Metal Melting pit in 3 stages of excavation

See sketch, p. 46

After removal of Bag 1

After removal of Bag 3

After removal of Bag 6

All photos taken from N.E.
Photos used for removal of contents

We follow the surface we reached yesterday s. of the pit (top at 5.63) with pail 21 but we lose it south and at the north west corner of the trench. We terminate pail 21 at a level even more or less with that surface. This covers some 5.00 m N-S of the Trench.

In the southern area previously excavated with pail 18, no surface was traced but we stop excavation in the north part of the trench to allow for further thinking on how to study and remove the pits. We excavate the melting pit.

We shall make an arbitrary division. The southern part to be excavated now with pail 22 (under pail 18) will reach to the N. line of the sounding in Tr. 2081, i.e. it will 3.80 m long N-S.

Pail 4:22 under pail 18. Search of Brown earth:
From 5.71/5.66 to 5.57/5.55
Shells: 2,520 g. Scrappy mixture to 7% c. but fair proportion of Mimas.
Other: bone, iron, shells, corroded c.
Inv: C6366
MSC 19d serrated iron blade

Some slag is found in the fill, also some rounded cobble, somewhat smaller than a small egg each. Their use remains a mystery. They have been found in 7A c. fills but not on a floor or set up which would indicate their function.
We continue pail 22. In Trench 5 they terminate pail 19. Rubble begins to appear in various areas. The NW extension of wall 1 of Building V is being defined better. There are pieces of iron scattered in the fill of pail 22. There are also small areas with darkish fill. Otherwise the fill is soft brown earth with some small stones.

We terminate pail 22 and we shall now dig in the N. area of the Trench with

Pail 5: 23 under pail 21
From 5.62 m. to 5.47 m. 5.40 S
Softish brown earth
Sherds: Scraps to 7th C. Links w. 21 + 22.

Other
In u. more of C6366; C6367: imported kyphos.
Cycladic?
The aim in shifting back and forth is to facilitate the removal of deep earth. We are now finding a layer full of small stone and we terminate pail 23. In the N. part of the area pail 23 has stones on top of a thin accumulation of sand.

Pail 5: 24 under pail 23 [pit]
From 5.57 to 5.38 m.
Brown earth, some sand, many small shios.
Sherds: 2,100 yrs. joins with 23
- Very strappy - to Th. C.

Other: shells, bones
In u. C6368: Cor. kotyle frag; C6369: undig
BG cup base.
The S. part of the trench will be taken down next week.

Pail 5: 25 under pail 22
From 5.57 N/5.55 S to 5.46 N/5.36 S
Brone each and some burnt patches.
Cordone 1900 gms. Shell T.M.C. Joins 4,
24, 23, 22, 21.
Other: shell, plaster, bone

It turns out that he fill with the sand and small stones is in a limited area and after a couple of hours it finishes. We have used pail 24 for its location. We also terminated pail 23 at about the same level. There were several charred and bones in pail 24 which may have been a pit about a foot s. of the N. scoop and 1.30 wide.

Bones and some burnt patches, a few small pebbles turn up in pail 25.

We have left a ring of earth around the furnace pit. We shall try to remove it in one piece by lowering the surrounding earth and then detaching it. We do some further cleaning inside and find that along the south side there was an opening. Right next to it was found yesterday a curving piece of either kiacotta or metal which we labelled as possible tuyere slot. The opening was made by making a vertically cut into the orange hard packed soil surrounding the furnace. A watercolour will be made by G. Bianco. A bottom layer of dark fill and the beginning of the underlying yellowish/white layer is collected in Bag 7 (pail 20).
digging a little further into the W. scarp we get the surface through which the pit of the furnace was made: 5.665 m. It is orange/red, hard packed. The height from here to the bottom reached with pick 7 in. (at 5.35) c. 0.32 m. Shortly after we find the east side of the opening for the bellows. There must have been a channel cut into the floor to the south for the opening and a 0.11 m. below the floor level. It is 0.27 m. wide. The furnace will be removed tomorrow.

