

# EXCAVATIONS AT CORINTH, 1959

(PLATES 57-64)

## PART I

EXCAVATION was resumed in Ancient Corinth in the spring of 1959 after an interval of five years.<sup>1</sup> Between 1951 and 1957 five important volumes had been published on the architectural monuments of Corinth, classical and medieval.<sup>2</sup> As a result of this activity and of the campaigns of excavation just before and after the war, the Roman and Byzantine architectural remains of the agora of Corinth had been in large measure exposed and published. There remained, however, one area within the limits of the classical agora in which no excavation had yet been attempted: the southwest corner, between the west end of the South Stoa and the south end of the West Shops.<sup>3</sup> In 1959, when the School's excavation at Lerna was drawing to a close, it was decided to resume work at Corinth and to start in the southwest corner of the Agora.<sup>4</sup> Since this area of some 1700 square meters (Fig. 1, bottom center) presented an opportunity of studying as a unit a large extent of Byzantine remains, it was decided to clear the entire corner, within the fenced archaeological zone, to Byzantine levels and only after a thorough study of these to proceed further to the Roman and Greek deposits.

<sup>1</sup> For the reports of the last excavation campaigns, see *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, pp. 131-140; XXIV, 1955, pp. 147-157.

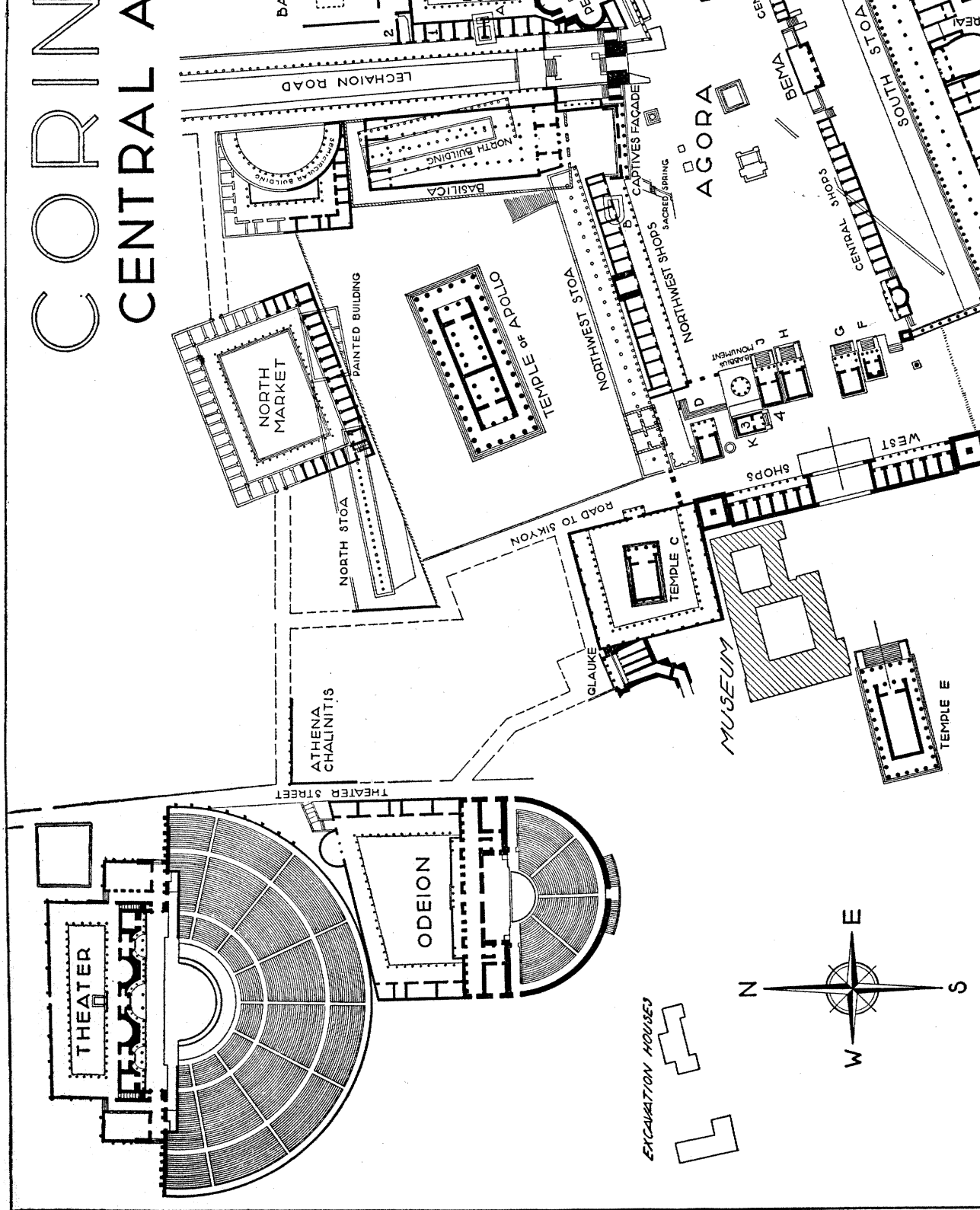
<sup>2</sup> I, iii, *The Monuments of the Lower Agora and North of the Archaic Temple*, by R. L. Scranton; I, iv, *The South Stoa and its Roman Successors*, by Oscar Broneer; II, *The Theater*, by Richard Stillwell; XIV, *The Asklepieion and Lerna*, by Carl Roebuck; XVI, *Mediaeval Architecture in the Central Area of Corinth*, by R. L. Scranton. Volume I, v, *The Southeast Building, The Twin Basilicas, The Mosaic House*, by Saul S. Weinberg, has appeared in 1960.

<sup>3</sup> See *Corinth*, XVI, plan IV, grid M-O/1-4.

<sup>4</sup> Work began on April 6, 1959, and continued until May 27. Elizabeth Milburn, White Fellow of the School, and Alesandra Schmidt, Arnold Fellow from Brown University, assisted in the direction of the field work. Evangelos Lekkas was again our foreman. George Kachros, though retired, continued to supervise the mending room, with the assistance of Nikos Didaskalou. John Travlos, the Architect of School Excavations, in the fall and winter of 1959-60 drew up the plans which are here published. The photographs were taken in part by J. L. Caskey. For whole-hearted support and encouragement I am deeply indebted to Mr. Caskey and also to Nikolaos Verdelis, Ephor of Corinthia and Argolis; Dimitrios Pallas, Ephor of Byzantine Antiquities for the Peloponnese, Northwest Greece and the Ionian Islands, showed great interest in our work and gave much valuable advice. I should like to express the sincere thanks of the School for the financial support given to the Corinth Excavations in 1959 by Brown University.

A report on Mr. Weinberg's separate excavation of Neolithic deposits at Corinth in 1959 appears below, pp. 240-253.

# CORIN CENTRAL A



The clearance in 1959 of some 800 square meters of the available area enabled us to expose the Byzantine structures shown in Figure 2. Extending north from the northwest corner of the South Stoa, a row of stumps of Doric monolithic columns of the archaic period marks the line of an aqueduct built in Roman times.<sup>5</sup> In the Byzantine era some of these column stumps still rose above ground level and formed the eastern edge of a firmly packed, gravelled road which descended from the south (Pl. 57, a).<sup>6</sup> Beyond the fifth column north of the corner of the South Stoa the road turned northeast and entered the agora of the Byzantine city.<sup>7</sup> The road metal here showed that this thoroughfare had carried heavy traffic during the 12th and early 13th centuries after Christ and that it had gone out of use in the Frankish period, in the later 13th century. Bordering the road on the west appeared a complex of structures of which only the northern eight rooms (1-8 on Fig. 2) can now be distinguished as a unit. Here we found four two-room apartments, none of which appears to have communicated with another (Pl. 57, a, b). Each apartment was entered from the road at the east; from the east room a door led into a western chamber; from that, in turn, another door gave access to a large open courtyard behind the structure (Pl. 57, c).<sup>8</sup> Though the four apartments were independent of one another, they appear to have used the courtyard in common, since no dividing walls were found within that area. The walls of the building are of poor construction, employing much re-used material (including some poros blocks which probably belong to the South Stoa), field stones, brick and tile fragments; no mortar was utilized in the construction. In one doorway (between rooms 5 and 6) the threshold is of marble (an Ionic column capital, re-used); the other thresholds are of poros blocks or small stones. Floor levels were distinguished only with difficulty. In every case the floor was of earth and appears to have been laid about 0.10 m. below the threshold. In several rooms successive floor levels could be observed and there was some indication of elevation of the thresholds as the exterior and interior ground levels were raised. The earliest of the floors, however, cannot be dated before the end of the 11th century, while the last belongs to a period not later than the beginning of the 13th. The life of these eight rooms, in the arrangement in which they appear in Figure 2, was little more than one hundred years; they went out of use before traffic ceased on the road at the east. Many of the walls were built over earlier walls of the same or only slightly

<sup>5</sup> *Corinth*, XVI, pp. 2, 24 (5th century after Christ); *Corinth*, I, iv, p. 155 (Hadrianic).

<sup>6</sup> The level of the road drops approximately 1.00 m. in a distance of about 30.00 m. from the southern limit of the excavation. The highest preserved road strosis was observed at 84.10 m. above sea level at the south, at 83.04 m. further north. The depth of the road gravel was as much as 2.00 m. at some points. For datum point and bench marks, see Appendix, pp. 00-00 and Figure 5.

<sup>7</sup> The northeast extension of the road was discovered in earlier campaigns. See *Corinth*, XVI, plan VI, grid L-M/4 ("The Road to Acrocorinth").

<sup>8</sup> Room 2 did not communicate directly with the court, but with another room at the north which was excavated in earlier campaigns; that room may have had a means of egress to the court.

different orientation; but even the earlier walls cannot long antedate those of the 12th century settlement. For, although the plan of earlier structures is not yet clear because of the overlying building, excavation to considerable depth in all or a part of each of the eight rooms revealed no significant deposits which could be dated by pottery or coins to the period between the 6th and the late 11th centuries.

Living arrangements within the apartments were simple in the extreme. Only in two rooms could we distinguish built hearths. In the northeast corner of room 7 is a rectangular structure, built of materials similar to those of the walls, 1.80 m. x 0.95 m. and rising 0.30 m. above the hard-packed earth floor (Pl. 57, d). The hearth proper appears to have been in the western half of the rectangle, while the eastern portion, filled with stones, may have provided a levelled space on which to set pots after cooking. In the northeast corner of room 1 a curving line of small stones forms a very simple hearth of modest dimensions. Against the east wall of the same room rests a small block of poros (0.40 m. square) rising 0.23 m. above the floor level; this, too, appears to have served as a hearth, for a depression in its top surface (0.27 m. x 0.30 m.; 0.12 m. deep) was found partly filled with soft black ash. In room 2 we observed along the west wall four slabs of stone projecting into the room at a level about 0.10 m. above the 12th century floor level; in the northeast corner, at approximately the same level, appeared a marble column base (taken from the colonnade of the West Shops), placed upside down (Pl. 57, c, upper right). The column base may have served as a low table or table-support; the blocks along the west wall might have supported a bench. Other than these, we found no traces of interior arrangements of a permanent character in rooms 1 to 8.

No storage pithoi were found in any of the rooms, nor was there any evidence of wells or cisterns in use in the 12th century. Presumably water was brought from some near-by spring (the fountain of "Hadji Mustafa," which must have served in Byzantine as it certainly did in Turkish times, lies some 300 m. to the south and west) or perhaps from a well in the courtyard to the west, still not completely excavated.

South of the four-unit structure just mentioned lies a more impressive building oriented from east to west, its east wall lying some three to four meters west of the gravelled road. This building (rooms 10 and 12) obviously antedates rooms 1-8 and probably antedates the 12th century road gravel as well, since it is not constructed in relation to the direction of the road. Built very solidly, it is constructed of square piers of poros set at intervals of about 2.00 m.; the spaces between the piers are filled with smaller blocks of poros, field stones, brick and tile; the fragments of brick and tile are frequently set in the vertical as well as the horizontal joints of the masonry. No mortar is employed. This pattern of construction appears also in some parts of the walls of rooms 1-8, 9 and 11 (Pl. 57, c); but here the execution is much more careful. At several points in rooms 10 and 12 the walls are preserved to sufficient



