

THE ODEUM ΩΔ

In the central part of the eastern area of the excavation a rectangular building with poros foundations ( 52.50 - 42.50m) has been cleared. The southwest corner, lying in Section M, was excavated during the 1934 season; the rest of the building, which falls in Sections N, Ξ and O, during 1935.

The orientation is due north and south, as is that of the other large buildings in the eastern part of the Agora, i.e. the South Stoa and the Stoa of Attalos. The building faces north, and its north wall, on the narrow axis of the building, lies ten metres south of the 'Stoa of the Giants'. The south wall is set against the terrace wall of the south stoa, i.e. five metres north of the <sup>north</sup> south wall of the Stoa. The Stoa of Attalos is 65m. to the east and the Metroon about 57.50 to the west.

The building consists of a rectangular auditorium or theatre, 33. x 24 m., surrounded by a corridor 5m. wide. On the east, south and west the corridor seems to have been a cryptoporticus; on the north perhaps a porch through which the building was entered. The floor level of the corridor is about 58 m. above sea level, that is about 4 metres lower than the floor level of the South Stoa.

Of the theatre itself there remain the marble orchestra floor, not a flat semicircle, bedrock cuttings for the lower seats of the cavea, and the bedrock foundation for a stage

2.80 m. wide. The level of the stage seems to be the same as that of the corridor, i.e., about 1.10 metres above the orchestra floor. There were entrances into the orchestra from east and west at the northeast and the northwest corners. The highest preserved bedrock cutting for a seat is for one in the sixth row.

So far no evidence for the date of the building has been found except the method of construction and a few pieces of architectural detail, a Corinthian capital, a Corinthian anta cap, pieces of a marble sima, two marble relief heads, and stamped terracotta roof tiles. These seem to indicate a date late in the first or early in the second century A.D.

The building was destroyed by fire in the middle of the third century. The latest coins from the undisturbed burned debris which in many parts overlay the building are those of Gallienus, 253-268 A.D. The destruction is probably to be connected with the invasion of the Heruli in 267 A.D.

Sometime in the fourth century a late Roman complex of which the Giants were the northern limit was built over the ruins of the earlier porous building.

*For evidence and details see the following pages. 1-12*

Summary of "Burned Building" (Parts Excavated in Sections E and N\*)

(From notebook, N\* II, pp. 213 ff., where page references also given.)

East Side of Building ( Exterior and Interior East Walls  
and Floor of Cryptoporticus)

The southern boundary of Section E, (AH line), falls about in the centre of the East side of the building.

The line of the exterior east wall lies directly under the eastern wall of the **Late Roman** complex. At the northern end one course of poros blocks remains in place under the Late Roman wall. The eastern faces of these blocks are set directly against the foundation of the marble base that is on the west side of the street; the foundation of this base has been cut away to make room for the corner of the Burned Building. Along the remaining part of the eastern wall in Section E the poros blocks had been removed before the Late Roman wall was built, except for a few, that were pushed out of place but not removed, still lying under the Late Roman wall. A badly damaged Corinthian capital - belonging to the same series as O 290 - was built into the Late Roman wall at 60/NF, i.e. a point about opposite the interior North wall (back stage wall).

The elliptical drain that starts at the southeast corner of the building and follows down the east face of the east wall has not been fully cleared. Wherever it has been exposed in this section, the cover tiles were missing and

no useful fill was found. No trace of it has been found north of 61/N<sup>1</sup>. At this point or shortly after, it must have turned either east or west to avoid the foundation of the marble base against which the northeast corner of the building is set.

The porous foundation of the interior east wall - wall separating cryptoporticus and auditorium - is in place from the northeast corner of the wall to a point about seven metres south of the corner. There was late Roman fill, from 0.25 to 1.00 m. thick on the first five metres. The last two metres and the wall trench further south from which all the porous blocks have been removed were covered with an early Byzantine fill. Part of this fill from AZ to M has been left.

