1991

KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS
TRENCH 74 A
74 B

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Trench 74A was laid out on June 25, 1991 by J.W. Shaw. It measured 6.30m EW x 4.00m NS, and is situated N of trench 73A (M.C.S.).

The grid coordinates are:

- NE: 1010.85x1139.40y
- NW: 1004.55x1139.40y
- SE: 1010.85x1125.40y
- SW: 1004.55x1125.40y

Trench 73A was first triangulated, then the NS lines of 74A were re-established according to these measures. (P379)

Trench 74A is situated in the southern area of the site, and is the north of rooms X2, X3, and X10 (LH I III A Bldg X) which were excavated in previous years (TRIIA by L. Nixon, 1977; TR59A-A1 by R. Hendrickson, 1984; TR66A by S.B. Shubert, 1985). Trench 73A was immediately south of TR74A, and is being excavated this year by M.C. Shaw.

The purpose of the excavation is to investigate the area north of the rooms, and to study the LH I-III A stratified levels. Therefore we hope to determine the extent and plan of House X which was built on sloping ground. An extensive sand removal operation is now taking place in this area due to the large accumulation which took place since last year.
TRENCH BEFORE EXCAVATION
(ELEVATIONS = TOP OF LEVEL 1)

Direction of slope : NW - SE.

* Roof tiles - no inscriptions; some pan, some base of corn drill.

We spent most of the day removing the sand from above the ground level.

** P8 Location: whole trench.

Pail 1: K91A/74A/1:1 (Level 1)
Range of depths: 7.99-7.30 at top / 7.33-7.16 at bottom
Soil: Sand, with some small stones.
Pottery: Little amount; latest 400-350 C. B. C. Some LH IIIb/LH IIIa.B.
Other: Grinding stone (?)
D: 7.55 m from W 0.82 m / S 0.88 m.

The sand fill here is very thin, so we reached ground level very rapidly (due to the slope). See p. 10 for a plan of level 2 (elevations).

Work began at the end of the day on level 2. At this point, a 0.10 m beam of each pike was established. (See p. 10).

Pail 2: K91A/74A/2:2 (Level 2)
Location: begun SE of trench, under pail 1
Range of depths: 7.33-7.10 at top / 7.46-7.23 at bottom
Soil: Very hard, compact brown soil with many medium-sized stones
Pottery: 485-375 A; latest; very little Minyan; few pots represented; not dumps. Greek cups.
Other: Shell bowl, bone bag, special pottery bag (x 2)

(p.8) * Roof tile (logged, but not brought for site).

No architectural features are visible yet, so we plan to use pail 2 for the whole surface of the trench.
Thursday, June 37

Theodolite Level 8.0m
am - we continue excavating level 2 from the SE towards SW. The excavation is slow because of the very hard and compact soil, and stones.

We continue using pail 2 (see June 30 p. 9) former remarks on soil - as we excavated towards the W end of the trench the stones become larger. No change in soil colour. Very little pottery; mainly coarse ware; some Hellenistic cup fragments. Some fresh because due to compact soil. Some fragments of roof tiles were found.

- all measures taken from the baulks are from the original trench lines, not from the 10 cm baulk line
- in the centre of our south half, a patch of larger stones was detected. We leave them in place until we excavate level 3.
- the NW area of the trench plasma to contain less pottery. The patches are larger. Indication of a wall?

Therefore = pail 2, see p. 9 (Smith Wheel)

Pail 2, Sub-P.A
K91A/94A/92A/54A
Location: N half of trench, under pail 1
range: 212 set to 7.91 - 7.47 tsp/17.98 - 7.31
soil: brown, very hard, many stones, little pottery
pottery: latest 400 - 350 BCE. Much coarse ware, some Hellenic

Other: 1 bone bag...

* 3:40 pm - what appears to be a wall was found in the NW corner. (Hellenic? - some triangular blocks).
Theodolite level: 8.01 m

This morning we finished excavating level 2 (Pail 3: 3A) and cleaned walls #1. There is no indication yet for its date. Levels were taken at different intervals, and the trench was divided into two areas, E + W. Level 3, Pail 3 was begun on the E side.

