ARCHAIC FICTILE REVETMENTS IN SICILY AND MAGNA GRAECIA

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Archaic fictile revetments in Sicily and Magna Graecia by E. Douglas Van Buren

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E. DOUGLAS VAN BUREN

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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IN THE VI. AND V. CENTURIES B.C.

"Mrs. Van Buren has done well to treat the subject as a whole, classifying the types employed, and giving illustrations of the finest or most characteristic examples."—Times, Illustrated. 16s. net



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BY E. DOUGLAS VAN BUREN

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TO

PROFESSOR PAOLO ORSI

WHO BY HIS GREAT LEARNING AND PATIENT LABOURS

THROUGHOUT MANY YEARS

HAS POINTED OUT THE PATH

ALONG WHICH I HAVE TRIED STUMBLINGLY TO FOLLOW

PREFACE

The study of the fictile revetments in Sicily and Magna Græcia during the archaic period affords so vast a field for research that one is almost bewildered at the wealth of material presented to one's notice. The careful excavations of Italian archæologists during the last twenty years have been so fruitful in important results that every year our knowledge of the subject is enhanced by the study and comparison of the finds from various sites and by more accurate information as to the collocation of individual pieces.

Thus far Italian scholars have been too fully occupied with the arduous labour of excavating and publishing the finds from some given site to find time to make more than a cursory comparison with similar discoveries elsewhere. The meticulous investigations of Professor Gabrici at Selinus, the wonderful campaigns of Professor Orsi at numerous ancient cities in Sicily and Magna Græcia, merit the grateful recognition of all scholars for the scientific precision with which the work has been carried out and for the prompt and detailed publication of the results.

The finds from earlier excavations were, alas! less accurately recorded, and clandestine digging in many places destroyed beyond hope of recovery the ground-plan of important buildings and scattered the objects unearthed to every quarter of the globe, often with a false provenance to conceal the nefarious traffic. Consequently the pieces are scattered among museums and private collections, and it is frequently difficult to procure even a glimpse of them and quite impossible to obtain measurements or photographs.

I am therefore the more deeply indebted to the Museum Directors and private collectors who with such extreme generosity furnished me with information, photographs and permission to examine the material.

My grateful thanks are due to the Direttore Generale di Antichità e Belle Arti for his goodness in facilitating my work; to the R. Accademia