

## EXCAVATION SUMMARY

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## SECTION $\Omega$ 1971

Notebooks XIV and XV

Plans: PD 1998, 2108. Sections: PD 2001, 2002, 2109

Excavations were carried out in Section  $\Omega$  from March 22 to May 27, 1971 with a work force of twenty-one to thirty-two men. The purpose of the excavation was twofold: to finish clearing the late Roman house (H) begun in 1970 and to explore the earlier remains below.

### Roman House H

Roman House H was fully exposed this season with the clearing of the extensive east wing of the house. The overall dimensions are ca. 35.50 m. north-south by 41.00 m. east-west. In all, some 17 rooms have been cleared, ~~merged~~ arranged around the large rectangular courtyard, with a secondary court to the east. At the north, later remains have entirely destroyed all traces of the Roman period and a conjectural restored plan has been drawn up (PD 2108). As well as the new rooms, excavations this season included further work in some of the areas exposed last year.

### Room 3A and the Tunnel to the East : Early Fountain House

The tunnel east of Room 3A was fully cleared this season. From the east end of Room 3A it runs in a course which curves from southeast to south for some 10.00 m., at which point it ends against bedrock, with a brick

doorway to the east, giving access to a large rock-cut shaft. The doorway at the end of the tunnel has been blocked up, and in its original period had a low parapet ca. 0.58 m. high, built of bricks. Except for the floor, the tunnel itself seems to have been cut through bedrock, and built of bricks only near the two square manholes which provided light and air. The floor was paved with rectangular tiles measuring 0.48 m. by 0.18 m. The water channel found last season running through Room 3A continues under the floor of the tunnel, securely sealed with mortar, and draws its water from the rock-cut shaft. The shaft, some 6.65 m. deep from the floor of the tunnel, apparently taps a natural spring and was cleaned out and reused in modern times, when a collar was added to raise the level of the mouth. Built into this late collar is a large marble well-head measuring ca. 1.30 m. by 1.05 m. by 0.225 m. which probably served as the original mouth of the shaft in the Roman period. This part of the system seems closely analogous to the well outside the apse of Room 3 (Q 21:5); accessible either from a well head outside the house or from over a parapet from a doorway set part way down the shaft.

The operation of the shaft and tunnel is clear and explains the original function of Room 3A, before its incorporation in Roman House H. Initially, Room 3A seems to have been a small spring house or watering establishment of some sort with the rock-cut shaft as its water supply, brought in through the channel in the floor of the tunnel. There must have been some sort of basin or fountain in the west end of Room 3A - now completely lost - approximately where the apsidal pool of Room 3 now lies. For nine or ten months of the year the level of the water in the rock-cut shaft is sufficiently high to insure that water flows continuously through the channel to the basin.

In the late summer months when the water level sank and the channel was dry, the seeker of water could walk back in the tunnel and draw water by hand from the shaft.

Chronology. Though we have no secure evidence for its construction, pottery from the well south of the apsidal pool (Well Q 21:5) went back as early as the 2nd half of the 2nd century A.D. and must reflect the period of use of the well when it was part of the original fountain house, which therefore dates to at least the 2nd century. The later history of the system is more secure. From large deposits of pottery over the floor of the tunnel ( $\Omega$  pottery lots 424-426) it is clear that the tunnel collapsed and was out of use by the middle of the 3rd century A.D. Considerable amounts of burnt Herulian debris were found about half a meter above the floor, with pottery of the mid 3rd century below it. When Room 3A was incorporated into Roman House H, the tunnel was inaccessible - though the channel in its floor continued to function - and it is presumably at this time that the small arched doorway in the east end of Room 3A was blocked up. At about the same time, presumably, the door at the east end of the tunnel was also blocked up, with direct access to the rock-cut shaft restricted to the well head above. That the channel continued to function though the tunnel went out of use is clear; water flowed continuously through it into the pool this spring until the water level in the rock-cut shaft was lowered by pumping.

It is still not fully clear if the tunnel predates Room 3A as seems likely from the construction where the two meet.

