KOMMOS
EXCAVATIONS
1977
AREA A
LN
NB from 1978

Wall 55 continues S at a low level and disappears under wall 41E.

Stone fragment of vase from 16A/3:18 is now C 67.

D’ excavated from 19.57 to 19.80; horizontal slab at this level disappears under wall 40.
July 29, 1977

Excavation begins today in Trench 16A, measuring 4m.50 E-W, 5m.00 N-S, located to the E of 11B and to the N of 12A and 4A, without backfill. The plan opposite shows the location of all the trenches on the highest part of the North Hill, in the vicinity of the Kapheneion tree.

The purpose of digging 16A is to see whether or not Walls 1 and 5 continue (see drawing at bottom of page, opposite), and if so, how. Since time is relatively short, we will start with the S.1/2 of the Trench 1st. The N.1/2 may be left until next year if we find Walls 1 and 5 in the S.1/2.

We are clearing surface sand from the whole area of the trench, which includes the usual 0m.50 - 1m.00 margin along the trench sides (in this case only the N + E sides).

The sand has been removed; there were no sherds in it. Excavation continues in the S.1/2 with Pail 1

under -

from corner levels to 20.13S
sand + earth
contents: MM + L? A-B, tiles darkable, no painted piece, other: 1 shell
Inventarioed: -

Other features to be followed here (from 12A): a N-S crosswall beginning at Wall 2, creating a space between itself and Wall 5 which may have been divided into 2 bins or storage spaces, try a thin slate set vertically (see Notebook 12, p. ). The N-S crosswall is Wall 15.

Some general information: levels are taken in relation to sea level. Information on adjoining trenches - 11B, 4A2, 12A, etc. can be found in Notebooks 11, 4, and 12, etc.
August 1, 1997

We have taken off about 20 cm of fill and 60 cm at the end under Wall 1 from 20.135-13.87

Several walls are now beginning to emerge. Wall 1 continues ca 1m 55 N into 16A. Ca 20cm in from the S scarp, a E-W wall, approx 52 cm wide, begins. This E-W wall must be the N wall of the courtyard with the bench; the threshold at the N end of Wall 4 in Trench 4A1 probably connects with it too.

Wall 5 extends E as we thought it would; it does not make a plain corner with Wall 1; rather, it barely makes contact with Wall 1, since there is only a 30 cm overlap.

Yet another wall runs N of Wall 5. It begins ca 1m 05 from the W scarp of the trench, and is ca 1m wide. There are stones to the E of it, which might be part of another E-W wall.

The little (ca 29 cm wide) wall runs between Walls 1 and 5. This creates an unusual situation: a room 1m 65 x 1m 30 (approx) without an entrance. On the other hand, floor level in the room to the S is only ca 70 cm below the top of the cross wall. Perhaps it was never higher than it is now, and the small space it enclosed was a large storage bin or pit.

The spaces E of Wall 1 and N of Wall 3 are too small to excavate to floor. Therefore
We are digging down ca 50 cm or so, so that the outlines and courses of the walls can be seen. For this we open 2 pails:

Pail 3 (E of Wall 1)
under Pail 2
from top of Wall 1 (20.11) to 19.72
hard light brown fill
contents: LM11 sherds, but v. small lot
other: -
inventoried: -

and

Pail 4 (Not Wall 5)
under Pail 2
from top of Wall 5 (20.015) to 19.78
hard light brown fill
contents: LM11B - very tiny sample
other: 2 shells
inventoried: -

Hereafter we will be digging the "bin room" to the W and the other room to the E separately.
The trench is cleaned and photographed. We continue excavation in the 2 cubicles with Pod 5 (E cubicle) under Pod 2 from 19.87 - 19.90 pale brown fill contents: LH IIIA 3; v. little diagnostic here other: - mentioned: -

and Pod 6 (W cubicle)
under Pod 2 from 2000 - 19.765 pale brown fill other: shells
mentioned: -

contents: latest date LM II? but hard to say we are reaching the fallen slab level now. Any slabs that are removed will be kept aside, so that later we can lay them out to see approximately what space they would have covered. (This was done last year in 4A.) There is still very little pottery.

