

VASSILIS L. ARAVANTINOS, LOUIS GODART, ANNA SACCONI, *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III. Corpus des documents d'archives en linéaire B de Thèbes* (1-433). Pisa/Rome, Istituti Editoriali e Poligrafici Internazionali 2002, pp. 323. ISBN 88-8147-301-1. <http://www.iepi.it>

Reconstructing the Mycenaean past of the Kadmeia acropolis at Thebes is a challenge, due to the exceptionally rich finds that contradict the fragmentary architectural remains of the Mycenaean period spread all over the acropolis. The discovery of more than two hundred new Linear B tablets between 1993 and 1995 at the heart of the modern town, enlarged the need for a corpus of all Linear B texts uncovered at various plots at Thebes.

The volume *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III* is the third in a series of three volumes dealing with the Linear B archive of the Mycenaean palace at Thebes. It includes all the Linear B texts uncovered in Thebes until February 2002. Volume I has already been published in 2001 containing all the new Linear B texts uncovered in Pelopidou Street between 1993 and 1995 and Volume II is in preparation and will contain the archaeological context of the tablets uncovered at Pelopidou Street.

The publication team consisting of V. Aravantinos, L. Godart and A. Sacconi managed to publish in this corpus all the tablets and the inscribed sealings uncovered at Thebes from 1964 until 2002.

In the introduction of Volume III the writers are firstly dealing with the history of the discovery of Linear B texts of various types at Thebes:

a. In 1921 A. Keramopoullos uncovered at the so-called House of Kadmos 68 inscribed stirrup-jars. These have been studied and published in 1975 by A. Sacconi. The first evidence for the use of Linear B script at Thebes is not included in Volume III, as it does not belong to the class of the archival documents.

b. In 1964 E. Touloupa and N. Platon uncovered in the Pavlogiannopoulou plot, right next to Pelopidou Street, 24 fragments of palm-leaf shaped Linear B tablets classified as the Ug series. The whole plot became known in the bibliography as the Arsenal. The tablets from the Arsenal are presented as numbers 1-24 in the corpus.

c. In 1970 T. Spyropoulos conducted a supplementary excavation at the Arsenal and brought to light three new fragments of tablets (presented as numbers 41-43 in the corpus). In the same year during excavation works in the plot between Epameinonda and Dimokritou Street 16 new palm-leaf shaped documents were uncovered and classified as the Of series (numbers 25-40 in the corpus).

d. In 1982 C. Piteros uncovered in a small room 60 clay sealings, 56 of which were inscribed. The sealings were classified as Wu series and are presented in the corpus as numbers 44-99.

e. In 1993 during the opening of trenches by the Theban Public Water and Sewage Company in Pelopidou Street the first page-shaped Linear B tablet was uncovered. During the following two years V. Aravantinos and his team uncovered more than 200 page and palm-leaf shaped documents, which were classified in eleven series (Av, Ev, Fq, Gf, Gp, Ka, Oh, Uo, V, X). The texts from Pelopidou Street and the fragments are presented as numbers 100-420 in the corpus. In addition, supplementary works at the Arsenal brought to light two tablets classified in series Lf and Ft.

f. In 1996 the Ephorate of Thebes and V. Aravantinos conducted supplementary works at the so-called Treasury Room and uncovered three inscribed sealings (numbers 429-431 in the corpus) and a page-shaped tablet (number 432 in the corpus). In the same year works at Haghion Apostolon Street to the northwestern edge of the acropolis brought to light one more tablet (number 433 in the corpus).

Quite useful is the very first plan of Volume III presenting the Kadmeian acropolis with the plots where parts of the Mycenaean palace and its dependencies have been uncovered throughout the 20th century. Very useful also are the excavation plans of the

recent works at the Arsenal, the Treasury Room and Haghion Apostolon Street, which are presented for the first time in this volume.

The works conducted by the Ephorate of Thebes in the Arsenal are of major importance, as they have brought to light two new documents along with pottery dated to the end of the 13th century B.C. (LH III B2). This fact had as a consequence the re-study of the pottery uncovered by N. Platon and E. Touloupa in 1964 at the Arsenal along with series Ug and led to the conclusion that all texts from the Arsenal, old and new ones, belong to the destruction layer of the nearby Pelopidou Street and are dated at the end of the 13th century B.C. Both architectural remains from the Arsenal and Pelopidou Street have the same orientation and belong to the same building complex destroyed by fire at the end of the LH III B2 period.

The writers of Volume III after making special reference to the contexts of the inscribed documents from various places of the Kadmeian acropolis, come to the conclusion that the history of Linear B at Thebes has two major chronological phases. To the first one (LH III B1) are dated the 56 inscribed sealings uncovered by Piteros in 1982, whereas to the second one (LH III B2) are dated the tablets from Pelopidou Street, the tablets and the inscribed sealings from the Arsenal, the inscribed sealings and the tablets from the Treasury as well as the tablets from Epameinonda Street.

The introduction of Volume III also contains a detailed reference to the up-to-day publication efforts of the Theban texts:

1. The Ug documents uncovered in 1964 in the Arsenal were firstly published by J. Chadwick in *Minos* 10 (1970). Shortly after the publication J.-P. Olivier published more fragments in the *Athens Annals of Archaeology* 4 (1971). The three texts uncovered during the supplementary works in 1970 were published by T. Spyropoulos and J. Chadwick in *Minos Supl.* (1975). The new tablets uncovered by V. Aravantinos in 1994 were presented in *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée I*. More fragments of the Ug series are published for the first time in *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III*.

