

Stone Vessels and Values in the Bronze Age Mediterranean

The societies that developed in the eastern Mediterranean during the Bronze Age produced the most prolific and diverse range of stone vessel traditions known at any time or anywhere in the world. Stone vessels are therefore a key class of artefact in the early history of this region. As a form of archaeological evidence, they offer important analytical advantages over other artefact types – virtual indestructibility, a wide range of functions and values, huge variety in manufacturing traditions, as well as the subtractive character of stone and its rich potential for geological provenancing. Stone also has wide anthropological and archaeological relevance. It offers a favourable vantage from which to consider concepts of object value and how these might be approached in the archaeological record. In this book, Andrew Bevan considers individual stone vessel industries in great detail. He also offers a highly comparative and value-led perspective on production, consumption, and exchange logics throughout the eastern Mediterranean over a period of two millennia during the Bronze Age (ca. 3000–1200 BC).

Andrew Bevan is a lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His work has been supported by fellowships from the Leverhulme Trust, the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, and the Dr. M. Alwyn Cotton Foundation. He also received the Michael Ventris Memorial Award for Mycenaean Studies.

Stone Vessels
and Values in the
Bronze Age Mediterranean



Andrew Bevan

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-0-521-88080-0 — Stone Vessels and Values in the Bronze Age Mediterranean
 Andrew Bevan
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521880800

© Andrew Bevan 2007

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2007
 First paperback edition 2012

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Bevan, Andrew, 1974–
 Stone vessels and values in the Bronze age Mediterranean
 Andrew Bevan.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-88080-0 (hardback)

1. Bronze age – Mediterranean Region. 2. Stone implements – Mediterranean Region.
 3. Excavations (Archaeology) – Mediterranean Region. 4. Commerce, Prehistoric – Mediterranean Region.
 5. Mediterranean Region – Antiquities. I. Title.

GN778.25.B48 2007

909'.09822-dc22 2007000175

ISBN 978-0-521-88080-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-40661-2 Paperback

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/9780521880800

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cover Illustrations: a chloritite box and lid with dog-shaped handle from Zakros, Crete (HM 2719, photograph courtesy of the Heraklion Museum); a sardonyx flask from Ebla, Syria (TM.78.QIA.76, photograph courtesy of the Ebla Expedition), and a travertine flask with original cord from Gurob, Egypt (UC 7970, photograph courtesy of the UCL Petrie Museum).

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-0-521-88080-0 – Stone Vessels and Values in the Bronze Age Mediterranean
Andrew Bevan
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

For my parents

Contents

Acknowledgments • page *x*



1 / Introduction	1
<i>Comparative Terminology</i>	3
<i>Chapter Summary</i>	6
2 / Agreeing on Things	8
<i>Classification and Transmission</i>	10
<i>Social Relationships</i>	12
<i>Wealth Measurement</i>	16
3 / Moving People, Objects, and Ideas	19
<i>Moving Around the Eastern Mediterranean</i>	19
<i>Bronze Age Economies and Exchanges</i>	21
Behind Bronze Age Gifts	23
Scale in the Archaeological Record	26
<i>Merchants and Their Roles</i>	29
Third Millennium Trade	30
Earlier Second Millennium Trade	32
Later Second Millennium Trade	35
<i>Summary</i>	38
4 / Making Stone Vessels	40
<i>The Working Properties of Stones</i>	40
<i>Unassisted Manual Abrasion</i>	41
<i>Carving</i>	43
<i>Pounding and Sawing</i>	43
<i>Drilling</i>	44
Cutting Technologies	45
Drill-Bit Driving Technologies	47
Drilling Strategies	50
<i>A Template Production Sequence</i>	52
<i>Bronze Age Production Traditions</i>	54
Egypt	54
The Levant	55
Cyprus	56
Anatolia	56
The Aegean	57
<i>Conclusion</i>	60
5 / The Third Millennium	62
<i>Egypt</i>	62
The Pre-Third Millennium Background	62

Early Dynastic and Earlier Old Kingdom	63
Later Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period	72
<i>The Levant</i>	75
The Pre-Third Millennium Background	75
Egyptian Vessels	76
Non-Egyptian Vessels	78
<i>Cyprus and Central Anatolia</i>	79
<i>The Aegean</i>	80
The Pre-Third Millennium Background	80
The Grotta-Pelos Phase	80
The Keros-Syros Phase	83
EMIIA Crete	85
Later Prepalatial Crete	86
Trade Beyond Crete	93
6 / The Earlier Second Millennium	100
<i>Egypt</i>	100
The Middle Kingdom	100
The Second Intermediate Period and Early 18th Dynasty	101
<i>The Levant</i>	102
Egyptian-Style Vessels	102
Levantine Vessels	108
<i>Anatolia</i>	113
<i>The Aegean</i>	115
Protopalatial Crete	115
The Neopalatial Period	119
7 / The Later Second Millennium	134
<i>Egypt</i>	134
The Mid-18th Dynasty	134
The Amarna Age	138
The 19th Dynasty	142
<i>The Levant</i>	143
Egyptian-Style Vessels	143
Southern Levantine Gypsum Vessels	150
<i>Cyprus</i>	152
Egyptian-Style Vessels	152
Local Cypriot Vessels	153
<i>Anatolia</i>	156
<i>The Aegean</i>	157
Egyptian, Cypriot, and Levantine Vessels	157
LMII-III Knossos	158
Mycenae Ivory Houses-Style Vessels	163

