1993

- Trench Report and Pot Notes for Tr. 90A: Excavation within and below Western P6 (K.WALSH)
- Trench Report and Pot Notes for Tr. 90B: Sounding within Trench 84 to Water (K.WALSH)
- Trench Report and Pot Notes for Tr. 90C: Excavation West of P6: the Minoan Kiln and Stoa Area (K.WALSH)
- Trench Report and Pot Notes for Tr. 90D: Excavation of a Portion of the Central Court (K.WALSH)
TRENCH 90A

PROCESS OF EXCAVATION

Trench 90A was laid in by J. W. Shaw and K. Walsh (among others) on June 22, 1993.

Trench coordinates:

NE: 1002.55x 1065.08y
NW: 993.42x 1065.08y
SE: 1002.55x 1055.83y
SW: 993.42x 1055.83y

Trench dimensions:

NE to SE: 9.28m
SE to SW: 9.10m
SW to NW: 9.28m
NW to NE: 9.05m

The purpose of excavating this area was to expose Gallery 6 and then explore the levels of T which we hoped lay preserved beneath. Work in 90A was a continuation of work started by S. Hewitt (NB 84) and L. Tabac (NB 82) in 1992.

We began work on June 23, 1993 with a general clearing of sand that had accumulated over the winter. I did not save any of the pottery from this cleaning, which I called Level 1. Once we
had reached the levels exposed by S. Hewitt (84E/2:72) and L. Tabac (82C/1:62), we could begin actual excavation. So, at a depth of 4.07m sloping to 3.73m we began work with Pail 1. We started digging from east to west and immediately came down to a level of rubble. We decided to clean around this rubble to expose how it had fallen from the walls of P. S. Hewitt had called the south wall of P Wall 1, the Wall of T just under it Wall 2, the north wall of P Wall 3 and a late blocking wall to the west Wall 4 and I decided to use the same numbers for convenience.

In the process of exposing the rubble the soil began to change as we moved east. At a distance roughly halfway across Gallery 6 I changed levels and began work with Pail 2 in the western half of Gallery 6. The soil in this pail was darker and softer than in Pail 1 and also contained burning that Pail 1 did not. Pail 2 was begun at a depth ranging from 3.82m to 3.74m. It was taken down to the same level in the west as Pail 1 in the east. At the bottom of Pails 1 and 2, the rubble along Walls 1 and 3 was fully exposed tumbling down to a surface in the middle of the trench. The rubble along Wall 1 sloped from 4.07m to 3.70m; the rubble along wall 3 was less significant and sloped from 3.92m to 3.70m. Only a small bit of the surface was visible at this point in the middle of the rubble.

After documenting the rubble, we removed it. I opened two pails for this: Pail 8 to remove the rubble along Wall 3 and Pail 9 to remove the rubble along Wall 1. At the bottom of Pails 8 and 9 the surface was fully exposed. It sloped from a depth of
3.81m to 3.60m just in front of Wall 4. The pottery dates this surface to LMIIIIB. Fragments of C9490 were found in this pail. Wall 4 was associated with this surface as the large slabs which constituted its first course rested on it. These stones did slope slightly away from the floor but I think this is the natural result of the destruction of P in this area. This floor was then documented and we prepared to remove it. J. W. Shaw suggested that we divide Gallery 6 in half so as to proceed to deeper levels more quickly. We would then also have the other half of the trench with which to check our own work.

So, I divided Gallery 6 in half according to the line established by Pail 2. This line is located 3.50 meters from the southwestern corner of Wall 3. Pail 10 was opened to take our first pass. We started digging along Wall 3 at the division of the Gallery and moved west. We then moved south about a meter at a time. Along Wall 4 a course of small stones was exposed that must have served as foundation stones. Two stones also came up along Wall 4, one at its north end and one at its south end. Pail 10 reached a depth which sloped from 3.58 to 3.44 and it was dated to LMIIIA2/B. Sh 14 was found in this pail.

Instead of taking another pass in Pail 10, I decided to open Pail 11 just to be careful about separating the pottery from these levels. Pail 11 was begun along Wall 3 in the west moving towards the diving line of Gallery 6. As we started digging along Wall 3 in the west, a line of stones immediately emerged just next to it. It was at this point that some significant discoveries were made in 90A: the new line of stones which
emerged was a part of Building T; the westernmost stone of this line was exposed as a large block with a cutting for a timber on its south face (2247); the large stone next to Wall 4 at its south end was exposed as another large stone with a cutting but this time on its north face (S2248). These two cut blocks were clearly a pair; they had the exact same depth (3.61m at their tops) and lined up not only with each other but also with the entrance of T to the south. So, at the bottom of Pail 11, a pier-and-door partition had been exposed and we hoped that it was original to T. The soil from Pail 11 was hard and brown with some burning in places. But between the south pier block and the large round stone at the north end of Wall 4 the soil was very sandy. Pail 11 reached a depth sloping from 3.46 to 3.38 along Wall 4. It was dated to LMIIIB. Fragments of C9490 were found in this pail.

