Scarabs in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Part II. Catalogue
Online version

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Abstract

This catalogue publishes 79 scarabs, scaraboids, and heart scarabs now in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Each entry includes information on dating, dimensions, materials, description, and inscriptions, if any. Also included is a list of parallels of other scarabs or scaraboids with similar base decoration. The catalogue is divided according to the genre of the scarabs’ base decoration, of which there are seven: 1) King’s names, epithets, and images, 2) Apotropaic and divine iconography, 3) Personal titles and names, 4) Near Eastern motifs and adaptation, 5) Geometric and stylised patterns, 6) Heart Scarabs, and 7) Uninscribed scarabs.

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1. Introduction

This catalogue publishes for the first time 79 scarabs, scaraboids, and heart scarabs now in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). They are all art market pieces, given to the museum by four different private collections: the William Randolph Hearst Foundation in 1950, Hyatt Robert von Dehn in 1969, Robert Miller and Marylin Miller Deluca 1980, and Ruth Greenberg in 1986. The Von Dehn and Greenberg gifts make up the bulk of the LACMA collection. This small catalogue and the associated case study of LACMA scarabs not only contributes to the growing corpus of Egyptian seals and amulets in museums around the world, but also addresses glyptic art and miniaturisation, and thus the use of small and mobile amulets bearing multi-layered iconography as religious, magical, social and political tools. Because of their size and mobility, scarabs continually cross socio-cultural boundaries of aesthetics, religious understanding, and political orientation, and their study thus requires a multidisciplinary approach (see part I).

1.1. Dating

Although scarab and seal specialists like Richards (2001: 8) rightly call for contextual study that incorporates historical and archaeological contexts (“The most important role of scarab studies today is to establish a typological sequence of scarab features which can be utilised chronologically to comment on historical and archaeological contexts”), this is impossible in this catalogue because the LACMA collection consists of art market pieces with no archaeological provenance. Instead, our typological and dating conclusions are based on stylistic comparison to other scarabs, many of them found in archaeological contexts, but not all. A large proportion of the LACMA scarabs do have royal names, which in some cases can provide absolute dates for their production; however, given that many scarabs name popular and deified kings that were produced far beyond their deaths (such as Thutmose III or Ramses II), these pieces contribute less to scarab typological development than one would hope.

Obviously, dating scarabs is fraught with difficulties and typological inconsistencies. Older publications have focused on scarabs with royal names and dated other non royal scarabs based on stylistic comparison (for example Newberry, 1908; Petrie, 1917 and Hall, 1913). A publication of Tübingen scarabs has provided rather exact dates based on these 19th and early 20th century scarab studies (Brunner–Traut & Brunner, 1981). Other more recent publications of scarabs, however, have reacted against this circular use of unreliably dated comparanda by avoiding providing dates altogether (Hornung & Staehelin, 1976). However, the most recent scarab studies use all available criteria (inscription, form, material, size, archaeological context, etc.) to provide wide date ranges, rather than exact reigns (Keel, 1995; Schlick–Nolte & Von Droste zu Hülshoff, 1990). This catalogue will approach the question of dating conservatively, only providing narrow date ranges when comparison pieces provide a combination of stylistic, textual, and archaeological criteria from which to draw. Otherwise, very broad date ranges are the norm.

This catalogue does not adhere to one typological system. In fact, we use many different typologies, out of necessity and choice. For instance, although Rowe’s typology (1936) has been criticized for including too few objects and basing some scarab types on single examples (Ward & Dever, 1994: 10), it is the only resource for New Kingdom scarab backs, heads, and legs. Tufnell’s (1984) and Ward’s (1978) studies and the more recent study by Ward & Dever (1994) are also utilised here, but only for the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period examples, not beyond. Furthermore, these two sources are most useful as a typological dating tool when dealing with larger scarab groups statistically. This complicated methodology is not very helpful for dating individual scarabs without common archaeological provenance as found in the LACMA corpus. Jaeger’s ‘Scarabées Menkhêperê’ (Jaeger, 1982) is a helpful dating tool, but particularly in reference to the base decoration of the thousands of scarabs bearing the name of Thutmose III and other similar New Kingdom examples.

As is often the case with scarab studies, not all comparison pieces are provenanced in dated archaeological contexts, and we are fully aware of the problems of such circular typologising. Because of these

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1 For a comparable collection and a discussion of the necessary methodology of dealing with artifacts with no archaeological context, see Schlick–Nolte & Von Droste zu Hülshoff (1990).
2 Such as the scarabs found in the Medinet Habu excavations conducted by the Oriental Institute of Chicago (Teeter & Wilfong, 2003) or the compilation of scarabs from Palestine and Israel, many of them found in controlled excavations, by Keel (1997).
3 The accompanying chronology is based on Redford (2001).
4 Following Schlick–Nolte & Von Droste zu Hülshoff (1990) but see also see Teeter & Wilfong (2003).
5 For an overview of all of these typological systems, see Keel (1995: 39–41). For an overview of typology as it pertains to the Middle Bronze, see Ward & Dever (1994: 9–24).
difficulties, Keel (1995: 41) calls for contextual dating of individual scarabs based on a number of elements, including provenance, iconography, style of the base decoration, measurements, material, and form. These LACMA scarabs have no provenance. Therefore, material, size, but most importantly, base decoration scenes and styles are the most reliable dating tools. The catalogue nonetheless includes photographs of scarab backs and sides for future scarab typological development, especially given that many of the scarabs in this corpus have royal names that were not used posthumously.

Our dating methodology is based primarily on comparison with other scarab bases, preferably those with archaeological contexts. Even though such an approach can only provide broad and un–exact date ranges, the LACMA scarabs clearly fall into three main date ranges:

- **Middle Kingdom, particularly 12th and 13th dynasty**
- **Second Intermediate Period (14th–16th dynasty)**
- **New Kingdom and later (18th–26th dynasty).**

### 1.2. Typology

Because of the many dating problems associated with museum collections of this kind, this scarab catalogue will be organised by the type of decoration found on the scarab base, rather than by date. Although this places emphasis on the scarab base, in opposition to the back, legs or head, we believe that as art museum objects without any kind of archaeological provenance, the base with its textual and decorative elements, is the most important component of the scarab. Without any archaeological context, typological study of the backs, legs, and heads is of uncertain value. Instead, this catalogue contributes to a “Typenkorpus” of scarab bases (Jaeger, 1982; Schlick–Nolte & Droste zu Hülshoff, 1990). The LACMA scarabs represent six main decoration types, obviously with a good deal of overlap, given that these are artificial and modern typological divisions:

I. **King’s names, epithets, and images.**
   This largest group in the LACMA corpus includes 30 examples from the Middle Kingdom to the Late Period.

II. **Apotropaic and divine iconography.**
   Scarabs with apotropaic and divine iconography date from the Middle Kingdom to the Late Period. The 27 examples include so called ‘good luck sayings’ as well as depictions of deities and charged hieroglyphic signs, such as ‘nh “life” or wdl “health.” This group also includes scarabs from the New Kingdom and later that are particularly associated with the god Amen and the many associated cryptographic writings of this god’s name.

III. **Personal titles and names.**
   Scarabs bearing personal titles and names are rarer with four examples in the LACMA corpus, and these examples date mainly to the Middle Kingdom.

IV. **Near Eastern motifs and adaptation.**
   Scarabs with Near Eastern motifs and adaptations of Egyptian iconography seem to date mainly from the late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period.

V. **Geometric and stylised patterns.**
   Scarabs with geometric patterns date mainly to the Middle Kingdom period and Second Intermediate Period, but there are some later and/or undated examples.

VI. **Heart Scarabs.**
   Heart scarabs are also included in the LACMA collection, although one is probably a modern example.

VII. **Uninscribed scarabs.**
   The LACMA collection contains four examples made with semi precious stones and no inscription on the base.

