

A FORGOTTEN TOMB AT HIPPOKOME AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

BY

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Abstract

A rock-cut tomb in Hippokome on the Lyco-Carian border was overlooked in an earlier survey and is published here, together with an adjacent blind door and two niches with sockets for stelai beside it, and another tomb and a niche in the vicinity.

Ancient Hippokome is situated near the mining road that runs parallel with the river Dalaman çay, the ancient Indus, which is considered as the border between Lycia and Caria. The road is east of the river and the site should thus be considered as situated in Lycia. The site consists of a steep hill with remnants of pottery in the hamlet of Ithisar (or now more often Inhisar) which belongs to the village of Kayacık, and it has attracted the interest of scholars for a long time,¹ although it has not much more to offer than a line of rock-cut chamber-tombs, only one of them with columns, but a few with inscriptions and most of them with a shield in the tympanon. When I made my first journey in the area in the sixties,² I took several photographs and marked many sites for a more thorough study of the rock-cut tombs later on. This study, in due course, I was able to carry out, but when the manuscript for my *Survey of rock-cut chamber-tombs in Caria* was being prepared in the eighties,³ I found the photograph of one tomb that had not been revisited or studied (*Fig. 1*). Ever since then I have had it in mind that I should return to the site and make a search for the tomb, but it was only much later that I in fact made the journey. Since the photograph was the last in a series showing eight tombs in the southern side of the hill in Hippokome from left to right, I thought that the tomb in question must have been beyond them to the east, round the corner, so to speak. But I found no tomb of that kind; only a few other cuttings, see *infra*. It turned out that the tomb was, instead, situated on the western side of the hill and not on the southern where the others are (or the northern, where two simple tombs had also been cut). In addition, a few other cuttings of even greater interest than the tomb were found beside it. These would not have deserved publication under the heading of rock-cut chamber-tombs, but I have found them, together with the tomb, worthy of the separate article that follows here.

1. Tomb on the western side of the hill, facing WNW (*Figs. 1–4*). Since the rock is sloping and not vertical, the tomb is cut into the vertical face, forming a shelf with the depth of about 2 metres at the bottom, decreasing down to zero at the top. The width is 236 cm at the front and slightly more in the interior. The tomb has shallow antae with shafts 25 cm wide, and outside them is the shallow start of a corridor, 31 cm wide to the left and 34 cm to the right, only 11–12 cm deep. The depth of the antae is 25 cm at the bottom and 17 cm at the top. They have a shallow base, 16 cm high, mostly consisting of a vertical fascia with a sloping profile and a vertical list at the bottom, and a capital at the top, 19 cm high and more or less looking like the base upside down. The capitals as well as the bases are executed both on the sides and the front. The architrave consists of one single fascia, 21 cm high, and over it a dentil consisting of 11 teeth with their bottom projecting from the architrave. The teeth are 7 cm high at the front and 8 cm at the back, 9 cm wide, 5 cm deep, and with an interval of 9.5 cm between them. The geison is 9 cm high and projects 1 cm from the teeth. It projects from the teeth also on the sides, as does the dentil from the architrave as well. The tympanon is damaged in the middle, and part of the sima is missing.

There is a symmetrically located door opening 18 cm above the floor, 57 cm wide and 74 cm high (*Fig. 4*). It is surrounded by an enframement consisting of four fascias, each projecting 0.5 cm from its neighbour and the outer one 1 cm from the wall. Their width is 5-4-4-3 cm at the sides, counted from inside out, and 5-4-5-3 at the top. At the bottom there is no division into fascias, but the lateral ones go down to the floor. The front wall is 26 cm thick at the opening.

The opening leads to a chamber located almost symmetrically in relation to it and with its floor level with the threshold. There is a rebate inside the opening, 17 cm wide and 12 cm deep to the left, 9 cm wide and 16 cm deep to the right,

¹ See Arkwright 1895; Cousin 1900; TAM II.

² Roos 1969, 86.

³ Roos 1985.



Fig. 1. The tomb (No. 1) in 1966.

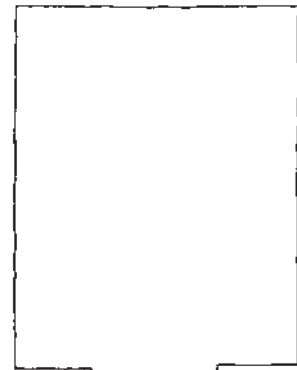
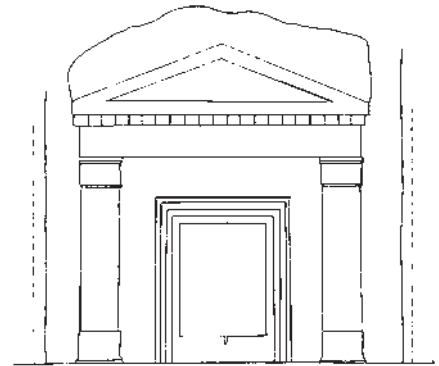


Fig. 2. The tomb (No. 1), elevation and plan. 1:50.