In order to take the next pass I divided our area into two pails. Pail 12 stretched from the line of the stones along Wall 3 south to Wall 1 except for the area between the south pier block and the large round stone at the end of Wall 4 where the soil had been sandy. This sandy soil was dug with Pail 13. We began Pail 12 next to Wall 3 in the east. We came down on two more stones that completed the line of the new wall of T and so at this point I called it Wall 5. This pail consisted of soft brown earth mixed with a bit of sand in the west and some burning. In this pail we found a bronze strip (B364) which compared with the strips found by G. Nixon in Trench 89. As we moved south it became clear that the large round stone at the
north of Wall 4 rested on smaller slabs that were set on the level we had reached. Further south, we hit a large patch of burning just in front of the south pier block. These two things convinced me that we had reached a floor level at the bottom of Pail 12 at a depth of 3.35m to 3.25m. The date of Pail 12 was LMIIIIB.

We then dug Pail 13 so as to come down to the same level. Pail 13 exposed a small flat stone sitting just next to the south pier block on its north side. I found this to be further evidence that we had a floor. Pail 13 reached a depth of 3.25 and contained very soft sandy brown soil. Pail 13 was too small for meaningful comment, but looked to be LMIII.

The floor at the bottom of 12 and 13 was then documented and we prepared to dig deeper. I opened Pail 14 along Wall 5 and was prepared to dig south to Wall 1 with a separate pail in the area of Pail 13. But, at the suggestion of J. W. Shaw, I decided to take several passes right along Wall 5 so as to establish a floor level that we could then use as a guide. So, with J. W. Shaw in the trench, we dug pails 14 through 19. These pails were dug in an area that stretched 1.20 meters south from wall 5. We used the very northern end of Wall 4 as a border on the west and the middle division line of the trench as a border on the east. All pails were started just south of the north pier block as we thought this would be the best place to try and find a floor. All pails then proceeded east.

Pail 14 contained soft brown sandy soil. It had some burning and bits of green clay. It was dug to a level of 3.24 meters
without finding a floor. It was dated to LMIIIA2/B.

Pail 15 also contained soft sandy brown soil and some burning. It was dug to a level of 3.18 without finding a floor. It dated to LMIIIA2. Fragments of C9512 were found in this pail.

Pail 16 consisted of hard brown soil with an area of intense burning and burned sherds. No floor was evident however. This pail was taken to a depth of 3.12m and was dated to LM IIIA2/B.

Pail 17 consisted of soft brown soil that was full of stones. It was taken to a level of 3.02m without finding a floor. It dated to LMI. (This shift in the date of the pottery marks an important change that is fully discussed in the Interpretation section of this report.)

Pail 18 contained soft sandy brown soil with some burning. It was sandy in the west and had green clay in the east. It was dug to a level of 2.95m without producing a floor. It dates to LMI.

Pail 19 consisted of soft sandy brown soil with some burning. There was sandy soil in the west and bits of green clay in the east. At its bottom the level reached was 2.87m and still no floor. It dates to LMIA.

At this point, we had almost reached the level of the pebble court to the west. I felt sure we were near a surface and so decided to take one more pass. Pail 20 also contained sandy brown soil in the west and brown soil with green clay in the east. It exposed the bottom of the north pier block and another stone underneath. After we had reached a level of 2.82m and still had not found a floor, we decided to leave this area for
the moment and approach the trench from the west. This involved the removal of Wall 4.

To remove Wall 4, I wanted to dig it in two separate levels corresponding to the floors we had found. So, to remove the large slabs and the small foundation stones, I opened Pail 23. There were no sherds or finds from this pail and very little soil, but it took the level of Wall 4 down to the floor we found at the bottom of Pails 8 and 9. I took rough levels at this point and the average depth reached was 3.61.

We then removed the rest of Wall 4 down to the level reached at the bottom of Pails 12 and 13. The soil was brown and hard and the pottery dated to LMI. It was with this pail that we removed the large round stone that had sat against the north end of Wall 4. With the removal of Wall 4, a very different picture of 90A emerged. Only the south pier block remained where the wall had stood and an earlier phase of this space when it was open on the west became clear.

With the removal of Wall 4, there was a new patch of earth stretching west of the pier blocks about 0.60m. Using this area we could then proceed with our plan to excavate from the west to the area inside Walls 1/2 and 3/5. We wanted to proceed very carefully so we took only a small section of this area at first in Pail 25. Pail 25 stretched from the north pier block to the north face of the south pier block. The east edge of the south pier block was the east line of the pail. Pail 25 contained soft sandy brown soil and as soon as we started digging, we came down to rubble. This was the sort of sign for which we had been
searching in Pails 14-20 because rubble must sit on a surface of some kind. Pail 25 reached a depth of 3.28m and was dated to LMI. I then opened Pail 26 to get to the bottom of the rubble.

Pail 26 consisted of soft sandy brown soil and exposed the bottom of the rubble in this area. It reached a depth of 3.16 and was dated as a possibly pure LMIIB level, but it was a small pail. In order to gain a better picture of this rubble I opened Pail 27 for the area from the line of the pier block's north face to Wall 2 (T).

Pail 27 contained soft sandy brown soil and exposed more rubble in the area south of the south pier block. It reached a depth of 3.17 and was dated to LMIIBA2 but this was a very small pail that looked in general Neopalatial. At this point I was convinced that we had reached a surface and so opened Pail 28 to expose it in the area to the east of the pier blocks.

Pail 28 also consisted of soft sandy brown soil. There was no rubble in this area but a large rectangular stone started to emerge in the south near Wall 1. The depth reached was 3.14 sloping up to 3.20 in the north. The pottery from this pail was dated to LMIIBA2 and fragments of C9511 and C9512 were found within it. We then documented this floor and prepared to dig down. By digging in the same area as Pails 25-27 we hoped to have more good luck with finding surfaces.

