

MITTEILUNGEN

THE DATE OF THE "ROOM OF THE CHARIOT TABLETS" AT KNOSSOS*

The Linear B records of the "Room of the Chariot Tablets" (RCT) are important because their likely date earlier than the main Knossos archive raises many questions. The "unity of the archives" has been challenged in the case of the RCT. Olivier suggested in 1967, and then Chadwick in 1973, that the RCT material may pre-date the main Knossos destruction, generally placed at the beginning of LM III A2. Driessen, in the 1990 publication of part of his doctoral thesis, claimed that the RCT destruction level that contained the tablets was below that of LM III A2 and accordingly designated the RCT material as LM II-III A1. In fact Driessen assigned both an LM II date and an LM II-III A1 date. This earlier dating for the RCT group needs closer scrutiny.

In 1994, Olivier in: *Knossos: A Labyrinth of History* (p. 166) stated, "The raising of the date of the tablets from the Room of the Chariot Tablets. Driessen using an assemblage of arguments, none of which would carry conviction by itself but which put together do seem persuasive, has demonstrated that the tablets found in the Room of the Chariot Tablets are two or three generations earlier than those of the 'main bulk' of the archives. If the main bulk are put at the 'traditional' date at the beginning of LM III A2, c. 1375 B.C., then the documents from the Room of the Chariot Tablets must go back to LM II, i.e., before 1400 B.C., and thus become, for us, the earliest Linear B tablets from Knossos. That makes them the first written manifestation of the economic and political activity of the Mycenaeans in Crete, at a moment when Minoan influence was still much more felt than it was some generations later." Two pages later (p. 168) under the heading of "Present and Future Lines of Research" number 2, Olivier unequivocally stated "1990: date of the destruction of the Room of the Chariot Tablets is pushed back to LM II".

Declarations of this type are best avoided when the evidence is not certain (but note that the present author accepts Driessen's judgement on the earlier date of the RCT as convincing). What, however, is not acceptable is the LM II date assigned by Olivier. The key question is: if the RCT records pre-date the main Knossos archive of LM III A2 (as suggested by Olivier

* See the author's extensive article with footnotes and bibliography in *Talanta* 26-27, 1994-95, 29-48 for a full discussion of the RCT.

and Chadwick, and demonstrated by Driessen), how much earlier are they? Precision is needed in dating these records.

The archaeological evidence given by Driessen is worth close attention, and consists of ivory, bronze, wood and sealings. The closest parallel for the RCT ivory carving that depicts a helmet is on an ivory plaque from the LM III tholos tomb A at Archanes Fourni. The bronze objects associated with the RCT records appear to be the hinges of a box. Such an association of a box and tablets is known from LM I Zakros and LH III B Pylos, which does not help to date the RCT. The piece of carved wood also seems to have an LM II-III A1 design.

More important evidence, however, can be gained from the sealings found with the RCT records. Evans found at least eighteen sealings in the RCT, twelve of which are preserved. Eight of these sealings were provisionally dated by Driessen, based on suggestions and personal communications from Pini and Younger. One can be dated to LM I?, one to LM I B-III A1, one to LM II-III A, one to LM III A and three to LM III A1. These dates were assigned on stylistic grounds. Weingarten had also commented that "the sealings from the Room of the Chariot Tablets mix early and late features in a way seen nowhere else in the Palace. In short, the deposit seems transitional (in sealing terms) and a date of LM II or early LM III A1 would suit very well". The latest sealing from the RCT is marked by a seal whose decoration is assigned on stylistic criteria to LM III A1. Thus the deposit is pre-LM III A2. This was stated by Driessen and Weingarten, who assigned an LM II-III A2 date for the deposit associated with the RCT records. This was modified by Driessen to LM II and pronounced as fact by Olivier. However, in view of the presence of LM III A1 designs among the dateable sealings, if the RCT contains impressions of LM III A1 sealstones, then the deposit can be no earlier than LM III A1.

