

EXCAVATIONS AT PHLIUS, 1970

(PLATES 96–104)

IN the late summer of 1970 a short supplementary excavation was carried out by the University of Missouri, Columbia under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at the site of Phlius in the Peloponnesos. Preliminary excavations had already been carried out at the city in 1924,¹ and our aim was to restudy one of the many areas tested at that time. Work commenced on August 10th and ended on September 5th.²

The area chosen for reinvestigation lies south of the long hill of the acropolis at its west end in the probable area of the agora of the ancient city (Pl. 96, a). Here, the excavators of 1924 had laid bare a portion of a large rectangular building (named "The Palati" by the villagers) and a construction to the north of it, and they had postulated the existence of a theater further to the north where the hill forms a slightly concave slope.³ Work was accordingly carried out in each of these three areas. None of these was completely cleared, owing to the short amount of time at our disposal and to the limited nature of the campaign. Consequently, the few conclusions given below are extremely tentative and liable to modification when further work is undertaken at the site.

THE PALATI

Only partially cleared in 1924, the remains of the building now known as the Palati were probably always visible as they were when work began in 1924.⁴ This

¹ C. W. Blegen, "Excavation at Phlius 1924," *Art and Archaeology* XX, 1925, pp. 23-33; W. R. Biers, "Excavations at Phlius, 1924," *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, pp. 443-458; "The Votive Deposit," above, pp. 397-423. Some work had been undertaken in the nineteenth century, H. Washington, "Excavations at Phlius in 1892," *A.J.A.*, XXVII, 1923, pp. 438-446.

² The staff consisted of the writer as Director, Jane Biers and Harriet Anne Weis of the University of Missouri as trench supervisors (Miss Weis was a graduate student in classical archaeology at the University of Missouri, Columbia and a Ford Foundation archaeological trainee), W. Willson Cummer as architect, and Miss Nancy Shepard as architectural assistant. Aristomenes Arbaroris of Old Corinth served with distinction as foreman. The project was financed by grants from the research council of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Missouri, Columbia.

We are grateful to the American School of Classical Studies and its Director, James R. McCredie, and to the Greek Archaeological Service and Mrs. E. P. Protonotariou-Deilaki, the Ephor for the Argolid-Korinthia, for understanding and assistance with the project. We are particularly indebted to the staff of the Corinth Excavations and to the Director, Charles K. Williams, for cheerful support and cooperation given at a particularly busy time. Our appreciation must also be expressed to Professor Paul Clement, Director of the Isthmia Excavations, for the loan of equipment, and to Mr. Parmenios Demetrios, the mayor of New Nemea, for his constant help and enthusiasm.

³ Blegen, *op. cit.*, pp. 29-30.

⁴ Leake appears to have been the first of the early travellers to have recorded the building,

fact and the prominence of the building itself no doubt led to its plundering which we found to be very thorough in some places. Unfortunately, some activity of this sort apparently had occurred between the first excavation and our investigations, for we found that a number of blocks recorded by the earlier excavators have now disappeared. Moreover, the areas which we investigated were badly disturbed by Christian graves and late walls. These factors, together with the necessity of having to clean out the old excavation trenches, made it impossible for us to clear the building completely in the time at our disposal. We did, however, recover most of the plan (Fig. 1).

The building takes the form of an outer and an inner rectangle, the latter formed of column bases. The outer rectangle, which served as foundations for the walls of the building, is preserved mainly in a single row of blocks forming a rectangle oriented approximately north-south. Most of the line of the foundations has been uncovered except for sections along the east side between old trenches. A probe trench indicated that the north wall of the building had been completely robbed out, at least in the small area investigated (Fig. 1). The pottery from this robbing trench suggests that the plundering took place in the Late Roman Period (fifth-sixth centuries after Christ).⁵ The overall dimensions of the building are approximately 34 m. NS by 25.70 m. EW.

The material employed in the Palati is a hard local conglomerate stone of varying consistency. The blocks in the foundations have their exterior faces roughly dressed, while their interior faces present a more ragged appearance. Patches, no doubt placed during construction, can be seen in various places on the interior face of the foundations.

The construction can best be seen at the southwest corner of the building where at least five courses are now visible (Pl. 96, b). The 1924 expedition cleared to a depth of eight courses at this point. The large conglomerate blocks are laid in regular courses *ca.* 0.46 m. in height and are roughly rectangular although some blocks tend toward a trapezoidal shape. The surface treatment is "quarry face" and many of the blocks show a conspicuous convex surface. The length of each block varies from as short as 0.56 m. to as long as 1.60 m. but the average falls near 1.22 m. The blocks of the upper course average *ca.* 0.80 m. in preserved width.⁶

Our investigations of the Palati, apart from clearing dump from the old excavations, was limited to the east half of the building, primarily in the area of bases 14 and 15. In the short time at our disposal, we were only able to sink two small

which was apparently well known to the villagers. W. Leake, *Travels in the Morea*, London, 1823, III, p. 342.

⁵ The significant pottery from this area is stored in Corinth in Phlius Lot 100.

⁶ This masonry fits somewhat uneasily into Scranton's category D2. Isodomic Ashlar: Quarry Face, which he dates to the late fifth or early fourth century B.C. R. L. Scranton, *Greek Walls*, Cambridge, Mass., 1941, pp. 112, 175-177.

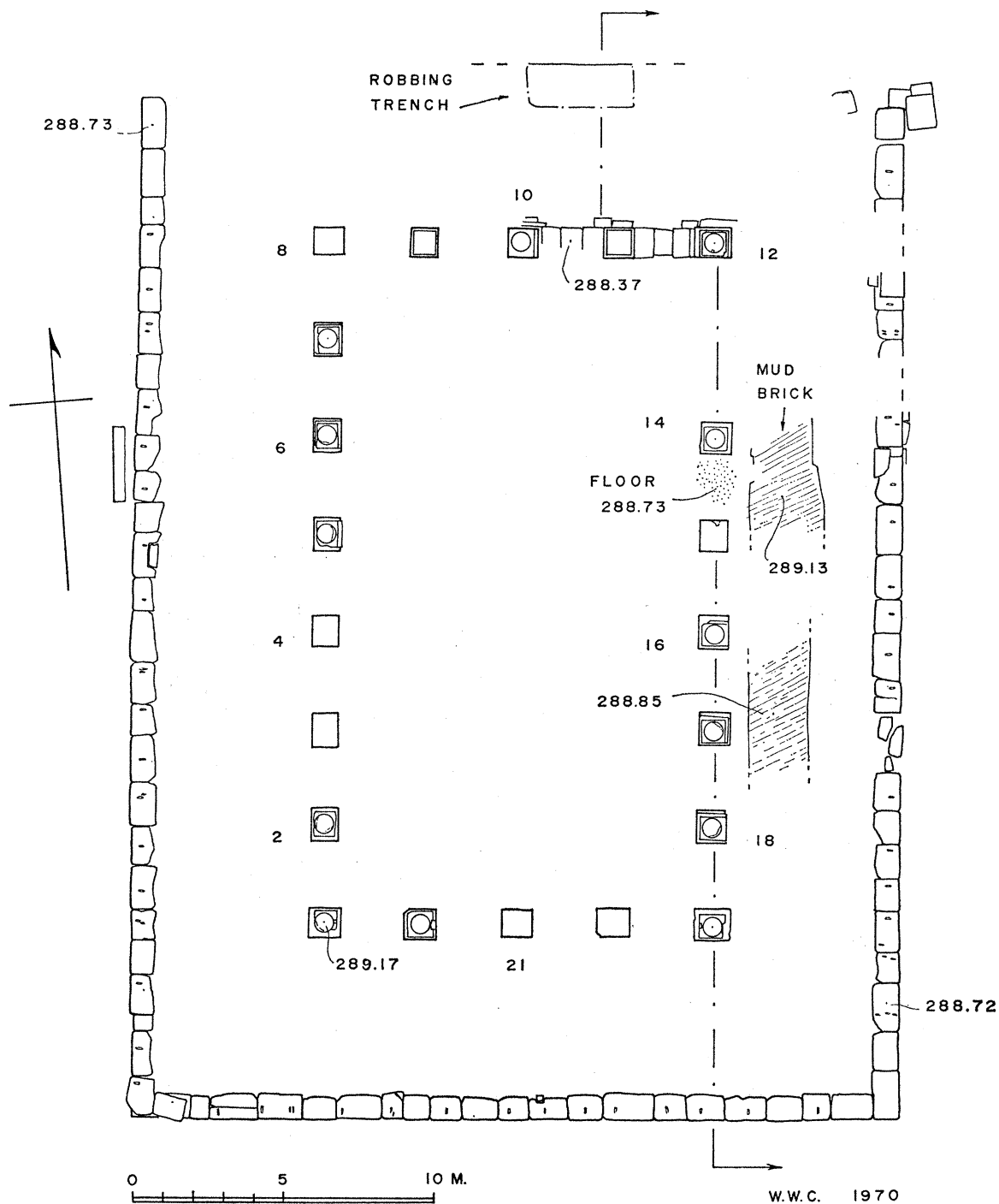


FIG. 1. Palati. Actual State Plan.

test trenches here against the east foundations, one inside and one outside. On the exterior, we were able to isolate a footing trench which was carried down to a depth of 287.32 m.⁷ or 1.42 m. below the preserved top of the foundations here. Five foundation courses were revealed, fairly well trimmed, except for the lowest course which projected somewhat from the vertical (Pl. 97, a).

To the west, inside the building, a similar but extremely narrow trench was detected running against the foundations to a depth of 287.11 m. The blocks here on the interior face of the foundation were hardly worked at all. Only a few sherds were recovered from these two tests.⁸

To the east, outside the foundations, the footing trench was sealed by a thick stratum containing working chips from the walls and a relatively large amount of pottery including Attic and Corinthian wares. The pottery from this working chip level as well as the few sherds from the footing trenches does not appear to date later than the middle of the fifth century B.C.⁹ However, the sherds recovered were badly worn; no profiles could be made up, and our tests were so limited that it would be best to wait until a larger area is opened before definite conclusions can be drawn. The upper surfaces of the foundation blocks exhibit irregularly spaced pry holes indicating the placement of another course above them. Two blocks from this orthostate course survive. One extremely large example was found fallen immediately west of the west wall towards the north end, apparently where it had fallen from the wall (Pl. 97, b). The other, a corner orthostate block, was found lying east of the northeast corner of the building (Fig. 2). From its position it would appear that its displacement may have been due to the robbing trench which destroyed the north wall of the building.

The orthostate from the west side of the building carries pry holes on its upper surface indicating another course, possibly a string course from which the walls were carried up in mudbrick. No clamps appear to have been employed in the building.

Within the exterior foundations a rectangle measuring 23.60 m. NS by 13.80 m. EW is formed by conglomerate column bases. Two rows of eight bases each form the long sides of the rectangle while five bases each form the north and south sides. Of the total of twenty-two bases, one was excavated by us (14) and one (13) has yet to be cleared.

