

final publications of Aegean excavations are so few, that is indeed something.

O. T. P. K. DICKINSON

Penarth, S. Glamorgan

ALASIA. Mission archéologique d'Alasia.

Tome IV. Alasia. Première série. Publiée à l'occasion de la XX^e campagne de fouilles à Enkomi-Alasia (1969) sous la direction de C. F.-A. Schaeffer. Paris: Mission archéologique d'Alasia. 1971. Pp. xii + 578. 37 plates. 4 folding plans. No price stated.

Enkomi, at the eastern end of the Mesaoria, was the first major settlement of the Late Bronze Age to be excavated in Cyprus. Claude Schaeffer discovered in 1934 that the Late Cypriot necropolis investigated by the B.M. (1896) and by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition (1930) was covered by a large town. Since then a French Expedition has excavated on that site, for a time side by side with the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus (1948–55). Notable discoveries at Kition and at other sites in the island have greatly increased our knowledge of the Late Bronze Age of Cyprus during the last two decades. But the art, architecture and history of Enkomi are still of special interest to every student of the Eastern Mediterranean during that formative period. Archaeologists all over the world are waiting eagerly for the publication of the rich finds unearthed during forty years.

Alasia. Première Série (or *Alasia I*, see p. x) is at the same time the fourth volume of a series entitled 'Mission archéologique d'Alasia'. Apart from the bibliographical intricacies of such a title, there seems to be no cogent reason to change the name of the site from Enkomi-Alasia (as in former volumes) defiantly to Alasia. Most scholars seem to agree now that Alasia designated the island of Cyprus, and Professor Schaeffer does not give us any proof for his matter-of-fact statement that Alasia was at the same time the name of the 'Late Bronze Age capital' of the island, situated at Enkomi.

We are told by the editor in the 'Préface' that the volumes of the Alasia series are meant for the publication of the results of the French excavations at Enkomi. Alas, those who expect an account complementary to the late P. Dikaios' masterly survey of the Cypriot excavations at the same site will have to wait at least for *Alasia II*. The present volume is something in between a 'Festschrift' and a collection of excavation reports. The Festschrift part (pp. 7–150) comprises nine studies by scholars well known in the field of Cypriot archaeology, treating mainly aspects of the Late Bronze Age Art of Cyprus. The reports (pp. 1–6, 151–573) contain useful short articles by M. J. Aitken, P. Ducos, H.-J. Hundt and J. Bouzek on various aspects of fieldwork and finds, and the publication of new Cypro-Minoan texts by E. and O. Masson.

The hard core of the volume is formed of two excavation reports: 'Le sanctuaire du dieu au lingot d'Enkomi-Alasia' by J.-C. Courtois (pp. 151–362) and 'La cachette de fondeur aux épées (1967) et l'atelier voisin' by J. Lagarce (pp. 381–432). Both cover very important find complexes and are

obviously intended to be definitive publications. But the reader is left with some uneasiness. Are we really given 'un inventaire exhaustif' (p. 381), if only 'les fragments les plus caractéristiques' of the pottery are described (p. 401)? Or, is the list of the ceramic finds pp. 167 ff. complete? The stratigraphy is by no means documented adequately. The record consists mainly of 'coupes stratigraphiques' of 1.0–1.5 m length—too short sections, which (as we all know) can be so very deceptive. I do not wish to detract in any way from the merits of these two reports. They contain a wealth of most interesting and valuable information, and every scholar interested in the Late Bronze Age metallurgy or in the Late Mycenaean pottery of Cyprus will profit greatly from their study. But we would like to be told some time by what principles future Enkomi publications will be guided with regard to stratigraphical documentation and find inventories.

The illustrations are sumptuous. Considering however how many interesting objects in the store-rooms of Enkomi have so far never been illustrated, the choice of subjects is somewhat puzzling. There is no doubt about the importance of the 'dieu au lingot'; but are not 21 plates for the object and its discovery slightly excessive? It is certainly good to be reminded how not to dig a wall: but less than five plates (xxviii–xxxi) would serve that purpose.

FRANZ GEORG MAIER

Zurich

BENSON (J. L.) **The necropolis of Kaloriziki.** (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology, xxxvi.) Göteborg: Paul Aströms Förlag. 1973. Pp. 138. 63 Plates. Sw.kr. 150.

From 1933–1954 the Pennsylvania University Museum carried out important work in the town and region of ancient Curium on the south-west coast of Cyprus. The definitive publication of the results was, however, severely hampered by the untimely death of G. McFadden and J. F. Daniel. All students of Cypriot archaeology will be greatly indebted to J. L. Benson who took over the very difficult task of publishing the material recovered from the cemeteries in the plain of the river Kouris. 'Bamboula at Kourion. The Necropolis and the Finds' (1972) gives an account of the necropolis belonging to the LCI–III settlement on the Bamboula hill northeast of the village of Episkopi. *Kaloriziki* is a kind of companion volume, describing 27 tombs from the Kaloriziki necropolis situated southwest of Episkopi, roughly in between the village and the acropolis of Curium. The burials range from LC IIIB to Early Classical, but the bulk of the finds date from the very end of the Late Bronze Age and from the early Geometric period.

Some readers may not be entirely satisfied with the structure of the book. Two short chapters sum up the 'Characteristics of the Necropolis' (topography, tomb types, burial customs and historical conclusions, p. 17–25) and the general problems presented by the 'Proto White-Painted and White-Painted I Pottery' from that site (p. 54–63). The publication of the tombs is divided into two sections.