

STAMP SEALS AND CYLINDER SEALS FROM AREA A OF 'USIYEH

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The main aim of this paper is to analyze three stamp seals (SS1–SS3) and fifteen cylinder seals (CS1–CS 15)¹⁾ from Area A of 'Usiyeh, a site in the Qadisiyeh (Haditha) Dam Salvage Project area. Their drawings, photographs and descriptions are presented here except for one cylinder seal (CS15) the scene on which is badly weathered.

The site of 'Usiyeh, lying on the right bank of the Euphrates river between the towns of Ana and Haditha, is located 140 km downstream from Mari. Area A lies in the southwest part of the site, which is the highest place of 'Usiyeh²⁾. A multi-room underground structure (Underground Structure/U. S.) and the remains of other structures were discovered in Area A [cf. Fujii *et al.* 1984/85: pp. 112ff.; Oguchi 1992: pp. 61ff. and Oguchi 1996: pp. 66ff.]. All of the stamp seals and the cylinder seals were recovered from either in the deposit or on the floor of the Underground Structure, together with not only pottery vessels but also several such luxury goods as beads, shell objects, stone objects, bronze objects, an ivory object and bone objects [cf. Oguchi 1992, 1996, 1998 and 2000].

Unfortunately, these seals have not yet been studied by such a scientific method as X-ray diffraction powder analysis for the identification of materials. The materials have been only recored by visual inspection.

1. Stamp Seals (Fig. 1 and Pl. 1)

All the stamp seals or amulets³⁾ were discovered in the Underground Structure (SS1, SS2 and SS3). The original dates of these stamp seals seem to go back to the fourth or the third millennium B.C. These seals were, however, also used in the early second millennium B.C. as their find dates.

SS1: SS1 is an eagle-shaped stamp seal with a vertical bore for suspension. It is made of a highly polished white stone (lime stone). The seal design seems to be a goat that is drilled round the indentations. Similar specimens were unearthed from Tell Brak, which date from the third millennium B.C. or from the Jemdet Nasr period [Mallowan 1947 Pls. VIII-4 and XLVII-7 = Porada 1985 pp. 12 and 36 no. 38]. There are also similar specimens in the collection of the Geneva Museum [Vollenweider 1967 Pl. 8 no. 13] and the Yale Babylonian collection [Buchanan 1981p. 37 Fig.114]. The former also date back to the Jemdet Nasr period and the latter date back to the late prehistoric period. Usually such animal-shaped stamp seals (bulls and lions are common shapes) belong to the late fourth millennium to the early third millennium B. C. The original date of SS1 seems to go back to at least the early third millennium B. C.; then it was continuously used or reused

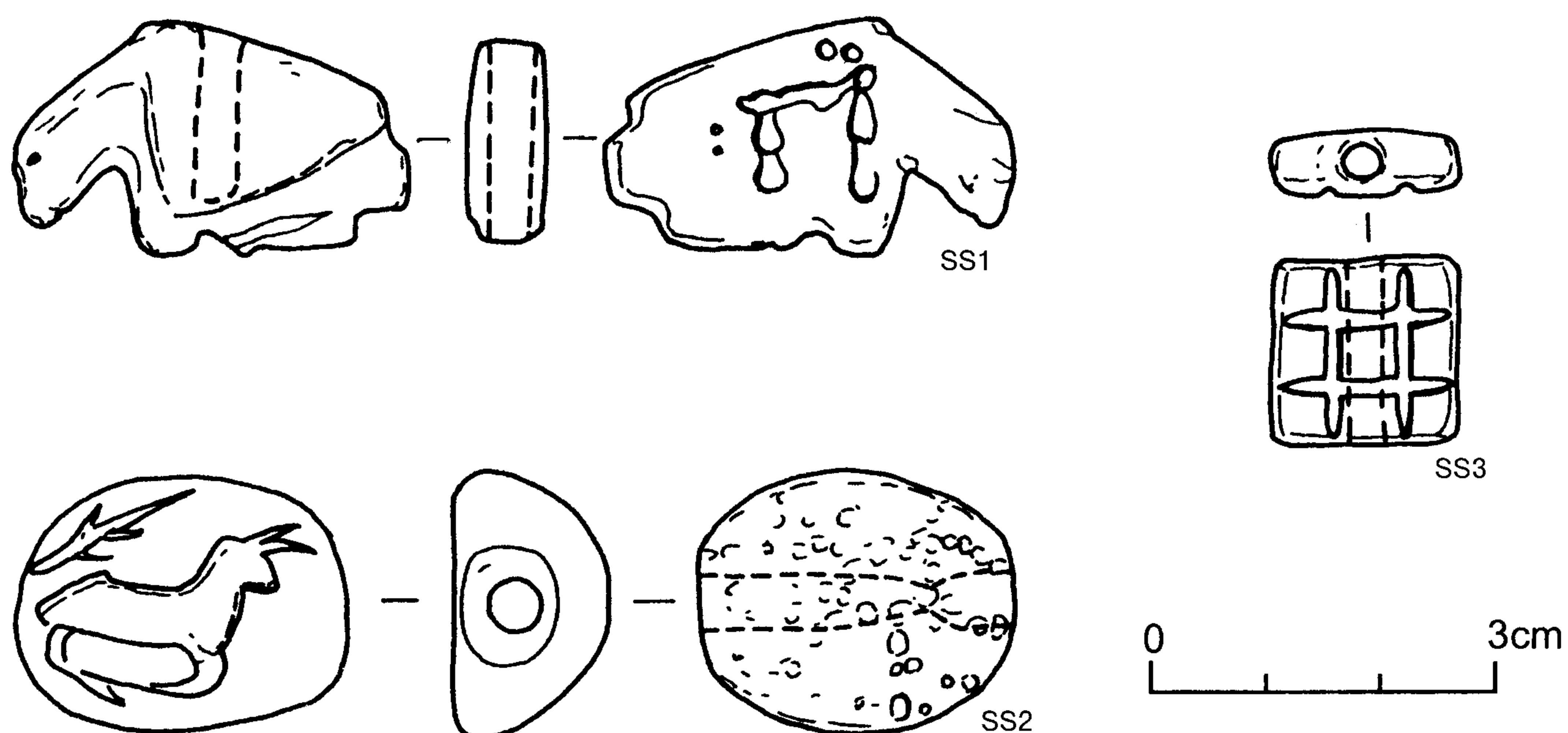
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- 1) The main contents of this paper are those which have been condensed from parts of my Ph.D. thesis [Oguchi 1996]. I would like to thank Professor Hideo Fujii for permitting me to use the seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh for my study. Moreover, I would particularly like to thank Mr. Charles Burney for giving me great encouragement and many appropriate suggestions. I am also grateful to Dr. Dominique Collon for many invaluable suggestions in particular on the 'Usiyeh cylinder seals.
- 2) The excavations of Area A were carried out from November 1982 to December 1983 by the Japanese Archaeological Expedition in Iraq (an expedition from Kokushikan University), headed by Professor Hideo Fujii, with cooperation of the State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage in Baghdad.
- 3) According to Porada, "Stamp seals shaped like animals were often contemporary with the earliest cylinder seals; their function was not restricted to identifying ownership, for they also served as amulets. The shape would symbolize the power attributed to the animal depicted" [Porada 1985 p. 116].

until the early second millennium B.C.

SS2: SS2 is made of a dark brownish stone with whitish pockmarks, and its shape is an ellipse with a semi-circular section, called the Oval Hemispheroid seal [Buchanan 1984 p. xii⁴⁾]. There are also beads shaped like this in Area A [Oguchi 1998 Pl. 4 -Type 27: B148, B149 and B150]. The seal design is a horned animal with vegetation. The original date of SS2 also seems to go back to the late or later prehistoric period.

SS3: SS3 is made of a reddish orange stone, and its shape is a tabloid or a rectangular plaque. The seal design is simple crosshatching.



SS1 Find spot: Room M ④. Site no.: USS-1. I. M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 85. Material: whitish limestone. Size: 36 mm × 20 mm, thickness, 7 mm. Scale: × 1.

SS2 Find spot: Room W ④. Site no.: UB-114. I. M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 11-10. Material: dark brownish stone with whitish pockmarks. Size: 23 mm × 18 mm, thickness, 8.5 mm. Scale: × 1

SS3 Find spot: Room W ④. Site no.: UB-378. I. M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 89. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/ 5 Fig. 9-16. Material: reddish orange stone. Size: 16mm × 16mm, thickness, 6.5 mm. Scale: × 1

2. Cylinder Seals

Cylinder seals from 'Usiyeh are important for an identification of the date of the Underground Structure as well as supplying evidence of a regional style of cylinder seal in the Middle Euphrates region.

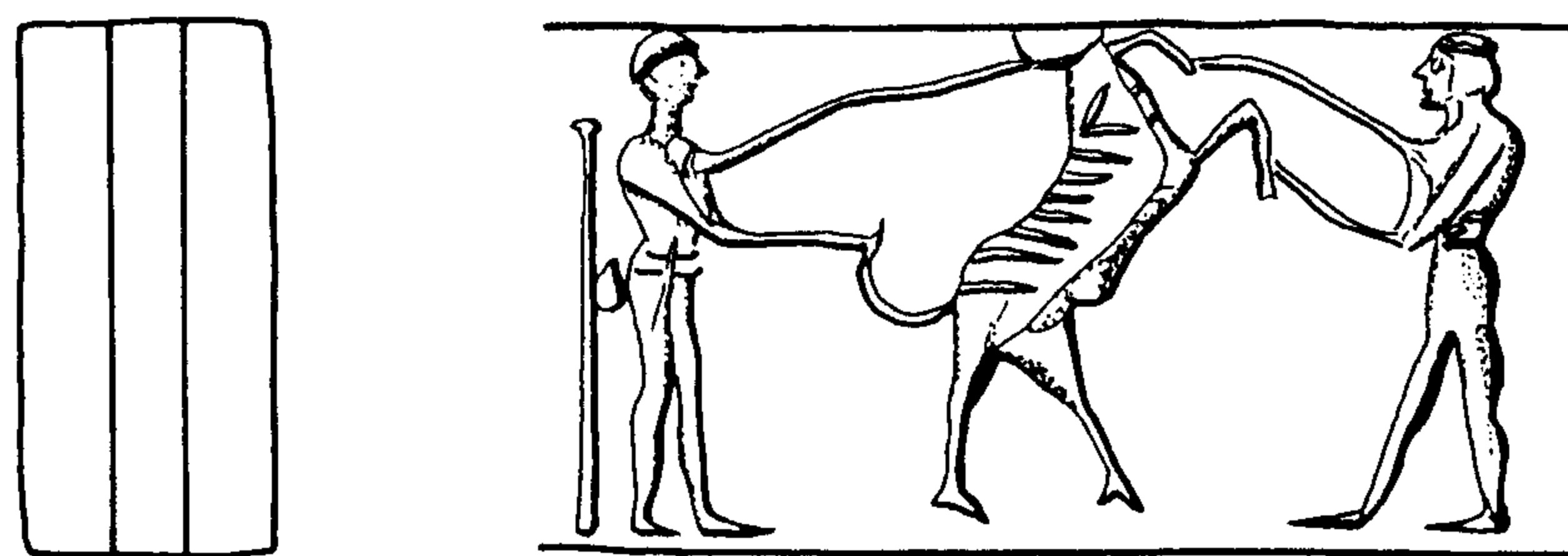
The discovery spots of these cylinder seals were in the Underground Structure, and most of them were discovered in Room W. Those discovery spots are, however, not only on the original floor, *in situ*, but also at various levels and contexts, because the Underground Structure had been utilized for a long time. There are many levels with different utilization plans, and the structure and floor were very deliberately destroyed. Eight out of fifteen cylinder seals, CS1, CS3, CS4, CS6, CS9, CS10, CS12 and CS14, can be inferred as belonging to the original floor from their discovery spots, although some cylinder seals were found 35cm above the original floor, because the later construction was built above this level. On the other hand, it is doubtful whether cylinder seals CS2, CS8 and CS11 belonged to the original floor. Most of these cylinder seals, however, seem to belong to the original floor in the

4) According to Buchanan, "Flat-faced, quite regular-shaped hemispheroids are distinctive of the glyptic of most of Western Asia in the Late Prehistoric period, being less common in Iran, Anatolia and North Syria" [Buchanan 1984 p. xii].

same way as the other luxury objects. Cylinder seals which have been recovered from doubtful discovery spots are discussed in separate paragraphs.

The order of each description of cylinder seals is generally from left to right on the drawing of its impression. The terms used for the most part in descriptions employ the glossary, which was established by Edith Porada [Porada 1948 pp. xxiv-xxv⁵⁾]. It can happen that comparative references indicate the same cylinder seal referred to by different authors.

CS1: A contest scene is depicted on this cylinder seal (Pl.2). Two heroes conflict with an animal, probably a lion, from both sides. There is a ball-and-staff at the back of the hero on the left, who is naked except for a belt and crested cap and may be a representation of a clean-shaven man. He grasps the lion's tail with his right hand and also near the lion's head with his left hand. Unfortunately, the head of the lion has been chipped. The lion is rampant and turned towards the right, being placed in the middle. The hero on the right is also naked except for a belt. He has longish straight hair with a band (?). He grasps the lion's forepaws in turn with his hands.



CS1 Find spot: Room W, 30 cm above Phase 1. Site no.: C-5. I. M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 33⁶⁾. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-10. Material: Light orangeish stone. Its surface has become pale yellowish green from weathering. Size: Diameter 8.5 mm × 8.5 mm, length 18 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

Three-figure contest scenes seem to have replaced the four-figure contest scenes in the Post-Akkadian period [Collon 1982 p. 113]. Also this scene persists until the Ur III period and frequently occurs during that period. Usually this scene consisted of one victim between two assailants [Porada 1948 p. 34] like CS1. Numerous cylinder seals, which depict a three-figure contest scene, are found at many sites in Mesopotamia. The lion as the central victim, turned toward the left, is more frequent than turned toward the right. CS1 is a later specimen, and there are some later examples from Ur [Legrain 1951 nos. 189, 195 and 199], Tell Asmar [Frankfort 1955 no. 754], Tello [Parrot 1954c nos. 86, 87 and 88] and Fara [Moortgat 1940 no. 282], and in the collections of the British Museum [Collon 1982 no. 250] and the Ashmolean Museum [Buchanan 1966 nos. 410 and 439B]. On the other hand, CS1 seems rather smaller than most cylinder seals with a three-figure contest scene.

