Directors Notebook

1994

The Excavation of the Southern Stoa and the Late I Kiln, as well as soundings and other excavations.

The final excavation campaign of the season began in 1991 is about to begin, again with high hopes for substantial results. One emphasis in a reduced campaign of one week less than usual and with only three weeks. The six trenches being excavated last year will be to clear the remainder of the South area and the pottery kiln that lies within it. This will, at least at the beginning of the season, be done in one trench being managed by Gordon Nixon who was working in the P galleries during the past year. Marie Shaw will complete the western end of the P galleries (P 3, P 5 and perhaps P 4), all bordering the LMI/III court on the east. She will also make soundings at M levels at particular points below the south would be of particular interest. We will also do a certain amount of cosmetic surgery, namely remove the N/S mound of ancient accumulation just east of Building 5 that presently serves as a ramp leading north from the southern part of the site. I also plan to continue site consolidation by having the masonry on the site strengthened by cement, beginning on the hillside in the house and continuing south so to complete the southern area, a project that may continue into the next season of study (1995).

We have, again, been fortunate with the funding, with most of the $ being supplied as in the past by SSHRC which has given us a grant for three years (1994-1996) including two years of study. INSTAP in New York has also helped, as have the University of Toronto and Lorne Wickerson.
Site cleaning has already begun, for there was a good deal of erosion with the rainy season and growth of weeds because of the rains which were more than usual. Fortunately all the walls built, especially on the east, south, and all scarp which were cleaned remained largely intact. Five workers are presently engaged in preparing the site for the public and for visitors. Already, as far as the letters are concerned, three tour groups have come and been guided around the site. Two more are expected this coming Monday.

Staff for this Season:

_Hod Director, U of T_
M.C. Shaw, Assistant Director, U of T
J. Rutter, Ceramicist (until June 26, when he returns to New Hampshire in order to be present at Nick Rutter’s brain tumor operation -- may all go well) Dartmouth College
A. Johnston, Ceramicist, speciality in the Greek levels and has worked with Callaghan’s text on the Greek pottery, University College London
Trenchmaster: Gordon Nixon, PhD Candidate, U of T
Amy Raymond, MA Candidate, U of T
M.C. Shaw (above)

Conservator
Barbara Hamann, Oriental Institute
Clarences Hosen-Plessenbusch, U. of London

Catalogue
Niki Kantszios, chief potter, Beni Kowar
Co-Design PhD Candidate
Debi Rossello, U of T B.A.

Photographer
Ann Pervin, Toronto Board of Education

Architect
Giuliano Bianco (since 1976!)
Dan Verstraete, Univ. of Cincinnati, PhD Candidate, who will help during July.
Alexis Van de Moortel with the pottery sorting.
Alexis Van de Moortel, PhD Candidate, Bryn Mawr College, Ceramicist with a developing specialty in LM pottery.

Tawlin Daloney, our usual photographer, was unable to come because Julia Pfeff, our usual professor had an operation and she was also still suffering from the aftermath of her father's death. Although we have searched, this has left us without a profile for this season. I hope to make this up next year by having two profiles.

In the field, Sulin Fasoularidou is again, our foreman and we will have enough men to man three trenches (16) plus the wall consolidation group (3) mentioned above.

Jeremy Ritter and Alexis Van de Moortel arrived early (15 days) in order to deal with the pottery from the Southern Area. A good deal has been selectively discarded (all has been studied) and all is in the process of being transformed into plastic crates that are being purchased in three mentally in Herakleion. The result will be consolidation and focus for the future.

Our major project this season will be
to ship to Herculaneum all catalogued items, and the remaining context pottery from the hilltop and hillside. Also, the boxes of context pottery from the Greek Temples, that were carefully selected by John Callaghan before he dropped out of Cambridge University and Archaeology in general, this should happen in late July, and will be quite a job. The project is being cared for by our losing the lease on the Annex that we are renting across the street where all the material is being stored. We have discussed the matter with Ephraim Karsten, an old friend, who has replaced Charalampos Kretzschmar who was ephebe for some years until he was promoted to the directorship of the Epigraphical Museum in Athens. An active and honorably man whom we will miss.

