KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS 1993

Trench 88A
Trench 88B

Jorge J. Bravo III
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June 22, 1993

Trench 88A was set in by J. Shaw, G. Nixon, K. Walsh, and J. Bravo. The trench was designed principally by marking off a fixed distance from wall P/T — namely, a distance of 3.40 m. from the top edge of the orthostates of T exposed in Trench 77C.

The trench is bounded on the south by Trench 77C; the west side is bounded by the exposed courses of wall P/T. The east side is bounded by unexcavated land which nevertheless has had much of its sand overburden removed. The north side of the trench jogs around Trench 75A/B and continues north to a limit defined by the northern side of Trench 75A/B.

Dimensions and Grid Coordinates:
(see p. 4 diagram)

A - B  1.11 m
B - C  14.35 m
C - D  3.70 m
D - E  10.27 m
E - F  1.69 m
F - A  4.00 m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1031.19</td>
<td>1105.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1032.30</td>
<td>1105.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1034.39</td>
<td>1090.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1030.69</td>
<td>1090.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1031.19</td>
<td>1101.10</td>
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</table>
Objectives:

The objectives of Trench 88A are several:

1) To clarify the stratigraphy of the area immediately east of buildings P and T and enable the drawing of a N-S section, which will incorporate as well the data of trenches 75 A/8 to the north and trenches 77C and 83B to the south.

2) To isolate surfaces which may be associated with the periods of use of buildings P and T.

3) Architecturally, to expose a substantial length of the east facades of buildings P and T. This will also enable studying the juncture of buildings T and P along the east facades from the interior. The line of the juncture was determined from the interior of building P already in Trench 76C.

Note: Henceforth the east wall of buildings P and T, which forms the west side of Trench 88A, will be referred to as Wall I.
June 23, 1993

Excavation of Trench 88A begins. Ground level is 6.33 m AASL (meters Above Sea Level) at the NE and 6.19 m AASL at the SE. Because Trench 76C slightly overlaps Trench 88A, ground level in this area is lower - 5.57 m AASL. We begin a cleaning pass over the upper surface of the trench in order to avoid contamination resulting from the process of sand overburden removal which took place on previous days. A small pass is also made within the area made by Trench 76C.

Work ends with the general pass along the upper surface still in progress. Any sherds which have been found will be discarded when the pass is complete.

The pass within the area made by Trench 76C is complete. The sherds which were found will be discarded tomorrow morning. Ground level in this area is now 5.45 m AASL. Stone S2131, a stone spout which was discovered to the west in Trench 76C (see Tr. 76C notebook, pp.39-40) and which must have been set on the wall of P/T only to fall into the eastern area, has been removed and put back on the top of wall P/T. Several other stone blocks now appear in the ground throughout the area of Trench 76C (see p.8). The top of the highest block is at 5.77 m AASL.

Since the south end of Trench 88A and the northwestern sides both comprise the exposed scarp of previous trenches, a safety baulk will be kept along these edges in order to avoid contamination. The south baulk is 0.70 m and the northwestern baulk is 0.50 m (see p.8)
June 24, 1993

Work continues on the cleaning pass over the trench begun yesterday.

The sherds gathered from the cleaning of the area of Trench 76C are discarded.

After further discussion with the director, it is decided that the sherds from the cleaning pass will be kept, though with a note of caution. This constitutes pail 1, and will be considered part of level 1 together with the sand overburden.

**Tr. 88A / 1:1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Under pail:</th>
<th>(under sand overburden)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levels:</td>
<td>at NE</td>
<td>at SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>6.33 mASL</td>
<td>6.19 mASL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>5.85 mASL</td>
<td>5.81 mASL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location:** upper levels, all of trench (see p. 3) except area of Tr. 76C

**Type of Fill:** sand, compacted and clay-like, except dirt +

**Pottery:**

- 187 sherds, 2.97 kg

- mixed with little mica, 2-4 th. sherds, possibly some later

**Other:** 2 Shells

**Inventoried:**

We finish the cleaning pass and close pail 1:1. We change level since the soil is now clean.

The north finger of the trench has a slightly different fill of loose sand. We dig here and find that this fill is not the same fill as the rest of the trench. The digging of the loose sand fill constitutes pail 2. After the closing of the fill, pail 2:2 is closed.
**Tr 88A/2:2**

Under pail 1:1

Level: Top 5.85 m ASL Bottom 5.83 m ASL

Location: Upper, NE (see p. 8)

Type of Fill: loose sand, moist

Pottery: very few sherds (< 10-15 in #)

- 12 sherds, 0.70 kg little diagnostic
  - all may be 80-74 C.

Other: -

Inventoried: -

The entire trench now shows a uniform fill of dense sand and dirt which pulls away in clumps like clay (with the exception of the area of Trench 76A, which still lies at a lower level). Pail 3 begins with a moderate pass from S to N in the trench.

