

COMMUNICATIONS

If some of February's bibliography looks more like January's, it really is. It was delayed to conserve our dwindling resources by sending out the index pages and some of January at the maximum weight and the minimum postage.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor: - The letters of John Chadwick and Yves Duhoux suggest that it is time to close this correspondence. It would be fair if the initiator did no more than bring out the main points of difference.

I sought a single explanation of a constellation of facts: the PY Ab rations and their correlations with MULIER kowa kowo TA and DA, the PY Fn accounts, the internal ratios of the system of dry capacity measurements, the Mesopotamian analogies, and the deduced capacity of a MU which affords an opportunity of linking up with the archaeological evidence. This explanation I found in the determination of GRANUM V 1 as the daily ration of a DA, equal to that of a craftsman in the Fn accounts.

Dr. Chadwick (followed by M. Duhoux) bases his calculations on KN Am 819. Important for the interpretation of this text are 1) that KN distinguishes a DA from a VIR, 2) that PY Ab gives a figure for a DA and not a VIR, 3) that PY Fn shows that a slave got half the rations of a craftsman, 4) that there is a conversion rate of 2:1 for barley:wheat. It follows that a slave got HORDEUM V 30 per month.

This insight was applied to Am 819 as long ago as 1964, and it was repeated in an earlier letter. M. Duhoux overlooks the vital 1) and 2). Both scholars are forced into non-equations: $KN DA \neq PY DA \neq TH DA$, and $KN kowo \neq PY kowo$. I asked for justification. Dr. Chadwick has postponed his answer. I asked M. Duhoux how his statement that a Mycenaean kowo got the same rations as an adult squared with the PY evidence that he got half the woman's ration. I receive no answer.

Sistrans, Austria
21 December 1976

Yours, &c.
L. R. Palmer

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- Archaeological Section No. 2174. A new major Minoan palace discovered in Crete: Unique and beautiful objects from Kato Zakro. Part II / by Nikolaos Platon, Director of the Acropolis Museum, Athens, and Field Director of the Kato Zakro Excavations. - ILN 244[:6501 March 7] (1964) 350-352. - Great Archaeologists (1976) 392-393, fig. 196. □ 70168-69
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- These are intended for instruction, probably in a Secondary School. Accordingly, they provide some "Questions," and some "Things to do." From the first I quote: "What did the clay tablets look like?" and "Use plasticine or clay to make a tablet like the one shown on page 52. [A photograph of MY Ge 606.] Perhaps you could invent a language of your own, a sort of secret code using different kinds of signs like 'Linear B' (see the writing on page 53)." From the second: "Using modelling clay or plasticine make a copy of one of the clay tablets shown on page 11 [a photograph of KN Co 903]. Imagine that it lists ten horses, eight soldiers, four chariots. Invent your own sign-language, and 'write' this list on the tablet. You will need picture signs and number signs..."
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