

# EXCAVATIONS AT NEMEA, 1983

(PLATES 33–46)

## Summary

Excavations at the Sanctuary of Nemean Zeus in 1983, the final season of the projected ten-year campaign, included a series of probes intended to clarify understanding of various areas. Tests in the Heroön revealed additional information regarding the predecessor of the existing structure. Directly west of the Heroön there appeared a segment of north–south roadway; although a date for the road was not determined, it was established that it went out of use in the Hellenistic period. A handsome stretch of wall bordering the road on its western side may be connected with remains previously discovered to the north. In the southern part of the Sanctuary test trenches clarified aspects of Early Christian activity and confirmed an early date for certain fugitive remains just north of the west end of the Xenon. Further investigations in levels beneath the 4th-century Bath House revealed architectural remains dating to the 5th century B.C., a significant 5th-century votive deposit, and a stretch of north–south roadway. It seems that this road, apparently Archaic in date, must have intersected the east–west road previously discovered just south of the Bath. Major expansion of the Sanctuary in the 5th century evidently put these thoroughfares out of use. Excavation in areas southeast of the Temple of Zeus revealed architectural remains in the form of traces of an Early Christian structure, an annex to Oikos 9 datable to the Hellenistic period, and a small rectangular building belonging to the Classical period. The area was particularly rich in small finds retrieved in quantity from a series of deep trenches associated with the Early Christian activity. Finally, a new boundary stone discovered in this region may be interpreted as delimiting the sacred area of the Sanctuary on the east side.

EXCAVATIONS AT NEMEA in 1983 completed the tenth season of annual campaigns whose goal has been to uncover a substantial part of the Sanctuary of Zeus.<sup>1</sup> Future investigations will be needed to fill out the picture acquired so far, and they will presumably reveal such establishments necessary to a Panhellenic sanctuary as a palaestra, a gymnasium, and a hippodrome, as well as other buildings of unknown nature.<sup>2</sup> In the

<sup>1</sup> The 1983 staff included Larry Ball of the University of Virginia, Polyxeni Bouyia of the University of Athens, Ronald Colaizzi of the University of California at Berkeley, Carol Hershenson of the University of Cincinnati, and, briefly, Professor Olga Palagia of the University of Athens as excavators; Craig Mauzy of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens as photographer; Aikaterina Skliri of the University of Athens as architect; Patricia A. Felch of the University of California at Berkeley and Monica Rose Smith of Queens University, Kingston, Ontario as museum technicians, cataloguers, and restorers. Professor Stephen G. Miller was Director with the undersigned serving as Assistant Director. All these people deserve much credit and gratitude for their hard and careful work.

We would also express thanks to many people who have been helpful and supportive of the work in a variety of ways. First we acknowledge the assistance of the Greek Archaeological Service, especially our colleagues at the Nauplion Ephoreia of Antiquities and of them particularly the Ephor Dr. Aikaterina Demakopoulou-Papantoniou and Epimeletrias Eleni Palaologlou and Zoë Aslamatzidou. For continued support from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the University of California at Berkeley under its Chancellor I. M. Heyman, we are also deeply grateful.

The operating expenses at Nemea in 1983 were supported in part by a gifts-and-matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by gifts from 189 donors. We thank all these sources who make our continued work at Nemea possible.

<sup>2</sup> For previous work at Nemea see "Excavations at Nemea, 1973–1974," *Hesperia* 44, 1975, pp. 144–172; "Excavations at Nemea, 1975," *Hesperia* 45, 1976, pp. 174–202; "Excavations at Nemea, 1976," *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 1–26; "Excavations at Nemea, 1977," *Hesperia* 47, 1978, pp. 58–88; "Excavations at Nemea,

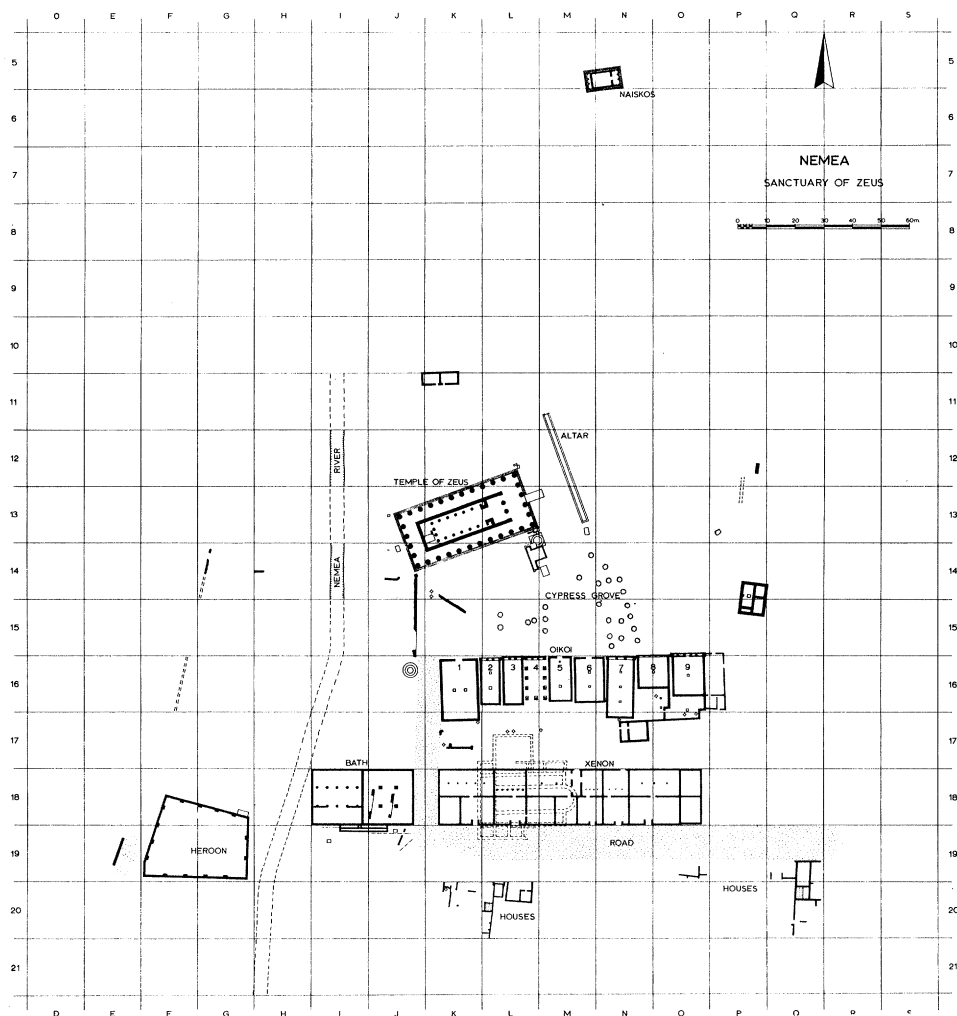


FIG. 1. Restored plan of the Sanctuary of Zeus, Archaic to Hellenistic periods

meantime, over the next few years the quantities of material of all categories found in the last decade will undergo the detailed study and final publication which they require and deserve. The following report on the most recent season follows topographical sequence.

1978," *Hesperia* 48, 1979, pp. 73–103; "Excavations at Nemea, 1979," *Hesperia* 49, 1980, pp. 178–205; "Excavations at Nemea, 1980," *Hesperia* 50, 1981, pp. 45–67; "Excavations at Nemea, 1981," *Hesperia* 51, 1982, pp. 19–40; "Excavations at Nemea, 1982," *Hesperia* 52, 1983, pp. 70–95. In the following presentation specific bibliographic references to previous work will be made only in the case of particularly important or arguable points.

## THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA OF THE SANCTUARY OF ZEUS

*Section G 19*

Excavations of 1979 and 1980 in the Heroön near the southwest corner of the Sanctuary (Fig. 1) had revealed the outline of both the architecture and the history of successive phases which culminated in the Hellenistic structure now visible.<sup>3</sup> In the 1983 season two test trenches were laid out within its confines with a view to answering certain specific questions.

The first area of particular interest centered on a large cluster of stones in Section G 19 (at G/4,12-19/1,6; Pl. 33:a). These stones when uncovered in 1980 were surrounded by masses of votive material of Archaic to early Classical date.<sup>4</sup> Especially intriguing here was a series of large boulders placed on edge to form something like a small chamber (at G/5,8-19/1,3) which, at least in its current state of preservation, was open-ended toward the north (Pl. 33:b). Since this enclosure seemed a promising candidate for cult focus, it was decided to lay out a trench surrounding it (at G/3,13-19/1,8) for supplementary investigation. Unfortunately, nothing further was discovered to indicate either function or purpose of the chamber, and it remains a supposition, admittedly a strong one, that it had cult significance. Evidence from successive layers surrounding it indicated that the chamber was functioning at least from the Archaic period through the 4th century B.C.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, no clear construction date emerged, and soundings to lower levels, both within and outside the chamber, produced disappointingly little in the way of datable material; the scanty bits of pottery appeared, however, to be uniformly prehistoric in date.<sup>6</sup>

A second test trench was placed at the southeast inner corner of the Heroön with the intent of investigating the fill against and below the orthostates belonging to the Hellenistic phase (Pl. 33:a, c).<sup>7</sup> Five limestone orthostates, plus a fragment of a sixth block, had been found standing on the soft, yellow poros foundation blocks along the east wall close to the southeast corner of the Heroön (at G/17,18-19/13,17).<sup>8</sup> It seems possible that these orthostates on the east side were allowed to survive in order to serve as a kind of embankment against the Nemea River; elsewhere they had been robbed out as early as the 1st century after Christ.<sup>9</sup> Eventually, however, nature apparently destroyed at least their northern neighbors in the very obvious westward bend which the river came to take.<sup>10</sup>

The excavation of this trench revealed how much had been lost forever of the evidence pertaining to the Heroön. Hopes of finding traces of a floor contemporary with its Hellenistic phase were soon dashed as it appeared that the so-called orthostates were in fact substantially if not entirely below floor level, acting as something like a euthynteria.<sup>11</sup> The nature of

<sup>3</sup> See *Hesperia* 49, 1980, pp. 194–198 and *Hesperia* 50, 1981, pp. 60–65.

<sup>4</sup> The corresponding pottery lots of the 1983 season include G 19:23, 24, 25, 29.

<sup>5</sup> Pottery lots G 19:23, 29.

<sup>6</sup> Pottery lots G 19:36–44. Cf. the sounding made in 1979 just outside the north wall of the Heroön at G/2,3-18/11,13 which likewise produced evidence of prehistoric activity (*Hesperia* 49, 1980, pp. 197–198).

<sup>7</sup> See *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 61 for description of these orthostates.

<sup>8</sup> See plan, *ibid.*, p. 60, fig. 6.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. *ibid.*, p. 62.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. *ibid.*, p. 61.

<sup>11</sup> The Hellenistic date for the construction of the latest phase of the Heroön in the third quarter of the

the construction above this course cannot be ascertained; mud brick remains the likeliest material with, perhaps, a coping to top it off.

The most important piece of evidence deriving from this trench concerns the emergence of a wall belonging to the predecessor of the Hellenistic Heroön: an east–west stretch of rubble wall which passes beneath the “orthostates” and their foundations (at G/18-19/17; Pl. 33:c). That this rubble wall was carefully respected by the builders of the later wall above is shown by the fact that they not only left it in place but employed a thinner foundation slab to pass over it, 0.12 m. high as compared to the 0.35 m. height of its neighbors. The same phenomenon of respect for earlier construction had already been observed in areas along the west wall of the Hellenistic structure and at its northwest and southwest corners.<sup>12</sup> Evidence from the new test would indicate only that the early wall is Archaic in date,<sup>13</sup> thus confirming the chronological picture obtained from other tests in the Heroön.<sup>14</sup> Investigation at levels below this early wall revealed sandy, gravelly fill characteristic of river wash, but the scanty pottery in it was not susceptible to dating.<sup>15</sup>

### *Section E 19*

The eastern half of Section E 19 was investigated with a view to learning more about the area directly west of the Heroön. Beneath the ubiquitous Early Christian farming trenches,<sup>16</sup> there emerged evidence of activity, of unidentified nature, during the 3rd and 4th centuries after Christ.<sup>17</sup> One of the several small finds from late Roman context is an interesting object: a bronze locket or possibly a reliquary (BR 1087; Pl. 34:b).<sup>18</sup>

The more ancient levels of the trench revealed a stretch of north–south road bordered on its west side by a substantial retaining wall (Figs. 1 and 2, Pl. 34:a). The roadway consisted of very hard, solidly packed gravel which was, however, much damaged by subsequent water wear; a narrow deep channel cut by water runs through the center of it in a north–south direction. For lack of time it was not possible to probe beneath this surface of the road, nor was it possible to determine its full original width, although it obviously extends eastward toward the Heroön. Its construction date is still unknown, but clear evidence was recovered to indicate that the new road was no longer operative in the Hellenistic period: a silty fill of water deposit dating to the late 3rd century B.C. was found to cover it.<sup>19</sup>

3rd century, fortunately documented elsewhere (*ibid.*), was not confirmed here; pottery in the foundation trenches for both “orthostates” and foundations below chanced to be considerably earlier (pottery lots G 19:52, 56, 58, 59).

