1992

DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

Joseph W. Shaw
14 June 1992

The penultimate Kommos campaign is about to begin. MCS and I arrived a few days ago from Athens, and so normal we are staying with our good friends Manolis and Theloni Kadiannakis. While every summer since 1975 we have been welcome. Arrangements for other members of staff have been made with Fosso Spithakis (4 rooms) and Artemis Dafoul (since last year), with one room in an house belonging to Mr. Kadiannakis. Staff this year are:

JWS, Director
MCS, Assistant Director and Treasurer.

Jeremy Ruth (Dartmouth College), ceramicist.
Alan Johnston (University College, London) †.

Niki Holmes (Bryn Mawr College) Chief Cataloguer

Taske Daley, photographer
Giuliana Bianco, Excavation Architect
Julia Pfaff, Artist and Profile
Debi Roscillo, Assistant Cataloguer, US (from August 1)

Lara Tabac (Columbia University)
Gordon Nixon (Univ. of Toronto)
José Sabourin (Concordia University)
Sonia Herly (Queen's University, Kingston)

Barbara Hamann (Conservator) (Oriental Institute, Chicago)
Algy de Voormoortel (Bryn Mawr College) Assistant Ceramicist

Ved Reido (consultant)
Nika, who first came in 1991, arrived before us in order to begin the process of consolidating parts of the cataloguing system which are rather idiosyncratic and need shifting about, labelling, and replacing of decaying plastic bags that are often unlabelled. Thus we arrived to find the store rooms very neat and already opened up for work.

I have begun the process of arranging for workmen and phasing the annual site cleanup with the actual excavation that begins this coming Wednesday next week. Yesterday I inspected the site for winter damage. In the area of House X there is none to speak of - thanks to the enormous stone wall we built northeast of it in order to prevent the type of erosion that occurred in 1990 with the winter rains. This wall will be extended this season to the south and then jog to the east. Then due south east of Building P, this is the best solution in order to prevent more erosion of the 9-10m. high scarp that we have created there as the sand and clay layers have been stripped away gradually from above the Hellenistic level. It will require all the stone we have available plus preparation for its base and the time that it will take will be made soon but the actual work will begin in mid-August when most excavation is completed. Possibly we will not complete the wall this year, but at least it will be begun.

The aims on the site are fairly clear. One is to complete the excavation of Minoan Building X, a house with a bit of overlap on the outside so that we understand its surroundings. We will begin there; John will continue there during the season.
Most of the digging, however, will be in the area of the monumental ashlar buildings I and T and P. I hope to be able to clean all of one of P's galleries so that it can remain clear in inspection by all. I am not sure which one we will concentrate upon, but probably the third in fourth so that we will not interfere with Archie Building Q which sits on top of the northern galleries. Also, we will investigate (MCS) the lower levels below P's floors. So as to ascertain what remains of T's floor and, also, the MM levels which are better preserved and on a larger scale than we had originally expected: does a MM civic building underlie AE 1 Building T?

A major effort will be begun shortly, if I can arrange for the front loader to come to the site, to begin clearing south along the extension of T's pebble court and the western facade of AE 111 Building P. This involves the cutting of three or four layers in this area. I hope that this can be begun tomorrow (Friday) and continue during the beginning of next week. Hopefully we will be able to have the ancient level then cleared of sand by mid-week so that a trench can be dug in. Its aim will be to determine if this is a sixth gallery of Building P or the South and to trace the pebble court with the hope of finding a southern terminus (thus demonstrating the 'palatial' form). Any interesting discoveries there can be investigated in 1993 as well, theoretically on last season, next year.
The date of Building P's construction. Up to this point, it is "officially" LM III A1, according to LVN and PB. Last year, however, derry Rutty thought LM III A2 which would coincide in date with the large LM III buildings at Hay cemetery. This must be determined and agreed upon this year, and forth soon (and others) I think that I have arranged for LVN and PB to revisit (and what a pleasure to welcome them back!) Kommo so that we can all confer. Now is the best time to settle the matter before Volume I, Part 2 is submitted to the press.

Publication will continue. To review, PB's "Kommo III" (The AM pottery) appeared in 1990. Last year, it received two positive reviews by Harrison (Classical Views) and by G. Soley (A.A., "a model of its kind"). Another (JHS?) will appear in the future. LVN's "Kommo III" is about to be published by Princeton, and we should receive a copy while we are still here in October. In April 1992, MCS and I delivered "Kommo I (Part I)") to Princeton: only a few bits by Reese are holding them up from progressing the publication. "Kommo I (Part II)" is being assembled in Toronto. Almost all of the text is submitted (MCS still owns a section on comparative studies of the houses) but much more remains to be done with getting it up for submission (July-Aug.). "Kommo IV (The Greek Sanctuary)" is well along. Remaining are P.C.'s revised chapter in the Ge. Johnstone, being worked on by Alan Johnston and David P.'s chapter on the fauna (January of 1993). The Roman and the G of T Press may replace Princeton as the publishers. Volume V (The Ashlar buildings) remains to be done after we finish next year. Once we have another sabbatical year is 1994-1995, so it could be given to the press in 1997.
18 June 1982, Thursday.

