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Heinrich Schliemann
Frontmatter
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Orchomenos

In the winter of 1880–1, the wealthy German businessman and self-taught archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822–1890) embarked on a new project, to excavate the ‘Treasury of Minyas’ at Orchomenos. He was accompanied by his wife and by the distinguished Oxford Assyriologist A.H. Sayce. This book, published in 1881, begins with a vivid description of the journey from Athens to Orchomenos, through gorges and swamps, and across mountain passes. Schliemann mentions earlier attempts to excavate the treasury (actually a Mycenaean beehive tomb), the difficulty of the terrain, and how he engaged over 100 local people to assist in the removal of earth and stones from a large area. He lists pottery, artefacts and stone implements, and gives detailed measurements of walls, towers and gates. The book includes drawings of sculpted decorations including rosettes and spirals, and the texts of classical Greek inscriptions found at Orchomenos and at nearby Copae.

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Orchomenos

*Bericht über meine ausgrabungen im
Böotischen Orchomenos*

HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN



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ORCHOMENOS.

BERICHT ÜBER MEINE AUSGRABUNGEN

IM

BÖOTISCHEN ORCHOMENOS.

VON

DR. HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN.

MIT 9 ABBILDUNGEN UND 4 TAFELN.



LEIPZIG:
F. A. BROCKHAUS.
—
1881.

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V o r w o r t.

Schon im Juni 1879 beendigte ich meine Forschungen in Hissarlik, aber mein darüber publicirtes Werk „Ilios“ hielt mich noch anderthalb Jahr beschäftigt. Sobald ich im November 1880 damit fertig war, schritt ich zur Ausführung meines langgehegten Plans, auch das Minyische Orchomenos* zu erforschen, und erstatte nun Bericht über meine dortigen Arbeiten.

Nur drei Städte sind es, denen Homer das Epitheton „goldreich“ beilegt, nämlich: Troja, Mykenae und das Minyische Orchomenos; die beiden ersteren haben sich durch die von mir darin zu Tage gebrachten Schätze auch wirklich als goldreich erwiesen. Wiewol ich nun in Orchomenos nicht auch Goldschätze fand, so sind doch die von mir dort ausgegrabene Schatzkammer und der Thamos mit seiner wunderbar gearbeiteten Steindecke stumme Zeugen dafür, dass auch hier einst grosse Reichthümer aufgehäuft lagen, und beweisen, dass das von Homer dieser Stadt gegebene Epitheton vollkommen passend war.

Die vorzüglichen Zeichnungen der Decke des Thamos (Nr. I und II), sowie der Plan des Schatzhauses und die Zeich-

* Dieses in Bötien gelegene Minyische Orchomenos ist wohl zu unterscheiden von der unweit Mantinea in Arcadien gelegenen Stadt gleichen Namens.

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VI

nungen der Thalamosthür und der Thürschwellen (Nr. IV—VII), sind von den aus Olympia bekannten, ausgezeichneten deutschen Architekten Herren Wilhelm Dörpfeld, Richard Borrmann und Fr. Gräber ausgeführt, denen ich hiermit meinen wärmsten Dank dafür abstatte.

Berlin, im Juli 1881.

Heinrich Schliemann.