

# SEVENTH CENTURY SHERDS FROM THE OLYMPIEION AREA

(PLATE 44)

THE fragments described below, interesting both for their provenience and for themselves, were found by Mr. John Travlos in his excavations of 1956 in the area north of the peribolos of the Olympieion at Athens.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Travlos discovered additional stretches of a previously unidentified structure which he believes to belong to the Themistoclean city wall. It appears in *Πρακτικά*, 1886, pl. 1 (on the bottom sketch at the very left, drawn in broken line; gray tinted stones)<sup>2</sup> just north of the peribolos of the Olympieion and west of its propylon. Only the southeast part of a tower into which were built poros columns from the Peisistratid Olympieion is shown; Mr. Travlos has found the northwest wall as well. Although the previous excavation had swept away most of the fill in the area, a plot of about 0.60 x 1.00 m. remained in the corner between the northwest wall of the tower and the curtain wall; this plot yielded the pottery a selection from which is presented here. This pottery extended in date from the last quarter of the eighth through to the second quarter of the sixth century B.C. and appears to be ceremonial ware and therefore grave refuse. There is reason to believe that it indicates the site of an early cemetery, since Mr. Travlos considers the southern finished spur of the wall, which can be seen on the *Πρακτικά* plan, to belong to a gate through which ran a road which passed also under the later Arch of Hadrian. At the northern side of this road and close to the Arch was found a Geometric grave which indicates that the cemetery lay along the edge of the road.

There were only four figured sets of fragments, all of which could be attributed to painters. This is interesting since it confirms what we know from the Kerameikos and Vari finds—that the production of fine ware was in the hands of a very few painters who supplied all Athens and Attica.

1. Wall fragment of an Early Protoattic Amphora or Hydria. Pl. 44.

Pres. H. 0.135 m.

By the Analatos painter. Compare the chariot processions on his amphora in the Louvre (*Mon. Piot*, XXXVI, 1938, p. 28, fig. 1 and p. 29, fig. 2) and on his late krater in Munich (*B.S.A.*,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Travlos was good enough to allow me to prepare this catalogue and to explain the circumstances of finding to me. For the photographs I am grateful to Miss Alison Frantz.

<sup>2</sup> The earlier excavations were by Koumanoudes in 1886 and are reported in *Πρακτικά*, 1886, p. 14, pl. 1. See also Welter's short summary in *Ath. Mitt.*, XXXVIII, 1923, p. 185. Plans and discussion of the area will appear in Mr. Travlos' forthcoming book on the topographical history of Athens. The Geometric Kynosarges cemetery lay to the south, across the Ilissos, see *B.S.A.*, XII, 1905-6, pp. 80 ff.

XXXV, 1934-5, p. 137, pl. 41). Both of these seem later than the present fragment since, e. g., the faces of their charioteers are in outline. Taken as a whole, the closest parallel is the name amphora of the Analatos painter (*op. cit.*, pls. 38, 39) dated to *ca.* 700 B.C.

*Ca.* 700 B.C.

2. Fragments of a Late Protoattic Standed Bowl. Pl. 44.

Pres. H. of stand fragment with sphinx's head 0.047 m.

The fragment with rays belongs to the bowl, by the Nettos painter. Compare *C.V.A.*, Berlin 1, pls. 46-47 for the curly coiffure and fill ornament.

Last quarter of the seventh century B.C.

3. Fragment of a large Early Black-figure Amphora. Pl. 44.

Pres. H. 0.07 m.

By the Nettos painter, attributed by Sir John Beazley, August 1957. Half of leg and top of sickle-winged boot to right, end of a staff behind. Applied red on boot. Probably from a Hermes or perhaps a Perseus, but the staff and the fact that the leg is not in motion speak against the latter. I know of no earlier Hermes in vase painting. For the Nettos painter's works, see J. D. Beazley, *Attic Black-figure Vase Painters*, Oxford, 1956, pp. 4-6.

Last quarter of the seventh century B.C.

4. Fragments of an Amphora (?). Pl. 44.

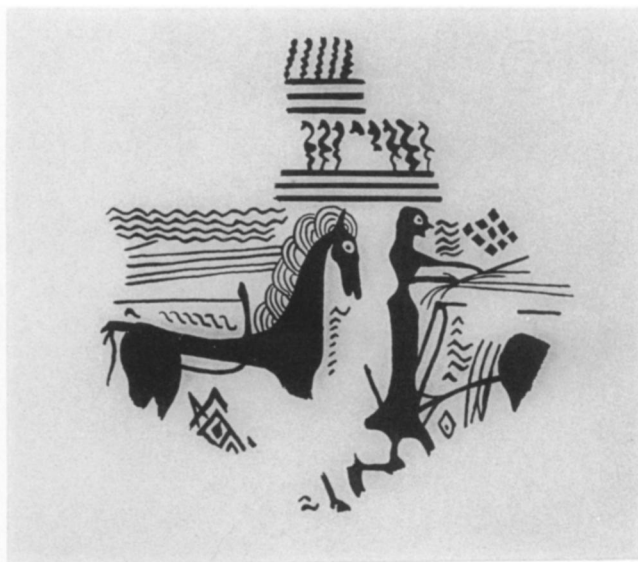
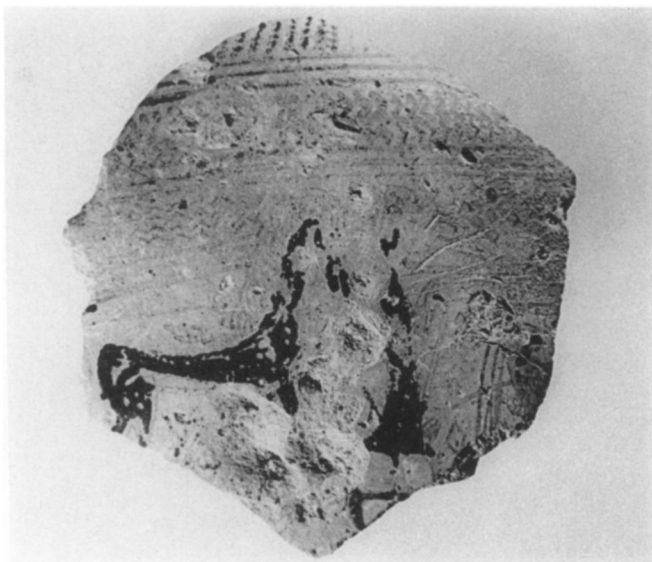
Pres. H. of sphinx fragment 0.06 m.

