

COMMUNICATIONS

The discovery of Linear B tablets at sites where they have not been found before is apparently not news. At any rate, a rather inconspicuous notice was overlooked, to the effect that a small fragment of a Linear B tablet has been found, perhaps in earth moved from an earlier excavation, beneath the citadel and toward the Southeast, at Tiryns. How to reinterpret the reported text in the normal conventions is not clear. It might be]ηϝ-ςε[or]σα-ςε[, unless it is something else. Ἀρχαιολογικὸν Δελτίον 21:Β1 (1966) 130.

1966!

List of theses in progress, p. 567. Add, At Oxford: Dickinson, O. T. P. K., "The Origins and Development of Early Mycenaean Culture"; note as completed, Forster, Jennifer, "The history of t-stems in Greek" (London).

During the past year, the local Societies of the Archaeological Institute of America have heard one or more of the following lectures: John L. Caskey, "Troy and Problems in Trojan Archaeology," "Excavations on the Island of Keos," "Lerna and the Early Bronze Age in Greece"; Daniel Brown, "The Bronze Age in Crete"; Raymond L. Den Adel, "Schliemann and Troy"; William P. Donovan, "The Arrival of the Greeks"; J. Walter Graham, "Palaces of the Homeric Heroes," "Crete and its Palaces"; Thomas W. Jacobsen, "Investigations in the Southern Argolid, 1967"; Leon Pomerance, "Excavations at Kato Zakro, Crete"; Emily T. Vermeule, "The World of Crete," "Island Sites: Thera."

Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in New York, 28-30 December, 1968, included:
Warren Cowgill, "A Speculative Reconstruction of the Pre-Indo-European Vowel System."

Eric P. Hamp, "The Greek Aorist Passive in Theta."

Papers presented at the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Toronto, 28-30 December, 1968, included:

Sarantis Symeonoglou, "Mycenaean Pottery and other Finds from Thebes." (A report by Sanka Knox appeared in the New York Times, Jan. 1, 1969.)

Edith Porada, "Cylinder Seals from Enkomi, Cyprus, and a Re-appraisal of Early Glyptic Art in Cyprus."

Leon Pomerance, "The Final Collapse of Santorini - 1400 B.C. or 1200 B.C.?"

Paul W. Wallace, "A Re-identification of the Boiotian City Salganeus and a suggested Location for the Homeric Nisa."

John E. Coleman, "Salvage Excavations at Pylos in Elis."

J. Walter Graham, "X equals 10."

William G. Loy, "The Land of Nestor: a Method of Resource Analysis."

A report in an Athenian newspaper, 24 November 1968, describes the forms of a series of admission tickets to be introduced in January 1969 to the important Greek archaeological sites and museums. For Mycenae, the Lion Gate and an ancient epigram. For the Iraklion Museum, four of the best sealstones.

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. . . qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues

It is true we are permitted occasionally to laugh. But as serious students of ancient and unknown writings and writers, we must deplore the frivolity of such displays of facile and unfeeling cleverness as are to be seen in the letter of I. Jones, in New Scientist 40:623 (14 November 1968) 392, or in the letter the week before of L. Harrison Matthews (40:622 [7 November 1968] 327), or in the absurd speculations of the New Scientist's regular contributor, Ariadne (who seems to get most of her notions from her polyepithetic friend, Daedalus) two weeks before that (40:620 [24 October 1968] 214). The serious student will recognize immediately the counterfeit and the jealous in them, just as he will unflinchingly recognize and applaud the genuine salt-glaze of the earth in--

Laidler, F. R., The Halstead Hieroglyph, New Scientist 40:620 (24 October 1968) 189-191.

Nestor (in real seriousness) congratulates the editor of the New Scientist both for his perception of the real serious worth of Mr. Laidler's article, and for his tolerance of our pseudominoan friends.

COMMUNICATIONS

For more than half of Nestor's subscribers there has been an unavoidable delay in sending the last issue, because of a Post Office embargo on surface mail from Atlantic and Gulf ports, the result of a long-continuing strike.

In a recent short visit to Athens it was discovered that the chess set available in New York at \$149.99 is available there at \$90.00. That is, it was available at that price. But inadvertently the New York price was reported to the proprietor of the shop, and the results are not guaranteed. Cf. p. 514.

Another result of the trip to Athens is a renewed awareness of how much information pertinent to Nestor's function is reported in newspapers around the world, without any significant trace of it coming to Nestor. Even in Athens, from which many clippings are generously sent, it was obvious from another clipping-book that much has been missed. The subscribers to Nestor would earn even more of the Editor's gratitude if they would regularly send clippings from their own cities' newspapers.

Of course, if I had read newspapers in Athens, I would have seen there what was sent me here as a clipping. In Ta Nea, 21 January, 1969 appeared the photograph of a newly found cylinder from Cyprus from Engomi, inscribed with "the first form of writing of the ancient Greek language."

