

*Athena file*

SECTION Z : 1954

Excavation Report

*D. B. T.*

(Note that the Z Section Plan and Sketch Plans in Z notebook summaries are very inaccurate owing to a provisory plan given by the architect, who has not done a later one.)

The area excavated in 1954 fell within these limits:

- on the east, the Middle Stoa;
- on the north and west, the Great Drain, Period II;
- on the south the terrace walls that extend just south and west of the steps at the SW corner.

Various parts had been previously excavated under other section names, to which reference will be made. These excavations, with a few exceptions, had removed the debris of Herulian destruction and left the area as it was in the 3rd century A.D., an open "plateia", which it had been since about the time of Augustus. Prior to that it had been occupied by houses and industrial establishments, like the rest of the area farther west and south, right up to the edge of the square. We brought the excavations down to the level of ca. 300 B.C. and in a few places went deeper to find traces of the earlier walls.

EARLIEST PERIODS

No graves and no grave material were found, though a few cuttings in bedrock and a few Protogeometric and Geometric sherds may indicate that a few graves occurred in the area (nb. p. 3376; Boxes 864-9; Env. 843).

FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

A few house walls survive, set on or very near bedrock. One group, called "House D" at ca. 5-10/A-I consists of a

Z, pp. 3464 ff.



small wall and two floor levels, apparently of the 6th century B.C. (p. 3382). Another 6th century house-floor at 6-7/H-I belonged to a house destroyed probably by the Persians (vide an ostrakon of Themistokles in its destruction filling, p. 3386-90; Env. 845-7).  
(R24016)

Z,p.3449 Another better preserved house complex is that called "House C" in Section MΣ (cf. MΣ, p. 472 and 1006 ff., and Z, pp. 1443 ff.). This year we found what appears to be the top of its west wall (i) running N-S at 25-30/IF-IE. The date of this house also is pre-Persians (MΣ, p. 1086).

It appears then that all the earliest houses in this area were destroyed by the Persians.

The houses destroyed by the Persians were immediately rebuilt, probably by their owners, for they follow almost the same lines.

In "House D" a higher floor (6 b, pp. 3392-3) overlay the old, 0.10 m. below it; it was destroyed in the late 5th - 4th centuries. Likewise the early floor at 6-7/H-I was overlaid by a floor of the 5th century (p. 3384, Env. 843-4) on which lay many marble chips (a marble-worker's house?), destroyed in the late 4th - 3rd centuries. Another similar floor farther south, at 5/B and 5/ΔE, must have belonged to a similar house; no walls were found, but many fragments of painted plaster, gaily decorated in red, blue and white, survive from them (p. 3394, Boxes 835-839), as well as bits of excellent pebble court floor.

Z,pp.3443 ff. Other houses of this same period are better preserved. House E, previously excavated at its west end (Z, pp. 375 ff.)



2 p. 3450  
had its early period during the 5th century, but was much altered at the beginning of the 4th century. We have a closer date, ca. 410-400 B.C., for the building of the polygonal walls of House B in Section MZ (MZ, p. 1087). The west wall of this house seems to be that (Wall K) which extends north at 25-30/IF-IA. It is exactly similar in size and character and near enough in level to be related to Wall ~~Δ~~ of this MZ House B, which we identified as the House of Simon, the cobbler.

Z, pp. 3422 ff. Early Building I, first period, A. This wall K seems to be related to the heavy early wall (X), 0.50 m. wide, of which we have the complete length, from 23/IB to inside the Middle Stoa, ca. 18 m. The fact that wall K, just described, appeared to abut against it (as did its predecessor, wall <sup>L</sup> ~~V~~), implies that the two were contemporary. It should also be noticed that at just this junction a large limestone polygonal block is preserved, which would seem to have formed part of an earlier wall, of which more polygonal blocks are preserved at its extreme N-E corner. Moreover, the bedding of the NW corner (21-23/IB) where Wall X joins Wall Y, and the lower section of Wall Y, are also suitable for polygonal masonry (0.80 - 1.00 m. wide). Wherever evidence survives, it indicates that the earliest period of this wall went out of use in the early 4th century (pp. 3113, 3374; Boxes 827-828). This date fits admirably our hypothesis that Wall K was set up ca. 410-400 B.C. and its floor established before the Wall X was cut through it (Stosis 9, p. 3366 - unexcavated), but

