

COMMUNICATIONS

A paper was inadvertently omitted from the listing of the programme of the Sixième Colloque International des Etudes Mycéniennes, à Chaumont:
P. Ilievski, "Vocabulary words from the Mycenaean personal names."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - Professor L. R. Palmer (Nestor, 1003-4) has re-opened the question of Mycenaean rations. TH Of 34 does not add anything to the evidence; it merely provides another instance of DA, but without 1, added to a personal name, if indeed it is not to be taken as qualifying wool. The evidence is still as quoted by me in Gnomon 36 (1964) 321-7.

1. The supplements of GRA T 5 on the PY Ab tablets can be explained without recourse to inventing a man's ration of this value: see Documents², p. 418. I have not retracted this view. The words abbreviated by DA and TA can be of either gender, if not common; TA may very likely be tamiā(s). The solitary woman on Ab 388 on Palmer's view has a junior supervisor all to herself; on mine she is a woman named Adrasteia who holds the rank of junior supervisor, but is not currently attached to a work-group.

2. MY Au 658.4 proves that GRA T 2 is a normal ration for men.

3. The evidence of PY An 128.v is ambiguous owing to uncertainties of reading, both here and in recto line 12. However, classical analogies support the proposition that GRA 1 is approximately equal to HORD 2; note that HORD 5 T 3 V 4 Z [??] is not exactly double GRA 2 T 6 V 5 Z 2.

4. KN Am 819 gives us the ration for one month of 18 men and 8 ko-wo as HORD 9 T 7 V 3 = Z 2340. On Palmer's view a man's ration is GRA T 5 = HORD 1 (= Z 240). Therefore the ration for 18 men must be HORD Z 240 x 18 = Z 4320, a figure far in excess of the recorded total, even without allowing for the boys. I demonstrated (Gnomon, 1. c.) that there is only one plausible solution to the equation, namely a ration of Z 90 for both 'men' and 'boys'. Since the 'boys' are attached to a work-group of men, they must be nearly adult and will require similar rations. If we had the rations for the PY Ad groups of young men and 'boys', we should doubtless find the same system.

5. The proportion between HORD : GRA is thus 15 : 8, and the rounding down of Z 96 to Z 90 is presumably to allow division by 30, making a daily ration of Z 3. This is perhaps implied by PY An 7.3-4. But it is not surprising that some workers on PY Fn tablets draw HORD V 1 (= Z 4) per day, and craftsmen are paid at higher rates, since GRA T 2 is only the basic ration. The figures on Fn 79 imply that rations were issued for 5 days at a time; and this is confirmed by the fact that T 2 = Z 48 cannot be expressed as an integer of Z if divided by 30 (= Z 1.6), but 5 is the lowest number which will produce a whole number of Z.

6. I regard the absolute values of the metric units as still an open question, though on balance I consider that the evidence is slightly in favour of the values

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I have proposed.

Downing College, Cambridge CB2 1DQ

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Yours, &c.

John Chadwick

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