

EXCAVATION SUMMARY

Section 00; 1969

SOUTHWEST BATH (Bath to East of Peros Building)

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## EXCAVATION SUMMARY

### Section 00: 1969

(Notebook reference 00 XXIV, passim)

Further excavations were conducted in section 00 during the summer of 1969, supplementing those done by M.A.Frantz in 1968. The purpose of the season's work was the final exploration of the large Roman complex now known as the Southwest Bath. Work was carried out from May 12 to July 6, with four to six workmen.

The building has received preliminary publication (Hesperia XXXVIII, 1969, #3) and reference will be made to the various phases of the bath, for which the following chronology has been established:

- Phase A - mid 2nd century B.C.
- Phase B - early 1st century A.D.
- Phase C - 2nd half 1st century A.D.
- Phase D - 2nd century A.D.
- Phase E - 1st half 4th century A.D.
- Phase F - 7th century A.D.

Reference will also be made to illustrations of the various phases in the series of actual state and restored drawings by W.B.D. J., (PD # 1833-1841).

#### ROOM A I (pp.4766-4769)

In the northwest corner of Room A I, we cut through a small area of the floor packing, hoping to get some firm evidence for the date of the floor, presently assigned to Phase C. Unfortunately all

the sherds recovered were non-descript coarse, and no further evidence was obtained. Noteworthy, however, is the impressive thickness of the packing, ca. 0.92 m.

Further down, we came upon three small stretches of wall, the fill around them indicating a late Hellenistic/Early Roman date. One of these, along with a bit of marble chip flooring found a meter or so to the north in Room A 3 (infra p. 4) is perhaps to be associated with Phase B of the bath.

South of Room A I, a large rectangular lime slaking pit measuring ca. 3.40 x 2.30 x 0.50 m. was cleared. It was filled with pottery of the 3rd and 1st half of the 4th centuries A.D. It is clear that the south wall of Room A I in its greatest extent (Phase E) cut into and must post-date the pit. Furthermore, that same wall has associated with it a bench which runs around the inside of the room; this bench is largely cut out of the living rock and requires a single period of construction for the wall, a construction which must be assigned to Phase E, the post-Herulian phase of the bath. Thus the four southernmost rooms as presently shown on the plans for Phase C (PD # 1835,1836) must be eliminated until the 4th century A.D., the southern limit of the bath until then being Rooms A I (in its small, original form) A 2, and A 3.

This limiting of the southern extension to the 4th century phase of the bath has alleviated, if not solved, another problem. In Phase D of the bath, the addition of the apsidal pool (A 6) effectively closed the principal entrance to the bath, which was from the north. For this period, a southern entrance has been postulated,

floor cannot be assigned to Phase E, for this part of A 6 was completely covered by a thick cement packing at that time, with the apsidal pool out of use. Clearly it must belong to Phase C or D or some intermediary repair. Under the floor, immediately to the west of the area of careless construction, there are the cut-down remains of what is generally taken to be the west wall of a smaller rectangular pool in Phase C. Thus the change of flooring occurs just at that point which is apparently the dividing line between Phases C and D. The extreme difference between the two areas would seem to suggest that the eastern part is not contemporary with the rest of the pool. It is tempting to suppose that this area served also as the floor for Phase C, but the nature of the reused material would seem to preclude this. The tegula mammata is particularly hard to explain as we have no evidence for their use before Phase C. Thus the careless flooring of the east end of A 6 should perhaps be considered contemporary with the Phase D construction, or, more likely, as a later repair to either Phase C or D, though it is hard to know which. The slight ceramic evidence dates to the 1st century A.D., permitting either hypothesis.

Cutting through the floor at the east end, we exposed a small patch of the brick chip mosaic found last year in A 9 (OO, XXII, p. 4263). We also found a small stretch of rubble wall running roughly east-west, just north of the brick chip floor and apparently associated with it. This wall rises to ca. 0.28 m. below the floor of the pool. It is unlikely that this would have been left exposed in Phase C, and thus the floor level in that period, whether any is presently preserved or not, must have been very nearly that of the apsidal pool (Phase D).