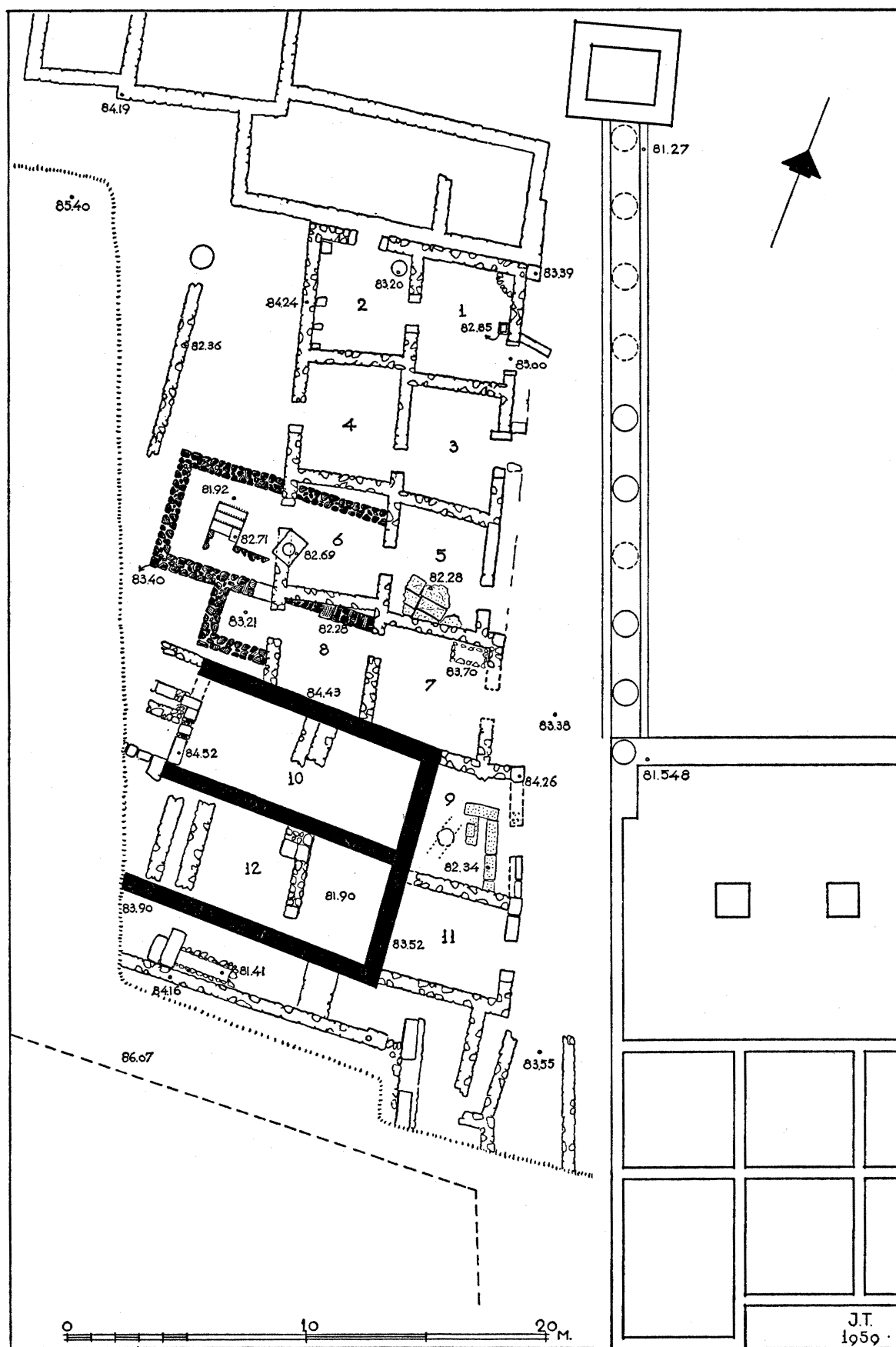


FIG. 2. Corinth. Plan of Byzantine Settlement in Southwest Corner of Central Area (1959).

height to show that each pier (*ca.* 1.00 m. to 1.50 m. in height) was capped by a wider block (Pl. 58, b) above which rose a second pier. The arrangement of vertical piers and horizontal cap stones creates a cross pattern which is met frequently in Byzantine architecture of the 11th and 12th centuries—examples are to be seen in the Argolid, Corinthia, Attica and elsewhere;<sup>9</sup> but our building is an especially good example, of careful workmanship, the walls 0.70 m. thick. The building is divided longitudinally; the west end of the structure has not yet been found, though we have excavated for a distance of 12.00 m. beyond the east wall. The highest preserved point of the wall is at 84.50 m. above datum. At several points within rooms 10 and 12 we have dug to 81.70 m. above datum without reaching the bottom of the wall. Moreover, we have found no doorways in the walls, nor any thresholds. At two points the wall is broken—where room 7 abuts against room 10 and near the western end of the south wall of room 12 (Pl. 58, b)—but in both places the gaps are due to pillaging of the walls in the late 13th century. Further, the fill within the rooms, below 83.00 m., is primarily late Roman. It appears probable that the Byzantine builders dug well over a meter down through an accumulation of Roman (and even of Hellenistic) fill in order to make the trenches for the foundations of the walls of rooms 10 and 12. The quality of the construction is surprising indeed for what must have been in large measure invisible foundation. It should be pointed out, however, that because of the general incline of terrain down toward the north, the north face of the building was probably exposed to a greater depth than the south face in the time before the construction of the adjoining rooms (1-8) at the north.

Between the large early building and the north-south road two rooms were built in the 12th century (9 and 11). These do not seem to have communicated with one another nor with rooms 10 or 12 to the west. The interpretation of the few walls which appeared to the south of rooms 11 and 12 must await further excavation in the area (now private property) which lies due south of the fenced archaeological zone at this point.

It is fortunate that the excavation has given us a clear indication of the use of most of these various rooms. In at least one room of each apartment (in rooms 1, 4, 5, 7) and in room 11 also were found scoriae of iron and bronze, fragments of small crucibles, bits of moulds of stone and clay for casting metal objects, and partly finished objects of bronze which had been left in the condition in which they emerged from the moulds. The greatest concentration of these traces of industrial activity was in room 4, which would appear to have been the principal factory in the group. It is well to recall that at points even closer to the center of the Byzantine agora have been

<sup>9</sup> See Megaw, *B.S.A.*, XXXII, 1931-32, pp. 100-102 (Holy Apostles and Kapnikarea in Athens; Daphni); Struck, *Ath. Mitth.*, XXXIV, 1909, pp. 196-201 (Chonika in the Argolid); *Corinth*, XVI, pp. 98-99; Stikas, *L'église byzantine de Christianou*, 1951, pp. 24-25 (Christianou in Triphylia).

found potteries and glass factories.<sup>10</sup> These establishments were for the most part on the south edge of the agora, as, in a sense, are our bronze-working shops.

At a few points we have exposed walls of pre-Byzantine date. Beneath and to the west of rooms 6 and 8 are two rooms, probably of late Roman times (Pl. 57, b). Within the western half of the northern room lies a flight of stairs, of which three treads are preserved, rising from north to south (Pl. 58, a).<sup>11</sup> It is possible that the fourth tread constituted a landing from which the stair turned at a right angle and continued up to the east, along the inner face of the south wall of the room. This area will be investigated more fully in the 1960 campaign. In room 9 two Roman walls, extending in a north-south direction, lie about 0.75 m. below the 12th century floor level. Just to the west of these walls, and about 0.30 m. below their highest preserved point, is the mouth of a manhole; this was found covered by a marble relief (Pl. 60, a; below, p. 235) placed upside down, and by irregular slabs of rough stone. Below the cover slabs the shaft extended down only 3.70 m. At bottom (78.39 m. above datum) channels 1.00 m. wide and 1.70 m. high open out to northeast and southwest. The fill in the shaft was consistently late Roman, of the 4th and 5th centuries. We made no effort during the 1959 season to open the channels, the roof of which lies about 1.25 m. below the level of the stylobate of the South Stoa. Below the base of the west wall of room 6 appeared another manhole, covered by a single slab of poros (Pl. 57, b, behind the stairway). The wellhead was cut in part into a block of fine poros, the mouldings on which are similar in character to those of the copings on the triglyph walls above the Sacred Spring (Fig. 3).<sup>12</sup> The upper fill of the shaft contained Byzantine pottery; at the bottom, where channels opened out to northwest and southeast, the fill appeared to be late Roman. The floor of the channels lies at 71.38 m. above sea level. They are cut in soft clay and their roof (at 73.18 m.) is formed by the layer of conglomerate rock above the clay. Obviously we have here hit upon another of the manholes of the Peirene system; the southeast channel must certainly connect with that which was discovered earlier in the line of the west wall of the South Stoa, about 6.00 m. south of the northwest corner column of the Stoa.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> *Corinth*, XVI, pp. 35, 47-48, 49, 56, 59, 61, 67-68, 73, 135.

<sup>11</sup> The lowest two treads are partly covered by a mass of later masonry.

<sup>12</sup> A 350. Cf. *A.J.A.*, VI, 1902, p. 309, fig. 2, pl. IX; L. T. Shoe, *Profiles of Greek Mouldings*, 1936, pl. L, 19. The mouldings of the newly discovered stone differ in part from those of each of the two series of triglyph wall copings which occur in the area of the Sacred Spring; our coping must represent a third triglyph wall located somewhere in the central area of Corinth of the 5th century before Christ. The fine stucco which covered the surface has suffered considerable damage and the colors of the painted ornament have faded, for the most part, beyond recovery. However, the incised lines of a complex meander can be read on the upper fascia; the cavetto shows traces of a painted leaf pattern, similar to that illustrated in *A.J.A.*, VI, 1902, pl. IX; some red paint can be distinguished on the lowest fascia, probably a band of solid color without ornament.

<sup>13</sup> *Corinth*, I, iv, p. 5, plan IX.

In room 5, at 82.28 m. above datum (and 0.73 m. above the stylobate of the South Stoa) appeared several slabs of limestone, possibly paving blocks such as those of the Lechaion and Kenchreai roads. The stones may be in situ and may thus represent the road which in Roman times led south from the Agora toward Acrocorinth.



FIG. 3. Triglyph Wall Coping Stone. Profile. Scale 1:3.

By the 4th or 5th century after Christ the traffic on this road must have decreased appreciably, for we found the remains of a limekiln built over the paving blocks in the area of room 5.

Two large sections of a marble, Ionic raking cornice were found lying flat in the lower levels of the filling of the courtyard west of rooms 2 and 4. On neither block is the full width preserved; each has been cut, for re-use, out of a wider block, but they are not both from the same block. The proportions of the cyma reversa of the geison soffit and the inconsiderable height of the fascia beneath the cyma may indicate

a 3rd or 2nd century B.C. date (Fig. 4).<sup>14</sup> It is indeed tantalizing to find these remains of a building of the Greek period which must have been of exceptional importance and magnificence; marble as a building material at Corinth in Greek times is most uncommon after the 6th century.

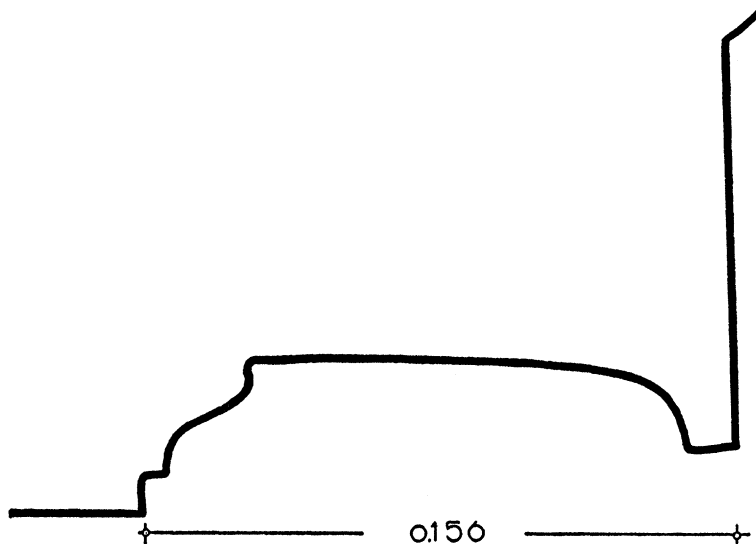


FIG. 4. Ionic Raking Cornice. Profile. Scale 1:2.

In addition to the pre-Byzantine structures, there appeared a few of post-Byzantine date, possibly Frankish of the late 13th or 14th century. The isolated fragments of wall of these buildings, found not far below the modern surface, were not sufficiently well-preserved to provide any coherent plan.

### THE FINDS

Pottery was turned up in embarrassing quantity. The glazed wares of Corinth in Byzantine times are already well known through Morgan's volume on the Byzantine pottery.<sup>15</sup> It was not to be expected that our campaign would materially enhance our knowledge of these wares. Yet several interesting finds did appear. A sgraffito plate of mid 12th century style,<sup>16</sup> unfortunately fragmentary, is decorated with a figure of a bird (facing l., head turned r.) and an inscription incised around the rim, under the glaze (Pl. 58, c): (fragment a) -]νατουστοπερηφανεσδηκαστηρηοντουαφ[-; (fragment b) -]νηλοσ[-; (fragment c) -]ενησκ[-; (fragment d) -]ντουγαυδαροτηνραυ.

<sup>14</sup> A 351, A 352. Cf. *Profiles of Greek Mouldings*, pl. XXXI, 38, p. 74.

<sup>15</sup> *Corinth*, XI.

<sup>16</sup> C-59-28. Est. diam. 0.21 m. One non-joining fragment (c) which appears in Plate 58, c was found on the third day of the 1960 campaign.

The large cursive *omega* which appears within a rectangular frame below the bird's tail would appear to mark the beginning of the text, for the painter had to crowd the last six letters of fragment *d* in beside and above this frame. The condition of the glaze and underpaint and the pattern of ornamentation suggest that the fragments should be arranged in the order given above, with the longest lacunae between *a* and *b* and between *d* and *a*. We may suggest the following reading:  $\text{--}\nu\alpha\ \tau\omicron\upsilon\varsigma\ \tau\omicron\ \text{(or, } \tau\omicron\upsilon\ \sigma\tau\omicron\text{)}\ \pi\epsilon\rho\eta\phi\alpha\nu\acute{\epsilon}\varsigma\ \delta\eta\kappa\alpha\sigma\tau\acute{\eta}\rho\eta\omicron\nu\ \tau\omicron\upsilon\ \acute{\alpha}\phi[\acute{\epsilon}\nu\tau\eta\ \text{( ? )} \text{--} \text{--}]\ \nu\eta\lambda\omicron\sigma\ \text{[--} \text{--}]\ \epsilon\nu\eta\sigma\kappa[\text{--} \text{--}]\ \nu\ \tau\omicron\upsilon\ \gamma\alpha\upsilon\delta\acute{\alpha}\text{--}\rho\omicron\langle\nu\rangle\ \tau\eta\nu\ \langle\omicron\upsilon\text{(? )}\rangle\ \rho\acute{\alpha}\nu\ \text{(or, } \tau\eta\nu\ \rho\acute{\alpha}\chi\langle\iota\nu\rangle\text{?)}$ . We invite interpretations of this text. The plate was decorated by the same hand which produced Corinth plates C-37-879 (Morgan, *Corinth*, XI, no. 1107, p. 276, pl. XLII, b), C-33-403 (Morgan no. 1177, p. 282, pl. XLII, a) and perhaps C-33-363 (Morgan no. 1500, p. 315); this artist we may dub the "Donkey Master."

