

COMMUNICATIONS

A first season of excavations was conducted in July and August 1967 at Myrtos on the south coast of Crete, west of Hierapetra. The excavation, directed by Dr. Peter Warren, who has sent this report, was under the auspices of the British School at Athens and was sponsored by the Cambridge Faculty of Classics.

The site is a settlement on a hill and belongs solely to Early Minoan II (c. 2600-2200 B.C.). It was destroyed by fire. About 50 rooms have been opened so far in two areas, on the summit and on the south, seaward-facing slope. In neither area is there clear evidence as yet for more than one building. The rooms are small, with stone-built and mud-brick walls, often plastered, and roofed with reeds and plaster.

The finds include a very substantial corpus of pottery, with 250 vessels catalogued so far, 3 sealstones (one unfinished), a clay sealing with impressions of two seals, two figurines of clay, one human, the other a bull's head, a complete dagger, probably of

copper, a prolific stone industry with many querns and about a hundred pieces of obsidian. The clay vases range from pithoi, large store jars and large clay tubs, which may be wine presses, to smaller jugs, cups, bowls and plates. Vasilike Ware is common, as is dark on light painted ware.

Of especial interest is an incised pot-mark, on a body sherd from a large jar. The marks were made with a sharp point, probably a piece of bone or obsidian. The cross appears on a pot at Gezer (Macalister, *Gezer III*, Pl. CXC 1) and the two diagonal marks are paralleled at Phylakopi (Phylakopi p. 179 B 2) where they were considered as numeration. But the marks are too simple to suggest any connections.

The site is of special interest since it is, on present evidence, of one period, and because only at Vasilike (in 1904 and 1906) has a substantial Early Bronze Age settlement been exposed in Crete. Samples have been submitted for radiocarbon determinations.

Reports have appeared also in *The Times*, 23 October and in *Eleftheros Kosmos*, 5 November 1967.

Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Boston, 28-30 December, 1967, included:  
Sterling Dow, "Homeric Writing."

Papers presented at the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Boston, 28-30 December, 1967.

Frank J. Frost, "Some Underwater sites in the Peloponnesus."

George F. Bass, "Underwater Operations in Turkey, 1965-1967."

L. Hugh Sackett, "Lefkandi in Euboea; The Results of Three Seasons' Excavation."

Elizabeth Milburn, "The Late Helladic IIIC Pottery from Lefkandi in Euboea."

Spyridon Marinatos, "Field Discoveries from Thera" (read by Emily Vermeule).



Jean Vorys Canby, "Who made the Tiryns Bronze?"  
Joseph V. Noble, "The Technique of Egyptian Faience."  
Curt W. Beck, "The Provenience of Mycenaean Amber."  
Charlotte R. Long, "The Obsequies of a Prince at Aghia Triadha."  
Donald A. Preziosi, "The Harmonic System of Minoan Architectural Design."  
William S. Woodard, "The Later History of Grave Circle A at Mycenae."  
John L. Caskey, "Excavations in Keos, 1967."  
Katherine Coleman, "Wall Paintings from Keos."  
Machteld J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karatas Semayuk, 1967."

Also, read by title, were William G. Loy, "Paleo-Ecological Studies in Southwest Peloponnese," James W. Mavor, Jr., "Thera 1966 and 1967: Techniques of Search, Excavation and Preservation."

During the past two years, the local Societies of the Archaeological Institute of America have heard one or more of the following lectures: Kurt Bittel, "The Palace of the Hittite Kings at Bogazköy in Anatolia"; John L. Caskey, "The Bronze Age in Ceos," "Excavations in Kea 1966," "Excavations at Lerna, a Classical Site in the Argolid"; Lloyd Cotsen, "Excavations of Bronze Age Kea in the Greek Aegean"; Mrs. Alexander Crane, "The Palace of Minos"; William P. Donovan, "Greece in the Bronze Age," "The Arrival of the Greeks," "Town Life in the Mycenaean Age"; I. J. Gelb, "The Structure of the Alphabet"; J. Walter Graham, "Crete and its Antiquities," "Palaces of the Homeric Heroes," "Crete and its Palaces"; Richard Hope Simpson, "Homeric Geography"; Sara A. Immerwahr, "Athens and the Mycenaean World," "Mycenaean Athens"; Mrs. C. C. March, "Hittite Anatolia"; Machteld Mellink, "The Time of the First Trojan War (ca. 2500 B.C.)"; George Mylonas, "Mycenae, Capital City of Agamemnon," "Excavations at Mycenae, 1965," "Mycenae"; Edith Porada, "Cylinder Seals from Thebes"; Isabelle Raubitschek, "The Stanford Minoan Statuette"; Colin Renfrew, "Obsidian Analysis and Prehistoric Trade in the Old World"; T. Leslie Shear, Jr., "Recent Excavations at Mycenae"; Homer L. Thomas, "The First Metal Traders in Europe"; Saul S. Weinberg, "Beginnings of Greek Civilization," "Prehistoric Greece."

Brief reports of the Mycenaean Congress in Rome appeared by S. Anagnostopoulos in Nea, 20, 27, and 30 October 1967.

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J. Young of the staff of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts] brought the figure to life from the bits of ivory and gold shown at right below. The Museum bought the pieces, rather optimistically, from a Greek sailor. The statue instantly became the pet of the staff who now treasure her far above her actual value, which must be priceless because she is unique. Art lovers will know she's a chryselephantine Minoan figure of the Snake Goddess, circa 1600 B.C. "

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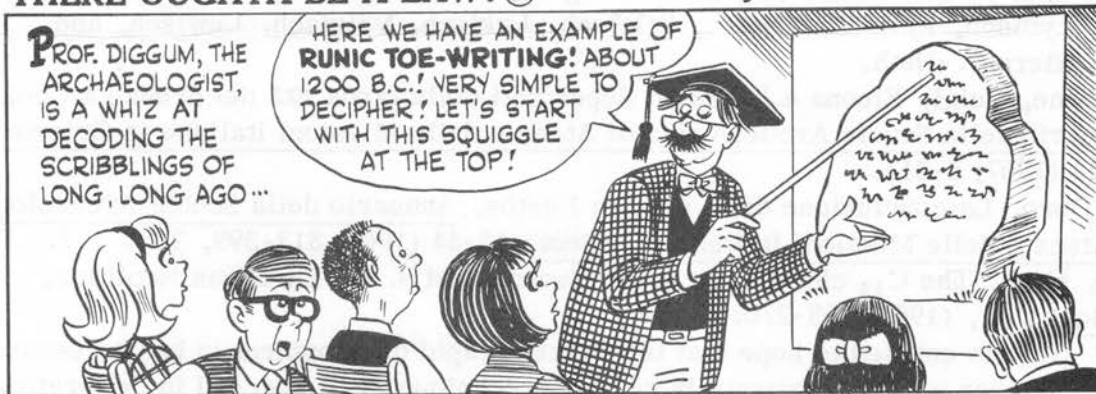
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. . . qu'il est permis de rire entre mycéenologues

**THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW! ®**

By Shorten and Whipple



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