

FOREWORD

It has seemed appropriate that this first "Agora Number" of *Hesperia*, with which begins the official preliminary publication of the results of the excavation, conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, of the Market-place and centre of the civic life of ancient Athens, should be accompanied by a brief prefatory statement by the Chairman of the Managing Committee of the School.

The Director of the excavation, Professor T. Leslie Shear, early declared it to be his wish and intention to make known with the least possible delay, not only the progress of the undertaking from year to year, in the form of annual reports of each campaign of digging, but also to publish soon after their discovery the individual finds of significance; and likewise freely to discuss in articles the problems toward the solution of which the newly discovered finds should contribute. This programme evoked the hearty coöperation of Dr. Shear's colleagues at home; for it was recognized that an exceptional interest, among both scholars and laymen, attaches to the Agora of Athens, and that many persons would be glad to be able to follow the progress of its excavation. Indeed, all who are interested in the history of the city whose civilization has so profoundly influenced the rest of the world are entitled, in the opinion of the American School, to learn from year to year whatever the soil of the Agora yields up that throws new light upon the history, institutions, topography, architecture, art, religion and, in general, the culture, of the ancient Athenians.

The plan of publication which is now being inaugurated has accordingly been adopted. Reports, articles and discussions dealing with the results of this excavation will be arranged for by Dr. Shear and brought together into separate issues of *Hesperia*, the journal of the School. This means that what may be called the primary articles about the undertaking will not be scattered about in a number of periodical publications, nor mingled with articles on other topics in other issues of *Hesperia*, but will be found exclusively in the issues devoted wholly to the Agora. These special issues will be numbered consecutively, so that the completed series of "Agora Numbers" of this journal will have told, in the Director's reports, the entire story of the successive campaigns, and, in the articles, will have made known rather fully, though in a form that is preliminary and not final, whatever objects or facts of importance the excavation has brought to light. The reports and articles, which will be fully illustrated, will place at the disposition of scholars generally such new information, essentially, as the excavators themselves possess. When, therefore, the time comes, after the work of exploring the area has been finished, for preparing the final publication in book form, the editors will

have the benefit, it is hoped, of a large body of criticisms and suggestions from the ablest specialists, at home and abroad, in every field.

The boundaries within which the Agora of ancient Athens was included have long been approximately known. Roughly speaking this area extends from the northern slopes of the Acropolis and Areopagus on the South to the Athens-Piraeus underground railway on the North, and from the "Theseion Hill" on the West to the Stoa of Attalus on the East. East of this area, again, lay a post-classical extension of the older Greek Agora made in the period of Roman domination and generally called the Roman Agora. The area included in the Greek Agora is about sixteen acres, that of the Roman Agora somewhat less. The whole region has in modern times been thickly populated and is built over. Excavations have been conducted in the Roman Agora by the Greek Archaeological Society, but the wide expanse of the Greek Agora has been explored in only a few places.

The project of excavating both the old Greek Agora and the eastern extension of it in their entirety had long been cherished by Greek archaeologists before any foreign group was considered eligible. For more than fifty years the region has been more or less strictly treated as an "archaeological area" and reserved for future excavation, and the erection of new buildings has been prevented or discouraged by successive Governments. But the acute housing situation which followed the War as the result of the amazing growth of the population of the city made it clear to Greek archaeologists and to the Government that unless actual excavation could be begun in the very near future the realization of the hope of laying the region bare would have to be abandoned. In 1924 a bill was introduced into Parliament which provided for the expropriation of the privately owned properties in the Agora region and its ultimate excavation by the Greeks. This bill, however, failed of passage.

