

COMMUNICATIONS

Papers to be presented at the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in San Francisco, 27-30 December, 1969, include:

- Rodney S. Young, "Results of excavation at Gordion, 1969"
Machteld J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karataş-Semayuk in Lycia, 1969"
Elizabeth Wayland Barber, "Analytic methods for undeciphered ancient texts"
Arthur E. Gordon, "Letter names of the Latin alphabet"
Paul W. Wallace, "Strabo and the Catalogue of Ships"
Thomas W. Jacobsen, "Excavations at the Francthi cave, 1969"
Marija Gimbutas, "The Photolivos Mound: Excavations of a Neolithic and Early Bronze Age site in Macedonia, 1968-1969"
John L. Caskey, "Excavations at Ayia Irini in Keos"
William P. Donovan, "Excavations at Nichoria, 1969"
L. Hugh Sackett, "Protogeometric tombs at Lefkandi"
Peter Z. Spanos, "The origin, distribution and dating of the depas amphikypellon"
Ernestine S. Elster, "Minoan seals in the collections of the Museum of Ethnic Arts, UCLA"
Rhys Carpenter, "Old wine in new bottles"
George W. Nowell, "Burial methods of prehistoric Anatolia"
Emily T. Vermeule, "An Aegean gold treasure and the court of Egypt"
Ellen N. Davis, "The Vapheio cups--one Minoan and one Mycenaean?"
Donald A. Preziosi, "Mainland-type megara in Crete and the Cyclades during L. M. III"
Sara A. Immerwahr, "The pomegranate vase: A Mycenaean-Geometric link"
Evelyn Lord Smithson, "The Dörpfeld Areopagus graves and simple cremation in Geometric Athens"
Keith DeVries, "Hesiodic pictures: The Greek incised fibulae"
Per A. Alin, "The end of the Bronze Age in the Aegean area--A reappraisal"

Papers to be presented at the meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in San Francisco, 29-31 December, 1969, include:

- Warren Cowgill, "On resonant clusters in Ancient Greek"
Henry M. Hoenigswald, "Typology, reconstruction and the IE semivowels"

In an international conference on "Aspects of the Balkans: Continuity and Change," at the University of California, Los Angeles, 23-28 October, 1969, there were included on the program papers by Marija Gimbutas, "Neolithic cultures in the Balkan Peninsula," and by Vladimir Georgiev, "The earliest ethnological situation of the Balkan peninsula as evidenced by linguistic and onomastic data."

On the southern shore of the Gygean Lake (Marmara Golu) north of Sardis, D. G. Mitten, D. H. Finkel, and M. Tagtekin excavated part of an Early Bronze cemetery at Eski Balikhane ("Old Fishery"). One of the five pithos burials contained a bronze dagger, a silver ram pendant, and two golden "ear plugs"

similar to those found at Karatas in Lycia and at sites in Central Anatolia." -
The twelfth campaign at Sardis (1969), Summary by G. M. A. Hanfmann.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - The resemblance of this painted terra-cotta figurine in the Museum of Teheran to the well known Phi type of Mycenaean idols is, as you will admit, striking. (0.105 m. high; published by Pierre Amiet, Elam 1966, p. 47, fig. 19; dated to the "première installation Susienne," i.e. to the middle of the 4th millennium B.C.) However, the great period of time which separates them, more than 2000 years, makes almost completely improbable a significant relationship of the two types. Perhaps the figurine in the Teheran Museum has been wrongly dated, or perhaps the type did not basically change from about the middle of the 4th to about the middle of the 2nd millennium B.C. We lack evidence, however, to fill the considerable gap; besides, it would be very curious if the type really remained undeveloped for so long a period of time. I cannot admit that their similarity must be considered accidental, though I am not able to find a possible answer to the problem.

Mrs. French (The development of Mycenaean terra-cotta figurines, p. 3) thinks that "the impulse which started their sudden popularity derived from the Eastern Mediterranean and worked on types already known from Crete." Clark Hopkins, speaking not of the idols but of a "Central Anatolian" type of Megaron-like buildings at Kültepe in the pre-Iranian period, "suspects a connection with both the later Mycenaean and the Iranian but the relationships are not yet clear" (The Megaron of the Mycenaean Palace, SMEA 6 [1968] 50). I invite the suggestions of scholars about the problem of the similarity of the Elamite and the Mycenaean Phi type figurines.

Odos Polygnotou 13, Athens

Yours, &c.

4 November 1969

Petros G. Themelis

To the Editor: - In a recent notice of CMS VIII and VII in the Classical Review [19:2, Jun. 1969], apart from the criticism of certain obvious errors for which the author was not entirely responsible, and a misunderstanding on the part of the critics of the mixed physical attributes often given to animals in Cretan and Mycenaean seal motifs, as of cult or ceremonial dress, the reviewers in their general disapproval of the author add, "It might have been better to list the seals by shapes and motifs, omitting the perhaps meaningless distinction be-



tween Minoan and Helladic, and confining all speculation on chronology to the Introduction." Such a statement virtually condemns any attempt at critical analysis by typological and stylistic criteria and a chronological order which is cognate with it. The joint writers of the notice did not dispute the chronological arrangement, nor did they challenge the Minoan or Mycenaean attribution of any one individual piece. It would have been better to have criticized the given chronological and cultural attributions than to have dubbed a distinction between Minoan and Mycenaean Glyptic as meaningless. Are we therefore to regard the title of M. Nilsson's work on "The Minoan-Mycenaean Religion" as prejudicial to the enquiry, which thus precludes any distinction between the two cultures, rather than a hypothetical title and point of departure from which to examine a mass of undifferentiated evidence? Or even of greater consequence to Bronze Age Archaeology as a whole, are we to reject Furumark's great work "The Mycenaean Pottery. Analysis and Classification"?

Hitherto there has been a belief that the progress of scientific enquiry lay in the making of distinctions and discovering cultural differences, which appear to have been operative in many formal designs as on the artefacts themselves in the Bronze Age. The critics also appear not to have been clear in their own minds as to the methods and limits of typology: viz. that criteria for stylistic analyses and judgments should ultimately derive from the evidence provided by the objects themselves. Any other parallels may only be used with caution, and at the best as supporting evidence. Aegean Archaeology in the past has been be-devilled by prejudices and value judgments which derive from other periods and other cultures.

Tolland, Somerset
17 November 1969

Yours, &c.
Victor E. G. Kenna

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The Classics Revisited

I would gladly have maintained a simple faith, had I been able—such a faith as qualifies a man to swallow translations of the Phaistos disk, and the authenticity of Dictys of Crete.

Walter Leaf