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<td>Director of Excavation</td>
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<td>Professor J. W. Shaw</td>
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TRENCH 89A

Location on Site

TRENCH 89A

Trench 89A was partially laid in on 22 June, 1993 by J.W. Shaw, assisted by Kathryn Walsh, Jorge Bravo, and Gordon Nixon. The layout was completed 23 June, 1993 by Gordon Nixon. As can be seen from the trench layout diagram on p.4, Trench 89A was laid out in line with the architectural features of Gallery 3 of Building P and the east wall of Building Z. The trench coordinates are:

N.W. 1012.19x, 1086.76y
N.E. 1027.23x, 1058.46y
S.E. 1027.89x, 1084.01y
S.W. 1012.84x, 1081.21y

The purposes of excavating Trench 89A are to investigate the LM I and perhaps II remains beneath the floor of Gallery 3, and to investigate the incredibly thick MM wall, Wall 2 of the diagram p.4, which at 2.30m appears to be the thickest MM wall yet discovered on Crete.

J.W. Shaw expects to uncover another MM wall within 6m of the uncovered wall 2, after which excavation would concentrate on clearing within the two walls, down to a possible Middle Minoan floor, which could belong to the civic precursor of LM I Building T.

Excavation of Trench 89A began on 23 June, 1993, with Gordon Nixon as trenchmaster. The workcrew consisted of;

Ευγενίκος Μπιτζάκης - pickman
Ρούδος Ντριτζί - shovelman
Μιχάλης Δρύμος - wheelbarrows
Initial Thoughts

Because of the LM I. North-East Wall, Wall 3 of the trench, which belongs to Building T, and because of the plaster floors discovered in Trenches 83A and C, I suspect that we will quickly uncover a north-south interior wall of Building T. I am also beginning to question whether the visible parts of Wall 4, beneath Cell I, are original to Building T. Floor 1 may very well be, but its appearance is very poor, like secondary phases of use in the interior walls of Building T's north wing.

On the interior face of the south wall of Gallery 3 of Building T, the vertical chases for supporting timber is confined to the west end, which is not true for the north wall, nor for the exterior northern face of Gallery 1. Does this have some connection with LM I remains beneath? or to lack of remains? or is it totally unrelated?

Scale 1:100

Trench 89A

Exposed Wall
Exposed Rubble
Plaster Floor
Elevations mASL

Patch of Burning

Plaster Floor #1
Wall 3

89A/1:1
23 June, 1993

Excavation of Trench 89A begins. Because there is a large accumulation of sand throughout the entire area of the trench due to rainstorms and the first order of business is to clean the trench. A pail is opened for anything collected while cleaning, but since this is a later accumulation than what we are excavating, it is referred to a level one.

**Pail**: 89A/11, surface pail; levels: see p. 6; location label: Entire; Fill: sand with some small stones, with charcoal and shell inclusions.

Pottery: 0.780 kg (48 sherds). Latest date: LM III A2/B, mostly LM III A3/B; many SNA sherds characteristic Building P Fill "Joints" with Pail 2

**Inventoried Objects:**

Also: charcoal, shells

While cleaning a small section of the painted plaster, that marked #1 on p. 6, it was noticed that it had at least two, and possibly three, painted surfaces which are closely connected with Wall 3 since the plaster curves up, seeming to form a revetment.

When the cleaning has been completed, at new pail is opened and a small amount is begun to be removed, beginning from the NE corner, 1.5 m from the West end of the Trench. The patch of burning in the West end of the pail is found to be relatively small and thin. Two samples of blackened remains are removed, one for J. O. Shaw, another for the apothecary.
Abcd forms boundary of wall 89A/7.3

Cdefgh forms boundary of wall 89A/7.4

Pat L 89A/7.2; Order Pat L 89A/7.1;
levels: see p 8; Location Label: Entire; Fill
Sunsleached hard, compacted soil with pebble
inclusions, plaster and charcoal. stone chips
Pottery: 2.120 kg (132 sherds); latest Date: LM III A2/B
Almost pure LM III A2/B, mostly SNA and CP
many exhibit secondary burning; regular P
unit with several atypical shapes, "jaws" with "tail."

