

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ARMENIA, edited by Henry Field, translated by Arlene Krimgold, *Russian Translation Series of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. III, No. 3 (Cambridge, Mass., 1968). 4° xi, 232 pages.*

The volume contains translations of six recent studies on archaeological research in Armenia with the accompanying figures and plates, an introduction and introductory essay by the editor, and two short bibliographies. The contents are as follows: Introduction, I. The Land and the People by H. Field is an abridgement of the introduction to the Russian version of the *Atlas of the Armenian S.S.R.* (Moscow/Erevan, 1961) with the addition of some notes by Field on the State Historical Museum, the Mate-nadaran, Etchmiadzin and other sites of interest. Chapters II and III, the main body of the book (pp. 13-198), are comprised of the complete translations of *Garni I* (Erevan, 1951) and *Garni II* (Erevan, 1957), the reports of the excavations of 1949-50 and 1951-55 respectively by Babgen Arakelyan, leader of the excavations. These studies make up the main body of the book and serve as the *raison d'être* for its publication. There follows four short essays, «Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages Settlements,» by V. P. Alekseev, «Ancient Mining-Metallurgical Site at Metsamor, Armenia,» by a team of five Armenian specialists, and two pieces by L. A. Barseghian, «Petroglyphs from Armenia,» and «Armenian Writing before the Time of Mashtotz.» A general bibliography on Armenia (pp. 225-230) and another on recent studies in Armenian archaeology, geography and geology since 1960 in the Library of Congress, Washington, (pp. 230-232), are at the end.

The great merit of this book is making available to a broader public B. Arakelyan's very important reports *Garni I* and *Garni II*, both originally published in Russian. One cannot over emphasize the importance of Arakelyan's work especially with regard to the general history of the excavation at the site of Garni. Of particular importance is the text and discussion of the Greek inscription found in 1945 which appears in *Garni I*, and the publication of the now famous mosaic floor of the bath found in the Garni complex published in *Garni II*. Furthermore, the value of the *Contributions* is heightened by the fact that Arakelyan sent Field a fresh series of photographs not only allowing for the

much better reproduction of all plates than in the original volumes, but also the substitution of many of the original photographs in the Erevan volumes with different and better ones. The following are especially to be noted: Vol. I, Pls. 4, 6 (new photo, different fragment) 8, 11, 16, 25; Vol. II, Pls. 4a, 16. On the other hand the color plates in the original volume have been rendered in black and white at the end of the new volume; they are of the same poor quality as those originally reproduced by Arakelyan in «Mozaics from Garni,» [in Russian], *Journal of Ancient History* (Moscow, 1956), no. 1, pp. 143-156.

The remaining short articles have since been superceded by a variety of publications; on prehistorical archaeological discoveries, S.A. Sardaryan, *Naxnadaryan hasaragut'yune Hayastanum* [Prehistoric Civilization in Armenia], (Erevan, 1967), with long English resumé, «The Early Stone Age in Armenia,» pp. 318-377, and more up to date, the new and massive *Hay Zhoghovrdi Patmut'yun* (Erevan, 1971), Vol. I, pp. 1-156, covering the prehistoric period, with contributions by Sardaryan, Arakelyan and others. On petrolyphs, the first in a series of volumes, which will represent a corpus of such inscriptions (writings?) on stone, was edited by G. H. Karaxanyan and P.C. Safyan, *Siuniki zhayrapatkernere* (Erevan, 1970), Vol. 4 of the series *Hayastani hnagitakan husharcannere* [Armenian Archaeological Monuments]. Finally, the sections written by Burney, in Charles Burney and David M. Lang, *The People of the Hills : Ancient Ararat and Caucasus* (London, 1971) are well informed and detailed on the most recent early archaeological developments with bibliographical references to the latest works both in Armenian and other languages.

The faults and drawbacks of the volume, though at times glaring, are really of minor importance. The editor's own knowledge of Armenia and Armenian history is second-hand and weak; he also seems not to know Russian, the language of most of the original texts. Transliteration is irregular and at times upsetting. For example in the introductory chapter we find «Akhpat-Sanain» (p. 5) and «Sanakin, Haghpat» (p. 10) for the monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin. The bibliographies are prefatory. But such faults are easily overlooked in this handsome volume which has brought together in English translation and with finely re-

produced figures and plates the indispensable works of Arakelyan on the classical temple complex of Garni.

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