

THE SANCTUARY OF DEMETER AND KORE ON ACROCORINTH

PRELIMINARY REPORT III: 1968

(PLATES 75-79)

IN 1968 work was resumed in the Sanctuary of Demeter, located on the north slope of Acrocorinth.¹ In the previous four seasons of excavation a large segment of the classical sanctuary had been cleared, revealing a temple or cult building located approximately in the center, a rock-cut theatral area to the south of it, subsidiary cult rooms of archaic and classical date to the southeast, and a series of sizable rooms, including at least two banquet rooms, stretching across the north side. Moreover, evidence of Roman building was found in the form of a stoa to the east of the classical temple, a long screen wall overlying the destroyed north wall of the temple and extending across roughly two-thirds of the width of the Sanctuary, and a small porch or dedication just north of both temple and screen wall.

In the latest campaign we concentrated on the area around the Northwest Banquet Hall where evidence had been found in 1965 of an adjoining room to the west (Pl. 75). Working in two brief sessions in the summer and fall of 1968,² we extended the area of excavation to west and north of the Hall and explored the terrace to the east of the Hall and north of the Roman porch. There were substantial architectural remains in all three areas. The remains included two more rooms (8, 9)³ in the building complex of the Northwest Banquet Hall (10, 11), one of which (9) contained a lustral basin; underlying the Hall and to east and north of it there were several earlier buildings, including at least three dining rooms (3, 6, 13), two rooms

¹ For reports on previous activity cf. R. S. Stroud, *Hesperia*, XXXIV, 1965, pp. 1-24, figs. 1-2, pls. 1-11; XXXVII, 1968, pp. 299-330, pls. 87-99.

² Work was carried out in two periods of four to five weeks each, with a small crew of 6 to 10 men under foreman D. Papaioannou and supervised by the writer. I am indebted to Professors Henry Robinson and Ronald S. Stroud and to Mr. Charles K. Williams II for making it possible for me to carry out this work. I wish to thank Mr. Williams, Director of the Corinth Excavations, for his generous counselling on and off the site, Kathryn Butt for her help with inventorying, and Professor Alan Boegehold for his aid in matters epigraphical. Professor Alfred Bellinger, Corinth Fellow for the fall term, most kindly identified the coins. The plans were drawn by Mr. Williams, the photographs were taken by Misses Ino Ioannidou and Lenio Barziotou and Mr. Michael Goldstein.

For financial assistance I wish to express my gratitude to the American School of Classical Studies and to the American Association of University Women Fellowship Foundation.

³ Numbers in parentheses refer to room numbers on plans shown in Figures 2 and 3. Only this year's discoveries are included on the plans.

with benches (1, 7) and a small room (4) of uncertain purpose. These structures, which appear to date to the late 6th or early 5th century B.C., extend the limits of the Sanctuary further north than previously thought. Moreover, they raise the question of the direction of expansion of the Sanctuary and make even more important the boundary stone found *in situ* in 1965;⁴ a second came to light this year.

The same types of pottery, figurines, votive cakes and offering trays found in previous seasons continued to appear this year in undiminishing quantities, although with fewer isolated finds of fine quality. In general the finds continue to support the historical conclusions previously reached by Ronald Stroud.⁵

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS

The architectural remains can be divided into two general periods: into period II falls the large ashlar-built building (8-11) of the late classical period, the Northwest Hall, part of which (10-11) was excavated in 1965; to period I belong the earlier structures of rubble and mud brick (1-7, 13) which underlie and surround this. It is understood that the divisions are very general ones which apply to this area only. They are introduced in order to emphasize the fact that a fairly clear sequence of building exists in this part of the Sanctuary. Until this season early levels were confined to the southeast corner of the excavations. This year's results, however, have shown that the archaic and early classical Sanctuary must have been much larger than previously thought and that much of the later classical building took place within the archaic limits.

Before discussion of the remains, a brief word on chronology and pottery will perhaps be useful. The chronological conclusions given below are of necessity general, this for several reasons. Most of the pottery from the excavation falls into the class of votives—kalathiskoi, miniature vases, phialai—which continue with little change for a long period of time. This type of pottery is dominant in the 6th and early 5th century B.C. levels and makes them especially difficult to define. What supplementary fine and coarse wares turn up are generally poorly preserved, and only rarely can partial or whole profiles be reconstructed. The abundance of the pottery is also a problem. The amount of discarded pottery is so great that by classical times sherds must have permeated every shovelful of earth. Accordingly, pottery from foundation trenches, levelling strata and filling-in operations must, in many cases, be taken as only a very general *terminus post quem*. A third problem is the slope of the site. This is considerable, as the photographs show, and aggravates the erosion of strata and contamination by downwash and collapse of walls. As a result, dates are generally given in terms of a century or, for refinement, a half-century.

⁴ For discussion of the boundary stone cf. *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, p. 330.

⁵ *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, pp. 300-301.

