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COMMUNICATIONS

A new journal, Naftiki Paradosi (in Greek), began publication with a November/December 1987 issue. The journal is published by the Greek Institute for the Preservation of the Nautical Tradition and aims to stimulate scientific communication and discussions of the nautical tradition and marine archaeology of Greece and related topics of international interest. Inquiries should be addressed to the Institute, A. Papanastasiou 73, Kastella-Piraeus, Greece.

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Dr. Martha H. Wiencke spoke on "The House of the Tiles: Its Relatives, Friends, and Enemies" on February, 1988, to the New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium.

* * *

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

A graduate student, Frederick Schwink, in my Mycenaean Script seminar today provided me with startling evidence of the use of Linear B in ways previously unattested and at a date much later than the material known at present. As often happens with significant new information, the evidence was published as a minor part of a full article on LH III C Troy in an out-of-the-way, but well-established journal: S. Sucharitul, "The Shattered Horse," *Amazing* 58:1 (May 1984) 26-49, a copy of which I enclose. The author even provides a new theory on the development of the Mycenaean Linear B script. Here are the pertinent passages:

p. 34 (describing fresco remains from the palace area of III B Troy) "There were scrawls in strident red paint, in the Mycenaean characters: $\square \bar{\tau} \bar{\tau}$ *Ta-na-to* — *Thanatos*. There were names too, all written in the script that the Akhaian nations borrowed from somewhere east, in the lands of barbarous tongues."

and p.41 (describing a sword discovered in an altar area at Troy) "...I recognized the sword, with the syllabic signs $\hat{\eta} \bar{\tau} \bar{\tau}$ —*E-ko-to*—etched into the bronze blade."

What is particularly startling about these discoveries is the use of Linear B on a wall painting and as a mark of ownership (or manufacturer's mark?) on the bronze sword. We only have one remotely possible instance of a painted fresco sign in a linear script, from Knossos (cf. my *Kadmos* 20 (1981) 79-82 article) and so far no hint of full Linear B used on anything other than clay records and painted vase inscriptions. The signs are few and simple in form, thus preventing us from drawing any firm conclusions about palaeographical affiliations. Of course, this assumes that the author's drawings and transcriptions are accurate, which the sword inscription gives us cause to doubt. One would think more likely that the author has failed to note a fourth and final sign on the sword blade, perhaps worn away through at least ten years of use. I would suggest restoring either *e-ko-to[-ro]* cons. stem liquid gen. sing. "of Hektor", thus denoting the owner of the sword. Since, however, the sword may be Achaean, of the sort MacDonald (*BSA* 79 [1984] 68, citing Sandars) describes as 12th century sui generis, a more speculative restoration, and the one I prefer as being more "Homeric," would be *e-ko-to[-re]* cons. stem liquid dat. sing. "for Hektor," i.e., a sword marked out by an Achaean warrior, perhaps the *a-ki-re-u* attested on our Linear B tablets, as intended to have Hektor as corporeal recipient. This would be a form of Mycenaean slang: "Take this, Hektor!" and a rare discovery indeed.

I am much less confident about the author's proposal that Linear B derived from literally barbarous eastern scripts. We see some eastern influence in Cypro-Minoan, but by and large the Minoan-Mycenaean scripts seem to be, to again use Sandars, sui generis. I would welcome further thoughts on this subject.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Palaima UT Austin

Recent Dissertations Completed

- Christofi, C. 1988. L'éclairage et l'aération dans les constructions de l'Age du Bronze en Crète et dans les Cyclades. Ph.D. dissertation, Department UA 1226, l'Université de Paris 1, Paris.
- Dimitracopoulou, G. 1988. Magasins et dispositifs de stockage dans la Protohistoire égéenne. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of UA 1226, l'Université de Paris 1, Paris.
- Fisher, Elizabeth A. 1987. A comparison of Mycenaean Pottery in Apulia with Mycenaean Pottery in Western Greece. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- Marangou, Chr. 1988. Recherches sur les figurines et les objets en miniature du Néolithique et de l'âge Bronze en Grèce. Ph.D. dissertation, Department UA 1226, l'Université de Paris 1, Paris.
- Renard, J. 1988. Le Bronze Ancien dans le Péloponnèse. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of UA 1226, l'Université de Paris 1, Paris.
- Vanschoonwinkel, Jacques. 1988. L'Egée à la fin du IIe millénaire (env. 1250-900 av. J.-C.). Essai de synthèse fondé sur les témoignages archéologiques et les sources écrites. Ph.D. dissertation. Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

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