

ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΑ
ΑΡΓΟΛΙΔΟΚΟΡΙΝΘΙΑΣ

EXCAVATIONS IN CORINTH, 1964

The principal excavations at Corinth in the spring of 1964 were conducted by Mrs. Saul Weinberg, who undertook to investigate several possible sites of ancient potters' kilns. Her investigations lasted from April 2 to 24. In the first area tested, just outside the northeast part of the city, a rectangular kiln was uncovered. Traces of the kiln had been visible on the surface for many years; it was thought that the kiln might be not much later than the sixth or fifth century B.C. establishment just north of it, which had been dug in 1939. Excavation, however, proved it to be of Roman date, probably of the mid-fourth century. The structure was preserved in part up to the floor level; the two firing chambers retained stubs of the arches which once covered them. The kiln's products, found in fragments, were tiles of various sorts and terracotta discs for the hypocausts of bath houses.

After exposing this kiln, Mrs. Weinberg excavated another site west of the city (near a spring called Kokkinovrysi) where the cutting of a modern road some years ago had exposed part of a rectangular kiln. Although of different construction, this kiln proved not much later in date than the first one excavated. Here both firing chambers were still roofed and a small portion of the kiln wall, above the floor was preserved (P. I. 129 a-b). Unfortunately the front of the kiln had been removed by the road grading. The products here were roof tiles of several varieties. The fragments are quite small and not one shape could be restored. Adjoining this kiln was found a structure circular within, rectangular without, whose purpose is difficult to determine, but which seems most probably to have been for slaking lime. As it encroaches on the east wall of the kiln, it would seem to be later, but perhaps not much later, than the kiln.

Some twenty meters east of this was a lime kiln (also partly cut off by the road) probably of the late fifth century A.D. This happened to be built over a manhole leading into a tunnel system of the early Roman period. This system, only partially investigated, proved to involve at least two tunnels at different levels. By the fifth

century it had been filled up and had gone out of use, for the lime kiln was obviously constructed without knowledge of the existence of the tunnel beneath.

Finally, a chance investigation on the slope of a hill south and west of Kokkinovrysi, near the spring called Vrysoula, resulted in the discovery of an enormous cache of Corinthian pottery of the fifth century B.C. of types hitherto hardly known: lekythoi with funnel mouths (P. I. 130 a, left) bearing curious animal and bird figures painted in black with incised details (P. I. 130 b, 131 a); black vases with decoration in white (P. I. 130 a, right), and other unusual shapes are characteristic of the deposit. Some vessels show an interesting revival of the older Corinthian style of painting with filling ornament (P. I. 131 c-d). Many thymiateria occur (P. I. 131 b) as well as numerous lamps, a few terracotta figurines and some moulds. The deposit clearly seems to be from a sanctuary, but this has not yet been located. However, on the hill, just above the site of the pottery deposit there has been discovered a part of a marble tympanum block with central relief medallion (the latter only partly preserved); the workmanship is of the 2nd century A.D. This block implies the existence of a temple in Roman times, perhaps the successor to the classical shrine.

During the summer excavation was resumed in the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore on the north slope of Acrocorinth. Work began on August 10 and continued for two six-week periods under the direction of Mr. Ronald Stroud. One of the more significant results gained was the discovery of the eastern limit of the sanctuary. This is formed by a solidly built north-south wall which marks the eastern limit of at least two rooms which were in use throughout the archaic and classical periods. Beyond this wall to the east no structures were discovered and the three long test trenches which were dug in the area outside this wall produced no stratification: disturbed fill containing Greek and Roman pottery continued all the way down to bedrock.

A second area explored lies to the north of the previous excavation in the Sanctuary of Demeter. Here we investigated the construction of a large terrace wall which seems to stretch across most of the sanctuary area on an east-west line. Below this terrace a well-preserved adult skeleton was found lying on its back on

a hard layer of clay which contained pottery of the classical period. No trace of grave construction was discovered. The body was apparently laid out in the ground with no cover placed over it, since directly above it and partly hiding the skeleton is a small rubble wall. The circumstances which dictated this burial within the sacred area are by no means clear.

To the south and above the terrace wall we have exposed two small rooms which, to judge from the beddings for couches that are preserved on three sides, seem to have been modest dining halls. The pottery above the hard-packed clay floors is classical in date. A small rectangular niche in the southeast corner of the eastern room may have been used for storage of cooking utensils or perhaps for preparing food.

