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I.—Excavations At Sparta, 1908§ 2.—The Sanctuary of Artemis Orthia.—The Excavation

R. M. Dawkins

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LACONIA.

I.—EXCAVATIONS AT SPARTA, 1908.

§ 2.—THE SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS ORTHIA.—THE EXCAVATION.

(PLATES I., II.)

THIS year again the excavation of the sanctuary of Artemis Orthia claimed the greater part of the resources of the School, and with the exception of a few days at the Greek Easter the work went on continuously from March 23rd to the end of May under the charge of the Director, assisted in the field especially by Messrs. Wace and Thompson. The surveying was undertaken by Mr. Thompson, and the plans and sections accompanying this report are based upon his measurements. The comparative smallness of the area excavated, and the necessity for working slowly, in order that as far as possible no detail of the stratification should pass unnoticed, precluded the employment of any large number of workmen, and the number never rose above thirty-five, and was often much lower.

When the work of the season began, the interior of the sixth-century temple and the space occupied by the arena of the Roman amphitheatre had been dug down to the virgin soil, the archaic altar below the arena had been uncovered, and the space surrounding it shewn to have been roughly paved with cobble-stones, upon which a rich deposit of archaic votive offerings had accumulated. This altar and pavement had been attributed to the ninth century B.C.,¹ and had been shewn to have been

¹ The preservation of this cobble pavement is very unequal. Scattered stones at its level are never lacking, but they only form an unbroken pavement in certain parts. The exact state in which it was found below the arena is shown in *B.S.A.* xiii. p. 66, Fig. 12.

covered with a layer of sand and gravel, by which the level of the site was raised at the building of the sixth-century temple. The campaign of 1907 had thus left two main desiderata. The first was to find the temple contemporary with the archaic altar, and the second to reach the limits of the cobble pavement, and thus to ascertain the extent of the early hieron with which it seemed to be co-extensive, and at the same time to recover as many as possible of the votive offerings with which its surface was strown.

The Roman Amphitheatre and Sixth-Century Temple.

This programme involved the removal of part of the foundations of the Roman amphitheatre, and this was our first task. Three sections were successively attacked: the region east of the altar, where the existence of a wall beneath the Roman work had been discovered by a trial trench in 1906;¹ the northern part between the temple and the river, beneath which very rich finds were made in the first days of the excavation; and the triangular piece south of the temple and between it and the experimental cutting made in 1906 known as Trench *A*.² This last part lay between a very rich area immediately in front of the temple and the point in Trench *A*, just west of the Roman foundation, which had yielded an immense mass of fragments of terracotta masks at the end of the first season of the work.³ It was fortunate that in the second and third of these regions there was already practically nothing of the amphitheatre left except the concrete foundation, whilst in the first it was possible to leave the outer part of the building with the external row of piers untouched. The exact amount of the foundation thus removed is marked on the plan in Pl. I., which shews that the whole northern half has now disappeared. In removing the foundation north of the temple a small piece was left adjacent to the north-east corner, in order to preserve some of the stone slabs set on edge, by which it was originally surrounded. The poverty of the archaic deposit at this point had made it plain that not much was likely to be lost by doing this.

¹ The position of this trench and the wall revealed by it are shewn in the plan in *B.S.A.* xiii. Pl. II. The wall is seen between Rays XI. and XII., and is the corner marked *A* on the plan on Pl. I. in this volume.

² The plan on Pl. I. marks the edge of this trench. Its whole extent is given in the plan of the sanctuary in *B.S.A.* xii. Pl. VIII. 1.

³ In *B.S.A.* xii. p. 324, where this find is recorded, the word 'east' in the bottom line of the page is an error for 'west.'

The interior structure of the Roman foundation is somewhat remarkable. The upper surface of the raft is formed by a firm floor of stones bound together by hard mortar or cement, and on this floor the walls and piers of the structure are built without their stones being bonded at all with those of the foundation. Some 65 m. below the surface of the raft is a second floor of mortar, and the space between these two floors is occupied by a system of mortared walls, the interspaces being filled simply by loose stones. The direction of these walls is either concentric with the ring of the arena or radial to it, the concentric walls being about 2.50 m., and the radial from 1.00 m. to 1.50 m. apart. They have only one face, which in the concentric walls is on the outer curve. It was noticed that where the foundation abutted on the temple, these interior walls were not radial, but parallel with the edge of the foundation, and that this arrangement gave way to the radial system as the distance from the temple increased, the object of the builders being simply to divide the whole space into rough equal rectangles. Below this system of walls and floors the foundation consists generally of stones thrown in at random with very little mortar, to a further depth of about .75 m.

As in the two previous years, a number of inscriptions were found built into this foundation. They are published below by Mr. Woodward, and as the precise position in which they were found has no importance no more need be said about them here. One of them, however, is of interest for the architectural history of the sanctuary, as it gives us a picture of the façade of the temple as it was in the Roman period. The photograph of the stone on page 95 shews that it was a Doric distyle *in antis*. We owe this relic of the building to the fact that Xenokles, the son of Aristokritos, victor three times in the musical contest, saw in the three spaces between the *antae* and columns of the façade a suitable frame for the three sickles which had rewarded his skill, and made his stele a copy of the front of the temple, in which the pediment filled the gable-shaped top of the slab. Close architectural details are not to be looked for in such a work, and in particular no conclusions can be drawn as to the decoration of the pediment. The temple represented is the Hellenistic reconstruction of the sixth-century building.

