

SECTIONS Φ , X, Ψ *

April - June 1957

Three private dwellings, already known from the preliminary excavation of 1937, formed the major themes of investigation this year in Section Φ . In the following report each will first be treated separately, and then a summary will point out how they are related to one another.

Southwest House (pp. 358-360, 410-417, 426-428, 1212-1222, 1280 ff.).

This house receives its name from its position in the section. An unknown extent of the building still lies buried under Aischines Street, but the area enclosed by its south and east walls occupies the southwestern corner of the section (48-56/M Σ T - ca. 10, and we have not yet found a satisfactory north wall). The history of its initial and subsequent periods of use is complex, and final statements must await the time when the whole building has been excavated. Still, some conclusions can be presented here.

Handsome polygonal blocks, distinguished by vertical striations on their inner faces and carefully fitted together, make up the exposed portion of the south wall, as well as extensive sections of the east wall. The style of the masonry suggests a date in the 5th century B.C. for the original construction of the building. Nor does the earth packed against the outside of the east wall controvert such a date. Several probes into it produced pottery of the 6th and 5th centuries B.C.

A curious, rectangular pit (Pit at 54/AF, pp. 1206-1210, 1251-1254) was an integral part of the early substructure of the east wall, whose foundation forms the west wall of the pit.

* Most of the excavation was carried out in Section Φ ; all page references will be to Φ notebooks unless otherwise indicated.

The pit's plan is irregular; its measurements approximately 2.00 x 1.10 x 1.15 m. The wall foundations run a little over a meter deep at 53/ΔΓ-ΔΕ, consist of irregularly shaped and sized stones packed together roughly in courses with clay, and in the southwest corner of the pit follow the bedrock. Some stones have been cut so as to have regular faces; some have not. On top of these rest two good sized poros blocks which once supported the first blocks of the house wall. The south wall of the pit is built of slightly smaller stones and clay (no poros blocks), and bonds with the west wall. The east wall is one large (2.00 x 1.14 x 0.22 m.) poros slab. Its west or inner face has been roughly finished. The east or outer face has had a margin cut into it on two sides. The shape of the slab and the work done on it are irregular, and one may suppose that the slab was badly begun, found not to suit its original purpose, and so used here. The north wall, of which only a few stones were left, would have been like the south wall.

The pit was filled with a homogeneous, wet, clay-like earth that contained 15 boxes of thoroughly broken pottery. The fine ware extends from the first quarter to the end of the 5th century B.C.; the amphoras from the third to the first quarter of the century. At the bottom of the pit lay an archaic kore fragment (S 1984).

The pit was not used again after the earth had been dumped into it, but the walls of the building were used intermittently, if not continuously, to provide shelter for more than half a millenium afterwards.

The last period of use terminated not long before A.D. 300, although pottery from the two subsequent centuries was present in sufficient quantity to indicate some later habitation in the general area (pp. 410-417). The usual, eloquent testimony of the Herulian invasion was not noted here. The south wall still stands to a height of 2.50 m. in places, and no significant amount of ashes or carbon was found in the 3rd century fill.

For some reason, however, the house was abandoned, and sometime around the middle of the 4th century after Christ a family built a tomb against the house wall (pp. 615-622, 1203-1207), utilizing the house wall as the south wall of the tomb. The tomb sits squarely over the large poros blocks noted supra. Terracotta rattles (T 1421-1424) and moulded lamps (L 2916-17, 3011-12) found in the tomb with the bones, establish the date of the interment.

Not so closely dated, but further testimony to the abandonment of the area as a living place, is a more modest burial (late Roman, located at 50/KE, see pp. 572-3) well within the confines of the house walls.

In the years between the construction and the final abandonment of the house, the interior arrangements were altered occasionally. In the area 49-56/MΣT - ΔH one can see the clay floor level of the last occupancy of the house, setting stones and stucco for marble slabs of an earlier floor, and in one place marble slabs of a still earlier floor covered by the later stucco. Perhaps to this last named period belong the traces of a pebble-mosaic floor once painted red. Later generations ignored it, and a large threshold block was set down on top of it (photographs on pp. 1216-17).

The handsome walls too underwent change. Repairs were made with stones and mortar, and in Roman times they received several coatings of stucco in which coarse pot-sherds had been imbedded. The effect is not especially decorative. It may be that the artisans had some idea of re-inforcing the stucco in this manner.

Further north in the house (47-52/KE-KA) we found an extensive, packed-clay floor, over which lay some 0.50 m. of 3rd/2nd century B.C. fill. Unfortunately no sure connection has been established between this floor and those further south noted supra.

Subsequent use is indicated here by rubble wall foundations. Apparently trenches were cut into the Hellenistic fill down to the level of the floor, and then loose stones were packed in to supply solid foundations for walls (phot. p. 1222). No trace was found of a floor connected with these walls, nor with the north-south rubble wall in the southern part of the building (phot. p. 1205, sections pp. 413, 1215, plan p. 412) to which these may relate.

