

THE
KNOSSOS
TABLETS

Sixth Edition



Tablets from Knossos. *Ga(2)* <34> (top) is Antonios Zakhyrakhis' missing tablet (destroyed in 1889); text from the photograph of Clermont-Ganneau's squeeze in 1895, *Comptes rendus des Séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, 1901, pp. 42f., 167f. As <4493> (bottom) from the formerly unpublished *Scripta Minoa* II plate (see also Fig. 1)

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Sixth Edition

A Transliteration by
José L. Melena

In collaboration with
Richard J. Firth



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To Martín S. Ruipérez
in memoriam

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Foreword

I first received a grant to stay for an entire year in Herakleion in 1972. At that time, however, I was prevented from examining the Knossos Linear B tablets by the director of the museum, on the grounds that “for a long time, this work has been the responsibility of Mr. Godart and Mr. Killen, and they have not yet completed their work.” Time has proved that work on the tablets is a never-ending task that is not limited to the efforts of two named scholars.

Finally, 10 years later in December 1982, through the offices of the Embassy of Spain in Athens, I gained access to the tablets and thus started an epigraphical acquaintance with the Linear B records themselves, which has now resulted in this new transliteration, the sixth edition of the series.

As with its predecessors, the present transliteration will eventually become dated as the results of future research improve the texts, mainly by joining the extant fragments. It is also possible that some tablets, which are still missing, may be recovered. It is not impossible that some stray fragments still remain in caches in the storerooms of the museum. For present and future epigraphists, I hope that the sixth transliteration will be welcomed because this book is the cumulative result of painstaking work of many devoted people from Sir Arthur J. Evans onward.

The following introduction is essentially a roll call of outstanding scholars who each have contributed with their own transliterations and epigraphical

studies. Without their efforts, the sixth edition of the transliterations would not be possible. With some of them I was fortunate to have had a closer relationship: the late Prof. Emmett L. Bennett Jr. shared his unrivalled experience of Mycenaean epigraphy with his successors, and in 2000 he gave me all his papers and materials concerning the Knossos tablets. His generosity has allowed us to clarify the story of the 5000-series and also partly that of the 7000-series, and to eliminate “ghost tablets” from this edition. I remain much indebted to him for his confidence in me and for his long-term support. Next I thank Prof. John T. Killen and Dr. Jean-Pierre Olivier, who gave me the opportunity to acquire part of their outstanding epigraphical familiarity with the Knossos tablets as well as being the best company, both during and after the long hours of work in the museum. In addition, as most reliable authors of the fifth transliteration, they both deserve my deepest gratitude. And last but not least, I thank the late Dr. John Chadwick, who headed the task of producing sound corpora of the Knossos tablets because it will be clear to all who have worked on them that this is essentially his work, which his successors have merely brought up to date.

I worked with the Kober-Bennett files of the tablets, first in Madison, WI, in 1981 and then at the Program of Aegean Scripts and Prehistory (PASP) at the University of Texas in 2000, and I am much indebted to Prof. Thomas Palaima for most pleasantly contributing to my stay in Austin.

Richard J. Firth has provided the greatest stimulus toward dealing with the Knossos tablets in the last two decades. His own work on their find-places and our joint papers on the post *Scripta Minoa* II tablets and their stories have an enormous bearing in establishing a definitive corpus. Without his contribution—his sound and exacting methods and his keen eyes—the present transliteration would not have reached its actual standards. I am proud in having his precious, friendly collaboration as ever, and I am deeply indebted to him. Prof. Yves Duhoux has gone through the manuscript and kindly suggested some amendments. Profs. Francisco Aura and Maurizio del Freo contributed also with valuable observations. For the remaining flaws the responsibility is solely mine.

I should like to express my deep gratitude to the former Ephors of Antiquities in Herakleion and Directors of the Museum, Drs. Charalambos Kritzas and Alexandra Karetsou, for the unfailing kindness and consideration they have shown me over a period of many years, for making the tablets available for study and photographing, as well as for much other encouragement and assistance. My gratitude also extends to their assistants and the wardens of the Museum Scientific Reserve. Despina Vallianou assisted me during my first stay in 1982, and I should like to thank her warmly.

In an absolutely penultimate stage in 2016 and 2017, the PASP team of Cassandra Donnelly, Caolan Mac An Aircinn, and Thomas Palaima has gone over all tablet readings herein and checked them against photographs and drawings, earlier editions, and extant notes of Kober and Bennett available at PASP. They made suggestions improving the accuracy of these transcriptions, according to the law of diminishing returns. Palaima and Dr. Dimitri

Nakassis have also read through the remaining contents of this volume and offered stylistic improvements.

