

## THE CAMPAIGN OF 1939

The excavation of the Athenian Agora, conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, was continued in 1939 for the ninth season and covered a period of eighteen weeks from February 20 to June 24. The progress of the work was reported as usual in a series of Weekly Reports, and brief accounts of the season's results have been published by me in the *Illustrated London News* (July 22, 1939) and in *A.J.A.* (XLIII, 1939, pp. 577-588). A climax in the history of the project was achieved by the completion of the purchase of the modern houses situated on the area. These purchases have been made annually by blocks in order to disturb as little as possible the daily life of the district, in view of the large number of parcels of land involved, totaling three hundred and sixty-five. The successful conclusion of the expropriation of this large area in the heart of the city is a triumph for the tactful and energetic Business Manager of the Agora, A. Adossides. But, although all modern houses in the American Zone have now been purchased, not all have been demolished, since it has been necessary to retain a group of houses for the use of the staff as offices, workrooms, and a temporary museum. These buildings cannot be removed until the construction of the new Agora Museum which, according to present plans, will be erected in the immediate future in the southwestern corner of the Zone.

Most of the work of the season was concentrated on the southern border of the Zone which lies on the lower slopes of the Areopagus. The deposit of earth above bedrock was shallow in that area and some cellars of modern houses were found to have been cut in the rock, but in contrast to the small amount of earth remaining there the accumulation was deep in the block in the southwest corner designated for the site of the new museum, so that the total amount of earth removed, 56,000 tons, was greater than in any previous season. Some of this earth was kept in the area, being heaped up on the rocky summit of the Kolonos Agoraios south of the "Theseum," so that it would be available for refilling pits and trenches in connection with the final landscaping of the excavated district. Chiefly because of the great extent of the museum site and of its deep deposit of earth it was necessary to employ a large corps of workmen, averaging 215, throughout the season. The trained and experienced foremen of previous campaigns continued with the work, and the head foreman was the able and efficient veteran, Sophokles Lekkas.

This great project of expropriation and excavation in the heart of a flourishing modern capital, involving delicate business and legal transactions as well as an elaborate scientific organization, is being brought to a successful conclusion in spite of obstacles which, from time to time during the past ten years, seemed unsurmountable.

As has been emphasized in my past Reports this happy state of affairs could not have been achieved without the coöperation and constant support of all branches of the Greek Government which have been concerned with the Agora project. The head of the Government, His Excellency General Metaxas, President of the Council and Minister of Education, took occasion to visit and inspect the site, and the chief of the Archaeological Section of the Ministry of Education during the season, Pro-



Fig. 1. Northern Part of the Excavated Area

fessor S. Marinatos, continued to show the deep interest in the work and the readiness to be of service to it which were characteristic of his predecessor, Professor G. P. Oikonomos.

During the past nine seasons of excavation (1931-1939) 246,000 tons of earth have been removed from the American Zone. The level which has thus been exposed is in general that of the classical Graeco-Roman age, which lies about fifteen feet below the level of the modern streets, but in many places investigation has been carried some ten feet deeper down to bedrock, and at that level remains of prehistoric habitation are almost invariably revealed. The present appearance of the Zone is shown

by the two photographs reproduced in Figs. 1 and 2 which give a panoramic view of the excavated area and of the part of the city situated beyond it to the north and the east, as seen from the roof of the modern observatory. It will be noted that the area is bisected by a street (Asteroskopeiou) which has not yet been removed because on its border the houses used as a temporary museum and as workrooms for the members of the excavating staff. The main topographical landmarks are easily distinguishable



Fig. 2. Southern Part of Excavated Area

in the photographs: on the extreme left of Fig. 1 the temple of Hephaistos, on the right of Fig. 2 the Acropolis and the Areopagus, in the background Mts. Lycabettus and Hymettus.

For the continuation of the excavations on the large scale on which they were conducted throughout the season it was possible to retain with but few changes the trained and experienced members of the staff. One of the excavators, R. H. Howland, felt obliged to return to America at the conclusion of his three-year term on January first in order to get started in an academic career at home. But before he left Athens he was able to complete the catalogue and study of the large collection of Greek lamps from the excavations, and during the Spring prepared a selection of this material

for use as a doctoral dissertation at Harvard University. Howland's departure left a vacancy on the list of excavators, which was filled by the appointment of Henry Robinson, a Fellow in the American School, who successfully satisfied the requirements of the high standards set by the Agora staff, and was reappointed for the season of 1940.

Miss Talcott has continued the maintenance of the Records Department on the highest plane of efficiency in spite of having been deprived of one of her assistants, Mrs. Louise C. Scranton, who withdrew from the staff in order to return to America with her husband. Although the vacancy thus created was not filled because of economic stringency the lack was partially compensated by the overworking of Miss Talcott and by the efficiency of her assistant, Mrs. Suzanne H. Young. Because of domestic obligations Mrs. Shear was unable to give any time to the Coin Department this season and that onerous branch of the work was entirely managed with skill and competence by Miss Margaret Thompson, assisted by Miss Elisabeth Washburn, who joined the Coin Department in the latter part of the season of 1938, returned this year, and has been reappointed for the next campaign.

It was possible to maintain for another season the valuable research laboratory of the Chemical Department, and the services of Miss Farnsworth were again secured with the help of a grant from the American Philosophical Society which covered half of her expenses. The importance of the services of a chemist to the staff of an archaeological excavation may be best illustrated by giving a brief summary of Miss Farnsworth's report for the year. Her research was concerned mainly with three categories of investigation: cleaning of excavated objects; analysis and identification of materials; technological study of Greek pottery from the Agora. The metal objects which were cleaned include about five hundred lead seals and weights, which were freed from grease due to handling, and from any other surface deposit which might cause slow disintegration. The bronzes brought to the laboratory were mostly those which were too fragile to be submitted to electrolytic treatment, and they were, therefore, gently cleaned in a solution of sodium hexametaphosphate. In several cases where the bronze was well preserved the same treatment insured the retention of a handsome blue patina. Iron objects found in the Agora are in bad condition and have usually changed to iron oxide, but occasionally removal of the outer coat of oxide permits recovery of at least the original shape, and thus makes possible the identification of the object.

Some fifty unrecognized or doubtful materials were investigated in the laboratory during the season. In some cases identification was made by a few qualitative tests, in others complete qualitative or quantitative analysis was necessary. The many samples of pigment analyzed include red and yellow ochre, green malachite, white chalk, blue frit, and carbon black. The examination of the bright colors preserved on marble coffered ceiling blocks of a temple of the mid-fifth century B.C. revealed

the interesting fact that beeswax had been used as a medium for the application of the color. Other materials studied in the laboratory were ashes, rocks, samples of earth, and various metals. Quite unusual is one of the metal objects, a thin plaque from a deposit of the fourth century B.C. This was at first assumed to be lead, but it proved on investigation to be practically pure zinc, with traces only of lead, copper, and silver. The significance of this discovery is in the fact that hitherto it has been the generally accepted view that zinc was unknown to the ancient Greeks. Now it will be necessary to reconsider the instances where ancient objects of zinc have been reported in the past.

Progress has been made with the technological study of Greek pottery in spite of the lack of adequate facilities and equipment for such research at the Agora. The investigation this season has been largely concentrated on a study of the glazes used on the vases, especially the Attic black glaze. This glaze is a rich velvety black which is so durable that vases of the fifth and fourth centuries before Christ are frequently taken from the ground with the surface in as perfect condition as when the glaze was first applied; it has never been imitated with entire success in ancient or modern times. The difficulty experienced by modern chemists in analyzing the glaze and thus imitating it is due to the fact that they have not been able to separate it in a pure state from the clay to which it was applied. Miss Farnsworth, however, discovered that the glaze is magnetic and thus a satisfactory method of separation is available. She also thus disproves the commonly accepted statement that the black color is caused by ferrous oxide, since that compound is not magnetic. This important and interesting problem will be further investigated with the laboratory facilities available in America.

The Photographic Department of the Agora has been gradually expanding so as to meet ever growing needs, and Miss Frantz has become increasingly expert in the technical requirements of archaeological photography. With modest equipment, which includes only the most indispensable apparatus, and with two Greek boys to assist, she has done all the immense amount of photographic work of the year. This readjustment was necessary for two reasons, of which one was financial, and the other was the difficulty of securing the services of H. Wagner, the photographer of the German Institute, who in past years has done a considerable share of Agora photography; during the present season he was so constantly occupied by his duties at the Institute as not to be available for work elsewhere. The results, however, produced by the Agora studio are in no way inferior to those of previous years.

Other departments of the Agora work proceeded as usual; Piet de Jong continued to produce for the record paintings of Greek vases which rival in beauty the original objects they copy, and John Travlos, the staff architect, was occupied with studying, interpreting, and drawing the plans of the ancient buildings. In particular he completed a series of handsome drawings for Thompson's study of the Tholos, to be published this year as Supplement IV of *Hesperia*, and entered all newly dis-

covered foundations on the General Ground Plan of the excavated area. But the actual excavators on the staff bore, as always, the heaviest burden of the work, and the results achieved are a constant testimonial to their care, patience, and skill.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

The topographical discoveries of the year were few, as was to be expected, since most of the area had already been excavated, but it must be emphasized that those which were made confirm the interpretation of the topography of the Agora proposed by the excavators in earlier reports. As the topography in general becomes more

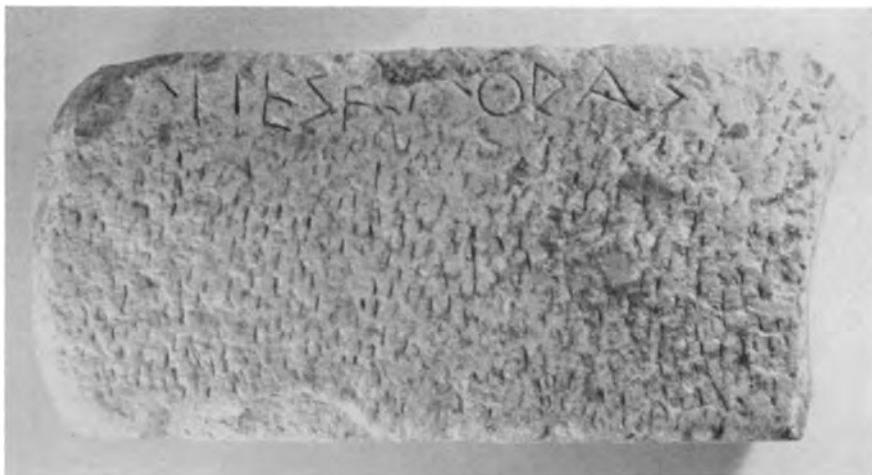


Fig. 3. Boundary Stone of the Agora

clarified by the identification of additional buildings the plan of the area agrees admirably with the description of his route given by Pausanias. All the topographical and architectural remains, including those most recently uncovered, are shown on the Plan, Plate I (facing p. 308).

An interesting discovery, although it has little importance for the topography of the area, is a second boundary stone of the Agora (Fig. 3). Only the upper part is preserved and that was found built into a Turkish tomb beneath the modern floor of the Hephaisteion. It closely resembles the stone found last year standing in its original position east of the Tholos (*Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, pp. 205 f., fig. 4). Like that stone it is made of white marble, has the surface roughened by chisel marks except for a smoothed band across the top and along the right side, on which was carved in fine archaic letters the inscription: *ῥόπος εἰμὶ τῆς ἀγορᾶς*, but only the letters on the side border are now legible. Although not found in place this stone probably came from the nearby north end of the Agora, for the Agora was certainly delimited by a number of markers on its various sides, just as was the area of the Kerameikos.

