Amir Saed Mucheshi, Mohamad Javad Jafari. "A cylindrical seal from Lama Cemetery, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Iran"

Javier Álvarez-Mon

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- 1 The Lama cemetery was discovered by chance in 1999 during the construction of the road from Yasuj to Isfahan, 50km north of the town of Yasuj, in the Iranian Zagros Bakhtiary mountains. Three excavation seasons (1999, 2005, 2008) uncovered numerous stone-lined graves dating from around the mid-second to the mid-first millennium (Jafari 2013), one of which contained no less than twenty-three skulls and numerous funerary goods including a single 1.9 cm high clay cylinder seal. The partly eroded seal has been the subject of a publication by A. S. Mucheshi and M. J. Jafari (2016; published previously in Persian in *Journal of Archaeological Studies* no. 1, vol. 7, serial no.11, 2015). The authors briefly describe the remains of an inscription written inside five horizontal registers and an accompanying image of a bow-bearing human figure pursuing an ostrich. According to the authors the inscription dates to the second half of the second millennium BC, while the imagery is close in style to Neo-Elamite II, Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian glyptic and must have been added sometime during the 8th century. In two related earlier publications (Soltysiak 2013, *Iranica Antiqua* 48 and Jafari 2013: 76, *Iranian Archaeology* 4) it is claimed that the people buried in the Lama cemetery were

nomadic pastoralists; a position that is not supported by the available evidence. Despite its poor state of preservation, the seal is of great significance and deserves further study because the arrangement of its inscription and the subject and style of its iconography find close correspondences in three separate corpuses of glyptic dated to the 7th and the 6th centuries BC, represented by the seal of Kurash the Anzanite, Son of Teispes (PFS 93*), a small corpus of seals from Chigha Sabz in Luristan, and a sealing on one of the Apadana tablets from Susa (MDP 9, tablet 205).

AUTHORS

JAVIER ÁLVAREZ-MON

Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University, Australia