KOMMOS EXCAVATIONS

TRENCH 93

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93A T
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93E : N of X3, N of X1
   X3, X6p.175
Area of southernmost galleries after the 1993 season
Trench plan and major walls (copied from plan by Giuliana Blance).

A-B-E-D: original outline of Trench 89C excavated in 1993 by G. Dixon. Trench incorporated already excavated Trench 63B-63B1 (refilled + re-excavated in 1993). A/C/B became part of Trench 68F.
Matcherd areas represent walls. Lines show separation lines between walls. Levels are those reached at end of excavation. [ ] pail used. Info derived from NB 89.

C-B-E-D: outline of Trench 93A
P193 (4 4.41) North wall of P5
P485 (4 3.68) NW

These two datum points will be used for setting the level machine.
TRENCH 93A

The trench is equivalent to the 5th gallery of Building P. It includes the north and south walls of this space as well as a strip outside it to the west. Page 5 above clarifies the fact that P5 was already excavated in 1993 as part of Trench 89C down to what looks like its primary floor (89C/5:125, 5:126, 5:129) made of hard grey lepis.

The west excavation stopped at varying levels. A sounding in a N-S strip (89C/6:937, 6:144) revealed an earlier W-E wall (wall 11 in 89C). This may be a wall of the LH IIIB1 Building T.

In the westernmost area the level is roughly that of the court of Building T. This area is divided.

Excavation today starts with 4 workmen. Sand & silt brought in from the winter rains are removed first and the whole trench is being cleaned.

The level machine is set at +4.55m. Measurements are taken of the outline and other features of the trench (see plan p.6).

Pail 6:1a under Pails (see p. 5)

Lepis floor - strip of 60cm wide along the west edge; lepis + burnt fill pebbles from (see p.5) B1 (see p. 8)

Sherds: 0.975 kg; 76 sherds. MM8-LJI

Broken up, worn sherds

Orn: plaster; Inv
Pail 6:16

Other charcoal: bronze pieces, plaster; burnt sherds with charcoal ashurry.

Inv. (cont'd from p. 9)
C9063 Octopus stirrup jar
other sherds in Pails 4, 5a, 6, 10:
LMIIIA2 - possibly West Crete
LRW '92:136

Tr 93A: Levels at bottom of Pails 6:1a and 6:16

Area A - D as excavated in Tr 89c in 1993

Pail 6:1a is used in a 0.60m wide strip at the west edge of the lapis layer. The remaining east section will be excavated with Pail 6:16.

The fill in 1a is compact with bits of charcoal, burning, grey lapis, and occasional small pebbles. Burning is concentrated near the south wall. Pieces of plaster are being found near the north wall. Charcoal is collected for near the east wall. Bits of plaster. After some 7 cm (two spans) we terminate pail 6:1a at an arbitrary level. A few small stones were found against the north wall and renewed. Other ones start to appear, probably deboris over which the lapis floor was built.

We continue excavation of the lapis in the east area with

Pail 6:16 under pails (see p. 5)
Removal of lapis floor
lapis
From (see p. 5) to (see p. 8)
Sherds: 1.65kg; 160sh. Late LMIIIA2 Cim of c.c. Possible join of context above. Pail 7

Inv. C9052 teacup with Doh run; mid LMIIIA1 late, or LMIIA2 early

With the first pass the lapis bedding became unplugged from an underlying surface which was not found in Pail 6:1a. The surface comes up to the face of the two walls of the gallery. The northern wall consists of two distinct parts. The lower fluts out as a ledge (18-23 cm above the lapis floor at which excav. started). The width is ca. 1.30-1.35 m. The upper section is a narrow wall.
ca. 9½-100 m wide. Of interest to the question of whether the newly found surface is a still earlier one of building P, or of a building preceding it. However, the south wall of P5 shows a continuous uniform face, suggesting the just discovered surface to belong to P as well.

Piece of plaster continue and, as in Pail 1a, near the north wall. Near the south wall there are patches of an intermediary surface. It is quite likely that there was constant resurfacing in the gallery. The floor must have been very worn in the center where traffic was. Only the areas along the walls preserve evidence of well-preserved multiple surfaces, as we have learned from the excavations of other galleries. A tiny bit of plaster painted sky blue is found (too tiny to preserve). Roughly at the center of the pail area there is an accumulation of charcoal; a sample is kept.

