

MITTEILUNGEN

PROTO-ELAMITE SIGNS ON POTTERY FROM SE IRAN

May I draw the attention of readers of *Kadmos* to a remarkable corpus of signs of Proto-Elamite character from the site of Shahdad, six kilometres to the east of the modern town of that name, by the western edge of the Dasht-i-Lut, in the province of Kerman in south-eastern Iran?

My colleague Mr Ali Hakemi, who conducted the excavations between the years 1969 and 1974, uncovered in strata of the third millennium B.C. abundant red pottery, incised or stamped before firing with signs of a pictographic character which bear a general resemblance to those of the Proto-Elamite account-tablets from Susa, and which can in many cases be matched precisely with the Susan symbols. His preliminary record of these inscriptions is entitled *Écritures pictographiques dans les fouilles de Shahdad* and has been published as a monograph by the Permanent Bureau of the International Congresses of Iranian Art and Archaeology.

Mr Hakemi has counted at Shahdad 630 different signs and 250 sign-groups each comprising between two and six characters. As well as the pictographic signs, groups of numerical symbols have been noted, similar in form to those known from Susa. Mr Hakemi is convinced that these inscriptions are more than simple potters' marks.

Evidently the name of Shahdad must be added to the list of those sites on the Iranian plateau which have yielded inscriptions of Proto-Elamite character — Sialk, Tepe Yahya (see *Kadmos* 10, 1971, 97—99) and, as told by Professor Meriggi in this issue of *Kadmos*, Shahr-i-Sokhta.

REZA MOSTOWFI

LA FONCTION DU 'TRAIT' OBLIQUE SUR LE DISQUE DE PHAESTOS

L'établissement d'une édition critique du disque de Phaestos (Y. Duhoux, *Le disque de Phaestos (archéologie—épigraphie—édition critique—index)*, Louvain 1977) a permis de découvrir la fonction du 'trait' oblique tracé au stylet sous certains signes syllabiques du disque. Le 'trait' divise le texte en 17 versets, répartis comme suit: 3 versets introductifs non rimants (vv. 1—3); 1 strophe de 5 versets rimants (vv. 4—8); 3 versets non rimants (vv. 9—11); 1 strophe de 6 versets rimants (vv. 12—17).

Réparti d'après sa division en versets, le texte du disque se présente comme suit (la numérotation des syllabogrammes est reprise à A. Evans, Scripta Minoa I, 276):

- A**
- V. 1 02 - 12 - 13 - 01 - 18,
 V. 2 24 - 40 - 12 29 - 45 - 07,
 V. 3 29 - 29 - 34 02 - 12 - 04 - 40 - 33 27 - 45 - 07 - 12 27 - 44 - 08
 02 - 12 - 06 - 18 31 - 26 - 35 02 - 12 - 41 - 19 - 35 01 - 41 - 40 - 07
 02 - 12 - 32 - 23 - 38,
 V. 4 39 - 11 02 - 27 - 25 - 10 - 23 - 18 28 - 01,
 V. 5 02 - 12 - 31 - 26,
 V. 6 02 - 12 - 27 - 27 - 35 - 37 - 21 33 - 23 02 - 12 - 31 - 26,
 V. 7 02 - 27 - 25 - 10 - 23 - 18 28 - 01,
 V. 8 02 - 12 - 31 - 26,
 V. 9 02 - 12 - 27 - 14 - 32 - 18 - 27 06 - 18 - 17 - 19 31 - 26 - 12 02 - 12 - 13 - 01
 23 - 19 - 35,
 V. 10 10 - 03 - 38 02 - 12 - 27 - 27 - 35 - 37 - 21 13 - 01 10 - 03 - 38
 02 - 12 - 22 - 40 - 07 27 - 45 - 07 - 35 02 - 37 - 23 - 05,
 V. 11 22 - 25 - 27 33 - 24 - 20 - 12 16 - 23 - 18 - 43,
 V. 12 13 - 01 - 39 - 33 15 - 07 - 13 - 01 - 18 22 - 37 - 42 - 25 07 - 24 - 40 - 35
 02 - 26 - 36 - 40 27 - 25 - 38 - 01 29 - 24 - 24 - 20 - 35 16 - 14 - 18
 29 - 33 - 01 06 - 35 - 32 - 39 - 33 02 - 09 - 27 - 01 29 - 36 - 07 - 08,
 V. 13 29 - 08 - 13 29 - 45 - 07,
 V. 14 22 - 29 - 36 - 07 - 08,
 V. 15 27 - 34 - 23 - 25 07 - 18 - 35 07 - 45 - 07,
 V. 16 07 - 23 - 18 - 24 22 - 29 - 36 - 07 - 08,
 V. 17 09 - 30 - 39 - 18 - 07 02 - 06 - 35 - 23 - 07 29 - 34 - 23 - 25 45 - 07,
- B**

Le disque de Phaestos, ainsi interprété, fournit le plus ancien exemple connu d'emploi systématique de la rime. Pour plus de détails, voir un article à l'impression dans les Actes du IV^e Congrès International d'Etudes Crétoises: L'écriture et le texte du disque de Phaestos.

