KOMMOS EXCAVATION

TRENCH 83

GORDON NIXON

1992
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83A</td>
<td>p. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83B</td>
<td>p. 64 - 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83C</td>
<td>p. 121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photographs

- Wall 1, Tr. 83A p. 24<br>  - Oven/hearth, 83C p. 156<br>  - Trench 83A p. 46<br>  - Wall 3, Tr. 83A p. 46<br>  - Wall 2, Tr. 83A p. 56<br>  - Intact jar, Tr. 83A p. 56<br>  - Aslar, Tr. 83B p. 84<br>  - Pottery, Tr. 834 p. 92<br>  - Aslar, Tr. 83A p. 92

### Trench 83B, end p. 120
- Plaster Floor, Tr. 83A p. 128
- Wall Buckle, Tr. 83A p. 134,
- Oven (?) Tr. 83A p. 136, 174, 177
- Hearth, Tr. 83A p. 150
- Stone Chips, Tr. 83A p. 150
- Stone pavement (?) 83A p. 152
- Wall collapse, 83C p. 154
- Wall collapse, 83C p. 162
- Plaster Floor, 83C p. 176
- Oven/hearth, Tr. 83A p. 180

### Invented Objects

- C9542 Micran Leamweight p. 45
- C9544 Small rim-handled cooking jar p. 55
- S2177 Building stone p. 71
- B339 Bronze Chisel p. 95
- C9557 Large, straight sided cooking pot p. 83
- C9528 Ceramic figurine p. 111
- C9568 Do L. Rim Fragment p. 83
- B343 Bronze blade p. 111
- C9569 Undecorated Fine cup p. 79
- C9587 Spiral Cup p. 57
- C9583 Shallow Saucer p. 95
- C9569 Fine Cup p. 103
- C9621 Restorable CC p. 105
- C9622 Restorable CC p. 105
- C9623 Standing lamp p. 109
- C9670 Leamweight p. 111
TRENCH 83A

Grid Co-ordinates: A 1022.80x, 1087.55y
B 1030.62x, 1089.03y
C 1032.08x, 1081.30y
D 1023.97x, 1080.09y

For location see plan p.4
For elevations see plan p.6

Trench 83A runs west from the outside face of the east wall of building P. The north and south boundaries are formed by the outside faces of the north and south walls of gallery 3 of building P.


Another trench which may be of interest for understanding Trench 83A is Trench 65A as well as 65A1 and A2, which were excavated in 1985 by Barbette Spaeth. These trenches investigated the west end of gallery 3.

The purpose of this excavation is to clear the east end of gallery 3 of building P. The trench may be extended at a later date east of the present trench to investigate previous use of the site before the construction of building P.

The excavation of Trench 83A begins with two trenchmasters and two teams of workmen. The trenchmasters are Gordon Nixon, who will keep the notebook of this excavation, and Sonia Hewitt. Sonia and one team of workmen will assist with the excavation of Trench 83A until Trench 84A has been laid out.
Plan of Trench 83A

With Elevations Marked

(All elevations are in ASL)

Scale 1:100

Trench 83A was laid out on 23 June, 1992 by J.W. Shaw (excavation director), assisted by Josée Sabourin and Gordon Nixon.


N.B. Because the front-end loader has removed the sand from the site of Trench 83A, the first level excavated will be assigned level number 2.

Wall 1 will refer to the wall running north-south on the eastern boundary
Wall 2 will refer to the wall running east-west on the northern boundary
Wall 3 will refer to the wall running east-west on the southern boundary.
24 June, 1992

Excavation of Trench 83A begins. Workmen clean the site while we await the measurement of level points.

After levels have been measured, two pails are opened, 2:1 for clearing the earth above the eastern façade wall (Wall 1) of building P, and 2:2 for a subsection of the trench on the west side.

Today's reading of the level machine: + 7.90 meters
Above Sea Level (ASL)

**Pail Number:** 83A/2:1
**Surface Pail**

Under Pail: Levels and Location: See plan p. 8 (Top levels)
Location Label: E
Fill: Sandy clay
Pottery: 1.845 kg (149 sherds) Latest date 7th c.
MM III/LMI + 7th cent. (largely 7th c.) cups, oinochoai, jugs. Extremely heavy wear
Inventarioed pottery:

Inventarioed Objects:

The fill appears to be a sandy clay with sparse pottery finds and some shells.
An olive pit is also found.
J. W. Shaw points out the lack of bonding in the SE corner of walls 1 and 2 with the east wall of Gallery 4 of building P (Trench 75C, excavated in 1991 by Christopher Monroe). He points out that this, together with the fact that the east wall...
Previously Exposed Walls

A Mark points where levels measured (all measurements in ASL)

Quadrangle ABCD form boundary of Pail

83A/2:2

(a 10cm safety bulk not shown was left running AB)

Scale 1:100

24 June, 1992 (continued)

of Gallery 4 protrudes east of Wall 1 of Trench 83A, strongly suggests that Gallery 4 was built some period of time after gallery 3, and was merely built up against it.

Also, J.W. Shaw suggests that there may have been a window in the portion of Wall 1 that is being exposed. He suggests this based on a rough measurement from the inner face of Wall 2 to the end of the large, newly exposed stone which remains in position in the top surfacing course of Wall 1, and a similar measurement from Wall 3 to a corresponding southern stone of Wall 1 (areas measured are indicated in the plan p. 10). The measurements were roughly identical. Combined with evidence from galleries 1 and 2, he suggests the possibility of a window in Wall 3.

At the end of the day, excavation of Pail 2:1 is almost complete. When the remaining fill is removed Pail 2:1 will be closed and Pail 2:4 will be opened.