In the bedrock cutting for the tongue wall that connects this interior east wall with the exterior north wall there was a thin layer, ca. 0.25 m., of late Roman fill.

The cement floor of the cryptoporticus is in place from the southern boundary of the section to a line projected east from the north face of the interior north wall. Here two large late pits extend below the floor level and so all traces of the floor are missing. The west edge of the

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<sup>1</sup> Further south, in Section O, part of the drain was found with its cover tiles in place, but there were no sherds that will be of use in dating the building.

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floor is covered or broken by a late Roman wall. A straight east edge is preserved from the southern boundary of the section to NA where part of the floor has broken away. The only undisturbed burned debris on this part of the floor was at the southwest corner, 59/AH-MT. This was covered by a hard packed strosis sloping south from the floor level to a point + 0.70 at the southern edge of the cut. The debris consisted of broken poros, marble, plaster, tiles, etc. Three pieces of a column drum were found just above a base set slightly below the floor level at 59/AΘ. All three pieces have traces of horizontal clamps on vertical breaks. The column must therefore have been used after it was broken. It is an unfluted column, with an approximate diameter of 0.38m., and of the same series as those found in the cryptoporticus in M and O.

Eighteen Dionysiou tiles and a coin, Section E, iv.2.35, no. 1, were found in this fill.

There was no other undisturbed destruction fill on the floor. In most places it had been disturbed down to the floor level in Byzantine or Turkish times. Two martyrs however have been left, one at 59/N, ca. 0.16m. thick; another at 58-59/MET-MT, ca. 0.90m. thick. The former may prove to be burned debris, the latter perhaps late Roman.

North End of Building (Exterior and Interior Walls,  
Floor between and Drain from northwest corner  
of auditorium floor.)

The entrance or entrances and the facade arrangement along the north front of the building are not clear at present. A little exploratory digging next year will probably be of help. There is a large poros foundation projecting north from the northeast corner of the building with a marble foundation of what seems to be a water basin attached to its north wall. At present it seems possible that there were a series of projecting bases with steps between along the central portion of the north wall. A poros foundation, 1.10 x 1.80m., for one such base is in place at ca. 12m. west of the east corner, and cuttings for two others at ca. 8m. and 16m. respectively. Between the foundation at 12 metres and the cutting at 8 metres there are two marble step-blocks, partly covered by a thick layer of rubble and cement, the latter dating perhaps from the time of the Late Roman building.

The poros foundation course of the north wall, two metres wide, is in places from the east corner under the Late Roman wall to a point circa 9.50 m. west. In the middle section there are a few scattered blocks and clear setting lines for those missing. For the last 9.20m. at the west end the foundation course is again in place. In the east and middle section there was disturbed fill, Byzantine and Turkish, resting on the poros blocks and bedrock

cuttings. Just north of the wall, however, at 53/NH, there was a small pocket of burned building debris - not yet fully cleared - in which an incomplete inscription (I 3056, N° 126) was found.

Inscribed face and original bottom, at the front, are preserved. The back part of the bottom is roughly hacked; there may have been a surface projecting lower of which the inscribed surface would be only the moulding.

Νϕ Ι Λ Α Δ Ε Λ ϕ  
Α Μ Π Τ Ρ Ε ς

At the western end of the north wall from the corner on 18 line for circa 6.00m. east there was a late Roman fill resting on the wall, from 0.00 to 0.60 thick.

At three points along the east end of the north wall we took out some fill that should be pre-Burned Building, but got no evidence at all for the date of the Building.

The poros foundation course of the interior North wall - the scaena frons - is in place from its eastern end to a point 0.90 m. from the west end. This wall is wider than the exterior north wall, 2.30 m. compared with 2.00, and is set two courses deeper in bedrock. Also this front course is a continuous wall whereas the bottom course of the exterior north wall is made of alternating blocks and packing.

For five metres at the west end of the wall there was disturbed late fill on the poros blocks, and bedrock.

