

CORINTH, 1969: FORUM AREA

(PLATES 1–12)

DURING the spring of 1969 the American School of Classical Studies continued its excavations in Corinth within the limits of the Roman forum.¹ One purpose of this activity was to investigate further the area of the Sacred Spring, the other was to define better the shape and grade of the Hellenistic race course that lies beneath the Roman fills to the south of the Sacred Spring. Dr. Robinson directed the excavation on Temple Hill, immediately north of Archaic Temple where he started excavation last summer; Dr. Nancy Bookidis continued her work on the north slope of Acrocorinth, in the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore.²

THE HELLENISTIC RACE COURSE

The remains of two starting lines for pre-Roman race courses were discovered immediately west of the foundations for the west façade of the Julian Basilica during the excavations of 1937.³ Only a small portion of the mid-section of the earlier starting line was then cleared; no test trenches were dug to determine its construction date. Apparently one of the main factors that forced the abandonment of the early course and its reorientation toward the southwest was the erection of the South Stoa and its terrace which would have constricted the free space around the finish line had the position of the race track not been changed (Fig. 10). It can only be suggested, at present, that the early race course was laid out in the fifth century; this course definitely existed by the middle of the fourth century and was abandoned when the starting line of the later course was built over the earlier starting line. A water channel limited the south side of the later race track, with monuments south of the channel. Approximately 16 meters of this channel were exposed in the excavations of 1905

¹ I most sincerely thank again this year Dr. Henry S. Robinson, Director of the School, for his continued aid and interest in all aspects of the Corinth Excavation, and Mrs. Evangelia Deilaki, Ephor of Antiquities of the Argolid and Corinthia, also Professor Homer A. Thompson for his interest and criticism. The smooth operation of things curatorial and clerical is owed to Miss Kathryn Butt, aided by Mrs. Kenneth Sams. Photographic assistance was given by Ioannidou and Bartzioti. Special thanks are due Mr. Photios Notes for his continuous attention to the duties of excavation foreman, and Mr. Thomas Boyd for the high degree of precision he used in his share of this year's architectural drawings. The field supervisors during the spring session were Messrs. John Lavezzi and Hector Williams of the American School and Mr. Evert Rehnberg from the University of Göteborg, Sweden. I am indebted to all concerned for the successful completion of the 1969 excavation.

² The reports of these two areas will be presented separately by the excavators.

³ Charles H. Morgan, II, "Excavations at Corinth, 1936-37," *A.J.A.*, XLI, 1937, pp. 549-550, pl. XVI.

Hesperia, XXXIX, 1

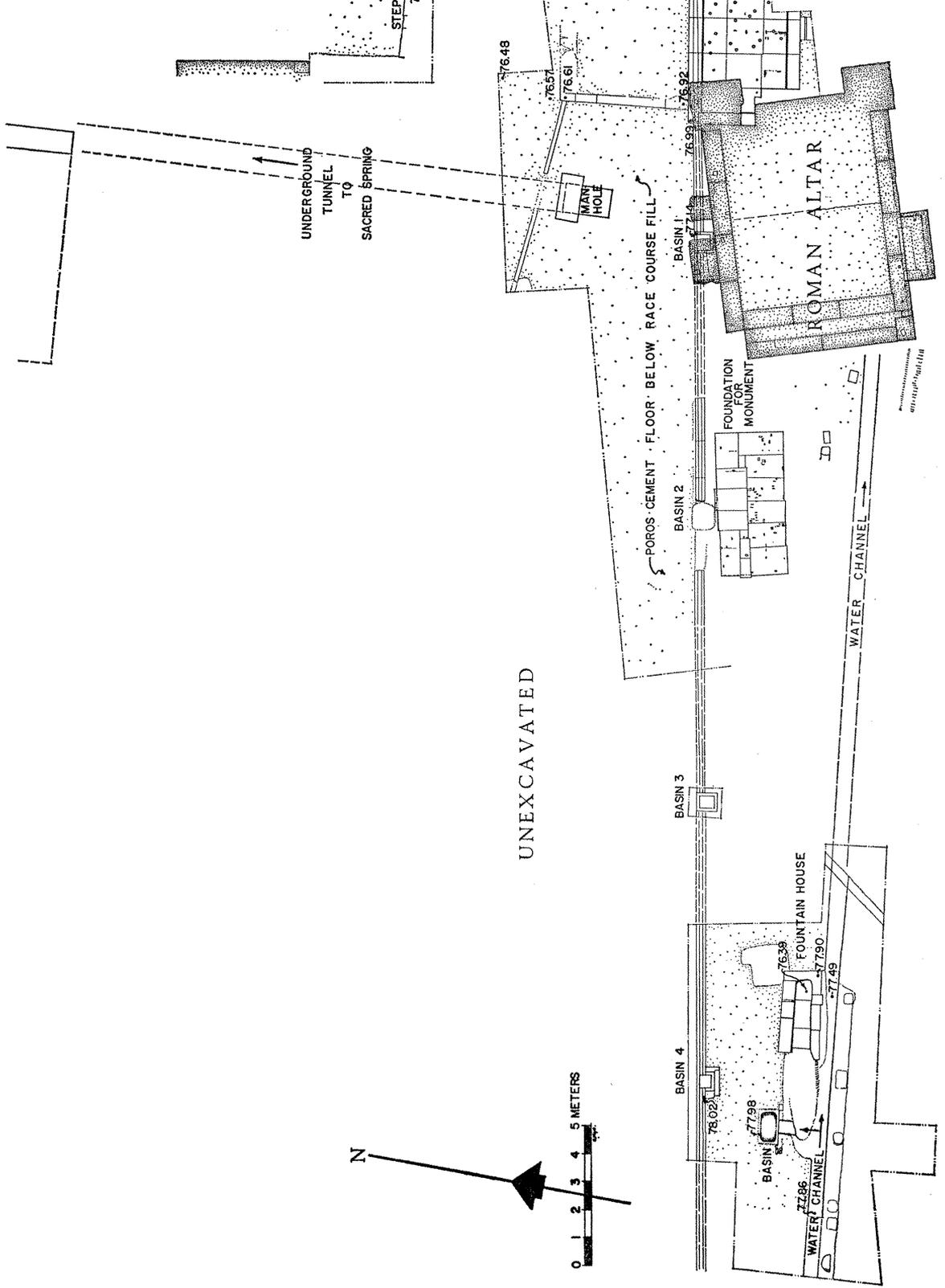


FIG. 1. Plan of South Side of Race Course, Excavation of 1969.

and 1907.⁴ The north side of the race course was defined by the triglyph wall of the temenos of the Sacred Spring and by the monument bases that were erected on that wall, as well as by those monuments that were erected both to the east and to the west of the wall.⁵

Six separate trenches were laid out this year along the south side of the race course (Fig. 1) in order to examine more fully the water channel that had been discovered in 1905 and in order to study the track surface and the fills beneath the track that are to be associated with the water channel.

This examination has shown that the shift in position of the late Hellenistic race course from its earlier line must have been made at the beginning of phase 8 of the Sacred Spring, not with phase 7 as had previously been suggested.⁶

It is clear, as well, that the racing surface of this later track was not truly level; rather it descended between 0.50 and 0.75 m. from the starting line at the east to its minimum height above sea level near the mid-point of the course. Thereafter the track apparently made a continuous ascent to the west. The west end of the course has not yet been found; it may have been destroyed by Roman construction and grading at the west end of the forum.

The water channel and six settling basins that limited the south side of the track have been uncovered in the course of this season's work from about the mid-point of the track westward to immediately east of Temple H. The system has been exposed, inclusive of baulks between trenches, for an overall distance of 63 m. The easternmost of the exposed basins lies about 92.50 m. west of the starting line. Thereafter the basins appear to have been spaced, roughly, 9.90 m. on center. The basin immediately west of the easternmost one is no longer preserved; only a pit testifies to its approximate position 9.90 m. from the first basin. The easternmost basin is 19.76 m. distant from the third, the fourth 9.87 m. from the third, the fifth 9.98 m. from the fourth, the sixth 9.92 m. from the fifth. (All measurements are from center to center.)

From the fifth settling basin westward, channel and basins are badly damaged and, in large part, removed, the result of the Roman building program in which this western incline was leveled in preparation for making it part of the forum. Even so the position of the western termination of the race course might be indicated by a Hellenistic reservoir discovered in 1935 west of Temples H and J (Fig. 4).⁷ This

⁴ B. H. Hill refers to the channel as a possible part of the installation that brought water to the Sacred Spring during the last years of Hellenistic Corinth. He does not, however, associate it with the Hellenistic race course. See *Corinth*, I, vi, p. 194, note 1.

⁵ B. H. Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 185-199, figs. 119, 122, pl. XVII; also see C. K. Williams, II, "Excavations at Corinth, 1968," *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 52, fig. 6.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 49-52, fig. 6.

⁷ R. Stillwell, "Excavation in Corinth, 1934-1935," *A. J. A.*, XL, 1936, p. 43. See also, R. L. Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, p. 5, plan A; and H. S. Robinson, S. S. Weinberg, "Excavations

has the plan of two interlocking rectangles of which only the lower walls are now preserved. It lies 173.45 m. west of the starting line and is on a direct line with the six basins and the water channel that limit the south side of the course. Its elevation is appropriate for the height of the race track if the degree of grade indicated between basins one and six is continued to the reservoir in question. Its complex shape indicates that it was more than just another basin of the system; rather, it may have been the westernmost of the series. The western end of the course thus may not have been far from this reservoir. The reservoir, when excavated, produced pottery datable to the end of Greek Corinth, *ca.* 146 B.C. At this time the race course also went out of use.

Much fill had to be brought in and laid down in the area immediately south of the Sacred Spring in order to produce the new, higher level needed for the dromos of the race course. This filling operation explains why much of the pottery found under the surface of the race track was of Neolithic date, with a heavy mixture of black-figured and red-figured sherds. The latest pottery from this fill is dated, at the earliest, to not much before the middle of the fourth century B.C.

1. Gnathian oinochoe.

Pl. 1.

C-69-138. Max. pres. Dim. 0.051 m.

Clay well fired, tan going to orange at core; good black glaze, added white, yellow, and purple. Neck fragment, preserving base of vertical handle at shoulder.

Sloping shoulder with three horizontal bands of decoration, each separated by pairs of incised horizontal lines. Bottom band: branch in red with alternating red and white leaves on

both sides of branch, yellow dots between tips of upper leaves and incised lines. Second band: zigzag line going horizontally, white at bottom to yellow at top. Top band: ova outlined by incision, U in white paint inside, dots at bottom between ova. A second Gnathian fragment, base and lower body, found in similar fill.

For shape see Lidia Forti, *La Ceramica di Gnathia*, pl. XXVI, d; for decorative arrangement, pl. XIV, a. Not before 360 B.C.

The clearest evidence for the date of the laying of the new race track comes, however, not from pottery from the fill but from pottery found in sand against a step in the poros cement floor which was covered by the fill brought in for the race course. Here were found almost complete pots, deposited in the 3rd quarter of the fourth century, apparently just before the filling operation started. This material includes the following:

2. Corcyrean (?) amphora with handle stamp.

Pl. 1.

C-69-101. Pres. H. 0.633, max. D. 0.395 m.

Clay pinkish tan, thin creamy slip. Almost complete.

Conical body, maximum diameter just below

nearly horizontal shoulder, paddling marks on upper body. Small, flaring rim with top surface concave. On top of handle, circular stamp with seven-petal palmette.

For almost exact parallel in shape, Athenian Agora P-6395, Deposit D15:3, deposit dated

at Corinth, 1959," *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, p. 248. The latest material in the fill from the reservoir is Megarian bowls.

to 3rd quarter of fourth century, in which was also found the imitation Cypriot amphora P-6154 (*Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 59, fig. 9).

3. Coarse ware lekane. Pl. 1.

C-69-102. H. 0.22, D. at rim 0.401, D. at base 0.142 m. Clay brick red with sandy grit. Complete.

Ring foot, body flaring in shallow convex curve to outward curving, almost horizontal rim; two horizontal band handles.

4. Squat oinochoe. Pl. 1, a, center.

C-69-133. Pres. H. 0.060, D. of body 0.085 m.

Fine buff Corinthian clay. Top of handle, upper neck and rim missing.

Flat base, squat ovoid body with maximum diameter just above base, continuous ovoid profile from base to narrow cylindrical neck; two wide body bands painted in black going brown in lower band, separated by reserved area with red line therein; two horizontal red bands just below shoulder zone. Shoulder decoration of radiating tongues in black glaze; base of neck red, black glaze above. Second, similar oinochoe from same fill: C-69-134.

Same class of oinochoe, close in shape, C-40-17 (Pl. 1, a, right), was found in context datable to late fourth-early third century B.C. For same type, late fifth century, see C-34-1000 (Pl. 1, a, left), *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 282, fig. 20.

5. Imitation Cypriot amphora. Pl. 1.

C-69-111. H. 0.274, max. D. 0.193 m.

Red-tan clay with some white inclusions, hard fired and with thin walls; cream slip, decoration in matt red and matt black. Complete profile, but with handles missing.

Flaring ring foot, ovoid body, slightly flaring cylindrical neck, outward flanged rim. Lower half of body undecorated, three horizontal bands, lowest black, second red, third black, zone above filled with three vertical branches alternating red and black on each side of pot between horizontal handles; black stroke running down handles onto body below handles. Shoulder, neck, and rim decorated in horizontal bands of red and black.

Neck and rim profile similar to C-68-181, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 57, fig. 8.

6. Imitation Cypriot amphora. Pl. 1.

C-69-137. Max. pres. H. 0.20, max. body D. 0.194 m.

Reddish clay with white inclusions, hard fired with thin walls, poor cream to gray slip. Decoration in matt black and dilute red. Neck, rim and one handle missing.

Ring foot, ovoid body, horizontal handles rising vertically. Two horizontal red bands at mid body, pattern of upper body zone, handles, shoulder similar to No. 5.

CONSTRUCTION DATE

A wine amphora (No. 2), Corinthian oinochoai (No. 4), and imitation Cypriot amphorae (Nos. 5 and 6) suggest a date of about the 3rd quarter of the fourth century for the final use of the floor that immediately underlies the fill brought in for the construction of the late race course. The fill itself contained much pottery rather early in date; the latest pots, however, are skyphoi in style no later than the latest ones found at Olynthos. Two fragments of Gnathian ware (No. 1) suggest that the fill was not dumped before the mid-fourth century. The race course appears, therefore, to have been laid out and the fill for it brought in sometime in the 3rd or early last quarter of the fourth century. This operation was perhaps facilitated by the availability of earth that was removed from foundation trenches during the

construction of the South Stoa. The newly oriented race course may have been part of a plan to redesign the low area south of Temple Hill at the time of the erection of the South Stoa.

SOUTH SIDE (Fig. 1)

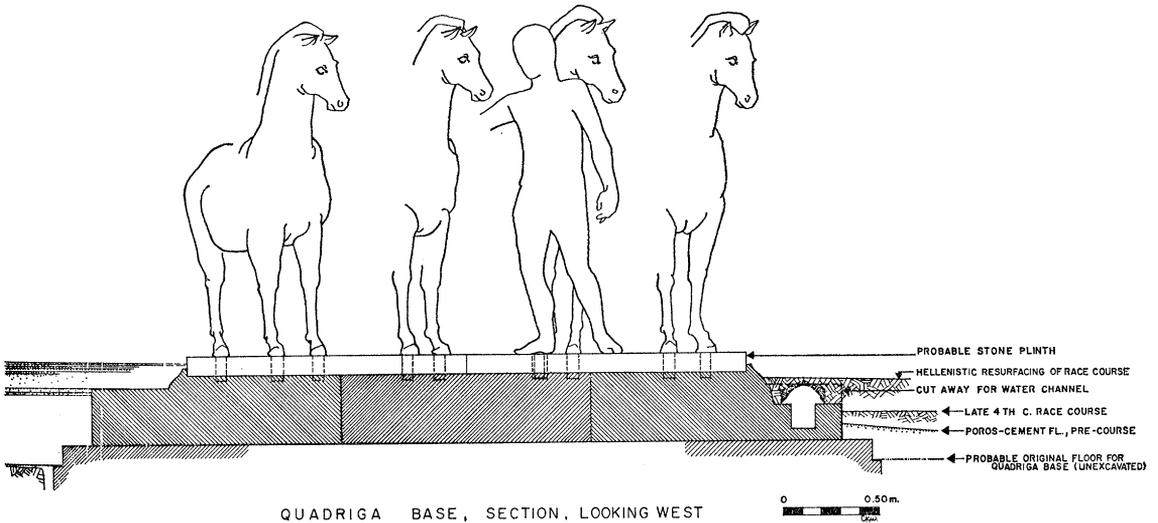
A poros monument base was discovered and cleared this year 3.83 m. east of the easternmost draw basin of the water channel that defines the south side of the Hellenistic race course. The base had been constructed, however, well before the race course was laid out; in fact the monument was slightly in the way of the water channel since, when the channel was constructed, it had to be cut into the step along the north side of the monument.

The base, a rectangular, two-course construction consisting of euthynteria and step, is destroyed at its southwest corner. At the step course the monument measures 3.94 m. north-south by 5.00 m. east-west. A cyma reversa moulding runs around the inside of the tread of the step, delineates a rectangular area 2.945 m. north-south by 4.157 m. east-west, and forms a lip behind which the plinth of the statue group was sunk 0.03 m. (Fig. 2). This lip defines a sunken area or bed into which a superimposed course was set, a device found on other dedicatory monuments, devised, apparently, so that a superimposed course would be held securely without being doweled or clamped. The technique is also used in wall construction in Corinth, a good example of which runs along the north side of the roadway that passes to the north of the temenos of the Sacred Spring (Pl. 3, a).⁸ Here is preserved a wall socle with recessed bed for its orthostates.

The plinth of the statue that originally rested on the poros monument base is now completely missing, as is the statue group. The plinth probably was executed either in marble or in Argos black stone; the pry holes for the setting of the twelve plinth blocks are visible in the poros rectangle prepared for the plinth. Also, three lead wedges used to level the blocks were found on this surface, two still adhering to the sunken bed. The statue group, four horses, perhaps a groom, and chariot, were executed in bronze and doweled into the plinth. The circular holes for the dowels were drilled completely through the plinth course and into the poros below, within the rectangle delineated by the cyma reversa moulding of the step tread. The position of the four horses, as determined from the dowels that anchored them in place, is typical for a quadriga group (Pl. 2).⁹

⁸ Monument bases set into recessed beds are to be found on the south triglyph wall of the temenos of the Sacred Spring, Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, figs. 115, 116; socle for wall north of roadway, Hill, pp. 20, 22; monument at Delphi, *Fouilles de Delphes*, II, *La terrasse du temple*, pp. 255-257, figs. 199, 199 bis, base 4; the device is common at Olympia, *Olympia, Die Ergebnisse*, II, 1896, pl. LXXXII, base with Praxiteles dedication.

⁹ Chamoux, *Fouilles de Delphes*, IV, v, 1955, pp. 21 ff., esp. fig. 2. For fragment of base from Athens, Δελτ., XI, 1927-28, p. 133; for photograph, Balanos, *Les monuments de l'Acropole*, 1939, pls. 140a, 141b.



Restored Section looking West.

