

EARLY CIVILIZATION IN NORTHERN GREECE*

WITH PLATE L AND LI

Last year, in his Annual Report on Archaeology in Greece, Mr. Dawkins, the Director of the British School at Athens, stated emphatically that one of the most pressing problems of Greek Archaeology was the need for determined effort to throw more light on the chronology and relationships of the early civilisations of North Greece. But during the last twelve months our knowledge has been greatly increased by various valuable publications, and we have some evidence to enable us to formulate ideas as to the extent and the chronology of primitive culture in this region. Also, this year, the writers of this article excavated, with a grant from the Cambridge University Worts Fund, a site called Zerélia near Almyrò in Southern Thessaly (Phthiotis). All recent students of the topography of the district have suggested that this mound, which stands on a hill between two lakes, was the site of Itonos† and the Temple of Athena Itonia, the patron deity of Thessaly. It will be remembered that her name was the Thessalian battle-cry, and it is inconceivable that a site associated with a cult of such importance in the great age of Greece should altogether be lacking in remains of the best period. On excavation, however, this conjecture was seen to be erroneous; the site of Itonos must be sought elsewhere. On the top of the mound there is a thin Greek layer amongst some late and badly built walls. This deposit, from the tiles and black

* Χρήστος Τσούντας, *Αἱ προϊστορικαὶ ἀκροπόλεις Διμηνίου καὶ Σέσκλου*, Athens, 1903, Greek Archaeological Society. Fifty francs.

G. SOTIRIADHIS, Untersuchungen in Boiotien und Phokis (*Athenische Mitteilungen des kaiserlich deutschen archäologischen Instituts*, 1905, pp. 120 ff. *Ibid.*, 1906, pp. 396 ff.

G. SOTIRIADHIS, *Προϊστορικὰ ἀγγεῖα Χαιρωνείας καὶ Ἐλατείας*, Ἐφημερίς Ἀρχαιολογική, Athens, 1908, pp. 65 ff.

H. BULLE, Orchomenos I (*Abhandlungen der königliche bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften*, I Klasse, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2), Munich, 1907. Fourteen marks.

T. E. PEET, The Early Aegean Civilization in Italy (*Annual of the British School at Athens*, Vol. XIII, Session 1906-1907), London (Macmillan), 1908.

M. MAYER, Le Stazioni preistoriche di Molfetta (*Commissione provinciale di Archeologia e Storia patria, Documenti e Monografie*, Vol. VI), Bari, 1904. Ten lire.

R. M. BURROWS, The Discoveries in Crete, Second Edition, London (Murray). 1908. Five shillings.

† STAHLIN, *Athenische Mitteilungen*. 1906. p. 15.

glazed sherds found in it, cannot be earlier than the late fourth century B.C. Apart from this, no other Hellenic remains were discovered.

Directly below, however, there was a rich prehistoric deposit, from six to eight metres thick. This is clearly divided up into no less than eight separate settlements by the successive layers of burnt and decomposed mud brick from the huts of the villages running horizontally through the mound, which is about seventy-five metres long by fifty wide. This important stratification enables the changes in the development of culture to be traced throughout by means of the innumerable potsherds and stone implements that occur in each stratum.

The pottery all through is hand-made, with the exception of a few specimens from the eighth and latest village. In the first and lowest settlement it is of two kinds: a thin, well-made, red ware, and highly decorative vases with elaborate patterns in red on a polished white ground. In the first settlement the former predominates, but in the second their positions are reversed. In the latter stratum the remains of a well-preserved building were discovered. Thick walls, of mud-brick, still stand *in situ* on a dry course of slabs, and at the ground level outside they are faced with upright slabs to prevent rain and damp from undermining them. The pottery of the third and fourth settlements does not differ from that of the second, except that the red ware begins to disappear and the signs of degeneration, which culminate in the later and upper strata, are already visible. The bulk of the pottery is now a monochrome polished ware, either grey or red-brown. In the fifth and sixth settlements the red-on-white ware goes out, and the plain pottery becomes coarser; at the same time a black polished ware makes its first appearance. In the two topmost strata, painted pottery is almost entirely non-existent. Also a very coarse monochrome fabric, ranging in colour from grey-brown to red, was used from the time of the second settlement, but in greater quantities later. In contrast to the degeneration of the pottery, an advance is to be observed in the series of stone axes, for only in the later villages have they holes bored through them for the handles, which in the earlier period were merely lashed on. Thus we have the interesting fact that the art of this primitive people decayed as they