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There was undisturbed Roman fill, however, on the blocks of the rest of the wall. Resting on the poros blocks there was a yellow-grey fill - with many bits of poros, a few Dionysiou tiles and very few sherds - from 0.40 to 0.50 thick; above this a red Roman fill varying from 1.28 to 0.50 thick. This fill seems to antedate the Late Roman building. Therefore the upper courses of the wall were probably removed before the late building was constructed.

Between the two north walls the cement foundation of a floor - probably of the same level as that of the cryptoporticus floor - is preserved. At the eastern end a few marble plaques remain in place. There was one patch of burned fill - not well sealed - at 48-50/NB-NET - circa 0.10 to 0.25 thick. Elsewhere the late fill rested directly on the floor. The eastern and western boundaries of the floor are marked by the tongue walls which connect the interior walls of the building with the north wall. The cement foundations were broken through in two places, one close to the west end above the drain, another just west of the centre line. At the latter point we dug deeper in an effort to get evidence for the date of the building. Once the Byzantine fill - 0.15 to 0.25 thick below the line of the floor - was removed, the sherds found in the packing that antedated the floor seem too early to be of significance. The majority are geometric and classical, there were a few Hellenistic and one early Roman (first half of first century A.D.)



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An elliptical drain flows north from northwest corner of auditorium floor. In no place were cover tiles found in place, therefore no useful evidence for the date of the building was found about it. The interior measurement of the lower tiles is 0.40 high by 0.40 wide at the top. Where the drain passes under the line of the north wall the tiles change; they are rectangular, measuring 0.20 x 0.20. No trace of a drain around the auditorium floor has been found, and no down pipe connecting with the big drain.

Auditorium and Stage

The marble floor of the auditorium on the whole is intact. The thickness of the paving blocks varies from 0.035 to 0.011m. A variety of marbles is used; white, green-grey, white with a purple vein, solid red, and also black slate. The floor seems to have been repaired at least once, for east of the centre line there are circles in the pattern whereas to the west in the corresponding spots there are irregular herring-bone patterns that fill just the space required for the circle and its enclosing spaces. A cutting in the floor just off the centre line, rectangular at one end, curved at the other, ca. 1.20 x 0.95 m. marks perhaps the point where an altar stood. The level of the floor is about 1.10 m. lower than that of the cryptoporticus floor.

All the floor was covered with a layer of black burned debris from 0.15 to 0.75 thick. On the eastern half

Summary of Burned Building - 8 -

however, there were Byzantine disturbances down into the fill, except for a small area at the northeast corner in front of the seat which is preserved. The burned debris here was 0.70 thick. In it several pieces of revetment inscription were found. The western half, however, was sealed with a hard red brown Roman fill from 0.15 m to 0.30 m thick. The thickest destruction fill was along the northern edge of the floor where bedrock and bedrock fill rises as a backing for the front stage wall. Here the packing above the burned fill instead of the hard red fill further south was yellow in color and contained many broken bits of poros.

The black burned fill was made up almost entirely of small bits of broken marble and broken <sup>roof</sup> rough tiles. Three tins of tiles stamped with  $\Lambda\Delta\text{ΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ}$  were found in the fill on the floor.

Marbles found on floor

- I 2937 (E 585, 596, etc.), pieces of marble revetment with inscription. 39 pieces in all have been found, some of which were in disturbed higher fill. As yet I have made nothing of them.
- S 553 (N° 15) The backing for a head (N 263), similar to S 554 (N 264).
- A 586 (N° 20 a-f) Pieces of a marble sima with lotus and palmette in relief.
- A 594 (N° 123) Pieces of a marble sima with pattern of a narrow palm leaf and lotus set on bulbous bottom.

Fragment of drapery of statue - left on dig.  
Several pieces of rectangular mouldings, left on dig,  
for Ianni to mend.

Although the burned destruction fill along the front line of the stage seemed undisturbed, the wall blocks that must have been used here are missing. Presumably they were taken out shortly after the destruction, and the burned debris fell back into place immediately.

