93C. Column bases photographed.

94A. Completed. A broad staircase will be begun this coming week.

94B. AR begins the final stage of excavation of Gallery P3, of which the plan is complete except for the western end. This means the clearing of two areas already partially excavated, namely that in a 'discovery sounding' made by Derek Nixon in Trench 2T where, in deep sand cleared by the front loader, we discovered the first wall of Building P and the galleries P2 and P3. In sounding over the two galleries, exposing the floors of P2 and P3 as well as the LM I levels below, the site became apparent (LM I/III) below P2 and the plaster floor of P3, as well as geometric material in P3 that we originally thought was a dump but which we now know was the western end of Geometric Building Z (so much "Ancient History" was seen in perspective as the southern part of the site has slowly been put together!.

45A/B. Slow clearing around the southern part of the kiln, especially south of the e-w wall of T (of which, incidentally, more blocks are appearing). Curiously, we find the beginning of a clay-coated channel, but cannot relate it to the kiln itself: is it a "chimney" on the south in possibly part of a second kiln (LM III?) south of
the wall? This is certainly the right place to work in at the moment until we know. In the meantime, with workmen freed from the firm-building, two good pickmen return to work and 858 actually progresses for the first time in days; we will reach the 'archaic' plat form and the level of the CC!

...the 6th column base is definitely just that, this site in its original position on the edge of a gentle erosion slope leading down westward to the new site reported yesterday. Further clearing today reveals the shape of the stone is not a rectangular but, rather, a triangular shaped ashlar block not unlike those in the e-w wall of TN the stoa. That it was clearly part of a wall and is in situ is shown by a wet slab on which it sits. How to interpret? I would now suggest that what we are looking at is the lowest course of an east-south-east retaining wall. The base of the wall is...
This new block is right next to the sand scarp, which we have shored up. It is vital that we look further west, so I have requested that the front leader come on Monday to clean some of the scarp away and to do other tasks.

Niki Kantziou, our chief cataloguer, arrives from peninsularism with her husband. She has been working at an excavation in Israel, then staying with her inlaws in Macedonia, then a tour of the Cyclades. Also, Anne Devoue our photographer for objects this year.
Sunday, 17 July 1995

95A. In the afternoon I go down to the site & await a group being led by David Rimm of Brocc University, and while waiting for them I and Gordon Nixon (who went down to draw rubble around the kiln) investigate a buried feature that had suggested that there might have been another kiln at right angles to the first and downhill. We had been unable to trace it further south on Friday. Following the clay lining, red from having been baked, we come upon a very buried slab of stone which almost immediately showed that it is an oven, domed like those found in 1992 in Gallery P3 and roughly the same size. Our assumption that it was part of a kiln was based on the kiln's very proximity -- it was as if we were wearing blinders. Its identification simplifies our task here (we will not have to extend to the south) and we can continue clearing rubble but will be on the lookout for other ovens since they can occur together as in P3 (two) and just to the southeast of the kiln in an LM III level (two). We must consider the date of the oven - perhaps LM I - in which case this will be the earliest one on the site and part of a tradition that we find in the LM III A2/B occupation levels of the hilltop houses. As
mapped out by MCS’s excellent study of hearths and ovens in the French Conference.

All remains from within the oven (charcoal, a shed, clay) will be studied. I will wash, sieve it for charcoal that can be identified in Toronto and a sample can be kept in unspecified future study and analysis. About 1/3 of its interior remains to be excavated on Monday. It will serve as another subject for Bruce Ellwood’s archaeological experimental, dating that will begin on Friday (he arrives on Thursday night with his wife). He can work on:

I'm IA itself - the channels are exposed on the west. It is possible that part of the firing chambers will be available as well – we have not yet begun to look for it. Just west of the first flues, allowing for an north-south wall between flues and firing chamber

I'm IA (?) the new oven

lm III A2/B the two ovens in P3 mentioned above

lm III A2/B the oven (s) on the hill top.
93 C. The two southern/eastern column bases turn out to have unusually solid foundations of two large blocks each -- I wonder if the same applied to the northern stores where it was not tested; it could be cleared only in the case of the single 'free' column base found in Trench 34A by Douglas Orr. Trench complete save for final photography.

