KOMMOS
EXCAVATIONS
1976

AREA
A
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Note on Levels (14 September 1976):

Although relative level differences in the 4A area remain correct, because of a revision of inaccurate levels originally given in the 1974 Banderas plan, the level of P. 140 (upon which 4A levels were based) is 21.44 rather than 20.95. Thus the figures in this notebook do not correspond to those on the 1976 architectural plan. The levels given in this latter are 0.49 mm less.

1981: After season 1, P.140 was lowered substantially from topsoil level (cf. Komar 1976, 1977, p/800).
NB from 1978

DFE now completely excavated, splayed set in floor catalogued as S 32.
The earlier wall e. of wall 7 may line up with others to the north (64, 69).
July 1, 1976

Work began in Trench 4a with M.C. Shaw and I.F. Nixon supervising, at 6 a.m. The workmen are Arndras Kovarns, pickman, Mygnus Maekins, shoveller, and Tuipjas Kajaiks, barrow boy. The trench measuring 4m x 4m, (977.00-981.11W; 1212.02-1216.07N on the grid), had been laid out two days previous. G. Bianco took levels for the 4 boundary pegs in relation to the nearby benchmark SW of the trench (P140) at level 20.95. The dump will be over the cliff to the W.

<table>
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<th>Pegs</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>20.59</th>
<th>21.68</th>
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<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
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<td>21.04</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>20.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>20.54</td>
<td>21.03</td>
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The surface of the trench was covered with shrubs which were cleared away. The workmen began shovelling away the sand (which covers the whole area of 4a) from in the area of the trench and for about 1m50 around its perimeter so that the sand will not blow into the trench as digging continues.

20-35 cm of sand has now been removed, upon which were several more scattered stones. Also in the sand were a few indistinguishable flint sherd.

Sheilds kept in Trench 4A from 1-20/35 cm below sandy surface: sherd 1 stone flake (sep.13) 1 piece corroded metal (?Fe)-shrapnel? inventoried:

We are coming down on a surface which looks like hard-packed sand with a few stones embedded with no walls or patterns discernible. The trench is being excavated and cleared down to this harder sand level; after this a test trench 1m50 wide will be set in running E-W, on the N side of the present 4x4 trench.

The inauguration of the excavation took place at 11 am, with the priest from Pitridia presiding. Several people from the village were present: Petros Kyprakis and his wife and son, the mayor of the community, the former mayor, Dora KarGI and from the Greek Archaeological Service [Cyclades section].

Especially interesting among the visitors was Dr. Phasesoulakis, who worked for the owner of this field some years ago. He found a pithos with many large handles, some 20m SE of the trenchy E of a ledge, in 1916. The next day the owner did not let him work so he did not find out what happened to the pithos. The owner apparently found other things which are in the Heraklion Museum now. Dr. Phasesoulakis told Evans in 1924-5 about the pithos; Evans came with lots of tools to see about it. But he was taken ill almost immediately and his survey or test never materialised. Later others came to collect his tools. Photographs taken of pithos finds are indicated by G. Phasesoulakis, with the Leica, and with the excavation camera: colour roll 115, exp. 24.

The owner of the field was also a Phasesoulakis.
The sand above the harder layer of compacted sand is still being removed. This harder sand layer seems similar to those discovered in Trenches 2a and 3a. In this trench, 4a, it is a pale yellowish colour with a pitted, but flat surface. The few sherd s in the sandy fill above the harder layer are being kept in Pail 1, as before (see p. 9). The sherd s are small and often weathered. Stone are appearing in the SE corner of the trench and beyond it in the area being cleared of sand to prevent drifting. Also from the SE sector of the trench: a large base perhaps of a shallow basin (P. Belamcand tentatively ID: classical/Hellenistic), and a stone flake. On the W side of the trench, a piece of terra sigillata was found.

All the sand above the hard compacted layer has been removed from the trench and the surrounding area. The top of the harder layer—that is, the top of level 2—was photographed:

b/w roll 1 exp. 32 top of level 2 looking SE

Because there are so many stones in the S part of the trench, the "test trench", 2 m wide, was laid there instead of along the N side. New levels were taken at each of the 6 staves, and at the 4 corners of the area cleared of sand (see plan).

