

THE COMMEMORATIVE SCARABS OF AMENOPHIS III: AN UPDATE

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A few decades ago, when she felt no longer capable of doing so, Mrs C. Blankenberg-van Delden asked me to continue collecting new information on the large commemorative scarabs of Amenophis III. Being no art historian I accepted the invitation hesitatingly, promising at some time in the future to publish an update to her invaluable pioneering study *The Large Commemorative Scarabs of Amenhotep III* (Leiden, 1969). The time has come to live up to that promise, although the following is no more than a bibliographical update.

Since the publication of the book in 1969 a number of relevant contributions on the subject appeared, listed here in chronological order:

C. Blankenberg-van Delden, 'More Large Commemorative Scarabs of Amenophis III', *JEA* 62 (1976), 74-80, pls. XII-XIII.

C. Blankenberg-van Delden, 'Once Again Some More Large Commemorative Scarabs of Amenophis III', *JEA* 63 (1977), 83-87, pls. XIII-XIV.

W.A. Ward, 'A possible New Link between Egypt and Jordan during the Reign of Amenhotep III', *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 18 (1973), 45-46, pl. XXVII.

B. Lüscher, 'Zwei interessante Fälschungen', *ZÄS* 116 (1989), 58-59.

Peter A. Clayton, 'Some more 'fierce lions,' and a 'marriage' scarab: the large commemorative scarabs of Amenophis III', *JEA* 82 (1996), 208-210, pl. XXIV. [The author had overlooked the contribution by Mrs Blankenberg-van Delden in *JEA* 63 (1977), 83-87. As a result he assigned several wrong sequence numbers to newly identified examples of scarabs and proposed inadequate statistics].

L. M. Berman, 'Overview of Amenhotep III and His Reign', in: D. O'Connor and E.H. Cline (eds), *Amenhotep III: Perspectives on His Reign* (Ann Arbor, 1998), 11-15.

K. Konrad, 'Sechs Original-Belege eines Textes in vier Versionen? Zu gefälschten Wildstierjagdtexen Amenophis' III', *ZÄS* 127 (2000), 135-141.

R. Gundlach, 'Die Gedenkskarabäen Amenophis' III. Ihre Ideologie und historische Bedeutung', *HÄB* 48 (Festschrift Arne Eggebrecht) (Hildesheim, 2002), 31-45.

John Baines, 'On the Genre and Purpose of the "Large Commemorative Scarabs" of Amenhotep III', in: *Hommages à Fayza Haikal* (BdE 138, Cairo, 2003), 29-43.

'Marriage' Scarabs

A 2 Musée du Louvre, Paris, N 787A. Illustration of back and colour illustration of left side in *Le Pharaon Soleil* (Exhibition Catalogue, Paris, 1993), 58, nr. 2 bis.

