



BENEATH THE SURFACE

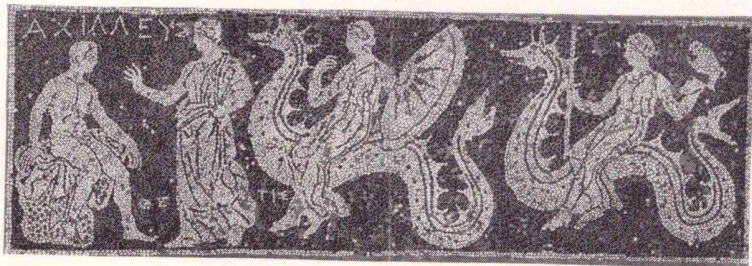
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FOR ALL TIME

IN a world preoccupied with the ravages of war and the seething unrest of peace, the archaeologist may seem to have forsaken the main road of progress for the shaded bypaths of history. While mankind struggles to meet the pressing needs of survival, of what significance are a few dusty potsherds or the crumbling columns of some ancient temple?

Yet beneath the surface dust that covers the rise and fall of civilizations, history has left her clearly-lettered signposts, pointing both backward and forward for those who read them aright. The archaeologist, probing the history of Greece and other ancient lands, knows that the problems the world faces today are no different from those which cast their shadows the milleniums ago. There is no dividing line between past and present; all is one floodtide sweeping toward the future.

The soil of Greece is rich in relics of ancient tyrannies as potent as any we know today in their enslavement of the minds and bodies of men. And in the same debris the archaeologist finds eloquent proof that the despotisms of old could not withstand the force of man's free spirit. Besieged from within and without, each passed inevitably into oblivion. The seeds of freedom spring from the barren wastes of tyranny; so history writes her message of hope for the archaeologist and the world to read. As it has always been, so will it be again.



ACHILLES AND THETIS MOSAIC IN VILLA OF GOOD FORTUNE, OLYNTHUS

LABORATORY OF HISTORY



CORINTHIAN COIN

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, founded in 1881 and currently sponsored by 60 leading American colleges and universities, has during the past 66 years made a vital contribution to our knowledge of the life and culture of ancient Greece.

Its field excavations, averaging three yearly, provide a training ground for students of art and the classics, who are enabled through American School fellowships to gain firsthand experience in scientific excavation methods and to broaden their academic learning by contact with the land and its people. Mature scholars, working in the excavations and studying the material from them, are constantly uncovering objects of great intrinsic beauty and deep historical significance. Their discoveries and interpretations are published regularly in the American School journal, *Hesperia*.

RESTORING THE PAST

Old Corinth was selected in 1896 for one of the first large-scale excavations of the American School. A half century of painstaking labor has uncovered monuments and remains of continuous habitation extending from prehistoric days well into the Christian era, with many more years of excavating required to clear the entire area of this great port city of antiquity.

The visitor to Corinth today can walk along the broad marble-paved Lechaion Road lined, as it was in Greek and Roman times, with small shops and houses. He can inspect the elaborate water system which supplied the city, and take his place in the



CORINTH: LECHAION ROAD



DINING BENCH IN ASKLEPIEION, CORINTH

orchestra of the theatre which echoed to the dramas of Aeschylus and Aristophanes. To recapture the spirit of a later age, he can mount the massive *bema* on which St. Paul stood when he delivered his message to the luxury-loving Corinthians.

A small museum near the excavations houses objects found in the debris of the ancient buildings and in the wells and graves scattered over the Corinthian plateau. Its collection includes many examples of handsomely decorated vases, sculpture fragments and the

bronzes whose sheen made Corinthian workmanship famous.

From one of the wells excavated during the past summer comes amusing testimony to the kinship of the ancient and modern Corinthians. The well, exhausted in antiquity, was used as a receptacle for the debris of a neighboring tavern. In its fill the excavators found many sets of "knucklebones", a game popular in ancient times which is still played in Greek taverns today. The well also yielded a large

number of fragments of the ordinary drinking vessels of the period, some marked with the names of long-dead patrons of the tavern and others carrying wishes for health and prosperity. On one cup archaeologists deciphered the salutary inscription "Prevention of Hangover."