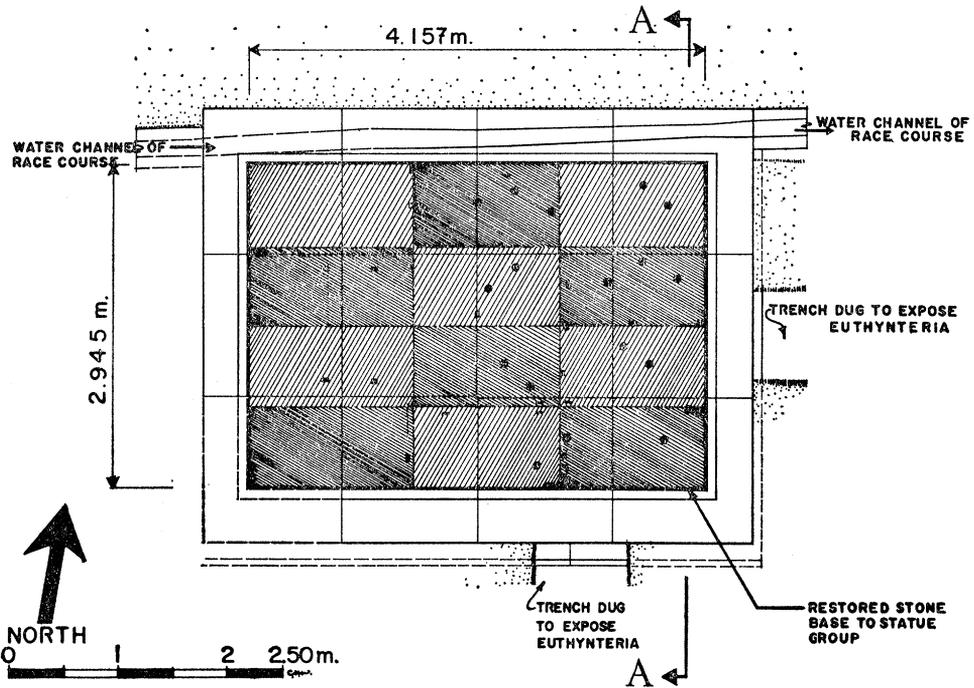


FIG. 2. Quadriga Base at South Side of Race Course.

The quadriga group, facing east, had the trace horses striding ahead of the central pair. The trace horse at the north had its right front hoof forward and the tip of its tail apparently doweled to the stone base; the horse to its south had its left front hoof forward. The third horse, slightly ahead of the second, had its right front hoof forward, and the fourth its left forward.

Immediately in front of the second horse from the north is a circular dowel cutting, perhaps for a foot of the groom. The back of the podium was reserved for the chariot, each of its wheels secured to the base by pairs of square dowels rather than by circular ones similar to those used to hold the feet of the horses. The circular dowel cuttings in the poros base are between 0.06 and 0.07 m. in diameter.

A line of poros blocks 0.37 m. wide is visible in the poros cement floor that immediately underlies the late race course; it extends northward from the northwest corner of the step course of the quadriga base for 4.50 m. (Fig. 1). Here one line of poros blocks goes eastward, a second narrower line, perhaps originally constructed as a step or curb, stretches seven meters northwest into unexcavated fill. These three lines of poros blocks belong to the earliest period of the quadriga base and are partially covered by the poros cement floor that immediately preceded the Hellenistic race course. Further excavation in this area is necessary in order to determine the exact design and function of these lines of poros blocks.

The quadriga base was apparently erected by the first years of the fourth century B.C. Tests made at the front and south side of the base produced few sherds from the bottom levels; these, however, were fifth century in date. Also, the floor levels that had accumulated against the base before the Hellenistic race course fill was brought in show that the monument had been standing for some time before the race track was built (Fig. 2, top). There is a hard floor level that goes with the original period of the monument; above this is a heavy fill covered by a cement-hard floor of poros chips. On the south side of the monument this floor came up to the top of the monument step. Above this are a series of cement floors that accumulated over the step and at least to the top of its cyma moulding. Over the poros monument where the statues originally had stood, the soil was soft and contained large quantities of late Hellenistic pottery, most of which were Megarian bowls, witness to the fact that the Romans dismantled the statue with the sack of Corinth in 146 B.C.

POTTERY FROM OVER THE MONUMENT BASE:

7. Megarian bowl. Pl. 3.

C-69-140. H. 0.071, est. Diam. 0.130 m.

Clay buff, probably Corinthian, traces of dull black glaze.

Complete profile.

Medallion: concave at center with one framing groove, plain area and two grooves at edge

of medallion. Body: ova in one line at base of body picked out in plastic lines, circles at their center, net pattern above fading out to rim which was added by wheel. Vertical to slightly flaring rim.

8. Megarian bowl. Pl. 3.

C-69-144. H. 0.097, est. Diam. at rim 0.180 m.

Clay light green, traces of dull black glaze. About one-third of pot preserved.

Medallion: four *akanthos* leaves in form of cross, framed by two ridges. Alternating *akanthos*, long pointed, and long rounded leaves radiating from disc; above, row of ova then guilloche band; plain, wide rim added by wheel.

With these bowls were found the following, also inventoried, Megarian bowls of more common design: C-69-126, C-69-146, C-69-148, C-69-149, C-69-150, C-69-151.

9. Kyathos. Pl. 3.
C-69-78. H. of body 0.041, max. Diam. 0.050 m.

Clay buff, glaze from brown to dark gray. Handle missing.

Flat base flaring to maximum diameter of body close to base, thereafter tapering slightly inward to rim, vertical lip; two wide grooves just below lip on outside; base of strap loop handle preserved where it joins body just below lip.

No. 9 not from soil associated with bowls Nos. 7, 8; many fragments similar to No. 9 found, however, with the bowls. See Corinth Lot 5812.

The foundation for a second, large monument lies 10.90 m. west of the quadriga base (Fig. 1, Pl. 2, a). It is preserved only to socle level; it was built, apparently, after the construction of the race course.¹⁰ The foundation is 2.39 m. wide at the east, 2.36 m. at the west, measuring from north to south; it is 5.03 m. from east to west. The foundation is not a neat rectangle nor does it run exactly parallel to the drain of the race course.

This monument, as well as certain large bases on the north side of the race track, is large enough to have carried a group of two horses and chariot, i.e., a *biga* rather than a quadriga as did the monument discovered this year. There are indications that more than one dedication of a chariot were erected in this area.¹¹

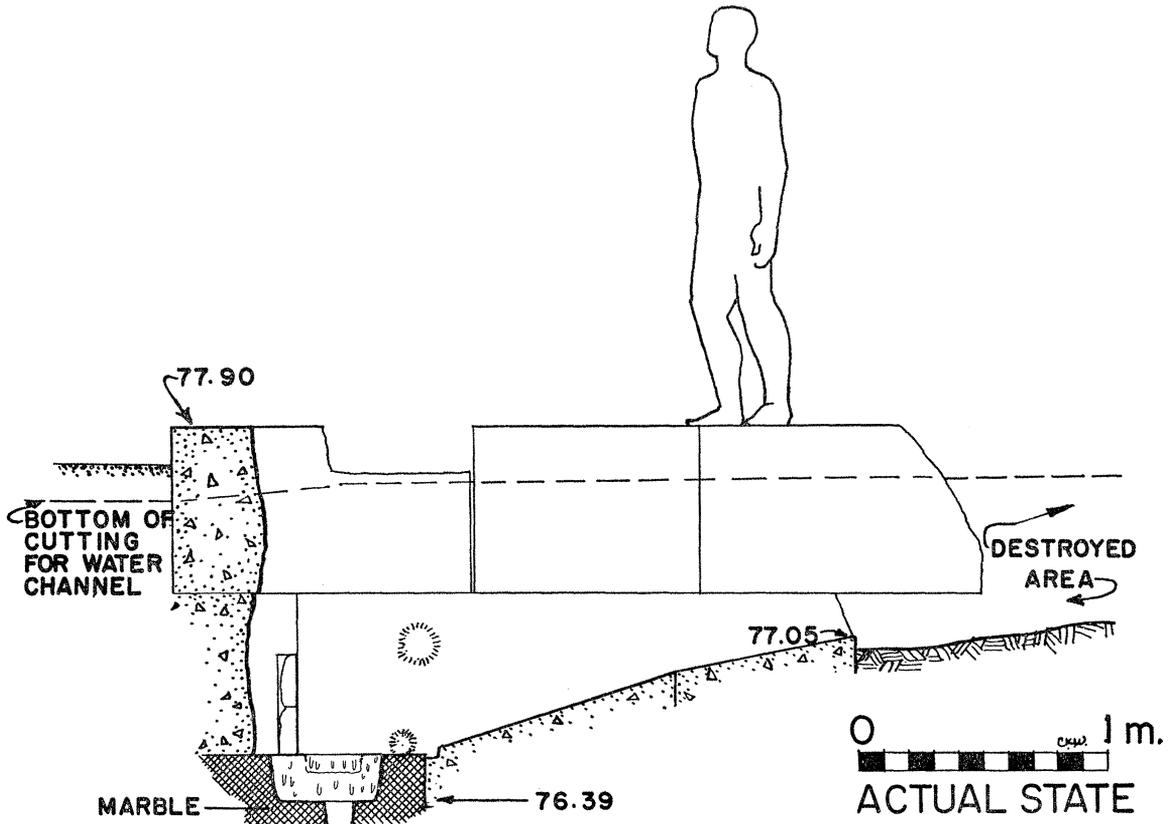
Farther west along the race course, immediately south of the fourth draw basin, lies a third structure, this one partly excavated in 1938. Whatever function the monument had in the early Roman period,¹² it was a fountain house in the fourth century B.C.; it may have been built even earlier.

The structure, as originally designed, was in the form of a ramped fountain house of extremely small scale, oriented approximately east-west (Fig. 3, Pl. 3, b). Its overall preserved dimensions are $3.20 \pm$ m. east-west by about 1.50 m. north-south. The exterior ground level was between 77.71 and 77.80 m. above sea level. The highest course preserved of the original walls of the fountain house rose to no more than

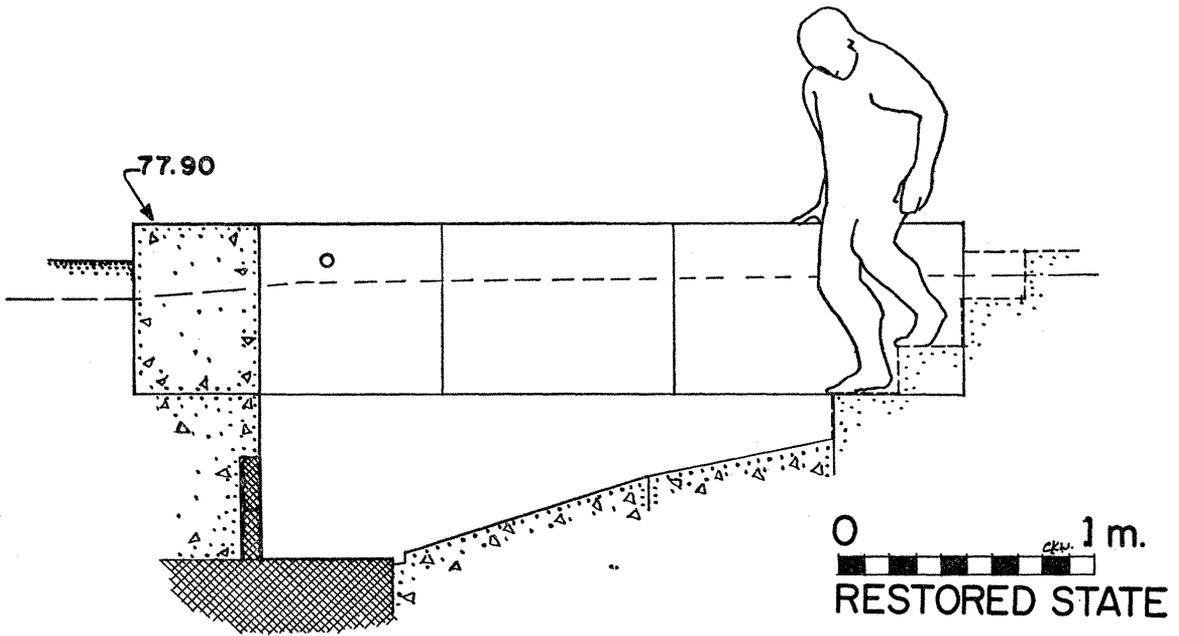
¹⁰ This monument was partially cleared in the excavations of 1905 and had been completely excavated before 1969.

¹¹ B. D. Meritt, *Corinth*, VIII, i, p. 36, no. 30. This inscribed plinth cannot be identified as belonging to the quadriga monument uncovered this year since, apparently, the dowels for securing the statue group to the inscribed plinth would not have gone completely through the thickness of the marble and thus not have penetrated into the course below.

¹² Morgan, *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 264, tentatively identified as a shrine of the early Imperial period; Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, p. 141, pl. 64, identified provisionally as an emplacement for a mast in the Roman forum.



Present State looking South.



Restored Section looking South.

FIG. 3. Ramped Fountain House at South Side of Race Course.

0.10-0.20 m. above ground. Whether, originally, another course rose higher cannot be determined. The two poros blocks that do rise higher now on the north wall of the rampway are of a later date than the original structure. From ground level downward there may originally have been a series of steps, now pillaged, which led from the west to the narrow ramp which starts at 77.05 m. above sea level. The ramp slopes eastward for a length of 1.46 m. to 76.58 m. above sea level. Here the poros ramp stops against a horizontal floor built of a single thick marble block. An upright marble veneer slab, 0.075 m. thick, was set into the east poros wall and rose to a height of 0.41 m. above the marble floor. The marble floor and wall slab, today badly damaged from alterations and re-uses, were built into the fountain house to protect the soft poros blocks from the continuous wear and erosion to which they would have been exposed by the constant dripping of water from the fountain spout above. This device for the protection of erodible surfaces from falling water is also found elsewhere in Corinth.¹⁸

The fountain house was supplied by a channel that brought water from the west and which passed along its south wall (Pl. 3, a, no. 1). The water course has now been traced to the foundations of the west side of the early Roman altar about 22 m. farther east. An outlet must have been constructed at the point where the water channel passed immediately south of the marble floor of the fountain house, allowing water to fall to the floor below. The wall of the fountain house is, unfortunately, destroyed at this point. Wherever the water supply system has been cleared it has been found that the channel was removed from the trench; this appears to have been done after the middle of the fourth century B.C. The cutting for the channel, however, is easily traced in the hard cement floors which surround the remains of the fountain house and in a poros cement floor, which resembles bedrock, farther to the east.

A second structure was also served by the water that flowed through this system. This is a stuccoed poros basin which lies two meters west of the fountain house (Pl. 3, a, no. 2). The top of the basin was at ground level, its lip rising only slightly above the cement floor. The south side of the basin had a narrow backing wall, 0.20 m. wide, running its length, traces of which are still preserved. The main east-west water supply channel, already discussed, ran at 1.25 m. south of the basin and fed the basin through a right-angle arm of which only the cutting is now partially preserved. The basin then received its water through a small hole in the south wall of the basin. No provisions were made to drain the basin.

The fountain house and the water basin appear to have been erected and to have

¹⁸ The mid-fifth century B.C. reservoir of the dye works in the Peribolos of Apollo has a rectangular hard stone set into its plaster floor immediately beneath the water inlet to protect the floor from falling water. Also, the floor in the archaic spring house immediately south of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi is of hard limestone, while the steps and walls are of re-used blocks of softer limestone.

been in use contemporaneously; they probably also went out of use at the same time. The date for the abandonment of the fountain house cannot be determined, however, for it is now the scarred victim of too much re-use and too many reclearings.

An indication for the approximate date of destruction of the water channel and abandonment of the fountain house and basin can be had from the latest sherds in the undisturbed fill within their abandoned water supply system. The latest fragment is a skyphos base of the middle of the fourth century B.C.; a skyphos of the first half of the fourth century was recovered from the fill within the water basin, sealed by a cement floor.¹⁴ The system probably went out of use in the second half of the fourth century. The abandonment of this complex appears to have been contemporaneous with the construction of the Hellenistic race course. This terminal date seems probable since the cement floor that was used with the fountain house was broken through when the water channel for the race course was constructed; the next cement floor laid covered the water basin and sealed the fill in it. This second floor was contemporaneous with or slightly later than the settling basin of the race course channel (Pl. 3, b, no. 4), for it ended against the poros blocks of the later channel and was not broken by the channel. It is even probable that the poros blocks of the water channel that served the fountain house and basin are those same poros channel blocks that thereafter were re-used to define the south side of the race course.

CEMETERY OF THE EARLY IRON AGE AT THE WEST END OF THE RACE COURSE

(FIG. 4)

The west end of the Roman forum covers the area that, earlier, had been used as an Early Iron Age cemetery. At the time of the cemetery, however, the contours were not those of a leveled terrace but rather of a slope rising to the west, forming the northwest side of the head of the Lechaion Road Valley (Fig. 10).¹⁵ Some early graves had already been excavated in this area in earlier American School excavations.¹⁶ Work within the past two years has brought to light six more burials, three of which are Sub-Mycenaean, one Protogeometric to Transitional, and two Geometric (Fig. 4). A broad strip of undug fill still lies to the west of Temples H,

¹⁴ Corinth Lot 5810 for fill within the abandoned water channel trench; Corinth Lot 5778 for the fill within the basin.

¹⁵ See below, p. 49 ff.

¹⁶ For Protocorinthian grave within the foundations of Temple F, see O. Broneer, "Excavations in the Agora at Corinth, 1933," *A.J.A.*, XXXVII, 1933, p. 567, figs. 11, 12. For possible cremation burial beside the foundations of Temple H, see Stillwell, *A.J.A.*, XL, 1936, p. 43. This hydria was found, in reality, against the northward extension of the west foundation of Temple H, i.e., against the west foundation of Temple J (Fig. 4). For two Geometric graves, or possibly three, see S. S. Weinberg, "A Cross-Section of Corinthian Antiquities (Excavations of 1940)," *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, p. 204, fig. 198, one of which is dated to the Early Geometric period by J. N. Coldstream, *Greek Geometric Pottery*, p. 92.

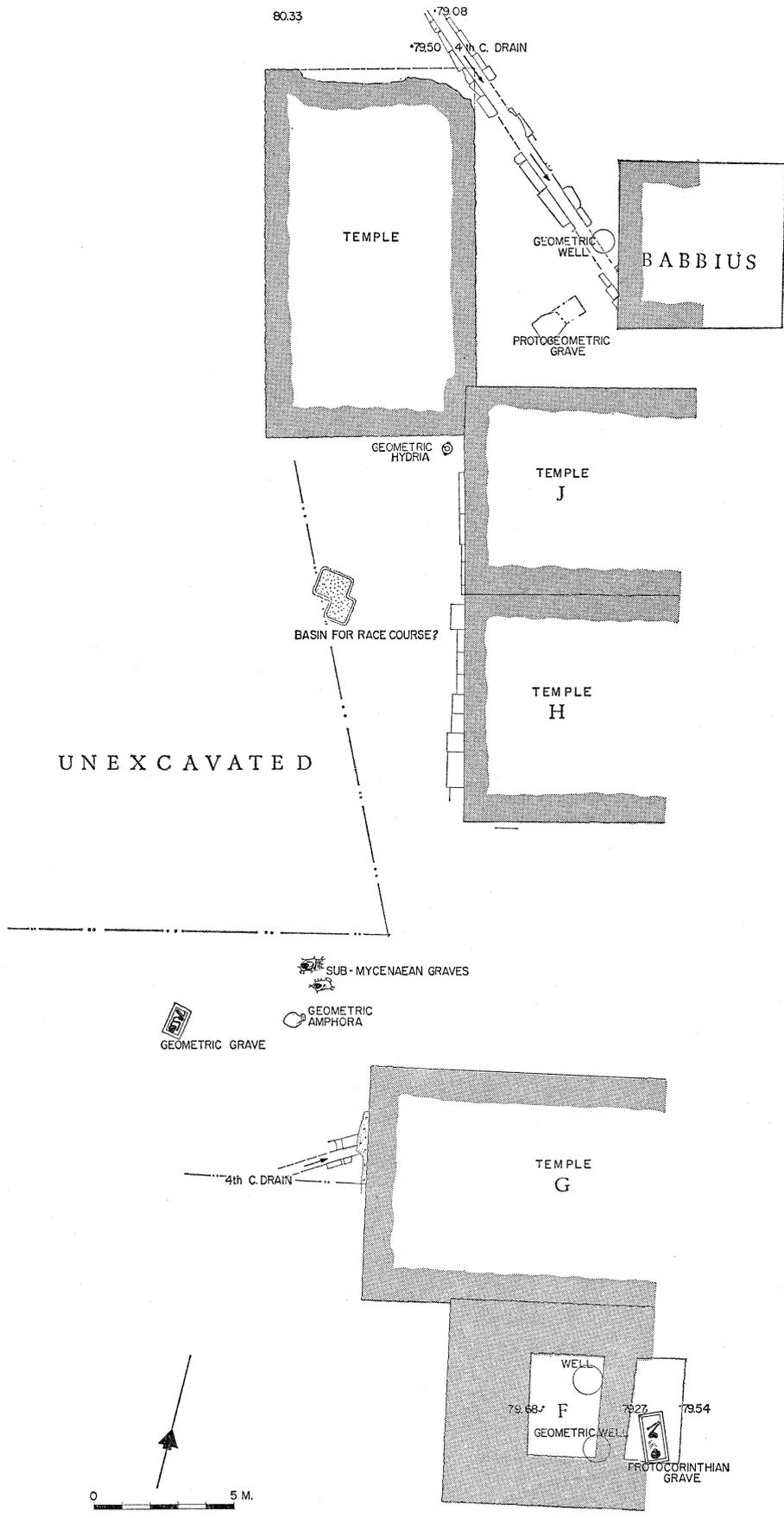


FIG. 4. Plan of West End of Forum, Early Iron Age Cemetery.