Benchmarks P140: 20.95 ± 0.30 = 21.25 (ht of machine)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Levels of pegs:</th>
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<td>1.25</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.49 NE of test trench</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>20.09</td>
<td>20.55 SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>SW</td>
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* Because most of the pegs or stakes were set in over stone, they are somewhat gimsy; levels were therefore taken from the nearest point on the ground, not from the tops of the stones.
Pail 2, rim of LM 8 kaplin; nothing obviously later

Digging begins in the test trench. Shards are being kept in Pail 2 from under Pail 1 from 20/35 cm below surface hard sand shards other: inventoried:

More and more stones appear in the test trench. So far no pattern is discernible. Most of these stones are not longer than 15 cm.
Test Trench within Trench 4A (South \( \frac{1}{2} \))
Rubble in hard sand
level 2

\(< as sketch above, looking SE\)

Pail 3: 1 frag. Early Roman lamp; mixed fire and coarse. M H III/L M II fine wares; a few L M III sherds, one of which is L M III B.

Pail 3
under Pail 2
from 40/50 cm below surface
whitish, hard fill
sherd
other: shells; river pebbles;
lump of chalk, red
inventory: ceramic bird head (?)

Some purple schist (\( \lambda e m i s \)), not local appears in the scarp in the SW corner. Several river washed pebbles occur in the fill. Both the schist and the pebbles could be roofing material. Shells are found here and there in the trench. 3 fragmentary bases of what may have been small conical cups are found in the SW section.

At about 60 cm down from the original surface appears a wall ca 55 cm wide running N-S in the E section of the trench. We clear the earth down to the level of the wall. Much rubble (including large stones) appear in the area w. of the wall. The wall will henceforth be described as Wall 1.
North 1/2 of Trench A-A
Rubble accumulations within hard sandy fill (Level 2)

LOCATIONS OF PAILS 1-5

1. 4m² surface + extensions
2. 7 S 1/2 of trench ("Index")
3. 3 J
4. N 1/2 of trench
5. N 1/2 of trench

*Level of Wall 1

Pail 5: fine course; MM + LML;
LM III: lay brick base

We continue clearing the earth around wall 1 to prepare the trench for photographs to be taken:
b/w roll 8 a exps. #29-20 of the S. half of the trench, looking W.

With the help of a compass it is determined that wall 1 is oriented exactly S-N.
A wall which appears at the moment on the surface of the hill, near the "German foxhole", some 7.35 m. S W of the SW corner of the trench, similarly has the same orientation and may belong to the same building.

Excavation is discontinued in the southern half of the trench and resumed in the unexcavated north half, where only the top sand fill had earlier been excavated (Pail 1, p. 9 above). The fill here is like that of Level 2 of the southern half of the trench, hard packed and sandy. Material from this fill is being collected in:
Pail 4 (same level as Pail 2)
Under Pail 4:
From 40-50/60
hard sand
shards: MM/LM, 2 possible post-minimal sherd

Accumulations of small stones appear in the fill but in no discernible pattern
(see sketch, p. 18)

The northern half of the trench is photographed to record the distribution of the stones.
b/w roll 8 exps. 21-23: stones in hard sand fill, in north half of trench, looking W.
The stones are removed and excavation continues with

Pail 5 (= same level as Pail 3)
Under Pail 5:
From 40/50-60
hard white fill
shards
other
Trench 4A at level at top of Wall 1 (= 1) looking NW

Color Roll 8 # 4-9

Pail 6: Small pieces, not much dark cooking ware. LM III A/III B fine pieces but more recognizable fine MM than LM.

As we dig down we trace the northern extension of Wall 1 within the northern half of the trench. Photographs are taken of the full exposed length of the Wall 1. The same level is now reached in both North and South halves of the trench.

B/W Roll 8, Exps. 27-28: Trench 4A at level of top of Wall 1, looking NW. Col. Roll 8 # 3-4 same as above.

