

μικροῦ ἀριθμοῦ πηλίνων ἀγγείων (Πί ν. 103 β, 104 β), περιελθόντων πάντων μετὰ τετράμηνον ἀπὸ τῆς εὐρέσεώς των εἰς τὸ Μουσεῖον Πύλου. Ἡ εἰς μικρὸν τμήμα κατὰ τὸ ἀνατολικὸν μέρος τοῦ τύμβου διενεργηθεῖσα ἔρευνα ἀπέδωσε τρία χαλκᾶ νομίσματα, σιδηρᾶς τινας στεγγίδας καὶ μαχαίριδιον ὥς καὶ θραύσματα ἑκατὸν περίπου ἀγγείων ἑλληνιστικῆς ἐποχῆς. Ἡ συνέχεια τῆς ἀνασκαφῆς τοῦ τύμβου θὰ διενεργηθῇ προσεχῶς, ἡ πλήρης ὁμῶς ἔρευνα αὐτοῦ θὰ εἶναι δυνατὴ μετὰ τὴν κατεδάφισιν τοῦ εἰς τὸ κέντρον τοῦ τύμβου εὐρισκομένου οἰκίσκου.

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THE PALACE OF NESTOR

With the generous financial support of Professor and Mrs. W. T. Semple the Archaeological Expedition of the University of Cincinnati was enabled from May 12 to July 30, 1961 to continue its work of excavation and study in the Palace of Nestor and its neighborhood on the hill called Epano Englianos.

The staff was the same as in 1960, comprising Elizabeth Blegen, Marion Rawson, Professor Mabel Land, George Papathanasopoulos, Piet de Jong and myself. Only a few workmen, averaging no more than a dozen, and all veterans, were employed; and Dionysios Androutsakis served with his customary efficiency as Foreman.

We are under deep obligation for invaluable help and many courtesies to Dr. J. Papadimitriou, Head of the Greek Service of Antiquities and Reconstruction and to his colleagues Dr. Kontis and Dr. Stikas, as well as to Dr. Henry Robinson, Director, and to the other officers of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge our special indebtedness to the Archaeological Service and to Dr. Gialouris, Acting Ephor at Olympia, for making available to us for a fortnight the vasmenders Costas Pavlatos and George Spyropoulos.

Along the southwest edge of the site three areas were excavated. In the southeasternmost sector we cleared a massive substructure (Plate 105e) the northwestern end of which had been exposed in 1960. The building, running from southeast to northwest,

and consisting of a single room, proved to be ca. 10.50 m. long and some 6.20 m. wide. Only the foundations have survived; they are remarkably thick (Plate 105a) perhaps indicating that they supported a tower or a guard-room, possibly flanking a gateway. Floors and walls had been removed in ancient times. Whatever it was, the building clearly antedates the palace of Mycenaean III B; it may belong to Late Helladic I, when a circuit wall presumably existed. In the surface soil, disturbed by the plow, that covered these remains were found nine small fragments of inscribed tablets and two clay sealings which had been baked sufficiently by fire to be preserved.

Some 8 m. to the southeast of the Throne Room of the Southwestern Wing of the palace and close to the edge of the hill, an olive tree had been left standing, surrounded by a small rectangle of undug earth. Since this tract proved to be inadequate to preserve the tree, the latter was removed and the space was excavated. It was covered by a deep surface layer of loose dark earth, composed in part of decayed vegetable matter. Beneath this late deposit was a thin burnt stratum resting on *stereo*, in which were found remnants of foundations (Plate 105b) aligned with others previously exposed to view to the northwest, southwest and southeast. Since walls and floors had been destroyed, little was discovered to shed light on the history and the plan of the building. In the superficial black earth were collected fourteen bits and fragments of inscribed tablets. A clay sealing and a fragment of another came from the top of the burnt layer.

At the extreme western tip of the acropolis George Papathanasopoulos resumed his examination of the stratified accumulation outside the great tower that forms the corner of the Southwestern Wing. In this place underlying strata associated with walls of buildings that preceded the palace of Mycenaean III B had been recognized in 1960. Supplementary exploration in 1961 revealed evidence of at least three antecedent phases (Plate 105c) going back through Mycenaean III A and II to Late Helladic I or earlier. The pottery collected from these deposits has not yet been studied in detail.

The enterprising curiosity of some unknown, casual visitors, who in April entered the

site and scratched the surface of the ground here and there, led us to the discovery of a mass of broken plaster, which had undoubtedly been thrown out from the palace on an occasion when redecoration on a considerable scale was undertaken. The discarded material lay in a heap at the bottom of the high precipitous northwestern edge of the hill, directly behind the Central Wing. It proved to be an extensive deposit, requiring for its exposure and removal nearly three weeks of careful work. This was carried out under the supervision of Marion Rawson who collected enough plaster to fill 45 trays, each holding from thirty to more than a hundred fragments. The total number of pieces mounted to nearly three thousand. Almost all were coated with a hard lime accretion through which only the faintest traces of color could be seen.

