

## SECTION Y : 1958 Excavation Report

Two areas at the north foot of the Areopagus were uncovered between mid March and mid May, 1958. The larger, but the less productive A, (Section Y) underlay the old excavation houses, 634/1 and 634/17-23. The other, B, consisted of an area, approximately 27-43/KH-MΣT on the old grid, which had previously been explored in part by Rodney Young in 1937.

(A) The exploration under the old excavation houses yielded virtually nothing of interest. Owing to the fact that the modern cellars had been set into rock and the walls cut into it, very few ancient remains survived. Over the area, a few sherds, ranging from Proto-Geometric to Classical, were found in pockets in the rock. The only pits that contained any quantity of material later than Turkish were as follows:

- 1) Well B at 34/Iθ-K, Early Byzantine, 7-9 c. A.D. (container 52) Dug nearly to bottom, d. 8.15 m.
- 2) Late Roman Pit at the south end of our old entrance passage way, just west of the chapel. It contained miscellanies from the 4th century B.C. to Late Roman, including a handsome Dionysiac mask from a situla (P 26184) (pp. 925 f.).
- 3) A Pit under our old Court, just north of the tree by the court vestibule (pp. 88 & 921 f.). The upper part was disturbed; the lower contained a purely late Hellenistic filling, with many tiles and 33 large rounded balls of iron slag.
- 4) A Hellenistic-Roman water channel, cut very deep (1.50 m.) below the level of the modern cellar of the passage between our



two courts (pp. 881 f.). It was well-cut, but mysterious, as no trace of it, either above or below could be found. It made a sharp elbow at this point, turning abruptly from a N-S course to run E-W. J.T. suggests that this E-W course gives us the line of an E-W street.

5) A large, irregular Pit at ca. 35/KB-KΓ (pp. 869 f.). It lay 2.20 m. south of Well B (see above). It presumably had been a well, of which the sides collapsed. We were obliged to leave it at d. 2.50 m. on account of its treacherous condition, despite the interesting 7-6 cent. B.C. objects that were found in it, especially a life-size terracotta dove (T 3566). Selected pottery indicated that its date was at least early 6 c. B.C. (container 55).

(B) WEST STREET (25-30/Α-ΑΞΤ; pp. 865 ff.) Sections pp.906,932; Plan p. 932.

The only significant ancient remains lay along the Southeast side of the northerly terrace in this Section. On the west evidence ceased abruptly along the line of an ancient Street that ran approximately N-S up the slope of the Areopagus. All traces of its surface have vanished from <sup>Asteroskopeion SK</sup> the ~~stair~~ to ca. /KH, because bedrock had been cut down by modern cellars far below the ancient surface. At about 28-30/Α southward traces appear: a west terrace wall that supported the side and the cutting for the drain that ran down the centre. On the East, the street was bounded by the limestone polygonal blocks that formed the western side of the Southeast House (see below). The width of the street was ca. 2.55 m. Its surface at this point, on analogy with that of the East Street in Section Φ, probably lay flush with the



top of the polygonal stone socle of the ancient walls, as it could not have been supported by the brick walls that rested above the stone foundations.

The water-channel that flowed down from the Areopagus under the street indicates <sup>its</sup> course, that swerved SE from this point. (See Y excavation report 1937, p. 3). Some areas of hard road metal are preserved at 25-28/AB-AH, (p. 933). On it rest traces of steps and of a small cross street that joined it at about AE (p. 933). An early bit of wall here, possibly the bedding for an earlier terrace wall, exactly aligns with the conglomerate blocks of the west side of the Street farther North. A widening and readjusting of the area to form this junction seems to have taken place. The metal here is hard and fairly deep. We did not dig into it, but sherds on the surface were all of the early 5th c. B.C.

