

ματα, ἐνθ' αἱ ὑπόλοιποι οὐδὲν σχεδὸν ἀξιόλογον περιείχον πλὴν τῶν ἀγγείων. Ἡ ταφή ΑΗ 11, κειμένη εἰς τὸ ΒΔ τεταρτημόριον τοῦ τύμβου, ἦτο γυναικεία καὶ περιείχε τὰ συνήθη σπειροειδῆ ἐλάσματα τῆς κεφαλῆς, δύο μεγάλας ὀκτωσχήμους πόρπας, χρυσοῦν δακτύλιον κόμης, τρίδυμον διπλοῦν πέλεκυν, μέγα ψέλιον (τὸ μεγαλύτερον τῶν μέχρι σήμερον εὑρεθέντων), ψήφους ἤλεκτρίνας περιδεραιοῦ, δύο χαλκᾶ ὀμφάλια καὶ πλείστα χαλκᾶ «κομβία» προσηλωμένα ἄλλοτε ἐπὶ τῆς ζώνης.

Βορείως τοῦ τύμβου Γ ὑπῆρχεν ἡμικατεστραμμένος μικρὸς τύμβος (ΑΘ). Εἰς τοῦτον ἐνήργησα περιορισμένην ἔρευναν, ἣ ὅποια ἔδειξεν ὅτι τῆς συγχρόνου καταστροφῆς τοῦ τύμβου εἶχε προηγηθῆ ἔκσκαφὴ του κατὰ τοὺς ἑλληνιστικοὺς χρόνους.

Παρὰ ταῦτα ἀνευρέθη, ἄθικτον σχεδόν, γραπτὸν τροχήλατον ἀγγεῖον κυκλικόσχημον καὶ ἀνδρική ταφή περιέχουσα σιδηροῦν ξίφος τελείως κατεστραμμένον ἐκ τῆς ὀξειδώσεως. Εἰς τὴν περιφέρειαν τοῦ τύμβου ἀνευρέθη συντετριμμένον σιδηροῦν ξίφος, τοῦ ὁποίου ὄμως διατηρεῖται εἰς πολὺ καλὴν κατάστασιν ἢ λαβὴ, ὥστε δυνάμεθα νὰ κατατάξωμεν τοῦτο εἰς τὸν λεγόμενον «βόρειον τύπον».

ΜΑΝ. ΑΝΑΡΟΝΙΚΟΣ

*

NEA NIKOMEDEIA (1961)

The Neolithic settlement mound at Nea Nikomedeia lies on the western edge of the Plain of Macedon, about 10.5 kms. N 30° E of Verroia; the first excavations of the site were undertaken by Cambridge University under the auspices of the British School of Archaeology during July and August of 1961, with the advice and assistance of Mr. Photios Petsas, Ephor of Antiquities for Western Macedonia¹. Mr. Petsas first noted the site in 1958, when he investigated the reported discovery of archaeological finds exposed during the course of removing earth from the mound to make a road embankment.

In 1961 a cutting c. 8 by 13 metres was made in the quarried area (Plate 275 a) in order to expose houses-plans and to recover a large sample of faunal and archaeolo-

gical material from the primary (Early Neolithic) occupation phase. After removing the loose plough-soil (c. 20 cms. thick), the Early Neolithic culture layer was excavated systematically down to the surface of the underlying sterile clay-marl, which lay at a depth of approximately 70 cms. At this level the sub-soil was scraped flat, exposing the cultural deposits as dark stains and discolourations in the virgin soil. The prehistoric features thus delineated comprise wall-slots, post-holes, and probable storage hollows, all referable to the primary Early Neolithic settlement of the site.

The wall-slots define a large rectangular building, with walls measuring at least 8 metres and 3.5 metres in length. Post-holes at metre to metre-and-a-half intervals down the centre of the wall-slots suggest a sturdy timber stud framework was made to strengthen the walls of dried mud; there was nothing to indicate that either mud-brick or stone foundations were used in building construction. Sockets for two buttress posts to support cross-beams were found on the inside of the long wall. Outside the north (long) wall a rectangular arrangement of post-holes was exposed, evidently the remains of a subsidiary enclosure. The purpose of the three large intersecting hollows found within the «enclosure» is unknown; perhaps they were originally dug to obtain clay to make mud walls for the adjoining building, and later were utilized as storage-hollows.

