TRENCH 100
1997

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Architectural descriptions given in greater detail mostly in the Excavation Reports for the above trenches.
Trench 100A is dedicated to the investigation of two column bases of the North Stoa of the Palatial Building T (plan, p. 4). The bases are marked as 1 and 2, 3 in the plan (p. 4). Base 1 falls within Trench 52A, excavated in 1983 by E. Fisher who found it. It was built over by a W-E wall which turned that part of the Stoa into a closed space (the excavated in Trench 42A and 62D by the present excavator). Base 2 was also covered over by a Minoan wall with a N-S orientation, lying directly below the east wall of Temple C (see wall marked as Temple C in the plan, p. 4).

The purpose is to reveal further structural features, and to reclarify layers of pavement and strata associated with the bases. The discovery of a South Stoa in recent years revealed further column bases which are suspected to go back in time to a MM building. Therefore, the is one more question to be tested in the present excavation.

The lastpayload used in Trench 52A was 5.59 (from +3.11 - 2.965). It was adjacent to the south side of the base and the fill was one of pebbles from the pavement of the Central Court of the palace (Building 7) stretching south. This floor contained lime, characteristic of the lowest pebble layer elsewhere in the court. In the area of Base 1 the pebble
floor was found covered with a layer of clay (Trench 52A/5:57 ca +3.16-3.10). The date of this fill was still LM I.
The level of the base could not be taken, but most of the slabs that acted as a stylobate was at +3.02 m.

Base 2 was found after the excavation of Trench 34A2 and, therefore, it is not reported here. It was found accidentally as a workman was cleaning the area under the wall.

Base 3 was found during the excavation of Trench 34A2. Its top level is at +3.247 and it too was associated with "stylobate slabs" (top at +3.10/3.08 m) and a pebble floor at +2.92 m. This base had a sub-base, a larger rounded area projecting from a rough slab the surface of which was cut back. Plaster lined the subbase of the base.
A fig tree grew around column 2 since many years ago. It has been cut several times, but the roots remained.

Work starts in Trench 100A by cleaning modern accumulation after earlier excavation and by cutting and removing the roots as much as possible without pulling them and destroying the layers. Trench 100A deals with a small area on the east it stops at the "martyr", left unexcavated in 52A, on the west by one of the modern props made of stone and covered with cement that carries retaining walls that carry the Greek temple on top. It has an irregular shape, an elongated rectangle with a projection where the stylobate was exposed in the past. The outlines, are shown in the plan p. 8, labelled A-F. The N-S dim is ca. 180 + 1.90, No W-E dim is ca. 3.15 m.

Excavation starts by removing modern accumulation over the pebble floor of the court directly south of the column and stylobate. No sherds are found in this layer. Levels are taken and excavation starts in a limited area. This starts at the west side of the stylobate west of Base 2 and end on the east at the start of wall 2.

100A/1

Pail 5: 1 Under Tr. 3402

From +3.06 to +3.80

Column 1 layer of pebbles

Sherds: MMIII - 57 gtrs. 1 LMIA - 29 sherds
Other -
Inu.
For pail 2 see plan p.10. Dotted area
N-S 0.95 ; ca. 1.08 W-E

107A/ We arbitrarily replace pail 1. There is no sign
of more than one layer of pebbles (ie continuous)
Pail 5:2 under pail 1
Frm + 3.00 - 2.96

Column 2 Pebbles
Sherds; 29 gr. MIII ; 21 sherd

Other -
At level ca. 2.96 we find plaster
against the base of the stylobate block
we change pail

107A/ si/ched
Pail 5:3 undr pail 2
Frm + 2.95 - 2.91/2.91
Pebbles + bit of plaster + shells

Column 2
Sherds; 6 sh; 4.5 gr. Undiagnostic tiny pieces
Other - Shells; bone

The pebble are getting smaller + fewor; there
are also patches of crushed shell in a
thin layer. Underneath starts a co-packed
clayey earth. We shall terminate pail 3
here. The situation with the column base
is that it sits on a sub-base which
continues further east under unexcavated
fill. The stylobate penetrates down
below the top of this sub-base. Its base
is at +2.99 ; its lop at +3.25.

The top of the sub-base is at +3.06
we reach the end of pebbles & terminate
pail 3
Photos are taken at this stage (see
p.11)
All from K 97/1

Pail 6:4 under pail 5:3 [foundation trench 27]
Clay like earth, small stones, earth
From ca. 2.92 to 2.68/2.70

Column 2
Sherd; 2 sh; 15 gr - proto-palatial

Other; shells, plaster

In u.

The pail is limited to a strip in the northern area, next to the architecture
in case there was a foundation trench made for the installation of the sub-base.

Bits of plaster turn up in the west part of pail 4, (E of the stylobate block).
There are very few sherd.s. Shells continue to be found, especially next to the sub-base.

