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Dear Bennett,

Your index arrived this morning. It is an excellent piece of work, and I am most grateful to you for it. I had not realized that this version was to include the Pylos sign-groups with the Knossos sign-groups, but this makes it doubly useful.

On glancing through it, I notice that a number of the Evans/Myres forms which seemed suspicious have been suitably amended; though I expect that there will also be a few less welcome emendations, such as ones which knock the bottom out of little theories one had built up. I had already realized that 𐀓𐀓 - on the chariot tablets has to be divided off as a separate word, and that therefore no amount of ingenuity will connect together 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓-𐀓𐀓𐀓 as I tried to do in my last Note (p 170). If the theory which regards 𐀓 and 𐀓 as closely similar sounds is correct, then 𐀓𐀓 might I suppose be connected with the adverbial (?) 𐀓𐀓 of Jn04.7. (- and 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 with 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 ???).

I am baffled by the last sign of 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓 on the Chariot tablets. I had hoped that checking of the tablets would have revealed a clear choice of -𐀓 or of -𐀓 throughout these cases. For the tidiness of the grammatical forms, -𐀓 would be very much more welcome, but if -𐀓 is certain we shall have to try and fit it in. I note you give 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 (04.22) but 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 (04.02 etc), but both 𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓. Your criterion is, I expect, whether the sign has one or two horizontal strokes above the "crook". Is it your opinion that there really is a deliberate distinction here, or that all Kober's "verbal" forms in fact are only badly-written -𐀓 s? In your list of rejected sign-groups, a mistake has I think crept in in 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓, which in Myres' reference to 04.16 and 04-05.2 do not have the internal-𐀓- (and should not, if 𐀓 is only the alternative vocalisation of the same consonant as 𐀓).

𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 (04-16) is rather surprising: -𐀓 can't be genitival, I suppose, since it follows Vowel 2, and I suspect that 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 may stand to 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 as 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 does to 𐀓𐀓.

Myres' idea that the chariot tablets contain just a random list of craftsmen's names is not very imaginative, and cannot be right. I do not, either, entirely agree with his argument that the chariots of 04-19 etc are a different sort from those of 04-01 etc. After all, there's no yoke on them: they look far more like the same ~~chariots~~ chariots in an early state of manufacture: and this ties up with the fact that a different "verb" is used with the two theories.

My guess is that two stages are recorded (leaving out a possible previous stage recorded by 𐀓𐀓 of 04-28).

- 1) The provision of the 𐀓𐀓 (main framing) governed by the word (verb?) 𐀓𐀓, and qualified by 𐀓𐀓 (plural? - 𐀓𐀓 sing?).
- 2) The provision of the 𐀓𐀓 (equipment: mounting rail, floor, yoke, traces etc) - a word constructed like 𐀓𐀓, but made verbal: 𐀓𐀓+𐀓𐀓 [the -𐀓- forms seem to argue against a compound form with -𐀓- (E. 01.1)].
- 3) Whether the "wheel" tablets record an inventory of wheels, or the fitting of them, isn't clear, but as they aren't all in pairs: it must be a separate part of the process. Myres' suggestion that the wheels were changed frequently ties in with this.

Parallel, apparently, in root to 𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓- are the two entities 𐀓𐀓 and 𐀓𐀓 (unless the former is connected rather with 𐀓𐀓). The latter recurs in slightly different spelling as 𐀓𐀓 on most of the "sword" tablets 1541 etc, which ties up with some idea of 'equipping' or 'armoury' etc, and makes it unlikely that the "sword" formula is one of Myres' lists of names either.

+/cp as 5+-/5cp- (An 18. rev. 1) ?
check

hand doubtful

error

theories

error

check

check

A form which puzzled me for some time is the $\text{A}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{A}}$ which is shown in O4-09.1 on page "Junctions" in SM. I see you index this as $\text{A}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{A}}$, which removes the difficulty. $\text{B}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{X}}$ in K O4-15.2 is presumably a misprint similarly for $\text{B}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{X}}$. The occurrences of $\text{V}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{X}}$ on O4-01 and O4-15 are puzzling, too. I had thought that there must be some connection between the $-\bar{\text{Z}}$ and the $-\bar{\text{X}}$ in the verb on O4-01, but O4-15 disproves this. It would have been nice if there had been $\bar{\text{L}}$ chariot following the $-\bar{\text{Z}}$, and a larger number after $-\bar{\text{X}}$: but there seems to be no perceptible difference in context at all, any more than between $\text{T}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ and $\text{T}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{X}}$ on 903-907. I am completely baffled by the $-\bar{\text{X}}$ of the "verbal" forms, at Knossos (O4-01) and Pylos (Eb01, Eb20 etc) unless they are intended to be more participial than the others, which might help to bridge the gap to the numerous endings in $-\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ which seem to be part of personal names, whether or not the endings are in any way connected. $-\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ does not seem to be used in these other situations.

