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Sir George Francis Hill (1867–1948), was perhaps best known as a numismatist, although his scholarly interests and accomplishments included a range of time periods and subjects. A classicist by training, Hill built his career at the British Museum's department of coins and medals. In his forty-three years there he produced volumes on coins of antiquity; Greek history and art; coins, heraldry, and iconography of medieval and Renaissance Italy; and treasure troves. In 1931 Hill became the Museum's director and principal librarian, the first archaeologist to hold this post. His four-volume *History of Cyprus* (1940–52) ranged from Cyprus's earliest years to the twentieth century, and became the standard text on the subject. It is a valuable resource for scholars of the country, of antiquity and of the Mediterranean world. Volume 1 describes the land of Cyprus before unravelling its history from the Stone Age to the Crusades.

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# A History of Cyprus

VOLUME 1:  
TO THE CONQUEST  
BY RICHARD LION HEART

GEORGE HILL



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FRONTISPIECE



*Swedish Cyprus Expedition*

LIMESTONE HEAD FROM VOUNI

# A HISTORY OF CYPRUS

BY

SIR GEORGE HILL,  
K.C.B., F.B.A.

\*

VOLUME I

*To the Conquest by  
Richard Lion Heart*

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*To*

W. H. B. : C. J. P. C.

E. J. F. : C. R. P.

V. S.

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## PREFACE

The interest which Cyprus has recently aroused in many quarters makes it needless to apologize for putting forth an account of its history. Prudence, perhaps, might have suggested waiting until the present activity in excavation and research should quiet down, and their results become more definite. On the other hand many, like the writer, must feel that some sort of guide through the maze of authorities is desirable: and it was the wish to clear up in his own mind the facts about a subject which has interested him for more than thirty years, that prompted him to undertake such a compilation. More than a compilation it does not pretend to be: yet, even so, it has proved to be a task more arduous and complex and even less within his capacity than he had expected; and it will perhaps be felt that he has done little more than indicate the many problems, without solving any of them.

The main difficulty has lain in the fact that Cyprus has had no continuous history of its own, except to some degree in the Lusignan period. What light we have on it is chiefly a pale and shifting reflection from the activities of the great powers which from age to age have found it necessary to deal with it on their way to some more important objective. Any picture of its fortunes must therefore be patchy and ill-composed, its lights and shadows forced and perhaps often misleading. For the same reason, to set its history in true perspective one would need a mastery of the history of all the peoples who came into contact with it, whether as colonists or as conquerors. Failing that qualification, unattainable in this age of specialization, its historian must be content to submit his sketch to the most competent specialists of his acquaintance, and adopt their corrections. This has been done throughout. No mere list of acknowledgements would indicate the degree of the author's indebtedness to those who, as will partly appear from the footnotes, have been consulted and have ungrudgingly helped at every turn. Such a list of names is therefore not given. But a general expression of gratitude to former colleagues in nearly every Department of the British Museum, to the officials of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities, and finally to those, to whose kind offices are owing the photographs from which the illustrations have been made, cannot be omitted here.

*Preface*

The present volume takes the history of the island down to its conquest by Richard Lion Heart. With that episode a new perspective opens, so that it seems a suitable point at which to pause.

A word may be permitted on the spelling of proper names and technical terms. After much consideration the attempt to attain consistency was abandoned in favour of the avoidance of pedantry. Generally speaking, Latin forms have been used, except for the shorter names of places and quite modern names to which every visitor to Cyprus is accustomed, such as Troodos. As to *k*, it has been kept occasionally, but the uncouth *kh* combination is usually avoided. Such inconsistencies, while they will not please many, will it is hoped offend fewer than uniformity would have done. In oriental names intelligibility to the ordinary reader, rather than accuracy and consistency, has been aimed at, and diacritical marks avoided as far as possible except in the footnotes.

The dedication records, for those who can interpret it, the writer's obligation to friends, by whose companionship and aid on two visits to the island, in 1934 and 1938, much that would otherwise have been difficult or tiresome was rendered easy and delightful.

GEORGE HILL

*London, August 1939*

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For permission to reproduce the photographs of Plates Ia, II and XIII my thanks are due to the Director of Antiquities and the Curator of the Cyprus Museum. The Swedish Cyprus Expedition kindly provided the photographs for the Frontispiece and Plate III (lower portion), and allowed Plate III (upper portion) to be made from their publication. Major Vivian Seymer took special photographs for Plates Ib and X. The blocks, the loan of which I owe to the Cyprus Monuments Committee, were made from Mr Cave's photographs for the Appeal issued by the Committee in 1934. That of the Salamis capital (Plate VII) was made for the British Museum *Catalogue of Sculpture*, Vol. II, 1900, Plate XXVII. For this and the casts of the coins on Plate V, as for the photographs on Plate XI, I have to thank the Trustees. Messrs Mangoian Brothers presented me with the beautiful view of Vouni on Plate VI.

MAPS

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Map of Stone Age and Bronze Age sites, based on the Cyprus Department of Antiquities Report (1936) and on Gjerstad, <i>Studies on Prehistoric Cyprus</i>	<i>to face p. 24</i>



## LISTS OF BOOKS

These two lists do not pretend to be systematic or complete. Many general histories and works of reference have been omitted, because the reader will have no difficulty in identifying them. The first list expands the abbreviations of titles most commonly used throughout the volume; the second enumerates those books which are commonly cited by the authors' names alone.

