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Author(s): Arthur J. Evans

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Hyksos King, Khyan. A fine cylinder of lapis lazuli, mounted with gold and engraved with mythological subjects, bears witness to the early connections with Babylonia.

The most interesting of all the discoveries is the accumulated evidence⁴¹ that there existed on the soil of prehistoric Hellas a highly-developed system of writing some eight centuries earlier than the first written Greek monuments, and going back six or seven centuries, even before the first dated record of the Phœnician script. A whole series of deposits of clay tablets has come to light, many of the most important of them during last season's excavations, engraved with a linear script, often accompanied by a decimal system of numeration. Besides these linear tablets there was discovered a separate deposit of clay bars and labels containing inscriptions of a more hieroglyphic class. Although contemporary with the linear tablets, the script on these is apparently of quite distinct evolution, and in all probability in a different language.

Beneath the palace itself and the adjoining houses, and underlying the whole top of the hill, was also a very extensive Neolithic settlement (*cf.* MAN, 1901. 146). The relics found, such as the small human figures of clay and marble, supply the antecedent stages, hitherto wanting, to the Early Metal-age Culture of the Ægean Islands.

In addition to the assistance given to Mr. Evans in his work at Knossos, the Cretan Exploration Fund has contributed towards various works of exploration in the island undertaken under the auspices of the British School at Athens. In 1899 the late Director of the School, Mr. D. G. Hogarth, excavated a series of prehistoric houses in the lower town of Knossos. Mr. Hogarth further successfully explored the great cave of Zeus on Mount Dicta, discovering remains of a prehistoric sanctuary and large deposits of votive bronze figures and other objects, among which the double axe, the symbol of the Cretan and Carian Zeus, was specially conspicuous. During the present year Mr. R. C. Bosanquet, the new Director of the British School, has carried out an exploration of the site of Præsos, in the easternmost region of Crete, in historic times the chief civic centre of the original Eteocretan element of the island (*cf.* MAN, 1901. 148). This season Mr. Hogarth has also been enabled by a grant from the fund to explore an ancient site at Zakro in the extreme east of the island (*cf.* MAN, 1901. 147). He has there uncovered a small Mycenæan town with well-preserved remains of the lower part of the houses and magazines, and a pit containing fine examples of early pottery.

Other interesting sites, already previously secured for British excavation, remain to be explored. The Executive Committee of the Cretan Exploration Fund, however, are of opinion that, before devoting any sums towards breaking new ground, a sufficient amount shall be raised to enable Mr. Evans to complete his excavation of the palace of Knossos, a considerable part of the cost of which has already fallen on the explorer's shoulders. The large scale of the work, on which throughout the whole of last season 200 workmen were constantly employed, makes it necessarily costly, and in this case, in addition to many other incidental items of expenditure, a great deal has to be done towards the conservation, and in some cases even the roofing-in, of the chambers discovered. It is estimated that a sum of between one and two thousand pounds will be necessary for the adequate completion of this important work. The unique character of the results already obtained is, however, so widely recognised that the Committee confidently trust that no financial obstacles will stand in the way of this consummation.

J. L. M.

Crete.

Evans.

The Neolithic Settlement at Knossos and its Place in the History of Early Ægean Culture. By Arthur J. Evans, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S. **146**

The hill of Kephala at Knossos, which contained the remains of the Palace of Minos and early houses going back to the pre-Mycenæan or Kamáres period of Crete, proves to have been the scene of a much earlier and very extensive Neolithic settlement.

The exploration of this by the author, in addition to the work on the later remains of the "Minoan" Palace, has been greatly aided by the grant from the Association in 1900. The remains were contained in a stratum of light clay underlying the later prehistoric buildings, and which seems to have been formed by the disintegration of successive generations of wattle and daub huts and their clay platforms. This clay stratum, which had been a good deal re-used for later foundations, showed a mean thickness on the top of the hill of about five metres. In some places it was over seven metres thick, and went down to a depth of about ten metres below the surface. It contained an abundance of primitive, dark, hand-made pottery, often punctuated and incised, and with white chalky inlaying, more rarely chrome-coloured. The ornamentation was angular and of textile derivation. Stone implements abounded of greenstone, serpentine, diorite, hæmatite, jadeite, and other materials. Among these were over 300 celts or axes, besides chisels, adzes, hammers, and other implements. The most characteristic implements,

