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71. Prehistoric Pottery in the Valletta Museum in Malta.

Author(s): John L. Myres

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ware, more like the clay of the Kerameikos, one of which showed traces of lustreless brown paint; but it was not quite clear to me in some cases whether these had not slipped down from the Mykenæan layer, where light-coloured and painted fragments of various fabrics abound. The pre-Mykenæan layer yields also fragments of ashes and cinders, and of animal bones, together with obsidian flakes, and occasional rubbed pebbles, which may have been potter's burnishers. That the pots were made near the site is also clear from their composition, and from the presence in one of them of a fragment of worked obsidian, which does not occur *in situ* in the Ilissos valley, or, indeed, in Attica at all. Similar very rude pottery is to be found on the surface on the east face of the Mouseion Hill, and on the unexcavated west slope of the Akropolis.

Vessels of "Hissarlik" types are already known from the excavations on the Akropolis itself; but it is a distinct point gained to know that in primitive, as in Mykenæan times, there was a regular settlement under cover of that natural fortress; more especially when it is remembered that the plot of ground in which both have been found is commonly identified with the "Pelasgikon" or "prehistoric site" which is mentioned by Thucydides (II., 17) as a tabu-plot of uncanny waste in the heart of fifth-century Athens. It is, perhaps, worth noting further that immediately above the best preserved bits of Mykenæan wall are the worst ravages of that "quarrying in the Pelasgikon," which had to be forbidden in the fifth century by the well-known Eleusinian Psephisma (Dittenberger, *Sylloge*, 13).

The photograph shows one of the best-preserved sections of the stratum in question. The letter A in the margin marks the surface of the hard red rock of the Akropolis; B, the upper surface of the pre-Mykenæan layer; C, the fragmentary Mykenæan wall, with bits of Mykenæan pottery in the crannies; D, the steep face of the Akropolis, with the fifth century fortress-wall above the Asklepion, in the background.

J. L. MYRES.

Malta: Prehistoric.

Myres.

Prehistoric Pottery in the Valletta Museum in Malta. By John L. Myres, M.A., F.S.A.

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The vases which stand prominently in the centre of the photograph overleaf are said to have come from rock-tombs in the Bengemma Hills in the north-west part of Malta. They are composed of a rough native clay of dark colour, the result of the disintegration of the soft limestone of the island; they are hand-made, and they bear the warm red hæmatitic surface with bright burnished lustre, which is common to so many early fabrics of pottery in the Mediterranean coast-lands.

The larger vessel, in the lower part of the photograph is comparatively simple in form. The body is nearly spherical, slightly flattened for stability below; the neck is wide, and slightly expanded above, but without distinct rim: the handles are set vertically rather low down on the body; and there is a small *mamilla* on the shoulder halfway between them. The general type is well-known among the early Bronze Age "red-ware" of Cyprus (*Cyprus Museum Catalogue*, Pl. II., 194, 200, 206), but the particular form of this vase is not Cypriote: neither does it occur among the pre-dynastic "red-ware" of Egypt (Petrie, *Nagada and Ballas*, passim), nor among the very scanty series from the Tunisian dolmens (*Bardo Museum*, unpublished), nor in the pottery of the Sicilian Bronze Age (*Syracuse Museum*: cf. Orsi, *Quattro Anni di Esplorazione Sicule*, passim).

The composite vase on the upper shelf in the photograph is remarkable first for its fine technique and for the perfection of its red surface, and then for its form. It consists of three high gourd-shaped vessels in contact with each other below, and connected also

above by a three-fold handle. Two of them are closed at the top by a conical roof, while the third is open and serves as a spout for the whole vessel. The modelling suggests at first sight both an Arab type and a well-known variety of the Kabyle pottery; but the fabric and the provenance of this specimen leave no doubt as to its early date. And it is worth noting that the three great groups of Mediterranean redware—in Cyprus, in Egypt, and in modern Kabylia—agree in an inclination both to the use of gourd forms and to the construction of composite and fantastic vases.

The tombs in the Bengemma Hills, from which these vessels and other fragments in the Valletta Museum are said to have come, are small rock-chambers hewn in the precipitous sides of a narrow ravine, which resemble very closely both the rock-tombs of south-eastern Sicily (Orsi, *l.c.* pp. 105, 117 = *Bull. di Paleon. Ital.*, XVII., pp. 59, 71) and those of Chaouach near Medjez-el-Bab in Tunis. Scattered over the narrow cultivated

terraces in front of the tomb-doors in the Bengemma ravine are many fragments, both of the coarser red-faced ware exemplified in the vessels described above, and also of a finer-grained, gypseous, smoky, drab-coloured ware, which takes a finer polish, and is occasionally ornamented with roughly-incised dots and lines. Both kinds of ware, it should be noted, are common also in and round the megalithic monument of Giganteia in the neighbouring island of Gozo, and present close parallels to the early burnished fabrics of the Sicilian rock-tombs. The tombs of the Bengemma Hills, which are described in Dr. Carnau's valuable work on the tombs of Malta, are mostly of later dates, and the record of the discovery of the vessels under review is sadly defective in detail. Enough, however, has, I think, been said to indicate the importance of this fragmentary evidence of an early stage of culture in Malta and the need of more careful investigation of the Bengemma site.

J. L. MYRES.

REVIEWS.

Africa, South.

Native Races Committee.

The Natives of South Africa; their Economic and Social Condition. Edited by the South African Native Races Committee. London, John Murray, 1901, 72 XV., 360 pp. 12s. net.

No more complete vindication of the course taken last summer by the Anthropological Institute and the Folklore Society, in presenting a joint memorial to H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, praying for a commission to enquire into the condition of the native races of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, could be wished for than this instructive book. It has been prepared by a committee representing all shades of political and religious opinion. It is written in a calm and matter-of-fact way, aiming at putting the readers in possession of accurate information, rather than at making any rhetorical appeal. Indeed, rhetoric and passion are markedly absent throughout, and every effort seems to have been made to arrive at accuracy.

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