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Excavations at Palaikastro. II: § 6.—Block δ

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of β 22, which is a similar cupboard underneath the stairs, might lead one to expect here a store of vases. A fine painted fragment and a clay animal from the bottom of a cup are however the only finds noted, besides, as under the stairs built over the bath-room in the first house, a clay lamp, which is a natural thing to find in a place that must always have been dark. In the rooms N. of the entrance are traces of earlier walls. To 27 no door has been found. 26, 28-32 cannot be entered from the street, and may belong to some unexcavated house on the West.

In 32 was found a large tub like one in β 37, and in 30 a pair of electrum earrings. The quantity of black earth in this room testified to the destruction of the house by fire.

Rooms 33-38.—33-36 have no external entrance. 37 and 38 may perhaps have been some kind of shop. The whole width of 37 is open to the street. A double entrance, with door-jambs of the usual form, leads into the inner room, in which were four pithoi, one lying on its side across the others. Another contained peas in a carbonised state. With these was a painted Mycenaean lipped cup, the mouth of which was closed with a strainer. On a ledge on the North wall is a stone sink, connected with a conduit of channelled blocks, which runs through the outer room and, making a double turn under the corner of the wall, empties itself into the street. The channel is covered with stone slabs. This sink and drain, together with the jars, and a collection of four small stone pierced blocks of similar size, that were probably weights, make it clear that the rooms were used for some industrial purpose. The outer and inner rooms suggest the combination of shop and store-room that one sees now in Cretan towns.

Rooms 39-46.—To make these rooms clear more excavation is needed. 39 opens on the street, as if leading into a house. 40 and 41 were stores of common pottery; 40 especially containing large numbers of small plain cups.

§ 6.—BLOCK δ .

This block, although not fully uncovered, is already the largest yet found (area 1800 sq. m.). It contains several houses, one being in point of architecture the finest yet found. Unfortunately this excellence has led to much destruction, for the freestone blocks used in the best walls are prized as building material by the modern inhabitants. In consequence much of this insula, especially the West end, is completely ruined. There has also been much rebuilding, by which the level has been raised. Thus the fine pavement of the main street in front of this block is secondary: the earlier street was at the level of the bottom of the gutter, which is in fact formed of the part of the earlier pavement left uncovered by the construction of the new way.

Rooms 1-16.—The plan is hard to make out, because of the absence of doorways. In 1, 7, and 10 there were walls of an earlier house. Rooms 8-16 make up a fairly clear house, with a door on Street $\gamma\delta$. Near the entrance are the stairs.

3 and **4** stand out clear and square amongst the irregularities of the surrounding walls, **4** being of special interest, because from it came the big find of painted 'fillers' described below. These were all close together, resting on a floor of concrete, within a few inches of the surface, and the ploughshare must for years have almost broken off the points of the long conical pillars, which were resting on their large ends.

Rooms 46-48 form a house entered from the side-street, much ruined and not completely excavated. R. of the entrance is a mass of earlier wall, over which passes an additional doorway to **16** in the house described above. The street by the door and further S. contained at a lower level than the threshold a great deal of Kamáres pottery, contemporary with that from the cemeteries; this deposit will be discussed below (p. 304). It is probable that when the later house was built, the site was levelled up with the débris of older structures; the lifting of the pavement in *Room 32* disclosed Kamáres sherds. Outside the main threshold is the usual recessed seat. In **45** were half a dozen large pear-shaped pseudamphorae.

Rooms 18-40 shew the most interesting architectural features in the block, and here also the process of rebuilding can be traced most clearly. The main feature of the earlier house was the megaron (**19**), with its four pillars at the corners of a square unpaved space, all lying below the floor-level of the later house. The foundation of its western wall can be traced, broken by two doorways with ashlar jambs of the usual type. Part of its southern wall runs under the later wall of **25**, and probably under the pavement of **26**. The limit towards the street is shewn on the plan by dotted lines; its position was fixed by the only actual remains, two doorjambs, one at each corner. It was thus a room about 5 m. square. The entrance, now concealed by later structures, must have been on the main street, from **20** or **21**. The square pillar, faced with plaster, found in **20**, stood in the outer court near the entrance. **18** was an inner room only accessible by passing through the megaron. Near by are numerous other traces of the earlier house. The northern part of room **28** is at a higher level than the other half; so also **26** is higher than **27**. In room **29** there are remains of walls at a lower level than the remains of pavement. The amount of slab pavement at both levels, but especially at the higher, is very noticeable. The three pillar bases in **20** must, from the irregularity of their position, have fallen from an upper floor. Further, of the two of them that shew taper, one tapers upwards, the other downwards. One is much disintegrated by fire, and bedded on charcoal; there are many other indications that the first house was destroyed by fire.