progressed in technical skill. Fortunately these results, though important, do not stand alone, for data were also obtained which are invaluable for establishing not only the succession, but also the approximate chronology of the various periods. In the débris of the eighth and last settlement, beneath the Greek layer several fragments of late Mycenaean vases were unearthed, of the type known as late Minoan III, like those from the well-known site at Ialysus. No signs appeared of a Mycenaean settlement, so that the vases must be thought to have been imported. Thus we are enabled to date the settlement to about 1200-1100 B.C. Accordingly, we can conjecture that the date of the earliest settlement is not later than 2500 B.C. These eight superimposed settlements seem to belong to the neolithic age. No trace of bronze was discovered, except a fish-hook of uncertain date, found at the bottom of a previous explorer's trial trench. But sunk in the eighth settlement, and so about the level of the imported Mycenaean vases, is a series of cist-tombs, built with limestone slabs. The bodies in every instance were in a crouching attitude. In some of these, wheel-made vases were found. One which had bone, glass, and bronze beads, and another containing the skeleton of a full-grown man, together with a bronze knife, a bored stone axe and a flint arrow-head, gave the first definite signs of a bronze-age culture. We can thus conjecture that North Greece was still in the Neolithic age until the last period of Mycenaean art, 1200-1100 B.C. At this time a new bronze-using people seems to have entered Thessaly, and displaced the primitive inhabitants.

Throughout the plains of Thessaly, similar mounds (known as *maghoules*) exist in great numbers. Professor Tsountas gives a valuable list of sixty-three, but this is by no means exhaustive. They are said to occur in Aetolia, and Macedonia proper. We have explored others in the Spercheius Valley; and in Northern Boeotia Dr. Sotiriádhis has excavated several at Dhrachmani (Elatea) and Chaeronea. At the latter place all his important finds are well displayed in the local museum. The mounds are of two types, low and high. On the former, which are but slightly raised above the level of the plain, painted pottery is to be found on the surface. On the latter, which resemble the mound at Zerélia, coarse ware is found on top and painted pottery beneath. It is thus seen

that a certain number of these settlements were abandoned when the degeneration of the pottery began.

At Chaeronea and Dhrachmani the painted pottery found by Dr. Sotiriádhis closely resembles that from Zerélia in fabric and colour, but differs somewhat in the decorative motives. This

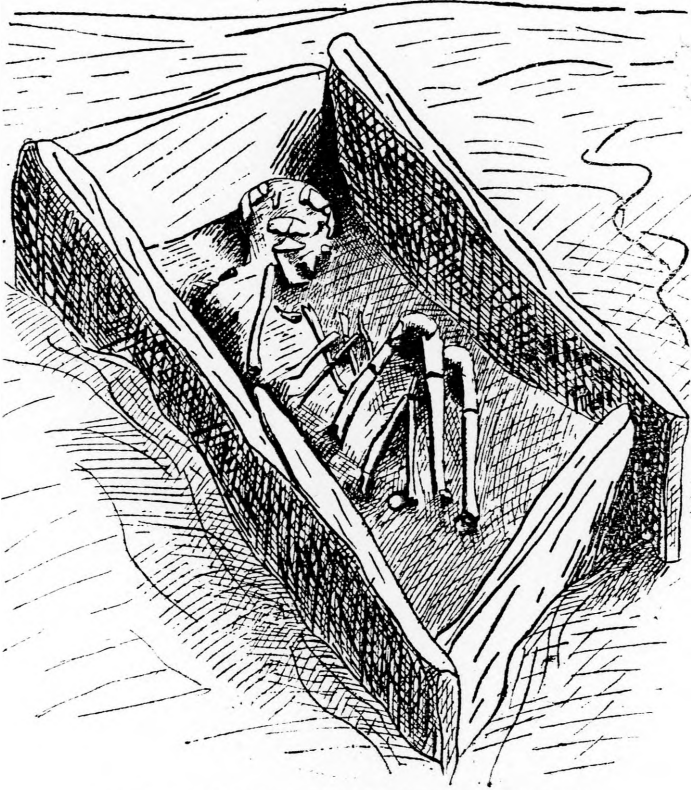


FIG. 1. ZERELIA: CIST-TOMB IN THE EIGHTH STRATUM.

Chaeronaea-Zerélia ware also occurs in the lowest level at Orchómenos, well below the Mycenaean. We found it in the Spercheius Valley and in the plain of Phársala. It is also recorded that Dr. Dörpfeld has discovered traces of it in Leucas* and at

* Tsountas, *op. cit.*, p. 386. 1.

Olympia. Going yet further afield, Mr. Peet has pointed out the great likeness that exists between it and the painted ware from Molfetta and Matéra in Southern Italy (Apulia). It thus seems that this Neolithic culture spread from Thessaly across the Phourka pass in Mount Othrys to Lamía, and down past Thermopylae into North Boeotia. It may also prove to have extended through the passes of Pindus and Tymphrestus into Aetolia, across the Corinthian Gulf into Elis, and over the Adriatic into Apulia. It is to be remarked that the settlements are confined, as far as we know at present, to the plains and foothills.