Fig. 3. The tomb (No. 1) in 2005.



Fig. 4. Door of tomb (No. 1).

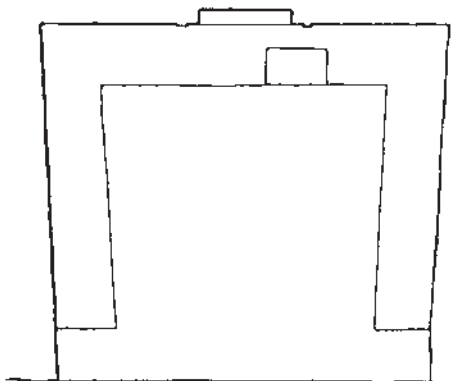


Fig. 5. The blind door (No. 2), elevation and plan. 1:50.

and 11 cm high and 16 cm deep at the top. The width of the chamber is 187 cm and the depth 237 cm. The height is 123 cm, and the ceiling is horizontal. There is no bench or cutting in the chamber.

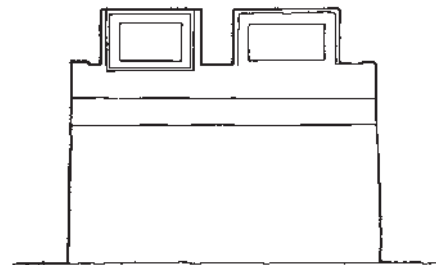
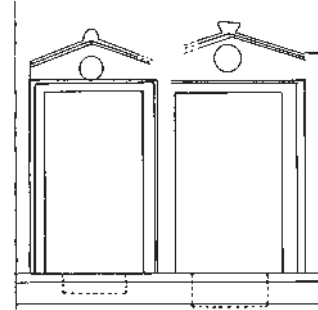


Fig. 6. The niches (No. 3), elevation and plan. 1:50.

There is a 19 cm long groove exactly across the middle of the threshold, 2 cm wide and 6 cm deep.

2. Further to the right is a similar shelf, 235 cm deep at the bottom but decreasing down to zero at the top (Figs. 5, 7). The width is 247 cm at the front but considerably more at the back. There is a bench about 40 cm wide and 31 cm high along three sides, not reaching to the front of the space but leaving a 35 cm deep interval at either side. There is a 20 cm lower step measuring 40 × 24 cm in the right corner of the rear side.

The height of the vertical rock is 191 cm above the bench, and the top consists of a horizontal torus, 5 cm high and projecting 3 cm. The left upper part of the façade is missing. Above the torus the roof continues 38 cm inwards, and then a few regular but unsymmetrical cuttings follow, possibly the result of quarrying.

There is a blind door symmetrically located in the front wall, 21 cm above the bench (Fig. 7). It is 61 cm wide and 125 cm high and placed in a 9 cm deep niche. It has a shallow frame projecting 2 cm from the wall, 8 cm from the niche and 6 cm wide to the left and 4 cm to the right. At the bottom it seemingly goes down to the bench. At the top it is 3 cm high and 11 cm from the niche and is formed like a 13 cm wide 'ear', visible only to the right since the left part is damaged.

The blind door occupying the niche has two upper and two lower panels, 24 cm wide, the upper 25 and the lower



Fig. 7. The blind door (No. 2).

57 cm high. The list above them is 13 cm high, the one in the middle 14 cm, and the one at the bottom, 16 cm. The vertical lists are 4 cm wide at the sides and 5 cm in the middle. The other lists project only 1 cm from the panels but the vertical middle list 2 cm; however, it cannot be discerned that it projects from the horizontal lists at the top and the bottom, only from the middle one.

No letters or decoration can be discerned on the panels.