We chipped away at the northern and southern limits of the extensive Hellenistic floor, and found the following: a hard-packed, clay floor 0.10 m. underneath the Hellenistic floor at the south end, a bit of hydraulic floor 0.10 m. under the northwest corner of the Hellenistic floor, and a hard-packed, clay floor 0.30 m. under the northeast corner.

No trustworthy ceramic evidence dated the first two floors described, but the pottery over the floor under the northwest

corner was 4th century B.C., and included a black glazed lamp (L 5298) on whose spout and rim the names of six men were scratched. The names were spelled backwards, an indication of magic - or of an hilarious symposion.

At the same level, a little north of the hydraulic floor patch, two pithoi were sunk into the ground (49/K, 49/IΘ, p. 1273). A modern cesspool had destroyed one, but the other (49/IΘ) contained 4th century B.C. pottery including some pieces strongly reminiscent of the so-called pyre-burials (e.g. P 25925-6. Cf. R.S. Young, Hesperia XX, 1951, pp. 111-2).

The slight downward slant to the north of the hydraulic floor, and the rounded curb of its eastern edge suggest that it was designed to convey something into the two pithoi, and is therefore contemporary with them; and, since the hydraulic floor lies at the same distance under the Hellenistic floor as the clay floor to the south, it would appear that all three bits of floor are contemporary.

During the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C. the inhabitants of the house drew their water from the well at 66/ΔZ (p. 1288), and probably from late in the first century after Christ until the arrival of the Herulians they used the great well at 63/IΔ (pp. 881 ff. for pottery and page refs.).

A well located right in the house at 50/ΔA (pp. 568-9) had been completely emptied and re-used in modern times, so that no evidence for its original period of use came to light. It does, however, invite speculation. Since the house does not seem to have been completely destroyed by the Herulians, and since the pottery of the great well at 63/IΔ indicates by a gap that it was not used for some years after the Herulian sack, we may

perhaps conjecture that the well at 50/AA was sunk at the beginning of the invasion in an attempt to make of the house a sort of fortress or strongpoint outside of the "Valerian" wall. The house may have been taken, but was not totally destroyed, and some Athenians, faced with a housing shortage, were able to find shelter in the weakened house during its few declining years. The small capitals ϕ 240-244/probably fell from a second floor destroyed by the Herulians.

Polygonal House (pp. 298-302, 671-2, 725-768, 951-6, 1224 ff. Plans, pp. 745, 1258; sections, pp. 743, 749, 1233, 1263)

The word polygonal refers to the "laddered" walls of the house rather than to its plan, which is rectangular with a north-south wall through the short axis creating two rooms of roughly equal area. It is located at 57-68/M-MET, and its original floor lies at a level about 1.50 m. above the floor of the nearby Southwest House. The plan of the house was recovered, and the stratification of the earth in the southeast corner studied in 1937 (p. 743). This year we removed the rest of the earth in the building and generally cleaned it up.

The rectangular structure was built early in the 4th century B.C., partially over the site of an older building that may have been destroyed by the Persians. In each of the two rooms we found three hard packed clay floors that distinguish the three major periods of occupancy.

Below the first floor, in the 0.08-0.18 m. of earth that separated it from bedrock, the pottery was late 5th/early 4th

century B.C. On the floor in the east room we found a small, hard-packed, circular mound of earth on whose flat top was an almost perfectly circular patch of ashes. The pottery above this floor was ~~early~~ 4th century B.C.

The second floor, 0.12 - 0.15 m. above the first, preserved in the east room the impression of a human foot shod in soft leather. During the period in which the second floor was in use (end of 4th/beginning of 3rd) the north-south drain that passed under the south wall of the house in the west room was repaired. The south wall itself was also repaired with large, square blocks, and strengthened with a backing of rubble stones - an action made necessary by the weight of earth washed down the hillside that rises steeply just behind it.

The third floor represents the last period in which people lived in the house. The fill above it in the east room runs down into the space where the blocks of the north-south crosswall once stood (see section, p. 1233). Cuttings in the bedrock, and a block or two still in place establish the existence of the wall, a massive affair some 0.70 m. thick. People building elsewhere in the 3rd/2nd century B.C. took out the useful blocks of this wall, and of the outer house walls (p. 1221) for their own purposes. To the period of the third floor belongs too the door in the north wall of the east room, a cutting for a door-jamb in the single stone left in that wall.

The structure that lay partly under the polygonal building is represented by so few remains that its general disposition is not clear. A single course of good-sized, polygonal limestone

blocks, carefully fitted together, runs parallel to the north wall of the polygonal house 1.20 m. directly beneath it, and a little beyond to the west (see plan, p. 1258; section, p. 1263). A large poros block about 4 m. north of the west end of this archaic wall lies as it was set in the late 6th/early 5th century B.C. (note P 25916, a black figure battle scene), and may indicate the northward return of the archaic wall. The floor that belongs to the archaic wall is soon terminated at the north by modern pit 59/A^o (p. 311). The area north of the pit produced no floors, but consistently 6th/5th century B.C. pottery, including a red figure komos scene by Myson (P 25965). Between the archaic wall and the modern pit earth and stones had been dumped sometime around the middle of the 4th century B.C. in order to bring the ground level up to that of the Polygonal House floor. A few stones, almost level with the floor, suggest that a road or a cobbled courtyard could have been built after the filling was completed.