Settlements	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Fine red ware	■■■■■			● ● ● ●	●			
Red on white ware	● ●	■■■■■				● ● ●		
Dhimini ware		● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	●		
Coarse monochrome ware		● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	■■■■■			
Black polished ware.....				● ●	■■■■■			
Wheel-made vases								● ● ●
Mycenaean sherds								● ● ●
Cist tombs								● ● ●
Approximate dates B.C.	2500 B.C.			2000 B.C.				1100 B.C.

FIG. 2.—DIAGRAM TO EXPLAIN STRATIFICATION AT ZERÉLIA.

Prof. Tsountas, in his recently published work describing his excavations at Dhimini and Sesklo, has produced a book of first-rate importance to all students, because it is to-day realised that it is in North Greece, and in the possible links with the Balkans and Central Europe, that light is to be looked for on the ethnological questions of the Aegæan. The illustrations alone are a mine of valuable information. The many plates are excellent, and the figures in the text are exceedingly useful for a proper understanding of the matter.† Briefly, the results given by Prof. Tsountas of his excavations are that the earliest period of the Neolithic settlements began at Sesklo at least as early as the first half of the

† Figures 24A, 24B on pp. 111, 112 are, however, upside down.

Fourth Millenium B.C. At Dhimini a very few traces of his first period survive. The bulk of the remains there are of a second period, which at both sites precedes a third, mainly of degeneration, which, according to him, was an age of bronze, and began during the Third Millenium B.C. Cist-tombs of this period, similar to those at Zerélia, and others of the later Mycenaean Age were found in the higher levels of the mounds. The first period, which is sub-divided, is distinguished from the second mainly by a radical change in the style of the hand-made pottery. As at Zerélia, the earliest pottery is monochrome, red, and very finely made, and is succeeded by a

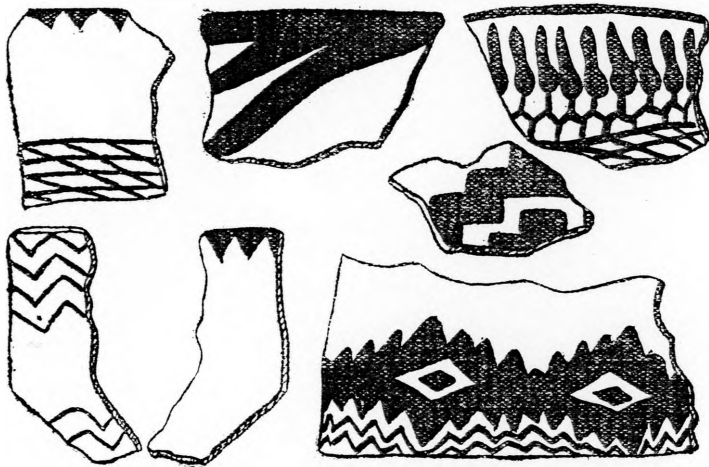


FIG. 3. ZERELIA: PATTERNS ON POTTERY OF 'FIRST PERIOD,' ACCORDING TO TSOUNTAS.

ware slightly coarser and painted with red designs on a white ground. The usual ware of the second period shows chocolate paint on a cream or reddish ground, with designs combining spiral and geometric elements, the typical Dhimini ware. This Stone Age Prof. Tsountas believes to have come to a violent end at the hands of the new people who occupied the same site until some time prior to the spread of Mycenaean culture, when the mounds, almost entirely formed by the deposit from long occupation, were deserted and used as convenient spots for tombs.

The whole question of these settlements and of the deductions

as to race movements that can legitimately be drawn from the changing styles of the pottery is one of great importance. But for the moment we would join issue with Prof. Tsountas on another question: to what period in Thessaly can the name Bronze Age rightly be given? He justly says that the exact date of the introduction of copper is unknown, but *βέβαιον εἶναι ὅτι ἡ χρῆσις τοῦ χαλκοῦ διαδόθη ἐν Θεσσαλίᾳ καὶ ἔγινε κοινὴ κατὰ τὴν διάρκειαν τῆς νέας περιόδου καὶ ἔνεκα τούτου καλοῦμεν αὐτὴν ὅλην χαλκοῦν αἰῶνα* (p. 14). We wish that Prof. Tsountas had given us his evidence for this statement.*. He uses the words *χαλκοῦν αἰῶνα*