The uncovering of another boundary stone of the Kerameikos in its original position is of considerable topographical significance. The shaft, 1.47 m. high, is made of Hymettian marble, with the upper part of the front surface smoothed to receive the inscription (Fig. 4). Below that the surface is decoratively chipped, and still lower the end of the shaft which was buried in the ground was left in a roughly hewn state. The inscription, written with carefully carved letters of the early part of the fourth century, reads: *ἄρος Κεραμεικῶ*. The stone was found standing in the extreme northwestern corner of the excavations north of the electric railway (Section Mu Mu); its exact position is indicated on the Plan. It faced north on a contemporaneous street which was the main thoroughfare between the Agora and the Dipylon, and had its outer end at the Dipylon marked by similar stones. The importance of the new discovery is due to the fact that it gives the exact course of the street at a point near its inner end.



Fig. 4. Boundary Stone of the Kerameikos

Two other matters of general topographical interest should be noted. One is the uncovering of the great drain or water-channel which underlay the road leading from the Agora in a southwest direction. This was traced throughout the entire extent of Sections Nu Nu and Xi Xi, the area in the southwest corner designated for the site of the Museum, and will be described in the report on that area. The second topographical item relates to the hypothetical site of the Eleusinion. In this connection the results of the year have been negative since no traces of a public building appeared in Section Beta Beta where it was suggested in last year's Report that the Eleusinion might be expected to be found (*Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, p. 211). This does not vitiate the evidence secured previously for the identification of the site of the sanctuary, but rather supports the theory that no temple existed in the precinct.

The main areas of excavation of the past campaign were in the following Sections, for the localization of which the reader is again referred to the city plan of the American Zone published in *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 335, fig. 2: Beta Beta (BB) in the southeast corner; Delta Delta (ΔΔ), Epsilon Epsilon (ΕΕ), and Zeta Zeta

(ZZ), narrow blocks bordering the south side; Gamma Gamma (ΓΓ) in the southwest part; and farther west the Museum site, Nu Nu (ΝΝ) and Xi Xi (ΞΞ). Besides these new fields of work investigation was also conducted in several areas where earlier excavation had not been completed. In Section Iota the frescoes of the seventeenth century on the walls of the church of Saint Spyridon had been removed during the Autumn under the supervision of Miss Frantz, and are now preserved in the Museum. It was necessary to demolish the church in order to uncover the ancient building beneath it. The interior of the Hephaisteion was thoroughly explored in Section Kappa Kappa, and in Section Mu Mu further investigation was made before the area was refilled with earth and returned to the city to be used as a garden. Exploration was also continued on a small scale on the site of the Odeion, and at the Klepsydra and on the slope of the Acropolis adjoining it. The more important results of the campaign will be presented under the captions of the various Sections and departments of work, and as in past years the reports of the excavators furnish the basis for the accounts here given.

#### SECTION BETA BETA

This block, excavated under the supervision of Miss Margaret Crosby, is situated in the southeastern part of the Zone, just west of the great Dromos and of the Valerian Wall. It is divided into two main levels by a cutting in bedrock running diagonally across the area in a southwesterly direction; on the lower level at the northwest ancient filling was preserved, but on the higher level at the northeast modern houses rested generally on bedrock. Digging in the area has not been completed, but foundations of large buildings have not so far been revealed, and the region seems to have been a residential district beginning as early as the sixth century before Christ.

Remains of the Eleusinion were, thus, not uncovered in this block although it lies on the opposite side of the Dromos from the spot where the many objects connected with the Eleusinion were discovered in 1938. Other such objects found in the area this year are nineteen more pieces of the stelae containing the auction lists of the confiscated property of the Profaners of the Mysteries, which were erected in the Eleusinion; part of the base of a statue of a priestess of Demeter; and a fragmentary decree mentioning the Eleusinian goddesses. It is possible that no temple existed in the precinct; none is mentioned by ancient writers, and the only building in it which is actually named in inscriptions is a "forecourt." But it is also possible that foundations may be later revealed when this block and its neighbor across the street, in both of which destruction of ancient remains has been thorough, shall have been completely cleared and investigated in minute detail. The mass of evidence bearing on the Eleusinion derived from these two blocks points irrefutably to the immediate proximity of the sanctuary.



The use of this area for a residential district, at least from the beginning of the sixth century B.C., is proved by the presence of streets, water-channels, drains, wells, and scattered remains of house walls. The wells have produced, as usual, some significant objects. From one with a deposit dated in the first half of the sixth cen-



Fig. 5. Black-figured Oenochoe

ture came a handsome oenochoe with a high curved handle (Fig. 5). This vase of the Attic black-figured style is entirely covered with a black glaze except for a large reserved panel on one side, which is occupied by a swan standing with its wings spread. The feathers of the wings are marked by incisions, and purple and white are freely used as accessory colors.

Another well, with contents dating from the latter part of the sixth century, produced some objects of unusual interest. These are the wooden posts of a couch

which are preserved in extraordinarily good condition (Fig. 6). Wood rarely survives from antiquity in Greece because of the climatic conditions, but this season several well-preserved specimens were secured from wells where they had been continuously immersed. The bedposts are carefully made and at the top of one of them part of its carved tongue pattern still remains. There has not yet been opportunity

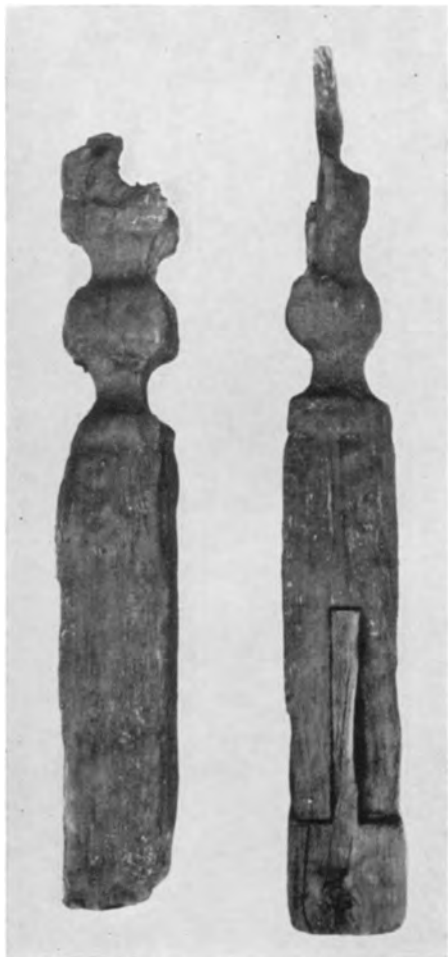


Fig. 6. Wooden Bedposts

to study these posts and to base on them a reconstruction of the entire bed, but since heretofore our knowledge of the Greek couch of the sixth century has been derived almost wholly from vase-paintings, it is obvious that these parts of an actual couch provide important new information.

This area was occupied through Hellenistic and Roman times, as is proved by the presence of cisterns and wells of those periods, of which one of the latest produced interesting pottery of post-Roman type, with which was a coin of the Emperor Heraclius (610-641 A.D.). No evidence appeared of occupation of the site between the seventh and fourteenth centuries of our era, although a casual discovery was made of one object dated at the end of the eleventh century. This is a lead seal of a known type of Leon Pamphylos, with the head of Saint Theodore on the obverse, and on the reverse the official formula of the Bishop's name written as an iambic trimeter.

#### SECTION GAMMA GAMMA

This Section, which lies at the west end of the north slope of the Areopagus, was excavated under the supervision of Henry Robinson. The north and west slopes of the Areopagus seem always to have been used for residential purposes, and no remains of public buildings appeared in this area. There were, however, several early graves, walls of houses of various periods, and numerous wells. The earliest remains noted in the area are dated in the Middle Helladic period (about 1800 B.C.); they consist of fragmentary pottery including sherds of a matt-painted pithos, of a gray Minyan kantharos, and of several amphoras, which had been thrown into a refuse pit. Nothing else, however, came to light belonging to this period or to the subsequent centuries down to the Geometric age.

Many remains in the area suggested the general occupation of the site in the late Geometric period, end of the eighth century. Besides scattered sherds and undisturbed deposits three graves of the period were uncovered. One of these contained the skeleton of a young girl, with whom had been buried a two-handled cup, her two bronze bracelets, and a large glass bead, which lay over the middle of the body, having evidently been suspended from the neck by a string. In an unripled adult's grave



Fig. 7. Contents of a Late Geometric Grave

near by two two-handled bowls of characteristic late Geometric type were found lying by the feet of the skeleton. The third grave, however, contained more numerous and important offerings with its well-preserved skeleton. The objects, which are all shown grouped together in Fig. 7, are two large kantharoi, two oenochoes, two two-handled bowls, an iron blade of a dagger, and a scarab of blue faience. The scarab is interesting as an imported object in a Geometric grave, but since its face is marked with only a decorative motive, a horned animal resembling an ibex, it is of no assistance in providing external evidence for the date of the burial. The vases are good specimens of late Geometric ware. The finest of them is a large oenochoe, which is covered by a black glaze, turned by firing to a reddish tone; about the shoulder are four narrow reserved bands and on the high neck is a panel framed by simple decora-

tive borders, which is occupied by a grazing deer. The graceful shape of this vase, the technical excellence of its highly polished surface, and the sureness of the draughtsmanship of the decorative design are characteristic of the skilled craftsmen of the period. Not less successful are the bowls and kantharoi from the grave, for they too are graceful in shape and pleasing in decoration although they represent simpler and cheaper types of ware.

Remains of the archaic period, sixth century B.C., prove that this area was a residential district at that time. The evidence consists of streets, of wells, and of traces of house walls. Two wells produced many objects characteristic of the period such as fragmentary black-figured and early red-figured vases, terracotta lamps, and numerous terracotta figurines. The predominant type of figurine was that of the archaic seated woman, but included in the group was also a fine plastic head of a negress. Among the other more interesting objects from the deposit are a black-glazed skyphos which contained seventeen bone counters, an ostrakon of Megakles son of Hippokrates, and a well-preserved blade of an iron mattock which had probably been used by the ancient diggers of the well, near the bottom of which it was found.

The site continued to be occupied by private houses throughout the subsequent Greek and Roman periods, and ample evidence for this continuity of settlement was provided by the contents of a series of wells and cisterns. One well with a deposit dated in the latter part of the fifth century produced a great quantity of pottery, which included black-glazed lamps, three squat red-figured askoi, a large oenochoe, the stand for a lebes gamikos, black-glazed vases, and one ribbed jug. One askos is decorated with two flying Erotes, and on another are the crudely painted figures of two school-boys wrapped in cloaks, each seated on a bench. The most interesting vase from the deposit is the red-figured oenochoe, which is decorated with a curious scene painted on a panel in front. On the extreme right of the scene is a high furnace, seen from the side, which is topped by a cauldron with a stepped lid. In front of the furnace stand two men of whom the larger figure on the right has an ugly head, with projecting jaw and straggling hair and beard. He faces a smaller figure on the left who offers him a ceremonial tray. Because of the presence of the furnace and of the clumsy figure and ungainly attitude of the larger man, it is possible that this scene should be interpreted as a representation of Hephaistos engaged in some sacrificial rite. But since the hideous faces of the characters suggest that masks are worn, it is also possible that a scene from comedy is here portrayed. The entire contents of this well will be presently published in full detail by Miss Talcott.