We cut through the patch of brick chip floor and got sherds of a somewhat earlier period than expected. Along with the marble chip floors (Rooms A 3, A 4, and A 10) the brick chip floor has always been associated with Phase B of the bath (early 1st century A.D.) But the sherds under the brick chip floor were of the 3rd and perhaps 2nd centuries B.C. There seem to be two explanations. Either the brick chip floor should be associated with Phase A of the bath, or we have been dating phase B about two centuries later than we should. The advanced state of the hypocaust system in the circular building would seem to require a late date for Phase B, and it seems more reasonable to associate the brick chip floor (and its wall) with Phase A.

#### ROOM A 9 - CIRCULAR BUILDING

We tested the stratification both inside and outside of the circular building. Unfortunately, there was no deposit which could definitely be assigned to the period of construction, though we did get various levels of Late Hellenistic fill (2nd half 2nd century B.C.).

#### ROAD NORTH OF THE SW BATH

(pp. 4697 ff., 4709 ff., 4737 ff. )

We put in three cuts to the north of A 9 and A 4, to test the stratification of the road which bounds the bath at the north. We found a series of stratified roads running from 3rd century A.D. to ca. 4th century B.C. Burning found in the Late Hellenistic/Early

reached by stairs from the east, though no convincing evidence of this has been found. With the elimination of the four southern rooms until the 4th century, however, there is now far greater freedom permitted in the restoration of the south entrance and the stairs down to it. The likeliest possibility for the entrance would seem to be directly into Room A 2.

ROOM A 2 (pp. 4768-4771)

Excavations were carried out at the north and south ends as well as in the middle of Room A 2, the large western hall. Digging under the sawn marble chip floor of Phase E, we were able to ascertain that the lower stratification at the north and south ends differed considerably. And in cleaning a Byzantine pit near the middle of the room, we located an east-west crosswall which divided A 2 into two rooms at an earlier period, probably Phase C; the northern room measuring 7.50 m. north-south, and the southern one 5.60 m. It is now clear that in this earlier period the northern room was floored with marble slabs, lying ca. 0.32 m. below the present floor. The southern room, however, was floored with grey-green clay and lay ca. 0.18 m. below the present floor. A slight tilt down from east to west plus the difference in flooring suggest that perhaps this southern room was open to the sky, but this is far from certain.

At the south end of A 2 there was a nice series of stratified earth floors lower down, all of late Hellenistic date. The south wall of A 2 was clearly built on top of an early limestone wall of

polygonal masonry. The few non-descript sherds found in relevant context suggest a classical date for its original construction. There are indications that at some later date, probably the 2nd century B.C., the wall was rebuilt.

At the north end of A 2 the stratification was too disturbed to be of much help, though we did clear a handsome well head of Hymettian marble which lay ca. 1.57 m. below the floor of Phase E. Associated with it was a short stretch of rubble wall immediately to the east, running in a north-south direction. Both the well head and the wall are probably to be assigned to Phase A and/or Phase B of the Bath, but we were unable to recover any evidence for their date. It should be noted that in the period of the marble paved floor, - Phase C - the well remained in use. An opening was left in the marble paving slabs and a stucco-lined shaft led down to the well head.

### ROOM A 3 (pp. 4772-4773)

At the west end of A 3 we cut through part of the cement floor packing to determine its date. There was no pottery later than the 1st century A.D., and certainly none of the Herulian debris which is so characteristic of Phase E; it therefore appears probable that the packing represents the floor of Phase C. The high level is most appropriate for Phase E, and it seems certain that the floor level in this room remained about the same throughout most of the life of the bath. It should perhaps be noted that the cement packing was clearly divisible into three distinct layers.

