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TRENCH 78A:
INVESTIGATION TO THE SOUTH

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TRENCH 78A: INVESTIGATION TO THE SOUTH

The frontloader began digging a pit in the sands south on the Kommos site property. The digging continued for 3 weeks until earth was reached and until the pit was wide enough to accommodate a reasonably sized exploration trench. Trench 78A was opened on 17 July 1991. The trench pins were set in on the same day at the grid coordinates specified on Figure 1. The northeast corner of trench 78A is located 73.88 meters south and 8.30 meters east of the southwest corner of Building E. During the course of digging, a few cut stones were unearthed from the soil and were suspected of being used in wall construction. It was at this level that the 3 x 3 meter trench was established and levels were taken to determine the top of pail 1, level 2 (level 1 was the approximate 7 meters of sand removed by the frontloader).

The purpose of the trench was to examine stratigraphy to the south and also to investigate the spatial extent of occupation levels represented from different periods elsewhere at Kommos. It was necessary to discover whether excavation in the south was necessary in the future of the project.

METHOD OF EXCAVATION

The excavation of trench 78A proved to be an exercise in building as well as excavating. The sand scarps towering some 7 meters around the trench were exposed to the natural elements causing erosion. Retaining walls built were necessary to secure the trench against periodic sand collapse. Walls were built on
the north, south and east sides of 78A and a fourth was constructed on the west to serve as the base of the entrance road. Excavation of trench 78A began on 18 July 1991 with the general clearing and evening of the level at which the frontloader discontinued digging. During this process, Wall 1 became exposed in the northeast corner. Pail 2:1 was opened to collect all finds from the area southwest of Wall 1 while pail 2:2 was opened to receive finds from 'inside' the wall in the northeast corner of the trench. Pail 2:1 was started at the mean level of 3.395 meters even though level 2 stratigraphically began at a mean level of 4.24 meters above sea level. The potsherds collected in pail 2:1 were few in number (35 pieces); the pail also included finds of shell and charcoal. Pail 2:3 was opened at a mean level of 3.135 meters under pail 2:1 to the southwest of Wall 1 because of a change in soil density. It was during the course of this pail that finds of plaster, iron, bone, and shell were recovered. Also collected was a fair amount of pottery (533 pieces). All these finds suggested that a floor or surface was to be found, perhaps associated with Wall 1. No surface was discovered, however, at the level of 3.015 meters, the bottom third/fourth course of Wall 1 was revealed. Passes continued in the southwest area outside of Wall 1 until the earth became a soft (earth and) sand. At this point, pail 2:3 was closed and 2:4 was started. It was also at this point that the trench was split in half, and the north half of the trench continued to be excavated. This was done to limit the removal of earth as dump space becomes scarce, to quicken the pace of excavation due to
the pressure of periodic sand collapse and because no finds of
great importance were being recovered. Sherds as well as more
plaster, shell and charcoal were recovered from pail 2:4.
Meanwhile, pail 2:2 was collecting a very small amount of sherds
from the northeast corner of the trench 'inside' Wall 1. Of four
sherds collected in pail 2:2, one of significance was found - an
LMI1IA2/B champagne cup. The northeast corner was dug to a level
of fallen rubble at approximately 3.40 meters, and pail 2:2 was
closed. Passes continued until a layer of rocks and beige hard
clay was reached. The rocks appeared not to be associated with
Wall 1, or in the construction of any architecture because of the
small and rough shapes. The level of this deposition began at
1.665 meters and at first, it was not known whether this was
bedrock. The inclusions of pottery suggested that it was not and
excavation continued in the northern half. The excavation area
was again split in the northwest corner; the area excavated now
measured 1.50 x 1.85 meters. A new level and pail was assigned
for this new stratum of clay, pail 3:5. Sherds began to come out
in quantity at this time and within 2 days, 5 pails in level 3
were filled with potsherds (pails 3:5.A,B,C,D). Water was found
at a level of .655 meters above sea level and just below it was
lepidha, or sterile blue-grey clay. Excavation of trench 78A
discontinued on 31 July 1991, exactly 2 weeks after it began.

STRATIGRAPHY

While excavation of trench 78A did not reveal much
information about occupation in this area, it did produce much
data on the stratigraphy at this location. 78A had a total of 7 scarps. All were drawn in stratigraphic sections and studied for depositional information that would increase knowledge of the geological history of the general vicinity. John Gifford's report on the geological survey of the Kommos area (Kommos Vol.1, part 1, Ch.3) reveals local trends during different periods in the Kommos area. In the case of 78A, stratigraphic deposition is oriented east to west, sloping towards the sea. This trend is most apparent from the deposit of "beige hard clay" as revealed by the stratigraphy of the northeast, west, and south scarps (figures 15, 12, 17). The clay is approximately 30 cm higher on the northeast scarp than in the west scarp. Also, a westward decline of the "beige hard clay" can be noticed on the south scarp. This geological deposit, and consequently the strata underlying it, appear also to be oriented south to north as the beige clay begins approximately 70 cm higher on the south and declines northward. This conflicts with the Kommos site orientation which slopes southward from the upper hilltop. Gifford also states that the general trend for the geological structure of the Kommos survey area (20km2) is of "southeastward dipping monoclines" (p.11). This trend is occasionally offset by other geological factors. The groundwater in the southern area of the Kommos site does, however, suggest a southerly trend. In trench 76A, located approximately 15 meters east of the corner of Building E, groundwater was hit at the level of 2.70 above sea level. In trench 77A located approximately 15 meters south of the corner of Building E, groundwater was hit at a level of 2.11
meters. Groundwater occurred at .655 meters in trench 78A. From these figures, a southerly orientation of geological units can be discerned. Accepting this trend would suggest a depositional factor altering the general trend of north to south, to vice-versa. Because the trench is small, factors of depositions cannot be determined, but however may be suggested. Possibilities will be discussed in the interpretation.

Stratigraphy in the Kommos survey area was deposited by 2 basic geological processes - erosion of slope sediments and deposition of colluvium and Aeolian sand (p.27). There is also evidence. Gifford states, for a relationship between human land use and erosion: the greater the use of fields for agricultural purposes, the greater the erosion of the land and its vulnerability to the natural elements. As a response to this fact, the occupants of the land, as in many places, created terraces by building retaining walls against slopes to prevent such erosion. Wall 1 of 78A may very well be an example of such a retaining wall, accepting that a slope, as suggested by the stratigraphic deposition in the trench, lay to the east.

