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Wednesday

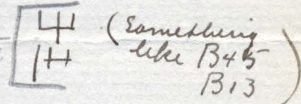
Dear Franklin:

First comment: Gee Whiz and Holy Smoke!

Second comment: Thanks!

Third comment: It certainly looks as though it should be related to one of our scripts.

I can't decide whether to take it upside-down, right side up, or sideways, either way. Do the markings on the sketch of the discus mean that the two inscriptions stood on end? and if so, which end? I'm inclined to think that the scrawl in the corner was an abortive attempt to transcribe the rubbing on the left, perhaps comme ça and then she decided that that wasn't what it looked like, after all.

 (Something like B45 B13)

It's a little difficult to go by the rubbing. The one on the left might be $\Xi \bar{\Gamma}$ but I think the second sign may be \neq . The penciling is a little lighter where the top part of the stroke might be. When I turned it upside-down, I realized it might be $\neq \underline{\neq}$. And there is just a possibility that it might be \neq . When I hold it sideways, there is a little

irregularity in the penciling that might indicate the presence of a third vertical in the upper sign.

The second reading would delight Persson. He would read pa-si without a doubt.

I'd give anything for just a look at the original. But what's the use?

The second rubbing doesn't look at all like Linear B, of course. I agree with you that the

signs may be right-side-up just as they are. Then the first is almost certainly your III:ll and I'm inclined to agree with you about the second. Here again, the rubbing seems to show two faint strokes to the left of the K-like letter. But that may just be imagination. Obviously, Gladys Davidson didn't see it at all. But then she may have been misled by the familiar appearance of the K part of the sign.

Did it occur to you to wonder if the last sign was ~~f~~ I doubt that it is, since ~~γ~~ is clear on the rubbing and in the transcription, but I looked first at the discarded rubbing in the lower ~~xxx~~ right corner, and I can't get the idea out of my head. This inscription doesn't seem to look natural from any other angle.

It is striking, however, that every single sign looks like a sign known in some other Minoan (to invent a term) script.

Thanks again for sending it to me. I made a tracing, as accurate as possible, since I had no film available, and I'm not much good at photography anyhow. I want to look it over again in a week or so, and see if I agree with myself. I see no arguments against your normalization. According to Thucydides and others (I quote Pape) Skyros was inhabited by Delopes (never heard of them-- does he mean Dolopes?), Pelasgians and Carians. To me that means Minoan influence. Cerinthos in Euboea wasn't far off. (I just checked Thucydides, 1.98---the word is Dolopes). According to ~~xxx~~ late sources (Porphyrius, etc.) Tyrrhenians lived there.

This just goes to prove how many inscriptions are probably floating around somewhere on the Greek islands.

Have you heard whether Mr. Bennett will publish his list of the Minoan signs? I've been ~~has been~~ busy with examinations at

college to do much, at to write to him. I hope I have some more positive or negative on the question of Minoan signs. I'll write you if I have any more.