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FROM THE EDITORS

We would like to remind you that subscriptions for Volume 7 of Nestor are past due for our American subscribers (as of Dec. 1). Subscriptions from readers in other countries are due March 1, 1980.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Department of Art History, Temple University, has announced the Temple University Aegean Symposium 5, "Minoan Foreign Relations at the Beginning of the Late Bronze Age." Papers will be given by W.W. Cummer, Susan Petrakis, Emily Vermeule, James Muhly, Hartmut Matthäus, Hans-Günter Buchholz and Reed Phythian.

The sessions will be held between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, February 29, 1980 at Walk Auditorium, Ritter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

FORUM

To the Editors:

MA+RU and mallos

I was interested to read L.R. Palmer's proposal (Nestor, 1338-39, Feb. 1979) that the newly-discovered Mycenaean god ma-ri-ne-u, to be normalized Mallineus, derives his name from a substantivized material adjective in -ino- from mallos, 'flock of wool'; Mallineus is therefore the 'God of Woolens'.

This insight, which I believe to be correct, led me to wonder if mallos might not be connected with the Linear B ideogram for wool, transcribed as is usual with the Latin word in capitals: LANA. This sign appears to be a ligature of ma+ro, ma+re, or ma+ru, and though Emmett Bennett has rejected it (Acta Mycenaea Salamanca; Minos 1970: 57-60), there is reason to believe that the Linear A ligature Lc46= MA+RU is also LANA and is therefore the ancestor of the Linear B ideogram (cf. D. Packard, Linear A, p. 60). If Bennett is right, the Linear B sign could go back to ma+ro for mallos, just as the ideogram for honey is me+ri for meli. If, however, Packard is correct, then the word must be Minoan, the ideogram having been borrowed by Linear B, and the word itself by the Greek language. The Greek language preserved the word even after it ceased to be written in Linear B, and it is found in classical authors. Since the IE cognates of the word mallos are dubious, there is no obstacle in attributing mallos to the "Aegean substratum". If Minoan turns out to be IE, then these comparisons may after all be valid.

Center for Hellenic Studies
3100 Whitehaven St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Yours, &c.
Jon-Christian Billigmeier
November 16, 1979

WORK IN PROGRESS

Dr. Peter G. van Soesbergen of the Department of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, University of Sheffield, reports the preparation of a monograph, entitled The Onomastics of the "Minoan Linear A" and "Linear B" Documents and their Historical Significance.

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REVIEWS

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