KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS

Trenches 5A and 5B

Trench 5A excavated from July 15 - July 26, 1946

Trench 5B excavated from July 26 - Aug. 12, 1946

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Note on levels (14 September 1976): Concerning 5B only.

Although relative level differences in 5B (and as 5B is related to the series 4A-1,2, etc. trenches nearby) remain correct, because of a revision of inaccurate levels originally presented in the 1974 Bardexas plan, the level of p. 147 (upon which levels in 5B are based) is 21.44 rather than 20.45. Thus the figures in this notebook do not correspond to those in the 1976 architectural plan (the levels in the latter are 0.49 more).

Aug.

For levels in 5A see p. 46
NB from 1978

Wall 10 continues all the way to Wall 7, rather than stopping at 13. Room M now completely excavated.
July 15, 1976

An area of c. 11.40 m E-W, 7.50 m N-S is cleared in preparation for laying out Trench 5A. The sherds from the top sand go into

Pail 1
Under — Level 1: top sand
Sherds: 9 small sherds, indistinct, other — discarded inventory.

Loose rubble in the fill is removed.

A-E Trench 5A
G-J clearing trench
A-B-C-F North 1/2, excavated first

G-H = 11.40 m
H-I = 7.50 m

Trench 5A is 1,002.18 - 1,007.18 W-E
and 1,230.46 - 1,225.46, on the grid

The trench is 13 m S from Grid at P146
and 21.82 W of Grid at P146
July 16, 1976

Trench 5A is laid out by G. Bianco. It is 5 x 5 m and placed within a clearing trench 1.40 m E-W, 7.50 m N-S (see plan, p. 8).

After removal of top sand a hard-packed surface (= level 2) appears. Some 0.15 m to 0.20 m below sand surface.

A stretch of wall begins to appear at the NW corner of the trench. Its thickness is not yet known but it runs some 10 degrees E of N for a length of c. 1.40 m, made up of three poros stones, one cut as a triangle, in the typical Hiacan fashion. The facade must be on the W. side. We designate this as Wall 1.

A test trench occupying the N\(\frac{1}{2}\) of Trench 5A is laid out (ABCDEF on plan, p. 8) and excavation of level 2 (hard packed, but still somewhat sandy) begins, using Pail 2.

Pail 2

Under Pail 1 - hard, sandy level 2

- W and E of Wall 1
- Sherds: much worn; mixed coarse + fine - culture

Other: fossil of oyster

Invent.

Pail 2 represents a thin ca. 0.07-0.08 m fill on either side of Wall 1. The area W of Wall 1 being smaller, the thickness of fill is soon removed.

While still removing top hard sand E of Wall 1 we continue digging W of Wall 1 with a new Pail.
Pail 3, W. of wall 1
under part of pail 2 - level 2
some 0.07m below TP of hard sand
Sherds: mixed coarse + fine, latest LM III C
other: small stone blade; sea shells
Inv. C28, sherd in LM III C style

Fill consists of earth, small stones and considerable pottery, considering the small space... Several fragments of a cooking pot

Three slabs project from the face of wall 1 and continue under the course of the wall (? krepidoma). At the S end of the same area (W of wall 1) there is an accumulation of slabs and small stones, which, to judge from their level, to above the assumed krepidoma and because of the fact that they lie over a thickness of earth, must be fallen (road surface?)

A stone surface, made up of slab-like and other stones, appears in the N section and somewhat below the level of the 'krepidoma' slabs. More accurate levels will be given after the fallen slabs at the S. section are removed with the earth under them.
Strong north winds today. Calms down a bit towards the afternoon.

Excavation W. of Wall 1 continues with Pail 3, and E. of Wall 1 with Pail 2.

Fallen slabs and earth in S section of area W. of Wall 1 are removed after a photograph is taken.

As Pail 2 gets full of sherds before the entire area E. of Wall 1 is excavated we assign a supplementary Pail 2A for the remaining fill in the east section of the trench.

Pail 2A = Pail 2 (see p. 11)

A new Pail is assigned to the next layer of fill which starts 0.11m below the level of the nail at the W. section of the area E. of Wall 1.

The layer slopes upwards towards the E., where the level is c. 0.05m below the nail. = 20.41 at W. 20.47 at E.

Pail 4a Level 2. Under Pail 2 and 2A:
- From 0.05/0.11 below Nail
- Hard sandy fill
- Sherd: latest B/C; painted. 2-3 sherds
- Other: pierced shell

Innu.

At the E. half of the trench there is what appears to be a packing of stones with earth and sherds in between them. A sounding is made through this packing and where a number of larger stones line up, suggesting the possibility of a S-N wall, starting at the S edge of the trench.

For position of sounding and "wall", see plan 10.16 and p. 20.