Applied red on shoulder and face of sphinx, on alternate petals of rosette. By the Gorgon painter; compare B. Graef, *Die antiken Vasen von der Akropolis zu Athen*, Berlin, 1909, Vol. 1, pl. 19, no. 506 left. For other works see Beazley, *op. cit.*, pp. 8-10.

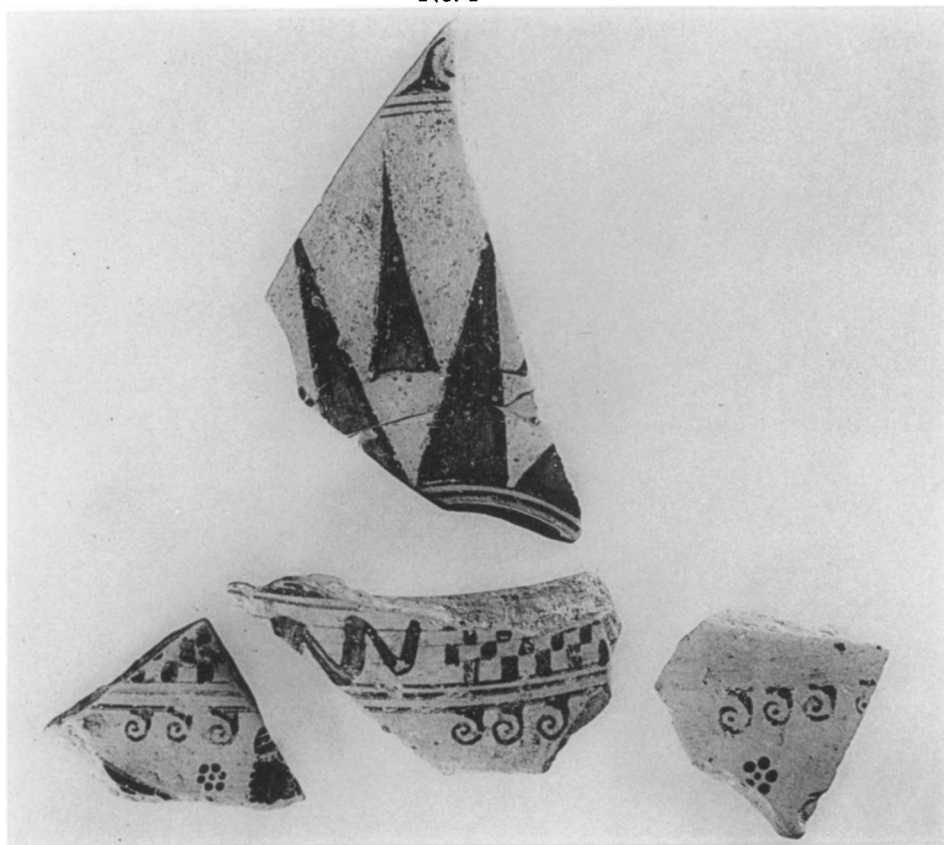
Early sixth century B.C.

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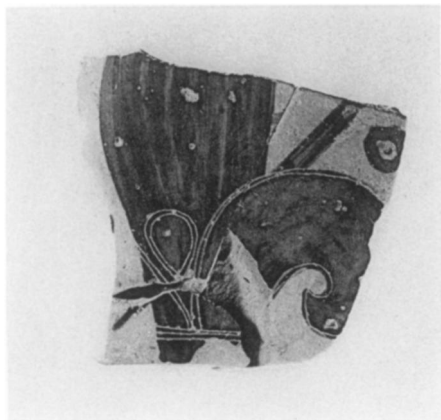
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE



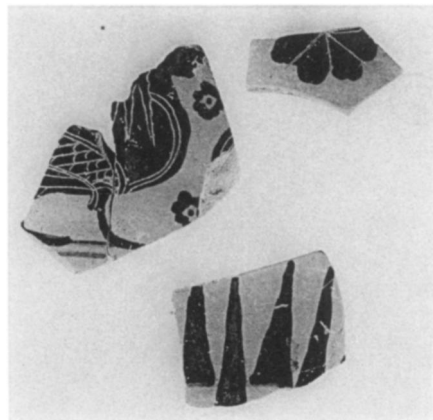
No. 1



No. 2



No. 3



No. 4

Scale 1:2