17 August 1982

46 Series. No excavation.

44 ms., 9th/8th century B.C. pottery continues to be found due north of the heavy Minoan wall of Building T. From the road 'presumably passed,' the stratigraphic situation is not clear, nor is this helped by the fact that we are unable to excavate for the north solution.

The two mantles still sit on their pillars of earth, which grows relatively higher daily. We were told today that the request for it to be removed had been given to the ephor (who is, however, on vacation).

The wall itself (the north wall A.T.) becomes more grandiose and interesting. On the east there is an excellent chance that there will be an orthostate facade such as that east of Building J. Then there is an enormous orthostate set on edge with the rough face out (north), the present interpretation being that this is closing a gap, probably a doorway, in a façade, analogous with the northern entrance into Building J.

Further to the east is the "long block," which can hard now may have an even longer balk on it. Why this type of masonry is introduced, I do not know. Orthostate - incised ashlar - orthostate. Why?

SS. Floor deposit is cleared. The pottery is a mixture, and I am somewhat new kind for us. The "house of the pithos" is an appropriate "women. There is progress in the trenches on the east and some of the final trenches on the south will be laid out soon.
18 August 1981

4652. No excavation.

18 MCS. Most of the day was spent removing about a meter of the Minoan fill in the northern part of the town. A small trench in the center of the plot is of interest. The trench contained the debris of the buildings, but the fill was not allowed to remain. The trench was dug to the bottom of the fill, revealing a stone wall. This wall is well-preserved, and as far as I know, the longest wall in Minoan architecture. I did not think that when we began excavating at Kommos that we would be dealing with architecture of this dimension.

418. SS. A lower floor is found to exist in the room cleared yesterday. In the eastern trench, there are surprisingly few stones in the upper level of fill. Does this mean that we are near the exterior of the house?

Extremely hot, especially in 47 where the sides of the deepening trench prevent the circulation of air.

A small T.C. chariot wheel and a T.C. bull (Temple B period) are found in 47. On the south part at a relatively high level, a very fine Minoan T.C. blade with top not in, found as well in the LM/MI fill in 418.
The contractor for the fence arrives and we agree on a price for a high-quality fence galvanized that "will last a lifetime". Cost about 40,000 D. It will be put in by the time that we leave for Athens. The fence will be paid for from the funds given to us by our donor, Rosser. Our observers Mr. Rothermich and the Antiquities Service, made the contact possible and no doubt saved us money and made possible a high-quality job, thus saving what alleviates the pain of keeping the Styx double beneath. On the other hand, I do not doubt that the time may come when we are forced out of the area which we ourselves fenced, given the present climate.

46A. No activity.

47A. Study progress without substantive change. A few bits of the façade are recovered broken, in the increasingly sandy fill, on the east. One of these fell off the façade, then the roof level was high - breathing room for a long time and not simply, when the façade was exposed. Notably, the blocked entrance to the second floor - the longest Minoan block - may also be an amazingly large orthostate for it does not become the 0.45 m course that MCS and I expected. It was the only reasonable solution but the Minoans may, once more, have done the unexpected. Few iron sheds alongside the wall now and less MNI pottery in the northern part of the trench. The last a welcome relief for Peter Cullather, who has been processing the pottery from this reduced season literally single-handed. Notable are the literally dozens of large fragments of "Phoenician Amphora" of early temple B period. Further confirmation this will become most important when we argued the origin of the tri-pillar shrine.
484. Eastern section complete with the clearing of the lower, HM II (?) floor.
Eastern section with little wall construction: are we outside the building at this point? If so, hurrah!

484.1. It began on the south, with a similar level although we knew that here the construction continued.
20 August 1982

Slow progress although few substantive changes at any point. The only real addition is that we have now reached the cornice of the facade: the orthostate is 0.94 m. high and 3.44 m. long. Fortunately we have found a wall parallel to the facade 2.70 m. from its northern facade on the north, analogous to that found last year. The discovery of the road east of the temples, therefore, is almost assured.

21 August 1982

46A - No activity.

47A - A pleasure to report here that in front of the new section of orthostate facade we have found at one point tested, below about 0.40 m. of pure sand, a fine pavement of ironstone slabs: smooth from wear. The road has been found again; the hypothesis is proven. Rather than being of a lesser quality moreover, the facade - containing - avenue arrangement is of surprisingly high quality. The effect will be equal to that of any ashlar facade of the E. A. Agean. While many questions remain (the explanation of the large rectangular block leaning out from the facade; the function(s) of the spaces behind the north facade of T), at least a few have been answered.

48A - Complications as a few upside-down pots appear "outside" the MM rooms on the south. Perhaps I was optimistic that we have reached the extent of the MM house. I plan to spend a good deal of time during this coming week to define and estimate problems in this area, now that 47A is defined in general terms.
It should note here that there are some differences in the situation in which the walls were found in 4.3A (eastern part) and 4.4A (eastern extension). In the former, there were scattered in the deep sand, dozens of small blocks that had once no doubt been set on the orthostate wall (LG III?). In the latter, there were relatively few slabs and, rather, many shapeless stone fragments that were either small enough to lift out of the trench or could be broken up with a sledgehammer.

