18 July 1982

Directors' Notebook
1982

Study Session June 25 - August 9.

Limited Excavation August 9 - September 15th (Corrected to August 28th).

Specific Mud Trenches here:

p.19-29 46A - Cleaning of remains of hearth in Temple C by David Reese, for later sieving.


pp.25-29 46A2 - Removal of hearth in southeastern corner of Buried Building B.

pp.29-34 46A3 - Removal of final 1/4 of fill within Round Building D.

p.67- 46A4 - Excavating for retaining walls around the western and southern sides of Temples Band C.
18 July 1982: Again, the Kommos Staff has come together from so many points of residence in order to pursue the discovery and interpretation of the Minoan/Greek site being excavated since 1976 under the auspices of the Royal Ontario Museum and the University of Toronto through the American School of Classical Studies. With financial help this year from two sponsoring institutions and from the SSHRC, the chief funding institution in Ottawa, Groote-Reeves's timely donation will be partially used this year as well.

During this seventh season there are two major aims: the first to further study and prepare for publication — the contract has been signed with Princeton University Press —; the second to make limited excavation. Concerning the second we hope to be able to complete all field work on both hilltop and hillside during a single month at the end of the session.

For the first time the regular season was preceded by ongoing study by the staff member, H. Vance. Working as well as his wife, H. Blitzner, Professor Watkins, who came here to Pitsidia in early January, has been here on and off since then and has essentially completed his study of the LM pottery from the hilltop and hillside. All sherds have been looked at and as soon as MCs and HO give their approval, a great many sherd bags will be discarded in a pit on land or at the Kommos site. The LM pottery that is the uncatapulted pottery, especially that in the dumps, will follow within the next year.
For the first period, which began before the arrival of the Shaws (J. U. Watsons and P. Betancourt in charge as Assistant Directors), the chief members are:

1. Location
   - Philip Betancourt
   - Kathy Schwaab, Chief Cataloguer
   - Elizabeth McGowan, Assistant Cataloguer
   - Cap Searce, Conservator
   - James Wright with Nicolas Wright, 2 months old.
   - Petri Callaghan
   - David Reeves
   - Steven Shubert (aide to Philip Betancourt)
   - M.C. Shaw
   - Harriet Watson
   - Lucia Nixon

Professors:
- Debi Haskell (for Philip Betancourt)
- Guy Necheese (for J. Vance Watsons)
- Jolla Pfaff (for Petri Callaghan)

For the second period, that of excavation, there will be:

- Kathy Schwaab, Chief Cataloguer
- Elizabeth McGowan, Assistant Cataloguer
- Cap Searce, Conservator
- Petri Callaghan (and Jolla Pfaff), Potto
- Steven Shubert, Excavator
- M.C. Shaw, Excavator
- Joseph, Patrick's, Crime, artist and architect
- Taylor Dabney, photographer
- John Hayes (study only)
- Joseph Clarke, artist

J.W. Shaw, Director.
This seventh season will be the longest one, aside perhaps from that of 1977 (the sand clearing operations), both of these longer seasons made possible for me by sabbatical leave from the University of Toronto.

If all goes well, this study and limited excavation season will sum to consolidate our present understanding of the site and serve as such as a stepping stone toward the completion of excavation of the area south of Temple C: the monumental Minoan buildings. This work is scheduled to last until 1985, after which there will be another study season.
20 July 1982

Work in progress includes reexamination of North House (hilltop) pottery: since we are further along in the study of the hilltop, we showed the ability to discard 2/3 of the pottery that has accumulated in plastic bags, filling up the storerooms. As soon as excavation and pottery expert have agreed that certain lots can be thrown out, we will be free to see that the clean up is done, the big cleanup will come shortly before excavation begins. Perhaps the shelves will be cleared enough for both this year's limited excavation and next year's full-scale excavation.

Although Jim is right is not that far along in the M1 levels which he is publishing (Hillside), he will nevertheless be able to clear for descending a mass of QA/22A pottery that formed the mound above the joy house on the hillside being published by John H. Europa.

