

cc Princeton
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SECTION E: 1967

(Notebook references E IX and X passim)

The campaign of 1967 included both excavation and architectural study of various monuments in Section E along the east side of the Great Drain. The excavation consisted of judicious probing in and about the Peribolos of the Eponymous Heroes and the monuments immediately adjacent to it. In addition a total of five cross trenches (A-E, see index of E IX, X) was excavated between the Eponymous Heroes and the Great Drain to test the stratification of the area and the history of the Great Drain. One of these trenches (Cut E, E X pp. 1816ff.) was dug from the Great Drain to the steps of the Marble Altar. This latter yielded evidence for the history of the monuments north of the Eponymous Heroes and the chronology of the Marble Altar. The results of this work may be most conveniently summarized by treating each monument separately.

Peribolos of the Eponymous Heroes-Architectural History

From the time of the original discovery of the monument in 1931, it has been clear that it experienced a long history and underwent many additions and alterations in the course of its life. The work of the 1967 season enabled us to reconstruct the architectural history of the Eponymoi in greater detail and perhaps with more certainty.

Most of the evidence for the reconstruction derives from the cuttings on the sill of the Peribolos (E IX, pp. 1599-1629) and the surviving pieces of superstructure. Pieces now known to belong to the Eponymous Heroes may be listed as follows:

Poros fence posts: A 38
 A 1377 N 728
 A 1785 P 593
 A 2701 Q 1319
 A 3618 T 3959
 A 3626 E 792
 A 3627 E 793

Marble fence posts: A 3628 E 794
 A 3629 E 795
 A 3630 E 796
 A 3631 E 797
 A 3632 E 798
 A 3633 E 799

Also posts 23, 24, 32 still leaded in situ (E IX pp. 1622, 1623, 1631)

Poros fence coping: A 194 E 322 (5 frn)
 A 1378 N 729 (2 frn.)

Marble fence coping: A 193 E 321
 A 2234 MZ 426

Marble pedestal caps: A 61, A 66

Frag. of marble
 superstructure: A 3634 - A 3638 (E 800 - E 804)

Uninventoried fragments in container E 548 (E IX p. 1654)

Period I:

The arrangement of the peribolos of the original period has long been familiar and may be briefly summarized. It consisted of a long narrow enclosure 18.38 m. long and 3.58 wide. A continuous fence rested on the sill of this enclosure and was arranged with 15 poros posts along the long sides and 4 on the ends (counting the corner posts twice). The posts were slender rectangular poros blocks articulated down the center with a narrow wedge-shaped groove 0.035 at the top and tapering to a point at the bottom. The posts along the ends seem to have been grooved on both faces since their inside face would have been visible at the corners (A 1785, A 2701, A 3627). The four corner posts were L-shaped (E IX pp. 1601, 1613). To this period belong also the poros fence coping; the rails of the fence were probably of wood and have not survived. In this period the posts were spaced so that the joints of the sill coincided with the axes of the posts. They were doweled directly to the sill by means of two dowels one on each side of the posts. This was the only means of fastening the sill blocks together, for no clamps were used, except one by exception at the S.E. corner (E IX, p. 1627) where there was apparently some difficulty in keeping the joints properly closed.

The peribolos surrounded the long central pedestal of which 5 blocks of the euthynteria and a few fragments of the Pentelic marble superstructure survive.

The excavations of 1967 enable us to add a few details concerning the construction of the original monument. Because of the light nature of the structure no proper foundation was con-

sidered necessary. The surrounding sill of the peribolos has in fact no foundation at all. It is merely bedded on earth fill a few centimeters above the Agora floor. (E IX, pp. 1638 ff.). In a few places small stones have been wedged under the ends of the sill blocks to level them.

The foundations for the central pedestal were almost as casual. At the south end the euthynteria blocks were probably laid directly on the hard Agora floor. Because the ground slopes downward toward the north, light square piers consisting of one or two pieces of rough poros were laid beneath the joints of the euthynteria (E IX, pp. 1564, 1638 ff.). The north end of the Peribolos was laid over the pre-existing euthynteria of Monument A. The sill was laid directly over the earlier euthynteria while a few packing stones and a reused block were laid under the last euthynteria block of the Eponymoi to increase the level. (See sections E X, pp. 1855, 1869).

It is finally important to note that the surviving foundations must have stood from the beginning on the site. They exhibit no evidence whatever of systematic removal from another location. There is no trace of mason's marks, and no double series of clamps on the euthynteria blocks. Furthermore no earlier construction of any kind existed on this site.

