KOMMOS EXCAVATION

TRENCH

95

GORDON NIXON
1994
TRENCH 95A

Grid Co-ordinates:
A  979.40x, 1063.70y
B  987.92x, 1063.70y
C  987.92x, 1053.70y
D  979.40x, 1053.70y

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

Trench 95A runs west from the west boundary of trench 87B and 90C. The east-west length is 8.152m. The trench runs north from the southern boundary formed by the extension of the southern boundary of Trench 90C, and the northern boundary is in line with the extension of the northern boundary of Trench 87B. The north-south dimension is 10.00m.

The purpose of excavating this trench is threefold:
1) to expose the remainder of the LM 1 kiln which was partially excavated to the east.
2) to trace the westward extension of the southern side of Building T, two column bases of which have been uncovered by Trench 87B.
3) to trace the westward extension of the southern exterior wall of Building T.

Of these, the primary purpose is the excavation of the kiln. This was uncovered at its eastern edge in Trench 87B and Trench 90C, revealing a construction of type Z according to the typology of D. Evolve. Approximately 2 m of 4 flues running east-west have been uncovered, of which the northernmost was fully excavated. Based on comparison with kilns of this type at Aya Triaða and Kefo Zaïk, I expect the flues to continue approximately 2 m further to the west, at which point we will find a fuel chamber deeper than the flues, and about 2 m in diameter.
Based on an old southward turn in the clay lining of the southernmost flue at the west edge of Trench 89B/90C, I am expecting that the chimney or vent was located midway along the flues on the southern side of the kiln.

Furthermore, based on a comparison with the northern site of Building T, we expect to uncover three column bases of the southern site, unless they have been robbed out or washed away by the erosion which occurred on the west side of the site.

Trench 95A was laid out on 28 June, 1994 by T.W. Shaw (excavation director), assisted by Amy Raymond and Gordon Nixon.

Excavation of Trench 95A began on 29 June, 1994.

N.B. Because the front loader has removed 0.3m of the sand overburden of the trench, the first level excavated will be assigned level number 2.

Initial Elevations of

TRENCH

95A
20 June, 1994

Excavation of Trench 95A begins with 2 complete work areas. We first divide the trench along the east-west axis slightly to the north of the supposed line of centre of the kiln. We then begin excavating the raised area that has been left by the front loader in the NE corner. The surface of the rest of the trench is also cleared of sand, almost a loss battle.

Pail 95A/2:1, surface pail; levels and location: see plan p.8; location label: NE; Fill: sand of varying degrees of compaction, tree roots; Pottery: 250 sherd(s) (1.970 kg); Latest Date: Classical? Range: a little Minoan, much C8-7, some late? (нал); most sherds small with heavy wear; two tiles.

Inventoried Objects: C9065 - Corinthian pyxis

Also: shells, some pebbles, bone

The Fill is almost entirely of sand. Small stones are found in places, along with many shells and some medium-sized pebbles. There are also some tree roots.

In the SE corner of the surface of excavation over the suspected continuation of the kiln, we come clean on some small stones and a small patch of burning.

At this point we clean the surface of excavation and move Pail 2:1. A new pail is opened to continue excavation in the northern part of the trench.

Pail 95A/2:2, partial surface pail, partly under pail 2:1; levels and location: see plan p.10; Location label: NE; Fill: sand of varying degrees of compaction, with tree roots; some earth to east; Pottery: 120 sherd(s) (1.050 kg); Latest Date: C8-7; Range: P6-C8, C7; most sherds small with medium wear; no assured Minoan
29 June, 1994 (continued)

Inventoried Objects: C.9094 - EP6 skyphos feet

Also: pebbles, shells, pumice, bronze piece.

Some small pebbles are found at the bottom of Pail 2.2, although there is no indication of a surface of use. The fill continues to consist of sand. A small piece of bronze is recovered, and a few small stones (5-10-15 cm) are found in the fill in the NE.

A Elevation in m ASL
X Burning

Figure ABCDEF forms boundary of PAIL 2.2

Figure ABGF forms the modified boundary.
Excavation of Trench 95A continues with Pail 2:2. When we reach the SE corner of the surface of excavation, I decide to open a new pail for the 2 x 3.2 strip over the supposed kiln extension in which stones and burning had turned up on the last pail.

