

COMMUNICATIONS

	1962	VISITORS		1963
	per diem	(cumulative)		per diem
Treasury of Minyas '61-	3	1, 257	1, 981	...
Lerna			421	2
Tylassos			197	1
Pylos Museum '61-	6	2, 385	3, 240	...
Thera Museum '61-	('61 4)	1, 272	2, 104	...
Thebes Museum '62-	1	127	2, 623	9 !
Nafplion Museum '60-	8	6, 274	8, 886	9 !
Palace of Nestor '61-	16	5, 608	11, 983	22 !
Tiryns '61-	72	21, 435	23, 846	80 !
Treasury of Atreus '61-	189	83, 874	158, 105	248 !
Iraklion Museum '60-	187	133, 404	206, 188	243 !
Mycenae '61-	236	113, 350	208, 250	317 !
Knosos '60-	207	148, 661	229, 663	271 !
National Archaeological M. '60-	527	402, 607	568, 544	614 !

V source and explanation, p. 911.

The Second International Conference on Boiotian Antiquities, at McGill University, 2-3 November 1973, included the following papers: A. K. Andreiomenou, "Recent excavations in Boiotia." R. J. Buck, "The historical traditions of Early Boiotia." K. DeVries, "Oral poets and fibula makers." P. W. Wallace, "The dikes of the Kopais."

WORK IN PROGRESS

J. McArthur, "Implications of recent archaeological discoveries in Crete and in Thebes for the problem of the dating and origin of the Theban stirrup jars," 62 p. (Honours dissertation completed, Monash University). [A Teiresias 3[:2 Dec.] (1973) 24.

Ellen D. Foster, "The manufacture and trade of Mycenaean perfumed oil" (dissertation completed, Duke University).

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - Since my last letter to you (Nestor, 856-858) some important new information has come to light which warrants my commenting further on the question of Minoan Linear A fractions. Dr. J. A. Sakellarakis has informed me that he found, in 1965, an inscribed pithos in room Theta of the villa at Epano Zakro (PAAH 1965, 222). The pithos has the number 22 on its exterior, obviously giving the capacity in terms of the unstated unit used by Minoan scribes. Jan P. Stronk (Talanta 4, 1972, 85-86) has calculated the

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capacity of the pithos by mathematical means and arrived at a figure of 556 liters \pm 11 percent. Dividing by 22, he comes up with 25.2 liters \pm 11 percent for the volume of the unstated unit. This is a most valuable discovery, for now we know roughly the quantities of liquids listed on the Hagia Triada tablets, which will give us new understanding of the productivity of the Minoan agricultural economy.

Two problems are still outstanding: the values of the fractions, and the exact determination of the capacity of the pithos by actual measurement, rather than by mathematical formulae. Both can be solved using the methods of Mabel Lang (AJA 68, 1964, 99-105), which is to fill vessels with grain, then remove the grain and measure the quantity thereof, thus establishing the capacity of the vessel. By this means, the 11 percent margin of error for the unstated unit can be eliminated. As for the fractions, the most frequent capacity below ca. 25 liters should correspond to Lm 9, the most frequent by far of Minoan fractional symbols. If I am right, and Lm 9=3/4, then many Minoan vessels should be found with the volume ca. 18-19 liters; if Dr. Was is correct and Lm 9=1/4, then a cluster of volumes should occur at 6-7 liters; and if Dr. Bennett's original proposal of Lm 9=1/2 proves true, then the commonest volume should be 12-14 liters.

If Mycenaean parallels offer help, Bennett's hypothesis gains from the fact that the most common stirrup jar size is 12-14 liters. For my own case, I can propose the following: if $3Z=2.4$ liters and $V=4Z=3.2$ liters (2.4 and 3.6 liters are the commonest capacities of smaller vessels at Pylos as Mabel Lang has ascertained), then $S=6V=19.2$ liters or roughly the equivalent of Lm 9 in my system. But all this is mere speculation. Expert mathematical and archaeological inquiry into this matter is needed, as well as funding for the actual measurement of the vessels in question in their museums in Greece. (It is worth noting that other vessels found in the room with this pithos have not yet been cleaned, and could be inscribed, according to Dr. Sakellarakis in a personal communication.) I invite those interested to communicate with me.

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December 1973

Yours, &c.
Jon C. Billigmeier

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- Index généraux du linéaire B / J. -P. Olivier, L. Godart, C. Seydel, & C. Sourvinou. - Roma: Edizioni dell'Ateneo, 1973. - 413 p. - (Incunabula Graeca; 52). - L. 15.000. □ 40377
- Virgil and the mystery religions / Georg Luck. - American Journal of Philology 94[:2 Summer] (1973) 147-166. □ 40378