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Last summer the American School completed its twelfth excavation season in the Athenian Agora. This area, extending for 25 acres below the northern slope of the Acropolis, was the public square of the ancient city and one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world. The work of clearing and excavating the terrain was begun in 1931. During the five war years operations stopped, but they were resumed in 1946 and are now in full progress.

One of the greatest treasures of the Agora is a large collection of scratched potsherds, the writing-paper of the ancient world. These clay fragments (*ostraka*), marked with famous names such as Themistocles, Pericles, Hippocrates and Aristides, represent ballots cast by Athenian



OSTRAKON WITH NAME OF PERICLES

citizens for the exile of those whose growing power threatened the democratic foundations of the state. By this check and balance system Athens safeguarded her independence against tyrannical aspirations and overcame the deadlocks of conflicting political ambitions.

From the historical point of view the most important result of this excavation has been the uncovering of the great temples, colonnaded stoas and public buildings hallowed by their association with Pericles, Socrates and other Athenian immortals.



CIVIC BUILDINGS OF AGORA AFTER EXCAVATION

Scholars, with the evidence only of foundation cuttings and fragments of the superstructure, have been able to determine the original size and form of these buildings and to reproduce them in accurate

model restorations as they stood 20 or more centuries ago.

Among the oldest remains in the area are five Mycenaean tombs, burial chambers of the royal dynasty that ruled the Acropolis in the days of Theseus and the Minotaur. These tombs, after a lapse of 34 centuries, still contained fine examples of the graceful pottery, bronze weapons, gold leaf rosettes and ivory boxes so characteristic of the early period of Greek art. Patient care in joining the shattered pieces has restored the fragile objects in all their original beauty.

Another five full years of work with adequate resources will complete the excavation of the Agora and the construction of a permanent museum in which all its art objects can be seen



MODEL OF CIVIC BUILDINGS IN THE 2nd CENTURY A. D.

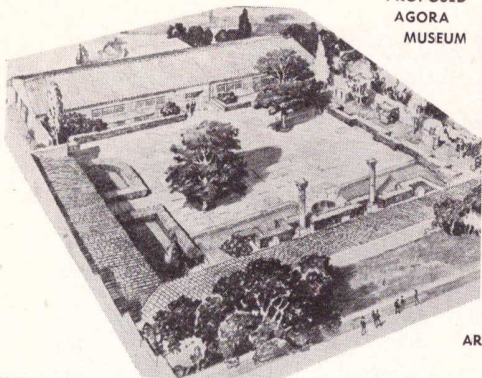
and studied. After that the area will be landscaped as a public park, affording both tourist and scholar a clear picture of the civic center as it existed through the centuries of ancient Greek history.

Other excavations carried out under the auspices of the American School include the clearance of the Macedonian site of Olynthus. There archaeologists uncovered the ground plan of the city, revealing at the same time the best preserved houses of the Classical Greek period. The massive lion monument of Amphipolis, one of the most imposing of war memorials surviving from ancient times, has been restored and re-erected. At Pylos, where American and Greek archaeologists began work in 1939 on the site of the Palace of Nestor, the first excavation trench exposed a mass of burned clay tablets written in a script akin to the Minoan. Once these inscriptions have been deciphered and the palace area fully cleared, the discoveries cannot fail to throw light on the life and customs of Homeric Greece.

