

LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

BERNARD BLOCH
EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS

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YALE GRADUATE SCHOOL
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Miss Alice E. Kober
1050 East 43rd St.
Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

Dear Miss Kober:

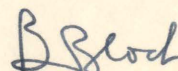
I am delighted that you will undertake the review of Hrozný's book--and doubly grateful in view of your reluctance to mop up the floor with it. (Although I know nothing about it really, I have somehow gained the impression, chiefly from talks with Sturtevant I guess, that the floor could stand a good mopping.) The fact that you have already reviewed a part of this book in the AJP does not, of course, mean that you shouldn't review the whole of it now that it has come out; for the benefit of readers of LANGUAGE, I suppose you had better repeat what you said in your earlier remarks, so far as they are still pertinent. I am especially glad that you are prepared to do a longish critical review rather than a mere brief notice. It'll be more work for you, but as you say, no other kind would be worth doing.

The Minoan characters are indeed a problem, but not insuperable. It will not be possible, I'm afraid, to run hand-drawn figures into the main text; but a just-as-good substitute presents itself. You can draw all the figures you need for the review in a single list, and then number them; and whenever you have occasion to use a figure in your text, you can simply use instead the number that refers to it. The list should of course be drawn with maximum care, and with india ink if possible; it should be drawn considerably larger than necessary, so that it can be reduced in photographing. Does the plan strike you as workable?

Now for your question. I don't know the answer myself, but I can think of two people who might know it--or one and a half, anyhow. The one person is Martin Joos (Department of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6); he has occupied himself for a long time (though not recently) with all kinds of linguistic frequencies, and probably knows at least whether the information you need is in print anywhere. The half person (half only because I know less about him) is George Kingsley Zipf (247 Widener Library, Cambridge 38, Mass.); I probably don't need to remind you that he is well-known as a linguistic statistician. There's a third possibility: Edward L. Thorndike (emerited; c/o Teachers College, Columbia University); he has worked so long and so extensively with frequency-counts that he ought to be able to tell you what you want to know. I'm very sorry I can't tell you myself, but then you hardly expected that I could.

This summer--any time--will do very nicely for the review; in fact, I hadn't ~~na~~ dared to hope that it would come in so soon. If you find that your self-imposed deadline, vague as it is, rolls around before you have the review finished, please don't be ~~disturbed~~ disturbed at all: I'll be thankful to get it whenever you finish it.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Bloch