



Early Civilization and Literacy in Europe: An Inquiry Into Cultural Continuity in the Mediterranean (Approaches to Semiotics)

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Contents: Preface; Introduction; 1. Iconography, symbolism and writing at the dawn of civilization - Old Europe from the seventh to the fourth millennia B.C.; 2. The organizing principles of Old European writing - Motivated and arbitrary symbols and their affinity with the mythical symbolism; 3. Writing from Old Europe to ancient Crete - A case of cultural continuity; 4. Literacy in ancient Crete - On the social functions of linear and hieroglyphic writing; 5. The Cretan legacy in the East: Writing systems in the multilingual society of ancient Cyprus; 6. The spread of European writing beyond ancient Cyprus - The influence of Aegean and Cypriot literacy in Asia Minor and the Near East; 7. On the three ways of writing the oldest literary language in the world: Greek; 8. The impact of Aegean culture on the western periphery - The case of the Lipari script and the role of Etruscan writing in Italy; Conclusion: Giving profile to a new paradigm for research into antiquity; Bibliography; Illustrations, figures, tables and maps; Index

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