

III; Late Mycenaean styles at Mycenae, Tiryns, etc.; Troy, cities II and III. Finally, to 1250 and later belong the XXth Egyptian dynasty (to *circ.* 1090); geometric decoration; local Mycenaean vases of Cyprus.

A recent attempt has been made by H. Grimme to show that the Assyrian term Meluḥḥa, which has been located in Arabia, the Sinaitic Peninsula, or in Upper Egypt, is etymologically identical with the Hebrew Amalek (*'Amalek*). Following this out, he presents a combination of the Babylonian and Old Testament evidence for the history of the district with which the Amalekites are associated (*Orient. Literaturzeitung*, 1909, col. 241 *sqq.*).

S. A. C.

AN OLD SARCOPHAGUS AT GAZA.

THE Jerusalem paper, *El-Kuds*, in its issue of February 25th, gave an interesting account of a discovery made at Gaza, and Prof. R. A. S. Macalister has kindly forwarded a translation of the relevant portions of the description. After some remarks on the history of Gaza, the paper proceeds as follows:—

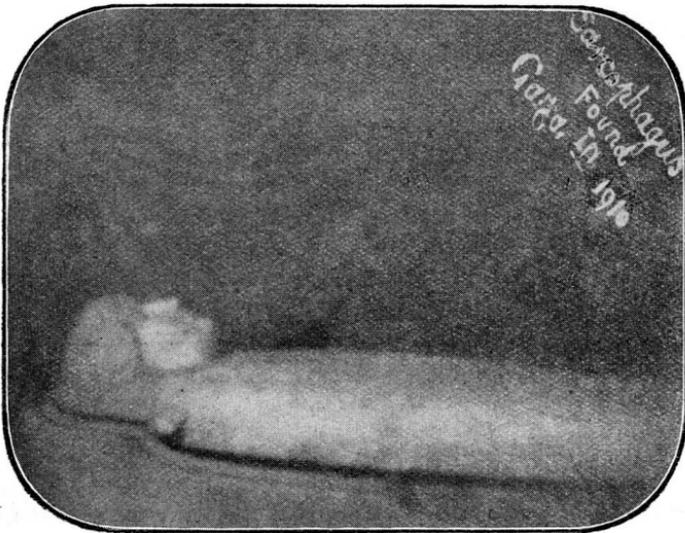
“We have been induced to record the above by our having heard that Musa el-Burtu and his partner, Ibn Halaweh, of the people of Gaza, bought land at Gaza for 600 dollars; and that when Musa went to his land and was working and digging in it, he found a little door. He entered by it into a cave divided into two chambers, and, entering through the second door, he found a coffin of hard wood. And he opened it, and in the coffin was another of crystal. And he broke this, and inside it he found one of the old queens embalmed, and on her head a crown adorned with precious stones, and on her neck a necklace of pearls, and three chains besides on her breast; and above her head was a candlestick of gold with a spout a metre and a-half long, and another at her foot a metre long. And he collected all these things and brought them to Beyrout, and thence to Egypt; and we have learnt that he sent to his partner in Gaza to pay to the workmen a sum of 500 napoleons.

“And when the government heard of this they sent, on their part, a number of people to the said place to preserve and protect it, because the tomb in which the queen was found is of marble, and her portrait is carved on it. And there are other graves besides.”

We are, fortunately, able to supplement this by an account sent to us by Mr. Knesevich, of Gaza, who has also kindly forwarded a photograph of the sarcophagus and a sketch, which we here reproduce:—

“At the commencement of this year some men were digging out stones in their orange garden, about two miles to the north-west of Gaza, and

after reaching a depth of 6 metres, came upon the ruins of an old door, which led to a big cave about 5 metres by 6 metres, and about 3 metres in height. In the floor and walls of this cave, some tombs were found containing bones, the remains of dead bodies, and a number of idols resembling men, monkeys, eagles, and dogs. These were made of clay and plaster of Paris, and were tinged with a beautiful green tint. In the cave another door was observed; this led to another small cave, about 2 metres by 3 metres, and 2 metres in height, in which was found the sarcophagus, of which the following is a description :—



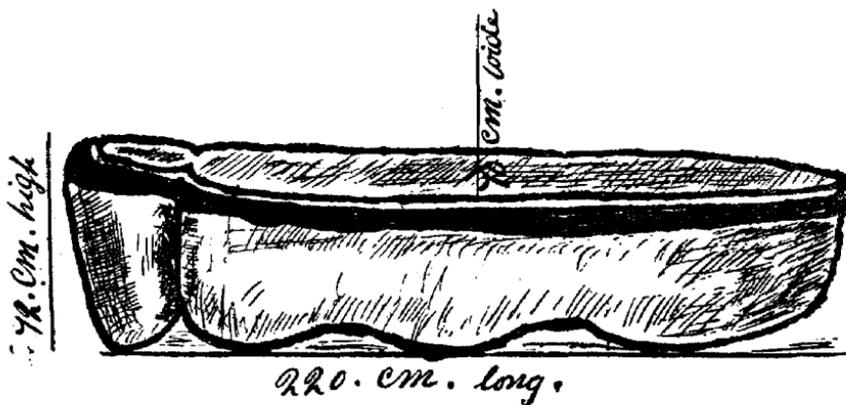
The Sarcophagus at Gaza.

From a Photograph by Emil G. Knesevich.

“The sarcophagus was by itself in the inner cave, strongly fortified by a sort of a vault built over it of huge stones and plaster of Paris, to prevent it from being damaged. When the stones were removed there appeared this beautiful and remarkable sarcophagus. It was made of pure white marble, and was composed of two pieces, the lid and the coffin. When the lid was taken away, there was found the mummy of a female in a fine state of preservation. The coffin was 220 centimetres long, 70 centimetres wide, and 72 centimetres high. Unfortunately the men who found the mummy destroyed it in searching the coffin, hoping to find precious antiques, but they assert that they found nothing, save an artificial tooth attached to a golden wire. Some people say, however

that a book and some precious things were discovered. No inscription of any kind was upon the sarcophagus.

"The lid was beautifully and artistically carved in the exact form of the mummy. Nothing except the head, neck, and shoes were seen, and the rest of the body was carved so as to appear swathed in bandages of linen. The head was neatly fashioned, and the eyes and lips were painted their natural colour. The head was bound with a fillet, the hair was loose and thrown on both sides of the chest. The head, fillet, and the nose suggest that the mummy was a Roman, but the shoes, as carved on the lid, are Egyptian.



Sketch of the Sarcophagus at Gaza.

By Emil G. Knesevich.

"The lower part of the coffin also was cut in the shape of the body, as shown in the above photograph. The place that supported the head was carved to resemble the head and neck, and the lower part of the coffin, that rested on the ground, is carved in the shape of the back part of the body, as shown in the accompanying sketch. The local government got possession of the sarcophagus and dispatched it to Constantinople, together with the remains of the mummy and the above-mentioned idols on the 26th of May last."