

CHAPTER NINE

LANE K

Lane K is an irregularly sloping, *c.* 15 m long passage, between Houses C and B and the robust foundations of House D (*Figs. 101, 119–120*). It had been excavated, to a great extent, in the 1957 campaign.¹⁸⁴ In 1961, only little remained to excavate. The lane with its irregular rocky ground had been roughly adapted to its purpose as a communication route between the upper Borgo and the lower, western area, by the quarrying of a block (measuring 1.40 × 0.50 × 0.30 m) and the placing of a levelling fill of greyish soil. The sloping level of the soil can still be seen in the preserved stratigraphic profile beneath walls K2-K3 and in indications of a corresponding level on the opposite walls C1-B1-B7. The Lane includes the wall block K1, a part of wall C4 of House C, and the later walls K2 with its superposed adjunct K3. It also includes the short K4 which was the continuation of the late wall C11 in House C and which blocked Lane K in a north–south direction (as part of the new structure K2-K3-K4-C11). Wall C11-K4 is part of the post-earthquake, Period 3 reconstruction of House C. However, the original Lane K was essentially a Period 1 feature.

While block K1 is part of the early House C and is set in a small fill on the tufa rock, the later walls K2-K4 rest on a substantial brownish earth fill, increasing in thickness along the slope. The earth remaining after the 1957 activities represented the lower, earlier part of the stratification of Lane K. In 1961, no clear stratigraphy was observed in this soil. Yet, the drying and colour change with time of different strata in the fill made it possible, in the 1990s, to distinguish, in the remaining fill under K2, two sloping strata separated by a visible demarcation line: (a) one levelling fill on the rock, 0.20–0.30 m thick, greyish, rather loose and with small stones, including several fragments of rough, hand-made pottery of late 8th early 7th century type, and (b) a second, higher stratum, yellow-brownish, harder and topped by more and bigger stones, quite clearly laid as a supporting fill for the substantial wall K2.

Wall K1 (Section T26, *Pl. 37*). This wall is clearly related to wall C4 of House C and consists of four blocks, counting the protruding header of C4. It is standing on soil, and has the function to fill out an empty void in the rising rock outside House C. A block of wall C4, laid as a header in room Cb, protrudes into this void area and joins another block laid as a header. On top of these two blocks are laid two other blocks, as headers if seen

from Lane K, as stretchers parallel to wall C4 if seen from above. The blocks measure: Course I: (1) header in wall C4, protruding 0.35 m; (2) header 0.40 × 0.36 m. Course II: (1) header 0.98 × 0.47 × 0.35 m; (2) header 0.75 × 0.32 × 0.18 m.

Wall K4 was a continuation of the post-earthquake wall C11 in room Ca of House C, situated on top of a major fill both in room Ca and in Lane K (*Fig. 116*). Walls C11/K4 were part of a new building together with walls K2 & K3. C11 and K4 were dismantled in 1962 to facilitate further study and communication within the area. Wall K4, as preserved in 1961, consisted of one major block and a smaller one. There was a piece of another, broken and eroded block on top.

Wall K2 was obviously important and strongly built, and provided with a number of indications of a floor level (*Pl. 38*). It is *c.* 11 m long and consists of two courses with all blocks laid as headers. Course I consists of 14 blocks measuring (from east): (1) 0.50 × 0.28 m; (2) 0.49 × 0.52 m; (3) 0.46 × 0.52 m; (4) 0.45 × 0.54 m; (5) 0.48 × 0.49 m; (6) 0.44 × 0.52 m; (7) 0.37 × 0.52 m; (8) 0.50 × 0.46 m; (9) 0.48 × 0.48 m; (10) 0.48 × 0.48 m; (11) 0.48 × 0.46 m; (12) 0.46 × 0.43 × 0.90 m; (13) 0.50 × 0.38 × 0.92 m; (14) 0.46 × 0.43 × 0.92 m. Course II consists of 15 blocks measuring (from east): (1) 0.45 × 0.40 × 0.94 m; (2) 0.52 × 0.47 × 0.88 m; (3) 0.48 × 0.51 × 0.90 m; (4) 0.49 × 0.48 × 0.98 m. From block 5 (meeting point of transverse wall C11-K4) onwards there is a slight, but clear change in direction and a series of cuttings indicating a (floor) level: (5) 0.50 × 0.43 × 1.05 m; (6) 0.46 × 0.51 × 0.73 m; (7) 0.47 × 0.52 × 0.92 m; (8) 0.48 × 0.50 m (broken); (9) 0.47 × 0.48 m (broken); (10) 0.44 × 0.50 × 0.92 m; (11) 0.42 × 0.47 × 0.99 m; (12) 0.45 × 0.45 m (broken); (13) 0.46 × 0.46 × 1.02 m; (14) 0.51 × 0.42 × 1.02 m; (15) 0.45 × 0.47 m (broken).

Wall K3 is *c.* 7 m long and, as a continuation of canal Q14, seems to have had a function as a kind of drainage canal, possibly to protect wall K2 (*Pl. 38*). The eight preserved blocks are laid as stretchers: The blocks measure (from east): (1) 0.92 × 0.32 m (broken); (2) 0.86 × 0.40 × 0.48 m; (3) 0.98 × 0.38 × 0.40 m; (4) 0.82 × 0.35 × 0.45 m; (5) 0.92 × 0.30 × 0.37 m; (6) 0.98 × 0.42 × 0.42 m (here, at the same point as wall K2, also wall K3 changes direction slightly); (7) 0.76 × 0.38 × 0.42 m; (8) 0.85 × 0.46 × 0.42 m.

