3 June 1977

A résumé of activities since Saturday, 28 May entry (with 29, 30, 31 May holidays).

I have been in Athens, for a short time, arranging sieving activities for this coming week. All seems on schedule. All personnel seem to be arriving on time, as well. All arrangements, including financial—on which I spend much time but do not describe here—seem to have been taken care of. Our funds for this summer are now on hand, a series of checks which can be deposited (and charged into drachmae) when the need arises. Almost $18,000, slightly less than half of the total year's budget.

On the site: sand cleaning continues, and will continue for another four or five days. By then all areas will be clean, as originally hoped. We are slightly behind schedule, but this should not affect any major planning. About 2/3 has been piled up alongside the cliff on the west, with attention paid to the fact that the beach should not be closed off to others by the great mounds already accumulating.

No changes in the upper (northern) section. To the south (see p. 36f. also): Buildings 4, 8, D: no change. A remains to be partially cleared, but this can be done only at the last moment, when the approach to the dump can be removed without affecting our work.

(cont)
Note: For more detailed descriptions of all three structures, see NB 8.
Building E. This was discovered yesterday as well. During my two-day absence from the excavation work was going on. J.H. found a concentration of stones which suggested that there was a wall nearby. He correctly moved sand clearing to another area until my return. This building, a rather narrow one, lies due east of Building C. Its n.w. corner is made up of a slab, actually a reused threshold block (prehistoric, robbed out from below?) and its n.e. corner was crowned partially by a reused Minoan base. In a ground-door position, my guess is that the Minoan level cannot be far down from the general burnt surface of the later court and ground level. A huge slab just to the east of E may be another threshold block, not in situ - may also be a Minoan pillar base. The area was cleared generally, but nothing down to floor level: the clearing must await further work and arrival of the personnel.
In building groups will be a most interesting venture in clearing and planning. We
should be able to clear it completely during this single season. Here, no doubt, is under the
sand to the south.

A clay layer, from Building E and extending to the North and East some distance,
remains to be interpreted. What wash downs?

The only mine found so far is a rotten one of which only a small fragment was preserved.
The explosive material, yellow and crystalline in nature, was, however, intact. It will be
soon with this source of constant anxiety.

In the past three weeks (5 years!) has been taken care of by removal of all the
sand.
3 more days of sand, cleaning to go.

Issued on Building A yesterday afternoon. I now know that its northern east-west wall went to the east, with collapsed stored burning to the south of it. Most of the wall has been robbed out but, fortunately, some of the coursed stone remains. This is reported in detail in the book being kept by John McEnroe (#8), the archaeological sequence is robbing, building, fire, collapse and deflation, then robbing (by the moors), accumulation of clay layer and then sand over that is most interesting, the builders penetrated into Mycenaean levels and robbed out many of the better blocks from floor level and above. From the size of some of the slabs, the larger buildings of the Mycenaean period are in this general area indeed. 

Naturally will be herched during the summer.
7 June 1977

No chance sure that more of the deep sand is now gone, the pile of sand, although scoured out along the shoreline, is immense. A tree in the se corner of the property has been removed since it was on top of building E. More of the clay and sand on top of the building was removed — no more of the walls, however, was exposed.

At the end of the day a new wall (not seen yet by myself) was exposed, along the eastern property line. Today we will clean it somewhat. It is apparently covered by the curious, ubiquitous layer of clay that typifies the se corner of the site. Meaning? Alluvium? Perhaps one of our geologists can help us with the answer.

(bldg. F)

(11am) The new wall, at a much lower level than the others (0.5m. max.?), is also covered by a thick layer of grey clay. No mortar, brown clay with no trace of cement. Relatively small slabs, smaller than those in the other walls discovered on the upper level. About 1.5 metres of the wall have been exposed. It would run parallel, however, to Bldgs. A-B. I still suspect that it may represent an earlier period of construction, still within the historical period. Classical (7th-3rd) pottery is in the surface of the surrounding earth, although at no point have we dug down alongside the wall.
Yesterday formal excavation was begun above the dump of CM I-II material in Trench 2A3, excavated by J. We started last year. The trench 5x5 was laid out over the area, being split up into 750 horizontal U-S units. The slope here and to the south was cleared of sand first, numerous walls showing up in the custom scarps.