On the way and back it was discovered that the decoration of Olympic Airways' City of Knossos and other Cities incorporates the lily fresco from near Amnisos (as a continuous frieze at the lights of the cabin), and the flying fish fresco from Phylakopi (as the all-over wall covering). The results are pleasing and unobtrusive.

SAFO is a "World Writing System" devised by Prof. Dr. Andre Eckardt. It is essentially a batch of arbitrary non-pictographic signs representing concepts to be combined to produce writing. But it has one remarkable interest for Linear B studies. For telegraphic purposes each SAFO sign may be represented by a digraph or trigraph. And the digraphs begin: ab, eb, ib, ob, ub, ad, ed, id, od, ud, af, ef, if, of, uf, ag, eg, ... The composition of SAFO, Dr. Eckardt says, began in 1943. But whether it was published in time to provide a coincidence with "Ventriloquism" is not clear. Brochures describing this "Sinnschrift," in many languages, are available.

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An improvement over the 4th edition: "The palace seems also to have been the religious center, with a priest-king," although he was surpassed by the Incas (or maybe the Mayas) who had "priest-emperors."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- Io sottoscritto considero di origine libica il dio minoico-miceneo e-nu-wa-ri-jo (Enuwalios - Enyalios), al quale si offre olio a Cnossos (KN V 52, Morpurgo, Myc. Gr. Lex. 86; Doria, Avviamento 238; Palmer, Interpretation 121) (Callimaco, Roma, L'Erma 1967, I, p. 28s., II, p. 393). In un ἱερός λόγος libico era detto figlio di Posidaon e di Libya, opp. marito di Libya, secondo altra versione. Gli era attribuita l'istituzione dei Giochi ippici cirenaici, oltre che l'invenzione del famoso carro da guerra libico. Il trasferimento a Creta può fissarsi subito dopo la metà del II millennio a.C., quando divenne ἀνδρειφόντης e πολεμιστής come lo conosce l'epos.

Io respingo (op. cit. I, p. 281) l'interpretazione corrente dell'aggettivo minoico-miceneo pe-ko, falsamente equiparato a πεικός "ispido, irsuto" (Morpurgo, p. 237s., Doria, p. 197). Infatti esso deve corrispondere a

πηγός "nero, scuro," secondo lo scholiaste omerico BL a I 124 πηγούς· μέλανας, riferito a cavalli. Questa nuova interpretazione si accorda con un passo del III Inno ad Artemis di Callimaco (v. 90), in cui πηγούς è applicato al colore scuro delle macchie sulle orecchie (παρουαίους) dei cani di Artemis. Che πηγός sia l'opposto di λευκός, cioè che pe-ko sia contrapposto a re-u-ko, riteniamo dimostrato da parecchie iscrizioni cnosie (KN Dw 162, D 7067bis, D 7098) e pylie (PY Cn 418.3.7).

11 November 1968

Crespano del Grappa

Yours, &c.

Giovanni Capovilla

BULL DANCER OF CRETE. Legend holds that Theseus, wishing to liberate the Athenian tribute youths and maidens from King Minos, taught them this acrobatic skill and, in a bargain with the King, redeemed their liberty. One of a collection of Sterling Silver and 18 Karat Gold Sculptures commissioned and exhibited by F. J. Cooper, Inc., which has generously provided this photograph. The artist is Tauni de Lesseps. 21 inches. In silver with gold horns, mounted on rose quartz. \$15,000.



COMMUNICATIONS

To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Pylos tablets I hope I may be permitted to print extracts from the most pertinent documents. From a photograph I can reproduce the appearance of C. W. Blegen's notes. For W. A. McDonald's, which come on several pages and include other details, I include only a selection. I confess that I add punctuation, and change a couple of spellings, and perhaps introduce error by copying W. A. McDonald's notes from a typed copy.

--from Carl W. Blegen's notebook

Tuesday April 4

Dark + threatening weather. McDonald
+ I go out to Ano Eglianos.
Lv. 7:30. Arr. 8:15.

We find Charalambos + many men.

Start work with 20 men at 8:30.

Lay out long trench approx. N-S,
ca. 50 m. long, 2 m. wide.

Starts just to E of hole made by someone
in S bank of hill which we thought might
have been a drain or a tomb.

5 sections ca. 10 m. long each.
McDonald takes charge of trench.

Soon find stone walls - several
at intervals - all running approx.
NW-SE. One is 1.20 m. wide,
others ca. 1.10. 1 or 2 narrower.

Looks like walls of big building. Earth
black + red, all burned.

Sherds few but look L H III.

In section A found ca. .30 deep a
deposit of inscribed tablets, plano-con-
vex in shape. Lined out on flat side
+ inscr. w. Minoan (?) signs.

