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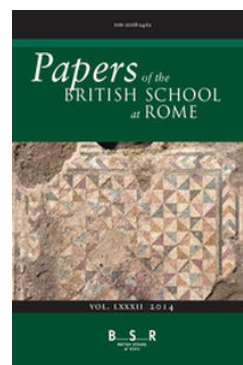
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## Preface

Thomas Ashby

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## PREFACE.

THE fifth volume of the *Papers of the British School at Rome* is considerably larger than any of its predecessors, containing no less than eight papers, illustrated by nearly fifty plates. The first place is taken by an important contribution to the history of the text of the Odyssey by Mr. T. W. Allen, the first Honorary Student of the School. Dr. Duncan Mackenzie, another Honorary Student, describes in a paper on the Dolmens, Tombs of the Giants, and Nuraghi of Sardinia the successful results of a campaign of exploration among the prehistoric monuments of that most interesting island—the second of three autumn campaigns that he has undertaken on behalf of the School. Mr. T. E. Peet, the first holder of the Oxford Studentship founded in memory of the late Professor Pelham, the first Chairman of the Managing Committee, deals, in his Contributions to the Study of the Prehistoric Period in Malta, with important problems in regard to the antiquities of that British Colony, which has cordially welcomed the cooperation of the School in excavations carried on by, and at the expense of, the Government of Malta, the success of which in two campaigns has amply justified their continuance.

In the fourth paper Mr. A. J. B. Wace, formerly Librarian of the School, deals with the important series of bas-reliefs in the Palazzo Spada at Rome and others akin to them, maintaining that they are not Hellenistic, but Roman, and placing them in their chronological order. Mr. C. L. Woolley follows with a short paper on an apparently late classical enceinte in Southern Italy, not very far from Salerno. In the sixth paper I have resumed the study of the Classical Topography of the Roman Campagna, completing the survey of the Via Latina and the district which it traversed,

including the site of Tusculum and the greater part of the Alban Hills: the three parts now published represent perhaps one half of the whole work. The seventh paper, by my predecessor, Mr. H. Stuart Jones, presents some important conclusions as to the historical interpretation of the reliefs of the Column of Trajan, which differ considerably from those at which scholars had previously arrived. The last paper is a short commentary to some very fine drawings of the interesting little Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas, on the Via Latina just within the Aurelian wall of Rome, executed by Mr. F. G. Newton, Student of the School, who is also responsible for the plans which illustrate Dr. Mackenzie's paper and my own.

THOMAS ASHBY,  
*Director.*