KOMMOS 1981

Area A

Trench 44

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Excavation of Trench 44A began today at 6:00 A.M. J. MCE is trench master, the three workmen are Aristoteles, Andreas, and Giorgio.

44A is immediately south of the temple. On the west it is bounded by TR 37A (see NB 37 and season report by M. Shaw). On the East it is limited by TR 34A2 (see NB 34 and season report by D. Orr). The dimensions of the trench are ca 6.00 m E-W, by 5.50 m N-S. For precise coordinates and levels before excavation, see sketch p. 6.

The top levels of this area have been excavated last season as TR 34 A1, by D. Orr. Orr removed only the sand that had accumulated on the earth surface. The area was used as a part of the Temple C dump, though it was less rich in votive material than the area immediately to the E. For these interpretations and a fuller account the NB 34 and Orr's season report (1980).

We have several reasons for continuing the excavation in this area. We hope to learn more about the surfaces south of the three temples. After reaching
Minoan levels, we hope to be able to say something about the structures to the E + W.

Today was spent removing sand (our back-fill) from the South Robbers’ trench of the Temple, and from TR 34 A 2.

No materials collected.

Photograph and levels were taken.
Today we begin excavating the W/S. A pillar is begun for the first pass. The soil is sand, slightly compacted.

**Pillar L1**
- Under 5.5m: a few soil sand, small pebbles (chips)
- Pottery: 1450 gr. Latest 1st BC

Other shell, bone, carbon inventoried.

At the NW corner of the trench, our first pass brings us down to the top of a small cup. The cup is horizontal and appears to be complete. It may be resting on an ancient surface. We change pails to dig to the bottom of the cup. The soil changes slightly: more soil, less sand. We change levels.

**Pillar L2**
- Under L1
- Depth: 5.5m
- Soil: sandy, brown
- Pottery: 1050 gr. Late 3rd-early 2nd BC?

Other shell, bone inventoried: C 3633 cup base, C 3634 coarse basin, C 3635 votive lekane.

A photo is taken of the cup (C 3635) on the surface, showing its relation with Temple C foundations, (4 color slide).
We did not finish pail 2 L 2 yesterday so this morning we complete the pass. Very soft sand is found in a ca. 1 m \( \frac{1}{4} \) circle at the SW corner of the trench, lower than the earth surface throughout most of the trench. Though we are not certain of the surface in this area, we clean the trench for a photo.

We change pails for another pass, beginning in the north.

Pail 3 L 2
under L 2
depth ca. 5\% - 5\%
pottery ca. 700 gr. to 350 BC?
other: shell, bone, bronze, inventoried.
C 3636 cup base 192

A second pail is used to dig in the sand at the SW corner.

Pail 4 L 2
under L 2
depth ca. 5\%
pottery 150 gr. to 200-150 BC at least other: iron, bone
inventoried

With pail 4 we find that the sand continued throughout the 51\% of the trench, marking a gentle slope down from N to S. (Plan p. 14.)
In the N½, profile T brings us down to a surface marked by stone chips (as in 34A2) and a burnt patch. This is at the level of the foundations and slopes down to the S.
This morning we cleared the surface under pails 3 & 4, took levels (p. 14) and photos (p. 16).

The surface is marked only in the N ¼ of the trench. We have located 2 small burnt patches and a few small patches of stone chips.

In the South ¼, particularly in the SW corner, the surface is not clearly marked. We appear to be still in a rather deep fill of Sandy Earth. That sloped down to the SW. (See levels p. 14)

To continue excavation, therefore we retain separate pails for the N & S halves of the trench.

N. HALF:

Pail 5 L 3
under 3 L 2
depth 5.10
soil brown, some sandy
pottery 2400 gr., much 8th-7th c. & some classical
other Carbon, bronze, shell, bone
inventoried B191

S. HALF:

Pail 6 L 3
under 4 L 2
depth ca 5.10
soil sandy brown
pottery mixed: much 1st c. B.C., 1st and 4th RC
other Shell, bone
inventoried C-3661 Cornelian Votile
Pails 5 + 6 bring us to what may be a surface at the north end of the trench marked by a continuation of the NW burn; patch and tempes, and a few patches of pebbles.