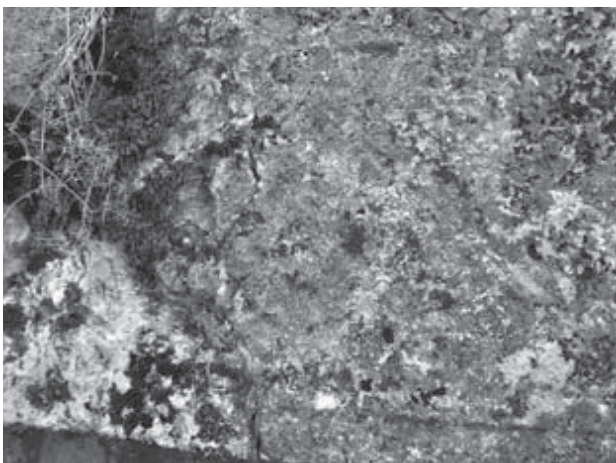


Fig. 8. The tympanon of the right niche (No. 3).

3. The third similar shelf is situated only about 1 metre to the right of the preceding one (Figs. 6, 8–9). The width is 205 cm and the depth to a step across the shelf, 90 cm. The step is 14 cm high and 18 cm wide. The floor is 6 cm higher and 25 cm wide and reaches to the wall with two almost similar niches framed by shallow antae and crowned by a tympanon. The space between the niches is 22 cm, but this part is somewhat damaged, especially at the top. Outside the antae is the start of a shallow corridor, 8 cm wide and 2 cm deep. The anta or wall at the sides and above the niches varies slightly between 6 and 10 cm, and outside it is a 2–5 cm wide, slightly projecting list, also acting as a horizontal geison. At the bottom there is nothing, so that the niches reach down to the floor. Above the geison both niches have a shallow tympanon with a sima. The left is crowned by a slightly damaged acroterion 13 cm wide at the bottom. It was evidently cut as a normal palmette, whereas the tympanon to the right has a well preserved acroterion of a different type. It is diagonally cut with a flat top 15 cm wide, 8 cm wide at the bottom. Both tympana are decorated with a shield in rather low relief, but whereas the left one reaches down to the geison and is 15 cm in diameter the right one is placed 6 cm above the geison and has a diameter of 17 cm.

The niches are 119 cm high. The left one is 65 cm wide and the right one 70 cm. The depth is about 37 cm. Most of their floor is occupied by a rectangular socket, leaving a symmetrical ledge along the sides (Fig. 9). The left cutting is 41 × 25 cm and is 13 cm deep, the right one is 50 × 24 cm and is 22 cm deep. The ledge is slightly differently executed: the left one has a 2 cm wide groove 4 cm from the wall at the sides but immediately at the wall at the back and can be discerned also at the front. The right socket has a 2.5 cm wide groove 2 cm deep along the wall along three sides.

4. As regards the part of the hill containing the aforementioned tombs 1–8, there is also a simple square tomb high up



Fig. 9. Left niche, socket for stele (No. 3).



Fig. 10. Inaccessible tomb (No. 4).

in the vertical rock face and inaccessible, at the end of the line (Fig. 10).

5. There is also a partly underground chamber-tomb east of tombs 1–8 and further down the slope (Figs. 11–13). I have not seen it, and I wish to express my thanks to Dr Olivier Henry for furnishing me with the following information and illustrations of it.

Chamber-tomb with a pronaos and a chamber facing south. The floor is covered and the height-figures cannot be measured accurately. The front wall is about 50 cm thick, and the door opening is only 50 cm wide and at least 51 cm high. It leads to a pronaos 277 cm wide and 200 cm deep. The height is at least 105 cm. The roof forms part of a barrel vault where the middle part is cut away and forms a shaft with a rebate at the top cut as a support for a row of slabs covering the shaft. One slab is still *in situ*, 200 × 76 cm and 27 cm high, whereas fragments of a second slab are lying on the floor.

The rear wall is about 30 cm thick but damaged in its upper part. The opening in it is about 116 cm wide and at least 85 cm high. It leads to a chamber 223 cm wide and 294 cm deep. The height is at least 160 cm, and the ceiling forms a barrel vault along the chamber, starting 51 cm above the bench that surrounds the chamber. It is about 65 cm wide and 60 cm high. To the left it does not reach to the front wall but leaves a 30 cm wide space, whereas at the corresponding place to the right there is a narrow and shallow cutting in the jamb, 6 cm wide and 6 cm deep.

There are cavities 15–18 cm deep in the bench along all three walls, leaving an intermediate wall 15 cm wide between them and towards the chamber. In the right inner corner a shelf has been left, possibly for votive offerings. Near the middle of the rear cavity a shaft has been cut, 50 cm square and 28 cm deep, with a 5 cm wide and 3 cm deep rebate around it for a lid.

There is a niche in the rear wall, 47 cm deep, 41 cm high, and 22 cm deep. It is situated 33 cm above the bench.