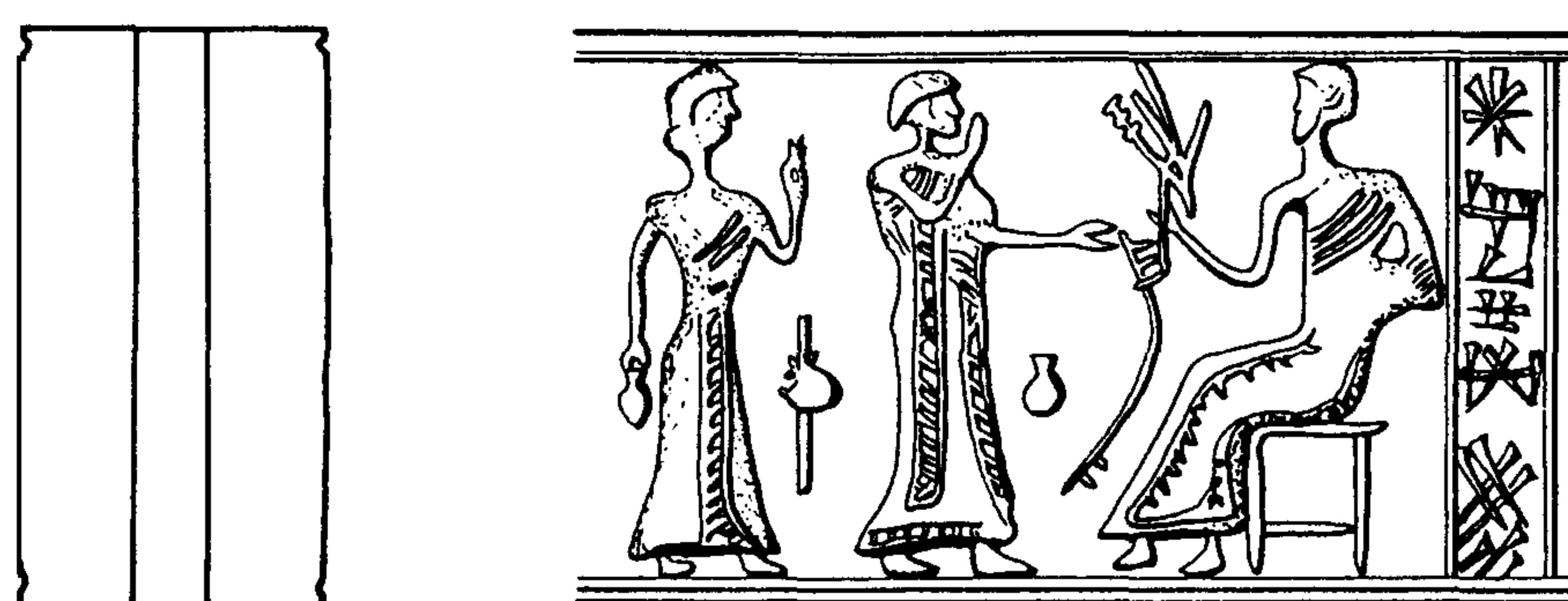
The ball-and-staff probably appears in the Akkadian period [Collon 1982 no. 172; Collon 1987 no. 103] and continues to the later period as a filling motif. Before the end of the third millennium B.C., however, the ball was placed in the centre of the staff [Porada 1948 p. xxiv]. After that time, in the Isin-Larsa period, the ball appears at the side rather than in the centre of the staff [ibid. p. 38], and it is most frequent in this period. The ball of CS1 is placed at the side of the staff and associated with a small pot.

5) Porada's glossary is widely used, for instance in the catalogues of the British Museum [Collon 1982 pp. 18-19; Collon 1986 pp. 20-21], Ashmolean Museum [Buchanan 1966 p. xxi] and Marcopoli Collection [Teissier 1984 p. xxiii].

6) I.M. numbers (Iraqi Museum number) with the site name, 'Usiyeh, are not actual I.M. numbers. These numbers were entered when we registered finds for the museum on site, although some of them seem to have been not registered and become study materials in the museum.

CS1 should probably be dated to the latest two centuries of the third millennium B.C., and was used till the later period.

CS2: A worship scene before a seated deified king is depicted on CS2 (Pl. 2). A border line edges the top and bottom, and a one-line inscription panel is bordered by a line on either side. The left female worshipper is wearing her fringed robe. She has a small jar in her right hand with her left arm raised. A ball-and-staff appears between her and a male worshipper, who is placed in the middle. He is wearing his fringed robe and raising his right arm to the front of his face. His left hand is stretched out in front of the deified king. Between them a small jar is illustrated in the field. On the extreme right of the seal impression, the deified king sits on a box. He is clean-shaven and wearing his fringed robe with a plough in his right hand.



CS2 Inscription: ^dDa-gan-KASKALKUR ^dDagan-illatu/^dDa-gan-baliha Find spot: Forecourt Doorway ④, above the stone accumulation. Site no.: C-1. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 25 (I.M. 120909). Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/85 Fig. 9-6; Yoshikawa 1988 p. 209. Material: hard black stone, haematite quality, mica contained in it. Size: diameter 11 mm × 11 mm, length 21 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

The Syrian cylinder seals almost invariably have a linear border round the top and bottom, and the inscription panel is usually closed off at both ends [Collon 1986 pp. 12 - 13] same as CS2. On the other hand, the Old Babylonian cylinder seals never have a line round the top of the seal, and the inscription panel is not closed off at the end [ibid.]. These mannerisms seem to have continued from the third millennium B.C., except for a few examples. CS2 may have belonged to the group of Syrian cylinder seals on this evidence. Iconographically, however, CS2 shows the Babylonian style rather than the Syrian style, and is derived from the Akkadian cylinder seals.

In the Akkadian period, ploughs and ploughing scenes are frequently depicted on cylinder seals [Moortgat 1940 no. 204; Porada 1948 nos. 208 and 212; Boehmer 1965 Abb. 533, 540, 541, 546 and 711-715a; Collon 1982 nos. 145 and 209; Collon 1987 no. 106; Breasted 1934 nos. 47 and 240; Frankfort 1939 Pls. XX-a and d, XXI-e and XXXVII-m; Frankfort 1955 nos. 423 and 609]. Most of them are related to a vegetation or fertility god or goddess. The plough seems a characteristic of the Akkadian period rather than the other periods, and it became rare after that period. A plough in the hand of the deified king or god is very rare or never occurs in the early second millennium B.C.

The presence of two worshippers on CS2 breaks with the traditional type of the worshipper scene which belongs to the Ur III, Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods. CS2 maybe shows Akkadian features. CS2, however, has later features too, and these are more certain. A ball set up at the side of a staff is a rather later common style (see also the section of CS1) [Porada 1948 p. 38], and the filling objects are common in the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods. Moreover, their robes and hairstyles also seem later features.

CS2 has the only inscription in all the finds in Area A of 'Usiyeh. Prof. Yoshikawa has kindly

read this inscription, and his brief note has been published [Yoshikawa 1988 pp. 209-210]. Moreover many scholars gave me much information about this inscription⁷⁾. This information was not only helpful for improving my knowledge but also taught me its problems.

There are two possible phonemes with another meaning for this inscription ^dDagan-illat (illatu in Akkadian) and ^dDa-gan-Baliha whose ideograph is ^dDa-gan-KASKAL.KUR.

The god Dagan is known as the most important god in Mari. Probably the cult of Dagan appeared in the Akkadian period, as is known by some textual evidences: the god Dagan presented the city of Mari and other cities to Sargon (Akkad) when he worshipped in the temple of Dagan at Tuttul (southern Tuttul: modern Hit) [Hirsch 1963 p. 38]. It is also known that Dagan had shrines in the cities of Mari, Terqa, Tuttul, Subatu and Emar [Yoshikawa 1988 p. 209]. The god Dagan must have been popularly worshipped in the Middle Euphrates region.

According to Yoshikawa, Illat as a constituent element of a personal name is well attested in the Ur III and Isin-Larsa periods in Babylonia but not in Mari [Yoshikawa 1988 p. 209]. Also he believes that the nomenclature “deity + illat” or “deity+ KASKAL.KUR” was under the influence of Babylonia, but still there is no evidence of ^dDa-gan-Illatu.

On the other hand, the ideograph KASKAR.KUR has another phoneme as baliha/balihe. The Balih River is a tributary of the River Euphrates, their confluence being near a modern town Raqqa on the Middle Euphrates, and also Balihu was a town name on the Balih River⁸⁾. In the third millennium B.C., the town Balihu was called Ib-la and mentioned with Ursu (Urfa) [Reallexikon der Assyriologie 1932 : Balihu].

Gordon refers to ^dKASKAR.KUR in his article [Gordon 1969 pp. 70ff]. He has not only proposed to read analytically the ^dKASKAL.KUR in the Hittite source but also refers to the Mesopotamian source. According to him, the name Balih = Balih River was written both ideographically and phonetically in the Early Old Babylonian period, which can be seen in the Old Babylonian Itinerary [ibid. p. 77]. Also according to him, the writing Ba-li-ih is clearly referring to the Balih river in a Mari text [ibid.]. It means the Balih River already named this from the Larsa period.

Dr. Watanabe kindly informed me of the other references of the ideogram ^dKASKAL.KUR and Balih from the Emar texts. The Emar texts are described as Akkadian with some influence of Hurrian and Hittite. According to her, ^dKASKAR.KUR.R is used as a guardian deity on the courtesy texts [Arnaud 1986 No. 373] and ^dKASKAR.KUR is very possibly assigned to the Balih from other texts [ibid. nos. 168, 378 and 379].

The ideogram ^dKASKAR.KUR was clearly used to write the name of the Balih River as a geographical name from the Larsa period. On the other hand, the formula of naming “deity + ^dKASKAR.KUR” as “deity + illatu” is a characteristic of Babylonia. I like the Dagan-Balihu more than Dagan-illatu, because the location of ‘Usiyeh is within the Middle Euphrates, which is the region of those faithful to Dagan, and ‘Usiyeh must have had close contact with the Balihu region. On the other hand, Prof. Yoshikawa has strongly suggested that the reading ^dDa-gan-KASKALKUR is never ^dDa-gan-baliha, and Prof. Edzard has followed his suggestion. Probably their suggestion is correct, although I could not make up my mind.

The inscription type “personal name only”, the same as CS2, frequently occurred before the Ur III period, and most commonly in the Akkadian period [Gelb 1977 Chart of Typology of Seal Inscriptions]. After the Ur III period, it seems to become rare [ibid.].

CS2 seems to have been made in a local workshop in the Middle Euphrates region, which has

7) Prof. Mamoru Yoshikawa, Dr. Kazuko Watanabe, Dr. Francis Joannès and Prof. Dietz Otto Edzard through Prof. Barthel Hrouda have kindly given information about this inscription. Among them Prof. Yoshikawa has given me not only much information but also many references about this inscription.

8) Presumably Balihu is an ancient name, from which modern Turkish Balik is derived, *i. e.* “Fish river”, Balik = fish (Turkish) (Burney, personal communication).

both Babylonian and Syrian features, and also some old features surviving.

Although it was found in the upper level of the Underground Structure, it may have come up from the original floor at the time it was destroyed, because the date of this cylinder seal is not likely to be later than the original construction period. The date of this cylinder seal may fall within the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C. or a little earlier.

CS 3: A presentation scene before a seated deified king is depicted on this cylinder seal (Pl. 2). A worshipper wears a fringed robe and a crested cap. Probably his left hand is taken by the hand of the leading goddess, who wears a flounced robe, but the upper part is chipped. The bearded, deified king wears his flounced robe and a skull-cap with turban. He sits on a seat, and a tree is set up behind him. The lower part of the cylinder is weathered.



CS3 Find spot: Room W ⑤, 35cm above the floor of Phase 1. Site no.: C-6. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 34. Material: Alabaster or marble. Size: diameter 16 mm × 16 mm, length 25 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

CS3 is one of five alabaster or marble cylinder seals which were found in Area A of 'Usiyeh. Alabaster is probably easy to shape and to engrave, and is a variety of calcite. On the other hand, alabaster cylinder seals are always in a bad state of preservation. Our five cylinder seals are no exception to this.

Although calcite, limestone, is a popular material for cylinder seals in the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods, this is restricted only to black in colour⁹⁾. Dark coloured or black coloured cylinder seals, whatever the stone, seem the favourite in the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods. All of our alabaster cylinder seals, however, are light in colour, white or pink. Light coloured alabaster cylinder seals seem a local or regional favourite.

Three out of the five alabaster cylinder seals, CS3, CS6 and CS10, certainly belong to the original period of the Underground Structure. Possibly the others, CS5 and CS15, also belong to the same period.

Our alabaster cylinder seals can be divided into two styles. Both styles have been roughly engraved and show regional features. The first style shows well-ordered designs (CS3, CS5 and CS10). On the other hand, the second style shows a rough design and rougher engraving (CS6), similar to clay cylinder seals.