Workman gets out two. Mac + I three
more - all complete. One more at
least left, but we leave + cover,
for a drizzly rain sets in + hard
to photo + to get out.

Stop work ca. 4:15 on acc't of rain.

...

--from W. A. McDonald's notebook

(45

Work started ca. 8:30 in a NS
trench ... 2 m. wide and 50 m.
long. The trench was divided into
5 sections (A-E starting from S)
each 10 m. long and 4 workmen
were put in each.

Trench I, Section A

Sherds from surface layer (surface
- 0.10 m.) removed. ...

2nd layer, 0.10-0.25 m. ...

3rd layer, 0.25-0.30 m. - basket
removed.

4th layer, 0.30-0.35 m. - basket
removed.

During the digging of the 4th layer
at a point ca. 6 m. N of S end, and
at a depth of 0.34 m., and ca.
0.40 m. from E side of trench, the
pickman uncovered the first 2
plaques^s with lines and characters
on them. Immediately another
complete and other fragments be-
gan to appear and the work was
stopped and the earth sifted for
fragments. The plaques are wet
and not yet in a condition to be
closely examined.

...

Inscribed plaques from Section A.
We have numbered them in the
order in which they came out of
the ground.

No. 1 - taken out by workman but
was probably lying face down be-
cause of the nature of the small

- break made by the pick in its side.
- No. 2 - also taken out by workman but was certainly lying face down since there are small pickmarks in the back (convex) side.
- No. 3 - lay face up and partly across No. 4.
- No. 4 - lay face down and partly under No. 3.
- No. 5 - lay slightly to the N and W of the above two and face down.
- No. 6 - fragment.
- No. 7 - small fragment. It lay just above No. 5.
- No. 8 - found beside Nos. 3 and 4.

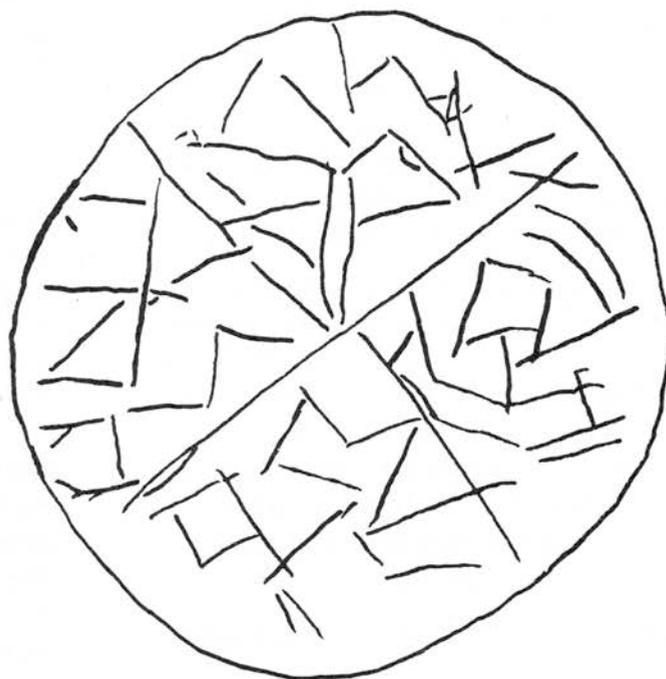
The first epigraphical photograph shows the impression left in the earth by the removal of tablet No. 5, an impression in which can clearly be seen some of the ruling, and less clearly one or two of the ideograms.

In Eleftheros Kosmos of 20 November 1968 M. Nisiotis reports on excavations of M. Popham and H. Sackett which identified a Minoan megaron near the Little Palace. Among the finds was a pot on whose surface appeared a Linear B inscription. Nearby, in cooperation with S. Alexiou, tombs at Sellopoulo were excavated, and excellent jewelry found.

A report in an Athenian newspaper of 13 December 1968 concerns the remains of a large Mycenaean city now under water between the Peloponnesos and Kythera. At a depth of 10 meters, near the island Pavlopetri appeared walls, houses, and a Mycenaean cemetery.

A bronze dagger of the 12th century B.C. illustrates the report of excavations at Exalophos, 12 kilometers west of Trikala. A tomb with two graves, excavated under the direction of D. Theodoridis, contained another dagger, a spear, ring and pottery. M. Nisiotis, Eleftheros Kosmos, 22 December 1968.

A report from Sofia appearing in an Athenian newspaper 23 February 1969, concerns a round clay seal, 2 cm. thick, with a conical handle on the back, found at Nova-Zagora in Bulgaria. A photograph was reproduced, of which this is



only a rough sketch. The diameter is not specified. It was found in a context to be dated by pottery and other artifacts, as well as by Carbon 14, to the 4th millennium B.C. The opinion of V. Georgiev is reported to be that the marks on its surface are undoubtedly writing, and by far the earliest in Europe. As such they are to be compared on the one hand to the inscriptions from Tartaria, and on the other to the earliest Cretan scripts. He distinguished 18 signs.

