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“THE CRETAN VENUS” – THOUGHTS ON THE SCULPTURAL DECORATION
OF ROMAN HOUSES IN CRETE

Among the antiquities General T.A.B. Spratt brought home from his travels in Crete between 1851 and 1853 was a little statue of Aphrodite tying her sandal. The piece remained in his private collection for a time, then changed hands repeatedly in the early years of the 20th century before being acquired by the British Museum. For various reasons, including its small size, it is thought to have been intended to serve as an ornament in a private setting. Starting with the Cretan Venus and based on the few parallels that have come to light in excavations or as chance finds, this paper focuses on the use of small sculptures as part of the decoration of private houses in Roman Crete.