

Preface

This book, or the idea of it, has been my constant companion for some decades and I am indebted to many who have helped in its shaping. During this long journey I have been sustained by the intrinsic beauty of the material and the encouragement of my colleagues on three continents.

The only place to begin to express my appreciation for this help is to thank Ingo Pini without whose work we would not be able to access the seals so readily and to whom this book is dedicated. Ingo Pini has been the driving force of the CMS throughout most of its existence and he has left to us a priceless record of the seals. For me, the days spent in the Great Room of the seal impressions in Marburg are as precious a memory as the wide-ranging conversations on the balcony beside the red beech and the many spirited arguments which we enjoyed and which I still miss.

The CMS staff over many years hosted me on my visits to Marburg, first at the Steinweg premises and then at Schwanalle. Walter Müller followed Ingo Pini as Director and always made me welcome right through to my participation in the splendid Symposium he organised to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of the CMS. To have had the opportunity to work and research at the *Arbeitsstelle* has been a privilege, and for all of us who have known this great centre of scholarship, there is a sadness that the Marburg era is over. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos became the Director on the move to Heidelberg. He has welcomed me to the new CMS centre and I thank him for his continuing interest in my work.

When I began my forays into setting up a database for seal iconography there were not yet any commercially available database shells. My friend and colleague in Hobart, Tony Adams, taught me about hierarchical classifications and interrogating databases and I remain grateful for this early help and for easing my novice self into the expanding world of computer programming. At the genesis of the project, John Boardman, who was then also creating a large database, kindly took time to share his experiences with me and encouraged me to persevere. Once the FileMaker Pro program was selected, I set about customising my Databases and then it was time for trials. I thank Robert Laffineur, Gisela Walberg, Jean-Claude Poursat and Michael Wedde for testing, and improving, the prototypes. The IconAegean Databases and the IconAegean Vocabulary, now in updated versions, are integral to my research.

As I reflect on beginning my research into the seals, I remember fondly the scholars who are no longer with us. I think of Emily Vermeule who examined my PhD thesis, of Homer and Dorothy Thompson who first invited me to come to Greece and of Henri and Micheline van Effenterre who always asked such searching questions. Paul Astrom, Nicolas Coldstream and Agnes Sakellariou were ever encouraging and discussions with Klaus Kilian were seminal to my evolving Bronze Age consciousness. The time shared with these eminent scholars, together with their friendship and support, leaves me with a debt I can never repay.

So many sites to visit in Greece and Crete and so many people to thank for their assistance over the years! So much iconography to discuss and even more people to thank for the time they set aside to talk with me! I am deeply indebted to Christos Doumas for his support and friendship over the years. The time I have been able to spend at Acrotiri is amongst my favourite memories as are shared conversations in Athens and Australia. Philip Betancourt and Tom Brogan have made east Crete seem like home. Joseph Maran has always found time for discussion on my visits to Heidelberg while Jack Davis and Shari Stocker are always available to consult over Pylos. Wolf and Barbara Niemeier have ever been the

consummate tour guides on site, spirited companions at conferences and always the most convivial of friends.

Where now do I begin to list the conversations round the world which have shaped my thinking about iconography and archaeology? Certainly I must thank again the Aegeanists mentioned above and my friends and colleagues in Australia. For discussions in Marburg and at many conferences I thank Judith Weingarten and John Younger and especially Olga Krzyszkowska for sharing her great knowledge of the seals. With Cynthia Shelmerdine and Nanno Marinatos there was always too little time to pursue all the ideas we wished. At the New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium Günter Koepcke and Robert Koehl have been the perfect hosts.

My correspondent friends, in this time of Covid, have made it possible to bear the absence of meeting in person. Fritz Blakolmer always has an answer to my questions and I do thank him for his cheer and for sharing his command of the iconographic sphere. Andreas Vlacopoulos has taken me further into artistic subtleties by expanding my understanding of the links with fresco. Malcolm Wiener writes of chronology though I am always glad when he turns to other topics with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Aegean Bronze Age. Karen Foster writes from the snow of Connecticut to connect with tropical Australia and always with a wise word. Lyvia Morgan has long shared a deep love of iconographic enquiry with me and we both have been sorry that the tyranny of geography has not allowed closer collaboration. Where would I be without Tom Palaima to keep me informed of the advances in Linear B and counselled on their nuances? Then, if I have begun to stray too far from the seals, Maria Anastasiadou is always ready with a positive view of our research.

Various groups and institutions have provided assistance over the years. Financial support has been given by the Australian Federation of University Women and an anonymous donor. In 1994 the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut hosted my visit to Berlin for work in the collections and libraries. In 2000 the Institute for Aegean Prehistory provided a Research Grant for a lengthy visit to CMS at a crucial time in the development of the Databases. In 2011 the University of Cincinnati Margo Tytus Visiting Fellowship allowed an extended time at the Carl Blegen Library and a most rewarding and enjoyable research visit to the Classics Department. For many years now my professional home in Australia and in Greece has been the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens and I thank the Directors, Alexander Cambitoglou and Stavros Paspalas, for their unfailing support. The members of the Institute's Tasmanian Friends Association have ever provided local outreach and great friendship.

My thanks are also due to the many groups and individuals who have assisted me with their professional expertise. For help with publishing my monographs I thank the staff of SIMA Goteborg, Aegaeum Liege and Propylaeum Heidelberg. Benjamin Huber in Vienna has been my researcher for bibliographical detail. Museum Staff in so many cities and towns have enlivened my days of peering into display cabinets and sometimes have been able to permit me to handle their finest seals. I recall particularly my research at the Cabinet des Médailles, the Ashmolean and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A special thanks must go to the Museum curators and guards all over Greece who have helped me to appreciate the precious material in their care. Many a hot Aegean day has been ameliorated by coming into the cool rooms of a Museum building to be greeted by the interest and enthusiasm of the staff.

In acknowledging this broad indebtedness, I nevertheless must take responsibility for any omissions or mistakes in the book. My work has, for the most part, been like a meditation alone, witnessed and supported by my friends and family. To my children, Helen and Michael, and to our extended family, I must say how appreciative I am for you finding time in your own busy lives to ask about my research. To my husband Jeff, I cannot find words enough to thank you. For so long you have spliced your life between being an engineer at work and an honorary Aegeanist, to my very great advantage.

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