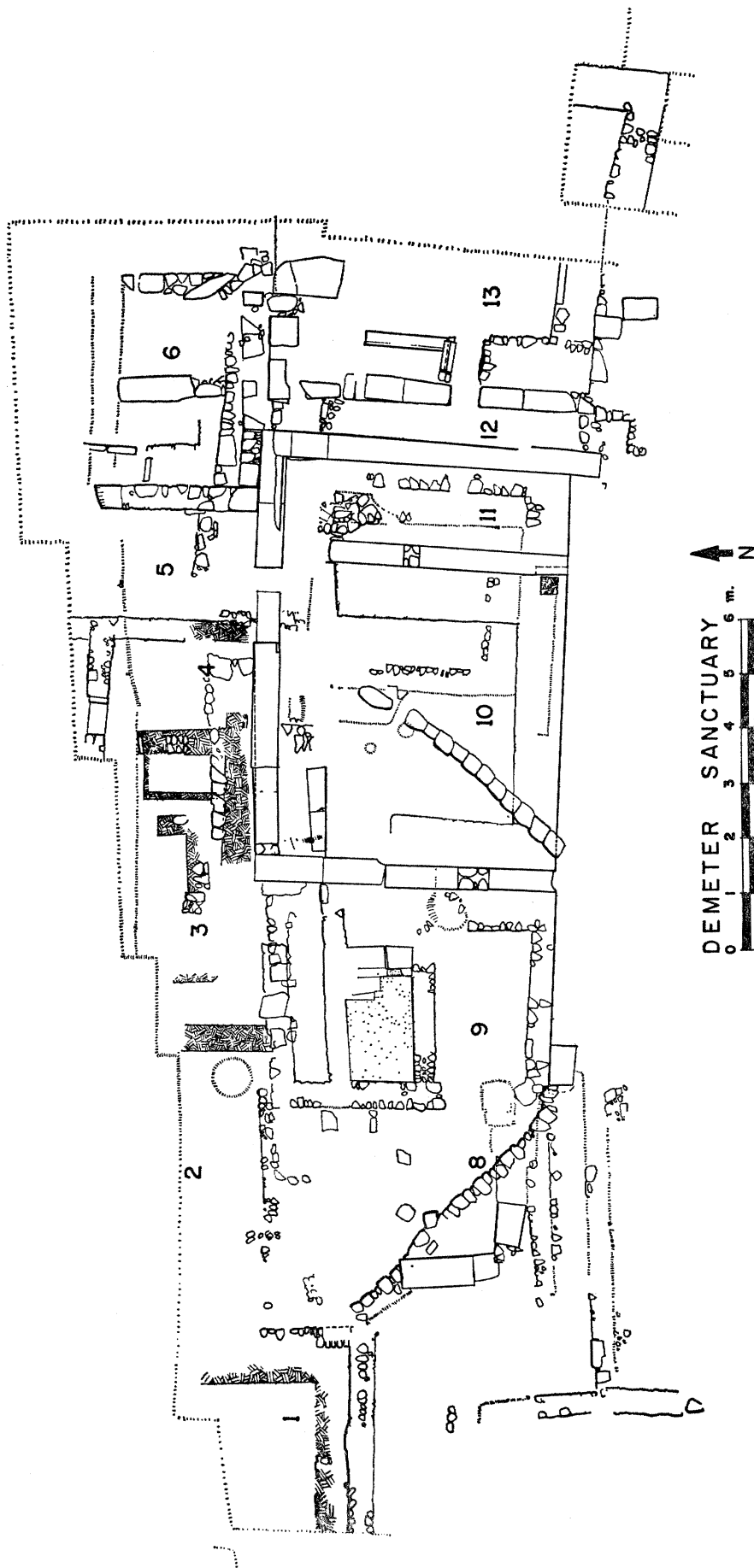


FIG. 1. Northwest Banquet Hall, General Plan of 1968 Excavation.

PERIOD II
(Figures 1, 2)

Rooms 8-11

The Northwest Banquet Hall, which was the focal point for this year's work, was largely excavated in 1965.⁶ There remained only some destruction debris and fallen wall blocks overlying the south couch of the main room (10). When cleared, the couch proved to be in good condition (Pl. 76, a). Its dimensions were already known from the previous season. It provided, however, added information on the

