SULUCA KARAHÖYÜK: A COMMERCIAL CONTEXT IN CENTRAL CAPPADOCIA IN LIGHT OF DEPAS AMPHIKYPELLON FINDINGS AND A FOOT-SHAPED STAMP SEAL

SULUCA KARAHÖYÜK: DEPAS AMPHIKYPELLON VE AYAK BİÇİMLİ DAMGA MÜHÜR BULUNTULARI IŞIĞINDA MERKEZİ KAPADOKYA'DA BİR TİCARİ KONTEKS

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Anahtar Kelimeler: Anadolu, Kapadokya, Suluca Karahöyük, Erken Tunç Çağı, Ticaret, Depas Amphikypellon, Ayak Biçimli Damga Mühür.

ABSTRACT

This article consists of the study of a foot shaped stamp seal and three pieces of Depas Amphikypellon findings which were discovered during the Suluca Höyük excavations but haven't been published. Suluca Karahöyük which is located in Central Cappadocia (in Halys curve) has close relationships with Western Anatolia and Aegean World as well as Central Anatolian cultures in terms of its location. Two of the Suluca Karahöyük Depas belongs to a group observed after Troia IIg according to type definition of Christian Podzuweit and its existence continued in Troia III layer. Current findings have contributed to the increase in the number of types. Especially the distribution and types in Central Anatolia have shown that they were produced locally in different centers in the inner parts as well as in Kültepe types. The last depas is similar to the type of the Pisidia. However ware properties are closer to local groups. The foot shaped stamp seal made from terracotta is dated to the end of EBA II and mid of EBA III according to finding locations and it is in accordance with routes of "Great Caravan Road" frame of which drawn by Turan Efe. However, they consist of only a few examples between the Syrian-Cilicia region and the North Aegean.

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The Suluca Karahöyük findings which are dated between late EBA II and mid of EBA III, provide new contributions to the view of Anatolia continental trade and its relations with coastal areas.

ÖZET

Suluca Karahöyük kazıları sırasında bulunmuş fakat yayınlanmamış bir ayak biçimli damga mühür ve üç adet Depas Amphikypellon bu yazının konusunu oluşturmaktadır. Merkezi Kapadokya'da (Kızılırmak Kavsinde) bulunan Suluca Karahöyük, konumu bakımından Orta Anadolu kültürleriyle olduğu kadar Batı Anadolu ve Ege Dünyasıyla da yakın ilişkiler kurmuştur. Suluca Karahöyük Depaslarından ikisi, Christian Podzuweit'in tip tanımına göre Troia IIg'den sonra gözlemlenen ve varlığı Troia III tabakasında devam eden bir gruba aittir. Güncel buluntular tip sayısının artmasına katkı sağlamıştır. Özellikle Orta Anadolu'daki yayılımı ve tipleri, Kültepe tiplerinde olduğu gibi, üretimin iç kesimlerdeki farklı merkezlerde yerel olarak da üretildiğini göstermiştir. Sonuncu depas Pisidya tipinin benzeridir. Fakat mal özellikleri yerel hamur gruplarına daha yakındır. Pişmiş topraktan yapılmış ayak biçimli damga mühür, buluntu yerlerine göre ETÇ II sonu ile ETÇ III ortalarına tarihlendirilmektedir ve Turan Efe'nin çizdiği "Büyük Kervan Yolu" güzergâhıyla uyumludur. Ancak bunlar Suriye-Kilikya bölgesi ile Kuzey Ege arasında az sayıdaki örnekten ibarettir. ETÇ II sonu ile İTÇ III ortalarına tarihlenen Suluca Karahöyük bulguları, Anadolu kıta ticaretine ve kıyı alanları ile olan ilişkilerine yeni katkılar sağlamıştır.

INTRODUCTION

Located 45 km to the north of Nevşehir that might be regarded as the center of Cappadocia today, Suluca Karahöyük is in Savat Neighborhood in the district of Hacıbektaş. In other words, it is located within the southernmost node of the arc of Halys (Kızılırmak). The mound is 250 m long in the north-south direction and 220 m wide in the east-west direction, and its height exceeds 20 m (Figs. 1 - 2)[1].



Figure 1: Suluca Karahöyük, view from Northwest / *Suluca Karahöyük, Kuzeydoğudan.*



Figure 2: Suluca Karahöyük, view from Southeast Slope / *Suluca Karahöyük, Güneydoğu Yamacı.*

The first introductory information and visual record was given by Hans H. von der Osten[2]. Even though the excavation of the mound was carried out uninterruptedly between 1967 and 1978 by Kemal Balkan and Osman Sümer, only two reports on the first two years of the excavation (1967 and 1968) were published[3]. Excavations by 1975 were introduced by means of brief reports kept by Machteld J. Mellink[4]. Another brief paper on the excavations carried out under the presidency of Hacıbektaş Archaeology Museum was published most recently in 1991[5]. Suluca Karahöyük depas amphikypellon findings, which are among the findings of Suluca Karahöyük which has been represented with seven layers from the Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine period (Fig. 3). These findings reveal some significant datas about not only the settlement but also the Near Eastern archaeology, and a foot-shaped stamp seal in the context of these findings constitute the subject of this paper.

