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Trench 47B 97-117
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Excavator: M. C. Shaw
-1982-
Burnt Building B

Room A1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>B.&quot;B&quot;</th>
<th>N.BENCH</th>
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V. BENCH

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<td>6.77</td>
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Well 8

A-D: Trench 47A and starting levels

Co-ordinates: at A: 9.8269 x 11133.95Y

at B: 9.8759 x 1114.94

at D: 9.8858 x 1110.01Y

Levels taken from P177: 6.83 m

The trench 47A is directly north of 42A, excavated last year, and directly south of the west room of Burnt Building B. It is 5.50 m N-S, 5.50 m E-W. Coordinates are as seen on p. 4. Levels will be taken in relation to P177 (at 6.83 m) set on the w. wall of room 42A. Levels are taken and are as they appear on p. 4. Two flimsy lines of stones E-W, were seen at the NW area of the trench, the other a little further S-E. were already fully recorded in the past.

Polaroid photos of them were also taken on Aug. 7. (for description of well see NB.10, pp. 98, 101, 110)

Some of the aims for digging here are: to get a construction date for Burnt Building B; to learn more about the PG. and C. use of the area and eventually to trace the E-W Minsan road underneath, which presumably continues here, extending eastward from where it starts on the shore, north of Building J. To do so, we shall have to include in this trench a north section of Trench 42A, north of the heavy Minsan wall labelled last year as Wall 8. On top of wall 8 was a fragmentary Inn Age wall 9 (see p. 4). Trench 47A underlies Tr. 10A2, which, however, was...
Superficial walls in courtyard, S. of B. B. "B". Photo, taken from S.E.
 Removed in 47A/2: 2a + 2b. From south.

Several of the stones of the walls were small and set on edge, clearly an enclosed structure rather than remnants of a real walls.

Rust tiles found at the top level are put in a zembil (to be left at the site) and labelled Pail 1.

Pail 2: 2a
sand & earth
From 6.33/62 to 6.35/62
Sherds: 170 g. late 1st c. B.C. or E.R.
Other: none
In v. C6029: Meg. bowl (also in pail 5)

Pail 2: 2b
sand & earth
Under southern wall
Sherds: 1 worn sherd - unidentifiable
Other.

The two flimsy 'walls' are removed after they are found to sit on sand (are course high). For the northern of the two we assign

Pail 2: 2a
sand & earth
Under north wall
Sherds: 170 g. late 1st B.C. or E.R.
Other

Pail 2: 2b
sand & earth
Under southern wall
Sherds: 1 worn sherd - unidentifiable
Other.

Sand has drifted at the top and excavation shafts with the removal of the top layer (a contaminated one)
Trench reduced by 0.50m in its N-S dimension at the bottom of pit 1, slightly below the bottom of the N. Bench. Its new N-S dim. is 4.50m.

... bench, that against the South wall of Building B. It's bottom levels are: 6.23m at the E end; 6.21m at centre and 6.26m at the W end, i.e. the ground sloped slightly at dawn from E-W.

The sand and earth soil continues, and now small stones became quite numerous. The bench is 3-4 courses high. A nice block marks its E end next to the entrance into the E room of Building B.

We decide to leave a strip 0.50m wide undug along the bench to prevent its collapse. On the other hand beyond its W end excavation will be extended all the way to the South wall of Building B.

In fact an area of 2.25m N-S by 1.35m E-W at the NW corner of the trench will be excavated separately since the placement of steps there by us in previous seasons may have contaminated the fill.

Starting at just below the bottom of the bench we assign for the remaining trench:

Pit 2: 3 (26) pails.
Under pit 1:
From 6.26/6.35 to (see sketch p.18)
Shards: 3900.gs. To 1st c. BC/AD.
Sandy earth
Other bones, charcoal, roof tiles

For the possibly contaminated area we assign:
Pail 2: 4 NW corner of trench
Under pail 1 = W. modern containing
From 6.26/6.07 to 6.20/5.94 tin
Sherds: 2,700 gms. To Late 1st B.C.? Sand
Other: bones, shells, plaster, bit, pumice
Inv.

Tiles continue and are put in a new Zarbil labelled pail 3.

The fill of pail 4 is almost pure sand. We stop digging there temporarily (putting pail 4 aside) and continue in the area of pail 3. We are trying to decide whether the sand of pail 4 is in a pit or whether it is part of a layer which underlies the earth and sand fill of pail 3. Charcoal has turned up in both pails.

The sand is found to extend further S. and E. It looks more and more like either a pit or stratum with sand where the ground sloped down. We shall now assign a new pail to replace pail 4. This new pail covers an unknown area yet. We shall follow the sand and define the area.

Pail 2: 5 NW area of trench
Under pail 4
Sand, from 6.26/6.07 to (shelly) sherds: 9,600 gms. 2069, 61, 61, p. 18
1/4 1st. c. B.C. roof tiles
Other: bones, shells, pumice, plaster bit
Inv. C6030, C6001 + more of C6029
C6175

The sand is found to underlie the W. end of the northern
bender and the N. end of the W. bender.
In this area, as mentioned earlier,
we had built a series of steps leading
up from the floor of Room A1 to
the higher level of the court. We
removed the steps; sand still going
into pail 4, assigned to contaminated
GP here.

