

AGORA EXCAVATION SUMMARY 1966

EXCAVATION BENEATH THE MODERN ROAD SOUTH OF THE  
THESEION AND THE SOUTHWEST FOUNTAIN HOUSE (Section K; K v. XXII)

During the summer of 1966, excavations were carried out beneath the modern Asteroskopeion Street which runs east to west between the north slope of the Areosagus and the South Square complex at the south side of the Agora. This report concerns the excavation of the portion of this road bordering the south side of the Theseion and the Southwest Fountain House. This area is at the south edge of Section K where it borders Section ST', and lies approximately within grid coordinates J15 to J16 on the Agora plan. The 5.00m. width of this cut was set by the width of the road bordered on both sides by the remains of modern house walls, and its length was 65.00m. eastward from the southeast corner of the Theseion. This portion of the excavation is adjacent to the 1965 cut made across the road at the junction of South Stoa II and the Theseion (cf. K XXI, 1965). The length of the excavation was divided into five consecutive trenches separated by 1.00m. wide martyrs, the first four trenches being 10.00m. long and the last 18.00m. to 20.00m. ending in a diagonal scarp to accommodate the fence and detoured road southwest of the Southwest Fountain House.

The general purpose of the excavation was to investigate the course of the roadway and its adjacent monuments at successive levels of use from Turkish times back to the Classical Greek period. A more specific objective was to bring the area of the road down to its classical disposition and to explore the line of the Great Poros Aqueduct exposed in the Theseion-South Stoa II cut of 1965 and south of the southwest corner of the Theseion in 1960.

Because of the proximity of bedrock to the surface in this area, there was no neat stratification of the different periods of habitation, but a very compact series of settlements, each one utilized or disturbed by its successors. Because of this high rate of disturbance and the scarcity of integral monuments, the archaeological evidence seems to lend itself to a chronological rather than a strictly monumental treatment. Therefore, in this summary we will discuss the succeeding periods of habitation in terms of the evidence, devoting particular attention to

the more striking monuments within these periods. Locations will be pin-pointed in this report by refer<sup>e</sup>nces to the grid coordinates of the Agora plan and also to trench numbers which are relevant to the plans and descriptions of the excavation notebook, K XXII. Small finds will be referred to by their catalogue numbers.

#### MYCENAEAN TO ARCHAIC PERIODS

Our digging this season yielded no structural remains of pre-Classical times, but we did find a number of Mycenaean and Geometric potsherds, usually in mixed fills, which amply attest to the presence of these cultures. One small pocket of exclusively Geometric sherds, including one catalogued piece with the painted figure of a horse (K <sup>P 27567</sup> Finds, 3749), was found in thrown bedrock between two Byzantine pithoi just south of the Theseion in Trench III (I16). This group of sherds must have been thrown out from a Geometric deposit during the construction of one of the pithoi. The major portion of the road south of the Theseion was disturbed by its Byzantine inhabitants down to bedrock, and the surviving remnants of the Classical period here rest on bedrock or are cut into bedrock. This would explain the scarcity of evidence from the Mycenaean and Geometric periods - they were simply all destroyed in the construction or pillaging by later peoples at the level of bedrock, or they are still covered by Classical structures. At the west end of the excavation, south of the Southwest Fountain House, there was a higher frequency of Geometric sherds mixed with Classical pieces around the lower levels of the 5th and 4th century B.C. walls. Since the excavation this season did not reach the lowest levels of these walls or the bedrock beneath, future digging may still yield evidence of the earlier civilizations here.

