

EVANS' MISSING BATCH OF LINEAR B TABLETS*

SUMMARY

The principal aim of this paper is to consider the Knossos tablets KN 288-336 and KN 374-393. These tablets were excavated during the 1900 season but appear to have gone missing before they could have been given to the Heraklion Museum. Fifteen of these tablets later appeared within the Giamalakis collection.

In the *Original Handlist*, Evans included only transcriptions of these tablets, whereas the tablets are represented by drawings in *Scripta Minoa II (SM II)*. It is shown that these were not drawings of the tablets themselves but stylised sketches reconstructed from the transcriptions in the *Original Handlist*. The tablets from the Missing Batch are reviewed in the light of this new finding.

The paper also includes consideration of the other inscriptions which were excavated from the main palace building and published in *SM II*, but which are now listed as missing.

1. INTRODUCTION

The majority of Linear B tablets from the Knossos palace building were excavated by Evans and Mackenzie in the 1900, 1901 and 1902 seasons. The major tablets were described by Evans in his *Original Handlist* during the excavation and this information was subsequently published in *SM II*. During the course of an extended study of the documentation of the tablets (Firth 1998 & 2000, Firth & Melena 2000a & 2000b), it became apparent that there was a particular difficulty associated with the documentation of a batch of tablets which were excavated in 1900 and subsequently went missing. This Missing Batch of tablets were excavated in April/May 1900 from the Room of Chariot Tablets (RCT) and the Room of Column Bases (RCB). The tablets within this batch are KN 288-336 (RCT) and KN 374-393 (RCB).¹

It has not been possible to find any documentation specifically describing the loss of this batch of tablets. However, it is evident that they were not given Heraklion Museum Inventory numbers (M. Inv.), because it is possible to associate tablets with most of these numbers and there are not sufficient gaps to

* I wish to acknowledge the help given to me by Julie Clements and Sue Sherratt and for their permission to use material from Evans' *Handlist* and from John Myres' archive in the Ashmolean Museum. I would also like to thank José L. Melena for his unbounded support and encouragement.

¹ It is possible that the pieces indicated by the numbers 399-407 in the *Handlist* were also part of this batch. However, since we have no transcriptions of these pieces, they are simply noted for completeness in the final section of this paper.

allow for a missing batch of 69 tablets. In the normal course of events, the RCT and RCB tablets would have been given Museum Inventory numbers in 1904 (Firth 2000). Therefore, it seems probable that this batch went missing before that date.

It has already been noted (Firth 2000) that it is not clear where the tablets were stored following the first season. However, in Mackenzie's letter to Evans (17 Nov. 1901) he describes how, after the second season, «the inscriptions [were] all packed up by myself and deposited thus packed in a press made purposely for them». The press was then stored in Heraklion Museum² but, although the ephor, Hatzidakis, was given a key, it was on the condition that nothing should be unpacked. There is a similar reference to tablets being stored in the museum after the 1902 season, except, in this case, Mackenzie states that the boxes were visibly sealed (Mackenzie to Evans 13 August 1902).³ Thus, it is evident that there were additional precautions taken in the security of storage of the tablets following the 1901 and 1902 seasons. If we count the number of tablets which were entered by Evans in his *Handlist* but which are now missing, 64 were excavated in 1900, but only one in 1901 and three in 1902. This gives some indication of the effectiveness of the secure storage in the Heraklion Museum. The implication is that the Missing Batch of tablets were missing before the start of the 1901 season.

When Emmett Bennett went to Heraklion in 1950 to examine the Knossos tablets, prior to the publication of *Scripta Minoa II*, he found that 15 of the Missing Batch of tablets were held in a private collection (the Giamalakis collection).⁴ The obvious implication is that the Missing Batch of tablets were stolen before the start of the 1901 season and that some of these tablets were subsequently sold to private collectors on the black market.

Thus far, the story is straightforward. The Missing Batch of tablets was excavated from the RCT and RCB in 1900; Evans entered the tablets into the *Original Handlist*; the tablets went missing, probably before the start of the 1901 season; some of the tablets turned up in a private collection many years later. The difficulty arises because Evans did not include full drawings of these tablets in the *Original Handlist*. He labelled them as minor fragments and included only a transcription of the signs together with an indication of whether the piece of tablet would have been at the beginning, middle or end of the full tablet. However, in *SM II*, there are full drawings of these tablets, showing the shape of the tablet and the location of the signs on the face of the tablet.

² At that time, the museum was housed on the upper floor of the old Turkish barracks.

³ Both of these letters are quoted in full by Momigliano (1999, APPENDIX 2).

⁴ The Giamalakis tablets were first published in the inaugurating volume of *Kretika Khronika* (1947); see also Xenaki-Sakellariou (1951). The Linear B tablets in Giamalakis collection were KN 288-291, 293-294, 297-298, 303, 312, 375, 377, 380, 386, 393. These tablets were given to the Museum in 1957 and have Heraklion Museum Inventory numbers 1492-1506 and Giamalakis inventory numbers 1518-1532. There was also a Linear A tablet in this collection, KN 32 (*GORILA*, vol. 1).

