THE
KNossos
TABLETS
FOURTH EDITION
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FOURTH EDITION

A Transliteration by
JOHN CHADWICK
J. T. KILLEN and J.-P. OLIVIER

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PREFACE

The first edition of this book was itself a revision of an earlier transcription of the Knossos tablets, edited by R. Browning and published by the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London in 1955. The need for this revision became evident as the result of the collation of the texts published in Scripta Minoa II (Oxford, 1952, referred to here as SM II) with the originals. It was executed by Michael Ventris, with the aid of material supplied by E.L. Bennett and J. Chadwick and published in 1956.

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 Phibologie mycénienne I, Paris, 1958.

A third edition in due course became necessary, and the study of these documents, first on the photographs now held in Cambridge, and subsequently on the originals, led to numerous improvements in the readings, many as the result of joining fragments. The earlier stages of this work, which owed a great deal to J.T. Killen, were incorporated in the third edition, published under names of J. Chadwick and J.T. Killen in 1964.

Progress after that date was even more rapid; Killen was joined by J.-P. Olivier, whose study of the scribal hands led also to the discovery of large numbers of joins. The resultant texts were so much changed that it became essential to make all the new information available in convenient form; and although stocks of the third edition had not been exhausted, the London Institute of Classical Studies generously agreed to allow the publication of a fourth edition and, owing to technical difficulties, to entrust this to the Cambridge University Press.

The editors of this edition do not imagine that their task is yet completed. There are doubtless more joins to be made, indeed some have been discovered since this edition went to press; but
every text has been carefully revised from the originals by both Killen and Olivier with checks by Chadwick on difficult points, and the latest reading is reported. Here too we are aware of the difficulties of establishing the text of fragments; several have, as the result of joins, been shown to read differently from the texts proposed before they were joined. A total of 785 new joins are here recorded; for lists of joins see J.-P. Olivier, *Les Scribes de Cnossos*, Rome 1967 and L. Godart, J.T. Killen and J.-P. Olivier in MINOS Vol. X (forthcoming).

The editors hope to proceed to the publication of a major edition, to include both drawings and photographs, and they are well aware of the imperfections necessarily imposed upon a transcription such as this. They would like to renew their appeal to anyone who may know of the existence of unrecorded fragments from Knossos to communicate with them.

**NUMERATION**

No fresh changes have been introduced into the system of numeration since the third edition, except in so far as numbers are now left vacant as the result of joins, or, in a few cases, identification of missing fragments. The major changes made earlier were: the elimination of 'bis' numbers, now mainly beginning 1801; the replacement of M 1 to M 138 by 2001 to 2138; the change of 0401-0495 to 4401-4495. The Concordance has been brought up to date and includes the new fragments. Numbers which have been suppressed because the pieces have now been identified with texts published under other numbers are shown there in parentheses ( ).

**CLASSIFICATION**

The original classification was devised by E.L. Bennett previous to the decipherment, relying therefore almost entirely on ideograms, though with some attributions on the basis of common formulas. Some modifications were introduced into the third edition, mainly as the result of work by J.T. Killen on the D- tablets. But the systematic classification of scribal hands (see below, p. ) by J.-P. Olivier entailed a drastic revision of the prefixes, which was undertaken by J. Chadwick in consultation with the other editors,
and published in the Proceedings of the Fifth International Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies held at Salamanca in 1970.

It now became possible for the first time to attribute tablets to sets on the basis of hand, and to split earlier series into sets on this same principle. Although there would have been great advantages in scrapping the old system and devising an entirely new one, it seemed preferable to modify the existing classification, since it is already familiar and is still sound in outline. The chief change introduced has been the insertion after the prefix in appropriate cases of a number to indicate the set within the prefix class to which each tablet can be assigned. For typographical reasons this appears as (1), (2), etc., but could more elegantly be shown as a superior numeral. This classification is of course incomplete, since not all fragments can be assigned even tentatively to a hand, and it has not been allowed to disturb the ordering of tablets, which follows the numerical sequence inside each prefix irrespective of set. In quotation this set-number can be ignored, except in cases where the discussion demands it.

Many other changes have been introduced, mainly as the result of the allocation of tablets to scribal hands. Thus where a scribe is known to have written only tablets of one series, any fragment in this hand may be assigned to this series. However, the attribution to hand is often doubtful and in cases where serious doubt exists about the placing of the tablet in a series the prefix is underlined to indicate this doubt.

SCRIBAL HANDS

The study of this subject by J.-P. Olivier, published as Les Scribes de Cnossos, Rome 1967, has been the starting point for many of the changes in this edition. The scribal hand to which each tablet is assigned is shown in parentheses at the right margin opposite the tablet number; the numerical system established by Olivier has been followed, and where this edition disagrees with Les Scribes, these modifications have been introduced by Olivier himself.
The brief notes included in the third edition have been expanded to provide a more detailed account of the epigraphic facts. No attempt has been made to provide a commentary or to list earlier readings which we now believe to be erroneous.

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 pointed 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, and some of the numbers assigned to new fragments are now blank, since they have been identified with texts in SM II. The circumstances under which pieces have gone astray ought to be kept on record, and the following account is taken with slight changes from the Preface to the third edition (p. iii).

It is known that in 1901 certain tablets were stolen from the excavations and were subsequently recovered in Athens (A.J. Evans, Scripta Minoa I, p. 46). 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, fifteen and another damaged fragment were acquired by the Giamalakis collection as having been found at Phaistos, but there is little doubt that they are the tablets already noted by Evans at Knossos (Scripta Minoa II, p.109). There remain, however, 53 pieces which have not been recovered, and it must be feared that these have been destroyed.

