Trench 89A

From W, surface of excavation after plaster floor, partitions, and two anchors have been exposed in the west.

Pail 89A/7:13

Roll 2 Frames 1-3, colour too.

Wall 1

Anchors

possible partition wall

Partition Wall

1 + 2, stones aligned with anchors

Pail 89A/7:9A, Under Pail 89A/7:9

Levels: see plan p. 22, Location Label: NIC, Fill: burnt-soil, with charcoal inclusions

Pottery: 0.040 kg (16 sherds), Latest Date: LM III A1/B

Too small to have meaningful comment, total absence of SNA; date is of significance for the construction of P3

Inventoried Objects:

Also:

A new pail is opened now, to quickly remove some earth in the south of the trench here from above the plaster floor (should it continue south).

Pail 89A/7:10, Under Pails 89A/7:6, 7:6A

Levels: see plan p. 22, Location Label: S2, Fill: brown-grey earth, small stones, charcoal and plaster inclusions

Pottery: 1.265 kg (141 sherds), Latest Date: LM III A, Pure date (?) broad mix of types - no SNA

Functional picture comparable to LM III A1/B, but typologically different; joins with Pails 7 + 9

Inventoried Objects: B356 - Bronze strips

Also: shells

We reach the end of the pass across the open trench using the large pick, in the west between the two large stones there appear to be many smaller stones. There are also large, differentially scattered pebbles. At least two of the smaller stones (cf. plan p. 24) appear to be resting on
West Anchor from NW
Roll 2, Fr. 4 1/2, colour too

From S, of bronze strip beneath partition stone
Roll 2, Fr. 6

From N, of bronze strip within partition wall
Roll 2, Fr. 7

28 June, 1993

the surface of excavation. There are signs in the east that there is a plaster floor there as well.

A new pail is opened to expose the plaster floor south of wall 1.

PAIL: 89A/7:11; Under pail: 89A/7:10;
levels: see p. 24; Location Label: SW; Fill:
grey earth, brown earth, plaster inclusions.
Pottery: 0.515 kg (74 sherds); Latest Date: LM III A,
mostly late, but also MM III; "Egyptian"
and Canaanite imports

total absence of SNA fabric

Inventoried Objects: C9489 - "Egyptian" white slipped
amphora rim

Also:
B354 - Bronze strips and blade
shells, plaster

Roll 11
Excavation of Pail 89A/7:11 continues with two pickmen using small picks and picking down to the plaster floor, initially in a 1m stretch around the west side of the trench. There is a break in the plaster immediately south of 89A/7:7.

The floor then continues c.30 cm south. The break is not smooth. At least one stone appears in the break. The fill is a grey/brown earth with charcoal and plaster inclusions.

More bronze strips are discovered.

An east-west line of small stones appears immediately north of the west-most of the stones, aligned with the anchors. They appear to be resting on the plaster, as does the large stone.

When we reach the south end of the trench we decide to excavate another metre strip with the same pail, since there is no noticeable difference to the east.

After this, because the plaster is broken we open a new pail to continue excavating to the east.

PAIL: 89A/7:12

Under Pail: 89A/7:10

Levels: see plan p.24, Location label SW.
Fill: grey/brown earth, with charcoal, plaster, and pebble inclusions.

Pottery: 0.890 kg (139 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A, seemingly pure homogeneity of date; Canaanite and Cypro-Neo sherds.

Total absence of SNA Fabric.

Inventorized Objects: B358 - Bronze strips and small block.

Also: shells.
29 June, 1993 (continued)

The plaster is far better preserved here than in the westmost part of the trench. It appears that the two stones not aligned with the anchors are resting on the plaster.

There appears in some places to be isolated patches of burning and pebbles over the plaster.

A small hole is dug beside the west anchor, and the fill is found to be uniformly sand even below the anchor.

A new pail is opened to clear down to plaster between the anchors.