The finds were studied by both archaeologists and natural scientists. A radiocarbon age determination made on charcoals from the culture layer dates this primary occupation level to 6.220 B. C. \pm 150 years.

In view of the early date it is interesting to note that zoological and palaeobotanical investigations indicate that the first settlers at Nea Nikomedeia were very probably both agriculturalists and herdsmen. Cereal cultivation is well attested, both by grain impressions on the pottery, and in the abundance of cereal pollen in samples from the Early Neolithic layer; it is not yet possible to confirm if this marks the first appearance of cereal cultivation in the area. The available data indicates predominantly open, unwooded land near the site, probably of the Mediterranean maquis type. Sheep and goat ap-

1. A full preliminary report has appeared in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society for 1962, N.S., Vol. XXVIII.

pear to have been the most important of the domesticated animals. Cattle and pig are second and of equal importance in the diet. The strikingly high percentage of immature pig suggests that this animal was domesticated, as presumably were the sheep and goat (47% are immature animals). Future work should provide further information as to the degree of domestication achieved. The remains of hare, deer, large birds and fish are common in the animal bone assemblage, and, to judge from the frequent occurrence of shells in the Early Neolithic culture layer, the cockle (*Cardium edule*) was gathered for food.

The burials recovered from the fill of the Early Neolithic culture layer suggest that little heed was taken in the disposal of the dead. One burial (Plate 275b) (put in one of the storage-pits) comprised an adult, probably female, lying on the left side and tightly flexed; immediately facing and apparently held by it were the flexed skeletons of two children. Another child's burial, again tightly flexed, was found lying on its back. There were no grave-goods or indications of specially prepared graves with the burials.

The tool-kit associated with the primary occupation of the site appears competent and sufficiently complete, but it is neither rich nor very varied. The chipped stone assemblage is essentially a blade industry, comprising blade-insets for composite reaping-knives or sickles (originally mounted at an angle to make a jagged cutting edge), possible «microlithic» triangles and trapeziform blade segments, scrapers on struck flakes, and serrated and utilized blades and flakes. Unusually fine polished «greenstone», «blue-stone» and marble celts and chisels make up the polished stone component. The raw materials for these tools are available either from outcrops in the Vermion Range which backs the Plain of Macedon, or in the form of large pebbles from nearby stream beds. Fire-hardened bone splinters or split end-portions of long bones were utilized in the manufacture of awls and needles, and various forms of bevelled or chised-ended tools.

All of the pottery is hand made, and well smoothed when leather-hard. Most of it is undecorated. The predominant forms are finely-shaped open or slightly closed

mouth bowls, generally with simple rims and low ring or disc bases. Sharply profiled rims, belonging to vessels with constricted necks and flaring rims are rare, as are miniature vessels. Small «stringhole» lugs were commonly used for suspension.

In the plain ware categories, pottery with a pink slip (48%) or a light-coloured dred or orange slip (13%) predominates. Much less common are the micaceous red-slipped ware (6%), and the darker potteries: dark burnished ware (8%), fine brown burnished ware (1.5%) and matt grey-beige monochrome ware (9%).

The decorated wares from the primary occupation level comprise red-on-cream painted pottery (9%), white-painted wares (0.5%) and finger-tip and finger-nail impressed pottery (2%).

In terms of the known Greek neolithic culture sequence, the vessel shapes and the decorative patterns of the red-on-cream painted wares point to a Macedonian equivalent of the earliest Thessalian painted ware assemblages. On the other hand, the finger-nail and finger-tip impressed pottery and the white-painted wares from Nea Nikomedea appear to be closely related to the white-painted pottery and the impressed ware from the primary settlement phase at the important stratified site of Vrsnik, suggesting a possible correlation with the earliest verifiable food-producing groups in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. In Thessaly, impressed pottery of this type is believed stratigraphically to succeed the early red-on-cream painted wares at Magoulitsa and Tsani, and in the type sequence for the Thessalian Early Neolithic cultures based on Milošević's soundings at Otzaki and Argissa, it is the characteristic feature of the «Pre-Sesklo» phase.

Figurines from the Early Neolithic culture layer at Nea Nikomedea affirm the close connections with the earliest Thessalian painted-ware assemblages. Two are small heads of baked clay, particularly well modelled, with very prominent straight noses and slit or «coffee-bean» eyes. A third figurine, carefully worked from «bluestone», has the legs bent around the back of the body—a stylistic peculiarity found elsewhere on a red-on-cream painted ware sherd from the «Proto-Sesklo» level at Argissa.

