Pit 38.5 m. from west to east.
Monday, July 1, 1991

An exciting and formative day. In 7BA the large block of P is excavated and, along with the blocks adjoining and below it can now be securely identified as the northeastern corner of Building P! It is well within the property line, with some 20 metres to spare. On the west that will be room, when 7BA is expanded, to reveal the character of the SM III occupation (a road and plateau, and perhaps at least the beginning of a structure?). To the south we will be able to excavate an area in order to determine the layout and character of the interior of P on the east as well as the cereal discovery in earlier seasons. The corner of P, discovered today, is the key to the future unravelling and cleaning of this entire eastern area, the last area to be cleared in this probably final series of seasons at Kommos. We will also begin the massive job of building a substantial retaining wall that will support the road and fence that borders the property now on the east; this will be begun shortly, especially on the northeast where access by the machine is already limited and will in a few weeks actually be cut off.

The large block in 7BA turns out to be part of what appears to be a retaining wall that may have been intended to reduce erosion east of P during some post-ES III period. It is only one course high, made of reused blocks, and rests on an alluvium. We continue down north of it in search of earlier levels that underlie it. Approximately 1.6m remain, judging from what we have learned in the west, so the level where we can expect Minoan remains.
74A. A comes down on schedule, upon the first ashlar course of the southern wall of gallery 2 of P. An archaic level lies directly above it, which is consistent with what was found on the west in the same gallery. We will clean the archaic now, after photography, and then begin to go below the wall level in order to give ourselves more room. The floor of P will be excavated with great care in order to determine any possible use hinted at by the material remains. The thought is to use 43A as a 'hinge' to allow for drainage of the massaice and deep area that will eventually be cleared.

43A. Bone cleaning of the 4th century levels with MJS finding significant remains of ironworking - possible burnt forge pieces and bone. Live nodes of burnt material.

44A. Slowly the upper levels are being stripped off. There is at least one unpenetrated wall that will eventually be removed. The "floor" associated with that will be removed shortly.

In the morning all of us went in to Mines to get each man to pay the cooks and to cover other expenses. At the same time I gave for crediting on our Company account the check for $80,000 and covered the remainder of the $400. I had held on to it, cashing a much smaller check instead, with the hope of a rise in the dollar/dram ratio which, as I have mentioned earlier, has been improving from our point of view. Fortunately, over the
weekend there has been a major rise and we will benefit by about 3 x 80,000 or 240,000 crushmen or 1,300 or so. This will come 1/4 of the rental car or perhaps three days of earth and sand moving by the front loaders. Charge from 1.67 to 1.72+ (I do not yet know the exact figures)."

On 5 July, relate, on such an amount and with the rising dollar, emerged as 1.72+, now on deposit in the Mikes bank.
Tuesday, July 2nd

Gradually sand and debris is being cleared from the site. The recent alluvium in House X is being removed by hand (some of it was removed with a scoop on a Tractor) with women on the job all day. I intend to arrange for some to work on Saturday as well, with one group on the sand then, and the other beginning to remove the stones and cement left over from the wall collapse near the facade of Minoan Building P (Area of Trench 66 A). The wall collapsed in 1985 when it was built vertically rather than leaning back to the east against the escarp that was then our property line. The property line has now been extended some 25 meters to the east and almost all of the great wall built then on a very solid reinforced concrete base was removed in 1990. Bits of the base are still in situ and are being removed in preparation for the series of trenches that will shortly be set in. Our aim will be to clear enough of the northeastern part of P in order to determine its form and appearance. Within three weeks we will be excavating within gallery no. 1 (the first on the north) and both north and east of P's facade.

73A. Construction of the last of the 4th century levels associated with Building V. A small hearth is cleaned and a number of photographs are taken, both 35mm. and Polaroid, by 268. Hopefully Tomorrow the general lower level which will represent the Greek/Minoan interface can be begun.

75A. Cleaning of debris.

76A. A few bits of stone. There is about a meter to go to the Minoan levels.
74A. The two superficial walls are probably Archaic. They may belong to a rough building. At least one will be removed as soon as the level of the trench has been lowered below the level of the walls.