Well Q 21:5

The well just south of the apse of Room 3 was <sup>dry</sup> this season. It was

cut through bedrock with a diameter of ca. 1.10 m. and went to 10.80 m. below the parapet in Room 3 before it was stopped because of the fear that it might collapse. A useful group of pottery was recovered, including some 25 complete or nearly complete pieces. These were more or less stratified within the well and run from the 2nd half of the 2nd century A.D. up to the early years of the 4th. As noted, the early pieces should go with the use of the well when it was part of the fountain house system of Room 3A and provide our best evidence for its period of use. The well went down at least another 0.70 m. below the level at which we stopped and how much earlier the pottery goes is unknown. The late pottery (early 4th century) would seem to provide a terminus post quem for the construction of the house. Had the well remained in use as a principal water supply for the house, we should surely have recovered some later pottery.

#### Courtyard

The courtyard was almost entirely cleared to bedrock. An interesting addition was the discovery of a large overflow channel draining the apsidal pool and running the whole length of the east aisle of the peristyle. The drain lies as much as a meter below the surrounding bedrock, a small rectangular channel covered by large inverted U-shaped tiles. The fill in the trench over this channel dates to the early 6th century A.D. (Ω pottery lots 449 and 450) reflecting either its construction or, more probably, a late remodelling of the drain; the northwest corner of the pool - the point at which the drain begins - shows clear traces of a late repair.

Between the third and fourth columns from the south of the east colonnade the channel has been disturbed and only the inner channel remains in situ. At this point the channel bends slightly to the west and breaks, emptying into

Well P 21:2; slightly farther on it picks up again, resuming its northerly course. The reason for this arrangement is not entirely clear. Apparently overflow water from the apsidal pool was collected in Well P 21:2, presumably for purposes other than drinking (washing, gardening?). Yet with the spring producing water steadily, particularly in the winter months, there must have been some danger of flooding; it is possible, from the levels, that Well P 21:2 could fill up, backing up the water and flooding Rooms 3 and 3A. It was perhaps for this reason that the channel was continued on the other side. Well P 21:2 then would in effect serve as a large collecting basin for the overflow of the pool to insure maximum use of the water, with a built-in arrangement to prevent flooding when water was overly abundant. With the lack of evidence for any secure chronological distinction, this theory helps perhaps also to explain the occurrence of two wells in the court; Well P 21:3, with its fine marble well-head, would provide clean drinking water, while Well P 21:2, supplied by the overflow drain, would provide water for more general uses.

Elsewhere in the courtyard we found the continuation of the channels from Rooms 1 and 2, running northeast across the center of the court. The channel from Room 1 had two distinct phases: originally it ran along the west side of the west colonnade, turning northeast after the second base from the south; at some later date it was turned eastward just north of the door and emptied into the square settling-basin in the southwest corner of the peristyle.

Also in the courtyard, we recognized this year a fine marble relief of the Cave of Pan (I 7154), first found last season lying face down in destruction fill. The figures, several of them recognizable deities, are in the cave, watching or participating in a sacrifice. The piece is securely

dated to the second half of the 4th century B.C. as the dedicator, Neoptolemos the son of Antikles of Melite, is well known (Pros. Att. 10652; Vanderpool and Threpsiades, "Themistokles' Sanctuary of Artemis Aristoboule," A.Δ., 1965, pp. 26-36, especially note 5, p. 32: Agora inv. I 6969). The carving is remarkably fresh throughout, but every single head has been deliberately hacked off, presumably by zealous Christians; only Pan's smile survives. The back of the piece showed signs of considerable foot traffic and I am inclined to believe that in its final use the piece served as a step block in Roman House H, perhaps in front of the door of Room 4. For a parallel, one can point to the Athena (S 2337) found in situ last season, used as a step in front of the threshold of Room 12.

#### Room 5

Room 5 is a large room along the east side of the court, measuring 6.20 m. north-south by 6.95 m. east-west. A doorway, blocked in antiquity, leads through the south wall into Room 4. Though no sure trace of a second door was found, one is restored through the west wall, giving access to the peristyle.