When the Greek Parliament had declined to authorize the excavation, as a Greek project, of which the cost was presumably to be borne by the Greek Government, foreign Schools were consulted concerning the problem by the Minister of Public Instruction. When the Director of the American School, Mr. B. H. Hill, expressed on behalf of the American School an interest in the subject, he was encouraged to address an inquiry to the Ministry. This he did on December 3, 1924. The question of American participation was laid by the Minister before the Archaeological Council, which advises the Ministry in such matters. The Council approved the suggestion. Thereupon the Minister informed Mr. Hill, on January 14, 1925, that the American School would be given permission "to conduct excavations in the ancient Agora, to whatever extent desired, provided only that the School obtain sufficient funds of its own to pay for the expropriation of the private houses occupying the land in question." This communication was transmitted by Mr. Hill to the Chairman of the Managing Committee and by him laid before the Committee at its annual meeting in May 1925. The Committee then passed a resolution "that every effort should be exerted to make possible the acceptance of this magnificent opportunity, and that

the Chairman be empowered to take such measures to this end as may seem to him appropriate."

In this resolution the phrase "take measures" meant to find a source of financial support for the large undertaking—even in those times no easy task, especially since the School was at that moment engaged in raising money for the endowment of its regular work. However, attempts were made in several directions, and one effort bore fruit, through the helpful intervention of Dr. Abraham Flexner, who made a visit to Athens and came back convinced of the importance of the project and enthusiastic about the opportunity offered to American archaeologists. On March 15, 1927, an offer was made by a friend of the School, who preferred to remain anonymous, and communicated through Dr. Flexner, to place at the disposition of the School a considerable sum as soon as a satisfactory arrangement for the excavation should have been made with the Greek Government. The original gift, it was stated, was for the purpose of making a trial excavation in order to test, on the one hand, the site itself from the scientific point of view, and, on the other, the practicability of the project under the conditions that should be found to exist in Athens. At the same time the Donor expressed the hope and expectation that, as the work progressed, he would be justified in continuing his interest in the undertaking.

The Trustees of the School promptly took the necessary measures to begin negotiations with the appropriate officials of the Greek Government. In the prosecution of these negotiations the Director of the School, Professor Rhys Carpenter, coöperated with the Chairman of the Managing Committee. Many conferences were held throughout the summer of 1927. It so happened that a coalition Government was in power, and agreements were difficult to conclude. Considerable opposition to the project had also developed among the population of the region affected, and this opposition had political influence. It was also found that the Government felt that it must insist upon including the Roman Agora in the concession. Such extension, however, besides greatly increasing the expense, involved an infringement upon the claims of the Greek Archaeological Society to the Roman Agora, where it had already made extensive excavations and naturally had priority over any new-comer. In recognition of these claims the School entered into an agreement with the Archaeological Society for the joint participation of both parties in the excavation, should it take place, subject to the approval of the School's Trustees. On the strength of this understanding an agreement was concluded with the Greek Government in August 1927, and soon afterward was submitted to the Trustees for their consideration.

Some of the stipulations of this first agreement were found to be inconsistent with the terms of the proposed gift of money, and the doubling of the territory to be excavated involved a greater expense than the School was prepared to assume. The Greek Government was so notified and matters remained in an uncertain status until June 1928. The negotiations were at that time resumed with a new Government, which soon made it clear that it desired to have the excavations made. The agreement

of 1927 was ignored as if it had never existed. A new approach was made to the intricate problems, and steady progress was made. A formal agreement was reached on August 6, 1928, on terms which recognized the conditions to which the School was under obligations to conform. For this outcome I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to Dr. K. Kourouniotis, Chief of the Archaeological Bureau of the Ministry of Public Instruction, and also to my own friends and counsellors, Mr. A. Adossides and Mr. Aristeides Kyriakides.

In the new agreement the American area was again limited to the Greek Agora, a decision which solved a problem by leaving the Roman Agora again free for excavation by Greek archaeologists. New machinery was set up for arriving at just appraisals of the value of the property to be excavated, for its expropriation, for the legal processes to be followed in cases of appeal by either party, for the indemnification of tenants who would be obliged to find other homes, and for every other contingency that could be foreseen. The agreement received the approval of the Trustees of the School, and work was begun in Athens upon the drafting of the special law to be laid before Parliament. In the preparation of this law representatives of the School participated.