Stratigraphy			
Stratum		Period	Level (m)
I-II		Byzantine - Roman Empire - Hellenistic	1.00-2.00
III		Phrygian	2.30-3.00
IV	a	Phrygian / Post-Hittite - Hittite Empire - Old Hittites - Old Assyrian	3.10-5.50
	b		
V	a	Bronze Age	5.50-6.50
	b		
	c		
VI		Bronze Age	5.50-8.00
Recorded as "under VI"		Bronze Age	8.00-11.00

Figure 3: Stratigraphy of Suluca Karahöyük (according to Inventory Registry) / *Müze Envanter Kayıtlarına Göre Suluca Karahöyük Tabakalanması*

The cups which were unearthed after the excavations in Troy, which were long and thin in terms of their main shape and had a cylindrical body, a slightly everted rim, and a flat, round or pointed base, and whose rounded-section handles ascending symmetrically above the base were attached to the body before reaching the rim were identified as "depas amphikypellon" by Heinrich Schliemann by thinking that they were the cups Homer had mentioned in his epic 'Iliad'[6]. To solve the problem of misunderstanding the designation 'depas amphikypellon' that was mentioned in the work by Homer, Kurt Bittel[7] proposed a different designation and considered that it would be appropriate to identify the cup as "the Two-Handled Beaker of Troy". On the other hand, Hubert Schmidt[8] considered that it would be enough to call it only 'Becher'. Besides their above-mentioned definition, they have a general color feature as being burnished in the shades of red in particular and of brown and grey. Their surface treatment can be performed by either leaving them plain in their

[1] Türker 2012a: 403.
[2] von der Osten 1930: 134, 135 ff., Map I-II, Fig. 138-139.
[3] Balkan/Sümer 1968: 15 ff; 1969: 37 ff.
[4] Mellink 1968: 131; Mellink 1969: 208; Mellink 1970: 162; Mellink 1971: 165; Mellink 1972: 170; Mellink 1973: 173; Mellink 1974: 110; Mellink 1975: 205; Mellink 1976: 266.
[5] Mercan 1992.
[6] Schliemann 1881: 299 ff.; Kretschmer 1931; Spanos 1972: 13; Hout 1982: 541 ff.
[7] Bittel 1934: 13, note 2.
[8] Schmidt 1902: 31.

paste color or applying slip. The application of colors in different shades at the handle level and grooved-incised decorations are prevalent decoration characteristics. All specimens of depas cups were made out of terracotta. An exceptional silver specimen found by the villagers nearby Troy[9] encourages one to think that the metal imitations of these cups were imitated.

Mostly called "depas" today, these drinking cups have been distributed over an extensive area. These drinking cups can be seen in the north-west (Thrace), south-west (Pisidia), and south (Cilicia) of Anatolia and the inner areas generally known as Cappadocia in Anatolia. Many findings obtained from the excavations and brought to the museums by purchasing demonstrate that depas cups were distributed over a more extensive area in Anatolia. The region of the Greek mainland and its islands in the west, the Balkans in the north and Cilicia, the Amuk Plain, Northern Syria and Euphrates in the south are the regions where depas cups were distributed outside Anatolia (Fig. 4)[10]. The common characteristics of depas cups within them and/or their evident differences encourage one to think that they might have been produced at least in three different places in Anatolia.

STRATIFICATION AND CONTEXT

The layer and context of the excavations at Suluca Karahöyük can be learned from the brief information presented by the excavation reports and from the brief records in the Inventory Book for the Works in the Museum. The findspots of the works were provided according to the depth codes of the trenches in the early years of the excavation, whereas the sequence of layers was kept substantially regularly in the post-1970 records in particular. Nevertheless, no layer information is available for many works. The excavations launched in the zero code were terminated in the codes 4.0-4.5 m or 6.0-6.5 m in most of the trenches. That a depth of 8 m was reached was provided in several records, while some of the records showed that it was excavated as deep as 11.0 m (Fig. 3). According to the information conveyed by the excavators and the Inventory Book for the Works in the Museum, Suluca Karahöyük is comprised of seven layers.

[9] Barnett 1963-1964: 80, Fig. XXIX b.

