

LACONIA.

II.—EXCAVATIONS AT SPARTA, 1906.

§ 6.—REMAINS OF THE ARCHAIC GREEK PERIOD.

(PLATES VIII, 1, 2, XI, XII.)

THE archaic remains, which the trial trenches have revealed at a level beneath the Roman building and temple described above, present in one respect a striking contrast. Except inscriptions, the later buildings have not yielded many small objects: their importance lies in their architectural arrangement and purpose. In the archaic stratum on the other hand, although some architectural fragments have already been found, and more are expected, the chief interest centres in the wonderful wealth of small objects, doubtless votive offerings, and the light they throw on the early stages of art in Sparta. Before our work this year, this deposit was accessible only from the side of the river, where erosion has produced a section of all the strata from the present surface down to virgin soil. This face, shewn in Fig. 1, p. 319, in its original condition before excavation, we have protected with a wall, to guard the site from the destructive effect of the floods to which the Eurotas is liable, the lowest remains being hardly higher than the level of the bed of the river. Work was begun at this naturally exposed face, where the lead figurines now in the Sparta Museum were found, which gave the first clue to the site, and the number of archaic objects unearthed in the first few hours immediately revealed its extraordinary richness.

The archaic deposit extends all along Trench A (Pl. VIII, 2), under the

temple itself, beyond which it almost immediately fails, and in lessening richness as far as the *temenos*-wall, thus covering an area of some 2,500 square metres.

Directly above it rest the foundations of the Roman arena and its associated temple, except just inside the *temenos*-wall, at the point where this is cut by the new water-channel. Here it was immediately succeeded by remains of buildings, probably a house, belonging to later Greek times, built close against the inner side of the wall. The inner face of this part



FIG. 1.—INNER FACE OF TEMENOS-WALL.

of the *temenos*-wall, freed from the later Greek wall, is shewn in Fig. 1. In the places where there are no Roman foundations, the archaic stratum is separated from the surface *humus* by a thick layer of shingle. Its limit on the landward side is formed by the *temenos*-wall, where the earth changes from soft mud to tightly packed gravel. This, and the fact that no archaic objects were found outside it, shew that the wall goes back to this early date.

Before the full excavation of the site it would be premature to examine very fully the history of the sanctuary. The absence of later Greek remains

and the name of the site, *Limnae*, indicate that it was at that time a marsh, probably liable to be flooded by the river; and the layer of shingle must have been brought by the Romans to make a firm foundation for their arena, and to raise its level well above that of the river. Pl. VIII, 2. which

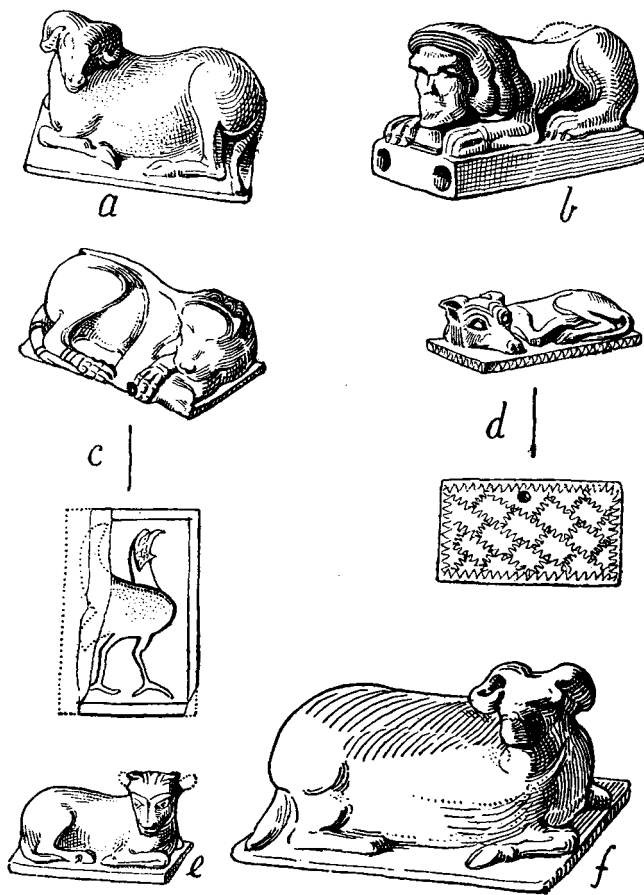


FIG. 2.—IVORY FIGURES OF ANIMALS. (SCALE 1 : 1.)

shews the section disclosed on the north side of Trench A, gives the disposition of the strata, with the archaic shewing below the Roman.

