

“Principles of Greek Memorial Art”

A Review of ‘The Principles of Greek Art,’ by Percy Gardner, Litt. D., Published by The Mcmillan Company, Fifth Avenue, New York; price \$2.25.”

The Monumental News

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The article begins:

“The message of Greek art exercises a wide influence in the field of American stone-craft – perhaps to a greater extent than is true of any other branch of applied art. The fine simplicity, purity and regularity of Grecian architecture and its ornamentation, makes a strong appeal to the American, and the growing demand for fine lines and architectural simplicity in our Memorials encourages the designer to improve his understanding of the character and development of Greek art....”

This article, which begins on the next page,
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Principles of Greek Memorial Art

A Review of "The Principles of Greek Art," by Percy Gardner, Litt. D., Published by The Macmillan Company, Fifth Avenue, New York; price \$2.25.

The message of Greek art exercises a wide influence in the field of American stone-craft—perhaps to a greater extent than is true of any other branch of applied art. The fine simplicity, purity and regularity of Grecian architecture and its ornamentation, makes a strong appeal to the American, and the growing demand for fine lines and architectural simplicity in our Memorials encourages the designer to improve his understanding of the character and development of Greek art.

Architecture, sculpture and painting, literature and customs—all are intimately studied in Prof. Gardner's work, and while sculpture and painting hold the center of his stage, the subjects are so closely identified, that it were hopeless to attempt anything approaching an inquiry into "Principles" without discussing every avenue of expression the Greek artists and craftsmen employed.

In a chapter devoted to the "House and Tomb," the author makes some unkind reflections in comparing the cemeteries of Ancient Greece with those of today. It is well to remember, however, that Prof. Gardner writes from Oxford, England, where he is the Lincoln and Merton Professor of Classical Archaeology, and while we of America are plentifully burdened with "stone-yard like" cemeteries, it is but fair to say that the English cemetery suf-

fers in comparison with the American. Of course we are a young nation and we do not have the accumulation of centuries in memorial work. Our advantage lies in the better settings for our work—plots are

So generally do we follow the Greek temple in fashioning our modern Mausoleums, that this division of the book is particularly valuable. There are many observations which come as a surprise to



FIG. 2. SLOPING LINES OF BASIS OF PARTHENON.

generally larger and the crowding to a great measure eliminated.

One of the most interesting chapters of the work is devoted to the Temple, its purpose, proportions, plan and decoration.

those of us who have not studied the subject. "We find that the pillars are not equidistant, that the lines which bound them (the temples) are not rigid, nor are the members arranged with mechanical ex-

(photo caption) "Sloping lines of basis of Pathenon." (pp. 278)

actness." One of the illustrations of the book, here reproduced, shows the convex curve of the stereobate, or steps supporting the columns, of the Parthenon. The total rise of this subtle curve is about four inches at the center of the sides and three on the front and back. The architrave above the columns has a similar curve. The author quotes some facts in this connec-



ANATOMY OF THE PARTHENON.