CONTENTS

ix

8 / The Rough and the Smooth: Stone Vessels from a Comparative Perspective	166
<i>Stone Vessels in Small-Scale Societies</i>	168
<i>Softstone Industries</i>	169
Light-Coloured Softstones	170
Dark-Coloured Softstones	172
<i>Complex Stone Vessel Traditions</i>	179
9 / Forging Value and Casting Stones	185
<i>After the Bronze Age</i>	185
<i>Vessels and Values</i>	186
<i>Future Directions</i>	192
Appendix: Typological Guide	195
<i>Egypt (E-)</i>	195
<i>Egyptian-Style (Es-)</i>	211
<i>Levant (L-)</i>	214
<i>Cyprus (Cyp-)</i>	223
<i>Anatolia (A-)</i>	229
<i>Crete (C-)</i>	232
<i>Mycenaean-Style Vessels (M-)</i>	241
<i>Cyclades (Cyc-)</i>	244



Notes • 251

Bibliography • 259

Index • 293

Acknowledgments



This book first began as doctoral research, for which I benefited from generous financial support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (then AHRB). During this time, I was able to conduct fieldwork and attend conferences largely through the further support of the Institute of Archaeology, the University College London (UCL) Graduate School, and the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, to all of whom I am extremely grateful. A Leverhulme Trust postdoctoral fellowship, while dedicated to other research goals, allowed time for me to acquire additional skills and to develop my ideas further. Thereafter, I was able to devote a crucial year to new research and writing-up with the benefit of an Institute of Aegean Prehistory fellowship, a Cotton Foundation grant, and a Michael Ventris Memorial Fund award, all of which led to late insights into particularly thorny problems. The final stages of writing were challenged and yet also inspired by the demands of full-time teaching at UCL.

There are numerous people who helped at different stages of this study. I am especially grateful to the academic and administrative staff and students of the UCL Institute of Archaeology for providing such a friendly and inspiring research environment. Cyprian Broodbank has been, and still is, a source of endless guidance and encouragement. Todd Whitelaw has provided help with an array of research and teaching questions, some of which I hope has made an impact here. Also, many thanks to Alexander Ahrens, Daniel Antoine, Carol Bell, Lisa Bendall, John Bennet, Elizabeth Bloxham, Stuart Brookes, Tristan Carter, Steffie Chlouveraki, James Conolly, Jago Cooper, Lindy Crewe, Joanne Cutler, Helène David, Don Evely, Lesley Fitton, James Harrell, Eleni Hatzaki, Christophe Helmke, David Jeffreys, Peter Jordan, Evangelia Kiriati, Carl Knappett, Olga Krzyszkowska, Lorenzo Lazzarini, Mark Lake, Borja Legarra, Christine Lilyquist, Kris Lockyear, Christina Luke, Marcos Martín-Torres, Roger Matthews, Nicoletta Momigliano, Orazio Palio, Ian Patterson, Edgar Peltenburg, Jacke Phillips, Claude Poursat, Laura Preston, Stephen Quirke, Lucinda Reeves, Thilo Rehren, Brian Robertson, Christopher Roosevelt, Joanne Rowland, Jerry Rutter, Robert Schaub, Vincent Serneels, Susan Sherratt, Ruth Siddall, Karin Sowada, Rachael Sparks, Denys Stocks, Geoffrey Tassie, Peter Ucko, Peter Warren, Vance Watrous, David Wengrow, and the two anonymous Cambridge reviewers for discussing different aspects of the subject with me, providing digital data, reading chapter drafts, or otherwise contributing to this effort. No doubt there are others who I have omitted for which I offer my sincere apologies. Any remaining errors are my own responsibility.

Permissions to reproduce photographs and/or include illustrations were kindly supplied by the following people and institutions (in alphabetical order): the Ashmolean Museum, Barbara Aston, the British Museum, the British School at Athens, the Cairo Museum,

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

xi

Pierre de Miroschedji, Christos Doumas, Ebla Expedition, Don Evely, Pat Getz-Gentle, James Harrell, the Herakleion Museum, the Italian School of Archaeology at Athens, Vassos Karageorghis, Gernot Katzer, Kay Kohlmeyer, Karla Kroeper, Olga Krzyszkowska, the Louver Museum, Paolo Matthiae, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Museum of Greece, the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, Nimet Özgüç, Philip von Zabern Press, Ingo Pini, Frances Pinnock, Sue Sherratt, Jeffrey Soles, Denys Stocks, the ST Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (Patras), Turan Takaoglu, Francesco Tiradritti, Jonathan Tubb, the Turin Museum, University College London, the UCL Petrie Museum, the University of Wisconsin Press, Gert van Wijngaarden, Shelley Wachsmann, and Peter Warren. In addition, the opportunity to study unpublished material was of huge benefit in the early stages of this research, for which I thank Phillip Betancourt, Gerald Cadogan, Sinclair Hood, Mervyn Popham, Jeffrey Soles, and Peter Warren. I am also grateful to Lesley Fitton, Louise Schofield, and Jonathan Tubb at the British Museum; Sue Sherratt and Roger Moorey at the Ashmolean Museum; Penny Wilson and Eleni Vassilika at the Fitzwilliam Museum; Sally MacDonald and Stephen Quirke at the Petrie Museum; Despo Pilides at the Cypriot Museum; Sophie Cluzan and Norbeil Aouici at the Louvre; Tom Brogan at the INSTAP-EC Study Centre; and Eleni Hatzaki and Don Evely at the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum for facilitating my various visits to these institutions.

A final heartfelt thanks go to Brenna, my parents, and my sister.

