

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

Old Observatory
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

Dear Tom,

As you see, I have decided to go ahead. I substituted this letter, which I hope will be helpful to all who read it. So, if you would please write to the Chairman directly, I would be most grateful.

I've revised my estimates of my chances. On the Special Research Fellow, I should think - simply out of backlash from this one - my chances are pretty good. Perhaps one in four. Of course for that there is the problem of finding additional (boy! that's Freudian) money from around here. For this application, what with the good chance that the Committee will urge on some properly qualified competition, I think it's a pretty long shot, maybe one in 100? In any case I will not regret seeing someone else get it, nor regret applying.

On another subject, I will try to get your drawings to the photo lab next week. There is uncertainty about the source of money - what with the Institute's phone bill promising to go up astronomically. But the question will be resolved.

It is after all
the 12 January 1984

Yours
Lunt

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(608) 262-3855

Professor Ronald S. Stroud
Chairman of the Committee on Personnel
Department of Classics
University of California at Berkeley
Dwinelle Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Professor Stroud,

I should like to be considered a candidate for the position of the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at the American School for the advertised term of July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1988. I enclose my vita and a list of publications, and I am ready to provide further information if I have omitted what is necessary.

My fundamental motivation for this application is to have an extended opportunity to work on the Pylos tablets. For the same reason I have concurrently, as you know, applied for one of the Special Research Fellowships for 1986-1987, and will repeat here the project which I would equally expect to complete, were I instead chosen for this professorship. I am aware that, in that case, my first task on arrival in Athens would be to prepare for my proper duties, and I should not expect to do anything serious on the tablets until at least the following spring or summer.

I hope to be able, while in residence at the School, to finish up the necessary tasks connected with the long stretched out preparation of the corpus of Pylian Linear B inscriptions to be in fact, or effect, the fourth volume of Blegen and Rawson's Palace of Nestor. What is needed is a chance for a thorough look again at the Pylos tablets, while either drawing them, or better, checking and where necessary revising the drawings after preparation from the photographs which are here. It is my hope that before that time I will have brought the preparations for the volume far enough along so that shortly before or after my return I would be able to complete the MS, and be ready to send it off.

I would hope also for comparison's sake to have another look at the Knossos tablets, in which a considerable number of joins have been made since I last saw them, and for a more comprehensive view of pre-alphabetic writing in Greece to have a good look at the inscribed stirrup-jars from Thebes, Tiryns, and elsewhere (to see whether what I shall have written about them before autopsy will hold up), and at all the Linear A, for I have had only a quick surreptitious glance at the Zakro ones, and none at all at the Khandia ones. And if I could manage also a look at the Pictographic seals, and the like, that would fill in a chasm in my experience of my chosen subject.

This would involve, as most projects do, some cooperation from the Museums, but I think I would be a real bother only to the National Museum, where I should need a fair amount of time, while in Iraklion and elsewhere I should not need extended periods at all.

I have considered the qualifications prescribed for this position, and compared them with my experience. I am confident that I have all the qualifications in some degree. In a draft of this letter, of characteristic brevity and prepared mostly for my referees, I was confident it was a sufficient degree. At the Cincinnati meetings I consulted them and a few others about the appropriateness of this application. I found them all surprised, hesitant, and yet not obviously refusing to consider the possibility. Each brought up one or another aspect of the position which I might find more difficult or burdensome than I expected. I was therefore in the evening nearly persuaded that it would be better not to apply at all. But in a day or two, and upon reflection and under the spell of the papers, particularly the excavation reports, I remembered that each friend had stressed a different aspect, and that it seemed possible that I might remedy most of my apparent deficiencies by preparation, and by time. I therefore decided that I should submit an application, and rely upon my referees and the members of the Committee to see to it that the School should take no harm. So I am writing with uncharacteristic discursiveness, to help them in their labors, to let them see both the merits and the drawbacks of my candidacy.

I recognize as my most serious deficiency for this position that I have a less intimate acquaintance with the sites and monuments and museums than those who regularly come to Greece to excavate or to study. And, in fact, my second fundamental motive in applying is to repair that deficiency. I think I should therefore first describe more fully my preparation in, my experience of, and my teaching of archaeological subjects — aside from Mycenology, that is. Secondly, I will say what I think I can do to prepare myself further if I were fortunate enough to take up this position.

I had my first introduction to archaeology as an undergraduate in Cincinnati from C. W. Blegen. In graduate school there were in my first year both a course by Georg Karo on Greek Sanctuaries, and one by Blegen on [Myres'] Who were the Greeks? That course should not count, for I was immediately seduced by the tablets and remember little of what else was discussed. In the following year Blegen provided a very fine seminar on the Erechtheion. To my great regret since, attending Karo's course interfered with my hope to take one of Blegen's presentations of the Topography and Monuments of Athens.

