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No. 2.

BRITOMARTIS.

THE SO-CALLED EUROPA ON THE PLANE TREE OF GORTYNA.

A MONOGRAPH ON CERTAIN CRETAN COINS, BY M. SVORONOS.

[Translated from the Revue Beige de Numitmatique, for the Journal, continued from Vol. XXIX, p. 9.]



N the first portion of this paper (printed in our last number) it was shown that the goddess on certain coins of Gortyna, Crete, hitherto called "Europa on the Plane-tree," could not be that deity. It now remains to inquire "Who is our goddess if she be not Europa?" and to give the reasons for our conclusion. In reply to this it is necessary first of all to find in the Cretan mythology some goddess who was worshipped not only at Gortyna but also at Tisyros (the cities which have coins bearing this type), and one who is known to have concealed herself in trees, and especially in oaks, with the object of escaping from the pursuit of her lover. Now, as we shall presently see, there was a goddess who will satisfy these requirements.

The precise location of the city of Tisyros is not known; it is mentioned solely in the following passage of the Scholiast on Theocritus (III, 2, edition of Ahrens): Τέτυρος ... ὄνομα πόλεως Κρήτης, and by the didrachms which bear the legend 209VM2T (= Tigupot).' As we know that the mountain which forms the great promontory now called Cape Spatha (or Spada) was anciently called Tisyros or Tityros,3 and as we also know that in Crete a mountain frequently gave its name to those who dwelt on or near it, for instance, the

I It is hardly necessary to remark that this legend is 2 See Strabo, X, 479, 12: Stadiasmes, m. m. 341: spelled in the archaic form, retrograde, and that M is Hoeck, Kreta, I, 352, and II, 159. merely Σ placed in a different position.—EDS.