KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS
1997

TRENCH

101 A
101 B
101 C
101 D
101 E

Leda Costaki
1997
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On Sat. June 28, 1977, trench 101A was set by JWS with the help of Con Murphy and Leda Costaki. Its location is in the central court, bordered on the east side by Tr. 90D (to the NE) and part of Tr. 91B (to the SE), Tr. 97C to the south (which lays above Tr. 95B) and part of Tr. 65A5 to the northeast. A triangular unexcavated area separates Tr. 101A from Tr. 65A7 to the northwest. The west side of Tr. 101A remains unexcavated. Its east side extends 0.44 m. over Tr. 90D and 91B.

The coordinates of Tr. 101A are:
- NE corner: 1075.46Y - 988.36 X
- NW corner: 1075.46Y - 979.40 X
- SE corner: 1069.70Y - 986.36 X
- SW corner: 1069.70Y - 979.40 X

and its dimensions are: 5.76 m. (N-S) x 8.96 m. (E-W).

The purpose of the excavation of Tr. 101A is to remove the fill of this part of the central court which remains unexcavated and to reveal the floor of the central court. It is expected that we will be able to trace the continuation of the pebble floor as revealed in Tr. 97C.

Fragments of plaster are visible on the surface of the south side of the trench and their relation to the pebble floor will be investigated. Also visible are three large stones located at about the centre of the trench. The upper surface of the southernmost and the middle one is rather flat. Their max. visible dim. are:
stone a (the northernmost): 0.27 x 0.30 m
stone b (the middle one): 0.21 x 0.43 m
stone c (the southernmost): 0.37 x 0.65 m
(for levels see fig. 2)

Although the upper layers of sand have been removed, accumulated end drifted sand, small stones, pebbles and a few sherds cover the surface of the trench.

On Mo. June, 30, 1997, we decide to extend the trench, 2.13 m, to the south in order to remove a strip of earth ca. 2.10 m (N-S) x 8.96 m (E-W) that was left unexcavated along the northern part of Tr. 97 C. Once the excavation of this part is completed, we will continue with work in Tr. 101 A. This extension is named 101 B.

Levels are taken of the surface of both trenches (101 A+B) before work begins (see fig. 2). In Tr. 97 C the pebble floor was reached at level +2.97.

Three workmen are working.

In Tr. 101 B the removal of the surface layer begins. We begin with level 3, which was given by MCS as starting level of Tr. 97 C. Digging starts simultaneously on the east and west sides, while the central strip which preserves an accumulation of plaster fragments will be cleaned later on.

- Tr. 101 B - East strip:
  - This strip covers an area ca. 3.70 m (E-W) x 2.13 m (N-S). The first pass is mixed sand and earth with very few small stones and sherds. The
earth is packed and very hard to dig. A few larger stones are visible on the surface at the SE corner (the larger one: 0.28 x 0.15 m) at level +2.98. Few fragments of plaster and traces of the pebble floor appear at level +2.97.

Pail 3:1 (from +3.00 to +2.96) packed sand, earth sherds (MMIII, LH1, 7c)

1 limpet
2 pieces of charcoal

- Tr. 101 B - West strip:
  This strip covers an area ca. 3.15 m (N-S) x 2.13 m (E-W). On the surface fragments of plaster are visible between rubble probably related to the accumulation of plaster located in the central strip of Tr. 101 B.

Pail 3:2 (from +3.01 to +2.94) off-white earth and sand with a few pebbles sherds (MMIII, LH1, 8-7c)

As we remove the first pass, fallen stones appear on the west side. Towards the east side the earth becomes softer, has more sand and can be dug more easily. Along the north side at level +3.02 a layer of pure sand appears (level 4) and we change pail in this area:

Pail 4:4 (from +3.02 to +2.68) sand sherds

- Tr. 101 B - Central strip:
  This strip covers an area ca. 1.95 m (N-S)
x 3.20 m. (E-W). We start cleaning the accumulation of plaster fragments and stones which covers an area ca. 0.65 m (N-S) x 1.05 m (E-W). The plaster fragments are badly preserved, broken in bits and crumble easily. In some cases layers piled up obliquely can be distinguished.

Tr. 101 A:
The fill is higher in the NE area and excavation starts from this part by removing a layer of sand mixed with some rubble and very few surface sherds.

Pail 2:3 (from +3.16 to +3.03)
sand packed
shards: 25, weight: 90 gr.
MM1B, MMIII/LLMI, histor.
1 barbotine, 1 white-on-dark sherd, bg. cup of 400 B.C., tentative latest date of unit: 400-350 B.C.