#### FIFTH AND FOURTH CENTURIES B.C.

Near the end of this season, we discovered our oldest and least expected monumental find, a religious sanctuary at the road intersection at the west end of Trench V (I16), southwest of the Southwest Fountain House. Since there was not sufficient time this season to complete the excavation of this temenos, we can only

present the evidence to date, leaving a definitive statement on the nature, size, and date of the monument until it is completely examined. In its present disposition, the temenos consists of an enclosure of two polygonal walls radiating southwestward at a 60 degree angle from a corner, and running into the scarp at the west end of our final trench. The northern wall, exposed to a length of 30.00m., lies at a slight NE-SW angle, while the other wall angles 60 degrees further to the southwest and is 2.70m. long at the point where it enters the scarp. The wall is constructed of Acropolis limestone in intermittent large blocks with smaller blocks of irregular shape between, all very neatly fitted. At the outer surface of the wall the blocks are hewn flat and evenly alligned, but on the inner side ~~they~~ <sup>I 7012</sup> are roughly cut and uneven. At the corner of the structure, against the northern wall, a marble boundary stone (K Finds, 3770), inscribed with the words TO HIERO, marks the area as a sacred precinct. The acute 60 degree angle of the wall suggests that the shape of the hieron will prove to be triangular, possibly an equilateral triangle. Though we may not yet have reached a road level contemporary with this structure, it seems certain that its shape has been influenced by its location at the junction of our east-west road, a road coming around the west slope of the Areopagus, and a branch leading into the Agora at its southwest corner. A triangular precinct would not be unparalleled. Two triangular abatons have been excavated on Delos, one behind the Agora of The Italians (Exploration Arch. Delos, XIX, appendix 2, p.205; Guide, #71, p.125), and the other north of the Sacred Lake (Guide, #63, p.120).

Only the outer side of the northern wall of the hieron was dug to significant depth, ca. 1.00m. below the highest point of the preserved wall, and even this did not uncover the bottom of the wall or any sign of wall socles. The fill from the lower 0.50m., which includes the level of the horos, yielded many sherds which on close examination proved to be all datable within a span of 30 years. Despite the consistency of this pottery, it is from fill which lay at the level of the horos and above it, and therefore its chronological relationship to the temenos can be known only when the

lowest levels of the entire wall are excavated. The bulk of the pottery is red-figured and black-glazed sherds with glaze of generally good and sometimes excellent quality. A number of bases survive which have very neatly profiled feet, the underside displaying well defined glazed zones and circles with a pleasing balance of light and dark. Black-glazed cup bottoms with impressed decorations of very good quality are represented in this deposit. The most common of these decorations is a centerpiece of palmettes surrounded by an ovule or tongue border. Some pieces have on the outside a painted motif of red-figure rays radiating up from the base. This pottery, though much more fragmentary, is remarkably close in quality, shapes, and design to a deposit found in a well on the Kolonos Agoraios in 1937 which Corbett assigns to the years between 425 and 400 B.C. (Corbett, P., Attic Pottery of The Late Fifth Century, *Hesperia*, v.18, 1949, p.298). A black-glazed one-handler (K <sup>P27571</sup> Finds, 3769) from the fill around the horos of the hieron is paralleled by a one-handler treated by Corbet (op. cit. Catalogue, #74, p.330; Pl.93). Further indication of a date ca. 430-420 for this one-handler is found in several such bowls from the well (R 13=4) under the Library of Pantainos ( cf. P2310, P2311, P2312, P2313, P2314, P2315, P2316, P2317, and the pottery summaries in the notebook for Section Iota, vol. X, p.1887). Throughout this level of fill there was a great number of marble working chips. Their presence even above the level of the boundary stone would preclude their coming from the carving of this stone, unless they were dumped nearby during the construction of the temenos and then thrown back into the area when the horos was covered up, which seems unlikely.

Only one small layer of fill was removed from inside the temenos walls, and this was near their upper limit. Very little pottery was found, but distinctive was a piece of black-glazed ware with rouletting on the inside. Corbet (op.cit., p.304) dates the introduction of this decoration to the second quarter of the 4th century if not somewhat before.

