

reached their 'highest point' ". Not since Byzantine days "had an archbishop and the bishops enjoyed such power and influence" (p. 28). Yet trouble was growing. The great authority of Hajigeorgakis Kornessios, dragoman for more than thirty years, ended in 1809 when he was executed by the Turks. In a related move against the Cypriot power structure the venerable Archbishop Chrysanthos was removed in 1810 after forty-three years in office. As Professor Koumoulides explains, both imperial policies and local rivalries aggravated the situation, embittering Christian-Turkish relations.

Chapter III deals with the tragic year of 1821. It was a year of hope for all Greeks and those of Cyprus were no exception. But it was also the year in which the barbarous governor Küchük Mehmed massacred many hundreds of Christians, including Archbishop Kyprianos and his aides, and plunged Cyprus into more than a decade of widespread terror from local authorities and occupying armies. The rest of the book deals with the aftermath of that terrible year. Throughout the account Professor Koumoulides stressed the special plight of Cyprus: it was too near Turkey and too far from mainland Greece to be part of the central military action of the long war, but it paid dearly for its willing contributions of men, supplies, and money to the Greek cause. Thus while Cypriot sacrifices helped to make possible the liberation of the Greek heartland, the suffering island experienced depopulation and economic ruin through the flight of refugees and the disruption of trade, without the *enosis* so many Cypriots desired ever having been a real possibility.

A very special strength of this consistently outstanding work is that it tells of events through the words of contemporary participants. The author has used the available records to weave a carefully constructed narrative in which people and events come humanly and strikingly to life. Perhaps the only weakness in using this profusely documented approach is that not all facets of the situation can be reconstructed. Thus the author searched church and diplomatic archives and found many materials. Yet he also discovered that relatively few written records were kept and some that may exist are now lost in poorly organized archives. For such reasons it is all the more to Professor Koumoulides' credit that his work achieves such balance and humanity.

Scholars and serious readers will also be pleased with the various aids included in the book. Four informative appendices (covering production, commerce, population, and finances) provide valuable background. The author's composite data on population divisions (pp. 101-102) should prove particularly helpful to readers. There is a selected bibliography that is nevertheless quite extensive (pp. 105-112) and includes documents and works from many sources and languages. In addition the book has photographs, a fold-out map, and a carefully prepared index. All these features underline the respect for scholarly thoroughness and detail that make this work such a fine historical study of a neglected but important period.

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RICHARD WIRES

John Chadwick, *The Mycenaean World*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 1976, pp. 201.

John Chadwick's *The Mycenaean World* is indeed a unique reference work, the most comprehensive one-volume illustrated survey of culture from pre-history to the era of pre-classical Greece. This must be considered the definitive book on the subject. The world's leading authority on the hellenization of Greece provides a unique practical guide in word

and picture to these remarkable four-thousand-year old monuments in clay which extend from Knossos to Pylos.

The book is divided into eleven comprehensive parts, eight of which are devoted to individualized regions, and each region is provided with a map, introduction, and picture section with running commentary. As the author points out, "There is no shortage of books describing the civilization which developed in Greece in the Late Bronze Age ... which we call by the name Mycenaean". But most of these texts were written from archaeological evidence and thus they have provided us, to a considerable degree, with incomplete testimony. Dr. Chadwick has attempted to correct this attitude with this provocative study.

Dr. Chadwick teaches ancient Greek civilization at Cambridge University and in 1958 he published the results of his investigations on the Mycenaean script, which today we call Linear B. This decipherment was accomplished with the valuable assistance of Michael Ventris, a former British Intelligence Officer.

Linear B has been preserved on clay tablets; a great number of them were destroyed by weather elements, but fortunately, through a stroke of fate, a good number of them have managed to come intact down to us. What do these tablets reveal? Most of the 7,500 tablets at Knossos give testimony to trade, business, possessions, inventories of livestock, and farm products. But the 1200 clay tablets at Pylos disclose evidence of an early Greek civilization. Dr. Chadwick also discloses other valuable information on Linear A and its adaptation to Linear B, the proto-Greeks, Minoan Crete and its destruction, the problem of Thera, and the end of civilization on the island of Crete. There is also testimony on palaces, tombs, pottery, seal-stones, frescoes, and writing. At Knossos there lay concealed an archaic form of Greek. Thus, Dr. Chadwick has surmised, that "the Greek language has a continuous line of development, from the fourteenth century B.C. down to the present day".

The chapter on "Homer the Pseudo-Historian" is unfair and unjust to the ancient blind poet. Homer never intended to write history in his *Iliad* and *Odyssey*... Homer had another profound purpose in mind when he immortalized his heroes by means of an heroic code. I do not believe it would be incorrect to say that Homer invented Greek and European civilization because of his very majestic attitude toward his heroes. It is an unkind cut to say that "to look for historical fact in Homer is as vain as to scan the Mycenaean tablets in search of poetry..."

Our knowledge of the Dark Ages in Greece is slowly expanding. Studies will be written in the future that will reveal the truth of the Mycenaean Age and, as Dr. Chadwick has stated, "it is necessary to write a whole new book to describe Mycenaean Greece as it now begins to emerge from the tablets".

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JAMES KLEON DEMETRIUS

Konstantin Kalokyris, *The Byzantine Wall Paintings of Crete*, Photographs by Farrell Grehan, translation by Leonidas Contos and Constantine Kazanas, edited by Harry Hionides and Joanna Gunderson, design by Visuality, New York, Red Dust, 1973, pp. 183+30 color and 120 black and white plates.

Dr. Konstantin Kalokyris, Professor of Christian and Byzantine Archaeology at the University of Thessaloniki and a native of Rethymnon, Crete, is well known to students of Byzantine painting. The book under review was first published in Greek in Athens in 1957. It is at the initiative of Joanna Gunderson, who was visiting Crete in 1959 and was given a