THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PLANT ORNAMENT
ITS ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES
IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURE

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
MARCH, 1945
EXPLANATION OF REISSUE OF THIS MANUSCRIPT 1999

An expanded book length manuscript was among the papers that Helene J. Kantor left to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. She received the Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1945 on the basis of a summary of the contents of this manuscript and in the expectation that the thesis would be published as a book. Instead, a long article, “The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium B. C.” was published in *American Journal of Archaeology* 51:1-103 in 1947. It was later issued as The Archaeological Institute of America Monograph No. 1. Some of the contents of this article were reworked from Sections II and III of this book length manuscript.

For many years Miss Kantor collected photographs and made sketches to illustrate the points she emphasized in the manuscript, but other commitments (her archaeological excavations at Chogha Mish, for instance) kept her from being able to revise, rewrite and complete the manuscript for publication.

Under the direction of John Larson, Museum Archivist, and with the much appreciated help and advice from John Sanders, Head of the Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory, Charles Jones, Research Archivist, Emily Teeter, Associate Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, and Thomas Urban, Oriental Institute Publications, this manuscript has been transcribed by Oriental Institute volunteers Peggy Grant and Mary Shea. The footnotes have been completed as far as possible, and most of Miss Kantor’s “draft sketches” reproduced. It must be emphasized that these sketches were not intended for publication. If the thesis had been printed, the sketches would have been professionally drawn. The sources of the sketches as identified by Miss Kantor are given at the end of each chapter. Although obviously out of date, the careful and detailed research should prove valuable to contemporary scholars in the field of ancient Near Eastern art.
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ABBREVIATIONS

A+no = L. Delaporte, Catalogue des Cylindres Orientaux (Musée du Louvre)
AA = Anzeiger des Jahrbuchs des deutschen archäologischen Instituts in Berlin
AASOR = Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
AJ = Antiquaries Journal
AJA = American Journal of Archaeology
AJSL = American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature
AM = Mitteilungen des deutschen Archäologische Instituts athenische abteilungen
Amarna = N. de G. Davies, The Rock Tombs of el Amarna (London, 1903-1908)
Amenemhet = N. de G. Davies and A. H. Gardiner, The Tomb of Amenemhet (London, 1915)
AMI = Archaeologische Mitteilung aus Iran
Annales = Annales du Service des Antiquités d’Égypte
Annuario = Annuario della R. Scuola Archeologica di Atene
Antefoker = N. de G. Davies, The Tomb of Antefoker (London, 1920)
Arch = Archaeologia
ArchC = J. D. S. Pendlebury, The Archaeology of Crete. (London, 1939)
Asine = Fröden-Persson, Asine (Stockholm, 1938).

BASOR = *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*

BCH = *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*

*Beni Hasan* = H. Carter, etc., *Beni Hasan, 4 Vols* (London, 1893-1900)


BIFAO = *Bulletin de l’Institut français d’Archéologie orientale du Caire*


BMExCyprus = A. S. Murray, A. H. Smith and H. B. Walters, *Excavations in Cyprus* (British Museum, 1900)

BMMA = *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

BMQ = *British Museum Quarterly*


Brussels = Louis Speleers, *Catalogue des intailles orientales des Musées royaux* (Brussels, 1917)

BSA = *Annual of the British School at Athens*


*City of Akhenaten* = J. D. Pendlebery and H. Frankfort, *City of Akhenaten* (London, 1930)

CL+no. = Typological Check List of South-flower hybrids in Chapter VII

CS = H. Frankfort, *Cylinder Seals* (London, 1939)

CVA = *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*


De Clercq = *Catalogue méthodique et raisonné de la Collection De Clercq* (Paris, 1890)

*Deir el Bahri* = Naville, *Deir el Bahri* (London, 1908)

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Deir el Gebrawi = N. de G. Davies, *The Rock Tombs of Deir el Gebrawi* (London, 1907)

Delt = *Archaioloikon Deltion*

Dendra = F. Petrie, *Dendereh* (London, 1900)

EPH = *Archaiologike Ephemeris*


FIFAO = *Fouilles de l’Institut francais d’Archéologie orientale*

Five Theban Tombs = N. de G. Davies, *Five Theban Tombs* (London, 1895)


Huy = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Huy* (London, 1926)

ILN = *Illustrated London News*

IFAO = *Institut français d’archéologie orientale du Caire.*

JEA = *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*

JdI = *Jahrbuch d. k. d. Archäologischen Instituts*

JHS = *Journal of Hellenic Studies*

JNES = *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*


Ken-Amun = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Ken-Amun at Thebes* (New York, 1930)

Klebs AR = L. Klebs, *Die Reliefs des Alten Reiches* (Heidelberg, 1915)

Klebs MR = L. Klebs, *Die Reliefs und Malereien des Mittleren Reiches* (Heidelberg, 1922)

Klebs NR = L. Klebs, *Die Reliefs und Malereien des Neues Reiches* (Heidelberg, 1934)


LD = L. R. Lepsius, *Denkmahler aus Egypten und Aethiopien* (Berlin, 1884)

MÄSberl = *Mitteilung aus der Ägyptischen Sammlung, Berlin*
MChron = A. Furumark, *The Chronology of Mycenaean Pottery* (Stockholm, 1940)