J, and K, in which, without doubt, lie more graves. Other graves apparently had been destroyed in the course of the erection of the Roman temples of the west end of the forum and with the erection of the Roman West Shops.¹⁷

The three Sub-Mycenaean interments, two skeletons in one grave, the third in a grave of its own, were found between 3.10 and 4.50 m. northwest of Temple G (Fig. 4, Pls. 4, 5). These burials were placed in contiguous pits and oriented in the same direction; the two graves resemble each other closely in construction. They are the first burials identified as Sub-Mycenaean in Ancient Corinth.¹⁸

The northern grave had its west end wall removed by the Turkish builders of a well shaft (Pl. 4, a, 5, b); the grave was otherwise undisturbed and the skeleton was intact. The grave was a rectangular pit in pure Neolithic fill and had its lip reinforced with a rim of uncut stones that made a mouth opening about 0.40 m. wide north-south by an estimated 0.90 m. long east-west. It had been covered after the burial with a course of rust-colored, unbaked mud bricks. The bricks, although caved in over the center of the grave, still sealed the burial. Probably they had originally been supported by wood resting on the stone lip of the grave but long since disintegrated. No trace of wood was found when the grave was opened.

The skeleton was that of a child of about seven years, lying on its back with head at the west, hands across its stomach, legs pulled up with knees to the north, feet pointed. It had a bow fibula of bronze on its left shoulder (Pl. 5, a) and wore an iron ring on a finger of its left hand. The deceased had been laid on a bed of egg-sized rocks which covered the whole of the bottom of the grave pit.

10. Bow fibula. Pls. 5, a, 6.

MF-69-102.

Bronze. Fibula badly corroded, removed from grave in 14 pieces.

Simple heavy bronze wire, looped once for spring; wire at end of bow beaten flat then bent back on itself to form catch for pin. Apparently no decoration.

11. Finger ring. Pl. 6.

MF-69-101. Outside Diam. 0.025 m.

Iron. Four-fifths preserved.

Simple band varying in width from 0.011 to 0.008 m. Surface of iron too badly rusted to determine if decorated. Possibly belongs with the following.

12. "Shield" bezel to ring. Pl. 6.

MF-69-103. L. 0.03, Th. of sheet 0.0012 m.

Bronze. Complete in two pieces when found, disintegrated in cleaning. Oval bezel with hole for attachment at center. No incision or other decoration on either side of bezel.

¹⁷ S. S. Weinberg, *Corinth*, VII, i, p. 29, Late Geometric pottery, including a large, coarse hydria, all disturbed.

¹⁸ I am indebted to J. L. Angel for his analysis of the skeletal material from the three Sub-Mycenaean graves. Sub-Mycenaean habitation is known to have existed to the west of the graves, well up the hill immediately west of the present museum. S. S. Weinberg, "Excavations at Corinth, 1938-39," *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, pp. 596-599, hut with hearth. Disturbed fill in the area produced Protogeometric, p. 599, note 1. Sub-Mycenaean and Protogeometric sherds were found in fills of the South Stoa, O. Broneer, *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, p. 293, pl. 89, b. Perhaps the habitations were high on the slopes of the valley, with the graves below the settlements.

The second grave, when completely excavated, was about 0.45 m. deep from its stone lip to the stones that formed its floor. The grave was 0.55 m. east-west by 0.30-0.35 m. north-south. It had originally been covered by mud bricks; the cover, however, had apparently been removed for the second burial made within the grave. Traces of bricks were found in the fill and fragments *in situ* on the stone lip of the grave. In places the lip of the grave was made of two courses of rough stones (Pl. 4, b).

The original burial of this grave was of a child of about three and a half years, lying on its back with its head at the west. Fragments of a bronze bow fibula were found on the left shoulder of the skeleton; a bronze straight pin projected from under the skull.

13. Bow fibula. Pl. 6.

Very fragmentary when removed from grave, disintegrated in cleaning. No accurate dimensions possible.

Simple fine wire fibula, looped once for spring, bow bent back on itself to serve as catch for pin.

14. Straight pin. Pl. 6.

MF-69-100. Pres. L. 0.098 m.

Bronze. Two unjoining fragments preserved, shaft corroded at break.

Simple shaft, circular in section with swelling between 0.018 and 0.033 m. from top of pin, swelling again at head. Lower swelling hammered slightly on opposite sides to produce two flat surfaces on thickened area; no other signs of working or decoration.

The later burial in this grave was made after a new floor of egg-sized rocks was spread over the original skeleton (Pl. 4, b). Thereupon was dumped a confusion of bones and a human skull. This is the skeleton of a three year old child. The skull was found in the west end of the grave face downward. It seems that the confused condition of the second burial is more likely due to the dumping of the bones of the skeleton into the grave after the flesh had decayed than to later disturbance. Placed with the bones, carefully upright and close to the north side of the skull, was an unbroken Sub-Mycenaean lekythos.

15. Lekythos. Pl. 6.

C-69-50. H. 0.136, max. Diam. of body 0.096 m.

Clay tan, pinkish hue, with mudstone (fabric similar to No. **19**), streaked reddish to brown glaze with high luster.

Intact. Flaring ring foot, globular body with maximum diameter at mid-point, cylindrical neck, flaring rim, vertical handle arching from mid shoulder to just below lip. Air hole in shoulder beside base of handle. Bottom of foot reserved, body glazed to shoulder with reserved area and one line therein on lower body; shoul-

der decoration starts with two lines then reserved area with three hand-drawn sets of semicircles rising from upper line. The two semicircle decorations on the sides of the lekythos have six concentric lines and solid center, front semicircle decoration has five concentric lines and solid center; line divides neck from shoulder; lip glazed, glaze continuing inside rim. Handle has seven horizontal glaze slashes from shoulder to lip.

Late Sub-Mycenaean, according to terminology of C. G. Styrenius, *Submycenaean Studies*, 1967, pp. 60-62.

A large coarse ware amphora was found lying on its side in a pit (Fig. 4, Pl. 7, b) dug into the Neolithic fill 3 m. northwest of Temple G. The mouth of the amphora faced east and had been plugged with clay and a flat stone. The part of the body that had been placed uppermost in the pit was broken away and those body sherds dispersed. Covering the hole was a large fragment of a second coarse ware pot, probably the belly and one handle of a hydria. A large flat stone was placed over this sherd cover, flush with the top of the Neolithic fill as preserved in the area today.

Nothing except fine silt was found in the amphora, neither bones nor objects. The large coarse ware pots found in this area¹⁹ may once have contained the ashes of cremation burials, but the high lime content of the Corinthian soil here perhaps has bleached the ash so as to be unidentifiable without chemical analysis.

16. Coarse ware amphora. Pl. 7.

C-69-52. H. 0.60, Diam. of foot 0.125, max. Diam. 0.47, Diam. of lip 0.178 m.

Gritty buff clay, buff slip. Large area in one side of body missing, also base of one handle.

Flat base, ovoid body, maximum diameter toward top; neck tapers inward from shoulder to flaring rim, squared lip. Two vertical handles from upper shoulder to under lip. Handmade. No decoration or embellishment except finger impression at base of preserved handle.

17. Fragment of hydria which covered hole in body of amphora. Pl. 7.

C-69-53. Pres. H. 0.207, Diam. of foot 0.098 m.

Pinkish buff clay, pink core and interior, gritty fabric.

Globular body with flat base, horizontal body handle. Handmade.

A cist grave of the end of the Corinthian Protogeometric period lies immediately west of the Babbis Monument (Fig. 4, Pls. 8, 9) and is here included as part of the burial yard that covered the northwest slope of the upper Lechaion Road Valley.²⁰ The grave had been dug into Neolithic fill which covers bedrock in most of this area. The bottom of the cist was bedrock. It had sides of roughly squared limestone slabs placed on edge, with an unlined compartment at the southwest which, when excavated, was found to be completely empty.²¹ The inner measurements of the grave were 1.02 to 1.17 m. northeast-southwest by 0.64 to 0.71 m. The grave was covered with a single large rectangular poros slab, the subsidiary chamber at its head had added covers of large rough stones.

The grave was found in a state of disorder with its contents casually scattered: one bronze pin (No. **33**) was found in earth at the center of the grave; the other one,

¹⁹ Stillwell, *A.J.A.*, XL, 1936, p. 43, fig. 21. Hydria, C-35-35, found with bronze bowl in its mouth at the west side of Temple J, buried in prehistoric fill. Although the hydria was apparently found *in situ*, no bones were found in it. See above, note 16.

²⁰ J. Lavezzi excavated this area in the spring of 1968; the results described here are much the better for his care and precision during the excavation.

²¹ Blegen, Young, Palmer, *Corinth*, XIII, p. 15. Five Geometric graves of the North Cemetery were found with subsidiary compartments; these contained the grave offerings.

bent, was leaning on end in the southeast corner of the grave; whorls were scattered throughout the fill; the globular pyxis (No. 25) had been securely tucked into the hollow under the side slab of the cist at the southeast corner of the grave (Pl. 8, b). Sherds of the skyphos (No. 26) were found pinioned under the end slab of the grave at its northeast corner, perhaps originally tucked there as the pyxis had been in the southeast corner, but later shattered when the end slab settled on it.

Only the pelvis and fragments of the skeleton were found in the grave; from these it appears that the head was at the southwest where three teeth were found. The two bronze finger rings were found against the northwest side of the cist, one with a finger bone still within it. Apparently the left arm of the deceased was extended along its left side, not across the chest.

18. Belly-handled amphora.²² Pl. 9.

C-68-56. H. 0.23, Diam. of foot 0.067, max. Diam. of body 0.163, Diam. of rim 0.114 m.

Nearly complete.

Flaring ring foot, ovoid body, concave neck, flaring slightly to rim, rim outward thickened; horizontal handles with round section at maximum diameter of pot, slightly above mid point of body. Completely black glazed with two reserved horizontal bands, lower band between handles decorated with three horizontal lines, second reserved band half way between first and bottom of neck, also with three horizontal lines.

Coldstream, *Greek Geometric Pottery*, pl. 22, c (54-265), body not as globular, more elaborate decoration. Argive E.G. I, from Mycenae.

19. Trefoil oinochoe. Pl. 9.

C-68-57. H. 0.212, max. Diam. of body 0.123, Diam. of foot 0.055 m.

Five-sixths complete.

Flaring foot, ovoid body, trefoil rim, vertical handle from mid shoulder to lip.

Black glazed from foot to shoulder, except single reserved horizontal line around lower body; reserved shoulder area with two horizontal lines above which rise three sets of compass-drawn concentric semicircles, seven lines in each, with hourglass filling ornament at center; neck, rim black glazed. Handle reserved with horizontal stripes on outside, sixteen careless dabs on inside of handle.

Kerameikos, IV, pl. 16, closest of group is no. 2073, grave 48, without hourglass filling

²² Two distinct types of clay were used for the pottery and spindle whorls found in this grave; slight variations within the larger group are due, without doubt, to firing. The larger of the two groups, which includes all of the spindle whorls and pots except Nos. 19 and 27, is made of a pale greenish cream to greenish buff clay with small white particles (lime?) and rare traces of mica. This group is self-slipped or, at least, has a creamier surface than core. The glaze used on the pots is brownish black and extremely fugitive; only where a dilute paint is used does it adhere (pyxis No. 24).

The variations in the group are as follows: Nos. 21, 20, and 23 are exactly the same clay and perhaps from the same potter. Nos. 25 and 26, as well as all the whorls (Nos. 28-32), resemble each other closely in clay and glaze. No. 22 is less green, slightly more buff, than the rest of the group. The glaze of No. 24 in places grades to orange because of firing. The clay and glaze of this whole group are typical of local Corinthian Geometric pottery.

The two pots not in this group are a kalathos (No. 27) and one trefoil oinochoe (No. 19). These are made of tan clay with pinkish hue, some quartz (mica?) and mudstone rather than the white inclusions. Glaze is good, lustrous black streaked to red-orange by uneven reduction in the kiln. This fabric is not common in Corinth.

ornament, twelve lines in multiple brush semi-circles. Protogeometric.

20. Trefoil oinochoe. Pl. 9

C-68-55. H. 0.233, Diam. of foot 0.056, max. Diam. of body 0.146 m.

Intact; body crack from misfiring.

Flaring ring base, body tending from biconical to ovoid, concave neck rises almost without breaking continuous line of profile of pot; vertical handle from shoulder to lip. Black glazed with reserved band slightly above maximum diameter filled with two horizontal lines laced with zigzag; handle reserved with fifteen horizontal slashes on its outside. C-68-55 less ovoid in body form than Protogeometric oinochoe, **19** (C-68-57), from same grave.

Coldstream, *Greek Geometric Pottery*, pl. 16, a. Corinth W-23, same shape and decoration as **20** (C-68-55) but W-23 has more pronouncedly ovoid body. E. G. with P. G. decoration. See Weinberg, *Corinth*, VII, i, pl. 2, no. 23, W-22 for almost exact parallel. E. G. but see also, *Kerameikos*, V, grave 28, no. 914, in purely Protogeometric context (Desborough, *Protogeometric Pottery*, pp. 48-49, 52).

21. Lekythos. Pl. 9

C-68-54. H. 0.144, Diam. of foot 0.041, max. Diam. of body 0.093, Diam. of rim 0.044 m.

Flaring base, globular body, cylindrical neck, flaring rim, handle from shoulder to upper neck.

Reserved body band with single horizontal line therein, just above maximum diameter.

22. Small round-mouthed jug. Pl. 9

C-68-51. H. 0.064, Diam. at foot 0.020, max. Diam. of body 0.049, Diam. of rim 0.022 m.

Intact, but with chipped body.

Concave base, transitional from biconical to ovoid body, short neck, flaring rim, vertical handle from shoulder to just under lip. Black glazed with reserved band starting at maximum diameter of body, one line therein; handle reserved with seven horizontal stripes.

23. Pilgrim flask. Pl. 9.

C-68-60. H. 0.102, max. Diam. of body, 0.073, Diam. of rim 0.032 m.

About four-fifths complete.

Lentoid body, thin neck, flaring rim, one vertical strap handle. On both sides three concentric compass-drawn circles around reserved "St. Andrew's cross," center of cross and field black glazed. Short strokes on reserved edge of discoid body, continuing along handle.

Kerameikos, IV, pl. 25, grave 48, inv. 2-34, similar shape with more elaborate pattern around body cross. Considered early in the Protogeometric sequence as a survival of a Mycenaean form, see Desborough, *Protogeometric Pottery*, p. 117. Protogeometric.

24. Pointed pyxis. Pls. 8, c, 9.

C-68-59 a, b. H. 0.14, with lid 0.163, max. Diam. of body 0.106, Diam. of rim 0.043 m.

Intact.

Ovoid body from pointed bottom to outward thickened echinus-shaped rim, flat on top; perforated vertical lug handles from upper shoulder to rim; conical cover with two perforations to secure cap. Decoration in horizontal zones: two stripes; zigzag between horizontal lines; wide glazed band; reserved band with two lines therein; wide glazed band; reserved band with one stripe; band made of panels varying between cross-hatch, checkers, dotted hourglass, hourglass within diminishing rectangles, panels separated by vertical zigzags; reserved area with one line; glazed band; reserved band with one line; hound's tooth; checkered band; hound's tooth; cross-hatched triangles in shoulder band; lip with dots. Outside of lid black glazed.

Coldstream, *Greek Geometric Pottery*, 54-269, pl. 22, e, from Mycenae, E. G. I, with same type of lip, but base with more attenuated point. See also, Desborough, *Protogeometric Pottery*, pl. 15. Transitional to E. G. from Athenian Agora, Grave XXVI. This pyxis has no everted lip.

- 25.** Globular pyxis. Pl. 9.
C-68-52 a, b. H. 0.132, with lid 0.16, Diam. of foot 0.058, max. Diam. of body 0.131, Diam. of rim 0.086 m.
Intact except for chip in upper body.
Ring foot, ovoid body, low neck with outward thickened rim of echinus profile. Solid glazed except for band starting at maximum diameter of body; band decorated with groups of opposing diagonal lines between two horizontal ones. Lid, shallow conical with flat-topped disc knob.
Kerameikos, IV, grave 48, no. 2066, similar with variations. Protogeometric.
- 26.** Skyphos. Pl. 9.
C-68-53. H. 0.098, Diam. of foot 0.059, Diam. of rim 0.138 m.
Complete except two small body sherds.
Flaring ring foot, deep ovoid body, gently offset flaring rim, two horizontal handles applied at maximum diameter. Glazed except for horizontal reserved band at handle level, decorated between handles by three horizontal lines, bottom two laced by zigzag line; thin reserved stripe around lip.
- 27.** Kalathos. Pl. 9.
C-68-58. H. 0.075, max. lip D. 0.14 m.
Complete.
Flat base, almost vertical lower body going to extreme flare at rim.
Base with glazed Maltese Cross in frame; glazed body with reserved band at mid point with three horizontal lines therein, lip reserved with irregular strokes along rim, strung together on horizontal line. Suspension hole *ca.* 0.012 m. below lip. Corinthian example has more contracted base than other Protogeometric examples, except kalathos from Vello, near Corinth. See *Kerameikos*, I, pl. 71, grave 16, no. 579; *Kerameikos*, I, pl. 108 (isolated find), no. 612, Protogeometric. Vello near Corinth, see Weinberg, *Corinth*, VII, i, pl. 9, p. 6, late Protogeometric. For profile of Early Geometric period from *Kerameikos* similar to No.
- 27** see grave 3. *Kerameikos*, V, pl. 15, no. 1 (Coldstream, E. G. I).
- 28.** Terracotta spindle-whorl. Pl. 9.
MF-68-34. Max. Diam. 0.052 m.
Complete.
Low, truncated cone, beveled bottom edge, pierced along vertical axis, cone more flaring than Nos. **29-31**.
Bottom glazed; cone wall reserved with horizontal line at top and bottom, between which are five cross-hatched triangles and one cross-hatched rectangle; top reserved with single glazed line around hole.
- 29.** Terracotta spindle-whorl. Pl. 9.
MF-68-35. Max. Diam. 0.033 m.
Complete.
Truncated cone, wall slightly concave, pierced along vertical axis. Decoration on bottom: reserved cross with single dot on each arm, center glazed. Decoration on cone wall: glazed at base, then glazed band, two glazed lines, then two more lines joined by vertical lines, single line above, top edge glazed; top glazed.
- 30.** Terracotta spindle-whorl. Pl. 9.
MF-68-36. Max. Diam. 0.031 m.
Complete.
Truncated cone, wall slightly concave, pierced along vertical axis.
Decoration on bottom: same as No. **29**.
Decoration on cone wall: glazed with two sets of three reserved horizontal lines; top black glazed.
- 31.** Terracotta spindle-whorl. Pl. 9.
MF-68-37. Max. Diam. 0.035 m.
Complete.
Truncated cone, wall slightly concave, pierced along vertical axis. Decoration on bottom: same as No. **29**.
Decoration on cone wall: reserved line just above bottom edge, glazed horizontal band with two glazed lines above, two more laced together by zigzag, with glazed line above, glazed top edge; top glazed.

