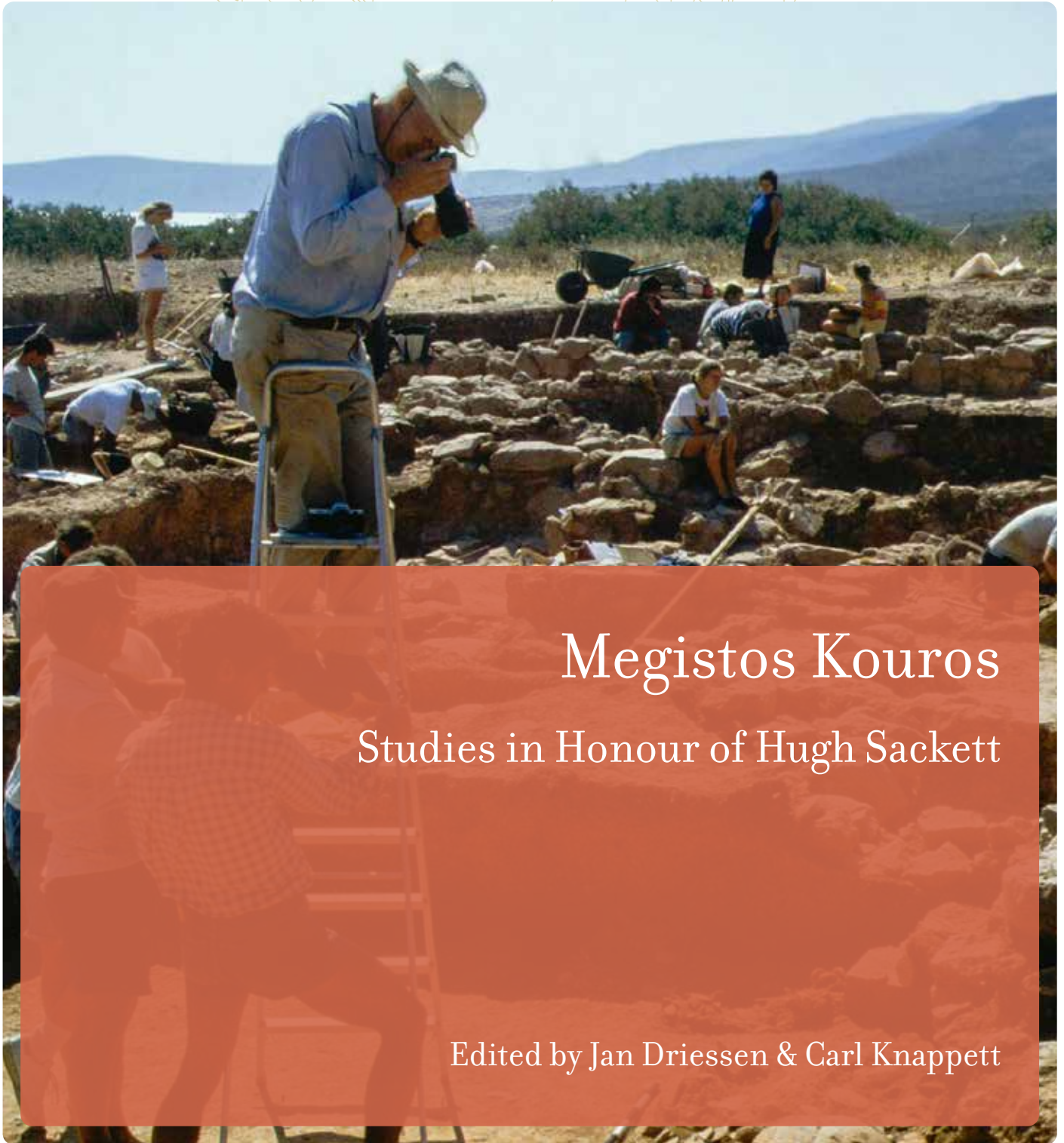


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## Megistos Kouros

Studies in Honour of Hugh Sackett

Edited by Jan Driessen & Carl Knappett



*Megistos Kouros.*

Studies in honour of Hugh Sackett



*Megistos Kouros.*

Studies in honour of Hugh Sackett

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edited by J. Driessen & C. Knappett

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## Signs and palaeography

As already mentioned, the first preserved sign is slightly damaged at the bottom left. Nevertheless, it is clearly identifiable as AB 29  $\Psi$ . The sign AB 29 is also present on three other libation tables from Petsophas (**fig. 2**). In two of them it is badly damaged, but in one case (Za 8a) it can be read with confidence by comparing the sequence of Za 8a with that of Za 15 (*cf.* **fig. 5**). There are several variants of AB 29 in the Linear A texts (see *GORILA* V: xxxiii). The shape attested on Za 28, with three ‘vertical’ strokes resting on a horizontal base and intersected by two parallel horizontal strokes, is identical to that on PK Za 15.