A stone fall divides the S end of the trench from the N. The situation is still not clear in the south. The soil is still quite soft, but below pail 6 it appears to get darker.

A new pail is begun for the N part of the trench:

Pail 7 L3
under 5 L3
depth (p 18)
pottery sherds, bases 8th - 7th BC
other shells, bone, iron, purple bit. inventoried

Despite considerable effort we have not been able to locate a foundation trench along the foundations of Temple C.
In the N ¼ we continue the pass begun yesterday afternoon (pail 7).

South of the stone pile, we begin another pail with the hope of clearing down to more tumbling stones. If we find stones continuing to the S end of the trench, they should show us the slope more accurately.

Pail 8 L3
under 6 L3
depth 4.88 (p 20)
soil sandy brown
pottery most 7th, 1 possible Hellenistic
other iron (Mi 85) shell
invented: Mi 85

A photo is taken after cleaning the stone fall (p 20). Levels are taken (p 20).

After removing most of the stones, a new pail is begun in the N ¼.

Pail 9 L3
under 7 L3
depth (p 20)
soil light brown
pottery latest = late 8th - early 7th.
7th BC cup base?
other shell, bone, red bit, iron, carbon
inventoried: iron Mi 83

We have had little luck so far in finding a Temple C foundation.
trench. There are no differences in the color of the soil along the foundations nor in the scarp to the E + W. Just to be sure we haven't missed a trench, we shall leave a 0.40 cm strip along the foundations to be excavated separately.

We also began a separate pair for the burnt sandy soil + lumps in the NE corner of the trench.

Paul 10 L3
under 7 L3
depth 0.20
soil sandy, burnt pottery 10 30 gr. 7th C
other shells, bone, iron, carbon inventoried.

Under the burnt patch with lumps in the W part of the trench is a patch of pure sand. Except for this the soil appears to be the same throughout the trench. Paul 9 is therefore extended to include the S part of the Trench.
We are close to the level of the bottom of the foundations of Temple C. We take levels and change pails.

Pail I under 9 depth (p. 24)

Soil burned, sandy pottery: 7th or 6th C. (a few BC cups, scroppy unit 1400 gr. other shell, bone, Irvine, etc., red stuff inventoried:

The level reached with pails 9+10 is close to the top of the wall of Temple B: ca. 4.82, and not far from the top of the N-S wall on the W side of TR 34A2: 4.715

Pail II will be a rather shallow layer that may serve to distinguish between the fill outside Temple C and the use-surfaces outside Temple B.

Another pail is used for the sand in the west part of the trench

Pail 12
under 10
depth ca. 4.84
pottery Glaze + B.D. ca. 500 gr.
other bone, shell, lavender lots inventoried.
After completing the pass for pails 11 + 12, we remove the “reverse foundation trench” left against the s. side of the Temple foundations. The earth we have kept is ca. 33 cm deep, and a strip 40 cm wide. A new pail is begun for the material from this area.

Pail 13 C3
under G13
depth: 4.85
soil: brown, sandy
pottery: 626 6R. Mature 680
800-750 BC
other bone, shell, carbon
inventoried.

Pails 11, 12, 13 bring us down onto what appears to be a surface below the bottom of the level of the Temple C foundations. The surface is marked by several features:

a) stones projecting under the foundations
b) a burnt patch near the foundations
c) a series of large pebbles arranged in a “F” shape
d) a small (0.055 m diam.) hole filled with sand and tiny snail shells (were left by a root?)
e) a few stones resting on the level
f) a second burnt patch.

Sketch, possible surface. After pail 13

MATURE GEOMETRIC
800-750 BC.
9) a patch of orange material with bits of lavender similar to those found on a surface at 4.92 m TR 37 A.

