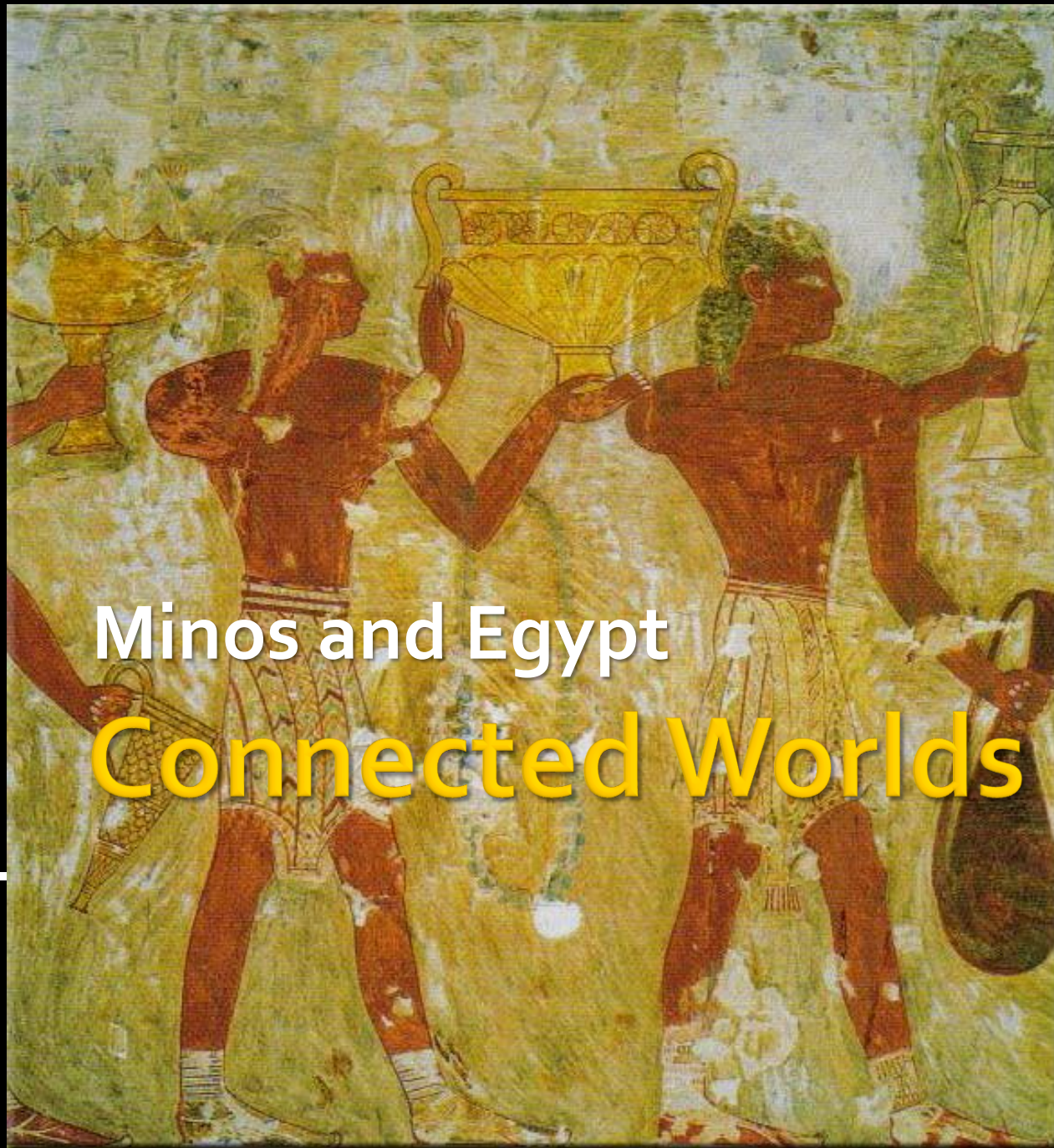




Minos and Egypt

Connected Worlds

Three Phases of Contact

- Prepalatial trade:
 - From Early Dynastic to First Intermediate Period
 - Sporadic, small-scale exchange
- Cretan Palace Period (MM IB-LM IB):
 - Middle Kingdom to early New Kingdom Egypt (reign of Tuthmosis III)
 - Elite level gift exchange
- LBA Trade (14th-13th century):
 - Mycenaean Greece & late New Kingdom Egypt (to end of XIX Dynasty)
 - Large-scale commodity trade

