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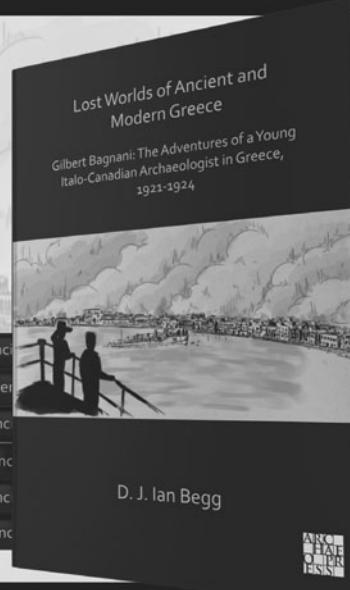
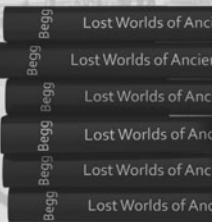
Lost Worlds of Ancient and Modern Greece

Gilbert Bagnani: The Adventures of a Young
Italo-Canadian Archaeologist in Greece, 1921-1924

D. J. Ian Begg

By day, young Gilbert Bagnani studied archaeology in Greece, but by night he socialised with the elite of Athenian society. Secretly writing for the Morning Post in London, he witnessed both antebellum Athens in 1921 and the catastrophic collapse of Christian civilisation in western Anatolia in 1922.

Gilbert's weekly letters to his mother in Rome reveal his *Odyssey*-like adventures on a voyage of discovery through the origins of western civilisation.



Bagnani and Begg paint sparkling pen pictures of personalities such as Bosdari, the Italian ambassador during the Great War, Prince Demidoff the Russian ambassador, Harold Lamb the British Consul at Smyrna and family... Gilbert emerges as clever, sometimes arrogant, fascinated by people especially from high society, and with a weakness for royalty. Begg does him justice in [this] lively account of a formidable personality, scholar and archaeologist in the making. – *Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith, British Ambassador to Greece 1996-99*

Gilbert Bagnani, of Italian and Canadian extraction, arrived in Greece at the age of 21, ostensibly to study Greek Archaeology and participate in fieldwork... However, secretly, he was sending well-informed reports on the dynamic political situation in Greece and between Greece and Turkey to a London newspaper, while later spying for Mussolini. This first of three volumes, based on his personal letters and news reports, covers the momentous years from 1921-1924, which witnessed the disastrous failure of the Greek invasion of Western Turkey, the sack of Smyrna, a military coup and executions in Greece... Informative, excellently-edited and a delight to read.
– *Professor John Bintliff, Edinburgh University*

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