

SECTION III

1948

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SECTION III : 1948

The principal aim in Section III during the 1948 campaign was to bring the western and northern parts of the area down to the Roman level. The result was Roman houses, drains and roads, with a few excursions into earlier periods where the Roman structures had been destroyed. Vast quantities of Turkish fill were removed, especially in the area west of the Great Drain, but the Roman level was reached pretty generally throughout the Section.

Roman Houses

NORTH HOUSE (Building E equals HQ House D) : The Mosaic Floor (North House 4) excavated last year in the NW part of the Section is now quite clearly demonstrated to be part of HQ's House D. (the complex hereafter to be known as North House) more because of its proximity to the EW road than because of any direct connection established. But obviously there is not enough space between the court of North House and the road (12 m.) for still another house of sufficient size to include the Mosaic Floor. Isolated wall blocks and remnants found in situ to the south and east of the Mosaic Floor give us the outside limits in these directions, while toward the west a pebble mosaic floor seems to belong to a room (Room 5) opening off the

south side of North House's court. The pebble mosaic is preserved only in the scarp south of the mouth of the cistern at 13/Δ, through the bottom of which was dug the well whose contents agree so well in date with the final period of both North House as a whole and the Mosaic Floor (Room 4). Fragments of the well curb found in the well fit exactly the transition from the pebble floor to the cistern-mouth and suggest that this floor's higher level, compared to those of the Mosaic Floor and courtyard, may have resulted from the height of the reused cistern-mouth, which in turn suggests that earlier floors here were also at a comparatively high level due to the fairly rapid rise of bedrock (just two meters north of the cistern the bedrock, cut to receive a wall block, appears only .35 m. below the cistern's mouth). Within the area between the Mosaic Floor and the cistern islands of floor strosis appeared at the Late Roman level, but for the most part the area dug straight down to earlier structures.

SOUTH HOUSE (Building P plus House D plus Roman House B)[#]:

Building P now includes a dining room and kitchen at the extreme SW corner of the section with probable connections across the truck road where all three NS walls seem to extend toward the south. The dining room, two-thirds of which was excavated last year, preserved just above the floor, to which a large Byzantine pit in this area had not quite penetrated,

[#] see note on next page.

some of the original destruction fill left after the burning of the house by the Herulians in 267 A.D. Remains of a charred beam .11 x .11 m. and masses of floor tiles suggest that a second floor was laid on the wooden ceiling beams. Further evidence of a second floor comes from joins between sherds found in both the dining room and kitchen.

Table of equivalents, from old to new terminology to facilitate present and future reference:

South House	Dining Room	-	Building P.	Room 2	<i>Small court yard with well</i>
" "	Kitchen	-	" "	Room 3	
" "	Courtyard	-	" "	Room 5-6	
" "	North Room	-	" "	Room 7	
" "	North Vestibule	-	" "	Room 7A	
" "	Room 1	-	Roman House B.	Room 1	
" "	" 2	-	" "	" 2	
" "	" 3	-	" "	" 3	
" "	" 4	-	" "	" 4	
" "	" 5	-	" "	" 5	= Bldg G
" "	" 6	-	" "	" 6	
" "	" 7	-	" "	" 7	
" "	" 8	-	" "	" 8	
" "	" 9	-	" "	" 9	
" "	" 10	-	" "	"	Impluvium
" "	" 11	-	House D.	Room 1	
" "	" 12	-	" "	" 2	
" "	" 13	-	" "	" 3	
" "	" 14	-	" "	" 4	
" "	" 15	-	" "	" 5	
" "	" 16	-	" "	" 6	
" "	" 17	-	" "	" 7	

18 ?

