- We originally excavated A1 as a test in order to establish a floor level that would guide us throughout the rest of the trench. This was thought to be at D4.06. When we opened up the trench we found that the true floor level was actually several centimeters different, at D4.19. We felt that the substantial floor deposit that we found along Wall 2 was adequate proof that the floor was true, and not at D4.06.

- We excavated a very convincing threshold that seems to have a pivot hole. Based on the orientation of the walls and the threshold during the Geometric Period TR824 was an interior space.

A note on objects and "other" recovered:

- The pottery was pure Geometric, primarily of the 8th century (all 7th century on and "above the floor").

- The organic material consisted of:
  * 100s of limpets (weight TK)
  * 5-10 pieces of pumice per paid
  * 1/2 to 1 loose bag of bones per paid

This organic material, the nature of the pottery (coarse ware for cooking and lots of drinking cups), and the exposure of pitch burning and one large fire in the center of the trench lends support to an idea that this space was for cooking and eating. The link in this scheme is the...
iron find of four spearheads (cat #'s 217 - 220) 15 cm above the floor. These spearheads probably date to the Temple B, period 2, which is supported by similar iron finds of that time and by the pottery dates. At this point we are not entirely clear on the context of these spearheads, or how they pertain to TR82A.

* Photo: Roll 3 Frame 3 - Re-take Polaroid p. 72 if necessary.

JULY 14

We opened 5:25, the first pair that will clean the entire length of wall 2. On 2/8 we excavated the west end of this area with 5:17; 5:25 is adjacent to 5:17 and will continue to the East baulk.

The trench is now divided exactly in half along the East baulk. We will work in this half of the trench until we have determined the slope of this area or arrived at a noteworthy level.

Soil: brownish, soft
Level: V 4.23 E, V 4.13 W
Pottery: C8
Catalogue #: 9556
Other: bone, shell, pumice

We are going under the Geometric Floor - perhaps we will stop finding limpets!
We continue to find limpets, other shells, lots of bone, and pumice. We are also finding several flat sherds and some evidence for fire in the form of small carbon deposits. This is concentrated primarily south of the threshold and along the East faulk.

In order to further examine this and excavate the possible burning level, we change pace.

5:26
Soil: brown (clay) with patches of black. Lots of small stones.
Level: 0.90
Pottery: M6
Catalogue nos. 6338, 7550, 765, 8203
Other: bone, plaster, shell, fishing weights, bronze, pumice.

We begin the pan at the west end and immediately expose several (10) fishing weights. They are not clumped together, but spread throughout the area. Of note is the lack of sherds in this area.

Also, it may be too soon to say, but it looks like there are just a few limpets—possibly indicating good oil or corne—i.e. no more limpets.

As we continue toward the center, we find a bronze object (6 cm x 5 cm) and two small bits of plaster. It is impossible to tell the function of the bronze as it is of an early generic shape and not on a floor.

To the immediate west of the threshold we are finding very
X = line of large tumble and stones w/ incisions

A = very black clay-like soil -> evidence for much burning

large tumble, black soil, and at least two stones with round incisions. We have left the larger of these in situ and the smaller one we are sending to the Antiquerie.

The soil in area A, in front of the threshold and along the east balk, is very black and clay-like, west of this the soil is dry, brown and has several areas of tumbled accumulation.

This pass complete - we open 5:27, to excavate area A.

5:27
soil: black, very moist
level: 4.04
pottery: Geometric
other: shell, bone, stone implements

We have only cleared about 5 cm, so will continue with this until tomorrow.

We continue with 5:27.

This area is very pure with occasional stone tumble. The line of tumble starting at the west corner of the threshold is fairly irregular but it is still difficult to determine if they were intentionally placed. There is some carbon here.

We decide to approach them from the west, but before doing this we clip off the uneven soil from our trench dividing line.

JULY 15
This is paid 5:28.

Soil: brown, soft

Level: 

Pottery:

Other:

It doesn't take long to do this and as there is no pottery exposed, we use 5:28 to excavate from the west. We have 5:28 covering the area west of the threshold for the end of the trench.

Soil: brown, soft

Level: 

Catalogue No. 3: C9584

Pottery: Geometric (Late Proto ?)

Other: bone, shell, stone w/ incision

As we excavate here it becomes clear that we are now entering a level that is very different from what came above. In the first place, the soil has very few sherds, no organic contamination, and no linpetts. Secondly, large tumbled is scattered throughout (it is not resting on a floor).

We hope to learn more about the line of stone separately 5:27 from 5:28. At this point it seems that they were intentionally placed, as the soil on either side is quite different. We also need to decide how all this relates to the "threshold" as this block is very peculiar, not resembling another as-lead, and very large.

More and more substantial tumbled is coming from the area next to Wall 2. Perhaps it is from Wall 4-
end not wall 2, as there was a floor several centimeters above it. It also seems as though wall 2 was built on this rubble.

As we move east we come onto a strange arrangement of stones and a possible surface. There is also soil evidence for burning—patches of reddish/brown and black earth.

The shape of the stones is somewhat mounded. This exposure is the bottom of level 5. We take high and low point measurements and continue to move toward the baulk, where we find a very clean line of fire in the baulk. This line is at 4.06—but is now clean due to the earth removed.

After clearing the area around the stones and removing some nearby tumble, we decide to open up the rest of the trench. This will eventually shed some light on the stones.

Of most importance is that this fill is fairly pure of organic "other" we have a few bones, one shell, and NO LIMPETS. The pottery is also extremely sparse. These factors indicate that we are indeed out of the Geometric Period(!) and are thus entering a transition period into Late Oriental.