A probably authentic relic of the sixth-century temple itself, however, was found in the Roman masonry, in the shape of a fragment of a Doric capital, which, as the drawing of the profile in Fig. 1 shews, had the

characteristic archaic form. It had been used again as building material and cut into quarters for this purpose, and the piece recovered is one of these. The shape of the curve and the proportion of the height to the width of the echinus are almost exactly those of the archaic temple of Tiryns, the first and earliest of the series given by Choisy to illustrate the development of the Doric capital.¹

East and south of the temple wall the plan shews certain round holes about 60 m. in diameter, at distances from the wall of from 1.20 to 2.50 m. These were filled with sand and passed through the archaic deposit from the layer of sand above to the virgin soil below. Similar holes were also observed outside the north wall of the temple, but their actual position was

FIG. 1.—PROFILE OF ARCHAIC CAPITAL FROM THE TEMPLE OF ORTHIA.
(SCALE 1 : 4.)

not sufficiently accurately observed for it to be possible to put them on the plan. They seem to be the traces of the holes made for the scaffolding when the temple was built. Such holes would naturally get filled with the sand with which the site was then covered.

Houses East of the Altar.

The remains found below the Roman foundation east of the altar must now be described. A glance at the plan will shew that a net-work of walls was uncovered, the majority of which clearly belonged to houses. None of them were preserved to a greater height than about a metre, and

¹ Choisy, *Histoire de l'Architecture*, i. p. 315.

they were broken off immediately below the Roman foundation. As well as the plan on Pl. I., the sectional drawing on the line *G-H* (Pl. II.) illustrates the various points of this description.

Parallel to the length of the altar and 3·50 m. east of it, the plan shews a wall running along the edge of the pavement, which is marked as the limit of the archaic hieron. This wall is interrupted in the middle, and the part to the south of the break is slightly lower in level than the northern section. The methods of construction are also different. The

FIG. 2.—HOUSES OUTSIDE THE WALL OF THE ARCHAIC HIERON.

northern part, of which only one course remained, was built of roughly dressed, roundish blocks, whilst the southern consists of several courses of limestone slabs. It appears in the photograph in Fig. 2, which was taken after the removal of the northern part. The southern section is evidently the earlier. Both pieces of the wall lie partly inside the space occupied later by the Roman arena, and projected slightly from the vertical face formed by the excavation of the arena in 1907. With regard

to its date it is to be noted that even the southern part is later than the layer of sand which, as the plan shews, extends some 1·10 m. beyond it eastwards and could be traced below its foundation. The whole structure dates therefore from between the beginning of the sixth century and the building of the Roman amphitheatre. The lowness of its level in comparison with that of the later altar, as shewn in the section on the line *G-H* in Pl. II., suggests a date early in this period.

On the plan the line of this wall has been produced northwards by a dotted line, and the whole extent marked as the limit of the archaic hieron. This is the inference drawn from the fact that no archaic objects were found to the east of this line nor any traces of the cobble pavement. The earliest objects were sherds of Laconian III. pottery, such as were found with the deposit of masks south of the temple, which may be dated to the early part of the sixth century, and most of the finds are even later. The important point is, that nothing was found not clearly later than the latest objects in the deposit between the cobble pavement and the bottom of the sand, and later therefore than anything associated with the archaic altar and the sanctuary as it was before the sand was laid down and the sixth-century temple built. This distinction in date was equally plain to the north of the actual wall, and justifies the production of the line shewn in the plan. As in the regions north and south of the temple, the outer margin of the slope of the layer of sand is a little way outside the edge of the cobble pavement.

Of the houses in this region nothing is left but the foundations. There are no doors and hardly any signs of floors, and the walls are poorly built of small frequently undressed stones. Their date may be the fifth or fourth century or even later. There are indications of two periods, but they cannot be clearly distinguished, and the most that can be said is that the houses lasted long enough to undergo a certain amount of rebuilding and alteration. The finds are of much greater interest. The earliest and richest deposit was that found in cutting the trial trench *B* in 1906, which opened up the corner of wall marked *A* in the plan, and exhausted the space between the two houses. The later objects were found elsewhere, and were especially numerous in the region immediately south of the bed of the mill stream. Taken altogether the finds range in date from the period immediately succeeding the laying down of the sand and the building of the later temple to the late fourth

century, which is represented by a stratum just below the Roman foundation.¹ This yielded a few fragments of Megarian bowls and some black glazed Hellenistic pottery with a ribbed surface. Some fragments with the incised inscription $\chi\lambda\omega\nu\iota\varsigma \tau\alpha\iota \beta\omega\rho\theta\epsilon\iota\alpha\iota$ are interesting as shewing that these houses, although outside the archaic hieron, yet bore some close relation to the sanctuary.

