

## LACONIA.

### II.—EXCAVATIONS AT SPARTA, 1906.

(PLATES VII.—XII.).

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#### § I.—THE SEASON'S WORK.

THE year 1906 was marked by the inception of what seems likely to be the most extensive and productive piece of work yet undertaken by the British School at Athens. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the Hellenic Government and the Ephor-General of Antiquities for the liberality with which permission to undertake the excavation of this important site was accorded to us, and for the constant support given to us in all the stages of the work. Among the officials of the Department of Antiquities we are particularly indebted to Dr. Soteriades, the Ephor appointed to reside at Sparta during the excavations, and among local officials, to the Demarch, the Treasurer and the Chief Engineer, thanks to whose co-operation many difficulties and obstacles were overcome, and to Mr. G. D. Kapsales, the efficient Curator of the Museum.

The School did not enter upon this task unprepared. Its members had been at work in the district for two previous years, the contents of the Sparta Museum had been studied and catalogued afresh, and excavations at Thalamai, Geronthrai and Angelona had thrown some light on the types and varieties of pottery in use at different periods in Laconia.

The Director, with Mr. Dickins, Mr. Sejk and Mr. A. C. Brown, arrived at Sparta on March 14th and began work on the following Monday, March 19th. The house which we occupied, standing on the outskirts of

the town towards the north-east and consequently within easy reach both of the Acropolis and of the sites along the Eurotas, belongs to Mr. Δημήτριος Κουρολίδης, a former schoolmaster and a zealous antiquary, who for many years has been active in protecting the remains at Sparta from plunderers. It stands in a pleasant garden of lemon and orange trees, commanding a magnificent view of Taygetus, and has been secured as the head-quarters of the expedition for two years to come.

During the first fortnight work was directed to determining the character and date of the Roman Stoa, and the later fortifications girdling the Acropolis hill. Meanwhile Mr. Sejk undertook the survey of the whole site, the results of which appear in the map (Plate VII.) accompanying this report. Although the survey is not yet finished, it seemed desirable to make its main outlines available forthwith. In the second week the Director returned to Athens, to perform official duties connected with the Olympian Games, and Mr. Ramsay Traquair, who had arrived in the meantime, continued the work begun by Mr. Bosanquet of tracing out the walls, towers, and gates of the Roman fortress. Mr. Dickins, who was left in charge of the excavations, also had the aid of Mr. H. J. W. Tillyard, who for the remainder of the season undertook the work of numbering and copying the inscriptions found during the excavation, and exercised a general supervision over the finds stored in the Museum. The programme for this first season's work included an attempt to ascertain the extent of the ancient city and the whereabouts of its cemeteries; and with these objects in view a considerable area outside the Acropolis was examined by means of trial trenches and pits.

On April 7th, a discovery was made on the bank of the Eurotas midway between the iron bridge and the mill of Matallas, which led to the identification of an important sanctuary, and transferred the chief centre of our work from the Acropolis to the meadows beside the river.

Beneath the foundations of the 'little Roman Amphitheatre,' which was seen early in the nineteenth century by Leake and other travellers, and had since vanished from sight, was found an immense deposit of archaic offerings, and inscriptions built into the Roman structure identified the spot as the precinct of Artemis Orthia. Although knife-work on the archaic stratum was restricted to a few skilled men, chiefly old hands from Knossos, the output was more than the two archaeologists on the spot could conveniently control. Mr. Dawkins hurried back from Crete, and

arrived with Mr. Wace on April 19th. After consultation with Professor Cavvadias we agreed to expropriate the site, and work for the next three weeks was directed to ascertaining the limits of the sanctuary and cutting a new channel outside it for the mill-stream which intersected the temple. This work was carried out by Mr. Dawkins. Meanwhile Mr. Dickens resumed his topographical investigations and discovered a great stone Altar in the bank of the Eurotas, about 700 yards above the Artemisium.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wace, after a tentative examination of the Roman ruins called Arapissa ('The Negress,' **G. 11**), spent some weeks in trenching the meadows between the Artemisium and the Altar, with important results. The city wall was found where Livy describes it, close to the river,<sup>2</sup> and traced with considerable breaks almost to the modern bridge half a mile to the north-west. Some of the gaps it would be possible to fill in by future excavation; others, due to the encroachment of the river, are irreparable.

On May 15th, a Commission appointed by the Hellenic Government, consisting of Professors Cavvadias, Tsountas, and Carolides, visited Sparta to report on the question of expropriating the Artemisium, and thanks to the cordial co-operation of the local authorities the necessary formalities were soon completed.

It was not until May 30th that the new water-channel, which owing to its great depth had cost much time and labour, was brought into use; the old channel was run dry, and it became possible to begin clearing the expropriated area. Work came to an end on June 9th. A house had been built and a watchman was left in charge of the site.

