

## THE CAMPAIGN OF 1936

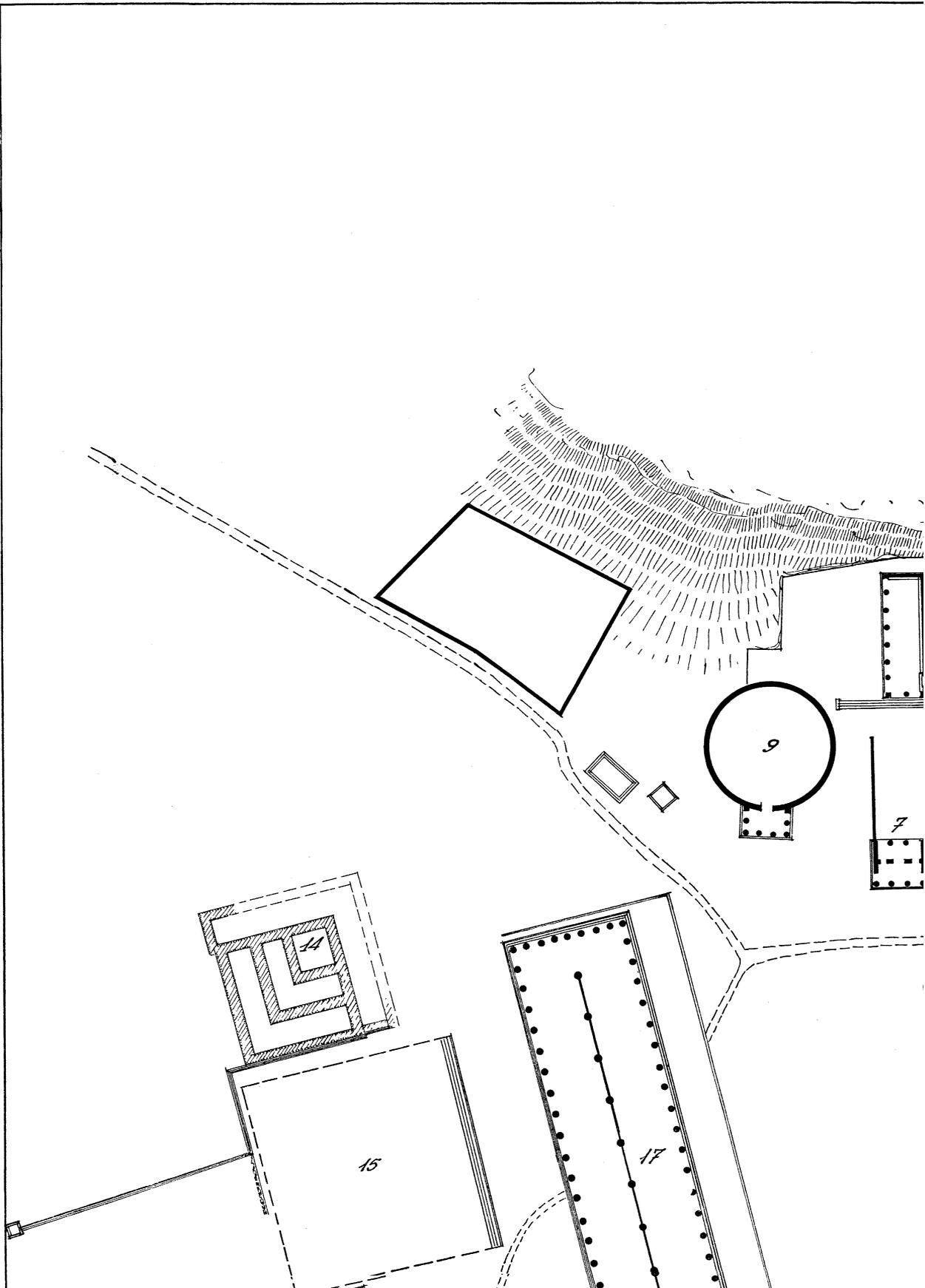
### PLATE IX

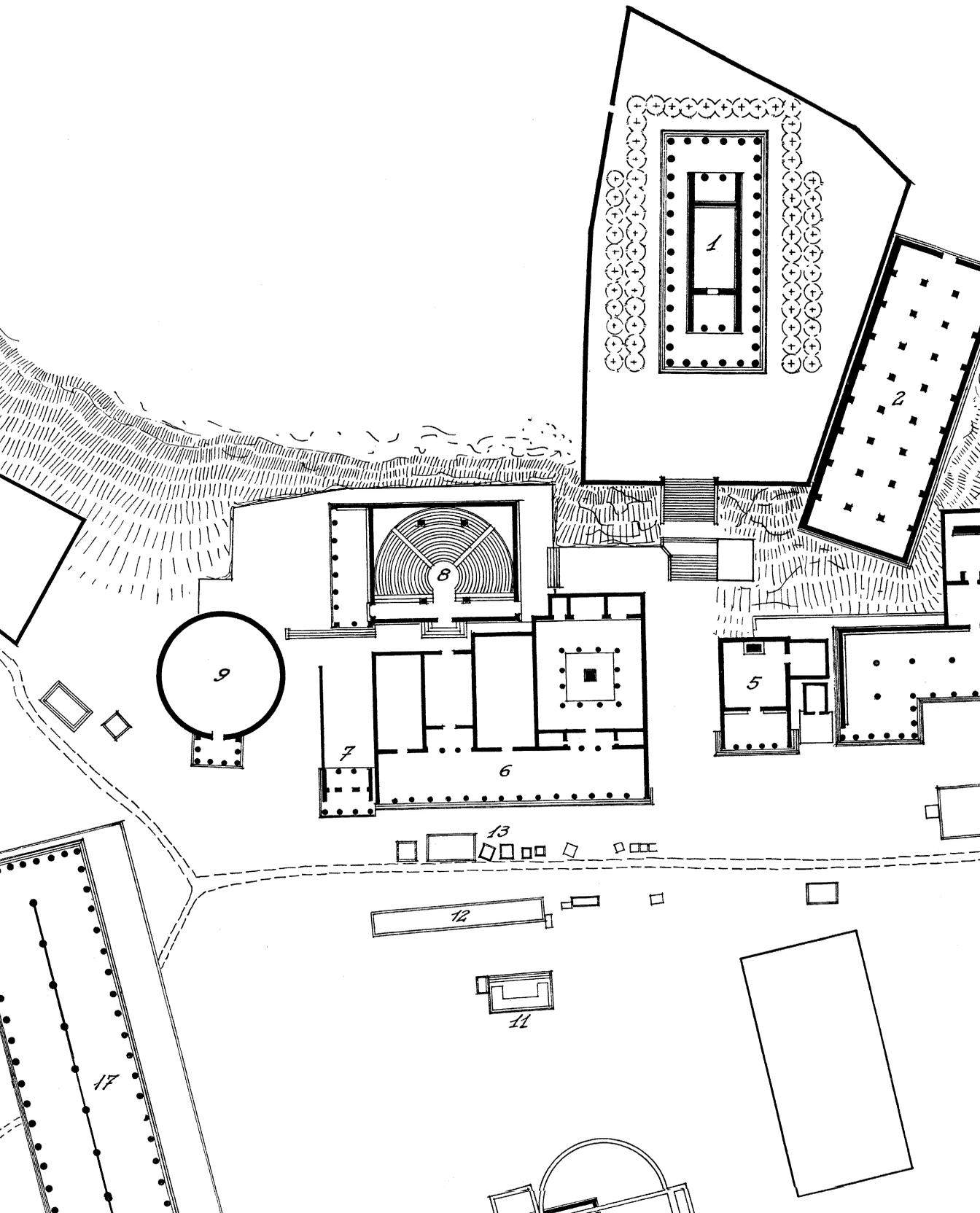
The sixth campaign of the excavations conducted by the American School in the Athenian Agora has proved by the importance and the variety of the discoveries to be the most successful season of these excavations. A larger area was cleared, a greater quantity of earth was removed, more ancient buildings were revealed, and more objects of historical and artistic importance were discovered than in any of the earlier campaigns. The progress of the excavations was currently recorded during the season in Weekly Reports, which were circulated for the information of the Trustees and of the members of the Managing Committee of the School, and a brief account of the work was published in the *American Journal of Archaeology* (XL, 1936, pp. 188–203, 403–414).<sup>1</sup> Following the practice of previous years, the present article presents a comprehensive preliminary statement of the season's results with illustrations of the more significant discoveries.

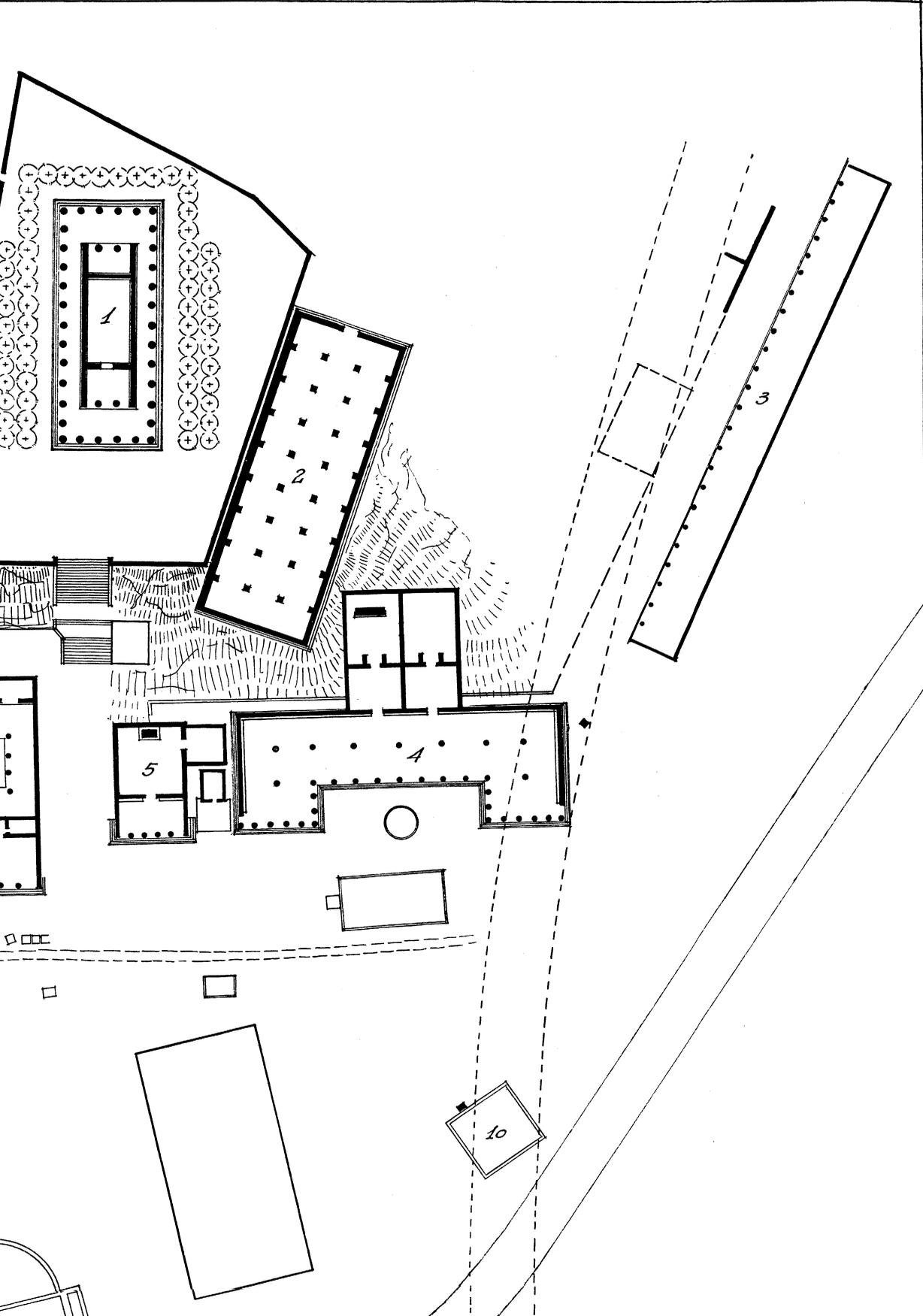
The season of active excavation continued for twenty weeks, from January 27 until June 13. Prior to that period the terrain had been prepared by the demolition and removal of modern houses and subsequently some tidying of the surface of the area was effected. Since the area excavated was larger than usual and since cartage was done entirely by motor trucks, it was possible to remove 50,000 tons of earth. In the five earlier campaigns 90,000 tons had been removed, so that the total cleared from the Agora to the end of the season of 1936 amounts to 140,000 tons. Most of this earth has been dumped in the outskirts of the city along the Sacred Way, where potters have dug clay, often leaving spacious pits of stagnant water which have been potential breeding places for the malarial mosquitoes. The problem of drainage in the excavated area is comparatively simple, as the great stone water-channel, that was constructed by Peisistratos in the sixth century B.C. and was frequently repaired subsequently, has been again put into service to drain the water from the entire region.