Period II:

Under this heading may be grouped a number of alterations which probably took place at various times in ^{the} monument's history. A number of the dowel holes along the sill show clear

traces that the original narrow dowels were replaced with wider dowels and the posts reset in their original positions. These are Posts 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 18, 25, 26 (E IX pp. 1600 ff.). One of these later dowels of Post 26 was set by means of a pour channel.

A cutting along the inside edge of the sill at the south end shows that that edge of the sill was worked down slightly for a width of 0.108 to 0.110 and a length of 1.84 (E IX, pp. 1628-1629). This cutting is placed symmetrically with relation to the narrow end of the peribolos and is almost exactly the width of the euthynteria for the central pedestal. This suggests that the central pedestal was at some time lengthened by 0.75 to 0.80 toward the south.

Evidence of this alteration is also to be seen on the two surviving crowning blocks of the pedestal (A 61, A 66). A 66, the end block, shows cuttings for a tripod with later cutting for the tenon of a bronze statue superimposed. Furthermore at some period the two T-clamps were very carefully removed and replaced by hook clamps. Probably at this time the mason's mark K was cut on the upper surface of the block near the edge. The top surface of A 61 also reveals that it was removed from its original position and then replaced. At least one of its surviving T-clamps was removed and a hook clamp used for its resetting; its top surface was marked with a B.

Another important alteration was the resetting of the whole fence along the west sill. At this time a series of shallow rectangular cuttings were prepared as sockets for the fence posts and the

previous system of simple doweling was abandoned. There was an apparent attempt to keep the original spacing the same, but the work appears rather sloppy with the result that most of the posts were shifted slightly to north or south.

Period III:

This period saw the considerable rearrangement and reconstruction of the monument and the addition of the south annex during the latest period of use. The peribolos was extended 2.80 to the south, and two foundations for earlier statue bases, located immediately south of the original peribolos, were incorporated into the foundation for the annex. These foundations originally consisting of two conglomerate blocks each, now exhibit a heavy layer of Roman concrete on top of them from their reuse.

Probably in connection with this reconstruction the poros fence posts were removed from the east side and were replaced by the series of Pentelic marble posts of which several examples survive, three in situ. While the old poros posts had been definitely rectangular in plan, the new marble series was almost square, so that their cuttings can be easily distinguished. These posts were set down and leaded into deep square sockets without any use of dowels. The surviving marble coping blocks, A 193, A 2234, undoubtedly were designed to go with the marble posts.

In the placement of the marble posts there was considerable discrepancy between the original spacing and the new. While the actual dimension of the spacing remained fairly constant, determined no doubt by the length of the coping blocks. The whole line of posts was shifted to north or south in the adjustments

necessitated by the southern addition.

To this period also belongs the water channel which ran along the west side of the Peribolos (E IX, 1554, 1676-1680; plan p. 1671).

Monuments North of the Eponymous Heroes

Before proceeding to discuss the chronology of the Peribolos of the Eponymoi, it is necessary to consider the two monuments immediately to its north which it partially overlies. For the history of these three monuments is closely interrelated and their architectural relation to each other provides an important key to their chronology.

Monument A: (E X, pp. 1870-1880, 1892-1898; plans pp. 1819, 1893).

The large rectangular foundation on which the Peribolos of the Eponymoi encroached has been referred to for convenience as Monument A. Although it is constructed largely of reused blocks from a larger monument, the construction is careful and of good quality. In its present state Monument A is constructed on a foundation platform consisting of a single course of red conglomerate blocks laid mostly as headers (E IX, p. 1819). The foundation is nearly square (4.72 x 4.85) except that the square was not fully completed at the SW corner because of the high bedrock at that point.

On this foundation was laid the euthynteria course (0.51 high) of hard grey poros of which 8 blocks survive, 7 in situ. These were arranged, as much as possible, in alternating header and stretcher fashion. One header is missing on each side from the

N.E. and N.W. corners, but the original length of the course was close to 4.51 and its width 3.76. This euthynteria course served as the base for a considerably smaller monument and from its placement on the base, much nearer the east than the west side, it is possible to recognize it as an altar. An easily discernable bedding for the next course is set back 0.84 from the west edge of the euthynteria and 0.88 from the south edge. The dowels, setting lines and pour channels for the course (for details see E X, p. 1896 f.) indicate that the edge of the next course rested 1.10 behind the W. edge of the euthynteria and 0.94 behind the S. face, while the E. face was set back only 0.31. Thus the superstructure of the altar or monument measured approximately 2.67 in length and 2.34 in width.