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The boundary stone of the hieron (K Finds, 3770) has been excavated 0.30m.

down from its top surface. Its width and thickness are 0.27m. and 0.16m. respectively. The upper 10 centimeters of the face has been smoothed as a background for the inscription, TO HIERO, which is carved in very neat letters of 0.028m. height and 0.26m. spacing. The rest of the inscribed face, the top, and the sides are roughly but very evenly picked. If the road passed this side of the hieron as it seems, the excellent condition of this stone and its inscription would suggest that it was protected by a curb stone or that it was buried soon after its erection.

It is interesting to speculate on the date of the inscription from its spelling and letter forms, though ultimately the excavated pottery from the entire hieron must provide both the date of the edifice and its boundary stone. The absence of the word horos as understood, and the genitive of the place name is neither unusual nor indicative of a particular period. The omicron ending for the genitive singular makes the inscription certainly pre-Eucleidean, but this is already apparent from the pottery at the highest level of the stone. The initial H for the spiritus asper is used even into the 4th century. Most interesting is the use of the tailed rho. Miss Jeffery states that the tailed rho "appears in the last years of the sixth and early part of the fifth centuries" (Jeffery, Local Scripts of Archaic Greece, p. 67). Actually it is not found in public documents long after the middle of the 5th century, though there is the possibility of archaism in a religious boundary stone of this kind. The public boundary stones of the Peiraeus (I.G. I<sup>2</sup>, 887; 892), which use the tailed rho, are dated 479 - 450 B.C., but this dating is based primarily on the letter forms. However, an Attic decree concerning the settlement of Chalcis (I.G. I<sup>2</sup>, 39) can be dated independently of its letter forms, for it surely followed immediately after the reduction of Euboea (autumn, 446 B.C.) of which Chalcis was the key. This decree uses both the tailed and tailless rho, which suggests a transition ca. 446-445 B.C. and the terminus ante quem of the tailed letter. The absence of the tailed rho in Attic decrees after 445 corroborates

this. (For other inscriptions from the Agora using the tailed rho vid. Jeffery, op. cit., v. XVII, 1948).

A final 0.15m. layer of fill was removed outside the northern hieron wall, below that described above, in an attempt to find its foundation. The bottom of the wall was not reached and digging was suspended at this point, but beneath this layer was a hard gravel road stratum. The layer of fill above this stratum contained a mixture of sherds which included two Geometric terra-cotta horse heads, a few Archaic pieces, one piece of black-figure, and some sherds of 5th century red-figure and black-glazed wares.

Another deposit near the east end of this excavation yielded pottery similar to the late 5th century pieces around the boundary stone of the hieron. This closed deposit was from a square settling basin cut in bedrock at the north end of Trench II south of the Thesieion (J16), 1.30m. below the modern road surface. The basin is lined with rough-picked limestone blocks of 0.20 - 0.30m. thickness, closely fitted and bonded with mud mortar, a construction similar to that of the hieron in material and quality, if not size. The pottery all points to the end of the 5th century B.C. as the date of the filling of the basin: fine red-figure and black-glazed sherds with the impressed palmette decorations, one intact black-glazed salt dish (K Finds, 3739),<sup>P27564</sup> and a near-complete black-glazed one-handler (K Finds, 3740).<sup>P27565</sup> The pottery here also is similar to the Kolonos Agoraios well deposit of 1937 (For the small black-glazed salt dish, cf Corbet's treatment of a nearly identical piece. op. cit. Catalogue, p. 33, #69; Pl. 93). This square settling basin is partially on the line of the east-west Poros Gutter bordering the south side of the ancient road, but its depth below the Poros Gutter trench and its pottery suggest a date earlier than that of the gutter.

