

SECTION Φ

SEASON OF 1937

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Section Φ lies in the south-central part of the American Zone, at the north foot of the Areopagos just where the slope of the hill begins to rise more steeply. It is bounded on the north by Asteroskopeion Street, on the east by Phaidonos Street, on the west by Aischinon Street, and on the south by section X. To the north, across Asteroskopeion Street is section T. One modern house, 639/17, (SKELA) has been left standing in the N.W. corner of the section for storage purposes. In antiquity the area included in section Φ lay outside the Agora proper, which was bounded on the south by the great stoa in section T; nor was it very close to the main road leading up from the Agora to the Acropolis. It and the neighboring areas thus lie in a sort of backwater and were apparently occupied only by houses and small buildings. It will be convenient to treat the various remains discovered in chronological order.

I. GEOMETRIC PERIOD

The earliest period of which any considerable remains were found was the Geometric, the few prehistoric sherds from the section having been found in fill of later periods.

A./ Protogeometric grave at 67/1

The grave was cut in bedrock. It contained the skeleton of an adult, probably a man, laid out full length, with head toward the south. The length of the skeleton was ca. 1.65 m. The only object in the grave was a small round-bodied jug (P 10,582; ht. 0.155) which lay by the figure's



right hand. It is decorated with hand drawn(not compass drawn) concentric semi-circles on the shoulder; R.S.Y says early Protogeometric. On the right chest and in front of the mouth were small patches of iron rust. Over the head of the figure was a rough stone slab on which lay the fragments of a straight-sided, flat-bottomed basin with arching lug handles (P 10, 583; ht. 0.24; four joining fragments give complete profile and preserve about one quarter of the pot), and fragments of a large pithos.

B/ Protogeometric grave at 67/Z

Just over a meter north of the adult at 67/I we found the grave of an infant. It too was cut in the bedrock: l. 0.50, W. 0.15, max.d. 0.30. The tiny skeleton was stretched out full length with head to the south, and just about filled the cutting. There was nothing in the grave. Over it were the fragments of a basin (P 10, 586; ht. 0.215; dm. 0.375; a small part of rim and body missing). A comparison of this basin with that found over the head of the adult just to the south leaves no doubt that this burial is also of the Protogeometric period.

C/ Protogeometric grave at 69/K

Set down in bedrock in a cutting apparently made especially for them were a large pot and a small goblet. Of the pot ( P 9325; pres. ht. 0.275; pres. diam. 0.31) only the lower half, i.e. that part which was set down into the bedrock, is preserved. The goblet (P 9324; ht. 0.111, diam. 0.125) is complete. It is covered with a rather metallic black glaze except in the handle zone which is



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decorated with a zigzag pattern between reserved horizontal lines. The goblet lay at the east side of the big pot, its top close against the latter, and its handles disposed horizontally. Slivers of bone mixed with the earth in the big pot indicate cremation.

D/ Protogeometric well at 69/KA

Depth 9.00 m. from surface of bedrock. Diameter below 0.75 m.; above somewhat greater. Fairly but not perfectly evenly cut; no foot-holds in sides. Very little water gathered. The well produced a small amount of pottery, the bulk of it coming from the last 1.50 m. Catalogued pieces include three amphorae, one oinochoe, and one coarse pitcher. (P 10, 184-10, 188). Other items of interest were a thick disk of grey pumice stone with a hole in the center (ST. 165; dm. 0.057; th. 0.025); a smooth stone artifact (ST 166; L 0.22); a very worn whetstone of greenish stone (ST 168; L 0.165); and the bones of a dog( in deep tray, prov. no. 58).

E/ Geometric grave at 69/KA

Directly on top of what later proved to be a Proto-geometric well we found fragments of a very badly broken Geometric pot ( P 9066; pres. ht 0.375) and with it a few scraps of bone and bits of bronze pins (which went to pieces). The place had been disturbed both in antiquity and in modern times (by a well). It was clear, however, that here had been a cremation burial of Geometric times and that the pot with the bones had been set down into the soft green earth which had been used to fill up the abandoned Protogeometric well.



F/ Geometric fill on bedrock

Scraping bedrock in the north central part of the section (68-71;IB-IE) near where the graves and the well had been found we removed a thin layer of greenish earth which rested on bedrock. The sherds from it were chiefly Geometric and Protogeometric. No walls or cuttings appeared.

