

March 5, 1949

Dear Mr. Bennett,

You've probably been wondering what is taking me so long. I hope you got your slips--I mailed them on Monday, Feb. 28. At that time I had already gone through your new classification, and had written a lengthy letter about it, but when I started to take notes on the letter for my own reference, I discovered certain things that I had not originally noticed. Here are some of them.

First--I don't think it at all advisable to put "man" and "woman" inscriptions under the same capital letter. If the difference in the entries should by any chance be due to gender, it will be dangerous, since A will then not have a gender significance. It will be quite safe to put the "dancer" inscriptions in A, because there are certain factors that indicate similarity with the "man" inscriptions. That would leave us with your original distinction for A and B, and I don't suppose you will mind that.

Second--your idea of expressing sub-divisions by adding to the number at the right ~~reference~~ (i.e. A81 and A815 etc.) sounded all right at first, but when I came to apply it, I found it ran the number up too high.

The situation we have--at least so far as I can see--is this: The capital letter divisions can be worked out. We can limit the principal ideogram categories to less than 26, by grouping animals together, plants together, object ideograms that are recognizable together, then the unrecognizable ones, and the phonetic signs used ideographically, etc. etc. This has never caused much difficulty, and there is no reason for anticipating any now.

Your second division, the number, gives us 99 categories for each capital. That is probably ample though I don't know for sure about my present E group.

There is, however, usually need for a further subdivision. This one may be extremely important, since it will often be based on an observable difference in the inflection of the words--whether that is "case" as I think, or something else. It is too important to bury by using a third number. Besides, there are sometimes more than ten such divisions for a given group (although in most cases the group consists of only a single example). I would suggest the use of a small letter here instead, since that will give--if needed--26 sub-divisions, although it would be best to avoid q, l, 6 except in an emergency. The type would then be A01a instead of A01. I don't know how it will work out later on, of course. I suspect we will have to make several rough classifications before we actually make the final one, because certain factors come up with certain ideograms, and until we have them all classified, we can't predict the circumstances.

The A01a type has another advantage. It means that the inscription number will follow immediately after the small letter, without a decimal point. This is important, because in writing about the inscriptions, line and face references are often needed. If we use the decimal point for the inscription itself, we must add face a, line 2. If no decimal point has yet been used, .b2 would do it. Then a full description of the function of the second word in line 2 of the great "man" inscription (K1516) would be the notation ~~A01ax2x(Kx2)~~ A01a1.2 (H 2). H for heading. A means "masculine" ideogram (including "man" and "dancer"; 01 the entry type word, man #1 a inscriptions where entries are preceded by a heading and followed by a summation, in which the entry word is what I call "Case IV", i.e. the case of words in the "man" inscription, and apparently of the principal word in E inscriptions (~~though~~ this has not been proven ~~at~~

in print, although I have ~~twice~~ suggested it in articles which will appear in the near future. You see, that small letter category is very important. It defines the word itself for the entries. (H 2) means we are talking about the second word in the heading of paragraph 1.

I have not yet finished my analysis of the "man" inscriptions. Nor have I even begun to finish my digraphic analysis, and several other things that are needed before I tackle the job of a definitive ~~analysis~~ classification. For instance, we really need a careful analysis of ideograms from both Pylos and Knossos, before we make even the capital letter classification. It can't be done on the basis of guess or general impression. It must be done on fact, otherwise we will have to change the classification later, and that will be a nuisance. I suggest we continue our own classifications until we actually arrive at a definitive classification, and then enter the final notation.

My following discussion will take up, therefore, only the "man" inscriptions, and will be certain only for the A01 group--which I have analyzed. The rest is subject to further analysis and therefore liable to change.

I'm sorry to say that I began by putting comments on your sheets. I would not have done so if I had realized how many alterations would be needed. It will, however, give you an idea of my train of thought. I started by writing in blank ink for the first review, putting in my own tentative classification number. Then on second revisios, I used green ink. The third time, red ink, and finally pencil. You will note I changed my mind a great deal.

It was gratifying to note that your tentative classification and mine agreed in a majority of cases--indeed, ~~well~~ over a majority. That means we won't have too much difficulty in getting together, since we are thinking along the same lines.

