

INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

(PLATES 13-24)

THE SMALL probings of an investigatory nature which have been carried out at Corinth by members of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens throughout the year 1947-1948 have been highly productive. Not only was much information secured, but a large series of interesting objects as well. Four buildings have been under study preparatory to publication: the Theater, the South Stoa and the Julian and South Basilicas.¹ The work was very limited in scale, with not more than six workmen used at any time, but the results again indicate, as in the past year,² the rich harvest that may be expected from digging in the classical "pay dirt," from above which the Late Roman and Mediaeval débris was removed in the larger operations of the pre-war years.

SOUTHEAST BUILDING

Last year's work in the Southeast Building was completed by the digging of the lower part of the Hellenistic well already mentioned by Prof. Broneer.³ When, in late summer, the water level had sunk sufficiently, the well was cleared to the bottom

¹ To Professor Oscar Broneer, Acting Director of the School, 1947-1948, I am indebted for the opportunity of writing this report. Though other work has kept him from Corinth much of the year, his many visits have been of great profit to all the Staff and he has continued whenever possible his study of the South Stoa. Operations have been continuous in Corinth with the following staff. Dr. G. Roger Edwards excavated the four wells in the South Stoa and has studied the objects from them and likewise those from all the other twenty excavated wells of the Stoa. The report on these operations as given below is by Dr. Edwards, to whom I am grateful for undertaking to write it. Professor Richard Stillwell has written the section on his investigations in the Theater this spring. For the work in the Julian Basilica and the South Basilica and for the report on them the author is responsible; his also are all the photographs published herewith. The architectural drawings of the Basilicas, as well as one of a section of the South Stoa, are the work of G. V. Peschke. Mr. John Travlos, School Architect, has undertaken to study the restoration of the two Basilicas. Dr. Marian Welker served as staff artist for part of the year. During the spring, Agnes Newhall Stillwell worked on the great mass of pottery excavated in the Potters' Quarter at Corinth, to be published as the third volume on her excavations. Dr. Hazel Palmer was responsible for the inventorying of finds for the year and has begun a study of one of the large and interesting well groups recently found. Miss Nathalie Runyon undertook and has largely carried out a complete reorganization of the more than fifty thousand ceramic finds from Corinth, a task which will save future staff members much time; in this work she was assisted at times by Mr. Philip Dawson. The foreman in charge of the excavations was again Evangelos Lekkas. George Kachros, head guard of the Museum, did all the mending and cleaning of the finds, assisted by the second guard, Evangelos Pappasomas.

² Broneer, *Hesperia*, XVI, 1947, pp. 233-247.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 238.

and from the lowest fill especially, as well as from the higher levels, came a rich harvest of various Hellenistic objects which have greatly enriched the collections of this period at Corinth. Some of the numerous "Megarian" bowls, varying considerably in size and decoration, are shown in Plate 13, 2. One especially large bowl, the upper part of which is handsomely decorated with a series of figures of Athena-type, has feet in the shape of satyrs' heads (Plate 14, 4). Large fragments of a similar bowl (with feet) came from well XIX in the South Stoa. The fine service that came from our well included several black-glazed plates with palmette stamps about the center; three typical examples appear in Plate 13, 3. The largest plate at the left was mended in antiquity. While the plates are of different sizes, the arrangement of stamps and incised circles is the same in all of them, producing a matched service. The large kantharos of West Slope ware with pointed pellets around the shoulder panel (Plate 13, 1) is an excellent example of the type. The spouted jug to the left of it has a strainer in the mouth; the body of the fragmentary trefoil oinochoe to the right is made from a mould for "Megarian" bowls.

This well also produced a large and interesting collection of household pottery, including lagynoi with stamped handles, various coarse jugs and large pots, a brazier that is similar to, but less elaborate than, the one from the South Stoa shown in Plate 17, 23, and an unusual, tall hollow stand (Plate 14, 5). There is also a whole series of large wine jars in a variety of shapes, many with their handles stamped.

The large group of terracotta figurines from this well comprises some of the finest examples of late Greek work yet found at Corinth. Of first importance is the large head of Aphrodite, half-life size (Plate 14, 6). Bits of the gilding still adhere to the hair; the flesh parts were covered with a fine, heavy white slip. The head is very similar to that of a figurine found at Delphi. (This is preserved in part to the waist, the preserved section being 0.31 m. high⁴). The careful workmanship places this head among the best products of the Hellenistic coroplasts. Equally excellent in execution, and of rarer type in Greece, is the figurine of an aged philosopher (Plate 14, 7). The red color of the himation is well preserved; the flesh is left in the natural terracotta shade. Other important pieces include a helmeted Athena head, a large figure of Demeter holding a pig, a bull and several small heads of good quality.

The catalogue of the finds from this well includes about 25 loomweights, one of them leaden, a fine bowl of glass paste, and two glass knucklebones. The lamps are largely of Type X; there is one early specimen of Type XVI. Several coins of third and second century date came from the fill and one from the mud at the bottom, a coin of Philip V dating 220-178 B.C., would seem to indicate that the period of use continued into the early second century, and ceased not long before the destruction of the city in 146 B.C.

⁴ *Fouilles de Delphes*, V, p. 204, no. 659, pl. XXVII.

SOUTH STOA

In the South Stoa, the work done this year was also in the nature of a continuation of that reported last season.⁵ It was confined almost entirely to the digging of more of the series of wells in the Stoa shops. Again the material from the new wells has thrown much light on the use of the individual shops as well as on the nature of the building in general. For details of these finds, I quote from the report of Dr. G. Roger Edwards, who supervised these excavations and is now studying them, as well as all the earlier finds from the Stoa wells, for final publication. Dr. Edwards writes as follows:

The wells excavated this season, located in shops IX, XIX, XXII, and XXVII, have produced material similar in general character to those previously excavated, but have added many entirely new details.

Excavation was begun in Well XXVII. The upper part of this well was found to be more extensively preserved than was the case in wells previously dug. For the first meter below the Stoa *toichobate*, where the shaft was sunk through soft earth, the well was found to be lined with four courses of carefully cut poros blocks, each course projecting slightly beyond the one below so as to reduce the diameter of the well from 0.80 m. below to 0.60 m. at the mouth. The topmost course had a cutting in its upper surface to receive the rectangular base of the well-curb. Blocks from three courses had been removed from part of the circumference during the Roman period to permit of the construction of a drain leading north from the small bath which covered part of this section of the Stoa to connect with the large drain running from southwest to northeast across the Agora. The construction of this drain introduced a small amount of Roman material into the first meter or so of the well fill; otherwise the well was entirely filled with Hellenistic material relating to the Stoa and its activities.

The most important of these remains were the architectural pieces, fragments of which were first encountered at a depth of *ca.* 3.00 m. and which continued to come out at all depths down nearly to bottom. These included parts of five unfluted column drums of poros with their original fine Greek stucco well preserved. Four are substantially complete, and of the fifth, a bottom drum, a large section was restored. Each has a very slight taper. Diameters range from 0.39 m. to *ca.* 0.45 m. and heights from 0.56 to 1.05 m. Large sections of two identical small Doric capitals belonging to fluted columns were also recovered. These are also of Greek workmanship. The abacus measures 0.50 m. square. Both drums and capitals are of types not previously well represented among the finds from the Stoa. A complete lower drum similar to these was found nearby in the 1946-47 season; during the present season small pieces of other drums were found in Well IX, at the other end of the Stoa. A piece of another similar capital was also found previously in the Stoa.