As shown in other trenches (13A, 76A, for example), the first geological unit in 78A is bedrock or kouskouras followed by and associated with sterile hard blue-grey clay, or lepidha. The next deposit in 78A is a dark brown clay and sand mixture with much pottery inclusions. Continuing upward, generally speaking, is a beige hard clay with rocks and sherds, followed by approximately 20 cm of sand deposit. The majority of the stratigraphic sequence is a mixture of hard sand and soil
measuring just under 2 meters of deposit. This stratum had very few potsherds within and comprised most of level 2. Above this was the approximate 7 meters of sand deposited by wind-blown beach sand, or level 1. Sand was also discovered in pockets within level 2, again the result of wind-blown beach sand and/or Aeolian bedrock erosion.

POTTERY

An aid in interpreting stratigraphic deposition in trench 78A was the pottery analysis results. The discovery of Archaic material in the lowest pail (3:5D) and Minoan potsherds in upper levels, lead to inquiry into events which caused these occurrences. Also curious was the presence of more Archaic material overlying the Minoan, creating, if you will, a 'Minoan sandwich'. While all pails included both Minoan and historical sherds, pail 2:1 was almost wholly Archaic pottery while pails 2:3 and 2:4 were mostly Minoan. These findings were not unusual, however the discovery of a great amount of Archaic material in pails 3:5,A,B,C,D created a discrepancy in the Law of Superposition. All sherds were in a very worn condition, either due to erosion from weathering or water wear.

Southwest at levels corresponding to courses of the wall, Archaic sherds from pail 2:1 were produced, while pail 2:2 'inside' the northeast corner at roughly equivalent levels, produced a "champagne cup" dated to the LMIIIIB period. What is the date of Wall 1? From the information yielded from the pottery, no conclusive date could be determined for the wall.
INTERPRETATION

Using Gifford's work on the geology and stratigraphy of the Kommos survey area and site, while also using information produced by the pottery analysis, interpretation of the stratigraphic and cultural depositions could be made. If we accept that the stratigraphy in 78A is oriented sloping downward from east to west on the basis of deposition measurements, it would suggest the presence of a slope or hill to the east. If this is the case, it is possible that Wall 1, while only a small section is exposed, was built as a retaining wall on that hill. Further evidence for the presence of a hill to the east can be found in trench 75A where 3 possible retaining walls oriented north-south were recovered on the same slope. Also supporting the theory of a hill or slope to the east is the occurrence of historical material found along the east side of Building P in trench 75A. J. Rutter has suggested that a hill was dug into to accommodate the building of the east wall of P. During the Archaic period or later, this gap between the wall and the slope was filled either purposely or by erosion and thus depositing the later material beside the Minoan wall. C. Mongoe, excavator of 75A, has stated that most, if not all, contamination of cultural deposits occurred along the east wall of P.

The wall itself is approximately only 50 cm wide—a width comparable to other retaining walls discovered in other trenches (e.g., Wall 5 in 74A). Although some stones used in the construction of Wall 1 are large and cut, i.e. not of typical retaining wall manufacture, stones may have been robbed to aid in
the construction as is suggested by the irregular building pattern (see figure 10). If we accept that Wall 1 is a retaining wall built on a slope or hill, what ramifications does it have on stratigraphical deposition?

Hill erosion could adequately explain how Archaic material came to occur beneath the Minoan. Subsequent erosion could further explain the occurrence of Archaic also above the Minoan material thus creating our 'Minoan sandwich'. This erosion, if coming from the east, would have had to occur sometime after or during the Archaic period, before Wall 1 was erected. This would allow a date of Archaic or later for Wall 1, accepting the idea that the wall was built in response to this erosion. The problem with this theory is that Archaic material is found right above the lepidha which would suggest that this early stratum was exposed to receive the slopewash. How could the lepidha be exposed after millennia of deposition? There are three possible explanations. First is that the area was dug intentionally by settlers thus exposing the bedrock, second is that a rema bore through the stratigraphy in the area, and third is that the bedrock was exposed at the foot of the hill. The idea of the rema deserves some attention. The unit above the lepidha is a layer of brown clay with sand. This could represent the deposition of alluvium from a stream bed and also explain the worn state of the sherds. But again, the problem lies with the occurrence of Archaic at the lowest level and Minoan material further up. Also, large and heavy pieces of pithoi and rocks were recovered and it is unlikely that a drainage channel would carry such objects.
Slopewash would, however, allow for large pieces and the mix of cultural material. Therefore, it must be possible that bedrock was exposed before and at the time of erosion allowing cultural material to be deposited directly above it.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, several suggestions can be made concerning the data provided by the excavation of trench 78A. Firstly, during the Minoan and post-Minoan periods, a slope of hill lay to the east. Through the use of the land in agriculture or simple weather wear, the slope eroded and colluvium was deposited along with later cultural material (Archaic). Further erosion caused deeper exposure of the hill and thus resulted in the deposit of Minoan, or earlier material upon the later. Erosion continued again from the top layer of the same slope or from another hill in the vicinity depositing further Archaic material upon the Minoan. At this point, the retaining wall was built, either to preserve agricultural fields from eroding or to protect nearby buildings from being undercut. If we accept this, an Archaic date or later could be assigned as the date of Wall 1.

It is not possible to determine the exact use of the area during different periods of occupation from information yielded from the excavation of 78A. Although information regarding stratigraphy and deposition is available from 78A, it does not provide data that would justify extending the Kommos site excavations this far south.
CATALOGUED ITEMS FOR TRENCH 78A:
ARRANGED NUMERICALLY BY PAIL AND INVENTORY NUMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRENCH</th>
<th>PAIL</th>
<th>INV NO.</th>
<th>OBJECT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPACE</th>
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<td>78a</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>C9258</td>
<td>pyxis</td>
<td>7c BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>78a</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>C9259</td>
<td>egr cup</td>
<td>6c BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>005a</td>
<td>C9257</td>
<td>corinthian A amphora</td>
<td>7c BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78a</td>
<td>005b</td>
<td>C9254</td>
<td>egr skyphos</td>
<td>650-600</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>78a</td>
<td>005b</td>
<td>C9255</td>
<td>cooking pot</td>
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<tr>
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<td>005b</td>
<td>C9256</td>
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<tr>
<td>78a</td>
<td>005d</td>
<td>C9260</td>
<td>cup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>78a</td>
<td>005d</td>
<td>C9261</td>
<td>lekane</td>
<td>archaic?</td>
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Figure 10 - The Face of Wall 1

