101) Some Remarks on the Imperial Hittite Sealings from the 2017 Excavations at Karkemish — During the May-July 2017 season of excavations at Karkemish,[1] c. 250 clay sealings from the Hittite Empire Period (possibly from the period of Ini-Tešub of Karkemish, see Fig. 1) were retrieved in a LB II stratum of Area C East in the Lower Palace area. Half of these sealings bore seal impressions, while the other half were blank or broken sealings without evident impressions. So far, c. 126 sealings were sealed 191 times by 46 different seals belonging to c. 32 officers. Some preliminary remarks on them are offered below[2].

HATTI	KARKAMIŠ
Šuppiluliuma I (1355-1322)	Piyašili *Šarri-Kušuh* c. 1330
Arnuwanda II (1322-1321)	
Muršili II (1321-1295)	Šahurunuwa c. 1310
Muwatalli II (1295-1272)	
Muršili III *Urhi-Tešub* (1272-1267)	
Hattušili III (1267-1237)	Ini-Tešub c. 1260
Tuthaliya IV (1237-1212)	
Kurunta *Ulmi-Tešub* 1212-1207	Talmi-Tešub c. 1210
Arnuwanda III (1207-1202)	
Šuppiluliuma II (1202-)	Kuzi-Tešub c. 1200

Fig. 1 – Hittite Great Kings and Kings of Karkemish during the Empire Period (based on PEKER 2009).

The most active officer of the archive is Paya (Pa'e), whose name is written as *pa-i(a)* in 80 seal impressions on 53 sealings. His profession is written by a convex form of the L216 FINES (the right section of the sign is thorny but not wavy, see Fig. 2), combined with VIR_2. We can interpret his profession (VIR_2.$FINES_2$) as "man of the border area." A closer interpretation might be that he was a kind of controller/registrar of goods received from *abroad* (as gift or tribute) through his office.

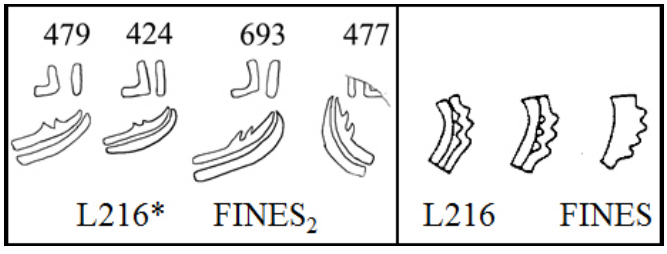

Fig. 2 – Drawing of VIR_2.$FINES_2$ from different sealings on the left and FINES on the right.

Another new profession is attested on 47 seal impressions on 34 sealings sealed by 8 different seals of Taya (Ta'e)[3], a previously unattested prince from Karkemish. His profession – Charioteer of Kubaba – is written with Anatolian Hieroglyphs $AURIGA_2$ (DEUS)*Ku*+AVIS and in cuneiform ^{LÚ}IŠ

[*ŠA/ŠÁ*] ^{d}*Ku-ba-ba* on C(ylinder Seal Type)1. On all C1-3, he bears the title of REX.FILIUS and AURIGA$_2$ as profession. The cuneiform equivalent of AURIGA$_2$ is written as ^{LÚ}IŠ *ŠÁ* LUGAL, "Charioteer of the King" on C3, while REX.FILIUS is rendered as *apil*(AŠ) *šarri*(LUGAL) on C2, a writing not otherwise attested in Hittite archives. In fact, the ^{LÚ}IŠ *ŠÁ* LUGAL profession may be written in Anatolian Hieroglyphs as REX.AURIGA on BOĞAZKÖY 4 (see PEKER 2014: fig. a with references; in that case one might also equate AURIGA$_2$ with AURIGA and ^{LÚ}IŠ with ^{LÚ}*KARTAPPU*).

A cylinder seal (KH.17.O.448, the impression of which is also attested on sealing KH.17.O.671[4)] belonging to a Sunaili provides a further convincing proof about the reading of the strokes 5-9 (see Fig. 3; DINÇOL & PEKER *forth*.). Sunaili's name is written *su*-L392-*li* in Anatolian Hieroglyphs and ^{m}*Šu-na*-DINGIR-*LÌ* in cuneiform. Some of the attestations of the strokes 5-9 are: *su*-L392-*li*, Sunawili (DINÇOL & DINÇOL 2011); side A, L393-BOS and side B, L395**-BOS, Na/u(wa/i)(m)uwa, (DINÇOL & ERDOĞAN 2010; similar names are Nawiniya, NH 874 and Nuwanuwa, NH 900); *ni$_x$*- L395*-*wa/i*-VIR.*ZI*, Ninuwaziti (SINGER 1995); *ni$_x$*-L393-*wa/i-i(a)*, Ninuwiya (DINÇOL & DINÇOL 1981: 8 B; DINÇOL & PEKER *forth*.).

5	L392	*na/u(wa/i)*
6	L395*	*na/u(wa/i)*
7	L395**	*na/u(wa/i)*
8	L393	*na/u(wa/i)*
9	L395	*nu(wa/i)*

Fig. 3

The possibility of reading the number 5 as *nawa/i-* in Luwian or Hittite may also be taken in consideration, although it is less likely.

Results of this discarded archive will be published soon by Nicolò Marchetti (who studied the iconographies), Giacomo Benati (who made the functional identifications of the reverse of the sealings) and myself (for the legends).

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Endnotes omitted from the published version because of a typographic mistake have been restored in this e-offprint:

Missing Endnotes

1) The Turco-Italian Expedition at Karkemish is directed by N. Marchetti on behalf of the Universities of Bologna, Istanbul and Gaziantep, with the support also of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and of the Sanko Holding.

2) A preliminary paper "New Epigraphic Discoveries from the 2017 Excavation Season at Karkemish" has been read at the 10th International Congress of Hittitology in Chicago in August 2017 by myself. In my catalogue, cylinder seals are indicated by the initial C, stamp seals by S and ring seals by R, with an absolute numbering within each of these groups.

3) It is written with the signs Borger (2004) 248-635-498 on C3 and 561-[635]-498 on C1-2.

4) On the same sealing there are also impressions of Taya's C3 and Ewri-Tešub's cylinder seal (see Beyer 2001: A14, 56-57).

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