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R. M. BURROWS and P. N. URE
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P. N. URE

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TO
RONALD BURROWS
1867–1920

πᾶν εὐρόντος ἔργον

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PREFACE

The subject of this monograph is the material that had to be held over from our last Rhitsona publication, *Sixth and Fifth Century Pottery from Rhitsona* (1927). Of the graves now published for the first time 86–93, 95–97, 99 were excavated by Burrows in 1909, graves 101 a, 101 b, 103, 125 a–e, 132, 134, 141, 145 by my wife and myself in 1921 and 1922. In the second section of this book (Figurines, etc.) the material includes unpublished objects from these three excavations and figurines not hitherto adequately published from the earliest of our excavations, carried out in 1907 and 1908.

The many and deep debts to colleagues and friends that we had incurred in the course of our work in the cemetery at Rhitsona and in the museum at Thebes were acknowledged in the preface to *Sixth and Fifth Century Pottery*, but they have since been constantly growing, and at the risk of some repetition I cannot deny myself the pleasure of further acknowledgments.

First and foremost I have to thank once more the Greek authorities. The generous and broad-minded way in which they allow foreign archaeologists to take part in the excavation of their country can hardly be paralleled in modern times and is in the true Periclean tradition. More particularly I must thank my friend A. D. Keramopoulos, who, in the early days of our excavations, was ephor of antiquities for Boeotia. It is due to him that the complete finds from each of our graves are exhibited as a unity in the cases of the museum at Thebes. The temptation to follow the easy and unscientific course of exhibiting only the show pieces and keeping the mass of material out of sight is even now not always resisted in some quarters, and was the normal procedure twenty-five years ago. Looking back now, I am more than ever impressed with our good fortune in having found as ephor in Boeotia so distinguished a scholar and archaeologist as Keramopoulos and one so much ahead of his time. His lead has been ably followed by his successors at Thebes, my friend N. G. Pappadakis, now professor in the university of Salonika, and Chr. Karouzos, the present ephor, both of whom have always been ready with the utmost generosity, often at great personal inconvenience, to help our work in every possible way.

The British School at Athens, through whom we obtained our permits to dig, has continued to be consistently helpful. And as this report concludes at least the first long chapter in the history of Rhitsona excavations, I cannot refrain from mentioning, besides R. M. Dawkins and A. J. B. Wace, the directors during the years when we were digging, two other members of the school from whom I have received special help: in the earlier campaigns the late F. W. Hasluck, whose friendly counsel in the early days of our excavations is still a vivid memory, and more recently my old pupil R. P. Austin, who, while working at his own finds from Haliartos, has given us valued aid from time to time and especially when last I was at Thebes in 1933 revising the MS. of this monograph.

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PREFACE

The points on which I have received help from archaeologists and museum curators in various parts of Europe and America are too numerous and varied for me to attempt any detailed acknowledgments here; but to these compulsory omissions one exception must be made. No one who has worked long at the excavation of Greek cemeteries will deny the place of honour that must always be held by the veteran P. Orsi. His great publications of the Greek cemeteries of Megara Hyblaea and Gela in *Monumenti Antichi* and of Syracuse in *Notizie degli Scavi* are the models that everyone is bound to follow and develop; but many of his graves are unfortunately still unpublished and can only be studied in the cases of the museum at Syracuse. It is no small pleasure to me to recall the ready courtesy with which he allowed me every opportunity of so doing when I was in Sicily in 1929.

To my collaborator in the excavation of 1921 and 1922 I owe a debt that I shall not attempt to assess: it includes a full share of the records made at the actual excavations and of the original cataloguing of the finds and furnishing, from a grant made to her by University College Reading, the funds for the excavations of 1922.

And lastly there remains the quite incalculable debt that this monograph and its writer owe to the first excavator of Rhitsona, Ronald Burrows. My accounts of the graves excavated in 1909 are taken entirely from his 1909 day-book; the illustrations of them on plates I and II are from his photographs; in the descriptions of the objects from these graves I have made constant use of his MS. catalogue written in 1912, and it needs only a glance at the contents of these graves to realise how rich and instructive they are in the light of Burrows' detailed records. Apart however from these records of simple observed fact, it would not be fair to make Burrows responsible for any statement in this book. His last illness overtook him before he had begun any special study of Corinthian pottery. The least that I can do is also the most, to dedicate this book to him in the sense of the quotation from Pindar that I have placed beneath the dedication.

The expenses of the publication have once more been most generously met by the Research Board of Reading University. The various departments of the Cambridge Press have shown their customary friendliness, courtesy, patience and skill. To them also my warmest thanks.

P. N. URE