

SOME EVIDENCE FROM CYPRUS OF APOLLINE CULT IN THE BRONZE AGE*

The universality of his nature, his aloofness and distance from worshippers have made Apollo the most enigmatic member of the Olympian family of gods. His origins and history are obscure, and are likely to remain so, because the Apollo we meet in classical Greek religion is a composite figure resulting from a combination of elements whose age and provenance are difficult to disentangle. The god's strong oriental connections have long been recognized, and since Nilsson they have been established on a scientific foundation. In fact it has become fashionable to seek Apollo's home in the east whence he is believed to have come to Greece and the western Aegean in general about 800 B.C. or even later¹).

This date seems unduly pessimistic, however, and does not agree with the evidence of the history and distribution of Greek cult. Although his name does not appear on the extant Linear B records, important features of Apollo's Arcadian and Laconian cult associations imply his presence in that part of the world before the end of the Bronze Age²). Apollo's festivals, like those of his sister Artemis, were not confined to one ethnic or tribal group such as the Dorians³), which means that he was worshipped in Greece before the Ionians and Dorians had gone their separate ways and evolved individual dialects. Certain aspects of the classical Apollo had come to the west quite early therefore and these it should be possible to isolate without attempting any kind of unrewarding search for one single origin of so complex a figure.

One promising line of research in this respect consists in the ancient tradition of Apolline cults in Cyprus. Of special interest for our purposes is Apollo's identification in Idalion with

*) The main arguments of this paper were incorporated in a lecture which was delivered at the XIIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, in Lancaster, August 1975.

1) E.g. C. Schaeffer, "Götter der Nord- und Inselvölker in Zypern", *Archiv für Orientforschung* 21 (1965) 68.

2) Cf. W. Fauth, *Der Kleine Pauly* "Apollon", 446.

3) J. Sarkady, "Die jonischen Feste und die jonische Vorgeschichte", *Acta Classica Debrecen* 1 (1965) 15f.

the Syrian Reshef. A fourth century B.C. bilingual inscription⁴⁾ from there – Phoenician-Cypriot syllabic – translates the Phoenician Reshef Mikal into Greek as Apollo Amyklos. Amyklos and Amyklaios are obviously identical in this equation, for the latter occurs on another dedication (third century) to Apollo Amyklaios by a certain Mnaseas and was written in alphabetic Greek⁵⁾.

The Phoenician Reshef possessed an equally universal nature as the Greek Apollo⁶⁾ and both gods would readily have been identified in the minds of Greek and Phoenician worshippers in Cyprus. The closest points of contact seem to have been their protecting, apotropaic and purificatory powers which were also responsible for their common attributes of bow and arrows⁷⁾. More surprising is the juxtaposition in Idalion of the two epithets Mikal and Amyklos, Amyklaios, because the latter were strictly localized titles of Apollo in Laconian Amyklai⁸⁾ and in Gortyn, Crete⁹⁾.

4) *CIS* I, 89; Reshef Mikal's name occurs on five other Phoenician dedications from Idalion, *CIS* I, 90–94.

5) Mnaseas was a hellenized Phoenician, according to O. Masson, *Cultes Indigènes, Cultes Grecs et Cultes Orientaux à Chypre (Éléments Orientaux dans la Religion Grecque Ancienne)*, Paris 1960, 138; *Syria* 45 (1968) 308.

6) The most recent study of the god is by D. Conrad, "Der Gott Reshef", *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 83 (1971) 157–183. Other modern discussions of the topic are referred to in *Syria* 45 (1968) 307 n.1. See now also W. Burkert, "Resep-Figuren, Apollon von Amyklai und die "Erfindung" des Opfers auf Cypern", *Grazer Beiträge* 4 (1975) 51–79. This last article came to hand after the present essay had been written, but it is gratifying to see that on some fundamental points of Apollo's early history and cult in Cyprus Prof. Burkert's conclusions are not dissimilar to mine.

7) The god sends death as well as heals sickness. Reshef's bow, arrows and lance are shown in 17th century B. C. Syrian iconography – P. Matthiae, *Or. An.* 2 (1963) 35 ff., Pl. XIV –, and are described in Ugaritic texts, Conrad, *Ztschrift.* (1971) 172. The etymology of *rsp.* (e.g. in the *Keret* epic) appears to be "pestilence", Conrad, *op. cit.* 159. Conrad is, however, more inclined (p. 181 n. 191) to emphasize the common nature of Apollo and Reshef as war and solar gods. However, Apollo's solar nature most likely belonged to a later stage of the god's development, cf. M. P. Nilsson, *Geschichte der griechischen Religion*³, Munich 1967, 529. Cf. Wernicke, *P.-W.* "Apollon" 20f.; Fauth, *Kleiner Pauly*, "Apollon" 442. Burkert also favours the theory that Reshef with bow and arrows was a kind of "Kriegergott" (*Gr.B.* (1975) 56), and he cites as an example of this figure the terracotta head from the Laconian Amyklaion (*op. cit.* 64).

8) Polybius 5, 19, 3.

9) *Law of Gortyn* III, 8; *SGDI* II, 5016, 24 = name of month Amyklaios.

Since Greek speakers settled in Cyprus some three to four centuries before the Phoenicians, it was thought that the name Mikal was the Semitic transcription of Amyklos¹⁰) whose cult had been imported from Laconia. One of the dedications¹¹) actually referred to Reshef Mikal of Idalion suggesting that this combination was peculiar to the place¹²). This conclusion proved to be wrong, however, since a fifth century inscription from Kition refers to Mikal on his own¹³). Some other compelling evidence establishes Mikal as an independent god of Semitic origin in Beth Shan as early as the fourteenth century B.C.¹⁴). It is hardly surprising then that the position was reversed and Amyklos came to be thought of as a Greek transcription of the Canaanite Mikal¹⁵). In other words, Amyklos, Amyklaios were now said to have arisen from the Semitic god¹⁶) after the arrival in Cyprus of the Phoenician colonists¹⁷) late in the ninth century¹⁸), and consequently possessed no cultic significance of their own. If, however, the syncretism of Reshef Mikal and Apollo Amyklos was confined to Cyprus¹⁹), it is hard to explain why

10) References are collected in Masson, *Cultes* 138 and n. 5.

