IRON AGE HIEROGLYPHIC LUWIAN INSCRIPTIONS

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Number 29
Iron Age Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions

IRON AGE HIEROGLYPHIC LUWIAN INSCRIPTIONS

by
Annick Payne

Edited by
H. Craig Melchert

Society of Biblical Literature
Atlanta, Georgia

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List of Abbreviations

Bibliographical

AfO	*Archiv für Orientforschung. Internationale Zeitschrift für die Wissenschaft vom Vorderen Orient*
Anatolica	*Anatolica, Annuaire international pour les civilisations de l'Asie anterieure, publie sous les auspices de l'institut historique et archeologique néerlandais a Istanbul, Leiden*
AnSt	*Anatolian Studies. Journal of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara*
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament. Neukirchen-Vluyn
AoF	*Altorientalische Forschungen*
BSL	*Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*
CAH	The Cambridge Ancient History
CHLI	*Corpus of Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions*, Berlin: De Gruyter
DBH	Dresdner Beiträge zur Hethitologie, Dresden
Fs	*Festschrift*
Gs	*Gedenkschrift*
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik. Leiden: Brill
HS	see *KZ*
IncLing	*Incontri Linguistici*
JIES	*Journal of Indo-European Studies*
JRAS	*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*
JSS	*Journal of Semitic Studies*
Kadmos	*Kadmos. Zeitschrift für vor- und frühgriechische Epigraphik*
Kratylos	*Kratylos. Kritisches Berichts- und Rezensionsorgan für indogermanische und allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft*
Kubaba	*Kubaba*

KZ	*(Kuhns) Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung* 1–100 (1952–1987), renamed *Historische Sprachforschung*, abbr. *HS* (1988–)
MAOG	*Mitteilungen der altorientalischen Gesellschaft*
MSS	*Münchner Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft*
MVAG	*Mitteilungen der vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft*
MVAeG	*Mitteilungen der vorderasiatisch-ägyptischen Gesellschaft*
Or	*Orientalia*
Oriens	*Oriens. Journal of the International Society for Oriental Research*
RHA	*Revue hittite et asianique*. Paris
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations
SMEA	*Studi micenei ed egeo-anatolico*
Sprache	*Die Sprache. Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*
StBoT	Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten
Syria	*Syria, Revue d'art oriental et d'archéologie, publiée par l'Institut français d'archeologie du Proche-Orient, Beyrouth*
THeth	Texte der Hethiter
TMO	Traveaux de la maison de l'orient et de la méditerranée. Lyon
WdO	*Die Welt des Orients*
WZKM	*Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*

Signs and Symbols

*(numeral)	sign number after Laroche 1960
*(word)	reconstructed word or form
§	clause
‹ ›	signs partially preserved
[ ]	signs not preserved
‹…›	text damaged
[…]	text broken
[sign]	text restored (as required by context and/or attested in parallel inscriptions)
<…>	erroneous omission
<<…>>	erroneous inclusion
?	uncertain reading
?!	highly uncertain reading
!	amended reading
X, x	unidentified sign or trace thereof

Series Editor's Foreword

Writings from the Ancient World is designed to provide up-to-date, readable English translations of writings recovered from the ancient Near East.

The series is intended to serve the interests of general readers, students, and educators who wish to explore the ancient Near Eastern roots of Western civilization or to compare these earliest written expressions of human thought and activity with writings from other parts of the world. It should also be useful to scholars in the humanities or social sciences who need clear, reliable translations of ancient Near Eastern materials for comparative purposes. Specialists in particular areas of the ancient Near East who need access to texts in the scripts and languages of other areas will also find these translations helpful. Given the wide range of materials translated in the series, different volumes will appeal to different interests. However, these translations make available to all readers of English the world's earliest traditions as well as valuable sources of information on daily life, history, religion, and the like in the preclassical world.

The translators of the various volumes in this series are specialists in the particular languages and have based their work on the original sources and the most recent research. In their translations they attempt to convey as much as possible of the original texts in fluent, current English. In the introductions, notes, glossaries, maps, and chronological tables, they aim to provide the essential information for an appreciation of these ancient documents.

The ancient Near East reached from Egypt to Iran and, for the purposes of our volumes, ranged in time from the invention of writing (by 3000 B.C.E.) to the conquests of Alexander the Great (ca. 330 B.C.E.). The cultures represented within these limits include especially Egyptian, Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Hittite, Ugaritic, Aramean, Phoenician, and Israelite. It is hoped that Writings from the Ancient World will eventually produce translations from most of the many different genres attested in these cultures: letters (official and private), myths, diplomatic documents, hymns, law collections, monumental inscriptions, tales, and administrative records, to mention but a few.

Significant funding was made available by the Society of Biblical Literature for the preparation of this volume. In addition, those involved in preparing this

volume have received financial and clerical assistance from their respective institutions. Were it not for these expressions of confidence in our work, the arduous tasks of preparation, translation, editing, and publication could not have been accomplished or even undertaken. It is the hope of all who have worked with the Writings from the Ancient World series that our translations will open up new horizons and deepen the humanity of all who read these volumes.

