

MINOAN AND MYCENEAN RELIGION

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Learning Objectives

- ▣ Understand the common elements of the Minoan and Mycenaean cultures and their differences
- ▣ Know the term Iconography
- ▣ Know the major themes in Minoan Religious Representation
- ▣ Know the major themes in Mycenaean Religious Representations



Minoans and Mycenaean Cultures

- ▣ Minoan culture flourished as a palatial society from ca. 2000 BCE to 1400 BCE
 - Script Linear A – Undeciphered
- ▣ Mycenaeans seem to have borrowed culture from the Minoans
 - Palatial society on mainland Greece eventually take over Crete
 - Script Linear B – form of Greek

Commonalities Between Minoan and Mycenaean Cultures

- ▣ Palace Centered Cult
- ▣ Absence of Temples
- ▣ Hearth
- ▣ Animal Bones - Banqueting

Iconographical Evidence

- ▣ Iconography - symbolic representation, especially the conventional meanings attached to an image or images
- ▣ Analysis of representations of great importance to the reconstruction of Minoan and Mycenaean Religion

Iconographic Elements

- ▣ Heraldic positioning
- ▣ Figures placed in sacred space
- ▣ Epiphany scenes
- ▣ Gestures and Attributes

MINOAN EVIDENCE



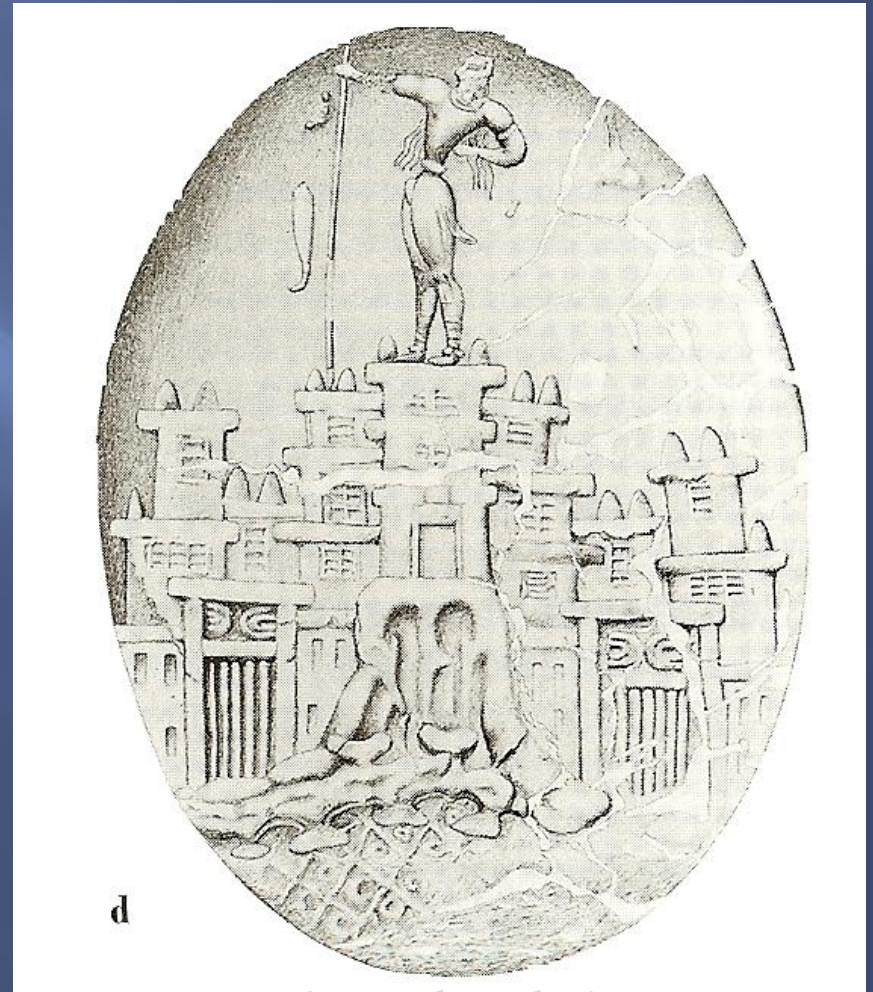
Kleiner, Fred S. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages* Fig4-4

