

after Christ. Each tomb had a vaulted roof; but the vaults in their entirety and most of the walls had fallen as the result of earthquake or wash-out (the clay on which the tombs were built was subject to rapid erosion). The finds from these tombs were few. Among the significant ones are: three inscribed lead plaques, each folded but not pierced by a nail as is common with the lead curse tablets (these plaques have not yet been cleaned or deciphered); several gold bracteates which seem to bear in relief the figure of a dove in flight (as on the coins of Sikyon).

It is proposed that the excavations of Corinth be resumed in April of 1962, when work will be concentrated in the Byzantine levels south of the South Stoa, at the sanctuary on the slopes of Acrocorinth, and in the area of the ancient quarry to the south of the Odeion.

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#### DISCOVERIES AT ISTHMIA (1961)

##### The Sanctuary of Poseidon

The excavation at Isthmia in the spring and summer of 1961 was largely supplementary. In the Precinct of Poseidon (Plate 72a) we finished the excavation, except for some cleaning that will be done in connection with the final study and publication of the Sanctuary. In the northeast corner an area in front of the entrance to the Northeast Caves (Plate 75a) was excavated, but nothing was found that would help explain further the use of the caves. Later intruders, who had used the underground chambers as storerooms, had brought changes that obscured the original condition.

One undisturbed corner of the area produced an unexpected discovery of three Persian gold coins (Plate 71c). They are of the kind first introduced by King Darius I (521-486 B.C.) and called after him 'Darics' (Δαρεικοί). Large numbers of these coins were brought to Greece in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C., but these are the first examples found in the excavations either at Corinth or at the Isthmia. Since they came out of debris from the Archaic Temple of Poseidon, which was destroyed by fire about 475 B.C., we may assume that they—like the many silver coins found in earlier campaigns—had

been brought by worshipers as gifts to the Temple.

##### The Theater

Further digging in the Theater (Plate 73b) resulted in valuable confirmation of the date of the original construction. A subterranean channel, designed as outlet for the rain-water that washed down into the orchestra, had been abandoned and filled up about the middle of the fourth century B.C. This drain would, of course, have served its purpose for some time before it was filled up, and we can now with confidence state that the Theater was built before 350, perhaps as early as the fifth century B.C.

##### The Later Stadium

In the area surrounding the Sacred Precinct, exploratory trenches led to the discovery of two new buildings, one—and possibly both—closely related to the Isthmian Games. In the conspicuous hollow to the southeast of the Sanctuary we dug several trenches in the Later Stadium (Plate 72b), which was found to be remarkably well preserved. In 1956, when the Earlier Stadium with its intricate starting line was discovered close to the Temple of Poseidon, it seemed reasonable to conclude that the Later Stadium was a creation from the time of the Roman colony of Corinth. It is now clear that the Early Stadium was abandoned long before the destruction of Corinth in 146 B.C., and that the Later Stadium was constructed in Hellenistic times, perhaps before the end of the fourth century. It is well preserved, except at one corner where a stream has washed away part of the structure. The starting line is of a type known from most Greek stadia, with a double groove to mark the position of the contestants' feet (Plate 71b). Vertical posts set in sockets of lead divided the starting line into 18 sections of ca. 1.505 m. each. On either side of the race track is a water channel opening at intervals into large basins (Plate 73a). A stone walk leading from each basin to the edge of the spectatory shows that the water in the basins was intended for the spectators as well as for the athletes. The sides of the Stadium rose in a series of broad steps on which the spectators sat or stood watching the games. There was a proedria with stone seats near the middle of the Stadium.

It is this building that the Apostle Paul mentions in his First Epistle to the Corinthians 9 : 24, *οὐκ οἰδατε, ὅτι οἱ ἐν σταδίῳ τρέχοντες πάντες μὲν τρέχουσιν, εἰς δὲ λαμβάνει τὸ βραβεῖον*. What this prize was we learn from a beautiful marble head of an athlete, found some years ago in the Theater. He wears a crown of pine twigs, the *φθαρτός στέφανος*, which St. Paul mentions in the same passage. A century later than Paul's visit Pausanias saw this Stadium, which he describes as a building of marble. This is a mistake, unless his remark applies to a marble facade which has not yet been discovered. The seats of the proedria were not of marble and the rest of the spectatory had no stone seats. The only portable object of interest from the Stadium is the flame of a marble torch (Plate 71 a), presumably an imitation of those carried in the torch races that were held in the Stadium.