Theodore J. Lewis
The Johns Hopkins University

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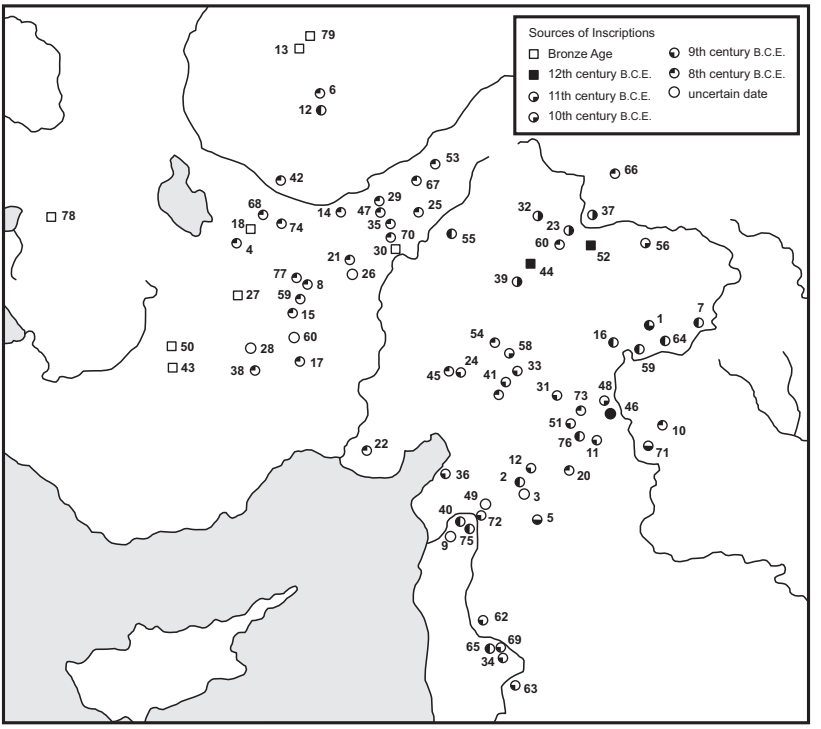
I would also like to thank the team at the Society of Biblical Literature for their part in making this book possible. Last but not least, I would like to thank my husband for supporting me in this endeavor.

Locations of Hieroglyphic Inscriptions



1. Adıyaman	21. Çiftlik	41. Karaburçlu	61. Porsuk
2. Afrin	22. Çineköy	42. Karaburun	62. Qal‘at el Mudiq
3. Ain Dara	23. Darende	43. Karadağ	63. Restan
4. Aksaray	24. Domuztepe	44. Karahöyük	64. Samsat
5. Aleppo	25. Eğrek	45. Karatepe	65. Sheizar-Meharde
6. Alişar	26. Eğriköy	46. Karkamiš	66. Şırzı
7. Ancoz	27. Emirgazi	47. Kayseri	67. Sultanhan
8. Andaval	28. Ereğli	48. Kelekli	68. Suvasa
9. Antakya	29. Erkilet	49. Kırçoğlu	69. Tall Štīb
10. Arslantaş	30. Fraktin	50. Kızıldağ	70. Tekirderbent
11. Asmacık	31. Gaziantep	51. Körkün	71. Tell Ahmar
12. ‘Azaz	32. Gürün	52. Kötükale	72. Tell Tayinat
13. Boğazköy	33. Hacibebekli	53. Kululu	73. Tilsevet
14. Bohça	34. Hama	54. Kürtül	74. Topada
15. Bor	35. Hisarcık	55. Kurubel	75. Tuleil
16. Boybeypınarı	36. İskenderun	56. Malatya	76. Tünp
17. Bulgarmaden	37. İspekçür	57. Malpınar	77. Veliisa
18. Burunkaya	38. İvriz	58. Maraş	78. Yalburt
19. Çalapverdi	39. Izgın	59. Niğde	79. Yazılıkaya
20. Cekke	40. Jisr el Hadid	60. Palanga	

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1. Introduction

1.1. Discovering Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions

In 1812, the first hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions came to the notice of a modern-day traveller and orientalist, the Swiss Johann Ludwig Burckhardt—more than two and a half thousand years after they were executed. Burckhardt, travelling through Syria, recorded the following brief note about an inscribed stone he discovered in the city of Hama, biblical Hamath: "but in the corner of a house in the Bazar is a stone with a number of small figures and signs, which appears to be a kind of hieroglyphical writing, though it does not resemble that of Egypt."[1]

This description did not generate much interest at the time. Almost sixty years later, Richard Francis Burton noted:

> An important inquiry … made me set out on February 22d for Hums (Emesa), and Hamáh (Hamath, Epiphaneia), on the northern borders of the consular district of Damascus. At the latter place … I examined and sent home native facsimiles of the four unique basaltic stones, whose characters, raised in cameo, apparently represent a system of local hieroglyphics peculiar to this part of Syria, and form the connecting link between picture-writing and the true syllabarium.[2]

In 1870, Augustus Johnson and S. Jessup tried in vain to obtain copies of the stone mentioned by Burckhardt (Friedrich 1969: 128). In 1872, the Irish missionary William Wright kindled the Turkish governor's interest in this stone. With difficulty, Wright and Green took plaster casts, and a copy each was sent to the British Museum (Wright 1886: 1–12). The stones themselves (now known

1. "Journal of a Tour from Aleppo to Damascus, Through the Valley of the Orontes and Mount Libanus, in February and March, 1812," *Travels in Syria and the Holy Land* (London: Murray, 1822). Online: http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/burckhardt/john_lewis/syria/chapter3.html.

2. Richard Francis Burton and Charles F. Tyrwhitt-Drake, *Unexplored Syria* (2 vols.; London: Tinsley Bros., 1872). Online: http://burtoniana.org/books/1872-Unexplored%20Syria/unexploredsyria-ocr-vol1.htm.

as HAMA 1–4) were removed to İstanbul Museum in 1877. Similar stones came to light in various places in Syria during the 1870s, and among the first to attempt a decipherment was the British assyriologist A. H. Sayce. In a lecture to the Society of Biblical Archaeology, given on May 2, 1876, he proposed to use the term "Hittite" (from Old Testament *ḥtym*, Egyptian *ḫt'* or *Kheta*, Assyrian *Ḫatti*) for the growing corpus of hieroglyphic inscriptions. In 1879, Sayce connected the "Hittite" finds of Syria with similar remains discovered in Anatolia. In 1882, he announced that the Hittites were much more than the small Canaanite tribe mentioned in the Old Testament, namely, the people of "a lost Hittite Empire."

