

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

January 3rd 1960.

Dear Professor Bennett,

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

I was very happy to meet you a couple of days ago to the Meeting of the Institute in New York and I thank you for your kind interest in my little communication there. On the opportunity I would beg you to give in "Nestor" the following further news, which may be of interest to some of its readers:

Dr. P. Kretikos, professor of Pharmacology in the University of Athens, made an interesting observation upon the "Poppygoddess" found in Gazi, Crete. (Marinatos, Arch. Ephem. 1937, I, p. 278 ff.). He observed, that the poppy-capsules decorating the head of the Goddess, bear some perpendicular incisions just similar to the incisions made even to day on the poppy-heads in order to collect the juice from which opium is made. I checked this interesting explanation and, though the Gazi Goddess bears <sup>poppy-head</sup> pins, and there are similar pins in precious material, apparently all representing poppy-heads, it seemed to me that <sup>in the special case of Gazi</sup> the ingenious observation of Prof. Kretikos may be correct. I had just the time to add only a few words in Marinatos-Hirmer, Kreta und das Mykenische Griechenland Hellas, which just appeared (p. 102 Nr. 128), without having possibility to deal the subject in some persuading detail. I believe, that Kretikos's observation may be of interest owing to recent discussions about the existence of stimulating drugs (in the Mycenaean tablets described), which may be prepared from some kind of spider. (Latest treating of the subject <sup>(of milani Annual 1958. Merlinsprache 1958)</sup>) Even bravery in war ought to give to men these drugs. Specialists may find, that Prof. Kretikos's observation contributes to understanding better the drug employed by Helen to appease Menelaos's and his companions sorrow. (Odys. IV 220 ff.).

Yours very sincerely.

Sp. Marinatos.

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