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Editorial

THE middle of this year has been full of the news of exciting archaeological discoveries, and, to select only a few of this summer's headlines, we have 'Inscriptions on Corsican Statues'; 'New Light Thrown on Ancient Crete' [an article by Professor L. R. Palmer and Dr O. R. Gurney (*The Times*, 17th July 1964)]; 'Hopes of a Key to Etruscan Texts'; 'Rich Find of Cave Art: Ancient Paintings in Portugal' (*The Times*, 21st July 1964); 'Hopes of Solving a Cretan Linguistic Mystery' (*The Times*, 20th May 1964); '3,000 year-old wreck found off France: Cargo of Metals and Weapons' (*The Times*, 31st July 1964); and a description of a Cretan button seal found in Eastern India ('The Seal of Aetea', *The Guardian*, 31st March 1964).

These are enough to be going on with, and, with nothing else—and there has been plenty else—enough to make the summer of 1964 in Europe archaeologically famous as it will be well remembered by holiday-makers, hotel-keepers and viticulturists. But all headlines are not necessarily correct: even 'The Thunderer' sometimes thunders mistakenly.

We were ourselves most excited by the report of inscriptions found on some of the statues-menhirs of Corsica, which seemed to date them, and to be perhaps the first examples of writing in the west Mediterranean. We wrote at once to M. Roger Grosjean, of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, who is in charge of archaeological research in Corsica and whose discoveries at Filitosa, Foci, Balesta and elsewhere are well known. He writes:

As I know nothing about the short article which appeared in *The Times*, I cannot tell you from what source it comes, but it certainly does not come from me, because the new statues-menhirs of Cauria (Sartène), situated in rows, which I studied a month ago, have no inscriptions, in my knowledge. Besides, none of the 50 (or thereabouts) Corsican statues have any inscriptions.

But M. Grosjean is careful to add:

However, these new statues are rich in details and new features on the megalithic civilization of Corsica and on the hostile Torrean civilization.

We are very pleased to tell our readers that M. Grosjean has agreed to write an article for ANTIQUITY on his new discoveries in relation to his earlier work in Corsica not hitherto described in these pages. (Incidentally, we approve of his use of the plural 'statues-menhirs'; it is the French form and we think it should be used this way in English, as we do ourselves. We hope that Dr Joan Evans approves: in her delightful autobiography *Prelude and Fugue*, to be reviewed in the next number of ANTIQUITY, she meticulously speaks of a journey in 'a char-à-bancs' during which she saw 'the skeletons of wrecked chars-à-bancs lying in the valley hundreds of feet below'.)

We were also specially excited by the 3,000-year-old wreck found off France. This is what *The Times* said:

The archaeological society of Béziers, in the South of France, have discovered the wreck of a ship thought to be 3,000 years old off the Cap d'Agde. It is not yet known where the ship may have come from, but it has been dated between

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1000 and 1300 B.C. It is the oldest wreck ever found off the coasts of France.

A considerable cargo has been discovered in the remains of the vessel, including some 300 bars of copper and bronze, 80 axes of different sorts, 50 bracelets, with their decorations said to be in excellent state of preservation, and some arrows, spears and javelins.

Here it seemed that at last we had a Mycenaean ship in the Gulf of Lions; perhaps the very ship on which there travelled that man (or those men) who voyaged from the Aegean to Salisbury Plain and was (or were) responsible for Stonehenge III. But no; great disappointment again. Dr Jean Arnal writes:

Ce n'est pas un bateau, c'est plus intéressant qu'un bateau, c'est une cachette de fondeur. Elle se trouve à moins de 50 m. du rivage et à peine à 4 m. de profondeur. Il n'y a pas de céramique mais seulement beaucoup de bracelets, de haches à fouille et une fibule qui n'est pas encore datée.

There goes our Mycenaean ship as well as our Corsican inscriptions. But do not despair: the new light on Ancient Crete to which Professor Palmer and Dr Gurney referred is the finding of Babylonian seals at Boeotian Thebes, and this is authentic. Whether these splendid discoveries really solve the dispute about the date of the fall of Knossos and the Linear B tablets found there is a matter for dispute: Dr Platon, the Director of the Acropolis Museum in Athens, has agreed to tell readers of ANTIQUITY what he thinks about the whole problem in an article to be published next year.

