

Cambridge  
8 xi 65

Dear Emmett,

After I had received your card of 23 Oct. about KN 8353 and verified the information, I found the same thing in Olivier's thesis. So I have merely reported this to him.

Olivier is now in Iraklion, until end of November, at the Museum, if you want to write to him. He has sent me a first list of 15 new joins; I expect more to follow, and will transmit a full list in due course.

As for the photos, you are mistaken if you think I have the films - obviously there would be no problem if I had. But once the prints were made we returned all the negatives to Olivier, and I'm afraid you must ask him for this. Sorry, but there's nothing we can do about it.

I am working on Olivier's thesis. I hope you won't mind if I say it marks a step forward compared with your work on the PY hands; but then you never prepared this for full publication. In any case, the problems are not quite the same. He has abandoned your method of establishing a nucleus, and then working outwards from this. He presents his results differently, at least, and says he has found no clear lines on which to establish classes of hand as you did. He has been very cautious, and I like the way he refuses to go beyond what is evident. In one or two cases his caution may be excessive (i.e. two hands not really to be distinguished); but he has, if I remember aright 41 principal hands, plus 36 minor hands (i.e. represented by only a small selection of signs) none of which seem to be identical with the others. Moreover, there are a number of tablets not all insignificant which appear not to fit, and he arrives at a very rough estimate of 75 for the number of scribes. With minor exceptions he agrees that all the archive is contemporary - the exceptions being for lack of evidence in the positive sense, not that one can prove the contrary.

One of the hands, 124, is not a hand at all. It is a large group of tablets, ranging over classes from A and C to V covering much inbetween, with very marked characteristics in common (e.g. a ka with 'swung' bars and a distinctive so); but there are clearly several writers, O. thinks at least 10. The one thing they have in common is their find-spot, The Room of the Chariot Tablets (= C on O's excellent alphabetical system of reference to the Palace). I want to investigate this group still further, but I am already playing about with a theory to explain this peculiarity. I shall be interested to know if you have observed this grouping and what you think about it. O. has produced a magnificent concordance, giving not only joins but hand and find-spot where this can be identified.



Good news from Zakro. Have you copies or photos? If the present rate of discovery continues in a few years we might be in a position to start deciphering Linear A. I have just had Nagy's article from AJA 69/4, but no time to read it yet.

I am busy writing a French version of my paper on Myc. economics for Brussels - I never knew that I wrote such difficult English.

Lydia Baumbach will be here next month, and I hope we shall speedily produce a Composite Studies. There is still doubt how it will get printed, but we hope the Institute will do it in their Bulletin Supplements, like KT3.

Yours

*Blm*

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Sender's name and address:

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