

Building remains and accompanying finds, first centuries AD

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The building remains of the first centuries AD are found mostly in the humus and partly in the grey, clayey layers. In Sector NGS, these horizons prove to have been the most disturbed during modern times, especially in the central area where only heaps of collapsed stones are found during excavation of these layers.

In the early centuries AD, as the surviving building remains show, this sector of the city was a manufacturing suburb, and it is unlikely that it was built-up in a regular manner. At the same time, however, some isolated structures were arranged within the framework of the previously existing layout scheme. Stones from destroyed structures were reused for these buildings. In some cases, the pavements and walls of antecedent periods continued in use. Some of the accumulations of collapsed stones found in the upper layers were created by the destruction of the suburb's buildings of the first centuries AD, whereas others are indications of the levelling of the ground prior to the construction of new houses in the suburb. Construction was carried out in accordance with the topography, which slopes downwards to the east and south. The difference in height from north to south amounts to 0.5-0.8 m. In the northern part of the excavation, two terraces were revealed extending west-east. These are called the upper and the lower terraces. The height difference between them is 1.7-2.5 m. In the southern part also two terraces are traceable, with a difference in height of 1.4-1.88 m (Pl. 49-51).

Because of the fragmentary state of the building remains, it is practically impossible to draw conclusions regarding their functions. The same is true concerning their date of construction as well as the discrimination of individual building periods. Closed contexts are absent, and the materials from the layers are mixed, containing finds from the entire period of the occupation of Olbia from the 6th century BC to the 4th century AD. Sometimes finds of the first centuries AD are entirely absent among the uncovered building remains, but there is plenty of material from the preceding periods. In these cases, stratigraphical observations are most important.

Nevertheless, the presence of a considerable number of artefacts of the 1st-4th century AD in the upper layers of the site is notable. These finds include *i.a.* large fragments of vessels, sometimes even complete profiles. Moreover, among the amphoras, specimens of the 4th century AD are predominant while red-glossed pottery is represented mostly by fragmentary vessels of the 1st-3rd century AD. This is possibly related to the functional changes in the use of the suburb which took place in the 4th century AD, when part of it began to be used predominantly as a storage area.

The following description of the building remains uncovered in the sector proceeds from north to south according to the arrangement of the earlier living quarters, which, to a great extent, determined the arrangement of structures in the suburb, first on the upper then on the lower terrace.

NORTHERN HOUSEBLOCK, UPPER TERRACE

In the Northern Houseblock were located Stone Heap A²¹⁸ and Pit 39 possibly on the boundary between the terraces having arisen as a result of the robbing of stone from the supporting wall of the terrace.

²¹⁸ In the field documentation, it was originally recorded as a heap of collapsed stones in Square 19.

Stone Heap A

Excavated in a layer of grey, clayey soil at a depth of 0.8 m from the modern surface. It extends from northeast to southwest with a nearly rectangular shape. L 3.25 m; W 0.85 m; T 0.2 m. The heap slopes down slightly to the east. Among the one to three layers of small and medium-sized limestone rubble there was one large limestone block.

Trench 39 (Pl. 49)

Excavated southwest of Stone Heap A, and practically in alignment with it. Its upper level consisted of grey, clayey soil. Absolute height: 12.7 m. The trench is rectangular in plan and in cross-section. The walls are uneven and poorly distinguishable. L ca. 5 m; W ca. 2.75 m; D 2.2 m. The excavation has not been completed down to the bottom. The fill of the trench was a loose grey, clayey, rubbish-containing soil with rich amounts of diverse finds, mostly heavily crushed pottery. The latest are amphora fragments of Zeest type 100 of the 4th century AD²¹⁹ and light-clay, narrow-necked, grey-polished bowls of the 1st-3rd century AD. In addition, the trench yielded six amphora stamps of Rhodes and Chersonesos (85-67 to 85-72). The trench is of recent formation, the result of removing stones from the wall.

Room 221

This room is the northernmost on the upper terrace (Pl. 49). It was covered with collapsed stones, which were reached at a depth of 0.6 m from the modern surface in a layer of grey, clayey soil immediately below the humus. The room retained its southwestern corner, formed by the bonded Walls 206 and 207. The southeastern part of the room was disturbed by later digging. The floor has not been identified. Possibly, it was constituted of the compacted yellow, clayey surface upon which the undersides of the two walls rested. The extant dimensions of the room are 1.27 x 1.52 m; W of the walls 0.32-0.36 m; H up to 0.6 m. The walls are laid in courses and bonded with a clayey mortar, with some irregularity caused by the use of stones of different sizes. Wall 206 is made of coarsely-dressed slabs and blocks of limestone. The gaps between the large stones are filled with fine rubble. The northwestern section of Wall 207 is made of medium-sized rubble, the southeastern of large, roughly picked slabs of limestone.

The room was filled with a layer of grey, clayey soil containing unrepresentative materials including isolated fragments of amphoras of the early centuries AD.

Further to the south on the upper terrace, there are building remains related to another non-domestic complex. These include Wall 57, Stone Heaps I, II, III,²²⁰ Pit 38, and the Pit in Square 398 (Pl. 49). Apparently, these heaps of stones and the pit resulted from stone robbing in modern times.

