REPORT of the Director for July/August, 1954 Athens

The Summer School, with an enrollment of 13 students, The Summer School, with an enrollment of 13 students, was in session from June 25 to August 5 (see attached report by Mr. Weinberg). After its close a number of the members stayed on to join the Aegean cruise organized by the Bureau of University Travel (August 16 - September 2). Loring Hall was officially closed for 18 days at the end of August to allow annual holidays for the domestic staff before the arrival of the new Fulbright students on September 3. This proved difficult, however, since a large number of regular members of the School and visiting scholars required housing during the interval and visiting scholars required housing during the interval, and accommodations outside the School were hard to find. Athens, and the country in general, have been more crowded with tourists this summer than in any other year since the war.

Archaeological studies and the work of conservation and reconstruction in the Agora have been in progress throughout the summer months, as described by Mr. Thompson in his report (appended). Visits of the Chairman (August 1-17) and of the President of the Trustees (August 13-16) gave an opportunity for reviewing the whole enterprise on the ground and conferring about the program for the year ahead. .

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Blegen left Athens on August 22 to attend the Second International Congress of Classical Studies in Copenhagen.

# Excavations

The School's excavation at Lerna, the University of Chicago's excavation at Isthmia, and the University of Cincinnati's excavation at Pylos are described in separate reports. Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann and their staff returned from Samothrace on completed August 16, having the building and installation of the local museum and much work of conservation in the sanctuary.

John L. Caskey

## THE 1954 SUMMER SESSION

The six weeks session of the 1954 Summer School began on June 25 and ended August 5. Thirteen members participated in the program: Dr. Mary E. Barry, Professor of Classics, Southern Illinois University; Miss Dorothy A. Durham, Archaeology graduate student, New York, N.Y.; Dr. Elizabeth Evans, Professor of Classics, Connecticut Gollege; Miss Elizabeth Ferguson, teacher of Classics, Detroit, Mich.; Miss Anita M. Flannigan, teacher of Classics, West Haven, Conn.; Reverend Bartholomew Fuerst, teacher of Classics, St. Meinrad, Ind.; Mr. Ralph Gehrke, teacher of Classics, Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.; Mrs. Dingle R. Martz, teacher of Classics, Clayton, Mo.; Mrs. Norma MacFadden, New York, N.Y.; Miss Louise B. Richardson, graduate student in Classics, Brandon, Vt.; Mr. Richard Schwartz, graduate student in Classics, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Bonnie M. Selanders, teacher of Glassics, Newton, Kans.; Miss Caroline Simons, teacher, Cambridge, Mass. With their varied interests and backgrounds, the members contributed in large measure to the program. The group lived very happily together under the wide variety of circumstances met in travelling about Greece and cooperated excellently toward the smooth execution of the planned program.

The success of that program was again due very largely to the excellent cooperation of the many members of the School staff and to the contributions made both by the scholars in the School as well as others working in Greece who gave freely of their time and knowledge in showing their excavations and finds to the members of the Summer Session. The members of the agora Excavations arranged a careful review of both the excavations and the collections; Professor Thompson took the group to the Pnyx. Mr. Stevens traced the Route of Pausanias on the Acropolis in two sessions. Mr. Eliot also spent two days in explaining the remains on the South Slope of the Acropolis as well as those of Roman Athens. During the trips Professor Mylonas conducted the group through the excavations at Eleusis, including his new work in the cemetery; Wiss Smith explained the new excavations at the Isthmus of Corinth; Professor Wace and his staff explained the new excavations at Mycenae; Professor Caskey elucidated the many prehistoric levels at Lerna; Professor Blegen gave an exciting review of the Palace of Nestor at Pylos, and the finding of a tablet before the eyes of the group was one of the high points of the southern trip. Back in Athens, Professor Bennett gave a very interesting lecture on the Linear B script and the problems of its decipherment; Miss Frantz, in an illustrated lecture, helped greatly by giving a most lucid exposition of the development of Byzantine architecture.

