Note book 8
Sand Clearing Operations
16 May - 11 June 1977

Supervisor:
John McEnroe.
_work began today at 6:00 AM. Posterio Shaw, John McIntyre, and Georgios Belalakis, the foreman, were at the site to supervise the removal of the superficial sand layer from much of the site. We began with the top-loader (bulldozer) in the northern part of Area A, between Trenches 1-B, 4-A, and 5-A. Other than 2-3 coarse ware sherds, the sand in this area was void of ancient remains. The top-loader removed the sand from this area, which in some places had formed drifts 1.5 m. deep, in about 2 hours.

Later in the morning, we began to remove the deep sand in the area between Trenches 5-B, 4-A, and 6-A. A modern wall, shown on the 1976 site plan, just to the north and west of trench 6-A will have to be removed. Its length is given on the 1976 site plan. The maximum preserved height is ca. 1.20 m., next to the NW corner of trench 6-A. A photo of this modern wall is given on page 8. (photo, p 8)

At 12:00 the mid-day break began. The bulldozer began working again at 3:30.
About 3m. southeast of the southeast corner of trench 5A, the bulldozer came into a large (ca. 3x4 m) pile of small stones. These have been left for more careful examination. (plan p.16)

We quit working today at 7:30 pm. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in the sand layer today.

We have been dumping the sand over the cliff along the west side of the site in two places: one to the south of Trench 1B and the other to the south of Trench 5B (see plan, page 16).

Beginning sand clearing

Roll 1 # 33

The new phylacterion
Work began today at 6:10 AM. We began by continuing to remove the sand, with the bulldozer, from the northern part of Area A.

Note on change in landscape:

While the removal of the sand level from the site is far from complete, already we are noticing many differences between the level of the top of the sand and the top of the earth level below it. The earth rises to a high point at the northwest corner of Trench 5B. From there, the ground slopes gently to the north. To the east, the top of the earth level slopes down to a point south of Trench 5A, and then rises gently. The most notable difference, however, is the steep decline of the top of the earth levels from north to south, specifically, from the area of Trench 5A down to the area of Trench 6A. The land between Trenches 4A, 5A, 5B and 6B formed a depression which continues to descend to the south. This depression had become filled with drifted sand. As the clearing operation continues, we will learn how much the earth level continues to descend to the south.

We took a break for lunch at 12:00. We began again at 3:00 and finished at 7:00 PM. No artifacts were found in the sand level except 4-5 stone tools.
18 May 1977

Work began at 6:00. George, the operator of the top-loader, has cleared the north part of the site, down to the southern edge of Trench 6A. He is continuing to dump the over the cliff between trenches 5B and 2A. As mentioned yesterday, the sand seems to reach its greatest depth south of Trench 6A. The sand is ca. 2.30 m. deep immediately south of Trench 6A and may be even slightly deeper further to the south. Again, no objects of archaeological significance were found in the clearing operation.

At 12:00 we began the mid-day break.

J. W. Graham visited the site today.

Work began again at 3:10 and lasted until 7:10, under the supervision of Professor Shaw.
19 May

Work began this morning at 6:00 am. We have cleared the deep sand (average depth in this area 2.5-2.30 m) from the area between Terrace 6A and 2A. We found only 1 or 2 coarse ware sherds in the sand level this morning.

Work began again, after a break from 12:00 – 3:15. An interesting development has been the uncovering of a rather steep drop in the top of the soil level immediately south of the new phylogenion. While the soil level continues to go down (i.e. we haven’t finished clearing this area) we have already reached a depth of some 2.36 m. of surface sand. The sand in this area is divided into two distinct strata. The top stratum (ca. 1.30 m. deep) is the same brown-grey sand that covers most of Area A. Below this there is a layer of reddish sand. Both layers are sterile of sherds.

We finished at 7:15.
20 May 1977

Work began today at 6:10 A.M. We have continued to clear the deep sand south of Trench 6 A and east of Trench 7 A. Again, no object of archaeological importance was found in the sand level. We finished at 12:10.