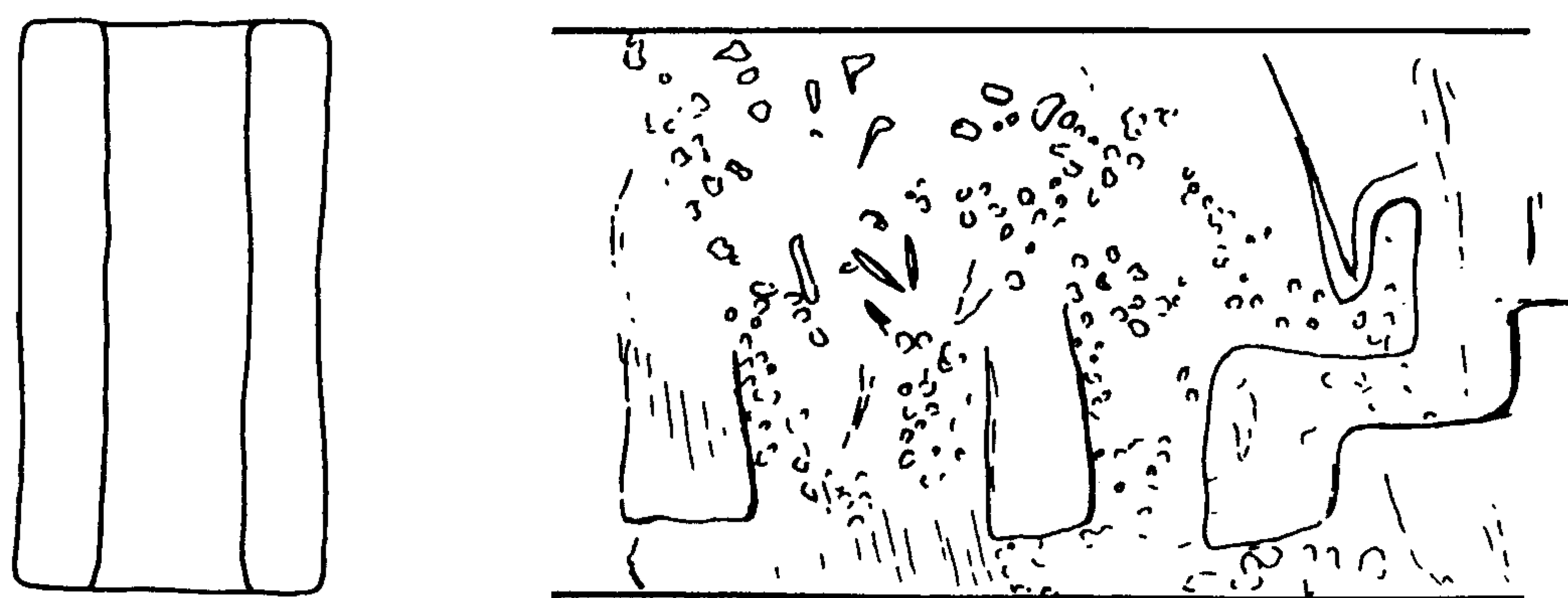
CS3 shows the "standard" presentation scene [Collon 1982 pp. 145-146] which was developed in Ur III [Collon 1986 p. 60]. In the beginning of the second millennium B.C., the leading goddess wears a flounced robe more often than a striped robe, and the worshipper wears a cap [ibid.]. CS3 must have belonged to this time.

9) Thirty-five out of the forty cylinders are black or dark in colour in the collection of the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods of the British Museum. On the other hand, cylinders made of white coloured limestone comprise but two examples and of pink there is one example only [Collon 1986].

Trees occur much more on clay or mud stone cylinder seals than on stone cylinder seals, and the tree on a stone cylinder seal is rare in Southern Mesopotamia in the early second millennium B.C., although it was a popular motif in the third millennium B.C. It is possible to say that trees appear more often on cylinder seals of local or regional style in the early second millennium B.C. On the other hand, the tree is a common motif on our cylinder seals, and it is depicted on three of alabaster, two of clay and one of haematite.

The date of CS3 seems to belong to the first century of the second millennium B.C., and its material and motif seem in the regional style.

CS4: A presentation or worship scene before a seated deified king is depicted on this cylinder seal. Unfortunately, the details are unclear from weathering (Pl. 2).



CS4 Find spot: Room W ⑤, 10 cm above the floor of Phase 1. Site no.: C-9. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 30. Material: Chalk?, gypsum-like quality, pinkish white in colour. Size: Diameter 13 mm × 13 mm, length 23.5 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

Unfortunately, the material was not analyzed: it is very soft and powdery. It is unlikely to be faience or frit, which are used for many of the beads found in 'Usiyeh. The material of CS4 contains many small bubbles and is soluble in water, and the cylinder is made by folding around a core rod. In the middle of the second millennium B.C., frit, faience and paste were becoming common materials for cylinder seals, being easy to make and cut. CS4, however, belongs to the original floor of the Underground Structure, of the Isin-Larsa period, and its style also seems to belong to the early second millennium B.C.

There was one frit cylinder seal discovered in tomb Z286 in Baghouz [Du Mesnil Du Buisson 1948 Pl. LVII], which was dated to the mid-second millennium B.C. by Collon [Tubb 1980 p. 65]. This cylinder seal was reminiscent of the Syrian cylinder seals during the late third and beginning of the second millennia B.C. [Teissier 1984 nos. 336 and 352 - 359], on which is shown a seated figure holding a drinking pipe in a vessel, although the Baghouz example is roughly engraved. If the Baghouz example had belonged to the early second millennium B.C., frit, faience or paste cylinder seals could be earlier features in the Middle Euphrates region.

The date of CS4 may be in the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C., and its material seems local or regional.

CS5: A worship scene before a seated deified king is depicted on this cylinder seal. Unfortunately, more than half is missing. At least two standing worshippers and a deified king appear on this cylinder seal. All of them are wearing their fringed robe. The deified king and the latest worshipper wear a crested cap (Pl. 3).

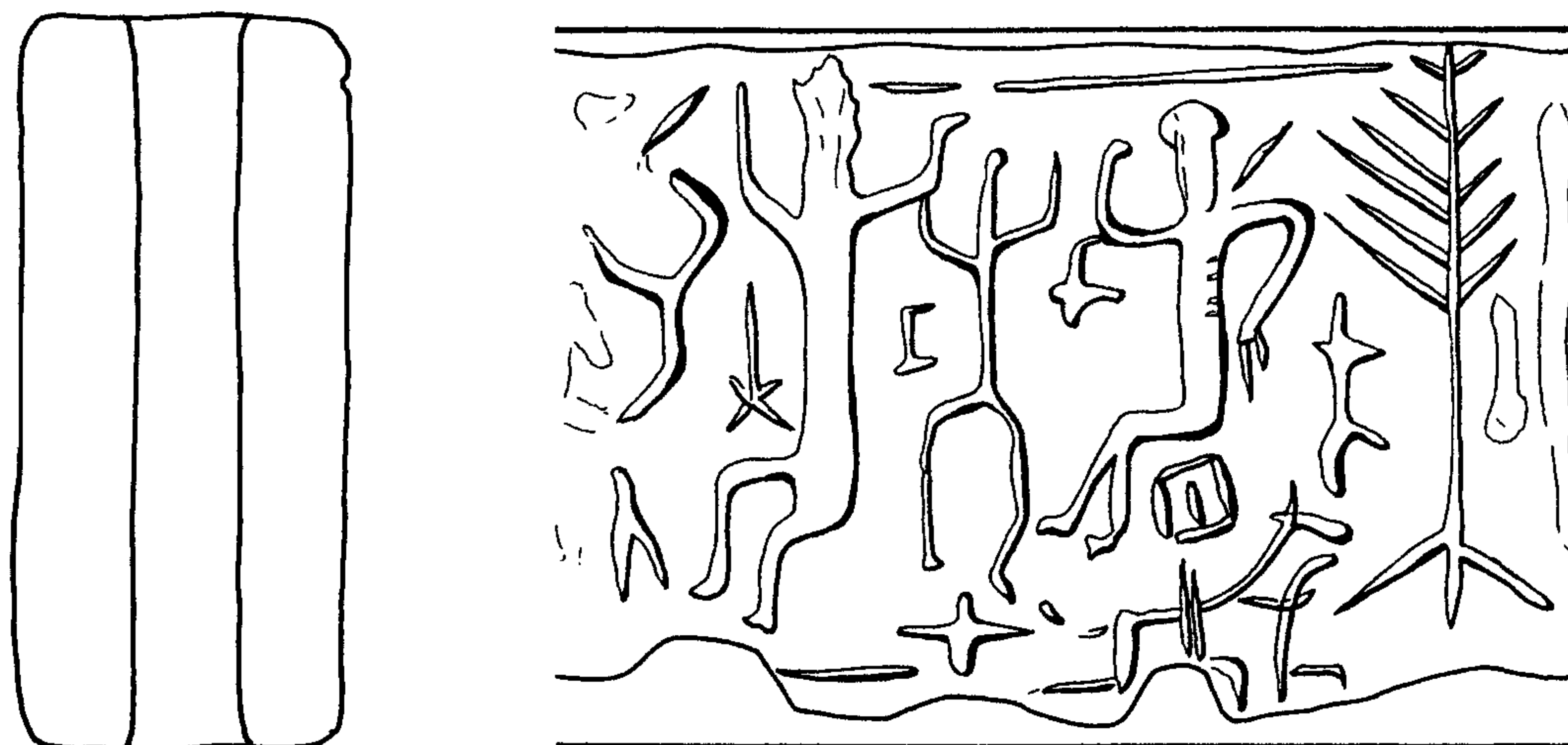


CS5 Find spot: Between Forecourt Doorway and Room W ⑤? Site no.: C-15. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 75. Material: Alabaster or marble, pinkish. Size: Diameter 11 mm × 11 mm ±, length 20 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

CS5 is one of five alabaster cylinder seals which may have been regional favourites (see the section of CS3). Crested caps with hatch are frequently depicted on the Old Assyrian or Cappadocian style of cylinder seals. But CS5 cannot be classified with this style.

CS5 may have belonged to the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C.

CS6: A presentation or worship scene before a seated deified king is depicted on this cylinder seal. A border line runs round the top and bottom of the cylinder. There are many unknown objects in the field as filling objects. The deified king is seated on a box which itself is seated on an animal-like figure. A tree is left behind the deified king (Pl. 3).



CS6 Find spot: Near the entrance of Room W ⑤, on the floor of Phase 1. Site no.: C-13. I.M. no. : I.M. 'Usiyeh 73. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-4. Material: Alabaster or marble, white in colour. Size: Diameter 14 mm × 14 mm, length 31 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

CS6 is one of five alabaster cylinder seals which were found in Area A of 'Usiyeh. Alabaster cylinder seals seem regional favourites, and are frequent in 'Usiyeh's cylinder seals (see the section of CS3).

The engraved design of CS6 is closely related to clay cylinder seals, which belong to the Old Babylonian period [cf. Al-Gailani Werr 1988]. Trees occur frequently on our cylinder seals (see CS3).

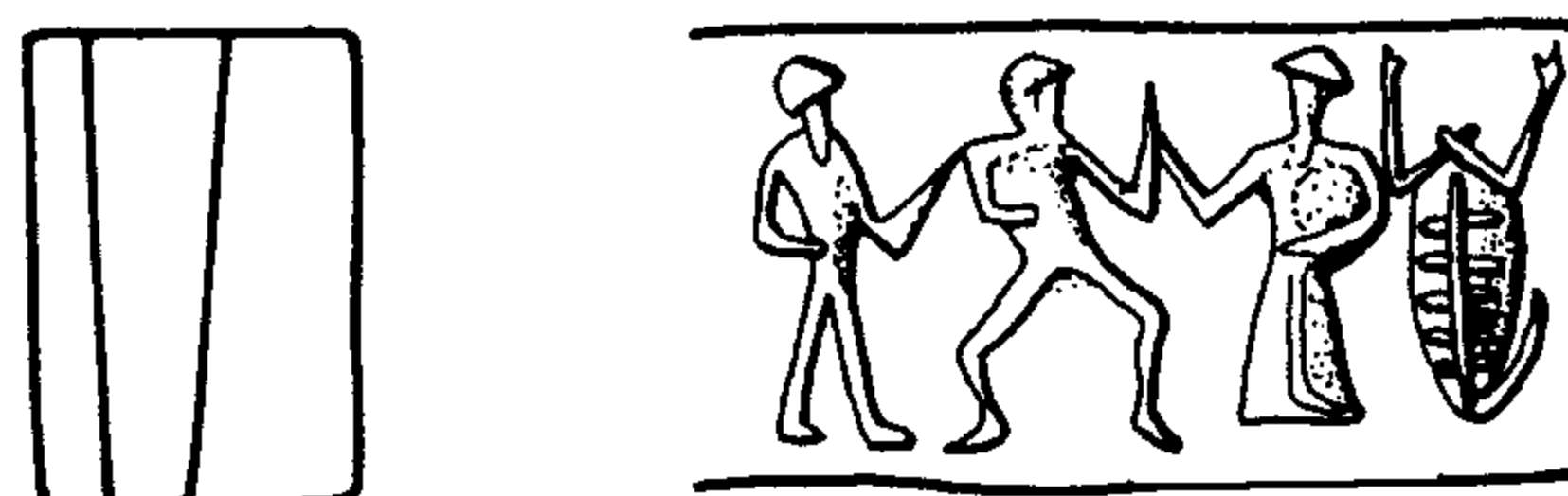
The seated deified king set on an animal-like figure is similar to BM 129606 (British Museum number) [Collon 1986 no. 641 = Collon 1987 no. 680], which is a clay cylinder seal and depicted with dancing figures. Our CS6 may be interpretable as a dancing scene too. The expressions of figures also resemble some clay cylinder seals, which were found at Tell Harmal and Susa [Al-Gailani Werr 1988 nos. 80 and 81].

A linear border round top and bottom is frequent on our cylinder seals, seemingly a regional

feature (see also CS2).

The date of CS6 is probably in the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C., and it seems closely related to clay cylinder seals.

CS7: A striding figure, a “bow-legged dwarf” and a robed figure are depicted on this cylinder seal. The striding figure, probably without his cloth, and the “bow-legged dwarf” raise their left hands, and their faces are turned toward the robed figure, probably a deified king, who wears his fringed robe. A large scorpion is set vertically behind him (Pl. 3).