I opened Pail 34 to remove the rubble and the floor. After the rubble came off we started to dig down through soft sandy brown soil with some burning. We immediately hit a large round stone. At first I thought this was a solitary column base as it
sat right in line with the two column bases, but as we kept working two more stones appeared between the pier blocks. We then proceeded south of the south pier block to Wall 2 (T) and found two more stones, one with a large cutting for a beam. As we had come down to a depth of 3.10, I felt sure that this line of slabs was a part of T. The pottery dated to LMIA and seemed to confirm my opinion. I then opened Pail 36 to work east and find a floor associated with the tops of these slabs.

Pail 36 was opened east from the line of the pier blocks. We had a bit of difficulty, however, tracing a floor that would have been associated with the top level of the slabs. We did find a surface, but it was not terribly convincing since there were no signs of a floor and the rectangular stone near Wall 1 was now sticking up by a few centimeters. This level sloped from 3.08 up to 3.17 and the pottery dated to LMIIIA2.

At this point M. C. Shaw came to Trench 90A to do a bit of work. A small area just next to T (Wall 2) had been left unexcavated by S. Hewitt in 1992. S. Hewitt had difficulty finding the continuation of the pebble court right up to this wall of T and so left a small section for someone else to work with in a future season. M. C. Shaw dug this area as the digging was so delicate and the results so important to our understanding of the pebble court in this area. I now divided the trench into three spaces in order to facilitate descriptions of each one. Space A was the area to the west of the slabs down to the SW corner of the slab with the cutting. Space B was the area east of the slabs. And Space C was M. C. Shaw's area, from the SW
corner of the slab with the cutting to Wall 2 (.) and 2.50m to
the west. Let me first describe M. C. Shaw's work because it
served as a guide for us in the rest of the trench.

M. C. Shaw began with Pail 37. The top of Pail 37 sloped up
from 3.09 to 3.29 against T (Wall 2). Pail 37 served to even out
this slope and contained brown sandy soil with bits of plaster
and carbon. There were also a few scattered pebbles and some
clay chunks which we sampled. The north face of T's wall
displayed plaster, but no surfaces of this plaster were
preserved. At the bottom of Pail 37 a vague surface was reached
at a depth of 3.11 to 3.13. The pottery from this pail was dated
to LMIA and fragments of C9782 were found in this pail.

M. C. Shaw's next pail was 40. This pail contained soft
brown soil with occasional pebbles, bit of plaster and tiny
stones. In this pail a piece of plaster with an impression was
found; chemicals and gauze were used to remove it. We cleared
off to another possible level and so changed pails. The depth
reached sloped from 3.05 to 3.10 against T. The pottery was
dated to MMIII.

The next pail used in Space C was 41. The soil was once
again soft sandy brown with bits of plaster and pebbles. There
was also some green clay. With the first pass, a bit of
pulverized charcoal was found in the SE corner. Also from this
corner came a nearly intact conical cup and a beautiful Kamares
ware sherd. We then started a new pass and there was a change in
the fill. So we changed pails midway across Space C. The depth
reached was 2.93 and the pottery dated to MMIII/LMIA (early).
The conical cup was called C9510.

Pail 42 was the next one opened for M. C. Shaw. Once again, the pail consisted of soft brown soil with small stones and green clay. Starting along T (Wall 2), we found a large fragment of plaster sloping from south to north in the fill. Chemicals and gauze were used to preserve and remove it. This plaster indicated more than anything a level of decline that became fill under upper levels. At a depth of 2.98 to 3.01 M. C. Shaw changed pails once again. The pottery from this pail was dated to LMIA and fragments of C9789 and C9787 were found in it.

The next and last pail used by M.C. Shaw was 44. The soil in this pail was reddish brown and soft with pebbles and stone chips. Working from west to east a large slab was found near the NW edge of Space C. There was another in the SE corner. M. C. Shaw then came down to a surface though it was badly eroded. There were pebbles embedded in it and some burning associated with it. So, M. C. Shaw's work concluded at a depth of 2.91 to 2.93 on the pebble court. This pail was dated to MMIII though it was very small.

Now, let me describe the work I was doing at the same time that M. C. Shaw was hard at work. Pail 36 was opened in Space A and contained soft, yellow-brown soil as well as bits of plaster and carbon. The soil very much resembled what M. C. Shaw found above the reddish brown level. No level was reached at the bottom of this pail. It reached a depth of 3.07m and dated to MMIII. I then took a pser in Space B to see if it could help determine where a floor might lie.
Pail 39 contained soft, yellow-brown soil similar in appearance to Pail 38 but with bits of green clay. As we dug in the NE corner of Space B the soil was extremely hard yellow clay. This hard level could have been evidence of a floor in this area but again, it was not a very convincing one. As we moved south an enormous slab came up right in line with the south pier block. There was another smaller one in between the pier block and the large slab. These two seem to be related to the small rectangular stone which first appeared at the bottom of Pail 28. For convenience I called the slabs running north-south Feature 1 and the new slabs running east-west Feature 2. Feature 2 also divided Space B into two new spaces, Space D to the south and Space E to the north. Pail 39 reached a depth of 3.06 to 3.11 and its pottery was dated to MMIII. I wanted to take another pass in Space D immediately but decided to take another pass in Space A first to see if working form the west would reveal anything as it had before.