77A. The eastern 1/2 of the trench is opened. It will take at least a day to descend to the Archaic level.
July 1991

13A. First final cleaning passes through the 7th century levels below Building V. The few remaining blocks of V will be removed on the east although one or three will be left on top of a Minoan wall and cemented in place, thus preserving the position. All have been drawn and photographed assiduously.

14A. Essentially no change.

15A. The upper wall, No.1, is further cleared. It curves from an area south of the corner of Palace-like Building E and the round basin there toward the northeast corner of Building P. Purpose? Retaining wall? (but it has too) Beach? (too broad and low and rough). Road? (purpose unclear, very rough; and why a pavement here when it probably was unnecessary).

16A. About 0.60m. above the expected Minoan level.

17A. On the east a few spots of burning, Minoic campsite? (but few tumuli, round stones, few bones).

18A. The front loader removes dumps for some hours.

19A. So far, aside from the Malta guard, Galatios, who has appeared occasionally, there has been no sign of supervision from the Antiquities Service. This has a reassuring effect to say the least since it enables us to concentrate on what is important.
On the south east of the new property, where the machine has been digging a long trench, the foreman and I excavate a small hole about a metre deep in the sand and find the earth level that we hoped to reach. It is at +5.74, compared with +6.45 in a similar spot in the excavated area. However, it is not too low for antiquities so we will continue to move sand until the surface is exposed. The calculations are in the folder at the back of the book. On this basis, the floor of P would be about 2.30m below the earth level (5.74 minus 3.44). Perhaps the best approach would be to excavate the earth level until we reach sands and/or stones and continue from there excavating a relatively small trench by hand.

* At this point the sand overlying is about six metres deep.

Estimate of time: To clear the trench down to earth level, 4 days. To excavate the upper levels of a small trench, 1 day. To excavate down two metres, 1 week. Perhaps someone from the Phaistos staff (D, P, ?) could manage the trench, a sixth trench in that case. We should not have a problem in the cataloguing section since the Minoan ofer finds will not begin coming in, if they do come, for two weeks.

73A. Slow process of nibbling at the upper levels of the Minoan. Wall definition begins and shortly we will begin to remove fallen masonry. At least one wall must be straightened when we have progressed downwards a metre or so.

74A. A bit of an LH III dump, with an almost entire oinochoe. Photographed and planned.
45A. Cleaning and cleaning of the area, including the upper part of P's steps.

46A. Although care has been shown as we excavate, we make the transition from LM to MM without noticing a definite surface at the level appropriate for the extension of P. More remains to be done, but the neutral nature of the eastern area is surprising and gives one thought about how to deal with opening up the area along the facade of P, at least part of which is preserved almost three meters high.

47A. No change essentially.
43A. MCS has discovered a very late occupation surface above and within House X.

44A. Some removed flatbreads accompanied by the find of a stomastatic (or depression) surrounded by shells set into dorm (a common bivalve). A bead? Also, nearby, some curious clay objects about 10 cm wide, qv, decorated, thin in size resemble linear B tablets. On the few preserved upper surfaces (the lower surface has not been inspected except in a few places) there is, however, no sign of impressions. I cannot recall seeing anything like them. They are certainly not tiles and do not resemble pottery rims. The clay is very friable, reddish. They will be looked at carefully on Monday, when more may appear as cleaning continues.

45A. Legal II in prepared (drawings, photography) at least partial removal.

46A. We are continuing down as the sherds decrease and will, if reasonable, descend to bedrock.

47A. Final photos of upper, Achelous level just above the level of the wall (1st course?) of Pls' gallery. During this coming week we will once again be in sectioning and sieving Pls' floor and the underlying fill, all in an effort to discern the possible function of P.