One interesting group of 13th century pottery appeared in a bothros dug deep into the fill of the courtyard behind rooms 1-8. In addition to coarse cooking and storage vessels (Pl. 59, b),<sup>17</sup> the group contained a number of specimens of Proto-Majolica ware and at least two imported, Near Eastern vessels (Pl. 59, a):<sup>18</sup> a cylindrical vase of gritty fabric much like faience, covered with a thick, bluish green glaze;<sup>19</sup> and a large amphora of fine, reddish fabric covered with metallic bluish green glaze and decorated with applied spiral ropes on the handles.<sup>20</sup> Of the coarse wares illustrated in Plate 59, b it may be remarked that both types of vessel are characteristic of Corinthian pottery of the 13th century. The amphorae with "matt painted" spirals in black or reddish brown paint on buff clay do not seem to appear before the very end of the 12th century. The cooking pots with high, plain rims are quite distinct from their counterparts of the 12th century, which generally have reddish rather than gray or black clay and have a low rim marked by a horizontal groove on the exterior (Pl. 59, c illustrates typical cooking vessels of the 12th century).<sup>21</sup> In addition to the "matt painted" ware, which bears a remote and almost certainly accidental resemblance to certain Middle Helladic fabrics, our campaign of 1959 produced a few examples of another type of vessel whose decoration may quite possibly be an intentional reproduction of Protogeometric patterns (Pl. 59, d).<sup>22</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The vessels shown in Plate 59, b are, left to right: C-59-73, C-59-74, C-59-75, C-59-71.

<sup>18</sup> The vessels shown in Plate 59, a are, left to right: C-59-76, C-59-77, C-59-78.

<sup>19</sup> C-59-76. Cf. C-38-332 (*Corinth*, XI, p. 170, fig. 151, B).

<sup>20</sup> C-59-77. Cf. C-34-412.

<sup>21</sup> The vessels shown in Plate 59, c are, left to right: C-59-81, C-59-85, C-59-83.

<sup>22</sup> C-59-51. The clay is red, the dull glaze is black. None of these vessels is complete; some seem to have had four vertical handles, and in at least two instances the spout was decorated with an *appliqué* bird on either side. The French excavators at Argos report that they have discovered a grave of the Geometric period which had been disturbed in Byzantine times and resealed, after the addition of a Byzantine pot to the Geometric offerings (*B.C.H.*, LXXXIII, 1959, p. 764). It is not impossible that the chance discovery of a Protogeometric grave gave the Byzantine potter the

Sculpture and inscriptions found in the excavation were not distinguished. The most interesting piece of sculpture is the votive relief used as a cover for the manhole in room 9 (Pl. 60, a; see above p. 231).<sup>23</sup> This is a well-executed specimen of a common type of funeral banquet relief ("Totenmahlrelief");<sup>24</sup> the quality of the carving suggests a date in the late 4th or early 3rd century B.C.

Of the small objects of bronze the best preserved are the mortar and pestle found together in the eastern part of room 10 (Pl. 59, e) in a deposit of the 12th century.<sup>25</sup> By far the most interesting material from the excavation was the bronze-factory debris, including crucibles, moulds and incomplete bronze objects. A selection of these, all from room 4, is illustrated in Plate 60, b, c, d.<sup>26</sup>

The coins of the 1959 campaign have not yet been studied in detail. Some 2500 coins were found, of which many disintegrated in cleaning. Of the bronzes, most were issues of the 12th century (especially Alexius I, 1081-1118, and Manuel I, 1143-1180) and of the 13th (Frankish rulers). One gold coin, a solidus of Constantine VII and Romanus II (945-959) turned up in fill of the early 13th century. A few bronzes of Corinth as a Roman colony present types not previously recorded.

inspiration for a new form of decoration; it is improbable, however, that the shape of the vessel was derived from the same source.

<sup>23</sup> S 2632. Fine-grained, white marble. H. 0.39 m.; W. 0.615 m. The damage at the center of the lower edge results from the fracture of the projecting tongue, ca. 0.125 m. wide, which fastened the relief to its stela-base (cf. Reinach, *Répertoire de reliefs grecs et romains*, II, 1912, p. 43, 4); after this damage the relief was re-erected and held in position by means of four metal clamps, the cuttings for which appear in either side and at the two lower corners. There is no trace of inscription.

The relief panel is enclosed by pilasters at l. and r.; above, an entablature crowned by eaves tiles. An elderly, bearded male figure, half draped, head facing and crowned with polos, reclines on a draped couch; he holds a rhyton in his raised r. hand, a cup in his l. At his feet a woman is seated, facing r., holding in front of her with both hands a bowl containing fruits. Before the couch, a table with food (cakes, including some of pyramidal shape). At l. stands a small, youthful male figure, naked, half right; he holds a patera in his raised l. hand, an oinochoe in his r. In front of him, a large krater of slender proportions. Above the youth's head, the head and neck of a horse, to r.; the horse's head is framed by a pilaster at r. only. This relief contains no trace of the serpent which so often appears, nor are there any worshippers or attendants approaching from the left; the woman is not veiled. A close parallel to the relative positions of the figures which are present may be found in a relief from Halikarnassos, now in the British Museum (A. H. Smith, *Catalogue of Sculpture in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum*, I, 1892, no. 717).

<sup>24</sup> See P. Gardner, *J.H.S.*, V, 1884, pp. 107 ff.; W. H. D. Rouse, *Greek Votive Offerings*, 1902, pp. 20-23; A. H. Smith, *op. cit.*, pp. 298-301, 333-346; S. Reinach, *op. cit.*, pp. 42-45, 163, 178-179, 292-293, 412-414, 430-431, 507; Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, *Katalog der Sammlung antiker Skulpturen*, III, 1928, K 94-101; F. Cumont, *Recherches sur le symbolisme funéraire des Romains*, 1942, pp. 417 ff. (esp. p. 419, note 1); U. Hausmann, *Kunst und Heilum, Untersuchungen zu den griechischen Asklepiosreliefs*, 1958, pp. 111-124; D. von Bothmer, *Bull. Metr. Mus. Art*, XVI, 1957-58, pp. 187, 190.

<sup>25</sup> MF 10006 (mortar) and 10007. Cf. *Corinth*, XII, nos. 572, 1440.

<sup>26</sup> Plate 60, b, top row, left to right, MF 10037, MF 9998, MF 10035; below, MF 10029. Plate 60, c, MF 10036 (above) and MF 10034. Plate 60, d, MF 10018.

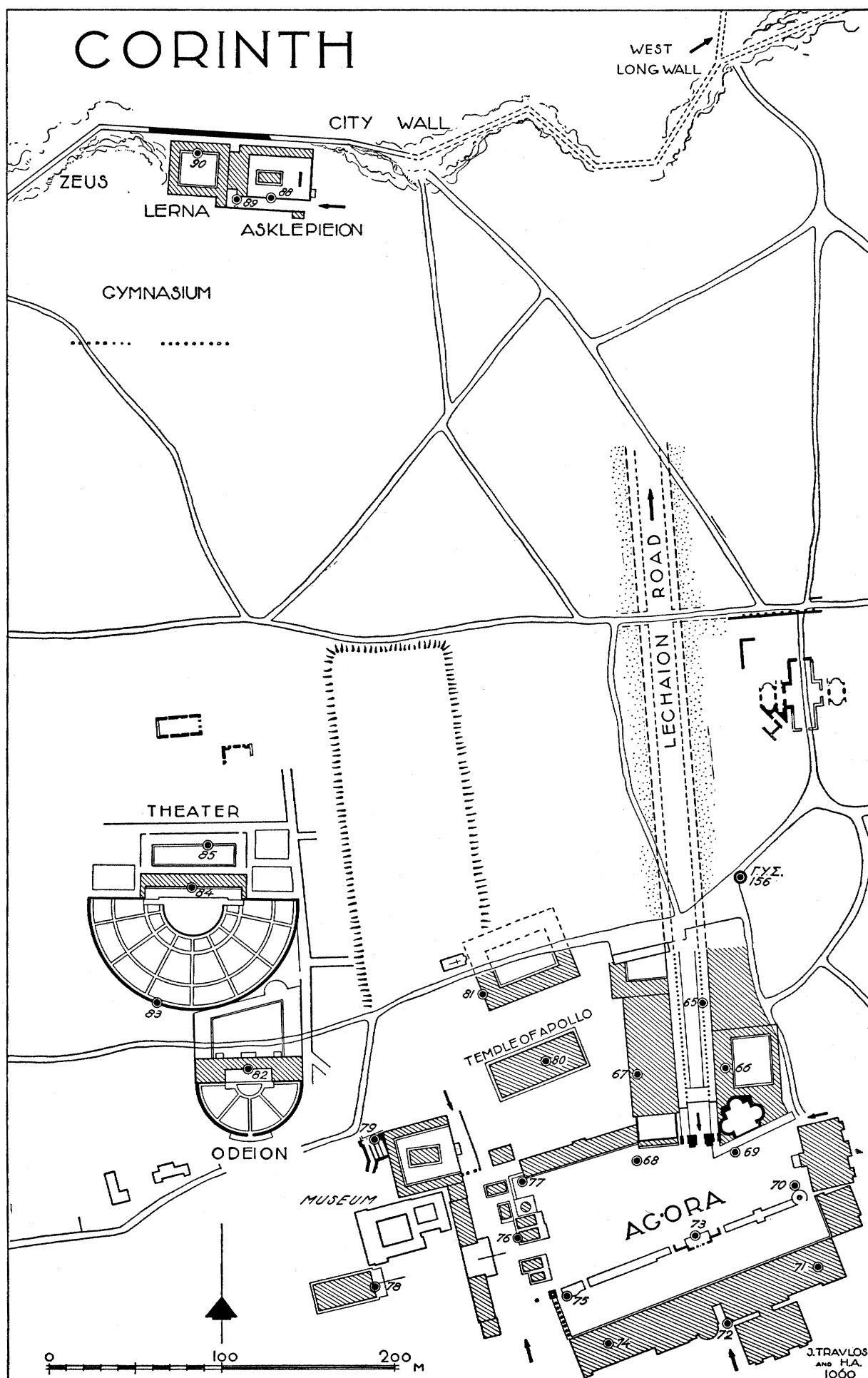


FIG. 5. Corinth. Plan of Central and Northern Areas, with Bench Marks (1960).



## APPENDIX

## CORINTH DATUM POINT AND BENCH MARKS

In the early years of the excavations at Ancient Corinth the datum point for determining elevations was the stylobate of the archaic temple, measured at the southwest angle.<sup>27</sup> In the publications of certain buildings a specific level within each building was used as datum point.<sup>28</sup> In more recent years, especially since the survey made in 1946 by the staff architect of the American School, John Travlos, the datum point has been mean sea level,<sup>29</sup> as determined by the Geographical Service of the Greek Army. This Service has installed in the village square of Archaia Korinthos a metal pin set at 74.046 m. above mean sea level;<sup>30</sup> that bench mark has served as the basis for Travlos' survey. Within the area of the American excavations at Ancient Corinth Travlos has set up twenty-three similar bench marks, heavy metal pins set either vertically or horizontally in cement; each is marked with the letters "A A" (Ἀμερικανικαὶ Ἀνασκαφαί) and a serial number. Figure 5 shows the positions of these bench marks. The elevation of each and a detailed description of the location appear below.<sup>31</sup>

AREA	BENCH MARK NUMBER	ELEVATION	LOCATION
Lechaion Road	65-V	71.204 m.	Lechaion Road, East sidewalk, 16.60 m. north of the line of the north wall of the Peribolos of Apollo, 0.78 m. east of the curb.
	66-V	72.028 m.	Temple A. In the top course of the foundations of the east cella wall, 1.18 m. north of the inner face of the south foundation wall.
	67-V	77.207 m.	North Basilica. In a masonry pier of the foundations for the western colonnade of the later Basilica, almost due west of the southwest corner column of the Greek North Building and opposite Shop IV of the Lechaion Road West Shops; on the upper surface of the third course from the top of the pier.

<sup>27</sup> *A.J.A.*, VIII, 1904, p. 438; *Corinth*, I, p. 160, note 2; *Corinth*, X, pl. III. The level of the stylobate is 84.85 m. above sea level (measured in 1946).

<sup>28</sup> *Corinth*, II (Theater), p. 15, note 2; *Corinth*, I, iv (South Stoa), p. 18, note 3.

<sup>29</sup> *Corinth*, I, iii (Lower Agora); *Corinth*, XIV (Asklepieion and Lerna).

<sup>30</sup> T.Y.S. station no. 156; at the northeast corner of the village square, in the north wall of a building belonging to Panayotis Tselios, 0.23 m. from the northwest corner of the structure and 0.39 m. above the sidewalk.

<sup>31</sup> The letters "H" and "V" appended to the several serial numbers indicate the horizontal or vertical position of the pin. The pins have a head which is circular in plan and convex in elevation. The effective measuring point is: the top of the convex surface of pins which are set vertically; the highest point on the circumference of the head of pins which are set horizontally.