All of the surviving euthynteria blocks are reused from another monument, dismantled prior to the construction of Monument A. Traces of weathering and setting lines of that monument together with its clamps and dowels are to be seen on the euthynteria blocks (E X, p. 1892-1896) but it is impossible to estimate its dimensions or even to guess at its nature and proportions. No pieces of superstructure can be recognized.

Monument B: (E X, pp. 1834, 1858-1868, 1900-1902; plans 1819, 1893).

This arbitrary designation was given for convenience to the smaller monument base built just east of Monument A. Of this structure only the foundation and one block of the euthynteria survive. The foundation consisted of a single course of red con-

glomerate blocks laid to form a rectangular base 3.90 m. long and 2.08 wide. This foundation was set immediately adjacent to the east side of Monument A, and the narrow intervening space was filled with small stones wedged in.

The single surviving block of the euthynteria formed the S.W. corner of that course (0.39 high). This block is of grey poros of very similar workmanship to the blocks of Monument A and the Peribolos of the Eponymoi. The superstructure of Monument B was not centered on the foundation. Instead the existing euthynteria block was placed 0.38 in from the south edge of the foundation, but its west end protruded 0.39 beyond the W. edge of the foundation (see sections pp. 1855, 1869). Thus the block was so placed as to abut the E. face of the euthynteria of Monument A and it was laid so as to be at precisely the same level as the euthynteria of the earlier monument. The top surface of this block preserves two dowel holes for the corner block of the course next above. The square end dowel was leaded by means of a pour channel whose end 0.13 in from the south edge of the block locates the face of the first marble course of the monument. Now it is of great importance to observe that the S. face of the first marble course of Monument B, thus located, is precisely aligned with the N. face of the sill of the Eponymous Heroes. This alignment has been measured with such precision that it can hardly be fortuitous, and it strongly suggests that Monument B was oriented with relation to the Peribolos of the Eponymous Heroes. Since this is the more important monument the orientation cannot have been the reverse. The significance of this fact is clear, for it indicates that the Eponymous Heroes already existed on this site when Monument B was constructed.

Chronology of the Monuments

As a result of the architectural observations noted above, the relative sequence of the three monuments and their relation to each other is clear. Monument A was the first structure on the site. Only after its demolition can the Peribolos of the Eponymous Heroes have been constructed. Finally, after the construction of the Eponymous Heroes, Monument B was oriented exactly in relation to the line of its north end.

In attempting to assign an absolute chronology to the monuments, we may observe first the systematic use of red conglomerate stone in the foundations of Monument A and for the two blocks placed against the west face of Monument A at the time of the construction of the Eponymoi. The excavation did not yield massive ceramic evidence for the date, but a handful of characteristic fragments from critical areas may indicate the proper chronology.

Excavation of the footing trenches of Monument A at the N.W. and S.E. corners and along the S. side yielded some evidence of importance (E X, pp. 1836-1838; 1870-1872). The pottery from the footing trench (Lot 578) was mostly 6th century because the foundations had been set down into the dug bedrock fill of the archaic period (See infra). But a black-glazed foot of a one handled cup dated to the late 5th or early 4th century.

A good section of the cut bedrock fill of archaic times was found under the N. end of the Eponymoi along the S. side of Monument A (E IX, p. 1572-1574) in Layer III. The pottery from this fill was

almost entirely mid-6th century (Lot 550) except for 3 sherds of the late 5th or 4th century. One fragment, the base of another one handled cup, could be dated 410-375 B.C. These 3 pieces, certainly intrusive, found their way into this fill at the time of the construction of Monument A and help to provide the date.

Monument A should then be placed sometime in the first quarter of the 4th century; and the Peribolos of the Eponymoi must be placed later than that. For the date of the construction of the Peribolos we may draw some assistance from three groups of pottery.