In addition to the members of the school who have been mentioned as taking part in the excavation, Mr. Droop did most useful work in cleaning and drawing the pottery and bronzes, many of them in wretched condition, from the lower strata of the temple site.

Most of the drawings published in this report are from the pen of Mr. Halvor Bagge, who was attached to the expedition for a month. The plans are the work of Mr. W. Sejk, with the exception of those by Mr. Traquair who illustrated his own article. The photographs reproduced were made by Mr. Traquair, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Wace, and the Director.

<sup>1</sup> I prefer the name Limnaeum: τὸ δὲ χωρίον τὸ ἐπονομαζόμενον Λιμναῖον Ὁρθίας ἱερὸν ἐστὶν Ἀρτέμιδος (Paus. iii. 16. 6). But the name Artemisium has been engraved by an oversight in the General Plan (Plate VII.) and it seems best to avoid confusion by using it throughout this report.

<sup>2</sup> Livy xxxiv. 28. Eurotam amnem sub ipsis prope fluentem moenibus. Cf. xxxv. 29.

The cost of the season's work was £940, including £100 paid for the expropriation of the temple site. The exchange was unfavourable, from 26 to 27 drachmas for the sovereign, and wages somewhat high. The quality of the local labour was better than we had been led to expect of a district from which many of the active young men emigrate to America. Five old hands whom I brought over from Crete were useful in leavening the mass of inexperienced workmen. Our foreman, Γρηγόριος Ἀντωνίου of Larnaca, who has now added Sparta to the long list of his campaigns, performed his part as efficiently as ever.

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

It will be convenient to sum up the results of the season's work, which are set forth at length in the succeeding sections. The investigation of the Acropolis and the surrounding region has shown that the destruction of buildings in the area adjoining the late Roman fortifications has been almost complete. The idea with which we started, that it might be possible to recover in its main lines the ground-plan of the Roman town and so to identify the localities of Pausanias, would entail expenditure out of proportion to the results.

On the other hand, it is probable that considerable remains may yet be found within the fortress, where the destruction at the time of building the walls was far less complete. On the table-topped hill where the north wall forms a salient angle (intersection of **L.M. 12, 13**) nothing survives; but a great rectangle to the east of it, and the ground east and north of the theatre, have still to be explored. The temple of Athena of the Brazen House must be sought on the hill above the theatre.

*The City Wall.*—Sparta was fortified in successive stages from the fourth to the second century: the circuit of the walls was forty-eight stades. All that was known of their course was that they skirted the river. A portion of the foundations of these walls has now been found extending for half a mile along the river bank, and further portions (not mentioned in Mr. Wace's article below) have been recognised on the heights of Paktalia, north-west of the Acropolis outside the limits of the general plan.<sup>1</sup> It consists of a basement of limestone blocks,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 metres in breadth.

<sup>1</sup> When I first saw these in March 1906, they were being grubbed up by the owner of the ground. There has been much destruction of ancient remains in recent years, owing to the growth of New Sparta and the liberty given to the masons, who come in gangs from Langadhia in Arcadia and have no patriotic scruples about Spartan monuments.

Its upper portion, formed of sun-dried bricks, has perished, but the tiles with which it was roofed have been found in surprising numbers. Many of them bear a stamp identifying them as the property of the State and made for the walls, the whereabouts of the tile-works and the name of the contractor following. At Sparta, where liberal views were held about the community of goods and the boys were encouraged to perfect themselves in the art of looting, it must have been particularly difficult to protect the tiles of public buildings from pilferers; the precaution of stamping them afforded a certain safeguard.<sup>1</sup> The tracing of the rest of the circuit is only a matter of time. It probably followed the cliffs of the Eurotas to a point just south of the modern town<sup>2</sup> and then struck across to the Magoula brook,—followed the north bank of that stream nearly to the village of the same name, and then swept round to the spot where it has been found on the north-western heights.

*The River-bank.*—In low ground by the river two interments were found in which the bones, probably after incineration, had been placed in a large jar or pithos which was buried on its side, the mouth being closed with a large slab.<sup>3</sup> One of these interments was just outside the Temenos-wall of the Artemisium, the other just within the city wall where it runs out in the river-bed (**P. 13**). At the latter point Mr. Wace found a quantity of terracotta plaques and other offerings recalling those found in 1905 at Angelona, and rightly inferred that this was a spot where ancestor worship had been carried on. The fragments of a colossal Amphora with moulded reliefs on neck and body, published on Pl. IX., suggest that at Sparta, as at Athens, these huge vases sometimes served as grave-monuments. The proportions of the vase and its open-work handles recall the Proto-Attic series, but the composition of the Homeric battle-scene and the details of the elaborate panoply worn by the principal warrior must have been copied from an Ionic original. The details of the shield recall the front of the chariot from Monteleone near Viterbo, now in the New York Museum: somewhat similar combatants appear in one of its side-panels.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Evidence is accumulating to show that the practice of stamping such tiles was commoner at Sparta than elsewhere. We may expect them to furnish many clues for the identification of sites in and about the city.