This season's excavation continued the investigation of the Great Poros Aqueduct

westward from the junction of South Stoa II and the Theseion where it was exposed in 1965. As was the case in the previous years cut, the 4th century roadway above the aqueduct was disturbed to bedrock in the Byzantine period, but of the aqueduct in our area, only intermittent sections of the massive poros floor slabs and side walls survived the pillage in the same period. The full height of the side walls here survived only near the southeast corner of the Theseion where the pillagers had begun their work. The small amount of fill removed from the specus yielded one distinctive piece of Roman pottery, a nearly whole Arretine, bell-shaped, flange-rimmed cup (K Finds, 3765). <sup>P27570</sup> Robinson dates a similar Arretine cup to the middle of the 1st century A.D. (The Athenian Agora, v. 5, Pottery of The Roman Period, G 72, P22084). Other nearly identical Arretine vessels in the Agora study collection are P8064 and P9155. A piece of Arretine ware of this period was also found in the fill of the Poros Aqueduct in the 1965 cut just a few feet east of this year's find. It would seem that the aqueduct should have functioned until its replacement by the Hadrianic system, but perhaps it fell into careless use early in the 1st century A.D. with the water flowing thereafter above the collected sediment in the specus rather than through the channel cut in the floor blocks.

At the point in line with the southeast corner of the Theseion, the Poros Aqueduct makes an abrupt 15 degree turn to the northwest, runs in this line for 15.00m. to the south wall of the Theseion where it turns again 15 degrees directly westward and follows the back wall of the Theseion to the Southwest Fountain House. This turning of the aqueduct represents the change of its course as well as the course of the ancient road above it from the back wall of South Stoa I to the back wall of the Theseion. This year we did not pursue the course of the Great Poros Aqueduct beyond 21.00m. west of the southeast corner of the Theseion since it had already been excavated in that area in the summer of 1960.



From 21.00m. west of the southeast corner of the Theseion to the hieron southwest of the Southwest Fountain House the ancient gravel road surface was exposed, except where it had been built over in Roman times or cut into by the construction of Byzantine pithoi. Throughout much of this distance, stretches of the Poros Gutter or its trench were uncovered bordering the south side of the road. This channel, made of the same soft, cream-colored poros as the ancient aqueduct, is a continuation of the gutter which was first found in 1955 bordering the road in Section T (cf. T XXIX, pp. 5695 ff.; T XXX, 5865 ff.). The width of the road between the Poros Gutter and the south wall of the Theseion is ca. 5.00m. A piece of the Poros Gutter preserved in situ at the south side of Trench I (J15) indicates a 15 degree turn of the gutter in line with the turn of the Poros Aqueduct and roadway at the southeast corner of the Theseion.

South of the Southwest Fountain House, at the martyr between Trenches IV and V (H16), a tributary of the Poros Gutter was found joining at right angles to the east-west channel from the direction of the Areopagus to the south. This tributary proved to be of the same dimensions and in perfect alignment with a section of poros channel found 7.00m. to the south in Section ST' in 1932 (cf. ST', III, pp. 420 ff.). A poros channel of similar dimensions was found further to the east in Section ST' also in 1932 (ST' II, pp. 255 ff.), but we were unable to discover a sign of any connection to our gutter from that direction.

A search for the walls of ancient buildings which must have sat south of the road proved profitable only in the area south of the Southwest Fountain House. The line of Byzantine pithos construction which was so destructive south of the road in the eastern trenches moved northward and spared some of the ancient walls in the western end of the excavation. The preserved wall fronting on the Poros Gutter extends 12.00m. to the corner of the hieron but does not join with it. At this point it must have had a side wall to the south which would have been destroyed by the

construction of a modern gas-line manhole which we removed here. This ancient house seems to have been built later than the hieron and possibly covered an intersecting road which ran beside the southwest wall of the sanctuary. The length of the front house wall is interrupted by a gap of ca. 1.50m. which served as an entrance to one house or an alley between two houses. At right angles to the front walls at this gap the only remnants of side walls project ca. 1.50m. to the south but, are extensively damaged from the laying of the modern gas line.