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**Tr 88A/2:3**

Under pails 1:1 and 2:2 (in N)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>SW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>5.83 m ASL</td>
<td>5.81 m ASL</td>
<td>5.79</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location: Upper, all of trench (except area of 76C) (see p. 10)

Type of Fill: sand and dirt, compacted and clay-like

Pottery: 7th-BC amphoras, 226 sherds, 2.52 kg

- 84 cup fragments
- small, very worn
- little minim
- 64 skyphoi

Other: shells, rounded smooth stones, rod (iron); pumice?

Inventoried: Mi 224 - iron rod (see p. 17)

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A large stone protrudes from the ground in the SW near Wall 1. Another stone appears in the North (see p. 10)
June 25, 1993

Work continues on the moderate pass from North to South of pass 2:3. The pass contains a scattering of heavily worn, broken sherds. A few bits of shell and a few rounded stones are the only other finds so far.

The pass is completed, and since there is no change in the fill, we turn around and begin another moderate pass from North to South.

As the pass reaches the South end of the trench, we come upon an area with traces of burning. The level at this point is 5.71 m A.S.L. Work turns to tracing out this patch of burning. It should be noted that the level of this patch of burning appears to correspond to another patch discovered in Trench 77C at a level of 5.72 m A.S.L (see Tr. 77C notebook, pp. 172-73).

For the location of the patch, see the drawing on p. 16.
June 26, 1993

Work resumes on completing the pass of pail 2:3 and defining the extent of the burning patch at the south end of the trench.

About 15 cm. from Wall 1 and 5.10 m from the south end of the trench, a part of an iron rod was found in two joining pieces. The level is 5.69 m.asl. The diameter of the rod is 8.9 mm (0.89 cm) and the total preserved length is 7.33 cm. The rod is slightly bent. (See p. 16, plan for location)

The burning patch turns out to be poorly defined (see p.16). Bits of black ash are scattered throughout the southern 2 meters of the trench, with some fire-reddened soil turning up about 1.0 m from Wall 1, 0.5 m from the South baulk.

While the pass is being completed, with the director's approval, the trenchmaster turns to the excavation of a small pot which was noticed during the cleaning of Wall 1 in association with the area of Trench 76a. The pot is lodged in the wall just below a large block with a triangular basin cut into it, and just behind a small square block (see p. 16).

The pot turns out to be a small amphoriskos which was fractured (but nearly intact) by the weight of the block above. The amphoriskos together with its internal fill will be sent in to the apothecae as pail 2:5.

Trench 88A

Appearance at top of pail 2:4

Location of pot found in wall 1 beneath block with basin cutting (Pa.1 2:5)

Area of burning

Area of amphoriskos

1:100

Tr 88A/2.5

Under pail: nil

Pottery: LG I amphoriskos
Level: 5.6 / masl
Location: in wall 1
Type of Fill: nil
Other: Inner Fill - lot of small shells, bits of bone

Inventory: C9792 amphoriskos
After the pass is completed at the south end of the trench, pail 2:3 is closed.

Pail 2:4 begins with a moderate pass from S to N. The ground levels are noted below. A few more blocks now appear above the surface as a result of the previous pass (see p. 16).

To 88A/2:4
Under pail: 2:3
Levels:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>SW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>5.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>5.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location: upper, all
Type of Fill: dirt, sand, and clay; scattered flecks of black ash.
Pottery: 7th C. B.C. amphorae and 8th cups (8th C.) Little Minoan – Little diagnostic

Other: pumice, shell, charcoal, rounded stones

Inventoried: —
As the passes reach the center of the trench, a roughly circular patch of fire-reddened soil appears. Its center is about 4.4 m from the S scarp, and about 1.6 m from the W scarp (wall 2). Its diameter is about 40 cm, and its level is 5.47 m ASL. See p. 22.

A larger, oval-shaped patch of fire-reddened earth appeared roughly 2.0 m from the W scarp (wall 1) and roughly 7.5 m from the S scarp. The N-S axis of the patch measures 1.10 m; the E-W axis measures 0.65 m. See p. 22. Level is 5.47 m ASL.

With the completion of the passes of pail 2:6, the ground level of Trench 88A has reached the ground level of the area of Trench 76C, creating one uniform level. Pail 2:6 is closed. At this point a line of fallen blocks and rubble is now apparent above ground level.

Before proceeding with another general pass, we first dig into the fire-reddened soil patches to see if they cover any heart-like features. We are prepared to open pails if anything is found; but as nothing is found, we open pail 2:7 for another pass across the trench.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tr 88A/2:7</th>
<th>Under pail 2:6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levels:</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>5.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>5.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location: upper; all
Type of Fill: Dirt, Clay
Pottery: 84 c. skyphoi and sherds - chal. / mud + pasted amphora sherds; 1 clay bowl
874 sherds; 0.815 kg

Other: Shells, bone fragment, rounded stones

Inventoried: —
June 29, 1993

One crew of workmen begin a pass for Pail 2:7 from S to N, while the other crew takes the NW baulk down to about 10 cm above current ground level.

