

Write to EB  
about Pylon Tablets stuff!

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Dear Tom,

Thanks for your letter of 7 October. I've just this morning had another conference with Vasili, in which I modified a few phrases of his notes in the article he's doing, and burdened him with my sort of word by wrong word translation of my McDonald Festschrift survey of Mycenology. He said at the ruffling through of a few pages it looked not too bad, and then looking on the first page where I'd translated out of the notebook "the first placque was taken out by the workman" with a poor guess for "was taken out", asked where did I get that form? I've found that my memory for passive forms especially is really punk.

I note that you are having trouble with two houses, and that this worries you a bit. History repeats itself, always, and always with variations. I went to Austin to look for housing and got taken in tow by a lady realtor, and saying I didn't want to buy, though I suspected we might have to, as had been the case all along from 1943. So she came up with a large house which probably doesn't exist any more, which had been moved from a previous site by sawing straight down through the middle from front to back, trundling it along, and nailing it back together. The move did not get rid of the cockroaches. So it was into that that we settled down in late August. It was not liked very much, either the cockroaches or the thinness of the scatter of our furniture brought down from New Haven, when we had left as much junk behind as we could, including some we should have brought. The not liking was increased somewhat by my going off very quickly to Pavia for the 2nd Colloquium. So as soon as we got back, although my chronology is a bit vague, we started again with the same lady, by whom in Marja's eyes I seemed to be too easily swayed, and found the other house, bought it, and moved in. It was not at all an air-conditioned house, and not in the best shape, but being of the occupant's own design, and perhaps construction, was really pretty interesting, and with time could have been made pretty good beside. The paying for that, and eventually the selling of it, so one could buy one in Madison, were somewhat tricky, indeed. But, since in those days prices were going steadily upwards, there was some money apparently gained, and it was only in psychological ways that those moves were worrisome while they were in progress. In any case, take your housing finances as easily as you can.

If I remember, I'll enclose in this what I think I forgot to enclose last time, and a copy of an advert (to use as one should in this case the proper term). If I don't you can worry over what under the sun that all means, until I do send it along.

I might also tell you that though I don't intend to get or learn the Mackintosh languages while I'm over here, and am still the only one here using WordPerfect and therefore haven't been able to write Greek, now, since yesterday, the scheme devised by a former denizen (maybe Clayton Lehmann) will permit me to do just that, and that is what I shall do with the text that Vasili will have fixed up that I intend to read to Korres' bunch. This means I don't have to feel guilty about not wishing to learn the AcademicFont = Edix

+ Wordix or vice versa that almost everybody else around here uses because it is specially attuned to doing Greek, but rather clumsily, as they themselves sort of admit.

I got a letter from John Bennet, reporting on which CMS volumes I had, because I think by comparing the School's collection I am missing two I ought to have had. He also reported, and I don't know whether he reported to you on this, but he can't object, I think. "Barry has probably told you [HE HASN'T] that the Dean approved the position in Arch, Linguistics, and Mycenology. Naturally, I shall be applying for that. I hope that the Dpt opts for the 'bird in the hand', or the 'devil it knows'!"

Somehow PASP doesn't sound too bad, when pronounced. And you can always say "PASP, you know, the American center for Mycenaean studies." Try it, you ought to like it. And the fellow from Madison, if he returned, would probably think he had popped out of the fire into the conflagration, if not the icy depths of ...

It occurred to me when you gave dates for your Athenian visit, and then I forgot about it, but since this is turning into a two-page letter, I might as well remember it now. Would you find it convenient to take up your quarters in part of my apartment in Loring Hall? I am assuming in this that poor Cynthia all that time will be struggling with classes, because I couldn't manage two guests. Right now, the occupant of the Queen's Megaron has a guest from the Academy in Rome for three weeks. I can't see how anyone could object. You may take this as an invitation if you wish, and consider it when it comes time to make your plans.

Yours,

19 & 18 October 1986



With greetings  
and all good wishes to  
Cynthia!