

EXPLORATION OF THE SOUTHEAST STOA IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA

(PLATES 25–30)

ONE of the most colorful of the 19th century houses in the area to the east of the Stoa of Attalos is a three-storeyed building strongly neoclassical both in its architectural detail and in the terracotta sculpture that enlivens its façade. This house is traditionally associated with the family of M. Kolettis, a prominent leader in the War of Independence. Purchased some years ago by the Greek state, the house is now being reconditioned with a view to its use as office space by the Archaeological Service. A garden of generous size lies to the north of the house. An invitation from the Service to excavate the garden area before it was rehabilitated was warmly accepted by the American School of Classical Studies, the more so since both house and garden were known to stand above the rear part of a large public building of Antonine date the west front of which had been exposed in the Agora excavations of 1959. The operation was undertaken by an expedition from Brown University working in collaboration with the American School of Classical Studies and under the direction of the undersigned.¹

The excavation was made in the months of April and May, 1965. The overall dimensions of the area available for excavation were *ca.* 16 x 26 meters, and within this area several trees had to be respected. The first objective was to explore the interior of the Antonine structure which borders the Panathenaic Way on its east side between the Library of Pantainos and the Eleusinion (Fig. 1; Pl. 25, a). Considerable remains of its façade were known from the excavation of 1959. The past season's work has made possible the reconstruction of the ground plan and has led to adoption

¹ In executing this work the Brown University Expedition acted as an element of the Agora Excavations of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Warm thanks are expressed to Professor Homer A. Thompson, Field Director of the Agora Excavations, and to Professor Henry S. Robinson, Director of the American School of Classical Studies, for their encouragement and support. Our appreciation is also due to Dr. N. Platon, Ephor of the Acropolis and the Agora, under whose authority the excavation was made, to Dr. J. Kondis, Director General of the Service of Antiquities, and to Mr. M. Kourouniotes, an architect on the staff of the Service of Archaeological Revenues. Thanks are owed to Professor Eugene Vanderpool, who undertook the supervision of the excavation during a week when the undersigned was unexpectedly called away from Athens. The Brown staff was composed of R. R. Holloway, director, Mrs. Elise du Pont Elrick, architect, Mrs. R. Ross Holloway, cataloguer, Mrs. Gertrude M. du Pont and Mr. Charles L. Shumway, excavators. Vassile Adamakos was foreman and Spyro Spyropoulos carried out pot mending and other technical work. The excavation was made possible by generous and gratefully acknowledged financial support on the part of Mrs. du Pont, Mrs. Elrick, an anonymous donor, and Brown University.

of a more descriptive name, "The Southeast Stoa," in place of the title "The Southeast Building" by which the structure was previously known. Architectural remains of the late fifth century after Christ were also brought to light, and finds of interest ranging from the Protogeometric period to the seventeenth century after Christ.

THE SOUTHEAST STOA

The excavation of 1959 showed that, because of the steep grade of the Panathenaic Way, the façade of the Southeast Stoa was divided into two distinct sections which gave the impression of a porticoed building of the Ionic order to the south continued to the north by a similar building at a lower level. The two sections are not of equal length, the southern façade being 21.80 m., its northern counterpart 27.00 m. The difference in level between their stylobates is 1.80 m.²

Although limited to a small portion of the interior, the excavations of 1965 fortunately allowed an examination of the junction of the two sections of the building (Pl. 25, b). The division of the façade did not reflect any difference in the interior plan or arrangement of the two parts. The rear wall of the portico continues unbroken across the meeting point of the two sections. In the interior of the building there is a room 4.50 m. east-west (interior dimension) on either side of the meeting point. In its original state the building did not extend east of the rear wall of these rooms; hence it is to be restored as a stoa with a single row of chambers behind its divided façade. Until further excavation is carried out we shall not know how the stoa was related to any structures that may have bordered the streets to the north and south. It may be that the stoa was L- or U-shaped and extended back along one or both of these streets.