This archaic deposit, hitherto spoken of as single, was found to consist of two clearly separable strata as shewn in the sectional drawing,

with a marked difference of earth. The lower contained pottery of the Geometric period, but all so much broken that no complete vases have yet been recovered. Many bronze *fibulae* and pins were also found and a series of couchant animals in ivory. This 'Geometric' stratum was never more than .50 m. thick, and terminates abruptly both above and below.

Six examples of the ivory figures of animals out of the dozen or so that were found, are shewn in Fig. 2. They rest on oblong bases, sometimes decorated below with zigzag lines or incised drawings of birds (Fig. 2, *c*, *d*). Sheep are commonest, but other animals occur, and the figure shews a Sphinx (*b*), a lion (*c*), a dog (*d*), and a calf (*e*). They are all small, the bases varying from .03 to .06 m. in length. The style shews a good deal of realism, within the narrow limits of one motive. A unique example shews a beast of prey seizing an animal by the back.

The *fibulae* are all of the type formed of flat coils of bronze wire, with the pin behind them. Some examples have two coils only ('spectacle fibulae'), whilst others have four or six, with a small circular plate in the centre. Similar *fibulae* were found at Olympia,¹ and the specimens with two and four coils are indistinguishable from those from Halstatt.²

The pins were of a type found at the Argive Heraeum, with the head formed of a series of bead-shaped bulbs.³

Two bronze animals were found, a horse and a bird, standing on bases formed of a frame of zigzag wire. These are characteristically Geometric, and occurred at Olympia and the Argive Heraeum.⁴ Some scarabs of glass-paste were found, which await further study.

Above this 'Geometric' deposit is the main archaic stratum, the richness of which is the most remarkable feature of the site. The soft fine earth of which it consists is everywhere full of small objects, of which Corinthian pottery, lead figurines, terracotta masks, bronze objects, and ivories are the most important. Pavements and roof-tiles were also found, and both the trial trenches A and B are crossed by walls, which, as they run in the same direction, probably belong to the same building (see Plan,

¹ *Olympia*, iv. Pl. XXI, 359-361.

² Ridgeway, *Early Age in Greece*, i. p. 578, Figs. 126, 127.

³ *Argive Heraeum*, i. Pls. LXXVIII, LXXIX. Nos. 95, 195. Also *Aegina, Heiligtum der Aphaia*, Pl. 114, 44.

⁴ For horses see *Olympia*, iv. Pl. XIV, and *Argive Heraeum*, ii. Pls. LXXII, LXXIV. For birds, *Olympia*, iv. Pl. XIII. No. 210. A horse from the Temple in Aegina is published in *Aegina, Heiligtum der Aphaia*, p. 391, Pl. 113, 2.

Pl. VIII, 1). The lower courses of the wall in trench A are imbedded in the 'Geometric' stratum, and above them the stones become much larger and finer, and evidently as much intended to be seen, as those below to be concealed. The wall therefore belongs to a building set up some time during the period to which the objects in the upper stratum belong. Corinthian sherds were found both above and below the pavement in trench B, which is therefore possibly slightly later. The roof-tiles, mostly from trench B, are semicylindrical, and covered with a red or black glaze. One is from the eaves, and closed at the end, where it is painted with a pattern of semicircles. A piece of painted terracotta architecture ornament was also found. All these objects are probably remains of a temple erected in the seventh century, in which the great mass of objects found in this *stratum* were offered as votives. The campaign of 1907 will be mainly devoted to the full excavation of this building.