Abundant evidence attests the continued occupation of the area through Hellenistic and Roman times, but the best preserved house in it must be assigned to the early Roman period. This house, which seems to have been placed on the site of an earlier building, consists of six rooms and a peristyle covering an area of three hundred square metres. The peristyle, constructed with eight columns, surrounded a

central fountain of apsidal shape. Painted stucco is preserved on the walls of several of the rooms, and one of them has a low bench along its wall, partly built of re-used marbles, one of which is a small marble statue of a seated boy. The filling deposit in the house indicates that it had been destroyed in the latter part of the third century after Christ, probably by the Herulians in 267, but the evidence also reveals a partial reconstruction in the early part of the fourth century.

Remains of other houses of the late Roman period were also uncovered, and two wells contemporaneous with them were cleared. One of the wells showed stratified deposits of the third and fourth centuries, producing pottery and datable lamps, with which were a complete bronze pail with an iron handle, a terracotta coin bank in the shape of a narrow-necked vase closed at the top, and a small marble head of a silenos (Fig. 8: Inv. No. S 1180).

#### SECTION EPSILON EPSILON

The south side of the American Zone is bordered by three narrow Sections, Delta Delta, Epsilon Epsilon, and Zeta Zeta, which were partially excavated this season under the supervision of Eugene Vanderpool, and will be investigated further during the next campaign. The blocks lie on the sloping hillside of the Areopagus, where walls and cellars of modern houses have been cut through ancient deposits and frequently into the bedrock itself. Since nothing of importance has so far been brought to light in Sections Delta Delta and Zeta Zeta, this report will be limited to the results of the work in Epsilon Epsilon.

When it became clear that no ancient foundations existed in the area a systematic investigation of bedrock was undertaken in order to reveal any unsuspected packed shafts of wells or any small surviving pockets of ancient deposit. This search was sufficiently fruitful. One shallow pit cut in the bedrock still held a deposit about two metres deep dating from the end of the sixth century before Christ, from which

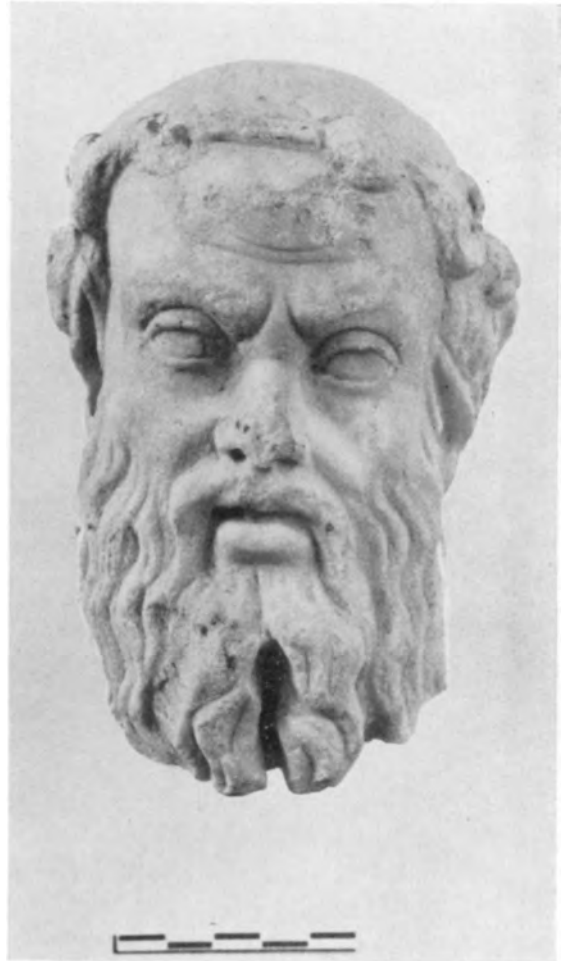


Fig. 8. Marble Head of a Silenos

came a few sherds and two handsome vases (Fig. 9). One of these is a one-handed cup of highly polished black-glazed ware; its shape is graceful and practical, with a low base and a slightly out-flaring rim. The second vase is a shallow bowl of polished red ware set on a fairly high stem. Among the other ancient remains in the area were a deposit with objects of the late fifth century and two cisterns with contents of the fourth and third centuries respectively. Among the objects secured from the later cistern were much pottery, many terracotta figurines, of which a specimen is the bearded man shown in Fig. 10, stamped handles of Rhodian and Thasian am-

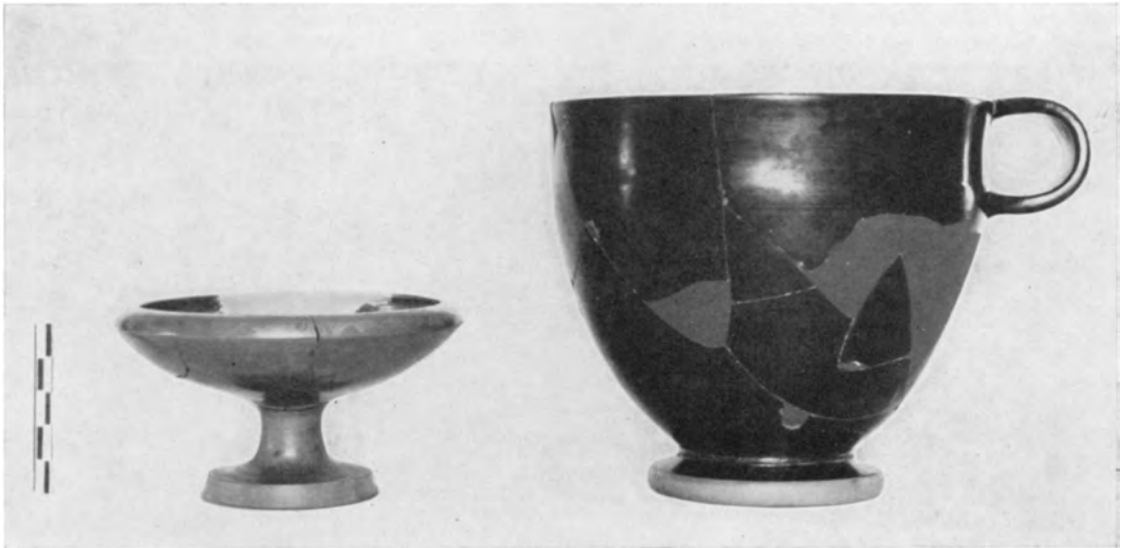


Fig. 9. Vases of the Late Sixth Century

phoras, and numerous lamps, of which one, of third century type, is distinguished by a special ornamental feature, a small relief bust of Pan placed at the base of the nozzle (Fig. 11).

#### THE MYCENAEAN TOMB

But in addition to these sundry objects of minor importance this barren hillside produced the most surprising and spectacular discovery of the season, a phenomenon which is not uncommon in the experience of field workers. A large cutting in the rock, approximately square in shape, filled with a deposit of earth and stone, proved to be the chamber of a tomb of the Mycenaean age of which the roof had collapsed. Entry into the chamber was thus made through the roof and simultaneously the entrance corridor was cleared. The tomb is situated on the lower slope of the Areopagus where the bedrock is a soft shale which can be readily cut, in contrast to the hard limestone of the upper part of the ridge comprising the Acropolis and the Areopagus. The position of the tomb is indicated by an arrow on the photograph (Fig.

12) showing the southern part of the excavated area, taken from the roof of the Hephaisteion; its site in relation to the summit of the Areopagus is shown in Fig. 13, in which also the cutting in bedrock for the back wall of the chamber is discernible above and beyond the doorway of the tomb. The chamber was filled with earth and with large and small pieces of bedrock splintered from the collapsed roof, and the difficulty of handling this mass of débris was no doubt the main reason for the survival of the contents of the tomb. The clearance of the wreckage was slow and difficult, and the task was unusually disagreeable because of the presence of the cesspool of a modern house which had been placed just above the centre of the chamber. The depth of the cesspool was not sufficient to disturb the ancient remains, but seepage from it had penetrated all parts of the filling deposit.



Fig. 10. Hellenistic Figurine



Fig. 11. Hellenistic Lamp

The tomb is of normal type with access to the chamber provided by a long dromos which is preserved for a length of eleven metres. The slope of the hill shows that the dromos had originally been somewhat longer but it had been cut at its north end by a retaining wall in the late Roman period. This wall is seen in the foreground of Fig. 13, part of it passing in front of the dromos which leads to the blocked doorway of the chamber; in the farthest background is the rocky summit of the Areopagus. The sides of the dromos, which are neatly cut in the bedrock, taper slightly, with the result that the average width at the bottom of the passage is two metres while at the top it is about one and a half metres. The dromos contained a filling of earth which was found to be in undisturbed condition except at the north end where two pits had been dug in the

Turkish period (Fig. 14). At the south end the corridor terminates at a doorway cut in the rock which was blocked with a wall of carefully packed field stones. It was evident that this doorway, like the passage leading to it, had not been entered since its original use.

After the tomb had been cleared and the dedicated objects in it had been cleaned,



Fig. 12. View of Southern End of Area Showing Site of Mycenaean Tomb

mended, and replaced, the ground plan and section were drawn by Piet de Jong (Fig. 15). These plans show the long dromos, with the Roman wall cutting its north end, and the narrow passage leading from the dromos to the chamber, which is blocked by the heavy wall (1.40 m. thick and 1.20 m. wide) filling the doorway. The sectional plan gives a clue to the cause of the collapse of the roof of the chamber, for it shows that the stone workers came dangerously close to the upper limit of the rock on the front half of the large chamber. The approximate line of the cutting of the rock above the chamber is derived from the cuttings on each side.

The chamber lies at a slight angle to the dromos; its walls, which measure approximately 5.90 by 4.30 metres, are not so carefully cut as those of the dromos, and



their height is not perfectly uniform, the highest point being 2.75 metres. Although the roof had entirely collapsed except for a small bit in the northwest corner the line of the original cutting can be traced and by it the original height of the walls can be determined. The chamber was largely filled with pieces of bedrock broken from the roof, but on the west side some heavy chunks of limestone had been placed near the



Fig. 13. Entrance of the Mycenaean Tomb; the Areopagus in the Background

top of a crude wall built along that side of the room. This extraneous material must have been introduced after the roof had collapsed and the time of the introduction is fixed by a few Mycenaean sherds found in the mixed filling. Nothing later came from the west side of the chamber, and neither sherds nor other objects appeared in the filling of the east side.

When the chamber had been cleared a rock-cut bench, 75 cm. wide and 60 cm. high, was found to extend along each side wall. Beside the west bench, in the southwest corner of the room, was a deep cist grave cut in the bedrock, measuring 1.80 m. long, 0.60 m. wide, and 1.20 m. deep. This had been covered by a slate slab which was lying in a diagonal position beside the grave, and had evidently been lifted at the foot

of the grave and shoved to one side (Fig. 16). The depth of the cist and the care with which it had been covered suggest the burial of an important person, but the grave contained neither bones nor offerings of any kind, though one small gold disc had filtered into its filling of earth and stones. A clue to the sex of the occupant of the grave was provided by a group of small objects, evidently from the grave, found lying beside the cover; these include a bronze mirror, a small ivory pyxis, and ivory hairpins. These objects, the grave, and the west bench lay beneath the rough wall built along that side.