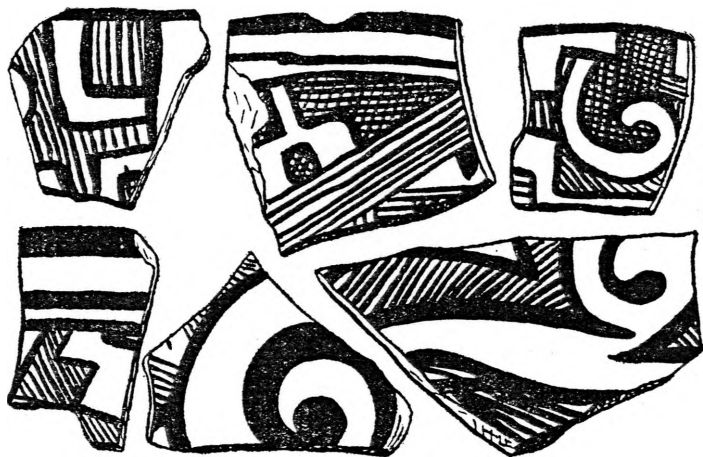


FIG. 4. DHIMINI: PATTERNS ON POTTERY OF 'SECOND PERIOD,' ACCORDING TO TSOUNTAS.

to cover both the last long period of deposit, and that of the cist-tombs, with no distinction between them. But a glance at the pottery illustrated in Chapters III and V shows that the tombs, which from the knives and rings figured on Plate IV have every right to be claimed for a period of bronze, produced pottery of a type which is distinctly an advance on that shown in Chapter V. The use of the wheel is far more general in the ware of the tombs. We would suggest that, in spite of the obsidian trade with the

* At Sesklo two copper axes were found together by the side of a wall of the neolithic age. He believes that this was not accidental, but that they were buried on purpose. So they cannot be used as evidence that what Prof. Tsountas calls bronze-age pottery, really belongs to the bronze age.

Aegean which had existed from the time of the earliest settlements, the use of bronze did not come in till a comparatively late period represented by these cist-tombs, which can hardly have been built until the mounds had been deserted by the people who produced the later or so-called Bronze Age deposit. If Prof. Tsountas has clear evidence that bronze was in use during that period, we repeat that we are sorry he does not give it. Speaking of later tombs which had been made on the site of a settlement τοῦ χαλκοῦ αἰῶνος (p. 122) he says, τὰ ἐν τῇ ἐπιχώσει γεγόμενα εὐρήματα εἶναι τεμάχια πηλίνων ἀγγείων καὶ ὀλίγα μᾶλλον ἢ ἥττον ἄρτια ἀγγεῖα, κέρατα ἐλάφων καὶ ὅσα διαφόρων ζώων ἐξεργασμένα, ὀλίγαι λίθιναι ἄξιναι, πήλινα σφονδύλια καὶ ἄλλα τινά. We should have liked to find a mention of bronze. We believe that

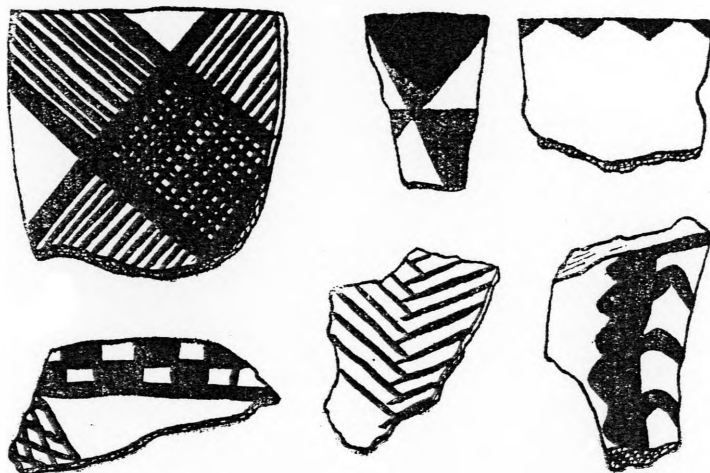


FIG. 5. CHAERONEA: PATTERNS ON POTTERY.

Troy is too far off to afford trustworthy analogies (p. 363), nor do we think that the Cycladic culture is any sure criterion of dates in Thessaly. By itself the trade in obsidian from Melos, which was a thing apart, is no warrant for assuming that bronze was imported with it, or that there was any connection close enough to affect the peoples of Thessaly materially. The two periods of the Stone Age differ fundamentally in the style of their painted pottery (e.g., typically, plates VII and IX). We hardly think that

Prof. Tsountas makes it clear whether he believes that the second grew naturally out of the first, or came in by force of conquest. A comparison of the list of sites with his map shows that in the north, along the Lárisa railway line, the two periods appear well mixed, but in the south, round Phársala and Zerélia, the earlier preponderates. Now it is fairly certain that the first period did not pass into the second in every place. At Zerélia, for instance, the