2 p. 3449



soon Strosis 8 accumulated and served both walls K and X (p. 3366, Env. 829-30), starting in the early 4th century and covered with a destruction filling of the early 3rd century, the time at which our Early Building I went out of use. We must assume that Phase A of Early Building I began presumably after the Persian Wars, and lasted till ca. 380 B.C., the approximate date at which the well at 17/IΘ was filled. Its southern limits have not been determined. Its eastern line is that of the Polygonal Terrace Wall of Section MΞ (MΞ, pp. 570-584: "Horos Terrace Wall") which continues in a fragment of polygonal wall south from this junction with Wall X. All these interrelations suggest that the House of Simon extended from the Polygonal Terrace Wall on north and east, to Wall K on the west and used Wall X as a back (retaining) wall on the south during its life-time ca. 470 - 280 B.C.

Stone Drain. One other construction that may be associated K, p.1741 with this period is the Stone Drain, of which a short built section remains (0.50 m. wide, 0.60 m. deep), at 8-13/KB-KΣT. It was composed of limestone blocks, probably all original, and later patched up. It runs parallel roughly to the Polygonal Drain in Section Θ (Θ, p. 1224). Further north its course is traceable to 16/KΓ, where it disappears under the later Stoa West Terrace Wall. It is hard to account for the total disappearance of its lower course except by the assumption that it may have been entirely covered by the floors of Early Building I, Phased B. Possibly the sudden drop in level and the poros walls of the Drain that replaced it (Stoa Drain, p. ) at 28/IΘ may survive from this early period. Since we must assume it was known and used in the late 1st century B.C. when it was replaced, we can only await further excavation to determine its course, but can assume it was started in the 5th century B.C.



FOURTH CENTURY B.C.

During the period ca. 410 - 280 B.C., considerable reorganization of existing houses took place, but no drastic changes were made.

House D shows one 4th century floor 0.10 m. above its 5th century floor (strosis 6 b; p. 3392-3) and other floors at 5/B - 5/Δ-E had a 4th century period (p. 3394; Env. 838). All these floors rise 0.10 - 0.20 m. above their predecessors.

House E underwent more changes. Its 5th century court was covered at the south and raised 0.40 m. Plaster floors from both periods survive and indicate that the west wall was readjusted and turned more northeast, probably to allow for the construction of the east wall of Early Building II with an alley between. The north wall, poorly preserved, is, however, traceable to 10/KE where it seems to have been cut off by the Stone Drain. Its east wall, roughly parallel to its west, seems to join a bit of south wall preserved only to 7/10. The poorly preserved cross-walls also make the plan obscure. The court at the west (with door ?) is plastered and the well with its coping (Well of Group A, Hesperia III, 1934, pp. 313 ff. nicely preserved and doubtless used throughout the fourth century.

Considerable fallen mud brick and debris indicate, in addition to the well deposit, that the house collapsed ca. 300-280 B.C. (pp. 3338, 3414; Boxes 815, 821-824).

Early Building I, Phase B. Plan, p. 3422. As indicated, ca. 380 B.C. the retaining wall<sup>(X)</sup> underwent repairs. Squared conglomerate blocks were inserted where needed and the floor level raised to strosis 7a-8 (pp. 3364 ff.; Boxes 829-833). Traces of a cross wall running north for a higher level also remain at 30/10 where a conglomerate block survives on a small stone bedding.



MZ.pp.  
1418 ff.  
plan,  
p.1420

The levels were apparently raised also at the east end of the building, where the walled pit and sand pit were apparently filled (MZ, Boxes 278, 280). Stuccoed basins were built in the NE corner of Room B, probably for an industrial activity. Drains 4-5 at 15/KB (p. ) suggest a latrine. A small cross-wall was run over the well at 17/I0 but a new well cannot be identified, as the well at 12/K2T (K, pp.1867 f.) seems out of range and too late (early 2nd century B.C. filling). The southern limits are still uncertain, unless we consider the line of wall represented by the poros blocks at 13/I0-K as a candidate, but it is of utterly different character. Very possibly the south wall of Room B was the limit in the latest period. The various other light cross-walls and rooms are shown on the plan. It seems probable from the way the north wall of Early Building II overlies Wall Y (that was buried by late 5th century debris) that Room A was not reconstructed, and that Early Building I, Phase B, ended at the west end of Room B.

