

**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.

Contents

1. Introduction
- 1.1. Dating
- 1.2. Typology
2. Catalogue
- 2.1. King's names, royal epithets, and images
- 2.2. Apotropaic and divine iconography
- 2.3. Personal titles and names
- 2.4. Near Eastern motifs and adaptations
- 2.5. Geometric, spiral, scroll, woven and floral designs
- 2.6. Heart scarabs
- 2.7. Uninscribed
3. Cited literature

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 Marilyn 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.¹ Instead, our typological and dating conclusions are based on stylistic comparison to other scarabs, many of them found in archaeological contexts, but not all.² 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 comperanda 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 ranges³ when comparison pieces provide a combination of stylistic, textual, and archaeological criteria from which to draw. Otherwise, very broad date ranges are the norm.⁴

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 Menkhéperê’ (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.⁵

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

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.⁶ 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)⁷
- 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,⁸ 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 “Typencorpus” 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 *ꜥnh* “life” or *wꜥꜥ* “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.

⁶ Following Schlick–Nolte & Von Droste zu Hülshoff (1990) and Hölbl (1979).

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.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.5.3
Date	New Kingdom, 19 th –20 th dynasties (1315–1081 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 2.15 cm; W: 1.62 cm; H: 0.97 cm
Materials	Faience
Credit line	William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description	<p>Pierced longitudinally. The back exhibits a baroque style (extruding legs visible from above), typical during 18th dynasty and later.⁹ 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p><i>ny swt bity Mn-hpr-R^c nb t3(wy)</i> “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>i</i>; <i>mn</i> sign = <i>m</i>; kheper beetle = <i>n</i>) (Jaeger, 1982: 94).</p>
Parallels	Brunner–Traut & Brunner (1981: 166, no. 512), Jaeger (1982: pl. II, figs. 24–26), Matouk (1971: 185, no. 374).

⁹ For the term ‘baroque’ and an explanation of this type of scarab form, see Keel (1995: 51).

Cat. no. 2Scarab depicting sphinx labelled as Thutmose III

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.5.4
Date	New Kingdom, Dynasties 18–20 (1504–1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions	L: 1.54 cm; W: 1.13 cm; H: 0.7 cm
Materials	Blue–green faience
Credit line	William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description	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.
Inscription	The cartouche reads <i>Mn-hpr-R</i> , throne name of Thutmose III, also read cryptographically as name of the god Amen (Jaeger, 1982: 94). Left of cartouche is the sign group <i>ntr nfr</i> “the good god,” and below this, an <i>ꜥnh</i> for “life.”
Parallels	The depiction of the king as a trampling sphinx is common during 19 th –20 th dynasties (Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: 271–272, nos. 402, 415). However, 18 th dynasty comperanda also exist (Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: 259, no. 339). See also Jaeger (1982: 153, pl. XIII, fig. 167), Matouk (1971: 185, no. 343), Newberry (2003: pl. XXVIII, no. 12).

Cat. no. 3Scarab depicting enthroned Thutmose IV in solar barque

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.5.5
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p>On either side of the king’s head are two sets of horizontal lines perhaps signifying <i>nb t3(wy)</i>, “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 <i>Mn-hprw-Rc</i>, the throne name of Thutmose IV.</p>
Parallels	<p>Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 258, no. 337), Jaeger (1982: 168, ill. 482–485 [although these examples contain the name of Thutmose III]), Keel (1997: 641, no. 3; 179, no. 226), Matouk (1971: 208, no. 211; 213, no. 494), Rowe (1936: pl. XI, no. 480).</p>

Cat. no. 4Scarab 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, 19 th –26 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>nfr ntr stp-n(?)</i> -R ^c “the good god, chosen of Re.”
Parallels	No close parallels but see Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 239, no. 240; 291, no. 496), Keel (1995: 614–615, no. 240).

Cat. no. 5Scarab 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, 18 th –26 th 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 <i>nefer</i> “good” sign. A solar barque appears above his head and <i>ma’at</i> 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 <i>dw3 nfr Imn-Rc (m) m3ct</i> , meaning “Worshipping the perfection of Amen–Re (in) truth.” (For cryptographic readings, see Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: 174–175, 181–182).
Parallels	Keel (1995: 243, Abb. 569), Petrie (1925: pl. XVII, no. 1268).

Cat. no. 6Scarab 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>hmt nsw(t) Tiy</i> “royal wife Tiy.”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 263, no. 359), Petrie (1917: nos. 153–159), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: 28, no. 16).

Cat. no. 7Scarab depicting winged sphinx

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.234
Date	Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12 th –20 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	Perhaps <i>ntr nfr</i> “the good god.”
Parallels	Avigad & Sass (1997: 388, no. 1049); Petrie (1925: pl. XIII, nos. 834–835).

