

Dear Fred,

It's been a longer time than it should be. In the mean time, the responsibility for the preparation of the Pylos Corpus has been shared with Tom Palaima, etc., and especially with Jose Melena, who has in the past five years done miracles in joining little bits of fragments of tablets to the proper places on the faces or reverses of the tablets. Also in the recent mean time, I've been ably assisted by my professional computer, son John, who has transformed this from a strictly dos/wordperfect machine, which I like very much, to a generous Windows98, with a zip drive up there, the modem (still happily working through DOS), with a CDROMreader, and the choice of a BW or a color printer. So I ought, as soon as I learn to manage the CDROM, to be able to read the disk Jack Davis has sent me of the PY notebooks, and work properly on the find spots, incorporating what I learned from my days in the Palace.

I do have some complaint about this new spacetaker in my machine, because the Wind seems to want not to let anything written in WPerfect, like this one, be printed. It does let it be emailed, so I will do that now, and try printing later, with expert help. The occasion for this is a note from Jose, that he has managed to have the new bits (of 1995, 96, &c., found in your reexamination tables for the bags of sherds that we went through) sent up to Athens. There he has confirmed that one of those bits does not yet join any other known bit, but that the other of those bits does indeed have a join to 1177, which in turn clearly belongs to the pair 1426, 1428. He asks me, would I like to publish these, or would I like him to publish them. Keeping in mind in any case that we ask your permission, of course. It took me little time to decide that it would be much simpler, and much better, for him to publish them, just as he has published in Minos in recent numbers large numbers of the joins he has found the the National Museum basement.

Therefore, I ask whether you approve of Jose's publication of those two bits and the joining. With an answer either to me, or to Jose ,(whose email is ecpmeji@vchx00.vc.ehu.es). or to both of us.

Now a second question. two parts: Part 1. I would like sometime to come to Minneapolis, and have a look at the photos among the MARWP archives which would be of great help to me in two endeavors. The first is the complex of Room 7 and Room 8 and the grand Chasm, especially those taken from the attic. The pictures I took with my machine's camera are interesting as the record of the adventure, but their value is pretty well limited by the innards of the camera and the inexperience of me.

Part 2. In my last days of working at the sherd table and the wheelbarrow I found a couple of pieces, not inscribed, but still of interest (potential) for the study of writing and communications by writing. These I carefully examined, and then turned them over to Mike, hoping that they would be kept, bagged and tagged, and even photographed. The reason for the first of them is down on paper somewhere, but for the second, it was a bit of clay fairly flat, which had on the one side the appearance of

being the outside of a bit of clay as a seal on a piece of a letter or something like that. And on the inside there was not a smooth surface, but a certain roughness. I could not identify it, but I could suspect that might be what the impression of a piece of papyrus might make, or possibly a bit of hide. So, if these bits were not only kept and examined, and tagged, but also photographed I would be overjoyed to have a chance to come see those photos. That piece would be wonderful evidence that the similar earlier instances from Crete, mostly in Linear A, were paralleled by late Linear B correspondence. Emmett