July 4, 1978

Niles continues in Trench 21A with Pail 12. We are anxious to see if Wall 43 corners with Wall 30 at this lower level. Or is this the doorway?

In Trench 21A-1, we have decided to abandon the N face of Wall 44. We are hoping that the stones from the wall fell to the N, so that we can find a face to the S. Therefore we are picking away in the S area between Walls 44 and 1a, with Pail 17 under Pail 14 from 20.085 to 19.88 fairly soft brown earth, stone contents: poor with latest sherds LM III A. Much other: Shell, Stone inv. 21

Toward the corner, where we are still at a higher level, there are quite a few stones in the fill. In the opposite corner of the trench (ie the SE) where the earth has been worked there don't seem to be as many. Maybe this is an outside area.

We will have to be careful here as we dig down. The floor level in Room or Space D-E (that bounded by Walls 1, 42, 4, 44) is lower than that of Courtyard M. Oops! It isn't. They are roughly the same. There does seem to be a change in level, upward, from the floor of Courtyard M to the level reached near Wall 1a. In any case, the problem of how to determine the level in this room may be
solved, as we have found a large pithos, broken by stones, falling from a ceiling or nearby wall. It lies right next to Wall 1a, 1m 50 (including the pot) from Wall 44. The diameter of the rim from outside to outside is 20.5 cm; the diameter of the belly of the pot is ca. 66 cm. It is now being photographed.

We continue to dig in this area with Pail 18.

- under Pail 17
- from 19.88 to 19.73
- brown earth, some stones
- contents: poor unit, MM to LMT, but not definitive
- other: shell, stone, clay sample

- mentioned: -

We have stopped digging in the SE L of Trench 21A. The lower stones found yesterday do not concern. There is another course beneath them, so we must be dealing with an earlier wall, used as a sort of foundation for Wall 43.

The lower wall is built with a good face on the N (polygonaal stones lined up).

Wall 43 on the other hand is built of smaller, more or less rectangular stones. The N face of wall 43 is respectable enough; the S face might prove more so. The lower wall is some 45 cm wide; Wall 43 is about 60 cm in width.

Wall 44 is beginning to shape up a bit. Yesterday we noticed a gap in the wall 75 cm out from Wall 1a (see p. 41). It seems, as though there was an opening of some sort which was later patched (hence...
The falling dominoes). Where the real wall remains, it is well built of roughly square blocks with properly bounded courses.

A line of stones is showing up ca 1m to the E of Wall 1a. Perhaps this is a sloppy wall separating one small storage area from another.

A heap of clayey material—very different from the floury earth surrounding the stones, at this level—was found 50 cm from Wall 1a and 90 cm from Wall 1a, and a sample was added to Pail 18. The base of a small pot was found nearby.

The stones mentioned above do not look like a wall after all, though one is suspiciously flat; rather, they look like fallen stones. There may be part of another pit here in the corner between Walls 1a and 44—a stone has fallen on a large sherd which goes deeper into the fill. More and more it looks as though the floor level here will be considerably lower than the courtyard.

We are less than 20 cm above courtyard level so we switch to Pail 19 under Pail 18 from 19.73 to 19.62 from fill contents: poor unit mostly MM I LM IIIA cup amphora
other: shell stone C933 (shattered vessel)
Inverted: S39 stone vase fragment

A stone vase rim fragment has been found. See sketch on facing page for its location.
July 5, 1976

We continue S of Wall 44 with Pail 19. Today we will begin to go below the level of Courtyard M. We have certainly not missed any floors, since there are a lot of stones, of various sizes, poking out of the earth. The fill is becoming wetter as we go down. Wall 44 may not continue down another course; Wall 1a does, fortunately. The small pot found yesterday (see sketch) is put into Pail 19.

There may be a crosswall running into Wall 44. It begins 2m 30 E of Wall 1a. It does not quite run into Wall 44 as it stops some 25 cm short of it. To the E it looks as though Walls 44 and 4 were bonded; there is a nice block beginning to show now. Wall 4 may continue E past the corner.

