

EXPLORATIONS IN MOCHLOS

INTRODUCTION

IN the history of archaeology no discoveries have raised greater controversy or proved more fascinating to the general public than those of Minoan Crete. When, years ago, Schliemann opened the shaft graves at Mycenae many scholars refused to accept them as belonging to a prehellenic civilization. They found it hard to believe that behind the art of classic Greece lay centuries of civilization and culture reaching back into the dim ages contemporary with the earliest dynasties of Egypt. It was not easy to convince the enthusiastic admirers of Hellenic civilization that the art of Greece was no sudden and unaided flowering of a half barbarous and obscure race, but that in reality it had felt the impulse and influence of an art and civilization which existed centuries before. Yet we now know that such was the case. The classic Greek was the product of an ancient race mixed with the blood of wandering tribes of barbarians who for a time had blotted out the results of centuries of artistic development. Homer's stories of Achaean splendor were no idle tales but had a foundation of solid fact. In his day the old order was a thing of the past, but legends of former magnificence were still handed down from father to son. The various artistic masterpieces possessed by the Achaeans were regarded as the work of the gods, far surpassing anything that could be made by human hands in the days when the epos was composed. There is little doubt that the Achaeans did possess

NOTE. The titles of books and periodicals to which reference is frequently made are abbreviated as follows:

- A. J. A.* = American Journal of Archaeology, Second Series, 1897- .
Anth. Publ. = Anthropological Publications, the Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 1909- .
B. S. A. = Annual of the British School at Athens, 1899- .
Dawn Med. Civ. = Dawn of the Mediterranean Civilization by Angelo Mosso, London, 1910.
Ἐφ. Ἀρχ. = Ἐφημερίς Ἀρχαιολογική, 1837- .
Gournia. = Gournia, Vasiliki and other Prehistoric Sites on the Isthmus of Hierapetra, Crete, by Harriet Boyd Hawes, Philadelphia, 1908.
J. H. S. = Journal of Hellenic Studies, 1880- .
Mon. Ant. = Monumenti Antichi pubblicati per cura della Reale Accademia dei Lincei, 1889- .
Phylakopi. = Excavations at Phylakopi in Melos, published by the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, London, 1904.
Trans. = Transactions, Department of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania, 1904- .