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AREA B

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In order to provide adequate access for a deep sounding a Square 7×7 m. was opened. Allowing for a stairway one meter wide and estimating possible excavation depth, the surface at the lowest levels of excavation would still be five meters square. Area B was also designated as a demonstration area in the procedures of the "probe and peel" method of excavation. Therefore all inexperienced personnel on the supervisory staff were on hand to observe the laying out and opening of B. 1 at the season's beginning.

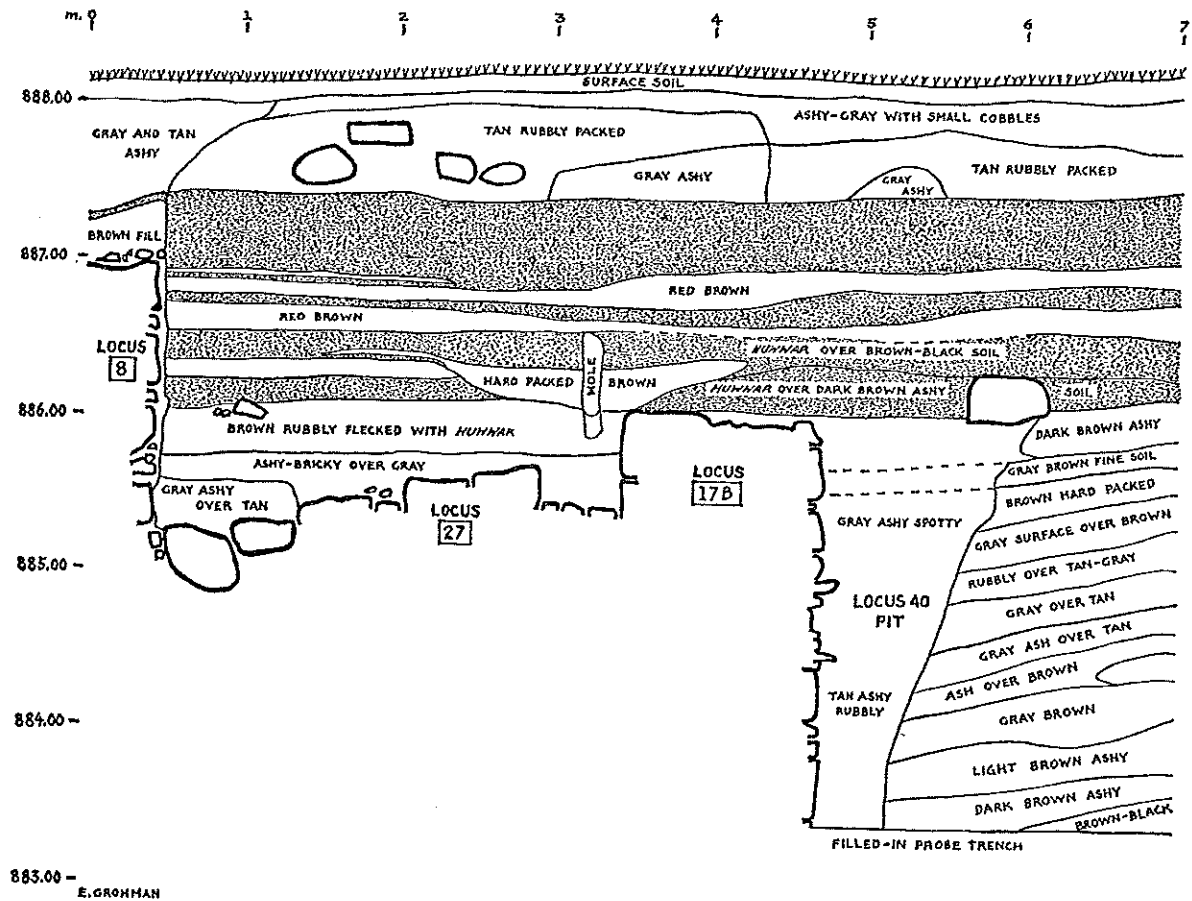
Beneath the grass and surface soil were two occupational layers over fill (Loci B. 1:2 and 4 = 5) with some small scattered remnants of stone structures. Not enough architecture remained to determine the size and purpose of the installations. One exception was Locus B. 1:3, an oval-shaped mound of fist-sized stones (with mud mortar) lined with some larger stones. This installation (associated with Locus B. 1:4 = 5) measured 3.25 m. where the north balk intersected it, and it extended .90 m. into the Square. At first it appeared to be a burial cairn, but sectioning into the locus showed that it was solid rock fill with no skeletal remains whatsoever. Its precise function remains undetermined. The pottery in the mixed fill of Loci B. 1:2 and 4 = 5 ranged back to the Roman and Hellenistic periods, but the two layers clearly date from the late and early Arab periods.

