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## A BRONZE STANDARD FROM CYPRUS

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The object which we will discuss below was found at **Maa-Palaeokastro** in 1984, during the excavations of the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus. It is dedicated with affection to Professor Ekrem Akurgal, a friend for over a quarter of a century.

**Maa-Palaeokastro** is a peninsula north of Paphos in western Cyprus, which was settled c.1230 B.C. by refugees who came from the Aegean and who may tentatively be associated with the 'Sea Peoples'. This is the time when the Mycenaean 'Empire' started collapsing and Troy VIIa was destroyed. Refugees from both regions may then have gone forth to seek their fortunes in the Eastern Mediterranean. This settlement, defensive in character, with 'cyclopean' walls and a 'dog-leg' gate, was destroyed c. 1200 B.C. Its houses were violently burnt down and a thick layer of ashes and débris accumulated on their floors. We call this first period of **Maa-Palaeokastro** Period I, and the floor of the destruction Floor II. The site was reinhabited by settlers who came from the Aegean (the Peloponnese and/or the Dodecanese) and this new phase in the life of **Maa-Palaeokastro** we call Period II, and the floors of the new houses Floor I. The settlement was finally abandoned during the second decade of the 12th century B.C., at a time when a locally made Mycenaean IIIC:1b pottery was still in use (1).

Period I was a period of relative prosperity. The houses were well built, and one has a façade of small ashlar blocks with drafted edges. On the burnt floors of the houses were found important objects such as Mycenaean IIIB pottery, pithos sherds with impressions of cylinder seals, bronze tools, fragments of copper 'oxide' ingots, fragments of faience vases, etc. One is tempted to compare the material culture of Period I with that of **Pyla-Kokkinokremos**, another settlement with a strongly defensive character near the southeast coast of Cyprus, whose life corresponds exactly to Period I at **Maa-Palaeokastro** (2).

On Floor II of one of the houses excavated in 1984, mixed with ashes and under a thick layer of débris, was found the bronze standard to be described below (Pl.1., Fig.1) Its date, according to the stratigraphy, cannot be later than c. 1200 B.C.

It is 15.9cm. high. It consists of a solid cylindrical shaft, at the lower end of which there are three horizontal parallel ridges. The upper end terminates in three buds pointing upwards, arranged like the petals of a flower. At the lower part of each bud there are two superimposed rings forming a figure-of-eight, which are symmetrically and vertically attached to the shaft. Diam.: 1.2cm. From each ring a drop-shaped pendant, 1.5cm. long, hangs freely (there are six pendants in all) attached to the top of which there is a suspension ring, 1.2cm. in diameter. When shaken the bronze standard produces a jangling sound, with the pendants clinking together as well as on the shaft of the standard.

Another standard of similar type was found in 1947 at Enkomi, on the east coast of Cyprus, and is now in the Cyprus Museum (Pl 2) (3). It consists of a solid cylindrical shaft topped by 'a sub-spherical mass, on top of which perches a small bird, modelled in the round, its head missing. Below this, three equally spaced horizontal bars protrude from the shaft. On each one a bird perches, similar to that which tops the object. To the under side of each bar is fastened an open ring; two yet hold small bud-shaped pendants' (4).

A third standard of similar type was found in a tomb at Pyla in 1885, but was lost during the bombardment of Leipzig in 1943 (5). It measured 17.5 cm. in height. It consisted of a narrow cylindrical shaft, surmounted by four birds, a bull's head and volutes. At the lower end of the shaft there were three horizontal parallel ridges.

There is a close similarity between the three standards. Their length ranges from about 16-18.5 cm. Their shafts are the same with a knob of horizontal ridges at the lower part, though the ornaments at the top differ. The Enkomi and Maa specimens have bud-shaped pendants hanging freely from rings. There are birds on the Enkomi and Pyla examples.

In all three specimens the freely hanging pendants could clink and this was perhaps a significant function of the standard, recalling in some ways the much older 'ritual standards' and sistrums from Anatolia (6). Schaeffer, when describing the Enkomi standard, called it 'tête de scèptre ou d'emblème' (7). Catling rejected this identification on the grounds that

