

Dear Tom,
14 February 1992

In order to get this stuff off to you promptly, without another trip up to the Institute, I leave a polite space at Minos 24, where my text reads 299-142 as a result of careless copying or typing. You can discretely fill in the proper one or two numbers, I think. I haven't yet got around to fixing the machine to do the Greek.

As for the course idea -

I think the enthusiasm you showed for an inchoate idea has cheered me up, and I am inclined to go along with it.

CLASSICS *#@*!%^ ^ . Writing Greek & al. {I do like the title just this way}

Prerequisites: enough Greek to have met Homer, enough Latin to have met Vergil, or Virgil, or Horace vel simm.

Subject: through examination and comparisons of samples of written (ancient) Greek, (ancient) Latin, and a few other (ancient) languages, to gain a notion of the system of writing implicit in the (ancient) Greek alphabet, and especially that it is rather a series of systems. By contrast with other systems of writing for the Greek language (e.g. Cypriote and Mycenaean), and systems for Latin, and used in other (ancient) Near Eastern cultures, to identify its distinctive features. Other agenda may well be involved if circumstances are favorable.

Some topics which can be pursued within this general heading:

Writing Greek versus Latin verses - why the different treatments of elision? Is this a symptom of a fundamental difference in the systems of writing of Latin and Greek?

Boustrophedon, abbreviations (verbal, or ideographic), abecedaria, grammata as ordinal numbers, alphabetization.

Date of origin, and identity of originator, of Greek alphabet.

Is the Phoenician alphabet an alphabet? For that matter, is the Greek alphabet an alphabet? Or, what is an alphabet, anyhow.

Why do I think a syllabary is a pretty good thing? What is the connection between Linear B and the Greek alphabet.

Some topics not to be touched with a ten foot pole:

Anything to do with letter shapes. Gemmatría. What are the connections among Linear A, Linear B, and the Cypriote scripts?

Date of origin, and identity of originator, of Greek alphabet.

Some books:

Gelb, St, and the prior communis opinio

Saussure, and the phoneme

Powell, and his critics, (Janko, Nagy), and the priores communes opiniones

I trust TGP to take the above, and smash it into something acceptable

Got a fax from Anna, at last. Bought ticket 28 Mar-28 May. Is it wise to enlist Vassili (supposing he's there [2-3 days maybe, but I cannot live in midst of any family]) in search for a place to stay? Anna washes hands. Academy I hear is remodeling, and in any case it's surely too late. I have name of one Villa -- near Academy recommended by somebody.

Yours
