

THE NEW YORK AEGEAN BRONZE AGE COLLOQUIUM

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Online
Zoom
Meeting

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70 Years of Wa/ondering: The Pylos Ta series and Mycenaean Ceremonies

The thirteen tablets of the Ta series at Pylos are arguably the most informative set of documents pertaining to paraphernalia used in ceremonies and rituals in the Linear B corpus. The contents of the Ta tablets are diverse and significant for research in Aegean cultural history. There are **a.** clearly drawn ideograms of ceremonial vessels along with phonetic renderings of their names: pouring vases, receptacle vases, ritual heirloom tripods; **b.** references to the materials used to construct and decorate pieces of furniture; **c.** descriptions of abstract or figural motifs of decoration; **d.** observations on the state of repair of specific objects; **e.** likely identification of the region of manufacture of particular items (*ke-re-si-jo*); **f.** entries referring to implements connected with sacrificial actions (*pa-sa-ro*, *wa-o* and *qi-si-pe-e*) and equipment to use with fire (*au-te*, *pu-ra-u-to-ro*, *-qa-ra-to-ro* and *e-ka-ra*); **g.** inlaid tables (whether slaughtering tables or banqueting tables is now under discussion) with varying numbers of 'feet'; **h.** throne and stool 'sets', other stools. What I will do here today is give a reading of these texts that demonstrates how problematical it is (1) to address critical questions relating to their interpretation looking for either-or solutions; and (2) to keep the forest in mind when studying the roots, bark, branches and leaves of the trees and vice versa.

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