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Cronache di Archeologia

Scavi e ricerche 2

Edizioni Quasar

Three Old Kingdom Egyptian stone vessels from the Evans-Mackenzie excavations at Knossos: a contextual reappraisal

Peter Tomkins

The occurrence at Knossos of Egyptian stone vessels of Predynastic to Old Kingdom date has long been a source of controversy. While the early date and Egyptian origin of these objects is not open to question, the when, how and why of their first arrival in Crete has been much debated. Did they arrive at Knossos close to their date of manufacture and thus attest to a very early connectivity between Crete and Egypt, potentially as early as the transition to EM I?¹ Or did most or even all of these objects first arrive much later, at the end of the third and/or during the second millennium BC, long after their initial manufacture in Egypt?² The possibility for two, such opposite interpretations to exist depends largely on ongoing uncertainties regarding the nature and date of the depositional contexts at Knossos in which these vessels or more typically their fragments occur. Most examples were identified and extracted from the early excavations by

Arthur Evans himself, who was more interested in their existence than in specifying their depositional contexts and associations, an early stimulus from Egypt being important for his thesis for the origins of Minoan civilisation³. Generally the few examples published by Evans are accompanied by frustratingly concise or oblique descriptions of their find spots and, as a result, have since resisted easy contextualisation; many more are without any information regarding their find context (Table 1). While additional fragments have been identified since Evans, most were recovered from much later (e.g. Late Bronze Age) depositional contexts (Table 1). Only three fragments have since been recovered from verifiably earlier contexts (Table 2, nos. 135, 139, 140)⁴, of which only one securely predates EM III (Table 2, no. 139)⁵.

New light has been shed on this question by the work of the Knossos Kephala Project (KKP), which combines legacy data, artefactual study, site GIS and remote sensing to characterise and interpret depositional activity on the Kephala Hill at Knossos, from the beginning of the Neolithic to the construction of the First Palace⁶. A major part of this work has been devoted to re-establishing the knowledge-base of the original (legacy) excavations of Evans and Mackenzie through systematic collation and critical evaluation of all primary sources, published and unpublished, textual, visual or ar-

* The research presented here took shape as part of the author's long-term engagement with the Neolithic and early EM phases at Knossos and the early excavations of Sir Arthur Evans and Duncan Mackenzie. This work has been supported by research grants and fellowships from the EC Marie Curie Foundation, INSTAP, the British School at Athens, the KU Leuven, the University of Sheffield, the Onassis Foundation, the Weiner Laboratory in Athens, and the University of Catania. A preliminary organisation of the evidence was made at Bristol in 2016 (P.M. Warren visiting professor), with the encouragement of Professor Peter Warren. Further research and the writing of this paper took place in 2022 as F. Carinci Fellow in Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) at the University of Venice. I am grateful to Professor Ilaria Caloi and Professor Filippo Carinci for their kind hosting in Venice and advice. Finally, I thank Simona Todaro for her patience, love and encouragement.

1 e.g. EVANS 1921, 13, 16-17, 25-6, 64-6; 1928, 15-17; WARREN 1969, 106 and note 1.

