The Early Bronze Age in the Cycladic Islands

ca. 3100/3000 - 1900/1850 BCE
Map of the Aegean - the Cycladic Islands
Cycladic Chronology

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<th>BC</th>
<th>Lakkouhes</th>
<th>Pelos</th>
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GROTTA-PELOS CULTURE

KEROS-SYROS CULTURE

PHYLAKOPI I CULTURE
Early Cycladic Tomb Types

Top: Cist grave of the Gotta-Pelos culture.

Middle: Two-storeyed grave of the Keros-Syros culture.

Bottom: Corbelled grave of the Keros-Syros culture, of the type found on Syros.
Early Cycladic I - Grotta-Pelos Culture (ca. 3100/3000 - 2650 BCE)

Site: Phylakopi on Melos
Early Cycladic I (Grotta-Pelos Culture)
Ceramic Vessels

Pottery cylindrical pyxis (box) with rounded lid and incised herringbone decoration. 3200-2800 BC. Antiparos.

Pottery collared jar with incised herringbone decoration. 3200-2800 BC. Antiparos.
Early Cycladic IIA - Keros-Syros Culture (ca. 2650 - 2450/2000 BCE)

Sites: Ayia Irini on Kea, Skarkos on Ios
Cemetery: Chalandriani on Syros
Survey: Melos and Kea
Early Cycladic II (Keros-Syros Culture) Ceramic Vessels

Pottery 'hedgehog'. 2700-2200 BC. Chalandriani, Syros.

Pottery 'sauceboat' of the Keros-Syros culture. 2700-2200 BC. Chalandriani, Syros.
Early Cycladic IIB/IIIA- Kastri Group or Lefkandi I Culture (ca. 2450/2000 BCE - 2200/2150 BCE)

Sites: Kastri on Syros, Panormos on Naxos, Mt. Kynthos on Delos and Ayia Irini on Keos
Cemeteries: Chalandriani on Syros, Akrotiaki on Siphnos
Early Cycladic IIIB/IIIA (Kastri Group)
Ceramic Vessels

“Depas” from Ayia Irini on Kea.

Tankard from Ayia Irini on Kea.
Early Cycladic IIIB/Middle Cycladic IA- Phylakopi I Culture (ca. 2050/2000 - 1900/1850 BCE)

Sites: Phylakopi on Melos, Paroikia on Paros
Cemetery: Phylakopi on Melos
Early Cycladic III/Middle Cycladic I
(Phylakopi Culture)
Ceramic Vessels

Pottery kernos
(multiple cluster vase).
2200-1800 BC.

Pottery 'duck vase' or askos.
2200-1800 BC.
Typology/Seriation of Early Cycladic Marble Figurines
Early Cycladic I (Grotta-Pelos)
Marble Figurines

Two schematic figurines found in the same grave on Antiparos, perhaps a male and female pair. 3200-2800 BC.

Figurine of Plastiras type. 3000-2800 BC.
Early Cycladic II (Keros-Syros Culture)  
Marble Figurines

Kapsala type, 2700-2600 BC.

Front and side views. Early Spedos type. 2700-2500 BC.

Two complete figures and a head attributed to the Goulandris Master. Late Spedos type, 2600-2400 BC.
Other types of Cycladic figurines

Seated figure lifting a cup, as if proposing a toast. 2700-2500 BC.

Harpist and double-flute player found together in a single grave. Keros. 2700-2500 BC.

Figurine of a pregnant woman
“Frying Pans” from the Early Cycladic periods


Frying pan engraved with an image of a ship, from a tomb at Chalandriani (Syros). Keros-Syros Group, 2500-2200 BC.
Early Cycladic Marble Vessels of the Keros-Syros culture

- Rectangular “palette”
- Footed vessel with four cups
- Spouted bowl
- Footed cup
Cycladic “Art” Issues:

• Looting, collecting, and the black market

• Typology and seriation - linked to above?

• Form and function

• Iconography and symbolism
1. Looting
2. Typology and Seriation
3. Form and Function
4. Iconography