Shrine with “Horns of Consecration”



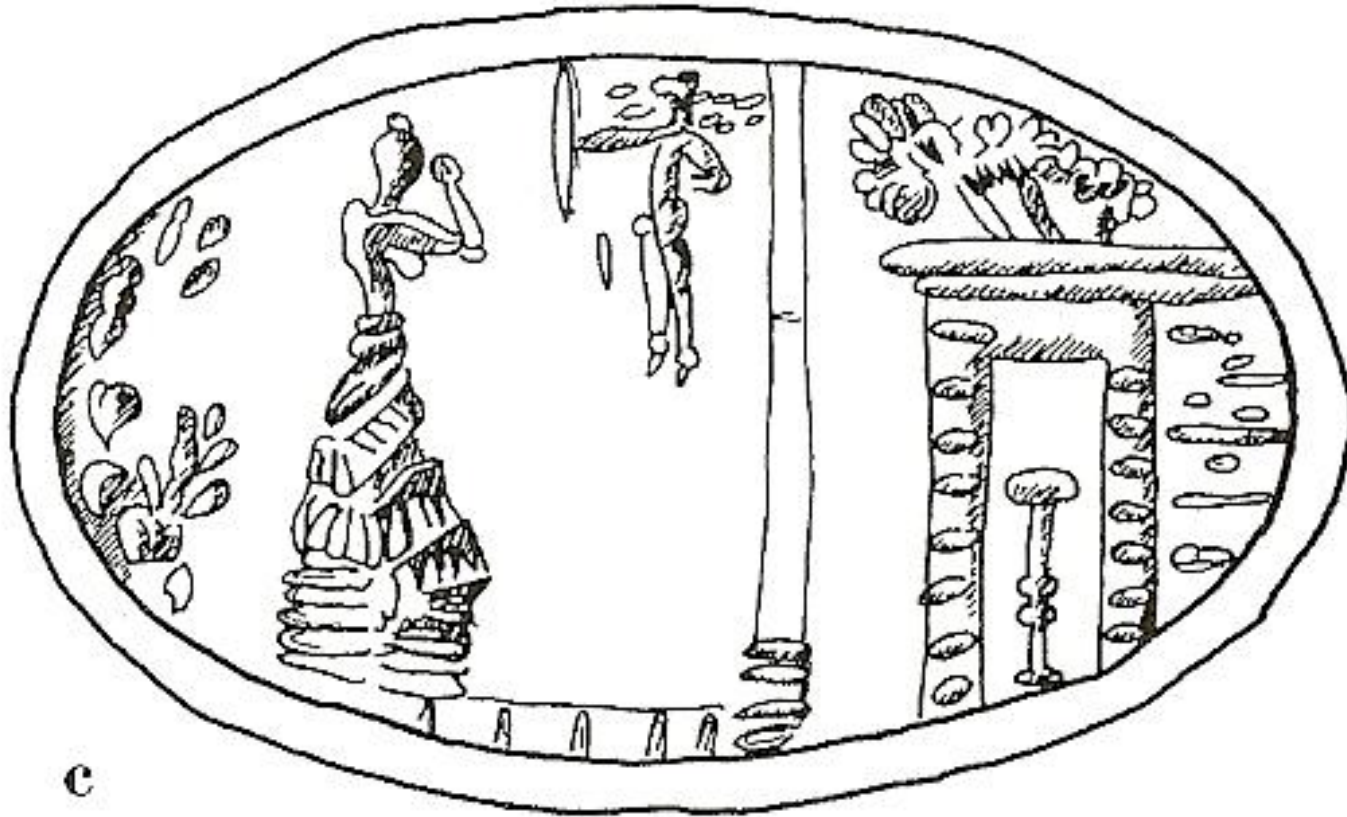
Preziosi & Hitchcock *Aegean Art and Architecture* Fig 54

