

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN GREEK MACEDONIA AND THRACE, 1912-1962.*

The rapid advance of the Greeks to the North in 1912 had from the very start assumed the character of a crusade of liberation and preservation of the Greek populations living under a foreign yoke. The survival of the traditions and monuments of an ancient civilisation which had flourished for so long was thus ensured.

Archaeological research in the newly-liberated provinces began at the very outset. Archaeologists who had been called up for army service carried out diggings with the assistance not only of the military authorities but of the troops as well.

As to the staff of archaeologists, who directed the first research in the areas liberated in 1912, information is furnished by the first Ephor of antiquities of the Thessaloniki prefecture, George P. Oikonomos, later Professor at the University of Athens and member of the Academy: "One of the first duties of the Governor-General of the Macedonian districts, then newly liberated, was the establishment of an archaeological service. This was greatly helped by the General Staff which gradually dispatched to the H. Q. of the Governor-General of Macedonia all archaeologists taking part in the expedition. So on Nov. 9th, 1912, the first office of Ephor of antiquities of the Thessaloniki prefecture was created. On December 29th of the same year another Ephor was added for the second district, with his seat at Elasson: the one appointed was Arvanitopoulos. Later, on May 18th, 1913, a third archaeological area was fixed, that of Western Macedonia, under Pappadakis, with his office at Florina. From December 1912 to the end of May 1913 the architect A. Orlandos, then

* *Abbreviations*: AA=Archäologischer Anzeiger. AD=Archaeologicon Deltion (Ἀρχαιολογικὸν Δελτίον). AE=Archaeologica Ephemeris (Ἀρχαιολογικὴ ἐφημερίς). BCH=Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique. BSA=Annual of the British School of Archaeology of Athens. JHS=Journal of Hellenic Studies. PAD=Parartema, Archaeologicon Deltion (Παράρτημα, Ἀρχαιολογικὸν Δελτίον). PAE=Practica tes en Athenas Archaeologices Hetaireias (Πρακτικά τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἀρχαιολογικῆς Ἑταιρείας).

...serving as second lieutenant of the reserve, worked also at the Ephor's office at Thessaloniki.²¹

The Ephor of antiquities of the area of Thessaloniki G. Oikonomos, writing at that time on the possibilities of archaeological work there, commented as follows: "The Administration of Macedonia considered that a duty of first rate importance of the archaeological service, just beginning to function, in a region which formerly had received only minimum government help in this respect, or practically none at all, would be the collection and preservation of antiquities scattered in various localities. On this task he concentrated himself, knowing well that this work would need travel and topographic reconnaissance of the countryside, a procedure forming the basis of every scientific archaeological work, as a preliminary to excavating investigations. In the Thessaloniki prefecture the work was until now confined to the collection of antiquities and such have been, for the time being, gathered in the Government House, forming an archaeological collection with items from Thessaloniki, Akanthos, Lete, as well as others from Katerine, Pydna and Dion; some items are in Veroia and some in Amphipolis, later to be moved, I hope, to the building which is intended to become a Museum, when it will cease to be reserved for purposes of war emergency needs. The antiquities brought together are sculptural works (statues and reliefs), vases (black-figured from Akanthos), clay figurines and inscriptions, both votive and sepulchral. A small investigation of the Church of Saint Demetrius in Thessaloniki brought to light noteworthy painted inscriptions of the 15th century."²²

With the end of the 2nd Balkan War and the Bucharest Treaty of August 10th, 1913, the first phase of archaeological research and preservation of the monuments came to an end.

I. In liberated Macedonia the first excavations were carried out in 1913 by the Archaeological Service. In charge was G. Oikonomos. The beginning was made with chance discoveries at Thessaloniki, outside the enclosure of the destroyed city walls "near King Konstantine Avenue". At this site Oikonomos discovered tombs of late Roman times, of which most were arranged in clusters constituting mounds. Among the findings some clay figurines were found as well as two gold coins, of which one has a figure of a crowned Nike and the other shows a bust of the Tyche of the city, wearing a towering crown; around it is inscribed ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ.²³

1. AE 1913, p. 107.

2. AE 1913, p. 107 - 108.

3. PAD 1915, p. 59.

On the following year, 1914, the same archaeologist started regular excavations at Pella, 38 km west of Thessaloniki. After the interruption of the Pella excavations, as a result of the outbreak of the World War I, these were resumed in 1957, when some findings came to light, as a peasant discovered an ancient pillar, while trying to dig up a cellar under his newly - built house. The excavations were started on a test basis by F. Petsas on 11-4-57 and, after satisfactory results, more systematic ones started on a larger scale on 17-5-1957 under the direction of Ch. Makaronas, with the co-operation of F. Petsas. During the early years it was possible to identify the Pella acropolis on a twin elevation, the fort (which was called Ἐν τῷ Φάκῳ γάλα), the town center, roads, aqueducts, huge buildings beautifully decorated and so on. From 1957 onwards the Pella excavations proceeded at a quicker pace and up to the end of 1961 an extent of about 200 × 100 meters was uncovered with impressive buildings, which are now in the course of being restored (fig. 2). Among the findings, the mosaics are of course very important. Some of them are already well known.⁴ The most recent ones were discovered in the so called North House, four rooms of which are paved in an exquisite way. According to the description of M. S. F. Hood, "the floor of a large hall in the north wing shows the Rape of Helen by Theseus: the names of the figures are written above-them; to the left it a chariot drawn by four horses with the charioteer Phorbas, and to the right a woman is called Deianeira. A room to the east has a Stag Hunt (fig. 1) and another small room in the east wing, a Battle of Amazons with boars and panthers round the outer border."⁵

