

SECTION X

Miscellaneous Notes, compiled in summer of 1946, a substitute
for end of season summary, apparently not written, in 1937

NOTES ON SECTION X

[In May 1946, when the question of dumping along the southern part of section X arose, no end of season summary was found in the files, so this brief summary, written in June 1946, is being placed in the files. Unfortunately, perhaps, I consented to the filling before I had worked over the material adequately. I doubt very much if anything could have been made of the few scraps of walls and bits of unexplored fill now being covered in the southwest corner of the section; but leisurely cleaning and studying might well have produced better evidence for the date of Roman House A]

Section X, on the east end of the north slope of the Areopagus well outside of the Agora Square, slopes steeply down from south to north. In much of the area bedrock has been cut down in Turkish and modern times destroying all signs of antiquity except the lower parts of pits, wells and cisterns. These however clearly show that the slope was inhabited at least from the sixth century B.C. through the fourth A.D. The only walls remaining are those of a Roman house in the south west part of the section. Along the extreme north edge of the section walls of two buildings were also found, of which however the main parts lay in section Φ ; the section boundary was therefore adjusted and these assigned to Φ .

Geometric and Proto-Attic

At high point of section in extreme southeast, a few geometric sherds were found in a shallow rectangular cutting, which probably was a grave (Grave #1). In this same region two pockets of proto-Attic and sixth century fill were also found: at 82-84/OZ, and around a large porous block, probably not in place, at 85/EH

Sixth and Fifth Centuries B.C.

At the northeast corner of the section modern bedrock level is a little (see below on cistern B), but apparently only a little below the ancient floor levels for there we found two shallow graves cut in bedrock, probably childrens graves set under the house floor, of the sixth and fifth centuries. In the same area were found: A small circular pit, 77/MB, 6th and 5th century fill

Rectangular refuse pit, 74/MA, with pottery dating from about 480 and animal bones.

Well at 73/M, with fill of about 420 B.C. (depth 18.10

On the high level at the southeast, the lower part of another fifth century well, 69/OB, was dug. The top had been cut off, bottom at present 9.32 below modern bedrock level; fill of about 400 B.C.

Fourth to First Centuries

No traces of walls or floors; cisterns, wells and drain trenches give clear indications of continuous habitation.

North-south drain trench, 62/MC-61/ME, on north side of section, leading down into back of Polygonal Bldg in section Φ : Fill, late fourth, early third.

Cistern System A: largest system found in section, total length as traced in section X some 25 meters : Starts in about center of section with small bell shaped cistern at 70/NH, then channel to southwest, ca. 7 meters, to cistern at 63/EB, then channel first southwest - to about line of Roman house wall, - then more directly west past manhole at 57/EA, then channel continuing west, with floor level dropping, out of section under Aeschines Street, probably connecting with a channel and possible cistern at east edge of section Y (see Y pp.90 ff) and/or 'rectangular cutting, cistern and channel in $\Delta\Delta$ at 113/A' (see $\Delta\Delta$ p. 175)

At the time the cisterns were built bedrock must have been at a much higher point ; as found that at 70/NH had its bottom at only 1.80 below the Roman ground level around it, and that at 63/EB , only 1.36 below the Roman mosaic floor; but the curve in the western channel as it meets the line of the present Roman house wall seems a clear indication that the south wall of that house represents an older property line, which might quite possibly be a street line. Did the ancient street leading up to the southwest across section Ω curve slightly more to the west and continue across the southern part of X, with the Roman house wall marking its northern edge ? Note that there are in section X no cisterns or wells that would block such a projection (see also below on Water Channel)

The western part of the system, the cistern at 63/EB and the big channel passed out of use at a relatively early date, i. e. in the early third century. The channel seems to have been deliberately filled , for in the western part dug, at 52/EE, roof and walls are intact, but fill is standing to a depth of 1.12 m. (height of channel 1.65)

The eastern cistern, 70/NH, at some subsequent date, had a flight of steps cut down through the bedrock on the east side and was probably used as a storage room. This was abandoned and filled with destruction debris of the second century A.D.