Master Impression



Preziosi & Hitchcock *Aegean Art and Architecture* Fig 55B

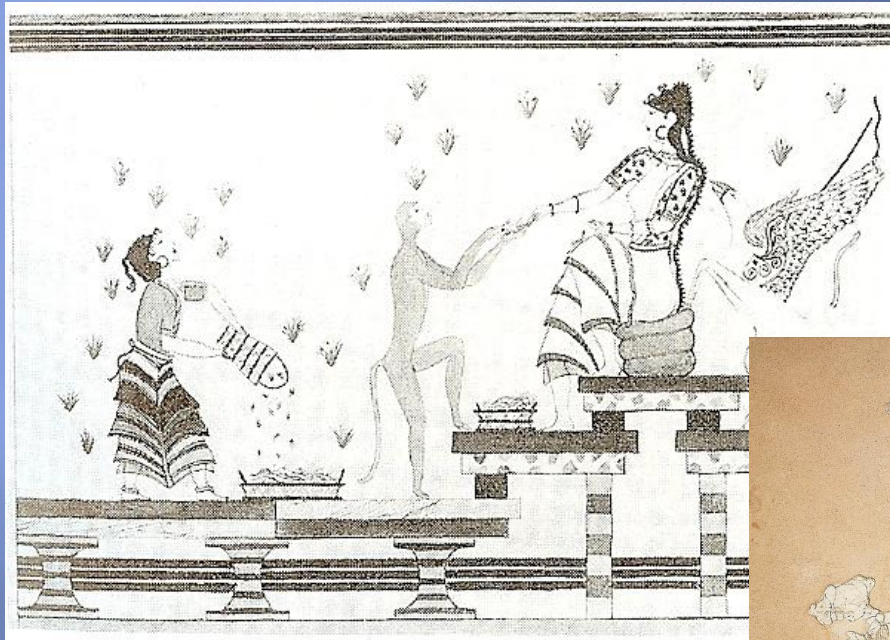
Epiphany of a God



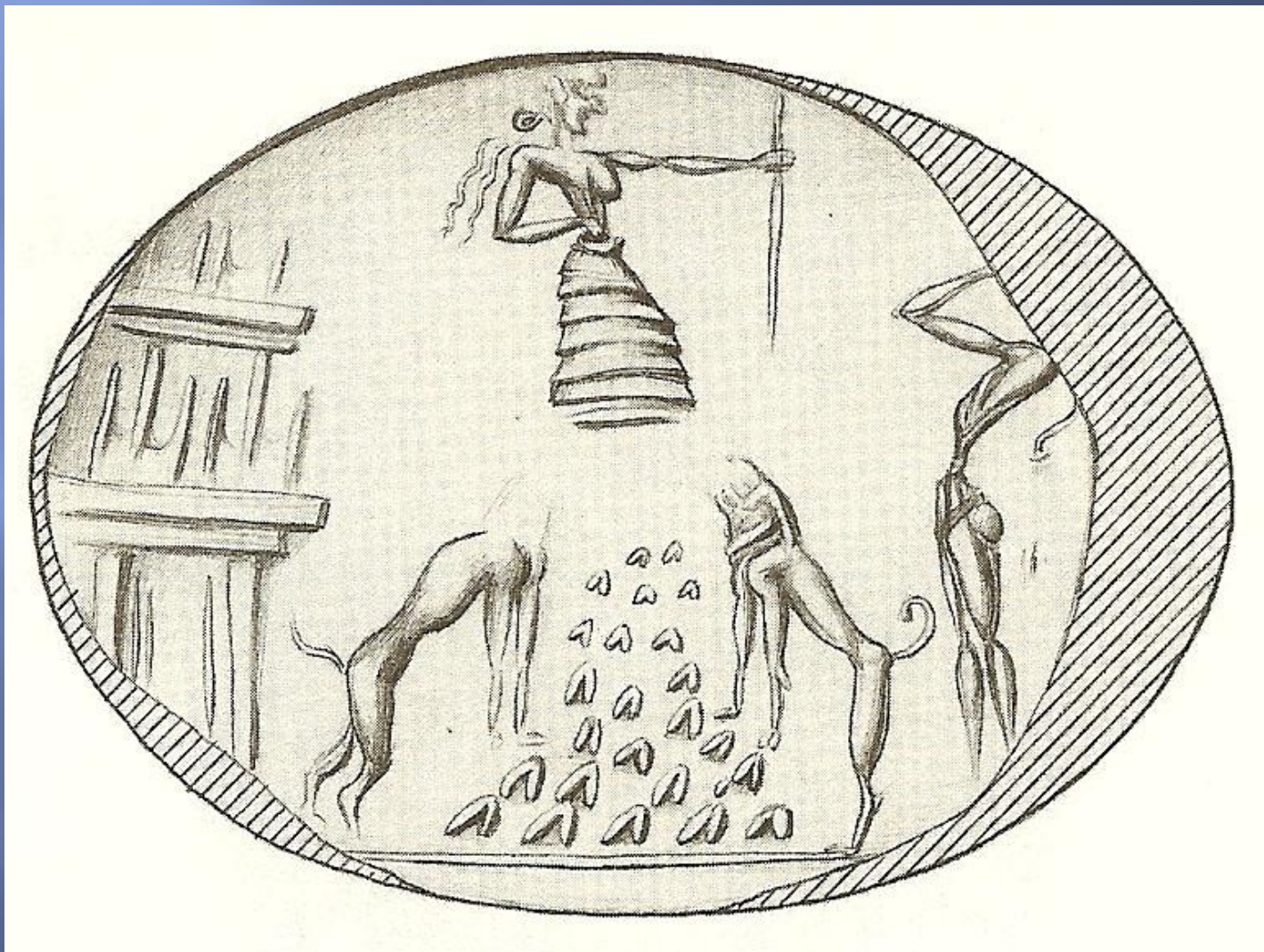