The thin (ca 3 cm) stone slab which we thought might be a divider between bins or upboards stops 40 cm below the surface of Wall 2. There does not seem to be a floor at this level; instead, there are a number of slabs, although not as many as in the eastern cubicle.

Both cubicles are being cleaned for photography so that the slabs can be removed.
August 3, 1977

The slabs have been removed in the W cubicle and we change to:

Pail 7 (W)
under Pail 6
from 19.765 to 19.545
brown fill
content: latest date LM3 (spiral), but a tiny unit
other: sherds
inlaid:

Pail 8 (N)
under:
from top levels (see p.6) to 20.05
sandy/topsoil
content:
other:
inlaid:

There may once have been a door between the N end of wall 15 (the inner wall between the cubicles), as there is a promising gap at this point, over which other stones were laid to raise the level of the wall and close the doorway. The installation of the thin, vertical slab (thin-divide?) could have been contemporaneous with the filling in of the doorway. All this points to a somewhat later use of this room, with a higher floor level.

Now the slabs are out of the E cubicle, and we start Pail 9 (E)
under Pail 5
from 19.715 to 19.60
brown fill
content: latest date LM3B, a small sample
other:
inlaid:
(934) lovely line, decorated edge
In the W cubicle, we have come down on a level where the floor is partially paved with slabs. There seem also to be some stone implements on the floor. The amount of pottery is minimal. No sign of a threshold for the doorway through Wall 15 yet, although the unpaved sections of the floor here are even and hard.

Back to the E cubicle once more - in the SW L is a coated slab with a coarse red base sitting on it. Other coarse red sherds (not necessarily from the base vessel) were found toward the NE corner of the cubicle. Otherwise there is almost no pottery at all here.

After excavating for 30 cm or so, we change to Pail 10 (E)
under Pail 9
from 19.60 to 19.535
softer brown fill
context: LM III A B; very few diagnostic shards - small unit
inadvertent:

We have reached a level about 20 cm or so below the level in the room to the S, where there are several fragments of coarse red vessels lying flat, in the W 1/2 of the trench. We have changed to Pail 11 (E)
under Pail 10
from 19.535 to 19.415
softer brown fill
context: latest date LM III A B; very few diagnostic shards - small unit
inadvertent:

We are digging a strip along the E side of the trench, so that we will be able to follow the floor.

In the W cubicle, we have made a small sounding in the floor, near the doorway, so...
obsidian piece is a frag. of a primary flake

that we could check for lower levels, and a possible threshold in the doorway. For this, we opened
Pail 12 (W)
under Pail 7
from 19.545 to 19.335
from fill
contents; scrapy unit "probably all Minium"
other: obsidian, stone tools, shells
inventoried:

In the N 1\(^{1}/2\) of the trench, we are proceeding
with Pail 13 (N)
under Pail 8
from 20.05 to 19.01
from fill
contents: large stones give LIMSI B date; small unit again
other: shells
inventoried:

The walls are beginning to show up now, although they seem far less handsome than those in the S 1/2. The stones to the E of the 1m wide wall N of Wall 5 do constitute a wall. The 1m wide wall may be a fiction, as it does not continue N at that width. It may continue N of 5 but on a more reduced scale, at a width of ca. 50 cm. On the other hand the placement of the blocks is very suggestive of a doorway just to the N of the 1m wide wall, on the line of the new E-W wall. Unfortunately, however, where the wall, wide or otherwise, should continue N. There seems to be a gap. This could be a blocked door or gateway leading out to the street or alley to the West. About 2m N of the new E-W wall, there is another with a very large block at the N corner.

In the E专栏 we are clearing off the floor level, which is remarkably free
of whole pots, golden pigs, Vrh, with
Pail 14 (E)
under Pail 11
from 19.4.15 to 19.33
soft brown fill
contents: latest date LMIIIA-B, little of note in this, any unit
other: stone tool from floor = cobble with percussion
inventoried:
5276

All we have on this floor are 2 sets of slab
seats/walking platforms, the coarse red pottery
fragments, mentioned above, and a stone tool.
Perhaps the pottery (not that there are many
shards) will help to give us a date for this
floor.
August 4, 1977

We are going down in the NW section of the trench with Pail 15 under Pail 13 from 13.81 to 13.85 (Soft wall 41), 19.80 (N of Wall 41) brown fill around fallen stone contents: practically nothing notable, latest date MM III 1 M other: shells invented:

The wall coming from the E and running into Wall 5 East has been given the number 40. The wall and corner N of it will be 41. It will take another pass or so before we can be certain of the doorway between 40 and 41.

