

Cambridge 23 Oct. 1959

Dear Emmett,

Many thanks for 2 post-cards and a letter. Too late for further changes in KT2 (or is it 3), but most of what you report are in already. First batch of photos of KN tablets have gone in, now being printed, so have not yet been able to study in detail. These will form basis for a thorough revision. Greeks are being difficult and want to hold the negatives.

I have a research student (Irish) who wants to work on Lin. B; I can dissuade him, but am wondering if you would think it an insult, if I put him on to duplicate your work on KN hands, at least in part. Not that I don't trust you, but I think that you would appreciate a second opinion, if reliable. The point is: what actual subject can I give him which will not be superseded by your work within 3 years? I thought of a study of the KN livestock tablets, starting with their epigraphy, hands, scribal procedure and organisation; ? location of find-spots, etc. Would you let me know, urgently, what you think of this; or if you can suggest something better, which is not likely to be done elsewhere. If you have a job in mind you would like someone to tackle, here is a chance. It must of course be suitable for althesis.

I look forward to having some copies of the MV correspondence, so that we can sort out the chronology in more detail. I've used some of the quotations for my lecture on Wednesday in London. (This won't be printed.)

B*attie has been pestering me about KN S 8100, not agreeing with the readings. Unfortunately, Platon has admitted that he can't find the original; I'm sure I could, I last saw it in July 1958; but of course it hasn't got its red number on yet. Next visit: take red ink. Instead of ko-ru HELMET, B wants to read ko-re-wo; I told him this was impossible, pointing out how cracks follow the lines of strokes, etc. He replies: "Like Bennett you seem to be a trifle optimistic about cracks in tablets." It is insufferable how he pretends to be able to judge questions of reading, with virtually no experience, and on the basis of a published photograph. He is so rude, that I nearly didn't answer his letters; but so long as he was asking for information I thought it my duty not to deny him, and give him grounds for complaint. I hope you will tell him the documents he wants to see are available for inspection in Cincinnati.

Murakawa tells me your reference in Nestor is wrong: should be (Japanese) Journal of Classical Studies 7 (1959). (nestor 22). I suppose I've got to read the thing for Studies; seem to have lost it at present.

Lejeune tells me he regrets his article in REA on Aa/Ab; it will not appear in Mémoires II, and he now admits we were on the right track; cf. Palmer. By the way. Beattie is apparently cooking up something on MYc. Tablets.

Rome was great fun, and I got on well with Gallavotti.



Old db. off

Professor E. L. Bennett,

Institute for Research in the Humanities

University of Wisconsin

MADISON 6

WISCONSIN U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address: J. Chadwick

39 Causewayside, Cambridge

ENGLAND

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here

He has organised a Centre of Myc: Studies (with funds!) and is compiling a lexicon - or is it index - of Linear B. My doubts are because it appears to list words with references and a discussion (in Latin) of their structural identification (e.g. patronymic adj., man's name etc.) without discussing Greek equivalents. I'm not sure if this is any use, if you are getting on with a new MLB Index. Would it be importunate of me to ask for a list of work you have in hand and expected dates of completion? I know much depends on whether you stay in Madison or return to Austin or migrate elsewhere. I hope you will achieve what you most want.

I had a visit the other day from an engineer named Wayland from Cal: Tech; whose daughter is studying Linear B under Mabel at Bryn Mawr (when M. isn't in Greece). They have another daughter in Madison, and are likely to be there around Christmas, so he may look you up; nice man.

Very busy as usual, so have done nothing exciting this term (apart from Rome). Hope for progress in vacation; Hope-Simpson gave a good paper on the geography of Pylos region - I am inclined to put the northern frontier at Kyparissia.

Yours,

John

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON 6, WISCONSIN