

is possible that Cleomenes III. (236–222 B.C.) began them. In any case it is safe to assume the date of the limestone base to be the latter half of the third century.¹ The regular courses with uneven jointing recall the walls of Demetrias, which are of the early third century,² and a similar style of building is to be found at Pergamon.

§ 3.—THE HEROÖN.

(PLATE IX.)

South of the well mentioned above and inside the city wall a series of trial pits produced important results (**P 13**). At a distance of 1·80 m. from the city wall another wall was found which varies from ·50 to ·65 m. in width. Between this, which was followed for some distance, and the city wall, traces of a pavement of beaten earth came to light at a depth of 1·40 m. On the outside of the inner wall a drain was found running parallel to it. We have here, most probably, a street that followed the city wall on the inside. The depth at which it was found agrees very well with that of a similar pavement to the west of the Altar (1·82 m.). The lower level there perhaps indicates an earlier date. In any case the level of the road was raised in a later period, as proved by the tile drain referred to above. Within the inner wall we found distinct traces of a shrine, probably a Heroön. Everywhere, except in the neighbourhood of the well, where the lower strata are composed of gravel, regular stratification ranging from the Geometric age to late Greek times was distinguishable. The Greek layer, which cannot yet be divided into early and late periods, begins at an average depth of a metre. At about 1·90 m. Corinthian pottery was found, which between 2·15 and 2·45 m. was sometimes mixed with Geometric fragments. The Geometric stratum commences at an average depth of 2·30 m., and at three metres or a little deeper the soil is virgin.

The most characteristic objects of the Greek stratum are small terracotta Hero-reliefs (Figs. 3–6). These belong to the well known class of

¹ It is possible that the *παραπόλια* damaged by the river and mentioned in an inscription (*C.I.G.* 1330, l. 18) were part of this wall. Unfortunately the reading, which rests on Fourmont's copy, cannot be verified. Le Bas (*Rev. Arch.* 1844, p. 709) only saw the first four lines. Ross saw it in the same state in the Sparta Museum, which was afterwards burnt with all its contents.

² Fredrich, *Athen. Mitt.* 1905, pp. 229, 235.

Spartan hero-reliefs.¹ Hitherto only one terracotta example has been known, that found by Mr. Hasluck at Angelona.² We have now about a hundred specimens, of which the majority are fragments. The reliefs are small and are usually '08 m. square: the largest complete specimen is only '135 by '13 m. (Fig. 3). The commonest type is the 'Libation' motive. The hero is seen in profile, seated; a female figure standing before him pours wine into the kantharos which he holds out to her (Figs. 3, 4, 5). It is remarkable that only one example of this type is known in marble, the beautiful relief from Areopolis, now in the Jacobsen collection.³ It has hitherto been supposed that the marble reliefs shewing



FIG. 3.—TERRACOTTA HERO-RELIEF.

the hero enthroned to the right, were older than those in which he is seated to the left.⁴ Here however both types occur together, are equally common, and of the same style. The workmanship in all is very rough. The relief was made by pressing with the fingers damp clay into a rough mould. Finger-prints are very noticeable on the backs, especially behind the heads. In some an effort is made to shew the outlines of the body (Figs. 3, 4). In others the figures are rude and

¹ *Sparta Museum Catalogue*, pp. 102, *sqq.* ² *B.S.A.* xi. p. 86.

³ *Athen. Mitt.* 1883, Pl. XVI.; Arndt, *La Glyptothèque Ny-Carlsberg*, Pl. 4 A; *Sparta Mus. Cat.* Fig. 13.

⁴ *Sparta Mus. Cat.* p. 108.

columnar (Fig. 5). A fragment of a large relief has a suspension hole, as on the Angelona example. There are also a few pieces superior in execution and style, which seem to date from the fourth century, and resemble a fine relief in the Museum.¹ Beside the ordinary type there are some which shew a male figure standing before a snake (Fig. 6).² One fragment represents a rider on horseback, somewhat similar to reliefs from Corinth and Troy.³ Another seems to belong to a 'Funeral Feast' relief. This is to be compared with the reclining figures from Corinth,⁴ and is



FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.

