

The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art  
Bulletin

Spring 2012



# Ege Eski Tunç Çağı Mühürleri

228

Lorenz Rahmstorf 2016



Figure 10.1: Distribution map of sealings in the Aegean from third millennium BC contexts.



Figure 10.2: Sealings (drawing/picture of the impression and the backside of the sealing) and a seal from the Early Bronze Age Aegean: 1-2 Myrina; 3 Aghia Irini; 4 Zas-Cave; 5 Mochlos; 6 Corinth; 7 Leondari/Provatsa; 8 Akovitika; 9 Tiryns; 10 Apolomata. (1 and 5 from CMS VS.3; 2 from Dova 2003; 3 from Wilson 1999; 6 and 8 from CMS VS.1A; 7 and 9 from CMS VS.1B. Objects not to scale).

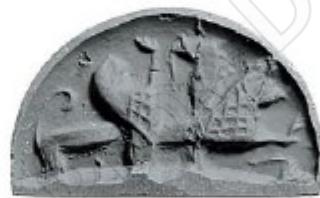
# Kronoloji



	B.C.	Cyclades	Crete	Mainland Greece
Prepalatial	3200			
	3100			
	3000	Early Cycladic I	Early Minoan I	Early Helladic I
	2900			
	2800			
	2700			
	2600		Early Minoan II A	Early Helladic II A
	2500	Early Cycladic II		
	2400			
	2300		Early Minoan II B	Early Helladic II B
Palatial	2200			
	2100	Early Cycladic III	Early Minoan III	Early Helladic III
	2000	Middle Cycladic I	Middle Minoan IA	Middle Helladic I
	1900			
	1800	Middle Cycladic II	Middle Minoan IB	Middle Helladic II
	1700		Middle Minoan II	
	1600	Middle Cycladic III	Middle Minoan III A	Middle Helladic III
	1500		Middle Minoan III B	
	1400	Late Cycladic I	Late Minoan IA	Late Helladic I
	1300			
Postpalatial	1200	Late Cycladic II	Late Minoan IB	Late Helladic II
	1100		Late Minoan II A1	Late Helladic III A1
	1050		Late Minoan II A2	Late Helladic III A2
			Late Minoan II B	Late Helladic III B
			Late Minoan II C	Late Helladic III C

# Erken Minos II, III

46. Fragment of a conoid seal with two recumbent lions (with impression). Minoan, Early Minoan III, ca. 2200–2000 B.C. Ivory, diam. 1 in. (2.5 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.38)



Before literacy became widespread, carved seals served as a form of identification or to mark ownership. Earlier seals made of perishable organic materials may have existed, but the first known Minoan seals are from the Early Minoan II period and were carved from easily worked materials such as ivory, bone, shell, and soft stones like serpentine and steatite (see figs. 46, 47).<sup>39</sup> Along with a handful of artifacts found on Crete that had been imported from Egypt and the Near East, the exotic imagery (lions and apes not native to Crete, for instance) on these early seals is evidence of the Minoans' overseas contacts during the Prepalatial period. A large steatite stamp

47. Triangular prism seal with a water fowl, a dog, and a bull's head (three sides, with impression of each). Minoan, Early Minoan III–Middle Minoan II, ca. 2200–1700 B.C. Steatite, w. of each side  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. (1 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.101)

# E.M.III (A. J. Evans)

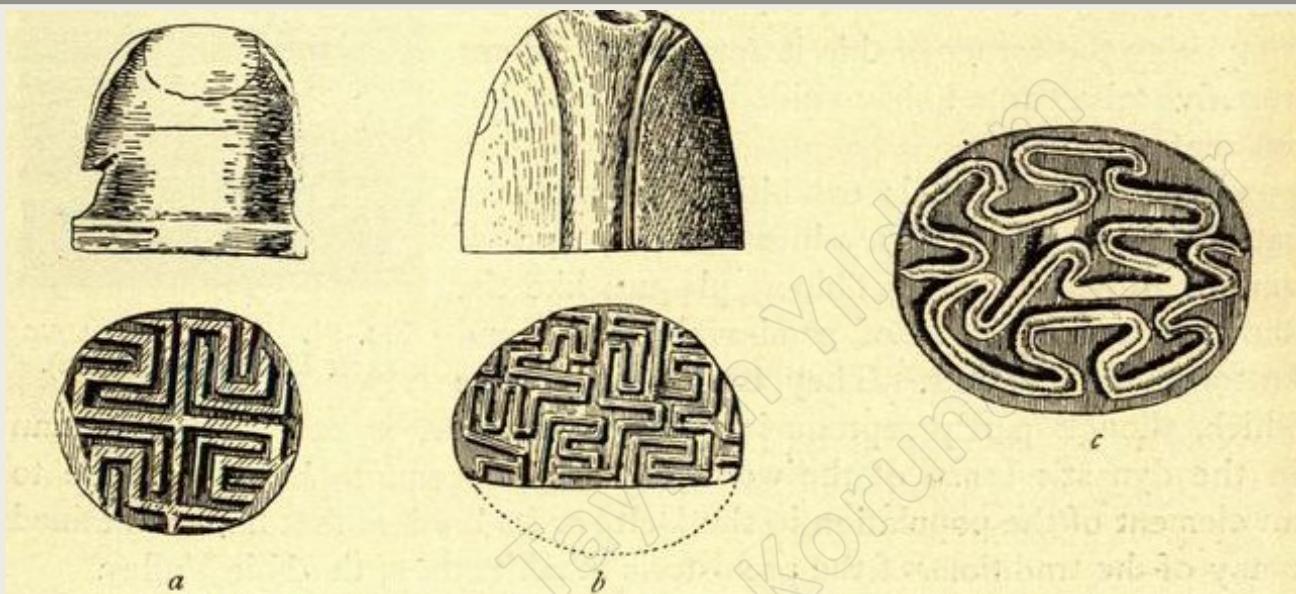


FIG. 90. IVORY SEALS SHOWING MEANDER, FROM OSSUARY THOLOS OF HAGIA TRIADA (HALBHERR). ( $\frac{3}{2}$  c.)