We are changing now to Pail 20
Under Pail 19
from 19.62 to 19.51
from fill, stone
contact: poor, tiny units, all MM.
other: stone
inventoried:

The sherds look coarse for the most part; they are not particularly numerous.

It looks as though we have two crosswalls, one built against the other. The one first seen today was probably built first as its good face is obscured by the one first noticed yesterday (p. 47). Each is about 50 cm thick. Both run up
Stone from Pail 21: is oval at site
Pail 21 joins with 23, 24 (deposit in room AA)

Stone from Pail 22: grey pebble
  green cobble w. signs of wear?
  pebble

To Wall 44 (we checked the one found today). They
continue out from Wall 44 for ca 1m. 65.
We may find that one or both continue
across the trench at a lower level.

Shards from both halves of the trench
found their way into Pail 20. We now
open 2 new pails: one for each of the
trench dividers,

Pail 21 (W)
  under Pail 20
  from 19.51
to 19.40
  grey fill, stones
  contents: uniform assemblage of MM II/III, complete
           conical cup
  other: clay sample, ??berry stone, lime
  mentioned: C11 35 pitomaru

and

Pail 22 (E)
  under Pail 20
  from 19.51
to 19.39
  grey fill, stones
  contents: much MM II/III, late sherd LM IA
  other: shell, stone
  mentioned: C11 36 pitomaru

Pail 20 will show up on the section as a
2 cm layer!
An almost complete conical cup was
found 2 cm from Wall 44 and 20 cm from
Wall 1a; it has been put in Pail 21.

Wall 44 does seem to go down another
course, at least, in the E section of the
Trench. Perhaps the gap after the 1st
7.5 cm or so of Wall 44 E of Wall 1a
is not a gap at all, but the original wall,
and perhaps the 1st 7.5 cm of wall consists
of a blocked doorway into Room D–E, which was put in to close off the area now being excavated or to raise the floor level (?).

There are a great many stones in the SW corner of the trench. At one point we had high hopes that the crosswall (5) would come with some of them, which would close off the pits or area and maybe provide us with some sort of entrance from courtyard M. A large lump of clay was found along the S scarp of the trench, 75 cm (approximately) from the SW 4; a sample was taken.

Two soil samples were also taken from courtyard M; see plan, p. 98 for the location of these samples. They will be subjected to nitrogen tests to see if any animal (or human!) waste can be detected. This would naturally help to define the function of the courtyard further. We are lucky this year at Kommos since we have 3 people who have studied Minoan architecture extensively—T. Shaw, of course, J. McEnroe (Minoan domestic architecture), and Iain Begg (Minoan store-rooms). The latter has permitted the two supervisors of the hilltop area (L. Naxon and McShaw) to read a short paper on store-rooms with central columns, while J. McEnroe has pointed out the utility of this "courtyard" with a room in House 26 at Malia.
We continue in the W Space of Trench 21A with Pail 21, in the E with Pail 22.

In the W Space we remove the pithos sherds which were in the corner. They may be part of the big pithos still in situ; on the other hand, with these sherds was a rim fragment, and we have the entire rim of the other. At least 2 stones have somehow slipped out of the wall (4A) close to its corner with 1A. Some of these will have to be removed in order for us to continue to dig.

The cross walls have been jointly numbered as wall 45. In the corner between Wall 44 and Wall 45-W (= the Intersection of the 2) the bottom of a small jar is showing. It seems blue dark painted; many of the sherds now emerging are also dark painted—this suggests that we are perhaps in the middle of an MM room at a (slightly) lower level than the LA constructions on the hilltop. Two years ago we noted in the bedrock between 4A and 4A1 that we had a "shadow wall" showing in the floor of D-E (see notebook 4, p. 11). We also wondered if the row of stones projecting from the E face of wall 7 might not be the sign of an earlier wall. Last year in Trench 13A to the N, where the erosion along the cliff-line was perhaps greater, confirmation of MM habitation on the hilltop was found, and of course MM material is known from the Airet (Trench 3A), Trench 6A in the middle of the hill, and Trench 2-9-17-22—not to mention the deep trench under the Hellenistic legend at the S end of the site (Trench 14A).*

