Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos
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Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos

By

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LEIDEN • BOSTON

2013
For my parents
CONTENTS

List of Figures ................................................................. IX
List of Tables ................................................................. XI
Acknowledgments ........................................................... XIII
A Note on Mycenaean Names ............................................ XV
Glossary and Abbreviations ............................................. XVII

1 Paupers and Peasants and Princes and Kings .................. 1
  1.1 Putting Mycenaens in Their Place ................................. 5
  1.2 From Roles to Individuals .......................................... 19
  1.3 Rethinking Mycenaean Society: A Road Map ................. 23

2 From Proper Names to People Proper ............................. 29
  2.1 The Nature of the Pylian Documentation ........................ 30
  2.2 Naming the Pylians .................................................. 33
  2.3 Previous Approaches ............................................... 40
  2.4 Identifying the Pylians ............................................. 48
  2.5 Discussion and Conclusions ....................................... 68

3 Smiths and Herders ..................................................... 73
  3.1 The Smiths of Pylos ................................................ 74
    3.1.1 Recurring Names in the Jn Series ............................. 74
    3.1.2 Smiths in the Cn Series ...................................... 80
    3.1.3 Smiths and the o-ka Set .................................... 89
    3.1.4 Smiths and the ke-ro-si-ja .................................. 92
    3.1.5 Smiths and An 340 ............................................ 93
    3.1.6 Smiths and An 5 ............................................... 94
    3.1.7 Smiths and An 1281 .......................................... 95
    3.1.8 Smiths and An 172 ............................................ 98
    3.1.9 Smiths and Alum ............................................. 99
    3.1.10 Smiths and the E- Series .................................. 100
  3.2 The Herders of Pylos .............................................. 102
    3.2.1 Herders of Multiple Flocks .................................. 103
    3.2.2 Herding in Other Series ..................................... 105
    3.2.3 Herders and the An Series .................................. 107
    3.2.4 Herders and the M- and N- Series ........................... 109
3.2.5 Herders and the Sa Series ................................. 110
3.2.6 Herders and the E- Series ................................. 111
3.2.7 Herders and the Fn Series ................................. 114
3.3 Conclusions .................................................. 114

4 Soldiers and Landowners ..................................... 117
4.1 The o-ka Texts ............................................... 117
4.2 The Landholders of Pylos ................................... 124
  4.2.1 Landholders at pa-ki-ja-ne That Appear Elsewhere ... 130
  4.2.2 Landholders in the Ea Series ........................... 132
  4.2.3 Landholders in the Es Series ........................... 134
4.3 Individuals in the Fn Series ................................. 135
4.4 Individuals in the Qa Series ................................. 139
4.5 Individuals in the Mb and Mn Series ....................... 140
4.6 Individuals in the Na and Nn Series ....................... 142
4.7 Individuals in the Vn Series ................................. 143
4.8 Individuals in the Ua, Ub, and Un Series ................. 146
4.9 Conclusions .................................................. 148

5 From Social Structure to Social Activity ..................... 153
5.1 Individuals from Names ..................................... 153
5.2 The People of Pylos ......................................... 156
5.3 Ranking the Pylians ........................................... 162
5.4 Defining the Mycenaean Elite ............................... 165
5.5 Individuals and the State .................................... 173
5.6 Theorizing the Individual .................................... 176
5.7 Individuals in History ........................................ 179
5.8 Rethinking Pylian Society .................................... 183

Appendix: A Prosopography of Mycenaean Pylos ............... 187

Works Cited .................................................... 415
Index of Subjects ................................................. 443
Index of Sources ................................................ 447
LIST OF FIGURES

1.1 The traditional model of Mycenaean society, significantly modified from Kilian 1988, p. 293, fig. 1. Drawing D. Nakassis . . . 6
1.2 The provinces of Pylos. Drawing D. Nakassis ....................... 10
1.3 Mt. Aigaleon, seen from Ano Englianos. Photo D. Nakassis . . . 11

2.1 Cycles of Mycenaean administration, redrawn after Bennet 2001, p. 30, fig. 1. Drawing D. Nakassis ............................... 31
2.2 PY An 192. H. 20.5, W. 11.3, Th. 2.1 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 38
2.3 PY An 519. H. 19.0, W. 9.1, Th. 1.5 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 51
2.4 PY Aq 218 recto. H. 21.5, W. 13.2, Th. 1.5 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 52
2.5 PY Jn 750. H. 11.2, W. 9.7, Th. 1.4 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 55
2.6 PY Cn 925. H. 4.2, W. 13.6, Th. 1.3 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 57
2.7 Known locations of the activities of Komāwens (ko-ma-we); locations are approximate. Drawing D. Nakassis ................. 60
2.8 PY Ep 301. H. 17.0, W. 14.8, Th. 1.3 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati ................................................... 61
2.9 PY Ua 158. H. 4.6, W. 12.0, Th. 2.0 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati .......... 63