<sup>2</sup> Vischer (*Erinnerungen*, p. 379) was able to trace this part of the line in 1853, 'namentlich fand ich an dem östlichen Abhang zwischen Psychiko und dem Odeon in grosser Ausdehnung Gemäuer, das kaum über den Boden hervorragt und wohl nur der Stadtmauer angehören kann.'

<sup>3</sup> See p. 293.

<sup>4</sup> *Rev. Arch.* 1904, i. Pls. VII.-IX., and *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum*, 1907, p. 39.

Still more interesting was the discovery at a lower level along this part of the river-bank, of walls and Geometric pottery, which showed that in the early Iron Age a village existed here on the low ground adjoining the river, possibly one of the original village-settlements of the Dorian invaders. One hundred metres beyond the Heroön, a platform, 23·60 m. long by 6·60 wide, was excavated by Mr. Dickins, who has shewn reason for supposing that it may be the Altar of Lycurgus. Beyond it the city-wall reappears, built in somewhat different fashion, and further still beyond the modern bridge is a massive facing wall, probably contemporary with the Roman bridge, a pier of which is seen in the river-bed to the north-west.

*The Artemisium.*—The precinct of Artemis Orthia lay on low ground beside the Eurotas and just within the city wall, which made a bend outwards to enclose it. Mr. Dawkins' skilful examination of the lower strata (§ 6) shews that not only a rich deposit of votive offerings, but remains of buildings of the archaic period await excavation. Geometric pottery and bronzes are followed by a layer in which sherds of a style approximating to Corinthian are associated with rude limestone plaques, ivories of exquisite and almost certainly Ionian workmanship, and masks which illustrate the scanty and confused information preserved by ancient lexicographers about the masked dances which formed part of the worship of Artemis in Laconia. For the later Hellenic period evidence is lacking, but a temple at a higher level may be assigned provisionally to the first or second century B.C. To this was added, soon after 200 A.D., a theatre-like building which has yielded numerous inscriptions commemorating victories of boys in musical and other contests. One of these names the *καρτερίας ἀγών* or contest of endurance under the lash, which seems under the Roman Empire to have been the principal feature of the festival of Artemis Orthia. The notoriety of the spectacle, which attracted visitors to Sparta as late as the reign of Constantine, accounts for the construction, round the altar and in front of the temple, of this unique theatre. The inscriptions relating to the boys' contests, analysed by Mr. Tillyard in § 9, show that the forms if not the spirit of the discipline of Lycurgus were maintained with scrupulous conservatism. The complete excavation of the site will require a second and probably a third season's work.

*Roman Sparta.*—The ruins are those of a large and prosperous provincial city. Remains of numerous mosaic pavements, and of sculptures

such as were used for the adornment of gardens, shew that a large area to the south and west was covered with houses of some size and comfort, inhabited probably by the land-owners of the surrounding districts. The block of Baths ('Arapissa') partially explored by Mr. Wace, and the buildings north-west of the so-called Leonidaion discovered by Mr. Dickins, promise interesting additions to our knowledge of this period. Both sites yielded pieces of sculpture. The depth and dimensions of the theatre were ascertained and some important inscriptions found near it.

