

Report on Section V of the XVIIIth International Eirene
Congress of the Eastern European Classical Associations
held in Budapest, Hungary 29 August-2 September 1988

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor of reporting on the Fifth Section of our Congress dealing with Mycenaean studies. Before I give you a short report on the work of this section, I would first like to remind you that nine years ago in this city John Chadwick presented to the participants of the VIIth International Congress of FIEC an enthusiastic account of the birth and development of a new classical discipline called Mycenology. It is to be noted that the Budapest FIEC Congress of 1979 represents an important historical moment for the status of *Studia Mycenaea*. Mycenaean studies had not been considered a suitable subject for FIEC congresses until this date. Only then, 27 years after the decipherment of Linear B by Michael Ventris, were Mycenaean studies officially proclaimed the newest discipline in the family of classical studies.

Since 1979, along with regular international Mycenological colloquia organized by CIPEM (the VIIth held in Nürnberg in 1981, and the VIIIth in Ohrid in 1985), a section on Mycenaean studies was also held at the VIIIth FIEC Congress in Dublin in 1984. In addition, several other scholarly meetings devoted to special problems in this field were organized and held: *Pylos Comes Alive* in New York in 1984, *Di palazzo alla città* in Rome this year, and other conferences and colloquia.

At the EIRENE conferences, now congresses, papers dealing with Mycenaean matters have been read and discussed since 1962. Pierre Chantraine introduced these studies to the participants of the VIth EIRENE Conference, held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Since then Mycenaean studies have been regularly represented at these scientific classical meetings. Although the papers from this field at EIRENE meetings are never numerous, they have always provoked vivid discussion among the participants. The Fifth Section of the

present Congress, at which eleven papers were delivered, has been no exception.

Through linguistic analysis and by means of the contextual and comparative method, P. Ilievski investigated the meaning of the divine name *ti-ri-se-ro-e /Trisherohei/* and some other compound personal names with augmentative prefixes. He stressed the relationship between attested Mycenaean names and Homeric heroic names, as well as the significance of Mycenaean civilization as a background and inspiration for Greek mythology and epic poetry.

I. Tegyey discussed scribal activity in connection with tablets discovered in the West Magazines at Knossos. Through careful analysis of find-spots and texts, he was able to identify a possible head office (F14), separated both architecturally and by the special contents of the tablets found there.

R. Witte stressed the difficulties in reconstructing Minoan history on the basis of any single body of data: archaeological evidence, epigraphical sources, or mythological accounts. He demonstrated how it is necessary to study all these available sources together, in order to reconstruct a general picture of the Minoan civilization.

T. Palaima examined references to oxen (BOS) and ox-herds (*qo-u-ko-ro*) on the Pylos tablets. He proposed that Cn 3 and Cn 418 are religious texts and that the breeding and herding of oxen were carefully controlled by the LH III B palace in specific geographical localities of Bronze Age Messenia. This may have been in response to the peculiar economic pressures upon this region at the close of the Mycenaean palatial period.

S. Hiller assembled and analysed the complete dossier for familial terms and relations in the Linear B tablets. He convincingly proposed a patriarchal system of relations and identified instances of single family units (Knossos As texts) as opposed to the more casual relationships within state-controlled workgroups (Pylos A- series). The patriarchal system is even seen in the religious sphere. On Tn 316 v.9-10, *di-ri-mi-jo* is designated son of Zeus (*di-wo i-je-we*), not of Hera. There is also evidence of a system of classes: marriages seem to have taken place among members of the same social or economic class, and children may have been trained in the profession of their parents.

P. de Fidio reviewed the data for ration allotments and quantities, proposing a new distribution for the much discussed Knossos text Am 819, which would allot different quantities to 5 groups distinguished by age, sex and economic work status.

E. Stavriānopoulos discussed the system of contributions to the palace by some individuals and towns in the Pylos kingdom, summarizing the evidence of several different tablet series about various commodities.

C. Shelmerdine led us through the labyrinth of mathematical calculations connected with different theories about the principles for determining Mycenaean taxation quantities in the Pylos Ma series. She argued that Wyatt's ratio 7:7:2 etc. was more practical, but that the Mycenaeans may have used a system based on 100 units, as de Fidio suggested, rather than 80.

From the study of the forms of signs and texts, W. Brice suggested that we might consider the libation texts as a separate development in Minoan writing. He also proposed that the Cretan-Mycenaean script may have had a more complicated evolution, more in line with the original ideas of Evans than a straightforward genetic development: Hieroglyphic-Linear A-Linear B.

J. Makkay presented fascinating evidence from the North Balkans for a possible sign-system or at least script-influenced decoration on clay objects of the late second millennium. The 6 fragments from Našice with their many signs arranged in columns are particularly promising data for writing in Balkan prehistory.

H. Zebisch put forward his controversial ideas that the Phaistos Disk, Linear A and Linear B are all Pelasgian and not to be understood as scholars have so far understood them.

All the papers were discussed at a high academic level. O. Panagl, as well as I. von Bredow and N. Nedelčev, were absent, so these two papers regrettably were not delivered.

Here, on my own behalf, I would like to express my thanks to our hosts, Professor Harmatta and all his collaborators, especially to Dr. Maróth and Professor Tegyey, for their extreme cordiality and for the open welcome which they have extended to us. Their sincere hospitality throughout reminds us that the Homeric word for such noble "guest-friendship" occurs even in Mycenaean: *ke-se-ni-wi-ja*. Our gratitude is due to them for the time and trouble they have taken to prepare this impressive meeting, perfectly organized indeed, and for giving us the opportunity to spend several days in

this splendid city, thinking and talking about ancient Greek and Roman culture and antiquities. We all shall return home with vivid and pleasant memories of our stay in Budapest.

The excellent edition of the *Proceedings of the VII Congress of FIEC*, which appeared under the care of the same team guided by Prof. Harmatta, is a guarantee that we may look forward to the production of a valuable publication of the *acta* of this Congress too. However, the organizers kindly accepted the generous proposal of Profs. T.G. Palaima and C.W. Shelmerdine to publish the papers of the Fifth Section as a separate edition of *Živa Antika* in Skopje. Our two American colleagues have obtained from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory in New York a grant which will fund this volume, and the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory of the University of Texas at Austin is preparing the volume. We all recognize that its publication will stand as a symbol of the international scholarly cooperation vital for all fields of classical studies. I express my own heartfelt gratitude both to our friends from the United States of America and to our Hungarian hosts for making this decision.

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