Cat. no. 8Scarab depicting king on festival barque

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.237
Date	New Kingdom to Third Intermediate Period, 18 th –22 nd dynasties (1569–725 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 1.92 cm; W: 1.40 cm; H: 0.86 cm
Materials	Brown steatite with traces of green glaze on the base
Credit line	Gift of Hyatt von Dehn
Description	<p>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).¹⁰ The legs are naturalistically rendered, but not fully incised with decoration on the forelegs.</p> <p>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 <i>netjer</i> “god” signs accompanied by possible <i>nefer</i> “good” signs.</p>
Inscription	<i>ntr nfr (?)</i> “the good god”
Parallels	Keel (1979: 179, no. 226).

¹⁰ 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



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.1
Date	Middle Kingdom, 12 th dynasty, reign of Senwosret II (1897–1877 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 1.17 cm; H: 0.78 cm; W: 1.16 cm
Materials	Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line	Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description	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 & Staehelin, 1976: 50).
Inscription	Cartouche: <i>ḥꜥ ḥpr (Rꜥ)</i> , throne name of Senwosret II, above a <i>nwb</i> “gold” sign. Above cartouche is title <i>ny-sw(t) bity</i> “King of Upper and Lower Egypt.” Surrounding cartouche are signs <i>ꜥnh</i> “life,” <i>nb</i> , “lord” or “all,” <i>nfr</i> “good,” and “ <i>Rꜥ</i> ”. Entire base may read: <i>ny-sw(t)-bity ḥꜥ-ḥpr-(Rꜥ) nb nfr ꜥnh Rꜥ</i> , “King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Kha-kheper-Re, lord of goodness, who lives (like) Re.”
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 178, nos. 42, 73); Tufnell (1984: pl. LII, no. 3041).

Cat. no. 10Scarab 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, 12 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p>Collection of apotropaic and royal signs. Possible reading: <i>s3 (ny) sw(t) bity Wd3-t3(?)-nb(?)</i> “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).</p>
Parallels	For base scroll type see Martin (1971: pl. 49, ag); for the <i>sw(t)</i> glyph see, Keel (1997: 625, no. 261), Niccacci (1980: pl. 1, no. 25).

Cat. no. 11Scarab inscribed for the king

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.6
Date	Middle Kingdom to Later Period, 12 th –26 th 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	(<i>ny</i>) <i>swt bity ʿnh dd ʿnh nb(?)</i> “King of Upper and Lower Egypt: all life and stability.” However, see below for another example where Hornung & Staehelin (1976) read <i>nb</i> “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	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 94); Petrie (1889: pl. 23, T.94), Tufnell (1984: pl. XI, nos. 1529, 1535, 1537, 1544).

Cat. no. 12Scarab of king Neferhotep

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.9
Date	Middle Kingdom, 13 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>ntr nfr ms(w) n mwt-nsw(t) Kmi Nfr-ḥtp</i> “The good god, born of the royal mother Kemi, Neferhotep.”
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 181, nos. 175–176), Newberry (1908: pl. X, no. 5), Petrie (1917: pl. XVIII, 13.21, nos. 4–6), Tufnell (1984: pl. LIV, nos. 3118, 3121–3124).

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, 13 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>ntr nfr W3h-ib-Rc</i> “The good god, Wah-ib-Re.” Throne name refers to the 13 th dynasty king Ia-ib. The spelling is only attested for this 13 th dynasty king (Von Beckerath, 1999: 97).
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 180, no. 130), Newberry (1908: pl. X, no. 17), Petrie (1917: pl. XIX, no. 1325), Tufnell (1984: pl. LV, nos. 3169–3171).

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

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.12
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 15 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p>The text on the base is separated into three columns. The outer two are oriented 180 degrees from central column (<i>cf.</i> Martin, 1971: pl. 50, type 56. Outer columns: <i>nfr ntr</i>, central column: <i>M³c-ib-R^c di cⁿh</i>, reading “The good god Maa–ib–Re, given life.”</p>
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 180, nos. 143–144), Newberry (2003: pl. XXI, nos. 1–8), Petrie (1917: pl. XXI, 16B, nos. 1–9; 1889: pl. 4, Dynasties IX–X).

Cat. no. 15Scarab with birth name of king Sheshi

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.13
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 15 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>s3 R^c Ššī ʿnh dt</i> “The son of Re, Sheshi, who lives forever.”
Parallels	Keel (1997: 231, no. 379; 389, no. 834), Matouk (1971: 182, no. 241), Newberry (2003: pl. XXI, nos. 11–18), Rowe (1936: pl. V, no. 206), Tufnell (1984: pl. XVII, nos. 1792, 1805, pl. LVIII–LIX), Ward & Dever (1994: 10, fig. 2.1).

Cat. no. 16

Scarab of Second Intermediate Period king



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.14
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 15 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 Ykbnw (Von Beckerath, 1999: 118–119).</p>
Inscription	<i>ntr nfr Šh^c-n-R^c</i> “The good god, Sekha–n–Re.”
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 182, no. 232), Newberry (2003: pl. XXI, nos. 21–22), Petrie (1917: pl. XXII, F, 1–8), Tufnell (1984: pl. LX, nos. 3380–3392, pl. LXI, nos. 3393–3415).

