

SECTION Ψ

1938

SECTION Ψ
SEASON of 1938

Section Ψ lies in the south-east part of the American zone on the lower slopes of the Areiopagos, well to the south of the big stoa in Section T and well to the west of the main street leading up from the Agora to the Acropolis.

The prehistoric and geometric periods are represented in the section only by sherds. Geometric sherds, however, were fairly abundant and when the bedrock in the northern half of the section is thoroughly explored, some remains of the period may be found (cf. the graves in Section Φ). The bedrock in the southern half of the section yielded little, having been cut down in later times.

The Greek period (sixth to fourth centuries B.C.) is represented by a number of lesser remains. A well at 19/NB produced a considerable amount of fragmentary pottery of the middle of the sixth century. Two pieces from this well were fairly complete, a black-figured alabastron (P 12,628, Ψ 222) and a black-figured oinochoe with a siren in a panel on the front of the vase (P 12,627, Ψ 221). The alabastron, which must date from the fifties of the sixth century, is a generation earlier than any other known Attic alabastron (Haspels, Attic Black-figured Lekythoi, pp. 101, 103). For something of the subject, spirit and style we may compare

a contemporary lekythos by the Amasis painter in the Louvre (F 71; Haspels, loc. cit., pp. 10-11, pl. 3, 2).

A well containing pottery of the late sixth and early fifth centuries B.C. was located toward the end of the season at 32/ΣT in the side of a large pit of the Turkish period. Time did not permit its excavation this year. In the little that was dug we found a fragmentary small olpe with the letters Δ E painted on it in ligature (P 13,429, Ψ 616), fragments of a black-figured "kothon" with satyrs and maenads dancing on the top (P 13,426, Ψ 613), and other black-figured sherds.

At 25/KA, a short stretch of broken Greek water pipe appeared, and in connection with it a small square setting basin built of rough stones.

Small patches and pockets of Greek earth were found over bedrock at various points, and there is a considerable depth of Greek and Hellenistic fill in the north-east corner of the section. The latter has not been dug. Deep down in it, bits of two light walls built of rough field stones appeared.

A small square well at 37/KA (about 0.60 X 0.70 m.; depth 6.25 m.) which was curbed with rough stones yielded a considerable amount of pottery and other objects of the middle of the fourth century B.C. The following objects are noteworthy; the neck and mouth of a black-glazed jug on which is incised KOTY: ΓHT (P 12,702, Ψ 254); a plastic vase with the youthful Dionysos standing in a grotto (P 12,822, Ψ 302); and a terracotta hedgehog (T 1731, Ψ 303). There were also some red-figured fragments, some vases with west slope decoration,

many black-glazed kantharoi, cups, bowls and plates, a number of heads and other fragments of terracotta figurines, some lamps of Broneer's types VI and VII (and one fragment of a VII b), and two stamped amphora handles, one with a garland of ivy and the letters ΓΕ in an oval stamp (Ψ 699; there are three other examples of this stamp in the Agora collection, but this is the first from a definitely dated deposit), the other with a large impressed Α (Ψ 700).

A small rectangular building about five by seven meters, near the center of the section, may date from the fourth century B.C. In places a single course of wall blocks is preserved, in others only the foundation packing of small rough stones. Adjoining the building on the west is a stuccoed basin which appears to have been filled up in early Roman times.

The Hellenistic period is represented only by a cistern draw-shaft (at 10/I) in which a little third century pottery was found. The chamber of this cistern must be either under Asteroskopeion St., or at the very north edge of the section. Some, at least, of the upper ancient fill in the northeast corner of the section is Hellenistic.

In the early Roman period a small cistern at 9/IZT with its passage and draw-shaft were in use. Some fragmentary pottery of the late first to early second centuries A.D. was found in the chamber of the system.

