

στάσεων και βελτιώσεων τοῦ κειμένου τοῦ Κικέρωνος Pro Rabirio Perduellionis Reo, ἐν σχέσει πρὸς προηγουμένης ἐκδόσεις αὐτοῦ, ὡς τῆς τοῦ H. Grose Hodge εἰς τὴν σειράν Loeb Classical Library, London 1966 (ἔπαν.). Ὑπάρχουν προσθετέα, ἀναπληρούμενα, ἐξοβελιστέα, ὡς καὶ διττογραφία.

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΑΘ. ΤΟΥΡΛΙΔΗΣ

**Christos G. Doumas, *Thera: Pompeii of the Ancient Aegean*.** Excavations at Akrotiri 1967-79. *New Aspects of Antiquity*. General Editor: Colin Renfrew. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1983. Pp. 168 (including 123 illustrations, 15 in color). Cloth. \$29.95.

*New Aspects of Antiquity* is an internationally acclaimed series in which archaeologists of international repute are given the opportunity to present their own latest discoveries. Originally established under the editorship of the late Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the series is dedicated to reporting the worldwide expansion of archaeology in the last decade, including major sites and civilizations in Europe, the Near East, the Americas, and the Pacific. It is appropriate that a volume be devoted to ancient Akrotiri, now recognized to be the most completely preserved prehistoric site in Europe, possibly in the world. Closely associated with the late Spyridon Marinatos, the once flourishing town near Akrotiri on the island of Thera lay buried from the Late Bronze Age from around 1500 B.C. to its rediscovery and excavation by him in 1967. In 1968 Christos Doumas joined Marinatos on the excavation team and in 1974, after the untimely death of Professor Marinatos, assumed the directorship of the Thera excavations. It was, of course, Marinatos who proposed the provocative idea that the collapse of ancient Minoan civilization on Crete could be explained by the volcanic explosion of Thera in about 1500, a theory that appeared in print for the first time in the British journal *Antiquity* in 1939. Marinatos's excavations were intended to support that thesis. The present excavators include specialists such as palaeoethnobotanists, metallurgists, zoologists, chemists, biologists, and geographers, and others, who are approaching the Thera problem much more cautiously: «The aims of the present excavators are not merely to produce impressive finds; these will come anyway. Our ambition now is to complete the exploration of all the buildings uncovered so far — in fact no building has been fully excavated as yet — and thus proceed to the conservation and restoration of the finds. In the meantime, this general account of the excavations is provided as a kind of interim report, in the hope that it will bring to a wider public knowledge of the achievements and way of life of an Aegean society three-and-a-half thousand years ago» (pp. 13-14).

Currently Professor of Archaeology at the University of Athens and Curator of the Prehistoric Collections at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, Professor Doumas has had wide experience as an excavator in the Aegean area, having also previously served as Curator of Antiquities in the Cyclades and of the Acropolis,

Curator of Antiquities in the Dodecanese Islands, Director of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Greece, and head of the Department of Archaeological Sites and Excavations. The Thera book, though purportedly intended for the general reader, is the work of an authority whose observations will be useful to any student interested in Aegean archaeology and civilization. After a general introduction, there are eight fully documented and illustrated chapters on (1) «The Aegean Background»; (2) «The Aegean and the Cyclades before Minoan Expansion»; (3) «The Site of Akrotiri»; (4) «The Late Cycladic City of Akrotiri»; (5) «Thera and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age»; (6) «The End of Late Cycladic I Thera»; (7) «The Aegean and the Eruption of Thera»; and (8) «Thera and the Legend of Atlantis.» There is also an Epilogue on «Thera and the Aegean After the Eruption,» a chronological table, a select bibliography, a list of illustrations, and an index. Every aspect of the subject is included — geological, architectural, artistic, and cultural. The illustrations (photographs and drawings) are beautifully clear and totally relevant to the text.

The book deals honestly and straightforwardly with one of the most spectacular archaeological sites of all time and certainly confronts the question of the relation of Thera to Crete and to the story of Atlantis head-on. It corrects many previously held views with new evidence that is based on much more extensive scientific investigations and research. There can be no doubt that one of the reasons for the fascination of scholars and lay-persons alike with the Thera excavations has been the possible identification of that island with Plato's lost land of Atlantis. Dumas reviews the opinions of most scholars concerned with this problem in recent times and concludes:

That Atlantis was a creation of Plato's imagination has already been pointed out by his greatest pupil, Aristotle, who remarked: «The man who dreamed it up made it vanish.» Perhaps E. S. Ramage is right when he states: «It is one of the ironies of the search for Atlantis that Plato, who lies at the center of our intellectual tradition, now finds himself in many cases the victim of an anti-intellectual approach» (p. 156).

Dumas's *Thera: Pompeii of the Aegean* certainly replaces all other general books on ancient Thera and is an excellent comprehensive synthesis of what we know up to new about ancient Akrotiri. The author insists that his findings are tentative, and he is right because there is so much more that needs to be done. One thing this book will not do is stop speculation about Atlantis, but it does provide much more reasoned and reasonable evidence to deal with that problem and places Thera in the Cycladic world in an important relationship to Minoan Crete and the Greek mainland, but Dumas persuasively asks for a reinterpretation of Minoan thalassocracy (one based on economic rather than naval power) and calls for judging Thera's achievements on their own unique bases — as original, creative contributions (especially in art) — rather than as influenced by Cretan Minoan prototypes. Dumas offers us much to consider and much to rethink.

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