1991

Notebook  73

Maria C. Shaw
The level machine to be set using:
P290 at east of SE corner of V
P279 at +6.61 on M
P380 at +6.66 on M
P379 at +7.305 on E

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P.S. Bivalves found in trenches 73A and 73B have been identified by D. Ruggio as Mactra Coralina.
Pre-Excavation Report

Arrived from Athens on June 15, 1991 along with J.W. Shaw were joined by Niki Holmes (Chief Cataloguer) on June 16 and soon after by one of the trenchmasters, Jose Sabourn.

There were some unpleasant surprises: the foreman just had an operation in Herakleion and was unable to come or to help with workmen.

Also: all rooms so far excavated in Building X, as well as the segment of the LM I paved road north of T1 excavated with Trench 59A1 (see plan p. 2) were completely filled with sand which washed down with rain during the winter. The house coincides with the curve of the road built last year and leading from the village to Kommos, where the latter turns south after an E-W length. It is silt and sand from the latter, which slopes down steeply towards the west, that was washed down into Building X. Further clearance was made; some of the blocks of the SE + E walls of Building V were also washed away.

Much effort was spent in searching for workmen. When some were found (and before excavation started) they were sent to clean the site and some spent a few days emptying part of Room X5 of the sand that fell in. Two trenches, 73A and 74A were also fitted out with Sabourn’s help in Building X.

Trench 73A is 6.30 W - E X 8.55 m. N-S. It includes parts of Trenches 72B and 66A excavated, the former down to the C levels, the other down to Minoan (LM I + M II) levels. Building V is the 7th C. Building, of which we see above the southeast quarter.

Trench 73A has 2 unexcavated areas of odd shape, one at the north, the other at the SE. A strip beyond the N-S line of Trench 73A at the SE corner was also left unexcavated & will be included here.

Just a few blocks of Building V remain in situ.
Trench 73A is designed to expose more of House X and especially room X 5W section. Trench 73A overlaps a number of trenches excavated over a number of years: 59A1, 72B and 66A. All 3 exposed a 7th c. Building V and the last one reached LMI and LMII floors in X1 X5 and X6. On the east Trench 73A is directly adjacent to trenches 59A and 59A1, with the exception that there is a strip of unexcavated area, ca. 50 cm wide directly W of 59A1 which will now be dug as part of this trench (see drawing on p. 8 and below). The east face of scarp of this ship forms the west scarp of Trench 59A1. When Minoan Room X8 is coated with cement to preserve it, this cement will be removed as we dig. Also, we may have to leave the south end of the strip out since it is overlapped by the end of a wooden bridge which runs over Room X8 and reaches across to the other side of what turns out to be a bridge across the site of Building E. No excavations stopped at Greek levels. The bridge may have to be shifted.

An L shaped area occupies the west and south parts of the trench (see plan p. 2) and has been excavated only down to Greek levels, mostly 7th c. These levels are indicated in the plan of Building V on p. 6. Trench 72B excavated in 1990 is involved mostly in the area covered by this trench. Here excavation stopped at 7th c. B.C. levels.
The first paill in the trench is assigned to the trapezoidal area A-D-E-F. The southeast corner of the trench starting at the levels seen on p. 8. A back layer of sand was removed in the past by the top loader (top-loader). At the surface there is sand and near the edges there is cement which continues down on the scarp of adjacent trench 66A to the north and 59A/59A1 to the east. The cement had been put as a coating after excavation in the past to keep the scarp from being washed away or collapsing.

Paill 1-2; 1
sand, sheets of cement, some earth levels: p. 8
Space: SE of Building V above X7
Sherds: latest 1st. B.C. (tulip cups), coarse basin rim - joins paill 2, 5, 6
Other: tiles, bone, clay-like substance

Invo.

A bone, some small piece of tiles turn up. Sand continues deeper, forming a shallow pit. A different layer, probably still a mixture of sand and earth, rather hard, now at the top is reached & a new paill was used. The top is buried, like clay.

