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Professor Georg Steindorff,

University of Leipzig,

Dear Professor Steindorff,

I fear that I am late in replying to your letter of inquiry about our Aniba vase. I have been away from the Museum a good deal of late, and only this week have been able to take up the matter.

Under separate cover I am sending you four new photographs of the vase. I wish the photographer had taken the "front view" <sup>straight</sup> on instead of pointing his camera downward on the vase. If there is time I know he would be glad to try again.

The vase measures 0.084 m. in height; the largest diameter is 0.214m.; that of the rim is 0.109 m..

First as to technique: Dr. Zahn is quite right in his observations as to the dead lifeless <sup>chocolate</sup> color of the dark paint. It is, I believe, the sickly hue of this paint that gives to the clay a slightly greenish tinge. If the dark color is covered with a piece of paper, the clay appears an ordinary buff but cold and pale. One point Dr. Zahn did not mention: the clay has a slip. Would not this fact rule out a theory that it was related to the Aigina Fabrik? You doubtless know Sir Arthur Evans' discussion of our vase in his Palace of Minos Vol. IV, Pt. 1, p. 267 ff. He points out here that the spirals and rosettes are reserved, correcting the earlier erroneous statements on this point.

As to shape: The broad low type of 'alabastron' is similar to that pictured by Evans, op. cit., IV, Pt. 2, frontispiece, and p. 939, Fig. 910, vases which must have been made ~~in~~ just before the ~~place~~ <sup>place</sup> was destroyed. A clay alabastron of similar shape and even later date is



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published in op. cit. IV, 1, p. 357, cf. Archaeologia LXV, p. 16, Fig. 23 a. This vase comes from the "Mace-Bearer's" Tomb and might date from as late as 1350-1300 B.C. Cf. also the imported vases of this shape which of course you know, which were imported into Egypt, that from Gurob, op. cit. IV 1 p. 267 and another in the Cairo Museum, ibid. p. 272. The peculiar character of this shape and the fact that Cretan vases of this shape were imported into Egypt seem to me to point to Crete as to the place of origin of the prototype of our vase.

As to the designs: Sir Arthur would derive them from an M.M. II. prototype, but it may be noted that the rosette occurs in the Late Minoan II and III periods. See op. cit. IV 1, p. 354, Fig. 297, a2 and c; p. 296, Fig. 231, a and b; p. 340, Fig. 282; and p. 343, Fig. 285. For the pattern in the center of the rosette, cf. op. cit. IV, 2, p. 941, Fig. 912. For the crescents see op. cit. IV, 2, Pl. XXXI (following p. 384).

The labored and tentative character of the drawing shows unmistakably the hand of an imitator. Whether the reserved <sup>technique</sup> was his own method or was copied from a Minoan example of reserved technique such as seems to have been practiced in the case of the amphora op. cit. IV 1, p. 348 Fig. 291, is difficult to say. Personally I should prefer to suppose that a later artist, confronted <sup>d</sup> with the task of copying an L.M. III. vase resorted <sup>to</sup> ~~used~~ (for part of the vase only) ~~since he did~~ the reserved technique, on his own ~~initiative~~ initiative.

My own conclusion would be therefore that the prototype of this vase was a Cretan L.M. III. vase like that from the "Mace-Bearer's" Tomb. Cretan dates are not very certain and it seems to me not impossible that the copy should have been made considerably after the date of the prototype.



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In speaking of Cypriote orientalizing vases, I suppose Dr. Zahn had in mind such vases as those published in Corpus Vasorum, Brit. Mus. II, IICc Pls. 7 and 8 where rosettes occur which seem to be reserved. In shape and general style, however, these vases seem to belong to quite a different world. But in closing I must confess that I am now hopelessly out of date in matters Minoan, and my opinion is not worth quoting. The vase remains still a puzzle but the least objectional solution seems that which I have suggested. Please be sure to let me know if there ~~if there~~ is any other information which you desire and which you think I could supply.

Very sincerely yours,

*Elin Hall Doherty,*  
(Mrs. J. M.)

Feb. 26, 1936