This year in Trench 21A we found a lower

*And Trench 11A!
Pail 23: part of the floor deposit in the pithos room (Room AA); see drawing, p. 80.

catalogued objects:
c1039 2 fragments from bridge-spouted jar
c1040 br-spouted jar = Pot 1
C1087 cup = Pot 3
C1113 cooking pot rim, Type A
C1115 " Type B
C1138 con. cup + frags found in Pail 27
C1139 neck + mouth of a vessel
C1140 shard in LM IA style (spiral; fabric burnished)
C1141 br-spouted jar and frags from Pails 24 and 21

joins with Pail 27 (slab room, Room BB),
Pail 24 (the pail below this one),
and Pail 21 (the pail above this one).

Wall under Wall 43 (see p. 41 and plan p. 28). We had always thought that it would be necessary to make a special sounding for the habitation on the hilltop but it may turn out otherwise.

We have changed to:
Pail 23 (W)
under Pail 21
from 19.40 to 19.29
brown fill, stones,
contents: MM II B/III floor deposit from AA
other:
mentioned: see opposite

In the W space. Two slabs have emerged here, set along Wall 45-W. The demi-pointed jar which is broken but apparently all there looks as though it has fallen on one of these which is set in the corner between 1a + 45.
This slab is about 45 cm long; 2 other groups of sherds, horn cups, have fallen on it. After a gap of ca 32 cm, there is a 2nd slab to the S with part of a cup on it. This slab measures roughly 44 x 44 cm, and is more or less square. There is a rounded depression ca 30 cm in diameter on its surface.
We are assuming that these slabs were used as benches since we have not reached the level of the pithos base. At this point we are approximately 40 cm below the level of the slab pavement in the room to our W, excavated last year in Trench 12A5. In the area of the space being excavated here in 21A1 there were still stones on edge to the W of the 2 slabs.

All this is most curious, as the slabs in the
paved court to the W seem to run under wall 1a; yet here in 21A1, wall 1a has already continued some 10 cm below this level. It is true that wall 1a is a metre high which is exceptional for walls on the hilltop: the normal thickness is ca 50 cm. Perhaps this section of the wall was deliberately built wider than usual, in order to serve partly as a retaining wall for the higher hilltop level, while serving as a room divider for a lower area. Again, it looks now as if there had been considerable erosion in this area, but maybe the downward slope was a feature of the ancient topography, and houses were built accordingly, on several levels or terraces. Later on this lower area may not have been used while other parts of the hilltop built in the earlier period (MM III-LM IA?) continued in use.

It is certainly interesting that we have 2 “double” walls in close proximity — wall 1a with its suspicious width, and wall 45 E and W, whose split is quite visible.

There are now some promising stones in the SW L of the trench. Wall 45-W may corner and run N, stopping short of 1a to make a doorway; or another N-S wall, not lining up with 45, may appear.

It is a hot, clear day and you can see the snow on the White Mountains—the 2nd time this season.

We have cleaned the W section to the level of the slabs and are now changing to
Pail 24: with Pail 23, constitutes the floor deposit in the pithos room (Room AA) which joins with Pail 23.

catalogued objects:
- C1063 straight-sided cup
- C1064 con. cup - semi-globular
- C1065 bowl
- C1066 bridge-spouted jar
- C1100 con. cup - Pot 4

{ C1210 pithos = Pot 6 'inner pithos'
{ C1593 outer pithos

for the removal of the pithos from Tr 2/141, see p.157

C1570 pithos

stone - cobbled fragment with packed margin from within upper pithos

Pail 24 (W)
under Pail 23 from level of slab 13.23 to 19.24
brown fill, stone
content: MM IB/IIIA floor deposit from AA other: earth from pithos for H2O storage, stone
invented: see opposite

In the E sector of the trench, we have found a bridge spout, and most of a small pot in the midst of a little stone pile. This is another sign (the spout, that is) that we are dealing with another, earlier period. They lie 85 cm from wall 44, and 45 cm (pot) and 80 cm (spout) from wall 45-E.