A layer of earth some 0.30-0.40 m. deep overlying bed-rock near the western edge of the section produced a large amount of very fragmentary pottery of the late first century

A.D. Among the pieces may be noted a sigillata fragment signed GELL[IVS (Ψ 625) and a lamp of Broneer's type XXVI, second variety, with a mask on the discus (Ψ 504, L 3464). Lamps of this type were made in Italy and very few examples have been found in Greece.

Three large pithoi, set down deeply into the bedrock near the south edge of the section, also belong to the early Roman period.

The most extensive remains in the section belong to a building of the late Roman period. It covers almost the entire southern half of the section, and extends southward into Section Ω. In Section Ω, where it is set back into the hillside, it is fairly well preserved, with an apse, a high retaining wall, and numerous other walls, threshold blocks, and door-posts. In Section Ψ where it was not so deeply covered it is not as well preserved, and in many cases all that remains of the walls is a little cement clinging to the bedrock. In the northeast corner of the building is a small peristyle court, elsewhere a series of rectangular rooms and corridors. Evidence was obtained which suggests that the building was built around 400 A.D. and remained in use until well on in the sixth century A.D. For the date of construction the numerous coins of the late fourth and early fifth centuries A.D. found in the terracotta drain which leads off from the northeast part of the building are suggestive. The drain is contemporary with the building and probably got filled up and went out of use during the early years of the building's life. Vandal coins, pottery and lamps (type XXXI

and very late type XXVIII) of the sixth century A.D. are characteristic of the destruction fill which overlies the building. The late Roman pottery found in the various tiled wells also gathered during the lifetime of the building.

In all, seven tiled wells have been found in the section. Of these, four have been dug; two were found at the end of the season, too late to be dug this year, and one was left undug because of its ruinous condition (it had been re-used in modern times).

The tiled well at 30/ΔΣΤ was the most productive. Down to a depth of 22 meters the fill consisted of stones, broken tiles, and a few coarse early Byzantine and late Roman sherds. At 22 meters, whole very late Roman pots began to appear, and with them fragments of sculpture. Between 22 and 23 meters there were many fragments of sculpture, most of which belonged to the statue of Hermes (S 1054, Ψ 342); the life-sized female head (Hera, S 1055, Ψ 343), and the small head (S 1056, Ψ 344) were also found at this depth. Deeper down, at about 25 meters, the female head (S 1057, Ψ 354) appeared. At about 28.30 m, the terracotta sima with the inscription $\text{ΙΕΡΑΝ Η} \text{ΦΑΙΣΤΟ}$ was found. Immediately below this, the fill changed to third century A.D. and a number of the miniature jugs and pitchers characteristic of this period appeared. At a depth of 29.30 m. a small mug with an inscription, ΕΙΡΗΝΗ, in white letters around the body, was found. Near the bottom, which was reached at a depth of 30.30 m., were several plastic lamps (L 3457-3460; Ψ 471-472, 478-479), a terracotta mask (T 1818, Ψ 480) and some pottery

P 12883
(Ψ 385)

of the third century A.D.

The tiled well at 29/KE was 19.60 meters deep. Two small marble heads were found in it, one of a woman at 6 meters (S 1066, Y 498), and one of a bearded man at 10 meters (S 1067, Y 499). This well produced 117 boxes of pottery, all of which seems to fall within the lifetime of the late Roman building.

The well at 28/MH has a large flow of water, much of it brought in by a small channel at a depth of 5.45 m. It took nearly six weeks to dig this well on account of the large amount of water that had to be baled out each morning. Down to 8.40 m. the well was open, as it had been used in modern times. Modern fill went down to 20 meters. At this point late Roman pots began and appeared in great numbers down to a depth of 25.50 m. The last meter of fill contained a little early Roman pottery. Depth to bottom, 26.40 m.

A tiled well at 24/NH was 12 metres deep and produced a little late Roman pottery.

Remains of periods after the late Roman are very scanty. A little coarse pottery of early Byzantine type was found in several deposits, and a few bits of late rubble walls may belong to this period. There were many late Turkish pits and wells all over the section.