

Mysteries of the snake goddess - art, desire, and the forging of history

Houghton Mifflin - **Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: Art, Desire, and the Forging of History**



Description: -

- Art, Minoan -- Forgeries.

Minoans. *Mysteries of the snake goddess - art, desire, and the forging of history*

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Tags: #Nonfiction #Book #Review: #MYSTERIES #OF #THE #SNAKE #GODDESS: #Art, #Desire, #and #the #Forging #of #History #by #Kenneth #D. #S. #Lapatin, #Author #. #Houghton #Mifflin #\$24 #(288p) #ISBN #978

Mysteries Of The Snake Goddess: Art, Desire, And The Forging Of History by Kenneth Lapatin, Svetlana Boym, Paperback

The snake goddess seemed to fit the mood at the beginning of the twentieth century, when the Western world was looking for origins, although a few voices raised some doubts at its modern look.

Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: Art, Desire, and the Forging of History

The fact that the people of ancient Crete worshiped goddesses doesn't make them unusual; so did the citizens of classical Athens, whose city housed one of the most magnificent images of that goddess ever created.

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The sources that testify to the existence of these places where forgeries were created is well presented.

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Lapatin presents this information with the mastery of a first-rate storyteller. Supposedly excavated from the palace of Knossos in Crete, it was presented to the museum by Henrietta Fitz, a wealthy Boston Brahmin who had heard of the statue's discovery from the museum's director, Arthur Fairbanks, and provided the funds needed to acquire it.

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While I do believe this part of Laptin's argument, the other part of his argument as reviewer S.

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Leave a Reply BMCR provides the opportunity to comment on reviews in order to enhance scholarly communication. This at least it shares with detective novels. A real life art history mystery! His retreat into fantasy is understandable, considering his wife had died unexpectedly.

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I knocked off one star only because much of the book will be of interest only to specialists rather than lay people and the title promises something less dry than what is delivered. Of course we all tend to interpret history in light of our own experiences; that's a fact of life.

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However, the Boston Snake Goddess, being the first of the whole series of these statues, was thought to be authentic. Several statues that were similar to the Boston Snake Goddess, mainly females, made of various materials, were judged by the specialists to be forgeries since their elements were too modern and they had no specific provenience.

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