Locus B. 1:3 was built on a pile of large stones, most of which were mason-cut. Later excavation revealed that the pile of stones was fill in Locus B. 1:10, an oval-shaped installation lined with mason-cut stones. Seven to eight courses of lining were ultimately uncovered. The pit for the structure was cut through three meters of occupational debris and fill. When the installation was constructed chink stones and loose, ashy soil were used to fill the space between the edge of the

pit and the stone lining. The result was an excellent example of a foundation trench (Plate XI: A and Figure 3). Whether the installation continued above ground level and whether it was covered are questions which the available data do not answer.

At one time the installation must have been a kiln (lime or brick) since .05-.07 m. thick layers of the inside faces of the lining stones (from top to bottom) were charred and partially separated from the rest of the block. The strong west and northwest winds at Heshon probably provided the forced draft necessary for such a deep kiln, but the problem of the type of fuel used is still a puzzle. The contents of the kiln were removed down to the level of the bottom course of lining stones, but there was no indication of any fuel (charred or otherwise) in the excavated portion.

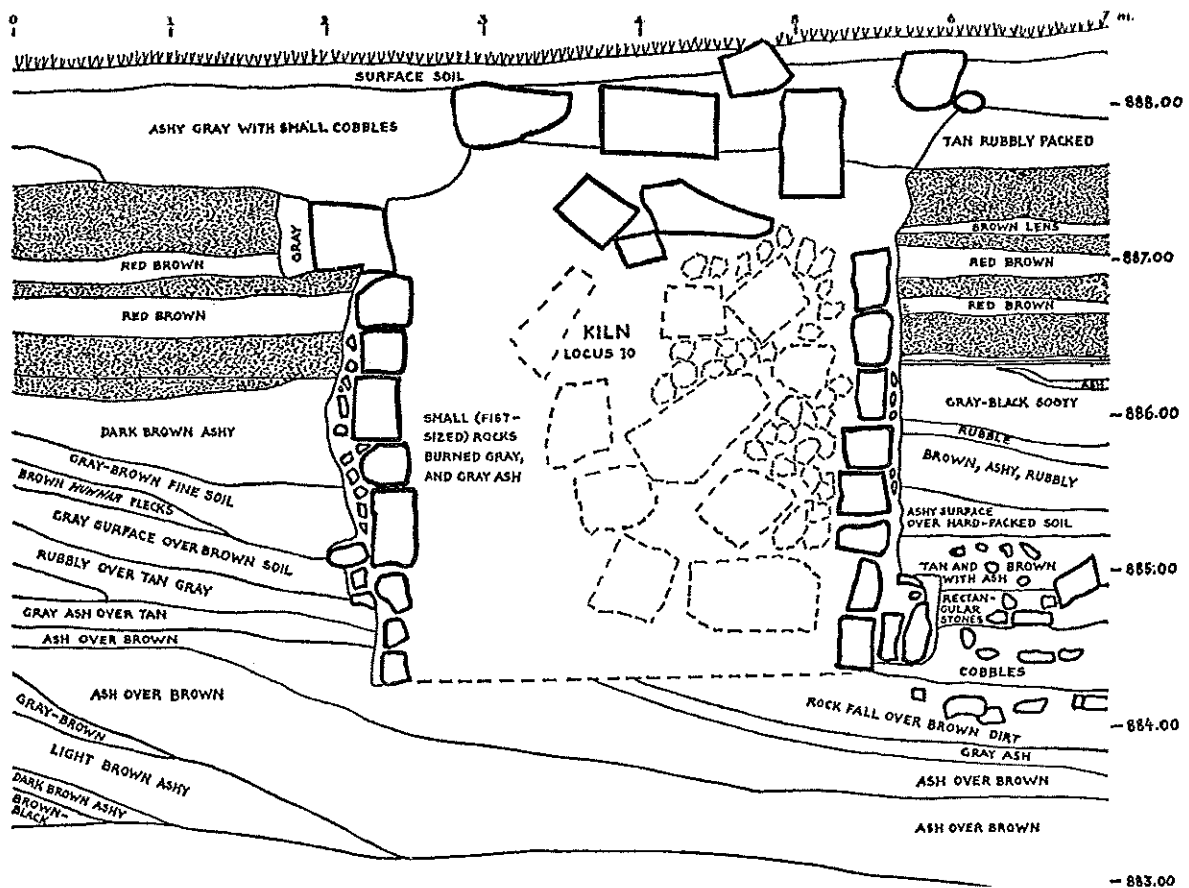
In order to make the Area safe for excavation the north balk was notched northward 2.25 m. at the top (for 3.50 m. of the balk length, the width of the kiln at the north balk). The fill in the notched sector gradually sloped down to the regular balk line (Plate XI: A). This operation revealed that the kiln was oval in shape, 3×4 m. wide. Furthermore, it gave a good profile of the contents of the kiln. On the east half to two-thirds were many large stones tumbled with open spaces between them. Most of these were mason-cut and they probably came from the acropolis area. This was true of the lining stones as well, and one stone in the bottom course appears to be a quarter of a column base. On the western side of the kiln a pile of burned limestone (ranging from fist-sized to smaller cobbles) covered the slope of the rock fall and extended from top to bottom of the kiln. Since the large stones were not charred like the lining stones, they were not likely part of the superstructure of the kiln. On the other hand, the open spaces between the tumbled stones and the lack of any fuel evidence militate against the view that the stones were placed there in preparation for being fired. It is more likely that after the kiln fell into disuse the pit was filled with its present contents.



