

CHAPTER II

ON THE ICHNOGRAPHIC PROPORTIONS OF THE PARTHENON

SECTION I

GROUND PLAN OF THE PARTHENON. PLATES III. IV. V.¹

PLATE III., which was prepared by Mr. G. Knowles in 1846, gives very exactly the present state of the building, showing the destruction and marks of violence which the walls, pavement, and columns, etc., have suffered; and exhibiting the traces of several crampholes and other marks, which have either originally or subsequently been formed on the pavement. In Plate IV. those marks only which appear to be original are retained.

Of the Hellenic traces the most important are those of the line of metal railing between the columns of the interior order, both of the Pronaos and Posticum,² and those of the pedestal of the chryselephantine statue in the Naos, with certain lines indicating that it was surrounded by a step and a railing; there are also traces of small pedestals varying from about 2 feet square to about 2 feet by 4, which occupied the middle step of the peristyles of the two flanks, opposite the centres of the columns.

The columns which still retain their full height are marked on the plans by a darker shade. Parts of others are standing *in situ*, and the remainder were, more or less, reinstated a few years ago under the direction of Professor Ross.

The attempt at restoration, however successful in one or two instances elsewhere, has here been attended by such an unsatisfactory result that no one will regret that it has been given up. The removal, however, of the mosque, and of other encumbrances from the pavement, adds much to the interest and dignity of the remains. It has also put an end to all doubts relative to the disposition of the columns of the Naos. Of these there are several traces on the south side and one or two on the north. Their axes (like those of the columns of the peristyles) are placed over the joints of the stones forming the floor or stylobate. One of these on the south side, near the site of the statue, where the real surface had been less worn than elsewhere, shows distinctly the contour of the Doric flutes,³ which were originally drawn on the pavement for the purpose of setting out the work, and can still be measured with accuracy. The full diameter of the columns was 3.656 feet.

These columns had sixteen flutes; and it is not unlikely that their situation in the interior of the building, where comparatively little light was admitted, may have influenced the choice of this number, which occasionally occurs in other Greek Doric temples, instead of twenty, the more usual number, and which prevails in the rest of the building. A portion of one of the antæ which formed the eastern termination still remains.⁴

¹ In these three plates, the south is placed at the top instead of the north, according to the more usual method. This has been done because the best and most obvious views of the Parthenon are from the north side.

² Further traces of this may be seen in Plate XVI.

³ A small fragment of, I believe, the lower drum of a column was found, whose flutes coincided with the above-mentioned traces.

⁴ In Plate III., it is suggested that the flank colonnades were finished towards the west by antæ, so as to assimilate the western intercolumniations with those at the eastern termination. It is due to Mr. Knowles to state that it was at my suggestion that he introduced these antæ into his plan. I have also adopted the same form in the small plan of the Parthenon in Plate II. The traces of the angle supports now existing upon the pavement are not sufficient to determine their plan. But I have since learnt

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