The house walls are constructed of large rectangular (1.10m. by 0.40m. by 0.40m.) blocks of Acropolis limestone. We uncovered two courses of wall blocks of which the upper was in some places pillaged. The lower course lies well below the level of the Poros Gutter, but these blocks may be foundation, and do not necessarily indicate that the building antedates the gutter. But as in the case of the hieron, there was not sufficient time this season to excavate these walls to their full depth or to examine all of the fill within their borders. It appears that this building may originally have fronted on an earlier road and survived to be used after the construction of the Poros Gutter and road surface at a higher level. The appeal of this idea can be seen in a section drawing made across this area from the Southwest Annex to the Southwest Fountain House (cf. K, XXIII). A stratum of hard road metal, containing early 4th century pottery, discovered in the scarp above the Annex, slopes upward to the south beneath the upper road surface and gutter, and toward the lowest level of our excavated wall. The lowest level of fill dug from the floor within the ancient house contained sherds predominantly of the first quarter of the 4th century B.C. The stamped and painted decorations of this pottery show a marked decline in quality from the late 5th century wares, particularly in the careless stamping of palmettes and rendering of zones and circles on the undersides.

A search for further walls just to the east of this house uncovered instead a well which may have been contemporary with this house. Since this well was only

excavated at the upper surface this season, there was insufficient pottery for an accurate dating. The well was partially covered by a wall of the Late Roman or Byzantine period and by the modern house wall at the south side of the trench. It had caved in at the top, leaving a gaping mouth of 2.00m. width, but many pieces of a poros limestone well rim found in the fill indicate that the diameter of the mouth was much less before the cave-in. The position of these poros blocks at the highest level indicates that the rim fell in after the well was filled. The grand style of this rim and its material would suggest that the well was constructed in the building program which produced the Poros Aqueduct of the Poros Gutter.

#### HELLENISTIC PERIOD

The excavation of the road south of the Theseion and the Southwest Fountain House yielded no distinctive structures of the Hellenistic times, though much Hellenistic pottery was found mixed with sherds of earlier and later periods. The pottery found around the Poros Gutter tributary excavated in Section ST' in 1932 suggested a Hellenistic date for that channel, though it could have been a later addition to the main east-west gutter. But it is not inconceivable that the whole Poros Gutter system is Hellenistic. Another piece of stray Hellenistic evidence was a columnar grave monument (K Finds, 3771) used as the cornerstone for a late wall in Trenches I and II (J15-16) south of the Theseion. This type of monument with its circular molding near the top is recognizably Hellenistic as are the size and style of its inscribed letters. Even the name of the honored dead, Berenice of Antioch, strikes a Hellenistic note. The absence of distinctly Hellenistic structures in contrast to the amount of pottery from that period is probably best explained by the fact that the transition from the Classical period is not characterized by any wholesale destruction and rebuilding, but simply the continued use of the durable structures of the earlier period. This phenomenon is well exemplified just adjacent to this road in the Hellenistic remodelling and use of the Theseion and the Southwest Fountain House.

## ROMAN PERIOD

The remnants of Roman habitation in the area of the east-west road were fairly extensive, especially south of the Southwest Fountain House. As pointed out above in the discussion of the Great Poros Aqueduct, the Romans continued to use that water channel, possibly to the time of Hadrian. The Poros Gutter was also used at least in the early Roman period, though it must have served a different function than it had in Hellenistic or Classical Greek times. Most of the destruction of the gutter is clearly the result of Byzantine rather than Roman disturbance. But the channel did not serve the Romans as a road gutter, for there was much Roman construction on both sides of the channel and on top of the early road surface at the level of the gutter. It is doubtful that the Romans could have moved the path of the road much further northward toward the Southwest Fountain House, for Roman house walls have been found even in that area. It may be that there was no extensive road along this line in Roman times.