- CS7** Find spot: Probably Room E (dumping soil which was passed through a sieve).
 Site no.: C-11. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 35. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-7.
 Material: Haematite, black. Size: Diameter 7.5 mm × 7 mm, length 10.5 mm. Scale:
 × 1.5.

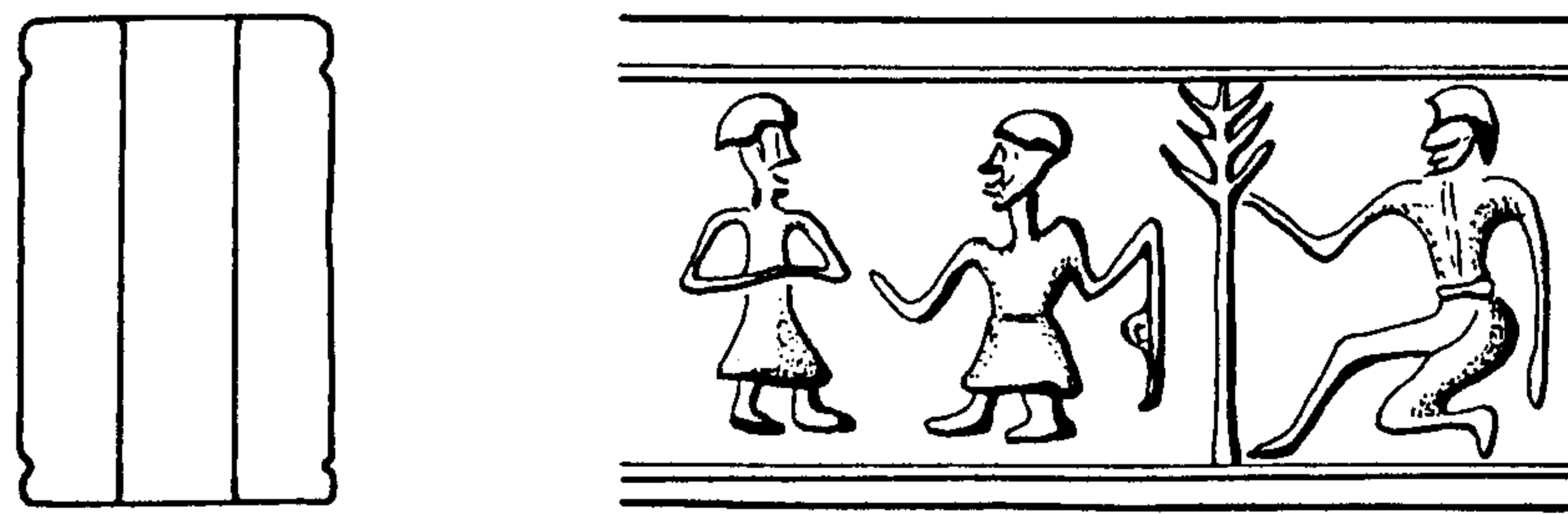
CS7 is the smallest in size of the 'Usiyeh cylinder seals. The design of CS7 is similar to some clay cylinder seals as well as CS6, but CS7 is made of haematite. A similar design is found at Tell ed-Der [Al-Gairani Werr 1988 no. 44], and in the collection of the British Museum [BM 89544 = Collon 1986 no. 635 = Al-Gailani Werr 1988 no. 43]. Both examples have a bow-legged dwarf and a striding figure in the opposite position to CS7, and both have a large spade as a substitute for our scorpion.

Bow-legged dwarfs date back to the periods from Isin-Larsa to the Old Babylonian period, and they mostly appear as diminutive [Collon 1986 p. 32]. However, on clay cylinder seals, they are frequently depicted as large in size [Al-Gailani Werr 1988 nos. 42, 43, 44, 75, 77, 78]. On stone cylinder seals often they also appear as large, but the occurrence seems restricted on small cylinder seals [Porada 1948 no. 298]. According to Collon, they may be dancers [Collon 1986 p.32], but CS7 and other two similar examples [*ibid.*, no. 635 = Al-Gailani Werr 1988 no.43; no.44] look like worshippers.

Scorpions sometimes appear on cylinder seals, but most of them are displayed in an inferior position or treatment, such as a filling motif or a small figure as well as the bow-legged dwarfs. On our CS7, the scorpion is set in a vertical position and is large, being used full length on the cylinder. BM 22426 [Collon 1986 no. 638] and one from Tell ed-Der [Al-Gairani Werr 1988 no.42], have both a large scorpion and are clay cylinder seals. Scorpions seem more frequent and are treated as more important on clay cylinder seals than on stone cylinder seals.

CS7 seems to belong to the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C., and iconographically to be cross-related to Babylonia and clay cylinder seals; but the material, haematite, is unusual for this design.

CS8: Two short figures are standing and wearing their skirts, and facing each other. The left figure has his hands clasped in front. The next figure, who has raised his right arm to the first figure, has a ball-and-staff in his left hand. A kneeling man, kneeling on one knee, with a tree in his right hand, is naked except for a belt. All three figures are clean-shaven. The cylinder has a border line round the top and bottom (Pl. 3).



CS8 Find spot: Room W2 or latest phase, Phase 2, of the Forecourt Doorway ④.
 Site no.: C-2. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 26. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-8.
 Material: Haematite?, black stone. Size: Diameter 10.5 mm × 10.5 mm, length 16.5 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

The line border round the top and bottom is again not in the Babylonian style (see CS2). Kneeling men are always diminutive on the Babylonian style cylinder seals, except where they are victims in contests in the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods [Collon 1986 p. 32]. However, they have appeared large on some Ur III cylinder seals [Collon 1982 nos. 319 and 320], and Cappadocian cylinder seals [Porada 1948 nos. 886, 887 and 890; Teissier 1984, nos. 427 and 429 (Old Assyrian colony style)] and some Syrian cylinder seals [Teissier 1984 no.373] in the early second millennium B.C. Kneeling men with a tree or a banquet-tree in one hand, the same as on CS8, have been studied by Collon and found at Beth Shan in Levels IX- VIII, Gezer, Nuzi, Tepe Giyan and levels V-II in Alalakh [Collon 1982b p. 77ff]. Although these belong to the middle second millennium B.C., are mostly in the common Mitannian style and are made of composition, these trees are elaborate and engraved by drill at the ends of the branch. On the other hand, CS8 is made of haematite and the tree is not elaborated. Therefore CS8 does not seem to belong to the Mitannian style.

In the North Syrian cylinder seal style, which has been established by Collon [Collon 1985], kneeling men are also depicted [Collon 1985 nos. 2-7, 10, 12-14, 20 and 21]. They are either in pairs or facing a lion or griffin, and often armed with a spear or an indeterminate weapon [ibid. p. 59]. She supposes that these issued from the same workshop or group of workshops, and certainly from the same area and were of the same date, in the middle of the eighteenth century B.C., when this style flourished.

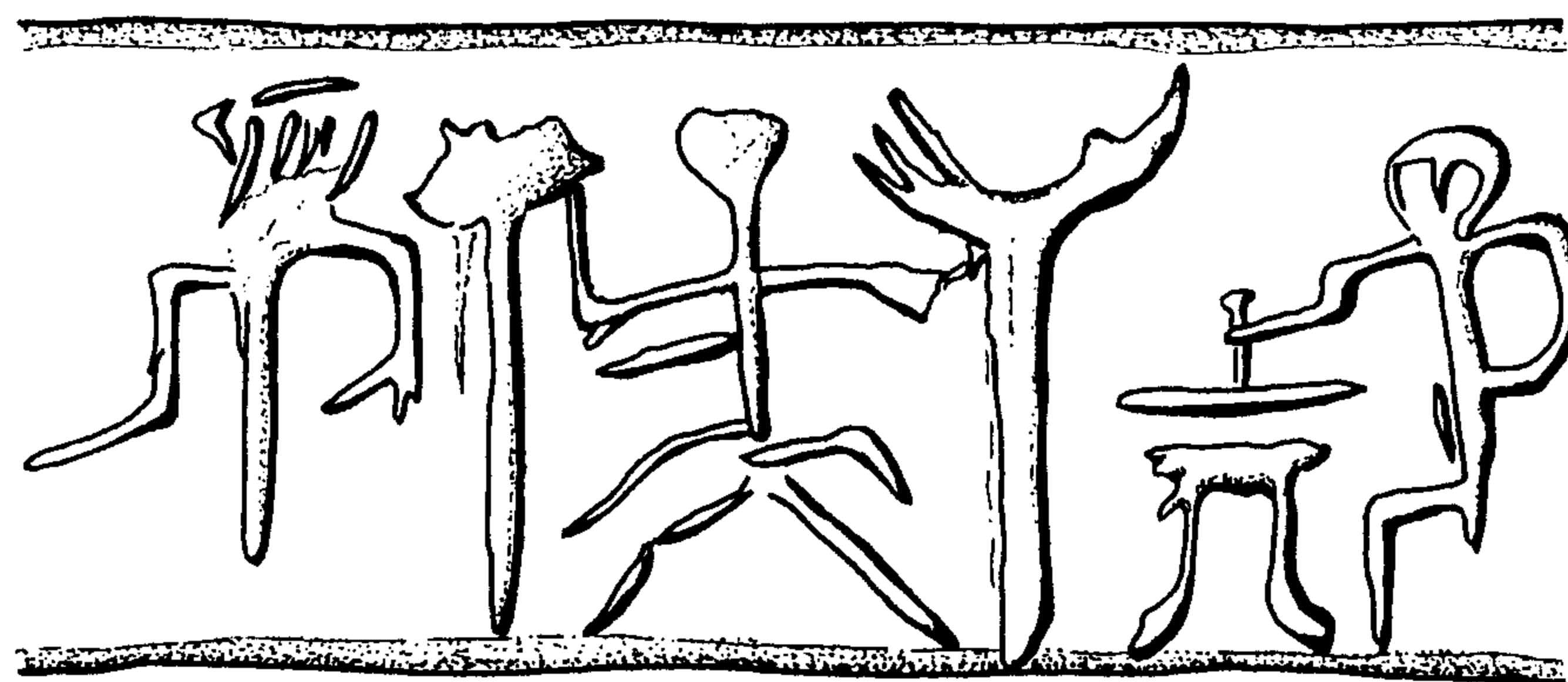
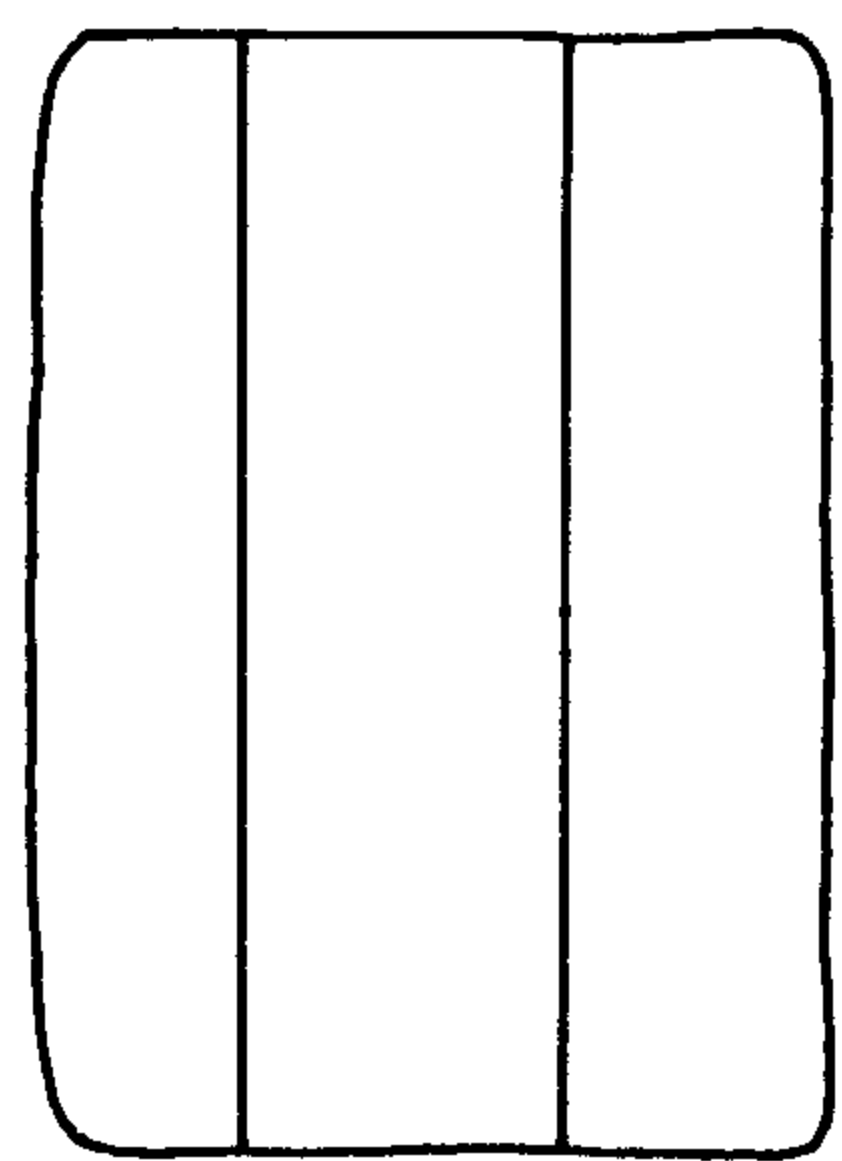
The kneeling man of CS8 has no spear or weapon, but seems to have some relation to the Northern Syrian style of cylinder seal. Most of the Northern Syrian style cylinder seals are made of haematite and have a linear border round the top and bottom, as CS8.

Unfortunately the find spot of CS8 was the upper accumulation of the Underground Structure, and it is possible that it either belongs to the original structure or to the upper structure. If CS8 belonged to the original structure, the date of CS8 must be a little earlier than the time when the Northern Syrian style flourished, the mid-eighteenth century B.C.

On the other hand, the other motif seems to have no connection with the Northern Syrian style, but on a cylinder seal from Byblos there appeared a short figure who was wearing a skirt [Collon 1987 no. 131].

