



Object Analysis

Faience dish or plate

By Emily Whiting

Level 5

Joint honours

Anthropology, International
Development and Global Politics.



Faience dish or plate

- Found Enkomi.
- 1340BC-1200BC
- Museum number 1897,0401.1042
- Hand Modeled, glaze composition, painted.
- Diameter: 23 centimeters
- Height: 4.70 centimeters
- Crewe 2009 / Enkomi (66.38)



[dish; plate | British Museum](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1897-0401-1042)

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- Origin uncertain, but BM suggest its Egyptian or Egyptianising in design.
- Depicts a man punting a papyrus boat accompanied by a bull or a cow sitting under a canopy, a fish swims below.
- The border around the rim shows double framed running lozenges with a dot in the centre.
- well-preserved blue glaze in some areas, faded to white in others.
- this is the only vessel of this type known with a low ring base.



Papyrus reed boat



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Ethnologist Thor Heyderdahl.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/heyerdahl-sails-papyrus-boat>



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Enkomi

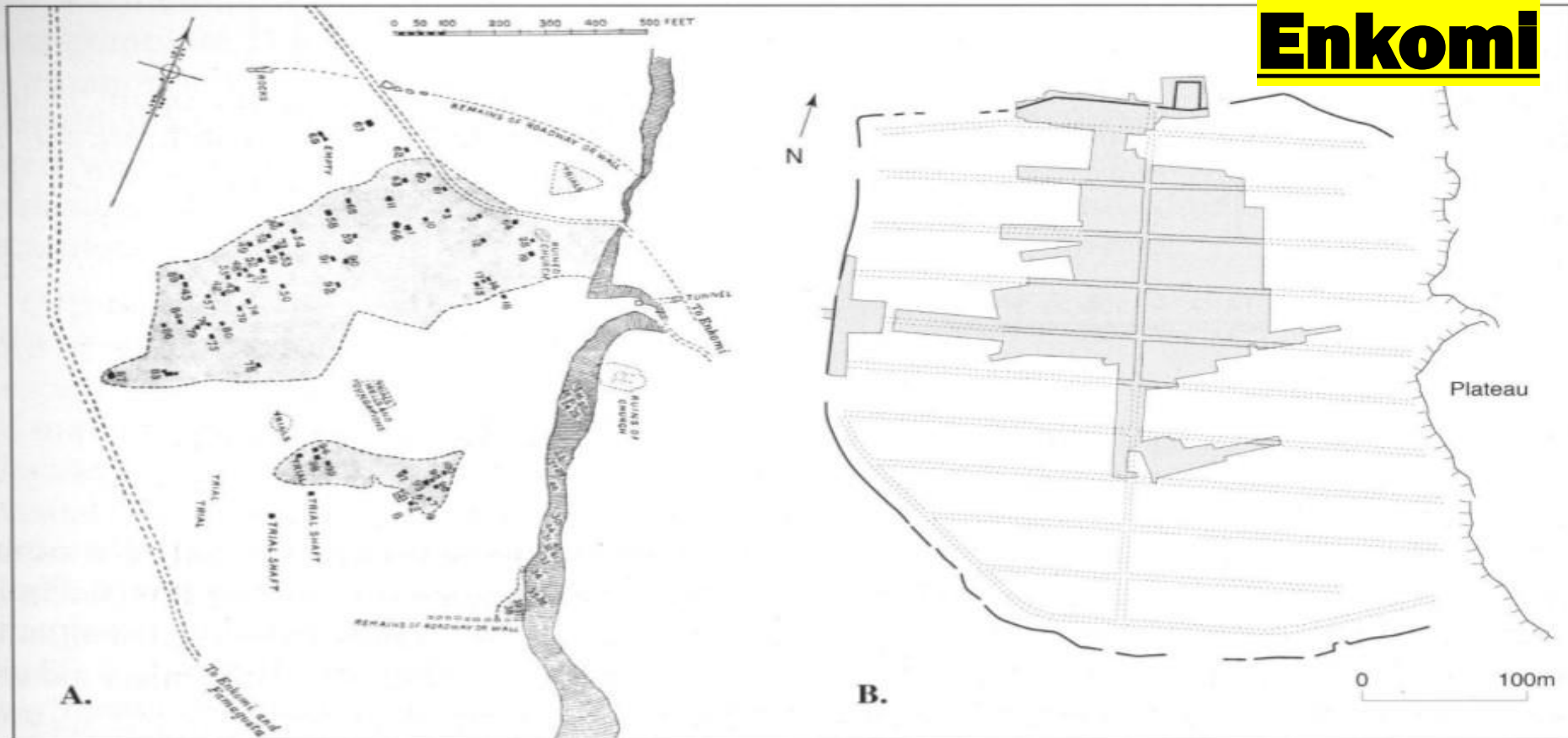


Figure 1: Enkomi excavation plans. A. shows The British Museum's plan (Murray et al. 1900:30) and B. the final extent of excavations at the site (highlighted in grey) showing the 13th century BCE fortification wall and gridded town layout (after Courtois et al. 1986:3, Figure 1). Scale and orientation approximately the same.



Crewe, L. "From Lithograph to Web: The British Museum's 1896 Enkomi excavations." *Archologia Cypria* V, (2007a): 57-70.

Crewe 2009 / Enkomi (66.38)

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- 'The four wealthiest tombs excavated at Enkomi by any of the missions, if wealth is measured in gold weight, are B M Tombs 19, 66 and 93 and Swedish Tomb 18' PP64
- Tomb 66 contained around 300g of gold in total.