Inventoried Objects:

Also: two soil samples, shells, plaster

It was decided to give this wall the level
number 7.2, since it is not accumulation, but
represents the area below the bottom level of
Trench 81B which ended with level 6.
Excavation of Trench 89A/7:2 continues. M. C. Shaw suggests that the burning found in different areas of P are actually contemporary with the building's construction because of the large number of stone chips in its fill. This appears quite reasonable.

M. C. Shaw suggests leaving the area of burning among stone chips (Plate of Burning #2, p. 18, also plan p. 10) unexcavated until a photograph can be taken of it. This is good, for I did not want to excavate the sloping eastern portion in the same way as the west. We will now excavate the western section separately with a new bail to prevent contamination of the newly exposed surface in the event that any of what was excavated in Trench 89A/7:2 was accidentally run off from the winter. The shortened boundaries of Trench 89A/7:2 are indicated on p. 8. A new bail is opened for the western section up to the shortened boundary, which is 6.15 m from the eastern edge of the trench.

**Trench 89A/7:3** under Trench 89A/7:2: levels: see p. 10; location label: 10; Fill: sandy grey earth soil with small charcoal, plaster, and clay inclusions; also stone chips Pottery: 1.495 kg (119 sherds) latest Date: LMIII A3/B mostly LMIII A3/B with some LMI; many med. coarse UC and SNA Not much is closely datable

**Inventoryed Objects:**

Also: charcoal, plaster, shells

When J. D. Shaw returns, photos are taken of the stone chips and burning in the unexcavated east section of the trench. Photos, see p. 12.
24 June, 1993

Many pottery sherds are noticed among the burning. A pail is opened for small ones that teeter while the site is prepped for photos. J-C-D. Shaw points out the possibly non-accidental proximity of burnt patches to the ovens, suggesting that they represent where the hearths emptied the oven ashes and refuse.

PAIL: 89A/7:4; Under Pail: 89A/7:1
Levels: see p. 10; Location Label: E; Fill: sandy grey clay earth, burnt areas, stone chips, pottery.

Inventoried Objects:
Also: soil sample for water flotation, shells

On our pass in 89A/7:3 we find some stones lying on a seemingly level surface which shows some signs of burning, with a small accumulation of pebbles and a piece of pottery and small charcoal. When the day finishes we are trimming the knoll and cleaning. Tomorrow we will open a new pail and excavate lower.
Excavation of Pail 89A/7:3 continues. We finish the pass. The areas of burning appear basically localized; we cannot trace their exact border, for they seem to disappear quite quickly. Therefore we will clean the surface of excavation, measure levels, and begin a new pail.

PAIL: 89A/7.5; Under Pail: 89A/7:3;
Levels: see p. 14; location label: U; Fill: grey earth soil with some sand, small charcoal inclusions, occasional small pebbles.

Pottery: 1.075 kg (107 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A2/B mostly LM III A2/B; also MM II, LM IA, LM III A, many SNA and CP; much secondary burning, regular building debris with earlier material.

Inventoried objects: B 354 - Bronze strips
S 2236 + S 2235 > large stone column base?
Also: plaster, shells, 2 bronze dots, soil sample of unidentified red material.

Stone chips are concentrated along Wall 1. In places the earth seems to flake off in large chunks. In these there are no noticeable strata of composition but is uniform throughout. The fill does seem a greyer colour than what was above.

Towards the center of the west side we come upon a layer of unknown red material which appears identical to that discovered in Trench 83A. Samples are bagged for the apothecie. A small strip is found in the fill, but not in situ.

It becomes clear as we clean the scarp that we were in fact wise to have changed pails, for it is apparent in the burning and change of colour that we had in fact reached a surface with Pail 89A/7:3.

More of the unidentified red substance is discovered in a layer which appears to be about the
25 June, 1993 (continued)

Thickening of the similar substance discovered in Trench 83A and still visible in the scarp. A bronze strip and 2 bronze dots are discovered.

The accumulation of pebbles by stone B appears very thick and on a level. There appears to be burning beneath.

Stone B is removed. It is found to be sitting on a thin lens of burning with a much smaller stone underneath. The pebble surface is immediately to the south of this spot.

We open a new pail to clean down to the red substance as far as possible.

PAIL: 89A/7:6, Under Pail: 89A/7:5
Levels: see p. 16; Location label: W; Fill: grey earth, very sandy, along wall with plaster inclusions, many pebbles.