Section A-A

Debbie A
July 31, 1991
FIGURE 14: EAST SCARP

- **HARD SOIL AND SAND**
- **ROCKS FROM WALL**
- **SAND**
- **HARD GREY CLAY**
- **HARD BEIGE CLAY**

Scale: 1:20

Levels:
- 4.00m
- 3.50m
- 3.00m
- 2.50m
- 2.205m
- 2.00m

Measurements:
- 2:1
- 2:3
Figure 15: North-East Scarp

- SAND
- BEIGE HARD CLAY
- ROCK
- HARD SAND + SOIL

Scale: 1:20
Figure 17. South Scarp

- HARD SAND AND SOIL
- HARD GREY CLAY
- BEIGE HARD CLAY

TR 78 A

WEST MODERN RETAINING WALL

1:20

2:1

2:3

2.20 m

2.50 m

3.00 m

4.00 m
TR. 78A:  
FIGURE 19.  LOWER SOUTH SCARP

[Diagram with legend:
- SAND
- BEIGE HARD CLAY
- BROWN CLAY/SAND
- WATER ON LEPIIONA

1:20]
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Area, trench, level feature</th>
<th>Pottery Description</th>
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<td>29-7-91</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 thirds, 0.050 kg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>LM IIIA2/8. Tiny unit, only significant fragment is a fine unpainted cham-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>phone and flat necking bell deep hollowing under the stem. Which is one feature of LM IIIA examples of this shape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inscribed: 
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date d-m-y</th>
<th>Area feature</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Pottery Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-7-91</td>
<td>78A/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35 sherds, 280 sq in. Little diagnostic. Nothing necessarily non-archaic. Bq. rim flaps; painted hydra handle; pillor flaps with rope work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8-91</td>
<td>78A/2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>533 sherds, 3,340 sq. MM-LM III B. Heir to a little C 7-6. Much scraggly Minian cooking ware and a reasonable amount of decorated ware (MM light orange, and LM III grey to brulee. Plenty of Conical cups. Later are an East Gaul (E) cup rim (possibly E 6), a plain pyxis, a handled hydra, a pot of red clay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8-91</td>
<td>78A/2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>421 sherds, 4,370 sq. Some pot-Minian material - bq. sherds and thin-walled cooking ware, not easy to date precisely. MM handmolded sherds. LM III bowl flaps. Conical cups. Bad hand+ a jug (4 lids). Much variety in cooking ware. Bq. includes a C 8-7 cup rim and a large rim from a bird of roller cause red claw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8-91</td>
<td>78A/2</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>248 sherds, 4,660 sq. A little C 8-7 material - fine-walled cooking ware, bq rim and two conical cups and a rim flaps from a Minian A hydra. A &quot;knot&quot; rim, a &quot;knot&quot; rim and some LM III semi-fine decorated bowls. Not much diagnostic overall. C 92,57, rim of Minian A hydra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8-91</td>
<td>78A/3</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>378 sherds, 4,840 sq. Largely undiagnostic, but some 67 pieces are in evidence. Notable the rim of an extremely fine-walled cup (C 8 Gaul) and a large rim with a porcellana. Some of the considerable amount of cooking ware is also likely to be Iron Age. A fair amount of decorated semi-fine LM pieces. C 92,54, delicate E Gaul cup rim. C 92,55, rim of cooking pot. C 92,56, rim of cooking pot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8-91</td>
<td>78A/3</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>301 sherds, 7,310 sq. Large MM, undiatable pottery - esp. semi-fine decorated, but a few pieces are anomalous - Bq. rim in fine clay. Pot of closed round pot with conical well and some thin-walled cooking ware - are these Iron Age? Many pilasters a cooking ware. Little Fine ware and few Conical cups. Much &amp; weight (2,300 sq.) attributable to a large rim + handle for a Frickel potter - L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Area, trench, level feature</td>
<td>Pottery Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8-91</td>
<td>78A/3</td>
<td>242 sherds, 6,010 gr. Similar to 5C in many respects. Probably post-Minoan. Material consists of many of carinated cups and a large fragment of a floored wall. Also some thin-walled cooking ware. Much pithos and signinware; some variety of cooking ware. More carinated cups (most painted) than in comparable units. Very little fineware. C9260. Beaker no. C9281. Carinated cup (2) base.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8-91</td>
<td>78A/2</td>
<td>496 sherds (in pretty poor condition), 3,950 gr. As with other pits, the bulk of this is Minoan (but spardo MNC - LM IIIB), but a few sherd look archaic - have horizontal handles in fine red clay, an eponymous neck ring, and perhaps a carinated cup. Very much cooking and pithos ware. Bridy spouted jir. LM IIIC cup 12, LM IV B bowl. Many carinated cups.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Post-Minoan usage of the NE corner of Building P


Excavation within the walls of the NE corner of Building P was conducted in trench 760. Part of the area had been cleared earlier, including the top of a staircase and the zone immediately to its west (trench 67A). A full series of late Hellenistic pottery had come to light above the stairs, and FJC took it to be a dump from the dining area of Building E to the north.

In the E. part of the trench, the area immediately south of the steps yielded a common mix of material; 13A was very mixed indeed, down to late Hellenistic, with a little Minoan; the pail yielded fr. of a perirrhanterion, another piece of which was found in 30A to the west; an Attic black-glazed sherd was another rarity. Below, 14A again had a little Minoan, but was mainly undistinguished archaic; 15A and 16, below, repeated the pattern, with more Minoan in the west pail, 15A. 16 probed a little to the N of the east wall of P, again giving largely uninspiring archaic.

To the north, in 13B and 14B one immediately finds more body sherds than the norm; most appear to be of Hellenistic amphorae. Such a pattern continues downwards, as more steps of the staircase appear, though the great depth of pail 17 (from -6.10 to -4.81) should not be overlooked. Amphora fragments from pails 19, 20 and 21 joined up, and the amount of amphora material in pails 17 and below is minimal, being no more than accidental spillage into the well area. The pail 27 contained further, but different amphorae and rather more Minoan cooking ware, but in ludicrously small fragments. Some of the amphorae were catalogued.

Pails 17-21 and 27 demonstrate the use of the area as a well-house, not least by reason of the relative paucity of material found. The jars require mending and further study, but two types are represented, with a narrow neck (gripped or not) and the more regular broad-necked variety. The former type is certainly long-lived, but appears in very late Hellenistic contexts elsewhere, not least in 67A1 pails 32 and 34 (OC121); the latter variety have the high, sharply angled handles of the period. One cannot fully rule out that some body fragments may belong to hydria, but there is no proof; again this points to a late Hellenistic date, after the demise of the hydria. Reuse of the amphorae as water-jars is indicated by the presence of a dark substance, presumably resin, on the inside of the neck of an amphora from pail 16.

