

RECENSIONES

Europa. Festschrift Ernst Grumach. Herausgegeben von William C. Brice. Walter de Gruyter Co. Berlin 1967. 394 pages + XXVIII plates.

Europa was intended to be the testimonial of affection offered by his friends and colleagues to Professor Ernst Grumach on his sixty-fifth birthday, on the 7th of November 1967. Unfortunately, hardly a month before the date, Professor Grumach died unexpectedly in London, whereby the book became a memorial volume.

The readers of *Kadmos*, the review Professor Grumach edited, will find in *Europa* the same topics which had already been dealt with in *Kadmos*. This is, no doubt, the reason why *Europa*, the mythological sister of the Theban hero, has been chosen as the name of the volume we are now reviewing. It consists of thirty-three articles; they all treat of Aegean history or epigraphy, both of them taken, of course, in their broad sense. The various articles refer, then, to limits in space, not in time. While V. E. G. Kenna studies the successive variations in form and style of the Cretan hieroglyphs of the Middle Minoan Age (pp. 132-179), P. Faure's article (pp. 94-112) tries to locate the borders of Lato round about 113/112 B.C., the outline of which gives a very precise idea of what could have been the size of an average State in Hellenistic Crete. Various questions are elucidated between these two time limits.

St. Alexiou (pp. 1-6), N. Platon (pp. 236-245) and J. Sakellarakis (pp. 277-288) tackle religious problems. The first studies a well-known motif in Cretan decoration: the Minoan «sacred knot», a theme that usually appears alongside that of the double-axe. A connection is suggested with other Old Sumerian objects of worship relative to the Mother-Goddess. The second discusses the problem of bathrooms and lustral basins in Minoan dwellings. Sakellarakis deals with the question of the five «mason's marks» recently discovered in Arkhanes, the summer palace of the kings of Knossos, for which he prefers the religious interpretation, although he has some suspicions of a probable alphabetical value.

As was to be expected, several essays have been devoted to the study of some objects that were dug up in the course of comparatively recent excavations. Thus, the articles by R. V. D'A. Desborough, «A Pyxis from Groningen» (pp. 75-79); H. Erlenmeyer, «Ein ägäisches Schriftsiegel aus der Zeit des Übergangs von der S.-M. zu der frühgriechischen Periode» (pp. 88-93); S. Hood, «Buckelkeramik at Mycenae?» (pp. 120-131); Sp. Iakovidis, «Ein beschrifteter Siegelzylinder aus Cyper» (pp. 143-151); O. Masson, «L'ostrakon carien de Hou-Diospolis Parva (38 Friedrich)» (pp. 211-217); A. Sakellariou, «Ein kretischer 'Messkelch' in einem Grab von Nauplia» (pp. 289-293). Within this group, M. A. S. Cameron's article «Notes on some new joins and additions to well known frescoes from Knossos» (pp. 45-74) offers valuable information on the present state of the study of such famous paintings as the so called «Safron Gatherer», «The Warriors Miniature» or «The Parisienne».

Some eminently historic questions are broached by N. M. Kontoleon (pp. 180-190), who deals with problems relative to the beginnings of Greek colonization in Sicily and its connexions with Greek policy in the VIII century B.C.; also, Sp. Marinatos (pp. 204-210), who outlines a theory on how the Cretan scribes, having quit their island because of volcanic explosions, adapted their writing system for taking down the Greek then spoken on the Continent; finally, M. Sakellariou (pp. 294-302), in his study «Les tribus ioniennes-attiques», arrives at some significant conclusions on the geographical localization of the Proto-Ionians.

Two essays with very different characteristics have been dedicated to Homeric questions. V. Karageorghis's (pp. 167-171) elucidates certain passages in Homer with the help of archaeological discoveries from the necropolis of Salamis in Cyprus. When attempts of this nature are carried out, one is always prepared to find a great deal of subjectivity in the affinity between the objects described in the *Ilias* and the *Odyssey* and those presented by the archaeologist. We are pleased to say, however, that in the present case the verisimilitude of the comparisons proves sound, being particularly interesting the silver-and-ivory throne proposed by Karageorghis as the model of Penelope's κλισίη... δινωπή ἐλέφαντι καὶ ἄργύρῳ (τ 55-56). S. Levin's article bears the hardly attractive title of «Anomalies of Homeric Greek clarified by Semitic parallels». There are two problems that the author intends to solve with the help of Semitic languages: the scansion of the dual ending -οῖῖν, with the second syllable «anceps», and the collocation σε χρή (to the exclusion of χρή σε) in the Homeric poems. Certainly, it is true that -οῖῖν has no clear Indo-European correlate, but it is a well-known fact that morphemes are the linguistic elements least likely to be borrowed. As to σε χρή, its immediate parallel has to be sought, as Levin himself admits, in the Latin type *te pudet*, the Semitic analogies having very little relevance.

