



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The earliest attestations of Hathor symbols in the southern Levant

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Abstract

An elaborate jewelry box, decorated with scenes revealing local worship of the Egyptian goddess Hathor, was found in the ceremonial palace at Tel Hazor. The prominence of Hathor in the Levant, which is well documented, relates primarily to her role as patroness of the natural resources sought after by the Egyptians in the region. Local worship of Hathor in the Levant is demonstrated at Byblos in the period corresponding to the Middle Kingdom in Egypt, a period of strong commercial and cultural contact between Egypt and the northern Levant, when Hathor was identified with the local goddess "Lady of Byblos." Evidence from the southern Levant indicates that the earliest attestations of symbols associated with Hathor in the region appear on Middle Bronze Age Canaanite scarabs corresponding to the Second Intermediate Period in Egypt. It is the aim of this paper to show that this occurrence was motivated by Egyptian-Canaanite interaction in the turquoise mines at Serabit el-Hadim in Sinai on the one hand, and at Tell el-Dab'a in the eastern Delta on the other.

Keywords

Hathor, symbols, Canaanite, scarabs

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