With great grief, I received the news of George Belokanis' death before last Christmas. George was our freeman since 1975, loyal and kind, and my dear friend, we went through some difficult times together on the site, with the sand removal and with the occasional overly strict supervision (by D. Vallianou) on the excavation of I. Sakellarakis (during a medically difficult few years). George died of cancer of the intestine that spread to his liver. During the winter his sons John and Nikos took over his job as guard.

Sifio Fakoulakis, as last year, continues to be freeman. This is our first day of clearing the site, a process that will continue for some days. First priority now are to continue thinking about the positioning of the first trenches (5') and arranging for the machine to begin to clean erosion, sand, and also, under my supervision, some of the 4th century levels above Building P's northeastern most galleries. This will continue for some days once we start the process. We will first use the machine to prepare the western slope to receive the high wall mortared above the chip 4th century levels, then begin the long process of excavating the "canal" trench to the south of the north B. 1 court. At an early point the almirice trial will be cut and dragged into the great pit excavated into the southeast last year. The pit will then be filled in with sand from the cleaning process.
* correction. John Critchley completed the
front part of his church report; hitherto
thought to be missing, in Frisida
and now the parts are joined.
Tomorrow the job of cutting trees and moving sand will begin, I am told by George Manousoudis who owns the machines that will be made available. This may be our last major sand removal. Tomorrow, also, the majority of the staff will arrive so that their accommodation must be completed. This year we will have an imbalance as far as women and men are concerned, with only one male trench-master, but that is the way that the applications worked out. Also, two of the men last year did not work out — one was very slow and ended up sending an incomplete trench report to me in Toronto in November; the other was very vague on stratigraphy.

An ongoing problem during the next few days will be to determine which of the galleries of P should be cleared completely from west to east. At the moment I think No. 3 from the north is the most likely one. First, we know that it is well preserved (Trench G5A, G5B, G5C). Secondly, both gallery 3, although clean on the east are not clean on the west because of superb pond Archaic Building Q. There is also the question of what remains below the floor of the G4/M1M levels that are still little known. Of 3 we have significant remains on the east (G2A, G2C). On the west there are the curious plaster channels but also the so-called "ceremonial way" that was covered over by the M1 I pithoi court. If this excavated gallery 3 will be due east of the "ceremonial way" and may retain the last part of it extending on what it was leading to. Thus paved pathways are
not common and generally occur in connection with the palace, especially the west courts where they can lead to the entrance to the palace. In the three palace where they occur (they do not occur at Zakros except where there is one that leads toward the palace from the 'harbor road' and then down the stairs toward the east court) there is a triangular meeting of the ways in the west court. At Knossos the roads led to the northeastern and southwestern entrances, the same being true at Mallia; at Phaestos they led to the entrance in the middle of the western wing. It is probably reasonable to argue that these named pathways were often MM, certainly in the case of Phaestos where they were built only during the Neopalatial period, perhaps also at Mallia where the MM palace lies below the later one, and perhaps at Knossos. If often MM, at any rate, then our 20th century paved pathways would fit in since we knew it in either early LM I or earlier. I also note that none of these pathways cross a central court so probably ours was outside a building rather than in a MM court, still uncovered. *either between buildings or west of a building that underlies P/T*. It would be exciting if the 'entry' led toward the entrance to a MM building of which we have had so far only a few glimpses of the walls. *and then means to excavate gallery 3.*

Irouchtni no cows. Maria Fasoulaka and Harelika Belakidas in the village for the first major village shopping trip at 'super.'

Derek, Rafe and son Nikos arrive and Derek and I discuss the philosophy of
throwing out pottery accumulated from the Southern area. He will begin this selective process shortly in order to reduce the amount of pottery stored in Apothecare No. 3. He can probably discard 70-80% of what is there. Across the street in the kitchen-annex, there are also other candidates: Jim Wright's MM content pottery (two full shelves) and LVW's and PB's content pottery. Each of these, however, must first be discussed at length before any action is taken.
20 June 1992

In the site, beginning at 6:00, we remove the six trees (three large almivicia) from the area on the west where the long "canyon" trench will be excavated. We use a borrowed chain saw which finishes the cutting by 10:30. In large limbs, butchering are dumped into the deep trench excavated last year (78A) with Debi Roscillo officiating them. This is convenient since it is near and a minor objective. Since essentially nothing was found in it, it can be covered which will improve the looks of the area. To make up for the denuding we will plant new almivicia trees along the west where we don't plan to excavate. At this moment the front-loader is completing the piling up and dumping process. I deeply regret cutting the trees but archaeologically grading this is necessary.

