Visualizing Votive Practice
Exploring Limestone and Terracotta Sculpture from Athienou-Malloura through 3D Models

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The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota
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Warrior Figurine from Chariot Group

Terracotta
AAP-AM-2100
Larnaka District Archaeological Museum, Cyprus
H: 8.20 cm; W: 8.00 cm; T: 5.40 cm; Wt: 0.073 kg
Date: CA II, 600–500 BCE

Context
Found in the construction fill of the hard-packed floor layer associated with the Hellenistic–Roman phase of the sanctuary (EU 24/SU 2458).

Description
Handmade terracotta warrior wearing a conical helmet, broken at the waist; left arm missing. The helmet extends vertically to a pointed top; a rolled ridge defines the rim of the helmet. The face is broad and flat with a projecting chin, representing a beard, and a large, applied nose. An elongated left ear is attached; the right ear is not preserved. A circular shield is slung over the warrior's back, attached by a thick strap rendered in clay that extends over the shoulders and around the neck. The diameter of the shield reaches from the back of the figure's head to the lower back. The shield is flat with a conical boss protruding from the center. The proper left arm of the warrior is broken just below the shoulder, while the proper right arm is preserved to the wrist. Preserved pigment includes: red and black stripes on the arms, red and black on the torso, red on the helmet
and nose, and black along the sides of the face and lining the eyes. Faint red pigment is also visible on the shield. Fabric is very light brown (10YR 8/2), with interior light gray (2.5Y 7/1) with small brown and black inclusions.

Commentary

AAP-AM-2100 represents a common type of warrior figurine with shield found in Cypriot sanctuaries and tombs. While most examples depict warriors wielding a shield in an active pose or carried at their side, the positioning of the shield slung across the back on the Malloura example is distinctive and rare (for a limestone example from a chariot group, see Hermary and Mertens 2015: 188–89, cat. no. 235). The shield position and outstretched pose of the preserved arms makes it likely that AAP-AM-2100 originally rode at the back of a chariot group. The closest parallel is a CA chariot model allegedly from Kotchati (Hadjiprodromou Collection, Famagusta, no. 426; Karageorghis 1995: 107, cat. no. 2, pl. LVII). The warrior figurine in this model stands closely behind the charioteer; the position of the shield and the arms as well as the general style of the body and painted decoration are similar to the Malloura example. Overall, the simple black and red decoration on the torso; the stylized, large, painted eyes; and the broad, flat plane of the face with jutting beard date this figurine to the CA II period. EWA

Bibliography

Averett 2011: 139, fig. 10.9

3D Model Metadata

Sketchfab: https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/aap-am-2100-37df-616464b342e983cb4352a8b37c37

Open Context: https://opencontext.org/subjects/45200969-bf8a-4e27-8689-39c6ae1c0181
Quadriga Chariot Group

Limestone
AAP-AM-4360
Larnaka District Archaeological Museum, Cyprus
H: 31.90 cm; W: 13.70 cm; T: 26.30 cm; Wt: 8.125 kg
Date: CC

Context
Found in a disturbed context, within a modern looter’s pit (EU 52/SU 5206).