Theory : Art, Enchantment and Exotica

- **Gell** - Political legitimization.

(pp54, Gell, A. 1992)

- **Helms** 'widespread association of political "elites" with foreign or distant goods..'

(pp4, Helms, M.W, 1988)

- 'exotic materials [and] intangible knowledge of distant realms can be politically valuable "goods" both for those who have endured the perils of travel and for those sedentary homebodies who are able to acquire such knowledge by indirect means and use it for political advantage.'

(pp4, Helms, M.W, 1988)



- **Mauss'** - gift obligation

(Mauss, M. 1990)

**Art that beguiles
the beholder .**

***‘Technology of
Enchantment’***

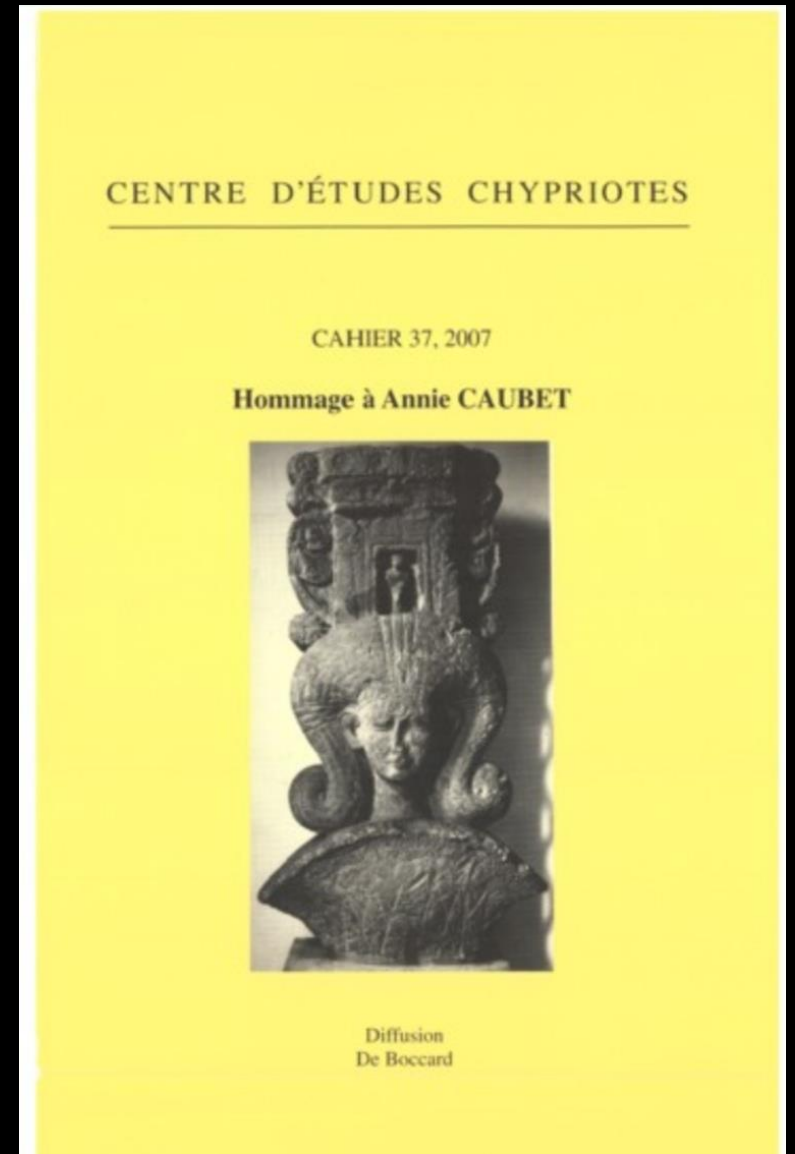
Gell, A. 1992



Hathor, Faience and Copper : Peltenburg

(Peltenburg, E.J. 2007)

- ‘...early Levantines would have likely been awed by dazzling blue glazes of the bowls as well by their perceived magic properties’ pp379, Peltenburg, E.J. 2007.
- - Gell Enchantment of technologies
- Faience dishes were ‘procured for their own sakes’ pp379, rather than for a use, suggesting them a luxury decorative item.



Hathoric imagery

(Peltenburg, E.J. 2007)

- Papyrus was considered the natural setting in which Hathor chose to manifest herself. (pp382)
- The fish iconography represents *Tipapia Nilotic* fish known to protect its young by keeping the, in their mouth. (pp382)
- Hathor often presented and worshiped as a cow.
- Often depicted on bowls as 'punting cows on skiffs in the marshes'. (pp382)
- Guardian of copper mining 'Protectress of mining operations and the acquisition of raw materials from abroad'. (pp383)



Reference List

- British Museum, 2022, https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1897-0401-1042
- Crewe, L. "From Lithograph to Web: The British Museum's 1896 Enkomi excavations." *Archologia Cypria* V, (2007a): 57-70.
- Gell, A. 1992, *The technology of enchantment and the enchantment of technology*, The Art of Anthropology, Routledge: London.
- Helms, M. W, 1988, *Ulysses Sail*, Princeton University Press: New Jersey.
- Heyerdahl. T, (2022), <https://www.history.com/.amp/this-day-in-history/heyerdahl-sails-papyrus-boat>.
- Mauss, M, 1990, *The Gift*, Routledge: London.
- Peltenburg, E.J. 2007. Hathor, faience and copper on Late Bronze Age Cyprus. *Cahiers du Centre d'Études Chypriotes* 37: 375-94.

