

Brooklyn College

BEDFORD AVENUE AND AVENUE H

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

ACADEMIC BUILDING

Sept. 18, 1947

Dear Franklin,

I sat down and answered your letter on the 15th, the day it arrived, but didn't mail it immediately, and opened it yesterday to add something. Now I'm rewriting the whole thing in the light of new information.

Myres wrote in a letter that came yesterday, --well, I'll quote: "I have been rewriting my chapter on Cypro-Minoan in the light of Daniel's article in AJA/1941, which I somehow overlooked when it came out. I think it would be quite worth while to apply his equations to the sample of Minoan sign groups, and see how the phonetic equivalents look."

I knew he couldn't have seen your article and ~~written~~ write as he did. When I asked him, he said he had seen it--but was referring to your earlier reports on Kourion. Maybe he will be able to get some equivalents by checking Minoan sign groups and your equations--that was the first thing I did when I finished my first analysis of Linear B--but I had no results.

The other thing in the letter is, for me, bad news. Myres expects I will go to Greece in February. It's bad news, because I haven't the money, and the best Brooklyn College can do is give me six months' leave without pay. Six months is ample time for me and mother to starve to death, since I've spent all my money this last year. I've been counting on the slowness of the Greeks, which would postpone the trip till the summer. Then, with a year's salary under my belt, and pay continuing, I could go to Greece under my own steam. Six months mean very little to me, but of course, they mean a lot to Myres. Well, for once maybe the Greeks will be slow when it would be to my advantage.

Now for your letter.

When you say you can take articles as late as October--do you mean October 1? If so, I can't have it ready, because I still must revise my entire analysis of Linear Class A. I had analyzed it, but Carratelli's photographs necessitate so many changes, it's safer to do the whole thing over. I need the analysis, because I want to discuss the relationship of Linear A and B. It doesn't matter, really, when the article is published. It would fit into your Homeric number, and I'll try my best to have it ready. But not at the cost of leaving out anything important. I'll put the footnotes at the end, and put all characters into drawings. Another thing that may hold it (the article) up, is that I've asked Myres for permission to use his table of signs, and maybe some unpublished words. If he gives my permission, I'll send the article to him first for approval. The round-trip between England and the U.S. would take over a month. And I've only written the beginning as yet.

It's a good thing I was sitting down when I read your second paragraph. Imagine anybody thinking -inth- was worth \$700! I am deeply touched, and very flattered. As I said before, I don't care

whether it is published, but certainly don't have the right to hold it up if there is a chance. The entire Part III would have to be done over, as you say. I don't see anything -inthish about Minoan. It's really the worst thing to look for, when you consider the way Cypriote treats -n- before a consonant. But some things can be stated more clearly, and with greater certainty. Also, I'll have to make it clear that it is meant to be a study of how the words are used in Greek, and that the historical resume of modern theories ends in about 1938. I can't face the thought of checking all the nonsense written since then. It would take another year to do, and months to add--and the useful result would probably be nil.

In my present mood concerning finances, your worries about Sardis are properly appreciated. It would be a shame to have the idea go up in smoke because of money. My only solution would be to stop all scholarly work for six months, write a detective story and hope it would be a best-seller. Maybe I really should try.

I'll write to Sundwall that his idea about a "Minoan Institute" sounds interesting, and that I've mentioned it to you. You may be interested exactly what he says; I had quoted it in the earlier letter, and am attaching it here.

Apparently he is thinking only of material connected with the scripts, but it should really include archeological and other material eventually. Although at the beginning it may be only a small thing, it has infinite possibilities--which I think you fully realize. It will certainly include all Bronze Age finds, not only in Greece, but perhaps in parts of Asia Minor.

I do want to have a hand in its establishment--if it can be arranged. In many ways Philadelphia is an ideal place. It is close enough to New York, yet far enough away in case we ever are bombed (which I doubt for the present, but may happen). An "Institute" is really a combination of Museum and University.

Since the beginnings would be small, I should be "available" for assistance, at any rate week-ends and summers, if personal presence is necessary. You don't mean full time, do you? I have a job which, while far from ideal in many ways (for instance, when I need to go to Greece) does pay well. I don't intend to keep it all my life, but at present the kind of work I'd really like is open only to men. If you were thinking of somebody who would devote full time to it (always with all the ifs) how about Sundwall himself? He wrote me in his first letter that he is retiring (he'll be seventy this fall). He seems to be hale and hearty.

But count on me for everything that I can do, in the way of letters, influence, personal assistance, etc. etc. I think the Europeans would co-operate, once it has been started; they probably all feel as Sundwall does, that there should be a place in America where the things will be safer. Besides, it's about time Europeans were coming to America to study, as we go to Europe. Maybe even Blegen will cooperate, once the "Institute" is a fait accompli.

I do hate to think of it's going to Cincinnati though.

Can't think of anything I'd like better than being in charge of it myself, with you as boss. You're one of the few people I know who's willing to try something that sounds like a good idea, without insisting on a list of precedents first.

Well, there are still a lot of ifs in the situation.

I'll go back to that article now.

Alice

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"Übrigens möchte ich in diesem Zusammenhang Ihnen nahelegen, ob Sie nicht in Amerika dafür wirken könnten, dass dort eine Zentralstelle für minoische Schriftforschung errichtet werden könnte, etwa wie die Chicago Universität eine solche für orientalische Fragen hat. Sie sind ja die führende Forscherin in Amerika auf diesem Gebiet. Es muss irgendwo, an sicherem Ort, eine Forschungsstelle für dieses wichtige Gebiet angelegt werden, wo die gesammte Literatur und photographische Reproduktionen der Texte und schriftliche Aufzeichnungen und Mitteilungen deponiert und studiert werden können. Es muss "weit vom Schuss" liegen, Europa ist kein sicheres Platz mehr dafür."

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