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Books of enduring scholarly value

Archaeology

The discovery of material remains from the recent or the ancient past has always been a source of fascination, but the development of archaeology as an academic discipline which interpreted such finds is relatively recent. It was the work of Winckelmann at Pompeii in the 1760s which first revealed the potential of systematic excavation to scholars and the wider public. Pioneering figures of the nineteenth century such as Schliemann, Layard and Petrie transformed archaeology from a search for ancient artifacts, by means as crude as using gunpowder to break into a tomb, to a science which drew from a wide range of disciplines - ancient languages and literature, geology, chemistry, social history - to increase our understanding of human life and society in the remote past.

The Stone and Bronze Ages in Italy and Sicily

Eric Peet (1882–1934) is better known as an Egyptologist, but this, his 1909 first published work, remained the standard reference on its subject for many years. Gaining a Craven Scholarship from Oxford, he spent three years exploring Italian and Maltese sites, but later found work in Egyptian excavations (his co-authored publication on *The Cemeteries of Abydos* is also reissued in this series). This book is organised chronologically from the palaeolithic period to the Bronze Age, and, as Peet points out in his preface, pulls together not only his own research but the earlier work of Italian archaeologists, mostly published in scattered form in journals. From the finds in early cave shelters to the sophisticated metal and ceramic wares found in Bronze Age settlements and burials, this highly illustrated work demonstrates the development of prehistoric society in a region generally much better known for the later achievements of the Romans.

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T. Eric Peet
Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108082235

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2019

This edition first published 1909

This digitally printed version 2019

ISBN 978-1-108-08223-5 Paperback

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