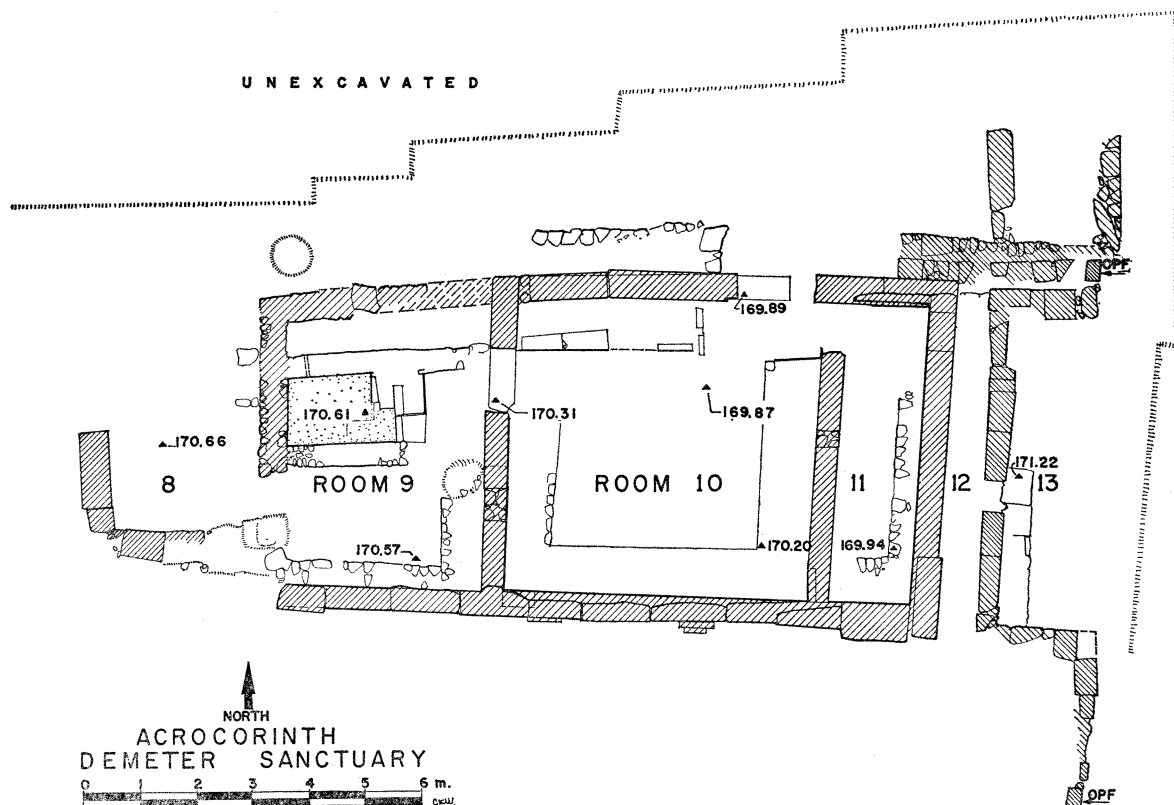


FIG. 2. Northwest Banquet Hall, Period II.

construction of the couches, preserving a strip of the original clay plaster surface along the south wall of the room. As in 1965, no other sign of furnishings was observed; tables must have been wooden and portable.

Excavations immediately west of Room 10 exposed two adjacent rooms (8, 9) adjoining it (Pls. 76, b, 77, a). The new rooms are in part delineated by the continu-

⁶ The Hall is described in detail in *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, pp. 315-317. Cf. pl. 90, d with this year's photographs, taken after removal of remaining debris. The Hall is designated on the general site plan, *ibid.*, pl. 96, by the letter "N."

ation of the Hall's south wall and are clearly part of the same building complex. Of the two rooms the eastern (9) is the better preserved. Its south wall stands to a height of 1.25 m. above the floor, interior furnishings are clearly preserved at foundation level, and a rubble wall, which may represent the northern limits, stands 0.30 m. high. The south wall of the western room (8) is largely pillaged, although its line is clear; part of the west wall is preserved, one course high; the north limits are missing. The floor level in the new area lies *ca.* 0.60 m. higher than that in Room 10 because of differences in grading of virgin soil. Late Roman building in the complex, which caused little damage in the dining room, cleared most of the destruction fill in the new rooms, bedded as it was on the higher floors. As a result, the finds from this area were much fewer. Of the 10 inventoried objects, only two (a bronze arrow-head, MF-68-130, and a red-figured sherd with graffito, C-68-279) were found in classical levels. The remaining were found in late Roman fills and from the late Roman wall. Pottery was also meager and poorly preserved.

The eastern room (9) measures 4.00 m. from east to west and *ca.* 4.65 m. from north to south. The south wall, a continuation of the south wall of Room 10, is ashlar-built and 0.45 m. thick, as is also the east wall, which divides Room 9 from 10. North and west walls, 0.40-0.50 m. thick, are of rubble. In the north half of the room, 0.60 m. from the north wall, is a large rectangular basin or lustral area. The basin, 1.90 m. by 1.20 m., is built on three sides of rubble walls 0.40 to 0.50 m. thick; the west wall which is the thickest also serves as the partition wall between east and west rooms. The floor and interior surfaces of the walls are plastered with a fine lime cement. In the northwest corner is a narrow drain for the escape of water. The fourth or east side of the basin is bordered by a narrow rim 0.02-0.07 m. high and 0.12-0.16 m. thick, built in part of an upright poros slab and in part of stucco. In front of the rim there is a low step 0.35 m. wide, 0.10 m. high and 1.20 m. long to facilitate entrance into the basin. Beyond the step a sloping clay floor extends 1.10 m. east to the east wall of the room. It is not clear how high the walls of the basin originally stood. The west wall probably rose to ceiling height since it divided rooms 8 and 9. South and north walls, however, may only have stood waist or shoulder high, allowing people to see what was going on inside the basin. The north retaining wall of the basin extends slightly beyond the basin and step to the east, and at a level below the floor continues all the way to the east wall of the room. It seems unlikely, however, that it closed off the area to the north of it.