Because of the difference in length between the two sections of the Southeast Stoa, its interior rooms could not be uniform in width. The pair of chambers excavated in 1965 show that the discrepancy was eliminated by shortening the southernmost room of the northern section to 3.50 m. (north-south interior dimension; see Pls. 25, a, D and 26, a, A for southeast corner of the room). The adjoining chamber in the southern section was 4.00 m. wide, and additional rooms of this width fill the length of the stoa perfectly. On this supposition there were eleven rooms, six in the northern and five in the southern section of the building.³

The foundations of the interior walls were built of re-used ashlar blocks of poros mortared with a poor brownish cement and set on a bed of loose stone bonded with the same material (Pl. 26, a). The foundation courses were 0.60 m. wide. However, in the southwest corner of the eighth room from the north three blocks had been

² Cf. *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, pp. 344-347. In consulting the records of the 1959 campaign I am greatly in debt to the field notes of Mrs. Homer A. Thompson, the excavator, and to a preliminary report made on the Southeast Building by Julian H. Whittlesey. A definitive report is now in course of preparation by Mr. Whittlesey and the undersigned.

³ This solution was devised by John Travlos, to whom I am grateful for his interest in the architectural problems of the excavation.

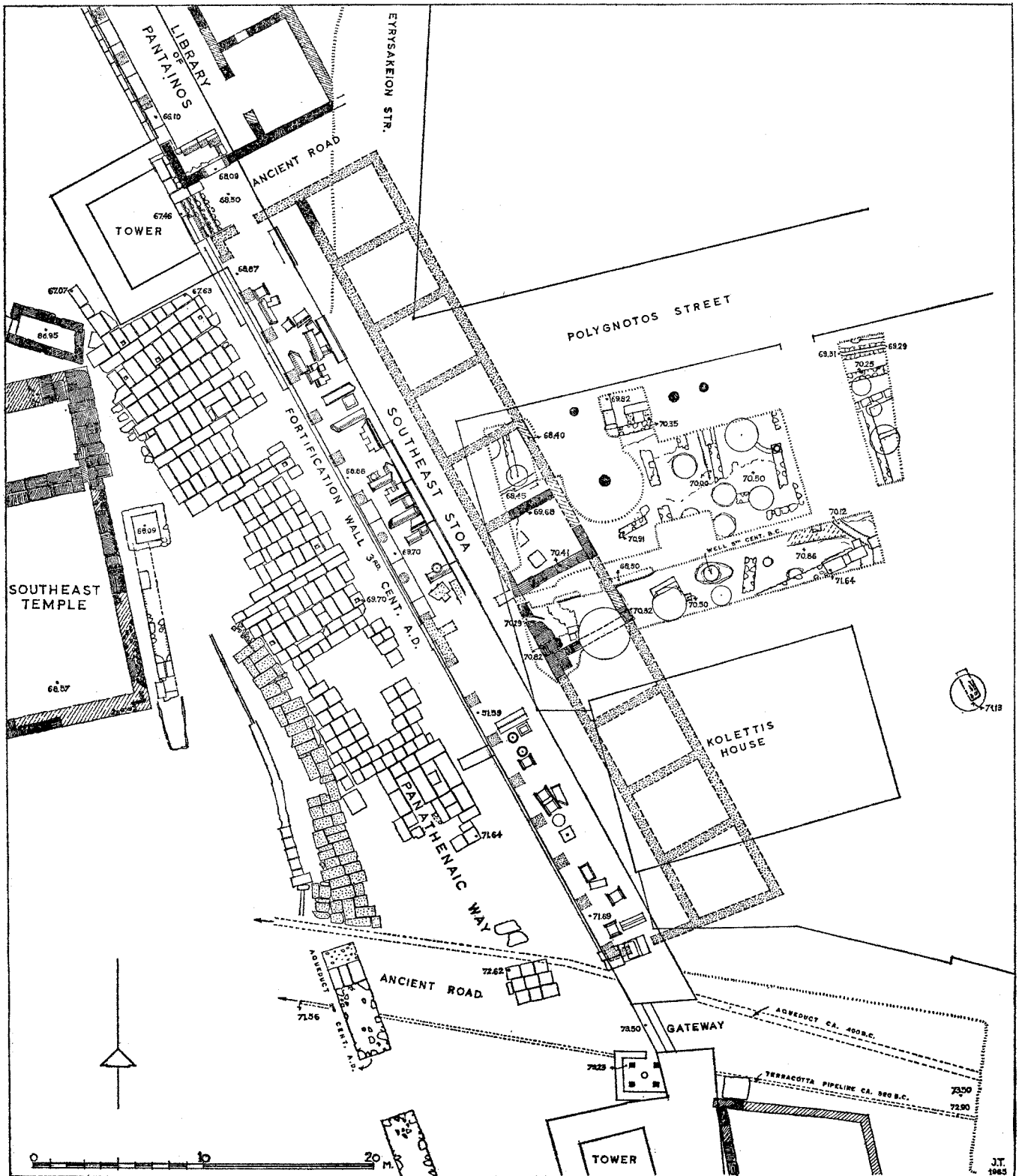


FIG. 1. Panathenaic Way, Southeast Stoa and Excavations in Garden of Kolettis House.

laid as headers, and this thickening was extended by a rubble packing to form a bedding *ca.* 2.50 x 1.00 m. (Pl. 26, b). This support, at floor level in the room, appears to have held a water basin for which a drain, fitted with a rectangular channel, ran out below the portico to the Panathenaic Way. A similar thickening is apparent in the room adjoining this chamber to the south. This southern chamber, however, lay almost entirely outside the area of excavation.

The excavation of undisturbed pockets of building fill provided further evidence for the date of the stoa. Though the sherds collected were by no means numerous, they agree with the evidence gathered in 1959 and suggest that the stoa was erected in the middle of the second century after Christ.

There is evidence of a modest addition to the building made sometime in the late second or third century. The addition takes the form of a wall of re-used yellow poros blocks bedded on hard white cement and continuing eastward the line of the dividing wall between Rooms 6 and 7 from the north (Fig. 1; Pl. 25, b, B).