When the second house was built, the megaron was covered up, and a fresh entrance was made at a higher level. The level of the street was also raised; to this period must also belong all the fine façade from **20** to **36**. The façade of **18** is probably of the older period, as it is not parallel with the edge of the gutter as the rest is. The level of **21** was raised by packing it with stone blocks; thus an entrance was made at a higher level, to which a slab fixed across the gutter served as a bridge. To this later structure belongs the impluvium **23**, a paved space $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. square, surrounded by a higher pavement. That it was open to the sky is shewn by the fact that it has a drain running down to the street, along the West side of **21**, and emptying itself into the gutter just on the right hand side of the door. This drain, like that in γ **37**, is made of stones channelled out, and seems under the pavement of the later, and above that of the earlier house. The paved square in **40**, formed of two huge slabs, may have been a similar impluvium, but this part of

the house is much destroyed. **34, 35, 36** on the right of the doorway have no entrances. Further, the inner side of the front wall is not faced at all, but left perfectly rough. Considering also the rise of level, it seems likely that these were massive substructures rather than rooms.

Room 38 was remarkable for the discovery of two large standard lamps and a highly polished lamp-stand of steatite. The finest lamp was .43 m. high, the shaft being decorated with bold mouldings, the other .28 m. high and .30 m. in diameter. The lamp-stand ended at the top in a flat table with ear-handles. Fragments of a white limestone base were also found; this had four perforations, and was probably the lower part of a lamp-stand. The most westerly part of the block yet excavated shews remains of a doorway facing W. and a good deal of pavement at two levels is preserved, but most of the walls have disappeared.

§ 7.—BLOCKS ϵ AND σ .

In Block ϵ at least five houses can be clearly made out. It is triangular and covers about 760 sq. m. It is separated from γ by a narrow lane that runs up the hill from the main street, from σ by a narrow, crooked, lane and from the unexcavated Block ζ by a straight, well-paved street. This street, as running level, has no gutter like the lanes that lead down to the main street on both sides of ϵ .

Rooms 1-18.—This house occupies the northern part of the block, where the ground slopes downwards to the main street, from which it is entered by two steps, leading into a vestibule (**2**) with a stone bench on the left and a door on the right. The earth in this region was very thin and the exact position of the doors was lost. The left-hand suite of rooms (**4-7**) could only be entered from room **3**; otherwise they are entirely shut off from the rest of the house. Owing to the slope of the ground the two lower rooms of this suite are reached by steps. Room **4** goes deeper than the others, the subsoil having been cut away. It contained an immense mass of pottery. Besides sixteen bowls, some of them painted with Mycenaean running patterns, and cups of various shape, there were no less than 980 of the small handleless unpainted cups so common in Mycenaean houses—by far the largest hoard of them found in any room. Room **4** contained the bottom of a clay bath-tub, like those sometimes used for interments. Another find of note was made in the passage between **10** and **11**—four large vases of the form shewn in p. 324, Fig. 24, No. 4.

Rooms 18-20.—This small house lies S. of the last, and opens on the paved lane γ - ϵ . Wedged in between two larger houses, it consists of only three rooms. In **18**, which was well paved with slabs, two saddle-querns were found standing on projecting masses of masonry. As an open-mouthed pithos was found standing below each of them, they were probably in situ.

Rooms 21-28 occupy the S.W. corner of ϵ . Some earlier walls beneath them require further investigation. The fine concrete floor and pavement in the two halves of **24** point to this having been the best part of the house, just as the stone trough and saddle-quern and coarse pottery found in **28** suggest that this, furthest from the front door, was the kitchen.