In the S. part of the trench we are beginning to trace the south (interior) face of the orthostate wall of Building 7. The north face site is still under unexcavated fill. We have reached the level of the bottom of the sounding in Trench 2081; we terminate with pit 25. The north block is at level 5.485 m. The level at which we stopped pit 25 is uneven and sloping down to 5.37 m.
Roll 4, Fr. 15
Melting pit before removal
(also in colour)

June 30

We shall dig in the south part of the trench and up to the Minoan wall which we shall try to trace.

Pail 6:26 under pail 5:25 (5 of Min.
From 5:46/5:37 to 5:30/5:25 wall)
Brown earth with some burnt patches.
Sherds: 2945 sh. Mostly MP/LLM, but some
7th c. B.C.

Other: plaster, shells, bone, burnt soil, for water
190350: stone or shoulder of rays.

We photograph the melting furnace which we shall remove. We have prepared a zembal with sand to put it in.

The Minoan wall has been traced to almost the east scarp. It follows a curving line as if it buckled. S. of it start to appear small blocks, piece of plaster, near the east scarp a black charcoal layer fills which got over the top of the wall. We stop immediately, excavation here and we move north.

To trace the N. face of the wall. Here we use

Pail 6:27 under pails 23 and part 9:25
From 5:49N/5:46 to c. 5:35
Brown earth and small stones.
Sherds: 2600 gp. join w. pail 20 7th c.
Into 7th c. w. sort: Minoan.

Other: black earthen for water, sieving, iron, bone, shell

In p. 25.

The ‘furnace’ cracked in 4 large pieces.
It has been put in two zembals.
There is a dark patch at the south limit of the area dug with pail 27. It is at 5.35 m. and there are a few pebbles. It could be part of a very rough surface which lay over part of the destroyed Minoan wall. The burning noted earlier may be part of the same "surface". There are still bits of iron. We shall try to even out the earth to about this level. Near the platform of earth we have left behind the retaining wall and right next to its south end is a small area with small stone chips, perhaps from some building activity in post-Minoan times. The chips clear off the same level as the burning. Perhaps the two are connected. We shall change pail. A sample of burnt soil kept

Pail 6:28 under pail 27
From 5.35 m. to 5.18 m.
Clayey brownish earth
Shards: 1580 g, [in "bag of joint sherds"] Mostly
Ima Age (some Minoan) Late: late 8th c. B.C.
Other: bones, shells, limpets
Inv: CG398 - E01BG apr 730-700 B.C.

The fill looks like silt. It is sticky, moist with hardly any sherds. We reach a patch of dark soil in the SE area and nearby a collection of limpets - we collect them separately.
we bring the level of the area N. of the Minyan wall down to the level of the lip-pots (5.18m) and then replace pail 28 with

Pail 6: 29 under pail 28
Silty earth
From 5.18m to 4.95m
Sheds: 565 shs. scoria to late 8th. cent. B.C. Other: bone
Inv.:

we called a sample of burnt earth overlying the south face of the Minyan wall here the east scarp (pail 26). This should be compared to the contents of the burnt earth of pail 27, N. of the wall.

Pail 29 is pure silt; only a few bones. At the very N. corner of the trench there are loose small stones. They may be of the royal terrace we have encountered N. of the Minyan road in other trench.

we find four orthostate blocks beautifully preserved! We measure the distance of the orthostate facade from the NE corner of Building J. It is 39.79 m long!

we start a new pail from the top of the orthostates

Pail 6: 30 under pail 29
Silty earth
From 4.95m to 4.40 m E.O.
Sheds: 800 shs. Mixed scoria to late 8th. cent. B.C. Other: shells, bones, charcoal
Inv.
There are now some small stones in the fill, probably debris from the retaining wall and face N. of the road. There are also a few fallen blocks and in the midst some charcoal, a sample of which is kept.

