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Spis treści. Contents.

RES MINOICAE ET MYCENAEAE

I. PISMA O DYSKU Z FAJSTOS. DE DISCO IN PHAESTO INVENTO SCRIPTA.

Jurij OTKUPSZCZIKOW (Sankt-Petersburg, Rosja) *Dysk z Fajstos. Problemy odszyfrowania.*

THE PHAISTOS DISC. DECODING PROBLEMS

(summary)

by Yuriy V. Otkupshchikov

The Phaistos disc (henceforth: Ph.D.) discovered on Crete by the Italian archaeologist L. Pernier in 1908 presents a small (with diametric line of 15-16 cm) clay disc with 241 stamped signs situated in helical fashion on its both sides. The usual dating of this written monument is 19 century BC or 2-3 centuries later.

The Phaistos disc and particularly the inscription on it have been appealing to the interest of numerous professionals and amateurs for century. By the way, in the field of methodical research it is often difficult to draw well-defined line between professional and amateurs. The amount of books and articles devoted to decoding the inscription of 241 signs on the Phaistos disc is immense. The „readings” and „interpretations” of this inscription are estimated in tens and these „readings” are built on the base of different languages, such as Basque, Carian, Chinese, Dravidian, Finnish, Hittite, Latin, Luvian, Minoan, „Pelasgian”, Semitic, Slavic, Sumerian, Turkish etc. But the original language of the Ph.D. inscription remains puzzle.

It is evident that among all the presented and even all the possible decodings of the Ph.D. inscription ONLY THE ONE can be true. But as we do not know this the only one and true decoding we can strongly affirm that all presented decoding (without any exceptions) are false. Publications of new „readings” and „interpretations” can’t refute the pessimistic argument of the most cautious researchers that actually it is impossible to decipher the Ph.D. inscription. It consists only of 241 signs, its language is unknown, and we know (even in general) nor its content, neither direction in which it should be read. It is representative that John Chadwick, M. Ventris’s co-author of Linear B script decoding, appealing in one of his latest works to decoders of the Ph.D. inscription, wrote that he „should be grateful if those who produce their own solutions would kindly *not* send them” to him. It reminds the refusal of French Science Academy to accept the works of *perpetuum mobile* inventors...

Part 1 of the annotated paper entitled *Critical survey of works on the Phaistos disc* is devoted to methods of decoding this mysterious written monument. As example we can take comparatively new works written by V. Georgiev and A. Molchanov.

V. Georgiev defining phonetic content of the Ph.D. signs puts forward 4 guideline principles:

1. Frequency of sign use;
2. Their identity [similarity?] to [?] the hieroglyphic Luvian syllabary and the Cretan linear scripts;
3. The acrophonic principle;
4. Possibility of reading a Luvian word.

None of these principles is new. Moreover, their detailed analysis shows that either they are unfit for decoding or the author of «readings» and interpretations constantly breaks them.

A. Molchanov, like authors of other decoding, draws his conclusions based on several unproved issues:

- a) Language of the Ph.D. inscription is Minoan;

- b) The inscription should be read from the exterior to the interior;
- c) The inscription contains the list of Minoan rulers of Crete and of cities where they ruled.

This is the example of so-called *petitio principii* in logic. Supporting his hypothesis A. Molchanov puts forward rather odd argument: „rejection of the suggested syllabic readings of the Ph.D. signs can't shake the main idea of our decoding, unless groundlessness of the very base – methodic of discovering toponymy and its further identification – is disapproved”. First of all, in the Ph.D. text no toponymy can exist. And here the author of the hypothesis (not his opponents) should say something to support his point of view. And what is more, Ph.D. researchers who considered or consider now that the inscription represents „triumphal hymn”, „the oldest music in the world”, „astronomic calendar”, „pharmaceutical guide” etc., could also without any arguments request their opponents to prove them groundlessness of their assumptions.

Thus, two successive, comparatively new attempts to discover the Ph.D. mystery turned to be a complete failure. We think that analyzing this mysterious monument of ancient Aegean writing it is not reasonable to speed up events and make haste in „interpretations”. Only thorough and deep analysis of peculiarities of the monument, including particular features of text structure, can give not optimal but positive results.