Wall 1, as exposed so far and area W. of it.

* The Nail has served as datum point for this trench.

All levels in plan above are below nail level.

See P.S. on Benchmark, p. 46.
To the sherds in the sounding we assign

Pail 5 - E. of wall 1 -
Under part of 4 - level 2
Packing of small stones (a from 0.05
Sherds) and on either side (b) below nail
Other
Inv. C 40, perforated slab from a
strainer?

The packing of stones is found to cover
what now proves to be a 3rd wall, to
be described as wall 2. As the
lines (E and W) of the wall are traced
within the sounding we discontinue use
of Pail 5 at level 0.11/0.40 below
the nail. The section of the wall exposed
is preserved higher at the s. end (0.11 below
nail) than at the N. exposed end (0.25 m
below nail)

The packing of small stones is seen
to be mainly at the N \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the E \( \frac{1}{2} \)
of the trench. Its thickness at the
point where wall 2 is preserved at 0.25 m
below nail is c. 0.25 - 0.30 m thick.

Sherds: mixed coarse & fine; many heavy cooking
jars & frags. Most datable sherds are MM or LM
with one sure LM III A/B painted sherd.

Wall 1

E return of wall 1?

A

undiv rubble

road

surfaces

N \( \frac{1}{2} \) of 5A

\( \ldots \ldots \) = pebble surface

\( \ldots \ldots \) = extent of packing

A-B = line of cross section (see p. 25)

profile of C 40 compared with similar
sherds from 181/44:54 (C 20)
Because of the badly destroyed character of the area between walls 1 and 2, excavation is discontinued here at the moment. Plans pp. 14 and 16, 30 give an idea of the various features visible here at this level: Wall 2 with its facade on the W side and lower is 0.50 m wide, although only a small extent of its E face has been exposed. A roughly square stone 0.40 x 0.40 m immediately to the E of the northernmost stone may be of the E. return of this wall. At this level no more of the wall is traced. The fill 'within' the building is marked by small stones, earth, sherd as well as a small patch of a pebble floor 1.10 x 0.5 x 0.05-0.30 m E-W, preserved dimensions. This patch is c. 1.00 E of Wall 1 and, as preserved, does not relate to any wall or other features slabs, some slanting, some lying flat, as well as other large stones, occupy the N edge of the trench and up to the packing of small stones which starts just N of Wall 2 and continues to the N edge of the trench.

It is decided to extend the sounding NE and E of Wall 2 with

Paul 6 - NE of Wall 2
under part of Paul 4 - From c. 0.65 below mud
Hard packed sandy
Sherd
Other
Inw.

At ca. 0.25 - 0.30 m, below the mud, a change in earth is noted directly E of Wall 2 and at the NE corner

Arehald of Trench 5 A (see also plans on pp. 14, 16 and 20). Looking West
1. Wall 1 with nail used as datum point, on X
2. Unexcavated fill E of Wall 1
3. Patch of rough pebble floor (at 0.15 m below nail)
4. Wall 2
5. Small stone packing N and NE of Wall 2
6. Sounding N and NE of Wall 2
7. Sounding E of Wall 2 with bedrock of uneven surface A at its highest, B at its lowest levels
8. Rubble

latest sherds LMII, but with many HM sherds (cups, conical cups, jugs) Many sherds worn on edges
of the trench. It is hard-packed and whitish, like that of levels 3 and 4 on Trench 4A, where the present supervisor excavated previously. The extent of the small-stone packing becomes clear. It is directly N. of the exposed section of wall 2 and a little beyond its NE corner. (See plan p.20 and photo, p.18.)

It is decided to excavate the hard white fill directly E of the wall 2 by a sounding 1.30m E-W, 1.50m N-S in the SE corner of the trench. This sounding is well beyond the small possible stone packing to avoid intrusion of later material while digging. (See plan p.20.)

The Pail assigned to the fill of this sounding is

Pail 7 - Sounding E of Wall 2
Under part of 6 - from ca. 0.25m below nail

Hard whitish earth - Level 3
Sherds: latest XI A/B, most sherds
other weathered
Inv.

In the meantime excavation is resumed in the S 1/2 of the Trench (E-C-D-E in plan p.8) using

Pail 8 - Level 2
Under Pail 1 - from ca. 0.15-0.20 below sand surface

Hard sand
Sherds: large lot, latest XI A/B
Other: 1 piece pumice, water worn
Inv.

Pail 8 becomes fill when about half of this layer of the trench is excavated and is supplemented by Pail 8(1)

Pail 8(2) = same as Pail 8
Wall 2 in E section of 5A, N 1/2.

