

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

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Dear Tom,

Strange to start to write a letter just after ample opportunity to say things, but the first things I just forgot to say, and the second things came to me after a nap on the Alco, from about Jamesville to Madison.

There had been ca. 10 inches snow, but it had been pretty well cleaned up, so I hardly noticed it. Marja had in the meantime contributed some blood to herself by way of stockpiling it, and though that in itself was OK, the result was very considerable pain in the arm and all over, so that the program of bringing her bed downstairs was hurried up, and that and the contextual arrangements used all the morning.

The old business is that in the examination of Vassili's sealings, I discovered that with two exceptions their practice of orientation of text of beta/gamma to alpha was very consistent, and quite the contrary of what I had decided was standard at Pylos. This would have caused no trouble, except that I had decided for Pylos to introduce some changes in the way beta and gamma were identified, and put them into the text you have. But now I have had to rethink the matter, and am ready to put up some new rules, and then apply them to Pylos, and then write up a statement of the rules, and circulate them to you and Vassili and John Killen. I will try to do it quickly. I did a half page or so before New York, but that was tentative, and certainly needs rewriting at the least.

The new business, which struck like lightning on the bus, is a way to get to Greece, and important and philanthropic stuff to do there, if I can get cooperation of authorities, and minute help from philanthropists. The first question is that I vaguely remember that Mrs Dimakopoulou is about to be succeeded by another as director of the Museum. Anyhow, the idea is to write to the director, and say that the storage of the Pylos t's needs to be improved at least to equal the standard of the Knossos t's, with lined and compartmented trays, so that they do not bump one another as the trays are pushed violently in and out, and so that the necessary regluings will stand some chance of lasting for a few more years. I would like to come, if possible in July, purchase the necessary plastic materials there, apply to the materials as I put them in the trays the arrangements of the strips and compartments as I shall have worked out from here, since I think I have somewhere the measurements of the trays (or can get them without too much trouble, I hope), and dispose the tablets in the improved trays, apply good labels to the trays and to the compartments, and since the plans should be fairly well adapted to the requirements of trays and tablets, it should not really take up too much time of the guards. And I can put in as a second possible time, if I can't get July, the early part of 1989, before I am to go off to Naples, if indeed I am. What I would do about July then would be another matter. As for philanthropy, I think this project would fit well with Malcolm's program, and since I shall be unhired by Wisconsin I will not feel I'm taking it away from more deserving youngsters.

If I'm going to try this I ought to start writing right away, but I figure I can wait till I hear from you in answer. Maybe I'll even start drafting some possible letters.

At this date and time I really should wish you both a very fine new year.

Yours,

31 December 1987