also from the condition of the marble bust of a young man found on the dining room floor indicating that he was damaged long before the Herulians and relegated to an upper room. Painted wall plaster with a socle of alternating panels of

red and white and green and black marbling below large panels of red and yellow outlined by black and white borders was found both on the walls and in the destruction fill. Three threshold blocks, well-worn and displaying cuttings and pivot rings for two-leaf swinging doors, yielded much iron grill work which seems to have made up part of the doors. The south threshold in the west wall appears to lead on to a staircase, but the fact that the second step had been half cut away by a modern well and that the truck road could not be cut at this point made further investigation impossible. The north threshold in the west wall gives directly on the kitchen, so called because of the collection of pots in its SE corner with an impressive array of bones that at first appeared to be the roast and only later revealed themselves as the skeleton of a small donkey (the presence of the donkey in the kitchen may be explained by Andreas' the potmender's story of how his family brought their donkey into the house during German raids for livestock, and keeping it in the wardrobe, found it necessary to sit up day and night feeding it grapes to prevent it from braying). The kitchen pot collection provides a wide variety of shapes and materials and, in combination with the thirty-odd coins found on the floor nearby which will undoubtedly, like those found last year on the dining room floor, stop short with Gallienus, provide a securely dated Herulian group.

To the north of these two rooms is a large courtyard (14 x 13 m.) on to which the dining room's north threshold opens. Porches surround the four-sided colonnade which opens on a central court once paved with marble plaques on a cement bedding with a well (at 23/1A) whose curb has cuttings for an elaborate superstructure. The present dimensions of the court seem not to be original; the plan of the floor plaques as indicated by the ridges in the bedding shows a change in the width of the floor plaques in the northern third of the court where they become gradually narrower. This fact, taken together with the small drain at the line of the new plaque size, the large poros block foundation as for a corner column at the east end of this line, and the differences in bedding of the north stylobate blocks, suggests that the original courtyard was only two-thirds the present one and that the present north stylobate line was the line of the north wall. Perhaps to be associated with this enlargement is the construction of the West Alcove, the lateness of which is attested by its light construction and double back wall built up on either side of a previously free-standing pillar, and the channelling of the SW corner stylobate blocks to receive wooden partitions.

The courtyard, unlike the dining room and kitchen, shows traces of post-Herulian use, not however for habitation but as a quarry for the parts of the house to north and east which were rebuilt. The stylobate blocks are

missing only here, the north porch floor was completely destroyed, and the north wall of the room, rebuilt as south wall of post-Herulian rooms to the north, uses one of the columns from the colonnade as a wall block.

The function of the court in both Greek and Roman times as the centre of the house into which all the important rooms opened, as well as the size of the court and the rooms in this complex, makes it desirable to establish connections not only with Roman House B (South House, Rooms 1-10) to the east but also to House D (South House, Rooms 11-17) to the west (this House D gets its name from NN and is not to be confused with ΠΘ House D). The difference in floor levels need be no hindrance since the gradual rise of the bedrock here would have made one level impossible without much cutting and levelling. The difficulty lies rather in the fact that Byzantine intrusion in the case of rooms 11-17 and post-Herulian building-up and blocking-off in the case of rooms 1-10 obscure the pre-Herulian points of connection. But although the courtyard's east wall which runs along the back of Room 10 was rebuilt and replastered in post-Herulian times, it is still possible to detect the traces of door jambs and sills on either side of the ^{impluvium of} Room 10 leading up into the courtyard and into the North Room. The connection with Rooms 11-17 is more tenuous, but it seems quite evident that the squared door-jamb-like block at the west end of the courtyard's north wall is original and provides access into the House D rooms, whose

eastern limits like the western limits of the North Room have been destroyed. The door stoop of Room 11 may then serve as one of the whole building's entrances from EW Road. Rooms 11, 13 and 14, arranged in a row from N to S, with little more than a meter's width of Room 12 to the west at the westernmost edge of the Section, were excavated as part of Section NN in 1939 and refilled in 1947. Rooms 15 and 17, excavated for the first time this year, have party walls with the West Alcove of the courtyard, thus suggesting again the intimate connection between the two complexes, especially since the small size of 17, the failure to move this part of the courtyard's north wall further north and the complete lack of floor in 17, as well as the Byzantine staircase in this same place (continuity of this sort is strong, but presence of materials is even stronger), suggest that here was a flight of steps if not to the second story at least to Rooms 11-17. Room 16 again disappears into the scarp. Most of rooms 11-17 show at least two periods of floors and/or wall-plaster, a fact which fits in with the remodelling of the large courtyard. Like the dining room and kitchen, these rooms were not used or rebuilt after the Herulians.