Description
Limestone quadriga with two charioteers (missing heads) and four horses (missing most of the front legs). The front guard is curved with a partially enclosed back guard; traces of red pigment are visible on the floor. The chariot wheels are indicated in relief against the chariot box as flat, undecorated disks. The interior of the box is a solid mass; the charioteer torsos emerge from the stone with forearms resting on the high dashboard. The proper right charioteer is taller and appears to be the driver; his left hand is slightly clenched and the right thumb is extended to hold the reins (perhaps originally painted). The left charioteer extends the index finger of his right hand, while the left hand is less well-preserved. Both figures wear a chiton and himation (red pigment is well-preserved along folds of both garments). The left charioteer is only preserved to mid-torso, but the more complete right charioteer’s garment crosses the top of the right shoulder and falls down the front and back in diagonal folds.
The horses are rendered side by side; their hindquarters abut the
front guard. The straight tails of the pole horses appear in relief against
the outer guard; small, wavy incisions delineate locks of tail hair. The
hind legs spring directly from the base, with only the pole horses’ outer
legs and hooves delineated as relief against the chariot wheel. The thigh,
calf, fetlock joint, and hoof are carved naturalistically, and the legs are
extended to suggest a canter gait. The curved underside of the horses is
rendered as a smooth arc, with no anatomical detailing. The upper part
of the front legs of three horses is indicated in relief, while the legs of the
fourth horse are not preserved. A simple yoke, with slight traces of red
pigment visible, is rendered as a thick band resting across the base of the
horses’ necks. Chisel marks are visible on the underside of the horses and
between the wheels at the back; drill punches are visible over most of the
worked surfaces. Shallow incisions radiating around the rim of the left
wheel may indicate spokes. Modern chips and scratches (possibly from
looters’ tools) are apparent primarily on the left side of the group. Small
dark splotches discolor the worked surfaces.

Commentary

AAP-AM-4360 is one of at least three limestone chariot groups from Malloura. While terracotta chariot groups are abundant in Iron Age Cyprus (see Karageorghis 1995: 100–20) and at Malloura, limestone examples are much more limited. Provenanced examples of limestone chariots come from two contexts: sanctuaries of male divinities (Golgoi-Ayios Photios [Hermary and Mertens 2015: 188–92, cat. nos. 235, 241], Idalion [Senff 1993: 61, pl. 45a–d (BM C84)], and Apollo Hylates at Kourion [Buitron-Oliver 1983: 230; Crouwel 1987: 107, pl. XXXVI. 1–2; Hermary 1996a: 147, pl. 44. 1; Hermary and Mertens 2015: 191, cat. no. 239; Young and Young 1955: 175]) and the palace of Amathous (Brehme et al. 2001: 166–67, cat. no. 178; Hermary 1981: cat. nos. 45–47, 2000: 129, cat. no. 850). There are also unprovenanced examples in the MMA (Hermary and Mertens 2015: 192, cat. no. 240) and the Louvre (Hermary 1989a: 288, cat. nos. 582–83). Limestone chariots are generally dated to the sixth through fourth centuries BCE. The Malloura example is most similar to a chariot model of unknown provenance now in the MMA, dated to the second half of the fifth century or fourth century BCE (Hermary and Mertens 2015: 192, cat. no. 240); in particular, the four horses abutting the chariot, the lack of definition of individual horses, and the simplified chariot representation are common features. The Malloura and MMA examples are similar enough to suggest a common workshop, although the carving of the Malloura example is superior. Unlike CA terracotta chariot groups, which often depict military chariots carrying warriors (for an exception, see the CA II–CC I terracotta chariot model with Athena from Mersinaki: Karageorghis 2003: 221, cat. no. 257), the lack of martial attributes—like other limestone examples—suggests
that AAP-AM-4360 does not depict a military vehicle. Here, the chariot denotes rank and status (Crouwel 1987: 113) and represents a ceremonial vehicle carrying unarmed figures, most likely dignitaries or high-status individuals in a procession (although attendant military associations might be implied). The use of chariots in processions—and associated with elite status—is most explicitly seen on two sarcophagi in the MMA from Amathous and Golgoi (Hermary and Mertens 2015: 353–70, cat. nos. 490, 491).\footnote{EWA, DBC}

\textit{Bibliography}

\textit{Toumazou et al. 2015: 214, fig. 9}

\textit{3D Model Metadata}

Sketchfab: https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/aap-am-4360-4d2fb0c-01bac45b081ae7057899ed764

Open Context: https://opencontext.org/subjects/9aff8812-9aef-4561-8db6-7ba7d065f3af

\textit{Catalogue: AAP-AM-4360}