

SECTION OO

1948

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SECTION OO : 1948

During the 1948 season work in section OO was concentrated at the east and west ends of north side; only limited probings were made in the lower levels to the south. The real excavation of the area still remains to be done.

EAST - WEST STREET

Along the north side of the section parts of the ancient east-west street leading west from the south side of the Agora were explored. At the east end, just south of section Stigma, seven street layers of early Roman and Hellenistic date were cleared with the usual complement of drains and water channels. The strip of hard road gravel, ca. 2.50 m. wide as found, was bounded ~~off~~ at the north by a stone-built east-west drain first found in Stigma (Stigma Stone Channel and Drain 2, IV, pp. 686 ff.) Twelve meters west of the Stigma boundary, there is a manhole to the drain (76/IET), cleared this year, and its entrance into the Great Drain is almost certainly an opening, found last year, in the Drain wall four meters north of the Poros Building. The stone channel dated from the third century B.C. and in its original form had passed out of use in early Roman times. A double elliptical tile drain, set into the channel at the east, continues as far west as the manhole, from which however,

only a stone built channel continues to the west. At the entrance to the Great Drain, the stone walls and cover slabs had fallen out of place. Somewhere between the manhole and drain, the line represented by the elliptical tile drain may have shifted its course, perhaps entering the Great Drain at the opening, still undug, in the drain wall four meters north of the earlier one. At the east, drains of the early and middle Roman period pour into the stone channel, which thus must have had some exit later than the one found. The shift in direction of drainage at the east end as found in section Stigma, from an east-west line pouring into the Great Drain, to a south-north one, seems not to have come before ~~in~~ late Roman, post - Heruli times, when the Great Drain ceased to be the chief artery. The original course of the stone drain can now be plotted for some 50 meters, from the eastern edge of Stigma where three branches converge, one from the east, one from the south and a third flowing in from the north. After a slight curve at the east, it runs in an almost straight line for 42 meters, clearly giving thus the orientation of the street in Hellenistic times.

This same orientation ~~at the east end~~ seems established for both early Roman and classical periods; for the former by a scrap of the north wall of the Roman Bath, parallel to the channel some four meters to the south, and for the latter by a bit of limestone wall of approximately same orientation, both of which probably mark the southern side of the Street. At the west a mass of as yet unexplored road gravel just north of the Poros Building can safely be assigned to this

street which thus leads across the Great Drain directly into the III south road. In late Roman times, perhaps earlier, the buildings to the south encroached on the street pushing its southern boundary in west and central parts four meters further north, with the contemporary northern boundary the heavy retaining wall across the Great Drain (See III).

On the east side of the Drain only a few very late Roman street layers have been dug, but it seems almost certain that the northern boundary of the earlier street was the same as in late Roman period. The later retaining wall rests on earlier house walls which will probably prove to be at the edge of the northern branch of the main street. Some meters east of the Drain the street probably widened out, with the northern branch continuing west towards the Piraeus gate and the southern one south and then west. The total width as it crosses the Great Drain would be about 8.00 m.

In the north central section a wide expanse of a late Turkish plateia was cleared some three meters below the level of Asteroskopeion street and well below the Roman floors to the South East. Below this plateia at the east we found Turkish pottery of the 17th or 18th centuries. The central section has not yet been explored.

GREAT DRAIN

About 20 meters of the Great Drain in the north half of the section was for the first time clearly exposed. This stretch, ~~ca. 20 meters,~~ had been opened by tunnel in 1939 from P to NN and this year's work was mostly cleaning the

the modern silt and accumulation from the bedrock bottom.

Of the two elliptical tile drains that lead north from below the ancient street, only a few scraps were found in place and no relevant fills dug. At the cross wall where these begin, the Great Drain is 1.40 m. wide, but from this point to the edge of Gamma the width is 2.00 m. Parts of the two tile drains are in place at the north beside the east wall, and there is ample space for a third, but no trace of it.

