

COMMUNICATIONS

EXCAVATIONS AT SARDIS, 1967. The tenth campaign of the Harvard-Cornell expedition was conducted by G. M. A. Hanfmann, A. H. Detweiler, and D. G. Mitten. On the southern shore of the Gygean Lake part of a cemetery with burials in large pithoi and small cist graves was excavated at the promontory of Ahlatli Tepecik. Inhumed in crouching position (in jars up to 1.55 m. high), the dead had grave goods which included jugs and tripod vases of black ware, some with incised decoration, fine burnished one-handled red ware jugs, and one copper dagger. Other sites investigated but not dug promise to close the gap between this Early Bronze Age assemblage and the Late-Bronze-Early Iron Age material known from Sardis itself.

Two Lydian inscriptions on stone and a fragment of the "Synagogue Inscription" in an unknown tongue were among the epigraphic finds. One of the Lydian inscriptions mentions an Artaksa(ssa) - "Artaxerxes."

Information about the formation of a group of "Friends of Homer and the Computer" may be obtained from Robert R. Dyer, Ballantine 547, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, U.S.A.

In a series of articles by F. Devismes on the "Great Civilizations which have described the Progress of Mankind" appearing in Eleftheros Kosmos since November 1967, the Cretans and Mycenaeans came up from 11 February to 3 March, 1968. The first of these is illustrated with "Statues of Protominoan Style." These are two differently exposed prints from the same negative, of the 7th century relief from Gortyn, with the relief's background carefully removed--from the photograph.

In an Associated Press dispatch from Belgium (Milwaukee Journal, March 3, 1968), it is reported that it is Dr. André Capart who is searching the sea near Thera for "huge chunks of the Atlantan capital tumbled into the sea" and exploring the Libyan desert from which "the people of Atlantis first came."

Occasionally there are inquiries about the binders which are not provided for Nestor. There are other possibilities, of course, but it may be reported that the original copy is kept in ACCO binders, Cat. No. BF 2507, which presumably may be obtained fairly easily in the United States. The manufacturers do, however, also produce in Europe, and have sent me the addresses to which requests for names of suppliers might be directed: ACCO, Crayford Industrial Estate, Crayford, Kent, England, or ACCO-Netherlands, Bredeweg 1, P. O. Box 150, Cothen (U), Netherlands.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- Benjamin Schwartz in the February Nestor makes the point that mechanical facts must establish the direction of writing in the Phaistos Disc. Surely, however, his overcuttings tend to undercut his argument that the Disc is "a matrix for imprinting text," since a matrix should be perfect; and in addition to the overcuttings, every copy from the matrix would have been issued with the very obvious correction of an error in Face A showing on its text - - No Editor surely in charge there!

Those who have seen the actual Disc must wonder, too, how a copy could be taken from a matrix whose characters vary greatly in depth of cutting--some are mere scratches on the surface, others cut quite deep on one side, others deeply cut. This, it may be said, is not wear and tear--the clay of the Disc bears the marks of patting into shape, and seems to have been unevenly moist at the time of printing.

Again, perhaps I mix my terms, but is not a matrix usually in relief? Or did Mr. Schwartz assume this matrix was in the nature of a mould for a liquid such as plaster? Here again, as I said, the unequal depth of the cutting of the characters would ensure an odd copy.

London
19 March, 1968

Yours, &c.
B. V. Gwynn

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II, 6 Der Ursprung aller alten Schriftsysteme aus reinen Bilderschriften.

c) Die kretisch-minoische Hieroglyphenschrift.

8 Volkerkundliche und psychologische Argumente für den Entwicklungsvorgang vom Bild zur Schrift.

III, 8 Die Erfindung phonetisierter Silbenzeichen.

IV, Ursprung und Entwicklung des Konsonantenalphabets.

1 a) Phantastische Annahmen über die Entstehung des Alphabets.

c) Die kretische Hypothese.

Abb. 242 Stammbaum des lateinischen Alphabets.

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Preface. "Only the faith that underneath those mysterious symbols there was hidden an entirely mythical world kept me working with self-denial and concentration." Creto-Mycenaean writing and Ventris. "The supposition that the Cretans, as neighbors of peoples who wrote alphabetically, should have had a syllabic script is surely wrong." The beginnings of a theory. "The Linear B alphabet contains 221 characters, most of them interchangeable with others." Grammatical Section. Glossary of Linear B. Historical and other conclusions. Epigraphical Section. (There are offered translations of the stirrup jar from Orchomenos, of the gold double axe in Boston, of KN 872, 894, 895, 1540, 1548; MY 129, 508, 610, 627; PY 52, 109, 132, 134, 290, 294, 295, 722, 777, 798, 806, 925, 996.) 25 illustrations and tables.

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