AREA	BENCH MARK NUMBER	ELEVATION	LOCATION
Agora, East	68-V	77.049 m.	South of Captives Façade. Large monument base which extends from 7.30 m. to 12.30 m. east of the southeast corner of the Triglyph Wall. On top of the foundation, 2.28 m. in from the south face, 0.95 m. in from the east face.
	69-V	78.037 m.	South of Peirene. Monument base, adjacent to the south façade and near the west end of the later colonnade which lies above and to the south of Peirene. On the top surface of the foundations, 0.68 m. in from the south face and 0.45 m. in from the west face.
	70-H	78.637 m.	Central Terrace, east end. Rectangular podium in front of the Circular Monument. In the north face, 2.11 m. west of the northeast corner and 0.73 m. below the highest preserved course.
Agora, South and Center	71-V	81.046 m.	South Stoa, east end. Partition wall between Shops II and III. On the top surface of the euthynteria, at the north face of the block which bonds the intersection of the partition wall and the east-west median wall of the shops.
	72-V	82.724 m.	South Stoa. On the south wall, 0.84 m. west of the inner face of the west wall of Shop XV and immediately east of the east edge of the paved road leading south through the Stoa.
	73-V	78.164 m.	Bema. North face, on the top of the limestone euthynteria for the marble facing; 6.67 m. east of the northwest corner of the lower marble step and 0.42 m. in from the line of the north face of the step.
	74-V	81.644 m.	South Stoa, west end. In the toichobate of the front wall of the shops, on the axis of the partition wall between Shops XXIX and XXX.
Agora, West	75-H	79.947 m.	Central Shops, west end. Dionysion. In the north face of the rear wall of the west room, 0.92 m. east of the west wall and 0.47 m. above the toichobate.
	76-H	80.983 m.	Temple H ("Herakles"). In the west face of the poros casing of the podium, between the second and third courses from the bottom, 2.69 m. south of the northwest corner of the second course.

AREA	BENCH MARK NUMBER	ELEVATION	LOCATION
	77-V	78.900 m.	West Terrace, north end. Lower court to east of Temple D ("Hermes"). On top of the foundations of a monument base, 2.04 m. west and 0.55 m. south of the southwest corner of the stylobate of the Northwest Shops.
	78-V	85.502 m.	Temple E. On the top surface of the lowest course of poros casing of the podium, east end, 4.42 m. north of the south face of the euthynteria and 1.02 m. west of the east line of the euthynteria.
	79-V	81.138 m.	Fountain of Glauke. On the top surface of the parapet bedding, at the joint between the north face of the draw basins and the wall which divides the two eastern basins.
Temple Hill	80-V	83.282 m.	Archaic Temple. In bedrock, between the foundation beddings for the interior colonnades of the cella; 4.45 m. east of the west edge of the bedding for the dividing wall of the cella and 1.23 m. north of the north edge of the bedding for the south interior colonnade.
	81-V	74.888 m.	North Market. West wall. On top of the first course above the toichobate, on the axis of the partition wall between the second and third shops from the south ( <i>Corinth</i> , I, iii, plan K).
Odeion-Theater	82-V	75.910 m.	Odeion. In the top course of the foundations of the north wall of the stage building, on the axis of the central door leading to the Odeion court, 1.22 m. in from the south edge of the foundation.
	83-V	72.732 m.	Theater. Outer cavea wall. In the line of stair IX of the Greek cavea, on top of the second highest preserved course of the wall.
	84-V	58.240 m.	Theater. Near southwest corner of the "masonry foundation" set into the central passage of the Greek <i>skene</i> as basis for the central apse of the Roman <i>scaenae frons</i> ( <i>Corinth</i> , II, pp. 61-62, figs. 26, 55); approximately under the position of the stairs which are restored as leading from the apse up to the level of the theater peribolos.
	85-V	60.886 m.	Theater Peribolos. On the limestone stylobate (second period) of the colonnade, north side, 5.17 m. west of the interior northeast corner of the stylobate.

AREA	BENCH MARK NUMBER	ELEVATION	LOCATION
	86		(Not yet assigned)
	87		(Not yet assigned)
Asklepieion and Lerna	88-V	52.870 m.	Asklepieion. On the highest preserved course of the south wall of the precinct colonnade, 13.95 m. east of the southwest corner of the wall.
	89-V	48.980 m.	Asklepieion. Gateway at the west end of the ramp, at the south edge of the central block of the threshold.
	90-V	47.684 m.	Lerna. On the highest preserved course of the rear wall of the north colonnade, 7.55 m. west of the northeast corner of the wall.

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES  
ATHENS

HENRY S. ROBINSON

## PART II

Evidence of the prehistoric occupation of Corinth appeared in the first year of the American excavations (1896) and we now know that this occupation began with the earliest pottery Neolithic culture represented in Greece and continued, with some gaps, down to the end of the Mycenaean world.<sup>1</sup> Most of the deposits located are of Neolithic and Early Helladic date, before 2000 B.C.; in the central area of the ancient Agora and north to the edge of the first terrace above the coastal plain, there is a gap in our evidence of occupation until Mycenaean times.<sup>1</sup> Only in a series of graves in the main area of the North Cemetery in the coastal plain are there remains of the Middle Helladic period.<sup>2</sup> The Late Helladic period is scantily represented here, slightly more copiously in the Cheliotomylos area near by. The systematic exploration of prehistoric Corinth began in 1914, when many of the areas revealed by chance in earlier excavations were investigated, and this work continued from 1920 to 1935,<sup>3</sup> but most of it was of necessity done in pits and small trenches, often dug through deep deposits of the Classical and post-Roman debris, which had not yet been removed from the Agora area. Some larger trenches were dug on Temple Hill in 1937,<sup>4</sup> but here the

<sup>1</sup> Weinberg, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 487-488; XVIII, 1949, pp. 156-157; Broneer, *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, pp. 292-293.

<sup>2</sup> Shear, *A.J.A.*, XXXIV, 1930, pp. 406-409; Platner, *Art and Archaeology*, XXXI, 1931, pp. 155-160.

<sup>3</sup> Kosmopoulos, *The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth*, Munich, 1948, pp. 7-39.

<sup>4</sup> *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 487-524.

shallowness of the prehistoric deposit to the north of the Temple of Apollo, due to the washing out of much of the earth, and the very limited area of it preserved to the south precluded the establishment of a reliable stratigraphic sequence of Neolithic and Early Helladic deposits. For twenty-two years thereafter, the discoveries relevant to prehistoric Corinth were incidental to the excavation of later remains; all consisted of small, widely scattered deposits, none of which helped in any way to fill the need for a stratigraphic sequence.

In an attempt to discover deposits of sufficient depth to yield such information, I examined again the accounts of all previous excavations of prehistoric deposits at Corinth.<sup>5</sup> Three mentions of deep and apparently well stratified deposits appeared: 1) 2.50 m. of fill of what we now call Early and Middle Neolithic, found in a trench somewhere on the south side of Temple Hill,<sup>6</sup> but subsequent exploration in this area had shown that little or no fill of this nature remains here; 2) 2.50 m. of Neolithic deposit, with perhaps a few Early Helladic sherds, below the earliest graves in many parts of the North Cemetery,<sup>7</sup> but with some three meters of later deposits above; 3) 3.25 m. of fill, largely Neolithic, but with some Early Helladic sherds, tested in a trench dug in 1926 in the colonnade on the east side of the Lechaion Road, just to the north of the foundations of the Greek Temple A (Fig. 1).<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Kosmopoulos saw some of the prehistoric pottery taken from this trench and assigned it to her Period II, though pottery of Period I was also present; thus it seemed to be largely Early and Middle Neolithic.<sup>9</sup> The last area sounded the most promising, and the Geometric, Protocorinthian and Corinthian material that had been found above the prehistoric fill, in a depth of not more than two meters, was also of great interest.

The opportunity to investigate again some of the prehistoric deposits at Corinth presented itself in the spring of 1959,<sup>10</sup> and it was decided to start in the area east of the Lechaion Road. The colonnade of the road itself, the Peribolos of Apollo, the Baths of Eurykles and the complex of Byzantine walls which remains standing in

<sup>5</sup> This work was done in Greece during the year 1958-1959 as Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, while preparing a larger work on Neolithic Greece.

<sup>6</sup> Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, pp. 16-18.

<sup>7</sup> Shear, *op. cit.*, p. 404.

<sup>8</sup> Hill, *A.J.A.*, XXXI, 1927, pp. 72-73; Askew, *Corinth*, I, ii, p. 4.

<sup>9</sup> Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, pp. 27-28.

<sup>10</sup> The excavations were made possible through the very helpful cooperation of the Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Professor John L. Caskey, and of the Associate Director (now Director), Professor Henry S. Robinson, who was in charge of the 1959 campaign of excavations at Corinth; to both I am greatly indebted. Funds for the prehistoric excavations were provided by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. This part of the campaign was conducted from March 17 to April 9, with the author in charge of excavations, assisted by Mr. Perry A. Bialor, who also drew the plans and sections of the trenches and studied the stone artifacts, a part of his larger study of the lithic industries of prehistoric Greece. Mr. Evangelos Lekkas was foreman for the excavation and Mr. George Kachros was pot mender.

the area of the Baths <sup>11</sup> have so cut up this whole region as to make difficult the finding of areas of any size for excavation. Since it was desirable to keep as close as possible to the 1926 trench, the areas chosen for investigation were in the vicinity of the Roman latrine (Pl. 61, a): 1) the second shop of the colonnade to the south of the latrine, where a trench 2.00 m. x 4.00 m. was dug, and 2) the larger shop immediately north of the latrine, which accommodated a trench 2.50 m. x 4.50 m. Both trenches were dug through 4.50-5.00 m. of fill to virgin soil (Pl. 61, c, d), which here was in the form of a thick layer of impervious greenish clay that sloped down both to west and north. With a datum established at the top of the stylobate of the Lechaion Road east colonnade, the depths to the clay layer were as follows: in Trench 1, to the south of the latrine, —4.80 m. at the southeast corner, —5.10 m. at the northeast, —5.20 m. at the southwest and —5.40 m. at the northwest; in Trench 2, just north of the latrine, —5.10 m. at the southeast corner, —5.30 m. at the northeast, —5.45 m. at the southwest and —5.80 m. at the northwest. In each trench small amounts of water collected in the northwest corner, but that in Trench 2 was considerably below the level of water in Trench 1. There seems, thus, to be no general water level in the area; rather, the water flows slowly along the top of the clay layer, accumulating in so far as the trench walls served as a dam, but dissipating slowly through them.

Since the two trenches were only about ten meters apart, it was to be assumed that they would give much the same evidence, serving as a check on one another, but at the same time giving a picture of the prehistoric accumulation over an area roughly fifteen meters long. In this length it is clear that all the strata, from the Early Neolithic to the archaic period, slope down to the north, much as does the virgin clay. It may not have been until the erection of a long stoa running north-south, the North Building, in the 5th century B.C.<sup>12</sup> that there was any major filling and leveling operation in the valley lying between Temple Hill on the west and the long north-south ridge on the east. This North Building probably reflects the orientation of the valley, north-northwest, more closely than does the later Lechaion Road; the trough of the valley may also have lain to the west of the Lechaion Road, more in the position of the North Building, skirting closely the east side of Temple Hill. It is apparent from the fill in our two trenches that for thousands of years, from the first occupation of Corinth in the Early Neolithic period, very likely in the fifth millennium B.C., down to the time of the construction of the first large-scale drainage system, probably not before the 5th century B.C., heavy rains brought tons of earth and debris from the slopes of Acrocorinth and from those of Temple Hill and the east ridge down into this valley, filling it gradually with the residue of cobblestones of all sizes and of the habitation debris caught among the cobbles after the water and the bulk of the earth

<sup>11</sup> See Scranton, *Corinth*, XVI, plan IV.

<sup>12</sup> Stillwell, *Corinth*, I, i, pp. 212-228.

had drained off. It is likely that a road always followed the bottom of the ravine, hugging rather closely the east flank of Temple Hill. The natural springs, later Peirene and the Sacred Spring, that issued from beneath the rock ledge at the south end of the valley, made this a desirable area for early settlement. That Temple Hill was a focus for settlement from earliest times has long been established;<sup>13</sup> it is clear from our latest excavations that already in Early Neolithic times the settlement extended southward from the hill and very likely to the east of the road through the valley as well.

The greatest part of the prehistoric fill in Trenches 1 and 2, however, was found to consist of water-laid deposit, almost always stony, at times sandy or clayey as well (Pl. 61, c, d). No road metal was found, for the road most likely lay to the west. Only at the very eastern edge of Trench 2 (Pl. 61, d) was there found a succession of clearly stratified floor levels, the topmost one with a clay hearth. But even in the water-laid deposit there was a kind of stratification resulting from the gradual filling of the ravine, though the action of torrential rains must frequently have cut into this deposit and churned it up. The stratification of Trench 2 (Pl. 61, d) was the more satisfactory, for the mud on the sloping clay of the bottom contained mainly a variety of Early Neolithic wares—variegated, red-slipped, painted, spongy coarse,<sup>14</sup> but mixed already with some of the red-slipped pottery of the Thessalian A1 variety.<sup>15</sup> All of this pottery, indeed almost all of the prehistoric pottery throughout the whole depth of accumulation in both trenches, was badly worn by the action of water and stones. In addition, it had obviously been removed from its place of original deposit, for almost none of the pieces could be fitted together. The pottery found above this very earliest accumulation was largely of the Middle Neolithic varieties—plain Neolithic Urfinis ware and a small quantity of the painted variety, some A1 type pottery, but mixed with a considerable quantity of Early Neolithic wares. A cobble layer in the east half of the trench, possibly a floor, at —4.80 m., marked the first clear division of the fill, and it is significant that on it occurred the first fragments of wares usually called Late Neolithic, including a piece of matt black on red ware, one of gray ware and several of black monochrome ware.<sup>16</sup> The fill remained predominantly Middle Neolithic, however, with Early Neolithic still mixed in, but for the next 0.45 m. the Late Neolithic varieties increased as the others diminished, and from —4.35 m. and up the pottery became predominantly Late Neolithic and earlier wares dwindled in quantity, until they disappeared almost entirely at —4.00 m. At the same time, the first red-slipped wares of the Early Helladic I type began to appear, and between —4.00 m. and —3.70 m. they were mixed in some quantity with the Late

<sup>13</sup> *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 487-524.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 492-498.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 498-503.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 503-515.

