

ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΑ
ΑΡΓΟΛΙΔΟΚΟΡΙΝΘΙΑΣ

AMERICAN EXCAVATIONS
AT CORINTH

Excavations of the American School of Classical Studies were resumed in the spring and summer of 1963 under the direction of Henry S. Robinson. Mr. Robinson was assisted by many student members of the School: Miss Mary Coutroubaki and Miss Elizabeth MacNeil; Messrs. Gregory Dickerson, Daniel Geagan, Noel Robertson, Charles Williams. Work was carried on in four different sectors: the Turkish and Byzantine levels to the south of the South Stoa; the ancient quarry area just west of the Museum; the Roman House and Greek cistern at Anaploga (some 500 meters west of the Museum); and the roadside shrine and cistern at Kokkinovrysi, just outside the city walls to the northwest.

The major program was in the area south of the South Stoa, where we pushed further to the west the excavation of the Byzantine remains last investigated in 1961. In this area we discovered for the first time in the recent series of campaigns well preserved remains of a Turkish structure. This is a large rectangular house measuring 26 × 16 meters (P. I. 103a). A spacious veranda is set back into the long north face of the building and was entered through two archways; the floor of this veranda was of wood. From the veranda one had access to all the other rooms of the house, most of them opening one into the other by broad archways. The house was probably built in the 17th century; its walls are in some places one meter thick and the foundations extend as much as two meters below the contemporary ground level, all the way to bedrock. The house certainly underwent some modifications and may have had a second floor added in one of its subsequent periods. To the north of this Turkish House were discovered impressive remains of a Byzantine construction of the late 12th and 13th centuries, in part a continuation westward of the structures exposed in 1961 (P. I. 103b). We have here a large courtyard surrounded by small rooms, one of which may have been a storage room for fuel. In the courtyard is a well and at the northwest corner, close to the storage room, is a circular oven which may

perhaps indicate that this building served as the local bakery. In none of the other 12th and 13th century buildings which have been exposed in the campaigns of 1959 - 1963 have we found evidence for more than simple hearths in the private houses. In association with one of the rooms of this house we have found, in rather large quantity, fragments of Near Eastern glazed pottery which has been of rare occurrence in previous seasons. It may be that this house was occupied by a merchant who had some special contacts with the Near East. Two stirring finds from this area are an excellent marble portrait head of the empress Faustina the Younger (P. I. 104a), of the third quarter of the 2nd century after Christ, and a fragment of a late fourth century marble relief (P. I. 104b) representing Heracles with a dog (apparently not Cerberus).

In the area of the quarry west of the museum we continued the investigations begun last year in the hope of finding a site for the construction of new store-rooms for context pottery and inventoried finds. In this area (P. I. 105a, upper left) we have a building (partly exposed on several previous occasions) with two large rooms paved with marble slabs in a polychrome pattern. The floor was laid directly over a filling, as much as 3 - 1/2 meters deep, thrown into the great quarry cutting in the first third of the 1st century after Christ. It is as yet not possible to date the construction of the building with absolute certainty, but it seems likely that it followed very shortly upon the filling of the quarry. The eastern room is marked by an Italianate architectural feature — an impluvium. It is joined by a doorway to the northwest corner of the great double colonnade which enclosed the peribolos of Temple E. Immediately to the west of the western room we have come upon remains of a gravelled road-surface of the early Roman period; this extends from north to south up the slope of the hill, through a gap in the quarry face and on towards Acrocorinth. This may well be one of the principal roads from the Roman city to Acrocorinth and may have connected further to the south with the road traversed by Pausanias when, on route to Acrocorinth, he visited the sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone (excavated in 1961 and 1962 on the north slopes of Acrocorinth).

In the Anaploga area our investigations were restricted primarily to the terrain around

the great cistern exposed in 1962. Here we have found an extensive underground water supply system consisting of a rock-cut tunnel over 600 meters in length (the tunnel is about 1.75 meters high and 0.50 meters wide; its floor lies at a maximum depth of about 20 meters below the modern surface). We have located 10 manholes which gave access to the tunnel. The tunnel seems to have tapped a natural spring at some point on the lower slope of Acrocorinth; from that spring the water was carried in a generally north-westerly direction to a ravine in the face of which the tunnel emerged and presumably dropped its water into an open farm cistern. But in the course of its descent the tunnel also supplied water to two underground cisterns and a well. Of the 10 manholes so far investigated only three were regularly kept open for drawing water; the others were service manholes only, cut originally to facilitate the digging of the tunnel itself and subsequently covered with very heavy slabs of limestone which would have been removed only in cases of emergency, if repairs or major cleaning of the system became necessary. The tunnel seems to have been constructed in the 4th century B.C. At least one of its two cisterns went out of use with the sack of Mummius and was then completely filled in. At that time there were thrown into the cistern one fine Doric corner-triglyph of poros, probably to be dated in the early 4th century; a Doric capital of poros; several low, cylindrical boundary stones (P.I. 105b) carefully covered with stucco and probably deriving from a sanctuary; a complete Ionic column drum of poros; numerous smaller architectural fragments; and a considerable number of good terracotta figurines. From the cistern come also two objects of poros, covered with stucco, which must be religious symbols — one is a short cylindrical shaft terminating in an omphaloid finial (P.I. 106a - b); the other, not yet certainly identified, may perhaps be an aniconic human head (P.I. 106c) on which the hair alone is rendered in relief, the features of the face lacking entirely (to be compared with the aniconic heads of Persephone found at Cyrene). A well at the northwest extremity of this system — the one which was augmented by overflow from the tunnel — also produced many terracottas and nine roughly cut poros boundary stones which were probably field boundary markers (P.I. 107a - b). This well had been filled in at the