The Lead Figurines.

These were found in very great numbers, and the total already recovered from this small area may be estimated as at least ten thousand. They are characteristic of the district, and have been found at other Laconian sites. Thus the Sparta Museum contains specimens from the Amyclaeum and the Menelaum, as well as those from the Artemisium itself, which furnished the first clue to the discovery of the site. These earlier finds have been described, with a tabular list, by Mr. Wace, in the Catalogue of the Sparta Museum,¹ and Fig. 3 gives the more important types that have been found this year.

These are :—

(1) Wreaths or crowns. By far the commonest type, of which at least as many as all the rest put together, have been found. *S. M. C.* Fig. 79, No. 552, and Fig. 81.

(2) Figures of warriors in profile, with circular shields, which are sometimes decorated with heraldic devices. Fig. 3*f* and *S. M. C.* 552*a*, and Fig. 81. More rarely the warrior is shewn in the act of charging.

(3) Female figures.

¹ *Sparta Museum Catalogue*, p. 228.



FIG. 3.—LEAD FIGURINES FROM THE ARTEMISIUM. (SCALE 1:1.)

(4) Goddesses, generally a winged Artemis type (Fig 3*a*, and *S. M. C.* 552, 679). Athena with spear, helm, and snake-fringed *aegis* is shewn in Fig 3*c*; and *b* is a unique figure on a plaque holding two birds.

(5) Horse (Fig. 3*d*), cocks (Fig. 3*e*), and other animals. *S. M. C.* Fig. 79, No. 552*a*.

(9) Oblong grilles. *S. M. C.* Fig. 31, No. 552. The meaning of these is quite obscure. Examination shews that Dr. Rouse's suggestion,¹ that they were used to support figures of animals, is not tenable, probable as it seems judging from the illustrations, and from a comparison with the openwork bases of the bronze Geometric animals.

(7) Palm-branches. Fig. 3*h*, and *S. M. C.* Fig. 81, No. 552.

(8) Centaurs.

(9) Horseman. Fig. 3*g* shews an unusually large example.

(10) Men playing the flute or lyre. Fig. 3*j* is a man playing the double-flute furnished with a mouthstrap.

(11) Female type in the archaic running attitude Fig. 3*k*.

(12) Nude male figures.

(13) A great variety of less common types, jugs, sprays of flowers ornaments, and others. These will no doubt be greatly increased by further excavation.

The figures are all moulded on one side only, and the channel through which the metal was poured is very often left. In the case of the horseman in Fig. 3*g* it is very conspicuous above his head. From their enormous numbers they must have been the cheapest kind of votive offering. It may be noted that the female dress, consisting always of bodice and separate skirt, suits the archaic dating.

Terracotta Masks.

Of these some fifteen to twenty were found fairly complete (Pls. XI, XII), and there are a great number of fragments, which it will be possible partly at all events, to put together, when further excavation has given us all the material. They are found only in this *stratum*, and in all parts of the site, though they were especially abundant at the east end of trench A,

¹ Rouse, *Greek Votive Offerings*, p. 15, note 8.

where an enormous mass of them occurred. They were clearly dedicated objects, and were probably suspended from walls, a practice alluded to in a fragment of Aristophanes, as in use in the precinct of Dionysus at Athens.¹ Many were never anything else than votive offerings, as they are too small to have been worn, and the eyes, nose, and mouth are not pierced. Others, with open eyes and mouths, and pierced nostrils, may well have been worn by the actors in some ritual drama, and then dedicated. The holes often found at the edges have probably been used for strings to hold them in position on the face. They fall into a series of well marked types:—

(1) Large female masks wearing a diadem. These are generally a good deal painted, especially the diadem, which is picked out with vertical stripes of red paint.

(2) Satyric masks, with long, upright, bestial ears, and broad low faces, much wrinkled.