G/ Disturbed Geometric well at 51/MET

This well lies at an angle of two walls of the Roman house in the S.W. corner of the section, and is partly under both these walls. Its depth is 4.55 below the floor of the Roman house. The well contained chiefly late Geometric pottery (cf. two coarse pitchers, P 10,584-5), but all through it we found occasional later sherds suggesting that the well had been opened in Roman times, then re-filled with its own earth.

## II. GREEK PERIOD

A/ Pockets in bedrock in S.E. corner of section

In the very S.E. corner of the section we found several small hollows in bedrock. From one of these (at 85/AZ) we obtained a little pottery of the second and third quarters of the sixth century, including a fragmentary "little master" band cup, (P 8737) a small unfigured kylix (P 8738) fragments of a black-figured skyphos with dancing men (P 8739) and two lamps with unbridged nozzles (L2676 and 2678). The other hollows were empty.



B/ Big well at 61/IZ

Depth 2.50 m. Diameter 2.00 m. Across the east side is a wall of rough field stones, which, however, does not reach all the way down but stops about 0.70 short of bottom. The best objects from the well are a black-figured cylindrical stand with Artemis and Apollo (P 9275) and a black-glazed phiale (P 9274). The other objects are all very fragmentary. Among them are a number of late black-figured fragments, a few red-figured fragments, lamp fragments of types II, III, and V, and an archaic seated female figure in terracotta (T 1344; head missing). Some of the objects from the well must belong to the early years of the fifth century B.C.

C/ Terracotta water pipes.

In the north-east corner of the section we found fragments of terracotta water pipes, some in situ, some scattered through the disturbed fill. Apparently two lines of pipes once passed through this area in a direction from S.W. to N.E., one a large line (exterior diameter ca. 0.31) the other a smaller one. What is perhaps (though not certainly) another part of the small series was found near the west edge of the section at 55/ΛΓ. These pipes appear to date from the late sixth or the fifth century B.C.

D/ "Polygonal " building

At the south edge of the section just west of the center, we have cleared a small rectangular building with polygonal limestone walls. Its south wall runs almost exactly



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along the  $\Phi$ -X boundary. The interior dimensions of the building (for the walls as preserved have proper faces only on the interior) are : E-W 9.25 m.; N-S 4.60 m. The building is divided into two halves by a N-S cross wall about 0.65 m. wide. The purpose of the building is uncertain. To judge from the pottery found in the various layers inside it, it was built in the early years of the fourth century B.C. (cf. the stamped black-glazed cup P 10,774 from beneath the lowest floor) and continued in use until the end of the second century B.C. (cf. the late west-slope kantharos found lying on the highest floor, P 10,772) Sherds above this floor and from other significant places were also of the late second century B.C. A drain which starts in section X and runs northward, passing under the polygonal building is probably contemporary with it. The drain went out of use in the late fourth century B.C., at which time also some alterations seem to have taken place in the building itself.

North-west of the polygonal building there is a certain amount of Greek fill, which however has been badly cut up by the numerous cesspools dug in the court of house 639/14. This fill has not been completely explored. In the western part of the section are scattered limestone blocks, probably belonging to small buildings or houses of Greek times.

### III. HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Remains of the Hellenistic period are few. I note an east-west retaining wall along the southern edge of a later ( late Roman) mosaic floor, which is probably late Hellenistic; a pocket at 70/ $\Delta$ ET which contained masses of pottery (including



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P 9328, a bowl with shell feet), amphora handles of the first quarter of the first century B.C., terracotta figurines (T 1345-7) etc.; fill of Hellenistic times along the west side of the section north of the Roman house, which has not been fully explored since its connections lie to the north and west outside the present limits of the section.

#### IV. ROMAN PERIOD

##### A/Roman house

In the south-west corner of the section we have cleared part of a Roman house. It was not possible to expose the whole of it since it runs under the modern Aischines St. which is being left for the present. The date of construction cannot at present be fixed. It was destroyed in the late third century A.D. (cf. coin- IV/1/37 #4; Aurelianus, 270-275 A.D.). A part of the house appears to have been re-used in late Roman times. The well belonging to the house which might have given us useful information about the chronology had unfortunately been completely emptied out in modern times and from its bottom we recovered only tin pots and pans, knives and forks etc. (Well at 50/AA). Only one room has been completely cleared. It is at the S.E. corner of the house. Its dimensions are N-S 8.00 m., E-W 5.00 m. At the south the house has been set back deeply into the bedrock of the hill, and its south wall is preserved to a height of over 2.00 m.