## EARLY MINOAN III

125

square divisions leads us to a remarkable series of comparisons. It is in fact a Minoan draught-board and in the triangular object beneath the hand of the seated personage we must recognize a conical draughtsman.<sup>1</sup> Draught-player.



FIG. 93 b. THREE-SIDED STEATITE BEAD-SEALS FROM CENTRAL CRETE: *a*, SPECIMEN SHOWING END; *b*, *c*, *d* ANOTHER EXAMPLE (*b* ILLUSTRATES THE 'DOUBLE SICKLE') ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ).



48. Seal with four S-spirals and a bridge handle (front and side views). Minoan, Early Minoan II–III, ca. 2700–2000 B.C. Steatite, w. 1½ in. (2.9 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.39)



55. Triangular prism seal with Cretan hieroglyphs on all three sides. Minoan, Middle Minoan II–III, ca. 1800–1600 B.C. Agate, l. 1½ in. (1.4 cm), w. of each side ¾ in. (1 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.150)

# Erken ve Orta Minos Mühürleri



57. Amygdaloid seal with a palm tree with suckers (front and top views), Minoan, Middle Minoan III–Late Minoan I, ca. 1700–1450 B.C. Carnelian, ¾ x ¾ in. (1.95 x 1.5 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.211)



58. Cushion-shaped seal with four fish (seal and impression). Minoan, Middle Minoan III–Late Minoan IA, ca. 1700–1525 B.C. Agate, ¾ x ½ in. (1.67 x 1.33 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.261)

# Orta Minos



Fig. 1. Modern impression of a Parading Lions seal. Crete, Platanos, Tholos A. Middle Minoan I period. Heraklion Archaeological Museum

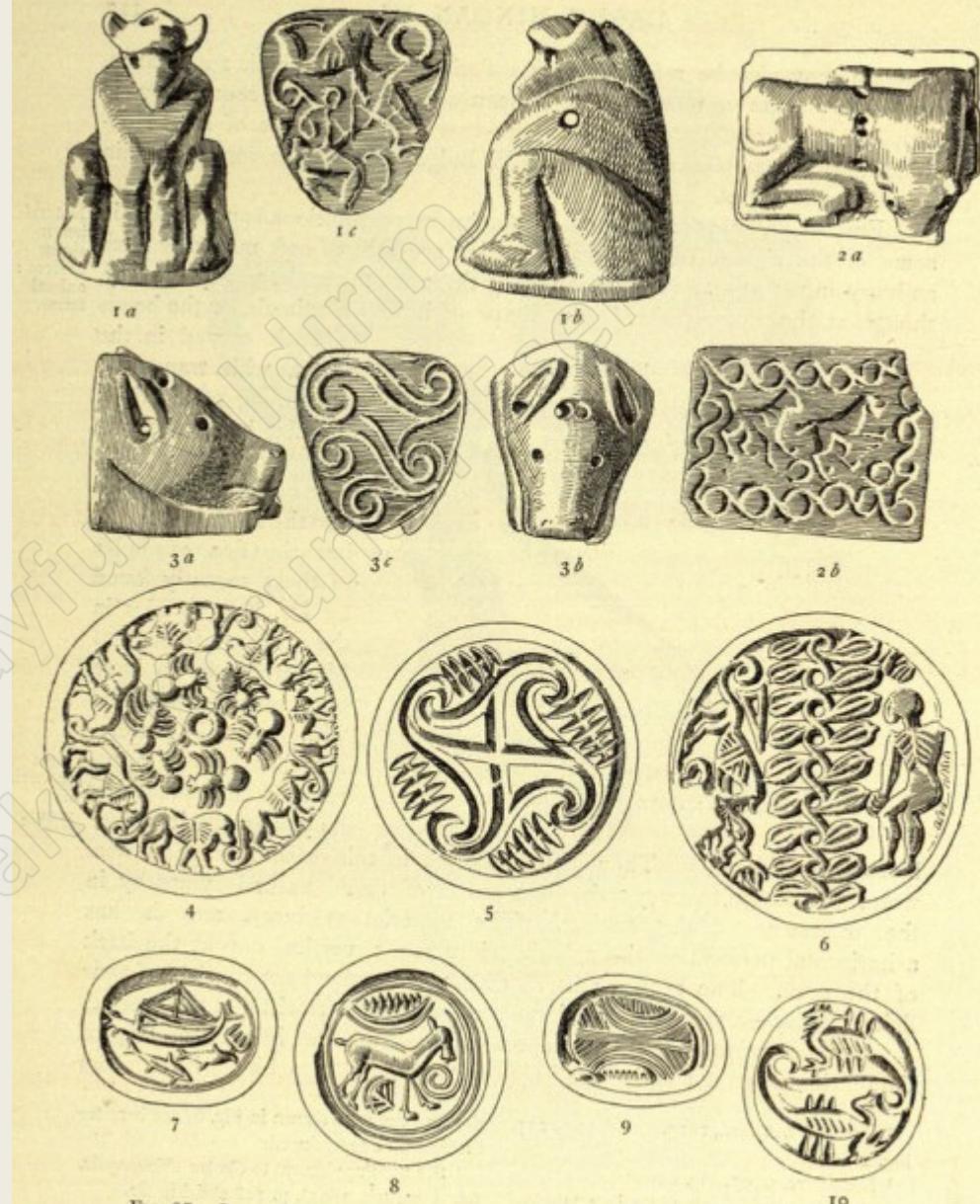


FIG. 87. IVORY SEALS FROM LARGER THOLOS OSSUARY, PLATANOS, MESSARA. (4)