The date of CS8 is difficult, but it seems to belong to the first quarter of the second millennium B.C.

CS9: It is difficult to explain, because its illustration is rough. Possibly a scene of three figures and two trees or standards standing between them is depicted on this cylinder seal. The rightmost figure in the illustration sits at a desk (offering table) with a cup or some object in his right hand (Pl. 4).



CS9 Find spot: Room W ⑤, near its entrance. Site no.: C-7. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 28. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-2. Material: baked clay. Size: Diameter 16.5 mm × 16 mm, length 23.5 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

This cylinder seal is one of two clay cylinder seals which were found in Area A of 'Usiyeh. Although their material is the same, baked clay, their designs and technical skills are very different. CS9 is very rough in shape and design, and the material is also rough. On the other hand, CS14 is made of fine clay and has a completely cylindrical body, and its engraving shows an elaborate design, the technique used being exceptional in clay cylinder seals found in the Near East.

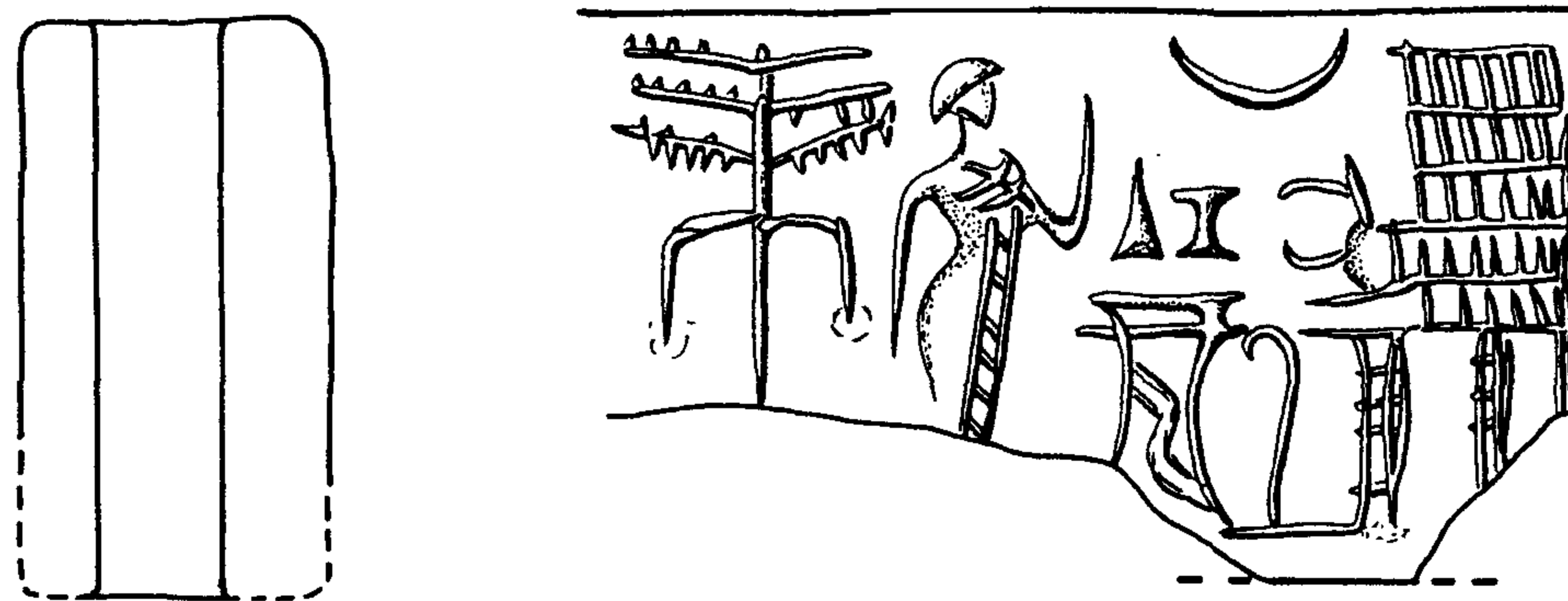
Clay cylinder seals have been discovered in nearly every site in Mesopotamia, and their distribution covers the whole of the area of the ancient Near East. Their dating extends from the Early Dynastic to the Achaemenid periods [Al-Gailani Werr 1988 pp. 1-2]. Clay seals were occasionally used, particularly in Old Babylonian times [Collon 1987 p.102], and seem common in the Diyala and Hamrin region [Al-Gailani Werr 1988 pp. 4-5].

In the Haditha region, Khirbet ed-Diniyeh, ancient Haradum, has a clay cylinder seal the date of which is in the Old Babylonian period (niveau A) [Kepinski-Lecomte 1992 Fig. 144-5 and 6]. Baghouz in the Middle Euphrates region also had a clay cylinder seal [Du Mesnil Du Buisson 1948 and LII]. Probably clay cylinder seals were common in the Middle Euphrates region too.

Unfortunately, CS9 is more rough and artless in design than the other clay seals which were found at the other sites. Some of our stone cylinder seals, CS6 and CS7, are rather similar in design to the clay cylinder seal.

The date of CS9 may have been in the first quarter of the second millennium B.C., from its find spot.

CS10: A worship scene before a shrine or a temple (?) is depicted on this cylinder seal. A tree, with three branches spreading both sides and two bunches of dates hanging on both sides, stands behind the worshipper, who is wearing his fringed robe and crested cap with his right hand raised. An offering table is placed between the worshipper and the shrine. Two votive offerings are on the table. A crescent symbol is above in the sky. The shrine is constructed in two parts, an upper part and a lower, the former being constructed of five stories with an animal-like mouth at its front; the latter may be the foundation of the former. A line border runs round the bottom of the seal. The lower part of the cylinder is missing and is weathered (Pl. 4).



CS10 Find spot: Near the entrance of Room W ⑤, 5 cm above the floor of Phase 1. Site no.: C-12. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 72. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-5. Material: Alabaster or marble, milky-white. Size: diameter 12 mm × 12 mm, length 22 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

Trees are elaborate in the middle second millennium B.C., and there is a similar tree on a cylinder seal of the fourteenth century B.C. [Porada 1984 no. 589], whose style prevailed in Assyria in the fourteenth century [ibid., p. 66]. On the other hand, the most similar tree or date-palm to CS10 appeared on a so called "Adam and Eve" seal whose date is in the Post- Akkadian or Ur III period [BM 89326 = Collon 1982 no.302 = Collon 1987 no. 112].

Stylistically other related cylinder seals seem to belong to the Middle Assyrian group, having been discovered at Tyre, Assur [Moortgat 1940 no. 591 = Collon 1988 fig. W], Babylon [Moortgat 1940 no. 592 = Collon 1988 fig. X] and Tell Mohammed Arab [Roaf 1984 Pl.XIII = Collon 1987 no. 810 = Collon 1988 no. 9], these being discussed by Collon [Collon 1988 p. 74]. CS10, however, undoubtedly belonged to the original floor of the Underground Structure, on the evidence of its find spot. Therefore the date of CS10 must be during or before the Isin-Larsa period. Although altar tables or offering tables occur frequently on cylinder seals, these are rare motifs except in the Late Assyrian and Late Babylonian periods. A worshipper worships in front of the altar table, forming a motif which has been discovered at Ashkelon in Palestine, which is stylistically of the Cappadocian trade style in the Old Assyrian period [Collon 1987 no. 138]. The same motif is also described on an Anatolian style cylinder seal [Larsen 1977 Fig. 7]. On these cylinder seals, the statue of a bull is depicted behind the altar table.

The statues of bulls are frequent in the Cappadocian and Syrian cylinder seals. Most of these are on the altar, which is sometimes like a temple structure [Teissier 1984 nos. 355, 356 and 362: Syrian seals, c.2000-1900 B.C.; ibid, no. 417 : Old Assyrian Colony Style, c.1920-1840 B.C.; Porada 1984 no. 1094]. Probably it is difficult to say whether the temple of our CS10 is derived from the statue of a bull.

CS10 is an unusual motif and difficult to determine as to its date and influence. Its style seems regional and its date belongs to the first quarter of the second millennium B.C.

CS11: Unfortunately its illustration is unclear. An animal-like figure stands with a tree in his hand. The deified king (?) is seated on his box seat. There are some animal-like figures in front of him (Pl. 4).



CS11 Find spot: Underground Structure, upper level, ④. Site no.: C-3. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 27. Material: Greyish black stone, not so hard. Size: Diameter 7.8 mm × 7.8 mm, length 18 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

CS11 has been worn, and its engraving has become faint. An Akkadian cylinder seal [Boehmer 1965 abb. 720] may have a similar motif, but even this is difficult to compare with CS11.

CS12: A king with a mace and a suppliant goddess is depicted in the left half of this cylinder seal. The bearded king wears his fringed skirt and a mace in his left hand. The goddess is wearing a flounced robe with her hands raised. A star shines in the sky and a filling object is in the field between them. On the right half of this cylinder seal, a contest scene is depicted. A hero, naked except for his double belt and crested cap, conflicts with an inverted lion (?). The hero grasps the tail of the lion in his right hand and a back paw in his left hand. There is a base-line for the figures (Pl.4).



CS12 Find Spot: Forecourt Doorway ④ – ⑤. Site no.: C-4. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 32. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-9. Material: Haematite. Size: Diameter 10 mm × 10 mm, length 16 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

The left half depicts the king with a mace before the suppliant goddess, which is one of the standard themes of the Old Babylonian period [Collon 1986 p.100]. Probably this theme on the cylinder seal was discovered at nearly every site in Mesopotamia. This theme is suggested by Porada as having been a relief or wall-painting which may have served as a model [Collon 1982 p.48]. According to Collon, the first appearance of this theme on cylinder seals is from the reigns of Ibiq-Adad of Eshnunna and Bur-Sin of Isin (1895-1874), and it was popular until the reign of Samsu-Iluna of Babylon (1749-1712) [Collon 1986 pp.100-101]. These themes are combined with other figures. The nude goddess, either diminutive or of the same size, is most frequent as the other figure or as the filling motif.

The suppliant goddess is identified as Lama by Agnès Spycket [*ibid.* p.103], and she generally does not appear in contest scenes [*ibid.* p.25].

Astral symbols occur on this theme as a filling motif in the sky. The other filling motif could be a fly, which is frequent, and whose meaning is discussed as a symbol of victory by Porada [*ibid.* p.42].

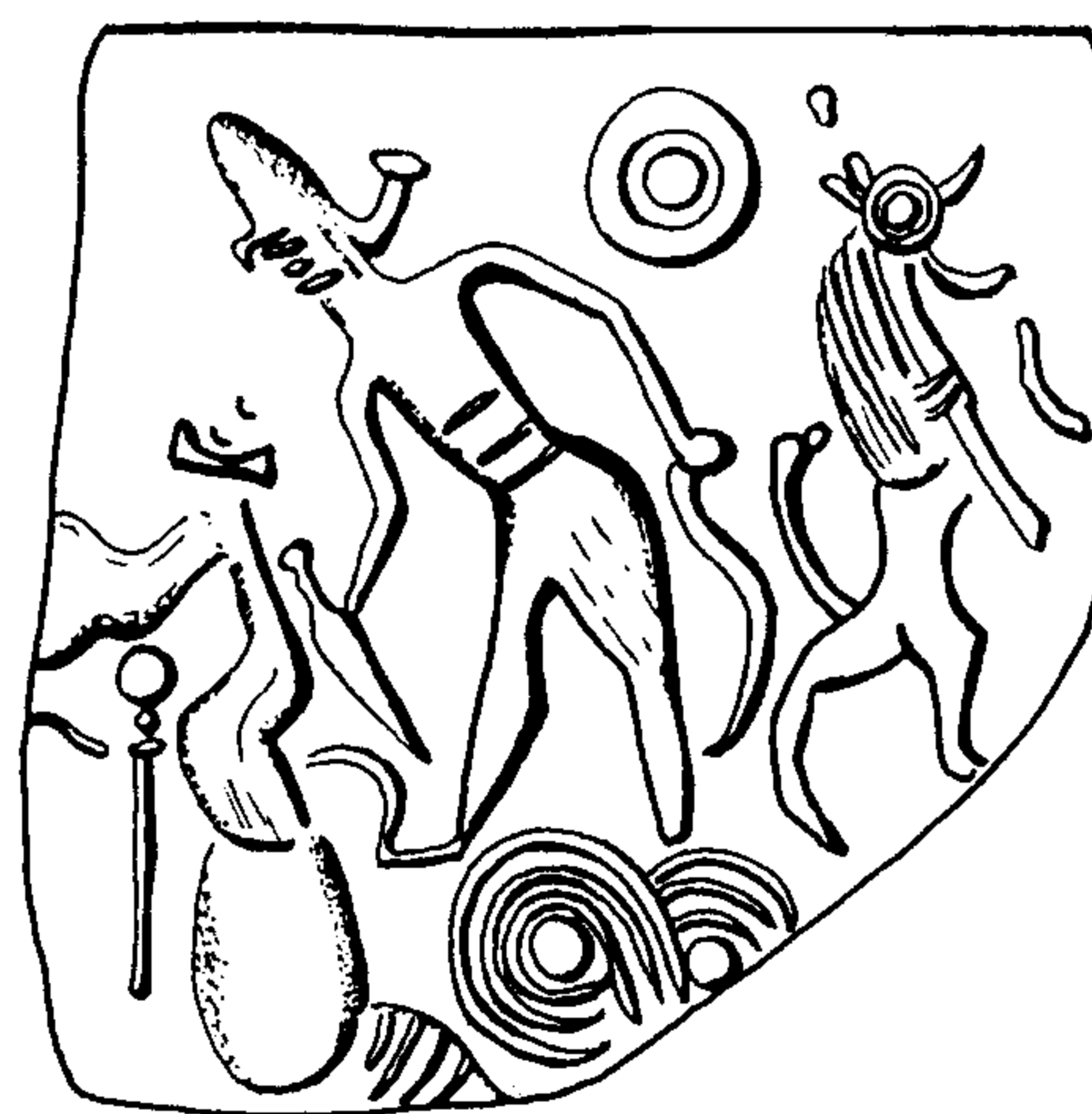
The right half of CS 12, the contest scene, is unusual as a theme, with that of the left half, the king with a mace before the suppliant goddess. Moreover, this right half contest scene is unusual in style. It may have been a regional style, probably under some influence of the Cappadocian style or Syrian style. The gesture, with one leg raised to his back, of the hero is similar to that on some cylinder seals which were found in a tomb at Ras Shamra [Schaeffer-Forrer 1983 R.S.9.889 = Collon 1987 no.218], and in the collection of the British Museum [Collon 1986 no.122 = Collon 1987 no.165]. The former was found to be a cylinder seal related to the Northern Syrian group of cylinder seals [Collon 1987 no.207 p.52; Schaeffer-Forrer 1983 R.S.9.300], and Schaeffer-Forrer's dating is in the period of Middle Ugarit 2 (I'Ugarit Moyen 2), between 1900 and 1750 B.C. According to Collon, the latter may have dated from the reign of Sinmuballit (1812-1792), and is likely to have been made at Sippar [Collon 1986 p.88; Collon 1987]. Both of them, however, are more skillfully executed, and these heroes are full-faced with beards, and their hair styles are curled. Their lions are also very realistic.

