Directors Notebook

2002
On our study season actually began on June 25th when Leda Costaci, former catalogue for many years, arrived with Teresa Hancock to open up the store room. This was a more complicated procedure than usual, for the claim had to be shut off and the chief guard from Phaestus had to be present. The last I helped arrange, although Leda made the final rendezvous. For a day or two of them cleaned, uncovered, sorted and the next day Alexie and Peter Tournakis worked on the MMs from the Southern Area as part of a sampling for petrographic purposes. AVDM and Liana Katsoula filled in valiantly finding in taking the ASCSA summer school sessions (1 & 2) around the remains sit on June 27th and 28th, respectively.

Our staff, now largely together, are:

Gabriella, Sister
MCS, Assistant Director
Jeremy Keefe, Ceramic Analyst
Alek des Van de Noordeling
Teresa Hancock, Chief, Cataloguer (UFT, MLA program (1st year), Ancient Studies)
Helen Harrison, Prehistoric
Glynnis Fawkes, Profiliner
Alexander C. Shaw, Photographer
Visitors
Peter Carless
Deborah Rosellino
Our schedule and aims are not far from those of last year. In particular, I hope that by the end of the summer we will have all of Volume I available, with at least a first draft. Since last year we have made real progress:

I have added some details to my Chapters 4, and 5.

Martin Batten has completed his long text for Chapters 3, 2, and John Raff has completed all of his PMT's (drawings, §. 3.1) for Chap. 3, 1 and 3.2.

MCS has almost completed his long and detailed text for Chap. 2 (plastics), with plastic tables (in Chapter 3) and figures in Chap. 4 to be completed by the end of the summer.

WDM has completed her tables for Chap. 3.1, but we still have to see her text for the same — my hope, and this I have underscored to her, is that it should be complete by the time she leaves in two weeks.

With 18 so well along, these days with the time will work on the House X monograph. Some progress has been made already, by Batten, who has perhaps studied from half the rooms — he is continuing right now. MCS has also studied some of the categories of small finds. MCS has if lately reduced his commitment to the House X volume, so after some consultation we will come up with a new Table of contents for that volume.
15 July. Acc. to Stella Mandarliki, our contact with the local ephorosi, they did not tell her that they were coming down to Lefi (i.e., from the Ionian Islands Ephorosi).
2 July 2002,

Steady the practical work is being set up. The apartment itself is in good shape, although it must be whitewashed and the don't No. 2 must be fixed. M. Katarinovic's house was burned out during the winter, and he moved next door where the Smail family stayed for over 15 years. His wife, Nenad, moved back to her previous house to be cared for by their daughter. Now we have arranged to use two of his three rooms (as in the past) for the usual communal meal (sisi) and I arranged this morning for Novica the cook and her husband to clean out the rooms which were, I am told, extremely messy. Tomorrow I will go into Niš to purchase food with the cook and catch up on various shopping.

Today the much-anticipated visit by three members representing the Archaeological Service and the Restoration Service, who are visiting the site in response to our petition. (12, in 1968, the 'Gratin' study, never replied to, and 2nd, the Paljor study sent in last November. The first has been generally well of the site as a whole issue, it is opened up to the public. The second has to do only with scans and levels.) One worry some referred to was the collapse during the past winter of the long rubbish wall built last summer along the north-south scarp paralling the east facade of Building 11/2. Covered partly with plastic but truly rusty and embarrassing. MCS and I went down to the site, visited them — very pleasant everything and our application may well be accepted. Finally doing and arranging for the work will be a great challenge.
5 July 2002

Professors profiting profitably, MCS works on completing Chapter 2 (plaster). I continue reading HKS Chapter 3.2, test only, and shortly will 'reflect on' some of his thoughts and comments in my Chapter 1. The process will take at least a week. Helen is working on numerous fronts at once in the cataloguing room.

Helen and I went into Strauss for various items, including wine, stamps, and plastic crates which we will need for re-packaging the plaster casts from the site (some 35 boxes which can be fit into 20 crates) and for the stone tools from the site (also probably 20 crates worth). After I have sorted through the dozens/hundreds of tools from House X this summer.

