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I. The Season's Work

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The Annual of the British School at Athens / Volume 4 / November 1898, pp 1 - 16

DOI: 10.1017/S0068245400000988, Published online: 18 October 2013

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0068245400000988

How to cite this article:

D. G. Hogarth (1898). I. The Season's Work. The Annual of the British School at Athens, 4, pp 1-16 doi:10.1017/S0068245400000988

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EXCAVATIONS IN MELOS, 1898.

(PLATES I., II., III.)

I.

THE SEASON'S WORK.

BY D. G. HOGARTH.

THE initial stages of the excavation of the prehistoric city near the hamlet of Phylákopi in north-west Melos have been reported in previous issues of the *Annual* (II. and III.). The development of this exploration in its second season (1897) made it imperative that its continuation should be the principal, indeed the sole, objective of the next campaign of the School; and to that end accordingly our funds and energies were exclusively directed in the spring of 1898.

After Mr. Cecil Smith's description (*Ann.* III. pp. 6 ff.), it is unnecessary for the present to say anything more about the surroundings of Phylákopi. The results of his second campaign demonstrated that we had to do with a site of an importance little suspected previously,—with a site, in fact, which has no equal as yet known in the Greek islands, and rivals the great prehistoric towns on the mainland. The Phylákopi ruins represent the earliest capital of the island of Melos, which once commanded a shallow, sheltered port of considerable size, now become dry land, and was of great natural and artificial strength, being united to the mainland by a narrow neck, across which was carried, at the epoch of the city's greatest prosperity, an immensely massive fortification. It appears that a main source of its early wealth (and perhaps the determining cause of its original foundation) was the manufacture and export of implements of obsidian, a volcanic product of which in its more highly vitrified state

Melos has, so far as we know at present, the monopoly within the Levantine area. In the other parts of the eruptive belt which stretches from the peninsula of Methana in a half-moon through Melos, Kimolos and Santorin to Nisyros, this material in a high state of vitrification has not been observed. There is no evidence and little likelihood that it exists in Crete, and in fact its nearest occurrences are reported to be in Mount Alageuz in Russian Armenia,¹ and in the prolongation of the volcanic system of Sinai along the north-western coast of the Red Sea. Melos must therefore have exported through Phylákopi to all the surrounding islands and coasts from the earliest times throughout the bronze age, until the age of iron was fairly established. For bronze alone does not appear to succeed in ousting stone from domestic use. Obsidian arrow-heads, for example, appear among the bronze finds of the Circle graves at Mycenae; and for rough cutting purposes it has been observed (*e.g.* in Egypt) that cheap stone implements have often long co-existed even with iron.

The existence of this important commerce at Phylákopi rendered it probable *a priori* that the site would show traces of foreign products and influences among the local remains; and such, as will be seen later, has proved actually to be the case. The other Cyclad islands, Crete, and the Greek mainland, have all contributed at the same epoch or at different epochs; and this fact adds greatly to the importance of the exploration of Phylákopi. There is probably no spot more favourably circumstanced for the study not only of the part played by the islands in the evolution of Aegean prehistoric civilization, but of the force and direction of the influences that worked upon it from without.

For our present purpose of presenting an interim Report of the progress of this exploration in the season of 1898, we must take up the narration where we took up the work, namely, at the point where it was left in the season preceding. As an excavation progresses, it goes without saying that much modification is bound to be introduced into views and interpretations. In the sequel we shall refer to certain points, in which other eyes, or the widened experience of 1898, have served to correct statements made in the Report of 1897; but in no other respect shall we go over the ground of that Report again, until the time comes for full and final publication of the whole body of results.

¹ v. J. de Morgan, *Mission au Caucase*, i. p. 31. The Levantine obsidian is there wrongly ascribed to Crete.

The contract entered into by Mr. Cecil Smith with the proprietor of the western portion of the site still held good for the season of 1898, and guaranteed us a considerable area not completely or not at all excavated. But with the widow who owned the eastern and lower part of the site, and had refused all offers in 1897 (cp. *Ann.* III. p. 11), we had come to no satisfactory arrangement, when already it was time to think of resuming the excavation. Having failed by all independent means, after months of negotiation, to obtain from her such a contract as the Ephorate required, I appealed finally to the Ephor-General himself with fortunate results. Through his good offices with M. Tatarákis, late Deputy for Melos, an agreement was at last made with the widow, in virtue of which she resigned the digging rights on the uncultivated part of her Phylákopi property to the State, and furthermore gave to the latter a right of subsequent pre-emption of the fee-simple. A question was raised later as to what part of the property was to be considered uncultivated—a mere lawyer's quibble, for no part of the Phylákopi hillock has been ploughed within the memory of man. The contract was signed at last on April 12th.

