26 June 1992  Friday

The moment that I began writing 844 began in earnest as a large first loader and a very large white truck descended to the site from the inland quarries to begin the process of loading up with the sand already removed from the 844 area of which 1/4 of the 20x30m2 has already been lowered by about 2 metres.

80A. Slow progress down, no level change.

81A. In mid-afternoon the north west corner of House X in found, neat as a pin. At some point we may want to sound the rich man levels that are west of X, but there are other more pressing matters concerning X that we must deal with first. *

82A. Continuations of P's walls are being chased. Also, the Middle Geometric wall appears on the north. There may be one on the south as well, built up against P's southern wall, which means that we can expect a north-south wall at some point. Should this then be extended to the east so that the eastern room can be cleared out as time?

83A. On the eastern P wall a gap in the masonry and the way that the wall is built suggest a gap for a window. Knowing it was there would certainly help in our interpretation of the building. The collapse we expect in the building line begins to appear and we will follow it to its west.
27 June 1992

L96 Strand View - bronze-shod lead in area 11A, surface.

B0A. MCS. Nothing new.

B1A. J. Saboulin: The corner X on the N.W. in area. MCS in the south will eventually define the reason for the southern extension beyond the present outline of the building.

B2A. L. Tabac. Still clearing down to the tops of the walls in this large trench.

B3A. G. Nixon. Following down the slope collapse of stone, which will continue for a few days. On the east of P1's facade wall, there begins to wander lead that should be dealt with. One variable that will determine matters is whether there is a window in the eastern wall of Gallery 2, still unidentified. On Monday, I have arranged, the 1 m. deep fill on either side will be cleared by a smaller machine than we are presently using - the large one would not fit and would fall into one of the trenches on either side. If a window is confirmed, then the intended eastern appearance of P in the east will be known and we would be justified in mounting a major cleaning operation on the east, exposing the facade wall so it was meant to be seen. We would first, however, want to move another east-west section to record the stratigraphy in that area. Falls blocks would not do at impede cleaning activities. Some of this could be dealt with next year also.

B4A. Progress in clearing - the excavated sand is removed. Tomorrow (Sunday) they will continue with the brickwork.
29 June 1992

BFA. Removal of small plastic bits, some painted, from Room 1. Cleaning in 11A continues.

BFA. Cleaning continues. Bits of iron.

B2A. Cleaning and photography of the upper level.

B3A. Cleaning in the slope continues.

B4A. About 2/8 of the sand level has been removed.

East of the seat of P we clean out 76C which has been filled with sand since the winter rains. This is done with a small backhoe hired for the job. The same machine levels off the area above the eastern part of Gallery 2.

Unguarded ASCSA group comes and is taken around amid the raucous noise of the two earth-moving machines.

Ned Reidan left yesterday after a very successful three-day period of helping us deal with the iron remains from the 4th century. There's more work to be done, so I imagine that he will be invited to return next year, perhaps for a longer period of time. We go through the complete process, from bits of ore to the smelting/metallurgy processes to the hammering of the bloom into the iron.

St. Grey Fryd: First of a small stone bowl with 'button' base and perhaps the remains of a lid. Had greyish stone. Found near Trench 11A.
30 June 1942

80A. No change except from one having reached the
level of the top of the MR walls by 1 1/2 House X.

81A. No change. 11A may be emptied out by
tomorrow.

82A. Lower level 2.

83A. Following the collapse slope down. Now
about a meter above the LM III floor.

84A. The upper sand has been cleared. Almost as
soon as we began the 'shaving down' of the earth/sand
toward discharge, with some excitement, a
small but fairly built structure we call
Building Y. It is well built of small stone, and 2.8 m.
square, with the north eastern corner missing. At +
4.38 elevation, it is about 1.50 m. above the
LM I court. Tomorrow the main trench will be cut
in. Perhaps if can be included within the
trench which will aim to determine if there is
a southern wall of 'Gallerie 6' (if such exists)
and if the LM court extends thus far south.
This could take a week to excavate.
I July 1942

80A. MCS finds the remains of the stairway in House X. Its top is at an 8th century level of use. It is thin, which may mean another room of X on the south, extendable from the veranda, rather than the extension of X on the south.

