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978-1-107-66368-8 - The Greek House: Its History and Development from the Neolithic  
Period to the Hellenistic Age

Bertha Carr Rider

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# THE GREEK HOUSE

ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT  
FROM THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD  
TO THE HELLENISTIC AGE

BY

BERTHA CARR RIDER



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## PREFACE

THE rich nature of the recent evidence furnished by discoveries in Crete, Greece, and Asia Minor, on the subject of the Greek house of the earliest and latest periods, has given fresh impetus to the study, and many are the articles and tracts which have been written by English, German, French, and Italian scholars.

Among these the most important and penetrating are the writings of Professor Noack and Dr Mackenzie on the construction and plan of the Cretan palaces, and those of Professor Myres and Professor Gardner on the Homeric and classic house.

The articles on the subject are scattered throughout a host of archaeological periodicals in all languages, many of which are not even accessible to the student, and anything in the form of a continuous history or summary of the evidence and of the deductions drawn from it, does not exist in any tongue.

The aim of the following thesis has been to collect and present succinctly all the monumental evidence of importance from the Neolithic period onwards, as well as to give a summary of all the principal criticism to which it has been possible to obtain access, in order to

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enable the student of classic architecture to gain a general knowledge of the present state of the subject, within a reasonable compass.

Such a study is naturally, to a great extent, a work of compilation, and my object has been rather to order and review, than to suggest anything startlingly original in a field where so much is already but theory, and where the student is so apt to lose sight of the principal trail to devote himself to side issues.

At the same time my travels in Greece, Crete, the islands of the Aegean and Asia Minor, have enabled me to weigh all evidence carefully in the light of actual remains, and sometimes, where I dared, to criticise.

I have devoted my attention specially to the history from the prehistoric period to the fifth century, which interested me more particularly, and have only referred to the Hellenistic house to point out the certainty of its connection with the Mycenaean, and to the Pompeian to show the last phase.

Much work is yet to be done in this branch, and we may hope for still more complete evidence from excavation, with regard to the later development of the Greek house.

It has become quite clear to me in the course of my research, that the history of the Greek house is continuous, and that similar types prevail from the earliest period to the latest. Such a view I may perhaps venture to present as original, for as far as I have been able to judge, it is nowhere assumed. The house of each successive period

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is rather described and discussed on its own merits than recognised as a link in a chain.

The complicated character of the race problems involved makes the whole discussion far from simple, but I think I have been able to show that the view I have put forward is not entirely *in nubibus*, but finds support and confirmation which can with difficulty be gainsaid.

Among the many works which I have consulted and to which reference is made in the following study, the most inspiring and suggestive have been those of the authorities already mentioned, to whom I here acknowledge my indebtedness throughout and tender my grateful thanks.

B. C. R.

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CORRIGENDA

P. 37, l. 13 and p. 38, l. 8. Read *en encorbellement*