The stratification was in some places a good deal confused, but in general it is well preserved, and exhibits the Laconian style in degeneration, a process given in detail by Mr. Droop below in the description of Laconian IV.-VI. The first stage, the disappearance of the slip, is accompanied by a new class of bone carvings. These are oblong plaques in which the ground of the design is cut away, leaving the figure, which is worked upon only one side, standing free. The most common subject, of which numerous examples, mostly fragmentary, have been found, is a water-bird so designed as to fill the whole of the oblong space. Examples of this and of a warrior in the same style are shown in Fig. 3.²

FIG. 3.—FRETWORK CARVINGS IN BONE.
(SCALE 4 : 5.)

The Hellenistic pottery and Megarian bowl fragments mentioned

above have no local characteristics, except of course the inscriptions,

¹ The position of these objects amongst the walls is shewn in the section on *G-H*, where they are marked as 'deposits posterior to the building of the later temple.'

² Other samples of these plaques have been published in the previous report, *B.S.A.* xiii. Fig. 30, *c* and *f*, p. 90, and Fig. 31, *d*, *e*, *h* and *i*, p. 101, where they are erroneously said to be ivory. The warrior's head in the figure in Fig. 3 above, is the same as that reproduced in the previous report, and does not actually belong to the body, but was photographed with it to shew the complete type.

and the late fifth- and early fourth-century deposit (marked by Laconian VI. pottery) is the latest of any distinctively Spartan work.

FIG. 4.—LEAD FIGURINES AND POTTERY (LAONIAN VI.) OF ABOUT 400 B.C.
(SCALE 4 : 5.)

It shews the extreme decadence of the native art. The painted pottery has entirely lost its fine slip, and has become a coarse black-figured

style marked by a monotonous leaf pattern. The almost infinite variety of types of lead figurines found earlier are reduced to hardly more than three: deer, small wreaths, and plain discs. The earlier vigorous and varied types of masks are represented only by small terracotta faces of poor dull work. The group in Fig. 4 shews examples of these various objects including two sherds with part of the name of the goddess (ΦΟΡΘΕΙΑΙ) in painted letters. A fair number of fragments of these dedicated vases were recovered.

The penultimate stage of the local pottery recovered from these houses (Laconian V.) has some interest, as it proves to be the same as that found in 1907 in the deposit of burned debris of sacrifices accumulated round the *poros* blocks below the Roman altar, which were recognised as belonging to an altar in use with the later temple.¹ The evidence of the numerous lead figurines agrees with that of the pottery as to the date of this deposit, and shews that it was contemporary with another at the same level near the south-east corner of the later temple. According to Mr. Droop's scheme of dating for the pottery, these deposits fall between 500 and 425 B.C., although there is no reason why the altar itself should not be somewhat earlier, and perhaps contemporary with the sixth-century temple.

Outside the limit of the archaic hieron to the north of these houses, several fragments of large terracotta antefixes were found painted with scale-patterns in colours. It is not yet clear to what building these belonged, and their publication is deferred in the hope that the complete excavation of the site may yield further evidence and possibly more pieces.

The Primitive Temple.

In 1907 it was thought possible that the walls of these houses, whose presence underneath the Roman foundation had already been discovered in 1906 by means of the trial Trench *B*, would prove to be those of the ancient temple contemporary with the archaic altar, and the search for this was obviously the next step in our work. It was impossible that there should not have been from the beginning some sort of temple, however small, to house the image: the sanctuary demanded a temple as well as an altar, and it was with these ideas that we began this year's work by removing the

¹ For these remains see *B.S.A.* xiii. p. 64, and the plan and section on Pls. II. and III., and the section on *G-H* in this report (Pl. II.).

Roman foundation east of the altar. The account of these walls given above will shew that their claims to have any connection with the ancient temple were soon disposed of by the lateness of the objects found amongst them, and finally by the discovery that they lay outside the limits of the archaic hieron.

The temple was actually found in the middle of May, in digging the region south of the sixth-century temple. Its position is shown on the plan on Pl. I.

The previous finds which led us to suppose that the removal of the Roman masonry in this region would give important results have already been briefly mentioned, but some further details may now be conveniently noted. It was slightly to the west of the point at which the plan now shews the edge of the cobble pavement disappearing below the Roman foundation, that the great mass of terracotta masks were found, when Trench *A* was cut in the first year of the work, and the excavation of 1907 shewed that the richest parts of the archaic stratum were inside the later temple and just outside its south-east corner. Quite apart from the possibility of finding any building, the excavation of this area was therefore extremely promising. It was also observed that the archaic deposit was thicker here than elsewhere, presenting the form of a low mound. This appeared from the study of its form in the region north of the temple where a face was left at right angles to the temple wall in the position of the section line *E-F*, and from the observation of a similar rise in its upper surface, where the stratum appeared in section at the edge of the arena to the south of the temple. The notebooks of the 1907 work shewed further that the deposit was very thick outside the south-east corner of the temple and that its surface sloped upwards inside the temple from north to south. The calculated centre of this heap in the upper surface of the archaic deposit fell on the plan just south of the middle of the south wall of the temple, and when it was further noticed that a perpendicular line through the centre of the ancient altar passed across this centre it seemed that this mound might well conceal some remains of importance.