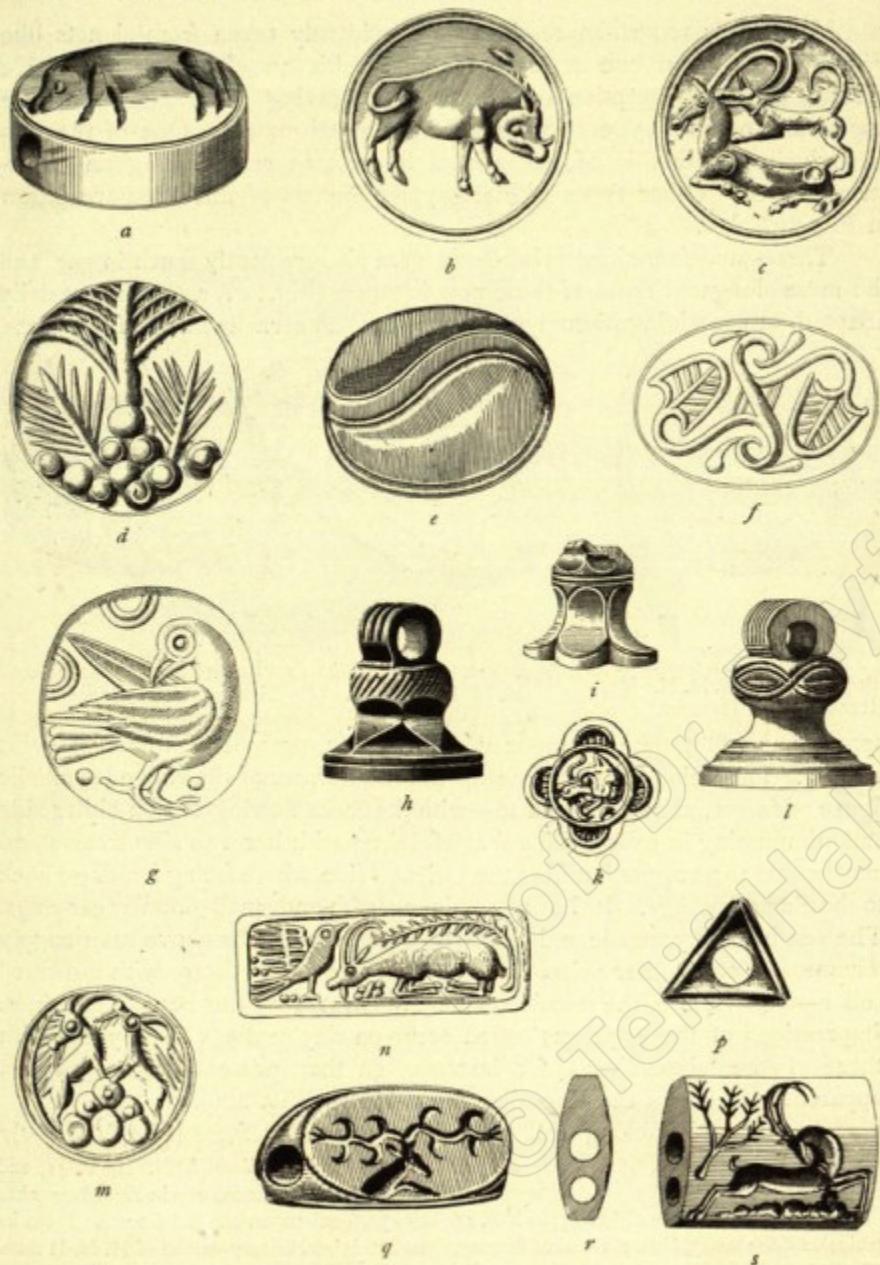


FIG. 204. TYPES OF M. M. II SEALINGS AND GEMS (2); *a, b, c*, ROCK CRYSTAL; *d, e, f, l*, WHITE CORNELIAN; *g, h, n*, GREEN JASPER; *i, q*, RED CORNELIAN; *s*, BANDED AGATE.

# Orta Minos

more fully treated under M. M. III, also now appears, which may be described as a 'flattened cylinder'.

The shape of the clay sealings found in the Hieroglyphic Deposit, on which many impressions of seals of the above classes are seen, is more or less three-sided. The sealings have one larger and two smaller faces, and show



FIG. 207. *a*, ROYAL BEAD-SEAL, CORNELIAN (2); *b*, CHALCEDONY SIGNET, MOCHLOS (2); *c*, CORNELIAN, CENTRAL CRETE (2); *d, f*, CORNELIAN (2); *e, g, k*, GREEN JASPER; *l*, CANDIA DISTRICT; *m*, SITEIA.