### I

#### ABBREVIATIONS

- B.C.H.* *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*. Athens and Paris, 1877– .
- B.M.C.* *British Museum Catalogue of Greek Coins*. By R. S. Poole and others. London, 1877– .
- B.M. Inscr.* *The Collection of Ancient Greek Inscriptions in the British Museum*. By C. T. Newton and others. 4 parts. London, 1874–1916.
- B.M. Sc.* *Catalogue of Sculpture in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities*. Vol. 1, Part II. Cypriote and Etruscan. By F. N. Pryce. London, 1931.
- B.M. Terr.* *Catalogue of Terracottas*. By H. B. Walters. London, 1903.
- B.M. Vases.* *Catalogue of Greek and Etruscan Vases*. Vol. 1, Part I. Pre-historic and Aegean Pottery. By E. J. Forsdyke. London, 1925. Vol. 1, Part II. Cypriote, Italian and Etruscan Pottery. By H. B. Walters. London, 1912.
- B.S.A.* *Annual of the British School at Athens*. London, 1895–
- C.A.H.* *Cambridge Ancient History*. Cambridge, 1924–39.
- C.C.M.* *Catalogue of the Cyprus Museum*. By J. L. Myres and M. Ohnefalsch-Richter. Oxford, 1899.
- C.I.G.* Boeckh (A.), etc. *Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum*. 4 vols. Berlin, 1828–77.
- C.I.L.* *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. Berlin, 1862– .
- C.I.S.* *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*. Paris, 1881– .
- C.M.H.* *Cambridge Medieval History*. 8 vols. Cambridge, 1922–36.
- Excav. Cypr.* British Museum. *Excavations in Cyprus*. By A. S. Murray, A. H. Smith and H. B. Walters. London, 1900.
- Exc. Cypr.* See List II, Cobham.

- F.H.G. Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum.* Ed. C. et Th. Müller. 5 vols. Paris, 1878–85.
- G.D.I. Sammlung der griechischen Dialekt-Inschriften.* Ed. H. Collitz and others. I, pp. 1–80: “Die griechisch-kyprischen Inschriften in epichorischer Schrift”, by W. Deecke. Göttingen, 1884.
- H.C.C. Metropolitan Museum of New York. Handbook of the Cesnola Collection.* By J. L. Myres. New York, 1914.
- Hdb. Handbook of Cyprus.* By R. Storrs and B. J. O’Brien. London, [1930].
- H.L.* See List II, Bouché-Leclercq.
- I.G. Inscriptiones Graecae.* Berlin, 1873– . Ed. II (Minor). Berlin, 1913– .
- I.G.R.R. Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas pertinentes.* Paris, 1906– .
- I.L.N. Illustrated London News.* Various dates from 1931– .
- Jac.* See List II, Jacoby.
- J.H.S. Journal of Hellenic Studies.* London, 1881– .
- K.B.H. Kypros, die Bibel und Homer.* By M. Ohnefalsch-Richter. Berlin, 1893. English edition, *Kypros, the Bible and Homer.* London, 1893. (References are to the former.)
- K.K.* See List II, Georgiades.
- Κυπρ. χρον. Κυπριακά Χρονικά.* Larnaka, 1923– .
- L.B.W. Voyage archéologique en Grèce et en Asie Mineure.* By P. Lebas and W. H. Waddington. Vol. III, Part I. Paris, 1870.
- Miss.* See List II, Schaeffer.
- M.L. H.* See List II, Mas Latrie.
- O.C.* See List II, Oberhummer.
- O.K.* See List II, Oberhummer.
- O.G.I.S. W. Dittenberger. Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae.* 2 vols. Leipzig, 1903–5.
- P.G. J. P. Migne. Patrologiae Cursus Completus...* Series Graeca. Paris, 1857–66.
- P.I.R. Prosopographia Imperii Romani.* Ed. Klebs and others. 3 vols. Berlin, 1897–8. Ed. II, by Groag and Stein. Berlin and Leipzig, 1933– .
- P.L. J. P. Migne. Patrologia Latina.* Paris, 1844–64.
- R.D.A. Cyprus Department of Antiquities. Annual Reports.* Nicosia, 1915, 1916, 1933– .
- R.E. Pauly-Wissowa—Kroll—Mittelhaus. Real-Encyclopädie der Classischen Altertums-Wissenschaft.* Stuttgart, 1894– .
- Rec. Cr. Arm. Recueil des Historiens des Croisades. Documents Arméniens.* 2 vols. Paris, 1869–1906.
- Rec. Cr. Grecs.* The same. *Historiens grecs.* 2 vols. Paris, 1875–81.
- Rec. Cr. Occ.* The same. *Historiens Occidentaux.* 5 vols. Paris, 1844–95.

## List of Books

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- Rec. Cr. Or. The same. *Historiens Orientaux*. 5 tomes. Paris, 1872–1906.  
 S.C.E. *Swedish Cyprus Expedition. Finds and Results of the Excavations in Cyprus, 1927–31*. By F. Gjerstad and others. Stockholm, Vols. I, II, 1934; Vol. III, 1937; Vol. IV to follow.  
 S.E.G. *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*. Leyden, 1923– .  
 S.P.C. See List II, Gjerstad.  
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