<sup>12</sup> *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 63; cf. fig. 6.

<sup>13</sup> Pottery lots G 19:60, 61, 62, 64.

<sup>14</sup> *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 63.

<sup>15</sup> Pottery lots G 19:63, 66.

<sup>16</sup> Pottery lot E 19:1.

<sup>17</sup> Pottery lot E 19:3. Cf. also coins C 2710 (Constans I, A.D. 345–351), C 2711 (Constantine I, A.D. 335–337), and C 2712 (Arcadius, A.D. 383) found mixed in with Early Christian material (pottery lot E 19:1). It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of John MacIsaac of the Johns Hopkins University in identification of these coins. The most concentrated evidence for this period at Nemea comes from a well off the southwest corner of the Temple of Zeus (cf. *Hesperia* 48, 1979, pp. 74–77).

<sup>18</sup> For a locket from a different sort of context see *Hesperia* 48, 1979, pl. 21:b.

<sup>19</sup> Pottery lot E 19:10; cf. also lot E 19:8 which lay above. For another short-lived road see the east–west road in J 19 and I 19 of Archaic date which went out of use in the 5th century B.C. (cf. *Hesperia* 52, 1983, p. 92).

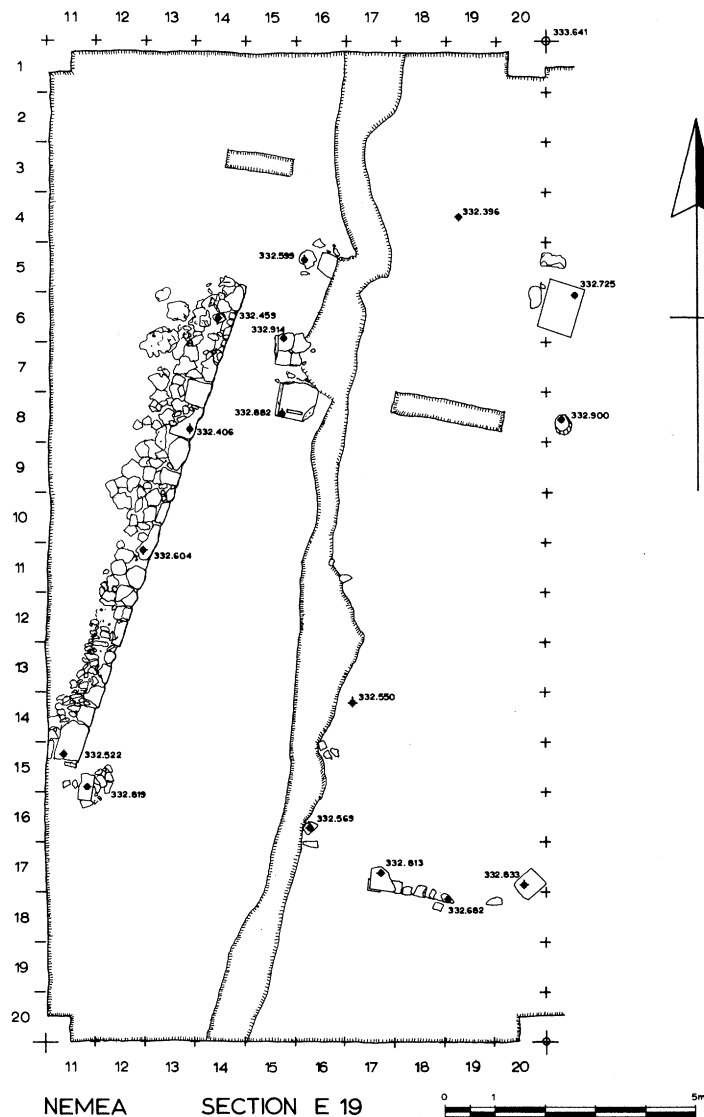


FIG. 2. Section E 19

The handsome segment of wall bordering the road on its western side (Fig. 2, Pl. 34:a) runs slightly northeast by southwest. Made of large field stones neatly aligned on its eastern face, it measures some 0.75 m. across. A depth of up to 0.45 m. was uncovered; the possibility of even greater depth awaits further investigation. The wall is preserved for a length of nearly 10 meters from E/10,14-19/6,15 and disappears into the western scarp of the trench. No construction date for the wall was retrieved, but it, like the road itself, was out of use in the Hellenistic period as is shown by fill over and against it (which included an Elean

coin, C 2896, datable to 271–191 B.C.; Pl. 34:d, e, lower right).<sup>20</sup> The rough alignment of this new wall segment with traces of walls in Sections F 16 and G 19 discovered in 1982 is striking (cf. Fig. 1).<sup>21</sup> Although the only well-preserved stretch of this line in G 19 is differently constructed, employing mainly re-used Archaic wall blocks, there may be a connection which will emerge with further investigation.

Remains of a rubbly wall constructed of small stones and standing in part two courses high was found at E/17,18-19/17,18 (Fig. 2). Its function is unknown, and its possible relation to other scattered stones in the trench (i.e. at E/11,12-19/15,16) could not be determined; the passage of water from the streambed has left substantial gaps. Fill which collected against the stones of the rubble wall produced a fibula of a type datable to the 3rd to 2nd century B.C. (GJ 99; Pl. 34:c).<sup>22</sup>

On the eastern side of the trench (at ca. E/17,20-19/1,20) a numismatically rich strip of earth was found overlying much of the silty fill of the streambed. It contained, besides pottery,<sup>23</sup> some 58 coins datable to the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C., of which a sampling is illustrated in Plate 34:d, e. Of these coins C 2824 is an issue of Demetrios Poliorketes (294–288 B.C.); C 2792 is of the Achaean League (no earlier than 280); C 2811 and C 2817 are of Kleonai and date to the later 3rd century. It seems likely that this layer may represent a partial clean-up of the Heroön in the Hellenistic period.<sup>24</sup>

## THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY OF ZEUS

### *Sections I 17 and K 17*

Two small test trenches were opened in Sections I 17 and K 17. The work in I 17, which was of very limited scope and duration, encompassed an area within Grid Squares I/13,20-17/6,9 (Fig. 1). Different phases of river bank were revealed to the west and Early Christian graves to the east.<sup>25</sup> From such Early Christian context, however, there emerged several significant architectural terracottas belonging to the early Temple of Zeus: a roof tile stamped with a rosette (AT 245)<sup>26</sup> and the most complete segment discovered so far of a ridge akroterion, preserving its vivid coloring of red, yellow, and black on buff (AT 244; Pl. 35:c).<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Pottery lots E 19:19, 23, 24, 25.

<sup>21</sup> *Hesperia* 52, 1983, pp. 75–77.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. H. Philipp, *OlForsch*, XIII, *Bronzeschmuck aus Olympia*, Berlin 1981, pp. 322–324 and C. Rolley, "Fibules illyriennes dans le Parnasse," *BCH*, Suppl. IV, 1977, pp. 443–451.

<sup>23</sup> Pottery lot E 19:7.

<sup>24</sup> For the construction date of the latest phase of the Heroön in the third quarter of the 3rd century B.C., see *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 62. For evidence of clean-up of Heroön sacrificial material in the 4th century, see *ibid.*, p. 65.

<sup>25</sup> For Early Christian graves just to the north in Section J 16, see *Hesperia* 49, 1980, pp. 191–192, fig. 6. It is interesting to note in the uppermost layer of excavation in Section I 17 the discovery of a Greek ten-lepta piece dated 1882 (C 2912). It might have been lost by colleagues from the French School of Archaeology in Athens who in 1884 undertook brief excavations at the site (see *Hesperia* 44, 1975, p. 145 and Stephen G. Miller, "The Archaeologists: 1884–1979," in F. A. Cooper, S. G. Miller, S. G. Miller, and C. Smith, *The Temple of Zeus at Nemea. Perspectives and Prospects*, Athens 1983, p. 40.

<sup>26</sup> For the type, see *Hesperia* 49, 1980, p. 185 and *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 52.

<sup>27</sup> See *ibid.*, pp. 52–54, fig. 4.

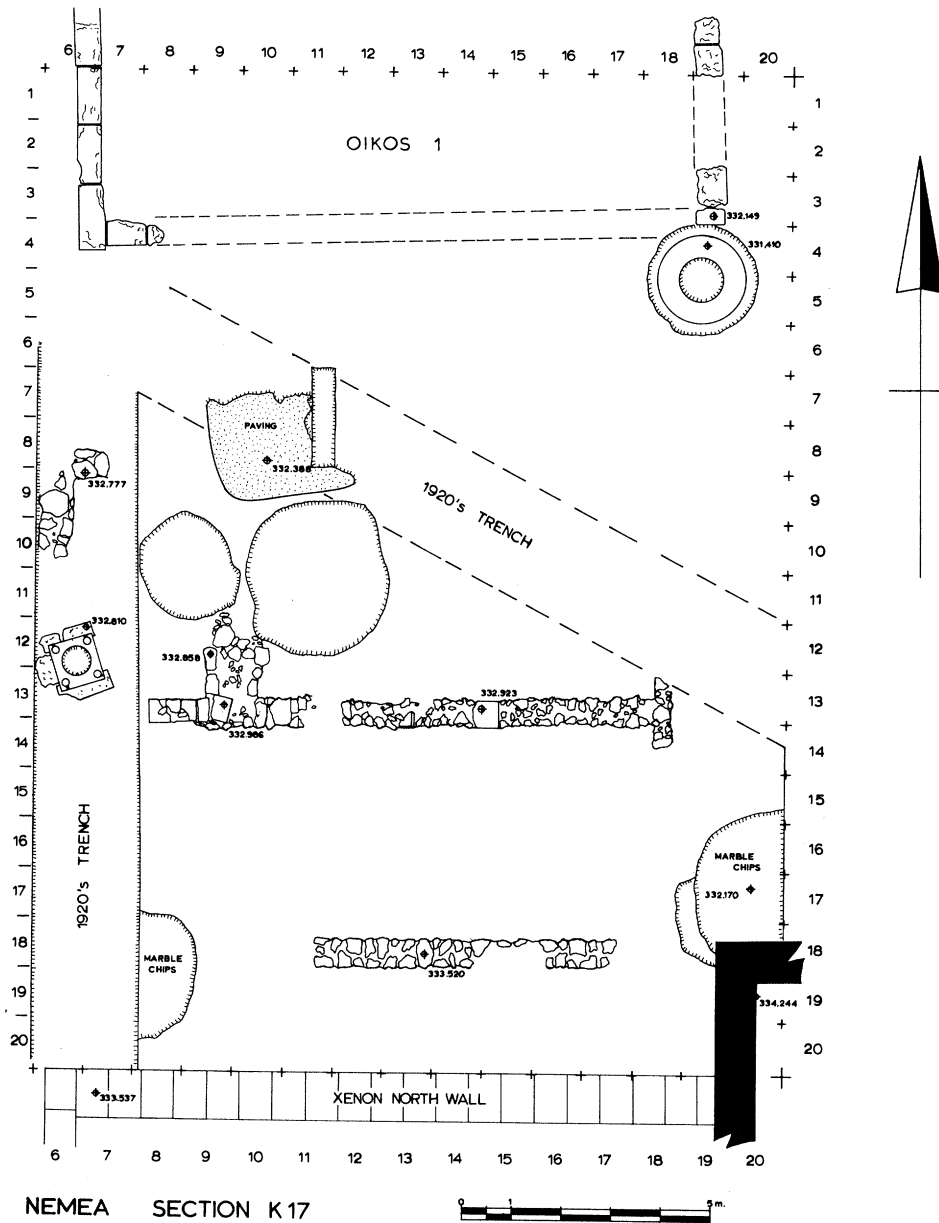


FIG. 3. Section K 17

The purpose of investigation in Section K 17 was to discover the date and significance of a cementlike paving long visible at K/9,12-17/7,9, just south of Oikos 1, and to determine its possible relationship to a rough east-west wall previously uncovered at K/8,18-17/13,14 and to a well also dug earlier at K/6,7-17/12,13 (see Figs. 1 and 3, Pl. 35:a). The

paving had been first uncovered in excavations of 1926<sup>28</sup> but was not fully investigated either then or in subsequent work in the area in 1978.<sup>29</sup> The pavement as preserved measured some 2.60 m. east–west by 2.10 m. north–south with a thickness of 0.015 m.<sup>30</sup> Broken away on its east and north sides, it preserved a definite upturned edge on both south and west sides (Pl. 35:b, visible at top and upper left). Above the western 0.80 m. of this pavement and raised *ca.* 0.10 m. by an earth fill, there was a layer of softer cement chips and beaten earth, itself *ca.* 0.02 to 0.03 m. thick (Pl. 35:b). The earth fill between these two cement layers produced material of Early Christian date.<sup>31</sup> A test trench through the pavement at K/11-17/7,8 (Fig. 3, Pl. 35:a in foreground) produced no pottery. It seems likely that this installation had to do with a reservoir of some sort in the Early Christian period.