# Erken ve Orta Minos Mühürleri

OLGA KRZYSZKOWSKA 3



a

b

c



Plate 1. Seals made of spondylus shell, EB I/II-MM II: (a) CMS IS no. 67, Poliochni; (b) PTSK06.66, Petras House Tomb 3; (c) CMS II.1 no. 478, Mochlos Tomb II; (d) HM 2232, Mochlos surface find; (e) PTSK12.602 Petras House Tomb 10. Not to scale. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.



Plate 2. Seals made of banded "jasper", MM II/III: (a) PTSK05.291a-d, Petras House Tomb 2, Room 3 b) CMS IV no. 132a-c, "Elounda"; (c) PTSK11.38, Petras cemetery; (d) CMS VII no. 221, Palaiakastro, "larnax burial"; (e) CMS IX no. 33, unknown provenance; (f) CMS II.2 no. 75, Episkopi Pedlados, LM III chamber tomb; (g) CMS II.3 no. 340, unknown provenance. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

# Orta Minos II



Plate 6. Seals made of fine-grained limestone, MM II: (a) PTSK10.877a-c, Petras House Tomb 10, Room 1; (b) PTSK13.1485a-c and impression of face a, Petras House Tomb 10, Room 1; (c) HM 2379a-c and impression of face a, Mallia Palace (Pelon 1968). Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

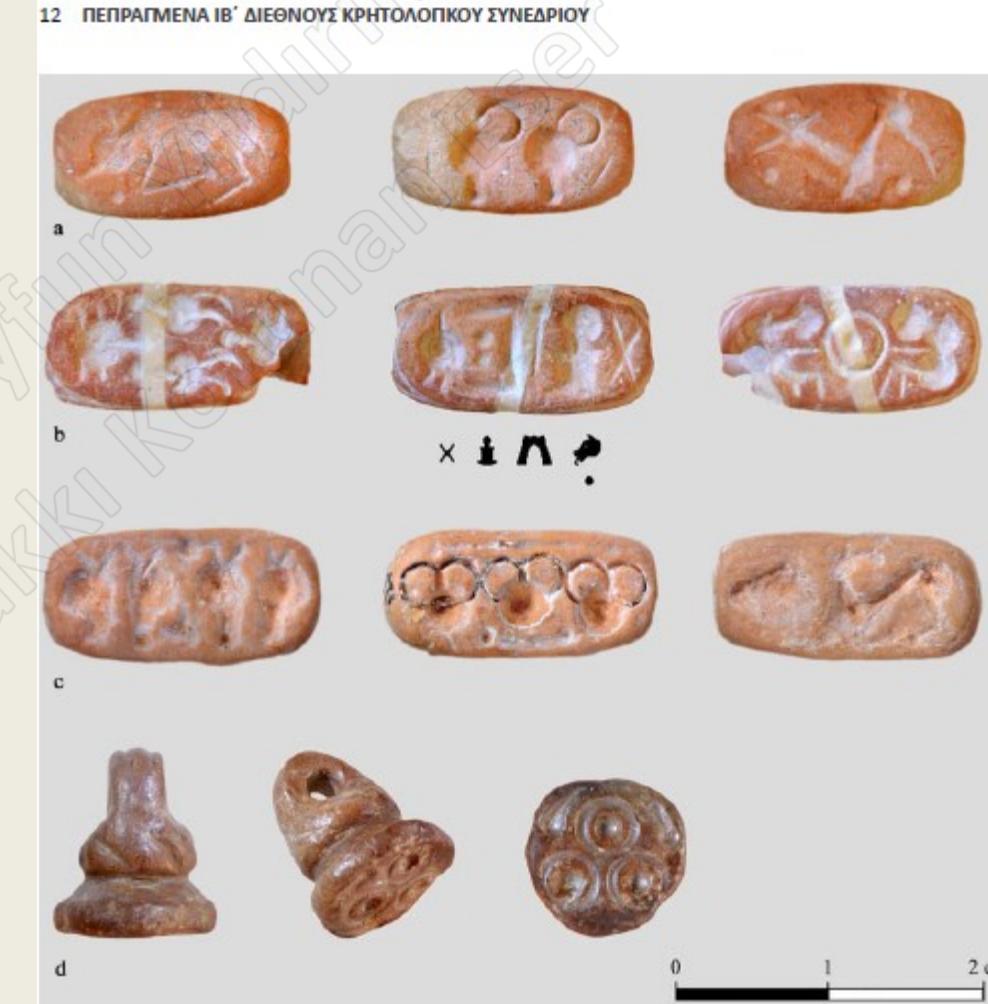


Plate 7. Seals made of fine-grained limestone, MM II: (a) PTSK14.2603a-c, Petras cemetery; (b) PTSK14.2604a-c, Petras cemetery; (c) CMS II.2 no. II.2 no. 79, Mallia, street north of House Δα; (d) Ti-07 L52/63 Tiryns. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

# Orta ve Geç Minos Mühürleri

OLGA KRZYSZKOWSKA 7



Plate 3. Giali obsidian: (a) unworked specimen (modern). Seals, MM II-LM I/II: (b) CMS II.2 no. 129, Mallia Atelier des sceaux; (c) CMS II.2 no. 130, Mallia Atelier des sceaux; (d) HM 2237, Mochlos surface find; (e) CMS IV no. 157, "Mesara"; (f) CMS IV no. 195, "Lastros"; (g) CMS I no. 228, Vapheio tholos tomb, main chamber; (h) Knossos Stratigraphical Museum SMS 3141, Unexplored Mansion, North Corridor, LM IA/II on floor slabs. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

