November 22, 1948

Dear Bennett,

My dilatory habit of writing a letter and then forgetting
to mail it paid off this time. I wrote you Friday, but forgot
to take the letter with me this morning, and when I got home
from school, there was a letter from Blegen, giving his OK to
our cooperative scheme. Happy, happy day!

Well, how do you suggest going about it? Are you going to
St. Louis? If so, maybe we can talk on the train--I am going on
the St. Louisan which leaves New York around 1 P.M. on the 27th.
With some possibility like this in mind, I took a roomette--so
if you are going,maybe we can work then. I'm coming back on the
Spirit of St. Louis, which leaves at 12:30.
        The best plan would be for us to exchange inscriptions--that is,
copies. I don't know if Blegen would approve of that. Myres said
it would be all right this summer, and if he's changed his mind,
I'll stick to the original idea.   Then we could each work out a
classification which includes both sets, and then meet to fight
it out.

Chronologically, I suppose the Knossos inscriptions should
come first in a joint classification. But logically, I think
the group which has the largest number of a given type should
come first in that type, to set the pattern. Both of us will
have to work like fury to clear some letters completely for the
types that exist only in one place or other. I've been thinking
about it, but there's little to do until I see what you have.

Also, yours using n--- for the big tablets will cause
difficulty.

My scheme is a little different from yours. I use small
letters for major subdivisions, and then tens and hundreds for
minor ones within that classification. But, as a result, I
sometimes use up the whole alphabet.

What I wrote to you about on Friday was this: I'm starting
my statistical analysis. I had one complete, but it had to be
revised, and my way of going about it takes an awfully long time,
because I count occurrences as initial, second, medial (for long
words) penultimate and final. Two-sign words I count separately.
I keep a record of complete occurrences as preceding and sequent
sign: for preceding, I list words as alone (i.e. two signs), initial,
medial and penultimate; for sequent as second, medial, final, alone.
Thxxfixxxkxfxxxxinxaaxhxgxxnxxxxxinikialx The arithmetic is a
nuisance, but when I get through with a letter, it's done. I've
only done the first two signs (still in Evans' order) ꓧ and (ꓥ). It
takes about a week to do a big sign like each of these.

In checking the Pylos figures I copied, I occasionally find
discrepancies between words I know from Pylos, and the numbers.
The fault undoubtedly lies in my erroneous copying. I'm sending
you a list of discrepancies so far, and the totals of the statistical
count for the two signs.

The figures for Pylos differ from yours because of the words I have. I can easily change them back when you correct me, but I'm following my policy of believing a word rather than a number when the two don't agree.

The last column is the complete use list for both scripts—that is easy, since it only means adding A and P totals. But the word count can't be made till we have both vocabularies, since **words recur.** The total uses for both scripts have gratifyingly large numbers for these two signs. They are almost big enough to have some statistical **validity.**

(Those occasional dark words I type have no significance. I just oiled my ribbon, and the oil hasn't spread evenly yet.)

I'm enclosing two statements of my discrepancies, one for you to keep, if you want it.

Let me know how you want to work our collaboration. I can get up to Yale occasionally during term, and certainly between semesters in January. If you come down, I'm sure I can get us a room to work in at Hunter College. Brooklyn is too far for you to travel (it takes another hour at least from the station). Of course, if we each have a set of the other's inscriptions, we can thrash most things out by mail.

I'm also enclosing a summary of my classification plan. I have a more detailed one, but only one copy. I made it for Sir John, and stupidly made only one carbon. It will take quite a while to type out. I'll try to get it ready for you. I'm neck-deep in Sir John's manuscript about Linear Class A, which I'm supposed to be editing for him, First, though, I have to type it out—its manuscript, manu scriptum. And in typing, I find he makes errors—so I have to correct them. Considering that I think Linear A isn't going to be much help for decipherment, it's a complete waste of time, for me.

This letter is practically a book itself. So long for now.

Alice Kober