Late Roman House and Water Channel

Little actual excavating was done in connection with the house. We were primarily interested in cleaning up the walls so that all could be drawn, and those that proved irrelevant to the house removed. Several new facts came to light, however, concerning the construction and plan of the building.

Into the area just west of the building's apse, a substantial pit (ca. 2.50 m. in diam.) had been cut to a level as deep as that of the house foundations. Traces of lime adhering to the sides revealed the pit's purpose. Lime, presumably in connection with

the building's original construction, had been slaked for mortar there. Such bits of gouged, combed and Late Roman D ware as were found did not establish a precise date for the re-filling of the pit, and so for the construction of the house.

Further east we cleared out the earth in "Room 1" (pp. 714-717) and found a trough shoddily built with rubble stones patched together with sandy plaster. It ran east-west from the west wall of the room a distance of 4.70 m., and then stopped where some stones had been packed into its open end. It may be related to the bit of floor found at the west side of the room, 0.65 m. above the earlier floor level shown by the plaster on the south wall of the room.

Cleaning just east of this room revealed the line of its original east wall. It was noted in 1937 that the exposed east wall of the room was built against the south wall, and we now know that the northward return of the south wall was originally 0.70 m. further east.

Water Channel (The following is a summary written by E. Vanderpool, written in 1938. Ψ nb., pp. 778-786.)

In section Ω (at ca. 52/I is a small, roughly square vaulted chamber built of bricks, stones and mortar from which a vaulted passage leads off toward the north. The chamber and the tiled well in it were cleared as part of section Ω, the passage for its whole length was cleared as section Ψ.

The passage starts at about the center of the chamber, right next to the well, and some of the well tiles have been roughly broken away where they adjoin the passage (the well was originally built in pre-Herulian times as the deposit at its

bottom indicates, while the chamber and passage are definitely post-Herulian - cf. Ω notebooks).

The passage is about 0.50 m. wide and 1.50 m. high. Its sides are roughly built of stones set in mortar and its top is vaulted over with bricks. At its bottom is a small rectangular terracotta water channel which is preserved throughout most of the length of the passage (it is missing up near the chamber). The passage is set down in a deep cutting in the bedrock, deeper at the south where the hill rises more steeply than at the north.

As we leave the chamber and proceed northward in the passage we reach a manhole at 40/Z (p. 364). Its dimensions are: N-S 0.90 m.; E-W 0.50 m. From the top of the passage downward it is slightly wider to enable a man to work more easily in it. Its walls are of stone and mortar, and it is preserved to the surface of bedrock. At the south side of the manhole the passage is partly blocked by a fallen stone. About 1.30 m. north of the manhole there is a rough wall across the passage about 0.30-0.40 m. high and 10 meters north of the manhole there is a second wall, about 0.70 m. high. The terracotta channel passes under both these cross walls.

At about 33/E the passage skirts the edge of the "great hole at 33/Z" (p. 726) and its outside is visible. There is a lot of Greek fill around the outside of the passage at this point (some belonging to the Greek well at 32/).

At 27/ Δ the top of the passage is broken at the west side. The break was made in modern times. Just west of the passage at this point is a partially collapsed section of modern well curbing.

curbing built of stones and cement.

At 25/Γ the passage stops abruptly, and the end is closed with masonry. The terracotta channel continues, however, set in a shallow cutting, and its course can be traced as it winds across the northeast corner of Section Φ (p. 69).

A.W.Parsons suggests that this water system was designed to furnish water for the late Roman bath in section Λ . The vaulted passage was built only where the channel is set deeply into the hillside, and was designed to make it possible to clean the system when necessary. Elsewhere the terracotta channel was not set so deeply and could easily be reached from above.

From the fill in the passage we secured no significant sherds to indicate its final period of use. In general there were no sherds at all. In and near the manhole where we might have expected to find some there were only modern things, the manhole having been used as a cesspool. The only object found in the passage which is useful for dating its period of use is the bronze lamp Ψ 517 (B 579). This was found about 1.50 m. north of the manhole where it had doubtless been forgotten by some workman who went down to clean out the passage. It is to be dated in the sixth century A.D. (cf. the bronze lamp from the very late Roman well in section Z: well at 52/IE, Z 681, B 114).

Some significant sherds were obtained, however, from the fill over the passage and over the terracotta channel north of the passage. The passage is set in a deep cutting in bedrock. We cleared the fill over it at one point (29/Δ), exposing about 1.75 m. of the vaulted top, and obtained a few late Roman sherds

(one bit seems surely late 5th if not 6th century A.D.). We also found a few similar sherds, including several of the 5th and perhaps 6th centuries A.D., in the small, narrow cutting for the terracotta channel at 20/B.