Trench in Square 398

This trench is nearly rectangular in plan and cross-section. L 1.9-2.05 m; W 0.75 m; D 0.25-0.4 m. The fill was a dark, humus-rich soil. The latest finds from the fill are dated to the 3rd century AD (a fragment of a richly profiled amphora handle).

Stone Heap I

Located in the humus layer at a depth of 0.5-0.7 m from the modern surface. Absolute heights: top 13.562 m; level of the underside 13.362 m. The heap is oriented north-south lying horizontally in one to two layers of small and medium-sized limestone rubble. The dimensions of the heap are 2.8 x 0.1-1.9 m; T 0.1-0.2 m. The latest artefacts found during removal of the heap are dated to the first centuries AD and include fragmentary walls of red-glossed vessels.

²¹⁹ Zeest 1960.

²²⁰ The numeration of the heaps is presented without relation to the general numeration of the building remains in the sector.

Stone Heap II

One to two layers of small limestone rubble laying horizontally in a layer of grey, clayey soil. Its shape was amorph and it extended northeast-southwest. L 1.55 m; W 0.5-0.7 m; T 0.05-0.1 m.

Stone Heap III

One to three layers of small and medium-sized limestone rubble and fragments of pottery also laying horizontally in a layer of grey, clayey soil at a depth of 0.8 m from the modern surface. The heap was oriented northwest-southeast. Its shape was almost segmental in plan. L 1.6 m; W 0.65-0.9 m; T 0.05-0.12 m. Absolute heights: 13.262-13.142 m. The pottery found during excavation of the heap is dated mostly to the Hellenistic period, but the finds also include material of the first centuries AD (single fragments of red-glossed pottery and glass objects).

Wall 57

The wall is oriented northeast-southwest. It was found in a layer of grey, clayey soil at a depth of 1.75 m from the modern surface. Absolute heights: top 13.133 m; of the underside level 12.668 m. L of the wall 1.15 m; W 0.4 m; H 0.45 m. The wall was badly disturbed. Of special note are three large, dressed stones measuring 0.3 x 0.25 x 0.2 m; 0.4 x 0.3 x 0.4 m and 0.6 x 0.25-0.37 x 0.05-0.07 m.

The date of Wall 57 to the Roman period rests mainly on stratigraphic evidence rather than on the accompanying finds. The level of its underside is higher than that of the walls of the Hellenistic period. The pottery from the underlying layer are dated to the 4th-3rd century BC.

Pit 38

Located south of Wall 57. Its upper section was dug in a layer of grey, clayey soil, the lower in dark-yellow, clayey soil. The shape is rounded in plan and slightly elongated oriented north-south. In cross-section it is nearly cylindrical, but broadens slightly downwards. The walls of the pit are uneven, and the transition between the walls and the bottom is rounded. Ø 1-1.2 m; D 0.9 m. Absolute heights: orifice 13.4 m; bottom 12.5 m. The fill in the upper section of the pit was a loose, grey, clayey soil with small-sized rubble and pottery (mostly fragments of tiles). This layer was underlain by denser, light soil, T 0.03-0.05 m; still lower was a layer of grey, clayey soil with ashy inclusions, pieces of charcoal, rare fragments of pottery and occasionally stones. The bottom of the pit was formed by a densely rammed, grey, clayey soil with ashy inclusions. The latest materials from the pit are fragments of richly profiled handles of redware amphoras of the second half of the 2nd and the 3rd century AD and walls of red-glossed vessels.

NORTHERN HOUSEBLOCK, LOWER TERRACE

In the northernmost part of the block were found two kilns, numerous heaps of stones and a rubble and ceramic pavement (Pl. 49). Of special interest are the two kilns, which undoubtedly served for some kind of production, but their particular function remains unclear.

Kilns 231 and 231a

Two kilns were revealed immediately below the humus, 231 to the east and 231a to the west (Pl. 52.1-2, 53.1-3). In terms of stratigraphy, these were located above the building remains of the Hellenistic period. The finds retrieved in the course of the clearing of the kilns were very scanty and included fragments of tiles and fluted amphora fragments of the first centuries AD.

The kilns were arranged parallel to each other at a distance of 0.35-0.5 m. They were oriented north-south and had a strong inclination northwards. Absolute heights: at the level of the underside of Wall 233 (Kiln 231) at the southern end 11.08 m; at the northern end 10.64 m; at the level of the underside of Wall 235 (Kiln 231a) at the southern end 11.24 m; at the northern end 10.6 m.

The kilns consisted of rectangular platforms, T up to 0.03 m, inclined northwards. Around them were encircling walls. The foundations of the two kilns were constituted of seashells, a yellow, clayey, rammed layer and a layer of small stones

over which the platforms were constructed. The edges of the platform adjacent to the encircling walls were raised, covering the masonry by 0.05 m. The fronts of the walls faced the inside of the kilns and had a reddish hue due to the effects of fire. The stonework of the two kilns was bonded with a clay mortar. The widths of the joints between the stones on the front side were 0.01-0.02 m; on the rear side 0.02-0.04 m. The openings of the kilns were on the northern side. During excavation of the kilns, it was necessary to remove a heap of collapsed stones similar in size and type of dressing to those that were used in the walls of the kilns. Most of stones from this heap were burnt. Probably, these were the remains of the vaults of the kilns. No evidence for the existence of upper tiers in the kilns was revealed.