[10] See the Figure 4 for map: Bittel 1949: Abb. 7; French 1969: 21, Fig. 50, 55; Spanos 1972: 13, 48 ff.; Hout 1982: Pl. 239-244, Carte 62; Hüryılmaz 1995: Map; Kontani 1995: 109 ff.; Broodbank 2000; Akdeniz 2001: 19 ff.; Korfmann 2001: fig. 385 and 398; Alram-Stern 2004: 157 ff.; Çalış-Sazcı 2006: Fig. 2, 5; Yılmaz 2010, Map 1; Rahmstorf 2006: Abb. 3; Şahoğlu 2014: 290; Türktüzün/Ünan/Ünal 2014: 57 ff., Fig. 17 (Three depas were found at the Çiledir Höyük, personal interview with Serdar Ünan); Leshtakov 2014: Fig. 2 and 8; Bilgen/Kuru 2015; Dönmez 2016: Map. 1; Okur/Yıldız/Elmaağaç/Kulakoğlu 2016.

DEPAS AMPHIKYPELLON FINDINGS

The depas cups of Suluca Karahöyük were unearthed in three different areas – all in Layer V of the settlement – in the years 1970, 1974, and 1975 of the excavation in three different excavation seasons. As of the excavation studies in 1974, the grid-square information was provided besides the land information and Layer V was divided into two sub-phases as "Va" and "Vb".

Depas Sk-1

The first depas Sk-1 (Fig. 5) was unearthed on the south-western slope of the mound (Trench B, Level V) in the studies of 1970 (Inv. Hb/d-4, No. 331)[11]. It has a direct rim which widens outwards, a long cylindrical body which is conical inwards, a round base, and a shape which widens towards the base. Its two rounded handles originating from the upper level of the base – from the level at which the body slightly widens – are mutually attached near the rim on the upper half of the body. Its rim diameter is 10.0 cm; its height is 16.7 cm; the width of the body at its narrowest part is 4.8 cm; and its handle thickness is 1.2 cm. The vertical segment marks with wide spaces in between provided from beneath the width of the direct rim to the base on the exterior of the body are hardly visible. It is wheelmade. Its well - baked brown (10 R 5/6) paste is white mica- and sand-tempered. The interior of the cup has the same color with its paste. Starting from the interior half of the body, the entire exterior including the base was well-slipped and well-burnished. From the wiping marks, it is clear that the burnish was applied vertically on the surface. The body surface and the exterior of the handle are light brown (5 R 4/6), whereas the interior of the handle, the handle level and the surface of the cup immediately above the handle are tile red (2.5 YR 4/4)[12].

Depas Sk-2

The second depas Sk-2 (Fig. 6) was unearthed on the south-south eastern slope of the mound (Trench H, U-V/17-18, Level Vb) in the studies of 1975 (Inv. Hb/i-16, No. 1087). It has a direct rim which widens outwards, a long cylindrical body which slightly narrows inwards, a round base, and a shape which slightly widens towards the base. Its two rounded handles originating from the

[11] An image of this depas was previously published in the museum catalogue (Edgü 1983: 122, A 276) however its inventory number was provided incorrectly.

[12] An almost exact analogue of the work in terms of both shape and size is available in the Louvre Museum (de Genouillac 1926: 44, AO. 9520, Pl. 49/112) today, and Kültepe was recorded as its findspot. Blegen/Caskey/Rawson 1951: 209 considered this findspot suspicious.