These sherds, though too few and too characterless to be dated at all closely, nevertheless show clearly that the water system belongs to the time of the late Roman complex. The sherds from over the terracotta channel at 20/B seem to belong to the latter part of the life of the late Roman complex, and perhaps date the final repair or clean-out of this part of the system. That there is a similar late bit from over the passage at 29/Δ, however, suggests that the system may not be contemporary with the original construction of the late Roman complex, but a later addition.

A great mass of filling over the passage remains undug. When this is dug it may be possible to date the system more accurately.

In the southwest corner of the section to the west of the water channel (area around 39/Δ, near manhole) we dug a considerable amount of loose fill - dug bedrock mixed with earth of various colors - which rested on bedrock. As we dug it it seemed that it might be earth thrown up when the trench for the passage was dug.

From it we obtained a considerable amount of very late Roman pottery (cf. lamps Ψ 741-2), pottery such as usually comes in destruction fill over the late Roman complex. It is possible that the dug bedrock parts of this fill actually were thrown up

from the trench for the passage, but they were so stirred up in later times that they became inextricably mixed with other earths. The whole of this fill must now count as destruction fill of the Late Roman complex.

* * * *

This year (1957) the chamber and well at 52/I in section were thoroughly cleaned, and other sections of the channel were re-opened for drawing and photography. New photographs will be found in Ψ Notebook, pp. 777, 787-793. 992. The last photograph listed shows the ground level contemporary with the last use of the well. Ψ 1070 (A 2688) is a section of the terracotta water channel taken from 85/KE in section Φ .

Varia

Geometric Pit 58/AB (pp. 1276-7) was started as a well, but after about 2 meters crumbling bedrock must have discouraged the diggers. It produced only a few sherds, all of which were kept.

p. 124b

Lime Kiln at 51/IZ was fairly well preserved. A pit 0.80 m. deep and 2.60 m. in diameter was dug into the bedrock. Then rubble and mortar walls were erected around the pit leaving a bedrock shelf 0.15 m. wide all around. The walls were preserved to a height of 0.90 m. They are poorly made and were intended to be no more than lining. The shelf would have been used to support stacked marble, while the fire blazed underneath. Draft was supplied by a narrow (0.45 m. wide) door whose lower part can still be seen 1.20 m. above the bedrock floor.

Virtually no pottery came out of the mass of ash that filled the kiln, and probes into earth around the pit produced only a

few green-glazed Byzantine sherds, none of which necessarily have anything to do with the date of its construction or use.

Just south of the Late Roman Building we found two large (aver. meas. 1.30 x 0.70 x 0.50 m.), conglomerate blocks in place, both carefully secured with a packing of small stones. Two similar blocks had clearly been disturbed, and so were removed in the interest of clarity. Unfortunately the position of the blocks gives no good picture of the structure into which they were once built. They sit on a firm floor, over which sat 0.50 m. of 3rd/2nd century B.C. fill. Under the floor the pottery is 5th century B.C. The blocks may have been part of a large monument base, or of the foundations for a small building, traces of whose northern extent the Late Roman Building's apse obliterated.

Summary

Geometric wells and graves provide the earliest record of human activity in this area; and the building represented by the archaic wall, destroyed probably early in the 5th century B.C., is the earliest structure. A patch of road metal about 1.50 m. wide at 57/AH into which 6th/early 5th century B.C. sherds had been impressed was used by the inhabitants of this house.

The road, to judge from the line of later drains, continued on north from here to meet the ancient road that ran under Observatory Street, and was used well into Roman times. Its southward progress from 57/AH is not so clear. It could have run south up to the Areopagos before Southwest House was built - and indeed after it and the Polygonal House were built there

was between the two houses sufficient space for the narrow road. At some time, however, in the 4th or 3rd century B.C., some time, that is, when the Polygonal House and the Southwest House were occupied simultaneously, the two houses were joined. A heavy limestone block and two slabs, continuing westward the line of the Polygonal House's north wall, effect an integral connection between the two structures.

One may perhaps relate this alteration to the time when the ground level directly east of the patch of road metal was raised to that of the Polygonal House, i.e. around the middle of the 4th century B.C. The road then, instead of continuing on up to the Areopagos, terminated in a little cobbled court just outside the northwest corner of the Polygonal House (cf. supra p. 8).

Private dwellings continued to occupy this section until the attack of the Herulians. Probably the corner of a room that appears just east of the apse of the Late Roman Building was abandoned in A.D. 267.

It has been suggested that the large, apsidal buildings erected later in Sections Φ and Ω housed several of the schools of philosophy that were closed eventually in A.D. 527 (cf. season's report for 1957, section Ω).

Recommendations for Further Excavation

A cistern at 4/A in Section Ψ and a section of the floor to which it belongs were discovered during the reduction of the Phaidon Street dike of earth. The fill over the floor was uncommunicative, and the cistern has not yet been dug.

