Director's Notebook
1991

Renewed Excavation at Kommos

* NB that #2 records the events of the previous year, 1990, as well as the excavation of Buildings V and F.
June 1991

Publication

MCS and I have arrived in Pitsidia on June 10 days before actual excavation is scheduled to begin. Aside from teaching and other activities not directly connected with Kamares, we have been working on many fronts in order to prepare the two parts of Volume I for submission to Princeton Press. Concerning the first, all texts are in but both the Linear and Linear texts are too long; how they can be trimmed remains to be established. With help, I have prepared the first illustration list, table list, and the first massive bibliography. Also, almost all line drawings have been reduced to publishable page size. Hopefully all can be ready for submission by 1 November but such things I have found always go more slowly than expected.

I(2) is not as far along, although all texts have been submitted and join the years of preparation, at least partially edited. The major work of preparing the archaeological and architectural cross-sections and plans as well as restorations is done; however, by MCS and GB on the past year and usually meeting weekly. Fall work will be focused on, again, preparing lists of illustrations by chapter, doing the bibliography (not a big job compared to I (1) and coordinating the different texts. Depending on the amount of time necessary and at the same time available, I (2) could be ready for submission by March.

It has not really been worked on during the winter months. It must remain for times when we are free. It is well along, though, and some of the drawings now only in pencil version can be worked on in pencilled version during the coming season. Some object drawings and photographs can also be completed. The
chief problem is the text in the Greek pottery: its final editing and selection of illustrations and their being set up as plates. P. Collingham has dropped all his field responsibilities, both for Yammou and Knossos and has [reportedly] resigned from Cambridge. UC and I do not know why. I doubt if we shall see him which began during last September/October. We have met at the EBA in Athens and, also, they have an early again. The struggle between his Latin homosexuality and his Roman Catholic upbringing are certainly part of it. Assuming that he will not return to finish, we must put together a team of people who can edit his work and, most importantly, select the illustrations for publication. This could possibly be done in March of '92, but would need careful orchestration.

Excavation

With the publication work along, we begin major excavation soon, beginning on June 26th. Our aims are rather simple on this already fairly well defined site. After the complex and expensive job of purchasing the new land on the south (described in Notebook 42), we are free to excavate the eastern part of W/III Building P and part of Building J/I. This we will begin with at least 8 trenches. If we are fortunate during this season we will find the eastern end of P and define some of its in situ spaces. The secondary aim will be to clean during the three years west of I-II Building X, the house just north of the east-west street that presumably leads to Phaistos. For stratigraphy and finds will be of some interest, as we have discovered already in the area. (Note A, 59B, 66A).
Staff

'Senior staff': 3rd, MCS as Assistant Director, Philip Botancourt and L. Vance Brotchie, working on their own projects, have been replaced by Jerry Rutter. P. Callaghan has been replaced by Alan Johnston, perhaps temporarily. Fortunately, Gaetana Bianco will be continuing as Excavation Architect, the same one who joined us in 1976, another 'old timer' in Taylor Dabinay. New, replacing Bette Doolan are Wanda Good, responsible for the past few seasons in putting the pottery in order, in Nicki Holmes. Jan Clauer, another in the past, will be our artist although I am not sure what he will draw forth from a few 'like-rows' from Volumes I (1) and IV. The junior staff will be chiefly graduate students from U of T universities, but from elsewhere as well, all facing a competition that, hopefully, will push the best.


J. Cutchley, Trendmaster, Brock University
S. Downie, Trendmaster, U of T (M.A., Ph.D.)
C. Howard, Trendmaster, Univ. of Michigan (Ph.D.)
M. Holmes, in charge of Apothecary. (U. Texas, B.A., LHR, Ph.D.)
P. Rugile, Trendmaster, U of T (undergraduate)
J. Sabourin, Trendmaster, Queens U. (M.A.)