- A 5** Berlin Museum, 16781. Description and illustration of back (base) in: A. Grimm, S. Schoske and D. Wildung, *Pharao* (München/Berlin, 1997), 86 (nr. 63).
- A 8** The Myers Museum, Eton College, ECM 1480. Colour illustrations of front and back in *The Small Masterpieces of Egyptian Art* (New York, 1999; Leiden 2003), 50, nr. 40.
- A 18** Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.227. Description and illustrations of front and back in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt* (Jerusalem 1993), 56.
- A 19** Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.226. Description and illustrations of front, back and left side in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt* (Jerusalem 1993), 56.
- A 27** Now Antiken Museum Basel, Inv. BSAe 357. Description and colour illustration of back in *Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig* (Mainz 2001), 101, nr. 62b.
- A 51** Now Ägyptisches Museum, Berlin, 1/1973, cf. Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 74-75.
- A 52** Private collection Dr. R. Paret, New York. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 76, pl. XII,1. Auctioned at Sothey's, New York, June 8, 1994, lot 8.
- A 53** Private collection, Great Britain (ex coll. Duke of Northumberland). Description and illustration of back (base) in: Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 83, pl. XIII,1. Auctioned at Sotheby's, London, December 10, 1993, lot 404.
- A 54** Private collection, Great Britain (ex coll. Duke of Northumberland). Description and illustration of back (base) in: Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 84, pl. XIII,2.
- A 55** Israel Museum, Jerusalem, no. 76.18.228. Description and illustration of back (base) in: Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 84, pl. XIII,3.
- A 56** Private collection, present whereabouts unknown (ex coll. M. Wilberg). Auctioned at Christie's, April 24, 1978. Description: steatite, slight traces of green glaze between legs crevices, shallow cutting, 10 lines of text. Dimensions: 9 × 5.8 × 2.7 cm. Type: one line dividing the wing-cases and prothorax with a double-lined notch below this line on the left wing-case – not on the right one. Preservation: front fairly good, back much worn and chipped off at left edge. (illustrations of front and back in our files).
- A 57** Now Detroit Institute of Arts, 76.67, Detroit, America. (formerly **LSA 7**). (only drawing of back in our files; photograph of front on Detroit Art Institute website).
- A 58** Present whereabouts unknown. Auctioned by Numismatic Fine Arts NFA, New York, 11 December 1991, lot 117. Steatite; glaze gone, 9.0 × 6.1 × 3.8 cm. Description and bibliography in Peter A. Clayton, *JEA* 82, 209-210 (**wrongly attributed a sequence number A 53 and wrong dimensions given**). (this scarab may be LSA 2 or LSA 6).
- A 59** Private collection, Basel, Switzerland. Blue glazed fayence with text in white, chipped off at left side, 5.3 × 3.4 × 2.4 cm. Description and colour illustrations of front and back in *Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig* (Mainz 2001), 100, nr. 62a.
- A 60** Private collection, Italy. Steatite(?), chipped off at right and left edges, 7.9 × 5.8 × 1.9 cm. (colour illustration of back (base) in our files).

Wild Bull-Hunt Scarabs

- B 3** Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.244. Description and illustrations of front, back and left side in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt* (Jerusalem 1993), 57.
- B 4** Collection Groppi and Bianchi. Colour illustrations of front and back in: Christian E. Loeben und André B. Wiese, *Kostlichkeiten aus Kairo! Die ägyptische Sammlung des*

Konditorei- und Kaffeehaus-Besitzers Achille Groppi (1890-1949) (Hannover und Basel 2008), 133.

Lion-Hunt Scarabs

C 23 The Myers Museum, Eton College, ECM 1641. Colour illustrations of both front and back in *The Small Masterpieces of Egyptian Art* (New York 1999; Leiden 2003), 50, nr. 41.

C 24 Now The Royal Pump Room Museum, Harrogate, cf. Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 74.

C 26 Additional information in: Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 75.

C 36 Description and colour illustration of back (base) in: Betsy Teasley Trope, Stephen Quirke and Peter Lacovara, *Excavating Egypt. Great Discoveries from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology* (Atlanta, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, 2005), 10.

C 40 Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.235. Description and illustrations of front and back in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt*, Jerusalem 1993, 57.

C 43 Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.243. Description and illustrations of front and back in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt*, Jerusalem 1993, 58.

C 62 Private collection, America (ex coll. Philips-de Jongh and American and Swiss collections). Auctioned at Sotheby's Sale 15th July 1982, Sale Catalogue p. 47, nr. 102A. Seen in the art market, March 1996, cf. Peter A. Clayton, *JEA* 82, 208, pl. XXIV, 1-2 (illustrations of front and back). Information supplied by Mr. Jonathan P. Rosen in his letter dd. September 8, 1982: "according to the Brooklyn Museum, the material is steatite rather than faience".

C 82 Colour photographs of front and back (base), plus drawing of text in: David P. Silverman, Josef W. Wegner and Jennifer Houser Wegner, *Akhenaten and Tutankhamun. Revolution and Restoration* (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, 2006), 151-153, figs. 137-139.

C 107 Now Ägyptisches Museum, Berlin, 2/1973, cf. Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 74-75.

C 109 Private Collection A. Fatatri, Leiden. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 76-77, pl. XII,2.

C 110 The Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Cal., no. 6-17306. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 77, pl. XII,3.

C 111 The Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Cal., no. 6-19100. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 77, pl. XII,4.

