

Lost City of Olynthos Uncovered

Archæology

Excavations at the newly found Greek city of Olynthos have begun to reveal the splendor and the dramatic downfall of this long buried and long lost metropolis near Mt. Olympus.

Dr. David M. Robinson, professor of archæology at the Johns Hopkins University, who identified the ruin as the once famous Olynthos, has set 150 refugees of the Near East at work digging at the important site.

In a letter from Dr. Robinson, just received by Dr. Hugh Young, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, he reports that he has already excavated a great fortress with high walls and towers. This fortress protected the city when it was besieged in the days of shifting alliances and frequent warfare between Greek cities. When Olynthos fell before the relentless at-

tack of Philip of Macedon, in 348 B. C., the houses were razed, art treasures demolished, and most of the people of all ages and ranks were sold into slavery at public auction.

"We have found the walls and houses within which the Olynthians were often shut up in time of siege," Dr. Robinson writes. "Every house has a wine jar or two, often fallen upside down, showing how suddenly the city was destroyed and abandoned.

"In one house, which may be a rich Olynthian's suburban villa, we have found several rooms paved with Greek mosaics. We have unearthed two house altars, the sink for washing dishes, the dining room table, many coins and broken vases, and three or four beautiful sculptured antefixes, the stones for ornamenting the edges

of the roof. These have sculptured winged griffins in the excellent Greek style of art.

"Demosthenes, in one oration, tells how the ancient Olynthians grew rich and how they improved their houses and displayed an unusual magnificence. In other words, I think we have found the aristocratic suburb of ancient Olynthos on a separate hill from the main city or metropolis."

Ancient Olynthos must have been much larger than any one has supposed, with at least 65,000 people, Dr. Robinson believes. In its day it was the most important metropolis of Macedonia, but in modern times its very location has been a mystery until Dr. Robinson's discovery.

Science News-Letter, May 19, 1928

Subway and Skyscraper

Engineering

"Both know the same pains of birth . . . skyscraper and subway. The same shattering of rock initiated their existence. The scene might well be in the Colorado San Juan . . . a prospect gash with startling Lizard Head raising its peak to sunlight . . . not Columbus Circle, New York, with gleaming building towering above subway workers."

So says *The Explosives Engineer* of the painting which forms the cover of THE SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER this week. The painting, one of a series made for *The Explosives Engineer*, by W. D. White, presents a scene that is within a few feet of a thoroughfare through which tens of thousands pass daily, yet one which only the subway workers see.

But in the mind of the artist this contrast of rough timbers temporarily supporting a street in order that men might travel faster under it, and the completed bulk of a great building, has a significance that matter-of-fact mortals would miss. Here, on canvas, however, he has recorded it.

Science News-Letter, May 19, 1928

A zoological garden along the Riviera is entertaining 60 orang-utans that are en route from Sumatra to various animal collections.

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