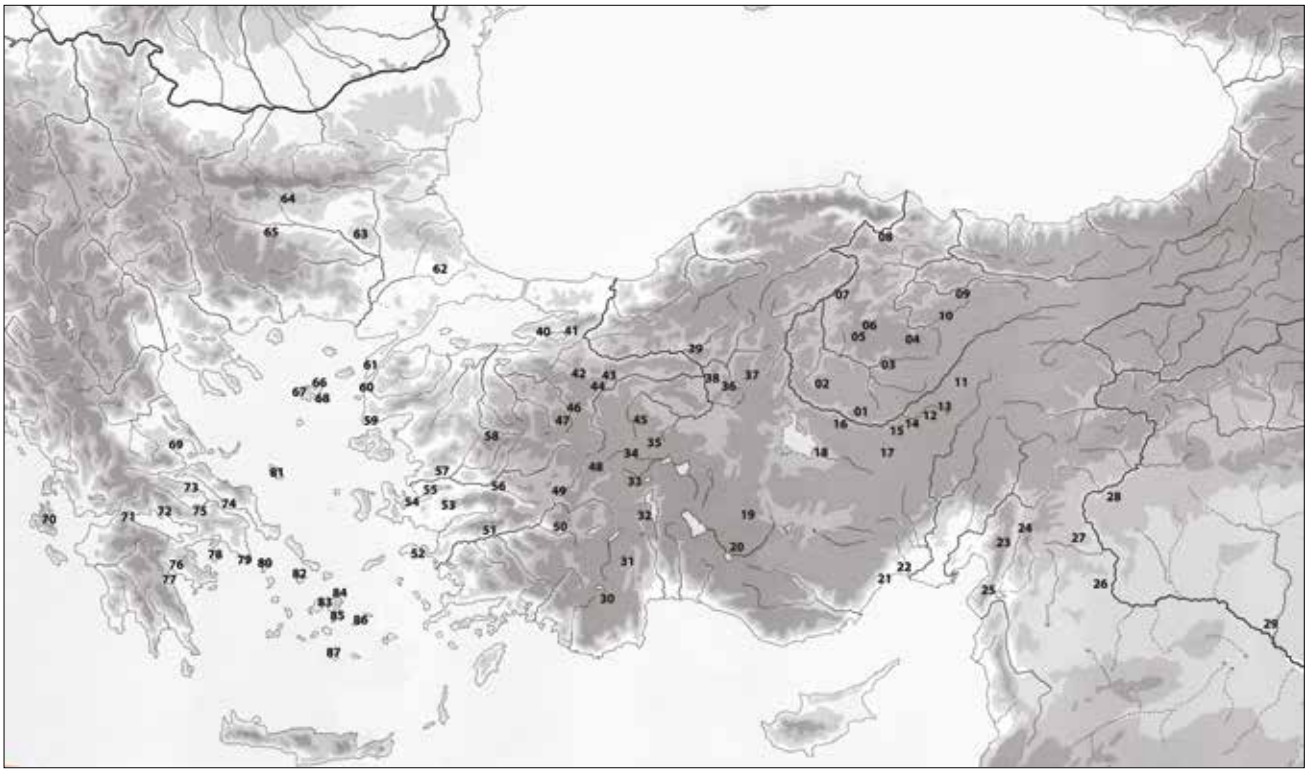


Figure 4: Sites with finds of Depas Amphikypellon (with current findings): 1) Suluca Karahöyük, 2) Hashöyük, 3) Battal, 4) Alişar, 5) Boğazköy, 6) Alaca Höyük, 7) Resuloğlu, 8) Oymaağaç, 9) Ulutepe, 10) Maşathöyük, 11) Sultanhan, 12) Kültepe, 13) Inler Cave, 14) Yağmurköy, 15) Hacı Hafer (Hacafer), 16) Topakhöyük-Ovaören, 17) Sindirli / Sındırlı, 18) Acemhöyük, 19) Konya-Karahöyük, 20) Ortakaraviran / Ortakaraören, 21) Yumuktepe, 22) Tarsus-Gözlükule, 23) Zincirli, 24) Gedikli-Karahöyük, 25) Tell Tayinat, 26) Selenkahiye, 27) Tilbeşar, 28) Titriş Höyük, 29) Tell Bi'a, 30) Karataş-Semayük, 31) Bademağacı, 32) Harmanören, 33) Maltepe, 34) Kaklık Mevkii, 35) Emirdağ, 36) Polatlı-Karahöyük, 37) Karaoğlan, 38) Gordion / Yassıhöyük, 39) Asarcık-Ilıca Höyük, 40) Ilıpınar, 41) Çakırca, 42) Bozüyük, 43) Aharköy, 44) Demircihüyük, 45) Küllüoba, 46) Seyitömer, 47) Çiledir Höyük, 48) Kusura, 49) Beycesultan, 50) Pekmeztepe / Aphrodisias, 51) Bahçetepe, 52) Heraion-Samos, 53) Bakla Tepe, 54) Limantepe, 55) Bayraklı, 56) Ulucak Höyük, 57) Panaztepe, 58) Sındırgı, 59) Assos, 60) Troy, 61) Protesilas (Karaağaçtepe), 62) Aşağı Pınar, 63) Baa Dere, 64) Tell Galabovo, 65) Konstantia-Assara, 66) Koukonisi, 67) Myrina, 68) Poliochni, 69) Pevkakia Magula, 70) Pelikata, 71) Helike, 72) Aghia Triada, 73) Mitrou, 74) Manika, 75) Orchomenos, 76) Tiryns, 77) Lerna, 78) Kolonna-Aegina, 79) Thorikos, 80) Aghia Irini, 81) Palamari-Skyros, 82) Kastri-Syros, 83) Grotta-Naxos, 84) Zas-Naxos, 85) Daskleio-Kavos, 86) Markiani, 87) Akrotiri-Thera. / *Güncel Bilgilere Göre Depas Amphikypellon Bulgusu Veren Yerler*

upper level of the base – from the level at which the body slightly widens – are mutually attached near the rim on the upper half of the body. Its rim diameter is 12.1 cm; its height is 27.0 cm; the width of the body in its narrowest part is 6.6 cm; and its handle thickness is 1.9 cm. It is wheelmade. Its well - baked brown (5 YR 5/4) paste is white mica- and sand-tempered. The interior of the cup is in the color of its paste. Starting from the upper half of the body on the interior and including its base, it is entirely well-slipped and well-burnished. The body surface and the exterior of the handle are orangish tile red (10 R 5/8), whereas the interior of the handle, the surface of the cup at the handle level and the area up to the lower level of the rim are brown (2.5 YR 4/4).