Chronology: The above sherds, the relation to the West Wall of the SE House, and to the South Stoa and the contents of a deep pit cut in the rock under the course of the street at 25/KΘ (pp. 865, 906; container 54) all point to a date early in the 5th c. B.C. for the laying out of the Street. Most probably, to judge from the other activities and indications in the Sections (cf. container 56), the occasion was the reorganization of the city after the Persian Wars. The water channel probably went out of use after the Herulian destruction (Y, Report, 1937, p. 3).

#### MISCELLANEOUS HOUSES

Extremely exiguous remains of a few houses in the area should be mentioned:

South House : pp. 808 f., 820.

This has been identified by J.T. It includes Room A'



(pp. 808, 820) and some extremely shadowy traces farther West that he restores as a court opening on the street. As the area had been completely dug before 1958, it seems impossible to define this house clearly.

North House: pp. 853, 937.

North of the SE House II, bits of floor of red clay were found and one was dug (p. 937). The pottery from this scrap was 4th c. B.C. (coin p. 836). Two wells lie in its probable area: A very early collapsed Well at 35/KT and a Byzantine Well at 34/IΘ (see above under A).

As J.T. points out, the area between Asteroskopeiou Street and the existing houses would contain at least two more houses of which nothing survives.

SOUTHEAST HOUSES

General Plan p. 840; general Photos pp. 953, 957-9.

Detailed Plans, pp. 860, 892.

Sections pp. 481, 818, 858, 876, 892, 896, 900.

Earlier references p. 841. Specific references below.

Containers Y 57-79.

General Character

The ancient walls uncovered in the area 29-44/ΚΔ-ΛΘ, form a complex measuring ca. 13 m. square. During excavation, the area was designated as one house, of which the 10 rooms were given letters in order of excavation. J.T. thinks that the complex consisted of two houses, divided along the line of Terrace Wall # 3 (pp. 875, 892). It seems to me that the division may have taken place later and that in the earliest stage one house was laid out. As one house, it is unusually large, as two, both are modest.



The complex was set back into a deep cutting in bedrock on the south and oriented in accordance with the 5th century orientation of the Agora. The South Wall, Terrace Wall # 2, was set against rock with a stone packing just like that of a house in Section  $\Phi$  (pp. 436 f., 483, 489, 810, 841). The faces of these blocks were dressed by vertical shallow striations, such as occur on the earlier houses in Section  $\Phi$  (see  $\Phi$  Report, 1957, p. 1). The East wall served as a party wall with the  $\phi$  houses (see Section Plan) - more evidence for the contemporaneity of the plan of houses in this area. On the East and on the West also the walls of large limestone blocks, are also cut in simple polygonal stone set on a bedding 0.60 m. wide (pp. 841, 264, 855, 867). At the north only the bedding is preserved to 0.45 but its course is clear (p. 853). As it did not serve as a terrace wall, it could be narrower.

Within this area, we detected 10 rooms. The southerly house, which we shall call I, included Rooms A, B, C, C', F, F', F''. The northerly house II contained Rooms D, E, E', E''. They are indicated on p. 840 and on the accompanying sketch plan by Travlos. For actual state, see Section Plan.

#### SOUTHEAST HOUSE I

This house contained a large storage cellar (A), a long, narrow court with a well (?) (C), a small back yard (C') and two sizable living rooms (B & F). For full details, see Notebook references (Index and p. 840). A general analysis follows:

Room A: ca. 4.50x4.30 (E-W). Sections pp. 819, 896; pp. 825, 841.

A cellar in which 5 (6?) pithoi were set in the rock with gravel packing full of Perserschutt pottery. No pieces of pithoi



remained. No floor and no solid trace of West wall survived. Presumably, to protect its contents, this cellar was covered. The Heruli evidently looted the contents thoroughly, for pottery of the 3rd c. A.D. was found in the lowest level (containers 37-59).

Room B: ca. 2.80 x 4.20 m. (E-W), pp. 845 ff. Sections pp. 819, 876, 894, 896.