I should like to express my gratitude to Dr. Susan Ferrence, Director of Publications at INSTAP Academic Press, for her collaboration in publishing the book. Hilary G. Sperling has done superb work on translating my original Mac typeset into PC, and I thank her for her carefulness and keen eyes.

The book is dedicated to the memory of the late Prof. Martín S. Ruipérez who gave me the opportunity to devote myself to the study of the Mycenaean texts.

JLM

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations for museums are used in the text:

<i>ABSA</i>	<i>Annual of the British School at Athens</i>
ASHM	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
BM	British Museum, London
FITZ	Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
HM	Archaeological Museum, Herakleion
KAN	Kanellopoulos Collection, Athens
LIV	Department of Archaeology and Oriental Studies, Liverpool University
MAN	Manchester Museum
PRIV	Private collection
SMK	Stratigraphical Museum, Knossos
UCL	Archaeology Department, University College, London

The following abbreviations for publications are used in the text:

- CoMIK* Chadwick, J., L. Godart, J.T. Killen, J.-P. Olivier, A. Sacconi, and I.A. Sakellarakis. 1986–1998. *Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos*, vols. 1–IV.
- KT 1* Bennett, E.L., Jr., M. Ventris, and J. Chadwick. 1956. *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 2)*, London.
- KT 2* Chadwick, J., and F.W. Householder Jr. 1959. *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 7)*, 2nd ed., London.
- KT 3* Chadwick, J., and J.T. Killen. 1964. *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 15)*, 3rd ed., London.
- KT 4* Chadwick, J., J.T. Killen, and J.-P. Olivier. 1971. *The Knossos Tablets*, 4th ed., Cambridge.
- KT 5* Killen, J.T., and J.-P. Olivier. 1989. *The Knossos Tablets (Minos Suppl. 11)*, 5th ed., Salamanca.
- KT 6* Melena, J.L., and R.J. Firth. 2019. *The Knossos Tablets*, 6th ed., Philadelphia.
- SM II* Evans, A., and J.L. Myres. 1952. *Scripta Minoa II*, Oxford.

Introduction

History of the Book¹

The first edition of this book was itself a revision of an earlier transcription of the Knossos tablets, edited by R. Browning.² The need for this revision became evident as the result of the collation of the texts published in *Scripta Minoa* II (edited from notes by A.J. Evans and supplemented by J.L. Myres, Oxford, 1952, abbreviated here as *SM* II) with the originals. It was executed by M. Ventris, with the aid of material supplied by E.L. Bennett Jr. and J. Chadwick.³

Three years later a second edition became necessary, and this was undertaken by J. Chadwick with the assistance of F.W. Householder. It was largely a reprint of the first edition with a few corrections and additions, especially a concordance based upon that published by M. Lejeune in *Mémoires de philologie mycénienne* I, Paris, 1958.⁴ Unfortunately E.L. Bennett Jr. was not

¹ The following account is based on the preface to the fifth edition (pp. ix–xxii).

² R. Browning, *The Linear B Tablets from Knossos (BICS Suppl. 1)*, London, 1955.

³ E.L. Bennett, J. Chadwick, and M. Ventris, *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 2)*, London, 1956 (*KT* 1).

⁴ J. Chadwick and F.W. Householder, *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 7)*, 2nd ed., with corrections and additions, London, 1959 (*KT* 2).

associated with this edition of the Knossos tablets and part of his work on recording unpublished fragments remained untreated.

A third edition in due course became necessary, and the study of these documents by the Cambridge Team (J. Chadwick, J.T. Killen, and J.-P. Olivier), based firstly on the photographs held in Cambridge (E.B. French in 1960 took the first photographs that formed the basis of the Cambridge collection) and subsequently based on the originals, led to numerous improvements in the readings, many resulting from the joining of fragments.⁵

Progress after that became even more rapid; the study of the scribal hands by J.-P. Olivier led to the discovery of large numbers of joins (see below). The resultant texts were changed so much that it became necessary to make all the new information available in convenient form; because of the technical difficulties to be overcome, the fourth edition was entrusted to the Cambridge University Press.⁶ The editors of *KT 4* did not see themselves as having ended their labors. There were clearly more joins to be made (despite the 785 new joins recorded in the edition); although each text had been carefully revised, there was still room for improvement in the readings.⁷

About 10 years after the appearance of the fourth edition, the three editors, then joined by new collaborators, began work on the production of a major edition to include both photographs and drawings, the *Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos (CoMIK)*. Four volumes appeared in due course.⁸

Originally it was planned to produce the fifth edition in transliteration after the publication of *CoMIK IV*; delays in the preparation of volumes II and III, however, led to the Cambridge Team producing a new transliteration in order to provide a convenient and up-to-date working tool for those wishing to study the corpus of Linear B texts from Knossos in its entirety. This new edition was undertaken by J.T. Killen and J.-P. Olivier.⁹ Like its predecessor, this edition was far from perfect; because its text was computerized, it was thus thought to be an easy step to produce its successor, *KT 6*, which was planned for publication after the appearance of *CoMIK IV*, although this did not happen.