Kiln 231

The foundations of the kiln measure 2.45 x 2.04 m; the bottom platform 2.4 x 1.45 m. In its northern part, the platform tapers to 0.67 m, forming the mouth of the kiln. Near the mouth on each side of the platform, areas of unfired, rammed clay mixed with crushed seashells remained. In front of the opening of the kiln there was a platform constructed of rammed clay. There was an outcrop of a yellow, clayey intercalation, T 0.04-0.05 m, underlying the entire kiln, upon which the undersides of the walls were resting. It was underlain by a cushion of seashells, T 0.02 m. The bottom platform of the kiln was delimited by interlacing walls on three sides (Walls 230, 233, 234).

Wall 230

South wall of kiln. L 2.04 m; W 0.11-0.16 m; maximum extant H 0.45 m; H over the level of the platform 0.28 m. The wall is single-faced, single-layered. Up to seven courses are preserved. The stonework is constituted mostly of limestone slabs of nearly rectangular or polygonal plan and rubble measuring 0.1-0.33 x 0.05-0.18 x 0.03-0.07 m, including one block measuring 0.27 x 0.25 x 0.16 m and one boulder measuring on the face side 0.2 x 0.11 m.

Wall 233

East wall of kiln. This wall is disrupted 0.46 m from the northern edge of the kiln. The southern part of it is inclined inwards to the kiln. The wall is single-layered, single-faced, single-coursed and in the most part laid as stretchers, although some stones are laid as headers. The stones are limestone slabs of trapezoid and polygonal plan and rubble measuring 0.1-0.28 x 0.1-0.21 x 0.04-0.07 m. To the east of the opening of the kiln, a limestone block, adjusted by cutting, rectangular on the face and measuring 0.22 x 0.06 m, was found. Upon it was a small rectangular slab measuring 0.14 x 0.09 x 0.04 m.

Wall 234

West wall of kiln. L 2.1 m; W 0.26-0.3 m; maximum extant H 0.25 m; the elevation over the level of the kiln platform 0.1 m; on the north, it is disrupted 0.35 m from the edge of the kiln. The wall is single-faced, two-layered and partly irregular. The courses are laid as stretchers. One to two courses are extant. The building stones are mostly limestone slabs, occasionally blocks of rectangular, trapezoid or polygonal plan or rubble measuring 0.14-0.28 x 0.08-0.2 x 0.03-0.09 m; among them there were also two cobbles.

Kiln 231a

Dimensions of the foundation: L 2.8 m; W at the northern part 1.7 m; W at the southern part 1.75 m. Dimensions of the platform: 2.4 x 1.3 m. In its northern part, the kiln tapered to 0.5 m to form the mouth. In the southern part of the kiln, the platform is partly destroyed; in section, the thickness of the clay layer measures 0.03 m. Below, it is padded by a layer of clay mixed with crushed seashells. The bottom platform of the kiln is delimited on three sides by walls (Walls 229, 232, 235). The type of bonding is not clearly discernible due to the poor state of preservation.

Wall 232

South wall of kiln. L 1.1 m; W 0.19 m; H 0.21 m. The wall is single-layered laid as stretchers. Three courses of stones are preserved. Only the rear side of the wall was observable since the part that was raised above the level of the platform

had been destroyed. The stones of the wall include mostly limestone slabs, rarer blocks of nearly rectangular or polygonal plan and rubble measuring 0.12-0.26 x 0.06-0.19 x 0.04-0.07 m.

Wall 235

East wall of kiln. Reaches, at its north end, the edge of the kiln. L 2.45 m; W 0.15-0.27 m; H 0.23 m; elevation above the platform level 0.13 m. The wall is single-layered, single-faced, partly irregular, and laid in alternating stretchers and headers. Three courses have survived. The stones of the wall include mostly limestone slabs, rarer blocks of nearly rectangular or polygonal plan and rubble measuring 0.06-0.33 x 0.05-0.2 x 0.04-0.17 m.

A group of stones abutted the northern end of the wall, bounding the mouth of the kiln. L of the stones 0.37 m; W 0.21 m; H 0.18 m. The stones compose two courses. In the lower there is a large block with an approximately rectangular face measuring 0.3 x 0.1 m. Upon it, there are three polygonal slabs resting partly also upon a layer of clay that padded the burnt clay of the platform. Dimensions of the slabs: 0.13-0.23 x 0.1-0.17 x 0.02-0.04 m.

Wall 229

West wall of kiln. L 2.35 m; H 0.26 m; elevation above the platform level 0.12 m. To the north, the wall reaches the edge of the kiln where it is abutted by a stone, which is bounding the mouth of the kiln from the west. This is a limestone block, nearly trapezoid in plan and section and measuring 0.18 x 0.16 x 0.05 m. The wall is single-layered, single-faced, single-coursed with alternating header and stretcher stones. Two of its courses and one stone from the third are preserved. The courses are laid in limestone slabs of rectangular, trapezoid and polygonal plan and rubble measuring 0.11-0.25 x 0.1-0.2 x 0.05-0.08 m.

In front of the mouth of the kiln, small polygonal slabs lay in a band, L 0.69 m; W 0.17 m. Dimensions of the slabs in plan: 0.12-0.17 x 0.09-0.15 m.