This raises the question of whether the *SM II* drawings for the Missing Batch of tablets are literally drawings of the tablets or whether they are stylised sketches based on the notes in the *Original Handlist*. There are two considerations which particularly prompt that question. The first consideration is whether Evans, having decided that these were minor tablets and not worth fully sketching in the first instance, would have then taken the time to find these fragments and draw them more carefully at a later stage. The second consideration is whether Evans would have had an opportunity to find and draw the tablets before they went missing. For these reasons, it seemed natural to question the accuracy of the *SM II* drawings of the tablets in the Missing Batch. Fortunately, there is a method of responding to this question, by comparing the *SM II* sketches with those tablets that subsequently appeared in the Giamalakis collection.

2. THE GIAMALAKIS TABLETS

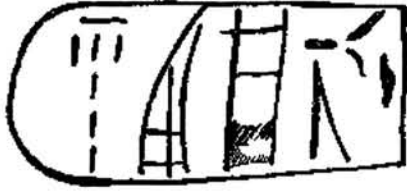
The first purpose of this section is to compare the first drawings of the Linear B tablets from the Giamalakis collection with those given for the same tablets in *SM II*. However, it is worthwhile establishing a control by noting that the *SM II* drawings for KN 281-287 compare reasonably well with the *CoMIK* drawings, both in terms of the form and position of the signs and in terms of the shape of the tablet itself.

FIGS. 1a-c are a comparison of the drawings from *SM II* and from Xenaki-Sakellariou (1951) of the ten Giamalakis tablets which originated from the RCT, and for the five tablets from the RCB. It can readily be seen that the *SM II* drawings have signs which tend to be stylised in form. The relative positions of the signs are sometimes inaccurate. The shape of the tablet is very stylised and, frequently, not accurately represented. In this way, it can be readily demonstrated that the *SM II* drawings for the Missing Batch of tablets are not reliable.

The second purpose of this section is to consider the question of whether the transcriptions in the *Original Handlist* are a good representation of the Giamalakis tablets. The *Original Handlist* pages containing the Missing Batch of tablets from the RCT and RCB are reproduced in FIGS. 2a-d & 3a-b, respectively.

The *Original Handlist* transcription of the signs are stylised to approximately the same extent as those in the *SM II* drawings. The transcribed signs on the breaks in the tablet incorporate some information about how much of the sign was actually present, as the remainder is given with dotted lines. For each of these tablets, there is a very short description, stating whether the existent group of signs was judged to have been at the beginning, near beginning, middle, towards end or end of the original tablet. (It is apparent that it was this that formed the basis for the shape tablets shown in the *SM II* drawings of these tablets.) These short descriptions are accurate, although limited.

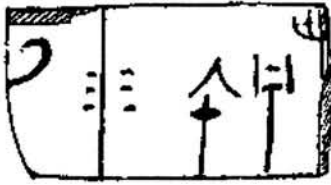
Thus, from this section we can conclude that we should not put any weight on the *SM II* drawings for the Missing Batch of tablets. Instead, we should give



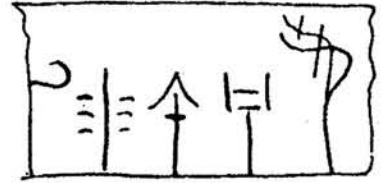
1518



293 U r 16



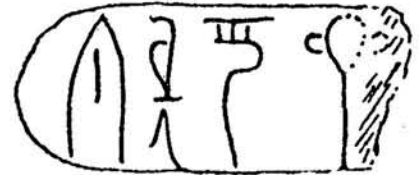
1520



380 J b 20



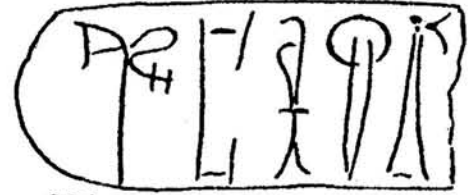
1522



294 X a 23



1524



291 X a 95



1526



375 J b 17

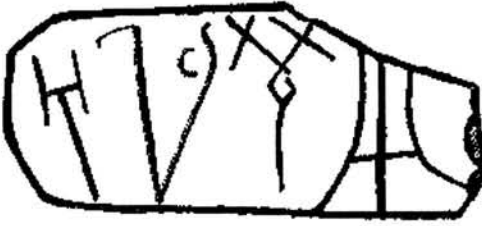


1528

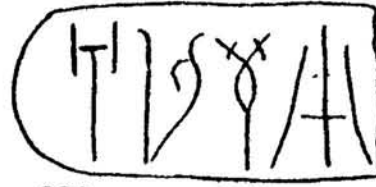


288 X a 149

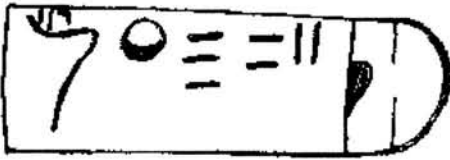
Figure 1a: *The Giamalakis tablets (left) compared with the SM II drawings (continued).*