Besides taking the trips to the Peloponnesos and to

northern Greece, which were made in a bus, it was possible again to follow the example set by Professor Scranton last summer and to take the group by air for a three-day visit to Crete. There we had the good fortune to find Professor Doro Levi excavating at Phaistos and to have the new excavations explained by him. With the great increase in excavation during the summer, the session now gives excellent opportunities to its members to view some of the most important excavations in progress, and the experiences at the Agora, at Eleusis, Mycenae, Lerna, Pylos, have been among the most exciting and profitable that the group has had.

The Director has profited greatly from the information received from his predecessor; his work has been smoothed in every way by the Director of the School and Mrs. Caskey, by Mr. Eliot, and the business staff of the School. Despite the rise in living costs in the past year, the tuition covered all the needs of the members and it was again possible to cover the cost of the extra Cretan trip. The members are in general agreement that the session was successful and, if so, it is due in large measure to their cooperation in carrying out the program. It has been a pleasure to guide them through ancient Greece and to witness their joy in their new found knowledge.

Saul S. Weinberg, Director 1954 Summer Session The second regular campaign of the School's excavation at Lerna in the Argolid was carried on from June 28 to August 10. The staff comprised Mrs. J.L. Caskey; Miss Martha Heath and Miss Helen Vasiliou, students at the School; Mr. S. Charitonides, Epimeletes of Antiquities representing the Greek Archaeological Service; Mr. Lloyd Cotsen, graduate student of architecture from Princeton University; and J.L. Caskey, Field Director. Mrs. Cotsen assisted by cleaning and inventorying many of the objects found. Others who joined the staff for shorter periods were Mrs. Aliki Halepa Bikaki, Miss Daphne Phylaktopoulou, and Mr. C.W.J. Eliot. Evangelos Lekkas was foreman, supervising the work of 24 men and 3 pot washers. The basic wage was Dr.40 (\$1.33) per day.

Satisfactory housing for the staff was found this year in the village of Myloi, and an excellent table was provided by Andreas Totsikas, our cook from Athens. Living close to the site, we had extra time after the hours of digging for study, drawing, and sorting pottery. Much work was done and the time passed quickly.

Continuing the investigations that had begun in the preliminary soundings of 1952 and in the campaign of 1953 (Hesperia XXIII, 1954, pp. 3-30), we extended and deepened our excavations on the east, southeast, and south-central parts of the site, and dug a number of exploratory pits and trenches on the south and west. Material of all periods from Neolithic to late Roman was found. Our principal effort was concentrated this year, as before, on a careful stratigraphic analysis of the Middle and Early Helladic layers and on clearing the Early Helladic "House of the Tiles" and associated buildings.

The later habitations of the site were represented by a large circular kiln of Roman date, numerous wells that produced objects of the Hellenistic and Glassical periods, and a few scattered sherds of Archaic and Geometric pottery. Part of a house of Late Helladic III, containing a number of fine vessels, was cleared in the eastern area.

An important and most startling discovery of this season was a shaft grave of the early Mycenaean period (L.H. I), similar in size and style of construction to those found in the royal grave-circles at Mycenae. This appeared in the south-central part of the mound, in the area being supervised by Mr. Charitonides. He quickly recognized the character of the great pit, which contained many fragments of fine pottery, and we dug with mounting hopes, especially after reaching a hard unbroken stratum of red clay that covered the whole floor of the shaft some two meters below its rim. Under the clay we came upon the stone walls of the tomb itself, a well-

built rectangular structure 3.50 m. long and 1.25 m. wide.
Here, however, we were destined to disappointment: the
pebble floor, about 0.60 m. below the top of the surrounding
walls, was quite bare. Not a scrap of bone nor a fragment
of pottery lay upon it. The grave had either been robbed
with great thoroughness and recovered with extraordinary care,
or it had never been occupied at all.