- 32.** Terracotta spindle-whorl. Pl. 9. *Kerameikos*, IV, pl. 39, grave 38, M6; grave 39, M27. These, however, are iron. Coldstream, p. 13, dates grave 38 to E.G. II.
- MF-68-38. Max. Diam. 0.028 m.
Complete.
Double truncated cone, one cone on top of other, pierced along vertical axis.
Decoration on bottom: reserved cross, arms undotted, center glazed. Decoration on lower cone wall: reserved at bottom edge, also one reserved band above. Upper cone: reserved lower edge, line, second and third lines connected with net pattern, line above, glazed top edge; top glazed.
- 33.** Straight pin. Pl. 9.
- MF-68-39. L. 0.26 m.
Bronze.
Complete, broken at point.
Shaft having circular section up to globe at upper shaft, squared shaft above globe; pin capped by flat disc, 0.010 m. in diameter.
- 34.** Straight pin. Pl. 9.
- MF-68-40. L. 0.26 m.
Bronze.
Bent but intact.
Same as No. **33** but bent, found standing on end in southeast corner of cist.
- 35.** Finger ring.
- MF-68-41. Diam. 0.022 m.
Bronze.
Complete, mended from four fragments.
Simple band, 0.008 m. wide, apparently undecorated.
- 36.** Finger ring.
- MF-68-42.
Same as No. **35**.

A fifth grave, perhaps Early Geometric in date, was found in the area this year about four and a half meters west of the two Sub-Mycenaean graves. The skeleton was laid on his back with legs contracted, knees to the north, right hand on chest, left on pelvis, aryballos (No. **37**) at his right shoulder (Pl. 7, a, b). The sarcophagus, made of mud, was oriented differently from the amphora burial and the Sub-Mycenaean graves; it was oriented more in agreement with the Protogeometric grave found in 1968 immediately west of the Babbis Monument and with the grave found in 1940 immediately west of the West Shops.²³

The mud sarcophagus was not an exact rectangle. Perhaps when it was built it was rectangular in form but because of pressures of earth from above the mud walls of the sarcophagus in places may have buckled or partially collapsed inwardly. The inside dimensions of the grave were 0.87 by 0.45 m. The walls were no more than 0.10 to 0.12 m. thick.

- 37.** Unglazed aryballos. Pl. 7.
- C-69-49. H. 0.052, max. Diam. of body 0.055 m.
Fine, light gray clay, some inclusions. Body fragments missing. Globular body, slightly flattened at bottom, short neck tapering to slightly outturned rim; handle, flat ovoid in section, from shoulder to lip.
- Undecorated, handmade, pruned and polished.
Weinberg, *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, B6, p. 206, pl. 71, Early Geometric. Also, Courbin, *La céramique géométrique de l'Argolide*, pp. 242-243, pl. 96, nos. C. 4023, C. 462, about twice as high as No. **37**, early in the series.

²³ Weinberg, *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, fig. 1 of p. 198.

NORTH OF THE HELLENISTIC RACE COURSE: SACRED SPRING

A detailed discussion of the excavation within the temenos of the Sacred Spring will be reserved until further work is done in the area; only a deep trench dug this year at the eastern limit of the temenos and a cut into the mud altar of phase 3 of the temenos are here described and discussed.

The excavation of 1968 distinguished 8 architectural phases within the temenos of the Sacred Spring between the establishment of the temenos in the early fifth century and its abandonment with the fall of Corinth in 146 B.C.²⁴ The fountain house was erected in the first phase along with the apsidal building on the terrace above, the triglyph wall and secret tunnel which led to the apsidal building, and the inscribed horos stone which prohibited entrance into the sanctuary from the road at the north. At the end of the fifth century, within an apparently short number of years, a series of four mud altars was constructed, one altar above the other, within the temenos to the east of the fountain house. In about the middle of the fourth century B.C., or slightly thereafter, an east-west terrace wall was built along the south side of the temenos which forced the sanctuary to contract its southern limit slightly; this was during the seventh phase of the Sacred Spring. This retaining wall was thought to have been built to contain fill laid down for the race track which was being moved to its new position close by the Sacred Spring. Excavation this year has shown that the terrace wall of phase 8, not phase 7, was built to hold back the fill brought in for the race course when it was moved to its Hellenistic position.

This year a trench dug to reveal the stratigraphy at the east end of the temenos was laid out with its long axis in a north-south direction, starting five meters south of the east end of the Captives' Façade. It is 11 m. long and 2.50 m. wide, with a rectangular extension westward at its south end. It was dug to see whether strata and pottery dates here agree with strata and dates distinguished in 1968 around the triglyph wall and the fifth century fountain house.

Bedrock and virgin clay were exposed within the whole length of this year's trench (Pl. 10). In the southernmost 2.80 m. of the trench this consists of the same fine conglomerate that caps the natural cliff of the Sacred Spring and Peirene and is part of the northern limit of the unbroken stratum of conglomerate which extends from the Sacred Spring to Peirene. This conglomerate overlies hard clay similar to that into which the reservoirs of Peirene were cut. The clay in this year's trench, however, rather than dropping off suddenly to the north and making a cliff under the conglomerate ledge, slopes downward toward the north from an elevation of 74.40 m. above sea level to an elevation of 72.08 m. above sea level within a distance of 8.30 m. The clay slope was covered by a large dump of earth, probably in the Early Corinthian period, to a level just below the top of the conglomerate ledge. This fill also covered

²⁴ Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, pp. 36 ff.

large pieces of conglomerate that had broken away from the ledge and were apparently too heavy to remove or were thought best to be buried where they lay. No pottery with completely restorable profiles was found, but the sherds from the fill were almost completely Geometric with few Protocorinthian fragments. Middle and Late Corinthian pottery was found in the stratum above this and in an accumulation between floor levels of silt; the lamps found between the levels of silt were of the middle and second half of the sixth century, except for one that is possibly as late as 480 B.C.²⁵

Above this were fine strata of silt, streaks of grayish wash or sand accumulated during rains, and dumped fills that were accumulated by human activities. A stratum easily identified in the trench opened this year at the east corresponds to the hard-packed level found immediately east of the fountain house of the Sacred Spring and was in use with the latest phase of the mud altar of the temenos, that is, in the late fifth to early fourth century B.C.²⁶ The cobble socle for the mud brick wall which was uncovered last year stretches east-west immediately north of the altar and was found to continue eastward into the new trench. A large amount of fallen mud brick was found last year in the fill that covered the floor associated with that socle; similar fill was found in the equivalent stratum in the new trench.

The socle now has been exposed for a length of at least 18 m.; 10 m. of its mid-section and its west end still remain unexcavated. The east end of the socle terminates against the southwest corner of a large rectangular area defined on its west by a line of Corinthian pan tiles placed on end and used as a low curb. The east side of the rectangle is defined by a line of stones, the north by a line of mud brick. The rectangle is open along the south. A low pile of gravel and sand was dumped directly on the earth floor within the rectangle, high around the edges and slightly scooped out at the center. The surface of the gravel was mixed with a heavy deposit of carbon, iron slag, and blooms. Ash from the gravel bed appears, at least once, to have been swept out of the limits of the rectangle and spread on the ground at its south. The mud brick wall with cobblestone socle and rectangular area appear to have formed the southern limit of the temenos in phase 3 of the Sacred Spring.

Parallel to the east-west cobblestone socle, but 4.90 m. to its south is built a second line of cobblestones within the same floor as and probably related to the first line; the two lines probably formed part of a single complex. Only a length of 4.80 m. of this second wall has been exposed; at both east and west it disappears into unexcavated earth. The mud brick walls that once covered these socles either fell or were pulled down, for tumbled mud bricks were found spreading over the ground for a distance of 3.45 m. north from both socles. Because of the quantity of fallen mud brick one might restore the original height of the walls to about 2 to 3 m. The walls were, apparently, a single mud brick wide, each brick about 0.08 to 0.10 m.

²⁵ R. H. Howland, *Athenian Agora*, IV, types 12a, 10 variants (Corinth Lor 5796a).

²⁶ Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 43, final stage of phase 3; for date, see pp. 55-56.

thick. The structure suggested by the remains appears to have been hypaethral. No finds were discovered between the two walls that can suggest a use for the area.

Ash, iron slag, and blooms have been found at almost all Classical levels in the area around the Sacred Spring, even though, as of the moment, the rectangular platform is the only monument directly associated with iron to suggest working or refining of the metal in the area. At the east end of the sanctuary ash with large amounts of iron slag was found in a stratum 0.60 m. below the floor of the cobblestone socle. Iron slag was also found elsewhere scattered in fills around the temenos. A heavy deposit, at its thickest 0.08 m., is still to be seen in the scrap immediately under the mud altar, 0.82 m. below the floor associated with the latest mud altar (Pl. 11). No explanation, as yet, is offered for the concentration of ash containing iron slag and blooms found in the area around the Sacred Spring.

In the new trench above the floor with the cobblestone socle, phase 3 of the Sacred Spring, are a series of later floor levels that can be equated to the floors distinguished in the excavation of 1968. One of these floors, a hard white poros cement stratum which grew thick by numerous resurfacings, was found along the south side of the Sacred Spring. Here the floor terminated at the retaining wall which may have formed the southern limit of the Sacred Spring in its seventh phase.²⁷

This same poros floor extended southward under the race track fill to the quadriga base found this year (see above, pp. 6-8), where it was cut into by the conduit and settling basins of the Hellenistic race track; the floor thus must antedate this race course. This floor had in it the step against which much imitation Cypriot pottery was found (see above, pp. 4-5, Nos. 5, 6).

The mud altar of phase 3 of the temenos of the Sacred Spring was rebuilt three times (Pl. 11). This is evident both from the number of floors associated with the altars and from the burnt clay top surface and three burnt resurfacings of the altar, distinguished in a cut made this year at the south face of the modern disturbance which had destroyed a portion of the altar. Although there is no evidence to determine the length of time during which each consecutive phase of the altar was used, a detailed description follows to illustrate the casualness of the officials or priests of the cult in maintaining specific dimensions for their altar. The time span of the series of altars must have been relatively short since the altars were built of mud, and, unless covered when not in use, would have been eroded by rain and would have needed renewal or repair after any major storm.

The earliest altar of the series, 0.16 m. high and 0.97 m. wide, was built on the

²⁷ Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, pp. 49-52, figs. 5 and 6. The retaining wall was considered to have been erected expressly to hold back the fill laid for the race course, reoriented and rebuilt in phase 7. The terrace wall of phase 8, not phase 7, appears, because of discoveries in this year's excavation, to have been built to hold back the fill brought in for the new race course; the terrace wall of phase 7 was built before the orientation of the race course was changed from its early fourth century position.

hard-packed earth floor of the temenos. It was plastered with a thin coat of whitish green clay. After about 0.02 m. of ash had accumulated against the east side of the altar, the altar was abandoned and new one, 0.84 m. wide, was built over its remains. This was built with a crude brick facing and mud packing; the whole was plastered with whitish green clay. Before the second altar was used, however, gravel to a depth of 0.24 m. was brought in and dumped over the ash accumulated around the first altar. This raised the floor to 74.57 m. above sea level from the previous floor level of 74.33 m. The second altar was repaired and replastered once before the fourth altar was constructed over it; the fourth altar was a repair and replastering of altar 3. In places the new plaster, up to 0.06 m. thick, appears to have been made to cover damage suffered by the third altar, perhaps by severe weathering, especially on its east side. The fourth altar was 0.88 m. wide. When it was abandoned a deep fill of pebbly gravel and rocks was dumped over the altar, raising the floor of the temenos here 0.45 m.

In the fills associated with the altar and elsewhere within the temenos, many fragments of bone were found. Pig and cow predominated, but sheep, probably goat also, were identified. Very few fragments of equid bones were identified; these may have been both horse and donkey. The equid fragments were two in number; they may have found their way into the fill by chance, perhaps washed there during a rain or disturbed from one of the strata of dumped fill that underlies any of a number of occupation levels.²⁸

Almost all types of bones of sacrificed animals were found in the ash around the altars, cut into sections between 0.05 and 0.10 m. long. Some of these fragments are knicked, as though sections were sometimes severed only after a second or third blow (Pl. 12, a, top row, bovoid rib bones). The cuts are seldom clean and the bones appear not to have been severed completely by single blows. The breaks were completed, apparently, by the application of force. Most bones were cut by knife or cleaver, few appear to have been sawed (Pl. 12, a, bottom row, two at left).

The procedure for the sacrifice of all animals, no matter how large, apparently was to burn them in small pieces which were laid out in an 0.50 m. wide band along the western side of the altar and along its whole 8.75 m. length. To judge from the sample of bone gathered, the whole carcass, with the exception of the skin and, possibly, the head, was sacrificed.²⁹ Knife marks on a skull and scattered over various other bones suggest that the animals must have been skinned before they were sacrificed. The sacrifice of victims cut into small pieces was the established practice.

²⁸ Thanks are due to S. Payne, Cambridge University, for his evaluation of the bone material from the 1968 excavation, and to Miss J. P. Coy for her work on the bones of the 1969 season.

²⁹ The reserving of the skin of the sacrificed animal for other uses was an accepted practice, cf. F. Sokolowski, *Lois sacrée des cités grecques*, supplement, 1962, Inscription no. 6, lines 18-19, no. 19, lines 32-33, 36-38, 63; no. 38, A line 29; no. 40, B, line 3, C, line 3; no. 41, lines 12-13 and commentary on p. 41.

in the Sacred Spring well before the beginning of the fourth century B.C. Cut bones similar to those found against the mud altars were found in earlier fifth century fills throughout the temenos.

Libations, apparently, were part of the sacrificial ceremony, or, at least, of some service or services held within the temenos. This is suggested by the recovery this year of a black glazed phiale in late fourth to early third century fill at the east side of the sanctuary.

38. Omphalos phiale.

Pl. 12.

C-69-136. H. 0.038, Diam. 0.19 m.

Clay tan to greenish at rim; glaze black, fired red on bottom outside, flaked at rim.

About one-fourth preserved, all of omphalos.

Shallow, wide flaring bowl without base, omphalos at center with raised ring around it on inside of floor of bowl; wall of phiale rises to flaring rim, outward thickened; totally black glazed.

MONUMENTS OF THE TEMENOS OF THE SACRED SPRING

Although the dedications erected in the temenos of the Sacred Spring have been published,³⁰ a review of some of this material now is relevant for the better under-

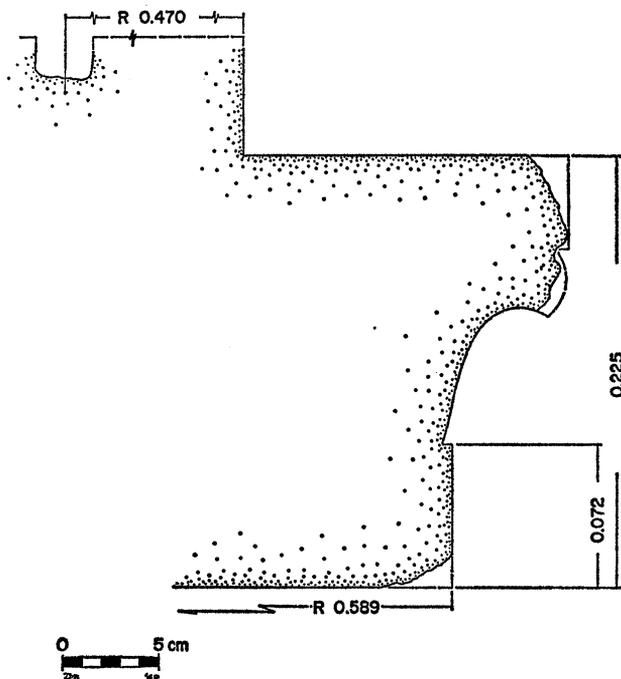


FIG. 5. Profile of Altar Crown, No. 39.

³⁰ Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 185 ff., pl. XVII, 1. The Timoleon base, I-431, I-1896, I-2150 (J. H. Kent, *Corinth*, VIII, iii, p. 7, no. 23) is disregarded in this discussion. The dark limestone blocks belonging to this dedication were found around the Babbis Monument and one fragment in the South Stoa near its western end. The blocks were moved to their present position on the triglyph

standing of the sanctuary. New material has been added during the past two years; final conclusions must wait, however, until excavation has been completed.

A fragmentary poros crowning member for a circular base or, more likely, for a round altar was found in a pile of blocks immediately north of the Northwest Stoa and west of the steps that rise along the southeast slope of Temple Hill. This crown once capped a drum about 1.17 m. in diameter. It has a hawksbeak above a fascia; the hawksbeak is badly weathered but the preserved form suggests a late sixth-early fifth century date.

39. Poros crown with hawksbeak, probably for circular altar. Fig. 5.

Uninventoried, on site south of apsidal building (Temple B).

H. 0.287, max. pres. Diam. 1.28 m.

About one-fourth of circumference, preserving resting surface, fascia, hawksbeak, crowning fascia, and top surface with raised disc 0.94 m. in diam. protruding 0.055 m. above and set back 0.162 m. from fascia crown of hawksbeak. Traces of iron pins, perhaps to hold swags or streamers at intervals along hawksbeak. At center of raised disc is circular depression, roughly cut; also preserved

are carelessly executed shallow cuttings on top of disc, probably the results of re-use. Raised disc on top surface suggests that fragment is crown to altar; cf. C. G. Yavis, *Greek Altars*, fig. 74, Hellenistic relief with round monolithic altar with raised disc above crowning moulding, from Pergamon. For small portable altars with raised area or disc, see *Délos*, XVIII, pp. 371-383, pls. CII-CVII. For classical altar of stone of a scale suitable for a crowning block such as the one in question, see *Olympia, Die Ergebnisse*, II, 1896, pl. LXXXXV, 8. Diam. of altar drum 1.52 m.; crown not preserved.

This fragment may be from an altar that served the temenos of the Sacred Spring before the long mud altar of the end of the fifth century was built immediately east of the fountain house. No foundations have as yet been identified, however, to suggest an exact position of this monument.

