

Recent Events

The Editor is not always able to verify information taken from the daily press and other sources and cannot therefore assume responsibility for it.

A skeleton has been found under 14 feet of peat at Stony Island, co. Cork. Here is a chance for someone to zone that particular peat-bed by pollen-analysis (or otherwise) and find out to which of the (pluvial or other) periods it belongs. (*Cork Examiner*, 25 April).



A large number of bronze objects recently found in Western Persia have been acquired by various European museums. They belong to a culture which is otherwise unknown, though there are obvious resemblances to the cultures of adjacent regions. A date in the first millennium B.C. is suggested. Those interested will find further details in the *Zeitschrift für Orientforschung*, band VI, heft 6, pp. 320-22 (a peculiarly interesting number of this valuable journal) and in the *Bulletin des Museaux royaux d'art et d'histoire* [Brussels] ser. 3, nos. 2 and 3 (March and May 1931).



Dr Speiser, whose new book on 'Mesopotamian origins' will shortly be reviewed in ANTIQUITY, has been conducting excavations at Tell Billa near Mosul, on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He has found remains dating from the earliest period ('Susian' egg-shell ware) down to historic times. (*Art and Archaeology*, May 1931, XXXI, 283-4).



Professor J. L. Myres has received a cablegram announcing an important archaeological discovery by Miss Dorothy Garrod, who is excavating caves at Athlit, in Palestine, on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. Miss Garrod reports that her colleague, Mr MacCown, has found a child's skull in a layer of breccia of Mousterian age in one of these caves.

ANTIQUITY

In the cave known as Mugharet el Wad mesolithic burials with head-dresses and shells have been found in place. These new finds are an important additional contribution to the series of discoveries which have been made in these caves during the past two years. (*The Times*, 1 June).



After reading the article on Grim's ditch in our last number, one of our readers in the R.A.F. went up and flew over the course described near Berkhamsted. He found what appears to be a continuation of it eastwards, beyond Berkhamsted Common, and kindly flew the Editor over the newly discovered portions. Before expressing a final opinion it will be necessary to examine the remains on the ground, when the crops have been cut.



A report by Mr H. C. H. Carpenter, of the Royal School of Mines, on an Egyptian axe-head (c. 1800 B.C.) published in *Nature*, 18 April, p. 589, contains interesting data as to its casting (it was not forged), hardness, and chemical analysis, as well as the result of an experiment to reproduce the axe-head.



An account of the excavations on the site of Paestum, directed by Professor Maiuri for the recently formed 'Society for Magna Grecia', assisted by Professor Marzullo of the Salerno Museum, is printed in *The Times*, 22 April, p. 13. A note is added of work being done at Velia (the Greek colony of Elea), 25 miles south of Paestum, where it is proposed to excavate the entire circuit of the old city walls, an undertaking of vast extent.



The Archaeological Survey of Nubia has issued a report on the Middle Kingdom fortress of Kubban, on the east bank of the Nile, opposite Dakka. (*The Times*, 22 April, p. 13).



A Minoan 'holy sepulchre' ('Temple-tomb of the Priest-Kings'), with walls over 15 feet thick, built into the hillside south of the palace of Knossos has been found by Sir Arthur Evans, who dates it to the first quarter of the 16th century B.C. Reports have been communicated by Sir Arthur to *The Times*, 28 April (p. 15), 16 May (p. 13), 13 July (p. 13), and 27 July (p. 13).

NOTES AND NEWS

Portions of a 7th–8th century cross embedded in the walls of Easby church near Richmond, Yorks, have been purchased by the Victoria and Albert Museum, where there is already another part of the cross. Attention was directed to the extraordinary interest of the cross by Sir Charles Peers in his presidential address to the Society of Antiquaries last April. (*The Antiquaries Journal*, July 1931). A description of the carvings was printed in *The Times*, 30 April, p. 12.



Funds provided by the Egyptian Department of Antiquities have enabled considerable progress to be made in excavating at Ineiba, under the direction of Professor G. Sterndorff of Leipzig. A large number of decorated vases, beads, and articles of jewelry have been found. The excavation of the sacred city of Hermopolis has been undertaken by the Egyptian University's Expedition under Dr Sami Gabra. (*The Times*, 20 May, p. 13).



The results of the season's work at Richborough are summarized in *The Times*, 1 May, p. 11. A permanent museum has been built on the site by H.M. Office of Works.



The principal features of the site of Tell el Ajjul, Gaza, are described by Sir Flinders Petrie in a letter to *The Times*, 19 May, p. 12.