II. At about the end of World War I, French archaeologists, then serving in the army, undertook excavations SE of the town of Florina on a hill, which forms a natural citadel. There the French archaeologists discovered the ruins of a town of Hellenistic times and near it an ancient cemetery, whence came coins of Philip II and other findings, the most ancient of which date from the beginning of the 3rd century B.C.⁶ Later, in 1929, on the hill of St. Charalambos, which to-day overhangs the town from the south, a vase was found with representation in relief of the capture of Troy; (fig. 7) also a Greek inscription in relief. Subsequently on the

4. Photios Petsas, Pella. *Balkan Studies* 1, 1960, Pl. VI, VII, VIII.

5. M. S. F. Hood, Archaeology in Greece. *Archaeological Reports for 1961-1962*, 15 - 16.

6. BSA 23, 1918 - 1919, p. 7. AA 37, 1922, 244.

hill of St. Charalambos systematic excavations were started by Antonios Keramopoulos, and continued during the years 1931, 1933 and 1934 (fig. 6). In these excavations the ruins of a little town or city, built around 352 by Philip II were discovered, which, evidently, was burnt down in 48 B.C., during the clashes between the armies of Pompey and Julius Caesar. This town of Florina is identified by Prof. Keramopoulos with the ancient town mentioned in one inscription, and also in certain ancient authors, as "Heraclēia on Lyngus" (Λυγκησιτικὴ Ἡράκλεια). From Florina and the area around it various antiquities have been collected, which now form an interesting collection. For this collection some plans have already been made by the General Direction of Antiquities, in order to secure it in a suitable building.

III. Of great value have been the discoveries of the excavations directed by Ant. Keramopoulos within the town of Kastoria and in Dispilio, on the SE bank of the lake Orestias (Kastoria), where he discovered the ruins of a village erected on pegs as well as neolithic implements.⁷

According to test excavations of Keramopoulos, Kastoria appears to have been built on the neck of the peninsula of the lake in such a way, that the homes by the lakeside owned parts of the bank before them. The lake was accessible only through the roads, which terminated there; even now these are called «ἀβγαταί». The town acquired a shore-promenade when the deepening of a branch of the river Aliakmon took place, which was dried up. Keramopoulos found lake-houses erected on the spot which now takes on the surplus waters of the lake. On this lakeside space, a cluster of such houses was found at Dispilio, where a small flat island exists, only a little higher than the level of the lake-water. This island, on which there is a church of the Ascension, has now become a peninsula and is surrounded by an ancient wall of big, well-cut stones. Keramopoulos thinks that this wall is most likely the work of king Archelaus (412 - 399 B.C.).

In this district, about 500 posts of lake-dwellings have been ascertained and in the excavations of 1940 many stone implements of neolithic type have been found. Keramopoulos assumed that the former isle is man-made and it should be dated from about the same time as the castle on it. According to the same scholar, in the same place of the island there was the ancient site of Argos Orestikon.⁸

7. PAE 1938, p. 58 ff., 1940, p. 22 - 23, AE 1932, p. 94, 106 ff., 1937, p. 369, *Macedonica* 2, p. 644, BCH 64 - 65, 1940 - 1941, p. 250, AA 1942, 187 - 188, JHS 64, 1944, p. 93.

8. PAE 1940, p. 22 - 23. *Macedonica* 2, 644.

IV. The interest of Greek archaeologists in the coastal area between Olympus and Pieria began immediately after the liberation of 1912, and resulted in the gathering of various antiquities from Dion at Katerini.⁹ In 1914 the village of Karytsa offered its old school building for the purpose of securing as many objects of archaeological interest, of those situated in the village, as was possible to move into it.¹⁰

In the same year the French Archaeological School of Athens started test excavations at Dion under Plassart and Blum, through which the ruins of a theater, a Doric temple, a road and a market-place paved and surrounded by stoai were gradually discovered.¹¹

In 1928 the excavations at Dion were taken over by the Greek Archaeological Society and the University of Thessaloniki. Under the guidance of Prof. G. Sotiriadis the excavations continued from 1928 to 1933 and the findings were of great importance. Of these some, which it was possible to move, were placed in a small local museum, built in 1931 at Malathria. Dion was doubtlessly the most important town of Pieria, not so much for its population and size, as for its fortifications and wealth in temples, buildings of public interest, monuments and the like. Soon after the beginning of the excavations, in about 1928, Sotiriadis discovered the big "Sacred Way" of the town, of approx. 275 meters in length, and two more paved arteries of traffic in the city (fig. 13). In 1929 a large Macedonian tomb, situated outside the city wall-gates, facing Olympus, was found, dating back to the 3rd century B.C.¹² Near a wider road of the town Sotiriadis found in 1919 a bath and near-by floors of houses with beautiful mosaic work (fig. 14). The area of the ancient city of Dion has been estimated to be about 400 acres in extent. In August 1955 another tomb of the Dion area had been excavated and fully investigated by Ch. Makaronas. This was found by chance three years earlier at a distance of about 1500 meters from the northern side of the walls of the ancient town, about the southernmost point of the village Karytsa. The Macedonian tomb of Karytsa Dion was dated about 200 B.C.¹³ and it is of much lower standard both in size and in quality of decorations than the one at Dion mentioned before. In 1956 Makaronas excavated a third tomb in the area of Dion, belonging to the 2nd half of the 3rd century B.C., which is situated outside

9. AE 1913, p. 108.

10. PAD 1915, p. 44.

11. PAD 1915, p. 73.

12. PAE 1930, p. 36 - 49, 1956, p. 137.

13. PAE 1955, p. 151 - 159.

the village of Malathria, at the site Ambelia, about 600 meters distant from the west part of the wall of the ancient town.¹⁴