The extant walls of the North room are all of the post-Herulian period, as is evident both from their construction and the lines which they take : the south wall being narrower than the pre-Herulian north wall of the

courtyard on which it is built, the east and west walls running parallel and inside the original walls. Where the original east line ran cannot be definitely ascertained although it is likely that it followed the line of the earlier wall on which the courtyard's set-back west wall was built, but the east wall continues the line of the courtyard's east wall underneath a post-Herulian wall and shows a cutting for the reception of the North room's north wall. Our information about the area between this north wall which is represented only by a trench and this cutting and the outside north wall of the entire house (represented largely by a trench) is scanty, but it is likely that the area was divided into two rooms, the western of which includes the hydraulic-cemented catch-basin and may be called South House's ^{north} vestibule. It was from the pithos sunk in the floor of this room that the Type XXVII lamp depicting the ransoming of Hector came.

The building date for the whole South House appears to have been middle or late second century A.D. on the following counts: 1) the packing around the well in the courtyard (at 23/AA); 2) the pottery from the undisturbed sub-floor fill in the courtyard's north porch; 3) the pottery found in the mortar trench backing up the east wall of the dining room.

East-West Road and Great Drain Bridge

The line of the EW road has been determined from its emergence from the scarp at the west, between South House and North House, to the Great Drain. It is in some places extremely narrow, at least in the Late Roman period (little more than 1.50 m. between South House and North House) and curves very slightly to the south in its eastward course. The section nearest the Great Drain was dug down almost two meters to record the levels at various periods from the sixth century A.D. to the first century B.C. The first century B.C. road appears to be on a level with the cover-slabs over the Great Drain and rather higher than the NS road coming up from Section F along the west side of the Drain. That road, which was cut by the laying of the Drain's west wall, and which has as its west boundary a fine polygonal wall (also continuing the line of that in F) must have joined our EW road to continue as the NS road over the elliptical drain to the south somewhere under our first century B.C. road and the retaining wall which now stretches some three meters on either side of the Great Drain just to the North of the sixth cover slab. Since this great wall (1.60 m. in height and 1.20 m. thick) is laid on nothing more substantial than earth, it must have been put in during a time when the ground level roundabout was considerably higher than its base, and if it continued across and above the Drain itself, as is likely from the great mass

of tumbled stones and blocks there, at a time when the Great Drain was filled up. How the wall was reduced to tumble in its middle section may be explained as follows: just north of the northernmost cover slab (the sixth) the drain wall on the west side is lacking in all but its lowest courses; a large and deep Byzantine pit went down below the wall's base here and probably accounts for the absence of the West Drain wall's upper course just north of the retaining wall; the removal of these blocks and the Byzantine vacuum added to the weight of the retaining wall would have caused the West Drain wall's upper courses under the retaining wall to fall out of position, and then a hypothetical 7th cover slab (suggested by the continued corbelling of the east Drain wall) would also have fallen and the blocks of the retaining wall above the drain would have tumbled. The retaining wall has associated with it on its south side a road which was formed after the Herulian destruction, which suggests that the filling-in of the Great Drain took place at that time. Other important structures on the bridge are an elliptical drain partly built into the sixth century A.D. south retaining wall which will be discussed below, and three sections of a stone water channel supported only by earth and belonging with the road of the first century A.D. The middle section of this water channel is a massive piece of limestone 4 m. long which apparently rests only on earth but

