

COMMUNICATIONS

Papers to be presented at the Conference, "Classical Mythology and its Uses," State University of New York at Albany, April 22-23, 1977, included: Hans A. Pohlsander, "The Myth of Troy: Structural analysis of myth as an instrument of historical criticism." John Peradotto, "Oedipus, Erichthonius, and the problem of autochthony." John C. Overbeck, "Kea and the Cyclades: legend and archaeology." Sterling Dow, "Theseus and the Minotaur."

WORK IN PROGRESS

A. Rousseau-Liessens, "Ulysse contre Vents et Marées," a work of vulgarization based on her "Géographie de l'Odyssée," and "Du nouveau à propos de Troie et de la Guerre de Troie," a note.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - Minoan Measures. The suggestion made by Jon C. van Leuven (Nestor 1116) that the main unit of liquid capacity at Hagia Triada corresponds to a cubic ('Pylia') foot is too apt not to be accepted. However, it seems less likely that the khoinix would correspond to a cylindrical vessel of 1/3 foot wide and high as, in that case, the ratio to the metretes would be 1 : 34.4 only, not 1 : 36. Moreover, the khoinix belongs to the system for dry capacity. Instead, I would like to suggest that the HT medimnos of 120 khoinikes corresponds to a cubic cubit which would set the cubit at 47.62 cm, a value very close to the classic cubit of 47.57 cm. As the foot is two-thirds of the cubit (cf. Sir William C. Flinders Petrie, Enc. Brit. 23, 488 H), the former may be set at 31.746 cm and the cubic thereof or metretes at 31.996 liters or 35.557 khoinikes of 0.9 liters. It might well be that, subsequently, a ratio of 1 : 36 had been established for the sake of convenience, or that the small difference did not necessitate the introduction of different symbols (cf. Docs.² 55).

A foot of 31.746 cm corresponds to the classic Greek foot of an average of 31.71 cm (from 31.47 at Aigina to 32.05 at Olympia). The startling aspect hereof is to find such a foot—including that of Pylos of 31.88 cm—as the basis of capacity units at Hagia Triada, as the Minoan foot is definitely larger by ca 0.8 cm, suggesting that such capacity units were imported from the mainland!

As to the Zakros pithos, if it held 518.4 liters or 576 khoinikes, the figure of 22 would point to a unit of 27 khoinikes (= 3/4 Minoan metretes) and that of 32 to one of 18 khoinikes (= 1/2 such metretes). As the khlareus of PY Fr 1184 measured 15 khoinikes (= 1/2 Mycenaean metretes), a capacity of 18 khoinikes is indicated for the khlareus of Zakros, all Mycenaean measures being 5/6 of the Minoan precursors.

Divonne les bains, France
23 March 1977

Yours, &c.
Daniel A. Was

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