There is considerable variety in the east wall here. The preserved height drops from 2.60 m. at the south (the level at which the cover slabs are set) to about 0.40 m. at north. This drop corresponds closely to the line of late fill; at the north sand and silt deposited in the late Byzantine period rested directly on the uneven bedrock and on the tops of the bottom course of the drain wall. At the north only a single row of large conglomerate and limestone blocks of somewhat irregular shape is preserved; they seem good candidates for the original drain wall. In the next section to the south scattered blocks of the lower course are preserved; but above them a packing of small stones seem to have been part of a house wall built directly on the drain wall. Still further south, just north of the street and the preserved cover slabs, the wall preserved to height of 2.60 m. and 2.00 m. is built mainly of big poros and conglomerate blocks (averaging about 1.25 m. long x 0.45 to 50 high), with a few breccia ones in the upper courses.

Two bits of an earlier (?) wall of small limestone and poros stones 1.50 m. to east of drain are probably a continuation of the earlier "outer drain" wall found further north in section Gamma.

HOUSE E

North of the street and east of the Drain scraps of floors and walls of a house of the fourth century and Hellenistic period, with cistern and water storage tank were found. Bits of pebble mosaic floor set against the south house wall (which is below the heavy retaining wall across the Drain) are at a level slightly lower than the top of the drain wall to the west, and at about the same level as the pebble mosaic floors in the poros building to the south of the street.

Cistern A (58/IB). A cistern man-hole (0.90 m. diam, 2.90 m. deep from highest preserved point of the stucco lining) was cleared. Channels lead both to north and south, but have not yet been dug. The fill in the manhole dates from the late fourth century.

This cistern system was replaced by a tank or rectangular cistern, the eastern and western ends of which have not yet been reached. It is 1.50 m. wide from north to south, with two poros pillars, set on the floor to support the roof. Both floor and walls are covered with water proof stucco. The north wall of the tank cut across the cistern manhole. Whether the pebble mosaic floors to the ^{south} north, about 1.60 m. above

floor of tank are to be associated with the tank or with the cistern is not yet so clear.

Well I, 59/IF. Subsequently a tile well was put down cutting through the tank and through the south channel of the cistern. This well, of which the top was not found is perhaps to be associated with a bit of late Roman wall to the south, with floor level about one meter above that ^{of} the pabble floor. There was so much water at this season that work was stopped as impracticable at a depth of 6.25 m. from the tank floor (8.70 m. from suggested floor level). Well tiles were not in place for the last meter and a half; considerable supporting would be needed before work would safely be continued. The fill was of the late fifth or sixth centuries A.D.

ROMAN BATH (= Building A and Hypocaust area.)

A Roman bath fills the eastern half of the section south of the Street. It is a large complex measuring about 20 m. from north to south, and perhaps 24 m. from East to West. The eastern wall, lies beyond the present excavated area, but must fall close to the edge of the street along the slope of the Areopagus. Apparently in use as a bath from the early first century A.D. through the fifth, there were 3 main periods of construction. At present it is unclear to which period many of the walls belong. Two hypocaust rooms at the north-east were uncovered this year. In the southern one, about 8 meters east to west and perhaps the same from north to south, the lower floor seems to be built on a soft mass of debris dating from the fifth century A.D.. But from the

Coin 6
 mat. 43
 1 yellow
 355-363
 16.1

furnace dump at the north the pottery and particularly the lamps (of which some 27 were catalogued - clearly used for cleaning out the dark area between the two floors)

seem to be a consistent group of the late third century A.D.*

One coin from this dump, ~~was~~ legible without cleaning, is of Aurelianus (270-275 A.D.). Further work is needed

before a choice can be made between the two possible solutions:

- a. The late debris which seems to underly the hypocaust floor in the south room, actually does not, but simply undercuts it at the broken edge, and thus may be considered a destruction rather than construction date.
- b. The third century furnace dump at the north is to be associated only with the northern hypocaust room, of which part of the furnace is preserved, which could then be considered earlier than the southern room. There is some slight support for this in the fact that the floor of the southern room is higher than that at the north and in that the bricks used in the two rooms are of slightly different dimensions: in the north room, floor tiles 0.71 sq. x 0.07 m. thick, the columns built of 12 circular tiles, 0.25-26 m. in diameter, plus a square cover tile and concrete floor, 0.95 m. above the lower; in the southern room, floor tiles 0.67 sq. x 0.06 m. thick, and columns of 13 circular tiles, 0.27-0.28 m. in diameter, with a tile rather than concrete floor at 0.86 m.