Almost one half of the volume is taken up with epigraphical studies, which is precisely the object of *Kadmos*. They cover the main writings used in the Aegean basin. The three systems used in Crete are treated. Hieroglyphic script is studied in J. J. Reich's essay (pp. 250-256), as well as in the already mentioned article by V. E. Kenna; Reich concludes that the combinations of elements from two or more signs used to form the so called «ligature», has its origins in these inscriptions, where, although not so extensively used as in the previous systems, we can still find some clear examples.

Naturally, Linear A continues to attract the investigators' attention. W. C. Brice, «The Structure of Linear A, with some Proto-Elamite and Proto-Indic comparisons» (pp. 32-44), and J. Raison, «Pour un corpus du linéaire A (II)» (pp. 246-249) discusses the different features of these writings; Raison's essay is complementary to that which was published in *Kadmos* I, pp. 49-58. The article by P. Dikaios, «More Cypro-Minoan Inscriptions from Enkomi» (pp. 80-87) is a preliminary account on three terracotta objects with characters of the Cypro-Minoan writing dating back to the second millennium, and which were discovered in the course of excavations carried out by the author between 1948 and 1958.

Some other writing systems are studied by the late W. Brandenstein in his essay «Metrisches in epichorischen Texten des grossägäischen Raumes» (pp. 23-31), where he deals in particular with the Lydian sepulchral inscriptions, the Stele of Lemnos and a fragment from the Etruscan text discovered in the linen strips of a mummy;

P. Meriggi's essay «Zum Karischen» (pp. 218-228) is a valuable piece of information on the state of present-day knowledge of the Carian language, which he analyses in connection with Séveroskin's article in *Kadmos* III, pp. 72-87. R. F. Willets (pp. 320-331) studies some interesting characteristics in Archaic Cretan writings in order to find in them any possible remainders from the dark period ranging from the end of the Bronze Age until the beginning of historical times. Very useful are his two appendices on supplementary tribal nomenclature and on the characteristics peculiar to Cretan phonology. A. G. Tsopanakis (pp. 303-319) once again substantiates the grounds for his interpretation of the rider given by Plutarch to the *Rhetra* of Lycurgus and his emendation of the corrupted passage in the *Rhetra* that immediately precedes it. (V. A. G. Tsopanakis «La Rhètre de Lycurgue, l'annexe, Tyrtée». Ἑλληνικά, παράρτημα 6, Ἑταιρεία Μακεδονικῶν Σπουδῶν, Θεσσαλονίκη 1954). What especially recommends the work of Tsopanakis is the fact that its findings make logical, and, therefore, preferable reading to the more commonly accepted ones. L. H. Jeffery (pp. 152-156) gathers a series of curious Greek theories and opinions on the origins of writing and on the letters of the alphabet. G. Neumann (pp. 229-235) studies the word γλαβρήνη which a text on the characteristics of plants, dating back to the III century A. D. perhaps, gives as the Cretan name for the *Paeonia officinalis*; Neumann is of the opinion that the author of this book has established an etymological relationship between the words γλαβρήνη and Καλαβρία which is linguistically impossible.

There are, finally, six articles devoted to Linear B. One of them, «The Beginnings of Linear B» by J. T. Hooker (pp. 132-142), discusses its possible origins, considering it as a writing system of its own right. The other articles deal with topics of a more epigraphic nature. H. Geiss (pp. 113-119), in an analysis of the Ga series of Knossos, suggests the value of a measure unit for the ideogram 123, instead of the CONDIMENTUM; K. D. Ktistopoulos (pp. 191-193) compares a series of Mycenaean anthroponyms to some others from the list offered by Ch. Virolleaud, *Le Palais Royal d'Ugarit V* (1965); Ventris' first *Work Note* is the topic of F. R. Richards, whose reflections try to elucidate what was Ventris' opinion on the complex 28-46- (*i-ja-*) in January 1951. A. J. Beattie, in his contribution from Edinburgh, is determined to keep his «advocatus diaboli» role in the decipherment. The arguments he uses are the same as always; arguments already rejected on different occasions. The aim of his work, to check the behaviours of the *75 (*we*) sign in the Ta series of Pilos, has no practical results owing to the author's strange inclination to consider a sign as an independent unity.