Again in Section Ψ under Phaidon Street we found a rectangular cutting in the bedrock at 8/ Σ T. It continues on south and should be further exposed. Pottery near the floor of the cutting was Roman.

A fallen wellhead at 49/ Γ T shows that a well collapsed in the neighborhood. Reduction of the Aischines Street dike of earth may reveal its precise location.

At the bottom of the modern pit (see section, p. 1215) between the Polygonal House and the Southwest House we found a diagonal cutting in the bedrock that may have some connection with the archaic wall. This pit, since re-filled, should be re-opened, and the earth between the two houses removed on the chance of acquiring more information about the early structure.

Note pp. 1237-8 for identification of fill under floor of Polyg. House W room ^{with} fill outside E wall of SW House

A.L. Boegehold

June 13, 1957



Excavations 1957 (Φ, X, Ψ).17.jpg



Excavations 1957 (Φ, X, Ψ).18.jpg

No report ever turned in
for section Ω , 1957 season.

per HAT

Bayan letter 3/18/71

Boegehold - 1957
draft

Three private dwellings, already known from the preliminary excavation of 1937, formed the major themes of investigation this year in section Φ . In the following report each will first be treated separately, and then a summary will point out how they are related to one another.

Southwest House (pp. 358-360, 410-417, 426-428, 1212-1222, 1280 ff.)

This house receives its name from its position in the section. An unknown extent of the building still lies buried under Aischines Street, but the area enclosed by its south and east walls occupies the southwestern corner of the section (48-56/MΣT-Ca. 10). The history of its initial and subsequent periods of use is complex, and final statements must await the time when the whole building has been excavated. Still, some conclusions can be presented here.

we have found a satisfactory wall.

Handsome polygonal blocks, distinguished by vertical striations on their inner faces and carefully fitted together, make up the exposed portion of the south wall, as well as extensive sections of the east wall. The style of the masonry suggests a date in the 5th century B.C. for the original construction of the building. Nor does the earth packed against the outside of the east wall controvert such a date. Several probes into it produced pottery of the 6th and 5th centuries B.C.

[i.e. "East St." 205T]

A curious, rectangular pit (Pit 54/MΣ, pp. 1206-1210, 1251-1254) was an integral part of the early ~~foundations~~ ^{substructure} of the east wall, ^{whose foundation forms the w wall of the pit.} ~~its~~ ^{the} plan is ~~slightly~~ ^{irregular}; ~~but it measures roughly~~ ^{and its measurements approximately} 2.00 x 1.00 x 1.05 m. The ^{well} foundations run a little over a meter deep at 53/MΣ -AE, consist of irregularly shaped and sized stones packed together roughly in courses with clay, and in the south west corner ^{of the pit} follow the bedrock. Some ^{stones} have been cut so as to have

regular faces; some have not. On top of these rest two good sized poros blocks which once supported the first blocks of the house wall. ~~These foundations form the west wall of the pit.~~ The south wall ^{of the pit} is built of slightly smaller stones and clay (no poros blocks), and bonds with the west wall. The east wall is one large (2.00 x 1.14 x 0.22 m.) poros slab. Its west or inner face has been roughly finished. The east or outer face has had a margin cut into it on two sides. The shape of the slab and the work done on it are ~~irregular~~ irregular, and one may suppose that ~~it~~ ^{the slab} was badly begun, found not to suit its original purpose, and so used here. ^{The north} wall, of which only a few stones were left, would have been like the south wall.

The pit was filled with a homogeneous, wet, clay-like earth that contained ^{15 bones} ~~a great deal~~ of thoroughly broken pottery. The fine ware extends from the first quarter to the end of the 5th century B.C.; the amphoras from the third to the first quarter of the century. At the bottom of the pit lay an archaic kore fragment (S 1984).

The pit was not used again after the earth had been dumped into it, but the walls of the building were used intermittently, if not continuously, to provide shelter for more than half a millenium. afterwards.

The last period of use terminated not long before A.D. 300, although pottery from the two subsequent centuries was present in sufficient quantity ^{some later} to indicate habitation in the general area ~~afterwards~~ (pp. 410-417). The usual, eloquent testimony of the Herulian invasion was not noted here. The south wall still stands to a height of 2.50m. in places, and no significant amount of ^{ashes or carbon} ~~traces of burning~~ was found in the 3rd cent. fill.

For some reason, however, the house was abandoned, and some-

[Abundant bones?
filling, broken plaster
& debris of
non-essential
character found
in "red fill"
D.B.T.]

time around the middle of the 4th century after Christ a family built a tomb against the house wall (pp. 615-622, 1203-1207), utilizing the house wall as the south wall of the tomb. The tomb sits squarely over the large poros blocks noted supra. Terra cotta rattles (T 1421-1424) and moulded lamps (L 2916-17, 3011-12) found in the tomb with the bones, establish the date of the interment.

Not so closely dated, but further testimony to the abandonment of the area as a living place, is a more modest burial (late-Roman, located at 50/KE, see pp. 572-3) well within the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ confines of the house walls.