In addition to a layer of destruction fill, two floors of the late Roman period were found. The uppermost (layer II) seems to have been laid in the early 6th century A.D. (Ω pottery lot 420), the lower one (layer III, Ω pottery lot 421) in the 4th century A.D. Running through the room is the large north-south drain. From the evidence of the floor levels in this room it now seems certain that the drain cannot have been in use in the original period and must date to the time of the upper (6th A.D.) floor.



Room 6

Lying east of Rooms 4 and 5, Room 6 is of irregular dimensions and falls into two distinct parts. It is the only room in Roman House H to have been equipped with a hypocaust system.

The south part of Room 6 is rectangular, measuring ca. 2.60 m east-west and 1.66 m. north-south. The upper floor was supported by a series of built brick piers, one of which remains in situ in the southwest corner measuring 0.50 m. by 0.60 m., full height not preserved. Traces of others are visible on the floor. Two vertical flues are set into the south wall measuring 0.13 m. by 0.115 m., beginning at ca. 0.26 m. above the floor. No traces of similar flues were found in the north wall. In the east wall there is an opening 0.485 m. wide, apparently a flue leading to a small fire-chamber outside which measures ca. 3.05 m. north-south by 1.05 m. east-west.

The north and south walls of this part of the room align with the front edges of the two small rectangular pools found last year immediately to the west, and some connection seems likely. This southern half of Room 6 seems to have been a small heated tepidarium adjacent to the two unheated plunges. Access to the room must have been from the west, through Room 4, as no other doorway seems possible.

The northern half of Room 6 is irregular in shape. The south wall is straight, measuring 4.00 m; the east and west walls are in the form of niches ca. 0.45 m. long by 1.05 m. deep; in the north wall is a larger niche, ca. 1.87 m. wide by 1.45 m. deep.

The hypocaust system in this room is made up of four round columns of bricks in the center of the room, supplemented by piers or spur walls around the sides. There are vertical flues in all three niches, but none preserved along the south wall. Not a scrap of a tegula mammata has been found in any part of Roman House H, nor are there any traces of pinholes to hold marble revetment in place on the walls, which stand as high as 1.90 m. in places; as a result, the exact nature of the inner wall remains uncertain. There is a large opening ca. 1.09 m. wide in the northern niche, apparently a flue leading from Room 7 which seems to have served as a service court.

No sure evidence of a pool was found in this northern half of Room 6, though remains of a channel running through the east wall of Room 5 and emptying into the main house drain suggest the existence of a pool in the northern niche. Its position, directly over the flue - where the air would be hottest - is conducive to such an arrangement.

Access between the two halves of Room 6 seems certain, though the dividing wall between them is not preserved to a sufficient height to show it. A possible indication is the lack of vertical flues on either face of the wall, perhaps suggesting an opening.

Thus Room 6 and the rectangular pools to the west would seem to contain all three elements of a standard bath, on a very small scale. The two cold plunges would be the frigidarium, the heated south half of Room 6 the tepidarium, and the north half of Room 6, with its heated pool, the caldarium. Room 4 should then presumably be thought of as the apodyterium as all access to the bath complex seems to be from the west.

An examination of the construction of the bath, particularly along the east side, makes it clear that it is a later addition to the house. The date of its construction can be fixed with some degree of certainty, using the evidence from Room 5 cited above. There it is clear that the large drain - which carried off water from all three pools of the bath - must date to some time in the first half of the 6th century A.D., and it seems likely that the bath itself was installed at this time.

Well Q 21:4.

Lying just north of Room 6, and partially covered by the pool of the caldarium, was Well Q 21:4. It had a stone well head and was ca. 0.85 m. in diameter, cut through bedrock all the way. It had been covered by a marble plaque and was found empty for 12.00 m. From 12.00 m. to 13.00 m. we recovered four pieces of marble sculpture: a portrait of an elderly woman (S 2435), a portrait of the emperor Antoninus Pius (S 2436), a portrait of a middle-aged woman (S 2437), and a small statue of Herakles (S 2438). All four are in a remarkably fine state of preservation and were quite clearly deliberately discarded. The date of the dumping of this sculpture is not absolutely certain, for no useful pottery and no coins were recovered from the accompanying fill. It would seem, however, as though the closing of the well took place just prior to the construction of the bath. As noted, the caldarium pool partially covered the well, though not, admittedly, enough to preclude its use with the bath. Furthermore, the marble plaque covering it lay flush with the surrounding floor level in such a fashion as to suggest that the well was deliberately sealed. On the whole, it seems preferable to assume that the well went out of use just prior to the