Levels at the end of the day, see fig 3
Tr. 101A:

Work continues in the NE part of the trench with the removal of the sand fill so that the surface becomes level. As soon as this upper layer is removed, the trench is divided in three parts:
- Eastern strip: 2.80 m (E-W) x 5.76 m (N-S)
- Central strip: 3.20 m (E-W) x 5.76 m (N-S)
- Western strip: 2.96 m (E-W) x 5.76 m (N-S)

The 3 visible stones mentioned on p. 5 are located in the central strip. Digging begins in the eastern strip:

Pail 3:6 (from +3.09 to +2.64, under hard sand) and pail 2:3 under sherd.s

Tr. 101B - East strip:

We continue removing level 3. The area around the stones that had appeared yesterday is cleared and it is clear that these are fallen stones which will be removed. The cleaning of the pebble floor continues and it seems that it stops where the fallen stones are located, since we haven't traced it north of these stones.

Pail 3:1 (from +2.96 to +2.95)
packed sand, earth
sherd.s: largely Min. unit with a few
8-7 c. sherd.s. Several conical cups (plain, worn); rhyton base; m.p. bowl; hydria rim; bg. cup handle

Tr. 101B - West strip:

The removal of the earth continues. A few more fallen stones appear north of those revealed yesterday, while two fragments of plaster appear east of the stones at level +2.90. We continue with:
Pail 3:2 (area south of the stones from +2.94 to +2.89)

hard earth and sand sherd

At a distance of 3.32 m. from the NW corner of Tr. 101-B and 2.86 m. from its SW corner we find a pithos fragment with plastic (rope?) decoration (pail 3:2)*

A few pebbles between the stones are at a higher level than the pebble floor and are removed. At level +2.89 the pebble floor starts appearing south and east of the fallen stones. Part of a black-glaze cup is revealed. It will be removed tomorrow.

Pail 4:4 (area north of the stones from +2.88 to +2.86) continues.

- Tr. 101-B - Central strip

We start removing the first pass of earth in the area north of the accumulation of plaster fragments.

Pail 3:5 (from +2.97 to +2.92)

hard soil, packed sherd MHIII LMI, few 8-7c. sherd.

10739: 36 b.s. one handle
10786: KC kalathos rim

larger joining fragments of pottery are found in this area. The earth is dug to approximately the same level as in the east and west strips of the trench and the same layer of sand as in the north part of the west strip, is found.

Levels at the end of the day, see fig. 5
Tr. 101A - west strip:

Work begins in this part of the trench with the removal of the surface layer, which is pure sand with few rubble and is easy to dig. A few fallen stones appear towards the eastern part of the strip (at a distance of 3.14 m from the NW corner of Tr. 101A and 4.15 m from the SW corner) and they will be fully cleaned tomorrow. One larger stone (max. dim. 0.245 x 0.18 m) appears near the western side of the trench.

Pail 2:7 (from +3.00/2.97 to +2.89/2.84)

- sand
- few shells, limpets
- 2 stones collected (one thrown, one differentially weathered pebble, kept)
- sherd

Tr. 101A - east strip:

Work continues with the removal of the first pass under the sand fill. The earth is packed and harder in this area than in the western part of the trench, and it is difficult to dig. A few fallen stones begin to appear in the central area and towards the western part of the strip. (level +298)

(Pail 3:6)

Tr. 101 B - west strip:

The cleaning of the stones is completed and it is clear that they don't have any form but are fallen stones. A few bits of plaster appear occasionally and some sherds. The fragments of the big cup that were revealed yesterday
are removed (for its location, see Fig. )
The pebble floor that started appearing south of the fallen stones yesterday is cleared - it is at a lower level (± 2.82) than the stones and it continues east of them, towards the central strip of the trench. It is not traced north of the stones. North of the stones, the layer of sand continues.

Pail 3:2 (area south of the stones, from + 2.89 to + 2.86/2.79)

hard earth
sherds = 60, weight = 5.30 kg,
MM III - LM IA - historical

pithos w/ rope pattern, some burnt sherds

3 loomweight fragments inventoried
(C10668 and C10757)
2 joining

No work was done in the central and east strips of Tr. 101 B.
Tr. 101 A - west strip:
The removal of the sand fill and the levelling of the surface continues. The stones that appeared yesterday near the eastern part of this strip are cleared and it is clear that these are fallen stones. They are drawn and removed.
Pail 2.7 (from +2.89 to +2.84 to +2.84)
sand
limpets, shells
52314: 1 stone (*differentially weathered pebble)
sherds (little Min., Geom., class., Hellenist.)
very mixed unit

Tr. 101 A - east strip:
Two workers continue removing the layer of packed sand and earth. The accumulation of rubble which appeared yesterday in the centre of this strip is better revealed today. It covers an area of ca. 1.36 m (N-S) x 1.70 m (E-W).
Pail 3.6 (from +2.97 to +2.94)
hard sand
sherds

Tr. 101 B - west strip:
The fallen stones that were revealed in the previous days are drawn and photographed (roll 1, fr. 22, from E, pails 3:2 and 4:4). Before the stones are removed, we dig another pass north of them to investigate whether the pebble floor that was revealed south of them continues to the north. It is now obvious that the pebble floor stops at the line of the stones and north of them is just the layer of sand (pail 4:4) found two days ago.
Pail 4:4 (from +2.86 to +2.84)
a few fragments of plaster
one small shell
shards: very little diagnostic, mostly Iron Age, but one LH bowl, 1 barbotine, one possibly Phoenician amphora.