2 VERCOUTTER 1956, 407-8; PHILLIPS 2008a, 40, 43, 223, 225; BEVAN 2003; 2004, 115.

3 EVANS 1921, 13, 16-17, 25-6, 64-6; 1928, 22-59.

4 WARREN 1969, 105-15; 1972; 1989.

5 WARREN 1972; 1989; PHILLIPS 2008b, no. 139; TOMKINS in preparation.

6 TOMKINS 2008; 2012, 39-40; 2018; 2022; in preparation.

Cat. No. (Philips 2008)	Type	Material	Date (Egypt)	Date of retrieval	Location	Context Date (Philips 2008)	New Context/ Date	Relative Phasing	Completeness (Philips 2008b)	Condition (Philips 2008b)
132	Convex-sided cylinder jar	Mottled lime- stone or travertine	Naqada I - Dyn I	1924	LN Houses, Stratum Alpha	LN-EM I or later	Building J (fdns)	Subneolithic/ EM I (Knossos XIII)	one frag, base	
133	Spheroid jar	Diorite, probably hornblende diorite (A or B)	Pre-dynastic-Dyn I	1923	LN Houses, Stratum Beta	EM I or LM I	Building J (use)	Subneolithic/ EM I (Knossos XIII)	frag, lower body; drilled hole in base	
135	Deep open bowl	Diorite, probably hornblende diorite (A or B)	Dyn I-II	1908	Building, S Front, Rm I [Box 788]	EM I II(B?) to MM IB	EM IIB building	EM IIB	two joining frags	fresh breaks
136	Cylinder jar	Travertine	Dynasty I - Middle Kingdom	1908	S Front, later construction fill [Box 794]	EM II- MM III	EM II-MM III fill?	EM IIA?	one frag rim	breaks are lightly worn
139	Bowl, beaker or chalice	Translucent grey obsidian	Dynasty I	1972	EM IIA Building RRS	EM IIA	EM II building	EM IIA	one rim frag	
140	Shallow, open bowl, straight profile	Siltstone	Dyn I-II	1955	Platon test West of Theatre	EM III	EM III or MM IIA construction fill	EM?		
143	Spheroid jar, wide flat collar	Syenite	Dyn III-IV, more likely III	1900	South Propylaeum	LM I, LM II- IA-B	EM II Building	EM IIA?	intact	
165	Spheroid jar, flat collar	Hornblende diorite (Type A or B)	Dyn IV	1910	1910 N of Palace	?	Deposit N of Isopata cemetery?	MM III-LM I	Intact	badly worn, possibly made; no handles
166	Spheroid jar, flat collar	Andesite porphyry (Type B)	Dyn I-II	1925?	NW of Palace (= 1925 Test?)	?	W of Theatre Area	EM?	one large frag of rim, shoulder, two perforated handles	Restored in error with flat base
167	Spheroid jar or deep open bowl	Andesite porphyry (Type B?)	Pre-dynastic-Dyn I	1925?	NW of Palace (= 1925 Test?)	?	W of Theatre Area	EM?	one frag, lower body/ base	

168	Deep open bowl	Hornblende diorite (Type A?)	Dyn I-II (Dyn IV?)	1925?	NW of Palace (= 1925 Test?)	?	W of Theatral Area	EM?	one frag, base	
169	Deep open bowl	Andesite Porphyry (Type A)	Dyn I-II	1925?	NW of Palace (= 1925 Test?)	?	W of Theatral Area	EM?	one frag, body	
170	Straight-sided cup/bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn III-IV	1922	1922 W of Palace (= Box 178?)	?	Arsenal north	LM I?	three joining frags	
171	Spheroid jar, very large	?	?	1987	1987 Hood fill behind wall	EM III or MM III		EM?	one frag	
175	Shallow carinated bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn VI	1902	Below Closet False-Spouted Jars	MM II-III	EM III Building	EM III	one frag, rim/upper body	
194	Spheroid jar	Andesite Porphyry (Type B)	Naqada II-Dyn III	1957-61	Royal Road North	LM IA			two non-joining frags	later modified
209	Jar of shouldered type	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn I-IV?	1905	Little Palace [Box 1437]	MM II-IB - LM IIIB			one frag, rim/body	
222	Bowl?	Anorthosite gneiss	probably Dyn III-IV	?	Strat. Mus. Extension	LM I-II			one frag, body	
230	Spheroid jar	Porphyritic rock	Naqada II-Dyn V	?	Strat. Mus. Extension	LM II-IA-C			one frag, lower body	
231	Lid	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn I-IV, probably Dyn III-IV	?	Strat. Mus. Extension	MM III/LM I or later			one frag, rim	
235	Spheroid jar	Porphyritic rock	Dyn I-IV	?	Strat. Mus. Extension	modern			one frag, large full profile	quite battered
241	Spheroid jar	Andesite Porphyry (Type A)	Dyn I-II	1905	Isoptara 'Royal Tomb'	LM II-III A1			intact	mened from 13 fragments, some chips to rim; later modified
247	High-shouldered jar	Hornblende diorite (Type A or B)	Dyn III-IV	1905	Isoptara 'Royal Tomb'	LM II-III A1			two frags, full profile	
279	Kernos ('block vase')	Soft heavy stone, serpentinite or chlorite	Predynastic?	1931	Temple Tomb	MM II-IB - LM IIIA			semi complete	Large chips on edges

