1993

KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS

TRENCH 91A

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This afternoon, work was begun on Trench 91A, located at the extreme southern end of the property, SSW of Trench 90B. Giuliana Bianca laid out the trench using the following coordinates:

- NE → 992.32x 1041.32y
- NW → 989.82x 1041.32y
- SW → 989.82x 1036.32y
- SE → 992.32x 1036.32y

The purpose behind Tr.91A is to determine the southern boundary of ancient Kornos, whether the site extended south of P6 or whether the area is just filled with wash from the north.

The dimensions of the trench were measured and are as follows:
- NW - NE → 2.50m
- SW - SE → 2.50m
- NW - SW → 5.01m
- NE - SE → 5.00m
- NW - SE → 5.57m
- NE - SW → 5.60m

The levels of the trench were taken by G. Bianco and are as follows:

- NE → -3.46  + 6.43 = +3.97
- NW → -3.43  + 6.43 = +3.00
- SW → -3.73  + 6.43 = +2.70
- SE → -3.71  + 6.43 = +2.12
- centre → -3.56  + 6.43 = +2.87

Excavation was begun toward the end of the day. The soil is hard packed because of the front loader which had cleared the area earlier in the season. The front loader cleared 5-4 m of sand. My pickman is G. KOYKAINOS and my shovel/wheelbarrow man is A. KIZEZAS.
Starting Tr 91A with Pail 1.

| 91A | 1-281 | (see pg. 6) |

Under Pail: surface.
Levels: +3.00 (top) +2.70 (bottom) ±approximation
Location: entire trench.
Type of Fill: mixture of sand, brown earth, small clay, very hard packed, stones.
Pottery: 310 pcs., weight 4.530 kg
Mm III, Lm III A/B, latest 877th BC
Mm III is mostly U/P/B:S; Lm III A/B is mostly U/P/B:S; SNA is 3 chronicle I/II.
Other: snail shells, small lumps of building material.

Inventoryed Pottery: —
Inventoryed Objects: —

As we moved north in the first pass, we notice some small-medium size stones starting in the east but gradually spreading to the west. Could be rubble, but it is probably superficial. Pottery thins out as we move north as soil becomes more clayey and earthy. In northern end, pottery resumes again, and we have an abundance of tiny shells as well as tiny chunks of plaster, charcoal. Since we are still mainly in sand, it is most likely just wash from the north.

We begin second pass, again moving north. Having determined that the stones are resting on sand and therefore superficial, we remove them. The soil is sandier toward the west, but has a more clay-like (grey) consistency to the east. We clean sides and arbitrarily end the pail, as we think the sand is thinning out.
Under Pail: 91A/1-281

Levels: 
- +2.70 to +2.60: top
- +2.30 to +2.60: bottom

Location: Entire trench (see pg 8)

Type of Fill: Sand, with small stones, some chunks of plaster and burning.

Pottery: 292 pcs., weight 4.560 kg.
- LMIII A3 + MMIII, mostly LMIII A3.
- Signs of underwater weeds; have eastern imports; almost pure LMIII A3 (as in B)
- No SNA but emphasis on utilitarian ware.

Other: Chunks of plaster, burnt earth.

Inventoryed Pottery:
- Inventoryed Materials:

We begin pail 2, again from the south, towards the end of the day, but the day ends before we can complete our first pass.
We begin the day by taking new levels on the bottom of part I, as the measurements taken on 9 July were incorrect. We also take a reading of the northwest trench pin in order to have a permanent level by which we can calibrate the level machine. The following are the new measurements (see plan on pg. 6):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>-3.28 +5.99</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>-3.29 +5.99</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid E</td>
<td>-3.40 +5.99</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid W</td>
<td>-3.31 +5.99</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centre E</td>
<td>-3.35 +5.99</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The NE trench pin reading is as follows:
-2.88 +5.99 = +3.11 (see pg. 6)

This morning I have a new man for the wheelbarrow, B. FIANNAPYIAD. After taking the above measurements, we continue our first pass moving north. We begin to uncover a series of stones along the east face of the trench, one course deep and built on sand. This wall ends after running north about 2.25 m. It is designated wall 1.

We continue moving north until about halfway up the trench when we discover a lens of burning in the sand, which T. W. Shaw inspects. We determine the outline of this burning and bypass it, planning on returning there when we complete our pass.

