



LOOKING TOWARDS THE PRE-ROMAN CITY FROM THE TOP OF THE THEATER AT MINTURNÆ, ITALY

this sign, see the article by Dr. E. A. Speiser in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, April, 1933.)

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*A Reconstruction
of a Burial
from Persia*

THERE has recently been installed in the gallery devoted to the results of the Persian and Assyrian Expeditions a restoration of one of the most striking burials uncovered at Damghan, Persia, by the recently terminated Joint Expedition. The grave was excavated in 1931 by Dr. Erich Schmidt, field director of the Expedition. It is obviously that of a warrior, probably killed in battle and buried with the finest of his earthly possessions. Due to careful drawings, photographs, and measurements made in the field, the restoration is substantially accurate in regard to the position of the skeleton and of the associated objects. The reconstruction [Plate X] is the work of Mr. Paul Neimeyer, and the simulated ground, the base of which is carefully moulded *papier maché*, represents, it is felt, a great advance in restorations of this character.

The Warrior, and many other individuals whose graves were found in the same stratum, belonged to the third and last phase of the occupation of Tepe Hissar, it being abandoned thereafter as a habitation. The culture of the people of Hissar III was relatively high, as is evidenced by their proficiency in the use of copper and the precious metals for weapons, tools, and vessels, by the well executed gray pottery, and by the employment of alabaster for vases, bowls, and utensils. The use of alabaster may perhaps indicate influences from Mesopotamia where this stone was much used even in earlier times. Otherwise the culture of Hissar III seems more closely related to that of the Turcoman plains, north of Persia, and east of the Caspian Sea, than to those of inner Iran.

In the Grave of the Warrior particular note should be made

of the silver ewer with a tapering spout, of the beads carved from lapis lazuli, chalcedony, cornelian and shell, and of the copper objects: helmet(?), bident, mattock-head, dagger, and grooved chisel. Protruding from the small gray pot the copper 'wand' should be noticed: 'wands' such as these were found in many Hissar III graves, but having different devices on the end; they were perhaps personal, family, or clan symbols.

The use or purpose of the disc and miniature column of alabaster is unknown. Several other examples of these associated objects were unearthed in this stratum, but no clue was found to explain for what they were used. The two gray pottery jars are not the ones actually found in this grave, but are similar in form and date.

Not only is this exhibit designed to give to the general public a more accurate picture of the methods used by the field excavator in uncovering archaeological material, but also to demonstrate the burial customs and the cultural attainments of the race to which the Warrior belonged.

*The Expedition
to Minturnæ*

NO formal report has yet been received from Dr. Jotham Johnson since the resumption of excavations at Minturnæ, Italy. A cable, however, announces a rich find of sculptures in the theater *scena*, including a Diana hunting with a dog, two excellent portrait heads, and a head of Hercules. The message also states that abundant evidence has been found that the original Augustan theater was enlarged about the time of Trajan, and that it was further restored by Maximinian, who erased earlier inscriptions and wrote in his own name. An almost unique portrait head was found to have been usurped by someone who cut back the original surface, creating a new likeness; it is hoped that both subjects will be identified during the course of further investigations.