47 Highpoint,
North Hill,
Highgate,
LONDON, N6.

February 22, 1949

Dear Dr. Kober,

        Thank you very much for your last letter.
Here I am taking up your time again, but it's not anything
requiring an answer - just a little paper which may be of
use or interest - though I've no doubt that you have already
the makings of a pretty good "A" index yourself.
        Of course the "transcript" has its limitations,
but it justifies itself, to me, by the fact that without it
I just wouldn't know where to start in getting out an analysis
of this kind. I'm very interested in your idea of classifying
the signs according to 'use' :- one difficulty is that I had
to get out some sort of order as a basis for doing the list
and analysis, and Myres' seemed the most handy foundation. I
have tried to break the function of the signs down to some
extent in the notes to the table of signs on the back cover.
But just how do you mean use:-

1) Whether the signs are 'syllabic' or 'ideographic' or both?
2) Whether they are frequent or infrequent?
3) Whether they are initial or final?

I'm with you on the first point, but it seems to me that to
arrange the "A" signs in a particular order in according to
(2) and (3) may land you in difficulties where the "B" equi-
valents are found to have divergent frequencies and positions.
        Having gone through Carratelli fairly carefully,
I feel fairly happy that the "A" signary is there in reasonable
order, but admittedly the B list probably still contains some
unnecessary details. If you ever have a spare moment, I'd be
glad to have a note on what you would advise striking out or
adding in, so that we can make the transcript more efficient.

        Yours sincerely,

        Michael Ventris

PS:-
    I'm enclosing 3 copies - I wonder if you'd mind passing
on one to Bennett as before and to anywhere else it might be
useful. -Sorry to trouble you: I should really bestir myself
to get on to B. direct.

    Incidentally, I shall probably give the problem a rest
for a bit now, so hurry up & decipher the thing for us!