The group of workmen (20) perform well and their work is an example of many. Few if any sluggards and it is hard work as some that is unexpected. A Yugoslavian and a Macedonian, as well as an ex-Norwegian, teach all are performing well. I would have to come to know the first two better.
After some consideration, I decide that as part of the general approach to P's eastern façade, that we will clear around at least the northeastern part. In order to do this I began to bring the front loader in to smooth and level the humus of sandy clay that lie on the upper level east of the façade. My general thought is that we will attempt to clean 5 m. to the east of the façade. This can be done safely, perhaps, by excavating in the usual way the same 3 m. of fill at two points, at the northeast corner and in front of gallery 2, as an extension of Trench FTA. Perhaps an intermediate trench would also be necessary. Then, if the fill is as devoid of ancient levels as I suspect, the remainder of the job can be done with the front loader. Thus, of course, is a hypothetical approach, and may be made impossible by various future developments such as richer fills than we have reason to expect at this time. Of some interest, although incidental, is that the grid and property lines differ, and that the orientation of Peromyma to the norte.

The pattern of Trenches remains to be worked out.

FTA. MCS. The Archaic surfaces are deeper than we originally expected. MCS finds an Archaic platform similar to others found in the past, below Building V. There is interest in the Archaic layering which may appear in the studies of the pottery.

74A. J.S. As above, we suspect that the Archaic
land is that we have called up to now LM, and that the small vase and fruit stand, as well as the pithos found scattered on the floor are of that date. The curious "tablet"-shaped objects turn out to be partly a basin, in pieces on the floor. I remove one of the large, battered pieces with polyvinyl acetate and gauze, as a practice for what may be the real thing in the future. We did not have a conservator that year since there was very little pottery to need (we had caught up through 85) and this is the main conservation project in the excavation. Should wall paintings be found at all I would hand them in; we would ask the Herakleion Museum for help should any pieces be encountered (a part of a trench could, also, be closed).

ISA. Wall 1, of probable M or Miciatic date, is removed so that we can clean further down. It is recorded quite completely.

16. For below the Micon (LM III) levels we finally reach with level, then bedrock. The trench is discontinued and an extension is begun on the south to reveal the only wall.

17. Much rubble scattered above the expected level of the LM III floor of P.

At about 10:30 in the morning the sifting strikes a block, the top of which projects up into the clay alluvium. Gradually it is cleared in order to see if it belongs to a building. More stones are found but it is still not clear if belonging to a building, whether it is part of P or worked blocks of P. It is about an hour and clearing continues. The foreman has said that the big block does not belong to a building.

The foreman lost, the block is part of the "P" structure - its eastern facade wall, on preserving the orientation and, after the fact, by a special set-in on the line of the northeast corner. It's top blocks at the level of the corner (ne) block, which is surprising to me. I had expected that, as in the southwest, the walls would have been rubbed out least partly. The walls probably border P 4 gallery. Perhaps here should be set the next trench when Giochea Bianco arrives on Tuesday the 10th, tomorrow. MCS suggests that Susan Dowson has a "sabbatical" to write up her report on F6A; a good idea.

F6A ~ cleaning of Archaic level after an adventure in the.

F4A ~ gradual cleaning of area above the stone fall within Building X.

F5A ~ gradual cleaning of sand down to the Second course (from above) of the north corner of Building P.

F7A ~ continuing cleaning of rubble above the depth that presumably overlies the upper floor.
within Building P, gallery 2.

16A. Closed, as related above. The "wall" in the southern scarp turned out to be a solitary slab without continuation. We excavated down to the slab's base and will clean up and photograph it tomorrow. The trench has been spectacularly unproductive. We learned a bit about earlier levels east of P, but almost nothing about access to P or how the Minoans arranged for access to P from the east; does this mean that the galleries were closed from the east? We will surely find out now that we know as of today that not only is the northwest well preserved but the good preservation should continue to the south.
During the morning the front loader continued the slow process of removing sand from what one might call, for want of a better term, the "Southern Trench." Perhaps it will be called Trench 78A. He has reached the clay level now, eventually I will ask him to excavate down into the clay level a bit until we find a likely spot to set in a 2x2 or 2x4 trench. Also, the machine removes accumulated stone from around the trenches in four or five trips and dumps them where we can transfer them from where we begin to build walls toward the end of the Season. Also, it completes the "road" that will be on the approach to P's facade and parallel it. It will require some judgment to know at what point to see the machine to clean any bulk of sandy clay from it. Perhaps we can do the necessary sampling with a series of strategically placed, narrow trenches, as we could see in both the test trench and check for a retaining wall along P's facade. A thought is that P's facade is completely closed to the east, without any entrance, and that the northern facade that we are finding is only the heavy retaining wall of P which is solidly built in order to withstand the pressure of the earth on the east. If so, then why is the northern wall of P also built against a scarp of T, not in the same arrangement — instead it is built in the timber frame technique that is used in all of the east-west crosswalls that we have found so far, five or six in all.