During July Mabel Lang was able by great industry to work through this vast accumulation, all fragments receiving at least a preliminary cleaning which allowed them to be sorted. By the end of the season about half of them had been classified in accordance with their decorative motives, a great variety of which can be recognized. Abstract linear designs are numerous, including wavy lines and bands, circles, spirals, diamonds, triangles, dots, nets, the metope pattern, etc. in an extensive range of color combinations, black, red, blue, yellow, white, etc. These pieces come mainly from dadoes, borders and friezes. Bands of nautilus are represented and there are remains of a handsome frieze with lifelike flying blue birds that resemble pigeons. Griffins and lions in life size occur as well as other animals, not yet identified. Most exciting are perhaps the human figures: white-faced women, wearing elaborate robes, some facing right, others left, evidently from a processional scene in life size; men with red skin also appear in natural size, some turned to right, others to left, and one has a most remarkable pug nose. Human figures, both men and women, likewise present themselves at a reduced scale. The large figures are represented by fragments, and no whole figure has yet been put together.

Intensive further work and study are still needed before this find can be fully evaluated; but Miss Lang has noted that the style of these frescoes is virtually the same

as that of the paintings found on the walls and floors of the palace. These new pieces, too, must belong to one of the latest phases. They appear not to have been damaged by fire. It is thus clear the renovation we have postulated occurred only a short time before the disaster that devastated this palace complex. The great diversity of the motives represented, clearly pointing to many different compositions, led Miss Lang to conclude that the plaster came from many different rooms, a fact that implies a general renovation. She also suggests that the work was done by several painters who followed the same conventions in most matters, but expressed their own individualities—or those of their subjects—in their human portraits.

During the season of 1961 we devoted a major share of our time and work to further investigation and study of details in the central unit of the palace. Working conditions in the building were greatly improved in comparison with those of previous years, thanks to the well designed protective roofing (Plate 105d), which has been erected by the Greek Service of Antiquities and Reconstruction. The light steel structure serves its purpose admirably, besides giving a dramatic idea of the great size of the palace. It is purely functional and it does not unduly draw away attention from the ancient remains. It evoked numerous favorable and enthusiastic comments on the part of the many domestic and foreign visitors who came to see the site during the campaign. The lofty metal tiling even on the hottest summer days provides a delightfully cool shade below.

We took advantage of the opportunity to proceed in comfort throughout the building with the final cleaning of doorways, walls, floors, hearth, bath, stairways, etc., a task long deferred pending the provision of adequate protection. Only our most experienced workmen were used in these delicate operations, and Marion Rawson exercised the general supervision. Many hitherto unseen remains of wall paintings and floor decorations were discovered, including the lower part of a fresco representing the feet and the bottom of a long robe of a man, life-sized, moving to left beside a column or a stand. It is painted on the plastered face of a slab of clay and stone, which was set up to block access from

the southwestern corridor of the space below the upper flight of the southwestern stairway. The two oil magazines behind the Throne Room were cleared of their covering earth; the pavement and the stucco coating of the stands holding the oil jars were cleaned, the cracks and breaks being repaired, wherever necessary for conservation. Both magazines are now open to view to visitors.

The new walls brought to light in 1961 were measured by George Papathanasopoulos and drawn out to be added to the general plan made by John Travlos. Our warmest thanks are extended to Mr. Papathanasopoulos for his help.

Miss Lang cleaned and photographed the tablettes found in 1961 and will publish them in Part II of the report on the season's work. She also cleaned and took photographs of the clay sealings as well as of many fragments of the new frescoes.

Mr. de Jong measured and drew the threshold blocks and doorways of the central building, and also drew plans and elevations of the northwestern, southeastern and southwestern stairways. Most of his time was given to the study and recording in watercolors of frescoes.

In addition to the detailed topical investigations in the central building substantial progress was made in drawing up systematic descriptions of the numerous porticoes, courts, doorways, corridors, halls, chambers and magazines and their contents. This matter will be used in the final publication of the palace. We have likewise drafted a brief guide to the whole site.

The major part of the excavation in and around the palace has now been finished, but a good deal of clearing and probing should still be done. We hope it may be possible for us to spend one or two further seasons in that work and in studying and writing on the spot in order to carry the undertaking to a proper end.

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ΑΝΑΣΚΑΦΑΙ ΠΥΛΟΥ

Αί ανασκαφαί Πύλου κατά τὸ 1961 (καὶ 1962 ὡσαύτως) συνεκεντρώθησαν ἰδίως εἰς τὴν «Περασιγῶλαιαν» περιοχὴν τῆς Κυπαρισσίας, λό-

γῳ τῆς ἰδιαιτέρας σπουδαιότητος αὐτῶν καὶ ἀπὸ ἀπόψεως εὐρημάτων, ἀλλὰ κυρίως ἀπὸ ἀπόψεως τῆς Ὀμηρικῆς καὶ Προομηρικῆς τοπογραφίας. Μικρὰ μόνον ἔρευνα ἐγένετο καὶ εἰς τὴν Κουνάραν, τῆς ὁποίας τὰ κυριώτατα ἀποτελέσματα ἐξετέθησαν ἤδη συνοπτικῶς εἰς τὴν ἐκθεσιν τοῦ 1960 (ΑΔ 16 (1960) Χρον. σ. 116 καὶ Πίν. 97 β-δ), ἵνα μὴ διακοπῇ ἡ συνέχεια τοῦ λόγου.

