Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos

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Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos

By

Dimitri Nakassis

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For my parents

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A NOTE ON MYCENAEAN NAMES

Although I provide syllabic transcriptions for all names (e.g., *a-pi-me-de*), whenever there is scholarly consensus on its rendering in Greek, I also provide that form (e.g., *Amphimēdēs*). If an equivalent form is attested in alphabetic Greek, I will also refer to it in Greek (e.g., Ἀμφιμήδης). Names for which there is no clear interpretation are written using the syllabic transcription (e.g., *a-ke-o*). More information about the interpretation of each personal name is provided in the appendix.

This system has some drawbacks: it is somewhat redundant, since it includes multiple versions of the same name. It may also be that future research will falsify or modify the interpretations of Linear B names. There are nevertheless advantages to writing the names in this way. First, it provides a more natural mode of expressing personal names, which of course would not have been pronounced by Mycenaeans the way they are spelled in the syllabic Linear B script. Second, it should render the text more accessible to non-Linear B specialists, who may find it difficult to wade through sentences full of transcribed Linear B words.

An extreme illustration of the benefits of this system is a name which is written *a₃-ki-a₂-ri-jo* in transcription. This form may appear bizarre to nonspecialists, who lack familiarity with the spelling conventions of the script and the numerical subscripts used by Mycenologists to indicate variant signs (*a₃* represents *ai*, and *a₂* represents *ha*). The underlying form is a perfectly normal Greek name, however: *Aigihalios*, formed from αἰγιαλός, “beach.” This name also has a large number of direct parallels in alphabetic Greek: Αἰγιαλός, Αἰγιάλη, Αἰγιαλεύς, and the name of Diomedes’ wife, Αἰγιάλεια (*Il.* 5.412).

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

For those who are not familiar with them, I provide here those standard abbreviations and editorial marks used in the study of Linear B tablets that appear in this book.¹

Sites	KN	Knossos
	MY	Mycenae
	PY	Pylos
	TI	Tiryns
Texts	.1, .2, .3, etc.	line numbers for a tablet with horizontal rulings
	.A, .B, etc.	line numbers for a tablet with a partial ruling
	.a, .b, etc.	line numbers for a tablet with no rulings
	.1a	line number for writing above the horizontal ruling
	<i>recto</i>	the front side of a tablet
	<i>verso</i> (v.)	the back side of a tablet
	<i>latus sinistrum</i> (<i>lat.sin.</i>)	the left side of a tablet
	<i>latus superius</i> (<i>lat.sup.</i>)	the upper side of a tablet
	<i>recto originalis</i> (<i>r.orig.</i>)	the original front side of tablet, erased and written over
	<i>vacat</i>	a single empty ruled line
Signs	-	connects signs in the same word
	,	word divider
	[]	missing text or tablet surface
	⌋	tablet surface broken at bottom of line
	[·]	a single sign is missing
	[a]	missing but restorable text
	[[a]]	erased but legible text
	< a >	text mistakenly omitted by scribe
	a	damaged sign, uncertain but likely reading
	·	damaged sign, no certain reading possible
	a[	break on tablet surface; a sign may or may not follow
	a-[	break on tablet surface; a sign certainly follows
	<i>vestigia</i> (<i>vest.</i>)	remains of illegible signs

¹ Palmer 2008 provides a fuller introduction to Linear B conventions and resources.