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SECTION X

1937

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This section lies on the northern slopes of the Areopagus between section Ⓞ at the north, Apollodoros Street at the south, Phaidon Street at the east and section Y at the west. The ground slopes sharply to the north with a drop in the modern level of about 4.50 meters from the high point at the southeast corner to the low point at the north. In most parts of the section, especially marked along the southern edge, bedrock has been cut away for the modern houses and all traces of antiquity except the lower parts of wells or cisterns have been destroyed.

The area lies definitely outside of the Agora proper and no sign of any public building has been found. It seems to have been used for private houses from the end of the sixth century.

SIXTH AND FIFTH CENTURIES

Apart from a few scattered sherds the earliest signs of habitation were two graves of the late sixth or early fifth century.

Grave at
82/M

These lay in the northeast corner. The first was a shallow cutting, 1.00 X 0.47 m., in bedrock in which there were two pots, an undecorated amphora and a two-handled cooking casserole (P 8791-92). A Turkish wall passed directly across the side of the

Grave at
73/AO

amphora. The second, about nine meters west of the first, was a pithos burial. The pithos lay on its side with the open mouth to the northeast. The bottom had been cut by a late fifth century well and the upper side was caved in. Inside were the bones and skull of a child and four small broken pots (P 8918-8921), a

simple black-figured lecythos, an eye skyphos, a black glaze plate and a small unglazed bowl. Children's graves such as these were probably placed inside the houses and one need not be surprised to find them within the city walls.

Pit at
74/MA

Close by these was a garbage pit of slightly later period perhaps about 480 B.C. This is a rectangular hole 1.10 X 0.58 X 1.20 meters deep, filled with animal bones and broken pottery. Mr. Gejvall, a student of osteology from Lund University, made a preliminary study of the bones and found that the identifiable pieces belonged to familiar domestic animals, including the cow, pig, goat and sheep, hen, dog, and several varieties of fishes. The pottery by which it is dated includes a Stemlen cup (P 9037) with sealing wax red on inside and outside of the bowl and a small piece of a red-figured lecythos (P 9041).

Well at
73/M

Next in point of time comes a well in this same northeast corner of the section. The latest piece from it suggests a date about 420. It had a diameter of 0.90, a depth of 18.10 m. where it seems to have been abandoned because of the very soft stereo that kept falling in from all sides. Later when a Byzantine well was dug just south of it, part of the south side collapsed making a large opening between the two wells. At a depth of 2.20 to 3.00 m. a group of terracotta doves (T 1366-69) with pieces of at least 14 different ones, was found. These are small handmade birds with outstretched neck and wings ranging in length from 0.056 to 0.046 m. Each is pierced with a hole through which a string for suspension must have passed. With these there was a piece of a handmade terracotte female figurine (T 1371) with wing-like arms held out at her side. Two pieces

of the pottery catalogued from this well might be noted: part of a red-figured epinetron (P 9426) on which there is a row of women bearing gifts and a black-figured piece (P 10192) from the neck of a loutrophorus.

Well at
69/OB

This well lies on the high level at the southern edge of the section. The first four meters were filled with pottery which dates from about 375 B.C. From this point to the bottom at 9.32 m. the fill belongs to the last years of the fifth and the very early fourth centuries. The ground level has been cut away here in modern times to a point at least two meters below the original level so the measurement from bedrock at the present top of the well does not represent the original depth.

The pottery is a very representative group for the turn of the century, with black glazed stamped bowls and amphoriskoi, red-figured squat askoi and bell kraters and type IV lamps. The household undecorated pottery is also well represented: two-handled jugs with deep convex shoulder (P 9375, 10124-125), a shallow short-handled frying pan (P 10128), casseroles of various shapes and sizes and partly glazed kraters. The most interesting find perhaps is the upper part of a mould for a terracotta figurine (T 1379) representing a woman with her hands held up at her shoulders under her cloak. The drapery is very finely rendered in flat diamond-shaped folds.

FOURTH CENTURY

Drain-Trench
62/MO-61/MST

In addition to the upper fill in the well just discussed the only activity definitely assignable to the fourth century is the filling of a drain trench in the central southern part of the section. It is a north-south trench 0.50 wide, 1.20 deep

at the south, where it ends in a straight cutting in stereo. It has been cleared for 3.75 meters when it disappears under or is cut by the south wall of the polygonal house in Φ . Its southern continuation was at a higher level and all traces have vanished with the modern lowering of levels. All that can be said of it is that it was filled up in the late fourth century.

HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Though no traces of walls of the Hellenistic period survive, private houses must have been here throughout this period for to it belong one well and four cistern systems.

Well at 72/OA

This is at the southern edge of the section about 2.50 m. southeast of the well at 69/OB. Soft stereo at the sides made digging dangerous and work was stopped at a depth of 8 meters. There was not much pottery in it but enough to show that it was filled in the early Hellenistic period sometime in the third century perhaps.