See X p. 185-6
of 27 coins
from furnace
dump
located in
District
264-305

To the north and west of the south hypocaust room, and below its floor level part of an apse wall of large building blocks facing south has been exposed, probably belonging to the first period, certainly antedating the hypocausts.

The bit of the north wall of the first or second period found beside the street has been mentioned above.

Well II, 79/AA. The central court of the last period, with marble chip floor (14.00 m by 7.00 m.) was cleared last year. A tile well at its north edge, was dug this year. Partly underlying the marble chip floor of the latest period which it must antedate, it had been broken into in the Byzantine period, but not cleared. It was built to go with a floor 1.50 m. lower than that of the court, where a Hymettian well curb with a rope marks is preserved, and where the tiles begin. In the marble pavement of the second period, 1.25 m. higher, a circular opening (0.45 m. in diam.) has been cut in the slab above the well; in the upper well fill the marble cover that fitted into the cutting, flush with the floor was found with a bit of metal still inset in the center to which no doubt a ring was attached for raising this cover. No well tiles were found between the two floors; with this impracticable opening it seems unlikely that the well was used as a well in the second period. Along the west side between the floors there is a large hole in the fill which

opens into the big elliptical tile drain associated with the second floor; it may be that the circular cutting in the floor was used as a subsidiary manhole to that.

The upper fill in the well - from which the very little pottery was thoroughly mixed, from 2nd century A.D. to fifth B.C.-is perhaps contemporary with the second floor. The lower "period of use" fill, mainly basket-handled water jars dates from the first century A.D. The well in which there was a good water supply was only 8.60 m. deep from the original floor.

Traces of Earlier Buildings under the Bath.

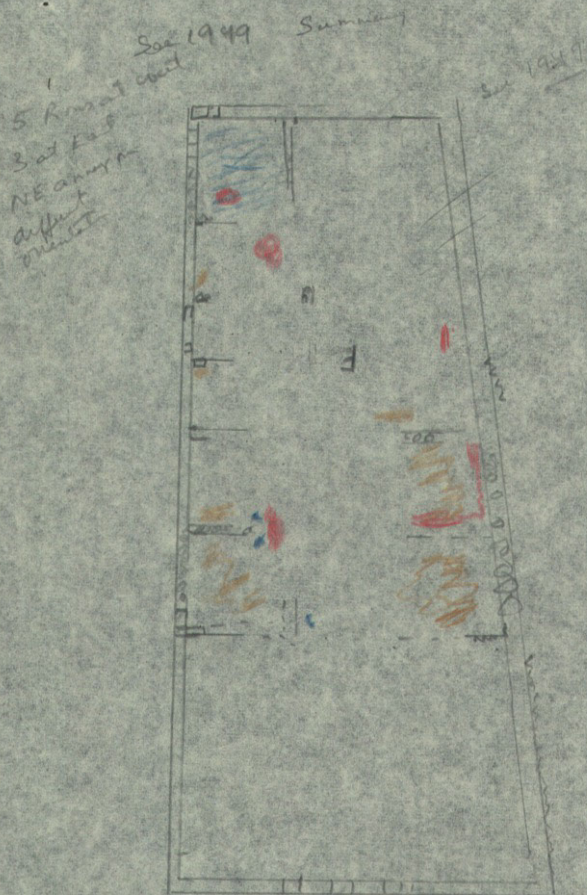
- 1) North of the apse wall in a big hole of very late Roman disturbed fill, with many tumbled blocks, some certainly from the apse walls, part of a north-south wall, ^{was exposed which} probably antedates the bath. Cuttings in bedrock south of the hypocaust room and walls visible at the sides of a modern cesspool in the next room to the south perhaps are to be associated with this wall.
- 2) A few meters to the northeast of the big hole are two bits of east-west limestone wall of respectable antiquity (see above: Ancient Street).

POROS BUILDING

A. This year's work was limited to a trial cut at the northwest corner and further clearing of the original clay floor at the southeast.

