TRENCH 97F

Roll 3, Fr. 30
channel in Trench
97F - after
Pail 72 (see
also, p. 108
(\textsuperscript{+} Fr. H31))

we change pail for the third pass - in fact two buckets will be used - one for Sherd and the other for other materials (all to be kept). Small stones are going to be added to the table for the final photo of stone debris.

97F / 3:73 under Pail 72
From (see p. 108) to (see p. 112)
Piece of clay lining, small stones, grey soft material
Sherds: 91 kg: 0.885 kg. \text{LMA(2)}
joins with Pail 72 and 95A/100

Invi.: C10521, C10514-10520. conical cups;
C10059: Con cup.

A few more cups are found at the west section of the channel in a level that slopes down towards the west. At the very west end there are interesting developments. It becomes clear from the already exposed west scarp that the clay lining of the north side of the channel has become detached. At that end there is an extensive accumulation of a substance that we cannot identify presently. It is a hard irregular mass, possibly of clay (not stone) and some bipoes, small stones, are embedded in it. We are probably dealing with a physical metamorphosis that results from great heat.

The remaining part of the clay is used in cleaning this level so it can be photographed and drawn tomorrow.

The rest of the workers are doing maintenance and restoration work at the site.
TRENCH 97F

Photography of the wall channel will be done late when the sun comes up. In the meantime G. Bianco is drawing an elevation of the west side/scarp of the channel (see photos on p. 112).

Some projects are started in House X. A one-course wall with a N-S orientation runs north of X1. A length of about 1.00m has been essentially destroyed because of the rains and will be removed. The fill assigned to fill under it is

97G / Pail 3: 74 under Trench From to Brown earth, some small stones Sherds: 1,375 Kg. LM III - mostly MM III

Other Inv.

We reach the level reached in excavation in the past and terminate Pail 74. We are now turning to "cosmetic" work in that area - cleaning and levelling the ground by sieving earth and spreading it freely on uneven surface. A small retaining wall will be built by the excavation maco at the west end of the area N. of X1 seen it is sunken relatively to the area west of House X where excavation stopped at a higher level.

We now turn to the staircase at the SE corner of House X. As noted earlier, the purpose is to level and restore the preserved steps. Sherds from this investigation go to...
Tr 97G / Pail 4:75
SE staircase of House X
Sherd:s: 19 sh; 0.215 kgs. LM IIIA (1?)

We remove two steps. Beyond them to the south are some flat stones — perhaps the base or foundation of a landing. We stop using pail 75. With J.W. Shaw's advice we decide to remove the pile of stone, we left along the south edge of the staircase. Perhaps there is an earlier wall underneath. If sherds are found, we shall assign a pail.

Down at the south area we return to the kiln. J.W. Shaw believes that the hard matter we have been finding is fallen material. He suggests we remove it to find the actual floor underneath. To this task we assign

97F / 3:76 under Pail 3:73
From (see p.112) to — 3.20/3.12 E/W
Sherds: 6 sh; 0.030 kgs. LM IIIA(2)

Other

We remove only a layer at the west end and decide to stop pail 76.

In House X some sherds turn up from the dismantling of the pile which is still going on. We assign a pail (which includes a few sherds already found).

97G / Pail 4:77 (House X)
Pile of stones, south of SE staircase
Sherds: 38 sh; 1.070 kgs. LM II

In the kiln a small probe is made to find a possible earlier floor. Some rough reddish surface (at +2.37 m) is found and we stop — no sherds.
The machine is set at level +7.605 m
We continue work in House X. We do some
maintenance work in the area north of X1.
We then return to the staircase and the
pile of stones. J. W. Shaw photographs
the shape reached in the removal of the
pile of stones, and then work resumes.

A peculiar situation arises. The fallen stones
continue under the level of the threshold
found yesterday.