In the area to the west of the previous excavation we have cleared a narrow strip along the southern edge of the sanctuary. The discovery of numerous terracotta architectural fragments, including several lion-head spouts of Roman date, suggests that a Roman stoa (?) was once located here. Foundations for the north and south walls have appeared, together with a poros water channel along the south foundation (the front of the building, looking up the hill slope). There was possibly a classical predecessor to this stoa. Above the stoa to the south rock-cut steps create an apparent theatral area for which the stoa façade might have served as *scenae frons*. A little lower down the hill, to the north of the Roman stoa, two walls constructed of massive squared blocks were exposed. It is hoped that these two walls, which are certainly the most impressive discovered in the sanctuary to date, will prove to belong to a classical building of major importance to the site.

Terracotta figurines (P l. 132 a) and miniature votives (offering trays and *liknons* and even rattles and a sprinkler (P l. 132 b) have continued to turn up at a steady rate, but we have not yet encountered any important, closely defined deposits. The most important finds include: an Attic black-figured *epinetron* of the late 6th century B.C.; a fragment of a black-figured vase illustrating a temple façade with sculptured pedimental figures (P l. 132 c); more figurines of women holding pigs; a large-scale terracotta head of a barbarian (?) with full beard and moustache (P l. 133 a); and numerous fragments of large-scale terracotta scul-

pture. Four clay *pinakes* bear inscriptions which were written before firing (P l. 133 b); these are oblong in shape and all were inscribed by the same hand. Each tablet bears a single name in the genitive case, and of the four preserved (ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΥ, ΟΛΟΛΥΝΓΟΥΣ, ΑΛΦΙΑΙΑΣ, ΙΩΓΡ[ΑΦΟΥ]) none appears to be a personal name. The meaning of these inscriptions and the purpose for which they were made are not clear.

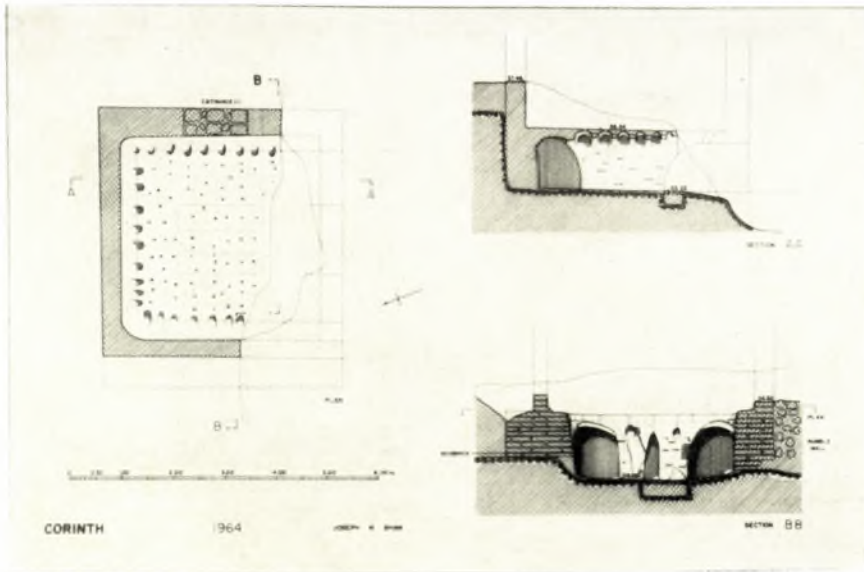
During the year Mr. Charles K. Williams, Assistant Field Director of the Corinth excavations, continued his work of conservation in the North West Shops, just below the Archaic Temple to the south; he also undertook the installation of a new outdoor architectural museum adjacent to the Museum building on the south. Mr. Photios Zachariou, technician of the Greek Service of Antiquities and Restoration, whose services were generously put at our disposal by the Service, removed and remounted on canvas the wall paintings from the corridor of a Roman tomb excavated in 1962 to the north of the north city wall (P l. 134 a - c). Mr. Demetrios Skordos, for whose services we are also indebted to the Greek Service of Antiquities and Restoration, has almost completed the conservation of the early Roman mosaic pavement from the house excavated in Anaploga in 1962 and 1963. Both the wall paintings and the mosaic will be on display in the Corinth Museum in the very near future.

