

MITTEILUNGEN

EIN HIEROGLYPHISCHES SIEGEL

Das nachstehend behandelte Siegel befindet sich im Besitz von Herrn Dr. jur. Aristides Dimopoulos, Rechtsanwalt in Athen, dem ich für die freundliche Genehmigung zur Veröffentlichung danke, und wurde, nach allem was ich erfahren konnte, in der Nähe von Knossos gefunden. Es handelt sich um einen Zylinder¹ aus Alabaster (Höhe 1,6 cm, Durchmesser der Grundflächen 2,6 und 2,1 cm), dessen Grundflächen Hieroglyphen tragen, der aber nicht, wie gewöhnlich, durchbohrt ist.

Da die genauen Fundumstände unbekannt sind, kann man sich über seine Echtheit und Datierung nur mit äußerster Zurückhaltung äußern. Man darf sagen, daß die charakteristische Beschädigung des Steins und die Erosion der undurchsichtig weißen Adern für die Echtheit des Fundes sprechen und daß die Hieroglyphen, wegen ihrer unsorgfältigen Form, zu einer frühen Entwicklungsstufe der hieroglyphischen Schrift gehören².

Die breitere Grundfläche trägt zwei Hieroglyphen. Die eine ist das bekannte Baumzeichen (Evans Nr. 97) in einer neuen Variante. Der Baum hat 9 Zweige auf der einen Seite und 7 auf der anderen. Darstellungen von Bäumen mit asymmetrischen Zweigen sind der hieroglyphischen Schrift³ wie der minoischen Kunst⁴ nicht unbekannt. Eigenartig ist aber, daß der Baum keine Spitze hat. Daneben steht ein Vogel, der keine Parallele unter den bekannten Vogelhieroglyphen hat. Auch die Art des Vogels ist schwer zu bestimmen. An einen Hahn oder gar an einen Pfau kann man aus chronologischen Gründen kaum denken⁵. Die Linien zwischen Vogel und Baum und am Ende des Schwanzes, die zum Teil verdoppelt sind, sind wohl als Kratzer anzusehen. Auf dem Abguß steht der Vogel links und sieht rechts nach dem Baum. So läßt sich die Schrift als rechtsläufig erkennen. Die Gruppe Vogel-Baum kommt hier zum ersten Male vor; Vogel und Baum finden sich auch auf dem Siegel SM I P. 12, sind dort aber durch andere Zeichen getrennt.

¹ Typus B nach Matz, *Die frühkretischen Siegel* 1928

² Auch die Weichheit des Steins spricht für eine frühe Datierung.

³ SM I 217 Zeichen Nr. 97b (= P. 12; es ist fraglich, ob der Baum eine Spitze hat), d (= P. 122b), ferner P. 26b, c; vgl. F. Chapouthier, *BCH* 62, 1938, 105 Abb. 2 Zeichen Nr. 5

⁴ PM I 222 Fig. 167 (Bäume ohne Spitze), 674 Fig. 493b (= Kenna CS 255), IV 447 Fig. 370a (= CS 176) u. a. m.

⁵ O. Keller, *Die antike Tierwelt* II (1913) 131ff. (Huhn), 148ff. (Pfau); vgl. auch RE s. v. Huhn (Orth) und Pfau (Steier). Nach Evans, *Cretan Pictographs* 73 (342) Fig. 65a (= SM I 133 Fig. 74) wäre ein Hahn auf einem minoischen Siegel dargestellt; Kenna, CS 8 sagt nur, daß es sich um einen Vogel handelt.

