

The publication of catalogues of cylinder seals in collections throughout the world is invaluable to the art historian-archaeologist because it makes available one of the primary sources of his information.¹ Nevertheless, the purpose and scope of these catalogues make it impossible to deal with any one particular seal in a detailed and comprehensive manner. While the publication of statues, reliefs and vessels in excavation reports frequently functions as the impetus to further discussion of a particular object, any one seal rarely receives the same undivided attention. Considering the overwhelmingly large number of published seals, this is understandable. Yet, it is unfortunate that full advantage has not been taken of the available material.

One cylinder seal (fig. 1), originally published by Dr. Edith Porada,² justifiably merits such scrutiny. It is part of the collection of the J. Pierpont Morgan

¹ The most comprehensive catalogues are:

Briggs Buchanan, ed., Catalogue of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the Ashmolean Museum, Vol. I (Oxford, 1966), hereafter = Ashmolean;

L. Delaporte, ed., Catalogue des cylindres orientaux et des cachets assyro-babyloniens, perses et syro-cappadociens de la Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris, 1910);

L. Delaporte, ed., Catalogue des cylindres orientaux, cachets et pierres gravées de style oriental (2 Vols.; Paris: Musée du Louvre, 1920-23);

Anton Moortgat, ed., Vorderasiatische Rollsiegel (Berlin, 1940);

Edith Porada, ed., The Collection of the Pierpont Morgan Library, in Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in North American Collections (2 vols.; Washington: Bollingen Foundation, 1948), hereafter = Corpus.

² Porada, Corpus, II, pl. XCV, #652.