There are some stones 5 of the wall 4-44 corner; a wall may or may not materialise from these, running N-S.

Wall 46 definitely exists now. It runs E-W, beginning 30 cm from the E edge of the trench. At the moment it continues at least 1m 80 to the W, then it runs into the confining stone, mentioned earlier. Wall 46 may corner to the S, leaving a doorway 65 cm wide between it and wall 45.

In the E sector now we have opened
Pail 25 (E)
under Pail 22 from 19.39 to 19.20
brown fill, stone
content: essentially MM I, tortoise shell ripple and one sherd; one CM I type straight-sided cup

invented: -
In the W sector we have found some other slabs along Wall 45-W. These may have served as individual pot stands, with a narrow walkway between them and the pits. Wall IA continues down, handsome as ever. We are now looking for the pithos floor in this small room—that and some resolution to the stone in the SW of the trench which at the moment resembles a conference of walls.

S of Wall 45-W, and E of one of the stone piles, is a sort of enclosure with part of a pot in it. Whether this pot was placed there (as opposed to having fallen there) remains to be seen.

We have finished the W room—that is, we reached the bottom of the wall (Ia), which is more or less at the level of the slabs we thought were pot stands. The jar which fell on the slab in the corner is probably bridge-spouted; it has the right kind of handle. The room will have to wait until Monday to be photographed since folks go to hire tomorrow. So we will veil the jar and the pithos and leave them in.

We are continuing in the E sector. The base of a large coarse red vessel has been found next to Wall 46.

Manolis has been sent over to Trench 214E2, the strip along Wall 42, to continue with Pail 15 (see p. 38).
July 7, 1978

Today we continue in the E sector with Pail 25. For the little ship S of Wall 46 we open Pail 26 under Pail 22 from 19.39 to 18.04

Brown fill

Contents: MM II B/III floor level

Other: --

Inventario: see p. 82

Removal is in Pitridia today helping to install the steel doors in the Apostolic, so we are one woman short. The cleaning of Wall 42 in French 21 AZ will have to wait. Michael is cleaning the sand from the E part of the trench, which measures 2m 25 W-E, 3m 50 N-S. We will probably start it today.

In the ship between Wall 46 and the scarp of the trench we have found a badly smashed (but probably complete) bridge-spouted jar, and part of a larger, deeper vessel - a bowl?

We begin Pail 27
under Pail 25 from 19.29 to 19.07

Brown fill

Contents: mostly MM II B/III from floor deposit B 28

Other: 2 bronze fish hooks, stone beds in situ (see opposite)

Inventario: see pp. 66, 84

for the E sector of the trench. It seems that Wall 46 continues E. We are now cleaning off the stones in the E scarp to see if they constitute a wall. There are certainly enough stones for a wall.

This drawing is incorrect.
The N-S width of the trench is 4m 50, not 3m 50 as it is here.
See p. 80.

Stone from Pail 27: 1 grey cobbled no wear
Pail 27: mostly MM II B/III, with a LM IA sherds (all on its spiral) — see C1060
catalogued objects from floor deposit in
slab-paved room (= Room BB):

C1041 jug = Pot 1
C1045 jug = Pot 2
C1044 conical cup
Semi globular
C1078 cup = part of Pot 3
C1079 large spouted jar = part of Pot 3
C1054 spouted bowl = Pot 4
C1055 jar = Pot 5
C1058 jar = Pot 6
C1060 cup. sherds from Pots 3, 6 and pail
C1061 con. cup = Pot 7
C1062 “” = Pot 8
C1090 base of storage vessel = Pot 9
C1091 “” “” = Pot 10
C1092 “” “” = part of Pot 11
C1093 coarse red vessel wa.
burn maker inside = part of Pot 11

C1094 base of storage vessel = Pot 12
C1095 “” “” = Pot 13
C1154 jar = Pot 16
C1114 cooking pot
C1116 cooking dish rim
fragment of C1138 — the rest is from Pail 23
(see pp. 60-61)

for a drawing of this deposit, see p. 84.