The amphorae are distributed widely as regards depth; yet typologically there is little to suggest that any long period of time elapsed in the period of use. A few jars were discarded during this period, which appears to have been contemporary with (the final part of) the use of Building E. 13B and 14B contain more amphora sherds than what one might term the norm, but clearly they are far too high to represent period of use, which must begin during or after pail 1. The upper pails rather reflect the dumping from the area of Building E already found in the neighbouring trench 67A1. Such dumping clearly occurred after both E and the well had fallen into disuse.

To the south, excavation S of the S wall of the well-house was conducted in E and W sections. In the W much Hellenistic material appeared in the upper levels, pails 26A to 34, but also continued deeper, notably in pails 39 and 42, but no pail here was without Iron Age material, down to 49 and 50 (we may note that the lower level of 49 is the same as that of 67A1:36). 26A-34 contained material consistent with that found...
67A1:27 to 32. There were many joins in these pails of 760 and it is likely that there may be cross-joins with 67A1. Similar material is found in the lower pails of 760, but with a greater admixture of Minoan and archaic. 36 and 39 contain frags. of a number of decorated larger wares of the eighth or seventh century, reminiscent of sanctuary material; 39 is particularly heavily mixed, from LM on. Archaic is thinly represented in pails below 39, but more plentiful in fact in the lowest pail in this area, 50. In these lowest pails, a good deal of burning, of both Minoan and archaic material, is evident. There is also a greater quantity of sherds of seventh century transport amphorae than in higher pails, with a wide range of fabrics represented (though often by only a single sherd of each jar).

In the E section of the trench S of the south wall of the well the situation is rather different. The only pail to yield Hellenistic pottery was 22 (bottom at +5.62); otherwise the seventh century is the terminal date of successive pails — 154, 22-26, 37, 40, 41 (possibly with some classical!), 43, (none in 44) and 46; then archaic appears again, lower, in 54, 57B and 58 (with a possible later terminal date for 57B). The last two pails are from the foundation trench of the S wall of the well, and it is naturally possible that seventh century, or later, material from the pails above may have been introduced in the same manner. At any rate, there is no evidence that the dumping of late Hellenistic pottery extended this far south-east.

There were few individual finds of note in the area S of the wall. Most interesting are two (or more?) EPG bell-skyphoi — one fragmentary from 39 (a sanctuary dump material), the other more fully preserved from 23-25.

There is little (or no) evidence to elucidate the use of this area S of the well in the post-Minoan period from the ceramic evidence; the troughs cut into the blocks of the E wall of Building P are more indicative, if not, as yet, closely datable.

Further investigation is required concerning the typology of the amphorae from the well, possible joins with trench 67A1 and scrutiny for additional fragments of EPG skyphoi.
Iron Age pottery from the area of Building V


Structure V was previously excavated in part in trenches 54A1 and 72B. Floors or surfaces had been difficult to discern, and it was not clear to what extent the area had been modified by dumped fill in the Hellenistic period. The excavation of 1991 (trench 73A) completed the clearing of the building, which was dismantled. This report must be considered preliminary, since the relevant material in 72B has not been closely studied and the search for joins has not been fully pursued. In addition, AMJ was responsible for the sorting of only a few of the pails in question (30, 38, 39).

The apparent surface in the south of V contained seventh century material, the most readily datable sherd being an LPC fragment, C6732 (54A1/5:59). Other material in both 54A1 and 72B (pails 28, 30–33) was less closely datable in the century. The surface in question was at approximately +6.40.

Iron Age material in 73A was found as low as pail 51, in the area below the entrance to V.

The first pails cleared levels above the floor of V at c. +6.40, and yielded terminal dates of “Hellenistic” or late Classical; there were few pieces of note – fragments of a very large plain Hellenistic lekanis (1), archaic-Corinthian amphora sherds (4) and an East Greek banded amphora (5 and 6). Pail 8 cleared the entrance area down to +6.40 and was largely archaic, with a little Minoan; fragments of a seventh century decorated krater were found, akin to C6998; other sherds may belong to scattered pots in this area, and in trench 74A, but any joins have yet to be confirmed. Examples are a Milesian amphora, C9159, and one or more local decorated skyphoi (one catalogued, C9156).

Pail 12, associated with the building period of V, yielded seventh century material also, but nothing closely datable, a phrase that unfortunately applies to a number of subsequent pails, such as 15 and 16, the latter with many fragments of a dip-glazed cup, C9105. The pottery in pails 19, 20 and 21, beneath the N wall of V, was consistently Minoan, but the “7th c.”, not closely datable, tag returns for pails inside V and below the level of its walls, notably 25, the removal of the stone platform inside the N wall. In 24, from a broader pass, there is a fragment of an early Corinthian oenochoe, probably from the same vase as C8874, probably earlier skyphos and kotylai fragments and a banded hydria(1) fragment spattered outside with slag. Below 24 the very mixed pail 27 included a number of fragments of large decorated vases of the seventh century and earlier (the seventh century pieces not closely datable), and similar large pots were found in 33 at the same level to the south.

South again, in 34, Corinthian and Corinthianising skyphoi give a terminal date of c.650. In a number of these pails, and below (as well as in 74A) there are fragments of one or more burnished cooking pots catalogued as C9110, but no cross-pail joins have yet been found. 35, close to 24, also has FC kotylai, but accompanied by a b.g. cup foot of a more developed, late seventh century profile. 37, at the same level, contained, as well as an EFC-MFC skyphos rim, a shoulder fragment of an oenochoe with incised tongues which should not be earlier than c.625 (it is not from the same vase as C8874). The other pail at this approximate level (+6.50), 36, has less diagnostic material.

To the N of the foundations of V (X 1) no archaic pottery is found at
this level or below. However, it does continue to be found south of the foundations (X 4 and 7), though only in the southern sector, in the general area of the entrance of V (pails 38-41, 43, 46, 47 and 51). The floor in 38 is between pails with good amounts of archaic material; only in 46, 47 and 51 are archaic sherds sporadically represented.

