

January 5, 1954

Dear Emmett:

Many thanks for your letters of 11 and 19 December. I am much obliged to you for checking the text of Pylos 641. I was afraid that one sign had somehow got left out in the transliteration. I have not yet received any copies of the article in the Oikonomas volume. Thanks also for sending the photographs of the three tablets that Ventriss wanted. A letter from Ventriss himself reports that he too has received the prints and will transmit them with his article to Archaeology.

Yes, I promised Karouzos to give him when convenient a set of prints of the new Pylos tablets for the Museum collection, but there is no hurry at the moment. I will take care of the matter myself when I come back to Athens. Meanwhile please do nothing about it. If Karouzos should happen to mention it again, just tell him that I've not forgotten and will see to it in good time.

By the way, have you got the two sets of full-size prints of the 1952 tablets? And have you tried tracing the texts and bleaching the prints? It might be worth while to try one as an experiment, if you have not already done so. Djimos, the museum photographer, told me he could manage the bleaching.

I was much interested in your remarks about the tripod and pot tablets. I have copies of most of them and I, too, thought they might belong to a more or less connected series. I had noticed the word-groups suggesting gold, gilt, ivory, kyanos, polypods, phoinikes, etc., and had been puzzling over some of the other words; and I think you are on the right track. (The phoinikes I take to be palm trees, not griffins. The palm is a common Mycenaean motive). A reference to a tomb deposit seems to me highly dubious; I think it might be an inventory of royal treasure chests kept in the palace. To-no and to-pe-za have baffled me: you may be right in seeing in them a thronos and a trapeza. Thranus in another context is also a possible reading: there is a clay bench in the Archives Room. But the ideogram in the text on 722 seems to refer to a dish of some kind, maybe of ivory. A-ja-me-no might give the clue needed. I wonder if it could have anything to do with silver. But it occurs in many entries. Keep trying; but be sure to get all the texts into shape for publishing. That is the priority job.

Hadji did not get to the meetings in New York and have heard little about what happened there. Instead I went to Minnesota, where I had a pleasant holiday.

Many thanks for your Christmas card with its echoes of Pylos. I wonder if you transcribed correctly that new tablet. My copy shows several variant readings: e.g., shouldn't it be for ?

With best wishes to Marja, the children, and yourself,

Yours ever,