By the removal of the immense amount of earth the northern part of the Zone has been largely cleared. The greater part of the excavated area appears in the panoramic view shown in Figure 1. This picture was taken from the roof of the Theseion and gives the

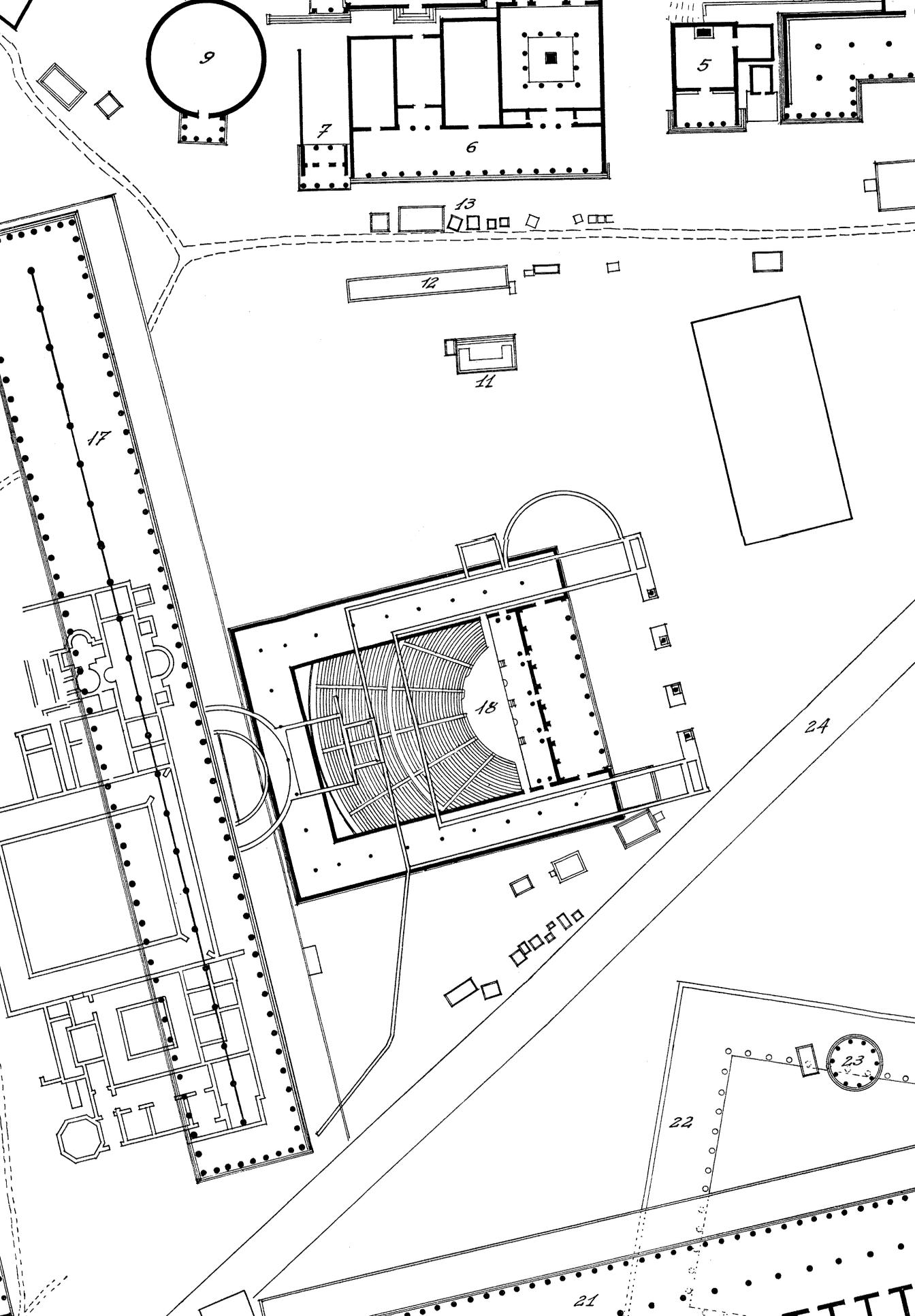
<sup>1</sup> See also *Illustrated London News*, July 11 and 18, 1936, pp. 56–57, 118–121; and Karo in *Arch. Anz.*, 1936, cols. 95–112.

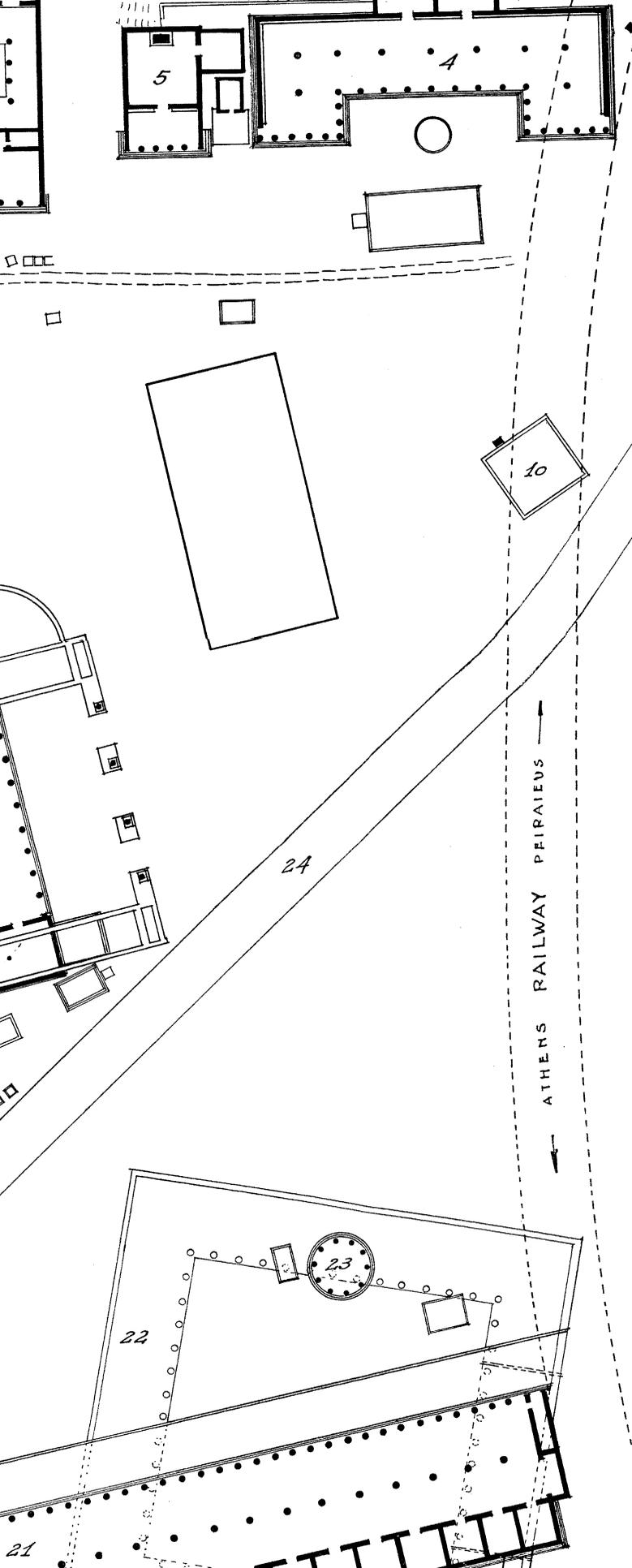












ATHENS RAILWAY PEIRAEUS

5

4

10

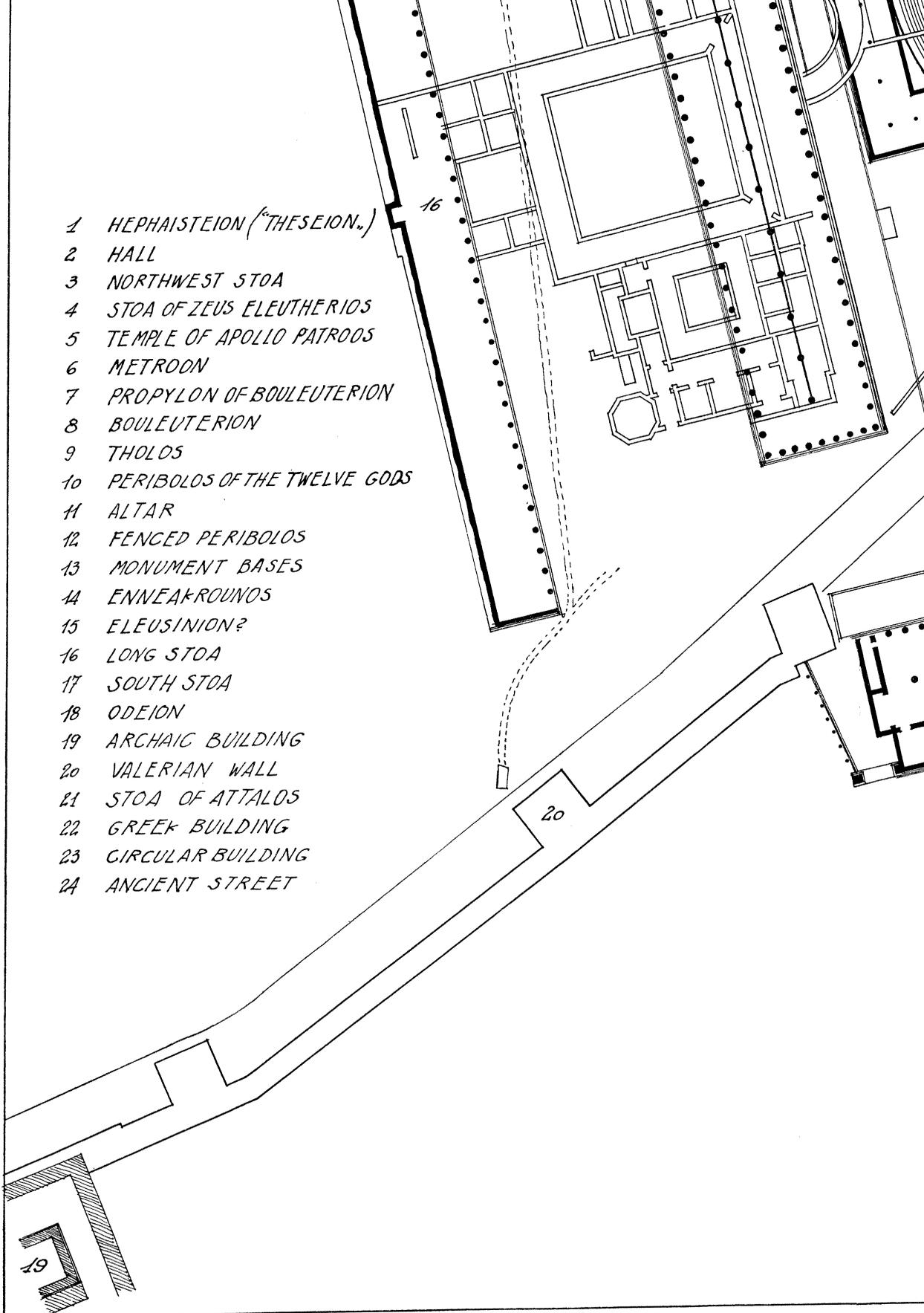
24

22

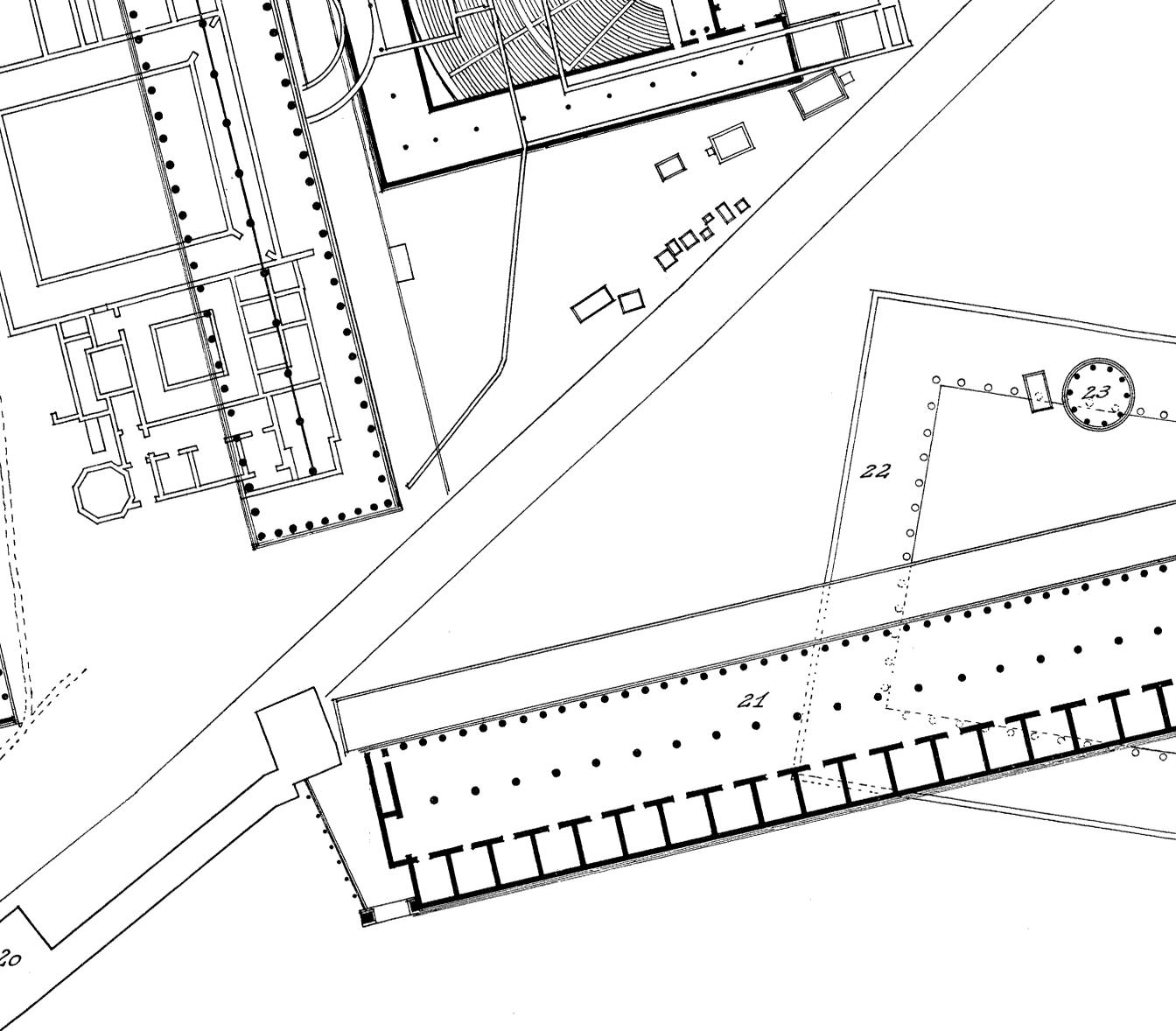
23

21

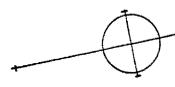
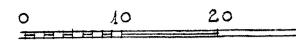
- 1 HEPHAISTEION ("THESEION")
- 2 HALL
- 3 NORTHWEST STOA
- 4 STOA OF ZEUS ELEUTHERIOS
- 5 TEMPLE OF APOLLO PATROOS
- 6 METROON
- 7 PROPYLON OF BOULEUTERION
- 8 BOULEUTERION
- 9 THOLOS
- 10 PERIBOLOS OF THE TWELVE GODS
- 11 ALTAR
- 12 FENCED PERIBOLOS
- 13 MONUMENT BASES
- 14 ENNEAKRONOS
- 15 ELEUSINION?
- 16 LONG STOA
- 17 SOUTH STOA
- 18 ODEION
- 19 ARCHAIC BUILDING
- 20 VALERIAN WALL
- 21 STOA OF ATTALOS
- 22 GREEK BUILDING
- 23 CIRCULAR BUILDING
- 24 ANCIENT STREET