Does an epigraphic study of the Linear B tablets of the RCT support an LM II or LM III A1 date? The RCT Linear B records consist of 576 documents, of which only 75 are more or less complete. Among the total of c. 2370 signs attested on tablets from the RCT, only 57 of the signs common to both Linear A and B (designated by the prefix AB in GORILA) occur as opposed to a total possible of 65. This must be due to chance as there is no reason to suppose that the other eight AB signs were not also in use as they form part of both the LM I B Linear A syllabary. The number of signs in use in the Late Minoan period were as follows:

		AB	+	A or B = Total
LM I B	Linear A	65	+	A 10 = 75
RCT	Linear B	57 (65)	+	16 B = 73 (81)
LM III A2	Linear B	65	+	19 B = 84

The major difference between the signs used in the RCT and those used in LM I B Linear A is the loss of 10 A signs and their replacement by 16 B

signs, which had no Minoan predecessors. These additions are noteworthy, for although Driessen states "It is clear that the RCT scores badly with regard to complex signs", however 4 of the new Linear B signs have complex sound values (*dwe*, *nwa*, *nwo* and *swi*) and another 2 are doublets (*a₃* and *pte*). So the RCT only "scores badly" if it is compared with later Linear B records from Knossos and Pylos. If, however, it is viewed as a stage in the development of the script from Linear A to Linear B on Crete, then the RCT is notable for introducing 4 more complex signs, in addition to the 4 already known in Linear A. Driessen also draws attention to Woodard's observation that unusual spelling and dialect features are found in the RCT; but this is not surprising as the RCT syllabary is different from that of the main Knossos archive. This indicates that the RCT is earlier than LM III A2, but does not demonstrate how much earlier. It is a regrettable deficiency of Driessen's otherwise useful work that he considers the RCT only as the earliest stage of Linear B and not also as a development of Linear A.

In the Linear A of LM I B there were 4 complex signs and 7 doublet signs; in the RCT there were 8 complex and 9 doublet signs; while in the Linear B of LM III A2 there were 9 complex and 11 doublet signs. There was therefore a gradual increase in the number of doublet and complex sound values used in the various stages of the development of the Linear A and Linear B scripts, and it is important that this process had already started in LM I B Linear A, which had both complex and doublet sound values. This observation is of importance when the two languages expressed by Linear B and Linear A are considered, i.e., Mycenaean Greek and the Minoan language. It is important not to treat the RCT in isolation but rather in relation to the LM I B Linear A which preceded it and to the LM III A2 Linear B which followed it. The RCT is indeed transitional, but is considerably closer to LM III A2 Linear B than to LM I B Linear A. The RCT Linear B syllabary shares a c. 96.5% overlap with LM III A2 Linear B, but a c. 87.5% overlap with LM I B Linear A. This may give further support to an LM III A1 date for the RCT.

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EPIGRAPHISCHE MITTEILUNGEN

Linear B

Midea. In the Archeological Reports for 1996–1997 by David J. Blackman, SPHS/BSA 1997, p. 28, fig. 27, in a report of the 1996 season of excavation at Midea in Argolis, Gisela Walberg records that on the Lower Terrace in Room VII, north of the Megaron, two more sealings were found, to add to the one found in 1991 and published in KADMOS 31, 1992, 92. One of the new nodules carries three Linear B syllabograms $\neq \uparrow \text{5}$, *pa-zo-jo*, interpreted as a name in the genitive. The second has the impression of a (much earlier) Cut Style seal with a goat motif.

Chronology. Jean-Pierre Olivier, in a note in BCH 120, 1996, 823, KN 115 et KH 115: rectification, in reference to his article in BCH 117, 1993, 19–33 (see KADMOS 33, 1994, 169), and the re-actions of L. Godart and Y. Tzedakis in BCH 119, 1995, 27–33 (see KADMOS 35, 1996, 176–177) and T. G. Palaima in *Minos* 27–28, 1992–93 (1993) 261–281, accepts that two of the three tablets found at Khania in 1990 could not have been written by the Knossian scribe 115; but he maintains that the four signs *pu-na-si-jo* are in a hand different from that of the other signs on the tablet.

Paul Rehak and John G. Younger, in their valuable Review of Aegean Prehistory VII, AJA 102, 1998, 91–173, remark on page 160 on the mixture of Hieroglyphic and Linear B documents at Knossos, and the possibility that these are ‘discarded’ archives. They date the final destruction of Knossos to LM IIIB, circa 1200 B.C.