The bases rest upon rectangular foundation blocks which at least at the north are supported by a foundation wall. A deep test trench dug in 1924 exposed the foundations in this area (Fig. 3, Pl. 97, c). The upper course is composed of well cut conglomerate blocks, regularly laid. The course below this, however, is less care-

⁷ All elevations relate to sea level and derive from a bench mark erected on the acropolis by the Greek Geographical Service.

⁸ Phlius Lots 117, 118.

⁹ Phlius Lot 119.

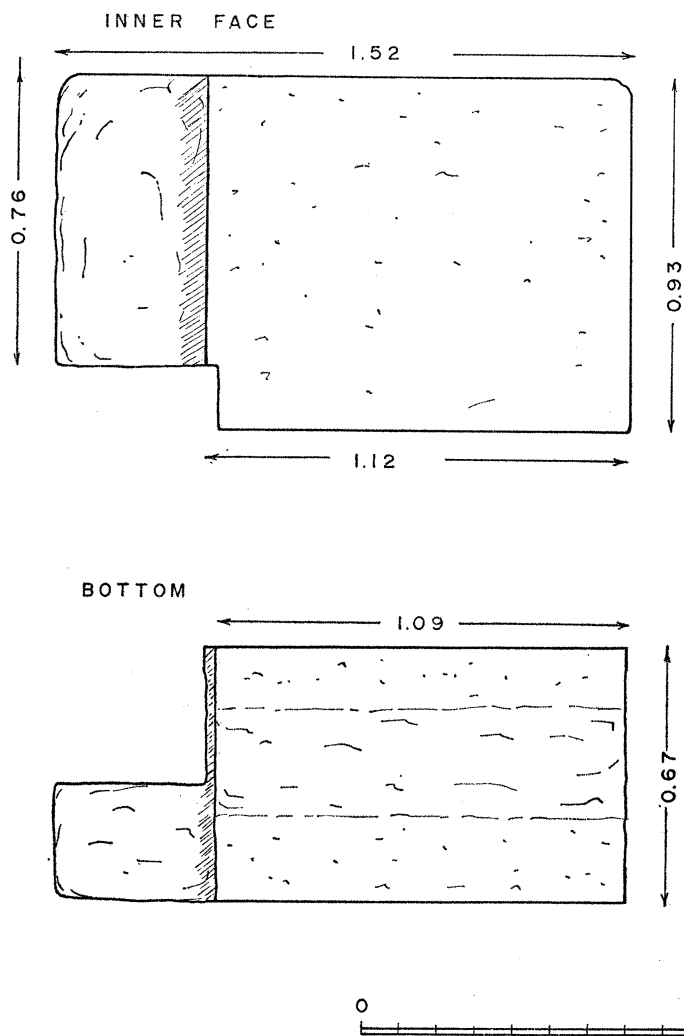


FIG. 2. Palati. Corner Orthostate Block.

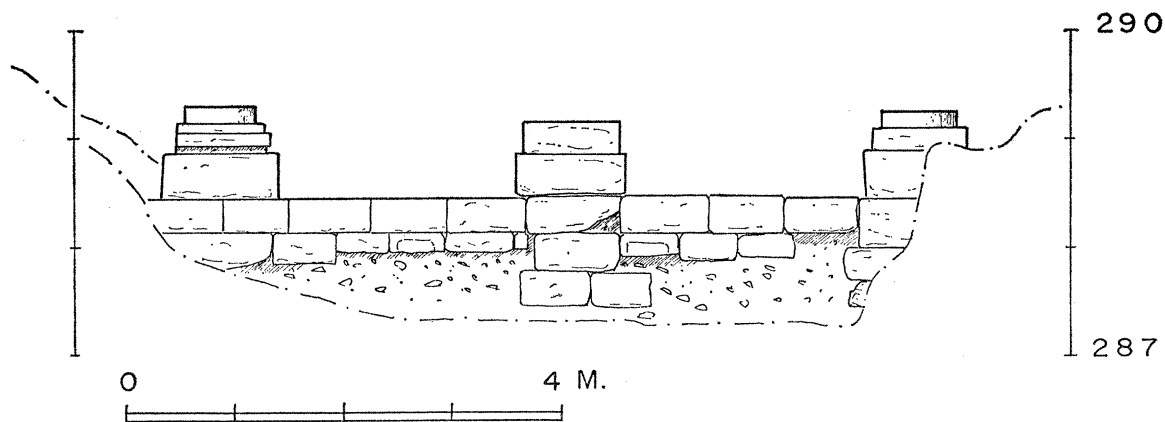


FIG. 3. Palati. Foundations under North Bases, Elevation facing South.

fully constructed and is composed of blocks of various sizes, including some obviously re-used poros blocks which exhibit anathyrosis. The foundations here were further strengthened by another course of poros and conglomerate blocks directly under the column bases. These were roughly placed in position and also contained re-used material.

The bases exhibit a very peculiar feature in that the lower drum of the Doric column and a stepped block which forms a base for it are cut from a single block

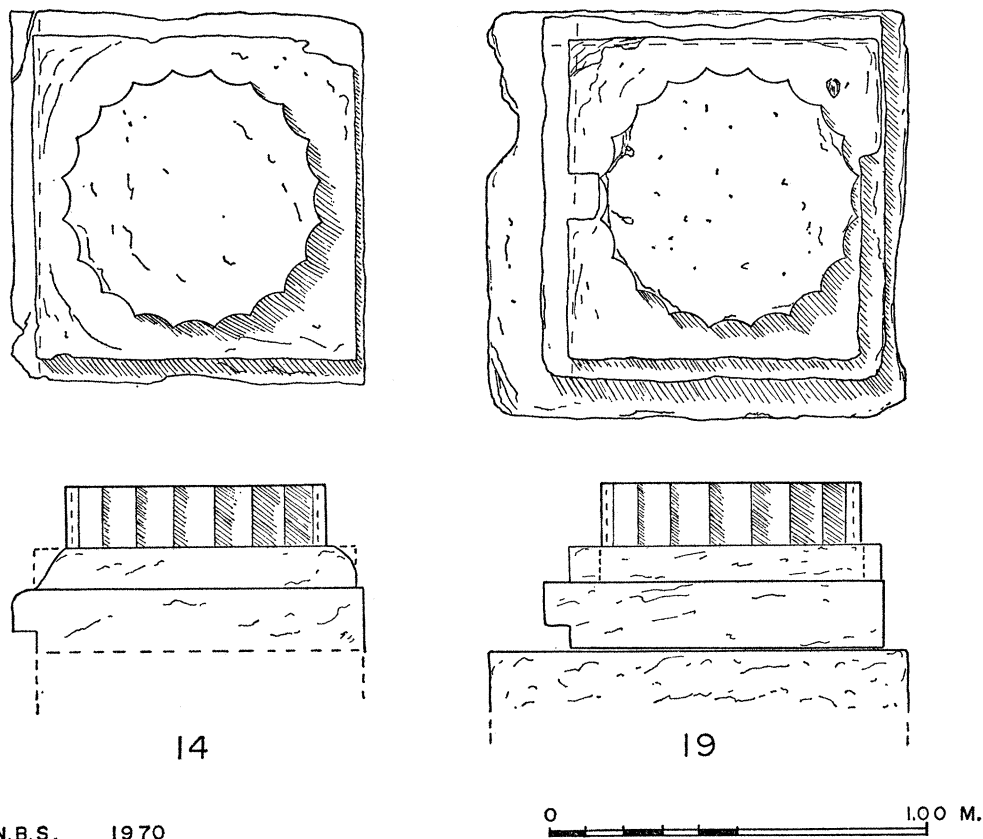


FIG. 4. Palati. Bases 14 and 19, Elevation facing North.

of stone. Below the drum the base is in two degrees, forming steps (Fig. 4). Although not unusual in Ionic, a Doric lower drum and its stylobate (?) cut in one piece is as far as we know unparalleled and gives the unusual impression of a Doric column on a plinth.¹⁰

¹⁰ Ionic column drums and bases cut from a single block are known from several neighboring sites: Corinth, R. Stillwell, *Corinth*, I, ii, *Architecture, The Northwest Stoa and Shops*, Cambridge, Mass., 1941, p. 102, fig. 68; Sikyon, A. K. Orlandos, *Ἀνασκαφαὶ Σικυῶνος* 1941, *Πρακτικά*, 1941-1944, pp. 57-58, fig. 1 (in the Bouleuterion); Argos, *B.C.H.*, LXXVII, 1953, p. 246. At Notion it would

The drums themselves have the normal twenty flutes and stand to a height of only 0.15 m.-0.20 m. with a lower diameter of *ca.* 0.685 m. The axial spacing is 3.23 m., measured along the west side. Those cleared in 1924 are recorded to have shown a coating of stucco upon discovery, but no such stucco was observed on 14 which was uncovered this year. An interesting feature of the bases is the fact that the lower step of the base is often undercut to a depth of 0.06-0.07 m. This cutting runs the length of the side and has a height of *ca.* 0.07 m. All the preserved bases on the east, west, and south sides of the colonnade show such a cutting on the side which faces in towards the center of the building (Pl. 97, d), with the exception of base 19 which also carries a similar cutting on its north face.

In clearing base 14, we came upon a relatively hard earth "floor" in the vicinity of the base and extending up to it (Pl. 98, a). In this level was a shallow fire pit filled with ashes. This "floor" level was approximately 0.065 m. below the top of the long cutting on the interior (west) side of the base. It would appear, then, that the area within the interior rectangle of the colonnade was probably an open court, paved with slabs or plaques approximately 0.065 m. thick which slipped into the grooves on the interior faces of the column bases. The hard packed "floor," which on inspection did not seem as hard or uniform as an earth floor should be, would then be the packing under these slabs, which have since disappeared. Such a floor is suggested by Orlandos for the Bouleuterion at Sikyon.¹¹

Similar cuttings on the east face of corner base 1 and on the west face of base 19 suggest that perhaps the paving extended within the line of the columns to the south but unfortunately the only other preserved base in this row, 22, has a cutting only on its north face. It appears, however, that in at least one period there was a barrier across this south end for all the preserved bases have a deep vertical cutting next to the column drum on their upper surfaces. The placement of these cuttings (east face of 1, east and west faces of 22, west face of 19) indicates that some sort of barrier must have run from base to base across this end. Base 19 (Fig. 4) however complicates matters with a long horizontal cutting in the same surface on the east side.

Further problems exist at the north end of the colonnade where base 10 exhibits no undercuttings and base 12 has shallow cuttings on its north and west sides only.

Two foundation blocks in this north line (9 and 11) bear plain blocks rather

appear that in at least a few instances the column shafts were cut in the same block as the bases, but the shape and order of the columns are apparently unknown; C. Schuchhardt, "Kolophon, Notion und Klaros," *Ath. Mitt.*, XI, 1886, p. 423; W. McDonald, *The Political Meeting Places of the Greeks*, Baltimore, 1943, p. 218.

¹¹ Similar cuttings (0.06 m. in height) were found at the bottom of the plinths under the two remaining Ionic columns in the Bouleuterion at Sikyon (Orlandos, *loc. cit.*). The excavator also suggests that flooring (*πλάκες*) was slipped into these cuttings.

than block and column drum as do the other foundation blocks (Fig. 3). The upper surface of these plain blocks is at the same level as those which have column drums and may simply be a case of later repair work. On the other hand, they may perhaps indicate a northern entrance for the building.