YVES DUHOUX

INSCRIBED SEALS FROM TELL ASHDOD: THE PHILISTINE SCRIPT?

Among the finds unearthed at the excavations of Tell Ashdod by Professor Moshe Dothan during the seasons 1962—71 were several inscribed seals. Two of these seals are of particular epigraphic interest, since they were found in the Philistine occupation levels of ancient Ashdod, and are probably the first epigraphic finds of Philistine writing to emerge from Philistia proper. The inscribed clay tablets from Deir 'Allā in Jordan are believed by some to be "very early Philistine texts",¹ but they cannot be read with certainty. The Ashdod finds, however, which are contemporary with the Deir 'Allā tablets, most likely do represent Philistine writing, for they were discovered in one of the Philistine Pentapolis sites.

The first is an inscribed cylinder seal from Level 13 (or possibly 12), dated by the excavator to ca. 1200 B.C.² It depicts three seated rectilinear figures, between which are three vertical lines of linear script containing a total of seven or eight signs. These signs, as noted by Dothan, are similar to those of the Cypro-Minoan script; but parallels from the Cretan linear scripts are also evident. One or two signs may also be compared with those of Deir 'Allā. In respect of the figures and the design, this seal is reminiscent of contemporary Cypriote examples.

The second, attributed to Level 12, is an inscribed stamp seal which contains six or seven linear signs within a rectangular frame. With one possible exception, the signs on this seal are different from those on the cylinder; but they too resemble elements of the Cypro-Minoan and Cretan syllabaries.

Professor Dothan has most generously supplied me with fine photographs of these seal impressions, which he will publish in full, with my commentary, in Ashdod V. The Philistine material will be included in this volume, which is now under preparation.

These inscribed seals apparently indicate that the Philistines, and/or other groups of the confederation of Sea Peoples, possessed a native linear script which was evidently related to the syllabic writings of the Aegean. Both archaeological evidence and the Egyptian sources make it clear that these Sea Peoples staged their raids on and migrations to the Levant from the Aegean area. The Biblical texts, in addition, connect the Philistines with Crete.³ It is no surprise, therefore, to find that the script of the Philistines—if these seals are indeed Philistine—should be closely related to the linear syllabic scripts which were current in the Aegean during the Late Helladic era.

ROBERT R. STIEGLITZ

¹ W. F. Albright, *Syria, The Philistines and Phoenicia*, *The Cambridge Ancient History II* Chap. 33, Cambridge 1966 (Fasc. 51, 27). On the tablets see H. J. Franken, *Clay Tablets from Deir 'Allā*, *Vetus Testamentum* 14, 1964, 377—379.

² M. Dothan, *Ashdod—Seven Seasons of Excavation*, *Qadmoniot V*, 1972, 6ff. (Hebrew.).

³ *Jeremiah* 47: 4; *Ezekiel* 25: 16; *Amos* 9: 7; *Zephaniah* 2: 5—6.

EPIGRAPHISCHE MITTEILUNGEN

Linéaire B

A) Knossos. Un certain nombre de tablettes de Knossos ont fait l'objet d'un petit livre de José L. Melena, *Studies on some Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos dealing with Textiles*, Salamanca, 1975 = *Suplementos a MINOS*, Numero 5.

B) Pylos. La seconde partie de 'PTT' a paru récemment: Emmett L. Bennett, Jr. and Jean-Pierre Olivier, *The Pylos Tablets Transcribed, Part II: Hands, Concordances, Indices*, Rome, 1976 = *Incunabula Graeca*, volume LIX.

C) Mycènes. Un nouveau recueil des tablettes de ce site, avec dessins et photographies, a été diffusé dans l'été de 1975: Anna Sacconi, *Corpus delle Iscrizioni in Lineare B di Micene*, Rome, 1974 = *Incunabula Graeca*, volume LVIII.

D) Thèbes. Les pièces découvertes en 1970 ont été publiées avec rapidité: Th. G. Spyropoulos and John Chadwick, *The Thebes Tablets II*, Salamanca, 1975 = *Suplementos a MINOS*, Numero 4; ce fascicule contient aussi un index de toutes les formes mycéniennes apparues à Thèbes, rédigé par José L. Melena.

E) Tirynthe. Trois fragments de tablettes (1971) et un fragment de vase à inscription peinte (1972) sont publiés avec la même diligence par Louis Godart et Jean-Pierre Olivier, *Nouveaux textes en linéaire B de Tirynthe*, dans le volume collectif: *Tiryns, Forschungen und Berichte*, Bd. VIII, Mayence, 1976, 37—53.

F) Sites divers. Les inscriptions peintes sur vases ou fragments, provenant de plusieurs régions (Argolide, Attique, Béotie et Crète), ont été à nouveau réunies dans un recueil d'ensemble, avec dessins et photographies: Anna Sacconi, *Corpus delle Iscrizioni Vascolari in Lineare B*, Rome, 1974 = *Incunabula Graeca*, volume LVII.

OLIVIER MASSON