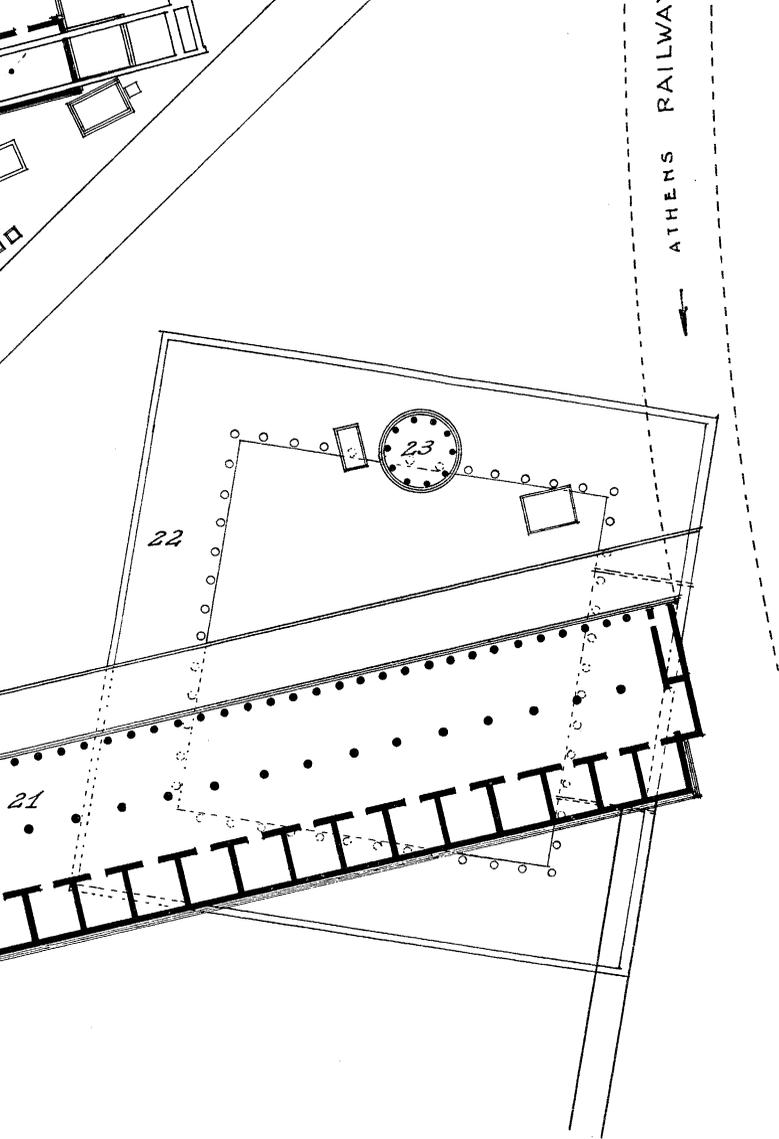
Restored Plan of the



# AGORA EXC ATHE

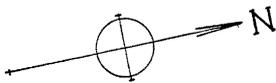
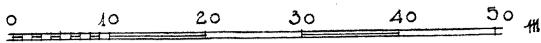


Restored Plan of the Buildings in the Agora, May 1937



# AGORA EXCAVATION

## ATHENS



arch J. TRAVLOS  
1936



Fig. 1. Panoramic View of the Excavated Area

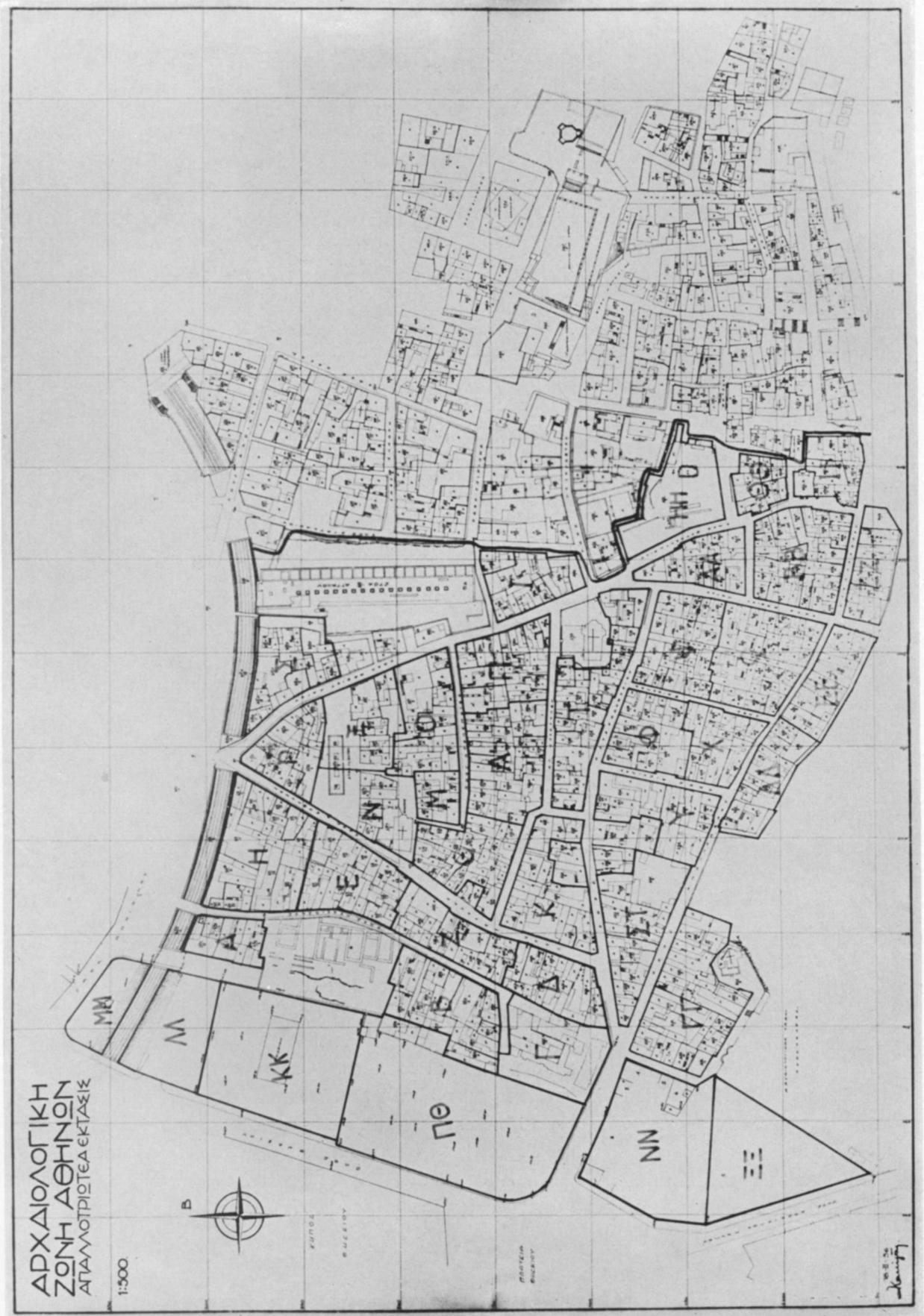


Fig. 2. City Plan of the American Zone, with the Greek Zone on the Right

view towards the southeast, but it does not include the areas located north and south of the temple. On the extreme left is the Athens-Peiraeus railway that forms the northern boundary of the American Zone. The line of the railway, however, is not coincident with the northern limit of the Agora which extends farther to the north. It was, therefore, with fortunate topographical results that a small block north of the railway belonging to the city could be excavated during the present season through the courtesy of the municipal authorities. In the foreground of the picture is the row of ancient buildings identified, from left to right, as the Stoa of Zeus, the Temple of Apollo Patroos, the Metroon, the Bouleuterion, and the Tholos. The roof-covering in the centre of the area protects the orchestra of the Odeion. In the background appear Mt. Lykabettos, Mt. Hymettos, the Acropolis, and the Areopagus. The few modern houses still remaining in the Zone are seen on the right of the picture below the Areopagus and the west end of the Acropolis. This panorama gives a vivid impression of the vast work that has been accomplished in the past six years.

The excavations have proceeded smoothly under the immediate administration of the Agora Commission, but this year the work has specially profited by the presence in Athens of the Chairman of the Commission, Professor Capps, who was serving for a year as Director of the American School. By his wise counsel and his constant support he greatly relieved the heavy burdens of the Business Manager and of the Director of the Excavations. The coöperation of the governmental authorities has been as hearty as usual, and their assistance is promptly extended in response to any call. Professor G. P. Oikonomos, Chief of the Archaeological Section of the Ministry of Education, has been especially helpful in both the scientific and the practical phases of the work, and much profit has been derived by all members of the staff from the frequent visits of the Greek and other foreign archaeologists.

The personnel of the staff has been maintained almost unchanged with the result that this highly technical work has been performed by competent scholars who have become intimately acquainted with the archaeological strata of the Agora and are thoroughly trained in the most detailed methods of excavation and in the necessarily complex system of records. It should be emphasized that a long period of training and practice is essential for the development of a reliable excavator. Frequent changes of personnel are, therefore, inevitably harmful to the scientific conduct of an excavation. This would be especially true in the case of an excavation operated on the large scale and with the scientific precision current in the Agora. It is most gratifying to record that the members of the Agora staff are so inspired with interest and enthusiasm for the work that they are reluctant to withdraw even at the cost of considerable personal sacrifice. One of the excavators, James H. Oliver, at the conclusion of his three years' term was transferred to a special status so that he could devote his entire time to the copying and studying of inscriptions. The new appointee in his place was Richard H. Howland who, as a Fellow of the American School, had acquired some training and experience in the excavations of the School at Corinth. Two former members of the staff returned for special work, Mrs. Dorothy Burr Thompson

for the study of the terracottas and Miss Virginia Grace for studying and cataloguing the great number of stamped amphora handles. Miss Janet Carnochan proved to be an efficient assistant in the Coin Department, and Miss Louise Capps rendered valuable service in the Records Department in the latter part of the season.

The Coin Department and the Records Department have the responsibility of coping with the ever increasing numbers of objects which must be minutely described and catalogued. The heads of these Departments, Mrs. Shear and Miss Talcott, have evolved systems of keeping the records that make the catalogues not only complete and accurate but also eminently convenient and serviceable. Such a detailed catalogue greatly facilitates the study and preparation for publication of the various groups of objects by the members of the staff. These studies have appeared during the past year in three *Agora Numbers of Hesperia*. They aim to make the new material promptly available in more or less preliminary form to scholars and specialists in the fields discussed, in the hope of eliciting comment and criticism that will be useful in the preparation of the final publication of the results of the excavations.

The business management of the organization has functioned with its usual efficiency. Mr. Adossides, through his energy and acumen, his foresight and tact, overcomes with apparent ease each obstacle as it appears and has produced results in the business of expropriation with speed and smoothness. In his varied tasks he has been ably assisted by Mr. A. Kyriakides, the lawyer, and by Mr. K. Korizes, the engineer. The *Agora* project has been fortunate in its personnel, and its business, legal and technical problems are in the hands of the three men who are most competent for their respective tasks.

The expert head foreman, Sophokles Lekkas, is also highly successful in handling the labor situation and in coping with the physical problems of a great excavation as they constantly occur. He has general oversight over the group of sub-foremen and supervises the corps of workmen which numbered between 250 and 300 during the current season. The Director of the Excavations lays particular emphasis on the fact that the successful progress of this large enterprise is due to the intelligence, skill, energy, enthusiasm and devotion of the participants in every branch of the work.

The excavations of the current season were conducted in eight blocks that are designated as usual with letters of the Greek alphabet. They are shown on the City Plan given in Figure 2 which supplements the plan published in *Hesperia*, IV, 1935, p. 312, fig. 1. The additional Sections on the new plan are those on the west where the rock of the Kolonos Agoraios has been scraped, two in the southwest corner where it is hoped that the *Agora* Museum will be placed, and two small blocks in the southeast through which the Valerian Wall extends. The main work of the campaign was in Sections Nu (N), Rho (P), Sigma (Σ), Tau (T), Eta Eta (HH), Pi Theta (ΠΘ), Kappa Kappa (KK), and Mu Mu (MM), and the general topographical results will be presented in connection with the Sections in which the discoveries were made.

Besides the main areas of excavation a detailed study of the excavated buildings on the west side as far as the Tholos was made by H. A. Thompson, which was published in

the first number of *Hesperia* for the current year. In that article the history and identification of the buildings and the archaeological evidence for the various periods of construction are fully discussed.

#### THE STOA IN SECTION MU MU

Section Mu Mu is a narrow block located north of the Theseion and bounded on the south by the Athens-Peiraeus railway and on the north by Hadrian Street. Although it lies outside of the limits of the American Zone, permission for its excavation was granted by the city, which owns it and was planning to arrange it as a public garden. Since this site is of particular importance for the clarification of the ancient topography of this corner of the Agora, the opportunity for its excavation was gladly welcomed, and the results achieved fully justified the decision. The block could not be entirely cleared because of the presence of a public toilet, the removal of which was delayed by the negotiations for the nullification of the contract of the licensee, but all essential evidence with reference to the occupation of the site was secured. The area as it now appears, as seen from the south,



Fig. 3. Section Mu Mu

is shown in Figure 3. The work in this Section was under the supervision of H. A. Thompson whose records form the basis of the account here given.

