

COMMUNICATIONS

It is with very great regret that we must announce the untimely death of Vladimir Milojčić (7 Feb 1918 - 19 Feb 1978), Professor of Ur- and Frühgeschichte at the University of Heidelberg since 1955. Born in Zagreb, Professor Milojčić studied prehistory, classical archaeology and ancient history, receiving his Ph.D. with honors from the University of Vienna in 1944. Most of his research concentrated upon the early periods of Greece, especially Thessaly, and of Southeastern Europe, but he was also active in the field of early medieval archaeology.

Recent public lectures in Athens: Gösta Säflund, "Plain Ware Kylikes at Ano Englianos," at the Swedish Institute, February 3; Open Meeting at the British School with Christopher Mee, Assistant Director, reporting on the work of the School in 1976-1977: Ayios Stephanos (Myc. apsidal building), Assiros, Macedonia (imported and local Myc. III B and C pottery), Menelaion (Myc. pottery), Phylakopi (Myc. shrines with male and female terracotta statuettes and bronze Resef figurine; complex destroyed ca. 1120 and site abandoned ca. 1090 B. C.); Mrs. Glynis Jones, "Seeds and Weeds," seminar at British School, February 13 (carbonized plant remains from Assiros).

Mycenaean Seminar, Institute of Classical Studies, London: R. A. Higgins, "Aegina Treasure," January 18; Gordon Hillman, "Mycenaean Grain," February 8; J. H. Crouwel, "Mycenaean Chariots," March 15; C. Podzuweit, "Recent Excavations at Tiryns," May 10.

FORUM

To the Editors:

During a recent visit to Crete I had the opportunity to inspect the inscription of the famous wine pithos from Zakros (see Nestor:921) in the Archaeological Museum, Herakleion. The uncertainty about the amount of units of volume (i.e., 22 or 32) which had been puzzling me (and certainly others) while studying the photo in Platon-Brice, Inscribed Tablets... (p. 82) has now vanished. In my opinion the Minoan scribe wrote 22 units as the capacity of the pot; the confusion in the "tens" group obviously was caused by a piece of grit in the wall of the vessel. As I have not been permitted to measure this pithos or the others from Zakros which appear to be approximately the same size, I cannot present any fresh calculations. Stronk (Nestor:922) calculated the capacity of the inscribed pithos at 556 liters \pm 11%. The volume of 22 cubic Minoan feet based upon Graham's calculated foot length of 30.36 cm is 615.64 dm^3 , which falls within the margin allowed by Stronk (556 \pm 10.73%).

I cannot concur with another Nestor reader that "...the important point is not what kind of foot was used to create a cubic foot unit of volume, but the plain fact (if it can be proven) that SOME kind of foot (or feet) was so used."

In my opinion one single foot MUST have been the basis for the whole system. At present I am investigating the possibility -- with some quite interesting and encouraging prospects -- that the entire system of Minoan weights and measures was based on the Minoan foot calculated by Graham. I invite those interested to correspond with me on this matter.

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Yours, &c.
Anton Boskamp
22 March 1978

WORK IN PROGRESS

David Frankel, British Museum, "Catalogue of Early and Middle Cypriot Bronze Age Material in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford;" Halford W. Haskell, "The Coarse Ware Stirrup Jars of Crete and the Cyclades" (dissertation, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); James C. Wright, "Mycenaean Masonry and Elements of Construction" (dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, March 1978, copy on file at American School in Athens and Bryn Mawr).

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