

Controversy Still Prevails About Archaeologist's Discoveries

By ROBERT MUSEL
United Press International
London—When Sir Arthur Evans died at the age of 90 in 1941 he bore one of the most honored names in archaeology.

Scientists the world over depend on his dramatic discoveries on the island of Crete for dating events in Europe before recorded history. Was this famous scholar, revered by generations of archaeologists, guilty of wishful thinking?

Was his system of classification "pure invention"? For nearly three years these questions have been debated by his defenders and his detractors as the result of a sensational claim by Prof. Leonard Palmer of Oxford that "many of Evans' deductions were false and at times he misrepresented his findings."

Both sides are still gathering evidence that will ultimately decide whether Evans deserves his niche as one of the immortals of archaeology. After the first impact of Palmer's charges some support gathered around the theory that if Evans was wrong he was honestly wrong.

Now Palmer is about to publish a book, "The Find Places of the Knossos Tablets" (Oxford University Press) which is bound to inflame the controversy.

"In this book I produce evidence to show that the discrepancies between Evans' published statements and his own records are deeper and



THRONE OF MINOS—When Sir Arthur Evans died at the age of 90 in 1941 he bore one of the most honored names in archaeology. Scientists throughout the world depended on his dramatic discoveries on the island of Crete for dating events in Europe before recorded history. This UPI picture shows the Thorne of Minos at Knossos on Crete. (UPI)

more serious than I expected at first," Palmer told United Press International.

"His whole system is, in fact, suspect."

Sets Off Debate
Palmer set off the worldwide debate after seven years of study of Evans' reports from his excavations at Knossos in Crete which he regard-

ed as the most ancient center of civilized life in Greece. The Evans findings had been virtually unchallenged for 60 years.

Evans drew a picture of the Greek mainland, an island empire ruled by a Cretan king, the legendary Minos. He suggested that Cretan civiliza-

tion reached its end about 1400 B.C. when the palace was attacked and occupied by squatters.

Some 200 years later—about 1200 B.C. according to his time-scale—the Greek mainland civilization came into its own. Flourished at Sam's Time
But Palmer believes the evidence is clear that the

tion and hence our own," he said. "The whole dating of the prehistory of Europe hinges on Knossos."

Heavy Counterattacks
Despite heavy counterattacks from Evans' defenders, Palmer holds his ground that the archaeologist "misrepresented many facts of vital significance and published accounts of his findings which cannot be reconciled with the log book of his own excavations."

This log book was kept by Evans' assistant in Crete, Duncan Mackenzie, who, according to Palmer, protested some of his leader's conclusions, though not publicly.

Among those who have come to Evans' defense was Prof. D. F. H. Gray of Oxford who stressed that written tablets found in Crete by Evans were not deciphered until 11 years after his death. Thus he never knew that what he believed to be an unknown Cretan language—the so-called

"Linear B"—was, in fact, an early form of Greek. He could not have known that the tablets indicated Crete was thriving at a time when he thought it was in ruins.

"The importance of his discoveries cannot be affected," Gray said, "by changing the interpretation of part of the evidence."

Palmer commented that Prof. Doro Levi, head of the Italian School of Archaeology in Athens, had recently sug-

gested in a published paper that Evans' system be entirely abandoned. "The question," said Palmer, "is whether Evans reported his findings fully and accurately. My book will show that his own records contradict what he said publicly."

Second place went to Arne Harang, 1524 Jasper st., Medford; and third to Fred Beyer, student at Hedrick Junior High school.

Merchandise Award
Judy Badley, ninth grade, Rogue River High school, won a merchandise award for best poster in black and white. The judges awarding the ribbons were Captain Fichter, George L. Lucas, Medford city police department, and Gordon Johnson, who is majoring in criminology at the University of Oregon.

Merchants contributing to the prizes were Elk City Market, Littrell Parts, General Parts and Equipment, and Sam Jennings company.

Presentation of Awards in Contest Slated Monday

Awards will be presented winners in the "Highway Safety and Courtesy" poster contest Monday afternoon in the Medford high school gymnasium with Roland G. Beach, representing Tallman Lodge, Knights of Pythias, making the presentations.

The posters have been on display in the high school gymnasium and, following the awarding of the prizes, will be given to Capt. Clyde Fichter of the Medford police for use in the safety program of instruction and driver education in schools of this area.

Contestants in the Medford area are students of Miss Kathy Fonken, art instructor at Medford High school.

Knights of Pythias announced the winners in state high school contests last week.

Wins Fourth Place
Linda Mullin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Muller, Talent, a student at Phoenix High school, won fourth place

in the 18th annual public speaking contest held in Portland. She had qualified for participation by winning first place in the Jackson-Josephine county contest in Medford. Mrs. Margaret Hadley, speech instructor in the Phoenix High school.

Larry Reavis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Reavis, 211 Summit ave., Medford, won first place in the state poster contest sponsored by the Knights of Pythias lodges.

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