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## LINEAR SCRIPT B: THE PALACE ARCHIVES OF KNOSSOS

- T. Tablets with phonetic signs followed by numerals.
- U. Tablets with sign-groups followed by numerals.
- V. Tablets without ideograms, but sign-groups in compartments.
- W. Provisionally blank.
- X. Unclassifiable because fragmentary and without 'commodity'-sign.
- Z. Seal-impressions and endorsements.

Most of the tablets were found in rooms and passages within the Palace; but a few (B 42-100) beyond the West Wall enclosing the Magazines, whither they had been scattered as the buildings decayed. It is clear from the find-spots that they were not found where they were stored, but where they had fallen—sometimes in their store-boxes—from the upper floors of the buildings (Knossos Report, 1900, 50 ff.; 1904, 56 ff.; SM I. 40-3; PM IV. 622). For example, the middle fragment of B 479 was found in the Seventh Magazine, but the two ends in the Eighth. Yet the general distribution was sufficiently preserved to permit the assignment of tablets B 746-8, stolen by a workman, to their proper find-spot (PM IV, pref. p. xxi; cf. 97; SM I. 46).

Very few of the fragments have hitherto been reassembled, and it is likely that some tablets may still be reconstructed, when the originals can be handled; especially the 'cattle-tablets' § E with the 'principal names' in § X.

At one time (SM I. 38) AE thought that 'the larger deposits of clay archives must have been naturally of gradual accumulation'; but this must refer to their accidental dispersal into the lower rooms: for apart from a few exceptionally hard-baked tablets, he assigned them all to the 'concluding age of the Remodelled Palace', i.e. to L.M. II.

Find-spots recorded in AE notes seem to be registered in accord with the progress of the excavation in 1899-1903, beginning from the neighbourhood of the earlier tumultuary trenches near the south-west angle, northward to the Throne Room and the North Entrance to the Central Court. But this sequence ends at the 'Area south of the Bay of the Seal Impression': tablets B 1064-1383 are all broken to left, B 1384-1512 are all broken to right; so there has been complete regrouping here. The find-spots recorded in AE notes are printed in clarendon type at the head of the groups of tablets there found. Other find-spots given in PM and other publications are:

House of the Fetishes. Knossos Report, 1905, 16; SM I. 55: tablet not identified.

Upper East-West Corridor in the Domestic Quarter. Knossos Report, 1902, 38.

East Treasury in the Domestic Quarter. PM III. 404.

Magazine by the Royal Road [?=Armoury]. PM II. 577.

Area above the Early Keep. PM IV. 733.

Room of the Archives. PM IV. 701-4.

Room of the Stone Bench. PM III. 404.

## Order of Localities (Find-spots) from AE MS. notes

Cf. the plan of the Palace, PM IV. 728, fig. 710

1-34. Clay Chest ('Bath-shaped Receptacle') 'in a small chamber near the South Propylaeum. SM I. 17-18; BSA 1899-1900, 18, pl. 1.

No. 34 is the tablet found in surface soil by Antonios Zakhyrakis; copied and photographed by AE in 1894;







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419.1

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