construction of the bath in the 1st half of the 6th century A.D. As possible corroboration, one might point to the analogous situation of Well P 21:2 which produced three marble heads last season; there the sculpture was quite clearly discarded prior to the destruction of the house itself as it was all found some two meters lower than destruction debris.

#### Room 7

Room 7 lies north of Room 6 and east of Room 5. It measures ca. 6.50 m. east-west and varies between 4.10 m. and 6.30 m. north-south because of the northern niche (pool) of Room 6. A single hard packed clay and bedrock floor was found lying at 77.16 m., ca. 0.26 m. below the tiled floor of Room 6. As noted, Room 7 seems to have been a simple open courtyard, in part a service area for the bath immediately to the south. This is suggested by a small open terracotta drain which runs northward through the room. This channel begins in the small fire chamber east of the tepidarium, continues through the wall behind the east niche of the caldarium, and passes through Room 7.

There is a door 1.30 m. wide in the east <sup>o</sup> wall, leading to Room 10, which was deliberately blocked in antiquity. A second door is restored in the north wall, leading to Room 8.

A large base built of rubble masonry was set up in the east half of the room. It is oriented north-south and measures 2.60 m. by 0.80 m. by 0.38 m. high; considerable traces of burning were found on the floor around it. Its function is unclear, though from its position partially in front of the eastern door it is likely that it is a later addition - contemporary

with or later than the blocking of the door - and is perhaps related to the workings of the bath.

#### Room 8

Room 8 lies north of Room 7, measuring 9.50 m. north-south by 6.65 - 7.30 m. east-west. There is clear evidence for a door leading through the east wall into Room 13, and doors have been restored in the three other walls. Later disturbances have almost completely destroyed any stratification in this room, and much of the floor of the Roman period has been dug away.

In the center of the room, near the east wall, is a large poros block set in a north-south orientation. At the south end other, smaller blocks take off for a short distance in a westerly direction. Within the angle formed by the poros blocks is a small area paved with strips of marble. Just east of the poros slabs is a tile-lined basin ca. 0.55 m. wide by 0.16 m. deep, with a preserved length of 1.00 m. Though badly broken up to the west and north, this small complex seems to indicate the existence of a small peristyle in Room 8, with the poros slabs as the support for the columns and the marble paving the open area of the court. A better preserved example of such a peristyle, and a very close parallel, was found this season in Roman House ε of Section BA, dated some fifty to a hundred years earlier. The exact dimensions and arrangement of the peristyle of Room 8 are somewhat conjectural; and the function of the tile basin is not clear. The open terracotta channel from Room 7 runs along the western side of Room 8 and helps in determining the position of the west colonnade.

Room 9

Room 9 lies north of Room 5 and west of Room 8; all stratification in this room was of the Greek period and will be discussed further on. As restored for the Roman period, Room 9 provides the only direct access from the large peristyle court to the smaller courtyard to the east (Room 8).

Room 10

Room 10 lies at the southeast corner of Roman House H, west of Room 7, south of Room 13. It measures ca. 6.20 m. north-south by 4.60 - 5.70 m. east-west. A rubble packing for a bench or platform of some sort ca. 0.65 m. wide ran along the whole length of the south wall. Late pits and a large Turkish cistern have destroyed most stratification of the Roman period in this room. As mentioned, a door led through the west wall into Room 7; a second door has been restored in the north wall in order to provide access to the room once the western door was blocked.

Room 11

Room 11 lies west of the large peristyle courtyard and was first cleared by M. Grosby in 1938 (Room 7,  $\Omega$ , I, p. 185). It measures 4.60 m. north-south by 3.00 m. east-west. Some 0.20 m. of characteristic heavy destruction debris, - broken tiles, bricks, and decomposed lime mortar - were found over a floor of dressed bedrock.