Another ongoing project is more cleaning of the upper earth levels above T/P south of P's northern wall. These areas have proven in the past to be certain areas in use during late Greek times and outside the sanctuary proper. Recent amateur levels to be your last trenches 77 and 78 last year showed them deep and very peripheral. We have begun the process, removing about a meter of accumulation, and I hope to have finished the job by the end of the day, in the north. No sign of any architecture, which is fortunate. Building Q, already excavated, seems to be the only Greek building here on the south of the main temple area. On Monday we will move further south above B's galleries 2 and 3 and repeat the process. Now is the time...
To do this work for the trenches near Gallay 3 will be set in on Tuesday. Also, the area north
of 1 will be largely inaccessible in the future
for such work. We also have the financial means
this year to begin and complete any work that
the front leaders should be engaged in. Once
this work is complete we will begin the process of
removing sand from the southwest where the last
trench will be placed. This process may take as
long as two weeks; in the meantime, the other-
War Idle trench master will either dig a small
trench somewhere or he, as an experienced
excavator, tutoring Gordon Nixon who has no
experience so far.

The third project is excavating the eastern
scarp on the south, now some 8 m. high, in
order to get in the 'Great Wall' after excavations
in rear. This could (the actual building of
the wall) take as long as a month. It will
join with the wall built farther north in
1941, again to hold back the scarp and prevent
erosion. From this year will be at least
40 m. long and 5 m. high. Our process of
evacuation has begun at one point but com-
pleting the scarp can be done at any time.

Present schedule is:

- Sunday: Staff trip to Am. & H.T. Zavos in evening.
- Monday: Seminars on history and
  technique on the site. Site visit.
- Tuesday: Trench marking, preparation,
  reading and technique. Med
  site in trenches.
Today and the many of the other staff members: Roscello, Tabac, Nixon, Saloueun, Hewitt, Hanamy, van der Noordt. I had told them not to come early, so that we would not have the room problems that occurred last year.

Latn: all but Tabac arrive (arrived Sunday after 'logan' adventure)

Street guides:

C 9:00 Small dull black-glazed jug, MM or 4th century, perhaps originally an oinochoe (mouth and handle are missing), found during wall building after the 1991 season.

Bronze strip, found on 4th c. level between Trenches 76C and 77A before the 1992 season began.

Saturday/ Sunday/ Robin Shaw and Larry McKeen arrive in Kittsia after a long and angry+ able back-packing trip through Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Sumatra, Indonesia, Thailand. He had seen them earlier in Athens. They will be workers on the excavation.

I joined the staff group around the site in the early morning. Then, after a pause, George Lourou-Soultanis arrives from Marathon with the precious piece of machinery that will replace the one that broke on Saturday. It is urgent that the cleaning process continues and finish the area today so that the French can be back in tomorrow. There are other good reasons as well. At this point (1:30) Manolis has cleared 40% of the area down about a meter. At first this was done very carefully, little by little, but shortly it became clear that there was almost plain earth, with a few sherds, a bit of a tile, and almost no stones, thankfully. Not a sign of a late wall of the Hellenistic period. This enabled us to clear above the Rhéan (Archaic Geometric reuse) in order to accomplish our mission. From the historical point of view, moreover, the lack of late buildings tends to support an attribution against the existence of a Greek town here and for the relation in independence of the Greek sanctuary that was used and not in the midst of a settlement.

I measured the area where we will engage in major sand cleaning on the southwest when we have cut down the trees. It is about 20 x 30 meters, and there are 4-5 meters of sand accumulation. The problem now is how to remove these some 300 m³ of sand. Usually one would simply have dumped along the scarp we have created on the lithocline, but this year we are specifically prohibited from doing this by the Archaeological Service.
it became clear that we were in trouble on the beach area, which has become increasingly popular now that the road is in, and the townships and camps are becoming involved in the development of the shore and the archaeological zone. I cannot fault them.

Therefore, the solution is that we trace out the sand. I discussed this with George Manos-Souda and suggested that either the sand is dumped in one of the abandoned quarries about a kilometre away or that he simply takes the sand and does whatever he wants with it (i.e., sell it). He did try to strike a bargain, but he knew the employer was not opposed to the latter idea, and it might be worth trying.

Earth cleaning continues as we collapse the remains of camps in order to clean the area. Our driver, Marcolia, is extremely good. Toward the end of the day a few scattered stones, fairly large, emerge at the level of cleaning just south of the Uthmar wall of P, at about the 13' 10.5" point from the west.