The excavation garden flourishes with vegetables. The sweetcorn planted from seeds I sent in March/April is ready and we will have our first sampling tonight.
15 July 2002.

Work has begun on the site, where now the
6 women are only halfway through the site clearance,
make much easier this year (as last year) by the
spring spraying of weed killer. Concurrently now
will begin the painting of the enclosure fence, much
needed especially along the seaside stretch. It
was not painted last year. Even the match
washing of the walls and stuccoing of the roofs
will be done shortly. I have also arranged for
a master to come to replace some of the thick
rough plastering in at least two places where
the entire outer face is threatening to split off
and fall. The estimate to Apothecary 2 is almost
to be worked on, for the frame of metal is no longer
rigid and must be spread at the base in order to
retain its required dimension.

He continues with House X pottery, although
now is consulting with a visiting expert on
Cypro-Acrot pottery, Celia Barendso, who will be here
for a few days. She has completed going through
the shelf of material requiring editorial changes/
into presentations for Chapter 1, parts 1-5. I
am sure that there will be others but at least
for the moment I am free. MCS has successfully
separated her plan for chapters 1-2, 2.1, 2.2,
and 2.3, and that in real progress. It may
be this site. Ryno has been elevated to
Fosfo's Plateae House in the past two weeks,
and I hope that the good news is that she
will be well along with her section (3.1) on
the pottery from the All folly and the few MS
that deposits that survive.
Terme: Hanneke, although well-bitten by bugs that have caused her real discomfort, has been dynamic as cataloguer, especially with her ability to use the computer and access base programs. She has rescued MCS's computer from being disabled with summer by a virus sent from Canada unintentionally by Dawn Cairns.

Devonel Morrison, in his second year here, is a good member of staff, and an excellent professor. We are learning more about Glennie Fawkes. In the meantime, last night at the MCS/MCS house there was a celebration of Hub's birthday, during which the staff presented a very funny and well-done cartoon of Building P as savages of storage center for sweetcorn, to play upon the fact that our garden is flourishing with the corn I sent, and have sent every year in some years, and we do enjoy eating it with zucchini in the evenings. I also have been giving away quantities to friends at Mededa and 'Dit sedia'.

Stella Mandelmais came by to 'borrow' my only copy of Clarin Dayvow's proposal for the 7th, apparently they sent their copy back to Athens (!) and Athens is in the meantime winning for the Ephoral's approval of the proposal.
22 July 2002

A weekend trip (Friday afternoon - Sunday) allows me and myself time to visit eastern Crete, in particular Palaikastro where we meet with & discuss various with Sandy McNeill, Adrian & Hugh Sackett (of the triumvirate, then, only dear Diessen in absence). We see their PK exhibit which we think would be quite appropriate for the opening of the new ROM gallery of Adrian and Cypriot remains in 2004. Since Cossey was one of the real organizers of this joint endeavor, their concern is to excavate a large area, still untapped below (tiny things) north of the area already known, where they think the palace (not unfound) may actually lie. Their problem is that they have not been granted a permit by the BSA, at least partly because new publication of areas already excavated at PK is needed.
July 2002

My own consolidation of non-ceramic finds from within House X is almost complete room-wise: stone tools,loomweights, scales, bronze, other metals. Next will be their excavation by floor/field, which will be helped by Jerry Rutten's careful and very detailed ceramic analyses of each room. Although the specific analyses are not to be published in the volume, they should be included as part of the web-site that Maria and others are in the process of constructing -- it is to be finished by the end of the year, if not before.

McG and I discuss the House X volume, and also with JR. Her role was to be that of the primary author, and still may be, but she is hesitating before actually taking it all on, for it will mean that all her Thesis project, concerned chiefly with iconography, will have to face Second plan. This is a major concern.

Joh's latest text on the ename from the Southern Area, for I, arrives: it looks much more professional than the first version, and I will read it soon.