Associated with these stone pieces were numerous fragments of the Stoa roof tiles. Of these only a ridge tile was complete. Mixed with this architectural fill was a considerable amount of carbonized material, which had adhered to and discolored many of the fragments. The architectural pieces had been thrown in the well at one time, obviously subsequent to a destruction of the Stoa. The amount of burning associated with the architecture was perhaps not sufficiently great or pronounced to show that the destruction was caused by a great conflagration; a small localized fire accompanying the destruction is plausibly indicated. The destruction represented by this fill is probably to be dated as late as the 2nd

⁵ Broneer, *Hesperia*, XVI, 1947, pp. 238-243.

century B.C.; it is not yet certain that it is to be associated with the destruction of Corinth by Mummius in 146 B.C.

From the lower part of the well came a mass of Hellenistic pottery, a habitational accumulation over a considerable period. The presence of many drinking vessels, principally kantharoi, indicate that Shop XXVII, like so many other of the Stoa shops, was probably a tavern. Among these, one (Plate 15, 10) has an incised inscription below its lip: ANTEPΩTOC, the genitive of the name of the divinity Anteros, in whose province were affairs of unrequited love. A large Hellenistic krater (Plate 15, 11) with decoration of ivy leaves in applied white, from the same place, is an appropriate central piece in size and function for this convivial collection.

From the same fill came a nearly complete Megarian type bowl of the Homeric class (Plate 15, 8 and 9) with a scene centering around Achilles, who stands in a grief-stricken attitude before an elaborate trophy. His name is inscribed above his head in raised letters and the trophy is designated as such by an incomplete inscription. Two young warriors, one of whom is Myrmidon, are seen contending beyond the trophy, and near them a third lies prone in death. A bearded man sits, singularly unperturbed, between Achilles and the combatants; traces of other military figures remain where the scene is broken off. Most of the scenes on Homeric bowls can be traced to particular incidents in the Iliad, Odyssey, or minor Homeric poems: scenes from the dramatists also occur. This scene is as yet unexplained. Several of the figures on this bowl appear also on two other bowls, one in Athens, the other in Berlin. This is one of the few Homeric bowls known to have been found outside Boeotia, which is presumed to be their place of manufacture.

Well XXII, farther to the east, produced fewer objects of intrinsic interest, but provided useful chronological information. A small habitational accumulation at the bottom consisted almost entirely of coarse pottery, including a third century B.C. stamped Rhodian amphora. A fill above this to *ca.* 3.00 m. below the mouth was found to have been thrown in at one time; coins and a little Roman pottery indicate the early first century A.D., but its contents were almost entirely coarse vessels of the third and second centuries B.C. Two Megarian bowls (Plate 15, 12 and 13) were also found in this context. A re-used architectural piece from this fill may perhaps be part of one of the two end anta capitals of the Stoa. The upper three meters of the well consisted of closely packed Roman tile fragments, some stamped. A lamp fragment of Type XXVII, group 2, found among the tiles, indicates that this fill was introduced into the well in the 2nd century A.D., and it seems likely that its purpose was to provide strong support for the marble floor of the large Roman building which covers this part of the Stoa.

The excavation of this well incidentally opened an entrance into a Greek drain whose period of use was brought to an end by the construction of the Stoa. At the time when the well shaft was originally dug, the well-digger had apparently broken into the side of the drain. To prevent the accumulation in the drain from falling in the well he sealed the opening with three roughly fitted poros blocks, the two upper of which were found pushed back in the drain itself. This drain, 1.80 m. high and 0.60 wide, was found filled nearly to the top with earth. It runs from southwest to northeast and is cut off at one end by the foundation blocks of the back wall of the South Stoa, and at the other by those of its Ionic colonnade. Only a small sample of the drain fill was taken at this time, from near the entrance; the sherds from this point were found to be intrusive from the middle fill of the well. The uncontaminated fill from the remainder of the drain may be expected to yield good chronological evidence for the date of construction of the Stoa.

Well IX produced quantities of sherds from coarse Hellenistic unstamped amphoras, and a few fragments of Stoa architecture: pieces of plain column drums mentioned above, part of an anta capital, fragments of a well-curb, and a considerable section of a poros parapet block covered with fine Greek stucco. Incidental finds included a small marble plaque with two nearly identical figures of the Mother of the Gods type, a fragment of a

large platter, probably Egyptian, of white paste with a pale green glaze, and a good West Slope plate (Plate 16, 14) with decoration in incision and in applied colors.

The contents of Well XIX promise to provide very interesting and important information for the history of painting in the Hellenistic period. A single fill, thrown in at one time, extending from near the top to within two meters of the bottom, contained great quantities of material which must have been derived from a painter's shop or studio. Bits of color of eleven different shades, some in considerable amounts, were found throughout the fill. Several pots were found to be stained on the interior with the colors they had contained, while one (Plate 16, 16, right) has a *dipinto* inscription (Plate 16, 15) in two lines, only partly legible, which mentions cinnabar, a metallic ore from which the color vermilion is obtained. Associated with the color was a large amount of blue-gray clay and a white substance which may perhaps be lime, as well as fragments of a lead-like substance, purple at the break, which may be some form of raw color.

A large number of coarse vessels of unusual shapes were found in the same fill. Their significance in this connection is not clear, but a final analysis may show their relevance. A number of fragmentary vessels and one complete pot (Plate 16, 16, left) have *dipinto* inscriptions in which the word $\text{CAK}\Omega\text{MA}$ occurs with a numeral. This seems to be the Doric form of the word $\Sigma\text{HK}\Omega\text{MA}$, used here as an indication of capacity (Plate 16, 17). Numerous fragmentary vessels of unusual shape also occurred. Some (Plate 16, 18) have four handles, 2 vertical, 2 horizontal, and a flanged rim to receive a cover. Another has a simulated rope handle (Plate 17, 19), while still another has a decoration in brownish-black on a white ground (Plate 17, 20).

Remarkable too was the very large number of bronze nails, many unused, and a large proportion of Ptolemaic coins (Plate 17, 21), some of which belong to the reigns of Ptolemy V and VI, which immediately antedate the destruction of Corinth. There is as yet no indication of the precise nature of the establishment from which these objects were derived. A few terracotta figures, including a seated doll (Plate 17, 22) came from this fill, but it seems unlikely that we are concerned with a terracotta factory here, since this would be impractical in the center of a large city and within the confines of a small Stoa shop. It seems more likely that we have to do with a painter's supply shop or perhaps an artist's studio.

From the habitational fill in the lower part of the well came a nearly complete brazier of unusual type (Plate 17, 23). On one side, covering an air-vent, is a grotesque satyr head; on the opposite side the air-vent is an inverted heart-shaped opening.

