

Brooklyn College

BEDFORD AVENUE AND AVENUE H
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Sept. 22, 1947

ACADEMIC BUILDING

Dear Franklin:

When I came home after my first day in academic harness, I found your letter waiting for me, together with the October-December issue of AJA.

I read your letter first, then looked the issue over in order to get my breath and discovered it contained my review of Hrozny. Since I never have gotten over the thrill that comes from seeing my words in print, I read it. Considering some of the reviews on the same subject that I've read, that one is ferocious. Everybody seems to handle Hrozny with kid gloves. I suppose it's because nobody thinks a man with Hrozny's reputation could possibly be as stupid as he seems.

Well, I've gotten my second wind, so now to your letter.

The draft of the letter to the Executive Committee is enclosed. I have no alterations to suggest, and I guess I've said everything there is to be said about the monograph before. I seem to have gotten on to the good side of the horns of a dilemma. If it isn't published, I'll still have the satisfaction of knowing my work is appreciated, and none of the bother of proof-reading, etc.; if it is published, I'll have the satisfaction of seeing it in print. What more can I ask?

About the article--I hope it comes up to expectations, but I'm beginning to have my doubts. My typewriter seems to have taken the bit into its mouth (how's that for a mixed metaphor). At any rate, what has come out isn't at all what I expected. I'm now on page 15 of the first draft (which probably means p. 10 when I'm through revising). Here's a preview. The title is "Fact and Theory about the Minoan Scripts". Since I believe in definition, I started to define fact and theory. That led to a couple of paragraphs about the values of theory for locating and correlating pertinent facts, and the necessity of taking all facts into account, positive and negative. So far according to plan. Then my typewriter went off on a tangent of its own about the logical fallacies that make theories in this field invalid. I've been thinking a lot about Cypriote, and found myself explaining that one cannot prove a connection between Cypriote and Minoan without circular reasoning. Then apparently I remembered our interchange about undefined terms, because here I was, talking about "puns" in this sort of argument:

Indo-European is pre-Hellenic

Minoan is pre-Hellenic

therefore Minoan is Indo-European (Hrozny probably also had something to do with this), and the fallacy of the undistributed middle in

Etruscan is unknown

Minoan is unknown

therefore Minoan is Etruscan.

The treatise on logic comes to an end when I point out that using transcriptions and words quoted out of context, as well as sign lists based on unpublished material lays one wide open to the

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second-hand pieces of evidence
wide open to the "ad hominem" fallacy, if one considers these/facts.

Having finally gotten around to facts again, I then started to summarize the facts and theories connected with each of the individual scripts. So far I've only finished the Pictographic and the Phaistos Disk, There are four more to do.

I hope to finish by discussing the theories about the relationship of the various scripts, especially Linear A and B.

So far, there are only about five foot-notes, and all of these strictly bibliographical. It is possible that I won't need any illustrations. Is that good or bad? It isn't what I had in mind when I started. If you think I'm on the wrong track, just say so.

I'd like to print Myres' new sign list and urge scholars to agree on sign lists, so that we can all refer to signs by numbers instead of drawing them. I asked Myres for permission, but haven't heard from him. Our last two sets of letters crossed, and I suspect we're both waiting for the other one to write this time.

It seems from what Myres says in his last letter, that Lord ~~talked~~ had a talk with him about my trip; at any rate, I got a letter from Lord saying that the American School at Athens might be able to help. When the letter came, I didn't know what Lord meant; I thought he was referring to information and general advice, not money. The matter seems to be in Lord's hands, so I think I'll let it be. The whole situation is embarrassing, because I'll have enough money to finance a trip in the summer of 1948; the trouble is I'm short right now, and won't be able to save enough in the next five months to take care of Mother and go to Greece in February because I'd lose six months salary by going away then. Well, I'll wait and see what happens.

So the Minoan Institute is practically in the bag. Compared to you, a hurricane is just a gentle breeze--except that you're constructive. If you want lists of photographs, publications, etc., just let me know. I suspect nothing can be done about squeezes, impressions, etc., till I've gone to Crete, and SM II is out. Should I broach the subject to Myres, or wait till I see him personally after the expedition?

By the way, do you know if anything has been done with infra-red (or Ultra-violet) photography to bring out inscriptions on clay when the surface has been damaged? I know it can be done with metal, even when numbers, etc., have been filed away. The pressure of a stylus on clay isn't as strong, but then clay isn't as strong as metal either.

Dangling Professor Kent's shoes and the Institute in front of my nose like that, when all I'm teaching this term is Greek and Roman literature in Translation, and high-school level Vergil, is almost more than I can bear. I daren't say no, and I daren't say yes. I'm

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getting a big salary for a woman teacher. I don't know exactly what it is right now, what with cost of living bonuses and a revision of increments because of a law-suit with which I had nothing to do, but which benefits me. I know it's over 6,000, but can't say how much more, and if I get a promotion (which is overdue) mandatory annual increments will bring it up to \$7,000 or thereabouts eventually. Then there's tenure, and a pension that depends on staying in the city system.

I know enough about academic salaries for women to realize that financially I can't do better, at least for another ten years. All the same, if it weren't that I have Mother to consider, that wouldn't make any difference.

I had to promise to stay here at least a year when I got my leave, and if I have to ask again in February, will probably be expected to sign another such promise. So I can't do anything or say anything right now, except that you can certainly count on me to do everything possible for the Institute, and to try to do the impossible as well.

I'm going to write to Sundwall when I finish this letter, and tell him that his idea is already beginning to show signs of becoming a reality. He may have some more specific suggestions.

Your proposed trip to Sardis made me look over the Lydian inscriptions again. Did I tell you I had the luck to get hold of Buckler's Lydian Inscriptions? In leafing through it, I noticed two inscriptions that are more like Linear A than like Lydian.

#37 A 8

A is a Linear A sign

#39 λ I T

Buckler reads this ti ← but it could be Linear A or even Pictographic.

Maybe I'll find a use for them in my article.

Alice