This morning numerous walls, plus a bench (?) appeared — their relationship to the excavated area to the north is unclear.

The topsoil still has a number of days' work to clear off the last strip of sand, an E-W strip about half way down the hill. I have kept it busy at times doing other necessary work elsewhere: thus the delay (an expense we already incurred) over $4000 just on this one operation. But the effort has proven itself an enormous success just the same.

The new dry sieve is a great success. Too, with our sieve box above grout on a frame that can be pushed back and forth. A trial run with flotation was initiated this morning. The process to be used remains to be worked out.
A light wind from the north blowing clouds of sand, makes working very uncomfortable.
Trial run with new flotation screens in the sea, even though calm, is essentially a failure. We will attempt a new way, discarding some expensive equipment, to achieve the desired results. How this technique worked out in Peru, with the Pacific Swell so characteristic of the area (I suppose), remains a mystery to me.

A late trial w/a barrel and olive basket got in in a success. This in the pilot method for future flotation and should work quite well.

- 2 1/2 barrel
- 2 olive basket of metal
- 3 green mesh (fly-sieving)
- barrel filled w/ 1/2 of from own well.
- flat dipped out with a tea-strainer.

Tonight day should finish off the sand on the eastern scarp. On Monday we take on four more workmen to help the initial clearing of sand from the already partially cleared burned buildings along the south.

Excavation in trench 9A continues. It would appear that the 'dump' is defined on the west by a wall and that there is, between it and the eastern scarp, an enclosure of building which in effect will create a sealed deposit. Earliest (only) identifiable pottery is Amph 1A, which is excellent. If this continues we will be in luck. All of the expense and preparations for this one trench will have been worthwhile.

The entire upper level should be ready for excavation by Monday noon.
Newcomer Bill Cox and Harriet Blitzer have now arrived. Perhaps one day of sand removal remains to be completed. Giuliana brings up the question of possible collapsing scars during the winter and whether the scars along the southern edge of the property can be stabilized by throwing earth upon them. Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to general orientation for the newcomers and the beginning of excavation in the southern area near the burned buildings. The first job will be to begin to clear sand from around the burned buildings: this is still a good deal left which will occupy so far at least the first week. Excavation will continue in the "Dump".

By Wednesday four trenches will be under way: the dump (John Mc Enroe), the hilltop (MCS), the burned buildings, and one more trench on top of the hill (the westward extension of 76 trench 1B?). Backhoe removed in the old 4A area will be one of the first matters of business. LN and MCS are due to arrive tomorrow, with PB arriving the day afterwards (Tuesday).

13 June 1977

Lucy, MCS arrives, only PB to come tomorrow now, and our personnel will be complete.

From last Wednesday we have had 7 workmen, plus the 5 hired this morning make 9. The compaction group of 15 or so will be on from this coming Wednesday. Today we almost completed level 2 in 4A - by early tomorrow we should actually into the dump. It would appear now that we have found its western limit - a d.m. wall. Since it disappears into the bank on the South, we will also be leaving a bit for posterity to check us on.

Clearing of sand continues in and around the burned building B", the dot of which still remains
unseen. Brick-glazed sherds, even on the western entrance, suggest that we may have a classical structure (450 BC?) but they still may indicate earlier inhabitation in an area which is primarily later.

14 June 1977

Sandblasting continues in Building B — the eastern room is cleared down to the stone fill which is about 1m. of accumulation above the approximate location of the underlying floor level.

S. Diamant, who has been working around to begin the water sieving, was set his elements to experiment with the burned earth of level 3 in the Damp Area (Trench 9A this year). First experiments were successful, producing various bits of carbon, an olive pit, and what is definitely a carbonized seed. SD leaves early tomorrow morning, with Harriet Blitzer to continue the work for a week or so when the dump deposit should be essentially complete. The various carbonized bits to be studied later by a palaeobotanist, are being located with care from those washed in Pitsidia with fresh water, dried and then stored in baby food bottles that I have been collecting from various sources during the summer.