The view which fills out p. 556 should need no identification, but the stages in Homeric palace building on p. 570 may have been harder to trace to their source. Norman Morrison Isham, The Homeric Palace, Providence, 1898.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- A propos de la nouvelle tablette de Mycènes publiée par M. Mylonas dans Kadmos 7:1 (1968) 65-66, je vous signale que la photographie (pl. I, fig. 1) me suggère, pour la ligne inférieure, un texte légèrement différent de celui proposé. Au lieu de pa-we-a ko-u-ra je lirais pa-we-a₂ ko-u-ra. Le séparateur est net, et la moitié gauche de a₂ me semble suffisamment net pour exclure a et pour admettre, dans ce mot, l'orthographe déjà attestée sur MY Oe 127. Ceci pourrait intéresser les lecteurs de Nestor.

1 February 1969

Yours, &c.

Bâle

H. Mühlestein

To this, which should have been anticipated if the letter itself had not arrived before the copy of Kadmos, or of Mycenae's Last Century of Greatness, which contains the same photograph, drawing, and text, one can only agree, and possibly suggest further that another divider might have followed -ra, and that a better text in line 1 would be pa-ta, (with a divider). But te-ta, would be equally suitable for the published photograph, and the probable presence of a divider almost directly above the divider in line 2 and the trace of a sign before it make the reading of line 1 rather more doubtful than was suggested.

1 March 1969

E. L. B.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The Michael Ventris Award for 1968 for Mycenaean Studies has been made to Monsieur Louis Godart (Belgium) who is working on the Linear B Tablets.

The Michael Ventris Memorial Award for 1968, given by the Triopian Foundation of Chicago, has been made to C. J. Ruijgh.

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CORRIGENDA

P. 534, s.v. Georgiev, read Orientalia 36 (1967) 96-98. P. 547, s.v. Corpus, read Nestor 457. P. 562, for Ross read Rossi. P. 562, s.vv. Alfonsi-Vagnetti, read SMEA 5 (1968). P. 564, s.v. Ota, for tōkaiki read hōkaiki. P. 565 s.v. Hill, add The Hague, Mouton 1968. P. 569, s.vv. Ruijgh-Weil, read REG 80 (1967). P. 574, s.v. Picard, read Fonctions.

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COMMUNICATIONS

From the Proceedings of the Classical Association 63 (1966) we may note that the following lectures were recently presented to members of the Association: A. W. H. Adkins, "The Homeric poems and Mycenaean daily life"; J. N. Coldstream, "Minoan and Mycenaean wall painting" (Reading & District). D. M. Teague, "Looking at Crete" (Tees-side). G. M. Mylonas, "Mycenae" (CA of Auckland); "Mycenae's last century of greatness" (CA of Western Australia). Mary Knox, "Homeric houses, Mycenaean palaces and the epic tradition"; L. G. Pocock, "Nausicaa's private fire, and other Odysseana (CA of New Zealand, Wellington Branch).

Papers read at the First International Congress of Cypriot Studies held at Nicosia, 14-19 April, 1969 included: P. Åström, "Finger-prints on Cypriot Bronze Age Pottery." G. Cadogan, "Cypriot objects in the Bronze Age Aegean and their importance." J. N. Coldstream, "Cypro-Aegean relations during the ninth and eighth centuries B.C." J. C. Courtois, "Chypre et l'Europe pré-historique à la fin de l'Age du Bronze. Données nouvelles sur le monde mycénien finissant." M. Dothan, "Relations between Cyprus and the Philistine coast in the Late Bronze Age (Tel Mor, Ashdod)." F. G. Maier, "Recent discoveries at Kouklia (Old Paphos)." E. Masson, "Remarques sur certains groupes de signes en chypro-minoen." O. Masson, "Remarques sur l'épigraphie chypriote syllabique." E. J. Peltenburg, "On the Classification of Late Bronze Age Faience Vessels from Cyprus." A. Pieridou, 'Αρχαιολογικὰ ἔνδειξις περὶ τῶν σχέσεων τῆς Κύπρου μετὰ τῶν ἀνατολικῶν χωρῶν κατὰ τὴν Πρωτογεωμετρικὴν περίοδον [Archaeological indications about the connections of Cyprus with the Anatolian regions in the Proto-geometric period]. C. Schaeffer, "New Discoveries at Enkomi-Alasia." I. Tzedakis, Κυπριακὴ κεραμικὴ στὴ Δυτικὴ Κρήτη [Cypriot ceramics in Western Crete]. R. F. Willetts, "Arcado-Cyprian Elements in the Ancient Cretan Dialect."