We had already organized matters for opening the work, and, in fact, began to dig the day before the contract was signed. Mr. Mackenzie had brought from Athens such tools, wheelbarrows, etc., as we possessed. We employed one overseer only, Philíppas Oekonómou, the most intelligent of the workmen of the preceding year, but more as a handy and trusted supernumerary, indeed, than as an overseer. The Government was represented by M. Kourouniotes, who resided in Pláka. Unfortunately he suffered from ill health all the season, and one of the Museum watchmen, M. Grimánes, had to be sent out to assist him. There was also a native Melian employed as Government *epistátes*. All co-operated cordially with us, and rendered valuable assistance in watching the men and seeing to the transport of the finds to Athens at the close of the dig. The workmen were all native Melians, a singularly honest and industrious lot as compared with many that I have had to do with in excavation work, but possessing little experience and not conspicuous intelligence. Consequently, while they were little likely to steal, they needed constant watching and directing; and I found it not advisable to introduce among them methods that, following Mr. Petrie, I had used from time to time in Egypt, under which the men are left very much to themselves. For instance, payment by cubic metre of earth excavated, which I had contemplated introducing in

order not to have to "drive" the gangs, proved not feasible in view of the large quantity of valuable pottery which the soil everywhere contained. It would have been necessary to counteract the tendency to haste, which all metre work induces, by paying a price for countless sherds which up to then had had no money value in the island. Both the disbursement would have been too great for our funds, and an unfortunate precedent would have been introduced to disturb the Arcadian simplicity of the Melians. So we proceeded by the simple method of personal supervision, in which Mr. Mackenzie did yeoman service. The men were soon taught to respect all potsherds and constructions, and to note and keep a record of the levels at which they found them. Less easy was it to keep their eyes open to rarer objects, occurring occasionally and unexpectedly, such as stone implements or bronze. The extreme hardness of the earth, caked by sea spray to a depth sometimes of a metre below the surface, and the frequent presence of large stones, rendered the use of the large pick—that most undesirable tool—always unavoidable, but the smallness of the rooms, which we dug to depths of from four to six metres, rendered long-handled spades useless. I supplemented the baskets by half-a-dozen barrows, partly hired in the island, and ultimately employed a large number of boys as carriers, a plan which proved a great saving in expense, but was apparently a novelty in Melos. A flying steel rope basket line, however, would supply the best method of "dumping" on this site, as on so many others, where earth cannot simply be turned over and thrown back into the ground just excavated. Wages run high in Melos owing to the presence of mining works. The men had to be paid 3 drachmas, if a picked lot was to be secured and retained, and the boys from $2\frac{1}{2}$ down to $1\frac{1}{2}$ according to strength and size. In order to wash the potsherds and render it possible to sort them at once, we employed a small number of girls at boys' wages. They did more in the day than any but a very few men; but the punctilious proprieties of Melian life exact the complete separation of girls from male workpeople, and it will therefore never be possible to employ them except on odds and ends of work. With half-a-dozen exceptions the men came from the group of villages about the harbour, two hours away; and they were forced therefore to camp out in shelters and caves between Sundays, or the too frequent feast-days that vex the soul of European masters of labour in Greek lands. This, however, they gladly did. We had no difficulty in getting as many of them as we wanted, and threat of

dismissal was sufficient to stop any irregularity. They did the longest, if not the hardest ¹ day's work I have ever known in excavation, latterly from 5 A.M. to 7 P.M., with 2½ hours interval.

When we opened the campaign on Monday, April 11th, the work before us was to explore in some sense all the hillock of Phylákopi, except the south-western horn, and about half of the great fortification. The diggers of the year before had advanced inwards from the Strong Wall and the west cliff at several points towards the main part of the site; but in the former case only by trenches which time had not allowed of their carrying down to rock, and in the latter by taking off just the surface layer and laying bare the well-preserved ground plan of a house or houses of the latest settlement. Where the diggers of 1897 had cleared the site completely, *i.e.* on the south-west horn, they had shown at different points walls of three successive settlements.