The Guardian for 31st March 1964 contained an article by Michael Ridley entitled 'The Seal of Aetea' describing a black steatite seal found by the Directorate of Archaeology, West Bengal, in the mound of Pandu Rajar Dhibi, on the banks of the river Ajay. Mr Ridley writes: 'The staff of the directorate had been baffled by the non-Indian appearance of the finds. They had in fact found the remains of a Cretan settlement.'

A very startling statement, and, one wondered, had they? One looked in vain for confirmation of this claim in other papers. Nothing came. What did come was a pamphlet by Mr Ridley

entitled *The Seal of Aetea and the Minoan Scripts*. In his preface to this pamphlet Dr P. C. Das Gupta, Director of Archaeology for West Bengal, writes of Mr Ridley's work:

The seal he has reasonably found out to be of Minoan origin. . . . A minute study has made it obvious that the pictographs mean the same thing that the scripts seem to say . . . obviously the name of an unknown sailor of the Mediterranean world with the name AETEA which was of course once a very popular name in that ancient region. Mr Ridley has found out that this protohistoric seal . . . possibly indicates an age of transition between pictographs and scripts, i.e. between the Phaestos pictographs and Linear A scripts.

These claims intrigued us, as also the fact that those standard purveyors of respectable, respected and vetted news, namely *The Times* and the BBC, said nothing about Cretan seals in Bengal. We consulted some experts: one said roundly: 'The "decipherment" is utter nonsense; there is no such Greek name as Aetea'; and another:

Mr Ridley's dating of the button seal to 1500 B.C. at once removes it from the area of Crete in which he sought to place it; as does the motif. Button seals were used in Crete at the beginning of the Middle Minoan Age some 250 years earlier. On present evidence they were not made or used in the Late Minoan Age nor do they have exergues. They were however made and used in the forms and shapes he gives, in Northern Mesopotamia and in Iran in the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. Might not he be advised to seek a closer parallel among these users, nearer the place of the mound in which his seal was found . . . perhaps even in the Indus valley itself where the Jhukar seals of Chanhu-daro are of a similar shape and show motifs not entirely dissimilar?



The preliminary publication of the plans for the reorganization of the British Museum make excellent reading; at long last we shall have what we have always wanted, a separate Library and a Museum with modern and intelligently devised and maintained galleries. We have waited far too long. It looks as though

in France we shall wait much longer. We visited the Musée des Antiquités Nationales at St-Germain recently as a private member of the general public; the great gallery illustrating 'La Gaule Romaine', which we saw last year as a member of the Classical Congress, has not yet—twelve months later—been opened to the public. All that one can now see is the Salle Piette, admittedly a fine thing to be allowed to see, and the old tired Salle de Comparaison now called the Salle Breuil, Hubert et Maas. One cannot see the collections relating to the prehistory of Gaul, and there is no handbook that one can take away in lieu of seeing the treasures of the Celts and pre-Celts in France. St-Germain has for long been a national scandal; it is now an international disgrace. ANTIQUITY has often, and with reason, complained of the bad state of French museums. Yet, great improvements do occur: the prehistoric display at Nancy is first-class and so is the display in the new museum at Epernay. Recently we saw a very small local museum at Guiry-en-Vexin—the result of local effort and enthusiasm, and open only at the week-ends, staffed by voluntary labour; excellently done; one felt that here there was real, live interest in the past of northern France, and energy and initiative to translate this interest into something good. Why is all this missing at the highest level of French archaeological museums?

The British Museum was not always regarded as being in the van of archaeological museums. Mr Charles Higham has drawn our attention to a passage in S. Laing's *Observations on the Political and Social State of Denmark* (1851), which is interesting and entertaining, and which, especially as we write these words during the British week in Denmark, seems worth reproducing for those who do not have Mr Laing's book readily available on their shelves:

