

Gold diadems and mouth pieces from Enkomi

Tomb artifacts retrieved
for The British Museum
(BM) following Arthur
Evans's excavation in
1897 funded by The
Turner Bequest –
Artefacts acquisition
date to the BM 1897

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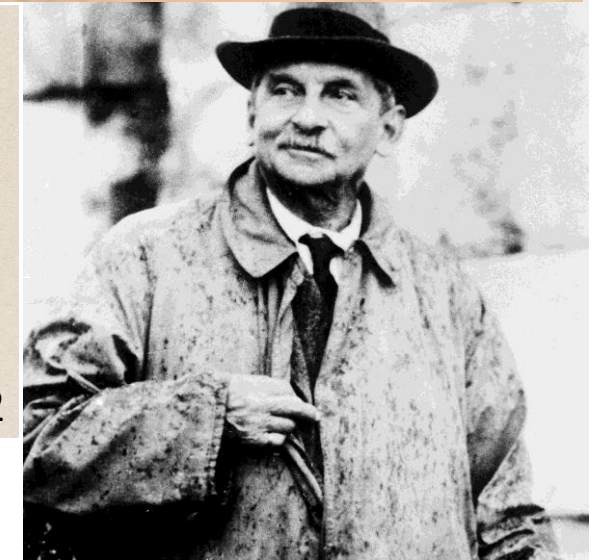
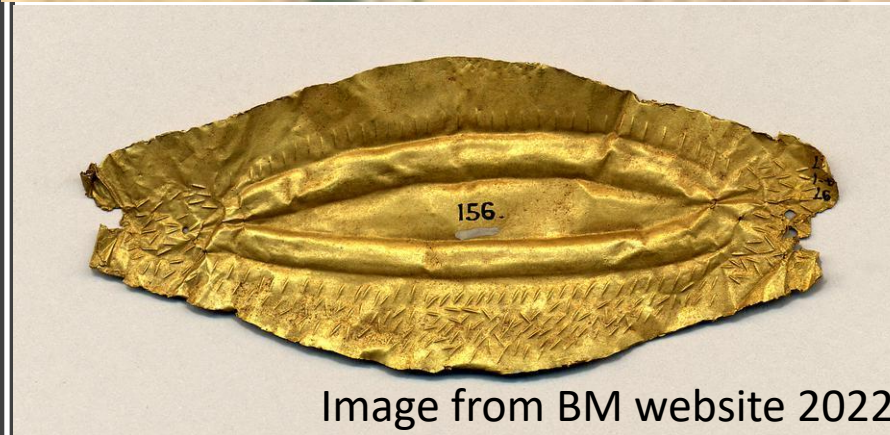


Image from BM website 2022



Image from BM website 2022

Emkomi on
Cyprus was a
centre for
producing
diadems and
mouth pieces



Raw materials
and sources

Gold seen
here from
Enkomi in
ingot, scrap
and recycled
form.



Applying a new materiality's approach.



Examples for substituting the syllabic values into Linear A texts



Linear A transcription of the text on the sun disc:

fe-ne-je-n	es	je-le-ga-j-ke	lu	ri-ku	se-ri-mu	fe	ke-ti
fé-ny-je-n	és	csi-llo-g-jé-k	le	ri-kolt	sze-re-lem	bout	xó-ta

[Sun] shine and [stars] gleam down happy love every day.

Gold Hairpin



Linear A transcription of the text on the hairpin:

fény	[j]ün	le	ne	ke	m	kaku	te-kint-s-e-n	fe-lle-n
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The Mother Goddess shine down on me, the cloud watch me.

Sun and water are contemporized as materials with inter-active agency (Stang 2014)(Cahill 2015)

Bronze Age Sun Discs from County Monahan in Ireland (Cahill 2015)

Symbology's of Gold in Cyprus found in a fragment of Minoan language isolate, Linear A transcription. From the translation work of linguistic, Peter Revesz.

Images of sun and sun discs from Calhill (2015) Here comes the sun..

Linear A transcript and images <https://youtu.be/PiLyN9T2stY>

The introduction of gold being used as celestial symbology that post dates monumental lithic circles in Europe for ritualised celestial observations.

The symbology of Bronze Age Gold-
From the Iberian Peninsular to Ireland
Aegean influence on Cyprus and Crete



Bronze Age discs Spain (Oviedo)
Inset top right, Lanula and discs from
Bronze Age Portugal (Cabeceiras de
Basto) Solar plate from Germany -1800
BC
Bronze Age gold ring from Crete , Sun
God emblem death mask from Egypt



Possessions or gifts?

Representing the dead.

- Gift exchanges with the dead not compilations of the dead's possessions.

(Person 2010)

- The Enkomi excavations methodology did not fully appreciate the social links between the living and the dead.
- Placing grave goods in context followed a post processual shift. (Bell 1997) (Hertz 1960(1907))
- The art of performance with Cypriot Gold death masks needs imagining



Comparable weights of a diadem mouthpiece
to gold dress pins, rings and beads and rings from EBA Cyprus.



Mouthpiece hammering with stamped
simple incised work to represent a
moustache and a beard.

Weight 2.41 grammes

Added to

Simple diadem (above) weight 4.6

Grammes

Total = 6.47 grammes

Dress pin with bead
Twisted smouldered
hammered weighs
6.27 grammes



Metallurgy



Hammering

- Inlaying engraving and inscribing
- Smouldering
- Stamping
- Twisting
- Casting
- Recycling

Sharing skills and influences within the Mediterranean making use of aspects of Aegean, Levantine and Egyptian goldsmithing work. Some styles are therefore strongly Minoan and some are a fusion of cosmopolitan styles. Goring (1983/p374) Bombardieri (2012)



Varying levels of skill seen in the Enkomi diadems and mouthpiece assemblages.



Motifs have Aegean derivations



Hala Sultan Tekke
Late Cypriot to
1400-1200 BC

Inference and influence from Egypt
where diadems were worn everyday as a
badge of royalty or as illustrious gold
headdress and victorious crowns.
However the diadems and mouth piece
shapes derive from the east particularly
Syria and Palestine (Goring 1983)



S-Spirals are represented via local interpretations
of motifs from a variety of art forms (iBid 1983)

Summary

Common Symbology – Of Gold across world cultures in the Bronze Age regardless of known contact (new materiality view) shows the cultural and symbolic importance of gold.

Raw material sources for gold in Bronze Age Cyprus are imports.

Cultural influences are evident in the EBA in craft production across regions of The Aegean and Southern Levantine , motifs on decorated diadems continue to help Archaeologist understand the site of Enkomi

Evidence of gold working of a similar or higher level of skill in EBA Cyprus supports the argument for local craftsmanship of diadems and mouth pieces .

Variation of skill levels within the mouth pieces and diadems are worth further investigation .

Looking at Grave goods as gifts or possessions, shows evidence of a move from Egalitarian to Hierarcal society's (Person 2010)



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<https://youtu.be/PiLyN9T2stY> Linear A translation and gold jewelry images .