WILLIAM C. BRICE

Kleinasien

Allgemein. Das Istituto per gli Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici in Rom hat vom 11.–12. Oktober 1999 unter der Leitung von Mirjo Salvini und Roberto Gusmani einen Convegno internazionale unter dem Titel „Licia e Lidia prima dell’ellenizzazione“ abgehalten. J. Borchhardt und H. Eichner haben dabei das „Wiener Projekt der Neubearbeitung von Kalinkas Tituli Lyciae“ vorgestellt. Die weiteren Vorträge: A. Mehl „La Lidia ed i Lidi nell’opera di Xanthos il Lido“, R. Schmitt „Lyder und Lykier in den achaimenidischen Quellen“, H. Craig Melchert „The Dialectal Position of Lycian and Lydian within Anatolia“, F. Kolb „Aspekte der Akkulturation in Zentrallykien in archaischer und klassischer Zeit“, G. Neumann „Lydisch und Lykisch im linguistischen Vergleich“, I. Hajnal „Die jungluwischen Sprachen“, J. Börker-Klähn „Tumulus D von Bayındır bei Elmalı als historischer Spiegel“, J. Borchhardt „Der Fundort lykischer Inschriften im historischen und archäologischen Kontext“, H. Eichner „Zum Formular der lykischen Grabinschriften“, I.-J. Adiego „Sur la structure syllabique du lyci-

en“, B. André-Salvini und M. Salvini „Considerazioni sul monumento rupestre della Niobe del Sipyllo“, M. Forlanini „I gruppi linguistici nell'Anatolia occidentale e il problema dell'ethnogenesi lidia“, A. Ramage „The Gold of Croesus and the Persians“, P. Briant „Epigraphie grecque et histoire achéménide en Lydie: Remarques historiques sur la lettre de Darius à Gادات“, O. Carruba „Lydikē archaiologia“, T. van den Hout „Maeonia in the Second Millennium B.C.?“

Im „Neuen Pauly“, Band 6, 1999, Sp. 555–558 gibt N. Oettinger unter dem Stichwort „Kleinasien. Sprachen“ einen Überblick über die in der Antike da nachweisbaren Idiome, ebd. Sp. 558–559 über die „Alphabetschriften“ dieses Raums.

Kilikien. In der Zeitschrift „Antike Welt“, 29. Jahrgang (1998), Heft 5, p. 399–402 vermutet P. W. Haider „Ein bisher unbekanntes Schriftsystem in Kilikien?“. Er publiziert das Eckfragment einer Tontafel, das bei Grabungen gefunden worden ist, die das Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie der Universität München auf dem Sirkeli Höyük am Çeyhan-Fluß durchgeführt hat. Haider datiert die Tafel auf etwa 750 bis 600 v. Chr. und nimmt an, daß Zahlen (in Form waagerechter und senkrechter Striche) und eventuell Abkürzungen von Wörtern vorliegen, also registrierende Notizen. Er resümiert: „Somit dürfte mit der Sirkeli-Tafel [...] ein erstes Zeugnis für ein bodenständiges kilikisches Schriftsystem [...] vorliegen. Ihr Verfasser scheint sich vielleicht einzelner Silbenzeichen aus dem zeitgleichen zyprischen Syllabar bedient zu haben.“

Lykien. W. Jenniges in: L. Isebaert und R. Lebrun (Hrsg.), *Quaestiones Homericae. Acta Colloquii Namurcensis*, 1998, 119–147 untersucht „Les Lyciens dans l'*Illiade*: sur les traces de Pandaros“.

D. Schürr, in: KADMOS 36, 1997, 127–140 behandelt „Nymphen von Phellos“.

R. Gusmani unternimmt „Lykische Streifzüge“, in: *Incontri linguistici* 20, 1997, 147–156. Darin bietet er neue Lesungen und Deutungen zu TL 80 sowie zum Zeichen <q>.

H. Craig Melchert, „Once More on the Conclusion of the Lycian Trilingual of the Létôon“, in: *Historische Sprachforschung* 112, 1999, 75–77 gibt die wohl endgültige Deutung dieses Satzes.

R. Lebrun gibt in seinen „*Studia Lyciaca*“, in: *Hethitica* XIV, 1999, 43–53, Bedeutungsbestimmungen und etymologische Anknüpfungen für lyk. *ze-*, *xuwa-*, *tama-*, *ddeweze*, *çal-*, *teli-*, *trbbeli-*, *qan-* und *tewinaza-*.