In the years between the construction and the final abandonment of the house, the interior arrangements were altered occasionally. In the area 49-56/ M1T-AH one can see the clay floor level of the last occupancy of the house, setting stones and ~~marks~~ stucco for marble slabs of an earlier floor, and in one place marble slabs of a still earlier floor covered by the later stucco. Perhaps to this last named period belonged ~~was~~ the traces of a pebble-mosaic floor once painted red. Later generations ignored it, and a large threshold block was set down on top of it (photos on pp. 1216-17*).

The handsome walls too underwent change. Repairs were made with stones and mortar, and ^{in Roman times} ~~at one time~~ they received ^{several} ~~a~~ coatings of stucco ~~into~~ which coarse pot-sherds had been imbedded. The effect is not especially decorative. It may be that the artisans had some idea of re-inforcing the stucco in this manner.

Further north in the house (47-52/KE-KA) we found an extensive, packed-clay floor, over which lay some 0.50 M. of 3/2 cent. B.C.

[later called
Central House
D. 151]

fill. Unfortunately no sure connection has been established between this floor and those further south noted supra.

Subsequent use is indicated here by rubble wall foundations. Apparently trenches were cut into the Hellenistic fill down to the level of the floor, and then loose stones were packed in to supply solid foundations for walls (photo p. 1222). No trace was found of a floor connected with these walls, nor with the north-south rubble wall in the southern part of the building (photo p. 1205, sections pp. 413, 1215, plan p. 412) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to which these may relate. [Cont. on p. 4a]

wall #)

~~An earlier floor lay beneath the extensive Hellenistic floor. We exposed a little of it ~~at~~ by going down through the Hellenistic floor at its southern and ~~northeastern~~ ^{western} limits. Pottery from ~~the~~ ^{the 0.10m of earth} southern end was inconclusive, but that from the northeastern probe floor, however, still another floor was found. This lay 0.30m. under the Hellenistic floor and came out of the 4th cent. B.C., and included a BG lamp (L5298) on produced 4th c. B.C. pottery. It is into this floor that the 2 pithoi were sunk, including the incense lamp whose spout and rim the names of six men were scratched. The probably the inclined hydraulic floor belongs to the same period. Its present 0.20m. names were all spelled backwards, but whether an hilarious symposium ~~different level occasioned by the slant.~~ or a magical formula is to be inferred is not clear.~~

At some time too in the fourth century the nearby hydraulic floor and two pithoi were built and used. The floor, only partially exposed and lacking its full northern extension, has a curb and a northward slant that show clearly that it was designed to convey something into the two pithoi sunk in the ground at 49/K and 49/I^o. Pithos 49/I^o contained fourth century B.C. pottery that included some pieces strongly reminiscent of the so-called pyre-burials (e.g. P25925-6. See R.S. Young, Hesperia 20 [1951] 111-12).

During the 3/2 centuries B.C. the inhabitants of the house

We chipped away at the northern and southern limits of the extensive Hellenistic floor, and found the following: a hard-packed, clay floor 0.10 m. underneath the Hellenistic floor at the south end, a bit of hydraulic floor 0.10 m. under the NW corner of the Hell. floor, and a hard-packed, clay floor 0.30 m. under the NE corner.

No trustworthy ceramic evidence dated the first two floors described, but the pottery over the floor under the NW corner was 4th cent. B.C., and included a BG lamp (L 5298) on whose spout and rim the names of six men were scratched. The names were spelled backwards, an indication of magic - or of an hilarious symposion.

At the same level, a little N of the hydraulic floor patch, two pithoi were sunk into the ground (49/K, 49/I^o, p. 1273). A modern cesspool had destroyed one, but the other (49/I^o) contained 4th cent. BC pottery including some pieces strongly reminiscent of the so-called pyre-burials (e.g. P 25925-6. Cf. R.S. Young, Hesperia 20 [1951] 111-12)

The slight downward slant to the N of the hydraulic floor, and the rounded curb^{yc} of its eastern edge suggest that it was designed to convey something into the two pithoi, and is therefore contemporary with them; and, since the hydraulic floor lies at the same distance under the Hellenistic floor as the clay floor to the S, it would appear that all three bits of floor are contemporary.

During the 3/2 centuries B.C. the inhabitants of the house drew their water from the well at 66/ΛZ (p. 1288), and probably from late in the first century after Christ until the arrival of the Herulians they used the great well at 63/IA .(pp. 881 ff. for pottery and page refs.).

A well located right in the house at 50/ΛA (pp. 568-9) had been completely emptied and re-used in modern times, so that no evidence for its original period of use came to light. It does, however, invite speculation. Since the house does not seem to have been completely destroyed by the Herulians, and since the pottery of the great well at 63/IA indicates by a gap that it was not used for some years after the Herulian sack, we may perhaps ^{conjecture} ~~suppose~~ that the well at 50/ΛA was sunk at the beginning of the invasion in an attempt to make of the house a sort of fortress or strongpoint outside of the "Valerian" wall, and ~~was used afterwards during the few, declining years of the structure.~~

The house may have been taken, but was not totally destroyed, and ~~then~~ some Athenians, faced with a housing shortage, were able to find shelter in the weakened house during its few declining years.