Pail 43 was dug in Space A. The soil was soft, sandy and yellow-brown. It contained bits of plaster, carbon and some green clay. At a depth of 3.02m to 3.05m we made a random pail change. The pottery dated to the Neoapalatial era; there was not enough to give a more precise date. We then moved to Space D to take a pass.

Pail 45 was opened for work in Space D. The soil was soft and yellow-brown; full of bits of plaster and carbon. This pail brought us to the bottom of Wall 1 (P) and so we finished with 45 rather quickly to avoid contamination. This pail reached a depth
of 3.07m and the pottery dated to MMIII/LMIA. We then moved back to Space A.

Pail 46 was opened for another pass in Space A. The soil was soft and yellow-brown with bits of plaster and carbon. We came down to reddish soil that recalled the reddish brown level that M. C. Shaw reached just above the pebble court. So we cleared to this level and changed pails. Pail 46 reached a depth of 2.88 to 2.96 and the pottery dated to MMIII.

Pail 47 was opened for another pass in Space D. The soil was soft and yellow-brown, full of bits of plaster and carbon. With our second pass we hit a level that was packed with plaster; we hit it with almost every strike of the pick. Many of the fragments had color. One piece even appeared to have red and blue bands against a white background. We seemed to reach a bottom to the plaster and so we changed pails here. Pail 47 reached a depth of 3.00m and the pottery dated to MMIII. We then moved into Space E to see if taking a pass or two here could give us some insight into the space we were digging.

Pail 48 contained soft yellow brown soil with bits of plaster and carbon. This space noticeably lacked the amount of plaster that we found in Space D. As we took a second pass, some stones came up. We took a third pass in order to find the bottom of the stones. The stones did indeed seem to sit on a surface, which we reached at the bottom of Pail 48. As part of this area was dug in a fourth pass a large chuck of green clay came up and on its underside it had a thick layer of pebbles. I thought perhaps this was an indication of a surface and we removed the
rubble to verify this. It was difficult to tell if we had a floor but we stopped excavation in this area anyway. We had reached a depth of 2.91 to 2.95 and the pottery was dated to MMIII.

We moved back to Space A for one last pass with Pail 49. Pail 49 contained soft reddish earth full of carbon and bits of plaster. At the bottom of this pass we found the pebble court as expected, although it was easier to find in some areas than others. Right in front of the south pier block for example, the pebbles ran right up to it in a fairly thick layer. But they became more difficult to trace as we move north though still present in the surface. As we finished this pass in the north, we found a lot of shells in a concentrated area. As these were the only shells we had found in any sort of localized area I thought they were worth mentioning. So, we had then reached levels where I wanted to stop in both Space A and Space E. This left only Space D to investigate further before moving to the other half of the Gallery for excavation.

I opened Pail 50 for work in Space D. The soil was soft yellow-brown earth with lots of plaster and carbon. Though we thought we had reached the bottom of the level of plaster, it continued in Pail 50. With each glimpse of white in the soil, we stopped and carefully extracted each fragment. The chunks were quite large and there were still some fragments with color, but it was mostly white. As we dug one piece to extract it, we turned up several fragments of a light on dark cup. We sieved the soil from this area to try and find as much as possible. We came down to new stones in Space D, some lay under Feature 2 as
if in a second course. Others formed a new line just under Feature 1 in this area. I believed this was our first glimpse of an underlying MM wall. This pail was taken to a depth of 2.83 to 2.86 where I decided to make a random pail change. The pottery dated to MMIII with some MMII as well. As mentioned, fragments of C9785 came up in this pail.

We took only two more pails in the western half of 90A. Pail 51 was a sounding along Wall 5 to date its construction. The soil from this pail was yellow-brown and soft with bits of carbon, plaster, and green clay. After one pass, we began to see a large stone jutting out from Wall 5. We took another pass to clarify and the foundation slabs of Wall 5 became visible. We stopped just at the bottom of these round slabs. This was at a depth of 2.38m to 2.41m. The pottery from this pail dates to LMIA.

Our last pail in this half of the Gallery was taken in Space D. Pail 52 continued what we had been digging in Pail 50. The soil was still soft and brown with fragments of plaster and carbon. The only difference in this pail was the amount of stones that started to come up. In fact, digging further down, we reached a large amount of stones. They almost looked as if they were thrown into this space on purpose. We removed a few but then stopped at a depth of 2.54 to 2.57 because we had no idea exactly what it was that we were ripping out. This pail dated to MMIII though it also had MMII.

At this point, work in the west half of Trench 90A stopped and we moved to the eastern half of Gallery 6 which we had left
at a depth of 3.68m to 3.81m at the bottom of Pails 8 and 9.

Pail 53 was begun along Wall 1 and proceeded north. We had left a bit of the rubble from Pail 9 and we dug around this to see if it perhaps lay on a floor that we missed in the west. When we reached the bottom of the rubble, I became convinced that it lay on a surface of some kind that we had not detected in the west. We documented the rubble and I then opened Pail 54 to take it out and clear down to the floor. Pail 53 was taken to a depth of 3.53 to 3.60 and the pottery dated to LMIIIB.

