

THE CRETAN EXPLORATION FUND.

Patron.

H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

High Commissioner of the Powers in Crete.

Directors :

ARTHUR J. EVANS, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.,
F.S.A., *Ashmole's Keeper and Fellow of
Brasenose College, Oxford.*

DAVID G. HOGARTH, M.A., F.R.G.S., *Fellow
of Magdalen College, Oxford, and late
Director of the British School at Athens.*

R. CARR BOSANQUET, M.A., F.S.A., *Director
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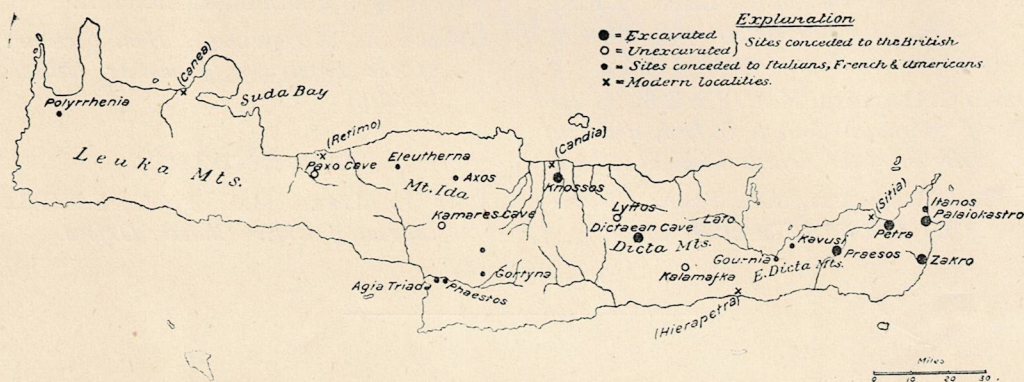
THE more favourable conditions which followed the emancipation of Crete from Turkish rule in 1899 permitted, at last, the thorough exploration of the island which its geographical situation and its place in history and tradition demand.

A Cretan Exploration Fund was therefore instituted at once, to assist British explorers, and the British School of Archaeology in Athens, to continue the work begun long since by Pashley and Spratt, and already since 1894 by Mr. Arthur Evans. The High Commissioner of Crete, His Royal Highness Prince George of Greece, graciously consented to become Patron of the Fund ; and assigned, as its first sphere of work, a number of important sites, selected for their historic interest or specially typical character (see map, p. 2). An influential committee was formed, and a sum of about £500 was subscribed in response to a preliminary appeal.

Work was begun at once. A house in Candia was secured as local headquarters : the necessary plant for extensive excavation was brought together ; and operations were begun at Knossos in the early spring of 1900, by Mr. Evans on the hill of Kephala, where he had already secured proprietary rights, and where there appeared to be the site of an important prehistoric

building ; and by Mr. Hogarth, as Director of the British School of Archaeology, on another site with prehistoric buildings hard by.

The brilliant results of the first season's work completely surpassed the most sanguine expectations. The site at Kephala proved to contain the remains of by far the largest and most magnificent palace ever discovered on a prehistoric site, full of fresco-paintings and other works of art, of every description, and of the highest artistic interest. Most important of all, the store rooms of the palace were found to contain great masses of clay tablets, inscribed with documents in that prehistoric Cretan script, the very existence of which had only recently been demonstrated by the researches of Mr. Evans himself. In the lower town of Knossos, meanwhile, the excavations of Mr. Hogarth revealed a number of dwelling houses of the same or even greater antiquity, and made large contributions to our knowledge of that style of art, of which



SKETCH-MAP OF CRETE, SHOWING SITES ASSIGNED FOR EXCAVATION.

the Knossian palace displayed the culminating stage. In addition, before the close of the first campaign, Mr. Hogarth was enabled to conduct, for the Fund and the British School conjointly, a successful exploration of the famous and venerable sanctuary of Psychro, the 'Dictæan Cave of classical antiquity, and the legendary 'Birthplace of Zeus.'

It was evident at once that these were discoveries which in the interest of archaeological science,—if not merely for the honour of British enterprise in Crete,—must be carried through to completion at all costs. At the same time it became clear that the task of excavation, on so important a site as that of Knossos, must be unusually difficult and costly ; and in the first campaign a large proportion of the expenses at Kephala had necessarily to be guaranteed for the moment by the explorer himself. In the meanwhile, moreover, other nations, more willing to devote public resources to scientific purposes, were already in the field ; French and Italian

Missions had begun work at various points in the island ; and it was felt that the only possible policy was to extend, if anything, the sphere of operations, and to attack one or more of the other sites which the Cretan Government had assigned to British archaeological enterprise.