When it became possible to compare the tablets recorded by Evans in his notebooks and published in Scripta Minoa II with the collection in Iraklion, 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' notes contained a transcript but no drawing (e.g. 1638 = 1061, SM II, p. 108). On the other hand E.L. Bennett in 1950 found more than a thousand fragments in Iraklion Museum which did not appear in Evans'
list. Some of these seem to have been fragments which appeared in
Evans' notes with a different reading.

Further batches of tablets have come to light since, both in
Iraklion Museum and in the store-rooms at Knossos. The main addition,
numbers 7000-8075, was transcribed by Ventris in 1955 and published
in the first edition of this book. Other additions were published
in Annual of the British School at Athens 52, pp. 147-181; 57,
pp. 46-74; 58, pp. 68-88; 62, pp. 267-323. Among these many of
the texts previously only known from copies have been identified,
but in some cases doubts still persist. Special mention should be
made of the work of J.-P. Olivier and E.L. Bennett in tracking down
and identifying missing texts. The present volume 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.

TRANSLITERATION

This has been made to conform with the 'Wingspread Convention'
adopted by the Third International Colloquium for Mycenaean Studies
at Racine in 1961, and amended by the Fourth and Fifth Colloquia at
Cambridge and Salamanca. A few divergences from the conventions
have been forced upon us by the method of type-setting which has
prevented us from making use of italic type (underlining being
employed instead) or small capitals. We apologise for these
inconveniences, which do not detract from the usefulness of the
transcription.

Phonetic signs are transcribed in roman script except for
*86, *89. These signs are represented by numbers prefixed by an
asterisk. A table of signs, showing only a typical specimen of
each, is to be found at the end of the book. The signs making up
a word are separated by hyphens. A change to a smaller size of
script is indicated by /, to a larger size by //. The divider
is transcribed by the comma (,).

Ideographic signs are transcribed by Latin words; where no
Latin transcription has been agreed, the sign is transcribed by
its number, preceded by an asterisk and underlined to avoid
confusion with Mycenaean numerals. A list of those used will be
found at the end of the book. Phonetic signs used as ideograms
are printed in underlined capitals; when used as adjuncts to ideograms they are in lower case, underlined. Ligatures are indicated by the sign +. Superscript numerals added to TELA, *146 and *164 indicate the number of strokes in the lower fringe.

Weights and measures are transcribed in accordance with the system of single capital letters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weights</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Q</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry measure</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid measure</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LACUNAE**

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 to. |
| ] to-so | The word appears to be complete. |

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. |

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). An uninscribed space is indicated, where necessary, by vacat(vac.). Traces of unidentifiable signs are shown as vestigia (vest.). All notes appearing in the text are in Latin.

Erasures are indicated by double square brackets [[ ]] . 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.
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) are ignored in the arrangement. Inside each class the tablets are arranged in serial order. Tablets composed of joined fragments are shown under the lowest serial number involved, and other numbers are added after the sign +. The order of these numbers does not therefore reflect the order in which the pieces are arranged in the composite text. The abbreviation fr. indicates that an unnumbered fragment has been joined to the tablet; more than one such fragment is indicated by frr., and if more than two the number of fragments is given in parentheses. The sign + indicates that the fragments concerned belong to the same tablet, but do not physically join.

Line numbering follows the division of the original tablet by guide lines. The line number .0 indicates the presence of a guide line preserved above the first line of writing. The obverse (recto) is not specially indicated; the reverse (verso) is shown by v., edges by lat(us) sup(erior), inf(erior), dex(trum).

Where the tablet begins as a single line and is then divided into two or more lines, these are shown as .A, .B, .C. Lines of writing not separated by guide-lines are shown as .a, .b, .c. The different faces of a sealing are listed as .a, .b, .c. A small annotation above the line of writing is shown thus: 'do-e-ra', generally placed after the parallel entry at a lower level.

LOCATION

All tablets are in the Iraklion Museum, except where an abbreviation precedes the indication of scribal hand. Where two locations are quoted the fragments composing the text have not been physically reunited but the join has been checked by casts.

IR The Archaeological Museum, Iraklion, Crete.
ASHM The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
BM The British Museum, London.
DES Collection of V. Desborough, Esq., Oxford.
KAN Kanellopoulos Collection, Athens.
UCL Archaeology Department, University College, London.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We should like to express our deep gratitude to the present Ephor of Antiquities in Iraklion and Director of the Museum, Dr. St. Alexiou, his predecessor, Prof. N. Platon, and his assistant Miss A. Lebessi, for the unfailing kindness and consideration they have shown us over a period of many years, in making the tablets available for study and photographing, as well as for much other encouragement and assistance.

We should also like to thank all others who have helped in the preparation of this book: Mrs. E.B. French, who took the photographs which form the basis of the Cambridge collection; the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum; the Trustees of the British Museum; Professor E.L. Bennett, who has continued to share his unrivalled experience of Mycenaean epigraphy; Monsieur Louis Godart of the Instituto per gli Studi micenei of Rome; Prof. E.W. Handley, Director of the London University Institute of Classical Studies; the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press; and many others who have contributed directly or indirectly to the production of this edition or the preceding ones.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Mrs. M. Clements who has typed the whole text for reproduction, a task the difficulty of which cannot be overstated; to Mrs. B. Black whose assistance in the preparation of the book has been invaluable; and to the Classical Faculty Board of the University of Cambridge and the Triopian Foundation of Chicago, who have helped our work with substantial grants.

JOHN CHADWICK

J.T. KILLEN

J.-P. OLIVIER

Cambridge and Brussels, December 1970.