

**DAWN OF ART IN THE
ANCIENT WORLD : AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SKETCH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649158225

Dawn of art in the ancient world : an archaeological sketch by William Martin Conway

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM MARTIN CONWAY

**DAWN OF ART IN THE
ANCIENT WORLD : AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SKETCH**

DAWN OF ART
IN THE
ANCIENT WORLD

An Archaeological Sketch

BY

WILLIAM MARTIN CONWAY

SOMETIME ROSCOE PROFESSOR OF ART IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LIVERPOOL,
... VICTORIA UNIVERSITY



London

PERCIVAL AND CO.

1891

P R E F A C E

THE kernel of the following book is the substance of three lectures, delivered at the Royal Institution in January 1891. These have been entirely rewritten and approximately doubled in length; but, even in their revised state, they are not to be regarded as forming a handbook, however brief, of the large subject with which they deal. They are, and are intended to be, of a personal character. They present, not a simple and precise survey of known facts with regard to the beginnings of art and civilisation in the ancient world, but rather an account of the deductions, impressions, hardy generalisations, and even sometimes (if you will) of the guesses of an individual mind in the presence of those facts.

Discovery advances apace. Since these sheets have been printed off, important papers have been read at the Oriental Congress, to which reference might have been made in the text. Moreover, Mr. Flinders Petrie's valuable *Notes on the Antiquities of*

Mykenae have appeared in the belated twelfth volume of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*. They are in substantial agreement with my own conclusions, but they contain a more accurate approximation to the dates of the different *Ægean* remains than has before been arrived at. The following passage (p. 204) is too important not to be quoted:—'We have been led to place the flourishing period of pre-Hellenic (*Ægean*) art to about 1500 or 1400 B.C., when intercourse with Egypt was common. The great treasury tombs probably range from this time to 1200, when the Vaphio tomb was built. At about 1150 the graves were made in the circle at Mykenae, and decadence had already set in. From 1100 to 800 B.C., or until the art was crushed by the Dorian migration, the prevalent decorations were impressed glass; and to this age belong the beehive tomb of Menidi and the private tombs of Mykenae, Spata, and Nauplia. The range of this civilisation was from the north of Europe down to Egypt, not only by distant trade, but by familiar intercourse.'

I regret that I did not read Mr. Frazer's valuable work, *The Golden Bough*, till these sheets had been

printed off ; otherwise I should have referred to the interesting speculations as to the origin and doctrine of Totemism which he there records or suggests. The book, however, is one which no student of the beginnings of art and civilisation can afford to neglect.

I have reprinted, as the last chapter of this book, an article on the 'Cats of Ancient Egypt,' which originally appeared in the *English Illustrated Magazine*. It amplifies in some respects one or more of the subjects referred to or discussed in the earlier chapters.

The address on the *Succession of Ideals*, printed as introductory chapter to this volume, was originally intended to perform such a function ; but it was to have been followed by a series of chapters dealing in turn with the ideals of all the great art-epochs of the world. Other points of view have, however, in the meantime proved more attractive, and that scheme has been abandoned. The address, as it now stands, is not in perfect harmony with the chapters that follow, but I have preferred to print it as it was written rather than to meddle with the expression of

an idea which belongs more to my memory than to my present thoughts.

In conclusion, I have to thank my friend, Mr. R. Weir Schultz, whose good work on the ancient and Byzantine architecture of Greece is so well known, for employing some of his leisure time in drawing for me all except one of the illustrations to this book.

W. M. C.

SCHEVENINGEN,
September, 1891.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
TYPICAL ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SHRINE,	91
PREHISTORIC EGYPTIAN SHRINES,	94
EDFU TEMPLE,	96
HOMERIC HOUSE,	96
EARLY TYPES OF EGYPTIAN COLUMNS,	105
ELEPHANTINE TEMPLE,	107

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
THE SUCCESSION OF IDEALS,	I
CHAPTER II.	
ART IN THE STONE AGE,	18
CHAPTER III.	
THE INVENTION OF BRONZE,	57
CHAPTER IV.	
THE LEGACY OF EGYPT,	82
CHAPTER V.	
THE LEGACY OF CHALDEA,	117
CHAPTER VI.	
THE HEIRS OF CHALDEA,	153
CHAPTER VII.	
THE CATS OF ANCIENT EGYPT,	172

' No being soever born, or put together, can overcome the dissolution inherent in it; no such condition can exist. Decay is inherent in all component things; work out your salvation with diligence.'—GAUTAMA.

' Jedes erste Gefühl ist ein Morgenstern, der ohne unterzugehen bald seinen Zauberschimmer verliert und durch das Blau des Tags verhüllt weiter zieht. —JEAN PAUL.

' These things can have no being unless they have their being from Thee; these things which rise and set, and, at their rising, begin as it were to be and grow that they may reach their perfection, and when perfected wax old and perish. And all things grow not old; but all perish. In truth when they are arising and beginning to be, the more they speed to grow into being, the more they speed towards ceasing to be. This is the law of them. Thus much hast Thou appointed them, because they are portions of things, which exist not all at once, but by their departures and successions they together complete that universe whereof they are portions. . . . If the sense of thy flesh had capacity to comprehend the whole, and had not itself . . . been limited to a part of the whole, thou wouldest desire that whatsoever existeth in the present should pass away, that so the whole might please thee more.'—S. AUGUSTINE.