(3) Male masks, whose chief feature is that they have a full beard, spreading out from the jaws all round, giving much the appearance of the gold death-masks from Mycenae, but no moustache. They illustrate the Spartan edict, which imposed on the Spartans, besides obedience to the laws, the duty of shaving their moustaches.²

(4) Masks of elderly people with much wrinkled faces (Pl. XII, *c*). The wrinkles on the forehead and cheeks are often exaggerated to such a point, that realism becomes caricature.

(5) Masks of the grotesque type shewn in Pl. XI, *a*. The spirals on the cheek and jaws, and possibly the wrinkles in the last type, are probably marks of tattooing, and some of the painted examples shew marks, which can hardly be anything else. It does not follow that the Spartans of the seventh century tattooed their faces. Masks, used for a ritual purpose, would be likely to imitate in their decoration such a custom long after it had become obsolete in practice.

The specimen shown in Fig. 4, with its realistic and masterly modelling, stands rather apart from the others.³

The facial type is characterized by strongly marked features

¹ Quoted by Rouse, *Greek Votive Offerings*, p. 162.

² Κείρεσθαι τὸν μύστακα καὶ προσέχειν τοῖς νόμοις. Plut. 2. 550 B.

³ For other masks on Pls. XI and XII see § 7.

prominent chin, and a high well formed nose, which tends to droop at the end.

Two of the terracotta masks found in graves in Samos¹ resemble these very closely. One has incised lines like the wrinkles in type 4 above, reminding Boehlau of tattooing, and the other has long ears and a



FIG. 4.—TERRACOTTA MASK FROM THE ARTEMISIUM.

broad low face with wide nostrils, like the Satyr masks of our type 2. Grotesque terracotta masks, dated to the sixth century, have been found in the Punic tombs at Doruïmes, near Carthage.²

¹ J. Boehlau, *Aus Ionischen und Italischen Nekropolen*, p. 157 and Pl. XIII, 106.

² Moore, *Carthage of the Phoenicians*, p. 39 and Plate facing p. 36.

Bronzes.

The commonest bronze objects found are pins, like those found at Olympia, Aegina, and the Argive Heraeum, with the head formed by a large heavy disc.¹ It is the type that, according to Thiersch, is characteristic of the sixth century,² and an example in silver was found, like one in the British Museum from near the Argive Heraeum, with an inscription of this date.³ Of the others, the most interesting are pieces of sheet-bronze, with an incised pattern imitating plaited strands, that was found at Olympia on fragments of shields, and regarded as Argive or Corinthian work of the sixth century.⁴

Objects in Ivory and Bone.

(1) Narrow strips of bone, generally pointed at one end, about .10 m. long by .02 m. wide, decorated on one side with patterns of concentric circles and dots in square panels, which are often edged with rows of triangles. One bears a figure of a man in the archaic running attitude very shallowly carved. These objects, whose use is unknown, were found also in the tomb by Matállas' mill mentioned above (*S. M. C.* 549, 4)

(2) A great number of knucklebones, some artificially flattened on the two opposite sides.

(3) Bone objects of the shape and about the size of thimbles, the top being a separate piece fitted on like a lid. They look like pieces for some game like draughts, an idea which is supported by the number of knucklebones, the most primitive kind of dice, that were found.⁵

(4) Pieces of long bones split in halves and pierced with a hole in the centre (*S. M. C.* 549, 3).

(5) Two four-sided ivory seals and a carved disc, possibly a lid, like those from the Argive Heraeum.⁶ The seals are carved with intaglios of birds and beasts and, once, of a face.

¹ *Olympia*, iv. Pl. XXV, Nos. 481-485. *Argive Heraeum*, ii. Pls. LXX-LXXXIII, Nos. 384-669.

² *Aegina, Heiligtum der Aphaia*, Pl. 114, Nos. 41, 43, 50-52, and p. 114.

³ *Argive Heraeum*, ii. Pl. CXXXVII and *I.G.* iv. 508.

⁴ *Olympia*, iv. Pl. LXII, Nos. 3009, 3, 1110 and Pl. XLII. No. 76.