KT 6 has been delayed by several circumstances. First, the discovery in 1984 of forgotten trays with fragments of Linear B increased the reconstruction of the tablets while work on the production of *CoMIK* was still in

⁵ J. Chadwick and J.T. Killen, *The Knossos Tablets (BICS Suppl. 15)*, 3rd ed., London, 1964 (*KT 3*).

⁶ J. Chadwick, J.T. Killen, and J.-P. Olivier, *The Knossos Tablets*, 4th ed., Cambridge, 1971 (*KT 4*).

⁷ Some were reported in J.T. Killen, "New Readings in the Linear B Tablets from Knossos," *Kadmos* 24, 1985, pp. 26–33.

⁸ J. Chadwick, L. Godart, J.T. Killen, J.-P. Olivier, A. Sacconi, and I.A. Sakellarakis, *Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos (CoMIK)*. Vol. I (1–1063), Cambridge and Rome, 1986; vol. II (1064–4495), 1990; vol. III (5000–7999), 1997; vol. IV (8000–9947 and indexes), 1998.

⁹ J.T. Killen and J.-P. Olivier, *The Knossos Tablets (Minos Suppl. 11)*, 5th ed., Salamanca, 1989 (*KT 5*).

progress, and this work was continued after its publication. Furthermore, it was convenient to revise the manuscript for *KT 6* to account for the historical records, not only the excavation notes referring to the finding of tablets, but also those on the production of their publication in *SM II*. In addition, access to E.L. Bennett's files granted a fresh attempt to revise the genesis of the 5000 series and subsequently of the remaining tablets. The increased number of joins and the consequent crowding of tablet fragment numbers in the tablet references have made necessary a simplification of the edition for easing future work in treating the epigraphical evidence. These are the reasons why *KT 6* deviates from the arrangement of previous editions in an attempt to provide a new foundation for future studies on the Knossos tablets.

Numeration

No new changes have been introduced into the system of numeration since the fourth edition, except insofar as numbers are now left vacant as the result of joins. The major changes made earlier were: the elimination of bis numbers, now mainly beginning with 1801; the replacement of M 1 to M 138 by 2001 to 2138; and the change of 0401–0495 to 4401–4495. The concordance in Chapter 2 has been completely brought up to date and includes all the new fragments.¹⁰ Numbers which have been suppressed because the pieces have now been identified with texts published under other numbers are shown there in square brackets []. A new 10000 series is created to embrace fragments resulting from the join of unnumbered 1984 fragments.

A major change in the present edition concerns the heading of the tablets. In order to simplify references, pieces joined to the principal number for every tablet are no longer indicated,¹¹ but they are explicitly mentioned in the reconstruction tables in Chapter 5. Nevertheless, quasi-joins (i.e., when the extant fragments belong to the same record but there is no physical contact at all between them) are indicated in Latin in the apparatus.

¹⁰ That is to say, fragments 8755–8831 (L. Godart and J.-P. Olivier, "Nouveaux fragments de tablettes en linéaire B de Cnossos," *BCH* 97, 1973, pp. 5–22); 8832 (E. Hallager, "A Fragment of a Linear B Tablet from Knossos," *Kadmos* 16, 1977, pp. 24–25); 8833 (M.R. Popham et al., *The Minoan Unexplored Mansion at Knossos*, London, 1985, pp. 252–253, pl. 223[b]); 8834 (J. Bennet and J.A. MacGillivray, "A New Fragment of a Sheep Tablet from Knossos," *Kadmos* 21, 1982, pp. 30–32); 8835 (from a private collection, J.T. Killen, "Another Fragment of Linear B Tablet from Knossos," *Kadmos* 33, 1994, pp. 14–15); 8836 (J.T. Killen and C. Mee, "A Fragment of Linear B Tablet from Knossos in the Liverpool University Archaeological Museum," *Kadmos* 33, 1994, pp. 15–17); 8837 (from the old *agrapha*, published in *KT 5*—in transliteration only—for the first time); 8838 (from the excavations in the palace of Knossos in 1987, J.T. Killen and A.D. Peatfield, "A Fragment of Linear B Tablet from the North Entrance Passage, Knossos," *Kadmos* 33, 1994, pp. 17–21); and the "1984" fragments 9001–9947 and 10001–10011 (cf. *CoMIK IV*); <8839> is an unpublished tablet kept allegedly at the Stratigraphical Museum, Knossos; 8840–8842 are fragmentary tablets published by G. Owens, "Re-Discovered Fragments of Linear B Tablets from Knossos Now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford," *Talanta* 30–31, 1998–1999, pp. 156–157.

