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978-1-108-07861-0 - *Cyprus: Its Ancient Cities, Tombs, and Temples: A Narrative of Researches and Excavations during Ten Years' Residence*

Luigi Palma Di Cesnola

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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.

### **Cyprus: Its Ancient Cities, Tombs, and Temples**

Born in Italy, Luigi Palma di Cesnola (1832–1904) settled in the United States and fought for the North in the American Civil War, becoming a cavalry colonel. Appointed by Abraham Lincoln, he then served as consul to Cyprus from 1865 to 1877. As an amateur archaeologist, he directed excavations throughout the island. In this 1877 publication, including maps and illustrations, Cesnola gives a useful sketch of Cypriot history and contemporary customs in addition to providing an important record of his archaeological practices and discoveries. He covers a number of ancient settlements where significant finds were made, notably Paphos, Amathus and Kourion. Many of the uncovered artefacts were controversially removed from Cyprus and sold to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art; Cesnola served as its first director. His brother Alessandro's *Salamina* (1882), recording his own excavations and discoveries in Cyprus, is also reissued in this series.

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# Cyprus

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LUIGI PALMA DI CESNOLA



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AND TEMPLES.

*A Narrative of Researches and Excavations*

DURING TEN YEARS' RESIDENCE AS AMERICAN CONSUL  
IN THAT ISLAND.

BY

GENERAL LOUIS PALMA DI CESNOLA,

MEMB. ROYAL ACAD. SCIENCES, TURIN.

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TO

MY WIFE,

AS A TRIBUTE TO HER LOVE AND DEVOTION UNDER GREAT TRIALS,

*These Pages*

ARE MOST AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

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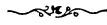
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## PREFACE.



MANY American and English friends have repeatedly asked me to publish an account of my researches in the island of Cyprus, and I have acceded to their request, but not without grave fears in consequence of my literary inexperience and imperfect knowledge of the English language.

To some extent, also, the publication of this narrative was imposed upon me as a duty, by the fact that several distinguished scholars had expressed their fears as to whether my excavations had been conducted in a systematic manner, whether the ruins had been left in a suitable condition for future study and investigation, and whether such a journal of the discoveries had been kept as would, from its details of how and where all the most important monuments had been found, prove of interest to science.

From reasons of prudence I did not publish anything concerning my diggings so long as I was residing in the Turkish dominions, and I have had no occasion to regret the course I pursued. That the explorations I superintended in that island were carried out sys-

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tematically, and all the most interesting facts concerning them properly recorded, I hope the following pages will prove. That they were perhaps not conducted in all their details according to the usual manner adopted and advocated by most archæologists, I am unwilling to dispute, but there were many serious considerations which I was not at liberty to disregard. My firman from the Ottoman Government made it imperative that I should leave the excavated fields in the same state in which I found them, no matter though they had become my property by purchase. Even had this not been the case, I should have hesitated before spending the time and money necessary in clearing out every site where I dug in order to leave it in a condition suitable for future study, knowing that the natives would soon destroy those remains by carrying away the stones for building purposes, as they have done with the ruins laid bare at Dali by Mr. Lang, according to the approved system.

Again, such a system of excavating would have been too expensive for my private means, and I had neither public funds at my disposal nor an organized staff of assistants, as those usually have who superintend explorations of this character and extent. I had to rely solely on my own personal and pecuniary resources, and had to husband them as much as my health and my means required. The result, however, would have been the same in any case, since the ruins of a edifices which I brought to light during my ten

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excavations, consisted, in almost every instance, only of low foundations of stone walls, and these, when their shape and exact measurement were ascertained, had no further archæological importance.

This disappearance of ancient monuments in Cyprus, renders the identification of its cities and temples extremely difficult, and unfortunately, also, the records of them which exist in ancient authors are so few and unconnected that they mislead as often as they assist. My greatest difficulty in this respect was with the cities of Throni, Leucolla, and Aphrodisium.

To enable the general reader to follow with some interest the description of my researches, I have given as an introduction a short account of the island of Cyprus from its pre-historic times, where everything appears to be confusion and darkness, to the present day.

Among the modern writers on Cyprus, I have consulted Lusignan, Dapper, Mariti, Jauna, Poccocke, Danville, La Croix, and Maslatrie, but the one to whom I am most indebted is Engel, who with that ability and thoroughness in his researches which so pre-eminently distinguish in our age the German scholar, has collected in his work, "Kypros," all the best and most reliable information that could be had about the island in classical times. My ignorance of the German language deprived me of the great assistance I might have derived from the perusal of this excellent work while I resided in Cyprus.

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To the courtesy and superior learning of Mr. A. S. Murray, of the British Museum, I owe my acquaintance with Engel, and also many valuable suggestions which I here most gratefully acknowledge.

A catalogue of the engraved gems found in the treasure vaults of the temple at Curium is given in the Appendix, and for this I am indebted to the great kindness of Mr. C. W. King, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, the well-known author of "The Natural History of Gems," "Antique Gems," and other works of similar character. It will be found of eminent value to the student of the glyptic art.

In the Appendix will also be found a short description of the different types of vases found in Cyprus, and all the inscriptions which I discovered or have seen at various places during my excursions in the island. These inscriptions are in Cypriote, Phœnician, and Greek, with two or three in Assyrian incised on Babylonian cylinders, and a bilingual one in Greek and Latin, on a sepulchral stele. The description of the vases has been prepared by Mr. A. S. Murray, to whom I have already stated my obligations.

Although this volume is rich in illustrations, yet it contains but a very small per centage of the Cypriote monuments which I brought to light during my excavations in Cyprus.

The description of the different localities and of the tombs and temples which will be found in these pages, has been taken from notes written by me on the spot

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at the time of the excavations, when I endeavoured to note down what I actually saw and as it appeared to me after a careful examination.

I entertain the hope that the discoveries which I had the good fortune to make in Cyprus will prove more important as they become more generally known, and that they will justify the kindly expressed opinion of the illustrious discoverer of Nineveh, in saying, "they will add a new and very important chapter to the history of Art and Archæology."

L. P. DI CESNOLA.

ILSINGTON VILLA, LONDON,

*April, 1877.*

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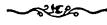
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CYBELE . . . . .	229	AGATE SCEPTRE . . . . .	309
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