

its American twin. The deck has a clearance of 170 feet above high water.

The cost, however, is expected to exceed 6,000,000 pounds, a much greater sum than that needed for the American twin. This greater financial outlay may be partly explained by the fact that most of the steel work, under a stipulation of the government of New South Wales, had to be manufactured at the site,

while America's bridge was built very close to steel manufacturing centers. Huge workshops were erected near the Sydney structure to fabricate its steel.

Stone used in facing the abutments to the bridge was quarried 200 miles south of Sydney and brought to the bridge site in three 400-ton ships built especially for the purpose.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Discovery Shows Early Greek City One of "Better Homes"

THE BELIEF that Greeks, before their great Hellenistic age, built fine temples for their gods but lodged themselves in small, mean houses "like wasps' nests" must be revised, declares Dr. David M. Robinson, professor of archaeology at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Robinson, who has returned from excavating at the ruins of Olynthus, in Macedonia, has found there new facts about city life in ancient Greece.

Digging into the streets of Olynthus, Dr. Robinson has found large houses, designed with taste and with an eye to comfort. These homes date from the fifth and fourth centuries B. C. In 348 B. C. Olynthus was destroyed by Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander.

Until now, archaeologists have excavated no city of this period of Greek history. Hence Dr. Robinson's expeditions to Olynthus are filling in many gaps in knowledge of Greek city life.

A Greek Residence

A house in Olynthus which Dr. Robinson calls typical has been given the name House of the Comedian. One doorway from the court opens into a living room with a beautiful pebble mosaic floor in a wheel design. Around the edge of the room is a raised border three feet wide. This wide ledge was a peculiar feature of Olynthian houses. The ledge would have been a convenient foundation for couches, either in sleeping rooms or dining halls, Dr. Robinson explains. Walls of the living room in the House of the Comedian were painted in simple designs. In the floor may be seen the narrow ditch for draining off water when the mosaic floor was scrubbed.

Dr. Robinson found in this house the oldest true mosaic-paved peristyle, or

inner court surrounded by columns or pillars, that has yet been discovered in a Greek home. The court in the peristyle is paved with a mosaic floor depicting lions, wild boars, ducks, a centaur, men hunting boars and deer and griffins attacking a deer. The design is worked out in pebbles of black and white, purple and green.

On the north side of the court three rooms were placed to face the south and get the sun. This was another architectural feature common in Olynthus, and a very practical one, Dr. Robinson shows. Letting in sunlight was necessary in houses heated only by charcoal stoves and braziers.

If the House of the Comedian had only a rudimentary heating system, supplemented by heat from the sky, at least it had good plumbing. There was a shower bath, so arranged that water could be poured over the bather and drained off. There was also a terra cotta bath tub. Olynthian bath tubs were no full-length affairs, but were more of an arm-chair type.

An unusual architectural feature of the house was a bay window or balcony, ruins of which may still be seen on the first floor. Finding this was a surprise to Dr. Robinson, who points out that balconies were well known in Pompeii, much later, but none have been found heretofore in houses of early classical times.

No metal furniture could be found in the House of the Comedian or any other dwelling in Olynthus. Probably the couches and tables were of wood, long since decayed. An idea of how the homes were furnished may be had from the small articles taken from the buried ruins. In the House of the Comedian have been found 46 vases, 26 terra



AN ACTOR FIGURINE

Of the fourth century B. C. of the Greek city Olynthus. This terra cotta statuette inspired the name "House of the Comedian."

cotta figurines, 98 loom weights, seven lamps and a beautiful bronze ring ornamented with figures representing comedy and tragedy.

From this ring and from the figurine of a Greek actor, Dr. Robinson bestowed upon the house its new archaeological name, the House of the Comedian. Perhaps a patron of the theater lived there, says the archaeologist. He may also have won in a chariot race, as one of the large Attic vases found in this house, a crater, depicts Victory crowning a four-horse chariot, with another Victory in the chariot box, along with a warrior armed with a shield on which is a Gorgon's head. On the other side Victories are erecting trophies as on the frieze of the Nike temple from the Athenian Acropolis. The big vase also shows the influence of the Parthenon frieze and was probably given as a prize to the winner.

Olynthus shows the modern world for the first time what Greek city planning was like in the centuries when Hellenic civilization was on the rise. The streets of the city were neatly laid out in right angles. There were 10 houses to a block, five on each side with a narrow alley running between.

It appears that a Greek city of 50,000 people in the early fourth century B. C. was a community of "better homes" and some of them fine residences.

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