

Lepsius believes that with a strong Pelasgic element there is combined an Umbrian and possibly a Greek. Without entering into any discussion of these opinions we notice that the identification of the Tyrrhenians of Lemnos with the Tyrrhenians or Etruscans of Italy has been confirmed by the recent discovery on the island of Lemnos of two inscriptions in unmistakable Etruscan. These inscriptions, which seem of different dates, are engraved on two sides of a large block of stone, which evidently formed part of an altar. As read, the altar is called the Altar of the Hephæstii, and is dedicated to Zerona, worshipped in Myrina. Hephæstias and Myrina were the two principal towns on the Island. This deity, Zerona of the Tyrrhenians of Lemnos, suggests a connection with the Zirne of the Etruscans, and the Macedonian Zeirele, and, perhaps, with the Thracian Zaranthos, -thos being a masculine termination. These similarities would seem to identify the Tyrrhenian-Pelasgians of Etruria with the Pelasgians of Greece. But there is satisfactory evidence connecting this stone with the place where it was found. It bears the names of the two towns of the island, and is dedicated to the tutelar Deity of one of these towns, and it must be remembered that the dedication is in the Etruscan language. This new discovery certainly corroborates the information given by Herodotus, by Thucydides, Hellanicus, Plutarch and Strabo. But perhaps this new discovery does not determine very much, for the question will be asked: Who were these Tyrrhenian-Pelasgians? But this discovery will have the effect of pointing out more definitely in what direction researches ought to be pushed, while it renders more probable the finding of some bilingual which may furnish the key to unlock the Etruscan mystery. It does not as yet permit any new solution of the Etruscan problem, it only gives hope of some further light on the subject.