The portico of the stoa disappeared from sight below the fortifications built over it after the Herulian sack of Athens in A.D. 267, and the interior of the stoa must have been sadly reduced by the quarrying of the fortification builders. Industrial establishments moved into the ruins. A foundry occupied the southern of the two rooms now excavated, while a furnace, possibly for the manufacture of glass, was installed further north.

LATE ROMAN CONSTRUCTION

Some 8.00 m. to the east of the stoa, a room or court was found which belongs to the late fifth century after Christ (Pl. 25, b, C). Its area was 3.00 m. east-west and at least 4.50 m. north-south. Its walls, 0.55 m. thick, were made of rubble bound with hard white Late Roman cement, and it was provided with a stone-lined pit 1.60 m. in diameter. The construction can be dated with assurance because of a deposit of fifteen coins, all bronze *minimi*, the latest of the Emperor Leo (A.D. 457-474), recovered from a stratum of burnt material below the floor level. A plinth and Ionic column base nicely executed from one block of marble were re-used in the eastern wall of the room (Pl. 26, c).⁴ Although it is Roman work of the proper period, there is no other evidence to associate this piece with the Southeast Stoa.

Remains of another Late Roman building came to light in the northern and north-eastern part of the excavated area. One east-west wall of this structure has been traced for 16.25 m. and indicates the presence of a building of considerable dimensions (Pl. 25, b, D).

EARLY BURIALS

In the southeastern part of the area, directly east of the Kolettis House, the cist burial of an adult male (Deposit No. T 16:1) was encountered. The solitary offering

⁴ A 3514. Plinth and base together measure 0.618 m. in height; width 0.51 m.

was a small lekythos decorated with hand-drawn semicircles on its shoulder. The style is transitional from Submycenaean to Protogeometric, indicating a date *ca.* 1100 B.C.⁵ A deposit of geometric sherds came to light around the foundation of the west wall of the Late Roman room or court described above. Among them are fragments of large and handsomely decorated vases of the late eighth century B.C. which indicate the presence of geometric burials in the area.

WELL OF THE FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

The excavation of a well of the late fifth century B.C. in the south central part of the area was carried out under difficulties caused by an underground stream and overcome only by the use of a modern electric pump. Even so, the condition of the walls of the shaft made it impossible to excavate below the level of the debris used to fill the well when it was abandoned. The shaft was 1.00 m. in diameter and was excavated to 6.00 m. below its preserved mouth.