We are furthest behind in the sanctuary, where reexamination and study by myself and P.C. is beginning and will no doubt continue in different ways in a number of years. My conferences with David Reese (Shells, bones) continue to be most interesting and informative.

PB and IWS progress in their studies of M1 and Hill pottery, respectively.
23 July 1982

A visit from the representative of the archaeological service makes it clear that I should go to Hieraklion at the beginning of this coming week.

29 July 1982.

A large piece of stone block was removed from the southern bench last August (it lay upside-down on the back of Temple C) has now been joined to I 10, which is partly from C and partly from the area of Burned Building B.

After I consulted with the epheiros, I, Sarmellis, agreed I am instructed that we can 
excavate only until August 28 which cuts 
our work by 25% at least. Reason: not enough 
supervision personnel to supervise our work. Also, 
Mrs. George Retymnokastoria our supervisor for 
the season in the Messara, warns us today that 
excavation may be stopped by him if excavation 
becomes complicated, especially if there 
are walls that contain earlier deposits. That 
is, he will not allow us, probably, to remove 
walls. Peter Warren is finding this to be true 
at Knossos, and we may soon at Kommos, where 
we will be supervised by a pleasant but inexperi-
enced amateur.
B 227, a bronze votive shield, turns up in the sieving of part F1 in trench 21 A1, next to the ritual deposit above the level of the tripod shrine. This is the second and is somewhat smaller than the other (819). Also, there was a central boss projecting.

2 Aug 1982

Discussion of various aspects of shed disposal from the storerooms to the site. As envisaged last year, this involves three stages of hilltop, hillside, and sanctuary wall. Flushed in subsequent years, the bulk of the material to be discarded. Hopefully, at least 1/2 of the hilltop pottery can be disposed of during the coming two weeks or so after it was studied in full detail in MS and, especially, V LW. IO in loose raw and will help in the selection of contexts to be saved (these will be thought of as exceptions).

3 August 1982

Another visit to the site in order to get in the two trenches to be excavated this season during our abbreviated campaign of digging, that on the north will, hopefully, free the remains of the M M house that we have been working on for some years. That on the south will free more of the Minowan road and clarify, possibly, aspects of further cave art architecture.

6 August 1982

In the past few years, every spring George Budaeczin the foreman has discovered bronzes of some kind or another in one of the rooms on the hilltop. Yesterday, indeed, I asked him why they hadn't shown up already. His reply today was to bring two of them from the site which they finished cleaning today in preparation for work during the coming week. One is a very nice and a chisel that I could have had a number of uses and was certainly held in a handle of some type. The other looes were less
B 228 and Room 5, Room 2.

B 229 knife found within wall debris during cleaning. Actually part of it came out when a wedge was extracted from the wall.

N 16

a large but poorly preserved knife, the exact shape of which will be clearer once our restorer has done some work on it. It would seem that these bronze appear on floors that are gradually being worn away. It seems likely therefore that these bronze were lost while the houses were being used and were not part of the period of abandonment. I will note here it a day or so in which rooms they were actually found.

Most of the day is spent with Neave, Luis Nixon, and Stewart Shipton preparing pottery bags which will be returned to the site tomorrow morning by a tractor with a wagon run by our forwarder aeroplane. Both MC and LW, together with Venice Matthews, our expert on LM pottery, have been under considerable pressure lately, to reduce the amount of pottery from the LM areas which they are publishing. In this manner and after an immense amount of effort (especially by LW), we have now thrown out at least 1/3 of the accumulated pottery from that area. As I have told others, pressure to discard a great deal from the Central Hill area will be on during the next year (1983) and for the sanctuary during (especially) the year after that. The aim of course is to force people to study the material for which they are responsible, to reduce the storage collection to manageable size and to clean shelf space for the incoming spurious incoming material. All mixed upper levels have been discarded; most "floor deposits" have been retained. LW has catalogued thousands of shards in the process of this study.

Other projects in progress.

