

ANATOLIAN STAMP SEALS FROM A CALIFORNIA COLLECTION*

by GARY BECKMAN

The seals presented here (fig. 1) are the property of a private collector who acquired them on the art market over a number of years. I wish to thank Renée Kovacs for bringing them to my attention.

No. 1. Biconvex disk, with two lines on the edge and borders of a single line. Black steatite, both sides well preserved. Diameter 26 mm.; thickness 18 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E¹. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: VIR₂.x (title?) [N]í-nú-wa-*TONITRUS*(-*Tarḫunta*). The “signs” to the right are likely only filler elements. *Side B:* Ní-nú-<wa->-*TONITRUS*, the last sign bounded by a star, a circle, and a backwards K². Cf. *Ni-nu-wa-LÚ(-ziti)*, NH No. 884³. Judging from its position, the sign following VIR₂ is probably a designation of occupation or official rank⁴. For this sequence rather than the more usual BONUS₂ + TITLE, cf. VIR₂.SCRIBA, Gelb, Alişar No. 72.

No. 2. Biconvex disk, with two lines on the edge and borders of a single line. Soft greenish stone, both sides somewhat worn. Diameter 21 mm.; thickness 12 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

* Abbreviations used here are those of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*, Vol. L-N (Chicago, 1980), pp. xxi-xxxi. For references to seals and impressions, I employ those of C. Mora, *La glittica anatolica del II millennio a.C.: classificazione tipologica*. I, *Studia Mediterranea* 6 (Pavia, 1987), pp. xv-xxxiv.

¹ R. L. Gorny, “The Biconvex Seals of Alişar Höyük”, *AnSt* 43, 1993, 161-191, has recently shown that such biconvex stamps should be dated to the period of the Hittite empire.

² A mirrored form of this element is found on YBC 16575, which I published in “A Hittite Cylinder Seal in the Yale Babylonian Collection”, *AnSt* 31, 1981, 129-135.

³ For personal names of the pattern GN+DN, cf. the eponymous ruler of the text published by M. Salvini, *The Habiru Prism of King Tunip-Teššup of Tikunani* (Rome, 1996).

⁴ It does not appear to be AURIGA (L289).

Side A: BONUS₂.x (title³) x-L285³(-zuwa³) BONUS₂.VIR₂. *Side B:* Depiction of a stag⁵ amongst numerous filler lines.

No. 3. Biconvex disk, with no line on the edge and borders of a single line. Soft beige stone with brown striations, both sides well preserved. Diameter 22 mm.; thickness 14 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: Ma-na-(y)a, flanked by BONUS₂.FEMINA. *Side B:* Ta-FEMINA (-wanatti)⁶, flanked by BONUS₂.FEMINA.

To the name on side A, cf. *Manna*, NH No. 734. To the appearance of FEMINA as an element in the personal name *Ta⁷-wanatti* of side B, cf. *Tú-wa-FEMINA-ti* (*Tuwa-wanatti*), Poetto/Salvatori, Borowski, No. 7. The presence of two different female names on a single seal is unusual.

No. 4. Biconvex disk, with two lines on the edge and borders of a single line. Soft brown stone with green striations, side A well preserved, center of side B worn. Diameter 23 mm.; thickness 15 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: Na-na-zi, flanked by BONUS₂; three stars and two circles as filler. *Side B:* Na-na-zi, flanked by BONUS₂; three stars as filler.

To the personal name, cf. perhaps *Nani(n)zi*, NH no. 865. Note the reversed initial *na*.

No. 5. Biconvex disk, with no line on the edge and borders of a single line. Black steatite, both sides worn and edges flattened by wear around holes. Diameter 23 mm.; thickness 13 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: BONUS₂.VIR₂ Ku-tu²-ma x (title³). *Side B:* BONUS₂.FEMINA x-ma x (title³).

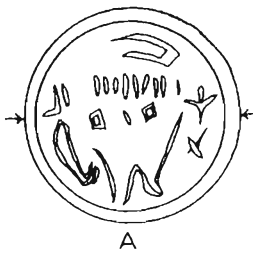
No. 6. Biconvex disk, with no line on the edge and ladder borders. Black steatite, both sides well preserved. Diameter 28 mm.; thickness 16 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: LUNA.FRATER (*Arma-nani*), flanked by BONUS₂.VIR₂. *Side B:* Ga-ya-ga-tà³, flanked by BONUS₂.FEMINA.

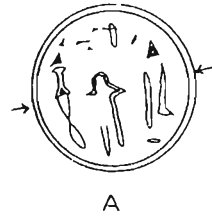
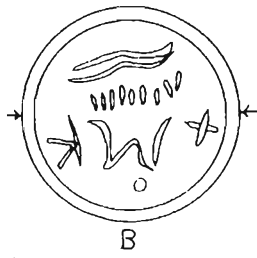
⁵ For the stag in Hittite glyptic, see P. Crépon, "Le thème du cerf dans l'iconographie anatolienne des origines à l'époque hittite", *Hethitica* 4, 1981, 141-143. On this animal in Hittite iconography in general and its connection with the Tutelary Deity, see V. Haas, *Geschichte der hethitischen Religion* (Leiden, 1994), pp. 452-454.