Only trial trenches could be dug in the Stadium at this time. To lay bare the whole building would be a costly and timeconsuming undertaking. The race track lies buried beneath 2-4 m. of earth. One half of the area is a plowed field, the other half is planted with citrus fruit trees. But a knowledge of this building is essential to our study of the Isthmian sanctuary; and it will be possible by digging a few more trenches among the trees to obtain the necessary measurements and data for a complete restoration (on paper) of the Isthmian Stadium.

#### The West Foundation

Some half a mile to the west of the Sanctuary illicit diggers had some years ago uncovered part of a foundation which at first sight appeared to be that of a temple. Our investigation of the monument revealed that there are only three walls, a long south wall and two short end walls. There was nor, not had there ever been, a wall on the north flank. The foundation may have been an altar terrace, or possibly a grandstand. Among its ruins were found several spear points and strigils of iron, most of them very well preserved (Plate 74 b); the iron trimming of four table legs; and some pottery of the fourth century B.C. It is possible that the monument supported on this foundation adjoined the Hippodrome and would thus have served some purpose in direct connection with the Isthmian Games.

#### The Hellenistic Fortification Wall

At the end of the campaign we continued our investigation of a line of fortification, the existence of which was quite unknown before our survey of the Isthmus in 1957-1958. The wall stretched across the Isthmus, from the harbor of Kenchreai to the vicinity of Modern Corinth. From the type of construction and from the nature of re-used material built into it we learn that the wall is not earlier than 300 B.C. It was probably built as defence against the Gauls who invaded northern Greece in 279 B.C. but were defeated at Delphi with — so it was believed — the miraculous intervention of Apollo.

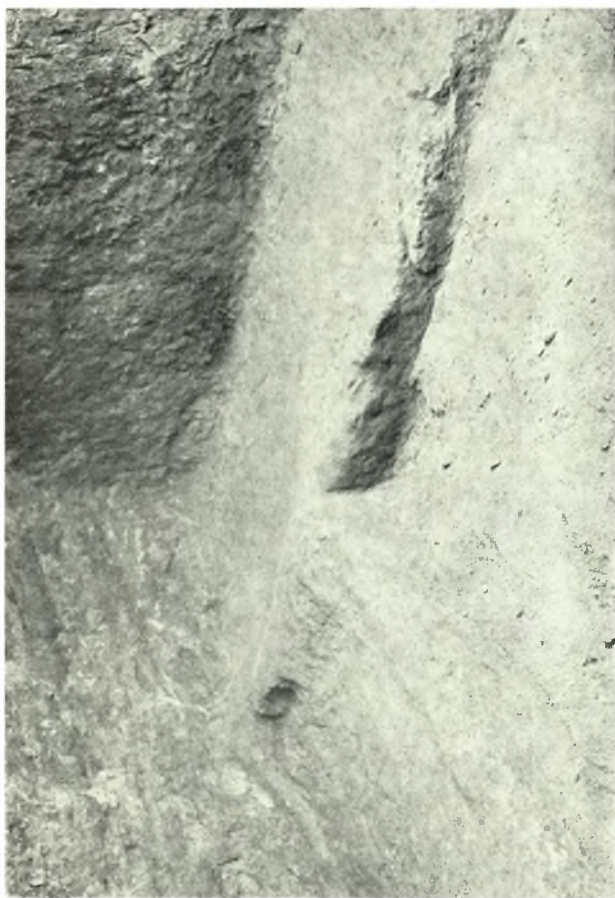
The 1961 campaign at Isthmia was on a small scale. In terms of objects to be exhibited in a museum the results will seem unspectacular, especially when compared with the fruitful campaigns of 1956, 1958, and 1960. But the information obtained this year fills some glaring gaps in our previous knowledge of the site. Though second in importance to the Olympic Games, the Isthmian Games — because of the accessibility of the Isthmus and the attractions offered by Corinth — drew larger crowds than any of the Panhellenic festivals of Greece. The site of these games, with its temples, its cult caves, its altars and secular buildings, all but unknown ten years ago, has gradually been revealed in the excavations in which the University of Chicago is now engaged.