11) *CIS* I, 90.

12) Cf. A. Caquot-O. Masson, "Deux Inscriptions Phéniciennes de Chypre", *Syria* 45 (1968) 308. Compare two other fourth century bilinguals from Tamassos with dedications to Apollo Heleitas and Alasiotas. The epithets are Cypriot toponyms which were translated into the Phoenician equivalents, *Revue des Études Sémitiques* 1212, 1213. Masson, *Cultes* 139, cites and rightly rejects the idea that Alasiotas was a place name in the Peloponnese from which the title under discussion was derived.

13) *CIS* I, 86A-B, 1. 14. Cf. A. van den Branden, "Elenco delle Spese del tempio di Cition, *CIS* 86A et B", *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 8 (1966) 245-62.

14) The name Mikal occurs on an Egyptian stela from the temple at Beth Shan which was dedicated to the god by Thuthmosis III, L. H. Vincent, *Rev. Bib.* 37 (1928) 524-8; A. Rowe, *The Topography and History of Beth Shan*, Philadelphia 1930, 14f.; W. A. Ward, "The Egyptian Inscriptions of Level VI", in E. W. James, *The Iron Age at Beth Shan*, Philadelphia Univ. Mus. 1966, 171; Conrad, *Ztschrft.* (1971) 164.

15) E.g. W. F. Albright, *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*⁴, Baltimore 1956, 79; Masson, *Cultes* 138f.; *Syria* 45 (1968) 309f.; M. Astour, *Hellosemitica*, Leiden 1965, 311; Burkert, *Gr. B.* 4 (1975) 70.

16) I.e. Mikal + prothetic *a*; Astour, *ibid.*

17) *Syria* 45 (1968) 310. O. Eissfeldt believes that Mikal arrived in Cyprus from the east during the second millennium B. C., "Philister und Phönizier", *Der Alte Orient* 34 (1936) 15.

18) Masson, *Cultes* 137; G. F. Hill, *A History of Cyprus*, Cambridge 1940, I, 96ff.; E. Gjerstad, *Swedish Cyprus Expedition IV*, 2, 436ff.; V. Karageorghis, *B. C. H.* 96, (1972) 1064; K. Nicolaou, *A. J. A.* 77 (1973) 54.

19) *Syria* 45 (1968) 312.

the cult of Apollo Amyklos should only have travelled to one other site and nowhere else, unless concealed beneath the Laconian Amyklos there lay an older cult which was the same as that in honour of Reshef – Apollo in Cyprus²⁰). This point will come up again presently.

Although Mikal seems real enough on the Beth Shan stele²¹) receiving worship no later than the second half of the second millennium B.C.²²), certain features do cast doubt on his independent personality. These are in the main the Idalion inscriptions in which Mikal was reduced to an epithet of Reshef²³), and to our knowledge Mikal was only ever associated with Reshef. Also suspicious is the use of the definite article between Reshef and Mikal in an unpublished dedication from the same locality²⁴). Reshef *the* Mikal apparently demonstrates the adjectival quality of the title. Considered from the point of cultic significance it is immaterial, of course, whether Mikal was a toponym, since places generally owed their names to gods and cults and not the other way round. The case against Mikal's being a place name is certainly not as strong as Caquot and Masson believe²⁵) in view of *e.g.* Apollo's numerous localized epithets – especially in Cyprus –, or those of Reshef or Baal²⁶). Appearances notwithstanding, it is impossible to be sure that Mikal existed merely in the shadow of Reshef²⁷): more probably he achieved personal status in his own right but was subsequently absorbed by the greater god. What is certain, however, is that Reshef and Mikal came together early, *i.e.* before Phoenician settlement in Cyprus

20) Cf. Hill, *Hist. Cypr.* I, 87 n. 3.

21) Theories of Mikal's Sumerian origin are generally based on the god's and Reshef's affinity with the chthonic figure of Nergal – W. F. Albright, *Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research* 90 (1943) 33f.; Astour, *Hellen.* 309f. This derivation is unconvincing mainly because of Reshef's universal nature. Etymologies of Mikal from Sumerian also remain suspect, cf. *Syria* 45 (1968) 310.

22) Rowe proposed – *Topography of B. Shan*, 17 – that Mikal was brought to Beth Shan by mercenaries from the western Mediterranean. See Caquot's and Masson's argument against this in *Syria* (1968) 309 n. 6.

23) J. B. Peckham, "Notes on a Fifth-Century Phoenician Inscription from Kition, Cyprus (CIS 86)", *Orientalia* 37 (1968) 320, explains this as a syncretism of the Phoenician Mikal of Kition with the Apollo of Idalion which was politically subject to the former city in the fifth century.

24) Now in the British Museum.

25) *Syria* (1968) 310.

26) Conrad, *Ztschrft.* (1971) 175.

27) See n. 25.

and during the Bronze Age. Conrad convincingly argues that Reshef and Mikal were also associated outside Cyprus namely at Beth Shan²⁸). The stele there was dedicated by Egyptians to the local god Mikal who is shown, not unnaturally in the circumstances, in the form, and with the attributes, of the Egyptian Seth, because Seth often represented 'foreign' gods including both Mikal and Reshef²⁹). Now the archaeological remains in the temple area at Beth Shan indicate continuity of cult between Levels IX (14th century) and V (10/9th century), which means quite probably that the same god was worshipped as the Lord of Beth Shan for these four or five centuries, even though he was called Mikal on the Egyptian stele but Reshef on a tenth century seal from the same place³⁰).