Men. et al. = N. Davies and N. de G. Davies, *The Tombs of Menkheperrasonb, Amenmose and Another* (London, 1933)

MDIAA, MDIAK = *Mitteilungen des deutschen Instituts für ägyptische Altertumskunde in Kairo.*


Menidi = *Das Kuppelgrab bei Menidi* (Athens, 1880)

Mereruka = P. Duell et al., *The Mastaba of Mereruka* (Chicago, 1938)

MIFAO = *Mémoires de l’Institut français d’archéologie orientale du Caire*

MJ = *Museum Journal of the University of Pennsylvania*

MonAnt = *Monumenti Antichi*

Mon. Piot = Monuments et Mémoires publiés par l’Academie des Inscriptions (Foundation Piot)

Moore = Gustav Eisen, *Ancient oriental cylinder and other seals with a description of the collection of Mrs. William H. Moore* (Chicago, 1940)


Nakht = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Nakht at Thebes* (New York, 1917)

Neferhotep = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Neferhotep at Thebes* (New York, 1933)

Nebamun = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Nebamon and Ipuki* (BMMA, New York, 1920)


OIP = *Oriental Institute Publications.*
PEF = Palestine Exploration Fund Annual
PEQ = Palestine Exploration Quarterly

Pro. = C. W. Blegen, Prosymna: The Helladic Settlement Preceding the Argive Heraeum. (Cambridge, 1937)
Ptahhetep = N. de G. Davies, The Mastaba of Ptahhetep and Akhethetep at Saqqara (London, 1900)
Puyemre = N. de G. Davies, The Tomb of Puyemre at Thebes (New York, 1922)
Qenamun = See Ken-Amun
Q+no. = Catalogue of the Collection of Antique Art formed by James, Ninth Earl of Southesk (London, 1908)
QDAP = Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine
Ramose = N. de G. Davies, The Tomb of the Vizier Ramose (London, 1946)
REA = Revue d’Égypte ancienne.
Rekhmire = N. de G. Davies, The Tomb of Rekhmire at Thebes (New York, 1943)
Rosellini, Mon. Civ. = Rosellini, Monumenti civili (Pisa, 1834)
RT = Persson, The Royal Tombs at Dendra near Midea (Lund, 1931).
Samaria = G. Reisner et al., Harvard Excavations at Samaria 1908-10 (Cambridge, 1924)
SAOC = Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, University of Chicago
SCE = E. Gjerstad et al., The Swedish Cyprus Expedition: Finds and Results, 1927-1931.
Schgr = G. Karo, Die Schachtgräber von Mykenai (Munich, 1930).
Sedment = F. Petrie, Sedment (London, 1924)
Sendschirli = Orient-Kom, Sendschirli I (Berlin, 1903-43)
Tell Halaf = M. F. von Oppenheim, Der Tell Halaf (Leipzig, 1931)
Tiryns II = Kaiserlich Deutsches Archaeologische Institute in Athens. (Athens, 1912)

Two Officials = N. de G. Davies, *The Tombs of Two Officials of Tuthmosis IV* (London, 1923)

Two Ramesside Tombs = N. de G. Davies, *Two Ramesside Tombs at Thebes* (New York, 1927)

Two Sculptors = N. de G. Davies, *The Tomb of Two Sculptors at Thebes* (New York, 1925)


VAR+no. = A. Moortgat, *Vorderasiatische Rollsiegel* (Berlin, 1940)


WVDOG = Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung der deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft

ZA = Zeitschrift für Assyriologie

ZÄS = Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde

ZDPV = Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästine-Verein
The genesis and evolution of those branches of ancient Near Eastern ornament which are either based upon or related with plant forms constitute the subject matter of this study. The various traditions of vegetal design that grew up in Egypt, Western Asia, and in the pre-Greek Aegean played a prominent role in ancient art, and are thus, in themselves, of great intrinsic interest. However, they are also important in a far wider connection. As Riegl¹ and others² have pointed out, the creations of the ancient Orient provided the sources from which the plant ornaments of Greece developed. These, in turn, supplied the basis for the later development of vegetal decoration, in the East as well as in the West. Despite the contributions of a number of scholars, a synthesis of the early evolution of plant ornament in the Near East, utilizing the materials accumulated since Riegl published his *Stilfragen* in 1893, has not yet been produced. Here we have attempted to fill this gap by tracing the history of plant ornament from its earliest sources, found in Egypt during the Third Millennium B.C., until its transmission to Greece in the later part of the Eighth and in the Seventh Century B.C.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance received while preparing this work. Professors Ulrich A. Middledorf and John A. Wilson have read the manuscript and made a number of valuable observations. I wish to thank various members of the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures for calling my attention to several interesting points in connection with this study. Doctor Robert J. Braidwood and Linda Braidwood have been very kind in allowing me to examine certain unpublished materials excavated by the Syrian Expedition of the Oriental Institute. It is to Professor Henri Frankfort, however, that I owe my main debt. He suggested to me the topic of this study and it has been written under his guidance. When difficulties arose, he has always provided steady encouragement and assistance.

HJK

¹ Alois Riegl, *Stilfragen* (Berlin, 1893), pp. 44-150.