Toward the northern end of the trench we come upon a second line of stones, this one stretching east to west. We shall cleanse sweep it to determine if it is in fact a wall, or merely rubble. It is also built on sand and does not seem to extend
Polaroid Shot of Rubble Accumulation at north end of 91A/1-282, looking from the south (07/11/93)

Under Pail 91A/1-281
Levels +2.63 - +265 top
+2.43 - +2.87 bottom
Location central salient in west end
Type of Fill: sand & burnt sand and
plaster chunks
Pottery 25 pcs., weight 0.260 kg.
mm iii, c (?), Arch (?), Lm iii.
very mixed
Other shell
Inventoried Pottery —
Inventoried Material —

The burnt sand is easily removed and levels are taken. As J.W. Shaw has not yet returned to advise us on the rubble accumulation to the north, which we shall designate Space B, we begin a sweep south of this with a new pail (41), as we are now digging below the level of the rubble. The pews move from north to south and yields the same sandy fill with small stones as above. We shall designate this area Space C.
Under Pail : 91A/1-2:3 and 91A/1-2:83
Levels : +2.37 -> +2.50 top
+2.03 -> +1.96 / +2.17 -> +2.26 bottom
Location : south of rubble accumulation
Type of Fill : sand & small stones, as above
Pottery : 842 pcs. weight 0.990 kg.
mm^2, HAM-122 mostly mm^2
mm^2 are mostly CC, heavily impregnated with salt, while HAM-122 fresh
Other : shell
Inventoried Pottery : -
Inventoried Material : -

Toward the end of the day, we use the pin to determine what lies beneath the surface. As far as we can tell, there is only sand.
We begin the day by continuing our first pass on pail four, and then begin the second pass, still digging through the sand, which J. W. Shaw believes to be the Minoan beach. The sand is yielding fewer stones and sherds as we go deeper.

Meanwhile, with the help of Kate Walsh, Peayios, and I take the levels of the rubble in the northern accumulation (see pg. 18), i.e. Space B.

J. W. Shaw arrives and decides to stop pail 4 in mid second pass. He now wants to concentrate on the rubble accumulation to the north. As Peayios and Amootzam clean this rubble, Bootys and I take levels for the bottom of pail 4. For the rubble accumulation, we start pail 5.

\[91A/1-2:51\]

Under Pail: 91A/1-2:2
Levels: +2.69 → +2.30 top
      +1.62 → +1.81 bottom
Location: northern end of trench, Space B
(see pg. 18)
Type of Fill: rubble, small stones and sand, mixed with earth
Pottery: 170 pcs, weight 5.435 kg,
        mm\(\text{III}i\) and mm\(\text{III}i\), mostly mm\(\text{III}i\); note:
        wasters (also 91A/6 and 90B/6, 48)
Other:    plaster    shell
           red clay
Inventoried Pottery: -
Inventoried Material: -

As we are nearing the height of the stadia, we take two levels along Wall 4,
  on the northernmost and southernmost
stones, which we mark with crosses using the permanent marker. These points we can use as our level markers when the stadia no longer reaches our level. The levels are as follows:

north: - 3.37 + 5.96 = +2.59 fixed pt A
south: - 3.35 + 5.96 = +2.61 fixed pt B

We have finished cleaning Space B, and since J.W. Shaw has not yet returned, we shall begin pail 6, starting on the lower tier of pail 4.

91A/1-2 ff

Under Pail 5: K93A/91A 1-2: ff
Location: northern half of space C (see pg 18)
Levels: top +2.85 + 11.56 / bottom +1.74 + 11.80
Type of Fill: sand, loosely packed
Pottery: 26 pcs, weight 0.54 kg
- pure white, doubtful also 2 qm 5 and qm 19 + 48; 1 loom weight frag.

Other: shell

Inventoryed Pottery: -
Inventoryed Material: 8 kg 95 loom weight

After completing the first pass of pail 5, we begin to dismantle Space B, using pail 5 under J.W. Shaw's guidance. The fill here is more earthy than south of the rubble, though still it contains sand. It does yield much pottery. We dig down to roughly the level of pail 6 and begin a new pail for the entire northern end of the trench. It is the watchmen and Faeghos believe there are stones below, in the southern end under pail 6.
Under Pail 91A/1-2:5 and 91A/1-2:6
Levels 8. +1.68 +1.60 top
8. +1.58 - 0.1.73 bottom
Location 8 northern end of trench, see pg. 80
Type of Fill 8 sand, loosely packed, as above.
Pottery 8 427 pcs, weight 4.895 kg
m NN + I, II prob E; heavily worn, mostly cc
Other 8 shell

Inventoried Pottery 8 9828 8.969 kg, 8. fish (see pg. 84)
Inventoried Materials: —

I should note that we are now digging at a level too low for the stadia. We therefore used a line level and our fixed northern point to measure the bottoms of Pails 5 and 6.