Publication-wise, Volume I, Part 1 is well on its way. Before we left Toronto, the galley proof was returned to Princeton. Dase proof will arrive probably by the end of the summer and the volume itself should be out by December. My dad had the galley proofs in October, the delay before being sent back (6 months) being caused by the inadequate printing of the tables and the complications, perhaps inevitably, caused by joint authorship. I (1) includes an archaeological history of the western Messana and Konamos (180), the Archaeological Survey of the Leukas area (DHS and others), The Flora (The Shaws), The fauna (David Rees, Mark Ross, Sebastian Pauke), The Minoan Implements (Hi Blitzer). Three chapters by Blitzer and Rees—see—next.
included within I (1) because of the very size of I (2). Also in I (1) is the chapter on geography and land use by John Gillard. A mammoth project that has taken ten years to complete, and has at times caused real anguish.

I (2) is in the process of revision by the various authors (A. and M. Shear, J. Wright, J. McEvoy, Lucía Nixon, Mary Dalby, and others). We hope to be able to submit this by the late fall. This will enable us to at least begin with the revision, a major job, of the first effort to complete Volume IV on the Greek Sanctuary, which may be out by 1967.

Barbara Trowyi (editor) and Dawn Cain (assistant editor) are invaluable for the actual process of work on the volume, providing consistency and detailed application that Maria and I could simply not provide. Fortunately we will be able to support them through at least Volume IV.
The major pottery dumps:

1) just north of the southern border of the site, about 2/3 of the way from the SE border;

2) in the area of Trench 78A, about 10 m. north of the SE border and west about 10 m.;

3) behind the 60 m. long n/s retaining wall along the eastern part of the site and east of Building E;

4) in the sand about 15 m. and 25 m. north of Grec Building F, and

5) in the 'airport trench' in the far NE corner of the archaeological property.
Site clearing continues - bushes have been removed from the entire site, the roads' surface north of the kiln has been cleared, and the area west of the kiln has been cleared of sand that washed in during the winter by the front loader. A hole was excavated alongside the Southern property line for pottery selected out by Ruthe and Van de Moortel during the past two weeks for the fogal. These bags of pottery will be transported down to the site to mowors in one of the workmen's trucks. In the meanwhile, all of the site equipment has been transferred down to the site so that we will be ready to begin on Wednesday. Tomorrow morning Amy, Gord, and I will set in the three trenches with which we will begin. 93A will be in the western end of P5, unfinished by Gord on last year and now to be completed by Maria Shaw who will probably continue in P4 and P3 when P5 is completed. 94A, Amy, Raymond in charge, will remove at least a meter of deposit over the next three weeks. 95A will be set in over the area immediately west of the kiln. To begin with it will be a large trench (we may want to hire more men next week so as to speed up the pace of work). During the sand clearing today we find a large block (rather roughly cut) in the southwestern area: it is probably a 'floater' from T's construction.

We have guided numerous groups: Philip Drew's (from California last Monday), then Greek Tour, then the ASCSA Summum school #1 with Jennifer Niles, then today, two Tours of the site, one at ASCSA School #2 (MCS takes the tour organized by Jack Kroll) and

Haring Fair
I the group from the Aegean Institute (Chily
Mavromm). This is (Shulle goodness)The last two,
at least for a while -- we need your guide
badges for our effort! Now we are relatively
free to do the actual work.

