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ARCHAEOLOGY

A royal tomb

Experts find ancient King
was buried in Paphos >14

Royal tomb discovery

Experts find ancient king of Cyprus was buried in Paphos

Visitors have been flocking to the Tombs of the Kings site in Paphos after experts discovered a mausoleum there had been created for a king of Cyprus, Ptolemy Eupator.

The mausoleum dates back to 166-152 BC. Ptolemy Eupator was the son of Ptolemy VI Philometor and Cleopatra II, and for a short time in 152 BCE reigned over part of the Ptolemaic dynasty as co-ruler with his father.

It is thought that Ptolemy Eupator died in August of that same year, at the young age of 14. Having been crowned, Eupator would have been considered a god at the time.

Michalis Lefatzis and Theodoros Mavroyiannis were the experts behind the tomb's

identification.

Lefatzis is a Greek Culture Ministry Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments Department architect, and Mavroyiannis is an associate professor at the University of Cyprus' Ancient History Department.

The Tombs of the Kings date back to the Ptolemaic dynasty, which was founded by Ptolemy son of Lagus, a general of Alexander the Great.

On Alexander's death in 323 BC, Ptolemy was appointed satrap of Egypt, and eventually declared himself king in 304 BC. The dynasty lasted until the death of Cleopatra VII and the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BC.

The identification of who the mausoleum was created for is important for two main reasons: firstly because it is the first

belonging to Ptolemaic dynasty royalty to be identified in Cyprus.

The second reason the find is significant is because this mausoleum has a different structure to others and is believed to have included a temple-like construction.

Lefatzis, who is also working on the Amphipolis digs in Greece which some experts have linked to Alexander the Great, told Phileleftheros: "This is a unique grave memorial that I have not encountered anywhere else".

He noted the monument would have been placed in a prominent spot and been highly visible even from a distance. Two statues of eagles, mentioned in historical sources from the period, have also been linked to the tomb.



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THE Paphos tomb would have had a temple-like structure above it and been placed in a prominent position, visible from afar