Almost fifty years earlier, in 1834, the French explorer Charles Texier stumbled across the ruins of what would prove to be the capital city of the Hittite Empire during his search for Tavium, an important Celtic city. Locals had directed him to the ruins of Boğazköy, some 150 km east of Ankara. Texier arrived to find the remains of a vast city, and outside of the city, about half an hour's walk away, an ancient rock sanctuary. It has two natural chambers decorated with figures of deities cut into the rock, their names inscribed in hieroglyphs. The very beginnings of this hieroglyphic script are still clouded in obscurity, but the first full length inscriptions were executed as official monuments of the Hittite Empire. While the discovery of hieroglyphic inscriptions in Syria predated modern knowledge of the Hittite Empire, decipherment only became possible through knowledge of the Hittite language, as documented on thousands of cuneiform-inscribed clay tablets. To establish the necessary background, we shall in the following briefly look at the history of the Hittite Empire—the historical and cultural context of the earliest hieroglyphic inscriptions—and of the ensuing Neo-Hittite States, where the hieroglyphic script became the only writing medium and experienced its golden age.

1.2. Historical Background

1.2.1. The Hittite Empire: ca. 1680–1200 B.C.E.

Hittite History is commonly divided into three longer periods, classified as Old Kingdom (ca. 1650–1420 B.C.E.), Middle Kingdom (ca. 1420–1344 B.C.E.) and New Kingdom (ca. 1344–1200 B.C.E.). All these dates are approximations, they rest on synchronisms and are based on the Egyptian low chronology. The following paragraphs aim to provide a short overview and will therefore only introduce the most important Hittite kings and events taking place under their reign.

The Hittite Old Kingdom starts with Hattusili I (ca. 1650–1620 B.C.E.), who rebuilt the city of Hattusa, a Hattian settlement that had been destroyed and cursed by Anitta of Kuššara around 1700 B.C.E. Hattusili made Hattusa his capi-

tal, and it is very likely that he named himself after the city. During his reign, he extended his territory to cover most of Anatolia and northern Syria. His grandson, Mursili I (ca. 1620–1590 B.C.E.) is best known for his military successes, taking much of northern Syria, including Aleppo, and even Babylon. This territorial gain, however, could not be effectively controlled or maintained. The campaign had drained the resources of the kingdom, and Mursili was assassinated soon after his return home. This introduced a period of chaos and internecine strife, until Telipinu (ca. 1525–1500 B.C.E.) stabilized the monarchy and formulated a legal framework for royal succession in his famous edict. His rule marks the end of the Old Kingdom, and the earliest hieroglyphic seal, the Išputahšu seal, also dates to this time. The Middle Kingdom begins with a period of which we know comparatively little under what appear to be weak kings. Tudhaliya I/II (whether there were two separate kings of this name remains a topic of scholarly dispute; ca. 1420–1400 B.C.E.) renewed vassal treaties with Kizzuwatna and regained control of Aleppo. He undertook many campaigns, among others against Išuwa in the northeast, and Aššuwa and Arzawa in the west. His reign is followed by another weak phase, culminating in the sack of Hattusa during the reign of Arnuwanda I (ca. 1370–1355).

The New Kingdom, also known as Empire period, starts with Suppiluliuma I (ca. 1344–1322) who ruled over Anatolia and northern Syria; control was exercised through vassal states and viceroys at Karkamiš and Tarhuntassa. Alongside Egypt, Hatti had become the main power of the ancient Near East, and this equality was acknowledged in a letter by a pharaoh's widow (possibly Tutankhamun's), asking Suppiluliuma to send her one of his sons to marry, as she refused to marry someone below her status. Such a marriage candidate was indeed sent to Egypt, but on his way there he was assassinated, thereby instigating a period of war between Egypt and Hatti.

Mursili II (ca. 1321–1295) campaigned in the west, in particular against Arzawa and Millawanda (Miletus). In ca. 1275 B.C.E., Muwatalli II (ca. 1295–1272) fought the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II at Qadesh, in a dispute over Syrian territories. The battle is amply described in Egyptian sources as a resounding victory, but as the Hittites kept their control over the disputed areas, the outcome was more likely a stalemate; the gain, if any, was on the Hittite side. Muwatalli's reign is further important as the period from which we have the first datable hieroglyphic inscription, ALEPPO 1, a text of Talmi-Šarruma of Aleppo (see Hawkins 2000: 3; 19). Muwatalli's son, Urḫi-Teššub, acceded the throne as Mursili III (ca. 1272–1266) but was soon deposed by his uncle who ruled as Hattusili III (ca. 1266–1237). The latter concluded a peace treaty with Ramses II (ca. 1258 B.C.E.), a copy of which is famously on display at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Hattusili's usurpation introduced the final period of the Hittite Empire, which was accompanied by internal power struggles. His son, Tudhaliya

IV (ca. 1237–1209) still ruled as a relatively strong king—and executed quite a few hieroglyphic inscriptions—yet had to make allowances to Kuruntiya of Tarhuntassa, a vassal king and descendant of Muwatalli, who had a legitimate claim to the throne of Hattusa. Indeed, it seems likely that Tudhaliya's son, Suppiluliuma II, (ca. 1205–?) openly waged war on Tarhuntassa, after Kuruntiya tried to revolt.