[As a personal aside, M&J and I purchased
last year a plot of land east of Pitsidia
village, somewhat less than two stremmata.
Originally quite bare except for an olives tree,
the northern, lower portion has now been planted
with a rich garden of sweet corn, peas and
beans, onions, squash, tomatoes, dill that
will save the excavation considerable money
during the summer. On 21-23 June my
brother Pat Shally, archivist from Chicago,
arrived with his daughter to complete the
architectural sketches for formalization
of the plans and elevations of the house, which
has now been laid out on the southern
portion of the land, skewed slightly so that
the main, middle façade points directly at
the Ida Range. Assuming for permits and
actual construction will take at least
two years.]


28 June 1994

All tools and machinery to the site. Also all discarded sheds which have been buried in bases next to the southern fence line. During the day Amy, Gordon and I lay in the three trenches that will be opened tomorrow.

Anna D’Agota, known for her work on the figurines from Itaka Triada, and a professional archaeological friend Artemis Gerasimos, visit Anna to look at Kommos pottery as part of her ongoing studies.

Dan Venstre, Alec de'or helper with the pottery, arrives, a day late due to transportation difficulties.
24 June. Boll's fort if
i.e. with fellow and
front line division clear.
Found by illus in eroded
scarp directly north of
building V. Ruins well
preserved.

C 9051
29 June 1994

93A. MOS clears off winter accumulation down to a hard surface (?floor). She wonders if there is a structural period in the eastern area of P1 during the AM III A1 period.

94A. AR clears off years of accumulation on the N/S 'island' that will be removed. This process will take perhaps two days.

95A. GN begins clearing the north half of the large trench. On the east, a babble reduces to where the wall of the northern trench has been set in in such a way that we should get a good e-w section of the kiln, including the fire-pit on the west. Within the next few days the upper level (the outline of the kiln) should be defined.

Overall, the comfort this year appears to be excellent. In each trench there are at least two potential pieces may, more than in any other year than I can recall.

A master mason, Sophocles who is willing to —
wrote for our 6,000 dhakma daily wage, has already distinguished himself by his ‘practice’ work on walls of Building X. He supported one wall with a new wall, now hidden by earth and cement, and consolidated two others. To improve his technique, I took him for a short visit to Haji Triadha and he quickly pointed out the shortcomings of the techniques he saw there, both modern and Minoan (!) and claims he can do a better job. I recall how we struggled years ago with corosami, the reddish ground terracotta that is used successfully in northern Crete, especially at Knossos, where the earth is actually reddish and, therefore, the mortar should be reddish as well. Obviously, it was a mistake not to be used in the Minoan. We suggest that we try white cement rather than the darker regular cement — in buy a bag in Petrocephali on the way back in order to experiment.

Both experiments apparently successful, we wonder how to proceed. Do we move to consolidate hilltop and hillside walls, or do we complete those X? Preliminarily we choose the latter. The three X walls could probably be completed in two weeks, and then we could move to the hilltop and hillside and hope to complete any remainder during 1945? The decision must be reexamined so the work goes on: there is no guarantee that 3 would be with us during another year. Also, there is major consolidation work to be done on the ashlar buildings, not simply on P and T.
Stray fox, t.c. built by
from hooded slope west of
Building V.

C 8997
26 June 1984

93A. MCJ come down in PS upon an earlier e-w wall of which Gordon Dixon found the westward extension terminating on the line I count last year. We wonder whether this is MCJ and connected with the MM walkway found under the court.

94A. Clearing will continue for some time.

95A. We are tracking an east - down - to west erosion slope in the sand still above the kiln and the site, taking the latest front, we think, with little or no rainfall material so far. This may continue for another day before we have a glimpse of the kiln.

The fence to the west of here was put in a what I thought was the line of sea erosion. If this line is correct we would recover two, perhaps three more column bases. If it is in correct, and the remains are preserved further west, we might have to uproot the fence and move it further west, and then remove another strip of deep sand with the front loader. I do not know if this last would be possible this season, and we do not have an excavation permit for this coming season, so there may be a dilemma that will have to be resolved.

Afternoon, Alex and VOM and I (with MCJ) gather vetches from the papado plaška in a mesh and then bring them back to Town.