- 1) Layer IV of Cut A (E IX, p. 1560, X, p. 1800-1802) proved to be part of the working level for the Peribolos and yielded some working chips of Pentelic marble at about the level of the bottom of the sill on the E. side. Lot 544 from this layer consists of pottery from the last quarter of the 5th century with 2 or 3 intrusions of the mid-4th century, in particular the base of a small bowl or cup with rouletting.
- 2) From the fill between the W. sill of the Eponymoi (at the N. end) and the euthynteria of Monument A came a small group of sherds (Lot 586, E X, p. 1874) which included a rim fragment from an unglazed saucer with rilled rim, 350-325 B.C.
- 3) From the footing trench of Monument B (E X, p. 1858) came several pieces dating to the second quarter of the 4th century (Lot 584), the most characteristic being the base of a fish plate. We shall probably not be far wrong to date the construction of the Peribolos at or just after the middle of the 4th century. Monument B should follow very closely the date of the Eponymous Heroes.

Without entering here into a detailed discussion of the later history of the Eponymoi and the correlation of changes in the Athenian tribes with alterations in the monument, we should add two

chronological observations from the purely archaeological evidence.

The whole north half of the peribolos yielded, around the foundation of the euthynteria, fill of the 6th century on which the monument was built (E IX, pp. 1560-1580). Lot 549 (p. 1566) from among the west foundation piers, produced a few pieces of late 3rd century pottery which ought perhaps to be associated with the enlargement of the central pedestal to accommodate the thirteenth tribal hero, Ptolemy, in the 220's B.C.

In the undisturbed fill between the euthynteria and the E. sill, the appearance of several fragments of Pergamene ware of the 1st half of the 1st century B.C. may seem extraordinary (Lot 551-552, E X, pp. 1576, 1578; also E 753=P 27622). Perhaps it would be most reasonable to suppose that the Peribolos had suffered some damage during the invasion of Sulla in 86 B.C. and was subsequently repaired. It is tempting to relate this to the rather sloppy resetting of the western posts in shallow sockets with some awkward changes in spacing.

The late south extension and the series of Pentelic marble posts on the east side find a firm terminus post quem of 50/49 B.C. provided by the reused inscribed statue base on which the late S.E. corner post 32 stands (I 25 = IG II² 2993a). The Roman reconstruction is almost certainly to be assigned to the Hadrianic period and the addition of an Athenian tribe in honor of the Emperor Hadrian.

The Great Drain

The excavation of the five Eponymoi Drain cuts A-E enabled us to add some points to the history of the Great Drain. In cut D we were able to isolate a good working level behind the E wall of the drain (Layer VII, E IX, pp. 1726-1728 cf. section p. 1709). The pottery from this (Lot 572) could be dated ca. 500 with nothing later than 480 B.C. The working chips were of Acropolis limestone and soft yellow poros; but since no poros was used in the original fabric of the drain walls, it is reasonable to suggest that the early cover slabs were of this material. In cut E we excavated a wide footing trench behind the E. wall of the Great Drain (Layer V, E X, p. 1826, cf. section p. 1815). This was fully 0.65 m. wide and was dug to bedrock, although this was about 0.45 below the floor of the drain as finally constructed. It should be noted that the E. wall of the drain in Cut D was found to rest on bedrock, and the builders evidently preferred this procedure. But when they dug their footing trench further north to find bedrock, they encountered the considerable fall of the natural rock and built their drain at a slightly higher level. The pottery from the footing trench (Lot 576) was predominantly mid-6th century because the builders had dug through the cut bedrock fill of the archaic period. The latest pieces, from the construction of the drain, should be dated ca. 500. The original construction of the drain dates in all probability to the early years of the 5th century.

Further south in Cuts B and C are encountered various periods of repair to certain sections of the east wall of the drain. In

Cut C we found two layers of disturbance along the line of the drain, the earlier (Layer V, E IX, p. 1684) dated to the Hellenistic period (Lot 563). Above this was found a disturbance of the early Roman period with pottery of the 1st to 2nd centuries A.D. (Layer IV, E IX, p. 1682, Lot 562). This Roman disturbance was found also a bit further south in Cut B where a fairly regular trench had been dug along the line of the drain (Layer V, E IX, p. 1660-1662 Lot 556). It may have been at this time that the wall of the drain was repaired with the construction of an inner face composed mostly of reused blocks. This inner face contrasts markedly with the original wall of the drain elsewhere, where there is no inner face but simply the rough ends of the stones of the polygonal masonry.