Room 12

Room 12 lies just south of Room 11 and was also cleared in 1938 (Room 5,  $\Omega$ , I, p. 186). Probing along the north edge of the late kiln which

was set into this room we were able to determine that the original plan of the room was L-shaped, measuring ca. 6.70 m. east-west by 4.10-5.80 m. north-south.

#### Room 13

Room 13 was a long narrow room along the east side of the house measuring 4.45 m. east-west and restored as ca. 9.90 m. north-south. A doorway is preserved in the west wall, leading to the courtyard (Room 8), and a second one is restored opening south into Room 10.

This is one of the few rooms to have been provided with a floor of more than just packed earth. Originally it seems to have had a plain mortar floor; this was replaced by a border of brick chips ca. 1.00 m. wide which ran around all four sides of the room, while the center of the floor was paved with white marble chips. The elegant flooring in this room, together with the adjacent marble-paved peristyle of Room 8, suggests that the northeast corner was one of the better appointed sections of the house.

The flooring of Room 13 is immediately reminiscent of a dining room and, without pressing the point, it should be noted that 12 or perhaps 13 dining couches of standard proportions can be accommodated.

#### Room 14

Room 14 lies in the northeast corner of the house. It was apparently first cleared in the excavation of Section BB and all the stratification encountered this season relates to the Greek period. In the Roman period a door led through the west wall into Room 15.

### Room 15

This room also had been largely cleared by our predecessors and was badly chewed up by later pits. What little stratification remained was of the Greek period.

### History and Chronology

With the excavation of Roman House H completed, we are in a position to give the following account of its history as a building. The main outlines of the house seem to have been built in the early years of the 4th century A.D. Pottery from behind the large south wall of Room 2 ( $\Omega$  pottery lot 418) has been dated by Henry S. Robinson to the last third of the third century A.D., providing a secure terminus post quem for the construction of the house; this is supported by the evidence of Well Q 21:5, which also comes down to the late 3rd/early 4th centuries A.D. We can therefore date Roman House H to around 300 A.D. or perhaps somewhat later, though probably not beyond the middle of the 4th century. It was at this time also that the earlier (2nd century A.D.) spring house and its aqueduct were incorporated into the house.

At some time in the early years of the 6th century the house underwent considerable changes. Floors were either raised or relaid in several of the rooms (Rooms 1, 2A, 5, and the large peristyle courtyard). At the same time the overflow channel from the apsidal pool (Room 3) was either installed or remodelled. The greatest change, however, was the addition of the bath complex (Room 6) and the large north-south drain through Rooms 4 and 5. Presumably it was about at this time also that the door in the east wall of Room 7 was blocked up and the large rubble base was installed, perhaps to function



in some way with the bath.

Other changes can be noted: the thresholds in Rooms 1, 5, and 12 were raised, the door between Rooms 4 and 5 was blocked, the emblema of the mosaic in Room 3 seems to have been removed and replaced with marble opus sectile, and the Athena statue (S 2337) was laid as a step block in front of Room 12. Though we have no secure evidence for the date of this second group of changes, it does not seem unreasonable to associate most, if not all of them, with the other more securely dated renovations.

The building was destroyed by Slavic invaders in ca. 582/3 A.D. In addition to the extensive ceramic evidence from destruction fill found last season, a coin of Justin II (no. 569) found this year in Room 5, dated 574/5 A.D., provides welcome corroboration.

Following this destruction the house was deserted for a generation or so after which the site was apparently reoccupied in the first half of the 7th century, a reoccupation noted last season in the latrine (?) in Room 4, the kilns in Rooms 1 and 12, and the reuse of Well P 21:3.

#### Function and Identification

The new information concerning the history of Roman House H has led to a clearer picture of its probable function. Its architectural form suggests a large private house or villa of exceptional elegance. It has been suggested in the past (Section  $\Omega$  Report, 1970) that the house may have at one time served as one of the philosophical schools which flourished in Athens in the 4th and 5th centuries A.D.; schools which were, in fact, often the private houses of the philosophers. The later history of the house

when taken as a whole provides considerable evidence to suggest that Roman House H was such a school.