Pit near Kiln 231a

Northwest of Kiln 231a, a pit for collecting ashes was found near the edge of the kiln. The pit is oval in plan, elongated along a north-south line and measuring 1.05 x 0.8 m; D 0.87 m. The fill of the pit was ashy, containing pieces of kiln clay, wood and undiagnostic pottery. On the bottom of the pit, a layer of light-yellow loess, T 0.08-0.11 m, was lying over an intercalation of ashes, T 0.02-0.03 m. North of the kilns, a few stone heaps from destroyed buildings were found.

Stone Heap 299

Oriented west-east with an amorphous elongated shape. L 12 m; W 3-4 m; T 0.1-0.2 m (Pl. 54.1-2). It consisted of a single layer of stones with considerable intervals (up to 0.25-0.3 m) between them. The stones include limestone rubble and dressed stones, mostly slabs of polygonal plan and small blocks measuring 0.08-0.3 x 0.07-0.23 x 0.06-0.16 m. Some of the stones were affected by fire. Among the stones, irregularly scattered small and medium-sized pottery fragments were found (Pl. 54.3).

Stone Heap 236

Excavated in a layer of grey, clayey soil. It was oriented west-east with an amorphous elongated shape and an inclination to the east. The heap was constituted by small rubble stones. Absolute heights: in the southwestern part of the heap 11.56 m; in the northwestern 11.17 m; in the eastern 10.71 m. T of the heap 0.2-0.3 m.

Pavement 258

Excavated in a layer of grey-yellow soil. It extended northwest-southeast. L 3.6 m; maximum preserved W 1.4 m. It is constructed of small and medium-sized limestone rubble, crushed limestone and fine fragments of pottery lying upon a layer of grey, clayey soil. The pavement is inclined southeast. Absolute heights: top 12.43-11.98 m. The rubble stones measure 0.08-0.12 x 0.04-0.06 m.

Another assemblage of structures is situated at a considerable distance from the kilns to the south. This is Pavement 78 with Walls 79 and 95 (Pl. 49).

Pavement 78

This pavement is formed from the remains of a courtyard of House II-3 of the Hellenistic period that was reused in the first centuries AD (Pl. 55.1). It covered layers of earlier pavements and rammed areas. Dimensions: 3.7 x 3 m; T 0.06-0.1 m. In addition to this basic area, similar remains are traceable over a distance of 1.6 m to the west. Absolute height: upper level 11.69 m. The extant part is trapezoid in plan with a rectangular projection to the northeast. In its central and northern parts, the pavement is constituted of large polygonal slabs laid on a bed. The slabs are picked along the edges. In the southern part there are similar slabs but of smaller size and, in addition, small-sized rubble is also used here. The gaps (0.03-0.14 m) are filled with a dense, light, grey, clayey soil. Dimensions of the stones: 0.18-0.62 x 0.16-0.4 x 0.14-0.37 m. In the southeastern part of the pavement, an unpaved "groove", W 0.14-0.24 m, is discernible.

Wall 79

Located at the upper level of Pavement 78. It is oriented northeast-southwest. Absolute height of the underside 11.69 m (Pl. 55.2). L 0.8 m; W 0.5 m; H 0.17 m. A single course is preserved. The wall is above-ground, coursed, laid flat, two-layered, two-faced and laid in limestone slabs picked at the edges and blocks. The adjustment is not tight, with gaps up to W 7 cm. Dimensions of the stones: 0.28-0.37 x 0.28-0.3 x 0.1-0.15 m.

Wall 95

Oriented east-west (Pl. 55.3). L 1.6 m; W 0.24-0.43 m; H 0.2 m. One or two courses of the wall have survived. The wall is above-ground, probably single-layered, two-faced, coursed and laid in headers. It is constructed of ragged slabs picked on the face side and blocks, polygonal and rectangular in plan, measuring 0.1-0.3 x 0.08-0.22 x 0.08-0.17 m. The adjustment is not tight, the gaps between the larger stones was filled with fine rubble.

Structure 189

Partition wall of semi-circular plan, revealed at a considerable distance east of Pavement 78. It was built in the Hellenistic period (House II-4), but continued in use during the first centuries AD. Other structures also dated to the Hellenistic period remained only in the form of a number of heaps of collapsed rubble in the lower layer of humus and upper part of the grey, clayey layer.

Structure 189 was found at the upper level of the grey, clayey layer, covered with a thick heap of dressed stones and rubble. The structure has been traced down to 1 m below the modern surface. The wall of the structure is single-layered and two-faced. It is preserved to the height of two to three courses. Their terminations were destroyed. Inner Ø of the structure (north-south) 1.75 m; preserved H 0.6 m; total L of the wall 2.75 m. The façade was on the outside. The wall is laid in carefully dressed, rectangular blocks, some of which were cut to fit the curvature. The joints are not tight with the gaps, amounting to 3-4 cm, but the stones are well adjusted to their positions, lying flat as stretchers. Part of the masonry is supplemented with smaller slabs.

Of the artefacts found around the structure, a crushed amphora of Zeest type 100 of the 4th century AD²²¹ is noteworthy. However, among the materials retrieved during clearing of the structure, Hellenistic pottery were the predominant finds. The fill of the structure did not differ from the surrounding layer and consisted of a light-grey, clayey soil with pottery of different periods.

At a considerable distance southwest of Structure 189, Burial 181 was revealed. It was covered by the wall of a structure of the suburb (Pl. 56.1-2).