Master of the Beasts



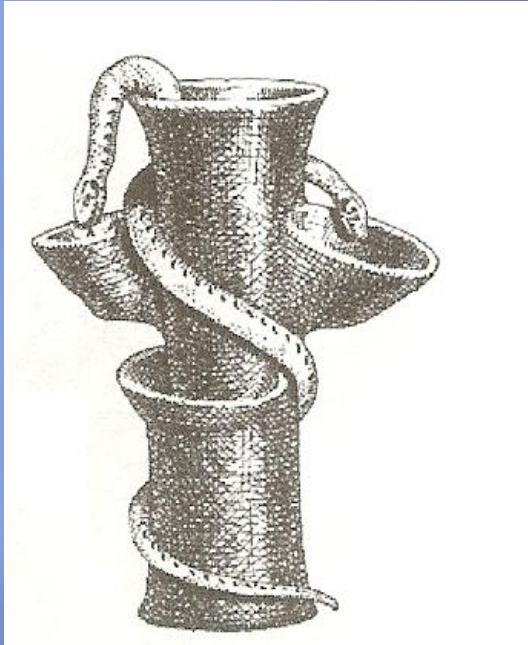
Minoan Nature Goddess



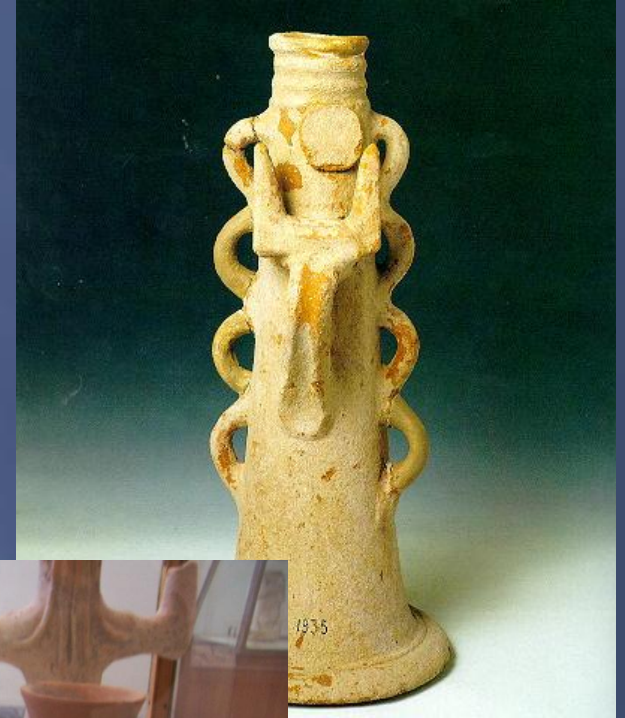
Mountain Mistress



Snake Tubes

