

COMMUNICATIONS

Illustrated London News, No. 6476, September 1963 shows a large colored photograph of the faience rhyton from Larnaca, opposite p. 385.

During August 1963 the British School at Athens, in association with the University of Pennsylvania Museum, conducted excavations at Kastri near Avlemon on the south-east coast of the island of Kythera. The site had been shown to be a Minoan settlement more than thirty years ago by Miss Benton who reported upon her discoveries in BSA 32. Subsequent visits by Hope Simpson, Coldstream, and Huxley between 1957 and 1962 convinced them that excavation at Kastri would do much to illuminate the early history of Kythera, especially during the Minoan age, and arrangements were soon made for a joint Anglo-American expedition under the direction of Professor Huxley.

Trial trenches dug in the promontory at Kastri revealed Minoan house walls together with great quantities of Minoan pottery, local and imported. At present it appears that the colony was founded when MM IIB Kamares pottery was in use, and that it continued to flourish until some time in the fifteenth century B. C. In the late Minoan IA and B levels some Late Helladic I and II pottery was found.

A large tomb of MM IIIB to LM IA date was also excavated on the Asproga ridge, north of Kastri, by Dr. Aubrey Trik of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. This contained much pottery, but had been plundered in antiquity, and also reused: a skeleton of Roman imperial times was discovered in position above the Minoan remains on the floor. The tomb consisted of a large central chamber cut in the rock, with six smaller chambers leading off it. Other Minoan tombs damaged by a bulldozer during road work were also cleared.

Trial trenches dug at Kastri also revealed much classical pottery, but the centre of the classical settlement has yet to be identified. The archaic temple remains on Palaiokastro mountain inland from Kastri did not fall within the scope of this year's work, but it is hoped to study the sanctuary in future years.

The excavators are most grateful to the Greek Archaeological Service for the granting of a permit to work at Kastri and hope to be able to continue their studies and excavations there in 1964.

In March and April, 1963 the University of Minnesota Messenia Expedition undertook a preliminary survey of the evidence now existing for Bronze Age highways in Crete. The group included William A. McDonald, Walter T. Pattison, Richard Hope Simpson, John Lazenby and Stephen Lazenby.

In their topographical explorations in east Crete in the 1890's, Sir Arthur Evans and colleagues reported considerable remains of roads and "forts" which they attributed to prehistoric (Minoan) times. And at intervals during the excavations at Knossos they explored the line of a "Great Transit Route" which linked Amnisos and Knossos on the north coast with Phaistos and Komo on the south. The latter road was fully described in Evans' Palace of Minos and was dated to the same era. The archaeological handbooks have since perpetuated the report of a network of paved Minoan roads in the center and east of the island.

Since our attention was first attracted in 1959 to the remains of early highways in southwest Peloponnese, we have been hoping for an opportunity to examine the Cretan constructions. Our intention was to try to re-find as much as possible of the evidence reported by Evans, to check his descriptions, and in particular to compare the engineering and construction techniques in Crete with those known from the Bronze Age on the Greek mainland. The results could prove important in establishing priority between Crete and the mainland in highway building and the closely related problem of the introduction of the horse-drawn chariot in the Aegean area.

The results of our short survey will be reported in greater detail elsewhere, but a resumé may be of interest meanwhile to readers of Nestor. We were unable to find most of the remains reported by Evans. This could be due to the ravages of time, intensive cultivation, the recent use of heavy road-building equipment, the casual nature of most of Evans' topographical descriptions, and the rapidity of our own search. Nevertheless, our strong impression is that Evans overstated much of the evidence.

On the supposed line of the north-south highway, it was only in the vicinity of Kanli Kastelli and Visala, not far south of Knossos, that we found any remains of what may have been the ancient road. Further along, a stretch of retaining wall above the track immediately north of Ayios Thomas, which is apparently figured in Evans' text, is almost certainly mediaeval or later.