NEOLITHIC CLAY FIGURES KNOSSOS

NEOLITHIC MARBLE TYPES: KNOSSOS

EARLY METAL AGE, AMORGOS & FIDDLE
AND MALLET TYPES (MARBLE) EARLY METAL AGE; AMORGOS
DEVELOPED MARBLE TYPES

however, were the stone maces, the occurrence of which was especially important as bringing the Cretan Stone-age into near relation with that of Anatolia—and indeed of Western Asia in general—where, as in the early deposits of Babylonia, stone maces formed a marked feature. This characteristic was shared by pre-dynastic and proto-dynastic Egypt. Another interesting feature among the remains were the small human images of clay and marble which supplied the ancestors and prototypes of the stone images found in the early Metal-age deposits of Crete and the Cyclades. Their Anatolian analogies were pointed out, and reasons were adduced for their ultimate derivation, through intermediate types, from clay figures of a Babylonian Mother-Goddess, such as those lately found in the very ancient deposits at Nippur.

The Neolithic settlement of Knossos was the first settlement of that period yet explored in the Greek world, and in many ways threw an entirely new light on the beginning of civilisation in that area. The contents showed a marked contrast to the earliest Metal-age remains, such as those from the deposit of Hagios Onuphrios in

Crete, the date of which was approximately fixed by their association with Egyptian relics and the indigenous copies of them from 2800 to 2200 B.C. There were here no later vase forms of the high-necked and spouted class, no traces of painted pottery or metal, and no single example of the spiraliform decoration which in the early Metal-age deposits is found fully developed. This negative phenomenon strongly weighed in favour of the view that the Ægean spiral system was introduced during this later period with other decorative types from the Egypt of the Middle Kingdom, where it had already attained a high development.

The Neolithic stratum of Knossos itself actually underlay later buildings belonging to three distinct prehistoric classes :—

1. The “Kamáres,” or Early Metal-age Period of Crete, illustrated by the contents of some of the earlier houses. The painted pottery in these was in some cases a mere translation into colour of the incised and punctuated Neolithic designs. This period is approximately dated from the relics found in the Hagios Onuphrios deposit and the Cretan vase fragments found in Egypt in a XIIth Dynasty association from c. 2800 to 2200 B.C.

2. The Transitional Period, between the “Kamáres” age and the Mycenæan. It is probable that the earliest elements of the Palace itself belong to this period, including an Egyptian monument ascribed to the close of the XIIth or to the early XIIIth Dynasty, c. 2000 B.C.

3. The Mycenæan Period proper, the flourishing epoch of which is approximately fixed by the correspondence of some of the wall paintings with those representing the Keftiu on Egyptian tombs, c. 1550 B.C.

Considering the distinct gap in development which still separates the latest elements of the culture represented by the Neolithic stratum of Knossos from the fully developed Kamáres style, it would be rash to bring down the lowest limits of the settlement later than about 3000 B.C. On the other hand, the great depth of the deposit must carry its higher limit back to a very much more remote date. The continued exploration of the Neolithic remains of Knossos is necessary for the full elucidation of many of the problems suggested by these discoveries.

A. J. EVANS.

Crete.

Hogarth.

Exploration at Zakro in Eastern Crete. By D. G. Hogarth, M.A. For the **147** Cretan Exploration Fund.

The excavation at Zakro in East Crete has been concluded so recently that I must confine myself to a plain statement of the raw material rendered available for study thereby. In estimating the final result it will be necessary to take account of positive and negative evidence not yet to hand from two other East Cretan sites, lately excavated, Præsos and Gorynia. Zakro lies in the south-eastern angle of the island, and was chosen for research because it falls in the Eteocretan country anciently reputed to be inhabited by aborigines, and because its safe bay must always have been a main port of call for craft sailing between the Ægean coasts and Africa. The small plain of Zakro, entirely hemmed in by rugged hills, is full of early remains, beginning in the later pre-Mycenæan period and ending with the close of the age of bronze. No implements of iron were found in it at all, and no Hellenic pottery. The town, therefore, owed its existence to a commerce which ceased or passed elsewhere from the Geometric age onward. The earliest settlement was on a rugged spur; and although almost all trace of its structures has disappeared, it has left abundant evidence of itself in the contents of a pit about 18 feet deep. This was found half-full of broken vases in stone and clay, largely of the singular “Kamáres” class not previously found in Eastern Crete. These, however, are mainly of a highly-developed technique, and their commonest schemes of ornament reappear unchanged on vases of distinctively Mycenæan fabric. In fact, Kamáres shapes and decoration are more closely related to Mycenæan at