KOMMOS 1983

AREA A

TRENCH 52 A
TRENCH 52 B

Elizabeth Fisher

20 June - 30 July, 1983
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Trench 52A is located to the southeast of Temple C, west of Altar I (see plan, p. 8.). It is 9.08 m e-w by 3.71 m on the east end and 2.62 m on the west. The line of the north side of the trench jogs to the south 4.05 m from the east end. This is due to the location of Trench 42A to the east of Temple C, which was excavated by M. Shaw in 1981 (see NB 42A and final report by M. Shaw). The west end of 52A is limited by trench 34A2, which was excavated to the level of the LM I pebble courtyard by D. Orr in 1980 (see NB 34A2 and final report by D. Orr).

The upper sand levels of the area of Trench 52-A were removed in trenches 29A, 33A1, and 34A1. We begin excavation with level 2.

The main goal for trench 52A is to find out what happens to the LM I pebble courtyard and the line of columns of Building I to the east. A second goal is to check for surfaces which are associated with the temples of the sanctuary.

We prepared the trench for excavation by clearing sand and fill from the surface. We divided the trench at the line of the jog in the north side into east and west sections, so that we could excavate more manageable smaller areas.
Pail: 1  Level: 2  Western half of trench
Under pail: —
From depths: NE: 5.89  To: NE: 5.54
  SE: 5.51  SE: 5.39
  NW: 5.735  NW: 5.48
  SW: 5.63  SW: 5.405
  C: 5.45

Type of soil: hard packed brown soil with sand.
Pottery: 4 pails, total: 14,350 gm. Fine ware mostly 7th-3rd B.C.
much 3rd- 2nd c B.C. For catalogued pieces see p. 10.
Other: 2 bronze nails; stone mortar; 2 pieces plaster;
flat sided handle (2 pieces which join). Ceramic.
  Bones; shells; plaster.
Inventory: B242-bronze nail  B243-bronze nail
C6289-fragment of figurine leg (found outside trench to the South).

While sweeping the surface to begin excavation, a bronze nail was found. Also, a cylindrical, hollow clay piece, probably a bull's leg, was found by J. Shaw to the South of trench 52A
on a pile of fill from last year's excavations. After several pats the soil becomes slightly softer and looser and we switch to pail 2.

Pail: 2  Level: 2  Western half of trench
Under pail: 1
From depths: NE: 5.54  To: NE: 5.34
  SE: 5.37  SE: 5.205
  NW: 5.48  NW: 5.220
  SW: 5.405  SW: 5.220
  C: 5.45  C: 5.225

Type of soil: brown packed dirt with some sand.
Pottery: 2 pails, 9,000 gm. Same mixture as for pail 1,
down to 1st c B.C. but much classical and late Archaic.
For catalogued pottery, see p. 12.
Other: loomweights; bronze wire; bones; shells; charcoal; minerals.

Inventoried: 8 loomweights; 3 bronze wire; C.6240: loomweight.

Pail 2 continues to remove the fill of the temple courtyard. We are finding a great amount of pottery. Pail 2 is ended when we reach a hard layer which contains numerous stone chips. This layer slopes slightly from north to south.

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We now begin to excavate the eastern half of the trench with Pail 3. The dimensions of this area are: N-S 4.05 m, E-W 3.71 m.

Pail 3: Level 2: Eastern half of trench.

Under pail:

From depths: NE: 5.89  SE: 5.905  SW: 5.81  NW: 5.90
5E: 5.89  5SE: 5.835  5SW: 5.785  N5W: 5.75
C: 5.875  E: 5.93

Type of soil: Extremely hard packed grey/brown soil (sand).

Pottery: 2,350 gm, mostly 1st c. B.C. Some classical frags.

Other: bones

Inventoried:

As we begin pail 3 we hope to clear down to the stone chip level which we found in the western half of the trench. However, pail 3 proves to be very slow going since the layer is packed down so that it is like cement. This packing is probably the result of the traffic through this area during past excavation seasons, and especially due to the fact that the front-loader crossed this area several times.

When we finally broke through this hard-packed layer, we found softer soil and switched to Pail 4.
Pail: 4  Level: 2  Eastern half of trench  Under pail: 3
From depths: NE: 5.8  To: NE: 5.595
SE: 5.835  SE: 5.57
NW: 5.785  NW: 5.585
SW: 5.95  SW: 5.61
C: 5.73  C: 5.56

Type of soil: soft, dark brown sandy soil.

