

COMMUNICATIONS

Scripta Minoa II, page 2, refers to a 'bronze graver' and a 'template for modelling tablets' from Palaikastro, now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. These objects have been recently examined by Mr. R. Nicholls of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and he reports that the graver is in all probability an awl or borer, and the stone, which is grey rather than reddish, has been used for sharpening metal blades and is certainly a hone. Archaeological remains of Minoan writing instruments are therefore still unknown. J. Chadwick

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The ship appears to have sailed and sunk around 1200 B.C. We may suppose that it was sailing from east to west, carrying a load of copper from the mines in Cyprus. Whether or not our ship was Syrian, Cypriot, or Helladic is still difficult to say. The fragmentary portion of the ship's structure tells us little. The cargo gives more evidence, but not more conclusive. The pottery finds parallels from the Greek mainland to the coasts of Syria and Palestine, including Cyprus and Tarsus in between. The scarabs (the latest datable to the XIXth Egyptian Dynasty) and the cylinder seal were possibly trinkets picked up during the voyage. There are weights, some spondonoidal (multiples of nine and a fraction grams, i.e. qedet), others cylindrical and domed. The copper and bronze were almost certainly from Cyprus. Many of the marks on the ingots are identical to potters' marks from Cyprus and from the Cypriot colony near Ras Shamra. The marks on the tools seem to be exclusively Cypro-Minoan. The tin could be from a number of places.

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