Pail 54 contained hard brown soil. We worked from south to north and as we cleaned one last area of stones away from Wall 3, it became clear that this group of stones actually went through my "surface". Also, as we cleared these stones, a large round stone was found to be sticking through the level of my "surface". So, the surface I thought we had reached really was not really one at all. In fact, I was able to see that the stones from against Wall 3 probably sat on the same level as the floor we reached at the bottom of Pails 12 and 13. Pail 54 was dug to a depth of 3.48m sloping up to 3.60 and the pottery was dated to LMIIIB. The continuation of Wall 5 also began to emerge. Pail 55 was opened to dig down to the floor reached at the bottom of Pails 12 and 13.

Pail 55 contained darker brown, softer soil full of stones with some burning. In the same area that the stones were found along Wall 3 more stones came up between the line of Wall 5's continuation and the round stone. It was difficult to tell if they were a part of a wall or just a group of stones. I began a
second pass to clarify this level and to come down to the floor. We dug the western half of this area of the Gallery first and as we reached the east side of the round stone I found a group of joining fragments of a vessel lying flat. With the discovery of more flat sherds I changed pails to dig the eastern half down to the floor. So Pail 56 was begun at a depth of 3.39m to 3.50m and it contained dark brown soft soil with burning and stones. We found more flat sherds as expected. We also exposed a large patch of burning in the north east corner of the trench. As my workmen finished Pail 56 I cleaned between the line of Wall 5 and the round stone to find that the stones between them were only rubble. So, at the bottom of Pails 55 and 56 we reached a floor level and indeed the soil became hard grey clay. The flat sherds found in these two pails were 52 sherds of the same small necked amphora called C9836. This floor deposit also has joins in Pail 57. Fragments of C9511 were also found in this pail. At the bottom of 55 and 56 the continuation of Wall 5 was fully exposed and it was preserved higher in certain areas than others in this half of the Gallery.

I attempted to photograph this floor as J. W. Shaw was not on site. The photographs did not turn out but we did record half of the floor later (see Pail 60). Pail 57 was opened to remove our floor. We started in the south west corner of the trench and moved north. There was a small slab set just next to the large round stone. We hoped for more in the rest of the trench in order to have some sure indication of a floor but found only one more slab which had no significance because of its random
position. We did, however, find a concentration of stones along Wall 3. Pail 57 was medium to dark yellow-brown clay, hard packed. It was taken to a depth of 3.26m to 3.29m and the pottery dated to LMI/IA2/B.

In Pail 58 we expected to come down to our next floor. Pail 58 was begun along Wall 1 where we hit another patch of stones. There was also a patch of burning just next to this concentration of stones. As we moved north in the trench and along Wall 5 we hit another patch of burning which I sampled. There was also a sandy patch to the west of this burning but as it was so small I did not open a separate pail. Pail 58 was soft dark brown earth which came down to grey clay. At the bottom of it we had indeed reached another floor level. It was dug to a depth of 3.19 to 3.25 and the pottery dated to LMI/IA2/B.

At this point I realized just how deep the foundations of Wall 1 went. In order to account for contamination from the foundation trench for this wall, I opened two pails for our next pass. Pail 59 stretched 1 meter north from Wall 1 and Pail 60 was used to dig the rest of the trench. I called the area of Pail 59 Area F and the area of Pail 60 Area G for convenience.

Pail 59 was begun in the west of Area F and moved east. I sampled some of the soil found at the bottom of 58. We also came down on some stones which I thought might be a wall of T (see Pail 66). The pail was yellow brown sandy soil soft with green grey clay and burning. It was taken to a depth of 3.15m to 3.20m and the pottery dated to LMI/IA2/B. A fine tea cup (09847) from this level is LMI and may date the last use of T (see Interpretation).
Excavation of Area G was begun with Pail 60 in the south at the line of Pail 59. Pail 60 exposed more burning as we moved north. This pail also revealed more stones around the large round stone, but we had clearly reached the bottom of the large round stone at this point. There was also an extremely hard patch of soil in the west of this pail in the same area where Pail 39 had been so difficult to dig making me wonder about a surface here once again. Pail 60 was greyish clay with patches of green clay and burning. It was dug to a depth of 3.14 to 3.16 and its pottery dated to LMI.

I opened Pail 61 to take our next pass along Wall 1 in Space F. This pail was loaded with plaster and sherds so we used the small pick here while one of my other workmen worked along Wall 5 with Pail 62. Pail 61 was yellow brown soil turning to thick yellow clay as we moved east, full of bits of carbon and plaster and green clay. It was taken to a depth of 3.10 to 3.13m and exposed several slabs just north of Wall 1. This pail was loaded with sherds and the pottery dates from LMI C/B. This pail contained fragments of C9512 which joined with Pail 15 and 28. It also had joins in Pail 63 and Pail 59 (LMI tea cup C9847).

It was clear to me at this point that Pail 61 was a level of fill that was different from Pail 62. Pail 62 was hard yellow brown clay becoming softer as we moved east but it lacked the bits of carbon and plaster. I decided to keep the area of Pail 62 separate and as our pass here extended 1.20 meters from Wall 5, I stopped it at this point. I decided to open Pail 63 to see if we could catch the end of the fill found in 61. Pail 63 was
opened in an area that stretched 20 centimeters north of the line of Pail 61. Pail 63 was hard yellow brown clay along the west and becoming softer as we moved east. It also contained bits of carbon, plaster and burning with lots of sherds. As we did not reach the end of the fill, I extended Pail 63 another 20 centimeters and it was then that I noticed a change in the fill. The amount of sherds decreased noticeably from the first half of Pail 63 as well as Pail 61 and so I assumed that we had caught the end of the fill and closed Pail 63. Pail 63 did, however, expose a large area of burning that continued north past the line where I had stopped it. So, I hoped in Pail 64 to see where this burning stopped and discover the relationship between this area and the area of Pail 62. Pail 64 was very hard yellow brown clay at west edge (again comparable with Pail 39), turning softer as we moved east. This pail lacked the amount of sherds found to the south but it did expose the end of the burning. This burning ended about 1.00 meter from the line of Pail 62. And so, Pail 64 caught a transition in the end of the burning as Pail 63 did with the end of the fill.