Between bases 14-17 and the east foundation wall of the building we detected the remains of a mudbrick construction. This has only just begun to be defined and its general extent, as far as we have determined it, is given on the plan of the building (Fig. 1). The remains of this construction are extremely fragmented, having been cut by later graves, walls and trenches. What is preserved, at least east of base 14, the only section we were able to investigate even partially, consists of a minimum of five courses of mudbricks (0.08 m. high by 0.40 m. long; Pl. 98, b). The bricks appear to be placed on or slightly in the earth "floor" which is at the same level and similar to that to the west around base 14. The position of the mudbricks in relation to the "floor" has only been seen in one small cut and needs further investigation, but it does appear that the mudbrick construction should be associated with the original building.

From what little we know at present, it appears that this construction was placed within the colonnade, extending perhaps from just east of the column bases to close to the rear wall of the building. The use, original appearance, and actual extent of the construction is unknown, but one is reminded of the Bouleuterion at Sikyon, which contained a construction built of packed earth with a thin coating of stucco, in this case supporting seats.¹²

Perhaps the Palati had rows of seats arranged to look out on the central courtyard of the building.

That the courtyard was open to the sky would seem certain from a fragment of a sima bearing the lower portion of a lion's head spout, which was found at the north end of the building (3; Pl. 98) and is described in the catalogue on p. 433. The head is set at an angle to the sima itself indicating that it comes from an interior corner. The palmette and lotus design on the soffit finds its closest parallels in the second half of the fifth century B.C., and this together with the pottery from the test trenches next to the foundations and, to a lesser extent, the style of the masonry leads us to suggest a date in the second half of the fifth century B.C. for the initial construction of the Palati. Various other architectural fragments may perhaps be associated with the spout, including fragments of column capitals (1, 2; Fig. 5), a

¹² A. Philadelphus, "Note sur le Bouleuterion (?) de Sicyone," *B.C.H.*, L, 1926, p. 177. Most striking parallels for the plan of our building can be found in the reconstructions of the plan of the Phokikon, which, however, are based almost solely on Pausanias' description. Cf. McDonald, *Political Meeting Places of the Greeks*, pl. XVII, C; Anti, *Teatri Greci Arcaici*, Padua, 1947, p. 167. In the Phokikon wooden boards were apparently placed on limestone blocks and acted as seats, E. French and E. Vanderpool, "The Phokikon," *Hesperia*, XXXII, 1963, pp. 218-219, fig. 3.

portion of a geison block (4; Pl. 99), and various mouldings (5, 6; Pl. 99). A second series of architectural remains appear to be datable to the fourth century B.C. These may belong to a later period of the Palati or indeed to another building entirely.¹³ A fragment of a terracotta statue and a Roman inscription were found in the destruction fill over the Palati and are also included in the Catalogue (11, 12; Pls. 99, 100).

The later history of the building is somewhat unclear and will remain so until more can be excavated. A destruction level probably datable to the third or fourth century after Christ was identified throughout the building wherever we tested.¹⁴

It would appear that the building was no longer in use by Christian times for graves of this period cut through the mud brick in many places. The graves are of the usual type, generally simple inhumations facing east with no grave offerings. Occasionally multiple burials are found. Both built and tile graves were common, and the built variety always employed re-used ancient material. Scanty remains of walls, laid on the same axis as the building, perhaps indicate a construction here in late times, and it is interesting to note that at least on the east side all the graves found lay to the east of one of these flimsy walls which itself lies just east of the column bases.

At the south end of the building a recut threshold block and a complex of late, concrete walls leading up to bases 20 and 21 (which consist only of foundation blocks) indicate an entrance here in a later period. The earlier excavators considered this construction Byzantine, but we were not able to investigate it.¹⁵

CATALOGUE

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| <p>1. Ph70 A1. Fragment of Doric column capital. Fig. 5.
P. H. 0.15 m., P. L. 0.165 m., P. W. 0.12 m.
Found in 1924 dump from the North Building.
Single fragment with profile of echinus and</p> | <p>abacus partially preserved. Coarse gray poros stone, worn and pitted. Traces of plaster preserved. This fragment and Ph70 A2 combined to form the profile of Figure 5. From the profile, the capital appears to be fifth century in date. Cf. E. Vanderpool, "The Location of</p> |
|---|--|

¹³ Not included in the catalogue is a badly preserved marble anta cap (?) which may be Roman (Ph70 A10) and two stamped tile fragments, *ov* (Ph70 MF2); [*Φ*λεια]*σιω*[*ν*] (Ph 70 MF 3), the latter dating to the Roman period. A similar stamped tile was found in the early excavations but the most common type from the site is simply stamped *Φ*ΛΕΙ (Ph MF 5, 8, 9).

¹⁴ Phlius Lots 109, 110. The pottery evidence is inconclusive for a more precise dating. Perhaps this destruction could be associated with the Herulian raid of A.D. 267 which sacked Argos and Corinth.

¹⁵ Four fragmentary inscriptions were found in the Palati in 1924 and have been associated with the Christian liturgy, G. Stamires, "Notes on Inscriptions from Phlius," *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, pp. 57-58, and there is some evidence for a late destruction level over the building. The Palati may have been re-used in some capacity to serve the Bishopric of Polyfengo which was located in the valley probably from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries and perhaps in or near the Palati itself as suggested by the local tradition reported by Leake (*op. cit.*). See Ernst Meyer, *P.-W.* "Phleius," col. 287.

the Attic Deme Erchia," *B.C.H.*, LXXXIX, 1965, p. 24, fig. 2.

2. Ph70 A3. Fragment of Doric column capital. Fig. 5.

P. H. 0.225 m., P. W. 0.164 m., P. Th. 0.102 m.

Found in destruction level over Palati floor.

Single fragment of a Doric column capital preserving a section of the outer surface from the juncture of the abacus to the fourth tier of annulets. Coarse poros stone. Plaster preserved over most of outer surface, well preserved along upper curvature. This fragment and No. 1 combine to form Figure 5.

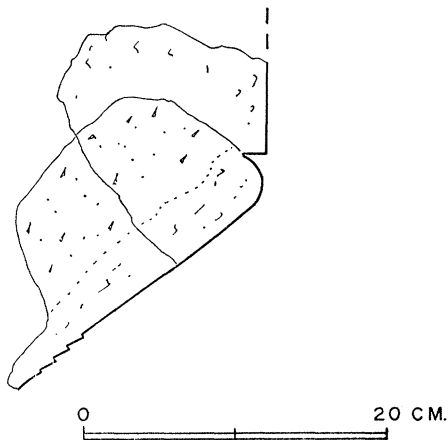


FIG. 5. Profile of Column Capital, 1 and 2.

3. Ph70 A6. Fragment of sima with lion's head spout. Pl. 98.

P. H. 0.098 m., P. L. 0.18 m., P. W. 0.21 m.
Found at north end of east wall of Palati.

Single fragment of terracotta sima preserving lower neck mane of lion, a portion of the soffit and a trace of the lower fascia. Coarse Corinthian clay. Mane arranged in three tiers of stiff, tapering locks each bearing one or more shallow grooves. Soffit decoration consists of upper portion of palmette and lotus in cream on black ground. Trace on lower fascia of maeander in cream, black and red.

The lion's head is set at an approximately 45 degree angle to the sima, indicating that this fragment comes from an interior corner.

Fifth century, second half (?). See E. Mallwitz and W. Schiering, *Olympische Forschungen*, V, *Die Werkstatt des Pheidias in Olympia*, Berlin, 1964, p. 114, A4, pl. 41, a.

4. Ph70 A9. Fragment of geison block. Fig. 6, Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.155 m., P. L. 0.16 m., P. W. 0.12 m.
Found in dump from the Palati.

Single fragment of poros geison block broken on its left side, back, and at juncture of fascia and soffit. Portion of hawksbeak moulding and

part of soffit preserved. Traces of stucco on soffit and fascia.

The hawksbeak moulding is similar to fifth century types, cf. L. Shoe, *Profiles of Greek Mouldings*, Cambridge, Mass., 1936, pls. LIII, LIV, 1-10. Possibly mid fifth? Cf. pl. LIII, 32.

5. Ph70 A11. Fragment of crowning moulding. Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.065 m., P. L. 0.18 m., P. Th. 0.11 m.
Found in destruction level over Palati floor.

Single fragment of crowning moulding consisting of fascia and cyma reversa moulding. Grayish yellow poros, badly pitted. Some stucco

on finished surfaces, upon this traces of Lesbian leaf pattern.

The profile of the cyma reversa moulding suggests a possible fifth century date, cf. Shoe, *op. cit.*, pl. XXXVI, 1.

6. Ph70 A12. Fragment of crowning moulding. Pl. 99.

7. Ph70 A2. Fragment of geison block.
Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.24 m., P. L. 0.39 m., P. W. 0.40 m.
Found in upper levels over Palati.

Single fragment, preserving soffit, corona and upper surface; broken at back. Hard, white shelly stone. Corona has traces of drip moulding. Crown moulding broken away, traces of

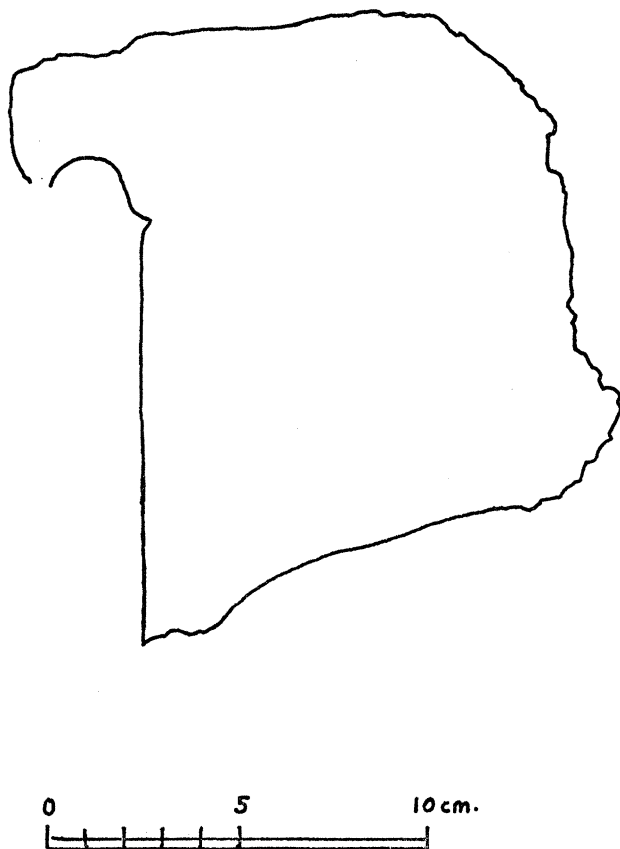


FIG. 6. Profile of Geison Block, 4.