One or two architectural statements made in the Report of 1897 must be corrected ere we go farther. The evidence of three settlements, mentioned above as visible in structures on this south-western part of the site, may be obtained (1) from walls which run under the Strong Wall and existed before it. These belong to the *second* settlement, the first of which we have structural remains. (2) From the main mass of the Strong Wall, which is *from the foundation up* of the *third* settlement. No traces of an earlier period occur in it (cf. *Ann.* III. p. 13). The "ledge" of inferior construction which exists at one point under the main mass of this wall, is simply its contemporary foundation, never intended to be seen.² The pottery underlying this is of the second not the first period. The Strong Wall, therefore, has nothing to do with the primitive second settlement, but was built over and irrespective of it. The only other period of which it contains evidence is the *fourth* or "Mycenaean," during which it was added to and repaired. (3) From the surface rooms in Region III. (*Ann.* III. p. 18) which are the best surviving structures of the *fourth* period.

The so-called "chambers" within the thickness of the Strong Wall (*Ann.* III. p. 14) are probably not strictly chambers at all, but spaces

¹ For instance the result of their day was not nearly equal to that attained by an R.E. working party, that was once placed at my disposal in Alexandria. Nor were they equal to Mr. Petrie's picked *fellahin* from the Fayûm.

² Our own observation on this point was fully confirmed by Dr. Dörpfeld when he visited the site.

formerly filled in with rubble so as to be solid. This cheap and expeditious method of constructing a thick wall has been in vogue in all ages. It explains many walls on the Phylákopi site which are faced outwardly only. The lower or eastern part of the Strong Wall we found to be made up of similarly filled in "chambers." The statement on p. 17 of *Ann.* III. that "masses of *burnt brick*" were largely employed by the builders of the second settlement is misleading. There is, so far as I know, no genuine burnt brick on the site: the nearest thing to it is a baked composition occasionally used for flooring.

The small number also of sherds and other objects brought away in 1897 had raised problems rather than settled them. Especially the stratification of the pottery had been called in question by more than one archaeologist who had looked over the bags deposited at Athens; and it was evident that in 1898 we must pay closer attention to stratification, and preserve every scrap of ware, until it could be cleaned and examined.¹

Looking over the large unexcavated area I had determined to transfer the work from the south-west, where the neighbourhood of the fortification rendered it unlikely that we should hit upon good house remains, to that region on the northern cliff, which represented evidently as much of the central high part of the town as the sea had spared. Here there existed ample signs on the surface that house remains of at least the latest settlement were present. But two preliminary tasks were imperative; first to establish, by trenches which would admit of a mechanical record, the stratification of the potsherds at different points of the site where disturbance was not likely to have taken place; and secondly, to determine, if possible, both the further direction of the great south fortification towards the east, and its possible return northwards to the sea—in other words to get the outer limits of the town. The first named object was attained by carrying trenches down by successive half metres to virgin rock in squares E 3 and J 1 (*v. plan*, Plate I.), where the floor level of the uppermost layer

¹ This confusion was not due to any carelessness or omission on the part of those responsible in 1896. The breaking away of the cliff up to within a very few feet of the Strong Wall on the north, as Mr. Mackenzie points out, had caused the accumulation of earth over and beside that structure to slide so steeply in the course of ages that at the cliff edge the latest potsherds occurred actually on the rock itself. A record, therefore, based on levels taken uniformly over the site would prove illusory for the region on which most of the work of 1897 was done. Furthermore, account must be taken of the fact that in laying the foundations of, and building so immense a structure as, the Strong Wall, unusual disturbance of the natural stratification of earlier remains must have taken place.

happened to be well preserved. The pottery from each successive half metre was kept apart and put in separate bags for future reference. In the first case the rock was found at 4 metres below the surface ($= 3\frac{1}{2}$ metres below latest floor level); in the second at $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ metres, the rock surface being uneven: the late floor level at this point only averaged .25 below the absolute surface.

