



EGYPTIAN IMPORTS FROM TOMB VII AT TELL MIŠRIFE/QATNA (SYRIA)

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Among the many finds from the Middle Bronze Age–early Late Bronze Age Tomb VII at Tell Mišrife/Qatna, discovered in 2009, numerous Egyptian imports are attested. The majority of the Egyptian finds consist of almost one hundred stone vessels of different shapes, complete and fragmented, made of calcite-alabaster and other stones. Typologically, most of the vessels date to the Middle Bronze Age (Middle Kingdom–Second Intermediate Period). However, several vessels clearly belonging to earlier periods (Early Dynastic–Old Kingdom) are also present in the tomb; they probably only reached the Levant during the second millennium BCE. One of the stone vessels also carries a short hieroglyphic inscription mentioning a princess Itakayet of the Middle Kingdom (12th Dynasty), suggesting that the vessel probably belonged to her tomb equipment in Egypt. Additionally, one beaker made of obsidian trimmed with golden caps finds close parallels in a beaker carrying the cartouche of Amenemhat III found in Royal Tomb I at Byblos. Apart from the stone vessels of Egyptian origin, a number of stone vessels must be products of Levantine workshops. However, their actual place of manufacture is difficult to ascertain at the moment, due to lack of parallels.

Among the other Egyptian finds from the tomb, a Middle Kingdom statuette of a hippopotamus made of faience is exceptionally well preserved; it is the first attestation of such an object outside the Levantine littoral (i.e. at Byblos and Beirut). An ointment jar made of calcite-alabaster in the shape of a crouching baboon is also of interest (late Middle Kingdom–Early New Kingdom). Finally, a scarab made of lapis lazuli carries the name of the

“Royal Consort Ahmes-Nefertari” of the early 18th Dynasty. It is the second object naming this queen found at Qatna.¹ Thus far, and for reasons yet unknown, Egyptian objects with inscriptions dating to the early 18th Dynasty found in the Levant seem to be confined to Qatna. The study of the finds from the tomb is currently underway and in progress.

Some of the Egyptian finds from Tomb VII are now published in the preliminary report authored by Peter Pfälzner and Heike Dohmann-Pfälzner (mit Beiträgen von Carsten Witzel, Stefan Flohr, Susanne Degenhardt und Alexander Ahrens sowie unter Mitarbeit von Giulia Baccelli, Alice Bianchi und Sarah Lange), “Die Gruft VII. Eine neuentdeckte Grabanlage unter dem Königspalast von Tall Mišrife/Qatna” in the *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin* (MDOG) 143 (2011), 63–139. The stone vessel of Itakayet has already been published by Alexander Ahrens, “A Stone Vessel of Princess Itakayet of the 12th Dynasty from Tomb VII at Tell Mišrife/Qatna (Syria),” *Egypt and the Levant* 20 (2010): 15–29.

NOTES

- ¹ The first object being a stone vessel made of calcite-alabaster found in the Royal Tomb at Qatna discovered in 2002. This vessel has been published by Alexander Ahrens, “A Journey’s End: Two Egyptian Stone Vessels with Hieroglyphic Inscriptions from the Royal Tomb at Tell Mišrife/Qatna,” *Egypt and the Levant* 16 (2006): 15–36.