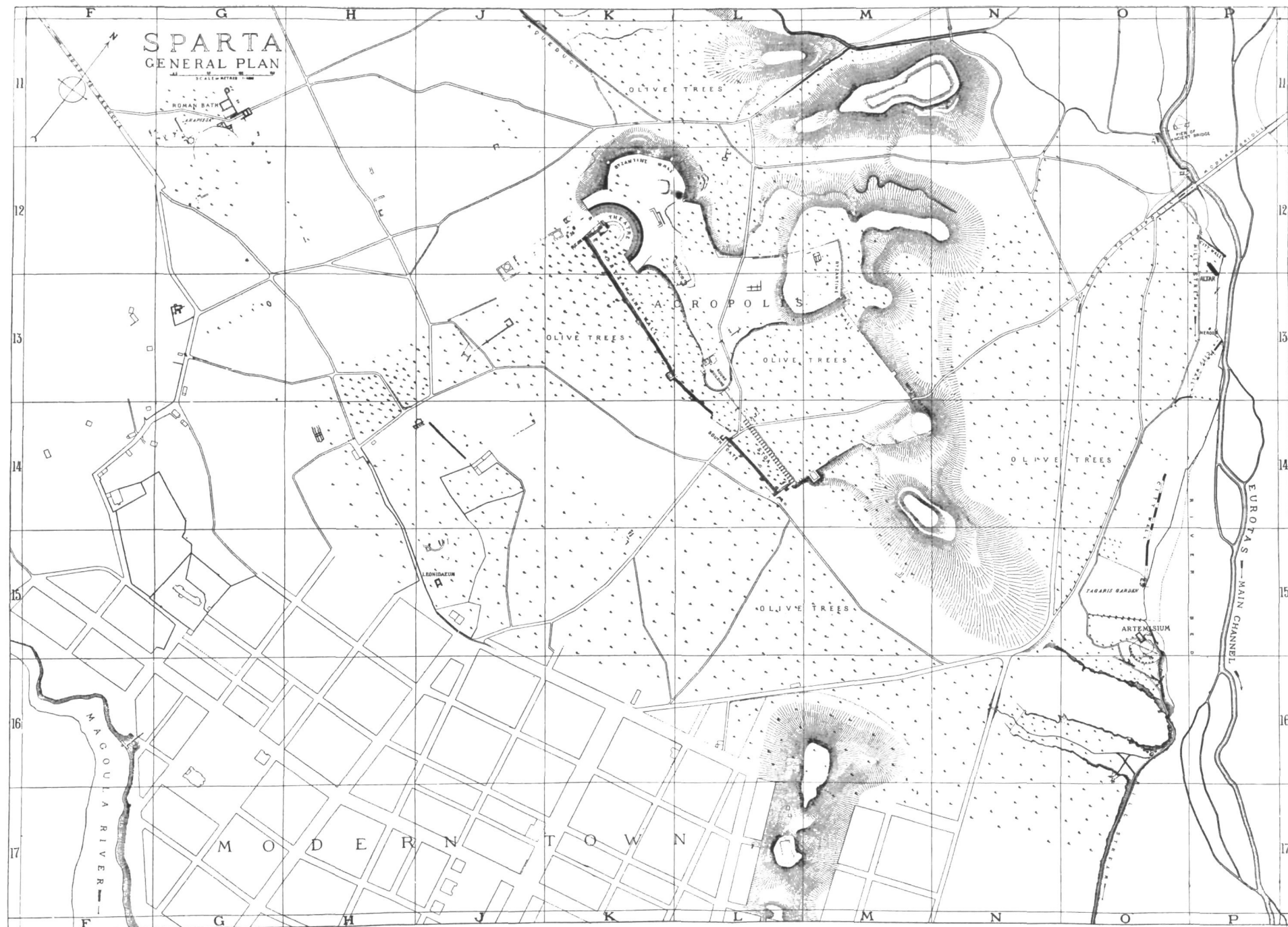
*The Late Roman Fortifications—Fourmont.*—Mr. Traquair's investigation of the walls enclosing the Acropolis has shown that in many places the facing of squared blocks is preserved below the modern ground level. Towers and gates have been located and the plan of the whole enceinte recovered. The construction is Roman rather than Byzantine, and the portion in front of the Stoa may be assigned with some confidence to the years following the first Gothic raid of 262. At some later time, probably in the fourth century, the line was extended so as to include the theatre and a main street which ran from it to the Stoa, past the Round Building excavated by Dr. Waldstein. The mediaeval city of Lacedaemonia has left few traces,—some much ruined churches, some repairs to the walls, and a quantity of glazed pottery with sgraffito designs of fish, birds, or lions. The trenches in front of the walls have brought to light some of the inscriptions copied by Fourmont in 1729 and afterwards buried by him, a precaution for which scholars should be thankful, for if left on the surface they would assuredly have perished. As they shew no sign of having been defaced, the tradition mentioned by Dodwell may be set aside as idle gossip.<sup>1</sup>

In concluding this summary, I cannot refrain from expressing my satisfaction that the exploration of Sparta, in fulfilment of a hope which I have cherished for many years, has been entrusted to the British School at Athens, and my conviction that it could not be in more able hands than those of Mr. Dawkins and his companions.