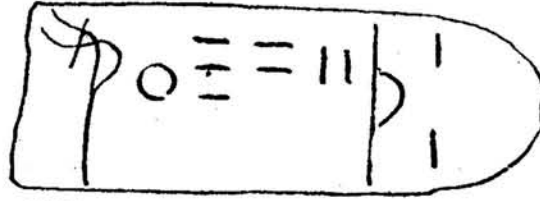
I 519



289 X a 56



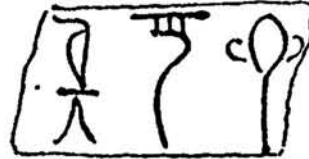
I 521



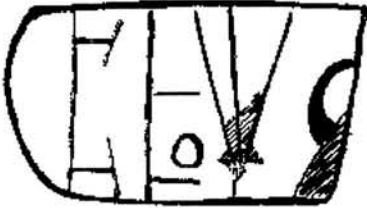
377 J b 41



I 523



303 X c 37



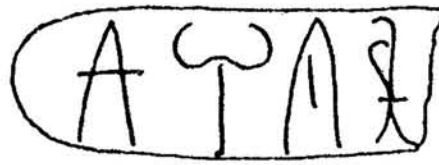
I 525



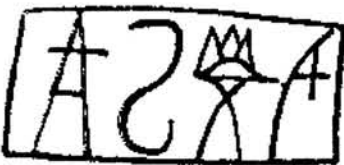
298 X a 25



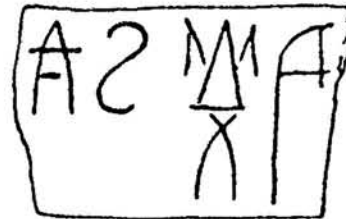
I 527



297 X a 12

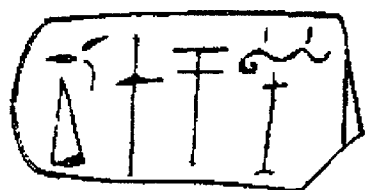


I 529

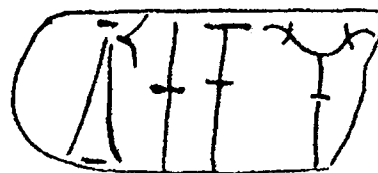


312 X b 02

Figure 1b: The Giamalakis tablets (left) compared with the SM II drawings (continued).



I 530



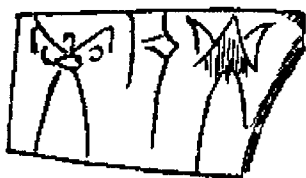
290 X a 102



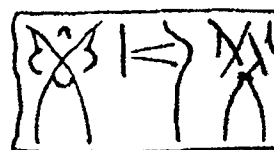
I 532



386 X a 87



I 531



393 X c 80

Figure 1c: *The Giamalakis tablets (left) compared with the SM II drawings (continuation).*

attention to the *Original Handlist* transcriptions of signs. These contain less information than we would wish to have, however, the quality of the information is generally reliable, although we can expect that the transcriptions of some of the signs will be stylised.

It is worthwhile briefly considering who re-constructed the *SM II* drawings of the Missing Batch of tablets from the notes in the *Original Handlist*. There are two obvious possibilities. The first is Evans himself and the second is Miss Potter, who is credited in *SM II* for drawing some of the tablets. (It is known, for example, from papers in the John Myres' archive, that Miss Potter made drawings based on photographs of the tablets that were in the British School at Athens in 1948; see Firth & Melena 2000a.). There are a number of indications which suggest that the drawings of the Missing Tablets were done by Evans himself. Firstly, the drafts of the *SM II* drawings are included in *Handlist* along with drafts for many other drawings of tablets (but excluding the *BSA* tablets, which are not in the *Handlist* or more generally, in the Myres' archive). A few of these draft drawings have numbers written by them which closely resembles the hand-writing of Evans. There are other examples of missing tablets without drawings (and the text of these tablets are given in *CoMIK* using the Minoan font, e.g. Df 1591, L 1599, Ak 1807). However, in these cases, *SM II* simply gives the information that was available in Evans' papers and does not construct

Other Numbered Fragments from 'Chariot Tablet Room'

348 288	Beginning: L A A Z /	288
349 289	Beginning: T V X A /	289
350 290	Beginning: Δ T T T /	290
351 291	Beginning: P C Z P Δ /	291
352 292	Beginning: ≠ A T X /	292
353 293	Beginning: T A B Δ /	293
354 294	Beginning: A X P Y /	294
355 295	Beginning: A Y A X /	297
356 296	end Beginning: M A P I /	295
357 297	Beginning: ⊖ Y A /	296
358	end P A	
358 298	Beginning: C L V G /	298
359 299	Beginning: A P X Z P /	299
300 300	Beginning: H P L /	300

Figure 2a: The Original Handlist. Other Numbered Fragments from 'Chariot Tablet Room' (continued).

- 361 Beginning: $M\bar{I}^{\text{III}}/$ 301
- 362 Beginning: $A\bar{I}^{\text{I}}\Psi\bar{\Psi}/$ 302
- 363 Near beginning: $\bar{A}\bar{\Psi}\bar{\Psi}/$ 303
- 364 Near beginning: $A\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{\Psi}/$ 304
- 365 Towards end: $/\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{\Psi}\bar{I}/$ 305
- 366 — — $/\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{A}/$ 306
- 367 Beginning: $\bar{\Psi}\bar{\Psi}/$ 307
- 368 Beginning: $\bar{I}\bar{\Psi}/$ 308
- 369 $/\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}/$ 309
- 370 Near beginning: $/\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{\Psi}\bar{I}\bar{I}/$ 310
- 371 ~~Near beginning~~
in of inscription: $\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}$
 $\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}$
 $\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}\bar{I}$ 311
- 372 $/\bar{A}\bar{I}\bar{A}\bar{I}/$ 312

Figure 2b: The Original Handlist. Other Numbered Fragments from 'Chariot Tablet Room' (continued).