The law met with the approval of Parliament in the late winter of 1929 and was published in the official Gazette on March 23, 1930. But several amendments had later to be passed to correct errors in the text, and it was not until April 9, 1930, that it went into effect in its final form. The business of appraisal and expropriation was then taken vigorously in hand, the appeals from the decisions of the Court of First Instance were heard and disposed of by the higher courts, and in January 1931, the occupants of the houses in the two blocks which had been selected for the first digging received notices to move, for which a period of grace of ninety days is allowed by the law. By the third week of May the houses had been demolished and Dr. Shear and his staff began the work of excavation.

In the meantime the problem of the form of organization that should be effected for the proper execution of the work in its several aspects had been made the subject of study and conference, chiefly by the Trustees of the School. It should here be explained that the School is an incorporated body. A Board of Trustees holds and administers the property; but it has delegated the educational and scientific work of the institution to a body called the Managing Committee, which consists of some seventy-five representatives, all professors, of the universities and colleges which contribute to the School's support. Obviously the scientific work of excavation and of interpreting and publishing the results of the excavation was a function which belonged to the group of scholars. But the enterprise from another point of view would be rather largely concerned with pure administration, the handling of funds and accounting for them, with the making of contracts, with real-estate transactions, and with legal matters of a highly specialized type. Furthermore, the Trustees had entered into contractual relations with the Donor of the funds on the one hand and with the Greek Government on the other. The life of these contracts would be a considerable period, namely the life of

the undertaking including the final publication of the results and provision for the proper care of the objects found. All these considerations entered into the study. The Trustees worked out a plan for a continuing composite body in which the academic and the practical elements should be combined, the former drawn from the Managing Committee and the latter from the Trustees. This body received the designation of "The Commission for the Excavation of the Athenian Agora." It has charge of the whole undertaking, being responsible directly to the Trustees of the School, but reporting on its work to the Managing Committee also. The Commission in the beginning consisted of the following members:

Mr. Williams Rodman Peabody, *President of the Trustees*
 Mr. Allen Curtis, *Treasurer of the School, Treasurer of the Commission*
 Mr. A. Winsor Weld, *Secretary of the Trustees, Secretary of the Commission*
 Dr. Edward Robinson, *Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*
 Dean George H. Chase, *Harvard University*
 Professor LaRue Van Hook, *Columbia University*
 Professor Benjamin Dean Meritt, *University of Michigan*
 Professor Edward Capps, *Princeton University, Chairman of the Managing Committee,*
Chairman of the Commission

The death of Dr. Robinson in April 1931 removed a most valuable member of the Commission. Otherwise its membership has remained unchanged except for the election of Professor T. Leslie Shear as a member *ex officio* after his appointment to the post of Director of the excavation.

The business administration had to be organized and to take up its duties nearly a year before the work of excavation should begin. The Commission invited Mr. A. Adossides to assume charge of this department and was very fortunate to secure him. He was at the time the Executive Secretary of the Refugee Settlement Commission, in the organization and administration of which he had rendered invaluable services. During the War he had been Governor of Eastern Macedonia and there also had won distinction as a high-minded, able executive and an exceptionally skilful diplomat. During the War period he had become personally known to several members of the Commission and the friendly relations which had originated then had ripened into a warm friendship. Mr. Adossides built up a highly efficient body of advisers for the expert work which passes through his office and a competent group of accountants. Among the former may be mentioned Mr. Aristides Kyriakides, our counsel and legal adviser, and Mr. A. Korizes, expert in real-estate and property values. Our business transactions, although large and of a highly complicated nature, have been conducted with exemplary strictness and accuracy. We are also under obligations to Mr. Harry Hill of the American Express Company for many courtesies in connection with our banking and exchange problems.