The pottery from this fill is a homogeneous group of the later fifth century B.C. Among the finer red-figure is a fragment of a bell krater with Peleus pursuing Thetis or some other mythological pursuit scene (Pl. 27, a),⁶ reminiscent of the style of Polygnotos I, and a fragmentary amphora by the Peleus Painter with scenes of musical competitions.⁷ A chous has a pleasant picture of a child, his toy chariot parked at one side, walking toward an olpe, full no doubt of the cheer of the Anthesteria (Pl. 27, c).⁸ A largely complete bell krater by the painter of the Louvre Centauromachy shows a) a departing hunter flanked by maidens with phialai, b) three ephebes (Pl. 27, b).⁹ Also of interest are two finely ornamented pyxis lids (Pl. 27, d and e)¹⁰ and a fragment of a votive krateriskos of the type dedicated to Artemis Aristoboule in Athens and in her sanctuary at Brauron (Pl. 27, f).¹¹

The lamps belong to classes 21B, 22C, and 24A of Howland's classification of the Agora material, all types proper for a deposit of the last quarter of the fifth century.¹² Other black glazed pottery includes skyphoi, both Attic and Corinthian shapes, miniature lekythoi, and bowls, one (Pl. 28, a) with the owner's name, Τροχίλου, scratched on the bottom (Pl. 28, b).¹³ The black glazed stamped ware includes a plate and

⁵ I am grateful to Professor Evelyn L. Smithson for a note on this grave.

⁶ P 27303. H. 0.11, W. 0.20. The identification of the scene was suggested by Dr. Dietrich von Bothmer.

⁷ P 27349. This will be presented shortly in a separate article.

⁸ P 27313. H. 0.09, diam. 0.08.

⁹ P 27348. H. 0.35, diam. 0.375; identification of painter kindly suggested by Dr. Dietrich von Bothmer.

¹⁰ P 27317, diam. 0.15 (Pl. 27, e); P 27318, diam. 0.17 (Pl. 27, d).

¹¹ P 27342. H. 0.082, W. 0.065. Cf. J. Threpsiades and E. Vanderpool, *Δελτίον*, XIX, 1964, pp. 33-35.

¹² R. H. Howland, *The Athenian Agora IV, Greek Lamps*, Princeton, 1958.

¹³ P 27314. H. 0.025, diam. 0.088.

fragmentary bolsals, stemless cups, and cup kotylai with familiar patterns. Among the decorations on the bolsals (Pl. 28, c) there is an interesting form of a simplified palmette (Pl. 28, d).¹⁴ Fragments of utilitarian vessels were plentiful, with lekanai, mortars, escharai, cooking pots, casseroles, and oinochoai represented. A lekane (Pl. 28, e),¹⁵ and two escharai or braziers (Pl. 28, f)¹⁶ could be restored. In quantity, however, the first place is taken by the wine amphorae, of which the fragments awaiting restoration fill thirty-eight storage containers. Three complete examples appear representative of the group (Pl. 28, g, h, i).¹⁷

The pit which destroyed the upper part of the well shaft had been dug for the construction of a mortared pithos. From the fill of the pithos came a welcome deposit of pottery and glass, from which seventeen bowls and plates of the seventeenth century have been restored.

INSCRIPTIONS

Epigraphical discoveries were meager, but note should be made of an additional fragment of the Attic Stelai,¹⁸ recording the public sale of the property of those accused of profaning the Mysteries and mutilating the herms in 415 B.C. (Pl. 30, e).

Height 0.045 m.; width 0.16 m.; thickness 0.096 m.

Height of letters 0.006-0.009 m.

Inv. I 6991.

a. 414/3 a.

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

[--- ...^{ca. 10}....]ον [...⁵...] °
 [--- ...^{ca. 8}...] ἠνπερορία γέ φσιλ[έ]
 [--- κα]ἰ πύργος ἐγ Κολωναῖς τ[---]
 [--- ...^{ca. 9}....]ε ἔστιν vacat

SCULPTURE

The foot of a female statue is an interesting example of Hellenistic bronze sculpture at a scale slightly above life size (Pl. 29).¹⁹ It was made so as to project from below a himation falling across the instep. The sex of the figure and its date are indicated by the sandal, fitted with a simple thong which divides through a clasp

¹⁴ P 27409. Diam. of base 0.075, pres. h. 0.035. For stamped ware of this period cf. P. E. Corbett, *Hesperia*, XVIII, 1949, pp. 298-351.