¹⁸⁴ Neither notebooks nor finds have been preserved from this campaign.

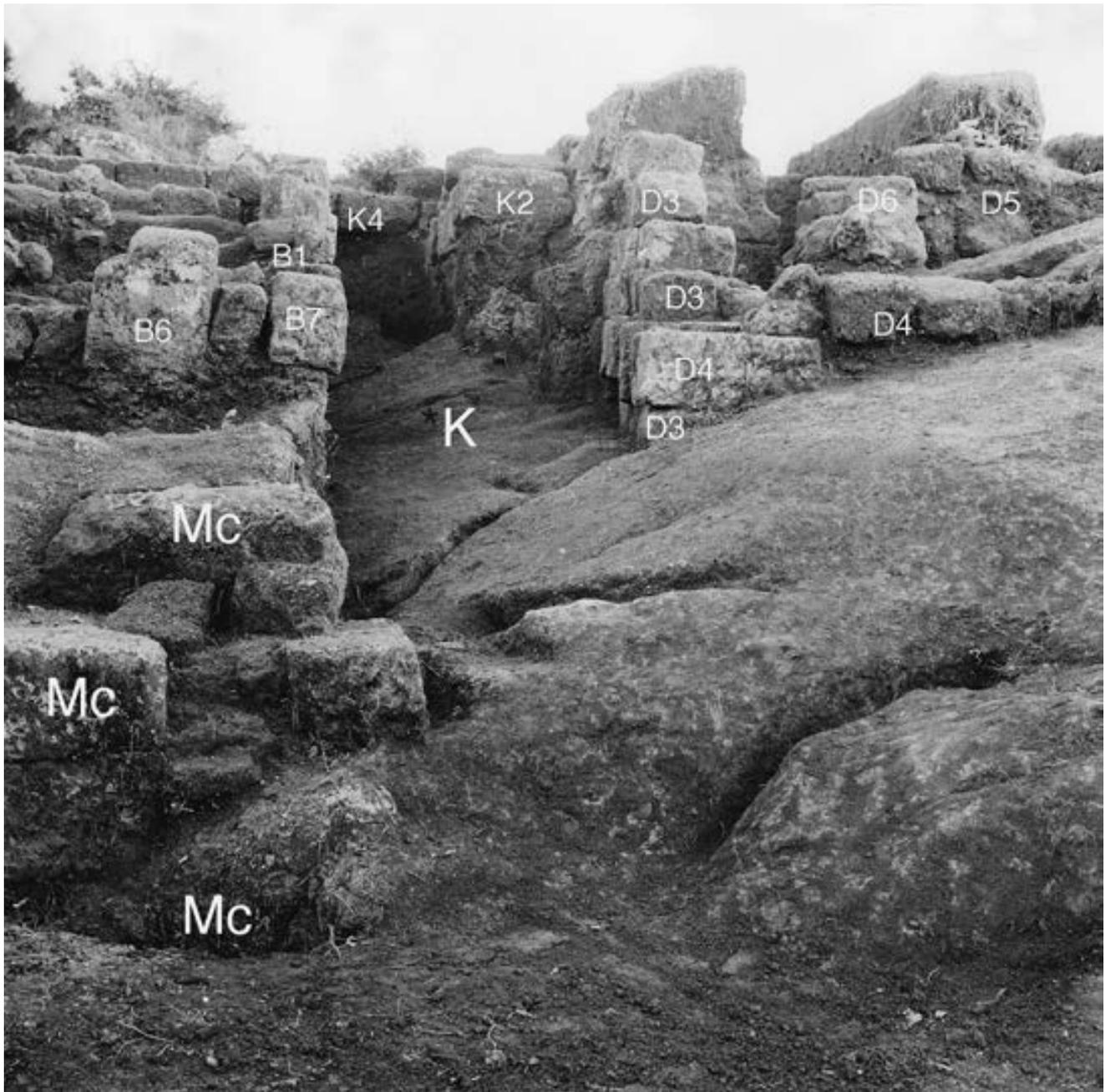


Fig. 120. Lane K between Houses B and D seen from below (from the north-west). Photograph by B. Blomé.

STRATIGRAPHY

The ceramic material found in 1961–1962 was, from a stratigraphic point of view, divided into three groups: (1) the material found in the remaining fill and accumulation (Find group 61-180 = Pohl, str. 1); (2) the sherds found in the earth of the lower, western part of the lane (Find groups 61-113, 61-181 = Pohl, str. 2); and (3) the sherds found among stones and cracks in the rock in the same part of Lane K (Find group 62-178 = Pohl, str. 3).¹⁸⁵ All or most of this material should reflect the earliest use of Lane K:

Stratum 1. Etrusco-Corinthian ware and Uncertain painted ware (2); Bucchero (17); Buccheroid Impasto (3); Brown Impasto (2);

Finer Various Coloured Advanced Impasto (1); Red-slip and Late Red-slip ware (27); Internal Red-slip ware (19); Kitchen ware (15); Various Impasto wares (9); Large jars and *dolia* (3).

Stratum 2. Proto-Corinthian ware (1); Italo-Geometric, Etrusco-Corinthian and Uncertain painted wares (10); Bucchero (12); Brown Impasto (4); Buccheroid Impasto (2); Finer Various Coloured Advanced Impasto (2); Red-slip ware and Black Red-slip ware (28); Internal Red-slip and Internal Burnished Red-slip ware (7); Kitchen ware (32); Cooking-stand: Scheffer Type IIA (1).

Stratum 3. Transitional Impasto (7); Red-slip ware (1); Impasto bobbin (1).

¹⁸⁵ Cf. *San Giovenale* V:2, 122–131.