Philip Betancourt: The Middle Chincean Pottery
Most of the deposit house was now been selected, cataloguing is complete; photography
remains to be done as well as the writing of the first half of the text (MM) of Volume II.

David Reeves: The bone and shell remains. David is nearing the completion of his study of contexts from the entire site, and has been listing groups of artifacts. The results will be a superb set of information, unique in a variety of ways, on contexts of this period in Crete.

Peter Callaghan: The Greek and Hellenistic pottery. Peter has spent the past month studying pottery from the Sanctuary area. This is his first study period, really, and I will try to arrange one for him during 1983 as well.

J.V. Weidman: The LM Pottery. Profiles nearly complete; groups together for photography (past.

This season, past next), an extensive system of deaccessioning begun.
August 1982.

First day of excavation, with two trenches begun, the northern one on the central hillside (46A) being calculated to complete the NNN house so extensively excavated during the 1981 season. Already an east-west wall has appeared, apparently standing toward the north (earthquake?). Shortly we will dig through the mixed MM III? I fill I expect here and be into pure MM III.

The southern trench, 47A by MCS, lies in the northwestern corner of the court of the Classical Sanctuary. This morning and afternoon some progress was made on this trench. First the superficial burned walls were the court surface, between which, I hope, suggested a great fire was lit, almost the very end of the life of the Sanctuary, were removed. Photography and drawing had already taken place in the past. Rans: 2nd c.B.C. - 1st A.D. After that, the first pass was completed, complicated somewhat by the rather deep stratification of sand that lay at that point during the Sanctuary's late use. Here we see that the burn of the Burned Building and at least the latest burn of Room A1/2 were actually set on the sand. We are now excavating fire that was excavated by Douglas Orr in 34 A2 in front of Temple C, below the limits of the excavations. It will still be a few days before MCS has reached the top of the 42A level with which she began the 1981 season (4th B.C.).

David Reese is removing the remains of the ash from the hearth of Temple C (that on the slab floor), for well sieving in order to recover more fish bones (surprisingly, there are very few if any mammal bones).

I remove from its place in the northeast corner of Temple C a large piece of rough (not rough) stone bowl analagous to the others (of better quality) found in Connect 800.00.00.
the temple. This piece I find fits another nearby – I will photograph and catalogue same shortly on the site itself. MOKOUSTE, ca. 1/10

dia.4

There are presently 8 workers, including the foreman. All have worked with us before and the quality is excellent; all are moti-
vated and pleasant, so hitherto and should help us live through the next three weeks of very hot weather.

We were visited today by Galatios
(ward of Makala) and George Rethymniotakis
(kept of the Heracleion Museum assigned to us as observer by John Sakkas, aka
the ephor). GR makes the point that we should
fence in the site better, which coincides with
our mood and the Reben donation of money.
Our guess per meter about 1000 drachmae,
or for the entire area, about 500,000 drachmae
($10,000 Canadian). We have therefore countered
the demand by expressing interest – to what
extent is this demand only one of a series
of demands? It certainly is a respectable affair
having left the site so roughly fenced in for
so many years. It is also an appropriate
time for we have no ambition to expand
expropriation any further, and there is
still enough land enclosed for even decades
of excavation.
10 August 1982

Part of a "Dinovs" bowl found NW of Burned Building B and set up as a beast in Pit/Sidria.

0.305 m. and 0.33 m. in height of 6 blocks of 1st Temple Course on the west, cf. with an old block in Pit/Sidria.

Cleaning and photography of C15 hearth with all of the small stones and ash removed. From the south, after photo it is filled with earth.

Same as remainder of A1's hearth on the north, in order to get a larger sample than what we had in the past. After cleaning it is filled with earth.

Roll 1: A1 hearth (western 1/2, under small stones).

Roll 2: A1 hearth (eastern 1/2, under small stones).