¹¹ A plea made by the late Henri van Effenterre in the closing session of the Secondo Congresso Internazionale di Micenologia at the Istituto Suor Orsola Benincasa.

Since different numbers were assigned to tablets in museum inventories, in Evans's *Original Handlist* of Linear B Tablets (kept in the Historic Archive at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford), and in final publication in *SM* II, the available evidence is offered in Chapter 5.

Classification

The original classification was devised by E.L. Bennett Jr. prior to the decipherment and parallel, relying therefore almost entirely on logograms, though with some attributions on the basis of common formulas.

Some modifications were introduced into the third edition mainly as the result of work on the D- tablets. The systematic classification of scribal hands, however, entailed a drastic revision of the prefixes, which was undertaken for the fourth edition by J. Chadwick in consultation with the other editors.

Another major change introduced in *KT* 4 was in appropriate cases the insertion of a number after the prefix to indicate the set within the prefix class to which each tablet can be assigned. For typographical reasons this appeared (and still does) as (1), (2), etc.

In *KT* 5, only very few new prefixes were created: Bg (tablets in Hand 137 showing VIR [ex B(2)] and *po-ni-ki-jo* [ex Ga(4)]), Wm (nodules, ex Wb and Ws, with no seal impression but with a hole for a string), Wn (nodules, ex Ws, with a seal impression but with no hole for a string), and Xf (fragments which, to judge from their hand and/or clay, very probably come from the Arsenal).

This edition has benefited from the improvements made by M.-L. Nosch in her recent study of the Od series.¹²

Furthermore, a new systematization has been achieved, and some changes in the classification of the tablets have been introduced:

- Ag = all the known documents in Hand 124-A
- Bk = all the former B(5) records in Hand 104
- Bo = all the former B(3) records in Hand 106
- Cf = all the former C(2) records in Hand 112
- Cg = all the former C(3) records in Hand 109
- G this prefix has been suppressed in favor of F
- Ve = all the former Vc(2) records in Hand 115
- Vf = all the former V(5) records in Hand 125
- Vs(1) = all the former V(4) records in Hand 103
- Vs(2) = all the former V(5) records in Hands 101, 102, and 105
- Xg this prefix has been created to include fragments from the Little Palace and the Unexplored Mansion in parallel to Xf for the Arsenal

Changes from the latest previous edition are duly indicated in the apparatus, though without specifically noting whether the divergence is from *KT* 5 or from *CoMIK*.

¹² M.-L. Nosch, *The Knossos Od Series: An Epigraphical Study*, Vienna, 2007.

Scribal Hands

The study of this subject, published in 1967,¹³ was the starting point for many of the changes in *KT 4*. The scribal hand to which each tablet is assigned is shown in parentheses at the right margin opposite the tablet number; the numerical system originally established has been followed, and where this edition disagrees with Olivier (1967), *KT 4*, or *KT 5*, the modifications have been introduced deliberately by the editors into *KT 6*. The attribution to hand, however, is often doubtful, and in cases where serious doubt exists about the placing of the tablet in a series, the prefix is italicized to indicate this doubt and a question mark follows the hand number (a double question mark means strong doubt).

Hands corresponding to tablets from the Room of the Chariot Tablets have been revised according the final publication of the Ph.D. thesis by Jan Driessen¹⁴ and a recent attempt for a better approach.¹⁵

It should be stressed that in the present edition the results of the recent revision of the attributions to hands has been introduced.¹⁶ The creation of new numbers of secondary hands, 226–234 is envisaged.¹⁷ The reader can look at the relevant articles (nn. 15–17) for any discrepancy with the former publications, *KT 5* and *CoMIK*.

A cross-reference list is included in Chapter 3. An em dash indicates that there is no attribution to hand.