Neolithic pottery. The fill from —3.70 m. to —3.30 m. contained almost exclusively the E. H. I slipped ware, with but one fragment of E.H. II glazed ware and a few strays of Late Neolithic pottery. Above —3.30 m. the E.H. II glazed wares increased and soon became predominant. The Early Helladic fill continued to a height of —2.50 m.; above this level the fill of the archaic period began. There was thus a maximum of 3.30 m. of prehistoric fill in Trench 2, from the —2.50 m. level to —5.80 m., the greatest depth in the northwest corner. Approximately one meter of this was Early Helladic, roughly one meter Late Neolithic, the remainder Middle Neolithic with only a bit at the very bottom which was predominantly Early Neolithic.

Trench 1 yielded a similar succession of layers (Pl. 61, c), with some variations. Mixed Early and Middle Neolithic pottery, with a bit of Late Neolithic, occurred from the bottom; the fill did not become predominantly Late Neolithic until the —4.40 m. level, as compared with —4.80 m. in Trench 2. Bits of Early Helladic ware began to occur at —2.80 m., over a meter higher than in Trench 2, but Late Neolithic pottery continued in some quantity up to —2.00 m. It was only at —1.85 m. that the E.H. I red-slipped wares became predominant and the first definite Early Helladic shapes were recognizable, this as compared with the same occurrence at —3.70 m. in Trench 2. The Early Helladic deposit seems to have been truncated at —1.75 m., where the pottery was still predominantly of the E.H. I type, but a little of the E.H. II glazed ware had begun to occur. Here the fill of the archaic period began, 0.75 m. higher than in Trench 2. The clear truncation of the top of the prehistoric fill in Trench 1 suggests that the same thing may have occurred in Trench 2; it is possible that in archaic times there was a series of terraces stepping down towards the north and these will be discussed below; indeed, what appears to be a terrace wall ran diagonally across the west half of Trench 2 from southeast to northwest through the E.H. I fill (Pl. 61, b) and suggests that there was terracing in the prehistoric period as well. In connection with the probable terracing in archaic times and the resultant removal of the top of the prehistoric fill, almost certainly at the higher (—1.75 m.) level of Trench 1 and possibly in Trench 2 as well as (at —2.50 m.), it is noteworthy that no fill which could be attributed to E.H. III, with its late glazed and painted wares, occurred in either trench. That such a level may never have existed is indicated by the fact that no E.H. III type pottery appeared among the quantities of prehistoric pottery of both Neolithic and Early Helladic types which was found mixed with the archaic or later pottery in both trenches. We shall see below that this is also true of the area dug on the western terrace of the Agora, as it was of the Temple Hill deposits excavated in 1937.<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Kosmopoulos makes no mention of E.H. III type pottery, of which the painted variety is so characteristic and has been shown at Lerna, most recently, to belong exclusively to that phase.<sup>18</sup> It would appear, then, that the Early

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 515-521.

<sup>18</sup> Caskey, *Hesperia*, XXV, 1956, pp. 161-162, 172-173; XXVI, 1957, p. 161; XXVII, 1958, p. 144.



Helladic occupation of Corinth probably ended at the close of the E.H. II phase, *ca.* 2300-2200 B.C., rather than at the end of E.H. III, *ca.* 2000 B.C. Whether this came about through abandonment or destruction is not known, and the excavations of 1959 gave no evidence in this regard; if the top of the E.H. II stratum were removed by levelling operations, such evidence would have been destroyed. However, the end of the Early Helladic occupation at Corinth would seem to be concurrent with the violent destruction of the E.H. II House of the Tiles at Lerna, which there marked the end of an era and was succeeded by the quite different E.H. III culture.<sup>19</sup> It is thus possible that this disturbance was more than a local one at Lerna.

The historic deposits, from —2.50 m. in Trench 2 and —1.75 m. in Trench 1, began to accumulate in the late 8th century B.C., as indicated by the profusion of early Protocorinthian ware, much of it of the geometric variety.<sup>20</sup> In Trench 2, the next 0.20 m. of deposit is largely Protocorinthian, then the pottery changes to Corinthian and soon shows an admixture of Attic pottery of the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. Already at —2.30 m., Roman sherds appeared; in a pit along the south edge of the trench a Roman intrusion extended down to —2.60 m. Above —2.30 m., the fill is very disturbed, showing everything from Protocorinthian to Roman; the top fill is almost purely Roman. The late Roman and post-Roman fill over the area had been removed down to a general level of *ca.* —1.40 m. In Trench 1, the same kind of Protocorinthian and Corinthian pottery as was found in Trench 2 occurred above the prehistoric fill from —1.75 m. to —1.40 m. At —1.70 m. was found the bronze lamp with iron hanger to be described below (p. —); in the level from —1.40 m. to —1.30 m. were the very fine Protocorinthian sherds shown at the left in Plate 64, d. Some Attic ware of the 6th century B.C. appeared in this last level, and it became more frequent in the level from —1.30 to —1.05 m., though Protocorinthian and Corinthian pottery still predominated. The presence of some of this Attic pottery may be due to the fact that a well, *ca.* 1.00 m. in diameter, was sunk through the fill at the very northwest corner of the trench. Its complete circle was isolated first at —1.45 m., but its top may originally have been higher and its fill could have contaminated the upper part of the archaic levels. The well, which descended to a depth of —5.55 m., down to the layer of impervious clay and cutting slightly into it to form a collecting basin, would appear to have been put out of use by a collapse of its sides in the lower meter, where the diameter now bells out decidedly. The fill of the bottom 0.10 m. was exclusively mixed Neolithic; above that the fill consisted largely of coarse archaic pottery, but contained a few pieces of finer wares as well. In the fill from —5.45 m. to —5.00 m. was found one of the finest pieces, the lower part of a vase shown in Plate 64, e and described below (p. 252). Apparently the sides

<sup>19</sup> Caskey, *Hesperia*, XXIII, 1954, p. 29; XXV, 1956, pp. 164-165, 172-173; XXVI, 1957, p. 161; XXVII, 1958, pp. 127-129, 144.

<sup>20</sup> Weinberg, *A.J.A.*, XLV, 1941, pp. 30-44.

of the well continued to collapse as the well was filled; from  $-4.55$  m. to  $-3.70$  m. there was an admixture of considerable Early Helladic pottery. The fine pottery from the well, scant as compared with the coarse or prehistoric fabrics, is largely Proto-corinthian and Corinthian, with a small amount of Attic black-glazed and black-figured ware dating not later than the 6th century B.C. Just to the south of this well and in the southwest corner of the trench, a terrace wall running east-west was found, its base at *ca.*  $-1.65$  m. (Pl. 62, a). It suggests, again, that in archaic times the area was a series of terraces descending toward the north. Over the northern half of Trench 1 there was a cobble pavement at  $-1.05$  m., and a white clay floor at the same level occupied the southern half (Pl. 62, b). The date of the floor, which clearly sealed the area over the well, is probably late 6th or 5th century B.C. When we began excavating, the floor formed the present surface over much of the trench, but across the east end and in the two western corners ancient fill had been left at higher levels. Roman pottery occurred, mixed with various Greek wares, in all the fill above the  $-1.05$  m. level.

The two trenches dug to the east of the Lechaion Road are thus seen to have yielded much important topographical information concerning both prehistoric and early historic Corinth. Although the prehistoric fill was largely water-laid, the hearth at  $-4.30$  m. at the very southeast corner of Trench 2 and the several successive floor levels below for the next half meter (Pl. 61, d) suggest that well stratified habitation debris of the Middle and Late Neolithic periods exists eastward from Trench 2, where further testing is possible. The historic deposit is habitation debris, and the well in Trench 1 indicated a probable area of houses. Yet the well stratified prehistoric deposit for which we had hoped was not found in these trenches in any significant quantity. We turned, therefore, to investigations at the western end of the Lower Agora and on the West Terrace, where scattered pockets of prehistoric fill had often been observed during the large-scale clearing of these areas in the 1930's. Many groups of Middle and Early Neolithic pottery especially gave evidence of very early occupation in this area, and the excavator on several occasions indicated that prehistoric fill had been left for future investigation.<sup>21</sup> The slope that rose to the west from the low area later occupied by the Agora, across the extent of the West Terrace and up onto the height where now stands the museum, apparently was thickly settled in prehistoric times.<sup>22</sup> Of the several possible sites for testing, we chose two that seemed most promising and excavated trenches as large as the sites permitted (Fig. 1).

<sup>21</sup> Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, pp. 5, 135. References to specific areas and deposits, both excavated or undug, were made by Scranton in his field notebooks for the St. John's Area for 1936-1938. Upon examination, the context pottery from these excavations proved to contain numerous Neolithic sherds in late deposits, as well as the several groups that Scranton specifically indicated.

<sup>22</sup> Besides the evidence already cited in note 21, Neolithic and Early Helladic remains excavated in 1940, in preparation for construction of the new east wing of the museum, were reported in

Trench 3, 3.70 m. x 3.00 m., was dug into the core of the cella foundations of Temple K on the West Terrace<sup>23</sup> (Figs. 1, 6, Pl. 62, c). The depth of fill averaged one meter and consisted mainly of successive layers of road metal sloping down to the east (Pl. 62, d).<sup>24</sup> While the topmost of these road levels contained Greek and Hellenistic pottery, the bulk of the pottery was Early Helladic and Late Neolithic. In the next layer below there was a little pottery of the 6th and 5th centuries B.C., but the rest was prehistoric. The fill then changed to one predominantly Late Neolithic, but with some Neolithic Urfinis ware of Middle Neolithic type. Successively lower

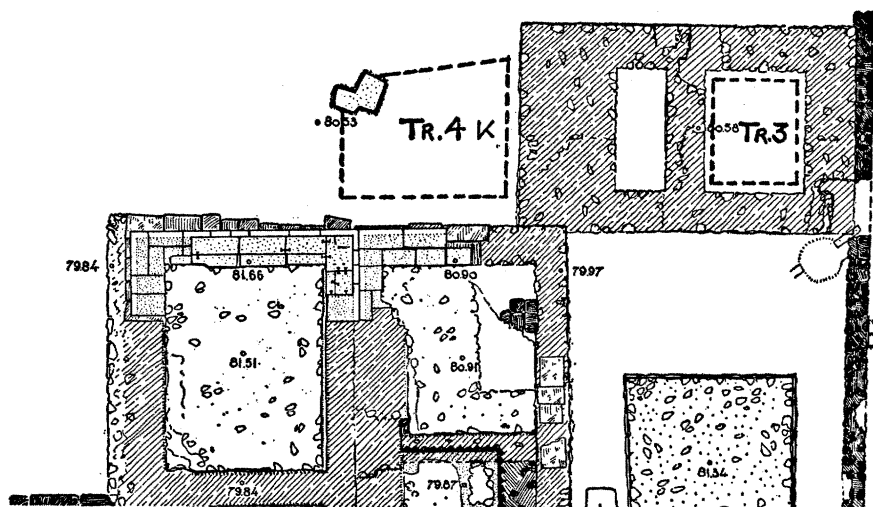


FIG. 6. Trenches 3 and 4, inside and in front of Temple K on West Terrace of Agora.

layers were almost purely Middle Neolithic, then mixed with an increasing amount of Early Neolithic pottery, while at the very bottom and along the east edge of the trench was a deposit that was pure Early Neolithic. The preliminary examination of the pottery from this stratified deposit indicated a gradual change from the variegated type of the Early Neolithic period to the better fired Middle Neolithic varieties and displays several pieces that show the characteristics of both types. Such a developmental sequence has not been available from Corinth; it is the major contribution of Trench 3 to our knowledge of prehistoric Corinth. The possible presence of a pure

*Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, pp. 197-203. Again, there is both Early and Middle Neolithic pottery, especially Neolithic Urfinis ware, and considerable Early Helladic deposits, including a well. The mixed Late Neolithic—Early Helladic fill (probably dumped in as part of a levelling operation) found to the west of the museum was reported in *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 599. The same fill was apparently noted in a pit dug to the south of Temple E (Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, pp. 31-39); Mrs. Kosmopoulos noted that here too there was no pottery of the kind characteristic of E. H. III.

<sup>23</sup> *Corinth*, I, iii, plan A.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6, pl. 3, which shows the similar layers in a trench dug just to the north of Temple K.

Early Neolithic level is also of great importance, for it very likely continues downhill towards the east and might be found there.<sup>25</sup> It indicates that the earliest settlement at Corinth was not confined to Temple Hill, but extended down its southern slopes, thus enjoying protection from the north winds which excavators at Corinth know so well.

