

ASCSA

Dear Cynthia and Tom,

This can be mostly a very general letter, so I rejoice in both names. Several things to report, since whenever was the last (just looked it up ca 15 Nov) letter was. I must have boasted of my discourse to Korres' group. I still hear comments from new ones, and also too Prof. Papapdopoulos has asked me to give a repeat performance in Jannina in March. Wow!

I have a note from Jean-Pierre, in writing agreeing to most of the questions in that letter, for we had discussed most of them here in that week.

The business of letters through Belgium (or Netherlands or Denmark) from US Universities seems to be widely spreading. Econ Comm results of intra-European postal rates coming down. But Saloni discussion reports it also slows receipts considerably.

I have today a letter from Kingdon. I had sort of shelved the colloquium idea, as I think I quoted from my letter to Kingdon. Now I waver again. John Chadwick is not likely to favor it, but I must think again. Anyhow I quote RMK: "Next year we have generally agreed that if there be any theme it be your work on Mycenaean studies, involving you, hopefully Aravantinos, maybe even in a distant way Marshall Clagett. (He dropped by recently. He is now retired from the Princeton Institute, and expressed vague interest in coming back for a visit. We are trying to persuade the Institute Committee to nominate him to the Graduate School for a Brottingham Professorship next year). I would hope that Tom Palaima would be involved in the planning. As far as I am concerned, the symposium could be primarily a working-group of Mycenaean specialists, without a great deal for the general public. But others may have more to say than I about next year's program."

Two comments: Bad spelling comes from my right hand with just thumb and forefinger, because I steam-burnt my fingers from the tea-kettle in my nice Loring Hall apt the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and I will take the bandage off for good tonight. Probably could have done it Saturday, but I wanted to spare the onlookers. No.2: The last comments of RMK, perhaps come from lame-duck-ness, and some (long-standing) discontent with the way things are going. No notion yet how that will affect my thinking on the problem, but not much.

I'm to do a lecture for CWB centenary, as I've said. I've been looking through his papers and stuff in the School's Room 8 (not 7 - you enter it from outside [and 7 is actually, I discover, the Garage], and it has the doorway to the elevator in it, and another, but smaller memory IBM PC, no printer, which I can use in the afternoons - end paraparenthesis) and found lots of interesting stuff, such as some of my letters to him, and really interesting stuff besides. But it hasn't been the best, because what I really wanted was his letters out, to see what expectations of finding writing he might have had before, and what further expectations he might have expressed of the found stuff. But mostly it's others letters to him. But just today Carol(e?) Zerner brought me a folder (fro, B.H.Hill's section of the files) with Ventris' correspondence and several bigger letters of mine, things we've been looking for for a long time, and these will really help. So when Steve M asked me this morning what I had told him as a title for my talk, I allowed as how I hadn't told him anything, and then an hour later found I was content with:

"From the Greek Alphabet to the Mycenaean Script and back again"
, which you will understand once you hear it. You may not like it, who knows? Heard a talk tonight at the Goulandris by Colin Renfrew. The Indo-Europeans, characterized by farming and Proto-Indo-European language(s) arrived ca 6500, neolithic time. The Greek language was developed from the tradition of that

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PS?

not far from 2700, and in situ, or at least not much farther wasy than Thessaly and Macedonia.

What else? I note your travel dates from one letter and flights from the other. Many thanks. Your shortening your stay, at least potentially, meant that when Steve suggested you might be a candidate for a t-talk the time didn't work.

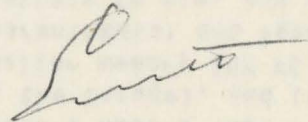
Your present combination of machines, and the font are pleasing - not as versatile as last letter, but calm and reassuring.

Christmas holiday doesn't work that way. Marja will be coming over and here 17 Dec - 6 Jan, probably including a few days in Skopje. If I'm lucky I'll have enough of a talk by then not to be panicky.

I trust from the dates you mentioned that the two of you can have a good Christmas either as would be best in your house, or at least a reasonable substitute, before the schismatic flurries of San Antonio, flights, first classes, &c.

Yours,

3 December 1986 Note ¹



P.S. Actually I just took off the bandage now
Doesn't look too bad, one small spot where the bandage
coming off left some raw, but aside from my
hesitation to send the middle two which still
have very new, thin, tight skin all seems
just fine.

¹ The above address will be valid through 30 June 1987. From 1 August 1987 please address me at:
Institute for Research in the Humanities, 1401 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706, U.S.A.