The basin underwent several modifications. Evidence of an earlier phase can be seen through a break in the northeast corner of the floor. In its original form, the basin was 0.25 m. shorter; it was not quite rectangular but cut in at the southeast corner, perhaps to fit a step.⁷ The basin was later enlarged to its present size, a new rim built and the step added. When these changes took place is not known.

⁷ Cf. Figure 2; dotted line below elevation mark indicates earlier limits of basin.

To the south of the basin is a small area with low benches on two sides and a clay floor. Unlike the dining couches, these benches are constructed entirely of rubble. They measure 0.30 m. high; the eastern bench is 0.75 m. wide and *ca.* 2.20 m. long, the south bench 0.45 m. wide and 2.80 m. long. The remaining free floor space measures 2.70 m. by 1.70 m.

Two doors give access to the adjoining areas. One communicates with Room 10 through the east party wall at the point where north and west dining couches are interrupted. It is approximately aligned with the entrance into the basin.⁸

A second door connects the south half of the room with Room 8 to the west. The door measures 0.65 m. wide. Its north jamb is formed by the anta-like projection of the basin west wall. The south jamb is formed by a jog in the south wall, which swings north at this point for 1.20 m. and turns west. The blocks no longer exist, but impressions of them can be seen in the clay floor.

Room 8 measures 2.40 m. by at least 1.70 m. Its south wall falls somewhat north of that of Room 9. No interior furnishings were found except for a single line of stones at the base of both south and west walls. Six superimposed clay floors were cleared, all of which were considerably burnt. A concentrated patch of burning against the east wall of the room produced many burnt olive pits.

What was the purpose of these two rooms? The stucco basin clearly served as a lustral area. The close relation to the dining room (10) suggests that lustrations took place in conjunction with meals.⁹ The area with benches to the south may have served as a waiting room for those about to bathe. Alternatively, the benches may have served as offering tables on which objects could have been placed. Room 8 with its burnt floors may have been used as a kitchen or utility area where meals could be prepared or water heated. Certainly no other evidence has as yet come to light to suggest where this was done.

The date of the construction of the Northwest Banquet Hall can be fixed with some certainty. Excavations immediately north of Room 10 brought to light a low bench of rubble and earth *ca.* 0.90 m. wide, built along the outer face of the north wall of Room 10. The bench overlay an earlier couch (Room 3) which had been partly cut by the foundation trench of the later wall. Pottery from foundation trench and bench fill was abundant. Among the latest pieces are a fragmentary bell krater of the early 4th century B.C. (Pl. 79, a),¹⁰ a saucer with bevelled rim and a banded

⁸ It should perhaps be noted that there are no clearly identifiable remains of the door here, such as a pivot hole. However, that a doorway existed is clear not only from the break in the couches, which must otherwise have been continuous, but also by the interruption in wall courses of the party wall where the west couch ends. The step up from dining room to Room 9 is high (0.50 m.) but not impossible.

⁹ A similar basin occurs in the South Demeter Sanctuary at Morgantina, but not in conjunction with a dining room. Cf. R. Stillwell, *A.J.A.*, LXIII, 1959, p. 170, pl. 42, figs. 15, 16.

¹⁰ C-68-244 a, b. a) Max. pres. dim. 0.088 m.; b) H. 0.06 m., est. diam. 0.27 m.

unguentarium of the second half of the 4th century B.C., and a bronze coin of the "Pegasos-Trident" series (68-1263). The Hall was therefore erected in the late 4th century B.C., a date which agrees with the stacked masonry of Rooms 10 and 11 and, as we shall see, with the filling in of buildings belonging to Period I.

Removal of the destruction debris in Room 10 permitted verification of conclusions proposed in 1965 regarding the abandonment of the building, namely, initial abandonment of the building in the 2nd century B.C. undoubtedly at the time of the Mummian sack, collapse of the walls in the 1st century after Christ, subsequent filling in of the building with discarded votive pottery. A good sampling of late Hellenistic (Pl. 79, c, d)¹¹ and early Roman pottery (Pl. 79, e)¹² corroborated these dates.

The new rooms, 8 and 9, were less productive. Pottery overlying the floor showed a broad chronological range, from 6th to 4th or early 3rd century B.C., and may simply have been thrown in after the rooms were abandoned.

As in Room 10, there was evidence of late Roman building within the newly exposed area. A poorly built rubble wall, incorporating many discarded architectural members, was constructed in the western room at a sharp angle to the existing walls. A coin of Arcadius (A.D. 395-408) places construction sometime after the end of the 4th century after Christ.¹³

Room 13

A narrow corridor (12) 0.75 m. wide separates the Northwest Banquet Hall from Room 13 to the east. While Room 13 dates originally to Period I and was largely filled in later, part of it was in use contemporaneously with the Northwest Hall. That part consists of the west wall together with 1.75 m. of south and north walls. Against the west wall was constructed a bench or platform of rubble and tiles 0.50 m. wide, 0.40 m. high and at least 2.50 m. long. A rubble wall extended south 2.75 m. from the south wall of the room to the boundary stone found in 1965. Immediately in front of the north wall a second boundary stone was placed in line with the first. The boundary stones clearly divide the east part of the Sanctuary from the Northwest Hall to the west. Their close relation to the existing walls of Room 13 strongly suggests that these walls were incorporated as part of the division, forming an exedra overlooking an open terrace to the east.