We terminate pail 6-1b. It is an uneven or rough level with areas which are relatively smooth and other ones with small stones sticking out. The upper layer did not peel off equally easily everywhere. We may be getting into a layer of debris underlying the first (?) floor of P5. We start with the west ship.

Pail 6-7: 2a
Under pail 6-1a
From (see p. 8) to (see p. 14)
Brownish earth, plaster, small stones
Sherds: 0.700 kg; T03. LMA - Some joins worn earlier material
Other: plaster from north half of pail
Phal 2a cont. 01.

planks from 5' half; shell; charcoal on sherds;

Inu.

What looks at construction plasters are found near the north and south walls and collected separately. A slanted square block appears north of wall 11 (see pp. 5 and 6). It is covered by a fill of stone chips, probably from the dressing or resurfacing of wall 11, robbed from wall 11 for construction P. Stone chips in fact appear throughout the pit along with occasional chunks of plaster that show curved surface or impression, perhaps from reeds or other building materials the plaster was applied on.

For the remaining interior of P5 we assign Pail 6-7:26, which, however, will be started tomorrow.

93A/Pail 6-7:26 - undy. Pail 6-7:16
From (see p. 8) to (see p. 14)
Spinnish ear; stone chips, plaster pieces
Sherds: 1. 675 kg; 191sh. HIA(2)/B?
Join with pail 3 - some joins.
Other: ? hematite; clay + charcoal from hearth;
bronze band; shell; bone; plaster for M + S halves.

Inu.

The lepis floor of P was at its base +3.27 - 3.25, here +3.22 m. As noted above Pails 1a & 1b may have gone here and be under the floor. Pails 2a and 2b should be seen as an interface between the lepis floor under Pail 2a and 2b.
Trench 93 A

Levels at base of Pail's 6-7/2b and 6-7/2a

![Diagram]

1. Pieces of clay and charcoal, perhaps from a hearth.
2. Red surface.
3. Top of edge of north wall (2-3 courses of fine blocks, softer exposed).
4. Small upright block (ca. 25x12 cm) found against the "ledge" of the north wall.
5. Area where piece of clay & charcoal — perhaps a small hearth — were found.

Pail 6-7/2a continues. Pieces of coarse plaster are found all along the excavated strip. Using the center as a divide, they are collected separately north & south of this line.

The machine level is again +4.59 m.

At level +3.03 m what looks like surface is located in the center of the strip. Elsewhere it seems to have been destroyed. We clean down to the level of the surface to terminate the pail.

In the east part of the space we initiate pail 2b (see p. 13). The level 6-7 suggests its status as an interface.

We start pail 2b by digging along the north & south walls. Piece of plaster continues. Along the south wall the removal of the first pan reveals a reddish surface. Along the north wall there is no clear surface. However, at a point of 0.80 m from the wall and 0.95 m from the east scrape there are broken pieces of incompletely baked clay and pieces of charcoal. This seems to be a hearth. The better preserved pieces are collected & labelled from the hearth. A patch of a ca. 1.50 x 2.00 cm brick layer of a deep red substance is found somewhat east of the hearth. The substance found in patches in other galleries is generally believed to be thera or pitch (a sample is preserved). The top is flat. It is like a coating or a pavement. Its outline is irregular.

The piece is highly 15 x 20 cm, as squared...
Pail 6-7: 26 is terminated at the level seen on p. 14. Patches with surface along the south wall provided a reason for ending this pail, but such surface did not exist everywhere. Believing that such a surface might dip down towards the north, the workman reached a somewhat deeper level there. At any rate we are now under the legs floor. Surface with patches of red burn may represent surfaces of use during the construction of Building F. Certain stones have appeared that suggest underlying walls.

We decide to divide the space in a north and a south section by drawing a line along the south face of wall 711. The north section is ca. 2.15 m wide N-S and we start excavating there.

93A/Pail 7:3
Under pail 2.6: Brown earth + stone chips.
Flint (see p. 14) to (see p. 16)
Shards: 0.790 kg. 85% LM IA(2). Joints with pail 16 and pail 5.
Other: plaster
In: C 9431: spiral dec. cc.