The small capitals Φ 240-244 ~~that were found~~ probably fell from a ruined second floor destroyed by the Herulians, ~~were not disturbed by the family seeking only temporary housing and not interested in building.~~

Polygonal House (pp. 298-302, 671-2, 725-768, 951-6, 1224 ff.
plans, pp. 745, 1258; sections, pp. 743, 749,
1233, 1263)

The word polygonal refers to the "bladdered" walls of the house rather than to its plan, which is rectangular with a NS wall through the short axis creating two rooms of roughly equal area. It is located at 57-68/M-M&T, and its original floor lies at a level about 1.50 m. above the floor of the nearby Southwest House. The plan of the house was recovered, and the stratigraphy of the earth in the southeast corner studied in 1937 (p. 743). This year we removed the rest of the earth in the building and generally cleaned it up.

The rectangular structure was built early in the 4th century B.C., partially over the site of an ^{older} building that may have been destroyed by the Persians. In each of the two rooms we found three hard packed clay floors that distinguish the three major periods of occupancy.

Below the first floor, in the 0.08-0.18 m. of earth that separated it from bedrock, the pottery was late 5th/early 4th B.C. On the floor in the east room we found a small, hard-packed, circular mound of earth ~~xxxxxxx~~ on whose flat top was an almost perfectly circular patch of ashes. The pottery above this floor was early 4th B.C.

The second floor, 0.12-0.15 m. above the first, preserved in the east room the impression of a human foot shod in soft leather. During the period in which the second floor was in use (end of 4th/beginning of 3rd) the NS drain that passed under the south wall of the house in the W room was repaired. The S wall itself was also repaired with large, square blocks, and strengthened with a backing of rubble stones - an action made necessary by the

weight of earth washed down the hillside that rises steeply just behind it.

The third floor represents the last ~~actual~~ period in which people lived in the house. The fill above it in the east room runs down into the space where the blocks of the NS crosswall once stood (see section p. 1233). Cuttings in the bedrock, and a block or two still in place establish the existence of the wall, a massive affair some 0.70 m. thick. People building elsewhere in the 3rd/2nd century B.C. took out the useful blocks of this wall, and of the outer house walls (p. 1221) for their own purposes. To the period of the ^{third} floor belongs too the door in the N wall of the E room, ~~which can be identified from a cutting in one of the stones~~ ^{shown by the single stone left in that wall.} for a door-jamb ~~in one of the stones.~~

The structure that lay partly under the polygonal building is represented by so few remains that its general disposition is not clear. ~~A single course of good-sized, polygonal limestone blocks, carefully fitted together, runs parallel to the north wall of the polygonal house 1.20 meters directly beneath it, and a little beyond to the west (see plan p. 1258, section p. 1263). A large porous block about 4 m. N of the W end of this archaic wall lies as it was set in the late 6th/early 5th cent. B.C. (note P 25916, a BF battle scene), and may indicate the northward return of the archaic wall. The floor that belongs to the archaic wall is soon terminated at the N by a modern pit 59/10 (p. 311), and then the area on N for m. produced ~~uninterruptedly~~ ^{no floors, but a gradual of consistently} (~~except for the~~ ^{geometric pits}) 6th/5th cent. B.C. pottery, including a RF komos scene by Myson (P 25965). Between the archaic wall and the~~

modern pit earth and stones had been dumped sometime around the middle of the 4th cent. B.C. in order to bring the ground level up to that of the Polygonal House floor. A few stones, almost level with the floor, suggest that a road or a cobbled courtyard could have been built after the filling was completed.

Late Roman House and Water Channel

Little actual excavating was done in connection with the house. We were primarily interested in cleaning up the walls so that all could be drawn, and those that proved irrelevant to the house removed. Several new facts came to light, however, concerning the construction and plan of the building.

Into the area just W of the building's apse, a substantial pit (ca. ^{2.50 m} in diam.) had been cut to a level as deep as that of the house foundations. Traces of lime adhering to the sides revealed the pit's purpose. Lime, presumably in connection with the building's original construction, had been slaked for mortar there. Such bits of gouged, combed and LRD ware as were found did not establish a precise date for the re-filling of the pit, *and so for the construction of the house.*

Further ~~west~~ E we cleared out the earth in "Room 1" (pp. 714-717) and found a trough shoddily built with rubble stones patched together with sandy plaster. It ran EW from the W wall of the room a distance of 4.70 m, and then stopped where some stones had been packed into its open end. It may be related to the bit of floor found at the west side of the room, 0.65 m. above the ~~floor~~ earlier floor ^{level} shown by ~~where~~ the plaster ~~ends~~ on the S wall of the room.

