

40 Emf.  
Dojwias Papes  
in Zapinda euyrosous.  
of A<sup>o</sup> S. X. aiwves

F. W. Hasluck.  
Thracian  
Cholos  
Tomb  
[in Zagada]  
Evidences

in British School  
at Athens  
Annual  
v. 17. p. 76-79.

PHOTOSTAT NEGATIVE  
MADE BY  
THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY



AKADHMIA

AOHNEN

ANATOLIKO ETAMOVAN  
LBY VE ENLAPPIAS  
BPAKIA

into Thrace at this period. The building in which they were found deserves at least more notice than it has hitherto attracted: it has luckily been left as it was found (Figs. 1, 2).

As my rough drawings shew (Pl. XX. A, B, C) the tomb exhibits many of the characteristics of the Mycenaean *tholos*. The material is throughout the soft local limestone, and the arrangement similar in essentials to that of the tomb described above. The simple lintel doorway with slightly convergent jambs faces ten degrees east of south. It is set in a short *façade* of regularly-coursed blocks; the outer ends of this, as is indicated by the surfaces left rough, were intended to be hidden by the earth of the tumulus.

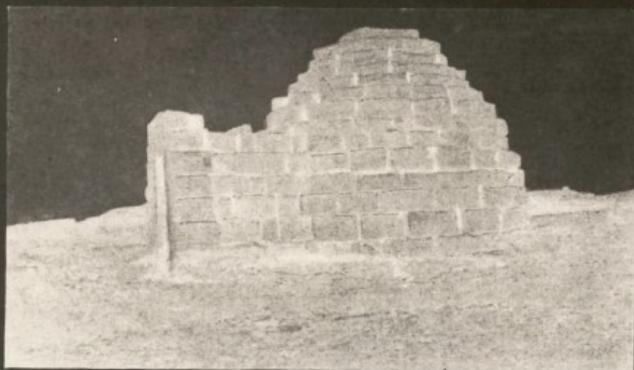


FIG. 2.—THOLOS TOMB AT KIRK KILISSE FROM THE EAST.

From the entrance a short passage<sup>1</sup> roofed with slabs leads to a circular *tholos*, 3.92 m. in diameter and about 3.45 m. high: the line of the left wall of the entrance-passage (not its axis) cuts, if produced, the centre of the *tholos*. The latter is built of solid blocks regularly coursed and finely jointed without mortar, the vertical joints being uniformly perpendicular. The average length of the stones in the lower courses is about 0.62 m., an exceptionally long stone measuring 1.66 m. The vault is formed by corbelling out each successive course slightly beyond the one below it;

<sup>1</sup> On the right wall of this passage are some childish *graffiti* of human figures and a cross-barred  $\Theta$ , which, however, may equally well have been intended for a wheel. It should be remarked that the lintel of the tomb proper is not relieved as in most Mycenaean examples.

the last of the fourteen courses is a large covering-slab measuring 1.04 × 1.00 × 0.22 m. The stones are left rough outside, where they were hidden by the earth of the tumulus, but their inner faces are elaborately dressed; each course after the third from the ground is divided into a perpendicular and a concave surface, and the under side of the top block decorated with a rather feeble rosette in low relief.

In spite of certain obvious likenesses in design and construction to the Mycenaean *tholoi*, such scanty architectural details as exist in the Kirk Kilisse tomb—the rosette of the vault and the moulding above the outer door—have nothing Mycenaean about them: I have Mr. Dinsmoor's authority for saying that the latter cannot be earlier than the fourth century B.C. The contents of the tomb may therefore quite well represent the original interment, and the building must be considered a late survival of primitive technique.<sup>1</sup>

There is in all probability a close connection between it and the *tholos*-tombs of Pantikapaion, which were ordinarily covered with tumuli. Here, though a square ground-plan seems to have been preferred, there is at least one example (the Mont d'Or tomb) of a circular plan, and the horizontal system of vaulting persists till a very late date, the Pantikapaion tombs being placed not earlier than the fifth century B.C.<sup>2</sup> In detail it is interesting to remark that at Pantikapaion as at Kirk Kilisse, the corbelling of the vault is shewn without disguise inside the tomb, and that the only object not definitely Hellenistic among the contents of the Thracian *tholos*—the double axe—is found also in late South Russian burials.<sup>3</sup>

F. W. HASLUCK.

<sup>1</sup> A *tholos*-tomb at Cuma (*Mon. Ant.* xiii. 210 ff.) has been dated so late as the third century.

<sup>2</sup> S. Reinach, *Ant. Bosp. Cimm.* Pl. A, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>: *Darm in Jahreshefte*, 1907, 230 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Anz.* xx. 65.

339α. Δαζατ.

Σαράντα Ἐκκλησιῶν.

Annual British  
School at Athens  
T. 17. 1910-1

## A THOLOS TOMB AT KIRK KILISSE.

(PLATE XX.)

IN the rather uninteresting landscape of the Thracian plains artificial mounds are almost everywhere a conspicuous feature. These mounds have long attracted the attention of archaeologists, but, on the Turkish side of the frontier at least, few have been scientifically explored. In Eastern Rumelia, where considerably more has been done, excavation has shewn that a large proportion of the mounds are places of burial, others representing, like the Thessalian *magoules*, prehistoric settlements, and others again sites of ancient watch-towers or even of Turkish camps.<sup>1</sup>

The neighbourhood of Kirk Kilisse, some thirty-five miles east of Adrianople, boasts its full share of these monuments. About half an hour south of the town is a group of three tumuli in a line running W.S.W. and E.N.E. All are said to have been excavated by the Russians during the campaigns of 1828 and 1878.<sup>2</sup> The southernmost tomb of the group remains open, shewing the arrangement of the tomb-chamber and its approach. These are solidly constructed of large squared blocks of the local calcareous stone, put together without mortar. A short passage, opening nearly due south and roofed with a barrel-vault of massive blocks, gives access by a simple lintel-doorway to the tomb proper. The latter is an approximately square chamber about three metres each way, barrel-vaulted in the axis of the entrance, and destitute of ornament. The middle tumulus of the three seems to have had a similar arrangement, though the passage is now nearly destroyed and the tomb-chamber blocked up. This tomb also opens southward.

