Dear John,

We got to Athens on Wednesday, after taking the "Miroules" to Venice on Sunday—it was pouring with rain there & rather cold. But after a rather tough first few hours (when most of a large party of Swiss tourists retired to their benches) it was very comfortable. After Kerkysa, we seemed to get into a proper Mediterranean climate, although a lot of local cargo, monks, chickens etc. got on board there.

Bennett is leaving Iraklion on Monday, so we flew over yesterday to see the Knossos stuff with him. We had supper with him & his wife out at their fairly primitive little house halfway out to Knossos. They've got their 4 children with them too, brave people. Ouzo, and pilaff, and retsina.

Bennett has been photographing all the Knossos pieces, & hope to polish them off this morning. Today he'll also see how the previous relics have come out. All being well, he'll then figure the best way of making copies available. (I think microfilm would be most handy, provided we can all get the occasional use of a projector.) He put the final number on all the pieces, you'll be glad to hear.

By my calculation, Bennett has been correcting the proof of Scripta Minus II (Linear A etc): it's in a fairly sorry state, as we anticipated. Whether his corrections will enable the things to come out of the printer as a useful tome, he rather doubts.

When I got to Athens, I found a letter from Blegen waiting for me, giving me permission to work on the Pylos tablets provided we kept them to us two. And yesterday I got Karouzos, the Museum chief, to let me into the basement (though there were slight doubts & delays due to it being Prince Constantine's name day & all the Kastelorizo off the realm on holiday).

At first glance, it was fairly clear that there are quite a lot of interesting tablets which Bennett didn't include in his letter—especially a set of 12 tablets of a new commodity series which are the only ones I've copied so far. They deal with 3 things, of which only the last has an ideogram. (Of the list of "tables, chairs, footstools" on the Alacalk tablets p 108-109):--

榍ench—届恨 dual "TABLE" ἰα = za! *tP-?
届缓 (mas) "CHAIR" ὑεπ = hesp (opposite)
届缓 (mas) 介_tweet plural "FOOTSTOOL"

ideogram *tP or *tP. Compare only Myc.Min. footstool. I can find, under the goddes on the Tresol signet, PM vol II p 395, 292. (Sorry, my mistake for

One of the best sentences of the series is 722, line 1:

"a footstool, decorated (?) with an ivory man, horse, octopus and phoenix"

I discovered last night that Bennett & Blegen had figured this all out for themselves.
These 12 tablets have quite a lot more useful vocabulary, but as I haven't been able to use a lexicon since seeing them, here's just a few words:

*ιναία* with *kynos* / *ιναία* (both feminine)
*νυμφία* / *ναυτική* (with *kynos*)
*καρπων* with the figure of a man
*κρατων* / *καρπων* (from *kynos*
*κρατων* with *kynos*
*κρατων* with figure of men and lions
*κρατων* / *κρατων* and with ones of *kynos*
*κρατων* / *κρατων* (haven't figured out the Greek yet)
*κρατων* / *κρατων* (hasten plural)
*κρατων* / *κρατων* and with golden bars

Proving that *Xylopos* is used as an adjective.

I saw Plato in the Museum this morning. He is writing a review of our article etc. for *Κοινωνία*. Very anxious to say how valuable our work is, but still rather skeptical about the results (though Bennett was there too & we presented a united front in thinking the language is Greek). I think there's a certain amount of patriotic feeling that our friends Buxton & Kostopoulos should have got there first — and also a rather laughable line of thought (which I could see Plato struggling with this morning) that because we English pronounce Greek in such a strange way we must be seriously handicapped in any investigation.

Maximov, on the other hand, is completely convinced. I met him on the boat & we had a talk over the rail. Plato has given me an offprint of an article by M., "Τώρα το Παράλληλον Μνημονιακού Κριτικού *Prosefs*": but I'm not quite sure where it's coming out.

Today was very sunny & warm, & we had lunch up by the Palace & looked around it. Workmen are doing some repairs to the pavement of the west court; otherwise the above-ground portions of architecture look as unassuming as ever. Better is to sit down among the more decently ruined parts & listen to the buzz of insects, watch the crickets jumping, & dissociate oneself from the inaccurate lecture being given in thick English to bands of Norwegians or Americans.

I shall be going back to Athens on Monday, if Bennett too. So I'm leaving highpowered discussions till then, and letting them get on with their packing. But I've given him the draft of the "conventions" suggested by Buxton & Parmaksy.

I'm copying the Pylos Tablets now in accordance with the "transcription" there given. I shall also try to copy in the same way the unpublished Knossos fragments from Bennett's notes, so that London University's card index can be brought complete. I should also really recopy all Bennett readings of the published texts, but I doubt if I'll have time: perhaps I'll concentrate on the ones he joined, which are now very numerous.

F [handwritten]

Michaello