In the afternoon, from 3:00 - 7:00, Professor Shaw directed the clearing operation.

In the steep slope immediately south of the Pshyelion, mentioned yesterday, a layer ca. 80 cm. deep composed of stones in loose sand was noted. It may be the result of a modern field-clearing operation. Also in this area Professor Shaw rated 3 possible walls. Two of them may be modern field walls (terrace walls). The third, at the bottom of the steep slope may be ancient.
21 May 1977

Work began at 6:10 AM.

In the deep sand south of the Phylakon, we noted 2 distinct strata of sand (see page 17). The top layer is gray-brown, the bottom layer reddish. Also, I noted that in the lower, reddish layer, there seem to be a great many more land snail shells than in the upper layer. This morning we took photos of these 2 strata (black and white and Color slides).

Note: Dannie, who was operating the top-loader this morning, said that these were similar strata in the sand pit up the road toward Pithidea. Where he usually works, the explanation for this is that originally the sand was deposited on the hill by the wind. Then heavy rains washed the sand down into various depressions, at the same time mixing it with soil (accounting for the reddish color and the great number of land snails). Then the winds brought in a new layer of pure sand (our top layer).

We stopped at 12:10 PM.

In the afternoon, Professor Shaw supervised the clearing operation. They began to clear the sand from the southwest corner of Area A. The most significant development was the discovery of a large wall...
the top of which is in the sand level. The total length of the wall has not been uncovered yet, but already we can see about 3.20 m. of its length. In most places about 3 courses are preserved. The wall is made of fairly regular limestone slabs laid in more or less even courses. There is, so far, no sign of the use of cement. The small spaces between the slabs seem to have been filled with earth. The south end of the wall is located about 6.20 m. north of our southwest boundary marker. (as the wall is so far revealed). The north end of the wall (so revealed) is about 9.80 m. north of the southwest boundary marker. The wall runs approximately N-S. The wall is about .50 m. wide.

Professor Shaw mentioned the possibility of a robber trench along one or both faces of the wall. This problem will become clearer as we remove more of the sand.

The working hours in the afternoon were again, 3:00 to 4:00.

The sand we are removing from this area is being piled near the beach southwest of Trench 2A and northwest of Trench 1A.
23 May 1977

We continued clearing the deep sand southwest of the Hypaion this morning, from 6:00 until 11:30 a.m. No sherds or walls were found.

In the afternoon, under Prof. Shaw’s direction, the clearing operation continued in the southwest part of the site. In the area of the newly discovered wall, many large stone slabs were found in the sand. They were obviously building material. Most were not in situ, and were remounted. The working hours in the afternoon were from 3:30 until 8:00 p.m.

(The stone slabs mentioned above were found along both sides of the wall. Stone slabs were also found to the east of the wall, along the south property line. Many of the more regularly-shaped stones have been kept. We have piled many of them around the wall.)
24. May 1977

Work began at 6:10 AM. We continue to clear the deep sand south east of the Trench 6A and south west of the Phytoalexon. We stopped working at 11:40 AM.

In the afternoon, we began at 3:30 PM. We continued removing the deep sand south of Trench 6A. In one spot, about 16 m. South of Trench 6A, The top layer of the earth surface revealed 8-16 sherds which were lying close to the surface. Most were coarse ware, but one seemed to be a fragment of a kylix stem.

Later in the afternoon, we removed more of the sand from the general area of Trench 1A. Many sherds were found in all levels of the sand. These were collected and put into Pail 1, Level 1. Most body sherds and foot tile fragments were later discarded. We finished at 8:00 PM.

Pail #1
under pail:
from depth of: surface-
type of soil: loose sand
25 May 1977

This morning we continued removing the sand from the general area of Tr. 1A. Some additional sherds were collected and added to Wall #1 Level 1 (page 27). We also found 2 new walls. The first runs approximately N-S, parallel to the wall found 21 May (pages 21-23). We have dug to the bottom of the wall yet, but already it is revealed to be 16 m in height, with 7 courses of flat slabs. It is about 1.60 m wide, and about 1.70 m long (though we haven't yet uncovered its middle section, see sketch p. 23).

