

culture. It is not possible yet to reach solid conclusions on many points, but in general it is clear that the earliest Cretan civilization was long antecedent to that of Greece, earlier even than that of Mycenae, and was parallel to that of Egypt and the Euphrates valley. It was Eastern in type and very far advanced in the arts. It is astonishing to see on the pottery a couple of thousand years before Christ costumes much like those worn by the Parisian women to-day. We must revise our ideas about early culture. We are to-day learning again some of the things that the ancients forgot. They had bull fights in Crete and that is the explanation of the Minotaur; even girls fought in the arena. Minos was not only a real king of vast wealth, but he ruled a great empire and his civilization swayed a large part of the world. Many specimens of a pictographic style of writing and a later linear script have been found, but they are not yet translated. If this new language is ever deciphered, light may be thrown on the origin of the Greek language.

But apart from speculation a great gain has been made in our knowledge of the early life of the race by the discoveries in Crete. Prof. Burrows' volume is a welcome handbook for those who do not have time to make original researches in this field. He has indeed ideas of his own also at many points that will deserve the attention of scholars.

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