MCS is delighted to realize that she has now arrived at a "known" spot, the level representing the building of A2 (Temple C) is she should soon be to the stone chips of that construction and is already below the somewhat later construction of Burned Building B on the north. Upon the earlier court surface outside of BBB there are many small vise of one type or another, burnt material, unburnt bone, a few bits of bronze, a fine well-preserved pin of bronze or like the numbers from Temple C itself (was recognized as nails rather than pins). There was a scatter of these layers of sand on the west, running under both benches phases of Temple C. Note: Later Building A1 has only one bench period, which suggests that A1 was built after the first bench period of C.

SS: First wall top appears (east-west), was not less where expected.
11 August 1982.

Continuation of site work. I recorded various parts of the site, including the large, dark grey granite that appeared when the modern SE retaining wall of the temple collapsed during the winter rains, not photographed in situ, nor was its position known.

In HCA1, David Reese continued to remove the fill from the western part of the hearth of Building A-1. Yesterday he removed and discarded quite a few rough stones from the surface (plaid in ancient times within the hearth) and found them largely unbaked. Below them was the burnt soil — indicating that for some reason, and after the hearth had been used as a hearth, the hearth was filled with stones between the slabs. This conclusion should be checked with John McEwan.

Paid $1. For work see notebook by John McEwan. Photograph to be taken tomorrow morning; before the hearth is filled in so as to be more presentable.

Ir. 46A2. Since 1977 the hearth of the latest occupation period at BBB has been left crumbling, and I decide to remove it in a surgical operation. Polaroid and 35mm photos of present state after cleaning.

Paid $1. Ash only, to P. Reese. All T.C. only a few bits of roof tiles, discarded. This paid represents about 1/2 lb, the ash collected for weighing, + 6.76 to + 6.37.

Paid $1. Below paid 1. Down to + 6.37 in the ash and to the top of the roof tiles level.
46a (cont). Page 3 below page 2.

Joining with C 896
+6.37 to 6.12

and other main floor

Phalae, from the bottom of the ash layer.

Recorded Pot/Boxed.

Per late 15th C.

To original floor.

There are no surprises to the presentation of the remains, and the exploration ends the day it begins. Recording of the corners tomorrow in the early morning.

Mr. 47a. MCS. We reach the level of the building of Temple C, as identified last year by MCS in their first pack. At the end of the day, after appropriate levelling, we begin to remove this level in half of the trench, and find it to be much deeper than expected and, most likely, a dump to the northeast of the temple. Few sherds and solid masses of stone chips rather than wood shavings were found in the pits below the slab floor of Temple C in Trench 33C.

Mr. 48a. S.S. By noon tomorrow, the general arrangement of the MM wall should be fairly clear. Real progress was made today, and the reaction situation has improved somewhat now that Stalagmites - has begun to excavate rather than simply to push a wheelbarrow. This was our last weekman during 1976-1977 when he deserted to work for the Greek Archaeological Service.
August 1982.

46A. Burial fragment found by \&d in Top of Altar Ledge, 46A.

46A. Photographed and filled with clean earth.

46A 1  

46A 2  Photographed as completed.

46A 3  Began. The completion of the final 1/4 of the interior of the rounded building (O D), with the aim of removal of that 1/4, which has been eroding away for some 4 years since it was excavated (by Bill Cox in 1977, the author in 1981 & 1982). First, the wall supporting the 1/4 remaining is removed (our wall) then a photograph of the eroded 1/4 as noted.

Part I, Level 2
From to
At top of preserved remains.
"Helburn" to 550 E.C. or later.

NB. Erosion has left a few small gullies, so that contamination is likely.

49A (4/9). In the western half of the trench, the stone chips from the Temple E level are removed from within the pit into which they had been thrown, and we continue down through the earth fill which then produces on the southern 1/2 of the trench what appear to be two stone-built compound -
mements sharing a common wall. They are square, the western part is not well preserved, and the eastern limit of one of the adjoining compartments runs below a burnt surface that we do not disturb. The westernmost of the two is emptied, and is largely empty and without traces of burning although some bone is hardly a shed. The other is burnt — we do not remove that surface. Instead we open the eastern half of the trench with the aim of coming down to the same level in order to see if the compartments extend over and under that area. Date: probably late 4th century, purpose unclear.