An ancient road about 6.50 metres wide was disclosed that passes through the area from east to west and is bordered on its north side by a stone water-channel. Along the road on the north is a narrow stoa, of which the foundations extend through the area for a distance of 46 metres and continue both east and west beyond the limit of the excavations. The stoa is constructed of a back wall with a single row of Doric columns in front, the width from the front of the stylobate to the inner face of the wall being 6.46 metres. The wall, as far as it is preserved, is built of poros blocks resting on a rubble foundation. The stylobate and columns are also made of poros, and traces of stucco remain on the one preserved Doric capital. The blocks in the wall seem to have been re-used, and the evidence at present available indicates a date for the building in the first century B.C. It was destroyed by fire in the latter part of the third century A.D., and some time later a new building with concrete walls was erected on the old foundations. Very similar is the history of another building located south of the ancient road, of which the north wall extends through the area parallel to the stylobate of the stoa on the north. This wall was also built in the first century B.C. of re-used blocks, of conglomerate, of poros, and of marble. One of the marble pieces is a statue base that bears the inscribed name of the sculptor Praxiteles.

#### THE BASE SIGNED BY PRAXITELES

Since the base and other re-used blocks were built into a wall in the first century B.C., it is probable that this reconstruction was made in the course of the rehabilitation of the city after the attack by Sulla in 86 B.C. Figure 4 shows the base in the position in which it was found. Just to its left is the wall of a modern drain that was built some time in the course of the last century. It was then that the left end of the block was hacked away and the broken pieces were used in the wall, from which many have been recovered (Fig. 5). From the preserved pieces, from the lower left corner that had been left in place, and from the cuttings in the ground it has been possible to determine the exact dimensions of the block as is indicated on the plan of it in Figure 6. The block of Pentelic marble is L-shaped with carefully cut mouldings at the top and bottom. The length on the front face is 1.35 m.; the width on the left side is 0.665 m.; on the right side 0.24 m. This curiously shaped block may have been the facing for a poros core which would have been covered and concealed by the plinth on which the statues stood.

The inscription on the base is a dedication to Demeter and Kore by Kleiokrateia, daughter of Polyuktos the Teithrasian, wife of Spoudias. It is carved in beautiful letters of the fourth century and is arranged on the stone with the names of the goddesses in the centre at the top and with the names of the dedicator and her family in a column on the right side. Below this column is the signature of Praxiteles written in smaller letters. Since the pieces broken from the left end of the block are uninscribed, that side seems to have been left blank.



Fig. 4. Base with the Signature of Praxiteles as it was found



Fig. 5. Base of Statues by Praxiteles

Statues of Demeter, her daughter, and Iakchos are reported by Pausanias (I, 2, 4) as standing in the temple of Demeter. They were designated as works of Praxiteles by an inscription on the wall written in Attic letters. Because of this statement it has been conjectured that they were made by an elder Praxiteles who worked in the fifth century. It is difficult to sever the new base from association with the statues mentioned by Pausanias and we are led to the conclusion that, after the rejection of the base because of some injury to it during the attack of Sulla, its dedication was transcribed on the wall of the temple in

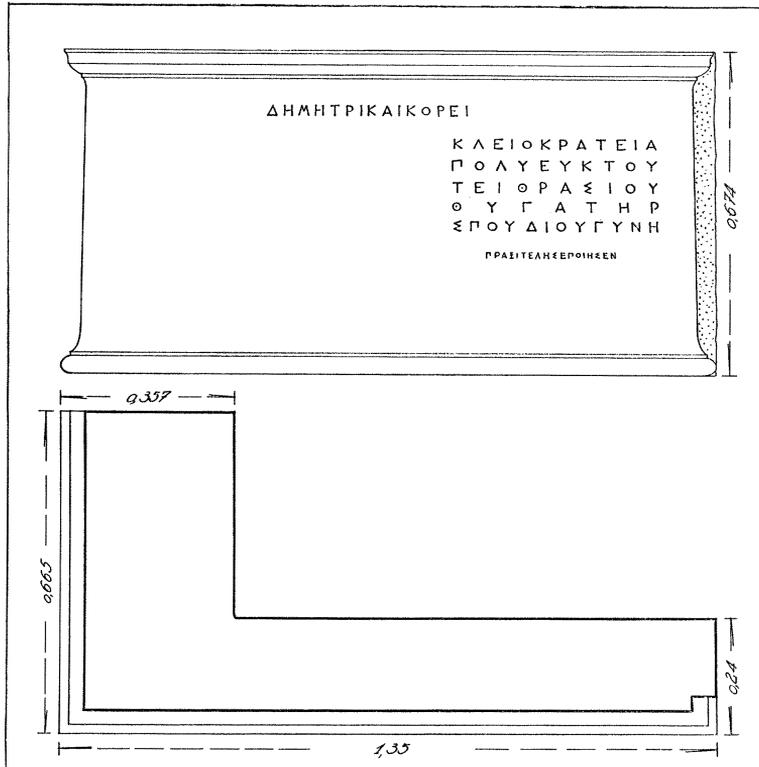


Fig. 6. Drawing of the Base

archaistic letters that were not uncommonly used in the first century B.C. It is, therefore, unnecessary to postulate the existence of an elder sculptor named Praxiteles because of this reference by Pausanias to the use of Attic letters in the dedication.

Besides the signature of Praxiteles the inscription has further interest, because a quarrel in the family of the dedicator was the subject of the forty-first oration of Demosthenes. This speech was written about 361 B.C. for the husband of the elder of the two daughters of Polyektos, who was the plaintiff in a lawsuit over his father-in-law's estate. It is possible that the space on the left side of the base was planned for the names of the elder daughter and her husband and was left blank as the result of the family quarrel. Two new items

of information provided by the inscription are the name of the younger daughter and the deme of the father. The name of the deme necessitates an emendation in the text of Demosthenes (XLI, 3) where through a scribal error the deme is recorded as Thriasios instead of Teithrasios.

#### BYZANTINE HOUSES IN SECTION MU MU

Above the level of the late Roman remains in the area, Byzantine houses were uncovered in strata of several different periods. These strata are so clearly marked and the plans of the houses are so well preserved that this settlement will be of value for the study of the history of the area in Byzantine times. The earliest houses, which date from the ninth and tenth centuries of our era, were destroyed by fire and subsequently the site was occupied by a group of large houses arranged in blocks with reference to two parallel streets running from north to south. The date of this settlement is fixed at about 1100 A.D. by coins of the Emperor Alexius I, 1081–1118, found beneath the floors of the houses. This settlement was also destroyed by fire, and the houses were rebuilt shortly thereafter. The date of the fire is placed in the latter part of the twelfth century, since the latest coins found between the pre-fire and the post-fire floors are those of Manuel I, 1143–1180 A.D. The latest occupation of the site was in the thirteenth century, and by the end of that century the settlement was finally abandoned. Pottery and coins are abundantly present in the various strata and help vividly to reconstitute this interesting page of Byzantine history.

#### THE AREA AROUND THE THESEION IN SECTION KAPPA KAPPA

The magnificent well-preserved temple that crowns the Kolonos Agoraios is still called the Theseion for the sake of convenient identification as this name has been attached to it for many decades, but scholars are generally agreed in identifying it as the temple of Hephaistos. The area around the temple has been everywhere cleared to bedrock, and the results achieved have fulfilled the expectations aroused by the beginning of the excavation made last season. Although the new investigations have not yet produced definite evidence, such as inscribed dedications, in proof of the identification of the temple, indirect confirmation of the strongest kind is provided by the discovery in the neighborhood of a bronze foundry and of pits containing pieces of clay moulds of statues, and masses of unformed bronze and of iron slag.

The bronze foundry lies southwest of the temple. It is elliptical in shape with a narrow opening at the west end (Fig. 7). At the east end it connects with a deep rectangular cutting in the bedrock which probably served for the furnace. For the construction of the foundry the bedrock was cut to a depth of 1.65 metres and the sides were lined with walls of mud brick laid on a rubble foundation. The floor was covered with a heavy deposit of carbonized matter, and traces of burning were everywhere in evidence. This foundry was

in use in the fourth century B.C., and in the latter part of that century it was reconstructed by the raising of the floor level. In the filling under and over the floor were many pieces of bronze and iron waste, and fragments of moulds for bronze statues and of coarse pipes of



Fig. 7. Bronze Foundry

terracotta used for pouring the molten metal. Shortly after its reconstruction, in the late fourth or early third century, the foundry went out of use and was buried.

Evidence for earlier bronze casting in the neighborhood was also found. The most remarkable discovery was that of many pieces of a mould for a small archaic statue that were lying in a pit at the base of the hill east of the temple. The mould for the two legs of the statue is nearly complete (Fig. 8), and pieces of the rest of the body

include the nostrils and the mouth with its archaic smile.<sup>1</sup> The shrine set in the midst of this community of bronze workers could be none other than that of Hephaistos, the god of the forge.



Fig. 8. Terracotta Mould for the Legs of an Archaic Bronze Statue

A careful search was made for evidence of the date of the construction of the temple. On the west slope of the hill some pits were found to be filled with fragments of burned vases of fine black-figured and red-figured style, with which was the great black-figured lebes shown in Figure 9. The same deposit contained ostraka of Aristeides, Hippokrates,

<sup>1</sup> See Thompson in this Volume of *Hesperia*, pp. 82–83, fig. 43.

Kallixenos, Kydrokles, Megakles, and Themistokles. Both the vases and the ostraka antedate 480 B.C., and they were probably thrown as filling into the holes in the rock in the clearance of the area after the Persian invasion. The fine quality of the pottery suggests the possibility that the vases may have been dedications in a sanctuary that had existed on the site before the erection of the present temple, but no trace of such an earlier building has yet been found. Important evidence for the date of the temple, however, was secured from other discarded deposits in pits in the rock. Several of these were filled with marble chips from the construction of the building, with which were

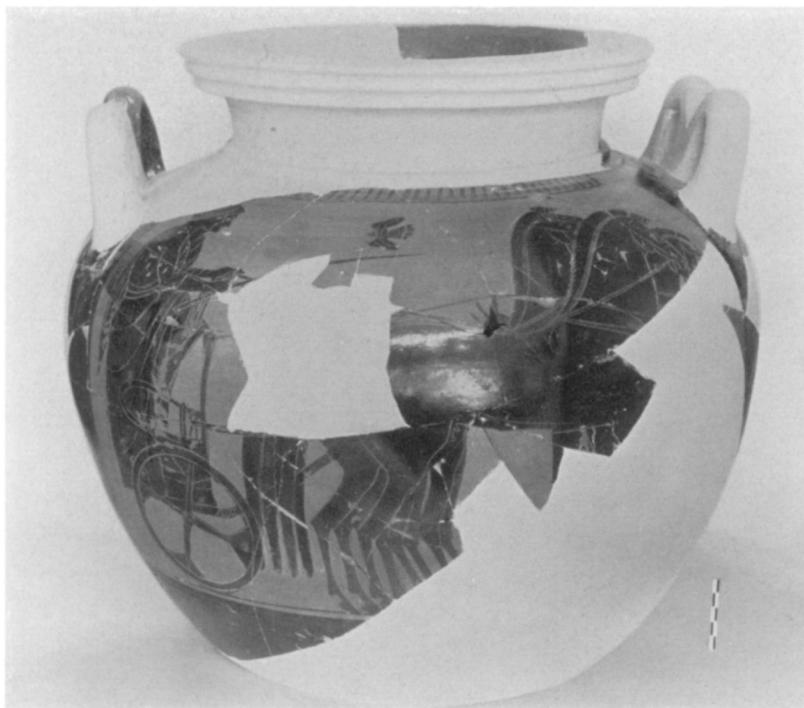


Fig. 9. Black-figured Lebes

fragments of pottery which prove that the building was at least begun by the middle of the fifth century.

The clearance of the rock south of the temple revealed an unusual topographical feature that permits a better visualization of the appearance of the surroundings of the building in ancient times. This interesting discovery is fully discussed later in this Number, pages 396–425, by Mrs. Dorothy Burr Thompson who supervised the excavation of the area. Northeast of the temple a building was erected on the lower slope of the hill in the Hellenistic period. It measures 42 by 14 metres and is constructed with buttressed outer walls and with two interior rows of piers or columns. The purpose of this large building has not yet been determined.



Fig. 10. The Bronze Shield after Preliminary Cleaning

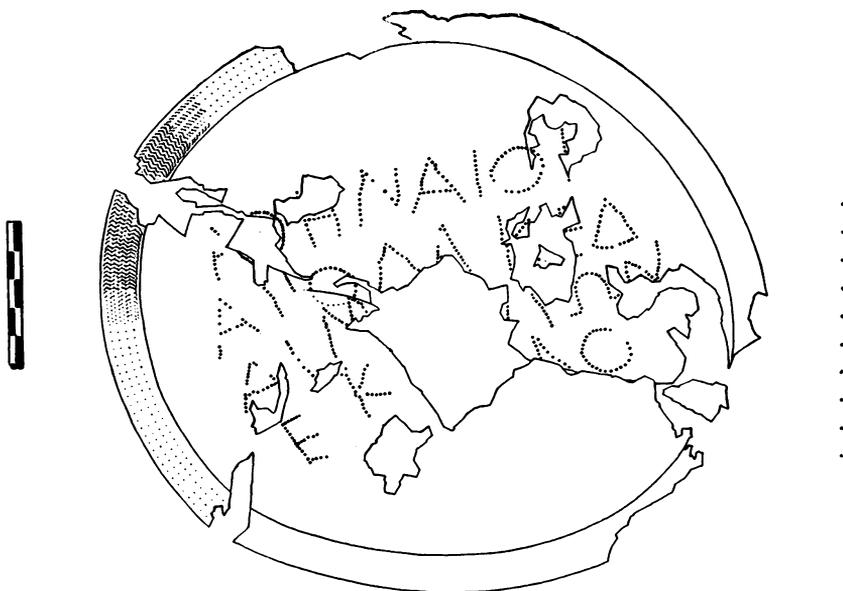


Fig. 11. Drawing of Shield with Dedicatory Inscription

## THE CAPTURED SPARTAN SHIELD

A cistern cut in the rock south of the Theseion produced one of the important discoveries of the season. This is a bronze shield that was lying at the bottom of the pit in a badly injured but practically complete state. The surface had been crushed in places by stones, and the bronze was so badly corroded that little actual metal remained. It was, therefore, a particularly difficult task to remove the object from the cistern without further damage. This was accomplished by applying a thick coat of paraffin to the upper surface after most of the overlying deposit of earth had been carefully removed. It was then possible to hoist the shield safely from the cistern and to convey it to the workrooms, but the task of cleaning it in order to insure its preservation has proved even more difficult. De Jong took charge of the first preliminary cleaning of the surface in order to note any decorative designs and to make an accurate drawing before any disintegration occurred. He was thus enabled to recover the ornament on the rim and the punched letters of a dedication written across the convex bowl. The shield was then put to soak for some months in distilled water. Subsequently when it became necessary to remove the paraffin for the final cleaning it was seen that the metal was broken into many pieces for which some sort of a permanent backing was essential. Consequently a form of the size and shape of the shield has been constructed of bleached beeswax, in which each piece, after it has been chemically cleaned, is inset in its proper position. When this tedious process has been completed, the shield can be exhibited in safe and permanent form.