As to the Directorship of the excavation, the Commission was unanimous in desiring to have Professor T. Leslie Shear of Princeton University in that position. And fortunately

Professor Shear was willing to accept the responsibility. His training and experience had equipped him for a great enterprise of this nature, in which learning, a broad and intimate knowledge of the history, literature, and institutions of the Athenians must be combined with administrative ability and the power of leadership. During the preceding twenty years he had attained a high standing among excavators by his work in Knidus, Sardes and Corinth. Dr. Shear's academic training was gained at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the Doctor's degree in Classical Philology, a training which was supplemented by two years in the American School at Athens and at the University of Bonn, a period which was devoted to Classical Archaeology.

The staff which has been brought together consists of two elements, the special "Agora Fellows" and those appointed for some special responsibility or function. For the system of Agora Fellows funds have been granted by the Rockefeller Foundation sufficient to finance the Fellowships through the campaign of 1936. Two Fellows are appointed each year, and they agree to serve for three years if their services are needed. They are selected by the Commission on the basis of their scholarly maturity and promise and their academic record. They are first given a training in field work and then as soon as possible entrusted with the responsibility of taking an excavation area in charge. The six Agora Fellows under appointment each year bear the principal responsibility, under the Director, for supervising the actual digging. Up to the present time seven appointments have been made; two have completed the three-year term of service, and one of these, Dr. Homer A. Thompson, has been given a supplementary appointment. The list is as follows:

- 1929 to 1932: Homer A. Thompson, Ph.D., University of Michigan
 Frederick O. Waagé, III., M.A., University of Pennsylvania and
 Princeton
 Mary Wyckoff, A.B., Bryn Mawr (artist)
- 1931 to 1934: Dorothy Burr, Ph.D., Bryn Mawr
 Eugene Vanderpool, M.A., Princeton and University of California
- 1932 to 1935: James H. Oliver, Ph.D., Yale University
 Arthur W. Parsons, A.B., Yale University

The staff for the third campaign, which will begin in January 1933, is made up as follows:

- Professor T. Leslie Shear, Ph.D., *Director of Excavation*
 Professor Richard Stillwell, M.F.A., Director of the School; *Supervising Architect*
 Professor A. D. Keramopoulos, Ph.D., of the University of Athens; *representing the
 Archaeological Society of Athens*
 Professor Benjamin Dean Meritt, Ph.D., University of Michigan; *Epigraphy*
 Miss Hetty Goldman, Ph.D., *Pottery*
 Mrs. T. Leslie Shear, A.M., *Coins*

Homer A. Thompson, Ph.D., *Special Fellow*
 Miss Dorothy Burr, Ph.D., *Agora Fellow*
 Eugene Vanderpool, A.M., *Agora Fellow*
 James H. Oliver, Ph.D., *Agora Fellow*
 Arthur W. Parsons, A.B., *Agora Fellow*
 Miss Lucy Talcott, A.M., *Records*
 Miss Mary Zelia Pease, Ph.D., *Fellow, Coins*
 Charles Spector, B. Arch., *Fellow in Architecture*
 Miss Virginia Grace, A.M., *Records*
 Mrs. Elizabeth F. Dow, A.B., *Records*
 Miss Gladys Baker, A.B., *Coins*
 Piet de Jong, *Artist and Architect*
 Mrs. Joan Bush, *Photography*
 H. Wagner, *Photography*

The above matter-of-fact statement is intended principally to supply to any who may be interested the leading facts about the origin of the undertaking and the practical measures which have been taken to enable the American School of Classical Studies at Athens to discharge creditably the heavy responsibility which it has assumed. What the outcome may be, as measured in terms of scientific gain, *ταῦτα θεῶν ἐν γούνασι κέῖται*. But at least the favor of men has not been lacking, as witness the unexampled generosity of our anonymous friend, the good will of the officials of the Greek Government and of the citizens of Athens, and the loyalty of our own archaeologists led by Dr. Shear.

EDWARD CAPPS