

COMMUNICATIONS

Pages 112, 126 have been blank.

Of the Knossos tablets noted in SM II as N(ot)S(een) by ELB in 1950, John Chadwick reports that 799 is in the Ashmolean Museum, and J. Raison reports that 1573, 0483, 0486, 0487, 0488, 0489, 0490, 0491, 0492, 0495 are in Iraklion.

Although the Minutes of the London Mycenaean Seminar for February 8, 1961, when the subject was to be "The archaeological dating of the Linear B tablets from Knossos," have not yet arrived, I have received from Professor Palmer a mimeographed note (13 pp.) on the subject, which was circulated at the meeting, along with a similar note by John Boardman, which I have not yet in hand. From Palmer's note I wish to extract here, and comment on, a few items, including chiefly his summary of the

Sources of Information for the archaeological context of the Knossos tablets.

Published

- a) Knossos 1900, &ff. - The excavation reports in the Annual of the British School at Athens, 6 (1900) &ff.
- b) PM - The Palace of Minos (especially vol. IV).
- c) SM - Scripta Minoa (especially vol. II).

Unpublished (but available at the Ashmolean in Oxford among the papers of Sir Arthur Evans and Sir John Myres).

- a) DM/DB - The Day Book of the Knossos Excavations kept by Duncan Mackenzie.
- b) AE/HL - The Handlist of the Linear B Tablets compiled by Sir Arthur Evans. "I [LRP] identified this document among the papers of Sir John Myres early in September. It consists of a paste-up with cuttings from earlier notebooks."
- c) AE/COP - Let this siglum refer to AE's copies of Knossos tablets referred to in BSA 6 (1900) 58:

The full material has first to be collected by the thorough exploration of the as yet unexcavated portion of the Palace. It will then be possible to publish photographic reproductions of the whole, supplemented by careful copies of the inscriptions from the originals, together with complete tables of the letters, numerals and other signs.²

²I have copied over nine hundred of these tablets which I hope carefully to revise with the aid of the originals on my return to Crete. The retention of the tablets in Crete itself is naturally a hindrance to study. No effort will be spared to publish the whole collected material at the earliest possible moment...

It seems proper to wonder whether these more than nine hundred were copied in England or in Crete, and from photographs or from the originals. Palmer continues, "It has proved possible to identify [among the cuttings in AE/HL] the cuttings from this document [AE/COP] and to restore it to its 1900 order virtually without lacunae. The notebook, of the same paper as the private notebooks for the same period, contains 917 drawings with in-

dications of the find spots in AE's own hand. The order of entry follows in the main the order of excavation. By combining the data with those offered by DM/DB it is possible to make archaeological determinations with great precision."

- d) AE/PN - Let this siglum refer to the Private Notebooks of Sir Arthur Evans, "in which he noted, and often drew, objects which particularly attracted his interest. Among them are some unpublished inscribed sealings" It may be noted that some parts of these are quoted, and others summarized, in Joan Evans' Time and Chance, particularly in chapters XVII "Crete 1894-1899" and XVIII "Knossos 1900-1905."

It may be useful to publish here a letter of Sir John Myres, to record something of the position of these documents in 1949.

13. Canterbury Road, Oxford

18.7.49

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Many thanks for your letter of the 14th. I enclose an inventory of the find-spots for Knossos tablets, which you are free to use; it will be printed in Scripta Minoa. The definitive numbers for Knossos tablets are Evans' latest re-numbering. The 'hand-list' numbers in Palace of Minos were provisional; and he revised them repeatedly; I do not know on what grounds. There are also the quite fortuitous register-numbers of the Candia Museum list, - simply in order of receipt at the Museum. These latter are probably the numerals on Maranghiannis' plates, but they cannot be verified till the Museum is reopened. There are also numerical references in Evans' day-books (which are in the Ashmolean Museum), but until we have access to the tablets no use can be made of these.

You will see that Evans began his definitive numeration in find-spot order; but deserted this at a point which is not quite clear from his file of drawings, and began to classify by initial signs, and by beginnings and ends of sign groups; then at the end are a few miscellaneous entries, to 1568, and then a few unsorted; finally the -04 series, which I suppose to be the product of the excavations of 1904; but this list has no title or rubric!

I am trying to recover and catalogue the Knossos negatives which are in a photographer's hands in Candia. But someone will have to go to Candia for this! Evans ought to have registered them as they were made.

It is a pleasure to see the announcements of the election of Blegen and Dinsmoor to the British Academy.

Yours sincerely,

John L. Myres

It may be wondered, at this distance from Oxford, whether the 'file of drawings' corresponds to AE/HL above, or to AE/COP before it was pasted up. The inventory enclosed does not at all points correspond with the list of find-spots later published in SM II. To put on record the other piece of indirect evidence available here I may quote the beginning of another letter. But these letters do not at all exhaust the correspondence about find-spots and numeration.

13. Canterbury Road, Oxford

22.9.50

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Here is the concordance of former numbers of the Knossos tablets, copied from Evans' transcript-drawings. I have no record of the colours used to record them on the tablets; so sometimes I may have transferred two numbers; but I have kept them in the order in which they stand on the drawings....

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κράββατος - λείβω. Mycenaean forms cited s.vv. κτίζω, κυπά-
ρισσος, κύπειρον, κύπελλον, κύων, λαβύρινθος, λαός.
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