1.2.2. The Neo-Hittite States: ca. 1200–700 B.C.E.

Around 1200 B.C.E., major upheaval and changes affected the ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds. The region formerly ruled by the Hittite Empire lost its central administration with the fall of the Empire. Reasons for this collapse are much debated, and it is likely that a combination of various factors contributed to it. There is evidence of large-scale migration, including burnt and abandoned cities. Bands of marauding Kaskaeans, attacks of the so-called Sea Peoples, famines, and war, especially with Tarhuntassa, would all have aided to destabilize the region, finally leading to the fall of the Hittite Empire. On former Hittite territory, several new, smaller states emerged. Culturally, they were significantly indebted to the Hittite Empire and are therefore known today as Neo-Hittite states. Some of these new states were already important centers of power under the Hittite Empire who seem to have survived the disruption around 1200 B.C.E. unscathed.

Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions survive from the following Neo-Hittite states: Cilicia, Karkamiš, Tell Ahmar, Maraş, Malatya, Commagene, Amuq, Aleppo, Hama, and Tabal. It is remarkable that despite coming from such a large area and over a period of almost five hundred years, the inscriptions are nonetheless relatively uniform. The language of these inscriptions is a standardized form of Luwian propagated by the Hittite kings at Hattusa and imitated by the Neo-Hittite rulers (see Yakubovich 2010a: 72–73). The uniformity of the inscriptions also suggests that the writing system continued to develop in close contact between these states, until it perished with the last of the Neo-Hittite states, ca. 700 B.C.E.

The subsequent paragraphs will provide a brief history of the states relevant to the texts offered in this volume. Apart from internal information from local hieroglyphic texts, the most important source for the history of the Neo-Hittite states are the Assyrian annals.

1.2.3. Cilicia

Cilicia plays an important role as a source of hieroglyphic inscriptions. There are two major texts from this area, both Phoenician-Luwian bilinguals. One of

them, the inscription KARATEPE 1, is the longest preserved Luwian and Phoenician inscription to date. Cilicia is situated between the Taurus Mountains in the northwest, the Amanus Mountains in the east and the Mediterranean Sea in the south; it was of strategic importance, controlling Anatolian access to Syria. During the Bronze Age, it was populated by Hurrians and Luwians, its main city Adana is attested as Ataniya. Iron Age Hieroglyphic inscriptions speak of the city as Adana(wa), Phoenician *'dn*, while the Assyrian annals distinguish two regions, the Cilician plain or Que, and rough Cilicia or Hilakku. The Old Testament records that King Solomon traded horses with the kings of Que: "Also Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's merchants procured them from Kue for a price" (1 Kgs 10:28; also 2 Chr 1:16); however, it remains questionable whether these passages refer to this Neo-Hittite state.[3] Assyrian sources first mention Cilicia in the year 858 B.C.E., and provide many references, most important among these is Sargon's II control of both Que and Hilakku. Neo-Babylonian and Classical sources provide further information for later periods.

Archaeological investigations, meanwhile, have little to contribute, the main excavation site is Karatepe, which, besides its valuable inscription, preserves archaeological structures, namely, a small fortress, two city gates, and walls. According to the hieroglyphic texts, the main Iron Age city was Adana, but because of continued settlement there, excavation is not likely. There are only very few indigenous inscriptions from Iron Age Cilicia, and these attest two generations of rulers based at Adana, a King Awarikus/Warikas of the house of Muksas (possibly classical Mopsus), and his successor, the regent Azatiwadas. Both names have possible equations in Assyrian annals, Awarikus as Urikki of Que, attested for the years 738–732, and 710–709, and Azatiwadas as Sanduarri, king of Kundi and Sissu, attested for the year 676 B.C.E.

1.2.4. Karkamiš

Already an important seat of power under the Hittite Empire, Karkamiš survived the political changes at the end of the Bronze Age without obvious disruption. Karkamiš occupies a strategic position at an important crossing of the river Euphrates, and during the Bronze Age, controlled the Hittite territories in northern Syria. For biblical references to Karkamiš, see Jer 46:2; 2 Chr 35:20; Isa 10:9. A wealth of Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions originates from here, dating to between the eleventh and ninth centuries B.C.E. In 717 B.C.E., Karkamiš was annexed by the Assyrians, and finally, in 605 B.C.E., destroyed by Nebuchadrezzar.

3. Cf. Tadmor 1961.

In modern times, the site of Karkamiš was first identified in 1876 by George Smith, and representatives of the British Museum recovered important monuments from 1878–1881. Archaeological excavations took place between 1911–1914 until the outbreak of World War I, resuming in 1920, conducted by a British team led by Sir Leonard Woolley. Excavations were several times interrupted by warfare, and for many decades the site lay abandoned as the Syro-Turkish border runs through it. Very recently, the area has been cleared of land mines and excavations resumed in the autumn of 2011. To date, Karkamiš provides the greatest number of hieroglyphic inscriptions and sculpture of any single site.

Past archaeological work includes a survey of the fortifications and the excavation of two main areas, namely, the upper levels of the citadel, and the area of the lower town underneath, where most inscriptions and sculpture were found. Amongst important structural remains are a temple of the Storm God, the King's Gate and the Great Staircase ascending to the citadel.

