COMMUNICATIONS


The Harriet Pomerance Fellowship of the Archaeological Institute of America was awarded for 1975-1976 to Livingston Vance Watrous, for his proposed study of the pottery from D. Hogarth's excavation in the Dictaean Cave in Crete.

A supplementary Harriet Pomerance Fellowship was awarded to Robert R. Stieglitz, for his proposed study entitled "The Legacy of Caphtor—Minoan Impact on the Near East."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - Since my letter of 1st February 1975, The Thleen Tablets II (TH II) has made an indirect contribution to the question of the Mycenaean measurements of capacity. A brief sketch of the progress of the argument will focus the point of impact.

1. From the outset Mesopotamian analogies were noted. There the functional factor behind the 1 to 60 ratio was the issuing of daily rations of 2 units on a monthly basis. This would point to V as the corresponding Mycenaean daily ration. This is divided into 4 "cups." The later functional equivalent, the choine, was also divided into 4 kotyle.

2. PY An 128, properly interpreted, revealed that there was a conversion rate of two units of barley to one of wheat. The PY Fn series uses barley as a basis of accountancy; in Fn 50 the slaves seem to get V 1, that is half the estimated man's ration (cf. again Mesopotamia), while craftsmen get V 2. There are also higher rates, e.g. for the asireu, the industrial connexion of whom appear in TH Ug 42.

3. The PY Ab series records rations for women at 2/5 of our basic scale with children at 1/5 (cf. Mesopotamian 1/6). An accompanying TA is on the woman's scale and a DA receives our man's ration.

4. There is close resemblance between PY and KN. In both with larger numbers of women and children a second TA was allowed for, KN provides further evidence that DA is a man. For instance, H. 103, who wrote Ak 611 with TA 2 DA 1, also wrote As 608, which is a list of men's names, each followed by VIR 1 or DA 1. A similar list is KN Uf 1522, where all the names are followed by DA 1.

5. All this suggests that TA is a female supervisor and DA a male supervisor. This is where TH Of 34, 1 impinges. Here a man's name kutušḫ is followed closely by DA. John Chadwick, prompted by John Killen, is now inclined to accept "the theory" that DA stands for a supervisor.

6. A count of the escape hypotheses provides an objective criterion for choosing between competing solutions.

i) Docs.² (p. 418) rejects TA and DA as separate ration entities: they are merely extra payments given to unspecified members of the women recorded. Difficulties for this "easier" solution are offered by PY Aa 785 Ab 388, where on this view an unaccompanied woman gets a 100 percent bonus for looking after herself.

ii) This suggestion is abandoned in TH II (p. 92), but a FY DA is still thought to be a female on the supposition that "the words so abbreviated were common in gender or at least only distinguished by termination." Those who find less difficulty in the notion of a man supervising female workers will not require this hypothesis; nor will they need to ponder the "coincidence" that a female DA has a mannish ration.
iii) KN and PY have closely similar administrative systems. If we apply our PY scales to KN Am 819 we come within half a boy's ration of the estimated total (interpretation 119). Docs. 2 (p. 393) equates boys with men (against the PY evidence) and by simple arithmetic arrives at a "credible" monthly barley ration of T 3 V 4 Z 2. This not only dissociates KN from PY (to say nothing of the comparable Mesopotamian system which also gave a child half a woman's ration) but also offends against the functional harmony of the system: our monthly ration is BARLEY 1. It involves also difficulties with the conversion rate: T 3 3/4 of barley is alleged to be a "reasonable equivalent" of T 2 of wheat (p. 420). And how is a daily ration of barley Z 3 reconcilable with the demonstrable basic accountancy unit of V 1 in PY Fu?

iv) Finally,Docs. 2, while accepting Mabel Lang's basic unit of 0.8 litres, finds it "more plausible" to assume that this was Z 2. But this gives no plausible figure for a MU, which is calculated at 38.41. We accept Lang's equation of V 1, and our own figure of 24 litres gives a satisfactory round number: 241 is 30 times the postulated basic unit.

We submit that a solution which preserves the functional harmony of the system, the Mesopotamian analogues, the unity of PY and KN (with a single interpretation of DA), the exact application of the conversion rate, and the accountancy unit of Fu, is preferable. The later subdivision of the choinix into four "cups" is of interest for the continuation of Mycenaean practices.

A 6073, Sistrans 139
Tirol, Austria
7 July 1975

Yours, &c.
L. R. Palmer

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Novel for ages 12 up.


Δελτιον Βιβλιογράφων τῆς Ελληνικῆς Γλώσσης διὰ τὸ έτος 1973 = Bibliographical Bulletin of the Greek Language for the year 1973 / ἐκδόθηκεν ὑπὸ Γεωργίου Μπαμπάδου [edited by George Babiniotis]. – Athens: Department of Linguistics of the University of Athens, 1974. – 67 p. – (Orders should be addressed to A. Kardamitsa, “Institut du livre,” Hippokratous 8, Athens 143, Greece e. $10.00.)

This bibliography concerns the Greek language exclusively. It refers to all the periods of the history of the Greek language, Pre-Greek, Proto-Greek, Mycenaean Greek, Ancient Greek, Byzantine Greek and Modern Greek, as well as to the relationship of Greek to other languages during all these periods. The bibliographical information is classified by subject in 20 categories: General (Bibliography, Collected works, Congresses—Proceedings, Festschriften), Dialectology, Epigraphy—Papyrology, Etymology, Grammar, Graphemics (Writing—Spelling—Transcription), Greek language teaching, Historical—General Linguistics. "The language question," Lexicography, Literary languages, Morphology, Onomastics, Phonetics—Phonology—Morphophonology, Prosody—Metrics, Semantics, Stylistics, Syntax and Varia."


Schliemann’s Troy—One Hundred Years After / M. I. Finley. – PBA 60 (1974)


May 3, 1975, at the University Museum, Philadelphia. Among the papers read were: Homer Thompson, "The Tomb of Clytemnestra Revisited," and Hans Gütterbock, "Seals and Sealings in Hittite Lands."  
Huellla de h (procedente de s) en la Iliada y el origen de la Epica / José Vara.


CLIPPINGS


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

I wish to draw the attention of Nestor's readers to the fact that the existence of COSMONAUTS is attested for the fifth century B. C. at the latest, in Hdt. III. 22. 2

εγι και ἄκους πεποιημένου. ἔποιησαν δὲ τῶν Ἰακτοφάγων τὴν ἀληθείαν περὶ τῆς πορφύρης καὶ τῆς βασιλείας, δολεροὺς μὲν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἐφι εἰσαί, δολερὰ δὲ αὐτῶν τὰ εἰματα. 2 δευτέρα δὲ τῶν χρυσῶν εἰρωτα, τῶν στρεπτῶν τῶν περιμυχένων καὶ τὰ ψέλα. ἐξεγερμένων δὲ τῶν Ἰακτοφάγων τῶν κόσμων αὐτῶν γελάσας ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ νομίσας εἰναὶ σφεκ τέλος εἶπε· ἀφ' ἑν' ἑκτούς εἰς ἐνομικὰ μελετήσατα τοῖς τετρά

Their number is, however, unknown, since the readings vary for sg. or pl.

Haim B. Rosen