But my tentative classification, as well as yours, does not follow the rule you suggested when we talked about this classification. The rule is, I think, very important. To state it in my own words: no inscriptions should be listed under the same category--that is, as A01a1 and A01a2 (in my suggested revision, or A01.1, A01.2 in your listing) unless they are identical in every observable detail, and in respect to the individual words used, must agree in the function of the words, which may be "case" or something else.

The rule for each category must be set down in advance, and in as much detail as possible, and then only inscriptions that follow that rule exactly must be classed under it.

A great deal of my difficulty with your list is that your rules are not specific enough. Ex Sometimes you have added an inscription that does not follow even your general rule (for example, your A01.7--P1, An12) does not have "man #1". Also, you have not classified all the "man" inscriptions--a few seem to be omitted, and I have no way of telling where you would put them.

There are, in all, somewhat less than 100 inscriptions with "man" (I count 98, including those in which it is not the principal ideogram, but I may have counted wrong--don't want to bother to check again at this moment). Of these, the majority are unique, even though many have enough resemblances to warrant grouping them together under the same capital letter and number, but not under the same small letter.

I think our procedure will have to be this: set down a rule for a subdivision--then independently arrange the inscriptions we think belong there, with a complete analysis of all factors that we observe. Then compare lists, and when we do not agree that two inscriptions are identical, put them in adjacent categories. That is slow work, and requires a lot of time, but when we finish, our categories  
sh

should be so well defined that we can use them in pseudo-mathematical equations with reasonable certainty.

I've worked all week on A01, and here is the result of my cogitations.

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A. Inscriptions with a ~~max~~human ideogram, male

𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂, 𐀃, 𐀄

01: Inscriptions containing lists with the entry type word <sup>c</sup>𐀀' (and never a numeral larger than one, except in the total).

A01a. Lists with entries in paragraph form, each paragraph preceded by a statement and 𐀀', and followed by a total. The entry word in Case IV.

Only Ab01 (K1516). A01a1?

A01b. Lists in columnar form, a single entry on each line, apparently followed by a total, preceded by a statement. No introductory statement extant. Entry word in Case IV. A01b1? only Ab02 (K1519). (Note; according to our rule, must be separated from above 𐀀', because of a difference--use of

statement before total. These statements will be most important in the deciphering of Minoan, I think, and inscriptions using them must be carefully classified).

A01c. Lists with entries apparently in paragraph form, no statements or totals extant. Entries in Case IV. Ideogram 𐀀', probably a variant of 𐀀.

Ab11 (K603) A01c1

Ab12 (K607) A01c2

(Note: these two fragments possibly from same inscr,

Ab13 (K608) A01c3 (I'm a little dubious. This may also use 𐀀 as an ideogram).

Ab14 (K609) A01c4

A01d. List of entries in columnar form, 2 to a line, preceded by an introductory statement, apparently with no ideogram. Case may be IV--or II.

An13 (P 1) A01d1?

(in my tentative classification, it was Ab15).

A01e.g. Skip. I like lots of elbow room for revision. Maybe it would be better to skip before A01d.

A01h. List of entries in columnar form, no introductory or final statement, no total extant.

Usual entry type word<sub>man</sub> #1, but occasionally word, word.

(If we designate an entry word as I--for item--the word, word, would be designated as (I 1, I 2)

Also (and this is important) apparently the same word in lines 2 and 7---but added ending in line 7. Both (I). Case therefore ambiguous--until we decide what the difference means. This is a type quite different from the above).

An16 (P192) A01h1? (I had called it Ab21).

The form in line 7 also in An13.

A01i-1 Skip.

A01m. Lists in columnar form, 2 entries to a line. No initial ~~word~~ ~~extant~~ statement extant, possibly a secondary statement in line 6. Two-word entry in line 9, then final statement, including "Total". Case not IV.

An20 (P 18) A01m1?

A01x. (Another advantage of using a small letter is that it gives us an x sub-class, which is often needed. The theory for x should be, in my opinion, to list fragments with the simplest possible category). Fragments which seem to have man #1.

