

0808 Louisa 52 Iraklion.
Saturday 22 May.
MORNING

Dear John,

We got to Athens on Wednesday, after taking the "Miaoulis" at 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 bunks) it was very comfortable. After Kerkyra 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 half way 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, & hopes to polish them off this morning. Today he'll also see how the previous reels 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's put red final numbers on all the pieces, you'll be glad to hear.

By my mediation, Bennett has been correcting the proof of Scripta Minoea III (Linear A etc): it's in a fairly sorry state, as we anticipated. Whether his corrections will enable the thing to come out of the printers 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 Kostas's of the realm on holiday).

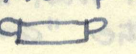
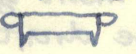
At first glance, it was fairly clear that there are quite a lot of interesting tablets which Bennett didn't include in his letter. — Especially a set of 12 tablets of a new commodity series, which are the only ones I've copied so far. They deal with 3 things, of which only the last has an ideogram. (Cf the lists of "tables, chairs, & footstools" on the Alalakh tablets

pp 108-109.) :-

F E ♀ (fem) sing — F E ♂ dual "TABLE" ♀ = za ! *tꞑp- ?

F ♀ (masc) "CHAIR" Δερος ? cf Δερος Διονυσίου Ησχ (αγρ+λαε)

□ L L : 1 (masc) sing — □ L L : 2 plural "FOOTSTOOL"

ideogram  or . Compare the only Myc/Min.

footstool I can find, under the goddess on the Tiryns

signet, PM vol IV ** p 385-393, sorry, my mistake for ☺

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

□ L L : 1 . Ἰ Ἰ Ἰ Ἰ Ἰ . Ἀ ὕ τ τ ἰ ἰ ἰ ἰ ἰ . Ἰ Ἰ Ἰ Ἰ ἰ ἰ ἰ ἰ . ὕ ἰ ἰ ἰ ☺ . ἰ ὕ ἰ ἰ ☺ . ἰ ὕ ἰ ἰ ☺ ἰ ἰ ἰ ἰ

"1 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 ~~the~~ since seeing them, here's just a few words: ~


☉, 𐀓, 𐀔 "with kyanos" ☉, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕 / ☉, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕 (both feminine)

𐀕, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕 "and with the figure of a man" "inlaid" ??

☉, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕, 𐀖, 𐀗 "with lions' heads" ← 𐀖 with consonant & -α stems, not -os stems!

𐀕, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕, 𐀖, 𐀗, 𐀘 "with figures of men and lions"

𐀕, 𐀓, 𐀔 "when" ☉, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕 "and with ones of kyanos"

☉, 𐀓, 𐀔 "ewer" (sing.)  (haven't figure out the Greek yet)

𐀕, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕 "bull's head" or "milk" ?

𐀕, 𐀓 "feet" (instr. plural)

☉, 𐀓, 𐀔, 𐀕, 𐀖, 𐀗 "and with golden bars (?)"
of Knossos K434.2

Proving that χρυσός is used as an adjective. χρυσοῦν ἀνὰ γέφυρῳ

I saw Platon in the Museum this morning. He is writing a review of our article etc. for ~~the~~ Κρητικά Χρονικά. 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 Bufidis & Ktistopoulos should have got there first — and also a rather laughable line of thought (which I could see Platon struggling with this morning) that because we English pronounce Greek in such a strange way we must be seriously handicapped in any investigations!

Marinatos, on the other hand, is completely convinced.

I met him on the boat & we had a talk over the rail.

Platon has given me an offprint of an article by M., "Τὸ Πρώτον Φῶς ἐκ τῶν Μνημείων τῆς Κρητομυκηναϊκῆς Τραπέζης": 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 unconvincing as ever. Better is to sit down among the more decently ruined parts & listen to the buzz of insects, watch the crickets jumping, & disassociate oneself from the inaccurate lectures being given in thick English to bands of Norwegians or Americans.

I shall be going back to Athens on Monday, the Bennetts 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 Björck & Furumark.

I'm copying the Pylos Tablets ~~in~~ in accordance with the "transcription" there ~~page~~. 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's readings of the published texts, but I doubt if I'll have time: perhaps I'll concentrate on the ones he's joined, which are now very numerous

Γερά σου

Michael ~~Leahy~~