

Department of Greek,
Old College,
South Bridge,
Edinburgh, 8.

24th March, 1958.

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Thank you for your letter of 14th March and for your careful explanation of my question about Ae 134. It is a point in your favour that Alice Kober thought that the last sign was pi. I am bound to say, however, that from ~~the~~ photograph published in Archaeology this identification seems to me to be very questionable. I hope to obtain shortly a print of the original photograph from the Ashmolean Museum and may write to you again on this point.

*most broken way
traces fit*
*hand
found*
In the meantime, I have been worried by two more of your readings. The first of these concerns tablet Sh 736. In your 1955 edition the facsimile drawing of the ideogram shows only a few scattered lines not much resembling ideogram 163 or any other, but later in the same book your copy of the text gives ideogram 163 without question and the vocabulary at the end of the book gives the same impression. Are there really any grounds for classifying Sh 736 with the other Sh tablets? Secondly, I am puzzled by your identification of ideogram 130 in your article on The Mycenae Tablets 1953. Your arguments on pp. 446ff. appear to me to be somewhat adventurous. Two of your remarks seem to me to require some explanation. They are as follows:

p. 449, column 1, "Why have no tablets dealing in this commodity yet been found at Pylos (unless there are some among the new tablets of 1952)?"

and in the same column,

*written before seen
after known that tablet existed*

"With good fortune we may soon be able to answer these questions satisfactorily."

hopeful

*true
liquid
conspicuous
place not
my argument*
As far as I can see, the Mycenaean tablets produce no argument in favour of the identification beyond the fact that the tablet bearing ideogram 130 was found in a cellar containing some jars. The same would appear to be true of the occurrences of this ideogram at Pylos, but in a building destroyed by fire one expects to find tablets of all kinds in the cellars without prejudice to their original location, still less their content.

I am sorry to trouble you with these questions, but as you say yourself, a number of your readings go beyond the immediate evidence of the texts. You will agree that where a question arises it is important that the matter should be seen in its true perspective.

Yours sincerely,

AP Bennett



Dr. Emmett L. Bennett,

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← Second fold here →

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ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.