MM IA

- First Intermediate Period scarabs
- Syrian & Old Babylonian cylinder seals:
 - Silver, lapis lazuli & haematite
- Highly desirable gifts:
 - Portable & decorative
 - Symbolic: messages of ownership, status & identity
 - Personal adornment
 - Proclaim owner's access to the exotic & participation in gift exchanges with peoples from faraway places



Scarabs: Mesara



Cylinder seal,
Archanes

Esoteric Knowledge

- MM IA-II: clay sistra from Archanes & Ayios Charalambos
- Influence of Egyptian iconography (& ideology?):
 - Crocodile, sphinx & crouching ape seal impressions
 - Crouching ape used in Thoth amulets (is this function also transmitted?)

Monkey amulet



Sistra

Proto-Palatial Crete

- Major societal changes:
- Increased contacts with Egypt
 - Raw materials
 - Middle Kingdom scarabs imported & imitated in Crete
- Knossos & Malia: apparent control of trade
- Is impetus for exchange Minoan or Egyptian?



Malia, bee pendant

Gifts Between Kings?

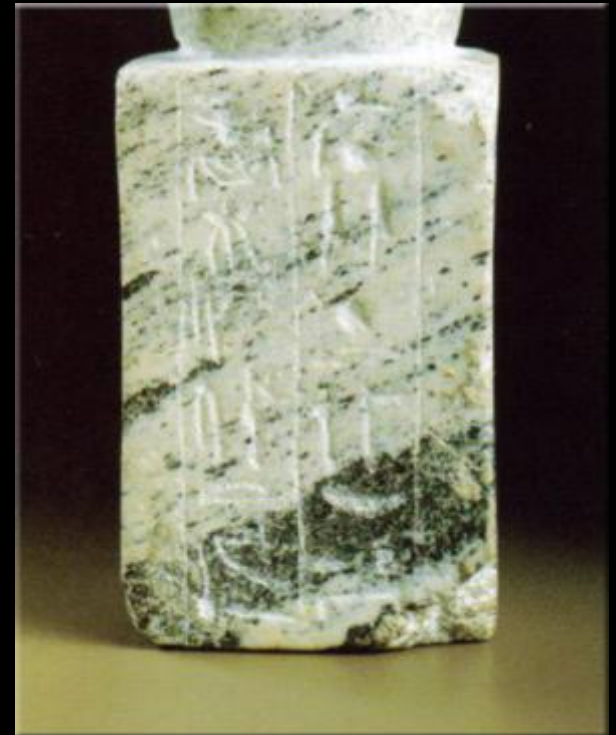
- Finished Egyptian objects unusual
- Were Minoans & Egyptian involved in *jnw* exchange?
- Khyan's lid: Knossos MM IIIA context ?
 - Luxury register: materials & royal inscription
- Royal named objects:
 - Social ties between the rulers &
 - Recipients able to accrue prestige & standing within their own communities



Khyan's lid

Statuette of User

- Palatial location in close proximity to Throne Room
- Highly prized in Crete:
 - Used & displayed in palace
 - Egyptian connotations & esoteric script
- MK funerary statuettes widely distributed in the Near East, in temple locations
- Appropriate item for (royal) gift exchange?