end of the 4th century B.C. In the Anaploga area we excavated also a well of the end of the early Geometric period. It had been dug to a depth of 25 meters, at which level very hard rock was encountered; the shaft was therefore abandoned and was filled with a dumped filling which seems to be consistent from top to bottom. Much fragmentary coarse ware has been found together with a smaller number of black-glazed and decorated vessels. A grave of the late 3rd century B.C., discovered by chance in the Anaploga area, produced a fine bronze mirror (P.I. 108a - b). The relief scene on the cover depicts a woman at left dressing the hair of another woman seated on a rock; at the right a third female figure stands beside a stela or conventionalized tree.

At Kokkinovrysi, to the northwest of the city, we have continued our investigations of the area of the roadside stela excavated last year. Here we have found a succession of road gravels covering the Greek period from the 5th century B.C. and extending down into late Roman times. It appears now, as a result of the study of the terracotta figurines found adjacent to the stela last year, that the deposit of figurines did not arise from periodic offerings made at that spot but is rather a *favissa*; here were discarded offerings of various dates which had been removed from a near-by sanctuary. Near the most westerly part of the adjacent road we have found, in a gravel stream bed, large quantities of 7th and 6th century Corinthian pottery which appears to have washed down from another *favissa* lying further up the slope of the hill toward the south. It is probable that the sanctuary lay to the south of the road and that the stela, lying at the north edge of the road, was a boundary marker for the sacred area.

During the course of last fall we rediscovered in the store-rooms of the Corinth Museum the 400 - odd fragments of Penteskouphi plaques which had been excavated primarily by Washburn in 1905. These fragments had never been properly cleaned nor had they been inventoried. During the spring Helen von Raits undertook to supervise the cleaning of these fragments and to inventory them. In early August she spent ten days in West Berlin, examining the fragments of the Penteskouphi plaques there (over 1500). She has discovered a considerable number of certain joins between the Berlin and Corinth fragments (P.I. 109a - b).

During the spring Ronald Stroud, assisted by Mrs. Stroud, devoted many weeks to the study and arrangement of the finds from the Sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone excavated by him in 1961 and 1962. Although the area excavated measures only 375 square meters, over 600 terracotta figurines have been inventoried, plus large quantities of pottery and minor objects. And as yet only a small part of the Eleusinion — not including any of the major sanctuary buildings — has been excavated. It is hoped that Ronald Stroud will be able to resume investigations of this sanctuary on a larger scale in the summer and fall of 1964.

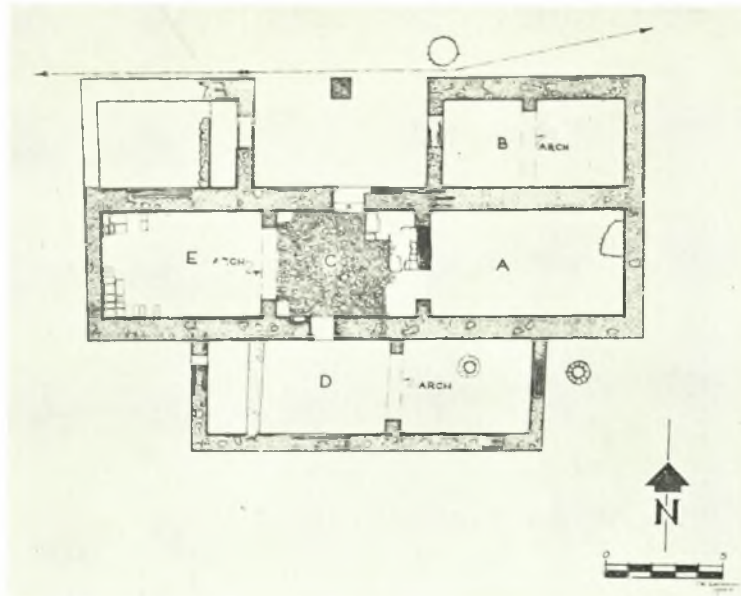
At the end of December, 1963, there was discovered by chance, near the Turkish fountain house of Hadji Mustafa, a man-hole which proved to give access to a very elaborate cistern of the Hellenistic period whose tunnel-chambers intersect one another at right angles in a almost Hippodamian plan. In Roman times the cistern, long abandoned, was reused in part and extended by new tunnels to carry water in terracotta pipes from the ancient spring at Hadji

Mustafa toward the Agora area some 650 meters distant to the north. This tunnel system has not yet been investigated in full.