Cat. no. 17Scarab of 17th dynasty king

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.15
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 17 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p><i>Nwb-ḥpr-(R^c) w3s ḥnh sw (t)</i> “Nub–kheper(–Re), dominion, living king (?)” The <i>sw(t)</i> sign may also refer to the fact that this 17th dynasty king was Theban.</p>
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 180, nos. 160–162). For a similar style and organisation, see Petrie (1925: pl. X, nos. 496–497).

Cat. no. 18
 Scarab of king Ahmose



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.16
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th 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 18 th dynasty with two <i>neb</i> “lord” sign above and below. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.
Inscription	<i>Nb-ph̄(ty)-R̄ nb m̄3̄t</i> “Neb–pekhty–Re, lord of truth.” Alternatively, this seems to be a cryptographic writing of “Amen.” Thus, following the throne name <i>Nb-ph̄(ty)-R̄</i> , <i>Imn</i> could be read as sun disk = <i>i</i> ; <i>m̄3̄t</i> = <i>m</i> ; <i>nb</i> = <i>n</i> .
Parallels	Hall (1913: nos. 322–323), Matouk (1971: 183, no. 256), Petrie (1917: pl. XXIII, 18.1 nos. 10–11; 1889: 27).

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

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.17
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 th 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	<i>Imn-ḥtp</i> "Amenhotep." The inscription most likely refers to Amenhotep I.
Parallels	Hall (1913: nos. 379–394), Newberry (1908: pl. XXVI, no. 30), Petrie (1917: pl. XXIV, 18.2. nos. 19–37).

Cat. no. 20Scarab with throne name of Amenhotep I

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.18
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 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	<i>Dsr-k3-R</i> “Djeserkare.” All of these signs are atop a <i>nwb</i> “gold” sign.
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 183, no. 269), Newberry (1908: pl. XXVI, no. 25), Petrie (1917: pl. XXIV but not with a recumbent sphinx).

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

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.19
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th 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 18 th 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	<i>M3^ct-k3-R^c</i> “Maat-ka-Re”, the throne name of Hatshepsut.
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 59–60, nos. 227–229)

Cat. no. 22Scarab depicting two bound enemies

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.20
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 18 th –26 th 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	<p>Pierced longitudinally. The back has no suture or pronotum separation, but there is evidence of wear. The legs are naturalistically carved and deeply incised.</p> <p>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 <i>neb</i> “lord” sign, perhaps indicating that he is “lord of enemies.” The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.</p>
Inscription	<i>Mn-hpr-R^c</i> “Men-kheper-Re”
Parallels	Jaeger (1982: pl. 22, fig. 285), Keel (1997: 549, no. 55).

Cat. no. 23Scarab 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, 18 th –20 th 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	<i>nfr.wy s3 mwt Mn-hpr-R^c nb</i> “may the son of Mut be twice good, Menkheper-Re, the lord.”
Parallels	No exact parallels, but for similar design layouts, see Jaeger (1982: 189–191).

Cat. no. 24Scarab 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, 18 th –24 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p><i>Nb-m3't-Rc</i> “Neb-ma’at-Re,” throne name of Amenhotep III but also a possible cryptographic reading of name of god Amen (<i>Rc</i>= <i>i</i>; <i>m3't</i> = <i>m</i>; <i>nb</i> = <i>n</i>).</p>
Parallels	<p>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 <i>et al.</i> (1990: 37).</p>

Cat. no. 25Cowroid with name of queen Tiy

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.23
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th 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	<i>ḥmt nsw(t) Tiy</i> "King's wife Tiy."
Parallels	Newberry (2003: pl. XXXI, no. 8), Petrie (1917: pl. XXXV, nos. 153, 159–163), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: 28–29, no. 16).

Cat. no. 26Scarab with two royal names

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.25
Date	New Kingdom, 19 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p><i>Mn-hpr-R^c</i>, “Men-kheper-Re,” throne name of Thutmose III, or cryptographically as “Amen” enclosed in cartouche on the right. On left is <i>Mn-m3^ct-R^c stp-n-R^c</i> “Men-ma’at-Re, chosen of Re,” throne name of Seti I.</p>
Parallels	Jaeger (1982: 185–186, pl. 19, figs. 254, 257–260), Petrie (1917: pl. XXXIX, no. 37; 1925: pl. XIX, no. 1551).

Cat. no. 27

Scarab with name of Seti I and cryptographic writing of Amen-Re



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.26
Date	New Kingdom, 19 th 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cryptographically = <i>'Imn-R^c Hr nb</i> “Amen-Re and Horus are Lord (?)” • Cryptographically = <i>'Imn-R^c R^c-Hr[3h^{ty}(?)]</i> nb “Amen-Re and Re-Hor[akhty] are lord.” • Literally = <i>mn-m³t-R^c Hr nb</i> “Men-ma’at-Re, Horus is lord (?)” For writing of Amen with two bread loaves, see Rowe (1936: pl. 19, nos. 750, 753, 768).
Parallels:	Hall (1913, no. 2040), Matouk (1971: 193, no. 580), Newberry (1908: pl. XXXIV, no. 15), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: no. 54).