R. C. BOSANQUET.

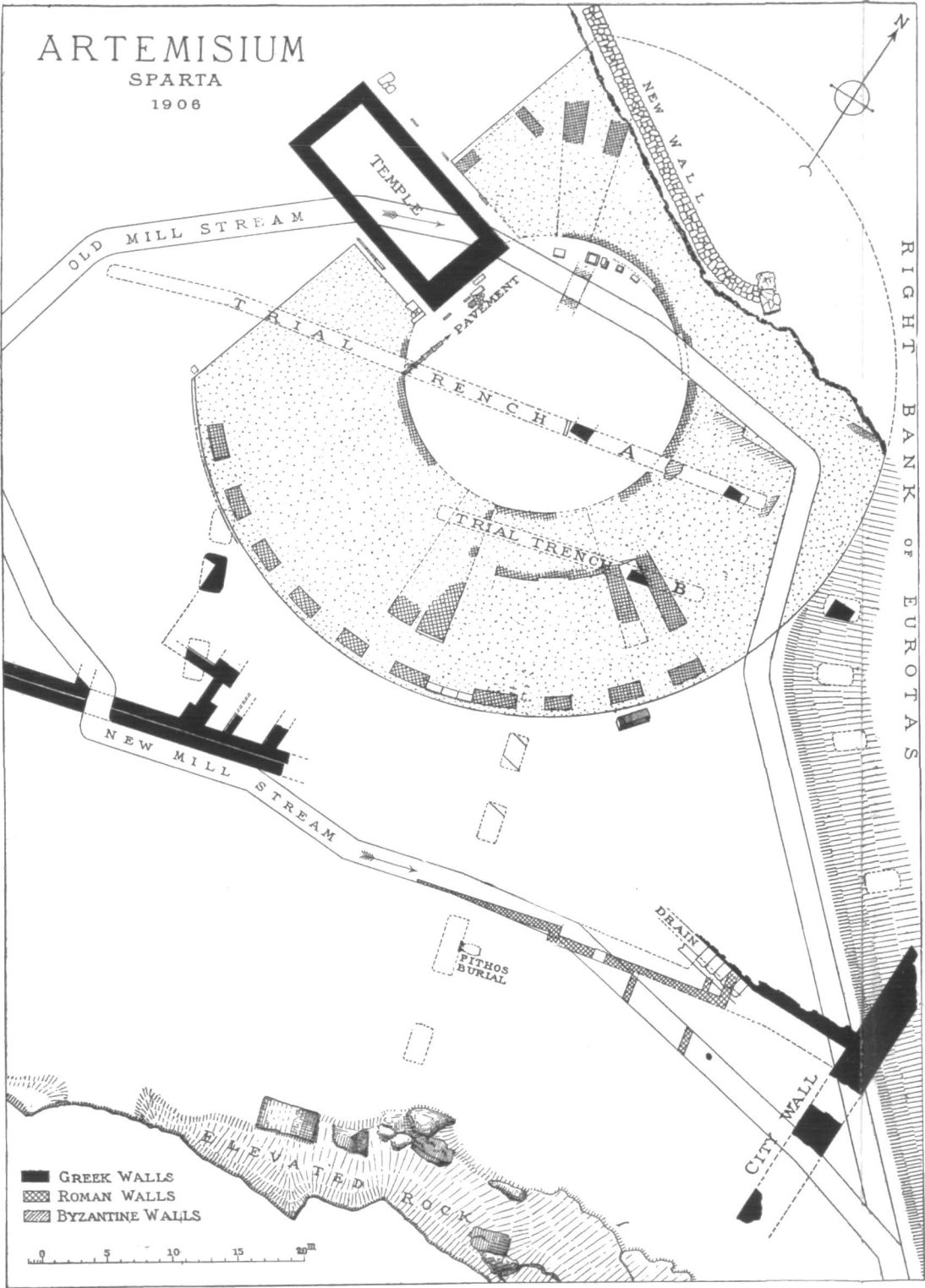
<sup>1</sup> Dodwell, *Tour through Greece* ii. 405. He was told that 'many years ago a French *milord* who visited Sparta, after having copied a great number of inscriptions, had the letters chiselled out and defaced.' Compare Le Bas in *Exp. de la Morée, Architecture*, ii. p. 67. Fourmont's accuracy as a copyist has recently been vindicated by Dr. Wilhelm in his *Bericht über griechische Inschriften in Paris* (*Anz. der phil.-hist. Classe*, 10 Juli, 1901, Vienna). On the results of an examination of his papers undertaken by Mr. Hasluck and Mr. Tillyard, see p. 478 below.