93 D Room 23 in T: floor being cleaned to test below the dating of the building.

93 B. Return to PD, on the east, to investigate the sequencing already begun in 93A.

94 B. Cleaning and excavation continue.

95 A/B/C. The oven south of the kiln is completed. Only photography is now necessary, and draws the rubble and stone fall (1:20) in preparation for the "uncooking" of the firing chamber tomorrow: three days should be sufficient so that it is ready for archaeomagnetic dating on Friday/Saturday after Brooks Ellwood's arrival late Thursday. In the meantime, cleaning around the kiln continues. At noon, the front loader comes and final sand cleaning continues henceforth in the far western area with difficulty: the sand and erosion slope becomes precipitous on this side, especially after the line of the new north-south wall which is 1.05 m. thick (the western face is uncovered in the process), etc.
also find another block of the southern wall of the stock. There should not be any difficulty in recovering the line of the foundations of both of these walls which can be drawn, it occurs to me that a base course could also be restored by our mason, in cement, to show the wall line. It could also be used to retain the now partly eroded level of the south stock on the west and, to the north, the Central Court itself. Once any work beyond the north-south wall was completed, that area could be filled in with earth which would be a beginning in an effort to retain the high sand scarp just created, with the half-dozen or so almiscu trees there being threatened. Earth on that precipitous scarp might preserve them, although the plan is such a new one that it must be reevaluated.

Roll #1 Black and White does not come out -- that was a light leak, probably during film loading. A few items did come out, but I will have to make a special effort to rephotograph (when possible) the original subject on polaroids already pasted into the excavation notebooks.

Giuliana Bianco arrives on Saturday, which will be a relief for me since I have been assuming her various duties.
19 July 1994

93B - Continue slowly - an east-west wall appears on line with the northern wall of the small room/compartment already investigated.

94B - The section excavated originally by D. Nixon is cleaned, and there is some discussion of the relationship of the "compartments" formed by the fired walls and the underlying plaster floors. Were the former actually set on earth on the plaster itself or is AR cleaning on the section excavated only superficially by Barbara Spaeth on the west. We consider a possible sounding below the plaster floor at some later point.

95A/B - Thence to an active piqueman, 95B is about to come down upon the "Archaeic" platform, of which the drawing will be completed, then photography, before removal. The sandy area, quite stony, to the north, is lowered considerably by the front loader, which will come to level the time that we spend cleaning the remains of the already loaded pebble court.

Emptying the fire-pit of the kiln makes real progress as we remove stumps that are wedged into it. On the upper level are 24, III sherd from the later III fillings post kiln use. To the west is a series of five rows of wall slabs fallen on present ground level. Within the firing chamber we reveal the clay lining on the south and the north. Also, we have found 1, 1,5
believe the entrama to lie below the rooms of collapsed masonry already noticed. There are photographed at the very end of the day in preparation for removal. On the east, the plastered face of the 4 p. is not clarified, we will have to await further work. NES suggests we determine its position by first digging further down, something we may be forced to do. The relationship between the ends of the east west flue and the fire pit may be a complex one.

95c. Sand clearing by the front loader is completed - it has been a massive operation that will be continued by hand, a project that will be completed during the next few weeks. It would appear that the east-west southern wall of the stoa continues west of the new north-south wall: This is to be expected since I clearly continued with rooms south of building D. Only a few ashlar blocks of the e/w wall are in situ on the west, the remainder being smaller stones and foundation packing. There is also true of the n/s wall, which appears not to have gone further north than the line of the colonnade, which it turned to the west. I at this point do not see any bedding for it further north.

CC

As soon as the manual sand clearing
is completed we will turn to the erosion slope east of the n/s wall mentioned, clear and photograph that with its scalloped blocks left on the slope by the sea. Thus this will all be covered over by a dump of the remaining material from the clearing of the CC.