⁶ See F. Starke, "Das luwische Wort für 'Frau'", *KZ* 94, 1980, 74-86.

⁷ I know of no Anatolian onomastic element */da/* or */ta/*. Has a syllable been syncopated or omitted through haplography here?



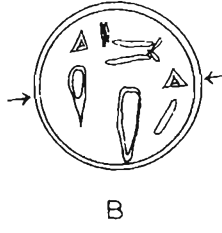
No. 1



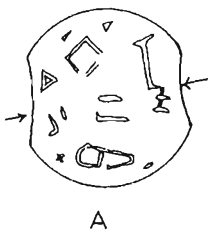
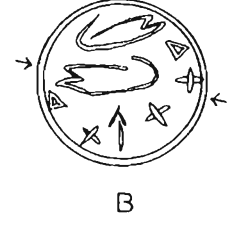
No. 2



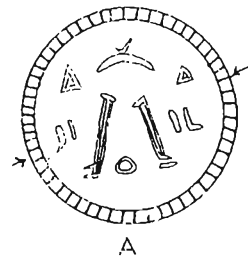
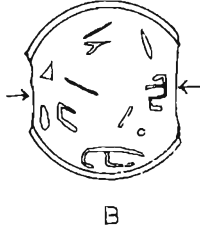
No. 3



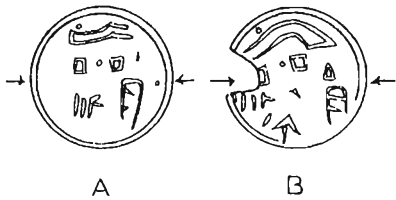
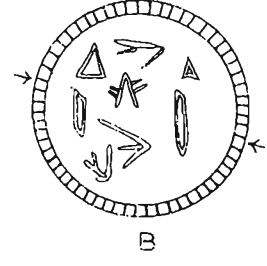
No. 4



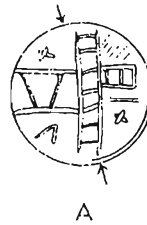
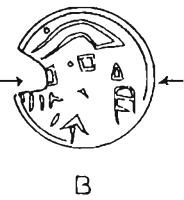
No. 5



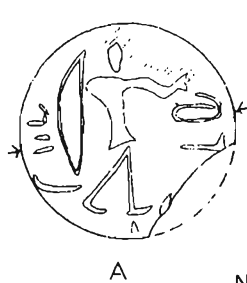
No. 6



No. 7



No. 8



No. 9

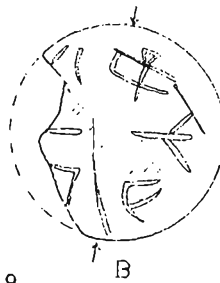


Fig. 1.

For the extremely common name *Arma-nani*, see NH No. 134. To the name of the female partner here, cf. *Kagga*, NH No. 481.

No. 7. Flat disk, with no line on the edge and borders of a single line. Red stone, both sides somewhat worn, and side B showing much wear at one end of hole. Diameter 19 mm.; thickness 8 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: *Ní-wa-tar-<zi>* [BONU]S₂.x (title[?]). *Side B:* *Ní-wa-tar-zi* BONUS₂.x (title[?]).

For personal names ending in *-zi*, cf. *Nana-zi* on No. 4 above and LUNA-*zi* (*Arma-zi*) on the ring seal published by H. G. Güterbock in K. Bittel et al., *Boğazköy V* (Berlin, 1975), p. 57, No. 15. Is this element an abbreviated writing of *-ziti*, "man"?

No. 8. Flat disk, with wide groove on the edge and faint borders of a single line. Soft red stone, both sides rather worn. Diameter 19 mm.; thickness 7 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: Ladder pattern intersecting at right angles, with stars in two quadrants, an uncertain form in the third, and the element in the fourth obliterated. *Side B:* Similar ladder pattern, with a vegetal form⁸ in each quadrant.

No. 9. Biconvex disk, with three lines on edge and no borders. Grey stone, both sides very worn and right portion of side A and a larger portion on the left of side B lost. Diameter 39 mm.; thickness 20 mm. Pierced. Late fourteenth to early twelfth century B.C.E. Anatolia or northern Syria.

Side A: Personage shouldering bow preceding *Na-ta²-[...]*; x (title[?]) to left. *Side B:* Unclear.

Figures armed with a bow are rather common in Hittite glyptic, e.g., R. M. Boehmer and H. G. Güterbock, *Glyptik aus dem Stadtgebiet von Boğazköy* (Berlin, 1987), Nos. 183-184. In my opinion these personages represent the personal protective deity (⁴LAMMA) of the seal's owner. It is unfortunate that damage to this seal prevents us from determining whether the archer here bore the horn of divinity⁹.

Gary Beckman
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor MI USA-48103

⁸ See my remarks in *AnSt* 31, 1981, 132-133.

⁹ Cf. my comment on this problem in *JNES* 51, 1992, 74b.