

COMMUNICATIONS

The New Statesman's Weekend Competition No. 1708, "the usual prizes for the most impossible competition suggestion" (64 [7 December 1962] 846) drew many suggestions and awarded other prizes and a guinea to John Davenport for "A limerick in Linear B." Those having already composed such a limerick, or those who will, are invited to send their texts to Nestor (and if it is desired, also to the New Statesman, but at least to Nestor). Their publication here (within the limits of propriety) is guaranteed as a contribution to neo-Mycenaean literature. There's some doubt about guineas, however, since they're not legal tender in this territory.

Photographs of the performance of R. Helpmann's ballet "Elektra" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden show that the proper instrument for slaying Aegisthus and Clytemnestra is a DOUBLE-AXE, which looks more efficient than symbolic. (Illustrated London News 242 [April 6, 1963] 516-517).

We may congratulate Peck & Peck, and their advertising agency, for posing their models, for one time at least, not in Athens but in front of Mycenae's Lion Gate (The New Yorker, April 20, 1963, 28).

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - The interesting suggestion has been put forward by Sp. Marinatos (Kadmos 1:2 [1962] 87-94) that the cave of Arkalokhori was the workshop of a religious guild of bronze-smiths. He has, however, failed to notice a most striking piece of evidence in support of this theory: the existence in the Pylos Jn tablets of groups of smiths at two places called po-ti-ni-ja-we-jo 'belonging to the cult of Potnia' (see M. Lejeune, Historia 10 [1961] 423). If, as I believe (Minos 5:2 [1958] 117-29), Potnia is the name of the pre-hellenic mother goddess, we may trace here the survival into Mycenaean times of a very ancient association between metal-working and religion. Evidence for smiths of Potnia at Knossos is lacking, but the tablets show that she was concerned with flocks of sheep and possibly other products.

Downing College
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17 April 1963

Yours, &c.
John Chadwick

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