81A. Completed with the removal of the last bits of painted plaster.
81B. Trench II A cleaning continues and may finish today.

82A (cut in P). Probable 8th century level with many limpets and some burning. Some slabs on the upper level that will be photographed.

83A (cut in P). Defining the spill and upper level. A small one-handled pot appears and is photographed along with the trench.

84A. After days of cleaning sand and the discovery of Building Y yesterday, I lay in a trench with the help of Larry McKean that incorporates 81b. Y and is set partially over what the LM I court may extend and over the putative end of the southern gallery of P6. The floor of P (and, essentially, the court) would lie 1.50m. down from where we start. If the upper levels are essentially sterile and the lower ones more productive, I plan to strip off the clay layers with the front loader. Thus our main exploration effort for 1942 has begun.

I talk with Larry Reif in the mornings at lunch in Pit 620 about aspects of the pottery procedure. He also discusses my
print version of the final chapter of Volume I bit 2 which he calls a "good read." He has a number of suggestions that show his interest and knowledge of the site and the ceramic material.
16 July 1992. A wall is actually an east-west wall of LM III Building P.
So far, late Geometric and a perhaps later, showing up with many many Limpets. MC8 wants to excavate the goldscale of X.

81 B. To see of LA and SW of Building F, a upper level, with a small extension up along the west facade of Building F. The intention is to free the part of Building X.

82 A. Probable Limpet stream 7th century BCE, with some stakes, in the upper level of Corridor 3.

83 A. The site of massive stone cleaning begins on the slope of the trench.

83 B. Not opened officially but laid out and part-time excavated from another trench (82A).

This is partially due to the fact that an east-west wall was found yesterday by the floor leader just to the east of PL’s eastern facade. Now some of this wall, enough but is impressions huge blocks, has been exposed as the level goes down. It is not yet clear if the face on the blocks has a corresponding one on the north, so it may be a retaining wall intended to prevent alluvium from accumulating on the south.

84 A. Another wall (Building Z?) shows up. This time in the northern part of the trench. It is an odd angle, like Y, and is probably Geometric late; it may not be a wall but, rather, a large broken Hymnoan block.
3 July 1992

80A. Soft scale begins. Heath becomes a circular enclofure or some kind.

81F. Slow progress on upper levels, which should last for some time.

82A. In the late morning a fairly well preserved long iron knives or spear points appear, one above the other in a group in a Geometric/Atlantic context. They are drawn, photographed, and removed in the late afternoon. The group is unique as a find at Kenmure, although others seem to be found in the past, especially in connection with Temple B as dedications and in the court. They seem to be weapons rather than tools, set in a mud ridge and they are even in profile. There is a single bronze rivet in one where a shaft may have gone, but there is little sign of a broad socket. Perhaps cleaning will help resolve the question if they are there, as I believe.

83A. Locally still below to be cleared out from the western area, although the main spoil in the east has not been disturbed. The lowest part of the trench is still 0.75m above the floor.

84A. Small stones are beginning to show up on a shallow slope down from the 'false wall'. Bits of carbon.

And into moisture in the morning for various erands. (This is why, some thirteen, the iron objects were found). 22 ironmen now.

Looking 'down the road,' 80A may be finished by 20 July, leaving time weeks for MoB's soundings.
within P.T. 81A will be completed about the same time, and I expect J.S. will continue in the area with a sounding and finish whatever has to be done so that Trench X can be considered to be completed. 82A also complete by then, and then will be time for one more large trench adjacent to the east, 83A also. 83B remains an open question: it cannot be completed unless we have more men, and if it fails to give G.N. a second trench to manage at the same time? Only then, however, can we open another trench adjacent on the west of 83A. This leads a single trench to be excavated in Gallery 3 if the single gallery is to be cleared this year. But who will do it and when then be time? 84A will probably continue to explore in the new area made available for sand cleaning.
82A note. Spear sockets, after cleaning, are very small, and imply that we may be dealing here with javelin instead. I expect the other three (one has been cleaned) will be similar.

