

CYPRUS IN THE STONE AGE AND AFTER:

THE FIRST NEOLITHIC BURIAL FOUND IN THE ISLAND; A ROYAL TOMB OF THE 4TH CENTURY B.C.; AND A HOARD OF SILVER COINS; NEW DISCOVERIES RANGING OVER MANY PERIODS.

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(See Illustrations—numbered according to the Author's References—on the preceding and facing Pages.)



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



FIG. 9. BEARING A GORGON'S HEAD RESEMBLING A RELIEF IN FIG. 15 (PAGE 99): THE REVERSE OF THE COIN IN FIG. 8.

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 second part of the fourth 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

THE general interest awakened lately in England in the preservation of the ancient monuments which illustrate the long history

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 completed, as I hope, by 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 southern 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 remarks 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 promise a very prolific field for further research.



FIG. 10. FOUR OF THE BEST SPECIMENS AMONG OVER 400 OLD CYPRIOT COINS DISCOVERED AT LARNACA DURING EXCAVATIONS FOR A HOSPITAL EXTENSION: SILVER STATERS OF THE FIFTH CENTURY B.C.—THE OBTVERSE SIDES ABOVE, WITH CORRESPONDING REVERSE BELOW EACH. (ABOUT DOUBLE ACTUAL SIZE.)

The places of origin to which the above coins are attributed are various towns in Cyprus. Thus A (obverse, a human head in right profile; reverse, a smaller head) is ascribed to Lapithos, in the north; B (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 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, D) resemble the stone reliefs (Fig. 15, page 99) found in the royal tomb at Pyla.

be placed at the head of the ancient Cypriot culture, is of great importance. Archaeologists used to begin the study of Cypriot 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 civilisation.

Now, under the light thrown by the Cyprus Museum discoveries, we may say that the period of the later Stone Age was occupied by a highly developed culture characterised by a painted and unpainted 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

in the succeeding period of the Early Bronze Age, and that the departed were buried within the area of the settlement, outside the houses.

It is equally important to remark that a definite change occurs in the pottery found in the fourth and fifth layers. The upper layers were characterised by the great majority of the painted wares, whereas the fourth and fifth layers show a diminution of the number of the painted wares and an increase of the plain ones, mostly the red-slip wares. It will be interesting to follow, in the deeper layers, which will be explored in the future, the ceramic art of the earlier stages.

The archaeological evidence yielded by 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

A second site explored by the Cyprus Museum is a temple situated three miles to the east of Kyrenia. The temple was first noticed by villagers, who, while digging in the field, came across a number of terra-cotta and stone statues, among which was a headless statuette of Herakles of archaic times (525-500 B.C.). The excavations proved that the temple itself was destroyed at a later period, most probably in the Byzantine era, although a good number of terra-cotta and stone statues of all periods, from the archaic to the Roman, were brought to light. Among these we should mention some terra-cotta heads of the middle of the sixth century B.C. (Fig. 2), and some other busts of terra-cotta figures, richly ornamented with painted lions and sphinxes or other mythological animals. According to the evidence afforded by the finds, the temple came into existence at an early period, most probably during the seventh century B.C., and continued to be a cult place through the archaic, classical, Hellenistic, and Roman times. Byzantine settlers

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