KOMMOS
EXCAVATIONS
AREA A
Trench 21A
1978

Lucia Nixon
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench 21A</th>
<th>June 28-July 4; August 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7-43,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 21A1</td>
<td>July 9-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27-113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 21A2</td>
<td>July 3-4, July 6-7, July 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35-47, 55-71, 71-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 21B</td>
<td>July 18-August 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97-179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 21B1</td>
<td>July 27-August 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>139-175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extraction began today in Trench 21A, a trench measuring 8m 00 by 2m 50, set to the S of Trenches 12A5 and 5B so that its E end is aligned with that of 12A5; its W end was placed so as to catch the S extension of Wall f. (We may also pick up a S extension of Wall 30; see the plan on p. 6.) The objective is to determine the dimensions of at least one of the buildings on the hilltop.

This past winter it rained heavily. A great deal of sand drifted into the trenches, necessitating two days of cleaning up here on the hilltop. The site is less linear in appearance than it was at the beginning of the 1977 season; when the excavation had removed most of the sand, because many plants have sprouted - thistles, Euphorbia bushes, and so on. The walls will have to be weeded by degrees.

There is still snow on the Ida Range, although on Psiloritis itself.

For the clearing of sand and vegetation from the surface of the trench, we open

Pail I
from surface (20.66-19.80)
to 20.50-19.80
Sand, some earth
contents: all brown, mostly fine, 2.5L / 5L
other: bone
inventario: -

The trench slopes down from W to E.
At the moment we will confine ourselves,
To the W end, because of the slope, and because after we see how far S Wall 7 extends, we can leave the strip (it will be about 50 cm wide) to the W of it undug.

Wall 7 has behaved and now extends 1 m S0 into the trench. Part of its E face is lacking but will probably appear at a lower level. It is now clear that Wall 10 runs into Wall 7, instead of stopping short at Wall 13 like its predecessor Wall 12. (See rough sketch on facing page.) These walls are actually part of Trench SB, but it is nice to clear up any details possible.

Maybe Wall 7 will come to the W and meet up with Wall 31 in Trench ISA. (?)

In the meantime, we are digging to the E of Wall 7 up to the 3 m 00 mark (see plan, p. 8). This is again partly because of the slope of the trench. 50 cm to the E of where we're stopping, a large amount of pottery was found last year, as part of the material from Courtyard M. This pottery shall be excavated carefully so we are evening out the trench first. Other interesting features of this courtyard are two possible hearths and column bases. We may also run into the famous white fill found in earlier years. (See notebook 12, p. 153.)

We have opened:

Pail 2

Under Pail 1

- 20.50 - 19.80
- 19.80 - 19.70 (Pail 30)

Reddish-brown fill

Contents: mixed unit (HN, LM); tiny sherds
other: shell, burnt bone
inventoried:

A number of smallish stones have appeared in this part of the trench but they don't amount to much so far.

The workmen in this trench are Manos Kastamoulis, Ninos Spithalis, and a new man Michailis Vlassakis.

Wall 7 continues across the trench reaching the S side in a slight state of disarray: a couple of stones seem out of position. At the N side of the trench, 3-4 small stones (up to 15cm long) lie against the wall, vertically, at an angle. Two other larger stones lie flat near the wall. A large pithos sherd lies near the 2 flat stones; another lies near the vertical stones. The other stones presently visible seem to have little importance.

Now that Wall 7 definitely crosses the entire trench, we have decided to extend the area of Pail 2 to the E end.

Wall 30 does continue into Trench 21A, although now far is not yet certain. We have stopped 15 minutes early because the wind is spraying us with dust and sand.

Tomorrow we may extend the trench to the S to see what happens with Wall 7.
A nasty surprise today: Wall 30 has petered out, at least at this level. It may even have been robbed out, or perhaps stones were removed by a local farmer. We are digging down a bit along the assumed line of the wall to see if we can find a lower course. It is suspicious that there is sand along the wall-line, as though it had filled in a robbing trench. Sherd are being kept in Pail 2.

For the moment we are not extending the trench. We are digging between Walls 7 and 30 with Pail 3

under Pail 2
from 20.21-15.70 (E of Wall 30)
to 19.93-13.70 (W of Wall 30)
brown fill
contents: mixed MM + LM III A-B
other:
mentioned: C847 jar in dull burnished fabric
C848 rim sherd dark burnished fabric (fig. on p.14)
S38 small lamp

The potsherds mentioned on p. 11 will be put in this pail.

The ancient hill must have slanted downward at a greater angle as there is still sand mixed with the fill in the SE 1/3 of the trench — in fact not only in the corner, but up from the corner for about 3m 50.

