Dicton's Notebook

1996
14 July 1996

A Study Season

This summer's work will be devoted largely to primary research connected with Volume V of the Kornosos Series, devoted to the presentation and explanation of the akroteria and civic buildings in the Southern area: F1A, F1J, and K1P (K11-LXIII). Members of the still:

JUD

MCS

Lorea Tatlin (ceramic analyst). Dartmouth College

Lida Costanzo (UJF grad. st., assistant cataloger)

Deborah Lughi

Cataloguer, Dr. Base specialist, Formal analyst, former UJF student.

Alan Johnston, Univ. College London, Ceramic specialist, working on Geom. pottery from the Ge. Sanctuary.

Kathy Hall, conservator (Chief, Texas)

coming:

Taylor Babcock, photographer

Julia Pfaff, professor

JR and LC arrived on June 25th to begin the season and open up the apothecary house. MCS arrived on July 3, later than usual because of Robin Shaw's marriage on June 8th and the previous/previous activity necessary for spending the year abroad on sabbatical. MCS's chief job will be to prepare and select the small finds, aside from pottery, from the Southern area. This will involve the examination of the uninvetoried stone tools from 1991-1995, already partially selected by Julian Whittaker and Niko Vantikos (1991-1992, 1993-1995, respectively), continuing his work from 1995 when more work on Bay H.
Bitens were sorted through, those published by less were usually kept; others from House X were all kept from the Inventoried and uninvestigated for the time when House X will join the focus; others from significant Greek and Hittite hands in the Southern Area were kept as the entire contents of the Apothecaries Annex were sorted out in preparation for turning it back to its owner. We will also review the situation with uninvestigated pottery and small bronzes etc. By the end of this season all relevant small finds may have been categorized and photographed (the last by Taylor Delaney) or drawn (by Julia Daff). TD and JP, being shared with the Gothenburg project directed by L. vanu Watrous, will arrive in early August.

MCS's job will be to look through and study the various plasters from the 1994-1995 seasons. There are boxes and boxes of them--they will be sorted out, most discarded and the relevant ones kept and photographed/drawn.

JR continues his '95 work on the groups of pottery from the Minoen contexts in the southern civic area. Hopefully, he and DRS can decide on the important groups that can be used for chronological purposes in determining use areas.

AJ continues his '95 work on the geometric pottery from Z, which is forming the basis for a separate study which we intend to submit to Illyria.

Drs, aside from training LC in DBau (LC will, presumably, return in '97 to be the chief cataloguer) will shortly turn to the material in Z and P3, in an institutional context between an area not in do metricum (P3) and
one that was. She in making this her specialty, and has a well-paying fellowship to pursue formal analysis (esp. sexual dimorphism) at the Heine Lab at the ABCSA. She will be publishing the Section on fauna in the final study of Hume's tracks, hopefully, will appear perhaps in five years.

In the meantime, after our ten years in various stages of preparation, Vol. I Part 2 (The Kommos hillside and hilltop houses) is about to appear — we should have our advance copy within a month, sent by courier. Its preparation, detailed in various and personal daunting tasks, has been aided immensely by the work of Barbara Johnson, editor in Toronto. The cost of the enterprise has been enormous, ran $100,000. During the past eight months I have raised about that amount, chiefly from JASP, although SBSRF, the VGF, and private donors (esp. Irene Wronski). This had made the publication possible, and also partly funded the present study season. Still, I predict that all of your carefully boarded KEF monies will have been spent by the end of this summer. To this end BI in Toronto and our former, SFconsult in Pitsidia we may need a returnable loan from you.
On the domestic front, the new MCS house on a hill east of the Pitsidia village is nearing completion. On its interior, a few items still must be made by the carpenter--his men have worked there for the past two days. The contract must also return. There is so far only a bit of borrowed furniture so that MCS and I can stay in the lower main bedroom, where we have been for a week. Despite the night mosquitoes and the lack of electricity, the electricity (a long ago I used not encompass here) may go in tomorrow--all strings are being pulled. It too is just fine, both hot and cold. The house is large and, as we believe, beautiful, seeming to float on the hilltop against a background of high, rough hills as seen from the north. Looking north from the porch or windows one sees the stretch of the Mesara Plain and the lovely vat that Ida behind, hope will continue in it, in one way or another, during the summer. The plan is to stay in Pitsidia through part of October, then move to Athens (October-December), then move back to Crete for at least the heart of the spring term.
In less than a day I will have catalogued the remaining stone tools and sent them for final cataloguing and photography. A few from the southern area have appeared (the long stone aim) but most belong, along with the hundreds of others from LM I-II strata, to House X. The other tools from House X are in Zembilja in Storeroom 2. It is difficult with the cobbles to match them to Blizna's categories: I should review them before passing the completed boxful to Lubi Rusevlo Jure Costevi, however.
Short progress with constant necessary
interruptions to take care of the house,
which gradually is taking form on the inside.