PAIL: 89A/7:13; Under pail: 89A/7:10
Levels: see plan p. 24; Location Label: S; Fill: grey/brown earth, some clay, with charcoal, plaster and pebble inclusions.
Pottery: 0.610 kg (87 sherds); Latest Date: LM III A1
LM IA(?); many red, coarse UP and CP
No SNA Fabric; joins with pail 7:11

Inventoried Objects: B362 - very long bronze strip
B363 - bronze strips
Also: shells

The plaster appears to break between 89A/7:12 and 7:13.
East of the west anchor appears well-preserved plaster, with some burning over the plaster, although localized.

When we finish this pass we clean the trench, straighten the banks, and clean around all the rocks.
A flimsy north-south line of rocks is uncovered.

A small piece of bronze is found sticking out from beneath the cross wall of small stones, indicating that crosswalls postdate the strips.
30 June, 1993

Excavation of Pail 89A/7:13 was for all intents and purposes finished. We now clean the trench, emphasizing especially the placement of the partitions, in preparation for photography. After this our intention is to proceed east and begin to excavate that area of the trench down to the level of the plaster floor. This should have the additional effect of exposing more of the MM wall (Wall 2).

It is now more apparent that the archers and two stones which appear to be aligned with them belong to a period after the installation of the plaster floor, and seem to be cut and set into the plaster.

Photographs are taken of the finished surface. See p. 24, 28.

A new pail was opened for excavation to continue in the east of the trench. Final elevations of plaster floor are found in plan, p. 30.

**PAIL 89A/7:14:** under Pail: 89A/11:1

**Levels:** see p. 30; Location: SE; Fill: sun-bleached and hardened earth; not hard packed

Pottery: D. 120 kg (13 sherd); Latest Date: LM III A2/B

Range: LM III A; ? 1 frag of SNA

**Inventoried Objects:**

Also: plaster, charcoal

The first pass on the upper part of the new pail is all sun-hardened and bleached. It is very difficult to tell what kind of fill it was originally. It does not appear to be hard-packed, although this may be due to its sun-hardened nature causing it to crack easily.
We find a medium-sized stone horizontal on the surface of excavation after two passes. We clean the trench, take elevations, and change pails.

**PAIL 89A/7:15; Under Pails: 89A/7:14 and 11:1; Levels: see p. 32; Location Label: SE**

Fill: brown earth with some grey clay, small stones and chips, with pebble and plaster inclusions

Pottery: 0.305 kg (42 sherds)

Range: MMIII/LMI

Inventoryed Objects:

Also: shells, plaster

when we quickly came down on a level with more small stones we change pails

**PAIL 89A/7:16; Under Pails: 89A/7:15 and 11:1; Levels: see p. 34; Location Label: SE**

Fill: brown earth mixed with grey clay, with charred and pebble inclusions

Pottery: 0.410 kg (56 sherds)

Range: MMIII/LMI

Inventoryed Objects:

Also: plaster, shells

Actually the fill is not so much grey as a lighter brown colour. We came down on a small accumulation of stones and a pottery handle sticking out of the earth. The associated surface has some sand and burning. At this point we change pails.
30 June, 1993 (continued)

PAIL: 89A/7:17; Under Pail: 89A/7:16 and 11; Levels: see p. 36; Location Label: SE
Fill: sandy brown earth with some grey clay; stone, pebble, and plaster inclusions
Pottery: 1.295 kg (53 sherds); Latest Date: LM III A2/B homogenous; large numbers SNA fragments "joins" with Pails 1 and 2

Inventoried Objects:

Also: shells, hematite

We came down on a layer of much purer clay with some burning and many stones lying on this surface. There is the lack of a floor here we change levels.

PAIL: 89A/7:18; Under Pail: 89A/7:17
Levels: see p. 36; Location Label: SE
Fill: grey clay with brown earth, charcoal inclusions; stones, pebbles
Pottery: 0.330 kg (26 sherds); Latest Date: LM III A2/B Range: MM III/LM I; many med. coarse
UP SNA; N.B. med. coarse more ptd. bits of strange red fabric, probably import

Inventoried Objects:

Also: sample of burning

The pure clay was isolated to a 1\frac{1}{2} m section at the very east of the trench. In case this was the remains of an earlier floor of P1, we excavated a 1 m square with a separate pail to prevent possible contamination from the different fill to the west. We sift what is removed.
TRENCH 89A

30 June, 1992 (continued)

PAIL: 89A/7:19; Under Pail: 89A/7:17. Levels: see p. 38; Location Label: SE; Fill: grey soil, charcoal + stone. Pottery: 0.120 kg (12 sherd); Latest Date: LM III A2/1B. Range: MM III/LM I. 