An extensive series of Middle Helladic remains was examined this year in various parts of the mound. On the southeast (Area A) Mrs. Caskey revealed an apsidal house of an early phase below the similar building which she had cleared in 1953 (Hesperia XXIII, 1954, p. 13). On the east side Miss Vasiliou continued the work begun last year (Area D), and in about two meters of deposits was able to recognize five successive building periods below those previously observed. Thus it appears that a total of at least seven phases of the Middle Helladic period can be distinguished in this part of the site, each marked by remains of houses, streets, and other features, and each yielding groups of pottery and artifacts which will furnish an important chronological series. This material has yet to be studied, but we have already seen a number of interesting pieces, among which is a fine pithoid jar, ca.

O.70 m. high, of light greenish-yellow clay with linear patterns in dark matt-paint. This was used as a burial urn; lying on its side, it contained the skeleton of a girl about four years old; in the mouth of the jar was a large spouted jug, bearing painted decoration in the same technique.

Remains of the Middle Helladic settlement were also found in the central and southern areas. Here, however, the upper layers had apparently suffered more from erosion and many of the phases were not represented. Among objects of special interest from the remaining deposits is a spouted crucible of coarse heavy fabric with socket for the insertion of a handle. This vessel was undoubtedly used in the smelting of metals; its surface is burnt and even vitrified by the extreme heat of the fire to which it was exposed.

The principal effort of this season was devoted to clearing the House of the Tiles and associated structures, the existence of which had been ascertained in 1953 (Hesperia XXIII, 1954, pp. 23-27). Work in different parts of the area was supervised by Mr. Charitonides, Miss Heath and Mrs. Caskey. Only the southwestern part of this great Barly Helladic structure had been cleared previously. This year we worked northward and eastward, finding that the building was 11.80 m. in width and more than 25 m. in length, its eastern end still lying in unexcavated ground. The western part, 15.70 m. long, appears to form one unit of the structure. This comprises a central room measuring 5.80 m. by 6.50 m., narrower rectangular rooms to east and west, and long corridors on the north and south. At the northwest and southeast corners of this rectangle are small rooms with doorways giving to the exterior only. The ground floor was entered from a door on the west; from there one could pass through communicating doors to the principal rooms and corridors, and by means of a staircase from the

central hall to apartments in the second storey. Another external doorway, which had been sheathed with heavy wooden jambs, led from the north into a vestibule, where a second flight of stairs rose eastward at a gentle slope to the upper floor. This appears to have been a principal entrance, and since it does not communicate with the ground floor directly, we must assume that the chief apartments were above. The staircases, above the first few clay steps, were of wood; traces of their supporting timbers were clearly discernible.

The walls of the building were of brick, 0.90 to 0.95 m. thick, and rested on solid stone foundations. The floors were made of thick yellow clay, which also covered some of the outer walls and the low narrow benches which ranged the exterior. Most of the inner walls on the ground floor were coated with rough plaster, which was combed in swirling patterns, perhaps in preparation for the application of a finer surfacing layer. In the north vestibule, however, and more particularly in the eastern parts of the building which we have only begun to clear, the plaster is smooth and carefully applied, perhaps indicating that here too were apartments of state.

The building had been destroyed in a great fire that baked, and so preserved, the walls to a height of more than one meter in many places. Surprisingly few objects were found on the floors; the greatest number of pots came from the small room on the south where we also recovered some 100 clay sealings with impressions of signets bearing linear patterns. The pottery is of characteristic Marly Helladic types; not the latest, since two phases of that period succeeded the destruction, nor yet the earliest, since Early Helladic walls and floors were found below the level of the house.

One is impressed by many features of this building: its regularity, the precision and excellence of its construction, and perhaps most of all by the elegant balance of its planning. Clearly the architect knew his work well, handled geometrical measurements with ease, thought out the scheme of the building, and cared enough about the result to see that his plans were carried out accurately. This was no simple shelter of the kind generally known, up to now, at Early Helladic sites, but a palace of some sort, possibly royal, comparable in scale and quality to buildings of the Mycenagan Age nearly a millennium later.