- 373
313 ✓ Beginning : A Z H /
on back H /
- 374
314 ✓ Beginning : T Y A B /
- 375
315 ✓ Beginning : H A B Y /
- 376
316 ✓ Beginning : T X L A /
- 377
317 ✓ Beginning : A C B /
on back H /
- 378
318 ✓ end : / A A C
- 379
319 ✓ Beginning : H R A /
- 380
320 ✓ Middle : / H T H /
- 381
321 ✓ Middle : / A B A /
- ~~381~~
322 ✓ Near beginning : / A Y P /
- 382
323 ✓ Middle : / H T Z Z /
- 383
324 ✓ Beginning : H C A /

Figure 2c: The Original Handlist. Other Numbered Fragments from 'Chariot Tablet Room' (continued).

- 324 Beginning: 2 𐎠 /
325
- 325 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
326
- 326 Near beginning: / 𐎠 𐎠 /
327
- 327 Beginning: A 𐎠 𐎠 /
328
- 328 End: 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
329
- 329 Beginning: 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
330
- 330 Beginning: 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
331
- 331 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
332
- 332 Beginning: 𐎠 𐎠 /
333
- 333 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
334
- 334 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
335
- 335 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /
336
- 336 Middle: / 𐎠 𐎠 𐎠 /

Figure 2d: The Original Handlist. Other Numbered Fragments from 'Chariot Tablet Room' (continuation).

*Minor Inscribed Fragments from
Room of Column bases. "continued".*

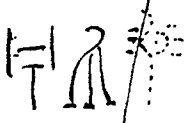
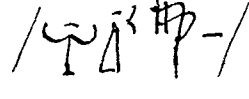

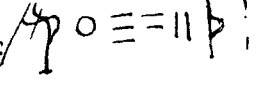
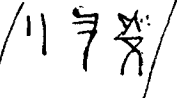

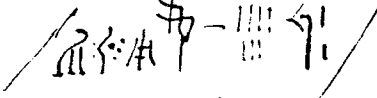

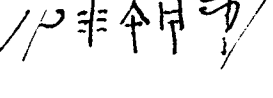

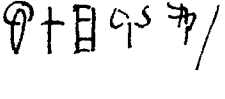
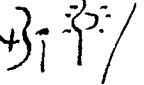
- 374 ~~432~~ Beginning : 
- 375 ~~433~~ Near end : 
- 376 ~~434~~ Central part : 
- 377 ~~435~~ End : 
- 378 ~~436~~ Near middle 
- 379 ~~437~~ Initial : 
- 380 ~~438~~ Towards end : 
Second sign apparently = 
- 381 ~~439~~ Near middle : 
- 382 ~~440~~ Near beginning : 
- 383 ~~441~~ Beginning : 
- 384 ~~442~~ Beginning : 

Figure 3a: The Original Handlist. *Minor Inscribed Fragments from Room of Column bases (continued).*

- 385 ~~A43~~ Near beginning : / 𐎧 𐎠 𐎡 𐎢 𐎣 𐎤 /
- 386 ~~A44~~ Beginning : 𐎥 𐎦 𐎧 /
- 387 ~~A45~~ Beginning : 𐎨 𐎩 𐎪 /
- 388 ~~A46~~ Near beginning : / 𐎫 𐎬 /
- 389 ~~A47~~ Near middle : / 𐎭 𐎮 𐎯 /
- 390 ~~A48~~ Beginning : 𐎰 𐎱 /
- 391 ~~A49~~ Near middle : / 𐎲 𐎳 ? /
- 392 ~~A50~~ Beginning A 𐎴 𐎵 /
- ~~393~~ ~~A51~~ Near middle / 𐎶 𐎷 𐎸 𐎹 = /
- ~~394~~ ~~A52~~ Beginning : 𐎺 𐎻 𐎼 /
- 395 ~~A53~~ Near beginning / 𐎽 𐎾 𐎿 /

Figure 3b: The Original Handlist. Minor Inscribed Fragments from Room of Column bases (continuation).

stylised drawings. Thus, it does not appear to have been a general policy of John L. Myres, as editor of *SM II*, to reconstruct drawings of missing tablets. Finally, Miss Potter's sketches of the M-series tablets from the *BSA* include shading, which is not present on the drawings of the Missing Batch of tablets. Thus, it is probable that Evans re-constructed the *SM II* drawings for the Missing Batch of tablets.

3. ARE ALL THE 'MISSING TABLETS' MISSING?

It is worthwhile asking the question whether all of the remaining Missing Batch of tablets are actually missing or whether some of them (or some parts of them) might be listed amongst the tablet fragments recorded in *KT5* and *CoMIK*.

There is one example already recorded of a tablet from the 'Missing Batch' being listed amongst the fragments. Xd 7568 has been identified as <315> since the publication of *KT1*. However, it should be noted that there are some difficulties with this identification:

1. the Evans drawing shows a single horizontal stroke in the *a* sign, whereas 7568 has two horizontal strokes.
2. the Evans drawing has no base-line on the *pi* sign, whereas the tablet has a base-line on this sign.
3. the Evans drawing implies that all the vertical stroke of the *re* sign is present, whereas 7568 does not have the vertical stroke in its top right hand corner.

These discrepancies could simply be a result of Evans' use of stylised transcription of the signs. It would be possible to confirm the identification of 7568 with 315 if there were traces of Evans' inked numbering on tablet 7568, as this would imply that it was a tablet that had been included in the *Handlist* (and then inadvertently been placed in the wrong tray with the unrecorded minor fragments). However, much of Evans' inked numbering has worn off the tablets in the course of the intervening hundred years and therefore absence of the numbering would not imply that 7568 was definitely not 315.