**PAIL 95A/2:3** Under Pail 95A/2:1; Levels and Location: see plan p. 12; Location Label: E; Fill: sand, moister than above, with some earth mixed in especially at the eastern edge

Pottery: 5 sherd s (10.020 kg) Latest Date: PG

Too small for meaningful comment

- small sherds, medium to Very Heavy wear.

**Inventoried Objects:**

- charcoal, shells

Very little pottery is recovered. As we dig around the stones in the SE which had been uncovered in Pail 2:1, we find some burning, appearing directly beneath the stones, yet there appears no easy to mark difference in the fill indicating a surface, but only a greater tackiness to the earth sand, as some earth appears mixed in. Some medium-small, but distinct samples of charcoal are recovered from beneath the stones. The area of burning is found to measure 50 cm EW and 30 cm NS.

At this point Pail 2:3 is closed, in order that we can continue removing sand in the NO.

**PAIL 95A/2:4** Partial surface pail, partially under Pail 2:2; Levels and Location: see plan p. 12; Location Label: N; Fill: sand changing to sandy earth in the east.
30 June, 1994 (continued)

Pottery: 40 sherds (0.275 kg) Latest Date: 3,600
Range: Too small for meaningful comment
Largely plain body sherds of little diagnostic value
shaped fragment of pot found in Pail 2:1

Inventoryd Objects: C9065 - Arg of Corinthian pyxis
C9285 - jug base (6 frag)

Also: a number of stones turn up in the east, shells

We find the fill to be predominantly pure sand in
the west which changes to a mixture of sand and
earth in the east. Since we intend to remove only
the pure sand in order to see what, if any, slope
the earth beneath has, we close the pail before
reaching its intended eastern limit, and begin a
new pail to continue removing sand in the NW.

Pail: 95A/2:5; partially surface pail,
Partially order Pail 2:4; Levels and Location: see
plan p:14; Location Label: NLD; Fill: almost
equally pure sand, some sand and earth

Pottery: 75 sherds (0.540 kg) Latest Date: Classical
Range: ?? Minoan, C7, Classical; most sherds
small with medium case

Inventoryd Objects: C10005 - pyxis

Also: shells

The fill is almost entirely pure sand.
Excavation at Trench 95 continues with Pail 2:5. As we are clearing with this pail we come along a line of stones, east of which there appear to be paving stones. Some of them are covered by a layer of sand with many small pebbles at which layer we stop. We will continue clearing the pure sand above them to the east in order to expose more.

When we reach the eastern area at which excavation of Pail 2:4 had stopped a probe with a pin seems to indicate that the eastern edge of the paving has been reached. For a plan of this feature, see p.16. At this point a new pail is opened to remove sand in a metre strip in the NW of the trench.

**PAIL: 95A/2:6**, partially covered, partially under Pail 2:5; Levels and Location: see plan p.16; Location Label: NW; Fill: pure sand, occasional small stones, and a handful of pebbles in the fill.

Pottery: 250 sherds (2.585 kg); Latest Date: EIA

**Range**: LM III, EIA; most sherds small with medium ware; consists largely of fragments of C9225, EIA; magnetic micaceous cooking pot

**Inventoried Objects**: C9225 - cooking pot, EIA

Also: shells, magnetic pottery

While sand removal continues in the NW with this pail, we clean around the stones reached in Pail 2:5. MC and JW Shaw each suggest that the small group of stones, including the two uprights, may be a "telephone booth" of the type found in other Archaic structures.

At day's end, Pail 2:6 is closed as 1 pass has been completed, reaching the bottom of the pure sand in the south, but not the north. Many pieces of what appear to be decorative pottery applique were recovered which are attracted to a magnet.

Area 2ail is opened to remove the last of the sand from the 2m strip at the NWC of the trench.

**Pail 95A/2: 7; Under Pail 95A/2: 6;**

Levels and Location: see plan p. 18; Location label: NWC; Fill: sand and small amounts of earth, some small pebbles and stones.

Pottery: 241 sherds (2135 kg); Latest Date: EIA?


Most sherds small with medium ware; most decorated ware is LM III A.