We are definitely in a MM level in this trench.
The U Sector has been cleared to floor level
(slabs and the bottom of Wall 1a); we are now
doing the same in the E Sector, and eventually
we will do the same with the rest of the
trench. But the real problem is that of
access, and relationships in time and space.
How was this area entered? Why was it
not used later on? Two things may help:
the confused pile of stones in the SW C,
and the phases of Wall 64 (there are
probably three).

In the E Sector of the excavated portion
of Trench UMA we seem to have found a
floor level. Slabs and several whole or
almost whole pots are emerging. We
decide to leave the lot until Monday and
return to the clearance of Wall 42 with Pail 15.
The point of this is to make sure that Wall 42
does close off the room in proper fashion, and
then to remove the ship of earth down to
the floor level of D-E as excavated 2 years
ago (see notebook 4, pp. 33, 37). Some more bits
of pottery C9 may turn up here; we will
have to sift the bottom layer.

The length of the wall is now more or less
exposed. We open
Pail 28
from the level of Wall 42 (top)
to 20 cm above floor
burn fill
contains: 15 sherds; mixed coarse + fine; MM + LM
other:
inventoried:

Wall 42, so far, seems to stop at Wall 4's
threshold, but its surface slopes down a bit
so we will check again later.
The wall is by now only 20 cm from the eroded scarp so there are very few sherds. For the last 20 cm above the floor we begin Pail 29 under Pail 28 from 20 cm above floor on D-E to floor brown fill

Contents: small unit, latest date LM II A-B

Other: obsidian, rock crystal, shell

Inventoried: more of C19 rhyton (2 rim fragments)

Wall 42 may continue past the corner. The corner is very uneven and will have to be probed further.

We are sifting the earth from the Pail 29 level. We may have found 2 more bits of rhyton (C19). [We did! They fit into the rim.]
July 10, 1978

Today in Trench 21A2 the Karoufoiades are panning for gold, according to Ali Kiliakis - that is, we are continuing to dry sieve the fill from the floor level along wall 42. No more rhythm fragments so far today, but a piece of obsidian and a small chip of ?met crystal have been found.

The removal of earth from the S corner between walls 42 and 1 reveals that wall 42 runs up to Wall 1, and that the packing of small stone against the face of Wall 1 was put there after wall 42 was built. The same probably holds true for the N corner of Walls 1 and 44 but we have not cleaned down to floor level there, so we can't say for sure.

We are now opening the E \(\frac{1}{3}\) of Trench 21A1 with Pail 30

- under:
  - from surface 19.90 at highest point 19.49
  - from fill, stone
  - contents: 4 beads (all Minyan (?) )
  - other: stone, shell
  - invented:

Since there is little fill above the tops of Wall, etc here, we soon discover that Wall 44 continues, probably right to the E end of the trench.

When we reach the top of the exposed lower course of Wall 44 we change pails, arbitrarily to Pail 31

- under Pail 30
  - from 19.49 to 19.34

from Pail 30, grey cobble to percussion packing and below
Pail 30 scarcely contained anything, since as before, the surface of the site slope down dramatically to the SE—some 75 cm in this instance.

We have changed pails again, to Pail 32
under Pail 31
from 19.34
until 19.27
brown fill with stone
content: 110 sherds, latest LM II A, not definitive
other: shell, stone; stone left at site, intrusive
inventoried:—16 w. thorough depression

We are getting close to the ?floor level in the W side of the trench. The walls are persisting definition today—neither the wall separating the central section of the trench from its eastern companion, nor the wall which shall run W-S along the E edge of the trench is shaping up properly. We will have to dig down further and check again.
July 11, 1978

We continue in Trench 21A1, in the three compartments – they are numbered 1-3 for convenience, 1 being the westernmost and the pithos and bridge-spouted jar. In 2 we are finding more pots and a couple of stelae, The pots are being left in but they will eventually be put in Pail 27. Many of them are in terrible condition – not surprising since these pots often fell onto stelae or stelae. It is difficult to clean them off without their falling apart.