In the North half, we have approximately 30 centimeters to uncover before reaching the secondary Minian floor.
5:29
level: 4 1/4, W4 1/5
soil: brown, with small stones
pottery: PG-B
catalogue #: c.9613
other: bone, shell ( Real impets), plaster, pumice

we begin along the W baulk. here it is rougher than further east.
we immediately find several of the large archaic "stone eggs." this group of five represents the only eggs found in this trench. as they were against the way i think they may have tumbled in and cannot be used as indicators in this level.

7/16

we continue with 5:29 this morning while we reach the area of the burning 3.30 from the E baulk. here we open

5:30

black, soft/burnt level 4 1/4
soil: brown
pottery: PG-B | EG
catalogue #: c.9613
other: bone, shell

from the west a very clear line of ash is visible in the soil of 5:30. to note 5 the soil of this area next to wall 3 is VERY hard, with lots of little stones. this is the pattern we have seen throughout this area of TR 82A. as expected - the soil toward the center is softer.

As we excavate further east it
is clear that the soil along wall 3 is completely different from the soil above the fire running through the center of the trench. As this has been the case throughout and the two soils have been excavated together, we decide to use 5:30 to excavate only the soft soil.

Here we are finding small burnt stones and lots of ash. Other than that, the soil is basically pure with only a few sherds, lumps, and bone.

A possible function of this round burnt area could have been as a sunken fire. If so, then the rounded stones uncovered yesterday could be the accompanying hearth!

If this is the case, we will see more as we continue moving east.

The black soil in the center meets the brown/rubbed soil to the east. For this operation of moving the brown rubble along wall 3 and against the baulk we open:

5:31

Soil: brown, hard, rubbed level: 4-2.9
pottery: EG
other: bone, shells, few (a few)

We are in an L-shaped space with dimensions: 9.3 cm from wall 3, 135 cm from E baulk.

Along the wall we are finding soil that seems to have been water-packed.
Along the E baulk there are several small carbon deposits — in general the soil here is very impure.

After we clean to a level equal with the area of the black soil, we change pails to excavate the black:

5:32
Soil: black, soft, basically pure
level: 4.09
pottery: PG-B
catalogue #: 9616
other: shell

Of interest now is the black strip of soil visible in the E baulk next to Wall 2. This is at 4.04 — so may well be related — to be watched.

We don't have much time to complete the first pass of this pail — so we will continue with it tomorrow.

7/17

We continue with 5:32. At this level the subtleties of the fire are becoming more apparent — see sketch opp page. Unfortunately we are also finding a smattering of limpets — nothing like what we were getting above — but a presence none-the-less.

We decide to dry-sieve the soil w/ the highest ash and burnt concentration, nothing recovered.
This pit exposes a line of stone 80 cm from wall 3. Is this a wall? In any case it explains the drastic soil difference between the center of the trench and the strip along wall 3.

To excavate the area you can see of stones and wall 3, we open 5:33.
To note: This is also the area of the unburnt soil.

5:33
Soil: rocky, brown, hard
level: 1.0.15
pottery: MG
catalogue #: 9415
other: shell, bone, plastic, pumice

Note: we are finding the level of the ash extending all the way to the E baulk. This ash is fairly discrete; the earth above and below is black and burnt in the center, and brown along the E baulk. Again, in this location the level of the ash is 4:1.09.

The area marked on p. 90 with three X's is also very burnt - similar to the area in the center of the trench. How this relates to the area of the trench is unclear at this time.

As we continue to excavate along wall 3 we come upon several overturned fallen stones that are obviously rubble. The line of stone or rubble is further clarified. At this point it is not clear whether or not it is a wall or other rubble from wall 3.

level of stones: 4.06

XXX = area of black soil.
We will now excavate this possible wall from the North by opening 5:34. Note that this is the area of the black soil and it now extends to the E bank because in the previous period we found that the burning continued here.

If the line of stones is a wall, it will clarify why we were having such a difference in soil in this area of the trench.

5:34
Soil: black w burning, soft except at West bank w a bit harder

- level: ± 3.96
- pottery: P 6 - P 5
- catalogued #s: C9585
- other: bone, shell, plumice, carbon, charcoal, pine

With the first few picks, Philotedes exposed an area of packed pebbles that looks a lot like a floor. It is very self-contained, and was not visible in the N side of the trench, nor does it extend further than 70 cm to be south. In any case, this is a surface. The soil above is EXTREMELY black and soft.

We will continue here on Monday.

7/20

We continue with 5:34.

As we continue to move East a few
things become clear:

1. The area of the pebble floor is not wide and does not seem to continue to the south at all - but does extend to the east at its same width.

2. We are finding flat sherds on top of the black soil that is on top of the impressed pebbles - we need to further excavate to determine if this is some sort of deposit - is not a deposit (II).

3. The soil next to the strip of pebble floor is full of limpets (I) and does not seem to be a surface at all.

Moving toward the center of the TR we encounter a very interesting layer of burnt soil, broken sherds, and limpets. This is extremely concentrated and does not extend onto the strip of possible floor. We decide to sieve this soil as it is very different from the soil above it and it is full of broken sherds and other objects. It is really amazing the way it is coming away in chunks packed with the objects mentioned above - nothing exciting recovered.

By removing more soil it has become clear that the concentrated area of burning does not extend past the curved stones but were exposed in the norm, but stays fairly neatly in the area that we've been calling the hearth. Although along the back as with other pails used to excavate here - we