

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
54, SOUIDIAS STREET
ATHENS, GR-106 76
GREECE

Dear Tom and Cynthia,

It is high time I addressed the new corporation with a letter in common, as if to Marco, I think it is, and Giuseppi, the Gondoliers. Each of you may read a phrase in turn. I trust your negotiations for a new house, and everything else, are going well, and that you are thinking about getting down to work.

I must say that if I had known the troubles that would beset me in getting from Athens to Boston to Athens, I'd have packed more carefully so that running back to the States would be unnecessary, and just plain refused. I fear, though, that it was worth it. So, sometime, but not now, I'll make you feel very guilty by reciting the whole litany, carefully choosing the worst passages from all four trips (for I can't imagine getting back next summer without incident) and ignoring completely the leg from Madison to Boston, which couldn't have been better.

There is on the bulletin board of the School a brochure of a nth conference on Aegean Prehistory (I take it the series which began in Birmingham and included Santorini) in September 1987 here. That would be fun to stay around for or come back for, but I suspect there will be lots of reasons to pass it by. But you might be interested. I shall keep a lookout at the Cretan Congress to see if I can cadge a couple of brochures, for sending on. Korres, I imagine, will be in Khania, and is Sec'y of this one too.

I've seen Gareth Morgan. Each of us looked familiar at breakfast the day I got back from Iraklion - the last proper breakfast I've had - but attached names only when we simultaneously said them. When I got back, these machines were in little demand - but I needed only one hour for a letter. Now they are again pretty much sought after, but I've sneaked in a hour for this.

I've finally started drawing, though it's really still experimenting. I find the tracing paper I brought (just a small pad) a bit too white and opaque, and I went down to Syntagma and got a piece that was just a little bit better. So I'll try some other places in the next couple of days to see if anything better can be found. Some film is obviously more transparent, but the bits I've tried don't like fine lines very much, or get greasy and produce blobs, or something. I brought along some old pens, which I've decided I can't get clean and working, and I brought along some new ones, which are working fine so far. The trouble is of course that the Xerox^{es} at 1.5:1 I made are inevitably not as clear as the photos, which are sometimes not so clear themselves. Godart used photos at 2:1 and I'm not sure what tracing paper.

I thought, this being the first day after an August 15 holiday beginning on Friday, that I'd have lots of mail today. None. But when I got back from Iraklion there were letters from Chadwick, Godart, and Olivier, with whom my communications had been much interrupted this spring. CoMIK (a la JPO) or CMIK (a la JC) is apparently not preparing itself as fast as possible, mostly through troubles with printers who don't see any point to having drawings and photographs at a standard 1:1, and not much point in making sure that drawings

are right side up. JPO and LG will be in Khania, and I hope also JTK, and Jean-Pierre suggested I might hang around Crete (Iraklion or Mallia?) a bit and discuss our common problems. I think that's a fine idea, and take along what I've already drawn as samples, and get excellent criticism. It may be that they'll decide that I've got to start from scratch, can't possibly get it done in the year, ought to get somebody reliable to do it instead, or something. JPO has been suggesting I'm unrealistically optimistic about all of this. Probably am. But I'll keep trying. The stay in Crete probably not more than a week, maybe less, so I might be back here the 8th or so.

This brings up another thing I found on another bulletin board. The tentative schedule of the School. I got the impression, because I couldn't get anything else, that the Winter Term corresponded approximately to a nice eight-week trimester, and without doing much planning I was expecting to spread my course out like that. Maybe a little crowded? But what I see it says is Orientate 15Sep. Four trips (Central, NW, Peloponnese, Arg. Cor) in the Fall term, ending 20 Nov. Winter term begins 24 Nov (incl. Thanks) breaks 12 Dec., resumes 7 Jan, ends 21 Mar. I figure that gives either 2 or 3 classes in 1986, depending on which day is chosen, and ca. 10 in 1987. So I think we do the kindergarten learning to read and write in 1986, with perhaps pseudo lectures on writing as a subject according to Gelb and Bennett. Of course they'll forget that over Christmas. Then maybe cruelly give them each a 1:1 Xerox of a tablet or two, make them draw, transcribe, look up, and an oral presentation while we go through spelling rules, Mycenaean Grammar, Ideographic systems, and such stuff. With that much time maybe we might get one or two to look into Linear A, or Cypriote, or something. But I leave that till I see who they are.