Retaining the floor level of the stoa will be difficult on this west since it is already partly removed by the erosion. One possible solution would be to build a new wall of cement upon the old Kinosios wall -- at XXX -- we would have to raise it by at least 0.50m, so as to contain fill that we would dump in. I have not built new upon old in the past, so this would be a first. Crevae did it often enough at Kinosios. Another possibility would be to build an entirely new wall dug into the erosion slope to the east in west of the n/s stoa wall.

I must consult for others' views. One problem is that we do not have many new stones being excavated this year, of course the new wall could be built next year rather than this year. Its length: 5+ meters. If continued further it could serve to retain the CC level.

Through sloppiness, I at least partially expose our roll 3 on the site. I will not
know how bad the damage is until it is developed. Combined with ill. 4 (see previous entry) we have having the worst photographic year in fieldwork on the Kommos site on record.
93A. MCS on sabbatical to work on her various projects, which are among the most subtle yet carried out by someone who knows the site well.

94A. AR reaches the 'compartment' level in that undisturbed part of Barbette's trench where it can still be defined. She tries to distinguish between the red material (analyzed as haematite recently) and another lighter reddish material which seems to occur along with burnt sea pebbles. Some attractive kim-stones.

95A/8/C. In the most difficult bit of careful excavation that I can recall at the excavation site, we define the eastern face of the fireplace of the kiln. The problem was the confusion of small and large stones that masked the construction of clay upon stone which was often ambiguous. Also in places the construction was rained through and collapse. The result, in any case, is unambiguous: four arched flues separated by three pillars coated with burned clay. The more exact form of the arches, of which at least two are not yet clear (there may have been a collapse in ancient times), remain to be defined. There is also a chance that we will be able to connect the entrance to this flues on the west and the long flues on the east, a convenient because of
Their precarious state, we have not yet reached the bottom of the western arches, which will come another day. Nor have we reached the bottom of the firing pit, of which parts of the dome have probably been found collapsed on the floor (numerous bits recovered). Yet have, however, defined the western step-down entrance into the kiln, partly masked for a while by fallen, cantilevered blocks that fell onto the use surface after the kiln was abandoned. Much still remains to be done on the kiln, in instance determining if there was a partition wall between firing pit and the long east-west channels: this can be begun by looming for a plaster lip on the rough and often destroyed edge between the ends of the east-west channels on the west and the "wall" immediately above the arches. But we have passed the critical stage in the excavation and have revealed a kiln construction type with arched channels not yet reported, I think, from Minoan contexts but partly reminiscent of Roman potting kilns I helped excavate and draw years ago in Corinth.

Good news is that Roll 3, exposed a bit through my error, is essentially intact, so we are fortunate.
21 July 1994

93A. Some discussion of what are the walls of P and what are the walls of T. Perhaps the pottery will differentiate the levels which are so close physically to one another.

94A. No essential change as the level on the extension comes down.

95A/B/C. The kiln clarifies further as the bottom of the ash layer appears within the fan pit. We continue to clean on the outside in the red kiln material. More photos.

B. Platform now isolated on fill, to be drawn/completed by GB who arrives on Saturday.

C. Now expanded to include all of western area, which has with cleaning has become a more complex area than thought only a day ago:

- there are two north/south walls separated by about a metre of fill: a staircase?
Brown Ellwood visits and takes samples for archaeomagnetic dating from the kiln and two ovens. I must give him references to the trench/Pale for the ovens so that there won’t be a mixup. Also, Sarah Vaughan and Richard Eveshed from the Werner lab, she interested in Caracalite and he in permanence of foodstuff oils in Minyan cooking ware.

93A. Completed upon arrival upon the third Vounkouvo. Surprisingly the level is below that of the CC (and the floor of P) and so still LM III in date, hardly expected.

94A. No essential change.

95A/B/C. Cleaning out edge of the kiln. Baulks are coming down which will introduce the time that we can see all 2/3 of the store bases. We begin tracing the southern wall of T (e-w) from the final block on the west (at z on p. 105) and find to our surprise that a number of blocks survive on the northern face. Their presence, the westernmost base, and the complex of n/s walls w. of the store mass, to me the sandmoving venture a solid success from the archaeological point of view. No work in the interior of the kiln today.