The second object was never satisfactorily attained. The Strong Wall was indeed found to continue without a break eastwards, being contained in the steep *talus* which confronts the visitor approaching from the south. The wall, however, though constructed on the same system (cf. *Ann.* III. pp. 11 ff. and *supra*, p. 6) as is the case further west, is not of anything like the same massiveness, or architectural pretension: and, so far as we could discover, it fades away without any return northwards into the low cultivated ground, which fringes the hillock south and east, and is not included in our concession. A great number of trenches driven in all directions by Mr. Mackenzie (I myself had returned before Easter to Athens to attend the Jubilee of the French School) on the lower parts of the hillock within the wall resulted uniformly in the discovery of house-walls of the latest settlement, themselves running down into the cultivation. Nothing that could be recognised as a return of the fortification was hit upon anywhere.

Our failure to find a strong wall on the eastern slope until ground is reached, which is almost on sea level and so moist that corn will not ripen upon it until a fortnight later than on any other land in the neighbourhood, suggested to Mr. Mackenzie what I believe to be a true conjecture, viz. that these low marshy fields were themselves once a sufficient protection to the city on the east, *i.e.* that they were covered by a marine lagoon or even fairly deep sea. At that time the city stood on a peninsula, linked to the mainland at the south-west corner only by a rocky ledge, across which a strong wall was thrown and continued at a later period in a less solid form eastward along the edge of the fast drying lagoon. An examination of the coast about Phylákopi will show how the natural change has been effected: in fact the same agency still does the same work. The sea eats steadily into the face of the rocks on which the ancient city stands and also into the basalt hill facing it, and with the rounded spoils of these cliffs banks up a great bar of boulders in the centre of the bay. The bases of the hills all round the little plain of Phylakopi are full of waterworn caves, and it is evident that

once they fringed a sea running much further inland than at present. This bay is now represented by the fields east and south-east of the ancient site. Furthermore on this supposition only can a port be imagined good enough to explain the presence of an ancient city on this north-west coast at all, and especially its position as the great place of fabric and export for the obsidian of the island, none of which is actually found within several miles of the place. Phylákopi nowadays has simply an exposed bay into which no boats will venture except in the calmest weather. The conditions must have been in some way very different in the third and second millennia before our era ; and the most likely change that can be imagined is the drying up of a shallow port suitable for the small craft of early days and once sheltered from the west and north under the south slope of the Phylákopi hillock.

The opening up of the South Wall and the trenching of the low part of the hillock to the East occupied nine days, the progress of work being impeded in the one case by quantities of large fallen stones for which place could hardly be found except in the crofts below (where we had engaged not to put them), and in the other by the excessive hardness of the surface soil. I returned from Athens, after a vexatious delay *en route*, on April 26th, and by that time it had become clear that we should find no fortification on the east by surface trenching. Therefore on April 27th I took the men out of the maze of the little late houses in which they were working on the south and east of the site, and gradually concentrated them on to the north cliff. For the present, however, a gang was left to continue clearing in and round an insulated structure discovered in square J 3, which bore some resemblance to a quadrangular tower with two chambers, entered by a good doorway with squared posts. As the character of its walls and all the pottery found hereabouts attest, it and all the structures near it belong to the latest settlement. When the "tower" was clear, we continued to cut north and west of it without going lower than 1·75m. and soon were convinced that it had no fortification character but was just an insulated house. Immediately to west of it we struck a passage, with covered water-conduit running down its axis at a depth of ·75, and following it up for some way westwards, we opened out to the south another house with well-built walls, the largest of whose stones measured 1m. by 40 cm. Afterwards we contented ourselves with probing for the conduit at intervals, finding at one point of its

channel (west edge of H 3) quantities of broken vessels of Mycenaean period evidently brought down by the water from the higher part of the site. Finally, as the channel was not different to others in the upper town and was not likely to lead to any gate or point of importance, we desisted from its further exploration on May 10th. All this central part of the lower site is crossed at intervals by long straight walls of small stones bonded with clay with no face on the upper (west) side. Their upper courses are flush with the surface, and they cease at a depth of about .75, resting on no foundation. They have no connection with the fourth settlement passage and watercourse just described, which indeed are crossed by two of them obliquely. There can be no doubt, then, that these walls are the latest constructions on the site, and it seems probable that they have served to bank up the soil in terraces for cultivation plots. But except that they are later than what we regard as the uppermost "Mycenaean" settlement, they must remain of uncertain date, their structural character being equally that of modern Melian terrace walls and of late "Mycenaean." From all this low part of the site nothing more than broken pottery of the later Mycenaean period and rough stone utensils was obtained, excepting some steatite vessels and fragments, found outside the north wall of the insulated house at a depth of 1.50 m.

