KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS

AREA A

1977 Season

Notebook 14
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William Cox

Trench 14A1
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Excavation began today in Trench 14A. This trench is intended to show interrelationships between the "Round Building" (Building D), The Altar (Building C) and the "Burned Building B." The interrelationships will hopefully be revealed by excavating successive courtyard levels south of B, B."B" (see notebook 10) and the Round Building. And by excavation of a wedge shaped section of the Round Building itself.

After the perimeter of the trench had been staked out, sand was removed from the highest preserved soil surface.

Pail #1: 1, 1, 1
Under Pail: surface
Type of soil: sand
Depth: 6.60 - 6.55
Pottery contents: small scrappy units, probably Hellenistic
Other: metal
Invented:

Removal of sand uncovered a surface compacted by the Fortotic. This soil surface slopes from north down to the south. I am now excavating a strip 1m wide in front of the Burned Building, along the south face of the south wall.

A new Pail:

Pail #2: 1, 1, 2
Under Pail: 1, 1
Type of soil: A hard surface compacted by the Fortotic, overlying softer soil
Depth: 6.55 - 6.49
Pottery contents: 2 cooking pot rims (2nd c. B.C.)
Stampede amphora handle, Hellenistic fine ware
Other: This level contains some roof...
tiles, but very few sherds so far. There is as yet no evidence of burning as we have at a lower depth in Trench 10 A 2 (see notebook 10).

I inventoried: C 602 stamped amphora handle with name of Rhodian potter Socrates (late 3rd early 2nd c. B.C.)

There is nothing to suggest we are yet at a courtyard surface. The excavated strip will be extended, at a depth of 6.49 m., in front of B, B. "B".

Soil contains bone, shell, soil sample taken.
Work today concentrated in Room B, Trench 10 A, but late in the day
work resumed in Trench 14 A south of the building. Pail 2, 1.2 has
been retained from yesterday for the trench before the South wall of
B, B."

At the east corner of B, B. "B" the trench encountered the clayey
substance which covers the "Round Building." This clayey soil which
may represent eroded material which has slid down the slope of the site,
is quite different from the slightly sandy soil so far excavated. A
new pail is being used for material from this clayey layer as I extend
the trench to the east.

Pail 3, 1.2
Under Pail 2, 1.2
Type of soil: clay-like soil, very hard
Depth: 6.92 - 6.47
Pottery content: Much cooking and storage jars
Little fine ware, probably 2nd c. B.C., homogenous
Other: Roof tiles like B, B. "B" in this layer
I mentioned: C 667, lamp of Phaistian

N.B.
Pail 3 extended for material in the clay layer between Round Building
and Building B at higher depth, a sloping surface with highest
point at 7.93 m.
George Black-shirt is underlining the trench (seeking courtyard level) south of Room B, B, "B" from 1m to 1.60 m, at the same depth of ca. 6.99 m. A new pail is being used for material from here.

Pail 4 L 2
Under Pail 3 L 2
Type of soil: Hard (compacted by Fortotis)
Ground: brown, few sherds
Depth: 6.55 - 6.99
Pottery content: Scrappy, probably late as 2nd c. B.C., mostly med. coarse
Other: a few roof & tile frags, bone & moulded.

At a distance of 1.45 m. from the S.E. corn of the doorway into Room B, to the south in the courtyard, was found the top of a burned surface. The northern edge of this surface is in line with the northern edge of the burning in Trench 10 A 2 (courtyard) between the two "chicken walls".

The clayey soil which lies over the Round Building slopes down over the courtyard south of B, B, "B" as described yesterday (p. 11). A thin layer extends a few feet west as a point 1m east of the boundary of Trench 14 A and 2.25m south of Building B. The thickness of the clay increases over the Round Building.

Afer the 9.00 break, Yiannis (sen. for Action) continued removing the clay deposit east of B, B, "B" over the courtyard level, ca. 6.99 m. The clay is being removed as far as the eastern boundary of Trench 14 A. Pail 3 l. d. has been retained from yesterday.
for materials from this clay deposit
The soil below the clay deposit
is softer, and may represent the
ancient courtyard level.
Excavation around the Round Building started again this morning. Material from the clayey soil outside the building is being placed in Pail 3, 1.2, as previously. George, the foreman, began excavating within the building itself. Pail #1, 5, 1.2. Under Pail #1, type B soil, clayey soil (“goo”) over burned sand. Depth: 7.52 - 7.55 m. Pottery content: Scraggly, latest material is Hellenistic.

N.B.
The “goo” has a higher sand content than the green layer. The green layer is more likely to represent decayed mudbrick. (Opinion Dr. Vassoglou.) The clayey soil beneath the burned sand might also be mud brick.

Small pieces of white material were found in the layer of green clay within the Round Building. Dr. Vassoglou identifies this as lime dissolved by water and re-sedimented above the impermeable clay.
The upper surface of the burnt level of clayey soil is also burned. We will change party below this burnt surface.

Pail # 2
under Pail # 5. 2. 2
Type of soil: Clayey soil, upper surface of which is burned.
Depth from: 6.75

Pottery content: Quite abit of coarse red, some Hellenistic fine ware, latest is 2nd c. B.C.
Other: Some sherds are burned
Inventoried.
Also: Charcoal, shell, bone, three soil samples

A lamp has been uncovered in the green layer east of B.B. "B" ca 1.15 m. south of the NE corner of B.B. "B" and 50 cm. east of the east wall at a depth of 7.48
No roof tiles were found inside the Round Building in the upper layers of "goo" and burned sand (Pail 5)
Pail 6 in clayey soil under the burnt sand and burnt soil, has produced roof tile fragments.
These appear to be three different soil types in the clayey soil below 7.00 m. In the center of the building a hard clay, with a sandy soil and softer green soil to the west. Soil samples taken
An arrangement of small stones, seemingly fallen rubble has been uncovered in the NW corner of Trench 14A between the Round Building and B.B. "B". Material from above these stones and north of the Round Building will be placed in a new Pail.

Pail # 7
under Pail 2.
Type of soil: Sandy clay ("goo") and depth of softer soil over the stones
Depth: 8.10 - 7.72