While at Yale, I was introduced to museum archaeology when at the request of Sir John Myres I examined the Knossos tablets for Scripta Minoa II in a month (1950) at Iraklion, and at Blegen's suggestion spent another looking at the Pylos tablets in Athens. I did have time enough to see Knossos with Piet de Jong, Phaistos and Haghia Triadha with C. G. Boulter, and the Agora, the Acropolis, Mycenae, Tiryns, and Corinth on my own. Back in New Haven, I learned a great deal of method and substance by joining with H. R. Immerwahr to offer a seminar on the Greek Dark Ages, not only from him, but also from S. A. Immerwahr. And from A. R. Bellinger I gained some experience of numismatics.

In 1953-54, my Fulbright year at the School, my principal occupation was, of course, in the storerooms of the museum in Athens, and then for two months in Iraklion. But I was fortunate in participating fully in the Peloponnesian School trip and in the Boiotia plus Thessaly trip, missing only the Northwest Greece trip. The Attica weekend excursions, and the visits to Acropolis, Kerameikos, Eleusis, the Agora, and the museums I

did not miss. On our own, with family and a Fortaki, we saw on New Year's Day a bleak Mycenae; in the spring we managed to see a fair amount of the Peloponnese, starting out by way of Delphi, Naupaktos, and Patras. In Crete we explored similarly from Rethymno to Palaikastro, and from Iraklion to Timbaki. We even managed to see Aigina. At the end of the year I went down to Ano Eglianos for the month, and assisted, so that I have at least a bit of experience of excavation.

Shortly after I came to Wisconsin P. L. MacKendrick had just seen the MS of his Greek Stones off to the press, and was then anxious to have me take over the course out of which the MS had been produced. I was of course happy to do this. I knew before I began that I could not follow his patterns, or use his volume as a text. I did have the use of his somewhat limited collection of slides, and supplemented it by others in the department, and by my own, gradually accumulated. As I gave the course on several occasions, perhaps eleven times between 1963 and 1977, the course kept changing, perhaps improving. In the early years I supplemented that course with a seminar on Homeric Archaeology (once, before 1964), and one in 1967 on the Topography and Monuments of Athens, from which I learned other things, and that I really needed more experience on the ground. On one occasion more recently I even read up on the archaeology of Roman Britain, to substitute for MacKendrick for a week while he toured for the AIA, and for his notes, which I found illegible. My hope to offer other graduate courses in the simpler aspects of archaeology was rather squelched by the diminishing size of the department, the changing tastes of the students, and occupation in that line with occasional offerings of Mycenaean Epigraphy. In 1977, MacKendrick, in order to prepare to revise his Stones, took back the Greek Archaeology course.

In 1965, a semester in Cambridge allowed me to visit several British sites, especially along the Wall, and a frustrating look at the dagger on Stonehenge. Driving from Yugoslavia to Crete and out by way of Kerkyra added at least Olynthus in the north, some sites between, and some in the northwest that I had missed with the School trip in 1953. In 1969, though thoroughly lost in the National Museum most of the time, I did see Pella with Ph. Petsas. The 1976 Congress added a full week of Rhodes and its principal sites, and the 1981 Congress provided a full week of Santorini and a weekend at Pylos. In 1982, though the opportunities were more limited than I had hoped, I saw, and helped the other members of the party to see, as much of Island archaeology as was possible.

It is not primarily connected with this application, but it is appropriate, that I am to return in the first semester of 1984-85 to the course in Greek Archaeology. MacKendrick is retiring this year, and I will be taking the course back, at least this one more time. I will obviously have a good bit of reading to do, and I will try to make that the occasion for discovering what I ought to work on.

If I were to be chosen, I should expect to spend the first summer in seeing and preparing myself for as many sites as possible, and would ask, if permitted, to tag along on the Summer School trips. After that, although I expect that during the first year I should be learning about the sites and monuments along with, and from, the students, I hope that

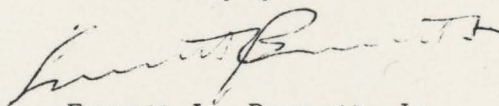
I would be able to guide their studies at the same time in such a way that they would not be shortchanged.

On a second qualification I sense some lack, but I think not a serious one. I don't know of a standardized test for my competence in spoken Modern Greek. I read pretty well. On my arrivals in Greece I am able to move about and eat without difficulty. By the end of ten days I am pretty comfortable in most situations. Shopkeepers do not always switch to English. I am pretty good at paraphrasing, and so I am not always idiomatic. I do find that my ear is least helpful in really unfamiliar context, especially when it is combined with the more than usually slurred and ambiguous consonants. I have sung for a year and a quarter in a Greek church choir.

I have asked Barbara H. Fowler, William F. Wyatt, Jr., Thomas W. Jacobsen, and Thomas G. Palaima to write about me, and they have graciously consented.

12 January 1984

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.