We decide to dig first the area east of Wall 1 which seems to have its facade along its east face. The sherds etc. are collected in

Pail 6 (E of wall 1)
Under parts of Pails 3 and 5
From 19.655 (top of stone 1)
Hard whitish fill
Sherds
Other
Inventoried: Obsidian blade

At 19.49 (see plan of walls 1 and 2) appears the surface of a rectangular block, running in a N-S direction and being some 1 m long by c. 0.35 m wide. It is set some 10 cm east of the east face of Wall 1, towards its South end, just before the wall meets at right angles with an eastward return. A hole some 4.5 cm in diam. appears near the SW corner of the rectangular block which with a grooved channel running from the hole to the west edge suggest the block was once a threshold, here reused, perhaps as the top course of a bench.
July 6, 1976

When the stones in the NW corner of the trench were cleaned, another wall—Wall 2—was discovered. It runs EW, beginning 40 cm S of the NW corner and continuing for 1m 25. Other stones in the SW part of the trench, which include a large triangular stone and a long thin one, do not seem to form any palisade.

Cleaning continues in the section of the trench E of Wall 1, sherds being kept in Pit 6, as yesterday.

Walls 1 and 2 were drawn, and levels were taken (see plan) from benchmark P140 at 20.95 + 0.70 = 21.65

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<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
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<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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Digging will now continue on either side of Wall 1. We are curious to find the floor level of the building(s), and the use of the large slab just E of Wall 1 which is a re-used threshold block. Also 6 of Wall 1 is a triangular stone (r on the plan) stuck upright in the wall. Pit 6 is still in use for the sherds from this area.

For the area W of Wall 1, Pit 7 has been started.
Pail 7
under Pails 3 and 5 (w of Wall 1)
from 19.63 (see plan) ie level of Wall 1
hard whitish fill
sherd
other: white earth (aopp)\(\text{\textdegree}\)\(\text{\textdegree}\)
Inventoried: [Blank]

As we clean the stones in the SE, near the "return" of Wall 1, we can see that the stone forming the corner of the return is only partially supported by stone underneath, and that the gap between the re-used threshold block continues under the corner of the return (see sketch). It is too soon to describe the construction of Wall 1 in detail, but there are stones visible underneath the S end of the wall as it is now exposed.

A photograph was taken of the section E of wall 1:
by 4\(\text{\textdegree}\), aps 3-7, section E of wall 1, looking S.

In the NE corner of the trench we noticed bits of ostracopora or hard white material. The stones in this corner tend to be slantlike; they lie almost horizontally. This is in contrast with the SE corner where the stones are of various sizes and shapes, some projecting vertically from the earth; the whole truncate sloping upward toward the S.
Roll 8, 32

Area E of Wall 1

1. Wall 1
2. Bench
3. Fill in courtyard D.

Excavation today continued E. and W. of Wall 1 using Pail 6 for the former area and Pail 7 for the latter.

A small area (c. 80 x 80 cm) full of rubble is left undug at the SE corner of the trench, but otherwise earth and rubble is removed from the rest of the E. section (ie. E. of Wall 1) with the purpose of exposing more of the facade of Wall 2, determining what the reused threshold was used for and locating the floor of the area. Excavation here is slow because of the accumulations of rubble and also of slabs which, as before, are mainly found in the NE corner of the trench E. of Wall 1. The reused threshold slab is found to rest on a substructure of slabs of varying sizes. A ledge made of small rectangular slabs projects some 15 cm from the facade of Wall 1 (ie. its eastern face) from the threshold to the northern limit of the trench at a level some 0.055 m below that of the top of the wall. It is interesting to note that the width of the ledge corresponds to that of a space left W. of the threshold which is laid some 10-15 cm away (W.) of the wall (1). As we dig down in this area it becomes clear that the rubble in the S. corner rests on earth and that further down there is more rubble as elsewhere in this section of the trench. In the same corner and under some rubble is found a beautiful obsidian blade.

(Report, p. 21)
might be of a northern extension of or lake addition to the structure topped by the threshold slab. This structure looks more and more like a bench, a suggestion originally made by Mr. Shaw. No evidence for such an extension is found.

In the area W. of Wall 7 earth is removed slowly because of the great accumulation of rubble slabs and other stones. The outlines of Wall 7 emerge more clearly and a new wall is traced at the south section, running roughly E-W and meeting Wall 4 at its interior roughly at the point where on the exterior there is an eastern return. This is now Wall 3.