Karien. Die Akten der Internationalen Tagung über die karisch-griechische Bilingue von Kaunos, die 1997 in Feusisberg bei Zürich stattgefunden hatte, sind nun unter dem Titel „*Colloquium Caricum*“ von W. Blümel, P. Frei und Chr. Marek als Band XXXVII des KADMOS herausgegeben worden.

I. Hajnal, „Indogermanische“ Syntax in einer neuerschlossenen anatolischen Sprache: Die karische Partikel *-xi*, in: E. Crespo und J.-L. García-Ramón (Hrsg.), *Berthold Delbrück y la sintaxis indoeuropea hoy. Actas del Coloquio de la Indogermanische Gesellschaft Madrid, 21–24 de septiembre de 1994*, Madrid–Wiesbaden 1997, p. 193–217.

I.-J. Adiego, „La nueva bilingüe greco-caria de Cauno y el desciframiento del cario“, in: *Aula Orientalis* 16, 1998, 5–26.

W. Blümel veröffentlicht in: *Epigraphica Anatolica* 30, 1998, 163–184 eine Liste „Einheimische Ortsnamen in Karien“. Sie bietet alle Belege aus den griechischen Inschriften sowie den griech. (und latein.) literarischen Quellen.

Im „Neuen Pauly“, Band 6, 1999, Sp. 279–280 gibt F. Starke einen Überblick über das „Karische“.

Lydien. J. M. Kearns, *A Lydian Etymology for the Name Croesus*, in: *Studies in Honor of Jaan Puhvel, Part One*, edited by D. Disterheft, M. Huld, J. Greppin, Washington D.C. 1997, p. 23–28. (Es liege ein Kompositum aus dem PN **Karo(w)*- und *isá*- „Herr“ vor: „the noble Karos“.)

Phrygien. V. Orel, *The Vocabulary of Phrygian*, in: *Orpheus. Journal of Indo-European and Thracian Studies* 7, 1997, 37–77.

V. Orel, *The Language of Phrygians. Description and Analysis*, New York 1997. (Dazu vgl. die Rezension von R. Schmitt, in: *Annual of Armenian Linguistics* 19, 1998, 75–78.)

A. Lubotsky, *New Phrygian Metrics and the δεως ζεμελως formula*, in: *Mír curad. Studies in Honor of Calvert Watkins*, ed. by J. Jasanoff et al., Innsbruck 1998, p. 413–421.

GÜNTER NEUMANN

Zypern

N. Hirschfeld veröffentlicht „The PASP Data Base for the Use of Scripts on Cyprus“, Salamanca 1996 (1997) (= *Minos*, Supplement 13). – Ein Vortrag über „Die Silbenschriften Zyperns“ von M. Egetmeyer findet sich in den Tagungsakten „Die Geschichte der hellenischen Sprache und Schrift. Vom 2. zum 1. Jahrtausend v. Chr.: Bruch oder Kontinuität? ... 1996, Ohlstadt/Oberbayern ...“, Altenburg 1998, 233–257. – Mit dem Einfluß der kyprischen auf andere Schriftsysteme beschäftigt sich H. Haarmann, „Writing Technology in the Ancient Mediterranean and the Cyprian Connection“, *Mediterranean Language Review* 9, 1995–1997, 43–73.

Eteokyprisch. M. Given handelt über „Inventing the Eteocyprists: Imperialist Archaeology and the Manipulation of Ethnic Identity“, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 11, 1998, 3–29 (dazu „Comments and Responses“ anderer Autoren, 107–128). – O. Masson† publiziert in dem

Kapitel „Inscriptions syllabiques et incisions diverses“, in: „The Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates at Kourion: Excavations in the Archaic Precinct“, Hrsg. D. Buitron-Oliver, Jonsered 1996, 179–180 neben 41 ganz kurzen kyprischen Inschriften (1–3 Zeichen) vor allem eine wohl eteokyprische Inschrift aus 9 Zeichen. – T. Petit veröffentlicht „La langue éteocyprïote ou l’‘amathousien’. Essai d’interprétation grammaticale“, Archiv für Orientforschung 44/45, 1997/1998, 244–271.