A second appeal for support was therefore issued on behalf of the Fund, and met with a generous response : for, in spite of the pre-occupation of the public mind by the war in South Africa, a further sum of £2,500 was subscribed.

In 1901, therefore, a substantial grant was allotted to Mr. Evans, to assist the continuance of his work at Knossos with an increased staff of workers ; though a large proportion of the expenses on this site had still to be met by the explorer himself. Sufficient funds were at the same time given to Mr. Hogarth for the exploration of the neighbourhood of the prehistoric seaport of Zakro on the east coast of the island, which seemed likely to yield further evidence as to the early intercourse between Crete and Egypt. A grant of £200 was also used by Mr. Bosanquet (who had now succeeded Mr. Hogarth as Director of the British School at Athens) to make search at Praesos, the ancient capital of the Eteocretan district, for further traces of the survival of a pre-Hellenic language in this remote east end of the island.

Once more the results surpassed all expectation. The Palace of Knossos, though excavated thoroughly over an area of nearly four acres, still showed no sign of exhaustion, and its works of art proved, if anything, more remarkable than before. Further deposits of archives continued to appear ; and trial pits sunk below the floor level of the palace itself verified the existence, beneath it, of a purely neolithic settlement—the first of the kind to be discovered in Greek lands—which, while it carried back the history of Cretan civilisation far beyond the Mycenaean Period, or even beyond the sphere of Egyptian influences, still betrayed signs of a distant indebtedness to the immemorial art of Babylonia.

At Zakro, the little seaport proved to be rich in vases and other works of prehistoric industry, and gave signs of having been a busy link of intercourse between Crete and the Eastern world ; particular mention being due to a large and elaborate series of gem impressions, on the clay sealings of perished boxes and bales, which throw much new light on the methods of the great Cretan school of gem-engraving.

At Praesos, an extensive city-site which proved richer in remains of the classical than of the prehistoric period, a most important discovery was made, in the shape of an inscription cut in Greek letters of 400–300 B.C., but still composed in a non-Hellenic language, the affinities of which cannot yet be determined with certainty ; a remarkable confirmation of the reasoning which determined the choice of the site ; and in all probability the first fruit only of the harvest which awaits the discoverer of the famous Temple of Dictaeon Zeus.

In the autumn of 1901 a third appeal was issued ; but, though bodies like the

British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, continued to testify, by the renewal of their grants-in-aid, to the great scientific value of the results, the public response was by no means adequate to the magnitude of the task. It was found necessary, therefore, in the ensuing campaign of 1902, to abandon the rest of the programme which had been laid out in advance, and to devote the whole income of the Fund to the subvention of the work at Knossos. Even so, however, Mr. Evans has had to make up a deficiency of about £1,000 on the present year's work alone.

The British School at Athens, also, in spite of its very limited resources, found it possible to spare a small sum in 1902 for Cretan excavation; and the site of Palaeokastro, which had been most courteously resigned in its favour by the German Archaeological Institute, and had been provisionally reserved for Mr. Hogarth, was eventually transferred to Mr. Bosanquet, and explored in a preliminary way on behalf of the British School.

The peculiar importance of the site at Palaeokastro, which like Zakro is on the eastern coast of Crete, lies in the fact that the human remains in its early tombs are so unusually well preserved, that it is possible at last to collect adequate evidence as to the physical characters and racial affinities of the creators of the great Cretan civilization: and the British Association has already recognized the importance of this enquiry by assigning funds to enable a competent anthropologist to study these remains, in the event of further excavation being undertaken at Palaeokastro.

The results of the campaign of 1902 are presented in bare outline in the brief reports appended below; and will be summarized at greater length in the forthcoming *Annual* of the British School at Athens, which has most generously made itself responsible year by year hitherto for the whole cost of printing and publishing the preliminary statements of the excavators. It will, however, be readily understood by the subscribers to the Cretan Exploration Fund that some time must necessarily elapse before so large and varied a mass of wholly new material can be reduced to a condition for definitive publication; and that the prosecution of the excavations themselves must meanwhile be regarded as the main charge upon the income of the Fund.

