

Nestor

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COMMUNICATIONS

Note from the Editors

The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute is now distributing *SIMA* Vol. LXXIV:2 (S. Swiny *The Kent State University Excavations at Episkopi-Phaneromeni*), *SIMA* Vol. LXXXI:6 (I. Todd *Excavations at Kalavassos-Tenta I*) and *SIMA* Vol. LXXVIII (M. Iakovou *The Pictorial Pottery of 11 c. BC Cyprus*) at 1/3 of their original price (20, 20 and 16 dollars respectively). Interested colleagues should send their orders to: CAARI, 41 King Paul St. Nicosia 136, Cyprus.

Past Conferences

The International Symposium on Archaeometry was held in Heidelberg, Germany on April 2-6, 1990. Presentations of interest to *Nestor* readers included: P. Mitropoulos, C. Sideris, A.P. Grimanis, M. Vassilaki-Grimani and S.E. Filippakis, "Provenance Studies of Ancient Flints from the Franchthi Cave in the Peloponnese, Greece: A Geochemical Approach"; G. Schneider, H. Knoll, C.J. Gallis and J.-P. Demoule, "Production and Distribution of Coarse and Fine Pottery in Neolithic Thessaly, Greece"; Y. Liritzis, L. Orphanidis-Georgiadis and N. Efstratiou, "Remarks on Cultural Contacts between Neolithic Sporades, Sesklo, Dimini: Trace Element Analysis and Archaeological Evidence"; B.E. Luedtke, "Rare Earth Element Patterns in Chert."

Past Lectures

Recently, the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory of the University of Texas at Austin sponsored the following lectures:

On March 29, 1990, Prof. John Coleman spoke on "Who Were the Cypriotes?". Prof. Coleman discussed the evidence for the composition of the population of Cyprus in the Early and Middle Bronze Ages. On the same day Dr. Vassos Karageorghis spoke on "Recent Developments in the Archaeology of Cyprus".

On April 2, 1990, Dr. Jan Driessen reported on his reexamination of archaeological, epigraphical, sphragistical and linguistic evidence for the Palace at Knossos in a lecture entitled "An Early Destruction of the Palace at Knossos".

Finally, on May 3, 1990, Prof. Barry Powell spoke on "The Greek Alphabet, Cyprus and the Levant". Prof. Powell's lecture was based on his forthcoming book on Homer and the origin of the alphabet. In it, he examines the evidence for the origin of the Greek alphabet and proposes an intimate connection between the features of oral epic verse and the peculiar advanced features of the Greek alphabetic writing system.

Forum

... *qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues*

Note from TGP aka and herein referred to as "the prosecutor" :

Readers of the February 1990 *Forum* and *Nestor* item §890700 will be disappointed to discover that this item is not a transcript of a trial of J. Faucounau aka the Monsieur. However, on pp. 121-133 and 147-156, can

be found criticism of the principles of his attempted decipherment of the Bronze Age inscriptions of Cyprus. The prosecutor tried in discussing the Monsieur's work to maintain courtesy and restraint, but he confesses to indulging in humor when it was warranted by the ridiculous. His office, those of jurors at the Madison "trial", and those of completely innocent third parties have since been flooded by serial appeals from the Monsieur. The prosecutor moves that the Nestor jury dismiss these appeals since the Monsieur has now confessed his crimes in writing. Here is a brief sample of the probative evidence from but one of the Monsieur's circulars:

February 13: "you [the prosecutor]...write...a paper without any value : Because you criticized a decipherment not on its results, but on its method. But...even a wrong approach can lead to correct results : If one wants to criticize, he must examine the results, not the method."

"Why presenting my statement that «Lukka kings knew about the Cypro-Minoan Script» without a word of explanation concerning the justification of this idea (two CM2-letters from Enkomi sent to Lukka kings)...?"

Stanislaw Jakobowski once read Linear B as Greek. In a pamphlet "Lecture de créto-micéniennes inscriptions linéaires B" (Krakow 1957), a xeroxed copy of which the prosecutor recently received from a senior accomplice, Mr. Jakobowski presented *inter alia* his "readings" of KN L 587, KN Sc 226 and PY Ta 641 (the famous "tripod tablet"). On the last he "read" the ideogram *202^{VAS} phonetically as KRATE and interpreted the sequence *ti-ri-po-de* (according to Ventris's values) as ΣΑΛΥ hiKO. He believed as fervently in the results of his "decipherment" as the Monsieur believes that his improbable reading of CM 2 tablets is incontrovertible proof that the Lukka kings knew Cypro-Minoan. Jakobowski's results are patently silly, his methods completely unacceptable. We know both because we are dealing here with a deciphered script. Only Monsieur Faucounau believes that he has obtained the one true reading of the CM 2 tablets. And he believes this with a religious zeal that in and of itself should raise suspicion. Consequently, he is not so concerned that his methods can be demonstrated to be flawed and unreliable. He "believes" in the results and they must be defended. And in a mysterious universe like ours controlled by chaos or heavenly powers, he just may turn out to be right! But until he can prove that his results were obtained by valid methods, he will work no conversions.

The prosecutor has learned a sober lesson: *de rebus religiosis silentia sapienti sat*. He hereby tenders his formal resignation.

The Ex-Prosecutor
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Errata

§900159 should read Ilievski, §900175 Messenia, §900177 Cemetery and §900198 Coming.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ISSUE

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