<sup>1</sup> See especially Seure, *Voyage en Thrace*, in *B.C.H.* xxv. 156 ff., and on the subject in general, Dumont, *Mélanges*, 197, who compares Hdt. v. 8.

<sup>2</sup> M. Christodoulos, *Περιγραφή τῶν Σαράντα Ἐκκλησιῶν*, p. 23.

Another tumulus formerly existed on a slight eminence half an hour west of the town. This was demolished in October 1891<sup>1</sup> to provide earth for a neighbouring fort. The operation revealed a tomb-chamber of remarkable form with its contents intact. The bones of the dead chief lay on a marble bier with rests at the head and feet:<sup>2</sup> with them were found the remains of a horse and various metal objects now exhibited in the Bronze Room of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople. These figure in the catalogue as follows:—

- 163. Bronze-gilt *oinochoe*, 0·23 m. high, with *emblema* of bearded man's head.
- 164. Silver *oinochoe*, 0·10 m. high, with *emblema* of winged genius.



FIG. 1.—FACADE OF THOLOS TOMB AT KIRK KILISSE.

- 175. Silver vase, 0·65 m. high, with foliage in relief.
- 195. Silver patera, 0·13 m. in diameter.
- 267. Shaft of bronze candelabrum, 0·75 m. high, with double-herm finial.
- 273. Bronze-gilt helmet, 0·30 m. high, with neckguard, cheek-pieces, and short nose-piece: 'careful Hellenistic work.'
- 310. Thin silver double-axe head, 0·21 m. long.

All these objects except the last are plainly of Hellenistic date, and of great historical interest as shewing the penetration of Greek *articles de luxe*

<sup>1</sup> M. Christodoulos, *Ἡ Θράκη* p. 268.  
 This I have by hearsay only, but cf. the Macedonian tombs at Palatitza and Pydna (Heuzey, *Miss. en Macédoine*, Pls. 15, 16, 20).

into Thrace at this period. The building in which they were found deserves at least more notice than it has hitherto attracted: it has luckily been left as it was found (Figs. 1, 2).

As my rough drawings shew (Pl. XX. A, B, C) the tomb exhibits many of the characteristics of the Mycenaean *tholos*. The material is throughout the soft local limestone, and the arrangement similar in essentials to that of the tomb described above. The simple lintel doorway with slightly convergent jambs faces ten degrees east of south. It is set in a short *façade* of regularly-coursed blocks; the outer ends of this, as is indicated by the surfaces left rough, were intended to be hidden by the earth of the tumulus.



FIG. 2.—THOLOS TOMB AT KIRK KILISSE FROM THE EAST.

From the entrance a short passage<sup>1</sup> roofed with slabs leads to a circular *tholos*, 3.92 m. in diameter and about 3.45 m. high: the line of the left wall of the entrance-passage (not its axis) cuts, if produced, the centre of the *tholos*. The latter is built of solid blocks regularly coursed and finely jointed without mortar, the vertical joints being uniformly perpendicular. The average length of the stones in the lower courses is about 0.62 m., an exceptionally long stone measuring 1.66 m. The vault is formed by corbelling out each successive course slightly beyond the one below it;

<sup>1</sup> On the right wall of this passage are some childish *graffiti* of human figures and a cross-barred  $\Theta$ , which, however, may equally well have been intended for a wheel. It should be remarked that the lintel of the tomb proper is not relieved as in most Mycenaean examples.

the last of the fourteen courses is a large covering-slab measuring 1.04 × 1.00 × 0.22 m. The stones are left rough outside, where they were hidden by the earth of the tumulus, but their inner faces are elaborately dressed; each course after the third from the ground is divided into a perpendicular and a concave surface, and the under side of the top block decorated with a rather feeble rosette in low relief.

In spite of certain obvious likenesses in design and construction to the Mycenaean *tholoi*, such scanty architectural details as exist in the Kirk Kilisse tomb—the rosette of the vault and the moulding above the outer door—have nothing Mycenaean about them: I have Mr. Dinsmoor's authority for saying that the latter cannot be earlier than the fourth century B.C. The contents of the tomb may therefore quite well represent the original interment, and the building must be considered a late survival of primitive technique.<sup>1</sup>

There is in all probability a close connection between it and the *tholos*-tombs of Pantikapaion, which were ordinarily covered with tumuli. Here, though a square ground-plan seems to have been preferred, there is at least one example (the Mont d'Or tomb) of a circular plan, and the horizontal system of vaulting persists till a very late date, the Pantikapaion tombs being placed not earlier than the fifth century B.C.<sup>2</sup> In detail it is interesting to remark that at Pantikapaion as at Kirk Kilisse, the corbelling of the vault is shewn without disguise inside the tomb, and that the only object not definitely Hellenistic among the contents of the Thracian *tholos*—the double axe—is found also in late South Russian burials.<sup>3</sup>

F. W. HASLUCK.

<sup>1</sup> A *tholos*-tomb at Cuma (*Mon. Ant.* xiii. 210 ff.) has been dated so late as the third century.

<sup>2</sup> S. Reinach, *Ant. Bosp. Cimm.* Pl. A, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>b</sub>: Darm in *Jahreshefte*, 1907, 230 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Anz.* xx. 65.