V. At the northern foot of the Pieria mountain range about 17 km south of Veroia and about 20 minutes' walk south of the village Vergina, a spacious Macedonian palace has been discovered. It is of the time of Antigonos Gonatas (279 - 239 B. C.). According to a local tale, this palace of "Palatitsa" was the abode of the mythical queen Vergina. It was first excavated in 1861 by a French Mission, headed by Heuzey and Daumet, who published their findings in their book "Mission Archéologique de Macédoine", Paris 1876. After the lapse of many years, in 1938, the University of Thessaloniki resumed its excavations and completed the unearthing of its structure, its dimensions being 104,50 × 88,50: as ascertained in the year 1961.¹⁵ In the same Vergina area Heuzey excavated in 1861 an arched Macedonian tomb consisting of two rooms. Another magnificent Macedonian tomb of the same type in the Vergina area was discovered by Prof. K. Romaios.¹⁶ Over a large area of the village of Vergina, as far as the torrent which separates it from the "Palatitsa" district, there are numerous small *tumboi* of different shapes, sizes and height, which Prof. Andronikos began to excavate in 1952. This extensive cemetery of Vergina had begun to be used in the geometric period, in about 1000 B.C. In the new excavations it has been ascertained that the town in Hellenistic times to which the Palace belongs, formed a continuation of the ancient pre-historic settlement of the area; that is, there had been a town at Verghina since about 1000 BC., which continued down to the last years of the Hellenistic period, and perhaps later. The tombs excavated by Andronikos at the Vergina necropolis are of the period 1000 - 500 B.C. and of the fourth, third and second centuries B.C.¹⁷ In 1960, owing to the opening up of a new main road, many tombs of the same necropolis were excavated by F. Petsas, in collaboration with Man. Andronikos. In these excavations a bronze sword came to light, of about the end of the bronze age.

VI. Derveni, about 10 km NE of Thessaloniki, near the Thessaloniki-Serres road and just before the road to Langada branches off, has

14. AE 1956, p. 131 - 138. General information as to the characteristics of the so-called "Macedonian" tombs v. in PAE 1955, p. 151 - 152, and K. Romaios, «Ο Μακεδονικός τάφος της Βεργίνας». [The Macedonian Tomb of Verghina] Athens 1951.

15. Ch. Macaronas, G. Bakalakes, M. Andronikos and N. Moutsopoulos, *Τὸ Ἀνάκτορο τῆς Βεργίνας* [The Palace of Vergina] Athens 1961.

16. See footnote 14.

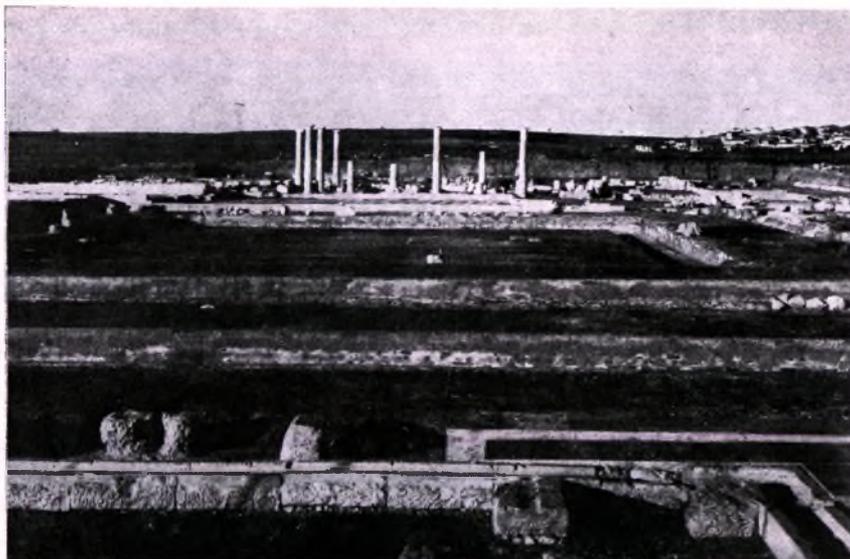
17. *Balkan Studies* 2, 1961, p. 98.