This small room had a long history. Its East and South walls kept their original lines from building till Late Roman times. Its North wall originally lay ca. 0.80 m. north of the existing wall (Y, pp. 897, 917). Its West wall, of which only a little of the early construction is visible, is obscured by later widening and rebuilding. No door was found, but a large poros block in the West wall is just visible to indicate its probable position. Its floor and the abundance of tiles found on Strosis 4a (pp. 847 f.) indicate that the room was roofed.

The floors were well-preserved, retaining clearly the story of the house.

I Stroseis 5-6, the earliest level, was filled with Perserschutt (Containers 62-63).

II Stroseis 3-4, a covering of red fallen brick and tiles to depth ca. 0.20-0.30 m. indicates levelling and rebuilding after considerable damage, but not by fire (containers 60-61). At this time the South and West walls were widened (pp. 459, 841, 897). The early North wall (pp. 829, 851) was torn out, covered with the red debris and moved to the existing line (Y p. 896) (container 71). Apparently in conjunction with this reorganization a Saucer Pyre (p. 847 f., container 61) was burned on the earlier floor (Strosis 4a in a "hearth" covered by a tile and Stroseis 3-4 (p. 896). This took place ca. 300-280 B.C.



Finally, the house was again reorganized, probably in the time of Augustus. Walls X-Y were raised to permit the floor to be lifted to Stosis 2 (p. 896). The walls were decorated with painted plaster (p. 470), (Container 58). This level apparently survived till it was damaged in the 2nd c. A.D. and covered by Herulian and post-Herulian debris (pp. 818, 823, B 57).

Room C: ca. 3.50 X 7.20 (E-W), pp. 857 ff.; Sections pp. 481, 858, 900. Plan p. 860.

This area probably served as a court. A very light wall running E-W at 1.60 m. north of the South Polygonal Wall may have supported a shed. The only trace of the well that should be here was at 34/ΔΔ (pp. 527, 537, 549). It contained a poros well-head, but mostly Turkish pottery. Two steps cut in bedrock at the NE corner led into a passage (F'') to give access to Room AB (and possibly also to the north part of the house?). We must assume an entrance to Room A; possibly into Room F and certainly into Room C'. It seems possible also that one descended from the high street level directly, as J.T. suggests. The area north of the light wall was used for storage, as evidenced by the two lekanai ("Pithoi E & F'') that survived, deeply embedded in Perserschutt, still in the floor (P 26237 and uncatalogued fragments in container 65, pp. 859, 869).

Only one patch of original flooring was preserved, at ca. 35-36/ΑΣΤ-ΑΖ. It was protected by a Roman marble chip mosaic floor based on cement (p. 458). Under this, we found two surfaces of very early floor just flush with the bottom of the polygonal Terrace Wall # 2 (pp. 857, 863, Section p. 901). It overlay a deep cutting in rock, filled with gravel and Perserschutt. The



date of the floors, where dug, is early 5th c. B.C. In the 4th c. B.C. the level was apparently raised by a fairly deep filling (p.459). This "red fill" reported by R.S.Y. (p. 437) to be pure 4th c. B.C. was never found again and seems to represent a phase in Room C similar to that shown in stroseis 2-3 in Room F and by stroseis 3-4 in Room B. The Roman level, represented by a marble-chip mosaic floor was some 0.25 m. higher (cf. pp. 900,458).

Room C', Trapezoidal: max. dim. 3x2 m. (E-W).

This small 'backyard' (p. 861) is set against the Polygonal N-S wall, the heavy Terrace Wall # 2 on the North, the West wall of Room F on the East, in which is a good doorway, W. 1.19 m. The bottom of the door at its earliest period lay flush with Strosis 5 in Room F (Section p. 876; cf. p. 858). It is, in a few spots, preserved as roughly cobbled. The room was therefore not regularly roofed though a post-hole cut in bedrock on the West side suggests a shed. Its South wall was broken away and apparently a lot of Perserschutt filling from Room C slipped down into it or was used as a filling when the doorway was closed and the level raised to Strosis 4 b in the later 5th cent. B.C. (pp.858,861). The upper levels were much disturbed. Access to the street down an odd bit of stair through an opening W. 0.50 m. was possibly preserved even at the Hellenistic level (p. 931; photo p. 935) (or was this opening designed for a much later drain into the street? - J.T. prefers the latter solution).