²²¹ Zeest 1960.

Wall without number

Located east of Burial 181. It is preserved only fragmentarily oriented north-south. L 0.95 m; W 0.25 m; H up to 0.4 m. Both of its ends have been destroyed by stone robbing. The masonry is careless and irregular, laid in one to two layers; most probably, it was single-faced. The stones are polygonal, close to triangular or trapezoid, in plan. Mostly these are slabs of limestone set as orthostats. Many of them are slanting. The foundation course is unemphasized. Considering that the underside of the wall rested upon the same grey, clayey soil in which the burial pit was dug and was higher than the bottom level of the burial, we may assume that the wall had no relation to the burial and was constructed somewhat later.²²²

Pavement without number

On the southern and eastern sides of the burial pit, a small single-layered pavement, measuring 0.35 x 0.15 m, was uncovered. It was made of fine rubble stones measuring 0.07-0.1 x 0.05-0.07 m. These remains, similarly to the masonry of the wall described above, were also not related to the burial. The level of their deposition is slightly higher than that of the lower section of the burial pit, and the pavement at this horizon seems unrelated with the remains of the ritual feast of the burial. The latter would have been higher, at the level of the non-preserved ancient surface. The pavement is also not related to the presumed approaches to the grave.²²³

Burial 181

Excavated below the humus in a layer of grey, clayey soil at a depth of 1 m below the modern surface. Here, very indistinct traces of a burial pit of rectangular plan with rounded corners were traced. The pit measures 1.3 x 0.5 m; D 0.12-0.15 m. It was oriented almost north-south. The upper section of the pit was not traceable in the layer. Possibly, it was disturbed during the last building activities in the area. If we assume that the pit was dug from the upper level of the grey, clayey soil immediately below the modern humus, which is 0.2-0.3 m thick here, then we may presume that the depth of the grave was about 0.9 m. On the bottom of the pit, traces of fire and very small undiagnostic fragments of calcined bones were discernible. Higher than this layer, on a small intercalation of a greenish clay with inclusions of lumpy grey, clayey soil, the remains of a buried child, two to three years old,²²⁴ were lying. The skeleton was lying on its back in an extended posture, with the head to the north. The vertebral column was bent and the skull, slightly turned to the right, was crushed in its occiput area. The right arm extended along the body; the fingers were not preserved. The left arm was slightly bent at the elbow, lying on the pelvis bone. The tibia and femur were almost jointed. Possibly, the burial was disturbed during later building activities.²²⁵

The accompanying grave offerings included eight small vessels (Pl. 56.3) and two poorly-preserved bronze objects. Near the head, there were a glass beaker, two small greyware pots and the base of a redware jug of the Kozyrka type of the 1st-3rd century AD. The latter fragment is possibly not related to the burial, perhaps being an intrusion from an earlier layer. Two black-polished beakers, a grey-polished small biconical bowl and yet another small greyware pot near the knees were found at the eastern side of the grave pit. Between the feet there was a small, single-handled, grey-polished jug-beaker. Near the chest, a very poorly-preserved bronze object, possibly a fibula, was found. Near the right hand there was a small bronze coin(?) lying under a fragment of tile. The coin, like the fragment of the above-mentioned jug, was possibly unrelated to the burial. Analysis of the grave goods, which are dated to the second half of the 3rd or the first half of the 4th century AD, as well as of the burial rite, suggests that this child burial was connected with the Černjachov culture. Evidently, the interment took place in an extreme situation since the child died and was buried according to the tribal rite in foreign territory.²²⁶ Possibly, this event occurred during the second Gothic invasion of Olbia in AD 269-270,²²⁷ when the Goths, were campaigning together with their families (SHA *Claud.* 6.2).

²²² Lejpunskaja 2006, 183.

²²³ Lejpunskaja 2006, 183-184.

²²⁴ The identification was made by T.A. Nazarova.

²²⁵ Lejpunskaja 2006, 184.

²²⁶ Lejpunskaja 2006, 185-188.

²²⁷ N.A. Lejpunskaja (2006, 188) believes that this interment took place in the period between the two Gothic invasions of AD 230 and AD 269-270. It seems, however, more logical to tie the burial with the invasion AD 269-270, when the area of Olbia was abandoned for some time.

CENTRAL AND WESTERN HOUSEBLOCKS

In the central area of Sector NGS, the building remains of the first centuries AD have, in recent times, been completely demolished (Pl. 50). Only a few heaps of stones have been discovered here, scattered throughout practically the entire area of the Western Quarter. Absolute heights: 13.8-13.6 m. The stone heaps were single-layered with a small area, measuring 0.5 x 0.7 m; 0.45 x 0.7 m; 1.5 x 1.35 m. They consisted of fine and medium-sized limestone rubble, rarer flat slabs and roughly-dressed blocks. One of the heaps was found at a depth of 0.5 m below the modern surface. Its dimensions in plan are 1.4 x 1.3 m. From among the stones, an amphora of Zeest type 100²²⁸ and the neck of a light-clay, narrow-necked amphora of Šelov type D dated to the 4th century AD, as well as fragments of a handmade vessel were retrieved. The stone heap over Basement 343 possibly occurred during levelling of the area for construction. Absolute height of top of the heap 11.7 m.

