Cultural exchange on Malta and Gozo: A study of the Aegyptiaca on Malta and Gozo from the Phoenician and Punic periods.

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Abstract: This thesis was written with the objective to re-examine the Aegyptiaca on Malta and Gozo during the Phoenician and Punic phases, in order to achieve a better understanding of the cultural exchange processes, which would have occurred during the first millennium BCE. Because of the geographic location of the islands in the middle of the Mediterranean, Malta holds a unique position, where several different cultures meet and merge. Based on previously published material (Hölbl 1989 and Sagona 2005), every object has been critically discussed and analyzed within its archaeological and cultural context. While some of the objects were created in Egypt, others were good copies of Egyptian originals, produced elsewhere. While a number of the objects might have been associated with purely aesthetic values, some of our objects allow for a deeper religious association. On Malta we see a convergence of Egyptian and Levantine influences, merged together in Phoenician art. This is not a strange phenomenon, as the Phoenicians themselves already adopted and changed many aspects of different cultures, which they again distributed across the Mediterranean. Where cultures meet they can merge together to form a new culture, but that is not always the case. People can also resist a new dominating culture by falling back on an older culture. This feat is shown in the numismatics of Malta and Gozo, as even under the new Roman domination coins were minted with Punic and Phoenician deities and motifs displayed on them.

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- Archeologie

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Maltese is the language spoken in Malta, the islands of Malta and Gozo. At independence, on September 21, 1964, Maltese was proclaimed the national language. Together with English, maltese is one of the two official languages of the country. Maltese is also one of the official and working languages of the European Union. Maltese is not only the only Semitic language of the European Union but it is also the only Semitic language that is transcribed using an alphabet based on Latin script, however, enriched diacritics as point suscit or bar included. History. The Maltese language has the distinct The culture of Malta reflects various societies that have come into contact with the Maltese Islands throughout the centuries, including neighboring Mediterranean cultures, and the cultures of the nations that ruled Malta for long periods of time prior to its independence in 1964. The earliest inhabitants of the Maltese Islands are believed to have been Sicani from nearby Sicily who arrived on the island sometime before 5000 BC. They grew cereals and raised domestic livestock and, in keeping with Malta and Gozo are small and lack resources. The identity Maltese Island measures less than 30 km from east to west Identity is based on cultural inheritance, from which and both are basically large chunks of limestone. These is- ethnicity (or even perceived ethnicity) is one of the lands will not feed a lot of people. It is estimated that the parts. Malta is concerned of a continuous history of the is- An important question is: who are the indigenous landers down to the very first settlers. The following was and is descent, actual or assumed, connected to identity? published on May 7 2013: “Heritage Malta launched a People moved all over the world during millennia.