Miss Kober evidently made a very good start at listing the 'Category 3' sign-groups which show an "adjectival" form in $-\bar{\text{Z}}/-\bar{\text{X}}$. I'm beginning to think that while $-\bar{\text{X}}$ seems regularly used as the feminine form (eg, with $\bar{\text{A}}$ or $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}$), and apparently the general plural, some of the $-\bar{\text{Z}}$ forms must be masculine plural in sense, not singular (eg: the senseless alternations of $-\bar{\text{Z}}$ and $-\bar{\text{X}}$ mentioned above). At least they don't alternate on the same tablets, only on separate ones of the same series.

$\text{V}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ is presumably "adjectival" from $\text{V}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ (Tunnija - Tunau ??) = two consonants of the same kind sometimes seem liable to be telescoped, as in $\text{T}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - etc. The chief Knossos 'adjectivals' seem to be these:-

1. CATEGORY 3 (Placenames?) Recurring together like the Pylos "Q" ($\neq \text{Q}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ etc)

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| -A- | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\text{Q}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | -X- | $\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - $\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$? |
| | $\text{T}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\text{T}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ | | $\text{V}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - $\text{V}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | | $\text{F}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - $\text{F}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$? |
| | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | (cf $\text{F}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\bar{\text{Z}}$?) |
| | $\text{V}\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - $\text{V}\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | -B- | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\text{Q}\bar{\text{X}}$ |
| -A- | $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | | $\text{E}\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\text{E}\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{X}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}$ ✓ | -L- | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{L}}$ - $\text{Q}\bar{\text{X}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{F}}$ | | $\text{A}\bar{\text{L}}$ - $\text{A}\bar{\text{X}}$? |
| | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\text{Q}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | -A- | $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ - $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | | also $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{F}}$? |
| | $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{E}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{E}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | | |
| | $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{F}}$ - $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{X}}$ | | |

✓ shared with Pylos or M.

2. CATEGORY 3, 4a or 4 Not part of the main series. "Adjectivals" in Vowel 3 as well as 1.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|--|-------|--|
| 1 -A- | $\text{A}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ✓ | -X- | $\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ($\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - ?) | 3 -Y- | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ($\text{Q}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{Z}}$?) |
| | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | -Y- | $\text{L}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ($\text{L}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{Z}}$) ✓ | -Y- | $\text{Q}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ |
| | $\text{L}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ✓ | | $\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ($\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$) | -Z- | $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ ✓ |
| -A- | $\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | $\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | $\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{E}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ |
| -X- | $\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | $\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ |
| -A- | $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ | | | | $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | | | $\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{X}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | | | $\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{E}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ✓ |
| -Z- | $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Z}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ = $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ✓ | | | | $\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ |
| | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{Q}}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ | | | | $\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ ($\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{T}}$?) |

I expect you've fully sorted these out already. It would be a wonderful thing if one could sit down on the hill at Knossos & know just what the names of all the surrounding towns & villages were in LM; because I'm sure some of them must occur in this series. I'm still rather intrigued by AMNISOS for $\text{T}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}$, which is the only B group with initial $\bar{\text{T}}$ - and $-\bar{\text{X}}$ - as 3rd except $\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{X}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ - & this name too should occur, surely. Amnisos is generally spoken of as if it was the part of Knossos, but I gather there was a nearer harbour at the mouth of the valley? The frequent $\text{T}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{F}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ = AT AMNISOS?, i.e. = at a separate royal depot?? Who are the $\bar{\text{V}}\bar{\text{R}}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}$ who are mentioned after $\text{Q}\bar{\text{U}}\bar{\text{S}}\bar{\text{Z}}$ (Knossos?) and who recur at Pylos? - *cilithyria* - "peasants, locals, ??" (Etr cilθ, "land, country").

Yours, Michael Ventris