We have changed now to Pail 16 under Pail 15 from 13.815 to 19.70 brown fill around fallen stones contents: latest date LN III B; consistent unit with survivals back to M other: shells kylix invented: C796 dip, C757 bowl

This is still in the area N & NW of Walls 5 and 40-41; more sherds are beginning to appear.

In the meantime, we have begun to dig down in the room or corridor N of 40 and S and E of Wall 41, with Pail 17 under Pail 15 from 13.815 to 19.70 pale brown fill contents: other: shells invented:
Along the W side of 40-41, the earth has become darker. This is where shards are appearing in reasonable quantities. There are 3 or 4 fallen slabs in the corner between 5 East and 40 (Walls).

A little E of the corner of Walls 5 and 5 East, a line of fallen stone begins, extending N to the N scarp of 16A. We will have to figure out what relationship these have to the "suspicious stones" in 11B which looked well (see Notebook 11, photo p. 100). We may have part of a N-S chicken wall here.

Not Wall 41's corner, in the strip between it and the N scarp of the trench. Here is virtually no pottery. A stone loomweight was found here.

We have opened
Pail 18
under Pail 16
from 19.70 - 19.62
brown fill
contents: later shards LM III B, many IIA survivals
other: stone loomweight, stone vase fragment
inventoried: 4
more shards of C 1310

for the area N of 41 and 5.

In the room formed by Walls 40 and 41 - the N cubicle - we are continuing downward with Pail 19
under Pail 17
from 19.69 to 19.54
harder, yellowish brown fill
contents: later date LM III A but not a definite sample
other: -
inventoried: -
The N cubicle contains a ridiculously low quantity of sherds. We have removed some of the fallen stone within it, and are still nibbling at the possible doorway, which seems to have been rather competently blocked if it was one.

We have changed to
Pail 20
under Pail 18
from 19.62 - 19.65/19.45

Blackish fill to ward the SE of the area
Content: local sherds LM II-III-B
Other: bones, shells

In the area between W H 5 and 41. This space is still blocked on the N by the line of stone, extending N of Wall 5's corner. These stones look less and less promising, and most of them will probably be removed tomorrow. The area in which we are digging is now slightly below the level of the street or lane to the W. Nonetheless it was an outside area, which was used as a dump at some point - hence the blackish fill and the large (for this trench) quantities of pottery.
August 5, 1977

The N cubicle has been cleared to an arbitrary level in the hard yellowish fill, and left. It is hard to imagine what its function could have been since there was so little pottery in it.

In the open area we are clearing off an uneven surface on which lie some fairly large sherds. It is lower than the surface of the lane L-G, and separated from it by the uneven row of stones N of Wall 5. To the W of these lie other stones which look more convincing as wall remains (see drawing in Notebook II, p. 98).

There may be an earlier wall showing up to the N of Wall 4V'S corner. Its appearance was yet another reason for not digging any deeper here. It turns out that Wall 4I does not continue below this surface; it and 40 together were grafted onto Wall 5 East during a period of re-use. The surface exposed is yellowish brown, pitted with the occasional small stone. It is fairly horizontal, without being flat.

Next year the area between 4-5-11-12-13-16 and 1-13 will be excavated, and many of the problems at the N end of 16A, and of 11B and 11B2, will be cleared. In addition, the open area in 16A first excavated will be an excellent place for a sounding down to the NM levels.

We have laid out the slabs from the G and W cubicles, in 2 lots, in order to measure them. The ones from the W cubicle measure lm 64 x 1 m 44t, while the cubicle itself measures lm 27 x lm 75 (area of slab 2.3616 area of m 2.2225).
The slabs from the E cubicle measure 2m 60 x 1m 50, while the room measures 1m 98 x 1m 65 (area of slabs 3.900, area of rm 3.267).

Trend 16A from the NE; general view of hilltop area

Trend 16A and hilltop area from NEE
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