OSCAR BRONEER

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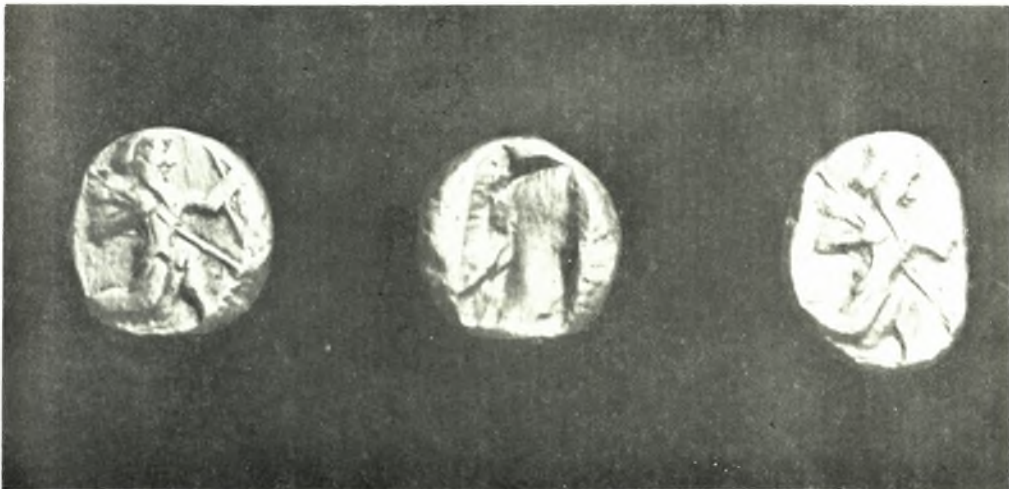
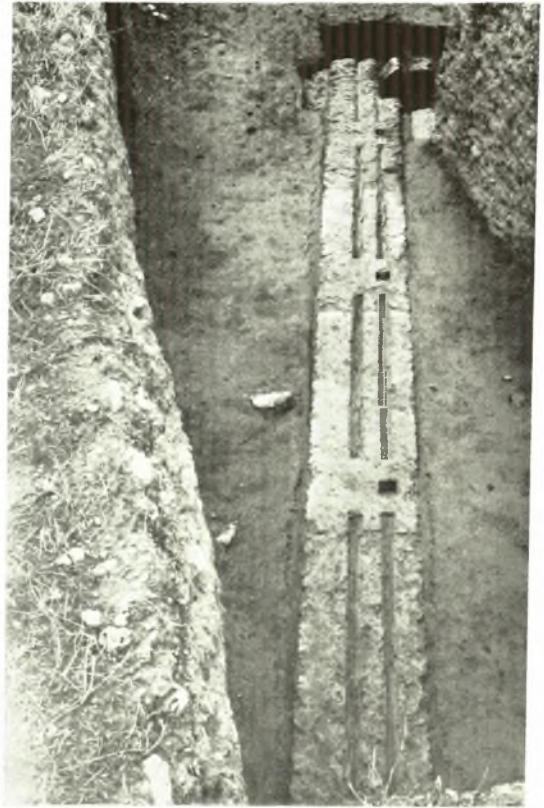
#### MYCENAE 1961

Excavations were carried out at Mycenae from July 10 to August 4, 1961, under the direction of Mrs Elizabeth Wace-French who had been invited by the Ephor of the Argolid, Dr. Nicholas Verdalis, with the consent of the Department of Antiquities, to cooperate in the final clearance and excavation of the houses south of the Tomb of Clytemnestra by the modern road. This work, which had been begun in 1959, was made possible by the moving of the modern road several metres to the west after the discovery of the West House in 1957-8. The project of the British section of the excavation was to complete the excavation of the south west end of the House of the Oil Merchant and the west side of the House of Sphinxes (Plate 78 b and Plan 1). At the close of