It is very interesting that we are encountering so few stones as we dig down; such a lack suggests that this area was in fact open. There are some stones in the W part of the trench but nothing like the famous chicken
burials of other years.

Two metres E of wall 7, right at the edge of the trench, and up to a metre in from the edge, there is quite a lot of pottery, and a small stone lamp or ladle (?). The pottery looks coarse for the most part. The lamp and sherds join the pithos fragments in Pail 3.

We are cleaning the step south W of wall 7. A whole conical cup has been found in the fill. We open a new pail to absorb these sherds:

Pail 4
under Pail 1
from 20.50
to 20.20
Brown fill
Contents: whole conical cup, latest sherd LMI
other: shell
Mentioned: —

We continue digging in the area between walls 7 and 30 and open a new pail:

Pail 5
under Pail 3
from 19.95 - 19.70
To 19.79 - 19.60
Brown fill
Contents: good, uniform III B unit.
Other: shell, stone CBS1 sea-washed sherds (worn) *
Inventoried: CBS1 ladle CBS2 kylix fragment
C863 dark burnished rim fragment
C864 open vessel with foot

At the E end of the trench, we are 20 cm above the old floor; at the W end, 60 cm. We have levelled the trench somewhat, though; cf. the levels on p. 6. In the Little
"Trench" dug to see if Wall 30 continued, we have reached the level of the floor found last year. The wall continued ca 56 cm into Trench 26A, then stops. It may have continued further, however, as stated earlier: five stones line up with the W face of the wall, starting ca 40 cm after the end of the other section. As well, Wall 30 may have cornered, as there are 2 stones in the scarp at right L5. If this is so, perhaps the corner wall (in that running into Wall 30) meets Wall 4. (See Notebook 4, p. 96.) This can be determined when the next trench in this area is dug, since it will be set S of Trench 4 and E of Trench 12A5. Why Wall 30 did not continue S of this possible corner is not obvious at the moment.

The W part of the trench has begun to fill up with stones in a reassuring way. Most of them lie in the triangle between the middle of the trench, N side, and the N and S ends of Wall 7. There are large stones up to 50 cm long.

Fill 5 marks the beginning of Level 3 in this trench. We are down to the real koya now, except in the SE corner of the trench where we still have sand. There must be a pit here or perhaps a drastic change in level. We are near the next dip in the hill. There seem to be few sherd s in the sand.

We have finished cleaning out the ship of Wall 7. Wall 31 does not seem to extend this far E. The ship will eventually be photographed.
We now have a S boundary for courtyard M - we almost missed it, as the new wall, no. 43, projects only 14-18 cm from the S edge of the trench. From wall 7 it runs E, stopping short of the S end of the trench by 2 m 20. Perhaps another course will be visible when we get down to the floor level.
Today we are doing some wall-chasing at the W end of the trench. We have added a little rectangle 1m 00 (N-S) by 1m 25 (E-W) to see if Walls 7 and 43 make a corner, and to determine the width of Wall 43. The top of Wall 43 in trench 21A proper was some 30 cm lower than that of Wall 7. If these 2 walls do make a bonded corner the difference in height will have to be accounted for. It is possible, of course, that Wall 7 continues S past Wall 43.

In courtyard M (in the space between Walls 7 and 30) we have found a large, deep (55 cm preserved on the interior) grinding basin. It lies near Wall 7, closer to the N edge of the trench. Mochlos says that in the village they used basins of a similar type for grinding coffee beans. There may still be one in Bavvitis' house (the cook's house and lyra player). They used iron pounders, however; it may not be possible to determine the Minoan equivalent. This basin is a nice addition to the furnishings of the courtyard - the hearth, clay ollas, etc. There are also pithos fragments and a saddle quern in the same area near the wall (in trench 21A); the quern is canted but will be left in its present position temporarily.

The trench has been cleaned and photographed, and the stones are being removed. They really are consistently large - very few slab fragments (which is slightly unusual for this area) in this lot. Other pieces of the stone basin have been found.
At first it seemed as though the bottom of the basin was missing; now it looks as though it was not broken, but worn through by use.

Wall 7 does in fact corner with wall 43. Another section of wall 7 was built onto this corner at some later date. Wall 43 is, therefore, the original S boundary of courtyard. The stones from this little extension—which can now be abandoned—are kept in

Pail 6
from surface 20.57 to 20.01
sand, brown fill
context: mixed unit, CM-MM
other: —
Inventoried: —

We are now starting to dig down to the courtyard floor. We are leaving the W section where the stone basin (local name Χαφβίν) and canted saddle quern are. Here as well is the layer or accumulation of white chalk found in trenches 5B and 12A5. This will be investigated later. For now we are excavating an area of 4m20 W of wall 30. We have begun

Pail 7
under pail 5
from 19.79 - 19.60 to 19.70 - 19.60
brown fill
context: mixed (MM + LM I-III B), dry unit
other: shell, stone
Inventoried: —
Trench 21A looking N
at Wall 7 and rubble continuation TC,
and Wall 43 beginning to the east
Roll 9, Exp. 28.