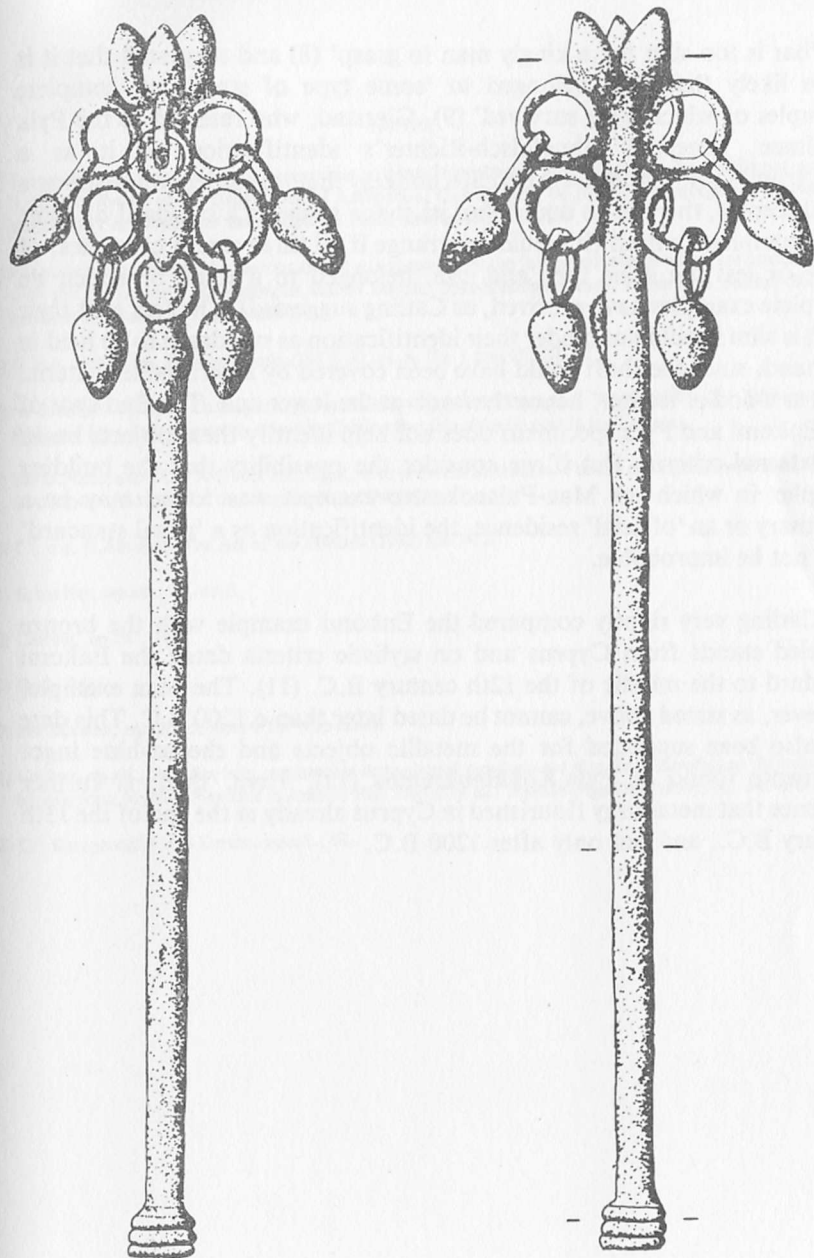


Fig. 1 Bronze standard from Maa-Palaeokastro (drawing by Ms Sylvie Hartman).

the 'bar is too slim for a kingly man to grasp' (8) and suggested that it is more likely that they belonged to 'some type of stand, no complete examples of which have survived' (9). Gjerstad, who referred to the Pyla specimen, accepted Ohnefalsch-Richter's identification of it as a 'sceptrum' (10). Though it is perhaps unlikely that this object was used as a royal sceptre, there is no doubt that its shape suggests a standard of some sort, complete in itself (it would be strange if all three extant examples, of more or less the same type and size, belonged to a stand of which no complete examples have survived, as Catling suggested). The fact that their shaft is slim should not hinder their identification as standards to be held in the hand, since the shaft could have been covered by a perishable material such as wood or leather, hence the knob at the lower end. The find spot of the Enkomi and Pyla specimens does not help identify these objects based on external criteria. But if we consider the possibility that the building complex in which the Maa-Palaeokastro example was found may be a sanctuary or an 'official' residence, the identification as a 'ritual standard' may not be improbable.

Catling very rightly compared the Enkomi example with the bronze wheeled stands from Cyprus and on stylistic criteria dated the Enkomi standard to the middle of the 12th century B.C. (11). The Maa example, however, as stated above, cannot be dated later than c.1200 B.C. This date has also been suggested for the metallic objects and the ox-hide ingot fragments found at Pyla-Kokkinokremos (12). Here, then, is further evidence that metallurgy flourished in Cyprus already at the end of the 13th century B.C., and not only after 1200 B.C.

