

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR EINAR GJERSTAD DURING THE  
CEREMONY OF THE UNVEILING OF THE STELE BY ARCHBISHOP  
MAKARIOS III IN HONOR OF THE SWEDISH CYPRUS EXPEDITION  
VOUNI, 1 NOVEMBER, 1972

(Text provided by Mrs. Theodora Pierides)

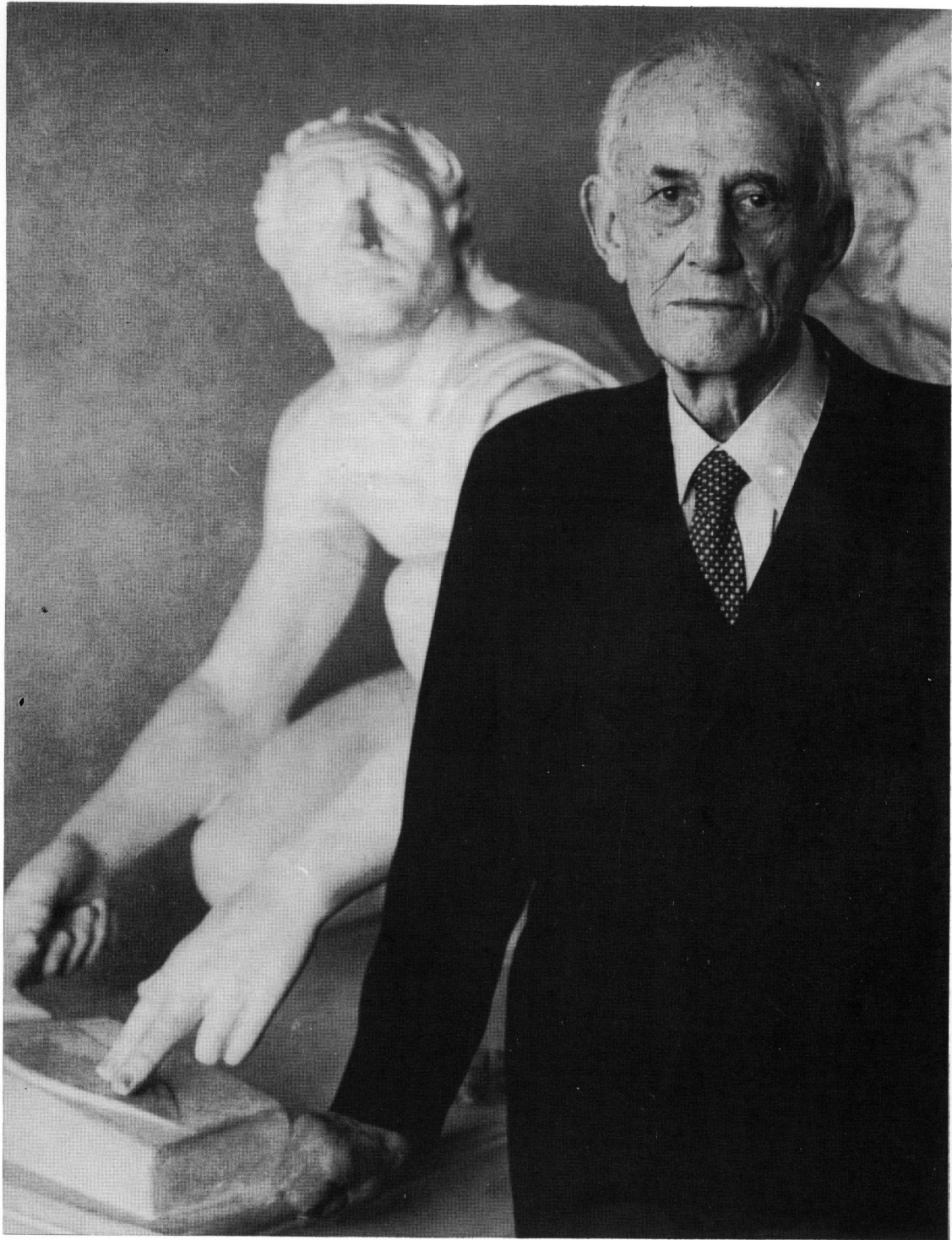
Your Beatitude,

On behalf of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition I express to you all our warm gratitude for your appreciation of our archaeological activity on this island. Personally I am deeply moved by the exquisite way you have chosen to honour our Expedition. As everybody can see, the stele is characterized by noble simplicity, a criterion of Greek *sofrosyne*. And, it is erected on Vouni. To me that is something of essential significance. Vouni is not only a site of divine beauty, not only remains of a royal palace from the 5<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C. with all its dramatic history connected with the four kings of the palace: Doxandros, Sasmas, Stasioikos and Timocharis. Vouni is much more, at least to me. To me Vouni is a *temenos*, a sacred area cut out of the profane world, a holy place, where, for the first time, I came into contact with a world superior to that of man, a world where the restless and meaningless life disappears and a new, meaningful life begins.

To Mr. Zambarloukos and Dr. Karageorghis I am very grateful for their kind words. They were winged words, living words flying from heart to heart. I also thank Dr. Karageorghis for genuine, sincere friendship and collaboration during many, many years.

Further I wish to say that I am happy that my wife is with me today. She has been the inspiring spirit of both my personal and scientific life for more than 50 years and I confess that without her I should not have been able to enjoy this festive day in the same wholehearted way as I now do.

Your Beatitude, it is well known that archaeologists are often more eager to excavate than to publish their excavations. That is easy to understand: archaeologists are human beings, they prefer pleasure to dull, hard work. The Swedish Cyprus Expedition forms no exception from this rule. We excavated for four years in Cyprus, but it has taken 40 years to publish the conclusions. This is the day of unveiling: you unveiled the stele in honour of the Expedition, I shall now unveil a book which is Copy No. 1 of the final volume of the *S.C.E.* publication. I hereby present it to you with respect and admiration and it gives me great satisfaction that the two unveilings are synchronized.



Professor Einar Gjerstad