Rich continues to scan the various records
for thin sections in order to separate out rele-
vant materials. Much of this has been done for the
stone tools, Bronze, especially the strips that
characterize the LM II/III-A1 levels below P2,
and some, but not below P3, in being separated
out; the process will take another two weeks,
at least.

McS concentrates on the plaster, especially
those in the South Site, and there the plaster
tabs which she found were on the floor of
the site when it collapsed, before the pottery
vessel was set in. She has already studied
the plaster from the north side and elsewhere
previous to this season.

JR continues delineating the pottery
groups.

Dr has now taught LC some of the in-
tricacies of DBace, so we use it for entering
primary records in the catalogue (in progress)
and in making sorts. Dr has now begun the
job of studying for publication the forms
in the LM III levels of P/N which will be
compared with those in House X (in
domestic context) and in Geometric
Building 2, being published by Alan
J. The contract will include the LM I
context as well.
On the site the six workers have, in the past two weeks, cleared all the growth and brush from the excavated areas. Also the guard house is painted and, to save it in case of a brush fire which is common in the area (although never near the site), all the growth (except for the cedars) has been removed from the immediate area. Painted sections of the fence have been painted, especially those along the shoreline where the sea moisture takes its toll. In a few places where the sand/silt has built up against the fence and people can’t hop it, new sections of fencing have raised the level. Generally, despite an unusually heavy winter with unprecedented rain, the site has stood up well, a reward for the major work done in 1975 which was $10,000 over budget. With one exception (an end wall in T Lens 2425) nothing collapsed. In 2415 perhaps 5 blocks of rough masonry collapsed; these were removed and the wall end will be reinforced tomorrow, the final day of site work, when a few other cementing jobs will be carried out.

The apothecary (only one this year since the Annex was given up) has been paid, and the entrance to the courtyard has been cleared. The Annex Dexion, most of that house was sold to the East Creative Tract Stone Century where it went on Friday, being carried in a trailer sent from Zachariah’s Homes by William Coolson and Phillip Belcando. The remaining rusted dexion (named Gina) its owner(s) the Annex refused to patch the roof) has either been thrown out or given to the foreman, Sifu Fasonkia. 
Slightly. The small finds lists for the southern area come together. The Greek level's objects have been filtered out, and the BA finds from what I consider fills in non-relevant strata are also not included, with some exceptions. The basic collection of future tools is roughly complete, and most of (the few) bronzes are in the same stage. Remaining are the loomweights, most of which are already in I(2) due to appear any day now. The sorting has been accelerated by a DI Bear search of the various pails by Delia Rosellino, based on the strata/pail lists that Jerry Butter has been preparing during the past year. There will be need to merge with my own lists from the catalogues that have been using and adding to. Still to be decided, and this I must do with JRL and MCS. Is the order in which the various categories of objects will be presented and where they will be set. Obviously the pottery will be in Jerry’s chapter. Other small finds could be listed after each space is discussed, by number only, with reference to the respective categories in the cumulative # in the "Other" chapter. The design with the list is that items that are found and must be added when the list is prepared will face 1, 1b, 1b, types to be listed which will mess up the simplicity of the order.
Before leaving Toronto I bought a new computer, a Texas Instruments laptop. There was no time to add the word-processed programs, although I brought the Master disks for 5.1 and 6.1. 6.1 has now been added by PR out, Windows 95. It so differs from 5.1, however, that I will only experiment with it. 5.1 disks won't fit on my small disk drive, so I am having them copied onto the small drives in Haukehin by Eleni Banu's husband. As soon as I receive them I will begin the "master list" for southern area deposits. Revision and additions are so easy with the computer, that I will wait until then. I will also begin the separate 'other funds categories', so that by the end of the summer I should have much of the vocabulary that I need.