Middle Kingdom
Statuette of User

Exchange of Ideas/Knowledge

- Egyptian influence on developing Minoan iconography
- Adoption & adaptation of symbols & motifs
 - Sphinx
 - Tawaret
 - Cats in foliage



Malia appliqué from vases



Scarab



Exports to Egypt & the East

- Kamares ware (MM IB-IIB)
- Egypt:
 - Kahun, el Lisht, Abydos, Tell el-Dab'a
 - Egyptian imitations
- Syro-Palestine:
 - Ugarit, Qatna, Byblos
- Cyprus:
 - Lapithos, Karmi
- Limited distribution: small quantities controlled by a few centres



Kamares ware vase, Byblos

Exports to Egypt (& the East)

- Silver drinking sets mimicking MM IB-II ceramic forms
 - Byblos: silver “teapot” & bowls
 - Egypt: Tôd treasure (153 vessels)
- Minoan craftsmanship highly valued



Tôd treasure



Byblos “teapot”

Contacts with East Mediterranean

- Mari archives (18th/17th century BC):
 - Tin sent to coastal cities such as Ugarit for further distribution
 - Names one recipient at Ugarit as a 'man from Caphtor'



Tables from Mari archives

Exports to Egypt

- Woven woollen textiles?
 - Inferred from Minoan decorative motifs found on ceilings of Middle Kingdom tombs
- Dramatic impact: contrast with white linen?



Egyptian tomb painting

Neo-Palatial Trade

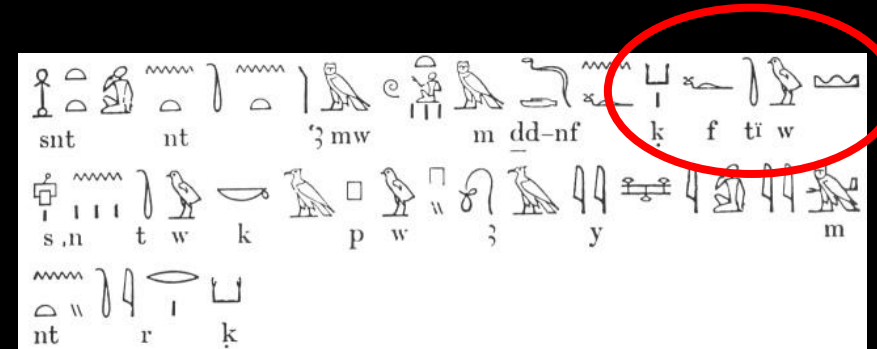
- MM IIIB-LM IA: trade with early 18th Dynasty
- Height of trade: reigns of Hatshepsut & Tuthmosis III
 - Expansionist policies looking for new sources of luxuries
- Crete: Knossos, Zakros, Ayia Triadha, Katsamba, Kommos



Deir el-Bahri: tribute bearers from Punt

Keftiu

- Egyptian Texts:
 - “islands in the middle of the Sea” (*iw n nʿtʿ-ḥw.t wrt*)
 - “land of Keftiu & the islands in the middle of the Great Green [Sea]”
- Admonitions of Ipu-Wer
 - Old Kingdom
 - “cedar & juniper oil from Keftiu”
- Largely reigns of Hatshepsut & Tuthmosis III



Lament/ Admonitions of Ipu-Wer

Thebes: Tombs of the Nobles

- Minoans bringing tribute:
 - Coregency of Hatshepsut & Tuthmosis III: Senmut, Intef
 - Tuthmosis III: User-Amun, Menkheperreseneb, Rekhmire, Amenehmhab
 - Amenhotep III: Amenose
- Evident from clothing, objects:
 - High status finished objects & bolts of textiles
- Some are labelled



