

Only three Egyptian statuettes are known from Bronze Age Crete, two of stone and one in bronze. The bronze Amun {504} almost certainly must have been an LM III deposition. The statuette of Weser {158} was deposited sometime during the Proto- to Final Palatial period. Evans's published context of MM III is not upheld by the original evidence and the present author leaves its deposition date open; nonetheless, it is of Bronze Age deposition. However, Evans's correlation of his context date and the usual Middle Kingdom date given the object was close; the Middle Kingdom ended about the beginning of MM IIIA.⁷⁴² The badly preserved crown {526} is not certainly of Bronze Age deposition, although it might have been. There is no evidence of any iconographical, technological or stylistic adaptation of Egyptian statuary by the Minoans and all three objects clearly are imported.

Three other figurines formerly had been identified as Egyptian imports. Minoan scholars now generally accept the Minoan manufacture of two figurines from Palaikastro,⁷⁴³ and there is no reason to believe otherwise. The third figurine, an ivory head also from Palaikastro identified as Egyptian by Pendlebury, probably also is a Minoan product.⁷⁴⁴

The Minoans never seem to have considered metal figurines (of whatever form) as a type distinct from the clay forms. The solid figurines were made using the *ciré perdue* or 'lost wax' process, but their essen-

tially unfinished surface treatment is no different from that of clay figurines. They must have been considered only as more expensive versions of the clay forms, unlike the Egyptians who clearly realised the distinct possibilities inherent in each medium. The Minoans rarely employed stone for representative illustration, except as relief decoration on objects such as stone vessels and the very few roughly finished large-scale stone pieces that do exist. The only medium to survive in which the Minoan artisan took an interest in figurative surface treatment and detail was ivory; at this they excelled, and the two Palaikastro 'boys' clearly fit within this tradition.

Two objects have been identified as representing the Egyptian deity Bes. One, a faience figurine apparently from Trapeza {508}, cannot now be located and was never illustrated. Its origin and even identification may not have been correct, and in any case is far more likely to be of Iron Age date. The other, a silver pendant from Knossos {271}, clearly is not a representation of Bes, as its iconography is incompatible with contemporary Egyptian representations of the god.⁷⁴⁵ Rather it probably represents a dancing boy, pygmy or possibly even a child, although it just might represent the Egyptian deity Ptah-Sokar or possibly the 'squatting pregnant woman' type.⁷⁴⁶ The only Bronze Age images of the god Bes in the Aegean seem to be the imported amulets found in Tomb 30 at Perati, dated to LH IIIC.⁷⁴⁷

⁷⁴¹ See Distribution Map 39 for material discussed in this chapter. See Chapter 17 for anthropomorphic vessels; Chapters 12–16 for zoomorphic images and objects.

⁷⁴² This is confirmed by the parallel correlation of imported material in both Egypt and Crete. On Crete, a late Dynasty XII–XIII scarab {197} was recovered at Knossos, at the top of the MM IIA level of Hood's Royal Road excavations. The MM IIA–IIIA Classical Kamares sherds recovered in early/mid-Dynasty XIII palace early stratum d/1 at Tell el-Dab'a (WALBERG 1991; 1992; 1998; MACGILLIVRAY 1995), are a much more stratigraphically sound correlation that nonetheless echoes the Early and Classical Kamares pottery recovered by Petrie in the late Dynasty XII–XIII dump at Kahun, that was the foundation of Aegean relative chronology a century ago (see PHILLIPS 1997). Both Egyptian sites provide a contextual cross-check for this correlation: MM IIA overlaps to some degree the near-end of Dynasty XII, MM IIB overlaps with early/mid-Dynasty

XIII, and MM IIIA would follow shortly thereafter, probably best equated with later Dynasty XIII and perhaps the earlier part of the Hyksos period.

⁷⁴³ See PENDLEBURY 1930b:32–33 #52–53, pl. III:52–53 (HM 142, 143). Note that they are not a pair, and are quite different in style and technique. The shape of the heads and the carved details are not at all similar.

⁷⁴⁴ PENDLEBURY 1930b:33 #53a (HM 109), added in his own hand to his personal copy, now in the Villa Ariadne library at Knossos. He noted it ended in a wedge to fit into a body, and suggested a Dynasty XII date. It was not located during my enquiries at the HM, and is not included in the present catalogue, but is considered by the present author most likely to be a Minoan product like the more complete Palaikastro 'boys.'

⁷⁴⁵ See ROMANO 1980 for early Bes images.

⁷⁴⁶ See Chapter 17.

⁷⁴⁷ See BROWN 1975:62–63 #14, 19–20.

