

JOHN KILLEN (ed.), *The New Documents in Mycenaean Greek. Volumes 1-2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024. ISBN 978-0521838122; 978-0521838139

The New Documents in Mycenaean Greek, edited by John Killen FBA, the Emeritus Professor of Mycenaean Greek at Cambridge University is the new edition of *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*, 'the bible' of Linear B, which was first published in 1956 by Michael Ventris (four years after the decipherment of Linear B) and republished with additional commentary in 1976 by John Chadwick. As the editor himself noted in the Preface to this book 'in the years since 1956 much of the detail of *Documents*¹ has become outdated; and even since 1973 there has been a vast increase in the bibliography of the subject'. Therefore, the initiative to undertake the compilation of a new edition together with Anna Morpurgo Davies, the Diebold Professor Emeritus of Comparative Philology at the University of Oxford (FBA, honorary DBE) quickly became a task to write and edit actually a new book in collaboration with other renowned scholars in the field. It took long time to complete the project and the final result is a comprehensive survey of the current state in Mycenaean studies in two volumes on more than 1100 pages. At first glance, this is another collective work, in line with current trends and other similar editions written by teams of Mycenaeanologists in recent years, such as *A Companion to Linear B* and *Manuale di epigrafia micenea*. A closer look, however, reveals that *New Documents* is clearly a very unique edition. This is due to the legacy of Michael Ventris and John Chadwick, but even more so to the meticulous effort John Killen made as an editor to preserve the original spirit of the first two editions of *Documents* while incorporating new research and innovations.

The book layout design, with the key elements from previous editions preserved, the dedication of the book, which now includes a dedication to John Chadwick, in addition to the dedicatees of *Documents*¹ and *Documents*², the structure of the book that follows the original segmentation into four parts, with the part of *Documents*² containing Chadwick's additional commentary being replaced by a part featuring drawings of selected tablets, the consistent use of special symbols *D*, *D*² and * to indicate the 'indebtedness' of each passage, section or chapter to *Documents*¹ and *Documents*², everything in *New Documents* is arranged to encourage readers to explore Mycenaean studies with a critical awareness of the history of the field.

The contents of *New Documents* is organised in two volumes. The first volume comprises the first two parts. Part I, *Introductory Essays: History, Script, Language and Culture* (pp. 1-320) just like Part I in *Documents*¹ and *Documents*² covers different aspects of Mycenaean script, language, society, economy, culture. Only the second chapter, *Discovery and Decipherment* is fully reprinted from *Documents*¹ as it was originally written by Michael Ventris. All other chapters present new content and a text derived from *Documents*¹ and *Documents*² to varying degrees.

Chapter I. *The Archaeological and Historical Context* (John Bennet, pp. 3-24) offers a concise summary of Aegean archaeology in the second decade of the twenty-first century and an outline history of the Aegean in the second millennium B.C. In *Documents*¹ and *Documents*² this topic was covered in the *Foreword* by Alan Wace. Chapter II. *Discovery and Decipherment* (pp. 25-48) is the story of Michael Ventris about the discovery and decipherment of Linear B. In Chapter III. *Syllabic Scripts In The Aegean And Cyprus In The Second And First Millennia* (Jean-Pierre Olivier, pp. 49-94) a survey of the systems of Cretan and Cypriot syllabic writings is provided. The Linear B being derived from Linear A, the relationship between these two scripts is particularly explained. The next three chapters: Chapter IV.1-5. *The Mycenaean*

Writing System (Rupert Thompson and Torsten Meißner, pp. 95-136), Chapter IV.6. *The Absolute Values of the Symbols for Weight* (Pia de Fidio, pp. 137-168) and Chapter IV.7. *The Absolute Values of the Symbols for volume* (Pia de Fidio, pp. 169-204) deal in detail with the peculiarities of the Linear B writing system, the different categories of signs, the word division and spelling rules, and the absolute values of the symbols that refer to measurement. The next chapter, Chapter V. *The Linear B Documents* (pp. 205-231) is translated from Maurizio Del Frio (a) 'I documenti in lineare B', 'I find-spot e la cronologia dei documenti in lineare B', published in M. Del Frio and M. Perna (eds.) *Manuale di epigrafia micenea. Introduzione allo studio dei testi in lineare B*, Padua 2016, pp. 169-197. It describes the physical characteristics of the documents and discusses the find-places, the scribes and the record-keeping systems, as well as the extent of literacy. Chapter VI. *The Mycenaean Language* (Rupert Thompson, pp. 232-254) presents a brief overview of the key features of Mycenaean Greek, its phonology, morphology, word-formation, syntax, its position among Greek dialects and the possible dialectal diversity within itself. Chapter VII. *Geography* (John Bennet, pp. 255-266) is a partial reprint of John Bennet 'The Geography of the Mycenaean Kingdoms', published in Y. Duhoux and A. Morpurgo Davies (eds.) *A Companion to Linear B. Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World II*, Louvain-la-Neuve 2011, pp. 137-168. This chapter presents, in a concise manner, the most basic facts and issues related to the identification of place-names on the Linear B tablets, as well as their reference and location. In Chapter VIII. *Economy* (Pia de Fidio, pp. 267-289) the accounting nature of Mycenaean documents is explained and in relation to this, the social circumstances and dominant ideologies of the palatial age are interpreted. Chapter IX. *Mycenaean Society And Political Systems* (Cynthia Shelmerdine, pp. 290-306) examines Mycenaean state organisation and describes socio-economic hierarchy within Mycenaean society. Chapter X.1. *Mycenaean Religion* (John Killen, pp. 307-314) is dedicated to religious practices and beliefs of the Mycenaean Greeks and Chapter X.2. *Mycenaean And Classical Greek Religion* (Robert Parker, pp. 315-320) presents a commentary of Killen's analysis in Chapter X.1 and Chapter XIX. In this commentary Mycenaean and Classical Greek religion are confronted at the levels of gods, rituals and organisational structures.

