

monial occasions. But there is sufficient comparative evidence available to show that these fragmentary remains had formed part of the same kind of composition as that already represented by the earlier Town Mosaic, the theme of which, in one shape or another, was the 'Beleaguered City.'¹

Antiquity of the theme in Egypt and Crete.

It is a theme already old in Egypt before the close of the Early Kingdom, later versions of which were traditionally set forth on the shields of Herakles and Achilles, and immortalized in the Tale of Troy. Neither in the case of the faïence mosaic, nor in the 'Miniature' fresco fragments before us, have we more than a hint of the special manner in which the artist dealt with this time-honoured subject. Happily, however, we have at hand in the small reliefs of the silver 'rhyton' from the Fourth Shaft-Grave at Mycenae a much fuller source from which to draw for at least one version of the siege of a Minoan stronghold. Other somewhat later analogies are supplied by the frieze of the Mycenae Megaron.

Warriors hurling javelins.

Among some small disconnected pieces depicting the upper outlines of serried ranks of warriors, two against a blue ground are shown in Fig. 45, *a*, *b*. It will be seen that they are hurling javelins upwards, as against enemies on battlements above.² The javelins are painted orange which, however, need not imply that shafts as well as heads were of bronze. Some seem to be already thrown and to be flying through the air. The warriors' heads show well-marked curving crests of hair; they wear, as usual, some kind of necklace or torque, and the upper outlines appear on Fig. 45, *b*, of the heads of two more warriors belonging to a second file³. As in the case of the male spectators in the scenes already illustrated, it is clear that the troop to which

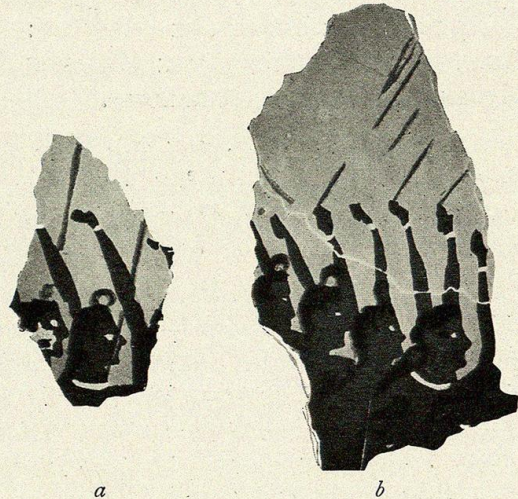


FIG. 45. WARRIORS HURLING JAVELINS; MINIATURE DEPOSIT, KNOSSOS.

¹ See *P. of M.*, i, p. 301 seqq. and p. 314.

² The importance of this feature was already noted in my first Report (*B. S. A.*, vii). The silver 'rhyton' from Mycenae was there cited, but neither the 'Town Mosaic' nor the 'Me-

garon Frieze' of Mycenae had been yet discovered.

³ Owing to damage due to the Earthquake the traces of these have mostly disappeared. Two fragments of the scene are now missing.