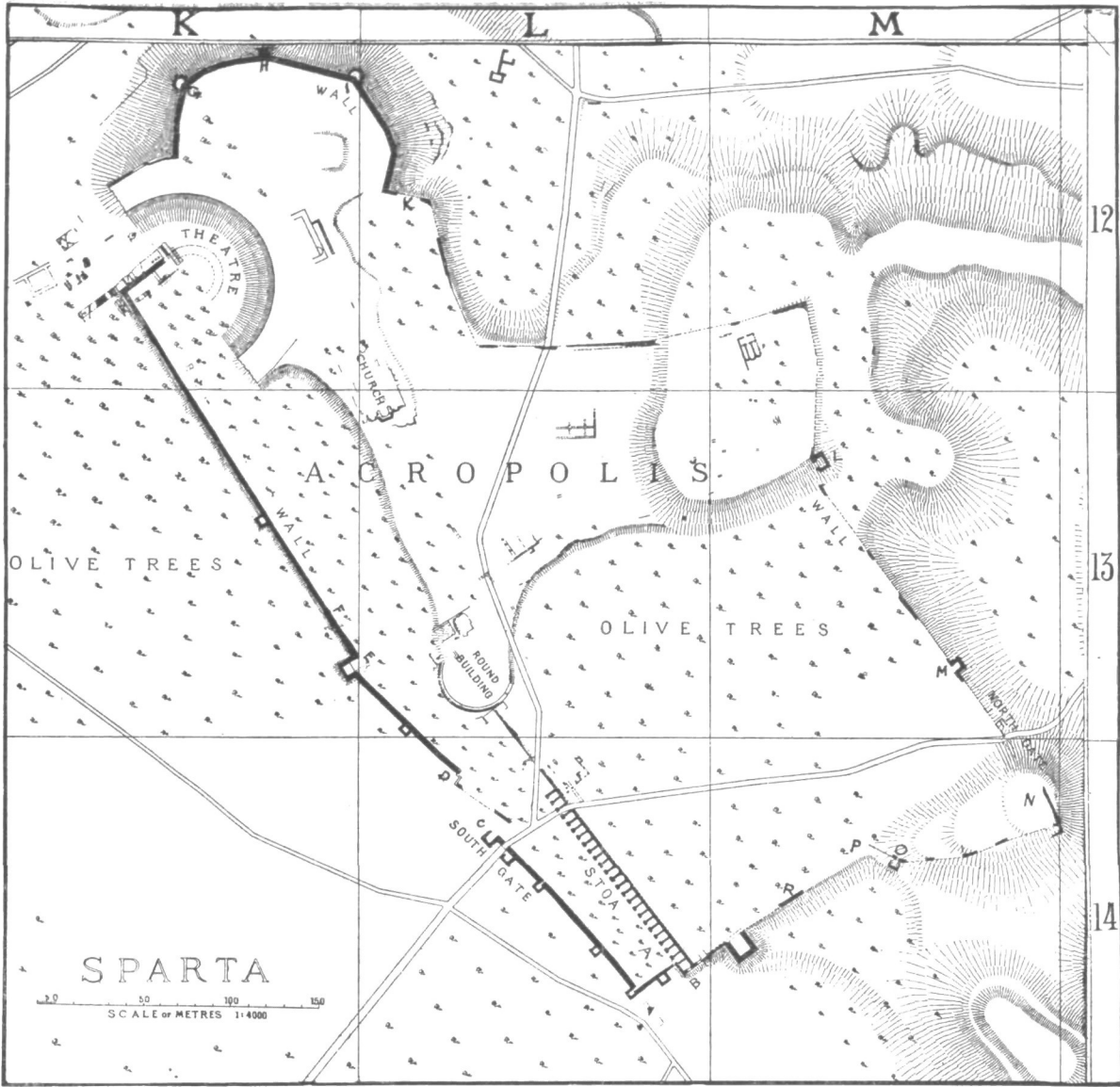


SPARTA.—GENERAL PLAN.

