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24 October 1950.

Dear Professor Hrozny,

Thank you very much for the offprint of the Journal of Juristic Papyrology, which is extremely interesting, both with regard to its publication of a new Pylos text, and to your own adventurous translation of it. As the very valuable function of your work is to promote discussion, perhaps I might make a comment on it from my own point of view?

The 15 lines of the inscription follow a rigid pattern:

A AD-AC B C commodity numbers.

Your proposal to read A, B and C as the names of 3 divinities in each case, linked by "and" and in no syntactic relationship one to the other, comes up against 2 obstacles:-

- 1 AD-AC "field ?" is the second work in each sentence, which is not the simplest construction.
- 2 The occurrences of A are grouped into paragraphs in a definite, if not entirely consistent, order; the groups B are different throughout the inscription; the groups C recur in a random way, one of them 4 times. None of the sign-groups occur outside their own positions. It seems a necessary conclusion that the positions of A, B and C in the sentences represent a functional distinction, which may or may not be reinforced by distinct case-endings.

My own guess is that AD-AC represents a postposition "for ??" governing A, and that C is an adjective or dependent noun qualifying B.

The structure of the inscription would be that a large number of persons (?) B, who share the 5 attributes C, join in a livestock (?) transaction for the benefit of a limited number of entities A.

The sign-group which forms the second half of A in lines 1-4 I would guess to be a qualifying adjective or a noun preceded by the genitive.

With best wishes.

Dear Bennett,

I got this article from Hrozny today and thought you might like to see it. Here is also a copy of my comments to him, which probably only state the obvious.

I don't know whether you're back in the States at the moment, but if not it can await your arrival.

I hope you had a pleasant and successful summer.

Best wishes,

Michael Ventris