¹⁵ P 27423. H. 0.22, diam. 0.37.

¹⁶ P 27422. H. 0.22, diam. 0.49.

¹⁷ Pl. 28, g = P 27419: h. 0.65, diam. 0.36; Pl. 28, h = P 27418: h. 0.65, diam. 0.42; Pl. 28, i = P 27420: h. 0.67, diam. 0.35.

¹⁸ Cf. W. K. Pritchett and D. A. Amyx, *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, pp. 225-299; XXV, 1956, pp. 178-325; XXVII, 1958, pp. 163-310.

¹⁹ B 1284. L. 0.18 m., W. 0.097 m.

in the form of an ivy leaf. On each side of the sole of the sandal is a loop, perhaps intended for an additional thong for hanging up the sandal when not in use. It is left unpierced in the bronze representation. The sandal is a Hellenistic type, worn, for example, by the so-called Are of Philiskos from Thasos now in Istanbul and by the Muse from Miletos in the same museum.²⁰ Because of her stance and the manner in which the foot is exposed, the latter figure may give some idea of the statue from which our bronze foot came. It should be dated in the latter part of the second century B.C.

The shoulder of an archaistic kore (Pl. 30, a, b)²¹ may come from a statue in the Eleusinion which lay just south of the area of the 1965 excavation. It is possibly a product of the first or second century after Christ and has its closest parallels in similar figures from Eleusis.²²

The head of a priest, of which only the right side is preserved, may also come from the Eleusinion (Pl. 30, c). It is coarse work, but comparable to the Antonine portrait of a priest discovered earlier in the Agora excavations.²³

A fragment of relief sculpture representing the god Hephaistos must come from an altar or other heavy architectural decoration because of its great thickness, 0.18 m. (Pl. 30, d).²⁴ The god stands in his workman's chiton wearing a wide belt and holding a tool in his right hand. This piece, together with a number of other interesting marbles, came to light during the reconstruction of the Kolettis House, which, when restored, will serve as an appropriate monument to this statesman of nineteenth century Greece.²⁵

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²⁰ M. Bieber, *The Sculpture of the Hellenistic Age*, New York, 1955, figs. 501, 507. These parallels were originally suggested to me by Mrs. du Pont.

²¹ S 2176. Pres. h. 0.35 m.

²² E. g. G. E. Mylonas, *Eleusis and the Eleusinian Mysteries*, Princeton, 1961, fig. 77.

²³ S 2178. Pres. h. 0.25 m. Cf. E. B. Harrison, *The Athenian Agora*, I, *Portrait Sculpture*, Princeton, 1953, no. 29.

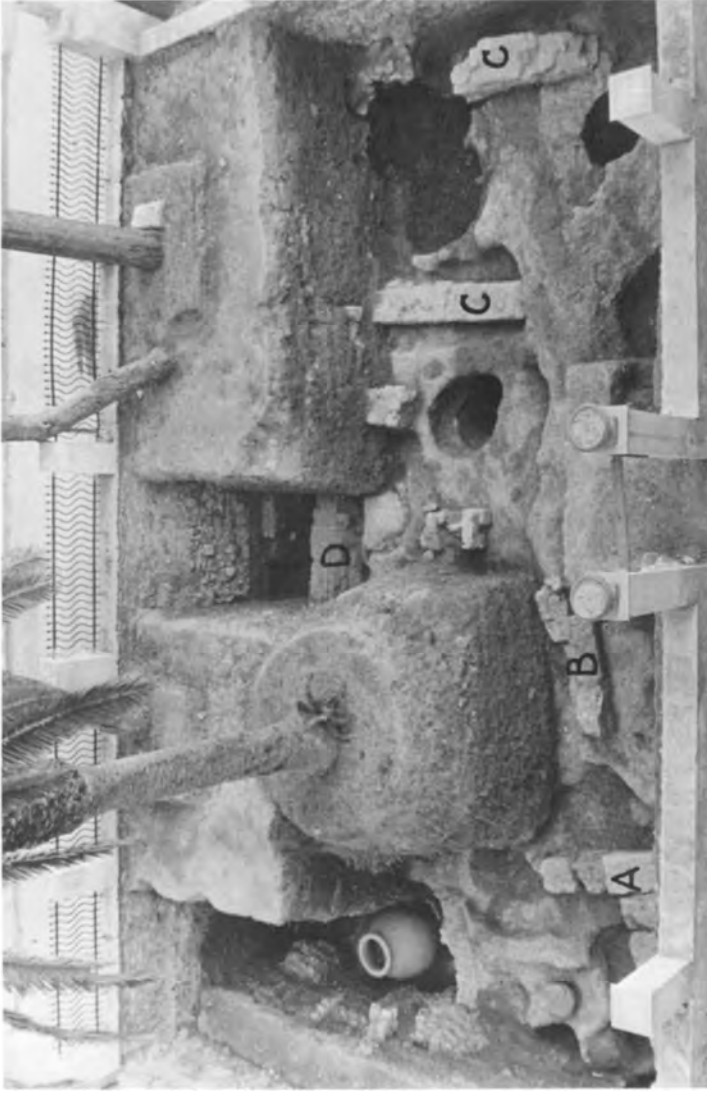
²⁴ S 2180. Pres. h. 0.52 m.