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7 See Ward & Dever (1994: 117). They document proportionally larger scarab production during the Hyksos time period (their “Period V”).
8 As opposed to Ward & Dever (1994).
2. Catalogue

2.1. King’s names, royal epithets, and images

Cat. no. 1
Scarab with throne name of Thutmose III

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA 50.4.5.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>New Kingdom, 19th–20th dynasties (1315–1081 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 2.15 cm; W: 1.62 cm; H: 0.97 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Faience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>William Randolph Hearst Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back exhibits a baroque style (extruding legs visible from above), typical during 18th dynasty and later. High, raised, naturalistic legs are carved in openwork style, piercing the scarab longitudinally. Use of the throne name ‘Men–kheper–Re’ in conjunction with the baroque style suggests a Ramesside date and a posthumous production (Jaeger, 1982). V–notches appear on the elytra. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of the sedge plant and bee on the right side, and the cartouche with throne name and epithet of Thutmose III on left side. Chipping is evident on both the lower rim and left side bottom of the base. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>ny swt bity Mн-hр-pr-R’ nb tlvwy “King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Men–kheper–Re, Lord of the (two) land(s).” ‘Men–kheper–Re’ can also be read cryptographically as the name Amen. (sun disk = i; mn sign = m; kheper beetle = n) (Jaeger, 1982: 94).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 For the term ‘baroque’ and an explanation of this type of scarab form, see Keel (1995: 51).
Cat. no. 2  
Scarab depicting sphinx labelled as Thutmose III

![Scarab Image]

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA 50.4.5.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>New Kingdom, Dynasties 18–20 (1504–1081 BCE) or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.54 cm; W: 1.13 cm; H: 0.7 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Blue–green faience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>William Randolph Hearst Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. Significant chipping occurs around the scarab’s upper borehole. The back displays a one lined suture and pronotum separation, with V–notches at the outer edges of the upper elytra wings. This design is painted, not carved. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts a free–standing sphinx, wearing a war crown, trampling a foreign enemy. A cartouche above its back identifies the sphinx with the throne name ‘Men–kheper–Re’. Behind the sphinx’s back are hieroglyphs of life and kingship. The entire scene is surmounted by winged sun disk and surrounded by a single line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>The cartouche reads ( Mn-hpr-R^f ), throne name of Thutmose III, also read cryptographically as name of the god Amen (Jaeger, 1982: 94). Left of cartouche is the sign group ( nfr nfr ) “the good god,” and below this, an ( nh ) for “life.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat. no. 3
Scarab depicting enthroned Thutmose IV in solar barque

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.5.5
Date  New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasties (1419–1080 BCE) or later
Dimensions  L: 1.78 cm; W: 1.30 cm; H: 0.72 cm
Materials  Blue–green faience
Credit line  William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description  Pierced longitudinally. Damage is evident at the right side of head and left side of back. The back has single lined suture and pronotum separation with lightly marked V–notches in upper elytra. The legs are naturalistically carved and moderately incised with a chip on the left. The base decoration, oriented horizontally depicts a seated king wearing a war crown, holding a crook and flail, seated in a solar bark, which has snake heads extending from bow and stern. The image is surrounded by hieroglyphic signs. The cartouche contains the throne name of Thutmose IV. The base decoration is encircled by a single line.

Inscription  On either side of the king’s head are two sets of horizontal lines perhaps signifying nb tl(wy), “lord of the two lands”, below which is another set of signs possibly representative of the double plumed headdress of Amen or Monthu. The cartouche reads Mn-hprs-R”, the throne name of Thutmose IV.


Cat. no. 4
Scarab depicting king as a falcon

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.7.8
Date New Kingdom to Late Period, 19th–26th dynasties (1315–525 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.57 cm; W: 1.14 cm; H: 0.69 cm
Materials Green faience
Credit line William Randolph Heart Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has single lined suture and pronotum separation with V–notches at outer part of upper elytra. The legs are naturalistically formed and lightly incised. The head is almost completely broken away.
The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts a falcon with human head, carrying a flail, accompanied by hieroglyphic signs that identify him as the king. A single line surrounds the inscription.
Inscription nfr ntr stp-n(?)-R “the good god, chosen of Re.”
Cat. no. 5
Scarab depicting king worshipping solar barque

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.7.17
Date New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.76 cm; W: 1.24 cm; H: 0.85 cm
Materials Blue–green faience
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has double lined suture and single lined pronotum separation. A single line surrounds the edge of the back. The legs are incised and naturalistic with striated details on upper part of legs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts a kneeling king wearing a war crown with arms upraised in worship before the nefer “good” sign. A solar barque appears above his head and ma’at feather behind him. The entire scene is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription The depiction may be a cryptographic formula. The sun barque could be read as Amen or Amen–Re. A conjectural reading is dwi nfr Imn-Rˁ (m) m̀ñt, meaning “Worshipping the perfection of Amen–Re (in) truth.” (For cryptographic readings, see Hornung & Stachelin, 1976: 174–175, 181–182).
Cat. no. 6
Scarab with name of Queen Tiy

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.69.91.231
Date New Kingdom, $18^{th}$ dynasty, reign of Amenhotep III to Akhenaten (1410–1355 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.85 cm; W: 1.46 cm; H: 0.87 cm
Materials Blue faience
Credit line Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description Crudely molded and cracked faience scarab, pierced slightly off centre longitudinally with a stamped inscription on the base. The back has single lines for suture and pronotum separation with a simple head and no demarcation of legs.
The base design, oriented vertically, depicts the title and name of Tiy, great royal wife of Amenhotep III and mother of Akhenaten. The name is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription $hm\ t\ ns\ w(t)\ Tiy$ “royal wife Tiy.”

Cat. no. 7  
Scarab depicting winged sphinx

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.69.91.234

Date Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12th–20th dynasties (1991–1081 BCE)

Dimensions L: 1.75 cm; W: 1.3 cm; H: 0.89 cm

Materials Steatite

Credit line Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation lines and a stylised head with two bulbous eyes. The legs combine naturalistic and stylised incised design. Chips exist on the head, leg and base rim of the scarab. The base decoration oriented horizontally depicts a freestanding royal winged sphinx, with curved tail, wearing a skull–cap or war crown (?) and uraeus. In front of the sphinx is a label for the king. The inscription is surrounded by a single line. This is a very unusual scarab and may be Syro–Palestinian in origin.

Inscription Perhaps nfr nfr “the good god.”

Cat. no. 8  
Scarab depicting king on festival barque

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA M.69.91.237</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>New Kingdom to Third Intermediate Period, 18th–22nd dynasties (1569–725 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.92 cm; W: 1.40 cm; H: 0.86 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Brown steatite with traces of green glaze on the base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>Gift of Hyatt von Dehn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back has an off–centre double incised pronotum line and triple lined suture with V–notches at the upper elytra. The elytra and pronotum are both surrounded with additional lines, characteristic of the Ramesside Period, but similar styles date to the Third Intermediate and Late Periods (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs are naturalistically rendered, but not fully incised with decoration on the forelegs. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, depicts the enthroned king or god in a solar barque, holding an unidentified staff. On either side of the barque are two roughly carved hieroglyphs, perhaps netjer “god” signs accompanied by possible nefr “good” signs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>nfr nfr (?) “the good god”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallels</td>
<td>Keel (1979: 179, no. 226).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although outdated, Rowe’s typology is useful for New Kingdom and Late Period types and very broad date assignments. For back design and Ramesside date see Keel (1995: 40–46).
Cat. no. 9
Scarab with throne name of Senwosret II

![Scarab Image]

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA M.86.313.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Middle Kingdom, 12th dynasty, reign of Senwosret II (1897–1877 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.17 cm; H: 0.78 cm; W: 1.16 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Steatite with modern green colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>Gift of Ruth Greenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum division lines, rather only two small incisions at sides of upper back, a style seemingly characteristic of the late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995). The legs naturalistically carved and incised. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts the title and throne name of Senwosret II surrounded by protective signs. A single line surrounds the inscription. The name of Senwosret II is unusual on scarabs (Hornung &amp; Staehelin, 1976: 50).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>Cartouche: $H^\circ \text{ hpr } (R^\circ)$, throne name of Senwosret II, above a $\text{ nwb }$ “gold” sign. Above cartouche is title $\text{ ny-sw(t) bity }$ “King of Upper and Lower Egypt.” Surrounding cartouche are signs $\text{ nh }$ “life,” $\text{ nb }$, “lord” or “all,” $\text{ nfr }$ “good,” and “$R^\circ$”. Entire base may read: $\text{ ny-sw(t)-bity } H^\circ\text{-hpr-(R^\circ)} \text{ nb nfr } \text{ nh } R^\circ$, “King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Kha-kheper-Re, lord of goodness, who lives (like) Re.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat. no. 10
Scarab with royal and apotropaic hieroglyphs

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number | LACMA M.86.313.3
Date               | Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12th–16th dynasty (1991–1600 BCE)
Dimensions        | L: 1.88 cm; W: 1.28 cm; H: 0.81 cm
Materials         | Steatite with modern green colour added
Credit line       | Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has no division lines, rather only a triangular notch on either side where the pronotum and elytra usually split: a type consistent with Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are stylistically incised by two horizontal lines between which are short vertical lines.
The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a title and name in the central vertical column surrounded by an s-scroll pattern terminating in snake heads at top. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription
Collection of apotropaic and royal signs. Possible reading: s3 (ny) sw(t) hity Wd3-t3(?)-nb(?)) “son of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt Udja-ta-neb(?).” The reading of last two signs in the name is very insecure. The name is not attested in Ranke (1935).

Parallels
For base scroll type see Martin (1971: pl. 49, ag); for the sw(t) glyph see, Keel (1997: 625, no. 261), Niccacci (1980: pl. 1, no. 25).
Cat. no. 11
Scarab inscribed for the king

Accession number
LACMA M.86.313.6

Date
Middle Kingdom to Later Period, 12th–26th dynasties (1991–525 BCE)

Dimensions
L: 1.4 cm; W: 0.98 cm; H: 0.56 cm

Materials
Steatite with modern brown colour

Credit line
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has two notches where the double lined suture meets the single lined pronotum separation with an additional line encircling the edges of the elytra: typical of New Kingdom scarabs (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs consist of two stylistically parallel, incised lines. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of the royal title “King of Upper and Lower Egypt” with signs connected to the king’s well-being. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription
\((\text{ny}) \text{ swt bity } ^\text{\textit{nh}} \text{ dl } ^\text{\textit{nh}} \text{ nb} (?)^\) “King of Upper and Lower Egypt; all life and stability.” However, see below for another example where Hornung & Staehelin (1976) read \(\text{nb} \) “all” as a stylised winged sun disk, based on comparison to other pieces (although these parallels do not have the title “King of Upper and Lower Egypt,” as in the LACMA piece).