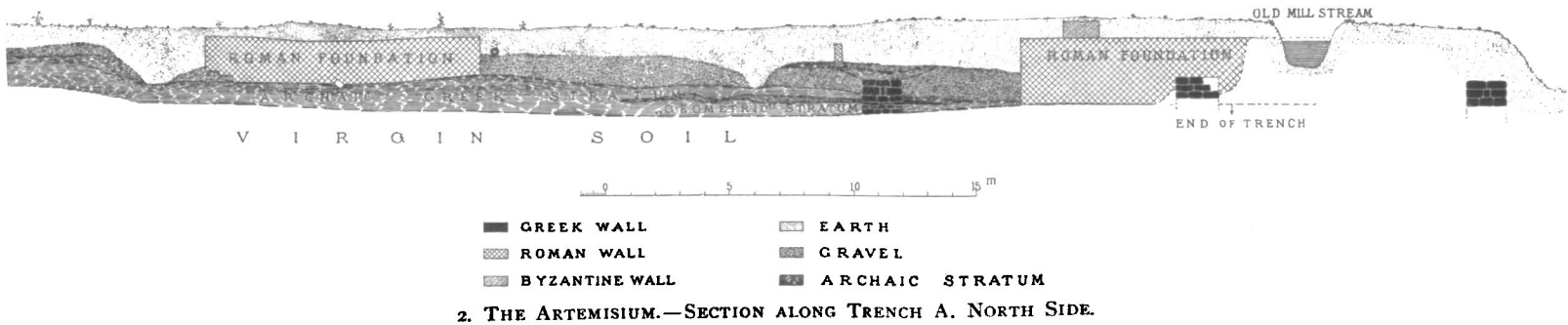




1. THE ARTEMISIUM.

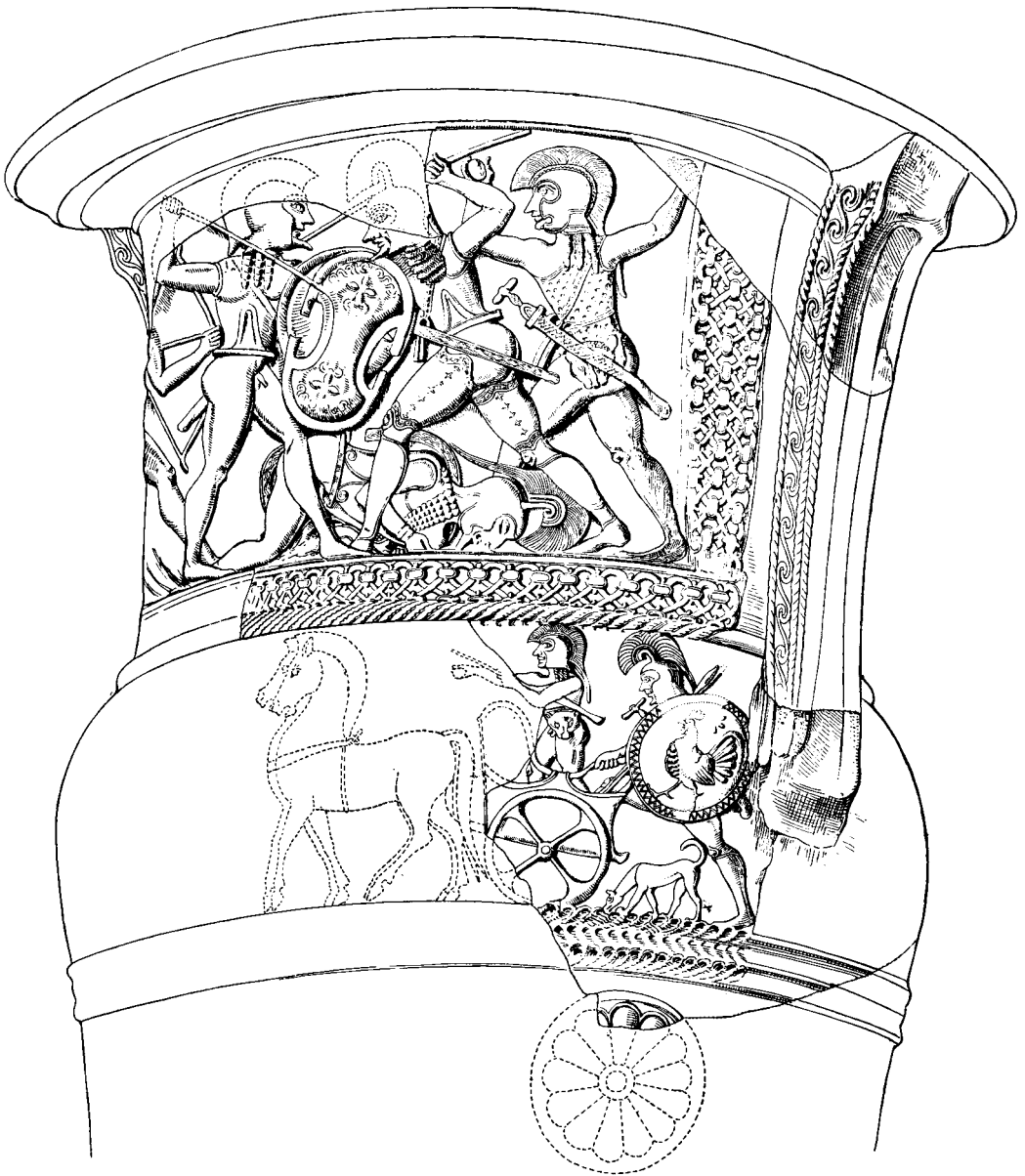


3. ENLARGED PLAN OF ACROPOLIS.



2. THE ARTEMISIUM.—SECTION ALONG TRENCH A. NORTH SIDE.

SPARTA.—ENLARGED PLANS.



MOULDED PITHOS FROM SPARTA.