Part 2 of the paper is entitled *About reading direction of the Phaistos disc*. Many examples show that „dieser grundlegende Problem” has great importance. For example, B. Schwartz and H. D. Ephron think that the Ph.D. inscription is written in Greek but they read it ... in different directions. S. Davis and V. Georgiev supposed that the Ph.D. language is Hittite or Luvian. They compared the Ph.D. signs with the hieroglyphic Luvian signs and with the signs of the Linear A and B scripts and both of them used the so called acrophonic principle. Both scientists were supposed to get similar results. However, they read the Ph.D. text ... in opposite directions.

It is evident that the Ph.D. inscription should read from left to right or vice versa, from right to left. Opinions of authors who suggested decoding are quite different on this issue and it means that the half of suggested text interpretations is false. It can be compared with the attempt to read and interpret Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in reverse direction.

But there is a question: which part of suggested decoding should you throw away on this ground?

In the part 2 of the paper the author suggests no identification signs, no perusal, and no interpretation and doesn't touch issue on language belonging of the Ph.D. inscription. He confines himself to a technical side of the sign stamping and in some cases he bases on his predecessor's arguments.

It has been noticed for a long time that the signs placed freely on the left side of section are often closely spaced in its right side where they change sharply their directions and sometimes form layers on right sign of word section. It is enough to see section A3 to make sure that stamping signs from right to left you can't explain their layout in the beginning of the word. On the contrary, if you read them from left to right, everything becomes clear and natural. When 5 first signs were stamped, it turned out that two left signs didn't go in between fifth sign and line of word section (9 mm). And as the width of section here contains much more space, two last signs were turned transversely to inscription. It is indicative that the very left sign in this section, as in other cases, is stamped strictly in parallel with left line of word section. It is typical for beginning of word, where usually you can't find chaotic accumulations of signs. The paper analyses other examples proving that the Ph.D. text should be read from the interior to the exterior.

Further there is analysis of cases when one signs form layers on others; there is studying of relation of first and last signs of word to neighboring lines of word section (see pictures 2 and 3) and proofs in the Ph.D. text. The important place in author's argumentation has analysis of particularities of material of which the Phaistos disc was made. Earlier E. Grumach noticed that the left side of signs on the Phaistos disc usually is stamped deeper and well defined, while the right one is not so deep and blurred. But he didn't explain this phenomena at all. However, stamping a sign on mild clay, make clay rise round a sign forming a certain „roller”. While stamping from left to right, neighboring right sign lays on uneven, raised in left side flatness. That is why just in left side an imprint is made deeper than in right side. On the other hand, the second (right) sign also lifts a lay of clay round itself. Therefore, the raising right part of first sign spreads and is deposited on the left part of second sign. When the third sign was stamping there were the same changes in the third sign, etc. But the process described above could be only if signs are stamped from left to right. Otherwise, the results would be quite opposite.

Finally, studying ancient heliciform inscriptions can't resolve problem of reading direction on the Ph.D. inscription. Some of inscriptions are read from left to right and vice versa, some of them are read from center to periphery and vice versa. But none of them is read from bottom to top („bottom” and „top” can be easily defined by pictures of people, birds etc.) See picture 3, illustrating this thesis.

Thus, the detailed analysis of the Ph.D. inscription without any preliminary and unproved statements makes us admit that the inscription on the Phaistos disc was stamped and should read from center to periphery and the authors who support the opposite point of view might give up their „readings” and interpretations.

The last third part of the work is entitled *Observing structure of language on the Phaistos disc*. These observations are founded on following statements:

- a) The language of the Ph.D. text is unknown;
- b) The signs stamped on the disk actually can't be identified;
- c) We know nothing about content of the inscription;
- d) The text is stamped and should be read from the interior to the exterior;
- e) The author considers all suggested reading and interpretations of the Ph.D. text as baseless and premature and he agrees with those researches who think that nowadays it is impossible to decipher the inscription on the Phaistos disc;
- f) All the signs on disk present syllables. Among the signs there is no ideograms and determinatives.