Parallels
Cat. no. 12
Scarab of king Neferhotep

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.9
Date  Middle Kingdom, 13th dynasty (1786–1665 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 2.44 cm; W: 1.67 cm; H: 1.14 cm
Materials  Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has characteristics of late Middle Kingdom scarabs with a double lined suture and a single pronotum separation (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). Chips are evident over the entire back. The legs are naturalistic, but not deeply incised or arched. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of the titles on the left and a cartouche on the right. The cartouche belongs to one of three kings named Neferhotep in the 13th dynasty. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription  \( \text{nt r nfr ms(w) n mwt-nsw(t) Kmi Nfr-htp} \) “The good god, born of the royal mother Kemi, Neferhotep.”
Cat. no. 13
Scarab of king Ia–Ib

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.10
Date Middle Kingdom, 13th dynasty, reign of Wahibre Ia–ib (1721–1712 BCE)
Dimensions L: 2.31 cm; W: 1.59 cm; H: 1.07 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture that splits in two at the bottom, a pronotum separation, with triangular notches at the edges of the pronotum lines typical of late Middle Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 117). The legs are stylised and lightly incised, consisting of two to three parallel horizontal lines and several vertical hair lines. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of the royal title in the left column and a cartouche of a 13th dynasty king in the right column. Chipping is evident on the top, left side of the base. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription nTr nfr W3h-ib-R “The good god, Wah–ib–Re.” Throne name refers to the 13th dynasty king Ia–ib. The spelling is only attested for this 13th dynasty king (Von Beckerath, 1999: 97).

Cat. no. 14
Scarab with throne name of king Sheshi

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number
LACMA M.86.313.12

Date
Second Intermediate Period, 15th dynasty (1664–1555 BCE)

Dimensions
L: 2.32 cm; W: 1.65 cm; H: 0.96 cm

Materials
Steatite with blue–green glaze

Credit line
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back displays no suture or pronotum lines, but only small notches on sides of back, characteristic of late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). Wear is evident across the pronotum. There is a small, circular lapis inlay on the scarab head. The legs are cut roughly but naturalistically.
The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts three columns of text with royal epithets and the throne name of a Hyksos king. Chipping occurs on the upper right outer portion of the base, extending around to the lower portion of the side. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line. For this same king’s birth name (Sheshi), see cat. no. 15.

Inscription
The text on the base is separated into three columns. The outer two are oriented 180 degrees from central column (cf. Martin, 1971: pl. 50, type 56. Outer columns: nfr nfr, central column: Mf²-ib-R² di ‘nh, reading “The good god Maa–ib–Re, given life.”

Parallels
Cat. no. 15

Scarab with birth name of king Sheshi

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.13

Date Second Intermediate Period, 15th dynasty (1664–1555 BCE)

Dimensions L: 1.85 cm; W: 1.32 cm; H: 0.84 cm

Materials Steatite

Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines, but only small notches on sides of the elytra, characteristic of late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are naturalistically but roughly cut. Chipping occurs on the upper right side of the head, upper left side of base and side and lower right of base extending around the side to the bottom bore–hole.

The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts the birth name of a 15th dynasty Hyksos king along with epithet bordered by S–spirals. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line. For this same king’s throne name, see LACMA M.86.313.12, cat. no. 14.

Inscription $s\hat{3} R^* \hat{S}i\tilde{n} \hat{h} \ dt “The son of Re, Sheshi, who lives forever.”$

Cat. no. 16
Scarab of Second Intermediate Period king

![Scarab Image]

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.14
Date  Second Intermediate Period, 15th–16th dynasties (1664–1600 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.74 cm; W: 1.24 cm; H: 0.77 cm
Materials  Steatite with modern brown colour
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation, but only notches cut into the outer elytra, characteristic of late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48; Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 36). On the side, stylised legs consist of two horizontal parallel incised lines. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of a vertically centred column of inscription flanked by winged decorative border on either side. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line. The text on the base refers to a king with the throne name Sekha–n–Re. There are two kings with this name, one of the 13th dynasty and another of the 15th dynasty. The form of the scarab back makes a 15th dynasty date more likely. The birth name of this Hyksos king is Ykbmw (Von Beckerath, 1999: 118–119).

Inscription  \( ntr\ nfr\ Sh^5-n-R^1 \) “The good god, Sekha–n–Re.”

Cat. no. 17
Scarab of 17th dynasty king

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.15
Date Second Intermediate Period, 17th dynasty (1600–1559 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.96 cm; W: 1.31 cm; H: 0.86 cm
Materials Steatite with brown glaze
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation, but only notches cut into the sides, characteristic of late Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48; Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 34). Naturalistic legs are carefully worked with hair line details. Chipping occurs at the upper bore–hole/head area. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of stylised 17th dynasty king’s name in centrally located column, flanked by protective signs. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription Nwb-hpr-(R’) w3ś ẖnh sw (t) “Nub–kheper(–Re), dominion, living king (?)”. The sw(t) sign may also refer to the fact that this 17th dynasty king was Theban.

Cat. no. 18
Scarab of king Ahmose

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.16
Date New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Ahmose I (1569–1400 BCE) or later
Dimensions L: 1.58 cm; W: 1.16 cm; H: 0.72 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green and brown colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation. Suture separates into two lines at the bottom, forming a triangle, which is characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 42). The legs are naturalistic. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts the throne name of Ahmose of the 18th dynasty with two neb “lord” sign above and below. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription Nb-ph(te)-Ř nb mt’t “Neb–pekhty–Re, lord of truth.” Alternatively, this seems to be a cryptographic writing of “Amen.” Thus, following the throne name Nb-ph(te)-Ř, Imn could be read as sun disk = i; mt’t = m; nb = n.


Cat. no. 19
Scarab with birth name of Amenhotep I

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.17
Date New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasties (1548–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.75 cm; W: 1.29 cm; H: 0.82 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green glaze
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a double lined suture and single lined pronotum separation. The legs are naturalistically rendered. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of Amenhotep I’s birth name surrounded by single line. Precise dating is problematic, given that Amenhotep I was worshipped as a divinised king through the Ramesside Period.
Inscription Iḥn-hṭp “Amenhotep.” The inscription most likely refers to Amenhotep I.
Cat. no. 20
Scarab with throne name of Amenhotep I

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.18
Date New Kingdom, 18\textsuperscript{th}–20\textsuperscript{th} dynasties (1545–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.91 cm; W: 1.14 cm; H: 0.85 cm
Materials Glazed steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines, only two curved lines at top of back. The legs are naturalistically rendered and deeply incised. Wear marks are evident on the pronotum. The base decoration, vertically oriented, bears the throne name of Amenhotep I with a recumbent sphinx in the centre. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription $\text{Dsr-kA-Ra}$ “Djeserkare.” All of these signs are atop a $\text{nwb}$ “gold” sign.

Cat. no. 21
Duck scaraboid with throne name of Hatshepsut

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.19
Date  New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Hatshepsut (1502–1482 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.9 cm; W: 1.2 cm
Materials  Light blue faience
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back is in the shape of a duck whose neck is turned back to lie on the central axis of the back. Stylised, incised lines on the duck’s back portray layered feathers that end in a triangle at the rear. Rear legs are carved on either side. Duck scaraboids are typical of the early 18th dynasty (Keel, 1995: 68; Schlick–Nolte & Droste zu Hülshoff, 1990: 103). The base decoration, oriented vertically, contains the throne name of Hatshepsut, surrounded by a single line.
Inscription  M\textsuperscript{3f}-k\textsuperscript{3}-R\textsuperscript{3} “Maat-ka-Re”, the throne name of Hatshepsut.
Cat. no. 22
Scarab depicting two bound enemies

Accession number        LACMA M.86.313.20
Date                     New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1504–525 BCE)
Dimensions               L: 1.69 cm; W: 1.22 cm; H: 0.74 cm
Materials                Steatite with modern brown colour
Credit line              Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description              Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation, but there is evidence of wear. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of the throne name of Thutmose III in the centre column, flanked by a bound enemy and a bow or neb “lord” sign, perhaps indicating that he is “lord of enemies.” The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription              Mn-ḥpr-Rē “Men–kheper–Re”
Cat. no. 23
Scarab depicting the goddess Mut and throne name of Thutmose III

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.21
Date New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasty (1504–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.63 cm; W: 1.24 cm; H: 0.78 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a triple lined suture and double lined pronotum separation. The legs are stylised with two deeply cut parallel lines. A chip occurs at the upper bore–hole near the head.
The base decoration, oriented both horizontally and vertically, contains the throne name of Thutmose III, read horizontally, accompanied by epithets read vertically. The entire text is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription nfr.wy s3 mwt Mn-hpr-R nb “may the son of Mut be twice good, Men–kheper–Re, the lord.”
Parallels No exact parallels, but for similar design layouts, see Jaeger (1982: 189–191).
Cat. no. 24
Scarab with throne name of Amenhotep III

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number
LACMA M.86.313.22

Date
New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–24th dynasties (1410–711 BCE)

Dimensions
L: 1.55 cm; W: 1.19 cm; H: 0.77 cm

Materials
Steatite with modern brown colour

Credit line
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single suture and pronotum lines with curved markings or V–notches on the elytra, dating to 19th–22nd dynasties (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, nos. 31, 34). Wear marks are evident around the bottom bore–hole on the back. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised.