There has been a good deal of speculation about the etymology of Mikal³¹), much of which is linguistically possible but difficult to prove in view of Mikal's elusive background. However, the explanation which is both philologically sound and fits the religious context translates Mikal by "Lord, the All-powerful" *etc.*³²). Some other divine names of the Canaanite pantheon simply mean "Lord" or "King"³³). In Syrian religion Baal signified "Master, Lord", so did Adon, while *melek* meant "King"³⁴). A few of these never rose beyond epithets³⁵); others, like Mikal, were gods in their own right, though they too tended to be closely associated with a major deity. This was the case for example with Adonis whose history conceals important information about the cultural relationship of Canaan and Cyprus. *Mutatis mutandis* the association between Reshef and Mikal really re-

28) *Ztschrift.* (1971) 165.

29) Conrad, *op. cit.* 165; 167.

30) The gods' attributes are similar. Mikal carried a sceptre and the symbol of life in his hands. A conical cap on his head has a pair of horns in front from which bands are suspended. On the seal Reshef is shown holding sickle-sword and the symbol of life sign. He is wearing the same type conical cap but with the head of a gazelle in front and double bands at the back. Conrad, *Ztschrift.* (1971) 165; 175.

31) Astour, *Hellen.* 311 f.; Caquot-Masson, *Syria* 45 (1968) 310 f. have made up a list of recent proposals.

32) For references see *Syria* (1968) 310 f. and Conrad, *op. cit.* 166 n. 65; 175 f. Cf. Burkert, *Gr. B.* 4 (1975) 69, "der Mächtige".

33) The general Semitic word for god - *el* - means "power".

34) H. Ringgren, *The Religion of Ancient Syria in Historia Religionum*, Leiden 1969, I, 198; 200, *etc.*

35) This seems to be true of *melek*, which is recorded *e.g.* as a title of Reshef - *Ugaritica V* TML 12: V⁰ 7.

sembled that of Astarte, Aphrodite with Adonis whose independent name and perhaps personality represented a development in Phoenician religion³⁶).

Invocatory titles like "King" and "Lord" were used by the Minoans and Mycenaean whose habit of calling their gods *Wanax*, *Wanassa* and *Potnia* is reflected in the Linear B tablets. The custom survived to some extent in Greek literature³⁷) and in a particular type of cult³⁸) which from the beginning had revolved about the figure of the *Wanax*. Many of the cult's basic aspects the Mycenaean shared with the Minoans and ultimately with Syrian and Mesopotamian religions. Therefore the use of the titles (*W*)*anax*, (*W*)*anassa* is a sure indication that we are dealing with an ancient cult which had continued from the Bronze Age. Cyprus was no exception to the rule: at Paphos an old tradition recorded that Aphrodite used to be called *Wanassa*³⁹). We cannot press this kind of evidence too far⁴⁰) without knowing more of the nature of Mikal's and Reshef Mikal's cult which will become clearer if we consider the background to the Greek side of the identification.

The evidence concerning the Laconian Amyklai has been examined elsewhere⁴¹). The site was settled uninterruptedly from Early Helladic⁴²). Although there is, of course, no direct witness that the name of the settlement remained the same from the beginning, Greek tradition is unanimous that Amyklai was an ancient "Achaean" bastion⁴³). Ancient means Bronze Age in this

36) E.g. R. Dussaud, *Religion des Phéniciens*, Paris 1949, 366.

37) B. C. Dietrich, *The Origins of Greek Religion*, Berlin 1974, 180ff.

38) B. Hemberg, *Anax, Anassa und Anakes*, Uppsala 1955, *passim*.

39) This is her title in local syllabic inscriptions, Masson, *Cultes* 135.

40) There was a Mycenaean temple (Sanctuary I) below that of Aphrodite at Palaepaphos. Associated finds (horns of consecration, two stone capitals and other architectural features), which are the same as those in similar sanctuaries at Kition, Enkomi and Myrtou-Pigadhes, date the temple to the twelfth century B. C., *B. C. H.* 98 (1974) 874f.

41) "The Dorian Hyacinthia" *Kadmos* 14 (1975) 133-142.

42) There is a brief ceramic gap between 1100 and 1000 B. C. Sources and modern discussions are cited in my paper (see previous note). The archaeological evidence is set out by H. Waterhouse-R. Hope-Simpson, "Prehistoric Laconia" Parts I & II, *B. S. A.* 55 (1960) 67-107; 56 (1961) 114-175. P. Ålin, *Das Ende der mykenischen Fundstätten auf dem griechischen Festland*, Lund 1962, 92f.; V. Desborough, *The Last Mycenaean and their Successors*, Oxford 1964, 88f.; *The Greek Dark Ages*, London 1972, 240f.; 280; A. M. Snodgrass, *The Dark Ages of Greece*, Edinburgh 1971, 131; 275.

43) E.g. Paus. 3, 2, 6.

context, for we may be pretty certain that the Cretan Amyklaion near Gortyn was founded as early as that from the Laconian Amyklai⁴⁴) even though the name occurs only much later in the written sources⁴⁵). This early date is most important for the assessment of the Cypriot connection of divinities and cult whatever the etymology of Amyklai might be⁴⁶).

There is not much to be learned from this particular research except that the word need not be Semitic but could be Cypriot⁴⁷). Also Amyklai, Amyklaios were non-Greek intrusive words like other mainland toponyms. But the adjectival form does not quite fit Apollo who was generally referred to as ἐν Ἀμύκλαις, ἐν Ἀμυκλαίῳ rather than Ἀμυκλαῖος, Ἀμυκλος. Amyklaios as cult title, and as month name⁴⁸), were comparatively late⁴⁹) as opposed to Apollo's more familiar epithet Hyakinthos, Hyakinthios⁵⁰). This does not imply that Amyklai, Amyklaios and Hyakinthos represented two distinct elements in the Laconian festival: both referred to the same cult which was in Apollo's charge⁵¹). But the significance of the former seems to reside in

44) H.G. Buchholz in his review of F. Kiechle, *Lakonien und Sparta*, Munich 1963, in *Historische Zeitschrift* 200 (1965) 368; R.F. Willetts, *Cretan Cults and Festivals*, London 1962, 261; "Amyklai", *Epeteris tou Kentrou Epistemonikon Ereunon*, V, Leukosia, 1971-1972, 31 f.; Cf. Sp. Marinatos, *Arch. Anzeiger* (1962) 915 f. and V. Ehrenberg, *From Solon to Socrates*, London 1968, 382 n. 8, "... if that name (Amyklaion) was imported from Laconia... it points to a pre-Dorian colony". For a different view see Kiechle, *op. cit.* 78.