Many fallen slabs, mostly in a slanting position within the fill and often partially overlapping each other are found everywhere in this area. Thin slabs and patches and bits of white earth (pottery), both usually roofing material, also appear in the fill and at a level of 2.00 to 0.10 m below Wall 4.

In the meantime sand is being removed directly E of the trench with a purpose of starting a new trench to be designated as 4A1. Levels were taken at:

1. The highest point of the sand before it was dug. This point was at about 1.50 m E. of trench 4A.

   - Level: 21.245 - 1.75 = 19.495

2. After the sand was removed two more points were taken on the surface of hard packed sand, now exposed.

   - Level 2: 21.245 - 1.70 = 19.545 at W. end
Pail 8: coded scraps. no obvious post-Minoan.

Pail 8 is assigned to any finds in the sand of Trench 4A1.

Pail 8
under
top sand
sherds
either
inventoried

A small probe was made to trace the full depth height of the "bench", during which process the floor of the area East of Wall 1 was located: a pebble floor.
The area E of Wall 1 was photographed at the level above the pebble floor (found yesterday in the small probe).

by Roll BAExp 32-35. Near E of Wall 1, looking S.

Large sherds and sections of pots are starting to show up in the area E of Wall 1. This evidence also suggests that we are about to reach a floor.

We open a new sherd lot:

Pail 9 (E. Wall 1)
under Pail 6
from Im below Surface block of floor
sherd: Removable Kylix; LM IIIA2/III B
other C30 plain style; MM + ? LM mixed
inventoried Kylix (C30 is LM III B).

Fragments of a kylix (? LM IIIA) were found in the NE corner; most of a small pithos was found close to the E scarp, about 80 cm from the NE corner. Since we seem to be finding pots rather than sherds we decide not to go straight down to the pavement. Rather, we begin digging down to it in the S 1/2 of the cock's E of Wall 1 (see plan).

The pavement when found consists of a cement-like layer, very thin, over a bedding of beach pebbles. It has been worn through so that the pebbles are visible in the patch nearest the reused threshold block. The location of this worn patch might confirm our tentative identification of this block as a bench. A sherd with a handle was found lying on the pavement. A few small lumps of charcoal were found above floor level; a sample of this was taken.

The sherds from the excavated pavement section were kept separately in Pail 9'. This was done in case there were 2 floor levels in the area E of Wall 1.

If need be the pail no. 9 can be changed to 10, or the sherds cd be put in with 9 proper.
In the section W of Wall 1, cleaning continues in order to reveal the outlines of the (?)-ceiling slabs, and the extent of the "topkapisa" (found only under the slabs). The ceiling seems to have fallen only in the area W of Wall 1 and N of Wall 3. This leaves a little "compartment" between the scarp and Wall 3, which is now a little deeper than the area N of Wall 3.

Sand removal continues E of Trench 4A in preparation for its extension (Tr 4A 1).

Area W. of Wall 1. Extent and level of fallen ceiling material

For elevations at points a, b see p. 39.

a = stack of ceiling slabs in center of room
b = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above
c = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above

In the section W of Wall 1, cleaning continues in order to reveal the outlines of the (?) ceiling slabs, and the extent of the "topkapisa" (found only under the slabs). The ceiling seems to have fallen only in the area W of Wall 1 and N of Wall 3. This leaves a little "compartment" between the scarp and Wall 3, which is now a little deeper than the area N of Wall 3.

Sand removal continues E of Trench 4A in preparation for its extension (Tr 4A 1).

Area W. of Wall 1. Extent and level of fallen ceiling material

For elevations at points a, b see p. 39.

a = stack of ceiling slabs in center of room
b = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above
c = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above

In the section W of Wall 1, cleaning continues in order to reveal the outlines of the (?) ceiling slabs, and the extent of the "topkapisa" (found only under the slabs). The ceiling seems to have fallen only in the area W of Wall 1 and N of Wall 3. This leaves a little "compartment" between the scarp and Wall 3, which is now a little deeper than the area N of Wall 3.

Sand removal continues E of Trench 4A in preparation for its extension (Tr 4A 1).

