



From the Motor City to the Mediterranean

Travels of a Truck, a Sedan, and an Inquisitive Photographer, 1924-1926

by Lauren E. Talalay

DESCRIPTION:

From 1924 to 1926, archaeologists from the University of Michigan roamed the Middle East and North Africa in two vehicles donated by Dodge to assist in pioneering archaeological projects. Driven and maintained by expedition photographer George R. Swain, these vehicles - a truck and sedan - navigated uncharted deserts, perilous mountains, and roadless terrains, bringing their passengers into contact with both the ancient past and the people living around its historic remains. From the Motor City to the Mediterranean transports readers into the heart of one man's journey alongside these intrepid vehicles. Using Swain's fascinating photographs and letters-some published here for the first time-author Lauren E. Talalay skillfully reconstructs his archaeological adventures of the 1920s, taking us to places rarely seen by the outside world during a decade of major social change after the Great War.

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About the Author

CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Lauren E. Talalay is curator emerita and former associate director and acting director of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan. She has written or collaborated on seven books, numerous articles, and several book chapters. Her research, fieldwork, and conference presentations have taken her to the Mediterranean, Europe, and the Balkans, with a focus on figurines, gender, and the human body as a symbol in the Neolithic period. Lauren has also published articles on contemporary issues, such as the use of archaeological images in political cartoons and modern advertising. Her coedited book on the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy was voted one of the best books of 2002 by the Times Literary Supplement. She is the recipient of several external grants, including from the Michigan Humanities Council, the Chrysler Foundation,

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READER INTERESTS:

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and the American Council of Learned Societies. She is currently coauthoring two chapters on prehistoric material from a site on the island of Euboea, Greece.