The sculpture from Karkamiš offers dating criteria, while indigenous inscriptions attest several royal families. A line descending from the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I, who installed his son Piyassili/Šarri-Kušuḫ as Hittite viceroy and king of Karkamiš in ca. 1340 B.C.E., seems to have continued unbroken for at least five generations, unperturbed by the fall of the Hittite Empire. Nonetheless, Karkamiš lost its power over the former Hittite province of Syria and was reduced to a city-state. Karkamiš continued to retain its independence until the Assyrian conquest in 717 B.C.E. Assyrian annals only attest two kings of Karkamiš, Sangara (ca. 870–848) and Pisiri (ca. 738–717 B.C.E.), yet, unfortunately, these cannot currently be reconciled with any of the kings known from Luwian inscriptions; the latter confirm three native dynasties. The earliest is an archaic group using the by then vacant Hittite title of Great King, possibly because of a dynastic claim to the royal house of Hatti. Of these early kings, we know the following by name: Kuzi-Teššub, X-pa-ziti, Ura-Tarhunza and Tudhaliya(?). Next came the House of Suhis with its rulers Suhis I, Astuwalamanzas[4], Suhis II, and Katuwas, who ruled before 870 B.C.E. Also attested is a House of Astiruwas, named after a king called Astiruwas, who was succeeded by the regent Yariris, then Kamanis (son of Astiruwas), [a gap?], Sasturas, Sasturas's son (name not preserved). The house of Astiruwas falls within the gap between Sangara and Pisiri, thus possibly ruling ca. 848–738 B.C.E.

4. Previously read Astuwatamanzas; following the new readings of Yakubovich and Rieken (2010) this should be amended to Astuwalamanzas.

1.2.5. Tell Ahmar

Tell Ahmar is known from Assyrian sources as Til-Barsip, from hieroglyphic inscriptions as Masuwari. It is situated on the east bank of the river Euphrates, some 20 km south of Karkamiš, and holds a strategic position as a Euphrates crossing point. Šalmaneser III took the city in 856 B.C.E. from an Aramean ruler, Ahuni of Bit-Adini, and renamed it Kar-Šalmaneser. It is not entirely clear how long Til-Barsip had been in the hands of the Arameans, however, Luwian control of the site clearly predated this. There are archaeological remains of buildings resembling the style of nearby Karkamiš, destroyed by fire; sculptural remains, too, show stylistic links with Karkamiš, in particular with the Suhis-Katuwas period (tenth to early-ninth century B.C.E.). Both stele fragments and orthostat blocks used to build stone walls remain.

The inscriptions attest a ruling house with two competing lines. The first two kings belonged to the family of Hapatilas; next the family of Hamiyatas provided three kings, until finally power reverted back to the last descendant of Hapatilas's family. Unfortunately, his name is not preserved. An open question is how the author of the inscription ALEPPO 2 (see below, 2.4.4), a certain Arpas, fits into all of this.

1.2.6. Maraş

The Neo-Hittite state of Maraş also shows close links with Karkamiš, and its rulers may have been linked to the Hittite royal house via the line of Tarhuntassa. Indigenous inscriptions all stem from the ninth century B.C.E. Assyrian sources refer to a land Gurgum with its capital Marqas in the period 870–711 B.C.E., after which the area became an Assyrian province. There is very little archaeological data on the ancient state of Maraş, as no excavations or surveys have been undertaken. Luwian inscriptions speak of Maraş as the "Kurkumaean city."

The inscription MARAŞ 1 provides a chronology with seven generations of rulers ca. 1000–800 B.C.E.; three of which can be identified with rulers known from Assyrian sources. Another inscription, MARAŞ 8, provides two further ancestors, yet we do no know whether they also ruled over Maraş. Thus, we can reconstruct the following dynasty: [Astu-waramanzas, Muwatalis,] Laramas I, Muwizis, Halparuntiyas I, Muwatallis, Halparuntiyas II, Laramas II, Halparuntiyas III. Of these, Muwatallis can be identified as Mutalli in Assyrian sources, mentioned for the year 858 B.C.E. as paying tribute to Šalmaneser III; Halparuntiyas II as Qalparunda, attested for the year 853 B.C.E. as submitting to Šalmaneser; Laramas II as Palalam; and Halparuntiyas III as Qalparunda, attested for the year 805 B.C.E. Assyrian sources further mention a king Tarhulara for the years 743, 738, 732 B.C.E. who was dethroned and killed by his son Mutallu in 717 B.C.E.

This crime was promptly avenged by the Assyrian king Sargon II, and Gurgum annexed.

1.2.7. Hama

The modern city of Hama appears in the bible as Hamath, in Assyrian texts as Amat/Ham(m)at. The Neo-Hittite state of Hama provides only a small group of inscriptions, but gained importance as the earliest site from which hieroglyphic inscriptions were known, as outlined above (1.1). Excavations took place under a Danish team from 1931–38 but did not unearth many inscriptions, although some twenty cuneiform tablets were found. Settlement seems to have continued unbroken from the Neolithic to the Islamic period. In the first millennium B.C.E., Luwian kings ruled over Hama until they were replaced by Aramaeans ca. 800 B.C.E. Apart from two early inscriptions (see 2.2.4), the texts from Hama were commissioned by two rulers, Urahilina[5] (known as Irhuleni in Assyrian annals, ca. 853–845 B.C.E.) and his son Uratamis (ca. 840–820 B.C.E.).

1.2.8. Tabal

From the state of Tabal comes the second largest group of hieroglyphic inscriptions, after Karkamiš. Tabal (biblical Tubal) is located in the southeast of the Anatolian plateau, bordering onto the Taurus mountains in the southeast, Melid in the east, Cilicia to the south and Phrygia to the northwest. Tabal consisted of various small city states. By the eighth century B.C.E. these had merged into two, Tabal proper (Assyrian Bit-Burutaš) to the north and Tuwana (classical Tyanitis) to the south. There is little archaeological data on ancient Tabal. The earliest indigenous inscriptions (KIZILDAĞ-KARADAĞ, BURUNKAYA) come from the west, and may date as early as shortly after 1200 B.C.E. In these, a king Hartapus and his father Mursili, possible descendants of the Hittite kings of Tarhuntassa, claim the Hittite title of Great King. No further inscriptions can be dated to the following centuries until the eighth century B.C.E.