Find Places

The earlier work on this subject was in need of revision; until that revision had taken place all identifications of find places¹⁸ (including those in *CoMIK*) should have been viewed with a large degree of caution. Fortunately, steady research by R.J. Firth has now provided a sound view of the find places of many of the tablets, along with a wealth of evidence concerning the contexts of the tablets themselves.¹⁹ Accordingly wherever possible, reference to provenance in

¹³ J.-P. Olivier, *Les Scribes de Cnossos*, Rome, 1967.

¹⁴ J. Driessen, *The Scribes of the Room of the Chariot Tablets at Knossos: Interdisciplinary Approach to the Study of a Linear B Deposit* (*Minos Suppl.* 15), Salamanca, 2000.

¹⁵ R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, “Re-visiting the Scribes of the Room of the Chariot Tablets at Knossos,” *Minos* 39, 2016, pp. 319–351.

¹⁶ R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, “Re-visiting the Scribes of Knossos: The Principal Hands 101–123, 125–141,” *Minos* 39, 2016, pp. 249–318; also R.J. Firth and M.-L.B. Nosch, “Scribe 103 and the Mycenaean Textile Industry at Knossos: The Lc(1) and Od(1)-Sets,” *Minos* 37–38, 2002–2003 [2006], pp. 121–141.

¹⁷ R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, “The Secondary Scribes of Knossos,” *Minos* 39, 2016, pp. 353–378.

¹⁸ A.J. Evans, *Scripta Minoa I*, Oxford, 1909, p. 46.

¹⁹ R.J. Firth, “The Find-Places of the Tablets from the Palace of Knossos,” *Minos* 31–32, 1996–1997 [1999], pp. 7–122; R.J. Firth, “A Review of the Find-Places of the Linear B Tablets from the Palace of Knossos,” *Minos* 35–36, 2000–2001 [2002], pp. 63–290. See also R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, “Identifying the Linear B Tablets from the Arsenal and Little Palace at Knossos,” *Minos* 33–34, 1998–1999 [2002], pp. 107–134, and R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, “Find-Places of the Knossos Tablets: The 5000-Series,” *Proceedings of the 11th International Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies, May 2000, Austin, Texas*, forthcoming (available at academia.edu/5663870).

the present volume is given in the right corner of the tablet heading before the scribal hand. This is given using the standard set of abbreviations, which are listed in Chapter 6, along with plans showing their locations. Sometimes the find place slot is occupied by Roman numerals: this is an attempt to give a hint for provenance based on the grouping of the 1984 fragments in the boxes in which they were found:²⁰

I	I/1	9001–9061	Varia
	I/2	9062–9108	Room of Column Bases
I	I/3	9109–9172	Room of Chariot Tablet
II		9173–9286	Western Magazines (more toward south?), cf. IV
III		9287–9406	North Entrance, cf. VI
IV		9407–9566	Western Magazines (more toward south?), cf. II
V		9567–9663	East–West Corridor
VI		9665–9838	North Entrance, cf. IV
VII		9839–9932	North Entrance
VIII		9933–9947	Arsenal

These Roman numbers are absent in the transliterated 9000 series.

Palm Prints

Identified flatteners of tablets are indicated in the apparatus by means of the entry Palmprints: , as they were established by Karl-Erik Sjöquist and Paul Åström (*Knossos: Keepers and Kneaders*, Göteborg, 1991) and revised recently by R.J. Firth.²¹

Missing Tablets

A number of texts known from *SM II* or occasionally from other sources are now missing. The numbers of these texts are shown in angled brackets, e.g., Ak(2) <631>, and these texts must be treated with some caution. Fair progress has been made in identifying tablets previously thought to be missing among the fragments not published in *SM II*.

It is known that in 1901 certain tablets were stolen from the excavations and were subsequently recovered in Athens.²² Another group appears to have been stolen after Evans had noted their readings and made drawings; their numbers lie between 288 and 398 but do not include all within these limits. Of these, 15 were acquired by Giamalakis as having been found at Phaistos, but there is no doubt that they are the tablets already noted by Evans at Knossos.²³ There remain, however, 53 pieces which have not yet been

²⁰ R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, "The Knossos Linear B Tablets: Genesis of the Listing of the Later Fragments," *Colloquium Romanum I*, pp. 294–301.

²¹ R.J. Firth, "Re-visiting the Tablet-Makers of Knossos," *Pasiphae* 5, 2012, pp. 81–93.

²² A.J. Evans, *SM II*, p. 109.

recovered.²⁴ Because the texts noted in Evans's *Original Handlist* is more reliable than the published drawings made from them in *SM II*, our transliteration reflects the handlist evidence as indicated in the apparatus.