There is not among all the museums in Europe, one so instructive as the Museum of Northern Antiquities in the palace of Christiansborg at Copenhagen. It is not only instructive to the visitors, but to the governments, or heads of departments, which establish and regulate museums in other countries. It is open to the public, gratis, on certain days, and at certain

hours, and the visitors are not left to gape in ignorance at what they see. Professors of the highest attainments in antiquarian science—Professor Thomsen, M. Worsaae, and others—men who in fact have created a science out of an undigested mass of relics, curiosities, and specimens of the arts in the early ages—go round with groups of the visitors, and explain equally to all, high and low, with the greatest zeal, intelligence, and affability, the uses of the articles exhibited, the state of the arts in the ages in which they were used, the gradual progress of mankind from shells, stones, and bones, to bronze and iron, as the materials for tools, ornaments, and weapons, and the conclusions made, and the grounds and reasons for making them, in their antiquarian researches. They deliver, in fact, an extempore lecture intelligible to the peasant, and instructive to the philosopher. Our British Museum is Noah's ark stranded upon the tower of Babel. All things are there, and all things are unintelligible. A few professors with the zeal, tact, and information of the gentlemen of this museum, each with his distinct department of science, going round with, and explaining to his group of visitors what is before them, and accommodating his explanations to the intelligence of his auditors, would enlighten and cultivate the public mind and taste, more than any other educational means which Government could employ. I have seen Professor Thomsen going round his museum with a group of visitors, and when a peasant girl stopped to look at an ancient brooch of which she had recognized the use from its being not unlike her own, he took out the article from the glass case, explained to her, and showed to her, the various kinds of pins and brooches used in the age of stone, in the age of bronze, in the age of iron, and the gradual progress to silver, gold, and precious stones, and delivering on the spot an instructive lecture upon the fastenings of garments in the early ages, and with as much zeal, and attention, as if it had been a princess and her suite, instead of a peasant girl, her betrothed and her village friends, who were standing around him. There is good policy, and tact, in the affability and zeal with which the professor, and gentlemen belonging to this establishment, show and explain every article, as if by preference, to the country people from the provinces who visit the museum. They are the class most in the way of finding in their fields, while ploughing and digging, the articles which the professor wants,

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and now, in all parts of the country, they carefully preserve, and send in, whatever they suppose may be valuable or curious for their museum, as the peasants, from the affability of the Professor, consider it. We have no such men as Professor Thomsen.

The origin of this museum is remarkable. In the Cathedral of Roeskilde, some years ago, there was a quantity of trumpery, bits of wood, the gatherings of many years, a wooden figure or two, old coffin lids, and such rubbish, and the clergymen of the cathedral ordered the whole to be sold by auction. It was purchased in lots for fire-wood, and one lot contained a wooden figure which the buyer put up in his garden. It was purchased from him for a couple of shillings, painted light blue, and destined, when restored to the likeness of a human figure, to adorn the bows of some brigantine in the coasting trade. But in adapting the figure to this new position by the persuasive edge of the carpenter's axe, the breast was opened and in it was found a box of enamelled gold of small size, or value, but containing what evidently was received, and treasured up in the middle ages, as a chip of the holy cross. The relic had been placed, in some remote age, in the bosom of this wooden figure, intended probably for the Virgin, or one of the Apostles, and must have been of inestimable value in the 11th or 12th century. Mr Thomsen and some other antiquaries formed an association for collecting and preserving such remains of former days as might be found in churches, or elsewhere, and depositing them in a public museum. The government sanctioned and aided the plan, appropriated a suite of rooms to receive the articles, and pays the full value, to the finder, of the gold or silver contained in any coins, chains, ornaments, or other objects, and thus saves many curiosities which under the old law, similar to ours, vesting all such found treasure in the Crown, would not have escaped the crucible. Private donors contributed the two or three articles of antiquity they might possess, towards a museum in which their generosity was recorded, and their gifts preserved to the remotest times. The public spirit was awakened. The collection grew larger from day to day. The peasants took a pleasure in sending to Professor Thomsen whatever they found that they thought curious. Antiquarian research had long been a national taste in Denmark. Suhm, Torfaeus, Magnusen, Wormaeus, and many other eminent Icelandic scholars and antiquaries, had acquired celebrity,

and the favours of government, in this line of study. It had become general, and characteristic of the learned men of Denmark of the last century, because, under autocratic governments, however mild and parental, it is always more safe and agreeable to write about the past than the present. The interest in the mythological and historical saga was beginning to flag, the subject was exhausted, and the antiquarian muse had ceased even to conjecture meanings and dates in the invaluable collection of Icelandic manuscripts in the royal library, when this new and fresh branch, which may be called the material branch of the antiquary's studies, was brought into full bearing, and all the world in Denmark became antiquaries, because all the world can dig, and rummage in tumuli, pick up curiosities, and acquire immortal fame by sending them to the care of Professor Thomsen of the Museum of Northern Antiquities.



