

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS  
SEATTLE 5

July 5, 1961

Prof. Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.  
Institute for Research in the Humanities  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Prof. Bennett:

Again thanks for your kindness, this time for your letter about your methods of restoration and the find-spots of the Ma series, and particularly for the selection from your dissertation. I have used the information you provided, and hope that I have represented your ideas accurately.

My paper has been completed and re-submitted, though not without the perhaps inevitable feeling that I have gone too far in certain regards. As a result of revising the paper and putting it in a more understandable order, I feel that I understand it better and more fully realize the implications of some of my hypotheses. On one of these in particular I have built a good deal, and that is my assumption, now clearly stated, that the Mycenaeans had no theoretical arithmetic. That is, that ~~that~~ though they could perform various operations, they did it purely mechanically, usually by a utilization of the multiples inherent in their system of weights. Multiplication by four, then, was merely converting a number from \*117 to \*116, and all arithmetic was the same process as weighing.

I do not regard this assumption as yet definitively proved. But if correct, it might have important consequences for other tablets, and also for the value of \*115. You suggest 12 as the probable value of this sign (AJA 54.217). And in your dissertation, 86, you say: "Certainly if the equation of the unit and the part were either \*117 1 equals \*116 14 or \*117 1 equals \*116 7, these parts would have been employed, and exact results could have been expected". But according to my hypothesis exact results were obtained, and perhaps the value of \*115 was then  $1/14$  \*116 or  $1/56$  \*117. I have not yet worked this out in complete detail, but the implications of such an assumption seem important. I won't go on with this until I have worked it out, but shall only point out that the total of \*116 equals (almost) exactly  $10 \times 56$ , or 56 converted to 56 - .

It would be out of character for me not to conclude with a request, and since you have thus far answered my call with kindness, I shall try again. Would you send me particulars about the September Colloquium for Mycenaean Studies? I doubt that I shall be able to attend, but should like to have the information in case it turns out to be possible.

Sincerely,

*William F. Wyatt, Jr.*