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INVESTIGATIONS AT KENCHREAI

Excavations at Kenchreai, port of ancient Corinth, were carried out by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens during July and August of 1964. The work was done by the Indiana University and the University of Chicago, with E. S. Ramage and R. L. Scranton representing the two institutions as field directors. The general objective was to extend the investigation, begun in 1963, of the arrangement of the ancient town and port installations (P l a n 1). In the first campaign it had been established that at the southwestern end of the harbor (AREA A) there was an early church lying over a complex of warehouses and other Roman structures extending from the shore out on to a jutting pier with a mole projecting still



Corinth: a. Kiln at Kokkinovrysi, plan and sections, b. Kiln at Kokkinovrysi

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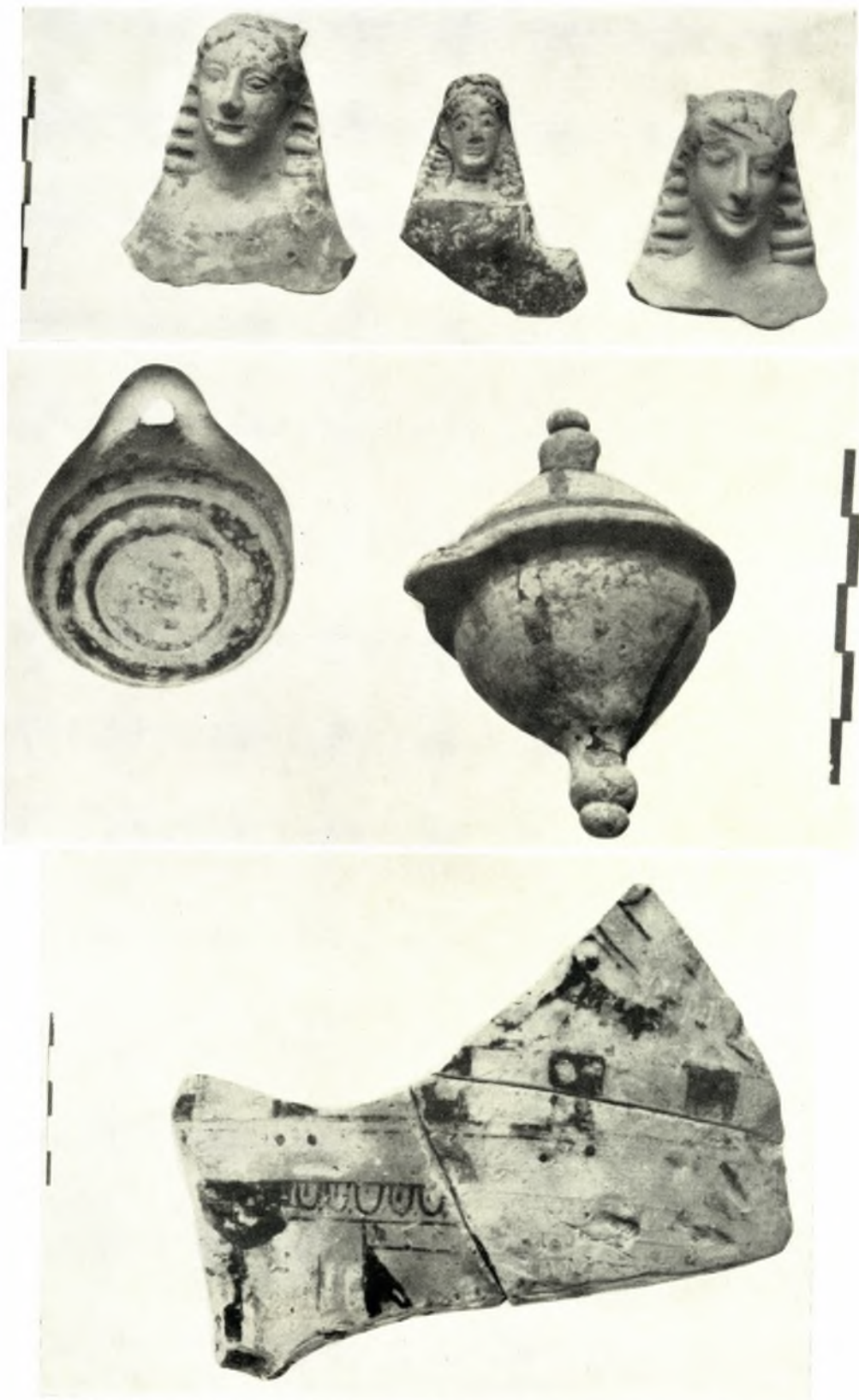
Corinth. Vrysoula Pottery Deposit: a. Vases, b. Lekythos, detail