First the Roman foundation was removed, and the earth over the rest of the space to the same depth. In the lower level of the masonry was found a large inscribed statue-base of the Aurelian period, published below by Mr. Woodward.

The process of excavating this region down to the virgin soil proved

to be one of some difficulty. It soon became plain that the strata were not level, but that they sloped downwards from the wall of the temple and in the southern part of the area rose again with the rise of the virgin soil. The method followed in other parts of the site, this year as well as last year, of dividing the area into small plots, and digging each of these plots in layers, here required to be supplemented by a careful following up of each kind of earth or sand as the stratum containing it dipped, and by keeping the objects from each separate. In such circumstances the actual level of any object is of much less importance than the kind of earth in which it is found, for when debris accumulates on a sloping surface and the strata consequently dip, objects of the same date will be found at different levels, and the same level will yield objects of very different dates. In order to record the position and shape of these deposits it was necessary to make frequent plans of the area being excavated, keeping the surface of the whole space always level. In practice these plans were made at every metre of depth. In this way none of the evidence of the stratification was lost, and we could be sure during the excavation that at the end of the work it would be possible to construct a sectional drawing along any line that might seem desirable. As before, every sherd was washed and examined before anything was thrown away, and the contents of each level of each separately dug plot kept in its own tray until the end of the examination, before which hardly anything was rejected, and then only after a record had been made. The area excavated this year was divided into 84 such plots. When the finds were especially numerous or important the earth was not only dug out with knives, but was also washed in sieves, that no fragments should escape. The broken condition of many of the best finds made this precaution particularly necessary.

The result of this method is shewn in the drawing of the section on the line *E-F*, taken at right angles to the long walls of the sixth-century temple (see Pl. II.). The following account has been prepared with constant reference to this drawing and to the plan on Pl. I.

The first deposit containing anything earlier than a few Roman objects found near the surface was that marked on the section on *E-F* as laid down immediately after the construction of the sixth-century temple. It was traced, as the section shews, running down hill away from the south wall of the temple over the slope of the mass of sand, and then rising towards the south, where it immediately overlies the rise of the virgin soil.

It was formed, in fact, by the rubbish thrown out of the temple falling into the little valley formed between the natural slope of the original hollow, in which the sanctuary stood, and the sloping edge of the mound of sand by which the level was artificially raised and the hollow converted into a flat-topped tumulus. That the deposit belongs to the period immediately after the building of the temple and the laying down of the sand is shewn by the character of the objects found, for the pottery, lead figurines and some of the bone carvings form close links with the latest finds below the sand, which come in the main from the uppermost stratum in the region north of the temple described below. The pottery is 'Cyrenaic' (Mr. Droop's Laconian III. and IV.) and its initial date must be about the beginning of the sixth century, to which, rather than, as last year, to the middle of the century, the building of the later temple and the laying down of the sand must now be assigned. This date and its consequences are further discussed below. The most marked feature of the deposit, however, was the enormous mass of terracotta masks, mostly fragmentary. This was the remainder of the accumulation already tapped in 1906 by the trial Trench *A*, when a considerable number were discovered, although only a fraction of the many hundreds found this year. All the specimens then taken out came from the bottom of the *V* formed by the whole deposit (cf. the sectional drawing), and, judged only from their level, seemed to belong to the same period as the mass of archaic objects, now assigned to the seventh century. The complete excavation, however, by bringing to light the circumstances in which the accumulation was formed, as they now appear from the shape and position of the deposit, has dissociated them from the objects found below the sand, and by enabling the development of the pottery to be traced through a stratified series, has placed them clearly later. Below the sand fragments of masks are rare; only about 200 were found as against many thousands from this later deposit. It is also remarkable that the only place below the sand where they were at all frequent was in the region north of the temple, where the under-sand deposit shewed signs of being later than elsewhere. We may therefore now say that these masks began to be made at the end of the seventh century, and were in commonest use in the sixth. By the latter part of the fifth century the large masks had given way to the small, smoothly-made terracotta faces found in the higher levels among the houses outside the hieron east of the altar associated with Laconian

VI. pottery. By that time the old grotesque spirit had entirely disappeared.¹

The continuation of this V-shaped deposit was traced again on the north side of the temple running down hill towards the river over the slope of the sand, but not on this side rising again. The deposit here, in fact, runs over and outside the mass of sand down to the river, where it occupies the same level as the earlier deposits below the sand, which appear on the river bank at a lower point than, that is to say east of, the deposit in question. Thus the objects found along the bank of the river in the first days of the excavation in 1906 now appear not to be all of the same date. Those found lower down the bank belong to the period of the older temple, and those higher up, although at the same level, to this later period, and it is interesting to note that the masks then found all came from the upper part, and thus belonged to the same deposit, in which they have now been found in such abundance. The difficulty caused by the very early date which some of the objects found lower down the bank then seemed to impose upon them, has in this way been removed. The point on the bank at which the earlier deposit below gives way to the later deposit above, is naturally that at which the hieron-area ceases, marked by the cutting of its limit, the edge of the cobble pavement, by the line of the erosion of the river. This point falls almost exactly north of the north-east corner of the sixth-century temple, just by the figures '1906' on the plan.

