

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

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Dear Bennett,

I have been meaning to write to you for some time, in fact ever since we found the tablets at Mycenae this summer. Now we have just arrived here and are going to be here until the end of April we hope.

As you know we found tablets ~~at~~ Mycenae this year, thirty nine of them, in a private house, the House of the Oil Merchant which we once called the House of Stirrup Jars. The tablets seem to be accounts and Carl Blegen and others like Ventris who have seen the photographs all agree that they ^{are} in Linear B and very like the Pylos and Knossos tablets. In fact Ventris pointed out groups which recur in the Pylos and Knossos tablets.

What I want to ask you now is whether you would be willing to publish these tablets for us in the same way in which you have done the Pylos tablets. I do hope you will be willing to do so.

What we would all like is that they should be published in a separate little book like the Pylos tablets. We none of us want them published in an article in some learned journal. Our idea is to try to make the texts available as soon as possible to anyone who wants to work at them. With our tablets I would like to have included the tablet which Petsas found and the various inscriptions on stirrup jars ~~xx~~ from Mycenae so that the publication will give a sort of Corpus up to the present time of the script material from Mycenae. In addition to the tablets we found a stirrup jar with an inscription and a fragment of an inscription on another pot fragment. I have drawings or photographs of all the material and the published material like Petsas' tablet and the stirrup jars you know already.

I have already photographs of some of the tablets but not very good ones but I have the Leica negatives taken by Alison Frantz of all the tablets and if you would tell me what size prints you would like to work from and what kind of print I will get the photographer here to make them.

The American Philosophical Society gave a large grant towards the cost of the excavations and I am going to suggest to them that they should publish the tablets as one of their monographs, Memoirs I think they call them. I have spoken to Professor Merritt about this and he thinks there should be no difficulty but I am going to put the suggestion before Dr. Eisenhart as soon as I have an opportunity. I suggest that you should transcribe and edit the texts and I will write a brief introduction about the finding of the tablets in the same way in which Carl Blegen did it for your Pylos tablets. I have ~~a~~ photographs of the best inscribed stirrup jars and suggest that these might be included.

I do hope you will be willing to undertake the publication. Is there any chance of your being able to come here for a week end? I fear that there is not much chance of our getting to New Haven before the early part of next year.

With kind regards and best wishes from us both to you both
Yours sincerely Alan Wace