PG arrives in late afternoon. Very very tired was that the major bits of organization and planning are essentially complete; all staff assignments essentially complete.
15 June 1977

Work began, with 16 permanent staff:
- Vance Watson
- Phillip Bottemaunt
- Giakaine Bianco architect
- Maria C. Shaw excavation
- Lucia Nixon excavation
- Betty Comsene excavation
- William Cox excavation
- John Mc Evooe excavation
- Harriett Bliteen excavation of various
- de Shaw director

George Beladaries, foreman with 14 local workmen, of whom 3/4 were with us during the previous season and who already have a year's training and experience.

Beginning assignments:
- William Cox the Burned Buildings of post excavation date to the south. Trench 10A, a continuation of book 8 (the record of the sand-cleaning operations, kept by John Mc Evooe).
- John Mc Evooe – Trench 7A, the Demarcation, as recorded in Tr. 2A-N-4 1976.
- Mr. Shaw – Trench 12A etc., a continuation of excavation on the northern part of the hillside.
- Lucia Nixon, Tr. 11A, in the southern area.
part of the property, set in above a n-s wall w/ crosswall found during the last days of the sand cleaning operations. No date is presently assignable to the wall, but the spot is a good one for a sounding through whatever habitation levels that may exist. It is not far from 'Buried' Building E, which is at a higher level.

18.17 June 1977

With the sand gone, the pace of work is increasingly rapid in comparison with last year's work.

In 4A area (12A was), one of the backsets is being removed – that over the room just west of the court where the hystion was discovered. The fallen ceiling (stairs?) slab, a continuation of those removed last year, has been raised, cleaned, photographed and before we go down to floor level. The entire room plan should be available soon.

In 2A area (9A) the dump is almost cleared. Water sieving of the Entire dump deposit has produced a good many sherds and gads as well. The pottery continues to be LM II in style. New relationships in the area from an architectural – ceramic point of view show LM I, LM II, LM III A, LM III B – a very important sequence which, upon closer study and definition, will be one of our chronological units, that is not LM II.

10A (BB 'B') The floor level of the western room turns out to be several inches too
Threshold since there is at least one step down. Very buried in the situation, with some tiles fallen to the ground inside. An interior room as well. Latest pottery on the floor are Hellenistic? All floor deposits are being dry sieved this year. Still no fix on the date, however.

IIA: The cauldron is on a wall or possibly the classical period — some archaic material (shards) on the floor or in the floor but date of the structure remains uncertain. A sounding is presently being begun outside, on the west. The western wall originally appeared to be a keep, but may well not be so, and as a result we are going down further than originally planned.

I have been investigating architectural blocks to be left on the site, though I still have some way to go before finishing.

The new sieve introduced with the help of S. Dignan is a great success — all the 2A material from the dump area has been sieved and a good deal of small bronze objects has been recovered, plus the inevitable shells, sherds, small bones. With sieving the results, an ongoing process, has produced a variety of organic materials (seeds, grape pips, olive pips, the last also recovered by the excavators and those on the dry sifter). Careful inspection of this remainder often flotation has produced what appears to be fish and rodent bones as well as the most welcome appearance of bronze fishhooks, of which one is quite well preserved (thinner) and could possibly be integrated in the charter.
The process of flotation is a good one for recovering some of the smallest remains but should in my view be used when there is significant chance of recovery of organic remains. Simply washing the dry-sifted left-overs can produce useful materials as well. But I have no intention of "complete sifting" because of the great expense and time-consuming problems involved. This represents a fault in an ideally sketched procedure but a realistic compromise with the excavation situation on our site.
12A (4 Area). Funds were down to floor level, beneath the baulks. The floor, as in '76, is bare aside from 2 hammerstones at a somewhat higher level and some slabs. More than the m² area on these slabs has been removed from this area within two walls; why such an accumulation?

This and other floor level accumulations are being sifted. Some day-sifted. So far the result is greatest when it is clear from ordinary excavation methods that there would be a profitable return in organic or other materials.

2A (9A). Cleaning is done on the west, with new walls appearing in a rather west formation. The upper level should be charted and day by day. I take numerous photographs for the record.

