

NEWS ITEMS FROM ATHENS

Crete still continues to produce new archaeological material from almost every region of the island. Between May 4 and May 19, 1936, Mr. and Mrs. Pendlebury and Miss Money-Coutts carried out excavations at the cave of Trapeza for the British School:

"The cave of Trapeza lies above the village of Tzermiadha in Lasithi, immediately opposite the Diktaean Cave at Psykro. It was first discovered by Sir Arthur Evans in 1896, since when practically the whole of the deposit of earth within has been turned over and over by the peasants in search of treasure. Thus the dating of most of the objects found rests on purely stylistic grounds. Fortunately at one or two points, virgin soil had not been reached and it was possible to date with accuracy the local style of Neolithic pottery which here makes its first appearance.

"Briefly the history of the cave is as follows: In the Neolithic period the cave was used as a dwelling place. Together with fragments of the ordinary type of Neolithic pottery was found a large number of sherds of a coarse mottled ware, some of which were decorated with human faces roughly moulded below the rim or with vertical 'tresses' applied to the body of the pot.

"From Early Minoan I the cave was used as a burial place and continued as such until Middle Minoan I (which continues in most parts of Crete down to the beginning of Middle Minoan III) when the site was deserted in favor of the cave at Psykro.

"Probably to E. M. II must be attributed a group of ivory figurines of a type which is peculiar to Lasithi. They are roughly but effectively blocked out with arms folded and their only clothing—an apron—depending in front. In conjunction with these must be taken a small ivory head with traces of inlay in the eyes, which if not an actual import from Mesopotamia was certainly made under strong Sumerian influence.

"Among the many seals, that which stands out as the finest—perhaps the finest in all Crete—is in the form of a monkey, exquisitely carved in ivory. Interesting also is the good example of an early XIIIth Dynasty scarab

"A number of bronze daggers and toilet knives were found, one of the latter still retaining its ivory handle.

"The bulk of the pottery is still in the hands of the mender, but it is already possible to say that a good representative collection of Early Minoan pottery of all three periods has been recovered. Particularly noteworthy are the local copies of 'Vasiliki' wares in which the mottling due in the originals to uneven firing is here imitated in paint.

"The vases of stone also provide a good series. Many have exact parallels from other sites, particularly Mokhlos and the Messara; but one or two are not only made of local stone but are also of shapes which seem to be peculiar to the district."¹

At Amnisos the excavations continued in 1935 brought to light four new inscriptions (from the upper Roman layer of the Sanctuary), dating from the second to the first century B.C. One is mutilated, the other three contain the names of the kosmoi. These obviously have to do with work in the Sanctuary or with votive offerings. Lasthenes, the son of Sosamenes, named once as *kosmos* is perhaps the general who, with Panares, destroyed the first Roman fleet which made an expedition against Crete and resisted, for a long time, the second invasion under Metellus, 69–67 B.C. Since he finally retreated to Knossos and there burned all that he could to prevent its falling into the hands of Metellus, this city must presumably have been his home. The perfection of the small finds and the votive offerings of this period is remarkable and indicates the flourishing state of the coast towns. This may be due to the piratical activity of the Cretans who placed their harbors at the disposal of their allies, the Cilician pirates. It was this alliance that brought about the intervention of Rome and the inhuman severity of Metellus in spite of the heroic resistance of Lasthenes and Panares.

Among other Cretan chance finds of the year, two extraordinarily well-preserved clay idols of the Mother Goddess take first rank (Figs. 1–2). The idols were found at Gazi between Tylissos and Herakleion, 6 km. west of the latter, by peasants who unfortunately destroyed the remains of the building in which they lay. According to their descriptions and the meagre results of a small trial

¹For this report I am indebted to the excavator, Mr. Pendlebury.