On Saturday, 5 July, the front looted came. On the same day the wall n. of 83A was cleared of earth. A loomweight, pyramidal in shape, was recovered, C 9549.

Pottery from 79A 2:1
1 B.G. hs, cup im
1 base post #2 No
Primaries nothing obvious
late classical.
80A. Probably in Minoan levels by now. MCS clears out a blocked doorway between Rooms 1 and 70. The south in Building X.

81A. Now down at just above Krepidoma level of 8th c. Building F. We will photograph tomorrow.

82A. Cleaning part of the faceted wall and perhaps find a floor surface (Archaic?). A long block suggests an entrance from the north, in which case a very long room may have been built, perhaps as a hostel? In me in the sanctuary to cross walls yet, but it may be comparable to many the rooms identified as hostels in other sanctuaries. It may be long of the block is indeed a threshold.

83A. Steady clearing of the stone in the end of the eastern gallery.

84A. The blocks in the east are definitely built, but dense bedrock and do not continue on the west. An existing surface with a few sea pebbles is found on the south. Some distance away a nice bronze fibula in the rocco style.
7 July 1992

80A. An unextension to the south of House X begins to appear, south of the little shrine. Its form is still poorly understood. Perhaps another note to go to 'veranda' and floor level.

81A. I photograph Greek Building X at exposed on the west (The remains on some east below the scarp and property line). We are below unprotected area in this trench which appears to be largely a clearing rather than an exploratory operation.

82A. We descend into a Greek floor (8th?) with broken pottery and an occasional pot within that may eventually be defined as in effect a separate building making partial use of LM III P's walls.

83A-B. The middle of 83A slowly descends through heavy rubble toward the floor of P. No sign of burn'd material shown, but if it is there it cannot be very far away. The plants clear the northern strip first, then turn to that on the south. In 83B enough men are available to continue down with the long range aim of exposing more of the monumental eastern facade in preparation for future cleaning up the northeastern corner of P.

84A. Over definition as we descend propitiating down into the new territory. We meet now to within 25cm of determining whether the pebbly count to come from here. A LM III burned floor, sloping up to an ashlar wall, is quite suggestive but the revelation is being saved for tomorrow.

D. Vallianton appears and we discuss.
the importance of reparation of the lot just to the South of our property line and the possible arranging for an eventual museum of the Messara at Phaistos. Then the Roman materials can be sent.
8 July 1952

BDA. Slow progress in the sand accumulation that has been sealed between ancient layers and may represent the 6th century B.C.

BDA. Chasing continues.

B2A. Photographs and broader clearing of the Greek accumulation, including pottery and limpets, that lies within the building.

B2A. In the northern part of the trench, just entering the Roman level, the discovery of III B pottery line that found in the eastern ends of two other galleries (1 and 2). A great deal of stone has been removed from here in Gallery 3.

B4A. Bingo! Just as the day’s work ends, not about 2:30 (we quit at 3:00) another pass on the restricted and on the north of the trench, next to the wall already reported, by Evangelos before clearing the top of a block which is beautifully cut. This leads to another, then another, of equal high quality. The wall is on the east-west axis of T/P. I am sure. As work ends I take a Polaroid which I attach here, for the first time perhaps that I have done so in many years of excavation. The date can only be 1941. Since there is no MM ashlar on the site, and the III

P must be represented by the wall in the upper right of the photograph.

The width of the wall is presently unknown, although clearing of the rubble at “A” tomorrow should help. Of some interest although indeterminable significance at the moment is a square cut in one of the blocks which is unusually, not level. One possibility is that the square hole (still unexcavated) in the rock cut for some.
huge door pivot, I knew no human parallel, but Mycenaeans gates, tombs, etc. might be recalled. We might well be at an entrance.