1. Northwest Corner: The northwest corner of the building was found in a narrow cut made at the point where the Great Drain jogs to the west, with the corner poros block and one limestone block, 0.46 m. wide, of the north wall ~~is~~ still in place. This north wall was rebuilt, at least by the early third century B.C., with its south face some 20 cm. further north. The big conglomerate blocks further to the east are probably to be associated with a still later wall on the same line. In the floor associated with the first rebuilding is set a flower-pot shaped basin (H. 0.32 m.; diam. 0.38 m.) and a pithos (depth 1.45 m.; max. diam. 1.24 m.). Both were filled with chips of Pentelic marble. The fill above the floor and the sherds said to be from the pithos are of the late fourth or early third century B.C.

2. At the Southeast corner of the building proper, a cutting in bedrock was found for the east end of the north wall of the court. And the face of the east wall of polygonal limestone blocks^{was} exposed under the overhanging *Roman* wall. A bit of the same wall but of smaller stones was found further north.



A layer 15 to 20 cm. thick was cleared from the original clay floor in the southeast room. In the next room to the north, where narrow strips of fill had been left under the late wall, a mass of hard clay fill with many broken roof-tiles in it was cleared from the continuation of the clay floor. In both places the fill dates from the late fifth and early fourth centuries. Along the north side of the second room the limestone cross-wall is partially preserved. It does not carry down to the floor at the west but scattered stones suggest that this

may be a rebuilding of an earlier wall on the same line.

B. From the present incomplete and scanty evidence no conclusions can be drawn as to the identity or history of this building. The following summary may help clarify the problem. (The measurements are all approximate, taken from the section plan.)

1. A long narrow building lies in the valley floor south of the east-west street, with east wall set in bedrock against the lower west slope of the Areopagus. It measures

38 m. in length from north to south, 17 m. wide at the south, probably about 13 m. wide at the north (northeast corner not exposed; some 2 m. of fill at point where projected lines of north and east walls meet). The southern end, in Section NN, ca. 1/3 of the total, seems to have been a court; with interior dimensions of 15 m. x 11 m.; uneven bedrock in the eastern half is considerably higher than ~~the~~ at the west, and higher than the clay floor to the south. Part of the south wall of large poros blocks is preserved, and of the north wall one poros block at west and the bedrock cutting at east. The northern 2/3 (in Section OO) with interior dimensions of 24.50 m. x 14.50 m. (at south) was clearly, during some periods of its existence, broken up into small rooms.

2. Walls. Of the west wall, most was removed in late Roman times, but the trench ca. 0.50 m. wide is clear for the full length and in parts the packing of small stones and seven of the poros blocks (0.45 m wide; 0.60 m. to 1.20 m. long; and 0.55 m. to 0.70 m. high) resting on them are preserved. Note that at the north end, the tops of the corner block and one next to it are 0.25 m. to 0.10 m. lower than the top surfaces of the next two blocks which are flush with the floor associated with the pithos and basin.

The cutting in bedrock for the east wall is exposed for about half the length of the building and some of the wall (1.00 m. wide) of limestone blocks slightly polygonal

in construction is preserved.

Between the court and the north corner, the trench for the west wall is broken into by cross walls at five points (see sketch). Beginning at the south, for the north wall of room 1, part of a well-built wall 0.45 m. wide of small limestone blocks is preserved to a height of 0.80 m. For the north wall of room 2 there is a deep wall trench lining with the cross wall found at the east. 3.50 m. further to the north, the face of a limestone block returning to the east is exposed. Note that this seems to line with a bit of NS limestone wall and possible door jamb exposed last year, about 8 m. to the east.

The next two candidates for cross walls north of rooms 4 and 5 are limestone foundation walls very similar to the foundations of the west wall exposed beside them. If all of them belong to the building, we have six rooms along the west, the second at the south and the last one to the north each measuring 4.55 m.; the three middle rooms 3.50 m., 2.30 m. and 2.50 m. respectively.

At the east, the north wall of the second room is preserved; a later wall on the projected line ^{for that} of the first room obscures this position but a break in the clay floor suggests that evidence may be found for this one.

At the north, 4.50 east of the west wall, the top of a north-south wall of squared conglomerate blocks, ca. 0.50 m. wide is exposed. And at the south, next to the north wall of the court, there seems to be a significant break in fills

at a corresponding point.