An account of this shield will be published by me in the Volume of the *Archaiologike Ephemeris* that is to be issued in 1937 in celebration of the centenary of the foundation of the Archaeological Society of Athens. The substance of that article may be briefly recapitulated here. The shield is slightly oval in shape, measuring 95 by 83 centimetres. Figure 10 illustrates its appearance after the preliminary clean-

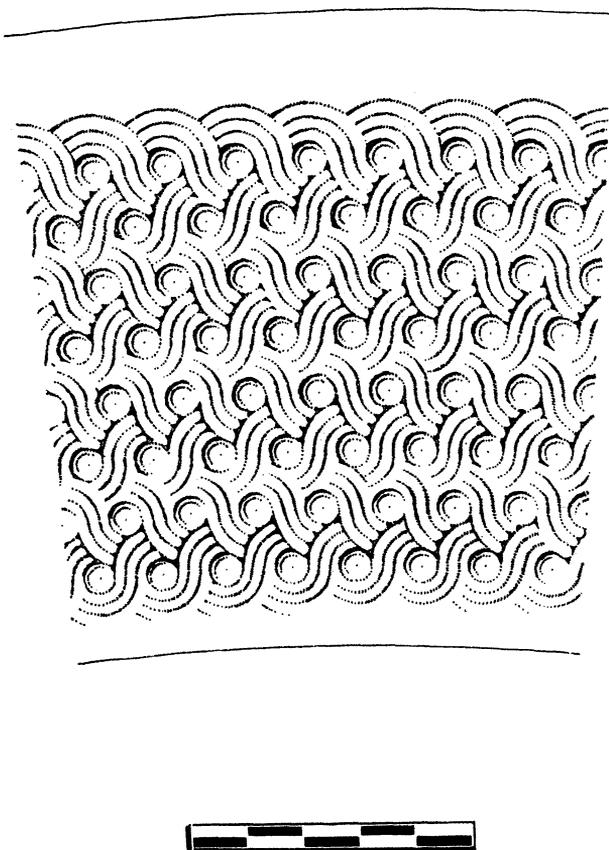


Fig. 12. Ornament on the Rim of the Shield

ing had removed the stones that had become imbedded in the metal, and Figure 11 gives De Jong's drawing that shows more clearly the punched letters of the dedicatory inscription. This inscription, which reads ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΙ | ΑΠΟΛΑΚΕΔ | ΑΙΜ[ΟΝ]ΙΩΝ | ΕΚ[ΠΥ]ΛΟ, identifies the shield as one of those captured by the Athenians from the Spartans at the battle of Pylos in 425 B.C. These shields were suspended as trophies in the Stoa Poikile in the Agora where some of them were seen by Pausanias (I, 15, 4), but the cistern in which our example was found was filled up not later than the beginning of the third century B.C., and therefore, for some unknown reason, our shield had been thrown away before that date. The elaborate guilloche ornament on the rim (Fig. 12) is identical with that on some shields found in fragmentary condition at Olympia which have been assigned on good grounds to the bronze foundries of Corinth (See A. Furtwängler, *Olympia, Die Ergebnisse*, IV, Text p. 163, pl. LXII). It is probable that our shield is a product of the same famous workshops.

#### THE WELLS AND CISTERNS IN SECTION PI THETA

The entire hilltop of the Kolonos Agoraios, at the north end of which stands the Theseion, was cleared to bedrock under the supervision of R. S. Young. The investigation of this area that was begun last season revealed the presence of early graves and of wells and cisterns in the rock that yielded interesting contents. The promise of last season has been handsomely fulfilled by the clearance of more Protogeometric and Geometric graves and by the discovery of a large number of wells and cisterns from which many objects of interest and importance have been taken. The presence of twenty-seven wells and nineteen cisterns was noted in the area this year but the excavation of all could not be completed, and of them twelve wells and two cisterns remain to be dug in the next campaign. Some of the varied contents of these wells will be described here; other scattered objects from them will be presented later in this article in connection with the groups of objects to which they belong.

A combined well and cistern in the northwest corner of the area produced evidence of interest for the topography of the region. The cistern went out of use and was filled up in the second century B.C. and at that time a well was dug through its floor. The well, which extended to a depth of 21.45 metres, was filled up in the first or second century A.D. Here were found three inscribed stelæ, one in the well, one in the mouth of the cistern, and one beside the cistern. They are perfectly preserved and have completely legible inscriptions. Two of the stelæ contain decrees of the Salaminians, the third is a decree of the Tribe Aiantis. One is dated in the year of the archon Charikleides, 363/2 B.C., another in the year of Hegemon, 327/6 B.C. Both of these bear the direction that they be erected in the Eurysakeion. The third decree is dated by the archon Phanomachos, who has not previously been known but is placed tentatively by Meritt in 249/8 B.C. It is probable that this stele, too, was set up in the Eurysakeion, the sanctuary of the Salaminian hero Eurysakes, son of Ajax, which is reported to have been located somewhere on the Kolonos

Agoraios. Since the stelae were found together and are completely preserved, it is reasonable to conclude that the place of their discovery is not far distant from their original location, the site of the sanctuary of Eurysakes. The study of the Salaminian decrees, which present important new historical information, has been undertaken by Professor William S. Ferguson of Harvard University who will publish a detailed discussion of the



Fig. 13. Pieces of the Ivory Statuette

subject in the first Number of *Hesperia* for the year 1938 (Vol. VII, No. 1). The decree of the Tribe Aiantis will be published by Meritt in the same Number.

Another well cut in the rock of the hilltop produced the most beautiful and most important object that has so far been found in the excavations. Pieces of an ivory statuette began to appear in the mud at a depth of fifteen metres, and from the deeper deposits as well as from several siftings of the earth from the well additional fragments were secured until the total number exceeded two hundred. The first group of pieces, illustrated in Figure 13, included an arm, a leg, and the head which was perfectly preserved. The exquisite style and workmanship of these pieces made it immediately apparent that a work

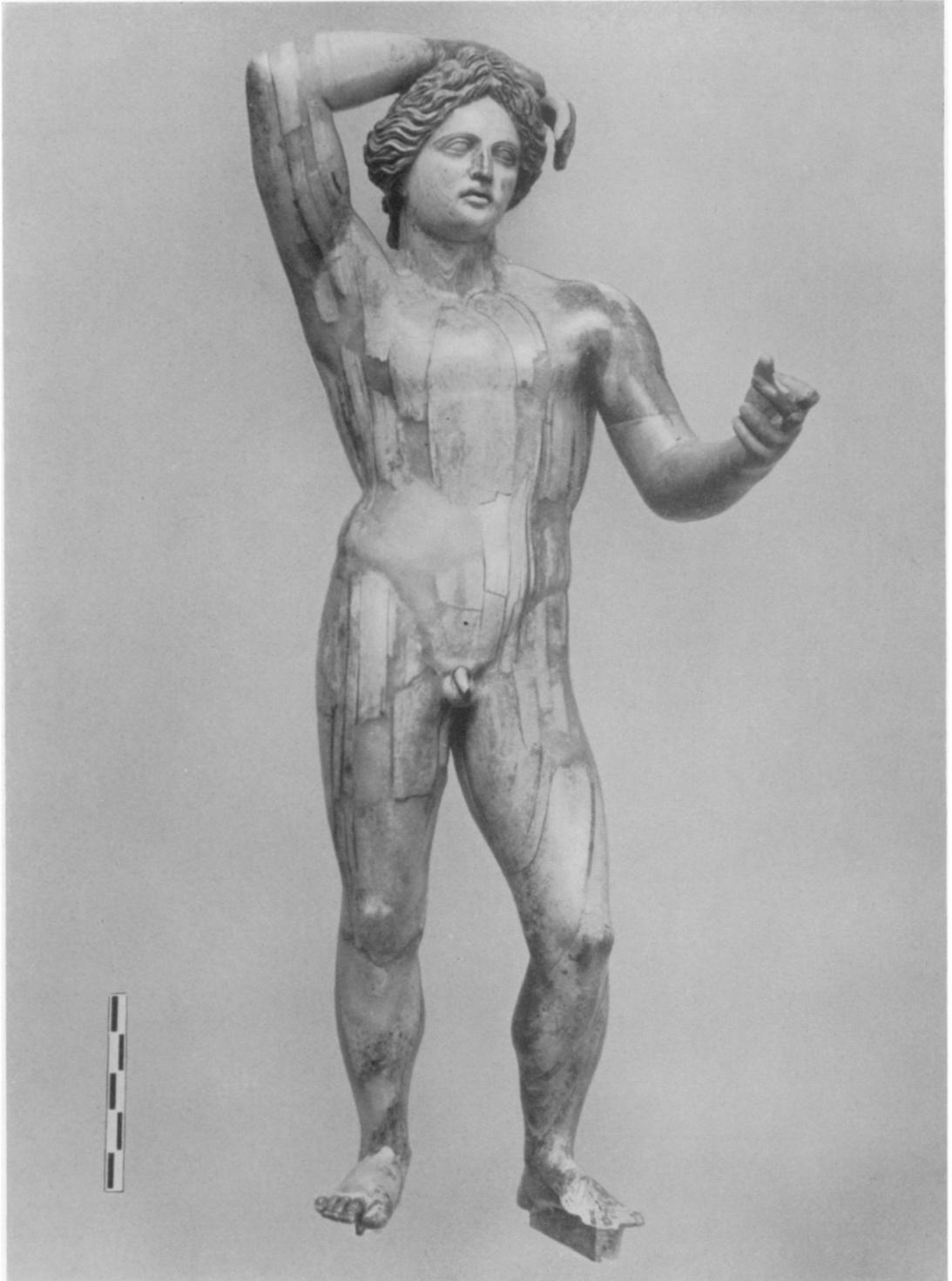


Fig. 14. Statuette of Apollo Lykeios

of the finest quality was being secured, and the greatest care was exercised in the excavation and the sifting of the earth so that no piece should go astray. As soon as the fragments were taken from the damp earth of the well, they were placed in a moist container, where they were kept for several days in order to prevent the splitting of the ivory from too rapid drying in the dry air. They were then cleaned with alcohol and treated with a solution of amyl acetate, acetone and celluloid which served both as a preservative and as a binding material.

In view of the obvious importance of the object an attempt was made to secure an expert in handling ivory for the very difficult technical task of putting the pieces together and reconstructing the figure. When it became apparent that no such specialist was available, the task was undertaken by Mrs. Shear and J. Bakoules, the skilled vase-mender and technician of the staff. The surface of the ivory was in an excellent state of preservation, and all pieces of the preserved surface were found to make joins with one another so that eventually, after several weeks of patient effort, each was fitted into its original position. The result is the statuette shown in Figure 14, that is complete except for the thumb and one finger of the right hand, the end of one finger of the left hand, a small part of the centre of the body, and a few fragments elsewhere. The missing parts have been restored in bleached beeswax for the purpose of furnishing a support for the frame of the body. The statuette, which is 30 centimetres high, is a replica of the statue of Apollo Lykeios which has been attributed to Praxiteles on the basis of the style of the Roman copies. Since it is planned to discuss this masterpiece in detail and with a full series of illustrations in a later Number of *Hesperia*, nothing further need be added here to the brief account of its discovery.

The well, from which the ivory came, went out of use and was filled with earth in the third century after Christ, but the contents also include objects of various earlier periods. The pottery is for the most part of the style of the second and third centuries after Christ, but among the terracotta lamps are specimens that date from the time of Augustus, and the coins extend in date from the third century B.C. to the third century A.D. From the well came also a small marble head of a bearded man of the Roman period, and a bronze



Fig. 15. Bronze Statuette of a Comic Actor

statuette of a comic actor (Fig. 15). The figure, which is preserved in good condition, is standing on a loop handle that is broken from a bronze vase. The man wears a comic mask with a huge round mouth. He has high boots and kilts, and holds in his left hand one end of a scarf that passes diagonally across his back and then is folded over the right forearm. A broad belt is fastened by cords in front of the body. This piece is also probably to be dated in the Roman age.

#### SECTION RHO AND THE BASE OF THE STATUES OF THE TYRANNICIDES

Section Rho, excavated under the supervision of Miss Crosby, lies north of the Odeion with its façade of Giants that was uncovered last year. Here a large group of Byzantine houses was revealed, of which the walls in some cases were set deeper than the classical level. The only remains of the classical period so far evident are occasional monument bases, so that this area may have been part of the open square of the Agora at that time. Several inscribed bases of historical monuments were found, of which the most interesting is a piece of the base of the statues of the Tyrannicides, on which part of the dedicatory epigram is preserved.