The length of the large facade blocks is as follows. The westernmost one is 0.70 m as revealed, and it continues under the scarp. The block which has some yet not understood cavities at the top is 1.02 m. The last block of which the east end is not visible is 1.40. The level of the top rises up gently to E, from 4.88 to 4.95 m.
The silt continues near the wall but seems to end further N. where brownish earth appears. We shall remove the rest of the silt w. pail 30. In it are now quite a few small, rough stones. Occasionally the area S. of the wall is cleaned still using pail 26.

We reach the bottom of the top course and change pails.

Pail 6:31 under pail 30
Silty fill w. small stones, bit of charred
From 4:40 to 4:135
Shreds 1400 shreds, gr. ca. 50 sherd. 1-1/2" Other some pieces, I in Age
Inv. 3 times

The central block and the one immediately to its E. are each 0.43 m tall. We find the east face of the westmost block. It is exactly 0.70 m wide. Its bottom has not been reached. The blocks fit perfectly. The surfaces are excellently preserved.

The westmost block continues down, like an orthostate although it is unusually narrow. Just within the scarp we see the edge of another block. We reach its bottom. It is also 0.43 m tall.

So far we have been digging only the silt fill. To its N. is brownish earth which we leave unexcavated.
Roll 4, Fr. 32

S. part of trench
From E

S. part of trench
From NW

Stone tumble S. of the Minoan wall

The trench is cleaned for photographs.
One is of the collapsed stone S. of the wall where we had stopped digging with pail 26. The other is of the N. facade as seen at this stage (during use of pail 31).

We shall now start removing the collapsed wall blocks. The purpose is, at the moment, to see if there is a partition wall, etc.

Pail 6: 32 under pail 26
From 5.30 / 5.25 to 4.96 m.
Fallen wall blocks
Shards: 900 g, 1/20 sh. Scrap (c. LHI
Other: plaster

In using pail 31 it appears that the silt may go under the bone layer. We have been preserving in the N. part of the large triangular area we have been digging N. of the Minoan wall. It may have been deposited over silt already there. It extends some 30 m. S. from the N. scarp and it slopes down south at the very north there is an accumulation of small stones and the level is 5.33. A little further south, where there are still small stones, it is at 4.80. Further south, it is at 4.68. We shall remove the bone earth and any loose small stone, etc.
Pail 33. Small loose stone will also be removed.

Pail 6: 33 under pail 4
From 4.331 / 4.685 to
Brown earth, small stone
Shards: c. 50 sherds, scarp (p. 111 II. B. sword handle)

Other: bones

In: 51532: whitestone
The earth fill finishes at level 4.90 ft where we had started pail 31 in the south area. We terminate pail 33 and include the northwest area in that dug with pail 31. Pail 31 will be for the sixty fill N. of the Minyan wall and all the way to the accumulation of small stone, not in the NW corner of the trench.

We reach a level with some burning near the SE corner and terminate pail 31. The rubble at the N. end of the trench slopes down towards the south. We shall now use:

Pail C: 34 under pail 31
Brown earth; small stones, bits of charcoal
From 4.14 to 3.68 m
Sherds: 3,580 gms. Iron Age bar. Also some LM III
Other: plaster, charcoal, bone
In v.

After a couple of paces of what is now basically brownish earth with numerous small stones, there is still another patch of charcoal. We collect a sample.
July 6

We acquire an extra worker this morning (Nikos Beladakis). He digs south of the Minoan wall with pail 32. North of the wall pail 34 is being used. The silt has finished and the brown earth contains progressively more rubble. There are also now some sherds.

We find the retaining wall facing the north line of the road. It is 2.85m beyond the N. facade of the wall. Above the bell the top ashlar course is a series of orthostats in the case of the latter. The fill continues to be the same but we arbitrarily decide to change pail.

Pail 6:35 under pail 34 from 3.68 to 3.04m (road surface) Brown earth packed with small stones (2700 g.s. 100-150 g.) All Mino. Late. Open.

Inv.

The small rough stones are clearly part of the retaining wall and also possibly from tumble from the highest part of the hill to the north.

The depth of the trench and the numerous strata make digging a difficult and slow process.

We expose a small part of the krepis of the Minoan wall which is a little below the level reached.