¹¹ Pl. 79, c: C-68-280, H. 0.08 m. Pl. 79, d, left: C-65-490, H. 0.06 m., base diam. 0.053 m., restored mouth diam. 0.23 m. Pl. 79, d, right: C-65-487, H. 0.035 m., base diam. 0.038 m., restored mouth diam. 0.11 m.

¹² C-65-322. H. 0.16 m., base diam. 0.13 m., mouth diam. 0.30 m.

¹³ 68-1238. When the late Roman rubble wall was cleared in Room 10 in 1965, it was thought then to date to the 3rd century after Christ. In view of this year's discovery, it seems most likely that its date should be lowered to the late 4th or early 5th century after Christ.

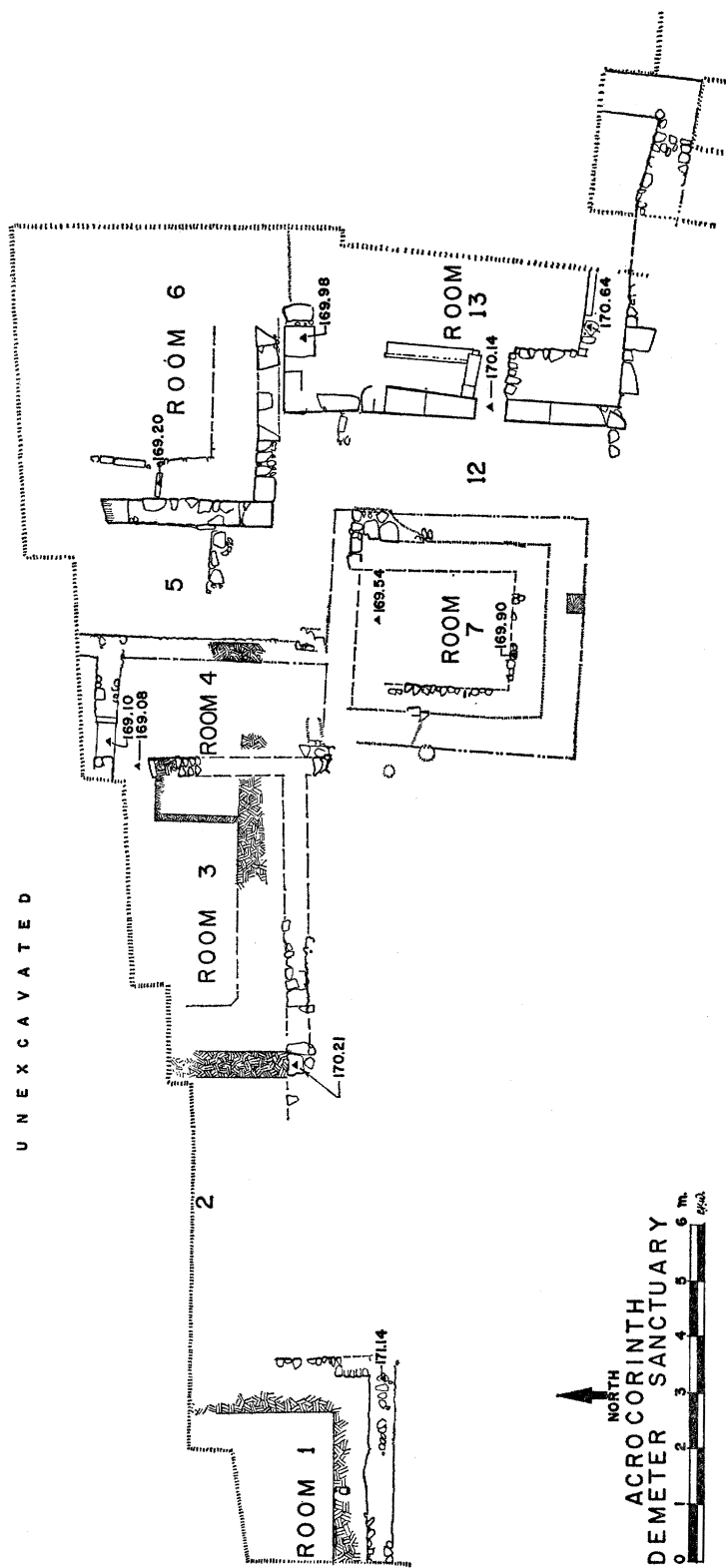


FIG. 3. Northwest Banquet Hall, Period I.

PERIOD I

(Figures 1, 3)

Room 7

Tests made below the floors in Rooms 10 and 11 revealed remains of an earlier building with benches. The building underlies the east half of Room 10 and all of Room 11. It was largely destroyed when the overlying dining complex was erected; its north wall was completely obliterated by the later north wall, most of the east bench by the partition wall between Rooms 10 and 11. Cuttings were preserved for south, east and west walls, as well as much of south and west benches, and from this evidence most of the plan of the room could be recovered.