So far discarded earth from our each
has been dumped in trench 44 B
south of the hearth of Room A1
to level the ground to that of the
"floor" in that room.
The sandy fill of pail 4 peters
out as we get closer to the bottom
of the south wall of Building B.
Underneath seems to be a layer
of sand and earth which is more
compact. The sandy fill of pail
5 continues almost to the S.
edge of the trench. There is more
compact earth/sand fill in the E.
Half of the bench, excavated
as before with pail 3

We leave a strip 0.50m wide
along the W. bench to prevent its
collapse (at bottom of pail 5).

It looks more and more as if
pails 3 and 5 are part of the
same type of fill. Both have
identical shape in both fills,
therefore they are kept mud in
the same zembil. A second
pail 5 is started, then a third
as sandy fill clears we have fine
soil appearing at the N.E. area
of the trench. There are signs of
burning here. The level is higher here.
Pails 4, 3 + 5 are terminated.
The strip of 0.50 m next to the W. bench must be included in the trench anymore starts at the bottom of the later phase of the W. bench. Levels in the trench, before we start excavating are:

- At NW: 6.05; SW: 5.94; SE: 6.20; NE: 6.31.

At the NE area there seems to be more earth. We start a new pail removing sand and sandy earth starting at the W. area of the trench and moving up to where the earth is. The latter will remain at present unexcavated.

- Bones: 82; 32: piece of bronze rod.
- Pail 2: 6
- Under pails 3, 4, 5 N:
  - Sand and earth 5.38 m/s
  - From 6.05/5.94/6.20 to 5.88 m
  - Sherd s 3.220 Qars. join w/ 51. 1st c.B.C.?

Cleaning the E. face of the West bench suggests that in the earlier phase the bench was shorter. Its north end is not clear (see photo p. 15). The later bench in 2-3 courses high and sits on a layer of earth ca 0.12m thick. Beyond where we assume is the north end of the earlier bench, however, the bottom of the later bench drops down. Some levels are taken of the two benches (see photo, p. 14). The dimensions of the two benches are:

- Later bench 5.10 N-S; 0.30; max h 0.50 m thick
- Earlier bench 3.30 - IV-S.

The stone we assume is the northwest one of the earlier bench coincide in position w/ the NE corner of the Temple (Ro A 2)
As we clear the sandy earth away from the more co-pod earth we get a very irregular surface, bumpy sloping down steeply towards the W and especially the southwest area of the trench. To be on the safe side we replace pail 6 with pail 7, used also for the removal of sandy earth.

Pail 2.7
Under pail 6
From 5.98 / 5.88
To 5.87 m / 5.66
Shards: 1800 gs. 1st c. B.C.?
Other: bones
Inv.

At the bottom of pail 6 we also reached the bottom of the S wall of BB "B" at its west end. Earth appears at this level and we stop excavation at this spot (NW corner of trench).

There are a few stones at the exact centre of the south edge of the trench, we clear around them and gradually remove the rough, slanted ones. They are soft, rubble. Just to their north is a roof tile. As we clear around the stones we find a patch of pebbles, also patches of burning.

We start a pail that should give us information as to the date of the construction of the S wall of BB "B". We are approaching the bottom of this wall. The pail is used in an area 1.0 m N-S, 0.90 m E-W, the N limit being BB "B" the E one the line of the W end of the trench. The
Top of block at NW corner of trench: 5.93

Bottom of wall of B B "B" at NW corner of trench 47A = 6.01m

Pail 3: 8
earth is a bit of sand and some stone chips
under pail 6
From 6.84 to 5.855 m. pebble floor
Sherd s: 650 yrs. B. G. to 1st 1/4 4th C. B. C

Other: boxes
Inu.

We reach down to a pebble and white earth. Flash with it is a nice black which goes under the south wall of B B "B". It is, as exposed: 0.60 E-W and 0.19 m. wide. So far, it projects 5 ½ of the later wall. There is a layer of earth (0.10m) between B B and the new block. Elsewhere pail 7 has gone out of use as all heavily sandy earth has been removed. In the SW corner of the trench we are finding what may look like a surface just a few pebble, embedded in it. The surface here is at c. 5.66 m. We terminate the use of pail 7.

We shall now photograph the trench and then start removing the earth pile rising toward the NE corner of the trench. I assume the pebble surface will be found under it. The levels at this point are shown on p. 18. To the removal of earth and presumably down to an underlying crust surface we assign:
Frame 28: Trench at bottom of pails 7+13 from NE
Frame 30: West Bench from E.
Frame 31: NW corner of Trench at level of pebble surface.

Pail 3: 9
Under pail 3
Sloting levels, see sketch p. 18/ to → 5.95
Earth, burning
Sediment 6300 gs. → late 1st c. B.C.

Other: bones, charcoal
Inv. B231: piece of bronze
Inv. C6033: copper
B239: br. rod or nail

The earth accumulation may have been
the result of dumping here over the
court possibly from the E. room of
the B. B. or another building nearby.
The sand represented by pails
4+7 and to some degree 3+5
may have been put later to level
the rough slope created. The two
benches, as noted earlier, were built on
the sand. Pail 8 should provide
a date post-quar. B.B. was built
as it is up to the base of the
wall. The pebble surface, to
judge from the levels indicated
on p. 18, sloped down from N.S.
at least in the W. edge of the bench
where the surface has been tamped so far.

There are patches of burning in the
fill of pail 9. We collect a bucket
of clay fill for flotation. It may
be garbage thrown out of the kitchen.
B.B. Shortly we find a
thick slab set upright. To its
W. the soil is very burnt. To its
E. we find charcoal which we
collect. It could be a hearth. It
still penetrates the earth. We now
replace pail 9 by

Pail 3:10
Under pail 9
From c. 5.95 to 5.92...