Part II, *Drawings of Selected Tablets* (pp. 321-410) features reproductions of drawings of selected tablets made by Louis Godart, originally published in the corpora of Knossos, Pylos, Mycenae, Thebes, Tiryns and Khania. The drawings in this section follow the order of the tablets discussed in the second volume of *New Documents*. This part of the book is a completely new addition that introduces an important aspect not found in previous editions of *Documents*.

The second volume encompasses Part III and Part IV. Part III. *Selected Tablets, Transcription, Translation and Commentary* corresponds (pp. 411-918) to Part II. *Selected Tablets* in *Documents*¹ and *Documents*². The selection of 346 tablets includes 136 tablets from Knossos, 186 from Pylos, 11 from Mycenae, 10 from Thebes, 2 from Tiryns and 1 from Khania. To this four Linear B inscriptions on stirrups are added. Of the texts discussed in this edition, 273 were already discussed in *Documents*¹ and *Documents*². The content of Part IV has been significantly upgraded in terms of both the selection of tablets and their interpretation. However, the original style of presentation of the tablets has been preserved. They are organised thematically and are given consecutive numbers from 1 to 350. The transliteration of the tablets is followed by an English translation, commentaries on specific terms and interpretation of the context. There are twelve chapters in this part of the book, each dedicated to a specific theme, i.e. group or groups of tablets sharing the same subject matter. In the *Introduction: Interpreting Linear B* (pp. 417-425) John Killen explains the factors that work in favour of the interpreter of Linear B tablets, and in particular the analogies with the records in other similar societies, the evidence of scribal hand, the evidence of numbers and amounts, the evidence of later Greek and at the end using a

case study explains some of the principles which should be followed in proposing interpretations of words. Chapter XI. *Lists of Personnel* (John Killen, pp. 426-491) discusses records of men, women and children in Pylos, Knossos and Mycenae found on the tablets of the A series. In Chapter XII. *Livestock* (John Killen, pp. 492-532) first are discussed the ideograms for livestock, the purpose of the Knossos and Pylos tablets, on which these ideograms appear and the 'collectors'. Then particular series of tablets that record flocks of sheep, shearing and lambing and miscellaneous livestock at Pylos and Knossos are presented. Chapter XIII. *Agricultural Produce* (John Killen, pp. 533-564) deals with tablets that list quantities of agricultural commodities, such as wheat, barley, olives, oil, wine, spices. Chapter XIV.1. *Land Tenure* (Yves Duhoux, pp. 565-632) and Chapter XIV.2. *The pylos 'dosmos' Tablets* (Pia de Fidio, pp. 633-662) discuss land-tenure tablets of the E series. Chapter XIV.1 begins with introduction in which a general description of land-tenure tablets is given and then the location of the plots, the separate categories of land, the occupiers of the plots, their dimensions and their legal status are discussed. It continues with presentation of selected tablets of Pylos E series as well as tablets of Knossos Uf, Gv, F series, Thebes Ft series and Tiryns Ef series. Chapter XIV.2 is also found as P. de Fidio, 'A reassessment of taxation on sacred lands in the Linear B corpus' in P. Carlier, F. R. Joannès, F. R. Rougemont and J. Zurbach (eds.), *Palatial Economy in the Ancient Near East and in the Aegean. First steps towards a comprehensive study and analysis. Acts of the ESF Exploratory Workshop held in Sèvres 16-19 September 2010. Pasiphae* 11 (2017), pp. 121-139. It deals with the Pylian records of periodical contributions to Poseidon in the form of agricultural produce and animals, designated by the term 'dosmos'. In Chapter XV. *Taxation* (Cynthia Shelmerdine, pp. 663-708) are discussed Pylos and Knossos M and N series and few Pylos Cn, Jn, Jo tablets that record tax assessments, payment, debts and exemptions. Chapter XVI. *'Industrial' Production* (Yves Duhoux, pp. 709-757) is dedicated to the tablets dealing with metal-working, textile production, perfumed olive oil production, leather-working, chariot wheel production. The following two chapters explore in more detail the tablets that record finished records. Chapter XVII. *Finished Products I: Vessels And Furniture* (John Killen and John Bennet with the help of Stephanie Aulsebrook, pp. 758-796) focuses on inventories of vessels at Knossos (K, Uc, Ws series) and Mycenae (Ue series) and on inventories of vessels and furniture at Pylos (Ta series). Chapter XVIII. *Finished Products II: Military Equipment* (Joost Crouwel – Part I: Archaeological commentary, Robert Plath and John Killen – Part II: The Texts, pp. 797-837) focuses on military equipment records at Knossos, Pylos, Tiryns. Chapter XIX. *Religion, Cults And Ritual* (John Killen, pp. 838-891) is dedicated to the tablets dealing with offerings to divinities at Pylos, Knossos and Kania and allocations to divinities and others at Thebes and Mycenae. The last two chapters of Part III, Chapter XX. *The Inscribed Stirrup-Jars* (Peter Van Alfen, pp. 892-896) and Chapter XXI. *Miscellaneous Texts* (John Killen, pp. 897-918) are focused on the Linear B inscriptions painted on stirrup-jars and miscellaneous texts from Pylos (Aq, On, Qa, Un, Va, Vn series) and Knossos (E, V series).

