

# The Daily Review

Towanda, Pa., Friday, Oct. 28, 1881.

EDITORS  
S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD

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Mr. W. J. Stillman, the art critic, who visited the island of Melos in 1880 on a commission from *Scribner's Monthly*, contributes to its successor, *The Century Magazine*, for November, an illustrated paper on "The So-called Venus of Melos," in which he gives his theories of the statue, based on observation and study of the statue and of the site where it was found. After describing the niche at Melos he says:

There cannot remain the slightest doubt that the statue had been concealed, and to my mind the circumstances indicated for its concealment are these: The niche, judging from its character had been built in Roman times; as the nibbly nature of the masonry indicated, probably covered with stucco, as it would have been if intended for ornament and was designed as an exedra, or as a shelter for an altar, or for the statue of some divinity—Terminus, Hermes, Pan, or Faunus, the more Roman companion of him. Here the inscription and the Hermes found furnish a plausible clew, and agree with the indication of the masonry in pointing out the epoch of this conjunction of circumstances as subsequent to the second century before Christ; how long after we cannot in any wise indicate.

Now, as to the epoch of the statue there can be no doubt that it was of the immediately post-Phidian epoch; and all the most authoritative opinions attribute it to the Attic school, and probably of the time and school of Scopas—and some of the weightiest authorities have accepted Scopas himself as the author.

Anything more definite than this it is impossible to establish by any known evidence. The concealment of the statue, then, was several centuries later than the execution of it.

The Greeks of the classical epoch, even down to the first century after Christ, retained amidst all the degradation of their contemporary art, a distinct recognition of the excellence of the elder work, as the enormous artistic as well as pecuniary value of some of the masters' *chefs d'œuvre* prove. That this was one of them, and of one of the chief masters, all civilization agrees, and although we have lost the name of the author, the people who hid it must have known it well. The availing themselves of the niche, ready-made to their hands, indicates that the possessors of the statue worked in haste, piling up stones in front of the niche, instead of walling it up.

This indicates the haste of impending attack, or work done in secret. In either case, if the statue had a temple in that locality, it would be concealed near it, or near the place where it was accustomed to stand. We may remember the contrast with the colossal and magnificent Hercules found in a drain at Rome, carefully covered over with good masonry. Concealment was the object in both cases and the greater haste and furtiveness with the Melian statue indicate rather that it was brought from a distance than that it could be a divinity of the island.

Conjecture as to the origin of the statue, if my hypothesis is true, points to Athens, not only because the work is Attic, but because we know by the coins of Melos, which in all the latest coinages still bear the owl of Athens that Melos belonged to that city as late as she had any Greek allegiance, which must have been some time into the Empire, as the Romans long made it a policy to preserve a certain kind of autonomy in the Greek states, even when their subjection was complete. That it is Attic, no one can doubt in face of the evidence I shall

show. That Athens was the only city likely to send to Melos a treasure of this kind, concealment of which was impossible in Athens, is by all the circumstances, made most probable.

I conclude that it was one of the most highly valued statues of Athens, sent to Melos in time of great danger, to be concealed and preserved. What period this might have been is only to be guessed at; it is hardly worth while to say more about it, except to indicate that three periods in late Athenian history might furnish the motive requisite: when the army of Mithridates, under Archelaus, took Athens; the wars between the factions of Marias and Sylla; and the invasions of the Iconoclasts. The Romans do not appear, in spite of all their plundering, and the enormous quantity of statues carried away from Greece, to have desecrated the temples of the Greek gods, as we see that Pausanias, in the century after Christ, found the most valuable of them *in situ*, as, for instance, the Diana Brauronia of Praxiteles, the Perseus of Myron, with others of great fame. The above conclusion, considering all the known and reasonably conjecturable details of the discovery and concealment, seems to me justifiable,—as well as that it was concealed at some time between the century or two centuries before Christ and the first century after.

## TRAVELLER'S GUIDE.

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Trains on the Pa. & N. Y. R. R. pass this place as follows:

**Moving South.**  
No. 3, at 5:05 a. m., for New York and way sta.  
No. 7, at 10:43 a. m., mail train for New York, Philadelphia and intermediate points.  
No. 9, at 3:00 p. m.—Express for Philadelphia and New York.  
No. 15, at 10:45 p. m.—Fast express for Philadelphia and New York.  
No. 31.—Local Passenger Train, between Elmira and Wyalusing, 7:23 p. m.

**Moving North.**  
No. 8, at 4:00 a. m.—Fast express from New York and Philadelphia.  
No. 30, at 9:30 a. m., Wilkes-Barre accommodation.  
No. 2, at 4:43 p. m.—Mail train from Philadelphia and New York.  
No. 12, at 12:45 a. m., from New York.  
No. 32, at 6:53 a. m.—Wyalusing and Elmira local.

STATE LINE AND SULLIVAN R. R.  
**Leave.**  
3:00 o'clock p. m. for Bernice and intermediate sta.  
**Arrive.**  
9:00 a. m., from Bernice.

BARCLAY R. R.  
**Leave.**  
7:30 a. m., for Barclay and all stations, and 3:00 p. m.  
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10:15 a. m., from Barclay and intermediate stations, and 6:20 p. m.

**Canton Stage.**  
Leaves at 9 o'clock, a. m. Arrives at 5 o'clock p. m.

**Troy Stage.**  
Leaves at 10:30 a. m. Arrives at 1 p. m.

**Sheshequin Stage.**  
Arrives at 11 o'clock a. m. Departs at 12 m.

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Arrives at 12 m. Leaves at 2 p. m.

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Union Chapter, No. 161, meets Second Wednesday evenings of each month.  
Northern Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 16, meets fourth Wednesday each month.

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Towanda Lodge, No. 290. Meets every Tuesday evening.  
Endowment Rank, Section 101. Meets Third Friday in each month.

**ODD FELLOWS.**  
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Bradford Encampment, No. 41. Meets Second and Fourth Wednesday night of each month.  
Leah Lodge Degree of Rebekah. Meets First and Third Friday evenings of each month.

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Mystic Lodge, K. and L. of H. Meets Second and Fourth Friday evenings of each month.

**G. A. R.**  
Watkins Post No. 68. Meets every Saturday evening.

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