38 is of interest in containing a not closely datable amphora (?) foot which has a residue of slag inside, moulded to its contours and so presumably introduced when hot; the outside of the pot bears no sign of burning. The latest material in the pail is probably post-625. Similarly, late 7th c. amphora sherds appear below in the very mixed pail 39; as normal a variety of drinking cups and skyphoi is also found. In fact, the number of transport amphora sherds in the whole area is quite restrained, compared with areas to the south. 40 has more FC kotylai fragments, with a range of local b.g. and hand-made ware (one b.g. cup must have been impressively large, and may be 8th c.). 41 repeats the picture - FC kotylai and local cups, including perhaps a fragment of C9156. A definitely late 7th c. terminal date reappears below in 43, with fragments of the shoulder of another polychrome incised oenochoe, larger than that in 37 and thicker in fabric than C8674; once more b.g. cups and local skyphoi (how many?) accompany them. Finally, 47 contains largely undiagnostic b.g. cups, though one is clearly 7th c., and "the same only more so" can be said of 51.

From the above resume it will be clear that it is difficult to detect any chronological sequence in the pails which terminate in the archaic period. To the north there is no archaic (save a little in 18) below the level of the foundations of V. To the south there is very little in the northern part of the trench, but it is found in some quantities further south, beyond the floor in 38, with traces of iron-working. Where tolerably closely datable material is found, the terminal date tends towards the end of the century; 43, in which archaic is well represented contains such late material. All this naturally makes an assessment of the history of the area in the seventh century difficult to disentangle. That V did have some duration of use appears to be clear from the 7th c. fill below the platform (pail 25). The lack of any classical material in levels below c. 6.40 suggests a period of use confined to the late seventh century, rather than a fill brought in at some time in the Hellenistic period. Such a period of use would be similar to that of Q; perhaps the use started in the area of pail 43, before any building was constructed.
Ceramic material from trench 78


2659 sherds, weighing 34890 gr., were excavated in trench 78. The
everage weight of less than 15 gr. per sherd (especially when the
considerable amount of pithos ware is taken into account) demonstr-
ates the poor state of preservation overall. The character of the
pottery throughout is one of washed out material rather than of any in-
situ deposits; wear as well as size of sherds tends to this conclu-
sion.

The uppermost pail 1 contained datable material of the seventh
century, with nothing that need necessarily be earlier or later,
though neither possibility should be excluded. It was relatively
productive compared with the 2 sherds for the subsequent pail 2; the
one diagnostic piece here was an LM IIIB champagne cup.

More material appeared in the pails below, and overall the character
of them all was similar: predominantly Minoan material, with good
amounts of cooking ware compared with areas to the N, but with a vary-
ing, always small admixture of seventh century material. Minoan
tends to MM III or LM IIIA-B, though LM I is not wholly absent. The
chronological range of pails 3, 4, 5 and 5A-D is similar even though
they are of greatly varying depth.

The Iron Age material from these pails is heterogeneous, even if
very restricted in amount. A good proportion was catalogued (C9254-
C9261); naturally, undiagnostic fragments of the same period could
exist. Note that the major indicators of seventh century presence
further north, b.g. cups, banded hydriaii end-transport amphorae, al-
though not absent, scarcely predominate in trench 78. The Pot Notes
suggest that the fragments of cups with carinated walls found in at
least two pails are Iron Age, but an MM date cannot be ruled out.
In pail 3 a pyxis foot (C9258) and a cup lip (C9259) are of the Iron
Age as well as three other frags. Pail 4 has two less assuredly sev-
enth century sherds, as does 5. 5A produced a Corinthian A amphora
lip of archaic profile (C9257); it is useful to have such a diagnostic
fragment, since one suspects that "pithos ware" does include good
numbers of Corinthian A body sherds, scarcely distinguishable from
local ware. In 5B some of the abundant cooking is of the burnished
type found in the seventh century (a sherd also in 5), and C9254 is
the rim of a very delicate East Greek cup, parallel to a base in
Building Q. Surely Iron Age material from 5C and 5D is confined to
fragments of lekanai and related shapes, which could bear further
scrutiny (C9260 was catalogued).
1991 FINAL REPORT ON PREHISTORIC CERAMIC ISSUES

THE FLOOR DEPOSITS IN ROOM X7

The uppermost floor in Room X7 had on it a deposit of twenty-four essentially complete vases, as well as a small part of a twenty-fifth which was inventoried because of its status as an exotic import (a handle and body fragment from a Canaanite jar, C9014). The twenty-four "complete" vases, many of which were in fact found intact or, if broken, fragmented into no more than two or three sherds, may be categorized as follows:

FINE, DECORATED:

1 patterned sprinkler (= piriform rhyton with multiply perforated base) [C9145]
1 linear/dipped conical cup [C9017]

FINE, PLAIN:

8 conical cups [C9002, C9016, C9019, C9020, C9301, C9302, C9303, C9306]

MEDIUM COARSE, DECORATED:

1 linear conical bowl [C9304]

MEDIUM COARSE, PLAIN:

1 conical bowl [C9305]
2 handleless trefoil-mouthed juglets [C9001, C9003]

COOKING POT FABRIC:

5 braziers [C9015, C9018, C9137, C9307, C9308]
3 pedestal-footed shallow cups with internally thickened lips ("censers") [C9139, C9146, C9149]
2 flat-footed deep cups with high flaring profiles and internally thickened lips ("chalices") [C9311, C9312]

A date in LM IIIA1 for the above assemblage is suggested in view of:
(1) the absence of any sherd material later than LM IIIA1 from the units in which this floor deposit was recovered [Pails 47, 51, 51A, 51B, 57, 61, 76];
(2) the pattern used on the shoulder of the single pattern-decorated vessel recovered, the sprinkler C9145;
(3) the total absence of the champagne cup, despite the presence of no less than nine painted and unpainted conical cups (contrast the final LM IIIA2 floor deposits in Rooms X4 excavated in
1991] and X5 [excavated in 1985], in each of which the champagne
cup is multiply represented.

This assemblage of twenty-four vases is peculiar from a
functional point of view in the following respects:
(1) With the single exception of the sprinkler, all the vessel
shapes attested are represented by multiple examples. Moreover,
pairs of vases were often found together: the two trefoil
juglets (C9001, C9003) together with a conical cup (C9002) on
the table in the SW corner; the two "chalices" (C9311, C9312)
directly below the table; and the two conical bowls (C9304,
C9305) stacked upside down on top of each other and covering
another conical cup.
(2) All the vessels in the deposit with the exception of the two
juglets and the sprinkler are examples of open-shapes. Since the
three closed shapes are tiny, nothing was stored in any quantity
in this large collection of ceramic containers.
(3) No less than the twenty-four vases in the deposit were
produced in cooking pot fabric and yet not one of these ten is a
vessel used ordinarily for food preparation.