Fig. 14. The Dromos of the Tomb

The bench along the east side of the room was covered by masses of fallen bedrock and earth, in which no sherds or other objects were found. On the north end of this bench six vases and a cylindrical ivory box were uncovered; the vases had been shattered when the roof of the chamber collapsed but the pyxis was still intact although it was evidently in fragile condition. The filling deposit of the chamber was heavy and soggy, so that great care was necessary in clearing the objects preparatory to their removal, but eventually it was possible to determine the exact spot where each vase had stood and to collect the broken pieces. After the tomb had been cleared and the vases had been cleaned and mended they were replaced on the bench so that they could be photographed in their original positions (Fig. 17). It will be noticed that a few fragments were missing when the vases were first mended. These are pieces

which were not salvaged from the wet earth at the time of excavation, but some of them were later recovered when the earth had dried sufficiently to be put through a sieve.

The vases from the east bench are fine examples of Mycenaean pottery of characteristic shape and decoration. The largest vase in the group is an amphora (48 cm. high), which is decorated with a graceful design (Fig. 18). It has a small mouth, three vertical strap handles on the shoulder, and on the upper part of the bulbous body a nautilus with four long tentacles, painted with a sureness of touch, and with

a mastery of curve and line so as to fill most agreeably the space between each pair of handles. Above each nautilus are two ornaments in the shape of rosettes enclosed by circular bands, while about the handles are neatly painted violin-shaped designs. The vase tapers sharply toward the base, and the lower part is decorated only by a series of reserved bands. A second amphora in this group is slightly smaller in size but has a similar shape with vertical strap handles and with a body tapering to the

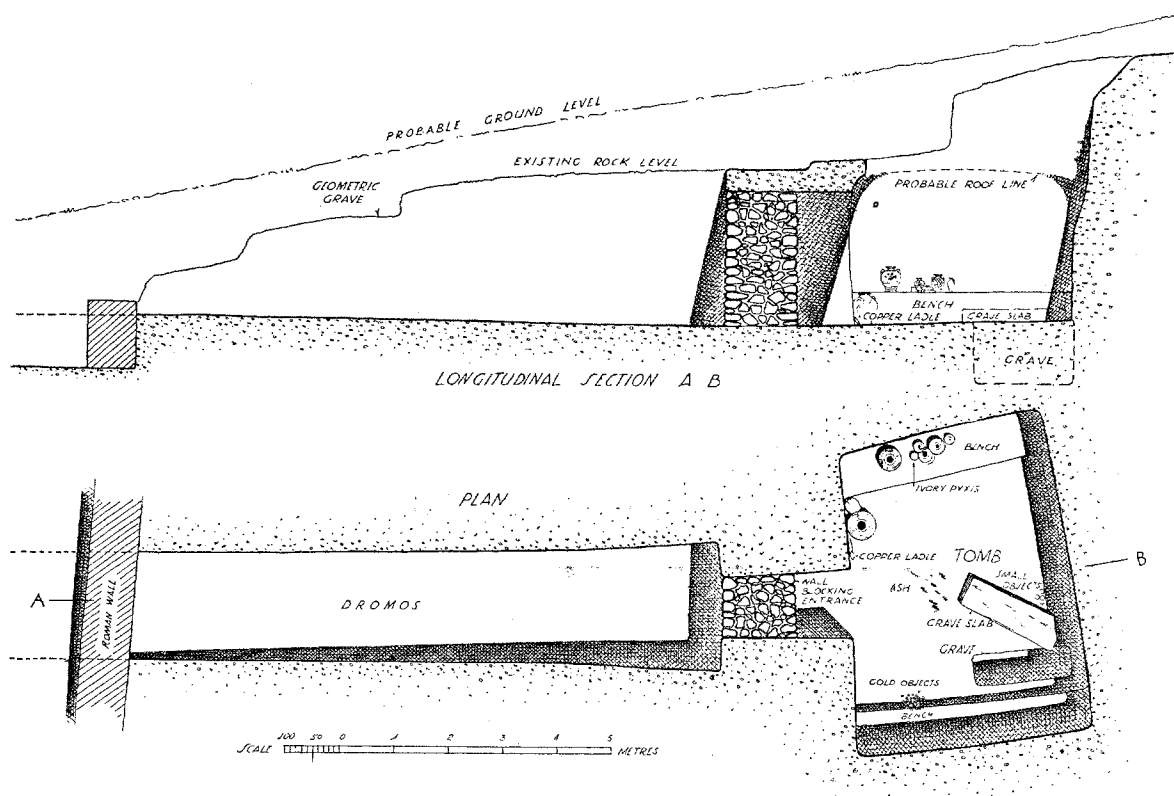


Fig. 15. The Plan of the Tomb. Drawing by Piet de Jong

base (Fig. 19). It is decorated with a scale pattern on the upper part of the body, and on the lower half has two series of reserved bands. Still another amphora, smaller in size but equally graceful in shape, has spirals painted in panels on the shoulder between the pairs of handles, and has broad and narrow bands encircling the lower part of the body (Fig. 20).

A vase of a different shape is a tall pitcher with two lateral handles set on vertically from rim to shoulder, and with a long slender spout (Fig. 21). It is covered with a lustrous red glaze but is otherwise undecorated. This fact, taken in connection with its shape and with the raised rim about the base of the neck, indicates that the shape is derived from a metal prototype. The two remaining vases,



Fig. 16. The Cist Grave in the Floor of the Chamber



Fig. 17. The East Bench with the Offerings in Their Original Positions



Fig. 18. Large Mycenaean Amphora



Fig. 19. Mycenaean Amphora with Scale Pattern



Fig. 20. Small Mycenaean Amphora



Fig. 21. Mycenaean Spouted Jug

found one on top of the other, are of a shape called alabastron and have an almost identical decorative scheme (Fig. 22: Inv. No. P 15236). They are flat in section



Fig. 22. Mycenaean Alabastron

and have three small handles set horizontally on the upper surface, which is decorated with wavy bands between pairs of handles, and with a series of painted mounds around the outer circumference. Concentric circles are painted on the bottoms of these two vases (Fig. 23), and this type of decoration on the under surface has been accepted as a criterion of chronological significance (see C. W. Blegen, *Prosymna*, I, p. 420). Vases of this class with wave-line decoration on the bottom have been assigned on sound evidence to the Late Helladic II period, those with concentric circles to Late Helladic III.

These vases from the east bench are products of a single epoch and exact parallels for their shape and decoration occur among the discoveries made in Mycenaean tombs at the Argive Heraeum and elsewhere, which are dated in the early part of the third Late Helladic period, that is, in the first part of the fourteenth century before Christ. No obstacle to this dating is provided by two other large vases which stood against the north wall of the chamber, although they are less characteristic in type (Fig. 24). One of these is an undecorated amphora of coarse ware shaped to a point at the bottom so that it could not stand upright on the stone floor and was leaned in the corner formed by the north wall and the east bench. The other vase from beside the north wall is a large rotund amphora (height: 60 cm.) with three horizontal handles on the shoulder, between each pair of which the graceful body of the vase is covered by a series of bracket-like ornaments diminishing in size from top to base (Fig. 25). By the side of these two vases a ladle was lying on the floor of the

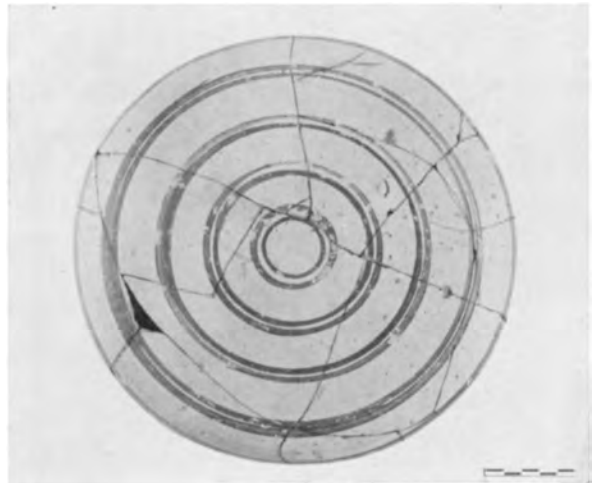


Fig. 23. Bottom of Alabastron

chamber. Since it is made of almost pure copper it was well preserved and required no chemical cleaning, but was merely washed for a few days in distilled water. It has a total length of 41 cm., and the diameter of the bowl is 16 cm.; on the side of the rim opposite the handle a shallow spout has been made to facilitate pouring (Fig. 26). The position of the ladle beside the large amphoras suggests that these vases may have contained wine for the ceremonial libation.



Fig. 24. Vases Standing in the Northeast Corner of the Chamber

#### THE IVORY PYXIS

The ivory pyxis which stood on the bench with the vases is a masterpiece of artistic design and of technical execution (Fig. 27). It was made from a large tusk and has a height of 12.1 cm. on the inside, and a diameter of 11.2 cm. measured on the lid. With allowance made for the projection of the relief figures on the sides the original diameter of the tusk must have been at least a centimetre greater. The exterior height is 16 cm. measured with the inclusion of the lid and of a circular plaque at the bottom, corresponding to the lid, which was attached to the floor of the box by three ivory dowels. This false bottom was evidently added for purely decorative

purposes in order to balance the cover, and the same ornamental chevron-like design is carved on each, though the pattern runs in opposite directions.

A clever solution of the problem of placing the handles so as not to disturb the general decorative effect was devised by the artist. Two projecting knobs were left on each side in positions which would interfere least with the main scene. On the surface of one of these a fawn is lying with twisted body, and the other is carved in the shape of a crouching prostrate lion. These animals, which are arranged chiastically

on opposite sides, have their under bodies perforated with holes for the passage of cord or wire by which the box could be carried. The interior of the pyxis was lined with thin strips of tin, evidently introduced to prevent ointment or oily liquid from oozing into the ivory and discoloring it.

The top of the lid and the sides of the box are closely covered with decorative scenes carved in relief representing an attack made by griffins on a herd of deer. The group on the lid consists of a griffin and two deer which have been thrown down by the force of the griffin's attack (Fig. 28). The arrangement of the figures has been skillfully adjusted to the circular area. The powerful attacking monster is shown by the position of his wings to be alighting on his victims, which by the turn of their heads and the contortions of their bodies reveal their terror and their impotence. The griffin is similar in type to other Mycenaean representations, having a multi-



Fig. 25. The Large Amphora from the Floor.  
Restored Painting by Piet de Jong

feathered crest, and spirals at the base of the neck and along the edge of the wings.

On the side of the box two griffins are represented as attacking four deer in a scene of action and violence which can be best appreciated in a developed drawing made by Piet de Jong (Fig. 29). The griffins are approaching their prey from opposite sides. The one on the left of the scene is flying down with a great spread of wing and with his leonine hindquarters still high in the air. He has thrust the claws of his powerful forepaws into the flanks of a large stag which, thus hurled to the ground, has turned back its head toward its assailant in agonized gesture with mouth open



and tongue lolling. The griffin on the right is swooping over the ground to the attack with his long lithe body extended, and with his hindlegs and tail stretched out behind. The wind produced by the rush of the great wings has blown over the small tree or shrub seen below the animal. The griffin has seized with his left paw a struggling deer which he holds straight up before him in vertical position, while with his right paw he grasps a large running stag at the base of the neck. This bold and original artistic conception is executed with superb technical skill; especially in the case of the large stag, where the surface of the ivory is particularly well preserved, the masterly technique of the artist is revealed in the faithful and accurate modelling of the straining muscles, and in the delineation of the bony structure beneath the skin.