C 112 The Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Cal., no. 6-19101. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 78, pl. XII,5.

C 113 Present whereabouts unknown, sold at Sotheby Parke Bernet, New York, December 14, 1978 (ex coll. P. Sharrer, Ridgewood, N.J.). Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 78, pl. XIII,1.

C 114 Private Collection, Great Britain (ex coll. Duke of Northumberland). Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 84-85, pl. XIII,4.

- C 115** Now Kestner Museum, Hannover, Inv.nr. 1976.106. Description and illustrations of back (base) and right side in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 85, pl. XIII, 5-6
- C 116** Now Roemer Pelizäus Museum, Hildesheim, PM 4827. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 85, pl. XIV,1. Colour illustration of back (base) in A. Eggebrecht, *Das alte Ägypten* (München, 1984), 187.
- C 117** Now Roemer Pelizäus Museum, Hildesheim, PM 4847. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 86, pl. XIV, 2.
- C 118** Israel Museum, Jerusalem, no. 76.18.230. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 86, pl. XIV,3.
- C 119** Israel Museum, Jerusalem, no. 76.18.229. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 73, 87, pl. XIV,4.
- C 120** University of Pisa (Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche del Mondo Antico), Pisa, Italy. Found in a New Kingdom tomb at Soleb, T 4 c10. Greenish-brown (originally blue) glazed fayence, 8.3 × 5.6 × 2.1 cm. Description and illustration in M. Schiff Giorgini, *Soleb II. Les Nécropoles* (Firenze, 1972), 119-120, figs. 168-169.
- C 121** Found at Petra, and purchased by the Department of Antiquities, Amman, Jordan. Hard limestone, 'blackened or burned', 6 × 5 × 1.7 cm. Description and illustrations of back and base by W.A. Ward, 'A possible New Link between Egypt and Jordan During the Reign of Amenhotep III', *Annual of the Department of Antiquities XVIII* (1973), 45-46, pl. XXVII.
- C 122** Grosvenor Museum, no. 429.R/1930, Chester, UK. Description and illustrations by M. Jones, *JEA* 65 (1979), 165-166, pl. XXVIII.
- C 123** Found in 1980 in a tomb at Palaepaphos-Skales, Cyprus, T 89/17. Glazed surface, right half of back chipped off, 7 cm. Description and illustration of the back (base) by V. Karagheorgis, 'Cyprus between the Orient and the Occident in the Eleventh Century B.C.', in: *Archéologie au Levant. Recueil R. Saidah* (Lyon, 1982), 177, fig. 6.
- C 124** Cairo Museum JE 97853, Cairo, Egypt. Found by Egypt Antiquities Organization at Turah el Asment; entered 26-2-84. Light green fayence, 7.4 × 5.2 cm. Description and illustration by May Trad and Adel Mahmud, *ASAE* 70 (1984-85), 359-361, pl. I.
- C 125** Private collection, present whereabouts unknown. Auctioned by Numismatic Fine Arts NFA, New York, 11 December 1991, lot 115. Steatite; bright blue-green glaze, 6.8 × 4.7 × 2.5 cm. Perfect condition. Description and bibliography by Peter A. Clayton, *JEA* 82, 209 (**wrongly assigned a sequence number C 114**). Illustrations in: Numismatic Fine Arts, *Scarabs and Design Amulets: A Glimpse of Ancient Egypt in Miniature* (New York, 1991).
- C 126** Private collection, present whereabouts unknown. Auctioned by Numismatic Fine Arts NFA, New York, 11 December 1991, lot 116. Description and bibliography in Peter A. Clayton, *JEA* 82, 209 (**wrongly assigned a sequence number C 115**). Steatite; glaze faded to white, 6.3 × 4.4 × 2.3 cm. Fairly good condition, weathered, slight abrasions at the base. Illustrations in: Numismatic Fine Art, *Scarabs and Design Amulets: A Glimpse of Ancient Egypt in Miniature* (New York, 1991). Possible this is the same as **LSC 9** (ex MacGregor).
- C 127** Private Collection, San Antonio, Texas. Cf. L.M. Berman in A.P. Kozloff and B.M. Bryan, *Egypt's Dazzling Sun, Amenophis III and his World* (Cleveland, 1992), 53, note 2.
- C 128** The Thalassic Collection (Theodore and Aristeia Halkedis), Athens, Greece. Dark green glazed steatite, 6.8 × 4.7 × 2.5 cm, perfect condition. Description and colour illustrations in *The Collector's Eye: Masterpieces from the Thalassic Collection, Ltd., Exhibition Catalogue*, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta 2001, 90-92 (bought at auction on December 11, 1991, New York).