FIGS. 4, 5, 6.—TERRACOTTA HERO-RELIEFS.

important since it proves the connection of the funeral feast type with the ordinary hero-relief.⁵

A large number of terracotta statuettes of inferior workmanship were also found in this shrine deposit. Most of them are of a rude archaic

¹ *Sparta Mus. Cat.* No. 683.

² v. *Ibid.* p. 104, Figs. 4, 5.

³ Dörpfeld, *Troja u. Ilion*, ii. Beilage, 57; Robinson, *Am. Journ. Arch.* 1906, Pl. XII.

⁴ Robinson, *Am. Journ. Arch.* 1906, Pl. XII.

⁵ v. *Sparta Mus. Cat.* p. 112.

female type wearing a polus. There are many nude figures, presumably male, almost exactly similar to a figurine from Angelona.¹ The few late terracottas discovered include some specimens of a standing half-draped male deity, which may be of the fourth century.

Some miniature vases like those from the Angelona Heroön were found in this layer.² These are small kantharoi, krateres, and tall three-handled vases of a type found in the precinct of Artemis Orthia,³ but not at Angelona. The handles of some examples of the last type are represented merely by three pinches on the lip. All these vases are undecorated; with them was also a small early Greek lamp.⁴

The Geometric pottery from the lower stratum does not differ from that found elsewhere in Laconia and at the Artemisium.⁵ One fragment shows added ornament in white paint, and another a row of men. The metallic glaze peculiar to Laconia is common. Near the top of this layer in one pit was a very finely-made fragment with ornamentation in red-purple and black-brown. This and one or two similar pieces shew the transition to Proto-Corinthian ware.

The Corinthian fragments are of the same character as those from the Artemisium.⁶ The clay is dull grey and covered with a slip, on which the pattern is painted in black-brown and purple assisted by incisions.

A few fragments of the black- and red-figured styles were found with large quantities of a well made black-glazed ware. In the Greek stratum were also several pieces of a peculiar style and technique. The whole surface was covered with a thin black glaze, and on this appear human figures in red and purple matt paint. Details are given by incised lines. To judge by the shape of the eye this pottery would be of the same date as the Attic early red-figured style.⁷ Of later Greek fabrics there were many fragments of black glazed ware, some ribbed and

¹ *B.S.A.* xi. p. 85, Fig. 6, 12.

² *Ibid.* xi. p. 85, Fig. 6, 1-7.

³ v. p. 329.

⁴ Of the type illustrated by Furtwängler, *Aegina*, Pl. 130, 9.

⁵ *Sparta Mus. Cat.* p. 223; cf. above, page 321.

⁶ v. above page 329.

⁷ Vases of this fabric have been discussed by Six, *Gazette Archéologique*, 1888, pp. 193 *seqq.* Walters, *Ancient Pottery*, i. p. 226, Romaios, *Athen. Mitt.* 1906, pp. 193 *seqq.* The origin of the technique and its exact place in the history of Greek vase painting has not yet been determined; but the consensus of opinion places it in the period of transition from the black- to the red-figured style. The Spartan fragments differ from the samples hitherto known, in being pieces of large vases.

moulded, and others with a floral pattern rendered by white paint and incisions.¹