When it became possible to compare the tablets recorded by Evans in his notebooks and published in *SM II* with the collection in Herakleion, other discrepancies came to light. On the one hand, Evans had on occasion made two drawings of the same piece, both of which were numbered and published (e.g., 1221 is the same tablet as 1224 but with the addition of a fragment at the left); and this is especially liable to be the case where Evans's notes contained a transcript but not a drawing (e.g., 1638 = 1061²⁵). On the other hand, E.L. Bennett in 1950 found over 1,000 fragments in the Herakleion Museum that did not appear in Evans's list. Some of these seem to have been fragments that appeared in his notes with a different reading.

Further batches of tablets have come to light since then, both in the Herakleion Museum and in the store rooms at Knossos. A major addition, tablets 7000–8075, was transcribed by Ventris in 1955 and published in the first edition of this book (see n. 3 above). Other additions were published in the *Annual of the British School at Athens (ABSA)*: volumes 52 (1957, pp. 147–151), 57 (1962, pp. 46–74), 58 (1963, pp. 68–88), and 62 (1967, pp. 267–323). Among them, many of the texts previously only known from copies have been identified, but in some cases doubts still persist. Finally, in 1984, large numbers of fragments were found in the store rooms of the Herakleion Museum, and these became the 9000 series, which were included in *CoMIK IV*.²⁶

The present edition contains the texts of all Linear B tablets from Knossos now known to us, together with those of tablets previously copied but now apparently missing. Ghost tablets have been eliminated.

Damaged Tablets

Some tablets have suffered damage since their extraction and during their handling in the past years. In order to recover the original written evidence, attention was directed to the old photograph sets: by Maragiannis corresponding to the bulk of *SM II*; the two series taken by E.L. Bennett Jr. in 1950 and

²³ A.J. Evans, *SM II*, p. 108.

²⁴ R.J. Firth, "Evans' Missing Batch of Linear B Tablets," *Minos* 35–36, 2000–2001 [2002], pp. 291–313.

²⁵ A.J. Evans, *SM II*, p. 108.

²⁶ It was thought the latest discovery of tablet fragments involves material of a different nature and that these small pieces very likely come from Evans's sieving and were probably never examined subsequently. Further research showed that they represent the remains left by the recovery work of E.L. Bennett Jr. and M. Ventris; cf. J.L. Melena, "Some Thoughts on the Origin of the Knossos Fragments Found in 1984 at the Heraklion Museum," *Floreat Studia Mycenaea*, 1999, pp. 363–387, and R.J. Firth and J.L. Melena, "The Knossos Linear B Tablets: Genesis of the Listing of the Later Fragments," *Colloquium Romanum I*, Rome, 2008, pp. 281–307.

1954, along with their drawings; and the complete series taken by E.B. French in 1960. A close scrutiny of Maragiannis's collection from the photographs brought by Alice E. Kober from Oxford and kept at present at the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory (PASP) at the University of Texas at Austin has allowed improvements of several readings given in previous editions with a good degree of confidence (see also now Fig. 1).