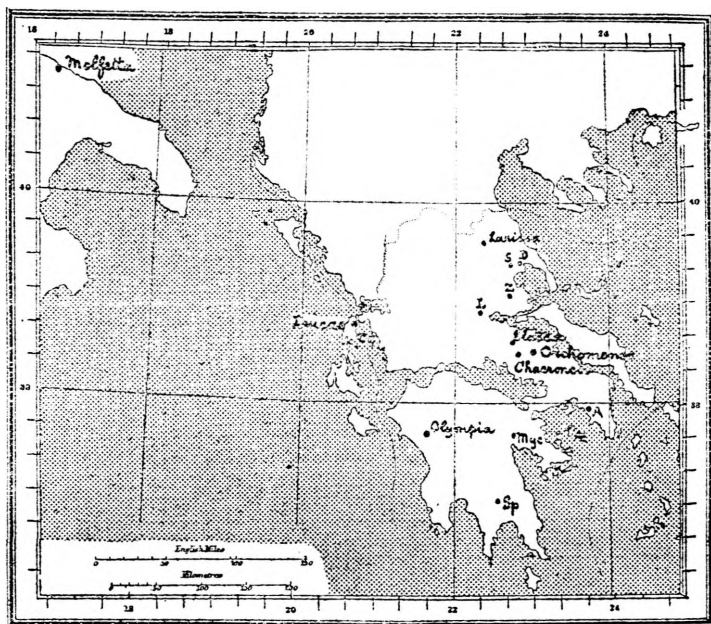


FIG. 6.—SKETCH MAP TO SHOW THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE SITES.

D. = Dikaini.	Š. = Šaklo.	A. = Athens.	Myc. = Mycenae.
L. = Larissa.	Z. = Zerélia.	AE. = Aegina.	Sp. = Sparta.

second period is almost entirely absent. It is represented only by a few sherds mixed in every case with those of the first period. It seems impossible to believe that there is any connection of growth between them. The true solution probably is that the distinction is geographical as well as chronological. That is, the second style was brought in at a slightly later period, and in the north was

superimposed. Elsewhere, by Phársala and Zerélia, it hardly penetrated, and the first style lasted on until, in one place the second in another the first, merged simultaneously into the period of degeneration and coarse monochrome pottery, which survived until the introduction of bronze at a late date.

Also, although Prof. Tsountas speaks of stratification at Sésκλο, he gives no details; in fact, in one passage he distinctly mentions that he found both styles of pottery mixed together (pp. 74, 159). As regards the incised ware, which he divides between the two periods, it is remarkable that though plentiful at Sésκλο and Dhimíni, it hardly occurs at Zerélia, nor have we observed any on other Thessalian neolithic mounds. Further, the neolithic pottery of Thrace, which is nearly all incised, also shows a combination of geometric and spiral decoration.* It is possible that it, too, like the Dhimíni chocolate-on-cream ware, is local, and did not penetrate as far south as Phthiotis.

There is a further chronological point on which it will be seen that Prof. Tsountas' results do not agree with those from Zerélia. Relying on the likeness of one vase from Sésκλο, which he assigns to the Bronze Age, to others found in the First City at Troy (figs. 199, 294) he suggests that his Thessalian Bronze Age, and Troy I, are contemporary. That is to say, in Thessaly the Bronze Age began about 3000-2500 B.C., long before the Mycenaean period. But the stratification at Zerélia seems to prove that bronze was unknown in Thessaly before the Mycenaean Age, and that this so-called Bronze Age of Prof. Tsountas flourished about 1800-1200 B.C.

It is to be hoped that the publication of the Orchómenos pottery, which will be awaited with great interest, will further enlighten us on this point. At this site four strata were found. In the lowest, ware of the Chaeronea-Zerélia style occurs, and the fourth stratum belongs to the late Mycenaean Age.† We thus seem to have a sequence similar to that at Zerélia. It should also be observed that some of the intervening pottery, called 'Minyan' by its excavators, resembles that from the cist-tombs of Sésκλο,

* Seure-Degrad, *Bull. Corr. Hell.*, 1906, pp. 359 ff., cf. especially fig. 37 on p. 402.

† The third stratum is said to be of the older Mycenaean period, but no details of its pottery are yet published.

Dhimíni and Zerélia. Perhaps the similar tombs found by Dr. Dörpfeld in Leucas come into this context.