Also shared, in her report, compare and contrast the rather different situations, for although ambiguous they will no doubt reflect upon the histories of the buildings in the area.

Veze Fravel, poet and artist from York University, visits the site.
47A. The Minoan road is cleared off where we came, and the drain along the north, quite analogous to the one on the west (in 43A) is cleared out. It, too, is at the point where water will flow into it, and no doubt if we could clear the entire width we could have water flowing to the sea. Numerous people suggest a tunnel below A1!

Above the road, in approximately its centre, we find the only human skull discovered so far on the Kommos site. It is found at the edge of a spoil of stone, approximately in the centre of the road. Preliminary examination suggests a young person (8-10?). Only the top of the skull is actually discovered. Its presence here can hardly be guessed (a woman suggests that it may be the remains of the traffic policeman in the road). No other parts of the body are found, although there may be below the scarp on that side of the trench.

48A. Perhaps, after all, we are outside the Minoan house on the southeast — but the presence of the Minoan cypresses and bushes must be cleared down and outside the house, remain to be explained.

Jedidah.II cleaning of superficial structures enables us to proceed toward — we will be fortunate to complete the clearing by 48A by this coming Saturday. The day suit as the last one of excavation by the Greek Antiquities Service.

David Burnam, reporter for the NYT, visits the site.
47A. To afford vision of the east end of the largest block, and to form a base for a continuing support of the upper benches, we began to set in form for concrete frames at that point. This year there will be a number of supporting walls erected on the southern part of the site as the separation of Meroe from late levels continues.

We excavate behind (on the south) the large leaning block, so that it can be shifted back into place when it will be attached permanently with cement.

A few more objects (a chariot wheel, another t.f. bull figurine) appear in the Temple B dump level just north and near the top of the n. wall of Building T.

48A. Discovery of a fine slab pavement in the eastern trench will clarify that section of the trench. Certain late retaining walls are declassified as walls after complete recording. A major effort to clean earth in the western trench is being made so as to meet the deadline established for us.
47A Concrete/steel beams set below bench of A1 so that is part of the Minoan wall of Building T will remain visible.

Excavation of the packing within the Minoan wall is almost completed as we prepare to tilt it back to its original position and tie it in with cement.

48A Slow progress with only three days of excavation left leaves me anxious to speed up the work. Tombrass's 10 of our better workmen did not appear today.

Major consolidation work progresses and will continue for at least a week, perhaps even for the next month, for there is plenty of cash available for such basic work.
26 August 1982

47A. Essentially completed, we fail at some point to move the large leaning block into place, in its upper part breaks off as pressure is applied with a jack. Another, similar method must be applied in the future. The scene, with our inexperience with these huge blocks, will serve as a lesson. Cementing of the temple area continues.

48A. With some effort leaving SS and myself particularly worn, the hulking trenches come within reach of completion. On the east the fine slab pavement is cleared, with outside space to the south. This borders what presently looks like an open platform south of room with my de-dropped pots in it. This will be investigated further tomorrow.

To the west, we begin removing rubble that slopes southward "in front of" the room with the MM vase deposit. If all goes well, this will indeed turn out to be the entrance to a series of rooms on the north. There is no evidence of an of north-south walls in the present trenches.

Tomorrow we will know for sure whether we are really outside of the MM house on the south.
27 August 1982

47A No activity although the masons worked in the general area.

47B A limited sounding in court 2 on the hilltop reveals evidence of earlier use (MM III?).

48A Approaches termination as we find the southern wall, without doorway, of Jrin's MM house on the west. There is absolutely no doubt that this is the southern terminus here, and that we have found the same on the east. Today we find that the projection east of the fine slab pavement is probably a kitchen area with numerous vessels found on the surface mixed in with the fill—there may be a hearth that will appear tomorrow.
47A. Excavation west, along the monumental wall of the roadway, reveals another block in the orthostate facade which continues in that direction. A large tumbled block, most likely of the second course, lies before it. In the process of the excavation of this "tunnel," a number of other terracotta figurines of animals appear in the usual late 9th/8th century that we usually associate with Temple B. This completes excavation here, although much restoration and other consolidation work remains to be done.

47B. MCS' brief sounding turns into a major, late minute project down into MM LM I levels which turn out to be surprisingly deep. We descend finally into what may have been a storeroom. In the fill we recover a good portion of a lampstand (our first large fragment) and some LMI LM II CI II ware. The date of the House of the Press thus becomes LM II in a bit later.