Cleaning just E of this room revealed the line of its original E wall. It was noted in 1937 that the exposed E wall of the room

was built against the S wall, and we now know that the northward return of the S wall was originally 0.70 m. further E.

Water Channel Here copy summary written in 1938 by E. Vanderpool in 1938. Ψ Notebook, pp. 778-786
 Ω " " VII, 1357 ff.

This year (1957) the chamber and well ^{at} ~~and~~ 52/I in section Ω were thoroughly cleaned, and other sections of the channel were re-opened for drawing and photography. New photographs will be found in Ψ Notebook, pp. 777, 787-793, 992. The last photograph listed shows the ground level contemporary with the last use of the well. Ψ 1070 ^(A 2688) is a section of the terra cotta ~~drain~~ water channel taken from 85/KE in section ϕ .

Well date probably from 1st cent. A.D., but the spring house & water channel from the 5th or even 6th cent. A.D.

Varia

Geometric Pit 58/A B (pp. 1276-7) was started as a well, but after about 2 meters crumbling bedrock must have discouraged the diggers. It produced only a few sherds, all of which were kept.

Lime Kiln 51/IZ was fairly well preserved. λ pit 0.80 m. deep and 2.60 m. in diam. was dug into the bedrock. Then rubble and mortar walls were erected around the pit leaving a bedrock shelf ~~of~~ 0.15 m. wide all around. The walls were preserved to a height of 0.90 m. They are poorly made and intended ^{were} ~~only as lining~~ ^{to be no more than lining}. The shelf would have been used to support stacked marble, while ^{the} fire ~~would~~ blazed underneath. Draft was supplied by a narrow (0.45 m. wide) door whose lower part can still be seen 1.20 m. above the bedrock floor.

Virtually no pottery came out of the mass of ^{ash} ~~ash~~ that filled the ^{kiln} ~~pit~~, and probes into earth around the pit produced only a few green-glazed Byz. sherds, none of which necessarily have anything to do with the ~~pit~~ ^{date of its construction or use}.

Just S of the Late Roman Building we found two large, (aver. meas. 1.30 x 0.70 x 0.50 m.) conglomerate blocks in place, both carefully secured with a packing of small stones. Two similar blocks had clearly been disturbed, and so were removed in the interest of clarity. Unfortunately the position of the blocks gives no good picture of the structure into which they were once built. They sit on a firm floor, over which sat 0.50 m. of 3/2 cent. B.C. fill. Under the floor the pottery is 5th cent. B.C. The blocks may have been part of a large monument base, or of the foundations for a small building, ~~whose northern~~ traces of whose northern extent the late Roman Building's apse obliterated.

Summary

Geometric wells and graves provide the earliest record of human activity in this area; and the building represented by the archaic wall, destroyed probably early in the 5th cent. B.C., is the earliest structure. A patch of road metal about 1.50 m. wide at 57/AH into which 6th/early 5th cent. sherds had been impressed was used by the inhabitants of this house.

The road, to judge from the line of later drains, continued on north from here to meet the ancient road that ran under Observatory Street, and was used well into Roman times. Its southward progress from 57/AH is not so clear. It could have run S up to the Areopagos before Southwest House was built - and indeed after it and the Polygonal House were built there was between the two houses sufficient space for the narrow road. At some time, however, in the 4th or 3rd centuries B.C., some time, that is, when the Polygonal House and Southwest House were occupied simultaneously, the two houses were joined. A heavy limestone block and two slabs, continuing westward the line of Polygonal House's north wall, effect an integral

connection between the two structures.

One may perhaps relate this alteration to the time when the ground level directly E of the patch of road metal was raised to that of the Polygonal House, i.e. around the middle of the 4th cent. BACA The road then, instead of continuing on up to the Areopagos, terminated in a little cobbled court just outside the NW corner of the Polygonal House (cf. supra p.8)

Private dwellings continued to occupy this section until the attack of the Herulians. Probably the corner of a room that appears just E of the apse of the Late Roman Building was abandoned in A.D. 267.

It has been suggested that the large, apsidal buildings erected later in sections Φ and Ω housed several of the schools of philosophy that were closed eventually in A.D. 527 (cf. seasons's report for 1957, section Ω.

Recommendations for Further Excavation

A cistern at 4/A in Section Ψ and a section of the floor to which it belongs were discovered during the reduction of the Phaidon Street dike of earth. The fill over the floor was uncommunicative, and the cistern has not yet been dug.

Again in section Ψ under Phaidon Street we found a rectangular cutting in the bedrock at 8/ΣT. It continues on S and should be further exposed. Pottery near the floor of the cutting was Roman.

A fallen wellhead at 49/ΙΣT shows that a well collapsed in the neighborhood. Reduction of the Aischines Street dike of earth may reveal its precise location.

At the bottom of the modern pit (see section p. 1215) between the Polygonal House and Southwest House we found a diagonal cutting in the bedrock that may have some connection with the archaic wall. This

pit, since re-filled, should be re-opened, and the earth between the two houses removed on the chance of acquiring more information about the early structure.