- C 129** Found in 1999 in a mudbrick wall of the gate tower of the Late Bronze Age I fortress at Jaffa (find no. 517/80). Description and illustration of back (base) in D. Sweeney, 'A lion-hunt scarab and other Egyptian objects from the Late Bronze Fortress at Jaffa', *Tel Aviv* 30 (2003), 54-65. (interesting mistake in the year date in line seven).
- C 130** Private collection, Belgium. Steatite, traces of light blue glaze, 6.1 × 4.5 cm. Description and colour illustration of back (base) in *Art of the Ancient World*, Royal Athena Galleries, Sale Catalogue Volume XIV, January 2003, 56, nr. 158 (ex Belgian Collection). (colour illustrations in our files).
- C 131** Private collection, Netherlands. Seen on sale at Archea, Amsterdam, December 2003 (ex Appelboom collection). Steatite, green glaze almost disappeared, 8.0 × 5.5 × 3.7 cm. (colour illustrations in our files).
- C 132** Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, PAM 29.16.114.A. Steatite, white; traces of green glaze, 7.3 × 5 × 2.5 cm. Condition fair, slightly chipped off at the back. Description and illustrations of front, back and left side in J. Sarr, 'The Gayer-Anderson Amenhotep III Commemorative Scarabs in the Portland Art Museum: Their Discovery and Description', in: A.K. Eyma and C.J. Bennett (eds), *A Delta-man in Yebu* (2003), 71-75, pls. I-III.
- C 133** Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, PAM 29.16.114.B. Steatite, reddish brown; traces of green glaze. Only lower half preserved, 5.5 × 5 × 2.5 cm. Description and illustrations of front, back and left side in J. Sarr, 'The Gayer-Anderson Amenhotep III Commemorative Scarabs in the Portland Art Museum: Their Discovery and Description', in: A.K. Eyma and C.J. Bennett (eds), *A Delta-man in Yebu* (2003), 71-75, pls. IV-VI.
- C 134** Private collection, Belgium. Steatite, traces of green glaze, 8.6 × 5.7 × 3.6 cm. Almost perfect condition, only slight abrasions at the back (base). Auctioned at Drouot, Paris, 17 January 2009, lot 239, description and illustrations of front and back. Possibly the same as **LSC 12**.
- C 135** Thomassen collection, Netherlands. Limestone(?), slight traces of glaze, chipped off at upper right edge and lower left edge, 6.3 × 4.3 × 2.3 cm. (ex London art gallery, ex Galerie Günter Puhze, ex Auction III, February 26, 1978, Joel L. Malter & Co., Inc. (*The Antiquities of Ancient Egypt*), nr. 30 – description and illustrations of front and back).
- C 136** Art market (ex collection Bouillon Bey). Glassy blue fayence, only lower half preserved, 3.5 cm (as preserved). Description and colour illustration of back (base) in Charles Ede Ltd, Catalogue 182 (November 2010), nr. 7.
- C 137** Private Collection, Switzerland(?). Glassy blue fayence, left edge of base chipped, 5.3 × 3.4 cm. Description and colour illustrations of front and back (base) in *Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig* (Mainz 2001), 101, nr. 62a.
- C 138** Present whereabouts unknown, sold at Sotheby's London, 8 December 1980, lot 98 (ex coll. Sir Henry Layard). Turquoise-glazed fayence, 10.5 × 7 cm. Almost perfect condition.
- C 139** Present whereabouts unknown, sold at Sotheby's London, 20 May 1985, lot 125. Green-glazed steatite, 6 cm. Back (base) slightly worn.

