

SECTION OO : PRELIMINARY SUMMARY : 1947

March 17 - July 12: M. Crosby : pp. 1 - 7
July 14 - August 14 : E. Vanderpool : pp. 8 and 9.

Section OO - a new section created in the spring of 1947 out of the northeast corner of Section NN, the western edge of Section TT, and Asteroskopeion Street from the Great Drain to Eponymon Street - is bounded on the west by the Great Drain, on the south by the big hole of late fill in NN, on the east by the new road leading from the Areopagus Park to Eponymon Street. Roughly a trapezoidal area, 50 m. from north to south, some 30 m. from east to west at the south, it is 45 m wide at the north. It includes the lower northwest slope of the Areopagus and part of the valley to the west.

In so far as explored, ancient levels have been reached only in a narrow strip along the southern boundary and on the line of the Drain. Here the area was used for private houses and/or small industrial establishments at least from the Hellenistic through the Byzantine period. The only possible candidates for public buildings are three:

Poros block along the east side of the Drain near the southern edge of the section, with its return to the east under a small stone house wall. Note that the trench for the continuation of the first poros block was found both to north and south of it. (see below, p. 8, c)

Continuation to the north of the east side of the big bedrock cutting in Section NN.

Building A : A Roman building along the east side, with marble chip floor and elaborate drainage system.

The work done in the first four months of the season may be divided into four parts:

- I. MODERN ROADS
- II. GREAT DRAIN AND DRAINS CONNECTING WITH IT
- III▲ BUILDING A : HIGH ROMAN LEVELS AT EAST = Roman Bath
- IV▲ SOUTH CENTRAL AREA

I. MODERN ROADS : The western end of Apollodoros Street, and Asteroskopeion Street

Some 2 1/2 to 3 m. of Turkish and 19th century fill was removed by Sophokles and his crew without benefit of supervision. On the spur of Apollodoros Street there was very

little road gravel, not more than 0.50 m., below which there was soft Turkish basa. The late gravel road fill along Asteroskopeion Street extended a bit deeper, but even here seemed to be separated by 0.50 to 1.m. of soft late fill from the late Byzantine or Turkish road strosis found along the southern side of Asteroskopeion Street, both sides of the Great Drain. This level, about 1.50 m. above the drain cover slabs, was the level at which the street was left in mid-July.

The only finds from the digging of the streets were three skeletons in 19th century fill about one metre below the surface of Asteroskopeion Street, 20 m. west of the junction with Apollodoros Street. Nearby, a small group of black-glazed lekythos fragments and other classical sherds may have come from some antique dealer's hoard.

II. GREAT DRAIN AND DRAINS CONNECTING WITH IT

The line of the Great Drain was explored for some 25 m. between Asteroskopeion Street and the boundary of Section NN. At the north the walls are preserved to a height of from 1.50 to 2.50 m., built of large blocks, mostly poros. The drain here is about 0.90 m. wide and 2. to 2.50 m. deep from the bottom surface of the cover slabs to bedrock. Cover slabs are in place except for two wide gaps where Byzantine pits had reached their level. The west wall shows fewer signs of repair than the east which, above the bottom course, is often chinked with small stones and tiles.

At the south, a Roman elliptical tile drain set in the line of the Great Drain was found in place for 12.50 m. Further south, across the line of the great disturbance in NN, the tiles were missing, but this drain is certainly a continuation of the tile drain leading north from the Roman bath in NN. The original northern end of this stretch of tiles is however preserved where the tiles lead into the Great Drain channel through a brick cross wall. Here the builders of the elliptical tile drain found the cover slabs and walls of the Great Drain in place and had no need to put in tiles. But some 18 metres north, under Asteroskopeion Street, tiles were again needed, and two sets of elliptical tiles, set side by side in a cross wall, again pick up the line. This drain is built of two half-oval tiles set one above the other, with interior dimensions of 0.85 m. x 0.55 m. Some four metres south of the north end there is a narrow gap between the tiles, and a drop in the level; rectangular drains lead into this gap, presumably from houses at east and west.

Pottery from within the elliptical tiles was predominantly third century A.D., very similar to Heruli destruction fill; but further study may reveal scattered later pieces. It was not a gravelly drain fill and may well represent a mass of earlier fill washed in later. The drain was probably built in the first century A.D. The amphoras used as packing above it belong to first and second century types.