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Corinth. Vrysoula Pottery Deposit: a. Lekythos, detail, b. Thymiaterion (in use) c - d. Oinochoes

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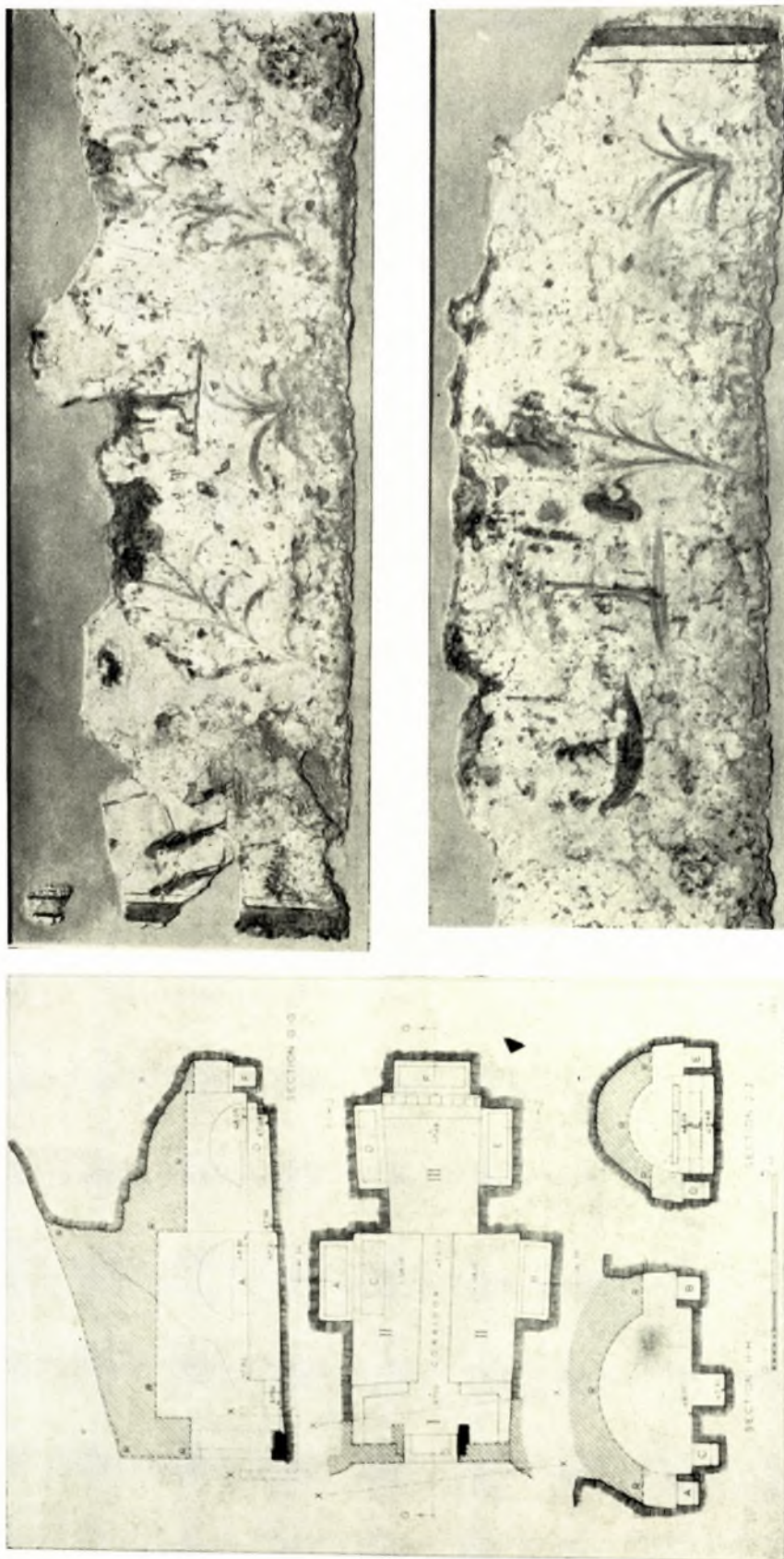


Corinth. Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore: a. Terracotta Heads, b. Rattle and Sprinkler, c. Black - figure Sherd
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Corinth. Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore: a. Terracotta Head of a Barbarian, b. Incised Pinakes

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Corinth. Early Roman Painted Tomb: a. Plan and sections, b. East Wall of Corridor, North Half, c. East Wall of Corridor, South Half

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