6. Finally there is also a small niche before the start of the line of tombs in a rock face at an angle to them, facing east (Fig. 14). It is surrounded by a gabled frame projecting 4 cm at the bottom and 9 cm at the top, 76 cm wide and about 80 cm high at the peak and 9 cm less at the sides. In front of it, a shelf has been smoothed. The niche is 52 cm wide including 3 cm wide and 4 cm high ‘ears’ at the top. At the bottom similar ‘ears’ have evidently been cut, now damaged.

The opening has a 4 cm wide rebate at the sides, 6 cm deep to the left and 9 cm to the right, the same measures as for the ‘ears’. Inside the rebate the niche is 18 cm deep at the bottom and 13 cm at the top.

Commentary. The three items Nos. 1–3, the tomb, the blind door, and the pair of niches together offer a number of points that are of interest in different ways. The pronaos shelves of all of them might seem a natural feature but they are, in fact, rather rare since sloping hillsides are not common for a necropolis location in the area, where the tombs are mostly carved in vertical rocks, or else are at ground level or even below it. So there are no adequate parallels to it. As for other details, it may be noticed that, whereas the other tombs in Hippokome have the shared, but otherwise rare feature of a shield in the tympanon, differently executed in each tomb, this tomb (No. 1) lacks it. It should be noticed, in addition, that the large but rather empty chamber is also rare, the other tombs having benches, niches or alcoves. The dentil is also a feature that is common in rock-tombs in the district. Finally, it may be observed that the groove across the threshold also has a parallel in another tomb on the site; but that tomb has two parallel grooves across it, and across the whole threshold.⁴ The purpose of this rare feature remains puzzling.

As for the blind door No. 2 it may be observed that imitations of doors with lists and panels occur in different connections, as imitations of large double doors that in fact would be expected in the place in question in a façade,⁵ as door slabs to be inserted in door openings,⁶ and as slabs in-

⁴ Tomb 2, see Roos 1985, pl. 38.

⁵ Roos 1972, pl. 49; 1985, pls. 51, 69.

⁶ Varkıvanç 2000, 331.