On the site all the dry vegetation has been removed by the workmen, and they have almost completed tying cane on to the sea-side fence where the sand thwarts to come in during the winter. The fence, neglected last year, is also being repainted with considerable cost. The workmen finish this coming week. The apothecary is being revamped by patching walls.
which are then whitewashed — also the
door to another. It needs some welding and
a new threshold.
Silk was completed in '02 - hence painted and reinforced, and all scrawled. Always a major project, with the cost always surprising others, such as Tom Borgar, the director in Chief of the East Ocean Invogga Sandy Center. The collapsed wall remains covered with plastic -- perhaps we will deal with it next year, along with the gable wall in frontment that we have petitioned for. So far we word from KAE which sent the investigation committee now that it is August, when everyone is on vacation, we probably won't hear until September or October.

In apotthecary is going through record renovation, with Teresa Hanecau leading the way. Two large cabinets, one mounted on the wall, have replaced earlier shelves. Better quality and with sliding glass panels, almost silver-fish-proof (the idea of glass panels was proposed by Leda Costaxi). Also there is a new table with shelves underneath. When picking up Alexander (+ Rhoda and William) at the Hakleberon Airport last Saturday, I also purchased 6 new Dixon shelves that are already in place, expanding the area we have for placing the boxes containing trench contents.

One of the major improvements will be, for the first time, to arrange the stone tools from the site in a permanent way. This will be done by storing them in newly purchased plastic crates, with only about 25-40 lbs in each crate. This means subdividing the crates presently full of tools, so full that they can...
be moved only by the strongest of us. This will be done to the roofs kept from Harriet Blitzer's publication of hillslope and hillside roofs in T(1). Also, the roofs being published by me from the Southern Area in Volume II. It has already been done by you recently for those from House X. There will be at least 25 such containers, and they will all be stored in Storeroom 2. Some room has already been made for them in 2 with the consolidation of the plaster casts which were in multiple cardboard cartons—all the cartons were thrown out and the plaster casts in plastic bags, all now in new plastic crates. This will create a similar storage box in 2, nothing which appears temporary and rough.

I have now a penultimate list of non-pottery object from House X, this now printout via a D Base Set up by Teresa. Some 250 items. Now I must begin the study of, especially, the stone tools that I have selected out from those collected from the excavation— at least half of they have been discarded and returned to the site. Each must be catalogued now and kept, but the publication will be selective since T(1) and I are so thorough.
14 August 2002.

For the first time there are Kommos T-shirts, designed by Gillian Fawkes, with a Minoan 'Kommos on the front and a 'Keftiu' Kommos on the back. Some 30 were printed in Hania, having been ordered in Nafplio.

On Tuesday Mrs and I went to the very spacious base of the Italian School of Archaeology in Argos, built there during the past five years or so. This resulted from an invitation by Antonino Vagliasicos, of the Heracléeon Museum of Archaeology, concerning the new Museum of the Messara that is scheduled to be built (he says) by 2004. Attending were Antonino di Vita (former director of the Italian School of Archaeology, excavation of Gournia, and representing Phaistos and Hughes Tricca were Enzo Le Rose and Phillip Conlini. Much discussion of the nature of the space (2500 m², with 600 m² devoted to exhibition space). There will be three 'ancient' sections: The Axios Valley range (Emercookie culture: Phaistos (Minoan cult, including Hughes Triaca and Kommos), Vasiliani etc.) and Gournia. The proposals were in something like 1000 m², 2000 m², and 3000 m². Le Rose correctly pointed out that the 2000 (in his (and ours) concerns are really less than necessary, but AV pointed out that there might be a way of having a 'study' gallery attached that could still be open to much of the public.