The braziers are normally considered to have functioned as
scoops in which coals or embers were transported from the site
of one fire to that of another. They may also have served as
small portable sources of heat, that is, like modern space
heaters. The "censers" and "chalices" may conceivably have
functioned as vessels in which aromatics were burned. The
sprinkler could have been used to dispense small quantities of
some aromatic liquid onto the already burning odoriferous
mixtures in the "censers" and "chalices". The juglets look like
purposefully paired containers of substances regularly used in
tandem (e.g., modern salt and pepper, oil and vinegar, etc.).
Perhaps two aromatics were regularly used together by the
Mirmans? In any case, Room X7 seems to have served to hold the
equipment associated with burning aromatic substances. The
particular social (and/or religious?) context of such
incense-burning is, however, a mystery.

On a lower floor in Room X7 were found four additional
intact vases:

FINE, PLAIN:

2 handleless trefoil-mouthed juglets [C9313, C9314] <Pail 84>
1 conical cup [C9309] <Pail 70>

COOKING POT FABRIC:

1 brazier [C9310] <Pail 70>

The remarkable coincidence of finding another pair of the
unusual trefoil-mouthed juglets, not to mention another intact
brazier, on the immediately preceding floor of the same small
space certainly argues for continuity of function in this small space. To this set of coincidental finds should be added the fragments of a small decorated juglet from Pail 64A (uninventoried) which resembles in scale, fabric, and decor (although not in shape) the sprinkler C9145 from the final floor deposit. The date of this lower floor is hard to pin down because of the dearth of sherd material from the units in which the whole vases were found and because of questions concerning precisely which other units should be associated stratigraphically with this floor. It is nevertheless clear enough that this lower floor must date to either LM II or LM IIIA1.

Pails 66, 67, 80, 81, 89, and 94A are all linked by the discovery in them of fragments of a large and elaborately decorated high-necked jug, probably of LM II date (C9251). Additional inventoried vessels from these units are C9249 (a monochrome painted conical cup; Pails 80, 81) and C9250 (a monochrome painted cup or goblet; Pails 66, 80), the last certainly of LM II date. The ceramic contents of units 66, 67, 78, 80, 81, 89, 94A, and 94B seem chronologically uniform, all datable to LM II. An odd find in Pail 80 links these units functionally with the uppermost floor deposit: a monochrome painted base fragment (uninventoried) pierced by no less than 30 tiny perforations, seemingly another sprinkler. Otherwise, there does not seem to be much from these units which is directly reminiscent of Room X7's final floor deposit (for example, no brazier or censer fragments).

A significant change takes place in Pails 95A and 95B, at the very bottom of the series of stratified levels excavated within Room X7. The latest sherd material in both of these small units is LM I, perhaps LM IA. There are no cross-joins between these two final units and those which overlie them. The single inventoried vase from Pails 95A and 95B, a monochrome painted conical cup (C9372; Pail 95B), unfortunately cannot be precisely dated.

THE FINAL FLOOR DEPOSITS IN ROOM X4 (TRENCH 73A)

The latest surviving Minoan floor levels in Room X4 constitute two distinct deposits of whole or largely restorable vases, each securely datable to LM IIIA2, which are separated by a level containing ground-up (i.e. small) but relatively "fresh" (i.e. not heavily worn) sherd material dating from earlier periods. This smaller and earlier sherd material is to be understood as the fill of an earthen floor, and the two deposits of LM IIIA2 pottery are thus contemporary destruction deposits to be assigned to the second and first (= ground) floors of a single building.

The upper floor deposit was contained within Tr. 73A Pails 53, 54, and 55 and may be characterized as follows:

WHOLE OR LARGELY RESTORABLE VASES:
FINE, DECORATED:

1 patterned rim-handled cup (C9141) <Pails 53-54>

FINE, PLAIN:

1 rim-handled cup (C9151) <Pails 54-55>

INVENTORIED SHERD MATERIAL OF INTEREST:

1 fine monochrome painted champagne cup (C9182)
1 Canaanite jar body sherd (C9152)

The lower floor deposit, contained within Pails 55, 59, 60; 60A, 63, and 63A, was far more impressive and may be summarized as follows:

WHOLE OR LARGELY RESTORABLE VASES:

FINE, DECORATED:

1 patterned pyxis (C9012) <Pail 60>
2 linear/dipped conical cups (C9007; C9173) <Pail 60>
1 large four-handled jar decorated with human palmprints (C9004) <Pails 55, 59, 60>

FINE, PLAIN:

2 conical cups (C9006, C9008) <Pail 60>
2 champagne cups (C9010, C9011) <Pail 60>
1 pithos (C9013) <Pails 55, 59, 60, 60A, 63A>

MEDIUM COARSE, DECORATED:

1 patterned ?jug (C9172) <Pails 59, 60>

MEDIUM COARSE, PLAIN:

1 jug (C9009) <Pail 60>

IMPORTED, SEMIFINE, PLAIN:

1 Canaanite jar (C9167) <Pails 55, 59, 60, 60A>

INVENTORIED SHERD MATERIAL OF INTEREST:

COOKING POT FABRIC:

1 dish (C9005) <Pail 60>

The lower LM IIIA2 floor level, at ca. 5.07 ASL, corresponds
in date and elevation with that uncovered at ca. 5.02-5.07 in Room X5 just to the east. As of the end of the 1991 season, these two rooms are the only spaces in Building X which have produced floor deposits of the LM IIIA2 period. The spaces all around them on the north (Rooms X1 and X2), east (Room X6), and south (Rooms X7 and X8) may have had LM IIIA2 floors, but such floors must have been located at considerably higher elevations and have evidently not survived. At a level of ca. 5.67 ASL, the fill in X1 is of LM II date, in X2 is of LM IB date, in X6 is of LM II/IIIA1 date, in X8 is mixed but mostly of LM IIIA1 date, and in X4 is of LM II or LM IIIA1 date. The LM IIIA2 floor deposit in Room X5 (Trench 66A, principally Pails 24, 29, 32, but see also Pail 17 and Trench 59A Pails 20, 25, 88) consists of an even richer array of pottery, although it is unclear from the 1984-1985 trench notebooks or pottery notes how many of the large number of inventoried pieces in fact consist of whole or restorable vessels and how many simply of interesting sherds.