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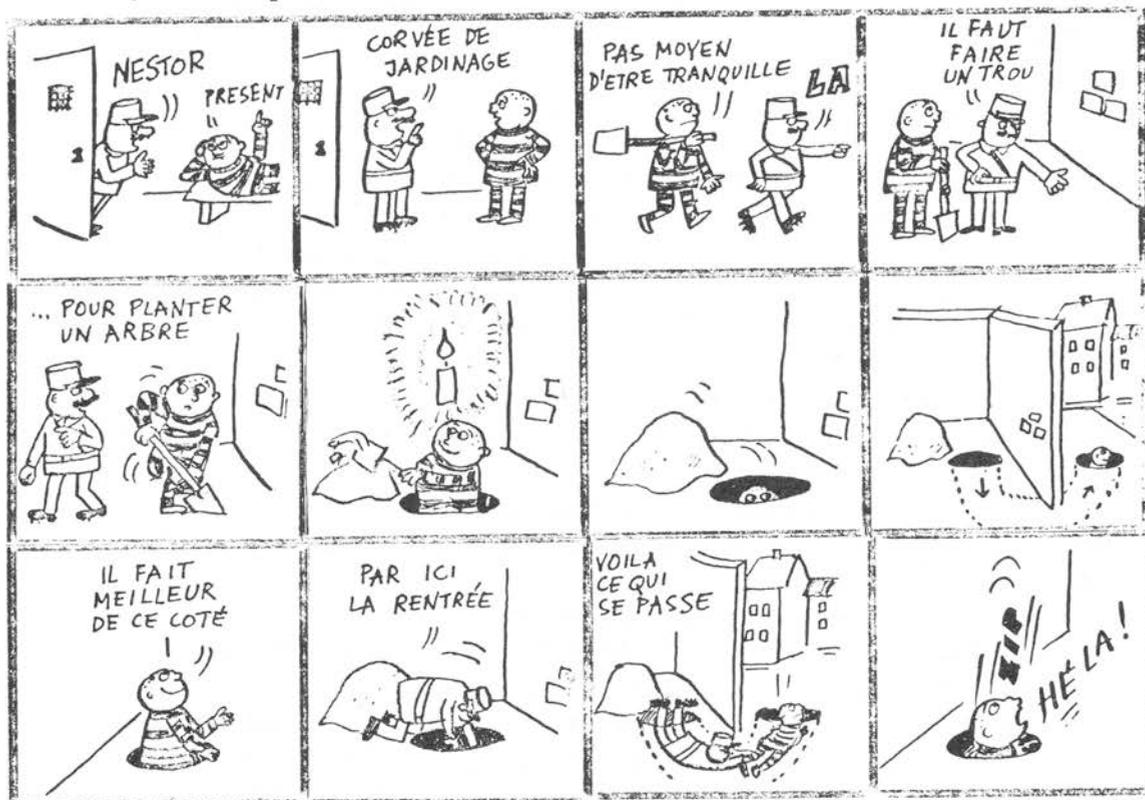
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COMMUNICATIONS

There is a recording called, for no obvious reason, "The Minotaur" by Dick Hyman (RS 45-4126). On the other side the "Topless Dancers of Corfu" gives no evidence of the diffusion of Minoan civilization. There is also a recording called "Atlantis" by Donovan (5-10434), which is not Aegean, but one of the Atlantic Atlantises.

CLIPPINGS

Ta Nea, 8 May 1969. A chance find of a pot of the 14th century led to the discovery of four tombs of a Mycenaean necropolis near Miraka, near Olympia, explored by the Ephor Papathanasopoulos.

Athens News Agency Weekly Bulletin, 2 June 1969. The Archaeological Department has set up a school for restorers. Students will be trained to reassemble ancient findings and to carry out restoration work on wall-paintings, ikons, and mosaics.

Eleftheros Kosmos, 25-26 June 1969, Minas Nisiotis. At Mycenae the "Μυκηναίων Μέλαθρον" has been opened, and dedicated with appropriate celebration. It provides room both for the "Center of Mycenaean Studies" and for civic offices. It has been built with the help of the Mycenaean Foundation, Inc. of St. Louis.

Time, 4 July 1969. Dr. Helmut Berve argues in a current series of lectures that the Trojan War never took place at all. Among those who are not "quite so willing to reject Homer entirely" are cited James Mellaart and Rhys Carpenter.

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Time, 15 Aug. 1969. The maze made by M. Ayrton for A. G. Erpf at Arkville, in the Catskills, is described, and photographed, but the photograph has been retouched to keep us from finding our way in or out. From our earlier report it would appear that there is a sculptured Minotaur; but from the photograph there seems to be a second sculpture. Who? Theseus? Ariadne? Daidalos? Ikaros took the picture, anyhow.