We find a section of wall 11 near the east end of the space. The wall survived under the E1 scarp but in place it is badly destroyed. Some of its wall was piled out but some left there. Other blocks were robbed out. The many stone chips indicate the dressing and cutting involved in the reuse of the stones, probably in F's walls.
TRENCH 93A

The machine is set at level + 4.63 m. Work continues with Pail 3, Andrew. Workmen start excavation in the remaining larger section to the south east.

Pail 7:4 under Pail 6-7/26
From (see p. 14) to 3.10/3.07 m
Baren earth, stone chips, piece of plant.
Sherd, 1, 1.520 kg, lH 13, sh. LM III A.2.

Pail 16, 4, 5a, 6, 8. One possible stirrup jar.
Other: lump of pumice; shell.
Inv. c 9063 stirrup jar - joins
pails 16, 5a, 6, 10

In pail 7:3 The segment of wall 11 is getting better defined. Its width is 0.45 - 1.00 m and its preserved length measured from the scarp is ca. 3.50 m. A gap of ca. 2.00 m exists between this segment and the one exposed in Trench 89 C last year.

Oddly, the new segment seems to be some 0.20 m north of the line of the old segment. Some pieces of burnt clay (sample collected). Perhaps the difference will even out when a lower course is found - unless this is the bottom course.

Pail 3 is terminated at an arbitrary level (see p. 18) as soon as the outline of wall 11 are defined. At location (a) in the plan (p. 18) there are some large sherds. They are left in the fill to be excavated with Pail 4 which represents the space south of wall 11.

A strip ca. 1.20 m wide along the south wall proves to have a different kind of fill.
Upon realizing this, we assign a sub-pail 4 to this location.

Pail 7: 4a alongside south wall
From 3.24/3.15 to 3.10/3.07m
0.5 compaction pieces of clay, often small lamps, plaster, a chunk of white earth
Sheild: 0.5-2.5 kg, 40, LM III/IV? Difficult to date small units
Other: plaster, coarse plaster, sample of floor packing

Some stones have appeared next to the east scarp directly south of wall II. They are scattered and from their shapes and sizes they may well be blocks removed from wall II but ultimately discarded.

It appears now that the areas excavated with pails 3 and 4 were where the cutting of stones was taking place, to judge by the main chips. The area of Pail 4a represents a strip of compacted material with the likely purpose of creating a firm ground on which to build the south wall of P5. Since no such compacted surface was found along the north wall, it is quite possible that there is no need for one. This would make sense if the north wall, which consists of a socle and a thinner wall on top, was built earlier.

Some wall plaster is turning up in both pails (4+4a). With the second pail we include the narrow strip of wall I on the south face of Wall I in the present pail since it more properly belongs to the area or space excavated now
Fragments of the surface packing are collected as samples (Pail 4a).

We find a series of stones both centrally and near the south wall. Some are flat, some somewhat slanted. In case this is a pavement, the two piles are terminated and two new ones are started for the collection of materials right on top of the "pavement."

Pail 7: 5a - Under Pail 7: 4a along south wall (6 + 3.05/299 cm), a layer of clay, burning, plaster.
- Shards: 1,726 kg, 148, LMI (2) or IIIa
  - Most shards LMIA (= primary deposit?)
- Other: clay from hearth (location not given)
  - Inv. 
    - c/9063 ocher, string, from hearth

Pail 7: 5 - Under Pail 7: 4f modern, remaining section + south of wall 17/1 to 3.05/799 cm.
- Shards: 4,675 kg, 290, LM II/III.
- Join w. pails 3, 5/6, 6. C9430 restorable
- Other: plaster; clay lumps from location 1
  - Inv. For inv. pottery see p. 22

The fill over the stones is similar in both piles: It is a mixture of materials given under the pails, samples are collected.

J.W. Shaw visits the bench and explores a clay area. In cleaning it much charcoal appears in a pit. Perhaps this is a hearth. The burnt material is collected for water sieving.
The level is set at +4.68 m. We continue with yesterday’s pieces. The possible hearth near the south wall is photographed (see p. 24) and triangulated in a 1:20 m scale plan. For details of hearth and surrounding stone and burnt clay see p. 24.