289	Deep open bowl	Diorite gneiss	Dynasty III-IV (on basis of material)	?	NFC	?			Large rim frag (AM 1941.1254) + non joining body/base frags (KSM boxes 1891, 1893)	Possibly later modified
290	Spheroid jar or large deep open bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Naqada II-I-Dynasty VI	?	NFC	?			one frag, lower body	
291	Shallow carinated bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn IV-V	?	NFC	?			one frag, rim	
292	Shallow carinated bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn IV-VI	?	NFC	?			one frag, lower body/base	
293	Shallow carinated bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn IV-VI	?	NFC	?			one frag, lower body	
294	Shallow carinated bowl	Anorthosite gneiss	Dyn IV-V	?	NFC	?			one frag, rim	
295	Spheroid jar	Gabbro(?)	Naqada II-Dyn V, Dyn IV if Gabbro	?	NFC	?			one frag, lower body	
302	Jar w. high, sharply angled shoulder	Hornblende Diorite (Type A or B)	Late Predyn / Dyn I-II	?	NFC	?			one frag, upper body	
311	Cylinder jar	Travertine	Dyn V-FIP	?	'NW part of Palace site, Hogarth's excavations'	?	Neopalatial?	two joining frags, complete profile	chipped on base, part of body and half of rim missing	

Table 1. The corpus of Predynastic, Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom Egyptian stone vessels at Knossos (PHILLIPS 2008b for catalogue numbers, typology, dating, condition, bibliography).

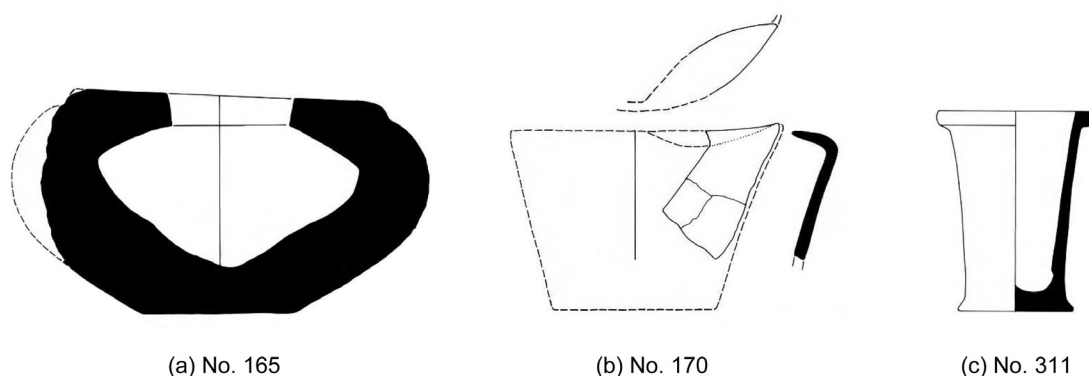


Fig. 1 - Three Old Kingdom Egyptian stone vessels from Knossos (after PHILLIPS 2008b, pp. 321, 322 and 340).

tefactual, building on the results of earlier scholarship. Although greater weight is placed on sources formed close to the time of the discovery, the aim is to consider all information and to relate it, where possible, to the relevant collections of retained material from the Evans-Mackenzie excavations and to other excavations conducted in the vicinity. During this work information relevant to the Predynastic to Old Kingdom Egyptian stone vessels published by Evans was identified, shedding further light on their original findspots and contextual associations. This paper presents information relevant to three vessels published by Evans, which support their recovery from Late Bronze Age depositional contexts at Knossos. These add to an already recognised pattern of later deployments of such vessels at Knossos (Warren 1969; Bevan 2004).

