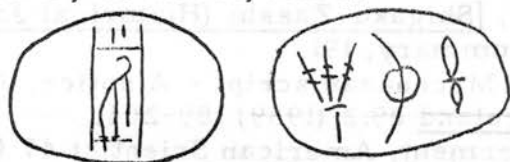


NESTOR

News

Not officially, but practically, the Mycenaean Discussions generously provided for by the organizers of the Third International Congress of Classical Studies (London, 31 August - 5 September, 1959) became also the third of the series of Mycenaean Colloquia, to follow those of Gif in 1956 and of Pavia in 1958. The arrangements permitted the presence and participation of a large audience (almost a hundred at one session), and there was time for some general discussion of most of the papers presented. In the first session on "Religion" G. Pugliese Carratelli spoke on Aspetti de la monarchia minoica e micenea. In the second session the report of W. McDonald's and R. Hope Simpson's explorations of Mycenaean sites in Messenia was briefly presented. For the "Structure of Mycenaean Society" E. L. Bennett spoke on Slavery, and L. R. Palmer spoke on Kekemena and Tereta. The third session was devoted to the Minoan Linear A texts, and C. H. Gordon spoke on Semitic Factors in the Minoan-Mycenaean Sphere, while E. G. Peruzzi spoke on the Structure of Minoan Tablets. This was the close of the sessions provided for in the program of the Congress, but the discussion of Mycenaean problems was continued at dinner, and an informal supplementary discussion was held the following day. Most exciting was the announcement by Mabel Lang of the text of one of the sealings found in this season's excavations at Pylos, a sealing which brought together in one word a completely new sign and two of more or less doubtful values. It was hoped that the ideogram on the face of the sealing might provide a clue to the interpretation and to definite values for all the signs involved. No satisfactory interpretation was agreed upon, but the opportunity to work together on a wholly new text was much appreciated. Beside the formal and informal Mycenaean discussions, two well-applauded papers from the regular sessions of the Congress were devoted to Mycenaean subjects, the reports by Professors Blegen and Mylonas of the most recent excavations of Pylos and Mycenae.



Herewith, by the kind permission of Professors Blegen and Lang, is a sketch from memory of the sealing shown and discussed at the London Congress. It is one of the score or more inscriptions found this year at Pylos, all from the western limits of the excavation.

It is reported that a sealing, inscribed with one sign, has been found this season within the citadel at Mycenae.

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