Cistern System D, east central part of section : two bell shaped cisterns, 84/NET and 79/MH, with connecting channel about 8 meters long. Stratified fill in that at 84/NET from third to late first B.D. Later Roman wall put through that at 79/MH. *Top not preserved; present depth 5.15; 4.60*

Cistern System B , northeast corner : bellshaped cistern at 77/M with channel connecting it with manhole at 75/MF , and a deadend channel, 2.78 m. long at the east. Second century B.C. fill in cistern; late first in manhole, *Top not preserved; present depth: cistern 3.25, man hole 3.96 (higher bedrock at top 3.90 4.20 (2.78 m))*

Cistern C, a single cistern at 75/OA, on high level near southern boundary; only 2.85 deep now, top cut off in later times. Period of use, bottom fill, about 100 B.C.; main mass of fill, first quarter of first century, probably represents post-Sullan cleanup.

Well at 72/OA, near eastern end of southern boundary : work stopped ~~because~~ ~~of~~ at depth of 8 meters because of collapsing bedrock all around and a large cavity opening out to southeast under Apollodoros Street, which might have been a channel continuing towards section AA or equally probably a fault in bedrock. Consistent third century fill.

Roman Period

Water Channel and Drain 3 : An elliptical drain covered channel for fresh water leading northeast from well at 57/OB, for about five meters, where it was cut by Roman house wall (but rectangular drain still in place under wall, filled with concrete] and apparently continued northeast as rectangular drain with flat cover tiles. The northern end with the flat cover tiles, originally called drain 3, was probably contemporary with the elliptical covered section at the south and never seems to have been used by the house A; if this assumption be true, then it is clear evidence that the drop in bedrock level along the line of the house wall, antedated the house itself. The bit of fill in the channel and in cleaning around the drain seems to be contemporary, second A.D., which should represent the period of use of the channel. A few nondescript sherds were found behind the elliptical tiles, one of which might be of the first century B.C., which suggests the date post quem for construction. The well, from which the channel starts was filled with modern base; no water in it at present and is not deep enough to suggest that it was ever a good source. ~~Well at 55/N~~ Was it just a down spout to pass the water down to the channel which was sunk under the hypothetical street. Note heavy water deposit on side of well.

Well at 65/N : The Ampora Well. A tile well of which the top was missing, 16.60 deep. The bedrock was soft and apparently opened out and collapsed during construction and large amphoras were put in behind the tiles, most of which had Latin stamps and can be dated in the beginning of the first century A.D., i.e. thus giving the date of construction. The fill in the well was consistently second century, the latest coin being that of Faustina, 138-161. It corresponds closely to fill in cistern with stairs at 70/NH.

ROMAN HOUSE A (see red ink on attached sketch plan)

Consists of four rooms in south central portion of section, with an overall measurement of ca. 18 meters from east to west. The south wall is the only well defined limit. All traces of the northern edge of the house have disappeared in the later lowering of bedrock levels. In room # 1, second from the east, traces of mortar for the return of the east wall to the north, give a north south dimension for this room of 5.60 ; the bedding for the west wall of room 3 gives a minimum of 6.60 m. from south to north.

Floor levels, wall construction, etc., vary from room to room, and may well represent more than one period of use, but from the evidence found, I cannot disentangle them. Note that the walls of the two central rooms, built of large mostly limestone blocks with small stone and broken tile filling, are set back into bedrock, whereas the two end rooms use the bedrock face ~~xxxxxxx~~ which exactly lines with the front face of the walls in other two rooms. The bedrock in room 3 is covered with exactly the same kind of mortar and plaster, broken ~~tile~~ pottery set in plaster, etc, and several layers of thick plaster, the outermost one being distinctly pinkish, as in room 2. The only regular brick construction found is in room 3, where a brick pier or patch, is used to fill the cutting in bedrock of the water channel. In room 2 a mosaic floor is partially preserved.

The evidence for the construction date is very very slight; but it seems clear that the house as we found it must postdate the late second century cleanup in the area, represented by the fills in the cistern at 70/NH, the water channel, and the well at 65/N. A piece of Late Roman A in the top fill of the cistern across which the mosaic floor originally carried, suggests the first half of the third century as a date post quem. The destruction fill over the floor levels dates from the late fourth century or early fifth.

Late Roman Well at 79/MH In the east central part of area a well put down through a cistern (see cistern system D above) was filled in the fourth, probably late fourth century. Bottom was not reached.

LATEST ROMAN Practically no traces of the latest Roman period, V to VII centuries were found.

BYZANTINE The only Byzantine fill dug was an early Byzantine well at northeast,
at 73/MT