Below this deposit of the masks the layer of sand was found on both sides of the temple, the lower surface being fairly level, but the upper sloping downwards away from the centre of the site. On both sides we were at the edge of the flat-topped tumulus of sand, which formed the platform in front of the later temple. The plan shews that the edge of the layer of sand was reached on each side of the temple. Resting on the edge of the sand are two pieces of rough wall, one north and one south of the temple, running parallel with its side walls. The plan shews them disappearing towards the west at the limit of the excavation. Nothing can be said of them, beyond that they stood at the edge of the later hieron.

Below this sand we found, again on each side of the temple, a layer of small chips of stone derived from the dressing of the blocks used for the walls, and a reference to the day-book of the work of the previous year

¹ A specimen is shewn in Fig. 4 above.

shewed that a similar layer had been found inside the temple at exactly the same level. This layer is marked on the sectional drawing.

Below this layer of chips was the deposit of archaic votive offerings, the rise in the surface of which has already been mentioned as affording an indication of the presence of the remains of a building to the south of the later temple. The excavation of the archaic deposit in this region soon justified this surmise. The earth immediately outside the wall of the later temple, instead of being the usual dark *humus*, in which the archaic objects are buried elsewhere, was of the red colour characteristic

FIG. 5.—VIEW OF THE SIXTH-CENTURY TEMPLE AND THE REMAINS OF THE PRIMITIVE TEMPLE.

of the remains of brickwork. The stone slabs set on edge, which afterwards proved to be the back wall of the primitive temple, also appeared, and the objects inside them, being later in date than those outside, shewed that they were from the interior of a building, for at levels deep enough for the Geometric pottery to have begun elsewhere, the objects inside the slabs were still of the Orientalising style. It is natural to suppose that outside the building rubbish of past years would be

allowed to accumulate ; whilst the interior was kept clear and the objects found in it would belong to the latest period of its existence, and thus be of much later date than the debris at the same level outside. The floor of the building was only a few centimetres above the virgin soil, and when this point of the work was reached, the remains of the south wall was uncovered, and the building presented the appearance shewn in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 and in the plan on Pl. I., where each stone has been drawn with some accuracy. The floor-level was marked by the flat stones

FIG. 6.—THE PRIMITIVE TEMPLE WITH THE EDGE OF THE COBBLE PAVEMENT AND THE SOUTH WALL OF THE SIXTH-CENTURY TEMPLE.

described below, and by the change of the pottery at this point from Orientalising (Laconian I. and II.) to Geometric. These Geometric sherds found beneath the floor, like those beneath the altar and the cobble pavement, prove that, like them, this structure dates somewhat later than the very earliest days of the sanctuary.

This building is without doubt the primitive temple corresponding in date to the archaic altar, and used with it, nor is there any indication

that it was not built at the same very early period, which may be put down to the ninth or even the tenth century. They were the two essential structures of the old hieron, facing one another at the two opposite edges of its pavement. It is noticeable on how much smaller a scale the temple is than the altar.

Although so little of it is preserved, some idea may be formed of its appearance. The remains consist of a part of the west and south walls, the former being cut off by the foundation of the later temple, and the

FIG. 7.—VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE PRIMITIVE TEMPLE.

eastern part of the latter having also disappeared. In the parts preserved all that is left is a foundation course of small undressed stones, evidently taken from the bed of the neighbouring Eurotas, surmounted at the west end by a row of slabs set on edge. The red earth, in which the whole was buried, shews that above this foundation course the wall was built of unbaked brick. A slab projecting from the south wall near the inner end of the building probably marks the front of a small cella about 1·00 m. deep. The earth between the west wall and this projecting slab was not the red

earth derived from brickwork, but of a black colour, and this would shew that the cella was slightly raised above the floor, this black earth found in it being part of the original structure and having formed a kind of dais. On it no doubt rested the Xoanon of the goddess.

The plan and photographs shew that at fairly regular intervals of about 1·25 m. there are small flat stones in the wall set among the round stones, and that each of these small slabs is backed by a vertical flat stone, the whole forming a kind of socket in the foundation course. There is an exact correspondence between these sockets and a row of flat stones set on the floor parallel to the long side of the building. The usual narrowness of early temples, and the fact that no traces were found inside the later temple, make it almost certain that this row of stones forms the centre line of the building, which must therefore have been 4·50 m. wide, and these slabs, whether in the wall or free in the middle, can hardly have served any other purpose than to support baulks of timber, and to keep their lower ends out of the wet. They are not sufficiently substantial to have supported stone columns.¹ The timbers down the middle would have appeared as columns, and those in the walls as a wooden frame to give strength and cohesion to the structure. The whole would thus be a frame house with a row of columns down the middle supporting a gable roof. With any other form of roof, it is not easy to see how the water would have been satisfactorily carried off, a prime necessity with a material which demands so absolutely to be protected from moisture as mud brick. Among the remains a piece of painted tile was found decorated with a tongue-pattern in reddish-brown and a maeander in white paint. Two other pieces similarly painted were found scattered about the site, and probably belonged to this building. They seem to be of the seventh century, and are in any case not as old as the building itself. This, however, may well have been re-roofed at any time.

