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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The problem of the reconstruction of ancient remains.


With interventions by Cyrus Gordon and Faure, 192-193.


The early development of the burnished grey ware known throughout the Middle East and generally appearing in the beginning of the Early Bronze Age.


New light on the emergence of Neolithic civilization in the greater part of Southwest and Central Europe.


Excavation of three Mycenaean tombs at Varkiza.


A Late Helladic tumulus at Makryisia.


News from Achaia. Neolithic from near Kalavryta, Neolithic, Mycenaean, and Hellenistic from Aigion.

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In addition to those candidates mentioned in the title and discussed in the text, some editor obviously thought it good to imply a further claim for "Minoans?" in the form of a table "comparing" a few signs of Mayan and "Cretan" scripts.


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In the section "Greece, the Early Period" appear: The Minoan Civilization ("...The king was evidently the chief figure in religious worship and his palace was the seat of religious cults. There were also other gods and goddesses, nature-derived and very human...The Minoans seem to have had little love for written records...Minoan Linear A...Paucity of the material adds to the difficulty of decipherment..."). The Greek Mainland in the Bronze Age. The Greeks in Crete. ("Linear B...Sir (sic) Michael Ventris achieved the decipherment..."). The Mycenaean Age. The Dark Age. The Greek Polis. Epic Poetry. The Greek Renaissance. --pp. 58-61.

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 sottoscrivo considero di origine libica il dio minoico-miceneo e-nu-wa-ri-jow (Enuwalios - Enyalios), al quale si offre olio a Cnosso (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).


πηγός "nero, scuro," secondo lo scholiaste omerico BL a I 124 πηγοῦς· μέλανας, riferito a cavalli. Questa nuova interpretazione si accorda con un passo del III Inno ad Artemis di Callimaco (v. 90), in cui πηγοῦς è applicato al colore scuro delle macchie sulle orecchie (παρουσίως) dei cani di Artemis. Che πηγός sia l'opposto di λέυκος, cioè che pe-ko sia contrapposto a re-u-ko, riteniamo dimostrato da parecchie iscrizioni enossie (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.