

## Introduction

It is uncertain when the first Mycenaean pieces entered the University Collection. In his brief history of the collection Deppert does not mention the arrival of any specific Mycenaean pieces, but illustrates two Mycenaean vases<sup>1</sup>. S. Mayer-Emmerling mentions a gift of Mycenaean sherds from G. Loeschcke, director of the Archaeological Institute in Bonn, which included some from F. Petrie's 1891/92 excavations at Tel el Amarna<sup>2</sup>. She further mentions<sup>3</sup> that the sherds from Amarna were actually handed over in 1918, after the death of Loeschcke, by F. Winter, then director in Bonn, to H. Schrader for the Frankfurt University Collection. U. Mandel<sup>4</sup> notes that 30 sherds from Greece in the Frankfurt Collection have old Bonn inventory numbers with varnish over them; they include some where the provenance is given as from Knossos, Mycenae or Tiryns. In 1972 O. Vossler presented a large number of Mycenaean sherds from Boeotia which had been given to him by H. C. Wiegand, a relative of the archaeologist T. Wiegand<sup>5</sup>. P. Hommel has suggested that the material originally came from the excavations of H. Schliemann at Orchomenos<sup>6</sup>.

Sites represented in the collection include Mycenae, Tiryns, Asine, Aegeira and Knossos. Pottery is also present from two sites in Argos; they are Nekropole (graves between the acropolis of Aspis and the acropolis of Larissa) and Larissa; there are also sherds from the Argive Heraion. However, some muddling has occurred over the years; for instance, a box labelled as from the Laconian site of Amyklaion turned out to contain only Minoan sherds; one or two other Minoan sherds come from the box labelled Argos: Nekropole and others from the Vossler donation. The provenance "Amyklaion" and that of "Argos: Nekropole" are listed in a bracket in the relevant Minoan catalogue entries. The sherds have various differing inventory numbers on the back, but none of them is in a consecutive sequence. A new running series of inventory numbers has, therefore, been given to all the sherds; it corresponds to the catalogue numbers below. On the plates, as on the sherds themselves, [and in the concordances] it is preceded by an M. The old inventory numbers are not included here, apart from those already published in CVA; these are given in brackets in the relevant catalogue entries. The collection comprises two complete vessels and 279 sherds. The sherd material is exceptional in that it covers every Mycenaean and

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1 Deppert 1964, 5, pl. 2.4,6.

2 CVA, 7.

3 Mayer-Emmerling 1994, 391–93.

4 Mandel 1994, 389 note 1.

5 Mandel 1994, 389–90.

6 Mandel 1994, 390 note 7.

Late Minoan pottery phase, some of the phases being represented by a number of sherds. It thus provides an extremely useful overview of shapes and motifs for students beginning a study of Mycenaean pottery.

Since the collection consists almost entirely of sherds, the format here is not that of a usual museum publication. Instead, an effort has been made to clarify the process of assignation of each sherd to date, shape and motif in an attempt to assist scholars and students working on similar museum and university collections. For this reason a complete example of every shape present in the sherd material is illustrated below together with the relevant sherd(s) and a capsule description of each shape is given. A very brief introduction to each pottery phase is also included. The Mycenaean sherds in the collection were used by the students in a series of practicals and their problems of identification of individual pieces are also noted below in the discussion of each shape in order to highlight and clarify possible difficulties, which may be encountered by those assigning similar material in other collections. In particularly difficult cases a box containing the complete motif is included with the extant decoration of the sherd fitted onto it.

The basic reference work Furumark 1941 should be consulted for a break-down of all the shapes<sup>7</sup> and for illustrations of the shapes and motifs. Furumark assigned numbers to the shapes (FS) and to the motifs (FM); these numbers are in general use by scholars of Mycenaean pottery, since the numbers provide an immediate identification of shape and motif, regardless of the language in which a Mycenaean pottery report is written. They are included below in the catalogue entries. Furumark 1941 has been updated by the present author<sup>8</sup> and at the same time hints given to help in the identification of sherds. For a full range of the problems of identification the reader should consult that volume.

Only decorated Minoan and Mycenaean pottery shapes are described below, since there is no unpainted pottery in the collection. Assignation of closed body sherds is more difficult than that of open body sherds, since in every pottery phase there are many more closed shapes than open ones, thus giving rise to a much greater margin of error in identification. The assignations below are as correct as possible.

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7 Furumark 1941, 585–643.

8 Mountjoy 1986.