That the Romans used the poros channel possibly as a fresh-water aqueduct is suggested by surviving embankments that were built up at its sides, and in two places, cuttings in the north side of the poros gutter from which water was channeled in finger-marked, ~~and~~ terra-cotta tiles. One of these channels leads from the gutter down to the stone steps southwest of the Southwest Fountain House, where sections of the terra-cotta tiles were found in place. The fill from the modified Poros Gutter indicates that it went out of use in Late Roman times. One pocket of this fill, south of the Southwest Fountain House, yielded two intact terra-cotta lamps of the 4th and 5th centuries A.D. (K Finds, 3760, 3761) and many coins which unfortunately were illegible.

A complex of water systems of different Roman periods was uncovered just south of the southwest corner of the Theseion at the west end of Trench IV (I16). The chronological

order of the channels is difficult to ascertain because of their compact condition. Here a stretch of Late Roman wall of stones, bricks, and white mortar runs parallel to the Poros Gutter on its north side. In the line of the wall, either cut from the wall or built into it, was a gap of ca. 2.00m. which had been filled in later times by a much cruder construction of small field stones and mud. When this crude addition to the Late Roman wall was removed, two water systems were discovered running diagonally to the northwest through the line of the wall. The first system consisted of a square settling basin directly in the line of the wall with a terra-cotta **tile** leading from it. This basin, 0.45m. by 0.47m. in area and 0.37m. deep, is a neat construction, lined with marble and limestone slabs on three sides and with red terra-cotta roof tiles on the bottom and fourth side. The fill of the basin contained Roman pottery to the 2nd century A.D., making it a good deal earlier than the Late Roman wall whose line passes over it. No further trace could be found of this system beyond the single length of <sup>drain</sup> **tile** at its outlet. Its trench must have been disturbed by the construction of the second channel which lies adjacent to it and is bonded by white mortar to the east section of the Late Roman wall. This bonding indicates that the channel is either contemporary or later than the wall, and in either case much later than the channel with the settling basin. The Poros Gutter to the south had been trimmed on one side to accommodate this terra-cotta line, whether to supply it or to allow it to pass over the poros channel is difficult to tell. Though very little of the terra-cotta tile of this water channel survives, its trench was easily traced. The trench was excavated along a 3.00m. diagonal to the northwest where it turned directly to the west and continued 9.50m. until its course was lost near the scarp left by the removal of a modern house adjacent to the Annex of the Southwest Fountain House. The pottery from this trench was a mixture of Classical Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman.

A third terra-cotta water channel of 0.15m. wide, **drain** tiles was discovered

imbedded in the base of the western section of the Late Roman wall. It is at the same level as the channel with the settling basin, and has the same type and size of terr<sup>a</sup>-cotta tiles. These two systems were probably contemporary, the western channel being buried in the building of the Late Roman wall. Excavation to the west of this wall showed the continuance of this water-channel in the form of a low wall-like base with a plastered, convex top surface which carried the terra-cotta tiles. Traces of the terra-cotta pipe still remain stuck in the plaster atop this small aqueduct. Its course to the west is preserved until cut off by the scarp south of the Annex to the Southwest Fountain House.

#### BYZANTINE TIMES

The excavation has produced evidence of great activity in this area during Byzantine times, particularly in the 11th and 12th centuries. We have mentioned the Byzantine pillage of the massive blocks of limestone from the Poros Aqueduct at the southeast corner of the Theseion. The pillaged aqueduct trench, as well as the disturbed bedrock south of it, yielded a great quantity of 11th and 12th century glazed sherds, and Byzantine coarse ware with its characteristic gritty grey fabric flecked with white and the surface browned by firing. In the area of the three western trenches (I16 - H16), 21.00m to 65.00m. west of the southeast corner of the Theseion, the Byzantine remnants are more dramatic. Within this area is a line of 14 large pithoi, or storage pits, the largest accumulation of such structures ever found in the area of the Agora. These pithoi are quite similar in shape, size, and construction. They are lined with a 0.02-0.04m. thickness of tough grey plaster which is backed by a 0.20m. thick wall of either sun-dried brick, stone, kiln-fired brick, or some combination of these. The flat floors are from 1.00 to 1.50m. in diameter, depending on the shape. The average preserved depth is 1.50m. though, if their bee-hive shape were preserved to its full height, culminating in a small opening, the total depth would be ca. 2.00m.

