

1050 E. 43rd St.
Brooklyn 10, N.Y.
June 22, 1948

Dear (well, I'm getting a little tired of Mr. Bennett--only, since I've discovered John Franklin Daniel is Pete, I daren't try first names)

First, many thanks for Kn02--and those stamps really make an elegant appearance. I'm green with envy. Sir John thinks they are a good idea, though I haven't sent him an example. You said your set would cost around \$30--but how much would it take to make a different one? I would like a large and small set, in the first place, because so much of Knossos material depends on size of sign--and in the second place, some of the signs should be slightly different.

Your letter just arrived this morning, and I haven't had time to check your Ψ . I just finished my last set of examinations yesterday and my eyes are bothering me--something that never happened before. As soon as I've checked, I'll write again. So far I've found only Ψ because Ψ (with three curves) occurs in words like $\Psi\Psi\Psi$ and so must be just a handwriting difference, and Ψ is too much like Ψ . Your list may help, though at first glance, most of it looks quite strange. But I'll be able to say more at a later time.

About my errors. I must apologize. I don't usually make such silly mistakes. Of course the word is $\Psi\Psi\Psi$ as you wrote it, and as it occurs at Knossos. The other doesn't exist, though "case III" is $\Psi\Psi$. $\Psi\Psi$ isn't really my fault--it was in the transcription of Kn02--an error, as I see from yours. It does exist at Knossos, though.

I'm afraid our listing difficulty won't be easy to overcome, unless we sit down together with our inscriptions. You seem you have categories completely lacking at Knossos, and vice-versa. Our X category would probably be halved by comparison, because we would each find help in other inscriptions. Of course, my X is still huge, since I haven't reached the stage of assigning inscriptions on a vocabulary basis, but simply from ideograms.

I really need A for Ψ , B for Ψ and C for Ψ , which, as you can tell from PM 687, seems sometimes to be a determinative, rather than an item--but not always.

My A group is quite small, B is large--takes up the whole alphabet. C is small, but I can't see combining A and C. I'm copying my A listings.

Aa--lists (written in list- or paragraph-form. Type of listing: ~~word, word (case III) "man", number 1~~ word, word (case III) "man", number 1

Aa01 K40 (this is AU 22)
Aa02 K604
Aa02 K606

Ab--lists (written in list- or paragraph- form. Type: word, "man" 1
Ab01 K1516 (PM 686) A "page" tablet. 01 and 02 have a summation, and probably had initial statements. Words seem to be in same "case"
Ab02 K1519

Ab11 These have three or four lines each--and are fragmentary.
Ab12
Ab13 (opisthographic)
Ab14

Ac lists. Type: Word, 1 ("man" only in summation statement)
Ac01 apparently same case as Ab
Ac02

Ad lists--miscellaneous.
Ad01 "man" followed apparently by 5

Note: skip to indicate difference

Ad11 "man" four times, each time preceded by a statement of several words.

Ae "palm-leaf" tablets. Entry type: word, "man" number
Ae01 single line fragment
Ae02 " " " "

Ae11 two lines, two entries, preceded by WORD in first line (this is the tablet given by Sundwall in Kn. in Pylos)

Ag tablets ("palm-leaf") apparently recording a "sum" of men
Ag01
Ag02

Ah tablets with "man" followed by numbers and 𐀀 (ideogram of R group)
Ah01
Ah02

Ai "man" preceded by 𐀀 (cf, Sa group)
Ai01

Aj "man" in upper register, 𐀀 and "cereal" signs in lower
Aj01

Ax01 fragmentary. Perhaps same type as Ad11, but with more lines.

As you see, this is a comparatively simple category, and could be compressed, though at some expense, since it would mean putting together tablets that may not belong together. I don't have your Ad or An at all.

One of the troubles with Knossos is that tablets were found in so many places, and are similar, yet different. I feel the category numbers must have a meaning, so that when one sees them in a vocabulary list, one automatically knows the "case". Naturally, I haven't succeeded entirely, but do find it helpful to me.

I haven't written out the entire classification yet--I'm working on it now. I have the tablets sorted and numbered, but copying takes an age, with 1800 listings.

I'm afraid you will have to face the fact that the "cattle" inventories take at least three letters. I'm using four now. You see, there are five distinct varieties. Of these the first is the largest, with (I haven't counted, but estimate) about 300 inscriptions. Now these vary in many ways. Some have only WORD before the registers, others WORD word, others WORD ^{word} word, others WORD ^{words} word, word. There are seven or eight variations. Most of the time the subsidiary words belong to definite "cases"--so frequently, that when they don't, they must be listed separated, in my y category, as peculiar. But that isn't all. Some have no registers, some two. They may have only 𐀀 or 𐀀 𐀀 or either of these combined with various other ideograms, 𐀀, 𐀀, 𐀀, 𐀀, 𐀀, 𐀀 or combinations of these, sometimes in the upper, sometimes in the lower register. To keep these clear, I need the whole alphabet, and have to use 101, 201, 301 for the initial word type, and the tens for the subsidiary ideograms. I rather congratulate myself on having the thing arranged so that anybody can check anything at an instant's notice.

On the other hand, I've compressed your E category, but my "House" tablets take up La-Lj

I could transfer my "vases" from M to K since you seem to have only two tablets there. Or no, I can't, because A-C is human, D-H is "animals" (D is entirely reserved for non-inventory tablets), I-K is plants or the like, L-Ø is recognizable objects, L "house" M "vases" N "chariots, etc" Ø others--and various other signs like \square (over a hundred, I think) take up the rest. X for unclassified, Z for sealings (only a few), U for words with numbers, but no ideograms, --well, I'll try to send you the list when it's finished.

I was appalled when I saw your list, and you will be ditto when you see mine, because we just don't jibe too well. We really need two alphabets. Not complete--but about one and a half. I think, with ingenuity, we can fit them together. But it will require giving up some pet notions.

More later. I still want to check the vocabulary, because there are other words we have in common--disguised by my erroneous listing of Υ words, and Ψ .

Alice

P.S. Thanks for your method of "counting". My "count" was finished last year, but must be redone because of Υ etc. I used the same technique, I'm glad to say.

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