Predynastic-Old Kingdom Egyptian stone vessels at Knossos: an overview of depositional patterns

The Predynastic, Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom stone vessels from Knossos fall into two distinct depositional groups. There is an early group of examples recovered from contexts formed during the EBA and thus deposited relatively close to their dates of manufacture in Egypt and before the construction of the 'First Palace'⁷. These include two fragments deposited in association with a building constructed at the FN-EB I transition and a small

fragment of an obsidian vessel in a secure EM IIA context (Table 1, nos. 132, 133, 139)⁸. The case for assigning other early Egyptian vessels or vessel fragments to this group is strengthened by a recent reassessment of findspots and depositional contexts, which draws on original archive sources and a comprehensive review of the retained materials from the Arthur Evans excavations (Table 1, nos. 135, 136, 143, 166-9)⁹. There is also a later group of examples, which only finally entered the archaeological record during the Late Bronze Age, long after they were first produced. Contextual reappraisal of the early Egyptian vessels published by Evans¹⁰ suggests that three of these may, with differing degrees of certainty, be assigned to this later group of examples (i.e., Table 1, nos. 165, 170 and 311; Figure 1).

The 1910 Isopata investigations

In the first volume of *Palace of Minos* Evans presents a complete, but much worn spheroidal jar in hornblende diorite of probable Dynasty IV date (Table 1, no. 165)¹¹. He notes that aside from being 'much rolled and... partly broken away at the sides', the vessel also 'does not seem to have any ledge handles'¹², which would suggest that it had been subject to modification after its arrival at Knossos. The only information supplied regarding its find-context states that it was 'found in an unstratified deposit to

7 EVANS 1921, 13, 16-17, 25-6, 64-6; 1928, 15-17; WARREN 1969, 106 and note 1; TOMKINS in preparation.

8 EVANS 1928; WARREN 1989; HOOD 2006; TOMKINS 2007, 42-4; forthcoming.

9 TOMKINS, in preparation.

10 TOMKINS, in preparation.

11 EVANS 1921, 65; WARREN 1969, A2; PHILLIPS 2008b, no. 165.

12 EVANS 1921, 65.

the North of the Palace site at Knossos in 1910'¹³. Since Evans, this vessel has come to be associated with a separately published group of four fragments of Egyptian stone vessels of Dynasty I-II or earlier date (Table 1, nos. 166-9)¹⁴, which Evans located at the 'northwest borders' of the Palace¹⁵.

However, closer examination of Evans' wording suggests that two different locations are being referenced. In the case of the group of four vessel fragments he states that these were recovered from an "unstratified deposit N.W. of the Palace", before going on to speak more generally about deposits formed "on its borders", from "materials dumped down at the time when the top of the original 'Tell' was levelled away to secure a flat area for the construction of the Palace as we know it"¹⁶. References to this group of four fragments gives a window of discovery between 1922 and December 1925, during which period only one test, made in 1925 at the eastern end of the Royal Road, fits Evans' description¹⁷.

