

## The Decipherment Of Linear B Canto

Recounts the discovery of Minoan Linear B, explains how the ancient script was deciphered, and discusses two unsolved scripts, Linear A and Cypriot script. Revealing the secrets of Linear B uncovers fascinating details of an ancient civilisation.

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First discovered in 1900, on clay tablets among the ruins of the Palace of Minos at Knossos, Crete, Linear B script remained a mystery for over fifty years until 1952, when Michael Ventris discovered that its signs did not represent an unknown language as previously believed, but an archaic dialect of Greek, more than 500 years older than the Greek of Homer. This book tells the life story of Michael Ventris, an intriguing and contradictory man, a gifted linguist but a divided soul, together with that of his remarkable decipherment of Linear B. Dubbed the Everest of archaeology, the decipherment was all the more remarkable because Ventris was not a trained classical scholar but an architect who had first heard of Linear B as a schoolboy. An initial fascination became a lifelong obsession.

Skildring af den engelske amatørfilolog Michael Ventris' arbejde med dechifreringen af en mykensk skrift

This introduction is suitable for the student with some knowledge of Greek who wishes

to have access to Linear B material. Part One places the development of the Linear B script against its historical background; the earlier varieties of Aegean writing are discussed, and Ventris' decipherment of Linear B is described and the Mycenaean dialect of Greek is examined. In Part two, the reader is taken through a number of important Linear B texts. These are presented first in a 'normalised' transcription of the Linear B characters, so as to induce familiarity with the lay-out of the original texts, secondly in transliteration, and thirdly in translation where this is possible.

This book, first published in 1958, aims to describe Greek art and poetry within this ambiguous period of ancient history (often referred to as the Greek 'Dark Ages'), and to explore the possibilities of learning about Mycenaean civilisation from its own documents and not only from archaeology. Specifically, Webster utilises Michael Ventris' decipherment of Linear B in 1952 – which proved that Greek was spoken in the Mycenaean world – to determine the general contours of aesthetic development from Mycenae to the time of the written composition of the Homeric epics. Because they record Mycenaean civilisation in Mycenaean terminology, while Homer was writing in Ionian Greek at the beginning of the polis civilisation, they show how much in Homer is in fact Mycenaean. Further, where it is clear that these Mycenaean elements cannot have survived until Homer's time, they tell us something about the poetry which connected the two.

The language of the Minoan people has remained an enigma for more than a century since their ancient civilization was discovered. The script that records it, known as Linear A, has long been thought to use the same sounds and symbols as its successor-Linear B. After Linear B

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was deciphered in 1952 by Michael Ventris, and was found to represent an archaic form of Greek, the language of the earlier Linear A script continued to defy all those attempting to read it. A recent insight regarding synonym-parallels in ancient Minoan texts has now illuminated their meaning for the first time. This book guides the reader through the Linear A decipherment process and provides English translations for many of the most important Minoan artifacts. So enter the labyrinth as Europe's first great civilization is finally given voice after three and a half thousand years, and discover how its people have actually been speaking to us all along. How did the decipherment of Linear B change perceptions of ancient Aegean civilization? Why are epigraphers still perplexed by many Linear B spellings? Wade into the discovery, decipherment, and contents of this intriguing ancient writing system""Europe's earliest attempt at writing""and measure it against what you've learned about decipherment of Egyptian and cuneiform scripts.

Linear B, a New Outlook," by Nicholas A. Massouridis, is the product of thirty years' study of the phonetic values of the signs of the Linear B script. Proof that Massouridis's method is correct was provided by the fact that the values have been applied for ten years by his son, Pandelis Masouridis, who has worked on the texts of tablets from Pylos and Knossos, and have also been applied for the first time to the reading of dedications and Linear A tablets from Ayia Triada. Readers will be enchanted by the wonderful world and descriptive wealth of the composite words of the Greek language found in the tablets, as this language

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Women in Mycenaean Greece is the first book-length study of women in the Linear B tablets from Mycenaean Greece and the only to collect and compile all the references to women in the documents of the two best attested sites of Late Bronze Age Greece - Pylos on the Greek mainland and Knossos on the island of Crete. The book offers a systematic analysis of women's tasks, holdings, and social and economic status in the Linear B tablets dating from the 14th and 13th centuries BCE, identifying how Mycenaean women functioned in the economic institutions where they were best attested - production, property control, land tenure, and cult. Analysing all references to women in the Mycenaean

documents, the book focuses on the ways in which the economic institutions of these Bronze Age palace states were gendered and effectively extends the framework for the study of women in Greek antiquity back more than 400 years. Throughout, the book seeks to establish whether gender practices were uniform in the Mycenaean states or differed from site to site and to gauge the relationship of the roles and status of Mycenaean women to their Archaic and Classical counterparts to test if the often-proposed theories of a more egalitarian Bronze Age accurately reflect the textual evidence. The Linear B tablets offer a unique, if under-utilized, point of entry into women's history in ancient Greece, documenting nearly 2000 women performing over fifty task assignments. From their decipherment in 1952 one major gap in the scholarly record remained: a full accounting of the women who inhabited the palace states and their tasks, ranks, and economic contributions. *Women in Mycenaean Greece* fills that gap recovering how class, rank, and other social markers created status hierarchies among women, how women as a group functioned relative to men, and where different localities conformed or diverged in their gender practices. *Deciphering Mediterranean Scripts: Comparisons with Linear B*. The undeciphered scripts studied at length in this thesis are Linear A, Cypro-Minoan, Etruscan, and Iberian. Varying degrees of information are known about these scripts, ranging from

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detailed phonological, lexical, and morphological information about Etruscan from classical sources, to extremely little about Cypro-Minoan (even its graphemeic inventory is uncertain) due to its extreme antiquity and relative obscurity. Generally the techniques employed in the decipherment of Linear B have much greater potential for use in the probably syllabic undeciphered scripts, Linear A and Cypro-Minoan, than they have in the cases of the alphabetic scripts Etruscan and Iberian, since Linear B itself is largely syllabic.

Examines the evidence for the phonetic value of individual Linear B characters. The decipherment of Linear B is the most recent decipherment of an old world script, and as such it ought to provide valuable lessons to aid in the decipherment of other undeciphered Mediterranean scripts. This value should be further enhanced by the fact that Linear B was deciphered using modern linguistic techniques without the aid of a bilingual key such as was employed in the cases of Egyptian hieroglyphic and cuneiform. By studying the techniques used in the decipherment of Linear B and analysing their applicability to other undeciphered scripts, scholars may build upon the successful decipherment of Linear B and lay the groundwork for the decipherment of further undeciphered Mediterranean scripts.

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