Usually supporters of reading from right to left suggest that sign 2 („head with feathers”) is noun determinative. But as in 13 cases of 19 to the left of sign 2 there is sign 12 („shield”), it means that after noun determinative (sign 2) there are about 2/3 of nouns which begin from the same syllable (!). At the same time if you read from left to right repetitions in the end of word can reflect the same inflexion or its versions.

In Part 3 there are lists of reiterative words, words which differ by one or two last signs, words with different prefixes and words without prefixes and typical endings of words. The detailed text analysis (taking into consideration hypothetical character of a part of observations) allows concluding that we have the inflecting language and it could be Indo-European language.

Inflecting character of the Ph.D. language is proved by facts of case concord and (prepositional) government. In the Ph.D. text one can see 6 times the shortest two-syllable words (one of them is repeated twice). We can make tentative hypothesis that here we have auxiliary words like prepositions. In 5 of 6 cases after these „prepositions” there are words with the same „endings” (A2–3, A11–13, A14–16, A17–18, A19–20). In two cases (A11–13 and A14–16) we can see „government” phenomena. Earlier E. Grumach analyzing proofs in the Ph.D. text concluded that corrections in right part of words A22, A24 and A27 represent the single proof of several syntactically connected words. Unfortunately this important Grumach's remark had no development. However it is strong evidence which proves both inflecting character of the Ph.D. language and cases of „case concord” and „government”. All three words, which were corrected (A22, A24 and A27), are ended in their right part by signs 12 and 2 that reflect the same inflexion as in words standing after above mentioned “prepositions”. As 5 of 6 “prepositions” govern the same case, we can refer to the Latin language where most of prepositions govern the same accusative case.

In conclusive part of the paper there is brief overview of issues connected with attempts to find some morphologic and syntactical parallels between the structure of the Ph.D. language and those of the ancient Greek and Latin language. Unfortunately the general result of such conclusion is negative, as it is untimely to make long term conclusions about language belonging of the Ph.D. text. In the present booklet the author suggests no decoding of the Ph.D. inscription. The goals of this research are more modest. They devoted to three concrete issues:

1. Critical analysis of methods to decipher the Ph.D. text;
2. Direction of stamping and reading on the Ph.D. inscription;

Studying some features in language structure of this inscription.

II. ROZPRAWY. COMMENTATIONES.

Luca BOMBARDIERI, Federica GONZATO, Anna Margherita JASINK (Florence, Italy), *New research tools for Aegean studies. The DBAS Project on-line*

Abstract: The essentials of a newly developed system of data bases on Aegean civilization (DBAS Project) available on line are described. The system will feature data bases on Cretan Hieroglyphic seals (DBAS-CHS), on Mycenaean *Insignia Dignitatis* (DBAS-MID), on textile production system in Bronze Age Crete, on the sheep-farming economic organization and, in perspective, on other topics of interest. The system will also include bibliographic data bases, fonts on Cretan Hieroglyphic signs, publication of Aegean archaeological collections, and other tools. The structure of the data bases is illustrated and two examples of application for advanced research (CHS and MID) are given.

Anna Margherita JASINK (Florence, Italy), *Some remarks on Neapolis seal CHIC 314*

Abstract: The particular features of the Neapolis seal (CHIC 314) are discussed in details. From the analysis of all the eight faces some evidence is derived that all the signs belong to the Hieroglyphic patrimony. The hypothesis is outlined that the seal contains a kind of specific, even if still mysterious, repertoire concerned with terms different from those regarding the palace transactions or administration.

Małgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Piotrków Trybunalski, Polska), *Problem przyczyn upadku cywilizacji mykeńskiej w literaturze naukowej*

Abstract: The article deals with the theories about the reasons for the decline of Mycenaean civilization in historical researches. The author tried to take into account different points of view and arguments present in numerous publications which are devoted to this issue.

The survey of proposed hypotheses takes into account both conceptions of scholars whose argumentation is based upon natural factors (drought, earthquakes) and theories in which the main cause of the decline is ascribed to human activities (internal fights, attack from the outside). It is not the aim of the article to give preference to one of these opinions but the description of main problems which appear if we accept such a unitary solution.