##### B/ Stratified Roman well at 63/IA

Depth 35.30 m. Lined with tiles.



The fill at the bottom of this well was of the late first century A.D., which suggests a date for its construction. Because of its great depth the well was probably never completely cleaned out, so that as objects fell in through the centuries they formed a stratified deposit. Starting at the bottom the objects become gradually later up to about thirty meters. Here there is a sharp break, and for a time the well was apparently not used (containers 62-63). This break is probably to be connected with the period of desolation after the sack of the city by the Heruli in 267 A.D. Above 30 meters the pottery is quite different and belongs to the fourth century A.D. Here too it is clear that the well is stratified, for the pottery higher up is later than that lower down. At 21.00 meters lamps of type 31 suggest a date in the sixth century A.D. Here there is another break, probably to be connected with the abandonment of the late Roman complex of buildings. The well was then unused for several centuries until it was filled up in the tenth century A.D. Lack of water jars of this period suggests that it was not used for long at this period, but was soon filled to the top. The most important objects found in this well have been noted in the weekly summaries.

C/Roman well at 61/AF

Depth 16.15. Lined with tiles. In this well two periods could be distinguished, pre-Heruli, and post-Heruli. Nothing of importance was found in it.

D/ Late Roman tomb at 53-54/AE-AH

Set against the east wall of the Roman house is a sort



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of tomb of the late fourth century A.D. Its walls are very shabbily built. In it were the skeletons of two people. Among the objects found were a glass jar (G116), a clay oinochoe (P 10, 182), several terracotta rattles in the shape of animals (a bear, T 1421; a dog, T 1422; and two roosters, T 1423-4) and a number of late type 28 lamps, (L 2916-8, and 3011-2).

E/ Late Roman building

Spreading over almost the whole of the section, except the very southern part, are the walls of a building of late Roman times. The style of construction—walls about 0.55 m. wide made of rough stones set in mortar; floors paved with large square tiles—suggests that it is part of the great complex of late Roman buildings which covers most of the center of the Agora. The most prominent feature of the building in section  $\Phi$  is an apse. This is set back into the bedrock of the hill, and its walls are thus fairly well preserved, standing in places to a height of over 2.00 m. The lower part of the walls is built of large ancient blocks set up on end at intervals, the space between and above being built of stones and bricks in the usual manner. About a meter above the floor are three niches symmetrically arranged, one at the back, and one at either side. The one at the back is best preserved. It is built of bricks which form a pattern of three little arches at the top. The niches could have been used to hold statuettes.

There are several indications of the date of the destruction of the building. The pottery from the well at



63/IA breaks off in the sixth century A.D. In a layer of destruction fill on the floor of one of the rooms seven Vandal coins were found. In general, the pottery in the destruction fill is of very late Roman times.

#### V. MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

##### A/ Dark Ages ( 7th, 8th, and 9th Centuries A.D.)

We found numerous traces of "dark age" habitation in section  $\Phi$ . To this period must be assigned the late cross wall which blocks off the front of the apse of the late Roman building, and which is actually one side of a rectangular room. The room of the late Roman building which has a marble chip mosaic floor was apparently re-used in this period, for in its destruction fill we found a coin of Philippicus (711-713 A.D.). Many other coins of the period were found scattered through the loose fill in the section, and these, too, indicate habitation. The pottery of the period is coarse and generally characterless. It is a very debased form of latest Roman. There seem to be no glazed wares.

##### B/ Byzantine period

There are no walls identifiable as belonging to the Byzantine period in section  $\Phi$  and only a minimum of sherds.

##### C/ Turkish period.

Many wells and pits of the Turkish period were found, especially in the south-east part of the section, and from



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a few of these we obtained interesting groups of pottery. An aqueduct of the Turkish period once ran from south-west to north-east across the section. A short stretch is preserved near the north-east corner, and its line can be traced further west in section Y.



Section X -  
 Sketched plan  
 (unmeasured) to  
 show various  
 periods

Blue: gaultier  
 Green: Roman  
 Brown: 173

Modern Trenches  
 B.R.

Pre Christian

q. 1. 84/000 gm  
 Probation II.  
 SE - 85/00, 84/311  
 NE. 92.3. 74/M  
 P. 77/MB. 0.10  
 II. NE 90/00, P. ca 480  
 q. 2  
 NE 173/M, ca 420

Red: Modern  
 Trench  
 Wash.

ME



Soil ↑