1. Wall 2
2. Packing of small stone
3. Bedrock within sounding E of wall 2

East of Wall 2, at ca. 0.32m below the null, the fill seems to change. It has a clayish consistency and is grey brown in colour. At the SE corner of the sounding, the earth is a darker tone of the same hue. We assign to the fill:

Pail 9, level 3a(?)
- Under Pail 4, from 0.32m below null
- Soft grey brown = 20 20
- Sherds: latest = MM IA; a few MM; level mixed
- Other: bits of purple schist - squisilly
- Inuv.

Still @ in N 1/2 of trench.

At the SE corner, appears the irregular surface of what seems like disintegrating limestone or what may be bedrock.

As we dig down we follow this rock surface as it slopes down towards the N. Wall 2 is found to have been built over the rock surface.

Levels of rock surface:
- a) at SE corner @ 0.36 below null
- b) at N edge of sounding 0.48 below null

Two largest stones stick out of the E scarp and are left there. (See plan p. 20)

In the S 1/2 of the trench two walls begin to appear. They are oriented S-N.
Excavation continues in the S 1/2 of the trench, using Pole 8. Walls become gradually better defined.

An accumulation of rubble appears at the NW corner of the trench, more of what was noted earlier and left undug in the SW corner of the N 1/2 of the trench (see plan p. 16).

A cross section E-W of the N 1/2 of the trench is made along line A-B in plan p. 16. (Section in pocket of present notebook.)

The following walls emerge in the S 1/2 of the trench (see plan p. 24):

Wall 3, with 1.30 m max. S-N length and 0.50 m wide, appears c. 0.38 m from the W scarp. Wall 4, also oriented S-N (exposed section for 1.65 m and with a width of c. 0.42 m) appears 1.80 m from the W. scarp with its corner 0.70 m from the S scarp. At this point the wall turns E and its E extension is numbered as wall 5.

More of the S extension of wall 2 gradually emerges.

After photographing these walls in the SW area of the trench, we remove the rubble and earth around it between walls 3 and 4. The location of the rubble is generally indicated in the plan, p. 24. The level at which a new pole is assigned is roughly the max. pres. height of walls 3 and 4, namely 0.17/0.24 below the maA. 20.35/20.28.
C 49 sherd with ram in relief

Pails 10 + 10\textsuperscript{11} level 2 = 20.35 - 20.28
Under pail 8 - from c. 0.17/0.29 below wall hard sand - W. of wall A
sherd s: many large sherds, esp. coarse red cooking other: pans & bipoeds - Latest LM\textsc{III}A
inv. 1 shell
C 42, barkentine ware sherd
The area E of wall 4 is also assigned a new pail

Pail 11 level 2
Under pail 8 from 0.17 below wall hard sand - E. of wall A
sherd s: Many datable LM\textsc{III}; some MM, latest other: c. 30 shells
inv. C 49
The area of Pail 11 is found to contain main small stones.

In the area W of wall 4 there are a great quantities of coarse pottery. After removal of rubble we assign a new pail to this area

Pail 12 level 2
Under pails 10 and 10\textsuperscript{11} = 20.12
from - 0.32 = 20.28 near wall 4 and -0.45
at NW corner, where rubble went deeper hard sand - W. of wall 4
sherd s: several painted; LM\textsc{III}A/B
other
inv.
22 July 1976

We continue digging W and E of wall 4 using Pails 12 and 11 respectively.

Area W of wall 4

20:17

At level 0.35 below the soil two slabs appear running E-W slightly S. of W. at the N. edge of Trench near Block 4. The fill at the NW corner is deeper c. 0.45 m, thus being the place where there was a greater accumulation of rubble. Starting at this level we dig with sounding:

Pail 13 - Level 2/3 W of Wall 4
Under 12 = 20:17 (20:07
From 0.35/0.45 below soil hard sand

sherds: latest sherds LMIII A/B; one-handled other: pumice (e.g.) goblets like Knossian

Inv:

LMIII A:1 and LMIII A:2

We remove a large slab-like stone of elliptical shape (0.48 x 0.23; c. 0.09m thick) which was lying near the N. end of wall 3. It seems to be of hard sandstone and could have been a grinding stone.

Piece of pumice at NW corner of trench.

As we dig, it becomes clear that wall 3 terminates with a straight face 1.30 m from the S. scarp and decide to make a sounding right W of it to search for a possible threshold and to infer the level of the floor associated with walls 3-5. Pail 13 contains the sherd from this sounding. The sounding starts directly N. of wall 3 and on the E. side from some 0.30 m S. of the end of the wall and goes all the way to the N. edge of N. S. 1/2 of trench. The undug area S. of the sounding is at c. 0.39 m below the soil.
Area E of Wall 4

Wall 2 found earlier in the N 1/2 of the trench is found to continue all the way to the S scarp of the S 1/2 of the trench. At the moment only the line of its E face is traced, for it is preserved at a lower course there. The level now is c. 0.30, 0.38 below the nail and we start using a new Pail.