THEATER

Concerning the excavations in the Theater, Professor Stillwell writes as follows

In the theater, minor soundings have been conducted and as a result several items of interest have come to light: blocks of the western *analemma* of the Greek cavea; a portion of the east end wall of the scene building, and good evidence, in the form of cuttings for post holes, for a wooden scene building antedating the stone structure of the Hellenistic period. Other post holes, cut deep into the rock, show that in later Hellenistic and early Roman times a wooden stage was in use. At either end of the Hellenistic proskenion are cuttings for Charonian steps which lead out to points immediately in front of the proskenion. The presence of a ramp leading to the top of the proskenion is also established. Re-examination of the Greek seats and the deep gutter of Greek times indicates that the latter is later in date, and is to be associated with the stone skene of the Hellenistic period. The seats, on the other hand, went with an earlier orchestra level, some 0.80 m. lower, but neither this level nor its successor remains. Both were dug up when a heavy rubble-concrete foundation for an orchestra of the Roman period was installed. In 1929 a seat block of the

Greek theater was found with the inscription KOPFAN, and published by T. L. Shear in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, XXXI, 1929, p. 521. Just recently, parts of three more seat blocks, also inscribed, have come to light. They were re-used, as was the first block discovered, in the Roman reconstruction of the theater, and a thorough re-examination and clearing of all similar accessible blocks is now in progress.

SOUTH BASILICA

When the author completed his study of the Southeast Building in the summer of 1947⁶ he was asked to undertake the study of the Julian Basilica, adjacent to the north side of the Southeast Building, and of the identical South Basilica which lay behind the eastern part of the South Stoa; these three are to be published together in the Corinth series. The investigations in these two buildings were carried out in the spring of 1948, starting with the more complete and more recently discovered South Basilica. Excavated from 1934 to 1936, the building now required much cleaning and a small amount of digging. The cryptoporticus was disencumbered of all débris, as were also the walls of the inner and outer rectangles (Plate 18, 24). While a line of interior supports had previously been found in the east, south and west aisles, none had appeared in the north aisle. By careful scraping of the hardpan floor of this aisle, the shallow cuttings for the four bases in the eastern half of the aisle were found, but no traces of those to the west.

In cleaning for the cutting of one of the bases in the east aisle, a well was disclosed, lying partly under the base. The southern half of the well, that which lay beneath the base, was cut in hardpan from the top, but the northern part extended for almost two meters through a deposit of neolithic date that seems to have filled a pit cut in the hardpan. Several fragments of neolithic gray ware came from the fill immediately adjacent to the well, but the deposit itself has not yet been investigated. The well proved to have been in use in the second half of the eighth century B.C., and to have been filled at the end of this century or the beginning of the seventh. The remains clearly fall into two groups, that from the lowest meter of deposit which belongs to the period of use, and the later fill thrown in above this deposit. The bottom meter was packed with broken jugs, both fine and coarse, which had dropped to the bottom through some mishap. The numbers of coarse hydrias, when mended, will run into dozens, and the fine jugs also are numerous. Six of these are practically complete and there are remains of at least six more, all of them trefoil oinochoai decorated with geometric designs of a late type. Four of the jugs have a black-glazed ground with the decoration in white paint consisting of very simple geometric motives (Plate 19, 26, left). The others have zones of black glaze, zones filled with horizontal stripes, and bands or panels with geometric decoration, largely zigzags and stylized birds (Plate 19, 26, right and 27). In addition to these jugs, the earlier fill yielded an unusual large bowl with reflex handles (Plate 20, 28, left), the interior covered with a heavy glaze of rich reddish-brown color and the exterior with horizontal stripes, except for two zones filled with an S-pattern. Vases of this shape usually have the

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 237.

lip grooved to receive a lid, but this one does not and so is not a proper lekane. Lastly, there is an early example of the kotyle, a low shape with full, rounded sides (Plate 20, 28, right). None of this decorated ware shows any influence of the orientalizing art of the late eighth century and the whole group should probably be dated in the third quarter of that century.

The pottery in the rest of the fill, clearly thrown in when the well was no longer in use, was much less plentiful and contained no water jugs, like those of the lowest meter. There are, however, several kotylai which are taller and more slender than that in the earlier deposit and exhibit a later type of decoration (Plate 20, 29). The ray motive appears on one of the cups and on several fragments; the geometric decoration is even more stylized and degraded. The early Protocorinthian style is exhibited in several fragments of a very fine and unusual jug (Plate 20, 30). On the shoulder zone there is a series of alternating pendant lotuses and palmettes, most carefully drawn, and small hatched triangles rise from the base line. The main body frieze contains large figures of birds and apparently pairs of figure-eight loops, the ends of the loops being birds' heads; one small fragment shows a beautifully drawn griffin head. In the base zone there are tall filled rays, pointed upward, and between them outlined rays. Another jug of the same type from this fill seems to have had the body zone decorated with a large floral motive at the center made up of triangular leaves flanked by spiralled ribbons that spread out over the vase.⁷ Along with this pottery of about 700 B.C. was found an almost complete iron spear-head 0.22 m. long (Plate 20, 31).

The study of the material found in earlier excavations in the South Basilica, together with the evidence from the Southeast Building and the Julian Basilica, makes it now seem most probable that both basilicas were built simultaneously in the decade A.D. 40-50, during the reign of the emperor Claudius.

JULIAN BASILICA

The second of the two buildings, called the Julian Basilica, because of the excellent series of portrait sculptures of the Julian family found therein, was excavated in 1914 and 1915. The task of removing the mass of earth and débris which had silted in from the adjacent roads on the east and north sides was a large one. As in the South Basilica, the cleaning involved much shifting of large blocks of stone and marble so that the cryptoporticus could be entirely freed for study and drawing (Plate 18, 25). During this cleaning a large piece of a terracotta sima of late sixth-century type turned up, one of the best examples of the period from Corinth.

While the similarity between the two basilicas had been recognized as soon as

⁷ Cf. Payne, *Protokorinthische Vasenmalerei*, pls. 7 and 8, and the oinochoe from Corinth with the same central motive in white on dark technique, published in *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, pl. LXXIV.

the South Basilica was excavated, the Julian Basilica was thought to lack both the front porch and stairway and the three rectangular exedras at the back which appeared in the South Basilica. In 1937 the author uncovered the scant remains of the porch and stairway foundations;⁸ it now remained to investigate behind the east wall to see whether the niches existed or not. Behind the southern end of the building the road approached so close that the east edge of the east wall had not been cleared during the original excavation and the great scarp rose from the middle of the wall. To the north the distance between road and building increases and here it was possible to work. A careful examination of the scarp, at the point where it began to recede from the wall, revealed the end of a block extending from the wall to the east, and by cutting back two meters it was shown that this was indeed part of the southern exedra. It was possible to uncover the northern two-thirds of this exedra; the rest disappears in the great scarp to the south. The preserved wall is only one course high and rests on a shallow cement bedding, but the level of hardpan here is so high that this course is the one above the course with the beam cuttings for the floor of the main level, thus part of the actual superstructure on this side. Since this course has pry-holes for setting the blocks of the course above, it is now clear that these side exedras certainly had solid walls and were not entrances, as has been at times suggested. Of the northern small exedra, only the foundations for the side walls and a cutting in hardpan which marks the northeast outer corner are preserved. The larger central exedra was reconstructed at least twice and not much remains of the original rectangle, but among the superimposed later restorations a few blocks of the original east wall can be seen and the line of the concrete bedding for the back and the south side is clear. Thus it is now clear that the Julian Basilica was originally the identical twin of the South Basilica. In a later repair or reconstruction, probably of late second century date, the central exedra of the Julian Basilica became a large apse, only the western ends of the foundation of which can now be seen at the edge of the excavation; the rest lies under the road. The group of several curved marble architrave-and-frieze blocks found in the early excavations are most probably to be connected with this curved foundation.