The general significance of the discovery is clear: the LM IIA court was bordered on the south by construction, however, this construction is of ashlar. Which part of the construction we have found is unknown, but since it is ashlar it is exterior, and most likely the return is to the north of the south wing of a the south of the same. It could also signify that there was a single entrance into the court through a southern wall without rooms. The central court theory we have promulgated lately has strong support; the details remain to be worked out.

The sounding (SVA) was set in to catch the southern, LM III wall of Gallery G of LM IIA, the base of the LM I court, and the court itself. At least some of this has been done today. We will be following up this discovery during the remainder of the season.

My present guess is that the blocks preserved are the final course of the wall, i.e. the first course laid above ground level. Its level is about 0.20 cm. above that of the pebble court some 2 cm. from here on the north, so the court should be preserved at least next to the wall if this is the southern border of the court. See sketch.

McG. took a fall in SVA and twists his ankle badly; I took him into the Mines clinic as well as a doctor.
80A. Work discontinued until MCS's foot
inspections.

81B. More limpet and flint pottery. A possible
wall appears (an Archaic platform?) toward the end of the afternoon. Very hot today and
it slowed up work. The first few weeks were
a pleasure by comparison.

82A. Same as 81B; although the pottery toward the base of the wall may be earlier (MG?).

83A. No essential change.
83B. On the east side of P we have reached the base of the two courses of P. A photo in favor of the single fallen block and a few other stones as we proceed downward.

84A. The width of the LM I wall (1.40m) is revealed, and is roughly comparable with the width of T's wall elsewhere (1.40, 1.20, 1.40, 1.41) as taken at a variety of points. The north face is composed of small blocks but that could also be an ashlar facade. North of that are a few nondescript slabs and no opportunity to probe because of constriction, but another trench was opened up to the west (to follow the wall west) with a 1 m. extension on the north. Our expansion here should be calculated to
decide what we are dealing with: west: does it continue and is it preserved? north: is there and the room north of here before the court begins, as in other palaces? south: is this truly -
The southern border, as seems logical? Is there another large building across the way on the prime bit of real estate during WM/AM. East: excavation here will test the hypothesis that we are at an entrance way. All of these can be done this season.

Within B4A, we excavate on the south next to the wall and find what appears to be road metal with MM pottery. But we have not yet reached the bottom of the well-tooled blocks of the facade. An external surface was nevertheless discovered.

L. Vance Watrous comes by the site in the morning and will confer with Jerry Rutter tomorrow about MM pottery. I have a number of questions as well and will confer a bit longer though I will be on the site as well as in Mires to get $ to pay the workmen. LVM's book has been published (Kommo III) though we have not seen it.

If the B4A wall is the southern wall of T, the north-south dimension of T is approximately 62.46 m. The minimum east-west dimension is about 77 m, so the square area would be about 4,000 m². The dimensions of the court can be worked out when we have excavated a north-south trench in order to determine when the court stops.
82A. Sieving of a % of the MG floor deposit / accumulation.

83A. Be aware of the level with much broken pottery. Much will be left for the final sweep of the floor level which will, again, pinpoint final use and/or abandonment.

84A. Be cautious south of the L1F wall and find much NM pottery resting on a similar (flou?) level and with that level running up to a slab wall that seems typically NM for the Kommos site. Confirmation of the date of the slab wall is obtained by the lack of a foundation trench, so that anyone who maintained that the ashlar and slab wall were put in at the same time would not be supported by the evidence. Were the ashlar, the NM? Most likely not, for there is no evidence so far that ashlar masonry was employed at the Kommos site during NM.

Further work in the afternoon reveals a NM floor and, below that, a NM slab pavement, neither clearly made. This is the first time that we can excavate in T in the NM levels without being hindered by ground water.