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COMMUNICATIONS

Professor Emmett L. Bennett will be speaking about Linear A at a meeting of the New York Bronze Age Colloquium on May 23. The meeting will be held at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 1 East 78th Street, New York.

A selection of 166 objects from the famous Goulandris collection of Cycladic art will be on exhibit in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The exhibition, "Cycladic Art: Ancient Sculpture and Ceramics of the Aegean from the N.P. Goulandris Collection," will run from May 20 through September 3.

It is with great sadness that we report the recent death of Professor Jean Deshayes. Many readers of Nestor will know the fieldwork of Professor Deshayes at Dikili Tash in northern Greece, the final publication of which he was preparing at the time of his death.

FORUM

To the Editors:

In their edition of the tablet fragment from Tiryns TI Si 5 (BCH 101, 1977), J.-P. Olivier and L. Godart have devoted some space to the possible use of a as a dummy vowel for final-word syllabograms by Mycenaean scribes. They pointed out the well-known pairs o-nu-ka/o-nu-ke and a-pu-ka/a-pu-ke, with the following comment (p. 232 footnote 6): "on aimerait, de ce point de vue, avoir le nominatif singulier de $\kappa\alpha\rho\upsilon\zeta$, dont on ne possède que le datif ka-ru-ke (PY Fn 187 et Un 219)...". In this respect, I should like to recall a word on a pottery fragment from Khania, KH Z 1, which E. Hallager (Opuscula Atheniensi XI, 1975, pp. 64f., and Plate V) read as ka-sa- \square , a third sign being probably ka or u. To my eye, the last fragmentary sign is clearly a part of a broken ka, and this inscription, which is most likely to represent a man's name, is to be read as ka-X-ka, the second sign being obscure. Nevertheless, it must be noted that the second sign is closely paralleled by that appearing on TI Z 39 and very similar to that on TH Z 866. Therefore, I think that A. Sacconi is right in transcribing it as ru (Corpus delle iscrizioni vascolari in Lineare B, Roma 1974). The man's name on KH Z 1 is then ka-ru-ka, and is most likely to represent $\kappa\alpha\rho\upsilon\zeta$, which is similarly attested in a Cypriot syllabic inscription. If my interpretation is not wrong, we have fresh evidence for the use of a dummy a in rendering some final syllabograms by the Mycenaean writers.

Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife
Spain

Yours, &c.
José L. Melena
Facultad de F. y Letras
April 1, 1979

To the Editors:

I would appreciate your including the following for the information of your American readers in the next issue of Nestor. Thank you for your consideration.

H.R. 3403 The Cultural Property Implementation Act has just been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman A.J. Mikva, for co-sponsors Corman, Conable, Vander Jagt, Frenzel, Rangel, Stark, Ford (Tenn.), Lederer, Downey, Guarini, and Shannon. This is the bill which would provide implementing legislation for the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, a convention ratified unanimously by the U.S. Senate 7 long years ago. H.R. 3403 is the same bill which passed the House as H.R. 5643 in the 95th Congress, and was allowed to die from inaction in Senator Ribicoff's Subcommittee on International Trade. The text of H.R. 3403 is essentially that printed in JFA 4 (1977) 463-472. The new bill has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and will probably be assigned to the Subcommittee on Trade.

Two years ago hearings were held on this same bill and archaeologists, anthropologists, museum officials, and dealers were all present and active in refining the bill during extraordinary mark-up sessions of the Subcommittee. We have had our say; now we need action. Further hearings in the House this year would simply delay action.

Rumor has it that some coin collectors are pushing for new hearings. This legislation would embargo only antiquities which are clearly STOLEN antiquities. Read the legislation carefully and satisfy yourself, your coin-collecting friends, and your Congressmen that legitimate collectors are not affected by this bill and would not unjustly be denied an ear if hearings are not held again this year. In the 7 years of stalling over implementing the UNESCO Convention some steps have been taken toward improving the protection of U.S. antiquities (ex. H.R. 1825, The Archaeological Resources Protection Act, currently in House Committee, and deserving your support); but the destruction of sites has gone on at an ever increasing pace. While our politicians argue over which importing nation will take the first brave step, the cultural resources of the world are disappearing.

We need action, now. If the bill is not passed quickly to give recognition to the seriousness of the problem there will be no need for it. There will be no sites left to protect.

WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS: Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives (or U.S. Senate), Washington, D.C. 20510. A short letter urging support and quick action for H.R. 3403 is sufficient. Phone calls (202-224-3121 is the main Capitol Hill number for all Senators and Representatives) and telegrams are also appropriate. Longer letters documenting personal experiences of the effects and extent of illicit activities and destruction could be more persuasive. Offprints and photographs documenting your claims would help. If you have colleagues in foreign countries who could testify that U.S. passage of this legislation would help get similar legislation passed in their countries, that could be very persuasive testimony, since it was a major concern expressed by Senators last year.

The difficult battle is likely to come in the Senate, during the summer while many of us are in the field and unavailable to make our opinions known. Let your Senators know now, before you leave for the summer, that you want them to take quick, positive action on this bill, H.R. 3403, The Cultural Property Implementation Act.

Yours, &c.
 Karen D. Vitelli
 Editor, Antiquities Market (JFA)
 April 16, 1979

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