

COMMUNICATIONS

Papers presented at the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Toledo, 28-30 December 1966, included:

William P. Donovan, "Excavations at Nestor's Pylos: The Cemetery."

Machteld J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karatas-Semayuk, Lycia, 1966."

George M. A. Hanfmann, "Excavations at Sardis, 1966."

Gustavus F. Swift, Jr., "A Late Mycenaean-Protogeometric Horizon at Sardis." In the 1966 season, the Sardis Expedition found substantial quantities of pottery of the Late Mycenaean and Protogeometric styles, in stratified context and in close proximity to each other. This phase of the expedition's work was conducted by the writer under the direction of Professor George M. A. Hanfmann and with the assistance of Mr. Andrew Ramage and Miss Holly L. Schanz, all of Harvard University. These finds came to light in a deep sounding in the Lydian Trench of the House of Bronzes area, close by, but larger than, the similar pits dug in 1960 and 1962. Two of these pits have penetrated as far as twelve meters below surface. It is confirmed that, for many centuries, this area was alternately occupied by human activity and flooded by the Pactolus, which here begins to open into the Hermus plain. The periods of occupation, marked by beds of dense clay-bearing earth containing many artifacts, appear to have involved industrial, commercial and storage activities, while the flooding resulted in the deposition of extensive but relatively sterile sand and gravel beds. The upper surface of one such stratum of clay-bearing earth appeared at about six meters below original ground surface. It proved to be about 1.7 meter deep; within it, one could trace two habitation surfaces marked by traces of rubble foundation wall, shallow pits whose outlines appeared clearly in plan and section, large sherds, a pithos in situ, and other indications. The overwhelming bulk of the pottery consisted of pithos sherds and other undecorated local wares, but the remaining two to three percent of painted wares (numbering over two hundred fifty sherds in all) are clearly of Greek inspiration. Their shapes and decoration can be identified with the Late Mycenaean and Protogeometric styles, and they are provisionally dated in the twelfth and eleventh centuries. Other significant finds include a bronze fibula of the high-arch type, a sickle blade and a knife blade of iron, and a button-shaped object of green schist-like stone, on which the figure of a goat is engraved in the simplest linear style. The animal bones contrast strikingly with later samples in showing a high count of cattle and swine and a lower count of sheep or goat. Certain tentative conclusions can be reached. One can point to a number of distinctive sherds that must be of local manufacture, and to a smaller number that seem surely to have been imported, in the light of the whole known range of Lydian wares. One recalls that the Lydians of later times had a strong tendency to admire and imitate the traditions of their Greek neighbors in pottery styles and in other matters. The close proximity, or even possible intermingling, of the two styles--Mycenaean and Protogeometric--presents a chronological problem that will demand much further study. The hypothesis of the arrival at Sardis at this time of new settlers, perhaps Greek, is open and attractive. In this connection, it would be necessary to take into consideration the early traditions, such as Herodotus' account of a new Heraclid dynasty of Lydian kings after the Trojan War.

- Martha Heath Wiencke, "The Beulah H. Emmet Collection of Minoan Seals."
Leon Pomerance, "Excavations at Kato Zakro, 1966."
Donald A. Preziosi, "Minoan Palace Planning and its Origins."
George F. Bass, "A New Tie between Troy IIg and the Royal Cemetery at Ur."
Per A. Alin, "Early Mycenaean Pottery from Asine and its Aegean Implications."
R. Whitney Tucker, "A Note on the Interpretation of Mycenaean Sibilants."
R. Hope Simpson, "Explorations in Messenia, 1964-1966."
John L. Caskey, "Excavations in Keos, 1966." Among other finds, a small cup of
"Keftiu" shape in ware made locally, with the single Linear A sign L 103 skillfully
drawn. There was also a large fragment of what ought to have been a Linear A
tablet, to judge by its form, but uninscribed. Several sherds, bases of pots and the
like, bore scratched marks or pre-firing inscriptions.
J. E. Coleman, "Excavations at Kephala in Keos."
Frederick R. Matson, "Could Pottery have been made at Keos?" The answer "yes"
demonstrated by experiment.

At the 19th Biennial National Convention of the Pancretan Association of America in
August, 1966, L. Pomerance reported on the current excavations at Zakro. The
delegates to the Convention voted to grant financial assistance to the excavations as
one of several selected educational projects both in the United States and in Crete, for
which funds are now to be raised by the Association.

The Ninth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was held in London, July
4-8, 1966. Among the papers presented was V. I. Georgiev's "La stratification
principale des toponymes en Grèce ancienne."

At the meeting of the London Mycenaean Seminar, 12 October 1966, J. Chadwick
read a paper on "The Archive of the Room of the Chariot Tablets at Knossos."

WORK IN PROGRESS

The following theses are reported as in progress at the University of Trieste for
higher degrees: Crevatin, Franco, "Ricerche sul lessico miceneo: i nomi di
mestiere"; Belle', Benito, "Sillabogrammi della Lineare B di interpretazione dis-
cussa"; Sartori, Franca, "Gli ideogrammi della Lineare B di interpretazione dis-
cussa"; Zonno, Enrica, "Divergenze linguistiche ed ortografiche tra la documen-
tazione in Lineare B di Pilo e quella di Cnosso"; Pecar, Giuliana, "Ricorsi storici
del regno di Nestore nei poemi omerici."

The following thesis has been completed and discussed: Comelato, Rita, "Tradizioni
preomeriche e retaggio miceneo nell'episodio odisseico dei Feaci."

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Nicolas Platon, in a recently recorded interview, discusses the most recent excavations at Zakro, which have shed more light on the palace's history from 1600 B.C. to the eruption of Thera, about 1450 B.C. During this time Zakro was the center of considerable commercial trade with both Anatolia and Egypt, while providing a strong naval patrol for the Minoan thalassocracy. Also described are the numerous furnishings and vessels from the apartments at the southern end of the palace, the interesting water system of the palace area, and the basement storeroom complex.

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Michel Lejeune, Syllabaire mycénien: peut-on lire au- pour 85-?, 9-28.

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Paolo Emilio Pecorella, Sigillo cilindrico da Haghia Triada nel Museo Archeologico di Firenze, 67-72.

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