One of the things you wrote we might talk about in Cambridge but didn't get around to is books. My notions are these, just to get them down on paper or tape, without doing anything legal. There are several classes and subclasses of books. Of no particular interest are the personal, though even they can and should be sifted through. Then there are the long-standing professional, editions used for classes, or for reading, or for making a good impression. Some of these I've already listed and sold off, and after keeping aside those with particular continuing interest, or for the names of their previous owners, I think I'll continue to sell off, or if they turn out to be valueless, give them away. Then there are the antiquarian. Among those some are archaeological or Helladic or Minoan or Mycenaean. Now I'm under the impression that the Center (CRASP?, it's gone fuzzy again) doesn't really need or want much of that sort. So I can postpone thinking about that for a bit. Also antiquarian is a batch of stuff, either in early editions, or related to the history of the history of writing in general. Those things connected with the C only by my persona are not likely to be wanted by the C and I have long thought that I should like to give them to the Burnam Library of Cincinnati. Then there's the Nestor Class. Divided into offprints and books. The offprints & sim. because there's a batch of stuff mixed in them of other sorts, ought to be shipped off to the Center with temporary hanging on to things still likely to be used wherever I am. The books, with more retentions ought to get the same treatment. As these things are being done, however, I do want to make good lists of what is there, and how it is disposed of. That's the outline without much detail. Comments on that or anything else gladly accepted.

You mentioned the possibility of coming to Texas in 87-88. I feared I couldn't get away with it either the first or the second semesters, and legal impediments would certainly appear if I tried both. But there is Aravantinos

*Not sure I'll have
time for any trips.
But I suspect I
must do the Pelop
and point out
the Archives Room
and I'd like to
do the NW, which
I missed in 1953.*

also, who deserves after all of this, to have me around. But my determination is still firm to have no obligations to Wisconsin from 1 July 1988. Of course, I trust that they will have some obligations to me, like letting me in the library, and maybe even keeping an office. On the other hand, a lot will depend on whether I really accomplish anything, or at least enough, in this year.

One of the results of the flying, or the atmospheres of planes and of Roman and Athenian airports was that I got a sore throat, which still leaves me coughing once in a while, and has my eyes all gugged up, and for a while made me content just to lie around all day for almost a week, except that I had to get up to go out and find supper. It is gone far enough now that I have some energy back, though I tire easily, and e.g. I've been sitting at this machine for 57 minutes now and my back hurts, but I'm not yet exhausted.

I ought to tell you however, that instead of Olympic, TWA in Athens was on strike. So I went TWA to ROME, no problem. Booked from there on Alitalia 380, via which my luggage was to go to Athens. In Rome it turned out there existed no 380, but there was a 480, on which I had no reservations and already had an impossibly long waiting list. So out through customs (no lire, few dollars) to the TWA desk. He figured the next Olympic might take me? So I got in line until the counter opened. 2nd in line, long wait. Same story, but without really telling me that he was doing it he gave me a good solid real boarding pass. So it took as long to get to Athens this time too. And the getting bags in Athens was quicker too. It only took from 10:00 to 2:30 the next day. Hot.

Best wishes to both, and kallitera taxidia, y'all.

Yours,

18 August 1986



You see, or saw, by the envelope, that I wasn't told precisely what the corporation intended to do about names, and addresses, or the like. So you can take the envelope as blind fumbling, or suggestion, or lucky hit, as you wish