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Trenchmaster: M.C. SHAW
1984.
Trench 56 A continues excavation within room Q excavated last season by E. Fisher in Trench 52 B. As explain in NB 52 and the excavation report the N, W and S walls of the building terminated out at a level just above the one where excavation had to stop (see NB 52 pp. 132, 134 and NB 55 p. 9). At that level the top of a large block was traced projecting westward from under the east wall of Q. This, it was suggested then, may be a Minuran "anta." The intention therefore is to trace Minuran remains and any structures which may relate to Building T of LMI date to the north.

We start by removing some of the sand which had drifted down here since last summer. We then assign a first pail (1) which may be somewhat contaminated since its excavation. The level reached last year with pail 69 + 70 for the east and west halves of trench will be retained in the present pail since the fill continues the same namely compact brown earth with hardly any stones.

Pail 3:1 under Tr. 52 B pails 69 and 70
Brown compact earth with scattered dark patches, small stones, (p. 7)
From level (see sketch p.9) to

---
Pottery: 4.850gr. Many joins w. 52B/3.69
latest: L.O. → later 7th c.
Other: shells, bones, iron, charcoal,

Juglet B0?

3 small pieces of charcoal are
found in the fill just south of
the north wall and some 2.00m
from the east scarp (ie., the east wall.

Small stones and softer brown
earth characterize the fill at the
NE corner. Bones + lumps, however,
suggest that even the fill in this
area belongs to the same level
as that to the west. This must be
accumulation over the earlier
walls and before the construction
of Building G. The west limit
of G has not been located in
Trench 52B.

There are quite a few sherds of
early Iron age (several B.G
cup sherds). An occasional small
potato-size pebble is turning up
such pebbles are common at the
site in comparable levels.

Two stones west of and along
the line of the 'anta' raise the
possibility that we may have
a wall or, else, a blocked entrance.
Any east extensions must be
at a lower level. A number
of blocks and rubble begin to
appear, especially at the east
port of the trench north and south.
of the 'anta,' we shall now use.

Pail 3:2 under pail 1 (east section)
From 4.18 NE/4.14 to 3.99 E/4.047 trench
Brown compact earth with dark patches
Pottery: 6,700 gms. joint w. pail 1 and Tr. 52/69
Later 7th c. B.C.
Other: iron, charcoal, bones, lumps

Inv.
From (see p. 8) to
The earth is similar to that of pail 1 and, therefore, we maintain the
same label (3) for the level. A
large piece of iron is found south
of the extension of the 'anta.' Also
bone, t lumps and bits of charcoal.
Burnt patches are concentrated as
before in the west half of the trench
and especially in its north section.
There is the occasional round
cobble, egg sized or somewhat
larger.
we continued digging with pail 2 which we have limited to the east section of the trench. The west section which has patches of burning in an area roughly 1.90 m wide E-W will be excavated with pail 3 which starts at about the same level as pail 2. Naturally, there is no clear-cut demarcation between the two areas, only a matter of emphasis: more stones in the west section, perhaps a rough surface of use in the east one. Perhaps we are in the periphery of a building beyond the west section of the trench.

Pail 3:3 (east section of trench)
Under pail 1
N 5
From 4.18/4.14 to 4.13/4.04
Brown earth with burnt patches
Pottery: 2,200 grs. Latest Late. Trace, 9070
shards of large jug at 52R69+71+58A/12
Other: small cobbles, Bag of lumps, bone,
In 1, samples of burnt earth to water-sieve

A great number of the egg-shaped cobbles (some 20) are found in a small area in the northeast corner of the east section of the trench just south of the rubble and slabs which run on an E-W line along the north scarp (see sketch p.8).

More were found, more widely scattered, yesterday. As these are quite a few of these from other trenches in the store room in Pitsid it they will be discarded. Before doing so, we photograph the particular collection. (see p.12)
we are coming down on a surface in the area of pail 2. On top of it is brown earth, large bones, what seem like stone chips. The surface is characterized by red and black spots and patches, some small, water-worn pebbles (pea size) and small bits of stone (working chips?). There are also quite a few sherds, some lying flat.

we terminate pail 2 at the surface and turn our attention to the west section where the burnt fill found earlier (pail 3) seems to be accumulation over the extension of the surface found to the east. we collect a sample of the darkest soil (near the north wall of 37A) for watersieving. In it are bits of charcoal. There are numerous terracotta and a few boar's

At a distance of 2.20 m from the NW corner of the Minoan 'anta' to the west appear some upright little slabs which outline a small square some 0.35 wide which is reminiscent of small structures we found in the past in comparable levels in other trenches, as trench 37A directly west of the Greek temples. At a loss of what to label them as, we nicknamed them 'phone-booths'.