Figure 5: Depas Amphikypellon Sk-1 (Hb/d-4, No. 331), Layer V. / *Depas Amphikypellon Sk-1 (Hb/d-4, No. 331), V. Tabaka.*

Depas Sk-3

The third depas Sk-3 (Fig. 7) was unearthed on the southern – south eastern slope of the mound (Trench H, U-V/17-18, Level Vb) in the studies of 1974 (Inv. Hb/h-58, No. 962). Only the lower half of the body of depas and its handle connection part have been preserved, and its broken upper half has been restored with plaster[13]. It has a cylindrical body and a round base. Its body has been narrowed slightly in size towards its base. It has two

[13] The work was drawn by us according to its restored version, Türker 2012b: Fig. 7.



Figure 6: Depas Amphikypellon Sk-2 (Hb/i-16, No. 1087), Layer Vb. / *Depas Amphikypellon Sk-2 (Hb/i-16, No. 1087), Vb Tabakası.*

mutual rounded handles originating from the upper level of the base. Five horizontal groove decorations have been incised at frequent intervals from the upper part of the round base to the level where the handles were attached, and six horizontal groove decorations were incised at frequent intervals approximately up to the central level of the body. It is wheelmade. Its hardly fired nonporous brown (2.5 YR 4/3) paste is sparsely grit-tempered. The interior of the wiped cup is greyish brown (2.5 YR 4/2). The exterior of the cup was generally brown (2.5 YR 4/4) slipped and well-burnished and some of its parts is dark brown (5 YR 5/2) slipped. Its body width is 6.0 cm; its handle thickness is 1.5 cm; and the preserved height of the cup is 8.3 cm. The handles restored after the excavation and the upper half of the cup were completed to have a direct rim; thus, its rim diameter is measured as 9.3 cm and its height as 15.3 cm.



Figure 7: Depas Amphikypellon Sk-3 (Hb/h-58, No. 962), Layer Vb. / *Depas Amphikypellon Sk-31 (Hb/h-58, No. 962), Vb Tabakası.*

A FOOT-SHAPED STAMP SEAL

It was found in the same context as that of Sk-2 on the southern-south-eastern slope of the mound (Trench H, U-V/17-18, Level Vb) in the studies of 1975 (Inv. Hb/i-47, No. 1118) (Fig. 8). Its well – baked buff paste consists of both limestone and sand (7.5 YR 8/4). Both of its surfaces are light tile red (5 YR 6/6). In addition, it can be understood from the hardly visible incised marks that the slip of the surface in the dark side is grinded during the shaping process (5 YR 5/6). It is 4.1 cm in height, 4.5 cm in width, and 0.8 cm in thickness. The only hole made approximately at the ankle level close to the foot base level is 0.45 cm in diameter. It was intended to make a second hole on the left-hand side of the foot; however, it was left half-done without making any holes. Grooved/ fluted incisions were made on the printing surface at wide angles on the horizontal line and at right angles on the vertical line, with some spaces of them being narrower, and the higher parts in between were either rounded or shaped by roughly sharpening. The printing surface was made thinner towards the tip of the foot. Similar grooved/ fluted incisions were applied to both close edges of the back; however, its central part was left empty spaciously. Its upper and front edges were grinded. The body of the seal was slightly curved leftwards, and it might be thought that it was manufactured from a vessel piece.

COMPARISON AND EVALUATION

The first two depas cups (Sk-1 and Sk-2, Figs. 5-6) of Suluca Karahöyük resemble each other except for some small differences. The direct rim which widens outwards, the round base[14], the origination and ending points of handles and the extension of handles are the shape characteristics which catch the eye first. On the other hand, the baking characteristics of the paste, the quality of slip and burnish and their colors are the features of fabrication. In addition, it is also striking that slip and burnish start from the half of interior body of the cup and are applied to the entire surface on the exterior surface of the cup. Likewise, wide surfaces and handle painted in different tone. The variation of colors at the handle level is a popular painting preference for both of them. Besides, they are also strikingly similar because the long cylindrical body first slightly narrows inwards and then widens again towards the round base and the rim diameters are provided at the rate of half of body in both of them. Bot are 'S' profilse. The differences can be explained as having different sizes and the fact that the small depas (Sk-1) forms hardly visible vertical segments with wide spaces on the body surface. The first difference of

[14] As expressed previously (Yılmaz 2010: 52, Map 1), the base of these depas cups is not flat but round.