excavation, the structure was a small circular stone hut with an entrance on the north. Now we can understand the meaning of small clay votives in the form of a hut, from Phaistos and from the Sub-Minoan "wellhouse" at Knossos. In the lat-

of Sir Arthur Evans that the objects are derived from clay water-pipes. The importance of the discovery lies chiefly in the fact that together with that from Pankalochori, it proves the existence in the latest Minoan phase, of small country sanc-



FIG. 1.—TERRACOTTA IDOL FOUND NEAR TYLISSOS
(Courtesy of M. Marinatos)

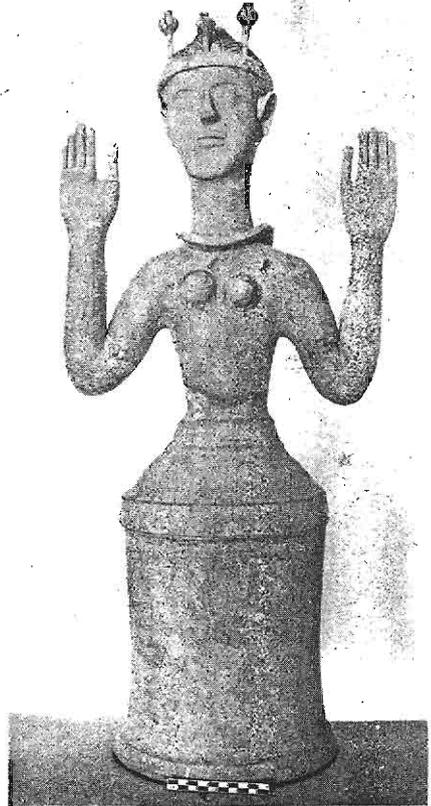


FIG. 2.—TERRACOTTA IDOL NEAR TYLISSOS
(Courtesy of M. Marinatos)

ter the goddess is represented with hands upraised. Our two idols are also shown in the well-known attitude of adoration. The smaller, 0.53 m. high, bears traces of red paint and has on her head a pair of doves and the so-called "horns of consecration." The face is round. On the larger goddess, ht. 0.80 m. (Fig. 2), only the narrow red spiral band on the cylindrical lower part of the body is painted. She wears in her hair three pins with representations of pomegranates, and has remarkably Greek features (Fig. 3). Apart from the idols the Sanctuary at Gazi produced only a small plate and one of the well-known tubular cult implements which grow narrower toward the top and which admirably confirm the explanation

tuaries and it refutes the prevailing view that there were no public Minoan cult places except caves and open-air precincts. Such small sanctuaries with clay images of the gods must have survived in some remote places down to the Greek period.

Geometric graves have come to light at several places, one in the refugee suburb of Nea Halkarnassos, at Herakleion, another at the mouth of the Kairatos, with numerous developed Geometric vessels and at Bronónero, near Arkhanes, a pair of pits with about forty Protogeometric and Geometric vases, and near the village of Hagies Paraskives, a rock-cut grave excavated by M. Platon, which was similar to those at Knossos and

contained more than seventy pots, ranging from Protogeometric to Orientalizing. A small lid pot with relief decoration evidently imitates a prototype in faience.

A walled Roman tomb at Kavousi on Mirabello



FIG. 3.—DETAIL OF TERRACOTTA STATUETTE SEEN IN FIG. 2.
(Courtesy of M. Marinatos)

Bay contained some unpainted vases and more than thirty lamps, many with obscene representations, as well as two bronze coins, important for dating, of Maximianus (235-238 A.D.) and of Probus (276-282).

The earthquake-proof reconstruction of the museum at Herakleion is proceeding methodically. The first wing will be ready this year. During the excavations for the foundations Roman tile graves came to light at a depth of 10 m. as well as a mass of Venetian ruins and numerous marble architectural pieces and fragments of sculpture. More than fifteen marble capitals of late antiquity were produced in the course of a reconstruction of the Church of St. Titus.