Much excavation remains to be done before the whole plan and surroundings of the great building can be seen and its history reconstructed. Only a beginning was made this year in clearing the area to the south. Here Mrs. Caskey revealed a long massive stone wall with an entrance gateway and a series of large rectangular rooms; in construction and

orientation this complex seems to bear direct relation to the House of the Tiles, but we believe it was built and first used somewhat earlier. In part it served as domestic quarters; one room, destroyed by fire, contained a series of complete vessels, bowls and saucers, several spouted "sauceboats" of characteristic Early Helladic shapes, a fine jug, and a short-handled terracotta teaspoon, remarkably similar in form to metal spoons of today. Further westward on the south flank of the hill, and on the western slope, we excavated exploratory trenches to test the stratified deposits. One of these trenches, supervised by Mrs. Bikaki and Miss Heath, provided new information about the contours of the mound at various periods and yielded some few remains of the Neolithic settlement, which must be an object of intensive investigation in future campaigns. In other soundings Miss Phylaktopoulou uncovered part of an Early Helladic house with a curving wall, and cist graves of the Middle and Late Helladic periods. Graves of this type and plain interments have been found in surprisingly large numbers throughout the inhabited area. We have not yet instituted a search for outlying cemeteries. At the end of the campaign the pottery and other objects were transported to the museum at Corinth, where they are to be cleaned, mended, recorded, and studied during the months to come. It is a formidable but highly interesting mass of material, promising almost as many revelations in the mending room as at the place of discovery. John L. Caskey 1 September 1954 Excavations ASCSA 1954.07.jpg

# UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO EXCAVATIONS AT THE ISTEMIAN SANCTUARY, 1954

The work began on April 28, 1954 and continued until June 12, 1954. The maximum number of workmen employed was thirty-seven. Evangelos Lekkas of Corinth served as general foreman.

The excavation staff consisted of the following members:

Field Director

Field Assistants

Oscar Broneer

Gustavus F. Swift, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

Esther A. Smith, Ryerson Fellow from the University of Chicago

Chrysoula Kardara, Assistant, National Museum, Athens

George V. Peschke, Athens

Oliver Unwin, R.I.C.S., London

Emile Seraf, Athens

Artist

Surveyor and Architect

Photographer

#### I. The Temple of Poseidon

The entire area covered by the Temple of Poseidon was excavated in the course of this season. Beneath the floors of the fifth century B.C. temple were found many wall blocks, early roof tiles and other material from an archaic building, the predecessor of the Classical temple. Associated with that building we discovered a deposit containing archaic pottery, mostly of the sixth century B.C., 127 silver coins, with a few exceptions coins of Aegina and Corinth, many bronze and iron implements, most of them so badly corroded as to be unrecognizable, and some better preserved metal objects. There are two bronze bulls, one in perfect condition, two human figures, one male and one female, partly melted into shapeless lumps, one miniature gold bull (1 cm. long) of exquisite workmanship, a fine sealstone representing a running athlete, three Egyptian scarabs, various beads and trinkets, and numerous fragments of helmets and bowls of bronze.

Of the Classical temple very little remains in situ. Some blocks of the foundations for the north colonnade, of the north and south cella wall and of the north inner colonnade still remain in their original position. Fragments of columns,

triglyphs and other architectural pieces found within the area will permit at least a partial restoration of the building. Many of the marble roof tiles and one small piece from a lion's head spout of the fifth century temple were found on the slope of the hill along the north temenos wall.

The fifth century building was severely damaged in the fire of 394 mentioned by Xenophon (Mellenica IV, v. 4) and extensive repairs were made in the fourth century. Some of the columns, but not all, appear to have been replaced and the cella walls were partly taken down and restored in the fourth century. The most conspicuous remains of this restoration are the sections of horizontal and raking sime and other parts of the marble roof. The horizontal sime of the fourth century building is a particularly fine creation, with large lion head spouts alternating with tall palmettes cut in the same blocks as the sime.

The temple restored in the fourth century appears to have been several times repaired during the Roman period. This is indicated by large quantities of thin marble slabs for the veneer which the Romans used for recovering the walls. The floor also seems to have been paved with marble slabs at the same time. The temple plan does not appear to have been altered in Roman times. Pausanius' laconic statement that the temple was not very large in size still remains an enigma.