If we assume that the row of free pillars was in the centre of the building, two important peculiarities in the plan will result ; firstly, it must have had the long and narrow proportions characteristic of many very ancient temples,² and secondly, it must have been divided longitudinally into

¹ The same conclusion is drawn from the same premiss, the smallness and thinness of the bases, by Sotiriades in his account of the temple at Thermos in Aetolia ('*Ep. 'Apχ.* 1900, pp. 160 *sqq.*).

² The length of the remains preserved is only twice the estimated breadth of 4·50 m., but there is no trace of the front corner, and the probability that the rich mass of objects found outside the south-east angle of the later temple formed part of the contents of this building indicates that it was originally very much longer.

two naves. This is a feature of at least four archaic temples: the temple at Thermos in Aetolia, the so-called Basilica at Paestum, the cella of the old temple at Locri and the temple at Neandria; and in discussing this last Durm remarks that this type with the double nave is perhaps the oldest form of temple.¹

This mixed construction of brick and wood resting on a stone foundation brings the building into close relation with the Heraion at Olympia, and gives it a place among the representatives of the earliest stages of the development of the Doric style. In its simplicity of plan it is even more primitive than the Heraion.²

If this temple contained any special cultus objects or vessels, they have disappeared, and were possibly removed when the building was destroyed. It was not, however, by any means empty, but yielded a great number of the same kinds of objects as are found everywhere in the uppermost stratum of the archaic deposit. An exception to this was formed by a large number of small unpainted vases, which only approximate to, without being exactly the same as, those usually found, of which specimens have already been published.³ Hardly any painted pottery was found. This similarity of the contents of the temple to the deposit outside shows that superfluous objects were thrown out from time to time, and that it was in this way that the archaic deposit was formed. The especial richness of the deposit outside the south-east corner of the later temple may now be attributed to the nearness of the primitive temple, and it is even probable that the objects of which it consisted were stored in the western part of the building. Amongst them were a great number of bone and ivory objects, two of which demand especial notice: the ivory group of a lioness with a calf in her mouth being stabbed by a man, and the ivory relief of a ship, both found in this region.⁴ The former is now supplemented by three other ivory carvings of lionesses with their prey, found this year close to the south wall of the later temple, and so far west and thus near to the preserved remains of the primitive temple, as to have

¹ For the temple at Thermos see Sotiriades, 'Εφ. 'Αρχ. 1900 (plan on p. 75); for the basilica at Paestum, Koldewey and Puchstein, *Die Griech. Tempel in Unteritalien und Sicilien*, Pl. 2 and p. 17; for the temple at Locri, *ibid.*, Pl. 1 and p. 3; for Neandria see Koldewey in *Berlin. Winkelmannsprogramm*, LI. 1891 (plan on p. 22).

² Cf. Curtius and Adler, *Olympia*, ii. pp. 28 sqq. (Doerpfeld).

³ *B.S.A.* xiii. p. 172, Fig. 2, e.

⁴ These have been published in *B.S.A.* xiii. p. 89, Fig. 23, and Pl. IV.

certainly formed a part of its contents.¹ These are a good deal larger and finer than the ordinary couchant animals in ivory, of which so many have been found, and it is likely that they were kept as objects of especial importance, the more so as the finest ivories are generally rather earlier than the period of the destruction of the primitive temple.

The Region North of the Later Temple.

At the edge of the Roman arena, just below the N of the word ROMAN on the plan, and 8.00 m. north-east of the north-east corner of the later temple, is a small piece of building which calls for some notice. No more of it is left than two blocks laid like a pair of steps, but these are so carefully bedded that there is no doubt that they are the remains of some building.² They are below, and therefore earlier than the layer of sand, but their level proves them to be later than the altar and the primitive temple. A great mass of objects was found near these blocks, and these, together with the objects found in the region north and west of them, are very important, as representing a period between the early Orientalising pottery (Laconian I.) found elsewhere at the top of the archaic deposit and the pottery (Laconian III.) and objects found immediately above the layer of sand. This character extends to the finds from the uppermost stratum below the sand inside the later temple, and to the finds from the primitive temple itself. Every class of object from these regions included examples demonstrably later than the latest found elsewhere below the sand. The pottery, instead of being exclusively of the Laconian I. style, was occasionally much more developed, some of it being indistinguishable from that found above the sand, and in particular the fine kylix with the four wing-footed men (Pls. III., IV.) was found near these blocks. Details are given below in Mr. Droop's account of the Laconian II. style. The carved bone objects point the same way. Bone xoanon-like figures of the goddess are very characteristic of the deposits immediately succeeding the sand, belonging, that is, to the early days of the later temple, and it is only

¹ The largest of these is .04 m. high, and rests on a base .08 × .05 m., on the lower surface of which is a relief of two women with clasped hands facing one another.