The south part of the area opened has a different fill. More clay like
w. lots of rubble, which may or may not be part of a wall. We still
have to clean around them. There are absolutely no sherd.s there - so no pail
is assigned.

By the end of the we seem to find the bottom of the sub-base. The rubble
form a N-S line. We terminate pail 4.
A photo is taken to record the level reached so far (see p. 14).

Features are examined and comments made on p. 14. Important is that the pieces of plaster (b in the photo) are against rather under the stylobate. Perhaps the purpose was to seal the cracks and prevent seepage of water into the sto
d.

Digging continues east of f to see if it is a wall. Well, it is not, and the fill is grey clay with no sherds.

Excavation is finished when we ascertain that there was no further support (stone) under the sub-base.

There are other investigations to be undertaken.

For instance, we decide to go back to column base 3 (see plans, pp. 4, 8). We decide to lift the stylobate block to its east, since it is a slab that sits on the excavated surface. The purpose is to see if it is sitting on a pre-existing floor — i.e., to see if it belongs to a secondary architectural phase. We assign

100 A1 Pail 5:5 (see drawing p. 14)
Under stylobate of column base 3
Column Earth, plaster, frags., scattered pebbles. From 0 +2.91 m
Shepets: 20 sh; 0,075 kg LMiddle LMIA(?)
Neopal. MMII - LMIA

Other (see p. 14) (see also more plaster, pp. 43-45
There is no surface — just scattered Pebble and fine earth w. plaster. One fragment has black and brown lines — like sherds — perhaps it is floral. Another piece is ochre yellow. Another piece is upside
down. We stop excavation temporarily to deal with the plasters.

The second investigation is to remove the fill under wall 2. The base of the wall is ca 9 cm above the pebble floor and we assume it is sitting on top of another stylobate block – this to the east of column base 2. For this fill we use

105K

Pail 5: 6 under wall 2 (Column base 2)
Earth
Sherds: 8 sh; 57gr. MMIII

Once –

These are the features discovered. The sub-base is carved and rounded at the top, something not clear in its west side where the edge of the curved part has broken off. The curve of the sub-base stands out from the column base some 9 cm. The sub-base itself continues east under the unexcavated fill. The base is 20 cm thick. Directly east of the base and sitting in part on the sub-base is a rough stone, probably placed there when wall 2 was built. The rest of the wall, which extends east, rests on top of soil (ca 2-3 cm thick) on top of the next stylobate block/slab which is 40 cm long, and ca 5 cm high. Its west corner seems to have broken off. A triangular loose piece, lying at that corner. This may have happened when the heavy bottom block of wall 3 was placed there in XMIB.

* This is the visible height (the block penetrates further)
We decide to remove the "marten" left unexcavated in Trench 52A (see plan p. 8).

100A  Pail 3:7 under pail: 52A/4:49
From ca. +3.38 - +3.12 m
Earthen
Sherds: 62 sh; 492 grs. - Latest LM IA
also earlier MM IB - LM IA

Other: plaster, bone
Inv. C10683: E. Cretan import (box)
LM IA

At the same time another workman starts an investigation related to column base 1, also investigated earlier in 52A (see plan p. 4 above). A small shallow sounding had been made there in T52A. We remove the excavated fill. The block of wall 2 had a part missing at its lower corner. One can see under the block through the opening what is either a base or the rounded part of a sub-base. Once the excavated fill is removed, we assign a pail

100A  Pail 5:8 as 52A/5:59
From +3.00 - 2.90 m
Brown earth + pebble from court surface
Sherds: 50 sh; 230 grs. ; MM IB-III
MM III
Inv. C10671: cc up base used as stopper
C10672: frag of cooking pot; C10673
frag of cooler & pot
Others: shells, plaster

Pail 8 is the excavation of pebble layer. Towards the bottom there are shells - in fact there is a pile of them in one location, the west corner of the sounding. We stop Pail 8 when the fill becomes clay like. The sub-base
TRENCH 100B

Space 10 - Looking W
Labelling of slabs to be lifted.
[Eventually slabs 8a, 8b and 0 were not lifted]
a: kreips
b: east wall of T

c: stylobate
Level of slabs ca. +2.88m
Top of Pail 5.9
(Roll 1 Frame 21)

penetrates below this level. It also continues east within unexcavated fill. As exposed it is ca. 0.84m.

We terminate pail 7 when the surface of the pebble floor is found under the removed "martyr" (at +3.12m). The base of a long block of wall 2 is revealed. It is uneven and the rounded holes are packed with small rough stones.

TRENCH 100B

We move to another location to receive the label of Trench 100B. It is the slatted court in Space 10.

14-15 slabs will be removed from the west area to explored levels underneath. The slabs are marked with nos. also marked on a plan and the photo on p. 20.

We start by cleaning the interstices between the slabs, removing earth to help remove the slabs.