PELLA



1. Pavement mosaic. Stag Hunt.

PELLA

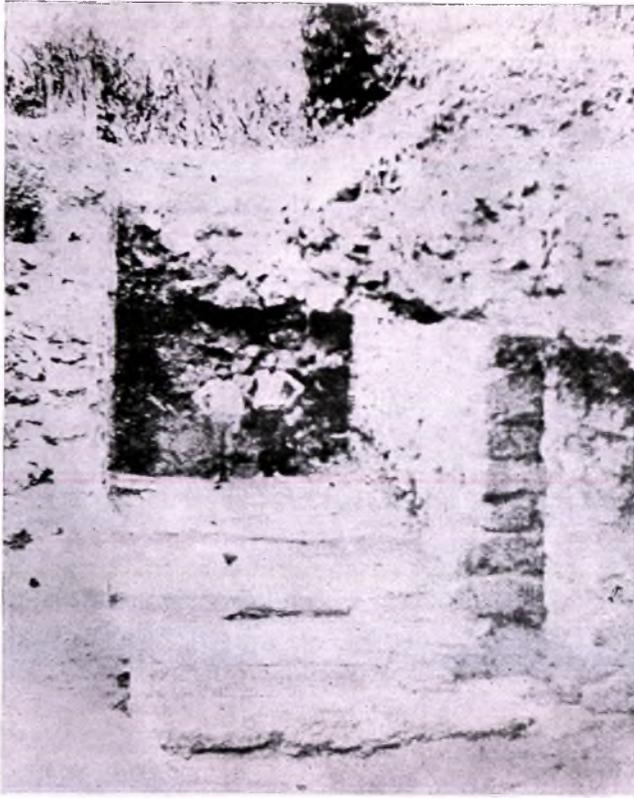


2. Restoration work in Pella.



3. Gold coin of Philip V.

EDESSA



4. *The Gate of the walls.*



5. *One of the findings between the villages Flamouriá and Platáni.*

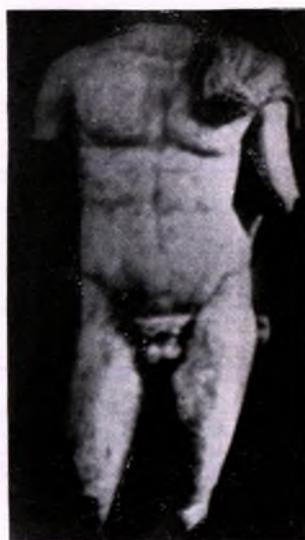
FLORINA



6. Florina. The excavation area.



7. Krater, found near Florina.



8. Statue, found near Florina.

KOZANI



9. Red - figured vase.



10. Bronze helmet.



11. Silver «phiale».

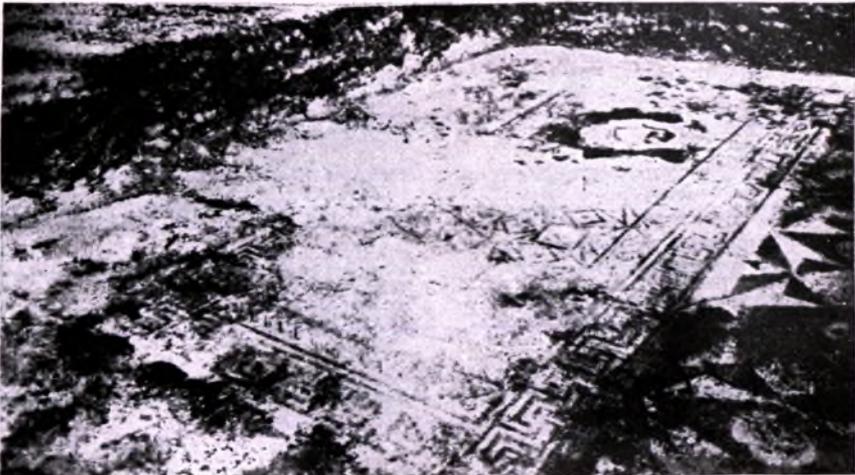


12. Inscription : Letter of Philip V.

DION



13. Part of the main street.



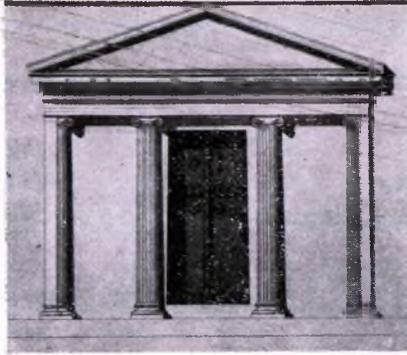
14. Pavement mosaic.

DERVENI



15. *The Krater.*

DERVENI



16. The facade of the tomb in Derveni.



17. Statuette on the Krater.



18. The papyrus found in Derveni (4 cent. B.C.).

CHALKIDIKI



19. Ruins of the city of Olynthus.



21. Marble statuette of Aesclepius.



20. Drawing of a house in Olynthus.



22. Coin of the city of Mendi.

KILKIS, AMPHIPOLIS, PHILIPPI



23. Statue found in Palatiano, Kilkis.



24. Fresco in a tomb in Amphipolis.



25. Ring stone from Amphipolis.

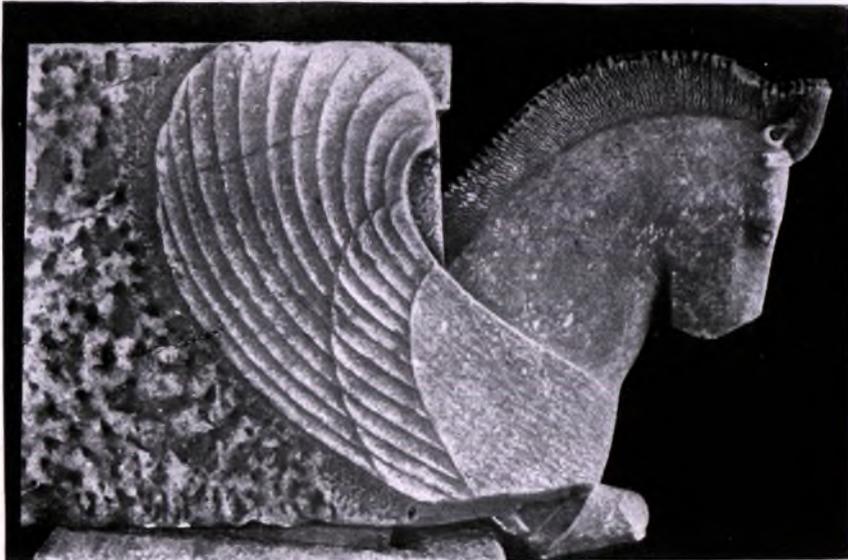


26. Column of the Basilica II, Philippi.

THASSOS

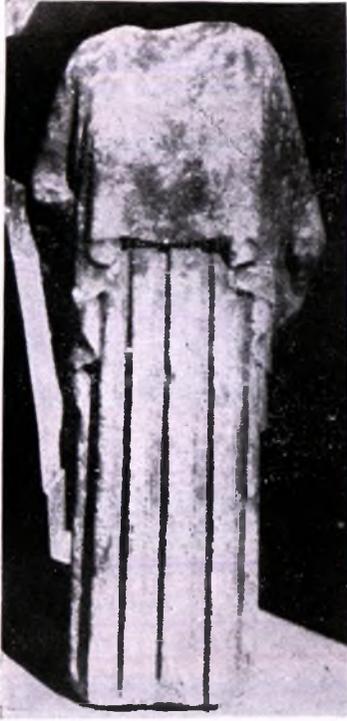


27. *The Agora.*



28. *Pegasus from the Temple of Heracles.*

THRACE



29. Statue found near Komotini.



30. Grave Stele.



31. Grave Stele from Mesemvria.



32. Red-figured vase from Stryme.

SAMOTHRACE



33. The area of the Sanctuary. Air view.

TREBENISHTE, YUGOSLAVIA



34. Bronze Krater.



35. Corinthian helmet.



36. Part of a «phiale».



37. Golden masque.

KAZANLAK, BULGARIA



38.