We have already noted the extensive remodelling of the house in the early years of the 6th century A.D. At about the same time, apparently, three marble heads were thrown into Well P 21:2 and three heads and the Herakles were thrown into Well Q 21:4; the headless Athena was reused as a step block, as was the mutilated Cave of Pan relief perhaps; and the central panel of the mosaic in Room 3 was removed and replaced with the marble opus sectile, presumably because it contained some objectionable pagan scene.

In the later years of the house, we find such Christian furnishings as lamps with crosses (L 5628, 5630) and the ritual sigma table (A 3869).

In short, we have impressive archaeological evidence in the house of a shift from paganism to Christianity. Furthermore there is good reason to believe that such a shift took place in the early years of the 6th century, a date consistent with the closing of the philosophical schools by Justinian in 529 A.D.

At present, therefore, Roman House H seems to have been built soon after 300 A.D. as a large private house which served as one of the philosophical schools. In 529, when the schools were closed, all the pagan art which had been collected in the house was discarded and the house itself underwent a major change. It then remained in use, presumably with a Christian owner, until the Slavic invasion of ca. 582/3 A.D.

#### Addendum on Chronology

Since this report was written, John Hayes has looked at the pottery both from behind the south wall of Room 2 ( $\Omega$  pottery lot 418) and the latest pieces from Well Q 21:5. He suggests a date in the 2nd half of the 4th century A.D. for both groups and the date of the construction of Roman House H should be shifted accordingly.

### Early Roman Remains

Fragmentary traces of early Roman structures were found in the southeast part of the section (Q 21). Just outside the southeast corner of Roman House H (south of Room 10, east of Room 6) we found two rooms oriented roughly north-south. The northernmost, of which only the north and east walls remain, was paved with a marble chip mosaic. Most of the floor is done in large white chips except for a central panel ca. 1.10 m. by 1.05 m. This is decorated with fishes and sea creatures done in blue pebbles and glass tesserae of various colors against a background of white, set off by a border with a simple wave pattern done in blue.

To the south of this room we found a second one, measuring ca. 4.65 m. east-west by 4.60-4.80 m. north-south. This room had a plain dirt floor and seems to have served as a storeroom of some sort. In the southwest corner was a rectangular area, ca. 1.90 m. by 1.45 m., delimited with large stones, in which were found several large wheel-ridged jars, apparently broken in situ in the destruction of the house.

No sure evidence for the construction date of this complex was encountered, though a handful of sherds from stratified fill east of the fish mosaic suggests a date in the 1st century B.C./1st century A.D. A good deposit of Herulian debris was found over the floors, particularly in the storeroom.

South of these two rooms we came upon part of three rooms at the edge of our southern scarp, their floors at 80.63 m. above sea level, some 2.00 m. higher than the storeroom and the fish mosaic. At the northeast

corner of this southern complex was a room measuring ca. 2.85 m. north-south by 3.15-3.55 m. east-west, with about half of the floor taken up by a tiled area in its northwest corner. To the west was a narrow corridor ca. 1.10 m. wide by at least 3.30 m. long, and beyond this lies the northeast corner of another room. No evidence for the date of construction was found, though the complex was clearly destroyed in the Herulian sack of 267 A.D.

Just what connection, if any, the eastern room of this complex had with the well at the end of the tunnel east of Room 3 is not clear. The tiled area of the room suggests hydraulics of some sort, and the mouth of the well does seem to pass through its north wall, but the exact relationship has been obscured by the modern collar built over the well.

#### Greek Remains : PD 2114

Underneath the north half of Roman House H numerous remains of the Greek period were encountered. Excavation was hampered by the fact that the floor levels of the Greek buildings were in many cases almost the same as the Roman, and at the north later disturbances have obliterated almost everything. The basic outlines of two houses could be made out.

