussetzung, dass unten im Original oder im Abdruck etwas fehlt, könnte dieses Zeichen das bekannte Zeichen *ka'* sein.

Es ist so gut wie sicher, dass die drei Zeichen keinen Personennamen konstituieren, sondern eine Anhäufung von Glückssymbolen, wie sie sich häufig auf skarabäen finden; genauer: das Zeichen (Schlange) ist häufig als ein solcher Glücksbringer, andererseits wieder die Kombination (Käfer + *ka'*), was eine Stütze für die vermutete Ergänzung des dritten Zeichens bildet. Aus Gründen des Stils ist dieser Skarabäus vermutlich in die 18. Dynastie zu datieren (Ausgeschlossen ist die Zuweisung an THUTMOSES III).