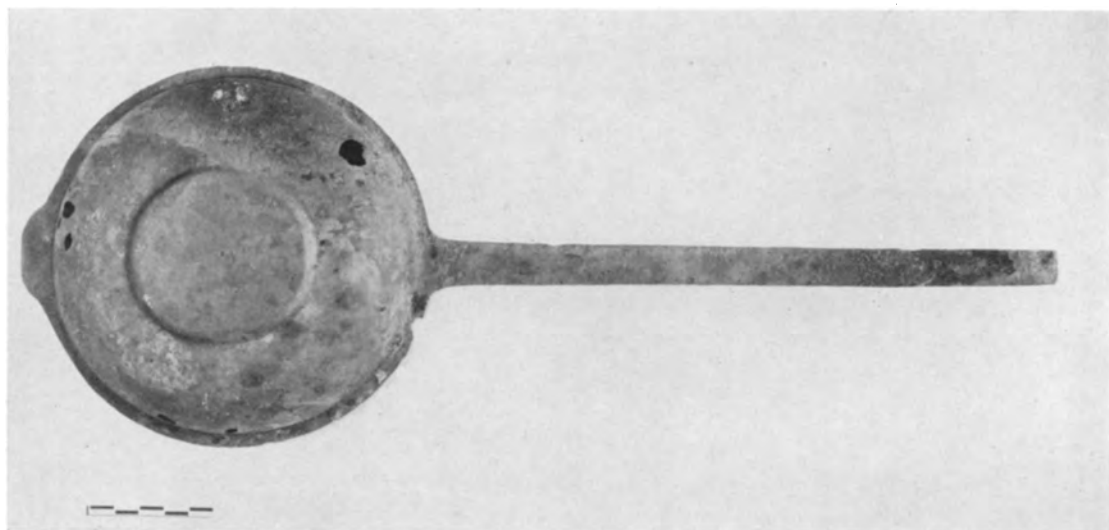


Fig. 26. Copper Ladle

Another remarkable feature of this composition is the conception of perspective in the treatment of the fourth deer which is making good its escape from the slaughter. The animal is shown in the midzone between the two main combats leaping over some stones or shrubs. Landscape is also indicated by the large bush beneath the griffin on the right and by several other small shrubs and stones. The ornate projecting handles, made in the form of animals which might be considered as belonging to the hunt, do not disturb the general design. Thus every detail of this composition has been carefully and skillfully planned, and the technical execution has been wrought by a master hand. This Report is not an appropriate place for a discussion of the stylistic affiliations of this ivory, but it may be pointed out that in spite of the eastern character of the scene and of the resemblance of the griffins to those from Megiddo



Fig. 27. The Ivory Pyxis

(G. Loud, *The Megiddo Ivories*, pl. 9, 32a and 32b), the possibility of an Attic origin cannot be eliminated in view of the evidence for the existence of a local school provided by the many carved ivories found in the tombs of Menidi and Spata.

Other ivories were included in a group of small objects found on the floor of the chamber beside the cover of the grave, which had presumably been removed from the grave and had been overlooked when the body was carried out (Fig. 30). These



Fig. 28. Carved Group on the Lid of the Pyxis

objects, which are all feminine appurtenances and prove that the burial was that of a woman, are ivory pins, two large ivory bars with hinged clasps for use in the hair, a bronze mirror (diameter: 11.5 cm.), and a small ivory toilet box which, though only five centimetres high, is made and decorated with as much care and skill and artistic feeling as were noted in the case of the large pyxis (Fig. 31). The lid and the bottom were made as separate discs, and the small loop handles were also made separately and inserted into slits. The surface of the pyxis is closely covered by a repeated nautilus design with the exquisitely carved shells arranged in three horizontal rows, so as to produce a rich decorative effect.

Still more objects from the floor of the chamber are ornaments made of thin



Fig. 29. Development of the Combat Scene on the Sides of the Pyxis.  
Drawing by Piet de Jong

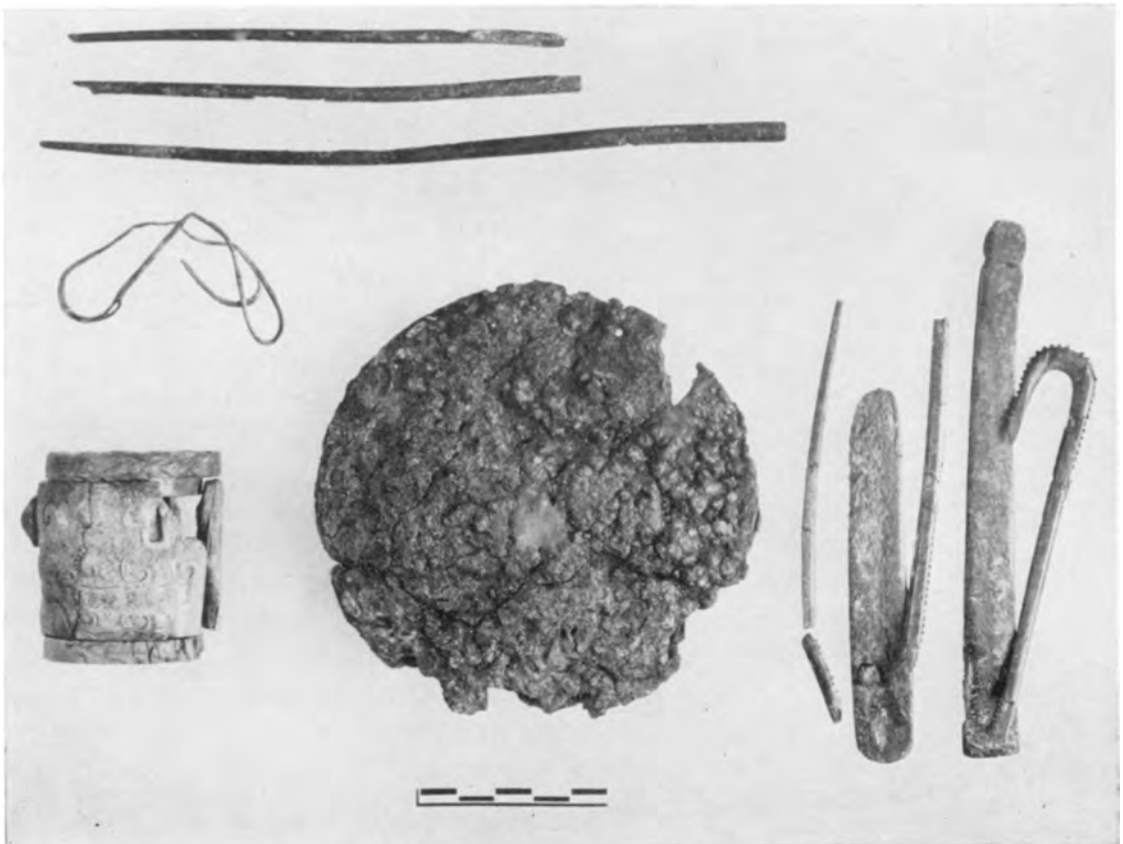


Fig. 30. Small Objects from the Floor of the Chamber

sheets of gold, which were found mainly in three groups heaped together near the north end of the grave, though a few pieces were secured from other parts of the filling. They are of several different types: large pear-shaped leaves with spiral designs (5 cm. high), rosettes of two sizes, and small plain discs (Fig. 32). Most of them have small holes perforated along the edges for convenience in attaching them to some background, but some of all types are unpierced. Ninety-seven of these ornaments were secured besides eighteen other fragmentary pieces of gold. They had apparently been gathered for removal from the tomb, but for some unknown reason had been left on the floor, like the toilet articles abandoned beside the cover.

An interpretation of the state in which this tomb was found may be suggested. The size of the structure and the elaborateness of the burial indicate that it was a "royal" tomb, and since the dedicated offerings have been shown to date from the early part of the fourteenth century when Erechtheus was Lord of Athens it may be assumed to be the burial of a member of his family, perhaps his wife Praxithea or his daughter Chthonia. After the interment and the deposit of the offerings some kind of a sacrificial ceremony was performed in the centre of the chamber where much carbonized matter was found scattered over the floor. The door was then



Fig. 31. Small Pyxis with Nautilus Decoration

blocked with a stone wall, and the dromos was filled with earth; they were never again entered, for before another burial could be made the roof of the chamber collapsed. It is impossible to determine the cause of this accident, but it may have been due to an earthquake, or merely to the seepage of water through the porous rock at the time of heavy storms.

It is comprehensible that such an elaborate tomb would not have been left in a ruined state, which would have brought reproach on the family which owned it and would have furnished a constant temptation to robbers to delve in the ruins in search of treasure. So we find that a trench had been dug exactly over the site of the cist grave and that the body and the offerings had been removed from it. This trench was then filled by a mass of earth, split bedrock, and heavy chunks of limestone which had never subsequently been disturbed. The abandonment of small objects, such as



Fig. 32. Gold Ornaments from the Floor of the Chamber

pins, pyxis, and gold ornaments, on the floor of the chamber near the grave cist indicates a hasty flight of the workers which may have been due to the falling of more pieces of rock from the ruined roof.

This discovery of a rich tomb of the Mycenaean age in Athens is of special interest since it testifies to the existence of such tombs which have hitherto long been sought in vain. It is reasonable to expect that other similar burials were made in the same neighborhood, and in fact the scant remains of another tomb were uncovered about thirteen metres west of the first chamber. This tomb had originally been circular in shape with an estimated diameter of about three metres; it had a cist grave cut in the floor but this had been used as a modern cesspool. A Roman drain had been laid across the floor, and part of the rock

itself had been cut away, but in spite of this destruction a small pocket, just above the floor close to the south wall, preserved some remains of the original burial including small pieces of bones, fragments of pottery and one nearly complete false-mouthed



Fig. 33. False-mouthed Jar



Fig. 34. Geometric Vases from above the Dromos

jar of characteristic shape and decoration (Fig. 33). In the next campaign of excavation the clearance and investigation of the hillside farther west will be continued.

It is probably only a coincidence that a grave of the Geometric age had been placed in the upper filling of the dromos of the Mycenaean tomb. This grave, of which the position is marked on the sectional plan of the tomb (Fig. 15), lay less than half a metre below the modern surface and had been disturbed by intrusions of the Turkish period, but fragments of bone and several vases were preserved, perhaps because they



Fig. 35. Marble Votive Mask

were entwined by the roots of a tree growing in the courtyard of the modern house which stood above the site of the chamber tomb. The three vases which were secured are pyxides, indicating that the burial was that of a woman (Fig. 34). One of them is nearly complete with its lid intact; of the second only part of the bowl remains; while the third is a huge lid with a small two-handled bowl attached to its top by a thick collar. This is the first example of this shape which has been found in the Agora. The size and weight of the piece evidently caused the potter considerable difficulty since traces of patching of the clay appear on the undecorated under surface. These vases belong to the familiar class of late Geometric ware, dating from the end of the eighth century before Christ.