On the other hand, CS12 is more rough, and the hero and lion are similar to those on some cylinder seals which have been found at Kültepe in level 1b of Karum Kanesh [Ozgüç 1968 Pl. XXVII-

2] or belong to the Cappadocian style.

CS12 has been found in the middle level of the Underground Structure. This level makes it possible that CS12 belongs to either the original structure or the later structure. The date of CS12 could be during the 19th or the early 18th centuries B.C.

CS13: More than half of the cylinder is missing. The scene is divided into two registers, partly by a horizontal guilloche which consists of three interlocking bands with a central dot. A contest scene and a rampant lion are depicted on it. The naked hero, except for his belt, conflicts with an inverted lion. A dagger is in his right hand and a bent implement (whip ?) is in his left hand. He is looking at an inverted lion from the upper register. The inverted lion extends over both registers. A mace stands upon the left side of the lion. A sun symbol is in the sky, and the rampant lion is in the upper register (Pl. 5).



CS13 Find spot: Dumping soil from the Forecourt Doorway, probably middle to lower level, ④ – ⑤. Site no.: C-14. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 74. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-3. Material: Chalk?, gypsum-like quality, white. Size: Presumed diameter, 20 mm, survived length, 29 mm. Scale: $\times 1.5$.

This cylinder seal is divided into two registers by a guilloche, such as is known in the Syrian style of cylinder seal from the third millennium B.C. The detail of other figures on CS13 also display Syrian features.

C13 is an extraordinarily large cylinder seal, nearly 5cm in length, if the horizontal guilloche was arranged at its centre.

The mace, central dots of guilloche and sun, and the eye of rampant lion, have been made with a drill.

The contest scene on CS13 is unusual. Usually heroes and victims are on the same line and of the same scale; and they are intertwined, or victims are grasped by heroes. There is no evidence of such a position on CS13, as far as I know, where the hero is on the upper register and looks down to where his victim is inverted, and the victim is depicted enlarged in size, but with his head missing. The head of the hero is also unusual in detail, seemingly related to some Syrian style [Schaeffer-Forrer 1983 Pl. II; Collon 1975 Pl. XXIV-XXVI]. These, however, usually wear a short skirt.

Many similar lions to CS13 can be seen in the Mitannian style of cylinder seals, which have been found from levels IV - II in Alalakh [Collon 1982b nos. 63, 68, 75 and 112], late Ugarit 1 - 2 in Ugarit [Schaeffer-Forrer 1983 R.S.6.361, R.S.6.389, R.S.11.176, R.S.25.154, R.S.25.256 and R.S.25.380], Beth Shan [Parker 1949 no. 68], Cyprus [Porada 1971 no. 3a] and Nuzi [Porada 1947 nos. 174-179]. Some earlier examples were also found in Middle Ugarit 2 or 3 in Ugarit [Schaeffer-Forrer 1983 R.S.11.226], which were made of haematite. Composition cylinder seals are rare in the early second millennium B.C., but seem to be a regional feature (see CS4).

Unfortunately, the find spot of CS13 is in dumping soil of the Underground Structure. Therefore CS13 belongs to either the original or to the later structure. CS 13, however, seems to have belonged to the original phase like the other cylinder seals.

CS14: A music scene before a seated god described on this cylinder seal. A bearded full-faced bull-man stands on the extreme left on the seal impression, wearing his double belt and horn. Below his waist we can see a cross hatch decoration. Both his hands are clasped (?) on his front. A standing male figure is wearing a fringed robe with a double-rolled hem, both his arms being free, and a crested cap. He is placed on the right side of the bull-man. His face looks towards the god, who is placed on the extreme right, and his left hand is raised. Two players are seated on boxes, which are placed between the male figure and the god. They are wearing their flounced robes with both their arms free. The left player is wearing his crested cap and he plays a harp. The other player plays a lyre, and he is diminutive in size. A disc and crescent symbol is between the players in the sky. A part of the harp, a part of the disc and crescent, and a foot of the god have been chipped. The god is seated on his throne and is wearing his flounced robe with a branch in his raised right hand. The cylinder has a border line round the top and bottom (Pl. 5).



CS14 Find spot: Room W, on the floor of Phase 1. Site no.: C-8. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 29. Publication: Fujii *et al.* 1984/5 Fig. 9-1; Collon 1987 no.666; Oguchi 1988, pp.69, 200 and 201 no.47. Material: Baked clay, dark brown, very fine texture, burnished surface. Size: Diameter 16 mm × 16 mm, length 25 mm. Scale: × 1.5.

This cylinder is one of two clay cylinder seals which are found in Area A in 'Usiyeh. However, CS14 has by far the better shape, design and technique (see also the section of CS9), and seems to be exceptional among clay cylinder seals.

The linear border round the top and bottom is characteristic of Syrian cylinder seals rather than Babylonian (see CS2). On clay cylinder seals also it has occurred without exception. However, there was an example of linear border round the top and bottom discovered at Kish [Al-Gailani 1988 no. 47].

Music scenes are mostly represented as an accompaniment to a religious ceremony, generally a banquet, and already depicted from the 4th millennium B.C. onwards [Collon 1987 p. 151].

Full-faced bull-men are depicted in contest scenes only in the Akkadian period [Collon 1982 p. 38], and this role also continues to the later periods. On the Old Babylonian seals, their role is sometimes different, *i.e.* grasping a spear or a gate-post, and sometimes carrying an animal offering [Collon 1986 p.41]. On CS14, the bull-man stands alone without anything in his hands. There are examples of full-faced nude heroes without anything in their hands or clasping their hands, but not with the bull-men.

Although seated diminutive figures are rare, these are mainly depicted on music scenes as players [Collon 1987 671, 673 and 675?; Larsen 1977 Fig. 10].

On the other hand, bow-legged dwarfs and nude goddess are also depicted, sometimes diminutive, the role of the former being as lute players on terracotta and maybe as dancers [Collon 1986 pp. 32 - 33]. According to Collon, the nude goddess may be connected with a rise in popularity in the 19th century B.C. of the bow-legged dwarfs [ibid. pp. 131-132]. Also monkeys are often accompanied by bow-legged dwarfs and nude female dancers [ibid. pp. 33 and 132], and monkeys are obviously part of a troop of musicians and dancers. There may have been a tendency for musicians and dancers to be depicted as diminutive in size and to be popular in the early second millennium B.C.

Seated diminutive players, however, seem to appear from an earlier time, the Akkadian period, than the above figures [Collon 1987 no. 673 = Collon 1982a no. 197; Collon 1987 675 = Boehmer 1965 abb. 704], and they remain on some cylinder seals of the Cappadocian group [Collon 1987 no. 671 = Buchanan 1966 no. 832 = Frankfort 1939 fig. 81 p. 251] and of the Syrian style [Larsen 1977 Fig. 10]. CS14 may have been influenced by the styles of the Cappadocian group, of the Syrian and of the Babylonian.

Disc and crescent and star disc in crescent are symbols invented in the Ur III period [Collon 1982 p. 132; Collon 1986 p. 48]. The date of our cylinder must have been after this time, because it is unlikely to have been recut.

A seated god may have been a vegetation god, who is, however, characteristic of the Akkadian period. Probably CS14 demonstrates the survival of an old feature.

There are similarly ornamented thrones to CS14 [Collon 1987 no.139; Von Der Osten 1934 nos. 177 and 319; Teissier 1984 nos. 468 and 504]. Two of them are on Syrian style cylinder seals, and one is on a Cappadocian style seal in the early second millennium B.C.

Most probably the date of this cylinder seal belongs to the first two centuries of the second millennium B.C., and it may represent a regional feature.

CS15: Unknown weathered figure. We present only its details (Pl.5).

CS15 Find spot: Room W. Site no.: C-10. I.M. no.: I.M. 'Usiyeh 31. Material: Alabaster or marble, brownish pink. Size: Diameter 14 mm × 14 mm, length 19.5 mm.