The most remarkable find however is part of the neck and body of a large *pithos* decorated with moulded reliefs (Plate IX.). The scene on the neck can be completed by the aid of a fragment, bought by Le Bas at Magoula and now in the Cabinet des Médailles in Paris,² which is from the same mould as ours. Two warriors, one with a round shield and the other with a Boeotian shield, are seen fighting over the body of a third, who also carries a Boeotian shield. They wear high-crested helmets, breastplates, greaves, and thigh-pieces. The latter (*παραμηρίδια*) seem to be made of leather bound with metal, as far as can be seen from the details visible on the new fragment. Behind the left-hand warrior is an archer; behind the other is a slinger. The stone is to be seen in his left hand, and the sling itself was probably rendered by paint. He seems to be the squire of the other warrior, since he carries no shield and has no armour, but is clad only in a leopard's skin. All the men have long hair, and the three principal figures are bearded and in style resemble the warrior on one of the bone reliefs from Sparta at Dhimitzana.³ The chariot on the body of the *pithos* recalls a fragment with a similar subject in the Museum.⁴ The drawing of the dog is exceedingly good. The technique of the *pithos* is interesting. It was first made by itself, and then the reliefs which had been moulded separately were applied, and the whole baked together. To judge by its likeness to black-figured vases the *pithos* probably dates from the sixth century. It is hoped that when this site can be completely excavated, the rest will be discovered.⁵

The hero-reliefs and the miniature vases described above, seem to leave little doubt that there was here a Heroön. Unfortunately no inscription has yet been discovered to enable us to identify it with any shrine mentioned by Pausanias. Two black-glazed vase fragments bearing, painted in red, the letters A and IA lead us to hope that such may

¹ Several fragments are of the styles discussed by Watzinger, *Athen. Mitt.* 1901, pp. 50 *seqq.*

² De Ridder, *Cat. Vases Bibl. Nat.* 166; Le Bas, *Voy. Arch. Mon. Fig.* Pl. 105. In the reconstructed drawings both fragments have been combined, since, thanks to the kindness of M. Babelon, a cast of the Le Bas piece has been presented to the British School at Athens. The pattern, shewn on the shield in the drawing, is indistinct on the original: see also p. 281 above.

³ Richards, *J.H.S.* 1891, Pl. XI.

⁴ *Sparta Mus. Cat.* No. 520, Fig. 82.

⁵ Another piece, shewing the horses of the chariot on the body of the *pithos*, has just been found, May, 1907 [Ed.].

be found. It is possible that if the Altar is, as Mr. Dickins suggests,¹ that of Lycurgus, this shrine may be the Heroön of Astrabacus.

Although several walls were found, no definite building could be made out. Many architectural terracottas however were found. These include one early and two late antefixes, two fragments of a geison with an acanthus scroll in relief above a painted maeander (Fig. 4), and a fragment of what seems to be a black-glazed metope or large relief. These probably belonged to the shrine or to one of the buildings in its *temenos*.

Near the supposed temenos-wall at a depth of 1.90 m. a *pithos* burial was found. The great jar lay on its side, and its mouth was closed with two large slabs. It was only half full of earth, in which were found



FIG. 4.—PAINTED TERRACOTTA CORNICE.

calcined bones, a black-glazed mug, and a two-handled cup with black spots on a white slip. It is difficult to fix the date of these vases, but the burial seems to belong to the Greek period. What relation it has to the Heroön has yet to be determined. It must be remarked that near it were found more vase fragments than elsewhere.

At only two other points on the city wall were any small objects found. Close to the mill-stream on the edge of the corn-field (**O 14**), a trial-pit yielded at a depth of .90 m. some fragments of Corinthian pottery, a painted architectural terracotta, and a bronze bowl handle on which sits a small monkey.

In Tagari's garden on the wall (**O 15**) a quantity of miscellaneous potsherds, terracottas, and other objects was found. These consist of late