SOUTHERN HOUSEBLOCK, UPPER TERRACE

In the southern part of Sector NGS, on the upper terrace, building remains of the first centuries AD have been revealed in the humus and immediately beneath it. These are all very poorly preserved and fragmented, and yield us no consistent picture of the buildings in this area in the early centuries AD (Pl. 51). The major confirmation of their construction dates is their stratigraphic position above the late Hellenistic structures. The accompanying finds are indistinctive, consisting mostly of a few sherds of light-clay, narrow-necked amphoras and red-glossed pottery, and thus yield little evidence for dating.

Parts of the building remains have survived in the form of heaps of stones deposited in the grey, clayey layer at a depth of 0.5-0.75 m below the modern surface. Absolute heights: 11.5-11.6; 13.6-13.7 m. These consisted of small and medium-sized limestone rubble, rarer coarsely-dressed blocks and slabs of a small size. The largest of the heaps measures 2.65 x 2.25 m. Absolute height: top 13.6-13.7 m.

Stone Heap 491

Uncovered in the humus resting on a layer of greenish clay. Absolute height: top 11.76 m. Area 3 x 2.4 m. The heap consisted of a single layer of fine and medium-sized rubble. In its eastern part, a rectangular stone trough was uncovered.

Room 459

Located above the remains of House VI-3. The room was above-ground and preserved the southern (Wall 457), western (Wall 458) and northern (in the form of Stone Heap 460) walls. The eastern wall and the floor were not preserved. The room was filled with a layer of grey, clayey soil with materials of the 4th to the turn of the 2nd/1st century BC, which were related to the disturbed layer of the preceding period (Context 273).

Wall 457

Bonded with Wall 458. Its eastern end was destroyed by stone robbing. One to two courses have survived. L 2.63 m; W 0.6 m; H 0.3 m. Absolute heights: top 12.95 m; underside 12.6 m. The wall is two-layered, two-faced and laid in courses. The stones are not adjusted tightly, with gaps up to W 6 cm. The stones of the wall measure 0.19-0.6 x 0.18-0.24 x 0.1-0.11 m.

The southern façade was preserved slightly better than the northern one. The courses of the foundation are unemphasized. The stonework is laid in coarsely-dressed limestone slabs and blocks. In the construction of the eastern part of the wall, rounded pebbles were used within two courses. Near the eastern end of the wall, three stones extending north-south were revealed. Possibly, these were the remains of the eastern wall. Observable was the northward creep of stones of the façade. The northern façade was poorer preserved except for its western part. In the bond of Walls 457 and 458, a large slab of rectangular plan, measuring 0.4 x 0.31 m, was laid in the second course.

²²⁸ Zeest 1960.

Wall 458

Oriented almost north-south. One or two courses have been preserved. L 2.75 m; W up to 0.57 m; H 0.32 m. Absolute heights: top 12.95 m; underside 12.65 m. The wall was two-layered, two-faced, coursed (probably single-coursed) and laid in alternating stretchers and headers. The adjustment of the stones was not tight, with gaps to up to W 6 cm. The extant part of the wall is constituted mainly of roughly-dressed polygonal or nearly rectangular faced limestone slabs measuring 0.33-0.38 x 0.19-0.33 m.

Stone Heap 460

Located northeast of Wall 457. It was oriented almost east-west. Possibly, it represented the remains of the northern wall of the room. L 6 m; W 0.4 m (in the western part); 1.5 m (in the middle part); 0.75 m (in the eastern part). The heap consisted of one to three layers including mostly limestone rubble and occasionally tile fragments. In its central part, two rows of masonry were traced over 1 m along the southern edge of the heap. In this area, the stones were slightly larger than in the western and eastern zones. The stone heap measures 0.1-0.2 x 0.08-0.18 x 0.12-0.14 m in plan.

Pavement 569

Found southwest of Room 459 immediately under the humus in a grey, clayey layer. It is oriented east-west and is badly disturbed. Absolute height: top 12.17 m. The pavement is polygonal in plan with dimensions of 2 x 0.5-1.4 m. It is constructed of small slabs. In its eastern section it is slightly broader. Here its construction includes rubble and two roughly-picked slabs of polygonal plan. The stones measure 0.3-0.6 x 0.25-0.4 x 0.07-0.12 m. The interval between the slabs is up to W 0.1 m.

East of Pavement 569, at a distance of 0.4 m, a fragment of a ceramic pavement, oriented north-south, was uncovered. Absolute height: top 12.01 m. The pavement is amorphous in plan, measuring 1.5 x 1 m. The sherds and occasional, fine, limestone rubble are not packed tightly in the pavement.

Stone Heap 570

Located east of Pavement 569, 0.3-0.5 m below it and under the humus in a grey, clayey loess layer. Absolute height: top 11.67 m. At the upper level of the heap were found tile fragments lying in a loose, ashy soil. The heap was constituted by a single layer inclined to the east and measuring 3.8 (west-east) x 3.1 m (north-south). The stones are roughly-dressed, rectangular and polygonal limestone slabs and blocks, as well as fine and medium-sized limestone rubble measuring 0.15-0.38 x 0.14-0.3 x 0.05-0.17 m. Among the stones, large fragments of tiles and, near the eastern edge of the heap, a large wall fragment of a pithos were encountered.

