

work in the Mycenaean field and farming the fruits and vegetables she was to take to town.

And now, Lydia, vale iterumque vale.

Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine,  
et lux perpetua luceat ei.

Anton Paap

Professor Emeritus, University of Cape Town

### LYDIA BAUMBACH'S CONTRIBUTION TO MYCENAEAN STUDIES

I first met Lydia when she came to Newnham College, Cambridge in 1955 as an Affiliated Student from Stellenbosch. As such, she was able to take a Cambridge degree after only two instead of the normal three years, taking only the examination for Part II of the Classical Tripos. But during her first year she covered most of the ground of Part I, and I was invited to supervise her on a part of this. In Part II she chose my own special subject, the philology option, and successfully passed the examination in the summer of 1957. Since these were the years when the study of Mycenaean texts was taking shape, she was attracted to the new subject and went on to pursue her studies at post-graduate level. When she returned to a teaching post in South Africa, she used her study leave to return to Cambridge and so keep up to date with the latest developments.

It was in this way that I came to invite her to assist me with a project which was becoming too heavy for me to complete alone. The decipherment of Linear B had produced a great deal of earlier evidence for known Greek words, and in many cases this added to our etymological knowledge. The Mycenaean form often confirmed previous guesses, as for instance that ἄνθρωπος contained a labio-velar. But in some cases, such as the absence of a labio-velar from πᾶς, this entailed a revision of accepted ideas about etymology. I therefore set about compiling an index of all the Greek words now attested for Mycenaean, showing how reliable were their identifications. Although the idea was my own, it was Lydia who did much of the hard work, and the publication appeared under our joint names (*Glotta* 41 [1963] 157–271). A few years later it was possible to add a supplement based on new discoveries, and I had no hesitation in leaving Lydia to handle this alone (*Glotta* 49 [1971] 151–190). These two articles have been accepted as a standard work of reference and are regularly quoted, e.g. by Chantraine in *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue grecque*. In 1964 Lydia also published in *Acta Classica* (7, 1–8) a discussion of some of

the cases where Mycenaean has forced a revision of previous etymological theories.

Lydia also contributed to the advancement of Mycenaean studies by two articles on specific problems. The first of these was her contribution to the International Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies held at Salamanca in 1970. (She was the first and only member of these select colloquia who was not from Europe or U.S.A.) This was entitled 'Further thoughts on PY Vn 46.' This tablet is almost unique and contains a great deal of specialised vocabulary. It has been generally thought to be a list of building materials, and Lydia's discussion of the words used firmly rejected some of the wilder speculations and directed research into more fruitful paths. I have certainly profited from her sound judgment and reasoned exposition.

Her second special study was of another difficult problem, which we had deliberately side-stepped in *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*, the Knossos Mc tablets. This is a series which lists four items in varying quantities. The text in each case begins with a Cretan place name, then there is usually a man's name, and in the first line two ideograms, the second of which is the female goat. The first is probably, but not certainly, some special kind of goat, and Evans had long before proposed that it stood for the Cretan wild goat (agrimi). The second line of each text lists an unidentified ideogram with a weight following (amounts vary from 3–26 kg) and a number of what are quite plainly horns. The agrimi goat has precisely such horns, and Evans suggested that they were used for the manufacture of composite bows.

Lydia reviewed the zoological evidence for the agrimi and the archaeological and literary evidence for the composite bow, showing that this explanation is plausible, but far from certain. But she called the article wittily 'The dilemma of the horns' (*Acta Classica* 14 [1971] 1–16), since the problem is to explain the relationship between the numbers of the two types of goat, the problematic weighed substance and the horns. There are always far less horns than there are goats, though one would expect each animal to have had two horns. Lydia did not claim to have solved the problem, but her clear analysis remains extremely useful.

She also took a great interest in the interpretation of the Mycenaean tablets as evidence for life in that period, and several of her articles were on that subject. Her most recent work had been a series of studies of the personal names on the Knossos tablets, which attempted to infer from the mixture of Greek and non-Greek names the degree to which the two ethnic elements in Mycenaean Knossos had become integrated. The first was a contribution to the Cambridge Colloquium on *Minoan Society* in 1981 (published under this title by O. Krzyszkowska and L. Nixon, Bristol Classical Press). The second appeared in the *Festschrift für E. Risch* (Berlin 1986, 273–278), the third in *Acta Classica* 30 (1987) 5–10. A fourth was

read as a communication to the International Mycenaean Colloquium at Athens in October 1990, and is now in the press.

All of these studies were very difficult to handle, because the incompleteness of the script makes the reliability of any identification of a personal name vary from 100% to zero. It had therefore to be based first on a separation of the names into those fairly certainly Greek and those equally certainly not Greek, leaving a fair number undecided. This was exactly the kind of problem where Lydia's sound judgment was so valuable. The conclusion was gradually emerging that in the Knossos of the tablets Greeks and non-Greeks were not noticeably stratified, but a considerable amount of integration had already taken place.

But her major contribution was in the field of bibliography. Early on we had started an annual bibliographical list of publications relating to Linear B, together with an index of words and subjects studied. This was for many years published in London. But by the time there were ten issues it was becoming unwieldy to consult, and Lydia generously offered to collapse the ten issues into a single volume. This was very far from being the simple mechanical task it sounds. It involved a great deal of work in libraries verifying references and correcting mistakes. It was eventually published at Rome (*Studies in Mycenaean Inscriptions and Dialect 1953-1964*, published 1968). This was immediately hailed as an indispensable tool, and in due course she edited a second volume, covering the years 1965-1978 (published again at Rome in 1986).

By this time our earlier arrangements for compiling the bibliography were failing, and she became involved in the work on a new issue of the basic publication. She had discussed this in Cambridge on her last visit in October 1990, and took most of the material back with her to work on in South Africa, promising to return this summer and complete it for publication. I am sorry to say that this will now be yet further delayed, while we make alternative arrangements. As a friend remarked to me, her bibliographical labours have been far more valuable to scholars working in this field than the speculations of many more famous names. The volumes she edited will be remembered and used for a long time to come.

John Chadwick  
Newnham College, Cambridge

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