Between the south and central exedras, the great mass of modern, Turkish, and Byzantine accumulation was removed to the level of hardpan, which here reaches the bottom of the course with beam cuttings in the east wall of the Julian Basilica. When hardpan was cleared it was evident that there were three large cuttings in it (plan on Plate 21), all roughly rectangular with rounded corners. The northern one is almost completely filled with Roman and Byzantine foundations, those in the northern part of the cutting being the base for the southern side of the central exedra, and these have not been disturbed. In the central cutting, Byzantine fill of twelfth century date continued to the floor, which was found to be covered with a heavy coating of fine greenish-gray clay. On the southern side the hardpan shoulder between this and

⁸ Morgan, *A.J.A.*, XLI, 1937, pls. XVI and XVII, 1.

the southern part was undercut almost for its total width and the clay floor extended into this cutting as well. The southern pit (Plate 22, 33 and 34) was also filled largely with Byzantine débris, except in the northern part where there was a heavy wall of large rough stones set in clay like that on the floor of the adjacent pit. A similar layer of heavy clay was found on the north and east shoulder of this southern pit, with some projecting over the area of the pit, above the crude wall. The Byzantine fill, similar to that in the central cutting, descended for a meter in this southern pit, but then suddenly the nature of the soil changed from the soft black Byzantine fill to a much harder, clayey brown earth in which Mycenaean pottery began to appear. This fill, in the northwestern part of the pit, had been cut into by a well (not yet dug) which seems to have been filled in the fifth century B.C.; the well also removed part of the crude wall in the north side of the cutting. But in the rest of the area this Mycenaean fill was preserved for a depth of *ca.* 0.20 m. to the floor of the pit.

From this fill, the first Mycenaean deposit to be found within the main area of the city of Corinth, has come a considerable amount and variety of Mycenaean pottery of thirteenth century type (Plate 22, 35). There are fragments of several deep, two-handled cups, some decorated and some plain, of jugs, stirrup-vases and large bowls as well as of one large coarse bowl of kitchen ware and a tripod bowl of this same ware. But of greatest interest and importance is the large amphoroid-krater (Plates 23-24, 36-39) which was found crushed on the floor of the southern part of the pit. It had apparently fallen, perhaps from above, but possibly it had toppled over on its small base, and rested on the shoulder and rim, the foot up in the air. In this position it had been crushed down and the Byzantine intruders had then apparently cut off the upper third of the vase, including the base, half of one side, and its handle; the other handle is missing as well. The remaining fragments make up a vase with a greatest diameter of 0.336 m. and a preserved height of 0.385 m.; the restored height is 0.47 m. While the high cylindrical neck was glazed dark reddish-brown to black, and the base was probably glazed as well, the body was reserved and decorated with a triple band about the belly and at least one band some distance below near the narrow base. The wide shoulder zone is divided by the handles into two panels and on each side was painted a pictorial representation; that on one side has at the right (Plate 24, 37) a chariot drawn to the left by two horses and carrying three people. A nude male figure stands in front of the horses, facing left, and on either side of him are elaborate floral motives of a late stylized type (Plate 24, 38). While the conception is crude, especially in the human figures, the drawing is precise and the composition well arranged. Of the scene on the other side which appears to be similar (Plate 24, 39) only the right side with the chariot is preserved.

While this vase is one of a large group of amphoroid-kraters, a majority of which are decorated with similar chariot scenes, it is distinguished from all the other published examples in being the only one from the Greek mainland. Most of the others are from Cyprus; a few are from Rhodes. It is possible that some, or perhaps all,

of the thirteen vases with chariot scenes, fragments of which have been found in a potters' quarter at Berbati, are of this type, but the report is very brief and gives no details concerning shapes.⁹ They may be of the later type of large open bowls that are better known on the Greek mainland. At any rate, the Corinth krater lends strong support to the theory, now becoming more widely accepted, that these amphoroid kraters were made on the Greek mainland along with other more usual Mycenaean pottery and were not a separate product of Cypriote-Mycenaean centers.

Though this Mycenaean deposit at Corinth was miraculously saved from complete destruction, the amount of evidence left is too little to allow us definitely to determine its nature. Such a vase as our large krater was obviously one of the more expensive products of the Mycenaean potters and bespeaks considerable wealth on the part of its possessor. This is borne out by the fact that most of the known examples have been found in large and rich tombs. But these pits in Corinth do not seem to be tombs; there are no graves in them, no human bones have been found, nor any of the other customary grave furniture besides pottery. The pottery also includes kitchen ware that cannot be paralleled in any of the many Mycenaean tombs from the mainland. It seems more like a domestic deposit and it is possible that these pits are the substructure of a large building. Nonetheless, the deposit indicates unequivocally the existence of a Mycenaean settlement within the area of the later classical city, a settlement which has long been sought and often denied. Its location is in the easternmost part of the main Agora area yet excavated, at a point where the surface rose in antiquity to a long north-south ridge, watered by copious springs. The setting is proper, the indications auspicious, the details await further excavation in inexhaustible Corinth.

SAUL S. WEINBERG

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

⁹ *VI. Internationaler Kongress für Archaeologie*, Berlin, 1939, p. 297.



1



2



3

Pottery from Hellenistic Well in Southeast Building

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

PLATE 14



4



5



6



7

Pottery, Head of Aphrodite, Figurine of Philosopher from Hellenistic Well in Southeast Building

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948



8



9



10



12



11



13

South Stoa: 8-9, Homeric Bowl and, 10-11, Hellenistic Pottery from Well XXVII;
12-13, Hellenistic Pottery from Well XXII