The programme which is outlined for the campaign of 1903 consists of two parts. It is proposed that of any fresh subscriptions which may be received, a sum of £200 shall be set apart to assist the Director of the British School to continue the excavation of Palaeokastro and the search for the Temple of Dictæan Zeus, and that the remainder shall be applied towards the work which still remains to be done at Knossos; and if possible, towards reducing the financial burden which has fallen on Mr. Evans' shoulders.

In view of the remarkable results already attained, and of the considerations hereinbefore set forth, which make a 'forward policy' the only course open under the circumstances, the Committee appeals with confidence, both to former subscribers, to all students of Greek antiquity, and to the public at large, for their unstinted support in the work of Cretan Exploration.

Report of Excavation of the Palace of Knossos: Campaign of 1902.

The fresh campaign of excavation was opened on Feb. 12th, 1901, and continued till the end of June; as many as 250 workmen being constantly employed for a large part of that time including over a score of carpenters and masons. Owing to the constant need of supports for the upper storeys, the unexpected extension of the Palace on the eastern side, and the vast masses of earth that had to be removed on one part of the site, the work has been arduous and costly beyond all expectation, but the discoveries made have not fallen short in importance of those of the preceding years. Mr. Evans was assisted as before by Dr. Duncan Mackenzie in directing the works, and by Mr. D. T. Fyfe on the architectural side.

The greater part of the Palace, embracing an area of about four and a half acres, had now been uncovered. Important new rooms were uncovered adjoining the halls and 'grand staircase' excavated in 1900, and it had been possible to preserve a great part of the upper storey throughout the whole region. A very interesting feature was the complete system of drainage, including latrines with flush-pipes, and a succession of stone shafts descending from the upper floors to a network of stone ducts beneath the pavement of the lower rooms, large enough for a man to make his way along them. Another highly interesting feature of this part of the building was a shrine belonging, in its existing state, to the late Mycenaean period, with the cult-objects and idols in place. A painted clay figure of a Goddess, cylindrical below, bore a dove on her head. The central cult-objects seem to have been double axes, rising between two pairs of sacral horns wrought in stucco. Each of the latter showed the socket for the handles of the cult-object between the horns. A small double axe of steatite lay against one pair of horns. A miniature Pillar-Shrine of the Dove-Goddess in painted terracotta was also found, belonging to the pre-Mycenaean period.

Fresh fresco paintings were discovered, including one of a lady in a very modern jacket; dolphins and other fish; and naturalistic foliage and lilies. Fragments, previously found and now put together, give exciting scenes from the Bull Ring, in which girls as well as male toreadors took part. Very beautiful ivory statuettes also seemed to represent similar figures in violent action. Further large deposits of tablets inscribed with the linear prehistoric script came to light, mostly referring to the royal inventories and accounts, and concerning the armoury,

granary, and other departments—many of them dealing in percentages. Clay cups were also found with ink inscriptions, a new departure in the prehistoric script.

The exquisite ivory figures of youths showed the 'art of Daedalos' in its highest perfection, displaying naturalistic details not found again in such work till the age of the Italian Renaissance. Another extremely interesting find was the remains of a large mosaic of porcelain plaques, many of them representing houses, so that a whole street of the 'City of Minos' as it existed about 1500 B.C. could now be reproduced. Here too were strangely modern features—houses of three storeys, some with two doors, and showing windows with four or six panes—oiled parchment having perhaps been used in place of glass. The whole seems to have formed part of a large design showing scenes of peace and war analogous to those of Achilles' shield.

The Palace was found to climb down the eastern slope of the hill to a point about 80 metres below the northern entrance, the lowermost terrace having been supported by a quadruple line of wall. On the slope underneath the later Mycenaean Palace were found extensive remains of the magazines of what seems to have been an earlier royal dwelling going back into the third millennium B.C. In these were found beautiful painted vases, many of them of egg-shell-like fabric, and some embossed in imitation of metal work. The high civilization of the kings of Knossos is thus carried back to about 2500 B.C.

Below this again, fresh explorations were made of the deep Neolithic stratum which underlies this whole site. These explorations were productive of a fresh harvest of stone implements, pottery, and primitive images of clay, marble and shell.

The excavation of the S.E. corner of the Palace has still to be completed, and certain works of delimitation must be carried out in other directions. The lower strata of the Palace have also to be explored at several points, and continued researches into the Neolithic deposit are also desirable, as well as the examination of some neighbouring buildings, and a renewed search for tombs. Unfortunately, as already stated, the total amount that the Cretan Exploration Fund—including the grant from the British Association—was able to contribute towards the year's expenses has again fallen far short of what the explorer has been called on to expend.