For the first nine metres north of the elliptical drain, the bottom gravel fill on bedrock, though largely late Hellenistic, all had some second century material in it (i.e., lamps, type 27). But then the drain turns slightly west of north and the bedrock level drops some 0.50 m.; from here north the bottom gravel fill was consistently late Hellenistic, undisturbed by the water brought through the elliptical drain.

Connecting Drains: The entrances of two branch drains were opened:

a) An opening through the west wall, just north of the south side of Asteroskopeion Street, with an elliptical drain coming in from the southwest. This is the road drain in Section III. Bit of fill at entrance, 3rd century A.D.

b) An opening from the east, a few metres south of a). A channel built of porous blocks was cleared for some 2 m., where it became too narrow for further work. A few late Hellenistic sherds were found. This may prove to be a continuation of one of the drains in Section 2T.

Two openings further north were noted:

c) and d) An opening from each side, just south of the point where the elliptical tiles start again under Asteroskopeion Street.

Two drains located on the higher levels of the section at the east, presumably connected with the Great Drain, but the entrances not located:

e) FF drain: at the southeast corner of the section, just south of Building A. This drain was first picked up in 1939 in Section FF. Some six metres of this drain have been cleared; its course is east and west, dropping sharply to the west. At the east it passes under a Roman concrete wall (below the NN dump road). At its westernmost preserved point it is under the east wall of House C, but here a small terracotta drain is set into it. The latter curves out to the southwest to avoid the line of the house wall whose trench seems to have cut away the original drain. It is a built

drain with small walls of tile and stone, 0.32 m. high by 0.28 m. wide. The channel itself is 0.32 x 0.32 m. It was covered by good classical roof-tiles.

f) The elliptical drain under Building A: an elliptical tile drain starts at the east side of the court (Building A, Room 2), collects four subsidiaries from the court, and starts to the northwest. Two manholes lead into it, one from the court, a second from the SE corner of Room 5. At this point the original line continued northwest, but this was blocked and a later drain leads out to the west, apparently turning north along the line of the west wall of the room. It seems originally to have belonged to the first period of the building, but was re-used in whole or part in the second, post-Herulian, period.

III. BUILDING A : HIGH ROMAN LEVELS AT EAST [= Roman Bath]

Along the east side late fill has been partially cleared from a large Roman building. A court with marble chip floor, about 13 x 7 m., and parts of five rooms to the north and one to the east have been uncovered. Five rectangular drains, along the east and south sides of the court, lead into an elliptical tile drain beneath it (Drain f, above). In its latest period, to which the court floor belongs, the building is clearly post-Herulian, but traces of an earlier building beneath it have been found. The limits of neither have been established. The southern line may well be given by the wall just north of the IT drain. Many traces of burning, and a few hypocaust tiles, found especially in Room 7 at the northeast and in the area to the east, suggest a bath.

Two wells were found within the building:

Well at 79/AA, along the south side of the court. Used apparently with the first period of the building, with the marble floor below the marble chip floor. A marble well-head, a metre lower, suggests that originally it antedated the earlier floor.

Well at 80/KZ, set through the mortar bedding for the floor of Room 6, north of the court. Its present top is built of small stones set in mortar, and coarse Byzantine pottery was found in the 0.50 m. of fill dug, but at this point well-tiles are preserved.

This bath not described in Hosp. XX, but mentioned p. 284

*West rooms not shown on any architect plan
see either section plan or
sketch plans end of vol. 2 & IX*

No finds?

no finds?

*Dug in
1948*

*Used
1947
1950*

IV. SOUTH CENTRAL AREA

South Side

Along the south side where ancient levels have been reached scraps of house walls and floors dating from the 4th century B.C. (House B, room 2, just east of the drain) through the 3rd century A.D. have been located, but until work is finished no report can be made on them.