Associated Press, ca. 31 Aug. 1969. A report somehow combining ruins of a temple of Poseidon at Kalamata with Prehellenic habitation originating in Asia Minor or the Cyclades.

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CLIPPINGS

Ta Nea, 12 Aug. 1969, S. Anagnostopoulos. For comparison with Minoan figurines and frescoes there are offered wall-paintings of the Sahara, which, according to Henri Λότ, date from ca. 6000 B.C., and represent peoples from the Aegean.

NYTimes, 19 Aug. 1969. With a recalibration of Carbon 14 dates and a new dating of Stonehenge constructions between 2200 and 1700 B.C., there is need for a reassessment of the alleged links between Wessex and the Mycenaean culture of Greece.

Ethnos, 19 Sep. 1969. Excavation at the Tomb of Salganeus, at Drosia in Boiotia, discloses a well-made floor of the Mycenaean period, with destruction by fire, house-walls, and many objects.

Athens News Agency Weekly Bulletin, 19-25 Aug. 1969; United Press International, ca. 25 Aug. 1969; Associated Press, ca. 12 Sep. 1969. Press conference of Mr. C. Vovolinis, and accounts of the excavation of Santorini, with speculation on the possible presence of Linear A inscriptions.

Ta Nea, 22 Sep. 1969. Petrified bones of large mammals have been found in excavations at Alonnisos.

Ta Nea, 10 Sep. 1969; Ethnos, 20 Sep. 1969; Eleftheros Kosmos, 17 & 23 Sep. 1969, M. Paraskevaidis. Accounts of the First International Congress of Hephasteiology, with communications from S. Marinatos, G. Georgalas, P. Faure, R. Amiran, C. Schaeffer, S. Hood, N. Platon, L. Pomerance, and A. Galanopoulos.

NYTimes, 4 Oct. 1969, W. Sullivan. An account of the project of Ian Graham to prepare a photographic corpus of the Mayan inscriptions.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - At a meeting of the South Australian branch of "Mensa," I performed an experiment to see how far the early stages of the decipherment could be reenacted by intelligent people unaware of what had actually been done. After a brief account of the background copies of various tablets were handed out and the group asked to comment on them.

On MY Au 102 and MY V 659 (both, of course, post-decipherment) the group immediately spotted the tablets as lists and quickly identified the person ideogram of 102, the word-divider, and the numerals. They were then invited to consider the button sign and after about 1/4 hour agreed that it was an enclitic sign for "and." Presented next with PY Ng 319, they at once worked out the numeral system; on PY Aa 61 and 62 "boy" and "girl" were identified after some discussion (without knowing which was which), and the preceding ideogram guessed as "woman." They then considered PY Eb 473 and 477 (2nd line) and PY Jn 310 and 389 (8th line); the word for "total," common to the two groups, was identified after some discussion and after considerable debate the calculations of the Jn tablets were recognised as some kind of measuring system and approximately worked out. PY Tn 996 and KN Sd 0403 were also shown for interest.

After a bibulous interval, the group was then given p. 16 of "Docs." with Kober's triplets and explanation of the "tentative phonetic pattern," together with Fig. 3 (the state of the grid prior to decipherment) and "Decipherment" Fig. 6 (Cypriot syllabary). They were informed that Kober's triplets were place-names and invited to identify them from the following list: Amnissos, Gortus, Knossos, Luktos, Methone, Olympia, Phaistos, Praisos, Pylos, Rhion, Tulissos. The subsequent babel of conversation was so great it was difficult to follow exactly what was happening, but after about half-an-hour all the main identifications had been correctly made. The meeting ended with a discussion of KN Ca 895, KN Ra 1540 and PY Ta 641.

The above may be of interest to Nestor readers as showing that a group of people presented (admittedly) with selected evidence and told what to look at, but not (except in the case of the place-names) told what to look for, successfully repeated many of the predictions made before the decipherment against which the decipherment was checked. None of them had any previous knowledge of Greek or of the decipherment.

Classics Dept., Univ. of Adelaide
Adelaide, South Australia, 5001
24 September 1969

Yours, &c.
David Hester

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COMMUNICATIONS

The British Association for Mycenaean Studies announces a colloquium in the University of Sheffield from 23rd to 26th March 1970 on the subject, "Bronze Age migrations in the Aegean Region." The objects of the colloquium are presentation of new archaeological and linguistic evidence about settlement patterns and movements of populations in the Aegean region, together with adjacent regions in South-East Europe and Anatolia, between c. 2300 and 1100 B.C., and discussion of problems raised by this and previously available evidence, including the question of how and when the Greek language was introduced into Greece. A principal aim will be to promote discussion between archaeologists and linguists. The programme will be arranged in four sessions on: 1. Aegean and Anatolian archaeology. 2. History and dialectology of Mycenaean and early Classical Greek. 3. Anatolian linguistic evidence for cultural contact or migration across the Aegean. 4. Pre-Greek linguistic substrata in Greece. The colloquium is open to all in Great Britain or elsewhere who are interested in its subject. Those who wish to attend or to have further information about it are asked to write as soon as possible to Professor R. A. Crossland, Department of Greek, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, England.

