1992
KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS
TRENCHES 81A
81B
81C

JOSÉE SABOURIN
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Trenched 80, 81, 82 & 83 were put in today by G.W. Shaw, G. Sabouni and G. Nixon. A great amount of sand was also removed from the area of building P. Trench 81A overlaps trench 72B, see p. 4, and is situated W of trenches 73A (HCS, 1991) and 74A (JS, 1991). The purpose here is to identify the western corner of house X. (See p. 6.)

The grid coordinates are:
- NE 1004.61 x, 1105.10 y
- NW 1001.65 x, 1101.89 y
- SE 1004.72 x, 1117.45 y
- SW 1001.65 x, 1117.92 y

* For measures, see p. 8.

Permanent points used:
- P 249 at +6.61 m (altar H)
- P 380 at +4.16 m (altar H)

The general purpose of the excavation this year was to update the west, east, and south corner of house X, thus establishing the outline of this LM house. We also hope to study more of the (MI-III) stratified levels (perhaps even MH!). Trenches 80 and 81 will cover these three areas (TR 80A, to the south, will be excavated by M.C. Shaw).
level: 7.90m

PAIR 17, X9A, 81A, 111

location: N of trench
ref drawing: p. 8
range of deposits: 7.05 - 6.98 / 6.90 - 6.84 bottom
soil: very hard-packed, brown, small
pottery: range LM - 4, Inc. BC mostly
stone tool (?), charcoal bag.
other: 1 shell dag, 1 bone dag,
unintoxicated: 1 box - 88g cup (2 sherds,
fresh break, w partially preserved
graffito). Joins w. PAIR 3.

We started excavating the
area N of a 1 m wide shaft
the E side of the trench. The
goal is to place the W wall
of House X (Wall #3, TR 73A).
The levels previously excavated
here by MCS were of Archaic date,
and we are expecting to find
some union deposits since some
were reported previously (ref: TR 73A
pp 01-03 & TR 75B: pp 158 ff; 7th c. 4th).
This small area is much higher
than the rest of the trench, but we will be taken
down in one pass to the level
of the 3 half. As we excavate
our pass to the N we find
more small stones. I believe
that we are getting into the N
interior area of House 7. 9 into
the same type of levels (Archaic
and rubble) as we are in TR 74A
last year (see 0.35 ft in notebook).
It is hard to know if the preserved
structures in TR 74A are associated with
that of 81A since we are located
on a slope.
With the next pail, we hope to start exposing some of the Minoan walls.

**Pail 2**

*Location*: Whole E strip, N half

*Redrawings*: p 8

*Range of depths*: Top 6.90 - 6.48 | Bottom 6.78 - 6.34

*Soil*: Softer brown, small stones.

*Pottery*: Mostly LM1, but thoroughly mixed MM - LM - Archaic.

*Other*: Bone, shell, iron, stone tool (?); gypsum, burnt soil (?); charcoal inferred: - Pail exhibits a few number of internal joins across old breaks.

We therefore start this pail 6 by the narrow strip. As we begin, we find what seems to be a very rough surface (?). It appears flat and relatively even, with a number of small pebbles.

The surface is being followed as we excavate towards the N. More pebbles & a rough surface can be seen. We believe that it might be associated with building V. We have now decided to make our pass a little thinner so that we may be able to isolate what stands directly on the floor, with our next pail.
PAIL 3

Observations: N half of strip, under
pail 2

Ref. drawing p. 10

Range of depths: 6.78-6.60 top // 6.58-6.40 bottom
Soil: Hard-packed, light brown, xmas small stones

Pottery: Latest 7th century, but largely mixed, BM-LM

Other: Shell charcoal #1, #2, #3, iron, burnt soil, bone

Inscribed: C 9013, jan yearly LMM deposit in #4.

Since our trench was on a slope, it was very difficult to make a difference between the top level of sand and the actual soil (ancient) level. Therefore, pail 2 may include some material of both levels.

With pail 3, we excavate exclusively the floor material, for which the soil is harder than the topsoil by a little lighter in colour.

With pail 3, we are tracing the outline of the N-S wall, which I number wall #1 (see TR 739, wall #3)

The surface, in some space, goes over the Minoan wall, which implies the reuse of Minoan structures in later times.

We did not quite finish excavating pail 3 today, but a corner of a block was found so the N-S. However, the N-S wall continues further west, and so we plan to extend our trench in this direction tomorrow.
June 25th, 1993

Level 7.87m

AM: We finished pail 3 at the north side of the strip, and a large part of the W & N walls was exposed. But we still don't have the corner! So we are now excavating with pail 1:4 a small "triangle" to the N in order to expose this corner. (See p. 13). We are leaving the small "bench" structure up so that the iron deposit may be studied this year.

PAIL 4

KAQA 1811 1:4

Location: N of trench

Depth of drawing: up 1/2

Range of depths 7.00 top - 6.91 - 6.83 bottom

Soil: brown, compact, with some small stones

Pottery: Mostly 7th C., amphorae

Other: bone, iron

unventoured: - Many jars across old break

We re-create this triangle in 2 different passes, the first being pail 4 (above) and the lower pass with pail 5. The reason is that 2 different levels were found here in previous years (see TR 13A, 12B). In pail 5, we isolated a small patch of "burnt soil", just below the "bench".