39.



40.



41.



42.



43.

38-43. Frescoes in the vaulted tomb of Kazanlak (about 300 B. C.).

great archaeological interest, for near it in January 1962 a tomb, dating from about 300 B.C., was discovered, containing a magnificent bronze krater (fig. 15) with relief representations and bronze full-body statuettes attached to its surface (fig. 17). In this admirable bronze krater the ashes of some outstanding warrior of the Hellenistic times must have been deposited. The body of the vase was decorated in relief with a scene of Ariadne wooed by Dionysus among naked satyrs and maenads. Reclining on the shoulder were four massive bronze figures of Dionysus, a satyr or Silenus and two maenads. Round the neck were reliefs of animals. The fine quality of the workmanship suggests that the vase is from the School of Lysippus and assignable to the second half of the fourth century B.C. Inside it was found a gold coin of Philip II. On top was a bronze lid upside down with a gold wreath in it.¹⁸ In a near-by tomb of this locality a leaf of papyrus was found (fig. 18). Derveni is of great interest because, about 1000 meters NW of the place of the January 1962 findings, there is a much higher mound at the NW side of which, after an earthquake in 1910, a magnificent tomb of Macedonian type with two large rooms, of total length 10.10m. was discovered (fig. 16). This tomb was then excavated by Th. Makridis who considered it as belonging to a high-rank person, probably a ruler or a general.¹⁹

VII. In Chalkidiki in the innermost part of the gulf of Kassandra (Toronaïos) and in the vicinity of the village Myriophyton, through the excavations of 1928, 1931 and 1934, extensive ruins of the wealthy city Olynthus were discovered (fig. 19). The city was destroyed in 348 B.C. by the king of Macedonia, Philip II. The excavations at Olynthus were carried out by the John Hopkins University with Prof. David Robinson in charge of them. The ruins of the city, which came to light, now form one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece, being so far (1962) the only ones, which provide us with first-hand knowledge of the ancient Greek houses of the classical period and of the general aspect which the Greek cities of the same times presented on the whole (fig. 20). All the houses discovered are those which had been destroyed in 348 B.C. and are, therefore, older than those of Priene of Asia Minor, studied by the Germans, or of Delus, studied by the French. In Athens and in other parts of ancient Greece, very few ruins of houses of the classical times have been

18. The description belongs to M. S. F. Hood, *Archaeology in Greece, 1961 - 1962, Archaeological Reports for 1961 - 1962*, 15.

19. "Un tumulus Macédonien a' Langaza" in the *Jahrbuch of the German Archaeological Institute* 1911 (Vol. 26).

preserved. The ancient houses, which we knew so far, belong to the Hellenistic and Roman times, whereas in the case of Olynthus it is known that it was founded in the 5th century B.C. and that its site was utterly abandoned after the destruction of 348 B.C. Olynthus was built on an exemplary town-planning arrangement and its classical houses provide us now with valuable knowledge on the architecture and town-planning of the ancient Greeks. The publication of its excavations, comprising many volumes, which was started by Prof. George Mylonas, himself a collaborator in the Olynthus excavations, forms one of the best and most explicit sources of information about the general aspect, the life and the activities of a classical city. In the excavations many private dwelling-houses have come to light, decorated with mosaics and arranged in the Hippodameian town-planning style, as also city-walls at different points, ancient cemeteries and the like.²⁰

VIII. The town of Amphipolis, situated by the mouth of the river Strymon, became an archaeological site of great value especially after the recent excavations (1962) done there by the Greek Archaeological Society, through the Ephor Dem. Lazaridis.

The first attempt to investigate the ruins of this ancient city, which are situated 5 km north of the mouth of Strymon, was made during the second Balkan War, in 1913, when Greek soldiers reported to the Greek Archaeological Service the existence of antiquities in the area. G. Oikonomos and Anast. Orlandos were there sent, but their mission proved fruitless, for in the district where the antiquities were situated hostilities had been resumed.

The Strymon area was also the theatre of war action in the first World War. In 1916, in a temporary interval of battles, British officers discovered the ruins of the monument of the lion of Amphipolis and tried to transport some of its parts to the shore of the Strymon gulf. Their attempt failed, for the Germans and Bulgars resumed bombardment of the area.