One differentiates two groups of inscriptions, one from the south (Tuwana), which provides information on a three generation dynasty of Tuwana: Muwaharanis, Warpalawas (Assyrian Urballa, ca. 738–709 B.C.E.), Muwaharanis. The other group of inscriptions stems from the north (Tabal proper), and attests different rulers, among them the family of Tuwatis and his son Wasusarmas (Assyrian sources record the latter as Wassurme, ca. 738–730 B.C.E.), as well as other rulers such as Kurtis (Assyrian Kurti, attested for the years 718, 713

5. Previously read Urahilina. I follow Yakubovich (2010b: 396 n. 9), who analyses the name as Urahilina, Luw. "(having) a great gate."

B.C.E.?). A particularly late writing style from Tabal is shown by the KULULU lead documents.

Assyrian control of Tabal was less firm than on other regions, and particularly the death of Sargon destabilized their hold over this area. The end of the indigenous hieroglyphic tradition therefore seems not to be due to Assyrian annexation but must have had other reasons. Assyrian texts mention Tabal for a last time in 651 B.C.E. Centuries later it reemerges in classical sources under the name of Cappadocia.

1.3. Biblical Hittites

It is for purely historical reasons that we speak of "Hittites" and the "Hittite" language. The Hittites spoke of themselves as "people of the land of Hatti" (the name given to it by earlier residents of the area, the Hattians), and called their language "Nesite" after the city Kaneš. But by the time the first remains of this civilization were rediscovered by modern scholars, any knowledge of the Hittite Empire had long vanished, and as mentioned above (1.1), the emerging, forgotten civilization was soon linked to *Ḫet*, *ha-ḥittî*, *ḥittîm* and *ḥittiyyot*. References in recently deciphered ancient Egyptian and Assyrian texts to a land of *ḫt'* or *Kheta* (Egyptian) or *Ḫatti* (Assyrian) seemed to confirm the link, and the term "Hittite" is still in use today.

Meanwhile, the question remains how the biblical Hittites fit into what we now know of the Hittite Empire and her successor states. The biblical Hittites do not form one homogenous group. At minimum, one can differentiate between Hittites within and outside of Palestine in the biblical references. Most references are to Palestinian Hittites, while only five passages refer to Hittites outside of Palestine. The land of these Hittites is shown to extend from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean Sea (Jos 1:2–4; Judg 1:26 refers to the same country), an area that includes the territory of the Neo- Hittites states in Syria and southern Anatolia. The "Kings of the Hittites" who traded in horses and cavalry (1 Kgs 10:29; 2 Chr 1:17; 2 Kgs 7:6) must therefore refer to Neo-Hittite kings, and the Hittite wives of Solomon (1 Kgs 11:1) should also be placed in this context. An inscription of the Assyrian King Šalmaneser III attests to contact between Neo-Hittites and Israelites, naming Irhuleni of Hamath and Ahab of Israel as allies of an anti-Assyrian alliance whom he defeated at the Battle of Qarqar in 853 B.C.E. This suggests a living memory of at the very least the Neo-Hittites of Syria among the authors of Old Testament scriptures during the ninth century B.C.E., and presumably thereafter.

But the majority of biblical references to the Hittites show them as natives of Canaan (e.g., Gen 15:19–21; Josh 3:10 refer to the Hittites as a tribe of Pal-

estine; Gen 10:15 states that Heth is a son of Canaan). There is no conclusive evidence that can reconcile this group with any sucessors of the Hittite Empire. Another possibility would be that the Hittites entered the biblical text as an ideological and literary construct, keeping alive the memory of the historical Hittites. A final option would be that these Hittites were an immigrant group, possibly arriving in Palestine after the fall of the Hittite Empire, yet there is no material evidence for this, nor a convincing explanation why such immigrants should be perceived as indigenous.[6]

1.4. The Hieroglyphic Script

The hieroglyphic script is used to record the Luwian language with the help of pictorial signs. These are written "boustrophedon" or "as the ox ploughs," alternating their direction from line to line. In structure if not in appearance, the writing system closely resembles the cuneiform script, distinguishing likewise three different sign types, logograms, determinatives, and syllabograms. A logogram represents an entire word with just one picture. In its simplest form, the glyph depicts the object drawn but it may also depict an object associated with the intended word, such as the king's hat as a symbol for the king, or a word of similar sound. Determinatives are signs used to mark words as belonging to a specific sphere, maybe comparable to using titles such as Mr. and Mrs. to signify gender, but extending to a number of categories. Many of these we can understand while the logic of others eludes us. Syllabic signs are used to represent the sound of the word written with them; in the hieroglyphic writing system, these phonetic signs have the structure vowel (V), consonant-vowel (CV) or consonant-vowel-consonant-vowel (CVCV); a very small number of signs appears not to adhere to this pattern. Logograms and syllabic signs may be used exclusively or in combination, thus a word could be written with the logogram—with or without a phonetic complement, that is, the word end spelled phonetically—with logogram and full phonetic writing or written purely with phonetic signs. This type of writing poses one particular problem to modern readers: the practice of logographic writing may hide the underlying Luwian term, either partially or completely. Some signs may have either a logographic or phonetic reading, and, accordingly, have to be interpreted in the context in which they occur.