PAIL number: 83A/2:2
Under Pail: Surface Pail
Levels and p. 12 (Bottom level)
Location: See plan p. 10 (Top levels)
Location label: W
Fill: Sandy Clay
Pottery: 0.445 kg (26 sherds) heavy wear
       Arab. 1 (7th cent ?) - very homogeneous: cups, jugs, amphoras
Inventoried Pottery:

Inventoried Objects:

Also: Shells, olive pit
A small section of the trench on the west is measured off for Sonia and her workcrew to excavate while Pail 2:1 is excavated by Gordon and the other-crew.

A line is placed running N-S 3 meters from the western boundary of Trench 83A. The northern boundary of Pail 2:2 is formed by the scarp of Trench 77A. A safety baulk 10cm wide was left running along the western boundary so that the pin marking the corner of Trench 83A would remain secure.

The fill is sandy clay with sparse pottery finds. After a couple of passes Sonia’s crew comes upon a marked increase in pottery finds. Sonia recommends that we close pail 2:2 and open Pail 2:3.

**PAIL NUMBER:** 83A/2:3

**Under Pail:** 2

**Levels and Locations:** See plan p. 12 (Top levels) (For bottom levels p. 20)

**Location Label:** W

**Fill:** Clay

**Pottery:** 0.960 kg (82 sherds) extremely heavy weight LM - 7th cent BC./Fine UP CC. bases, linear jug rim, UP pithos rim, dark burnished CP

**Inventoried Pottery:**

Inventoried Objects:

*Also:* Shells, iron slag (?)
Sonia and her workmen begin to excavate Pail 2:3. The fill is a moister clay with less sand, but is otherwise difficult to distinguish from pail 2:2. The pottery appears now to be less common and more thinly scattered. Sonia's workmen note that the consistency of the fill has become less sandy. Sonia notices occasional small charcoal flecks.

At the end of the day Pail 2:3 is still being excavated.
25 June, 1992

Excavation of Pails 2:1 and 2:3 continues simultaneously.

Level is set at: +7.87 m ASL

Pail 2:1 →

The excavation continues until the wall is exposed down to the surface level of the interior of gallery 3. When this is reached, Pail 2:1 is closed, and we turn our attention to the interior for which Pail 2:4 is opened.

Pail 2:4 is to be used for excavating the area between Wall 1 and the east edge of Pail 2:2.

Pail Number: 83A/2:4
Surface Pail
Levels and Locations
Location Label: E
Fill: Clay
Pottery: 1.620 kgs. (180 sherds) Latest 7th cent BC
Heavy rocks, mm 1/11 (1 sherds) + 7th cent.
Broad mix, ampara joins with 2:10

Inventoryed Pottery:

Inventoryed Objects:
Also:
Pumice, shells

As the first pass is completed, the fill appears to be clay with some sand mixed in. There is as yet no sign of any change in consistency as Sonia had found at the bottom of Pail 2:2. If this continues there will be no reason to change pails, as we did for the west.
Again the pottery finds are more numerous in the north end of the Pail than in the south, as was the case with Pail 2:2 in Space 6W. There does not appear to be a sufficient distinction (if any at all) in the consistency of the fill to warrant a change of Pail in the near future.

Near the end of the second deep pass a small deposit of pumice is found in the NE corner of the Pail. After consulting with Maria we have decided to clear the surface after this pass and then open a new Pail.

Pail 2:4 is closed.

Pail 2:3 -> This pail is being excavated by Sonia and one team of workmen at the same time Pail 2:1 is being excavated by the other team.

The pass began yesterday is being completed. The workmen still have a noticeable habit of sloping the Pail surface down towards the north. Since the stratification levels found in Trenchs 77A and B seem to slope south, we will try to level them now before we miss anything.

A small deposit of what may be iron slag is uncovered. If it is, it may indicate iron working in the area. The location is indicated in the plan on p. 15. The area will be cleared with a small pick to try to uncover more, and when this pass is complete a new Pail will be opened.

No more slag (?) is found. The pass is completed, so Pail 2:3 is closed.
25 June, 1992 (continued)

**PAIL NUMBER**: 83A/2.5

**Under Pail**: 2:3

**Levels and Location**:
- **Location Label**: W
- **Fill**: Clay
- **Pottery**: 0.980 kg (99 sherds) Latest date: Archaic
  - Only 7th-6th c BC
  - Broad mix, very heavy wear
- **Inventoried Pottery**:

**Inventoried Objects**:
- **Also**:
  - Iron slag (?), shells

Sonia and her team find that charcoal flakes are more common and that the fill has a slightly darker colour and holds together less than in Pail 2:3. There are also small streaks of orange that may be small pieces of pottery that disintegrate on contact or, as Sonia suggests, small pieces of burnt soil.

More evidence of iron slag is found in approximately the same location as in Pail 2:3.

Excavation of Pail 2:5 continues to the end of the day.

After the close of Pail 2:4 we spend some time preparing Wall 1 to be photographed by cleaning the stones. At the same time we open a new pail to continue excavation of the interior.
25 June, 1992 (continued)

**Pail Number:** 83A/2:6

**Under-Pail:** 2:4

**Levels and Location:**

**Location Label:** E

**Fill:** clay

**Pottery:** 0.740 kg (80 sherd) 7th cent. BC. Very heavy wear in MM III/LM I - 7th cent. BC, mostly 7th. Few identifiable - 2 burnt sherd.

**Inventoried Pottery:**

**Inventoried Objects:**

**Also:** iron slag, shells, pumice

At the end of the day, excavation of Pail 2:6 has just begun. So far no difference in fill has been noted.

Previously Exposed Walls

Mark points where levels measured (all measurements in ASL)

Space ABCDEF forms boundary of Pail

83A/2:6

(a 10 cm safety baulk not shown was left running AF)

Scale 1:100

Also indicates bottom levels of Pail 2:4