Paill 1-2; 1 under paill 1
levels (as on p. 8) to (see p. 12)
1. compact earth, sherd & charcoal at NE
Space: above X7 + some marble
Sherds: latest 1st c. small, 8G Lekane join paill 1 and 5
Other: pebbles, bone, reddish stone, tiles, shells
Pail 3 top levels

A-F area in north part of trench excavated with pail 3.

Inv.

In the NE corner of Pail 2 there are bits of charcoal, disintegrated bone and two teeth embedded in very compact soil. All soil is extremely compacted. There are roof tiles, some bases of pedestal-like 4-inch cups. Also some small flattish pebbles turn up. A sample of an orange coated broken stone is bagged. It was found near the bones. The charcoal is powdered, for it is not collected. Perhaps there was some cause in the particular location as on some surface (hence pebbles).

Excav. starts in the north area of the trench at superficial levels. Jst windly removed sand with

Pail 1-2 : 3 (North area of trench)

Sand + earth levels see p. 10 top + bottom of pail

Sherd: latest classical 7p. 12

Small sherds - mixed class - Etruscan

Other -

Inv.

Pail 3 is just south of Trench 74A. Sand is cleared off it and the pail terminated by the end of the day. It is decided that after strip the width of C-D on the plan on p. 10 will be kept unexcavated and as a bulk between trenches 73A and 74A.

Pails 1 and 2 are taken to Pitsidia also.
Machine set at 8.01 m today.
Blocks of wall B removed. No sherds seen.
We start by cleaning the entire trench of sand and other accumulations.
A photo is also taken with the polaroid camera (see p. 13).

Pail 1-2:4 for surface cleaning throughout the trench.
Sherds: Late 5th-4th c.? Small unit mixed c. 4th - 3rd c. - Waster - Other -

Next levels are taken at the bottom of pails 2 and 3, finished yesterday, and at the bottom of the southeast and east wall of Building V.

The trench is still very uneven. We continue in the triangle of pail 2 which now will encompass a strip left unexcavated south of the southeast wall of V. This strip is part of the same stratum with that reached with Pail 2.

Pail 2: 5 under pail 2 of 73A and pail 6 of Trench 72B.
Compact earth, small stones.
Levels (see p. 12) to (see p. 14).
Space above X7.
Sherds: Latest 1st c. B.C. Path of Lekane Thin cup, joins w. pails 1, 2.
O N v: soft, reddish substat. Purple schist.
Iron; bone; shells.

Inv.
Some large pieces of iron are found in the fill in the midst of small rubble.
Possible the line of the S. wall of V (see plan p. 12).

Levels within the outline of the SE corner of Building V indicate levels at the bottom of blocks removed on June 27 (two sherds in their midst).
More pieces of iron found along the wall of V. Also in that area and mostly midway along the wall, some softish substance appears among small rubble in small clumps. Perhaps this is somehow connected with iron working. Samples are collected.

Along the east N-S edge of the pail, some small pebbles turn up and some blackish sherd at 6.42. The surface continues some 60 cm west and disappears at the area of small rubble. Pail 5 stops at the surface but continues where the rubble is.

Just south of the south wall of V there are some larger, blackish-blue stoneware emerging in an oblique/slanting fashion. We remove small stones and leave the others on the ground, cleaning the earth around and stopping at the level of the bottom of the wall (ca. 6.36).

A new pail is started to remove the pail 6 which starts east of line ---.

---

Bottom of pail 5 ---

1:50 A ---

area of pail
---

line of walls of building V after their removal

---

0% pebble surface (not certain)

---

2% iron deliques

Also top of pail 6 which starts east of line ---.

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Pail 2; 6, under pail 5

Level (p. 14) --- (p. 18) Rubble

In SE corner of trench

Space: above X

Sherd s: latest 1st half of 4th C., Mostly archaic; little frag; some LMIIIa, graffiti, other; bones; shell of amphora handle, sample of red-purple substance

Inv:

x joins w. pail 8 (LMIIIa dec. 23)

The step east of the SE line of the trench will now be
excavated separately, since there seems to be a pebble surface of sorts.