To sum up, we believe that the neolithic mounds of North Greece date from about 2500 B.C. or earlier, and that about 2000-1800 B.C., when the degeneration in the painted pottery occurred, many of them were abandoned. The red-on-white Chaeronea-Zerélia ware extends from Chaeronea in the south to the Thessalian plains, and apparently as far west as Leucas and Olympia. The chocolate-on-cream Dhimíni ware occurs only in Thessaly, especially in the Lárissa-Pherae district, and seems not to have penetrated far in Phthiotis, or near Phársala. About 1200-1100 B.C., Mycenaean influence reached the Gulf of Pagasae, and apparently the neolithic folk of North Greece for the first time came into close contact with the bronze-users of the south. The coarse monochrome bronze-age pottery of Prof. Tsountas we believe not to be due to an invasion of a new people, but to an artistic decay; for at Zerélia the transition from painted to plain ware takes place gradually. On the other hand, the true bronze-age cist-tombs which seem to be somewhat later than the late Mycenaean Age, are probably those of an invading race from the north. Perhaps these same people were at a later period the makers of the undeveloped Thessalian geometric pottery of the early iron age, such as that found at Marmariani,* Skyros,† and Theotókou.‡.

From the foregoing summary it will be seen that the early culture in North Greece should be treated separately from that in the south, for we observe that the neolithic age in the north apparently lasted till late Mycenaean times. Although the obsidian trade from Melos is a proof of relation with the Aegaeon, yet the pottery is distinct. The painted Chaeronea-Zerélia ware, which has some patterns in common with the styles known as Early Minoan II and III, is totally different in fabric. In Crete the wheel was in use, and the painted ware is not hand-polished.

Further, the fact that the only Mycenaean vases found in the north are all of the latest period (Late Minoan III, as at Ialysus) is another argument against early Minoan connection, with the

* *Πρακτικά*, 1899, p. 101.

† *Brit. School Annual*, XI, p. 79.

‡ *Brit. School Annual*, XIII, p. 321

possible exception of Orchómenos, where Kamáres ware' is said to occur.* Dr. Sotiriádhis, who has found a bronze-age tomb near Dhrachmáni, wishes to see a connection with Cycladic culture. But although the tomb contained beaked jugs—one with the so-called 'butterfly-pattern,' common in Crete—the relationship of this isolated tomb to the neolithic settlements in the same region is obscure. Nor do his comparisons of fabrics and patterns seem convincing, although he states that some sherds exactly resemble others from Aegina, and are Aeginetan imports into Boeotia. Further, the terra-cotta statuettes from the north differ from the well-known Cycladic types.† Consequently for the present our verdict on the question as to whether the early civilisations of North and South Greece are connected must be 'non-proven.'

As regards the west, we have already referred to Mr. Peet's paper, in which he points out the striking resemblance of some of the ware from Molfetta and Matéra, in Apulia, to North Greek pottery. But here again the fabric differs, and we must suspend judgment till neolithic sites in Aetolia and Epirus have been explored.

Turning to the north, we have to consider if there can be any relationship with the early pottery of Servia, Thrace, Galicia, Bessarabia, and Central Europe. Western archaeologists are confronted by no more difficult problem than the elucidation of the sporadic finds from these districts, but Prof. Burrows gives us an able summary of them as far as they are at present accessible.‡ In the appendix to his second edition, he adds fuller information about the more recent finds in Servia, but for the present, while Macedonia remains a *terra incognita*, our knowledge is far from complete; for we do not even know the northern limits of the Thessalian wares. It is a far cry from Dhimíni or Zerélia to Galicia, nor are the resemblances of the fabrics sufficiently striking. We must wait for systematic exploration until we can agree with Dr. Hubert Schmidt that early Greek civilisation came from Central Europe, or with

* The sherds from Orchómenos in the Chaeronea Museum, so labelled, do not seem to be Cretan.

† A few possible resemblances may be noted on plates XXXVII and XXXVIII of Tsountas' book.

‡ BURROWS. *The Discoveries in Crete*. London (Murray), second edition, 1908, Appendix.

Dr. Wosinsky that the primitive culture of Central Europe is derived from the Aegaeon. Of North Greece itself we know all too little. Further excavation of early sites in this region is absolutely necessary.

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J. P. DROOP.

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EARLY CIVILIZATION IN NORTHERN GREECE: A FURTHER REPORT AND PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH FOR 1909

WITH PLATE L AND LI

[Since the review of recent enquiries into the *Early Civilization of Northern Greece* was put in type, the writers have returned to Greece to continue their work. Before leaving England Mr. Wace found time to deliver, before the Liverpool Branch of the Classical Association, a fully illustrated lecture, describing last season's excavation of the prehistoric mound at Zerélia in South Thessaly. The interest excited by this lecture was such that a sum of £30 has been raised by friends of the Institute of Archaeology, and placed at the disposal of Mr. Wace and his colleagues for further work during the summer of 1909.

The report, which follows, describes the preliminary researches which were necessary before a site could be selected for this further work. It had been hoped, at first sight, that early settlements, like those of Thessaly, might be found also in Western Greece. The report, however, shows that they are not yet recognizable, and that it will be necessary to follow them westward step by step from the area in which they are known already, until their precise limit is discovered. A further report will be published in the next volume of these *Annals*, as soon as excavation is over.—ED.]