Room F: ca. 3.00 x 4.10 m. (E-W).

This sizable room is comparatively well-preserved. In its earliest period a corridor section at the East (F<sup>n</sup>) apparently



led from Room C into Room B or possibly into Room E'. The other walls are well-preserved in their lower parts. Probably the bedding of small stones, W. 0.45 on which the later conglomerate wall rested, formed part of the original room, which was set just over bedrock on a gravel packing. Three distinct building periods were discernible:

I Stroses 4-5, Two clay floors over Perserschutt <sup>Container</sup> (79).  
Very soon after building, the floor was raised 0.20 m. to 4 b. A light wall was evidently built shortly after original construction and the doorway to C' somewhat blocked to W. 0.37 m. This probably took place in the 5th c. (container 78).

II <sup>Probably in connection with the rebuilding of the outer walls in polygonal style,</sup> The whole floor was raised ca. 0.20 (p. 877). The West and East walls were kept and raised; the light central wall and the corridor wall were covered and the room was thrown into one, measuring E-W, 5.10 m. It was presumably at this time (4 cent. B.C.) (pp. 875, 892) or shortly after (3rd c.) that the North wall was rebuilt with conglomerate blocks. A Saucer Pyre (p. 873) was intruded from above, presumably the level of Strosis 2 (p. 876) at this time, giving a very early 3rd c. date for that level.

III Only a little evidence for a higher Hellenistic level exists (pp. 876, 892, 900). The Hellenistic floor seems to have survived till Sullan times. An early Roman rebuilding is suggested by the cement flooring and marble chip mosaic reported by R.S.Y. (p. 458, cf. pp. 894, 903. Section p. 900 suggests to level).



SOUTHEAST HOUSE II This house contained a central court (E), an 10  
andron (? D), a sizable entrance vestibule (E'') and a small workroom(E).

Room E : pp. 855 ff.

Under this designation three separate rooms can now be detected (see p. 840): the central shall be called E', the NW corner room, E''; the southwest corner E.

Room E' : ca. 3.30 x 5.80 (E-W).

The wall lines are certain, but all the central part has gone except for Well A (p. 911, diam. 0.80). This tiled well mouth looks like a Roman well, but was not dug in 1958. Its presence suggests that this area was later a court. From the position of the collapsed Wall C (pp. 871, 884), it is probable that it too fell in the central area, a more appropriate place for a Court than Room D.

Almost nothing of the floor of Room E' was preserved - a thin clay layer over rock (Section p. 892) on a level with the first floor of Room F (Strosis 5).

Room E'' : 3.80 x 3.10 m. (E-W).

Only the wall lines and a bit of floor remain. A doorway seems indicated into the street near the NW corner. Where we cleaned the clay surface over bedrock, we found early 5th c. pottery, mostly undisturbed (p. 871, container 72). This condition suggests that over this northern room the stroses had followed the sequence indicated by those preserved in the SE corner of Room E, where this level equals that of Strosis 2.

Room E : 3.80 X 2.10 (E-W) Section p. 858.

This room lies north of Terrace Wall # 3, and also has suffered from intrusion. The West wall is the Polygonal limestone wall running along the West Street. The floors were preserved in the



