

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK

TELEPHONE

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THE DAVID HUME TOWER

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Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your letter. I agree with you that  $\text{F}$  can have one or two cross-strokes and that these belong to the sign itself. There is something odd about these cross-strokes, however. One or both of them may sometimes follow the  $\text{Z}$  element as a sort of appendage and may not "cross" it at all. We wondered, inter alia, whether they might not have the effect of a numeral qualifying  $\text{F}$  only, and not the other signs associated with it.

(Incidentally, in 702, where  $\text{F}\text{F}$  is read twice, in each case before an amphora, the  $\text{F}$ 's seem to be drawn in the most rudimentary way. I wonder if 702 and the equally dim 704 are good enough evidence for this group.) We have often toyed with the notion that  $\text{F}^2$  is  $\text{A}$  plus  $\text{Z}$ , but see no future in it. At any rate, I'm sure  $\text{F}^2$  isn't simply a ligature of  $\text{A}$  and  $\text{Z}$  as they are used concurrently in the linear  $\text{B}$  script. I don't think  $\text{A}$  is involved at all, but I would not

exclude the possibility that the  $\zeta$  element stems from the same source as  $\zeta^*$  75  $\zeta$ . (You must have noticed, by the way that at Knossos the sign is often written  $\zeta^*$ , the head being much narrower than  $\zeta$ . What does this betoken?).

The Pylos photographs I have are not very helpful. Although Bennett lists a form with cross-strokes at Knossos and Mycenae, it is not clear whether he means to show this at Pylos too. At any rate in a couple of hundred photographs I can find no instance of it. There is none on Ta 641, for example, nor in the Ma Series, where  $\zeta^*$  is prominent as an independent ideogram.

In general, distinctions such as that between  $\zeta$ ,  $\zeta^*$  and  $\zeta^*$  are to be expected at Knossos where the script seems to preserve many archaic features that have been lost or whittled down on the mainland.

I'm indebted to you for taking so much trouble to look up the texts, and am sorry that the task was not a more fruitful one.

Yours ever,  
Arthur