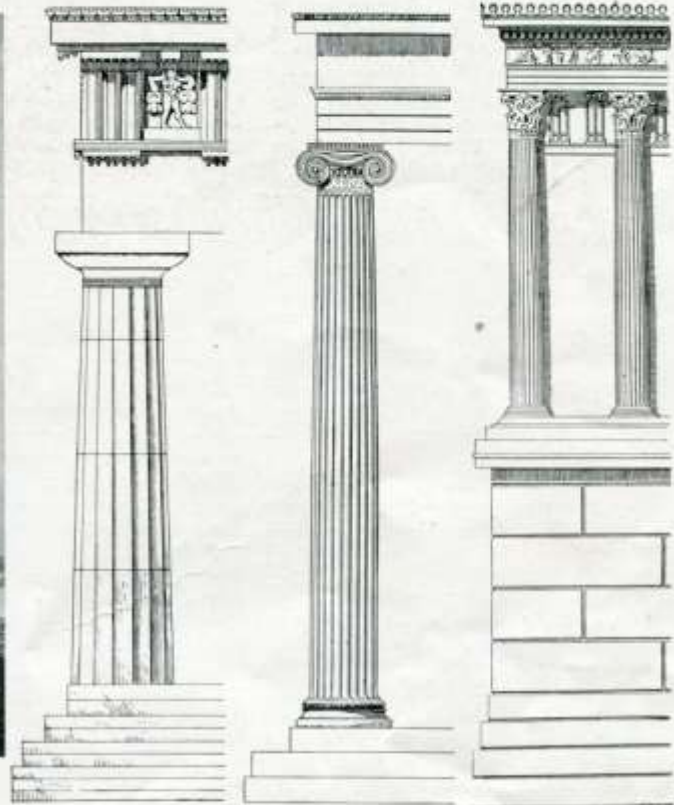
tion from a work on "Ancient Athens," by Prof. Ernest Gardner, which are too interesting to omit. "The nicety with which this curve had to be calculated by the architect, and the allowances which had to be made for it, may best be realized by an examination of the corner columns. These were standing upon a bed that sloped both ways, and the necessary corrections are effected in their lowest drums (sections of the columns), of which the upper surfaces are nearly horizontal." "The axes of the columns themselves are not exactly vertical, but incline slightly inward, nearly three inches in their total height of over thirty-four feet." "The inward slope of the columns, and the slightly pyramidal shape which it gives to the whole temple, gives an appearance of stability which would be absent if all the columns were perfectly vertical."

In this chapter the three Greek orders are carefully analyzed and facts as interesting as those mentioned are given, the description of the transition from one style

to another being of especial interest.

At least two-thirds of the book is given over to as careful a study of sculpture, painting, vases, literature, art, history of the myth, coins in relation to history, closing with a chapter on "Naturalism and Idealism in Greek Art"—all of which may at first seem of questionable value to the eager student who would spend his energy

reference on the part of the beginner; but there is a rich reward not only in substantial and useful information, breadth of vision and understanding, but most important of all, in creating an interest in, and love for, the Classics. And furthermore, the constant ingression of highly educated "designer-salesmen" in our craft, who have been thoroughly schooled in such



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more directly. A reading of this book, and a re-reading will answer this feeling to better advantage than anything I might say. It is essentially a book to be studied, not merely read, and the study will require some effort and a good deal of

subjects, makes it imperative for the ambitious to study such books if they would equal the ability of these trained artists to impress the public by their interesting conversation and developed ability.

E. S. L.

Proposed Public Monuments

UPPER SANDUSKY, O.—The Chamber of Commerce has decided to mark the site of Fort Ferree, in this city, now occupied by the Elks' home, with a suitable monument.

BOISE, IDAHO.—The bill appropriating \$15,000 for the erection of a monument to Frank Steunenberg, ex-governor of Idaho, killed by an assassin's bomb, has been signed by the governor. Before the appropriation becomes available \$15,000 must be raised by the "Steunenberg Monument Association," of which W. A. Coughanour of Payette is president and M. H. Gibbons of Caldwell is secretary.

WEST HOBOKEN, N. J.—The Joint Monument Committee representing Col. Ells-

worth Post, G. A. R., the Women's Relief Corps, Col. Ellsworth Camp, No. 32, Sons of Veterans, and Sons of Veterans Auxiliary, No. 2, are prepared to receive bids accompanied by sketches and models (models preferred in 1½ inch scale) for the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument to be erected in Ellsworth Park, West Hoboken, N. J. The general conditions are as follows: Available for the erection of this monument is the sum of \$3,000. Inasmuch as the monument is to commemorate both Army and Navy of the Civil War, it will be desirable to embody both branches of the service in the design. This does not necessarily mean that the design shall con-

(photo/picture captions): (left) "Anatomy of the Parthenon." & (right) "Doric, Ionic and Corinthian Columns."