

COMMUNICATIONS

A Colloquium on Mycenaean Geography was organised by the British Association for Mycenaean Studies at Cambridge, England on 27-28 September 1976. Papers read include:

- J. Bintliff, "The history of Archaeo-Geographical studies in prehistoric Greece and recent fieldwork."
- O. Dickinson, "An Archaeological viewpoint."
- P. Halstead, "The Bronze Age in Thessaly."
- I. Hodder, "Geographical Techniques and the archaeologist."
- J. Chadwick, "The Interpretation of Mycenaean documents and the geography of the Pylos kingdom."
- J. T. Killen, "The Knossos texts and the geography of Mycenaean Crete."
- J. Cherry, "Statistics, computers and the Pylos texts."
- A. J. Chadwick, "Computer simulation of settlement development in Bronze Age Messenia."
- R. Hope-Simpson (read by O. Dickinson), "The problems of intensive and extensive surveys on Greece."
- D. Kendall led a discussion on the application of statistical and computer techniques to archives, with reference to his own work and the paper of J. Cherry.

A summary of the Colloquium was given by C. Renfrew.

It is intended to produce a small volume of Proceedings containing these papers and brief reports of the discussions. This will be available early in 1977 at the price of £1.50 including postage or for those not paying in sterling U.S. \$3.50 or its equivalent. Orders should be addressed to J. Chadwick, British Association for Mycenaean Studies, Laundress Lane Faculty Rooms, Cambridge, England.

Lectures presented to Classical Associations in 1972-1974 included:

- A. W. H. Adkins, "The Homeric poems and Mycenaean daily life" (Aberystwyth).
- B. M. Ackerley, "Atlantis, Fact or fiction?" (Teesside).
- W. G. Arnott, "Schliemann, Troy and Mycenae" (Lancaster & North Western, Leicestershire, Shropshire, Glasgow).
- Lydia Baumbach, "The dilemma of the horns—an analysis of the Knossos Mc tablets," "Mycenology comes of age—a review of Mycenaean studies since 1952" (South Africa).
- J. Chadwick, "Was Homer a liar?" (Leeds & District).
- J. N. Coldstream, "Minoan and Mycenaean wall paintings" (Cardiff & District).
- S. Davis, "The decipherment of the Minoan scripts—the final stage" (South Africa).
- M. C. Greenstock, "Lost Atlantis: Fact or fiction" (London).
- D. A. Hester, "Minos and Homer" (South Australia).
- G. S. Kirk, "Homer and the epic" (Aberystwyth).
- E. Rushworth, "Legend and archaeology in Mycenaean Greece" (Bangor & North Wales).

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B. B. Shefton, "Gold and ostentatious luxury among the Greeks" (Aberystwyth, Leicestershire).

F. H. Stubbings, "Kalliste, Thera, Santorini" (Cambridge & District).

Lord William Taylour, "New light on Mycenaean religion" (Manchester & District).

Miss K. B. Thompkins, "New light on the legend of Atlantis" (Manchester & District).

P. M. Warren, "The Minoan civilization: achievement and end" (Bangor & North Wales). [PCA 70 (1973), 71 (1974)]

The Ellaina Macnamara Memorial Scholarship for 1976-1977 has been awarded to Dottoressa E. Fabbriotti, with the subject, "The origin and distribution of local Geometric pottery in south Italy during the pre-colonial period." The Scholarship will be offered annually; information may be obtained from the Secretary, The Ellaina Macnamara Memorial Scholarship, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PP, England.

Papers presented at the meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Southern Section, at Austin, 28-30 October 1976, include: John G. Younger, "The Mycenaeans at Knossos."

WORK IN PROGRESS

Dissertation completed: Pierpaolo Dorsi, "Studi di toponomastica della Creta antica: gli oronimi" (Università di Trieste, Istituto di Linguistica, 1975-1976).

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - I have followed with interest the discussion on Mycenaean rations. However, Yves Duhoux's reference to the same rations being issued to Mycenaean adults and children suggests that it is high time to return to the primary evidence. Since 1956 (Documents in Mycenaean Greek, 157) we have known that a child got half of a woman's ration. In 1959 (Methodology in Linear B interpretations, Sprache 5) it was shown that a TA gets a woman's ration and a DA 2 1/2 times as much. Now the KN texts show that a DA is some kind of man distinct from a VIR, and this is consistent with the new TH evidence (J. T. Killen in TH II, 92). Here once again is the key question posed by me but still unanswered: how can John Chadwick justify his preference for three different explanations of DA (in personnel lists) at PY, KN, and TH? All else follows from the identification of DA as a male supervisor.

Now for the plausibility of the deduced ration scales. If parallels are sought, should we not ask where else we find dry capacity measurements showing a mixture of a decimal and a sexagesimal system? In 1961 (Linear B texts of economic interest, Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Kulturwissenschaft 7-8, 11-12)

attention was drawn to the great similarity between the Assyro-Babylonian and the Mycenaean ration scales. Expressed in terms of barley the figures for men:slaves:women:children are respectively Myc. 60:30:24:12, Babyl. 60:30:20:10. Of further interest (The interpretation of Mycenaean Greek texts (1963), 97-98) is the class of "strong men" (guruš) who get twice as much as a slave (these could be the equivalent of the DA). Children both of slaves and free workers get the same ration, but at Nuzi the child's ration varied according to age, either 20, 14, or 10. The Mycenaean distinction between "smaller" and "larger" children must have had some practical significance in the ration scales. The missing half child ration in KN Am 819 can be explained by supposing that the smaller children got half of the larger.

H. Lewy explained the ratios 30:1 and 60:1 within the system by the practical convenience of issuing a daily ration of 1 qu at monthly intervals. If V is the daily ration, i. e. functionally the equivalent of the later "choinix," this would explain its division into four "cups" (Z). Here is another key question likewise unanswered: is this ratio in the Mycenaean system involving the unit we have diagnosed as the "Khoinix" and its next lowest unit accidentally similar to the division of the khoinix into 4 kotylae? Finally, how else are we to explain the evident similarity between the Mycenaean and the Assyro-Babylonian systems? The arbitrary dismissal of the identity of the PY and KN DA in identical contexts and the no less arbitrary equation of a KN kowo with an adult leaves unexplained a fact of great historical significance.

A-60-73 Sistrans 139, Austria
22 October 1976

Yours, &c.
L. R. Palmer

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I am requested particularly to call attention to the following correction:

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□ ~~60740~~ □ 60835

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. . . qu'il permis de rire entre mycéologues

Neither Raison and Pope's nor Packard's reading of the Palaikastro Linear A tablet sounds very instructive.

Now, a key-point has obviously been ignored: the archaeological evidence of the Palaikastro excavations has taught us that this pleasant little town was a leading centre in toy-manufacturing in Minoan times, as many of the published objects in the Unpublished Objects (ABSA Suppl. 1) show.

If so, the tablet was certainly a page of a children's songbook, or a music-chest if you like, and the last line then would read:

ta. da. ra. ta. to. ba(m). ho(m).

One could even reconstruct the melody!

A.B.