10 ΠΕΠΡΑΓΜΕΝΑ ΙΒ' ΔΙΕΘΝΟΥΣ ΚΡΗΤΟΛΟΓΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟΥ



Plate 5. Seals made of red serpentine, MM III/LM I-LM III: (a) CMS III no. 280, "Mallia"; (b) CMS IV no. 173, "Knossos"; (c) CMS IX no. 58, unknown provenance; (d) CMS II.4 no. 183, "Knossos"; (e) CMS IX no. 61, unknown provenance; (f) CMS III no. 505a, "Mallia"; (g) HM 2076, Knossos stray find; (h) CMS VS3 no. 224, Midea, Acropolis West Gate area. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

least one, and possibly three seals from Midea are Cretan in origin (CMS VS3 nos. 222-223 and a haematite lentoid from the West Gate area: Krzyszkowska 2016, 121, pl. XLVh, with references).

# Orta ve Geç Minos Mühürleri

OLGA KRZYSKOWSKA 13



Plate 8. Seals made of fine-grained limestone, MM III/LM I-LM IIIA1: (a) CMS II.3 no. 259, Mochlos; (b) CMS VS3 no. 354, Palaikastro; (c) CMS IX no. 101, unknown provenance; (d) HM 2236, Mochlos surface find; (e) CMS I no. 256, Vapheio tholos tomb, floor cist; (f) CMS III no. 422, unknown provenance; (g) CMS II.3 no. 331, unknown provenance. Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

OLGA KRZYSKOWSKA 15



Plate 10. Calcite (a) specimen (modern) from near the Armenoi cemetery. Seals, LM I-III: (b) HM 2505, Knossos Unexplored Mansion, Room M; (c) CMS VS3 no. 322, Armenoi Tomb 223; (d) CMS V no. 277, Armenoi Tomb 59; (e) CMS VI no. 497, Dictaeon Cave; (f) CMS VI no. 496, unknown provenance (ex-Evans). Photographs © O. Krzyszkowska.

# Geç Minos Mühürleri



82. Lentoid seal with an altar.  
Minoan, Late Minoan III B, 13th century B.C. Steatite, diam.  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (2 cm).  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art,  
Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926  
(26.31.339)



74. Lentoid seal with a griffin (seal and impression). Minoan, Late Minoan II, ca. 1450–1400 B.C. Agate, diam.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. (2.7 cm), depth  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (1.2 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, by exchange, 1914 (14.104.1)



75. Cushion-shaped seal with bulls or cows (seal and impression). Minoan, Late Minoan III A, ca. 1400–1300 B.C. Banded agate,  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{2}$  in. (1.73 x 1.23 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, by exchange, 1911 (11.195.1)



76. Lentoid seal with the Bull-man. Minoan, Late Minoan III A, ca. 1400–1375 B.C. Spartan basalt, diam.  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. (1.6 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.243)

# Geç Minos Mühürleri



56. Three-sided sealing (views of two sides with a drawing of one side). Minoan, Late Minoan I, ca. 1600–1450 B.C. Clay, h. 1½ in. (3.4 cm), w. of each side ¾ in. (1.9 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.409)



<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaeten/philosophie/zaw/cms/seals/hardstone.html>



59. Lentoid seal with a wounded lion (seal and impression). Minoan, Late Minoan III, ca. 1600–1400 B.C. Carnelian, diam. ¾ in. (1.63 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Richard B. Seager, 1926 (26.31.278)



60. Lentoid seal with a bull (seal and impression). Minoan, Late Minoan IB, ca. 1500–1450 B.C. Banded agate, 1 x 1½ in. (2.5 x 2.7 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, by exchange, 1911 (11.196.2)

# Orta ve Geç Minos/Hellas Mühürleri



*Blue chalcedony petschaft seal from Mochlos, Crete, showing S spirals and hieroglyphic script signs, c1900 BCE, with impression and drawing of the impression (CMS II.2 249).*



*Red jasper lentoid seal with gold finials from Vaphio, Greece, showing two hunters tying up their lion catch, c1450 BCE, with impression and drawing of the impression (CMS I 224).*



*Gold signet ring from Vaphio, Greece, showing a woman gesturing and a man pulling the tree beside a shield panoply and with hovering symbols above, c1525 BCE, with impression and drawing of the impression (CMS I 219).*