Cat. no. 28

Scarab depicting a baboon and the throne name of Ramses II



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.28
Date	New Kingdom, 19 th 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 18 th –26 th 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	<i>Wsr-m3^ct-R^c stp-n-(R^c) mry (n) Dhwtj nb t3wy</i> “User-ma’at-Re, chosen one of (Re), Beloved of Thoth (or Re?), lord of the two lands.”
Parallels	Matouk (1971: 194, nos. 598, 599), Newberry (2003: pl. 34, no. 30), Petrie (1917: pl. XL, no. 14).

Cat. no. 29Scarab with the name Ramses

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.30
Date	New Kingdom, 19 th –20 th 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 cryptographically, surrounded by a single line.
Inscription	<i>R^c-msi-sw imn(-R^c) nb (?)</i> “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>i</i> ; <i>ms</i> = <i>m</i> ; water sign = <i>n</i>). It is also possible that the water sign should be read as <i>ny</i> “belonging to,” and the <i>nb</i> sign reads as <i>n</i> , associating the rule of a Ramesside king with the god Amen–Re.
Parallels	For similar writings of the name Ramses and the <i>nb</i> sign, but with variations, see Petrie (1917: pls. XXXVIII, 19.1, nos. 9–11, XLV–VI).

Cat. no. 30Scarab depicting king shooting bow and arrow

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.38
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –19 th dynasties (1569–1201 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 1.68 cm; W: 1.2 cm; H: 0.66 cm
Materials	Dark brown steatite
Credit line	Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description	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.
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 251, no. 303), Petrie (1925: pl. XVIII, no. 1421).

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, 13 th –16 th 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 <i>nwb</i> “gold” sign. Flanking this are two (<i>n</i>) <i>swt</i> signs on either side, perhaps representative of kingship. Above this group are two more signs, one a <i>nfr</i> “good” sign and the other the <i>nh</i> “living” sign. The whole might be read as <i>nswt nfr Nwb-nh-(R^c)</i> “perfect king, Nub–ankh–(Re),” perhaps referring to a 15 th /16 th dynasty king (Von Beckerath, 1999: 121).
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, 6 th –12 th 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	<i>Gb</i> (?)
Parallels	Petrie (1925: pl. V, no. 305), Weise (1996: pl. 32, no. 664, 665).

Cat. no. 33Button 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, 6 th –12 th 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
Parallels	Petrie (1925: pl. II, nos. 92–102), Weise (1996: pls. 29–30, nos. 584–626).

Cat. no.34Scarab 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	<i>R^c nfr m3^c</i> “Re is perfect and true (?)” For this unusual writing of Re, with the sun disk followed by <i>r</i> , see Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 199). Alternatively, the <i>r</i> sign following the sun disk could indicate that the word should be read as “day” (<i>hrw</i>), giving a translation of “The day is perfect and true.”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 199).

Cat. no. 35Scarab 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, 18 th –26 th 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 18 th –26 th 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>i</i> ; uraeus = <i>m</i> ; kheper beetle = <i>n</i> : see Keel, 1995: 245).
Parallels	Jaeger (1982: fig. 171), Keel (1997: 127, no. 67; 145, no. 117; 211, no. 322, although these examples are all Second Intermediate Period), Rowe (1936: pl. XXII, no. 869), Schlick–Nolte <i>et al.</i> (1990: 41–43), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: no. 140).

Cat. no. 36Scarab with apotropaic inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.7.5
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 18 th –26 th 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 18 th –26 th 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	<i>w3d nfr nb R^c nb</i> meaning “may there be all flourishing and goodness (to you) every day” or “all flourishing and goodness every day.”
Parallels	Keel (1997: 523, no. 1238, although dated to the Middle Kingdom), Petrie (1925: pl. XVI, nos. 1193–1195).

Cat. no. 37Scarab 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, 12 th –17 th 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 <i>ankh</i> “life” sign.
Parallels	Petrie (1925: pl. XIII, no. 839).

Cat. no 38Scarab with apotropaic inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.7.14
Date	Middle Kingdom, 12 th –13 th dynasties (1991–1665 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 1.48 cm; W: 1.05 cm; H: 0.56 cm
Materials	Steatite with blue–green glaze
Credit line	William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description	<p>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.</p> <p>The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a <i>wadj</i> papyrus sign, a <i>t</i> hieroglyph, as well as a symmetrical spiral motif terminating in two papyrus plants. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line</p>
Inscription	<i>w3dt</i> “that which flourishes (?)”.
Parallels	For a similar pattern, if not recognisable hieroglyphic signs, see Keel (1997: 275, no. 505).

Cat. no. 39Scarab depicting three gods

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.7.16
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 19 th –26 th 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 <i>neb</i> 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 mummiform holding a staff. The triad stands on the <i>neb</i> 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 19 th and 20 th dynasties (Keel, 1995: 214–215; Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: 100–101).
Parallels	Brunner–Traut & Brunner (1981: 159, no. 585), Giveon (1985: 31, nos. 25–26; 181, no. 10), Keel (1997: 705, no. 39), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: 73, no. 103).