Two wells were located here:

Well at 56/MH, a large cutting in bedrock, just east of the Great Drain, with geometric sherds from the disturbed upper fill. (see below, p. 9)

Well at 60/NA, found four or five metres to the southeast, had been broken into at the south by the Byzantine kalikia fill, but seems to antedate the early Roman floor levels to the north. (see below p. 9)

House C

= Hcy. XX
House P

This house, in the southeast corner of the section, partially exposed in 1939, is the only Roman house whose plan has begun to emerge. Its southeast corner is set into a cutting in bedrock, and its south wall can be traced for some 13 metres to the west. Three rooms along the south side probably belong with it and at least two more to the north, up to the plundered wall-trench some 9 m. to the north.

Whether the walls at a higher level to the east, uncovered in section FF in 1939, and those of Building A, all of which line with those of House C, are part of the same complex, is not yet clear.

The house probably dates originally from the first or second centuries and then parts at least were reused in the late third or fourth century. At this time a wide wall, 0.90 m. wide, built largely of upper halves of amphoras, was set against the original east wall of Room 4. In Room 3, the third room along the south, where the floor level was originally some 50 cm. below that of Rooms 1 and 2, the walls appear to have been razed and the floor level brought up to match that at the east. ? west?

Apart from these readjustments in House C, some plundered wall trenches and late Roman fill are all that remain as evidence of habitation in this south central region during the 4th and 5th centuries A.D.

Kiln

In the Dark Ages, 6th to 8th centuries, an industrial establishment with at least three furnaces was built to the west of the court of Building A, using its west wall

and probably the marble chip floor of the court. The southernmost furnace, 2.75 x ca. 5.50 m., had a fire chamber ca. 0.80 m. wide running the full length; from each side small openings or flues lead up to the floor of the kiln proper. No trace of the floor or superstructure was preserved.

More than fifty small leaf-shaped kiln supports were found in the furnace, especially in the ash deposit in the flues. The small walls separating the flues were built of mud brick and tiles. The absence of pottery wasters suggests that the kiln was not used for pottery; perhaps it was for tiles.

*See sherds
used to repair
tiles in
modern kiln
factory*

The few sherds found in the destruction debris in the furnace were nondescript late Roman, but a scrap of fill dug at the west end, antedating the kiln, had pottery as late as the 6th century A.D. The kiln had passed out of use in Byzantine times, when a floor had formed across the area.

Of the other two kilns, only parts of the furnace floors, of heavy ash deposit, lying about 3 m. and 5.50 m. north of the first, were found.

House IV

Some time in perhaps the 9th or 10th centuries a large house, House IV, filled the central area. The most striking feature was its deep south wall, 13.90 m. long, preserved in parts to a depth of ca. 2.50 m., 1.90 below floor level. The northern limit of the house was not determined. The south and west walls were solidly built with soft mortar used in the upper parts, and a thin coating of similar mortar as a facing.

The late Roman wall of House A, also used by the kiln, was used and built up where necessary as an east wall. Along the south side there were two rooms and a court, with a corridor to the north. Later walls north of this confuse the plan. Northwest of the house, a large enclosed yard (House IA) was probably a later addition to the unit. Its long north-south wall, with four tile drains set through it, was preserved for 14.20 m., where it was broken off at the north.

A well at 61/M, with stone walls and stuccoed outside face, lies just west of the court, just south of the yard wall, thus carefully excluded from the house area - probably a well serving the whole community.

NOT Dug

no finds

Many traces of changes and readjustments of the walls and floor levels were found, but late disturbance, particularly in the central area, makes it impossible to chart these with any accuracy until the second half of the 11th century, when Byzantine House I (see below) was rebuilt for the last time.

House I

This house lies in the southwest corner of the section with its western room above the Great Drain. This was uncovered and largely excavated in 1939. The northern and eastern limits were not determined, but a north-south length of at least 16 m. and a width of at least 12 m. were established. Parts of two rooms and a court to the east were well preserved, with the usual ample supply of pits and pithoi. Its floor level was some 0.50 m. higher than that of the early Byzantine one, and about 2 m. above the cover slabs of the Great Drain. The house seems to have been destroyed in the late 12th century.

The well, left outside the earlier house (Well at 61/M, above), had its mouth raised and lay inside the court of the later house. This well, found in 1939, is empty of fill, and produces a fair amount of water in the winter and spring. It seems not to have been dug, yet was not found at the modern level.

