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Reconsidering the Middle Minoan Pottery at Phylakopi in Melos
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Recent re-investigation of the material from the 1896-9 British School excavations at Phylakopi stored in the National Museum in Athens revealed several unpublished examples of Middle Minoan pottery to supplement previous published studies (figs. 1-3). The new total of 123 inventoried examples of Middle Minoan pottery, predominantly Polychrome Painted Kamares Ware but also examples of less well-known fabrics and styles, is presented here in detail with new illustrations. We consider its precise Cretan origins and meaning: was it traded, or collected for its unique qualities and significance, or could the abundance of MM II fine wares in the Early Second City at Phylakopi indicate the presence of Cretans working on building projects there, as at Harageh in Egypt, and, if the latter, which projects?
Fig. 1 (Poster)

**NAM 11.991** Plastic affix shaped like female figure, perhaps part of rhyton. Two non-joined frs of torso with both arms and bell skirt, partially recomposed in plaster. 25%. H torso 3.0, skirt 4.1, rest 7.5. Torso and skirt fine hard buff fabric. Head in gritty buff pushed down through neck. Hand modelled. Figure pierced with D 1.2 cm hole in chest where it held or was attached to a vase. Vertical plain zone on skirt is trace of where it was attached to the vase or a larger composition. Whatever the figure held in her arms extended in front may have been a rhyton in that it sent the liquids through her body. Int plain. Ext coated semi-lustrous dark-brown with orange cross and ivy pattern at the torso's back and white and orange zigzag pattern on skirt.

![Image of plastic affix shaped female figure](image1)

Fig. 2

**NAM 11.500** Rounded cup. Three partially recomposed lower side frs. 35%. H 4.0, D base 3.5. Very, very fine hard buff fabric (almost egg-shell). WM. Coated semi-lustrous dark-brown throughout. Int solid dark-brown. Ext has red band at base with added white vertical lines radiating upwards to an incised wavy line that forms part of a rock-work design with incised wavy lines filled with orange and outlined in red alternating with dark zones filled with ordered white spots. Int pencil graffito: 3.
Fig. 3

NAM5752 Bridge-spouted jar. Nine joined and eight loose partially recomposed base and body frs with complete spout and two loop shoulder handles round in section. 40%. H 17.5, with handle 20.0, D base 6.3. Fine well-fired buff fabric with tiny white inclusions, no lime popping. WM. Int plain with dark-brown band at rim and occasional drips on wall. Ext coated semi-lustrous dark-brown throughout. Two horizontal white bands at base. Three large c. 8 petalled flower/rosettes in white with mauve disc in centre at widest point of side. Six white dashes on top of handle.