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The Excavations at Phylakopi in Melos, 1911: § 7.—Miscellaneous Finds

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large and complete, example of this ware is the burial pithos, No. 183 (Pl. IV); No. 167 (Pl. VII) is another, and the sherd No. 47 on Pl. XIV is a technically good specimen with probably the common Early Minoan III pattern of hatched circles connected by tangents. Allied to these are the contemporary vases that shew on a brown-to-red slightly burnished surface, a decoration of white bands outlined and crossed at intervals by black lines. The pattern however shews so little in the photograph that no satisfactory illustration is possible.

II. *Melian pre-Mycenaean Pottery.*

To the vases dealt with in this report may here be added the examples found this year of Melian pre-Mycenaean pottery with curvilinear designs in matt black.¹ Vases of this kind, with perhaps the 'Black and Red' ware, are important as being the best work produced by the Melian potter on native lines, when he had not yet begun to surrender his genius to the influence of Crete. It is noticeable that they are not found in any great abundance on the site. The examples figured (No. 173, 35, 205, 234, 185, 88, 94) on Pl. XIII, require no further comment beyond a general reference to their treatment in the Phylakopi book. Of the 'Black and Red' style no complete specimen was found this year. The only other pieces worthy of publication are the four sherds of Geometric ware with designs in matt paint shewn on Pl. XIV. (Nos. 35-38). Of them No. 36 shews a bird, Nos. 37 and 38 human figures, whilst No. 35 is the most curious of all, with a Greek cross and a crescent on the top of a conical support.

§ 7.—MISCELLANEOUS FINDS.

Evidence of the local use of bronze or copper appeared amongst the deposits in **H 5 1** in the shape of several pieces of small clay crucibles. None of them were complete, but the two best examples, shewn on Plate VII give the shape. They were spoon-shaped vessels about 24 m. long by 16 m. wide, made of coarse dark clay with a spout at one end; this is seen in the left-hand example on the plate. They stood on three short legs so arranged that the crucible could be tilted forward and cause

¹ The 'Early Mycenaean with designs in matt black' of Mr. Edgar's classification. See *Phylakopi*, pp. 108 ff. § 9, and Pls. XIV-XIX.

the molten metal to flow out of the spout into the mould. That they had seen some service was proved by the remains of metal which clung to their inner surface. A fragment of such a crucible was found in the old excavation and two broken stone moulds, one for a Double Axe.¹ Such a Double Axe, shewn on Pl. XIV, 59, was found this year together with a bronze spear-head, in a cleft between two stones almost immediately above the rock underneath a floor-level in **H 4 15**. They had the appearance of being in a sort of *cache* and probably belonged to a later period than that of the First City, to which their actual level would assign them. The only other bronzes found were the arrowhead and knife shewn on Pl. XIV (Nos. 58 and 60).

Beyond these objects the number of minor finds was very small. Eight examples, all more or less broken, of the common Mycenaean 'idols' like those on Pl. XXXIX of the Phylakopi book, some clay and stone plain spindle-whorls, a few bone needles, and a small marble female figure 20 m. long of the most shapeless Cycladic fiddle type, the head of a clay bull's head *rhyton* like that published in *Phylakopi*, p. 205, Figs. 178 and 179, and a few beads, practically complete the list. There was of course a good deal of obsidian, but no regular workshop or store of it was again discovered. Of worked stone we found, besides the usual pestles and pounders, a fragment of a steatite blossom-bowl from Crete, a small steatite lid, also probably Cretan, half a stone hammer-head and a small celt. The main interest of the excavation lay, as is usual on prehistoric sites, in the pottery.

The site is by no means yet exhausted; a good deal of the low-lying eastern part of the town remains practically untouched, as well as some of the lower levels in the regions covered by the old excavation, and it may remain for future excavations to throw still further light on the civilization and commerce of the prehistoric capital of the Cyclades.

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¹ *Phylakopi*, p. 191, Fig. 161.