Charles K. Williams has been named Assistant Field Director of the Corinth Excavations. During the fall of 1963 he began work of conservation in the Roman Northwest Shops, just below the Archaic Temple. Here he will clean out, and in some cases excavate, all of the shop rooms as well as the colonnade in front of the shops. He has already clarified considerably our understanding of the history of this building and of its predecessors on the site; the Roman shops must now be dated in the early 3rd century after Christ and were apparently contemporary with the construction of the Captives' Façade in front of the Lechaion Road Basilica. When the investigation of the Northwest Shops is complete we shall refill the colonnade and shop rooms to the original floor levels so that this building will present a unified and comprehensible picture to the visitor. It is hoped that similar work of conservation may be extended to the other buildings of the Agora area.

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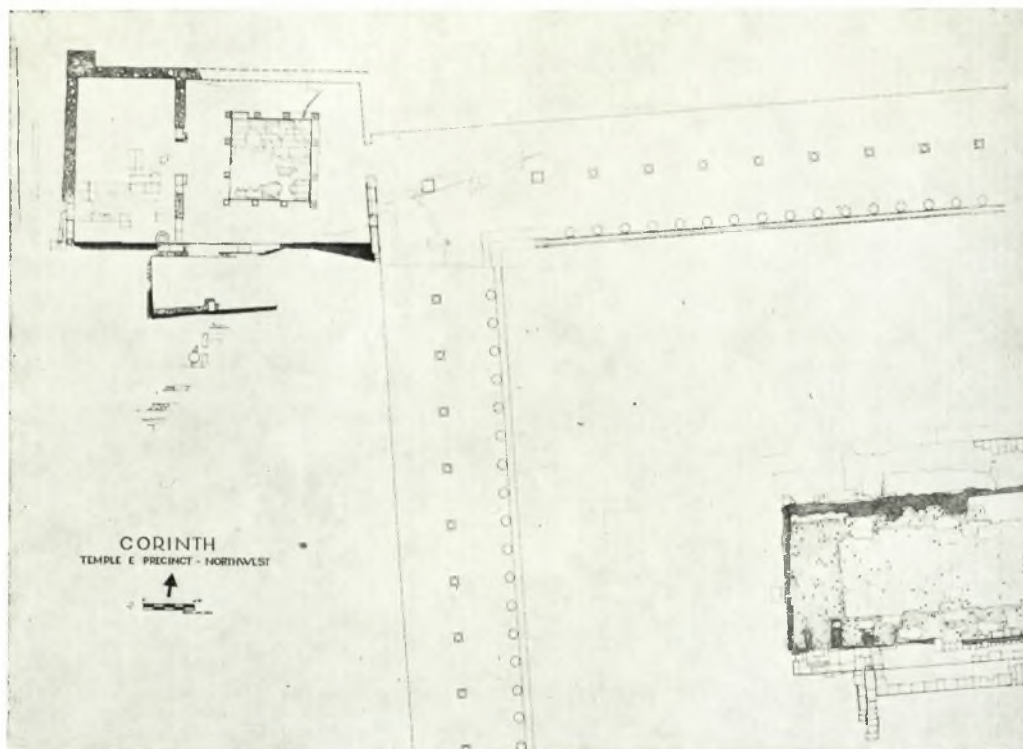
Corinth: a. Turkish House: Plan, b. Byzantine Houses South of the South Stoa: Plan

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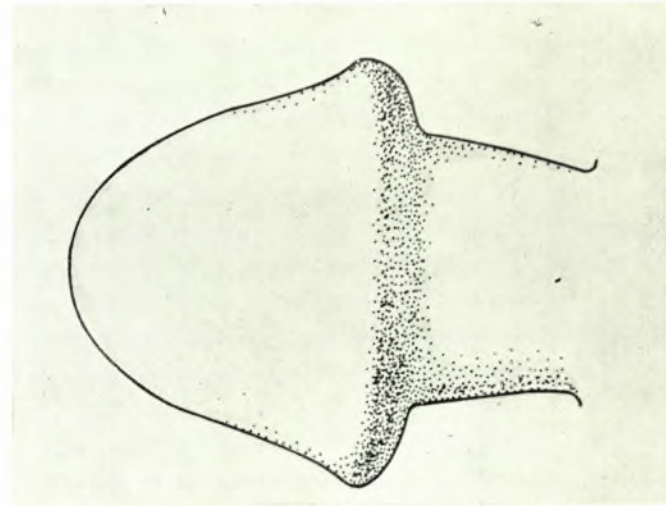
Corinth: a. Portrait of Faustina the Younger, b. Marble Relief of Heracles