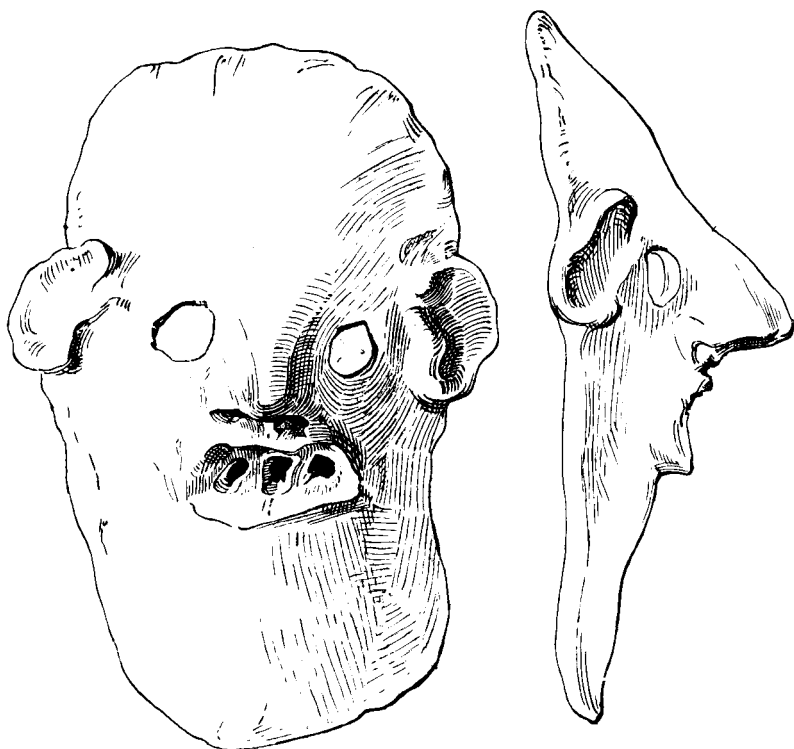




TERRACOTTA MASK FROM THE SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS ORTHIA, AT SPARTA.

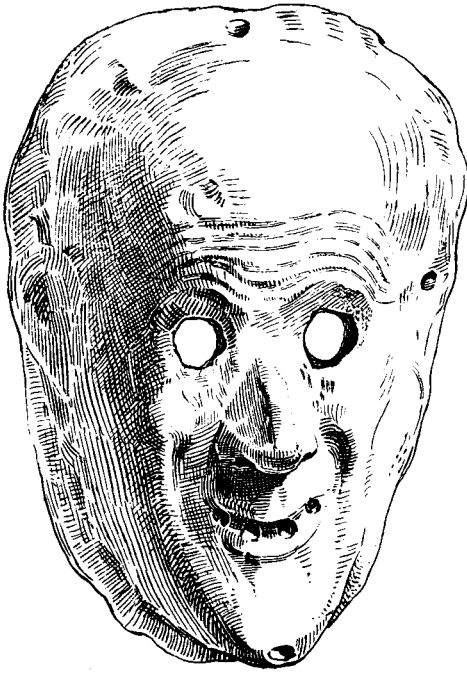


*a* (2 : 3)

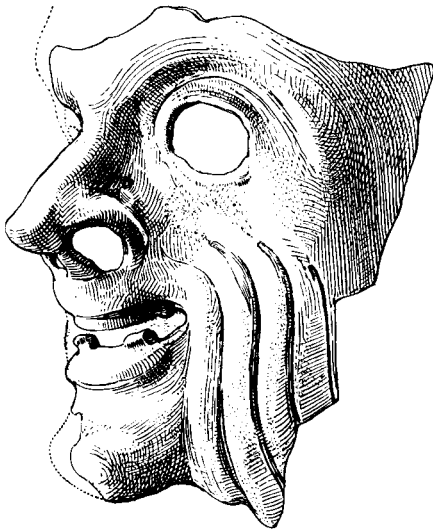


*b* (1 : 2).

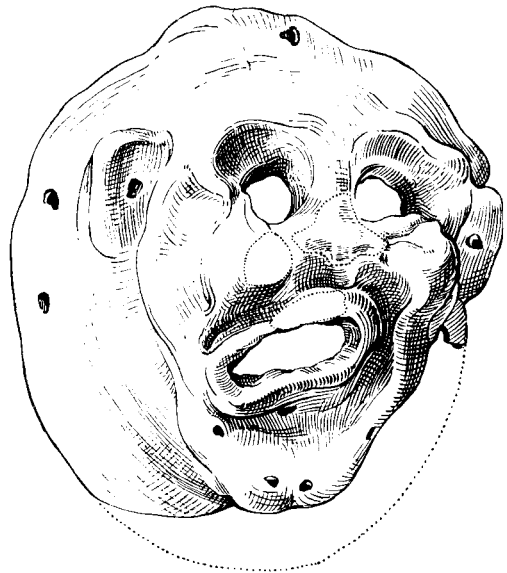
TERRACOTTA MASKS FROM SPARTA.



*c* (1:2).



*a* (2:5).



*e* (2:5).

TERRACOTTA MASKS FROM SPARTA.