## NOTES

- 1) For preliminary reports on the excavations at Maa-Palaeokastro see V.Karageorghis, M.Demas and B.Kling in *Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus* 1982, 86-108; V.Karageorghis in *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres* 1982, 705-24.
- 2) For an account on these excavations as well as a summary of the 'historical' events which are associated with this period see V.Karageorghis and M.Demas, *Pyla-Kokkinokremos, a late 13th century B.C. fortified settlement in Cyprus* (1984).
- 3) C.F.A. Schaeffer, *Enkomi-Alasia* (1952) 39, no.6, fig. 1 and Pl. III: 11.
- 4) As described by H. W. Catling in *Cypriot Bronzework in the Mycenaean World* (1964), 261. Illustrated *ibid.*, pl. 48: e. It is incorrectly stated by Catling that this object is now in the Louvre.
- 5) See O.Masson in *BCH* 90 (1966) 3ff., fig.3, with previous references. For the description we depend on a very poor photo and a drawing based on the photo.
- 6) Cf. e.g. E.Akurgal, *The Art of the Hittites* (1962) pls 7-12.
- 7) Schaeffer, *op.cit.*, 39, no.6.
- 8) Catling, *op.cit.*, 261.
- 9) *Ibid.*, 261f.
- 10) See Masson, *op.cit.*, 5, note 1 for references.
- 11) Catling, *op.cit.*, 261. For very comparable drop-shaped pendants see also those attached to the bronze tripods from Myrtou-Pigadhes in Joan du Plat Taylor et al., *Myrtou-Pigadhes* (1957), fig. 34: 416-18.
- 12) Cf. Karageorghis and Demas, *op.cit.*, 63.

The first is the fact that a large number of the objects which have been found in the excavations at Maa-Palaeokastro are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere. This is particularly true of the bronze standards, which are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere. The second is the fact that the objects which have been found in the excavations at Maa-Palaeokastro are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere. This is particularly true of the bronze standards, which are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere.

During the excavations at Maa-Palaeokastro, a large number of objects were found which are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere. This is particularly true of the bronze standards, which are of a type which is entirely unknown elsewhere.

PALACE OF MAA-PALAEOKASTRO - B.C.

Seton Lloyd.

A main purpose of the present paper is to advocate a careful reconsideration of the existing theories regarding the design of palaces in the Middle East. It is proposed for this purpose to pay special attention to the existing theories of the design of palaces, and to the possibility of a new theory. It may also be said at once that, in doing so, we shall be dealing with architectural conventions are to be found, between the two main regions with which we shall be dealing. It will find little difficulty in attributing this to the diversity of building materials available in each of them.

Geographically then, we may begin with alluvial Mesopotamia and the valley of the Middle Euphrates, where, in the absence of stone, sun-dried or kiln-baked brick were the materials invariably made use of for buildings of all sorts, and where a further limitation was imposed on architectural design by the almost total absence of timber for roofing purposes. We shall note the evidence of recent discoveries, demonstrating that brick vaulting, (albeit on a small scale), could be contrived with some ingenuity (1); but will note that, for the spanning of major apartments in palaces, wooden beams of adequate dimensions could only be obtained from abroad with considerable difficulty and expense. Surely these were primary factors in the planning of public buildings, and would explain, among other things, the long and narrow proportions of all minor rooms. This same predicament could indeed even account for the primitive formula adopted in the design of ordinary dwelling-houses, where the roofed livingrooms of moderate size are invariably planned around a central courtyard, often open to the sky. And here at once we are presented with two major enigmas, of a sort which long controversy has still failed to solve. It is with these that we now propose to concern ourselves.

First then, there is the question of interior lighting. Where dwelling-houses in the Middle East are concerned, ground-floor windows in the exterior walls are (at this day) avoided, but



Pl. 1 Bronze standard from Maa-Palaeokastro.



Pl. 2. Bronze standard from Enkomi.



## PALACES OF THE SECOND MILLENNIUM B.C.

Seton Lloyd.

A main purpose of the observations which follow is to advocate a careful reconsideration of evidence available, regarding the design of palaces in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. It is proposed for this purpose to pay special attention to the existence in certain cases of an upper storey, and to the possibility of its tentative reconstruction. It may also be said at once that, in doing so, we shall be faced by a striking disparity, where architectural conventions are concerned, between the two main regions with which we shall be dealing and shall find little difficulty in attributing this to the diversity of building materials available in each of them.

Geographically then, we may start with alluvial Mesopotamia and the valley of the Middle Euphrates: areas where, in the absence of stone, sun-dried or kiln-baked brick were the materials invariably made use of for buildings of all sorts, and where a further limitation was imposed on architectural design by the almost total absence of timber for roofing purposes. We shall note the evidence of recent discoveries, demonstrating that brick vaulting, (albeit on an unpretentious scale), could be contrived with some ingenuity (1); but will realise that, for the spanning of major apartments in palaces, wooden beams of adequate dimensions could only be obtained from abroad with considerable difficulty and expense. Surely then, it must be concluded that these were primary factors in the planning of public buildings and would explain, among other things, the long and narrow proportions of all minor chambers. This same predicament could indeed even account for the primeval formula adopted in the design of ordinary dwelling-houses, where flat-roofed livingrooms of moderate size are invariably planned around a central courtyard, often open to the sky. And here at once we are presented with two major enigmas, of a sort which long controversy has still failed to resolve. It is with these that we now propose to concern ourselves.

First then, there is the question of interior lighting. Where dwelling-houses in Near Eastern towns and villages are concerned, ground-floor windows in the exterior walls are to this day avoided for