Figure 8: Foot-Shaped Stamp Seal (Hb/i-47, No. 1118), Layer Vb. / *Ayak Biçimli Damga Mühür (Hb/i-47, No. 1118), Vb Tabakası.*

the third depas (Sk-3, Fig. 7) that catches the eye is its grooved decoration and its color. Another difference is that its paste consists of only sand. As the upper half of the cup could not be preserved, it is not be known whether the slip and burnish applications continued on the interior. In spite of lack of information, the place where the handle is attached to the body, the slight narrowing of the body and its round base indicate some characteristics known in the other two depas cups.

Of all regions where the depas cups are distributed, the settlement of Troy (Troy I-V) provides an opportunity of monitoring the development of these cups and of comparing their chronological points of contact in terms of their number greater than sixty and diversity of shapes[15]. When classifying the Trojan depas cups, Christian Podzuweit[16] expressed that with exceptions, the depas cups with a round base occurred in Troy IIg and that there were interventions in the body surface as decorations again as of this layer. He stated that the expansion in the rim began as of Troy I and was encountered in most specimens in Layer II and observed that the feature of the everted rim was provided as of Troy III[17]. On the other hand, Peter Z. Spanos[18] states that the continuity of slipping and burnishing inside the cup is a feature which originated in Troy II. The above-mentioned characteristics are also known from depas cups Sk-1 and Sk-2 at Suluca Karahöyük. Besides, the feature that the shape becomes thinner in the middle of the body and widens again towards the base in Troy II and III[19] is again evident in depas cups Sk-1 and Sk-2. The handles are closer to the base and the base sits on a rather wider area in Troy Layer I[20], whereas it is realized that the handles begin to be attached as of slightly above the base and have a more fragile-look as of Troy Layer II (as in Sk-1 and Sk-2). Furthermore, the case of making a rather high curve, which the handles display before being attached to the upper half of the body as of Troy Layer II, is not seen in the depas cups of Suluca Karahöyük, and the handles of Sk-1 and Sk-2 are attached to the body at the level of the curve width. According to the findings by the above-mentioned researchers and our observations, it is possible to determine the lower limit in the dating of depas cups Sk-1 and Sk-2 at Suluca Karahöyük with the late phase of Troy II.

Depas Sk-3, which resembles the other two depas cups in terms of shape but differs from them in its paste feature, surface color, and the horizontal grooved decorations on its body, is identified as a Pisidia-type depas cup in the literature[21]. The specimen of Suluca Karahöyük has an exceptional appearance with its more elegant appearance and the different arrangement of its thin and horizontal flutes among the samples of this type, together with the specimen found in the 12th layer of Kültepe[22]. As in the other two specimens, depas cups of this type are generally dated to the late EBA, particularly EBA IIIa-b, by their researchers[23].

When considered specifically in Cappadocia, it is seen that depas findings appear in two main shapes. The ones which identified locally and called "Anatolischen Becher"[24] are bell-shaped, flat, concave or convex and known with a relatively small number of specimens[25]. This type is unavailable at Suluca Karahöyük. On the other hand, those with a thin and long shape, known as the West Anatolian-type, are the depas cups outlined above and distributed over a much more extensive area and they are available in such a number that will not be underestimated in Central Cappadocia as compared with the other regions. Even if we are

[15] Blegen/Caskey/Rawson 1951. So far, 328 depas-type cups have been recorded in Kültepe (Ezer 2014b: 138), 130 in Küllüoba (Türkteki 2012: 64), and 17 in Poliochni (Spanos 1972: 49). Moreover, the number was expressed to be in tens at Alaca Höyük (personal interview with Aykut Çınaroğlu).

[16] Podzuweit 1979: 151, Pl. 6, Type 1AII.

[17] Podzuweit 1979: 151.

[18] Spanos 1972: 59.

[19] Podzuweit 1979: Pl. 6, Type AII, AIII. This feature is an exception in a single specimen in Troy I, See also Podzuweit 1979: Type AIc.

[20] For comparison, see Podzuweit 1979, Taf. 6, 27, Type AIa-c.

[21] Hout 1982: 544 ff.; Efe 1988: 164; Hüryılmaz 1995: 177 ff.; Akdeniz 2001: 19 ff.; Aykurt/Kaya 2005: 2; Yılmaz 2010: 47, note 9.

[22] Öktü 1973: 184, Pl. 54, I-c/05.

[23] Öktü 1973: 184; Efe 1988: 101 ff., 164; Aykurt/Kaya 2005: 2, 4 ff.

[24] Özgüç 1957: 74 ff.