Inventoried Objects: C9228 - cooking pot, EIA?

Also: shells

With this pail we quickly reach the bottom of the pure sand. While this is continuing we clean and photograph the "platform" and "phone booth" in the centre of the north end of the trench (see plan and discuss p. 116).

Paving and "phone booth", Trench 954; bottom of Pail 2: 5, from S (above).

Polaroid: p. 20

Roll 1: Fr. 2-3 p. 20

Fr. 4 - "phone booth" from south p. 20

Fr. 5 - "phone booth" from NE p. 20

As we continue to excavate Pail 2: 7 we split the workmen into 2 teams and open a new pail to remove the sand with burning (ash?) in the centre of the trench.

**Pail 95A/2: 8; Under Pail: Surface Pail; Levels and Location: see plan p. 18; Location label: NW; Fill: almost pure sand, some ash(?), many tiny shells in the fill.**
2 July, 1994 (continued)

Pottery: 107 sherds (4.32 kg) Latest Date: EIA
    Range: LM III and EIA?; most sherds medium
    sized with medium to heavy burn; major part
    fragments of C.228; good number of LM III SNA
Inventoried Objects: C.228 - 98 cc of body rim and handle,

Also: pumice, shells, charcoal

As we dig in the SW corner of Pit 2:7 we find many small stones in the fill as it changes to
a mixture of sand and earth, especially within 2m
of the E-W line. The fill across the entire trench
has been much more compact than the fill above.
In the SE corner of this area we find a very
small patch of reddened clay of the sort found
with the kiln last year. Could these be from dis-
integrated mudbrick?

As we dig in the area of burning (ash?) in pit
2:8 we find nothing but sand loosely compacted.
There is nothing to indicate that the burning is other
than an ephemeral surface feature except that the sand
beneath is slightly darker than the surrounding.

With the completion of Pit 2:7 we open another
pit to resume excavation in the NE.

Pit: 95A/2:9; Under Pit: 95A/2:2 and
95A/2:4; Levels and Location: see plan p. 22;
Location Label: NE; Fill: sandy earth with occasional
small stones
Pottery: 3 sherds (0.010 kg) Latest Date: PG?
    Too small for meaningful comment
    small, heavily worn and burnt
From levels of two open areas, fully painted
Inventoried Objects:

Also: shells
At this point we have finished our pass with Pail 2:9 and open another pail immediately to the west.

Pail: 95A/2:10
- Under Pail: 95A/2:3
- Levels and Location: see plan p. 22; Location Label: E
- Fill: sand or west with some earth to the east; ash? on north; very small piece of charcoal
- Pottery: 33 sherds (0.475 kg) Latest Date: EL IA
- Range: SM, PB, EL IA, most sherd small with heavy wear,
  Too small for meaningful comment
- Invented Objects: C9228 - one body sherd
- Also shells

As we begin digging through the sand in Pail 2:10 we come on an area of black (ash?) on approximately the same level as that in the centre of the trench. There is at this point no indication when the pure sand will end, although it is not present in Pail 2:9 immediately to the north except in a small band along the south.

A large patch of ash? is found in Pail 2:9 by the western edge of its E border with Pail 2:10, approximately 1 m x 50 cm, EW x NS.

As we reach the east balk in Pail 2:10 the sand becomes darker, indicating that the sand is no longer as pure as to the west.

At this point we finish our pass in Pail 2:9, and to be safe we divide this area in two to excavate with separate pails the poorer earth to the north and the sand and sandy earth to the south.
2 July, 1994 (continued)

Pail: 95A/2:11; Under Pail: 95A/2:9; Levels and Location: see plan p. 24; Location Label: NE
Fill: earth and clay, small amounts of sand
Pottery: NO POTTERY

Inventoried Objects:
Also: shells

Pail: 95A/2:12; Under Pail: 95A/2:9; Levels and Location: see plan p. 24; Location Label: NE
Fill: sandy earth and sand
Pottery: NO POTTERY

Inventoried Objects:
Also:

\[ \Delta \text{ Elevations in m ASL} \]

PAIL 2:11
and
PAIL 2:12

reddish earth
and clay

+3.79
Pail 2:11
+3.47
Pail 2:12

+3.75
blackened sand