In 1920 the Archaeological Society, with Stratis Pelekidis, excavated to a limited extent the area of the ancient site. Ten years later, in 1930, the French Archaeological School of Athens dealt with the study of the ruins of the lion of Amphipolis, which was facilitated by the drainage works in the Serres and Drama regions. The French archaeologists then supposed

20. Robinson D. M. and others, *Excavations at Olynthus*. A series of volumes published in Baltimore by John Hopkins University, since 1938.

that the lion had been erected on the west bank of the Strymon, near the large old bridge and facing the town, to honour the memory of the Spartan Brasidas, killed in the battle of 422 B. C. In 1936 American and French archaeologists started investigations by excavating the area of the monument, in order to find more complete evidence to help its correct reconstruction. The first extensive study of the monument was published by Jacques Rosé, the conclusions of which were completed by the American Prof. Oscar Broneer. According to Broneer the lion was 5,30 m. high and was placed on a monumental basis resembling those of the Mausoleums of Asia Minor. A Greek sculptor, Andreas Panagiotakis, who restored the lion, was forced to use a much smaller base than that which it had in antiquity. From the excavations in the area of the monument it was concluded that this could not have had any relation to the Spartan Brasidas, because it was put up a few years after the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.). Broneer, having rejected the assumption that the lion was erected for the admiral of Alexander the Great Nearchus, maintained that with this monument it is likely that the Amphipolitans were paying honour to Laomedon, the sailor from Mitylene, who later became governor of Syria.

In 1956 the excavations at Amphipolis by the Archaeological Society began again, under the direction of D. Lazaridis. At the beginning, a large cemetery of Hellenistic age was discovered, 2 km north of the contemporary village of Amphipolis (Neochorion) and later a second cemetery of later Hellenistic and Roman date, situated about 700 m. north of the village. In another section of the excavation, about 100 m. NE. of the former site and 2 km east of the village of Amphipolis, near the junction of the main road Thessaloniki - Kavala and the road connecting the harbour Tsagesi with Nea Zichni, D. Lazaridis discovered in the year 1961, under a high mound of earth, a very imposing tomb of the 3rd century A.D. Until the beginning of 1962 the number of tombs of Macedonian type unearthed in the Amphipolis area was fifteen. Of these the following three are built: the one previously mentioned, which was discovered in 1961, another on the Pangaion slopes, about 2 km east of Amphipolis, and a third one, known since the 19th century, situated 5 km north of the Amphipolis village. In the cemeteries discovered after the second World War D. Lazaridis found 12 tombs of Macedonian style, which were dug in the soft rock on the ground surface (fig. 24).²¹

21. Oscar Broneer, *The Lion Monument at Amphipolis*. 1941. Details about the excavation at Amphipolis in BCH vol. 59, 81, 84, 85 and JHS vol. 74 - 81.

IX. The French archaeological mission under L. Heuzey had already in the 19th century taken interest in the antiquities of Philippi. Soon after the liberation of Macedonia the envoy of the Greek Archaeological Society, Prof. K. Zisiou, wrote the following on Philippi: "On the big road to Drama, before Philippi, on a large monolithic basis, called in Turkish *Dikeli Tash*" (i.e. set up stone) there is a latin inscription showing that C. Vibius erected this pedestal; and, a little further, a large temple of Christian date commonly called "the palaces of Alexander". The only visible ruins of Philippi then were the city-walls, the towers of the acropolis and the pillars of *Basilica B* (fig. 26). The systematic excavations for the discovery of what to-day appear to be impressive monuments, began in 1914 by the French Archaeological School in Athens, but were soon interrupted owing to the war; they were resumed in 1920. Since then they have been continued with short interruptions. Later, Greek archaeologists also participated in them, for example D. Lazaridis, Styl. Pelekanidis, D. Theocharis and others.²²

X. With the systematic excavations of the French Archaeological School at Thassos, which began in 1911, one year before the island's liberation, most impressive antiquities have been discovered in the capital, Limin, (fig. 27 - 28) which do not only reveal in an admirable way the cultured and refined tastes of the colonists from Paros, who settled here in about 700 B.C., but also adorn the idyllic natural surroundings of one of the most beautiful islands in the Aegean Sea.²³

XI. Of great archaeological importance is the area of the Xanthi prefecture, bordering on the coast and lying between the river Nestos and the lake Bistonis. This is the site of the excavations of Abdera, home-town of the philosophers Leukippus, Demokritus and Protagoras. The discovery of Abdera began through the excavations of the Archaeological Society under the direction of Dem. Lazaridis in 1950. Its ruins were also excavated in the

22. P. Collart, *Philippe, ville de Macedoine, depuis ses origines jusqu'à la fin de l'époque Romaine*, Paris 1937 και P. Lemerle, *Philippe et la Macédoine Orientale à l'époque Chrétienne et Byzantine*, Paris 1945. D. Lazaridis, *Οί Φίλιπποι*, 1956.

23. *Études Thasiennes* 1. Marcel Launey, *Le Sanctuaire et le cult d'Héraclès à Thasos*, 1944. A. E. Bakalopoulos, *Thasos, Son Histoire, Son administration de 1953 à 1912*, 1953. J. Pouilloux, *Recherches sur l'histoire et les cultes de Thasos I. De la fondation de la cité à 196 avant J.C.* 1954. Anne-Marie Bon et Antoine Bon, *Les timbres Amphoriques de Thasos*, 1957. D. Lazaridis, *Ἡ Θάσος*, 1958.

years 1952, 1954 - 1956. Through these excavations came to light two squares of buildings of Hellenistic times, which seem to be parts of a standard form of town-planning. In 1954 two Roman buildings were found, of which one is, most likely, a bath with a vaulted room. Apart from the Hellenistic and Roman ruins, ruins of the classical and archaic periods were also found. A small precinct of Hellenistic times was also discovered; its walls are preserved to a height of approx. 1,50 m. On one corner there was a well, and near-by a mosaic of the 3rd century B.C. was uncovered, which has as its main decorative motif pairs of dolphins separated by a lily-flower. This mosaic was transported to the Kavala Museum in 1956. In the excavations many clay figurines were found and sealed handles of pointed amphorae, mainly from Thassos, also a big furnace and one warehouse or wine-store with amphorae of wine of the 4th century B.C. In Abdera there is much scope yet (1962) for further excavations.

XII. Through the excavations which the University of New York started in 1938 and which still continue (1962) in the island of Samothraki, the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, which was found, has since become one of the most imposing archaeological sites of Greece (fig. 33).