A word of welcome to two new archaeological journals that have appeared for the first time in 1964: *Pakistan Archaeology* and the *Journal of Industrial Archaeology*. *Pakistan Archaeology* (No. 1, 1964) is published by the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Karachi (price in Pakistan: 12 rupees; overseas £1), and made and printed in Great Britain by William Clowes and Sons of Beccles. It has 87 pages, with 34 plates and 12 text-figures. There is an introduction by Dr F. A. Khan, Director of Archaeology in Pakistan, in which he thanks Sir Mortimer Wheeler for seeing the manuscript of the journal through the press, an account of explorations and excavations both by the department and by foreign missions, an article by R. M. Organ and A. E. Werner of the British Museum Research Laboratory on 'The Restoration of the Kanishka Casket', and an account of the inauguration and present arrangement of the National Museum of Pakistan. A most attractively produced and valuable journal.

The *Journal of Industrial Archaeology* starts in a more modest format. It is to be a quarterly costing two guineas a year; it is edited by Kenneth Hudson, Long Batch, Ditcheat,



We offer this engaging illustration (promoted from Mr John Palmer's note on 'Rock Temples of the British Druids' on p. 285), with our cordial and grateful greetings, as a Christmas card to all ANTIQUITY subscribers. We see in the Druid recklessly rocking the rock at Rishworth a very passable resemblance to Santa Claus; and appropriately, we are told, the Druids regarded mistletoe 'with peculiar veneration'. It forms part of plate xxiiii in the second volume of Archaeologia (1773), which Horace Walpole snapped shut with the cry: 'Mercy on us! What a cart-load of brick and rubbish and Roman ruins they have piled together!' To any latter-day Walpole among our readers we still extend, in this season of goodwill, cordial and grateful greetings.

Shepton Mallet, Somerset (whose book *Industrial Archaeology* was noticed in these pages (ANTIQUITY, 1963, 252)), and published by The Lambarde Press, 95 Walton Road, Sidcup, Kent, in association with The Newcomen Society. The first issue which appeared in May of this year has 72 pages with 8 plates (numbered as 15) and 4 line illustrations: it consists of a short editorial, eight articles ranging from the archaeology of the Bristol coalfield to early fulling stocks in Gloucestershire and early landing places in the port of Southampton, notes on projects, conferences and courses, and reviews (only two, but both unsigned, a practice which we hope the *Journal* will abandon). There is an interesting note about the relationship of the *Journal* to The Newcomen Society which says:

The Society is anxious to be identified with any venture which aims at creating a better understanding of technological development and has for some time worked to extend its influence among the wide range of people for whom this *Journal* is intended. The Newcomen Society was, of course, a pioneer in the study of the history of technology and its *Transactions* contain much of the authoritative work published on the subject. . . . The Newcomen Society is always interested to hear from prospective members. Enquiries should be sent to the Secretary of the Society, at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

The August 1964 number of the *Transactions of the Newcomen Society* contained an article by Dr Stanley B. Hamilton called 'The Newcomen Society and Industrial Archaeology' which tells the story of forty years' activity in this field and discusses certain possibilities for the future.

Industrial Archaeology is certainly interesting a widening circle of people. There have been courses organized by the Council for British Archaeology, university extra-mural departments and local archaeological societies. Mr Rex Wailes has been appointed Consultant on Industrial Archaeology to the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Not only do we now have the new *Journal of Industrial Archaeology* but a new series of books published by David and Charles (Publishers) Ltd., of 39, Strand, Dawlish, Devon, entitled 'The Indus-

trial Archaeology of the British Isles'. This is mainly intended as a series of regional studies and among the volumes planned are *Southern England* (Kenneth Hudson), *Derbyshire* (Frank Nixon), *Shropshire* (Michael Rix and Robert Machin), *Lancashire* (Owen Ashmore) and *Staffordshire* (R. J. Sherlock); but there is in addition (announced for the autumn of 1967) an *Introduction to the Industrial Archaeology of the British Isles* by Dr E. E. R. Green.



But everyone does not approve of Industrial Archaeology. Mr C. M. Sykes of 1 Station Road, Clevedon, Somerset, writing in *The Guardian* on 4th November 1963, denied that there was 'any such animal' as Industrial Archaeology. In a self-destroying paragraph he says:

One might, quite fairly, describe this new craze of 'Recent Archaeology' in terms that are blatantly self-contradictory. Presumably its exponents would solemnly excavate the ruins of a fried-fish shop and go into raptures over the discovery of a set of Early Twentieth Century salt and vinegar sprinklers.