⁵ One was found by Matállas' mill, *S. M. C.* 549, 8, where it is catalogued as a mouthpiece.

⁶ *Argive Heraeum*, ii. p. 351, Pl. CXXXIX, 1-3.

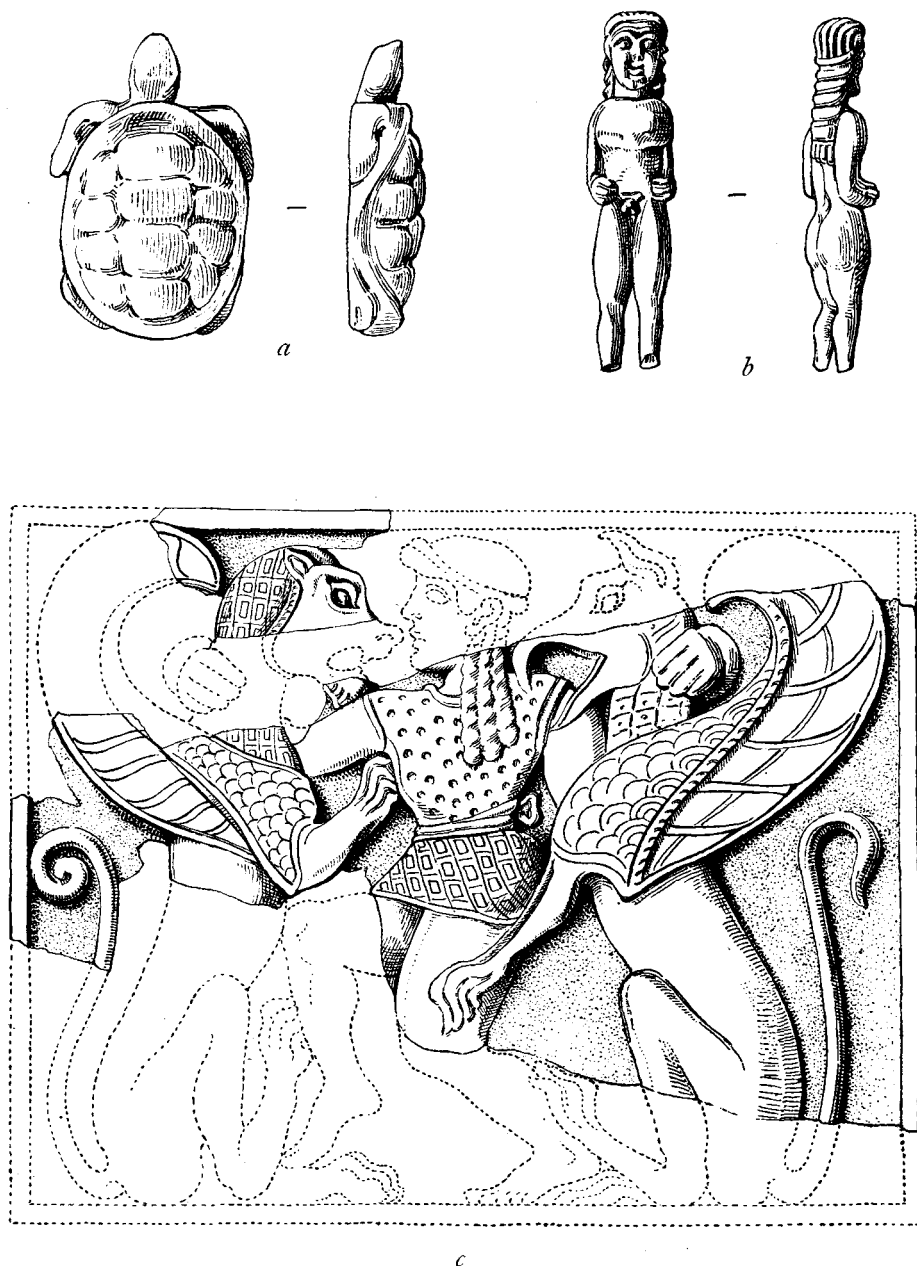


FIG. 5.—IVORIES FROM THE ARTEMISIUM. (SCALE 1:1.)

