1983

KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS

DAYBOOK 86

Excavator: M. C. Shaw
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Index: computer generated (see list in pocket)
TRENCH 86A

This is a day before excavation formally begins. All 5 trench masters (myself included) go to the site to do various jobs. Trenches are set, a guided tour of the town and civic centre led respectively by myself and J.W. Shaw.

Levels are taken of Trench 86A, which is just a small area where excavation was not completed in Trench 66B in 1993. It is located in the southeast corner of the north wing of Building T in Space 25B. The location of the trench is shown on p. 4, while the location is shown on p. 5.

The area to be excavated is of irregular shape, roughly triangular, ca. 2 m N-S and c. 3.8 m. max. W-E. On the east it is limited by the scarp which rises to quite a high to a Hellenistic level on which Building E was built. The scarp is covered with a coating of cement which we applied to prevent erosion. The top level of most of the triangle is at +4.24 - 4.17 m, that is quite flat but the west scarp is rather irregular and eroded. Beyond the west scarp excavation stopped in the past at two different levels. South of the north wall of Space 25B it stopped at ca. +3.30 m. In the remaining ca. 1.18 m wide to the west the level was at +3.18 m.
June 23

Excavation begins in Trench 86A (location A, p. 6). First we remove a top layer of pure earth from the area to the west of A so as to reach the level where excavation stopped in 1985. No sherds found. The level of the machine is at +6.335m. We start with area A.

Plan 1:4:1 below Tr GGB plan 1:7

From (see p. 6) to (see p. 8)

Sound + erosion material, small stones, slabs
Space 25B - Area A (see plan p.6)

Sherds: Mixed LMI to historic?
mixed

Other: Coarse plaster (?); roof clay samples Inv.

The level is described as 1-4:
1 represents foreign accumulation
4 the ancient level. Oblique, curved small slabs, small stones characterize the starting surface of the ancient level.

In the eroded east scarp one notes a rubble tumble starting at the preserved top of the north wall and sloping down to south. In the fill there are varieties of matter which may originate from the roof or ceiling structure: compact clayey pebbles, grey or sticky + dark, small pieces of coarse plaster, the occasional pebble.

Samples of plaster and clay are collected

The south face of the north wall starts to be defined. The wall is better preserved in this area (A) than to the west. The area is filled with rubble and we continue Pail 1 to remove earth around them. A chunk of plaster (max. size 6cm) is collected
86A/Pail 4: 2 under pail 1 - Space 25A
From (see p. 8) to ca. +4.06 m
Stone tumule
Sherd s: MM III - LMI, small frags -
Undiagnostic; 36 sh; 0.730 kg.
Other: fossil; roof clay and plaster frags;
charcoal; bone, Inv.

The levels on p. 8 are those after cleaning in the area west of area A and in A after pail 1.

Each and stones are gradually removed. A piece of coarse thick plaster is found next to crushed charcoal and a piece of grey lepis. The lepis + the plaster are collected + may belong to the ceiling (a burnt one?) The stone are from walls, rather than slabs from an upper pavement. Thick, but small crude piece of plaster continue. Some of the sherds are burnt. A new piece of charcoal turn up (in the same location as before, the NE corner of A) and it is collected.

Under the removed stones there are small shale, and more earth, except for the tumble from the north wall which is visible in the west scarp penetrates much deeper. We dig the fill of earth and small stones and try to define the outlines of the tumble at this upper level. We change pail at an arbitrary level.

86A/Pail 4: 3 under pail 2 - Space 25B
Space 25B, Rubble
From ca. +4.06 m to (see p. 12)
Sherds: 64 sh; 1,740 kg. - LMI?
Mixed MM IB  -> probably LH I
Pail 3 is restricted to the fill beyond (that is south of) the stone tumble discussed above.

More of the south wall is being revealed. It is beautifully built of slim rectangular blocks but it is leaning dangerously toward the north. The external face was robbed, probably in L M III times.

There is less plaster in the fill which after one pan reveals again extensive rubble—likely an extension of wall debris from the north wall and possibly from the south one.

Nanno Marinatos came with the College Year in Athens group of students and J. W. Shaw and myself took turns taking them on a tour.

It was a beautiful clear day, rather cool for Pitsidia.
June 24

The machine is set at level $+6.31m$. Excavation continues, with Pail 3.

Area A is filling up with rubble. A large chunk (19 x 11 and 4.5 cm max.) of coarse plaster is collected. It had one flatish surface which may be the underside of the ceiling. Other smaller pieces turn up. There are also occasional small chunks of the clay-like material we collected yesterday which may be from the ceiling. We collected another sample. The stone tumble steps down towards the west.

We change pail after making a drawing of area A now filled with fallen stones (see p. 12)

86A/Pail 4: 4 under pail 3 - Space 25B
From (p. 12) to $+3.72m$

Removal of stone tumble and surrounding fill
Shards: 19 sh; 0.440 kg; LMI: undiagnostic

Other coarse red plaster; shell; charcoal; Inv.

