

Nestor

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Edited by: K. D. Vitelli
Assistant Editors:
S. Goodarzy-Tabrizi, D. Sagias,
D. Beyer

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COMMUNICATIONS

Note from the Editors

This issue closes an academic year during which *Nestor* engaged in much soul searching and implemented many innovations. We hope this effort has resulted in a more attractive appearance and a content more helpful to prehistoric Aegean research. We wish our readers a good and productive summer and remind them that the *Nestor* office will be closed during the summer months. Consequently, all correspondence will be answered after August 20.

Past Conferences

The 1st International Conference of the "Groupe de Contact interuniversitaire d'études chypriotes"/"Interuniversitaire contactgroep voor Cyprische Studies", F.N.R.S./N.F.W.O. (Belgium) entitled "Cyprioté Terracottas" was held in Brussels-Liège, on May 29-31, 1989. Collaborating organisations were the Centre for Mycenaean and Archaic Greek Culture of the Free University Brussels and the Department of Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Greece of the State University Liège. Papers included: Vassos Karageorghis, "The development of the coroplastic art of Cyprus from the Chalcolithic period down to the end of the Archaic"; Vassos Karageorghis, "Some scenic compositions of the Early/Middle Cyprioté period"; Andreas Orphanides, "The interpretation of the Bronze Age terracotta anthropomorphic figurines from Cyprus"; Maro Theodossiadou, "Models of furniture in terracotta during the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Cyprus"; Jacqueline Karageorghis, "Vie quotidienne à Chypre dans l'antiquité d'après les terres cuites du premier millénaire avant J.-C.".

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A conference entitled "La chambre aux tablettes de char à Cnossos et l'histoire de l'âge du bronze récent en Crète" was held at the University of Nancy (France) on May 10, 1989.

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The Pancretan Speleological Symposium, in memory of E. Platakis, was held in Heraklion, Crete April 21-23, 1989. Papers of interest to *Nestor* readers included: John Sakellarakis, "The archaeological investigations of the *Idean Cave*"; Basilis Simitzis, "Karst and Hydrogeology"; Nick Symeônidis and George Theodôrou, "Introduction to Geology - Paleontology and elements of Stratification"; George Leivaditis, "Underground and surface karst (caves etc.)"; Vivi Vasilopoulou, "Caves and archaeology".

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The 11th International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys and Archaeometry was held in Antalya, Turkey from the 18th to the 23rd of May, 1989. Presentations of interest to *Nestor* readers included: Güven Arsebük, "Yarımburgaz (1988)"; Mehmet Özdoğan, "Çayönü 1988 Campaign"; Refik Duru, "Excavations at Kuruçay 1988"; Uğur Silistreli, "Excavation in Köş khöyük 1988"; Jacob Roodenberg, "The 1988 Excavations at Ilipinar"; Önder Bilgi, "Excavations at İkiştepe-1988 and Surveys in its Vicinity"; Nimet Özgüç, "The Results of the 1988 Excavations at Acemhöyük"; Peter J. Neve, "Results of the 1988 Season's Excavations in Boğazköy-Hattusa"; Tahsin Özgüç, "Excavations at Kültepe/Kanish-1988"; Manfred Korfmann, "Excavations at Troia in 1988"; Cemal Pulak, "Underwater Survey-1988"; Cemal Pulak, "Ulu Burun Shipwreck Excavation: 1988 Campaign"; Machtheld Mellink, "Building Materials in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Karataş"; G. Kenneth Sams and Mary M. Voigt, "Work at Gordion in 1988"; Mehmet Özdoğan, "Marmara Region 1988 Surface Surveys"; Angela Minzoni-Deroche, "The Paleolithic of Hatay-1988 Research Results"; Şeref Kuç, "Analysis of Copper Artifacts from Çatalhöyük"; Önder Öztunalı, "Early Copper in Anatolia (1): Ore Deposits, Ancient Mines,

Smelting Site, Chemical and Isotopic Characterization"; Friedrich Begemann, "Lead Isotope Abundance Patterns in Early Bronze Age Artifacts"; Zehra Yeğingil, "The Provenience Studies for Determination of Prehistoric Trade Routes Between Mediterranean Basin-Carpathian Region and Anatolia"; Peter Ian Kuniholm, "Aegean Dendrochronology Project: 1988 Results"; Ufuk Esin, "Archaeological Problems Due to the C-14 Dates of Prehistoric Anatolia and South-East Europe"; İlhan Kayan, "Geomorphological Evolution of the Beşige-Troy Plains According to C 14 Dates"; Ay Melek Özer, "ESR, TL and Neutron Activation Studies of Archaeological Bones from Yarımburgaz Cave (İstanbul)"; Şahinde Demirci, Lemi Türker, and Nesrin Kayatürk, "Chemical Analysis of Archaeological Bones from Yarımburgaz Cave (İstanbul)".