45) *Law of Gortyn* III, 5-9; *I. C.* 4, 172 (3/2nd century B.C.) refers to Amyklaion; cf. Steph. Byzant. Ἀμύκλαι· ἔστι καὶ πόλις Ἀμύκλαιον ἐν Κρήτῃ καὶ ὄρεος.

46) Amyklai is an Aegean, pre-Greek word, according to J.B. Haley, "The Coming of the Greeks", *A.J.A.* 32 (1928) 145; A. Fick, *Vorgriechische Ortsnamen als Quelle für die Vorgeschichte Griechenlands*, Göttingen 1905, 91; 113.

47) L. Deroy proposed that Amyklai derived from an Eteocypriot toponym Samuklai which the Greek settlers called Amathous, "La Valeur du Suffixe Préhellénique -nth- d'après quelques Noms Grecs en -θος", *Glotta* 35 (1956) 185.

48) In Crete: Gortynian calendar, *I. C.* 4, 182, 23 (3/2nd cent. B.C.).

49) Amyklaios may have been scratched on a roof tile - *I. G.* V, 1, 863 - otherwise the title is used of the cult statue in Amyklai on Laconian coins of Antigonos Doson (3rd. cent. B.C.) and on imperial coins of Commodus and Gallienus. The references have been collected in *P.-W.* "Sparta" (Ziehen) 1458.

50) Cf. *P.-W.* "Apollon" (Jessen) 43; "Sparta" (Ziehen) 1456.

51) Cf. Nonnus, *Dion.* 11, 365; 12, 160, where Hyakinthos and Amyklaios are identified.

its particular form of cult building or locality, such as for example its open position on a hill⁵²) prior to the transference of the Amyklaion to Crete, *i. e.* before the end of the Bronze Age. Amyklaion doubtless referred to a central aspect of the Laconian cult which was also connected with Hyakinthos and with Apollo who absorbed the former figure in his own worship. The Reshef Mikal – Apollo Amyklos notices of Idalion similarly reflected actual cult which should not have materially differed from that in Amyklaion.

The archaeological evidence is explicit: Achaeans came to Cyprus in large numbers from the end of the thirteenth century B.C. in Late Cypriot III⁵³). Greek tradition tells the same story of settlement in Cyprus following the Trojan War, particularly from Arcadia and Laconia⁵⁴). Accounts like Agapenor's founding of Paphos, or that of Lapethos by Laconian Praxandros, arose from historical events⁵⁵) and largely agree with the archaeological evidence⁵⁶). Thus firm ties bound Cyprus to the Peloponnese, so that religious ideas, deities and cult were passing both ways across the Aegean before the Bronze Age had been rung out⁵⁷). Pausanias records the curious popular memory of Laodike, daughter of Arcadian Agapenor, dedicating a temple to Aphrodite Paphia in her old home in Tegea⁵⁸). Should one not then consider the very real possibility that the name Amyklaion came

52) See below n. 77 for the possible connection of Hyakinthos with peak cult. Cypriot cult shared with that of the Mycenaeans the use of open air sanctuaries. See the archaeological reports of *e.g.* Kition cited below and R. V. Nicholls, "Greek votive statuettes and religious continuity, c. 1200–700 B.C.", in *Auckland Classical Essays*, presented to E. M. Blaiklock (B.F. Harris ed.), Auckland 1970, 8; 9.

53) H. W. Catling, "Cyprus in the Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods", *C. A. H.*² 1966, II, 22 (b) 64f.; V. Karageorghis, *The Ancient Civilization of Cyprus*, London 1969, 62f.

54) See Steph. Byzant. *Λακεδαιμόνων ἔστι καὶ ἑτέρα Λακεδαιμόνων Κύπρον μεσόγειος*. Eust. *Il.* 2, 581, ἔστι δὲ καὶ Κύπρον Λακεδαιμόνων.

55) Paus. 8, 5, 2; Lycophr. 479ff.; Strabo 14, 683, 682; Lycophr. 586ff. and schol. The evidence has been collected by E. Gjerstad, "The Colonization of Cyprus in Greek Legend", *Opuscula Archaeologica* 3 (1944) 107–123; Kiechle, *Lakonien* 68–75.

56) Compare Gjerstad, *op. cit.* 112; 119. Kiechle has to make room for the Dorian invasion of Greece and accordingly postpones the migration to Cyprus until after the Mycenaean Age, p. 72.

57) This point has been debated by some modern scholars, *e.g.* K. J. Beloch, *Griechische Geschichte*², Strassburg 1913, I, 2, 106; Gjerstad, *Op. Arch.* (1944) 110f., who also cites Enmann.

58) Paus. 8, 53, 7.

from Cyprus or even further east⁵⁹)? But questions about the "how" and "when" of this transmission are still beyond us.

The earliest remains of cult at Amyklai belong to L. H. III B/C. They consist of typical Mycenaean "Psi" figurines and wheel-made animals⁶⁰). Miniature votive double axes complete the picture of a Minoan-Mycenaean type cult which survived the end of the Bronze Age⁶¹) and continued in its essentials in the historical Amyklaian festival. The old Aegean figure of Hyakinthos was central to this cult whose apotropaic content and ritual attracted the attention of the more important god. Apollo's own apotropaic nature and early date of involvement with the Hyakinthia are evident from his ancient image at Amyklai for which Bathycles centuries later built the massive marble throne⁶²). The semi-iconic statue was in the form of a bronze pillar, but with arms, which carried spear and bow, feet and head plus helmet. The curious form appears on Spartan coins which, though late, doubtless preserved a tradition that began in prehistoric times⁶⁴). We are reminded of Apollo Pythaios, whose identical armed and pillar-shaped image stood on the hill Thornax in Laconia. The cult, too, was the same for both figures, because the Spartans felt free to use the gold which Croesus had sent for Pythaios to adorn the Amyklaian Apollo⁶⁵).

