

LmLk--A

Mystery
Belonging
to the King

vol. 1

by G.M. Grena

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Layer 0 Scholars Start Here

"Learn to say 'I do not know.'"--Hebrew apothegm

Wonderful things within to whet your appetite:

- * On LMLK seals, all HBRN inscriptions were scriptio defectiva; all SUKE inscriptions were plene; & of the 6 LMLK seals with Z(Y)F, half were plene & half defectiva. See pages 49-51 for Biblical references.
- * Chapter 5 introduces a new LMLK seal classification system that overcomes the ambiguities in Welten's & introduces 2 types previously ignored by Lemaire's that have since proven to be unique & legitimate by multiple examples (both new & old ones that were previously overlooked).
- * Figure 39 on page 70 shows a 1:1 template of all 21 LMLK seal types for reference when reporting new finds. Several unique marks assist the identification of partial seal stamps.
- * Table 19 on page 74 demonstrates that approximately 3 times as many HBRN stamps were made as MMST, SUKE, or Z(Y)F.
- * I'm introducing a new paradigm for analyzing LMLK data--namely, by seal set rather than simply icons or inscriptions. According to Table 21 on page 76, significant quantity differences exist between stamps made by the 5 LMLK seal sets.
- * Figure 43 on page 79 introduces a new, smaller form of jar that may represent the 3rd type with LMLK stamps besides the common Type 484 & rare giant pithoi. The only known example is unprovenanced but many provenanced handles exhibit a style (smooth & small) that differs from the majority of restored Type 484 jars.
- * Chapter 15 lists all the known, specific data for stratified handles. Table 29 contains handles definitely covered by Sennacherib's destruction layer; Table 30 has those sandwiched between that & the Babylonian destruction layer. A surprisingly low number of handles participate due to lack of specificity from archaeologists responsible for reporting their finds.
- * After scrutinizing the LMLK handles excavated from the Great Pool of Gibeon, Table 31 on page 340 also indicates a chronological division that supports stratification data from other sites. This suggests that the Pool was filled over a longer period of time instead of all at once as Pritchard believed.

- * Based on an analysis of the stratification of LMLK seal types & Circle marks along with circumstantial evidence (quantity pairs, *matres lectionis*, word divider dots, & icon design changes), Chapter 16 presents a hypothetical order of the LMLK jar production system. While the specific order in which each seal in each set was made remains uncertain, the preponderance of evidence indicates about half of the designs were made before Sennacherib's invasion (designated "B.S.") & the other half shortly thereafter ("A.S.").
- * If this information remains consistent as archaeologists excavate additional LMLK artifacts, it provides strong support for a belief that Sennacherib's invasion of Judah took place in the middle of Hezekiah's reign as recorded in the Bible instead of towards the end of his reign as some historians have speculated based on secular chronology.
- * Figure 71, Figure 72, Figure 73, & Figure 74 in Chapter 16 prove that HBRN, MMST, SUKE, & Z(Y)F have no geographic significance in their distribution & do not represent districts/zones as many scholars have hypothesized.
- * Some researchers have insisted that a place named MMST must have existed around Jerusalem or just north of it. Table 32 in Chapter 16 exposes their rhetoric & disproves this notion.
- * A section entitled An Analysis of Votives on page 360 offers an alternative to the Place Names theory by reading the seals literally from bottom to top as suggested by word divider dots, one of King Hezekiah's personal seals, & one type of YEUD seal.
- * A section entitled The First Worship Reformation on page 376 adds specificity to Andrew G. Vaughn's dissertation argument for viewing the LMLK jars as part of a general economic buildup instead of emergency military preparation.
- * If the LMLK jars represent worship activity, this lends credence to the theory that multiple sanctuaries (discussed by Jacob Milgrom in his recent Anchor Bible commentaries on Leviticus) were established throughout Judah to accommodate the immigrant refugees from the northern tribes in addition to the success of King Hezekiah's worship reformation.
- * A section entitled Cherubs vs. Scarabs on page 371 questions the association of Biblical cherubs with griffins.
- * A section entitled The Terminator Angel on page 378 revisits a mistranslation of Scripture discovered by Siegfried Horn in 1966. The new LMLK statistics introduced herein complement the Biblical record that Sennacherib suffered a military loss at Jerusalem rather than simply leaving victorious on his own accord.

MAP of Subjects

✓ **My Alphabetically-sorted index/concordance Page #s:** Each page is listed individually rather than as a range so that you can mark off with a pencil each one when researching a particular subject.

✓ **Note:** I probably missed some keywords from the foreign language I.Q. sections, & I deliberately omitted frequently used words like Jerusalem, LMLK, HBRN, MMST, SUKE, ZYF & their variations. I spent March of 2004 doing this on weekends & weekday evenings; if I had taken 11 more months, it would be much better but the longer I spend proofreading & indexing, the more changes I'm inclined to make, which means more proofreading--it's a vicious cycle that has to end sometime, & I chose 4-1-04 to coincide with the website's 2nd birthday. Besides, nobody has ever been promised a tomorrow! Except, of course, for King Hezekiah...

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