

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

Old Observatory  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

Phone: (608) 262-3855

Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.  
608 262 6118

Dear Tom, and John,

I start out a letter to each of you the same way, so.

I thank again Tom for the beautiful chop.

I thank again John for the xerox of a page of the BCH 89 '65 28, with a mention of a DOUBLE AXE INSCRIBED WITH THREE CHARACTERS. As I gather from the French, the three signs are in the shape of a fouure. John and I couldn't figure out what possible Cretan sign that could be. But on the way home I did figure out what it was. (they are)

Now a 4 can look like this:

```

      X
     X X
    X  X
   X   X
  X    X
 X     X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
      X
      X
      X
      X
      X
      X

```

- right? If so it will look like

this if it's turned a bit:

```

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
      X
     X   X
    X    X
   X     X
  X      X
 X       X
  X      X
   X     X
    X    X
     X   X
      X

```

- okeh? Already it looks Minoan or Linearish A? or,

you could turn it another way:

```

      X
     X X
    X  X
   X   X
  X    X
 X     X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
      X
      X
      X
      X
      X
      X

```

d'accord? eh?

Anyhow, whatever script or culture this belongs too, preferably in the Aegean, or anywhere else, I have suddenly discovered what it means, and I'll let you in on the secret. Don't tell anyone. It means "Sorry, boss, I won't come to work today!" And just for the two of you, I'll put the explanation in this letter, but just in case somebody else might be looking over your shoulder, I'm going to put it into a code, and hide it in a footnote.<sup>1</sup>

The other common piece of news is that I have gone ahead and got myself a new apartment telephone number, which we hope will not get into the wrong hands or paws.

608 257 2279

from tomorrow.

2 July 1991 One can tell, alas, what day this is. My apartment abuts the park, and I've noticed a number of loud POPS in the last few evenings. Today at 14:16 there are loud pops in the afternoon. I had been happily forgetting to look at the calendar.

<sup>1</sup> As I said, here's the explanation, and in code. Here goes: "legde sti tsol sah sykelep yM" si nomyte laer ehT "Iginoh emos od dna emoh yats ot tog evT" si (retsaf gniog dna ,ti fo gnah eht gnitteg m'I ,yeh) noitaterpretni etaidemretni i ehT. finis.