Trench 78A, MCS is in the collapsed rubble of X, and with two gangs of workmen thanks to Trench 78A, progress is with some alacrity. In a few days we should have complete wall definition and excavation by room can begin.
75A. A large block, G in shape, appears in the sandy fill. Its shape is similar to that of a corner block, so it may well have fallen from the adjacent NE corner of P. Since the gallery of G had their roof at least 3 m. high above the floor (floor level +3.70 in 77A and NE corner block, top, at +6.54 in 79) I am tempted to restore the block in position. This must be done soon, however, since the gallery must do the work and its approach on the upper level will be removed within the next few days.
47A. Slow progress. The Minoan walls remain to be defined: perhaps in four days.

47A. This trench is a key one for the definition of P, and we will carry it down to the LM III and LM I levels, and perhaps below. It will be expanded to the east about 2 meters so as to leave 5 meters free on the east, for the 'road' that I have written about above. The top of the extension will, however, be clipped by the machine.

47A. In one restricted part of the trench we reach the 'upper' floor of P, quite buried. This is traced the width of the trench, north - south, of the trench. We will now open the remainder of the trench down to that level.

According to the pottery reports there is a complete gap between the LM III pd (the level below the preserved wall) and the Archaic (burned level) above the walls. Do the burned areas seal off the wall type? I suspect not so, for they must have been robbed out during a period of major building.

I begin the often begun process of laying out the next major series of trenches in eastern P on the basis of what I have written here. The choice of trench and trenchmouth is dictated by logistics and personalities. I have spent the past week, ever since the core of P was discovered, wondering and arranging the possibilities. The reality of the approach will shortly be executed in the field. Giovanni Bianco arrived today, with his daughter (adopted) Milla, and G B will lay in the trenches, and no doubt with more accuracy than I laid out the first one, within a few days.

Dropping Vallianou of the Archaeological Service arrives at 9:00, our quitting time. She is unusually cordial and discursive matter of archaeological interest.
This was done toward the end of the day. The southern area is now ready for trench ex-tensions.
8 July 1991

Head into mines on the usual weekly trip for shopping, in particular to pick up new catalogue cards sent from Toronto (let Tymbarni) and to get drachmas at the local Union National Bank for paying the workmen tomorrow and to pay the rent on the Annex across the street from the Main Apothecary. On the latter we have a contract through at least 1957 (this year's rent already paid). The Annex agreement is only for another year, and there are rumors that the owner has patched things up with his wife and may want to move back in, which would be very troublesome for us if we had to move the contents of three store rooms to a new location. Relocating the kitchen (the fourth room) would not be a problem.

Just before we say in the new series of trenches, I plan to bring in the front loader to skim off 0.20 - 1.00m of alluvium from the area over building P. This is archaeologically defensible since all areas involved will have been tested. Also, any areas where there are stones discovered in the process of this curtilage will be investigated as soon as they are detected by the driver of the machine.

73A. Beginning to separate into compartments.

74A. Much LAVI? A lump pottery. Are we on an extreme surface/path?

75A. Large blocks appear in a tumulus below the NE corner of P. At least one is a corner block. Forst in Stamm's new move, e. 1.50m and 1.20 m. long, via Tymbarni Mateo, to be picked up by Heraclea. This will be used to lift the blocks up.