Cat. no. 40Scarab depicting hippo goddess Taweret

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.230
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>sa</i> “protection” hieroglyph. A single line surrounds the entire inscription.</p>
Inscription	<i>T3-wrt (s3)</i> “Taweret (is protection(?))”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 100, 327, nos. 689–690), Keel <i>et al.</i> (1989: 282).

Cat. no. 41

Scarab depicting monkey



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.236
Date	18 th –21 st 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	<p>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.</p> <p>The base decoration, oriented vertically, shows a monkey holding a <i>nfr</i> “good” sign. Behind him to the left are more hieroglyphic signs. The entire inscription is surrounded by a single line.</p>
Inscription	<p>A monkey faces right and holds a <i>nfr</i> “good” sign. Behind the monkey to the left is <i>di</i> “to give” sign. Above the <i>di</i> sign is another illegible sign group that seems to be <i>nb t3wy</i> “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 comperanda with similar depictions (Hornung & Staehelin, 1976: nos. 720, p. 404, no. Va4), this inscription is likely read in the following way: <i>di nb t3wy nfr(w)</i>, meaning “The Lord of the Two Lands gives beautiful things.” The singular <i>nfr</i> sign on this scarab base can be translated as a plural, because the monkey itself is a sign for <i>nfr</i> “good.”</p>
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: nos. 720, p. 404, no. Va4), Keel (1997: 72–73, no. 151), Petrie (1925: pl. XIII, nos. 844, 845, Rowe (1936: 204, no. 870).

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, 13 th –15 th 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: <i>h3 nbw ʕnh</i> [...] “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: <i>hʕ sm3 ʕnh nb</i> , perhaps meaning “may the unification of all life appear in glory,” or perhaps more likely, if the central sign is read as a <i>nfr</i> sign, then <i>Hʕ-nfr-(Rʕ)</i> (Beckerath, 1999: 96–97, no. 24) <i>ʕnh nb</i> , the throne name of the 13 th dynasty king Sobekhotep IV <i>Hʕ-nfr-rʕ</i> , “all life.”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 89), Keel (1997: 223, no. 355), Niccacci (1980: pl. 3, no. 77), Petrie (1925: pl. X, nos. 507, 510, pl. XVI, no. 1202).

Cat. no. 43

Scarab depicting fecundity figure



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.240
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 19 th –26 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>hes</i> “praise” jar, in front of which is a <i>nefer</i> “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.</p>
Inscription	A very tentative reading is: <i>Hpy di hs nfr Rc</i> “Hapi grants the good praise of Re”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 97–99, no. 704), Jaeger (1982: 86, ill. 187), Keel (1997: 555, no. 71), Knight (1915: 36–38), Matouk (1971: 199, no. 824), Newberry (1908: no. XXXVII, no. 6), Petrie (1925: pl. XV, nos. 1050).

Cat. no. 44Scarab 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	<i>ḥk3-m3ʿt-Rʿ</i> “the ruler of truth is Re,” an epithet of the birth name of Ramses IV.
Parallels	Hall (1913: no. 2355), Matouk (1971: 196, no. 698), Petrie (1917: pl. XLV, 20.2, nos. 2, 6), Rowe (1936: pl. XXI, no. 833).

Cat. no. 45Scarab 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, 15 th –20 th 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 <i>di</i> “to give” signs, two <i>wd3t</i> “wholeness” eyes, flanking a central <i>sm3</i> “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 <i>wd3t</i> eye for wholeness, or alternatively representing the eye of Re, with two <i>nfr</i> “perfect” signs below it, perhaps creating the apotropaic saying <i>nfr.wy wd3t</i> “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. 46Scarab 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, 18 th –24 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<p>There are a number of possible readings, given the abbreviated nature of the last two signs. As an apotropaic saying, it would read either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>M3^chis h3p(w)</i> “Maahis is hidden.” • <i>M3^chis kf(w)</i> “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. 47Scarab with a protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.40
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	<i>ʾmn ḥpš n wꜥ.t(w)</i> , meaning perhaps “Amen is the strength of one” or “Amen is the strength of one alone.”
Parallels	For scarabs with the same base decoration, see Brunner–Traut & Brunner (1981: 178, no. 537), Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 584), Newberry (2003: pl. XL, no. 24), Petrie (1924: pl. XII, nos. 648–649). For the name <i>ʾmn-wꜥ.tw</i> , see Ranke (1935: 27, no. 4).

Cat. no. 48Scarab with protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.41
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 th 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	<i>wn.k m ḥb mi R^c</i> “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.
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 734), Petrie (1925: pl. XIII, no. 793).

Cat. no. 49Scarab with protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.42
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 18 th –26 th 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	<i>Imn m s3(.i)</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. 50Scarab 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, 19 th –26 th 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	<p>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 comperanda do not exclude a later date. The legs are deeply incised and naturalistically carved with decorative marks on the forelegs.</p> <p>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 <i>sa</i> “protection” hieroglyph occurs under Taweret’s outstretched arm.</p>
Inscription	The reading is tentative. <i>Mwt T3-wrt s3(?)(.i)</i> “Mut and Taweret are (my) protection.”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 690).