Kyprisch. C. Baurains Buch „Les Grecs et la Méditerranée orientale“, Paris 1997, hat ein Kapitel „L’écriture syllabique à Chypre, l’alphabet en Grèce“, 372–387. – Die kyprische Silbenschrift spielt eine wichtige Rolle in der Argumentation von R. D. Woodard, „Greek Writing from Knossos to Homer“, New York 1997, vgl. bes. das Kapitel „Cyprus and Beyond“, 205–245 (Rez.: M. Malzahn, Die Sprache 38, 1996 [1999], 228–231). – Zur Schrift äußert sich ebenfalls G. Neumann in seiner Rezension von D. G. Miller, „Ancient Scripts and Phonological Knowledge“ (Amsterdam/Philadelphia 1994), Kratylos 43, 1998, 71–80.

M. Egetmeyer rezensiert A. Hintze, „A Lexicon to the Cyprian Syllabic Inscriptions“ (Hamburg 1993), Minos 29–30, 1994–1995 (1997), 378–386.

Bei den schweizerisch-deutschen Ausgrabungen in Kouklia (Alt-Paphos) ist ein Steinblock aus archaischer Zeit gefunden worden, der die Inschrift *o-na-si-ti-mo* (Form von Ὀνασίτιμος) trägt, vgl. RDAC 1997, 179 und pl. XVI, 4. – Zu den noch unveröffentlichten Inschriften der griechischen Ausgrabungen in Idalion vgl. M. Hadjicosti, „The Kingdom of Idalion in the Light of New Evidence“, BASOR 308, 1997, 49–63, bes. 58 und E. Herscher, „Archaeology in Cyprus“, AJA 102, 1998, 333. – P. Gaber und W. G. Dever, „Idalion Cyprus: Conquest and Continuity“, in: „Preliminary Excavation Reports: Sardis, Idalion, and Tell el-Handaqq North“, Hrsg. W. G. Dever, Atlanta 1996 (= The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, vol. 53), 85–113 können aufgrund der amerikanischen Grabungen in Idalion neue Angaben zum Fundkontext der Bilingue ICS² 220 mit dem Namen des Apollon Amyklos machen („outdoor temenos“, 105).

In dem Band Centre d’études chypriotes, Cahier 27, 1997 (1998) (= Mélanges Olivier Masson) finden sich folgende Aufsätze zum Kyprischen: O. Masson†, „A propos des inscriptions syllabiques de *Dhrymou* (Paphos) et du site antique correspondant“ (mit „Appendice: Les inscriptions d’Ayia Moni, ICS 90 et 91“), 15–19, idem, „Les ex-voto trouvés par L. Palma di Cesnola à Golgoi en 1870“, 25–29 (zu ICS² 289); dann M. Amandry, „Le monnayage d’Amathonte revisité“, 35–44, C. Dobias-Lalou, „Notes d’onomastique chypriote“, 77–81, L. Dubois, „L’arcadien et le chypriote: deux dialectes cousins“, 83–92, M. Egetmeyer, „L’homme propose, dieu dispose. Remarque lexicale à propos d’une inscription chypriote syllabique (ICS² 264)“, 93–95, und J. Karageorghis, „Les noms de la Grande Déesse dans les inscriptions syllabiques chypriotes“, 109–119.

G. Neumann bietet weitere „Beiträge zum Kyprischen, XVII“, KADMOS 36, 1997, 167–170 und „Beiträge zum Kyprischen, XVIII“, KADMOS 38, 1999, 73–86. – Mit ICS² 318d beschäftigen sich A. Panayotou-Triantaphyllopoulou, I. Michaelidou-Nicolaou, „L'inscription digraphe de Salamine de Chypre (Test. Sal. 2, n° 17). Nouvelle approche“, ZPE 121, 1998, 95–102. – H. Perdicoyanni-Paleologou publiziert „Deux notes cypriotes“, L'Antiquité classique 66, 1997, 277–279. – Kh. B. Kritzas bietet eine „Επισκόπηση την επιγραφικών μαρτυριών για σχέσεις Κύπρου και Αργολίδος-Επιδαυρίας“, in: „Proceedings . . . Cyprus and the Aegean in Antiquity“, Nikosia 1997, 313–322.

MARKUS EGETMEYER

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