Pail 5:9 Under Trench 37A/Pails 55/58
From ca. +2.88 to +2.70
Slab floor interstice (see p. 20)
Earth; a few pebbles, bits of plaster
Shards: 12.8sh; 270grs; LMIB + LMIA
Inv. C10574: LMIA ripple ware; C10675:
LMIA ex B; C10676: c.c., LMIA

Other: plaster from interstices, between slabs

The interstices were once filled with murium asbesto. We found several examples in situ.

Once the slabs are removed (8a, 8b, 3a to
Trench 100A - Area of column (2) at end of excavation

- a: sub-base of base
- b: column base
- c: " stylobate blocks
- d: wall 1
- e: pebble surface of Central Court of T
- f: wall 2 built over stylobate block

XXX = patches of plaster at base of stylobate blocks used to seal gaps & prevent seepage of water into the stoa

See also Roll 1 (Fr 18-19)

It turns out that there are no sherds, so pail 10 will truly be under the slabs and their associated fills.

There are pebbles here and there - perhaps a bedding for the slabs. Also little pieces of crude plaster turn up - but also coloured pieces turn up, especially in the sw corner. Pail 10 is below the base of the other stylobate blocks.

have not been removed) we changed pail for removal earth around and directly under them.

Pail 1: 5:10 under pail 9

Top level at ca. 4.270 to 2.67m

Brown earth, pebbles, bits of plaster

Sherds: 40sh; 146gr; MM III; Mythe MM IB

Ino.

OF RED - plaster (also colour); shells

PACKING BETWEEN SLABS

Scan from north, L111 south

ALL TRENCH 100B
July 2

We continue with Pail 10 till we reach a surface of what looks like grey pebbles, at which pebble, and plaster, end. We realise that the base of the pits was revealed only at the north end of it yesterday. It actually penetrates deeper down towards the south. In case there is a foundation trench, we shall dig along the wall.

100B
Pail 6: 11 under pail 10 (ship) along
From ca. +2.67
Small stones, stone chips
Sherd; 8sh.; 42 grs.; MM II B
Inv. C10677: MM II B/II
Other -

The ship is 20 - 25 cm wide. It is full of softish earth and stone chips. Looks as if it was cut into the clay layer. We find a N-S line of stones.

We shall now dig the area east of Pail 11.

100B
Pail 6: 12 under pail 10
From ca. +2.67 to
Clay like fill, small stones, stone chips?
Sherd; 54 sh.; 323 grs.; MM II B
Other; plaster; strip of purple schist; shells of a fossil

The make-up of the fill is very unlike that of pail A, but there much more compacted. Pottery seem to be mostly MM (also sort barbotine ware). A piece of purple schist was found close in the fill (see p. 24) at level +2.52. Soon after, we ran into a N-S wall at the east edge of the pail and terminate its use.
That is, photography at this stage. It is exciting to find the new wall that may be related to walls found in a sounding in Tr 37A.南 of the paved patio. We shall call the row of stones under the keps of J wall and the new wall Wall 2. We take levels, make a plan and continued digging between the two walls.

Pail 6:13 under pail 12
From (see plan, p. 24) to ca. 2.37 m
Grey clay
Shards: 28 sh; 430 gs; MM II B;
mostly MM II (?)
Inv. C10678-10682: MM I-III sherd;
Other: plaster; loom weight

Inv C10680 loomweight

There are no sherd practically. Except that after a while 2 appear flat at 2.37 m.
The fill also seems to change a bit. Perhaps we are approaching a surface?

Pail 7:14 under pail 13
From + 2.37 m to (see p. 30, photo)
Mixed: grey lepis, patches of soft earth, some sand
Shards: 133 sh; 2.91 kg; Latest MM I B
mostly MM I B
Other: plaster

Kathy Hell the conservator came to the site and lifts 3 pieces of plaster in the area of pail 5:5.
See drawing p. 26. of the patterned one.

Several frag. of coarse plaster occur in
Pail 14. Some have impressions of roof/ceiling pot materaals. They are rather old (worn) and few sherds.
Excavation continues, with pail 14. We are ending at the bottom with a very irregular level. There is grey lepis that is highest at the north end of the space and which dips down, its lowest level being at the SE corner of the sondery. 2-3 courses have been revealed of wall 1. The blocks vary from roughly rectangular to square to roundish. The wall bottoms out over the lepis (which could lead to, though damp, it is not impossibly hard).  

Wall 2 has softer 4 courses; they slope down towards the south. The building material is again varied, but with more field stones. More planks are found in the fill - course chunks.

Wall 1
H at S. end: 48 cm; at N. end: 34 cm
Length 1.52 m; W, max proj 22 cm

Wall 2
H at S. end: 74 cm at N. end: 48 cm
Length 1.44 m; W max proj. 37 cm

Water is reached in pail 14. There is lepis everywhere. The deepest level is at the SE corner (see photos p. 30)

Modified copy of plan in NB 27B p. 178 36A p. 50 I end of excavation in that Trench J

X: stone, ultimately removed