² Slightly to the east of these remains an angle of masonry projects into the arena. Its level is just below that of the Roman pavement, and it therefore belongs to a very much later building, of which a small piece was thus buried in the Roman foundation. Nothing further can be said of its date, and nothing at all of its purpose.

in this region that they have been found below the sand. One was found also on the outside face of a slab forming the back wall of the primitive temple, and was most likely in the cella itself, and got into this position at the destruction of the temple. Fig. 8 shews an example of both of the types which occur, one with arms and a waist, and the other much less human with only a head on the top of a post-like body. The *polos* head-dress and misplaced ears are common to both types, between which no

FIG. 8.—BONE CARVINGS OF ORTHIA. (SCALE 4 : 5.)

chronological distinction can be drawn. The lead figurines, Mr. Wace informs me, have the same intermediate character. A series of these, chronologically arranged, is given in Fig. 9. The examples in the top row are from immediately above the sand. The animals in the second row are from this latest deposit below the sand, and link it with the deposit above, as it is in this latter that figures of animals are common, whilst elsewhere

below the sand they are rare. The figures in the lowest row, on the other hand, hardly occur at all above the sand, but are common to this and the other below-sand deposits. It has been also observed that within limits the later the deposit the more abundant are the lead figurines, and here again

FIG. 9.—LEAD FIGURINES. (SCALE 4 : 5.)

this stratum takes a middle place. The other below-sand deposits have yielded 1705 figurines, this deposit 12,907, and from the stratum immediately above the sand 31,841 have been counted, and there is a good prospect that this last figure will be considerably increased.

Lastly, near the blocks above described, a hoard of reliefs and statuettes in the round, carved in soft limestone, was found, of which some bear short dedicatory inscriptions. Two striking examples are given in Fig. 10. The sphinx is in the round ('21 m. high), and has a recess behind the neck for the attachment of a second wing, which was outstretched symmetrically with the one remaining. The relief of a man is perhaps the crudest and most naïve of the series. Similar carvings were found in 1906 in the trial trench cut through the houses east of the altar, where there was nothing not later than the sand, and other pieces, notably the relief of the

FIG. 10.—CARVINGS IN SOFT LIMESTONE. (SCALE 1 : 5.)

two lions facing one another, already published, were found in the sand itself.¹ Other examples were found this year near this spot immediately above the sand.

Several other inscribed objects furnish further proof of the relative lateness of this deposit. Some ivory flutes with dedicatory inscriptions are interesting, but the most important is a plate with an inscription in white paint on a black ground, which gives the name of the goddess as Orthasia. It reads

[ἀνέθε]κε τῇ Ὀρθασίᾳ.

¹ *B.S.A.* xiii. p. 6, Fig. 3.

These points clearly prove that the deposit in this region goes down to a later period than is represented elsewhere below the sand, and as it links on very closely with the deposits immediately above the sand, it may be assigned to the later years of the seventh century. The accumulation is especially rich round the blocks in question, and as the debris of votive offerings gathered here so thickly in the latest period of the primitive temple, it may be inferred that this building was then in use. It may well have been built early in the century.

It may be pointed out that this close sequence of the deposits below and above the sand, and the connection of the latest below the sand with the primitive temple and of the first above the sand with the later temple, prove that the building of this latter followed immediately upon the destruction of the former.

In view of the 'Cyrenaic' (Laconian III.) pottery found in the deposit immediately above the sand, the position of these inscribed reliefs is of great chronological importance. As this pottery cannot be placed later than the first half of the sixth century, these inscriptions and the others on objects found here must be considered as clearly dated to the end of the seventh century, and the destruction of the primitive temple must fall about 600 B.C. The final date of the archaic deposit below the sand elsewhere than in this region marked by the latest accumulations (*i.e.* the date of the end of Laconian I.) must then be put earlier than this, and Mr. Droop, guided by the time necessary for the development of the Laconian II. phase, suggests about 625 B.C. The modification of the date of the later temple given in last year's report from approximately 550 to 600 has already been mentioned. It was then shewn that the later temple was contemporary with the laying down of the sand over the temple and arena area, by which the level of the site was raised; this event was placed in the sixth century, and, mainly on epigraphical evidence, in the middle of the century, a date which allowed the Orientalising pottery then found beneath the sand to be placed in the seventh and early sixth century. But we have already seen that the present discovery of a great mass of early 'Cyrenaic' (Laconian III.) ware immediately above the sand, and so belonging to the earliest years of the later temple, makes it necessary to put the date of this temple back to the beginning rather than to the middle of the century, and this date must be accepted, as it is easier to put the inscriptions to the end of the seventh than to admit that this pottery can be later than the

first half of the sixth century. It is purposed to publish the inscriptions in the next *Annual*.

