



Antes de Cadmo: influencias artísticas y transferencias iconográficas entre Creta y Egipto durante la época del Minoico Medio I y II [

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Analítica

This article reviews the evidence concerning the artistic influences between ancient Egypt and Middle Bronze Age Crete, analysing the process of transference of ideas, symbols and iconographic elements from one area to another. This study focuses on the finding of a clay sistrum in Archanes (Crete), which is a clear imitation of the Egyptian instrument. In Egypt sistras are not only common musical Instruments but also objects with an important religious and symbolic meaning, associated with the goddess Hathor. Throughout these pages I have tried to analyse the meaning of the sistrum in Crete, starting from other examples of sistras representations and their correspondence with Aegean music and dance. Probably, the symbolism of the sistrum in Crete was not the same as in Egypt, but this instrument must have retained its religious aspect, being used in some kind of Minoan ritual ceremony, such as the one represented in the 'Harvesters Vase'. The diffusion of the Egyptian sistrum is an outstanding example of the mutual and profitable influences which took place between the Orient and the West in the Bronze Age

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