CLIPPINGS

Ta Nea, 6 Aug. 1969. Six Mycenaean tombs are found in the square of Nea Ionia in Volos.

NYTimes, 24 Sep. 1969. In the Ionian sea a continent recently sunk (about 20 or 30 million years ago), and now discovered by German geologists, is not Atlantis.

Ta Nea, 3 Oct. 1969. Early and Middle Cycladic finds at Kea. Pithos burials, walls, and a staircase.

Ta Nea, 10 & 17 Oct. 1969. Excavations at Aigina at the temple of Apollo, under the direction of Hans Walter, uncovering a Cyclopean wall and prehistoric house walls.

Eleftheros Kosmos, 12 Oct. 1969, Miltis Paraskevaidis. Discovery of 14 larnakes in chamber tombs at Tanagra. One at least is handsomely decorated with a row of mourning women. From the same tombs come remarkable figurines compounded of a long-tailed, head-winged, hybrid animal perched on an omega-shaped large base, apparently an egg-like structure above the double-horns.

Vima, 12 Oct. 1969. Near Rethymno two schoolboys found by chance two Minoan pots, leading to the discovery of a Minoan cemetery.

Thiraika Nea, 20 Oct. 1969, M. Paraskevaidis. An account of the First International Congress of Volcanic Studies in Thera.

Times (London), 22 October 1969, Norman Hammond. Discussion of the interpretation of the great eruption of Thera.

United Press International (Atlanta), ca. 24 Oct. 1969. A retired scientist and rabbi combines the evidence of David Ben Solomon Gans, of the Brazilian

inscription, and of copper coins apparently cast more than 1,800 years ago found in Kentucky to show that Semitic sailors discovered America two millennia before Columbus.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Papers to be presented at the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in San Francisco, 27-30 December, 1969, include:

- Rodney S. Young, "Results of excavation at Gordion, 1969"
 Machteld J. Mellink, "Excavations at Karatash-Semayuk in Lycia, 1969"
 Elizabeth Wayland Barber, "Analytic methods for undeciphered ancient texts"
 Arthur E. Gordon, "Letter names of the Latin alphabet"
 Paul W. Wallace, "Strabo and the Catalogue of Ships"
 Thomas W. Jacobsen, "Excavations at the Francthi cave, 1969"
 Marija Gimbutas, "The Photolivos Mound: Excavations of a Neolithic and Early Bronze Age site in Macedonia, 1968-1969"
 John L. Caskey, "Excavations at Ayia Irini in Keos"
 William P. Donovan, "Excavations at Nichoria, 1969"
 L. Hugh Sackett, "Protogeometric tombs at Lefkandi"
 Peter Z. Spanos, "The origin, distribution and dating of the depas amphikypellon"
 Ernestine S. Elster, "Minoan seals in the collections of the Museum of Ethnic Arts, UCLA"
 Rhys Carpenter, "Old wine in new bottles"
 George W. Nowell, "Burial methods of prehistoric Anatolia"
 Emily T. Vermeule, "An Aegean gold treasure and the court of Egypt"
 Ellen N. Davis, "The Vapheio cups--one Minoan and one Mycenaean?"
 Donald A. Preziosi, "Mainland-type megara in Crete and the Cyclades during L. M. III"
 Sara A. Immerwahr, "The pomegranate vase: A Mycenaean-Geometric link"
 Evelyn Lord Smithson, "The Dörpfeld Areopagus graves and simple cremation in Geometric Athens"
 Keith DeVries, "Hesiodic pictures: The Greek incised fibulae"
 Per A. Alin, "The end of the Bronze Age in the Aegean area--A reappraisal"

Papers to be presented at the meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in San Francisco, 29-31 December, 1969, include:

- Warren Cowgill, "On resonant clusters in Ancient Greek"
 Henry M. Hoenigswald, "Typology, reconstruction and the IE semivowels"

In an international conference on "Aspects of the Balkans: Continuity and Change," at the University of California, Los Angeles, 23-28 October, 1969, there were included on the program papers by Marija Gimbutas, "Neolithic cultures in the Balkan Peninsula," and by Vladimir Georgiev, "The earliest ethnological situation of the Balkan peninsula as evidenced by linguistic and onomastic data."

