



CHILD'S DISHES—Goose-shaped pottery pitchers found in a child's tomb at ancient Gordion, Turkey, by scientists of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania are shown in the photograph.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Find Ancient Child's Tomb

Relics found in buried tomb in Gordion indicate children some 2,600 years ago, contemporary with King Midas, loved their own special dishes for eating just as now.

► CHILDREN loved their own special dishes at the dinner table two and a half centuries ago just as they do today.

Parents now know their youngster may insist on drinking milk only from a mug with Mickey Mouse on it or eating from a plate decorated with the three bears.

In a 2,600-year-old tomb in Gordion, Turkey, scientists of the University Museum, Philadelphia, have found buried with a four-year-old child charming pitchers shaped like geese, and another like a goat's head with the horns as handles and the mouth as the spout.

Evidently the child was so fond of his dishes and wooden toy animals—horse, lion and ox—that the loving parents laid them in the grave with the youngster's body.

Gordion, where the child's grave was uncovered, was the ancient capital of the kingdom of Phrygia. It was there that the famous Gordion knot was cut and there also that King Midas of the golden touch held reign. Dr. Rodney S. Young, University Museum leader of the expedition to Gordion, believes the child may have been a prince or princess and conceivably was a contemporary relative of King Midas.

The grave and its contents are dated at about 700 B.C., the time at which King Midas lived.

In addition to the child's tomb, the party uncovered a 30-foot-high stone gateway and three buildings.

The finds show, Dr. Young believes, that the Phrygians, although considered by some as barbarians, actually had an advanced culture. A clear, molded glass bowl found in the child's tomb and a pebble-mosaic floor in one of the buildings are the earliest known examples of those two kinds of work. They did not appear in Greece until two centuries later.

They also show that the Phrygians did not come from Asia, but were from the north or west. Their art patterns were geometric, unlike those of the Orient, and their houses were built with pitched roofs, rare in the snowless East.

The archaeologists used an oil-well pilot drill to locate the tomb, the first time such a drill has been used in archaeology.

Age of the buried child was determined by Dr. Muzaffer Senyurek, anthropologist at the University of Ankara who studied the hollow enamel shells of five baby teeth.

By measuring the waistlines of about 15 Turkish children, it was also determined that the buried child's elaborately engraved bronze, leather-lined belt would have fit the four-year-olds.

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STATISTICS

Cut Time for Computing 1956 Election Results

► FIFTEEN MINUTES have been shaved off the time needed to compute this year's election results on the giant electronic "brain," Univac, Dr. Max Woodbury, New York University professor of mathematics, reported in Chicago. The first run should take only about 30 minutes instead of 45, he said.

Formulas used to calculate the election's final outcome based on the first scattered reports have been improved.

Both developments stem from the experience gained in the 1952 and 1954 election returns, Dr. Woodbury told the Computer Applications Symposium in Chicago.

"Careful consideration," he said, is being given to methods of checking information before it is fed into the electronic computer, since this is the most likely source of error in the machine's forecast.

What the electronic computer does, Dr. Woodbury explained, is to predict from very early returns the final total electoral vote for each candidate, using mathematical formulas that take into account previous voting trends. Although the improvements made in the 1956 formulas are highly mathematical and difficult to translate into words, they consist essentially of making the methods used in the calculations more in tune with reality.

Dr. Woodbury is a consultant to Remington Rand, Inc. He said many of the techniques developed for predicting elections have proved useful for other electronic machine calculations.

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MEDICINE

Lives Saved by New Antibiotic

► AN ANTIBIOTIC that is predominantly germ-killing and which already is credited with saving lives was reported to the Fourth Annual Symposium on Antibiotics in Washington.

Vancomycin is its name. It is relatively low in toxicity, meaning it is unlikely to cause bad reactions, and germs do not readily become resistant to it.

This new weapon in the medical fight against infections was produced at the Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis.

Scientists reporting favorably on it for treatment of staphylococcus infections were Drs. William M. M. Kirby and Charles L. Divelbiss of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, R. S. Griffith of Indianapolis (Ind.) General Hospital, and Joseph E. Geraci, Fordyce R. Heilman, Donald R. Nichols, William E. Wellman and Griff T. Ross of the Mayo Clinic and Foundation, Rochester, Minn.

Animal tests were reported by Dr. K. K. Chen and associates of Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis.

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