P. H. 0.053 m., P. L. 0.19 m., P. Th. 0.04 m.
Found in destruction level over Palati floor.

Mended from three pieces. Grayish yellow poros. Traces of stucco bearing Lesbian leaf pattern on cyma reversa. Exactly the same moulding as No. 5 except crowning fascia slightly higher.

curve at lower edge preserved. Two coats of plaster on face and soffit and on cyma reversa moulding. Undercoat well preserved, plus traces of finishing coat. Traces of red paint on cyma reversa moulding probably Lesbian leaf.

The appearance of the cyma reversa moulding and the profile suggests a very late fifth

or fourth century date. Cf. Shoe, *op. cit.*, pl. XXXI, 4-5.

8. Ph70 A8. Fragment of terracotta antefix.
Pl. 100.

P. H. 0.088 m., P. W. 0.08 m., P. Th. 0.037 m.

Found in upper levels over Palati.

Lower right corner from a plastic antefix preserving an S-shaped tendril with added fringe and volute. Coarse reddish fabric. Cream with touches of red on black background.

Cf. C. Le Roy, *Fouilles de Delphes*, II, c, *Les Terres Cuites Architecturales*, Paris, 1966, pl. 65, no. A68; pl. 66, no. A69. Fourth century.

9. Ph70 A7. Fragment of terracotta sima.
Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.142 m., P. L. 0.15 m., P. Th. 0.082 m.

Found in upper levels over Palati.

Single fragment broken on sides and top, preserving part of cyma reversa, upper part of lower recessed fascia and patches of soffit. Coarse reddish fabric. Cyma reversa shows loop and tendril design with added tail at volute. Cream on black ground, center of palmette red. Recessed fascia preserves part of a maeander in cream, black and red. Patches of bead and reel on soffit.

Cf. Ida Thallon Hill and Lida Shaw King, *Corinth*, IV, i, *Decorated Architectural Terracottas*, Cambridge, Mass., 1929, no. S129, p. 27, fig. 28. Fourth century.

10. Ph70 A14. Fragment of geison block.
Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.158 m., P. L. 0.27 m., P. W. 0.265 m.

Found built into late wall.

Single fragment of limestone geison block preserving most of corona and part of soffit with mutule and three gutti. Broken on right side, top and at back. Drip moulding partially preserved at lower edge of corona, as well as trace of curve for crowning moulding at upper edge. Traces of red paint under drip moulding. Traces of stucco on soffit, especially on gutti.

Absence of groove beneath hawkbeak crown-

ing moulding and small undercut curve suggest a fourth century date.

11. Ph70 MF1. Fragment of terracotta sculpture. Pl. 99.

P. H. 0.142 m., P. L. 0.16 m., P. Th. 0.067 m.

Found in upper levels over Palati.

Single fragment preserving drapery. Coarse Corinthian clay. Dark red paint preserved over most of finished surfaces. Traces of finished surface toward inner surface on fragment's right indicate missing portion of projecting drapery. Vertical hollow on reverse indicates hollow core of statue proper. Our fragment is perhaps from a Kore type statue in which the skirt is held out to one side.

12. Ph70 I. Fragment of Poros Inscription.
Pl. 100.

P. H. (face) 0.39 m., P. W. (inscribed face) 0.25 m., P. Th. 0.365 m., H. (letters) 0.035 m.

Found in destruction level over Palati floor.

Block broken away on back, bottom and right side. Left side rough worked, square tenon cutting 0.055 m. below top surface and 0.075 m. behind inscribed surface (0.06 m. x 0.05 m. x 0.03 m. depth). Upper surface of block hacked away, rough strokes of instrument still visible. Parts of seven lines preserved. Well cut letters preserving traces of red paint. Guide lines used throughout (0.018 m. to 0.02 m. between lines).

[— — — — Παρ]

θικῶ δῆμ[αρχικῆς]

ἐξουσία[ς τὸ - αὐ]

τοκράτ[ορι τὸ - ὑπά]

τῶ τὸ ρ [πατρὶ πα]

5 τριδος τ[ῶ κτίσ]

τῇ καὶ σ[ωτήρι τῆς]

οίκου[μείνης]

The use of the title Parthicus and the sixth consulship indicates that the inscription records Trajan's imperial titles. Trajan was declared Parthicus in February of A.D. 116 and died in August of A.D. 117 (F. Lepper, *Trajan's Parthian War*, Oxford, 1948, pp. 34-43, 198) giving varying possibilities for the imperial salu-

tation (XII, XIII) and for the Tribune (XX or XXI). Trajan was often hailed as Founder (*I.G.R.R.*, I, 978, 984-991) and as Savior (*I.G.*, II², 3284) of the Empire. Here the two terms are combined. For the use of these terms in relationship to the Panhellenion under his successor, see A. Benjamin, "The Altars

of Hadrian in Athens," *Hesperia*, XXXII, 1963, pp. 57-86. It is unusual that the title Pontifex Maximus does not seem to appear in this inscription.

The shape of the block and the use of the dative case make it likely that it was once part of a dedication or altar to the emperor.¹⁶

NORTH BUILDING

To the north of the Palati lies a rectangular building mentioned by Blegen¹⁷ and called the "North Building" by us (Figs. 7, 8). Between the Palati and this building little investigation was carried out except for reclearing several large trenches and pits from the 1924 excavation. One of these, at the northeast corner of the Palati, revealed the fallen corner orthostate block mentioned above and the east end

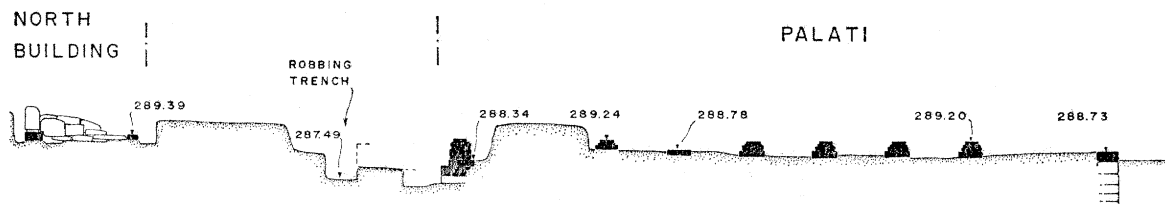


FIG. 7. Section through North Building and Palati, facing East.

of the robbing trench which removed the north wall of the building. To the north of these remains was an L-shaped foundation of poros blocks of at least two courses (Pl. 100, a). No information exists concerning this construction; from its position, it would appear to belong to an earlier building, but we were not able to carry out any further investigation here.

The 1970 campaign did not make any radical changes to the plan of the North Building as exposed at the end of the 1924 season (Fig. 8, Pl. 101, a). The building consists of a long line of narrow blocks forming a south wall with a return towards the north preserved at the east end and a row of large, roughly cut blocks to the north and parallel to the south wall. A row of cuttings (*ca.* 0.11 m. by 0.10 m.) are set in the top of the blocks of the south wall 0.175-0.19 m. from the south face at varying intervals. This wall is obviously constructed of some re-used blocks for not only are the blocks of different materials (conglomerate and poros) and dimensions, but several have pry holes in their upper surfaces. The vertical cuttings, however, would appear to belong to the re-use of the blocks in this building rather than to the

¹⁶ Appreciation must be given to Professors Oliver and Geagan for suggestions concerning this inscription.

¹⁷ Blegen, *op. cit.*, pp. 28-29.

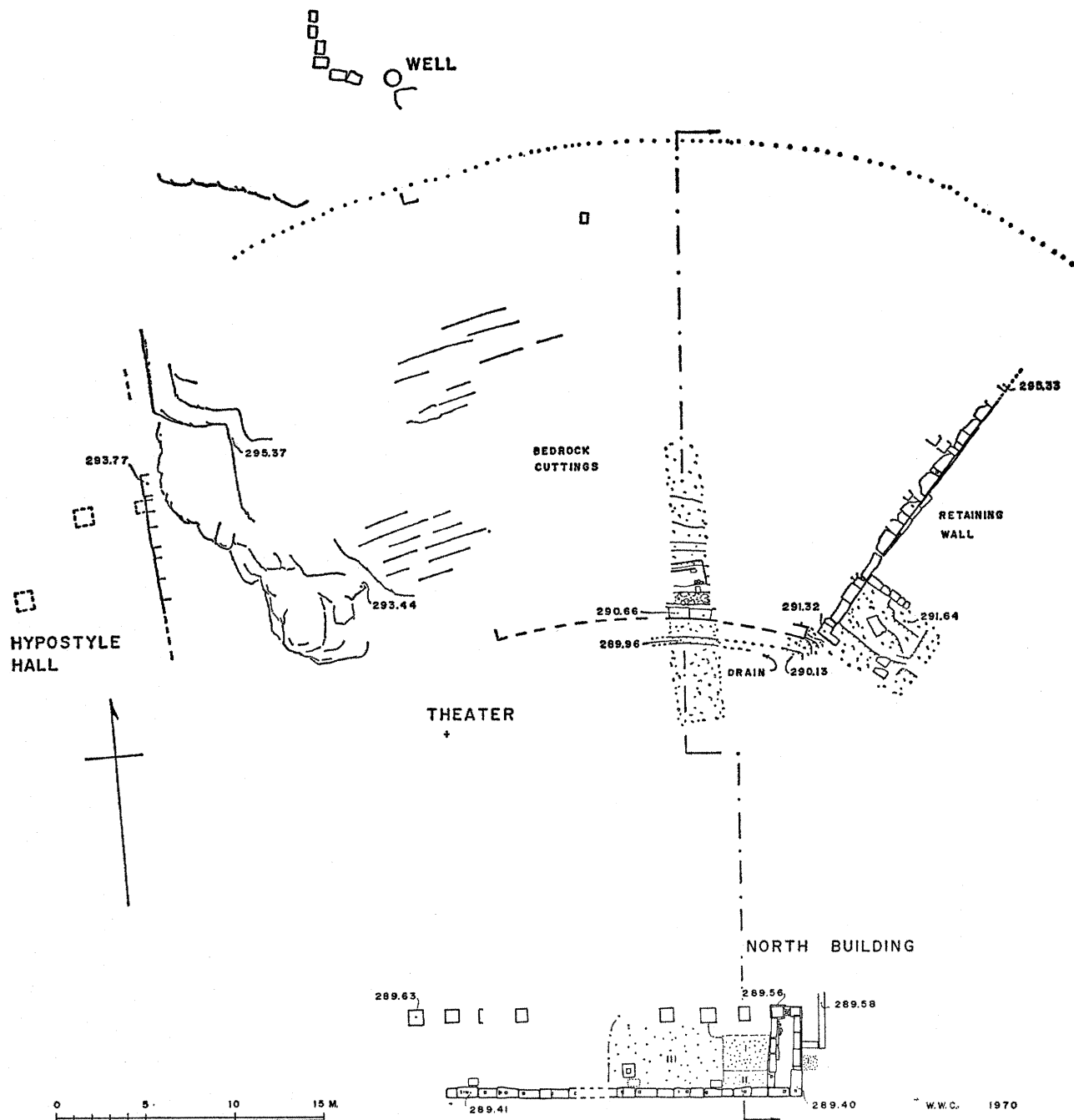


FIG. 8. North Building and Theater, actual state plan.

original use of the blocks and may have been used to support vertical wooden supports (see below). The narrow blocks which make up the south wall are everywhere levelled with small stones. The bases to the north are large blocks of coarse poros with roughly cut sides and more smoothly dressed upper surfaces. Two of the blocks at the east end have shallow, wedge-shaped vertical cuttings on their sides.