AV said that he will contact us this coming week with the idea of looking at what we have in Pitsidia for the Gournia.
exhibits. We told him that most of the material is presently in the Herakleion Archaeological Museum, that there is little in Pitsidia. There is another aspect to all of this for us. Although the storage space in the new Herakleion Museum will be devoted to future finds, in our case (aside from what has already been sent to the ARM which is considerable) the Pitsidic apothecary does not belong to us and is being used yearly. This means that within my replacement at the VDF I continue with the excavation/storage arrangement, or I arranged to tell the Antiquities Service that the kommos storeroom is being emptied and that the material must be absorbed into their storerooms either in The ARM or at Gortyn.
21 August 2002

When talking with Vasilakis he reminded us of his having left a copy of the Messara conference volume (held in 1995?) at Phaistos last fall. So I and I go to retrieve it (and do so) and it turns out to be a small little volume including the Asterovounio, Gortyn, and Phaistos/Kitrunda. The section on Kommos is especially long and in Greek, as we had planned it for the Pitsidias who were absent don't have millions of dollars to pay for it now. However, we gave it to the owners. In any case, at least five years after the fact than it was to.

To pay the debt and distribute the monograph to the various, I drive to Naxos with the hope of getting 30 copies. The woman at the information counter gives me a phone of an employee absent today. I call, and then I hear George Apostolidis the mayor calling me from his nearby hotel—our old architect for the Pitsidias house! Of course, he says, the Church is under the obligation of one of the archers—a better than I have them nothing away! So I now have their copies and can soon begin to give them to people in the town who can read and preserve the tradition of Kommos and its history. The priest, the teachers, the owners of the Hellenics... what a pleasure after so many years of not having something substantial (and in Greek) to pass out to the interested people of Pitsidias.
All the staff aside from the drawing have left for their various haunts, aside from some final photography by ACS of the plasters with MCS’s digital camera, all main recording projects have been completed.

Katerina Janetsos informs that Alexander Mc Gillivray, co-director of the Pelinikastro project, is applying to the NSF for the Algerian position, and in good news, finally, he may well have written his recent book about the Minoans and the stars, which will seem interesting to many archaeologists, may prevent his nomination. Surprisingly, in a move Thrasyvoulos turned down the NSF’s generous offer (and competition!), so a new round of applications is being entertained.

To our (Claire Palyvou’s) request to KAS for the site come is allowed, then this will present some real challenges, one will be the money (as much as $Can. 40,000) which, hopefully, can be raised. The most difficult one will be the personnel, chiefly the person who will be in charge of the changes to be made on the site, even though Claire will (hopefully) be there to at least begin the process. This I must pursue at once, and will write shortly. The optimum arrangement would be to have someone presently in Mycenae be in charge of the field work.
overnight I worry about the possible field situation next year and talk about it in the
morning with MCS at the apostrophe. Yes, someone already in the area, we agree, I will go to
contact with the Italians, but whenever they
recommended would probably normally he
working with them during the same time that
we are in Crete. Another, perhaps less
possibility is someone known by Despina
Vasilakos who was promoted 'up' (and out)
of the Archæological Service to the Archæological
Institute of Crete which was an office
in Boveio where her husband runs the highly
successful Ethnographic Museum of Crete.
She did a good job of conserving the Pithèkia
villa, presumably with someone local, and
that local person could presumably be our
reason.

Later, I drive to Phaestos to confer with
my old friend Enzo Be Roga, who recommends
a Michael H. Spyridakou who is working in
Mycenae also (as helper) the Willecke brothers
of Tavat. So there is a beginning — and
MCS and I should talk to Mrs. V. in Boveio.
Enzo is extremely doubtful that the Gothenburn
Museum will ever be built since there are so
many more important (crucial) matters that must
be settled first (e.g., the Museum, Nicholas younger
still must be appointed, also there is no plan
for the entire Neopalatial district because
because of the real battle between two
constructors in the Museum which resulted in the
promotion up (out) of the past sphyra (or
friend Karetson) to the University of
Crete.
He also suggests that if confronted with all of the Pitsidia finds being transferred to a Greek Museum, that the Greek Antiquities Service might actually pay the apotheosis ritual—something that never would have occurred to me.

He is being pressured by Greco, the new director of the Italian School of Archaeology, who wants to involve others in the Phaistos excavations—Euro sees the recording and storage system being ruined through the introduction of other groups, certainly understands it to me.

We reminisce about 'the old days' and how we met when still students (in the late 50's) and how one year before the Kommos Excavations began, I left the theodolite I had purchased for safekeeping with them. 1934. He first came to bust in 1965, I'm 1964.