2. The Of documents from Epameinonda Street were published in 1975 by T. Spyropoulos and J. Chadwick. Both Ug and Of series were published along with their photographs and transliteration at Rome in 1978 by L. Godart and A. Sacconi.

3. The sealings were presented by V. Aravantinos in a series of studies and were published in 1990 by C. Piteros, J.-P. Olivier and J. L. Melena. All the texts from Thebes known up to 1982 were published in 1991 by J.-P. Olivier and J. L. Melena in *TITHEMY*, a volume that contained the Linear B texts from Mycenae, Tiryns and Thebes.

4. The tablets from Pelopidou Street were published in *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée I* (2001). In the third volume for the first time are presented the fragments from Pelopidou Street. In addition, *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III* contains the recently found sealings and the tablet from the Treasury Room as well as the tablet from Haghion Apostolon Street.

The presentation for the first time in the corpus of the Theban texts of the documents uncovered in 1996 along with their transliteration, photo and excavation plan is worth mentioning. It proves the systematic work being conducted by the staff of the Museum of Thebes, which deals with the conservation, drawing and recording of the material found. This detailed work at the Ephorate is accompanied by a specialized publication and the result given to the international community is of exceptional quality taking into consideration the relatively small period of time and the limited funding of the Ephorate.

The main part of *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III* consists of the 433 Linear B texts uncovered at Thebes until 2002. The texts are presented in the following order: the Ug series from the Arsenal, the Of series from Epameinonda Street, more Ug documents from the Arsenal, the Wu series (sealings), the Av, Ev, Fq, Ft, Gf, Gp, Ka, Oh, Uo, V and X series from Pelopidou Street along with documents Lf 139 and Ft 140 from the Arsenal,

the fragments recently conserved, the Wu sealings and tablet Up 432 from the Treasury Room and finally the tablet X 433 from Haghion Apostolon Street.

Each tablet in the corpus is presented according to its serial number accompanied by a photo, a drawing, a short reference to its dimensions, the inventory number, the series and the scribe. Louis Godart worked on the drawings of the texts uncovered at Thebes until 2002. Phonograms *19, *22, *56 and *63 are preserved without further commentary. The writers propose the adoption of a new phonogram, *92, in the case of the word *e-*92-do-ma* that occurs in the third line of Fq 207, but there has already been a proposal to read this sign as *qa*.

The sealings have been classified according to their iconography. 26 different seal impressions have been identified and each of these is characterized by a letter. Letters A to X were used for the classification of the sealings uncovered in 1982 by C. Piteros, whereas letters X and Y were given to the recently uncovered sealings from the Treasury room. Next to each letter a number informs the readers about the frequency of each motif in the corpus of the Theban inscribed sealings. Each sealing in the corpus is presented according to its serial number accompanied by a photo, a drawing, its dimensions, the motif letter and the Thebes Museum inventory number.

Very useful at the end of Volume III are the glossary and the catalogue of all the ideograms and the syllabograms that appear in the documents.

The major contribution of *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée III* is the presentation for the first time of a corpus of all documents uncovered the last forty years in various plots at the Kadmeian acropolis. This attempt was fulfilled in a relatively short time and gives the opportunity to all Mycenologists to have access to old and recently uncovered and conserved documents from Thebes. The forthcoming publication of the archaeological context of the largest group of texts uncovered so far at Thebes, the documents from Pelopidou Street, will add valuable information about all aspects of life in one of the most prosperous Mycenaean sites.

Bearing in mind J. Chadwick's words long ago that "the two small series (Ug and Of) found so far must be regarded as a foretaste of the riches Thebes has still in store", each scholar can realize the progress conducted the last decade at Thebes, which led to the presentation nowadays of a corpus of more than 400 texts. Let's hope that Thebes has more riches in store and the uncovering of new documents will soon demand the update of the present corpus.

Volos, 38001 Greece
Archaeological Museum of Volos
1 Athanasaki Street
dimitrarousioti@hotmail.com

DIMITRA ROUSIOTI

MICHAEL MEIER-BRÜGGER: *Indogermanische Sprachwissenschaft*. 8., überarbeitete und ergänzte Auflage der früheren Darstellung von Hans Krahe unter Mitarbeit von Matthias Fritz und Manfred Mayrhofer. Walter de Gruyter. Berlin - New York 2002.

Die erfreulich hohe Nachfrage nach der Neubearbeitung von Hans Krahes altherwürdiger Einführung in die Indogermanistik durch M. Meier-Brügger unter Mitwirkung von M. Fritz (Syntax sowie Teile der Einleitung) und M. Mayrhofer (Lautlehre) hat nach kaum mehr als zwei Jahren eine Neuauflage möglich und nötig gemacht. Leider konnte, wie im Vorwort zur nunmehr 8. Auflage (d. h. der zweiten der Neubearbeitung) zu erfahren, für die Käufer der vorigen Ausgabe keine Liste von Addenda und Corrigenda, wie ursprünglich vorgesehen, im Internet zugänglich gemacht werden, wie etwa im Fall der 2. Auflage des *Lexikons der Indogermanischen Verben* geschehen. Da sich die Gesamtdarstellung aber im Wesentlichen nicht verändert hat, wird man auch die 7. Auflage weiterhin verwenden können.