The Indian Archaeological Department reports that remains of Indus Valley civilization have been found near Ambala (Punjab) similar to those at Harappa and Mohenjo Daro. (*The Times*, 19 May, p. 15).



Temples of the Third Egyptian Dynasty at Sakkara, near Cairo, are described and illustrated in *The Times*, 19 May, pp. 15 and 20.



Sir Aurel Stein has abandoned his expedition to Chinese Turkestan mainly on account of the difficulties raised by the Chinese authorities, to which reference was made in the June number of *ANTIQUITY*. (*The Times*, 25 May, p. 9). In *The Times* of 16 July (p. 13) Sir Aurel gives a detailed statement of the incidents which led to his decision.

ANTIQUITY

An account of the last exhibits removed from the tomb of Tutankhamen and now prepared for the Cairo Museum is given in *The Times*, 27 May, p. 11.



The season's work at Armenochori in Macedonia by the British School at Athens has resulted in a quantity of vases of Early Macedonian Bronze Age culture being found. The vases have two highly-swung ribbon handles which became the common form in later periods. (*The Times*, 27 May, p. 11).



Excavations at Giza Pyramids have been continued by the Harvard-Boston Expedition and the clearing of the cemetery of the Cheops family completed. (*The Times*, 16 June, p. 13).



A summary of the results of the excavations at Perachora, on the Gulf of Corinth, is published in *The Times*, 17 June, p. 10. A large deposit of decorated bronze vases, dated as 7th–6th century B.C., was discovered, as well as a fine bronze oinochoe, and two skyphoi, the first metal examples of the shape ever found in Greece. There were also ivory seals and fibulae, a most important find, as ivory has not been met with before in Corinth.



An interesting inscription has been found on the island of Uronarti on the Nile, about 30 miles above Wady Halfa, by the Harvard Archaeological Expedition under the direction of Dr Reisner. It is cut on a granite block of the quay of a fort built by Pharaoh Sesostris III and records that he took part in the pacification of the country in the 16th year of his reign. (*The Times*, 20 June, p. 11).



The Roman fortress of Caerleon is now transferred to the Office of Works as a national monument. (*The Times*, 23 June, p. 5).



The East African Archaeological Expedition has left England to revisit the Oldoway bone beds in Tanganyika Territory, where Professor Reck in 1913 discovered the fossilized skeleton of a human being. Mr L. S. B. Leakey has joined the Expedition and besides seeing the Oldoway beds hopes to carry out work at the northeast end of the Victoria Nyanza basin, where fossil beds have been known for some time. (*The Times*, 25 June, p. 20).

NOTES AND NEWS

It is believed that the site of the Academy of Plato near Athens is known as the result of excavations made under the direction of the National Museum of Athens. The walls of a large building, considered to be the college and gymnasium of the Academy, have been found. (*The Times*, 18 June; *Illustrated London News*, 27 June; *Manchester Guardian*, 26 June).



A report on the work of the British Museum Expedition to Nineveh under the direction of Dr R. Campbell Thompson was published in the *Birmingham Post*, 26 June. The results include finding the site of the Temple of Ishtar. Illustrations were published in *Illustrated London News*, 27 June.



A coloured illustration of the remarkable inscribed 10th century icon, the first of its kind, found in the ruined church of St. Mary Panachrantos at Constantinople was published in *Illustrated London News*, 27 June. It presents a wholly new example of Byzantine art.



The Public Prosecutor at Cusset states that no further proceedings will be taken against M. Emile Fradin in connexion with the *Glozel affaire* on the ground that evidence is lacking that M. Fradin has profited, or attempted to profit, by the discoveries which he announced. (*The Times*, 29 June).



The finds of the British Museum Expedition in Middle Egypt include an Amratian (early predynastic) bowl of red-painted ware, a fine collection of beads, an alabaster headrest, and some children's shoes of the Christian Coptic period A.D. 300-500. (*The Times*, 3 July, p. 11).



Among the exhibits arranged at University College, London, to illustrate the work of Sir Flinders Petrie's British School of Egypt at Tell el Ajjul near Gaza, a settlement of the Hyksos dynasty, was the skeleton of a horse buried on the site, with three legs cut off before interment. It was found in a pit with human burials. (*The Times*, 6 July).



A barrow at Longdown, near Colbury, in the New Forest, has been opened by Mr J. P. Preston. There were 37 human interments, 26 in urns of the Deverel-Rimbury type. (*The Times*, 18 July, p. 10).