(6) Various fine ivories, of which the best is shewn in Fig. 5*c*. It is a plaque, which when complete measured '12 m. by about '095 m., representing a man struggling with a lion and gryphon. Fig. 5*b* represents a small nude male figure, and *a* a tortoise, which was found in trench B, together with a turtle and a frog of the same size and material, but less well carved.¹

Pottery.

A great quantity was found all over the deposit. The painted pieces, all a good deal broken, belong to the 'Old Corinthian' style, the second of the three classes under which Wilisch arranges Corinthian pottery.² It is marked by the yellow ground, the use of purple as a subsidiary colour, and representations of animals, rather than of the human figure. The drawing is sometimes helped out by incised lines. Both Wilisch and Walters³ date this style to the middle of the seventh century B.C. As to shapes: the amount yet found only permits the statement that the aryballos is extremely common.

Besides this painted ware, which may very well have been imported, there were found great numbers of the small vases, specimens of which from Angelona have been published by Wace and Hasluck in *B.S.A.* xi. pp. 83 *sqq.* These were of a red clay, and the only decoration was on vases of the shape shewn in *B.S.A.* xi. p. 85, Fig. 6, No. 4, which often have thin bands of white on a black ground.

Specimens from the Menelaëum are described in the Sparta Museum Catalogue No. 553, and they have been found this year at the Heroön on the river above the Artemisium, and in trial-pits on the Acropolis.

These different wares were found indiscriminately in all parts of the *stratum*, all the objects in which seem therefore to be confined to one period. A close study of this pottery, which will give the best evidence for the date of the deposit, must be deferred until all the material has been made available.

¹ Three ivory plaques from Sparta carved with figures, two of a warrior and one of a woman, now at Dhimitzana have been published by G. C. Richards, *J.H.S.* XII, p. 41, Pl. XI.

² Wilisch, *Die Altcorinthische Thonindustrie*, p. 19.

³ Walters, *History of Ancient Pottery*, i. p. 311; Wilisch, *op. cit.* p. 151.

Inscribed Reliefs.

Another class of dedication is represented by four specimens. These are small plaques of soft stone bearing an animal rather crudely carved in low relief. They are discussed on pp. 333 f.. For the inscriptions on two of them see p. 353.

A large number of iron spits were found, probably Spartan money. Owing to the dampness of the soil they are unfortunately much corroded.

After a second season it should be possible to date this deposit with some accuracy. At present the pottery suggests the seventh, and the inscriptions the sixth century B.C., though there is nothing to prevent these latter from being somewhat earlier. Nor is the pottery exactly like the usual Corinthian ware; it perhaps belongs to a local school continuing the earlier Corinthian tradition. The turn of the seventh and sixth centuries seems at present the most probable central date, although the accumulation of such a mass of objects must have taken some time.

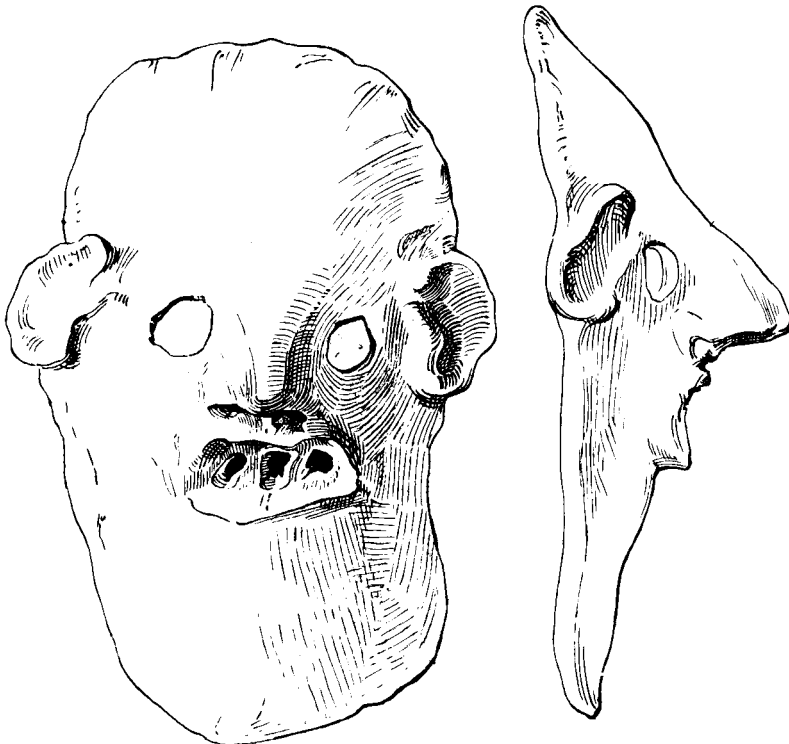
R. M. DAWKINS.