Cat. no. 51Scarab with protective inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.44
Date	New Kingdom to the Late Period, 18 th –26 th 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: <i>ii k hr [...] ḥsyw</i> “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 (<i>ij-hr-nfrt</i>), see Ranke (1935: 10, no. 18).

Cat. no. 52Scarab 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, 18 th –26 th 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 <i>ʾImn-r^c nb(.i)</i> , meaning “Amen–Re is (my) lord.” (Reed leaf = <i>i</i> ; falcon = <i>mn</i> , 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: <i>R^c-Hr(3hty) nb</i> meaning “Re–Hor(akhty) is lord.”
Parallels	Hornung & Stachelin (1976: 288–289, nos. 484–486); Petrie (1925: pl. 12, no. 712).

Cat. no. 53Scarab 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, 18 th –26 th 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 <i>neb</i> “lord” signs on either side.
Inscription	<i>tit Imn nb</i> reading “The image of Amen is lord (?)”
Parallels	Brunner–Traut & Brunner (1981: 174, no. 561), Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 604), Jaeger (1982: 60, ill. 90–91), Keel (1997: 595, nos. 179–180), Petrie (1925: pl. XII, no. 738, pl. XIX, 1467), Rowe (1936: pl. XX, no. 769).

Cat. no. 54Stamp 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, 19 th –25 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>The base decoration, oriented vertically, consists of a figured scene of a falcon god, probably Monthu, on the left, sun disk above, and <i>ma'at</i> feather to the god's right, all probably meant to be read cryptographically as the name of the god Amen-Re.</p>
Inscription	<p>If a cryptographic reading is meant, sun disk = <i>i</i>; <i>ma'at</i> feather = <i>m</i>; Monthu falcon = <i>mn</i>; sun disk = <i>R^c</i>. Result = <i>Imn-R^c</i> "Amen-Re" the Theban solar god.</p>
Parallels	Petrie (1925: pl. XVIII, nos. 1422, 1423), Rowe (1936: pl. XVIII, no. 700), Teeter & Wilfong (2003: 146–147, no. 235).

Cat. no. 55Hippopotamus 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, 18 th –26 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>The base decoration, oriented vertically, contains the name of the god Amen followed by what could be read as a bread loaf, <i>t</i> and a <i>nb</i> basket, surrounded by a single incised line.</p>
Inscription	<p>Two possible readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Imn(t?) nb</i> meaning “Amen(et?) is lord” (Keel, 1995: 127) • <i>Imnyt</i> 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 <i>n</i> sign, suggesting the unlikely reading of <i>Imnt</i> “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.”
Parallels	Giveon (1985: 49, no. 74), Newberry (2003: pl. XLI, no. 30), Wimmer (2004: 63–65).

Cat. no. 56Scarab 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, 19 th –20 th 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: <i>mry 'Imn</i> “beloved of Amen.” (reed leaf = <i>i</i> ; <i>ms</i> sign = <i>m</i> ; water sign = <i>n</i>).
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, 13 th –16 th 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	<i>imy-r sd3wt Pri-m-w3h[t] (?)</i> “overseer of the seal Peri-m-wakh[t](?).” The man’s name is illegible after the <i>pri-m</i> group, but very similar comperanda provide a possible reading. The Middle Kingdom name <i>Peri</i> is attested in Ranke (1935: 133, nos. 117–118; 134, no. 112), but not in this extended form.
Parallels	Martin (1971: 42–44, nos. 477–508), Newberry (1908: pl. XXIII, nos. 24–26), Petrie (1889: no. 461).

Cat. no. 58Scarab of overseer of the seal Netjenem

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.8
Date	Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13 th –16 th dynasties (1783–1600 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 2.46 cm; W: 1.65 cm; H: 1.08 cm
Materials	Steatite with modern green colour
Credit line	Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description	Pierced longitudinally. The back has double lined sutures and single line pronotum separation, characteristic of the 13 th –14 th 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	<i>idnw imy-r sd3wt Ntnm</i> “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 <i>nst</i> seat, but only a simple <i>n</i> alphabetic sign.
Parallels	Hall (1913: pl. I, 3), Martin (1971: 133, no. 1741), Newberry (2003: pl. XIV, no. 25).

Cat. no. 59

Scarab of seal bearer Har



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.11
Date	Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13 th –16 th dynasties (1786–1600 BCE)
Dimensions	L: 2.33 cm; W: 1.69 cm; H: 1 cm
Materials	Steatite with modern brown colour
Credit line	Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description	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.
Inscription	The signs are ill-inscribed and difficult to read. A tentative reading is: <i>sd3wtj bity imy-r n sd3wt H3r (?)</i> , meaning “royal seal bearer and overseer of the seal, Khar (?)”. The reading of <i>bity</i> “royal” is very tentative, but supported by comperanda. The <i>imy-r</i> sign group is quite poorly written, but supported by the comperanda.
Parallels	Martin (1971: 78–84, nos. 984–1077, especially pls. 28–29), Newberry (2003: pl. XXIII, nos. 20–22), Petrie (1917: pl. XVII, 12–13).

