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FROM THE EDITORS

We wish to announce that we shall print papers submitted to us and have them available to our readers on a trial basis during the next year. We have received a number of requests for offprints of papers, informal talks and colloquia proceedings, and realize that there is a desire on the part of our subscribers to receive such papers quickly and inexpensively. We plan to announce the titles, in Nestor, of available papers as we receive them, along with a price (to cover printing and postage) for each paper or set of papers.

If you wish us to make your paper, or group of papers, available, please submit them in "copy-ready" form. We do not intend to edit them. We shall, however, reserve the right to decide which papers will be made available.

At the present time we envision a ten-page paper to cost about \$0.75 (U.S. airmail) or \$1.50 to a foreign country. A 100-page paper (or group of papers) could be sent at a cost of about \$4.50 (U.S. airmail), \$8.50 to a foreign country, or \$4.00 third class mail. The cost would be less for multiple copies.

We realize that there may be difficulties in this experimental venture. We shall appreciate your comments and advice.

As the new academic year begins, we welcome Mr. Fritz Hemans, Ms. Molly McGraw and Mr. Mark Rose of our Program in Classical Archaeology to the staff of Nestor. Mr. Hemans will serve as Assistant Editor this year, and Ms. McGraw and Mr. Rose will be assisting him. All of us intend to do our best to maintain the vitality and usefulness of our publication and, to that end, again welcome your suggestions and observations.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Third International Conference of Boiotian Studies will take place at McGill and Laval Universities, Montreal, between 31 October and 3/4 November 1979. Titles and resumes of papers were invited by 20 September, but further details can be procured from Professor John M. Fossey, Department of Classics, McGill University, 855 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2T7.

Items from the newspapers:

A Mycenaean tomb containing, among other things, a terracotta larnax, has been excavated in Karpathos (Ta Nea, Athens, 5 July 1979).

Excavations in the Mycenaean cemetery of Aïdonia, near Nemea, have revealed a deposit of objets de parure, including gold and faience necklaces, the ivory facing of a small box, three sealstones, gold rings and rosettes (Ta Nea, 5 July 1979).

Excavation at Ptolemaï's, northwestern Greece, brought to light chipped stone tools in association with the disarticulated skeleton of an elephant. The excavator, Dr. Aris Poulianos, tentatively dated the finds to 3,000,000 years ago (Ta Nea and Athens News, 5 July 1979).

Dr. Ioannis Sakellarakis, curator at the National Museum in Athens, reports the discovery in northern Crete of evidence suggesting the practice of human sacrifice in the Bronze Age. A human skeleton was found on an altar with a bronze dagger through its chest (Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, 18 August 1979).

Professor John Chadwick sent along an amusing clipping from the London Not the Times of the past summer. The following are excerpts from the article, entitled "Was Linear B invented by Beaker folk?": "Evidence is coming to light suggesting that the shards unearthed near Avebury last year by Professor Twining, and dismissed at the time as an archaeological irrelevancy, may be the most important find of recent years. These marks were first interpreted as pre-lingual scribblings. Application of advanced laser-scanning has revealed that not only are they not the untutored scribblings of woad-daubed savages, but they are a form of script virtually identical with Minoan Linear B, deciphered by Ventris as an ideographic representation of Greek. Professor Twining has compared the Linear B syllabary with the syllabary he has constructed from the Beaker shards, and elementary principles of glottochronology establish that the Beaker language is the older. In other words, the Minoans were not speaking Greek; they were speaking Beaker. Were Ventris still alive, he might, paradoxically, not have been too surprised to have his life's achievement so roundly dismantled. He wrote in The American Journal of Archaeology in 1940: 'The theory that Minoan could be Greek is based, of course, upon a deliberate disregard for historical plausibility.'"

Lectures and seminars in Athens (1979):

Seminars at the Swedish Institute: Rainer Felsch and Hermann Kienast, "New excavations at Kalapodi," 2 February (a Mycenaean level reached under the sanctuary); Robin Hägg, "Aspects of burial customs in the Argolid in the Dark Ages," 30 March; Halford W. Haskell, "Some implications of early Cretan and Cycladic coarse ware stirrup jars," 4 May; Hara Tzavella-Evjen, "Works and days at Lithares in the third millennium B.C.," 25 May.

