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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to Nestor, Volume 5. It is clear from your enthusiastic response (for which we are most grateful) to the questionnaire sent out with the September issue that Nestor has made an important contribution to our field and therefore must be kept alive. We are happy to assume this responsibility and wish to take this opportunity to thank Emmett Bennett for the original idea and the twenty long years of care which he has devoted to Nestor. We only hope that we are able to maintain the scope, high standards, promptness and thoroughness of coverage which have characterized the pages of Nestor up to now.

It seems appropriate at this time to share some of the results of your responses to the questionnaire. They have been of great value and guidance to us in planning the future of Nestor. As you can see from this first issue, we have decided not to divide the bibliographical entries into categories apart from the isolation of reviews. We do expect, however, to have annual author and subject indexes at the end of each volume. Since Professor Bennett wished us to retain the established pagination, we have begun Volume 5 with page 1201. This volume and all subsequent volumes (each to be for a calendar year) will preserve a continuous pagination. You will also note that we are maintaining the "Work in Progress" section which the vast majority of you agreed has been a valuable part of Nestor. We have decided to modify slightly the "Correspondence" section, which will henceforth be known as the "Forum." Readers' correspondence on the subjects of Aegean scripts, linguistics, archaeology and related matters will continue to be welcome, but space is of course limited. Concise communications which are not overly technical and are concerned with topics of interest to a broad spectrum of Nestor readers stand the best chance of being printed. We must reserve the right to select and edit letters as necessary. We hope that this section will facilitate the informal exchange of news, ideas and opinions among a wide range of Aegean specialists. At the same time, since most of you have not objected to reducing the number of issues per year, we have decided to omit the June, July and August mailings. This means that you will receive only nine issues per year; please understand, however, that this will have no effect on the thoroughness of our coverage. Note also that, in response to widespread indifference on the subject, we have chosen not to punch holes in each page. We hope that you will not find these and other minor changes distracting, and we will of course continue to welcome your observations about format at any time.

Another matter deserves mention at this time. We were pleased to learn that nearly all of you are willing to pay a modest subscription rate for Nestor. Nevertheless, we have decided that it would be inappropriate to begin that procedure at once. Therefore it is our intention to charge \$2.50 per volume beginning with Volume 6 (1979). We

hope that the anticipated income will be enough to keep us afloat. Institutional subscriptions will continue to be \$5.00 per year. We wish to express our appreciation to Indiana University for providing support for this transitional year.

Finally, we would like to recognize and express our appreciation for the considerable help we are getting with the problems of transferring Nestor from Wisconsin to Indiana. Mr. J.M. Wickens and Mr. D.J. Pullen of our Program in Classical Archaeology are serving as Assistant Editor and Editorial Assistant, respectively, for the current academic year, and Ms. Mary Pat Lynch will be typing the manuscripts. It should be clear to you that we expect the production of Nestor to be a "team" effort and toward that end we have asked for and have received the help of a number of experts in the broad field of Aegean studies, the names of whom are listed below. They have agreed to keep us advised of items of interest in their fields and geographical areas, and we look forward to their continued assistance and guidance.

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

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Professor Henri Van Effenterre, Centre Glotz, The Sorbonne, Paris

A final note. With the transfer of Nestor, the old mailing list had to be edited to conform to our equipment's capabilities. As a result, some addresses may have been shortened so as to be incorrect. Please let us know if your address is incorrect in any way and always include your postal zone (ZIP) code when corresponding with us in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is with very great regret that we learned of the recent untimely death of Demetrios R. Theochares, Professor of Art History at the University of Thessaloniki. Professor Theochares was the excavator of

Sesklo and author of numerous publications on Greek prehistory including the important volume, Neolithic Greece, published in Athens in 1973. A tribute to Professor Theochares by some of his friends and colleagues was held at the National Museum in Athens on December 14, 1977.

Announcement of annual grants from the Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton Foundation: The purpose of this Foundation is to promote the advancement of education and learning by furthering the study of archaeology, architecture, history, language and art of the Mediterranean. This is to be interpreted as pertaining to cultures related to the Mediterranean, but without geographical limitations.

Annual grants will be made for:

- (1) A Fellow engaged in research work (ranging from Senior Students to Dons on Sabbatical leave), the result of whose work is to be published. The grant is for £1500 which has to include expenses or travel, photography, drawing, etc.
- (2) A grant of £500 is available towards the publication costs of work already finished or due for publication in the immediate future.

Applications for 1978-1979 should be made by March 31, 1978 to the Honorary Secretary. Selections will be made during May and the award for (1) will be paid quarterly starting September 1, 1978.

For (1) above, an outline of the proposed subject should be submitted, together with the names of two referees of academic level (other than for applications from Senior Dons), who support the project. For (2) above, a brief account of the subject of the publication, and where it is hoped that it will be published, should be given.

These applications will be presented to the Trustees of the Foundation, but, in the first case, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary.

The Trustees,
Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton Foundation,
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Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton,
Via Tevere Residence,
Via Isonzo, 32,
00198 Roma,
Italy.
(Hon. Secretary)

Recent public lectures in Athens: George Mylonas, "Mycenaean Religion" (in Greek), at the Greek Archaeological Society, November 23, 1977; Paul Åström, "Swedish Excavations at Hala Sultan Tekke," at the Philosophical School, University of Athens, November 28, 1977; Reynold Higgins, "The Aegina Treasure Reconsidered," seminar at the British School of Archaeology, December 5, 1977; Christos Doumas, "Excavations on Thera" (in Greek), at the National Museum, December 7, 1977; William Cavanaugh, "Secondary Burials (i.e. funerals) in Mycenaean Tombs," seminar at the British School of Archaeology, December 12, 1977.