In 1902 a fluted shaft of stuccoed poros was found in late fill in the area of the North Building, immediately north of the Sacred Spring. There is no conclusive evidence that this fragment is part of a monument originally dedicated in the temenos of the Sacred Spring; its form and closeness of find spot to the Sacred Spring suggest, however, that it should be included in the list. The shaft is inscribed with the name of a dedicant, A P T A M O[. . . , running downward within one flute.³¹ The upper shaft is 0.33 m. in diameter with 16 flutes and crowning moulding 0.07 m. wide. The top surface has a single central cutting 0.05 m. in diameter, 0.075 m. deep, for the anchoring of something above. The remains of the moulding that crowned the column are very narrow for a Doric capital; moreover, although the heads of the flutes are preserved, no indication exists that a necking band was ever carved above them. It

wall of the Sacred Spring by the excavators. Kent, "The Victory Monument of Timoleon at Corinth," *Hesperia*, XXII, 1952, pp. 9-18; for reservation about placement of the blocks, see note 6, p. 11. It seems most appropriate to place the monument somewhere at the west end of the forum.

³¹ Meritt, *Corinth*, VIII, i, pp. 34-35, no. 27.

appears, instead, that this shaft was the central support for a tripod, in form similar to the columnar supports for tripods found at the Ptoion, which also have dedicatory inscriptions carved within the flutes.³² The Corinthian shaft has been dated so far only to the sixth century B.C.³³

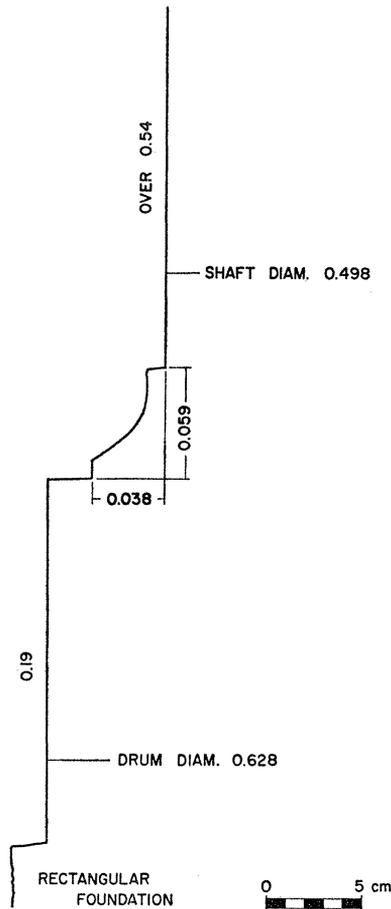


FIG. 6. Profile of Base Moulding of Tripod Base.

A columnar shaft, preserved to 0.535 m. above its base moulding of simple cavetto, stands immediately west of the south triglyph wall; it has been identified, tentatively, as a tripod base (Fig. 6).³⁴ A second circular monument with a diameter of 0.535 m. at its base, stands *in situ* but badly battered about 24 m. west of a large

³² P. Guillon, *Les trepieds du Ptoion*, 1943, part 1, pp. 44-58, pls. XIV-XVI, part 2, pp. 31-51, esp. fig. 49. The supporting columns range in diameter at the top between 0.235 and $0.38 \pm$ m. Most have 16 flutes with the inscription going downward therein.

³³ L. H. Jeffery, *The Local Scripts of Archaic Greece*, 1961, pp. 128, 131, no. 22.

³⁴ Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, p. 185, pl. XVII, 1, no. 9.

tripod base that rests on the triglyph wall. The circular shaft is cut as one with its base. The shaft has cuttings in it for anchoring the tripod feet.

The large circular drum of poros (Fig. 7) which partly rests on the triglyph wall, once supported a tripod whose feet were spread about one meter apart.³⁵ Slightly

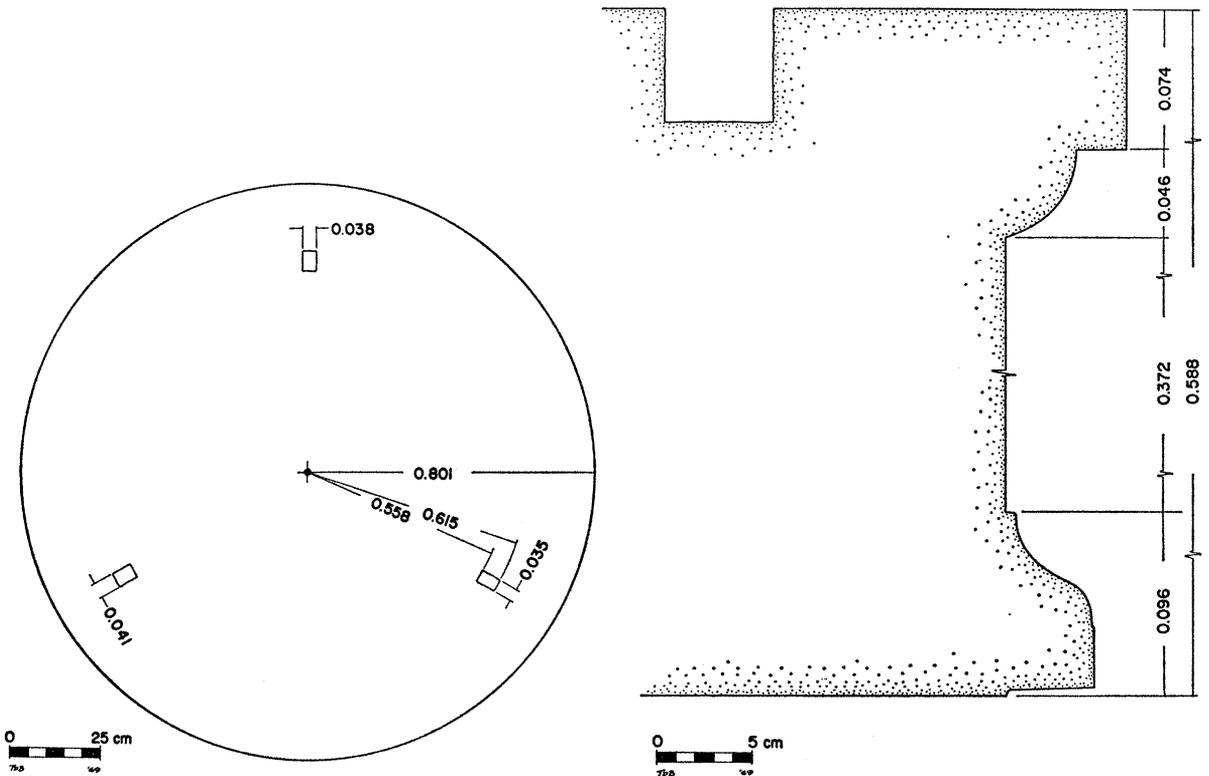


FIG. 7. Tripod Base, Plan and Profile.

farther south on the triglyph wall stands an elaborate triangular base (Fig. 8).³⁶ This monument, which supported a tripod, is of undetermined height; it probably was similar in proportions, however, to a triangular base now re-erected at the south end of the Stoa of Attalos II in the Athenian Agora.³⁷ The Corinthian base was capped with an elaborate crowning moulding and carried a tripod of impressive size, the spread between feet restorable to about 0.85 m. This is the only Roman tripod base preserved in the area.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 185, pl. XVII, 1, no. 9.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 197, note 1, pl. XVII, no. 3. See also, L. T. Shoe, "The Roman Ionic Base in Corinth," *Essays in Memory of Karl Lehmann*, 1964, pp. 300-303, ill. 3, base profile dated to the earliest Roman building period at Corinth.

³⁷ E. G. Stikas, *Τρίπλευρα κιονόκρανα, κορυφώματα και μνημεία*, Ἀρχ. Ἐφ., 1961 (1964), pp. 160-179. Examples collected illustrate various proportions for this type of base.

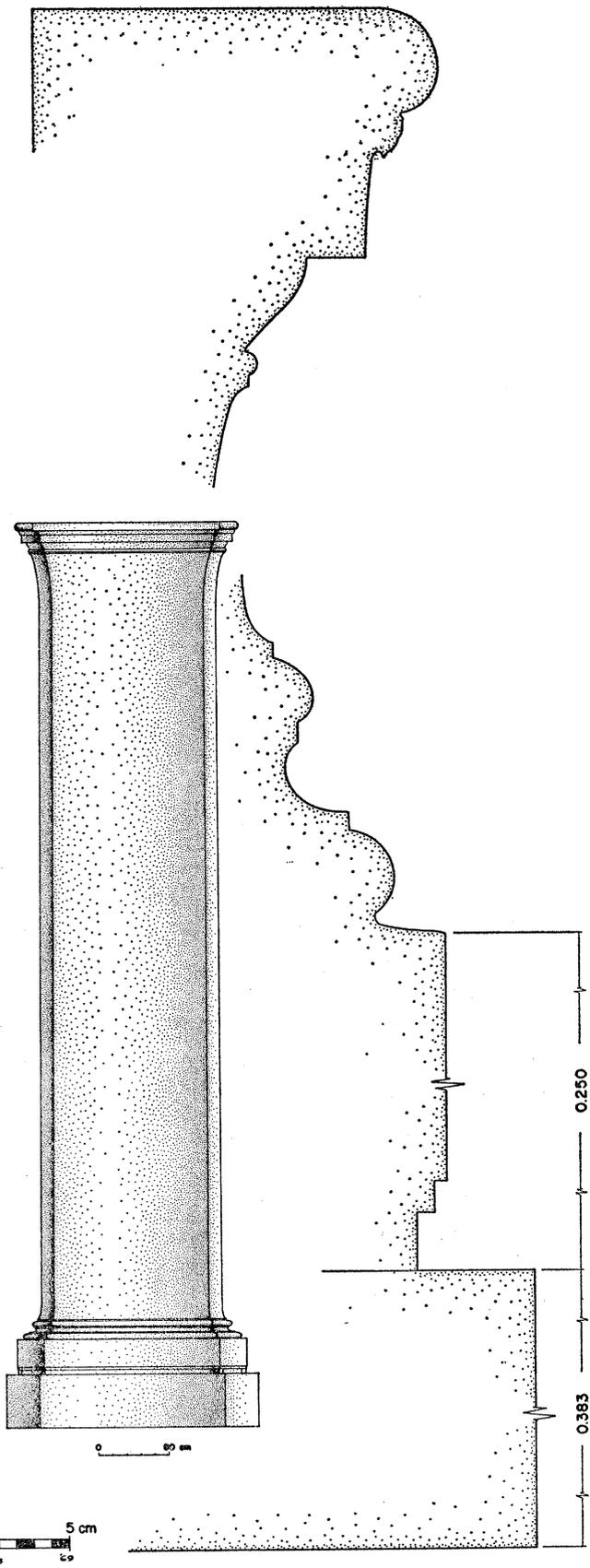


FIG. 8. Tripod Base, Profile of Crown and Base Mouldings, Hypothetical Elevation.

40. Poros crowning moulding of tripod base.

Fig. 8, Pl. 12.

A-69-22. Max. pres. H. 0.266, max. pres. Depth 0.304 m.

Poros with fine, white plaster. Fragment.

Monument shaft rising to crowning moulding, walls concave but meeting at right angle. The two preserved faces rise to apophyge and half round, ovolo above, soffit, fascia crowned

by hawksbeak with cyma reversa profile; top surface of monument with half of a torus base serving as floor into which was anchored foot of tripod. Torus projects at front slightly over hawksbeak. Mason's guide line and part of dowel cutting for tripod foot on top surface, 0.23 m. in from edge of torus. Rectangular dowel at least 0.09 m. by more than 0.02 m., over 0.08 m. deep.

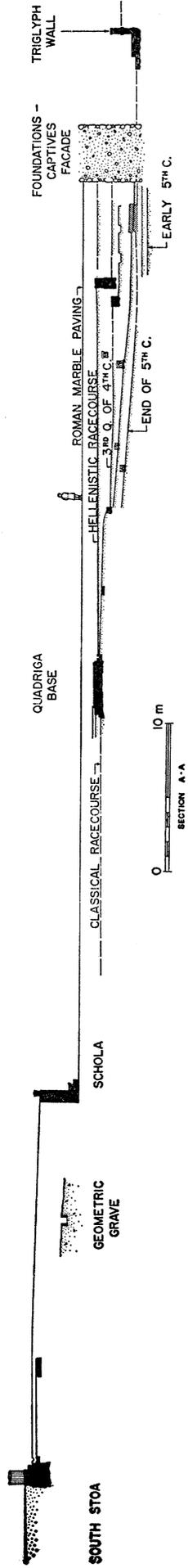
The ovolo with very flattened profile executed in a size almost equal to the soffit and fascia above it, as well as a torus which protrudes beyond the crowning hawksbeak as the foot of the tripod leg, suggests an early Roman date. The elegant hawksbeak, excellent workmanship and fine lime stucco, however, carry on the traditions of Corinthian poros architecture of the Hellenistic period.

The earliest of the tripods discussed here, sixth century in date, reinforces the conclusion that the sanctuary of the Sacred Spring may indeed have been established before the early fifth century.³⁸ A sixth century date for the occupation of the area is indicated by the stratigraphic test made this year at the east side of the temenos, where pottery from the lowest use level immediately above a Protocorinthian dumped fill suggests occupation in the second half of the sixth century. Such a conclusion suggests that, within the temenos, the triglyph wall which hides a secret passage, the apsidal building with which the secret passage connects, and the horos stone with inscribed prohibition set up at the north entrance to the temenos, all of the fifth century, were not part of the introduction of a new cult but were constructed in the course of the development of the cult from some earlier, as yet poorly understood, origin in the second half of the sixth century.

The latest tripod base in the area of the temenos was erected on the triglyph wall in the early Roman period and existed contemporaneously with the Roman Northwest Stoa and the early Roman altar farther south which was destroyed when the forum was paved with marble. At the moment there is no way to tell whether this tripod was erected upon the crown of the buried triglyph wall only because the wall offered a solid footing for the monument or whether there still existed a connection between tripod dedications and the cult of the Sacred Spring which appears to have survived into Roman times.³⁹

³⁸ Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 55. The fifth century date was suggested by the pottery from a limited probe close to the spring house of the temenos.

³⁹ Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 151-153, i. e., the round building. Two marble epistyle blocks of Roman Ionic design now placed on the foundation for the round building appear to belong to this structure.



A-A. North-South Section from Sacred Spring to South Stoa.

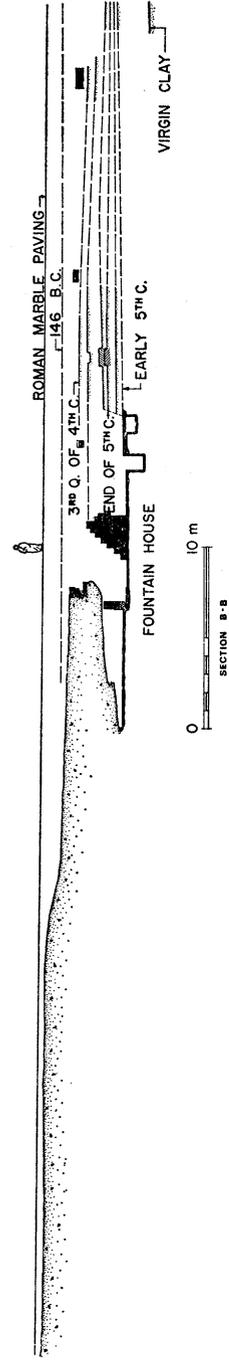
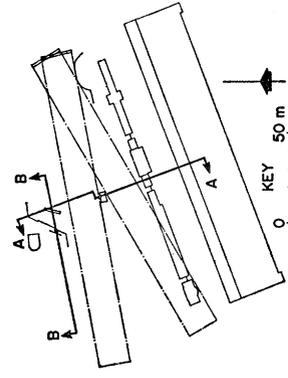


Fig. 9. Sections through Forum.

B-B. East-West Section through Temenos of Sacred Spring.

CONCLUSIONS ⁴⁰

A broad band underlying the Roman forum, extending from the Captives' Façade to the southwest corner of the forum, had been a valley in the Geometric period (Fig. 10). It was the southern continuation of the deep valley of the Lechaion

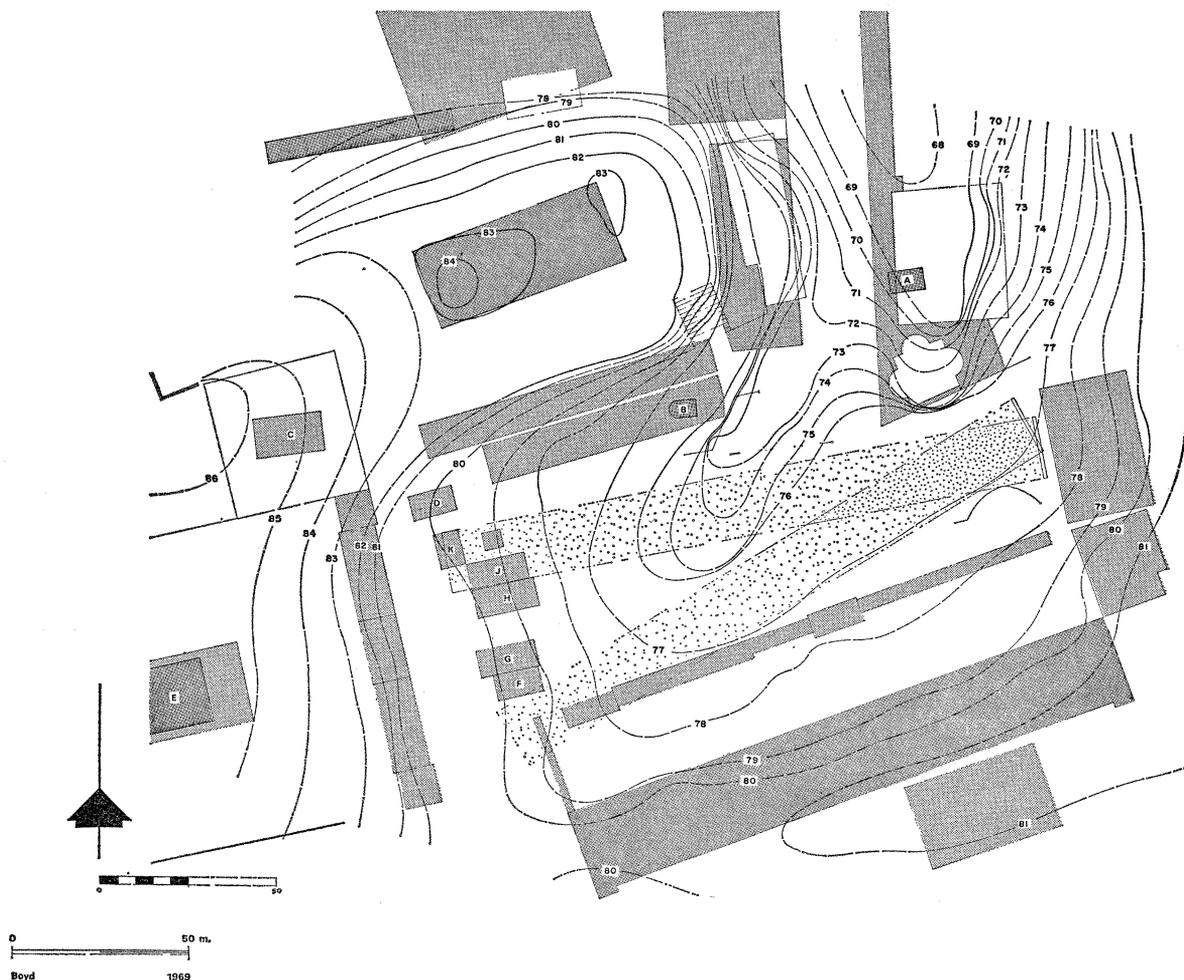


FIG. 10. Contour Plan of Area around Temple Hill, *ca.* 1000 B.C.