The paving was bordered on its south and southwest by two pits (Fig. 3, Pl. 35:a). These pits, which interrupted any direct connection to the rubble wall, proved to have been filled in at the same late date, i.e. in the 5th to 6th centuries after Christ,<sup>32</sup> and hence may have been operative with the paving. They contained, however, a number of earlier objects which attest once again to the disturbance of rich Classical remains in the area. Notable among these finds are a fragmentary ridge akroterion of new type (AT 246; Pl. 35:d); two fragmentary lamps of the late Archaic period (L 185 and L 186; Pl. 36:a); a folded lead strip which is inscribed ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΔΟΡΟΣ (IL 492; Pl. 36:c); a fragmentary Doric capital (A 233; Pl. 36:b); a bronze “spoon” inscribed with an alpha (BR 1128; Pl. 36:d); and various vessels of which a mug and a one-handled cup are typical examples (P 1277 and P 1278; Pl. 36:e).

This brief investigation added to the picture of considerable activity in the immediate vicinity during the Early Christian era, including the Early Christian church to the east<sup>33</sup> and a substantial Early Christian house to the southwest.<sup>34</sup> The well at K/6,7-17/12,13 (Fig. 3) was clearly also in use at this time even though there is a certain amount of evidence to suggest that it may originally have been constructed in the Hellenistic period.<sup>35</sup> Some light was also shed on the nature of the very fugitive architectural remains of earlier date in the area. Clearing just south of the two Early Christian pits revealed a short spur wall running north–south at K/9-17/12,13 (Figs. 1, 3). No date for its construction was retrieved, but since its northern end was destroyed in the Early Christian period by the digging of the two circular pits, it obviously predated the latest activity. The west end of the east–west wall was evidently removed with the digging of the well; a construction date for this wall in the 5th century B.C. was recovered in the 1977 excavation season.<sup>36</sup> The new cross wall may well belong to the same early structure.

<sup>28</sup> Nemea Notebook 5, 1926, pp. 49–51, Trench A; cf. *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 88, fig. 3 (“1920’s TRENCH”). For the wall, see *ibid.*, pp. 87, 88, fig. 3, pl. 29:f).

<sup>29</sup> See *Hesperia* 48, 1979, pp. 85–87.

<sup>30</sup> A segment of paving was inventoried as MISC. 12.

<sup>31</sup> Pottery lot K 17:42.

<sup>32</sup> Pit A (the eastern pit), pottery lots K 17:37, 38; Pit B (the western pit), pottery lots K 17:39, 40.

<sup>33</sup> See most recently *Hesperia* 50, 1981, pp. 55–57.

<sup>34</sup> See *Hesperia* 52, 1983, pp. 83–87.

<sup>35</sup> See *Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 81. Partial excavation of the well was made in 1925, completed only in 1977.

<sup>36</sup> See *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 87.



*Section J 18*

Several trenches were laid out in Section J 18 to investigate antiquities lying beneath the 4th-century Bath House. The first trench (Trench I) was located north and northeast of the southeast interior column support in the Bath's east room (at J/10,16-18/10,13, with an

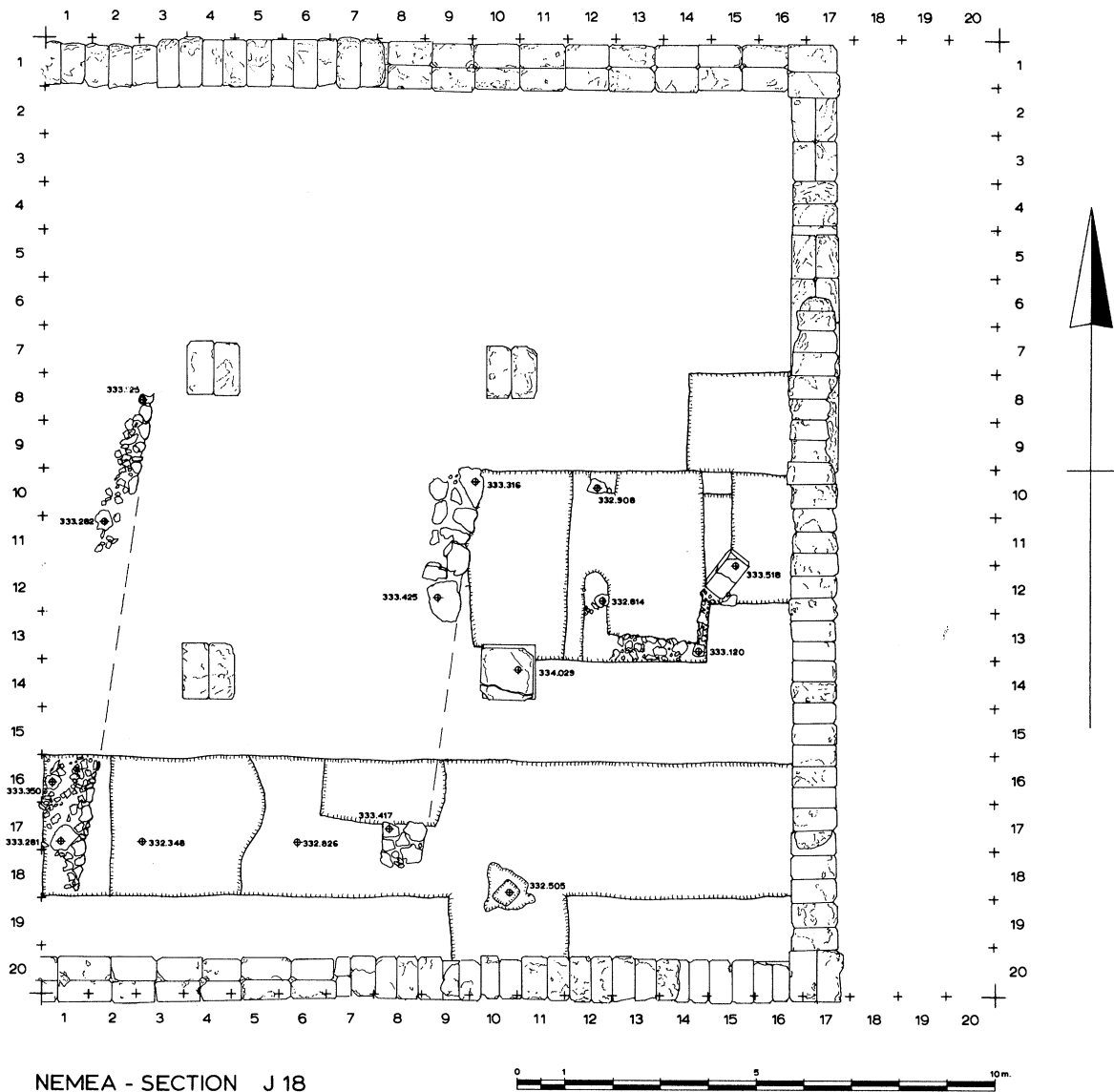


FIG. 4. Section J 18

additional appended trench at J/14,16-18/8,9; Fig. 4). The second trench (Trench II) was dug south of the latter against the south wall of the east room of the Bath (at J/1,16-18/16,19; Fig. 4).

Most of the antiquities of Early Christian date in the area had already been removed in the 1920's,<sup>37</sup> so that the first substantial remains encountered in the current season had to do with the Bath itself. Stretches of foundation trenches for the east and south walls of the latter structure yielded no chronological information to add to the already existing dating of the Bath in the later 4th century.<sup>38</sup> Interesting with regard to the Bath, however, were the results of excavation along the north side of the southeast interior column support. Here was revealed for the first time the full depth of its foundations, which include four subterranean courses (Pl. 37:a).<sup>39</sup>

The immediate architectural predecessor to the Bath is represented by segments of walls built of large field stones. Remains of a north-south wall lie at the western edge of Trench I (at J/9-18/10,12) and continue through the center of Trench II (at J/8-18/17,18; cf. Fig. 4). Test trenches produced pottery and lamps (L 170, L 171; Pl. 37:c) which give the wall a construction date in the last quarter of the 5th century B.C.<sup>40</sup> It will be noted on the plan, Figure 4, that a second similarly constructed, fragmentary wall along the west side of Trench II (at J/1-18/16,18, with a northerly extension at J/1,2-18/8,11) runs parallel to it. Its relative elevation and similar construction suggest that the second wall belongs to the same structure as the first. Clearing of the area in antiquity prior to construction of the Bath House, specifically the setting of the four interior column supports, may account for the gaps in both the east and west walls formed by these two stretches of rubble. Speculation would suggest that the building which included these rubble walls was originally destroyed in the general devastation of the site in the late 5th century B.C.<sup>41</sup> The building as now exposed consists, then, of a room whose east and west walls have foundations *ca.* 1 meter thick. The interior east-west width of the room is *ca.* 6 meters and the minimum north-south length is approximately 11 meters (cf. also Fig. 1). Nothing further can be said about the fragmentary structure at present, but future investigations may clarify the situation and possibly relate these walls to the nebulous remains of Classical date discovered to the south in Section J 19.<sup>42</sup>

The direct predecessor of this structure in the western part of Trench II proved to be a north-south road of which a segment was excavated at approximately J/2,5-18/16,18 (Fig. 4). No precise chronology was obtained for the several roads in this sequence, but they must be Archaic in date.<sup>43</sup> The continuation of the road southward was discovered in 1924 in a north-south test trench just inside the Bath House foundations (at J/1,2-18/2,11).<sup>44</sup> This north-south road must thus have intersected the major east-west road of Archaic date

<sup>37</sup> There remained only an Early Christian trench which was discovered running diagonally northeast by southwest across both test trenches at J/14,16-18/10,13 and J/13,15-18/16,18.

<sup>38</sup> Pottery lots J 18:4, 7, 41, 52. See *Hesperia* 52, 1983, p. 91 on the 4th-century dating of the Bath.

<sup>39</sup> Pottery lot J 18:5.

<sup>40</sup> Pottery lots J 18:8, 39.

<sup>41</sup> On this devastation, see *Hesperia* 44, 1975, p. 160, *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 9-10, *Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 65, *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 82, *Hesperia* 49, 1980, p. 186, *Hesperia* 50, 1981, p. 51.

<sup>42</sup> E.g. at J/7,9-19/5,8; cf. *Hesperia* 52, 1983, p. 92 and fig. 5.

<sup>43</sup> Pottery lots J 18:49, 53.

<sup>44</sup> Nemea Notebook 2, 1924, pp. 135, 148. The heavy, gravelly road fill is still visible in the scarp of this trench.

discovered in 1982 in Sections I 19 and J 19,<sup>45</sup> at about the line of the south wall of the 4th-century Bath House. That road, too, went out of use sometime in the 5th century and was built upon by a series of structures culminating in the Bath House itself. Significant new evidence has therefore been gained concerning a major building expansion of the sanctuary in the early Classical period.

