

It is this building that the Apostle Paul mentions in his First Epistle to the Corinthians 9 : 24, *οὐκ οἴδατε, οτι 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 *φθαγρός 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.

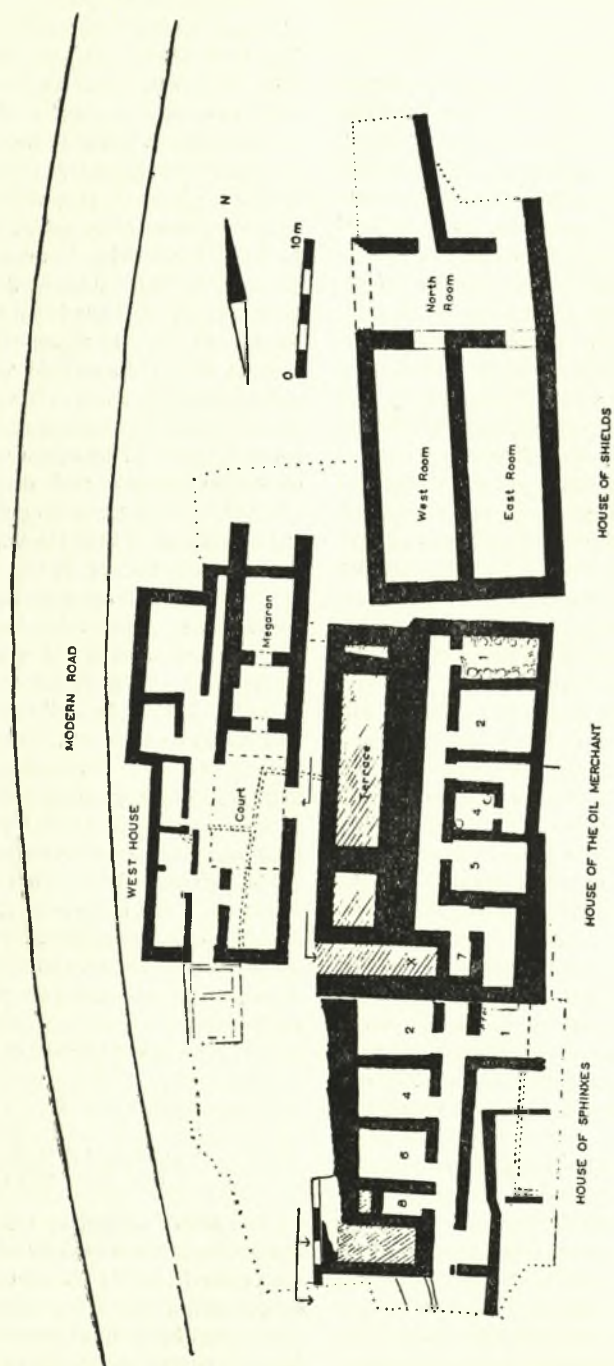
The 1961 campaign at Isthmia was on a small scale. In terms of objects to be exhibited in a museum the results will seem unspectacular, especially when compared with the fruitful campaigns of 1956, 1958, and 1960. But the information obtained this year fills some glaring gaps in our previous knowledge 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.

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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 Verdelis, 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



Plan. 1. General Plan of the site

excavation various measures were taken to tidy the site and to leave it suitable for tourists.

Work on the south west end of the House of the Oil Merchant in 1959 had confirmed what had previously been supposed, that the whole west side of the house was built on a great terrace at a level higher than that of the terrace on which the east side is built. Within the heavy walls of these two terraces was found a fill of soil, stones, and pottery belonging to the construction of the building and therefore of extreme importance for dating it.

This year Room X, the southernmost of the building, was finally cleared. It had previously been tested in 1953 when a fill similar to that of the rest of the west terrace had been found. It is indeed a part of this terrace and was filled up to the level of the floors of the eastern part of the house but no trace was found of any wall at the west and it is thought that this must have been an open passage leading from the roadway at the west into the upper parts of the house. Such passages can be seen today in the terraced houses on the slopes of the citadel at Nauplia.

Traces of earlier building in the form of a rock cut setting for a wall and a plaster floor laid directly on the rock, similar to that found to the north in 1959, were found below the fill. The pottery of the fill confirmed a construction date for the house in the first half of LH III B.

The last excavation on the main part of the House of Sphinxes took place in 1955 when the complete clearance of Room 6 (where tablets were found) to the west wall and a test to the west wall of Room 2 had suggested that the west wall of the building was at a different alignment to the rest of the building, perhaps occasioned by early building to the west. It was therefore of considerable importance that this wall should be completely cleared. This house unlike the House of the Oil Merchant is built directly upon the rock and at the north abuts against the south wall of the House of the Oil Merchant, a strong and heavy terrace wall which ends in a deep rock cutting at the west. It is the nature and possibly the previous cutting of the rock which causes the unusual feature of the west wall, the construction of which varied from room to room as the circumstances required. It is not in fact out of alignment with the rest of the house though slightly displaced

in Room 6 where its construction is weakest.

Interesting details of the construction of the upper storey were found in several places but the most important finds occurred in Room 4. Two more large jars similar to those found in 1954 were discovered in the western part of the room in positions immediately west of the previous ones (Plate 79 a). One is a large open vat, the other a tall necked jug with two belly handles. Beneath the vat on the west side lay a tablet (Plate 79 b). As usual baking had taken place in the burning of the building and in this case only the left hand end had been properly baked; the right hand side crumbled away on being touched. From its position beneath the vat it seems probable that this tablet came from the basement and perhaps lay on a shelf beside the vat. There was considerable evidence of shelves or other such wooden structures at this side of the room. Detailed publication of the tablet and of the excavations has appeared in *Mycenae Tablets III*.

Over the western portion of Rooms 8 and 10 there was considerable Hellenistic building. This area west of the House of Sphinxes and south of the West House was cleared by Dr. Verdelis. The walls of the House of Sphinxes (Plate 78 a) show clearly beneath the Hellenistic levels and this end was, as was originally supposed, probably an entrance to the house at an upper level from the street extending north-south between the house of the Oil Merchant and the West House.

After the excavation three weeks were spent in Nauplia in work on finds from previous seasons and in assisting Dr. Verdelis in the identification of material from the 1920-23 excavations.

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ΑΝΑΣΚΑΦΑΙ ΕΝ ΤΗ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΕΙ
ΤΩΝ ΜΥΚΗΝΩΝ (1961)

Ἡ προσπάθειά μας ἐφέτος συνεκεντρώθη εἰς τὴν ἀνασκαφὴν καὶ μελέτην τῆς βορείου κλιτύος τῆς ἀκροπόλεως, εἰς τὴν περιοχὴν ὅπου τὸ 1959 ἀπεκαλύφθη ἡ κλίμαξ τῆς κυρίας πρὸς τὸ ἀνάκτορον ἀνόδου. Πρὸς τὴν κλίμακα ταύτην ἔφερον ὁδοὶ ἀπὸ τῆς κατευθύνσεως τῆς Πύλης τῶν Λεόντων καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς βορείου Πυλίδος. Ταύτας ἀνεύρομεν ὑπὸ τὰ ὑπολείμματα πυρακτωθέντων καὶ καταπεσόντων τοίχων, οἱ ὅποιοι ὑπεβάσταζον τὰ ἀνδρὰ



Mycenae: a. House of Sphinxes. General View from S., b. House of the Oil Merchant, Room X.
S. face of N. Wall from S.W. (lower)

E. WACE - FRENCH



Mycenae: a. House of Sphinxes, Room 4. Vases from the Wall S.W. corner,
b. A 61-709 Tablet. Light from right

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