

Antiquity

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Editorial

PLATE I

ANTIQUITY has had a long tradition of punctual quarterly publication on the first day of March, June, September, and December. It was broken last year by the British printing strike. We regret that this first number of 1961 is also late. It is, moreover the first number to bear the imprint of THE ANTIQUITY TRUST. The lateness and the new imprint are not unconnected.

Since Dr Crawford's death in 1957, ANTIQUITY has been owned by the publisher, Mr Edwards of Ashmore Green, Newbury, Berkshire. On 6 December, 1960, Mr Edwards, who had for some months indicated his readiness to sell the journal, informed the Editor that he did not intend to publish ANTIQUITY after the December number and wished to sever his long association with the journal as from 31 December, 1960. The Editor and Advisory Editors took counsel and decided that this was the moment to see that a journal which over the last thirty years or so has meant much in British archaeology and in the appreciation of British archaeology overseas, should be owned by an independent archaeological body and not by any individual or publisher. To this end subscriptions were invited from archaeologists, archaeological publishers, and journals and trusts interested in archaeology. The response was immediate and heartening and with the money subscribed so generously it has been possible to purchase ANTIQUITY, whose ownership is now vested in THE ANTIQUITY TRUST.

The details of this new arrangement and the names of those who so willingly subscribed to the funds of the Trust will be published in the June number. Meanwhile we wish to record our warm appreciation of the encouragement and help of so many people during a difficult period of transition. The printers have readily co-operated in trying to get the March number out as quickly as possible under difficult circumstances. Will readers please note that W. Heffer & Sons Ltd. are now publishing ANTIQUITY for the Trust, and that all subscriptions, trade enquiries and advertisements should be sent to them at 104, *Hills Road, Cambridge, England*. No communications about ANTIQUITY should any longer be sent to Mr Edwards of Ashmore Green—there are some who, even three years after O. G. S. Crawford's death, still write to him at Nursling about ANTIQUITY.



The change in ownership means no change in the policy or purpose of ANTIQUITY, as we hope this present number will show. It contains many articles of great interest and variety,

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and we hope it is not invidious to draw attention to two of these, those of Mr Sinclair Hood, and of Dr Margaret Murray. Mr Sinclair Hood's article is one of those things that Editors dream of; it suddenly appeared through our letter-box on December 1st, the day of the publication of our last issue, with a covering letter saying; 'It does seem time, since Palmer will not or cannot proceed to a formal publication of his theories, that something was published in a reputable journal with a fairly popular appeal like ANTIQUITY to make clear once and for all how unfounded the implications of deliberate forgery or dishonesty against Evans are. I know that Palmer did subsequently make a public disclaimer, but people will go on thinking "no smoke without fire". I would also like to publish precise facts about the context of the fragments of the tablets that we have been finding at Knossos since 1957, since this is relevant to the matter.'

Here then (pp. 4-7) is Sinclair Hood's clear statement of the Linear B tablet problem which readers of *Antiquity* as well as readers of the *Observer* and the *Listener* will find of absorbing interest. We have, of course, offered Professor Palmer room for reply in the June number.