Wall #1 seems to end c. 2.45 m from the W bank; a few proters east of it may suggest the presence of a N-S wall. Perhaps we will find evidence for this in the next levels. The large proters in the W area may be the result of erosion or collapse of the wall. Where wall 1 ends, the trench is divided into N/S excavation. Thus 1E = East half. 1S = South half. We began excavating area 1E (Pail 3) since we had to wait for a little while to have the photographs taken in area 1S. We also hope to see what lies under the rubble area (peep 10, 12) by excavating its eastern side.

Photograph by JWS
1) Polaroid (see p 14)
2) 35mm B+W roll #1 frame *1, 2 top of level 3, W wall #1 in NW corner + rubble S of it. Facing N.

PAIL 3 : K91.A.34.A.13:3 (level 3)
Location: Area 1E (East), under pails 2, 2A (see diagram p. 13).
Range of depth: 7.40 - 7.64 top 1 7.26 - 7.10 bottom soil: brown, very compact hard soil, still some rubble, but there seems to be much less. Very little pottery recovered.
June 28 19...roll #1 frame #1 of wall #1 from S after excavation of level 2
NW Corner of TR 34A, Area 18

Polaroid

June 28 191...roll #1 frame #1 of wall #1 from S after excavation of level 2
NW Corner of TR 34A, Area 18

SEE DESCRIPTION
P. 13

*Note: As of July 1st, it was determined that walls one and two are not contemporary with Ainsworth wall of X1. See pp. 53, 54.
TR 74 A - EXCAVATION OF SPACE A
ELEVATIONS = TOP OF LEVEL 4

Saturday, June 29, 1991

Am - Within the first hour of work, we finished level 3, area E. The outline of the NW-SE wall was determined, and this wall is now identified as wall 2. Since we now have architectural features, we will now call the area East of the wall A. We also plot a new level and pale in this area:

PAIL 4: K91A/74A/4:4 (see p. 16)
   Location: 1A, under wall 3
   Range of depths: 7.30-7.20 m (level 4, 7.06-6.92 m (bottom)
   Soil: brown, dryish clay like, very small amount of stones, some to the NW
   Pottery: latest 7th cen. B.C. Almost purely Archaic, little Hincan - not closely datable
   burnt pottery?
   Further:
   1 bone bag
   1 shell bag
   3 soil sample
   1 soil sample
   1 small charcoal deposit
   In context:
   9104 - black burnished cooking pot (38 sherds).

As we excavate level 4, pail 4, a new wall seems to appear. We label this one wall 3. Its orientation is E-W and seems to be parallel to wall 1. At a distance of 0.50 m from the S face of wall 3, a soil sample was collected. A very brittle type of stone, pink to purple in colour was found in a very small amount (deintegrated stone or tile?) In addition, a small charcoal sample was collected from the NE corner of A, a sample 5) burnt pottery (?) and a grinding stone (?)
As we excavate level 4 further down, we can see that the N face of wall 3 is very well shaped. In addition, another architectural feature can be seen in the NW corner (Wall 4?) and parallel to wall 3. However, we will have to dig in lower levels to determine its nature. If it is a wall, its construction suggests that it is later than the Minoan building IV. It consists of small stones & rubble whereas wall 3 was built of larger shaped stones.

PM - Level 4, pail 4 was finished and levels were taken. The whole surface of A+C will be excavated on one level because:

1) The SE corner will eventually be excavated with the baulks to the S;
2) Very little of wall 3 + 4 (?) is exposed and therefore we want to see more of it in order to decide as to where to dig (which rooms).

PAIL 5

 Location: A+C under pail 4
 Rang 4: Depth 4.13 - 6.89 top / 6.70 bottom
 Soil: Greyish brown, quite hard, very little stones, clay-like.
 Pottery: Latest Archaic (Time & ?) Mostly Minoan, but some archaic. LM III A 120
 Other: 1 shell bag, 1 bone bag / / stone tool(?)