SW corner (pp. 855 f., 909 f.). They are three: the earliest over rock, lies at the same level as that in Room E' and F (Strosis 5), namely that of the top of the bedding of the conglomerate wall at its south. Its depth is 0.15 m. We did not dig it. The next floor, Strosis 2, which was evidently thrown in against the new blocks of the South wall, is approximately at the same level as that of Strosis 2-3 in Room F at its south. The latest sherd (Y 540 = P 26185) in this otherwise 4th c. B.C. filling dates probably ca. 300 B.C. (following dating of Megarian bowls by H.S.T. rather than by G.R.E.). The floor above it, Strosis 1, also contained mostly 4th c. material and must have accrued immediately after the rebuilding of the wall, like Strosis 1 in Room F" (cf. Section, p. 876). Set into this floor were 9 loom-weights (Y 518-526 = MC 1024-1032) of these 7 can be likened to examples found on the Pnyx (Hesperia, Supplement VII, p. 91, fig. 38, as follows: Y 523: cf. Pnyx No. 128, which is very close and is dated before ca. 325 B.C.; of the rest, Y 518-20 522, 524, resemble Pnyx No. 138 and Y 521, 524 resemble Pnyx No. 139, both of the 3rd cent. B.C. apparently before 250 B.C. Cf. Corinth XII, p. 149, class XI). This cache was certainly made after the floor had been laid and possibly after it went out of use. We may therefore date the latest preserved habitation in this room level as ca. 300-250 B.C. The room presumably contained a loom.

SOUTHERN HOUSE XXI

~~This house contained a central court (E) and a small sizeable entrance vestibule (E') and a small workshop (E).~~



Room D : ca. 5.10 x 4.50 m. (E-W), pp. 829, 851 ff. Section p. 876.

Of this sizable room, only a little is preserved. The original South wall lay 0.80 m. north of that designated as its South wall on excavation, which is later, probably 3rd c. B.C. On the plan, however, it is shown in both positions. Its east wall has been traced, if vaguely, at least to J.T.'s satisfaction, just to the east of the Late Roman "North South Long Wall" (p. 829). The North wall is clear (p. 853). Of the West wall an early tongue projects south from the North wall; it was originally W. 0.40 and later widened to 0.55 m. At the SW corner the wall has been rebuilt in conjunction with the new South wall (Y) and is W. 0.60 m. The central part has been destroyed by a deep very late Roman intrusion and presumably held the doorway.

The most striking characteristic of Room D is its cobbled paving or underpacking for a pebble mosaic floor, traces of which are preserved to delineate clearly the limits of the room even where walls are lacking (pp. 851, 871, 917). It lies on bedrock and is ca. 0.15 m. deep. This flooring suggests that the room was an open court. It is possible that the well, C, that caved in at its western side was the earlier well for this house (p. 871, photo p. 884). But this position seems strange and a clear-cut circle was never found. J.T.'s suggestion that this Room was an andron seems also plausible.

The flooring was laid in the early 5th cent. B.C. (container 72). In the 3rd cent. the room was covered with a red Hellenistic filling, which raised the level 0.80 m. above the 5th cent. level in the brief period ca. 300-200 B.C.



## SUMMARY

The exploration of the houses discussed in the area has indicated a few conclusions of general interest, which may be summarized as follows:

### 1) Housing Plan

The houses in Y, like those in  $\Phi$  were laid out at one time on a city grid system, about 2 x 5 houses between streets, possibly with alleys dividing them in an E-W direction. This grid was related to and tied in with that of the Agora. Drains were constructed under the streets for overflow and rain water. Wells provided drinking water. The houses were built with party walls, at approximately the same time, as one project, to judge from the similar style of flooring and construction and of the interrelation of levels. They were relatively modest houses of the working class, characterized by a court, more or less central, one or two living rooms and storage rooms on the ground floor. Second stories in part of the upper level are possible, but the lightness of the interior walls (0.35-0.45 m.) makes this unlikely except in the corners. The floors were of clay: in only one (Room D) is there evidence for pebble mosaic. The walls had stone socles, high for the exterior, low for the interior walls; the upper parts were of crude brick. A little painted stucco was noted (Greek p. 855; Roman p. 470) fallen from the walls. No fixed hearths were noted; no sanitary facilities, no fresh water pipes.