1 shed mod. coarse UP: SNA 4 b's. 

Inventoried Objects:

Also:

ABCDEF forms boundary of Pail:

89A/7:20
TRENCH 89A

Scale 1:100

Exposed Wall
Exposed Rubble
Plaster Floor

Elevations in m ASL

A B C D
+3.36 +3.38 +3.40 +3.42

E F H I
+3.46 +3.48 +3.64 +3.66

Wall 3

ABCD forms boundary of Pail 89A/7.21
CDEFG forms boundary of Pail 89A/7.22
EFHI forms boundary of Pail 89A/7.23

We finish sieving 89A/7.19 (what was under the clay in the east). After this we will excavate the area of burning for which Pail 89A/7.4 had been opened.

Two soil samples of the burned area will be taken, one for water flotation at the apothecary, the other for SNA. (From Pail 89A/7.4)

After the first pass over 89A/7.4 all the little stones in the burnt patch have been removed. For this reason we will change pails and open the entire east end.

PAIL: 89A/7.20; Under Pail: 89A/7.4;
7.18; 7.19: Levels: see plan p. 40; Location Label: SE; Fill: most brown earth with grey clay, some burning, plaster, pebble, and charcoal inclusions.

Pottery: 0.605 kg (67 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A2/1B
but 1 sherd could be 7th c. (contamination?)

Range: LM II A
SNA Fragments

Inventoried Objects:

Also soil sample for water flotation, shells

A soil sample of the burning in the west of the pail boundary is collected. After the first pass we come down on a large layer of burning in the east. We will now clean the trench, measure elevations, and divide the pail boundary in three so that each of the burnt areas can be excavated separately.

PAIL: 89A/7.21; Under Pail: 89A/7.20
Levels: see p. 42; Location Label: SE; Fill: same as 89A/7.20, but with more sand in places and more burning.

Pottery: 0.590 kg (67 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A2/1B

Range: LM IA; many met, coarse UP
SNA Fragments
TRENCH 89A

Scale 1:100

Exposed Walls
Exposed Rubble
Plaster Floor

Elevations in m A.S.L.

ABCDEF forms boundary of Pail

89A/7:24

1 July, 1993 (continued)

Inventoried Objects:

Also: red substance, plaster

On our first pass we come down on small patches of the unidentified red material at which we stop. We now open a new pail and continue east.

PAIL: 89A/7:22; Under Pail: 89A/7:20

Levels: see plan p. 42; Location Label: SE; Fill: same as 89A/7:20, 7:21; but without red substance

Pottery: 0.685 kg (75 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A1/B

Range: LM I; heavy, very heavy, very copious quantities of red-coarse UP SNA

Inventoried Objects:

Also: plaster, shells

We come down on a layer of burning with hard packed earth. At this level we stop. We now open a new pail and continue east.

PAIL: 89A/7:23; Under Pail: 89A/7:20

Levels: see plan p. 42; Location Label: SE; Fill: same as 89A/7:20, 7:22. (See Pottery of next page)

A greater concentration of blue pigment is found. We stop at a layer of burning which slopes west into the area excavated by pail 89A/7:22.