Stone columns or pillars were extremely common symbols of Apollo throughout Greece from Acarnania, Laconia, Megara to Attica and in the east⁶⁶) in his capacity as purifying god, protector and defender against evil (Alexikakos, Apotropaios)⁶⁷).

59) For a different view see Gjerstad, *op. cit.* 112.

60) *B.S.A.* 55 (1960) 75 and n. 44.

61) See the discussion in *Kadmos* (1975).

62) Celebrated in the month of Hekatombaion, *IG V, 1*, 188, 1. 8; cf. I. Chirassi, *Elementi di Culture Precereali nei Miti e Riti Greci*, Rome 1968, 171 and n. 28.

63) Fifth century B.C., Paus. 3, 1, 3; 19, 3. The throne concealed Hyacinthus' tomb in its base.

64) See above n. 47 and F. Imhoof-Blumer and P. Gardner, "Numismatic Commentary on Pausanias: Megarica, Corinthiaca", *J.H.S.* 6 (1885) 63.

65) Herod. I, 69; Paus. 3, 10, 8; cf. S. Wide, *Lakonische Kulte*, repr. Darmstadt, 1973, 88.

66) The evidence is collected by Reisch, "Agyieus" *P.-W.* 909ff.; A. B. Cook, *Zeus*, Cambridge 1925, II, 160ff.; L. R. Farnell, *The Cults of the Greek States*, Oxford 1907, IV, 371ff.; S. Solders, "Der ursprüngliche Apollon", *AfRW* 32 (1935) 142ff.

67) *IG III²* 4850; 4995. Cf. my article "Minoan Peak Cult: A Reply", *Historia* 20 (1971) 520f.

His best known epithet in this function was Agyieus⁶⁸); but he could also be called Prostatarios⁶⁹), Thyraios⁷⁰), Propylaios⁷¹) *etc.*, as his pillars were placed in front of private houses or protected public buildings, like theatres and sanctuaries⁷²), or even public roads⁷³). The shape of the column was typically baetylic, *i.e.* pointed or cone-shaped⁷⁴), and appears on coins from Oricus, Apollonia and Ambracia⁷⁵).

In short the evidence for this aspect of Apollo is strong and suggests that the god's apotropaic qualities, together with the primitive image, belonged to his earliest nature which became submerged later in a confusing multitude of functions. Quite probably, as Nilsson suggests⁷⁶), the community and city-god Apollo Patroos evolved from the function of the protector of individual homes and byways. However, for our purposes two points are very important: firstly the history of the divine pillar in Minoan-Mycenaean cult in general, and secondly the particular association of this "baetylic" Apollo with the east. Both points are related really, because they refer to common basic cult practices and beliefs of the Bronze Age which the Aegean peoples shared with much of the east at the time. Mycenaean stone and pillar cult and its beginnings have been fully discussed⁷⁷): it seems clear that the aniconic preceded the iconic statue and was thought to represent the god and his power. Therefore Apollo's semi-iconic imagery and connection with stone worship are an indication of the antiquity of his cult not only in the east⁷⁸), but also in the Greek world⁷⁹), which seems to support our conten-

68) Harpocr. *q.v.* Ἀγυῖα; Loxias, Photius, *Biblioth.* 535.

69) See the inscriptions in n. 64.

70) Macrob. I, 9, 6, where he cites Nigidius.

71) Aristoph., *Wasps* 875.

72) *E.g.* the Athenian Thesmophorion, Aristoph., *ibid.* and *Thesmoph.*

489.

73) Herodian, II, 889, 28; schol. Eur., *Phoen.* 631.

74) κίων εἰς ὄξυ λήγων, schol. Aristoph., *Wasps* 875; Harpocr.; Suidas *q.v.* ἀγυῖα – κωνοειδής κίων, schol. Eur., *Phoen.* 631; Eust. *Il.* 2, 12.

75) Head, *Hist. Numm.* 265 f.; 270.

76) *Gesch.* I, 557.

77) A. Evans, "The Mycenaean Tree and Pillar Cult", from *J. H. S.* 21, London 1901; M. P. Nilsson, *Minoan-Mycenaean Religion and its Survival in Greek Religion*², Lund 1950, ch. VII; *Gesch.* I, 201 ff.; Dietrich, *Origins* 107 ff.

78) Nilsson, *Gesch.* I, 562 f.

79) Clem. Alex., *Strom.* I, 418P, cites the poet Eumelus as his authority that Apollo was worshipped in Delphi in pillar-shape. The god's baetylic omphalos is probably better evidence for his long residence in Delphi, *cf.*

tion that Apollo came to the Amyklaian cult in Mycenaean times as protector and defender against evil⁸⁰).

It seems that the figure of Apollo the protector originated in the east, possibly in Anatolia: perhaps he had already guarded the ancient city of Troy, for the baetyls, which were found flanking the gates of Troy VI, might well have been symbolic of Agyieus⁸¹). But the strongest memory of Agyieus' eastern origins survived in the double function of his stone as divine image and sacrificial altar⁸²). This dual purpose was Semitic and particularly at home in Phoenician belief according to which the stone baitylos served at once as the God's house and His altar on which He received His sacrifice⁸³). Such *λίθοι ἔμψυχοι* incidentally played an important rôle in Phoenician Creation Myths, so that their cultic use also travelled to Greece by the secondary route⁸⁴).

It was, one imagines, the apotropaic and protecting qualities inherent in Apollo's stones and pillars which brought him together with Reshef Mikal in Cyprus. Mikal's precise value in this equation remains unknown, but independently, or as part of Reshef, he must have exercised the same functions in this syncretism as his other partners. Thus it becomes possible to interpret two items of direct evidence in the light of this cultic background: Mikal's pillar is actually mentioned in the Kition inscription⁸⁵), and there is no reason to suppose that its signi-

Nilsson, *Gesch.* I, 204. In Megara Apollo Karinos was represented by a small pyramid-shaped stone near the Nymphades Gates, Paus. I, 44, 2; Apollo Lithesios was shown standing beside a stone in Malea, Steph. Byzant. *q. v.* *Λιθήσιος*. The same applies, of course, to other Greek deities with similar associations, like Dionysus Perikionios in Thebes (schol. Eur., *Phoen.* 651; Clem. Alex., *Strom.* I 24, 418P); Zeus Meilichios and Artemis (Patroa) in Sicyon (pyramid and pillar, Paus. 2, 9, 6); and Hera (Clem. Alex., *ibid.*).