*filled with
hard
greenish
clay
and
NN
fill
in.*

The western wall of House I and the southern wall of House IV marked the limit of the Byzantine settlement. There is a complete absence of walls and pithoi for at least 5 or 10 m. to the west before the traces of Byzantine houses in Section III start. No street fill was recorded. At the south the house is bounded by the great hole of broken tile and dirt fill, probably accumulated in sifting dirt during the early Byzantine period.

Houses V and VI

Parts of two other Byzantine houses have been found: House V, along the east side of the section just south of Apollodoros Street, has been cut away by modern cellars at the west and north. No investigation is practical until the NN dump road is removed.

House VI consists of scraps of walls and pithoi, 4 to 5 m. south of Asteroskopeion Street, the northern continuation cut away by Turkish disturbances. No clear evidence for date or plan.

Note: The houses are lettered or numbered partly in relation to NN nomenclature: OO Byz. House I - NN House I
Byz. Houses II and III - NN(now III) II and III.
These numbers were not reused in Section OO.
Roman(lettered) houses: OO House C - NN House C. After this an independent series was started for OO; thus OO Houses A and B have no connection with NN Houses A and B.

During the last month of the 1947 season work was confined almost entirely to the lower levels of the SW part of the section. Practically all the post-Herulian fill had been removed from this area earlier in the season. The bulk of the earth was removed as far north as the line MA and as far east as 66, but walls and martyrs were left, as well as the fill under the rooms with the marble chip floor. Four wells, all that have appeared to date, were dug.

Three main periods may be distinguished in the lower layers of the SW part of the section:

- a) Early Roman
- b) Fourth century B.C.
- c) Fifth century B.C.

Below the fifth century level a little archaic and geometric fill appeared in places.

a) The chief remains of the early Roman (or late Hellenistic ?) period are two rooms with marble chip mosaic floor which lie roughly in the area 57-64/MA-MH. Other walls go with this period, but their plan and relationships have not yet been worked out.

b) The fourth century B.C. is represented by two small patches of pebble mosaic floor, one at 65/ME, the other at 56/ME, and by nearly a metre of fill underneath it. This floor is at approximately the same level as the marble chip floor noted above. The fill under it was explored both north and south of the patch of floor at 65/ME. The plan of the walls of this period has not yet been worked out.

c) Remains of a large porous structure of the fifth century B.C. have been discovered. Its southern part lies in NN. Its northern limit has not been fixed, though it must lie north of the line M. Its west wall runs close to and parallel with the Great Drain. One block of it is in situ in the SW corner of the section and the wall trench has been traced as far north as M (i.e. nine metres). Another porous block next to the first and at right angles to it is part of an E-W cross wall. The east limit of the building has been fixed in Section NN and the line apparently carries north into OO. At many points within the area occupied by this building we have found a very hard smooth floor of clay close above bedrock. This is no doubt the floor of the porous building.

Great Drain : The elliptical tiles in the Great Drain were removed except for a stretch of three or four metres at AA-AZ where they are imbedded in mortar construction. The gravel fill under them was early Roman - possibly late Hellenistic in its lowest part.

Bothros of Agonippos: A rectangular cutting in bedrock 1.05 m. long, 0.55 m. wide and 0.60 - 0.70 m. deep produced two boxes of pottery of about 480 B.C. or slightly later. In spite of the fact that several black-figured lekythoi were found in it, it seems not to have been a grave, for there were no human bones and no traces of burning. The other pottery is very fragmentary and of a household rather than a funerary character. A marble roof-tile, broken and inscribed with the name Agonippos was found less than a metre from the "bothros" and is probably to be associated with it. Its interpretation is obscure, unless it can be an unused grave marker.

