

Bryn Mawr College Library  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
May 30, 1956

Dear Emmett,

Excerpts from Roger' letters in re oil:

- 1) olive oil can be kept for long periods, as much as three years, perhaps more
  - a) provided before storing you allow it to settle for about 3 periods of a month each (the finer the quality the longer period for settling), and remove what has settled;
  - b) containers should be scrupulously clean and glazed. (She is of course referring to modern glaze; one must be fussy about that too, since glaze from some places is better than others; the oil will eat ordinary glazes.)
  - c) containers for long storage should be sealed; wax is all right.
  - d) oil does deteriorate with age; but three-year old oil is perfectly all right, though not as desirable as new. Oil increases in acidity the longer it's kept.
- 2) oil is used for weaving. Sheep's wool is first cleaned of its own oil or fat (lanolin ?) since dyes will not adhere to it if natural oil is present; one then dyes it, and when it is spun one then applies the best quality oil so that it will hold together in weaving.

Mrs. A. told Lucy on the way home last night that she would have nothing to do with olives and lentils with a ten foot pole! However, there is a method of curing olives by putting them between layers of branches of a shrub known in French as lentisque, which is translated lentisk, which is defined as the mastic tree. Apparently one cures them by pouring water over these alternate layers. Don't know if you can make any connection linguistically with this, although of course lens and phakos equate. On the other hand the trail may lead back to nitron again since I see L.S. suggest that phakousion is a name for nitron.

I (Now ML speaking) do not think much of lentisk, since Greek word therefor is schinos. Am rather attracted by phakousion (completely different stem, from Egyptian place name, and perhaps not likely to come out as pakowe). Also, did we consider the possibility of phegos (oak), since that is so commonly used in tanning and dying?

About the Eleusis pot, thank you very much. If Bjorck is right, then it rather looks as if da-22-to should be the man's name, and ? Labrax the friend he is staying with, since he is in genitive.

Hope socks have arrived.

All the best,

*Ma Se 1*