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

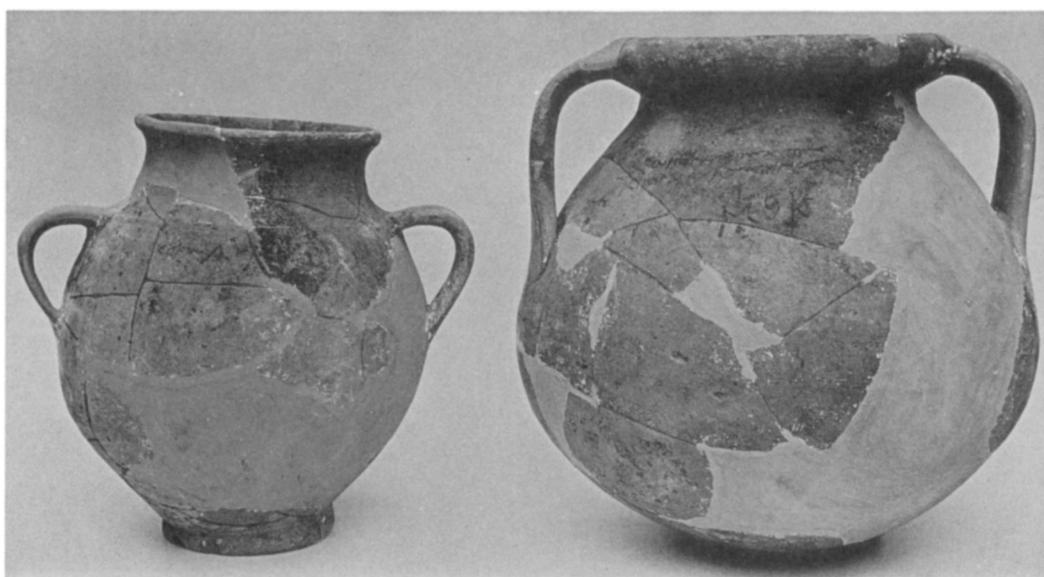
PLATE 16



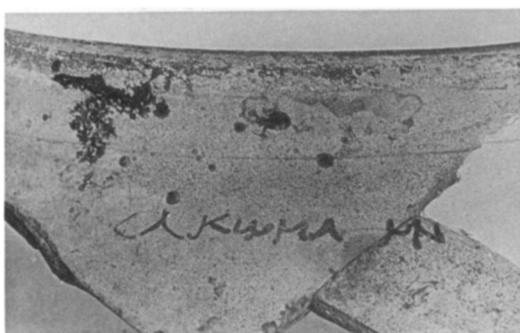
14



15



16



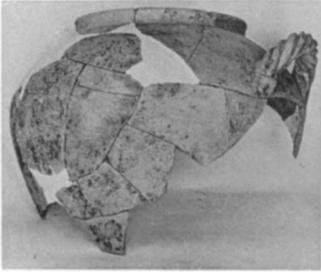
17



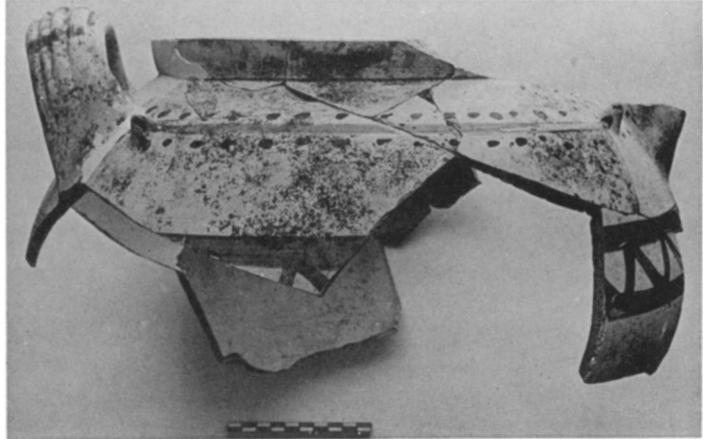
18

South Stoa: Well IX, 14, West Slope Plate; Well XIX, 15-17, Jugs with Dipinti and,
18, Jug with Four Handles

