

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

FOR some time past these NOTES have been comparatively free from remarks about our domestic affairs. We have refrained for fear of boring our readers, and in normal times we should still refrain; but the times are not normal. For that reason we ask everyone to read what follows, as if it were a personal appeal from the Editors.



Economic difficulties and political struggles appear to those involved in them to be of immense and far-reaching importance. To live in times of 'Sturm und Drang' may be stimulating to the imagination, at any rate in moments of detachment; but it is not comfortable. This is merely a personal reaction, probably without much cosmic significance. But although we cannot help thus reacting, there is no need to lose our sense of values. After all there have been many eclipses of civilization in the past, and the ideas that really matter have survived. There have always been found ways and means of handing on the torch of knowledge, even through the darkest ages of history. Those whose business it is to contribute to the advancement of knowledge should not let themselves be stampeded by current events, however startling and personally unpleasant they may be.



IN TRANSYLVANIA
Ph. O. G. S. Crawford

facing p. 401

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We who are responsible for ANTIQUITY do not intend to be stampeded. The pursuit of 'useless' knowledge is none too easy in times of affluence ; it becomes increasingly difficult when the screw is applied. This process exterminates the weeds ; but it reduces the numbers and increases the burden of those who remain.



ANTIQUE has survived five of the worst years in modern history. It has more than survived ; it has grown in strength and vigour and has, we are told, 'become established'. We are glad to hear it, but we should like to know exactly what 'becoming established' means. It conjures up a pleasant vision of resting on one's oars and floating peacefully with the stream—of short hours and repose. Need we say that no journal can be produced on such lines at any time, least of all at the present ? Nothing but unremitting personal effort suffices to keep ANTIQUITY afloat and abreast of the current. We have no publisher behind us, no staff to do the hack-work, no subsidy to fall back on (and incidentally to take the punch out of us).



Doubtless our old friends, the original subscribers, already know these facts ; but there must be many new ones who do not realize the peculiarly individual free-lance character of ANTIQUITY.



We have no intention, now or ever, of appealing to motives of philanthropy. We claim to give 'good value for money' (a claim that our correspondence endorses) ; we expect ANTIQUITY to be bought and read only so long as it continues to be interesting and deserves to be bought and read. If it appeared that we were getting dull and losing support for that reason (of which there is not the slightest indication) we should not cast the blame upon our readers, but try and remove the cause. In small matters we have, in fact, greatly profited by friendly criticism.



In return we expect the support of all who approve of ANTIQUITY and its policy, and indeed we do get it in large measure, both from veterans and from the younger generation. The articles printed in the present number and the last prove this. We now ask all those

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who read these words to remember that *never was the continuance of their support more necessary than during the coming year*. There are hard and anxious months ahead for all, not least for the Editors themselves. Every subscription, both old and new, counts—each one is appreciated and means more than perhaps the subscriber realizes. We are by no means in the last ditch, or even near it; when we are we shall say so, for we have always told the truth about our circulation. But we are not so foolish as to pretend that we have not suffered to some extent from the world-wide depression. Who has not?



We appeal very earnestly for this continued support, knowing as we do that during 1932 will appear some of the best articles we have ever published. So high indeed is the standard of archaeological and historical work today that there is little difficulty in maintaining our own. We have, for example, the promise of an article by a very well known man of science, describing a new test of racial affinity; of another on Seleucia, the former capital of Mesopotamia, recently identified by aerial observation; and of a third on the fortified churches of Transylvania. As a kind of appetizer we publish as frontispiece to this number a photograph we took inside the courtyard of one of these churches, which we visited last summer with the writer of the article.



In the foregoing paragraphs we have given a straightforward account of our present position and future policy. The nature of the response for which we ask will probably be obvious; but if any doubts should still remain they will be dispelled by the concluding note, which we hope will be read carefully and acted upon.



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Inserted in this number is a renewal form for subscriptions for 1932, and we shall feel much encouraged if our subscribers will make a point of returning this with as much promptitude as they may find convenient. This would be an immense help and save unnecessary expense in having to repeat requests for payment. It will also enable

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us to make with more confidence certain arrangements for our printing order for next year.

There are other ways in which subscribers can help. For instance, they may have friends who would be interested to know of ANTIQUITY and we shall be only too pleased to send particulars, or a specimen number, to each one whose name is suggested. Appeals of this kind have always had favourable results.

The forms mentioned above have been omitted from copies sent to subscribers who have paid in advance or who make their payments through banks.



On the third page of our Cover is printed a list of Articles in certain issues of ANTIQUITY of which we have surplus copies and therefore are able to offer for THREE SHILLINGS each, post paid. As the number is not large we may have to withdraw this offer at an early date.