On the other hand, we photographed and measured one very impressive stretch of road winding up through a gorge from the chapel of Ayia Pelagia at the east end of the Lasithi plain toward the plain of Katharo and Ayios Nikolaos. In this rugged area a series of some 30 S-curves is still relatively well preserved; and the monumentality of the terrace walls both above and below the roadline is reminiscent of known Bronze Age constructions. The easy grades, particularly at the curves, and the widening of the road surface at the corners convinced us that it was engineered for wheeled traffic.

It would be difficult to suggest a time after the Bronze Age when such an ambitious project would have been undertaken. And, if one concedes a prehistoric date for this one stretch, it cannot be denied that the same people could have constructed a highway almost anywhere it was needed. The existence of major roads linking the more populous Minoan centers therefore becomes a distinct possibility.

At one additional spot, slightly further to the east in a gorge near Katsouli Sterna, there are much slighter traces of a comparable stretch of roadway. As for the "forts," we saw very few traces; and we are inclined to agree with Pendlebury that ruined buildings along the roadline might be better explained as inns or farm-steads. Paved roads beyond the town limits are quite out of the question for unshod horses.

The best hope for further search is in uncultivated areas straddling the most likely line of communication between major population centers. But more detailed mapping of the known habitation pattern and additional systematic search for new sites is needed first.

Pending further research, it is problematical whether we will get a useful basis for chronological comparisons with remains of Late Bronze Age highways in the Argolid and Messenia.

A report in the New York Times, October 27, 1963, of excavations conducted by Nicolas Platon, with the sponsorship of Leon Pomerance, at Kato Zakro, Crete. Architectural remains show a large and complex palace, razed by an earthquake in the middle of the 16th century, B.C., and never rebuilt. Among the stone, metal, and ceramic finds there are many superb examples of Middle Minoan art.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- L. R. Palmer (Nestor 275) has called attention to the 4th century inscription from Aegae in Aeolis, Schwyzer, Del.<sup>3</sup> 644. The first part of this text is lost, but it appears to be a treaty between Aegae and Olympēnē. The wool trade was clearly of importance to both parties, and the text ends with the words:

ἔπεροι καὶ ἄρνη-  
 ἄδες ἐρίων ἀτελέες· χ-  
 ιμαιράδες, αἱ κε τέκοισι,  
 ἀτελέες· ἄρνηάδων ἔ-  
 ταλα ἀτελέα.

Palmer apparently takes ἐρίων ἀτελέες as 'exempt from wool impost,' a perfectly proper interpretation of a genitive after ἀτελής. But such an interpretation involves a problem in the next clause, where ἐρίων is not repeated. Either it is to be understood, which produces the unlikely statement that fertile she-goats were exempt from wool impost; or ἀτελέες is here to be taken as absolute, 'exempt from tax or payment of dues.' Since the text is a treaty between two cities, the dues in question must be customs dues. If ἀτελέες in the second clause is absolute, the same interpretation must be applied to the first and third clauses; ἐρίων therefore must be taken with ἄρνηάδες; ἔπεροι and wool-ewes (i. e. ewes kept for their wool) are exempt from dues; the same exception applies to she-goats if they are breeding, and to yearlings of ewes.' This implies that other classes of sheep were taxed; ewes kept for breeding, and rams other than ἔπεροι. Since this hapax legomenon probably has something to do with wool, we may conjecture that it means male sheep (probably wethers) kept for wool production. Since wool-flocks might cross city boundaries in moving from winter to summer pastures and back, it would be necessary to secure for them exemption from the usual dues payable on imported animals; and this would apply equally to animals not yet old enough to be classed as wool-bearing (ἔταλα). Similarly the exception was given to breeding she-goats, but not to those kept for milk, which would not be taken to remote pastures. There is no need for Sumerian parallels to solve this problem.

Downing College,  
 Cambridge, England  
 22 October 1963

Yours, &c.  
 John Chadwick

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Παρασκευαΐδης, Μ., 'Υπὸ τὰ τείχη τῆς Τίρυνθος που ἀποδίδονται εἰς τὸν Ἡράκλεια διερεῦνται ἤδη δύο ὑπόγειοι στοαὶ καταλήγουσαι εἰς πηγὰς, Καθημερινή, 3 October 1963.