In the case of the complete spheroid jar (Table 1, no. 165), there is no record, whether in the form of published information, archival records or retained materials, to indicate that testing was conducted in 1910 in the area of the hill immediately north of the Palace. Moreover, the precise wording used by Evans, 'north of the Palace site', rather than simply 'north of the Palace', suggests a location beyond the Palace hill. In 1910 the only work to take place in this area occurred considerably further to the north, about a quarter of a mile north of the Isopata 'Royal Tomb' excavated in 1904¹⁸. In this location a small deposit of Minoan artefacts had been discovered by chance in 1909. This 1909 deposit included fragments of two later Egyptian alabastra (Dynasty XII; late Second Intermediate Period-early Dynasty XVIII)¹⁹. The 1909 discovery prompted an investigation of the findspot in 1910, which produced no evidence for a tomb and concluded that the 1909 deposit was unstratified²⁰. Further investigation in

1910 of the general area of the 1909 deposit led to the identification and excavation of six chamber tombs and a rectangular built tomb. It was concluded that the 1909 deposit probably represented material dumped following clearance of one of these tombs or another in the vicinity²¹.

While no mention is made of no.165 in Evans' published references to the 1910 Isopata excavation, this remains the only known excavation that tallies with the various elements of Evans' description, namely that it was recovered in 1910, from 'an unstratified deposit', located 'north of the palace site'. The absence of any alternative candidates leaves little option but to conclude that the vessel was recovered from the general Isopata area during the 1910 investigation. The fact that Evans chose not to refer to the vessel in reference to the tombs or the 1909 deposit could be because it was found in a unstratified context away from these locations, perhaps as a chance surface find. Possibly it was not recognised immediately as being of early Egyptian type. Support for this would be provided by the worn condition of the vessel, which would be consistent with it being a surface find, while the evidence it presents for later modification (i.e. absent ledge handles) would have made it less obviously of early Egyptian type. In addition, such modification would associate it with other examples of early Egyptian stone vessels in later Bronze Age use, which similarly exhibit signs of modification²². Finally, precedent for the presence of early Egyptian stone vessels in LM funerary contexts in the general Isopata area is provided by two stone vessels²³, one of which (no. 241) also had been modified, from the Late Minoan Isopata cemetery area ('Royal Tomb').

The 1922 Arsenal (North) excavation

In *Palace of Minos II*, Evans states that three joining fragments of a vessel of Egyptian type were identified during his examination of materials recovered in 1922 'from an unstratified deposit West of the Palace' (Table 1, no. 170)²⁴. The vessel form, which Evans compared to the 'moustache cups'

13 EVANS 1921, 65.

14 PHILLIPS 2008b, nos. 166-9; TOMKINS in preparation.

15 PENDLEBURY 1930, 54; PHILLIPS 2008b, 99-101.

16 EVANS 1928, 30-1.

17 TOMKINS in preparation.

18 EVANS 1904, 5-6.

19 PHILLIPS 2008b, 134.

20 PHILLIPS 2008b, 134; nos. 258 and 259.

21 PHILLIPS 2008, 134 for bibliography.

22 PHILLIPS 2008b, 99-100.

23 PHILLIPS 2008b, nos. 241 and 247.

24 EVANS 1928, 57.

used by Victorian and Edwardian gentlemen²⁵, is in anorthosite gneiss and generally dated to Dynasty III-IV²⁶. The only known excavation from 1922 in this area is the investigation of the northern limit of the 'Arsenal' building, the majority of which had previously been cleared in 1904²⁷. Mackenzie's 1922 notebook mentions that the earliest deposits encountered were Middle Minoan in date, which were mixed MM IA-III fills (and thus formed of 'unstratified' material) in association with walls or foundations on a slightly different orientation below the Late Minoan floor of the building²⁸. A single box of material²⁹, comprising mainly LM I-III pottery, was retained and this is presumably representative of the material recovered in association with the activity of this date in this area. The absence of alternative candidates, makes it almost certain that the three fragments were recovered from this excavation, in which case the only known candidate for the 'unstratified deposit' would be the MM construction fill. However, while this remains the most probable provenance, it cannot be excluded that another, otherwise unspecified, unstratified context is intended by Evans.