As soon as we begin our pass moving south, we notice a layer of earth beneath the sand. We decide to complete the pass, removing the covering of sand, to complete Pail 7. This fill yields much pottery, and we can tell that there is much more in the earth fill below.

As the day ends we are near completing our first pass.
Today, we begin by cleaning out the sand which has fallen into our trench during the night from the east scarp. We construct a small, one-tier stone retaining wall about 10" from the eastern end of the trench to create a thin walkway and to protect the trench from the falling sand.

We complete the first pass of pail 7 and clean up. As we are too low to use the stadia, we use our north fixed point and the level line to measure the depth at the bottom of pail 7.

We then begin pail 8 directly under pail 7, and, as the fill is now earth, we shall begin level 3.

**91A/388**

**Under Pail 8 91A/1-2:7**

**Levels**

- +1.58 to +1.73 top
- +1.48 +1.52 bottom

**Location**

North of the scarp created by the incomplete pass of pail 4, see pg. 32.

**Type of Fill**

- Loose-packed brown earth, 2 plaster chunks & few small stones

**Pottery**

- 2666 pcs, weight: 33.500 kg; mostly MM III, II, perhaps III historia; heavy wear & 1 cypriote; 1 weasels included; mostly CC

**Other**

- (see pg. 32)

**Inventoryed Pottery:** —

**Inventoryed Material:** C9814 terracotta bull's ear.

Our first pass begins in the north and moves south. It is yielding abundant amounts of pottery as well as additional...
material, including bronze, a small chunk of plaster painted red, another perhaps painted yellow, as well as numerous other unpainted chunks. This fill continues to yield a great number of conical cups, as did the fill above, and our progress is slow due to the amount of sherds we must extract from the soil. The fill also houses chunks of white plaster and red clay, as well as small patches of charcoal; we collect as much of this material for examination as we are able.

As we complete our first pass, we have used about six buckets to hold the sherds we are extracting from the fill. There is no organization to the material, so it is unlikely that we are digging a storeroom of any kind. More probably, the area is a dump, or merely wash, as J.W. Shaw believes. It seems that the stones we believed to be under our surface do not, in fact, exist, for further testing with the pick gives no hint of such objects below.

We begin our second pass, still using Paul 3:8, and continue to extract the same type of sherds as in our first pass. However, these relics are in a poorer state of preservation, and it is difficult to locate every shard on account of their small size. Moreover, there are fewer sherds in this pass than there were in the first, perhaps suggesting we are nearing the bottom of the “dump.” We shall complete this pass with the same pail, and then begin a new one.

As the day ends, we have not yet completed our second pass,
and so, will await tomorrow to take the pails to the Apothiki for examination. We are wary of the south scarp created by the incomplete second pass of Pail H, as it is loosely packed sand & threatens to erode & contaminate the lower levels.

DC98143: Terracotta Bull's Ear
K93A/91A/3:8
(131)
Today we begin by continuing our second pass of Pail 8. The night winds have been kind to us, and no sand has blown into our trench. To facilitate our entering and excavating the trench, the foreman provides us with a ladder.

The second pass of Pail 8 ends, and with it we close the Pail. The fill has yielded seven buckets of sherds as well as numerous miscellaneous objects, as mentioned on pg. 25. We then take depth measurements using the northern fixed point; we are roughly at the level of the plaster floor in 9013, something which interests J.W. Shaw greatly. I should also note here that the above fill, i.e. level 3, also contained a hand full of water-worn pebbles, but not enough to form a surface. They perhaps washed down from the pebble court to the north, or were placed there by Nature.

We then begin Pail 9 arbitrarily:

91A/3:9

Under Pail 8, 91A/3:8
Levels
8 +1.48 → +1.52 top
+1.38 → +1.41 bottom
Location
8 northern part of 91A,
see pg. 28
Type of Fill
loosely packed brown earth & plaster chunks
9 few small stones, as above
Pottery
8 403 pcs, weight 4.835 kg;
9 mix of mmtr 7 or -mmtr; heavily worn;
prob. washed mixed at top
1-D of on vs UP and fine vs med