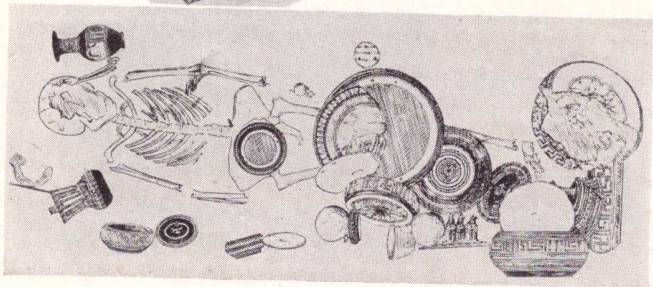


PYLOS TABLET

PROPOSED
AGORA
MUSEUM



ARCHAIC HEAD OF HERCULES



DRAWING OF 8th CENTURY B. C. GRAVE
SHOWING BURIAL VASES



STATUE OF VICTORY

BUILDING THE FUTURE

Never has the American School faced a greater challenge than today. Its activities are directly concerned with the present and future of Greece as well as with her past.

Few lands have suffered devastation comparable to that inflicted on Greece during the past seven years, and few lands are as meagrely endowed with the resources of rehabilitation. If Greece is to survive, the material needs of her people must be filled, their morale restored and the national economy placed on a firm basis. Then only will the democratic future of the country be guaranteed.

The School is doing its full share in advancing these three reconstruction objectives. During the past year it spent approximately \$100,000 in Greece, practically all of it in salaries to Greek employees. As a result, over 400 individuals, who would otherwise have been dependent on charity or piece-meal employment, were assured a regular livelihood. Small as the sum is when measured against the overall needs of Greece, it means self-respect and heightened morale for those families directly affected.

In the next 12 months every effort will be made to expand the School's program in Greece. It is hoped that construction will start in April on the Agora Museum, whose cost will be nearly \$300,000, and this work will provide additional employment for Greek labor.

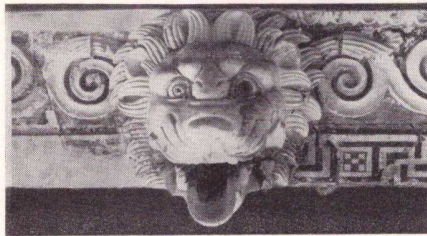


TEMPLE REMAINS AT CORINTH

American School, enhancing as they do the tourist assets of Greece and increasing the attraction for visitors, are thus aiding materially in the permanent rehabilitation of the country.

Of even greater importance in Greece's long-term economy is the School's contribution to the development of tourist potentialities. No country in Europe has greater natural beauty or more impressive historical monuments than Greece. Before the war a large proportion of the national revenue was derived from those who came to visit Greece's unique temples and museums. Even more travelers will come in the future as other ancient sites and art objects are revealed. The excavations of the

The problem of cooperation between peoples and nations has never in history been of more crucial importance. In few fields of human endeavor has this cooperation been more clearly demonstrated than in archaeological activities in Greece. From its inception the American School has had the unfailing support of successive Greek governments; it has benefited immeasurably from the loyalty and devoted interest of its Greek employees. In essence, the success of the entire School program has been largely due to the ease and harmony with which Americans and Greeks have worked together. This cooperation on the scientific level is a hopeful sign that in time mutual good will will erase all obstacles to international unity and understanding. By forging strong ties of friendship between this country and Greece, the American School at Athens is making its vital gift toward the goal of an enduring peace.



FIVE YEARS - \$250,000

Unsettled world conditions and increased operational costs have today placed the American School in a critical position. For the first time it is faced with the alternative of seeking contributions from friends of Greece in the United States, or of drastically curtailing its activities. At least \$250,000 will be needed during the next five years to complete the Agora excavations. The sum is comparatively small, but it can be raised only with the help of those interested in the welfare of Greece and in the broader sphere of human knowledge.

Your gift, large or small, will serve a threefold purpose—the advancement of scientific research, the rehabilitation of Greece and the strengthening of international good will.

The American School of Classical Studies
Princeton, New Jersey

Gentlemen: Enclosed please find my remittance to help with the work of the American School of Classical Studies in Greece.

Name.....

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(Checks should be made payable to the American School of Classical Studies. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes under present laws.)



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