Cat. no. 60Scarab of royal scribe Amenhotep

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.24
Date	New Kingdom, 18 th –20 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	<i>sš nsw Ḳmn-ḥtp</i> “the royal scribe Amenhotep.”
Parallels	Petrie (1917: pl. XXIX, nos. E and F).

2.4. Near Eastern motifs and adaptations

Cat. no. 61

Scarab depicting a human figure



Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.7.15
Date	Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 12 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Keel (1997: 195, no. 273; 409, no. 897; 427, no. 953; 454, no. 1022; 463–465), Richards (1992: 86–89, no. 8 & 9), Tufnell (1984: pl. XXXV, nos. 2463, 2466).

Cat. no. 62Scarab 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, 13 th –17 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Keel (1997: 426–427, nos. 952, 953), Keel <i>et al.</i> (1989: 247–257), Niccacci (1980: 4, no. 139).

Cat. no. 63Scarab depicting lion and crocodile

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.35
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 15 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: pl XXV, no. 36), Newberry (1908: pl. XXV, no. 36), Niccacci (1980: pl. 5, nos. 174–176), Petrie (1925: pl. XIV, no. 880), Rowe (1936: pl. VIII, no. 319), Tufnell (1984: pl. XXXIX, nos. 2590, 2597).

Cat. no. 64Hyksos scarab with *anra* inscription

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.4
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 13 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>n</i>) flanking the hieroglyphs <i>ʿ-r-ʿ</i> in the middle. The inscription is surrounded by a single line.</p>
Inscription	The C–scroll decoration and the <i>anra</i> signs are characteristic of the Second Intermediate Period and the Hyksos period (Richards, 2001).
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 51–53, nos. 170, 175, 178–179, 187–188), 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, 12 th –17 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Keel (1997: 125, nos. 59–60; 421, nos. 929–930), Niccacci (1980: pl. 7, nos. 270, 276), Petrie (1925: pl. VII, no. 101), Tufnell (1984: pl. V).

Cat. no. 66Scarab with geometric pattern

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.235
Date	Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13 th –17 th 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
Parallels	Keel (1995: 185–186; 1997: 129, no. 75; 615), Niccacci (1980: pl. 8, no. 278), Tufnell (1984: pl. XX, no. 1855).

Cat. no. 67Scarab 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, 12 th –16 th 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 <i>dd</i> 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 patterning, see Martin (1971: pl. 48), Newberry (1908: pls. XIV, XV, XVI).

Cat. no. 68Frog scaraboid with geometric figures

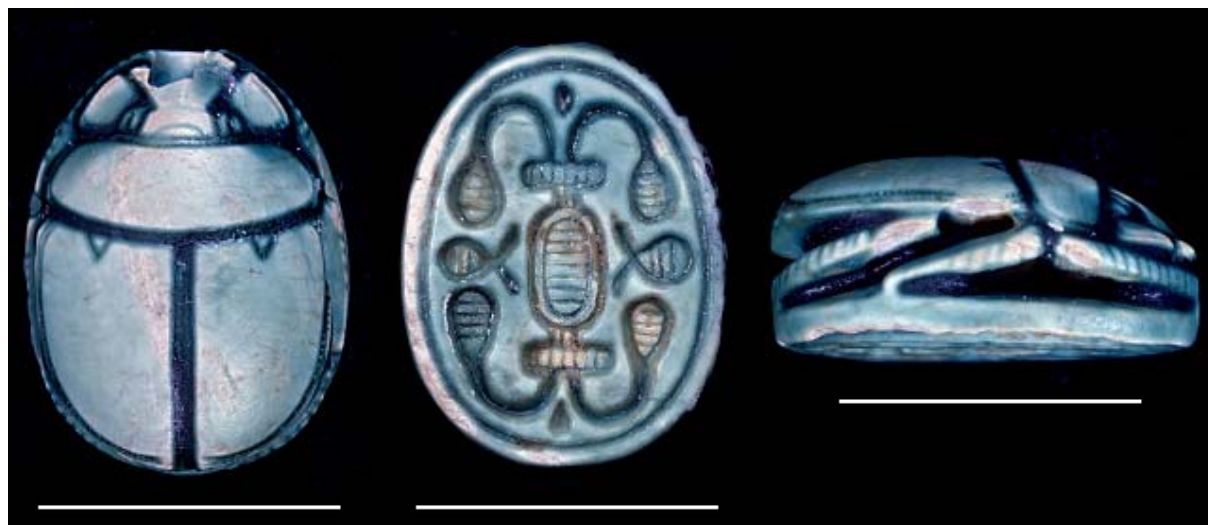
Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.33
Date	Old Kingdom to Middle Kingdom 6 th –13 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>The base inscription is oriented horizontally, with two stick figure men oriented geometrically <i>tête-bêche</i>, 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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 112), Keel (1995: 68–69). For the base, see Petrie (1925: pl. I, nos. 28–29; pl. V, nos. 310, 316), Wiese (1996: 83, nos. 9–10; pl. 5, nos. 114–119).

