EDITORIAL

The number of books published in the general field of archaeology seems to increase every year. And every year it becomes more and more important to distinguish between real advances in the discipline and the wealth of books that are too often commercially driven. The public's appetite for archaeology, while considerable, has its limits, and even the most enthusiastic archaeologist will be aware of the need to maintain a balance between the public's desire for new and exciting discoveries and the need to present these discoveries in a way that is both accessible and scientifically sound.

This issue of *Archaeology* contains a number of articles that address these concerns. We have chosen to highlight a selection of books that we believe offer a mix of new discoveries, new interpretations, and a commitment to presenting the latest research in a way that is engaging and informative for both professionals and the general public.

We hope that our selection will provide readers with a range of perspectives on the current state of archaeology and encourage them to explore the rich and diverse field further on their own.

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Treasuries of Time [1981] and Conquistadors With Swords [1967]. Called Memoirs of Heinrich Schliemann and published by Harper and Row [1977], this first good biography of the best candidate for the title, Father of Archaeology (the old biography by Emil Ludwig is still in print and the recent one by Irving Stone, The Greek Treasure, I found boring and impossible to read). Actually it is hard to know what anyone could be dull when writing about Schliemann. Even the most prolific account of Schliemann's exploits ends up being like a Historical Romance. Nor is it possible to exaggerate the importance of Schliemann's work in determining the future of Greek archaeology. By his excavations at Troy, Mycenae, Tiryns and Orchomenos, Schliemann linked archaeology with Greek legend and myth, and from then on every excavated site in Greece had to be identified with a site mentioned by Homer. And this is what archaeology did not have to be identified with a Biblical name. Only recently have scholars begun to question this fundamental assumption, but, though he was a swordsman and an appalling field archaeologist (by modern standards), Schliemann was the first to recognize that the Trojan Horse and the Ancient Greek civilization could be something more than reading the ancient texts in a library. Schliemann finally managed to demonstrate the importance of the value of the surviving remains in modern Greece and Turkey, and, in that sense, can also be called the Father of Greek archaeology.

It must be recognized that, in countries like Italy, Greece and Turkey, archaeology is becoming more and more a part of the tourist industry. Sites are excavated and maintained, even restored to some extent, so that they will be of interest to tourists and attract more visitors to the country. In many cases the local authorities of a site now finds itself included in a number of the Ministry of Tourism and attention is focused upon those sites judged to be of greatest tourist interest. The implications of this are obvious: American and European archaeologists operating in the Mediterranean and the Middle East are now going to be allowed to excavate only at those sites the local government deems worthy of excavation, that decision being made on the basis of a site's anticipated interest to tourists.

One aspect of all this is the great attention now given to the books and travel books. As the tourist is going anywhere to see the sites, he needs to know something about what is happening in the site. But there are a number of excellent publications some of them historically by well known field archaeologists. The best guide to the classical sites in Crete is by Gerald Cadogan, Palaces of Minoan Crete, London (Barrie & Jenkins, 1976). Cadogan, the excavator of the Minoan Country House at Pyrgos, in southeastern Crete, has worked at Knossos for many years and writes both from long association with the archaeological sites and from a real love for the island and its history.

Costa Davaras, the Greek archeologist in charge of the eastern part of Crete, has written a gotoral Guide to the Minoan Sites (Noyes Press, 1976, Park Ridge, N.J.). Here the material is arranged alphabetically with entries for sites (based on personal visits) as well as for palaces (the major palace sites are listed under 'palace of'), as well as for classes of objects, aspects of Cretan civilisation (with general entries on things like 'Piracy' and 'Racial characteristics of the Minoans'). The future historian will want to consult this (the entry under 'Minoan Civilization' being about as long as that for 'Minoan Loves'), but the work does provide much of value. Unfortunately the book does not contain any publication bibliography save for excavated sites. In this regard the next book, 5209, is the work of two books, with the two books, written by Robert Noyes himself together with Dorothy Leekley. The first, Archaeological Excavations in the Greek Islands (Noyes Press, 1973) does just what the title suggests. It provides very valuable information on all the islands, including Crete. Attention is given not to the major sites (such as Delos or the Heronion on Samos) but to the minor excavations much harder to track down in the literature. The authors give publication bibliography and this is a remarkable achievement. It is a pity to find out what has been uncovered on every island in the Aegean.

The new series has now published Archaeological Excavations in Southern Greece (Noyes Press, 1976) with the same format. This deals with virtually all the major and minor, in Attica and the Peloponnese, again with publication bibliography. For the serious tourist these books are highly recommended.

The Noyes Press also puts out an excellent series of straightforward detailed works on all the American edition of books first published in England. Areas covered thus far include Southern England (by James Deyer), Scotland (by Ewan M. MacKie), Wales (by Christopher Hollander), Southern Italy (by Margaret Guido), and Central Italy (by Margaret P. Faged). The general editor of the series is Glyn Daniel, well known as an author of books on archaeology as well as the editor of the *Archaeology of Ancient Rome*. There is even a book on *Archaeology of London* by Ralph Merrifield.

The frequent visit to London in connection with this book will find out how much he has been visiting (even to visit the Mithra temple, yet it is right down here in the Tower of London--but what is known about the history of the city before the seventh century A.D.)

—James M. Mahly