Using the line of the 'anta' wall as a divider we dig the area to its north in the east section of a large collection c. 0.80 m. west of 'phone-booth'.

Trench at bottom of pail 2.
From west.
the trench with pail 4, which is equivalent to pail 2, to remove rubble

Pail 3: A removal of rubble
west section, n. of cista: wall, equiv. in level to pail 2 — 4.13/4.04
Brown earth w. stone chips, small cobbles
Pottery: 380 g., scrappy, joins 1 & 2. Part of same fill.
Other: bones, iron, broken cobbles
In v.

9 complete and and 6 broken up small cobbles are found in pail 4.
The broken ones may tell us something about their use and they will be kept. In the past, I believe, only whole ones were brought to the store room.

We trace the surface in the area of pail 3. The two eastmost blocks of the n. wall of G in this west section of the trench finish in this surface which slopes down to the east (from c. 4.05 m to 3.99 to 5.04 m, n. 4.13). The wall bottoms out at 4.13 m. We terminate pail 3 and replace it in the same area with:

Pail 4: 5 (west section of trench)
Under pail 3
Brownish earth, clean; a few small stones
From 4.13 m. to 4.04 m. to 4.05 m
Pottery: 3,450 g. Joins w. 2 + 4 (lid)
1 frag. s. E. gk. body sherd. 7th c. + some earlier
Other: bones

Imu: C6966: 7th c. aryballos rim
C 6974: coarse tripod base w. incis. decor.
The fill of pail 5 is almost pure earth, with an occasional small stone and only a few sherdos and a few bones, including a dog's three teeth. 2 roundish cobbles of the type in pail 2 were found here.
We continue with pail 5 in the west area. After a pass we discontinue 5 and shift to the E. section where pails 2 and 4 were used before. We leave the narrow W-E strip (1.10m) south of the anta line unexcavated and dig only to the north taking as a south limit the south line of the wall (ie c. 2.50m W-E + 2.65m N-S).

Pail 4:6 (E section N. of 'anta')
Under pails 2 + 4 + 5
From 4.05 m. to 3.88
Brown earth w. small stone
Pottery: 420gr. very scrappy - To 7th c. B.C.
Other: ?Clay frog; bones; limpets; pumice
Inv.

The fill is exactly that encountered in pail 5 and we decide to include that area in pail 6 but still using as a south limit the line of the south face of the anta. There are relatively few sherd, some bones + limpets. Besides the "phone booth" some 3 stone stands on edge further west, which may have been thus set intentionally. North of the "anta wall" there are fallen slabs and rubble which extends all the way to the west scarp. At least some

Pail 6: also area to the west (see above for details)
of these may have collapsed from the wall, although they are unlike its blocks, and rather small. Similar sized and shaped slabs appeared earlier south of the wall in the area not excavated at the moment.

The fill may be changing somewhat. There seem to be more small stones and stone chips and we change pail for the same area.

Pail 4: 7 (North sect. of trench)
Under pail 6
Brown earth and small stone
From 3.88 m to 3.78 m

Pottery: 1120 g. Some Minoan, a few Iron Age. 18 G cups suggest at least 8 m. C. Close dating imp.

Ofln.: shells; charcoal, bone, piece of clay? Bone.
June 21

We continue with pail 7. We came upon more stone debris in front of the 'anta wall' and all the way to the west scarp. The stones are oblique, upright and form a roughly circular line. We clean around these stones and stop using pail 7. The 'phone booth' seems to terminate more or less on this level, with some of the stone penetrating further down.

We now turn our attention to the area south of the south line of the 'anta wall' and start excavating at the level last reached with pails 2 and 5.

Pail 4: 8 southern sherd
Under pails 2 and 5
Brown earth and small stone
From 4.05w/3.99e to 3.92m
Pottery: 1600ga. Mixed coarse + fine. LMII-
LMIIA:2. All sherd small, no joins.
Other
Inv.

There are a few scattered blocks but in no specific pattern.

A measured plan of this level is started and various levels taken with the machine.
June 22

We continue with pail B until we reach what may be a surface with an occasional small pebble. Then we shift to

Pail A: 9 south strip
Under pail B
Brownish earth, small + large stones
From 3.92 m to 3.81 m
Sherds - 500 g's, ca. 45 sherds, small worn sherds, rounded edges, Undatable.
Other: plaster
In v. C6975: leg fragmental figurine(?)