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948



19. Large Vessel



20. Large Vessel



21. Ptolemaic Coins

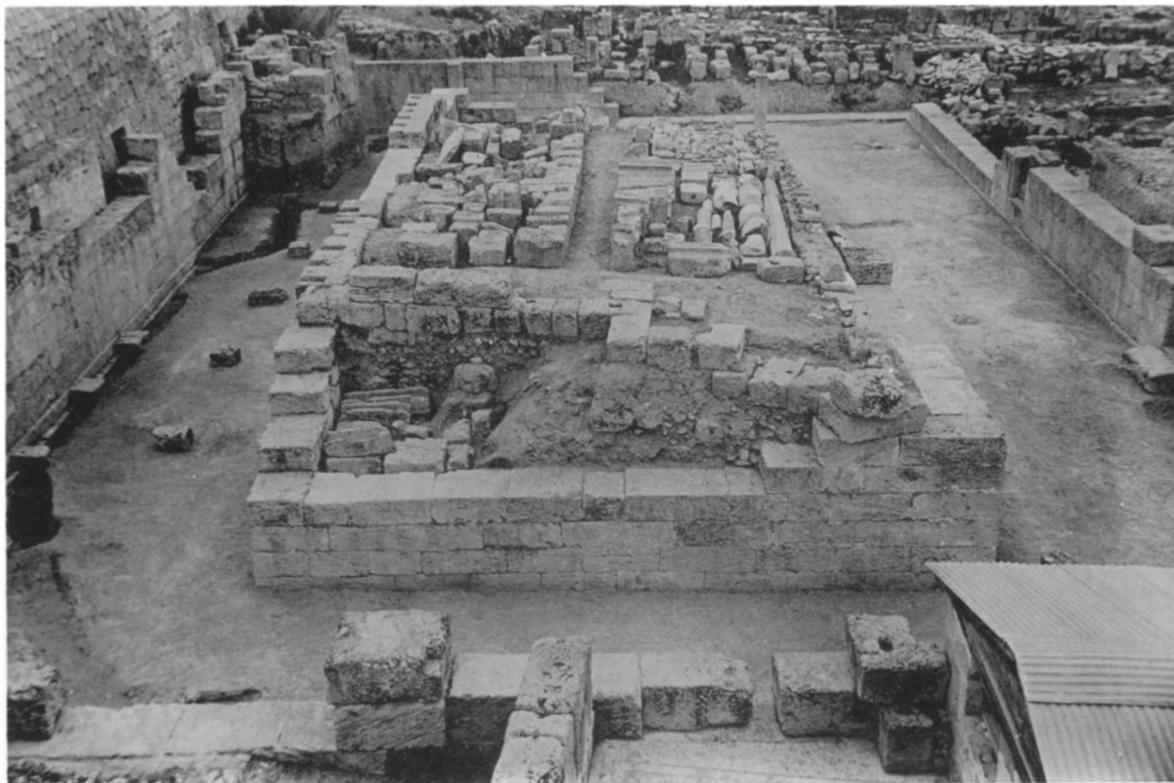


22. Terracotta Figurine

23. Brazier



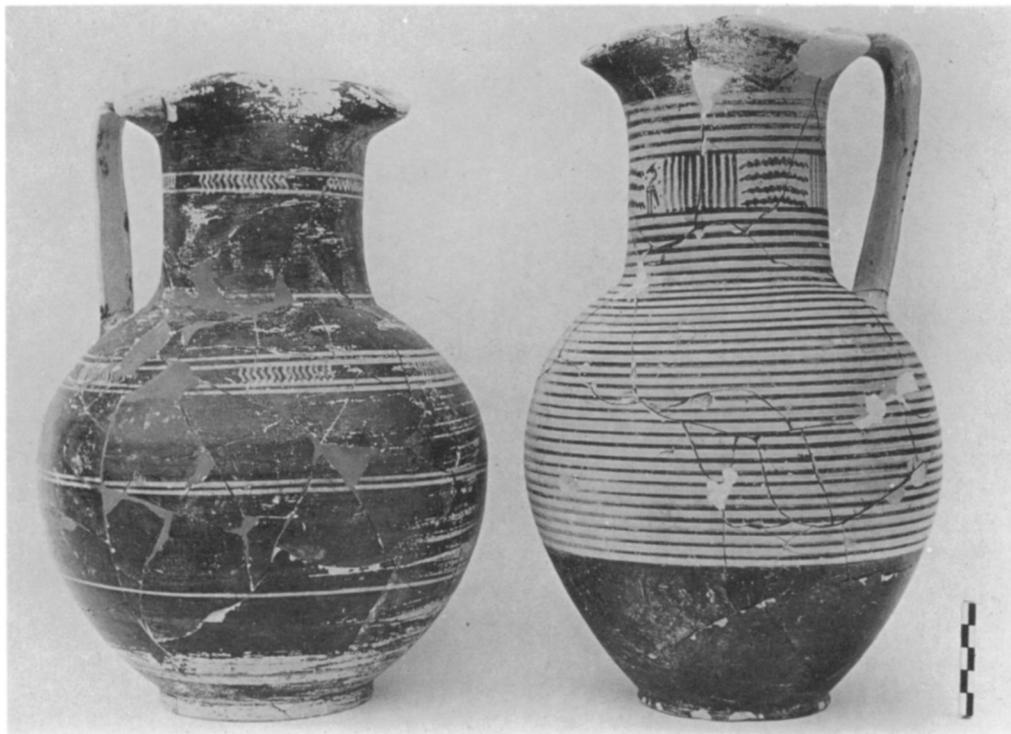
South Stoa, Well XIX



24. View of South Basilica from East