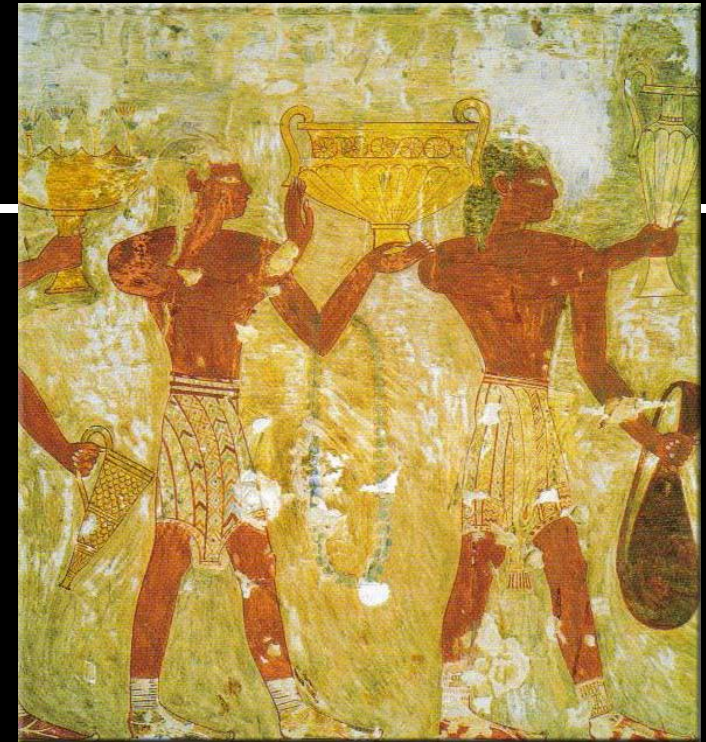
Senmut



Rekhmire

Keftiu

- Discussions focus on changes in clothing & decreasing accuracy of depictions
- Menkheperreseneb: people less obviously depicted as Aegean:
 - A memory or a copy?



Rekhmire



Menkheperreseneb

Imports from Egypt

- Wide range of raw materials:
 - Ivory
 - Semi-precious stones: carnelian, alabaster, rock crystal, amethyst
- Ostrich eggs
- Live animals:
 - Oryx beisa & monkeys



Monkey wall painting, Knossos



Ostrich egg rhyton



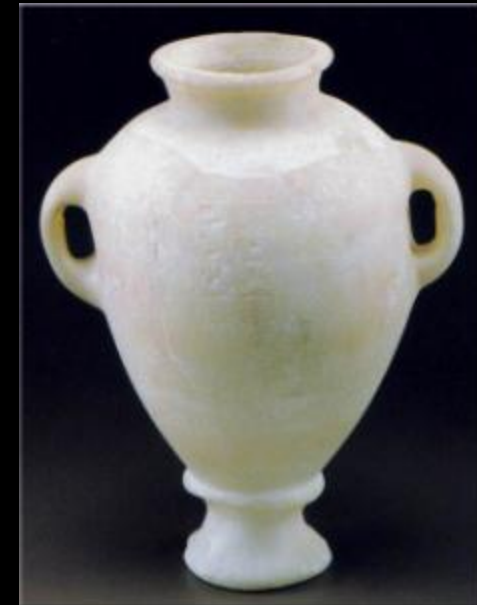
Ivory tusk, Zakros

Neo-Palatial Period

- Old Kingdom stone vases found in Neopalatial Crete
 - Exchange contemporary with their manufacture or context of deposition?
- Tuthmosis III alabaster vases found at several sites:
 - Knossos, Katsamba, Ayia Triadha, Malia, Palaikastro



Diorite vase, Knossos



Katsamba
alabaster vase

Esoteric Knowledge

- Transmission & adaptation of iconography
 - Nilotic scenes
 - Taweret transformed into Minoan genii
 - Sphinxes
- Power of knowledge of distant places



Minoan genius seal impression

Nilotic fresco scene,
Akrotiri



Summary

- Increasing contacts from Proto-Palatial period & intense level in reigns of Hatshepsut & Tuthmosis III
- Palace elites actively seeking out luxuries in strategies of power
- Only limited textual evidence for Minoan Crete in Near Eastern & Egyptian records
- Evidence suggests gift-exchange at the highest level
- Impact on Minoan society