Title: Handbook of the Cesnola Collection of Antiquities from Cyprus

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HANDBOOK OF
THE CESNOLA COLLECTION
OF ANTIQUITIES FROM
CYPRUS
PREFACE

THIS Handbook is intended to serve as a guide to the Cesnola Collection of Antiquities from Cyprus, or more precisely to those parts of it which are exhibited in the Cesnola Room and other departments of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. It offers at the same time an introduction to the study of the ancient arts and industries which the Cesnola Collection was formed to illustrate. But it is not in the strict sense a Catalogue of the Collection, though all the more important objects are described separately; for many of less individual interest are treated summarily and in groups, and the large 'student series,' which is held in reserve, is not included at all. Nor is it a formal textbook of Cypriote archaeology; since it makes reference to objects in other collections only when these directly illustrate something which is exhibited here, and it gives only the most essential references to the literature. Those who wish to pursue the study further are referred to the Selected Bibliography (p. xliii), and to the exhaustive bibliographical works included in it. Above all, they are invited to study the Collection carefully for themselves, in the light of these outlines, and of their own common sense. Those who have the means, or the opportunity, will remember also that there is still much to be discovered in Cyprus itself, by any one who has skill and zeal.

To keep the Handbook clear and brief, references are as a rule given only to Cesnola's own book, Cyprus, its Cities, Tombs, and Temples; to the official Atlas of the Cesnola Collection; to the publications of Doell and Colonna-Geccaldi (which record how the objects appeared before they left Cyprus); and to the third volume of Perrot and Chipiez's History of Art in Antiquity: and even here, care has been taken to omit all those representations which through inaccuracy or any other cause have not been identified beyond dispute.
PREFACE

As Cesnola's illustrations are arranged differently in the English edition of his book, and in the German translation of it by Ludwig Stern, only the English references are given in the text, and a concordance of both editions is printed at the end of the Handbook. It would have been easy to give references to all the other books and periodicals in which objects from the Collection have been republished, but this would have expanded the Handbook unduly, and would have quite changed its character and utility. A very few objects of exceptional importance have alone been exempted from this rule: the Inscriptions, for example, are furnished with references to the Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum, to the standard collections of Greek dialect-inscriptions, and to the original publications of the documents by Cesnola and his collaborator, Isaac Hall.

But though many specific references have been omitted intentionally, for brevity and clearness, and for the general reader's sake, it must not be supposed that the debt of this Handbook to previous workers is ignored, nor that it is limited to works cited in the Bibliography, copious though that will be seen to be. The compiler here acknowledges not only the free use which he has made of published writings, but still more gratefully the information, advice, encouragement, and criticism with which he has been favoured by scholars in both hemispheres, and in particular by the staffs of the great museums. Wherever independent consideration of the evidence before him has led him to adopt views already expressed by a previous writer, he desires to make it clear that he claims no credit for anything but accurate summary and impartial judgment. It is no more part of his plan to claim any priority of discovery or publication, than to assign it to any one else. A history of discoveries is quite a different thing from a museum handbook; and after all, to nine persons out of ten who read of a discovery, it is quite immaterial who made it. Wherever, on the other hand, the writer has come to a different conclusion from his predecessors, he has felt it a more important duty to draw the picture as he sees it himself, than to distract his readers by insisting that So-and-so was wrong.

Such occasions are fortunately rare. Yet in going through so large a mass of material, it was perhaps inevitable that a few fresh facts should be noted, and a few old data reviewed in fresh light. It would have been easy, no doubt, to scatter announcements of these finds among the appropriate Journals; but the new Handbook seemed, on the whole, to be the proper place to publish them. The