86A/Pail 4: 4 under pail 3 - Space 25B
From (p. 12) to $+3.72m$

Removal of stone tumble and surrounding fill
Shards: 19 sh; 0.440 kg; LMI: undiagnostic

Other coarse red plaster; shell; charcoal; Inv.

A piece of red-plst plaster found. It consists of two layers, the bottom one (5 mm white), the top one (5 mm - 1 cm) orange, as a result of the penetration of the red pigment. There is still coarse plaster but less of it. A possible hand tool, a roundish cible, is collected from the SE corner. An excellently preserved piece of charcoal is collected from the NE corner. A layer of earth has filled the northern, eastern part of the trench. It slopes down, like the rubble tumble which has been removed towards the west. We change pail
Old bag with a few sherds found at level reach 4 1985 in Tr. 66 B:
7 sherds: 0.045 kg M.H.4.4/4.1
Bagged with Tr. 66 B, pail 28

Pail 4: 5 under pail 4
Greyish brown earth
From +3.72 m to +3.52 m.
Sherds: 35 sh. 1.945 kg; L.M.I?

Other: charcoal (2).

Inv.

From the levels noted above it is clear
that we are just above a surface at
+3.50 encountered in nearby rooms
of Building T. Two more were found
underneath in other rooms.

As in the previous pail some charcoal
turns up (3 pieces collected). They are
thin flattish pieces, perhaps from a
wooden box or some kind of wooden surface.
It should be noted that thick frag-
ments of pottery have been turning up in
all the pails. They may be from 'vats'
found elsewhere in this area of T.

It is difficult to trace the "floor."
Indeed, at the new corner stones
penetrate this level. Elsewhere fill
flares off patches of surface with
some sand over it. Some leafy-like
matter (greyish earth) appears along
the south wall. Also fragments of
burnt wood appear some 20 cm
from the south wall at a midpoint
in Area A. Quite a few small,
rough stones are found in the east
half of Area A.

A burnt patch from which piece of
thin wood came off near the south
wall is about 10 cm. max. w.

We bring the level of the entire area
to about +3.50 m.
Pail 5:6 under 4:5 Space 25B
From ca. +3.50 to (see p. 18)
greyish earth with some sand
Sherd: 17sh, 0.125 kg, LM I?

Other: plaster, charcoal

Inv. -

The +3.50 level does not represent a certain surface — indeed, most likely it does not one. No blue painted plaster has been located so far.

To avoid contamination we assign a sub-pail (6A) to a N-S strip about 90 cm wide along the west side of area A, since it is adjacent to the area excavated in 1985 (6B).

We dig pail 6A first. We expose a definite surface which has an orangeinge at the top and find blue plaster sloping down to the north from the south wall. It appears that the plaster, which consists of thin layers, some painted face up, some not, may have fallen on the floor.

We shall investigate later whether it continues down to the original floor. We stop excavation in the area of pail 6A. Tomorrow we shall start pail 6 (see above) in the west area of the trench.
June 25

The level machine is set at +6.44 m. We start using pail 6 (see p.17) to expose the floor found in pail 6A.

There are pieces of charcoal next to the north wall in the NW corner. We call this the best sample. More plaster is being exposed along the south wall. It is in layers and it slopes down from S to N.

A 55 (N-S) x 45 (W-E) area in the SE corner displays fragments of grey-blue and a terracotta red pigment. Much of the rest of the layers are upside down. Somewhat to the east there is an area with blue and reversed layers.

As excavation proceeded we found the north line of the south wall further south, since the wall is leaning in the upper courses. The plan on p.18 shows its south line, as reveals so far, about 10 cm. further south than at the top. Levels of these features and of the entire orange floor are also shown. Photos are taken of the plaster. We move the west limit of the trench somewhat east (A-B on plan, p.18).

Pail 6: 7 under pails 6 and 6A - Space 25B
Under orange floor
From (see p.18) to +3.16 W/+3.26 E
Brownish earth. Some sand. Charcoal
Shards: 16 sh; 0.095 kg LMI (A?)

Other: Sandy clay sample; frags r bucket of charcoal.

x see comment on p. 21
we are surprised to find that the plaster continues to slope down under the orange surface. The levels of this surface were some 10cm higher than where one was found (at +3.33m) further west. Perhaps the red surface was not a flow?

The new level is characterized of many of charcoal. Pretty soon it is all black. There are no patterns or beam, the charcoal chunks are spread throughout.

We take the level at E +3.41 and west +3.35m. We collect fill with charcoal for water sieving. No sherds have been found in the thin layer over the charcoal and under the possible orange surface. We photograph the level and continue with the same pail (7).

There are interesting developments. There is a brownish fill that occurs in layers alternating with layers of charcoal. It seems to be a sandy clay and a sample is kept. Next we get to a layer which is solidly charcoal (not mixed with clay). These layers go under the plaster debris. The level of the solid black layer slopes down from E (+3.36m) to W (+3.32m). No sherds found so far.

The thick black stratum is almost revealed now. It is ca. 10cm thick and under it starts another light colored layer. A few sherds have been found by now. A large sample of burnt fill has been collected and the rest has been sifted in the sieve. Levels are: +3.26 at E; +3.22 at west. There are some flat sherds.

