

CRETAN PSYCHOANALYSIS AND FREUDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY:
H.D'S MINOAN ANALYSIS WITH FREUD IN 1933

CATHY GERE

ABSTRACT

In 1931 the first reference to Minoan archaeology appeared in Freud's psychoanalytic writings. Eight years later, in his last published work, *Moses and Monotheism*, ancient Crete was invoked in support of one of his most contentious, unfashionable and crazy-seeming ideas – his theory of inherited memory. This chapter examines the theoretical role played by the Minoan past in Freud's published writings, and explores the analysis of a patient – the poet and novelist Hilda Doolittle – in which Cretan archaeology was actually used as a diagnostic tool. I argue that Freud's intricate engagement with the work of Arthur Evans in the 1930s goes some way to explaining why he continued to subscribe to the long-discredited theory of racial memory.