The symposium produced many opinions, but alas, no unanimity on the topic of possible motives for Cretan presence outside the island. This should come as no surprise. Complex problems rarely lend themselves to quick and simple resolutions. A consensus seems to be emerging among scholars on one issue, namely that there is a highly visible presence of native Cretans residing in the Cyclades by scholars on one issue, namely that there is a highly visible presence of native Cretans residing in the Cyclades by LM I. Further use of historical analogy, particularly with regard to the mechanisms and motives of emigration, holds great promise for scholars interested in this sort of pursuit.

This volume will prove stimulating to all students of Aegean archaeology. It is most attractive in its production. It is presence outside the island. This should come as no surprise. Further use of historical analogy, particularly with regard to the mechanisms and motives of emigration, holds great promise for scholars interested in this sort of pursuit.

This volume will prove stimulating to all students of Aegean archaeology. It is most attractive in its production. It is the third in a series of proceedings of frequent and regular symposia, on timely topics, sponsored by the Swedish Institute in Athens. The editors are to be thanked and congratulated for their efforts.

Karl M. Petruzo

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
232 BAY STATE ROAD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215


Since 1952 Mycenaean archaeologists have no longer been prehistorians sensu stricto. The decipherment of Linear B separated the LH IIIB period—we may still say this much with chronological confidence—from earlier periods of Aegean prehistory during which the recorded word was then, as it remains, largely unintelligible. The Linear B texts have been fundamental to the interpretation of aspects of Mycenaean civilization which lie beyond the grasp of material archaeology: details of palatial and regional administration, economic and military organization, social and political structure, etc. The texts have also comprised an independent and parallel witness for studies of, or based on, material remains: artifactual typology, religious practices and iconography, trade and cultural contacts among the separate regions of the Late Bronze Age Aegean. The scope of Linear B scholarship has gradually extended beyond the 13th century B.C. The writing system, the linguistic data, the specific archival nature of the texts, and the wide range of theories based on their contents reach forward to Archaic Greece, outward to the Cyclades and Cyprus, and backward through Late to Middle Minoan. Thus we observe a growing awareness among scholars that the division in MM I–II between preliterate and literate constitutes a more significant boundary for scholarly methods and approaches than the divisions marking the end of the Aegean Bronze Age or the beginning of the Greek Archaic period. As the volumes under review well illustrate for Linear A and Linear B, we have reached the point where inscriptive data can and must be considered in conjunction with other material evidence in studying Aegean "history" from the 19th century B.C. onward.

Godart-Olivier, Recueil des inscriptions en Linéaire A [GORILA] 5 and Linear B: A 1984 Survey [LB 1984] are landmarks in the study of Aegean epigraphy and essential resources for Aegean prehistorians who find themselves bewildered or even attracted by the arcana of Linear A studies and the technical analysis of Mycenaean Greek texts. In six clearly written papers with full bibliographies, LB 1984 examines the present state of knowledge in major areas of Linear B studies. Each author balances survey with personal interpretation and innovative speculation. Each adopts a comparative approach to his or her subject. The contributions of special interest to the archaeologist are: Y. Duhoux, "Mycéniens et écriture grecque"; J.T. Killen, "The Linear B Tablets and the Mycenaean Economy"; and J. Chadwick, "What Do We Know About Mycenaean Religion?" which is supplemented by the contributions of R. Hagg and B.C. Dietrich which "concentrate instead on the archaeological evidence" (p. 203).

Duhoux has written here the best short (68 pp.) survey of the development, structure, mechanics, and use of the Linear B script now available. Duhoux proposes a four-stage development of Linear B from Linear A in MM III–LH IIIA which uses as a parallel the archaeologically documented development of Mycenaean art under Minoan influence in the same period. Duhoux's brief arguments for a "single-site" theory for the creation of the script might be qualified by considering as an analogy the development, spread, and ultimate form of the later Greek alphabet. Its relatively widespread uniformity following 403 B.C. certainly would disguise the regional variations of earlier periods, if we only had, as is the case with the securely dated Linear B material, evidence from the final period of development.

Killen stresses the limitations of the texts as sources for Mycenaean economy (no direct information about trade; fuller, but nonetheless shorthand, information about land and industrial production) and the need for caution in interpreting the texts by analogy (the economies of Near Eastern centers provide the best parallels). Valuable appendices distinguish the direct and indirect textual evidence for: 1) trade; 2) taxation; and 3) "industrial" production. The texts indicate that finished textiles, otherwise archaeologically invisible, played a significant role in trade (Knossos Ld series)
and "industrial" production (elaborate region-wide *tarasija*
systems based on palatial control and allocation of raw ma-
terials at both Knossos and Pylos), and surprisingly even in
taxation (Ma series at Pylos according to Killen's reason-
able explanation). Two Pylos tablets and one Tiryns tablet
provide evidence for the use, and therefore importation, of
alum. The only possible direct reference to trade comes from
the House of the Shields at Mycenae. A specialized type of
cloth is designated as going "to Thebes" (*te qa-de*), and a
personal name shared with a tablet from Thebes (as well as
the occurrence of the same designation [*te qa-de*] on the
recently discovered Thebes sealings) confirms that this is the
major Mycenaean center in Boeotia. To Killen's alternative
explanations of the near total absence of trade-related docu-
ments, we might add that the discovery of one in a building
ancillary to the main palatial complex raises the distinct
possibility that trade documents were kept in such areas
where the nitty-gritty of exchange and production took
place. Hence their absence from the central tablet archives
and deposits.