Wall 461

Located west of Pavement 589. The level of its underside is close to that of the undersides of the walls of Room 459. Absolute heights: top 12.72 m; underside 12.6 m. The wall is oriented almost north-south. Only a fragment of the foundation course has survived, L 1.35 m; W 0.28 m; H 0.12 m. The wall is single-layered and probably two-faced, laid in coarsely-dressed flags of limestone measuring 0.15-0.5 x 0.12-0.28 x 0.1-0.12 m.

SOUTHERN HOUSEBLOCK, LOWER TERRACE

The building remains uncovered on the lower terrace of the Southern Quarter are also very fragmentary and difficult to interpret. Possibly, some of them were constructed in the late Hellenistic period and continued in use in the first centuries AD. Practically all of them were revealed immediately beneath the humus in a grey, clayey layer or in the humus itself. The accompanying finds are fragmentary and belong to different periods, although pottery of the Hellenistic and late Hellenistic periods predominate, while fewer belong to the early centuries AD.

Wall 507

was heavily disturbed in its northern part, with only one or two courses preserved. It is oriented almost north-south. Absolute heights: top 10.58 m; underside 10.23 m. L of the uncovered section 1.1 m; W 0.68 m; H 0.35 m. The wall is above-ground, two-layered and double-faced. The foundation courses are not emphasized. Along the northern façade, the foundation course is constituted of three limestone blocks, nearly rectangular or polygonal in plan. The western façade is laid in coarsely-dressed polygonal blocks. The adjustment of the blocks is not tight. The stones on the façade measure 0.18-0.3 x 0.12-0.18 m.

Wall 508

Above-ground wall, heavily destroyed, with only one or two courses preserved. It is oriented almost north-south. Absolute heights: top 10.55 m; underside 10.2 m. L of the uncovered part 2.3 m; W 0.25-0.5 m; H 0.35 m. Because of its destruction, it was impossible to determine the character of the courses and façades. The southernmost stone of the first course had a mortise. Further to the north was a coarsely-picked piece of marble followed by a piece of greenish shale. The rest of the wall is constructed of polygonal or rectangular, very roughly-dressed limestone slabs and blocks measuring 0.18-0.56 x 0.13-0.45 m.

Pavement 509

Located between Walls 507 and 508. Absolute height: top 10.4 m. The pavement is rectangular, extending almost north-south. The uncovered part of the pavement measures 1.1 x 0.4 m. It is constructed of loosely-packed, polygonal, roughly-dressed limestone slabs. The stones measure 0.17-0.31 x 0.14-0.2 m.

Drainage gutter(?) 511

Oriented almost east-west. The remains include two low walls laid in polygonal with rectangular limestone slabs set as orthostats. In the bed of the gutter no stones have been detected. Possibly it had no stone facing. Absolute height: bed 10.5 m. L of the gutter 1.28 m; W 0.76 m; W of the bed 0.29 m; H of the southern wall 0.35 m. Two courses of the northern wall are extant. The second course consists of a row of slabs, rectangular on the façade and polygonal in plan, laid flat. The stones measure 0.28-0.35 x 0.25-0.3 x 0.15-0.25 m.

Stone Heap without number

To the south of Gutter(?) 511 a heap of large limestone slabs and blocks was found. In addition, a stone and a piece of shale were found. The heap was lying in a single layer inclined to the south. Dimensions of the heap: 1.6 x 1 m. Dimensions of the stones: 0.3-0.48 x 0.25-0.48 x 0.17-0.33 m.

Wall 510

Located north of Gutter(?) 511. It is oriented almost north-south. L 1.1 m; W 0.4 m; H 0.12 m. Absolute heights: top 10.82 m; underside 10.7 m. The wall is constructed in one layer of roughly-picked polygonal and rectangular slabs of limestone, measuring on the façade 0.22-0.35 x 0.09-0.15 m. The stones are not adjusted tightly.

Wall 497

Oriented almost east-west. Absolute heights: top 10.91 m; underside 10.41 m. The northern façade is partly disturbed by stone robbing, preserving only one to four courses. L 0.92 m; W 0.52 m; H 0.5 m. The wall was possibly two-layered, two-faced and single-coursed. It is deformed, having sunk slightly to the east. The courses of the foundation are not emphasized. They are constituted of large blocks with roughly-worked surfaces. The stones of the upper part of the wall were limestone slabs and blocks measuring on the façade 0.17-0.36 x 0.07-0.28 m. The stones are not tightly adjusted, with gaps up to W 5 cm.

Further to the south, the revealed remains include Room 554 with Walls 552 and 553, Pavement 532a, Walls 528, 531 and 532, Floor 546 and Pavement 573 (Pl. 57.1-3, 58.1).

Room 554

Partly excavated, with only its northwestern section, measuring 2.8 x 2.2 m, uncovered. The upper levels of the walls were revealed in the humus at a depth of 0.3-0.4 m below the modern surface. The western wall is represented by Wall 552, the northern by Wall 553. The two walls have been uncovered down to the level of their undersides, but their preserved height was only two or three courses. The walls are built end-to-end. The floor has not been distinguished, and the walls rested on a grey, clayey layer. The underside of Wall 553 is 0.2 m lower than that of Wall 552.

The fill of the room was a dense, grey, clayey humus-rich soil. The accompanying finds were undiagnostic, but the stratigraphic positions of the building remains allow us to date them to the first centuries AD.