Die Rückseite trägt ein Zeichen, das aus einem Dreieck mit drei auseinanderlaufenden Strichen besteht und die Urform des Zeichens Evans Nr. 20 sein könnte⁶. Das Dreieck ist tief eingeschnitten und hat leicht gebogene Seiten. Die Ecken sind abgerundet und lassen die Arbeit des Bohrers erkennen. Wegen einer Beschädigung erreicht der mittlere Strich das Dreieck nicht. Da die Striche tiefer gehen als die Beschädigung, scheint diese geschehen zu sein, als der Künstler den Mittelstrich zog, der ihn daraufhin halbfertig ließ. Auch bei dem Dreieck gibt es einige Kratzer, die mit der Hieroglyphe nichts zu tun haben. Bemerkenswert ist, daß das Zeichen sich auf der Rückseite einer aus zwei Hieroglyphen bestehenden Inschrift befindet, wie es auch der Fall einer hieroglyphischen Inschrift aus Mallia ist⁷. Evans hält das Zeichen Nr. 20 für ein Senkblei⁸, eine Erklärung, die wenig befriedigt, weil sie mit der neuen Form dieser Hieroglyphe nicht übereinstimmt. Eine andere Möglichkeit wäre es, unser Zeichen mit einem häufig auf kretischen Siegeln vorkommenden Objekt zu verbinden, das Evans⁹ für eine runde Hütte hielt und das E. Grumach neuerdings als zylindrisches Gefäß gedeutet hat¹⁰. Unser Zeichen unterscheidet sich von beiden jedoch dadurch, daß die unteren Striche nicht parallel laufen und auch nicht auf einem Querbalken stehen. Es muß daher vorläufig unerklärt bleiben.

PH. P. KATZOUROS

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE SEALINGS IN THE SOUTH WEST BASEMENT OF THE PALACE AT KNOSSOS

When a group of sealings is found in a closed deposit, their chronology seems obvious, and the most immediate reaction is to date them all to the time when they were placed in that position. This, as a primary hypothesis is justifiable; which subsequent typological examination may modify.

The temptation to equate the chronology of sealings mixed with debris — particularly if the debris is the result of the destruction of the building which contained them — with others found in another part of the same building, although not so strong as in the case of sealings found in the closed deposit, is also natural, particularly if the seal types used look alike.

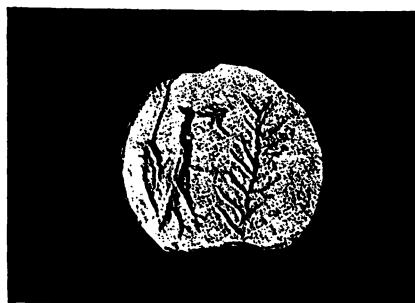
⁶ SM I 189 Zeichen Nr. 20 (= P. 92a)

⁷ Vgl. dazu F. Chapouthier, *Les écritures minoennes au palais de Mallia* H. 19 mit einem Einzelzeichen auf der Rückseite, (L 3, S. 56), das Chapouthier für ein Linearzeichen hält, doch könnte es sich auch um eine entwickeltere Form der Hieroglyphe Evans Nr. 20 handeln.

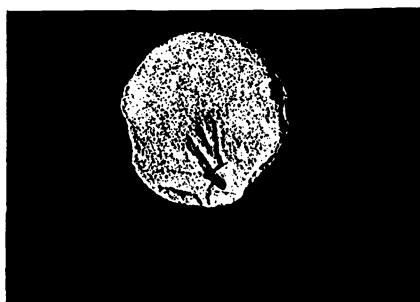
⁸ SM I 189 Nr. 20: "It seems to represent a mason's level."

⁹ PM I 674 Fig. 493 b (= CS 255) und c, 674 Fig. 494 (= CS 254) u. ö.

¹⁰ Zwei hieroglyphische Siegel, *Kadmos* 1, 1962 163 ff.



a



b

To Evans and Mackenzie, during the excavations at Knossos, the evidence of the destruction of the Palace at the end of LM. II appeared so great, and the types of sealings found in the destruction levels so similar, as to suggest that the sealings generally associated with five areas (PM IV 601), namely:

- A. South west Basement Deposit
- B. Central Shrine Deposit
- C. Archives Deposit
- D. East Hall Borders Deposit
- E. Little Palace Deposit

were generally of the same date. And although Evans (PM IV 601f.) realized that some of the sealings inclined towards an earlier date, their number in proportion with the overall total was so small that a chance survival of an older type was indicated, rather than the general chronology affected. A more recent examination of the sealings of the Archives and Little Palace Deposit showed sealings which, on the evidence of other seals and sealings from stratified deposits, suggest that both the Archives and the Little Palace Deposit, in varying proportion, contained sealings which had come from LM. I, LM. II, LM. IIIa and LH. III seals. The groups were not entirely homogeneous. This recognition of other types within these groups while not held out as a criticism of Evans' arrangement, does suggest that if by chance, in so complex an excavation, a mistaken attribution of a sealing had been made, the mistake would be more serious than if the contents of the groups had been homogeneous.

