

MINOAN TRADE: ASPECTS AND AMBIGUITIES

by

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Summary

The following dissertation considers the main aspects of trade during each phase of Minoan development from its beginnings in Early Minoan times (3500 BC) until the end of Minoan period in 1430 BC. The work concentrates largely on the commodities exchanged, the development of transportation and perceived trade routes as well as the role of the palaces once they were established. The theories on the Minoan Thalassocracy and colonisation are also discussed. The evidence used is mainly archaeological, which is able to trace the movement of non-perishable materials such as pottery and metals. Reference is also made to contemporary Near Eastern texts and art, as well as the Minoan Linear A and Mycenaean Linear B documents.

Key Words

Aegean, Bronze Age, Minoan, Crete, Cyclades, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Hagia Triada, Keftiu, Knossos, Levant, Linear A, Linear B, Mediterranean, Mallia, Neopalatial, Palace Administration, Phaistos, Prepalatial, Protopalatial, Thalassocracy, Trade, Uluburun, Zakros.

“I declare that MINOAN TRADE: ASPECTS AND AMBIGUITIES is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.”

Signed

Date

Abbreviations

- Aegeum 18 *The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium, Proceedings of the 50th Anniversary Symposium*, Cline, E.H. & Harris-Cline, D. (eds.), Cincinnati, 1997.
- AJA *American Journal of Archaeology*
- BA Trade *Bronze Age Trade in the Mediterranean – Papers Presented at the Conference held at Rewley House, Oxford in December 1989*, Gale, N.H. (ed.), Jonsered, 1991.
- BSA *The Annual of the British School at Athens*
- Function *The Function of the Minoan Palaces – Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium at the Swedish Institute in Athens*, Hagg, R., & Marinatos, N. (eds.), Stockholm, 1987.
- Herodt. Herodotus, *The Persian Wars*, trans. Rawlinson, G., New York, 1942.
- Ili* Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Fagles, R., New York, 1990.
- JFA *Journal of Field Archaeology*
- JMA *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*.
- Od* Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Mandelbaum, A., New York, 1990.
- OJA *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*.
- TAPA *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*
- Thuc. Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, the Crawley translation, New York, 1982.

LIST OF PLATES

- 1) Bronze Age Crete
- 2) The Aegean in the Bronze Age
- 3) The Eastern Mediterranean in the Bronze Age
- 4) Obsidian Cores
- 5) Cycladic “Frying Pan”
- 6) Early Bronze Age Boats
- 7) Early Minoan Pouring Vessels
- 8) Sources of Metals in the Aegean
- 9) Cycladic Figurines
- 10) Floor Plan of Protopalatial Phaistos
- 11) Floor Plan of the Palace of Knossos
- 12) Floor Plan of the Palace of Mallia
- 13) Mallia and Surrounding Settlements
- 14) Types of Writing in Minoan Crete
- 15) Kamares Ware
- 16) The Ship Procession from Akrotiri
- 17) The Ship Procession from Akrotiri (Enlargements)
- 18) Ikrion / Panelled Cabin from the “Admiral’s House”
- 19) Battle Scene from the “Admiral’s House”
- 20) Speculated Ship Loading in the Bronze Age
- 21) Copper Oxhide Ingots
- 22) Wasp / Bee Pendant from Mallia
- 23) Palace Style Pottery

- 24) Palaces and Villas on Crete
- 25) Harvester's Vase
- 26) Linear A Logograms
- 27) Stirrup Jars
- 28) Cypriot Courseware Jug
- 29) Niello Technique
- 30) The Tombs of Senmut and Intef
- 31) The Tomb of Puimre
- 32) The Tomb of Useramen
- 33) The Tomb of Mencheperresonb
- 34) The Tomb of Rekhmire
- 35) Aegean Names on an Egyptian Statue Base
- 36) Conical and Theriomorphic Rhyta

MINOAN CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

Date	Bronze Age Sequence	Minoan Sequence	Palatial Sequence	Egyptian Equivalent
6000-3500 BC		Neolithic		Neolithic – 4500-3050 BC
3500-2900 BC	Early Bronze Age	EMI	Pre-palatial	Foundation of the Egyptian State – 3050 BC 1 st – 6 th Dynasty – 2920-2150 BC
2900-2650 BC		EMIIa		
2650-2300 BC		EMIIb		
2300-2100 BC		EMIII		
2100-2000 BC		MMIa		
2000-1800 BC	Middle Bronze Age	MMIb / MMIIa	Protopalatial	11 th Dynasty – 2040-1991 BC
1800-1750 BC		MMIIb		
1750-1700 BC		MMIII		
1700-1580 BC	Late Bronze Age	LMIa	Neopalatial	12 th Dynasty – 1991-1759 BC 13 th Dynasty – 1759-1606 BC 15 th (Hyksos) Dynasty – 1637-1529 BC 17 th Dynasty (Thebes) – 1606-1539 BC 18 th Dynasty – 1539-1295 BC Ahmose I – 1539-1514 BC Amenhotep I – 1514-1493 BC
1580-1490 BC		LMIb		
1490-1430 BC		LMII		
1430-1370 BC		LMIIIa1		
1370-1320 BC		LMIIIa2	Final Palatial	Tuthmosis I – 1493-1481 BC Tuthmosis II – 1481-1479 BC Hatshepsut (Queen) – 1479-1457 BC Tuthmosis III – 1479-1425 BC Amenhotep II – 1427-1392 BC Tuthmosis IV – 1392-1382 BC Amenhotep III – 1382-1344 BC Akhenaten – 1352-1336 BC Smenkhare – 1338-1336 BC Tutenkamen – 1336-1327 BC Ay – 1327-1323 BC Horemheb – 1323-1295 BC

CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations		i
List of Plates		ii
Minoan Chronological Table		iv
Introduction		v
Chapter 1	The Dawn of the Bronze Age – The Aegean in the 3 rd Millennium	1
Chapter 2	The Middle Minoan Period – The Rise of the Palaces and the Establishment of Cretan International Trade	37
Chapter 3	The Neopalatial Period	93
Chapter 4	Documentary and Archaeological Evidence of Minoan Trade	135
Conclusion		166
Bibliography		176
Plates		