Trench 4 was laid out in a trapeziform area to the south of Temple K, from just in front of the foundations for its porch to a point six meters to the south where a small section of the Roman Agora pavement of the West Terrace is preserved in place (Figs. 1, 6, Pl. 62, c, e), just about on the line of the north wall of Temple H.<sup>26</sup> The long Byzantine wall from the south half of the west end of the Monastery of St. John Theologos<sup>27</sup> has been left standing (Pl. 62, c, left), and the area between it and the foundations for Temples H and J diminishes in width towards the south. The trench that could be laid out, therefore, was 5.00 m. wide at the north end and 3.70 m. at the south. Although the area had been much disturbed in Byzantine times by two large, stone lined pits (Pl. 62, c),<sup>28</sup> and earlier had been dug into for a Hellenistic cistern,<sup>29</sup> so much prehistoric pottery, especially Neolithic Urfirnis ware, had been mixed with the later deposits that the area seemed to warrant investigation. Only a small island of fill remained after decontaminating the trench area of post-Classical debris by removing the stone linings of the pits and the Byzantine fill behind them. In the northwest corner was found the remainder of a large prehistoric pit (Pl. 62, e, top center), some of which had been cut away during Byzantine times. The fill, of very soft black earth with a heavy admixture of cobbles, contained quantities of Late Neolithic pottery in a wide variety as well as both slipped and glazed Early Helladic pottery. The pit bottom was formed by a thin and very compact Middle Neolithic layer just above hardpan. What fill remained in an even smaller island after clearing this pit contained a mixture of everything from Hellenistic pottery and even a bit of Roman to Early Neolithic. It was not until this mixed fill had been removed to within 0.20 m. of hardpan that there appeared over almost the entire trench, except where later intrusions had extended to hardpan, a Middle Neolithic stratum (Pl. 62, f) which yielded large quantities of Neolithic Urfirnis ware, both plain and with painted patterns, and contained some of the A1 red-slipped ware and a little Early Neolithic pottery as well. This is undoubtedly the most considerable area of pure Middle Neolithic deposit found thus far at Corinth and it will help greatly to define the ceramic

<sup>25</sup> In this regard, it is noteworthy that among the groups of context pottery from the St. John's Area there is one from the north side of the bottom of the foundation for the Babbis Monument, just to the east of Temple K (*Ibid.*, plan A), which contains only Early Neolithic variegated ware.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, plan A.

<sup>27</sup> *Corinth*, XVI, plan VI, K-2, along the St. John's Road.

<sup>28</sup> See *Corinth*, I, iii, pl. 21.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5, plan A.

characteristics of that period; that it was a distinct period, with but few survivals of the Early Neolithic phase and completely independent of the pottery types ascribed to Late Neolithic, is here fully confirmed. If, as has been suggested,<sup>30</sup> the gray and Anatolian black wares appear in the latter part of the Middle Neolithic period, that phase must be subsequent to the period of the deposit in Trench 4, for they are not found in it; they do appear immediately above in mixed Middle and Late Neolithic fill. The Middle Neolithic deposit on hardpan extends beyond the limits of Trench 4 on the south and west; on the north and east it was most likely removed for the construction of the foundations of Temples K and J.

The excavations both along the Lechaion Road and on the Agora West Terrace have thus served well their purpose of revealing the location of substantial prehistoric deposits. The finds from the four trenches have increased greatly the prehistoric material remains available from Corinth and have added much that was not known before. For the Early Neolithic period it is the presence of a pure deposit of this phase on the slope at the west end of the Agora which is most important. All the wares previously associated with this phase have been found in quantity.<sup>31</sup> The spongy coarse ware occurs in proportionately greater quantity than on Temple Hill. It is this ware which forms a link with the following Middle Neolithic period, for it occurs with the red slip that is typical of the A1 ware and it also bears the glaze-like paint of the Neolithic Urfirnis, as was noted in the Temple Hill material.<sup>32</sup> It is likely that from the much larger quantities of both Early and Middle Neolithic pottery now available it will be possible to establish a developmental sequence from the red-slipped Early Neolithic ware, through the A1 slipped ware to the Neolithic Urfirnis type, which came into being through new throwing techniques and better firing methods. There will also be additions to the repertory of shapes and of painted designs in the Neolithic Urfirnis ware. The pure Middle Neolithic stratum on hardpan in Trench 4 is of the greatest importance for determining the components of what seems to be an initial phase of that period.

Of particular interest is the fact that in all four trenches the Late Neolithic pottery is quantitatively of much greater importance than would have been thought from previous excavations at Corinth. In Trenches 1 and 2 there were especially deep accumulations of this phase; the pit in Trench 4 has also yielded much Late Neolithic pottery. Its components are chiefly the three wares usually associated with this phase—Neolithic gray ware, the Anatolian type black burnished ware and matt-painted ware. There seem to be few, if any, additions to the repertory of Late Neolithic shapes, but new kinds of incised and grooved decoration on gray ware are shown

<sup>30</sup> Weinberg, *A.J.A.*, LI, 1947, pp. 174-175; *Relative Chronologies in Old World Archeology*, Chicago, 1954, pp. 97-98.

<sup>31</sup> *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 492-498.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 500.

in Plate 63, a; the circular or spiraliform patterns have not been noted before. New to the Corinthian repertory of Late Neolithic pottery is the red or brown variety of stroke-burnished ware (Pl. 63, b), a number of sherds of which were found in Trench 1 at levels which would suggest that it belongs to a late phase of this period. The ware has been reported only from Prosymna,<sup>33</sup> where Blegen rightly considered it to be a version of the burnish-decorated wares common among the Late Neolithic black pottery. Among the Corinth sherds there are pieces from fruitstand bases and from the cups and jugs usual in the black ware. Requiring further investigation is the large quantity of rather heavy, somewhat coarse red-slipped ware that was found associated with the Late Neolithic groups. While this pottery appears in fabric to be an early form of E.H. I red-slipped ware, none of the usual Early Helladic shapes were present; they occurred only in later levels in which the Late Neolithic wares were present only as survivals, if at all. Nowhere were the Late Neolithic strata so pure as to eliminate the possibility of contamination from above and mixture with the first Early Helladic debris, but the absence of typical E.H. I shapes does suggest that we have to do here either with a very early form of E.H. I red-slipped ware or with a type of Late Neolithic pottery which may be due to Early Cycladic inspiration, but which antedates the actual arrival on the mainland of the full force of the first wave of metal users coming across the Cyclades. In Trench 3, in one such layer of Late Neolithic fill with the early type of red-slipped ware, there was a fragment of Cycladic ware with stamped spirals; two fragments in the same group of pottery looked very much like Cretan Late Neolithic ware and were certainly totally foreign to Corinth.

The large quantities of Early Helladic pottery comprised both the slipped and glazed varieties of E.H. I and E.H. II, together with much coarse pottery. To the latter group belong two interesting pieces. A rim and handle fragment of a large bowl (Pl. 63, c) is apparently an imitation of an elaborate metal form with rivets over the handles and bosses at the sides as well as a crescentic ridge below the handle. It is in the heavy, very light buff clay often used for Early Helladic coarse ware; its context is E.H. II. A coarse bowl with sharply incised decoration in hatched contiguous zones (Pl. 63, d) is from the thick E.H. I layer in Trench 2. A high handle rose from the rim of what seems to have been a simple hemispherical bowl with a flat bottom. It is one of the few pieces from Trenches 1 and 2 of which the shape could be obtained. It must be emphasized again that among these quantities of Early Helladic pottery from all four trenches, there are none of the partially glazed or patterned wares characteristic of E.H. III; it may be that this phase did not exist at Corinth (below, p. 300).

In addition to pottery, a large variety of other artifacts were found, including a few terracotta figurines (Pl. 63, e). Most interesting is a typical steatopygous female figure (1), here enhanced with blackish paint marking off the feet, filling the

<sup>33</sup> Blegen, *Prosymna*, Cambridge, 1937, pp. 375-376, fig. 635.

incision, the navel and also the slight depressions, or dimples, over the hips in front and the buttocks behind. The figurine was found in the mixed context of Trench 4. Also from Trench 4, but from the Late Neolithic pit, is the seated steatopygous figurine (2) of Plate 63, e. It too is painted, but in the normal Late Neolithic matt-painted technique and in sweeping curved lines across the lap and over the buttocks. While these two figurines are preserved below the waist, the third shows only the torso of a female figure with pellet-like breasts (3). It is of a dark red-brown fabric that appears to be foreign to Corinth. There are breaks where arms, or arm stubs, had been attached, and the arms were clearly free of the body, which is unusual in Neolithic clay figurines; the context is Late Neolithic.

Bone implements, such as are shown in Plate 63, f, were found in all the trenches; with the exception of the two on the right which may be Middle Neolithic, they are Late Neolithic in date. More numerous and more important are the stone artifacts, both chipped and polished, found everywhere in the prehistoric deposit. Seventy pieces have been inventoried and they, along with the numerous uninventoried pieces, have been studied by Mr. Perry A. Bialor, who has offered the following preliminary observations. None of the stone artifacts could be assigned to the Early Neolithic period, mainly because so little pure deposit of this phase was found; some of the stone artifacts in later Neolithic levels may be strays from the early phase, just as much Early Neolithic pottery was found in later levels. The Middle Neolithic group comprises largely scrapers, but includes as well two stemmed arrowheads (Pl. 63, g, 2, 3) and an awl, besides two pieces of problematic usage; one arrowhead and the awl are of obsidian, all the rest are of flint of varying color. In the Late Neolithic period, arrowheads and scrapers remained the principal types, supplemented by a few knives, a couple of blade tools (Pl. 64, b, 3) and an awl; obsidian largely replaced flint, which continued to be used only for heavier tools such as scrapers. There are five arrowheads (Pl. 63, g, 1, 4-6) and fourteen scrapers (Pl. 64, a) from this period; half of the scrapers are of flint. To the Neolithic period in both the middle and late phases belong four of the five polished stone celts that were found—the fifth was a stray in top soil; there are three adzes and two axes. While the numbers are still small, it is perhaps significant that the arrowheads, the scrapers and the celts are Neolithic, with none of those types that can clearly be assigned to the Early Helladic period. The arrowheads are all of the stemmed type, none of the basal-notched variety. The Early Helladic repertory of stone artifacts is in contrast to that of the Neolithic period. In the Early Helladic period arrowheads and scrapers, for which Mr. Bialor suggests there were now metal substitutes, are absent in our present small selection; flint has disappeared almost completely and the majority of the implements are obsidian blades. One sickle blade of flint (Pl. 64, b, 1) is very likely to be ascribed to E.H. I; an obsidian trimming blade (*lame de degagement*) (Pl. 64, b, 5) is certainly E.H. I. On the other

hand, the many narrow, almost parallel-sided, two-edged obsidian blades (Pl. 64, b, 2, 4 and c) are all clearly E.H. II. Thus the typical Early Helladic implement is a blade, whereas such true blade tools seem to have been absent in the Neolithic period. The analysis of the stone artifacts, even from this limited excavation, points up very clearly the important role that this class of objects can and must play as a valuable indicator of periodic changes, of regional interrelationships and of cultural origins.

The early historic deposits in Trenches 1 and 2, which were expected after the indications of the 1926 trench, have given valuable information on the topography of archaic Corinth. It was known that the area to the north of Peirene was used for burials in the second half of the 9th century B.C.<sup>34</sup> The new investigations indicate that it was in the second half of the 8th century B.C. that regular settlement began in this region; at this time the cemetery had been shifted to the south and west sides of the later Agora, and the North Cemetery as well may already have been in use.<sup>35</sup> The debris above the —1.75 m. level in Trench 1 and the —2.50 m. level in Trench 2 would appear to be ordinary habitation debris. The terrace wall in Trench 1, already mentioned, and the well just to the north of it suggested an area of houses on terraces descending to the north. The pottery in this fill begins with the Protocorinthian-geometric variety and progresses through the Protocorinthian and Corinthian series, towards the end of which Attic pottery appears and becomes increasingly important. No relatively undisturbed levels are later than the 5th century B.C.; in the upper levels Greek, Hellenistic and Roman pottery are found mixed. The best of the Protocorinthian pottery is exemplified by the two sherds from Trench 1 (Pl. 64, d, 1, 2); they are from one vase which exhibits very fine drawing, probably of the second quarter of the 7th century B.C. The other fragment (3) in Plate 64, d is from an equally fine Corinthian vase of about a century later. Of the Attic pottery, the finest example is a large part of the base and lower body of an early black-figured vase (Pl. 64, e) exhibiting an animal frieze with rosette fill-ornaments in a Corinthianizing style of the early 6th century B.C.

In these archaic levels were found numerous other objects, such as fragments of lamps and loomweights, but the most unusual and important object from the archaic period, indeed from the whole excavation, is the bronze and iron lamp found at —1.70 m. at the very east end of the south side of Trench 1 (Pl. 64, f). Next to the lamp lay a pyxis cover, upside down, and another was found just under the lamp (Pl. 64, g); they date the lamp securely in the Late Protocorinthian period, about the middle of the 7th century B.C. The bronze lamp lay on the ground right side up and the iron hanger had collapsed toward the back. The lamp itself has the cocked-hat shape which is known in clay lamps from the second half of the 7th century B.C.<sup>36</sup> The

<sup>34</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXI, 1927, p. 73; *Corinth*, I, ii, p. 4; *Corinth*, VII, i, pp. 16-19, Nos. 54-66, 68.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 25-32.