There is also a second example which has been recorded, however, this is a piece that was listed midst the Missing Batch of tablets in the *Original Handlist* but was excluded from the listings in *SM II*. ON 436 = RN 378 is included in the *Original Handlist* and has been identified as Fh 5501 (Firth 1998).

The following are additional possible examples. In each case, it would be desirable to seek confirmation by looking for evidence of traces of Evans' inked numbering on the tablets.

It seems probable that <374> can be identified as Fh 5444 + FRR(3). Both of these tablets are recorded as having the same text, *a-pu-do*[, with the *do* sign being represented by three 'rays' only. Evans describes 374 as being at the beginning of the tablet, however, this is unlikely since none of the Fh-series tablets begin with the word, *a-pu-do-si*. Nevertheless, it is possible that Evans judged that the piece 5444 was at the beginning of a tablet, during the process of rapidly recording the minor fragments in the *Original Handlist*. If this were correct, it would imply that 5444 was inadvertently placed into the wrong tray and subsequently suffered an intra-tray break into four pieces, but has now been restored to the form in which it was excavated.

It is conceivable that Xd 7596 could be part of <302>. This would require that KN 302 had also been placed in the wrong tray and then subsequently suffered an intra-tray break but in this case, the pieces have not been re-joined. (If the pieces were not available to reconstruct 7596 to the form implied by Evans description of 302, then it would tend to imply that 7596 is not <302>.)

Xd 313. It is suggested in *KTT Color* that this piece could have joined with 217 to form the man's name, *e-we-wa-ta*, on the *recto* and a partially written *a-mi-ni-si-jo* on the *verso*. However, on the information available, 313 could equally join with 7782, forming the same words. It could also join with 7772, if one were allowed to postulate the existence of a bridging fragment which contained the remainder of the *ta* on the *recto* and *mi* on the *verso*, of which there are traces on 7772. This would again form the same words.

Xd 314. The *Handlist* sketch indicates that the lower part of the *ja* sign was missing.

Vc(1) 317. This is conventionally interpreted as *ti-ma 1*, on *recto*, and therefore classified as Vc(1). However, there is some difficulty with this, because there is, *a*[, on the *verso*. This is indicative of the opening sign of *a-mi-ni-si-jo*, as appears on the *recto* of a number of Sc-series tablets. From the *Original Handlist* sketch, it is possible that the mark, that has been interpreted as a '1', is actually the remains of a sign, the lower part of which has been lost due to a break. If this were the case, then 317 could be a member of the Sc-series. One could tentatively suggest a possible join with Sc 7772, forming a mans' name, *ti-ma-ta*, on the *recto* and *a-mi-ni-si-jo* on the *verso* (José Melena, priv. comm.).

Xd 324. The *KT5* and *CoMIK* reading of this tablet is *a-ta-wo-ne* [. It has been suggested (José Melena, priv. comm.) that this piece could possibly have been joined to Vc 7842, giving the mans' name, *a-ta-wo-ne-u* (cf. *e-ta-wo-ne-u*).

The numbering of tablets 327 and 328 have become interchanged relative to the numbers marked on the *Original Handlist*.

Xd 332. The *Original Handlist* sketch implies that the upper markings on the *wo* sign were missing.

Xd 334. The *Original Handlist* sketch implies that the lower part of the *ri* sign was missing.

Xd 336. It seems probable that the break at the left of this piece was along the vertical line of the *pe* sign. There is a slight trace indicated to the right of the *ro* sign.

4.2. Reviewing the Missing Tablets from the RCB

Fh 378. The *Original Handlist* sketch shows that the initial reading had less of the OLE sign than appeared in the *SM II* drawing. There is a problem with the *Original Handlist* signs in that the result, *ma-qa-to* OLE[, although clearly written, is not a plausible reading. It has been suggested that the signs should more correctly have been written as,]*ma to-qa* OLE[(José Melena, priv. comm.).

Fh 379. Evans notes the unusual form of the *do* sign. It is possible that 379 and 381 could join with each other to form

Fh 379 + 381 (141??)
]po-ro-ko-wa , a-pu-do-si OLE 17 s 2[

Fh 382. The *ne* sign in the *Original Handlist* is more clearly written than that in the *SM II* drawing (which could almost be taken as *ru*).

Fh 383 and 385. There is a suggestion (José Melena, priv. comm.) that these two pieces possibly each included only part of the *do* sign and originally would have been joined, reading *ku-do-ni-ja*. There is no indication in the *Original Handlist* sketches that the *do* signs were partial, for either 383 or 385. Furthermore, it is indicated that 385 represents the beginning of a tablet, although in this case, this is most unlikely as the resulting reading is not plausible. (This is noted in *CoMIK*, where the text is described as suspect, although this comment has subsequently been omitted from *KT5* and *KTT Color*.)

Fh 384. The *Original Handlist* sketch shows the signs in the same form as the *SM II* drawing, though it is probable that the tablet broke along the vertical stem of the *re*. It has been suggested (José Melena, priv. comm.) that the reading would be significantly more plausible if the initial sign was regarded as uncertain but read as 'o' rather than 're', giving,

Fh 384 (141??)
]o-pi ru-nu-we[

In *KTT Color*, it is suggested that 389 could be part of 384, however, this is judged to be unlikely, since there was no evidence that Evans was spending sufficient time to consider joining these pieces, which he simply regarded as minor fragments.

