

**A CATALOGUE OF THE CYPRUS
MUSEUM, WITH A CHRONICLE OF
EXCAVATIONS UNDERTAKEN
SINCE THE BRITISH OCCUPATION AND
INTRODUCTORY NOTES ON CYPRIOTE
ARCHAEOLOGY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649083046

A catalogue of the Cyprus Museum, with a chronicle of excavations undertaken since the British occupation and introductory notes on Cypriote archaeology by John L. Myres & Max Ohnefalsch-Richter

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Cover @ 2017

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JOHN L. MYRES & MAX OHNEFALSCH-RICHTER

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HENRY FROWDE, M. A.
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND NEW YORK

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*CHRONICLE OF EXCAVATIONS UNDERTAKEN
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INTRODUCTORY NOTES ON CYPRIOTE ARCHAEOLOGY

BY
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WITH EIGHT PLATES

Oxford
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1899

381211
3. 12. 70

Oxford

PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

BY HORACE HART, M.A.

PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

PREFACE

THIS Catalogue is the outcome of a suggestion made by His Excellency the High Commissioner for Cyprus to the Colonial Office in October, 1893, that advantage should be taken of the operations of the British Museum at Amathus, to secure a report on the condition of the Government Collection of Antiquities. The invitation was repeated by the Chief Secretary to Mr. Myres, a member of the British School of Archaeology in Athens, who was for a while in charge of the excavations at Amathus, and in the course of the summer of 1894 the whole Collection was cleaned, arranged, and catalogued.

Dr. Max Ohnefalsch-Richter offered Mr. Myres his assistance at an early stage in the work, and revised some part of the Catalogue after Mr. Myres had left Cyprus.

The long delay in the appearance of the work is due to a variety of causes, and not least to the difficulty of arranging for its publication and for the completion of the Plates at a distance from Cyprus.

The compilers wish here to express their appreciation of the manner in which the Clarendon Press undertook the publication of the book, and to acknowledge their obligations, for help of many kinds, to English residents in Cyprus; to Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, Professor E. A. Gardner, Mr. A. H. Smith, and Mr. D. G. Hogarth, for suggestions and corrections in detail; to Dr. A. S. Murray, for permission to report the acquisitions from the excavations of the British Museum at *Kurion*, 1895, and *Salamis*, 1896; and to Mr. H. B. Walters, who has kindly revised the whole of the proofs, and contributed the account of the excavations at *Kurion* and *Maroni*.

The Government Collection of Antiquities has come into existence in virtue of the Ottoman Law of 1874, which still

prevails in Cyprus; and by which the Government acquires a third part of the finds in any excavations which are permitted. Needless to say, the surreptitious excavations which are persistently carried on by all classes in Cyprus pay no such tribute, except in the rare cases when antiquities are confiscated. A small collection of such antiquities lies in the Castle at Kerynia: this might with advantage have been brought to Nicosia. Both at *Kuklia* (Paphos) and at Salamis small collections are preserved of inscriptions and other objects found in excavations, but not worth moving.

The British Government of Cyprus has hitherto spent nothing in maintaining, or even in properly storing the Collections for which it is responsible. Many of them lay for years in the out-houses of the Commissioner's Office in Nicosia, exposed to all kinds of ill usage. The unique colossal statue of terracotta, C. M. 6016, and the fine engraved silver bowl, C. M. 4881, were found here in 1894 irreparably damaged, and a number of other objects have not reappeared at all. The statues from *Voni*, also, long stood in the open corridor of the Government Offices, and suffered serious damage. The Government share of the results from *Kurion*, 1895, is still lying in cases at Nicosia.

The Museum, in which the Government Collections are now mainly housed, was established in 1883, and is maintained wholly by private subscriptions. It is managed by a Committee, which occasionally meets. Excavations were conducted on its behalf on a number of sites in 1883-5, by O-R., who held the post of Consulting Archaeologist under the Committee and of Superintendent of Excavations for the Government and the Museum; and excavated also for individuals. Subscriptions, however, soon fell off, and in 1894 the funds of the Museum were almost exhausted¹.