Cat. no. 69Scarab with interwoven design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.34
Date	Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period, 13 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: nos. 855–857), Keel (1997: 253, nos. 442, 446), Niccacci (1980: pl. 8, nos. 285–286), Rowe (1936: pl. II, nos. 84–85), Tufnell (1984: pl. XXIV, no. 2081).

Cat. no. 70Scarab 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, 13 th –16 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>sa</i> “protection” or <i>shen</i> “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.</p>
Inscription	<i>s3</i> “protection,” or <i>šn</i> “eternity?”
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: 356–357, nos. 846, 854), Niccacci (1980: pl. 8, no. 309), Ward (1978: pl. VIII, no. 224).

Cat. no. 71Scarab 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, 15 th –18 th 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Hornung & Staehelin (1976: no. 809), Ward (1978: pl. VIII, nos. 226–228).

Cat. no. 72Scarab with geometric design

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.69.91.232
Date	Middle Kingdom to Late Period, 12 th –26 th 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 th –20 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	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Wsir twr-smn(?)</i> 2. <i>dd.f ib.i n ib.i (sic)</i> 3. <i>mwt(.i) sp sn (?) ib.i (sic) n hprw(.i)</i> 4. <i>m ḥ r.i</i> 5. <i>m mtrw</i>
Meaning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Osiris Twer–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



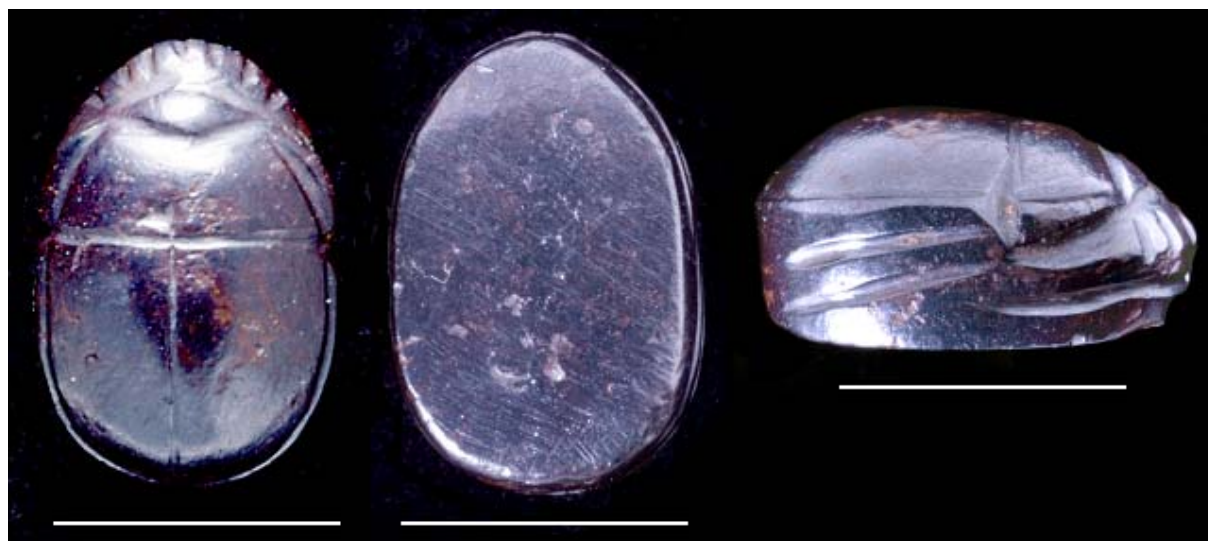
Scale bar = 10 mm. © LACMA.

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 <i>nemes</i> headdress and a uraeus. The face is bland in its features, with large eyes, a snub nose, and nondescript mouth. The <i>nemes</i> is striped with incised cuts into the stone. A collar is cut between the <i>nemes</i> 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, 12 th -26 th 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. 76Uninscribed quartz scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.3(2-6/6)
Date	Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12 th -18 th dynasties (1991-1315 BCE) or later
Dimensions	L. 2.58 cm; W: 1.7cm; 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. 77Uninscribed amethyst scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.3(4-6/6)
Date	Middle Kingdom to New Kingdom, 12 th -18 th 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. 78Uninscribed green jasper scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA 50.4.3(6-6/6)
Date	Second Intermediate Period, 13 th -20 th dynasty (1786-1081 BCE) or later
Dimensions	L: 1.69 cm; W: 1.11 cm; H: 0.77 cm
Materials	Green jasper (Keel, 1995: 143-144)
Credit line	William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Description	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.
Inscription	n/a

Cat. no. 79Uninscribed funerary scarab

Scale bar = 10 mm. © West Semitic Research.

Accession number	LACMA M.86.313.45
Date	New Kingdom to Late Period, 18 th –26 th dynasties (1569–525 BCE) or modern
Dimensions	L: 2.25 cm; W: 1.93 cm; H: 1.29 cm
Materials	Unknown dark stone
Credit Line	Gift of Ruth Greenberg
Description	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.
Inscription	n/a
Parallels	Andrews (1994: 59), Knight (1915: 254, pl. III, no. 22), Petrie (1914: pl. XI, no. 92a–e).

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