25. View of Julian Basilica from South

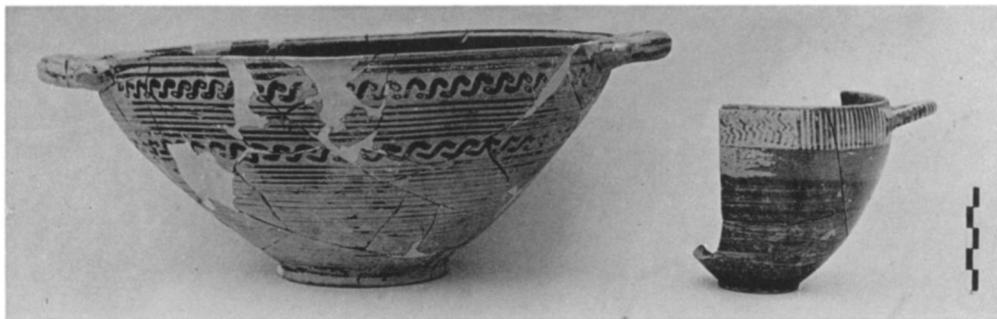


26. Jugs from Bottom of Geometric Well South Basilica



27. Jugs from Bottom of Geometric Well South Basilica

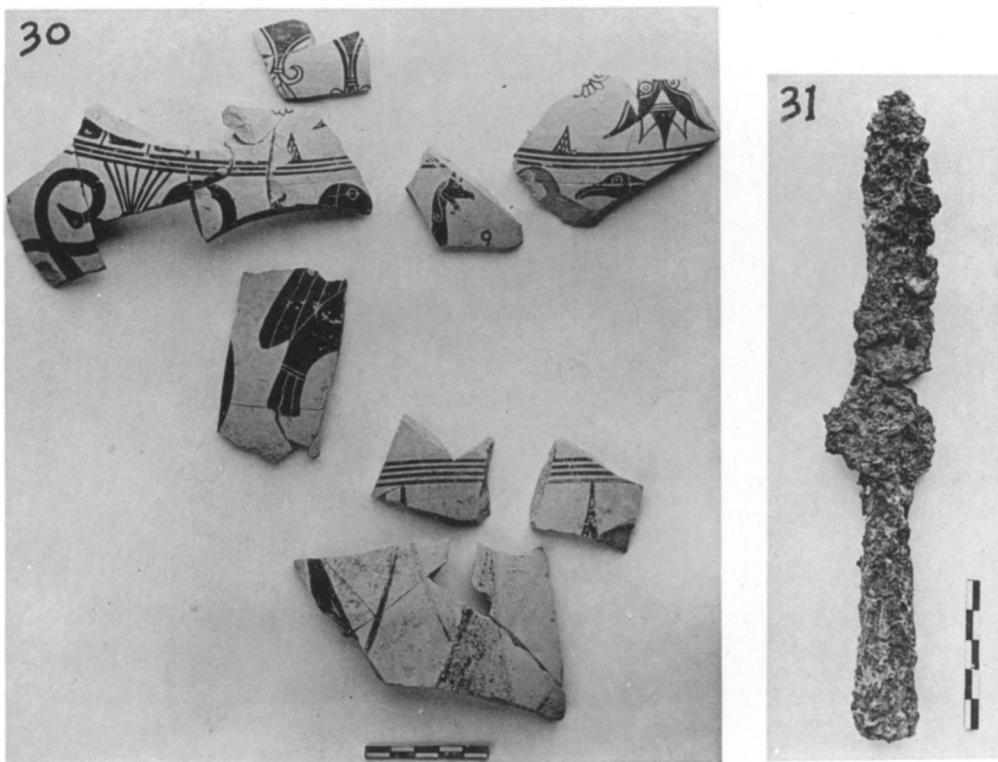
PLATE 20



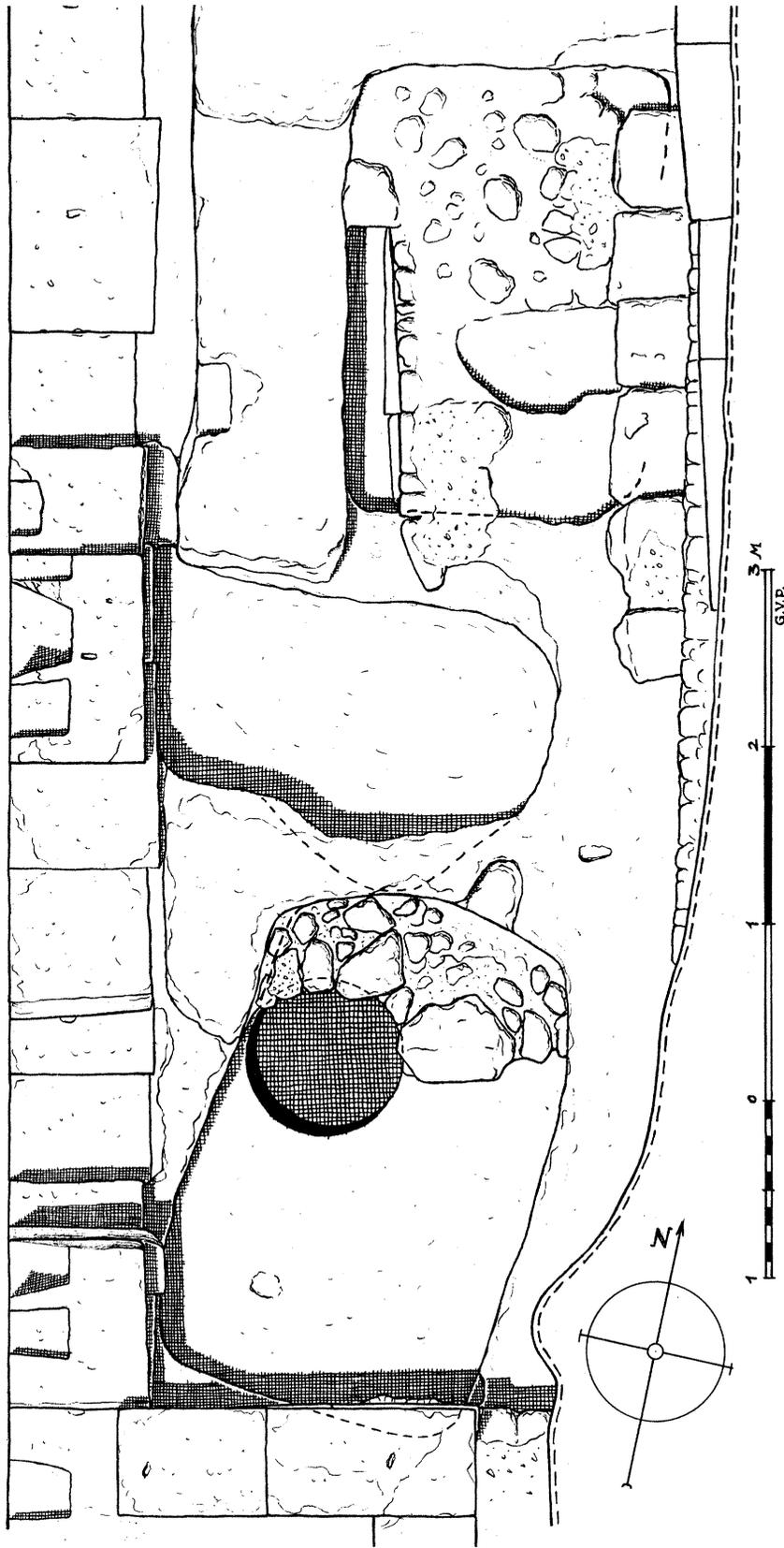
28. Pottery from Bottom of Well in South Basilica



