

COMMUNICATIONS

To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Pylos tablets I hope I may be permitted to print extracts from the most pertinent documents. From a photograph I can reproduce the appearance of C. W. Blegen's notes. For W. A. McDonald's, which come on several pages and include other details, I include only a selection. I confess that I add punctuation, and change a couple of spellings, and perhaps introduce error by copying W. A. McDonald's notes from a typed copy.

--from Carl W. Blegen's notebook

Tuesday April 4

Dark + threatening weather. McDonald
+ I go out to Ano Eglianos.
Lv. 7:30. Arr. 8:15.

We find Charalambos + many men.

Start work with 20 men at 8:30.

Lay out long trench approx. N-S,
ca. 50 m. long, 2 m. wide.

Starts just to E of hole made by someone
in S bank of hill which we thought might
have been a drain or a tomb.

5 sections ca. 10 m. long each.
McDonald takes charge of trench.

Soon find stone walls - several
at intervals - all running approx.
NW-SE. One is 1.20 m. wide,
others ca. 1.10. 1 or 2 narrower.

Looks like walls of big building. Earth
black + red, all burned.

Sherds few but look L H III.

In section A found ca. .30 deep a
deposit of inscribed tablets, plano-con-
vex in shape. Lined out on flat side
+ inscr. w. Minoan (?) signs.

Workman gets out two. Mac + I three
more - all complete. One more at
least left, but we leave + cover,
for a drizzly rain sets in + hard
to photo + to get out.

Stop work ca. 4:15 on acc't of rain.

...

--from W. A. McDonald's notebook

(45

Work started ca. 8:30 in a NS
trench ... 2 m. wide and 50 m.
long. The trench was divided into
5 sections (A-E starting from S)
each 10 m. long and 4 workmen
were put in each.

Trench I, Section A

Sherds from surface layer (surface
- 0.10 m.) removed. ...

2nd layer, 0.10-0.25 m. ...

3rd layer, 0.25-0.30 m. - basket
removed.

4th layer, 0.30-0.35 m. - basket
removed.

During the digging of the 4th layer
at a point ca. 6 m. N of S end, and
at a depth of 0.34 m., and ca.
0.40 m. from E side of trench, the
pickman uncovered the first 2
plaques^s with lines and characters
on them. Immediately another
complete and other fragments be-
gan to appear and the work was
stopped and the earth sifted for
fragments. The plaques are wet
and not yet in a condition to be
closely examined.

...

Inscribed plaques from Section A.
We have numbered them in the
order in which they came out of
the ground.

No. 1 - taken out by workman but
was probably lying face down be-
cause of the nature of the small

- break made by the pick in its side.
- No. 2 - also taken out by workman but was certainly lying face down since there are small pickmarks in the back (convex) side.
- No. 3 - lay face up and partly across No. 4.
- No. 4 - lay face down and partly under No. 3.
- No. 5 - lay slightly to the N and W of the above two and face down.
- No. 6 - fragment.
- No. 7 - small fragment. It lay just above No. 5.
- No. 8 - found beside Nos. 3 and 4.

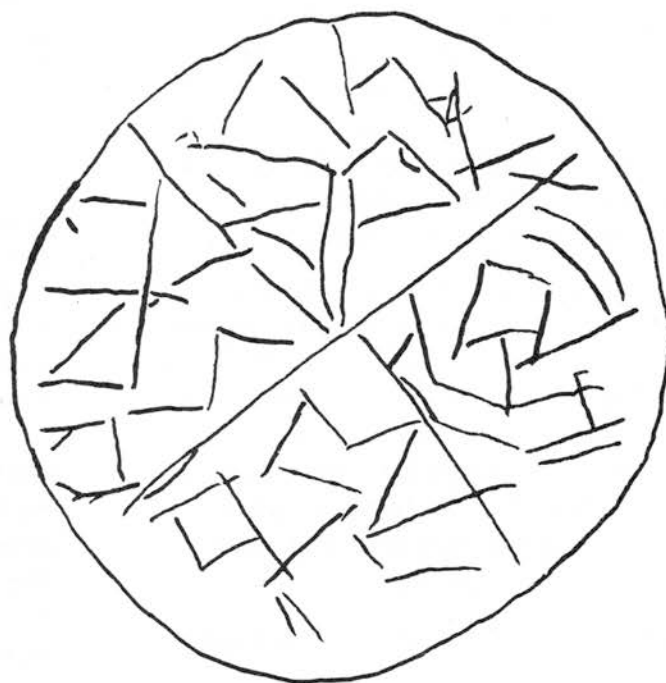
The first epigraphical photograph shows the impression left in the earth by the removal of tablet No. 5, an impression in which can clearly be seen some of the ruling, and less clearly one or two of the ideograms.

In Eleftheros Kosmos of 20 November 1968 M. Nisiotis reports on excavations of M. Popham and H. Sackett which identified a Minoan megaron near the Little Palace. Among the finds was a pot on whose surface appeared a Linear B inscription. Nearby, in cooperation with S. Alexiou, tombs at Sellopoulo were excavated, and excellent jewelry found.

A report in an Athenian newspaper of 13 December 1968 concerns the remains of a large Mycenaean city now under water between the Peloponnesos and Kythera. At a depth of 10 meters, near the island Pavlopetri appeared walls, houses, and a Mycenaean cemetery.

A bronze dagger of the 12th century B.C. illustrates the report of excavations at Exalophos, 12 kilometers west of Trikala. A tomb with two graves, excavated under the direction of D. Theodoris, contained another dagger, a spear, ring and pottery. M. Nisiotis, Eleftheros Kosmos, 22 December 1968.

A report from Sofia appearing in an Athenian newspaper 23 February 1969, concerns a round clay seal, 2 cm. thick, with a conical handle on the back, found at Nova-Zagora in Bulgaria. A photograph was reproduced, of which this is



only a rough sketch. The diameter is not specified. It was found in a context to be dated by pottery and other artifacts, as well as by Carbon 14, to the 4th millennium B.C. The opinion of V. Georgiev is reported to be that the marks on its surface are undoubtedly writing, and by far the earliest in Europe. As such they are to be compared on the one hand to the inscriptions from Tartaria, and on the other to the earliest Cretan scripts. He distinguished 18 signs.

The view which fills out p. 556 should need no identification, but the stages in Homeric palace building on p. 570 may have been harder to trace to their source. Norman Morrison Isham, The Homeric Palace, Providence, 1898.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- A propos de la nouvelle tablette de Mycènes publiée par M. Mylonas dans Kadmos 7:1 (1968) 65-66, je vous signale que la photographie (pl. I, fig. 1) me suggère, pour la ligne inférieure, un texte légèrement différent de celui proposé. Au lieu de pa-we-a ko-u-ra je lirais pa-we-a₂ ko-u-ra. Le séparateur est net, et la moitié gauche de a₂ me semble suffisamment net pour exclure a et pour admettre, dans ce mot, l'orthographe déjà attestée sur MY Oe 127. Ceci pourrait intéresser les lecteurs de Nestor.

1 February 1969

Yours, &c.

Bâle

H. Mühlestein

To this, which should have been anticipated if the letter itself had not arrived before the copy of Kadmos, or of Mycenae's Last Century of Greatness, which contains the same photograph, drawing, and text, one can only agree, and possibly suggest further that another divider might have followed -ra, and that a better text in line 1 would be pa-ta, (with a divider). But te-ta, would be equally suitable for the published photograph, and the probable presence of a divider almost directly above the divider in line 2 and the trace of a sign before it make the reading of line 1 rather more doubtful than was suggested.

1 March 1969

E. L. B.

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