

138 Lincoln Hall  
Urbana, Illinois  
January 11, 1960

Prof. E. L. Bennett, Jr.  
Institute for Research in the Humanities,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Professor Bennett,

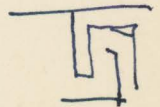
At last I am able to send you both a copy of my complete paper, which is now going in to AJA, and a summary specially prepared for NESTOR. You will want to retype the summary and are free to edit it in any way you choose, but I hope you can use the diagrams as they are, perhaps by cutting and pasting to make the master copy.

I wish I could also send you an offprint of my original paper in CJ, but my supply has long since been exhausted. It was read at the Cincinnati meeting of CAMWS in the spring of 1946 and I'm delighted to know you remember it and approve of my contentions. Because it does exist, even though neglected by European scholars, I've had to compress my present article to the barest essentials, and I certainly hope AJA will publish it. To answer your questions:

My remarks about obverse (account) and reverse (labyrinth) were based on Miss Lang's note (p. 190) that some of the lines on the labyrinth were squeezed together as if that side of the tablet, already incised, had been held face down in the hand when the account was entered on the top side.

Wherever inscriptions make it possible to distinguish top from bottom, the figure is usually oriented so that the entrance is either at the top, as on the Pompeian graffito and Cretan coins, or on the bottom, as on the Danish Cross (CJ fig. 8). There are exceptions, however; see CJ figs. 2 and 3, where I suppose considerations of material and artistic composition dictated the position of the opening. Note that though the Etruscan drawing (fig. 10) is on its side in relation to the men on horseback, the opening is at the top in relation to the word TRVIA. My guess, then, is that our Pylian scribe did hold the tablet in such a way that the opening of the figure was at the top of that side--but this was only a doodle for an idle moment. Later, when the tablet was needed for an account, he (or somebody else) entered it on the other side, choosing the narrower edge as top to suit the length of his lines and without any reference to the figure on the other side.

It would help my thesis, but I hesitate to ascribe much importance to the curves to which you call attention on your photograph. The lower one may have been required to join the end of a misplaced line to the previously made dot, but the upper one looks to me like a later crack in the clay, and both could be cracks. Perhaps nobody can tell for sure now, but I wish very much you could either



confirm or reject my impression (recorded under my 8th point of the complete article) that there is a join of two incised lines (not cracks) at the spot which I have marked with a pencilled X on the copy of page 9 made for you. That is, that the central cross was in fact incised first and that on bringing around the line from the left-hand side of the figure the scribe failed to meet the arm of the cross exactly.

Many thanks indeed for your interest. As you will see from my second footnote, my delay in writing to you was caused by the need to run down the figure in the Scientific American. Meriwether Stuart had told me about it, but I could not get a copy until last Friday. I hope to see your illuminating paper on the palaeography of the tablets before long.

Yours very sincerely,

*John L. Heller*

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