Room 7 is deeply cut into the hillside; its floor lies nearly 0.40 m. below the dining room floor. The walls, which average 0.60 m. to 0.65 m. thick, are constructed of earth and clay bedded on levelled virgin soil, with the exception of the northeast corner which rests on a rubble socle. Internal dimensions of the room are 3.10 m. by about 3.20 m. Against east, south and west walls there is a bench of earth and clay, with a single row of stones to mark its line. The bench measures 0.60-0.65 m. wide and *ca.* 0.40 m. high. The exact length of the bench on east and west sides is not known. However, there is nothing to suggest that it continued along the north wall. No evidence for a door could be found. There are two possible locations for it, one in the north corner of the east wall, with the stone socle there as its south jamb, the other in the north wall leading into Passageway 5.

Room 7 has the same orientation as the later dining room, but there is nothing to suggest that it served the same purpose as that room. The bench is too narrow to accommodate diners. It must have been used as either a seat or a table on which to place votive offerings.

Pottery recovered from floor and bench place construction of the room in the late 6th century or the early 5th century B.C. at latest. The room continued in use until its abandonment to make way for the later dining room.

Room 13 (Pls. 77, b, 78, a)

A broad passageway (12) 1.65-1.75 m. wide borders the east wall of Room 7 and separates it from the large dining room (13) to the east. The new building has been only partially excavated. The west half has been cleared to floor level; test trenches have located the southeast corner with part of the east return, giving the complete dimensions of the building. The south half of the room is generally well preserved. The south wall stands to a height of 1.20 m. above the floor. The north half is largely gone; 1.90 m. of the north wall exists at foundation level, while the remainder has been pillaged or dismantled. In size the building can be compared to the later Room 10 in the neighboring Northwest Hall. It measures 6.35 m. by 6.50 m.

or 5.25 m. by 5.40 m. internally. The construction is rather careless. The 0.55-0.65 m. thick south and east walls are built almost wholly of rubble with occasional worked poros blocks. The 0.45 m. thick west wall more closely resembles the ashlar construction of the Northwest Hall with large poros blocks, not always evenly trimmed, and patchings of rubble. The north wall consists of irregular poros blocks and rubble packing.

A narrow door, 0.57 m. wide and preserved to a height of 1.00 m., is located on the west side, 1.95 m. from the southwest corner of the room. It communicates with the passageway (12) and, through this, with the areas to south and north. The small size of the door suggests that it was not the main entrance; a second larger door undoubtedly stands in the unexcavated portion of the north side.

Within the excavated portion of the room couches run continuously along the walls, broken only by the door. The couches measure 0.80-0.90 m. wide and 0.55 m. high. The south couch is constructed of poros slabs 0.10 m. thick, set on end, which serve as a retaining wall for the earth fill of the couch proper. The retaining wall of the south half of the west couch is of rubble; it extends from the south wall, interrupting the south couch, to the south jamb of the door. The north half of the west couch is built with poros slabs and a discarded architectural block. The architectural block, which has faint traces of an inscription along the upper face, measures 1.50 m. long and forms the outer wall of the couch.¹⁴ The south return consists of two superimposed poros slabs which stand 0.75 m. high and screen the couch from the door. The north return, which divides this couch unit from the next to the north, was also formed by a poros slab now pillaged.

From the size of the room and the arrangement of the couches it is likely that nine or ten banqueters could be accommodated at one time. However, the couch lengths are peculiar and do not divide into even units.¹⁵ Part of the irregularity may be due to remodellings, most obvious in the west couch. Two superimposed clay floors were cleared with the room; while south and northwest couches go down to the lower floor, the southwest couch rests on the upper floor. Quite possibly in the original construction the west line of couches was continuous; for reasons not yet clear a second entrance was needed on the west. A door was opened, the affected part of the couch rebuilt, with the resulting division of space. This would perhaps explain the small size and careless execution of the door, as well as the existence of substantial packing in the doorway below the upper floor.

¹⁴ Block appears to right of door in Plate 78, a. For more complete description of block and inscription cf. below, p. 309, note 21.

¹⁵ The couch lengths are as follows: South (est.), 4.35 m.; West, south half, 1.90 m.; West, north half, 2.00 m.; East (est.), 4.60 m. Individual couch lengths are estimated at: South, 3 units of 1.45 m. each; West, 2 units of 1.95 and 1.50 m.; East, 3 units of 1.55 m. each. Because of the probable interruption of a door, the north side is unknown.

The date of the construction of the room cannot be given with certainty. The north wall is built against the back wall of Room 6 to the north. Room 6 can be dated to the beginning of the 5th century B.C., and Room 13 is therefore sometime after this. The room was certainly in use in the 4th century B.C., for pottery over the lower floor can be dated to the late 4th century. This also dates the remodeling within the room. The building appears to have gone out of use in this form almost immediately thereafter. Tumbled wall blocks and rubble, together with pottery like that over the lower floor (Pl. 79, b), overlay the upper floor.

There was some subsequent rebuilding: the west door and the passageway were blocked up and the exedra formed, already described above (p. 303). In Roman times the room was entirely filled in to create a large terrace in front of the Γ -shaped porch.