The volume closes with a «iocus» by D. Young (pp. 332-336), who recalls *Nestor's* section «...qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues». Of course, we are ready to laugh at his jokes on the multivalency of the signs in Linear B on condition that he withdraws his quotation from Horatius «Ridentem dicere verum quid vetat?» because there is no truth whatsoever in his jokes and his ingenious interpretations are very often untenable.

A table of contents and a list of Professor Grumach's works have been added at the end of the book.

In such a heterogeneous ensemble as this there must necessarily be both faults and qualities, but above all, there stands out a concern, an openness to all problems and opinions that make of this book a faithful exponent of the present-day trends in Aegean history and epigraphy research work, and which recalls the never ending

curiosity and profound intellectual honesty always evidenced by the much lamented Ernst Grumach.

In spite of the difficulty of its subject, the book has been most carefully edited. Here are, however, two errata that we have noticed:

p. 113.9: 80-03-68, should read 81-03-68 (*ku-pa-ro₂*).

p. 115.19: «Folgt b», should read «Folgt 2».

Salamanca

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EMILIA MASSON: *Recherches sur les plus anciens emprunts sémitiques en grec*. Etudes et commentaires LXVII. Librairie C. Klincksieck. Paris 1967. VIII + 128 pages.

Mme. Masson a fait une étude minutieuse aussi bien du point de vue philologique que du point de vue linguistique, des noms communs grecs —à l'exclusion donc des noms propres mythiques, etc., sur lesquels tant d'hypothèses sont toujours risquées— susceptibles d'avoir été empruntés à une langue sémitique et qui sont attestés du mycénien jusqu'à l'époque hellénistique, ce qui laisse volontairement de côté la masse de sémitismes apportés par la religion juive et chrétienne. Pour une douzaine d'entre eux on avait déjà signalé des données mycéniennes; d'autres posent des problèmes historiques et culturels qui ont trait au monde mycénien. Rien d'étonnant donc qu'on s'occupe de cette excellente étude dans cette revue.

D'une main sûre, et avec une prudence et une perspicacité qui lui font honneur, Mme. Masson nous conduit à travers les problèmes complexes auxquels ont affaire les recherches de vocabulaire à l'intérieur du grec. Les histoires de mots qu'elle nous offre ainsi, sont autant d'études monographiques, ce qui, allant de pair avec sa connaissance des langues sémitiques, lui permet d'arriver à des conclusions qu'on trouvera toujours plausibles. L'auteur fait le départ entre les emprunts sûrs (tels que *χιτών*, *σάκκος*, *μνᾶ*, *χρυσός*, *κύμινον*, κτλ.), classés en groupes sémantiques, et ceux qui ne sont que des hypothèses —possibles (*βάλσαμον*, *ἐλέφας*, κτλ.) ou même improbables (*κύπειρον*, κτλ.), avec des critères aussi exigeants pour la forme que pour le sens dans le domaine grec, mais sans laisser de les appliquer dans celui des langues sémitiques.

On s'étonnera peut-être de voir le nom du papyrus, *βύβλος*, rejeté dans le groupe des «mots qui ne sont pas d'origine sémitique». Mais on sera reconnaissant à l'auteur d'avoir consacré six pages (pp. 101-107) à expliquer le bien fondé de cette décision qui n'est certainement pas gratuite. En tout cas en ce qui concerne l'explication de *βύβλος* comme marchandise importée de *Βύβλος*, et de ce toponyme comme adaptation grecque du nom de la ville, *Gbl* en phénicien, le problème posé par la consonne initiale ne serait pas de nature à déconseiller à lui seul une telle interprétation. Mais les données philologiques et les considérations historiques l'emportent, et Mme. Masson a sans doute raison quand elle suggère que le nom de la plante a dû être connu des grecs bien avant celui du produit que l'on en obtenait, et que c'est celui-ci qui a donné le nom grec de la ville phénicienne, la ressemblance de la forme sémitique y aidant.

Le livre comporte, au chapitre I (pp. 11-18) un sobre et judicieux «Aperçu historique» de la question, et, aux pp. 119-125, des index qui rendent très commode son utilisation.

Salamanca

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