Road which passed the east end of Temple Hill, around its southeast slope, and angled toward the southwest, becoming shallower close to the area later occupied by the west end of the South Stoa. The valley bed was extremely deep where it passed

⁴⁰ The following discussion is a presentation of facts gathered from excavation in the Roman forum since the first American School excavations in Corinth in 1896. The following does not include literary or epigraphical references; it is, however, a warning that the area under the Roman forum, presently called the Corinthian agora, is not securely identified and that the identification is now undergoing re-examination.

the southeast slope of Temple Hill, at least 5.50 m. below the level of the marble paving of the Roman forum (Figs. 9, 10, Pl. 10, b). In the Geometric period the cliff of conglomerate and clay which forms the natural face of the Peirene Spring curved southwestward in an elongated horseshoe northwest of the Roman bema and back northward to form the cliff into which the Sacred Spring was later built.⁴¹ The northwest slope of this upper valley, after it rounded Temple Hill, was more impressive than it is today because, at that time, neither had the south slope of Temple Hill been cut into by the Roman Northwest Stoa nor had the west slope been cut back for the Roman West Shops, nor had the western heights of Temple Hill been quarried between Glauke and the Archaic Temple. Before the Roman period there existed a continuous and unbroken ridge between Temple Hill and Glauke and a continuous rise from the upper Lechaion Road Valley floor to the height now occupied by the Corinth Museum.

During the Geometric period burials were being made on the slopes of the head of this valley. A group of burials were made on the southeast slope where the Roman bema later was to be built.⁴² The burial ground continued across the head of the valley⁴³ and along its northwest side.⁴⁴

Excavation along the northwest slope of the upper valley in 1968 and 1969 has shown that burials were made here continuously from the Sub-Mycenaean into the Protocorinthian period, but that, apparently, from the Middle Geometric period domestic habitation started to encroach upon the burial field.

In the eighth century B.C. a drain running from southwest to northeast was constructed along the bed of the valley.⁴⁵ By the late sixth century the upper valley had an underground shrine in its south slope, about 30 m. east of the Tavern of Aphrodite⁴⁶ and some neighboring buildings that were built along the southeast side of the valley roadway and its Late Geometric drain (Fig. 11).

Also, the conglomerate outcropping that had previously formed a cliff between the Sacred Spring and Peirene in the Early Geometric period was covered with a dumped fill to make the passage at this point in the valley bed easier for traffic (Pl. 10, b, the top of stratum marked as 2nd half 6th c. which terminates at bedrock marked with el. 74.72). The sanctuary of the Sacred Spring took shape in the cliff side on the northwest side of the valley.

Only in the beginning of the Hellenistic period, as the result of repeated filling

⁴¹ Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 15-16.

⁴² Morgan, *A.J.A.*, XLI, 1937, pp. 542-543, pl. XIII, 1, f-f. One small sarcophagus contained pottery of the early 6th century.

⁴³ Morgan, "Investigations at Corinth, 1953, A Tavern of Aphrodite," *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, pp. 133-134.

⁴⁴ For discussion concerning cemetery, see this report, pp. 17-34.

⁴⁵ Morgan, *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, p. 134, B on plan.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 136 ff.

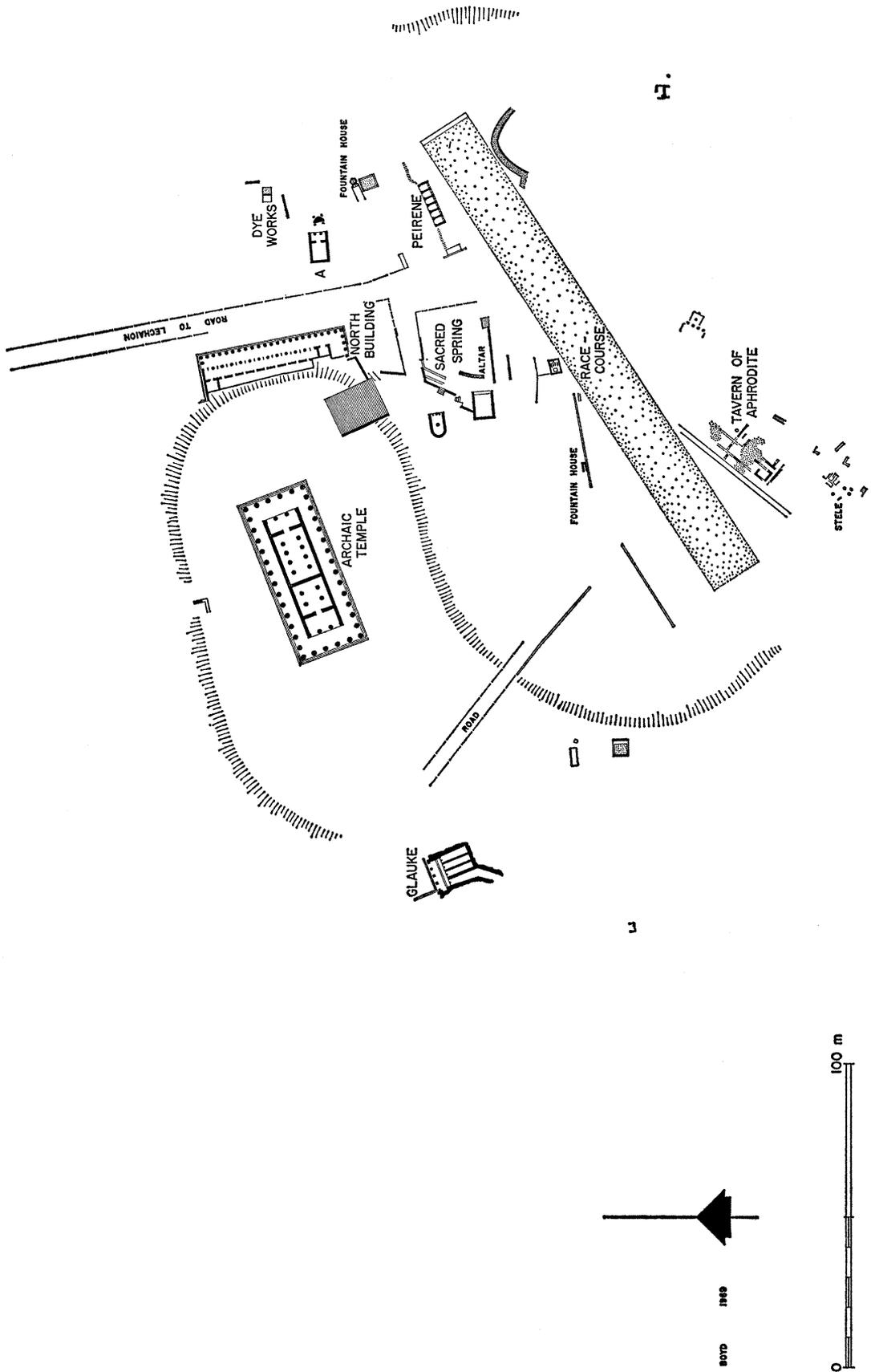


Fig. 11. Plan of Area around Temple Hill, ca. 400 B.C.

and terracing operations around the Sacred Spring, was it possible to change the dromos of a race course that previously had favored the leveler ground along this upper valley (Figs. 9, 10). Its Hellenistic position was a change from the earlier course to a more east-west direction, running closer to the temenos of the Sacred Spring and across the fills that had accumulated within the valley during the fifth and early fourth centuries (Figs. 11, 12).

The unevenness of the terrain and the layout of buildings to conform to the configuration of the valley of the sixth and fifth centuries suggest that there was no large, flat space suitable for an agora immediately south of Temple Hill before the early Hellenistic period. As a result of this year's investigation it appears probable that the Classical and Hellenistic agora of Ancient Corinth should be looked for elsewhere, perhaps to the north or northeast of Temple Hill.⁴⁷ This is also suggested by the position of water sources, water supply, and distribution within the Lechaion Road Valley, on the assumption that an agora should be well watered.⁴⁸

The first cluster of inhabitants and its resultant public area would have tended to develop either immediately below the springs or along the water course that flowed from the sources, in order that water could be collected easily or be channeled by gravity for specific uses. It seems unlikely that, from the beginning, persons would have spontaneously climbed the cliff of Peirene to congregate over the spring either before or after having gathered water from Peirene or from the second ancient water source, the Tirynthian Fountain,⁴⁹ which lies slightly farther north in the valley.

Also, the overflow from Peirene was channeled northward down the valley with no provisions for use in the area to the south of Peirene. The water of the Sacred Spring was collected and used within its temenos for religious purposes; the water that came from the source immediately south of the Sacred Spring was channeled northward and under the paving of the fountain house of the Sacred Spring in order to be used in the valley to the north.⁵⁰

The water which was used in the area later covered by the western end of the Roman forum was brought in from the west, perhaps from the same source that supplied Glauke. This was done in the late fifth(?) and early fourth century B.C. to supply a very narrow reservoir and a low basin, perhaps to be used by animals rather than people.⁵¹ In the third century the water brought into the upper valley was channeled to a conduit and basins at the south side of the Hellenistic race course, and then

⁴⁷ Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, p. 134, places the early Greek agora north of Peirene. For arguments to place the agora south of Peirene, see Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 117-118.

⁴⁸ R. E. Wycherley, *How the Greeks Built Cities*, pp. 200-201, especially note Athens, which had both the Southwest Fountain House and the Enneakrounos serving its agora.

⁴⁹ Hill, *Corinth*, I, vi, pp. 46-50.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 146 ff., fig. 92, pl. XVII, channels A, B; see also Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, fig. 1 of p. 37.

⁵¹ See above, pp. 11-12.

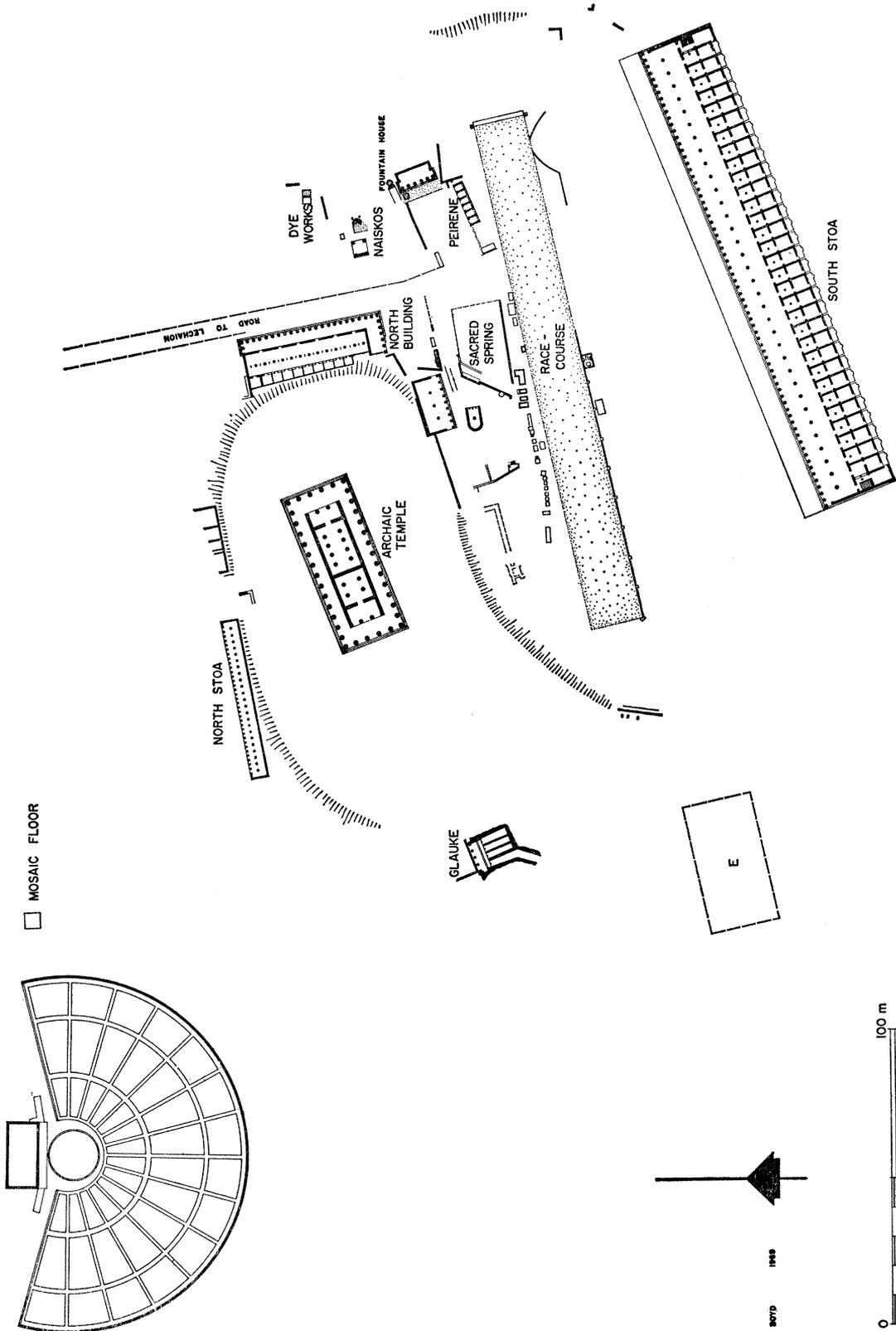


Fig. 12. Plan of Area around Temple Hill, ca. 150 B.C.

the conduit perhaps turned back to the Sacred Spring to supply water there for purposes of ritual.

During the whole of the Hellenistic period the area later occupied by the Roman forum appears to have been without any of the buildings requisite for the civic heart of a large commercial city. There are no remains of a building that can be identified as a bouleuterion, not even a foundation or clear area in the upper valley the size of the bouleuterion of the Hellenistic agora of Sikyon. Law court, prytaneion, and archive building should be expected in the area, at least in the Hellenistic period, but there appears at the moment to be neither the space nor the physical remains for such buildings.

At the east end of the Roman forum immediately east of the starting line of the race course, bedrock originally rose in a rather steep slope; it was cut back with the construction of the Julian Basilica but bedrock can still be seen immediately east of the east foundation of that building, rising over two and one half meters above the starting line.⁵² This slope probably served spectators who watched races throughout the Hellenistic period. If any public building was constructed on this slope the building would have stood higher on the hill, not at the level of the race course.

There is little possibility that any structures more impressive than private houses stood on the rising ground later occupied by the Roman Southeast Building immediately south of the starting line.⁵³ The whole south side of the area later used as the Roman forum was limited in the Hellenistic period by the South Stoa, a building certainly not used for governmental nor administrative purposes in the pre-Roman period, but rather as a hostel and entertainment center.⁵⁴

At the west end of the stoa a roadway ran northward toward Glauke and the theater; southward it passed west of the stoa and probably went both toward the east and toward Acrocorinth. No Hellenistic buildings were built east of this roadway in the area immediately north of the stoa. Indeed, in the fourth century even the Tavern of Aphrodite was demolished to make way for the terrace in front of the South Stoa. Farther north, still to the east of the roadway, the open space was taken up by the west end of the Hellenistic race track. No building was ever built over this course in the Hellenistic period. The hill on which the modern archaeological museum of Corinth is now built rose immediately west of the road; the slope today is a sharp drop, the result of alteration by the Romans, who cut into the hill to build their West Shops. The hill has been excavated only in part,⁵⁵ but all architectural remains on the slope appear to consist of terracing curbs, cisterns, and walls of no more than domestic scale and quality. There appears to be little likelihood that public buildings stood on the slope at the west end of the area being considered.

⁵² Weinberg, *Corinth*, I, v, plan III, sections A-A, B-B.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

⁵⁴ Broneer, *Corinth*, I, iv, pp. 97-99.

⁵⁵ Weinberg, *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, pp. 197 ff., esp. pp. 229-241, plan, fig. 1.

Along the north side of this area, on the slopes and immediately south of Temple Hill, there are traces of foundations of two buildings in bedrock. These lie under the western half of the Northwest Shops. Their plan is not clear; the buildings appear, however, not to have been large, even though they may have been well constructed. East of these comes the temenos of the Sacred Spring, then the entrance of the Lechaion Road from the north into the area of the race course. East of this is the area above the cliff of Peirene, where there is not enough room between the edge of the cliff and the Hellenistic race course for any large structure. Probably this area was reserved for monuments and for festival crowds who watched the races.

With this general description of the limits of what has been considered to be the Classical and Hellenistic agora of Corinth, one finds difficulty in imagining places where large, official buildings would once have stood to serve the needs of this large commercial Greek city state. Indeed, no public buildings with administrative functions have as yet been identified in this area. This is true both for the Classical and the Hellenistic periods.

What, then, was the function of the area which lies between Temple Hill and the South Stoa?

The continuation of the valley of the Lechaion Road toward the southwest appears to have contained a large number of cults. Immediately to the north of Peirene are Temple A and its semicircular altar, which went through numerous changes in their lifetime; the Classical cult continued there until the sack of Corinth in 146 B.C. A cult occupied the Sacred Spring at least from the early fifth century B.C.; memory of it appears to have lingered well into Roman Imperial times. Both the underground chapel on the southwest slope of the valley west of the site of the bema and the Tavern of Aphrodite with its religious associations went out of use at the time of the building of the South Stoa, as did a possible stele shrine, the remains of which are still to be seen below the floor of the westernmost shop of that stoa.⁵⁶ As well, there are indications that the race course served in association with one or more of these cults.⁵⁷

The cult that occupied the temenos of the Sacred Spring seems to have had a tie with the race course, at least in the Hellenistic period, for monuments commemorating victories won on this track were set up along the top of its triglyph wall, as well as within the limits of the temenos. At least five of these monuments carried tripods; other monument foundations in the area may also have supported tripods.

The race course apparently served, however, more than the local cults. An inscribed marble base which once supported a chariot was erected in honor of a victor in the games at Isthmia (I-790). A second inscribed base, this one supplying less information, only that the man honored was an Isthmian victor, was found this year

⁵⁶ Broneer, *Corinth*, I, iv, p. 12.

⁵⁷ Broneer, *Hesperia*, XI, 1942, pp. 128-161.

within the settling basin of the race course immediately north of the ramped fountain house.

41. Inscribed statue base, dark gray limestone.

Pl. 12.

I-69-3. H. of base 0.178, max. pres. L. of inscribed face 0.16, max. pres. Depth of block 0.164 m.

Dark gray limestone or "Argos black stone."

Part of top, bottom, left side, front face and corner preserved; re-used block with traces of earlier socket along broken back.

ΣΤΤΑΔ[- - -]
ΙΘΜΙΑ[- - -]

Front face preserves two lines of inscription with three guide lines; four letters on top line, five on second line. Space between lines 0.006-0.008; H. of letters, between 0.018 and 0.020; Diam. of Θ, 0.015 m.; space between letters 0.008-0.01 m. Inscription carefully executed.

Base is re-used plinth, turned upside-down in second use. Cutting for original dedication penetrates from bottom surface (second use of

block) to within 0.035 m. of top surface (second use). Original surfaces of block finished smooth; in re-use, left-hand side and top 0.106 m. of inscribed face redressed with claw chisel, bottom surface (second use) left with original finished surface.

Dedication is possibly made to honor a victor in the stadium at Isthmia.

For parallels in the spelling of Isthmia without sigma, see *S.I.G.*, 36 A (Delphi, fourth century); *S.I.G.*, 507 (Delphi, third century); *B.C.H.*, LXXXI, 1957, p. 684, no. 1, fig. (Argos), Ithmia used twice in same inscription.

For possible parallel from Corinth, cf. I-2626 (unpublished):

ΙΘΜ[ΙΑ]

Style of letters closely resembles that of inscription on Timoleon base, Corinth, erected after 341 B.C. Kent, *Corinth*, VIII, iii, pp. 7-8, pl. 3, no. 23; see also, Lysippos base, Meritt, *Corinth*, VIII, i, pp. 38-39, no. 34.

Last half of fourth century.

