

Summary

Dawid Borowka

The formation of the first elite groups in Crete in the context of Minoan-Egyptian relations in the Prepalatial and Protopalatial period.

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The main aim of the doctoral dissertation is to analyze Cretan-Egyptian relations in the Prepalatial and Protopalatial. Numerous material remains of Egyptian culture, including imports, Cretan *Egyptianizing* objects and rich iconographic sources allow for a reconstruction of many aspects of the influence of the Egyptian state on Crete. A significant supplement to these sources are Minoan artefacts found in Egypt in archaeological contexts dating to the period of the XII and XIII dynasties, mainly Kamares pottery.

Until today, researchers have been reluctant to characterize the mutual relations between Minoans and Egyptians in the Prepalatial and Protopalatial periods. A number of factors may be responsible for such a state of research, the most important of which seems to be the limited number of objects involved. As noted by F.M. Carinci, most of the Egyptian monuments found in Crete come from the reigns of kings of the eighteenth dynasty, corresponding to the Neopalatial period on the island. These objects, together with Minoan artefacts found in Egypt, as well as the paintings of Keftiu in Theban tombs and the Minoan wall paintings from Tell El-Dab'a, indicate the 'official' nature of the relationship between Crete and Egypt in the New Kingdom. The nature of mutual relations before this period (i.e. before LM I-II in Crete) still remains a topic relatively rarely discussed in the literature on the subject. Although evidence for these contacts is relatively abundant, and the influence of the Egyptian state itself is also evident in Cretan craftsmanship and iconography, some researchers have suggested that contacts during this period were sporadic and indirect, probably taking place through Middle Eastern ports. Others have admitted that the influence of Egyptian culture could be seen in the production of local stoneware, glyptics, or even religion. Importantly, the various stages of development of the palace centres in Crete have not been taken into account in the studies so far. As a result, researchers did not take into account the territorial divisions on the island and did not take into account the separate zones of influence of the Protopalatial elite centers of Knossos, Phaistos and Malia.


This dissertation is divided into four chapters covering Egyptian and Egyptianizing artefacts found in Crete, taking into account both their diversity in type, and their distribution over the island. Due to the diverse characteristics of the artefacts, the first chapters do not have a homogeneous structure. Each chapter (or subsection) begins with an analysis of the functions of given objects or iconographic patterns in Egypt. It is followed by a contextual analysis of Egyptian monuments found in Crete. Chapter V provides an analysis of the earliest known Minoan artifacts in Egypt, mainly fragments of Kamares pottery.

The first chapter is devoted to the most common form of Egyptian objects found in Crete - stone vessels. Artefacts of this type have been divided into Egyptian imports and local Cretan imitations. The different types of vessels occurring in these centers are not the only basis for such a division. As the research of P. Warren and A. Bevan has shown, Egyptian vessels appeared in different phases of the Prepalatial Period in each of the centres mentioned above, and perhaps indicate three waves of imports of this type of artefact to Crete. The last part of the chapter is a summary of the research which has been carried out so far, which includes a comparison of the artefacts under analysis, and additional references to Egyptian stone vessels found in other parts of the Mediterranean.

The second chapter discusses the Egyptian scarabs found in Crete and their local imitations. Both types of objects are analyzed separately, taking into account their prevalence on the island. Due to lack of archaeological contexts, the dating of these artefacts as proposed by I. Pini, O. Krzyszkowska, P. Yule, D. Ben-Tor and J. Phillips has been adopted for a significant number of these objects from the Protopalatial period. This chapter also discusses the possible influence of scarabs upon the creation of a new type of artefact - beetle-shaped figurines which have been found mainly in the Peak sanctuaries. The *appendix* to the chapter is an extension of N. Marinatos' hypothesis, according to which the double axe in the Neopalatial period had a function similar to that of the scarab in Egypt.

The third chapter presents artefacts that have been described as Egyptian imports or *egyptianizing* objects, the number of which is far lower than the number of stone vessels and scarabs. Among this type of objects are, among others, the Arc-type sistra found in Archanes-Fourni and Agios Charalambos, representations resembling the Egyptian *Gravidenflaschen*, ostrich egg shells, decorative beads and the famous statue of the Egyptian official User, found in the palace of Knossos. An *appendix* to the chapter consists of an analysis of the so-called Aegina treasure.

Chapter four deals with the influence of Egyptian iconography on Minoan art. Among the potential motifs that the Minoans may have adopted are images of monkeys, the

hippopotamus goddess Tawaret, the sign of *djew* (dw -  N26), and images of the Sphinx. Due to the lack of archaeological contexts for the majority this large group of objects, in particular seals and sealings, the chronology adopted comes from the *CMS* volumes and the works of P. Yule, O. Krzyszkowska and J. Phillips.

The last chapter of the work deals with Minoan artefacts found in Egypt. Most of them are ceramics of the Kamares type, typical for the Protopalatial period. The chapter covers the division of ceramics into imports from Crete and their Egyptian imitations. The geographical spread of both types of ceramics has been taken into account, as well as the archaeological contexts in which they have been. The *appendix* to the chapter is an analysis of some of the artefacts from the so-called El-Tod treasure in the context of their possible connection to Crete.

The dissertation is closed with a summary and conclusions regarding the influence of Egypt on individual elite centres in Crete. The chronology of the appearance of Egyptian objects and *egyptianizing* iconographic patterns in Crete, as well as their geographic distribution, have been taken into account. Historical analyses will be undertaken separately for the centres of Knossos, Phaistos and Malia. Artefacts found at sites belonging to the separate zones of influence of a given palace centre are uncertain will be analyzed separately. In conclusion, the issue of their survival on the island, the possible extension into the Neopalatial period, and the influence on the religion of the Minoan elite, have been discussed. Minoan imports found in Egypt will help determine which groups of elites from the Protopalatial Crete made contacts with the Egyptian state during the Middle Kingdom.

The individual parts of the dissertation are supplemented by tables which contain basic information about the artefacts under analysis. The tables contain information on the catalogue number of individual artefacts, their archaeological context and probable dating. Previous publications in which researchers mention specific artefacts are also listed. In individual chapters, the tables have been divided according to the types of monuments involved. Examples of such divisions can be found in the chapters on stone vessels and scarabs, where separate tables have been created for imports and Minoan imitations.

An addition the dissertation contains a catalogue, which contains basic information about the artifacts in question, as well as illustrations of most of them. The artefacts in the catalogue are divided into types, and their dating is also considered. Throughout the dissertation, when discussing individual artefacts, their number in this catalogue has been placed in brackets. One artefact - the scarab from Tholos B in Platanos, is included in the catalog twice, which is caused by the separate analysis of the iconographic patterns on its surface.

Throughout the dissertation the so-called Alan Gardiner's sign list has been used to describe hieroglyphic symbols. The translation of the Pyramid Text into English is taken from the work of S.L. Budin and J.P. Allen. Ancient authors have been cited according to the abbreviations listed in the Oxford Classical Dictionary (*OCD*). In the case of commonly accepted names of individual rooms in the palaces (eg: *Vat Room* in Knossos) or some sites (eg: *Quartier Mu* in Malia) their original spelling has been preserved.