Εἰς τὸ σπουδαῖον κέντρον τῆς Περιστεριάς, (ἔ. ἀ. σ. 117) ἐγένετο προσεκτικὴ προσπάθεια ἐρεύνης τοῦ ἐσωτερικοῦ τοῦ μεγάλου θολωτοῦ τάφου, λόγῳ τοῦ μεγάλου κινδύνου. Πράγματι, οὐ μόνον τὰ ἀπομένοντα ὄρθια τοιχώματα τῆς θόλου παρουσίαζον καὶ παρουσιάζουν μέγαν φόβον αἰφνιδίας καταρρέουσας, ἡρειπωμένα ὡς εἶναι ὑπὸ τοῦ χρόνου καὶ προφανῶς καὶ ὑπὸ μεγάλου σεισμοῦ, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ ὑπέρθυρον ἀπετέλει πρόσθετον κίνδυνον. Ὁ τάφος, ὡς συμβαίνει καὶ εἰς ἄλλους μεγάλους θολωτοὺς τάφους, ἔφερε τρία χωριστὰ ὑπέρθυρα. Τὸ ἐξώτατον, ἐκ πάρου λίθου καὶ μὲ πελεκητὴν πρόσοψιν (ὡς ἀσφαλῶς εἰκάζεται λόγῳ τῶν ὁμοίως εἰργασμένων παραστάδων), ἐθραύσθη, ἀνετινάχθη ἐν κυριολεξίᾳ δι' ἐκρηκτικῶν ὑλῶν καὶ ἀπεκομίσθη ὑπὸ τῶν χωρικῶν. Τὸ μεσαῖον, ἐκ κροκαλοπαγοῦς λίθου, κεῖται, τεθραυσμένον εἰς δύο, πρὸ τῆς προσόψεως τοῦ τάφου. Τὸ τρίτον καὶ ἐσώτατον, πελεκητόν καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς ἀπόψεως ταύτης παρουσιάζον ἐνδιαφέροντα προβλήματα, ἐκεῖτο κατὰ χώραν. (Πίν. 106 α). Ἦτο ὅμως φανερά ἡ ρωγμὴ, ἣτις εἶχε διαιρέσει τοῦτο εἰς δύο, συγχρόνως δὲ τὸ πελώριον αὐτοῦ βάρος (σχεδὸν δύο δωδεκάδες τόνων) εἶχε διαρρήξει καὶ τὰς ἐσωτερικὰς παραστάδας τοῦ τάφου. Ἦτο φανερόν, ὅτι ἅμα τῇ ἀπομακρύνσει τῆς ἐσωτερικῆς ἐπιχώσεως, θὰ κατέρρεεν ὁλόκληρον τὸ θύρωμα.

Ἡ Ἀρχαιολογικὴ Ὑπηρεσία ἀπέστειλε κατ' ἀρχὰς μηχανικόν, ἐν συνεχείᾳ δὲ συνεργεῖον τῆς Ἀναστηλώσεως, ὅπερ, τῇ ἐμπείρῳ καθοδηγήσει τοῦ ἐπόπτου κ. Κολοκοτσᾶ, κατάρθωσε, παρὰ τὴν ἀνεπάρκειαν τῶν τεχνικῶν μέσων, νὰ μετακινήσῃ πρῶτον τὸ μικρότερον τεμάχιον τοῦ ὑπερθύρου καὶ ἀκολουθῶς νὰ ἀπωθήσῃ πρὸς τὰ ἔξω τὸ μείζον τεμάχιον, ὅπερ οὕτως ἐπεκάθισεν ἐπὶ τοῦ ὑγιοῦς τοίχου τῆς προσόψεως (Πίν. 106 β).

Κατέστη οὕτω δυνατόν, νὰ σκαφῇ τὸ ἐσωτερικὸν τῆς θόλου ἐπὶ τῆς ἐσωτερικῆς πλευρᾶς τοῦ στομίου. Ὡς ἀνεμένετο, παρέστη ἀνάγκη ἀποσυνθέσεως τῶν λίθων τῶν παραστάδων, οἱ ὅποιοι, ἀριθμούμενοι ὑπὸ τῆς Ὑπηρεσίας τῆς Ἀναστηλώσεως ἀπετίθεντο ἐντὸς τοῦ δρόμου, ἵνα βραδύτερον ἀνακτισθῶσιν εἰς τὰς οἰκείας θέσεις.



Excavations at Pyllos: a. Thick foundation walls of early building, from SE., b. Foundations of walls of SW building from SW. In background new roof over central building of the Palace, c. Walls and floors of phases earlier than the Palace, from N., d. New metal roof erected over the central building, e. Poros blocks in face of thick foundation wall of early building

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