Gilukhepa Scarabs

- D 5** (= ex **LSD 1**). British Museum, London, BM EA 68507. Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 78-79, pl. XIII,2.

D 6 Found July 31 1996 in Beith-Shean, registration no. 388222; schist(?), slightly chipped, 8.6 × 6.0 × 2.7 cm. Description, illustrations and drawings of front, back and sides in Orly Goldwasser, *Ägypten und Levante* XII (2002), 191-193.

Lake Scarabs

E 4 Now Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.245. Description and illustrations of front and back in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt*, Jerusalem 1993, 58.

E 8 The Metropolitan Museum, New York, nr. 35.2.1. Description and illustrations of front, back and right side in *Le Pharaon Soleil* (Exhibition Catalogue, Paris 1993), 56-57, nr. 2.

E 9 ex collection Bianchi and Groppi. Auctioned at Christie's, London, Wednesday, 9 December 1992: The „Per-neb“ Collection (Part I), lot 76.

Colour illustration of back (base) in: Christian E. Loeben und André B. Wiese, *Köstlichkeiten aus Kairo! Die ägyptische Sammlung des Konditorei- und Kaffeehaus-Besitzers Achille Groppi (1890-1949)* (Hannover und Basel, 2008), 127, fig. 69.

E 11 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, no. 1972.873. Description and illustration in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 79-80, pl. XIII,3.

E 12 Private collection, America. Gold foil with lake scarab text, 12.3 × 5.5 cm. Description and illustrations in: Bob Brier and Victor J. Pafundi, Jr., 'A Gold Foil Lake Scarab Text of Amenophis III', *Varia Aegyptiaca* 7 (1991), 15-27.

Lost Scarabs

LSA 2 see **A 58**.

LSA 6 see **A 58**.

LSA 7 = now **A 57**.

LSC 9 see **C 126**.

LSC 12 see **C 134**.

LSC 18 Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 80, pl. XIII,4.

LSD 1 (Mme Hoffmann's scarab) = now **D 5**.

Forgeries

FB 1

Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, nr. 84.36. Colour illustration of back (base) in A. Eggebrecht, *Das alte Ägypten* (München, 1984), 187. Description and illustrations of front and back in *Le Pharaon Soleil* (Exhibition Catalogue, Paris, 1993), 55, nr. 1. Description and illustrations in L.M. Berman and K. Boháč, *Catalogue of Egyptian Art, The Cleveland Museum of Art* (Cleveland/Ohio, 1999), 294-295, nr. 226. According to K. Konrad in *ZÄS* 127 (2000), 135-141, a copy after **B 1**.

FB 2 Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. Identical to **FB 1**. (Illustrations of front and back in our files; information thanks to Deborah Sweeney by letter dd. 26-9-1991).

FB 3 Private collection, Germany. Ca. 11 × 7 cm. Further details unknown. Copy after **B 1**. Commentary and illustration of back (base) in K. Konrad, *ZÄS* 127 (2000), 135-139.

FC 2 Description and illustration of back (base) in Blankenberg-van Delden, *JEA* 62, 80, pls. XIII, 5 and 6.

For other fake Lion Hunt scarabs see B. Lüscher in *ZÄS* 116 (1989), 58-59.

FD 1 Description in Sale Catalogue, Phillips, Son & Neale, February 14, 1978, nr. 88A. (only photocopy of back in our files).

A suspicious example of the Lion-Hunt series was auctioned by Joel Malter & Co., Inc., *The Antiquities of Ancient Egypt*, Auction III, February 26, 1978, nr. 29, description and illustrations of front and back.

A commemorative scarab of Amenhotep IV in Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 76.18.247 (ex collection Stern). Description and illustrations of front, back, right and left side in: Daphna Ben-Tor, *The Scarab. A Reflection of Ancient Egypt*, Jerusalem 1993, 59. Cf. *Israel Museum Journal* II, 1983, 39-41.

A commemorative scarab of Amenhotep IV in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MFA no. 1973.108. Description and illustrations of back, right and left side in: William Kelly Simpson, *JEA* 60 (1974), 140-141, pl. XXXIII, 1-3.



A 60



C 130





C 131



C 134



C 135