Pail 62 was taken to a depth of 3.05 to 3.10m and the pottery was LMI. It also contained fragments of the LMI teacup C9847. Pail 63 was taken to a depth of 3.15m and pottery was LMI A2/B. A bronze rod was found in Pail 63, B379. Pail 64 was dug to a depth of 3.11 to 3.07m and the pottery dated to LMI A2/B. But this pail also contained fragments of C9874, a fine painted bridge spouted jar which dated to LMI.

At the ends of Pails 61-64 it was clear that we had not
taken Pail 63 quite low enough to compare with the depth of the rest of the trench. So I opened Pail 65 to bring this 40 centimeter area lower. Pail 65 was hard yellow brown clay. Dug to a depth of 3.11m and the pottery dates to LMIIIA although it was difficult to date because it was so small.

Now that the trench was at roughly the same level, I wanted to take another pass. I opened Pail 66 to dig in the area of Space F plus the 40 centimeter area exposed by pails 63 and 65. Pail 66 was soft yellow brown earth full of green grey clay, pebbles, plaster and carbon. As soon as we began work in Pail 66 we exposed several slabs along the bottom of Wall 1. We moved east and where I expected to find another slab in the row we had exposed, we came down to a large crushed vessel lying on its side. As I cleaned this area I slowly exposed a pot deposit. I could identify three separate vessels, though I was sure there were a great deal more than three. Also visible was a crucible fragment with bronze still attached and this was found in association with several burned sherds. The deposit also contained a plaster leg, probably from a tripod, and part of the body of the vessel extended down from this leg. Meanwhile, just to the north of the deposit, more significant things were being found in the form of walls. The slabs that we had first exposed in Pail 61 turned out to be part of a large east-west wall that I called Wall 7. There was a smaller wall perpendicular to Wall 7 where we had also felt slabs which I called Wall 8. The line of these two walls clearly formed a staircase and the rectangular stone just to the south and east of Feature 2 (the stone visible
at the bottom of 28 and which formed the east edge of Space D) were the remains of the first steps of this staircase. Further east, in the space defined by Walls 7 and 8 just next to the east scarp, we had a corner of the staircase's sotto scala. And then we had the space to the north of the staircase and sotto scala where my workmen were digging Pail 67. Pail 66 was taken to a depth of 2.95 in the staircase and 3.13 in the sottoscala. The pottery from this pail dates to LMI.

Pail 67 was dug in the area of Space G less 40 centimeters on the south. Pail 67 consisted of yellow-brown soil and clay with some burning. This pail exposed rubble to the north of the staircase. It was taken to a depth of 3.00m and its pottery dates to LMI.

Pail 68 was opened for the sottoscala but not dug. Its depth was therefore the same as the bottom of Pail 66, 3.13m. The few sherds we collected at its surface were very difficult to date but looked Neopalatial.

Pails 69 and 70 were opened to remove the rubble from the area north of the staircase. Pail 69 was dug from Wall 7 1.50 meters to the north. This pail consisted of soft brown soil full of stones. It was dug to a depth of 2.95 to 2.97m and its pottery dates to LMI. There was an intrusive LMIIIA2/B fragment in this pail (part of C9836) which must have been a stray sherd from the foundations of P or it fell from the baulk and got put in the pail by accident.

Pail 70 was dug from Wall 5 1.20 meters to the south. It contained soft brown soil full of stones. It was taken to a
depth of 2.95m and its pottery dates to LMI, possibly LMIA.

While the rubble was being removed, I opened Pail 71 to do some work in the staircase; I wanted to see what happened between the deposit and Wall 7. Pail 71 was soft yellow brown soil with bits of green and red clay as well as some stones. It contained much less pottery than the actual deposit but still had some sherds, including some joins with 72 (C9885 and C9886). It was taken to a depth of 2.89 and its pottery dates to MMIII.

Then, with the help of J. W. Shaw and G. Bianco, the deposit was recorded and Pail 72 was used to remove it. The soil in and around the deposit was soft and yellow brown full of plaster and burning as well as bits of green and red clay. The actual removal of this deposit took several days as it was so densely packed with pottery. The following items from the deposit have been inventoried: C9881 a crucible fragment (Item 4); C9883 a jar decorated with applique; C9884 a brazier; C9885 a Vaphaic cup; C9886 a Vaphaic cup; C9887 a bridge spouted jar with light-on-dark spirals (Item 5); C9888 a conical cup; C9889 a tripod cooking pot (Item 3); C9890 a basin (Item 1); C9891 a burned cooking pot with traces of metal from below crucible (Item 4); C9892 a light-on-dark jug; C9893 rim fragment of thin cup (?); C9894 a kalathos; C9895 a kalathos; C9896 a kalathos; C9920 a carinated cup.