Visually, the script is called hieroglyphic because it depicts objects, some of which we can easily identify while others still defy recognition. The majority of hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions survives on monuments of stone, and

6. For recent discussions of the subject, see Gerhards 2009; Collins 2007; Singer 2006.

there we find two ways of writing: either the signs were incised into a smooth surface, or the background was chiselled away so that the signs appear in relief. Among the signs themselves one can differentiate two shapes, a more pictorial, formal shape, and a more linear, cursive one. Scholars interpret the latter as a sign of increased handwritten usage, in the same way that the Egyptians used cursive hieroglyphs on papyrus. That the cursive sign forms that appear on stone monuments reflect the handwritten variant of the script is born out by the few surviving handwritten documents. Mainly, these are inscribed strips of lead. But as very little is preserved outside of the corpus of monumental stone inscriptions, the development of the script as a handwritten medium is, unfortunately, largely lost to us.

Earliest systematic writing can be dated to the fourteenth century B.C.E., when Hittite official and royal seals recorded names and titles with the hieroglyphic script. By the thirteenth century B.C.E., if not before,[7] inscriptions were written in hieroglyphic Luwian. While new inscriptions are still found today, the corpus of Bronze Age texts is, on the whole, not very large, and the surviving longer inscriptions date to the Late Empire period, especially to the last two generations of Hittite kings, Tudhaliya IV (ca. 1237–1209) and Suppiluliuma II (ca. 1205–?). Yet it is after the fall of the Empire, during the Iron Age, that the hieroglyphic script reaches its zenith. Inscriptions became much more numerous, often longer, and the writing system itself continued to develop, too.

The script evolved over the centuries of its usage, and this includes changes both in appearance and writing conventions. For instance, early texts are predominantly written with logograms, using a limited amount of phonetic signs, while later texts prefer phonetic writing, and are also more likely to use cursive sign forms. Individual sign shapes show innovation and change, too. The move away from predominantly logographic writing meant that more signs were used, and this way of writing is very helpful to the modern scholar trying to read these texts, as it records much if not all of the phonetic shape of words, making possible a better understanding of the language. By ca. 1100 B.C.E., when the texts regularly recorded grammatical endings, many phonetic spellings and syntactical features such as particle chains, the script is considered fully developed.[8]

7. This rests mainly on the dating of one object, the ANKARA silver bowl. For a new attempt a reconciling the problems of dating this object, see Durnford 2010.

8. For further discussion of the hieroglyphic script, see Hawkins 2000: 3–6; 2003: 155–59).

1.5. Hieroglyphic Scholarship

The surviving corpus of hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions has grown steadily since the initial findings by Burckhardt and others in Syria, with texts originating from both Syria and Anatolia. Early on, newly deciphered texts from Babylon and Egypt provided some context, confirming the existence of a great Hittite Empire in this area. A first corpus of Hieroglyphic texts was published by Leopold Messerschmidt between 1900 and 1906, which included thirty-two major and twenty-nine minor texts, and a collection of epigraphs and seals. Yet early attempts to decipher the script were not very successful, and it is worth emphasizing that they were made without a bilingual text of reasonable length or even linguistic context; the archives of the Hittite Empire were not discovered until 1906. There was only a mini bilingual, a problematic digraphic seal—that is, written in cuneiform and hieroglyphs—known as the TARKONDEMOS seal. A major breakthrough was the discovery of clay tablets in the archives of the Hittite capital Hattusa. These instantly provided much information on the Hittite Empire in easily readable Akkadian texts, and the decoding of the Hittite language provided the necessary linguistic background to proceed with the decipherment of the hieroglyphic script. Most unexpectedly, Hittite turned out to be an Indo-European language. The cuneiform tablets provided knowledge not only of Hittite but also of its Anatolian relatives Luwian and Palaic.

The corpus of hieroglyphic inscriptions continued to grow, major contributions came from archaeological campaigns in Karkamiš (1911–1914) and Tell Ahmar (1929–1931) on the Euphrates. The Boğazköy excavations produced several hundred seal impressions, some of them digraphic. Finally, decipherment attempts began to bear fruit. The language was seen to be similar but not identical to Hittite and Cuneiform Luwian. There were five scholars in particular who, independently, worked with the available material: Piero Meriggi, Ignaz Gelb, Emil Forrer, Helmuth Theodor Bossert, and Bedrich Hrozný. Between them, they correctly identified many logographic and syllabic signs and worked out a sketch of the grammar. Yet erroneous readings kept these early results unreliable.

A most important discovery was made in 1946, when Bossert and Halet Çambel found the long bilingual of KARATEPE. The Luwian-Phoenician bilingual consists of seventy-five clauses, and survives in several copies. It is still the longest Hieroglyphic inscription known today. This text enabled scholars to confirm provisional readings and establish new ones, although it was not straight away fully exploited to discard erroneous readings. However, it greatly contributed to the knowledge of vocabulary and language. Further material was provided by seal impressions found at Ras Šamra, ancient Ugarit in 1953 and 1954.

Emanuel Laroche, a French linguist, and the Italian scholar Piero Meriggi worked on the hieroglyphic script and published important study tools in the 1960s, a sign list (Laroche 1960), glossary (Meriggi 1962), and text corpus (1966; 1967; 1975). Both already acknowledged the affinity of the language recorded with the hieroglyphic script with Cuneiform Luwian, yet a few erroneous readings of crucial signs obscured its exact relationship to Luwian and Hittite. In particular Bossert and Hermann Mittelberger began to question the reading of specific signs. Finally, certain readings were corrected with the help of new material in the shape of inscribed pithoi from Altıntepe. These new readings were announced in 1973 and published in 1974 in a joint article by John David Hawkins, Anna Morpurgo Davies, and Günter Neumann, and are now generally accepted. Since then, our understanding of the language has continued to grow, and recent years have seen several important additions to study tools such as the final publication of the KARATEPE bilingual by Halet Çambel, Hawkins's Corpus of Iron Age Inscriptions, and a volume on the Luwians edited by Craig Melchert, to name but a few. New text finds and insights keep this subject very dynamic, yet at the same time many open questions remain.