A large porous block ca. 5 1/2 m. east of the west wall and 7 m. south of the north wall, partly exposed in the side of a pit, with a channel running north-south in the top and a piece of terracotta drain continuing under the fill to the north, is almost certainly to be assigned to the building.

3. Floors.

1st Period. A very smooth clay floor (brown on sketch) has been found at the southeast and southwest and breaks in fill visible along the west wall trench farther north suggest that this floor will be found the full length of the building at the same level.

2nd Period. A second floor (blue on sketch), some 0.30 m. to 0.40 m. higher is associated with the pithos at the northwest corner, and traces of a ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ corresponding level can be picked up at the south.

3rd Period. Bits of pebble mosaic floor (^{red}green on sketch) some 0.90 m. above the clay floor, have appeared throughout the area.

4th Period. The next major change came in the Augustan period when the houses to which the two courts with marble chip floors belong were built.

4. Chronology. There is practically no evidence yet for the chronology of the interior walls, and no need to believe that all those suggested were contemporary. The north wall of the southwest room clearly passed out of use before the pebble mosaic floor period; the north wall of the second room at the east may have had two periods, both perhaps antedating the pebble mosaic floor. The two poros blocks in the west wall just south of the NW corner may represent a rebuilding contemporary with the second period or pithos floor.

The construction of the Great Drain beside the west wall in the early fourth century probably accounts for one of the rises in levels. Further study is needed to decide whether the second floor level, that with pithos at northwest, ca. 1.40 m. above the bedrock floor of the drain, or the pebble mosaic floor is to be associated with the construction of the drain.

5. Identity: Dikasterion ?

A building with a large open yard and a series of small rooms could be made to fit the fourth century dikasterion as described by Aristotle (and as interpreted by S. Dow, Harvard Studies) where ten entrances, one for each tribe, are demanded. The yard to the south

could have been used for the cases tried by one of the small juries (the architect estimates that some 300 people could be seated in the 165 sq. m. available). If one can assume perhaps that the dimensions of the two southern rooms and the northern one (4.55 m. long separated by walls 0.45 m. wide) represent the original units, the total interior length of 24.50 m. breaks down neatly into five rooms to a side. Postulating two north-south interior walls, indications of one of which have been found, one could restore five rooms on each side of a central corridor. At the wider south end the two rooms would be square and the corridor of the same width.

Not enough of the fill related to the building has been dug to make the lack of finds that might be expected in or near the law-courts of any significance. Of the 27 dikast's ballots found so far in the Agora, four, of which two were in the Great Drain, come from Sections NN and OO. (cf. 6 from Section Z, 2 from Section Γ, 4 from Section B; 3 from Section Ψ, etc.) Of the 11 dikast's tickets (which the jurors should have taken home with them) two were found in Section NN, two at the west end of Section ΣΤ in fourth century fill, three in Section H, etc.

1949
29 mpx
3 lead
found from NN/ΣΤ

As an alternate candidate identified in this building

(Note however (reference provided by E. Vanderpool) the existence of a *παιδικὸν οἶκος* in Melite; Hesychius and Zenobius quoting from Aristophanes and Plato. See Curtius.)

GEOMETRIC GRAVE

An early geometric grave was found near the northwest corner of the section two meters east of the Great Drain. Here a sandy water deposit some 2 1/2 m. thick, dating from late Byzantine times rested on uneven bedrock 20 to 50 cm. above the level of the drain floor, and in moving a breccia building block lying in this late fill, the grave was discovered directly below it. Chances of finding other graves nearby seem good. To the north and east only late fill has been removed from the outcroppings of bedrock. Directly to the south, fill probably associated with the fourth century house walls of House E still stands about 1.00 m. above the grave.