The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of the throne name of Amenhotep III in the centre cartouche, flanked by two ma’at feathers incised with decorative stroke lines and surmounted by a winged sun disk. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription
Nb-mAat-Ra “Neb–ma’at–Re,” throne name of Amenhotep III but also a possible cryptographic reading of name of god Amen (R = i; m ë ‘t = m; nb = n).

Parallels
Newberry (2003: pl. XXVII, no. 25), Petrie (1889: pl. 38). For an example with a similar layout but name of Thutmose III, see Schlick–Nolte et al. (1990: 37).
Cat. no. 25
Cowroid with name of queen Tiy

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.23
Date  New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reigns of Amenhotep III and Akhenaten (1410–1355 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.94 cm; W: 1.1 cm; H: 0.58 cm
Materials  Steatite with modern brown colour.
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Cowroid, oval shaped amulet, pierced longitudinally. Chipping on the base side of the upper piercing. The back is smooth and unadorned. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts the name of Amenhotep III’s great royal wife Tiy. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single incised line.
Inscription  hmt nsw(t) Tiy “King’s wife Tiy.”
Cat. no. 26
Scarab with two royal names

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number          LACMA M.86.313.25
Date                       New Kingdom, 19\textsuperscript{th} dynasty (1314–1304 BCE) or later
Dimensions                 L: 1.82 cm; W: 1.35 cm; H: 0.79 cm
Materials                  Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line                Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has single lined suture and pronotum separation with additional incised line surrounding elytra and outer part of pronotum, possibly characteristic of Ramesside Period (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). Wear is evident on the pronotum. The legs are naturalistic and deeply incised.
The base decoration, oriented horizontally from left to right, depicts a common motif of the throne name of Seti I without a cartouche facing the throne name of Thutmose III within a cartouche. The name of Thutmose III can also be read cryptographically as “Amen” (see cat. no. 1). The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription
$Mn-xpr-Ra$, “Men–kheper–Re,” throne name of Thutmose III, or cryptographically as “Amen” enclosed in cartouche on the right. On left is $Mn-mAt-Ra$ stp-n-R$^e$ “Men–ma’at–Re, chosen of Re,” throne name of Seti I.

Parallels
Cat. no. 27
Scarab with name of Seti I and cryptographic writing of Amen–Re

![Scarab Image]

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.26
Date New Kingdom, 19th dynasty, reign of Seti I (1314–1304)
Dimensions L: 1.67 cm; W: 1.2 cm; H: 0.79 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has triple lined suture and double line between pronotum and elytra. Naturalistic legs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a royal name and/or cryptographic readings surrounded by single incised line.
Inscription A number of different readings are possible:
- Cryptographically = 'Imn-Rc Hr nb "Amen–Re and Horus are Lord (?)"
- Cryptographically = 'Imn-Rc Rc-Hr[′ḥty?] nb "Amen–Re and Re–Hr[ḥkhty] are lord."
- Literally = mm-mm-Rc Hr nb "Men–ma’at–Re, Horus is lord (?)"
For writing of Amen with two bread loaves, see Rowe (1936: pl. 19, nos. 750, 753, 768).
**Cat. no. 28**  
Scarab depicting a baboon and the throne name of Ramses II

![Scarab Image]

*Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.*

**Accession number**  
LACMA M.86.313.28

**Date**  
New Kingdom, 19th dynasty (1304–1201 BCE)

**Dimensions**  
L: 2.16 cm; W. 1.5 cm; H: 0.89 cm

**Materials**  
Steatite with modern green colour

**Credit line**  
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

**Description**  
Pierced longitudinally. The back is smooth with no suture or pronotum separation, rather only curved lines at the side of the body appear. This type of humeral callosity is characteristic of 18th–26th dynasties (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs are naturalistically carved with striation detail marks. The base decoration, vertically oriented, depicts a baboon sitting under a winged sun disk facing a cartouche containing the throne name of Ramses II. Below are four more signs that are part of royal epithets. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

**Inscription**  
\[ Wsr-m\text{"}w\text{"}t-R\text{"} stp-n-(R\text{"}) mry (n) Dhwty nb tswy \]  
"User–ma’at–Re, chosen one of (Re), Beloved of Thoth (or Re?), lord of the two lands."

**Parallels**  
Cat. no. 29
Scarab with the name Ramses

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.30
Date New Kingdom, 19th–20th dynasties (1315–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.92 cm; W. 1.41 cm; H: 0.99 cm
Materials Green faience
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has single lined suture and pronotum, with an additional outer border–line and V–notches on the elytra. The legs are naturalistically carved. The base decoration, vertically oriented, depicts a Ramesside royal name, perhaps read crypto graphically, surrounded by a single line.
Inscription $R^2$-msi-sw imn(-$R^2$) nb (?) “Ramses, Amen(–Re) is Lord.” The reading of the signs not included in the Ramses group is unclear, but they may represent a cryptographic writing for Amen (reed leaf = $i$; ms = $m$; water sign = $n$). It is also possible that the water sign should be read as $ny$ “belonging to,” and the nb sign reads as $n$, associating the rule of a Ramesside king with the god Amen–Re.
Parallels For similar writings of the name Ramses and the nb sign, but with variations, see Petrie (1917: pls. XXXVIII, 19.1, nos. 9–11, XLV–VI).
Cat. no. 30  
Scarab depicting king shooting bow and arrow

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<th>Accession number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>New Kingdom, 18th–19th dynasties (1569–1201 BCE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.68 cm; W: 1.2 cm; H: 0.66 cm</td>
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<td>Materials</td>
<td>Dark brown steatite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>Gift of Ruth Greenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back has no sutures or elytra division lines, rather only two side notches are cut where the pronotum begins. Stylised legs are simply carved with two incised lines. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a royal figure wearing a war crown with quiver behind him, shooting a bow from which a uraeus extends. The base decoration is surrounded by a single incised line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat. no. 31

Hyksos scarab with king’s name

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number
LACMA M.86.313.5

Date
Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1569 BCE)

Dimensions
L: 1.6 cm; W: 1.2 cm; H: 0.9 cm

Materials
Steatite with modern blue–green colour

Credit line
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has double suture and elytra division lines, but two side notches are cut where the pronotum begins. The legs are naturalistically carved with striation detail marks. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of hieroglyphic signs surrounded by a scroll pattern. The entire inscription is encircled by a single incised line.

Inscription
The central sign is the nwb “gold” sign. Flanking this are two (n)swt signs on either side, perhaps representative of kingship. Above this group are two more signs, one a nfr “good” sign and the other the “nh “living” sign. The whole might be read as nswt nfr Nwb-"nh-(R)

Parallels
For a similarly oriented scarab of the same approximate time period, see Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 101).
2.2. Apotropaic and divine iconography

Cat. no. 32
Button seal depicting goose

Scale bar = 5 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.4 (4–10/10)
Date Late Old Kingdom to Early Middle Kingdom, 6th–12th dynasties (2374–1786 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.04 cm; W: 1.04 cm; H: 0.84 cm
Materials Faience
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Faience button seal with blue–green glaze and loop hole at the top. The base is inscribed with a goose sign, perhaps connected with the earth god Geb.
Inscription 
Cat. no. 33
Button seal depicting ithyphallic monkey

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number   LACMA 50.4.4 (5–10/10)
Date                Late Old Kingdom to Middle Kingdom, 6th–12th dynasties (2374–1786 BCE)
Dimensions          L: 1.5 cm; W: 1.5 cm; H: 1.38 cm
Materials           Faience
Credit line         William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description         Faience button seal with dark green patina. A damaged section reveals blue composite material underneath. The button dome is decorated with four dotted lines extending from loop–hole to base, with another dotted line around bottom of base. The base decoration depicts an ithyphallic monkey holding a lute.
Inscription         n/a
Cat. no. 34
Scarab with protective solar inscription

Scale bar = 5 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.5.2
Date New Kingdom (1569–1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions L: 1.09 cm; W: 0.79 cm; H: 0.57 cm
Materials Blue–green faience
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has single line suture and pronotum separation, with V–marks on outer side upper edges of elytra. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised. The base decoration, horizontally oriented, is an apotropaic inscription made up of four hieroglyphic signs surrounded by a single line.
Inscription $R^* nfr m\overline{t}$ “Re is perfect and true (?).” For this unusual writing of Re, with the sun disk followed by $r$, see Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 199). Alternatively, the $r$ sign following the sun disk could indicate that the word should be read as “day” ($hrw$), giving a translation of “The day is perfect and true.”
Cat. no. 35
Scarab depicting beetle flanked by cobras

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.7.3
Date  New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE) or modern
Dimensions  L: 1.43 cm; W: 1 cm; H: 0.61 cm
Materials  Blue–green faience
Credit line  William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines, but rather two curved lines at the upper back, which fits within a range of typologies dating from 18th–26th dynasties (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 38). The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised with decorative striation marks. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, depicts a scarab beetle flanked by two uraei.
Inscription  It is possible to read this grouping as a cryptographic writing of the name of the god Amen, but this is highly tentative (uraeus = i; uraeus = m; kheper beetle = n: see Keel, 1995: 245).
Cat. no. 36
Scarab with apotropaic inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.7.5
Date New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.61 cm; W: 1.23 cm; H: 0.83 cm
Materials Green faience
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation with V–notches at upper part of outer elytra, suggesting a broad date within the 18th–26th dynasties (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 38). Naturalistically formed legs with multiple striations of decoration on the upper part of the front legs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of five hieroglyphic signs perhaps creating an apotropaic aphorism.

