

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE NORTH PORTICO OF THE ERECHTHEUM

IN the summer of 1947, the late Dr. Leicester B. Holland requested permission to remove a small amount of plaster and rubble to investigate the crypt beneath the North Portico of the Erechtheum.¹ Permission was granted by the Ephor of the Acropolis, Mr. John Miliades, to open a space of thirty centimeters square.

The plaster and rubble concerned belonged to the remains of a draw-hole for a cistern constructed under and to the east of the North Portico. Examination showed the fabric to be principally brick, with scraps of poros, marble, etc. in mortar. In part it was tight against the earlier masonry which it concealed, but elsewhere pockets and seams of earth intervened. There was no mortar between the old blocks. In the rubble removed three sherds were found, one from a large, nondescript jar of coarse ware, red surfaced with a black core; it was judged by the staff of the excavations in the Athenian Agora to be Byzantine rather than Turkish.

Upon removal of a small portion of the draw-hole wall, the marble block E (Fig. 1) was more fully exposed, together with the poros block F below it. Between the latter and the poros block G to its left, or east of it, is a gap of 0.01 m., or 0.006 m. from the anathyrosis on G. This anathyrosis was cut back 0.002 m. to fit tightly against block E. The upper corner of block E is worn in a curve extending some 0.26 m. from this tight joint. All three blocks are cut to finished faces on their outer or northern sides, but F and the poros block below it are weathered rough. By probing between F and G Dr. Holland found the gap to run inward (to the south) at least 1.30 m. from the face of the blocks, while E extended westward some 0.60 m. and F about 0.50 m.

If, as shown in the reconstruction,² the crypt was lined with poros blocks in the late fifth century B.C., a block of the wall on the west side would have met the anathyrosis on G, and hidden E and F to which it would run at right angles. The presence of a marble block in the position occupied by E seems to be explained only by assigning it to the Cimonian structure of poros with marble trim. The now visible remains replaced the Cimonian work in the late fifth century.³

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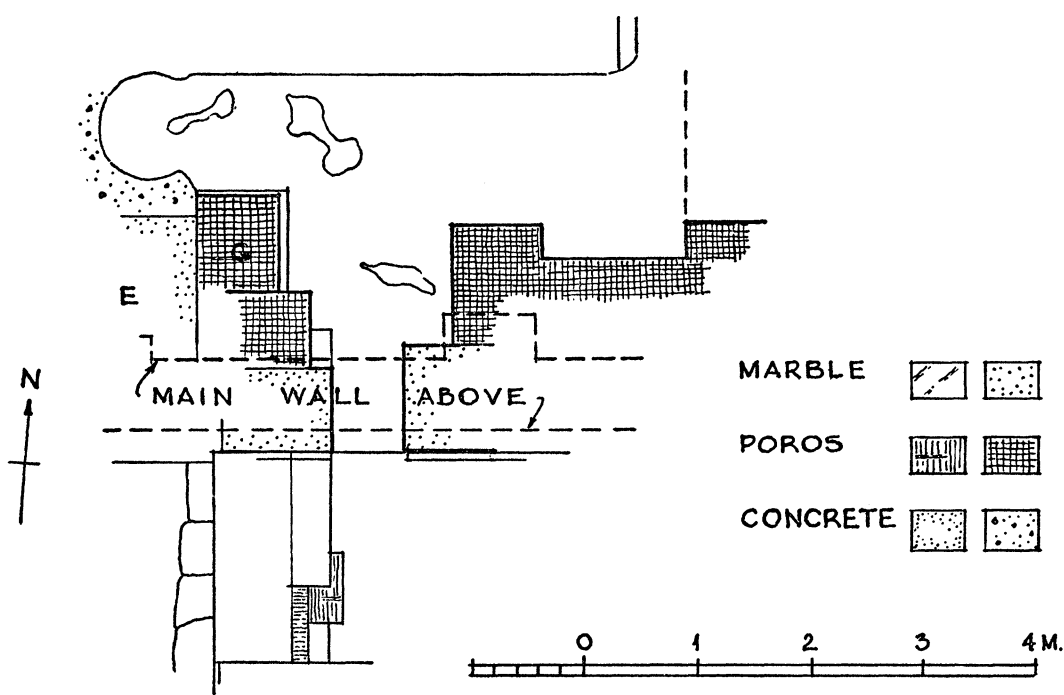
PHILADELPHIA