Room 6 (Pl. 78, b)

Immediately north of Room 13 part of a second dining room (6) was excavated. Like Room 13, Room 6 is an independent building which communicates with the rooms to south and west by means of a broad passageway (5) 2.00 m. wide. It falls 1.60 m. west of Room 13, creating an elbow between Passageways 12 and 5.

Parts of south and west walls were exposed and enough of the interior to make clear the room's function. The south wall is preserved for a height of 0.70 m. and a length of 3.15 m. Beyond this point its line can be traced for at least 1.85 m. by the cutting for it in virgin soil. The west wall has been cleared for a length of 3.05 m. from the southwest corner. Walls are built in stacked work and average 0.40 m. thick.

A continuous couch runs along the two exposed sides of the room. On the south side it is built of rubble with earth fill. On the west side thin poros slabs are used as in the south couch of Room 13. Another poros slab, set at right angles to the west wall, divides the couch length into two individual units of 1.65 m. each.

The plan of the room is complicated by the numerous modifications made to it. The initial construction can be dated to the beginning of the 5th century B.C. on the basis of pottery derived from the south wall foundation trench. At a subsequent period the rear wall was strengthened by the construction of a second rubble wall against its inner face. The south couch was accordingly moved forward 0.35 m. The room went out of use as a dining hall in the second half of the 4th century B.C. Pottery on the floor included skyphoi of Attic type, kyma kantharoi and much cooking ware (Lot 5639). It was filled in to the level of the couch tops. Two walls running north-south were erected within the room, one on line with the west wall of Room 13, the second 1.50 m. further east. Moreover, at some point the east half of the south wall was dismantled and the boundary stone, already mentioned above, set up 3.35 m. from the southwest corner of the room.¹⁶ The boundary stone (Pl. 79, f) is of

¹⁶ The boundary stone is described in detail below (p. 310).

the same type as that found in 1965 and described in the previous report. It falls roughly on line with the latter and, like it, faces east. The exact chronology of these stones is problematic. However, several points are clear from this year's work. This new marker clearly cuts through the clay surface of the south dining couch and therefore here postdates construction of the couch. The stone is built onto the double south wall with rubble and is not part of the original construction. It can only have been erected when the south wall had been partially dismantled. It therefore seems most likely that both stones were set up in their present positions in the 4th century when the room was filled in. This does not, however, necessarily date the carving of the inscriptions.

Room 4

On the west side of Passageway 5 lies a small room (4) 1.74 m. wide by *ca.* 3.00 m. long. The exact length is not known because the south wall is no longer preserved. The walls, preserved to just above foundation level, are of plastered mud brick on stone socles and average 0.40 m. thick. Two doors open into the room: one in the west corner of the north wall communicates with an unexcavated room to the north; the second stands beside it in the north end of the west wall and leads into the adjoining Room 3. Nothing was found within the room to suggest its use. Its relation to Room 7 to the south is also unclear. It is aligned with the northwest corner of that room. Whether it shared a common wall with it or abutted against it cannot be known because of the intrusive later north wall of Room 10.

Room 3

Adjoining Room 4 on the west is a third dining room (3). Only the south half has been excavated to date, but walls and couches are well preserved and worthy of description. The interior width of the room is 4.90 m. East and west walls are of plastered mud brick on stone socles and measure 0.40 m. thick. The south wall is of rubble and 0.50 m. thick. A continuous couch runs along at least three sides of the room, interrupted by the door to Room 4. It measures *ca.* 0.80 m. wide and 0.35 m. high. It is built of earth retained by a thin mud brick wall 0.10 m. thick; top and front face are thickly coated with plaster. The clay floor is well preserved. There is evidence in this room too of intermediate phases—a mud brick wall and buttress in front of the south couch—but these are only imperfectly understood and will not be considered here. The building can be tentatively dated to the late 6th century B.C., on the basis of pottery obtained from the east couch fill. Like the other rooms belonging to Period I, it went out of use in the late 4th century B.C.

There are more rooms which belong to Period I, in addition to those described above. Immediately west of Room 3 part of the south wall of one room (2) was exposed. Beyond that are the south and east walls of a room with clay benches (1).

There is evidence that a room underlay Room 8, the south wall of which also abuts against another early wall and floor. These will be examined more thoroughly in future seasons and for that reason are not discussed here.

THE FINDS

During a period of forty-one working days, the excavations produced over 100 baskets of pottery. These ranged from 6th century B.C. to early Roman, with occasional chance finds of Proto-Corinthian. Shapes included votive miniatures, fine ware cups, plates and pitchers, cooking pots and utility vessels. In general, the pottery was the same as that found in previous seasons and described in previous reports.

An estimated 20 to 25 boxes of terracotta figurines also came up from this year's work. These too continued the types already known and published. Noteworthy are the archaic peplophoros with four-legged animal (Pl. 78, d),¹⁷ the fine head of a large-scale figurine (Pl. 78, c),¹⁸ and a small fragment of a votive polos which may be part of that found in 1964-65.¹⁹

In addition to the figurines, there were numerous small fragments of large-scale terracotta sculpture. These are not presented here but are being studied by the author for separate publication.

