

39 Causeway side, Cambridge

19 November 1958

Dear Emmett,

I've retyped the Critical Appendix, taking note of most of your comments, though I remain slightly obstinate in places; at least I think it's worth while registering a dissenting opinion, even if you are right, as you are 99.9% of the time. The chief trouble is that I haven't any photos and I can't make an additional check, as I'd like to; short of going to Athens, and that will involve not only delay, but other complications... There are of course these photos of yours in Oxford, which I haven't seen yet. I might try to get a look at those before putting this into print.

As most of the entries are now self-explanatory I needn't do more than comment on a few. Eb893; as far as I remember the scratch was on the face, but I haven't a detailed note. I know when I put them approximately in place together there was a line traceable on both. Na's cut at right; I agree, but you'll see what I've done about this. Na529; I liked ai-ki-de-ta at first sight, because it matches o-wi-de-ta-i; but on reflection I can't accept goat- and sheep-skinners. I didn't confuse Lejeune and Lang; the autopsy was his - if she also has read it, that's news to me. When you have looked over this, would you pass it on to Mabel (we've got this far now!) for her comments. I'll warn her it's coming, but I have neither an extra copy to spare nor can I afford the postage.

Before I forget. In my last letter I failed to ask you to send out another MT II for me to:

Professor A. Frenkian,
Str. Boteanu No. 3A, Bucharest, Rumania

Would you please oblige, keeping a note of sums due? He complains bitterly of the lack of Mycenaean books in Rumania, and I've done a little to help him. He says he is still without PT II, in case you feel like fostering a little good will on the other side of the Iron Curtain. I can't help feeling that a little public money spent on sending books to scholars in Eastern Europe would be a better investment than atomic bombs.

I'm leaving Turner to keep you posted on the latest for Nestor; you'll have seen Marinatos on the MY stuff; poor readings, but I think he's right about the nature of the buildings. Which reminds me, I must get Joan to putsage on the grocery order - I want to repeat your experiment.

Beattie's latest move is to send out a circular to all Colleges here and at Oxford (where else I don't yet know), with a photograph of the grid of 20 Feb 1952 (Work note 17). Its conclusion is: 'Recent investigations into the Work notes from number 7 on have convinced me that most of the decipherment had been evolved as early as November 1951 and perhaps even by July or August of that year. These Work notes are designed to apply a solution already formed to a particular group of texts.' How this agrees with the claim of the MIO article that the decipherment was made in mid-June 52, to square with the tripods, is beyond me. He is completely crazy.

I have ignored his rudeness and made one last attempt to establish rational argument with him. His reply is so insulting and abusive I cannot answer it. I propose to ostracise him, and hope others will follow suit - until of course he shows signs of shutting up or talking sense.

Here is a further list of comments on the Hands
from Mrs Miller:

Hands of Fr1217 and 1202 both called T2

Hand of Na429 for 419

Eb297 unlisted

Eo351 reclassified as Eb

Eo471+855: 471 remains Eo, but 855 is now Eb.

She is making some very fruitful notes on the administrative machinery of Pylos. One point that comes up is the transportability of tablets - I'd like your views on this. It seems to me that there are objections to a theory that officials went round the countryside with a bagful of clay writing out dockets as they went; how could you pack the tablets for transport until they were dry? But the Aa, Ab series relating to places other than Pylos look like returns sent in by outlying districts to the capital. If, as I believe, all the tablets were written at Pylos, how did the information reach the Palace? Did the local officials (ko-re-te-re, etc.) report to Nestor and have their dockets made out, each by the official in charge of the relevant department? Or did they report in writing? on what? Or did Palace officials, like Axotas in Eq213 do a tour, making up their records on their return; if so they must have kept some rough notes; again on what? Mrs Miller thinks that Ea are the series for the area of the Palace; this would fit well with my theory that Pakijana is the community living at Khora (Volimidhia).

What do you think of Blegen's suggestion that we date the Knossos tablets to LH III? (Minoica). It looks to me as if it wants a lot more proving; but it would solve some problems. These archaeologists...

It was love, by the way.

Yours,

John