Future Conferences

The 12th Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences will be held in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, from September 1-7, 1991. The program of the Congress with the major theme "Archaeology-the Present-the Future" will be realized within the following general areas: Historical development and socio-economic structures; Interactions; Theoretical and methodological problems of archaeological investigations; Archaeology, natural and technical sciences, and Environment, protecting and preserving the cultural heritage, the social mission of archaeology. For detailed information please write to:

Archeologický ústav Slovenskej akadémie vied
Sekretariát XII. kongresu UISPP
949 21 Nitra-hrad
Czechoslovakia

Past Lectures

In the meeting of the New York Bronze Age Colloquium of May 10, 1989, Malcolm Wiener spoke on "The isles of Crete?" (Whether sites in the Cyclades and Dodecanese were major, purposive, differing but complementary parts of a Minoan empire at the time of the Theran eruption).

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In a workshop on the theory and applications of cryptographic techniques, "Eurocrypt '89", held in Houthalen, Belgium, April 10-13, 1989, Yves Duhoux presented the paper: "Deciphering Bronze Age scripts of Crete. The case of Linear A".

Forum

Ms. Jane Henle has been working on Linear B for some years. She has recently deposited a paper detailing her work in the archives at the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, Dept. of Classics WAG 123, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712-1181, and She provided the following brief summation of that paper for *Nestor* readers.

The language of Linear B is probably Greek but the language of the current decipherment is not Greek. I think this is because the central problems of decipherment have been ignored, a problem of structure and a problem of meaning.

First, structure. The decipherer must devise a system that can equate the short words of Linear B with full Greek spelling. It is no solution to snip off inflectional endings and consonants within words, as $\kappa\omicron - \text{F}\omicron$ for $\kappa\acute{\omicron}\rho\text{F}\omicron\varsigma$. $\kappa\omicron - \text{F}\omicron$ is not Greek. As the example makes clear, a workable system must include closed as well as open syllables. Is the Linear B signary large enough to accomodate closed syllables? Of course--if the syllabary contain fewer than five vowels. This is what we expect in a system devised in the second millennium.

Second, meaning. The decipherer must take values from the signs of the scripts. Signs begin as pictures of things, and some, at least, of the new signs added by Linear B to the Linear A signary must be pictures of things named in

Greek, must mean something in Greek. I have only two firm equations. First, $\xi = \circ\sigma$, from its resemblance to the human ear, $\circ\tilde{\sigma}$. The equation is confirmed by function. ξ in the script, as $\circ\sigma$ in Greek, is both a nominative and a genitive ending. Second, λ^1 seems to be an abbreviated picture of a horned animal. $\lambda^1 = \sigma'F\sigma$, or better, $F\sigma$ (with vowels supplied, as we expect in an ancient script). Confirmation again: λ^1 , as $F\sigma$, serves as nominative ending of the third declension and genitive ending of diphthongal stems.

Other signs come from Linear A and need not be named in Greek. One of these is \uparrow . Assign, tentatively, the value $\kappa\nu$, and $\uparrow\lambda^1$ becomes readable, not $\kappa\sigma-F\sigma$ but $*\gamma\nu\sigma F\sigma$ or the like, a lost form related to German Knabe, English knave, etc. Added confirmation of the equation $\lambda^1 = \sigma'F\sigma$ now comes from a Mycenaean pun. The scribe of Un718 has written $\uparrow\lambda^1$ as $\uparrow\lambda^1$. If \uparrow represents a sheepskin, it is equatable with $\lambda^1 =$ sheep. To put the pun into English: "sheepskin" and "sheeps-kin" do not make sense but perhaps give the flavor.

Jane Henle

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