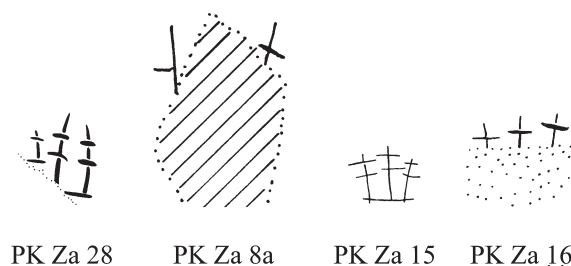


FIG. 2 THE SIGN AB 29 ON THE LIBATION TABLES FROM PETSOPHAS

The following sign is clearly AB 27  $\Upsilon$ . The shape of the sign is classic, slightly rounded and with a shorter vertical stroke compared to the other specimens from Petsophas (**fig. 3**).

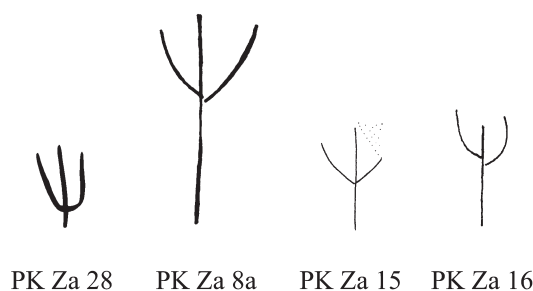


FIG. 3 THE SIGN AB 27 ON THE LIBATION TABLES FROM PETSOPHAS

The sign AB 27 is followed by a rather large, circular divider. In the other libation tables from Petsophas, the dividers consist of simple vertical strokes. That of Za 28 is therefore the first example of a circular divider at Petsophas. The distribution of the two variants in the libation tables is interesting, since the circular divider is attested everywhere (*cf.* AP Za 2, IO Za 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, KN Za 10, 17, KO Za 1, PS Za 2, SY Za 1, 2, 5, VRY Za 1), while the vertical divider is almost exclusively attested at Palaikastro/Petsophas (with the exception of SY Za 4 and 8; uncertain cases on AP Za 1, KN Za 10, 18, SY Za 11, 12, and TL Za 1).

The sign after the divider is broken to the right and is probably incomplete. Its form is enigmatic and lacks clear parallels in the Linear A *corpus* (**fig. 4**). What survives of it is reminiscent of the logogram A 418<sup>VAS</sup>, which represents a bull-headed rhyton and is attested in ligature with the A 709<sup>2</sup> L<sup>2</sup> fraction (A 418<sup>VAS</sup> 'L<sup>2</sup>' = A 664  $\text{ϕ}_{\text{e}}$ ) on PH 8a.3. A new possible attestation of A 418<sup>VAS</sup> has been now detected on the inscribed ivory ring KN Zg 57 recently found by A. Kanta in the Knossos ‘Religious Centre’<sup>2</sup>. This possible identification, however, is not without problems, since the pattern ‘syllabic sequence + divider + logogram’, which is relatively common in the tablets (*cf.* HT 2.1, HT 7a.1, *etc.*), is not attested in the libation tables. On the other hand, logograms are very rare in libation

<sup>2</sup> The inscription and its context have been recently presented at the XV<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies by A. Kanta, Th.G. Palaima and M. Perna (online lecture, Athens, 20 September 2021).

tables, the only clear examples being AB 122 (OLIV) and A 302 (prob. OLE) on SY Za 2a, b. Alternatively, the sign can be compared with the last sign on SY Za 10, which according to Olivier can be read as AB 81 𐀀 (Muhly & Olivier 2008: 213). The shape and orientation of this sign, however, do not correspond exactly to the Petsophas sign, which makes the comparison very uncertain. Even more unsatisfactory is the comparison with A 100/102 𐀀.

