



JOURNAL OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN INTERCONNECTIONS

Editorial Note

Special Issue: Aegean Interconnections I

This issue of *JA EI* is our second one devoted to a thematic topic. In this case our focus is Egyptian interconnections with the Aegean. As with the previous special issue on maritime interconnections, we invited scholars with experience in the subject to submit papers. The response was overwhelmingly positive- so much so that we have decided to publish the special issue as two consecutive fascicles. Three articles and a book review are presented here and the remaining submissions will appear in *JA EI* 3:3. As per journal policy, all of the submissions underwent double peer-review before they were accepted for publication.

2010 was a banner year for scholarship on Egypto-Aegean interactions. Two important monographs and an edited volume were published that contributed greatly to the body of theory concerning long distance interaction in the Mediterranean. Nanno Marinatos' *Minoan Kingship and the Solar Goddess: A Near Eastern Koine* (reviewed in *JA EI* 3:1) situates Minoan ideology in the broader context of the Near East and Egypt using comparative iconography. In *Mycenaean Greece, Mediterranean Commerce, and the Formation of Identity*, Bryan E. Burns investigates import consumption as a possible strategy of political resistance. Finally, *Archaic State Interaction: The Eastern Mediterranean in the Bronze Age*, edited by William A. Parkinson and Michael L. Galaty, includes several chapters that examine the interaction between Egypt and the Aegean from a world-systems perspective. These are but a few examples of the vibrant research being conducted in the field, a sign that we still have much to explore.

In this issue of the *JA EI*, the pendulum swings back from theoretical contributions to presentations of objects themselves. We offer three articles that focus on specific sites and artifacts. In each case these articles either add to the corpus of known objects and ideas that circulated between Egypt and the Aegean, or help us refine our understanding of objects that are already known and well-studied.

Professor Philip Betancourt offers a detailed discussion of eight artifacts with Egyptian connections from the Cretan cave site of Hagios Charalambos, a secondary grave deposit that dates to the Middle Minoan IA period. The artifacts consist of two fragments of ape figurines carved out of hippopotamus ivory and pieces of six terracotta sistra, made in an Egyptian style but of Cretan fabric. Interestingly, the broader distribution of objects such as these is not uniform and by considering where other ivory carvings and sistra are found, Betancourt proposes

that these Egyptian classes of objects reached Minoan hands via two different ports of entry, neither one necessarily controlled by Knossos.

Professors Eric Cline and Steven Stannish revisit Amenhotep III's "Aegean List" in light of new discoveries at Kom el-Hetan and the revised publication of Edel's *Die Orstnamenlisten aus dem Totentempel Amenophis III*. While the widely accepted view that the list reflects a diplomatic voyage to Greece still holds, a close look at specific erasures and recarvings indicates a somewhat different itinerary. As a result, our understanding of Egyptian interests in the Aegean may require modification. The authors further argue that ongoing work at the Kom el-Hetan site, particularly that pertaining to other topographical inscriptions, will reveal even more about the Aegean List in the future.

Professor Nanno Marinatos, with Ms. Briana Jackson, offers a compelling case to remove an object from the corpus of Egyptian imports found in Greece. The authenticity of that object, the so-called "Ring of Nestor," has been debated for nearly a century ever since Sir Arthur Evans purchased it in Greece during the 1920's. Through an examination of "semantics and syntax instead of style," Marinatos demonstrates that the piece must have been a forgery as it includes iconographic "mistakes" made by someone with access to Evans's unpublished notes. This article not only provides an innovative approach to art historical method, but it is an inspired piece of archaeological detective work as well!

Finally, we present a review of Cybelle Greenlaw's recently published diachronic study of representations of monkeys in the Mediterranean. After the second installment of Aegean themed articles in *JA EI* 3:3 we will return to our regular format. We currently seek submissions for consideration for issue 3:4. Please see the Guide for Contributors in the Table of Contents or send an email to egypt@u.arizona.edu for further information.

Sincerely,

The Editors