[25] Known from Kültepe (Özgüç 1957: Pl. 28; 1986: Fig. 3.16-18, 26, 28; Orthmann 1963: Pl. 1, 1/08; Ezer 2014a: Fig. 10.3-6, 11.1; 2014b: Pl. 1, Type 2-3, Fig. 5-7), Alishar (Schmidt 1932: Pl. I, b 139; Orthmann 1963: Pl. 11, 2/73), Tarsus (Goldman 1956: 142 ff) and Küllüoba (Efe 2007: Fig. 12d), this type was not evaluated within the scope of our study.

unable to encounter any depas findings in our survey in the close vicinity of Suluca Karahöyük, presence of the last phase of this period can be observed in the settlements where EBA findings can be found. The current number of depas pieces in Kültepe, the closest findspot, has reached up to 328[26]. Depas findings are also known from more than one center in the Kayseri region such as Yağmurköy[27], Sultanhanı, Hacı Hafer (Hacafer), and Sindirli (Sindelhöyük)[28]. The last one has been found as dead gift in Inler necropolis near Kültepe[29]; this is almost exactly the same as our depas Sk-2.

Depas cups are widely distributed in the north[30], south, south-east, and immediately to the east[31] of this line. This eastern line is also quite widely used on the Central Anatolia – Upper Euphrates route in the EBA period[32]. This usage is common in the second half of the third millennium BC with Western Anatolian connection[33]. Likewise, many depas cups in the Syrian cultural zone are also related to Central but not Western Anatolia[34]. Hence, apart from the coastal route, it is necessary to revise the terrestrial line called "the Great Caravan Road" and initiates from Tarsus in a way which includes Central Cappadocia as well. Two specimens of the wheelmade bowls considered regarding this route[35] are also available at Suluca Karahöyük (see Appendix). In addition, the presence of foot-shaped stamp seals – a specific finding in this relationship – at Suluca Karahöyük constitutes a clear indication on the route of the terrestrial commercial network. The fact that the thick versions of similar stamp seals have also been found in the northern Alaca Höyük, Resuloğlu[36], Oluz Höyük and two samples in Çorum Museum[37] also necessitates a much wider definition of the Anatolian commercial network.

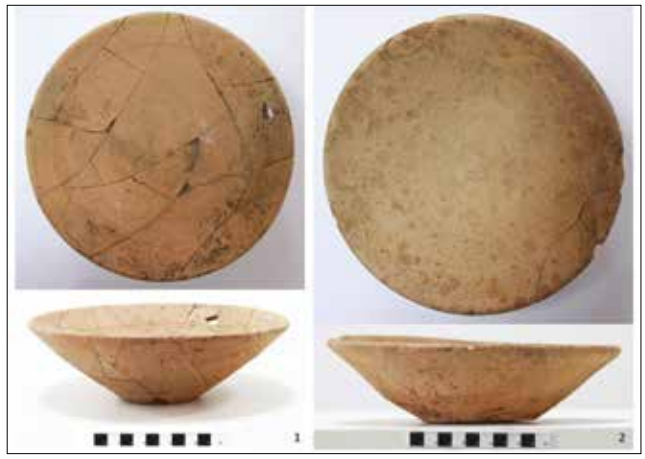


Figure 9: Wheelmade Bowl (Hb/f-56-57, No. 622-623), Layer VI. / *Çark Yapımı Çanaklar (Hb/f-56-57, No. 622-623), VI. Tabaka.*

APPENDIX

Two more brief issues should be mentioned in the appendix of this paper. The first one is two wheelmade bowls, whereas the other one encompasses some thoughts about the function of depas cups.

The two wheelmade bowls (Fig. 9) found together in the excavations of 1972 at Suluca Karahöyük (Trench D, I-J/17-18, Level VI) are of "Troy A2" type. Except for their nuances, the two bowls resemble in shape, fabrication, and colors. The orangish buff (5 YR 7/6) paste of the first (Inv. Hb/f-56, No. 622) bowl is yellow mica-tempered and very fine. The wheel marks are evident on the exterior side of the vessel, while they have been eliminated on the interior side by wiping. The interior and exterior colors of the vessel are in the dark shade of the paste (10 YR 8/7) (m.d. 7.1 cm, h. 22.9 cm, and b. 8.8 cm). The paste of the second (Inv. Hb/f-57, No. 623) bowl is light buff (7.5 YR 7/2) and very fine. The wheel marks are evident on its interior and exterior sides. The interior and exterior sides of the vessel have been left in shade of the paste (5 YR 7/2), and it is seen that the exterior side partially have turned into red (2.5 YR 7/6) due to baking process (m.d. 6.3 cm, h. 22.6 cm, and b. 6.4 cm). Found in the layer prior to the depas cups, these wheelmade bowls indicate that long-distance acquaintance had continued for a long period[38]. Examples of these vessels within the region are witnessed in Kültepe as of the 13th layer[39] and as the Suluca Karahöyük examples they present a "thick-walled" feature[40].