48A. The "platform" becomes a deep room in, perhaps, a well. We have time to penetrate about a meter before time runs out (a large amphora and associated cup are found). Various small coins are found. Some grey plaster walls are cleaned up before the whistle blows 1 hour late on the final day of actual excavation of 1982.
8 September 1982

474 Consolidation of the walls in the temple area continues apace, and we are fortunate that Alexos Papadakies comes from the Herakleion Museum to give us advice on walls and, at the same time, to help shift the large leaning block into position, which is done with some effort but without any danger. Also, the interior of the wall is built up with cement and sealed up with a filling of sand, chips of facade blocks from the lady, are also glued with cement back into place.

In the tunnel, two fallen blocks are cleaned. One is of the size of the second course and probably tumbled from the wall. The other, about 0.15 m. in height, could even be part of a third course, fallen onto the road surface.

476 Cleaning, Photography completed by 10:08.

48A Drawings by Dee Clarke and recording of other features by Steven Shulse continue.
In reference to clearing the area to construct support walls for Temple C (see opposite page, Trench 46A4) the following objects were found:

P 40, plaster fragments
P 41, plaster fragments — possibly moulding

7 September 1982

46A4. This "trench" was "opened" a few days ago as we begin to build walls to support Temple C on the south and on the west. First we are cutting into the scarp at 1m I flow level, then sitting in concrete beams reinforced with steel; then we will build up walls on the beams until the Temple is permanently supported on all sides.

In the process certain panels will be filled with shreds, and a report will be made here.

Concerning new walls/floor features. There has been a startling and important discovery in the past day or so. Namely, when the scarp was cut into we found a low wall, or rather a line of slabs on the south. One end of the line terminated at the column base we already knew, found by Douglas Orr in 34A2 some years ago. Cleaning of this new line of slabs brought us to the "plaster," and where it seemed to end at the "ants" of the same trench. Not so, we found when we excavated below the cerra to find it was sitting upon a column base of the same size, ca. 0.56 in diameter and set upon a sub-base similar to the one already known. The anta may have replaced a column base/column and, as I originally thought, is a late touch to the group of walls. Appropriate photographs were taken.

We had not known until then the direction of the beams of the column(s), although we knew in effect that it was either north/south or east/west. When I knew it was east — west I asked the workers to dig so the west in the scarp at 3:40m, from the western base. After no trace, I remeasured more carefully the intercolumnation as 3.27 and that the groove extended a bit east, where
ROAD

NORTH WALL OF BUILDING

Parallelism not proven.

- C
- A
- B

O - 3.29 - O - 3.29 - O

on a line, as proven.

3.28 (min)
3.28
3.26

Tentatively, the sequence in the immediate area would seem to begin with and after LM I:

1. T and colonnade
   Wall in line up to Column B, also to Column A ("the court"). Perhaps the court was during LM III structure built upon it at the same time. Also, the style of the plan in between A and B.

2. LM III structures at the original level

The significance of the colonnade is clear. First, it suggests that the area immediately south of the north wall of Building T was paved with a pebble floor and roofed, but without any interparishion walls in the first LM I phase. It probably faced south onto an open court of some size, also with a pebble pavement. Secondly, the very span of the colonnade goes well with the proportions of the walls and must, with J, have formed a unit. Perhaps it is all a "palace-type" unit of some kind, including Building I as part, but we simply don't know the form yet. The nature colonnade, however, underlines the importance of the discovery. This will not be emphasized, however, in our various reports until we have evidence more sure.
South central border of Temple C, after undermining and before laying in concrete slab for supporting temple platform. Arrow indicates position of column base No. 6, (see previous page).

9 September 82

46A 4 All shards collected so far from the scarp cleaning associated with building on the southern and eastern side of the temple are thrown out—a mixed bunch.

Charcoal collected, also a good deal of plastic, some from the ceiling, only one painted piece. This will be examined during the coming year.

10 September 82

Work continues at the temple, and will continue until it is sufficiently supported. Any additions here will have been made in Athens, so this book will be sent tomorrow for duplication.

Despite the limited number of days of excavation (limited by plan and, further, limited by flat), the excavation season accomplished its aims:

1. Cleaning up of a few messy, unexcavated parts of the site (Tr. 46A, A1, A2, A3, A4), as done by Skd and as reported herein;

2. Discovery of the Minoan road east of the temple, which I had hoped would continue (Tr. 47A);

3. Determination of the southern limit of the MM buildings on the hillside, which means that excavation of this area in the future can be curtailed, and not artificially.

As a side benefit, due to the undermining of the temple along the south, we discovered what may well be a portico with a colonnade facing onto a large court of still undetermined size. When applied to the orthostate facade, which
is structurally a unit, this means that Building T is essentially a single unit, a matter quite hypothetical until now. It also means that this already large Building T may, along with "J," be part of a complex of related rooms facing onto a court.

In Pitsidia we clean tables and rooms, spending days writing a limited number of reports that will serve as records of the summer's work.
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