

39 Causewayside
Cambridge

9 October 1957

Dear Emmett,

Many thanks for two letters and a postcard. I return the proofs, or at least those galleys which I've corrected. I'll keep them to a minimum to save postage. (Our postage rates have just gone up; you'll like this quotation from the Post Office announcement: "The Commonwealth rate will not apply to .. Tibet, U.S.A, Gaza and Khan Yunis.") Suppressed: Galley 63 - nothing to correct; Galley 64 - 3 colons to become stops in Aul02, a wrong accent in Fol01 and one to become ēh (Dl 928); Galley 67 - 1/1440 and spelling of (gk.) apudōsmios; if possible 'saleable' I go on the authority of S.O.E.D.

I have restored the passage about draba, not that I feel any confidence in it; but if I don't say it someone else will, and I'm a bit tired ~~about~~ failing to get credit for things I thought of but didn't think worth saying. The ko-no omission must be restored in some form, as it doesn't make sense as printed. I'm not sure what the inconsistency is; but a reference to the KN use of the word ought to go in here.

On the question of the reading of Ge603.1 for the Index, don't mess up the block or make it inconsistent with the transcription. Wouldn't the easiest thing be to keep the entry exactly as it stands but with V for C? It was Michael's reading, even if I hesitantly supported him; and I think it's no injustice to him. The da-ra-pa suggested in my commentary will not quite properly be indexed; the entry da-ra will lead to it quite sufficiently. I now think that Michael's pa for da was due to not appreciating this trick of doubling strokes.

I think that's all the proof corrections; leave ophlon as it stands, for if you put anything on it must be not a macron, but o, which will probably give the printer a headache. We just don't (can't) know whether Myc. possessed a temporal augment. Since we've got precisely one example of a syllabic augment, I work on the principle of not showing any augment unless attested by the spelling.

Many thanks for your permission to use the quotations. I have made it quite plain that your contribution to the decipherment was an essential one, and that your work has been of the highest quality. But your reactions in 1952 were definitely slow, and I feel should be mentioned. As for being cautious, so am I, much too so; but in these matters unless we take a few risks we shall never make any progress. Not that I took any risks over the decipherment; it took me four days to convince myself, and I've never looked back since.

Now to your letter of 27/9. Many thanks for the confirmation of Wall4 = Aa60. This works fine, and gives us a new list of place-names in each of the two provinces; the Aa240 bloke was obviously responsible for the Hither Province, including Pylos. All this is in a note called "The Myc. filing system" for the Seminar in London next month. Huxley is talking to-day on the Cyclic epics.

I've heard from Miss Lang, a letter asking if I think it possible to equate Myc. e with Greek u. This happens to be one of the ideas I'm playing with. I believe we is sometimes to be read u, at least in initial position before a vowel. (not in we-a-no-i). But I don't think we can extend this to words where there is no w; Miss Lang wants to connect ko-te-ri-ja with kotule. I don't think that will work. But what are the new words for which she wants it, she hasn't told me yet. I replied in a leading style - I mean I hope it leads to some preview of the tablets! To be quite frank, I'm very disappointed Blegen has switched publication from you; I only hope she makes a tolerable job of it.

One more thing about MT. I now think that the house of the Oil Merchant is an appendage to the Palace; and that merchants are an anachronism. But out of deference to Wace feel I ought not to say this here. I hope what I have said at the bottom of Galley 64 is some indication of my real views.

The new KN fragments are to go in BSA 1958, numbered 8100 to 8115; Huxley will try to get these numbers on the originals next year. I propose to call the armour one baldly S 8100, and the other fragments ought to be reclassified as S, I imagine.

Only now do I realise how little I really knew of Michael. I certainly couldn't have answered your question, except that I have been pestering Betty for more biographical details, and she says he never read a novel.* Even taking "never" in its Pinaforian sense (hope you know that one), it still looks as if the answer is no.

Must go now to get the train to London.

Yours,

John

* "Michael never felt he had any time to waste, he never read a novel, never sat in the sun unless he was working - in fact skiing and underwater golfing are the only sports he liked, and he did them longer + better than most people."

(of this type) 4
There's one
D, one Og(?)
rest X.