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DEWEY M. BEEGLE

Figure 2. Section of west balk of Area B. Speckled layers indicate *huuwar*; boxed locus numbers are walls. Cf. Plate XII: B



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The stones were dumped in first (leaving gaps between them) and then the charred cobbles of limestone were dumped into the remaining space. Whether the latter represent slag from previous uses of the kiln is still an open question.

The pottery from the fill behind the stone lining of the kiln, Locus B. 1:10, plus the dating of the strata cut by the kiln indicate that it dates from the early Arab period, and consequently the fill is later.

Another installation associated with the Arab period was Locus B. 1:8, a long pit running almost the length of the south balk. In the main it followed the line of a robbed-out wall, a remnant of which protruded from the west balk in the southwest corner. The wall dates from the Arab period, since its foundation trench cut through all the earlier strata. The pit seems to date from the late Arab period since it was dug from Locus B. 1:2 in the southwest corner, and the tip lines of stage b of the pit fill come over the stump of the wall and slope downward to the east. Stage a, the latest, filled in the center of the elongated pit.

Beneath Loci B. 1:2 and 4 = 5 appeared Locus B. 1:6, a *haurwar* surface extending over the entire Square except where cut by Loci B. 1:8 and 10. This thick (.42-.57 m.) layer along the east balk was virtually level, but from there it sloped down slightly to the west. The slope at the west balk was slightly to the south. The layer of *haurwar* was practically devoid of pottery, thus the ceramic evidence for a date was dubious.

Locus B. 1:6 turned out to be one of a series of *haurwar* layers interlaced with layers of red-brown soil containing a considerable quantity of pottery. The thickness of this series averaged 1.24 m. The lack of any walls or other structures made it impossible to ascertain the function of the *haurwar* layers. The steep-sloping *haurwar* surfaces in D. 3 (cf. Area D report, *infra*) have some relationship to those in B. 1. Hopefully, if adjacent Squares are opened in the next season the answer will be forthcoming.

It would seem that these *haurwar* layers were essentially

man-laid. There was evidence of patching and resurfacing among the layers, and a post hole (?) in the west balk dug from Locus B. 1:13 was clearly man-made. The theory of water-laid layers must account for a large source of loose limestone on the acropolis that would have provided enough material to be laid down by water in irregular accumulations each up to .57 m. thick. On the other hand, some of the thinner layers, both *haurwar* and red-brown soil, could well have been water-laid.