There is a small patch of pebble pavement
near the small stone lining up with
Wall 30 (see plan, p. 20). It doesn't extend
beyond these stones and it does seem to
run up to them.

A few statistics on Walls 7 and 43:
Wall 43 is very solid with a handsome corner
where it meets 7; it is just under
60 cm thick. The block E of the corner
is missing in Wall 43 but the difference in
height here is only 15 cm. The S continuation
of Wall 7, TC, is 50 cm long and
not as nicely built (from the little we can
see at the moment). Like Wall 7 it is on
60 cm wide.

We start another pass in the courtyard
(E portion) and the soil begins to get
darker so we change to
Pail B
under Pail 7
from 19.70 - 19.60
19.60 to 19.60
Blackish brown fill
contents: tiny, latt+ sherds LM IIIB
other: shell, bone
inventoried: -
Trench Z1A
Courtyard M before stone removal, using W Roll 6, Exp 2

Roll 6, Exps. 5, 6

Stone from Pail 9: large green/buff cobble w. chip missing
in cobble.

July 1, 1978

We continue in the E portion of the courtyard with pail 8. It is curious that the sherds in this layer are relatively few in number, although the fill above produced large quantities (pail 5 filled 3½ buckets). There are some stones at this level but they are small and thin, and nothing like as big as those removed yesterday from the W end of the trench. The trench is cleaned and photographed. The level that we have reached is probably a later floor as it is quite hard, and has produced a surface that can be followed. There is still very little pottery. The scattered stones are removed and we continue with Pail 8 under Pail 8 from 19.66 - 19.60 to 19.60 - 19.57 dark brown fill contents: tiny unit, mixed LM and NM other: shell, stone, burnt earth, soil samples, inventoried:

We have most of the outline of the floor now; it is roughly 1m 20: The large stone placed at right angles to Wall 43 is probably also a floor feature, (seat, stand, etc; see plan, p. 20) of the later floor, however.

The floor that we are now coming down on is proving to be more difficult to locate than the one above. It seems to slope down toward Wall 30. Elsewhere we begin to find a slightly uneven surface with patches of aspoxyria. There are no small sherds embedded in the fill, nor are there any whole pots lying on the surface.
we have cleared off the lower floor now, so that we are at last year's courtyard level - in the E section of the trench, that is.

Our next project is to clear of the hearth a bit, which we do with:

- Pail 10
  - under Pail 9
  - from 19.60 to 19.505
  - brown fill with some ash
  - contents: tiny unit, mixed MH and LMI
  - other:
  - inventoried:

The fill within the stones surrounding the actual hearth was slightly sandy. The "floor" of the hearth is reddish and hard. We will dig half of it at some later date.

We measured the distance from the column base W of the hearth, first to wall 43 (2m 67), then to wall 7, the E boundary of the room with the wine press/olive press (2m 70). It may be that the area bounded by wall 7 on the W, Wall 43 on the S, wall on the N, and a line between 43 and through the column base was roofed. This would leave the hearth in an unroofed area which might be use.

We clear another strip 1m 35 long to the W of the area already excavated to courtyard level. We will leave this area at the level of the later floor. We have begun a new pail:
We are leaving the W end of the trench at the level of the morter or XapBar and the caunted quern. Eventually we will have to probe about in this area to see if we can find the stand or platform for the morter.

We decided to check for the continuation of Wall 43 to the E by opening a miniature trench 1m 25 long (from the SE L of Trench 21A) and some 75cm wide. Shards are kept in Pail 12 under:

- from 19.37 - 19.80
- to 18.17
- sand
- context: little definitive. LM I - III? much MM
- other:
- Mentioned:

Sure enough, he wall continues. Whether it will go all the way to the line of wall 30 at the end of the trench remains to be seen.

We are opening the next trench now, Trench 21A1. It lies S of 4A1, the bundle between 4A1 and 4A, and part of 4A, and E of 12A5. (See plan, p. 32)
The trench measures 7m 00 W-E and 4m 50 N-S. We are starting with the W 1/4. Shards from the sand clearance are kept in
Pail 13
under-
from surface (20.49 - 20.175)
To top of X-wa'na (2.5) cm
contents: 3 sherds, all MN
Other:
mentioned:

The trench slopes down rather a lot from the NW to the SE corner. We will have to do a fair amount of levelling off in the W 1/4 in order to even out the layers.
Trench 21A is thoroughly photographed today. At the W end we have a 1m 30 strip which is the level at which the mortar and the qurn were found. Toward the center of the trench there is another 1m 35 strip left to show the later floor level. (The level reached in the W sector is the bottom of Pail 5; that in the central sector is the bottom of Pail 11.) The E sector of the trench (bottom of Pail 9) has been excavated to last year's courtyard level.