An unwillingness to use the sealings from the South West Basement as primary evidence for the dating of Linear Script B was due on my part to a feeling that more of the sealings in the South-West Basement deposit inclined to an earlier origin than Evans himself had realised, but in the face of his recognition of earlier types, and attribution of the group as a whole to LM. II (no doubt on stratigraphic grounds), I had then no alternative but to believe that having been found in an LM. II association, the earlier nodules were either kept for record from LM. I seals, or were from LM. I seals still in use just before the destruction of the Palace.

The nodules in question were (Evans, Summary Catalogue A, PM IV p. 601):

1. Clay matrix of signet ring (PM. IV, Figs. 498, 331, 591) which in style and material clearly belonged to an earlier use. A similar subject from Zakro (Z. 3, PM. II, Fig. 499) can well be compared with this.
2. The young Minotaur.
Two fragmentary sealings (PM. II, Fig. 491), but sufficient to show a lack of integration of forms within the motif and perhaps a certain Anatolian influence, both foreign to LM. II.

3. Minoan Genius holding ewer, spray behind.
The use of this subject inclines more to LM. Ib than to LM. II, see Cretan Seals 53. Even the fine Ashmolean examples (CS 306—307) must be dated more to the beginning of LM. II than to the end of the Palace period.
4. The lady and the swallows.
In this, despite the interest of the motif, the lack of proportion of the forms and their formal arrangement lacks the high degree of integration seen in LM. II types.
5. Youth holding two seated mastiffs. The use of animals in the attendant posture, while generally of later use, here appears to be in its earlier, more naturalistic form, both in style and choice of animal. From the engraving, especially the filling marks in the upper left border of the field, it would seem to derive from a gold signet with a ring handle, thus more germane to LM. Ib than to LM. II.
6. The collared bitch. Held rightly by Evans to be an earlier type, PM. II 764, and Fig. 493. The use of flattened cylinder is rare to LM. II.
7. Crouched Lion.
8. Horned sheep and stag, sacred shield and impaled triangle sign.
9. Long-horned sheep couchant.
From an elongated amygdaloid. This shape, which occurs in the Vapheio group (Cretan Seals, 53), was more frequently used in LM. Ib. See Kadmos III. p. 42.
10. Couchant oxen.
This theme was used more in LM. Ib than LM. II; e. g. Vapheio. 9 & 10. AM. 1938, 1029 (CS 311) is a slightly later version.
11. Man leaning on fence surveying bull. PM. IV, Fig. 532.
Pastoral character of subject, style and glandular shape. Suggests LM. Ib rather than LM. II.
12. Fugitive agrimi. The motif of the running agrimi tends to earlier seal motifs.
13. Water fowl and reeds. A comparison of PM. IV, Fig. 597 B. E. with Fig. 602 advertises the earlier character of No. 13.
14. Dolphins swimming with octopus. Marine motif. This too is earlier; cf. Vapheio No 2.

Of these sealings, while some incline to date towards the end of LM. I, only two, Nos. 7 and 8, by character of motif suggest that they belong to the LM. II period.

No. 8. By comparison with the truncated glandular gem (BMCG No. 38), sometimes considered by style to be of LM. Ib date. This sealing derived from a lentoid might be thought to lie within contemporary range. But if BMCG 38 is archaistic in character and shape which befits its religious connotation, then No. 8, by its shape and combination of forms and ideographs, falls within the purlieu of LM. II: see also KADMOS III, p. 55.

No. 7 is described by Evans, as "Crouched lion, from abraded lentoid, apparently the same as that used for 'Armoury'". Now the lion seal used for the Armoury Deposit sealings (PM. IV Fig. 603 right and left) can, by the example of extreme torsion it presents, only be of the LM. II period. It has been pointed out that while these two nodules, KN 401 and 403 endorsed and countermarked, are derived from the same seal as SM II, pl. I XXXVIII (countermarked with the man sign) and one more in the Heraklion Museum of the same blackened condition as KN 401 and 403, the central sealing illustrated by Evans in Fig. 603, KN 400, did not in fact derive from the same seal as KN 401 and 403. Both motif and size of seal were different. It was in fact a mistaken identification by Evans. Moreover, since KN 400 was much sharper and clearer in design than any of the others, the drawings of the nodule on the right hand side of the figure had been altered to conform more closely to it. This was a grave error, for KN 400 while showing a lion bent round to fit the field of the seal, gives the head *en face*, i. e. looking directly at the spectator. On KN 401 and 403, the head and face are in profile, in the unnatural position of complete torsion, e. g. CS 315. (The Prosymna amethyst from Tomb 44 of LH. Ib—LH. II date, with a curved lion, also has a head in profile, but in the natural position, i. e. in the simple position of torsion). See also Kadmos III p. 49.