29-31. Pottery and Iron Spearhead from Later Deposit in Well in South Basilica

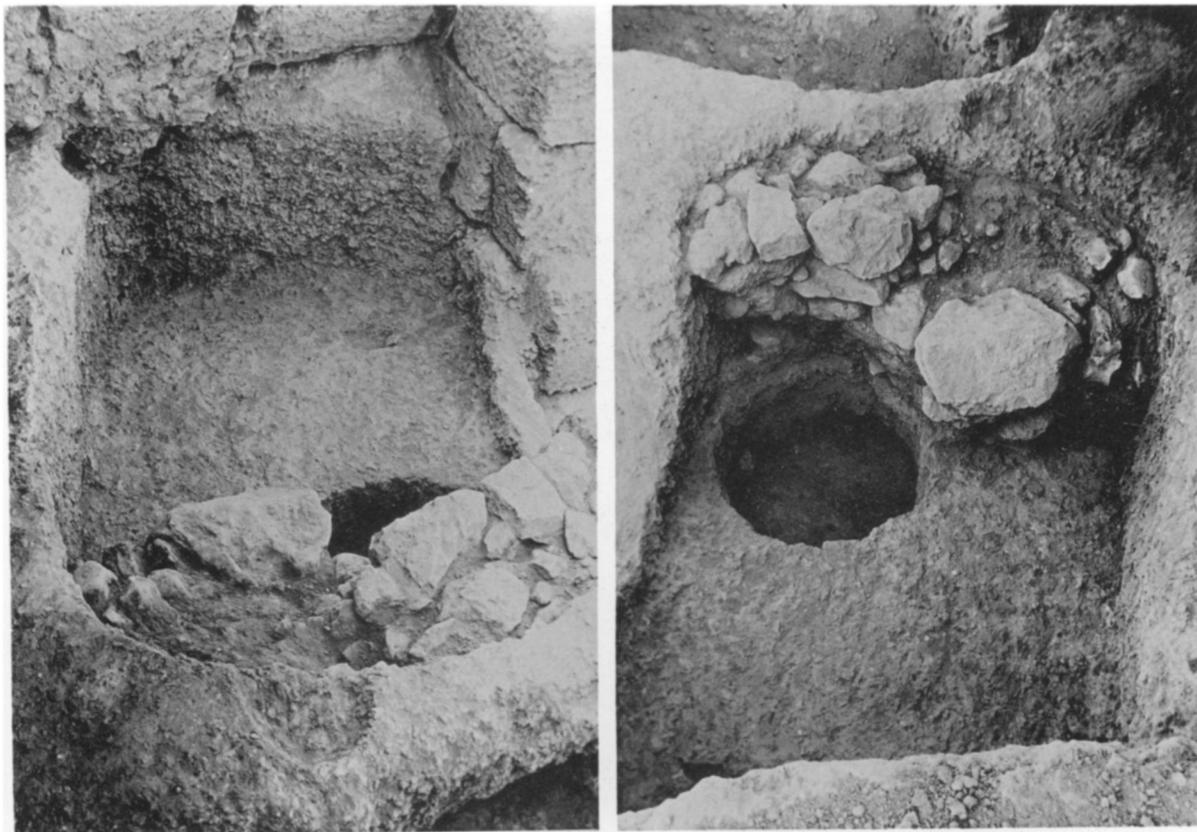


JULIAN BASILICA

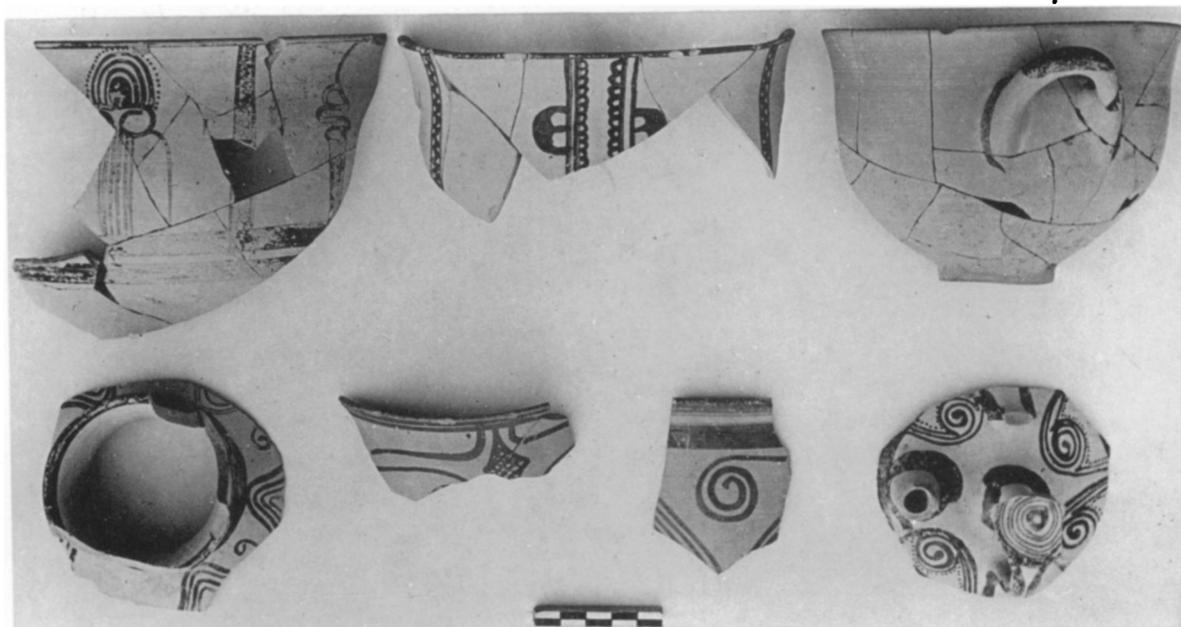


32. Three Pits Behind the Julian Basilica

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

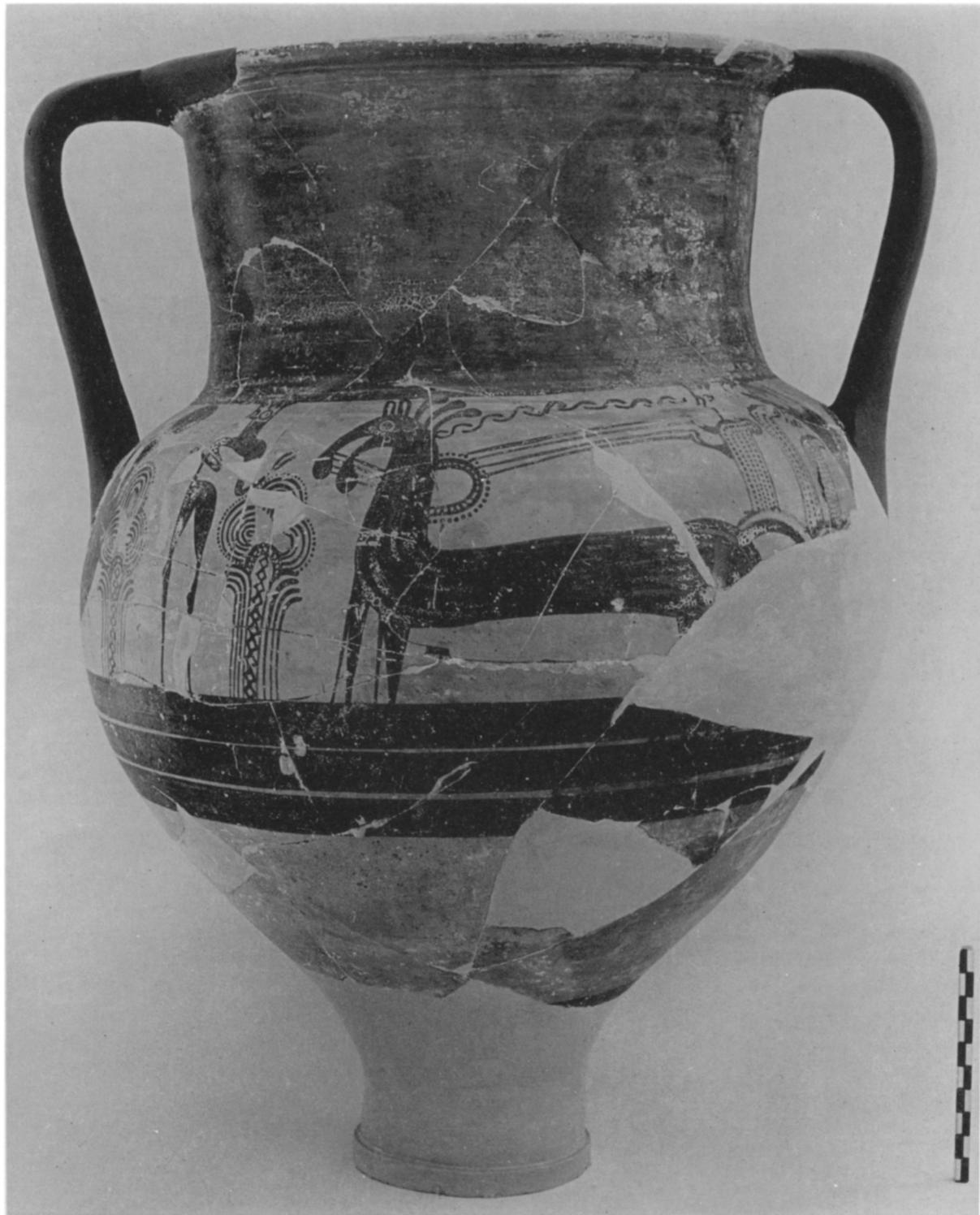


33-34. Views from North and South of Pit in which Mycenaean Deposit was Found



35. Mycenaean Pottery from Pit behind Julian Basilica

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

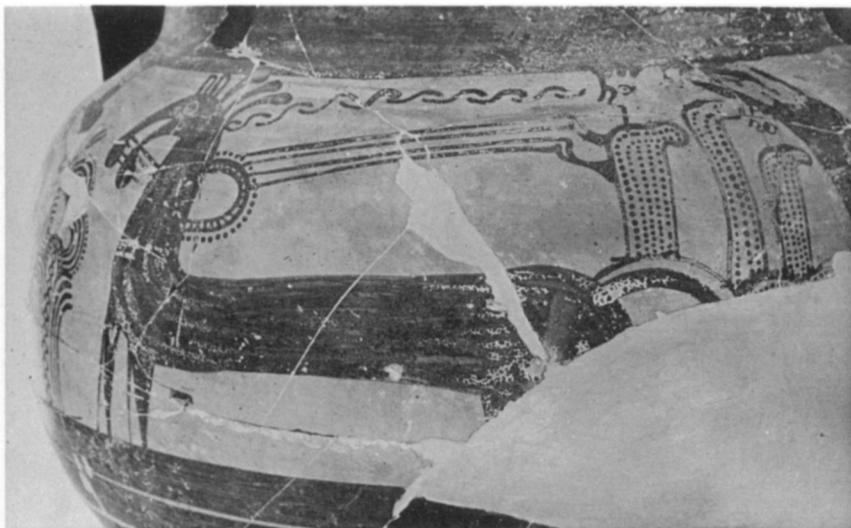


36. Mycenaean Amphoroid-Krater from Pit

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948

PLATE 24

37



38



39



37-39. Details of Figured Panels on Amphoroid-Krater

S.S. WEINBERG: INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH, 1947-1948