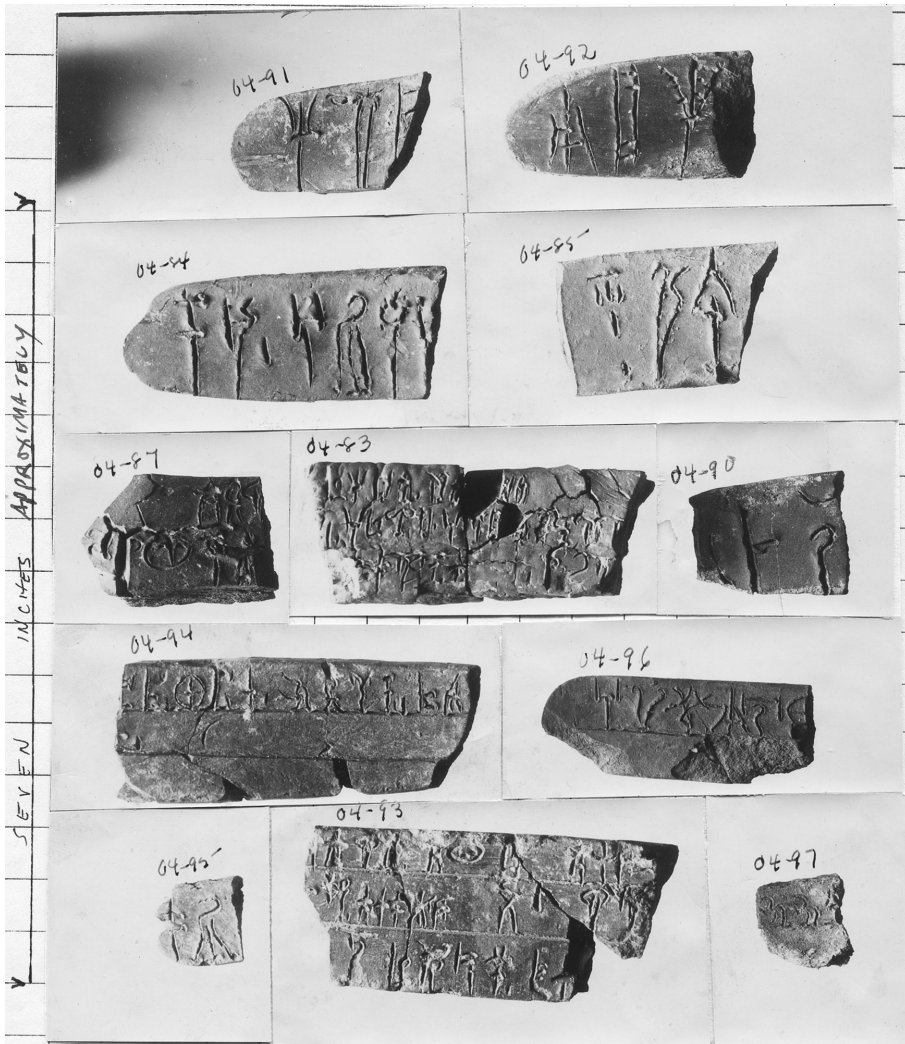


Figure 1. This formerly unpublished plate of 12 tablet fragments (from the dig in 1904) was intended for *SM II*. The plate had been in the possession of A.E. Kober among the items given by Sir J.L. Myres (Oxford). Her heirs gave it to Emmett L. Bennett Jr. along with remaining Linear B files. Bennett gave it to the author in 2000 who digitally scanned it and deposited it in 2007 at PASP, University of Texas at Austin. It is finally published here courtesy of PASP.

Reconstruction

The work of reconstructing the Knossos tablets by means of the extant fragments either already edited or not has been described elsewhere.²⁷ The cumulative results of such painstaking work on the tablets from the time of their discovery is reflected in the lengthy list of the publications that is included at the beginning of Chapter 5 where a reference to their authors can be found. Nearly 3,000 joins of pieces have been achieved from the publication of *SM II*, and probably a similar number remains yet to be discovered. Systematic programs of reconstruction (by hands, by find places, among the 7000 records, between the 7000 and the 1984 fragments, etc.) are needed and also another fresh enrollment of participating scholars.

Transliteration

Transliterations in this volume have been made to conform with the “Wingspread Convention” adopted by the Third International Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies held at Racine, WI, in 1961 and amended and supplemented by the decisions of subsequent colloquia.

Phonetic signs are transcribed in Roman script except for *18, *19, *22, *34 (now = *35), *47, *49, *56, *64, *65, *79, *82, *83, and *86. These signs are represented by their numbers prefixed by an asterisk. A table of signs, showing only a standard form of each, is to be found at the end of this volume. The signs making up a word are separated by hyphens. A change to a smaller size of script is indicated by /, to a larger by //. The divider is represented by a comma (.). Vertical ruling is represented by a colon (:).

Logographic signs are transcribed in SMALL CAPITALS by the Latin words conventionally adopted as the recognized designation; they do not necessarily imply any judgment on their precise meanings. Where no Latin name has been agreed, the logogram is transcribed by its number on the standard list, preceded by an asterisk and in italics to avoid confusion with numerals. The entry ^{VAS} is attached to logograms designated by numbers which denote vessels. Phonetic signs used as logograms are printed in *ITALIZED CAPITALS*; when used as adjuncts to modify the value of a following logogram, they are in lower-case *italics*. Phonetic signs ligatured together or to a logogram are indicated by +. Superscript numerals ^{1, 2, 3, 4} added to the logograms *TELA*, *146, and *164 indicate the number of strokes in the fringe at the base, although they do not seem to be significant.

The weights and measures are transcribed conventionally as single small capital letters:

Weight	L M N O P Q
Dry measure	T V Z
Liquid measure	S V Z

²⁷ J.L. Melena, “The Reconstruction of the Fragments of the Linear B Tablets from Knossos,” *Secondo Congresso Internazionale di Micenologia I*, Rome, 1996, pp. 83–90.

The standard epigraphic convention is observed of placing dots under letters or figures to mean that the sign in question is not sufficiently well preserved for its identification to be wholly certain. A dot is placed under each letter used to transcribe a sign. If numerals are dotted, this indicates doubt extending only to the dotted figure: 12̇0 means that the figure of 100 is certain, but the tens following it are only probably two, and there is no trace of unit signs.

