

COMMUNICATIONS

The London Times, August 15, 1966, announced that Dr. Platon was about to resume excavations at Kato Zakro later in the month, despite his having been robbed of some \$3,500 of funds intended for the excavation in Athens in July.

The Fifth International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy will be held in Cambridge, September 18-23, 1967.

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, announces an exhibition of one hundred and forty-two examples of ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek, and Etruscan art from the collection of Leon and Harriet Pomerance. The exhibit will run through October 2.

Jean Marcadé is editing a new series entitled Archaeologia Mundi. Among the volumes to be published are Greece: Mycenaean and Geometric Period and Minoan Crete, both by Nicolas Platon.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:- Sur la translittération des "doublets" supposés de l'écriture Linéaire A.

Trois cas sont à distinguer:

a) L'écriture A comporte des couples de signes (L2 et L1; L53 et L58; L64 et L34) dont les deux constituants ont des formes très dissemblables, et que la seule référence à l'écriture B invite à considérer comme des doublets (L2 = pa et L1 = pa<sub>3</sub> par référence aux valeurs des signes B 3 et 56; L53 = ra et L58 = ra<sub>2</sub> par référence aux valeurs des signes B 60 et 76; L64 = pu et L34 = pu<sub>2</sub> par référence aux valeurs des signes B 50 et 29).

b) Valables ou non, des considérations combinatoires amènent à imaginer que deux signes A, de formes très dissemblables, ont, dans les inscriptions A, des valeurs identiques ou très voisines; ainsi Georgiev pour L81 et L82 qu'il translittère je et je<sub>2</sub>; etc.

c) On peut être enfin tenté d'assimiler l'un à l'autre, du point de vue de leur valeur, deux tracés A, distingués dans les répertoires "officiels", mais se ressemblant plus ou moins entre eux, et qui, dans cette hypothèse, ne seraient que des variantes (non significatives) l'un de l'autre; ainsi, pour Georgiev, L90 = pe et L88 = pe<sub>2</sub>; etc.

L'usage d'une même notation (exposants-chiffres) dans tous ces cas risque d'entraîner des confusions fâcheuses. Par exemple, Georgiev estime que le signe L99, quand il n'est pas idéogramme (VIR) a une valeur syllabique qu'il note a<sub>2</sub>; or (que cette hypothèse soit vraie ou fausse) L99 n'a, en tout cas, rien de commun avec le signe 25 (a<sub>2</sub>) du linéaire B.

Ne pourrait-on se mettre d'accord pour réserver la notation par exposants-chiffres aux cas du type a ci-dessus (pu<sub>2</sub>, ra<sub>2</sub>, etc.), et utiliser une notation accentuelle pour les cas des types b et c ci-dessus (jé, pé, etc.)? Peut-être ce problème pratique pourrait-il être soumis à un prochain colloque (ou congrès) de spécialistes?

14 August 1966  
35, Boulevard Jourdan  
Paris XIV, France

Yours, &c.  
Michel Lejeune

To Professor Lejeune:- Though your suggestions are sensible, I would give different advice. On the negative side, I see neither reason nor profit in asking those who have deciphered Linear A as Chaldee, Chinese, and Chinook to follow a uniform system of transliteration. On the positive side, I would urge that references to Linear A signs should be primarily those of Pugliese Carratelli (the L-numbers), supplemented and modified where this is necessary (as by Pugliese Carratelli himself in his suggestion that L38 may be a variant of L77 and L100, or by Brice in adding L'1, or by another if he might suppose that L'37 is an official, or sacral, or elegantly calligraphic variant of L82). As for a conventional transcription of Linear A signs in the manner of Linear B, I would urge that such transcriptions be chosen as may best represent their hypothetical values, rather than the sources from which those values were derived. If, among the signs which can be thus transcribed there remain any pairs whose values in the present state of the science cannot be distinguished except by some variety of exponent, numerical or accentual, I believe there will be less confusion if the exponents belong to only one system. I. e., they should be either entirely accentual or entirely numerical. Unless, that is, one could say that the relationship of the values of a Linear A qa and qa<sub>2</sub> was of a different order from the relationship of the values of a Linear A kwa and kwá. In any event, no work using a conventional transcription should be without its own full concordance of L-numbers and the transcription used.

I would add only that one minor danger of importing Linear B transcriptions into Linear A is illustrated in your use of the value \*pa<sub>3</sub> for Linear B 56, not infrequently printed, of course, but nevertheless not formally agreed upon as its conventional transcription.

31 August 1966

Yours, &c.  
Emmett L. Bennett, Jr.

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Coincidentally, on page 52 of the same issue, there appears a photograph of the Spanish matador, El Cordobès, providing a magnificent modern example of bull-leaping.

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. . . qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues

#### The Classics Revisited

A spider in a web, holding thread in its mouth;

A flesh-fly, round-headed, flower-skinned,

The little wine-jar tapper.

Take care, drinker, embracing a tomb

With the mouth, drinking wine--alas!

Alas! He has spun round, dead!

Walking leisurely on the wine-cup, snared,

The thirsty one has spun round dead.

An appropriate prize (a free subscription to Nestor) is offered for the best translation of this elegy, into any language and any script, excepting only the text of which it is a translation.



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