In Pitsidia the trachomata are told to by Mr. Katsis. Mr. Katsis tells people through the masons in the masonry rooms, and J. Butcher talks to them about pottery and pottery styles.

Our general was begun to-day.
Tuesday, June 24, 1992

By the end of the day most of the earth level selected for removal in the southern area has been carried away to the dump by the front loaders. This major objective of the preparatory work for the excavation has now been completed.

In the morning I (with the help of José Sabouëni and Gord Nixon) put in the trenches that we plan to excavate in the area of House X. Sabouëni will probably excavate here in the summer season; MCS will excavate one trench and then turn to making soundings under Building P's floors. Our aim in House X will be to complete House X this year.

In the afternoon we put in the 1200 planned trenches on the line of Gallery 3 of Building P. They are intended to be the first that will empty out entirely Gallery 3 so that it can be inspected and studied. It is this section that will be published after the separate trench report gets its own mode. I do not remove the distance can be accomplished this year.

79A. Director's Note book.
80A. MCS note book. Trench South of the small stream in House X.
81A. José Sabouëni. Trench on what appears to be the western border of House X, in order to.

82A. house. Trench, western and (area excavated) of Building P's Gallery 3.
84A. In 2x 30m trench in the sand to the south.
Wednesday, June 24 1992

The first official day of excavation and we begin with four trenches (see previous entry). Trench 84A will not be begun until the sand clearing in that 20x30 m. area is well underway. In the meantime Gordon Nixon (who will keep the daybook) and Sonia Hewitt will share 83A, partly so that Gordon, who has no excavation experience, can learn about some of the variables and approaches. Then, perhaps within two weeks, Sonia will switch to run 84A which will be a Permeol of sand to begin with but then, as in the past, will begin to trace on some definition. Reamos if the great trench will be as stated on p. 7 in the book.

Georg Manoussoglou comes in the morning and talks to the foreman and I learn from the latter that the arrangement of their trenching the sand away will work; our part will be to pay for the front loads. This is optimum for us and will both save us money and speed the process of sand removal. I expect that in the area that there will be little clay earth removal, with the sand going down almost to the surface of the hemi pedestal court, and... no later building on an upper level.

Despina Vellionou, our observer from the Greek Archaeological Service for years, will be unable to continue her caesar. She many other commitments (this we were told on the 16th when we stopped at the Thera Museum to pay our respects to the Sphinx of Central Gate, Chana (ambas Keftises). In her place will be Aphroditi Georgoulaki, a student of archaeology who was employed in the same role with the French Archaeological Group at Knossos.
up to a week or so ago. She came yesterday and now, This morning, at about 7:30. She has been told to keep a record of what happens daily and also (unusual?) a list of the

- duration of the excavation and their departures
- the addition. She is also to be required to be with us every day.

All three progress well as we enter the

upper levels. It will be some time before there is visible progress. In... in the long run the results will end up being quite dramatic, and we may learn a great deal.

Got into trunks for money on Saturday and other items on the list. On the site progress is steady, with E4A being begun by the present leader which piles the sand in the western corner of the property. We await the trucks that may come tomorrow. E0A (MCS) slowly goes down in the 4th c. levels outside Building V, turning up cups and three bowls' lids that were probably discarded from the nearby altar.

81A searches out the probable 4th corned House X and exposes some remains of metal-working. As it on cue, Ned Reider arrives from Toronto as consultant for iron working in the E1 sanctuary, which MCS will write.

82A comes down upon the top of the Geometric wall originally found in 36A by Lucia Dixon. The northern wall of Gallery 3 remains to be found, but the southern wall of same begins to appear at the end of the day. The remainder of the trench will be opened up tomorrow.

83A continues to clean the e. wall of P and again, the site of a window there remains a possibility. Most of here, the workmen continue to excavate largely pure earthy sand that has accumulated in the eastern end of Gallery 3. This process will continue for at least a week before actual levels begin to appear. The trench should be continued in such a way that the east-west section will turn out clearly.
lunch continued in the late afternoon.

As I stayed on, I found that although sand excavation was well underway, the rate of work was far from satisfactory. If we can speed up the pace, we can begin removing the soil layer followed by some strategic trenching. At the same time, the workers in B3A will be reaching the point where there are too many rocks in the trench and they can be shifted over.

* e.g., the cleaning out of 11A which is continuing.

The first ASCSA group visits in the late afternoon. I have three around.

Jane Tabac is very badly bitten by a poison ivy and a jellyfish on the buttocks. I have not seen her but hear she is sleeping.

Jerry Rutter began driving the rented car and helped greatly during a busy day of the Pima that will add very positively to the general results.