Pail 2; 7, under pail 5 start. level (see p. 14); bottom at (p. 18)
Hard pebble brown earth, also silty
N-S strip outside SE corner of trench
Shards - latest 4th or 3rd c. relatively large fragments of lip cups and fine VV Kratos cups
Other - No Minoan

Inv. - shell

Space; above Space X 8

This is equivalent in level to pail 6
Pail 7 is essentially east of the N-S Minoan wall found in trench 59A1 dividing Rooms X 7 and X 8
west of east of it. The little pebble continue for a bit strengthening the idea that is a floor/surface. Perhaps the Minoan wall was still standing when the surface was laid and it stopped against its east face. The pebble found in pail 5 or 6 must be in part debris from the Minoan wall and any Greek walls added at the upper level.

P.S. The two drawings on p. 12 show the SE and E walls of Building V. The upper before the removal of blocks, the lower of the surface on which the walls were built. The northern part of the E wall has not yet been removed. Both walls were 1-2 courses high and 30 - 35 cm th.
Machine for levels is +8.01 today.

One of the three workers has not appeared today. Susan Downey, whose trench is 76A, is so far producing sand only; her core has to help investigate the area left so far unexcavated in the SW corner of the trench, that packed by — in the plan, p. 14. Pails 6-8 will be assigned there and an accumulation of iron detritus (see p. 14) will be investigated. Pails 6-8 are essentially one stratum and their separation is obviously not perfect. As noted yesterday 6 is marked by rubble and has some sort of surface (v. destroyed) and that of 8 now has evidence of iron activity taking place off the SW wall of the SE corner of 74 and building V.

Pails 2; 8 under pails 28, 30 of Trench 72B.

This packed earth, small stone levels start at a possible rough exterior surface (a. shown on p. 14); bottom at (p. 18) sherds: latest 7th c. + Minoan. Thin wall coating pottery & red. Course ware, Joffy. Other: clay spindle whorl, shells, bone. Extensive iron working materials.

Inv. C 9201: Spindle whorl: C 9201.

Pails 6 and 7 terminate at the levels shown on p. 18. In pail 7 the fill was rather soft and with no stones we stopped just a little lower than the preserved top of the Minoan wall.

In pail we exposed a bit more of a block known from Tr. 66A and along
1:20 drawing of the area of iron working
x location of spindle whorl

Iron working area from NW Roll 1 Frs 5-6

The line of the wall fill is continuous with sand, like that of pile 7. Rubble starts just west of the wall and spreads over an area max 1.52 E-W and 1.65 N-S from the south line of the trench. There is just a little higher than the levels of each fill to their E, N, W.

Workmen shift to the area of Pile 8. Note that a small segment of the wall extends just south of the south line of the trench. So far excavation of all fills, except P 3, have been in the SE area of the trench and south of the line of the south wall of Building V.

The iron detritus right to the west of the west end of the south wall of V is very interesting. There is slag, or other bits of material that could be understood by an expert in iron working. Interest is also the presence of burnt or broken up bits of small pebbles. Could these have broken up as a result of the great heat of a furnace in that location. The bits are put in the same bag as the iron for future study.

At exactly 6.365 there is a segment of a thin circular clay wall by that. This may be part of the clay bottom of a furnace 7. The location is photographed (Roll 1, Frs. 3-5) and the local drawn.

As we dig just east of the location we find much more detritus for iron working. There are pieces...
Northern part of Trench with levels at bottom of Pail 9 and beginning Pail 10 (in triangle ABC) Baulk left unexcavated after Pail 3 (excavation of baulk continued on July 4 as part of Trench 74A to be noted).

Northern part of Trench with levels at bottom of Pail 9 and beginning Pail 10 (in triangle ABC) Baulk left unexcavated after Pail 3 (excavation of baulk continued on July 4 as part of Trench 74A to be noted).

Of stone with micaceous vein (ore?), large fragments with a cylindrical section and iron debris. All types of samples and all large frags/pieces are collected.

We stop excavation with pail 8 at the level shown on p. 18. New photos are needed, but today the summer session of the American School of Classical Studies is being taken for a tour by the director, who is unavailable for photography.