We may turn with relief—as indeed we did turn on April 27th—to the part of the site on which our more thoroughgoing work of the season was to be done, namely to the north cliff. A beginning had already been made there with the second "trial trench," in sinking which a complete fourth settlement house had been laid bare in squares J I, 2: under it were found walls of both the third and second settlements and a layer of pottery, underlying all the constructions. Here at any rate we were on a part of the site which had been settled from the earliest time. The floor level of the latest town lay hardly more than .30 below the surface: the less important partition walls had no deeper foundation, but the more important were found to be carried down about 1 metre and to rest on either a course of large boulders from the beach, or a bed of small sea-shingle and sand, or occasionally the top of earlier walls. The latter, the well-built remains of the third settlement town, were thus reached usually in this part of the site at from 1.50 to 2 m. below the surface; and with their foundation courses they went down till either rock or walls of the

second settlement appeared. In the deepest place under the house in question the foundations of the third settlement lay at 4.50 on a bed of sand and pebbles. Then after a belt of earth 1 m. thick containing hardly any sherds, scanty remains of more walls came to view, resting again on earth mixed with sherds. The rock was found at 6.50.

The distinctive character of the three settlements of which we have found structural remains never leaves room for doubt on any part of the site.¹ The earliest (*i.e.* the *second* settlement) appears to have been much the least extensive; and probably, like other settlements of the same primitive period in the islands, it was not fortified. If we may judge from the intervals, at which our deep trenches revealed its constructions under those of the third settlement, its habitations were few and widely spaced. The occurrence in several places of a belt of earth, hardly containing any sherds, argues that, after a catastrophe, the site lay for a long time desolate, left to the action of natural silt. The accumulation of this must have been very slow; for the site is arid, and the prevailing current of air comes off the sea, bringing spray not dust. In fact in the case of the latest settlement we find that at least two and a half millennia have overlaid it with less than half a metre of deposit. The city of the third settlement when it came into being, was of a very different type, a city of fortress-builders, able to lay out their constructions at right angles, to square and to fit their materials accurately, to build their walls plumb, and to engineer a water system. The great fortification was the work of these men, and it marks the most flourishing period of Phylákopi. But between the first settlement of these fortress builders and the change which led once more to the founding of a new settlement above theirs, a long succession of years must again be supposed: for the contents of the houses represent many stages of development. The characteristics of this and the other settlements and of their pottery will be treated more in detail in the subsequent papers. Sufficient to point out here that since our second and third settlements at Phylákopi, in both methods of construction and contents, correspond closely with certain prehistoric dwellings found in Aegina and Thorikos and described by M. Staes in *Ephemeris Archaeologiké*, 1895, pp. 227 ff., they belong probably to a people or peoples who had widespread relations in the Aegean before the great epoch of Mycenae. Contemporary with the last-named period are the scanty remains of our fourth and latest City, between which

¹ Cp. Mr. Mackenzie's paper *infra*, pp. 17 *sqq.*

and the third settlement there was interposed a catastrophe, but apparently no long interval of time. In its turn this latest city was destroyed and most of its materials were removed; and, except for cultivation at some period (v. *supra*, p. 9), the Phylákopi site has lain desolate ever since. The port became choked: obsidian had long ceased to be of value; and in consequence the centre of the island was shifted westwards to one point or another on the shore of the great inlet five miles away, where through the Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine and Italian eras it has remained to our own day.

By April 28th we had finished with squares J 1, J 2 and were proceeding with our gangs increased to just short of a hundred men westwards along the cliff top, opening out the chambers from the sea face inwards. This direction of progress was rendered natural both by the facility for "dumping" and by the fact that some sort of street, into which doors opened, ran more or less closely along the existing brink of the cliff. The few chambers opened to the east of the "Mycenaean house" proved ruinous, shallow, and productive of hardly anything but the little plain wheel-made cups of which we were afterwards to get many hundreds: and for some little distance westwards also houses of good character did not appear. But thereafter began that plethora of potsherds, which is characteristic of this site as of all others of a similar period. (In two days we obtained more than was carried to Athens in all the previous season,—a circumstance due in some measure to the fact that we allowed nothing to be thrown away before being washed.) Among the sherds were many with finely painted marine motives, but no whole vases appeared except the plain cups.