The main ancient buildings which had been excavated until 1962, in the Sanctuary of the Great Gods of Samothraki are:

1) The Palace, which was built in the 6th century B.C. for ceremonies of initiation to the mysteries. Its dimensions are about 29×13 m.

2) The Depository of Sacred Utensils or "Sacred House", measuring 7×6 m., where probably the preparation for the initiation took place.

3) The "Arsinoeion", south of the Palace. A circular building 20 m. in diameter, built by queen Arsinoe for religious ceremonies and sacrifices, when the latter was still the wife of the king of Thrace Lysimachus (289 - 281 B.C.).

4) The Sacred Precinct, which was built at the end of the 4th century, measuring 24×10 meters. In this, most probably, the rituals, called "sacred marriages", took place. The ruins of the "precinct" have been discovered at a distance of 20 m. south of the Arsinoeion in the center of the sacred place.

5) The "Hieron" which was used for initiation to the higher degree of the mysteries. It was measuring 40×13 meters. In its present form the building began around 300 B.C.

6) The Room of Votive Offerings near the NW corner of the temple. Its dimensions are 23×11 meters and it was built in about 550 B.C.

7) A courtyard measuring 17×14 m. south of the room of votive

offerings. This was constructed together with an altar shortly before the death of Alexander the Great by his half-brother and successor Arridaeus.

8) The Theater, which was built in about 200 B.C.

9) The Fountain of Nike, SW of the Theater. To this belonged the famous statue of Nike, erected in about 305 B.C. to commemorate a victory at sea of Demetrius Poliorketes.

10) A Stoa about 80 m. in length, almost contemporary with the Theater, on the western hill, north of the Nike fountain: this was probably used as a guest-house.

11) The propylon of Ptolemy, east of the sacred area. It was built with funds offered by the king of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus. About 50 m. south of the Propylon of Ptolemy Philadelphus, through the excavations of Miss Dusenbery and Vavritsas in the years 1957 and 1962, a cemetery was discovered, which had been used continually since the beginning of the 6th century B.C. down to the Roman times. In this, in an area of about 1000 sq. meters, 265 graves had been excavated until 1962.

As a result of excavations, among many other conclusions drawn, was proved, that the central figure of the cult of the mysteries of Samothraki and also head of the so-called "Great Gods" was the "Great Mother", who on some coins of the island appears seated between two lions. The great Goddess of Samothraki was called in the local dialect of the island Axieros and was equated to Demeter of the Panhellenic cult. Probably acolyte-husband of Axieros, belonging to the group of the "Great Gods" was the male fertility-god Cadmillos, equated to the Panhellenic Hermes. Symbols of Cadmillos were the ram and the kerykeion. To the group of Great Gods belonged the two Kaveiroi, represented as ithyphallic youths.

The Kaveiroi of Samothraki have as their symbols serpents and stars. They were sometimes equated to the Dioskouroi of the Panhellenic cult.

To the group of "Great Gods", probably at the beginning of the 7th century, two more gods, Axiokersos and Axiokersa were added corresponding to Hades and Persephone of the Panhellenic cult. Axiokersa was considered to be daughter of the great mother Axieros, who was thus equated to Demeter. From the votive offerings found at the excavations in the temple it appears that the two Kaveiroi were also patrons of sailors.

The mysteries of the Great Gods of Samothraki rose to Panhellenic proportions from the beginning of the 5th century B.C. While in the Eleusinian mysteries distinctions were made and only free citizens could gain admission, in the mysteries of Samothraki men, women and children of all nations could be initiated and not only free people, but also slaves. This fact made the initiates to the Samothrakian mysteries resemble a com-

munity of Christians and no other manifestation of the ancient Greek religion showed such great resemblance to Christianity. All those who became initiates believed that thereafter they would enjoy certain privileges and that generally good fortune would be with them. Specifically the Samothrakian initiates believed that thanks to the two Kaveiroi they were made immune from dangers at sea.²⁴

With the excavations at Samothraki in 1962, which were conducted by a team of scholars from the University of New York, with those at Thassos and at Philippi by the French Archaeological School of Athens and those of Cambridge University at New Nicomedeia of Veroia, the long co-operation of Greek and foreign archaeologists continues. Parallel to these efforts, at many different points in the North of Greece, excavations and restoration work continue to be carried out by Greek archaeologists, financed by the State Archaeological Service, the Greek Archaeological Society of Athens and the University of Thessaloniki. In the duties of the Archaeological Service the securing of suitable buildings as Art Museums is included, as well as the care for the exhibition of archaeological collections, which have been formed in towns or villages after excavations or chance discoveries.

During the fifty years, 1912 - 1962, the extent of these cultural endeavours of Greece has chiefly depended on peace in the Balkans and, generally, on the financial circumstances of Greece and of the whole of Europe. Unfortunately, since the liberation of 1912 Greece has had to face repeatedly long periods in which a state of war had prevailed and thus found herself obliged to solve most difficult problems regarding the rehabilitation of many refugees and the rebuilding not only of numerous houses, but, in many cases, even of whole villages. In some parts of Macedonia and Thrace the Greeks were confronted with the ruins that were left by the Bulgarian invasions of 1913, 1916 and 1941.