Hogarth's 1900 Northwest Kephala Tests

In *Palace of Minos IV* Evans publishes a cylinder jar with everted rim and base, dated between Dynasty V and the First Intermediate Period (Table 1, no. 311)³⁰. Evans specifies that it was found 'N.W. of [the] Palace site', while Warren provides the additional information that it came from 'Hogarth's excavations' in this area³¹. Hogarth's original excavation diary reveals that he tested the north slope of the Kephala Hill between 16th and 19th May 1900. Although the entries are extremely brief, and no mention is made of a stone vessel, it is clear from the final entry that 'lower down' in some of these

tests he encountered well-built Late Minoan buildings³² with 'good frescoes'. These tests, marked as 5 crosses on a contemporary plan by the site architect Theodore Fyfe³³, are clustered in an area 25m x 20m, north of the Royal Road, east of the Arsenal building, north of the Royal Road North excavations and northwest of the Theatral Area. This general area offers several other examples of early Egyptian stone vessel fragments in LM contexts. Clearest are the two non-joining fragments of a spheroid jar of Naqada II-Dynasty II type recovered from a LM IA context in the Royal Road North excavations (Table 1, no. 194). A second possible example is the 'moustache cup' (Table 1, no. 170), suggested above to have been recovered from the 1922 Arsenal north excavation.

Although Hogarth generally carried his 1900 tests down to natural, and thus will have sampled any deposits that might pre-date Late Minoan construction in this area, there is no evidence to corroborate the existence of EM deposition in the area of his 1900 northwest Kephala tests. A similar picture obtains from extensive testing in 1908 of the area 50-100m east of Hogarth's 1900 northwest Kephala tests, which also revealed much denuded traces of Late Minoan buildings, stratified directly above bedrock, most notably the LM I Northwest House³⁴. Although a deposit of earlier material was noted immediately west of the Northwest House³⁵, the excavator's view was that this was "apparently a rubbish heap", and thus formed of a secondary redeposition of material cleared from elsewhere. Examination of the retained material confirms that it mainly comprises MM IA pottery with EM II and some later MM.³⁶

Taken together the evidence does not suggest that the cylinder jar could have been recovered from an EM deposit. One possibility, on analogy with the deposit west of the Northwest House, would be that the vessel formed part of a later dump of rede-

25 EVANS 1925, 210-1.

26 See WARREN 1969, G3; PHILLIPS 2008b, no. 170. Reisner, however, suggests a wider date range on the basis that vessels with folded spouts span Dynasty III-VI (1931, 204).

27 EVANS 1904: 3, 54-62; HOOD, SMYTH 1981, no. 213.

28 MACKENZIE 1922, 74-9.

29 I.e. EVANS box 1787.

30 PHILLIPS 2008b, no. 311; EVANS 1935, 123-4 fig. 92.

31 WARREN 1969: 111 F1. It has not been possible to ascertain where Warren obtained this additional information, but a logical possibility would be the accession catalogue for the Heraklion Museum. The Heraklion Museum accession number for the vessel confirms that it was an early find (PHILLIPS 2008b, no. 311).

32 HOGARTH 1900, 18/5/00, 'good Myk. houses'. I am grateful to Todd Whitelaw for making available a transcript of Hogarth's 1900 excavation diary.

33 EVANS 1900, pl. xii.

34 Also known as the 'House of [the] Bronze Implements' (MACKENZIE 1908, 91; HOOD, SMYTH 1981, no. 221).

35 MACKENZIE 1908, 91.

36 I.e. Evans boxes 1766-8; see WILSON 1987 for a distinctive triple-bodied EM II vessel from this deposit.

posited material that included earlier dating types. Alternatively, the vessel could have been recovered in association with the Late Minoan architecture noted by Hogarth and was thus potentially in circulation during the Late Bronze Age.