In addition to the work just described Vanderpool also had charge of the clearance of several wells in Section Psi where work had not been completed in the season of 1938. One tiled well of the Roman age, which extended down to a depth of twenty-two metres, had con-

tents roughly stratified into three main groups. The highest deposit, down to a depth of 16.50 m., contained some Byzantine ware mixed with the late Roman and should be dated in the ninth or tenth century after Christ. Below this came a deposit, five metres deep, of the late fourth and the fifth centuries after Christ, which contained lamps, pottery, several brightly colored terracotta masks, and a huge marble mask (Fig. 35: Inv. No. S 1144). The expression of horror on the features shows that this is a tragic mask, and it in fact resembles some masks which have been interpreted as representations of Clytemnestra; it was probably used for



some votive or decorative purpose. The deepest and earliest deposit in this well, of the third century after Christ, produced two bronze pitchers, vases of coarse ware, and numerous lamps.

#### SECTION IOTA

This Section lying south of the Stoa of Attalos on the east side of the American Zone was excavated in 1933 by A. W. Parsons. The area was not completely cleared at that time because of the presence of the small chapel of Saint Spyridon, the walls of which were covered with frescoes. The paintings were carefully photographed and were copied in water-color by de Jong. They were fully published in *Hesperia* (IV, 1935, pp. 448-469) by Miss Alison Frantz who, after thorough study, dated them in the latter part of the seventeenth century. Although these paintings were not of the highest artistic quality they were sufficiently interesting as representing Attic art of the period to warrant the effort and expense of preserving them when the chapel was demolished. During Miss Frantz's visit to America in the Autumn of 1938 she learned the technique of removing frescoes through the courtesy of Professor Charles H. Morgan and of the Art Department of Amherst College. On her return to Athens she directed the removal of the paintings, which were transferred panel by panel, and were reset on plaster. The process was successfully completed and the colors of the paintings are now more brilliant than when the frescoes were attached to the original walls.

After the removal of the paintings the demolition of the walls of the chapel was begun, in the course of which important chronological evidence was secured. A piece of an Ionic capital had been built into the north wall just at the level of the eye of a standing person, and on the side of this block was a neatly cut inscription giving a monogram below a cross and the date 1613. The position of the block in the wall suggests that the inscription was written after the block was in place, but obviously before the wall was stuccoed; it no doubt gives the date of the construction of the chapel and thus the approximate period of the frescoes on the walls. The date in the latter part of the seventeenth century previously assigned to them on the basis of style must now be put back to the early part of that century.

As soon as the demolition of the walls was begun traces of an earlier building on the site began to appear, which was a simple type of church like its successor. The north, west, and south walls of the earlier chapel had been destroyed except for their foundations, but on the east side the later wall had been built up against the earlier, leaving much of that in position. The wall was covered with frescoes which are well preserved wherever the wall itself was left standing: As on the east wall of the later church, the upper panels on either side of the apse were occupied, on the left by the Angel of the Annunciation, and on the right by the Virgin, beneath whom are two panels with Saints. Below the Angel is Saint Stephen whose identity is established

by his name and title, Protomartes (*sic*), painted in large white letters distributed on both sides of the head. In the lower panel on the right side of the apse Saint Blasios is depicted (Fig. 36). His head, of unusual type, with white hair and beard, is surrounded by a nimbus. He is wrapped in a large cloak which is decorated with black and red crosses, and he holds in his right hand a scroll on which is written the beginning of the exhortation preceding the Lord's Prayer in the liturgy of the Greek church.



Fig. 36. Early Version of Saint Blasios

paintings from the wall of the same church, separated by a space of two hundred years, make an interesting contribution to the study of the development of ecclesiastical art in Athens.

After the frescoes of the earlier wall had been removed the chapel was demolished and it was possible to uncover and study the remains of a large Roman building underlying the chapel and the adjoining sections of the Valerian Wall. This led to the surprising discovery that this building is the Library of Pantainos, of which the huge lintel block with an inscribed dedication was found in 1933 built into the

The problem of dating this wall is more difficult than in the case of the later one and must be resolved on the basis of style. The elongated shape of the figures, and their awkward rigidity suggest a fairly early date, and in some respects they are similar to figures on frescoes at Mistra which are dated early in the fifteenth century. The only external evidence for date is a *terminus post quem* in the middle of the fourteenth century provided by four silver coins found in the west wall, which seems to have been a wall of an earlier building re-used for the church. The coins are: one of Charles II, Count of Provence (1285-1309); two of Robert of Provence (1309-1343); one of the Avignon Pope Jean XXII (1316-1334). With due allowance of time for the re-use of this wall the date assigned to the earlier building on the basis of the style of the frescoes, early fifteenth century, would seem to be reasonable. These two series of

Valerian Wall beside the church (*Hesperia*, IV, 1935, pp. 330-332). The inscription records that T. Flavius Pantainos erected at his own expense and dedicated to the goddess Athena, the Emperor Trajan, and the city of Athens, the building with its outer porticoes, its peristyle, its books and decorations. The plan of the excavated building satisfies the requirements of this description and moreover the lintel block exactly fits the main entrance doorway on the west; its place of discovery was less than five metres distant from that spot.

The building, situated just south of the Stoa of Attalos, faces west on the street of the Panathenaia. The west façade of the building is provided with an Ionic portico which has a length of thirty-five metres and is 5.20 m. wide. Behind the portico the west side of the building was composed of five rooms, of which the dimensions are about 4.30 by 5 m. The walls were made of bricks laid on a stone foundation, and they were covered with painted stucco. The central of the five rooms was evidently an entrance passageway leading from the outer portico to an inner colonnaded court, clearly the peristyle of the inscription. The east side of the building extends into an unexcavated area lying beyond the limits of the American Zone, and cannot therefore be uncovered, but the plan of the cleared part predicates a construction on the east similar to that on the west.

The sherds of pottery from beneath the floors of the rooms belong in the latter part of the first century after Christ, a date which accords with that of the inscribed dedication to Trajan, about 100 A.D. This great building, extending along the east border of the Agora south of the Stoa of Attalos, was standing at the time of the visit of Pausanias but like that Stoa is not mentioned by him. It was destroyed at the time of the Herulian invasion in 267 A.D., and shortly afterwards many of its blocks were used in the construction of the Valerian Wall.

#### SECTION IOTA IOTA

In this Section also Parsons completed a piece of work which had been left unfinished in the preceding campaign. In last year's Report (*Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, p. 220) an account was given of the partial clearance of a great brick-lined shaft in the southeast corner of the area. During the current season this was entirely cleared to its bottom at a depth of twenty-seven metres; its diameter is two metres and the bricks were made in a slightly curved shape to fit this circle. The shaft is supported by three semicircular brick arches which spring from piers of poros blocks set in bedrock at the level of the floor of the shaft.

This elaborate structure was apparently part of a water supply system but the purpose of some details of its plan is not clear. A shallow basin in the floor of the shaft has an outlet opening into a small water-channel which slopes away under the floor of a brick-walled passage leading off toward the northwest. Since no trace is evident of any means of blocking the outlet the water in the basin must have run

off as it collected. Two large brick-walled and brick-vaulted chambers, of which the larger measures 4.20 by 2.20 m., open from near the bottom of the shaft; they communicate only with the shaft and the purpose they served is uncertain. Last year's Report recorded how water was supplied to the shaft by a conduit leading through a vaulted chamber adjoining the shaft at a point 8.50 metres below the surface.

The filling deposit in the shaft was of the Byzantine period for the upper fifteen metres, but from that point to a depth of 25.50 metres it became late Roman. For the last 1.50 metres it changed again and showed a uniformity of type of contents which indicated a dump at the time the shaft went out of use, at the end of the second or early in the third century after Christ on the evidence of the lamps and the pottery. Besides a great quantity of pottery, most of which is coarse unglazed ware, the shaft yielded only a few objects of interest, among which are some fragmentary inscriptions of the classical period. The most important object from the shaft is the archaic marble head of a kore found last year in the Byzantine deposit, but this year an interesting piece of sculpture from the Roman stratum is a well-preserved bronze statuette of Herakles (Fig. 37), which closely resembles the Herakles Farnese in the pose of the figure, the proportions of the body, and the type of the head.



Fig. 37. Bronze Statuette of Herakles

#### SECTION OMICRON ALPHA

This is another area in which work was conducted by Parsons for a second season but because of his efforts elsewhere the investigation here was on a restricted scale. A little further exploration about the Klepsydra confirmed a date for the construction of the east wall of the forecourt in the first half of the fifth century B.C. And the late history of the building was rendered more complete by the discovery

of the Turkish fountain situated fifty metres northeast of the Klepsydra from which water was conveyed by a rectangular cement-lined channel. This fountain, which is mentioned by early travelers, was built in the first half of the eighteenth century and continued in use until the Bastion of Odysseus was erected in 1822.

Continued investigation of the Valerian Wall on the slope of the Acropolis revealed an interesting element of its construction in the presence of a tower situated just half way between the Hypapanti Gate and the wall of the Acropolis. This stretch of wall, 150 metres long, called for a defensive tower but the scanty remains of it had

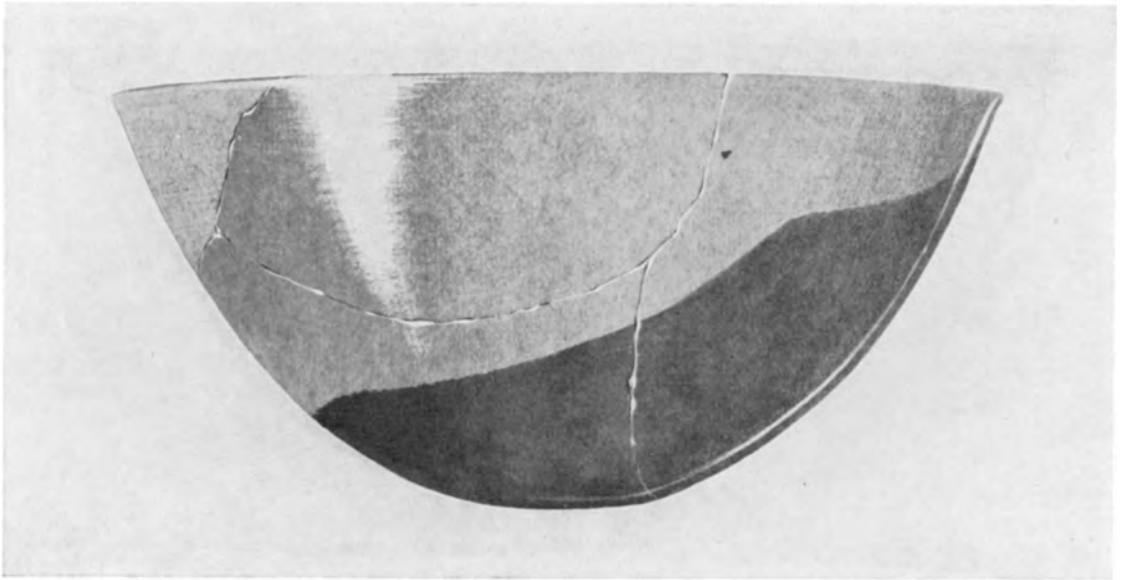


Fig. 38. Neolithic Bowl. Restored Painting by Piet de Jong

hitherto escaped detection. Like the others attached to the wall this tower has a width of six to seven metres and projects 5.30 m. from the wall.