Finally, in the Late Roman period 4th to 5th centuries A.D. a broad trench was excavated diagonally across Cut B and in this was laid a drain channel which flows from the baths of the Late Roman Gymnasium and enters the Great Drain at this point. (Layer VI, E IX, pp. 1662-1666, Lot 557; for details of the Roman drain E IX, pp. 1686-1690, plan p. 1671). Some of the late cover slabs of the Great Drain are also probably to be placed in this late period; for the fill dug in the removal of one of the cover slabs yielded a lamp of the 4th to 5th century (E X, p. 1904).

Grading and Levelling of the Terrain

As a result of our five probes to bedrock along the Great Drain, some observations may now be made concerning the general history of the area and its grading. It is important to note first the natural declivity of the terrain from south to north and from

east to west. Bedrock was found to lie at a level of 55.17 in Cut B at the south end of the Eponymous Heroes (E IX, p. 1660). In Cut D, 16 m. further north, the natural bedrock lies at a level of 55.00 and slopes off toward the west to 54.34 (E IX, p. 1728). But just 6 m. north of Cut D, in Cut E, the lowest point of bedrock at the west end of the cut is 53.51 (E X, p. 1828). The natural east-west declivity can be seen best in Cut E (see sections pp. 1815, 1817). Here the high point of bedrock is 54.87 just east of Monument B and the rock slopes down to 53.51 beside the Great Drain. The downward slope toward the N.W. continues and in fact the low point of bedrock in the area was found 15 m. west of the Great Drain at a level of 52.56 (see sections Hesperia VI, 1937, p.120). This represents the bottom of the natural valley which crossed the w. side of the Agora.

In consideration of the natural terrain another fact must be emphasized. To the east of the Peribolos of the Eponymoi and beneath its south half, we encountered a deep layer of natural virgin soil directly above the bedrock clay. This layer of red gravelly earth had experienced no disturbance of any kind throughout the ages of antiquity (See Cut A, Layer IX, E X, pp. 1810-1812, section p. 1799; Cut E, Layer XIII, E X, pp. 1888-1890, section p. 1817). Thus the natural grade level on the east side of the Eponymoi was 55.71 (Cut A) sloping down slightly to 55.28 in front of the Marble altar further north. With this fact in mind one can appreciate the general north-westerly slope of the terrain still more dramatically.

The earliest attempt to grade the ground level of the natural slope east of the Great Drain may be seen in a massive filling

of dug bedrock evidently brought to this area from elsewhere and dumped in as artificial fill to level off the valley. We encountered this fill everywhere we dug between the Great Drain and the Peribolos of the Eponymoi, although in some places the original filling had been disturbed in later times. The best sections of the original fill were those in Cut E, Layer VIII (E X, pp. 1838, 1842, section p. 1815), and Layer III within the Peribolos of the Eponymoi at the N. end (E IX, p. 1572). The pottery from these layers (Lots 550 and 579) indicated that the filling had been dumped about the middle of the 6th century or a bit later. The dug bedrock fill was found farthest south in Cut C (Layer VII, E IX, p. 1698-1702), but here the fill had been disturbed in the mid 4th century (Lot 565) perhaps at the time of the construction of the Eponymoi. (The same may be said for Cut D, Layer V, E IX, 1720-1724 which was still more disturbed).

It is of interest to note that masses of this same dug bedrock fill were excavated on the west side of the Great Drain by H.A.T. in his Stoa Pit G (Layer I, E V, p. 789) and more especially in his Metroon-Drain Cut (Layer IV, E V, p. 852, see sections, *Hesperia* VI, 1937, p. 120). His date for the fill (Lot 353) corroborates our dating above.

Thus it is possible to determine the extent of the area covered by this great fill and the general grade level which was attained by it. The southern limit of the fill is roughly the S. end of the Metroon and our Cut C. The filling extended about 15 m. west of the Great Drain, but it was not found to extend east of the Eponymoi. The northern limit cannot be fixed. The archaic ground level created by the dug bedrock fill seems to have reversed

the natural slope, for it sloped down from west to east, from 55.97 in front of the Metroon to 55.69 beneath the Eponymoi. At the north end of the Metroon the level was 55.48 sloping down to 54.86 in Cut E.

In connection with the dug bedrock fill, should be noted the discovery of an additional fragment of P 576 (See E 790, p. 1951). This sherd was recovered from the footing trench of the Great Drain which had been sunk through the bedrock fill. Another fragment of this vase came from one of the Metroon pits (Lot 129, E III, p. 432) and the original fragments from the votive deposit at the foot of the Areopagus in Section Σ T.