Suffice it to say that the handsome pattern-decorated pyxis C9012 of Room X4 has an analogue in Room X5 (C8001), as does the fine pithos C9013 of Room X4. The Canaanite jar C9167 of Room X4 has an equivalent in Room X5 (C8069), as do the champagne cups C9010-9011 of Room X4 in C8073 and C8075 of Room X5. More detailed study of the ceramic inventories of these two spaces may reveal that the contents of the two rooms were indeed more or less the same, but there has unfortunately not been time for such analysis in 1991.

An earlier floor within Room X4 at ca. 4.91, corresponding roughly in elevation to a LM IIIA1 floor at ca. 4.90 in Room X5 exposed with Pail 33 of Trench 66A, was dated only roughly to LM IIIA1 with Trench 73A Pail 68. No deposit of whole or restorable vessels can be assigned to this earlier floor.

THE MAJOR FLOOR DEPOSIT OF MM III POTTERY IN TRENCH 74A, SPACE E

Sixty-nine vases were inventoried from this deposit in 1991 [Pails 46A, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 54, 55, 56, 56A, 56B]. With only some half a dozen exceptions, these consist of vessels whose complete profiles are preserved. In the cases of well over half of the pieces inventoried, the vessels are completely preserved. This is therefore the largest collection of whole or restorable vessels of this period thus far found in a single deposit at Kommos. Since the bulk of the deposit comes from a single room of which only a portion has so far been cleared, the deposit clearly is unusually rich in ceramic terms. The inventoried vessels may be briefly characterized as follows:

FINE, DECORATED:

- 5 linear/dipped conical cups (C9037, C9040, C9184, C9268, C9342)
- 1 linear/dipped tumbler (C9338)
- 1 linear/dipped teacup (C9334)
9 monochrome painted Vaphio cups (C9038, C9179, C9239, C9246, C9269, C9339, C9347, C9359, C9362)
1 monochrome painted lid (C9332)
1 teacup decorated with Ripple (C9033)
5 white-on-dark Vaphio cups (C9185, C9244, C9349, C9357, C9360)
1 white-on-dark conical rhyton (C9186)
3 polychrome decorated Vaphio cups (C9178, C9245, C9352)
1 polychrome decorated teacup (C9232)

FINE, PLAIN:

24 conical cups (C9030, C9031, C9032, C9035, C9036, C9180, C9194, C9196, C9199, C9231, C9243, C9333, C9335, C9340, C9341, C9344, C9348, C9350, C9351, C9355, C9356, C9358, C9361, C9363)
1 lid (C9336)
1 miscellaneous closed vase (C9353)

MEDIUM COARSE, DECORATED:

1 dark-on-light bridge-spouted jar (C9346)
1 dark-on-light oval-mouthed amphora (C9343)
2 miscellaneous dark-on-light closed vases (C9354, C9380)
1 monochrome painted lid (C9188)
1 white-on-dark oval-mouthed amphora (C9345)
1 white-on-dark miscellaneous closed vase (C9034)
1 polychrome decorated, bridge-spouted jar (C9187)
3 mixed white-on-dark and dark-on-light decorated pithoi (C9174, C9175, C9176)

MEDIUM COARSE, PLAIN:

1 lamp (C9039)

COOKING POT FABRIC:

2 tripod cooking pots (C9331, C9337)
1 cooking dish (C9177)

A few additional pieces will probably be inventoried when final study of this deposit is undertaken, since a certain number of large fragments and mendable profiles were left in the sherd bags of the numerous units comprising this deposit when the latter were first sorted and evaluated. Despite this probability and the fact that many of the vessels already inventoried require conservation/restoration before they can be fully appreciated, a few preliminary observations are nevertheless in order:
(1) Of sixty-nine inventoried vases, no less than fifty-one are fine cups of one sort or another. There are no bowls. Pouring vessels (bridge-spouted jars, oval-mouthed amphoras, jugs, etc.) number eight at most.
(2) Cooking pottery is represented by a highly fragmentary
cooking dish and just two tripod cooking pots (one of which is evidently missing all three of its legs!).

(3) Storage vessels consist principally of the three elaborately decorated pithoi C9174, C9175, and C9176. The first of these was found in fragments beginning in Pail 46A and extending all the way down to Pail 56B (the stone-slabbed pavement marking the bottom of the deposit). Since some of its base fragments come from the uppermost units while rims come from some of the lower ones, the vessel was apparently not standing crushed in situ on the pavement. The same goes for C9176, a very large hunk of the rim of which was found projecting from the mouth of the cooking pot C9337, itself discovered more or less intact (though missing its legs) on the paved floor of the principal room excavated in Space E. The third pithos, C9175, was found as large fragments in the middle of the stratified sequence of MM III units excavated in Space E; none of it was resting on the paved floor in this area. These three pithoi thus provide clear evidence that the vases in this deposit were not all part of an in situ destruction deposit of vessels from a MM III basement. It is equally difficult to explain the circumstances of their discovery as resulting from the collapse of an upper floor on which they rested; quite aside from failing to account for how a large rim of C9176 could end up inside a more or less intact tripod cooking pot, such a theory requires the support of abundant earlier sherd material forming the make-up or packing of the putative collapsed floor. Since such sherd material is altogether missing from this deposit at any level, a collapsed floor should be ruled out.

(4) A very small but nevertheless significant number of sherds (and small sherds only, never large fragments, much less largely restorable or fully preserved vessels) may be dated either to MM IB-II (i.e. to MM phases predating the large deposit of whole or restorable MM III vessels) or to LM IA. The latter sherds, less than half-a-dozen in number, come from various levels within the MM III deposit, not simply from the uppermost strata. These sherds show that the MM III deposit remained open at least into the so-called Transitional MM III/LM IA phase (Betancourt 1991: 44-48) and possibly even later. Together with the evidence for the unusual depositional circumstances of the deposit (summarized above with respect to the pithoi; this evidence might be capable of being amplified significantly if all vessel categories were to be analyzed in comparable detail), the LM IA sherds suggest that the MM III deposit in Trench 74A, Space E was a dump rather than a floor deposit. The incomplete preservation of several of the larger vessels in the deposit further supports such an interpretation.