At the east end of the building lies a double return consisting of two rows of blocks not quite parallel to each other on which are set six conglomerate orthostate blocks, three on each side (Pl. 101, b). The north end is formed of a large pier at the northwest corner, a large block at the northeast and a smaller one between. The pier rests on a large roughly worked base which must be a continuation of the line of bases to the west. The top of the lower course in the west side of the return has a cutting set in its top surface similar to those found in the south wall of the building. The six orthostate blocks of the upper course are re-used, those on the east showing double drafted edges on their inner faces. A similar return may exist at the west end of the building but that area lay outside of our excavation zone.

Outside the building to the east two poros blocks were found at a slightly higher level forming a rectangle with the east return of the building (Pl. 101, b). The second block extends into the north scarp. Both blocks are smoothly dressed on the upper surface and more roughly on the inner. The east-west block rests against the lowest course of the east wall of the return, but its top surface is at a higher level than the top of the course. The upper surface of the north-south block is dressed as bedding for another block.

Three floor levels were distinguished in the North Building. The earliest, of beaten earth and pebbles, was also found outside the building to the east and probably continues to the south, where a similar level was observed in the scarp of the 1924 excavation trench. This floor (I on the plan, Fig. 8 and see section, Fig. 11) lies at a lower level than the base of the blocks of the south wall and predates the building. The two upper floors (II, III) probably also predate the building. The first of these, again of beaten earth and pebbles, was later repaired with earth and patches of white mortar. That floor III is a repair is shown at the east end of the building, the only place where floor II was exposed. Here the two floors blended together. Along the base of the south wall of the building both upper floors appear to have been cut through for the insertion of the wall. Floor III, however, appears to run up to the bases at the north.

The relative chronology of the area as tentatively revealed by the floor levels and building phases is possibly six-fold. Floors I-III represent the first three periods with the bases belonging to the latest floor (III). In the fourth period the south wall was laid with possibly one return on the east. This possibly replaced an earlier structure which would have belonged with floors II and III. In period five the return was doubled, using one of the bases as its northwest corner, and the orthostates were

added. (The block in this east addition with the cutting in its upper surface was perhaps moved from its original position. The building may have extended further to the east?) Period six is represented by the narrow blocks outside at the east end.

The pottery recovered from the tests around and in the North Building was inconclusive. The earliest sherds from over Floor I outside the building appear to be late Hellenistic or Early Roman¹⁸ and those from floor III possibly Roman but certainly as late as Hellenistic.¹⁹ Covering the whole area was a black fill, the pottery from which dates to the third or fourth century after Christ²⁰ and is similar to that found over the Palati. A hard yellowish stratum above the latest floor level perhaps represented the floor that goes with the south wall and contained Roman sherds, including a lamp fragment of the first century after Christ.²¹

THE THEATER

The general shape of the North Building, especially the heavy square bases, and the cuttings which appear to be for vertical timbers led the excavators of 1924 to suggest that the building was in reality part of the scene building for a theater.²² To the north the hillside forms a concave slope, and in 1925 after the main excavation season, Professor Blegen returned to Phlius and put a long test trench into the hollow of the hill. In this trench he found part of a row of bench type theater seats *in situ*. Our investigation of this area was limited to two trenches, Trench 1, which was opened in 1925, and Trench 2 at the south end of a retaining wall which runs north-east-southwest against the side of the hill to the east (Fig. 8).

In Trench 1 wash from the fill dumped by the 1925 excavation on the sides of the trench was removed for a length of *ca.* 15 m., but there was not time to remove the dump itself. The poros theater seats found by Blegen were re-exposed. Two complete examples and parts of two more to the east and west are still preserved *in situ* (Pl. 102, a). They are all of poros with the upper surfaces smoothly dressed for a width of *ca.* 0.41-0.44 m. from the front; the remainder is not sunk for a foot-rest as would be usual with seats of this type,²³ but merely roughened. The height of the seats is 0.32 m. and the two fully exposed examples are 1.10 m. and 1.20 m. in length. The widths are 0.63 m. and 0.55 m. A round hole has been cut in the top of the second seat from the east, opening out through the concave front face below. All four seats rest on poros blocks which are set directly onto bedrock (Fig. 9, Pl. 102, b).

¹⁸ Phlius Lot 95.

¹⁹ Phlius Lot 94.

²⁰ Phlius Lot 92.

²¹ Phlius Lot 93.

²² Blegen, *op. cit.*, pp. 29-30.

²³ For the normal type, see O. A. W. Dilke, "The Greek Theatre Cavea," *B.S.A.*, XLIII, 1948, p. 153, fig. 11. Our examples from this area are closer to those from Eretria, *ibid.*, p. 159, fig. 19.

North of the seats, cleaning of the 1925 trench exposed bedrock with two cuttings for seats and a third cutting above at an angle to them. Between these cuttings and the poros seats a later construction had been cut into bedrock, which appears at present to be a cistern. Part of its north and east walls were exposed. At the foot of the north wall at 1.22 m. below the top a shelf of bedrock projects south for 0.39 m. and is faced with tile fragments set in coarse yellow mortar. In the northeast corner the rockcut shelf is cut to a lower level for about 0.50 m. Above this where the vertical face ends, a shallow sluice has been cut in the sloping rock 0.22 m. wide. In the floor of the cistern, which has been exposed only for 0.30 m. width a shallow cutting 0.25 m. square lies at 0.25 m. from the east wall, possibly for a post to support the roof. Waterproof stucco is preserved *in situ* on the east wall of the cistern. It is possible that the cutting on the theater seat to the south may be a late cutting having something to do with the cistern.

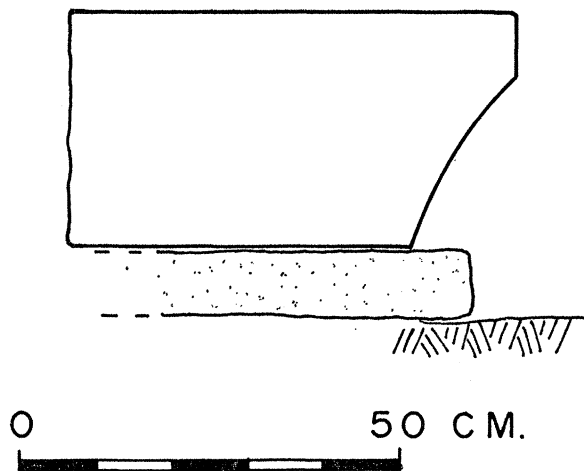


FIG. 9. Bench Theater Seat, Section facing East.

Unexcavated fill lies to the west and the south side of the cistern was blocked by a later wall constructed of lumps of bedrock, which lies at a fairly high level north of the line of theater seats. This wall was left until further excavation to the east and west can take place. On the slopes of the hill above and to the west of Trench 1, bedrock was exposed revealing the shallow cuttings mentioned by Blegen.²⁴ Further cleaning of the slope would no doubt reveal more cuttings and give more order to the scattered traces we can now make out.

South of the seats the bedrock is cut vertically for a height of 0.28 m. in a line parallel to the seats at a point 1.04 m.-1.07 m. from their poros bedding. A shallow depression is formed here 0.06-0.075 m. below the bedrock to the south and 0.28-

²⁴ Blegen, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

0.30 m. wide. To the south bedrock was exposed for 4.60 m., sloping from 290.005 to 289.755 m.

To the east, a retaining wall descends at an angle from the northeast. Cleared first in 1924, most of it lay outside our area in 1970 so that we were able only to clean its face. As now exposed the wall runs for a length of 12.50 m. in a series of step-like projections down to a partially rockcut rectangular enclosure at its west end (Pl. 103, a). A maximum of five courses (at the east end) of conglomerate blocks are preserved. These average 1.10 m. in length and *ca.* 0.33 m. in height except for the third preserved course from the top which employs larger blocks (*ca.* 0.55 m. in height). The blocks are carefully laid, but their faces are roughly worked. They are all generally vertically trimmed and all joints appear to be vertical.²⁵ A foundation course (?) diverges towards the east from the line of the upper blocks. About 7 m. from the southwest end of the retaining wall an approximately square deep cutting (0.10 m.) is preserved in the upper surface of one of the top preserved blocks. The use of this cutting is obscure; it may belong to an earlier use of the block into which it is cut. Other re-used material can be seen in the retaining wall, probably including a lone pry hole further to the southwest.

The last block in line at the southwest of the wall is slightly curved, its concave face placed against the hillside. It is separated slightly from the rest of the wall to the east and may represent a repair. Another block, this one forming part of the northwest wall of the rectangular enclosure, bears the letters ΔΙ upside down on its south face (Pl. 103, b).

The retaining wall terminates at the corner of a rectangular construction. At this point, the west end of the curved block mentioned above was masked by a well cut anta base which was found *in situ* in 1924 (Pl. 103, c). This base has unfortunately disappeared but its position is certain through old photographs, as well as treatment of the block on which it rested and that against which it was placed. The anta appears to be datable to the early Roman Period from the partially measured notebook sketch (Pl. 103, d).²⁶

The anta marked one corner of a rectangular area cleared out in 1924. The area measures approximately 3.25 m. northwest by 5.35 m. northeast. It is bounded on the northwest by an extension of the retaining wall of two preserved courses. The

²⁵ The wall gives the appearance of fitting into Scranton's category of pseudo-isodomic ashlar which he considers as Hellenistic (Scranton, *Greek Walls*, p. 134). Local variations, however, make it difficult to apply this chronology rigorously.

²⁶ The Roman Ionic base is known in Corinth from the early years of the Roman colony (L. T. Shoe, "The Roman Ionic Base in Corinth," *Essays in Memory of Karl Lehmann*, 1964, pp. 300-303), but it is not found in Corinth after the middle of the first century after Christ, when the Attic Ionic type is used. Apparently the only other examples of the Roman type reported from the Peloponnesos are two in Olympia (L. S. Meritt, "The Geographical Distribution of Greek and Roman Ionic Bases," *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, pp. 195, 196).

lower course makes a return towards the southeast of 1.30 m. The line of this wall is continued by probable cuttings in the bedrock and another block in presently undug fill. The bedrock slopes steeply upwards (northeastwards) from the remains of this wall in a series of broad "steps" formed by rough cuttings approximately 0.40 m. wide and 0.09 m. deep. Another wall of single blocks forms part of the northeast wall of the enclosure; it extends 2.80 m. from the position of the anta base. No investigation has been carried out further east. The southeast boundary of the room is at the moment delimited by a shallow curved cutting in the bedrock.