PAIL: 89A/7:24; Under Pails: 89A/7:1; 7:21; 7:22; 7:23;

Levels: see plan p. 44; Location Label: SE; Fill: brown earth with grey clay; plaster, charcoal inclusions; pebbles in the fill not appearing to form a surface; little sand; very dense

Pottery: 1.275 kg (132 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A1/B

Range: LM I A1; many red-coarse UP SNA and oatmeal, CP

No evidence of burning.
TRENCH 89A

1 July, 1993 (continued)

Inventoried Objects: 52732

Also: blue pigment, charcoal, shells

PAIL: 89A/7.23 (continued from p. 45)

Pottery: 0.050 kg (9 sherd), Latest Date: LMIII A/B

Range: LM III A > ; 5NA Fragments

Too small for meaningful comment

Inventoried Objects:

Also: blue pigment

On our first pass we come down on another large flat stone, 2.3 m centred to centre east of the eastern anchor. The north edge of this stone is beneath the sloping burnt surface. After this pass we change pails

PAIL: 89A/7.25; Under Pails: 89A/1.1; 7.24

Levels: see plan, p. 46; Location Label: SE; Fill; compact brown earth with grey clay; some plaster; much burning

Pottery: 0.376 kg (54 sherd); Latest Date: LMIII A/

Range: MM III /LM I -> mostly CP also fine CP LMIII A; cop fragments

Inventoried Objects:

Also: blue pigment, plaster, shells

ABCD forms boundary of

89A/7.25
Excavation of Pail 89A/7:25 continues. At the end of this pass we will clean the surface of excavation and change pails.

At the extreme south-east end of the trench there is a small stone which is out of line with the others (it is not similarly spaced, and is not in line). It is covered by burning. This burning does not extend far, but does in small amounts reach the larger stone to the west uncovered yesterday.

PAIL: 89A/7:26; Under Pail: 89A/7:25
Levels: see plan p.48; Location Label: SE; Fill; brown earth with grey clay; charcoal and plaster inclusions; small stones
Pottery: 0.335 kg (52 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A
Looks pure in date; "joins" with pails 29 and 29A; 1 med. coarse UP b.s. from closed shop w/ red deposit on interior
Inventoried Objects:

Also: shell

As we make a second pass through this area of excavation, we uncover what seems to be a feature, a circle of stones, immediately east of the large stone uncovered yesterday. At this point we close the pail.

PAIL: 89A/7:27; Under Pail: 89A/7:25
Levels: see plan p.48; Location Label: SE; Fill; brown earth with grey clay; charcoal inclusions
Pottery: 0.335 kg (36 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A
Range: MM III / LM I > mostly CP
Few diagnostic; heavy - very heavy wear
Inventoried Objects:

Also: soil sample for water sieving, blue pigment
TRENCH 89A

→ N
Scale 1:100

- Exposed Walls
- Exposed Rubble
- Plaster Floor
- Elevation in m ASL

N

+3.26 +3.26
+3.30 +3.30
+3.29 +3.29
+3.31 +3.31
+3.30 +3.30

A B C D E F

Wall 3

ABCD forms boundary of Pail 89A/7:28
CDEF forms boundary of Pails 89A/7:29 and 89A/7:29A

2 July, 1993 (continued)

Very close to the surface, immediately under the charred and burning, we find a feature of clay, similar in colour to the ovens of Trenches 83A and 83C. It is located between the stone and the SE corner. It seems to have a roughly circular depression in its centre, although only the west edge is well defined. Its purpose is unclear.

We decide now to abandon this section of the trench and uncover the plaster floor fully.

The fill of 89A/7:27 was sieved; the fill from the depression of the clay feature was saved for later sieving.

We open a new pail to continue cleaning the plaster floor.

PAIL 89A/7:28
Under Pail 89A/7:27
Levels: see plan p. 50; Location Label: SE; Fill: hard packed grey clay with plaster and pebble inclusions.

Pottery: 0.820 kg (96 sherds) Latest Date LMIII A, Range: mmIII/lmII; many med. coarse U1P, large closed vases, Canaanite amphora sherds

Invented Objects:

Also: blue pigment, bronze, plaster, shells

We sieve 3/4 of the fill from this pail as we expose the plaster. The plaster floor appears to end in a line which, when measured, is almost exactly perpendicular to the line of the tentatively identified LM III wall running beneath the north wall of P3 (identified as Wall 3 on the Notebook plans).

It is possible that the pottery of this pail may be contaminated by the cutting of the plaster of earth to place the large stone on the east, for at the end of the plaster, the fill changes to a less compact brown earth.