This building was covered by a destruction debris of the late 4th - early 3rd centuries B.C. (pp. 3110, 3396; Boxes 814, 816, 833-834). This area must have been cleared to permit wider streets along the West Branch of the Great Drain when it was erected.

Early Building II, Phase A. From the relation of its east wall to the west wall of House E, it is clear that the large complex called Early Building II must have been begun during this period, probably ca. 380 B.C. Floors at 12/IA, 15-16/IB are at the level of the alley between the two buildings and suggest an early 4th century period. In general, however, the building must be later than Early Building I, A, because its north end overlies the west wall of Early Building I, A, which we saw was covered in the late 5th century B.C. The walls of Early Building II are wide, av. 0.80 m., built carelessly of stones placed without much reference to face and obviously most of them belong to the <sup>later</sup> /

pp 3435 ff  
Plan p. 3433



period. Room A clearly extended westward. Room B may be a misnomer, as no north wall for it survives and no floor.

Since the street of a fairly early period existed north of and over Wall Z, we may assume that the street previously excavated in this area was in use fairly early (p. ).

HELLENISTIC PERIOD: ca. 350 - Augustan period.

The levelling of the houses and the formation of streets took place ca. 380-350 B.C. Two clear lines of hard-trodden street are traceable, one to the SW along the S side of the Great Drain, Period I, the other directly south under the west end of the Middle Stoa and immediately west of it. Between these areas, there was apparently no systematized level, but an uneven debris of houses, probably left to the weeds. The only building which remained standing was Early Building II.

pp.343 ff. <sup>3</sup>  
^ Early Building II, Phase B (8-20/Γ-IE; plan, p. 3433). This building is characterized by walls 0.70 - 0.80 m. wide, built loosely of field stones to floor levels not preserved in most places. At 15/Θ and 19/IB the walls are high enough to suggest that the floors ~~that the floors~~ were level with the preserved tile chip floor of Room E.

Rooms A, C and D seem clear, though the latest floors are lost. Room E is the best preserved. It measures ca. 2.60 x 3.m., bounded on the north by a wall of Early Building I rebuilt to a width of only 0.45 m. Along its side runs a plastered drain channel (2), width 0.40 m., height 0.40 m., sloping west. On the west another such drain (1) runs north, sloping down to meet drain 2 at right angles. The west wall of Room E has been



destroyed by Great Drain II, but presumably it lay on the line of the "Wide Foundation" (width ca. 1.00 m.) that survives farther south. The drains would have run under this wall to fall into Great Drain I. The east side of the room is indicated by the return of Drain 2 at right angles to the south; many tumbled stones were found. The south wall of Room E is probably fixed by the rise and edge surviving in the floor, which is just 0.40 m. north of the line of a wall (preserved only in a drawing by Charles Spector, PD # 828<sup>5</sup>) that, if continued, would make a plausible south limit for Early Building II B, permitting a drain 0.40 m. wide also along the south side of Room E. The floor, cemented over tile and sherd chips (opus signinum? Vitruvius VII.1.13), and this arrangement of drains are suitable for a latrine.

Dating: This type of floor and the high level (0.40 m. above the nearest 4th century B.C. level; cf. section, p. 3074), certainly cannot permit the latest phase of Early Building II<sup>B</sup> to be earlier than after 86 B.C. It seems not improbable that it alone of all buildings in the area survived to this date and was indeed rebuilt thereafter. The masses of pottery over the floor of Room E and the house walls is mostly of the 1st century B.C., certainly not later than the time of Augustus (gray ware, Samian, in Boxes 855-862). Abundant fragments of painted wall plaster of incrustation style, in red, blue and white were found in the southerly part of the building, attesting to rather a handsome interior finishing in keeping with the size of the latrine. <sup>one bears a graffito concerning XOVIKZB (A 2449)</sup> Masses of metal waste were also found, but probably came from the south. There is no reason to regard Early Building II as anything but a fairly handsome house, <sup>or shop</sup> like a similar one farther west.