The plaster from the deposit is worth a bit of discussion. We began with a plaster leg (Item 2), but found many other fragments of plaster along with it. After we lifted the leg and the small amount of its vessel’s body with chemicals and gauze,
we found another layer of plaster underneath. In fact, this was the pattern: we would lift some plaster and find more underneath that had to be preserved. This was very delicate plaster that was badly destroyed. But there were other more solid pieces that came up in fairly large chunks. Most of the plaster was blue, and some fragments had an edge that seemed to indicate at least some of the plaster had come from some kind of small table. A lot of plaster was found in the area of the leg, another concentration of it was found just north of the leg, and even more was found about 20 centimeters west of the leg. Tiny fragments came from all over the area of the deposit, some even from inside Item 5, C9887. All the fragments are currently being restored.

The deposit (Pail 72) was dug to a depth of 2.80m and its pottery dates to MMII. Most of the pottery was in a good to excellent state of preservation.

As the deposit was being removed, I opened Pail 73 to dig north of the staircase. Pails 69 and 70 had removed the rubble and I felt sure there was a floor just beneath. Pail 73 was originally a sounding along Wall 7 to find the surface associated with it. It measured 1.50 meters by 1.50 meters about a meter away from the east scarp. After digging soft yellow brown soil with stones we came down to a surface of hard grey green clay with pebbles set in it. We proceeded to trace this surface and I extended Pail 73 to do so in an area 1.50 meters from Wall 7 throughout the trench. We found the surface sloping up to parts of Wall 7 in this pail. This surface was found at a depth of
2.91m to 2.80m and was associated with the staircase and Features 1 and 2. As the pottery from this pail dated to LMI, we had indeed found T. (There was an intrusive LMIII/A2/B conical cup rim in this pail but this is explainable considering the depth of the foundations dug for the south wall of P6. This sherd may also have fallen from the baulk.)

Pail 74 exposed the surface along Wall 5 and south 1.20 meters. Pail 74 was soft yellow brown soil full of stones coming down to grey green clay with pebbles set into it. We also found the surface sloping up to parts of Wall 5. It was dug to a depth of 2.91 to 2.83m and dates to LMIA (late) or LMIB.

Pail 75 was opened for a test under one of the slabs from Feature 1. It exposed the pebble court running up to two upright slabs on the west and a surface lower than the one we found at the bottom of 73 and 74 on the east. The depth in the west was 2.83 and the depth reached in the east was 2.76. The pottery from this unit dated to LMI but as the unit was so small it was a bit difficult to tell. Please see Notebook 90 p164ff for more about this pail.
INTERPRETATION

TRENCH 90A

In the excavation of Trench 90A, we found four floors. Each one represents a distinct architectural phase within its particular building.

The earliest floor we found was found at the bottom of Pails 73 and 74 at a depth of 2.80 meters. This floor dated to LMI and was associated with Features 1 and 2 as well as the staircase. This shows us that a first phase of T involved a sort of foyer just next to the south entrance of T. Once you came into this space, you had the choice of going upstairs, into the space to the north, or into the central court to the west.

It is worth mentioning that Pail 75 showed us another floor beneath the one exposed by 73 and 74. This, along with the two upright slabs under the stone lifted from Feature 1, showed us an earlier phase of T in this space, but one that we did not fully expose. The pot deposit (Pail 72) also illustrates an earlier phase in this space, although probably not a phase of T.

The second floor we found was at a depth of 3.20m to 3.13m at the bottom of Pails 26, 27, 28, and 58. This floor also dates to LMI and it represents a later phase in which only the pier blocks from Feature 1 would have been in use. The rest of Feature 1 and Feature 2 were covered over during this phase. If the staircase was in use, the floor level would have been right at its first step. If not, the floor was raised to this level to cover the staircase and the remains of its steps.
It is unlikely that there was a floor between these two LMI levels. Between them lay rubble and fill indicative of a raising of levels by the Minoans (see Pails 48 and 67). Also, the only convincing evidence for a surface (above the first found in 73 and 74) was a level of hard clay at the top of Pails 39, 63, and 64, which would have been the very bottom of the second LMI floor we found.

So, within T we discovered two distinct architectural phases both dating to LMI. The first phase of T would have been quite different from the later one, especially if the staircase went out of use. We discovered the same sort of distinct architectural phases in P right on top of the T levels.

The first floor of P that we found was at the bottom of Pails 12, 13, 55, and 56 at a depth of 3.25m to 3.37m. This floor had a large deposit dating to LMIIA2/B on it. There was also a lot of burning associated with this surface. But the most interesting thing about this floor is that it would have had two large round stones sitting on it for use with the south pier block. The north pier block was by this time covered over by the north wall of P6 and the LMIIA2/B people knew they couldn't use the space unless they created more column bases for use along with the south pier block. The LMIIA2/B people also left part of T's wall (Wall 5) under the north wall of P6 exposed to form a kind of bench within this space.

The final floor of P that we found was at the bottom of Pails 8 and 9, just under a very large amount of rubble fallen from the walls of P6. This surface, at a depth of 3.60m to
3.78m, dated to LMIIB. For at least part of this period, P6 was associated with a wall to the west (Wall 4). This means that for at least part of the time that the other galleries were open (presumably to house ships). Gallery 6 was closed and could not have served the same function.