The inscribed epigram was published by Meritt in *Hesperia*, V, 1936, pp. 355–358. Meritt follows the current views in rejecting the attribution of the verses to Simonides, but the fact that Simonides was a protégé of Hipparchos does not seem to me to be sufficient reason to justify this rejection. The statues were erected after the overthrow of the tyranny and four years after the murder of Hipparchos. Simonides was a poet by profession who wrote poetry for a financial remuneration, and it would have been good business policy for him to dissociate himself from the party of the tyrants if he hoped to continue to receive commissions from the Athenians. It is evident that he did retain their favor since he wrote the epigram for those who fell at Marathon. The former doubts that this epigram was written on the base of the statues have been dispelled by the discovery of the new stone. Why should one further doubt the specific ancient tradition that its author was Simonides who, as the master of the epigram, would be naturally commissioned to write the poem commemorating this famous event?

Another interesting base is a huge block of Pentelic marble on the front of which a dedication is written (Fig. 16). The length of the block is 0.94 metres and its width, front to back, is 0.655 metres. It is broken on all sides but part of the original surface is preserved on top, at the back and on the right side. The disposition of the letters of the preserved names shows that its original size must have been far greater. The dedication is made to Hadrian Olympios as benefactor of the city by the City of Byzantium or by a Byzantine. The base was found forty-five metres east of the place of discovery in 1931 of a marble statue of Hadrian, and about half-way between that place and the spot where a leg was found this season that presumably belongs to the statue though it does not actually make a join with it. Because of its great size and weight it is unlikely that it was carried far from its original location and as the marble also is similar it seems



Fig. 16. Base of a Statue of Hadrian



Fig. 17. Cutting in the Top of the Hadrian Base

probable that this is the base of the Hadrian statue. This conclusion is not vitiated by the presence of a cutting in the top of the base. This hole, measuring 0.26 m. long, 0.225 m. wide, and 0.10 m. deep, is set at the back of the base as appears in Figure 17 where an arrow indicates the top edge of the back. The coarse chisel marks on the sides of the hole are not dissimilar from those in the neck socket of the statue where the tenon of the head was inset. Traces remain of a small circular cutting within the larger one but there is no evidence that a dowel for a bronze statue was set in this hole, and the position of the hole on the edge of the base precludes the possibility that it underlay the foot of the statue. It may have been used for the support of the plinth of the marble statue.

The base for another Roman Imperial statue is a large block of Hymettian marble that is preserved on all sides and has in the top cuttings for the feet of a bronze statue. According to a dedication written across the front in four lines with carefully made letters, the Council of the Areopagus honored with a statue Julia Augusta Boulaia, mother of Tiberius Augustus. This inscription is published below by Miss Crosby, No. 12 on page 464.

Still another base was found that belonged to a statue of the Julian family. This also is a block of Hymettian marble that has a cutting in the top for the small foot of a bronze statue. The fragmentary inscription gives the name  $\Lambda\text{EYKIO}\Sigma$  and since the letters have the shapes characteristic of the Augustan period, this is probably the base of the statue of the young Lucius Caesar that is reported to have been erected in the Roman Agora.

#### THE BUILDINGS IN SECTION SIGMA

Section Sigma, the excavation of which was supervised by R. H. Howland, is located in the northeastern corner of the Zone, just west of the north end of the Stoa of Attalos. Here two ancient buildings were discovered, one belonging to the Greek period and one to the Roman. The Greek building, of which only short stretches of the foundations have so far been cleared, is a large square structure measuring about 59 metres on the side, with an inner court 38.40 metres square that was surrounded by a portico. The exposed foundations, which are constructed of grey limestone at the north and of red conglomerate at the south, include the northwest corner of the inner square with several metres of the adjacent north and west walls. On the east the foundations extend beneath the Stoa of Attalos, but as they are covered by a deposit of the third century B.C. the building must have been destroyed a long time before the erection of the Stoa. Definite evidence for the date of its construction has not yet been found, but it has been tentatively placed in the fourth century B.C.

Directly above the foundations of the east wall of the west portico of the square building a small circular structure was erected, that has a diameter of 8.10 metres at the outer edge of the bottom course of its foundations. The stones of this lowest course, which are of hard white poros, are preserved for about half the circumference (Fig. 18). Of the superstructure three blocks of the marble cornice were found. This cornice is composed of dentils, with an astragal above, beneath a soffit on the face of which is a decorative



Fig. 18. Circular Building in Section Sigma



Fig. 19. Cornice Blocks of the Circular Building

pattern of scrolls and flowers; this is crowned by a sima of lotus leaves between every two of which is a lion's head water-spout (Fig. 19). The date of this building is also uncertain, but the sherds in the fill about the foundations point to a date in the second century after Christ. It was destroyed at the end of the third or early in the fourth century. It is not yet possible to suggest an identification of this circular structure. Both these buildings will be more fully investigated in a subsequent campaign.

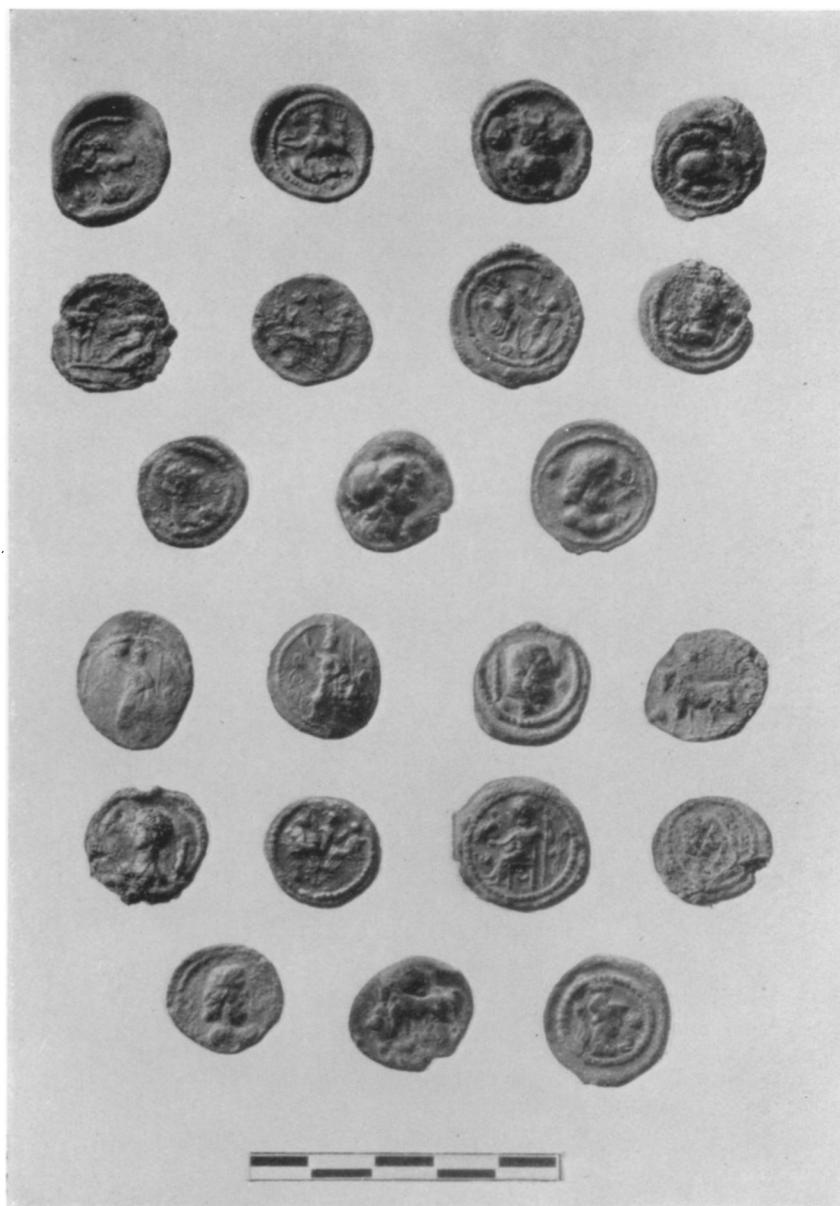


Fig. 20. Lead Seals

An extraordinary group of more than one hundred lead seals was found just north of the circular building in a stratum dating between the third and fourth centuries after Christ. There are many varieties of type, some of which are illustrated in Figure 20 as seen from obverse and reverse sides. The main types will be briefly noted. (1) On the obverse Zeus is represented seated to the left, holding a Nike in his extended right hand and with the sceptre in the left hand; on the reverse Nike is driving a chariot drawn by a pair of lions. (2) One side shows Asklepios standing and facing a female figure; between them are a star and a crescent, and beside Asklepios is a serpent. Around the edge is written the word "Good Fortune." This is countermarked with the stamp of a cock. The other side is plain. (3) On one side Asklepios is seated holding a staff around which a serpent is entwined; in the field are five stars and a crescent, and there are two countermarks of the cock. The reverse is plain. (4) On the obverse Poseidon is shown with a dolphin on the extended right hand and a trident in the left; his name is written around the edge, and the countermark of the cock is again used. The reverse either is plain or has the standing figure of a bearded man. (5) Several seals have a representation of Helios in a chariot drawn by four horses, and one example of this type shows on the reverse Nike in a chariot driving a pair of bulls. (6) On one side is a helmeted head of Athena, on the other either a bull or the bust of a bearded man. (7) On the obverse is the head of a bearded man with a knotted club beside it (Herakles or Theseus), on the reverse the upper part of a bull-headed man (Minotaur). Among the remaining types is one showing a nude figure, perhaps Apollo, seated on a rock facing a tripod, and one with a group composed of a dolphin and creatures that resemble the signs of the zodiac. This important collection will require special study for its interpretation and for a satisfactory explanation of its symbolical significance.

#### THE STOA IN SECTION TAU

Section Tau, excavated under the supervision of E. Vanderpool, lies on the south edge of the Agora. Here a long narrow stoa was partially uncovered that extends east and west just south of, and parallel to the great peripteral stoa described in last year's Report and called the "South Stoa." The building extends through the Section and has been exposed for a distance of eighty metres, but neither end has yet been uncovered. Its width is about seven metres and it has a hard-packed earth floor. The front wall on the north is preserved to the level of the euthynteria course, and the spacing of the columns of the portico can be determined by the heavier structure of the foundations at those points. The back wall is preserved in places to a considerable height. Figure 21 shows on the left the course of the great drain that runs through the area, in the centre the foundations of the north wall of the stoa, and on the right its high back wall.

Although at each end the stoa passes into unexcavated territory, its total length can be approximately determined by the limits of an ancient building at the west end and by the course of the great drain on the east. The length as thus estimated is about 118 metres,

and a niche in the back wall is treated as equidistant from each end. This stoa, which faces only to the north, seems to have been the definite southern boundary of the Agora, since its heavy back wall served also as a retaining wall to support a terrace



Fig. 21. The Stoa in Section Tau

at a higher level to the south. The date of its construction is fixed early in the second century B.C. by the objects found in the filling deposit behind the wall. It was burned at the end of the third century A.D., and some reconstruction occurred on the site late in the fourth century. The stoa cannot be identified with any building mentioned by ancient writers.

## AN EARLY BUILDING IN SECTION ETA ETA

The investigation of the Valerian Wall was continued by A. W. Parsons in the southeastern part of the Zone. This Section, Eta Eta, lies on sloping ground considerably above the main area of the market place. The site, therefore, had been divided into a high terrace at the south and an open square lying at a lower level at the north. The Valerian Wall passes through its west side, and west of the wall is a broad stone-paved ancient street that slopes steeply up towards the Acropolis. The southern terrace had been occupied in archaic times by a small well-constructed building of which only the north wall could be cleared this season. The rest of the building will be uncovered in the next campaign when the block to the south of it is excavated. The date of the building is approximately fixed in the last quarter of the sixth century B.C. by the contents of a well that was filled up at the time of its construction. The objects from this well include a black-glazed pitcher, black-figured pottery, and a piece of the base of a cup with the signature of the potter Nikosthenes.

Traces of the classical period were scanty and the remains of this and of the succeeding Hellenistic epoch must have been removed at the time of an extensive Roman reconstruction of the area. To this early Roman period belongs the arrangement of the level open square lying north of the terrace, and later in the Roman age, at the end of the third century, the Valerian Wall was built along the west side. The area was thickly settled in Byzantine times.

## THE GROUND PLAN OF THE AGORA

The six ancient buildings revealed by the present campaign have been briefly described on the basis of the reports furnished by the members of the staff in charge of their excavation. In connection with all of them further excavation and investigation will be necessary. At the present time not one can be associated with any building mentioned in classical literature, but in spite of this fact the discovery of their exact location adds greatly to the comprehension of the general plan of the area. In addition to the newly-found buildings an important topographical discovery was also made in regard to a structure that had been previously excavated. In doing some final clearance about the north end of the Stoa of Zeus, where a road for carting had been temporarily left, Thompson found in place the southeast corner of the north wing of that stoa (*Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 7). This provides the valuable knowledge of the exact length of the stoa, and helps to clarify the topography of the northwest corner of the area.

The restored ground plan of the main buildings of the classical period is shown in Plate IX. The plan of the buildings on the west side as far as the Tholos is safely assured by Thompson's exhaustive investigation. In the case of the other buildings while the plans in general are correct they are subject to minor modifications when the detailed study of

them, which is now in progress, shall have been completed.<sup>1</sup> As the names of the buildings are given on the plan, no further general description of it is necessary, but it may be interesting to add that evidence is accumulating for the identification of the fountain house in the southwest corner as the Enneakrounos. The large square building beside it is provisionally called the Eleusinion because of its shape and because Eleusinian coins and votive figurines of the type of Demeter were found in the vicinity, but as this site is partly occupied by the modern houses that are used as workrooms for the Coin Department and for storage purposes, the complete excavation of this structure has been temporarily postponed. It will be noted that no reference is made to the Stoa Basileios, and the problems connected with the identification of that building have not yet been solved. Thompson in his study already cited (pages 64 ff. of the present Volume of *Hesperia*) argues in favor of the view that one building was known by the two names, Stoa Basileios and Stoa of Zeus. While this interpretation, if correct, would solve many difficulties it has not yet been proved. As the publication of this Report has been delayed, it has been possible to indicate on the plan the location of the large temple northwest of the Odeion that was uncovered in the campaign of 1937.