In the Holy Cross house we have had, for almost a week, electricity, and what a complex thing to make happen. The flashlights/candles/warm water days are over. We almost have a phone. After much negotiation the poles have been set and the house is connected with its own number (45544?), but so far we can only receive calls and cannot make them. I suspect the electrician, who says he is coming tomorrow.
August 1996

Ms has gone through about 2/3 of the plaster, and is now tuning, part-time, to her other obligations such as Techne, due at the end of the month. She is trying to develop her expertise in using the computer with a fax capacity to communicate with Athens and Toronto.

Judy R has completed the clipping of Minoan and Cypriot sherds for analysis in the U.K. Also, Sarah Vauslau has come to Varna from Athens for the purpose, succeeded in getting some Minoan pottery samples clipped for study concerning possible contents.

I have completed the object study, following HLS excellent note of the LM I North Side and the northeastern Rooms of T. I want to build on my immediate surroundings for an I III IIII sequencing, which will probably take until the end of the coming week.

A number of Mochlos excavators have come to see the site and pottery. Vance Vawter arrived from Govonia yesterday, along with Tanya, Daniel (photos), and Julia Pfaff (profiles and baby pregnant). David B will be here tomorrow. Since we are not facing, his work is limited, also because he is depending mainly on profiles for his part of the publication of V. Since the excavation will not have funds as 1 Sept, we must work out a way of having her preparing the parts to some kind of "cut" basis. LW will return to M. When we have discussed some aspect of this work and future plans at Govonia.
The periods are also more clearly subdivided into phases of LM IA and LM IB, a subdivision enhanced by Alexiad VOM who, along with IA, are looking carefully into the relations between and vicissitudes of Kommos, Hafna, Treada, and Phaistos.
11 August 1946

I have almost finished with the record of the Building A area, coming to a better, refreshed and renewed idea of the sequencing and stratigraphy. We have done a splendid job of preparing analogues by individual teams and, and paid the approach is very different from that of WW (Komm. IV) and Poc (Komm. III) to the extent that the latter did not select relevant "deposits" (we now call them, more appropriately, "groups") and did not to extensive global studies such as I had hoped. We have been more architectural/archaeological. His suggestions for reinterpretation are welcome; some right, some wrong, as long as they don't conflict in the long run with the integration of the chapter and their authorship. This "new" view is very much like the "old" one, but with the interior of the north room going out of line in CA I rather than CA II.

HR may have completed his review of the eastern wing of T/P this week — if so, I will turn to that next, which will enable me to finish my own stratigraphic review / object review before he leaves on the 25th (although he will return for the Osteological).

I will shortly request the final report from the various, which will help in the annual Brief Report as well as the application for SAREC funding which will come at the end of September, also for INSTAP.

Maria and I will be honored by the Pitsidic community on a Saturday at the end of the month, when we will be made honorary citizens of Pitsidie. We are both deeply appreciative.
August 1990

He and I have begun an mutual review of the Southern Area. We add, shift, discuss. A new period has been added to the north store area (Room 46 (east), 42, 49). Although we differ on some matters, he (a good thing) defers to me and recalls, as he should, about a synecdoche in which he supplies the ceramic expertise. I, the architect indeed. Thus, they will not be a clash and the work will go on with a good spirit. We have progressed in a few long sessions through to building 1 (the designation will be dropped to simplify presentation) which we will deal with tomorrow, then on to the east wing and building 56. He leaves at the end of the week, which leaves us time to complete. One worry in the number of PMTs that will result. We mentioned the number of profiles, over 500, which could mean 50 plates of pottery illustrations. I will compare this number to Volumes 1 and 2, as well as Kythera, and may suggest a lower number of 30 as a limit.

MCS has completed the processing of the pottery from the Southern Area and has turned to finishing his Techne article which is due in Liege on September 13.

'Social' season coming up. There will be a 'tome' evening in Brussels the first week of September, and I have prepared a précis and captions from the talk that MCS and I will give. Also, I have written notes for the text.