Pottery: 2 pails, total 7,600 gm. Scraggy deposit. classical material with many 5th cup bases to 3500 B.C.
Other: shells, bones, pumice

Inventoryed: 06971: Attic bowl, 4th c B.C.
04278 + 04279: Attic skyphos, 1st-2nd 4th c B.C.
06280: classical lamp

The soil in Pail 4 is softer and contains many sherds, bones and shells. There is a harder clay-like patch in the southeast corner of the trench.

In the second pass of pail 4 we find large tree roots which remain from the tree which stood above trench 34 A, and was cut down in 1980.

In the southwest corner we find a significant increase in the amount of pottery and decide to change pails.

Note: a triangular area in the northeast corner of the trench was left unexcavated in order to protect the small stone enclosure just to the south of Altar C. See plan p. 12.
Pail: 5  Level: 2  Eastern half of trench.
Under pail: 4

From depth:  NE: 5.595  To: NE: 5.495
            SE: 5.59  SE: 5.495
            NW: 5.585  NW: 5.54
            SW: 5.61  SW: 5.53
            C: 5.56  C: 5.43

Type of soil: soft, dark brown soil

Pottery: 1,400 gm. strappy, mixed classical to 380 B.C.

Other: one bent bronze nail; large pieces of carbon;  
       bronze wire; bronze disc (c. 0.02 m)

Inventoried: C.6281 - Attic Skyphos 400-380 B.C.  
            C.6282 - Corinthian kantharos, early 5th C.B.C.  B.245 - bronze nail  

In Pail 5 we continue to clear the eastern half  
of the trench to the level of stone chips still visible  
as the surface of the western half of the trench.

The finds are mainly concentrated in the western  
side of this half of the trench in this layer;  
there are very few finds from the area toward  
Attal.

We come upon one large rock and several  
small ones in a pile of rubble in the southwest  
corner. At the level of these stones, we 
switch to pail 6.
Paul: 6e  Level: 2  Eastern half of trench.
Under Paul: 5
From depths: NE: 5.475  To: NE: 5.38
SE: 5.475  SE: 5.31
NW: 5.54  NW: 5.38
SW: 5.53  SW: 5.30
C: 5.43  C: 5.355

Type of soil: soft, brown soil with many rocks.
Slightly looser and more rocky in the northwest corner.

Pottery: 1 pail. 3,100 gm.  good 5th B.C. Black glaze, through early 4th B.C. Includes 7 frags. Phoenician amphora.
Other: carbon; bones; shells; terracotta bull's horn frag.; terracotta leg.

Inventoried: C 6248 - terracotta bull's horn frag.
C 6294 - 5th B.C. cup base  C 6295 5th B.C. cup profile
C 6296, C 6297 - jug bases.
T.C. 6291 - figurine fragment.

In Paul 6 we removed the soft brown soil and rocks.
In the northwest corner we found a looser soil with more rocks and very little pottery.

In the southwest corner the line of rocks rested on the dirt and turned out to be part of a general rubble fill. This area was the main area for pottery and bones.

In the northeast corner we began to find a dark grey/black soil of burned layer in patches. Eventually this burned soil became a surface covering the NE fourth of the area of Paul 6. There was almost no pottery on the east side of the trench in this stratum.
At the bottom of Pail 6 we found a layer of stone chips covering the entire trench. This layer slopes slightly from NE to SW. In the northeast corner of the trench there was an area of dark, burned earth.

When we reached the stone chips layer we took levels and changed pails. This chip layer also marks the beginning of level 3 for trench 52 at approximately 5.35.

This layer of stone chips was also found in Trench 42A at 5.60W x 5.30S in 34A2 at 5.30-5.40, and in 44A at 5.31, where they also sloped slightly from North to South.

*Not on stratigraphic section. See notebook 84A, p. 59, Pail 30.

**Pail: 7, level: 3, eastern half of trench**

**Under Pail: 6**

**From depths:**
- NE: 5.38
- SE: 5.31
- NW: 5.38
- SW: 5.30
- E: 5.355

**To depths:**
- NE: 5.29
- SE: no change
- NW: no change
- SW: no change
- E: 5.35

**Type of soil:** very dark (black), burned soil, soft with almost no finds but many stone chips and some rubble.

**Pottery:** 1 pail, 150gm. undatable. Probably Iron Age, 7th C. B.C. Includes 2 frags. Phoenician amphora.

**Other:** shells, bone

**Inventoried:**
In Pail 7 we removed the area of burned earth from the northeast corner of the trench. This burned earth also included the stone chips layer which covered the whole trench. There were very few finds of any kind.