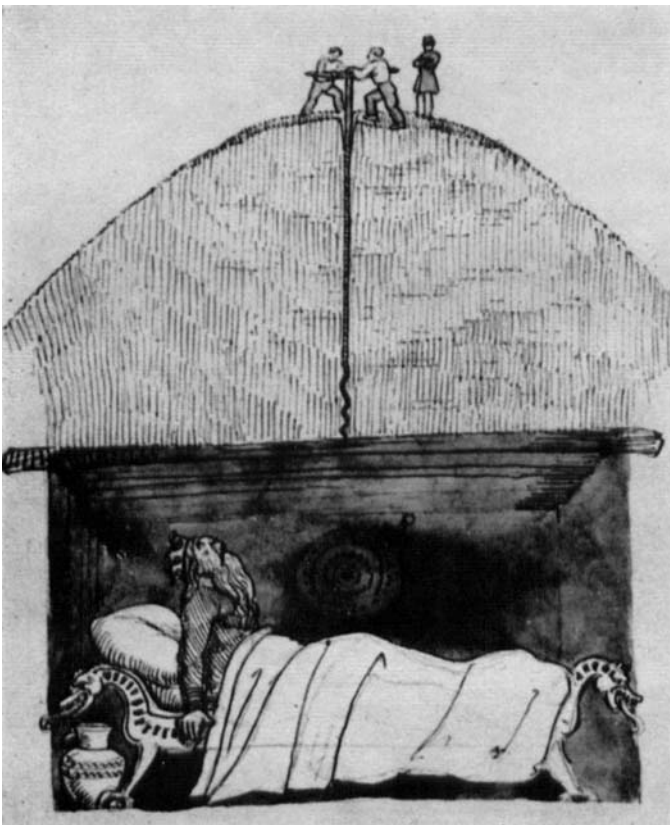


Dr Margaret Murray's article (pp. 8-13) was commissioned after Professor Stuart Piggott had heard a brilliant broadcast by her. She readily agreed to write a backward-looking article on archaeology as she has seen it during a long life. When the article arrived the Editor's curiosity was aroused by the firm dating of the creation (p. 8) and by the age of the author whose work so many people have admired for so long. We asked Dr Murray about the date of the creation and she replied 'I take my evidence from the first chapter of *Genesis* and for exactness it beats C₁₄ into a cocked hat!! *Six p.m.* The periods of creation are divided into "days" and each "day" is said to consist of evening and morning, showing that the "day" began on what we should now call the evening before, e.g., Passover, Day of Atonement, Eve of St John, Eve of All Hallows, Ramadan, and in Palestine, Easter Eve. *Wednesday*. The earth was created on the fourth day of the week, and Wednesday is the fourth day of the week. *March 21*. As the length of days varies according to the season of the year, it is obvious that any calculation must have been made when day and night were equally balanced, i.e. one of the equinoxes. And as the vernal equinox has always been more important than the autumnal, we get *March 21*. *Therefore*: the full date, 6 p.m., Wednesday, *March 21*. Though this is a bit of spoof dating, it is quite as good as many dates which are accepted, especially among modern writers on Egyptology.' Dr Murray's article must be the only article, or one of a very few articles, written for ANTIQUITY by anyone over ninety. To the Editor's queries, Dr Murray replied crisply, 'I was born in July, 1863 and am therefore ninety-seven.' We have immediately commissioned her to write another article for the June 1963 number of ANTIQUITY.



Among the many articles commissioned for the 1961 numbers of ANTIQUITY is one by Miss Judith Wilkins on the work of Worsaae in relation to British Archaeology. Worsaae has been described as the first professional in the history of archaeology, and his influence on the development of British archaeological thought in the nineteenth century was great. In the course of her researches Miss Wilkins has drawn our attention to many engaging drawings of archaeology in Denmark in the middle of the 19th century, and we publish in

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These two drawings were made by the Danish artist I. Kornerup in August 1861 and record the excavation by King Frederik VII and Worsaae of the great barrow ascribed to King Gorm at Jelling. The original captions to the drawings are as follows: (above) Kong Frederik den 7de lader bore i Gorm den Gamles Hoi i Gellinge, den 7de August, 1861 (King Frederik VII supervising the boring into Old Gorm's Barrow at Jelling, 11 August, 1861), and (left) Ha! ved Asathor! hvad er det for Larm i Hulen (Ha! by Asathor! What is this awful noise in my den?) The excavations, it should be noted, did not find any grave or disturb King Gorm.

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this number (PLATE I) two of these drawings which seem to look forward to the work of Signor Lerici in the archaeological prospecting of Etruscan tombs.



Congratulations to the Gentlemen of Spalding who in October 1960 celebrated the 250th anniversary of their Society, to the Society for Roman Studies who this year celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, and thirdly to *The Illustrated London News* (not only because its Editor, Sir Bruce Ingram, has been given a D.Litt. *honoris causa* by the University of Oxford) but because it has decided to number its notable contributions to archaeology, and because the first article so numbered, in its issue of 17 December, 1960 was No. 2040. The Spalding Gentlemen's Society was founded in 1711 'for the supporting of mutual benevolence, and their improvement in the liberal sciences and in polite learning'; it claims to be the earliest provincial association for the encouragement of archaeology, the second oldest society concerned with antiquities in Britain, and to have one of the oldest Museums in the country. It celebrated its two-hundred and fiftieth anniversary with an evening reception in its enlarged museum, and a dinner where the health of the Society was proposed by representatives of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Royal Society. Long may the Gentlemen of Spalding flourish.

The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies is celebrating its jubilee by the publication of a special volume (see *Book Chronicle* entry, p. 36 below) inscribed to Miss M. V. Taylor (who was Secretary of the Society from 1923 to 1954, and Editor from 1923 to the present day—a most remarkable achievement), and by an exhibition. Both the Jubilee Volume and the Exhibition will be discussed in the next number of *ANTIQUITY*.

The special interest of *The Illustrated London News* in archaeology dates from the present Editor's taking over direction of the journal in 1900, and in that year appeared item No. 1 in the long series now well over two thousand; it was a short account of the work done by Flinders Petrie at Abydos on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund. It is amusing to turn back to this first archaeological contribution and see the short text and the line drawings cheek by jowl with splendid advertisements for Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup, Floriline for the Teeth and Breath, The Mexican Hair Renewer, and the Swan Fountain Pen of which Colonel (as he then was) Baden-Powell is writing 'Your pens were of the greatest use to me during the late operations in Rhodesia, both for drawing and writing: they are just the thing one wants in the field'. It is fascinating to turn through the pages of *The Illustrated London News* in these early years and see how more and more archaeology was put in, until in the years between the wars there were never less than thirty items in a half year.



A correspondent, Mr J. H. Farrer, of Haslemere, takes us to task for quoting from the *Michelin Guides* that St Véran was the highest inhabited village in Europe, and the Col de L'Iseran the highest motor-road, pointing out that Juf in Switzerland is usually regarded as the highest village, and that the highest motor road in Europe is the Carretera de la Sierra Nevada. He would indeed seem to be quite right, and many guidebooks wrong. The *Guide Bleu* gives Juf as 6,997 feet and describes it as 'claiming to be the highest permanently occupied hamlet in Europe', although in a companion volume, describes St Véran as 'claiming to be the highest permanently inhabited village in Europe'. The highway south-east of Granada in the Sierra Nevada reaches the Picacho de Veleta at a height of 10,824. We can hardly wait to visit these elevated places.