

COMMUNICATIONS

B. Schwartz writes: "Mr. Ephron's "decipherment" of the Phaistos Disk (NESTOR 120) follows in close detail the similar aberrations of Ernst Schertel in Würzburger Jahrbücher für die Altertumswissenschaft, 3 Jahrg. (1948), 334-365. The latter, also reading from the inner coil outward, emerges with a "double hymn to Zeus and the Minotaur." The articles published in Journal of Near Eastern Studies 18 (1959) 105-112, 222-228, if nothing else, establish once for all that because of the overcuttings, the inscription can only be read from the outer coil inward, right to left."

Others have expressed (or may have felt) surprise at the appearance of the summary of Mr. Ephron's paper in NESTOR, and it may be appropriate to give an explanation and fix a policy. The paper was given; it has seemed a worthwhile custom to include in NESTOR'S pages summaries of as many papers referring to Minoan and Mycenaean matters given at meetings of the AIA and APA and other societies as possible. Preferably these summaries are those kindly supplied by their authors, and I generally intend not to express approval or disapproval.

I may, however, publish my opinion, firmly held and freely expressed since 1947 at the latest, that no "decipherment," "solution," or "interpretation" of that notorious Phaistos Disk, whether it has already appeared or will appear hereafter, before another example of the same script is discovered (I had almost said within my lifetime), is worth the ink used to print it. Studies limited to the analysis of the strictly internal evidence of the Disk may be, though probably almost everything discoverable has been long since reported in one study or "decipherment" or another. Nevertheless, I shall continue to collect and report in NESTOR any and every new "decipherment" of the Phaistos Disk that comes to my attention.

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Summary of a paper by G. L. Huxley, "Crete and the Luwians."

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Biesantz, H., Die Ausgrabung bei der Soufli-Magula, Archäologische Anzeiger 1959 56-74.

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The text is handsomely illustrated with color and other photographs (as befits "A Magazine of the Arts" - \$3.95 per single copy) though the printer could not read TOP on the photograph of a Mycenaean tablet supplied him.

Capovilla, G., Introduzione miceneo-italica, Rendiconti, Istituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettere, Classe di Lettere 94 (1960) 359-416.

Premesso il principio metodologico combinatorio per valutare i dati delle scritturazioni delle tabelle della Lineare B nel quadro della vita economica e religiosa del regno miceneo di Pylos, si esaminano certi nomi e toponimi che meglio si prestano per istituire alcuni nessi protostorici, culturali e linguistici nei riguardi dell'Italia meridionale e della Sicilia. Si tratta di corrispondenze convalidate dalle tradizioni mitografiche e storiografiche, nonché dai risultati delle scoperte archeologiche. Le correnti culturali partite da Creta si diressero a Pylos e poi alle isole Jonie, che vanno considerate quali mediatrici di cultura micenea alle coste dell'Apulia e del Bruttium. Parecchi contatti tra il mondo miceneo e quello pre-illirico, che pure ebbe una parte notevole per effetto degli scambi transadriatici, dando luogo ad una mistione dialettale nelle iscrizioni messapiche, vengono accennati e discussi a proposito di alcuni toponimi. Alla fine un prospetto comparativo getta luce sopra i nessi segnalati.

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Cap. 1: La lettura delle tavolette micenee e la storia economica greco-cretese in tempi preomerici, pp. 1-9.

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I. Aucun des mots mycéniens commençant par terap- ne peut être rattaché avec certitude au groupe de θεράπων. II. Les prétendus 'patronymiques' en -ijo- ne sont pas des patronymiques, mais expriment la dépendance à l'égard d'un seigneur. III. Les adjectifs en -(i)jo- dérivés d'appellatifs divers expriment non l'appartenance, mais la destination, l'aptitude au service, la dépendance. IV. Dans les tablettes d'huile, wanaso *φανაკ-γο- 'desservant de φανᾶξ' entrerait dans le cadre des emplois précédemment étudiés.
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