Several of the fallen blocks rest on the "surface." A rough line of mostly small stones starts south of the "phone booth" and continues to the scarp.

The two small ? structures found in the area previously excavated with pail A will be described as they appear at this stage. The "phone booth" will be labelled A and the other one, about 1.00 m to its west B.

Structure A ("phone booth"). Three upright slabs (0.055 thick and 0.047 m) of which the southern one is the thickest and tallest (top at 3.14 m) enclose a roughly squared area 0.195 m N-S, now still with the earth in it. Its east side is not yet defined for there are small slabs and a large sherd attached to it which will be removed after photography.
Structure B consists of two upright slabs and a shorter slab which is leaning against the western and largest slab (0.15 m wide) and which may have once been upright but now collapsed. The south slab is quite thin and rather triangular in shape.

Photographs are taken of the trench at this level and close-ups of the two structures. The "phone booths" contents are cleaned and the enclosure is once again photographed. It turns out that it is the east side which is open and the north side has one more upright slab. This reduces the area enclosed to 0.12 N-S. A large sample of the soil is kept for further examination and no few sherds found collected under the label of

Pail 10 Contents of "Phone Booth" sherds 300 gr. 5 Iron Age sherds, from "phone booth" (See p. 26).

There is no sign of burning or fire in the soil or on the slabs.

We clean the interior of the other structure and set the slanted north slab upright. A photograph is taken of the thus reconstructed enclosure which encloses an area c. 0.24 m N-S and 0.23 E-W. This is also open on the east. 3 sherds, indistinct are discarded.
Pail 9 is terminated. We start removing stones, first in the area of pail 9 using:

Pail 4: South strip - Stone level
Equivalent to levels of pails 8+9
Earth and small stones
Shards, quite good; c. 53 shards. Small scratchy sherdos, worn? L.M. I. A. Two ' VAT ' piece.
Oliver
Inu.

We make a small probe next to the 'anta' block and find that it stops right under the level reached. We are beginning to suspect that this may be an L.M.III wall built with various blocks robbed out of earlier buildings. Then the L.M.III wall was itself robbed during Greek times. A possible floor for the Minoan wall may be the level at which we noticed pebble, at the top of pail 9. The two small structures A & B must be connected with the first pillaging of the Minoan wall, i.e., the stone used for constructing the 7th c. building G.

The Minoan wall is parallel to one found 5.73 m to the south, in Trench 36B (1980). That wall was also built with an assortment of building block. The bottom course, equivalent to ours in level, had a gap of 0.11 m below it apparently for a wooden

* now named Building P
Structure A ("Phone Booth") from east and northwest, before (a) and after (b) cleaning.

(a) Slab on north side; 0.17m E-W; 0.055 thick; 0.28m max. h.; flat on sides with broken top. Max. h. level: 4.07m.

(b) Slab on n. side; 0.19m E-W; 0.056m thick; 0.28 max. h.; Max. h. level: 4.09m. Broken top.

(c) Slab 0.26 max. w. N-S; 0.055 thick; 0.34m max. h.; Flattish on w. E sides; Broken at top. Max. h. level: 4.10m.

(d) Large slab w. very smooth n. face; broken at top; 0.40m max. w., 0.40m max. h.; 0.07m thick; Broken at top. Top level: 4.14m.

Bean which rested on a euthenemia course built on bedrock.

We shall test the possibility that the "euthenemia" course is of earlier date by digging in an area where the pebble floor was preserved, directly south of the "antæ" wall. The west section of this wall was robbed after a length of 1.95m from the east scarp. Since digging under the floor to extract even bottom blocks is likely to introduce contamination, the small eastern section is definitely the safer one for studying stratigraphy. This area is 1.95m E-W and ca. 0.80m wide N-S and we shall dig it with.

56A Pail F: 12 (Southeast sounding)
Under pails 91 and 11 compact brown earth, small pebbles, stone chips. From 3.82m to 3.75m. Sherd: 650 g. c. 25 sherds. Small, scruffy, late. LMI - not well datable.
Other: plaster; piece of clay?

Inv.
The level at which we start must be that immediately below the floor. There are still tiny smooth pebbles but also specks of charcoal and some small stone chips or some small pieces of unpainted plaster.

After a pass we reach the bottom.