Labels and fragmentary lists testify that attempts have been made from time to time to rearrange the Collections. The most important of these was, somewhere about 1890; the MS. Catalogue is in the handwriting of Mr. Joly, who was for a while Secretary of the Museum Committee. Irreparable damage was done when part of the Collection was sent, along with Col. Warren's exhibit, to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1887; and, again, some time between 1889 and 1894, by the dispersal of the

¹ For a fuller account of the early days of the Museum, v. S. Reinach, *Chroniques d'Orient*, p. 171 ff., 199 ff.

Tomb Groups excavated for Dr. Dümmler in 1885, and by a 'sale of duplicates' by which a number of specimens of scientific value passed into private possession.

Even in the Museum, the condition of the Collection was in 1894 deplorable. The large sculptures, inscriptions, and architectural fragments lay indiscriminately in the courtyard, some exposed to the weather, and all to frequent injury; a large number of Attic vases was discovered, after the Catalogue was already written out, in the wardrobe of the caretaker's wife; and other collections continually came to light, as it became possible to empty and search one outhouse after another. Hence the too frequent irregularities of numbering and arrangement.

The Government inspection of excavations is in many cases conducted by untrained persons, whose inventories, even when they are intelligible at all, are valueless for the identification of the objects which are described. Consequently a large part of the Government Collection has lost almost all scientific value. It would be well if future excavators were obliged to deposit a copy of their *own* inventory of the share which they leave behind.

In this Catalogue all the available documents have been utilized, and arrears are entirely cleared off down to 1894. The excavations of 1894, at Amathus and Kition; of 1895, at Kurion; and of 1896, at Salamis, are dealt with in reports of the kind above suggested, and an arrangement has been made with the Museum Committee for the publication of such reports in Appendices from time to time. In these, the objects should be kept as far as possible in their original Tomb Groups, with cross-references to the Type Collections.

For the present arrangement both compilers are jointly responsible: O.-R. undertook the Graeco-Phoenician Pottery, the majority of the Special Collections of Sculpture, and the whole of the measurements; J. L. M. the Bronze Age Collection, the Hellenic Vases, the Glass, Terracottas, Bronzes, and Jewellery, the Collections from Amathus and Kition, and the drafting of all the description; but every part, except the measurements, has been revised by both, and the Introduction in particular limits itself to statements on which both are agreed. The reports of the excavations of 1895 and 1896 were contributed afterwards by the representatives of the British Museum who directed them. J. L. M. is solely responsible for the Indices and the Plates; for a description of the Coins which will appear

separately hereafter: and for any slips which may have escaped notice in passing the whole work through the press.

This Catalogue attempts to serve three purposes, which are perhaps really incompatible. In the first place, it is, as already stated, a report to the Government of Cyprus on the condition of a part of its own property, which had been allowed to fall into disorder. Accordingly, it deals primarily with the few objects which are in the Cyprus Museum, not with the countless treasures which are better cared for elsewhere. The Introduction is meant only to provide the briefest outline of Cypriote civilization, which would serve to check an estimate of the value and importance of the Collection, and to exhibit it in an intelligible light.

Secondly, it is intended to summarize, for the benefit of archaeologists in general, the result of the excavations which have been made since the British Occupation, and the conclusions which may be drawn with some probability therefrom. The compilers have been careful to acknowledge their obligations to the original reports, and in particular to the *Chroniques d'Orient* of M. Salomon Reinach, which are the sole published records of many minor excavations and are largely based on information furnished by O-R. at the time. But they wish to make it clear that nothing has been admitted which does not rest either upon the first-hand knowledge of one or other of them, or on independent consultation of the original excavators or their reports. Probably there is not an original idea in the book, unless it be original to verify statements before republishing them. The British Occupation of Cyprus in 1878 marks the close of what may be called the mythical age of Cypriote archaeology, and has accordingly been taken as a convenient starting-point; but trustworthy data of earlier researches have been taken into account.

Lastly, the Catalogue is intended to supply the wayfaring man, though 'personally conducted,' with a simple clue, in plain English, to the mazes of Cypriote archaeology and of the Cyprus Museum. Technical language has been avoided as far as possible, and has been explained, perhaps over-explicitly, where it was unavoidable. The initiated will pardon, in the interest of the majority, such paragraphs as those on Mykenaeen or Attic vases. They only claim not to be misleading.

The Plates at the end of the Catalogue are as complete as the