

# ROMANTIC RUINS OF MEDIÆVAL CYPRUS: RELICS OF A SUCCESSION OF CONQUERORS TO BE CONSERVED.



A WINDOW IN THE MOUNTAIN CASTLE OF ST. HILARION: VOUSOIRS PROPPED IN PLACE.



THE NEED FOR WORK OF PRESERVATION AT ST. HILARION: A COVERED STONE PASSAGE, NOW OPEN THROUGH THE FALL OF THE BARREL VAULT.



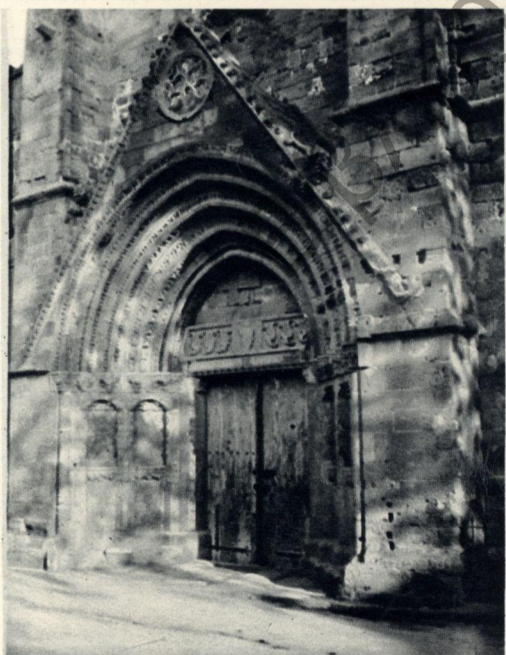
THE INTERIOR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. SOPHIA AT NICOSIA, WHICH, LIKE THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. NICHOLAS AT FAMAGUSTA, IS NOW A MOSQUE.



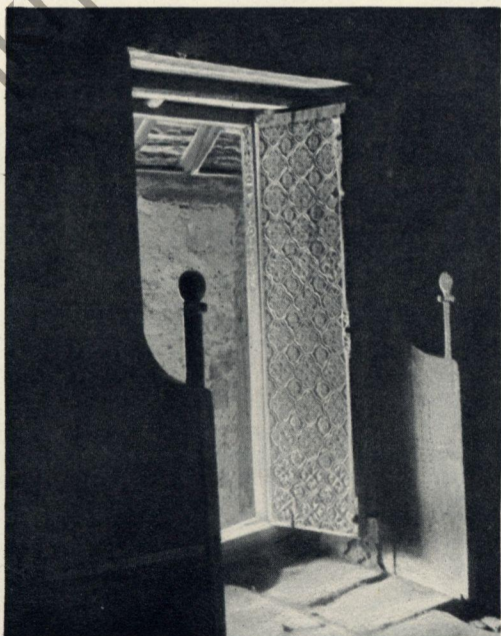
THE GATEWAY OF THE LUSIGNAN PALACE AT KOUKLIA, IN URGENT NEED OF TREATMENT: A HUGE CRACK ENDANGERING ONE SIDE.



VAULTING IN ONE OF THE CLOISTER WALKS OF BELLAPAISE ABBEY TEMPORARILY SHORED UP: A THIRTEENTH-CENTURY LATIN MONASTERY.



THE ENRICHED DOORWAY OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NICOSIA, AFTERWARDS CONVERTED BY THE TURKS INTO THE BEDESTAN, OR EXCHANGE.



MOUTOULLAS CHURCH, A LITTLE BUILDING ON THE SLOPES OF MT. TROÖDOS: THE MAGNIFICENTLY CARVED DOOR, IN PERFECT REPAIR.



THE INTERIOR OF MOUTOULLAS CHURCH, IN DEPLORABLE DISREPAIR: MEDIÆVAL PAINTINGS WHOSE PLASTER IS FLAKING OFF OVER LARGE AREAS.

The photographs here, opposite, and on the page overleaf give an idea of the variety and romantic interest of the antiquities of Cyprus. By showing the disrepair into which so many of them have fallen, they reinforce the urgency of the appeal of the Cyprus Committee, whose functions are described on page 238. The subject can be further

studied in the exhibition of photographs now open to the public at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Cyprus has indeed undergone a notable series of vicissitudes in its long history. To mention only its mediæval rulers, it has passed through the hands of Crusaders, Knights Templars, the Latin dynasty of Lusignan, Venetians, Genoese, and Turks. Christian buildings are many, the majority of them of Byzantine technique, but some of the western Gothic style, erected in the most prosperous period of Cypriot history, that of the Latin occupation. Cyprus became the headquarters of the Latin rule in the Near East after the expulsion of the Crusaders from Palestine, and the churches of Famagusta and Nicosia remain as evidence of the great days of the Lusignan kingdom. The Turkish conquest of 1570 ended Latin Christianity, but the Orthodox church was allowed to survive, and so, while the Latin churches are now either mosques or abandoned and ruinous, the Greek churches can show a wealth of carved iconostases and painted walls. Castles, fortresses, monasteries and churches bear witness to the island's romantic history.