

COMMUNICATIONSConcorso di Libera Docenza in Filologia Micenea

Il Consiglio Superiore della Pubblica Istruzione in Italia ha approvato il bando di concorso per gli esami di abilitazione alla 'Libera Docenza' in Filologia Micenea. Sono ammessi per legge anche gli stranieri. Le domande per l'ammissione dovranno pervenire al 'Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, Ufficio Libere Docenze, Roma' entro il 30 giugno 1964. Gli esami avranno luogo a Roma, nella primavera del 1965.

La Commissione sarà composta da cinque professori italiani, competenti nella materia (con esclusione del Prof. Carlo Gallavotti, perché membro del Consiglio Superiore). L'esame consiste in un colloquio sulle pubblicazioni del candidato e in una breve lezione pubblica. Non esiste numero chiuso.

Gli interessati potranno rivolgersi per informazioni al 'Centro di Studi Micenei', Università di Roma.

Examinations for 'Libera Docenza' in Mycenaean Philology

The Superior Council of the Ministry of Education in Italy has approved examinations for 'Libera Docenza' in Mycenaean Philology. Non-Italian subjects are also eligible by law. Applications must reach the Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, Ufficio Libere Docenze, Roma before 30th June 1964. The examination will take place in Rome, in Spring 1965.

The Board of Examiners will be composed of five Italian Professors, qualified specialists in the subject (excluding Professor C. Gallavotti as a member of the Superior Council). Examination will consist of a discussion on the publications of the candidate, and of a public lecture. The number of awards is unlimited. Those interested may apply for further information to the Centro di Studi Micenei, Università di Roma.

WORK IN PROGRESS

On the program of the Fourth International Congress of Classical Studies: Aug. 25, 8:30 p. m. : Homer and the Heroic Age of Greece, G. S. Kirk. Aug. 26, 9:00 a. m. : Homer and the Heroic Age of Greece: Literature, W. Schadewaldt, W. B. Stanford. 11:15 a. m. , Homer and the Heroic Age of Greece: History, A. Severyns, S. Dow. Aug. 27, 2:15 p. m. , Homer and the Heroic Age of Greece: Archaeology, C. Blegen, S. Marinatos. And much else.

J. L. Benson has been awarded an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for research on "Problems on Aegaeon iconography and their possible connection with later Greek culture."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - In view of the current discussions about the date of Middle Minoan the following entry from D. Mackenzie's pottery notebooks (DM/Pot i, 1901, pp. 55-56) deserves attention.

DM/Pot i, 1901, pp. 55-56

Lot from N. Foundations - Area of Egyptian Lid

Rejected.

13 fragments common Mycenaean mostly unpainted.

Reserved.

4 Mycenaean cups.

2 " " with sharply turned out rims.

1 " bowl reddish terracotta clay.

1 small basin red-brown lustreless varnish band on top of rim. Round base the paring away characteristic of some Kamares cups. Hand-made and probably Kamares.

Rim-fragments.

6 Kamares. 4 of cups 1 Opaque white band below rim on terracotta red lustreless varnish slip which is also on inside.

1 (of Schnabel kanne?) terracotta red + cream opaque geometric bands on half lustrous black varnish slip /which is/ also on inside.

1 possibly also of Schnabel-kanne with wart decoration in relief and traces of black varnish slip. See 2 fragments (fitting) below - fragmented all round.

1 Mycenaean small painted cup with sharply turned out rim. Sketch (1). lustrous black varnish conventional blossom decoration (on a pale buff slip?) on pale buff clay. Black varnish slip on inside.

4 Neolithic. 3 incised 1 plain possibly of spout.

1 Spout - Schnabel brown to black half lustrous varnish rim- + neck-bands on buff clay slip on terracotta red clay.

Handles.

1 Very small unpainted Mycenaean.

2 Neolithic 1 incised 1 of stick shape.

Fragmented all round.

4 Mycenaean.

1 Palace Scale or network-pattern in slightly lustrous black varnish on buff clay slip on similarly coloured clay. Sketch 2.

2 Kamares with wart decoration + opaque white + terracotta red stripes on lustreless black varnish slip on pale terracotta clay.

