

Chadwick, John

## Conclusion

In: *Studia Mycenaea : proceedings of the Mycenaean symposium, Brno, april 1966*. Bartoněk, Antonín (editor). Vyd. 1. Brno: Universita J.E. Purkyně, 1968, pp. [153]-154

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/119953>

Access Date: 22. 12. 2024

Version: 20220831

Terms of use: Digital Library of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University provides access to digitized documents strictly for personal use, unless otherwise specified.

JOHN CHADWICK

(Cambridge)

## CONCLUSION

The most striking thing about the Mycenaean symposium has been the wide range of subjects which have been covered. We have had papers on the texts, on details of epigraphy, the palaeography, the language of the tablets, the history of the Greek language, the interpretation of the texts, the Mycenaean civilisation and its overseas relations. All these subjects have been touched on by a variety of papers which I cannot list in detail; we are grateful to their authors for these contributions to our subject.

But what has impressed me even more is the fact that here in Brno for the first time representatives of Eastern and Western countries who share the same interests have been able to meet face to face. Some scholars who were mere names to me I have now met in person; and it has been a most pleasant experience to make the acquaintance of these and other scholars who have the same interest in Mycenaean studies. I will not say we have had no disagreements; it would be an unfruitful gathering of scholars in which no new ideas were generated by the conflict of opinions. But these friendly disputes have never been along any territorial lines, and we have found ourselves ranged into camps which have nothing to do with our nationalities. I very much hope this will set a precedent for further meetings of this kind, and that we shall in due course have the pleasure of welcoming in Western countries more of our colleagues from Eastern Europe.

There is at this time a need for closer relations between scholars working in common fields, and in order to achieve this in our own subject we have recently agreed to enlarge the Permanent International Committee for Mycenaean Studies (abbreviated in French form to C.I.P.E.M.), which has existed since the first colloquium in France in 1956, so as to bring in representatives of more countries and to affiliate it to the appropriate organ of U.N.E.S.C.O. It is hardly possible for every country where Greek is studied to have a member on the committee; but I hope that by various regional groupings we shall be able to give all scholars in our subject a voice in the arrangement of future international meetings and the adoption of conventions.

The most obvious need is for further exchanges of information and ideas, and I hope the new committee will serve this purpose. I would like to remind those of you who are not already subscribers of the monthly news-letter entitled *Nestor* which is edited by Professor Emmett L. Bennett and is distributed free, by the generosity of the University of Wisconsin, to all interested scholars. If any one present would like to have his name added to the list he has only to write to Professor Bennett, or I will gladly undertake to pass on any names myself.

There already exists a series of annual volumes entitled, "Studies in Mycenaean

inscriptions and dialect" published by the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London. For 10 years we have compiled a bibliography of books and articles dealing with Linear B and have indexed any new suggestions. The time has now come when we have found it necessary to consolidate the first 10 years' work in a single volume. The compilation of this is now in hand, and will be published by Edizioni dell' Ateneo of Rome, with the help of the Rome Centro di Studi micenei and Professor C. Gallavotti. Meanwhile the usual issues will continue to appear in London, and we shall be pleased to receive offprints to facilitate inclusion.

One point which I venture somewhat hesitantly to make concerns the language in which articles for an international public are written. It is difficult for a speaker of one of the accepted international languages to insist on this; but I would ask those of you whose native language is not widely known to be good enough to publish any major contributions in one of the generally accepted languages.

Now to conclude let me say a word about the future. In the interpretation of Linear B texts we may be approaching the point when the law of diminishing returns becomes established. The easy gains have been made; only the more difficult tasks lie ahead, and many problems will remain intractable unless and until many more tablets are discovered. The success of our Greek colleagues in recovering tablets from Thebes in 1964 is further evidence that soil of Greece has still more riches of this kind in store, and we may hope that our future progress will be aided by considerable increases in the number of tablets known.

Much the same is true of the two scripts which so far defeat all attempts to read them: Minoan Linear A, and the Bronze Age script of Cyprus known as Cyprominoan. Only the discovery of a large number of new texts can make real progress on these possible.

But now that we have solved many of the problems of the script and language of the Linear B texts, there remains the task of interpreting them, not merely as specimens of the Greek language but as economic documents which can reveal the conditions of life at that remote date. Progress in this direction has begun, and we may hope that by co-operation with our colleagues in archaeology we shall gradually win a much broader and clearer comprehension of the Mycenaean civilisation.

Finally I should like on behalf of all the members of the Symposium to express our thanks to the Czech organisers of this meeting and especially to our secretary Dr. A. Bartoněk. I have much enjoyed being present here and I am sure you will allow me to voice the feelings of us all when I thank him for the admirable arrangements for our work.