[26] Ezer 2014b: 138.
[27] Özgüç/Özgüç 1953: Fig. 393, 498.
[28] Meriggi 1963: 297.
[29] Okur/Yıldız/Elmaağaç/Kulakoğlu 2016: 333 ff., Fig. 5. Necropolis has been dated to the 12th layer of Kültepe which is the contemporary of Akkad Period, *ibid* 336.
[30] Orthmann 1963; Schachner/Schachner 1995: 312; Dönmez 2007; Şahoğlu 2014: Fig. in p. 290
[31] Özgüç 1986; Kontani 1995: 109 ff.
[32] Ökse 2007: 39 ff.
[33] Şahoğlu 2005: fig. 1.
[34] Ezer 2014b: 143.
[35] Efe 2004: 20 ff.; 2006: 15 ff.; Türkteki 2012: 45 ff.; 2013: 193 ff. For the latest notions in regards of wheelmade vessels see. Dönmez 2016: 123 ff.
[36] Yıldırım/İpek 2011: 351.
[37] Dönmez 2016: 125, note 9, Fig. 1.
[38] See type A2 Bowls and it's spread Blegen/Caskey/Rawson/Sperling 1950: 225 ff., Fig. 129, 370a, 372-377; Blegen/Caskey/Rawson 1951: 24, Fig. 43, 59a, 62-63; Korfmann 2001: fig. 398; Türkteki 2012; 2013.
[39] Other examples within the region are witnessed in Topakhöyük-Ovaören (Şenyurt/Akçay/Kamış 2014: 112 ff., Fig. 14) and Alişar (Ortmann 1963: 20) excavations.
[40] Özgüç (1986: 38 ff., Fig. 3.22-25, III.3-14-15) pointed out that these vessels could have been imports from Western

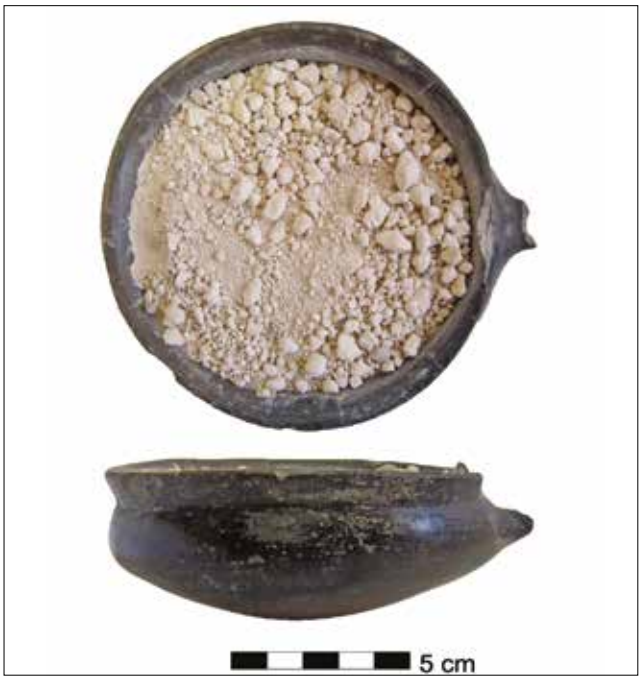


Figure 10: Bowl (Hb/g-127, No. 864) with included white volcanic soil, layer VI. / *İçinde Beyaz Volkanik Kum Bulunan Çanak (Hb/g-127, No. 864), VI. Tabaka.*

The purpose of using depas cups, a special type of vessel, is controversial. The depas finding described in the stele of Nasiriyah dated to Akkadian King Naram-sin is understood to have had some value as spoils[41]. It is also possible that the depas cups left as tomb gifts in some tombs have been used for ritual purposes during religious ceremonies[42]. One of the most widely accepted views is that depas cups were used as drinking cups and that wine-like alcoholic drinks were consumed[43]. A bowl found in Layer VI of Suluca Karahöyük in 1973 (Inv. Hb/g-127, No. 864) helps us make a new contribution on this matter. White volcanic soil was found in situ in the very well- and brilliantly-burnished vessel in the shade of dark grey (Fig. 10) (m.d. 11.2 cm, h. 4.6 cm, b.w. 11.2 cm, and b. 2.7 cm). This white volcanic soil is still used in the traditional production of grape molasses in the Cappadocia region, where viticulture is performed today, and this additive enables the sediment to settle and sweetens the fermented grape juice "Pekmez"[44]. Even though this does not enable sufficient proof to directly relate depas cups to grape molasses, it can be recorded as a note for future research.

Anatolia (Troy), ibid. p. 39.

41 Mellink 1963: 107 ff.

42 Ezer 2014b: 143.

43 Türkteki/Hürmüzlü 2007: 12 ff.; Çalış-Sazcı 2007: 147 ff.

44 Tekeli 1951: 167 ff.

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