KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS
AREA A
1978

TRENCHES 23 A AND 23B

SUPERVISOR
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the Smaller Tubs) 53-110
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TRENCH 23 A, BUILDING A

SAND CLEARING IN PROCESS.

Trench 23 A is designed to excavate the interior of Building A. The outer limits of the Trench are the outer faces of the walls and Robbers Trenches that define the room. By excavating here we hope to find the level of the floor inside Building A and to find some indication of the function of the building, which is the largest building so far found at Hammur.

Parts of Building A were excavated last season. The east Robbers trench and some sand clearing in the interior and part of the south Robbers Trench was excavated as Trench 1242 + 1048 (NB 10 p 94). The west wall with its interior bench and robbed out south end was excavated as Tr. 1421 (NB 14 p 27).

A general plan of the building with some levels was included in last season's preliminary report (Herrie 14 for 1978).

This season excavation began in Building A a few days ago. We began 5 June at
Roll II South Robber's Trench, showing ? robbed out foundation stone in center.

This is from the west end of the trench, showing a few inches of the clay walling of the substructure.

That time for the sherds from the sand clearing.

Page 1 l. 1
under
from depth of various 6.90 - 6.75
red loess sand
pottery mostly Hellenistic and others

Page 2 l. 2
under
from depth of 6.20 - 6.52
red loess sand
7 pottery
1. other piece of glass
unrecorded: M. 7 (glass)
This is from the South Robber's trench. A small piece of glass (15th A.D. (?) was found in the robber's trench giving a few inches post quem to the making of the walling.

Page 3 l. 2
under
from depth of:
red loess sand mostly Hellenistic
pottery latest may be early Roman
7 unrecorded:

This is from the west end of
south
the robbers' trench. This area was excavated last season and had been filled in by the winter storms. The sherds are not reliable indications for the date of the robbing.

21/10/61

Pack 4 L. 3 (join with 1)
under 3 L 2
from depth of 5 feet 530
soil brown, sandy (not sand)
pottery latest - Hellenistic - early Roman?
other
unidentified

This is from the west end of the robbers' trench. It is a layer of earth above the sub-foundations. This was not dug last season. With this said we find that the west wall of A does not continue directly to the south. Rather there is a jog to the west and

and the robbers trench continuing to the south (sketch, page 12). This detail alters the published plan of the building. Giuliana makes a drawing of the new corner.
Removal of upper sand in pit 5.
Roll 12
(see also p. 16)

In general, the sand clearing in the N.W. of A. There is much fallen stone. We excavate down to a layer of burned sand in the west. A circular lead object with two holes for attachment is found.

Photographs are taken of the sand clearing in process.

Pit 5 L. 2 brings us down to the top of a bench which runs along the south side of the north wall. (The west end of this bench was found last season). We also find a pile of burned sand and fallen stones in the NW corner of the room. We leave this sand to excavate later with a separate pail. At about the same level as the top of the bench, in the center of the room we find a layer of fallen tiles and a semi-frag. (T.C.)
The new pad for removing the black sand (burned) and the remainder of the stone pile is:

Pail 6 x 12
under 5 ft. 2 ft
from depth of
soil burned sand
pottery, debris, fine and heavy fabric coarse
other bone, gorries and tool
unearthed.

The burned stones and sand appear to be resting on a layer of earth above the floor level. The stones probably represent fallen building material. Since they are associated with burnt soil (which could not have been building material) it seems likely that the stones and sand were burned after the stones had fallen from the wall.
We begin by cleaning off the top of the north wall with a new pail.

+ Fail 7, 1.2
under —
from depth of Ca 7.00 - 6.84
soil hard and
pottery not easily delineable, E.C. Cyprus
other
unmentionable.

With this pail we find that some (not all) stones extend into the north slope. One stone is 1.10m long, extending from the S. face of the N. wall into the slope. These stones seem to represent a lower retaining wall above which there is a higher outer wall. Just above these large stones going into the slope there is a layer of earth with stone chips. The chips may be from working the stones of the upper, north side wall. A pail is added to clean up some of this chipped level (see addition p 20).

+ Fail 8 & 3
under + 2.1
from depth of 6.90 - 6.80
pail, brown + stone chips
pottery: late VI = und IV be
other
unmentionable.
Additional: A strip of the upper N wall was found in the W. 1/4 (plan p 24). Near E. of this strip the lower wall, with stones projecting into the strip, N of the building is stepped up to a higher level. This probably means that the hill into which this room was built sloped up to the east. The different levels of the projecting stones of the E wall followed the slope.