As we proceeded westwards the remains of the latest city became deeper, the floors of hammered mud (occasionally also of slabs of schist) averaging .75 below the surface. Good painted ware became common from the uppermost or fourth settlement, and by the beginning of the succeeding week (May 2nd), we had opened out deep well preserved chambers of the third settlement city in H 1, which, however, had been dug into before our time: for there was a clean-cut trench in the earth deposit, filled loosely with rubbish. On Tuesday, May 3rd, we came upon our first considerable find of complete vessels, all on the latest floor-level of two small rooms—in the one a large painted bath-shaped urn, recalling a Cretan "larnax," which broke only when the supporting earth was removed; and in the other a number of painted vases and lamps, protected under the bulge of a wall. The yield of potsherds had come to

FIG. 1.

average about forty baskets a day, specimens inscribed with "Aegean" signs¹ (Fig. 1), scratched while the clay was wet, being frequent; and rude stone mortars, saddle-querns, &c., were of hourly occurrence. Broken vessels containing remains of bronze-smelting; clay lamps with blackened spouts; broken stone vessels, and a very few idols, remain to be added to the countless potsherds. At the end of the week we had cleared all the slope up to the cliff top, finding rock at from 3.50 to 4 m.; and had begun to make sinkings into the chambers on the more or less level terraces, which have been banked up in later times on the west of the hillock for purposes of cultivation. We cleared first the highest and westernmost of these terraces, on the west half of which remains of the latest settlement had been laid bare in the previous year, and we at an earlier period had sunk our first "trial trench." We found the walls and floors of the uppermost chambers less complete on the eastern half; but on the other hand, on May 10th, we hit upon a typical column-base of the Tiryns type, apparently *in situ* at a depth of only .50, and later began to open out both an extensive drain system and the eastern entrance to this high-lying house. Very little pottery resulted from this superficial earth, and for two or three days we got little spoil, except from one chamber on the lower terrace, where a layer of vases, mostly with incised ornament, lay within six inches of the rock. On May 11th, Dr. Dörpfeld and his party visited us in the course of their *Inselreise*, and the former represented the danger of leaving so many primitive walls bared to foundation level. Accordingly, as soon as Mr. E. B. Hoare, who had suffered from persistent ill-health, was well enough to plot in all that had been uncovered up to that time, we filled in again many chambers that had been dug to the rock. For nearly a week now, during part of which I was absent in Athens our efforts were

¹ Cf. table annexed, which gives all the distinct forms but is not a *catalogue raisonné*.

directed mainly to opening out the banks east and south of the upper terrace. That on the east proved to contain an entrance to the upper building with flanking chambers; a long narrow passage running south from the cliff edge served both as approach and drain; and on the other side of the strong supporting wall of boulders which bounded this on the east was another group of chambers which we were to open later with signal results. The south bank also contained a narrow passage but was found to be more steeply terraced, and immediately below it began a series of chambers of which we had only time to dig out two. From their not remarkable contents, among which were some two hundred plain cups found lying in *rouleaux* one within the other, they seem to belong to the latest settlement. From two points in the south bank we ran trenches across to the fortification wall on the south in order to determine the character of this part of the site. It was found to be, like the low part on the east, full of house remains of the late period, the substructures often alone remaining. We cut down a long passage running south, and up a passage with drain falling to the south-east, and round an *insula* very like that in the east centre (*v. supra*), but obtained nothing but potsherds. This part of the site has been at some period carefully levelled for cultivation. Stones have been gathered off its surface and walls destroyed. The earth is hard and very deep. In another season it might be probed more thoroughly in order to determine whether remains of the third and earlier settlements underlie the later here, but judging from the character of the southern fortification at this point, all the lowest part of the town is a late extension, and will not equal the upper part either in interest or in the number and value of the objects found.

As the last week arrived, for which our funds would hold out, I determined to concentrate labour on the two high terraces, the northern and southern edges of which had been already explored. Here was our best chance of finding characteristic objects belonging to all the settlements. From the upper terrace the superficial layer had already been removed, and on the 18th gangs were set to sink shafts in several places through the remains of the third settlement city, whose existence in this region we had already established, down to the rock. The second layer (third settlement) proved at once remunerative: vase fragments painted with birds and fishes, bronze tools, several complete strainers and other vessels rewarded us; and as we approached the rock (here uniformly at 4 metres below the

surface) we obtained good incised vases. But the most remarkable finds were to come from the lower terrace. We had hardly concentrated the men upon it when early on the 19th, on the mud floor of a late settlement house, at a depth of '80, was found the "Fishermen Vase" (Plate II.). The lowest stratum (4 m.) of other chambers near at hand had been yielding good incised ware for two days past, and from the lower levels of the third settlement city had been emerging many flat painted bowls, a fine steatite lamp, and other good vessels. The surface earth yielded painted fragments in profusion, and, for the first time, some saw-toothed flint knives. Half way across the terrace, digging to the southward, we struck an axial passage, and on the 21st began on a fresh group of chambers beyond it.