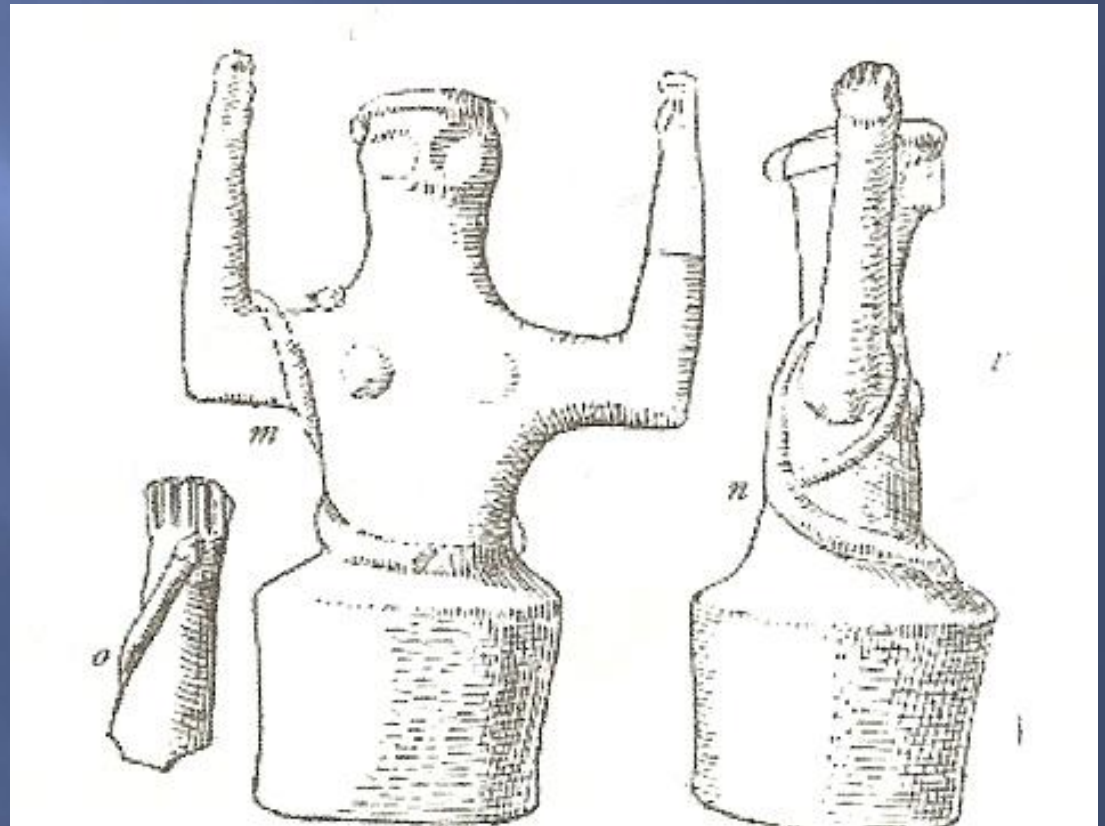


Domestic Tube

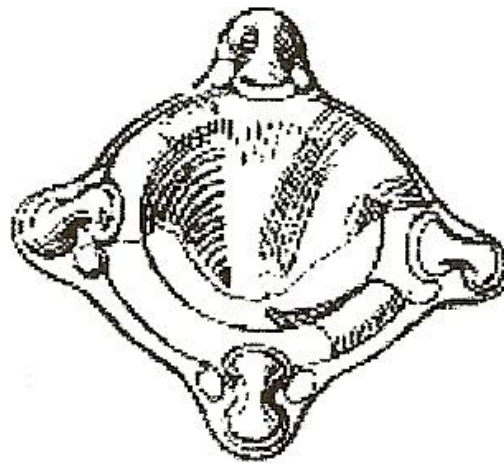
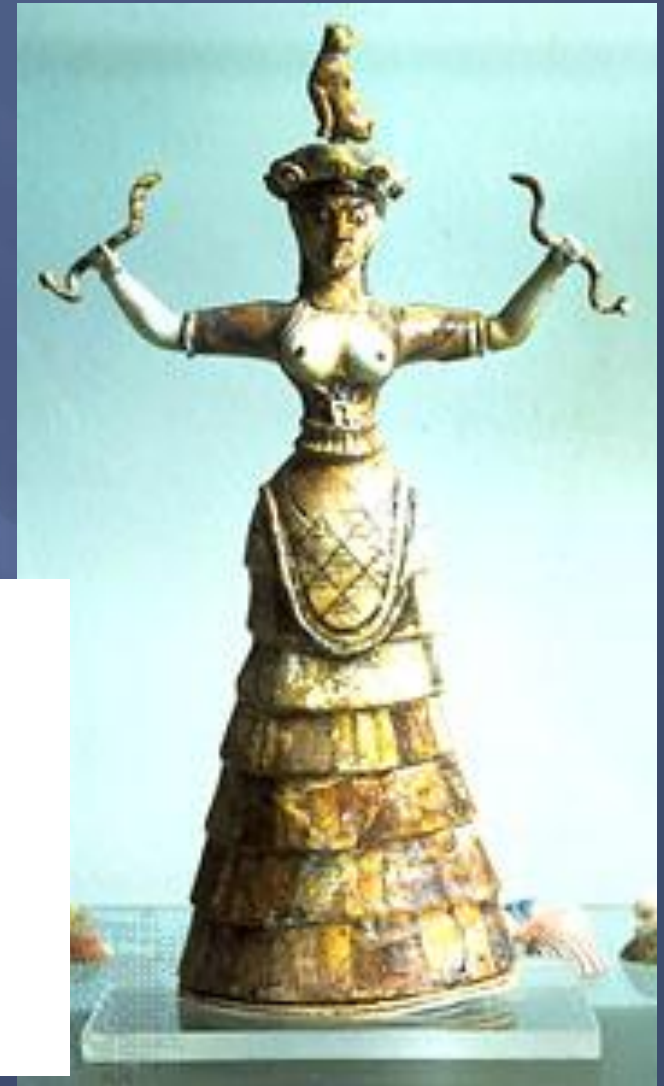


Tubes with
The Goddesses'
Emblems from
Gournia

Snake Goddess



Knossos Snake Goddess



Bead Seal



MYCENAEAN EVIDENCE

Liner B Gods & Goddesses

- ▣ Poseidon
- ▣ Zeus
- ▣ Dionysus (Crete Only)
- ▣ Potnija
- ▣ Ifimedia
- ▣ Diwija
- ▣ Posidaeja