Since the burned area earth continued underneath the lighter soil and stone chips in the southeast corner of the trench, we stopped Pail 7 in order to remove the chips and lighter brown earth which was overlying the black earth in Pail 8.

For the area of Pail 7, refer to the sketch of the "burned area" on p. 20.
Pail: 8  Level: 3  Eastern half of trench
Under Pail: 6  From depths: NE:  not applicable  To: NE: –
   SE:  5.31  6SE:  5.245
   NW:  5.38  NW:  5.38
   SW:  5.30  SW:  5.225
   C:  5.35  C:  5.21

Type of soil: lighter brown dirt with some stone chips.

Pottery: 1 pail, 255 gm. late 7th to early 5th B.C.
But 2 Eastern Sigilltium B- (Tiberian)Frag. = intrusion
Other: bones

Inventoried: C.0298- Corinthianizing juglet or aryballos
base- late 7th c. B.C.

In Pail 8 we removed some brown dirt which turned out to be over the layer of stone chips in the southern half of the trench. The chips were reached more quickly in the southeast corner, where we found more black earth. In the southwest corner the chips were at a very slightly lower level and the dirt remained lighter brown; there was no burned earth in this corner.

Since Pail 8 was finished when we reached the stone chip layer already visible in the NW corner at the bottom of Pail 6, Pail 8 probably should have been included in Pail 6.

In order to remove the entire chip layer from the northwest, southwest and southeast corners together, we stopped Pail 8 and switched to Pail 9.
Eastern half of trench
Levels after Pail 8 and indication of areas of Pails 6, 7 + 8.

1 meter
1:50

Pail 9 Level 3 Eastern half of trench
Under Pail 6, 8
From depths: NE: not applicable To: NE: ~
SE: 5.345 se: 5.08
NW: 5.38 nw: 5.205
SW: 5.225 sw: 5.11
C: 5.21 c: 5.15

Type of soil: loose brown dirt with very many stone chips.

Pottery: 1 pail, 3,000 gm. scrappy, mostly large and coarse or plain. to late 8th C. B.C.
Other: 1 shell, 1 bone

Inventoried: C6299 Corinthian L.C. cup - late 8th B.C.

Pail 9 removed the sloping layer of stone chips from the entire trench with the exception of the northeast corner where the chips had been removed with the burned earth of pail 7.

There were almost no sherd s or other finds within this stone chip layer.

In a second pass we begin to get a few larger stones and a few more sherd s.
At the bottom of the stone chip layer we found black earth covering most of the trench, except the northwest corner where there was lighter brown earth and much rubble.

We take levels and change baskets to remove the burned earth in Pail 10.

Pail: 10 Level: 3  Eastern half of trench
Under Pail: 7 (NE corner), 9 (remainder of trench)
From depths:  
NE: 5.29  To: NE: 5.15
SE: 5.08  SE: 4.995
NW: 5.205  NW: 5.005
SW: 5.11  Sw: 4.995
C: 5.15  C (high): 5.10
C (low): 4.83

type of soil: black, burned earth

Pottery: 1 pail, 38.30 gm. scrappy, some geometric (i.e. black glaze cups) but mostly orientalizing to 7th c. B.C.
Other: bones, shells, plaster, one bronze fragment

Inventory: C6300 Protogeometric Kratiriskos

In Pail 10 we removed the burned surface from the entire trench, except the northwest corner where it was not present. We did excavate the northwest corner with this pail, however, since it was mainly rubble and almost no sherds were found (those that were found were very scrappy coarse wares).
The black earth was concentrated on the east side of the trench, towards after L. Pit 10 contained much rubble and very many large rocks but practically no sherd. In the southwest corner there was less black burned earth but just as much rubble and as few sherd as in the rest of the trench. The northwest corner had a particularly large number of large stones.

Also in Pit 10 we pulled out several very large roots from the tree which was cut down in 1980. The removal of these roots and the dark earth which was a bit deeper in the southwest half of the trench left a sort of pit in the center of the trench. As this seemed to continue (in the southwest) while in the northeast corner we reached a yellowish reddish brown strata, we decided to switch to Pit 11 to remove the dark earth and roots from the southwest corner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pit: 11 Level: 3</th>
<th>Eastern half of Trench</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under Pit: 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From depths:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Ne: 5.15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se: 4.995</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nw: 5.005</td>
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<td>Sw: 4.995</td>
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<tr>
<td>e (high): 5.10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>e (low): 4.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of soil: dark brown loose dirt with many roots.

Pottery: 1 pail, 180 gm. very scraggly, to 700 B.C., one early orientalizing black glaze cup base.

Other: 