In the interior of "A" we will begin excavating the NE 1/4 of the room, an area 4.75 x 3.35 ft from the inside face of the wall.

We remove the black sand and fallen stones with Pail 16 1/2. 2 of the stones may be large gourzes. A sample of the black sand is collected.

Pail 16 is used also to clear the remaining sand from the NW 1/4 down to the earth level (el: 2.613). This level is ca 4 cm lower than the top of the bench. The earth below the sand may represent a surface, a higher later floor, level at the top of the bench.

The original floor will be at the bottom of the benches. This possible later surface is ca ___ cm lower than the level of the el. South of ROB + East of "A".

This pail also uncovers many puna fragile similar to those found last season (DB 14).

All of the puna fragile seem to be spread in a strip parallel to the west wall. Most are within 2 m. of the west wall.

We find 2 sides of a rectangular enclosure in the SW corner of the area being excavated.
The fallen tiles and some frags continue deeper. We change pods to dig deeper.

Pod 9 L 3
under 9 L 2
from depth of 6.03
and soft brown sandy potting (possibly II BC (B7906+90) ocher?
oram pipe unrecorded.

After a ca 8 cm pass, we change pods again.

Pod 10 L 3
under 9 L 3
from depth of 5.87
soil brown
potting II BC (3 detritus flakes)
other unrecorded?

After this pod we make a test in the NW corner in an area
1 m x 1 m between the benches to see if the benches end at this
level. A pod is begun.

Pod 11 L 3
under 10 L 3
from depth of 5.87
purl soft brown
potting undetected (latest = probably III)
other unrecorded.

(photo p 22)
In spite of the softness of the soil and the lack of indicative finds, it appears that Paul 10 brings us down to a floor. This is shown in the small test (Paul 11) in the NE corner, which shows that the N + W benches end at this level.

We will begin to dig the southwest 1/4 of the interest of "A". A new pašl is begun.

Paul 12 L. 3
under 1. L. 1
from depth of 6.13
soil sandy brown
glazing almost brownish
pottery most Amarna
other 1, gourna
unmentions.

After a ca 8 cm pass we change pašl arbitrarily.

Paul 13 L. 3
under 12 L. 3
from depth of 5.85
soil brown
pottery before lekanis = 1 B.C.
other -
unmentions: c.1484 lekanis,
c.1487 pedestalled vase
This brings us close to
The floor found in the NW 1/4 to the well dug piece the soil. One part of burned earth mixed for water diving.

There is a large patch of black (burned) Sake in the south west corner of the room ca 1m x 1m. Photos are taken showing the black patch.

We clean off the top of the west 1/2 of the trash bench. We begin a pile for these sherd.

Pail 14 l.3
under 12 l.3
from depth of 6.13
soil - banco - brown
pottery probably bellarostic
other inventories.

Marek Bresky
Excavation of NE 1/4

28 July 1978

We have reached a floor level in the west 1/4 of A1. We begin to excavate in the NE 1/4.

Paul 15:2
Under 1 2 1
from depth of (bench)
and brown sandy + black pottery II - IV BCE
other unexcavated.

We find a section of a N-S bench extending from the N bench toward the probably door. There is burned brown/black soil along the north bench. We are finding many sherds at this level (unlike the W 1/2). This probably represents a surface level above the original floor. This is the same surface as that noticed in the west 1/4 (Paul 6:1 3).

This level may be associated with only the pot tile fall. Although there are many sherds, they do not seem to represent whole pots, the earth is very soft, possibly due to the wet field.
Tiles from E 1/2 of A
Tiles from W 1/2 of A

Continue deeper. Therefore we decide to dig another layer.

Paul 160 L 3
Under 15 L 3
From depth of 5.85
Pink, soft brown
Pottery: Most = coarse ware
1 red painted bag is late II - I B.C.
Remaining: C 1499 exp 6/16

Other remaining: C 1499 exp 6/16

We change park to dig down to the floor level. The earth is dry and firm.

Paul 17 L 3
Under 16 L 3
From depth of 5.77
Pink, soft brown
Pottery latest = C 1499
Others remaining: C 1499 (perm 8/16)

This brings us to the floor level. There are 2 bounded patches on the floor. One is at the NE corner. The other is on the north side of the central hearth. The latter especially shows signs of a very hot fire.