Loci B. 1:9 and 12, the thick layers of interlaced soil, have a definite sequence. Locus 9 dates from the Arab period whereas Locus B. 1:12 (aside from some contamination in the south central section from the Pit B. 1:8) is pre-Arab, largely from the Byzantine and Roman periods. The soil beneath Locus B. 1:14 = 15, the earliest of the *haurwar* layers, contained pottery mainly from the Byzantine-Roman horizons back through the Hellenistic period. Although these soil layers appear to be fill for surfaces (perhaps partially water-laid), the sequence gives a fairly accurate picture of the occupational history of the site. Locus B. 1:14 produced a Rhodian jar handle with the inscription ΕΠΙ ΑΡΑΤΟΦΑΝΕΥΣ and a helios head (Plate XXIV: B). This eponym is dated between 220 and 180 B.C.

It was during the removal of the soil under Locus B. 1:15 (along the east balk) that the upper stones of Wall B. 1:17 appeared. A subsidiary balk on the north side of the wall showed a foundation trench for stage a, the upper rebuild of Wall B. 1:17 which appeared only in the east portion of the Square. Since Wall B. 1:17 A was sealed over by the *haurwar* layer of Locus B. 1:15, it would date from the Roman or Hellenistic periods. Although it was difficult to determine at the time of excavation because of rock fall, the east balk shows quite clearly that there was an a-stage of a northern extension (perhaps a tower) bonded into Wall B. 1:17. On removing Wall B. 1:17 A and excavating north of it, the tower extension appeared clearly (Plate XII: A) and it was designated Wall

B. 1:29. Wall B. 1:17 B was 1.05-1.10 m. wide and it ran southeast to northwest. A subsidiary balk on the north side indicated that a foundation trench (1.15-1.25 m. wide; Plate XII: B) cut all the layers from Locus B. 1:24 down. The same was true on the south side of Wall B. 1:17 B from Locus B. 1:30 down. Clearly the extant Wall B. 1:17 B represents the foundation of a wall which was razed to ground level. Apparently the builders dug a trench about 1.50 m. wide, lowered the large field stones, and erected the foundation wall a course at a time. The narrow trench space on each side was sufficient to chink small stones under the large ones, and then to fill the space with soil (Pl. XI: B). In the east part of the Square the foundation trench came down on a large, thick rock fall (Locus B. 1:56) which the builders used as a base for the foundation wall. In the west half of the Square, where Locus B. 1:56 did not exist, the trench was cut very deep. In a test probe north of Wall B. 1:17 along the west balk 4.04 m. of the foundation wall were exposed without revealing the bottom. Such a deep foundation must have been intended to keep sappers from tunneling under the wall. The fact that Wall B. 1:17 B curves slightly northward near the west balk seems to indicate that it follows the contour of the mound perimeter and that it probably was a fortification wall for the acropolis area. Locus B. 1:40 (Fig. 2) was originally considered a pit, but since it narrows down and runs into the regular foundation trench about 2.50 m. east of the west balk, it may well be an extension of the trench where the wall was getting very deep. At the west end of Wall B. 1:17 B Locus B. 1:23 ran up to it from the south and at times Locus B. 1:24 did so from the north, but no surface (neither north nor south) ran consistently up to Wall B. 1:17 B across the entire Square. The original surface associated with the wall may have been destroyed when the wall was leveled. In any case, the pottery from the foundation trenches (both north and south) dates from Iron III and earlier, therefore it would appear that the wall was erected in the Persian period.