Lower levels to the east revealed considerable activity in the first half of the 5th century B.C. Architecturally, the very insubstantial outlines of what are perhaps to be interpreted as traces of walls appeared in Trench I. Very rough lines of rubble may suggest the lines of a room bordered on east, west, and south sides (see Fig. 4, Pl. 37:b). This installation, whatever its true nature, is dated ceramically to the first half of the 5th century.<sup>46</sup> More impressive are the small finds associated with it in both Trenches I and II. A sequence of levels, possibly floors, datable within the same time range<sup>47</sup> contained quantities of pottery and notable objects such as two iron obeloi (IL 470 and IL 471; Pl. 37:d).<sup>48</sup> It seems likely that this material is to be related to a mounded votive deposit (Deposit J 18:1) rich in finds which was discovered at a comparable level in Trench II at J/10,11-18/18,19.

This rather amorphous votive mound was cut through on its south side by the foundations for the 4th-century Bath House<sup>49</sup> and disturbed on top by a later pit. The deposit itself appears to have been formed in two layers which were placed over a shallow pit. The upper, later level contained such material as a mug and a red-figured palmette lekythos (P 1270 and P 1321; Pl. 37:e) and dates to the later 5th century.<sup>50</sup> The lower and richer layer, which at the center was *ca.* 0.50 m. deep, contained quantities of material datable to the first half of the 5th century.<sup>51</sup> Among the finds in this lower layer were a great number of drinking cups, both one-handlers (including P 1342, P 1343 and P 1293; Pl. 38:a) and skyphoi (including P 1338-P 1341; Pl. 38:b);<sup>52</sup> miniature votives (P 1268, P 1269, P 1274, P 1318 and P 1320; Pl. 38:c); lamps (L 187 and L 189; Pl. 38:d);<sup>53</sup> and such diverse other pottery shapes as a blisterware jug (P 1315; Pl. 38:e) and a handsome lekanis (P 1280; Pl. 38:f). A number of bones were found, particularly near the bottom of the layer, and a fragmentary iron rod, possibly another obel (IL 491). A particularly noteworthy phenomenon of this deposit was a half dozen or more skyphoi found right side up, each with a stone inside and the upper walls

<sup>45</sup> See *Hesperia* 52, 1983, pp. 92-93, fig. 6.

<sup>46</sup> Pottery lots J 18:29, 35.

<sup>47</sup> Pottery lots J 18:15, 18, 19, 20, 23.

<sup>48</sup> These are similar to obeloi discovered in another votive pit in 1982 (*Hesperia* 52, 1983, p. 79, pl. 23:f). On obeloi see M. Oikonomidou, «Σίδεροι Ὀβελοί», *AAA* 2, 1969, pp. 436-445 and A. E. Furtwängler, "Zur Deutung der Obeloi im Lichte samischer Neufunde," *Tainia*, Roland Hampe Festschrift, H. A. Cahn, E. Simon, edd., Mainz 1980, pp. 81-98.

<sup>49</sup> Cf. another sacrificial pit located eastward at K/10-18/18 which was cut through by the foundations of the 4th-century Xenon (*Hesperia* 44, 1975, pp. 148-149).

<sup>50</sup> Pottery lot J 18:45.

<sup>51</sup> Pottery lot J 18:47; cf. also lot J 18:46 which is associated with the deposit.

<sup>52</sup> The skyphoi, which are particularly susceptible to dating, include types of the late 6th into the first half of the 5th century (cf. C. A. Blegen, H. Palmer, and R. S. Young, *Corinth*, XIII, *The North Cemetery*, Princeton 1964, group iii, p. 107, fig. 11).

<sup>53</sup> For the lamps: L 189, see O. Broneer, *Isthmia*, III, *Terracotta Lamps*, Princeton 1977, Type IVB; L 187, see R. Howland, *The Athenian Agora*, IV, *Greek Lamps and their Survivals*, Princeton 1958, Type 20.

shattered all around (Pl. 38:g).<sup>54</sup> Surely a sacrificial deposit, the question presents itself, what, if any, relationship has it with the structure to the north of which only shadowy outlines have so far emerged? Further excavation is needed to help clarify the situation.

## THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY OF ZEUS

### *Sections Q 14, P 14, P 15, and P 16*

Excavation in areas southeast of the Temple of Zeus represented a continuation of last year's activities which had suggested the possible location of the Archaic stadium in this vicinity.<sup>55</sup> No additional evidence to support the hypothesis was discovered, although, to be sure, it is still not to be precluded. Instead, a rectangular building of Classical date was uncovered, as were a very fragmentary Early Christian structure and a building evidently dating to the Hellenistic period which appears to be something like an annex to Oikos 9 (Fig. 1).

The particularly vicious consequences of modern deep-plowing and viticulture were distressingly evident in this area. Just below the extant surface in the eastern half of Section P 14,<sup>56</sup> several large, squared limestone blocks were uncovered where they had been uprooted and heavily scarred by the plow which had cultivated this vineyard (see Plate 39:a where modern vine pits and plow tracks crisscross). Subsequent digging revealed that the ancient building to which these two blocks belonged had already been thoroughly damaged during the Early Christian period.

### EARLY CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY

Evidence of activity in the 5th to 6th centuries after Christ included, besides the all-too-familiar farming trenches, some highly fragmentary architecture and a series of long, deep, dump-filled trenches. The architectural remains consisted of the southwest corner of a structure which crosses the boundaries of Sections P 14 and Q 14 (at P/18,20-14/6,9 and Q/1,4-14/9,10; Fig. 5). A stretch of wall runs north-south for *ca.* 2.90 m. with a second fragmentary east-west wall intersecting it at right angles, the latter preserved for approximately 4.80 m.<sup>57</sup>

These walls, whose average width is 0.40–0.45 m., were constructed of field stones, roof tiles, and re-used architectural blocks, including some pieces evidently from the neighboring rectangular building of Classical date to be discussed below. No more of the structure was recovered, nor is there any evidence as to its function. It appears to have been both constructed and destroyed in the course of the 5th and 6th centuries after Christ.<sup>58</sup>

The entire area was extraordinarily rich in earlier finds, which were, however, almost without exception from disturbed contexts, primarily Early Christian but also modern.<sup>59</sup> A

<sup>54</sup> One of these stones was preserved as a sample and inventoried as ST 651.

<sup>55</sup> *Hesperia* 52, 1983, pp. 77–82.

<sup>56</sup> The western half of this Section was excavated in 1982 (*ibid.*).

<sup>57</sup> The east-west wall fades out at this point, and it is difficult to determine whether any of the lighter rubble and tiles which continue for another half meter eastward should be considered actually part of the wall construction.

<sup>58</sup> Pottery lots P 14:16, 17; Q 14:2, 4.

<sup>59</sup> Pottery lots P 14:15, 16, 17; Q 14:1, 2; P 15:1, 2, 6, 8.

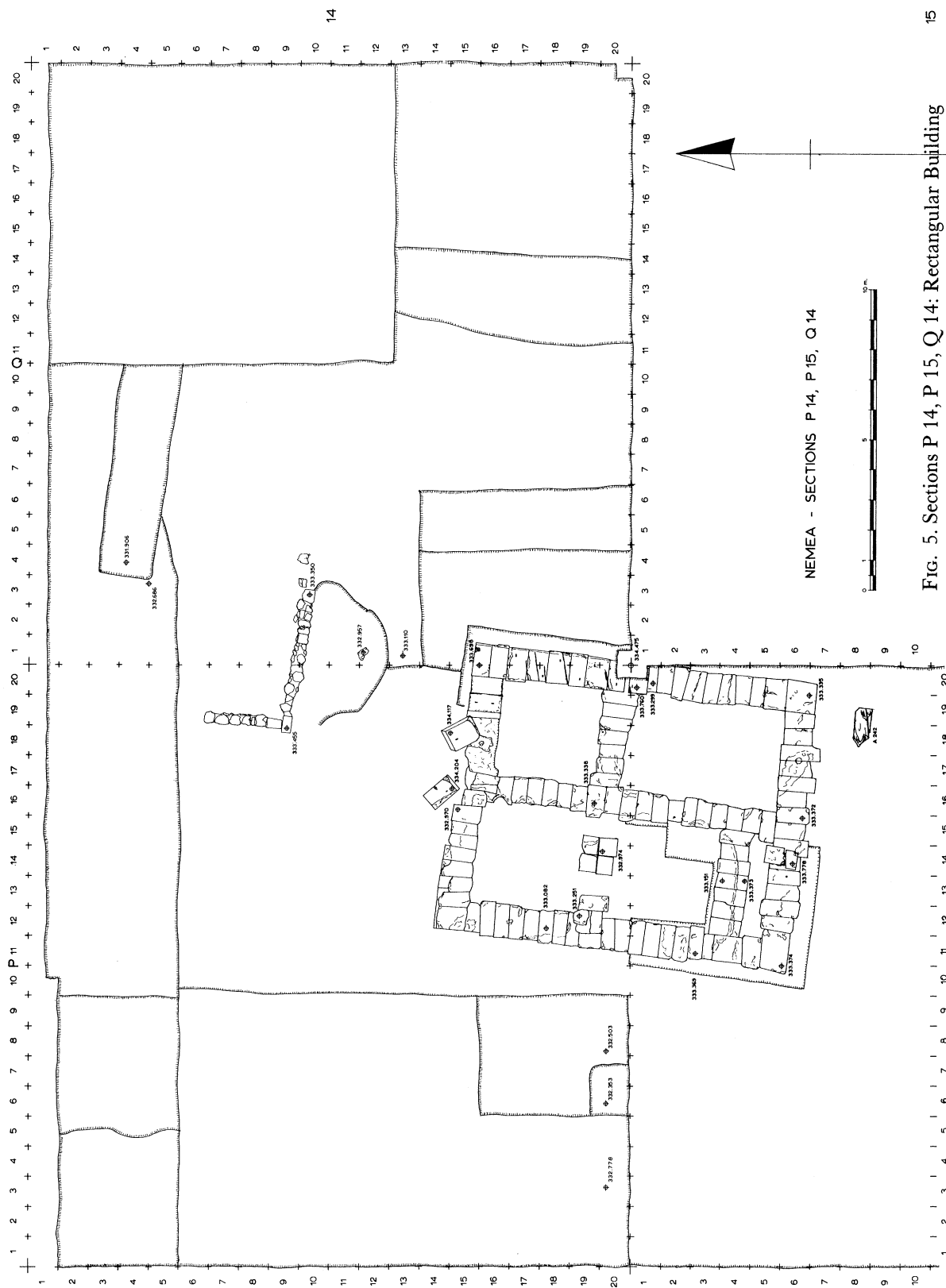


FIG. 5. Sections P 14, P 15, Q 14: Rectangular Building

selection of this material will suggest the character of the area. Among the many coins, which represented a wide spread from Archaic to Roman Imperial date, a few are illustrated in Plate 39:b, c.<sup>60</sup> Undoubtedly the most interesting among the numismatic finds, however, are four very rare iron coins of the city of Argos (C 3002–C 3005; Pl. 39:d, e); these were likewise, unfortunately, found in later context.<sup>61</sup>

Pottery was also recovered in quantity and ranged chronologically from the Archaic to the Early Christian period. An oinochoe of unusual shape and fabric (P 1284; Pl. 40:a) and a mug (P 1285; Pl. 40:d) will serve to represent the Classical period, while a selection of moldmade relief-bowl fragments (P 1307, P 1311, and P 1312; Pl. 40:b) may stand for activity in the Hellenistic era. Fragments of metal vessels were also discovered, notably the crushed remains of a bronze vessel, probably a bowl (BR 1103 a–c; Pl. 40:c), and an iron bucket handle (IL 484; Pl. 40:f). Among the lamps was a handsome pair from the late Archaic period (L 212 and L 213; Pl. 40:e).<sup>62</sup> A number of objects, surely votive in origin, included a terracotta horse and rider of familiar type (TC 181; Pl. 41:a);<sup>63</sup> a bronze fish-hook (BR 1116; Pl. 41:b); a small bronze antefix which was once undoubtedly attached to a vessel (BR 1099; Pl. 41:c);<sup>64</sup> and an inscribed bronze plaque (BR 1098; Pl. 41:d). The latter is particularly interesting and deserves a few comments. The preserved right-hand portion of the plaque is pierced by two holes. It reads, from upper left proceeding around and ending at lower left,

[ANEOE] KAN KAI TON KEAETA TOI ΔΙ ΤΟ . . .

The letter forms indicate a Sikyonian origin for the piece and a date of around 500 B.C.<sup>65</sup> Thus the event of dedicating a racehorse was obviously being commemorated by means of a plaque affixed to some surface, most likely a wall or column, but where that surface might have been located is impossible at this point to ascertain. The plaque was discovered at some considerable distance from the Temple of Zeus (more than 100 meters southeast of the altar), but could, of course, have been displaced or dedicated elsewhere. Epigraphically, the area was otherwise notably poor: only a single small inscribed fragment of stone appeared (I 106; Pl. 46:a).