It is important to mention that the pottery from this space as a whole dates from LMI and then suddenly jumps to LMIIB2/B. This indicates that the space was not re-used between these two periods. And indeed, there was rubble on top of the final LMI floor (it was actually how we detected the final LMI floor, to see the rubble sitting on top of it), sandy patches (Pail 58) and soft brown soil (Pail 28). The reason this space was not re-used is due to the south pier block's continued presence and protrusion into later levels. And even when it was finally re-used in LMIIB2/B, this gallery must have had a different function than all the rest because of the pier block and the other stones used to accommodate it. So different that the LMIIB people could build a wall at the west end of P6 and still use the space effectively.

All this argues for a very unique space in both the T and P levels within P6.
APPENDIX 1

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

TRENCH 90A

Wall 1: South wall of P6

Direction: East-West
Length: 5.30 meters
Height: 1.30 meters
Width: 1.30 meters in the east; 1.00 meter in the west
Courses: 3 on the south face; 8 on the north face
Elevation: 4.47 in east; 4.02 in west
Date: LMIII A2/B (Pails 55 and 56)

Description: Constructed in typical Minoan fashion: large imposing blocks on outside face and smaller stones on the inside face. This wall tilts slightly north on its north face as a result of its own destruction.

Wall 2: South wall of T (as it runs from 90A to 90C)

Direction: East-West
Length: 11.70 meters (from the east scarp of 90A west to its end in 90C)
Height: .50 meter in the east near the threshold; 1.00 meter in the west
Courses: 2 exposed near the threshold; 3 courses in places to the west (90A and 90C)
Elevation: 3.39 in east; 3.75 in the west (90C)
Date: LMI
Description: Constructed in typical Minoan style: large ashlar blocks on the north and south faces filled with smaller stones inbetween. Plaster on its north face, largely robbed out in the south.

Wall 3: North wall of P6

Direction: East-West
Length: 6.70 meters
Height: .80 meter to 1.00 meter in the east; .70 meter in the west.
Width: 1.00 meter
Courses: 4 in the east; 2 in the west
Elevation: 4.49 meters in the east; 4.09 meters in the west
Date: LMIIIA2/B
Description: This wall does not tilt. It has large blocks in the west changing to smaller ones in the east. Wall 3 sits directly on a wall of T (Wall 5--see below).

Wall 4: West blocking wall of P6

Direction: North-South
Length: 3.50 meters
Height: 4.00 meters
Width: 1.00 meter
Courses: 1 (with foundation slabs beneath)
Elevation: 4.08 in south; 3.78 in north
Date: LMIIIB (Pails 8 and 9)
Description: This wall had one course of very large slabs
sitting on top of much smaller foundation stones. It was removed to proceed with the excavation of P6. Please see Section-Elevation included with 90A plans and photographs in Notebook 90 p70 and 72 (Roll 2: frames 28-30).

Wall 5: T wall

Direction: East-West

Length: 6.00 to the north pier block (S2247)

Height: 1.00 meter

Width: .30 meter (exposed under P)

Courses: 5 (and a course of foundation stones)

Elevation: 3.40 meters

Date: LMIA (Pail 51)

Description: This wall was constructed with largish blocks very uniform in size. In the east it is preserved higher in certain places. The north wall of P6 sits right on top of this wall.

Wall 7: North wall of the staircase

Direction: East-West

Length: 5.35 to the south pier block (S2248)

Height: .20 meter exposed

Width: .60 meter

Courses: 2 exposed on north face

Elevation: 3.10 meters in east; robbed out to 2.90 in west

Date: LMIA (Pail 73)

Description: This wall tilts to the north. Its north face
is constructed with uniform slabs that were meant to be seen. The south side of this wall does not really have a face and is constructed with less uniform, rounder stones. In an area in its middle it was robbed out to its second course. It lines up with Feature 2 (see Pail 39).

Wall 8: crosswall of the staircase

Direction: North-South
Length: .60 meter
Height: .20 meter
Width: .60 meter
Courses: 1 exposed
Elevation: 3.11 meters
Date: LMIA
Description: This is the crosswall of the staircase. Not only is it very small, not much of it is exposed either. It runs under the south wall of P6 (Wall 1).
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90A - N/S SECTION
LARGEST UNIT A - A'
30m WEST OF FEATURE 1

SANDY EARTH (BROWN)
SANDY EARTH (YELLOW)
YELLOW - BROWN EARTH
REDISH - BROWN EARTH
BURNING
RUBBLE
PEBBLES

0m    0.5m    1.00m
-2m   -3m   -4m
90A = 1:20 PLAN OF TRENCH
PLUS ALL SECTION LINES SHOWN
Trench RCA 1:100
below 82C/1:62 & 84E 2:72

Part 1
LMIII A2/6

Part 2
LMIII B
Trench 90A 1:100

Part 12 & 13 - Floor
12 = LIII A2/B w/ MIII CT
13 = LIII?
Tranch 90A 1:100

Phil 17 batteris nightly 3:00

LM I

Phil 18

Pimid-LMI
Trench 90A 1:100

Plan 23 - removal of Wall 4

no sherds

Plan 24 - removal of Wall 4

LM1
Trench 90A 1:100

Page 25: L1 M1

Page 26: Bottom is roughly 3.5 m
Floor = annular wall

L1 M1 (87)
Trench 90A 1:100

Plan 27: bottom is roughly 3.15 m
- floor - 250x20 w/rubble

LM III A 2

Plan 28: bottom is roughly 3.15 m
- floor - 250x20 w/rubble

LMIIL A 2
- trenches w/ 15x116
Trench 904  1:100

Point 43 Neolithic

Point 44 MM III

marked pit/level craft