#### Greek House G

Under Rooms 5 and 9 and the peristyle courtyard (P 20) we completed the excavation of Greek House G, first discovered in 1969 (Section  $\Omega$  Report, 1969). At that time, two rooms along the west side of the house were uncovered, one of which was provided with a handsome marble-chip mosaic floor. This season the east and north sides and what little remains

of the south side were exposed. The overall dimensions of the house in the period of its greatest extent are ca. 25.00 m. east-west by 19.00 m. north-south.

Andron. Most impressive of the rooms found this season is the andron which lies at the south end of the east side of the house (under Room 5 of Roman House H). It measures 4.40 m. by 4.40 m. with the characteristic raised cement border ca. 0.92 m. wide running around all four sides of the room, breaking along the west wall for an off-center door. The room can accommodate exactly seven couches of reasonable dimensions (0.80 m. by 1.80 m.): one against the west wall, and two along each of the other three. Of the original walls of the room, only a single conglomerate block at the northwest corner remains in situ. The center of the room originally had a simple cement floor. This was replaced by a handsome pebble mosaic, the designs done in large flat round pebbles and the background done in small dark grey and blue stones. Along the south side there is a dolphin done in yellow pebbles, with the beak, eye, and dorsal fin done in purple. Along the north side is a snake-like sea monster, also in yellow with details in purple. And along the east are traces of a large fish done in white, blue, and red; even more fugitive traces of a design are visible along the west side. The mosaic was apparently damaged in antiquity and a layer of stucco was laid over it.

To the north of the andron is a small narrow room measuring ca. 1.60 m. by 3.90 m. oriented east-west. This seems to have served as the entrance hall of the house, leading from a street along its east side to the central courtyard.

To the north of this entrance we have another room, of uncertain dimensions (ca. 3.90 m. east-west, and at least 2.50 m. north-south) with a paved floor of smooth rounded white pebbles set in mortar.

Along the north side of the house enough foundations are preserved to give some idea of the arrangement of three rooms, though no trace of the exterior north wall remains.

Pyre P 20:3. A small sacrificial pyre was found in the central northern room. It measured 0.35 m. by 0.50 m., with traces of burning and only a few insignificant scraps of bones; in all, 12 characteristic miniature pots and a lamp were recovered, with the datable pieces coming down to ca. 325 B.C. Regrettably, the exact relationship of the pyre to the floor levels of the house is unclear.

A stretch of rubble wall running just north of the south colonnade of the peristyle of Roman House H is taken to be the south wall of the Greek house. No traces of any rooms along the south side were found.

Courtyard and Cistern P 21:4. The general location of the courtyard is given by the door in the andron which must surely open into the court, as must the entrance hall immediately to the north. This placement of the courtyard is further substantiated by the appearance of a large bottle-shaped cistern just west of the andron. It was stucco-lined, 3.95 m. deep and 2.73 m. across at the bottom. In all, some 140 objects were recovered, including a series of some thirty fine Megarian bowls, with both floral and figured decoration. The date of the group is somewhat troublesome. The bulk of the pottery falls nicely within Thompson's Group C, largely last

quarter of the 3rd century B.C. and into the early years of the 2nd. The coins however are New Style bronzes and according to Jack Kroll should come well down into the 2nd century. Some of the pottery can be stretched to come down through the first quarter - particularly the kantharoi and several of the lamps - and perhaps a date of ca. 180-160 B.C. would be acceptable for the closing of the cistern.

Chronology. For the date of the house we have little to go on. In the northeast corner we found scraps of walls at a very low level which seemed to date to around the mid-fifth century B.C. Though many of the walls of the house as preserved today follow these early lines, it is clear that extensive remodelling and expansion took place. The plan described above is of the later phase of the house, the period of its fullest development. For the date of this later phase we have virtually no stratified fill which can be relied on. The only indications are the use of conglomerate for the walls and the style of the mosaics. As noted, no relationship between the pyre and the floors was found, nor is it clear whether or not such a pyre can even be used as evidence that the house was in use. Another possible indication was found in 1969 along the west side. Here the original west wall of the house was put out of use and covered by a pebble floor sometime in the second half of the 4th century B.C. We can do no better than to date the major phase of the house to this same period.