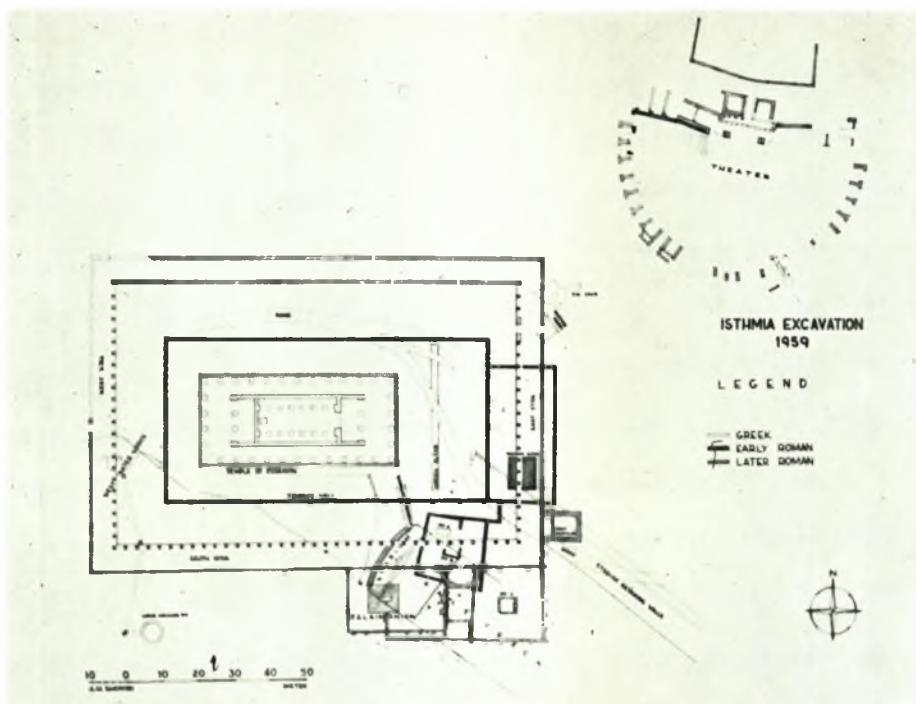
a. Isthmia. Couches in Theater Cave, b. Corinth Excavations, 1961. Wooden musical instrument («lyra») from a well of the late 10th or early 12th century after Christ

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Excavations at Isthmia: a. Marble Torch from Later Stadium, b. Starting Line in the Later Stadium, c. Gold Darics from Entrance Court in front of Northeast Cave

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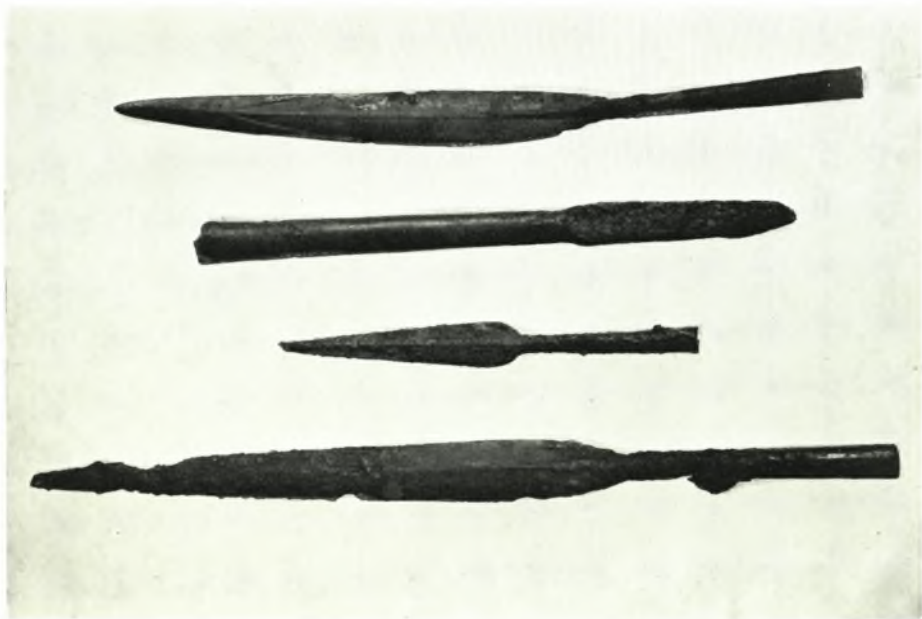
Isthmia: a. Plan of the Sanctuary of Poseidon and Palaimon, and of the Theater,  
b. The Later Stadium seen from the Rachi

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Excavations at Isthmia: a. Basin and stone sill in Later Stadium, b. Kitchen stove in Court of Theater Cave

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Isthmia Excavations: a. Bronze Bull, b. Iron Spear Points and Spear Butt from West foundation

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a. Isthmia. IV cent B.C. Wall, close to entrance to NE. Cave, β. Ἀκρόπολις Μυκηνῶν, τεχνητὸν γέμισμα ἐξ ἀργῶν λίθων σχηματίζον ἄνδρον

O. BRONEER — Γ. ΜΥΛΩΝΑΣ