As we were digging this part of the site rather for the chance of vases and other objects than for the plan, we had gone down to the rock only where the spaces left between walls of various epochs rendered sinking easy, and after a little experience did not descend lower than the foundations of the third settlement city wherever these rested on a bed of shingle. For in no such case did we find anything below until rock was reached. But in every chamber, except the small room where the "Fishermen Vase" was found, we dug out thoroughly the remains of the third settlement, and in four or five places penetrated to the second settlement. In fact unless walls are to be destroyed wholesale, this is the only method of exploration possible on those parts of the site where the three (or four) settlements are superimposed one on the other. To get a complete plan of the two uppermost is easy: to get a complete plan of the two lower strata is all but impossible, but their character and that of the objects in them can be amply established by occasional shafts.

With only three or at most four days work still before us we began on the new chambers south of the axial passage on Saturday the 21st. Here the latest city has left but very shallow remains, and the top of the walls of the third settlement emerge at less than a metre below the surface. Almost at once the finding of a piece of fine stucco, painted with marine growths on a white slip, warned us that we had opened a room of better quality than any found hitherto, for though this was not the first stucco we had noted in the third settlement city, it was the first with design. The whole of our now reduced staff of workmen was accordingly employed until the close of the excavation on Thursday, May 26th, in

clearing as many of these chambers as possible down to the floor level of the third settlement, which lies at about 2 metres. In two cases the men were able to descend to the rock, which here lies only $3\frac{1}{2}$ metres below the surface, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres below the floor of the third settlement. The remains of the uppermost settlement, almost on the surface, included two small built up water tanks, which were left *in situ*, as were also all the walls. But cutting through the mud floors we descended into the rooms of the third settlement, three of which had been stuccoed. Of these one contained only a few fragments of strong, stout plaster, painted in broad bands of plain colours, red and black; but the two other rooms, of which the one led into the other, had more elaborate designs. The first yielded dark crimson stucco, on which appeared a design of white lilies with yellow pistils and stamina: the other, in which by far the largest amount of stucco was found, gave us remains of broad bands of plain colours, blue, green, black and red, relieved by stripes and pricked lines. But also there were remains of a band of design, flying fish represented among marine growths such as sponges in a sea indicated by the presence of blue bubbles. A human figure, of which we found only the outlined hands and part of the braceleted arms to the shoulder, seems to hold a net, but not in the same band of design.¹ All this crumbling material was lying among the earth in the chamber, mostly face upwards, at different levels varying over nearly a metre, having fallen gradually from its place. No single piece still adhered to any wall. The earth being packed hard, it was impossible to get out the stucco except in small fragments, work as slowly and carefully as we might. The fragments vary much in thickness from 8 cm. to 16 cm., having been fitted to the inequalities of the rough backing. This chamber had the further distinction of possessing a square pillar, standing free on a roughly-rounded base in the centre of the east end of the room. What is left of it is built of two poros stones, '60 square and respectively '66 and '57 high. Before the end of the work we found an exactly similar pillar in the east end of the large chamber at the north-west corner of this group. This pillar is beautifully squared—the best bit of masonry in fact yet found at Phylákopi. It is preserved to a height of '93 and is '45 square. Not far from it in the same room was found a round base of the ordinary Tiryns type, but not *in situ*; and

¹ Cp. pp. 26, 27, *infra* for fuller description.

in a third chamber adjoining are remains of a ruder specimen of these bases, but this time probably as originally placed. Very little pottery was found in any of these rooms, but such as there was belonged to the later period of the third settlement. Time did not permit of these chambers with their novel and singular features being finished. It remains to dig deeper in all but two, and to begin from the surface on the southern half of this block of buildings. That done, it will have to be considered to what extent the lower parts of the site, south and east, shall be cleared.

THE "FISHERMEN VASE," PHYLAKOPI.
Scale about 1 : 2.

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