The final section of *New Documents*, Part IV. *Glossary, Bibliography, Indexes, Concordance* (pp. 919-1146) similarly as Part IV. *Glossary, Bibliography, Index and Concordances* in *Documents*² and Part III. *Appendices in Documents*¹ comprises tools that assist the readers in finding the information they need, delving deeper into Mycenaean studies and exploring other sources. The *Mycenaean Glossary* (pp. 921-1056) prepared by John Killen, with the help of Rupert Thompson, Oliver Simkin and Caroline Murray offers an up-to-date glossary of Mycenaean Greek that is not limited to the texts printed in the book, but has an entry for every complete Mycenaean word recorded up to 2018. It is followed by a comprehensive *Bibliography* compiled by Moreed Arbabzadah (pp. 1057-1117). The *Indexes* include a *General Index* (pp. 1118-1128), *Index of Modern Authors Cited* (pp. 1129-1136), *Index of Ancient Authors Ci-*

ted (pp. 1137–1137) and *Homeric References* (pp. 1138–1139). Finally, *Concordance* (pp. 1140–1146) shows for each tablet its *New Documents* number and the corresponding number in the previous editions of *Documents*.

John Killen and the other contributors to this book have successfully compiled an up-to-date edition of *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* that covers all important aspects of Mycenaean studies and provides insight into the latest research on Mycenaean script, language, culture and life. Mycenaeanology is a vibrant discipline, and many issues are subject of ongoing discussion. *New Documents in Mycenaean Greek* has everything it needs to continue introducing the Linear B tablets and the Mycenaean world to readers and inciting new discussions among scholars.

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MICHAŁ STACHURA, *Enemies of the Later Roman Empire: A Study of the Phenomenon of Language Aggression in the Theodosian Code, Post-Theodosian Novels, and the Sirmondian Constitutions*. Jagiellonian University Press, Krakow, 2018. ISBN 978-83-233-4505-3 ISBN 978-83-233-987-4 (e-book), pp. 314.

This book is an important contribution to later Roman history and Roman law studies. It came to my attention five years after its publication when I met Professor Stachura, a renowned Polish historian. In this situation I can properly quote Livy's famous sentence "potiusque sero quam numquam" (*Ab urbe condita* 4.11.2). The reason for my claim will be explained further.

The book itself has its own history, as the author explains in the Introduction chapter. It is the result of a long and meticulous search, first published in Polish in 2010. The revised English version followed eight years later. The initial impulse to start this research was to enrich our knowledge of the penal and religious legislation in the Late Roman Empire. This, in turn, would shed light on the ideology, and if read between the lines, on the reality hidden behind the ideology. The dichotomy of the aspirations of the State and the actual situation, is something that intrigues scholars and leads to a variety of opinions and speculations. The title of the book refers to the enemies of the empire, a familiar subject in Roman history studies. However, Professor Stachura's contribution lies in his unique approach to the subject, which means dealing with the known source material with different apparatus. As a result, the findings of this investigative method are refreshing and make us look differently at the reality of Late antiquity.

The premise of this book is not to search for enemies in the extant literary or non-literary sources and to make random selection, but to answer the question "Who did the rulers of the later Roman Empire, the 'guarantors' of the Roman order, consider as enemies?" as it is announced in the Introduction. The answer lies in the imperial constitutions of the 4th and 5th centuries, which convey an ideological message to the Empire's subjects. The texts under examination include The Theodosian Code, Post-Theodosian Novels and the Sirmondian constitutions, all which are encompassed in