

All the archaeology books you ever wanted to own . . .

Scanning the internet daily for items of an archaeological nature is a daily chore for a lot of us. And particularly so for editors of archaeology magazines knowing there are still blank pages to fill.

Most of my search time is spent on eBay in the fields narrowed down to philately and publications, and of course, topical stamps with an archaeological theme.

In one of my searches late in the middle of the month I came across an interesting sounding title, "Archaeologia — Archaeology Books and Prints." The bid was only a dollar so I entered my bid because I wanted to watch the progress of the bidding week.

I was surprised to find at the end of the auction I was the high bidder (in fact, the only bidder).

The book arrived a few days ago and I'm sure happy I won the lot. It's worth a lot more than \$1.00.

The book is published by Archaeologic, a firm in Oakland, California. My interest was piqued enough to give them a call to see what the company was about.

They have a stock of around 10,000 volumes, some coming, some going, and some just waiting for the right person to come along.

I was wondering about their clientele and they report that 1/3 is academia, 1/3 libraries, and 1/3 folks who just love archaeology — sorta like us, I guess.

They do not have a store front. The business is run from a home of one of the partners, but appointments may be made to come and browse through the stacks. I mentioned that antiquarians, archaeologists, and philatelists like to spend a lot of time browsing and they responded that that wouldn't be a problem.

The volume I purchased was issued in 2000, and a current revision is planned for early this summer. The book is around 500 pages, set in 9-point type and loaded with the books you'd like to own. The booklist is broken down into five areas. Archaeology of Ancient Egypt covers item numbers 1-1924; Archaeology of Ancient Near East, items 1925-3119; Archaeology of Greece and Rome, items 3120-4551; Archaeology of the Americas, items 4552-5719; and Old Archaeology Prints, item numbers 5720-5829.

Now you can also access their booklist on the Internet. If you are not on the Internet, stop in at your local library, and the people there will assist you.

I accessed their web page and found the listings of the

ARCHAEOLOGIA

ARCHAEOLOGY BOOKS & PRINTS



books and all ordering information and also an archaeology screen saver program you can download free.

The web site is:

www.archaeologia.com

The company maintains two e-mail addresses — according to your needs:

orders@archaeologia.com

support@archaeologia.com

The phone number is (510) 832-1405, and fax is (510) 832-1410 and the address is Archaeologia, 707 Carlston Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.

Below is reprinted the listing for one of Heinrich Schliemann's books. Read it! Only \$17,500.00. The tune keeps running through my head, "If I was a rich man dada da dada da dah!" The great majority of the titles are in our price range.

So little time, so many books!

SCHLIEMANN, HEINRICH. Trojanischer Alterthümer. Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Troja. lx + 320 pp. & 1 plate, 19th century 1/2 calf with 4 raised bands, gilt-lettered spine with the initials "S.S." (for Sophia Schliemann) at foot, original wrps. bound in (light rubbing at extremities, remnants of Schliemann's paper private library label at foot of spine). FIRST EDITION, Leipzig: F.A. Brockhaus, 1874. 17,500.00

In September, 1871, a firman from the Porte permitting the excavations at Hissarlik, arrived and serious work started immediately with eighty workman recruited from Calvert's village of Ren Koi. One can follow almost week by week the progress of the excavations in the twenty-three reports contained in this book, covering three seasons of prodigious work, from October, 1871 to June, 1873.

Further fascinating details are to be found in the letters Schliemann wrote from Hissarlik to antiquaries and scholars like Ernst Curtius, Alexander Conze, Emile Burnouf and many more, detailing his daily finds. Schliemann's greatest find came at the end of May, 1873: the first glimpse of gold, followed by the dismissal of all the workmen for the day and the extraction, piece by piece, of this important hoard by Schliemann and his wife in the greatest secrecy, at the risk of their lives, underneath precariously overhanging cliffs of earth and stones.

The exact date of the discovery is not known, but on May 30 Schliemann wrote a hasty note to Calvert at Akcke Koi, secretly sending six baskets and a bag for safe keeping, undoubtedly containing "Priam's treasure." With this the excavations were brought to an abrupt end.

Over 200 pages of this work contain annotations, comments or marginalia in the hand of Heinrich Schliemann, written (in pencil) in English, German and Greek. Several objects, such as a cup and dagger are drawn by him in the margins. On page 307, Schliemann comments "Homer can not have seen Troy." An extensive examination of this work would, most likely, reward the Schliemann scholar.

From the library of Professor Åke Åkerström.