SPARTA.—ENLARGED PLANS.

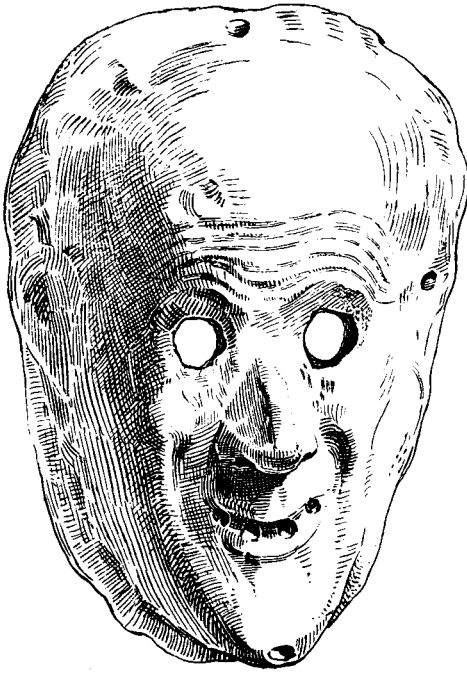


a (2 : 3)

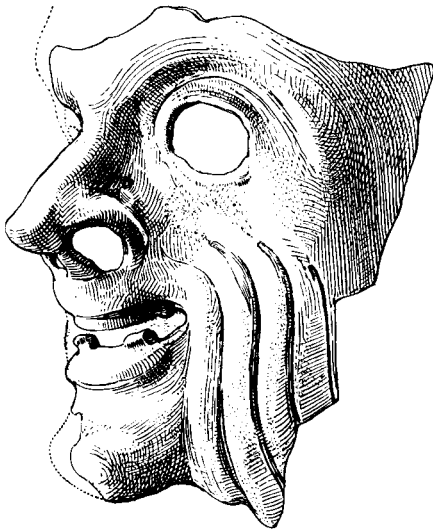


b (1 : 2).

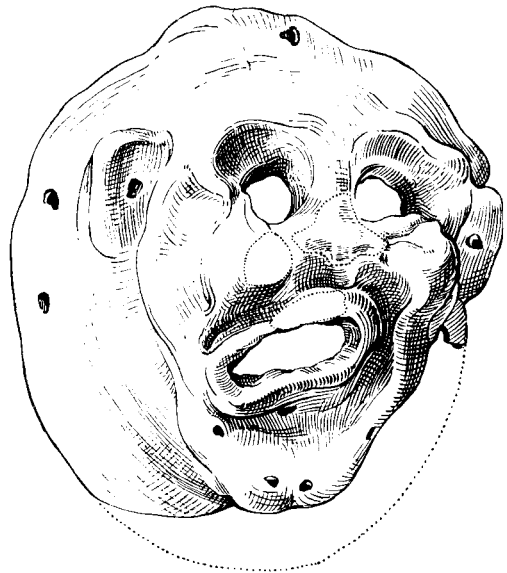
TERRACOTTA MASKS FROM SPARTA.



c (1:2).



a (2:5).



e (2:5).

TERRACOTTA MASKS FROM SPARTA.