

§ 54. 'THE LITTLE PALACE' AND ITS PILLAR CULT: THE BULL'S HEAD 'RHYTONS'.

*Discovery of 'Little Palace'; Belongs to beginning of New Era, but with traces of earlier structures—section of S. façade; Site and Plan of building; Entrance system; Peristyle and Megaron—magnificent suite of halls; Lobby and main staircase; High gypsum door-jambs in place of wood—symptom of timber shortage; Crude bricks from upper stories; Sunken Lustral Area—later used as Fetish Shrine; Impressions of fluted columns; Stone lamp with quatrefoil pedestal—Egyptian architectonic type; Clay sealings with religious types; Ante-room and dependencies of Lustral Area; Deep basement with Pillar Crypts—corresponding Upper Halls; Pillar Crypt in S.W. Angle; Double-axe stand and bull's head 'rhyton' from chamber above; The inlaid 'rhyton' of black steatite—attachments for horns and ears; Crystal eye with painted pupil and iris; Rayed medallion over bull's forehead—taken over from goldsmith's work; Comparison with silver 'rhyton' from Mycenae; Parallel fragment of steatite 'rhyton' from Knossos; Bull's head 'rhytons' on inscribed tablet—associated with 'Vapheio' Cups; Both vessels among gifts from Keftiu to Egyptian Viziers; 'Rhytons' in form of animals' heads in Rekhmara Tomb; Minoan artificer with bull's head 'rhyton' in train of Syrian Prince; New evidence from Tomb of User-amon; Sacrificial import of bull's head 'rhytons'—chthonian allusion; Bull's head 'rhyton' of painted clay and other ritual vessels from neighbouring deposit; Leaden figurine of Snake Goddess from Pillar Crypt; Special significance of Pillar Crypts in relation to Earthquakes; 'Little Palace' largely a sanctuary; Have we here 'Expiatory Chapels'? Paved back-yard between 'Little Palace' and Unexplored Mansion—possible bridge between; History of 'Little Palace' repeats later course of greater Building; Partial overthrow at end of L. M. II; Partial reoccupation of Building.*

Of the buildings in the neighbourhood of the Palace Site that must be referred to the beginning of the New Era the largest and most important is that which lies some 230 metres distant from it at the foot of the hill to the West and to which the name of 'Little Palace' has been applied. There can be no doubt that it was directly connected with the 'Theatral Area' of

Discovery of 'Little Palace'.

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