Ca. 0.75 - 1.00 m. below this upper floor, we came upon a

floor of marble chips, similar to that already known in Rooms A 4 and A 10. Elsewhere, this floor has been assigned to Phase B of the bath, and its position here, under the floor of Phase C, would seem to confirm this. In a one meter square, it sloped down 0.16 m. east-west, and 0.06 m. north-south; it is not entirely clear whether this is deliberate, or a result of settling. About a meter to the south, in Room A 1 (*supra*, p. 2) we found an east-west wall which may well be the south wall of the room when this marble chip floor was in use. We thus seem to have firmer evidence as to the southern extent of the bath in Phase B.

#### ROOM A 4

No work of any note was done in A 4 other than the well E 18:4, to be discussed below. During the winter, however, the architects apparently cleared more fully the flue leading into the circular building in the southeast quadrant (photo p. 4780).

#### ROOM A 6 (pp. 4774-4779)

In A 6 - the room with the apsidal pool - we cut through the tile floor at the east end. This room, and the east end in particular, is especially troublesome. The apsidal pool is generally assigned to Phase D of the bath. The east end, however, differs greatly in construction from the rest of the room. Elsewhere, the tiles are new, carefully laid, and rest on a cement packing ca. 1.00 m. thick. At the east end the tiles are clearly reused (including one tegula mammata), are carelessly laid, and rest on fill. This careless



Roman layers may perhaps be associated with the Sullan destruction or, more likely, with the ashes swept into the road from fires used for heating purposes in Phase A of the bath.

Two principal drains ran down the middle of the road, carrying water down from east to west:

Drain C. Deep down, ca. 1.40 m. from the north wall of the bath, we came upon a drain constructed of large reused well tiles set edge to edge in a peaked arrangement. The pottery found with it was 2nd half of the 4th century B.C., and the drain bears a striking resemblance to the klepsydra drain (M $\Sigma$  XIV, p. 2750+2752).

Drain D. It ran ca. 3.75 m. from the north wall of the bath and was constructed of two large stone walls ca. 0.35 m. thick and 1.40 m. high, set ca. 0.65 m. apart. Within ran a TC channel, oval in section, formed by two U-shaped tiles, one set upside down on the other. Complete amphorae, dating to the 1st century A.D. (OO 1936, P 28160), were thrown in over the channel to relieve the weight of the fill above it.

Drain A. A smaller drain, rectangular in section, ran ca. 0.85 m. from the north wall of the bath, also apparently of Roman date and probably later than D.

Running northward from the area of the bath were various small drains which seemed to empty into one or another of these main east-west drains.

#### WELL E 18:7

(pp. 4385 ff.; PD # 1872)

In Room A 10 we cleared a large tile-lined well. The top had been sealed with ca. 1.30 m. of concrete, and the floor to carry

the hypocaust columns of the room in Phase C had been carried over it. The well was ca. 1.30 in diameter, with four tiles 0.65 m. high making up the circumference, each carefully clamped with three lead clamps to its neighbor. We cleared it down to bottom - fourteen courses of tiles - to a depth of 9.65 m. below the highest preserved edge.

The fill within yielded huge amounts of TC roof tiles of both sorts, though the curved Laconian clearly predominated. There were very few sherds, but several bits of red ware, the stamped amphora handles, and some fragments of amphorae suggest a date of late 2nd / early 1st centuries B.C. One is immediately drawn to the probability that the well was filled in the cleaning up after Sulla's devastation of Athens in 86 B.C.

As for the period of use, we found two whole objects at the very bottom: a coarse ware cooking pot (OO 1906, P 28147) and what must surely be a unique lamp (OO 1884, L 5568). I can find no parallel for it, and its date remains somewhat enigmatic. The globular body, the glaze, and the nicely done attached lions' heads suggest a date in the 3rd, or even 4th century B.C., whereas the pointed nozzle and the leaf handle shield fit more readily in an early Roman type.

The good, careful construction, the date of its filling, and its large size would all seem to indicate that the well is probably to be associated with Phase A of the Bath.