Reports from the Dodecanese Islands, for the years 1934-35, are now available. The most important discoveries on Rhodes concern Ialysos and particularly the region called Marmaro, where Mainiri and Jacopi had already excavated suc-

cessfully in earlier years. The graves opened in 1934 belong approximately to the middle of the sixth century B.C. In a total of eighty-three graves, there were only four red-figured Attic vases, among them a psykter of the late severe style with Dionysiac representations, which belongs to the circle of Hermonax. Only seven cases of burning came to light; evidently about the middle of the sixth century, cremation, which had been customary in the Geometric Period, was no longer in use. As is well known, in cremation burials in Rhodes, the ordinary cinerary urns were not used, but a pyre was lighted in a pit and the human ashes were buried together with the remains of the pyre. Now, however, at Marmaro, three cinerary urns have come to light. They are vessels with geometric decoration, dating from the eighth century. They contained saucers, iron weapons, pins and fibulae of bronze. These three graves thus stand apart from the rest of the necropolis which belongs to the middle and the second half of the sixth century. The inhumation graves are nearly all of the usual type of stone cists with a gable-shaped lid, of good workmanship, but there are also some marble sarcophagi which were placed in a cist of local limestone. It is a peculiar fact, in this cemetery, that in nearly every instance the vases stood outside the grave at its upper end.

The accompanying objects resemble those found in previous years: vessels for liquids, drinking vessels, lekythoi and alabaster, toilet articles consisting of mirrors, scrapers, and a pair of iron handles. Among the ornaments are rings with simple bezels or set with a scarab, diadems and necklaces of gold, rosettes, some with hammered decoration, others in filigree work and with inlaid enamel, intended probably for beads or hairpins rather than for earrings. Among the amulets appear scarabs and plaques with incised Egyptian symbols, small male figurines of clay and a seated goddess, as well as separate heads of the same type, perhaps representing the Athena of Lindos, who, as is well known, is represented not armed, but as the great Aegean Earth goddess. Two graves are especially instructive. In one was found a Laconian hydria, probably the most beautiful hitherto known. It shows two warriors fighting, and dancing satyrs of the Peloponnesian type. Also a cup with knobbed handles, two decorated cups of the first and second types of Siana, a small cup with a drinking refrain, an Attic-Corinthian amphora with Amazons and two small East Greek, perhaps Samian, vessels were found. Of the

three archaic cups, the third belongs probably to the group of the Heidelberg Cup, perhaps a youthful work of Amasis. Equally valuable also are the contents of the second grave. It contained a Rhodian fruit dish, a Fikellura situla with partridges, a mirror, a ring with a representation of a winged boar, two beaten gold rosettes with battles of the cranes and three Attic vases. Of these latter, a hydria with a departure of a warrior, belongs to the circle of Lydos. A cup with knobbed handles, with a battle of Amazons and a procession of mounted Amazons, is worthy of Amasis and a skyphos represents, in caricature, Dionysos, Ariadne and satyrs. The necropolis of Marmaro has produced a great many black-figured vases, among them a beautiful hydria which can be attributed to the period immediately before Exekias, and also two important beaten silver cups, of excellent workmanship, which correspond exactly to one found in the Caucasus. In the district of Daphni, where in all probability the incineration necropolis of the Early Archaic period should be placed, were found Rhodian jugs of the Kamares type, while Annunzio, the continuation of Marmaro, yielded objects of the second half of the sixth century. Interesting is the association of a sarcophagus of Clazomenian style with an Attic lekythos of about 480 B.C. The sarcophagus, in its decoration, resembles others found in Rhodes. One may perhaps recognize in this a local survival of the style. The extensive necropolis of Ialysos has also produced among many others, a cup of Tleson, with the representation of a panther.

A trial excavation on the shore nearby has brought to light the first remains discovered here of houses of the Mycenaean period. The walls, built of irregular stones, laid on massive foundations, were found in 1935, in three widely separated trial trenches. In 1936, excavations were carried out on a larger scale and the first Rhodian Mycenaean settlement was uncovered. Two layers could be clearly distinguished. Both are, however, late Mycenaean, and there are no traces of a break in development. Probably the earlier settlement was destroyed by an earthquake. It has not yet been excavated. The upper settlement yielded among other things numerous remains of frescoes with representations of plants, large clay jars still in place, some weapons, and a mould for making dagger blades.

