



The Archaeology Committee of
THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
invites you to an illustrated lecture

Evangelos Kyriakidis

*The Linear B Administration of Pylos:
The Rheda S. Brandt Memorial Lecture*

April 7, 2015

6:30 P.M. Program

7:30 P.M. Reception

15 Gramercy Park South

The business of Mycenaean palaces — the epicenter of several Helladic kingdoms in the fragmented late Bronze Age landscape — was run by diverse administrators. Between 1500 and 1200 BCE, these bureaucrats communicated amongst themselves and with others by using the earliest attested Greek language as well as a script termed Linear B. Sundried clay tablets inscribed with this Aegean mode of writing were first discovered in 1900 by Sir Arthur Evans at Knossos, Crete and deciphered more than fifty years later by Michael Ventris.



In his lecture, Professor Evangelos Kyriakidis of the University of Kent treats a large cache of ceramics inscribed with Linear B discovered at the Palace of Nestor in Pylos, which Telemachus reputedly visits while searching for his father Odysseus. Located in southwestern Greece, excavations have yielded a significant number of documents. Analysis by archaeologists and scholars provides much information regarding these tablets — which if brought together can help us surmise their authors' duties, language, seniority, and in some cases even names and property. Dr. Kyriakidis proposes that the most important scribes divided their work and their spheres of influence. He discusses these eminent individuals and their endeavors as seen in a series devoted to the regulation of the production and storage of perfume, a rare instance of collaboration.