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*The Swedish Cyprus Expedition 80 years. Proceedings of the Symposium in Honour of the Memory of Einar Gjerstad Held in the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, Stockholm, 28 September 2007*

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Review by Jenni Hjojlman

In September 2007, the 80th anniversary of the start of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition (SCE) was celebrated in Stockholm with a symposium in honour of Einar Gjerstad in the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. The symposium was first initiated and later published by Professor Emeritus Paul Åström. The publication became the last volume published by Åström in his series *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology* (SIMA).

The fieldwork done by Gjerstad and his colleagues started in 1927, ended in 1931, and resulted in the 12 volumes of *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition* (published between 1932 and 1972), which is still a much cited and highly valued publication. The work of SCE still stands out as one of the major achievements in Cypriote archaeology and the beginning of modern archaeology on the island. Their extensive analyses and publications constitute a solid foundation for much of the research carried out in the area during the second half of the 20th century.

The Gjerstad symposium is not only a commemoration of SCE's fieldwork, research and publications. It also has historiographical input, including some contributions where the scholars present their per-

sonal experiences, evaluating the legacy of SCE and its leader Einar Gjerstad in their own areas of research.

In the first chapter, “Cypriote Archaeology, the eighty years after the Swedish Cyprus Expedition”, Vassos Karageorghis, regarded as the Nestor of Cypriote archaeology, gives his view of the history of the discipline. Starting with the first “discovery” of Cyprus by French archaeologists, continuing through the British colonial explorations to the SCE and ending with the development of modern archaeological investigations, the chapter is a useful overview of Cypriote archaeology. An extensive bibliography and a map of the locations of all Bronze Age sites identified since 1962 add further value to the chapter.

In the next paper, “Einar Gjerstad: Father of Cypriote Bronze Age Topography”, Gjerstad’s topographical work in his dissertation *Studies on Prehistoric Cyprus* (1926) is reviewed by Hector W. Catling, a specialist in Cypriote topography. Analyzing Gjerstad’s listings of identified Bronze Age (and later) sites, Catling tries to decide which sites were first recorded and visited by Gjerstad, and which were already known. The review is followed by an overview of the development of topographical work and the progress of surface surveys made in Cyprus in the modern era. All published sites identified through surface surveys since 1962 (when Catling’s work on settlement patterns of Bronze Age Cyprus appeared) are listed together with their bibliographical references in an appendix at the end of the chapter.

Another review of Gjerstad’s work is presented in Karin Nys’ contribution, “The study of Cypriote Iron Age pottery after the Swedish Cyprus Expedition: Inflation or deflation of Gjerstad’s legacy?” The pottery typology and classification method created by Gjerstad in his *Cypriote Pottery. From Neolithic to the Hellenistic period* (published in 1931, six months after the end of the excavation campaigns) were adopted by many archaeologists in Cyprus, but have also been challenged over the last 30 years. Looking at how pottery has been studied from the variables shape, decoration and technique, Nys tries to evaluate Gjerstad’s work and methods. She concludes that Gjerstad’s general observations and classifications are still valid, but that, as Gjerstad said himself, a series of monographs dealing with all the regional variations of pottery is still needed.

In “The Contribution of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition to the Research in Cypriote Sculpture”, Reinhard Senff from the German Archaeological Institute at Athens looks at SCE’s work on sculpture, for

example the famous findings at the sanctuary site of Ayia Irini. Again, SCE's work is put forward as the basis for modern research on Cypriote sculpture, representing the context-oriented approach rather than the earlier and widespread art-collecting approach. It can also be mentioned that after the Symposium volume was published, the new Leventis Gallery of Cypriote Antiquities of the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm was opened, presenting about 1500 archaeological finds; among these is the large group of terracotta figures and figurines from the sanctuary at Ayia Irini.

Pavlos Flourentzos, Director of the Department of Antiquities, reports on the recent excavations at Amathous, one of the sites excavated by SCE, in his contribution "The Swedish Cyprus Expedition and the results of 15 campaigns at the site of Amathous Lower Town". When SCE visited Amathous, they excavated the necropolis but did not excavate inside the settlement. Since 1975, however, the French School at Athens and the Department of Antiquities have carried out a series of excavations on the acropolis and in the lower town. One of the most spectacular finds in the lower town is a Hellenistic temple to the Egyptian queen Arsinoe. Numerous Egyptian and Egyptianizing finds speak of the island's relation to Egypt and its position in the eastern Mediterranean.

A short contribution by Berta Stjernquist, "Einar Gjerstad as Teacher", adds some private memories of Einar Gjerstad as a teacher and a friend, drawing attention to Gjerstad's enthusiasm for Roman archaeology and Early Roman chronology as well.

Paul Åström's contribution, "Gjerstad's Cypriote Researches before SCE 1927", is a presentation of Gjerstad's academic career before SCE. The notes that Gjerstad made during his visits to Cyprus and to museums around Europe give insight into the preparatory work on his doctoral thesis, and his letters to friends and family (also by Alfred Westholm) speak of personal experiences during these travels.

Before the concluding remarks written by the Australian diplomat and specialist in Cypriot archaeology R.E. Merrillees, Paul Åström chose to publish the find contexts of vases previously published by Gjerstad in his doctoral dissertation (at that point without any references of provenance). This list of pottery includes nearly 600 vases listed according to wares, and will surely be appreciated by scholars working on Cypriote pottery.

Not surprisingly, a symposium in honour of the memory of Einar

Gjerstad brings forward the achievements made by SCE, emphasizing the members of the expedition as the founding fathers of many of the main aspects of Cypriote archaeology: Bronze Age topography, pottery studies and sculpture studies. Gjerstad is of course well known to all Swedish students and scholars of classical archaeology, but after reading the contributions in this book he stands out even more as a heroic archaeologist (many times traversing Cyprus on a mule's back or a bicycle, held back only by malaria) and an absolutely indefatigable scholar with "phenomenal energy", as Catling puts it. The book is interesting as a historiographic overview of the development of Cypriote archaeology as a discipline, the island many times being squeezed between the "Big Three" Egypt, Greece and the Levant, and its steps towards modern archaeology. It is a useful first choice for anyone who needs an introduction to the history of Cypriote archaeology (including recent bibliographical references) and to the work done by SCE.