On the southern shore of the Gygean Lake (Marmara Golu) north of Sardis, D. G. Mitten, D. H. Finkel, and M. Tagtekin excavated part of an Early Bronze cemetery at Eski Balikhane ("Old Fishery"). One of the five pithos burials contained a bronze dagger, a silver ram pendant, and two golden "ear plugs"

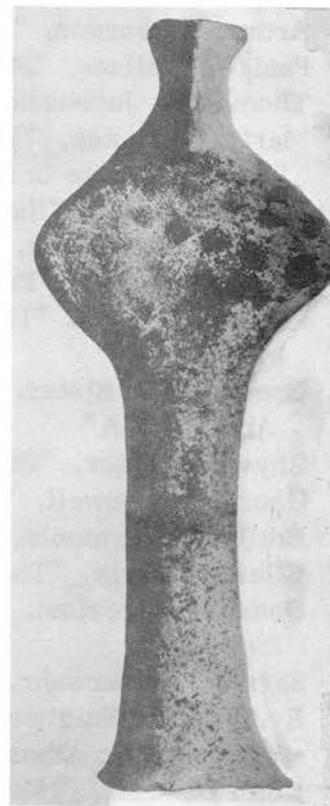
similar to those found at Karatas in Lycia and at sites in Central Anatolia." -
The twelfth campaign at Sardis (1969), Summary by G. M. A. Hanfmann.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - The resemblance of this painted terra-cotta figurine in the Museum of Teheran to the well known Phi type of Mycenaean idols is, as you will admit, striking. (0.105 m. high; published by Pierre Amiet, *Elam* 1966, p. 47, fig. 19; dated to the "première installation Susienne," i. e. to the middle of the 4th millennium B. C.) However, the great period of time which separates them, more than 2000 years, makes almost completely improbable a significant relationship of the two types. Perhaps the figurine in the Teheran Museum has been wrongly dated, or perhaps the type did not basically change from about the middle of the 4th to about the middle of the 2nd millennium B. C. We lack evidence, however, to fill the considerable gap; besides, it would be very curious if the type really remained undeveloped for so long a period of time. I cannot admit that their similarity must be considered accidental, though I am not able to find a possible answer to the problem.

Mrs. French (*The development of Mycenaean terra-cotta figurines*, p. 3) thinks that "the impulse which started their sudden popularity derived from the Eastern Mediterranean and worked on types already known from Crete." Clark Hopkins, speaking not of the idols but of a "Central Anatolian" type of Megaron-like buildings at Kültepe in the pre-Iranian period, "suspects a connection with both the later Mycenaean and the Iranian but the relationships are not yet clear" (*The Megaron of the Mycenaean Palace*, *SMEA* 6 [1968] 50). I invite the suggestions of scholars about the problem of the similarity of the Elamite and the Mycenaean Phi type figurines.

Odos Polygnotou 13, Athens
4 November 1969



Yours, & c.
Petros G. Themelis

To the Editor: - In a recent notice of CMS VIII and VII in the *Classical Review* [19:2, Jun. 1969], apart from the criticism of certain obvious errors for which the author was not entirely responsible, and a misunderstanding on the part of the critics of the mixed physical attributes often given to animals in Cretan and Mycenaean seal motifs, as of cult or ceremonial dress, the reviewers in their general disapproval of the author add, "It might have been better to list the seals by shapes and motifs, omitting the perhaps meaningless distinction be-

tween Minoan and Helladic, and confining all speculation on chronology to the Introduction." Such a statement virtually condemns any attempt at critical analysis by typological and stylistic criteria and a chronological order which is cognate with it. The joint writers of the notice did not dispute the chronological arrangement, nor did they challenge the Minoan or Mycenaean attribution of any one individual piece. It would have been better to have criticized the given chronological and cultural attributions than to have dubbed a distinction between Minoan and Mycenaean Glyptic as meaningless. Are we therefore to regard the title of M. Nilsson's work on "The Minoan-Mycenaean Religion" as prejudicial to the enquiry, which thus precludes any distinction between the two cultures, rather than a hypothetical title and point of departure from which to examine a mass of undifferentiated evidence? Or even of greater consequence to Bronze Age Archaeology as a whole, are we to reject Furumark's great work "The Mycenaean Pottery. Analysis and Classification"?

Hitherto there has been a belief that the progress of scientific enquiry lay in the making of distinctions and discovering cultural differences, which appear to have been operative in many formal designs as on the artefacts themselves in the Bronze Age. The critics also appear not to have been clear in their own minds as to the methods and limits of typology: viz. that criteria for stylistic analyses and judgments should ultimately derive from the evidence provided by the objects themselves. Any other parallels may only be used with caution, and at the best as supporting evidence. Aegean Archaeology in the past has been bedevilled by prejudices and value judgments which derive from other periods and other cultures.

Tolland, Somerset
17 November 1969

Yours, &c.
Victor E. G. Kenna

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The Classics Revisited

I would gladly have maintained a simple faith, had I been able—such a faith as qualifies a man to swallow translations of the Phaistos disk, and the authenticity of Dictys of Crete.

Walter Leaf