

COMMUNICATIONS

At Phaistos in 1965 excavations of the Italian Archaeological School under Doro Levi have uncovered walls enclosing on the west and south the theatrical area. Southwest of this a paved Minoan road has appeared, and further south still, remains of houses of the Proto-palatial period (M. Paraskevaïdis, Kathimerini, 24 October 1965).

Further details of the finds at Zakro are reported by M. Paraskevaïdis, Kathimerini, 31 October and 14 November 1965; and with more poetry by Th. Drakos, Akropolis, 5 November 1965.

At Corinth some ceramic and architectural evidence of the Early Helladic period has been found in the area of the Gymnasium excavated this year (M. Paraskevaïdis, Kathimerini 7 November 1965).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Alan Samuel's The Mycenaeans in History is to be published early next year by Prentice Hall.

Also scheduled to appear early in 1966 is Das Alphabet: Entstehung und Entwicklung der griechischen Schrift [Wege der Forschung 88], edited by Gerhard Pfohl and published by the Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. Included are articles by C. W. Blegen, R. Carpenter, R. M. Cook, A. G. Woodhead, O. Eissfeldt, M. Falkner, M. Guarducci, R. Harder, L. H. Jeffery, A. Korte, and E. Zinn--all translated into German.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- The report (Nestor p. 411) of the discovery at Zakro of "a stone pedestal stand with a device for holding and permitting interchangeable table-tops" suggests a possible solution to the two tables at Pylos described as a-ka-ra-no (Ta 715.2). The simplest solution in terms of the Greek vocabulary is to take this as akarānos "headless," but I could not imagine what a headless table might be, until I read this account of a topless stand. This solution might be disproved if we could finally determine the meanings of a-pi-qo-to and po-ro-e-ke; but it is consistent with at least some of the suggestions for these.

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Yours, &c.
John Chadwick

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COMMUNICATIONS

An unlooted royal tholos tomb has been discovered at Arkhanes in Crete (Eleftheria, 16, 28 November [A. G. Kalogeropoulou]; Kathimerini [M. Paraskevidis] 19, 23, 28 November, 1 December; Vima [E. Karapanayoti] 21 November 1965). This follows on the excavation of a portion of a palatial building nearby. The excavation, supported by the Travelers' Club of Arkhanes, is under the direction of J. Sakellarakis. Near the tholos is an EM III ossuary with at least 170 skulls, and 14 ivory seals, one of which bears the pictographic signs of a cup and a double axe. Also near is a rectangular vaulted tomb of LM III, which was robbed in Roman times but has yielded an agate seal and bits of crystal and ivory.

The tholos has at its south side a rectangular chamber within which was a terracotta sarcophagus. Beside the sarcophagus were found ten bronze vases, an ivory handled bronze mirror, and an ivory plaque with shields and two boars'-tusk-helmeted heads. Beneath were two more bronze vases and a bronze lamp. Within the larnax were many gold-leaf ornaments of the dress, six marvelous necklaces of gold and of stone, two miniature gold boxes, a sard sealstone with two wild goats and a figure-8 shield, five gold rings, three with figure-8 shields, one combining a shield and the "sacred knot." The last (one of the three on the hand) includes the figures of the goddess, a worshipper, and a pithos. The excavation of the contents of the sarcophagus was completed at 4:00 a. m. the 15th of November (a moonless night).

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

Individual signs of Linear B resemble a Gothic arch enclosing a vertical line, a ladder, a heart with a stem running through it, a bent trident with a barb, a three-legged dinosaur looking behind him, an A with an extra horizontal bar through it, a backward S, a tall beer glass, half full, with a bow tied on its rim; dozens look like nothing at all in this world.

-From the manuscript of a forthcoming article by David Kahn, with his permission.