1 and 2 are both ca 1m 75 in width. If 3 is another similar compartment, we ought to be finding it. E wall very soon. So far all we have is B small stones and earth. On 3 we change to Pail 33.

Under Pail 32
from 19.27
to 19.15
brown fill, stones
content: small unit, louter sherds LN 3B, cut very definitive
other: small stone left at 01.00 = stone with beginning of a hollow

The wall between 2 and 3 is now called Wall 47; it definitely is a wall. Its basic width is ca 0.55 m. In the corner (E) between it and Wall 44 there is another stretch of wall built along it for a metre, projecting some 27 cm. We thought that Wall 47 would be another double wall like 46 and perhaps (a butt), it seems not. To the 5 outer stones project almost 50 cm. They do not look fallen. Wall 46 does not show up E of Wall 47; perhaps our third compartment does not exist. We are checking now to see if there is a doorway between 46 and 47.
While checking for the corner, we removed a small stone not in the line of wall 46, and discovered a small (4.5 cm) jug underneath it. It looks as though walls 46 and 47 originally cornered without a door, but later a door may have been punched out in wall 47 (?). Several stones are missing from 47 in a course which is preserved to the N. The break if such it be, lines up with the projecting stone mentioned earlier. (See also plan.) The stones which are preserved are at floor level, but they do not resemble a threshold.

Most of the pots lying on the floor here are relatively small. We have the little jug just found, the remains of 5 or 6 conical cups, a smashed bridge-sprouted jar, and perhaps another small jar. In the E corner of walls 45 and 44, there are 2 medium-sized pithos bases.

The director is not at the site today, so we will leave these for tomorrow. We are having another stab at trying to understand the confused stones in the SW C of the trench — they are being cleared off, with

Pail 34
under
from ca. 19.50
19.24 (floor level in A1)
fill around stones
contents: tiny unit, coating later than MM III/LMT
other: stone left at site = grey or green
mentioned:

In the E part of the Trench (3) we continued with Pail 33.
We have cleaned off the back of Wall 44 in Room F (its N face in other words), which is beautifully straight and solid, unlike the domino stretch to the W.

In 3, we checked the projecting stones which line up with the loculi in Wall 47 to see if they were part of a wall running E-W. At the moment, these stones do not seem to constitute a wall. We have changed to Pail 35 under Pail 33 from 13.15 to 19.09.

Contents: LM III B octopus trail, bowls, a few loom weights. Other: piece of rose crystal (unworked), shells investigated: C 1101 bowl calcite.

The cleaning of the confused stones has so far yielded only a more orderly confusion. Wall 45 seems to corner, 1st W and then S into the S scarp of the trench, and Wall 47 seems to do exactly the same, giving the effect of parallel meanders. Tomorrow we will have to operate again on these stones.

We opened 2 new pits in quick succession today—one for the last cleaning of the N face of Wall 44 in Room F, most of which was dug 2 years ago:
Pit 36 under from 19.55 to 19.45
taken (from 2 yrs' exposure) brown earth

Contents: nothing definitive (6 coarse red, 1 medium, and a few scraps)

and another for continued excavation S of Wall 46, where another batch of pottery has been found at a lower level than that of the bridge-spouted jar and (?) flower pot found earlier. This change of pits may be unnecessary but it is being done in case the area to the S of 21A1 is ever excavated. These pots may be part of a floor deposit so we are being unusually careful with them (unusually careful for material from an only partially defined room, that is; we don't know that we're near the floor at all). When the 1st 2 pots were found here, it must be added, we did not have the possible E boundary of this space, which may be a wall. Shards from this cleaning area put in Pit 34 under Pit 26
from 19.04 to 19.00
brown fill, small stones
contents: MH II B/III deposit
Other: stone tools in situ
inventoried: see p. 82

*For a more detailed drawing of this space, see pp. 86 and 100.
Detailed drawing of deposits showing pots, numbers & locations are on pp. 82, 84, and 88.