²⁵ The study of these marbles was generously entrusted to the American excavators by the Greek Archaeological Service.



a. Area of Southeast Stoa from the East.

- A Panathenaic Way.
- B Stylobate of Southeast Stoa.
- C Front Wall of Southeast Stoa.
- D Southeast Corner of 6th Shop from North.



b. Southeast Stoa : excavated Area from the South.

- A Southeast Corner of 6th Shop from North.
- B Eastward Extension of Stoa Shops.
- C Foundations of 5th Century after Christ.
- D East-West Wall of Late Roman Date.



a. Southeast Stoa : South Side of 6th Shop from North. View from East.

A Southeast corner. B Southwest Corner.



c. Ionic Column Base re-used in 5th Century A.D. (A3514).



b. Southeast Stoa : front Wall from South.

A Cross wall between 7th and 8th Shops from North.

B Terracotta Drain.

R. ROSS HOLLOWAY: EXPLORATION OF THE SOUTHEAST STOA IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA



a. Bell Krater (P 27303).



b. Bell Krater (P 27348).



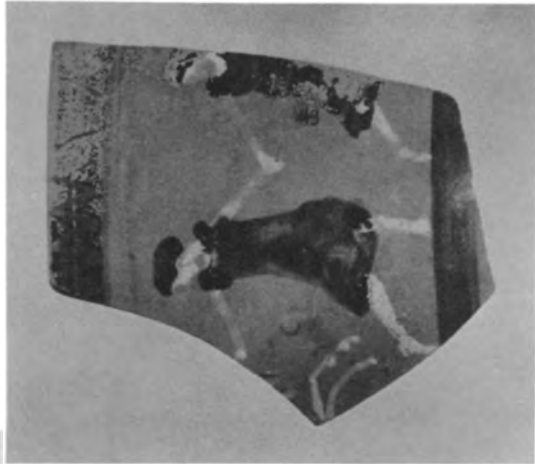
c. Chous (P 27313).



d. Pyxis Lid (P 27318).



e. Pyxis Lid (P 27317).



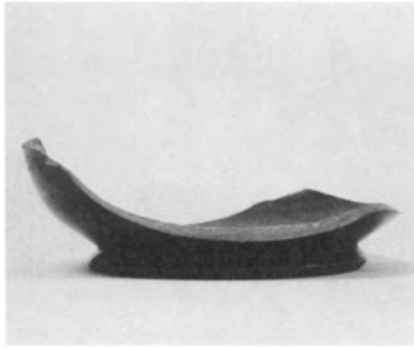
f. Votive Krateriskos (P 27342).

Pottery from a Well of the late 5th Century B.C.

R. ROSS HOLLOWAY: EXPLORATION OF THE SOUTHEAST STOA IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA



a. Black Glazed Bowl (P 27314).



c. Black Glazed Bolsal (P 27409).



e. Plain Lekane (P 27423).



b. Underside of P 27314.



d. Floor of P 27409.



f. Brazier (P 27422).



g. Plain Amphora (P 27419).