Fh 386. *KTT Color* suggests that, 'Left bottom part of *-we* drawn by Evans and now missing'. In practice, the *Original Handlist* drawing does not include the left bottom part of *-we*; this feature was part of the reconstructed drawing used in *SM II*.

ON 447 = RN 389. This piece was not included in *SM II* and was noted as an unpublished item by the author (Firth 1998, SECTION 8). It is assumed that this piece went missing along with the other tablets in this batch.

Fh 388. The discussion of this piece begins with a digression on the current reading of Fh 5434, which is

to-]sø / a-pu-do-si OLE[

It is suggested that there is insufficient basis for the extrapolation of the reading at the beginning of the tablet and that Fh 5434 should more correctly be read as

]sø / a-pu-do-si OLE[

It is then suggested that 388 and 5434 could originally have been part of the same tablet. If this were the case, then it would have had a reading,

Fh 388 + 5434 (141)

tu-ri-so / a-pu-do-si OLE[

(cf. Fh 340 and 349 which have a similar form of wording.)

Fh 391. The *Original Handlist* sketch shows the same signs as included in the *SM II* drawing. Therefore, this does not give support to the suggestion in *CoMIK* that reading should be emended to,]*to-ro-qa* OLE 20 [. Subsequently, in *KT5* and *KTT Color*, it has been suggested that the tablet should be read as,]*ro to-qa*

OLE 20. This would be more consistent with the reading of the *Original Handlist* sketches.

5. CONSIDERING THE OTHER SM II MISSING TABLETS

It was noted above that there were a total of 64 pieces currently missing from the 1900 excavation. The Missing Batch currently accounts for 54 of this number. It is worthwhile reviewing the other tablets which were excavated in 1900-1902 and which are currently listed as missing.⁵

5.1. *Missing tablets from the 1900 season*

Fs 32. This tablet was drawn into the *Handlist* but not photographed for SM II. It has been suggested by Alice Kober that <32> joins with Fp 18 and, although this cannot be proved in the absence of the tablet, it is judged that this is very probably correct.

Fp(1) 18 + 32 (138)

.1 da-da-re-jo-de , / ka-ra-e-ri-jo , me[-no
.2]-jo s 1 pa-si-te-o-i s 1[

The following discussion is an extract from a note by Tom Palaima⁶:

«Kober in one of her letters to Myres suggests that what is now considered Fs <32> (unassigned to hand) be joined to what is now Fp 18 and read as *da-da-re-jo-de*. There is nothing about the text of Fs <32> that dictates that it must be an Fs text. And as it exists only in drawing, we might wonder. Very suspicious is that the signs in the drawing hug the lat. sup. which of course, they would do if the signs were from a line .1 on a two-line tablet, but not, if as suggested in the drawing, they belong to a one-line tablet. The hands are close (138 and 139 I believe) and the 3 signs on Fs <32> fairly unrevealing.

This would make real sense of the joined text in terms of Fp tablets referring to the month of *ka-ra-e-ri-jo*. Notice on Fp 1 for *de-u-ki-jo-jo me-no* what is listed. Then see that Fp 6 gives us *pa-si-te-o-i* and *qe-ra-si-ja* (Fp 1 lls. 5-6), Fp 7 gives us *di-ka-ta-de* (Fp 1 line 2 in my estimation), Fp 15 gives us *56-*ti* and *pa-si-te-o-i* (no correspondence in Fp 1). But then Fp 18 if so joined to Fs <32> would give us *da-da-re-jo-de* and a deity (perhaps *qe-ra-si-jo?* or *pa-ja-ni-jo?*) and *pa-si-te-o-i* (Fp 1 line .3). That is we would have lls. 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Fp 1 covered for the month of *ka-ra-e-ri-jo* in Hand 138! It is even possible that the *pa-si-te-o-i* in Fp 1.5 get such a large and disproportionate amount in comparison with the other *pa-si-te-o-i* references (in comparison with their parallel deities), because one has merged two or three sets of s 1 offerings corresponding to Fp 6, 18 and 15.»

Sc 246. This tablet was drawn into the *Handlist* and photographed for SM II (PLATE 29). It was seen by Bennett in 1950 and he noted that it had M. Inv. 260

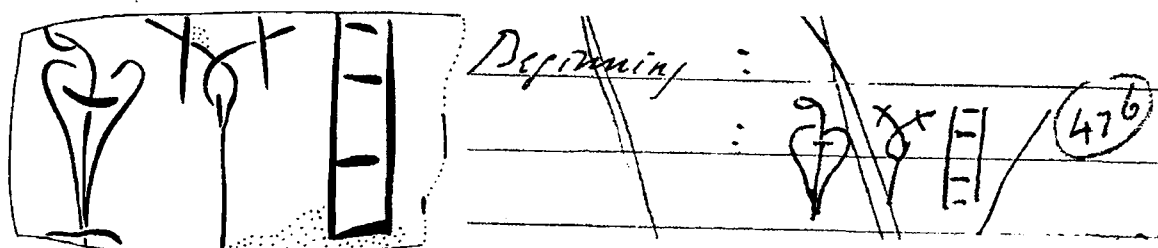
⁵ The missing tablets from the later seasons, excavated from the Arsenal and Little Palace, are discussed by Firth & Melena (2000a).

⁶ I would like to thank Tom Palaima for giving permission to publish this extract.