Theater Trench 2 was laid out at the southwest corner of the enclosure. Here a fifth theater bench was found which forms the end of the row to which the seats in Trench 1 belong (Pl. 104, a). This seat preserves a sunken panel as a foot-rest in the rear portion of its upper surface (0.205 m. wide) as is usual for theater seats of this type.²⁷ To the north and on the same level as the upper surface of the seat a poros block extends a few centimeters into the trench, abutting to the back of the seat. This block probably serves as the bedding for a second row of seats above. Immediately to the east bedrock was reached sloping down from northeast to southwest from slightly above the level of the seat. There is no sign of cuttings for a continuation (either to the south or east) of the row of seats. In the southeast corner of the trench a shallow rock cutting appears to form the east end of the cutting found in front of the seats in Trench 1. The level at the bottom of this cutting in Trench 1 is 289.86 m., in Trench 2, 290.13 m. It thus slopes from east to west and is probably to be identified as a drain.²⁸

Pottery from above bedrock in the theater trenches appears to be Roman in date.²⁹

In addition to the benches, the theater had throne type seats for priests and officials. Four of these, more or less intact, were found in the area. Two were in use as field markers in a field southeast of the Palati. One was badly broken, but the other is well preserved (Fig. 10, Pl. 100, b). Made of a single block of poros, the seat is a simple throne type, its only visible surviving ornament being an incised line running around the back and arms of the throne and a rectangular pattern of lines on the front below the seat. A cutting on the seat is presumably for drainage. Two similar thrones now serve as seats on either side of the door of a farmhouse to the west of the Palati. All the examples are covered with thick coats of modern white-wash which cover any possible details of construction or decoration. Unfortunately, no inscriptions have been detected on any of the four thrones.

The theater as now identified presents several curious problems which only

²⁷ *Supra*, note 23.

²⁸ The actual use of this cutting is somewhat problematical for it might be considered as a footing for another row of seats rather than as a drain as suggested here. However, its shape, narrow width, and relatively steep slope to the west (0.17 m.) as compared to the difference in level of the tops of the benches (approximately 0.03 m.) lead to its attribution as a drain cutting.

²⁹ Philius Lot 89.

further excavation can solve. For one thing, the extent of the auditorium has yet to be established. On the east, the retaining wall acts as a normal boundary, the so-called rectangular enclosure perhaps simply the remains of substructures supporting steps or a ramp leading down from the higher level to the northeast. A gateway, or entrance, could be marked by the position of the anta base.

To the west, an outcropping of the native rock of the hill presents a natural barrier. Exactly where the rows of seats may terminate in this direction has not yet been determined. However, the arc described by the theater seats so far uncovered gives a probable curve as shown in Figure 8. A circle drawn on this arc would have its center *ca.* 5.00 m. south of the North Building.

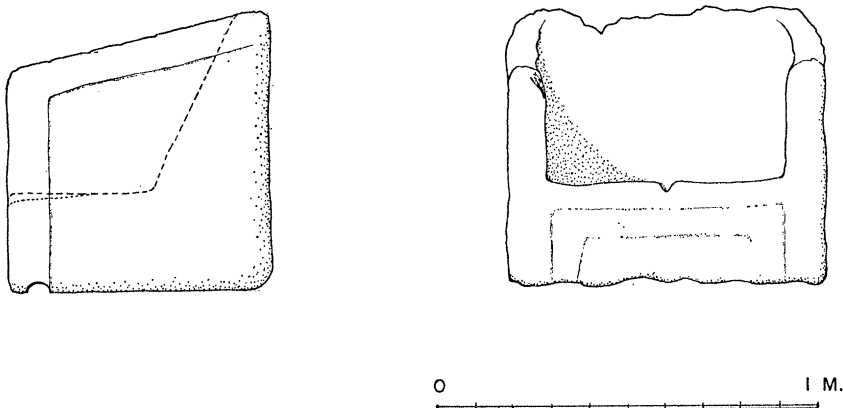


FIG. 10. Throne Theater Seat.

The position of the orchestra in this theater is truly a puzzle. A glance at the section (Fig. 11) shows that the bedrock so far exposed in the small area of Trench 1 would have to continue its present rate of slope to be close to the level of the floors within the North Building. Unless there is a sharp step down somewhere in the unexcavated area, there appears to be only a sloping bedrock surface for an orchestra, which is clearly impossible. Moreover, judging from the curve of the theater seats, there is hardly any room for an orchestra circle, even if one wishes to begin its curve at the drain cutting. It would appear that the theater may have had an oval or rectangular orchestra with a small, shallow cavea. Such an orchestra is often considered an early feature and is preserved in one or two theaters, notably Thorikos.⁸⁰ The preservation of such a feature at Phlius, which was the home of Pratinas, who introduced the satyr play to Athens around 500 B.C.,⁸¹ would be highly interesting. On the other hand, the tentative dating of the North Building as no earlier than the

⁸⁰ H. Bulle, *Untersuchungen an Griechischen Theatern*, Munich, 1928, pl. 1.

⁸¹ Suidas, *s.v.* Pratinas.

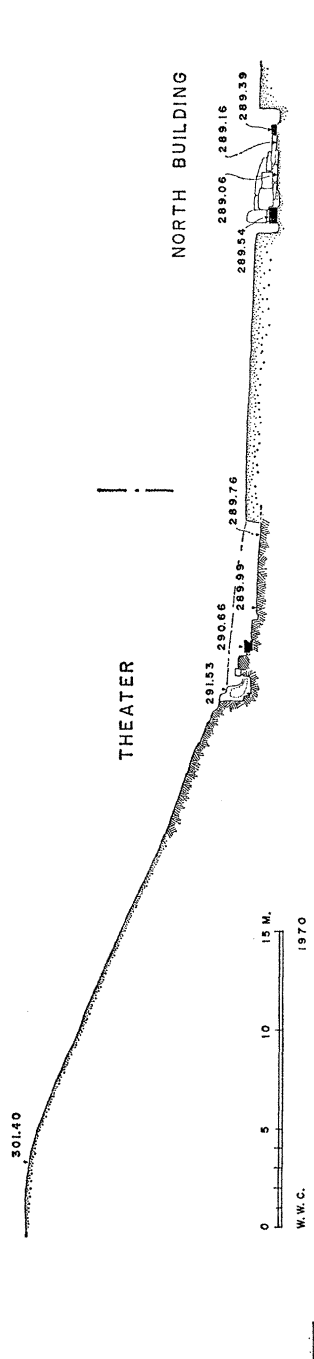


FIG. 11. Section through Theater and North Building, facing East.

Hellenistic Period might indicate a later building which overlies part of the original orchestra floor, which could be represented by the pebble and earth floors which appear to predate the building. There is thus far so little exposed both to the north and to the south of the North Building that speculation at this point is somewhat academic.

CONCLUSION

Figure 12 and Plate 104, b show the area under discussion at the end of the 1970 season. To the west of the theater lies the "Hypostyle Hall" which may date to the Archaic Period and was partially investigated in 1924.⁸² To the east, the area is effectively limited by the retaining wall of the theater cavea and the east wall of the Palati.⁸³

The area so far exposed must belong to the agora of the ancient city, but the relationship of the various buildings has yet to be clarified. No excavation has been carried out between the Palati and the North Building, nor between that and the theater. As for the Palati, several examples exist of an open, stoa-like building attached to a theater,⁸⁴ but the discovery of the mudbrick construction would make it probable that the Palati was something more than simply a colonnade for shelter in case of inclement weather.

The only direct information we have concerning the physical layout of the city comes from Pausanias. The traveller's account comes after that of Sikyon and Titane and first mentions the sanctuaries on the acropolis, then those below the acropolis, and finally those in the agora. All topographers have assumed Pausanias' description proceeds in a logical manner from east to west, with the agora located in the plain to the south and west of the hill, where remains have always been visible. This would appear to be the correct view, and the early excavations located a great many buildings in this area.

Pausanias states "As you go down from the citadel you see on the right a temple of Aesclepius with an image of the god as a beardless youth. Below this temple is built a theater."⁸⁵

⁸² Blegen, *op. cit.*, pp. 30, 31. Fragments of antefixes probably datable to the second half of the sixth century found in the 1924 test trenches would appear to belong to the building (Ph-A-2, 3). The pottery which survives from the Hypostyle Hall trenches is stored as Phlius Lots 69, 70-77, 79-80(?).

⁸³ Further to the east and slightly north in a fold of the hill lies a small fountain house partially dug in 1924 but never published. To the west and touching the partially rockcut fountain house semicircular cuttings in the bedrock have been taken as seating arrangements (McDonald, *Political Meeting Places of the Greeks*, pp. 293, 294). It is probably more likely that they had something to do with the water supply for the fountain.

⁸⁴ Cf. the Hellenistic palaestra at Babylon, A. Mallwitz, "Das Theater von Babylon," part of F. Wetzel, E. Schmidt and A. Mallwitz, *Das Babylon der Spätzeit* (Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft, vol. LXII), Berlin, 1957, pp. 16-22.

⁸⁵ II, xiii, 5 (Trans. W. H. Jones, Loeb Classical Library).

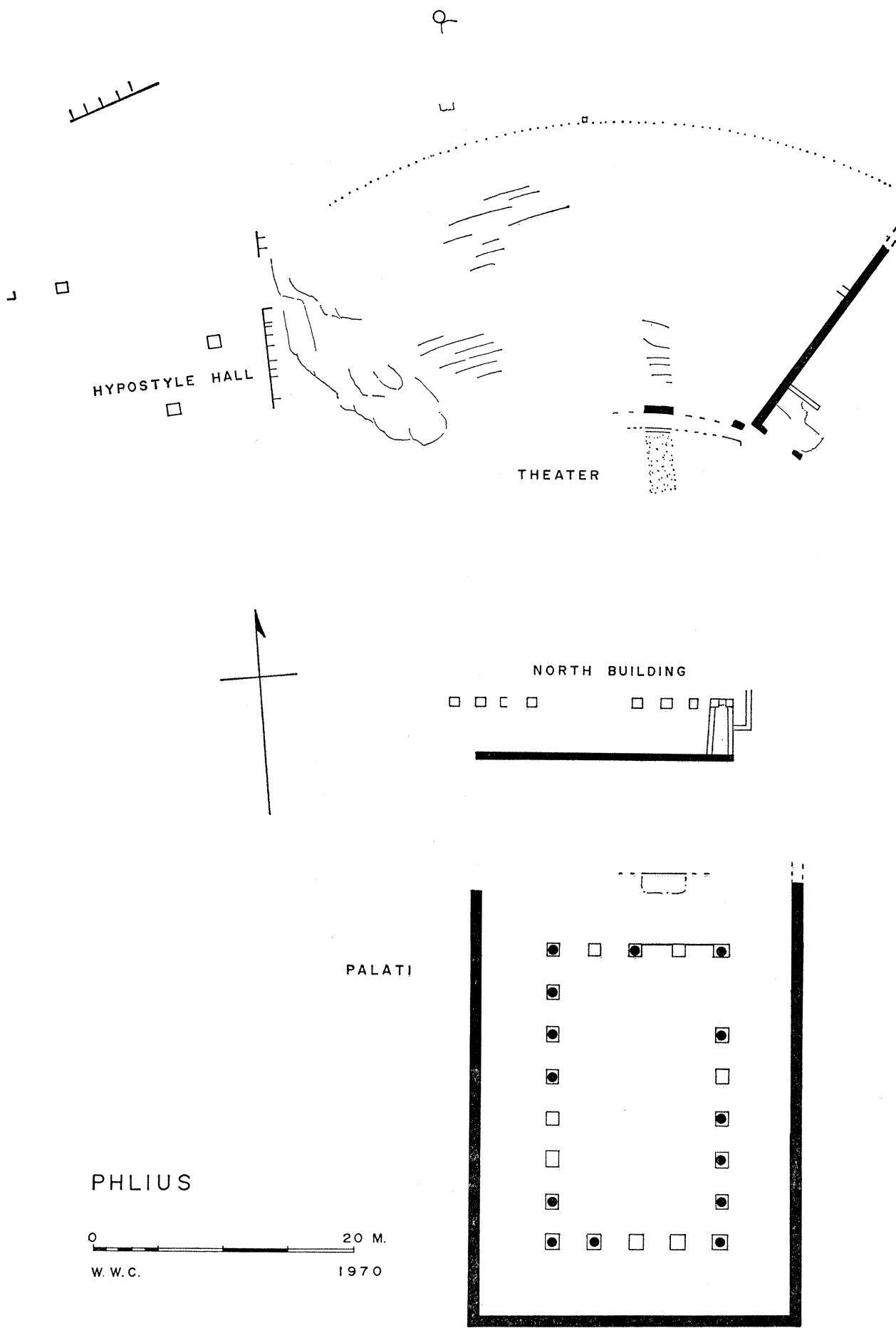


FIG. 12. Area of Excavations at End of 1970 Season.