# Geç Minos / Hellas (A. J. Evans)

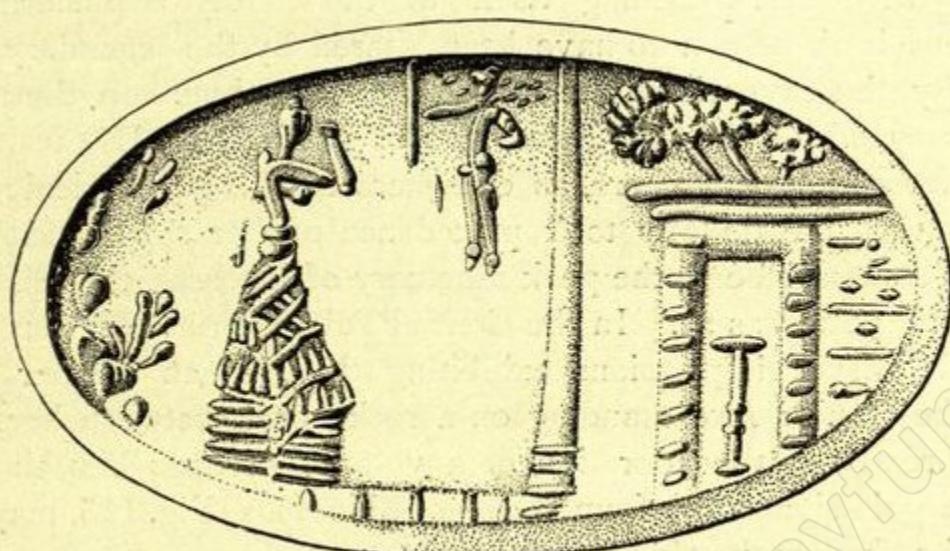


FIG. 115. GOLD SIGNET RING FROM KNOSSOS, SHOWING SCENE OF BAETYLLIC WORSHIP (LATE MINOAN). (4)

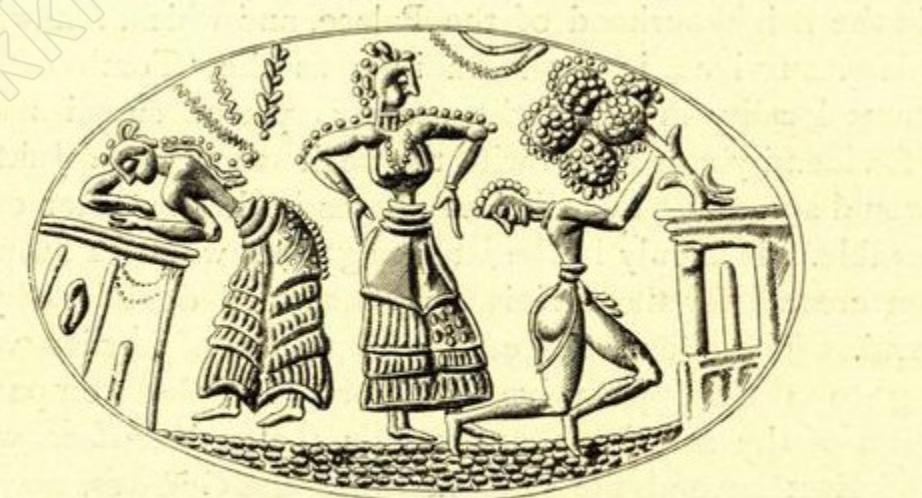
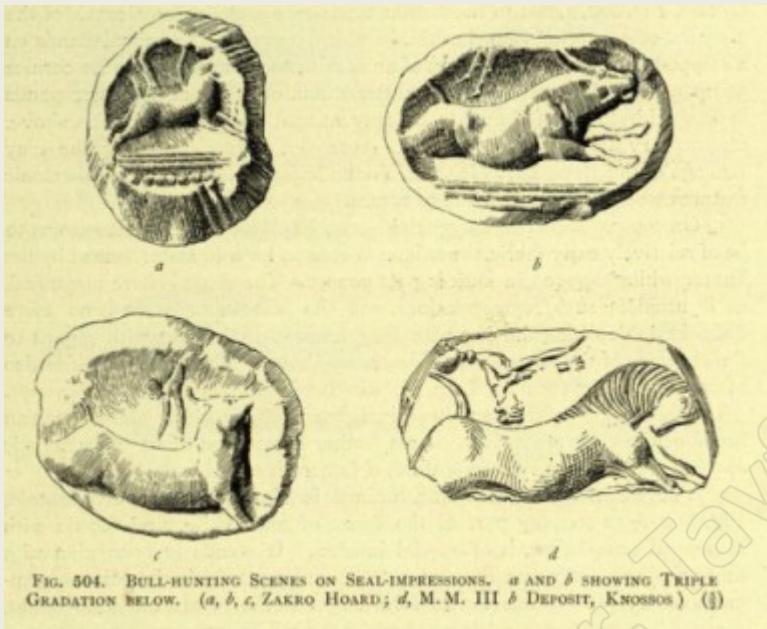


FIG. 116. MOURNING SCENE FOR DIVINE YOUTHFUL HERO ON GOLD SIGNET RING (LATE MINOAN, MYCENAE) (3).

# Orta Minos / Geç Hellas



<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaeten/philosophie/zaw/cms/seals/sealsAbout.html>

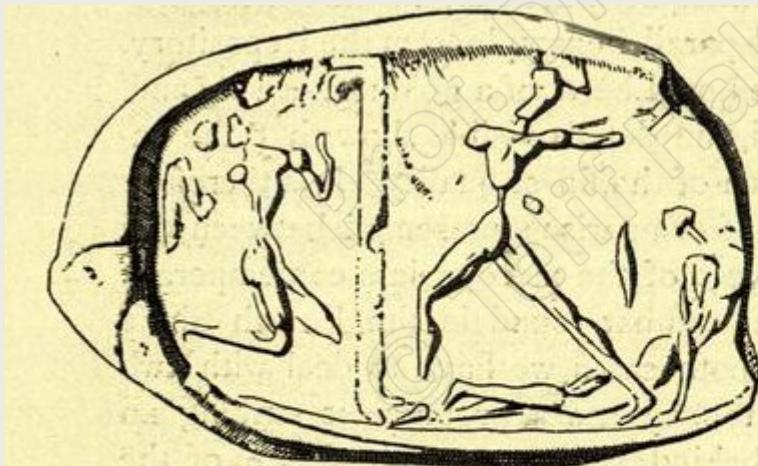


FIG. 512. SCENE OF ARMED COMBAT IN ARENA, ON SEAL-IMPRESSION FROM HAGIA TRIADA (§).