Inscription wḏ d nfr nb Rʾ nb meaning “may there be all flourishing and goodness (to you) every day” or “all flourishing and goodness every day.”

Cat. no. 37
Scarab depicting monkey holding the *ankh* sign

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.50.4.7.11
Date  Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12th–17th dynasties (1991–1555 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.88 cm; W: 1.39 cm; H: 0.85 cm
Materials  Brown steatite with traces of green glaze
Credit line  William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back is highly detailed with triple lined suture, double lined pronotum separation, and additional lines around outer edges of elytra, curving in at corners where they meet the pronotum. Another line surrounds pronotum. All of the lines on the back are inked, not engraved. The legs are naturalistically carved in openwork decorated with detailed striation marks.
The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts a monkey holding a stylised *ankh* “life” sign.
Cat. no 38
Scarab with apotropaic inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
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<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA 50.4.7.14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Middle Kingdom, 12th–13th dynasties (1991–1665 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.48 cm; W: 1.05 cm; H: 0.56 cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Steatite with blue–green glaze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>William Randolph Hearst Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines and is very roughly formed. The legs are stylised and consist of horizontal lines lightly incised. The scarab is brown in colour, but there are remains of blue–green glaze in the incised lines on the body and especially on the base decoration. Despite the lack of diagnostic markings on the body, the stylised design on the base is characteristic of the Middle Kingdom. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a wadj papyrus sign, a t hieroglyph, as well as a symmetrical spiral motif terminating in two papyrus plants. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>w\text{\textdagger} t “that which flourishes (?)”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallels</td>
<td>For a similar pattern, if not recognisable hieroglyphic signs, see Keel (1997: 275, no. 505).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat. no. 39
Scarab depicting three gods

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  
LACMA 50.4.7.16

Date  
New Kingdom to Late Period, 19th–26th dynasties (1315–525 BCE), but probably Ramesside or Third Intermediate Period.

Dimensions  
L: 1.5 cm; W: 1.13 cm; H: 0.71 cm

Materials  
Brown steatite with some blue–green glaze

Credit line  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

Description  
Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single suture and a single pronotum separation line, as well as V–notches in the upper part of the elytra. An additional line extends along the outer portion of the elytra and pronotum. The legs are naturalistic carved and incised with striation decoration marks on the forelegs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts three gods standing side by side on a neb sign. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription  
The three gods are depicted as follows: Amen on the right facing the other two, Horus in the middle wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt and Ptah on the left in mumiform holding a staff. The triad stands on the neb sign for “lord” or “all.” Amen faces Horus and Ptah, as if welcoming them. The inscription of this triad is thought to be typical of the 19th and 20th dynasties (Keel, 1995: 214–215; Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: 100–101).

Parallels  
Cat. no. 40
Scarab depicting hippo goddess Taweret

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number   LACMA M.69.91.230
Date    New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasties (1569–1081 BCE)
Dimensions   L: 1.63 cm; W: 1.20 cm; H: 0.79 cm
Materials   Blue–green faience
Credit line   Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum markings. Instead there are two curved lines where pronotum and elytra meet, possibly dating this piece to the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs are naturalistically carved. The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts the pregnant hippo goddess Taweret, “the Great One,” protectress of women and children, standing with arms outstretched, seemingly in an attitude of worship. At her feet is a knife or a very poorly rendered sa “protection” hieroglyph. A single line surrounds the entire inscription.

Inscription  

Cat. no. 41
Scarab depicting monkey

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.69.91.236
Date 18th–21st dynasties (1569–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 2.33 cm; W: 1.66 cm; H: 1.0 cm
Materials White steatite with a brownish tan patina
Credit line Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description The longitudinal piercing is large in diameter. The back is a typical New Kingdom type in which a small scarab sits atop the oval surface. Incised lines radiate from this small scarab to the edges of the piece (Andrews, 1994: 54, ill. 55; Keel, 1995: 51). The legs are naturalistically carved with decorative striation marks.

The base decoration, oriented vertically, shows a monkey holding a *nefer* "good" sign. Behind him to the left are more hieroglyphic signs. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription A monkey faces right and holds a *nfr* “good” sign. Behind the monkey to the left is *di* “to give” sign. Above the *di* sign is another illegible sign group that seems to be *nb tīwy* “lord of the two lands.” Other examples with a similar inscription usually include the goddess Bastet as the giver, but this LACMA example seems to write “the lord of the two lands” instead. Because of comparanda with similar depictions (Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: nos. 720, p. 404, no. Va4), this inscription is likely read in the following way: *di nb tīwy nfr(w)*, meaning “The Lord of the Two Lands gives beautiful things.” The singular *nfr* sign on this scarab base can be translated as a plural, because the monkey itself is a sign for *nfr* “good.”

Cat. no. 42
Carved amuletic plaque with apotropaic inscriptions

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number   LACMA M.69.91.238
Date          Middle Kingdom, 13th–15th dynasty (1786–1555 BCE)
Dimensions    L: 2.75 cm; W: 1.86 cm; H: 0.76 cm
Materials     Brown steatite
Credit line   Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description  Pierced longitudinally. This double–sided oval plaque (Keel, 1995: 84–85) has no visible glaze or strong patina. There are inscriptions on both sides. There is a single incised line around the side edge of the plaque. The recto and verso inscriptions have a number of hieroglyphic signs arranged symmetrically, surrounded by a single line. The recto is oriented horizontally, and the verso is oriented vertically.

Inscription
Recto: hꜣ nbw ʼnh [...]. “Would that there be life and gold [...]. This reading is very tentative. There is a large break on the left side of the oval plaque on the recto, and one sign is missing. Given that many such plaques are symmetrical, it is quite possible that there was another sign, indicating that this reading is incomplete.
Verso: ḫꜣ snꜣ ḫʼnḫ nb, perhaps meaning “may the unification of all life appear in glory,” or perhaps more likely, if the central sign is read as a nfr sign, then ḫꜣ-nfr-(R²) (Beckerath, 1999: 96–97, no. 24) ʼnh nb, the throne name of the 13th dynasty king Sobekhotep IV ḫꜣ-nfr-R², “all life.”

Cat. no. 43
Scarab depicting fecundity figure

Accession number       LACMA M.69.91.240
Date                    New Kingdom to Late Period, 19th–26th dynasties (1315–525 BCE)
Dimensions              L: 1.6 cm; W: 1.14 cm; H: 0.75 cm
Materials               Steatite with tan patina, no glaze
Credit line             Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation. The legs are naturalistically rendered with decorative incisions on the top of the forelegs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a number of hieroglyphic signs that are surrounded by a single line. The inscription is an apotropaic aphorism. The top most sign is a sun disk. Below this is a recumbent sphinx. The bottom most signs are a Hapi figure with three papyrus plants on his head holding a hes “praise” jar, in front of which is a nefer “good” sign. The Hapi figure may provide not only with life giving waters of the Nile, but also with the praise of the gods. This scarab form is quite generic typologically. The kneeling Hapi figure occurs at least by the reign of Hatshepsut; however the style of carving suggests a later Third Intermediate or Late Period date.

Inscription
A very tentative reading is: ḥḥp di ḫš nfr ṛr “Hapi grants the good praise of Re”

Parallels
Cat. no. 44
Scarab depicting goddess *ma’at* as ruler

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

**Accession number** LACMA M.86.313.29

**Date** New Kingdom, 20\(^{th}\) dynasty (1166–1160 BCE) or later

**Dimensions** L: 1.62 cm; W: 1.24 cm; H: 0.75 cm

**Materials** Steatite with modern green colour

**Credit line** Gift of Ruth Greenberg

**Description** Pierced longitudinally. The back has both single lined suture and pronotum division, with two V–marks on the outer elytra. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised. The base decoration, vertically oriented, contains an epithet of Ramses IV connected to his birth name. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

**Inscription** *hk3-m₃tₚ-R* “the ruler of truth is Re,” an epithet of the birth name of Ramses IV.

Cat. no. 45
Scarab with protective hieroglyphs

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.32
Date  Second Intermediate Period to the New Kingdom, 15th–20th dynasties (1664–1081 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 2.21 cm; W: 1.66 cm; H: 1.05 cm
Materials  Green faience
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation with V–notches on the upper elytra, and a suture line that separates at the bottom, suggesting a New Kingdom date (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The high legs are naturalistically carved. The base decoration, oriented vertically, was probably produced with a mold and consists of an apotropaic formula, presumably to protect its bearer.