We shall take the threshold as the west
limit of the continuation of our investigation
which deals with the area to its east. After
Trench B1C a ship along the south edge of that trench was freed of fallen
stone, and the level reached was ca. +4.38 m
North of that ship was the pile of stone
removed with pail 4.77 yesterday and today.
This pail is terminated at an arbitrary and
uneven level. North of the ship (+4.38 m)
the stone debris reached with pail 77 exists
at a variety of levels, +4.66 m very
an average level. The threshold itself stands
southwards to the west (from +4.52 to +4.97 m!)
It looks suspiciously as if the threshold
might be part of an W–E wall? At
any rate, before moving to a new pail we
dig along the south scarp to see if there is
W–E wall to act as the south jamb of the
threshold. Lots of stones stick out from
the south scarp and there is no face
most likely we see the rear face of
the retaining wall of the north side of
the Minoa seaward road which runs
directly south & alongside the house.

We shall now change pail

97 G / Pail 5:78 Under Pail 77 + Tr. 95 A
TRENCH 97 G

Roll 4, Fr. 6 (see also Fr. 8)
Stone debris, top of pail 78 from 5E

View from South

Trench 97 G: top of Pail 5:78

From (see descr. p. 117) to (see photo, p. 118)
Stone, earth
Sherds: 47 sh.; 0.355 kg. LM II?
evenly mixed
Other - Inu.

Photos are taken at the start of Pail 78 (see p. 118)

We removed all the clearly fallen slabs and associated earth limiting the excavation west of the indented line (photo, p. 118). When the soil started changing - more clayish - hardly any large stones we change pail.

97G/6:79 Under Pail 78 (House X)
From +4.24 to (see photo, p. 126)
Clay-like earth, a few small stones
Sherds: 40 sh.; LM IA/I, - Larger sherds also MIB + LMII
Other: bones
Inu.

Excavation with pail 79 finally leads down to a partially slab-paved floor. The "threshold" we found earlier sits on a wall that goes down to the slab floor. This wall is clearly of an earlier MM building, which served as a foundation for the west wall of the staircase of House X. It is built of fine rectangular blocks in neat courses. Two courses, at least must belong to the MM wall. One of the pavement stones is a large cobble.

It is interesting that the N-S MM wall is broken at mid south end, as if intercepted by the retaining wall on the north side of the Minoan Road. Of this retaining wall we see the stones behind its face projecting from the -
levels at end of excavation

2-6: possible floor of room underlying the stairwell of House X

1. 4.50
2. 4.14
3. 4.16
4. 4.11
5. 4.12
6. 4.09
7. 4.20

roll 4, fr. 13

as above in polaroid

slopes of the scarps. The pile of stones we removed in fact extended all the way to the scarp. They also continued down practically to the MM floor — which is very strange. In other words the pile was made as part of the structure or interior packing of the staircase. Amazing in this case is the beauty of some of the blocks found, some of which were beautifully cut as if from a beautifully built wall. Could this be debris from the MM house, re-used — or could it have been quarried from a destroyed MM civic building to the south?

A side project has been re-cleaning House X and re-leveling the floors. With the short wall built around it, over the tall scarps on N + E we shall hopefully stop sand and earth coming down with the rains.

Another project under consideration is the partial reconstruction of the SE staircase of House X. G. Bianco is consulted. As preparation, the already existing steps are leveled and little stone chips placed under them.

With the above excavation for this season comes to an end.

The process of restored views of House X was another parallel activity. G. Bianco and myself discussed the tentative reconstructions and G. B. has made a number of sketchy restorations which can be rendered to scale at the apoikiki where the plans and sections can be consulted. We are restoring: the pillar (Room X10); the light-well (X5); looking towards the interior (X4) to the west; a view from the south of the entire house. Problematic remain the naves of the roof of X9 and X8.
No excavation today, but we present ourselves at the site later in the morning to direct the construction of the SE staircase. A landing is constructed directly south of the southeastern exposed step. No steps (in situ or fallen) were found beyond that point among the fallen debris. The platform is only partially built — that is it starts from the east scarp and continues a short distance to the west. Underneath it one can see the fallen stones which have been in situ as fallen or thrown in antiquity.

The platform/landing will be partially cemented and the date 1995 will be carved in the cement. When the work is complete a photograph will be taken.

