

October 21, 1958

Mlle. N. Van Brock
36 rue Cortambert
Paris XVI, France

Dear Mlle. Brock:

Perhaps by now the tentative listing of the hands at Pylos which I sent to M. Lejeune has arrived, so that you can examine with him all the ascriptions to hands. In any case it is certain that all of the O-KA tablets are by the same hand. It is probable that this is the same hand as inscribed En-Ep, Aa240 etc., most of Na, and perhaps Es, and I have called it Hand 1.

One would certainly expect that PY An661.8 could be vacant, of course, and in the photograph every thing to the right of the mark in the drawing is perfectly vacant. To the left of it, however, the photograph shows that the surface is much broken, and there are sufficient traces of marks to make it possible that something was written there, and it was my opinion that it was inscribed with perhaps one long word, or with two shorter, and that it ended, as in the other O-KA tablets, with the mark of punctuation which appears in the drawing. That mark in the photograph seems to be deliberate, but of course it could be accidental. The traces which could most easily be read as a sign are under the pe-i of line 7, and seem to be no. But there is not enough of the rest of the line to guess what might have begun or ended the word. Perhaps with careful autopsy, aided by parallel personal names, one might be able to read more.

If there is writing in line 8, then the absence of an empty line to make a paragraph is peculiar, but it could be explained on the grounds that the scribe saw he had no room to spare, and indeed at the end of the tablet he was quite crowded. The space at the end of line 9 could have been used if the reading were pi-*82, but with the proper reading ti-mi-to-a-ke-i (probably in one word) the scribe was justified in putting it in line 10.

Sincerely yours,

Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.

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