From the eastern end of the wall just described, another wall runs to the north. We have only uncovered a few stones of this wall. This wall seems to continue to the northeast for quite a distance. After a space of ca. 4.10 m, which we have not yet dug, we found 3 or 4 more stones which seem to belong to the same wall. (sketch p. 23.)

Many stone slabs, some nicely cut, have been found in this southwestern area. We have saved some of the more interesting blocks. Though most come from the sand level, it is certain that they represent building material. Some of them...
are shaped like this:

These may be thinner blocks reused in the later building.

We stopped for the mid-day break at 12:30.

Work began again at 3:30 PM. We shifted to the area southwest of Trench 3 to 4. Total 10 hours

Later in the evening, under the supervision of Prof. Shaw, work shifted to the area of Trench 4A.

The entire length of the east-west wall was uncovered. A wide door was located in the wall and a burnt level was found in front of the building. These details have been added to the sketch on page 23, and will be more fully described tomorrow. The burnt level and the crumpled state of the stones may indicate that the entire building was destroyed by fire. For convenience, it will be referred to here as the "Burnt Building."

Photos (B&W and color) were taken of the "Burnt Building."

Addition: a flat slab, standing on its side, was noted to the west of the door of the Burnt Building, outside (i.e. south of) the wall. Prof. Shaw mentioned that it may have been part of a built wall.
26 May 1977

We began today at 6:00 a.m. We found several more walls of the "Burnt Building," and are now able to give a more complete plan of it (p. 32), though the plan is still far from complete. Early in the morning, we found the north east corner on line with the south east corner which was found yesterday. We began looking for the north wall, particularly in the region of a large boulder which we had noted some days earlier. The boulder proved to be outside the northwest corner of the building. Many of the stones had been robbed away at this point, but the plan of the building became much clearer. The north wall and the north part of the west wall had been cut into a cutting in the side of the hill. Traces of the cutting still remain. We found a Minoan tripod leg in the cutting in the N.W. corner of the building, so it seems likely that the Burnt Building was at least partially built into earlier levels. Because the north wall was built into this cutting, it has no proper outer (N.) face. However, the inner face is made of coursed stones. We traced the inner face about 4.80 m. to the east, where it joins an interior wall. The interior wall runs to the south for ca. 3.40 m., where it joins to the west. South of this

BURNT BUILDING = BUILDING B
Sketch plan showing general locations of buildings in southwest part of Area A.

Building A

Building B

(Sketch Plan A. 32)

Building C

5 m

Southwest boundary marker

The eastern rooms have not yet been investigated. There is a set-back in the N-S wall by the door (7 ft. wide). The entire building, so far as is now known, was filled with loose sand, of the same type that covered all of Area A. There were also a few sherds and some loose stones. There were not, however, as many sherds inside the building, as we found to the south of it. Almost all the sherds are medium coarse? anyphora body sherds. None were painted, except one black glaze sherd found south of the door.

Many stones are missing from the building, especially from the southwest corner. This accords well with the tradition in Pitsidia that many (ca. 50?) years ago marbles came from a nearby monastery and were used for building material.

(We took a break from 12:00 - 3:00 and worked from 3:00 to 7:00.)

Late in the afternoon we found a corner of another building. It is located ca. 6.80 m. south of the "Burnt Building." Its west wall is aligned with the east (N-S) wall of the Burnt Building. From this it is clear that we are dealing with an organized...
Building B: sand clearing

Complex of buildings arranged in right angles around what seems to have been a court.

The newly found building will be called Building C. (Sketch, p. 36.) It is preserved, so far as we can see, to only two courses. It is built of colored flat stones as were the other two buildings. We have uncovered its north wall for a length of 60 m., and its west wall for 1.70 m. Above the building we found only sand, with a few sherds. The sherds will be put in a separate pail.

Pail #2
Level #1
From depth of surface-
type of soil: surface sand
pottery:
other: 1 bone frag.