The exact location of the theater, then, would give us a fixed point in Pausanias' description. Most scholars have regarded the present chapel of Panaghia Rachiotissa, which stands on a ridge to the east,³⁶ as the site of the Temple of Asklepios, placing the theater in a concave depression in the hill immediately below. The report of the 1924 excavations indicated that the theater might lie further west, directly above and north of the Palati, but without definite published proof this has not been accepted by all scholars.³⁷ The proof can now be demonstrated as the result of the work of the 1970 excavation. The Temple of Asklepios may then have lain immediately above the cavea where squared blocks and a well indicate ancient remains. Pausanias' words, however, may not need to be taken as meaning literally "immediately below" and the Chapel of Panaghia Rachiotissa may still be the site of the Asklepios Temple.

A further glance at Figure 12 indicates what has been alluded to in the text, that more work is required before this area can be given its due. The peculiarly shaped theater complex would certainly repay further excavation, especially if the peculiarities of plan are the result of an early stage in the development of the Greek theater.

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³⁶ The position of the chapel in relationship to the Palati is shown in Plate 96, b where it can be seen high up on the ridge in the background.

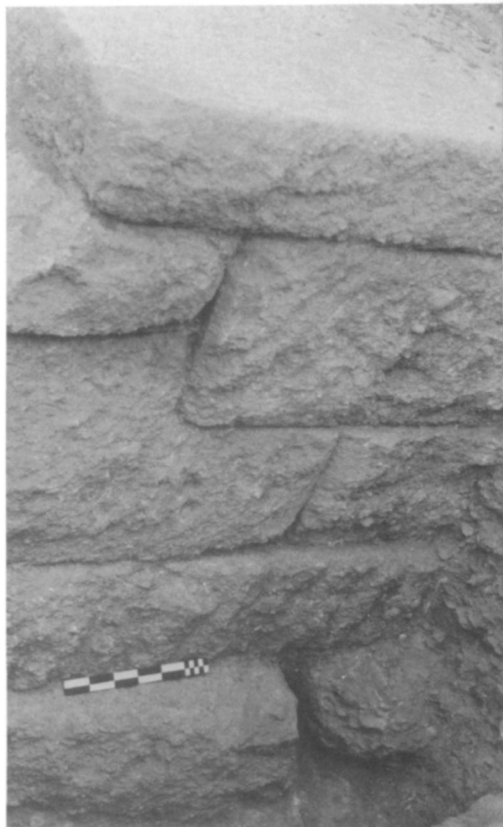
³⁷ As recently as 1958 the theater was again placed directly south and below the chapel; G. Roux, *Pausanias en Corinthie*, Paris, 1958, p. 168.



a. Acropolis of Phlius, from Southeast. Area of Excavations at Foot of Acropolis to Left.



b. Palati, Foundations at Southwest Corner.



a. Lowest Exterior Foundation Courses.



b. Fallen Orthostate Block, from Northeast.

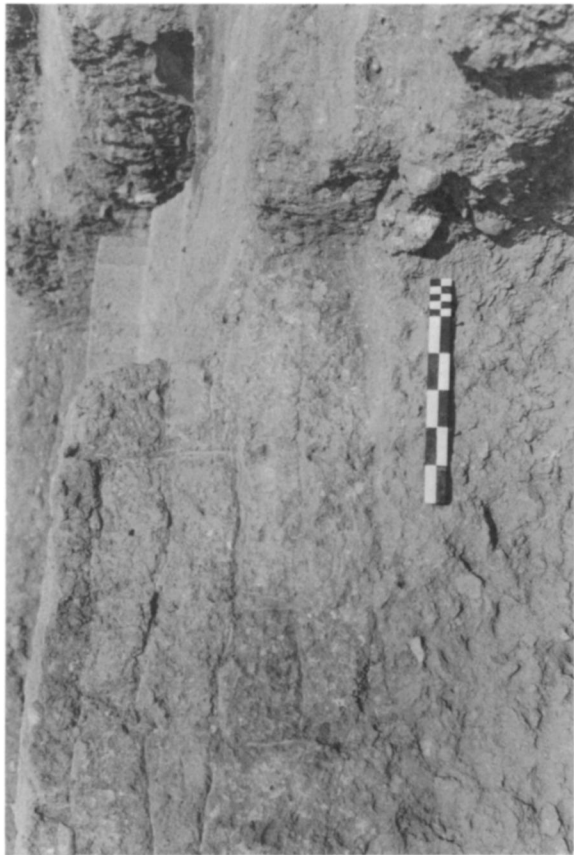


c. North Line of Bases in Old Excavation Trench, from Northwest.

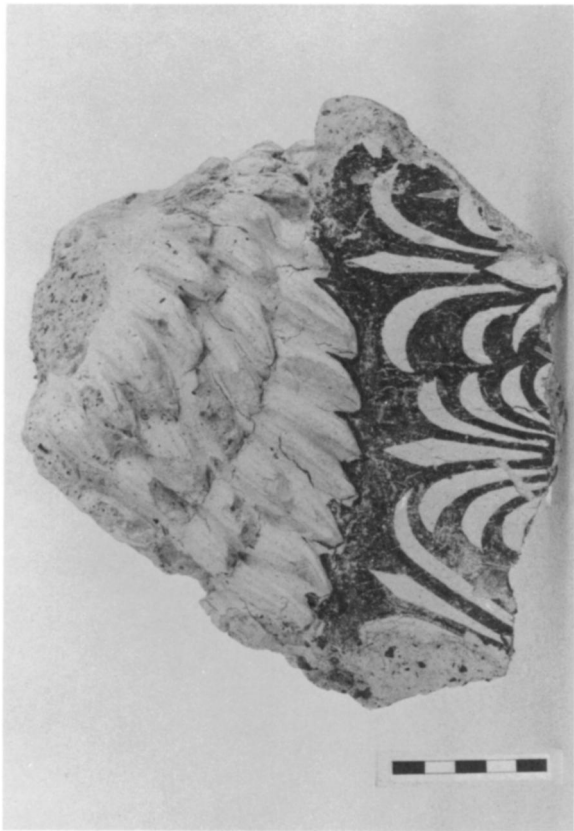


d. Bases 17-19, from Northwest.

Palati



b. Mudbricks *in situ*, from East; Base 14 in Background.

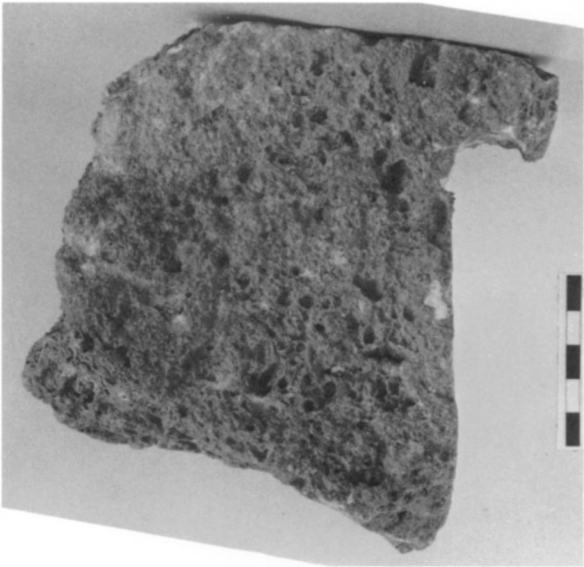


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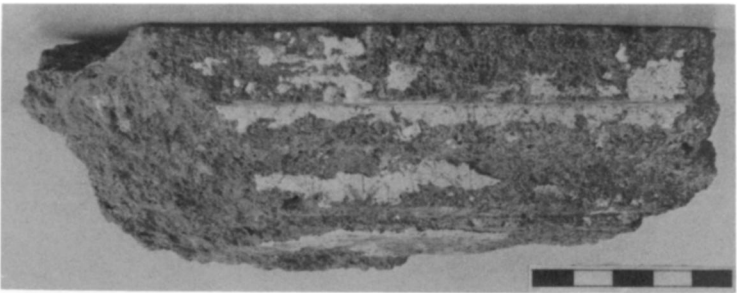
Palati



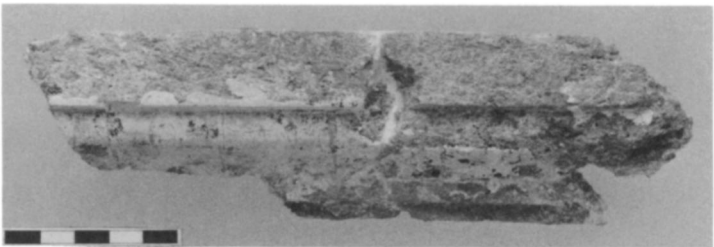
a. Base 14 (in Background) and Floor, from South.