As the small stones in the rubble along Wall 1 are exposed, they are removed. There seems to be a greater number of stones in the rubble of this pass. Large blocks will be left in place where they fell to be photographed at a later time.

After work on the NW baulk is complete, the second crew of workmen begin a pass for pail 2:7 from the North.

A large number of fallen ashlar blocks are beginning to appear in the NW area of the trench.

Once the first two passes of pail 2:7 are complete, the workmen begin another pass. Since there have been no surface features at this level or fill changes, pail 2:7 remains open.

During the second general pass, a patch of fire-rededened soil appears on a clay surface at the East side of the trench. As it is the end of the clay now, work will continue tomorrow morning on defining this patch.

(See p. 26 for locations of ashlar blocks and patch.)
June 30, 1993

Work resumes on defining the extent of the fire-reddened patch discovered yesterday. As we clear around it, we notice that there are many small stones in the surface at several points around the patch. The level of the burnt surface is 5.36 m A.S.L. The patch covers a semi-circular area against the East scarp with a radius of about 80 cm. The center lies on the East scarp, 5.35 m from the South scarp. (See patch #1, p. 26)

As the workmen continue to dig to the west side of the trench, more fallen blocks and rubble appear, in higher concentrations.

A small patch of fire-reddened soil appears against the north side of the Northwest bulk, about 2.0 m E of wall 1. The level is 5.28 m A.S.L, and a number of small pebbles seem to lie in its surface. (See patch #2, p. 26).

A third patch of burning (see #3, p. 26) of irregular outline appears against some of the fallen blocks. It is situated roughly 1.65 m E of Wall 1 and 0.45 m from the South scarp. Several tiny fragments of bone and some shells were found on the patch. These will be kept with the pail that will be used to excavate the patch. The level of the patch is 5.24 m A.S.L.

While there have been few sherds in general in the passes of 2:7, a quantity of sherds from a single red clay, red slip vessel were found in the area of fallen blocks, roughly 0.60 m from Wall 1 and 3.00 m from the South scarp. The level at this spot is 5.27 m A.S.L. The sherds prove to be too few to be worth independent analysis.
July 1, 1993

The workmen complete the pass which was begun yesterday. As the various patches of burning suggest a surface level, pail 2:7 is closed and pail 2:8 is opened for another pass across the trench, from S to N.

Tr 88A/2:8

Under pail 2:7

Levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>SW</th>
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<td>5.37</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottom</th>
<th>Top</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>NW</th>
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<td>5.10</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>5.20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Location: all

Type of Fill: Dirt, little clay, rubble

Pottery: mixed Minoan and Geometric

nothing surely, pot. 8th c. 95 sherds 1.580 kg

In test, ring foot of painted bowl/cup - import? - red still 8th c.

Keramiki, beu skyphos

Other: pumice, charcoal, shells (snail, limpet), bone fragments, plaster fragments

Inventoried: —

In the afternoon work turns to lowering the South Baulk to about 10 cm above the current level of the trench. Nothing is kept from the baulk.

Because of the work on the baulk, little progress is made on the pass of pail 2:8. However, the digging that has been done for the pass reveals that the fill is becoming more like brown earth and less like clay.
July 2, 1993

Work continues on taking down the south baulk and making the pass of pail 2:8. We now have 2 teams of workmen, so work should proceed faster today.

A small patch of bits of charcoal and fragments of burnt bone was found on top of a surface of clay and pebbles. After further digging in this area, a small patch of burnt earth was found beside wall 1, centered about 5.50 m away from the South scarp. The level of the burnt earth patch is 5.11 m ASL. The pebble and clay surface extends away from the burnt patch and disappears after about 1.00 m to the East and South. The level of the surface is 5.13 m ASL (see p. 32).

As the pass of pail 2:8 progresses to the north finger of the trench, we decide to narrow the baulk in order to facilitate digging. The workmen narrow the baulk to 40 cm along the N-S extent.

Another patch of burnt earth is discovered against the north face of the NW baulk, centered about 2.20 m from Wall 1. Its level is 5.22 m ASL. The patch is adjacent to burn patch #2 of pail 2:7 (pp. 26-27) and slopes down away from it, so that it may in fact belong with the higher patch.

Work ends with the completion of the pass of pail 2:8. Pail 2:8 is closed.

For future passes in the trench, it is decided that the north finger of the trench north of the asher and stones projecting from the E scarp (hereafter Area N) will be dug separately from the rest of the trench (hereafter Area S). The fill of Area N has generally contained more sand than Area S's fill.