The workmen are shifted to be new part of the trench to work in the area excavated previously with pail 3.

Pail 1-2: 9 under pail 3 Sand, earth, stones (North area) Levels, starting (plan p. 12), bott. p. 22 Shards; latest 7th c. (one min.?) Other: red purple substance (as in pail 6) Bone, shell

Some red-purple soft substance, fine soil found in the SE corner of the trench turns up in the fill from Pail 9. A sample is collected. The stone removed (loose, mellowish stone) seem to end in some kind of a high surface or level of earth.

Pail 9 leaves, cut a strip ca 0.50-0.60 m wide of the trench, edge of the trench unexcavated as a bulge between the trench and Trench 74A to the north (see p. 22).
June 29

Machine at elevation +8.02 m.

Pail 9 is continued a bit more, removing a mixture of sand and earth and rubble debris. At 11 levels shown on p. 22 we replace it with

Pail 2:10 under pail 9

Brown earth, small stones
Level starting (p. 22) ending cut (see p. 22)

Space: Partly over X 1

Sherd: Late 7th c. Like pail 9, same size Minum

Others: bare, shell, Inu.

Interesting results. We find the west extension of the north wall of Minum room X 1 of which a few blocks were already revealed in Trench 72 B. North of this wall in the present trench we clear sand accumulations to the west of point A of the triangle of pail 10 (see plan p. 22). There is some light like disintegrating plaster at level 6.95 m. under the drifted sand. We stop excavation north of the Minum wall of which the south face has not been found yet. A new triangle is created between the Minum wall and the East wall of Building V. We terminate pail 10 and shift excavation to the triangle just mentioned.

Pail 3: II - under part of Pail 10

Brown earth, shers

Starter level (see p. 24) to 6.86

Space X 1

Sherd: Latest Archaic/Classical

Little diagnostic.
we found some clay oriented fairly well on the surface of the 2019 season. The sherds were mostly orange-red and well compacted. One spherulitic container from the fill next to the eastern wall was of interest. It contained a single small bowl. No other features were noted.

In the process of excavating the eastern part of the house, we noticed a large area of red clay extending to the east. This area was quite compact and contained a large number of sherds. The fill was mostly orange-red, and we found no evidence of a settlement in this area.

We also noted a large area of red clay extending to the west. This area was quite compact and contained a large number of sherds. The fill was mostly orange-red, and we found no evidence of a settlement in this area.

Other:

- Pel 3:12: Under Pel 11, Brown, soft, dark brown, 16.86 cm, 67.7 cm.
- Space x 1.5.
- Pel 11: Under Pel 11, mixed brown, 74 cm.
- Pel 11: Mixed, brown, 74 cm.
- Pel 12: Made from the same area of the site, 67.7 cm.
- Pel 12: Made from the same area of the site, 67.7 cm.
- Pel 12: Made from the same area of the site, 67.7 cm.
we now shift to the area west of the east Archaic wall and we are going to level that area of the trench by removing fills at lower level. We start with the platform made up of small stones which has a roughly triangular shape. Its top is at ca. +6.65m.

Pail 13 under pails 16/19 of Ti 72B
Rubble
Scanty level (p. 6) (see p. 30)
Space : Building V interior
Sheets : latest 4th c. mostly Archaic plus but also some tile frags. Incised X near handle box
Other : iron ; bone ; lot of Archaic BG
shell ; clay lump
INU : C9102 (pot. coarse LM III jug)

Items connected with iron working left in situ yesterday are photographed today, later taken to the epidekipi under the label : Pail B.

Pail 13 takes in the area to the north most excavated so far this year where there is more rubble. Some roof tiles and the spout of a clay lamp turn up in the fill.

The top layer of the "platform" is removed revealing another layer of stone underneath. Stacks and stones, many slanting suggest this may be stone debris spilling from Building V.

Just south of the platform a very surface was found within V (72B pail 21) at 6.70m. The stone chip layer exposed with pail 12 (see p. 27) is some 10cm higher so far. The Archaic wall was built on a slope, sloping from N to S.