

Cambridge  
24 December 1957

Dear Emmett,

Many thanks for your prompt response. You have given me all the evidence I need to convict Beattie in the court of world opinion. He has admitted in a letter to me that he does not question the date 1 June 1952 on Work Note 20; if therefore the tablet was still in the ground at that date, there can be no possibility of Michael seeing it, unless he had second sight or something. The other evidence will be useful in case he tries to cast doubt on the date 1 June. Of course the whole idea is wildly improbable, and inconceivable to any one who knew Michael. But this attack on his integrity and honesty makes me very angry. I gather from Beattie that a new attack, presumably to include this libel, is now in the press. When it appears we shall be able to nail the lie at once. I wonder whether I ought to let Beattie know we have incontrovertible evidence against his theory; I've already warned him that he was running into chronological difficulties. On the whole I'm inclined to let him make a fool of himself, much though I regret this quarrel with one I used to count as a friend.

Thank you too for the 1955 transcript which has just reached me. I'm not at all sure what is happening until Turner gets back; but it looks as if Palmer is trying (successfully) to get the first go at these. Since I have been waiting patiently for 18 months, I'm annoyed that he should anticipate me. I shall probably release my commentary ahead of his lecture. There seems to be little to add in the light of your editing; except for 1202, where if the separation is really certain, I suppose we must read methuon newon, though exactly what this means I'm not sure; methuon ought to mean 'soaked' if used of things. I don't see where the )-se-da- came from to complete 1213, but it's a nice join. How big is the gap in Wal247; could we fit in de-wo-(ka-ri)-jo-no (Deukaliōnos)? You give no dotted letters; but I take it this doesn't mean that every sign is 100% certain. Could we for instance emend 1242 to e-ti-(we ?

I am probably going out to Greece for a short visit at Easter; I know you will be envious, but if you have anything you'd like me to do, let me know. I hope I shall be allowed to see the 1955 tablets, if not anything later. I know you don't altogether trust me, but I may be able to verify some guesses for you. I hope to include a few days in Crete again. Any commissions should reach me by early March. I have just got my offprints from MINOS, but have not seen the volume yet.

All good wishes and many thanks,

Yours,

*John*

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AÉROGRAMME



Professor Emmett L. Bennett

1978 Yale Station

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CONN.

U. S. A.

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