Let us hope there will never be any need to excavate our present to understand it: but it is the fish shops and rere-dorters of the past that the archaeologist does excavate. He does not go into raptures about them, or about any relics of the past unless in their own right they are works of art.

What Mr Sykes does not seem to realize is that he himself is making archaeology at every moment—when he buries his picnic rubbish, when he puts out his dustbin, when he burns rubbish at the bottom of his garden, when he commits the body of a friend or relative to a six-foot earth-grave or to the flames of a crematorium. When we bury the present, we create the buried past. There is no blatant contradiction here. Mr Sykes, examine and consider your dustbin, your dirt-pan, your *poubelle*—whatever you call it. How does it differ from the rubbish put in the dustbin in the main street of Mohenjodaro 4,000 years ago? In two ways: the Mohenjodaro dustbin is older, and it might well have had broken sherds of pottery more worth going into

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raptures over than the muck you or any of us put out for collection once a week. But fundamentally it is the same. You forget, Mr Sykes, as many of us do, that we are continually creating the past; that we are the animals who make Recent and Industrial Archaeology. You forget too, as perhaps most of us do, that we not only create the past, but will ourselves only too soon be the past. A hundred years from now ourselves and our efforts will be recent archaeology. But you have a point: we must improve the salt and vinegar sprinklers in our fried-fish shops. Ours has a nice tall pepper mill—but made of wood. We must get it changed to silver; we must not deny the future its past.



The postal dispute this summer held up a few minor corrections and additions to two contributions to our September number. We felt that they were not of sufficient importance to mar our reputation for punctual publication, but we print them here for the sake of accuracy and completeness.

'The Greek Vision of Prehistory' by E. D. Phillips. Page 172, column 2, lines 2-4, should read: 'He and others taught that they [animals] arose in membraneous bubble-like cavities, where their embryos were fed by a milky exudation from the earth.' Page 174, column 2, lines 19 and 20 should read: 'a leisured, peaceful, vegetarian Golden Age, . . .' On p. 178, in notes 4 and 25, authors' names should read respectively 'Boas' and 'Wehrli'.

'A Hiberno-Saxon Bronze Mounting from Markyate, Hertfordshire' (Notes and News, p. 219). Mr Bruce-Mitford writes: 'A point of some interest that should be added is that the back of the larger of the two Oseberg mounts illustrated in PL. XL exactly resembles those of the two

smaller mounts, and shows two projecting perforated shanks of identical character.* This would seem to support the idea that the sequence of longer and shorter linked mountings suggested by the two Oseberg pieces fitted on to a flexible belt or baldric probably of leather.' Mr. Bruce-Mitford adds: 'The faces on the Markyate mount show a curious inner contour line which lifts to incorporate the upper lip, and is presumably a conventionalized representation of side-whiskers, beard and moustache in linear form. He notes that this is a regular feature of the more purely Celtic heads in MSS and other media in this period. It can be seen on the copper-gilt Furness Head in the British Museum (F. Henry, *Irish Art*, 1940, pl. 49 e); in the Matthew symbols of the Book of Durrow, the "portraits" of the Evangelists in St Chad's gospels, and (under later retouchings on the face) in the crucified Christ of the Durham Gospel book A II 17, of c. A.D. 710.'

Finally, we must correct a most curious error (for which we and our printers apologize) in the Editorial in our last issue (*ANTIQUITY*, 1964, 165). Writing of Stonehenge, we were made to say that at a certain time the monument was closed to the public but 'open to the dotty Druids Lair!' The exclamation mark should, of course, have followed 'Druids' and the sentence ended there; 'Lair' intruded after the final proofs had been passed.

The Editor of *ANTIQUITY*, patronymically equipped to be at home in *dens*, tends to be uneasy in lairs, Druidical or otherwise. Unable to account in any other way for the intrusive word, he is inclined to lay the blame squarely upon the 'very powerful properties' (*vide* Brewer) attributed to the Druids' Egg, and to hasten unobserved from the oak-grove.

* 'As shown by sketches kindly supplied by Dr Charlotte Blindheim of the Universitetets Oldsaksamlingen, Oslo. The fact cannot be deduced from any previous publication of these pieces.'