

7. IV. 55

Dear Michael,

Sorry to have been so long with this, but I have had a deal to do as you will see, and in addition have lost a day through a minor illness. I had a very pleasant time in Crete staying at the Taverna — very pleasant, should like to spend a month or two there — and working in the Museum. Access to the tablets was not so easy as here; I could not have them all out at once, and had to examine those on exhibition in their glass cases, but I think I have done a fair job and overlooked none of the tablets for the book (i.e. silence on them in the notes means confirmation of the reading). I copied as well a large number of tablets joined by Bennett, especially where he had added unpublished fragments. I didn't try to check every single tablet; that would have taken far too long. You will see a good many new readings, but most of them are already in the Index. I'm sorry about Se 1006 as it is going to upset our theorizing about -qs; though the tablet still remains isolated. On the whole I am again impressed by the excellent work Bennett has done.

I had several long talks with Platon and think I have made some impression on him; in particular the affair of Ca 895 shook him. He told me that there were some trays full of rotted and crumbling tablets which had become exposed to the weather as a result of broken windows during the war; and Bennett evidently never saw these. They were thick in dust, and many have crumbled completely to a coarse red sand; some fall to pieces at the slightest touch (and were illegible anyway); but a great number are reasonably sound and well preserved. They are of course like the 5000 series only tiny fragments, many of them a mere sign or two or a numeral or merely blank ends. But I picked out any that looked large enough to contain a whole word, and in some cases was able to make joins — 2 or 3 tablets I completely resuscitated from these trays. The important thing is that these fragments will doubtless help to complete the published ones — but I couldn't start to tackle the job of looking for joins; it would take a month at the very least to clean and sort up everything and get all the other tablets re-sorted by categories so as to give you