#### THE GRAVES IN LENORMANT STREET

In addition to the main field of work in the Agora a small excavation under the supervision of Miss Virginia Grace was conducted, by permission of the Archaeological Section of the Ministry of Education, in Lenormant Street that lies northwest of the American Zone, on the lot (No. 28) of a certain A. G. Christodoulos who had come on ancient remains while digging a hole to receive the foundations of his house. The area was found to be packed with graves and cremation burials of both the Greek and the Roman periods that yielded some handsome vases and other interesting objects. There were discovered in all twelve graves, two cremation burials, a Roman ash urn, and numerous scattered vases that evidently had come from rifled graves. Pending the full publication of this material, several of the more important groups will be briefly described here.

A cremation pit of the middle of the fifth century B.C. produced the four vases illustrated in Figure 22. These are a small black-glazed lekythos, a pyxis, a squat white-ground lekythos that is decorated with a woman who holds a thyrsus in her left hand and a phiale in her extended right hand, and a large handsome white-ground lekythos. The large lekythos (height: 0.304 metres) would have held too much of the precious oil and it is, therefore, fitted with a false interior, a small tube that is attached to the neck. Its content thus would be small while its size was large and impressive. It is decorated with paintings

<sup>1</sup> The premature publication of the American plan of the Agora in altered form by Professor W. Dörpfeld (*Alt-Athen und seine Agora*, Berlin 1937, pl. III) is much to be deplored. It is unnecessary to point out the inaccuracies in Dörpfeld's plan as they are obvious by a comparison of his plan with the one here published. Surely scientific research is not promoted by the reiteration of unsupported statements or by the alteration of facts to suit theories.

by a master of the period. Figure 23 shows the vase, with the few missing pieces restored. from a water-color by Piet de Jong. Slender graceful palmettes adorn the shoulder, which is separated by a narrow band of meander design from the main scene on the body of the vase. This scene represents a sepulchral group. The grave monument is a stele, around the top of which two fillets are fastened, set on a triple-stepped base. On one side of it a nude youth is standing who holds a strigil in his left hand; on the other side stands a woman dressed in a red cloak who carries an alabastron in her left hand and is tearing her hair with her right. On the wall behind the youth a sponge is suspended, while behind



Fig. 22. Vases from a Cremation Pit

the woman is an object that resembles a parasol. The drawing is admirably done, and this vase ranks among the fine examples of its type.

More vases were found in a woman's grave that is dated in the third quarter of the fifth century. No trace of a coffin or of any covering for this burial was preserved and the bones were badly disintegrated, but the contents had not been disturbed. They are four white-ground lekythoi, an alabastron, a pyxis, a black-glazed skyphos, a small bronze mirror, bronze rings, and two black-glazed feeding bottles that show considerable wear at the end of the spouts, indicating actual use (Fig. 24). One of the lekythoi is decorated in especially good style and has an interesting sepulchral scene which is shown in projection in de Jong's painting reproduced in Figure 25. Two women are represented, standing one on each side of the monument. The one on the left holds an alabastron in her extended right hand; she wears a striped chiton and has a large purple cloak wrapped about her. The one on the right is entirely enveloped in a voluminous cloak that is crimson in color. The

grave monument is a stele on a four-stepped base behind which is a large egg-shaped object of curious type. It is encircled by six fillets, of which five are red and one is black. This type of monument is known from other vases and its significance has been much discussed,



Fig. 23. Lekythos with Sepulchral Scene

but no satisfactory interpretation of it has been proposed. The suggestion that it represents the burial mound is hardly tenable in view of the undercutting at the base. It has rather the appearance of a huge egg, symbol of the resurrection, which in actual size is often found in graves of the classical period.

Among the later burials in this area the most interesting is an ash urn of the Roman period. This is a circular container, made of Hymettian marble, that was standing in place with its cover on at a higher level than the Greek graves. Within the marble container is enclosed a lead ash urn (Fig. 26). Ashes and other traces of burning were visible around the box outside, and the urn contained many charred bits of bone, an impression on gold leaf of an owl from an Athenian coin (a bracteate), and eighty-five laurel leaves of thin gold (Fig. 27). Impressions of coins in gold leaf were often placed in graves as substitutes



Fig. 24. Vases from a Fifth Century Grave

for the valuable gold coins. The gold laurel leaves were used to form a wreath, being usually fastened to a bronze frame by wire wound around the frame and the stems of the leaves. No trace of such a frame was preserved in the urn.

#### THE POTTERY

Besides the vases that have already been described much interesting and beautiful pottery was secured from the various sections under excavation. A brief account will be given of the more important pieces arranged in chronological order.

Apart from some prehistoric potsherds the earliest ware found this year belongs in the sub-Mycenaean period. Two complete vases of this class were secured from the grave of a small child that was cut in the rock just west of the Theseion and in front of its second column from the north end. The grave was covered by stones beneath which were the small, partially disintegrated bones and the vases lying in place by the skull. They are a one-handed jug and a deep two-handed bowl (Fig. 28). Both are characteristic examples



Fig. 25. Sepulchral Scene on a Lekyθος

of their period in shape and in decoration, the jug having a simple scroll design in a panel on the shoulder set between vertical strokes, and the bowl being covered with a black glaze that has been partially fired to red, except on the foot which was left unpainted. Vases of this style, called by Wace the Granary Class from a deposit found in a granary at Mycenae (*B. S. A.*, XXV, pp. 50 ff.; *Chamber Tombs at Mycenae*, pp. 184 ff.), had not previously appeared in the excavations so that they make a welcome addition to the Agora collection.

Following the promise of last season more unripled graves of the Protogeometric age, about 1000 B.C., were uncovered in the bedrock of the hilltop. One of these, located south-east of the Theseion, contained fragments of a child's skeleton, a bronze brooch, three

bronze spirals, and eight small vases. The offerings are shown in Figure 29 in place in the grave as they were uncovered, and in Figure 30 as they appeared after removal and cleaning. The vases are decorated in a manner that is characteristic of their period, but the



Fig. 26. Ash Urn of the Roman Period

feeding bottle with the well worn nipple, standing in the centre of the lower row, is particularly interesting for its shape. The small flat saucer, seen at the left end of the top row, is out of place in this milieu and seems to belong to an earlier prehistoric period. Its presence here may perhaps be explained by the assumption that it had been dug up in some old deposit by the family that made this dedication.

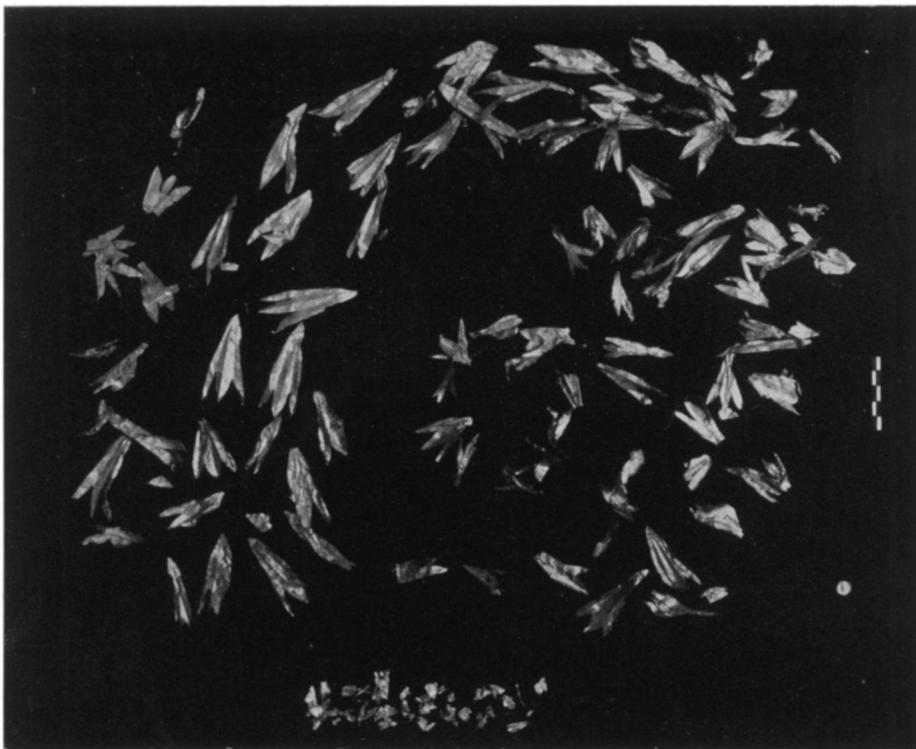


Fig. 27. Gold Leaves from the Ash Urn



Fig. 28. Sub-Mycenaean Vases



Fig. 29. A Protogeometric Grave

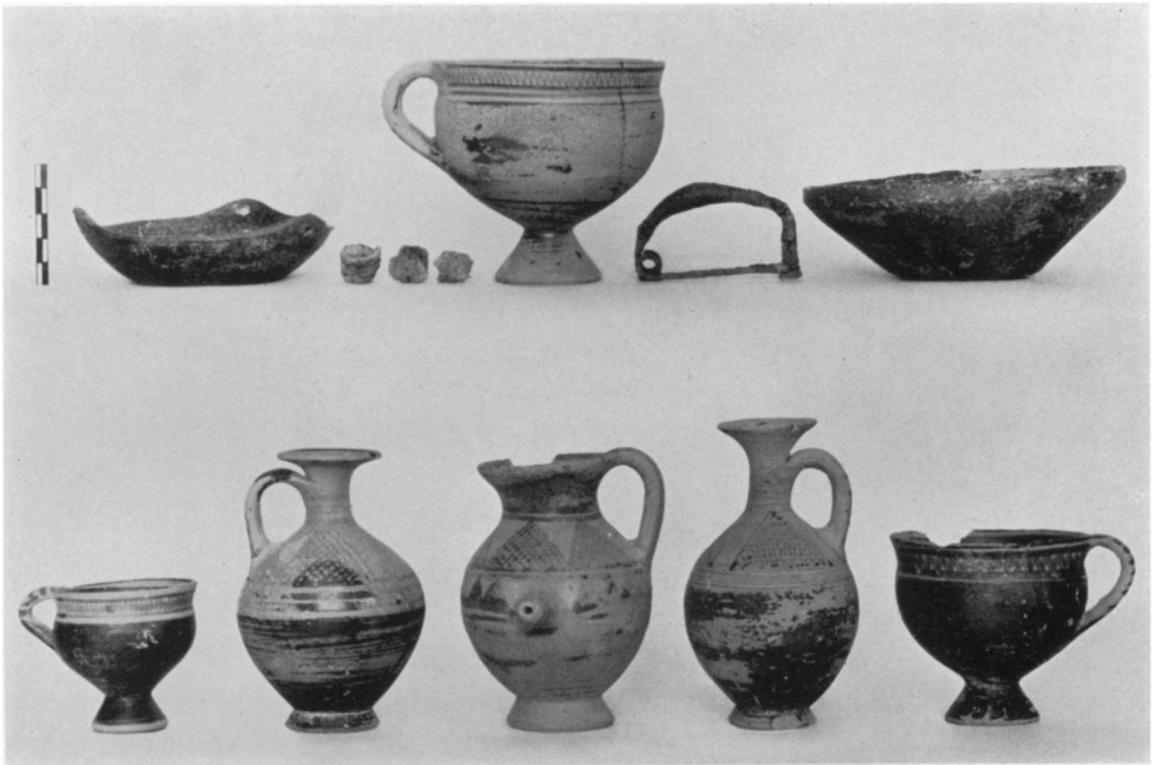


Fig. 30. Objects from the Protogeometric Grave

Other similar rock-cut Protogeometric burials in the central part of the plateau yielded some fine complete vases of the period. One of these is a small pitcher, finished in excellent technique, that is graceful in shape and pleasing in the simplicity of its ornamentation (Fig. 31). Six vases were secured from an adult's grave, one of them being a well-preserved

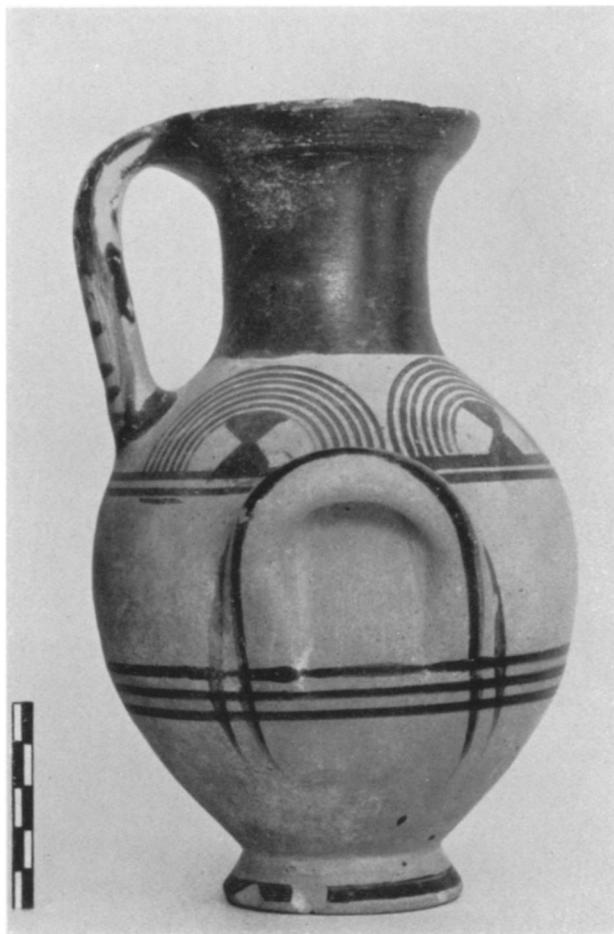


Fig. 31. Protogeometric Hydria

two-handled goblet that is decorated with alternate rectangles of cross-hatching and checker-board pattern. Urn burials also were uncovered, one of which was made in a large amphora that was found standing intact in a hole cut in the bedrock. Besides the charred bones it contained two large iron stick pins, two iron brooches, an iron object in the shape of a hook, a curved piece of iron, a bit of bronze, and the base of a small Protogeometric cup. The amphora itself is simply decorated in the usual manner with bands and with a wavy line around the body.