Wall 552

Above-ground wall, oriented almost north-south. L 2.2 m; W 0.65 m; H 0.18-0.38 m. The wall is, three-layered, double-faced, slightly irregularly coursed, single-coursed and laid flat-wise in alternating stretchers and headers. The foundation course is unemphasized. The façades are constructed of roughly-picked, rectangular or polygonal limestone blocks and slabs and occasionally pebbles. In the middle course, rubble predominates. The adjustment is not tight, with gaps up to W 3-4 cm. The stones measure 0.21-0.5 x 0.2-0.35 x 0.05-0.18 m.

Wall 553

Oriented almost east-west. It is constructed end-to-end with Wall 552. The eastern section of Wall 553 has been destroyed. L 2.8 m, W 0.7 m; H 0.32 m. In character it is similar to Wall 552. The stones measure 0.26-0.42 x 0.2-0.28 x 0.12-0.2 m. Under the underside, a small cushion of gravel lying on a dense grey, clayey soil (remains of the floor?) was revealed and at the level of the underside there was a small heap of rubble.

Wall 528

Positioned parallel to Wall 552 at a distance of 0.25-0.3 m. It is oriented north-south with a slight deviation to the east. Both its ends have been destroyed. L 2.7 m; W 0.27-0.4 m; H 0.3-0.34 m. The wall is coursed, single-layered(?) and single-faced(?) with the façade to the west. Up to two courses of the wall are preserved. The foundation course, which is unemphasized, is constituted of a pad of rubble and gravel. The wall is constructed from very coarsely-worked limestone slabs and blocks, and of pebbles. The adjustment of stones is not tight, with gaps measuring up to W 10 cm. The two northernmost stones are coarsely-dressed polygonal slabs measuring 0.3 x 0.18 x 0.1 m and 0.44 x 0.26 x 0.12 m. One is set as a header the other as a stretcher. The seventh stone of the upper course is a stone measuring 0.35 x 0.34 m. The eastern part of the wall is resting on a pavement.

Wall 532

Oriented almost north-south. Its northern part is covered with part of Pavement 532a. Absolute height: in the southern part 10.283 m. L 3.45 m; W 0.6 m; L of the area covered with the pavement 1.95 m. The wall is two-layered, double-faced(?) and coursed. Its southern part is preserved as a heap of a single row consisting of roughly-dressed limestone slabs, blocks of rectangular or polygonal plan and rubble. The stones measure 0.2-0.35 x 0.2-0.28 x 0.12-0.27 m.

Pavement 532a

Covered the northern termination of Wall 532 (Pl. 58.2). Absolute height: top 10.593 m. The pavement was destroyed in its northern and southern sections as the slabs have sunk and slipped down in places. The area of the pavement is 1.8 m². It is constructed of slabs of shale and limestone of polygonal plan, measuring 0.3-0.42 x 0.18-0.3 x 0.07 m. Beneath, the slabs are padded in places with rubble.

Stone Heap east of Pavement 532a

East of the pavement, a collapsed heap of roughly-picked stones and rubble was found. The total area of the heap was about 1.5 m². The stones measure 0.33-0.42 x 0.2-0.23 m. Absolute heights: 10.563-10.323 m.

Floor 546

Excavated southwest of Wall 528, covering an area of 1.6 x 1.2 m. It is a layer of densely rammed, grey, clayey soil with an admixture of sand and seashells, T 2-3 cm, overlaying a layer of grey, clayey soil.

Wall 531

Located at a distance of 0.5 m to the west of Wall 532. It stands on a layer of grey, clayey soil and is oriented almost north-south. Absolute heights: top 10.433 m; underside 10.243 m. L 0.95 m; W 0.93 m. The wall is three-layered(?), probably double-faced, coursed, single-coursed and laid flat. The upper course of its eastern façade preserves roughly-picked slabs, rectangular in plan and measuring 0.18-0.26 x 0.17-0.21 x 0.04-0.06 m. The second and third courses (from the top) protrude to the west in the form of "steps". The second course is laid as stretchers of dressed limestone slabs, nearly rectangular in plan and measuring 0.36-0.46 x 0.23-0.25 x 0.08 m. The gaps between them are levelled with the use of small stones of triangular plan. The southern section of the third course is constituted of a dressed slab of rectangular plan, protruding to the west and measuring 0.4 x 0.2 x 0.13 m. In the northern section of the same course, a stone measuring 0.35 x 0.3 x 0.13 m was placed. The central part of the masonry is disturbed, its stones (including a roughly-worked polygonal limestone slab) having slipped down onto the ground. The lower course consists of roughly-picked stones. The adjustment of stones is not tight, with gaps W 2-3 cm.

Pavement 573

Revealed east of Room 554. Absolute height: top 10.12 m. It is constituted of two fragments, a western one and an eastern one. Both consist of a single layer lying beneath the humus on a grey, clayey layer. The western part, with the dimensions of 4 x 2 m, is oriented north-south. The eastern part lies 1 m to the east of the southern end of the western fragment and measures 1.25 x 0.75 m. The surface of the pavement is poorly preserved. Fine ceramic fragments are packed in a fairly loose soil. Judging by the fact that in the construction of the pavement fragments of amphoras of Zeest type 100²²⁹ have been encountered, the pavement was in use in the 4th century AD.

²²⁹ Zeest 1960.