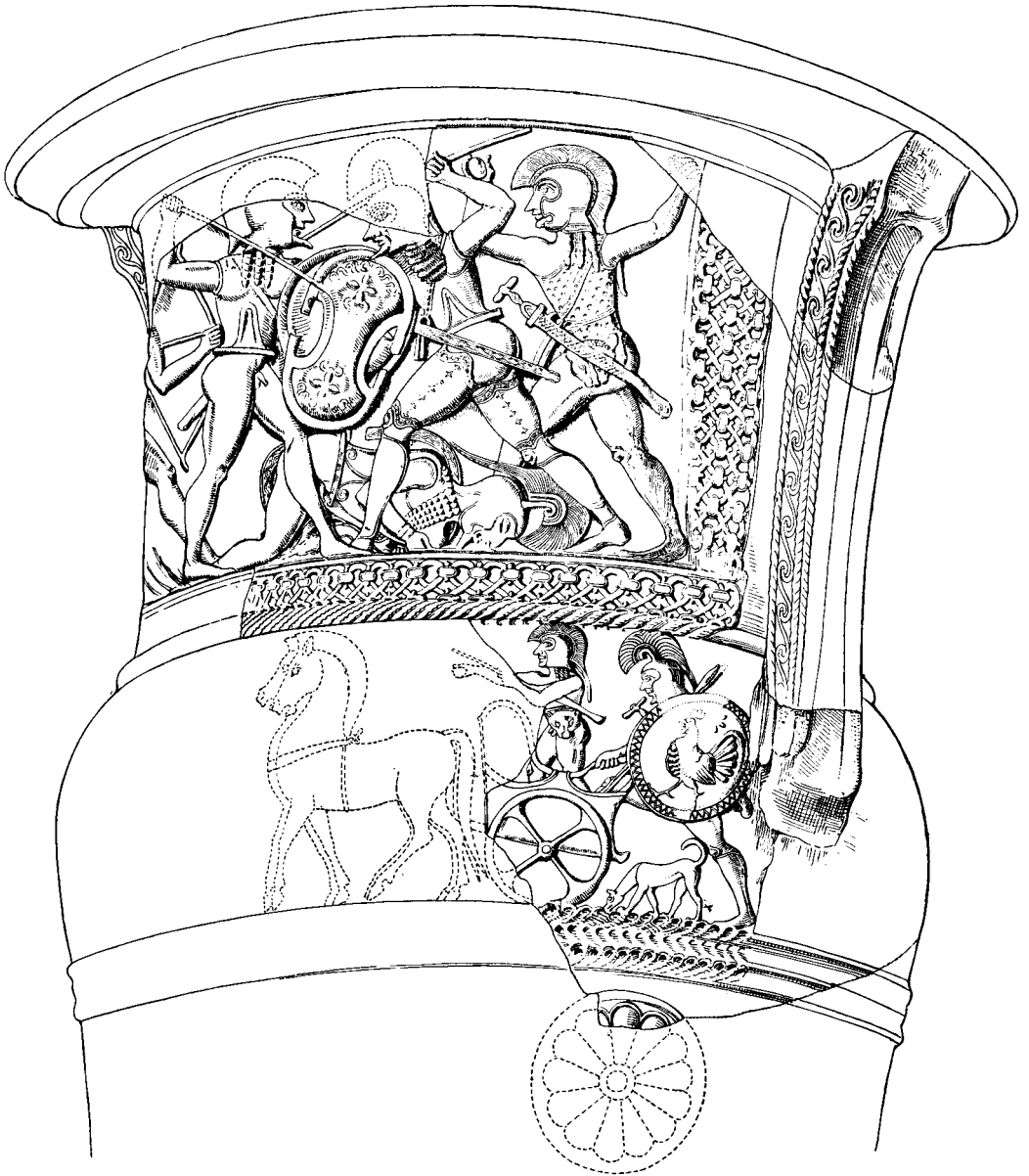
¹ v. p. 302.

antefixes, three-handled cups, vases of an elongated amphora shape, and black-glazed ware with white and incised ornament, all like those from the Heroön. The pottery comprises Geometric sherds, a fine piece of the red-figured style, ribbed black-glazed ware, Megarian bowls, and vases with applied moulded figurines.¹

Thus it will be seen that all the objects found in the neighbourhood of the city wall are Greek, or Hellenistic. A Laconian coin of Claudius was found at the Heroön, but no trace has yet been observed of any building of the Imperial period.

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¹ With them was found a sherd on which are scratched the letters ΠΑΠΑΙΔ . . . , Inv. No. 2275.



MOULDED PITHOS FROM SPARTA.