which now tilts so to the north that it is conceivable that it was borne on short pillars, one of which still sits beside it on the bridge. The function of this water channel is complicated by its apparent change of flow, since the long middle section and that to the east both provide for a flow toward the west, while the western section, separated by a meter gap from the middle section not only appears to flow east but also has at its east end a small terracotta drain at right angles to it going down into the Great Drain. It is perhaps to this gap that we must look for an explanation; it dug as a circular hole going down almost a meter, thus suggesting something more elaborate than a simple section of the water channel; it is flanked on one side by well-worn "sidewalk" blocks, and from it came two marble fragments with curved basin-like profiles. Is it possible then that there was here in this plateia a small basin-fountain, into which water flowed from both east and west? When for some reason the fountain went out of use, the flow, at least from the west, would then have been disposed of by the small terracotta right-angle drain.

Drainage

Sections of two large elliptical drains were located in a sufficient number of places under the EW road so that their courses could be determined. Since they cross each other just outside of South House 7 with one passing over

the other, designation by location will only be confusing and the likelihood of the lower being the earlier is elsewhere strengthened sufficiently to justify our calling them the Earlier and Later West Elliptical Drains. The Earlier Drain comes out of the scarp at the western extremity of the Section, is fed by a complex of drains which pool together in a catch basin in South House, Room 11, passes through a manhole just north of the north vestibule, where still other small drains converge, continues east in a straight line so that the southeastward turning Later Drain passes over it, is augmented by a large elliptical drain coming from the north and continues on to the Great Drain where it presumably emerges in the northern entrance in the west wall below the Bridge. Throughout its course the packing amphoras are of the first century A.D., but it must be remembered that we have located the drain only in those portions of its course where all except the latest roads above it were destroyed, that is, in small areas where the road has been torn up down to the drain presumably to fix it. Therefore, all the packing which we have may well belong to a period of repair some time after the original installation of the drain. The drain fill itself has not yet been investigated but the remarkable consistency of fill in the catchbasins and manhole which dot its course compels us to date its latest period of use to the Herulian destruction, the time at which we have already presumed that the Great Drain

itself went out of use in this section and would consequently no longer have been able to take care of this drain.

Many of the smaller drains which feed into the Earlier Elliptical Drain seem to be of an era earlier than the first century A.D. The two which belong to the South House (P plus D) and so to the second century A.D. are alternatives or replacements for earlier drains. Thus the small drain which tunnels under the threshold blocks of Rooms 11 and 13 is the fourth to fulfil its function, its three predecessors being: 1) a porous drain which was cut and replaced by 2) an elliptical drain, part of which was pulled out to make room for an Augustan floor, and which was replaced by 3) a combination of a small rectangular terracotta drain with the remainder of the elliptical. In a similar fashion the drain which goes north out of the large courtyard parallels the course of two lower and earlier (apparently, from the pottery, Hellenistic) drains, one of which is for ~~the~~ most of its preserved course built with hydraulic cement rather than terracotta. Similarly the catch basin just north of South House's north vestibule is built of hydraulic cement and although filled with Herulian pottery is certainly earlier and may well have been a latrine both in origin and reuse. Therefore, whether or not the Earlier Elliptical Drain is earlier than its present visible packing would suggest, we can be assured that there was a large drain here which followed the same line as early as Hellenistic times.

The Later Elliptical Drain appears also just inside the scarp at the west of the Section, curves toward the north in its eastern course and then to the south where it crosses over the Earlier Elliptical Drain and thereafter follows the line of the south retaining wall which gradually encroaches upon it so that by the middle of the Great Drain Bridge the wall is built over and incorporates the lower half of the drain, which is all that is preserved in its eastern half. Where the south retaining wall breaks off above the Great Drain the edge of the lower ellipse can be seen and lines up perfectly with a similar lower ellipse immured in the east continuation of this wall so that the drain flows over, not into, the Great Drain. Further examination reveals that the flow is toward the west throughout the course of this Later Elliptical Drain, thus reversing the pre-Herulian flow into the Great Drain and providing an alternative to the Great Drain in the post-Herulian period. Its relation to the roads confirms its post-Herulian date and its period of use is given a termination date by the building of the south retaining wall in the time of Justinian. The same wall toward the west is built over the threshold block and jambs of the peculiarly shaped tile-floored room in South House, Room 2. This threshold block is associated in level with the first post-Herulian road and since its jambs as well as the later wall rest on its tile floor, it is possible that in the pre-Herulian period the room extended farther to the north

