

A Mycenaean Environment: An Analysis of the Textual and Archaeological Data from Pylos

In the existing literature surrounding the Myceneans and the world that they lived in, the study of the historical climate of the Eastern Mediterranean has become increasingly popular. In particular, analysis of animal remains in areas of occupation and residual biological material within both the ruins and artifacts of the Myceneans, with a particular emphasis on that biological material associated with pottery, have become prominent within discussions of the climate and environment of the Bronze Age world. Those studying this region of the world generally employ fields such as geomorphology, paleoclimate studies, zooarchaeology, and archaeobotany to supplement and enhance the findings of baseline archaeological studies (Tartaron, 122). Though these methodologies are useful and aid archaeologists in furthering the understanding of the Aegean, these studies often do not consider the Linear B tablets. Interestingly enough, although Mycenaean texts are preserved, they have not been central to these discussions, despite containing relevant information about the environment.

When Linear B tablets are discussed, scholars tend to focus on their economic aspects. Even in the discussions of agricultural byproducts, the products are discussed in their relation to the environment and not their relationship to the environment. One such example can be found in Beck and Beck's 1978 discussion of products used in wool production. They list specific products such as honey, wine, and wool, yet they do discuss how they relate to the environment. Jörg Weilhartner also discusses foodstuff yet focuses on the political context of these products rather than the environmental context.

In this project, I examine, translate, and analyze available Linear B tablets found within the region of Pylos. During the process I placed an emphasis on agricultural biproducts recorded in the tablets found near Pylos and the Palace of Nestor. Through the comparison of the of archaeological data and textual evidence I present a more dynamic view of the historic climate of Pylos. On my poster I include on section discussing the data found during the translation process, another aspect reviewing relevant archaeological data, and a third section comparing the two previous sections highlighting what was found during the project.

Works Cited

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