For the date of destruction we are somewhat better informed. We have already noted the filling of the cistern (P 21:4) in the first half of the 2nd century B.C. That the closing of the cistern reflects the end of the house as a whole is suggested by fill found over the floor of the andron



(Ω pottery lot 422) which yielded similar pottery of the late 3rd and early 2nd centuries B.C.

#### Greek House J

Greek House J lies under the northeast corner of Roman House H (Q 20; Rooms 8, 13, 14, and 15). It is almost perfectly square, measuring ca. 12.10 m. north-south by 12.60 m. east-west. Parts of all four exterior walls are extant, all - with the exception of the south wall - reused in Roman House H. Small stretches of wall give some indication of the interior arrangement and permit the restoration shown in PD 2114.

The house clearly had two major phases. The original period is represented by the use of Acropolis limestone and the fine polygonal masonry of the north and east walls. The plan at this time was much the same as in the later period, though the house may have extended somewhat further to the west, as suggested by some low rubble foundations.

The date of this early phase seems to be sometime in the 2nd quarter of the fifth century B.C., on the basis of pottery from beneath the floors (Ω pottery lots 511 and 517).

At some later time a major rebuilding occurred, and to this later phase are to be assigned the large conglomerate and poros blocks of all four exterior walls. The plan was changed slightly, and the east half of the north wall was shifted some 1.20 m. further north. To this phase also may be assigned the mortgage inscription (I 7343) carved on one of the conglomerate blocks of the north wall.

The date of this later rebuilding is somewhat uncertain, as almost all floors have been destroyed by Roman or later occupation. A small deposit of pottery (P 28604-28607;  $\Omega$  pottery lot 516) found outside the northeast corner of the house where the east wall was extended suggests a date in the last quarter of the 4th century, though the direct association of this fill with the construction of the wall is not certain.

Pyre Q 20:4. Up against the west wall of the house we found a small sacrificial pyre containing twelve pots of the characteristic shapes and a coin (no. 556), all dating to the last decade of the 4th century B.C. It is hard to say what relation the pyre has to the history of the house, though it would seem to come at just about the same time as the re-organization tentatively dated above, and perhaps we would not be far off in assigning the later phase to around 300 B.C., with considerable latitude possible in either direction.

#### Road

A narrow road ran between Houses G and J at all periods. Originally this road was some 2.20 m. wide, running north-south under the east aisle of the peristyle of Roman House H. A curved stone gutter ran along its west side; no trace of road metal was found but as the road was in fact little more than an alley this is not surprising.

In the 4th century reorganization of the area the expansion of House G covered the early road and the line was shifted some 7.00 m. to the east. In this later period it was ca. 2.50 m. wide, equipped with a fine porous gutter ca. 0.55 m. wide which ran along its west side. This gutter divides

at the southwest corner of House J, with one branch jogging and continuing south, and the other running east along the south side of House J.

### Conclusions

Thus, for the Greek period the following general historical development of the area can be drawn up. Some traces of pre-Persian habitation were encountered, particularly in the northeast corner of House J and possibly Well Q 21:3 which seems to have been filled in immediately post-Persian times. In the 2nd quarter of the 5th century B.C. or perhaps a bit later two houses were built, one in Q 21 (House J) on a roughly square plan, and a second in P 21 (House G), evidently on a larger scale and with a freer plan. A narrow alley ran between the two houses, bounded on the west side by a stone gutter.

At some time in the 2nd half of the 4th century both houses were remodelled. House G became even larger, expanding to the east, and the road between the two houses was shifted accordingly. House J retained much of the square plan but was extensively rebuilt.

House G seems to have been abandoned and most of it stripped for building material by the middle of the 2nd century B.C., and we have no information concerning the fate of House J.

### I 7307: Attic Stele Fragment

One epigraphical find of more than passing interest this season was I 7307, a large fragment from the lower left hand corner of Stele II of the Attic Stelai. Sixteen lines of text are preserved in two columns. In addition

to more information about objects and slaves, the new piece provides for the first time part of the patronymic of Panaitios (Φλωχ...) as well as his deme (Aphidna).

J. McK. C. II