(5) Comparison with the only other deposit from Kommos approaching this one in size, that found in Space 25 in the Central Hillside area (Betancourt 1991: 101-112 [Deposit 16], Figs. 26-32, Pls. 26-39), is instructive. The numbers of complete and restorable vessels from the two deposits are almost exactly the same, as are the number of cooking pots. But while the CH Space 25 deposit consists largely of storage vessels (7 pithoi,
12 jars of various types, 8 jugs or ewers) and certain functionally even more specialized shapes (e.g. 2 lamps, 5 rhyta), the Trench 74A Space E deposit betrays a much greater emphasis on open shapes. A special bonus of this emphasis is the fully preserved Ripple-decorated teacup C9033, its plasticity rendered "rivet" showing it to be an imitation of a metallic prototype. This piece may well be a Knossian import (an informal suggestion of F. Carinci); it confirms that Ripple-decorated vessels were in fact in use at Kommos in MM III times (cf. Betancourt 1991: 41, 100-101, nos. 499-500, 107 no. 582).

FINAL FLOOR DEPOSITS AND ASSOCIATED FILLS IN ROOM X2 DEFINING THE END OF THE LM I PERIOD AT KOMMOS

In Trench 74B in the latter half of the 1991 season, below a series of very mixed and arguably disturbed levels in which the latest ceramic material dates from LM IIIA2 [Pails 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68], a deep deposit containing principally LM IB material was excavated in Room X2. This deposit was divided into two parts by a horizon in which fully preserved LM IB vases were found resting in or on top of a fairly thin stratum containing fresh but small sherd material of appreciably earlier date (MM III through early LM I). As in the case of the comparable depositional circumstances in Room X4 just to the southwest, this discovery in Room X2 is evidence for two superimposed floor deposits of one and the same date separated by collapsed flooring material filled with fresher, earlier, and smaller sherd material.

The upper floor deposit [Pails 69(?), 71, 72, 73, 74, 75] contained, aside from the earlier sherd material in Pails 74 and 75, the following inventoried vases:

FINE, DECORATED:

1 Marine Style baggy alabastron (C9364) <Pail 74>
2 patterned teacups (C9365, C9366) <Pails 74 and 75 respectively>
1 monochrome painted bridge-spouted jar (C9270) <Pails 74, 72, 73>

The alabastron was found intact at the base of the upper floor deposit. The teacups were discovered in a number of fragments low down in the debris constituting the collapsed upper floor. The bridge-spouted jar, on the other hand, was found in fragments spread across three different units noticeably higher in the debris; it presumably fell from an even higher resting place, perhaps a shelf or cupboard on the second storey level. There is no evidence for a second, higher collapsed floor level, so the jar should not be viewed as evidence for the existence of yet a third storey in this area.

The lower floor deposit [Pails 76, 77, 77A, 78, and 79]
FINE, DECORATED:
5 patterned teacups (C9296, C9297, C9375, C9376, C9377)
1 patterned horizontal-handled bowl (C9381)
1 linear miniature two-handled bucket (C9369)
1 patterned closed vase [jug], possibly decorated in the
Alternating Style and certainly imported (C9298)
1 monochrome painted conical cup (C9284)

FINE, PLAIN:
2 conical cups (C9368, C9370)
1 miniature tripod cooking pot (C9367)

Only four of the above vases were found completely preserved
(the two miniatures C9367 and C9369, plus the two unstyled
conical cups C9368 and C9370). The rest rarely preserve a
complete profile (only C9284 and C9381 did) and were in many
cases found spread across two or more different pails (C9296,
C9297, C9298, C9377, C9381).

These relatively rich floor deposits of a period previously
not all that well documented at Kommos (see L.V. Watrous m.s.)
are to be supplemented by the material recovered in Trench 66A
(Pails 21, 25, 28) during the 1985 season by S. Shubert [16
inventarioled items; mostly plain and decorated cups like those
found in 1991: C7917, C7920, C7925-7926, C8037-8046, C8055-8056],
some of which may in fact prove to be identical with pieces
inventarioled as fragments in 1991. Unfortunately, there simply was
not time at the end of the 1991 season for the inventoried 1985
items to be located and compared against the material recovered
this year. Two additional constituents of the lower floor deposit
are the two pithoi left buried up to their upper shoulders on
either side of the doorway into X2 from Room X5 to the south.

Two separate lower floor levels were identified by the 1991
excavator of Room X2 in Trench 74B, J. Sabourín. It is with the
laying of the upper of these two that the two buried pithoi as well
as those vases from Pails 76, 77, and 77A are to be connected.
Pails 78 and 79 represent the fill between the first and
second of these two floors. Unfortunately, there is no ceramic
chrono logical distinction evident between Pails 78-79 on the
one hand and Pails 76, 77, and 77A on the other. Moreover, some
inventarioled vessels (C9377), as well as uninventarioled pieces
like a teacup with a monochrome painted interior and unusually
small (running?) spirals on the exterior, consist of pieces
cross-joined across the barrier which the Pail 77/77A - Pail
78/79 interface is supposed to define.

Of peculiar chronological interest is the discovery of what
is presumably a local Marine Style alabastron (C9364; upper
floor deposit) found in association with an imported jug (C9298),
possibly decorated in the Alternating Style. Equally interesting
is the presence in the same context of a teacup (or rounded cup)
[C9366] featuring decoration at the top of the handle zone only (identified as a local LM II characteristic by L. V. Watrous in his ms., p. 19) and of a horizontal-handled bowl (C9381) which lacks decoration on the interior and might normally be taken as a LM II piece (L. V. Watrous ms., pp. 8 and 22). All things considered, the deposit in Room X2 has the appearance of belonging to a very late stage of LM I at Kommos, the phase immediately preceding the appearance of Mainland Greek ceramic features in LM II. The fact that the material comes from a context in which an important room in Building X appears to have suffered a collapsed upper floor and possibly to have gone out of use for some time thereafter may be evidence, however, tenuous, for a calamitous event of some sort very late in the LM IB period at Kommos. Comparison of the material from X2 with that of a different functional character (dominated by decorated jugs rather than by plain and decorated cups) but possibly of the same date from Room X11 (Trench 73B Pails 104 and 107) may be instructive. Both sets should then be compared with L. V. Watrous' Deposit 7 (whole vessels fallen from the upper storey of Building J) in an effort to determine whether some site-wide event may have occurred late in LM I at Kommos which resulted in the destruction of several important architectural spaces and in the deposition of LM IB ceramic groups within them.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE:

An additional significant LM IB deposit featuring tripod cooking pots, large closed vases, fine unpainted conical cups unpainted medium coarse trefoil-mouthed jugs, and several fine decorated cups comes from the basal levels of Room X1 (Pails 82, 114-118), sealed below a fairly deep LM II dump. This deposit, itself linked to underlying units (Pails 120, 122) by several joins, may represent still further evidence for a significant event in the life history of Building X near or at the end of LM IB.