MARIAN HOLLAND McALLISTER

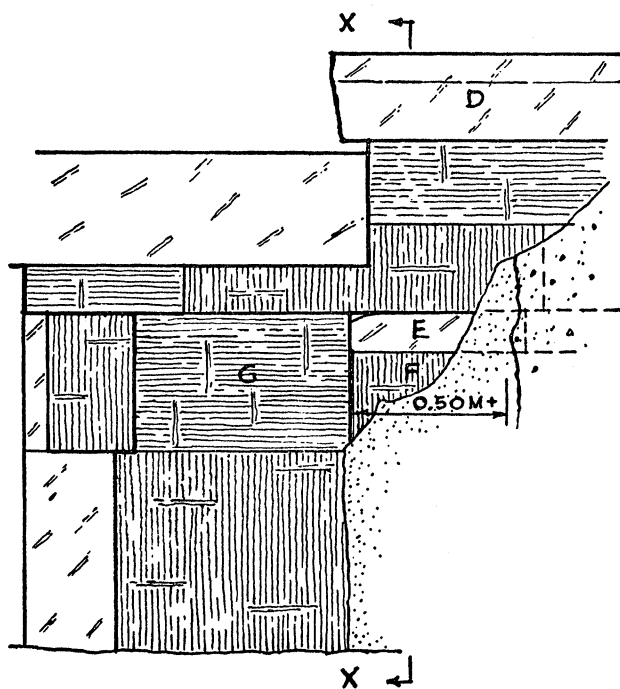
¹ The notes and measurements left by the late Leicester B. Holland were carefully kept by Louise Adams Holland who encouraged Marian Holland McAllister to check them on the Acropolis in 1952, to prepare this statement and to make the drawings which conform as far as possible with those of *The Erechtheum*, published by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in 1927. The plan is based on pl. II; the elevation is similar to that of fig. 66(C); cf. pl. VIII. The block here marked D is so indicated in fig. 66(A).

² *Op. cit.*, fig. 66.

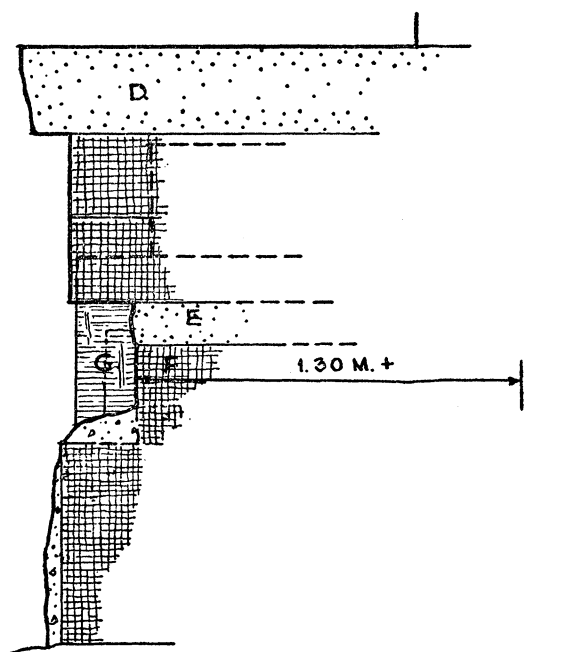
³ L. B. Holland, "Erechtheum Papers, IV," *A.J.A.*, XXVIII, 1924, p. 425.



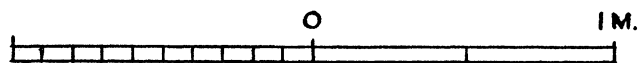
PLAN AT LEVEL OF BLOCK "E"



ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH



SECTION THROUGH BLOCK "E" AT X-X



THE ERECTHEUM : THE NORTH PORTICO CRYPT