Thus all of the early monuments in this area were set down into the archaic bedrock fill, the Great Drain, the Old Bouleuterion, the Monuments north of the Eponymoi and others.

Well I 10:1, West of Eponymous Heroes

(See Cut C, Layer IX, E IX, pp. 1704-1706; E V, pp. 1750-1762)

Closely related to the archaic filling and affected by it was an early well (I 10:1) discovered immediately west of the W. sill of the Eponymoi and partially covered by it (see plan E IX, p. 1671, section p. 1703). The well had been dug in the soft bedrock clay which had greatly collapsed so that it had a very irregular shaft. The well was excavated to a depth of 4.23, but below this level (51.31) it was thought to be too dangerous to dig because of the collapsed bedrock. The fill dumped in at the time of closing the well began at a level of 55.54 (see section p. 1703), and in this

area (Cut C) the archaic dug bedrock fill began at precisely the same level. It seems highly probable that the well went out of use and was filled in at the time the great bedrock fill was dumped over the whole area. The dump fill from Well I 10:1 seems to have a lower chronological limit in the second quarter of the 6th century and may run down to the middle. Objects inventoried thus far are E 760 - E 787 (E VII, pp. 1335-1349).
p 27737-27755, T 3775-7, MC 1122-S, L 5503-4.

Agora Floor

In a number of places we uncovered considerable stretches of hard strosis with pebbled surface almost like road metal which could be readily identified as the general classical ground level or Agora floor in this part of the square (See E IX, pp. 1692-1694, 1714-1716, 1718-1720, E X, p. 1808, 1884-1886). At the south end of the Peribolos of the Eponymoi the level of the Agora floor was 56.12. It was found to slope down toward the north and we found it at the following levels; Cut C 55.76 (sloping westward to 55.60), Cut A 55.71, Cut D 55.40, Cut E 55.40 in front of the marble altar. In the area between the Eponymoi and the Great Drain, this Agora floor was in continuous use throughout the Hellenistic period (see Cut C, Layer VI, E IX, p. 1696, Lot 564). But at the time of the construction of the Peribolos of the Eponymoi, the grade level was raised higher than it was in earlier or later antiquity. The line of rough picking on the west sill shows that the grade sloped down from 56.12 at the S.W. corner to 55.86 at the N.W. corner. To the east of the Eponymoi the Agora floor was actually the top of the virgin soil hardened by the passage of traffic. Here the level was again raised in the mid-

4th century in connection with the construction of the Eponymoi. Pottery from layers just above Agora floor along the east were consistently late 5th to mid-4th. (See Cut A, Layer VII, E X, p. 1808 Lot 546; Cut E, Layer XI, E X, p. 1884, Lot 581). Again evidence for the rise in the grade level is to be found in the rough-picked line along the E. sill. The level was intended to slope down from 56.36 at the S.E. corner to 55.97 at the N.E. corner of the Monument. This level was also lowered later because the grade level in front of the marble altar was intended to be the old Agora floor level 55.40 by the 1st century A.D.

The Marble Altar

At the east end of Cut E the footing trench of the Marble Altar was excavated (see Cut E, Layer IX, pp. 1844-1854). The footing trench along the north side had been greatly disturbed in late times and was excavated during the original clearing of the area. The east footing trench was also disturbed by a late pit at the N.W. corner and by a late Roman gully which passed the S.W. corner. Nevertheless from undisturbed fill along the E. side and a bit on the north, we got some ceramic evidence for a date in the late 1st century B.C. or early 1st century A.D. for the reconstruction of the altar on this site (Lot 580, E X, pp. 1846, 1848, 1850).

The whole front of the foundation was revealed to bedrock (E X, pp. 1850 ff elevation p. 1849). The euthynteria course was found to consist of 7 blocks 0.50 in height and all were carefully marked with mason's marks in alphabetical series, A. through H, beginning at the S.W. corner and proceeding northward (E X, pp. 1853 ff, and photographs pp. 1794-1797). The foundation course of 13

blocks was of varying materials some blocks being poros and others red conglomerate. There was clear evidence that, while the altar itself down to and including the euthynteria course had been moved to its present site in early Roman times, the foundation was specially cut on the spot. Working chips of both poros and conglomerate were found in the E. footing trench. It is also clear that the altar was reconstructed with reference to the existing grade level of the Agora floor at 55.40. Thus the ground would have been almost exactly level with the top of the euthynteria, and the mason's marks on its smoothed upper face would not have been visible.

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