

DAVID GEORGE HOGARTH

1862-1927

DR. DAVID GEORGE HOGARTH was one of the men we could ill spare. A sound scholar, an indefatigable worker, an enthusiastic traveller and excavator, he was endowed with sane judgement and clear head. On the practical side he was what is termed a good business-man ; on the scholarly side he combined knowledge and archaeological interest with sanity and common sense. He was, in fact, the ideal 'Keeper' of a Museum, and at the same time his literary abilities made him an ideal expounder of archaeological facts.

We had known one another since his early College days. His father had been vicar of the parish adjoining Denton Manor where I used to stay, and his name was therefore familiar to me from an early date. In his undergraduate years, however, he seemed more inclined to expend his energies on the physical than on the intellectual side, and his premature death may perhaps be traced to his endeavour to unite hard physical and intellectual exercise at a critical age.

When he left Oxford after a few years of College work, it was to travel and explore in Greek lands and more especially in Asia Minor. Here his name will always be linked with that of Sir William Ramsay (with whom he made his first journey to the Near East in 1887), as one of the Oxford scholars who have revealed the earlier history of Anatolia and the lands adjoining it. I can never forget an unexpected meeting with him one morning in Cyprus, on the road from Curium to Paphos, when he was attached to the British School at Athens ; he and his companion (Prof.) Ernest Gardner were on their way back to Larnaka from the north-eastern part of the island, a tour which had resulted in the exploration of the eastern extremity of the country,

then but little known, and the subsequent excavations by Hogarth and others which are described in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* (1888). His *Devia Cypria* (1889), one of the most charming of books on archaeological research, and the first of his literary productions, was a further result of his tour.

Cyprus, however, was only the initial scene of his excavating work. In 1898 he directed the excavations at Phylakopi in Melos which opened a new chapter in the prehistory of the Aegean; and a little later he was in Krete working at Zakro where he found the clay sealings which have thrown such a curious and important light on the early religion and iconography of the pre-Hellenic world. He followed Sir Flinders Petrie at Naukratis in 1899 and again in 1903; and in 1899 was with Professor Grenfell in the Fayyûm searching for Greek papyri.¹ The spring of 1903 found him at Asyût in Upper Egypt where I visited him in my dahabia. The plundered tombs of Asyût, however, yielded but little, and in the following spring he transferred his labours to Alexandria. Here, again, it soon became obvious that a large amount of expenditure would be required with little corresponding result, and Hogarth left Egypt, never to return to it. From the outset of his career it was Asia Minor which had really claimed his interest and attention, and it was to Asia Minor that he went back.

As an excavator he will be known chiefly by his work at Ephesus in 1904. Here at the Artemision he brought to light the beginnings of Greek art and religion in Ionia and their connexion with the old culture of the Hittite empire.² One result of this was the course of lectures on 'Ionia and the East' delivered before the University of London (1909), and marked by that sanity of judgement and brilliant out-

¹ An account of his work at Naukratis is given in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, xxv, Pt. I (1905).

² The history of the excavations is contained in his *Archaic Artemisia of Ephesus*, 1908.

look into the past which distinguished all his work. For the history of his travels in Asia Minor and discovery there of Hittite hieroglyphic texts it is needful to go to his *Wandering Scholar in the Levant* (1896), and its later companion *The Wandering Scholar* (1926), two of the most delightful books of travel ever penned.

The war brought with it a change in his life and outlook. The appeal of archaeology to him had always been on its human side, and when the war came he flung his services into it without stint. Oxford was exchanged for Cairo, and as Head of the Arab Bureau he proved himself the most hard-working and efficient of British officials. When I met him there in the early part of 1918 he had just completed a three-months' voyage in a small Japanese gunboat, where he had learned to eat 'Japanese food' together with the elements of Japanese conversation.

With the end of the war he returned to his post as Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, to which he had been appointed after the retirement of Sir Arthur Evans in 1909. But his value as a clear-sighted man of business and chairman of Committees had now been discovered, and the energies that had formerly been devoted to travelling and excavation were accordingly transferred to Commissions and Committee meetings. He became a member of the Peace Commission, and, later on, of the Universities Commission, Chairman of the Palestine Exploration Society, and President of the Royal Geographical Society. And for a short while he even consented to continue the unfinished official history of military aviation during the war. It is little wonder that even his natural vigour and untiring energy gave way under such a ceaseless strain of work.

As a traveller and explorer, geography had naturally always interested him, and his *Penetration of Arabia* (1904) will always remain a standard book. But with his return to his Oxford duties his old attraction towards Asia Minor and its Hittite monuments, with which Sir William Ramsay and myself had infected him long ago, came back with

increased strength. One result was the publication of his *Hittite Seals* (1920), which laid the foundation of all future study of the subject. It was a subject which had always interested him, and he had managed to bring together an unrivalled collection of them in the Ashmolean Museum. Another result was his Schweich Lectures in 1924, on the *Kings of the Hittites* (published in 1926). The book is full of acute observations and brilliant suggestions, and was particularly gratifying to myself as on the archaeological side Hogarth, I found, had arrived at the same conclusions as I had done on the philological side. Alas, it was the last literary and scientific work destined to come from his pen.

But it was also the literary crown of what, to me, was the most important activity of his life, the initial excavation, namely, of Carchemish, where I visited him in 1911. In 1908 he had 'prospected' the site as well as the surrounding district for the British Museum, and in 1911 he commenced the work upon it which was subsequently continued by Mr. Woolley. Hogarth there did for the old capital of the Moscho-Hittites what Layard had done for Nineveh, and the results of his labours and those of his successors are embodied in his *Carchemish*, Part I (1914). The volume is the indispensable foundation of all future work upon the later history of the people who were known to their neighbours as 'Hittites'.

I have already said that Hogarth was the ideal head of a Museum. It was not only that his interests were varied, his energy inexhaustible, his judgement sane and cautious, and his business capacity considerable, but he was also skilled in dealing with men. His time was always at the disposal of visitors and scholars who wished to examine or study the Ashmolean collections, and he possessed those most desirable qualities, tact and conciliatory temper. I have known him even 'suffer fools gladly' and smooth the ruffled feelings of a possible donor. It will indeed be hard to find one who can fully fill his place.

Born at Barton-on-Humber in May, 1862, he was still

in the prime of life at the time of his death. He was educated at Winchester, and after election to a Fellowship at Magdalen College, Oxford, was Tutor there for seven years (1886-93). Then it was that the Craven Scholarship and his appointment as Research Fellow gave him the opportunity that he so eagerly seized. Henceforward for many years his life was devoted to travel and archaeological research, primarily in Greece and Greek lands, and then in the lands farther east from which the early inspiration of Greek art and culture had come. The Directorship of the British School of Archaeology (1897-1900) set the seal on this portion of the activities of his life. Then came the war and with it another period in his life, which from now on to his death was largely devoted to public duties. But the scholar and archaeologist were never forgotten, and when the war-years were past his public duties were largely directed to the support of exploration and discovery in the Nearer East. Had his advice been heeded by political Philistinism, scientific investigation in the East would have been in a far different position from what it is to-day. Thanks to American help a set of conditions for carrying it on and supporting it throughout the whole area of the former Ottoman Empire had been drawn up, and Hogarth, as British Commissioner at the Peace Conference in Paris, succeeded in inducing his colleagues to accept and endorse them. But the politicians intervened, and though the stipulations were embodied in the treaty of Sèvres they were rejected in that of Lausanne.

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