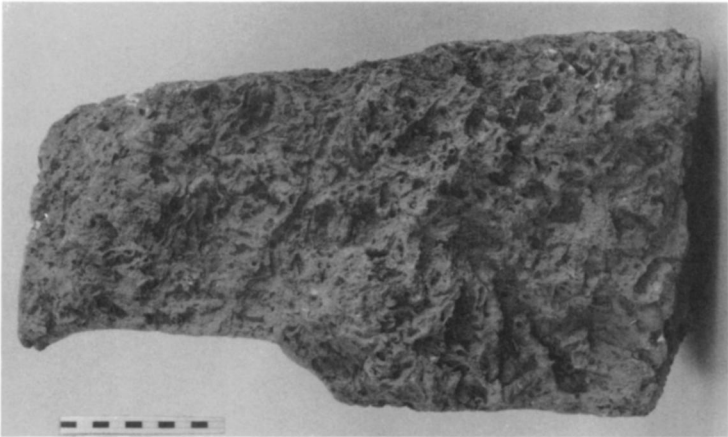
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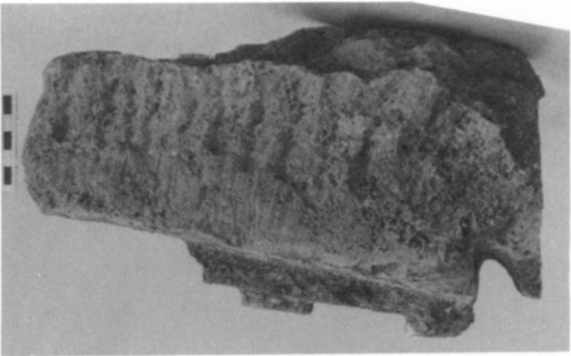
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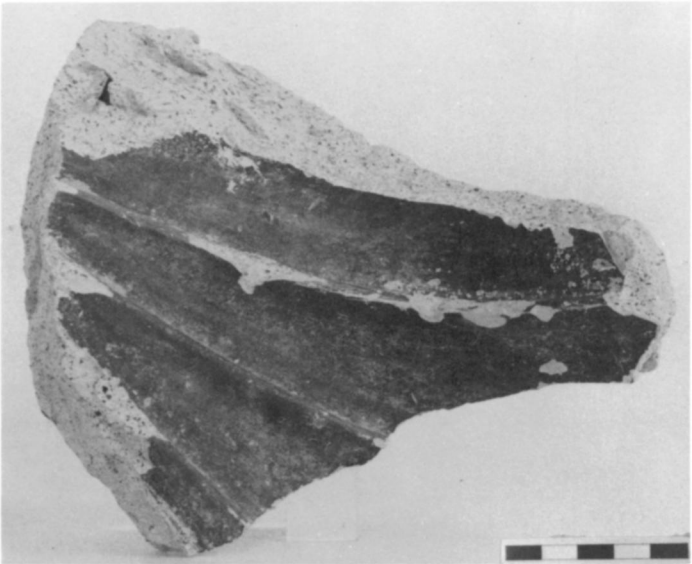
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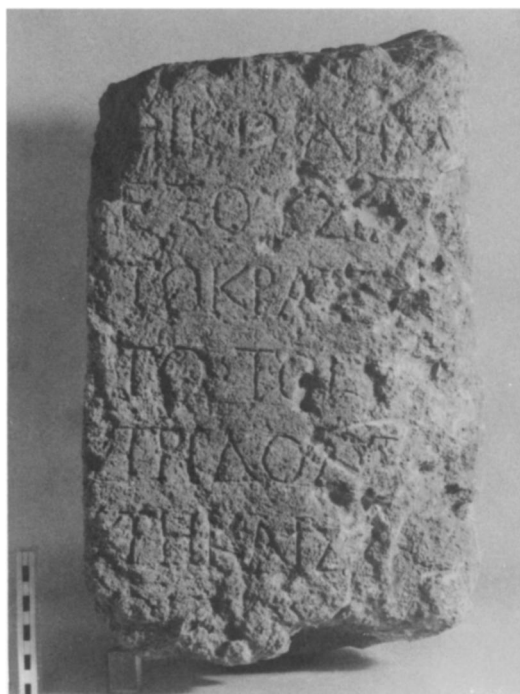
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11



8



12



a. L-shaped Foundation to North of Palati, from West.



b. Throne Theater Seat.



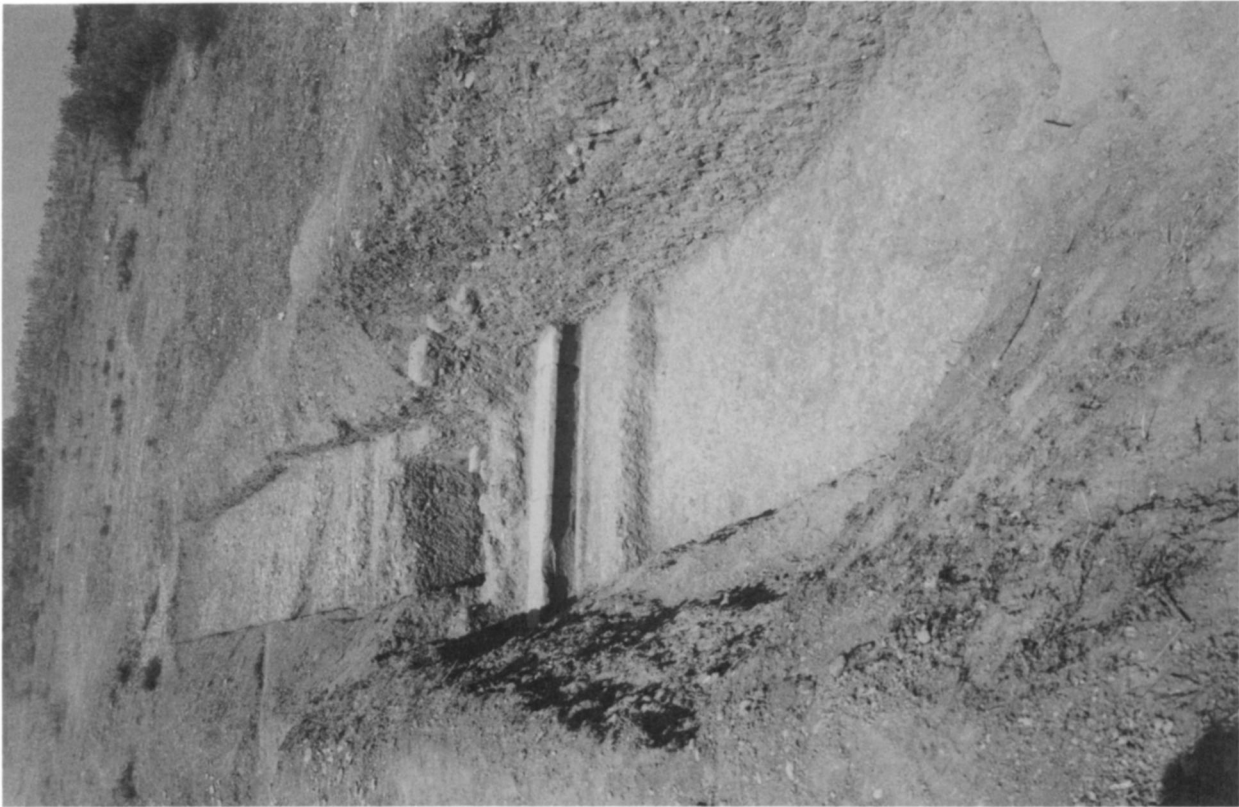
a. From West.



b. East End, from South.

North Building

WILLIAM R. BIER: EXCAVATIONS AT PHLIUS, 1970



a. Trench 1, from Southwest.



b. Bench Seats in Trench 1, from South.

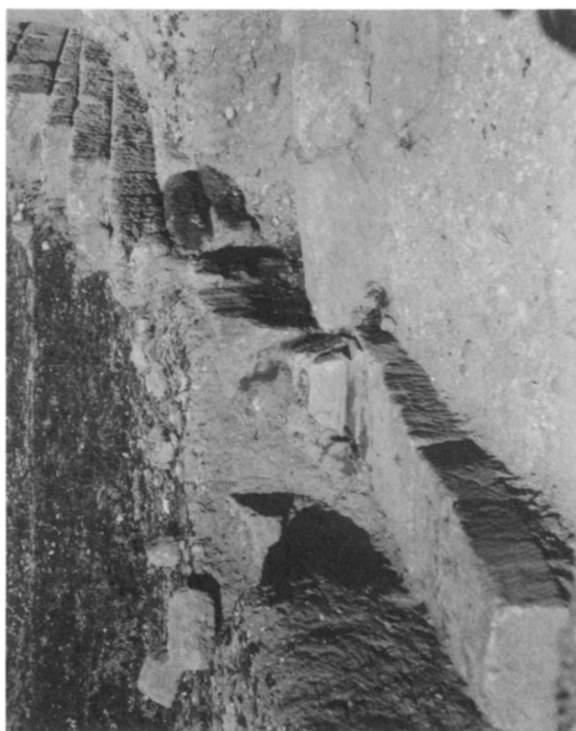
Theater



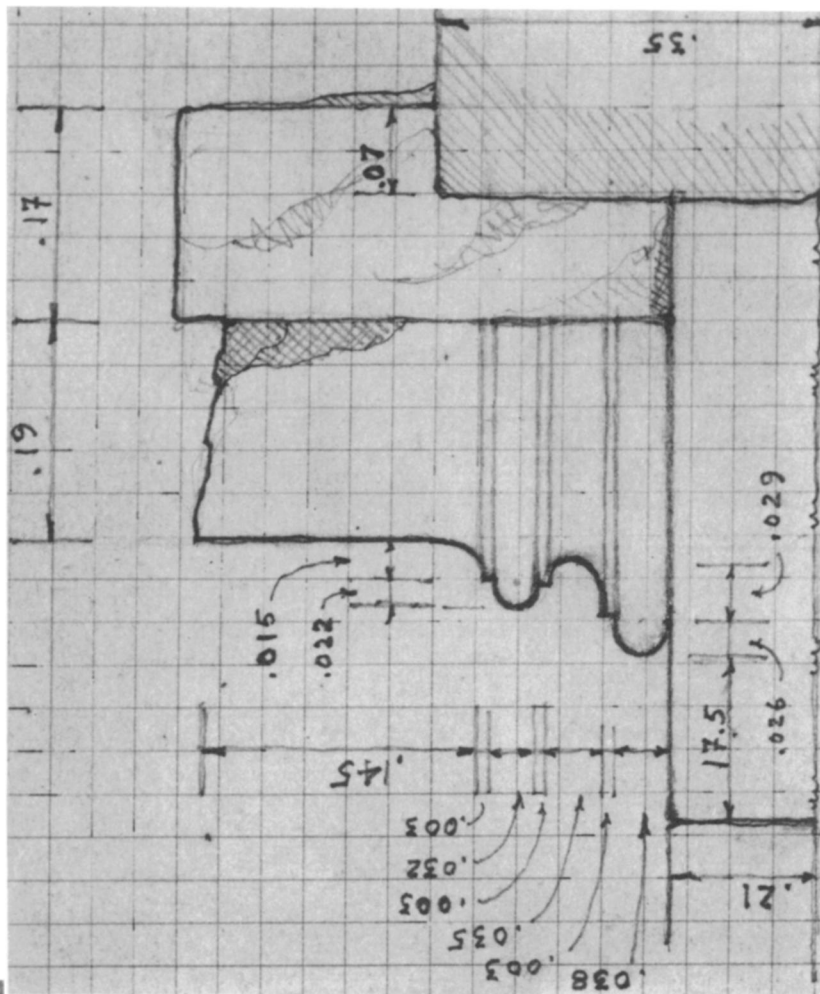
a. Retaining Wall, from Northwest.



b. Mason's Mark on Block in Retaining Wall.



c. Anta *in situ* in 1924, from Southwest.



d. Sketch of Anta Base from 1924 Notebook.

Theater



a. Theater, Retaining Wall, Theater Seat in Left Corner, from Southwest.



b. Area of Excavations at end of Season, from North.