

COMMUNICATIONS

The American University of Beirut was host to an Archaeological Symposium, 7-10 March 1967. The general topic was "The Role of the Phoenicians in the Interaction of Mediterranean Civilizations." Among the papers presented were: David Diringer, "The Alphabet in the History of Civilization"; James B. Pritchard, "New Evidence on the Role of the Sea Peoples in Canaan at the Beginning of the Iron Age"; and John A. Wilson, "A Century of Near Eastern Archaeology and the Future."

In the Eisenhower Museum, Abilene, Kansas, there is a pair of "3500-year-old gold chalices which were found in the archeological excavations of Mycenae, Greece," the present of the Greek government. They are described both as "priceless" and as "worth between a half-million and a million dollars," and illustrated in Reader's Digest May 1967, 149.

From Athenian newspapers: Excavations in Thera were begun in May under the direction of S. Marinatos, near Akrotiri, resulting in the discovery of houses of a Minoan settlement ca. 20 m. beneath the present surface. Magnetometric and seismographic studies were also being made. Neolithic remains (ca. 5720 B.C.) have been discovered in Kerkyra at Sidhari. The archaeological work of N.-G. Gejvall and the newly founded Institute for Osteological Studies at Solna is discussed. The work of C. G. Styrenius on the Submycenaean period is discussed. Minas Nisiotis, in Eleftheros Kosmos, 10, 11, 16, 18, 25 June 1967.

The Archaeological Institute of America offers a selection of holiday cards (the inscription, "Holiday Greetings"). Four of each set of 20 (\$3.75 per set) are Piet de Jong's watercolor of the Lyre Player Fresco from the Palace of Nestor. 100 Washington Square East, New York, 10003.

With the November 1964 number of Nestor was sent out the Guide to Abbreviations used in Nestor (Volume II, pp. iii-vi). This guide contains abbreviations for more than 220 periodicals whose issues are checked regularly for reviews of books and articles in subjects of interest to our readers. Sets of these guides are still in print, and copies will be sent to subscribers, particularly new subscribers, upon request.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- It is not very apparent to me that Mr. Kenna has successfully refuted (Nestor 488-89, April 1967) Mr. Betts' criticism of his opinion on the three-sided prism of Vaphio (Tsountas, nos. 5, 6; CMS I 233). Preferring the criteria of his Vapheio List B, he avoids the implication that the two faces might be made in different workshops; but he must then ignore the discrepancy in style between the two faces, which he recognized in his Vapheio List A. The discrepancy that appears between the styles of the two faces of the prism has been already dealt with in my work, Μυκηναϊκὴ Σφραγιδογραφία (Athens, 1966), 116-17. I give here the pertinent passage (in English translation): "The coexistence of the two styles and the insinuation of one into the other are perceptible in numerous seals. This fact results from the attachment of some figures to a certain manner of rendering. We have seen in

the first chapter that the lion and female figures are rendered mainly in style B, whereas the figures of bulls and goats in style A. On the three-sided prism of Vaphio [CMS I 233 a, b] there are represented a bull, good specimen of style A, on one side, and on the other a woman in degenerate style B, grasping two water-fowls rendered in style A. The shape of each figure plays a decisive role in those stylistic preferences, because some of those figures are suited to clearer and sharper forms and others to smoother and more flowing ones. There is also an additional factor: a figure cannot easily put aside the forms and manners which at first contributed to its formation; so prototypes are created from which a later artist will get free only with difficulty." The same difference of styles can be observed between the gold lion's head rhyton and the silver bull's head rhyton (see also Vermeule, Greece in the Bronze Age, p. 95). Further treatment of the matter, which Mr. Kenna proposes, can be found passim in my work mentioned above.

24 June 1967
Thessaloniki

Yours, &c.
Agnès Sakellariou

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Part I: Kalopsidha, Earlier Excavations and Finds, The Tombs, Trenches 1-9, The Bronze Age Pottery, The Iron Age Sherds, Other Objects, and Metal Finds, with the following appendices: What Farming Produced at Cypriote Kalopsidha, Untersuchung des erdartigen Inhaltes der Gefässe, Report on Finger-prints on Sherds from Trench 9, Osteological Investigation of Human and Animal Bone Fragments, Pieces of Charcoal from Trench 9, Palynological Investigation, Geological Determination, Report on Mollusca Found in the Excavations, and Fragments de Kalopsidha portant des signes chypro-minoens. A summary and Historical Conclusions follow.
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Part III: A Corpus of Pot-marks.
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Cf. Nestor, p. 447.

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