The grave was a cremation burial with the amphora containing the bones (P 19,228) set in a pit at the south end of a roughly rectangular cutting, 1.32 m. x 0.65 m. and 0.50 m. - 0.80 m. deep. The amphora was set against the bedrock at the south with stones, both large and small and broken bedrock, packed firmly around it. A pyxis (P 19,229) was used to cover the amphora. Small walls were built at the east and west and a roughly rectangular limestone block, 0.³57 m. x 0.41 m. x 0.10 m. was set on them as cover slab, leaving 0.09 m. clear space above the pyxis. At the north the floor of the pit was deeper than necessary for the upper grave deposit, for it was covered with 0.15 m. to 0.20 m. of absolutely unproductive thrown-in bedrock to bring it

up to about the level of the cover slab. On this and on the cover slab the burned debris from the pyre (burned elsewhere) was deposited (to a depth of 0.20 m.). The slightly higher level of the bedrock cutting at the east suggests that a few centimetres of the grave fill may have been washed away when the Byzantine sand was deposited. The southwest corner of the slab was covered with a thin layer of fine silt which had also washed in under the cover slab, filling the pyxis and penetrating into the amphora. An archaic sherd found under the cover slab at the west end was probably washed in by this silt. The lip of the burial amphora was broken, but most of the pieces were lying in the position where they had fallen, and the lid of the pyxis, without its knob, was lying to the west of the amphora. This slight disturbance was presumably caused by the water which deposited the silt.

Nothing was found in the pyxis. The amphora, of which the upper third was empty, contained the bones and jewelry of the deceased. Objects found in the amphora:

Pair of thin wire coils of electrum, either earrings or hair ornaments (J 115).

Two fragmentary bronze fibulae (B 840, 841)

Two fragmentary bronze pins with large knobs on the shaft and a disk below the smaller knob at the top (B 842, 843); uncatalogued fragments of at least two more similar pins, smaller.

Small bone cylinder (0.025 m. long; diam. 0.008 m.) with decoration of incised lines (BI 616); either a bead or a covering for shaft of pin or fibula.

Iron knife (0.19 m. long) with slightly curved blade and flat haft to fit into handle. (IL 1011)

In the burned fill above the burial amphora were found two pairs of terracotta shoes (P 19,249; 19250); 19 fragmentary vases (P 19,230 - P 19,248) and small pieces of three others, uncatalogued; a clay whorl or button (MC 760); a few unidentifiable bits of bronze and of bone, and some eight or nine fragments of carbonized matter. The latter, of which the best preserved measures 0.028 x 0.026 x 0.019 m., are almost certainly burned figs, with the corrugated sides and turned over stem clearly preserved. The two pairs of terracotta shoes (the first 0.095 m. long and 0.07 m. high; the second 0.115 m. long and 0.10 m. high) are clearly patterned on a leather model. They are low boots with a high cuff open at the front, pierced for laces. (For a similar pair from a late geometric grave at Eleusis, cf. Eφ. APX. 1898, Pl. IV, no. 4; p. 104). The pots from the burned fill are:

Two pyxides with lids, one pointed, the other flat-bottomed (P 19239-40)

One large oinochoe (P 19234) and an uncatalogued fragment of a second

Two smaller oinochoai with ovoid bodies (P 19231-2)

One small stemmed cup (P 19241)

Six small oinochoai with plump double convex bodies (P 19233-8) and an uncatalogued fragment of a seventh

Two skyphoi with horizontal loop handles (P 19242-3)

Six skyphoi with vertical handles (P 19244-7)

One small cooking pot (P 19248)

STRAY FINDS

Part of the right side of an archaic inscription (I 6091) on grey blue marble, was found built into the wall of a late Byzantine concrete pithos in the north central part of the section. It seems to be part of a text dealing with laws or religious regulations, dating from perhaps the third quarter of the sixth century.

A fragment of a cornice block of light grey to pink limestone (A 1371) was found in the upper fill of a Byzantine well, some 14 m. east of the Drain, along the north side of the ancient street (Well at 67/IE, undug). Similarity of stone and workmanship suggest that it originally came from the fountain house.

Three pieces of jewelry and 3 seals from rings were found together in the Bath, in the 3rd century A.D. burned fill from the furnace. There was a gold earring (J 106), a seed pearl cluster on a thin gold wire (J 108), a small amethyst (J 107), also strung on a gold wire, the last two probably pendants from necklace or earring. The first seal, sardonyx, (J 110), is a grotesque magic seal, with a figure having bird's body, silen's mask on the breast, and horse's head (See Furtwängler, Berlin catalogue 8532). A second sardonyx (J 111), has a representation of the Venus *Victrix* type, and the third, (J 112) a dark blue translucent stone, has a nude male figure with scales across his shoulders.