In Room X10 there is a broken pottery of which two large fragments are preserved. It is our plan to glue the two fragments either this or next year — depending on whether the glueing materials are available.

J. W. Shaw takes photos of the kiln (at end of excavation) — also of the stones that turned up in the excavated channel (see photo, p. 122) and of some of the substances that were collected.

The stones, placed on a table in two rows in the order of the excavation (see p. 122) as well as two buckets full of "material" from the Channel await examination by J. W. Shaw and Aleydis van de Poel who will be publishing the kiln. The purpose of full retrieval of contents is the possibility that it may provide information about the roof of the kiln and of aspects of the construction and destruction of the kiln.
Discovery of Bronze Tool
in Space X9
in House X

Bronze Tool B405
(see p.125)

In the process of making the plan for
the sounding in House X, G. Bianco
accidentally found a bronze tool
directly south-west of the threshold (in space X9).

The area was previously excavated in
Trench B1C. We shall assign the
level used in that trench for material on
the floor of X9. That wall level 14.
To the tool we assign

97G/Pail 14:80
Floor of X9
bronze tool.

see drawing, p. 124.

The tool was, but by the small pick
G.B. was using and the hip broke.
It has been mended as seen on p.124,
but a small fragment is lacking at its
shattered. The ridge along the axis may
be the result of the way the tool was
made. Perhaps a strip of which one
end forms the loop handle was
sandwiched between two sheets of bronze.

P.S. The soundings in 97A and 97D
were refilled after excavation. In 79D
a line of stones was put under the
projecting north face of the south wall
(LMIII) of Gallery 6. This was to provide
a foundation to prevent the wall from
falling apart after we removed the fill
underneath it (= excavation in Trench 93C
97D).

The kiln was covered up with sand, as
were the hearths/clay installations in
Trench 97E in Gallery 2. In the same gallery, there was a backfill of the soundings between the LM II wall of it and the southern half of the trench when excavation had stopped at the level of the hearth and the cylindrical installation.

Photos were taken by T. Dabinney at the southern area at the end of the excavation. By that time, all backfills had been completed, the area thoroughly cleaned of pebble and other rubbish lying around. Also, retaining walls had been built against the east scarps of the westernmost ends of the galleries to prevent erosion. All these photos are in Roll 4 and with a wide angle camera. Roll 4 also includes shots of House X where a lot of cleaning and maintenance took place this season under my supervision. In the room of the pillars we placed around stone implements found in that space (though not in situ). One of them was a tall mortar (kapbara) which was, incompletely preserved. Only two large fragments were preserved and the bottom of the vessel had gone. The two fragments were glued together by our conservator, Katherine Hall and the vessel was placed upright in the SW corner of the room. More shots were taken of the house with Roll 13.
INDEX FOR TRENCHES 97A–97G

Ash and charcoal: see hearth
BAT fragments: 41, 51, 55, 83.
Blue substance: 61, 69.
Bone: 85, 89, 95, 119.
Bronze: 67 (fishing hook): 11, 15, 17, 19, 23, 43, 49, 63, 67, 69, 71, (strips and bits); 124–125 (bronze toot, spatula?).
Central Court: see trenches 97B and 97C.
Clay, red: 41, 47, 52 ff, 63, 72 ff, 83, 101, 105, 111 (for grey clay see lepis).
columns: 4–5, 11, 26, 38, 50, 72, 84.
Haematite: 69–72, 83.
Imported pottery: 58, 61, 68, 70 (See ceramic reports by J.
Rutter and A. Van de Moortel).
kiln: see Trench 97F.
lepis (grey clay): 19, 21, 25, 43, 59.
loomweights: 81, 84–85, 87, 89.
obsidian: 11.
Pebble pavement (see also Central Court): 4, 7–9, 17–19, 27, 35, 45.
Plaster: (practically in every pail) for special items: see 22–24, 29, 33, 39.
pivot block: 57, 114.
shells: 19, 49, 85.
stone chips: 13, 19.
Stone tools/objects: 10–11 ("die"); 37 (rough weight); 59 (disk/stopper); 81, 87, 88–90 (strips of purple schist); 127 (stone mortar in House X, mended).