In the region of the city of Kamiros the extensive excavations of G. Jacopi were vigorously

continued. The lower sanctuary was found to consist of a precinct with altars dedicated to various divinities, including some local ones, a Doric temple *in antis* and an open space on the north side of the temple. This area was bounded on its other sides by a stepped terrace wall along which ran a street with private houses, by a room, probably the hierothyeion mentioned in inscriptions, and by a stuccoed façade which bore half columns, and two pilasters on either side of the stairway. In this area were statues and honorary inscriptions. The temple is Hellenistic, but it is earlier than the contiguous statue bases which are dated to the second century B.C. by a dedication of the Stoic philosopher Panaitios. The buildings on the three other sides of the plaza belong to this period. The private houses show signs of remodeling in Roman times, but the town planning is Hellenistic, like that of Delos and Pergamon. The newly recovered inscriptions are, for the most part, lists of priests and hieropes. Among the sculpture there deserves mention an Artemis torso of the Laphria type, a herm of Hermes wearing a mantle, a small herm of Pan, with a mantle, of beautiful chalcedony, a statuette of Zeus (ht. 0.70 m.), a copy of a bronze work that may have been made by a Rhodian artist of the second century B.C. under the influence of the type created by Bryaxis.

The excavation of the Hellenistic aqueduct of Kamiros was also important. This has been examined for a distance of 1300 m., and for almost the whole of its length it is carefully built, to the height of a man, of small squared blocks. In the first period of its existence—third to second century B.C.—the water must have flowed abundantly so that no water pipes were required. In Roman times, however, they were necessary. These pipes are 14 cm. in diameter, with air holes. In the branch channels, pipes are also used but with a diameter of only 5 cm. The connections were made by peculiar settling basins of terracotta. At the conclusion of the excavation, the water-channel was again put into operation with the use of the ancient pipes.

In the city of Rhodes the excavation of the Hellenistic Grotto of the Nymphs on Mt. San Stefano was continued, bringing to light two new grottoes with niches. Likewise digging was continued in the subterranean cemetery of Akandia and a series of rock-hewn chambers was cleared, including a hypogeum, the ceiling of which was partly vaulted, partly flat. In addition to small

objects, some funerary inscriptions and a handsome male torso of the late Hellenistic period were recovered. The earliest necropolis of the city of Rhodes, on Kysil Tepe, yielded a large marble grave stele of Attic style of the middle of the fourth century. The inscription, in the Doric dialect, with many Ionic forms, gives the names of the dead Kalbriasta, daughter of Phileratos, and her husband, Damokles, who erected the monument.

Another piece of the ancient city wall, with its characteristic bosses, has been discovered. Upon these walls was built the mediaeval fortress of Mandriaecho. In the course of fortifying the harbor an immense number of spherical projectiles was found, probably dating from the time of the siege conducted by Demetrios Poliorketes. They bear, inscribed in clean cut letters, twenty different indications of weight, ranging, according to the Attic system, from five minae to twenty talents. The largest missiles, in particular, support the ancient accounts of the use of gigantic siege-guns for the capture of the city.

On the island of Kos the excavations in the region of the city were continued on a large scale by Moriconi. Through a wise governmental measure the entire region of the extensive city of the Knights which formed the heart of the Graeco-Roman city, was reserved for excavations. These have laid bare great complexes of Roman and Hellenistic buildings which can be divided into three groups. The first includes the sanctuaries in the harbor quarter where three temples were excavated. Two of them are exactly alike in dimensions and were surrounded, at least on the south and east sides, by colonnades. Propylaea led into the sacred precinct. A considerable part of the superstructure of the eastern wing is preserved; of the western wing merely the foundations have survived, as the rest was destroyed by the Knights in the fifteenth century. The third temple which was found beneath the chapel of H. Demetrios appears also to have been surrounded by a precinct. Some fine architectural pieces from this temple and from the east colonnade, of late Hellenistic date, are preserved. These sanctuaries can be identified as those of Aphrodite Pandemos, Pontia and Herakles, which, according to inscriptions, stood in this quarter between the harbor and the Agora. Trial excavations below the south colonnade have brought to light long stretches of the city wall built of large rectangular blocks. This wall dates from the time of the founding of