Inscription  The upper part of the base is inscribed with two di “to give” signs, two wdḥt “wholeness” eyes, flanking a central smḥ “unification” sign. These signs probably create a solarising phrase about “giving the eye of Re” and his recreation into a united and whole being during the hours of night. The lower part of the base decoration contains a rectangular area, open at the bottom, containing the wdḥt eye for wholeness, or alternatively representing the eye of Re, with two nfr “perfect” signs below it, perhaps creating the apotropaic saying nfr.wy wdḥt “how perfect is the eye of Re.” Flanking this enclosure are two uraei. The solarising base decoration is suggestive of a New Kingdom date, but the style is indistinct.

Parallels  For similar layout and style and many similar signs, see Petrie (1925: pl. XVIII, no. 1360).
Cat. no. 46
Scarab inscribed with name of goddess Maahis

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.39
Date New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–24th dynasties (1569–711 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.78 cm; W: 1.25 cm; H: 0.84 cm
Materials Steatite with modern brown colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation with V–notches at the outer elytra and an additional line along the outer elytra, features characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 110). The legs are naturalistically carved. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of a hieroglyphic inscription surrounded by a single incised line. The text mentions the lion deity Maahis, an underworld god most often attested in the New Kingdom and later. This deity protected the sun god during his dangerous night–time journey.

Inscription There are a number of possible readings, given the abbreviated nature of the last two signs. As an apotropaic saying, it would read either:

- $M\text{\textsuperscript{th}}h\text{\textsuperscript{h}}\text{\textsuperscript{h}}\text{\textsuperscript{h}}\text{\text-superscript{w}}$ “Maahis is hidden.”
- $M\text{\textsuperscript{th}}h\text{\textsuperscript{h}}\text{\textsuperscript{h}}\text{\text-superscript{w}}$ “Maahis is revealed.”

Parallels There are no known parallels for this piece. For personal names containing invocations to this underworld deity, see Ranke (1935: 144, nos. 2–14). Most are attested in the New Kingdom.
Cat. no. 47
Scarab with a protective inscription

Accession number       LACMA M.86.313.40
Date                    New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasties (1569–1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions              L: 1.67 cm; W: 1.21 cm; H: 0.69 cm
Materials               Steatite with blue glaze
Credit line             Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description             Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation at the outer elytra, characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 47). The legs are naturalistically rendered with the back being deeply incised. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a hieroglyphic inscription or personal name surrounded by a single incised line. The top most sign is the solar bark, probably meant to be read cryptographically as the name of the god Amen, followed by three more signs, creating a protective saying.
Inscription             ʾImn ḫpš n wꜣ.t(w), meaning perhaps “Amen is the strength of one” or “Amen is the strength of one alone.”
Cat. no. 48
Scarab with protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number        LACMA M.86.313.41
Date                    New Kingdom, 18th–20th dynasties (1569–1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions              L: 1.43 cm; W: 1.03 cm; H: 0.69 cm
Materials               Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line             Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description             Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation with V–notches on the outer elytra, characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised. Various chipping occurs on the back, leg and upper right portion of the base. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a hieroglyphic inscription surrounded by a single line. The inscription is a wish for prosperity.
Inscription             \textit{wn.k m hh mi R'} "may you be in festival like Re." There are plural strokes under the sun disk, probably erroneous. Other examples show one vertical stroke under the sun disk.
Cat. no. 49
Scarab with protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number       LACMA M.86.313.42
Date                    New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Dimensions              L: 1.82 cm; W: 1.21 cm; H: 0.6 cm
Materials               Blue glazed steatite
Credit line             Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description             Pierced longitudinally. Scarab back has a double lined suture and pronotum separation. The back type is not diagnostic. The legs are naturalistically carved and slightly incised. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of five hieroglyphic signs surrounded by a single incised line. The inscription is either a personal name or an apotropaic saying to the god Amen.
Inscription             $\text{Imn m s}(i)$ “Amen is (my) protection.”
Parallels               Petrie (1925: pl. XII, nos. 697–703). For this personal name, attested New Kingdom to Late Period, see Ranke (1935: 28, no. 9).
Cat. no. 50
Scarab depicting goddesses Mut and Taweret

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.43
Date New Kingdom to Late Period, 19th–26th dynasties (1315–525 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.62 cm; W: 1.15 cm; H: 0.71 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single suture and pronotum line, with V–notches on the upper elytra and an additional line on the outer elytra, characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34) but the conperanda do not exclude a later date. The legs are deeply incised and naturalistically carved with decorative marks on the forelegs. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a protective formula directed at the goddesses Mut and Taweret, surrounded by a single incised line. The arm of Taweret, holding a knife, is poorly incised indicating that she is meant to hold another hieroglyphic sign. The sa “protection” hieroglyph occurs under Taweret’s outstretched arm.

Inscription The reading is tentative. Mut Taweret si(?).,i “Mut and Taweret are (my) protection.”

Cat. no. 51
Scarab with protective inscription

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.44
Date            New Kingdom to the Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Dimensions      L: 1.79 cm; W: 1.25 cm; H: 0.82 cm
Materials       Steatite with modern brown colour
Credit line     Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description     Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation lines, but rather it slopes to a point in the middle and down the back to give the appearance elytra and suture. The legs naturalistically carved. The base decoration, oriented vertically, contains eight hieroglyphic signs, many of them unclear, surrounded by a single line. The inscription is a protective saying.
Inscription     The reading is tentative: ii ꜣ k ḫr [..] ḫṣyw “The one who comes and goes with [..] praise” or as an imperative: “Come and go with [..] praise.”
Parallels       No parallels for this inscription have been found. However, for a similar personal name (iḥ-ẖr-nfrt), see Ranke (1935: 10, no. 18).
Cat. no. 52
Scarab with cryptographic writing of ‘Amen’

Scale bar = 5 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.7.2
Date    New Kingdom to the Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1500–525 BCE)
Dimensions   L: 1.25 cm; W: 0.91 cm; H: 0.55 cm
Materials   Blue–green faience
Credit line   William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and a double lined pronotum separation. The legs are naturalistically rendered and deeply incised, with decorative striation marks. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of four hieroglyphic signs that cryptographically spell the name of the god Amen, surrounded by a single line.
Inscription Probably a cryptographic text, reading ’Imn-rt nb(.i), meaning “Amen–Re is (my) lord.” (Reed leaf = i; falcon = mn, given the association with the god Monthu). Other scarabs write this cryptographic formula with a stroke rather than a reed leaf. Another non–cryptographic reading is possible and not necessarily mutually exclusive: Rª-Hr(ḥty) nb meaning “Re–Hor(akhty) is lord.”
Cat. no. 53
Scarab dedicated to the god Amen

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.7.13
Date    New Kingdom to the Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Dimensions   L: 1.36 cm; W: 1.01 cm; H: 0.59 cm
Materials   Blue–green faience
Credit line   William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back and head are roughly formed with no suture or pronotum lines, bulbous eyes, and very stylised legs. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of the sign group “image of Amen” flanked by neb “lord” signs on either side.
Inscription   tit Imn nb reading “The image of Amen is lord (?)”
Cat. no. 54
Stamp seal with cryptographic writing of the name ‘Amen–Re’

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.69.91.233
Date    New Kingdom to the Late Period, 19th–25th dynasties (1315–664 BCE)
Dimensions   L: 2.44 cm; W: 1.59 cm; H: 0.96 cm
Materials   Green faience
Credit line   Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn

Description Green faience stamp seal with a bundled handle: five incised lines extend from one another as they radiate from the pierced handle (Andrews, 1994: 54, ill. 55; Keel, 1995: 87–88; 1997: 7). A chip occurs on the left side of the base. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a figured scene of a falcon god, probably Monthu, on the left, sun disk above, and ma’at feather to the god’s right, all probably meant to be read cryptographically as the name of the god Amen–Re.

Inscription If a cryptographic reading is meant, sun disk = i; ma’at feather = m; Monthu falcon = mn; sun disk = Ra. Result = ʼImn-Ra “Amen–Re” the Theban solar god.

Cat. no. 55
Hippopotamus scaraboid with name of Amen

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.27
Date New Kingdom to the Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE)
Materials Blue glazed steatite
Dimensions L: 1.59 cm; W: 1.08 cm; H: 0.87 cm
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Hippopotamus backed scaraboid with blue glaze, pierced longitudinally. The head of the hippopotamus is turned inward. The legs are finely carved, with incised striations on the belly of the animal. The facial features and ears also have incised detail.
The base decoration, oriented vertically, contains the name of the god Amen followed by what could be read as a bread loaf, t and a nb basket, surrounded by a single incised line.

Inscription Two possible readings
- Imn(t?) nb meaning “Amen(et?) is lord” (Keel, 1995: 127)
- Imnyt meaning perhaps “daily” or “daily offerings.” (Wimmer, 2004). The reading of the scaraboid base is insecure because of the existence of a small horizontal stroke underneath the n sign, suggesting the unlikely reading of Imnyt “Amenet,” the female double of the god Amen. However, this is a very unlikely reading, given the sun disk at the top of the base design, suggesting the meaning of “daily offerings.”