Pottery of the Geometric age was found in abundance, both scattered over the surface of the plateau and lying in the filling deposits of wells. A complete plate dating from the end of the period, of which the carefully finished surface is preserved in good condition, was taken from one of the wells. Its decoration, which is limited to the under side, consists of a series of concentric bands forming an inner circle which is filled by a four-petaled rosette with a swastika between each pair of petals (Fig. 32).

Other late Geometric pottery was found in association with Proto-attic and Proto-corinthian in the filling deposit of another well on the plateau. Two of the Proto-attic pieces are especially interesting. One is a small complete vase of kantharos shape that is

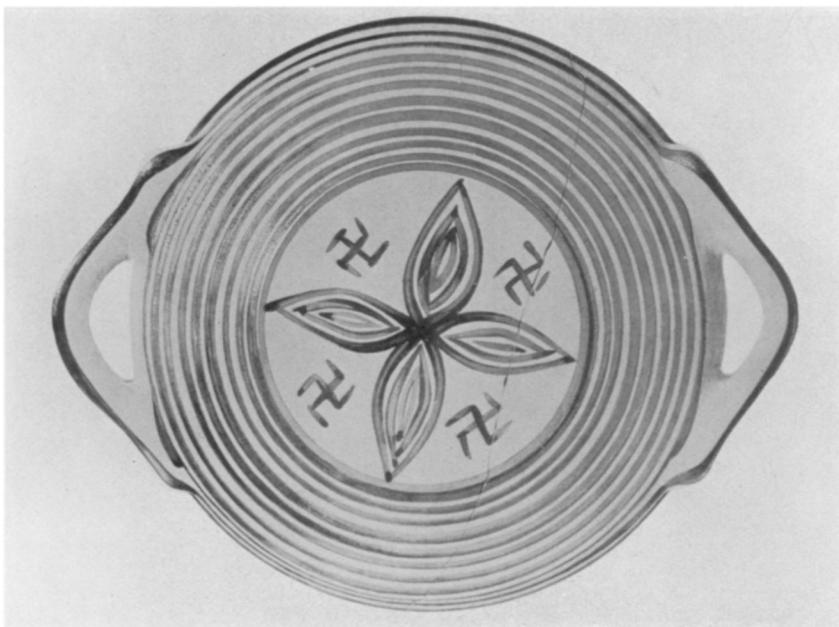


Fig. 32. Late Geometric Plate. From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

decorated with rays extending up from the base and with an elaborate scroll design on its sides (Fig. 33). The second vase is a two-handled bowl that is only partially preserved (Fig. 34). It has the usual rays spreading from the base to the main zone of decoration extending around the bowl, which is occupied by a marine scene with fish swimming to the right through water that is indicated by wavy lines in the background. But the important fact about this vase is the presence of an inscription painted on the panels of the out-flaring rim at the time of its manufacture. The verb  $\epsilon\iota\mu\iota$  in the panel on the right is complete, in the next panel to the left the preserved letters  $\dots\Upsilon\iota\omicron$  are evidently part of a name in the genitive. The ownership of the vase was thus clearly indicated just as it was on a bowl of similar shape of the late Geometric period, the "cup of Tharios," found last year (*Hesperia*, V, p. 34, fig. 34). The presence of such proprietary inscriptions implies



Fig. 33. Small Proto-attic Vase



Fig. 34. Proto-attic Bowl

a widespread knowledge of reading and writing among the Athenians in the late eighth and the early seventh century.

The same well yielded several Proto-attic and Protocorinthian skyphoi that were found together in the same stratum. A comparison of the two groups is instructive since the vases imported from Corinth have thinner walls, a more graceful shape, and more precise and skilful decoration than the rather clumsy imitations of them made in Athens. Certainly as far as this particular group of vases is concerned the superiority of the Corinthian potter



Fig. 35. Proto-attic Lid. Restored by Piet de Jong

is indisputable. But we know from other preserved vases of the period that Athens also possessed ceramic masters in the seventh century who produced admirable wares. A typical example of the Proto-attic style is the piece illustrated in Figure 35 that has been restored by de Jong from a number of fragments. But here again Corinthian relationship is apparent in the shapes of the animals and in the ornaments filling the background.

Pottery of the sixth and of the early fifth century was secured from scattered deposits on the plateau, where it had been thrown into crevices of the rock west of the Theseion. One of the better preserved black-figured vases is a large lebes that is decorated on each side with a chariot drawn by four horses (Fig. 9). The red-figured pieces include a fragment

of a psykter on which are preserved the head and shoulders of Herakles with his club carried over his left shoulder. A large proportion of the vases consists of column kraters in fragmentary condition. The scenes of revel which they display and the character of the drawing recall the work of masters who painted in the years around 500 B.C.

Another black-figured vase that is well preserved was with a small deposit of sixth century ware that came from a shallow well located just below the south end of the Kolonos



Fig. 36. Black-figured Lebes Gamikos. From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

Agoraios. This is a shape of vase that is called a marriage bowl (lebes gamikos) because it was used in some way in connection with the wedding ceremony. It is a two-handled bowl, made in one piece with its high stand, that has a knobbed lid (Fig. 36). The base is decorated with three pairs of women engaged in domestic tasks; on the bowl at the left Hermes is standing in front of a pair of horses. The next figure to the right is a winged woman who is perhaps to be identified as Iris, and beyond her is a procession of seven women, who face to the right holding baskets on their heads.

Some fine vases of the fifth century have already been described in connection with the graves in which they were found. A group belonging to the early fourth century was secured



Fig. 37. Bowl with Name of Dionysos. Restored. From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

from a pocket in the rock. These include two black-glazed kantharoi, a lamp, and a small red-figured oenochoe that is decorated with a group of playing children. Much pottery of the late fourth and early third century came from a cistern in the area north of the railroad. In addition to many baskets of sherds this produced numerous small saucers and bowls that are completely preserved, sundry complete lamps, two lead weights stamped with a dolphin, and several kantharoi. One of the kantharoi is decorated with garlands painted in white on the black ground, and has various sentiments of good omen incised on its tall neck, with invocations to Zeus, Dionysos, Friendship, Good Fortune, and Good Luck. A handsome stemmed bowl has a graceful garland as a decoration and the name Dionysos painted on it in white letters (Fig. 37). From the same deposit came a black-glazed vase of curious shape (Fig. 38). It is conical and is entirely closed except for the small opening



Fig. 38. Black-glazed Vase



Fig. 39. Hellenistic Krater with a Dedication to Dionysos and Artemis.  
From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

of the spout and for a tiny hole on the side above the vertical handle. By the pressure of the thumb on this hole the flow of liquid can be controlled. Inside the vase is a pellet that makes a metallic sound when the vessel is shaken. This vase is beautifully made and finished but the purpose for which it was used is uncertain.<sup>1</sup>



Fig. 40. Hydria of Hadra Type. Restored. From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

Just as in the campaign of 1935 large deposits of pottery of the Hellenistic epoch were again found in various cisterns. Two vases will be sufficient to illustrate this ware, one probably a native product and one imported from Egypt. The first is a large krater that

<sup>1</sup> A similar vase is in Göttingen (P. Jacobsthal, *Göttinger Vasen*, pl. XXI, no. 60), and Professor Orlandos tells me that he found one at Sikyon.

is decorated with an unusual pictorial group (Fig. 39). The middle of the body of the vase is encircled by a band that is filled with a series of stars and of ornaments resembling the Maltese Cross arranged alternately. Above this band the pictorial scene is represented. The front of a shrine is seen in which is standing a figure of Artemis. To the right of it is a stag and to the left a group composed of a man, evidently Dionysos, who is spearing a panther, and a dog that is charging at the beast. Below the central decorative band an inscription is incised recording the dedication to Dionysos and Artemis by a man named Menokles.

The imported vase is one of a well-known group dating from the third century B.C., of which many examples were discovered in the cemetery at Hadra near Alexandria. It is



Fig. 41. Faience Amulet of Anubis. From a Water-color by Piet de Jong

a hydria in shape and is simply ornamented with a garland on the front panel (Fig. 40). This vase was found in a manhole leading down to an underground water-channel on the Theseion plateau. From the same place came many other objects including black-glazed kantharoi, saucers, and lamps. Close to the hydria was lying a statuette of the Egyptian god Anubis in the form of an amulet made of greenish glass paste (Fig. 41). The lower part of the legs is missing and the height of the figure as preserved is 0.042 metres. Anubis is represented in the usual form, with the head of a dog or jackal and with the arms held rigidly along the sides.

The steady accumulation of fine vases from the excavations, of which the more important pieces found during the past season have been described, is making the Agora Museum a valuable depository of Greek pottery, and the presence of a number of specimens of unique character adds distinction to the collection.

#### SCULPTURE AND MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS

Some important discoveries were made in the field of classical sculpture in addition to the ivory statuette of Apollo. Perhaps the most interesting piece, that came from a well on the Theseion plateau, is the head of a woman with part of the neck preserved, made of Parian marble. This head proved to be part of a figure of a woman carrying another on her back that was found in 1934 in a well cut in the rock below the east front of the Theseion. This so-called ephedrismos group is shown in Figure 42 as it now appears. It



Fig. 42. Marble Group of the Fifth Century

will be discussed by me in an article devoted to the sculpture from the Agora in a later number of *Hesperia*. For the present it will be sufficient to state that the style of the figures indicates a date shortly after the middle of the fifth century and that the group so closely resembles in style, technique, and material the figures on the frieze of the Theseion as to suggest that temple as its provenance. The other pieces of sculpture found during



Fig. 43. Archaic Terracotta Figurine



Fig. 44. Head of an Archaic Terracotta

the season, products of both the Greek and the Roman periods, will be included in the later article on the subject.

It is difficult to present in a brief report any satisfactory account of the many groups of miscellaneous objects that invariably come from excavations. These are being studied by members of the staff and will be published in separate articles. Thus two of the lead curse tablets found this year form the subject of the second article in this Number written by G. W. Elderkin. Little has been said about the important group of inscriptions which now number 4264, since these are being rapidly published by Meritt and his assistants. Many of them are of great historical significance and some have already aroused much discussion among epigraphical experts. Several of the most important documents have

been mentioned earlier in this Report but, besides these, incidental data of much value for the comprehension of many phases of Athenian history are being constantly provided by the stones. Decrees with the names and dates of archons have necessitated many additions and corrections to the Attic calendar. Other types of documents provide information about laws and treaties, about boundaries of public and private property, about sales and taxes, about the details of the administration of the state. They are authentic contemporary records of the manifold activities of ancient civilization.

The coins constitute another group of objects which require very special handling. Since they are often poorly preserved, technical experience is essential for their proper



Fig. 45. Bronze Horse

cleaning, and detailed knowledge is necessary for their identification. By the end of the season a total of sixty thousand pieces had been found in the excavations. These are being cleaned, identified and catalogued as rapidly as possible by Mrs. Shear and her assistants. An analytical table of those identified up to the conclusion of the season of 1935 (10,479 pieces) was published by Mrs. Shear in *Hesperia*, V, pp. 123-150. Since the compilation of that table many thousands more have been identified. The identification of coins is often urgently needed by the excavator in order that he may secure confirmation of the chronology of the strata in which they are found. The efficient organization of the Coin Department makes such information promptly available.

The number of terracotta lamps is constantly growing, the total now in the Agora being 2600. They date from many periods beginning in the sixth century B.C. Several interesting plastic lamps were secured this season. One is in the form of a nude youth who has the oil

basin of rectangular shape extending horizontally from his middle; another has the form of a negro's head with the mouth used as a nozzle for the wick, and with the filling-hole in the crown; still another has the shape of a baby's head with wick-hole and filling-hole similarly arranged, and with a handle extending from the forehead. Numerous examples of the Roman period have decorative scenes on the discs, and the names of the makers stamped on the bottoms.

The collection of terracotta figurines has also been largely increased by the new discoveries. Several of these are archaic products of the sixth century B.C. Two are



Fig. 46. Carved Bone Panel

particularly interesting for the contrasting types of physiognomy that they reveal. One is a seated woman who holds a child on her lap (Fig. 43). Her face is round and fat, her eyes are bulging and horizontal, and the ears are in the normal position. A strong contrast is presented by the second head with the long narrow face, the slanting eyes and the high position of the ears (Fig. 44). Clearly two distinct racial types are here portrayed. The frequent discovery of moulds for the manufacture of figurines proves that this was a flourishing trade in Athens, with factories probably in the vicinity of the Agora.

Other miscellaneous objects that may be mentioned are a few small bronze figures, including a horse of the late Geometric period (Fig. 45), a lively bull of late classical times,

handles of vases in the shape of human figures, and a small herm with inlaid silver designs. An interesting piece of carved bone was secured from a Roman deposit dating from the fourth to the fifth century A.D. It is curved at the top and is pierced by several small holes on the edges so that it had evidently been attached to some object, perhaps to the arched end of a wooden box. An unusual type of figure is carved on the plaque (Fig. 46). A beardless youth, who is clad in a Roman toga with the broad official sash folded across his chest, stands in the centre of the panel. He wears boots with tabs extending sideways from the tops. In his extended right hand he holds an object of which the identification is not certain but which resembles a helmet. He has a long staff or sceptre in his left hand. Two large oval objects, shields or bales, rest on the ground at the left side of the plaque and at the right is a large amphora. The interpretation of the scene is difficult as the draughtsmanship is summary. The closest parallel for pose and costume has been found on figures dating from the end of the fourth century A.D., and it is approximately to this date that the panel should be referred.

Remains of the Byzantine era, which are much in evidence in the upper strata, consist chiefly of foundations of houses, of walls, pottery, and coins. Some stratified deposits will be serviceable for the determination of the chronological sequence of the pottery. Many of the coins date from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and with these were found some lead seals of the period, one of the best preserved being a large seal with the name of the Bishop John of Athens (1180–1182 A.D.).

Such in brief compass is the record of the season's work. Rich in all classes of discoveries the excavation continues to be of outstanding importance in the Greek world. Names famous in history are living again in the daily records of the Agora. Buildings long lost but never forgotten are taking form before our eyes. The results so far achieved have amply proved the wisdom of the undertaking, and fully guarantee the productivity of the work in the area that still remains to be accomplished.

T. LESLIE SHEAR