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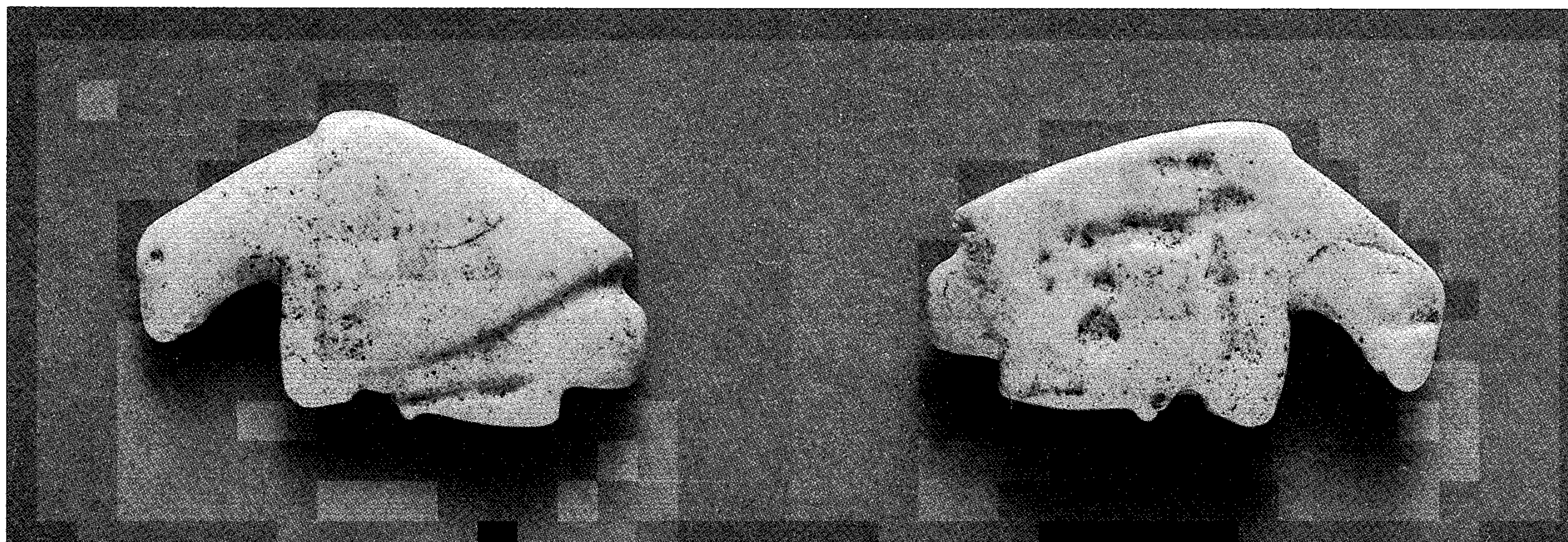
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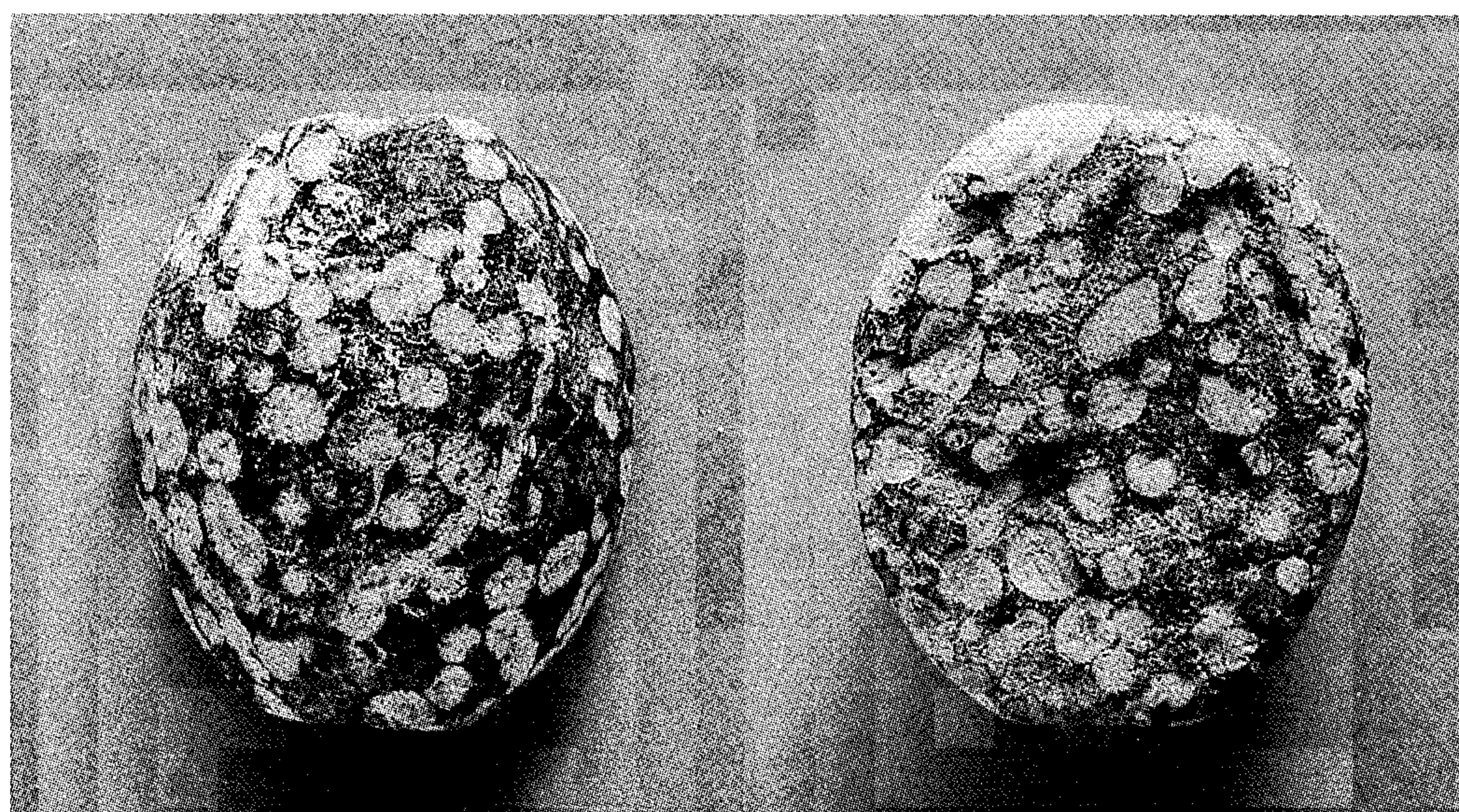
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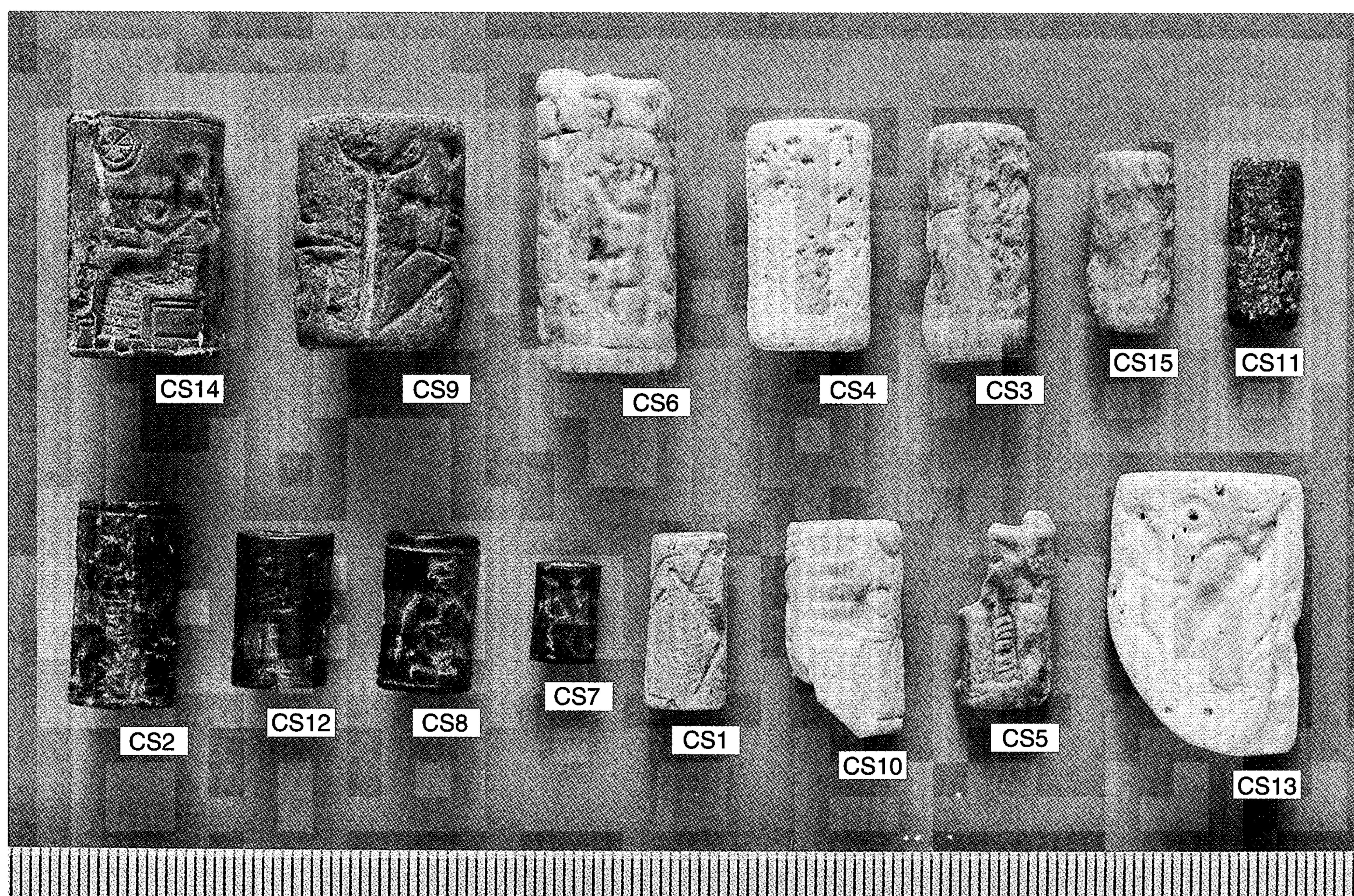
1988 A Note on ^dDagan-illat, *Al-Rāfidān* 9, pp. 209–210.



SS1



SS2



Cylinder Seals

Stamp Seals and Cylinder Seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh (SS1 and SS2: $\times 1.5$).
N.B. CS6 is erroneously put upside down.

