

A GRAVE STELE FROM AMORGOS¹

Amorgos, an elongated and exceptionally rocky island which completes the chain of the Cyclades to the NE, was already in the Early Cycladic period one of the most important centers of Aegean civilization. Our limited knowledge on the island's artistic activity in historic times comes mainly from fortuitous finds of sculpture uncovered in the course of field cultivation or recovered from later buildings. No systematic investigation of cemeteries or settlements has been carried out so far, but the high artistic quality of these finds should command particular attention within the world of the islands².

The stele discussed here is also a chance find³. It was discovered in 1960 outside a small chapel near the road which leads from the village of Langada to the bay of Aigiale the easternmost of the three towns of Amorgos. It is a slab of coarsely grained Parian marble decorated with an architrave and triglyphs and metopes covering both the long and one of the narrow sides⁴ (figs. 1-2). It formed one of the corner blocks of an entablature, which perhaps belonged to the upper



Fig. 1

1. I should like to thank greatly my friend archaeologist Mrs Poly J. Muhly, who has kindly translated the Greek text.

2. Chr. Karouzos, AM 76 (1961), 115 ff.

3. The slab was moved to the Collection at Katapola and entered in the catalogue as No. 50.

4. Length : 1,645 m.; height : 0,32 m., width : 0,15 m. Each triglyph is 0,16 m.; each metope is 0,15 m. wide. Height of architrave : 0,11 m.