80) There is an obvious connection between this type of cult on Ayia Kyriaki and peak cult which also survived from the Minoan-Mycenaean Age. In classical times Apollo with the epithet of Hyakinthos received offerings on peak cult sites in Crete (Tylissos) and on the mainland, *B. C. H.* 91 (1967) 133 and n. 1.

81) This was first suggested by W. Dörpfeld, *Troja und Ilion*, 1902, 134, Pl. 44 & 45; S. Blegen *et al.*, *Troy III, The Sixth Settlement*, 1953, 96f.; 105; Pl. 47, 49, 50, 51, 74. Cf. Nilsson, *Gesch.* I, 562 n. 5, Pl. 34, 1.

82) Hesych. *q. v.* *ἀγνιεύς: ὁ πρὸ τῶν θυρῶν ἐστὼς βωμὸς ἐν σχήματι κίονος*. Suidas *q. v.* *ἀγνιῶν*. ... *οἱ πρὸ τῶν οἰκιῶν βωμοί* ...

83) Ringgren, *Rel. of Anc. Syria* I, 210.

84) Dietrich, *Origins* 55

85) *CIS* I, 86, 1. 14. This is the translation of the Semitic 'stt (prothetic

ficance greatly differed from that of Apollo's baetyl. Secondly we are in possession of some interesting information from the archaeological remains of the Phoenician temple in Kition which may have housed the dedication. According to the excavator's report, the entrance to this temple was flanked by two stone columns, and it does not seem too far fetched to ascribe to these the same kind of powers that were felt to reside in the pillars of Agyieus⁸⁶).

There is, however, a depressingly wide chronological gap between the Achaean and Phoenician periods of colonization and the inscriptional evidence. This and other grave problems will have to be squarely faced. The question of continuity, as in Greece, can to some extent be answered by the archaeological evidence. It is as well to remember, however, that no identifiable temple of Mikal has yet been uncovered. In Kition, for example, which has been the site of the most sensational discoveries in recent years one important Phoenician temple⁸⁷) has come to light which belonged to Astarte, the Phoenician Aphrodite. Now the accounts (*CIS* 86) which mention Mikal's name actually concerned Astarte's temple, although Mikal is said to have his own temple. Should we therefore assume the same temple to have housed the two? Perhaps, perhaps not; but the monumental remains of Kition do in fact suggest that twin deities (male and female?) were revered in the temple area. There certainly existed a close relationship between the Amyklaian Apollo and Aphrodite in Laconia⁸⁸). Possibly the puzzling epithets of Tetracheir and Tetraotos, which also belonged to Apollo in Amyklai, on the usually reliable authority of Sosibios⁸⁹), arose from such cultic background of twin figures. These points are

aleph) which has been proposed by Peckham, Donner-Röllig and M. Da hood, cited in *Syria* 46 (1969) No. 96, p. 338 f.

86) V. Karageorghis, *B. C. H.* 94 (1970) 252.

87) Remains of others are mentioned in *B. C. H.* 97 (1973) 652.

88) The armed Aphrodite is called Amyklaia by Nonnus, *Dion.* 43, 6. There were two statues of Aphrodite in Amyklai by Gitiades and Polyclitus, the second of which carried the epithet *παρὰ Ἀμυκλαίῳ* (Paus. 3, 18, 8; 4, 14, 2). Furtwängler believed that the famous statue on Bathycles' throne represented Aphrodite Enhoplios, Roscher, *Myth. Lex.* I, 408. Cf. also the curious column-shaped image (like a *meta*) of the Paphian Aphrodite, Tac., *Hist.* 2, 3.

89) In Zenobius i, 54; cf. Hesych. *q. v.* *Κορυίδιος*; Farnell, *Cults* IV, 127.

plausible, particularly in view of the history of Aphrodite and Apollo cult in Cyprus, but can not be proved, alas⁹⁰).

Such reservations aside, the archaeological picture of some of the major Cypriot settlements does bring out two significant aspects: firstly there is much evidence of cult continuity beyond the end of the Bronze Age, and secondly Cyprus, perhaps like nowhere else in the ancient world, practised a religious syncretism which was composed of so-called Eteocypriot elements, no doubt containing some Anatolian ideas which settlers had brought with them in the Early Bronze Age, as well as Mycenaean Greek and Phoenician elements, not to mention others of minor importance. The same kind of continuity and religious mixture which, as Schachermeyr rightly saw, resulted for example in the famous statue of the Horned God at Enkomi⁹¹), is also evident in the remains of the Kition site which had been settled from the beginning of the Bronze Age or earlier⁹²). The large temple, which the Phoenicians built for Astarte at the end of the ninth century B.C.⁹³) not only stood in what had been the sacred area from at least the Late Bronze Age, but in one way or another linked up with the preceding Eteocypriot and Mycenaean precincts and sanctuaries.

There were four earlier temples each one concerned with the same type of cult. The two oldest were Temple II and the much smaller Temple III which had been built alongside one another by the local inhabitants in L. Cypr. II⁹⁴). At the end of the thirteenth century B.C. (L. Cypr. III) the Mycenaean settlers in Kition erected the east wall of their own Temple I⁹⁵) on top of what had been one of the walls of Temple II which also re-

90) This also applies to Apollo's arms and helmet at Amyklai, despite the obvious parallels from Syrian iconography of Reshef (bow), and armed Astarte.