The systematic groundwork of the scholarly study of the Macedonian antiquities is due to the first Ephor of antiquities in Thessaloniki, G. Oikonomos, who inaugurated the excavations of the liberated North of Greece by uncovering a few of the ruins of the second in line of succession capital of the kingdom of Macedonia. The Greek archaeologists, who began their activities in Macedonia as soldiers of the liberation army, are worthy

24. Karl Lehman, *Samothrace, A Guide to the Excavations and the Museum*. New York University, 1960, with detailed bibliography.

of special honour. Among them we must first mention Apostolos Arvanitopoulos and Anastasios Orlandos. The former took part in several battles of the Balkan Wars and started immediately archaeological excavations in the positions whence he fought past, and he had to have one foot mutilated because of serious frostbite. Romantically patriotic, no doubt, is among other cases, the case of Anastasios Orlandos, who in 1912 took part as a soldier in the battles of Elasson, Sarandaporon and Yiannitsa, entered Thessaloniki, on October 26th, 1912, as flag-bearer of the 7th Greek Infantry Regiment and later was promoted to second lieutenant of the Engineers. Later he was attached to the Ephor of Antiquities' Office in Thessaloniki, where Ephor was G. Oikonomos, and with the latter made a test excavation at Amphipolis. Orlandos busied himself with minute drawings of the Byzantine temples of Thessaloniki, Agia Aikaterini, Agios Panteleimon, Agioi Apostoloi and Panagia Chalkeon. In the mobilization of 1915 he served at Veroia, where he collected ancient inscriptions.

In the archaeological work of Macedonia and Thrace native scholars also took part, such as Anthonios Keramopoulos, born at Vlasti of the Kozani prefecture, Stilpon Kyriakidis from Komotini, Evangelos Stratis from Rodoleivos of the Pangaion, George Soteriadis from Siderokastron and others. Here it must be added that from Thrace came G. Tsoundas who taught Archaeology at the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki. At Velvendos of the Kozani prefecture was born the architect and archaeologist Stamatios Kleantis (1802 - 1862). Of Macedonian origin is the first archaeologist in charge of the Ephor's office for the province of Thrace, founded in 1962, A. Vavritsas, who also participates in the excavations of Samothraki conducted by the University of New York.

Apart from the scholars mentioned above I must mention the following, whose scientific activities have been connected with excavations in Macedonia and Thrace during the last fifty years; a number of these have been repeatedly mentioned in previous pages: Stratis Pelekidis, N. Papadakis, K. Romaios, Char. Makaronas, N. Kotzias, And. Xyngopoulos, G. Soteriou, Maria Soteriou, Dem. Evangelidis, Styl. Pelekanidis, G. Mylonas, G. Bakalakis, Eustathios Stikas, Dem. Lazaridis, Photios Petsas, K. Myrtilos Apostolidis, Th. Makridis, Aristotelis Zachos, K. Zisiou, Vas. Kallipolitis, M. Kalligas, D. Kanatsoulis, Dem. Theocharis, Nick. Papatatzis, Gr. Euthimiou, Soc. Kougeas, K. Kourtidis, Man. Andronikos, N. Moutsopoulos, John Papastavrou, Maria Karamanoli-Siganidou, Stelios Papadimas, Phani Drosoyianni, Mich. Goudas, Aikaterini Romiopolou, Steph. Dragoumis, Garyphalia Tsepkentzi, K. Konstandopoulos, Eugenia Leventopoulou, Achilles Samothrakis, A. Vakalopoulos, Marinos Xy-

reas, J. Voyatzidis, N. Vafeiadis, M. Konstandinidis, G. Koliass, Stavros Motzidis and others.

The difficult conditions for the continuation of excavations and archaeological studies in Macedonia and Thrace are, moreover, proved by the fact that it has not yet been possible to publish the ancient inscriptions of these places in a Corpus. For the Corpus of Macedonian Inscriptions for many years now the American specialist Charles Edson is collecting all the available material. Apart from other studies, he is also the author of "Macedonica" in "Harvard Studies in Classical Philology" 51, 1940 p. 126 - 136 and "Cults of Thessalonika" in the "Harvard Theological Review" 41, 1948 p. 153 - 204.

It is necessary to have systematic investigations carried out in many more parts of Macedonia and Thrace, and a pressing need is also to make in time excavations over a large area of the older capital of Macedonia. The test excavations of S. Pelekidis in 1923, below the Edessa waterfalls, brought to light many chance findings of the area and proved that it is possible with wider excavational research to reveal the glories of Aigai (Edessa), just as it happened, beyond expectation, with Pella.

What revealing effects systematic excavations would have in Macedonia and Thrace, even a long way away from the shore of the Aegean, has been proved by findings referring to Hellenism of the parts of Macedonia and Thrace, now beyond the frontiers of the Greek State. Among these of astonishing interest are the 1918 findings from the Trebenishte Necropolis of the 6th century B.C. near the lake Achris,²⁵ (Pl. XIV) the frescoes of the vaulted Macedonian tomb of about 300 B.C., discovered in 1944 near Kazanlak at the southern foot of the Haemus mountain range, N.E. of Philippoupolis and Stenimachos²⁶ (Pl. XV) as well as the nine golden vases of the period 330 - 320 (?) B.C. which were found in 1949 near Panagurishte of Bulgaria.²⁷ The Hellenic impact all over Balkans, north of the Greek frontier of our times, needs a detailed study, which would have to in-

25. v. Bogdan D. Filow, *Die Archaische Nekropole von Trebenishte*, Berlin und Leipzig 1927. *National Museum of Sophia publications*, An. Keramopoulos, "The Archaic Necropolis of Trebenishte near lake Achris". (In Greek). AE 1927 - 1928, p. 41 - 112.

26. v. V. Micoff, *Le tombeau antique pres de Kazanlak*, Sophia 1959.

27. v. N. M. Kontoleon, The gold treasure of Panagurishte, *Balkan Studies* 3, 1962, p. 185 - 200.

clude all the results of excavations conducted by Balkan archaeologists in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania. This however is beyond the purpose of this paper, which is only a brief outline of the main archaeological discoveries in Northern Greece.

Athens

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