2.10 PY Vn 130. H. 15.9, W. 8.6, Th. 2.0 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati .......... 65

3.1 PY Cn 131. H. 19.9, W. 11.4, Th. 2.1 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati .......... 85

3.2 PY Cc 660. H. 2.5, W. 12.5, Th. 1.4–1.0 cm. Photographic archives of the Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory, University of Texas at Austin. Courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati .......... 106

5.1 Known locations of the activities of Awekseus and Plouteus; locations are approximate. Drawing D. Nakassis ............... 159

5.2 Distribution of names by frequency. Drawing D. Nakassis ...... 162

LIST OF TABLES

2.1 Quantitative data on Linear B tablets and signs ................. 32
2.2 Numbers of Pylian names, by preservation and certainty of identification as names ........................................ 34
2.3 Name popularity and frequency at Pylos .......................... 45
2.4 Name frequency and popularity at Pylos ......................... 45
2.5 A cluster of toponyms and personal names at Pylos ............ 47
2.6 A network analysis of names from An 657 ........................ 48
2.7 Names of landholders on Ep 301 ............................... 62
2.8 Recurring names on Vn 130 .................................. 67

3.1 Names that appear in more than one Jn text ...................... 76
3.2 Potential smiths from Jn 431 in the Cn series by tablet ........ 82
3.3 Cn 285 and the Jn series .................................. 82
3.4 Cn 600 and the Jn series .................................. 83
3.5 Cn 40 and the Jn series .................................. 84
3.6 Smiths and herders .................................... 88
3.7 Smiths’ names in the o-ka texts ............................... 92
3.8 Smiths and An 340 ..................................... 94
3.9 Potential smiths on An 1281 ................................ 96
3.10 Smiths and landholders ................................ 102
3.11 Individuals who appear more than once in the Cn series, with toponyms indicated ........................................ 104
3.12 Herders in the An series .................................. 109
3.13 Herders in the E- series .................................. 113
3.14 Herders in the Fn series .................................. 114

4.1 Individuals in the o-ka set and the Aq diptych .................. 118
4.2 Patronymics in the o-ka set and the Aq diptych ................ 119
4.3 An 192, On 300, Jo 438, Aq 64, Aq 218, and the o-ka texts .... 121
4.4 Individuals in the o-ka set who recur elsewhere ............. 123
4.5 Personal names in the E- series ............................... 126
4.6 Individuals in more than one landholding series ............. 129
4.7 Landholders at pa-ki-ja-ne who appear elsewhere .......... 131
4.8 Landholders in the Ea series who appear elsewhere .......... 134
4.9 Landholders in the Es series who appear elsewhere .......... 135
4.10 Official titles in An 39 and the Fn series ..................... 137
4.11 Prosopographical connections between An 39 and the Fn series 137
4.12 Individuals in the Fn series who appear in multiple texts ........ 138
4.13 Individuals in the Qa series ........................................ 140
4.14 Individuals in the Mb and Mn series ............................... 142
4.15 Individuals in the Na or Nn texts who appear elsewhere .......... 143
4.16 Individuals in the Vn series who appear elsewhere ............... 145
4.17 Individuals in the Ua, Ub, or Un series who appear elsewhere ... 147
4.18 The Pylian hek*wetai .................................................. 149

5.1 Numbers of names for which plausible prosopographical matches can be made ........................................... 154
5.2 Named individuals who appear on five or more texts at Pylos ... 163
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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 $a_3$-ki-$a_2$-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 ($a_3$ represents _ai_, and $a_2$ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>KN</th>
<th>Knossos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MY</td>
<td>Mycenae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY</td>
<td>Pylos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TI</td>
<td>Tiryns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texts</th>
<th>.1, .2, .3, etc.</th>
<th>line numbers for a tablet with horizontal rulings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.A, .B, etc.</td>
<td>line numbers for a tablet with a partial ruling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.a, .b, etc.</td>
<td>line numbers for a tablet with no rulings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.1a</td>
<td>line number for writing above the horizontal ruling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>recto</td>
<td>the front side of a tablet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>verso (v.)</td>
<td>the back side of a tablet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>latus sinistrum</td>
<td>the left side of a tablet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(lat.sin.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>latus superius</td>
<td>the upper side of a tablet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(lat.sup.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recto originalis</td>
<td>the original front side of tablet, erased and written over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(r.orig.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacat</td>
<td>a single empty ruled line</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>connects signs in the same word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>,</td>
<td>word divider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>missing text or tablet surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>,</td>
<td>tablet surface broken at bottom of line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>a single sign is missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ a ]</td>
<td>missing but restorable text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>erased but legible text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⟨ a ⟩</td>
<td>text mistakenly omitted by scribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
<td>damaged sign, uncertain but likely reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.</td>
<td>damaged sign, no certain reading possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a[</td>
<td>break on tablet surface; a sign may or may not follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a-</td>
<td>break on tablet surface; a sign certainly follows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vestigia (vest.)</td>
<td>remains of illegible signs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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