



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Hartapu the Healer: Graeco-Roman interpretation of a forgotten post-Hittite king

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Abstract

Unlike many other ancient societies of Western Asia, such as Assyria and Babylonia, the Hittite Empire and its successors in Iron Age Anatolia were quickly neglected after their decline. However, their artistic and monumental legacies were not entirely forgotten; elements of these traditions were absorbed into later cultural contexts, gaining new meanings. This paper examines one such case: the reinterpretation of the famous rock-cut monument at K[?]z[?]Ida[?], overlooking the Konya plain, which depicts the enthroned figure of Hartapu, a post-Hittite king who lived between the 9th and 8th centuries BCE. In the late Hellenistic period, a set of footprints and a Greek graffito were added in front of the monument. This paper argues that the figure of Hartapu was reimagined as the healing god Serapis, in line with widespread contemporary traditions across the Graeco-Roman Mediterranean.

Keywords

Post-Hittite monuments, cultural legacy, healing gods, Greco-Roman graffiti, carved footprints

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

Type of paper

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