1 Toy 2 handled mug minute size unpainted usual clay.

In same basket many fragments of stone vases in different colours of stone. Prominent - fragments with imitation of woven basket work in relief.

Notes by L. R. P. - S (2) in the text refers to the drawing on [tracing paper inserted here]. On this [is Mackenzie's note], "Cf. F. & L. Myk. Vasen Texte p. 23, fig. 10. Crete, Schliemann Tiryns XXVII a." [On the facing page] he draws both these designs and comments, "Our example more stylized than either of these." This sherd is classified as LM III A:1 by M. R. Popham in J. Boardman, The Date of the Knossos Tablets, p. 93, note 5. There is no indication that the Mycenaean sherds came from a foundation trench or any stratum different from the earlier fragments. The sole "evidence" available to scholars hitherto has been the statements by Evans. [The reading of the microfilmed text has been checked by E. L. B. The chief uncertainty is the description of the "Toy 2 handled..."]

P. Åström (Kretika Khronika 15-16 (1961-62) I, 146) notes that the sole object affording an absolute date for MM III is the lid of king Khyan (BSA 7, (1901) 63-68; cf. PoM I, 418 ff.): "Evans says that it was found in the mature stage of the earlier phase, a, of Middle Minoan III." In his report for 1901 Evans locates the lid in a burnt stratum over which a rubble wall and a room with a clay pavement had been built. He singled out from the "well-marked deposit in which this lid occurred" only fragments of stone vases with basket-work in relief. Mackenzie records these pieces as in "the same basket" along with the other finds which he so carefully describes. His page refers to a single "lot." This is the only basket recorded from "North Foundations. Area of Egyptian Lid." There is no indication of stratigraphic separation of the material in the "lot" in the basket.

Evans also refers (BSA loc. cit.) to the Egyptian statuette "found in the early stratum of the Central Court." This is now known to have been found on the pavement 70 cm below the original surface and not 70 cm below the pavement. On both these key points of Minoan chronology F. Matz, Cambridge Ancient History II² Chapter IV(b), p. 4 needs reconsideration.

Worcester College
Oxford, England
18 March 1964

Yours, &c.
L. R. Palmer

To the Editor: - It is a pity that the list of new readings of Knossos tablets published by E. Grumach in Kadmos II/2 (1963) 155-166 should have appeared while our third edition of the London transcript was in course of printing. Had Grumach waited a few months, he would have found that a number of his readings had been anticipated. The majority, however, seem to us after a careful revision of the photographs to be inferior to our own readings. He has repeatedly mistaken signs, identified them on insufficient evidence, read fragments upside down, and reported allegedly new texts which we believe to be fictitious. We are compiling a detailed reply which will demonstrate these errors and comment on his reading where it differs from ours, and this we shall publish as soon as possible. In the meantime, we should like to recommend readers of Nestor to await publication of the Knossos Tablets, third edition, which should appear in a few months, and to suspend judgment on Grumach's readings until our article appears.

Downing College
Cambridge, England
17 April 1964

Yours, &c.
John Chadwick
J. T. Killen

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Voces Labyrinthae

Virgil at the very beginning of the book lays strong emphasis on an earlier settlement, coming from the 'Minoan realm' (l. 14) of Crete. The temple of the sun-god on the citadel (l. 9), and the vast underground halls somewhere below, belong to that earlier world. On the great entrance-doors are six panels in metal relief (ll. 20-32) with subjects from Minoan history: the slaying of Androgeos, the drawing of the lots, Pasiphae and the bull, the Minotaur in the labyrinth, Theseus and the clue, and the flight and fall of Icarus; the last of these panels being either missing or incomplete. This gateway is the main entrance to a vast mass of chambers and corridors, partly at least underground, lati aditus centum, ostia centum (l. 43). In some central chamber is what may be called the Record Office, where the utterances of the Sibyl are 'committed to leaves' (l. 74). It is to be noted here that the traces of pen-and-ink writing on cups of Middle Minoan III show that such libraries may very well have existed, and in fact palm leaves are conjectured to have been the substance on which they were written. Those leaves of (shall we dare to say?) Minoan script, transcribed on rolls of linen and sedulously preserved at Rome, had for many centuries a mysterious and magical significance.

--J. W. Mackail's Aeneid (Oxford, 1930), Appendix C, p. 520.