

Name: Clay Tablet A from Deir 'Allā

Fundort: Deir 'Allā, Ostmagazine (Weippert 1966:300), Kammern IX und X des Tempels (van den Branden 1965:129).

Datierung arch.: 1200 v. Chr.. (Franken 1964:377)

Datierung pal.: nach 1400, da es sich um eine Alphabetschrift handle (25 Types auf 98 Tokens) (van den Branden 1965:129)

Material: Ton

Masse: B'a: 13 x 5 x 2 cm

Schreibrichtung: RTL (Weippert 1966:307). Zuordnung des dreibuchstabigen Rests auf dem Rand sowie genauer überlappungstechnischer Beweis für RTL in Franken (1965:150-152).

Zuschreibung: «These three tablets bear a hitherto unknown type of early and most probably alphabetic script. While some letters have affinities with the Phoenician Byblos script of Ahiram, there is probably a South Semitic element in this writing.» (Franken 1964:379). Skeptisch mit bisherigen Entzifferungsversuchen, z.B. jenen von Van den Branden 1965 und Cazelles 1966, sind Weippert 1966 und Knauf 1987 ("Protokanaanäisch") (Singer 2009:411, Fn. 25). Evtl. mit Stele von Balu 'a zu verbinden (Weippert 1966:300, Fn. 152). Durchschnittliche Zahl der zwischen Worttrennern abgetrennten Einheiten weist auf syllabische Schrift (bzw. nordwestsemitische Konsonantenschrift). Van den Brandens (1965) Entzifferungsvorschläge kritisiert Weippert (1966:304f.). Franken (1965:152) sieht Parallelen zu frühesten arabischen Zeichen.

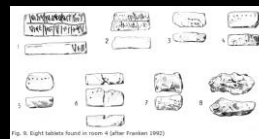
Bemerkungen: Weitere Tafel in der Hand des Schreibers zerbrochen, deshalb lokale Schreibstube. (Franken 1964:378). Dazu acht schriftlose Tafeln mit meist sieben eingedrückten Punkten (Franken 1964a, Pl. V, siehe auch Weippert 1966:300). Weitere mit regelmässigen Punkten versehene Scherben in Baramki 1961:Pl. IV, Fig. 2.



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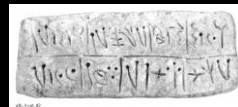
Franken 1964:Pl. 1



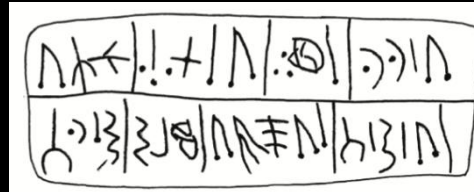
Franken 1992:?, zit. in Kafafi 2009:124, Fig. 9



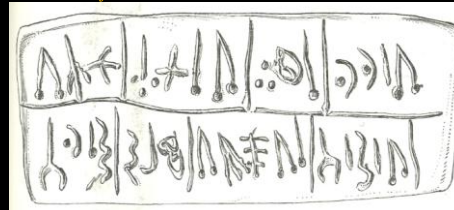
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Klasens 1965:afb. 4



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Franken 1964:378

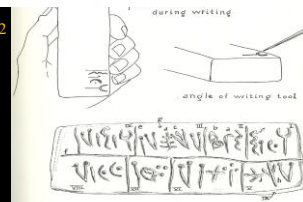
4. a). noted by D. van den Branden as a slot, is not a dot but a blister caused by a burnt out impurity of the clay, and therefore was not drawn.  
5. Each word divider in the lower register cuts into line f); they were made after f).  
6. b) too pushed up into f) and is therefore later.  
7. The horizontal stroke of g) has pushed into the lower part of the extreme left arm of h) and almost closed the groove.  
8. The word on the side of Tablet 1440 b), as Dr. van den Branden takes it to be, the last word of the inscription. But it would seem more likely that the word order would run from i) to f) (reading from right to left) and then by tipping the tablets away from the reader continue on the right with i). This is more probable than tipping the tablets towards the reader in order to find the last word above the rest of the inscription on the left, as must be done if the tablet is to be read the other way up.

Franken 1965:151-152



5 cm

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The following observations support this:  
1. Part of the groove of letter a) was pushed in when letter b) was made; a) was written before b).  
2. The top of the left arm of a) was damaged when the top cross bar of d) was made; d) was written before a).  
3. The lower end of a), the word divider, was cut away by the long line f) and closed. The incision marking the lower end of a) is still visible across f) a) was made before f).

Franken 1992:?, zit. in Kafafi 2009:124, Fig. 9

Garbini 2006:78



Kafafi 2009:121, Fig. 5a



Shea 1989a:103

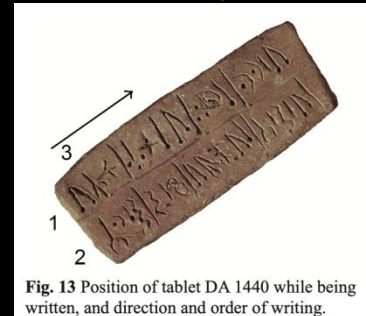


Fig. 13 Position of tablet DA 1440 while being written, and direction and order of writing.

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