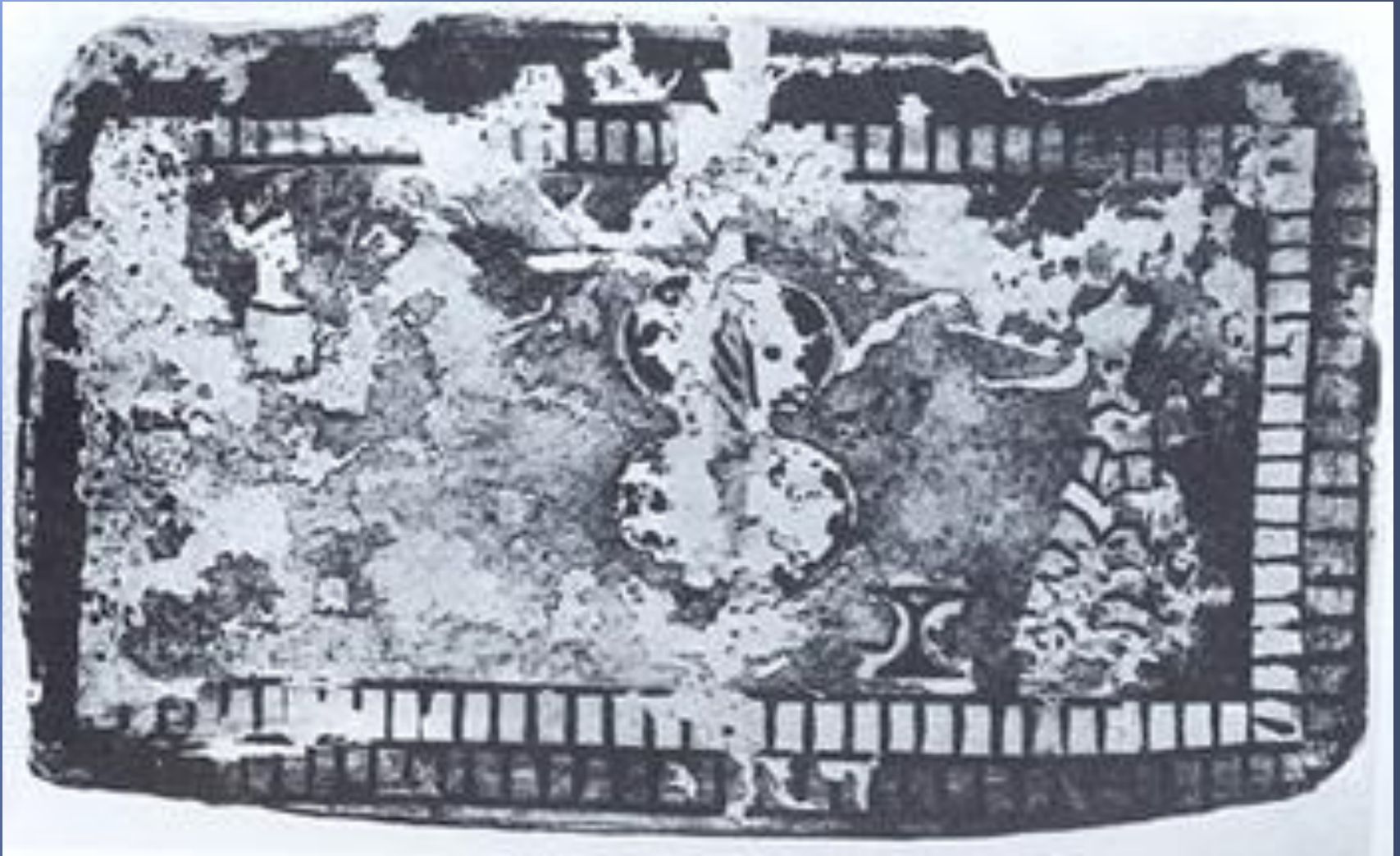
Tree Goddess



War Goddess (Atanapotnija – “Lady of Atana”)



War Goddess (Tsountas' House Mycenae)



Tree Hugging



Preziosi & Hitchcock *Aegean Art and Architecture* Fig 87

Epiphany



Goddess & Demons



Mycenean Citadel Cult Room



Mycenaean Citadel Snakes Figures

