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COMMUNICATIONS

The schedule for this year's Mycenaean Seminars at the Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, is as follows: J.G. Younger, "The Mycenae-Vapheio Lion Master", October 11; R.S. Merrillees, "An essay in provenance: the Late Minoan IB pottery from Egypt", November 15; J.D. Muhly, "Possible sources of tin for the Bronze Age Aegean", December 6; M.S.F. Hood and Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop, "Dating Troy II", January 17; J.T. Killen, "The linear B tablets and economic history: some problems", February 21; A.C. Renfrew, "Phylakopi and questions of Mycenaean cult", March 21; Emilia Masson, title to be announced, May 16 (to be confirmed).

The Temple University Aegean Symposium 4 will be held on Friday, March 2, 1979, in Walk Auditorium, Ritter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia. The theme will be "Gournia, Crete - the 75th Anniversary of the Excavations." For more information write to P.P. Betancourt, Department of Art History, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., 19122, U.S.A.

News items from Athens (Ta Nea): 1) excavations by Mrs. Evangelia Deïlaki at Dendra in the Argolid have produced two groups of interesting finds: a) a group of four well preserved horse skeletons near Mycenaean tombs but which are thought to pre-date those tombs, and b) in the same general vicinity, traces of what is said to be a Neolithic settlement of small pit-huts without evidence of pottery (9 July); 2) more discoveries in the L.M. (1400-1250 B.C.) cemetery at Armenoi, near Rethymnon in Crete. Some 120 tombs have already been opened by I. Tzedakis and more are expected upon further excavation (24 August); and 3) a treasure of 24 pieces of jewelry of gold and precious stones was uncovered in the district of Aliki, near Larnaka in Cyprus. It has been dated to about 1500 B.C. (1 September).

FORUM

To the Editors:

As the person in charge of the storage of material from and the sizable archives of a major site, I have become gradually more disturbed by the prevailing situation regarding scientific sampling and I would like to raise the issue for discussion among the readers of Nestor.

It has been the standard policy of the Mycenae excavation to allow samples for analysis to any reputable project which gained the necessary permission from the Greek Archaeological Service. Our three provisos have been that we make the arrangements for the collection of the samples, that we issue their documentation, and that we are informed of the results

of the work done (the same conditions have also been applied to units of material allowed to other scholars for inclusion in theses, etc.).

Unfortunately various snags have occurred on the sampling side. First: "Backdoor" access has been gained to the storerooms. This has resulted both in loss of material (e.g., several inscribed Linear B stirrup jar sherds have been misplaced and cannot now be found), and in totally erroneous documentation (e.g., one of Perlman's LHI-II samples (The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean, pg. 214) is, in fact, EHIII). Secondly: The name of the site is being used with apparent authority for samples which do not meet the strict rules of collection. Until summer 1978, NO sherds from Mycenae, stratified or not, have ever been taken for testing with the permission and cooperation of those currently working on the material. In general, surface sherds in museum or study collections have been used and have been dated and authenticated by widely differing authorities. Thirdly: The multiplicity of sampling programs is beginning to put a heavy administrative burden on those who are asked to supply suitably documented samples.

I understand that some discussion of the problems of sampling programs from the point of view of the scientist took place during the Thera Conference this past summer. I myself would like to see at the very least a central register of such programs so that duplication can be avoided, and information pooled.

I would welcome any other ideas or comments.

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Yours, &c.
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WORK IN PROGRESS

Dan E. McCaslin, "Stone Anchors in Antiquity: Late Bronze Age Trade and Maritime Trade-Routes in the Eastern Mediterranean" (University of California at Santa Barbara, dissertation).

From "Works in Progress" in the Agricultural History Review 26:2 (1978) pp. 115f.: J.I.G. Csizmarik, "Diffusion of Barley and Similar Crops in Prehistoric Times"; B. Noddle, "Analysis of Domestic Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites of All Periods, with Emphasis upon Sheep."

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