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Plateia: Stoa West Terrace: After the Middle Stoa was built, a set of steps was erected at the SW to lead traffic on the N-S road easily up to the fountain (K, pp. 1741, 1867-8).  
2 Soon thereafter a single line of blocks, averaging 0.55 m. in width and 0.50 m. in height was bedded on earth or on firm existing floors, to form a light retaining wall, facing west (Stoa West Terrace Wall, pp. 3342-ff.). It was placed so as to run not quite parallel to the Stoa but to start from the covered part of the drain that, after the construction of the steps, was diverted along the west side of the Stoa to a point at about the middle of the flight of steps. The steps were then curtailed and reduced to their western half, width ca. 3.00 m. The fact that one of their discarded Kara blocks was used in the Terrace Wall suggests that these two operations were contemporary. Thus a narrow terrace, ranging <sup>in width</sup> from ca. 1.60 m. (at N) to 2.20 m. (at S) was formed to protect the drain and the west end of the Stoa. The level rose in an incline well above the euthynteria.

Dating: The evidence for dating the steps and Stoa drain and therefore the Terrace Wall seems to point to the late 1st century B.C. Probably when the Propylon to the Tholos area was erected and Early Building II destroyed, a street was established leading across the area to the SE steps and to the steps at the NW corner of the Middle Stoa.

#### ROMAN PERIOD

After the erection of the steps in the time of Augustus, silt and filling accumulated so rapidly that the steps and



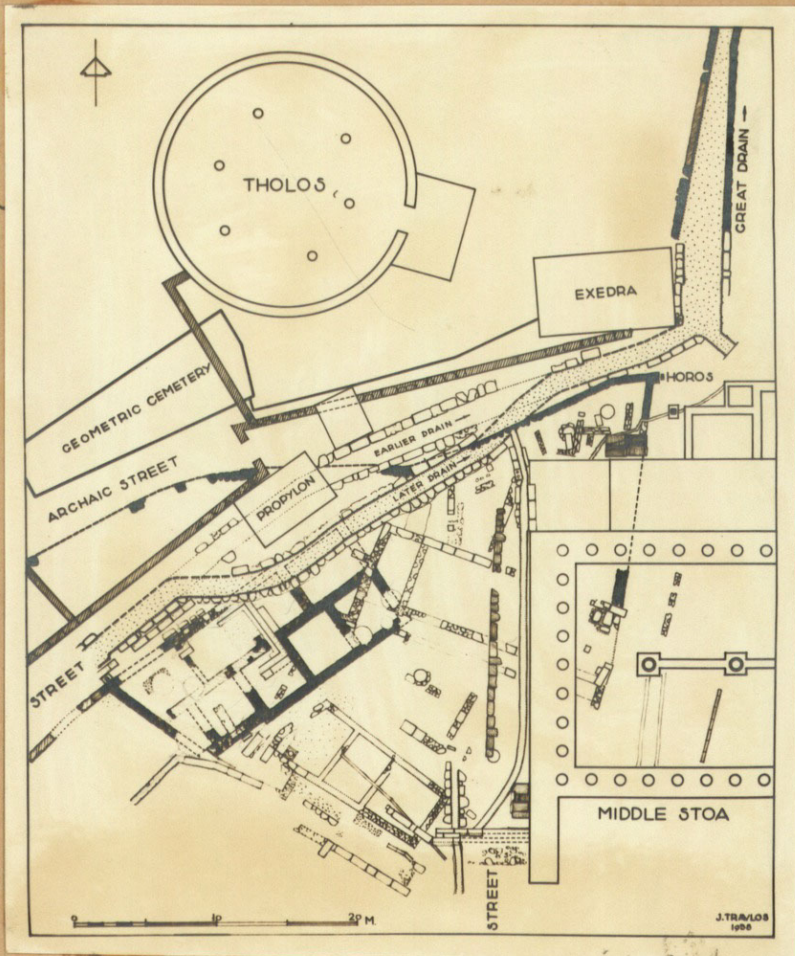
and Terrace Wall were soon covered. The open Plateia must have continued in use until the mid-3rd century A.D. Very hard road metal was discovered along the line of Great Drain II particularly to a depth ca. 1.20 m. above the Hellenistic Plateia (sections, pp. 3032, 3074). Hard road was also traceable N-S, over the east side of the area (see plan of stroseis; pocket of vol. XVIII; pp. 3451 ff.; and conts. 800-810).

After the Heruli, a few people must have dug down to pull out stones, but few intrusions were serious. A complex of houses with very deep walls, Houses A-B, were then built toward the SE side and traces of others elsewhere (pp. 3052-54, etc.; 3056; 3090 ff.). The pottery found among their footings dates in the 4th century A.D. (p. 3336; Tin 795: A ware). Evidently by that time people built as they wished and the ~~and~~ formal Plateia was gradually covered with dwellings.

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