The utter ruination of the building dates from the time of Justinian I, when a new fortification wall was thrown across the Isthmus and an extensive fort was built some 400 m. to the east of the temple area. Many of the blocks used in this fortification can be recognized as belonging to the Temple of Poseidon. In most cases, however, these have been so extensively recut as to render them unrecognizable. In the debris covering the temple site was found a hoard of 270 bronze coins of the sixth century after Christ. Most are coins of Justinian, a few of his successors, Justin II and Tiberius II, and some small pieces of earlier times. The hoard was probably buried before the end of the sixth century.

# II. The Temenos

The Temple of Poseidon was surrounded by a temenos, the latest remains of which date from the Roman period. They may be connected with the donations of Priscus Licinius Inventianus, the Priest of Poseidon, who repaired many of the structures of the Isthmian sanctuary at his own expense. On the north side there was a simple temenos wall with rubble construction topped with a coping of poros blocks. Along the west end and the south side of the temenos were colonnades in the Ionic order. Their full extent has not yet been determined.

# III. The West Reservoir

Beneath the foundations for the colonnade at the west end of the temenos was found a reservoir with an intricate plan. It consisted of an irregular shaped basin with two stairways leading down from the higher area and with a bench on the west side. Close to it is a small water tank which received its water through a terracotta pipe from a circular cistern in the southeast corner of the area. A broad passage extending southward from this cistern still remains to be excavated. The pottery found within the reservoir indicates a date in the late Hellenistic period. Most of the pottery fragments belong to coarse water jars, but one comparatively well preserved amphoroid krater has conspicuous handles decorated with circular shields and plastic snakes crawling up the handles and looking into the interior of the vase.

#### IV. The Theater

The ruins of the theater are located approximately half way between the Temple of Poseidon and the Fortress of Justinian. The supporting walls for the upper part of the cavea are conspicuous landmarks in this area. At the end of the campaign a trench 60 m. long was dug through the building. No seat blocks were found, but there are some poorly preserved cuttings in the clay indicating the lines of seats. The orchestra appears never to have been paved and there are no traces of a stage of the Roman type. There are well preserved walls of the skene and part of the sill for a proskenian was uncovered.

# V. The Justinian Fortress

A section of the Justinian Fortress and one of its towers was uncovered in an effort to discover additional fragments from the Temple of Poseidon. The masonry is particularly fine for its period. A few unrecognizable fragments from the temple were uncovered in the fill, but they proved of little value for the restoration of the building. Among the surprising discoveries in this area was the upper part of an inscription, in poor state of preservation, which proved to fit the top of an inscribed block found in the Agora at Corinth some twenty years ago.

## VI. Excavations on the Ridge

On the ridge overlooking the site, where in 1952 a gold earring was discovered, a considerable area was excavated this season. The highest point of the excavated sector contained a sanctuary, if one may judge from several small deposits of undecorated miniature vases found in the vicinity. The lower

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI EXCAVATIONS AT NESTOR'S PALACE, PYLOS, 1954

In a third campaign, completed during the summer of 1954, the American section of the Helleno-American expedition, which is conducting archaeological explorations in Western Messenia, continued its work of clearing the Mycenaean palace at Epano Englianos between the villages of Chora and Koryphasion. Funds to make the excavations possible were generously provided by Professor and Mrs. W.T. Semple of Cincinnati. Members of the staff were Miss Marion Rawson, Mrs. Blegen, Mrs. B.H. Hill, Watson Smith, Demetrios Theocharis, Piet de Jong, Robert J. Buck, Emmett L. Bennett, Jr., and Lord William Taylour.

The principal entrance to the palace was discovered on the southeastern slope of the hill, almost directly in front of the megaron. It is an elegant propylon, which had in each façade, inner and outer, a single fluted wooden column standing between antae. One doorway opened through the center of the transverse wall. Many successive coats of stucco, painted red, still remain in place on the decorative ring-bases of the columns; they indicate that the gateway was constantly kept in good repair. The southwestern lateral wall is missing, having been demolished in modern times by intruders who carried away its stones. Masses of fallen plaster, bearing traces of frescoes, lay on the stucco floor.