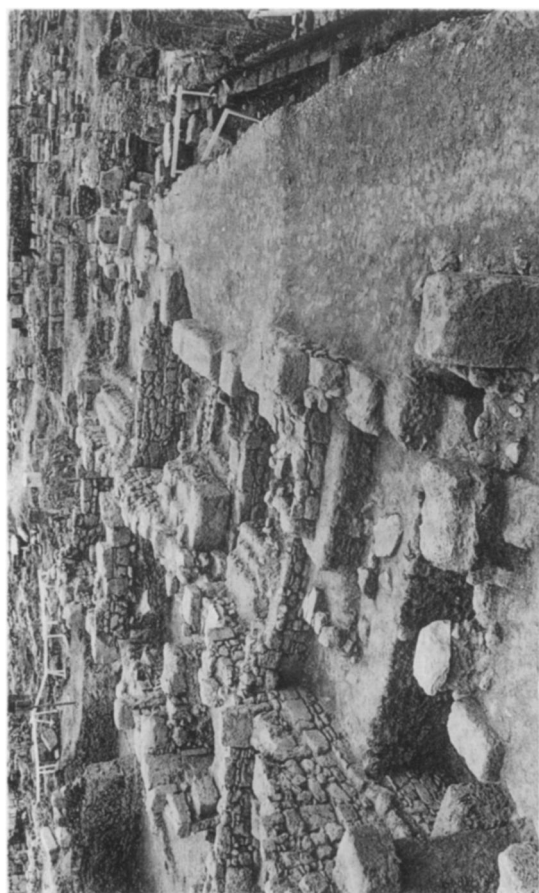
<sup>36</sup> Howland, *Athenian Agora*, IV, p. 12, Type 3.



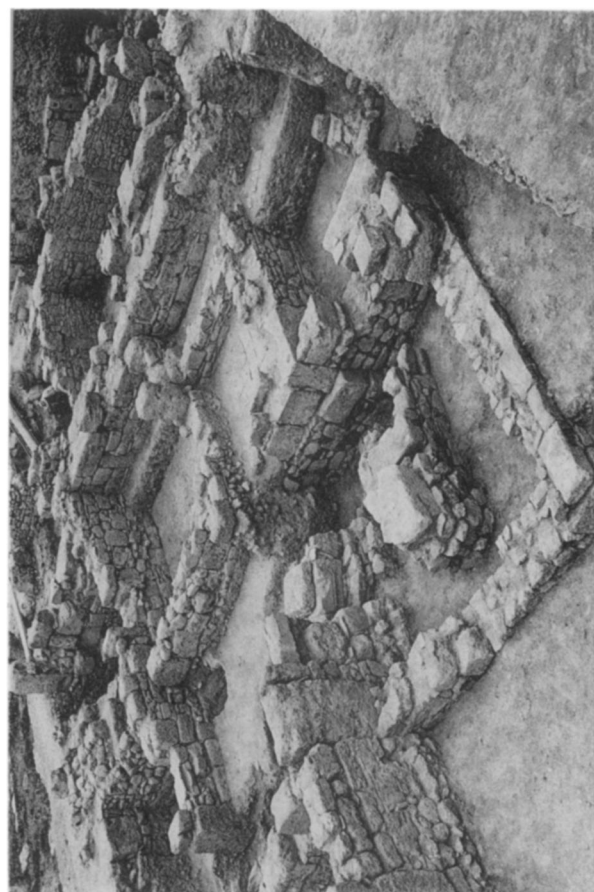
three rods of the hanger were attached to the rim at the corners on either side of the nozzle and at the back opposite it; the last had broken away from the rim and slipped under the lamp. A long piece of bronze chain apparently joined the hangers at the top and was used for suspending the lamp; a rivet at the top of one rod shows traces of wood that may also have helped to join the hangers. The lamp, somewhat cleaned, is shown in Plate 64, h in the position in which it was found. A more detailed description and discussion of this unusual lamp will appear separately. It is indicative of the wealth of early historic, as well as prehistoric, material that awaits the excavator in the area east of the Lechaion Road.

SAUL S. WEINBERG

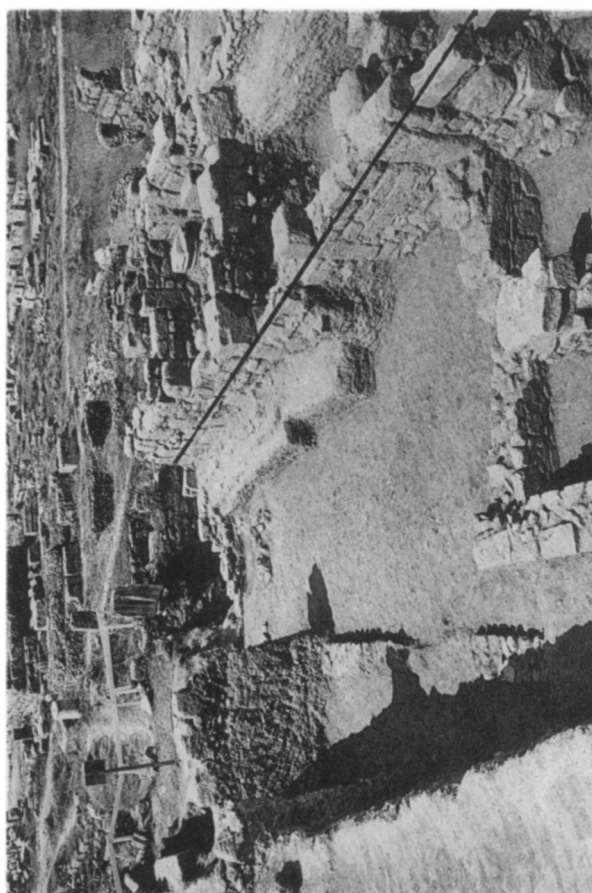
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a. 12th Century Road and Rooms 1-8, from South.



b. 12th Century Rooms from Northwest. Room with Stairway in Center Foreground.



c. Courtyard to West of Rooms 1-8, from South. Line Drawn against West Wall of Rooms 2, 4, 6, 8 Indicates 12th Century Ground Level.



d. Room 7, from North, Showing Hearth.

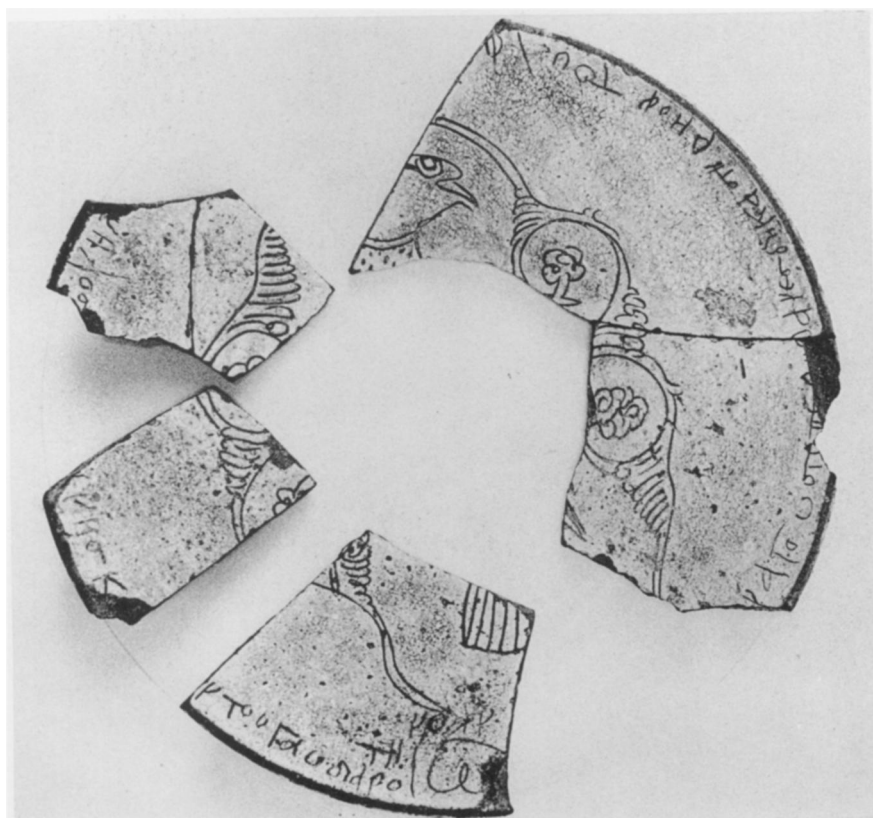
HENRY S. ROBINSON AND SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT CORINTH, 1959



a. Stairway West of Room 6,  
from East.



b. Rooms 10 and 12, from North.  
In Background, South Wall  
of Room 12.



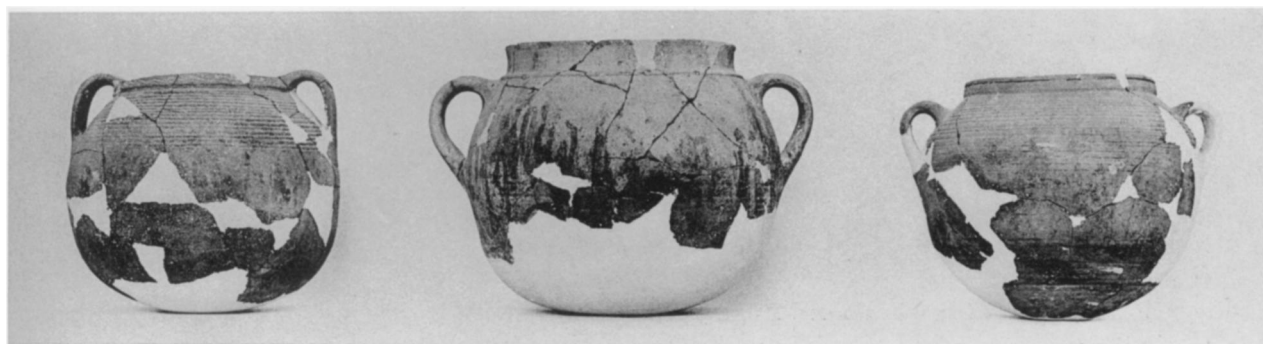
c. Plate by the "Donkey Master."  
Scale 1:2.



a. Glazed Wares from 13th Century Bothros. Scale 1:5.



b. Coarse Wares from 13th Century Bothros. Scale 1:7.



c. Cooking Vessels of the 12th Century. Scale 1:7.

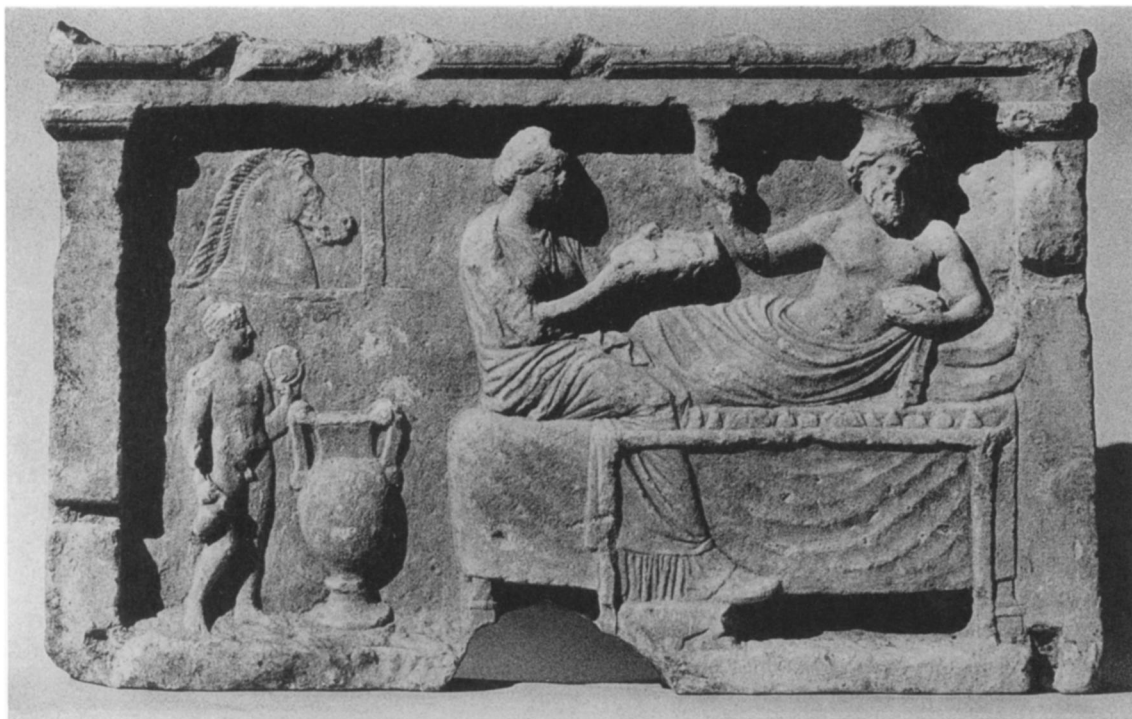


d. Byzantine Vessels with "Protogeometric" Ornament. Scale 1:5.



e. Bronze Mortar and Pestle. Scale 1:3.