It is now possible to reconstruct to some extent the form of the hieron at the different periods. As the sections on *E-F* and *G-H* shew, it occupied the bottom of a shallow natural hollow about 25 m. across from east to west. The sherds of Geometric pottery and ashes found beneath the cobble pavement shew that this hollow was the scene of the cult of Orthia even before the building of the archaic altar and the primitive temple. When these were built, the hollow was already slightly filled with the debris of this earliest period, and over this the cobble pavement was laid and the archaic hieron, as we now know it, constructed. After the long accumulation of the debris of offerings had raised the level from half a metre to a metre all over the site, and had stored up for us the rich series of objects of early Spartan art, the turn of the seventh and sixth centuries saw a great change in the appearance of the site. The primitive temple succumbed, probably to a violent flood, and to avoid the recurrence of such an accident, the level was raised again another metre or more, by the layer of sand brought from the bed of the neighbouring river.

The discovery of the primitive temple and the debris associated with it afford an explanation of the irregularity of the distribution of the archaic deposit over the pavement of the hieron noticed last year. Three centres of accumulation now appear, the altar, the primitive temple, and the later building to the north of it, of which the scanty remains have been described above. The lateness of this building in the archaic period explains the poverty of the Geometric deposit near it, for at that time the accumulation was round the altar and the temple. The poverty of the middle of the arena now explains itself by the absence of any centre to gather debris. It was also noticed last year that the Geometric deposit was particularly thick in the southern part of the arena, and the meaning of this will perhaps be found when the part of the hieron to the south still covered by the Roman foundation is excavated.

When the sand was laid down it formed a flat-topped heap, entirely covering and slightly overlapping the edges of the old hieron and making a large artificially levelled space in front of the newly-built temple. Underneath this heap the remains of the altar and primitive temple lay concealed and safe from any disturbance until our excavation. The altar of the reconstructed hieron lay exactly over the place occupied by its

predecessor, but the new temple lay a little further north and was orientated a few degrees more south than the little shrine which it replaced.

The artificially made piece of ground with its sloping edges in front of the temple coincided very largely with the space occupied later by the arena of the Roman amphitheatre, and therefore in our excavation of 1907 which was confined to the arena, the whole of the upper surface of the sand appeared level, because we had not then reached the sloping sides of the heap, concealed for the most part under the Roman foundations. The laying down of the sand thus converted the old hieron in the bottom of its natural hollow into a mound, the flat top of which supported on the west a temple and on the east an altar, as before, facing one another from the opposite sides of the sacred area. The report published last year describes the later history of the sanctuary, the Hellenistic rebuilding of the temple, the replacing of the Greek by the Roman altar, and finally the building of the amphitheatre, the centre of which was still the same space between the temple and the altar, though then nearly three metres above the bottom of the hollow, which had witnessed the beginnings of the cult at least twelve hundred years before.

The sides of the original hollow appear north and south of the temple in the section on the line *E-F* (Pl. II.), and the section on *G-H* shews the rise of the ground away from the altar to the east of the boundary wall of the hieron. Any rise towards the north has been carried away by the river. To the south it may safely be said to have risen under the, as yet unremoved, Roman foundation towards the cliff which overlooks the whole site.

The shape of the natural hollow in which it lay probably defined the limits of the hieron itself, at all events in the archaic period. The straight wall which marks the eastern limit has already been described. At the south end this line at present disappears under the Roman foundation, whilst at the north it is broken off by the incursions of the river. About 15'00 m. west of this point the edge of the pavement reappears again higher up the bank of the river; but between this point and the north wall of the temple the limit is not well defined. The edge of the sand is sufficiently clear, but the pavement gradually disappears, and it is probable that the true limit of the hieron is nearer the edge of the sand than the line which marks the edge of the pavement on the plan. West of the temple the limit disappears in a region which is as yet

unexcavated, but is not likely to be of any extent. South of the temple the limit is formed by a perfectly straight row of large cobble-stones set close together running north-west and south-east, and, as usual, somewhat inside the edge of the sand. This line passes under the south-west corner of the later temple, then runs just behind the primitive temple and disappears under the Roman foundation, though at a considerably lower level.

The boundaries thus fixed shew that not much has been lost by the action of the river, and that the part as yet uncovered west of the temple is still smaller. The part, however, to the south still covered by the Roman foundation may be of some extent and importance, and part of the work of the coming season will be to explore this by the removal of still more of the Roman masonry, much of which is already in a very ruined condition. It would be a matter of much interest, and probably lead to further discoveries, if the position of the original entrance of the hieron could be fixed. Pausanias tells us that not far (*οὐ πρόπω*) from this sanctuary lay that of Eileithyia, and the tiles stamped with this name, which have been found on the site, hold out hopes of the discovery of the sanctuary itself.

R. M. DAWKINS.

SANCTUARY OF
ARTEMIS ORTHIA
SPARTA 1908

SECTION ON LINE E—F IN PLAN. (See Pl. I.)

SECTION ON LINE G—H IN PLAN. (See Pl. I.)

SPARTA: SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS ORTHIA.