Twenty-nine coins were found in all, bringing the total for the excavation to 319. One is silver, the remainder bronze. Of the 29 coins 20 were struck at Corinth before 146 B.C. Most of these belong to the "Pegasos-Trident" series; exceptions are a silver hemidrachm with Pegasos and the head of Peirene, and a bronze coin with the forepart of Pegasos and the head of Herakles.²⁰ Five coins are Roman of the 1st to end of the 4th century after Christ, and one surface find may date to the 10th or 11th century after Christ.

Two inscriptions were found this season. The first is a dedicatory inscription re-used in Rome 13 as part of the retaining wall for the northwest couch (above, p. 306). It is a large worked poros block with projecting fascia along top of front and right faces.²¹ The inscription appears below the fascia. The letters are crudely cut and very faint because of subsequent erasure. Only part of the inscription can be read, toward the center of the block: OKPAT. The slant-barred alpha, triangular rho and early forms of kappa and upsilon point to a date in the 6th or early 5th century B.C.

¹⁷ MF 68-300. Pres. H. 0.087 m.

¹⁸ MF 68-291. Pres. H. 0.087 m.

¹⁹ MF 68-301. Max. pres. dim. 0.057 m. For other fragments cf. *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, pl. 97, a, b, MF 11927 A, B.

²⁰ Cf. B. V. Head, *A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum, Corinth*, London, 1899, p. 57, 481, 482, pl. XIV, 12, 13.

²¹ Pl. 78, a, to right of door. L. 1.50 m., H. 0.23 m., max. W. 0.47 m., H. of fascia 0.04 m., Height of letters 0.05 m. Letters begin 0.07 m. above base of block. The block has been left *in situ*, and for this reason it is not clear whether the fascia continues around the two remaining sides.

The second inscription is a boundary stone of the same type as that found in 1965. Deeply carved on a tall poros block, the inscription consists of three letters: OPF (Pl. 79, f).²² The circumstances of finding have been described above, as well as the date, in the latter part of the 4th century B.C. At this time not only Room 6 but all the rooms of Period I had gone out of use and had been filled in. Similar late 4th century B.C. abandonments or destructions have been noted in several buildings in the east half of the Sanctuary.²³ It is possible that all of this activity represents part of an extensive reorganization of the Sanctuary. It is tempting to associate with this reorganization the construction of the temple which lies about 2.00 m. south and immediately east of the line of the boundary stones, and to see the stones as intended to separate the temple and theatral area from the new dining and lustral rooms to the west.

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²² H. 0.76 m., W. 0.38 m., Th. 0.23 m. H. of letters: 0.13 m., Depth 0.005 m. For the stone found in 1965 cf. *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, p. 330.

²³ *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, pp. 304 (Room E), 318 (Rooms J, L), 319 (Northeast Building). The suggested relation of all of these 4th century destructions to each other is as yet tentative, and can be confirmed only when pottery from all areas is examined together.



General View of Northwest Banquet Hall in 1968, from North

NANCY BOOKIDES: THE SANCTUARY OF DEMETER AND KORE ON ACROCORINTH, PRELIMINARY
REPORT III: 1968



a. Rooms 10 and 11 after Cleaning, from North



b. Rooms 8 and 9 in foreground, from West



a. Rooms 8 and 9 with Lustral Basin, from Southeast



b. Room 13, Couches in Southwest Corner, from Northeast



a. Room 13, Excavated West Half, from East



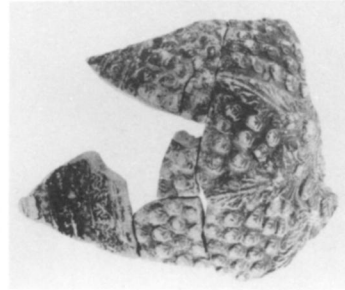
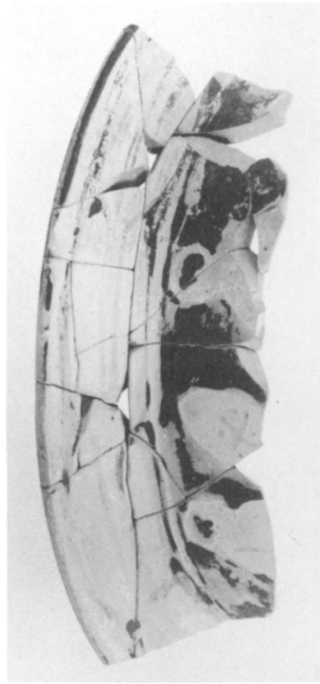
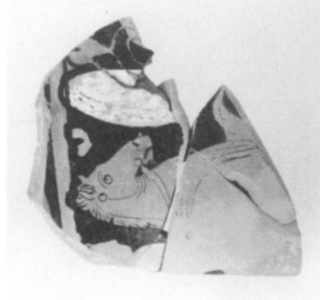
b. Room 6, West Half with Couches, from North



c. Head of Terrecotta Figurine (2:5)



d. Terracotta Figurine (2:5)



a. Red-figured Bell Krater (2:5)

b. Cooking Ware Casserole (2:5)

c.-d. Hellenistic Pottery (2:5)



e. Roman Standing Bowl (2:5)

f. Boundary Stone