Other:
P. Reese, bones and shells
H. Whittaker, stone tools
George Beladakis, the manager, has been with us since 1976, experienced and trusted. Today, I returned from the Apollonia Hospital in Heraklion, where he is about to undergo surgery for a blocked intestine. No one knows where this will lead, and all I can hope is that he will return to recuperate, and at the same time, we can set up the working staff which looks very thin at the moment. We need about twenty women:

- 2 dishwashers
- 2 cooks
- 1 foreman
- 5 cleaners will require about 3 women each

Total: 26
Preparations continue. A Temporary Foreman has been hired (SiFi Fasoula) to supervise the farm cleaning the site of weeds so that it will be presentable. We continue to inquire about workers, and I have set the wage high enough to attract sufficient numbers although I do not know what to expect. George B., I hope, will return from the hospital in time to assist counsel. Two hired cooks arranged - one, Hariskleia who has been with us for years, and a new, probably fine cook, Maria Fasoula (wife of SiFi's brother) will join us for the first time. She is bright and determined as both MCS and I know. We have bought a new fridge which, with the old one, should serve us well.

Not reported elsewhere here, the $ has been rising steadily for the past three months, since the end of the Gulf War, from 134 drachma to 157 drachma/£1, putting us around 25% ahead on exchange in comparison with last year's rate, which has been steady for the past few years. This will be of immediate help in all our dealings during the summer and may even leave us with a surplus for the year, a surplus that can be carried forward since our 6th grant year (we are in the 5th) is not covered.

MCS and I prepare for this coming Monday and Tuesday when there will be an initiation to the site (and methodology of the area and the Neasara).

I have contacted the Museum and have verbal permission from Alexandra Karafis, apparently in charge, until she returns, to use the front lawn to remove sand from this site.
I have located the survey pins that SB put in during 1940 on the earth level of the property we intend to work on this year. The two crucial ones were under the sand that had drifted in from the scarp. This will allow us to set in the new trenches, which I will do shortly.
Partially preserved bronze mail from 4th B.C. Stylos 2.5 m. south of Greek Building B.
23 June 1991 Sunday

Preparations continue. The kitchen has been 
gowered from Xino, all has been cleaned, and we 
have had our first meal. All prearranged expected, 
as did from Debi Roscillo, are here. Of the five 
first trenches that we will excavate, two have 
been laid in and at least one will be laid in this 
morning; they are intended to explore Building 
P and Building T. During the past winter the 
rains brought in an unusual amount of silt 
which filled in Minoen House X and the 
neighboring trench where the east-west Minoen-
road was exposed and we are doing our best 
to remove these many cubic meters of earth and 
sand. How we begin to prevent the same from 
 happening another year is another matter 
that will have to be dealt with later on in the 
season. We are also having trouble hiring work-
men; so far we have only 9 of the 14 that 
we want.
we may have as many as 14 of the 17 concave we received. Thanks to inquiries by Sifia Fasoulari, Ioannis Kadiamakas, Maria Shaw,... There are some seven weeks of the site now. Actual excavation begins on 26 June, as requested last October, and will continue until at least 14 August as long as all goes well. There is no indication so far that we will be closely supervised for both Hasso Vallianos and the Ephor are on vacation. The guard from Matata came by today as I was passing the group on a four-hour orientation tour in the morning and said he would stop by occasionally. This would be just fine since we may want to remove alluvium of the trenches run past to begin in deep alluvium that is devoid of ancient remains. In such a case we would simply strip off this... down to the ancient level, a perfectly legitimate methodology.

Scheduling for the new staff is Monday (today)
6-12:30, Orientation to site (6-10:30) and the various publications on (Corinthus, etc.) in process, and planned. The day 6-12, methodology and trench procedure (UCS) and assignment of trenches (UCS).

Here I have not yet mentioned the curious and disconcerting developments on the property south of the fenced area, the long and lingering chapter of all this is related in detail in my diary book of last year ("72"), in which there were many disjointed attempts on the part of at least four groups to establish their property rights and lines, deal with the road established by the community over the area that was purchased by us for archaeological purposes, etc. In fact, the road was so...
moved and the entire purchased area was fenced.