Cat. no. 56
Scarab with cryptographic writing of the name ‘Amen–Re’

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.31
Date New Kingdom, 19th–20th dynasties (1315–1081 BCE)
Dimensions L: 2.06 cm; W: 1.53 cm; H: 1.01 cm
Materials Dark grey steatite
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation line, with V–notches on the outer elytra, characteristic of the New Kingdom to Third Intermediate Period (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). The legs are naturalistically carved and lightly incised with detailed striation marks. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of an epithet or cryptographic writing whose reading remains tentative.
Inscription Perhaps to be read cryptographically: mry 'Imn “beloved of Amen.” (reed leaf = i; ms sign = m; water sign = n).
Parallels No parallels were found for this scarab.
2.3. Personal titles and names

Cat. no. 57
Scarab of the overseer of the seal named Peri–m–wakh

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.7
Date  Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1600 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.73 cm; W: 1.23 cm; H: 0.75 cm
Materials  Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation and only notch marks at the sides, perhaps characteristic of the Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are stylised and consist of lightly incised lines. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a collection of hieroglyphs that give an administrative title and name. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription  imy-r sdṯwṯ Pri-m-wḥ[t] (?) “overseer of the seal Peri–m–wakh[t]?” The man’s name is illegible after the pri-m group, but very similar comperanda provide a possible reading. The Middle Kingdom name Peri is attested in Ranke (1935: 133, nos. 117–118; 134, no. 112), but not in this extended form.
Cat. no. 58
Scarab of overseer of the seal Netjenem

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA M.86.313.8</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1783–1600 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 2.46 cm; W: 1.65 cm; H: 1.08 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Steatite with modern green colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>Gift of Ruth Greenberg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description
Pierced longitudinally. The back has double lined sutures and single line pronotum separation, characteristic of the 13th–14th dynasties (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 117). The legs are naturalistically carved, and hairs are indicated on the forelegs with incised lines. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of an administrative title and name. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription
*idnw imy-r sd/iwt Nynm* “deputy, Overseer of the seal Ne(set)-tjenem(?).” The two titles are clearly legible, and the name is attested in Ranke (1935: 214, no. 218) for the Middle Kingdom, although it is not written with the nst seat, but only a simple n alphabetic sign.

Parallels
Cat. no. 59  
Scarab of seal bearer Har

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession number</th>
<th>LACMA M.86.313.11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1600 BCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 2.33 cm; W: 1.69 cm; H: 1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Steatite with modern brown colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit line</td>
<td>Gift of Ruth Greenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation, rather notches occur where pronotum meets elytra, characteristics of Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period dating (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 34). The legs are naturalistically carved and slightly incised. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of an administrative title and name. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>The signs are ill-inscribed and difficult to read. A tentative reading is: $sD\Delta wty bity imy-r n sD\Delta wti H\Delta r (?)$, meaning &quot;royal seal bearer and overseer of the seal, Khar (?)&quot;. The reading of bity &quot;royal&quot; is very tentative, but supported by comparanda. The imy-r sign group is quite poorly written, but supported by the comparanda.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat. no. 60
Scarab of royal scribe Amenhotep

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.24
Date                New Kingdom, 18\textsuperscript{th}–20\textsuperscript{th} dynasties (1569–1081 BCE)
Dimensions          L: 1.46 cm; W: 1.08 cm; H: 0.65 cm
Materials           Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line         Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description         Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation. The legs are carved naturalistically, but crudely. The base decoration, vertically oriented, consists of a title and name of a royal scribe named Amenhotep. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription         $ss \text{nsw \text{Imn-htp}}$ “the royal scribe Amenhotep.”
2.4. Near Eastern motifs and adaptations

Cat. no. 61  
Scarab depicting a human figure

![Scarab Image]

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  
LACMA 50.4.7.15

Date  
Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12th–16th dynasties (1991–1600 BCE)

Dimensions  
L: 1.60 cm; W: 1.18 cm; H: 0.75 cm

Materials  
Blue–green glazed steatite

Credit line  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

Description  
Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines, only two slashes on the upper outer edges, a style that may be characteristic of the Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (for this smooth type of scarab back, see Keel, 1995: 48; Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34; Ward & Dever, 1994: 16). The legs are quite stylised and consist of two horizontal lines around the side of the piece.

The base decoration, oriented vertically, depicts a kneeling human figure holding a leaf, feather, or some other kind of organic object to the right of the body. The figure wears a kilt that only covers the lower portion of the body, suggesting that it is masculine, however this could also be a depiction of the Syrian branch goddess (Richards, 1992: 15–19). There are horizontal striations in the kilt. The entire decoration is surrounded by a single line. The design is not Egyptian in subject matter, although the form and technique of the scarab is; therefore, it may find its origins in the Sinai or Syria–Palestine.

Inscription  
n/a

Parallels  
Cat. no. 62
Scarab depicting two men with a gazelle

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.69.91.239

Date Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–17th dynasties (1786–1569 BCE)

Dimensions L: 1.85 cm; W: 1.35 cm; H: 0.81 cm

Materials Steatite

Credit line Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn

Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines and instead has only two notches cut into the sides where the pronotum meets the elytra. This style of back may be typical of the late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are naturalistically carved and slightly incised. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, depicts a captured gazelle(?) flanked by two kneeling men. The men appear to be falcon headed and dressed in kilts. All of the figures have detailed cross–hatching marks, characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period and of northeastern Egypt or Syria–Palestine, especially during the Hyksos Period.

Inscription n/a

Cat. no. 63
Scarab depicting lion and crocodile

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.35
Date Second Intermediate Period, 15th–16th dynasties (1664–1569 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.96 cm; W: 1.37 cm; H: 0.87 cm
Materials Steatite with modern blue colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a double lined suture and single lined pronotum separation, possibly a characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period (Rowe, 1936: pl. 32). The legs are stylised and consist of three slightly incised lines cut into the sides of the piece. The base decoration, oriented horizontally, consists of three animals. A lion walks to the right with tail upraised, facing a flared cobra. The lion treads upon a crocodile below. Each animal is detailed with interior cross-hatched decoration, also characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period. The design is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription n/a

Cat. no. 64
Hyksos scarab with anra inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.4
Date Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1569 BCE)
Dimensions L: 2.1 cm; W: 1.4 cm
Materials Steatite with modern blue–green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back is decorated with a detailed stitched style X form (or perhaps two branches), crossing from pronotum to elytra, perhaps characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34, no. 103). The legs are naturalistically carved with striation detail marks. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of three areas separated from each other by double incised lines. The top most area has a double triangle geometric design flanking a flower, perhaps a lotus. The middle area, taking up most of the decorative space, shows two interlocking C–scroll patterns. The lowermost section contains some hieroglyphic signs, namely the red crown (phonetic \(\text{n}\)) flanking the hieroglyphs \(\text{c-r-f}\) in the middle. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription The C–scroll decoration and the anra signs are characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period and the Hyksos period (Richards, 2001).

2.5. Geometric, spiral, scroll, woven and floral designs

Cat. no. 65
Scarab with spiral pattern decoration

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.7.18
Date Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12th–17th dynasties (1991–1569 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.59 cm; W: 1.08 cm; H: 0.73 cm
Materials Brown steatite with remains of blue glaze
Credit line William Randolph Hearst
Description Pierced longitudinally, the piercing is far off centre, and the hole at the head is next to the scarab’s right eye. The back is unadorned with no suture or pronotum separation lines. There are two slashes cut into the mid part of the pronotum, a type suggestive of the Middle Kingdom or Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are stylised and feathered with decoration marks along the upper legs and below each eye. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of five columns of interlacing s–spiral patterning. There is a large crack on the upper right section of the base. The base design is enclosed with a single line.

Inscription n/a
Cat. no. 66
Scarab with geometric pattern

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number     LACMA M.69.91.235
Date                  Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–17th dynasties (1786–1569 BCE)
Dimensions            L: 1.69 cm; W: 1.21 cm; H: 0.71 cm
Materials             Steatite
Credit line           Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description           Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation. However, two side notches on the outer back appear at the point where the pronotum and elytra would meet, characteristic of the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are stylised and consist of two incised lines on the sides. The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a woven central twist flanked by two curved lines. The entire design is encircled by a single line.
Inscription           n/a
Cat. no. 67
Scarab depicting symmetrical signs with a scroll border

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.2
Date  Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12th–16th dynasties (1991–1600 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.45 cm; W: 1.03 cm; H: 0.69 cm
Materials  Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum lines, but only two slight notches at the pronotum area, a style that may be characteristic of the Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period (Keel, 1995: 48). The legs are stylistically carved with numerous detail lines on all sides. The base decoration, oriented vertically, contains a central column of hieroglyphic signs flanked by a z–scroll border. The central column seems to contain a collection of apotropaic signs. The base inscription is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription  On either side of the name is a column of protective signs: a sedge plant, a bread loaf, a dd pillar meaning “stability,” followed by another pair of illegible signs.
Parallels  Petrie (1889: pl. 22; 1917: pl. XV; 1925: pl. X, nos. 448, 454). For private scarabs with a title and/or name surrounded by scroll pattering, see Martin (1971: pl. 48), Newberry (1908: pls. XIV, XV, XVI).
Cat. no. 68
Frog scaraboid with geometric figures

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.33
Date Old Kingdom to Middle Kingdom 6th–13th dynasties (2374–1665)
Dimensions L: 1.47 cm; W: 1.09 cm; H: 0.67 cm
Materials Steatite with modern blue glaze
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Frog scaraboids are popular throughout Egyptian scarab production, appearing in the 6th dynasty and lasting until at least the 18th dynasty, and perhaps beyond (Keel: 1995: 69). The glaze may be modern because the colour also covers a chipped portion on the frog’s right legs. Pierced longitudinally. The frog was thought to create prosperity and fecundity for its bearer. The base inscription is oriented horizontally, with two stick figure men oriented geometrically tête–bêche, each holding some kind of staff or stick. This common motif is found in seal and amulet decorations from the late Old Kingdom to the Middle Kingdom.

