

## A SCARAB AND TWO SCARABOIDS FROM ḤORBAT ‘ALONA (KHIRBAT EL-‘ALAWINA)

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One scarab and two scaraboids were found in Areas B and C of the excavation at Ḥorbat ‘Alona (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume). The description below follows Brandl’s methods (1993a; 1993b) with small modifications.<sup>1</sup>

1. Area C, L372, Reg. No. 317.

*Material:* Steatite.

*Dimensions:* 13.0 × 9.0 × 6.0 mm.

*Method of Manufacture:* Carving, drilling.

*Workmanship:* Excellent.



Fig. 1. Scarab No. 1.

<sup>1</sup> I thank Baruch Brandl for his comments on the first draft of this manuscript. The drawings are by Carmen Hersch, and the photographs, by Tsila Sagiv.

*Technical Details:* Perforated, drilled from both sides.

*Preservation:* Complete.

*Description:* The base is adorned with the well-known 'nude goddess', standing, her body *en face* and her head in profile to right. Her long arms touch the legs near the ankles, and her long hair slides down, ending near her left foot. This motif was studied by Schroer (1989:93–104), who defined it as a Syrian influence. Further studies have been conducted by Keel and Uehlinger (1998:26–29) and Ben-Tor (2007:181), with references therein.

*Typology:* The base is of Tufnell's Class 10D1A (Tufnell 1984:140, Pl. XLVIII). According to Tufnell (1984:31–38), the scarab has a trapezoidal head (Type D), a back without lines (Type O), and a side with a squared profile and notches between the legs (Type E).

*Date and Archaeological Context:* MB IIB. It was found in a fill on the floor of the Persian-period building and therefore, it must have originated in one of the MB IIB buildings at the site.

2. Area C, L383, Reg. No. 3217.

*Material:* Green paste, red colored.

*Dimensions:* 19.5 × 11.0 × 5.6 mm.

*Method of Manufacture:* Carving, drilling

*Workmanship:* ?

*Technical Details:* Perforated, drilled from both sides.

*Preservation:* Complete, very eroded.

*Description:* As the item was badly eroded, the details of its base could not be traced.

*Typology:* Plain back and sides.

*Date and Archaeological Context:* The item was found in the fill of the Persian-period building. Since the base's design is hardly visible, it is impossible to date it.



Fig. 2. Scaraboid No. 2.



Fig. 3. Scaraboid No. 3.

3. Area B, L212, Reg. No. 2269.

*Material:* Light brown paste, dark brown color.

*Dimensions:* 13.3 × 11.3 × 5.7 mm.

*Method of Manufacture:* Carving.

*Workmanship:* ?

*Technical Details:* Carving from both sides.

*Preservation:* Complete, very eroded.

*Description:* The item was eroded and therefore, its base design was not visible.

*Typology:* Plain back and sides?

*Date and Archaeological Context:* The base's design was hardly visible, and thus, no date can be suggested; however, as it was found near the floor of an MB IIB building, it is plausible to date it to that period.

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