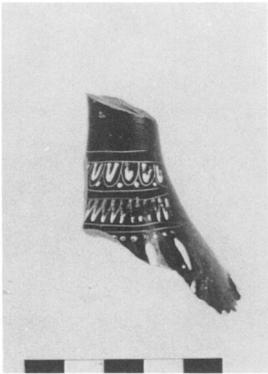
Apparently monuments were set up in this area to honor Isthmian victors. Athletes may have dedicated monuments here upon winning victories at Isthmia, perhaps because it was their training ground. If, in the Classical and Hellenistic periods, the rules for the Isthmian games at all resembled those at Olympia, athletes who were to participate in the contests at Isthmia may have had to go through a period of preliminary training at Corinth as those readying for the games at Olympia did at Elis.⁵⁸ The race course south of Temple Hill may thus have served for the training of Isthmian athletes as well as for the local festivals.

The South Stoa may have housed the athletes and their trainers during training periods. This use of the stoa as a hostel for visiting athletes does not conflict with or alter the interpretation that Philip of Macedon and his son, Alexander, could have originally planned the South Stoa for delegates to the short-lived Pan-Hellenic League when Corinth was its center. The stoa, apparently, was never meant to be the administrative center of the League, only its hostel.

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AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
ATHENS

⁵⁸ Pausanias, *Elis*, II, xxiii.



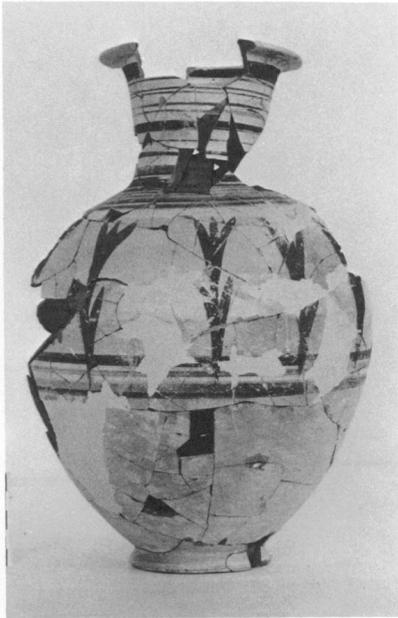
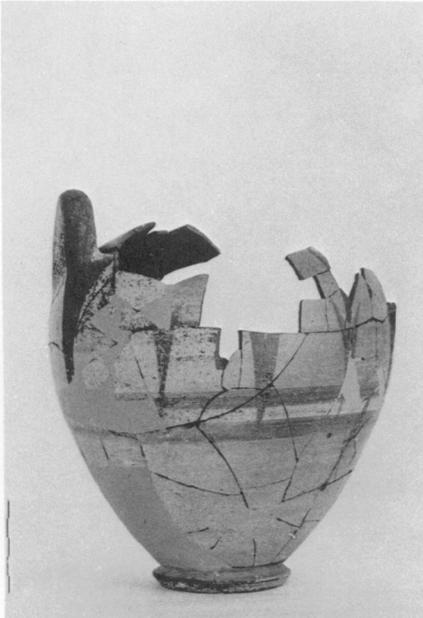
No. 1 Gnathian Oinochoe



No. 3 Coarse Ware Lekane



No. 2 Corcyrean (?) Amphora



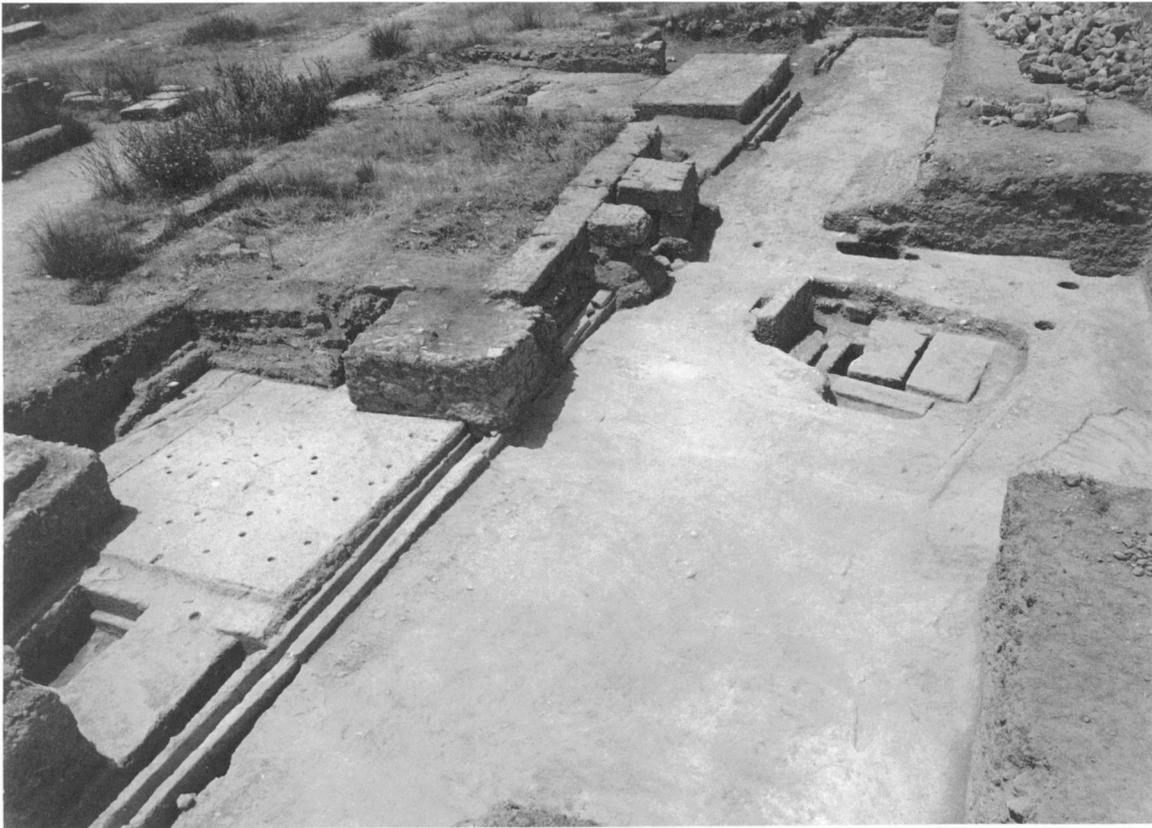
Nos. 6 and 5 Imitation Cypriot Amphorae



a. Oinochoai: Fifth Century (C-34-1000), Fourth Century (No. 4), Late Fourth-Early Third Century (C-40-17)

Pottery from Floor beneath Race Course

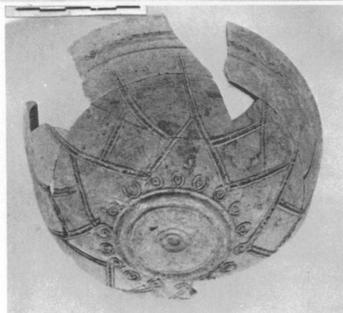
PLATE 2



a. Quadriga Base, Water Channel for Race Course, Fourth Century Floor, from East



b. Quadriga Base from South, Foundations for Roman Altar at Left



No. 7 Megarian Bowl



No. 8 Megarian Bowl



No. 9 Kyathos



a. Wall North of Temenos of Sacred Spring

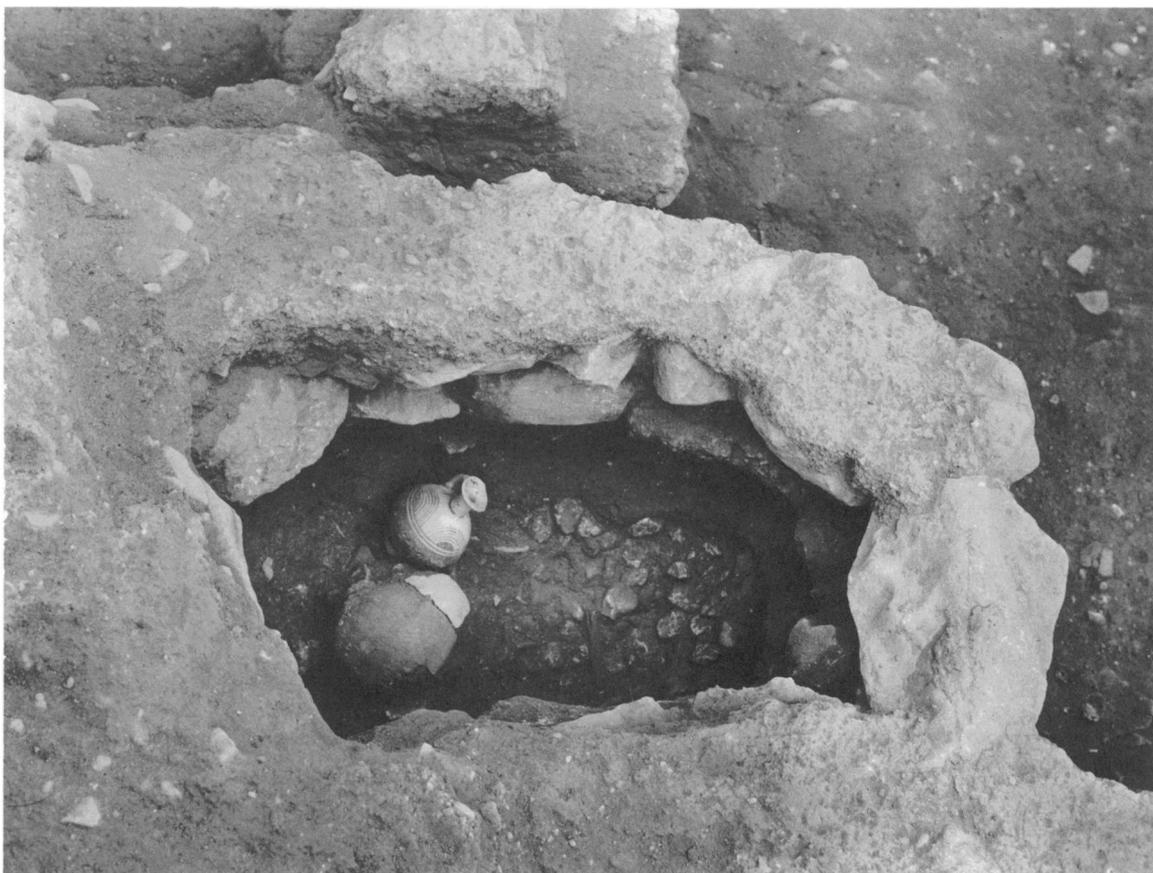


b. Forum. Ramped Fountain House from West. 1. Water Channel. 2. Basin. 3. Fountain House. 4. Settling Basin for Race Course.

PLATE 4



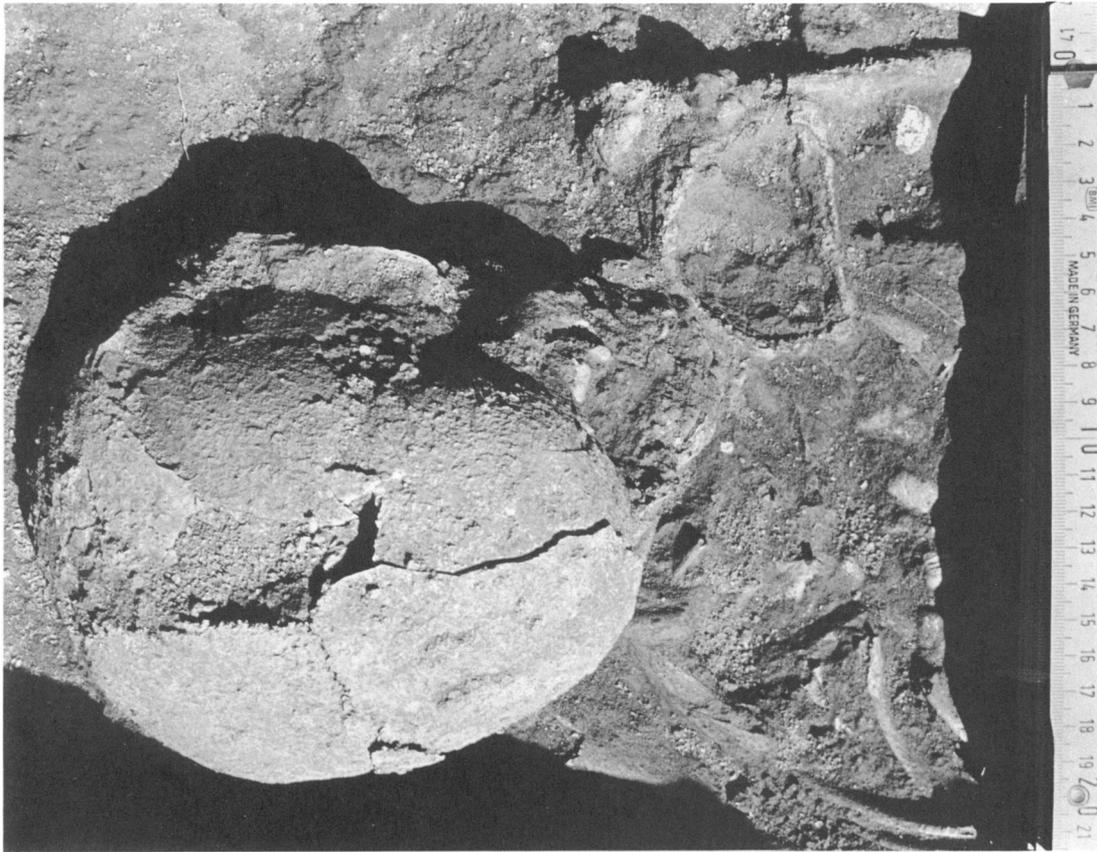
a. Two Submycenaean Graves, from East



b. South Submycenaean Grave, Upper Burial, from South

Early Iron Age Cemetery at West End of Forum

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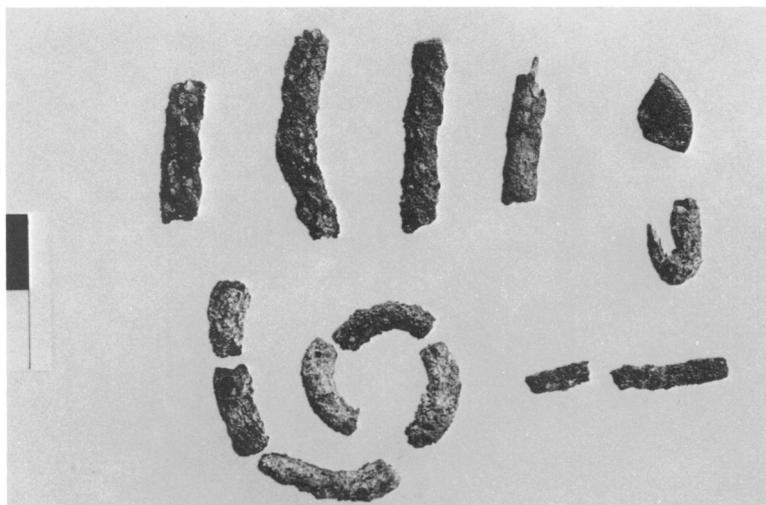
a. Detail, Skull and Fibula



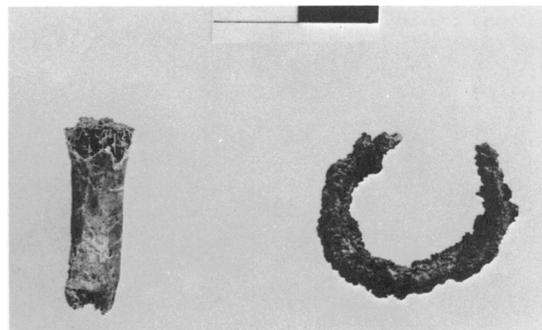
b. General View from South

Early Iron Age Cemetery, North Submycenaean Grave

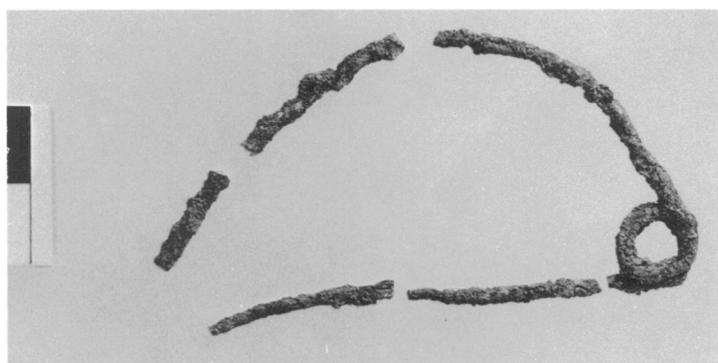
PLATE 6



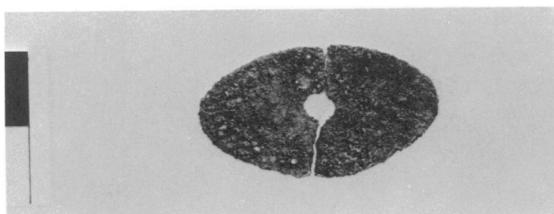
No. 10 Bronze Fibula



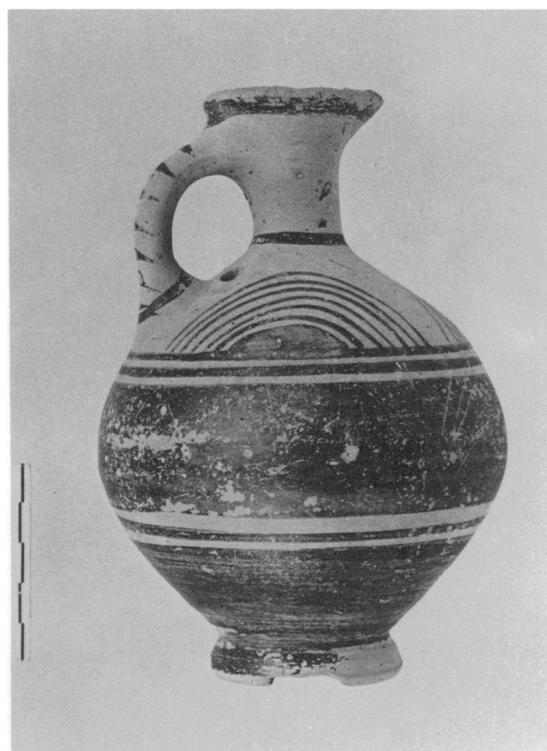
No. 11 Iron Ring



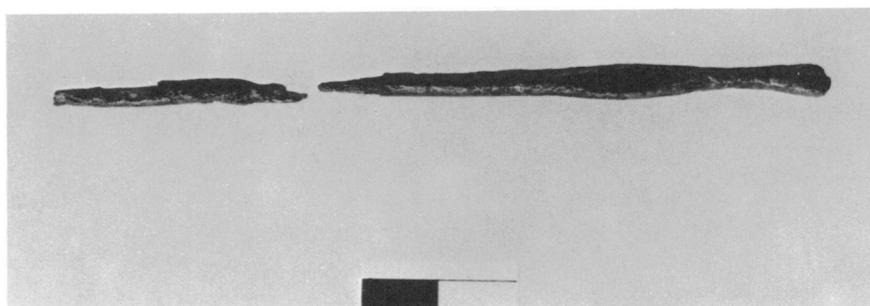
No. 13 Bronze Fibula



No. 12 Bronze Bezel



No. 15 Lekythos



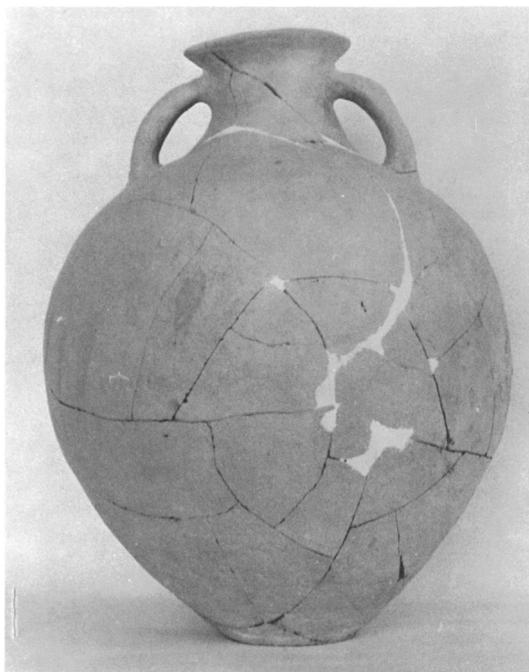
No. 14 Bronze Pin

Early Iron Age Cemetery at West End of Forum

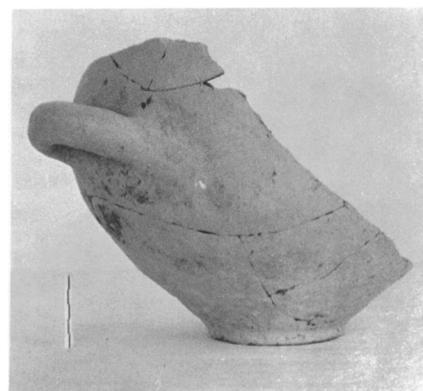
CHARLES K. WILLIAMS, II: CORINTH 1969, FORUM AREA



