### PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This volume is the most immediate and concrete outcome of a small exploratory workshop entitled Crete: the First 'European Civilisation'? Interpretations, Uses, and Appropriations of the 'Minoan' Past, organised by the editors, with the help of Filippo M. Carinci, and held in Venice on 25-27 November 2005. The choice of Venice as the setting of a workshop that explored the disciplinary and social production as well as the uses of Crete's Bronze Age ('Minoan') past was not accidental. Venice seemed an appropriate place because of its historical links with Crete and with the rediscovery of 'Minoan civilisation'. From 1204 until 1669 Crete was under Venetian administration; in the late 19th century Italian scholars, starting with Federico Halbherr, were among the first to take an interest in Crete's archaeological and epigraphical heritage; and from the beginning of the 20th century they made a significant contribution to the production of the 'Minoan' past. In particular, it is from Venice that the modern archaeological exploration of Crete in a sense originated: Domenico Comparetti's interest in Greek inscriptions from this island drove his pupil Federico Halbherr to make his extensive explorations in the 1880s, which ultimately revealed Crete's archaeological and epigraphical heritage to the scholarly world, especially his discovery of the famous Laws of Gortyna (see e.g. the first volume of Creta Antica, 2000, devoted to Halbherr's life and work). But Comparetti's own interest in the island was, in turn, prompted by two Cretan inscriptions found in Venice: one employed as building material in St Mark's cathedral, and the other illustrated by Francesco Barozzi in his Descrizione dell'Isola di Creta of 1577, whose manuscript is kept in the Venetian Museo Correr (cf. LA Rosa's 1986 edited volume L'Archeologia Italiana nel Mediterraneo fino alla Seconda Guerra Mondiale).

More than a century has passed since these first encounters, a period in which a phenomenally rich body of material culture was unearthed or, to be more precise, archaeologically produced; its richness and seemingly unique character continue to grip the archaeological and the popular imagination, and provide an endless source of material, iconographic, literary, and artistic evidence for all sorts of quests of identity, political and intellectual projects, not to mention a range of impressive tourist and heritage locales. Yet, critical interrogations of these phenomena are in short supply. This volume, thus, fills an important gap and invites scholars to a further exploration and critical inquiry of a fascinating and socially significant aspect of European and world archaeology.

In the course of this project we have benefited from the help of many friends and colleagues: it is our pleasure to thank them here.

Professors Vincenzo La Rosa and Pietro Militello showed considerable faith and support in this enterprise by kindly inviting us to publish this book as a special volume of *Creta Antica* at a very early stage of this project.

Professor Filippo Maria Carinci's generous and selfless efforts were crucial to the success of the Venetian workshop: we are very grateful to him for providing rooms to hold our meeting in the atmospheric Palazzo Bernardo-Favero, the seat of the Department of Scienze dell'Antichità (sezione Archeologica), University of Venice; for hosting the opening recep-

tion; for his intriguing paper on Doro Levi (to be published elsewhere) and participation in the discussions; and for his unfailing help in the general organisation of this event.

Professor Lorenzo Lazzarini kindly gave us an *impromptu* tour of St Mark's cathedral, made especially memorable by his unrivalled knowledge of ancient marbles, and Professor John Bennet summed up and concluded our workshop with many insightful remarks.

Professors Jack Davis, Colin Renfrew, and Alain Schnapp expressed interest and support for our project, for which we are grateful.

The Fondazione Ugo and Olga Levi provided us with convenient accommodation on the other side of the Grand Canal, and on several occasions the gondoliers of the *traghetto* San Toma' carried us safely across this stretch of water.

The editors would also like to thank Sue Grice for help with the illustrations; Jean van Altena for help with copy-editing the text; Roger Lonsdale for his patience with Nicoletta Momigliano and his linguistic help, as ever; and Roussetos Panagiotakis for permission to use his paintings for our dust jacket and illustrations in the text.

We are especially grateful to all the contributors to the workshop and to the volume for their co-operation with our tough requests, and offer a collective 'thank you' to individuals/institutions who/which granted our contributors permission for their illustrations.

Last, but not least, the Venetian workshop and the resulting volume would have been impossible without the financial help of the following institutions and sponsors: the University of Bristol (BIRTHA and Arts Faculty Research Fund), the University of Southampton, the University of Venice, the Leventis Foundation, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and the late A. Dottore.

In February 2006, while editing this volume, we learned of the sudden and most unexpected death of Professor Andrew Sherratt. Andrew was not only a dear friend, colleague, and source of inspiration, but was also a key contributor to the workshop on which the present work is based. As we write this preface, it is very strange to think that only a few months ago we were together in Venice, and Andrew was presenting his paper, acting as a discussant, and offering valuable insights with his customary vitality and sense of humour. As a small token of our admiration and gratitude, we dedicate this volume to Andrew and Susan Sherratt. Susan was another key contributor to the workshop: her fascinating chapter on representations of Minoan Crete in the international press, in the circumstances, could not be included here, but will be published elsewhere. We are most grateful to her for permission to include Andrew's paper, and for her help in editing it.

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20

## CHRONOLOGY OF MINOAN PERIODS AND NOTES ON GREEK TRANSLITERATION

Major chronological subdivisions currently in use for Bronze Age Crete and approximate calendar dates		
A.J. Evans's scheme	N. Platon's scheme (with later additions)	Traditional or 'low' chronology, after N. Momigliano (ed.) Knossos Pottery Handbook, I: Neolithic and Minoan (forthcoming). All dates are BC.
Early Minoan I	Prepalatial Period	3000-2650
Early Minoan II (A and B)		2650-2200
Early Minoan III		2200-2050
Middle Minoan IA		2050-1950
Middle Minoan IB	Protopalatial (or First or Old Palace) Period	1950-1900
Middle Minoan II (A and B)		1900-1700
Middle Minoan III (A and B)	Neopalatial (or Second or New Palace) Period	1700-1600
Late Minoan IA		1600-1510
Late Minoan IB		1510-1430
Late Minoan II	Final (or Third) Palatial Period	1430-1390
Late Minoan III A		1390-1330
Late Minoan IIIB		1330-1190
Late Minoan IIIC	Postpalatial Period	1190-1100
Sub-Minoan	Early Iron Age	1100-1000

### Transliteration of Greek letters