#### The Seats

At the northeast corner of the floor two marble steps of an entrance from the east and the first step and first seat joining them on the south are in place. The bottom step here has a rise of 0.115 from the floor. It is faced with a marble revetment. The step block in front of the seat is 0.371 deep, in front of the entrance is 0.53 deep. The seat is 0.35 high, and at the top 0.405 deep. The front face has an elaborate curved moulding.

In about the middle of the west side of the cavea part of a block of a seat of the second row is preserved; instead of the curved moulding it has a straight rough-finished front face. Its full height is not preserved. The step block below it (full width 0.75, 0.45 in front of seat, 0.30 covered by seat) and on the back of which it is set is marked with a large B. A badly broken piece of the first seat is also preserved at this point; there is a drop of 0.10m. from the top of the first seat to the step block of the second row. Here the first step block is 0.18 above the floor level. Did the floor slope

slightly to the northwest corner, the point from which the drain leaves ?

For the other seats only bedrock cuttings are preserved. The highest point at which we have them is the cutting for the sixth step block of the sixth seat. The cuttings for five stair-cases are preserved; one on the central axis and two each on the sides, evenly spaced between the centre axis and the front line of the floor. At the level of the floor they are 3.20 m. apart. The cuttings are 0.65 - 0.75 wide. Sharp lines are not preserved, but the depth of each step seems to be about 0.45 m.

There is a small trench cut in bedrock parallel to the front line of the floor, 8.50m long, 0.35 deep, 0.25 wide, on the centre axis of the building immediately behind the third seat. At its east end the trench ends against the cutting for the fifth seat. The centre of the trench is circa 0.30 m. west of the central line of the building. At the west it ends against the first staircase west of centre, on the east 0.70 m. west of first east staircase.

On the cuttings for the seats in the eastern half of the auditorium (the part excavated in Sections E and N\*) there was no sealed burned fill. In places early Byzantine fill rested on the bedrock cuttings; but in other places there was black burned fill from 0.05 to 0.20 m. thick.

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It was not separated from the Byzantine fill above by any strosis and may well have been all disturbed when the marble blocks were removed and when the walls of a Byzantine house that covered the eastern part of the auditorium were built. Therefore none of the coins found in burned fill over the seat cuttings can be considered definitive for the destruction date. One tin of Dionysiou tiles was taken from the fill here.

Stage

Between the north edge of the auditorium floor and the interior north wall (i.e. ca. 2.80 wide) bedrock or bedrock fill rises to a point ca. 1.00 from the floor. Between the bedrock fill and the edge of the floor there is a cutting for the front stage wall with small foundation blocks, set at irregular intervals, to support the wall. At the bottom the cutting is 0.46 to 0.55 wide, above 0.82 to 0.73. At the east end a base of Eleusinian stone with a cutting to receive a statue is in place. Next to this there is one piece of the marble base moulding for the front stage wall. The cutting in the Eleusinian stone continues over into the corner of this block. Thus it seems that the Eleusinian base and its statue were a later addition.

A Corinthian anta capital ( N° 143 ) undoubtedly from the Burned Building is built into the Late Roman wall at 25/E., i.e., ca. 3.40 north of north wall of building.

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Coins from Burned Debris (N, N\*, and E)

(in so far as identified)

	Undisturbed Fill	Burned Fill	Burned Fill, but Disturbed
Gallienus	2		1
Roman Provinc.	1		
Third Cent. Roman	1		1
Athens Imperial	1		1
Gordianus III	1		
Trajan	1		1
Athens, New Style	5		9 1(?)
Thessalian League, (196-146)	1		
Athens, Third Cent.	1		1 1(?)
AR Athens, 365-339	1		
Greek	2		1
Frankish			1
Valentinian I or Valens, 364-368			1
Constantinople 306-331			1
Constantine I			1
Probus			1
Aurelian			1
Salonina			1
Faustina II, 161-180			1
Hadrian			1
Peparethos			2
Sciathos			1