We dig a bit more in a probe
C 9457 TC Figurine 86B - pail 8

Pail 8
Further inv. pottery added to the list given below
C 9498: Fine bowl (joints w. pail 9 and 73A/122); C 9499: Fine closed shape (joints 73A/122); C 9501: Fine large tea cup (joints 73A/120,122

Trench 86B
We now move to House X where a number of soundings will be made. We start with X1 and devote the first pail to removing a thin top layer throughout, to remove contamination from erosion.

Pail 1/8: 8 - Specio X1
Under pails 121, 122 of Tr 73A
11" 21 of Tr B1A
11" 19, 20 of Tr 80A
From ca. 45.15 to p. 0.24
Brown earth, small stones
Sherd(s): 207 sk; 2, 925 gmc LSMA (816) or LMIB (early); joints with pails 9+10
Others: red, clay-like sample; blue substance
In v. bones, shells
See p. 22

The purpose of the sounding is to reveal more of what may be a foundation deposit excavated part in pails 121, 122 in Tr. 73A. This will help specify the construction of the room more securely.
June 26

The level machine is set at + 7.93 m.

We continue with Pail 8. Two loomweights are found, one next to each other, 65 cm from the south end, 90 cm from the west walls. Directly to their east there is a patch of bluish matter, with a greenish tinge. It also has tiny white specks. It could be pigment or disintegrated stone. We keep samples.

As each is removed, we find a tiny female terracotta figurine. She is in a sitting posture and turns right, as if in conversation with another person.

We take a sample of the layer of red substance in the SE end of X1. We take levels and change pail 8 to 9 [pails]

Pail 8: 9 under east part of pail 8

X1: area east of A-B (see plan p. 24)

From (p. 24) to + 5.02 m (E 4.97 m)

Brown earth, many sherds

Sherds: 299 + 297 sh;

1,225 2,925 kg.

Late LM IA or LM IB; perishable was

jot with pails 8 and 10

Other: see p. 25

Inv. see p. 26

Another, loomweight is found, now 40 cm from the S wall and 1.80 m from the E wall. A rough stone bowl found ca. 0.50 m to the E, in the central area between N + S walls. The bowl is a thick pebble with a round cavity.

The dotted line G-D is the distance between the north wall and a rough line of slabs which were found in X4, the room to the south along the line of a blocking wall along C-D which we removed last year (Tr 80A, pails 19, 20).
Pail 9 (cont'd from p. 25)

Other: stone bowl, loom weight, differentially worn pebble, haematite, flint, bone, shell, obsidian core, carnelian seal, shed, with painted decoration collected separately.

Inv. C 9456: loom weight
S 2223: obsidian core
C 9459: "lyrical floral style" vase
S 2222: carnelian seal
Sh 13: Shell bead

Shards of a beautifully painted vessel are found in the first pass, next to the south wall, 0.80m from the east wall. The decoration is most delicate. Vines ending in spirals with dotted curved lines.

Great excitement in the south area.
Two anchors have been found in Gordon Nixon's trench under the floor of P 1 ! A foundation deposit for shipsheds! It is hard to believe.

There are quite a few bones and some shells in the fill of Pail 9. Then, another surprise: a carnelian shell is discovered in the fill at the central W-E axe's 40cm from the north wall. It is decorated with two incised plants starting from opposite directions. It has an octoid shape. A star is incised between the plants.

Pail 9 fills up, but since the same type of fill continues, we simply use a new bucket which we label Pail 9.
2nd pail. The fill is softer towards the east. A layer of small stones begins to appear. We stop at this stage and we turn to the west and smaller section.

8:50
Pail 8:10 under part of T
X1 west section
From +4.98 (E)/5.08 (W) to +5.02/4.97
Brown soil and more stones
Shells: 139 sh; 1,235.8 kg; late LM IB?
2 early LM IB: joints with Pails 8 and 9
Other: see p. 26
Inv.: see p. 28

P.S. Upon more examination, "fish" were recognized.
As we dig in pail 10 we start tracing a pebble floor in the westernmost section. It continues under the few slabs which along with the earth level around room were thought in earlier trenches to be the original floor of X1. Now it looks as if we were wrong. It is almost the end of the day and the level machine has been put away. Quite possibly the newly found floor goes with the floor in X4 located in the southern part of the room. The slab pavement and the slab piles along the north wall of X4 are later invading, when the floor was raised and X1 shut off. Before that slates, however, in X1 the floor had been raised. If the pebble floor is the first floor the fill under it should give us the date of the construction of the room. This will contradict the information supplied in the past (in Trench 73A) which belonged under the floor.

The pebble floor was not found in the east section of X1 excavated with our pail 9. Perhaps this area was disturbed. It was pottery which was fully preserved found under the east end of the north wall of X1 that led us two years ago to believe we had reached the end or bottom of the wall. Obviously, the lower stratigraphy in this room needs reconsideration.

Beautiful sherds have been turning up, including several frags. of a jug with light on dark decalvinus, a band of 'livres' with dotted bands, of the 'lyrical floral style'.