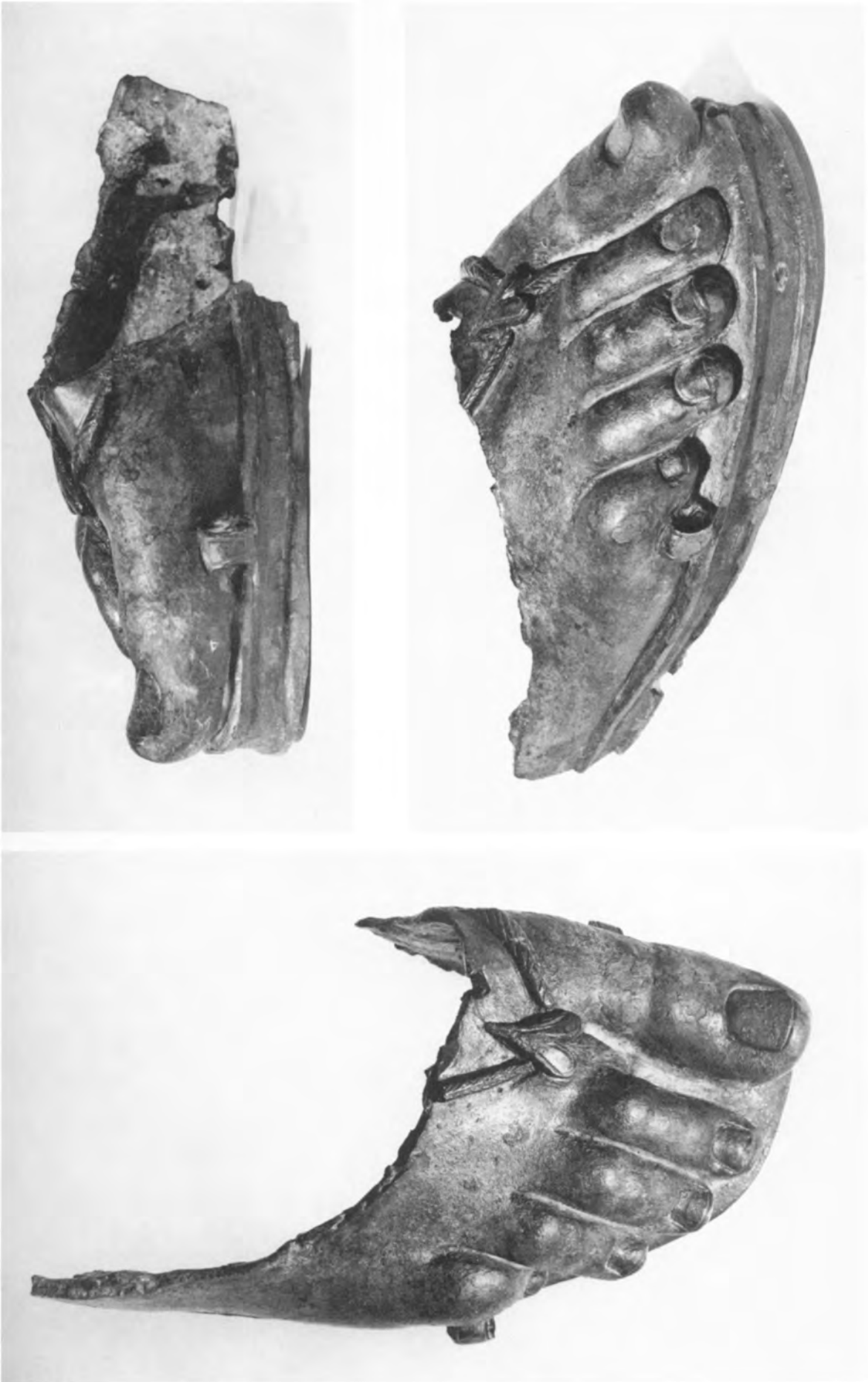


h. Plain Amphora (P 27418).



i. Plain Amphora (P 27420).

Pottery from a Well of the late 5th Century B.C.



Bronze Foot (B 1284).

R. ROSS HOLLOWAY: EXPLORATION OF THE SOUTHEAST STOA IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA



a. Archaistic Kore (S 2176).



d. Relief of Hephaistos (S 2180).



b. Archaistic Kore (S 2176).



c. Head of a Priest (S 2178).



e. Fragment of "Attic Stele" (I 6991).