An outstanding find of a different nature was a fragment probably belonging to a terracotta perirrhanterion (P 1287; Pl. 41:e). On it is a representation in relief of Theseus and the Minotaur, at the right as viewed, followed by a lion and then a partially preserved sphinx at the left.<sup>66</sup> Also a wide selection of weapons was retrieved (Arrowheads: BR 1132,

<sup>60</sup> C 2679, Aigina; C 2689, Corinth; C 2709, Sikyon; C 2919, Argos; C 2945, Boiotia; C 2931, Aigina; C 2948, Argos; C 2950, Corinth; C 2951, Sikyon; C 2963, Aigina; C 2992, Corinth. Note that two Aiginetan turtles in Plate 39:b, c (C 2922, C 2952) come from other contexts to be discussed below.

<sup>61</sup> It is noteworthy that although all four examples were found in Early Christian context, they were within the fill encompassed by the foundations of the annex to Oikos 9 (specifically within Grid Squares P/1-16/7,12; see Fig. 6 and discussion below).

<sup>62</sup> See Howland, *op. cit.* (footnote 53 above), Type 16B (L 212) and Type 16 Variant (L 213).

<sup>63</sup> Among the many examples found at Nemea, see a group dedicated at the Temple of Zeus, *Hesperia* 50, 1981, pl. 16:b.

<sup>64</sup> See, E. Diehl, *Die Hydria*, Mainz 1964, pls. 1–4 for examples of the type.

<sup>65</sup> Cf. L. H. Jeffery, *The Local Scripts of Archaic Greece*, Oxford 1961, pp. 138–139; see esp. pl. 23, no. 8.

<sup>66</sup> For other perirrhanteria see N. Allegro *et al.*, *Himera*, II, *Campagne di Scavo 1966–1973*, Rome 1976, pls. 59:1 and 2, 85:7 and N. Yalouris, «Ἀνασκαφή εἰς Μπάμπες Μακρύσιων», *Πρακτικά* 1955, p. 243,

BR 1135, BR 1143, BR 1151, BR 1153, and BR 1157; Pl. 42:a. Iron spearheads and spear-butts: IL 475, IL 480, IL 507, IL 509–IL 511, IL 518, and IL 519; Pl. 42:b).<sup>67</sup> An iron tool (IL 476; Pl. 41:f) is but one of several tools found in other contexts in the area; perhaps all were used in connection with the construction of one or another of the ancient structures in the vicinity.

Particularly impressive, however, were the architectural finds: two fragmentary Doric capitals of differing types appeared (A 234 and A 237) as did a host of interesting architectural terracottas. Most notable of these are a variety of palmette antefixes (e.g., AT 190 and AT 191; Pl. 42:c); an antefix decorated with a guilloche, a type heretofore unknown at Nemea (AT 251; Pl. 42:d); a pair of stamped roof tiles whose stamp reads ΣΟΣΙΚΛΕΟΣ (AT 188 and AT 189; Pl. 42:e); a group of five stamped roof tiles of which the most complete reads ΔΑΜΟΙΟ . . . (AT 195, AT 196, AT 248, AT 252, and AT 258; Pl. 43:a); and the lower part of a remarkable figured akroterion of which the upper half, to which it is now joined, was discovered previously (AT 42; Pl. 43:b). This akroterion has as its most extraordinary feature a creature with spread wings, most likely to be identified as a siren.<sup>68</sup> Part of the large palmette which forms the upper part of this piece had been discovered in 1977 in the fill in a robbing trench along the north side of Oikos 9.<sup>69</sup> It was at that time restored, reasonably enough, as the pedimental akroterion of that building.<sup>70</sup> The reconstruction must now, of course, be revised.

Another revision of the preliminary reconstruction of Oikos 9 concerns its columnar façade. The earlier discovery of an anta capital, also found in the robbing trench of the north façade of the building,<sup>71</sup> had led to the reconstruction of antae at the corners of the façade. But a handsome corner capital (A 244; Pl. 43:c) belonging to the architectural series of this Oikos, newly discovered in the foundations of the annex, must now replace the antae at the façade corners. Perhaps the antae originally flanked the doorway.

Other Early Christian activity besides the farming which churned up so many earlier antiquities included the digging of three long, broad, and deep trenches. Whatever their original intended purpose, they were eventually filled in with masses of pottery, roof tiles, stones, and other material mainly of earlier date. Two such trenches were found in Section

pl. 92:a. I am indebted to N. Bookidis for these references. On Theseus and the Minotaur see most recently F. Brommer, *Theseus. Die Taten des griechischen Helden in der antiken Kunst und Literatur*, Darmstadt 1982 and *idem*, "Theseus-Deutungen II," *AA (JdI)* 97) 1982, pp. 69–88.

<sup>67</sup> For the significance of quantities of such weapons frequently discovered in late 5th-century B.C. context, see *Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 65; *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 8–10.

<sup>68</sup> Cf. a fragmentary terracotta siren or harpy akroterion found at Lokroi Epizephyrioi (P. Orsi, "Caulonia," *MonAnt* 29, 1923, pp. 465–466, fig. 29) and a fragmentary bird or siren akroterion from Palaikastro on Crete (R. C. Bousanquet, "Excavations at Palaikastro. IV," *BSA* 11, 1904–1905, p. 303, not illustrated). See also M. Y. Goldberg, "Archaic Greek Akroteria," *AJA* 86, 1982, pp. 193–217, esp. pp. 201, 214–215. On sirens in general, see E. Buschor, *Die Musen des Jenseits*, Munich 1944.

<sup>69</sup> The other fragment of the palmette was found along the east side of Oikos 9 at O/15-16/10 (see *Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 76, pl. 22:d). The new, lower part was found at P/5-15/19 in Early Christian context at the level of the foundations of the annex to Oikos 9.

<sup>70</sup> See *ibid.*, pp. 73–78, fig. 5, pls. 22:d, 21:b (robbing trench). Note that the date for construction of Oikos 9, based on ceramic evidence, lies in the first quarter of the 5th century; it was destroyed already in the third quarter of the same century (*ibid.*, p. 75). See also discussion below.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 73–78, fig. 4, pl. 22:a.

Q 14, one running north–south at Q/11,14-14/13,20, the other east–west at Q/3,10-14/3,5 (Fig. 5). The third trench, running roughly east–west, was found at the southern edge of Section P 15 (at P/1,20-15/15,20). All three trenches proceed into areas so far unexcavated: of the two trenches in Section Q 14, the north–south trench continues southward into Section P 15, and the east–west trench extends eastward into the undug northeast corner of Section Q 14. The east–west trench of Section P 15 continues both eastward into Section Q 15 and westward into Section O 15.<sup>72</sup> The fill of these trenches was very dark and compactly composed of abundant ceramic material dumped there in the 5th and 6th centuries after Christ.<sup>73</sup> It seems likely that the trenches were part of an extensive, coordinated system and that they therefore were interconnected. Their significance is unclear, but they may have had to do with irrigation for the shallow farming trenches so evident throughout the area.

Mixed in with pottery of Early Christian date was a vast range of material of the Archaic through Hellenistic periods which was particularly rich in the trench of Section P 15. A few outstanding examples deserve mention: antefixes of the palmette type (e.g., AT 242; Pl. 42:c at lower left); a pair of antefixes representing in relief antithetical satyrs flanking a krater (AT 254 and AT 257; Pl. 43:e);<sup>74</sup> a fragmentary terracotta lion's head spout (AT 255; Pl. 43:d); a pair of Hexamilia mugs (P 1323 and P 1328; Pl. 44:a);<sup>75</sup> lamps from Classical to Hellenistic date (L 197, L 198, L 202, and L 203; Pl. 44:b);<sup>76</sup> a trio of plain iron rings (GJ 102–GJ 104; Pl. 44:c); an iron chisel (IL 517; Pl. 41:f at center); a bronze arrowhead (BR 1139; Pl. 42:a at top); an iron spearbutt (IL 515; Pl. 42:b toward the lower right); and numerous coins (including silver coins C 2950 from Corinth, Pl. 39:b, c at lower left, and C 2963, an Aiginetan turtle, Pl. 39:b, c, second from lower right).

#### CLASSICAL TO HELLENISTIC ACTIVITY

##### *An Annex to Oikos 9*

The structure forming an annex to Oikos 9 (at P/1,6-15/20 and P/1,6-16/1,20) measures some 20 meters in exterior north–south length and 7 meters in width (Figs. 1 and 6, Pl. 44:d). Preserved only in its lower foundations, it is constructed of a series of small stones on which rest a series of larger, mostly re-used architectural blocks. Of the latter, several were removed from the field for safekeeping and inventory. Among them were significant architectural members from Oikos 9, including the corner capital already discussed (A 244; see p. 185 above) and two segments of engaged columns (A 240 and A 241).<sup>77</sup> Other architectural pieces included two large Doric column drums (A 246 and A 247) and a faceted column drum (A 245).

<sup>72</sup> Excavation of Section O 15 (reported *ibid.*, pp. 73–78) was left incomplete, and the westward continuation of the trench awaits investigation.

<sup>73</sup> Pottery lots Q 14:5, 6; P 15:3, 4.

<sup>74</sup> Note that a fragmentary antefix of the same series was discovered in 1964 near the Xenon (AT 169; "Archaeological Reports for 1964–1965," *JHS* 85, 1965, pp. 9–10, fig. 9).

<sup>75</sup> On these mugs see G. R. Edwards, *Corinth*, VII, iii, *Corinthian Hellenistic Pottery*, Princeton 1975, p. 87.

<sup>76</sup> For L 197 see Howland, *op. cit.* (footnote 53 above), Type 28B; for L 198, Type 29A; for L 202, Types 21C and 21C Prime; for L 203, Types 28A and 28B, to which it is related.

<sup>77</sup> They join the series A 128–A 131 (*Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 75, pls. 21:e, 22:e).



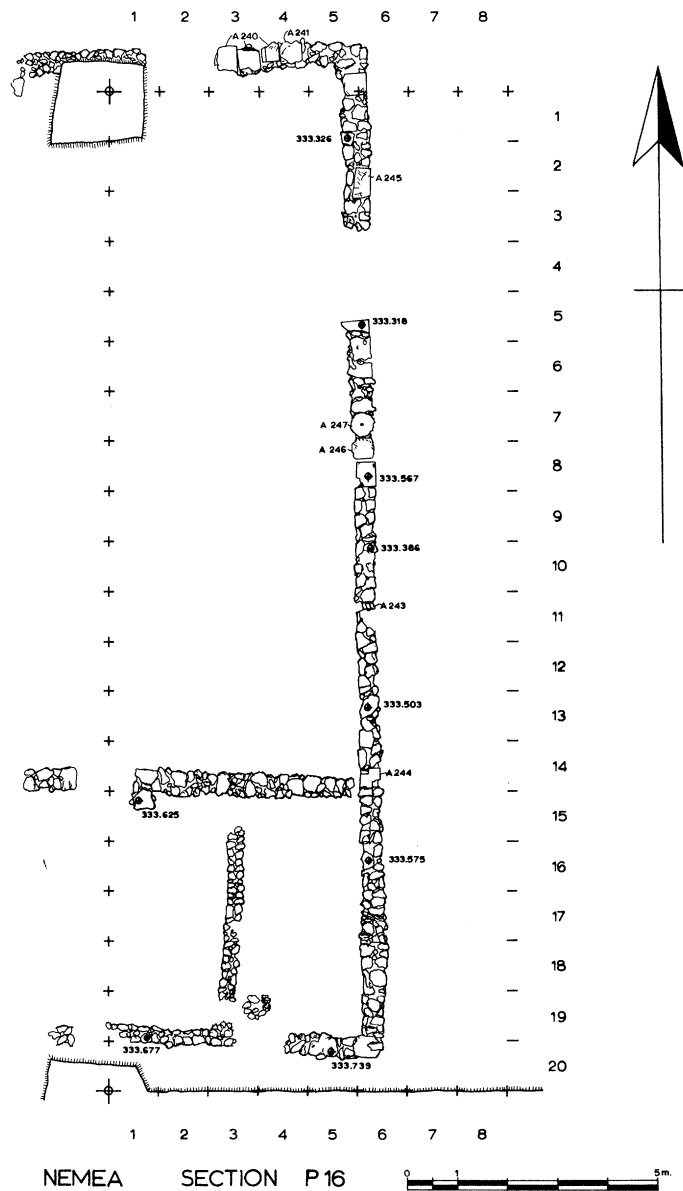


FIG. 6. Section P 16: Annex to Oikos 9

The southern end of the structure is subdivided into two smaller rooms with interior north-south length of 5 meters; the larger western room measures 4 meters across, the eastern only 2.5 meters (Fig. 6, Pl. 44:d). A construction date in the Hellenistic period was indicated by pottery recovered from narrow and uneven foundation trenches;<sup>78</sup> destruction clearly took place in the Early Christian period.<sup>79</sup> Oikos 9, of which this structure seems to

<sup>78</sup> Pottery lot P 16:5.