the city, about 366 B.C. It had already in part been destroyed in Hellenistic times. It may be followed westward for about 200 m. On it stands, well preserved, the northern wing of the Hellenistic Agora.

The second group of buildings excavated comprised the Agora, of which the northeast corner and parts of the north and east sides have been laid bare. The east side held a Doric colonnade, the architectural members of which have been to a great extent recovered (two columns and their entablature have been re-erected). Behind the colonnade lay large halls. The north side, which, as we have seen, stands on the fortification wall of the fourth century, was remodelled in imperial times to form a decorative entrance enclosing mighty Corinthian columns and a flight of steps. The limits of this large market-place have not yet been determined. In Hellenistic times it was paved with large, regular, marble slabs which the Romans replaced with smaller slabs. Excavations beneath the Hellenistic colonnade have revealed the stylobate of an earlier stoa of poros on which the lowest column drums still stand in position. Up to the present time only the east and north sides of the colonnade have been exposed, the latter likewise resting on the city wall. The colonnade presumably dates from the second half or the end of the fourth century B.C., and evidently belongs to the original Agora.

The third division consists of the residential quarter. Parallel to the south colonnade of the sanctuaries, a straight street runs from east to west intersected by another equally regular, coming from the south. At the crossroad still stand ruins of Hellenistic houses. Everywhere else the houses have suffered remodelling down through late Imperial times, the reconstructions spreading into the street and even into the temple precinct, which at that period already lay partly in ruins. Up to the present only the fronts of the houses have been laid bare. They contained shops and store-rooms with gigantic clay pithoi and small marble basins. The most remarkable house had even invaded the little Hellenistic temple beneath the church of H. Demetrios and hypocausts were installed in it. The house was richly decorated and possessed mosaic floors, one of which, with a representation of Herakles dining with Admetos, is especially noteworthy. A part of the *piscina*, paved with marble tiles, is also preserved.

The excavation of the Roman Thermae begun in 1931 has also been continued. This great structure

stands in the district of the new gate between the Odeion and the Stadion discovered in 1929. A Roman street with admirably preserved pavement, sidewalks and drainage, leads past the south side of the Thermae. The resumption of the excavation has revealed the plan consisting of some rooms with hypocausts, a large apsidal hall with semi-circular niches, and a well-preserved mosaic floor. This room and some of the others, belong to a reconstruction of Christian date which raised the level of the floor considerably in certain rooms and erected a church in one of the largest halls. Other rooms of these great Thermae contain mosaic floors, for the most part with geometrical patterns. Other mosaics have been found in the numerous houses which are coming to light through the modern reconstruction of the city. These show designs with animals and gladiatorial combats.

Trial excavations in the Turkish quarter, Kavalidja, where a new artisans' quarter is now being established, have uncovered the remains of Roman private houses. Here, too, are numerous mosaic floors, chiefly of Imperial times. This Roman residential quarter spread to the low hill that was occupied by the cemetery of the Geometric Period. Among the Roman ruins, graves have been found containing human ashes in stone cists and pithoi, accompanied by Geometric pottery. Some Mycenaean sherds also came to light, and near a doorway lay a Submycenaean child's grave. Apart from the ordinary Rhodian Mycenaean ware, a local pottery appears, with peculiar shapes, perhaps due to Carian influence. In the neighborhood of the child's grave, Geometric incineration graves were found, one of which produced, outside the pit, seventy pots. These remains definitely prove the occupation of Kos by the Greeks in the early historical period. The Geometric necropolis extends from Serail to H. Panteleimon. Still earlier is the rich Late Mycenaean necropolis which was discovered in the southwestern part of Kos, some kilometers from the city. The excavations are in progress here. All the graves contain unburned remains. These are simple inhumation burials with rich accompanying objects, i.e. weapons and pottery, all belonging to the end of the Bronze Age.

