

A CONTRAST TO NEOLITHIC BURIAL: A CYPRIOT ROYAL TOMB, 4TH CENTURY B.C.



FIG. 11. THE DROMOS (ENTRANCE) TO THE ROYAL TOMB DISCOVERED AT PYLA, IN CYPRUS: A VIEW SHOWING THREE MARBLE VASES FOUND LYING AGAINST THE DOOR-SLAB.



FIG. 13. LOCAL VISITORS TO THE TOMB: A LARGE GROUP OF VILLAGERS FROM PYLA (HEADED BY THE VILLAGE PRIEST), WHO CLAIMED PERMISSION TO SEE THE INTERIOR.



FIG. 14. THE EXTERIOR OF THE ROYAL TOMB "DISCOVERED ACCIDENTALLY NEAR THE VILLAGE OF PYLA, SITUATED EIGHT MILES N.E. OF LARNACA": A GENERAL VIEW, SHOWING THE SOLID MASONRY, AND LANDSCAPE BEYOND.



FIG. 12. THE INTERIOR OF THE TOMB AT PYLA AS IT APPEARED AFTER REMOVAL OF THE DOOR-SLAB: A ROYAL SEPULCHRE PLUNDERED IN ANTIQUITY BY ROBBERS WHO PENETRATED THE ROOF.



FIG. 15. LIMESTONE RELIEFS OVER A DOORWAY INTO A CHAMBER OF THE TOMB CONTAINING THREE SARCOPHAGI: A GORGON'S HEAD AND WINGED SPHINXES, RECALLING DESIGNS ON COINS FOUND AT LARNACA (FIGS. 9 AND 10D, OPPOSITE PAGE).

This royal tomb of the fourth century B.C. contrasts strongly with the primitive Neolithic grave at Erimi (Figs. 6 and 7, page 97), and these two burials mark the long period of cultural evolution in Cyprus covered by the excavations. Regarding the above photographs, M. Dikaios notes: "The doorway of the royal tomb (Fig. 11) was blocked with a large slab, against which lay three alabaster-like marble vases. In the interior (Fig. 12) the door-slabs which blocked the doorways leading to the side-chambers had been thrown down by robbers, who entered

the tomb in ancient times through a hole made in the roof. After the excavation, a large group of villagers from Pyla (Fig. 13), with the village priest at their head, gathered near the tomb, and claimed to be allowed to visit the interior. Fig. 15 shows the three limestone reliefs inset above the doorway leading to the north chamber, in which three sarcophagi were found. The central relief represents a Gorgon's head; the side reliefs sphinxes. Both the Gorgon's head and the sphinxes appear on ancient Cypriot coins." (See Figs. 9 and 10D, opposite page.)