December 20th, 1908

DEAR PROFESSOR MYRES,

Since our arrival in Greece we have been continuing our researches on the early civilization of North Greece. Our first visit was to Olympia, where we examined the early pottery and buildings excavated by Dr. Dörpfeld. Neither seem to have any relation with Thessalian finds. The pottery is a coarse, hand-polished, and hand-made ware, decorated with incised ornament which differs in character from the Thessalian. The shapes of the vases are also dissimilar. We also explored parts of the plain of Elis between Pyrgos and Patras, but found no prehistoric mounds.

After leaving Olympia we explored parts of Southern Aetolia, hoping to discover prehistoric mounds in this region like those so

common in Thessaly and Phocis. We travelled from Patras by way of Kryonéri and Missolonghi to Aetolicó, whence we went through the Kleisúra pass to Mataránga. Then, after exploring the southern shores of the lakes of Anghelokástro and Agrínion, we went to Agrínion. We examined the country between this town and the Achelous, and returned by rail down the Achelous valley to Aetolicó, whence we explored the plain towards Oeniadae. After a visit to the ruins of Pleuron we returned to Patras. In spite of a careful examination of the country and persistent enquiries amongst the peasants, we found no trace of any prehistoric or early site. We may, perhaps, conclude that the early inhabitants of Aetolia were not 'mound-builders' like those of Thessaly.

After a few days in Athens we went to Thessaly to Almyró, travelling by way of Chalcis, where we examined in the local museum the pottery and other finds from Cycladic tombs in the neighbourhood. At Almyró we spent over a fortnight cleaning, mending, and sorting our finds from Zerélia. When our study of them was finished, and all the drawings and photographs necessary for the report of the excavation* had been made, we arranged the most important objects in a case in the local museum. The rest of the pottery, not wanted for exhibition, will be sent to Athens, and it is hoped that the Greek Government will make a grant of duplicates to be sent to England.

At Almyró and Volo we also studied the early pottery found by Dr. Arvanitópoulos at Phthiotic Thebes. This includes a good deal of incised ware similar to that from Thrace, of a peculiar polished red ware decorated with patterns in white paint, and of a remarkable ware attributed by Tsountas to the Bronze Age, which has decorations in a thick pink or white paint.† These wares have been found before in Thessaly, but never in such quantity.

In Phthiotis we visited Thebes, Pýrasos, and several other early sites. Later we travelled to Lárissa and spent two days examining prehistoric mounds to the east of the city, and between it and Týrnavo. We next went by way of Dhemérli past Sophádhēs and

* To be published in the next *Annual of the British School*. London: Macmillan. Vol. XIV. See also Plates L and LI herewith.

† Tsountas, *Αἱ προϊστορικαὶ ἀκροπόλεις Διμηνίου καὶ Σέσκλου*, pp. 244 ff., pl. 12. Athens, 1908.

Kardhítza to Phanári Maghoula, examining all the early sites we could.

We then returned to Volo by way of Iriní, where we planned the early building discovered there. Dr. Kourouniótis, who excavated this mound, has courteously invited us to publish the pottery and objects he discovered. This work we hope to undertake, although the finds may not be very important.

One curious fact revealed itself as a result of our explorations in W. Thessaly. West of Kardhítza and in the plain between Phanári (Ithóme) and Trikkala not a single prehistoric mound is to be found, whereas by Sophádhēs, Phársala, Lárisa, Velestino, and Almyró, they are common.

On our way back to Athens we re-visited Chaeroneia to re-examine the early Phocian pottery in the Museum there. This now appears to have only a superficial likeness to the early Thessalian wares. They differ principally in the painted patterns, and in the shapes of the vases. It thus becomes all-important to carry out our proposed excavation of the early sites discovered by us, this spring, near Lamía, in the Spercheius valley. This should enable us to determine more clearly the relationship of the early pottery of Phocis to that of Thessaly. But since in Homer the Spercheius valley is grouped with S. Phthiotis as part of Achilles' dominions, it may be legitimate to conjecture that the early culture of this region will resemble the S. Thessalian rather than the Phocian. As a secondary excavation, if funds and time permit, we suggest an examination of one of the prehistoric mounds near Sophádhēs at the site of the ancient Kierium. This should reveal the character of the early culture of western Thessaly.

Finally we may note that we have found sherds of late Mycenaean pottery near Lárisa and Phársala, and that we have photographed in the Almyró Museum three vases of the same style and period from Gonnos at the west end of the pass of Tempé.* It thus appears that the late Mycenaean civilization extended all over Thessaly. At Chaeroneia we also saw the pottery from Orchomenos. This includes an enormous quantity of ring-footed cups; so many, in fact, that we may conjecture Orchomenos to have been their place of origin. We found vases like this in the eighth settlement at Zerélia, about 1100-1200 c.c.† In Thessaly they have also been

* Reproduced in Plate LI, 1.