Fred WAANDERS (Amsterdam, Netherlands), «*W Ma` Ga`*»

Abstract: The interpretation of *ma-ka*, *o-po-re-i*, and *ko-wa* in the Linear B tablets of the Odis Pelopidou as a Theban divine triad (dat. sg.) *Ma` Ga`*, Δ*Opwv*re`i, KovrŪa/ by Godart and Sacconi was attacked by a number of Mycenologists, defended by others. The objections against this interpretation appear to be invalid.

Krzysztof Tomasz WITCZAK (Łódź, Polska), *Co nowego przekazują nam tabliczki linearne B z beockich Teb?*

Abstract: **What News Are Transmitted by the Linear B Tablets from the Boeotian Thebes?** The paper is a critical review of a new edition of the Linear B tablets, found in the Cadmean Palace of Thebes (cf. V. L. Aravantinos, L. Godart, A. Sacconi, *Thèbes. Fouilles de la Cadmée. I. Les tablettes en linéaire B de la Odis Pelopidou. Édition et commentaire*, Bibliotheca di "Pasiphae" vol. 1, Pisa, Roma 2001). The present author stresses the value of the Theban archive for the Mycenological studies, discussing especially the religious practices and the geography of the Theban state during the Mycenaean epoch and the problem of the unidentified syllabograms.

Editorial Note: The drawings of the Theban tablets, as well as the plan of the Theban acropolis, are printed owing to the official permission of Dr. Vassilios Aravantinos, the Director of the Archaeological Museum of Thebes (21 April 2004).

III. DYSKUSJE, KONTROWERSJE. DISCUSSIONES, CONTROVERSIAE.

Elwira KACZYŃSKA, Krzysztof WITCZAK, *Dla kogo mykenologia?*

PHILOLOGIA CLASSICA

IV. ROZPRAWY. COMMENTATIONES.

Václav BLAŽEK (Brno, Czech Republic), *Theonymica Helleno-Semitica I. Charon.*

Abstract: In the article the Greek theonym *Cērw*n is analyzed in a wider perspective of the comparative mythology. Three etymologies are discussed. The most probable seems the hypothesis of the adaptation of the name of the Canaanite chthonian deity, which could be realized as follows: (i) **Āawrān* > **Āōrān* > **Āārōn*

(metathesis); (ii) **Áawrān* > **Áa^wrān* > **Áa rōn* (monophthongization and the specific Canaanite change **ā* > **ō*).

Václav BLAŽEK (Brno, Czech Republic), *Theonymica Helleno-Semitica II. Pallas At^hānā / At^hānā Potnia "Virgin" or "Lady"?*

Abstract: In the present study two solutions of the origin of the divine name *At^hānā* are discussed as most promising: (1) Hurrian explanation, based on the motif of deity originating from the skull of the supreme god and on the etymology, allowing to explain the proper name as the primary toponym, inspired by the Hurrian word *adani*- "stool" or sim.; (2) Semitic solution, based on the Semitic etymologies of whole syntagm **pallad^o* *At^hānā* from **ba ʾlat ʾanat* "Lady ^CAnat" or **bat(V)lat ʾanat* "Virgin ^CAnat". Both solutions are compatible, the Hurrian influence should be mediated probably by Semites. And so the final features and attributes of the Greek goddess are result of a syncretism of both influences.

Rafał ROSÓŁ (Piotrków Trybunalski, Polska), *Jeszcze jeden „cypryjski” wyraz w języku Homera: ai]qousa*

Sergiusz SHARYPKIN (Piotrków Trybunalski, Polska), *Accusativus przedmiotu wewnętrznego w języku starogreckim*

Abstract: The article deals with the accusative of internal object. This syntactic type of accusative being attested in other Indo-European languages is especially common in Ancient Greek. The author claims that all traditionally adduced examples should be divided into two fundamentally different groups which are to be held apart. The first type is that of $\text{ὁ θεὸς τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ} / \text{ὁ θεὸς τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ} \cdot \text{ἐκ τῆς ψυχῆς}$. It should be designed as accusative of fictitious object. The main criterion of this use is its facultative character in the syntactic structure. The second type can be illustrated by a phrase $\text{ὁ θεὸς τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ} / \text{ὁ θεὸς τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ} \cdot \text{ἐκ τῆς ψυχῆς}$. It should be named accusative of indefinite object. This object may not be eliminated from the syntactic structure but it may be replaced by another one with a more concrete meaning. As regards the accusative of fictitious object, we can indicate different reasons of its use: psychological, stylistic and syntactic ones.

