

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

Old Observatory
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

Dear Mr. McClellan,

I knew I should have written you more nearly immediately, but I didn't get to it, as seems always the case on returning from that part of the world. I meant first to thank you for your assistance in my hurried visit to the School.

Of first importance, the set of negatives, 521 in number, of the Pylos tablets are indeed identifiable. They are the negatives of the most recent set, taken in 1969 or 1970 by Emil Seraf, and intended as the primary set for the eventual publication. So they are valuable things and worth careful preservation. The set of prints I trust are from the same ~~set~~ set, though I must check, because 509 is almost but not quite 521, and because the fingerprints I think came from a different set. I leave a space for the results of looking up.

--- The 509 ought indeed to come from the 521, though I could understand leaving out ca. 514-521, of a different format, somewhat better. But the finger prints ought to be of another set, done in '54, and numbered 54-1, 54-2 etc.?

Thank you for Tsakos' name. However, a couple of days later I went down to Pylos partly to look at the possibilities of that sort of photography, partly to see it again after long absence, and partly just for fun. I believe the hour for the sort of photography I wanted is past. Something valuable, or rather somewhat useful, might come of it, but probably not much. What I was particularly after was the pattern of cracks on the floor, and especially the line of the edge of our 'chasm' where the wall-robbers cut through floors and jumbled tablets. This was to help discover which tablets were really still in situ. Most I know pretty well, but those ~~near~~ near the edge are often a problem. But the floor has very properly been covered over almost entirely for preservation, and what I was after would require its uncovering, which I'm not about to ask the Greek authorities for now, or even at the most favorable times. I will just go back and try to work from the old photographs, and perhaps be able to refine the approximations I have already.

I will tell Tom Palaima of your report. He, too, will find it useful.
With renewed thanks,

Sincerely yours,

