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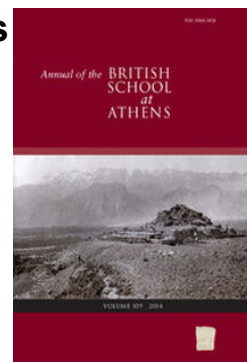
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I.—Excavations At Sparta, 1908; § 1.—The Season's Work

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LACONIA.

I.—EXCAVATIONS AT SPARTA, 1908.

(PLATES I.—VI.)

§ 1.—THE SEASON'S WORK AND SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

THE work of the School in 1908 was again confined to the site of Sparta, and the continuance of the excavation of the sanctuary of Artemis Orthia demanded the greater part of the time and funds available. In expressing thanks to the Hellenic Government and to the Ephor General of Antiquities, Doctor Kavvadias, for their support and the interest which they have always taken in the work, especial mention must be made this year of the progress in furnishing the new rooms recently added to the Sparta Museum. One of these has now been filled with exhibition cases in which a representative series of the new finds has been placed, so labelled as to enable visitors to form some idea of the results of the excavation and the fresh light which it throws upon the art of early Sparta. The Hellenic Government was again ably represented at the excavation by Mr. Gerasimos Kapsalis.

Work was begun on the 23rd of March and lasted, with a short break for the Greek Easter, until the end of May. Messrs. Wace, Droop, and the Director were present throughout, and Messrs. Dickins, Woodward, Farrell, and Thompson for nearly the whole time. Mr. Harvey, an Architectural student of the Royal Academy, also visited Sparta during the excavation, and made drawings of some of the painted vases and ivory carvings. Most of the members of the expedition devoted themselves to

the Orthia sanctuary, either in the field, where the method of digging by levels demanded a great deal of supervision, or in the Museum, but Mr. Dickins completed the excavation of the site of the Hieron of Athena Chalkioikos, which he had begun the year before, Mr. Woodward searched for inscriptions, and Mr. Wace, whilst superintending the digging of some trial trenches, made an important find of Hellenistic coins. A special donation went a long way towards paying the expenses of a professional photographer from Athens, who made a fine series of photographs of the objects found.

Until he was needed at Knossos, we again had the advantage of the services of Gregory Antoniou of Larnaca as foreman, and during the last part of the work his place was filled by Michael Katsarakis, one of the foremen who had before worked for the School in Crete. Joannis Katsarakis again came from Palaikastro to act as mender.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

The following brief summary of the sections of the detailed report gives the main results of the season's work, which, even more than the year before centred round the Orthia site.

The Sanctuary of Artemis Orthia (§ 2, p. 4).—Work for another season still remains, but much progress has been made, especially in filling up the gaps in the series of votive offerings. These now present us with the various arts, especially of pottery and ivory carving, in unbroken development from the Geometric period to the fourth century B.C. In every case we have the remarkable result that the finest works belong to the seventh century, and that the sixth already shows the beginning of the decline which is so marked in the very poor character of the finds of the fifth century. Pottery forms a considerable proportion of these objects, and Mr. Droop (§ 3 below), basing his thesis on the long series of stratified deposits now discovered, has been able to establish the important point, which last year could be no more than a suggestion, that the fabric hitherto known as Cyrenaic was in reality made in Laconia. In its development from the beginning of the seventh to the middle of the fourth century he sees six stages, which he has called Laconian I.–VI., and this terminology has been adopted throughout the report. Detailed accounts of the lead figurines,

the number of which now exceeds sixty thousand, of the terracotta masks, of which a great mass were again found this year, of the archaic inscriptions and of the carved ivories have been necessarily held over, from considerations of space and time. Reports on each of these will be subsequently published similar in scope to Mr. Droop's study of the pottery and Mr. Farrell's paper on the terracotta figurines in § 4.

On the site itself the temple contemporary with the archaic altar found last year has now been discovered and excavated. It was a small building made of crude brick with, apparently, a timber framework, and the interior was probably divided into two naves by a row of wooden pillars; and as it dates from the ninth or even the tenth century, it may claim to be one of the oldest Greek temples known. The general shape and position of the archaic hieron at the bottom of a natural hollow has also been determined, and the history of the site traced from the earliest times. This work has involved the removal of a good deal of the foundation of the Roman amphitheatre.

The Hieron of Athena Chalkioikos (§ 6, p. 142).—The excavation of the area inside the hieron wall has been concluded by Mr. Dickins. It is unfortunate that the site of so important a sanctuary has proved to be so much denuded. The most interesting find this year is a stele with the draped figure of a woman inscribed 'Αναξίβιος.

The Late Roman Wall.—The work of clearing the face of this wall on the Acropolis, in order to uncover the inscriptions built into it, has been continued by Mr. Woodward with some success. The inscriptions he publishes in § 5 of this report. The marble head published in § 7 was also found in the course of this work.

A Hoard of Hellenistic Coins (§ 8, p. 149).—A small excavation was conducted by Mr. Wace in a piece of ground near the Sparta end of the modern bridge over the Eurotas on the Tripolis road, where trial pits had before shown some promise. This led to the discovery of a hoard of 86 Hellenistic tetradrachms in a vase. About half of them are Athenian and the rest belong to different Hellenistic rulers.

R. M. DAWKINS.