

LINEAR SCRIPT B: THE PALACE ARCHIVES OF KNOSSOS

B 1-1650: 04. 1-95

DESCRIPTION AND COMMENTARY

The Numerical Order of the Tablets. In the manuscript inventory of the Candia Museum, where the tablets are preserved, they are numbered without any attempt at classification, probably in the order in which successive consignments were received from the excavator. As the tablets, though safe in the strong-room of the Museum, have been inaccessible since 1939, it has not been possible to make use of these numbers. But a concordance has now been prepared by Dr. Emmett M. Bennett (p. 90).

Evans seems to have contemplated a more systematic numeration—to which he occasionally refers as his 'Hand-list'—but he only carried it as far as No. 1567, and began a fresh series of numbers (04. 1-95) for the tablets from the 'Arsenal' building, excavated in 1904; and it is not quite clear what the order eventually adopted represents. The earlier numbers are grouped according to the place of discovery within the Palace, in the order of the course of excavation. But the tablets from the 'Area south of the Bay of the Seal-Impression' (1064 ff.) pass over into a list of 'live-stock' tablets in an order of the personal names which they contain, where these are preserved—'subsidiaries' where the 'principal' name is missing (1064-1383)—'principal' name where this is preserved (1384-1515). Finally (1516-32) there are a few large tablets, written transversely, and a miscellaneous group (1533-68) including the Sword-tablets (1540-60). This numeration was not quite final; a few numbers being duplicated or omitted: and these omissions are now numbered after 1568. But the 04 numbering is retained.

Only when the text of the present volume was almost ready for press, was it possible to supplement this inadequate numeration by the classified *Inventory* prepared by Dr. Alice E. Kober, and its *Index*, the arrangement of which is as follows (cf. pp. 83 ff.):

Inventory of the Tablets, classified by their contents

Primary Groups:

- A. Inscriptions with the 'man' sign (B 75).
- B. Inscriptions with the 'woman' sign (B 76).
- C. Inscriptions with the 'sitting-figure' sign (B 74).
- D. 'Live-stock' tablets, exclusive of 'cattle' tablets.
- E, F, G, H. 'Cattle' tablets (B 91) further subdivided below.
- I. 'Tree' tablets (B 123).
- J. 'Cereal' tablets (B 89 *a, b, c*).
- K. Other 'commodity' tablets; (B 88); saffron *Kd*.
- L. 'House', 'granary', or 'container' tablets (B 94 *a-f*).
- M. 'Vase' tablets (B 80 and pictorial vessels).
- N. 'Chariot' tablets and related subjects (B 117-20, 122).
- O. 'Adze', 'ingot', 'arrow' 'sword', and smaller groups.
- P, Q. *Provisionally blank*.
- R. 'Containers', 'banner-signs', &c. (B 94 *e, 8*).
- S. 'Value' signs (B 51, 60), and others.