### 2) Chronology

The general history of the two S.E. houses can be deduced from the evidence, chiefly that of pottery discovered in the



stroseis of the various rooms. Since the coins have not yet been cleaned, their evidence has not been included. They can be found through the page references. The main building periods may be outlined: Stroseis, numbered in each room in order of excavation, are circled; correlations between rooms are thus indicated and general chronology surmised. The detailed evidence for each room has been presented above; references here are only for purposes of dating.

### I. FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

Shortly after 479 B.C., the area was surveyed, terraced as contours demanded, levelled, laid out according to a grid. Small irregular holes, natural or opened as clay pits, were filled with Perserschutt, over which clay floors were laid. The evidence for dating is abundant:

| <u>Room</u> | <u>Strosis</u>             | <u>page ref.</u>        | <u>Container</u>  | <u>No. Objects</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A           | Cavities                   | 843                     | B 59              | Y 550              |
| B           | ⑥                          | 848, 897                | B 62-63           | Y 554              |
| C           | Stroseis (1-2)<br>Cavities | 859, 863                | T 65-66<br>B 67-8 | Y 500<br>Y 555-6   |
| D           | Over bedrock               | 887                     | B 72              | Y 501              |
| E           | " "                        | 911                     | -                 |                    |
| F           | ⑤                          | 876, 891-3,<br>913, 916 | B 77, 79          | Y 512<br>Y 551     |

Soon after, at uncertain date, slight alterations took place

in Room F (see above). This probably coincided with the rebuilding of the outer walls in Polygonal Style, contemporary with those in Section ①, some time ca. 400-350 B.C. (see ① 1958 section report).

### II. EARLY THIRD CENTURY B.C.

Some time after 300 B.C., Terrace Wall # 3, the party wall between the two houses was rebuilt on the old socle with conglomerate



blocks. The thickness and strength of this wall suggests that the division between the houses may have taken place at this time. That the rebuilding was extensive is proved by the deep filling of fallen red mud brick that was levelled off to form the new floors, at 0.20 m. or more above the old. Earlier interior wall lines were shifted (Room F). Very possibly second stories were erected to compensate for the contraction of space for each family. This would be consistent with the crowding and poverty after the troubles of the early third century. Two Saucer Pyres of that date were set down into or on these new floors, suggesting a date very near 300 B.C. for the initial reorganization. The evidence is fairly abundant:

| <u>Room</u> | <u>Strosis</u>  | <u>page ref.</u> | <u>Containers</u> | <u>No. Objects</u>                |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| B           | 4-4a            | 845-8            | B 61              | Y 475-7 (L 4 c.)                  |
| C           | "Red 4 c. fill" | 481, 483, 489    | -                 | -                                 |
| D           | " " "           | 829, 883-7       | B 71              |                                   |
| E           | 1-2             | 909              | B 73-74           | Y 540 (Early<br>Y 518ff 3rd c.BC) |
| F           | 2-3             | 873, 877 f.      | T 75, B 76        | Y 515 (Early<br>3rd c.BC)         |

(cf. the same story for adjoining houses in Section φ. Possibly all this area was abandoned at this time)

### III. LATE HELLENISTIC

A little evidence points to Sullan damage and to the subsequent raising of levels by ca. 0.40 m. The walls of Room B were rebuilt. A bit of marble chip mosaic reported in Room C (p. 458) suggests that the house was refurbished in early Roman times. A little floor, strosis 2 in Room B, appears to belong to this phase which showed elaborately painted wall-plaster (p. 470). Well A (p. 910) may belong to this period. No evidence survives for the West side of the Complex.



IV LATE ROMAN

Little evidence survives. Debris, filled with painted plaster, suggests some destruction at the end of the 2nd c. (p. 818, B 58). Herulian destruction filling was also discovered (p. 818, B 57). After that, two long walls painted with mortar were built at a different orientation across the area ("E-W" and "Long N-S Walls", pp. 813 and 871 ff. See Index.) Habitation continued into Early Byzantine times (cf. Well B, pp. 905 f.).

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