Report on Excavations at Palaeokastro, 1902.

The plain of Palaeokastro, the largest plain on the east coast of Crete, measures three miles from east to west and two from north to south. It lies north of Zakro, and north-east of Praesos, the sites explored in 1901.

There seems to have been no large settlement here from Mycenaean times until the middle

of the nineteenth century ; but in that early age it was one of the principal centres, perhaps the capital, of Eastern Crete. The excavations were rewarded by the discovery of a Mycenaean town extending over an area of at least 500 by 300 yards, and of cemeteries which throw new light on the burial customs of the earliest inhabitants.

The largest of the houses which were examined lies inland, in a group of what appear to be spacious upper-class houses ; they are constructed partly in the 'megalithic' style, characteristic of the Mycenaean homesteads so common in the limestone districts of Crete, partly in regular ashlar masonry ; the upper storey, where one existed, was of brick. The plan of this house is perfectly intelligible, and in some respects anticipates that of the Greek house of classical times. In all thirty-six rooms were excavated here. The house was originally one-storeyed, but later an upper storey was added in brick, with two staircases leading to it, and some of the ground floor rooms were converted into magazines, one of which has a plaster floor painted in colours, and a stone bench against the end wall. This and an adjoining chamber yielded over 500 vases. Among the smaller 'finds' are a well-preserved tablet inscribed with characters in a linear script nearly related to that of Knossos, a pair of 'sacred horns' in stucco, and jars containing wheat and two kinds of pease.

Still more important results were obtained in the cemeteries. Hitherto we were very imperfectly informed as to the method of sepulture practised by the Cretans of the Kamárais period ; and graves containing Kamárais pottery were practically unknown. Of the 'beehive tomb,' the typical tomb of Mycenaean times on the mainland, only one example was discovered. As a rule, the Mycenaean inhabitants seem to have laid their dead in earthenware *larnakes* grouped in small family burial-places near their homesteads. These had contained not complete corpses, but bones which were removed from the earth when time sufficient to decompose the body had elapsed after the original interment. A similar custom still prevails in the island.

A still older form of this practice was illustrated by a very remarkable enclosure discovered on the ridge which cuts the town-site in two. It is a rectangle measuring twenty-seven feet by thirty-two, enclosed by a wall of rude limestone blocks, and subdivided by similar walls into five parallel compartments, within which were packed skulls, bones, and vases, principally cups. The date of the deposit is given by the vases, many of which are good examples of Kamárais ware. The bones were in heaps or bundles, not laid in their natural order. Sometimes the principal bones were formed into a kind of bed on which several skulls were laid. A second and apparently similar bone enclosure has been discovered and will be excavated next spring.

Deficit in Season of 1901 6000. £. s. d.

THE CRETAN EXPLORATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

Nov. 1, 1901 to Oct. 31, 1902.

1902	To Subscriptions, per Hon. Treasurer to 31st October	£	s.	d.
1902		18	15	6
Jan. 17	Mr. D. G. Hogarth, refunded	177	4	6
	Balance	627	16	1
	By Expenditure, per Mr. Arthur Evans—			
	Excavation Wages	1349	18	11
	Materials and transport	152	12	7
	Wages (household, &c.)	66	13	2
	House Rent (Candia and Knossos)	51	15	10
	Stores and Customs	60	15	10
	Household Exp. (Candia and Knossos)	144	18	8
	Draughtsman and Photographer	229	11	2
	Miscellaneous	8	10	0
	Asst. Director and Architect	466	0	0
	Purchase of land and crops	34	1	4
		2564	17	6
	By Expenses per Hon. Treasurer—			
	Materials and Stores—			
Jan. 9	Stanley	12	13	9
Feb. 19	Stereoscopic Coy.	6	3	0
	By Sundries—			
April 5	Macmillan & Co.	4	13	0
Oct. 14	Clay & Sons, printing	29	8	6
" 31	Norman & Son (receipt books)	16	0	
	Postage and Receipt Stamps	13	0	
	" " Commission per Bankers	1	2	6
		36	13	0
		£2620	7	3

By deficit Balance carried forward £627 16 1

add deficit on Season of 1901 600 ..

Total Deficit £ 1227. 16. 1