



1. One of two gold cups from Greece, this one showing a probable date palm in low relief.

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PALM BRIEFS

Palms Featured on Gold of Ancient Greece

Some years ago a pair of gold cups of Minoan workmanship (dated ca. 1500–1400 B.C.) were found in a grave at Vaphio in the southern Peloponnesus of Greece. These became known to art historians as the “Vaphio cups” and are prized pieces in the museum in Athens. The cups measuring about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high were made by fastening an inner smooth gold plate to an outer one decorated in low relief (*repoussé*). The design of the latter features a bull hunt. On one cup the bulls are grazing; on the other (partially illustrated here) three bulls are being captured in nets.

Of interest to *PRINCIPES* readers is the fact that three trees, which appear to be date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*), were included in the design by the ancient gold worker. One of these is to be seen in the present photograph, made of a copy of the original cup.

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Seed Bank Notes

Lois Rossten succeeds Lucita Wait and DeArmand Hull as agent for The Palm Society Seed Bank. Correspondence concerning seeds or seeds themselves should be sent to Mrs. K. Rossten, 6561 Melbourne Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647, USA.