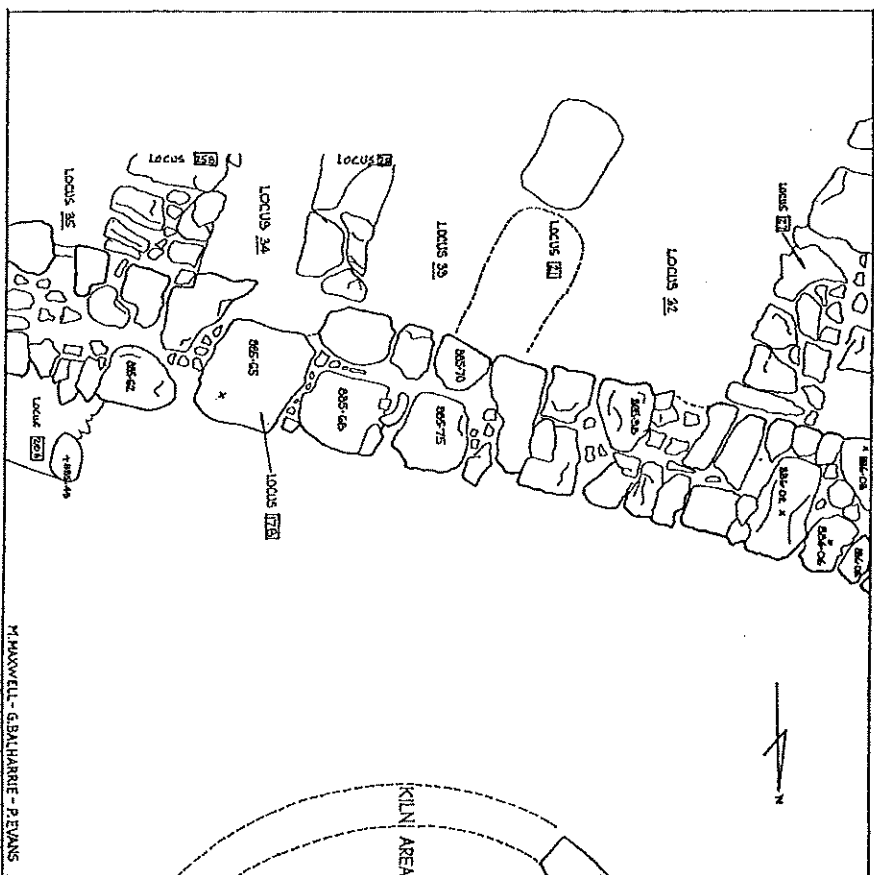


Figure 4. Plan of Wall 17 B in Area B and adjacent architectural features. Cf. Plate XII: B

Walls associated with Wall B. 1:17 were B. 1:21, 25, 27, and 28 (Pl. XII: A, Fig. 4). All of these were butted up against Wall B. 1:17 from the south. Each of the Walls B. 1:21 and 28 had only one course extant, while Wall B. 1:25 had two courses in what was considered stage a, and three in stage b. No foundation trenches were discernible with Walls B. 1:21 and 25, but one appeared on the east side of Wall B. 1:28 at the south balk. Locus B. 1:30 ran up to Wall B. 1:27 on the east

side, but underneath that layer was a clear-cut foundation trench. The latest pottery from the trench was Iron III. The depth of Wall B. 1:27 is uncertain inasmuch as the bottom was not reached after uncovering a depth over 1.50 m. Since Locus B. 1:30 ran under Walls B. 1:21, 28 and 25, Wall B. 1:27 must be the earliest wall associated with Wall B. 1:17. The large field stones in Wall B. 1:21 appeared to be the same as in Wall B. 1:17 A. Because of the large rock fall around Walls B. 1:25 and 28 it was not feasible to get surfaces relating them precisely; therefore it is not possible to date them more accurately than to the general period of early Hellenistic or late Iron III. The purpose of so many walls built in such a small space is a question. Possibly these were part of a gate complex with the small cubicles used as store rooms. Since only the lower courses of the foundations remained there were no related artifacts to give a hint as to their functions. Perhaps the expansion of Area B in another season will throw some additional light on the problem.

The loci excavated below Locus B. 1:19 to the north of Wall B. 1:17 B provided some interesting objects and pottery. Below Locus B. 1:24 was found the articulated skeleton (except for the head) of a lynx or cheetah-like animal (Plate XXI: A). Below this locus more and more Iron III and Iron II pottery appeared. Loci B. 1:44 and 49 each produced one piece of Early Iron Age bichrome pottery. In addition Locus B. 1:49 contained one piece of Mycenaean ware. Probably the most exciting and important object from Area B was the five-line ostrakon from Locus B. 1:52 deep in the probe along the west balk.⁹

Since the close of the season's work did not permit peeling all the layers revealed in the test probe, the probe was filled up to the top of Locus B. 1:52 and most of the rest of the Square north of Wall B. 1:17 B was peeled down to this surface. The first task in the next season will be a unique one—that of digging out one's own probe fill.

⁹ See the article by Frank M. Cross, Jr. on this ostrakon on p. 223 of this number of the *AUSS*.