The red clay areas are higher than many of the scattered slabs. We shall now take these areas down to the level of the slabs using the same pails. Just in case pottery and other finds are in their position of use, they will be collected in a few cases under special labels.

Location 1 starts at 0.70 m and ends at 1.60 m from the south. That is an area of red clay that, part of a cooking pot or other sherds that may be related to a cooking activity. This area was ever a hearth.

Location 2: Area of the possible hearth. Charcoal from the pit and other material have been collected.

Pieces of plaster as collected in Pail 5a. They are often embedded in the red clay and fills which are very compact. One piece (still attached to a piece of fill) displays two layers of plaster. The top is ca. 2-3 m thick and polished. The bottom layer is irregular in width and made of plaster. No color is visible anywhere.

We continue taking the level down to level the trench, and in the process...
we reveal a lower course of wall 1 along its south face. We stop excavation at this (an arbitrary level) and take photos + polaroid of this level.

We now go back to the strip excavated with 2a (see p. 14) and resume excavation. The top level is roughly that reached with pails 5 and 5a.

93A  Pail 7:6 under pail 2a
From C (see p. 14) to C (see p. 32)
Brownish earth, some small stones
Sherds: 1.810 kg.; 680 LMB A2 join w
pail 5 - water - body sherd + possible
Other: plaster, stirrup jar
Inv. E 9063: octopus jar; joins with Pail
16, 4, 5a, 10, 7.

Another workman is dismantling the hearth (still using Pail 5a). The
hearth turns out to be an actual hearth, but not of the shape shown
on p. 24. It consists of a semi-
circle formed by two slanted stones
with a clay wall in between. The
open side is to the north. The hearth is
full of charcoal material. The hearth is
all collected and will be processed
through flotation by J. W. Shaw
today. New photos are taken
(see p. 28). A new drawing will have
to be made. E see drawing (in W8 pocket)

Work now starts in the space of
pails 5 and 5a

+ subpail 1 TRENCH 93A

From (see plan in pocket) to (see p. 32)
Patch of red burnt fill
Sherd: 4, 150 kg.; 240. LMB B, looks
- Cute floor dep. with junis

Subpail 1 of Pail 7 (see p. 27) Inv. pottery:
C 9066: bridge-sp. jar (joins with pail 7+8); C 9063:
octopus st. jar (joins 16, 4, 5a, 6, 10); C 9065: OM (joins pail
Subpail 1 of Pail 7 (see p. 27) 5+8)
3.330 kg.; 175; LMB joins with 7+8
Probably beginning of LI MB (as in
House X depth 73A/116-122; 86B/8-10 etc.)
Roll 1, Fr. 11

Hearth, from north

Hearth after clearing (cf. p. 24)

Photo looking south

a, c two small blocks
b a wall of clay
In the foreground charcoal and burnt fill which was later collected and packed deep; N-S ca. 25-30 cm width; W-E ca. 65 cm max

Pail 7: 7 sherds from the hearth:
1050 kg; 40 sh.
CMAT A2 - mostly cooking + burnt

Possibly continuation of LMI deposit encountered in Pail 5.

Oven: plaster, bronze, charcoal; charcoal
Ins. C 9436: cooking pot + LMT A2 B
C 9096: Bridge spout jar (slip in TD: 9)
B 387: small bronze chisel; P 192: patterned plate

It looks as if the hearth was installed on a rough surface. Though pottery has not been washed and studied yet it is quite likely that the level represents activity during construction, probably of the walls of Gallery 5. There are burnt patches, patches and fragments of clay everywhere. A concentration is against wall 11, at what was described above as location 1. In the corner between that wall and the scarp is a long charcoally line, as if of a burnt branch or stick. There are tiny bits of charcoal in that corner

Pail 7 is gradually dismantling this surface. The collection of stone further west (see photo p. 26) projects above the surface but many of the blocks go down into it.

A 1:20 m plan has been made of this area at the level at which pail 7 started [see plan in NB pocket].

Quite possibly, there was more than one hearth and the debris of when such hearth was destroyed