

YALE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

BOX 1967, YALE STATION  
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

May 19, 1948

Dear Mr. Blegen,

I have received and considered your letter and find no difficulty now in agreeing with you about the tracing and bleaching method for reproducing the tablets. I do think, however, that the rubber stamps might be valuable for word lists, insertions of notes and words in the text, etc. for although they will be difficult to print in the press, any other system except type would offer the same difficulty. But with the restriction in use made, there is not sufficient justification for more than one set of stamps or one size. I think therefore that I shall prepare the copy and go ahead to order only one size. If thereafter another set might seem desirable an experiment that could be made at no greater expense than now. I think we can get along without it for some time.

Whether, what, or how Miss Kober intends to publish I don't know - I intended to speak to her of the rubber stamps after her paper but neglected to. She may be content with her handwritten copies - but I feel very few others are. - I did not mean to suggest an objection to the lending of the thesis, but rather amusement that she had not thought of it sooner.

I wonder what you have in mind about the photographs of the tablets in publication - whether these seem satisfactory or not. They are not uniform in lighting, and clarity of focus, and I remember lack speaking of the advisability of an ~~more~~ uniform direction for the lighting. There are a few tablets that need new photographs in any case - new joins, and epistolographic tablets with only a portion of the back pictured, while other photographs could be equalled, but hardly improved. The other difficulty which strikes me is the order of use of the sets of photographs here - the tracing will destroy one, one is necessary for the plates, and the trimming and mounting of the set here may

cause difficulties. All this is I suppose of no immediate concern but I imagine you have a clearer idea than I of what ought to be done with such things.

Not knowing quite what aspect of Pylas to work at, I've been looking at the distribution of tablets within the room again to see what value it may have. It has some, but it's hard to do much with it. I accidentally came up with another proposed join Ab31 P331 + Ab36 P589.1 and several possible ascriptions of Xa tablets to more useful categories, where they might join others. Have you any suggestions for the most profitable field of investigation?

We are all disappointed that a visit seems unlikely but shall not give up hope till we hear you are in Greece. In any case we wish you a pleasant trip across and a prosperous stay in Athens.

yours

Sumner