Surface exploration of the rocky hillside, which brought to light many wells last year, was continued on a small scale this season with similar success. Fourteen wells were uncovered and cleared this year, of which ten held deposits of the Neolithic period, three had late Mycenaean contents, and one was late archaic in character. The Neolithic wells, like those reported last year, were cut in the bedrock near the site of the Klepsydra. They are uniformly shallow, but one of them was cut to a depth of 7.70 m., which is the deepest well of this age so far found. It is neatly cut in the rock and is a witness to the skill of these early people in handling their primitive tools. It is probably only a coincidence that from the best hewn well came one of the finest vases, a highly burnished bowl which has been so fired as to be neatly divided into red and black zones (Fig. 38: Inv. No. P 14562).

Two other wells produced each a handsome vase of similar shape (Fig. 39). These are rotund jars of hand-burnished red ware with rims and a low base. The base is perforated on each side by two holes which are in line with holes in horizontal projecting bands set just below the rims. These no doubt served for the passage of withes or thongs by which the vases could be carried, or the lids could be kept in place. These are particularly fine specimens of Neolithic ware, and on them the linear decorations made by white painted stripes are fairly well preserved. The addition of these splendid specimens makes the Agora collection of Neolithic pottery the richest from the southern part of Greece. A discovery in these wells which may prove



Fig. 39. Neolithic Jars

of great importance is that of the skeletal remains of two human beings, whose skulls are of very primitive type. But since it has not yet been possible to mend and study these remains anthropologically, nothing further can be said of them at this time.

The scraping of the rock in this area resulted in at least one other important discovery besides the mouths of wells. This is a small deposit in a pocket of the bedrock, about 1.50 m. in diameter, situated at the base of the cliff of the Acropolis seven metres east of the forecourt of the Klepsydra. The filling of the pocket, which had not been disturbed since it had gathered there at the end of the third century B.C., contained, besides coarse pottery and fragments of roof-tiles, parts of eight different red-figured oenochoes of unusual type. They are tall and slender in shape, have a wide mouth and two breast-shaped protuberances on the shoulder in front (Fig. 40). In every case the body of the vase is decorated with a representation of Athena in

a chariot, in front of which stands a youth, and on two vases the figure of Athena, done in archaic style, appears on the front of the tall neck. These figures are similar to the types of Athena appearing on the Panathenaic vases of the late fifth century and, taken with the scenes on the bodies of the oenochoes, suggest that the vases in the deposit were associated in some way with the festival of the Panathenaia; they will be fully discussed in a later article by Miss Talcott.

#### SECTION MU MU

This area, situated north of the Athens-Peiraeus electric railway at the north base of Kolonos Agoraios, is the property of the city and is designated for improvement as a small public square. Prior to such improvement permission was granted for its excavation on condition that the block be refilled at the conclusion of the investigation. The main excavation was conducted by H. A. Thompson in 1937 and various interesting ancient monuments were uncovered, as described in the Report for that year. The area was left open for two years in the hope that it might be possible to expropriate the blocks north of the railroad adjoining on the east, but when it became clear this season that such a project could not be realized, it was necessary to proceed with the filling of the area as had been agreed.

Before the refilling operations were begun Thompson made a supplementary investigation of the site for a period of six weeks, which produced some interesting results. The discovery of the boundary stone in place in the northwest corner has already been mentioned. It faces a road, of which the south edge falls within the excavated area. The history of this road, which was the main thoroughfare leading from the Dipylon to the Agora,



Fig. 40. Red-figured Oenochoe

is revealed by a series of successive strata. The earliest use, as indicated by the pottery, goes back to Neolithic times, and this is followed by evidence from the three prehistoric periods, the Middle Helladic deposit being especially deep. Higher stratified deposits mark road surfaces of various later periods, Geometric, Greek, and Roman.

Remains of buildings were uncovered on the south side of the road, of which the most important is one which is to be dated in the beginning of the fourth century B.C. This building appears to have been a foundry since abundant remains of iron working overlay the floor of its court. The red-figured and black-glazed pottery found intermixed with the metal waste is of early fourth-century type, and in the same deposit were found moulds for figurines and a terracotta mould of fine style from the metal cheek piece of a helmet, published by Mrs. Thompson in *Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, p. 290, fig. 4. Evidence of habitation in the northeast corner of the area consists of the filling deposit of a large pit cut in the bedrock which contained what seems to be débris from houses destroyed at the time of the Persian invasion. Besides abundant pottery the deposit yielded also an ostrakon of Megakles son of Hippokrates.

#### SECTION NU NU

This Section in the extreme southwest corner of the American Zone, lying on the west and northwest slopes of the Areopagus, was designated as the site for the proposed Agora Museum. It was necessary to excavate the area before the construction of the Museum could be begun and the work of excavation was started this season under the supervision of R. S. Young. But because of the size of the area, which has a maximum length from north to south of 146 metres, and because of the deep accumulation of earth on the site, the excavation was not completed this year and consequently the building of the Museum was postponed.

Since this area lies outside the limits of the Agora it contained no public buildings of the Greek period, but it is topographically important because through it passes the main thoroughfare leading from the Agora to the southern part of the city, with branches to the Pnyx and to the Peiraeus Gate. The road follows the floor of the valley which is wide at the north end but narrows considerably at the south, the filling throughout being very deep, with a maximum depth of nine metres. The great drain, in continuation of its course revealed in the northern Sections of the area, passes through the entire Section from north to south along the line of the road. At the north edge of the area the drain is built of poros blocks arranged in corbelled construction, and is covered by large slabs, one of which is seen to be a much worn sculptured stele. These cover slabs are worn on their upper surface and at that level the surface of an east-west road is visible while, at a lower level, side drains from east and west enter the great drain. It seems evident, therefore, that an important street intersection existed at this southwest corner of the Market.



In the central part of the area people of the Byzantine age had dug extensively, in places even to bedrock, in search of building materials. Traces, however, remain of houses and of a bath of the Roman period, which was built in part over the great



Fig. 41. Sixth Century Grave as Excavated

drain after the drain had ceased to be used, about the end of the third century after Christ. Most of the walls of the drain had suffered from the Byzantine delving for stones but some undisturbed filling from various periods was uncovered. A little Hellenistic deposit remained below the early Roman, and still deeper, at the very bottom of the channel, was a small deposit of sand made in a hollow of the bedrock at the end

of the sixth or early in the fifth century B.C. From this deposit came 162 ostraka distributed as follows: 70 of Themistokles, 46 of Kallixenos, 41 of Hippokrates, 2 of Aristekides, 2 of Kydrokles, 1 of Habron.

At the south end of the area the drain lies at the bottom of a hill which slopes sharply upward to the east, and had been arranged in terraces as early as the sixth century before Christ. This terraced area had been used as a cemetery and in it



Fig. 42. Objects from the Grave

twenty-two graves were opened during the season, nineteen being shaft graves of adults, one of a small child, and two urn burials of children. The graves were placed fairly close together and distributed among them were twenty-one sacrificial pits in which were still preserved many large pieces of charred and carbonized logs. Vases were found in ten of the graves and in five of the pits and prove that all the burials except two are to be dated in the sixth century before Christ. The two exceptions are earlier, belonging to the late Geometric period at the end of the eighth century.

A typical grave of this group is shown in Fig. 41 with the skeleton and offerings in place as excavated. This skeleton, which is well preserved, lay in a north-south direction with the head at the north end, but no uniform orientation of the bodies was

practised in the cemetery, the location of the graves being evidently governed by the restrictions of the space. The vases from the grave (Fig. 42) are four Attic black-figured lekythoi of a type dated about the middle of the sixth century and three small jugs of a kind that is non-Attic but has been proved to be common in Lydia in Asia Minor; they are evidently importations.

It is an interesting coincidence that the offerings in a neighboring grave are also imported vases, one from Lydia and one from Corinth (Fig. 43). The four Lydian



Fig. 43. Vases from a Neighboring Grave

vases from these graves are similar to the krateriskoi which were found in considerable numbers in the American excavations at the Lydian capital, Sardes. The clay, from which they are made, is generously sprinkled with specks of golden mica, a characteristic of Lydian clay, and the marbled surface decoration of the smallest specimen is typical of Lydian pottery. The walls of these vases are very thick, so that their capacity is small; they were probably used for the importation of precious ointment for which Sardes was noted. They must be dated before 546 B.C., the year when the Lydian Empire was conquered by the Persians. One other imported vase was included among the offerings in the graves, a Corinthian pyxis, but all the remaining vases belong in the Attic black-figured group, one of the earliest being a lekythos from a sacrificial pit decorated with a band of lions and sirens (Fig. 44).

The offerings in the graves and the ceramic remains scattered in the filling over them prove that the cemetery was in use from the end of the eighth to the end of the sixth century before Christ. The proportionately large number of imported vases among the offerings of the sixth century suggests that this may have been the

burial ground of a family with foreign affiliations. It is surprising to learn that a cemetery within the city limits was in use as late as the end of the sixth century.

Eleven wells were discovered in this area during the season but only two of these could be completely dug. Work was not begun on six and could not be finished on the remaining three because of the great flow of water in them. One of the wells completed produced unimportant pottery of the late sixth century, and the other

was a carefully made tiled well of the second century before Christ. At the bottom of the latter was the usual number of complete water jars of coarse ware, some being of the type with basket handle, with which was a fine plastic lamp in the shape of a bull's head decorated with garlands (Fig. 45). The filling hole is arranged like a sieve with five small holes made in a circular depression; the nozzle is at the muzzle. A noticeable attempt at realism is suggested by the wrinkles on the nose and by the arrangement of the hair. It is a handsome ceramic product of the Hellenistic age.



Fig. 44. Early Black-figured Lekythos

#### THE ODEION

The greater part of the site occupied by the Odeion was excavated in 1935 and the results were published in the Report for that year. During the present season the small remaining deposits were cleared by Thompson in preparation for the publication of the building. In general the new investiga-

tion provided confirmatory evidence for conclusions previously announced. The area was evidently part of the open market square until as late as the first century before Christ, and the floor now uncovered, partly of bedrock and partly with a shallow gravel surface over the bedrock, shows evidence of heavy traffic. Some foundation stones of a monument, measuring 3.10 by 3.75 m., were uncovered in the extreme southwest corner of the area occupied by the Odeion, but the west end of this monument was cut away by the foundations of the Odeion so that it ceased to exist after the construction of that building. Otherwise unbroken bedrock lies beneath the

Odeion without trace of earlier remains. Thus Dörpfeld's hypothesis as to the site of the grave of Theseus is proved to be impossible.

The date for the construction of the building, the Augustan period, which was suggested by the evidence secured in the earlier investigation, was confirmed by the pottery found in the earth packing of the cavea. The other epochal dates in the history of the building, as previously announced, are its total destruction by fire at the end of the third century after Christ, presumably at the time of the invasion of the Herulians in 267, and the erection of the great building above its ruins at the end of the fourth or early in the fifth century. The condition of the site during the century from 300 to 400 A.D. should be clarified by a detailed and complete study of the evidence secured from the current investigation.