The 2nd trench extension, at the E end, continues with Pail 12. It has been extended to 3m 00 E-W by 1m 00 N-S. Wall 43 stops short at the E corner of the trench by 1m 40. The distance between Wall 43 and the proposed continuation of the robbed-out Wall 30 is some 70 cm, which is wide enough for a doorway. The only other possibility for a doorway is to the N, between the proposed continuation of Wall 30 and Wall 1a. We will have to probe about in the trench extension to see if there's not a threshold there. Afterward we can look in the N gap if necessary.

There may be a wall running N to Wall 43, parallel to Wall 7c which joins it to the W. A couple of stones lie against Wall 43 at 2m 10 from the E corner of the trench. Whether or not they're part of a wall will become clear as we complete the extension.

Trench 21A is temporarily finished. Several projects still remain: the extension just
mentioned, a probe in the hearth, a possible probe N of the remains of wall 30 if needed, the removal of the N of the 2 masterps of 2000x1000mm left in Trench 5B and Trench 12A5, and the shoring down of the central and W sectors of the trench to courtyard level. For the latter project we hope particularly to find the original platform of the mastab.

While Nikos continues the extension, Manolis and Niki's carry on in Trench 2A1, with:

- Pail 14, under Pail 13:
  - from 20.45 - 20.15
  - to 20.085
- Brown Earth
- Contents: many MM pieces, latest Sherd LM III B
- Other: Shells, bronze, stone (ostrich egg)
- Inventario: C924 askos*, C927 rhyton lip

We are attempting to slice the upper layers off from the trench without touching the lower ones. It will never be possible to excavate this trench horizontally as the SE corner is so eroded but we can try to even it out to start with.

We have found the fourth wall of our room! The other 3 are Wall 4 on the E, Wall 42 on the N, Wall 1 and 1a on the W. The new wall, Wall 44 runs between 1-1a and 4. We have decided to extend our present theatre of operations in 2 directions.

Wall 42 at the moment runs the short distance between Wall 1 and the E edge of Trench 16A, excavated last year (1977). The previous year (1976) we potted with a knife and found stone in the scarp N of
The ship to be cleared along Wall 42 will be known as Trench 21A2.

The threshold of Wall 4. Now we are going to clear a 75cm ship from Wall 1 to Wall 4, to expose the length of Wall 42. Shards from the earth surface to the top of the wall are kept in:

- Pail 15 under:
  - from 20.29 - 20.16
  - Xýma, some sand contents
  - other: shell
  - Inventorized

In order to catch Wall 4 if it continues S beyond Wall 44 we have enlarged the W sector by 1m 25; it now measures 4m 75 W-E and 3m 50 N-S.

Wall 44 is a classic example of a wall which has partially collapsed; many of its stones fell onto an accumulation of earth which had already filled this part of the room. Hence the "suspended dominoes," found in Trenches A and 4A1 (see Notebook A, p. 96). The wall steps to the west of Wall 4, so we may have a doorway between the two, indicating that we may have another room to the S. So far Wall 44 does not seem to bend with Wall 1A. The top of the wall slopes down toward the E, as one would expect from the surface of the earth layer (as opposed to the overlying sand).

Near the corner between Walls 44 and 1A (the S corner, that is) lying in the midst of some fallen stones, was found an almost complete askos - it seems to lack
only the spout and a couple of body sherds. It lay 1m02 from Wall 1A and 1m30 out from the corner itself.

The stones, along the assumed wall line (for only the N side of the 1A-44 corner, and 2 stones in the S scarp of Tr 4A1, showed that a wall could exist) have been cleared for a "before" photograph. We are now removing stones which either don't belong or can't be replaced as some of the dominos can. 75 cm out from Wall 1A there may be a gap - perhaps a window? We are now laying out a line of dominos on the dryed floor in 4A, to be put back after due cleaning. Shards from this side of the wall are put in Pair 16. See also p. 103 under:

from top of wall 44
19.55
soft brown fill
contents: ca 100 sherds; scabby unit; latest
other: stone lls at 5th. stone
inventoried:

Nikos has found three large stones, in the line of Wall 43, so that we now have it all the way to the E side of the trench. These three stones are 25 cm lower than the 2 blobby stones, the W. These 2 in turn are only 7 cm above the level of the courtyard floor. In other words we are now digging below floor level. The three new stones are slightly out of line with the upper ones; they sit ca 15 cm to the S. maybe they are part of an earlier wall.