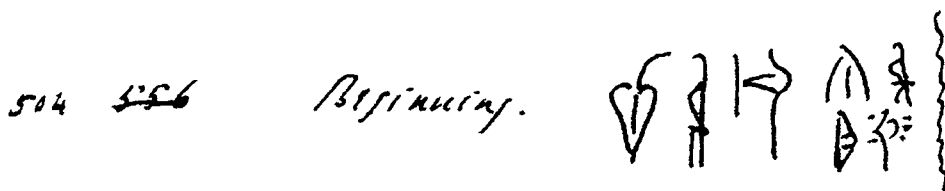
and an Evans' Inked Number of 248 in red ink. It was not photographed by Bennett in 1954 or by E. Sittig (in summer of 1952). It was noted as missing in *KT3* (1964) and by Mavriyannaki (1970).⁷ It is tempting to suggest that the tablet was not actually seen by Bennett in 1950; however, the Inked Number is correct, according to the *Handlist*, and the M. Inv. is unique to Sc 246. This implies that Sc 246 went missing between 1950 and 1952.

KN 399-407. These do not appear as drawings in the *Handlist*. There is simply the statement, in ink, 'Minor fragments', followed by a later remark, in red pencil, 'no drawings' (Firth 1998).

X 476. This tablet is not now listed as missing, however, in the *KT4* concordance, it was ambiguously listed as <476> X 7633. In the *KT5* and *KTT* Color concordances it is included only as (476), with no further information. In the more recently published concordance in *CoMIK*, it is given as [476] X 7633. The problem arises because the drawing in *SM II* shows a rounded left end to the tablet, whereas the left end of 7633 has either been 'squared off' or possibly even cut. In practice, the *SM II* drawing is a stylised reconstruction, in the same way as those described above for the Missing Batch from the *RCT* and *RCB*. The drawing in the *Original Handlist*, shown below, is consistent with the identification of 476 as being the same piece as 7633 (*CoMIK* drawing is given below).



In particular, in the two cases, the *tu* sign has left leaning 'stalk' with a 'flag'. These are both unusual features and tend to confirm the identity of 476 = 7633.



X 506 and Ak(2) 1807 (= 509bis). Both of these pieces were from Magazine VIII. There is a transcription of 506 in the *Original Handlist*, shown below.

On the basis of the current work, it is suggested that this transcription should be regarded as definitive (rather than the stylised drawing of the tablet,

⁷ Mavriyannaki suggests that Sc 246 might have fragmented and gives a drawing of a piece from *agrapha* drawer ψ , which might represent part of 246. In practice, the piece drawn is X 8297 (= 5433) which is not a good match with the *SM II* photograph of 246 and is probably from the *RCB* rather than the *RCT*. The M. Inv. 762 currently given for Sc 246 in *KTT Color* is almost certainly an error.

reproduced in *SM II* and *CoMIK*). The *Handlist* gives only a sketch for 509bis and this was represented in *SM II* using the Minoan font; however, the latter contained errors. The sketch from the *Handlist* was reproduced following TABLE F.iii of the recent study of Find-places (Firth 1998). It is interesting to note that all the pieces, from Magazine VIII, with *Original Handlist* Numbers 555 to 563 (with the exception of ON 556 = <506> and ON 561 = <509bis>) were found within the 7000-series (KN 7000-8075). However, 506 and 509bis are not within the 7000-series and are still missing.

Ak(2) 631 was also found in Magazine VIII. The drawing of this tablet is in the *Handlist* but it was not photographed for *SM II*. It has been suggested (José Melena, priv. comm.) that this tablet is the same as Ak <6048>. <6048> was seen and roughly sketched by Bennett in 1950. It was included at the end of his list, along with 6047. Both pieces were labelled, 'Crumbs numbered'. The fact that they were numbered implies that they were stored by Evans amongst his *Handlist* inscriptions. However, the fact that Bennett left them until the end of the list, implies they were not *Handlist* pieces in prime condition. In the case of <6048>, Bennett was not able to read the Museum Inventory number. <6048> contains only a partial text, however, the signs which are indicated in Bennett's sketch can be interpreted as some of those present on <631> and in the same relative locations (in so far as can be ascertained from Bennett's sketch). Melena's suggestion is that the tablet became progressively damaged, so that when Bennett saw it in 1950, he was not able to recognise it as <631>. Similarly, <6048> is taken to be missing because, although it may not be missing, the text has worn to an extent that it has become unrecognisable (Firth and Melena 2000c).

Gg 706 was also found in Magazine VIII. There is a photograph of this tablet in *SM II* (PLATE 37).

X 1027 and X 1033 were found in the North Entrance Passage. In both cases, they were given in the *Original Handlist* as transcriptions (shown below), which were later converted into stylised drawings.

X 1027



X 1033



The transcription of 1027 would allow an improvement in the reading,

- .a te-re[
- .b ko-no-si-ja , / ra-wa-ke[
 - .a te-ru[not excluded, but unlikely.

V 1631 and C 1632 do not appear in the *Handlist* but their photographs are included in *SM II* (PLATE 62). (In the photograph, 1632 appears to be very fragile and it may have subsequently crumbled to pieces.)

5.2. Missing tablet from the 1901 season

X 748 was found under the blocked doorway near Throne Room (find-place H5). There is a drawing in the *Handlist*.