We began the S.E 1/4 of A.
Addition 10 Aug 1978

Rooftiles of Building A:

We collected all of the roof tiles of Building A in two lots, one for the W. 1/4, the other for the E. 1/4 of the Room. All were cracked, clean and inspected for inscriptions, though no inscriptions/stamps were found.

There are 2 kinds of Pan tiles, one with a projecting wedge on the bottom of the edge, showing that such pieces were from the over-hanging edge of the roof. The other had no such edge.

E 1/4 of room
- Pan tiles - length of edge pieces: 4.20 m
- Area of pan tiles: 3.90 m²
- Total area: 4.37 m²
- Number of small frages: 14

W 1/4 of room
- Edges (length): 3.87 m
- Pan (area): 3.30 m²
- Core (area): 5.80 m²
- Small (number of frages): 7

Total area: 17.38 m²
(Not including overhanging)

Since the total area of the roof (2/3 of the building was entirely roofed) would have been about 100 m², we may have found less than 20% of the tiles necessary to cover the building.

Pottery, pail 18

Most sherds are from amphoras. One Cimabue kalathos (? bee hive) is represented. Very few other shapes are present. Amphoras are all the Hellinistic type. Only the presence of amphoras and absence of fine ware suggest a function for the area.
Stone construction in SE corner

Today we continue in the SE 1/4 of "A" where we expect to reach the floor sometime today.

We remove the packed sand of level 2 (Pit 18 L 2) and change pails to dig deeper.

Paul 19 l. 3
under 18 L 2
from depth of 6.04
soil brown, sandy
pottery amphorae, cordyly, one other lamp, similar to C442 (1933)
uncertified.

We change pails again to excavate down to the floor

Paul 20 l. 3
under 19 L 3
from depth of 5.94
soil brown
pottery: II B C cups + amphora + cooking pot
uncertified: C 1487 mean
burner(?), C 1572 lecheune bowl II - I B C

Before beginning this pail we can already see the complete outline of the central hearth, most of the line of the south bench
and the corner of the south and east benches.

In the southeast corner of the room we find a small construction: one upright slab runs against the south bench, parallel to the east wall, a flat slab in front of the upright slab. There is carbon tannin earth inside the construction, however, since there is carbon tannin earth over much of the roof of the building it is difficult to say whether or not this construction was used specifically as a hearth. (Photo p. 34)
We continue with the floor in the southeast 1/4 of the room (Psalm 20:1,3).

We are finding a level of bits of carbon and burnt earth all over this 1/4 of the room. We excavate down to this level.

This is also the level of the door pivot block noted in the last Reporter's trench last season. The pivot block, then, is predominantly in situ. The entrance to the room is marked by the pivot block and the end of the SE bench. The threshold must have been robbed out with the foot of the East wall.

Before photography we clear off the top of the bench in the NE corner of the room. A pool is begun for the sherds on top of the bench:

Psalm 21:1,3
under 15:1,3
from depth of soil below
pottery, other
unchronified
Spending early SE Bend

Paul 14

Inside A we make a small pit along the west end of the stone base toward the back of building.

Paul 23 c. 3

Under 22 c. 3, 6

Robins' place of base and cup of stone base.

Paul 22 c. 3

From depth of south wall 6 earth shell formed in a small wooden horse.
(Photo p 40)

The floor. A new pack is begun.

Paul 24:13
Under 20 L 3
Home depth of
soil plowed, burnt patches
clay stones, charcoal, nothing
pottery obviously Biblical.
Other stone, carbon,
unmentioned.

'6. 3–4 cm under the floor we find a layer of stone
chips, probably the refuse
from trimming the stones
in the bench. There is a
second course under the
chair (north) stone of the
bench, proving that the bench
did not here to provide
space for the door. But
there's no second course
under the second stone
from the north, showing
that the bench was built
at this level.
One series of photos is taken this morning.

A group photo of the staff and workmen, Cooks and pot washers was also taken in Building A.

After the photos we remove some of the stones that are sitting on the floor.

The soundings in the NW and SE and failed in.

We began to excavate inside near 1/2 of the central hearth. It now looks to begin for this.

Paul: 25 63
Under: 1 2 1
From depth of top of hearth pottery classical B4 + complete black lat. Other carbon Hellenistic unimportant.

There are many bits of carbon and the soil is tinged red (? from burning). A red stump is visible.