† See Plate L, 2.

found at Sésκλο,* at the early mounds of Aidín and Karabairám,† in the first shaft grave at Mycenae,‡ at Thoricus in Attica, and in the latest city at Phylakopí in Melos.§ It will thus be seen that these vases, which always occur with late Mycenaean ware, may be of great importance in helping to date early sites.

We hope that you approve our plans for excavations. As our researches proceed, we will report to you from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. B. WACE
J. P. DROOP
M. S. THOMPSON

* Tsountas, *loc. cit.*, p. 139, fig. 40. † Tsountas, *loc. cit.*, pp. 8, 12, Nos. 38 and 60.

‡ Schliemann, *Mycenae*, p. 154, fig. 230.

§ *Excavations at Phylakopí, in Melos*, p. 154. London: Hellenic Society, 1904.

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EARLY CIVILIZATION IN NORTHERN GREECE.

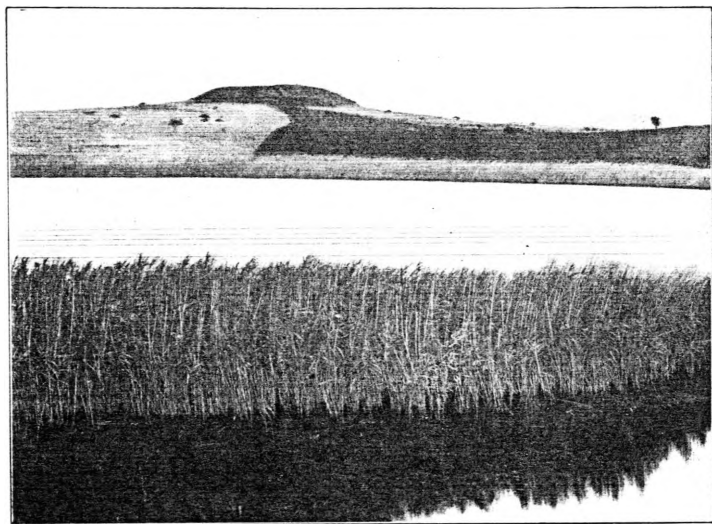


FIG. 1.—ZERELIA IN THESSALY: GENERAL VIEW OF THE 'MAGHOULA' MOUND FORMED BY THE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT.

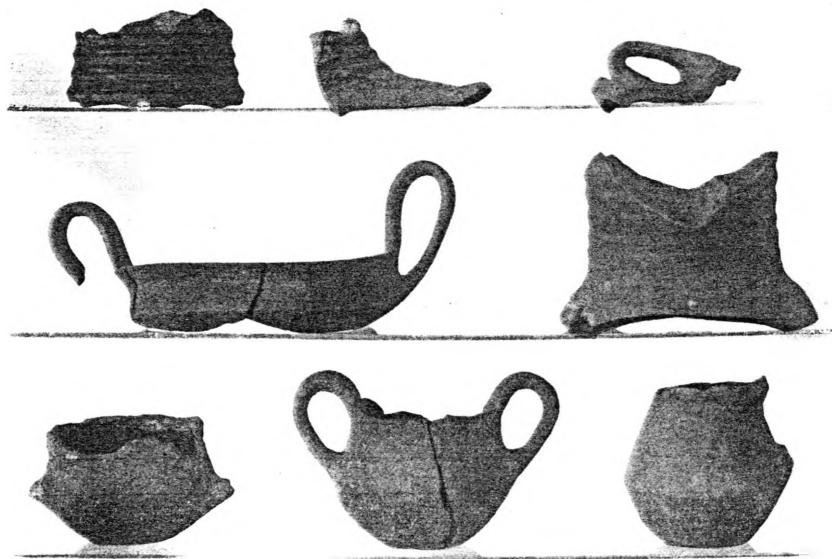


FIG. 2.—ZERELIA. RINGED VASES AND OTHER POTTERY FROM THE EIGHTH SETTLEMENT.

EARLY CIVILIZATION IN NORTHERN GREECE.



FIG. 1. GONNOS IN THESSALY: MYCENAEAN VASES IN THE MUSEUM OF ALMYRO *about $\frac{1}{2}$ scale.*



FIG. 2. ZERELIA: VASE FROM THE SEVENTH SETTLEMENT.
(about $\frac{1}{2}$ scale.)



FIG. 3. ZERELIA: TERRA COTTA FIGURE FROM THE SEVENTH SETTLEMENT.
(about $\frac{1}{2}$ scale.)