5.3. Missing tablets from the 1902 season

Dv 1416 was found in the East-West Corridor. There was a transcription in the *Original Handlist*, as follows,

1409 5 + 9 1/2 Beginning. (end of group)

The words, 'End of group', implies that there was space after the last sign, so that Evans considered that the word was complete. This transcription was reconstructed as a stylised drawing, given in *SM II* and *CoMIK*, but there is not a photograph in *SM II*. The transcription appears on the pages of uncut *Handlist* (for a brief description of these pages see Firth 1998, SECTION 13.1.1). Many of the tablets that surround it in this list have Heraklion Museum inventory numbers in the range, 975-1014 (i.e. Batch S10; see Firth 2000). It has already been suggested that 1416 is probably 5049, if one allows for the fragmentation of 1416 during storage (José L. Melena, *Minos* 31-32, p. 463). The fact that 5049 has an inventory number of 1014 confirms this suggestion.

X 1474 was also from the East-West Corridor and included, as a transcription, on the pages of uncut *Handlist*,

1466 ≠ Ψ † / beginning.

It is represented in *SM II* by a stylised drawing but there is not a photograph.⁸ It has been suggested (José L. Melena, priv. comm.) that 1474 is actually 5048. The fact that 5048 has a museum inventory number of 1014 confirms this suggestion (cf. discussion for Dv 1416).

⁸ In 1950, Bennett mistook this tablet for 1539, as both have the reading, *pa-i-to*]. His notes imply that he saw a tablet with this reading and that it had a M. Inv. 708. He assumed that this tablet was 1474. However, since 1474 was subsequently taken to be missing and 1539 has a M. Inv. 708, it is clear that the tablet that Bennett thought was 1474 was actually 1539.

Df 1591 was again found in the East-West Corridor. The *Handlist* sketch is now missing and all the information on this piece is taken from Myres' notes (which were based in turn on Evans' notes). It is suggested here that <1591> is 5078, for the following reasons. The 1591 drawing in Myres' notes (as represented in *KT5*) has

- .A]pe OVIS^m 50 OVIS^f 8
 .B] vac.

whereas, 5078 has the reading,

- .A]pe OVIS^m 58
 .B] vac.

The discrepancy is the addition of an OVIS^f sign. It is necessary, at this stage, to consider the detail of Myres' notes. In these notes, Myres is progressively trying to organise the readings of the Knossos tablets which Evans recorded but did not include in his *Handlist*. In the earliest section of Myres' notes (*Notebook 3*), he shows the reading without the OVIS^f but with a row of dots in that position:

another [1371]]pe ≡ ... ^{||||} 2) blank.

On a later page in the same notes, he shows OVIS^f over-written with five diagonal lines. (These could either be taken to represent that the sign was written in error and was being crossed out or that the reading of the sign was uncertain.)

1591 | 1371 | broken to right: 1)]pe ≡ ~~pe~~ ^{||||} 2) blank.

In the next section of the notes, when the reading is copied into Myres' new list, the OVIS^f appears as an insertion above the line (suggesting that Myres himself was unsure whether or not the OVIS^f should be present).

1591 C: 2 lines 1)]pe ≡ ^{pe} ^{||||} 2) blank

Myres sent two copies of his lists to Alice Kober. The first of these has the reading, as given above for 1591, with OVIS^f as part of the text. In the revised list sent to Alice Kober, the number of OVIS^f had increased to 18. However, in the listing which includes instructions to the printer (Myres' *File 6*), the number of OVIS^f remains at 8. There is a proof version of *SM II* in the Ashmolean and, for 1591, this has a reading of OVIS^m 6 (in a 4, 2 arrangement) and OVIS^f 18. In the published version of *SM II*, the reading of 1591 is given as OVIS^m 6 (in the usual 3, 3 arrangement) and OVIS^f 18. Within the current publications, *CoMIK* reproduces the reading given in *SM II*, whereas *KT5* reproduces the reading given in Myres' notes to the publisher. The above description of the trail through Myres' notes shows that he did not give the closest attention to all of the details

of the material he was publishing in *SM II*.⁹ On this basis, the most accurate readings are probably the earlier ones in his notes and this matches 5078 if we accept that the *ovis*^f was a transcription error (by either Evans or Myres) that was being deleted.

5.4. Other missing *SM II* inscriptions

<1599> is L 1616 (Firth & Melena 2000a).

Ws 1708 is a sealing, found in the Corridor of Sword Tablets. Evans drew a sketch in his notes (reproduced by Popham & Gill 1995 as PLATE 45) and there is a photograph in *SM II* (PLATE 88).

<1713>. In the *KT5* Concordance this number has a single asterisk, suggesting, 'that a tablet existed once under this number, but that we have no indication about its text (possibly, but not necessarily lost)'. In fact, Myres gave this number to a sealing, which he described in his *Notebook 3* as 'three Minoan body shields: countermarked [drawing of *ru* sign]', together with an incorrect reference to *PoM* iv. Gill (1966) includes it as sealing R104, with the Myres' number of 1713, and notes that it was found in the Queen's Megaron. It is also included by Popham & Gill (1995) and the relevant page of Evans' notes is reproduced in that paper as PLATE 44. This sealing is missing, however, the text should now be recorded as known.

<2136>. In the *KT5* Concordance this number also has a single asterisk. However, in this case the number was not used (Firth & Melena 2000a) and so it should, more correctly, have a double asterisk.

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⁹ This was also apparent from the extensive list of corrections to *SM II* that were circulated by Emmett Bennett, shortly after its publication.

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