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Corinth: a. Precinct of Temple E., Northwest Corner: Plan, b. Boundary Stone

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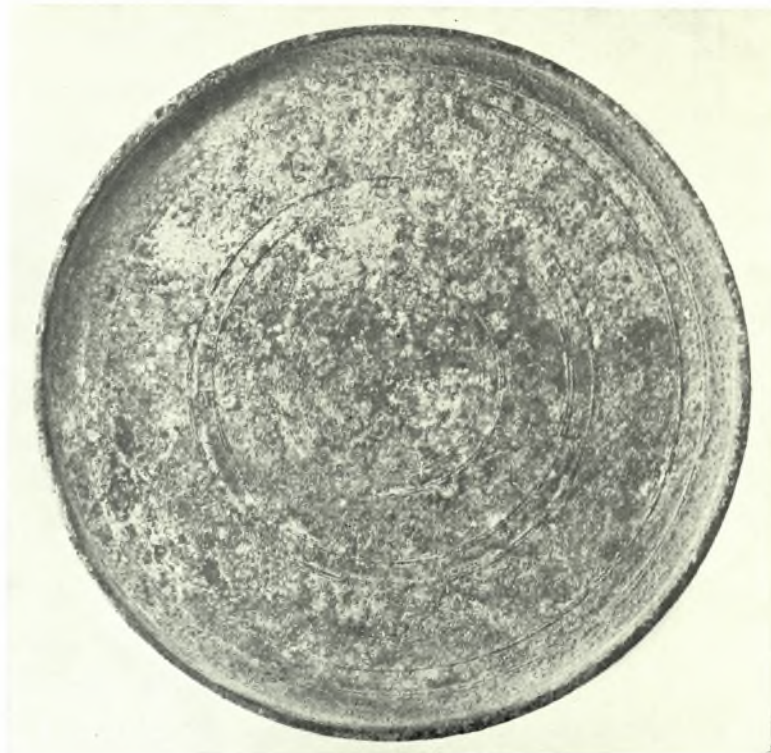
Corinth: a - b. Cult Object: View at Left; Reconstructed Outline at Right, c. Aniconic Head of Poros

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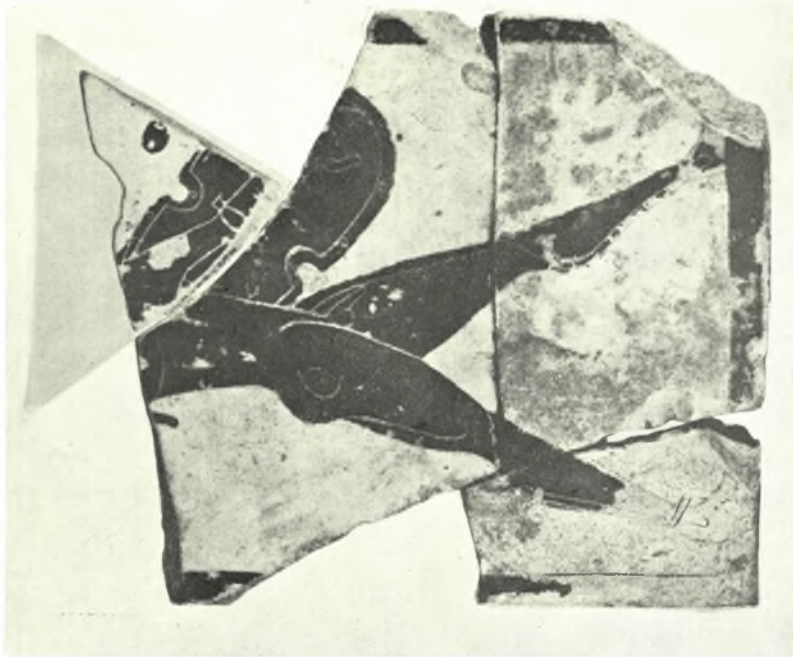
Corinth: a - b. Boundary Stone Inscribed on Both Faces

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Corinth: a - b. Bronze Mirror: the Back of the Mirror and the Relief from the Cover

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Corinth: a. Votive Pinax from Penteskouphi; Berlin F 471 (upper right) and Corinth C-63-354,
b. Votive Pinax from Penteskouphi; Berlin F 604 and Corinth C-63-104 (upper right)

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