and was contracted toward the south to facilitate the laying of the Later Elliptical Drain which now runs immediately to the north of it. The roughness of the wall on the inside further suggests that this was actually a porch or door-step rather than a proper room.

Earlier Structures

Augustan remains: The relevant pottery found with a pebble mosaic floor in the south porch of South House's courtyard dates its laying to the late Hellenistic or Early Roman period, but its construction with pebble mosaic central block and tile chip border makes it unlikely that it is pre-Augustan. Furthermore, the wall foundation on which the courtyard's south wall is built (but not lined) goes down here three meters into a rock-cut pit which produced Hellenistic and Early Roman sherds. Presumably the Augustan house-builders found this pit when they were laying the corner foundations of this room and carried their wall down to its bottom. Most of this floor and its south and east walls are preserved and hold forth hope of further remains under the court floor to the north. In the north porch of the courtyard another small pebble mosaic which carries over into the North room and which boasts a clearing basin appears with its associated walls to the south and east to have been an open court, perhaps of the same Augustan house, since in its catch basin were found mingled with a heavy ash deposit pots of the first century A.D. The south

wall of this floor has on its south face (where that appears in the east porch) plaster going down to a clay floor approximately on the level of this pebble mosaic. Leaving only a martyr of that floor we continued down, noting that the floor's underpinings produced Hellenistic and Early Roman pottery, to a pebble floor (large pebbles laid flat) which is probably earlier still.

Under South House, Room 13, where the elliptical drain's south continuation was removed to make room for a floor which produced Early Roman sherds, we may expect further ramifications of this Augustan house, especially since the west wall of the courtyard and north room seems to have been originally Hellenistic and reused in Augustan times as well as in the second century A.D.

Across the street in the area between Room 4 of North House and the cistern at 13/A a good clay floor with plastered west wall 0.05 m. in height was uncovered at a considerably lower level than the mosaic floor. On it was much charred material and several pots of the first century A.D., the most notable being a bowl with a relief medallion of one of the Julio-Claudians on its floor.

Hellenistic Remains: Besides the flat pebble mosaic in the east porch of South House's courtyard and the west wall of the courtyard and north room with its associated hydraulic

cemented drain and latrine, there are here and there bits of stoses and remnants of walls which must be Hellenistic to judge from the pottery found with them, but which both the second century building and Byzantine pits have mutilated sufficiently in the small areas now exposed so that interconnections cannot be traced.

Fourth Century B.C. Catch Basin: Again in the area between North House, Room 4 and the cistern at 13/A, but north of the first century A.D. floor and slightly lower is a neatly squared and cemented catch basin, to the north of which a tongue of drain channel flows down from the east. The whole complex was isolated from walls or floors by soft trenches on all sides (presumably for walls of later houses), but the catch basin produced several fourth century pots in more or less complete condition.

Wells

- Well at 23/AA: Elaborate curb and heavy substructure caused tiles to cave in at the top so that it was impossible to dig without tearing up the court floor and removing the curb and substructure.
Diameter nowhere preserved.
Depth reached: 2.60 m.
Scanty third century A.D. fill mixed with much caved-in hardpan.
Packing: middle second century A.D.
- Well at 13/Δ: Diameter 0.95 m; water level - 9.10 m.; depth - 11.10 m.
Plain shaft cut in stereo from bottom of slender flask-shaped cistern.
Scanty fill from house destruction in fifth century A.D.: Christian lamps; unfinished statuette of Castor.
- Well at 41/IA: Undug tiled well, with top destroyed.