FIG. 513. SCENE OF COMBAT IN MOUNTAIN GLEN, ON GOLD SIGNET-RING FROM IVTH SHAFT GRAVE, MYCENAE (§).



Goldene Siegelringe (1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 18, 23, 25, 27, 28), Steinsiegel (20, 21, 29-32), Glasrelief (34) und Siegelabdrücke von Mykenai (1-3, 7, 9, 11, 17, 22, 25, 27, 28), Vaphio (15), Pylos (19), Dendra (34), Hagia Triada (4, 8, 12, 26), Knossos (5, 10, 18, 20, 24, 31, 33), Archanes (6), Zakros (13, 21), Kalyvia (23), Idiäische Höhle (30).



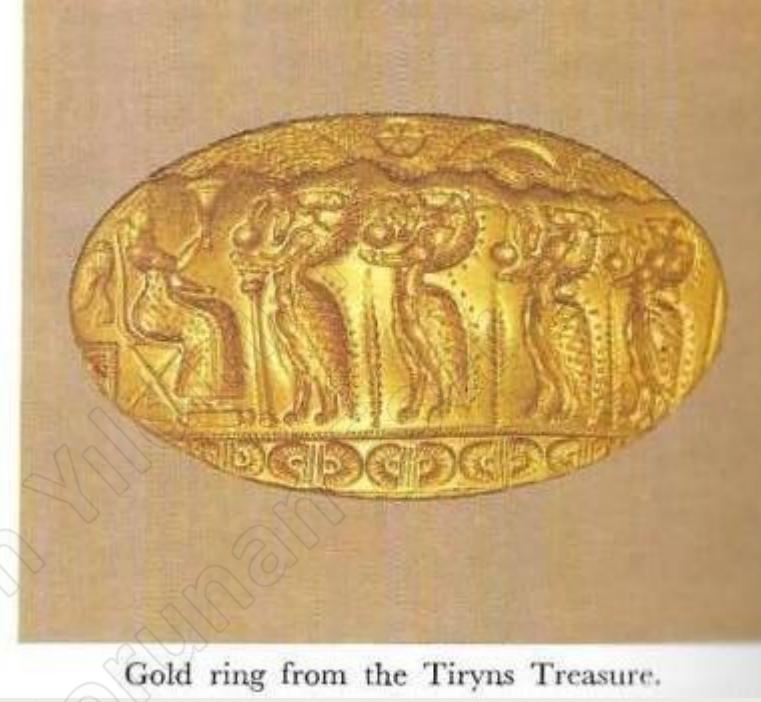
Goldene Siegelringe (17, 18, 25), Steinsiegel (2-4, 6-9, 11-16, 19-24, 29, 30, 33, 39-41) und Siegelabdrücke von Mykenai (1-11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 25, 31, 39), Pylos (1), Vaphio (14, 15), Kydonia (4), Knossos (21, 26, 28, 32, 33, 40, 41), Hagia Triada (27), Zakros (16), Mallia (37), Diktäische Höhle (2), Pyrgos (7), Kalyvia (19).

Müller-Karpe'den.

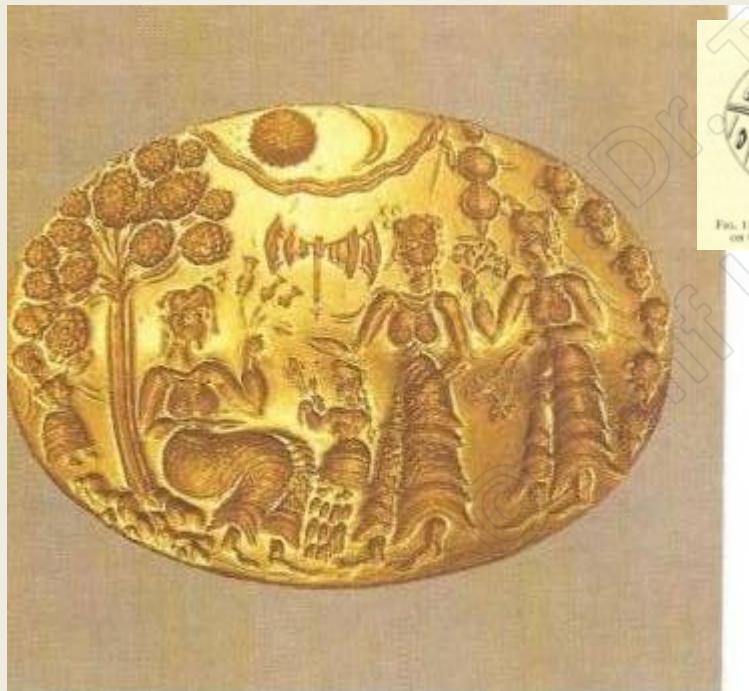
# MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION

MYCENAE • TIRYNS • ASINE • MIDEA • PYLOS

K. P. Kontorlis



Gold ring from the Tiryns Treasure.



Gold ring from the Mycenae Treasure.



FIG. 118. MYCENEAN SEALS FOR DIVINE YOUTHFUL HERO ON GOLD STEM RING (LATE MINOAN, MYCENAE) (J).



Gold ring from a chamber tomb at Mycenae.



<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaeten/philosophie/zaw/cms/seals/hardstone.html>





# Geç Hellas



RING WITH GRIFFINS

Gold, silver

Height 1.7 cm ( $\frac{5}{8}$  in.); width 3 cm ( $1\frac{1}{8}$  in.)