The upper portions of the Byzantine pithoi, as well as the structures that housed them, were totally demolished in Turkish times as can be seen from the many pieces of Turkish pottery found in the upper fill of these pits. The bulk of identifiable pottery from the fill of the pithoi was from the 11th and 12th centuries, including pieces of 11th century Byzantine white-ware. In one of three pithoi in Trench III (H16) south of the Theseion, together with pottery of the 11th and 12th centuries, was found a bronze coin in very good condition which was positively identified as the issue of Alexius I, Comnenus (2 April 1081 - 15 Aug. 1118). (For nearly identical parallels of this coin cf. Wroth, Imperial Byzantine Coins in The British Museum, p. 551-2, Pl. LXV, no. 18-21.).

The position and direction of these Byzantine storage pits form an irregular line which begins south of the Poros Gutter, gradually cuts across the gutter toward the northwest, and continues to the scarp at the limit of our excavation southwest of the Southwest Fountain House. The construction of these pithoi was the greatest single factor in the destruction of the Poros Gutter. Five of them were sunk in the line of the Poros Gutter, and two of these have left neat circular cuts through it. The section of the gutter which ran in front of the three pithoi in Trench III, south of the Theseion, was entirely pillaged by the Byzantines, and chunks of its poros limestone were used in the construction of the pithos walls. Two of the pithoi in Trench V (H16) south of the Southwest Fountain House have been cut through by the construction of later pithoi of similar shape and size. This similarity, as well as that of the pottery found in them, suggest that the later pithoi are replacements within the Byzantine period rather than later intrusions by the Turkish. Judging from the size and number of these storage pits, this area must have been a commercial center rather than a domestic settlement in the 11th and 12th centuries of the Byzantine era.

## TURKISH AND MODERN TIMES

As we mentioned in the introduction to this report, the shallow depth of the bedrock beneath Asteroskopeiou Street usually resulted in the wholesale disturbance of the monuments of any settlement by its successors. As the Byzantine levels were taken over by the Turkish, so the Turkish fared at the hands of the late 19th and early 20th century builders. In the upper meter of modern road fill there were few remains of Turkish houses, but vast quantities of mixed potsherds from the Turkish and Modern periods. This disturbance is due largely to the modern water and gas lines which were laid beneath the modern road throughout its length. The most destructive of these utilities was the gas pipeline which was laid 0.80 to 1.00m. below the modern road surface, cutting through the Turkish, Byzantine, and Roman levels, and, south of the Southwest Fountain House, damaging the Poros Gutter and house walls of Classical Greek times.

One of the identifiable Turkish structures which survived to be unearthed in this excavation was a house wall with a stone curb beside it, adjacent to the Turkish Cistern above the south east corner of the Theseion. The pottery around the lower part of this wall was early Turkish up to the 17th century. Also recognizable as 16th century Turkish was a cobblestone road surface, or courtyard paving, at the southwest corner of Trench II (J16) south of the Theseion. It was situated 1.00m. below the modern road surface, and its dimensions were 1.50m. wide by 5.20m. long. The pottery above the cobblestones was predominantly 16th century Turkish, and below, a mixture of Roman and Turkish to the 16th century.

## CONSERVATION

Besides the strictly archaeological work done this season, much effort was given to the conservation of previously excavated monuments. Some of the earth removed from the east-west road was used as fill in the area of the South Square.



The demolition, during the excavation, of the modern house walls at the north side of the road, provided stone for the building of a retaining wall at the south side of the Southwest Fountain House, and the building-up of the walls around the precinct of the Theseion. After the season's end, the modern house walls bordering the road on the south were demolished, and wall-building continued in the South Square area.