KN 400 corresponds to an earlier phase, seen for example in Vapheio No. 8, and so should be dated as a type earlier than that of KN 401 and 403. Moreover, it is not marked with Linear B signs. This earlier style and the absence of script suggests that a mistake may have occurred, and that it did not in fact belong to the Armoury Deposit: for although endorsement in script occurs on Minoan sealings before LM. II, counter signs on the face of the sealing itself probably belong to LM. II and later. While on the other hand No. 7 of the South-West Basement Deposit, probably the fourth nodule of the torsioned lion, is of exactly the same type as 401 and 403 and SM II, pl. I XXXVIII, and as such equally foreign to the rest of the nodules of that deposit (except perhaps for No. 8). If a mistake has occurred in the attribution of KN 400 to the two lion sealings in the Armoury Deposit, it is possible that as a consequence of this mistake, the unregistered and un-numbered nodule (which I believe to be the real KN 400) was erroneously placed with the sealings of the South-West Basement Deposit.

The temptation to make a straight substitution between KN 400 and the un-numbered nodule of the torsioned lion has always remained, and is now much stronger, since Mr. Sinclair Hood believed that the area of the South-West Basement should be dated to LM. Ib on stratigraphic evidence.

CORRIGENDA. A. Another intensive examination of the Knossos Sealings in Heraklion has recently been undertaken by Miss. M. A. V. Gill

of Birmingham University in connection with a forthcoming publication of a concordance of these sealings with the reference in the Note Books of Evans and Mackenzie, the Knossos Reports, *Scripta Minoa* I and II and the Palace of Minos. These valuable results are to be published by the British School at Athens. As a result some new types have been discovered, broken fragments joined and some minor mysteries solved.

Miss M. A. V. Gill has kindly pointed out an error in my article on Scripts and Seals III, *Kadmos* III, Heft I. It concerns the sealing KN 119, p. 48, Group VI (Heraklion Museum), there described as a "Bull contorted in the third degree" LM. II (late), also p. 45, Fig. 6. She has suggested, quite rightly, that the animal is not a bull, but a lion, and that the seal responsible for this sealing is that used for KN 401, 403 and the sealing counter signed with the man sign, (1901 Note Book, Corridor of the Sword Tablets, SM. II, pl. XXXVIII).

When I was examining these sealings in the Heraklion Museum in 1961, KN 119 could not be found; all the information I could get was from a preliminary drawing made in connection with the Corpus of Cretan and Mycenaean seals. In the absence of the sealing I was allowed to copy this preliminary sketch, which I did in good faith. This is Fig. 6 p. 45. By an irony of fate, the sealing KN 119 was on my tray the whole time, without any number marked on it, for it was indeed the unnumbered nodule of the sealing of the contorted lion to which I refer on p. 48 and again in this communication (PM IV, 601, No. 7) which I had recognised as cognate with KN 401 and 403, and which was indeed used in the reconstruction of the motif of the original seal p. 46, 7.

May I express my regret at the perpetration of this error, pleading first in extenuation, that since there was at the time in the Heraklion Museum no nodule marked KN 119, I had no means of checking the preliminary drawing, but was compelled to take it on trust: and then, that although an error had occurred — the artist mistaking the drill holes for the eyes and nostril of the lion for the nostril and chin of a bull, a mark on the clay for the outline the bull's head, and the rib marking of the lion for horns — the subject is still contorted, indeed by this new and proper identification, more so. Thus the tenor of the argument is not substantially affected, e. g. *Kadmos* I Heft I, p. 14, need not be corrected. For myself, I am in other respects relieved, for the 'type' of p. 45 No. 6 contained certain contradictory elements. For example, one hind foot is obviously a claw and the head of the bull is in an impossible and uncretan position. So I express my regret, and proffer my apology to the Editor of *Kadmos* and its scholarly readers.

B. *Kadmos* III, Heft I, p. 55. The Athens National Museum number of the Prosymna Amethyst should be NMA 6615, the number NMA 2426, a mistake, was also derived from a drawing.

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