<sup>79</sup> Pottery lot P 16:2.

be an annex,<sup>80</sup> was constructed in the first quarter of the 5th century and destroyed already in the third quarter of the same century, according to ceramic evidence previously recovered.<sup>81</sup> Although it is apparent that several of the neighboring Oikoi were rebuilt in antiquity<sup>82</sup> no such evidence of reconstruction was found for Oikos 9. That its eastern wall had simply remained standing, either completely or in part, and was employed for the new annex is a possibility; it was so ravaged by Early Christian farming trenches that its mode and precise time of destruction could not be determined. What is obvious is that the annex was constructed after the destruction of at least the façade of Oikos 9, the architectural members of which were re-used in the foundation of the annex.

### *The Rectangular Building*

The rectangular building referred to several times above was discovered overlapping into Sections Q 14, P 14, and P 15 (at Q/1-14/15,20, P/10,20-14/14,20, and P/10,20-15/1,7; Figs. 1 and 5, Pl. 45:a-c). Preserved mainly in its uppermost foundation course with only a segment of 11 toichobate blocks remaining *in situ* toward the northeast corner,<sup>83</sup> its foundations measure 11.50–11.80 m. north–south by approximately 9.70 m. east–west.

The building has suffered great damage, not only because of the modern plow as noted above (cf. Pl. 39:a) but also as a result of the modern and Early Christian farming activity: farming trenches ran through the building and across its soft poros foundations (Pl. 45:a). The foundation blocks measure roughly 0.70–1.00 m. in width and 2 meters on average in length. Test trenches revealed that the walls (interior and exterior) have five heavy, subterranean foundation courses (Pl. 45:b, c). The toichobate blocks at the northeast, of which two are preserved on the north wall and nine on the east (Pl. 45:a), average 0.50–0.70 m. in width and 1.00–1.10 m. in length. These toichobate blocks, which are evidently re-used in their present position (one has anathyrosis on its exterior face), have cuttings on their upper surfaces which provide evidence of the nature of the next course above. A setting line, 0.03–0.08 m. west of the irregularly aligned outer faces, runs along all the blocks. Two series of staggered pry marks and distinct chisel working marks on the same surfaces show that a double row of orthostates sat on the toichobate. The outer orthostates will have been *ca.* 0.50 m. in width, the inner approximately 0.45 m. Their lengths will have varied as is shown by the irregular pattern of the pry marks. The uneven nature of the exterior faces of the toichobate blocks (see Pl. 45:b) indicates that the ground level contemporary with their use in this position was at or close to their top. Early Christian activity had removed the earth against these blocks, and the first pre-Christian fill encountered was nearly at the bottom of this course, a level that was cut by the foundation trench for the wall.<sup>84</sup> Thus precious evidence

<sup>80</sup> Note also a rubbly addition to the east end of the 4th-century Xenon in Section O 18 (cf. *Hesperia* 47, 1978, pp. 78–80, fig. 6, pl. 22:e); an improbably early date in the 5th century B.C. was obtained for that “annex”.

<sup>81</sup> Cf. *Hesperia* 47, 1978, p. 75.

<sup>82</sup> Cf. Oikos 7 (*Hesperia* 45, 1976, pp. 184–185) and Oikos 5 (*Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 13–14).

<sup>83</sup> The southernmost block is actually pushed slightly out of line to the south; it seems most likely that an attempt to dislodge it was for some reason abandoned. Two blocks on the north side (visible in Plate 45:a) were completely removed from their original position.

<sup>84</sup> Pottery lot Q 14:9.

of potential chronological significance was irretrievably lost here, as indeed it was all around the building.

With regard to plan, the building is divided laterally by a north-south wall into roughly equal east and west halves; the east half is further subdivided into two rooms of unequal size. The northern of these rooms has interior dimensions of *ca.* 3.30 m. north-south by 3.20 m. east-west, while the larger southern room measures 5.00 m. north-south by 3.20 m. east-west (Fig. 5). The long chamber west of both these rooms (*ca.* 3.30 m. wide east-west) contains a base opposite the east-west dividing wall of the eastern chamber. The base, as preserved in its uppermost foundation course, is constructed of four squared blocks and measures 1.15 × 1.20 m. overall. The west room is divided by an east-west wall located a mere 0.50 m. north of the building's southern exterior wall. The foundations of this interior wall are similar in construction to the exterior walls (*ca.* one meter wide and five courses deep), and it indeed bonds both with them and with the building's major north-south interior cross wall (cf. Plate 45:c showing bonding of the interior walls at P/15-15/4). No evidence for doorways was found, nor was there any indication of possible placement of columns.

In order to examine the foundations and at the same time to obtain chronological evidence for construction of the building, sections of the foundation trenches were excavated: at the northeast and southwest exterior corners (Pl. 45:a, b), as well as at the intersection of the lateral interior dividing wall with the east-west wall of the long west room (Pl. 45:c; cf. Fig. 5). The foundation trenches, whose widths varied from 0.40 to 0.60 m. around the exterior and 0.10 to 0.20 m. on the interior, provided disappointingly little pottery; identifiable pieces can be dated no later than the first half of the 5th century.<sup>85</sup> Only one area of fill which covered and thus sealed the foundation trench was discovered inside the building (at P/12,15-15/2,4; Fig. 5). This layer, which was itself below the original floor level of the room, consisted mainly of poros working chips clearly from construction of the building; its date can be no more precisely set than probably 5th century B.C.<sup>86</sup> Below this layer was another, cut by the foundation trench and thus pre-existing the construction of the building, which contained, together with pottery of the early 5th century B.C.,<sup>87</sup> an inscribed lead strip not as yet fully deciphered (IL 512). A corresponding layer excavated in the test trench off the northeast corner of the building<sup>88</sup> produced an Aiginetan turtle (C 2952; Pl. 39:b, c at center, bottom row), one of the many bronze arrowheads from the area (BR 1137; Pl. 42:a at upper left), and one of several iron tools also discovered in the vicinity (IL 505; Pl. 41:f at bottom).

Chronologically, the retrieved evidence for construction of the building thus lies in the first half of the 5th century B.C. It is, however, important to bear in mind that all preserved ground levels, both within and surrounding the building outside, are below (and generally considerably below) its floor and contemporary terrain. The scanty pottery recovered from the relevant trenches may provide a deceptively early date, and it is not impossible to

<sup>85</sup> Pottery lots Q 14:8; P 15:11.

<sup>86</sup> Pottery lot P 15:9.

<sup>87</sup> Pottery lot P 15:12.

<sup>88</sup> Pottery lot Q 14:9.

suppose that the true date of the building may be later, possibly even contemporary with the 4th-century Temple of Zeus. Excavation of additional sections of the foundation trenches may shed light on this question.

The building presents several puzzling features. One is the base in the western room (at P/14,15-14/19,20; Fig. 5). There is hardly space for a column at this point nor, with the room's width of only 3.30 m., are there structural grounds for restoring a supporting member here. Lack of time regrettably prevented an investigation as to the depth of these foundations. In view of the type of stone employed and the nature of the surface tooling, both of which differ from the rest of the building, it is perhaps advisable to leave open the question of what the base might once have supported.

Another major enigma concerns the interior east-west wall toward the north end of the same outer room (Fig. 5). One possibility might be to restore a stairway at this point, leading to a hypothetical second storey. Another possibility might be to restore a wall with a doorway on the inner foundations and to suppose that the outer foundations just north of it represent an entryway (possibly with columns or antae) to a shallow porch. A battered, fluted engaged column (A 242; Fig. 5, Pl. 45:d) which was found just to the southeast may have belonged to the building here or perhaps along the west face. A satisfactory solution may appear with the thorough study of the building.

The west side looks toward the Temple of Zeus, and since it is evident that some, and presumably all, of the nine 5th-century Oikoi had façades facing the Temple (Fig. 1),<sup>89</sup> it might seem desirable to restore an architectural façade on the west side of the new rectangular building in accordance with this principle. The restoration remains, however, hypothetical only. With regard to roofing, it seems reasonable on the basis of their provenience to assign to the building the five roof tiles noted above which are stamped ΔΑΜΟΙΟ . . . (AT 195, AT 196, AT 248, AT 252, and AT 258; Pl. 43:a). Of these tiles, all found in late context, two were discovered directly over the rectangular building, two were found within a meter to the west of it, while the last, not recognized as such in the field and thus not precisely locatable as to findspot, comes from the vicinity. This concentration of the pieces suggests that they may have formed part of the roofing of the building at some point in its history. That any of the other architectural terracottas discovered in the area (cf. Pls. 42:c-e, 43:d) belong to the building is conceivable but not demonstrable.<sup>90</sup>

The potential identification and function of the building present many possibilities. A number of buildings with two rear chambers, usually unequal in size and fronted by a single longer room, have been discovered at other sites where it is frequently possible to posit on the basis of their dimensions (and offset doorways when preserved) that they functioned as dining rooms.<sup>91</sup> Our rooms, however, do not lend themselves to any acceptable arrangement of standard dining couches. The nature of the finds in the vicinity does not readily suggest

<sup>89</sup> Cf. *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 21-22; *Hesperia* 47, 1978 and fig. 2.

<sup>90</sup> The lion's head spout (see p. 186 above) can presumably be rejected on account of its relatively large scale.

<sup>91</sup> Cf. C. Börker, "Festbankett und griechische Architektur," *Xenia* (Konstanz) 4, 1983, esp. figs. 7 and 9; and N. Bookidis, "The Priest's House in the Marmaria at Delphi," *BCH* 107, 1983, *Études*, I, pp. 149-155, both with references. I am much indebted to Dr. Bookidis for discussing buildings of this type with me.

any specific function, although perhaps the concentration of conical loomweights (no less than ten were found in late context directly east of the building along the east scarp of Section P 15) could prove to be significant. The eventual excavation of areas to the east and southeast (Sections Q 15 and Q 16; Fig. 1) may provide answers. If the true date of the building lies in the 5th century as is so far indicated by the ceramic evidence and if the hypothesis concerning the location of the Early Stadium in this vicinity is ever substantiated, then one might think of the building as having to do with the Stadium. If, on the other hand, the building is actually later and perhaps contemporary with the standing Temple of Zeus and other buildings of the 4th-century building program,<sup>92</sup> its location close to the postulated (but surely required) sacred road leading from the Temple to the later Stadium up the hill to the southeast<sup>93</sup> could be of importance. For the moment one might perhaps best theorize that the building had to do either with the accommodations for priests or officials at the Games or with their paraphernalia.

### *A New Boundary Stone*

A final significant find in this area is a boundary stone inscribed ΩΡΟΣ ΕΠΙΠΟΛΑΣ in letters of the 4th century B.C. (I 107; Pl. 46:b-d). Discovered in Early Christian context at the edge of the deep east-west trench in Section P 15 (specifically at P/17,18-15/15,20), the stone is a faceted column measuring 1.18 m. in height including a rectangular base (0.38 m. high) for setting it in the ground; it will have thus stood exposed for a height of about 0.80 m. Regrettably, no trace of its original location was recovered, but presumably it will have been in the close vicinity.

ΕΠΙΠΟΛΑΣ indicates a surface or flat area of some sort.<sup>94</sup> Since the letter style suggests a 4th-century dating for the column, then the "surface" or space referred to cannot allude to the Stadium which in the 4th century was located some distance away.<sup>95</sup> The nearby discovery (at Q/18-14/19) of the small plaque commemorating the dedication of a race-horse (BR 1098; see above p. 184) might suggest the proximity of the elusive hippodrome. If so, then the boundary stone could perhaps refer to the racetrack which might, not inconceivably, lie in the uninvestigated broad area east of the Temple of Zeus. It is obviously not necessary, however, for the provenience of the plaque, which could have been dedicated at the Archaic Temple of Zeus or some other appropriate monument, to point toward such a topographical solution. Only the eventual excavation of the eastern limits of the sanctuary will provide a basis for further speculation. For the moment, at least, the likeliest theory is that this is a boundary stone of the sacred square where cypress trees were planted in

<sup>92</sup> On the 4th-century building program, see *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 21-22; *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 103.