Ab 38/5(P	)	A01x1	(my former Ab18)	These are my
An 34 (p	)	A01x2	(my former Ab19)	tentative classifi-
An 33 (P	)	A01x3	(	Ab41) fication numbers
An 38/5(P	)	A01x4	(	Ab42) for these Pylos
An 39 (P	)	A01x5	(	Ab43) inscriptions.
An 37 (P	)	A01x6)		Ax11)
An 40 (P	)	A01x7	(	Ax12)

We agree quite astonishingly well on this A01 category, except that I think we should subdivide once more than you did. In general, your A01 is my Ab, except that I had decided that I had put in a couple of inscriptions that did not belong--and you agree tacitly even on that, since you listed them with other groups.

I've put down tentative numbers for some of your other groups, but would like to know your exact reasons for listing them where you do, before I go on.

Your Ad group must be subdivided--according to number of words used in heading, and further, according to words in heading (M+ is repeated) and according to ending of second word (B frequent).

I agree on A02--and in general on A03, but your A06 and A08 are not homogeneous. And I think it advisable, so far as possible to separate inscriptions with 7 and 8. You will have to check these with the photographs, since I didn't have time. The ideograms may be different.

I think inscriptions with combined ideograms should be postponed. A30, I think--31, 32 etc. And ~~404~~ for inscriptions in which "man" is not the principal ideogram. I still think that all inscriptions with Human ideograms should go together, even when the human ideogram is not principal. I'm inclined to suggest that all your JH group come here, and all your En group, as well as Kn and Cn 10.

Your former Ad I would put in ~~A01~~ A10---

Your former Ae as A20---and add all inscriptions with X. Since none of your Ae are identical, I'd used the small letters to divide them, though there are a few I'd put together. But I think it better to have your independently arrived at opinion of how they are to go, before I send you mine.

I think we should alternate. You gave me your list. I'm sending my opinion of the first category, and suggestions for some of the others. I will add my division of your former Ad. Then you send me a discussion, and a complete classification of another group, 02, 03 etc. In that way, we can both work independently. I don't believe in compromise before one's own ~~ideas~~ ideas are formed. Too often that results in later disagreement. Here's my suggestion ~~of~~ add for Ad.

A1: "Palm-leaf" tablets (am I right?) consisting of a heading (1-4 words) followed by ~~PK~~, used phonetically apparently, then "man" #, ~~qk~~ #

A10--fragments where number of words in heading cannot be determined.

A10a1----your former Ad12

A10b1----your former Ad11

A10x1--- Ad13

A10x2-- Ad14

These x tablets belong here because of their shape--right?

All one-word heading

Allal ---your former Ad01

- A12---two-word headings.
- A12a first word ~~(M)~~
- A12a1----your former Ad08
- A12a2---- " " Ad20 (may have had more words, but no evidence--at least in my copy)
- A12b -e first word varies, second varies, but ends in ~~H~~
- A12b1-----Ad04
- A12c1-----Ad06
- A12d1-----Ad07
- A12e1-----Ad10
- A12f-g. Skip
- ~~A12g and xxx~~ ---second word incomplete. May have had ~~H~~
- A12g1 ----Ad05
- ~~A12h-j~~--skip. Then second words which do not end in "throne"
- A12k1-----Ad02
- ~~A12x~~
- A12l skip l whenever possible.
- A12m---Ad18
- A13---three-word heading.
- A13a---Ad09 (first word ~~(M)~~---others end with "throne"
- A13c---Ad03 (c because the second word is same as in A12c)
- A13n---Ad16 (new letter, because second word is different--
- A13p---Ad15 (word superscribed)
- A14--four-word heading
- A14p---Ad17 (word superscribed--therefore also p.)

Every category should be described as intensively as possible, so that we can see exactly what the rule is. And only similar categories should be consecutive. We've got to leave space--both for our own later changes, and for later finds. As we go on, we will find it necessary to change our statements of categories from time to time. Unless we leave space to subdivide further, or add similar, but not identical inscriptions, we'll have to change too many inscription numbers.

It seems to be a good idea to keep carbon copies of our letters to each other on the classification, otherwise we'll forget what we said. When we finally agree on the "Man" inscriptions, we can make a listing, subject to later change, but not to be changed by either of us without the other's agreement. This agreement should be automatic, provided that evidence is submitted to show that an inscription does not belong in the category assigned, or that a rule for a category should be changed. When all the inscriptions have been classified, we should re-examine the entire thing, make whatever changes are necessary for consistency, and consider the final result definitive. After that, changes should be made only when it is absolutely necessary. Of course, when I said evidence above--I meant convincing evidence. Generally speaking, I think we should err on the side of too much subdivision, rather than of too little, if the question should arise.