At the British School: a seminar by Richard Jones on the results of optical emission spectroscopy applied to the study of Minoanizing pottery from Ayios Stephanos, marine style pottery from Cretan and

Mycenaean sites and Mycenaean pottery from Ialysos, 25 January; Hector Catling, "Knossos, 1978," dealt with the salvage excavation of tombs of Dark Age to Christian date near Herakleion.

FORUM

To the Editors:

In the Forum (May 1979) Jose L. Melena discussed vase inscription KH Z 1 which, according to his interpretation, provides another example of the use of the dummy a in rendering some final syllabograms, particularly the sequence -ks. As attractive as it is to find further corroboration of a particular Mycenaean scribal practice by a fresh reading of a text, I think that one must still have reservations about the reading of ka-ru-ka proposed by Melena.

First it should be noted that in Corpus delle iscrizioni vascolari in Lineare B, p. 179 (hereafter Corp. vasc.) A. Sacconi transcribes the fragment: ka-ru-ka, indicating doubt about the values of the second and the third signs and about the length of the word on the fragment. Reading ka-ru-ka, therefore, involves the assumption, which the Corpus editor was unwilling to make, that the third sign, only partially preserved on the fragment, completes a word. It also requires the demonstration that the second and third signs can be read with certainty. Judging from the vestiges of the third sign (hereafter consult drawings, photographs, and tables of signs in Corp. vasc.) it can only be ka or u. In the vase inscriptions u usually has the straight staff that characterizes it in the tablets. Exceptional, curved staffs are found on TI Z 30, TH Z 839, 853; but the sole example from KH (Z 9) has a straight staff. Since one can note the trace of a curve at the bottom of the preserved stroke on KH Z 1, this would tend to make u unlikely unless exceptional in form. ka, although not at all certain, is more likely. Here one faces the difficulty that the internal strokes of the first ka form an oblique cross: "x", whereas the preserved portion of the internal strokes of the third sign is fairly horizontal. This would imply an upright cross: "+", at variance with the oblique cross in the first ka but similar to the cross-strokes used to form u. However, KH Z 6 provides a parallel for ka with an upright cross at KH.

The second sign, although wholly preserved, is more problematical. Melena adduced parallels on TI Z 39 and TH Z 866 in support of an identification as ru. But all the positively identified examples of ru on vase inscriptions, including TH Z 866, have an upturn at the ends of the curved strokes forming the "horns" of the sign. Secondly, the curved "horns" are made distinct from the vertical stem: on TH Z 839 made in a continuous stroke and detached from the stem; on TH Z 840, 841, 845, 856 with flat curves and approaching the stem at nearly right angles; on TH Z 866, 867, 868, 879 with extreme curves and intersecting the stem below its apex. Both these features are missing on KH Z 1. Thirdly, TI Z 39 is not positively identifiable (ru) and the orientation presented in Corp. vasc. makes it quite dissimilar to the second sign of KH Z 1.

For the second sign of KH Z 1 one should not be so quick to dismiss Hallager's sa . In the "cup-down" curves on KH Z 1 can readily be seen a hastier version of the intersecting curves and oblique strokes used for sa (cf. Corp. vasc. 196, 197). Still the version of sa which predominates on the tablets at Knossos (consult J.-P. Olivier, Les Scribes de Cnossos, tables p. 321 ff.) and alone is represented on the vases (OR Z 1) has a characteristic overlap of the curves and the stem which is not found on the KH sign -- although one can observe a bulge on the staff at the usual point of overlap (Corp. vasc. Tav. LXI).

Whatever readings one prefers for the second and third signs must be qualified, and the possibility that the word is incomplete must be admitted. Consequently, KH Z 1 had best not be used as a further instance of a Mycenaean scribal practice.

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Yours, &c.
Thomas G. Palaima
May 29, 1979

WORK IN PROGRESS

Dr. Gisela Walberg (Uppsala University, Sweden): Middle Minoan provincial pottery; Bernard Sergent (Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris) "La trifonctionnalité indo-européenne en Grèce ancienne" (doctoral dissertation).

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