Mentioned:

The excavation of level 5, pail 5 began at the end of the day, and so will continue on Monday.
A fragment of a tripod vessel was excavated as part of pail 5 when it should have been left in 1938, until the next bust.
Theodolite level: 7.99 m

Brief summary of week one: We began the excavation on Wednesday with the removal of a top level of sand and fill over the whole trench (16.30m x 4.00m, level 1, pail 1, see p. 8). Level 2 was started and consisted mainly of very hard, compact soil with much rubble. Again, the whole area of the trench was excavated. (See p. 10). We noticed most of the stones were getting progressively larger as we excavated toward the west, and a "suspicious" patch of larger stones was detected and plotted. Wall 1 was cleaned and photographed. (See pp. 10, 12, 14). After the completion of this level, the trench was divided in 2 halves - E and W, and work began in E to see if the rubble was part of a wall. In level 3 (pail 3, see p. 12), we see much less rubble. The outline of wall 2 was determined at this level and it seems to be oriented in the same direction as the wall of room 28. We must, however, excavate the lower levels to confirm this. With level 4 (pail 4, p. 16), we renamed areas E+1 as spaces A+B because of the architectural feature (wall 3), were continued in A. The soil was brown, and of a dryish-clay texture. The outline of wall 3 was determined (p. 16) and the presence of another wall was suspected to the NW because of all the rubble (p. 18). (Wall *4?)

The excavation of level 5 (pail 5) was begun on Saturday. Here, we wish to examine the depth of the walled and to determine their date (p. 18, 19) work will be continued on Monday.
July 1, 1991

Monday am: We continued excavating level 5, pail 5 which covered the whole surface of A+C. Very little of the rubble in the NW was removed. The outline of wall 4 (?) is not clear yet. We will dig another pass to level 5:
1) since the soil is the same below what we have just completed
2) because we suspect a possible floor level just below - evidence from tripod foot excavated Saturday (see pp. 18-19).

Therefore another pass was begun (5:5) in space C.

5:5 A was used in space A until the rubble area to the N NW (see p. 30). The rubble area was excavated separately (might be some contamination... some sherds of pail 6 may have been put in 5A while I was preparing the bucket...)

Rely on pail 5A for dating.

Pail 5A: K91 A |74 A | 5:5 (see p. 30)
location: under level 5, pass 1, pail 5
Depth: 7.00 mep | 6.75 m - bottom
general: in general much potter, especially around tripod area where ash was detected (sample collected). A burnt piece of pottery was found. Burning, beach pebbles in large amount.

potter: purely Minoan, decorated rims, five cups & cooking pot = LMIII. Mostly tablewares & cooking potter.
other: 1 bone bag / 1 shell bag
large soil sample / burnt pottery?
charcoal sample.
As we excavated this and pass, a rough floor level was found. First, to the SE of the area, a paved floor was uncovered (p. 58). Then, just against the S baulk, a very large amount of shells was collected and plotted. Just around this were small black pebbles which are usually indicative of a floor level. In addition, some fragments of bones were recovered (indicative of a meal?) (Space e, p. 59, 60).

In the central (pail 5A), some ash was found and collected around the area where the tripod foot was placed, and a charcoal fragment was collected. The soil around the pit was a little harder. Thus, this area bears signs of burning/scooking (?) activity. (See p. 62)

In space A, against wall 2, a series of stones seems to be placed in a half circle. The stones are cleaned to determine the outline, but the inside of this feature will be excavated separately to determine its function. Therefore, with pails 5 and 5A, we reached a rough floor level.

The rubble area was excavated separately. The reasons were:
1) To see if the contents here are the same as the floor deposit.
2) By looking at the baulk to the west of A, it seems that wall 2 ends higher up, that a soil level was missed - maybe we could find it here.
3) Find rest of rounded structure.

Pail 8: K91A/74A/5.6
Location: Under pail 5, rubble area
Elevations: 7.13-9.05 m
6.96-8.85 bottom (see p. 68)