<sup>93</sup> Cf. *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 103 and fig. 7.

<sup>94</sup> The spelling of horos with an omega is paralleled at Argos (cf. W. Vollgraff, *Le decret d'Argos relatif à un pacte entre Knossos et Tylissos*, Amsterdam 1948, pp. 42-43), as is the use of the word ΕΠΙΠΟΛΑΣ on a 3rd-century B.C. stele (*idem*, "Inscriptions d'Argos," *BCH* 27, 1903, pp. 270-277 and *idem*, "Inscriptions d'Argos," *BCH* 33, 1909, pp. 171-175). I am indebted to C. Kritsas for discussing this inscription with me.

<sup>95</sup> See *Hesperia* 48, 1979, p. 103; cf. plan of Nemea Valley with the 4th-century Stadium, *Hesperia* 51, 1982, p. 39, fig. 8.

antiquity<sup>96</sup> (and replanted today) and where visitors to the Nemean Games will have congregated.<sup>97</sup>

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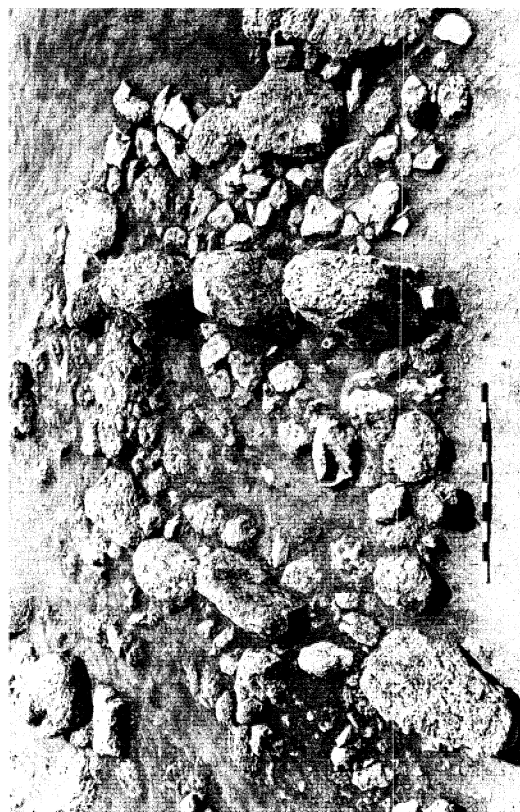
Athens

<sup>96</sup> See *Hesperia* 46, 1977, pp. 11, 22, and fig. 2.

<sup>97</sup> Note also the series of three nearly square pillars, all truncated and uninscribed on their preserved surfaces, found in Sections N 15 and O 15, which may also be some sort of boundary stones (see *Hesperia* 47, 1978, pp. 65–67 and fig. 2).



a. Test trench around chamberlike structure in Heroön, from the north



b. Chamberlike structure in Heroön, from the north



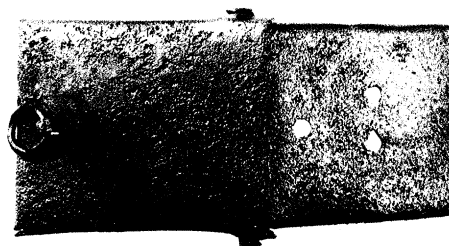
c. Test trench in southeast inner corner of Heroön, from the south

# Section G 19

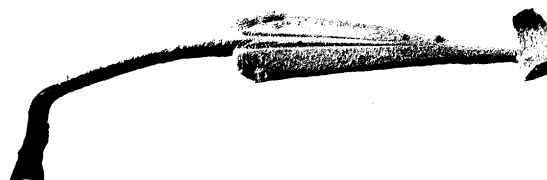
PLATE 34



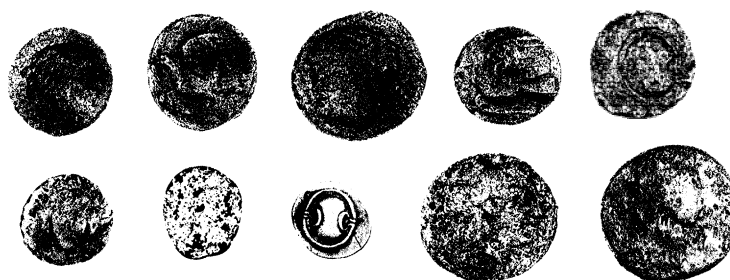
a. Section E 19: ancient roadway bordered by retaining wall at left, from the southeast



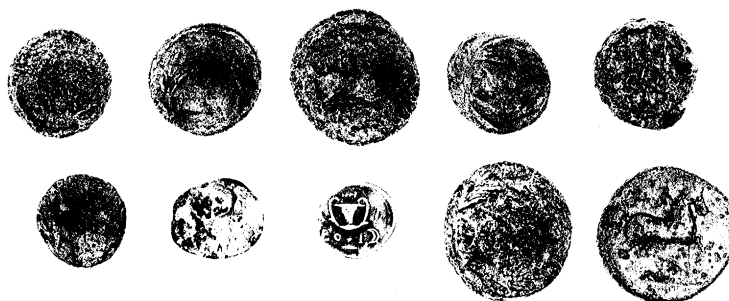
b. BR 1087



c. GJ 99



d. C 2811      C2819      C 2820      C 2824      C 2829  
C 2849      C2853      C 2860      C 2862      C 2896

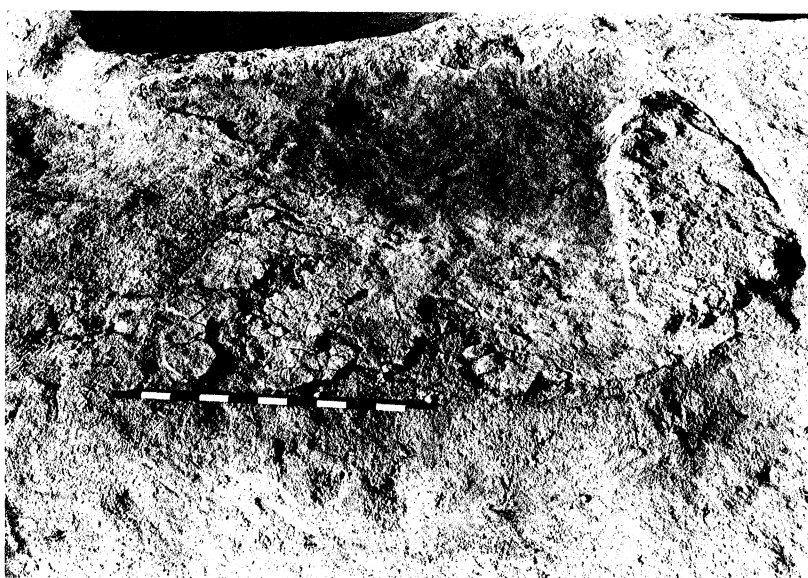


e. Reverses of d





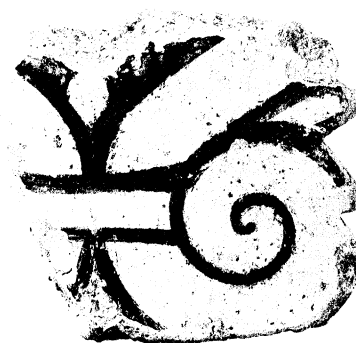
a. Section K 17: test trench around cementlike paving, from the north



b. Section K 17: cementlike paving from the north

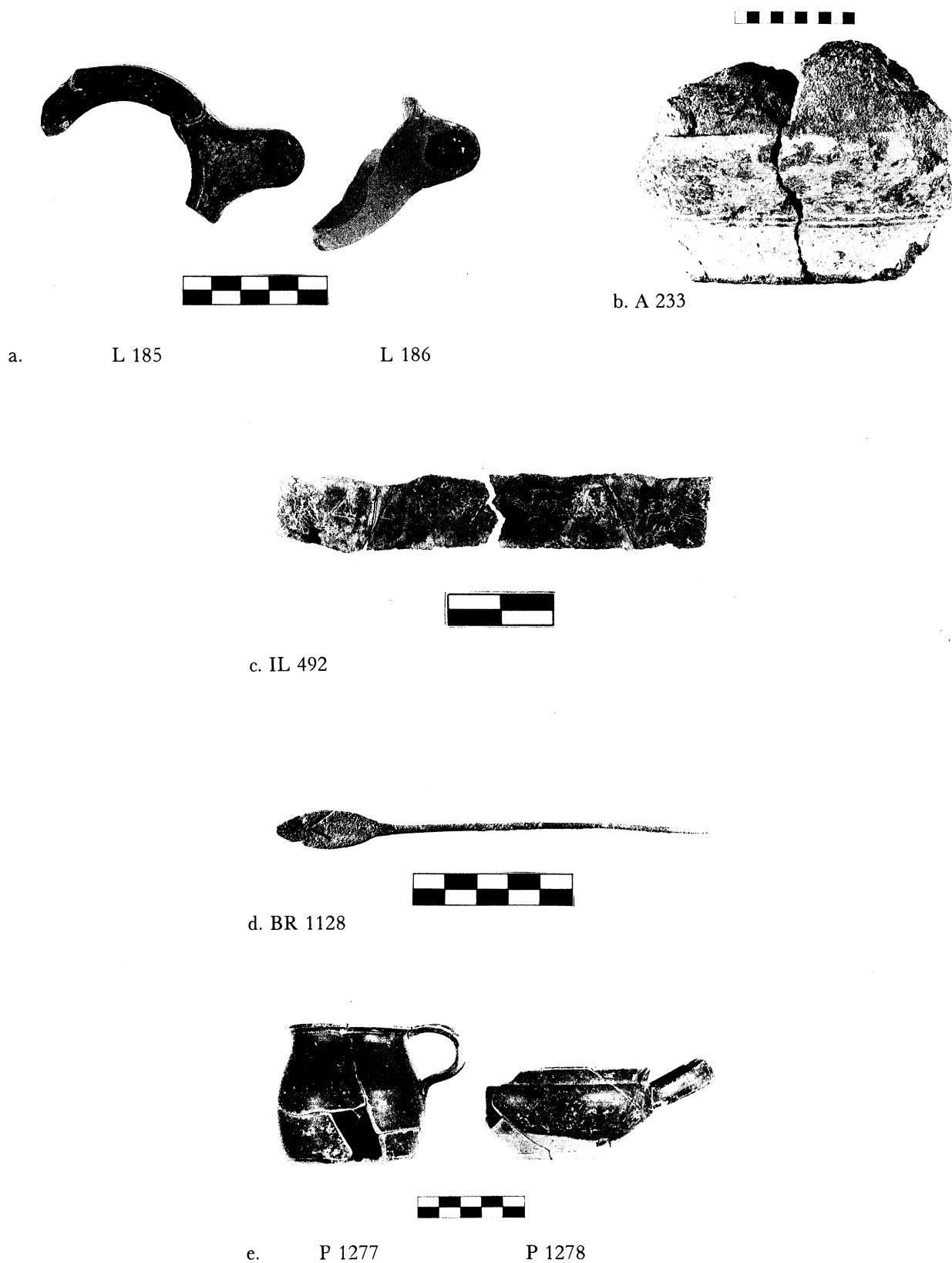


c. AT 244



d. AT 246

PLATE 36





a. Section J 18: test trench around foundations of southeast interior column support of Bath House, from the north



b. Section J 18: test trench, south wall of Bath House at top, from the north

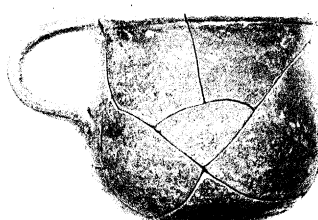


c. L 170

L 171



d. IL 470 IL 471



e.