Chadwick offers a brief appeal "for greater caution in all
discussions of this difficult subject" (p. 201), whether one
attempts to reconstruct Mycenaean religious beliefs by an
"archaeology of mind" or by inferences from later Greek
religion. Hägg's sober and interesting treatment of the sur-
prisingly "superficial and shortlived" Minoan elements in
administrative practices (Palaima in

GORILA 5 completes the corpus of Linear A texts (1427
documents containing a mere 7147 signs) begun in 1976, 80
years after Evans examined the first document discovered in
linear script Class A (PS Za 2). If the slow progress in this
field has frustrated at least two generations of serious schol-
ars, the third and fourth can certainly revel in the meticu-
iously edited resources now at their disposal. The five GO-
RILA volumes (1: tablets edited before 1970; 2: nodules,
scellés, and roundels edited before 1970; 3: tablets, nodules,
and roundels edited in 1975 and 1976; 4: non-archival docu-
ments; 5: addenda of documents published between 1976
and 1984) present each inscription objectively in a clear
photograph, drawing, normalized transcription, and tabular
transcription in normalized characters. Thus one is able to
check the accuracy of the transcriptions and the proposed
structure of the texts at photographic firsthand.

The GORILA typological classification of texts has al-
ready assisted scholars in making inferences about Minoan-
Mycenaean literacy (Duhoux, *LB* 1984, 21, 37) and admin-
istrative practices (Palaima in *The Function of the Minoan
Palaces* [forthcoming]). Further help is now offered by typol-
ogical and geographical concordances (GORILA 5, 126–
29). GORILA 5, xv–xxvii, explains and presents a new
standardized numeration of Linear A signs which conforms
to the model of the Linear B Wingspread convention. Each
sign is also prefixed A, B, and (eventually) H to indicate the
systems of Minoan-Mycenaean writing in which it is at-
tested. Concordances (pp. 114–25) list the correspondences
between the GORILA numeration and those of earlier edi-
tions or indices, especially that of J. Raison and M. Pope,
*Index transnuméré du linéaire A* ([ITLA], BCILL 11 (Louv-
vain 1977), which is now superseded. It is surprising that
neither GORILA nor ITLA makes the identification (pro-
posed by Ventris and Chadwick, *Documents in Mycenaean
Greek*, 35) of Linear A commodity sign L 89 (GORILA A
302) with the Linear B sign for olive oil (*130). This seems
a gesture of hyperconservatism given the contextual evi-
dence cited in *Docs* and the comparable patterns of ligatu-
ring the sign in both the Linear A and B texts. It is also a bit
obstructive since careful identification of the commodity
signs has been instrumental already in the use of the Linear
A texts as archaeological evidence (e.g., Vandenabeele,

Of crucial interest for scholars who may want to continue
with studies of administration and economic organization at
Minoan sites are the palaeography, chronology, and context
of the Linear A documents. GORILA 5 offers: 1) a table of
standard variants of signs (pp. xxviii–lii) more detailed than
that in *ITLA*, 17, 58; 2) three microfiches with a complete
set of variant forms for each sign; 3) what must be consid-
ered a tentative identification of scribal hands at selected
sites, most significantly at Hagia Triada, Khania, and Zak-
ro; 4) in the same concordance (pp. 82–113), attribution of
dates which are clearly distinguished according to the kind
of evidence for each, based on the fuller treatment by F.
Vandenabeele in *BCH* 109 (1985) 3–20. Bibliography con-
cerning the exact find context of each inscription, conve-
niently found in Raison and Pope, *Corpus transnuméré du
linéaire A* ([CTLA], BCILL 18 (Louvain 1980), is not re-
peated in GORILA 5.

Prospects for the decipherment of the Minoan script are
still very slim (see Y. Duhoux, *Études minoennes 1*, BCILL
14 [Louvain 1978] and, more recently and concisely, L.
Godart in *Aux origines de l'hellénisme. La Crète et la Grèce*
point us in the direction of a literate prehistory of the Mi-
noan palatial periods and invite Aegean prehistorians to
continue in the directions taken by Linear B studies and
Mycenaean archaeology (see *Archaeological Review from
may no longer even be too optimistic to look forward to the
publication of *Linear A and Minoan Prehistory: A 2016
Survey*.

THOMAS G. PALAIMA

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712