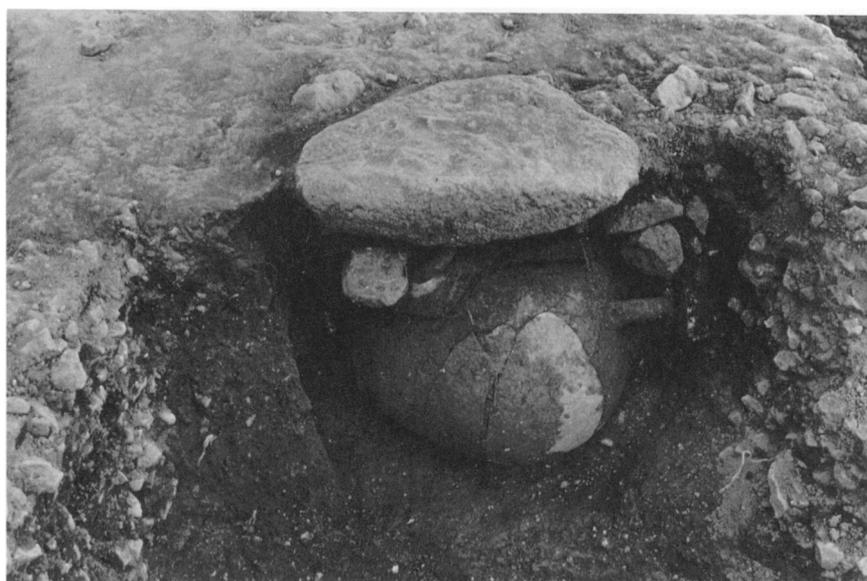
a. Geometric Grave from Northwest



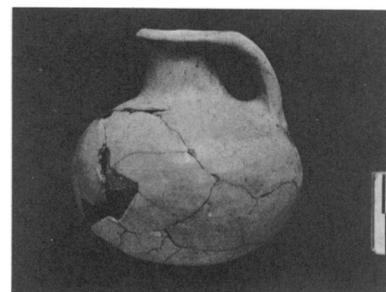
No. 16 Coarse Ware Amphora



No. 17 Fragment of Hydria



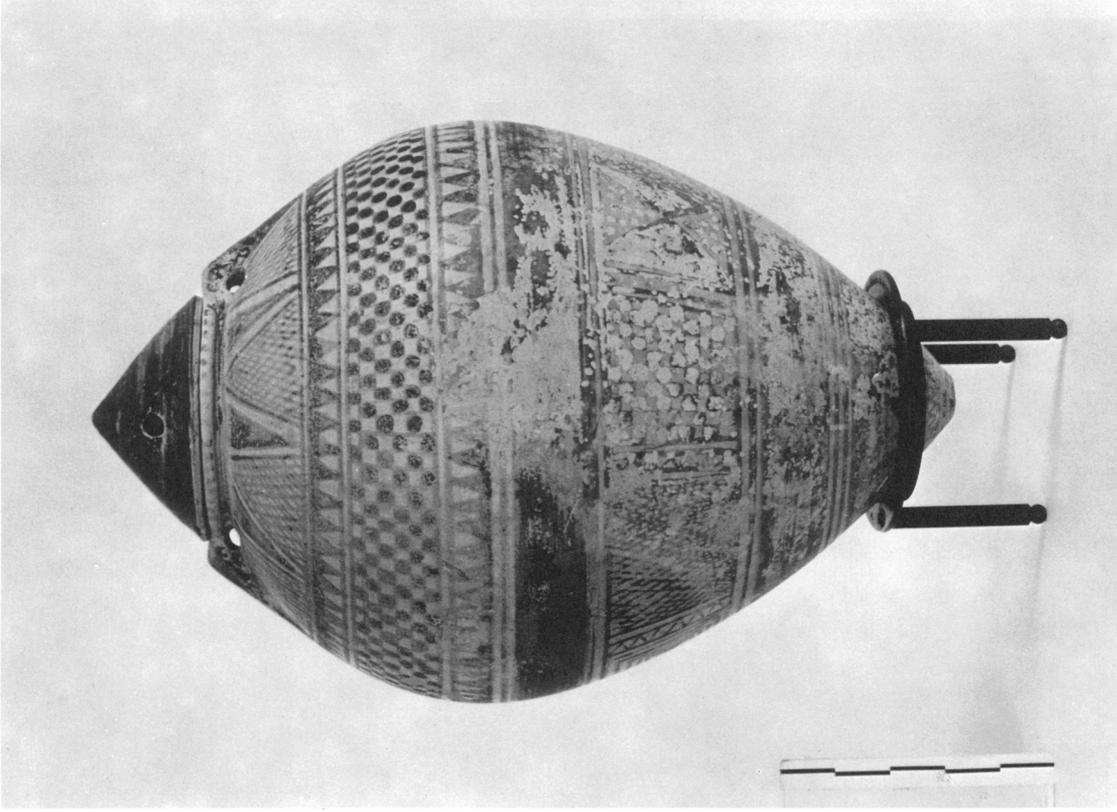
b. Geometric Amphora Burial from South



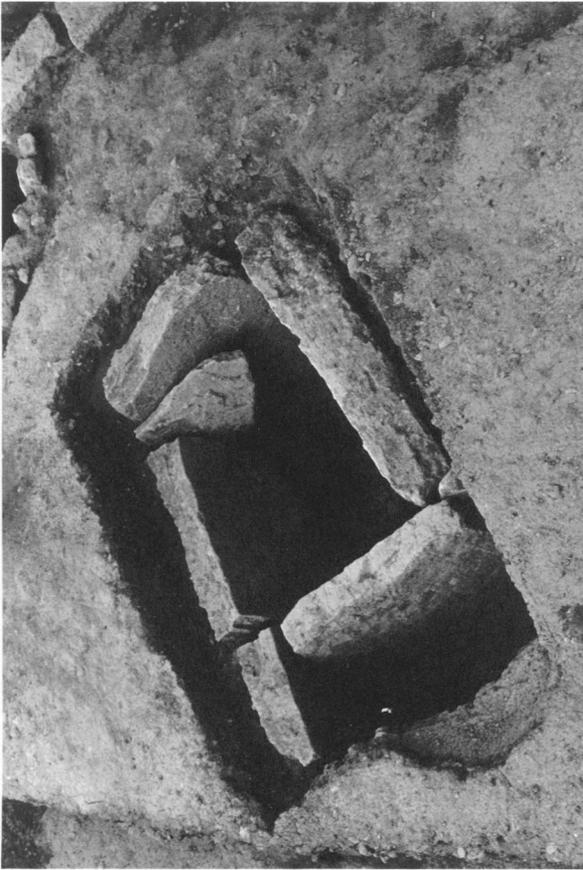
No. 37 Aryballos

Early Iron Age Cemetery at West End of Forum

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No. 24 Pointed Pyxis

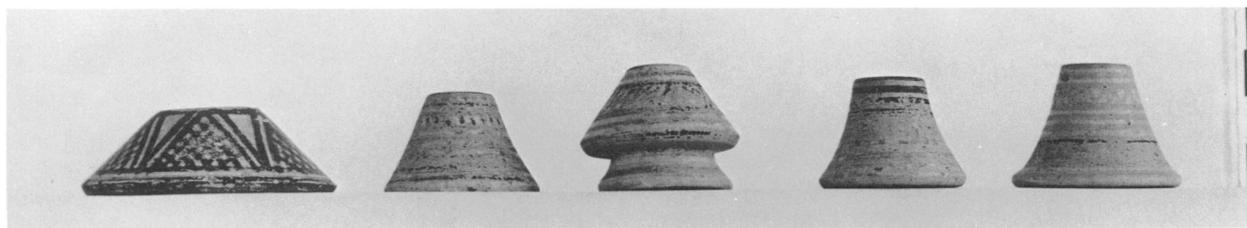


a. Protogeometric - Transitional Grave from South



b. Detail of a., Globular Pyxis as found in Southeast Corner

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28

29

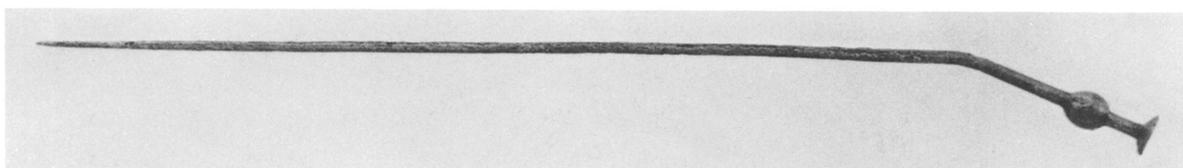
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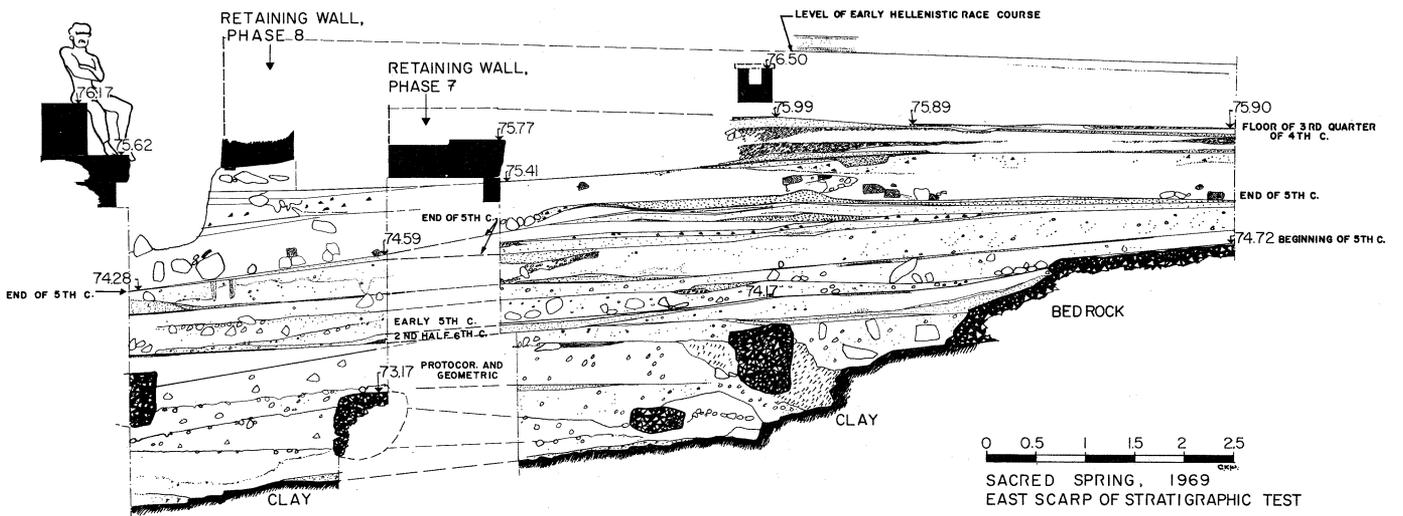
20

Contents of Corinthian Protogeometric Grave

CHARLES K. WILLIAMS, II: CORINTH 1969, FORUM AREA



a. Detail of Scarp in Stratigraphic Cut



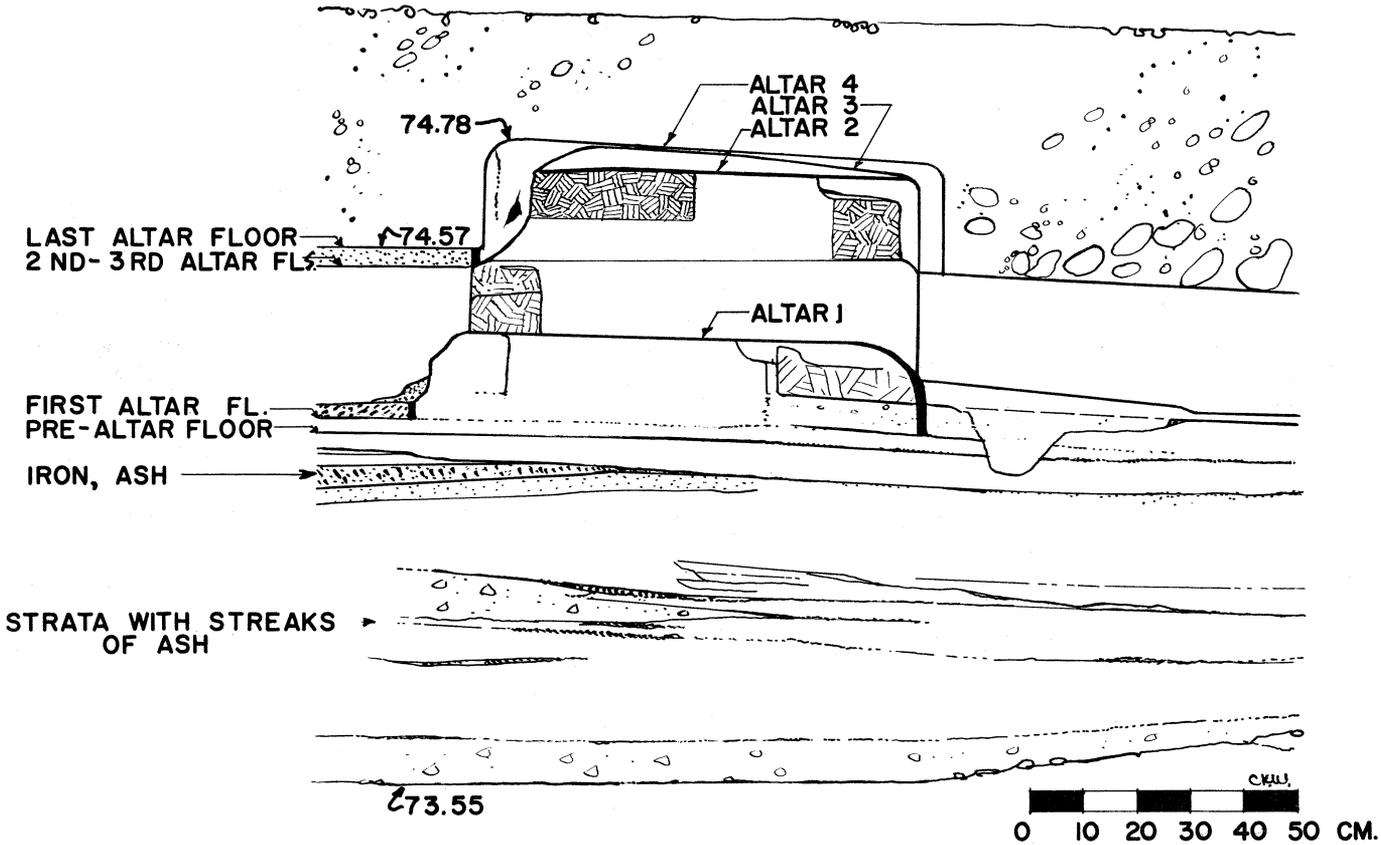
b. Section, East Scarp of Stratigraphic Cut

Temenos of Sacred Spring

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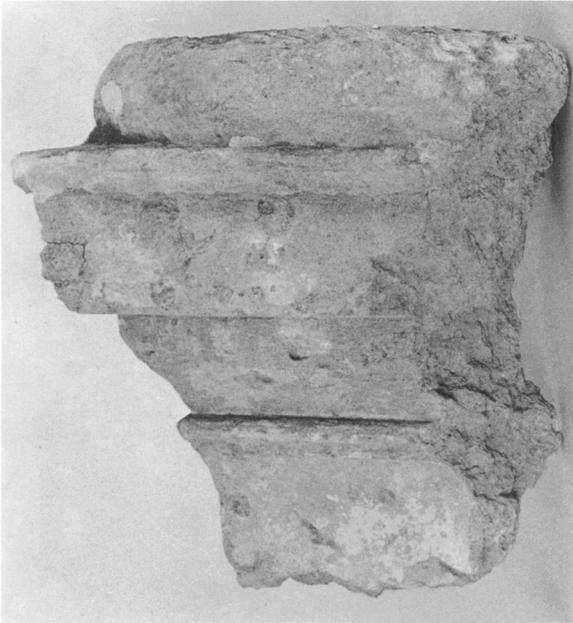
a. Cut through Mud Altars, looking South



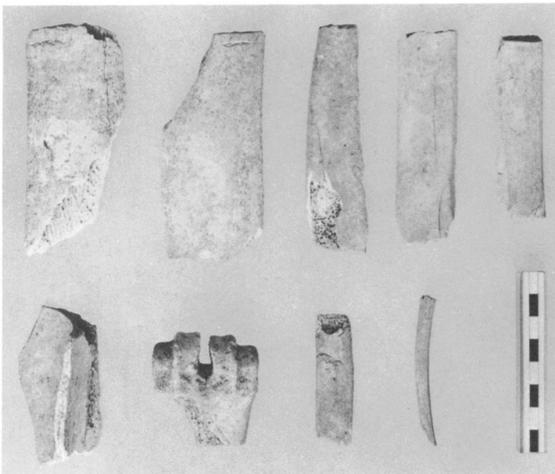
b. Section of a.

Temenos of Sacred Spring

CHARLES K. WILLIAMS, II: CORINTH 1969, FORUM AREA



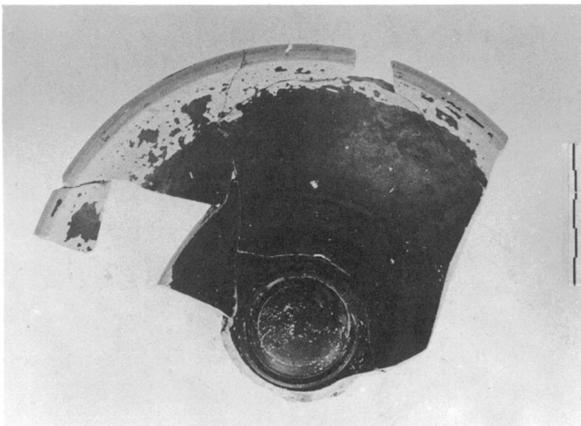
No. 40 Crown of Tripod Base, Side and from below



a. Sacrificed Bones from Mud Altar



No. 41 Inscribed Base



No. 38 Omphalos Phiale