Pottery: 1385 kg (136 sherd) Latest Date: LMIII A2/B mostly late, but also LMI, LMIA, (?) many SNA, CP, and oatmeal fabrics many SNA exhibit secondary burning Inventarioed Objects: B 355 - Bronze strips and pieces S 2233 - S 2234 - Stone anchors also: blue pigment (some in strata), plaster, shells

The red substance does not appear to go far. We will try to uncover as much as possible, then clear it with a subpail.
TRENCH 89A

N
Scale 1:100

Exposed Wall
Exposed Rubble
Plaster Floor
Elevations in m ASL

Wall 3

ABCD forms boundary of Pail 89A/7:7
CDEF forms boundary of Pail 89A/7:8
EFGH forms boundary of Pail 89A/7:9

26 June, 1993

Excavation of Pail 89A/7:6 continues today as we clean the surface of excavation, and then proceed to finish the pass. There are two small pottery finds, one in the SW corner, one on the north/west of the rock fall. We will clear down to this level, then change pails, remove the red material, and open a new pail.

When digging we came across a small layer of blue, such as was found in Trench 83A. This, however, is stratified as a clump of fill, so we bag a sample to have proof that the blue is genuine (it had appeared very close to the colour of the wheelbarrows).

As we finish the pass we came down upon two large anchors with three holes each (1 for rope, two for wooden pegs), centered between the walls of Gallery 3, although below the base of P’s walls. They are in a line with two stones in the west of the trench and are evenly spaced, perhaps having been laid as floor supports for ships (???)

Preliminary photos are taken (cf. Page 18)

We open a new pail (a subpail) to clear the red substance.

PAIL: 89A/7:6A; Under Pail: 89A/7:5
Levels: cf. page 16; Location Label: W; Fill: uniform unidentified substance, no pottery, some shells.

Patch of red material is found to be approximately 1.2 x 1.3 x 0.015 m. It has defined borders.
26 June, 1993

After the surface of excavation is cleaned we open a new pail and begin a pass along the north wall.

**PAIL 89A/7.7** ; **Under Pail 89A/7.6**
Levels: see plan p.20 ; Location Label: NW ; Fill: grey clayey soil, plaster inclusions
Pottery: 0.205 kg (22 sherds) Latest date: LM III A, mostly: ?LM III A,
absence of SNA fabric and other LM III A, indicators; "join" with pail 10

**Inventoried Objects**

Also: blue pigment, charcoal, small pieces of bronze strips.

A plaster floor, very broken, is uncovered along the wall. The top layer, very poorly preserved, appears to have been blue, the next white, heavily picked up some colour from the earth over top.
We proceed to clean the surface of the plaster.

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TRENCH 89A

N
Scale 1: 100

- Exposed Wall
- Exposed Rubble
- Plaster Floor
- Elevations in m.ASL

**Wall 3**

ABCD E Forms boundary of Pail

89A/7.10
Excavation of Pail 89A/7:11 continues, clearing down to the plaster floor. The total space covered in this pail is 1 x 2.1 m, when the plaster appears to be completely destroyed. We open another section 1.5 m long, which continues to the rock fall.

**PAIL: 89A/7:8; Under Pail: 89A/7:6**

Levels: see plan p. 20; Location Label: NW; Fill: grey clayey soil, some pebbles, plaster inclusions.

Pottery: 0.545 kg (96 sherds) Latest date: LM III A (?). Not enough diagnostics for comment on dates. Many medium-coarse UP pottery, CP, fine UP CC, absence of SNA, joins in Pail 9.

Inventoryed Objects: B357 - Bronze pieces

Also: plaster, bone, gypsum or lime (?).

I think there may be another surface of use slightly above the plaster, although it is extremely difficult to detect. If this is the case, then we have dug through it. It may perhaps be easier to detect when we dig in the southern part of the trench, since the plaster slopes up toward the wall.

For the last 0.60 x 1 m to the rock fall we uncover a surface of burning with pottery above the floor. The fill above this surface is excavated with a new pail.

**PAIL: 89A/7:9; Under Pail: 89A/7:6**

Levels: see plan p. 20; Location Label: NW; Fill: grey clayey soil, brown earth, burning, with charcoal.

Pottery: 0.215 kg (58 sherds) Latest Date: LM III A (?). Not enough diagnostics to comment on homogeneity of date. Absence of SNA; joins with Pails 8 and 10.

Inventoryed Objects:

- 1160 - plaster