10A (BB 'B'). Charts of the western room's floor near completion, although there are a few days left to complete the confused trench that lies across the room. Excavation of the site, post-stone robbing. Two lamps of Hellenistic-Roman date, appear to help date the final use of the building. Closer chronological key with hopefully be supplied by our friends in Corinth. Severe burning outside of the building may be connected with the burning of structures built outside in the court. A written complete series of photographs, for the record, is begun.

11A (SE corner) progresses. Clearly, we have gone beyond the floor level of the building.
and it is clear that even it was removed by others or rather in significant to begin with. Excavation to the west outside of the wall is begun. It will be pursued until the end of all habitation layers or to the point where we strike the.

The group seems to be working well this year. There is a flexibility and understanding that we will benefit from throughout the season, which promises to be a hot one.
24 June 1977

12a (4 Amal) MCS. Look to the north of the 4a. 4a excavated in 1976 reveals another thick layering of slabs, fallen from above, with quite well preserved walls. At the upper level is a much later wall and, further to the west, a large slab with a spout cut into it which must have functioned as a press, perhaps for grapes or olives. The later wall was removed after appropriate recording; the “press” remains in situ now.

2A(9A). The penetration below the “dungh” is begun into what should be a room of the main structure found last year. Indeed a wall is found on the east, with what is probably a doorway between it and the earlier wall s. of the retaining wall. Some sherds of late wall press pottery are found.

On the upper level, excavation yesterday revealed a second, TCA vase in a room, a fine cup with decoration and a pitcher of classical shapes. Quite a group of conical cups as well. Overall the sequence is not so clear, but further excavation should at least reduce the number of quadrants.

10A (BB'B). Further clearing within the eastern room reveals the foundation trench left where the masons pulled the blocks out. In the eastern side of the same room, the fall of tiles is rather deep but the original floor upon which they fell remains somewhat undefined.
superficial walls above floor level hint at a late, 'squatting' period which is suggested elsewhere in the same area.

At clearing around Block C, towards the end of the afternoon, we record a most curious T.C. statue, about 25 cm. long, in situ standing on a slab of the wall. Nearby are buried bones and three big legs of a tripod animal of some size. All quickly done but nevertheless most appealing! All are covered over for the night with the watchman sleeping next to them. A suggestion of compartmentalisation below makes one consider the possibility of an altar-family tomb. See p. 44 for my original thoughts.

II A (Lucia). Some distance below the level of the Hellenistic building along the e. rim of the property we find a ivory wall associated with Minyan pottery. The sounding within the eastern section is too limited, however, so the western, larger section is opened up. It will take another day to reach an equivalent level were penetration about the 'Minyan' walls will be possible.
2A (4A Artic) MCS. The 'pool' is a foundation built within the room, although it is not yet clear if the foundation goes down to floor level. A large jar exists; the first intact one (yet broken) is found to the east. Perhaps we have all of it.

2A (94). The dump area is lower down to the east. There is some charred along the western edge of the habitation.

10A (BBB). No progress since 10A-1. Work concentrated on cleaning around building C, which appears more and more like an altar. Covered with small bones, burnt. No area with the small animal is not touched yet - it is still in place. The walls go down some distance, as a trench around it shows - we have not reached the bottom.

11A lucia. In thick, clinging earth, a wall appears in the central west pt. of the trench. Dimensions still unknown. Some terracotta pottery, including a rhyton fragment.
12A MRS. The Lm pithos, apparently entire although I have not seen the base, lies enshrined on a most attractive floor of large slabs, intact and arranged in a most attractive manner. They seem to extend under both north-south walls - a clear reflection of building periods. The grave enclosure (prothesis) does sit on a foundation set upon the slab floor, which is most welcome. Thus it not only becomes a feature of the room in a later use but it becomes an integral part of the store room of which this room is the first definite one yet ascertained in Koumos.

[Diagram]

When excavated completely the room will be most attractive indeed.

2A (9A) John W. The dump sounding is completed successfully and many photos are taken. The sequence is clean and most significant; Vince W. will spend the morning tomorrow telling all of us about it, where to the west, along the "Ramp" remains undefined and essentially unclear. Thus John, who is due to receive a few days off after 11/2 mos. of stewards work, will return on Monday to finish up.

10A - 1. The altar is finally cleared although it is not opened up since the