Mycenae, Chamber Tomb 68

Late Helladic II, 15th century B.C.

National Archaeological Museum, Athens,

Greece 2970

# Geç Hellas

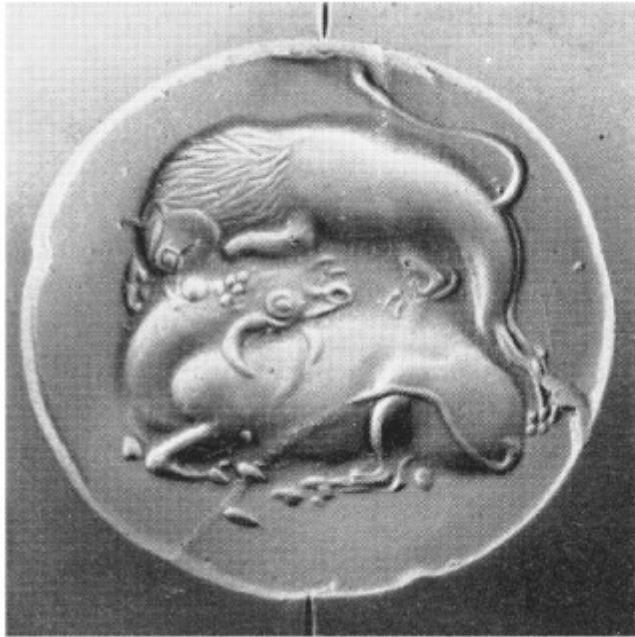


Figure 25.1. Modern impression of a lentoid (CMS V 435) in the Mycenae-Vapheio Lion group, from the Nichoritholos (photo courtesy CMS).



## RING WITH MASTER OF ANIMALS

Red jasper  
Max. diameter 2.8 cm (1½ in.)  
Mycenae, Chamber Tomb 58  
Late Helladic II, 15th century B.C.  
National Archaeological Museum, Athens,  
Greece 2852

# Geç Hellas



STAMP SEAL WITH MAN AND  
GRIFFIN

Red jasper

Diameter 2.2 cm (7/8 in.)

Vapheio, Tholos Tomb, Late Helladic IIA,  
15th century B.C.

National Archaeological Museum, Athens,  
Greece 1761

Greek mainland	Crete/Cyclades
MIDDLE HELLADIC, 2090–1625	MIDDLE MINOAN (MM) IB–IIA–B/ PROTOPALATIAL PERIOD, 1950–1750
	MM IIIA–B/NEOPALATIAL PERIOD, 1750–1625
LATE HELLADIC (LH) I/EARLY MYCENAEAN PERIOD, 1625–1525	MMIIB–LATE MINOAN (LM) IA/ LATE CYCLADIC (LC) I, 1625–1525
Shaft Graves at Mycenae	
LH II A, 1525–1450	Thera eruption, ca. 1525? LM IB, 1525–1450/LC II, 1525–1425
LH II B, 1450–1425	LM II/FINAL PALATIAL PERIOD, 1450–1425
LH IIIA:1, 1425–1375	LM IIIA:1/LC III (EARLY), 1425–1375
LH IIIA:2 (EARLY), 1375–1325	LM IIIA:2 (EARLY), 1375–1325/ LC III (MIDDLE), 1375–1200
LH IIIA:2 (LATE)–IIIB/LATE MYCENAEAN PERIOD, 1325–1200	LM IIIA:2 (LATE)–LM IIIB/ POSTPALATIAL PERIOD, 1325–1200 Destruction of palace at Knossos
Theban Hoard	LM IIIC/LC III (LATE), 1200–1125

# EGE ve AKDENİZ



THE AEGEAN AND WESTERN ANATOLIA

# BEYOND BABYLON

*Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.*

Edited by Joan Aruz, Kim Benzel, and Jean M. Evans



Carnelian, amethyst, glass, and gold  
Max. length 2.9 cm (1½ in.); max. diameter  
2 cm (¾ in.)  
Kazarma, Tholos Tomb  
Late Helladic II A, ca. 1525–1450 B.C.  
Nafplion Archaeological Museum, Greece  
15024–15058, 15120

LATE HELLADIC (LH) I/EARLY  
MYCENAEAN PERIOD, 1625–1525

Shaft Graves at Mycenae

LH II A, 1525–1450

LH II B, 1450–1425

LH III A:1, 1425–1375

LH III A:2 (EARLY), 1375–1325

LH III A:2 (LATE)–II B/LATE  
MYCENAEAN PERIOD, 1325–1200

Theban Hoard

# BEYOND BABYLON

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## CYPRO-AEGEAN CYLINDER SEAL AND MODERN IMPRESSION

Lapis lazuli

Height 2.7 cm (1½ in.); diameter 1 cm (⅓ in.)

Thebes, Palace Workshop

Late Helladic IIIB context, 13th century B.C.

Cypro-Aegean manufacture, 14th century B.C.

Archaeological Museum, Thebes, Greece 203

# BEYOND BABYLON

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## AEGEAN CYLINDER SEAL AND MODERN IMPRESSION

Agate

Height 1.8 cm (3/4 in.); diameter 1 cm (5/8 in.)

Thebes, Palace Workshop

Late Helladic IIIB context, 13th century B.C.

Late Helladic II–III A manufacture,

15th–14th century B.C.

Archaeological Museum, Thebes, Greece 175