The general interest awakened lately in England to the preservation of the ancient monuments at Erimi, which illustrate the long history of this island, marks an important moment in the archaeological life of Cyprus. The creation of a Department of Antiquities and the appointment of Mr. J. R. Hilton as Director inaugurate a new era in the archaeological activity in this island.

In *The Illustrated London News* of Dec. 23, 1933, I gave a report on the Neolithic discoveries made by the Cyprus Museum last year. An important settlement belonging to the later Stone Age—i.e., to a period which, chronologically, may be assigned to the third millennium B.C.—was discovered near the village of Erimi (Fig. 4), eight miles west of Limassol, and an excavation was undertaken on behalf of the Cyprus Museum. Several layers were revealed, showing a long culture which, as I explained in my report, was little known to us before these discoveries. This culture, which can be placed at the head of the ancient Cypriot culture, is of great importance. Archaeologists used to begin the study of Neolithic prehistory from the introduction of the Copper Age, i.e., from about 3000 B.C.; now this study is carried back into the fourth millennium B.C. It must be mentioned that the Swedish Cyprus Expedition, which worked in Cyprus from 1927 to 1931, had already brought to light important traces of the Neolithic civilization.

Now, under the light thrown by the Cyprus Museum discoveries, we may say that the period of the Neolithic Age was occupied by a highly developed culture characterised by a painted and unptainted pottery which can be compared to that of the most productive periods of Cypriot ceramic art. The excavations carried out in 1933 laid bare the three upper layers and brought to light circular houses measuring about six metres across and containing, besides pottery in great quantities, flint implements, stone axe-heads, stone or terra-cotta idols (Fig. 5) and other objects. In the course of the 1934 season I proceeded to the deeper layers and cleared two more, the fourth and the fifth (Fig. 4). The fourth-layer houses were much destroyed and only parts of walls of ruined houses could be traced. It nevertheless yielded an abundant harvest of pottery and other objects (Figs. 1 and 3). The fifth layer is one of the most important so far studied. Two neighbouring circular houses, in an excellent state of preservation, were laid bare. These houses were larger than those of the upper layers and measured seven metres across. They were built with a substruction wall, wider than that in the upper layers; the upper parts of the walls were entirely destroyed. One of these houses (Fig. 6) was of great importance, for outside the entrance a burial was discovered, revealing the first human remains belonging to the Stone Age in Cyprus (Fig. 7). The body was buried in the ground in a contracted position, and the grave was simply a hole with stones all round. The discovery of human remains belonging to the Stone Age will have a considerable importance in anthropological matters, especially if connected, as it probably is, with more discoveries. From the point of view of funeral ceremony, we notice that Neolithic man apparently did not practise rites in honour of the dead, as was done of Neolithic culture, and I extended my researches to all parts of the island. The result was, as I have said, that a great number of new settlements have been discovered, testifying to the existence of a widespread Stone Age civilisation throughout Cyprus. Trial diggings in these settlements have revealed stratigraphical material of great importance, completing or confirming the results obtained in the Erimi settlement. The evolution of the ceramic art noted in the Erimi settlement, which belongs to the western group, is confirmed in a convincing way by the stratigraphical material obtained in another settlement of the northern group. The human remains discovered at Erimi, and the remains made in regard to the funeral customs, are also borne out by the discovery of other human remains found in a northern settlement. These discoveries, therefore, enlarge in a remarkable way our knowledge of the Stone Age in Cyprus, and present a prolific field for further research.

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Fig. 8. A FIFTH-CENTURY B.C. SILVER COIN, PERHAPS FROM SOLI, NORTH CYPRUS: THE OBVERSE. (ABOUT DOUBLE ACTUAL SIZE.)

The coin whose two sides appear in Figs. 8 and 9 at the top of the page is of uncertain origin, but may come from Soli. The Gorgon's head (Fig. 9) and the winged sphinx (Fig. 10, obverse and reverse, different animal heads) possibly to Soli; C (obverse, a bull; reverse, an eagle's head) to Paphos; and D (obverse, a winged sphinx; reverse, undecipherable) to Idalion.

The surprising wealth of material revealed during the excavation of the Neolithic settlement of Erimi is now enriched by the discovery of a considerable number of other settlements, situated not only along the south coast of Cyprus, but also along the north and in the centre. The surprising wealth of material revealed during the excavations in the Erimi settlement persuaded me that Cyprus must have been, as a whole, a great centre of Neolithic culture, and I extended my researches to all parts of the island.