CISTERN F 17:4

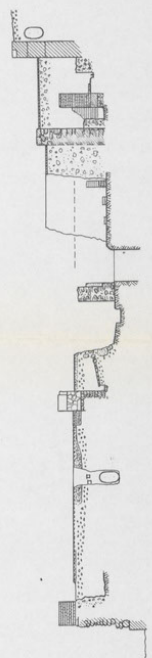
(pp. 4357 ff. PD # 1869 )

In Room A 4 we dug a Hellenistic cistern complex composed of a bottle-shaped cistern, a seven meter tunnel, and a manhole, equipped with a series of hand-holes, giving access to the tunnel. All three components were stucco-lined and in a good state of preservation (photos pp. 4379 + 4381). On the side walls of the tunnel were several visible lines indicating various water levels; the principal one of these was ca. 0.92 m. above the floor.

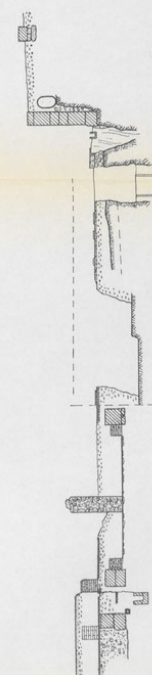
The fill within was homogeneous and the whole complex was clearly filled in at one time. G.R.E. has studied the pottery, and V.G. the stamped amphora handles, arriving at a date of third quarter of the 3rd century B.C. In addition, we recovered over a hundred fragments of moulds for T.C. statuettes. Both pottery and moulds were much worn.

The cistern clearly went out of use too early to have any direct relation to any phase of the S.W. Bath, and it must be assigned to some earlier house or industrial establishment which stood on the same spot before the Bath. Numerous similar establishments have been found to the northeast and west, and traces were found in the Bath itself, in the form of scraps of walls deep below the floor levels. A proper study of these Hellenistic predecessors, however, would require the destruction of most of the SW Bath; an operation which would almost certainly not repay the effort.

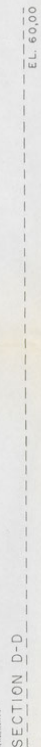
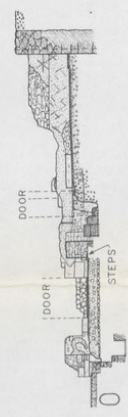
John McK. Camp II



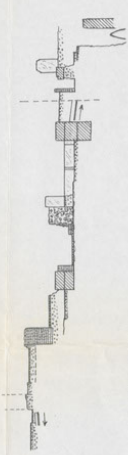
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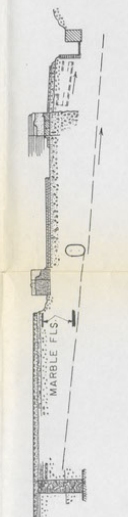
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9.20  
DOOR  
STEPS



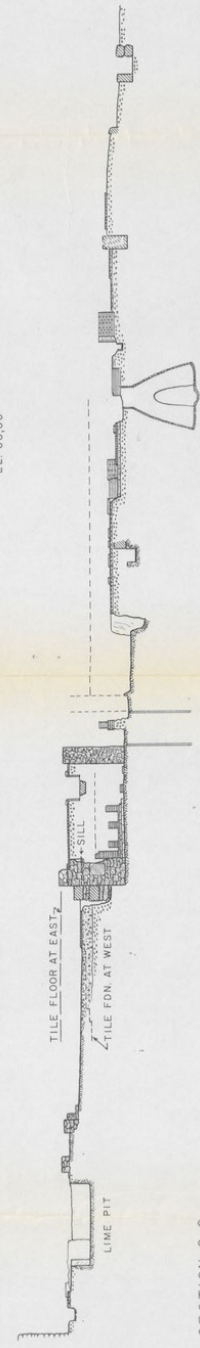
SECTION D-D  
EL. 60.00



SECTION F-F  
EL. 60.00



SECTION E-E  
EL. 60.00



SECTION G-G  
EL. 60.00



W.B.D., JR. - 1968

*House No. 00 - Section*

1822

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