Cistern System A 63/EB 70/NH and Con- necting Channels

In the center of the section there are small bell-shaped cisterns connected by a channel 7.50 meters long. Another channel leads southwest from the one at 63/EB which may connect with the cistern at 57/OB, on the southern boundary, which has not yet been dug. The tops of the cisterns and of the vaulted channels were cut away when a Roman house was set down into bedrock, and most of the fill found in them belongs to the second century A.D. A little pottery, however, found in the southwest channel and in the cistern at 63/EB suggests a date

somewhere in the third century for the original period of use.

Cistern
System B
77/M
75/M
and
Channels

This system in the northeastern corner of the section consists of a central cistern, 77/M with bottom diameter of 2 meters connected by a channel two meters long with a small manhole lying to the southwest and a second channel (2.78 m. long) at the east with a closed end. The top of the cistern and manhole were both missing. The latest coins found were two of Boeotia of 220-197 B.C. and one Athenian New Style of circa 172 B.C. The pottery agrees well with a date in the second century, including two pieces of West-Slope ware, an amphora (P 9074) and a kantharos (P 9080). There was also a carefully modelled terracotta head (T 1336) of a man with a curly beard wearing a garland and the lower half of a plaque (T 1338) with a figure in low relief of Hermes wearing his winged sandals.

Cistern C
75/OA

A single cistern, of which again the top is missing, on the high southeast corner, was filled in about 100 B.C. The latest coins are those of the Athenian cleruchy at Delos. Included among the objects catalogued are two rectangular lead weights, one conical one, three lagynoi (P 8930, 8947, 9044) and two high pyxides (P 8931 and 9045) with painted decoration on a white ground.

Cistern D
84/NST
79/MH

Along the eastern edge there is a cistern which was filled in about the third quarter of the first century B.C. This is connected with one to the northwest, 79/MH, by a channel 7.50 m. long. In late Roman times a well was put down through the latter. The latest coin found was one of the Athenian New Style of ca.

6.

50 B.C. The most characteristic pottery was a series of small Pergamene bowls (P 8909-14). Among the terracottas are a male head crowned with a heavy wreath (T 1310), a female head with a high crescent top-knot (T 1308) and the face and part of a crown of leaves of a bearded man (T 1412).

Six pieces of a small marble group (S 828) were found; the head, arm, and foot of the central figure, part of a tree stump and head and body of a small figure. The central figure, a woman, rests her left hand on a crotch of a stump on the branch of which a smaller figure stands. Another marble head (S 864) and a small headless draped statuette (S 829) were also found in this cistern.

Well at
65/N

A well in the center of the section was probably dug sometime in the first century B.C. As elsewhere in this region stereo was soft and the sides collapsed during the process of digging it. Instead of abandoning it the holes so made were filled with large wine amphorae and well tiles placed in front of them. 132 whole amphorae were found. Of them 63 had stamps in Latin on shoulder or rim, and 26 more stamped rims were catalogued. Of the legible ones there are twenty-two varieties, the most common being "SPE" placed on the shoulder. The well though built in the first century B.C. where these amphorae seem to belong continued in use at least to the middle of the second century A.D. (See below)

ROMAN PERIOD

The first century A.D. is not represented. In the second century, the well at 65/N passed out of use. The latest coin found in the fill was of Faustina, and the pottery, basket-handled

water jars and type XXVII lamps, fits well with a date in the middle of the century.

At about the same time the cistern at 70/NH and the channel leading to it were filled. Besides typical second century pottery a great deal of glass was found: jugs, flagons, and vases of various shapes (G 105, 117-123).

Roman House

The fill thrown in here is perhaps to be connected with a general cutting away of bedrock and tops of cisterns and channels for a Roman house which stood in the central region of the section. The south wall set against bedrock of the two western rooms is well preserved and the cuttings in bedrock for two more rooms at the east are clear, giving an east-west measurement of 36 m. The northern part of the house has vanished. In the second room from the west there is part of a mosaic floor with a simple border of interlocking circles in black and white. The house was clearly in use for two periods, and the second one represents a partial rebuilding and is certainly post-Heruli. Until the pottery is studied one cannot say definitely whether the house was first built in the second century as suggested above or whether the earliest period is also post-Heruli.

Well at 79/MH

In the late Roman period a well was set down through the cistern at 79/MH. We were forced to stop work on it at a depth of 10.50 m. because of the dangerous soft sides. There was not much pottery in it. The most entertaining of the late Roman pieces is a terracotta horse (T 1364), 0.29 long. Instead of legs he originally had wheels for which his body is pierced. A

Pentelic marble head of a child (S 845) of good Greek workmanship and a piece of a Panathenaic amphora with a head of a runner (P 9529) were also found here.

POST CLASSICAL PERIODS

Byz. Well
at 73/M

All traces of post classical habitation have been destroyed by the Turkish and modern houses set down into bedrock, except for an early Byzantine well in the northeastern part. The upper walls were of small stones but changed to tiles at a depth of ca. 12 meters which suggests that it perhaps was originally built in late Roman times. Work had to be abandoned at 20.40 m.