

CLA1101 - Lecture 4

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The Minoans

Today's Letter:

Εε Epsilon

Epidaurus

- God of healing
- The Epidaurus was a place of healing
- Had a gym, theater.

Minoan Religion

- We don't know a lot about their religion but can infer information from their writing, art, and buildings.
- Most deities were Women.

Snake Goddesses

- These were statues that could be deities
- Might have had something to do with death and rebirth
- Often had snakes on them and snakes were symbols of the underworld
 - They are from the ground and their matting was seen as regeneration

Bothros

- Pit you would bury something important in
- Sacred place for rituals

Faience

- Glass paste, shiny translucent.

Ritual Center

- Place that could be used as a temple?
- Possibly had a throne room
 - Place for a King to sit and people could go visit
 - Very small and wouldn't fit a lot of people
 - There was a basin across from the King
 - The King was kinky?
 - Griffins on either side of the throne. Symbolized protection?
 - Griffins usually protected women.

- Birds often represented dead people

Bull Leaping

- Bull leaping was a ritual that was viewed as a religious experience
- Our prof doesn't think this is the truth

Anemospilia Shrine

- Existed on the top of a windy mountain
- Outdoors altar on the top
- During an earthquake, people started sacrifices.
- Not foot fetish
- They were killing people and making human sacrifices

Minoan Wall Painting

Fresco

- A type of wall plaster that can be painted dry or wet

Grand-Stand Fresco

- Wall painting of the Ritual Center
- A whole bunch of people watching people
- All of the powerful people were women
- Men all represented as a generic group, featureless

Elegant Women

- Different ages are represented through breast size
- Highly detailed hair and dress
- Men are still a "generic sea"

Monkeys

- Monkeys often portrayed doing human traits

Dolphins from the queen's megaron

- Residential area was reconstructed
- Megaron was the queens quarters
- Fresco on the wall has a whole bunch of dolphins
- Artist wants you to see this as a birds eye view

Relief painting

- Wall would be carved and then painted after
- Image was built up using plaster then painted on top of
- This kind of painting can also be found in parts of the near east (syria)

Travelling Art?

- Minoan symbols can be seen in Egypt (the bull)
- Not typical for that region and time
- Shapes could be found in Egyptian tombs that are typically minoan
- Tel el-dab'a art appeared to have jumping bulls
 - There are direct ties to minos on pieces there

Minoan Ceramics

Kamare Ware

- Egyptians didn't typically bury foreign pottery however they buried this piece
- People believed that since it was found in a palace, it would have been made in a palace
 - Possibly untrue, palaces could be just consumers not producers.
- They came in various shapes and sizes
 - Eggshell Ware were very small and delicate. They would have very thin walls.
- Later on pottery becomes more elaborate.
- Around Late Minoan 1A and Late Minoan 1B

Late Minoan 1A

- Floral style
- Leaves on the side had a lot of details
- The decoration would fit the pot, often would have two strokes

Late Minoan 1B

- Marine Style
- Reason behind marine life is unknown?
- Shapes would follow the shape of a vessel
- Illusion of the octopus swimming in the pottery.

The First Writing Systems

Cretan Hieroglyphic and Linear A

Sir Arthur Evans

- He was interested in the writing systems

Seals and Sealings

- Palatial?
- Images of animals, plants, geometry, or writing.
- Sometimes made a jewelry so they're always on them
- Worn as a badge of honor as they would imply rank
- Made using a bow lathe?