Pl. 2

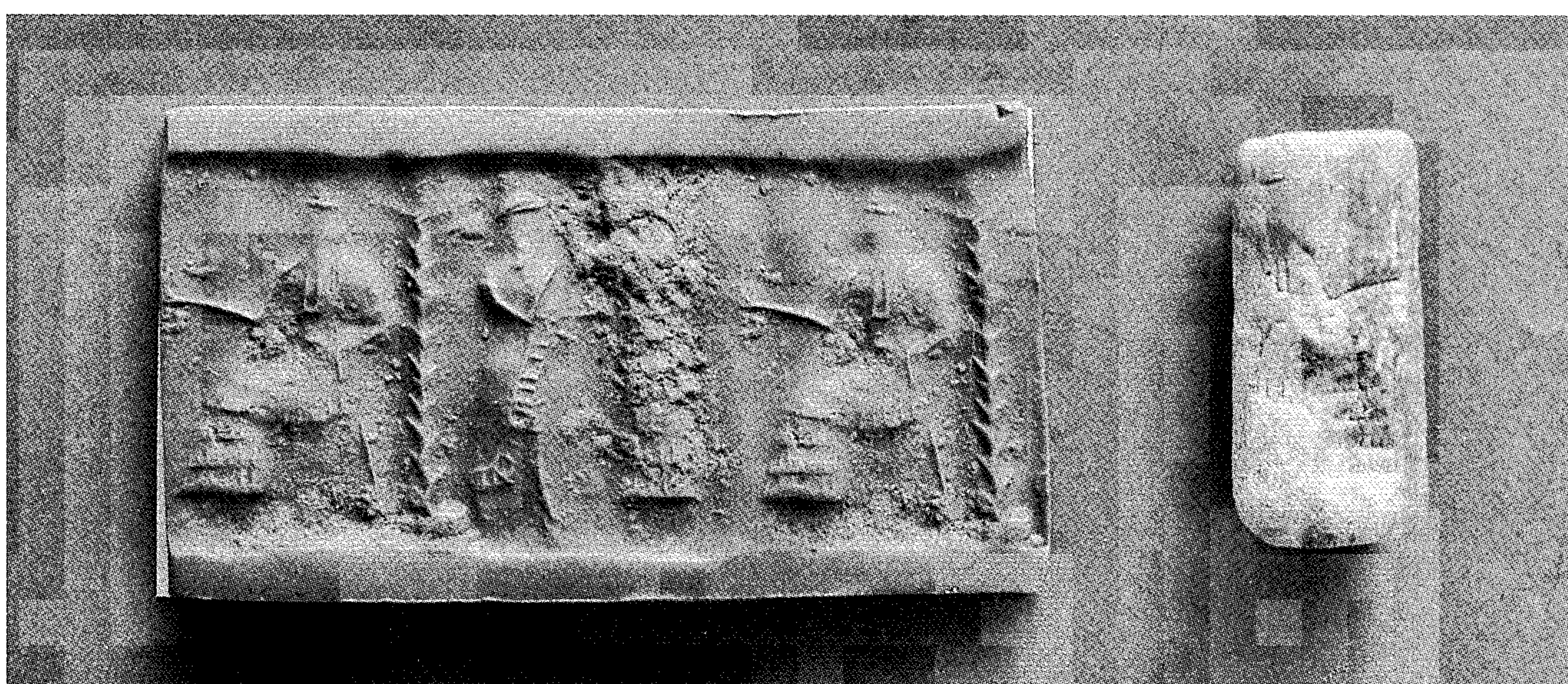
CS1



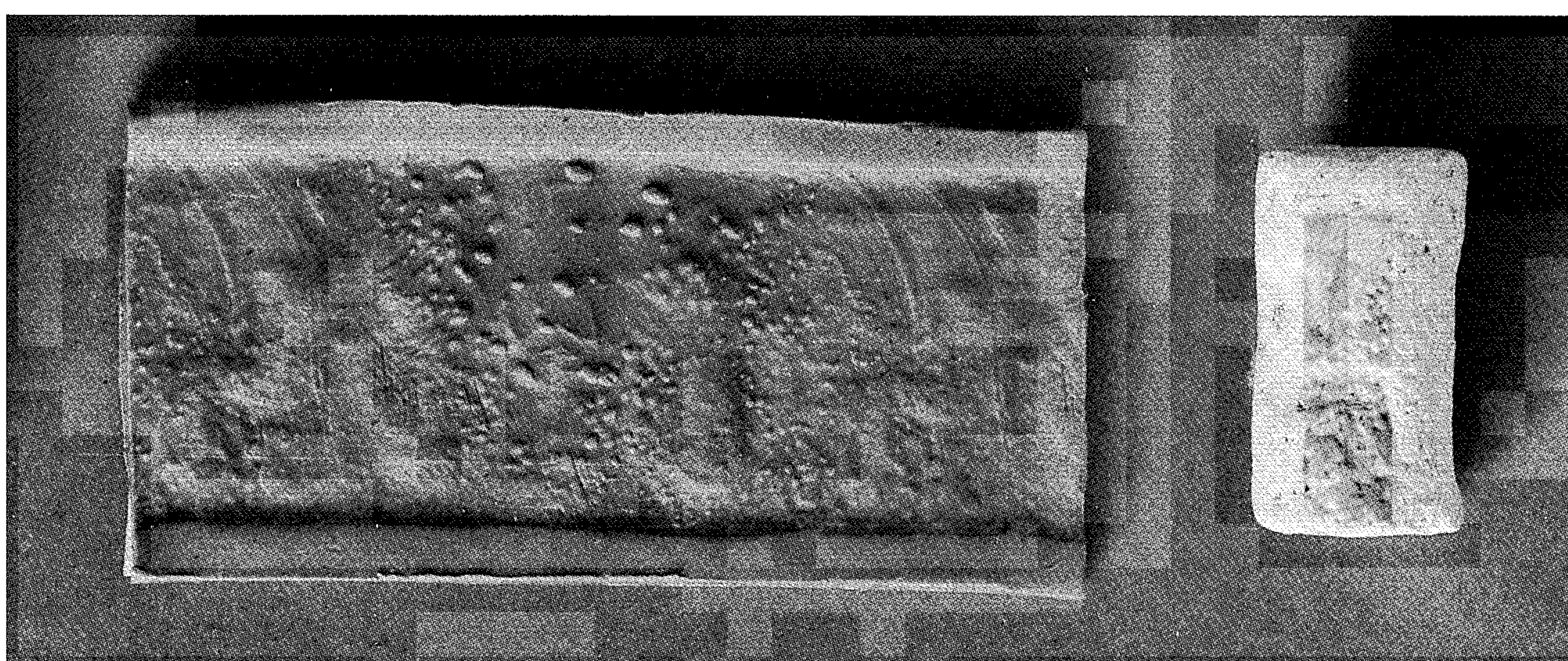
CS2



CS3

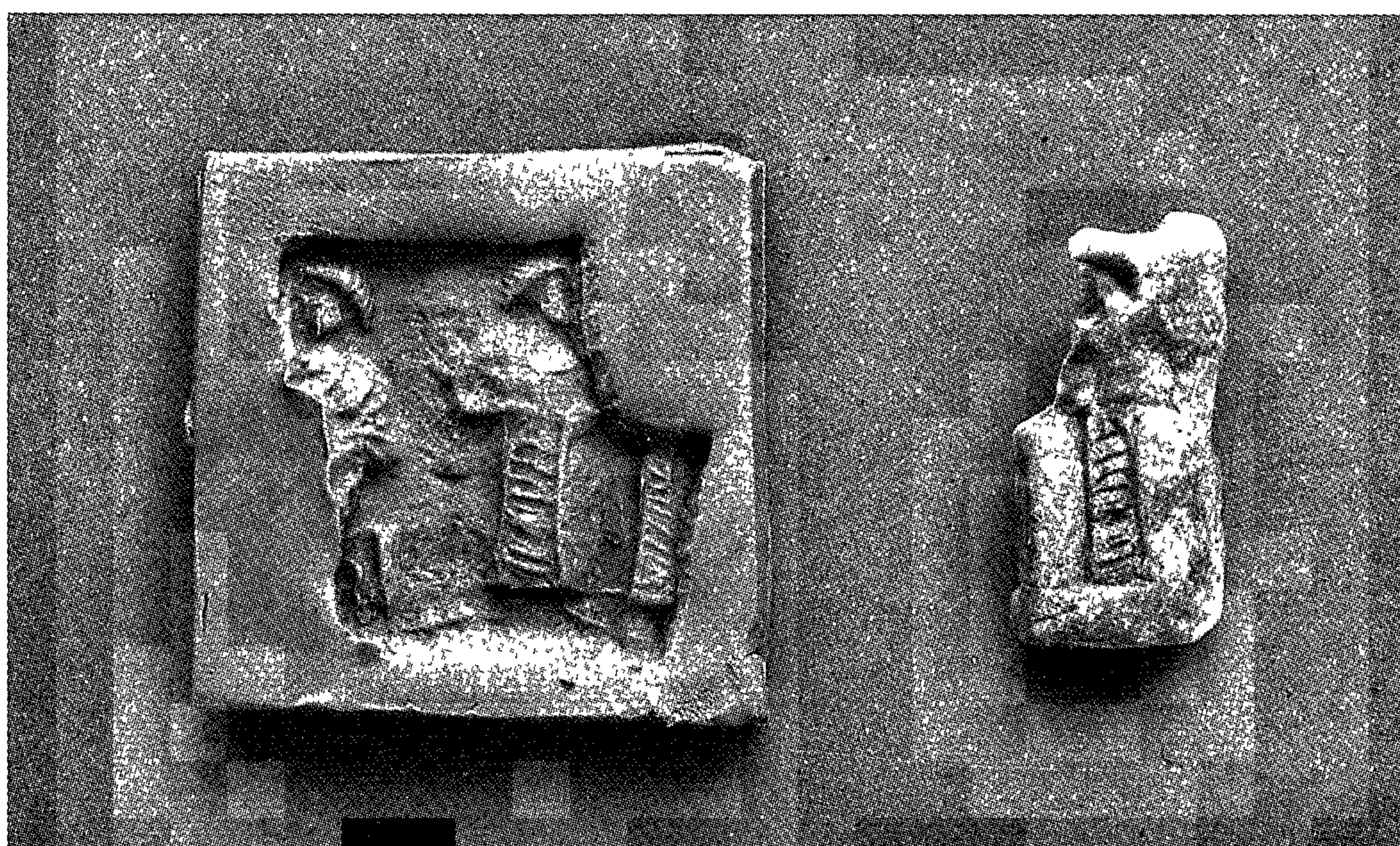


CS4



Cylinder Seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh ($\times 1.5$).

CS5



CS6



CS7



CS8

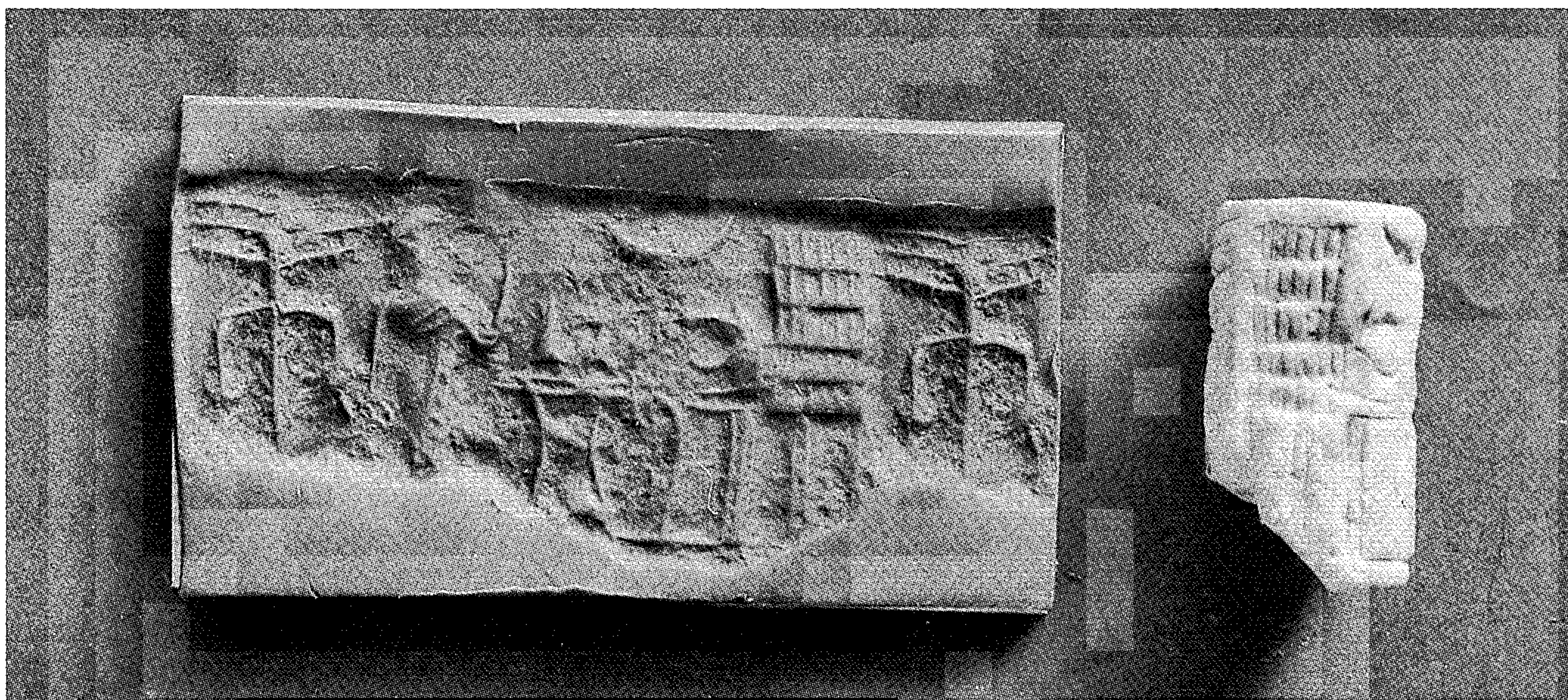


Cylinder Seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh ($\times 1.5$).

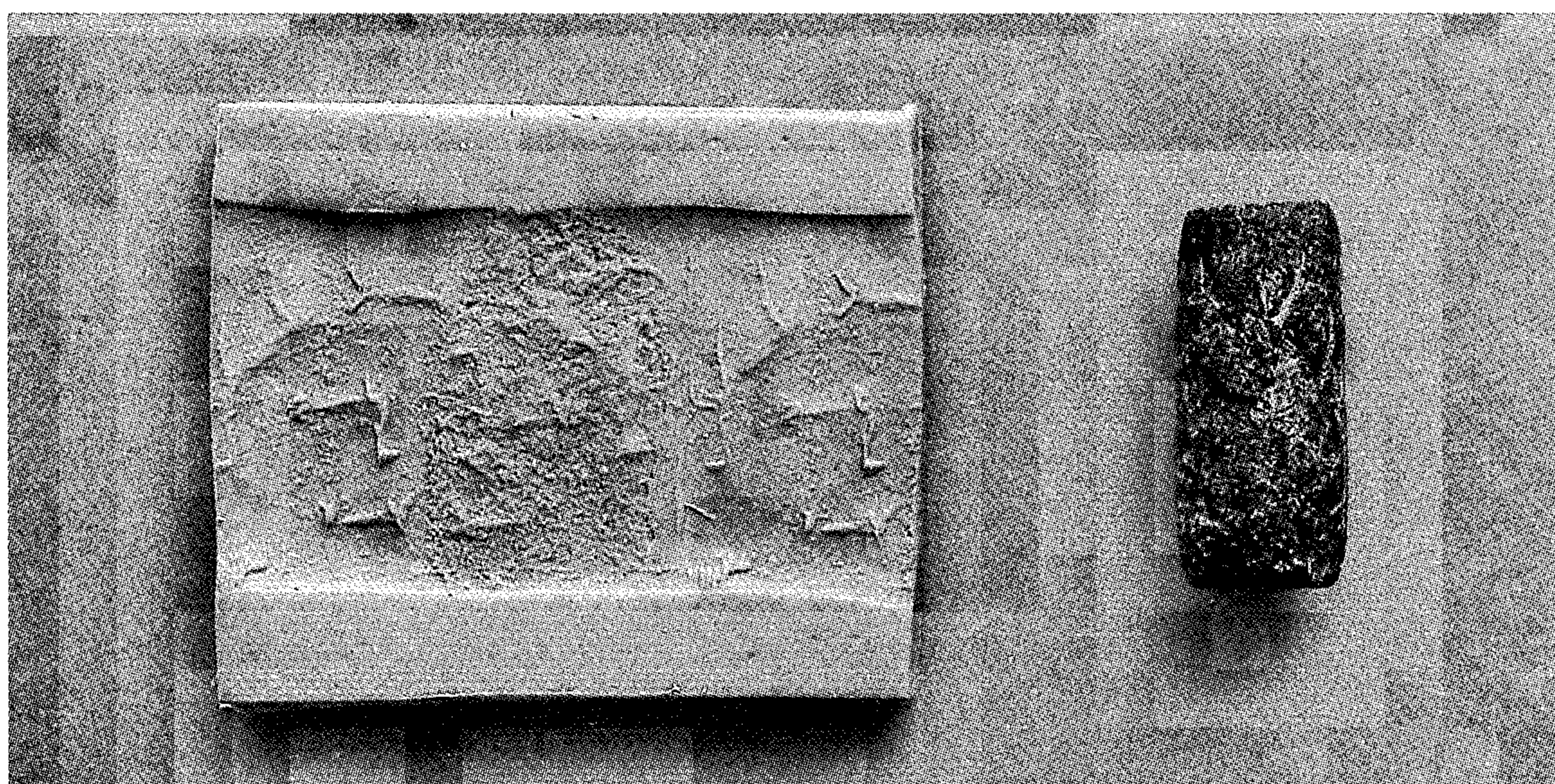
Pl. 4



CS9



CS10



CS11



CS12

Cylinder Seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh ($\times 1.5$).

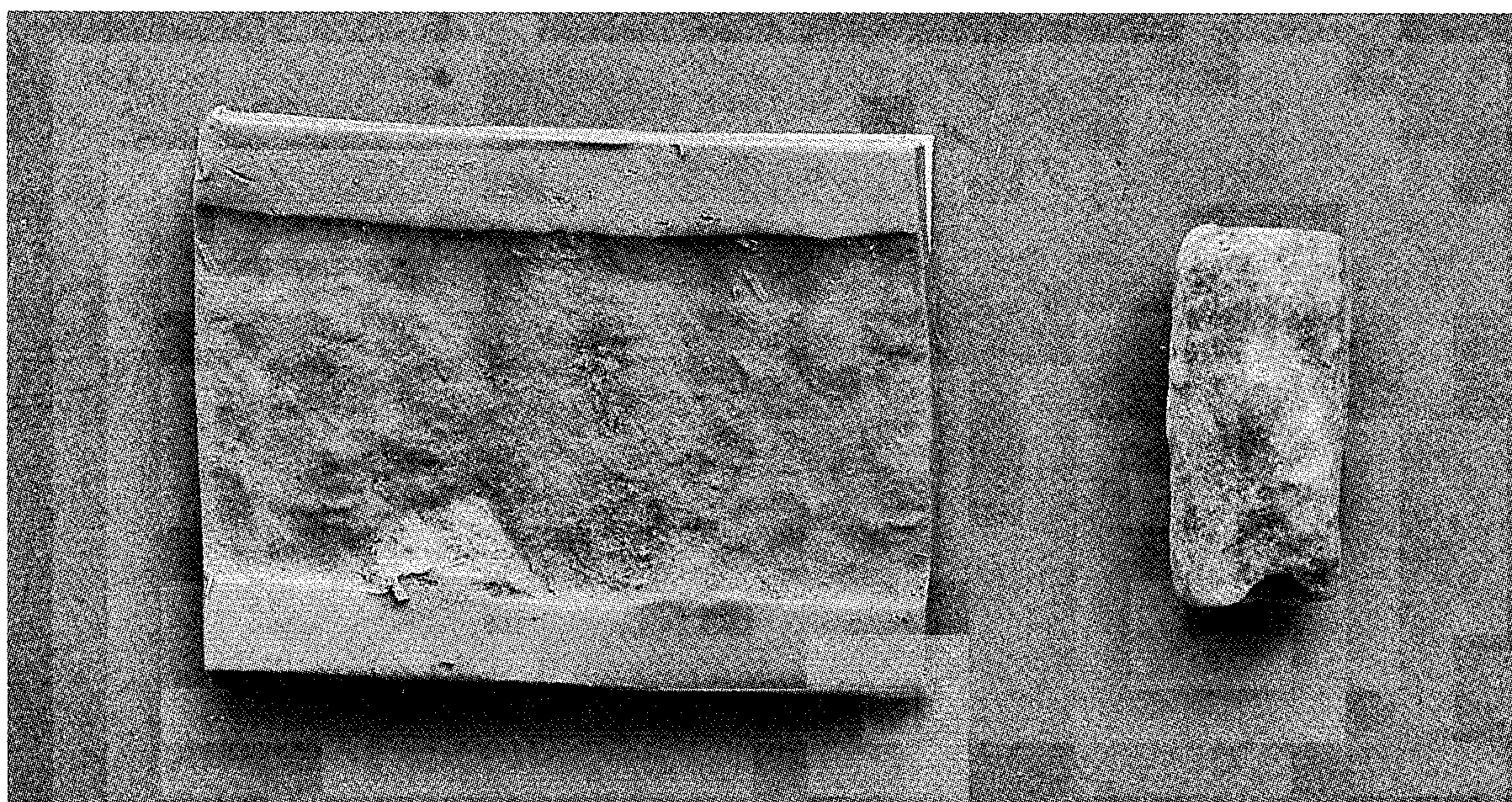
CS13



CS14



CS15



Cylinder Seals from Area A of 'Usiyeh ($\times 1.5$).