

COMMUNICATIONS

George E. Mylonas reports that in this season's work at Mycenae a new Linear B tablet was found. It came from the Pithoi basement of the "House of Columns," is of the L series, and is almost complete.

The Museum of Chora, preserving and exhibiting the antiquities from the palace at Ano Englianos, from Peristeria, Volimidhia, Tragana and other places in the region, was opened September 10, with ceremonies in which Professors Blegen and Marinatos and others spoke. The event is fully reported by Minas Nisiotis, in Eleftheros Kosmos 10 and 12 September, 1967.

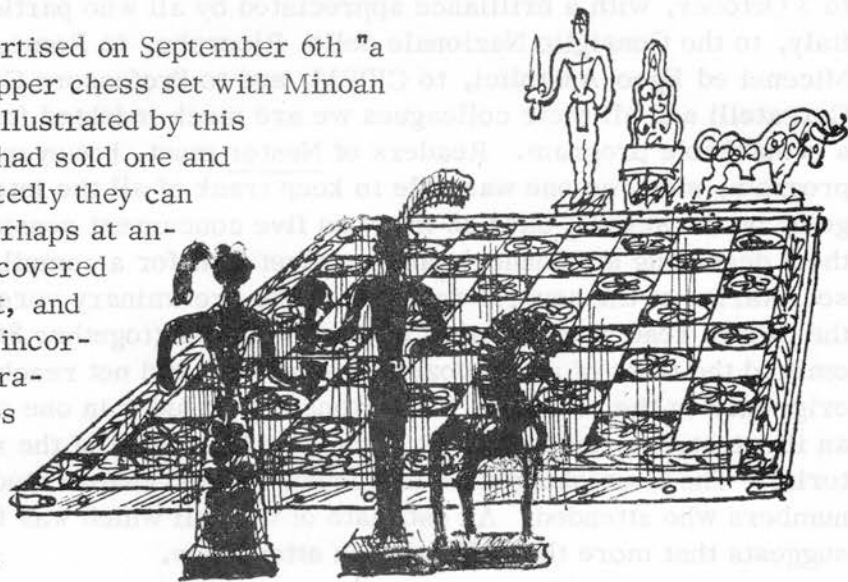
The Primo Congresso Internazionale di Micenologia was held in Rome, 27 September to 3 October, with a brilliance appreciated by all who participated or attended. To Italy, to the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, to Rome, to the Centro di Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici, to CIPEM, and to Professors Gallavotti and Pugliese-Carratelli and all their colleagues we are much indebted for excellent hospitality and a remarkable program. Readers of Nestor must, however, wait for a report of that program, since no one was able to keep track of all the interesting things which were going on (on several days as many as five concurrent sessions were scheduled, all of them deserving attendance), and we must wait for a compilation of the notes of the secretaries of the several sessions. The preliminary version of the proceedings and the papers read was available in three volumes (together 862 pages), and even so omitted the texts of a half dozen papers which did not reach the editors in time. Not originally on the schedule, but fortunately included in one of the general sessions, was an illustrated account given by Professor Marinatos of the recent excavations in Santorini. The flourishing state of Minoan and Mycenaean studies may be reflected in the numbers who attended. An estimate of the hall which was filled at the general sessions suggests that more than 350 were in attendance.

The flourishing state of these studies elsewhere was reflected a few days later in a remarkably brilliant symposium and exhibition held at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Under the title "A Land called Crete" there was held a symposium and exhibition in memory of Harriet Boyd Hawes, 1871-1945, a graduate of Smith. The program began October 6th with introductory remarks by Phillis Williams Lehmann, describing the life and remarkable accomplishments of Mrs. Hawes. There followed three papers, the first by J. Walter Graham, "The Cretan Palace: Sixty-seven years of Exploration." The second was by T. Leslie Shear, Jr., "Minoan Influence on the Mainland: Variations of Opinion since 1900," and the third by Emily Townsend Vermeule, "The Decline and Fall of the Minoan-Mycenaean Culture."

In the evening there was presented a concert performance of Idomeneo, Rè di Creta, by W. A. Mozart. It was a remarkably fine and moving performance, and will be remembered with the same enthusiasm with which it was received. On October 7, Sterling Dow presented the last part of the program, "Literacy: the Palace Bureaucracies; The Dark Age; Homer." In the meantime and even now, from October 6 through November 19, the Smith College Museum of Art is presenting an excellent exhibition of Minoan and Mycenaean art from American and European public and private collections, and of photographs of Minoan and Mycenaean sites and works of art

by Alison Frantz. The flourishing state of Minoan and Mycenaean studies in America is surely reflected in the numbers who attended this Symposium. Of those who attended the Congress in Rome, only two also attended the symposium in Northampton. And yet for Idomeneo a hall seating at least 700 was filled, and it was well populated for all the papers, perhaps to the surprise of those who organized it all, Dean Lehmann, Professors Hoyt, London, and Chetham. What might have been meant as a simple commemoration of one of Smith's distinguished alumnae did seem to turn into an unexpected reunion of Minoan and Mycenaean scholars from at least the eastern half of the United States and Canada. It is expected that the papers presented will soon be published.

Macy's of New York advertised on September 6th "a magnificent, hand-made copper chess set with Minoan style pawns" for \$149.99, illustrated by this drawing. At last report it had sold one and had others to sell. Undoubtedly they can be purchased in Greece, perhaps at another price. The board is covered with lacquered copper sheet, and the markings are in black, incorporating some Minoan decorative elements. It is perhaps almost 24 inches square, and is signed by the maker, whose name seemed to resemble C. D. Sclavenitis



(I hope that someone will correct this reading). The pieces are of cast copper, bronze or brass. The one side looked like brass, the other like unnaturally dark bronze. They stand at the tallest ca. 4 inches high, while the bulls, which are the pawns, are 2 inches high. The identities of the King and Queen and the Knight are obvious, but I must confess to some doubt whether to assign the warrior and the throne to the Bishop and Rook, or vice versa. Because obviously, if we are to permit Priest-Kings in the game, the throne becomes a Prince-Bishop.

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