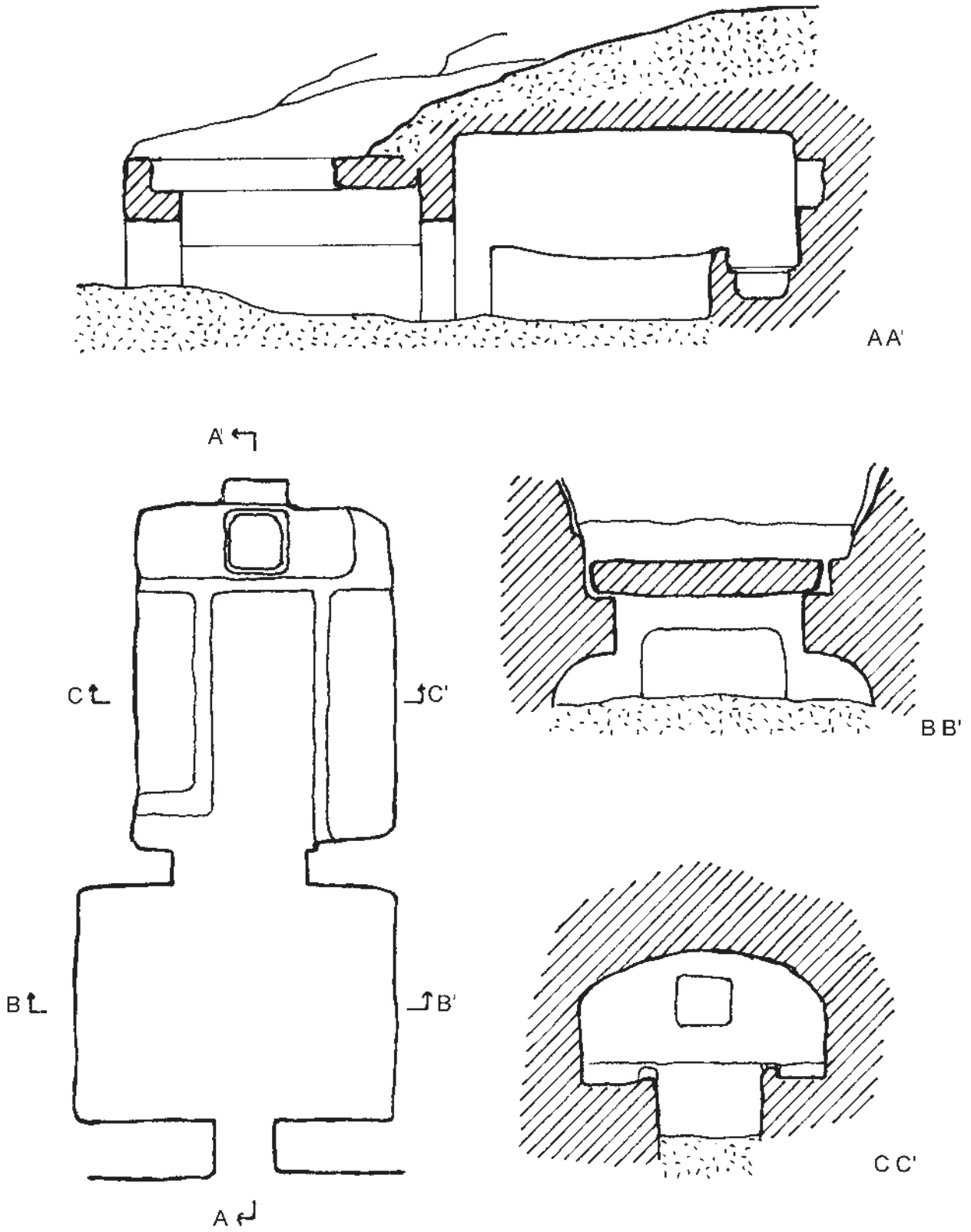


Fig. 11. Partly underground tomb (No. 5), plan and sections. 1:50.

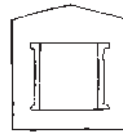


Fig. 14. Small niche (No. 6), elevation and photo. 1:50.



Fig. 12. Partly underground tomb (No. 5), two views of pronaos.



Fig. 13. Partly underground tomb (No. 5), interior.

served in sockets.⁷ As imitations in relief, executed on a rock façade, they seem to be much rarer, and in fact I have no adequate parallel to give.⁸ As regards the execution, the relation between the vertical and horizontal lists is strange. As for the ‘ear’, it has many parallels in door frames of rock-cut tombs.⁹

Our specimen is combined with a bench along three sides

of the pronaos, perhaps for arranging funerary meals. As the door is placed so much above the pronaos floor the bench can continue uninterrupted under it. The bench around the pronaos is rather rare altogether and has few parallels in Caria.¹⁰

As for No. 3, niches with rectangular sockets for stelai in the bottom and a tympanon in relief in connection with tombs are rare otherwise but some specimens occur just in Hippokome¹¹ and also in other parts of Caria¹² and elsewhere in Anatolia. One can only speculate over what motifs—if any—can have been executed on the stelai, inscriptions, decorations, or even door-imitations of the type mentioned above.

No. 5, which is partly underground, also has some interesting features. The tomb-type with two successive chambers is much more common in Caria than I once thought, but not near the Lycian border. That the roof of the front part of a tomb is made up of slabs has a few parallels, but the feature of the rebated shaft is certainly rare. The outline of the bench with cavities has many parallels, and so has the existence of a votive offering bench in a corner. A niche in a wall also occurs in many cases. What is really rare is the rebated cavity in the rear bench that could be meant for parts of the deceased or for votive offerings.

There is nothing to show how the tombs were closed, either in the case of No. 1 or No. 5, but for the latter, a groove or a pivot-hole in the threshold would not be visible, since it

⁷ This type has lately been studied, with many specimens from western Anatolia, Roosevelt 2006.

⁸ One is reminded of a tomb façade in Mylasa, Roos 2006, 10–12, with an empty niche between two half-columns and a tomb entrance at a lower level. That tomb is also a rare feature but has no similarity with this one in function, since what we have here is certainly not a tomb but could possibly be a cenotaph.

⁹ Roos 1972, 105, n. 96; 1985 and 2006, *passim*.

¹⁰ See Roos 2006, 25f.

¹¹ Tomb 7, see Roos 1985, pl. 41.

¹² E.g. Daedala, Roos 1985, pl. 45; Elmalı and Idyma in central Caria, Roos 2006, pls. 31, 24, 55f.

is covered; occasionally the devices have also been cut into separate parts that have disappeared.¹³ In this part of Caria sliding doors are usually found and not pivot doors,¹⁴ and there is also the possibility of rebated slabs to be pushed into place, which could have disappeared without leaving traces.

As is usual with rock-cut establishments, it is difficult to suggest any date, either for the common features or for the unique ones; they might be Hellenistic or, equally, they might be Roman.

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¹³ Like the marble enframement of tomb E30 in Caunus, see Roos 1972, pl. 15:5.

¹⁴ Roos 1971; 1972, 84f.