This past winter, in February, I believe, Astrinakis hired 3 bulldozers and worked at night for at least three days. He cut the side of the southerly hill and levelled a huge area. He sat in a boat. He removed the aged cedar near George's house, ruining that beautiful spot where so many were sheltered over the years. The size of the area must be some 60 by 100 meters. Obviously he intends to build and on a large scale—a restaurant, a hotel, and a parking area are rumored. He has defaced the landscape even more than we were with the removal of trees (we also plant and try to preserve).

All this was done illegally. There must be numerous laws prohibiting the levelling and he knows these well. Our foreman knew but say low (he wrote me). The guards in Histria knew (did they report it?). The town secretary called the museum numerous times—eventually he was served a court notice; I do not know the result.

Now he has blocked the road leading down outside the fence on the south to the sea, refusing entry. He has also somehow apparently received permission to charge parking fees to anyone parking on the plateau he has created. We were so inured that we refused to pay the hired parking attendant.

And the result of his blocking and charging is that the Potidea community has been cut off from the sea, their sea. Many are understandably unhappy, and the mayor, Michael Kotsi, is trying to find a way to restore light.
a public right of way to the sea. To do this,
he has asked Astrina to code 3 me fine
(but will be believed?).
He has, in turn, asked to if we would code
(3 and move the fence accordingly). We have
not told him that while we might be willing we
have no right to allow anything since the Greek
State owns the land and we are not repre-
sentatives of the Greek State, only an archaeologist
given permission to excavate on the land. I
have contacted lawyer Bika in Athens on
this matter and have also given Bla reme the
firm char a secretary with whom
we had a rich conversation yesterday. I
have explained the Galatias, the antiquities
guard from Nicala. The community must
reach an agreement with the responsible
guard concerning any right of way and
should, I believe, arrange and pay the
expenses if the southern fence is to be re-
positioned.
First day of actual excavation. The trenches are:

**73A (MCS)**
74A (Josie Seboeun). Both of these are intended to explore Romano House X, worked on during previous years. They are in a north-south line with the northern one intended to explore X's room but also to determine, if possible, X's northern east-west wall (it may be further north since the house appears to have a very large one). The general measurements and grid points are noted in the appropriate day books, as below.

**75A (Chris Monroe)**. Both are on the 76A (Susan Downie). Line of the northern east-west wall of L PH III Building P. It is hoped that 76A will determine the corner of P (NE) although it may extend still further east than the present property line allows. Depending on what is found other trenches will be established in the same area.

**73A (Older Critchis)**. South and west of the previous mentioned (above), this will (we hope) intercept the wall separating galleries 2 and 3 of P. We can then test the floor of gallery 2. Also, it is set on the line, n-s, of L PH I T's faced which may be partly preserved, even if under the floor of P.

In the meantime the front loader is removing sand from area to the south east, some 4 meters north of the
present fence line. The sand is over 6 meters
depth. The driver has excavated a long east-west
 trench in order to approach the area where we
will make a sounding at some later point in
the excavation season.

The mayor and part of his council appears, and
we repeat what we have said earlier, with
MCS presenting our case with extraordinary
value and clarity.

In all trenches we are at superficial levels.
26

L 23  Lead, folded, from surface c. 16m. south of G", Building E.
Thursday, 27 June 1991

73A 3 Greek levels, no architecture. Both are not far above the Minoan (10.20m.)

75A First wall appears in the sand. Certainly Greek, on the same relative level as Building E (late Minoan) but at a different angle from E and from S E. In that matter, from S E C. E. That is not far away to the NW.

76A. Still sand; no features.

77A " " " Few stones, E. potsh.