The repertoire of personal ornaments includes a number of marble and «greenstone» studs or «nose – plugs»; in form these there are small nails, very similar to those known in Western Asia from Tell Judeideh, Jarmo, Hassuna, Matarrah and Sialk.

In terms of the Western Asiatic cultural sequence, the radiocarbon date of c. 6.200 B. C., and the marble studs would provisionally establish approximate contemporaneity with the «Era of Primary Village – Farming Communities».

It is hoped that further work at Nea Nikomedeia will provide additional data for scientists more completely to reconstruct the environment and the economic basis for this important early farming community; and that it will be possible to define house – plans and to establish the pattern of settlement.

ROBERT J. RODDEN

*

ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΑ ΑΝΑΤΟΛ. ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ

Εισαγωγικά: Κατά τὸ ἔτος 1961 ὑπὸ τῆς Ἐφορείας Ἀρχαιοτήτων ΠΓ' Περιφέρειας διενεργήθησαν ἀνασκαφαὶ καὶ ἔρευναι εἰς τὰς κάτωθι θέσεις: Ἀμφίπολιν, Νεάπολιν (Καβάλαν), Φιλίππους, προϊστορικὸν συνοικισμὸν Ντικελιτάς, Τύμβον Νικησιάνης, Θάσον καὶ Ἀβδήρα. Πρὸς τούτοις ἐγένοντο ἐργασίαι διαμορφώσεως καὶ ἐξωραϊσμοῦ τῶν ἀρχαιολογικῶν χώρων Θάσου καὶ Φιλίππων, ἐτι δὲ ἀναστηλωτικαὶ ἐργασίαι εἰς τοὺς Φιλίππους. Κατωτέρω ἐκτίθενται τὰ ἀποτελέσματα τῶν ἐργασιῶν αὐτῶν.

Α' ΑΜΦΙΠΟΛΙΣ

Διὰ τοῦ Ἐφόρου Ἀρχαιοτήτων κ. Δημητρίου Λαζαρίδη, βοηθουμένου ὑπὸ τῆς Ἐπιμελητρίας ΠΓ' Περιφέρειας δ. Αἰκατερίνης Ρωμοπούλου, συνεχίσθησαν κατὰ τὸ ἔτος τοῦτο αἱ ἀνασκαφαὶ καὶ αἱ ἔρευναι ἐν Ἀμφιπόλει.

1. Δοκιμαστικαὶ ἔρευναι γινόμεναι ἐπὶ λόφου δυτικῶς τῆς κοινοτικῆς ὁδοῦ Ἀμφιπόλεως καὶ περὶ τὰ 400 μέτρα βορείως τοῦ σημερινοῦ χωρίου, ἀπεκάλυψαν τὴν ὑπαρξίν νεκροταφείου ὑστάτης ἐλληνιστικῆς καὶ ρωμαϊκῆς ἐποχῆς. Ἀνεσκάφησαν συνολικῶς 21 τάφοι, λακκοειδεῖς, οἱ περισσότεροι τῶν ὁποίων ἐκαλύπτοντο διὰ κεράμων. Τὰ εὐρήματα τούτων ἦσαν πενιχρά, ἤτοι χονδροειδῆ ἀγγεῖα, πυξίδες, τινὲς τῶν ὁποίων

φέρουσι ἐπὶ τῶν πομάτων ἀναγλύφους κεφαλὰς Μεδούσης, Ἀρτέμιδος καὶ ἐρωτιδέως, λύχνου, χαλκᾶ νομίσματα, 4 ζεύγη χρυσοῦν ἐνωτιῶν, εἰς χρυσοῦς ὀβολὸς καὶ ἐλάχιστα φύλλα χρυσοῦ (Πί ν. 276 α).