Area W. of Wall 1. Extent and level of fallen ceiling material

For elevations at points a, b see p. 39.

a = stack of ceiling slabs in center of room
b = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above
c = surface of white earth in location shown in plan above

In the section W of Wall 1, cleaning continues in order to reveal the outlines of the (?) ceiling slabs, and the extent of the "topkapisa" (found only under the slabs). The ceiling seems to have fallen only in the area W of Wall 1 and N of Wall 3. This leaves a little "compartment" between the scarp and Wall 3, which is now a little deeper than the area N of Wall 3.

Sand removal continues E of Trench 4A in preparation for its extension (Tr 4A 1).
July 9, 1946

The spaces defined by the three walls in our trench are designated as:
A = W. of wall 1 and S. of wall 3
B = " " and between walls 2 and 3
C = " " and N. of wall 2
D = Space E. of wall 1, probably a court
(See Plan by G. Blanco, Prel. Draw. 1, 4A)

Clearing around the ceiling slabs and bracing the extent of white earth continues as yesterday and still using Pail 7.
The white earth pretty much covers the entire area of Room B but some more is found W. and S. of wall 3 at its W. end and N. of wall 2, just at its E. end. The white earth in Room A is at a lower level than that of Room B.

Photographs are taken of Room B at the level of the ceiling slabs and white earth:

Col. roll 8, exps. 30 looking NW
" " 31 looking N
" 9 1 detail of stack of slabs at NE corner, W. of wall 1
" 9 1 detail of fallen slabs in SW corner of area W. of wall 1

B/W roll 9 exp. 20 looking NW
" 21
" 22
" 23 W. detail of fallen slabs in SW corner of area W. of wall 1

The architect, G. Blanco makes a measured drawing of Room B at the level of the ceiling slabs (Prep. Dr. 1, 4A)

A sample of white earth is taken and classified under Pail 7 (see p. 25)
Levels of the fallen ceiling material are taken at two points: one on the slabs in the center of Room B, the other on a surface of white earth just to the NE of the same slabs (see Drawing 1, 14A, by G. Bianco and sketch p.34). Levels were taken from bench mark above.
P140 at 20.95 + 0.16 = 21.11

a. 1.55 19.56 (on slabs) 20.85
b. 1.695 19.415 (on white earth) 19.90

Starting at elevation c. 19.00 m, some 0.60 m below the surface of Wall 3 at its w. end, we start excavating fill in the small compartment between the south scarp of the trench and wall 3 using:

Pail 11
under part of pail 7 from c.19.50/19.60

some 0.15-450 m. below Wall 1 (because sherds of fallen slabs at end of wall 3)
other inventoried

Area E of Wall 1, ?courtyard D

It is decided to change Pail 9 (see p.33) into Pail 10, now that the level of the floor is more definitely known and so that pottery on the floor and in some 0.10 m of fill above the floor is kept separate from sherds of fill higher up. This is an arbitrary change not marked by any change in the fill.
C29

Pail 10. mendable bowl. LM III B. plain mendable lge jar; joining frags of coarse bufft jar (?) with paint loops. LM III B

roughly 1:2

Non-joiningsheds from the same vessel were found in the S 1/2 of the basin between 4A and 4A1 in Pail 67 (see p. 154).

itself and, indeed, in some cases, as in that of the pithos at the N. area of trench next to the E. scarp, where part of a pot sticks up above, some penetrate within the 0.10 m of fill above the floor. Joints of sherds found in pails 9 and 10 are therefore quite possible.

Pail 10
under Pail 9
from some 0.10m above and down to floor sherds: 1 sherd embedded in pebble pavement next to the bench (put in envelope.)
other: bits of red-pot, plastic; charcoal bits; inventor: C29 ? P1

Photographs of court D taken showing the partially exposed floor (s. end) and pottery on and in the 0.10 m. of fill above the floor.

B/W Roll 9 Exp. 5(8) - 8 looking S

Excavation continues in the N half of the 35 court still using Pail 10. The following pottery is put in plastic bags, still under Pail 10:

a) parts of the body and of base of ? unpatterned vase (from c. 0.10 m above the floor)

b) Kylix (LM III A?) fragments

Traces of ash appear as earlier next to the pithos at its W. side.

The pebble floor is found to continue along the N. side of the bench.