* Levels were not changed
Pail 5 | K92A | 81A | 1:5

Location: under pail 4
Ref. drawing: p. 12
Range of depth: 6.91 - 6.83 top / 6.83 - 6.77 bottom
Soil: same colour as pail 4, but at bottom, found burnt patch of soil.
Pottery: mostly 4th c. BC. Classical (?) other charcoal, pheas, special stone (1), bone
Inventoried: - joins w Pail 1

We quickly completed pail 5, and we now are at the level of the unexcavated part of the trench. The location of the burnt soil was recorded (p. 12), and we will now go down to expose the corner of the wall - and perhaps more of yesterday's floor, with pail 6. We plan to excavate other in two phases.

Pail 6 | K92A | 81A | 2:6
Location: under pail 5
Ref. drawing: p. 12
Range of depth: 6.83 - 6.77 top / 6.74 - 6.68 bottom
Soil: brown, softer than pail 4
Small stones, stone chips (TR 73A, p. 9)
Other: iron, burnt soil, shell, bone, charcoal, metal
Inventoried: C9538 - Bull figurine Arch - Classical
Pail 6 is not a surface level; small pieces + more burnt soil + iron were found (9 collected)
We seem to have building activity here, because of the presence of Pond Chip. The bench, as seen in the sketch, was associated with metalworking, and since more metal and burnt soil was found in pail 6, we may assume that a tradition of iron working took place in this area.

As the workmen were finishing off the pail (2:6), we came upon a large amount of burnt soil just in front of the bench. The small plot was taken down with pail 2:7. We are actually only "cleaning" this area of burnt soil so that our visitor tomorrow, Mr. Rether, may take a look at it. The bench seems to have been associated with our present pail, whereas the material found last year was associated with a later use of the area, for the same purpose.

Pail 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1972/1973/1973</th>
<th>Location: under pail 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>Red drawing: P. 14/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>6.83 Top - 6.81 Bottom</td>
<td>Burnt soil - cleaning of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burnt area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pyhre: Archeo - nothing quite diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bone bag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inventoried:

Pail 7 was very small, only a few fragments.
photographs taken:
Roll 1 frame 1
TR 81 A' bottom pails 6x7
metalworking area

Thus, to resume briefly, the small area next to the bench was used at different times for the purpose of metalworking. The latest phase was uncovered last year (TR 73 A') and consisted of iron deposits. The second phase had just been uncovered and is situated at a depth of 6 m + 0.81 m, that is only about 0.20 m deeper than the later use. This 0.20 m was filled with burnt soil especially with stone chips which may, in turn, suggest a building activity. The second surface of use was cleaned (with pail 7) and photographed.

*The bottom of pail 6 is illustrated above is not a surface. Therefore another surface associated with the bench and iron working may still be found below! Or we may be able to go down to the floor surface found in pail 3 and/or find the corner of House Y 1 (MW)
June 30, 1993

Two workmen are working at removing the sand in the area of TR 11A, while Robin and George clear off the thin layer of sand that was used to cover the plaster in X3 last summer (see TR 74B, pp 234-37). Our conservators Barbara will come to take a look at it this morning.

Level - set at 7.81 m

After dawn, the workmen continued removing the sand from TR 11A. A large nail was found in the sand and labelled “cleaning find.” We cleaned the plaster in X3 and now we are cleaning 4 pieces in X3 right next to Pithos 2 (TR 74B, p. 200). The pieces in X3 seem to be a part of a floor plaster, per-facce (unpainted), whereas the area from X2 have colour (linear patterns, black, red).

The 4 pieces in room X2 were labelled #1 to #4 and treated with PVA by MCS. They were removed during the afternoon and brought so apathetique 2 (not entered in log sheet). (These pieces were associated with Pail 9:78, TR 74B, p. 200)

A small sample of plaster in X3 was collected - it seems that this was a floor plaster rather than a wall plaster (see 74B, p 204)

Area of Pail 8 outlined
Δ = Bottom level, Pail 8
All other Δ = surrounding levels.
Our next step was to return to TR 814 to complete the work begun yesterday. Since we are working on the same area (red soil) we will use the same level & pail number, but labelled 7A.

**Pail 7A**

- Location: under pail 7
- Ref. draw: P. 80
- Depth: 6.61 m top - 6.84 m bottom
- Soil: very compact, red & orange deposits
- Pottery: 7th c. - too small for meaningful comment
- Other: iron, burnt soil and bone

*Inventoried -

Therefore as pail 7A, we remove the small mound of soil, leaving a 0.10 m baulk by the bench. Mr. Reeder took a look at it and was a little uneasy as to the use of this area. According to Mr. R, this area does have signs of metal working activity, but is not a true "forge." Some evidence for this is missing (see his report for more details).

Pail 7A is quickly removed, and so we begin Pail 8.

**Pail 8**

- Location: under pails 6, 7A
- Ref. draw: P. 80
- Depth: 8.47 - 8.04 m bottom
- Soil: brown, some stones near no wall
- Other: bone, iron, phelx, stone pivot

Inventoried 52613 - pivot hole