Inscription n/a
Cat. no. 69
Scarab with interwoven design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.86.313.34
Date Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1600 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.58 cm; W: 1.14 cm; H: 0.7 cm
Materials Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has double suture and pronotum separation. The head is stylised with two double lines extending from the back to the eyes. The entire back is suggestive of Second Intermediate Period decoration (Rowe, 1936: pl. 32). The legs are stylistically incised with decorative striation marks. The base decoration consists of a triple–lined looped pattern that joins at a central point forming an X. The entire decoration is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription n/a
Cat. no. 70
Scarab with geometric floral design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  
LACMA M.86.313.36

Date  
Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13th–16th dynasties (1786–1569 BCE) or modern

Dimensions  
L: 1.42 cm; W: 1.12 cm; H: 0.67 cm

Materials  
Steatite with blue glaze

Credit line  
Gift of Ruth Greenberg

Description  
Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture, pronotum separation, and V–notches on the upper elytra, generally characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34). A chip occurs on the tip of the head. The legs are naturalistically carved in openwork, so that the body is completely undercut, making the legs free–standing. Striation marks adorn the legs.

The base decoration consists of a decorative cartouche in the centre with internal striated patterning, from which papyrus plants with round flowering ends extend. Flanking the cartouche are two signs, perhaps to be read as either sa “protection” or shen “eternity.” The entire decoration is surrounded by a single line. The base decoration is unusual in style and content, bringing the authenticity of this piece into question. The entire design is surrounded by a single line.

Inscription  
si “protection,” or sn “eternity?”

Parallels  
Cat. no. 71
Scarab with geometric floral design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA M.86.313.37
Date  Second Intermediate Period to New Kingdom, 15th–18th dynasties (1664–1315 BCE)
Dimensions  L: 1.44 cm; W: 1.09 cm; H: 0.68 cm
Materials  Green–blue faience
Credit line  Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description  Pierced longitudinally. The back is characteristic of the New Kingdom (Rowe, 1936: pls. 33–34) with the single suture and pronotum separation and V–notches cut into the outer elytra. The scarab’s legs are naturalistically formed.
The base decoration consists of two three–stemmed papyrus plants on either side of a cartouche containing three strokes. Perhaps the design is apotropaic of the sun’s cycle or the king’s name. The entire design is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription  n/a
Cat. no. 72
Scarab with geometric design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA M.69.91.232
Date Middle Kingdom to Late Period, 12th–26th dynasties (1991–525 BCE)
Dimensions L: 1.27 cm; W: 0.95 cm; H: 0.8 cm
Materials Blue–green faience
Credit line Gift of Hyatt Robert von Dehn
Description Pierced longitudinally. The back has a single lined suture and pronotum separation. The legs are stylistically carved as two parallel incised lines. A large chip occurs on the right leg. The base inscription, oriented horizontally, consists on two vertical lines. There is no inscription on the base, rather only two quickly incised lines. The lack of parallels and distinguishing characteristics make this piece difficult to date or authenticate.
2.6. Heart scarabs

Cat. no. 73
Stone heart scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © LACMA.

Accession number LACMA 50.22.24
Date New Kingdom, 18\textsuperscript{th}–20\textsuperscript{th} dynasties (1569–1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions L: 6.1 cm; W: 4.2 cm; H: 2.3 cm
Materials Green stone
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Collection
Description This heart scarab is made of an unknown light green stone. It’s back and base are roughly carved. The back has a triple lined suture and double lined pronotum. Two large V–notches are etched on the inside upper elytra. Triple lines decorate the outer elytra edge. The legs are covered by a beaten gold foil. The gold at the head has two punctures, creating a way to string the scarab. However, the stone itself is not pierced.

Inscription There are five lines of text from a spell in the Book of the Dead (chapter 30B) entitled “Spell for not letting the heart judge against him in the god’s domain”. The inscription is roughly scratched onto the surface and contains multiple mistakes:

1. \textit{Wsir tver-smn(?)}
2. \textit{dd.f ib.i n ib.i (sic)}
3. \textit{mwt(.i) sp sn (?) ib.i (sic) n hprw(i)}
4. \textit{m }f^{r}r .i
5. \textit{m mtrw}

Meaning
1. Osiris Tewer–semen
2. He says, “My heart of my heart (sic)
3. of (my) mother, twice, my heart of (my) transformations
4. do not stand against me
5. as a witness

Parallels Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 371–372, nos. A8, A9, which are New Kingdom or later in date).
Cat. no. 74
Modern (?) heart scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © LACMA.

Accession number LACMA M.80.199.90
Date Unknown, and probably modern
Dimensions L: 5.7 cm; W: 3.8 cm
Materials Dark green stone
Credit line Gift of Robert Miller and Marilyn Miller Deluca
Description This uninscribed and unpierced heart scarab has a royal head bearing the nemes headdress and a uraeus. The face is bland in its features, with large eyes, a snub nose, and nondescript mouth. The nemes is striped with incised cuts into the stone. A collar is cut between the nemes lappets. The form of the scarab back is generic and undiagnostic. The line between pronotum and elytra has incised decoration. The suture is single lined. The upper edges of the elytra bear V–notches on the outer corners. The scarab legs are not cut deeply, but there are small detail incisions on the upper parts of the legs. Given the unusual royal head and lack of text, the authenticity of this scarab is questionable.

Parallels For another probable modern piece in this style, see Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 372, no. A11).
2.7. Uninscribed

Cat. no. 75
Uninscribed hematite scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.3(1–6/6)
Date          Middle Kingdom to Late Period, 12th–26th dynasties (1991–525 BCE)
Dimensions    L: 1.53cm; W: 1.04cm; H: .78cm
Materials      Hematite (see Keel, 1995: 141)
Credit line    William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description   Polished hematite, pierced longitudinally. The back has single suture and pronotum separation. The legs are stylised by lightly etched lines. Chips occur on upper left side of the base and the middle of the pronotum. There is no inscription. Most uninscribed scarabs of semi-precious material are difficult to date.
Cat. no. 76
Uninscribed quartz scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number  LACMA 50.4.3(2–6/6)
Date Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12th–18th dynasties (1991–1315 BCE) or later
Dimensions L. 2.58 cm; W: 1.7 cm; H: 1.25 cm
Materials Quartz (Keel, 1995: 142)
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Highly polished quartz scarab, pierced longitudinally. The back has double lined suture and single lined pronotum separation. Slight notches are incised on the upper outer elytra indicating the humeral callosity. The legs are stylised by lightly etched lines. The base is uninscribed. The stone has several polished faults on both the back and base.
Cat. no. 77
Uninscribed amethyst scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number LACMA 50.4.3(4–6/6)
Date Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12th–18th dynasties (1991–1315 BCE)
Dimension L: 2.08 cm; W: 1.42 cm; H: 1.04 cm
Materials Amethyst (Keel, 1995: 142–143)
Credit line William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description Polished amethyst scarab. Pierced longitudinally. The back has double lined suture and pronotum separation. The legs are stylised and simply carved by lightly incised lines. Chips and scratches are found on the base and the back; fracture lines are visible on base.
Cat. no. 78
Uninscribed green jasper scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

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<td>Date</td>
<td>Second Intermediate Period, 13th–20th dynasty (1786–1081 BCE) or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 1.69 cm; W: 1.11cm; H: 0.77cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Green jasper (Keel, 1995: 143–144)</td>
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<td>Credit line</td>
<td>William Randolph Hearst Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Polished green jasper scarab. Pierced longitudinally. The back has a double lined suture and pronotum separation. The legs are stylistically etched with slightly incised lines.</td>
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<td>Inscription</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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Cat. no. 79  
Uninscribed funerary scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

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<td>Date</td>
<td>New Kingdom to Late Period, 18th–26th dynasties (1569–525 BCE) or modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>L: 2.25 cm; W: 1.93 cm; H: 1.29 cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Unknown dark stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Line</td>
<td>Gift of Ruth Greenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Dark highly polished stone funerary scarab. The scarab style is naturalistic with no inscription or piercings, bringing authenticity into question. A groove is cut around the side and back for possible mounting on a metal band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscription</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Cited literature


Giveon, R. 1985. Egyptian scarabs from western Asia from the collections of the British Museum. – Freiburg, Universitätsverlag Freiburg/Göttingen, Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht (Orbis Bibliicum et Orientalis series archaeologica 3).


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