Some of the readers of Nestor will surely be interested to know that papers read at the XXIII Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale held in Birmingham, England in 1976 have been published in the spring

and autumn issues of Iraq 29 (1977). These papers are on the general subject of trade and include contributions such as "The Importance of Trade" (W.F. Leemans), "The Copper Ox-Hide Ingots and the Bronze Age Metal Trade" (J.D. Muhly), "An Ugaritic Letter to Amenophis III Concerning Trade with Alasiya" (E. Lipinski), to name only a few titles. The British School of Archaeology in Iraq reports that these papers are also available as a separate volume under the title Trade in the Ancient Near East (British School of Archaeology in Iraq Publications: 1977. 231p. £10.00, U.S.\$20.00).

FORUM

To the Editors:

An essential correction to my letter of 30 Sept. 1977 (Nestor 1167-8): as van Leuven has correctly pointed out in a personal communication, Chadwick (Nestor 923) did NOT speak of 28.8 kg/liter; he mentioned a volume of 28.8 liters. Only if based upon the mass of fresh water would this unit of volume have weighed 1 kg/liter. I was too fast in making (false) conclusions.

On another matter: If we accept the Minoan foot calculated by Graham as the standard unit of length, and if the pithos from Zakros did indeed contain 32 units of a certain capacity, which is likely (see Platon, Inscribed Tablets etc., p. 82), then the volume of the latter lay somewhere between 15.46 and 19.29 dm³. If we divide Graham's foot into 12 inches (on analogy, for instance, with the English system), the cube of 10 Minoan inches, or 5/6 of the foot, would thus contain ca. 16.2 dm³. Multiplying this theoretical unit by 32 yields a capacity of ca. 518.4 dm³ for the large pithos (see van Leuven, Nestor 1116), well within the calculated limits of 556 dm³ \pm 11%, the capacity of that vessel.

This is, admittedly, just another hypothesis. The question is: Who is going to make up his mind to search for fractions of the Minoan foot?

Wesendorfer Str. 6
D-1000 Berlin 26
Germany

Yours, &c.
Anton Boskamp
14 Nov. 1977

To the Editors:

Further to my note on Minoan measures (Nestor 1139), I would like to add some comments with respect to the cadastral units. Duhoux (Kadmos 1974:27-38) established the DA unit at approximately 48 ares. Such an area required 90 khoinikes (of 0.9 liters) of wheatseed and an aroura, 50 such units (Kadmos 1977:26-35), or one talent (Kadmos 1973: 134-48). The Egyptian aroura measured 100 "royal" cubits square and is given as 2735 m² by Gardiner (Egyptian Grammar:200) and, for the Greek equivalent, as 2756 m² by Chantraine (Kleine Pauly II [1968]: 559), the respective sizes of the "royal" cubits being 52.3 and 52.5 cm. Using these values, the DA unit would measure 49.23 and 49.61 ares respectively, close to the value proposed by Duhoux. With a size of ca. 52.4 cm. (Petrie, Enc. Brit. 23:488H) the DA is found at 49.38 ares.

The HT cubit basic to the capacity of the Minoan medimnos measured only 47.62 cm. (close to the classic units), but would give a DA of 40.62 ares only. It follows that both the Minoan and the Mycenaean civilizations used two kinds of measures, the "royal" cubit, 10% larger, and the common cubit which, if 1 1/2 feet discloses the latter, as ca. 31.75 cm. It should be appreciated that the latter is not evidenced but merely taken, on the classic pattern, as 2/3 of the common cubit. Likely the Pylos foot of 31.88 cm. was used instead, as the cubic there- of corresponds to the HT metreteres.

The various cadastral units evidenced were:

One Minoan medimnos of seed	= 2.4 aroura	= 24000 square "royal" cubits
" Mycenaean "	" " " = 2 "	" " " = 20000 " " "
" DA "	" " " = 1.8 "	" " " = 18000 " " "
" aroura		= 10000 " " "

Very significantly, at Pylos, small plots were measured in multiples of 1/18 DA, or in units of 1000 square "royal" cubits. In addition, there were very small plots of 1/54 DA or twice that size. The first corresponds to an area of 30 feet square (Pylos foot of 31.88 cm.), which would set the "royal" cubit at ca. 52.38 cm., exactly 10% larger than the common cubit. The DA would, on that basis, measure 49.39 ares, the aroura 27.44 ares.

Resuming, there appear to have been the following standard measures:

The "royal" cubit	= 52.38 cm.	= 1.1 common cubit
the common cubit	= 47.62 cm.	
the Pylos foot	= 31.88 cm.	
the building foot	= ca. 32.6 cm.	
the metreteres	= one cubic Pylos foot	= 32.4 liters
the medimnos	= one cubic common cubit	= 108 liters
the aroura	= 100 "royal" cubits square	= 27.44 ares
the DA	= 1.8 aroura	

The Mycenaean units of capacity were 5/6 of the Minoan values.

"Les Clarines"
Mourex, 01220 Divonne-les-Bains
France

Yours, &c.
Daniel A. Was
21 Nov. 1977

WORK IN PROGRESS

Dissertations in progress: Barbara J. Hayden, "Cretan Architecture, LM IIIA-Archaic" (University of Pennsylvania); John C. McEnroe, "Minoan House and Town Arrangement" (University of Toronto); Curtis N. Runnels, "A Diachronic Study of the Human Utilization of Certain Volcanic Rocks in the Argolid, Greece" (Indiana University); Lauren E. Talalay, "Anthropomorphic and Zoomorphic Figures in Central and Southern Greece during Neolithic Times" (Indiana University); Jere M. Wickens, "Human Use of Caves in Attica and the Megarid, Greece, from Prehistoric through Byzantine Times" (Indiana University).

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