For instance, why was a new script invented at a time and among people who already wrote cuneiform? As long as the very beginnings of the hieroglyphic script remain obscure, we can only speculate, but it is impossible not to. There are four main differences between cuneiform and the hieroglyphic script: cuneiform is an abstract script, an international medium that came to Anatolia as an outside, foreign script invention, and was mainly used for administrative purposes on clay tablets. The hieroglyphs, meanwhile, are a pictorial, local script and an autochthonous script invention. They mainly survive on monuments, used for commemoration or display.

If we compare the two scripts and consider their advantages and disadvantages, we note several points in favor of the hieroglyphic script: As an autochthonous script invention they carried prestige. Inventing a writing system is clearly a great achievement, as we know by the reaction to different script inventions in history. It is quite possible that the script was a symbol of power, either as an intentional comparison with mighty Egypt, or at least with other peoples who had invented scripts. Further, using the script on monuments is a way of presenting oneself. The hieroglyphs, rooted as they are in the Hittite artistic tradition, are an expression of how the Hittites wanted to see themselves, and might additionally have been one means of forging an identity within a multiethnic state. And last but not least, picture-signs have the advantage of directly communicating with the onlooker, offering a level of recognition even to people who cannot read. While such a person would not have understood the text itself, he may have recognized common elements such as the names of gods, kings, and cities, and thus would have had at least minimal access to the text.

Undeniably, there are also disadvantages. Effective communication with this script was only possible between trained scribes—of which there would have been, at least initially, far fewer than cuneiform scribes. This was certainly a contributing factor why the script did not spread on an international level. Also, in comparison to cuneiform, the hieroglyphic script is badly suited to recording final consonants or consonant clusters, as it lacks the category of vowel-consonant signs. And clearly, the script was more difficult to draw than abstract cuneiform, and especially, to carve into stone.

1.6. Texts

The surviving hieroglyphic text corpus divides into two periods, Bronze and Iron Age. The majority of texts stem from the Iron Age. The few longer inscriptions from the Bronze Age pose added difficulties, for instance, they use a high number of logographic writings and add few grammatical endings, which makes them considerably harder to understand. Hieroglyphic inscriptions are conventionally named after their place of origin (in capital letters), and in the case of several inscription from one place, they are also numbered. As mentioned above, the great majority of inscriptions survive on stone monuments because the material is very durable. We know that hieroglyphs were also used in less formal contexts on other materials, but only very few examples of this type of usage have survived. In particular, this means that most of the extant text corpus is limited to a few literary genres. Commemorative, dedicatory, and building inscriptions abound, whereas private communication is almost extinct. This also limits the historical value of these texts, since many revert to recurring topoi and standard formulae. While this is testimony to the authors identifying with and continuing an ongoing tradition, it often provides disappointingly little information.

1.7. Kingship: Religion and Power

A few more words on the position of the king seem to be in order, since many of the preserved inscriptions were commissioned by rulers, and often portray the person of the king, and also his relationship with various deities. Where applicable, this will be also commented on below. Every king had personal gods with whom he maintained a close relationship; indeed, a typical form of representation since the Empire period shows the king in the embrace of his personal deity (e.g., on the rock reliefs of Yazılıkaya). Frequently, kings named the head of the Luwian pantheon, the Storm God Tarhunza, as their chief personal god. They

acted as his representative on earth, holding supreme power among men, as the Storm God did among gods. Often, the king would call himself the servant of the Storm God, "beloved" by him, and by other gods, too. Kingship was justified by divine appointment, one often encounters the phrase "he/they (one or several gods) gave me my paternal succession." This implies both a system of hereditary, dynastic rule and of divine entitlement. The former could be overturned, as numerous interdynastic struggles and usurpations attest, while the latter would generally be claimed by the successful occupant of the throne. Kings played a central role in organized religion, from instigating the cult of a particular god, allocating regular provisions for a specific deity to performing in a ritual ceremony. But religion was only one aspect of ancient Near Eastern kingship. The king also represented supreme power in both military and judicial affairs. Neither is, of course, surprising, and we find many references to both in the hieroglyphic texts. Kings claimed military success—often expressed as the result of divine favur and preferment (see., e.g., 2.4.3). War, however, was not the only means of demonstrating strength and power, related subjects that frequently recur are hunting—the equivalent to warfare in times of peace—and building activities. The latter comprise urban architecture as a symbol of wealth and position, religious monuments and the building of fortresses, strengthening of borders and resettlement of depopulated areas, concluding and possibly crowning a successful military campaign. Judging by the number of inscriptions set up to commemorate some kind of building activity, sometimes in conjunction with establishing a cult, this was certainly a very important aspect of Neo-Hittite kingship. Finally, we infer that the king would have been the uppermost judicial authority, as he was during the Hittite Empire period. There is little concrete evidence for this as no archives of legal documents survive, yet there is one phrase that is encountered very frequently: many positive statements about the king are introduce with "because of my justice" (the gods loved me, etc.). Clearly, justice is an important constituent of kingship, and would qualify the king for the position of chief lord of justice. And not only did kings pride themselves in being just, they would also, occasionally, show mercy, for instance by exiling offenders rather than reverting to more draconian measures (see, e.g., 2.3.5).