All Roll

At the same time that the compartment (?) appears, George Rothman notes our inspection from the antiquities service appears well three interesting but rough remains be declared a “national monument”? 4

4BA 55 4 The perimeter of the NN walls are nearly defined. To judge from adjoining areas we probably are about 2 meters above the floor. The eastern 1/2 of the trench is open but now that working is becoming more difficult.
13 August 1982.

Slept too many early in the morning; rose soon
in time to watch activities on the site.

4/6 A 3 - no activity.

4/7 A - MCS. The opening up of the eastern half
has not surprised, with no continuation of the compart-
ments as far as one can see. The western compart-
ment continues to be unexcavated - probably we
will clear it to move after measuring is complete.
A few medium-sized and somewhat irregular blocks
appear on an east-west orientation to the north.
These might represent a wall or, more likely, a kind
of bench, such as had been found in connection
with Temple B 3 (and B 2) to the south of
here, south of the altar U. Some bit of yellow/orange
pink material turned up in the north-eastern corner
of the trench; these have been found in B 2/3
levels all around the temple.

The compartments will be left on
an island temporarily: perhaps we will be allowed
to remove them after our ‘supervision’ returns in
a few days after what will be a long weekend
for him.

4/8 A 85. Further progress in digging down to
the floor (and defining the walls) in the
western portion. The eastern portion is fairly
quite high up but; with the number of
watches we have, progressing well.
14 August, Saturday — unfortunately we will work on Saturdays, because of the ruling by the archaeological service that we must have completed our work by August 28th (although masons' work will continue).

46A 3. No work carried out.

47A. MCS. Excavation of the compartments, and of the slightly burned surface upon which they sat, is completed. What we thought might be a seat, composed of three stones, on the north, is no longer thought to be because of a central rather pointed stone. This is photographed and removed. The hearth, of which one is almost complete, the north and central, and belong no doubt with a late phase of B.

No unusual finds.

Excavation continues in the eastern part of the trench, we are about 0.3 m. above the pre-Lective PG'B' dump of 1981 and some 1.8 m. or less above where the Minoan road may come below the Greek buildings.

It is now clear that even if the Greek Archaeological Service does not allow us to remove the hearths, that we will be able to move, at least on the east, the north-south section. I have thought to be necessary at that point.

48A SS. Solid progress. I will sketch the area shortly. The eastern half progresses without incident. On the west we are almost on the floor in the main room — there seems to be a stone fall on the floor. The southern wall is definitely superficial, only by excavation can we complete the M building.
16 August 1932,

46 A3. Pit 2, level 2. From about 1/2 way down from the top of the wall to the point, presumably original floor level.

Pottery: 1,310 pieces. Classical Cup, BG. Base of a pedestal cup of very early 4th c BC type.
Base of a jug (?), 5th c B.C. type. To early 4th c.

This trench essentially completed as the human churn down to the original very burnt floor. Quite a bit of coarse pottery from this clearing operation.

47A m/s.

Eastern 1/3 only. Iron Age (Archaic) levels run up onto what may be a pure Late MM layer of rubble and earth on the north, a situation parallel to that encountered in 44 B and (sand and sand) 43 A. One cannot easily tell, however, whether there was a wall along the north here during the Iron Age. So far we have found no trace of any, not even a robber's trench. We are at about 0.10 m. above the level reached in 42 A in 1931, and while enlarging 47 A slightly to include the northern part of 42 A, Admittedly there are a number of scenarios, but the outside "road" level here may be as much as 1.80-1.90 m. down.

48 A m/s.

The floor is now clean below the spire of stairs from the wall on the north. Visible: one entire but fragmentary→
pithos
- one possible alabaster-shaped rhyton, already removed from the house.
- one straight-sided cup.
- one possible bridge-splayed jar.
- one tripod cooking vessel (small).

They will be photographed and drawn and removed tomorrow.