The road problem seems solved. The mayor noticed that a plan given to the community for approval that a 6 m wide road was shown bordering the archaeological site. Administrators had given them the plan. The mayor said that the plan couldn't be approved until the road was built! Administrators agreed and all day long there have been true loads of earth dumped so from a building. For the road that was to be finished by the end of the day; there will also be a small plate as a turn-around. This is a wonder after all the fuss and the road that was attempted to build last year has been completed by the Township.

The mayor proposes turning part of the new township building into a museum. An exciting progressive idea and the most militant innovation yet made by any assisted member of the town.
Friday, 28 June 1981.

74A. Still spotty Greek levels, with MCS showing great care in extracting information about iron fists probing from Building V, largely excavated in earlier seasons. We will continue this for at least another few days so as to be able to enter the Minoan levels which are only 0.10-0.30m down.

74A. Minoan walls appear, part of Building X. There is major definition here, and the relief of knowing that there is no Greek building in at least this trench (I suspect, however, to the north-west because of the tiles and pottery that occur on the slope). A north-south wall appears along the northern trench line. An north-south wall separates the trench in half. Shortly, once the spaces are better defined, we will attempt to excavate the rooms as separate units. Excavation of X proceeds as originally planned.

75A. The 'thick wall' discovered Turn out to be superficial, not a capping (as I had thought possible) for a lower wall. On the other hand, it crosses to meet two large blocks which are on top of the east-west northern facade of Building P, there are certainly part of P's wall. Their arrangement, moreover, suggests to me that we may have discovered the eastern corner, on the north, of P. This will shortly be tested when photos are taken tomorrow. I think that the curving wall was placed there to prevent erosion on the east, another reason for suspecting that P may be ending. In ancient times there may have been a major north-south drainable front east of Building T and then later east of Building P.
76A. Pure sand and no sign of R, which is encouraging although the trench master is depressed after three days of unsuccessful excavation.

77A. Also pure sand and an occasional shred. Eventually the front loader may be called in to clear the upper levels although this must be done with great care.

The machine continues to remove sand from the s.e. corner of the property. We are down perhaps 5 meters and still no sign of the earthen level that must be below. Already we have spent perhaps $1,000 but we must be patient for another day or so.

AGCSA Group No. 1 arrives.

Araba School group arrives on a tour, with Philip in tow, and as usual I took them around.

Excavation begins to gain momentum. We are visible in four of the trenches; we also are able to hire more workers. Two front loaders begin to chip away at sterile sand/earth, when it becomes clear that the immediate area is without antiquities. This may be done on a larger scale when we have progressed further. Then we will wish that the machine, which will have finished its work by then, were still down at the site.

73A. MCS continues clearing the base of T2.

73B. Occupation levels that remain.

74A. Upper level with a few wall shadows.
Some may be superficial.

75A. Sand removal and modern supporting wall removal in the process of opening up the area, a process that will expand as we learn more.

76A. The final 5-10 cm of the scarp is removed by machine, speeding up the process. A lady borer appears: p? I certainly hope not.

77A. Very good thing, still Greek. We saw about a meter above P's walls if they are there.

155 payday: 350,000 drach.
Plans. I intend to excavate walls of X and excavate as much as possible Single rooms at a time. MGS showed, in the amount Greek walls remaining, to be able to clear 3-4 rooms down to floor level. The same is true of Sabourn in which it is decided to switch her over to the excavations of Buildings T/P when the pattern becomes clear and larger areas can be exposed. The earth from the excavation will be dumped to the north and from their lower vents the western fence and eastern taken through a disconnected fence or simply dumped over the fence.

The first item is to find the end of P, if it stops before the eastern property line. Once that is done we can consider excavating both exterior and interior of the eastern end. Should we fail to find the eastern end, by default we will make a sounding along the easternmost facade line and expose the interior. It is probable that a portion of the fill running from south can be removed with care by the machine but we must be cautious to do to find and excavate any Greek structures in the Hellenistic surface. A Greek presence of P, as implied by the pottery of that date on PLS Stairs, however, may rule out any later buildings, including Anphic.