Pail 14 Level 2 E of Wall 4 and W of Wall 2
Under Pail 11 = 20.22 / 20.14
From c. 0.30, 0.38 below the nail
Hard sand
Sherds: LM III A/B
other: 16-18 shells, obsidian, sinker
Inv. 53, sinker

Most of the digging is concentrated in the S section of this area in order to determine the E extent of wall 5 and to trace the W face of wall 2. At this level the original extent of wall 5 is not traceable and we decide to dig a sounding 0.65m N-S x 1.30m E-W from the N edge of the trench to help determine the level of the floor in this space enclosed by walls 4 & 5.

The level at which we start in c. 0.31m below the nail, i.e., that of Pail 14 further S, sounding.

Pail 15 Level 2 E of Wall 4
Under Pail 11
Hard sand - From c. 0.32 below nail
Sherds - 20.22
other
Inv. C 44

Latest sherds LM III A/B. The unit compares with Knossian LM II A.
painted: kylix base with bands; spout from tankard; cups (LM III A); others

Only a few sherds appear to be LM III. There are many LM II and MM pieces. This unit perhaps earlier than LM III. Exception: one cup with wavy lines, possibly LM II or III A

C 44 conical cup with mark
Area W of Wall 4

The sounding (plan, p. 28, A-D) has revealed several puzzling features and some helpful information.

The two slabs at the N edge of the trench noted earlier (p. 29) emerge more clearly as part of a wall. We designate this as Wall 46. Its surface is at the 0.36 m below the nail. Right S. of Wall 6 is a great accumulation of stones; some small round some slab-like, and a huge one (0.65 x 0.42) near the S edge of the sounding. They are pretty much at the same level at their highest point and could have served as bedding of and simply as early debis under a later floor. The floor covering this bedding and possibly Wall 6 would have been not associated with Walls 3-5. A hardish surface does occur to the E of Wall 3 and S of Wall 5 and at level c. 0.36/0.39 below the nail. It represents the level at which our sounding (A-D) began. A slightly greyish area E of the N end of Wall 3 suggests a fire built there sometime. Wall 3 continued some 0.15 m below the "floor." Its straight face at N suggests an entrance here but any original threshold must have been pulled out. (see plan, p. 28)

We designate the wall going E-W, along the N edge of the trench as Wall 6 and in order to clarify its dimensions and relationships to the other walls we remove the rubble at the SW corner of the N 1/2 of the trench. It is clear that it is more of the same rubble we found at the S 1/2. (See plans pp. 16 and 24). To this fall we assign Wall 16.
Area E of Wall 4

In the sounding (= Plan 15) we soon reach an accumulation of stones, some possibly packing for a floor, two possibly part of the E. extension of the E-W wall. We found W of Wall 4 at the N edge of the trench. The level of the stones is max. c. 0.36 m below the nail. The stone are gathered mostly at the E half of the sounding and as we remove the earth from the W half we reach bedrock sloping down towards the E from c. 0.47-0.55 m below nail.

Wall 2 is found to extend all the way to the S edge of the trench but several of its stones have been robbed and in that gap one can see that tree too it rested on bedrock, which here appeared at level 19.985/20.015 below the nail. The wall has a very wavy W face.

Wall 5 has been traced for some 1.20 m. At this E end it has no face but rather looks as if it should have continued further E.
(cont'd from p. 33) From rubble at Pail 16 * SW corner of N 1/2 of trench
Under Pail 1 - level 2
From top of hard sand
Sherds: latest like kluxian [?]
Other: 3 shells
Inv.: 20.15

At level 0.37 m below the nail and after the rubble has been removed we change into Pail 17 in gap of wall 6
Under 16 Level 2 = 20.15
Hard sand - from 0.37 m below nail
Sherds: latest = Late
Other
Inv.

The fill is where there is a gap in wall 6, if the wall - actually stone at the W end belongs to this wall. As we dig down we find this to be a well defined drain which runs in a S. direction and then makes curves gently towards the west. A large, slab-like roundish stone below the NW corner of wall 3 is a covering stone. The bottom of the drain is bedrock. 0.65 m below the nail at the N end and 0.82 m at the S. end,
23 July 1976

Only about 3 hours of work in the trench today, part of which time is used for making plans and sections.

Using Pail 14 we reach down to 0.53 below the rail where a series of neatly lined (N-S) stones with a rectangular gap between them give the impression of a drain. We assign

Pail 18: drain
Under 17 from 0.53 = 20.00
Clean earth with greyish-brownish tinge
Skews: too small a unit to date, ? U M
corn

we soon reach the bottom of the channel, which is bedrock some 0.13 m further down from the two lines of stone.