Farther to the southwestward, beyond the Archives Room, a complex of three rooms was partially exposed. In one of these apartments, evidently a pantry, were heaped up more than 550 vases of some 20 different shapes. They had been stored, in an orderly arrangement by shapes, on wooden shelves that ran around the four walls of the room. Most of the pots are undecorated, but some examples bear painted patterns. Below the floor of the pantry is a well-built drain that carried off water toward the edge of the hill to the southwest.

A third area of digging to the southwest of the vestibule and the portico of the megaron revealed several small rooms, which had suffered great damage from the fire that destroyed the palace and from plunderers in search of building material. Scanty remains of a stairway ascending to the upper story had survived. Access to this quarter was provided by a passage from the court of the megaron that led around the southern anta of the portico. It is possible that there was also a doorway opening toward the southwest from the vestibule.

In our most extensive area of excavation a large part of the northeast wing of the palace was uncovered. It was accessible from the northeastern side of the vestibule through a doorway which opened on a long corridor that ran from southeast to northwest alongside the megaron. Opposite the door

is a stairway built of stone blocks; eight steps were found still in situ. Measurements indicate that the whole flight originally comprised 21 steps with an aggregate rise of ca. 3.255 m. to the floor level of the upper story. The corridor, the southeastern end of which has not yet been reached, was cleared to a length of ca. 24 m. A doorway, some 4 m. beyond the stairway, opened into a small lobby, from which one could pass into a suite of five storerooms. Four were almost empty of remains except for numerous fragments of carved ivories and painted plaster that had fallen from the upper story. The fifth contained a dozen pithoi and more than 20 other vessels, many of them decorated with good patterns. The apartments on the floor above presumably belonged to the ladies of the royal household, who seem to have possessed many valuable trinkets of carved ivory.

Farther to the northwest the corridor communicated with a transverse passage which led to a large magazine in the northern corner of the palace. Remains of 16 pithoi were found along the four sides of the room, which was also provided with an axial row of four bases of quartzite, probably for wooden posts that supported the ceiling. Another door near the end of the corridor opened southwestward into a second magazine directly behind the Throne Room.

The northeastern limit of the northeast wing is also the exterior wall of the palace on this side. It was built of handsome squared blocks of poros on the outside face, with an inner backing of rubble. So far as exposed, to a length of ca. 25 m., it is preserved generally to a height of two courses. Outside is a great mass of fallen blocks, lying as they fell when the wall toppled over. Six or seven courses can be recognized in the wreckage. Dowel holes in the top of the second course, as preserved in situ, served to fasten a great horizontal timber; and similar evidence among the fallen stones indicates that at least one more beam was laid higher up in the walls. The irregular ashlar masonry originally rose to a height of nearly 3.50 m., supporting the crude brick wall of the upper story.

Among the miscellaneous objects recovered in 1954 some 50 additional inscribed tablets and fragments of tablets deserve mention. They came chiefly from the neighborhood of the Arhives Room, but two fragments and a label were found in the northeast wing. In and about the propylon were salvaged many fragments of a silver cup with inlaid decoration: in its upper zone it bore a row of bearded human heads in gold and niello, and the vessel was much like a shallow cup discovered by Tsountas in a chamber tomb at Mycenae (Eph. Arch. 1888, Pl. 7). The ivories, which have already been mentioned, include many delicately worked pieces.

During the season of 1954 substantial progress was made

in the cleaning and study of the numerous fragments of frescoes found in preceding campaigns. We are much indebted to Dr. Platon, Director of the Herakleion Museum, and to the Greek Archaeological Department, for putting at our disposal the services of Chief Technician Zacharias Kanakis. He and Watson Smith cleaned all the accumulated material and many interesting pieces were revealed. The more important have already been studied and recorded in watercolor drawings by Piet de Jong. Two scenes represent combats of helmeted warriors. Several fragments seem to be from shrines closely similar to the well-known triple shrine from Knossos. Men and women appear, seated or walking in processions, and there are motives from animal, marine, and plant life.

Carl W. Blegen