The point at which a tablet becomes illegible (ordinarily the broken edge) is indicated by square brackets at left and right, thus:

-]to-so No epigraphic evidence for the completeness of the word.
-]to-so Epigraphic evidence for a sign immediately preceding the sign to.
-] to-so The word appears to be complete.
-]to-so The word is almost certainly complete, given the physical characteristics of the document (in this case, we are very near the beginning of the tablet).²⁸

These conventions extend to numerals:

-]31 Number not less than 31 (possibly 61, 91, 131, etc.).
- 31[Number not less than 31 (possibly 32, 33, etc.).
-] 31 [Number apparently complete.
- 31[Number almost certainly complete, given the physical characteristics of the document (in this case, we are very near the end of the tablet).²⁹

Half square brackets \lfloor \rfloor are used, though as yet not systematically, to indicate that there is sufficient space, in a small lacuna, for a divider.³⁰

If the upper or lower edge of the tablet is broken off and missing, this is indicated by the words *sup(ra) mut(ila)* or *inf(ra) mut(ila)*.³¹ An unscribed space is indicated, where necessary, by *vac(at)*. Traces of unidentifiable signs are shown as *vestigia*. All notes appearing in the text are in Latin.

Erasures are indicated by double square brackets \llbracket \rrbracket . Any signs enclosed within these brackets were deleted by the scribe but remain legible. Where the text is written over an erasure, this fact is recorded in the notes. The sign \oplus indicates that the fragments concerned belonged to the same tablet before the scribe cut them apart (a so-called simili-join).

²⁸ This convention replaces the previous practice of indicating in the notes, "Text probably complete at left."

²⁹ This convention replaces the previous practice of indicating in the notes, "Text probably complete at right."

³⁰ When the \lfloor \rfloor do not touch the signs, we are sure of the presence of two different words; when they do touch the signs, we perhaps have one word only.

³¹ When the indication *sup. mut.* or *inf. mut.* is dotted, this means that only the back of the edge is preserved.

Arrangement

The tablets are arranged by alphabetical prefixes; two-letter prefixes precede single-letter ones, otherwise the order is alphabetical. The set numbers (see above under Classification, p. xxii) are ignored in the arrangement. Inside each class the tablets are arranged numerically in serial order. Tablets composed of joined fragments are shown under the lowest serial number involved, while, in order to ease the references, other numbers added are now relegated to the Serial Tables in Chapter 5 because such information would generally only be of interest to those working in the museum and/or studying the “story” of particular tablets.

Line numbering follows the division of the original tablet by guide lines. The line number .0 indicates the presence of a dividing line preserved above the first inscribed line. The obverse (*recto*) is not especially indicated; the reverse (*verso*) is shown, when inscribed, by *v.*,³² the edges by *lat(us)* *sup(erius)* “upper,” *inf(erius)* “lower,” *dex(trum)* “right.”³³

Where a tablet begins as a single line and is subsequently divided into two or more lines, these are shown as .A, .B, .C. Lines of writing not separated by dividing lines are shown as .a, .b, .c. The different faces of a sealing are listed as . α , . β , . γ . A small annotation above the line of writing is shown thus: ‘do-e-ra,’ generally placed after the text of the entry over which it stands.

Notes

The notes are purely textual, designed to call attention to problems in the reading or to record facts not easily understood from the transcription. No attempt has been made to interpret or comment on the contents, but in a few cases obvious restorations are noted. The intention is to provide a conservative text and to relegate the more doubtful suggestions to the notes.

Location

All tablets are located in the Herakleion Museum, except where an abbreviation precedes the indication in brackets of find place and scribal hand or where the tablet is missing. Tablets on display (the main exhibit in Case 95, but Oa 730 in Case 207 of Gallery XXI in the new arrangement) are indicated in the apparatus.³⁴ Where two locations are quoted, the fragments composing the text have not been physically reunited, but the join has been checked using casts. The inventory numbers are given in Chapter 5.

³² The direction of rotation is indicated by arrows: \Rightarrow for rotation along the horizontal axis, \Downarrow for rotation along the vertical axis and \curvearrowright for irregular rotation.

³³ *l.s.*, *l.i.* and *l.d.* in the notes.

³⁴ Photographs of the tablets now on display were kindly provided by Kyriakos Papadakis through the intermediacy of Gareth Owens; we thank them. Numbering was eventually confirmed by the museum staff: we thank S. Mandalaki and G. Flouda.