Conclusions

These three vessels exemplify or solidify distinct characteristics in the later deployment of early Egyptian stone vessels at Knossos. The complete spheroid jar with flat collar, probably recovered in 1910 in the area of the 1909 Isopata Deposit, adds to the small number of complete examples known from Late Minoan contexts at Knossos (n=3; i.e. Table 1, nos. 165, 241, 279). It is notable that all of these complete or still functional examples derive from high-status funerary contexts (i.e. Isopata Royal Tomb and Temple Tomb). The spheroid jar (Table 1, no. 165) is also notable for being particularly badly worn. Evidence for wear or damage is a general feature of the few still functional later examples, distinguishing them from those in earlier contexts. Also worth noting in this regard is the 'block vase' or kernos, of probable Predynastic date, recovered from the Temple Tomb: in addition to chips, large fragments of the original vessel are missing, including half a cup at either end and the majority of the base surface³⁷. While this evidence for wear or damage is not surprising, given the great age of such vessels, it is notable in supporting a curation scenario in which such vessels had very long use lives. A third feature of the spheroid jar, shared with other examples in later use, is modification, which in this case seems to be limited to the removal of its original lug handles. If modification is accepted as a feature of early Egyptian stone vessels in later circulation, then a fragmentary deep open bowl without find context (Table 1, 289), which appears to have been reworked³⁸ may also have been recovered from a later Bronze Age context.

Contextual reappraisal also serves to clarify spatial differences in distribution between examples in early and late depositional contexts. Most striking is the confinement of depositionally early examples

to the Kephala hilltop and those in later circulation to the areas beyond. Aside from the few complete or still functional examples, fragments cluster in two areas (lower northwest slope; Stratigraphical Museum extension excavation) and are notably absent from other investigated areas of the Late Minoan site (e.g. Gypsades Hill). Two of the vessels discussed above derive from the area of the lower northwest slope of the Kephala Hill (Table 1, nos. 170 and 311). Although there is a lack of clarity regarding the specific depositional associations of both of these vessels, there is no evidence from either location to support their deposition during EM. In the case of no. 170 the earliest deposition in the area is said to be a MM construction fill, which could potentially have been the source of the Egyptian vessel. Alternatively these vessel fragments could have been recovered from use deposits associated with the buildings of Late Minoan date noted in both excavations.

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SUMMARY - The occurrence at Knossos of Egyptian stone vessels of Predynastic to Old Kingdom date has long been a source of controversy. While the early date and Egyptian origin of these objects is not open to question, the when, how and why of their first arrival in Crete has been much debated. Did they arrive at Knossos close to their date of manufacture and thus attest to a very early connectivity between Crete and Egypt, potentially as early as the transition to EM I? Most examples were identified and extracted from the early excavations by Arthur Evans, whose descriptions are often frustratingly concise or oblique regarding their specific contexts of recovery. This paper discusses three of the vessels published by Evans and presents evidence to suggest that they were recovered from Late Bronze Age depositional contexts at Knossos, adding detail to an already recognised pattern of later deployments of such vessels at Knossos.

RIASSUNTO - La presenza a Cnosso di vasi egiziani in pietra di epoca predinastica e dell'Antico Regno è stata a lungo fonte di controversie. Mentre la datazione precoce e l'origine egiziana di questi oggetti non sono in discussione, il quando, il come e il perché del loro primo arrivo a Creta sono stati molto dibattuti. Sono arrivati a Cnosso in prossimità della loro data di fabbricazione e quindi attestano una connessione molto precoce tra Creta e l'Egitto, potenzialmente già a partire dal passaggio all'EM I? La maggior parte degli esemplari è stata identificata ed estratta dai primi scavi da Arthur Evans, le cui descrizioni sono spesso frustrantemente concise o oblique riguardo agli specifici contesti di recupero. Questo articolo discute tre dei vasi pubblicati da Evans e presenta prove che suggeriscono che sono stati recuperati da contesti deposizionali della tarda età del bronzo a Cnosso, aggiungendo dettagli a un modello già riconosciuto di impiego successivo di tali vasi a Cnosso.

Keywords: Knossos, Egyptian stone vessels, Predynastic, Crete, Egypt.

Parole chiave: Cnosso, vasi egiziani in pietra, epoca predinastica, Creta, Egitto.