After the removal of the stones, the surface is cleared and at the same level as the west strip of Tr. 101A.
To the west of the stones, one more rock appears (at 0.25 m. from the edge of the pebble floor), which is not removed since it is deeply embedded in the stratigraphy. Its max. dim. are 0.38 x 0.25 m. and its upper surface at level +2.84.
The removed stones were laying on the edge of the pebble floor, which is now completely cleared.

Pail 3:9 (under pails 4:4) (LMII/LMIA early)

Tr. 101 B - central strip:

We continue digging the layer of sand north of the accumulation of plasters. As it is the same layer found in the northern part of the western strip, this area of the trench is no longer divided into two strips.

Pail 3:10 (joined northern part of west and central strips of Tr. 101B under pails 4:4 and 3:5 - from +2.84/2.92 to +2.82/2.90)

sand
shards: cooking and MC plain ware & Hino au allure, one Late Cyp by cup base and one wall fragment.

At the north edge of the accumulation of plaster fragments we find large joining sherds, while the pebble floor begins to appear.
The edge of the pebble floor north of the accumulation of plasters is uneven. The distance between the edge...
of the pebble floor and the north side of Tr. 101B ranges from 0.65 m. to 0.20 m., while at the eastern part of this central strip it seems to continue further to the north under the surface fill of Tr. 101A. The accumulation of plaster fragments is partly cleaned and pail 3:8 is assigned for this accumulation (see p.31, 55).
Tr. 101 A - east strip:

The removal of the earth and sand fill continues.

Pail 3:6 (from +2.94/2.92 to +2.91)
  sand mixed with earth
  snail shell
  sherds (LH I = 4 c-?)
  the fragment of well, drum is plausibly classical as are some bg. body sherds, variety of LH I-III scraps.

At a distance of 2.25 m. from the NE corner of the trench and 5.80 m. from the SE corner we find a large fragment of a well drum (?) (max dim. 0.26 x 0.22 m.) at level +2.91. It is similar to fragments C8332, C9225 found in Tr. 65A6, C9218 found in Tr. 65A7 and C9995 found in Tr. 90 D and we will investigate whether it joins with any of these.

The accumulation of rubble in the centre of this strip is fully cleared.

Tr. 101 A - central strip:

Work begins in this strip with the removal of the surface layer of sand and pail 2:4 is assigned.

Pail 2:4 (from +2.95/+2.87 to sand +2.92/+2.82)
  shells
  one piece of ore (?) sherds

A piece of ore (iron?) is found at a distance of 5.61 m. from the NE corner of the trench and 7.11 m. from the SE corner, at level +2.83. Work progresses fast since the fill is pure sand and soon the level joins that reached in the west strip of Tr. 101 A. At a distance of 4.30 m. from the NW corner of
the trench and along the north side of it, at level +2.93, the sand becomes harder, mixed with earth and packed, more difficult to dig, similar to that found in the east strip of the trench. A new pail is assigned for this area: Pail 3:12. (from +2.93 to +2.91)

- hard sand, packed earth
- shell, charcoal, bone
- 2 stones

sherd (classical): several bg.
cups of late 5 or 4 c., range of up shapes all classical, battered & c. amphora sherd, one LM Kylix rim (?).

At this same area, near the N. limit of the trench, stones start to appear at levels ranging from +2.96 to +2.88. When these are cleared, the three larger slabs are measured:

- easternmost, max. dim. 0.32 x 0.22 m.
- middle one, "- " 0.36 x 0.28 m
- westernmost, "- " 0.37 x 0.22 m.

Their upper surface is flat, but they don’t seem to belong to any architectural feature and they lay on pure sand.

Work progresses towards the central part of this strip where the three large rocks a, b, c (mentioned on p. 5-7) are visible on the surface.

For the area around these rocks a new pail is assigned:

Pail 3:13 (from +3.00/2.84 to +2.91)

- earth, sand
- sherd

The rocks are partly cleared. At the end of the day, stones a+b were revealed at a height of 0.16 m and stone c
at a height of 0.17 m. Stone a (the northernmost) lays at a distance of
0.94 m. from the edge of the
accumulation of rubble revealed at
the eastern part of the trench;
stone b is at a distance of 1.00 m
and stone c at 0.76 m from this
rubble accumulation.

- Tr. 101 B West + Central Strip
  Some clearing is undertaken to trace
completely the edge of the pebble floor
The accumulation of plaster fragments
is also cleared (pail 3:8, plaster
fragments, very few sherds) and an
area/mass of ca. 0.80 m (N-S) x 1.27 m
(E-W) is left in situ. It will be decided
later on whether this accumulation
will be completely removed.
The pebble floor is revealed all
around this accumulation of plaster
and it is clear that the plaster
fragments are lying on top of the
pebble floor.