P 1270



P 1321

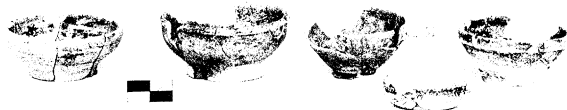
PLATE 38



a. P 1342    P 1343    P 1314    P 1293



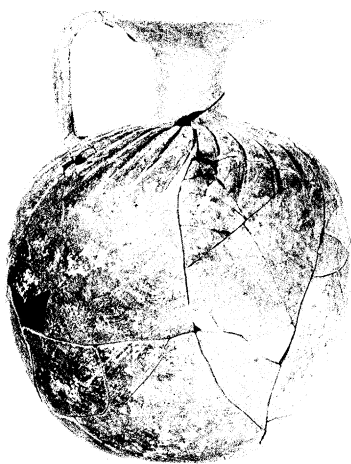
b. P 1338    P1341    P 1339    P 1340



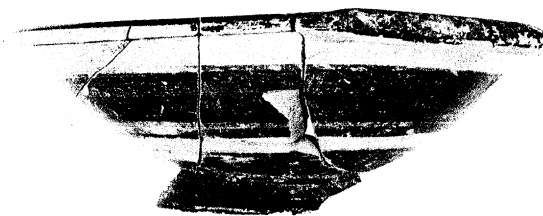
c. P 1268    P 1318    P 1320    P 1274  
P 1269



d.    L 189    L 187



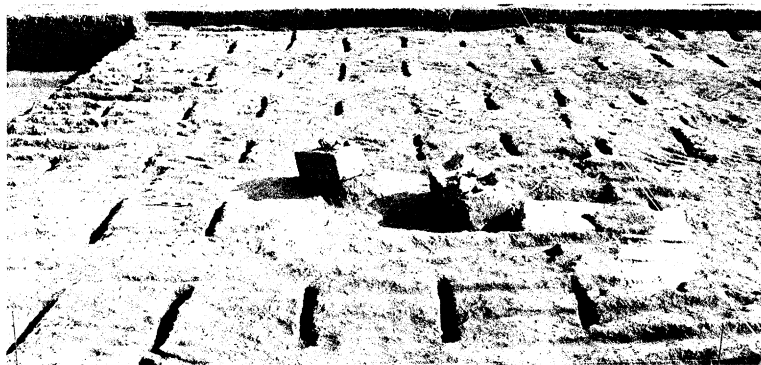
e. P 1315



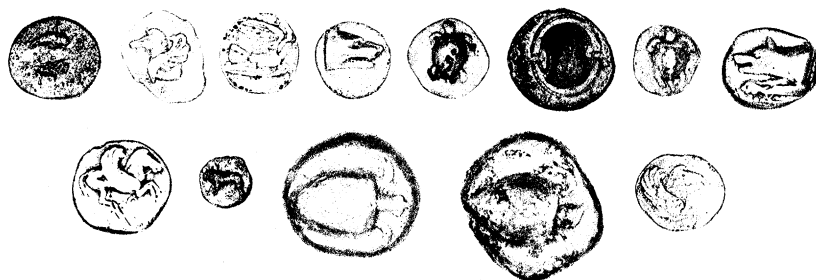
f. P 1280



g. Detail of votive deposit J 18:1: stone resting in a skyphos



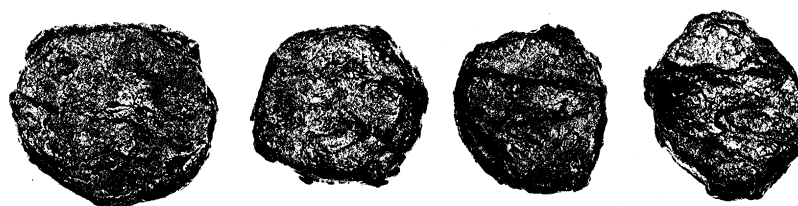
a. Sections P 14 and Q 14: modern plow tracks and vine pits over and around rectangular building, from the south



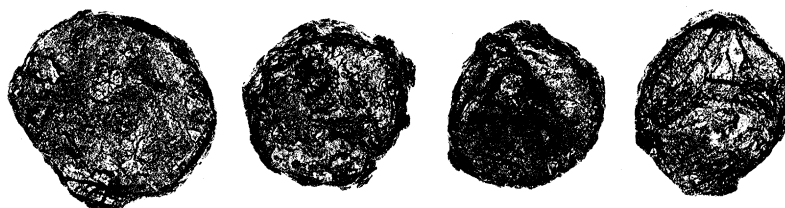
b. C 2679 C 2689 C 2709 C 2919 C 2922 C 2945 C 2931 C 2948  
C 2950 C 2951 C 2952 C 2963 C 2992



c. Reverses of b



d. C 3002 C 3003 C 3004 C 3005



e. Reverses of d

PLATE 40



a. P 1284



d. P 1285



e.

L 212



L 213



b. P 1307



P 1312



P 1311



c. BR 1103 a-c



f. IL 484





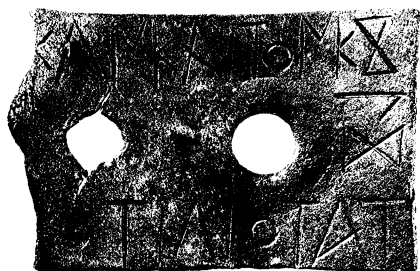
a. TC 181



b. BR 1116



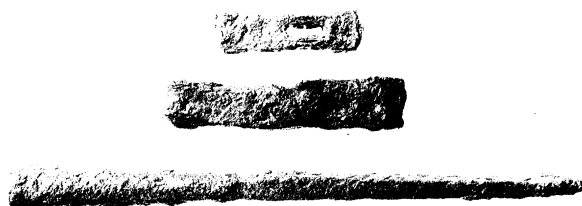
c. BR 1099



d. BR 1098

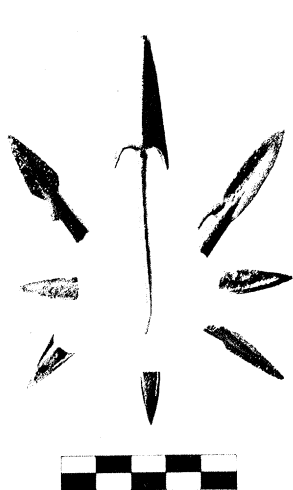


e. P 1287

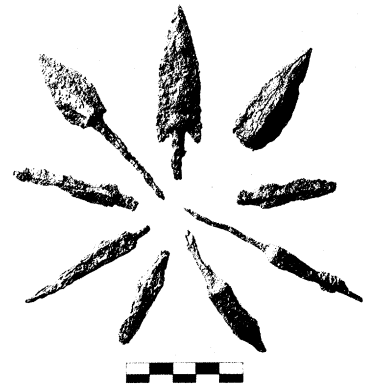


f. IL 476  
IL 517  
IL 505

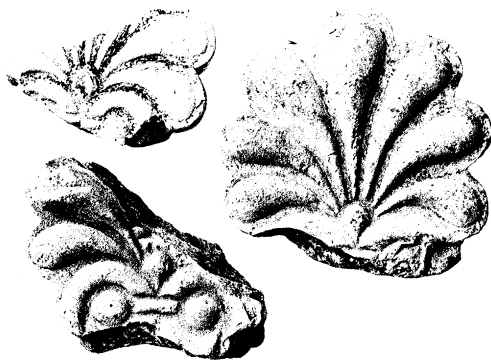
PLATE 42



a. BR 1139  
BR 1151 BR 1137  
BR 1157 BR 1135  
BR 1153 BR 1132  
BR 1143



b. IL 509  
IL 475 IL 511  
IL 510 IL 518  
IL 507 IL 515  
IL 480 IL 519



c. AT 190  
AT 242

AT 191

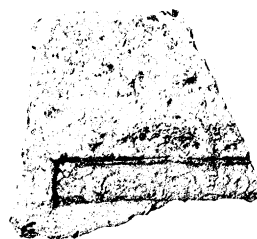


d. AT 251



e.

AT 188



AT 189



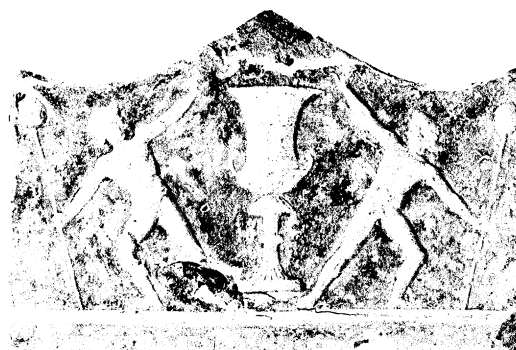
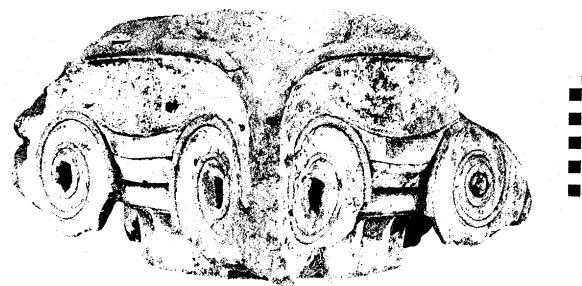
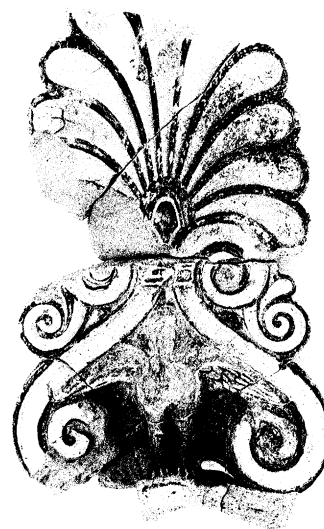
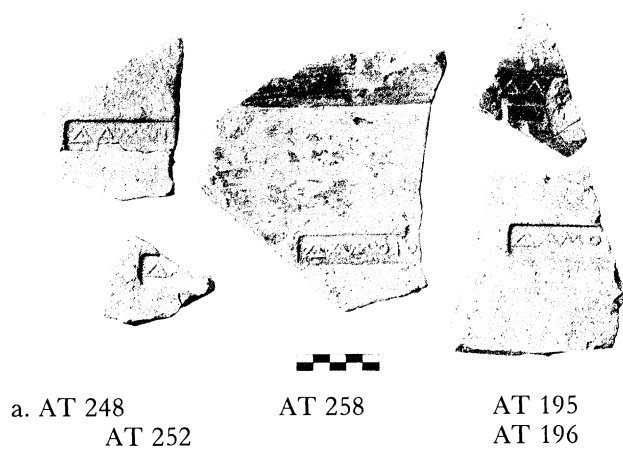
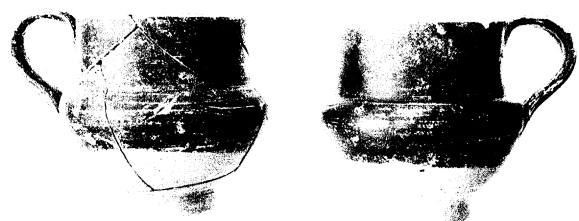


PLATE 44



a.

P 1323

P 1328



b.

L 198  
L 193

L 202  
L 203

L 201  
L 197



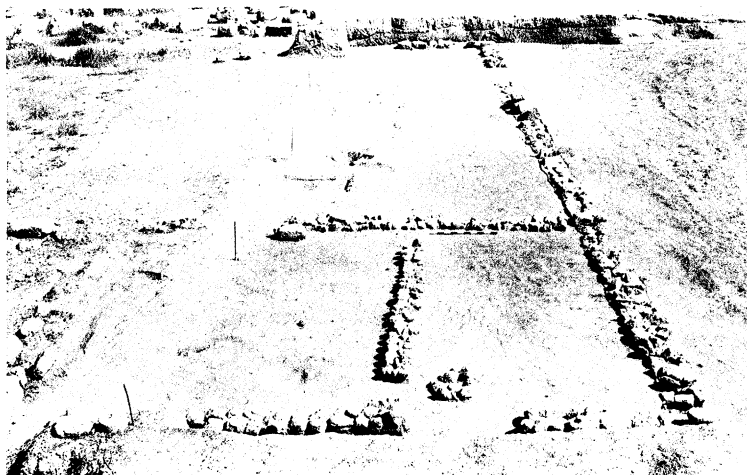
c.

GJ 104

GJ 102

GJ 103

d. Sections P 15 and P 16: annex to Oikos 9, from the south





a. Sections Q 14, P 14, and P 15: foundations of rectangular building, from the west



b. Section P 14: foundations of rectangular building at juncture of interior walls, from the northwest



c. Section Q 14: stylobate and foundations of rectangular building, from the northeast



d. A 242 *in situ*

PLATE 46



a. I 106



b. I 107



c and d. Details of I 107

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