Two underground passages under the walls of Tiryns, prepared during the 13th century B. C. to insure a supply of drinking water, have been discovered outside the circuit wall, at a depth of 11 meters. Each extends for a distance of about 30 meters. They led to underground springs, which, when they were cleared of debris, again filled with water. The stones concealing the passages bore inscriptions of the 6th century B. C. The work is under the direction of Nikolaos Verdelis.

Παρασκευαΐδης, Μ., Αἱ τοιχογραφίαι τῶν ἀνακτόρων τοῦ Νέστορος ἀποκαλύπτουν πὺς ἦσαν αἱ προσόψεις τῶν Μυκηναϊκῶν ναῶν, Καθημερινή, 6 October 1963.

From an interview with Carl Blegen, Director of the University of Cincinnati Excavations at Pylos. Further evidence for the history of the city of Nestor has been discovered. The discoveries on the hill show that it was inhabited from ca. 1700 to 1200 B. C., and that the city had suffered catastrophic fires twice before the great fire corresponding to the Dorian Invasion.' Among the fragments of fresco-painting are some which show the appearance of a Mycenaean temple. This is illustrated, to show masonry, central column, and facing sphinxes above.

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#### WORK IN PROGRESS

Announced at British Booksellers: Cottrell, Leonard, The Lion Gate. 25/-.

Mr. M. R. Popham, Assistant Director of the British School at Athens, has prepared a paper on the complete pots in the Herakleion Museum belonging to the final destruction of the Palace at Knossos. This has an important bearing on the present dispute regarding the date of the Linear B tablets. The paper will appear as volume V of Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology, printed by Carl Blom, Lund, Sweden.

Other papers in preparation for the same series include:

- ✓ Vol. VI. Fritz Schachermeyr, Das ägäische Neolithicum.
- ✓ Vol. VII. George E. Mylonas, Grave Circle B of Mycenae.
- ✓ Vol. VIII. Maurice Pope, Aegean Writing and Linear A.
- ✓ Vol. IX. Agnes Sakellariou, Die mykenische Siegelglyptik.
- ✓ Vol. X. H. W. Catling, Mycenaean Bronzes.
- Vol. XI. Doro Levi, The Recent Excavations at Phaistos.
- Vol. XII. M. R. Popham, Late Minoan Pottery Styles.
- Vol. XIII. Man. Andronicos, Vergina, the Prehistoric Necropolis, Hellenistic Palace.

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. . . qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues

For relief from a diet of somewhat indigestible limericks we turn to this contribution in a different vein.

"Dear Friend, Farewell!

Jolly will find this, and, though chagrined, send it to you. It is all over for me, and he will not have noticed me plummeting past him to my doom.

It began when Sir E. Jolly (I'd a grudge against him, but no matter now) went to Phaistos, and I was dogging his footsteps (incognito, of course) and waiting my chance. At last it came. There appeared at supper in the Lodge in a state of high excitement a German Traveller, with knapsack and staff, and he told us his name and his story over a beaker of raki. Möbius' trip had taken him to the Idaean cave, where on a preternaturally clear day, and looking straight North East, he had seen a peak of Ida never mapped, and of course never scaled. This was enough for Jolly, and he determined to attack it immediately. Generously (oh, double irony!) he invited me to come along as far as the last camp. By daybreak we were ready, Jolly, Möbius, I, and old Vasili. By noon we were at the cave, and by a snowy dusk we had reached our base camp. Over the fire they discussed their assault upon the cliff at dawn. Sportsman-like, I withdrew, and in the early light watched them set off. They waved back to me very cheerfully.

Now, a hundred feet below me I can see Jolly, alone, advancing slowly and surely toward this peak. I've beaten him fairly, at last. But alas, I cannot do it. I throw away my paint, my brush. For before me, as I pen this, in gleaming and pristine snow, are traced these enigmatic hieroglyphs.

𐀀𐀁𐀂, 𐀃𐀄, 𐀅𐀆𐀇𐀈𐀉𐀊𐀋𐀌, 𐀍𐀎𐀏𐀐𐀑𐀒

Who wrote them, what they mean, I know not, except that I have been beaten at my own game. Alas!

Farewell,

Kilroy"