The work of the season also included a thorough study of the temple of Hephaistos (the "Theseum"). Investigation of the area about the temple has been conducted for several years under the supervision of Mrs. Dorothy Thompson. One of the important results achieved is the certain identification of the temple because of the extensive remains of metal working establishments on all sides of the building. During the present season it was possible through the coöperation of the Governmental authorities and of Professors Orlandos and Marinatos to take up the modern floor of the building and to make a detailed investigation of its interior construction. This work was again supervised by Mrs. Thompson, and her husband, H. A. Thompson, coöperated with her; subsequently during the summer the foundations were exhaustively studied by W. B. Dinsmoor who will publish a full report on the results.

Many objects of interest and importance were found besides these which have been already mentioned. The season was particularly fertile in the production of terracotta figurines and of the moulds from which the figurines were cast. One of the 243 pieces catalogued during the year has been discussed by Mrs. Thompson in the article previously cited; others will be published by her later. Terracotta lamps were



Fig. 45. Hellenistic Plastic Lamp

secured in the usual abundance, the addition of the 354 new specimens bringing the total in the Agora collection to nearly four thousand. The inflow of stamped amphora handles continued unabated, so that the total of that group is now approaching the 10,000 mark, and the harvest of inscribed documents was as rich as usual with the new additions bringing the total to nearly six thousand. Since the new inscriptions are published with exemplary promptness by Meritt and his corps of experts no comment on this year's discoveries is required in this Report.

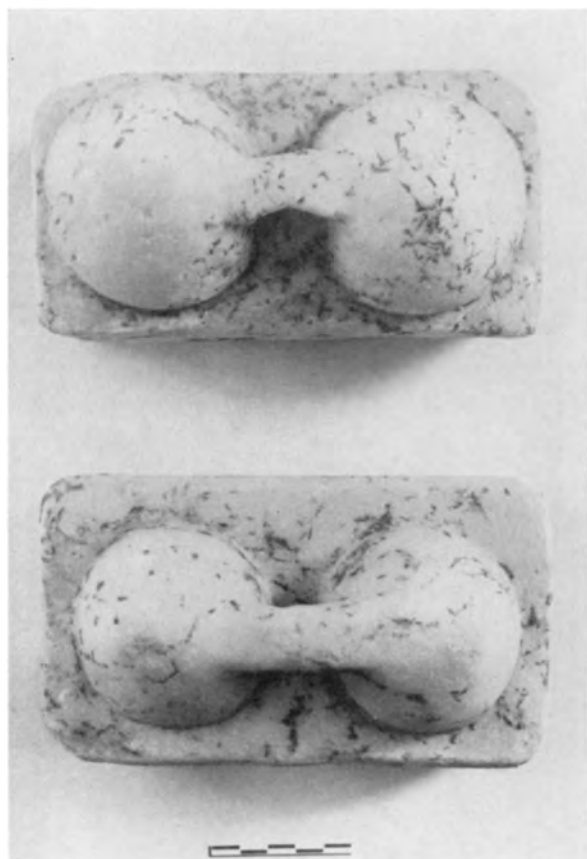


Fig. 46. Marble Weights

The coins from the excavation are so numerous and so varied in age and type that they can be only sketchily treated in the brief space here available. Nearly nine thousand additions were made to the collection during the season, and all were cleaned and catalogued under Miss Thompson's supervision. Mention may be made of some interesting bronze pieces of the Roman age. Two of these were struck in the reign of Caracalla, one for the city of Mytilene showing the Emperor on horseback, and the other a coin of Magnesia ad Maeandrum which has on the reverse a copy of the statue of Themistokles, erected by the Magnesians to commemorate Themistokles's sojourn in the city. Other historical associations are also suggested by the discovery of Jewish coins in the area near the Areopagus. Several of these belong to an issue struck by Herod Agrippa, Ruler of Judea from 37 to 44 A.D. On the obverse they have an umbrella with hanging fringe surrounded by an inscription in Greek; the reverse type shows three ears of wheat on one

stalk with the symbols for the year 6 (42/43 A.D.) on either side. Interesting conjectures are aroused by the presence in Athens of this Jewish money of the first century after Christ. Saint Paul left Jerusalem in 44 A.D. on the mission which eventually brought him to Athens, and it is possible that these coins of 42/43 were carried by him or his companions.

These foreign coins have been mentioned because of their exceptional interest, but the main groups of all coins found are the Greek and Roman issues of Athens.

and the late Roman Imperial and Byzantine moneys which were current in the city. Besides handling the coins from this season's excavation Miss Thompson in the interval between campaigns cleared up some arrears in the Coin Department by cleaning, identifying and cataloguing some eight thousand coins found in 1934. Since many of these had come from drain and well deposits they were in a badly corroded condition, but five thousand struck prior to the Turkish period could be identified. Of these 2,684 came from Greek mints, 1,108 were issued by Roman emperors, 939 are Byzantine, 178 are barbarous imitations of the late Roman period, and 179 are from Frankish and Venetian epochs. Such great progress has been made with the cataloguing of the 90,000 coins in the collection that but comparatively little unfinished work from previous years remains to be done.

Reference has been made in past Reports to the increasing number of official weights and measures which are being assembled in the Agora. The present season has made a generous addition to the collection. Some of them are of the oblong marble type with breast-like protuberances on the top (Fig. 46), others are lead weights of many different sizes marked with official insignia, and often with an inscription giving the weight. One of the best preserved of the latter is a quarter stater of the fourth century B.C. (Fig. 47), which bears a tortoise as the official symbol and has its value given by the word *TETARTE*. The difficulty involved in determining the standard Athenian weight is well illustrated by this instance. This quarter stater weighs 227.5 grammes, based thus on a stater of 910 gr. But a double stater found last year gives a unit of 865 gr., and a bronze stater of a year earlier weighs only 810 gr. The many weights in the Agora offer a fertile field for investigation, but the divergencies from a single standard are so frequent and so great that it is doubtful if any satisfactory conclusions can be reached.

The progress of the excavation during the past season has been presented in this Report in all its essential phases. In several Sections work has not been completed and there remain to be excavated the blocks occupied by the temporary museum, storage rooms, and the workrooms of the staff. This work cannot be done until the new museum shall have been constructed. It is estimated that three more seasons will be required for the completion of the Agora project, but now the political situation in Europe injects an element of uncertainty into the conduct of the work and makes any forecast for its future unreliable.



Fig. 47. Lead Weight: Quarter Stater

EXCAVATED BUILDINGS OF THE ATHENIAN AGORA  
AS LISTED ON THE PLAN, PLATE I

1. Hephaisteion
2. Hellenistic Hall
3. Northwest Stoa
4. Stoa of Zeus Eleutherios
5. Temple of Apollo Patroos
6. Metroon
7. Propylon of Bouleuterion
8. Bouleuterion
9. Tholos
10. Peribolos of the Twelve Gods
11. Altar
12. Fenced Peribolos
13. Monument Bases
14. Enneakrounos
15. Unexcavated Block
16. South Stoa
17. Middle Stoa
18. Odeion
19. Archaic Building
20. Valerian Wall
21. Stoa of Attalos
22. Greek Building
23. Circular Building
24. Panathenaia Street
25. Site of Eleusinion
26. Klepsydra
27. Mycenaean Tomb
28. Library of Trajan
29. Boundary Stone of the Agora
30. Boundary Stone of the Kerameikos
31. Temple of Ares



+400  
+350  
+300  
+250  
+200  
+150  
+100



# ACORA

10 0 10



# ACORA EXCAVATION ATHENS

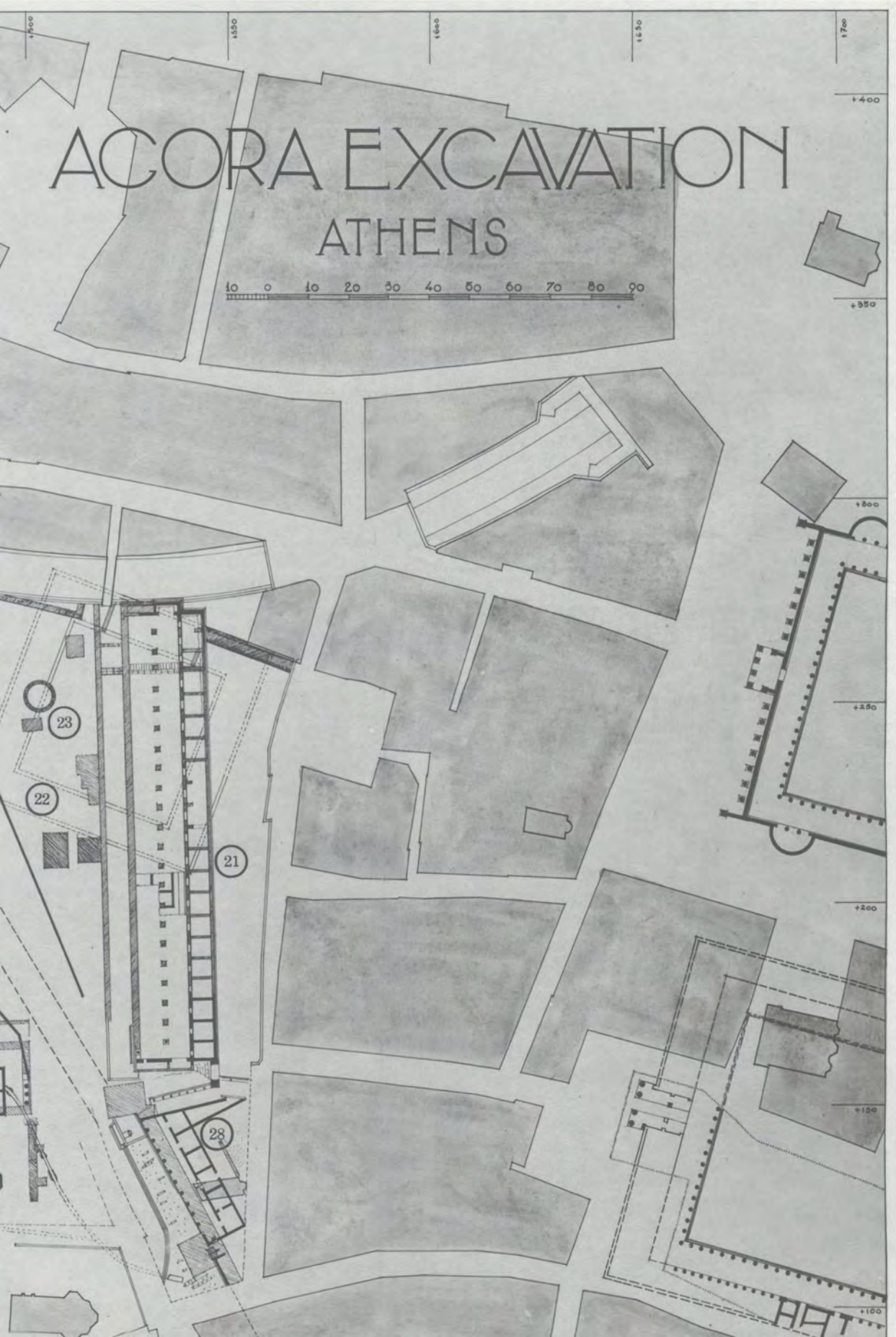
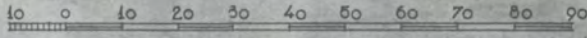






PLATE I. PLAN OF THE AGORA



arch. J. PAVLOS  
18. 6. 1939