91) *Anzeiger für die Altertumswissenschaft* 25 (1972) 156. Although scholars' opinions differ concerning the identity of the figure, most agree that the statuette was the result of a mixture of styles, e.g. P. Dikaios, "The Bronze Statue of a Horned God from Enkomi", *Archäologischer Anzeiger* (1962) 29f.; C.F.A. Schaeffer, *Archiv für Orientforschung* 21 (1965) 68.

92) Karageorghis, *Cyprus* 144.

93) Karageorghis, *B.C.H.* 93 (1969) 520-527; 94 (1970) 251-258; 95 (1971) 377ff.

94) *B.C.H.* 95 (1971) 384ff.; 96 (1972) 1058ff. Most recent finds are recorded in 97 (1973) 648ff.; 98 (1974) 866f.

95) *B.C.H.* 95 (1971) 381.

mained in use but was modified at the same time⁹⁶). The smaller of the twin temples Temple III, disappeared at the time of the construction of Temple I but its site became part of a sacred temenos and saw cult in conjunction with Temples I and II, since a stone altar and horns of consecration were found in the area⁹⁷). This entire temple complex functioned until the destruction of the site, probably by earthquake⁹⁸), in the eleventh century⁹⁹). Subsequently there was an architectural gap until the Phoenician arrival in the ninth century, but not a cultic one: worship plus burnt offering went on throughout the troubled times in the temenos, on and about some four successive altars, perhaps until the end of the Phoenician temple¹⁰⁰). The latter was in fact a reconstruction of the Achaean Temple I (*cf.* a similar reuse of Temple IV by the Phoenicians)¹⁰¹) which continued the same worship of the same deities, albeit under different names, probably until Ptolemy in 312 B.C. ordered the destruction of Phoenician sanctuaries in Kition¹⁰²).

To judge from the remains, which have been discovered in the sacred area, the cult was cosmopolitan with all the elements mentioned above¹⁰³) and presenting a panorama of religious

96) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 384ff. Temple IV was discovered in 1973, east of the sanctuaries complex, with its south wall against the city wall. Like Temples I-III, Temple IV was built in the thirteenth century B.C. and continued in use until *c.* 1000 B.C. It was rebuilt as a Phoenician sanctuary during the ninth century, *B. C. H.* 98 (1974) 866f.; *A. J. A.* 79 (1975) 129.

97) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 386. In the following report, 96 (1972) 1059ff., the excavators divide the sacred area into Temenos A (subsequently abandoned), north of Temple I, and Temenos B, east of it. Another temenos and altar came to light in the course of the 1973 campaign. Both temenos (like Temenos A) and altar (with evidence of burnt offerings) date from L. Cypr. III (*i.e.* they were in use during Levels I-III) and were taken over by the Phoenicians for their own sacrificial rites, *B. C. H.* 98 (1974) 867.

98) Karageorghis, *Cyprus* 148; *B. C. H.* 96 (1972) 1063.

99) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 386; 96 (1972) 1064.

100) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 388.

101) *B. C. H.* 96 (1972) 1064. *Cf.* n. 93 above.

102) Diod. 19, 79; *B. C. H.* 94 (1970) 252.

103) Some of the monumental remains illustrate this mixture: *e.g.* portions of Minoan-type columns from Temple I (*cf.* similar finds from Enkomi and Myrtou-Pigadhes), *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 386; Mycenaean clay statuettes, *ibid.*, including a 'Psi' figurine which may have come from Temple III or a nearby tomb, *B. C. H.* 97 (1973) 651. Examples of Cypro-Minoan script should perhaps also be classed in this category, *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 384; 97 (1973) 653. Oriental influence, prior to Phoenician settlement in Cyprus, is evident from *e.g.* a miniature bronze liver, and the wing of an ivory sphinx from the debris beneath Temple I, *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 384.

beliefs which were adapted to Cypriot conditions but whose common Aegean heritage never disappeared. The two most noticeable examples of this fact are the part played in cult by the bull and the close association of the vital copper foundries and workshops with the deities guarding the welfare of the settlement. The horns of consecration in the temenos beside Temple I¹⁰⁴) could have been made by the Mycenaean settlers; but the cult associated with them had been at home in Cyprus from the beginning of the Bronze Age and earlier times, as witness *inter alia* the famous clay model of an open air sanctuary with bulls from Vounous¹⁰⁵) and the recently found miniature sanctuaries with bucrania from Kochati near Idalion¹⁰⁶). The cult may originally have come to the island from Anatolia¹⁰⁷), but it was shared throughout the Bronze Age with other Aegean cultures¹⁰⁸), so that horns of consecration, bucrania or bull-masks are evidence of old inherited features of island culture, whatever new ideas foreign settlers brought with them. This applies to the horns in the temenos beside, and contemporary with, Temple I at Kition, as much as to the bucrania and masks belonging to the Phoenician temple¹⁰⁹). The bull in cult and its association with a goddess of nature had, of course, been familiar to Mycenaeans and Phoenicians before they came to Cyprus.

Another practice that appeared to be peculiarly Cypriot, but in fact constituted a local variation of common ideas, is the association of copper foundries with the community sanctuaries and gods. The Kition "Industrial Quarter" for example, west of Temple III, was directly related to the temples and sacred temenos throughout L. Cypr. III¹¹⁰) and continued with the

Such models of the liver were used for divinatory purposes in the Near East and especially in Ugarit, *cf. op. cit.* n. 84 for references. Another feature with distinctly oriental flavour is the sacred garden in Temple I, *B. C. H.* 97 (1973) 648, figs. 78, 79 and n. 49.

104) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 386; 97 (1973) 653 & fig. 86 (Temenos B); *cf.* the examples from Myrtou-Pigadhes and from Aphrodite's temple at Paphos, *ibid.*

105) Karageorghis, *Cyprus* 110 and Pl. 49.

106) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 344, fig. 16-19.

107) *Cf.* Karageorghis, *Cyprus* 109f.; *B. C. H.* 94 (1970) 251.

108) *Cf.* Dietrich, *Origins* 104f.; 114ff.

109) *B. C. H.* 94 (1970) 255.

110) *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 388; 96 (1972) 1058f. Apparently the copper workings at Kition extended across the entire period of settlement from L. Cypr. II, *B. C. H.* 98 (1974) 866.