For the above, see sketch, p. 26, levels and photos are taken (p. 26 + 28).

We shall leave a strip ca. 0.50 m wide along the side of the foundations for more detailed photography. A new pail is begun for the rest of the trench.

Pail 14 L3
  under 11, 12 L3
  depth p. 250
  soil brown, patches of burning and orange material
  pottery 4,750 gr. Geom. 800-750 or earlier
  other bones, shell, orange material, pumice, inventory.

Photos:
Possible surface from south
1) Roll 1 #36 Roll 2 #1
   + color

2) Detail surface along Temple C foundations Roll 2 #2
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We continue with pail 14. After photographing a detail of the surface in the NE corner of the trench (p. 28), we remove the bank of earth left along the Temple C foundations. The pail brings us down onto some large stones in the NW corner. To discover their extent we continue to do some cleaning with the same pail.

The hole ("d" in plan p. 218) was 1.24 m deep. Probably a root hole.

The large stones soon turned out to be a large N-S wall running the entire length of the trench.

This wall is ca. 6.6 m wide, its top slopes down gently from N to S.

In the N/S of the trench an extensive burnt surface is associated with the level of the top of the wall. (plan p. 32)

So far we have not found this surface at the S end of the Tr., where the fill is pure sand. Perhaps we have not dug deep enough.

A new pail is begun to excavate the sand in the S/S down to the level of the top of the wall.
Paul 15 L3
under L3 L3
Depth Ca 4.465
Pill sand
Pottery 2150gr. probably late PG -
Early 6th. 9th c. B.C.
Other bone, shell, flavor
inventoried.

Paul 15 levels (as 1/3 of
Trench) are shown in
parentheses.)
Pluto Roll 2 #11
Top of wall
after fail 15 14

This page contains fallen rubble through out the trench. Though the soil continues to be soft and may cave on a ladder, the trench is still 10'.

Since the soft sand appears to be the same throughout the trench, roll 16 is continued to include both patio PB 88 10 10-9-46 and PB 16 17 17-1 9-46 with P 36.

Lay a layer of rubble before the new post begins. In the new post, the NJ level is taken. P 36

A new post is began for the next pass, beginning with the NJ. Before removing the burnt surface in the NJ, level the fallen P 36.

After removing most of the sand, the new post will be.

We continue removing the sand from the S# with fail 15. To remove the 10. A layer of rubble, the post is removed across small stone caches.
much of the rubble appears to rest on this level, and a burnt patch in the E central part of the trench. To record this possible level, we take levels (p. 39).

A new pass is begun for the next pass.

Paul 17 L3
under 16 L3
depth (p. 39)

soil soft, sandy

pottery 2250 B.G. mainly unisan with questionabile Iron Age scraps
other bones, shell inventoried.

We use another sail to excavate the black earth in the E part of the trench.

Paul 18 L3
under 16 L3
depth (p. 39)

soil black + red (burnt)
3 of sand

pottery 450 or undatable
11 sherds
other bones
inventoried.

Below the possible surface we find that the soil is almost pure sand
with very few sherds. This layer
may serve as a useful separation between the higher levels and those lower down.
We complete pail 17 and clean for a photo. With this pail we have removed all of the sand (+ a bit of the earth at the next layer). There is some fallen rubble in the NW corner of the trench that appears to stop at this level of earth.

Photo p 41. Levels p 42.

We shall next strip off the earth from the W face of the wall. Since this is a strip only ca .25 m wide, we shall probably not collect any material from this face of the wall. For an accurate account of the levels outside the W face of the wall, see TR 37 A (MB 37 and Final Report by M. Shaw.)

Next to the wall in the NW corner of the trench at the level of the lowest surface in TR 37 A we came on some large chunks of plaster. To collect these we began a pail to collect this plaster:

Pail 19 L3

depth 0.05

Pottery now collected.

Other PLASTER inventoried.