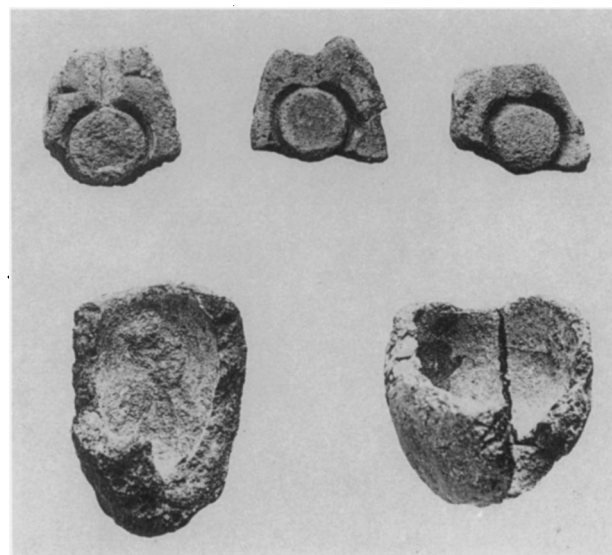




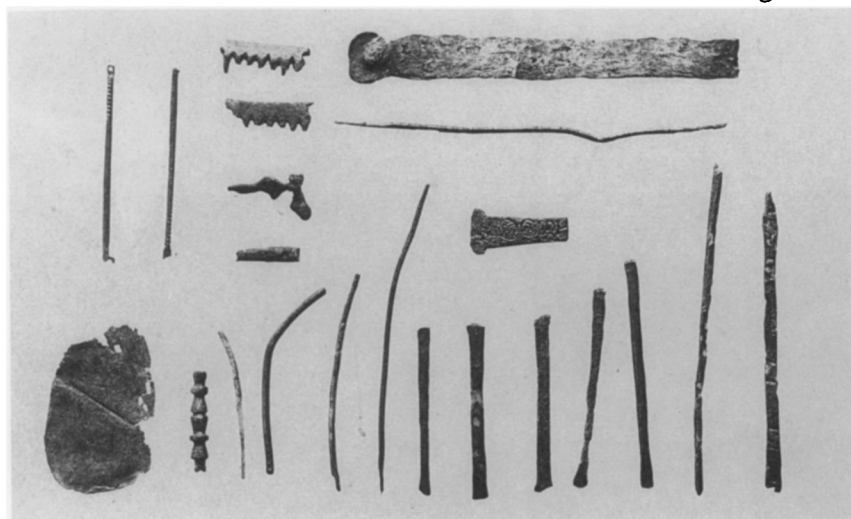
a. Marble Votive Relief.



b. Bronze-Factory Debris from Room 4: Moulds and Unfinished Buckle. Scale 1:2.



c. Bronze-Factory Debris from Room 4: Mould and Crucible Fragments. Scale 1:2.



d. Bronze-Factory Debris from Room 4: Bronze Plates, Pins and Tools. Scale 1:2.



a. Area East of the Lechaion Road. Trench 1 in Second Room to South of Latrine, Trench 2 just to North of Latrine.



b. Trench 2. Diagonal Terrace Wall with Base at  $-3.30$  m.



c. Trench 1, East End showing Full Depth.



d. Trench 2, East End showing Full Depth; Stratified Floor Levels in Lower Part of East Face.



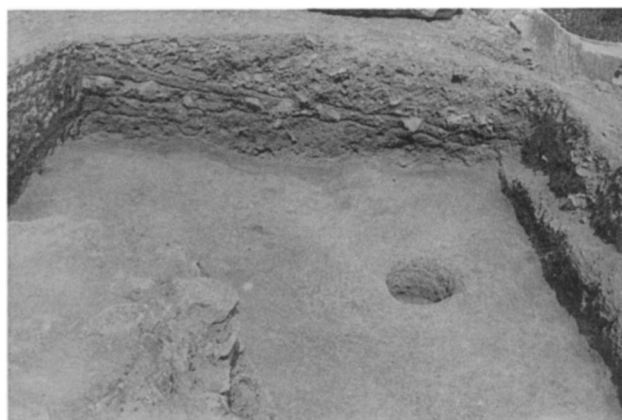
a. Trench 1. Terrace Wall in Southwest Corner.



b. Trench 1. Cobblestone Pavement and White Clay Floor at  $-1.05$  m.



c. Area of Trenches 3 and 4, from South before excavating.



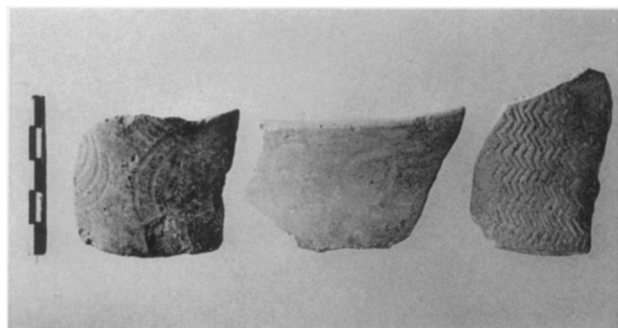
d. Trench 3. Sloping Road Levels at North End.



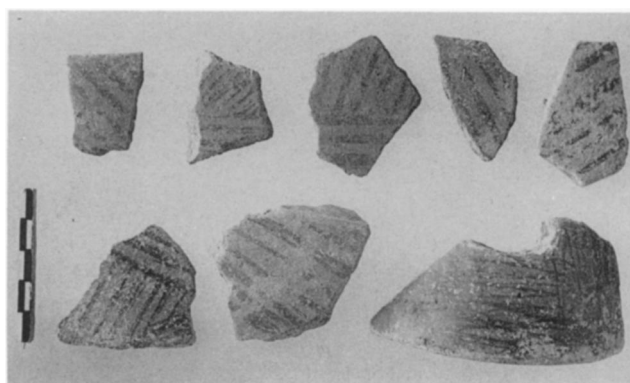
e. Trench 4 after Partial Excavation. Late Neolithic Pit in Northwest Corner (top center).



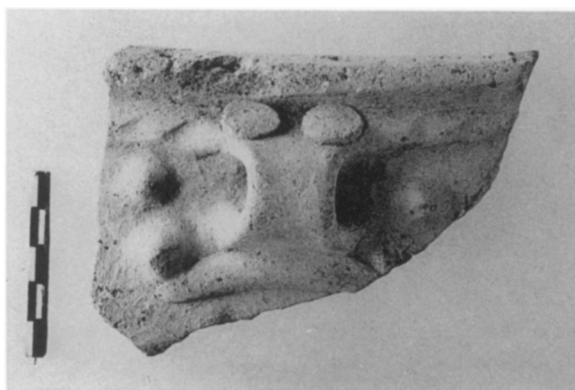
f. Trench 4. Middle Neolithic Layer on Hardpan over Much of Area.



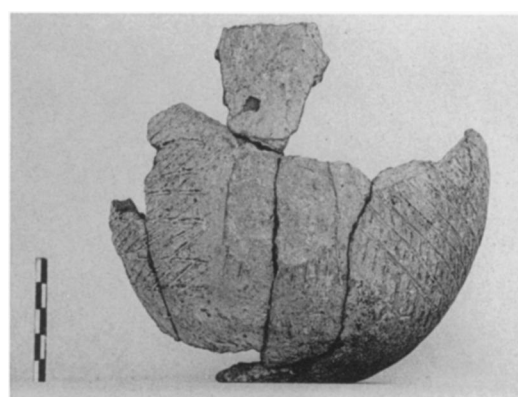
a. Neolithic Gray Ware Sherds with Grooved and Incised Decoration.



b. Late Neolithic Red or Brown Stroke-burnished Ware, Trench 1.



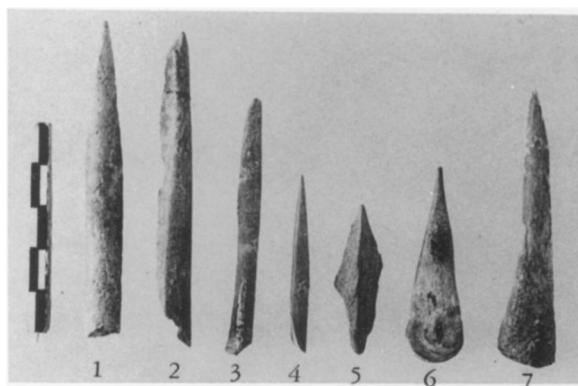
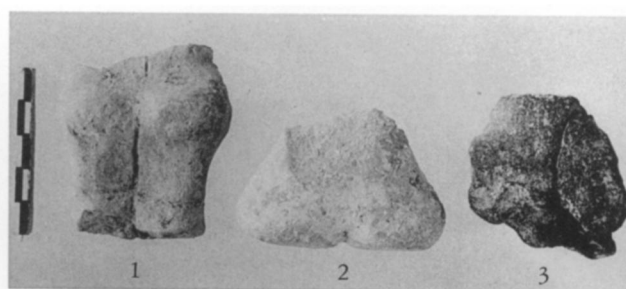
c. Handle of a large E. H. II Bowl, Trench 2.



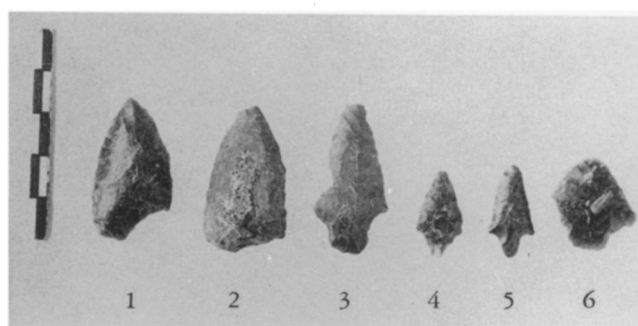
d. E. H. I Incised Bowl, Trench 2.



e. Neolithic Figurines. Front and Back Views. 1-2, Trench 4; 3, Trench 1.



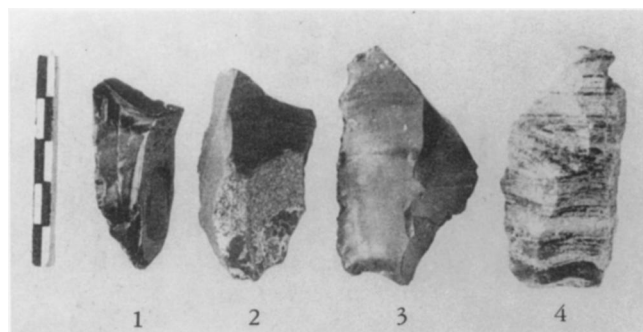
f. Bone Implements. Late Neolithic (1-5) and possibly Middle Neolithic (6-7).



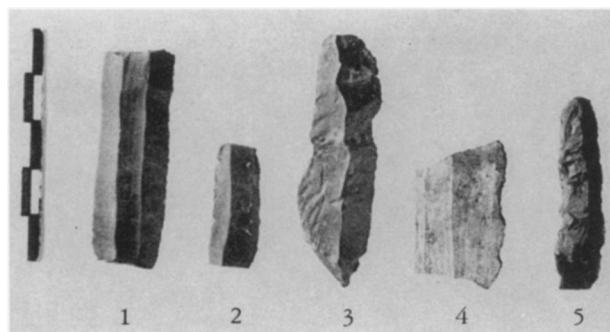
g. Arrowheads of Flint (2) and Obsidian (1, 3-6). Middle Neolithic (2, 3) and Late Neolithic (1, 4-6).



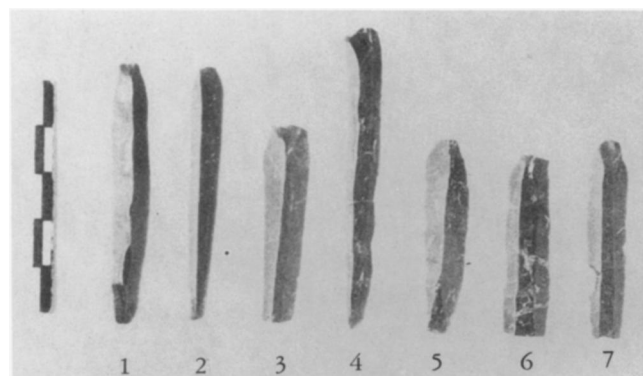
PLATE 64



a. Late Neolithic Scrapers of Flint (4) and Obsidian (1-3).



b. Blade Tools of Flint (1, 3, 4) and Obsidian (2, 5). Late Neolithic (3), E. H. I (1, 5) and E. H. II (2, 4).



c. Obsidian Blades of E. H. II, Trench 2.



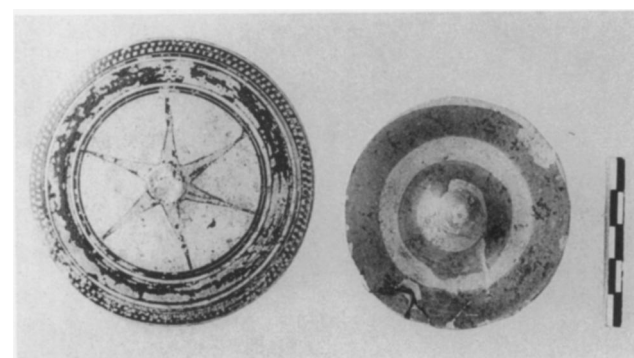
d. Protocorinthian Fragments (1, 2) of one Vessel, Trench 1; Corinthian Sherd (3), Trench 3.



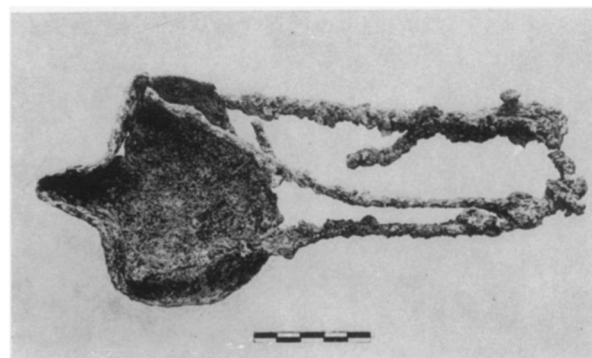
e. Attic Black-figured Fragment, Well in Trench 1.



f. Bronze and Iron Lamp and Protocorinthian Lid *in situ*, Trench 1.



g. Protocorinthian Lids found with Bronze and Iron Lamp, Trench 1.



h. Bronze and Iron Lamp, Trench 1.