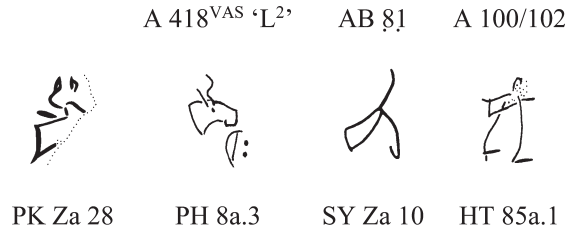


FIG. 4 POSSIBLE *COMPARANDA* FOR THE LAST SIGN OF PK ZA 28

### The sequence(s)

Considering the trace before AB 29, the sign sequence to the left of the divider can be read as ]-AB 29-27 (]-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE). This sequence corresponds to the final part of the sequences attested on PK Za 8a AB 57-06-67-04-04-51-29-27 (JA-NA-KI-TE-TE-DU-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE), PK Za 15 AB 57-07-67-04-04-51-29-27[ (JA-DI-KI-TE-TE-DU-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE[) and HT Zb 160 AB 03-59-01-51-29-27[ (PA-TA-DA-DU-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE[) (fig. 5). The sign group AB 29-27 (PU<sub>2</sub>-RE) is also attested on PK Za 16 and ZA Zb 34 as part of the sequences AB 29-27-57[ (PU<sub>2</sub>-RE-JA]) and ]AB 29-27-57 (]PU<sub>2</sub>-RE-JA) respectively.

Even if the trace before AB 29 consists of a simple vertical stroke, it is compatible with AB 51 and especially with the variant of AB 51 attested on PK Za 8a. It is then possible that the original text of PK Za 28 was similar to those attested on PK Za 8a and Za 15. The alternative reading AB 57-06-67-04-04-81-29-27 (JA-NA-KI-TE-TE-KU-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE), suggested in *GORILA* (IV: 26), cannot be excluded, but is less likely in view of HT Zb 160, where AB 51 is clearly attested. The sequences of Za 8a and Za 15 differ in that the first has AB 06 𐀀, while the second has AB 07 𐀀. According to Valério (2007), the reading -06- in *GORILA* could be an error for -07- and the sign groups AB 57-07-67-04-04 (JA-DI-KI-TE-TE) and AB 51-29-27 (DU-PU<sub>2</sub>-RE) could be distinct words.

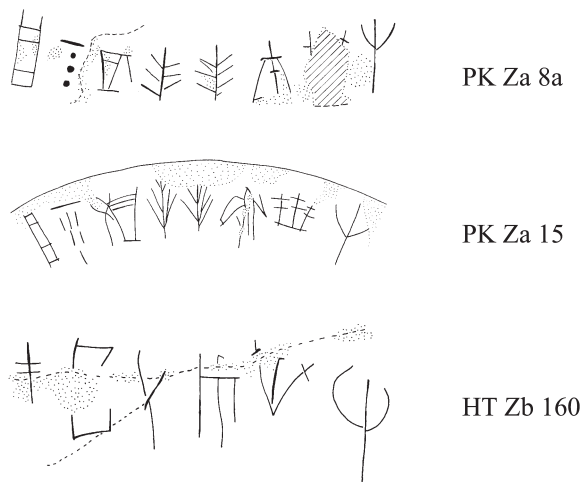


FIG. 5 THE SEQUENCES ON PK ZA 8A, PK ZA 15 AND HT ZB 160 (NOT TO SCALE)

Since it is not clear whether the sign after the divider was a logogram or a syllabogram, it is impossible to say whether there was another sequence after the divider. *A priori*, however, this is quite probable, especially since on PK Za 8a -51-29-27 is followed by the sequence AB 69-13-28 (TU-ME-I).

## Transcription

Taking into account the preceding observations, our inscription can be transcribed as follows:

] -  $\psi$  · [•][

]  $\psi$  probable;  $\psi$  or  $\psi$  not impossible,  $\psi$  unlikely.

] -  $\psi$  , [•][

] - AB 29-27 , [•][

## Concluding remarks

This new piece, the thirteenth from Petsophas, confirms the importance of this site and gives a sequence compatible with a longer sequence already known from the same place, which is remarkable in itself. The sign after the divider, however, remains difficult to identify and will probably remain so until more material with parallels comes to light.

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