2. Εἰς ἑτέραν θέσιν τῆς περιοχῆς Ἀμφιπόλεως γνωστὴν μὲ τὸ ὄνομα «Μάντρες», κειμένην παρὰ τὴν δημοσίαν ὁδὸν, περὶ τὰ 2 χιλιόμετρα ἀνατολικῶς τοῦ χωρίου, ὑπάρχει μικρὸς τεχνητὸς λόφος (τούμπα) τοῦ ὁποίου τὸ ὑψηλότερον σημεῖον ἠρευνήθη πρὸ τοῦ τελευταίου πολέμου, ἀνεπιτυχῶς. Αἱ γινόμεναι ἐνταῦθα ἔρευναι ἀπεκάλυψαν εἰς μέγα βάθος, ὑπὸ τὴν ἐπιχώσιν τοῦ τύμβου, τὴν ὑπαρξίν «μακεδονικοῦ» τάφου λίαν ἐπιμελοῦς κατασκευῆς ἐκ πλίνθων παρολίθου. Ὁ τάφος οὗτος ἀποτελεῖται ἐκ δρόμου, πλάτους 1,36 μ., ἀποκαλυφθέντος ἐπὶ μήκους 6,28 μέτρων. Τμήμα τοῦ δρόμου μήκους 4,65 μ. στεγάζεται δι' ὀριζοντίων πλακῶν παρολίθου. Δι' εἰσόδου πλάτους 1,25 μ. ἐπικοινωνεῖ ὁ δρόμος μετὰ τοῦ νεκρικοῦ θαλάμου, διαστάσεων 3,06 X 3,08 μ., στεγασμένου διὰ καμάρας (Σ χ ἔ δ ι ο ν 1). Κατὰ μήκος τῆς δυτικῆς πλευρᾶς τοῦ νεκρικοῦ θαλάμου καὶ ἐν μέρει τῆς βορείας, ὑπάρχει κλίνη σχήματος Γ – ὕψους 0,66 καὶ πλάτους 0,85 – ἐκτισμένη διὰ πλίνθων παρολίθου καὶ καταστραφεῖσα ἐν μέρει ὑπὸ τῶν ἀνευρόντων, ἄγνωστον πότε, τὸν τάφον τυμβωρύχων.

Κατὰ τὴν ἔρευναν τοῦ διαπέδου τοῦ θαλάμου, ἀνευρέθησαν τμήματα λύχνων, μελαμβαφῶν πυξίδων καὶ θηλάστρου μὲ διακόσμησιν τύπου «δυτικῆς κλιτύος» (west slope ware). Ὁ τάφος δύναται νὰ ἀποδοθῆ εἰς τὸ β' ἡμισυ τοῦ 3ου π. Χ. αἰῶνος.

3. Ἡ ὑπαρξίς ἑτέρου τεχνητοῦ λοφίσκου διεπιστώθη παρὰ τὸν νέον συνοικισμὸν Ἀμφιπόλεως, εἰς μικρὰν ἀπόστασιν βορείως τῆς δημοσίας ὁδοῦ Καβάλας – Θεσσαλονίκης. Ἡ ἔρευνα τοῦ τύμβου τούτου δυστυχῶς οὐδὲν ἀπέδωκεν.

4. Πολυάριθμοι ἔρευναι καὶ δοκιμαστικαὶ τάφοι ἐγένοντο καὶ ἐντὸς τῆς Κοινότητος Ἀμφιπόλεως καὶ δὴ κατὰ μήκος τῆς βορείας πλευρᾶς τοῦ ἐπιμήκους λόφου, ἐπὶ τοῦ ὁποίου ἐκτείνεται τὸ σημερινὸν χωρίον. Καὶ πρῶτον ἠρευνήθη ἡ περιοχὴ τοῦ Ἰεροῦ τῆς Κλειῦς, ἐπὶ τῷ σκοπῷ τῆς ἀνευρέσεως ἀρχαιοτήτων ἢ μνημείων σχετικῶν μὲ τὴν λατρείαν τῆς Μούσης, τοῦ Στρυμόνος ἢ τοῦ Ρήσου, δυστυχῶς ἄνευ ἀποτελέσματος.

Ἐκτεταμένη ἔρευνα ἐγένετο ἐγγύτατα τοῦ νέου κτηρίου τοῦ νηπιαγωγείου Ἀμφιπόλεως, ἐνθα ἀνευρέθη τοῖχος ἐκ μιᾶς σειρᾶς μεγάλων πλίνθων παρολίθου, λίαν ἐπιμελοῦς κατασκευῆς, διατηρούμενος ἐπὶ μήκους 9,95 μ. Εἰς τὸ ἀνατο-



W. Macedonia. Nea Nikomedeia: a. Area of early Neolithic excavations. Photographed from the West,
b. Early Neolithic burial group

ROBERT J. RODDEN