At the corner, the lower course projects out from the upper. This may be an indication that we are close to the foundation.

Correction: Contra statements on p. 35, on 27 May, we found that there is no door at the south end of the N-S interior wall of Building B. This correction has been taken into consideration in the plan, p. 32.
This may be the lower part of a stairwell which would turn to the north. Long stone slabs, suitable for steps, have been found fallen into both the east and west rooms of Building B.

Correction: for a change of opinion about "Building C" see p. 59.
27 May 1977

We began again at 6:00 AM. We have begun to clear some of the sand from the inside of Building B ("Burnt Building"). The pottery collected from the sand fill from within Building B is being put in a new pail.

Pail #3 Level 1
under pail —
from depth or surface —
type of soil: loose sand
pottery:
other:
inventory:

As the plan of Building B becomes clearer, more details will be added to the sketch plan, p. 32.

Just to the east of Building B we have located another building. This will be called Building D. The pottery from the building will be kept in a separate pail.

Pail #4
Level 1
under pail —
from depth or surface —
type of soil: loose sand
pottery:
other:
inventory:

The location of the building is shown on page 38.

Sketch plan showing approximate location of buildings A-D and provenance of pails 1-5.
Building D appears to be circular. It is preserved to only 2 courses. In the south it is aligned with the south wall of Building B. We have not traced its northern or western perimeters. The outer wall is .60 m wide. The outer circumference appears to be about 2 m. The radius from the outside of the wall is about 2.80 m. (See note, p. 42)

The function and date of the building is still undetermined. Inside Building D, P.H. Shaw noted some burnt sand (black), of the same sort found south of Building B. We have not dug inside the building. As the east side of the building proceeds to the north, it becomes more deeply imbedded in earth. Under the instructions of P.H. Shaw, G. Beladalos, our foreman, dug into the earth, attempting to trace the circumference of the building. He noted that the soil around the building was yellowish and mixed with sand, while the soil on top of the outer wall was greyish clay. Near the lower course of the outer wall, in the yellowish earth, many large sherdos were beginning to appear. Some were left on site. Other sherdos from this earth were put into a new pail.

(cont)
(For this page, see also note below.)

Pile 5
Level 2
under pile 4 & 1.1
from depth of
Type of soil: yellowish
with Sand (E. side of "D")

pottery:
inventory:

As the earth was becoming
rather deep, we stopped
tracing the circumference of
Building D, hoping to preserve
the stratigraphy for the
Trench Supervisor.

On the south side of Building D,
Professor Shaw found a patch of
clay which may be a part of a
floor.

☆ Note: there remains a strong
possibility that Building D is not
Circular. It may be, rather, apsidal,
with its open Chon-circular end
facing Building B.

☆☆ Note to excavator: This pile
came from an earth level; Level 2.
Its contents should be closely
inspected for information
Concerning the date of the building

Working hours: 6:00 - 12:00
3:30 - 7:30

Addition: Many stones, most of them
obviously building material have
been removed from Building B.
There was a pile of stones inside the
door way, and, in the west room,
there were many small stones along
the north wall. We have left a
pile of stones in the middle of the
west room, though many others were
removed from this area also.
28 May 197-

Work began at 6:00 AM. We are continuing to remove the sand east of Building D. We have left all the sand around a tree near the southeast corner of the site.

This morning I scraped a bit more of the sand away from the round building, Building D, near the southeast corner of Building B. The circular outline seems to continue. This would rule out the possibility of a "D's having been used as a well." (cf. note, page 43). Following the western part of the circumference of Building D to the north, the ground (earth) level seems to rise. That is, it slopes down slightly from N to S. I have not dug into the earth level, and have left the remaining arc of Building D's outline to be uncovered by the excavator.

C.26  m² from the southeast property marker, around the north of the Acacia tree which we have left, George, the top-loader operator, noticed a stratum of clay-like earth sandwiched between two deep layers of sand. The sand is about 3.20 m thick. The clay stratum is 1.40 m thick.