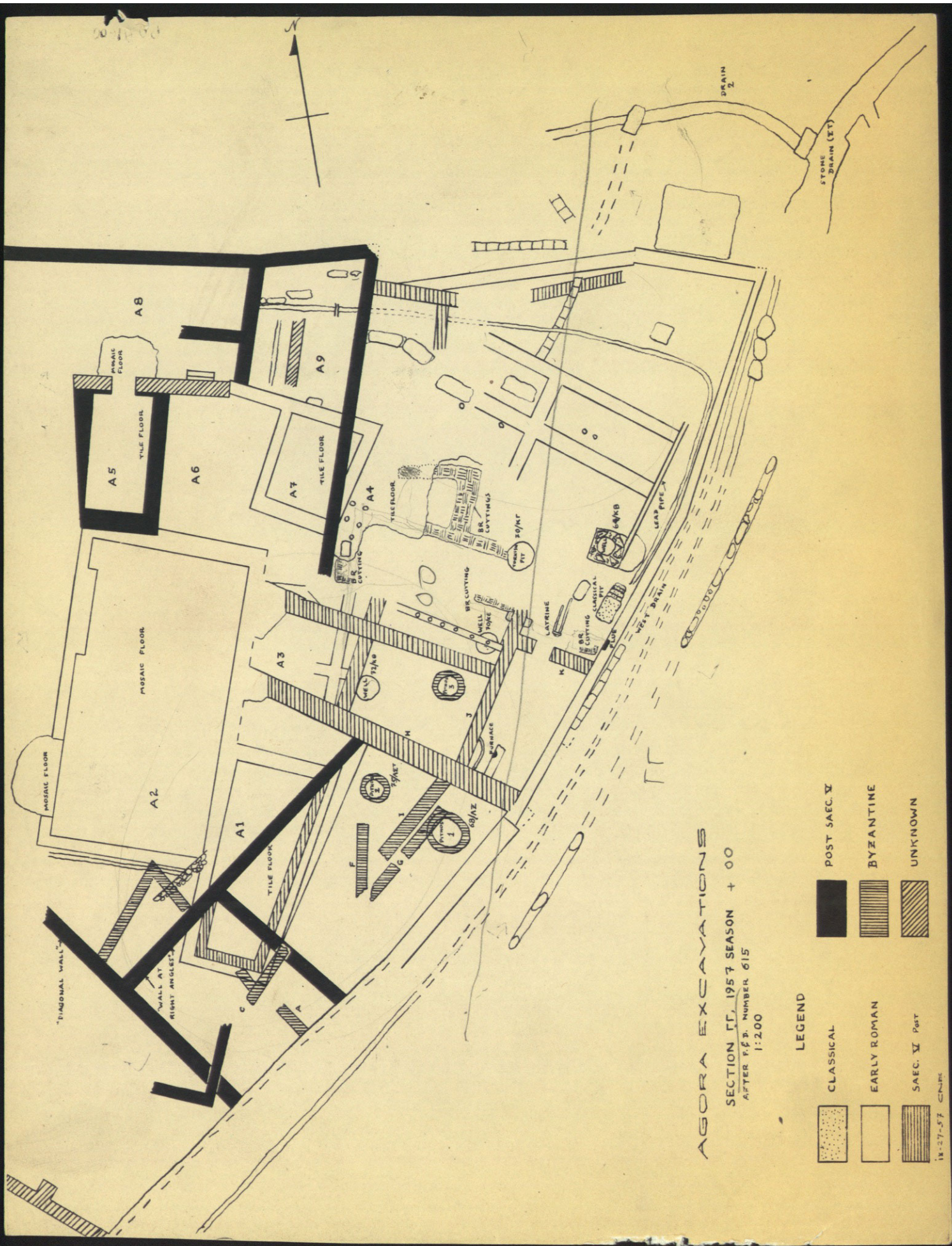
Wells:

56/MH : Geometric. Depth 3.70 m.; one small oinochoe catalogued.

53/NB : Mid sixth century B.C. Depth 8.00 m. Curbed with small stones. One black glazed olpe and one black-glazed tekalis catalogued. Several other pots may make up.

74/AH : Late Roman. Depth 8.50 m. An unsuccessful well. Two type 28 lamps catalogued.

60/NA : Roman, 1st to 3rd centuries A.D. Depth 10.30 m. A considerable amount of plain pottery of the period; also 17 lead defixiones from the third century level.



AGORA EXCAVATIONS

SECTION II, 1957 SEASON + 00
 AFTER P.P. NUMBER 615
 1:200

LEGEND

	CLASSICAL		POST SAEC. V
	EARLY ROMAN		BYZANTINE
	SAEC. V Part		UNKNOWN

18-27-57 G.M.P.

2 ←