Please let me know your opinion about all this.

And, by the way, have you received a notice of the publication of the Hrozny memorial volume? I just got one, and wondered if I should, when I wrote to order mine, add your order? There will be several articles on Minoan--also on other languages, of course.

*Alice Kober*

A man, woman, "dancer."

A0 Simple lists §

You have statements as well as simple lists

A01 Lists word §'

- A01.1 - K1516 ✓ (A01) A01a1
- A01.2 - K1519 ✓ (A02) A01b1
- A01.3 - K603 ✓ (A011) A01c1
- A01.4 - K607 ✓ (A012) a2
- A01.5 - K608 ✓ (A013) a3
- A01.6 - K609 ✓ (A014) a4
- ~~A01.7 - P1 ✓ (A015) does not have §' Ad forma A08d1~~
- A01.8 - P207.1 (A013) (A015) A01d1
- A01.9 - P192 ✓ (A016) (A021) A01e1
- A01.10 P18 ✓ (A020) (A03) (line 6 is a statement, I think)

A01a

slip

A02 List word' summation §''

- A02.1 - K1517 (A001) A02a1
- A02.2 - K1530 (A002) 2

A01k

A03 List word, word (formulaic) §'

- A03.1 - K40 (A001) A03a1
- A03.2 - P167.1 (A022) (A031) A03e1
- A03.3 - P616 (A023) - of another classification (A001)
- A03.4 - P5 (A024) (A003) A03a2
- A03.5 - P167.3 (A025) (A004) A03a3
- A03.6 - P207.2 (A026) (A002 - but changed my mind.)

A01c

A06 List statement or indep. no. of words §'

- A06.1 - K604 (A011) A06a1
- A06.2 - K606 (A012) A06a2
- A06.3 - K821 (A011) (why?) A09a1
- A06.4 - K04.93 (A001) No A09d1
- A06.5 - P218 (A014) ~~with A01~~
- A06.6 - P615 J (A032) elsewhere A09b1

A01f

A01x

A08 List §''

- A08.1 - K826 (A011) Unique A07a1 (not a list!)
- A08.2 - K1518 (A001) Unique A07d1
- A08.3 - P596.1 (A004) No A23a
- A08.4 - P299.1 (A009) with A01 or x A08a1
- A08.5 - P223 (A010) with A05 A08c1
- A08.6 - P355.3 (A011) " " A08d1
- A08.7 - P35 (A014) - of another classification
- A08.8 - P114 (A015) (A031) A07h

A03a

A08.9 - P19.1  
A08.10 - P39  
A08.11 - P610.2  
A08.12 - P359.1  
A08.13 - P342.2 etc.  
A08.14 - P7  
A08.15 - P128

(An 17) (x) A07f1  
(An 18) with An 4 - A23b  
(An 19) yes A08f1  
(An 27) yes } together A08g2  
(An 28) yes }  
(An 30) yes A08h1  
(An 39) no - other classification

A08i Special form

A08i.1 - P427  
A08i.2 - P298  
A08i.3 - P323.1 etc.

(A007) } yes + together  
(A008) } A08j 1,2,3 but  
(A009) } order 08  
09  
07

A03c

$\frac{c}{x}$  Lists + ~~at~~ apparently extraneous matter

A11a  
A3

A11

$\frac{c}{x}$  "  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A11.1 - K602 (A401)  
A11.2 - K605 (A402)

} later

A15a

$\frac{c}{x}$  " by Td

A15.1 - K819

(A401) later

A2

$\frac{c}{x}$  " in line tablets. alone or w.  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A21a line word  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A21.1 - K755 (A001)  
A21.2 - K609 (A002)

} with A211, but when identical category. not here.

A23

line words  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A23.1 - K600 (A001)  
A23.2 - K602 (A002)

} Later

A25

line words  $\frac{c}{x}$  "  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A25.1 etc

Ad

} should be divided into two principle inaccessible

} only there here

A27

log formulae line  $\frac{c}{x}$  "

A27.1 etc

Ae

} maybe divisible

A 4,  
A 5, } room for   
A 6,  
A 7.

A 9, dancer

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