The Early Christian monuments of the island of Kos have also been investigated. About 2 km. east of the city of Kos, at the modern Chapel of S. Gabriel, an Early Christian church which stood in the midst of a Roman Bath, has been cleared.

The plan of the church is peculiar. A three-aisled cella has been combined with a rectangular room once probably roofed with a dome. Some of the columns have been re-erected as well as two of the ciborium. Little is left of the original rich ornament. The pavement consisted of marble slabs. Some rooms contained, still almost uninjured, their mosaic floors. A basilica was also cleared near St. Paul about 3 km. west of Kos, near the village of Zibari. This was of the three-aisled type with a narthex and some side rooms.

The fifth campaign of excavations at Troy, conducted by the expedition representing the University of Cincinnati, extended from March 21 to July 10, 1936. Digging was carried on in nine different areas in and about the acropolis. On the northern side of the hill, in Squares C-D 2-3 on Dörpfeld's plan, the remains of a large rectangular house, dating from an early stage of the First City, were completely cleared. The foundations are well preserved and give us, for the first time, the ground plan of an important house of this early period. The floor deposit yielded a fair amount of pottery, and some miscellaneous objects of bone, stone and copper. Two infant burials were found beneath the floor and four others outside the house. In Square E6 in the center of the citadel, the examination of the complex strata of the Second City was carefully continued and many successive phases of this period could be recognized. A well-cut column-base of stone, apparently contemporary with the great Megaron, seems to be the first of its kind dating from Troy II. This area yielded a vast amount of pottery and many other objects, including a lion's head carved in rock crystal, and two burials. On the southern slope of the acropolis, in Square F8, a layer of Troy V was excavated, producing considerable pottery. Farther to the south the remains of a huge building of Troy VI were, in part, laid bare. Although not yet entirely exposed it seems to be the largest and most impressive structure of the Sixth City yet discovered on the hill of Troy. In the long axis of the building is a remarkable pyramidal pillar preserved to the height of three courses; and the foundations of a second similar pillar have been recognized. The floor deposit was rich in pottery. Further exploration in House VI G clarified the history of the building. It was originally constructed toward the end of Troy VI, destroyed probably by an earthquake, rebuilt and re-used in two successive stages of period VII a. A study of the deposit between this house and the

city wall revealed evidence of the earthquake. Some supplementary digging in and about House VI F threw light on several problems, connected with its construction. To the south of it part of a large house of VII a was also excavated. Digging was continued in the large open area between House VI E and the Sixth City wall. Beneath the walls and floors of the VII a houses in this area was a tremendous mass of fallen stones, some thrown down from the upper part of the city wall, others from the superstructure of House VI E. This wreckage was unquestionably caused by the destructive earthquake which seems to have brought an end to the Sixth City. A small excavation in the eastern half of House VII O brought to light a floor of VII a, beneath which were set six large pithoi. On the floor were found four complete vases,

typical of VII a. On the southwestern slope of the mound, just outside gate VI U, a clearly marked stratum of Troy VIII was examined and beneath it were uncovered the walls of a house, assignable to Troy VII. Farther southward beside the small marble podium of late Hellenistic date uncovered in 1935 an earlier structure of the same kind was brought to light, evidently built at the beginning of the Hellenistic period. Beneath it are remains of an apsidal construction, probably an altar, in association with which, in a burnt layer, were found Protocorinthian and Corinthian sherds as well as local pottery of Troy VIII. A sanctuary seems to have existed here from the Archaic period down to Roman times, but the cult has not yet been identified.

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