Hubert WOLANIN (Kraków, Polska), *Językowe implikacje Arystotelejskiej logiki i ontologii*

Abstract: Linguistic Implications of the Aristotelean Logic and Ontology. In the debate held in the Greek philosophical circle about relations between language and reality, illustrated by the known antinomy: $\text{ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐστὶν ὡς τὸ φάντασμα} / \text{ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐστὶν ὡς τὸ φάντασμα}$, Aristotle is rightly believed to have been a representative of the $\text{ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐστὶν ὡς τὸ φάντασμα}$ option. However, it seems that the Philosopher's opinion regarding relations between language and things is quite complex and cannot be boiled down exclusively to a simple affirmation of conventionalism. Taking into consideration his works dedicated to logic, we do find, on the one hand, such Aristotle's statements that situate him clearly on the conventionalists' side, e.g. *Hermeneutica* 16a 3, 19, 26-29, where he assigns to the meaning of words a symbolic character resulting from a convention, *Sophistici elenchi* 14, 173b 17 – 174a 5, where he emphasises independence of a grammatical category of a gender of nouns from properties (i.e. a natural gender) of their designates, and finally *Sophistici elenchi* 4, 166b 10-20, where he points to the lack of correspondence between the ontological status of such notions as a performing and experiencing subject, a condition and activity, and a formal shape of words designating them. On the other hand, however, Aristotle distinguishes homonyms, synonyms and paronyms as classes of entities selected based on specific properties of words designating them (*Categoriae* 1a 1-15); besides, he makes the possibility of assigning relative notions to the same kind dependant upon a linguistic way of expressing their correlates (*Topica* IV, 4, 124b 36 – 125a 15), and, finally, he postulates to regard as terms logically equivalent to such as 'justice' also those that linguistically constitute their $\text{ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐστὶν ὡς τὸ φάντασμα}$, i.e. their adverbial derivatives, like 'justly' (*Topica* II, 9, 114a 26 – 114b 8).

Miron WOLNY (Olsztyn, Polen), *Dasius aus Brundisium – ein historiographisches Rätsel.*

Abstract: At the begin of the Second Punic War (218 B. C.) Hannibal by means of a bribe had captured Rome's granary Clastidium. In Author of this paper opinion it is important element of *economic war*, which was leading

parallel to the military conflict in the Northern Italy. The story of Brundisian Dasiusius' betrayal according is to Polybius, Livy and Zonaras merely. Scholars, in general, was treating with indifference this event, although Dasius is a universal figure in historiographical accounts of the annalists (chiefly Livy use the fragments of annalist's informations in his work); he is a antagonist, who is bad for Rome as a Dasius from Salapia, Dasius from Arpia and Dasius from Brundisium; therefore, in Author opinion, the name of "protagonist" is completely suspicious. However, this captured of Roman's granary by Carthaginians was quite possible. The odds are that the cause of this event was first of all a economic factors. The Roman historiography to burdened the one of allies, so that to hide from future generations the blame of Roman's commander of Clastidium.

V. PRZEKŁADY. INTERPRETATIONES.

Stanisław ŚNIEŻEWSKI (Kraków), *Pochwała Pizona*

VI. RECENZJE. RECENSIONES.

Carlo Consani, *Silabe e sillabari fra competenza fonologica e pratica scrittoria*, Edizioni dell'Orso, Chieti 2000 (Sergiusz SHARYPKIN)

P. Schuster Keswani, A. B. Knapp, *Bronze Age Boundaries and Social Exchange in North-West Cyprus*, "Oxford Journal of Archaeology" 22.3. Oxford 2003 (Dariusz MALISZEWSKI)

Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, Nicosia 2003 (Dariusz MALISZEWSKI)

Stanisław Śnieżewski, *Salustiusz i historia Rzymu. Studia porównawcze na tle historiografii greckiej i rzymskiej*, Homini, Kraków 2003 (Miron WOLNY)