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Excavations at Palaikastro. II: § 2.—The Town

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bank of crushed murex-shell, but beside it a whole nest of Kamáres pottery.

As harvest drew near it became increasingly difficult to keep our best men. We had arranged for some supplementary digging at Praesos, but owing to an attack of fever, which forced Mr. Tod to return to Athens on May 28, this was postponed. A week later our preparations for departure were all made, when the French gun-boat *Condor* steamed into Grandes Bay, and Captain Escande with most opportune kindness offered to take two of us along the south coast, an offer which Mr. Currelly and I were glad to accept; we take this opportunity of thanking him for his hospitality, which we enjoyed for two memorable days. We parted from Captain Escande and the *Condor* at Phaistos, where we were entertained by Dr. Pernier, and thence rode to Candia. Mr. Dawkins remained till June 11 in order to finish the plan, and then paid the visit to Karpathos which he has described in this volume (p. 176).

§ 2.—THE TOWN.

(PLATE VI.)

The prehistoric town at Roussolakkos was laid out in regular blocks, each containing several houses. We went on the system of following up the streets and ascertaining the extent of an *insula* before excavating it. The blocks are named β , γ , δ and so on, and to each room as it is opened up a number is given, the Greek alphabet being used in order to avoid confusion with the letters and numbers by which the squares on the plan are denominated.

The excavated area was surveyed by Mr. R. M. Dawkins, who has prepared an excellent plan on which the walls of different periods are so far as possible distinguished; but another season must elapse before the problems of stratification can be handled with absolute confidence. The simplified copy reproduced in this provisional report has been redrawn from Mr. Dawkins' plan by Herr Seyk, draughtsman to the German Archaeological Institute at Athens. The majority of the drawings of vases in this report are also Mr. Dawkins' work, the remainder being by Mr. Currelly and Mr. Halvor Bagge.

It should be noted that in the following articles we have adopted a

conventional orientation following that of the plan; *north, south, east, and west* are used as though the top of the plan were due north.

Our starting-point was the street west of Block β , discovered last year. This was traced in both directions for a total distance of 145 m., and three successive insulae abutting on it from the south were more or less completely excavated. Three streets at right angles to it were opened up, one for over 70 m. and the others for shorter distances. The streets, though narrow according to modern ideas—they vary from 1.40 to 2.50 m.—are wider than those at Phylakopi. One cross-street by exception has a width of nearly 4 m., between β and an unexcavated block, μ . More than half the breadth of the main street is taken up by a raised and paved footpath; the part of it adjoining δ has a very massive pavement bordered by a deep gutter, the bottom of which is the upper surface of an older pavement .85 m. below. Between ϵ and σ we reached a very ancient road-surface buried in deep rubbish among which were Kamáres vases; it was paved with rounded cobbles, closely set, much like those in modern Cretan villages.

A detailed description of the several blocks is given in the ensuing sections, but it may be convenient to give a less technical summary of their more important features here.

Further examination of the house in β excavated last year exposed the column-bases, two square and four round, of a verandah in the court, with remains of its burned woodwork. The house in γ on the other side of the main street proved to have a front of carefully squared freestone masonry with frequent setbacks, which correspond with the internal partitions. The hitherto unaccountable setbacks conventional in Mycenaean architecture may have originated in this practice of indicating the junction of a partition wall with the main wall. The stairs opposite the front door are of secondary construction; under them we found a large well-built bath-room, reached by steps like the sunken bath-room in the Palaces. A house further west contains what looks like a shop, consisting of a room with one side open to the street, and behind it a narrow store-room fitted with a stone sink. The north-western part of the block has been robbed of its stones and there is little hope of recovering the Mycenaean ground-plan, but from the lower levels, more accessible here than elsewhere, came a quantity of early pottery, including a splendid Kamáres 'fruit-stand.'

Block δ lies west of γ , and has a frontage of 40 m. on the main street. Its southern portion, a labyrinth of small rooms shewing signs of frequent reconstruction, did not prepare us for the massive masonry and spacious planning of the Mansion which occupies the northern part of the block. There are two well-marked floor levels corresponding to the two levels in the adjoining part of the main street. A hall of the original house exhibits a group of four column-bases at the corners of a sunken square, precisely like the 'impluvium' of House *B*. The best marked features of the later Mansion are its entrance, 4 m. wide, which led to a stairway of the same width, and a small inner court or light-well, about 5 m. square, which must have been open to the sky, since its pavement slopes down to a broad and deep covered drain.

FIG. 1.—FEMALE HEAD CARVED IN BONE.

On the same side of the main street we explored a third insula, ϵ . The largest house had been much disturbed, and after making a plan we filled it in. West of it are two well preserved houses, each about 10 m. square. In one of them there are the remains of what seems to be an early wine-press, a raised cement floor $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. square, sloping towards a sunken jar.

Block β , of which the house excavated last year occupies a great part, was found to embrace several other houses. One of them contained a spouted jar and two pithoi below it, an arrangement already observed at Zakro and elsewhere, which probably played a part in the manufacture of oil. Another of these spouted jars or oil separators occurred in Block γ ; their characteristic feature is that the spout is placed flush with the bottom

of the vase. This year, as last, peas and barley were found in jars, and for the first time at Palaikastro, a few olive-kernels.

Neither inscribed tablets nor seal impressions came to light; but the finding of seven engraved gems, two of them three-sided seals of great interest, attests the vigilance of our diggers. Of small objects the most valuable are a pair of electrum earrings covered with fine granulated work, the rim of a steatite cup bearing four incised characters of the Minôan script, and a well preserved carving of a woman's head in bone (Fig. 1), the eyes and hair of which were supplied in some other material.

FIG. 2.—SACRED HORNS (about 1 : 4).

Besides the ceremonial axes from Kouraménos, two, one large, one only five centimetres from tip to tip, were obtained from Roussolakkos, and a series of four Horn-emblems of various sizes carved in stone (Fig. 2).

This year a little geometrical pottery occurred at the east end of the site, some bronzes related to those from the Altar-hill at Praesos, and a remarkable scarab. They shew that in classical times there was a temple here, as the previous discovery of architectural terracottas, which we traced to this field, had led us to suspect. The finding of a stratum of wood-ashes suggests that it was constructed principally of wood.

PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS AT PALAIKASTRO, 1903.