Phoenician temple. The latter was also used for copper working in the course of its fourth and last period from the mid-fifth to the late fourth century B.C.¹¹¹). However, the gods revered in these workshops and sanctuaries were still the same protectors of the community and of its source of revenue as those we are familiar with from other centres in the Aegean world of the Bronze Age. In Cyprus the community's most precious possession was its copper, so that it seems reasonable to connect the famous bronze statuette from Enkomi of a bearded and armed figure standing on a copper ingot with the Cypriot version of the protecting deity¹¹²).

Karageorghis believes that the deities receiving worship in the "twin" Temples I and II in Kition were the patron god and goddess of the copper industry¹¹³). This explanation is plausible, even though only one goddess figure on an ingot has so far come to light¹¹⁴). But these divinities ought to be seen in a wider religious arena, in the sense that they must have played a part in the cult which continued into historical times and which incorporated the various elements we have discussed. For example, in Kition it should be possible to identify such community gods with the Phoenician Astarte whose temple after all became an integral part of the earlier temples and temenos and functioned concurrently with them. Somewhere in the same cultic background we should also be able to find the figure of Mikal, as well as that of the related Reshef and Apollo Amyklaios whose names were inscribed in the Idalion bilinguals. In other words, can one fit together the archaeological with the inscriptional evidence? To do this convincingly would require written source material from the critical last period of the Bronze Age and the ensuing Dark Age. But our close look at what evidence there is allows some useful conclusions.

Reshef Mikal and Astarte were, of course, intruders in Cyprus; but they probably arrived before Phoenician colonies

111) *B. C. H.* 94 (1970) 252. Many ivory carvers found in the temple point to another kind of industry, 97 (1973) 652. Compare also the copper workshops in Tamassos which were associated with the cult of Astarte, and similar arrangements in Enkomi, 97 (1973) 665; *Syria* 50 (1973) 111.

112) Schaeffer, *Archiv für Orientforschung* 21 (1965) 59ff.; *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 388; 96 (1972) 1059.

113) *B. C. H.* 96 (1972) 1059.

114) In a private collection which is to be published by H. W. Catling, according to Karageorghis, *B. C. H.* 95 (1971) 388 and n. 89.

actually established themselves on the island in the ninth century. In any case these two took over local cults and deities with the same functions as their own and deriving from a common Aegean background. There are some indications that, following old Aegean practice¹¹⁵), the gods of Cyprus were addressed as “Queen” and “Lord” by their worshippers¹¹⁶). Mikal, too, meant “Lord” in Phoenician like Adon, while Astarte is referred to as “the holy Queen” in her temple accounts from Kition¹¹⁷).

As far as it is still possible to read Mikal’s character and functions, he was an apotropaic figure, although his identity was subordinate to the great god Reshef. In Kition Mikal appears to have been closely associated with Astarte, and he may have been invoked as the protector of the community’s copper industry. This same function of protector and guardian against evil caused Apollo Amyklaios to be recognized as the equivalent of Reshef Mikal in Idalion. The epithet Amyklaios is poorly attested in Greece and the logical conclusion seems to be that the name was borrowed from the Semitic Mikal. If so, then we would be in possession of further evidence in favour of the early establishment in Cyprus of Mikal’s cult, for the simple reason that the Laconian Amyklai was known prior to the end of the Bronze Age. In any case Amyklaios described the same function of Apollo as his older title Hyakinthios, which does mean unfortunately that we can learn nothing about the cult from the history of the name Amyklaios. As Sir John Myres suggested some time ago¹¹⁸), the Greek and Semitic gods concealed Eteocypriot figures; true, but, though the names differed, their functions were the same.

What can be learned about the age of Apollo’s cult from the Cypriot evidence? The god was known on the island at the same time as, and quite possibly earlier than, in Laconia where it is likely that he had established himself before the end of the Bronze Age. It would not be sensible, however, to pursue the question whether Apollo came to Greece first and only from Cyprus; we ought not to shut the door on Apollo’s many other cult associations and their background. But we are concerned with

115) Dietrich, *Origins* 185 ff.

116) *Wanassa* is established but not *Wanax*.

117) *mlkt qdst* in line 7 of *CIS* I, 86, *Syria* 46 (1969) 338 with further modern literature.

118) J.L. Myres, *Handbook Cesnola Collection*, New York 1914, 127; cf. Hill, *Hist. of Cyprus* 1, 87 n. 3.

the apotropaic god and protector of the community, both functions which formed part of Apollo's earliest nature and which he acquired in the east. Thus we are led to the historically probable conclusion that on their arrival the Mycenaeans already found Apollo well entrenched in Cyprus as Alasiotas for example or Heleítas, or under another of his local titles¹¹⁹).

Cyprus provided an important cultural entrepôt between east and west and evidently transmitted some aspects of the universal figure that is known as Apollo. The history of the island's cult does suggest that Apollo could well have reached the Greek world during the Late Bronze Age. This date should, however, be regarded as a *terminus ante quem*: other earlier routes to the west were certainly also open to him, especially over Minoan Crete, if we are to trust in the traditional accounts which survived in the Greek historians. There is furthermore the connection of Apollo Hyakinthios with Cretan peak cult which may have come about quite early. These avenues will have to be explored more closely, and particularly the relationship between the Alexikakos and the oracular Apollo.

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¹¹⁹) Compare Burkert's very similar conclusion, *Gr. B.* 4 (1975) 70. He believes, however (p. 74), that a Minoan-Mycenaean Paiawon figure coalesced with the Syrian Reshef Mikal in Cyprus during the twelfth century B. C., and that from this cult, once it had been introduced to Greece, evolved the Dorian god Apellon – Apollon in the Geometric period. This close link of Apollo with the Dorians (presumably an alien element in the Mycenaean world) – whatever the etymological merit of Apollo from Apellai – produces its own problems (*cf.* above p. 1), as Burkert realised, "Appellai und Apollon", *Rheinisches Museum* 118 (1975) 17.