Gareth Alun Owens

"KRITIKA DAIDALIKI"
Evidence for the Minoan Language

Selected Essays in Memory of James Hooker

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KRITIKA DAIDALIKA
EVIDENCE FOR THE MINOAN LANGUAGE
SELECTED ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF
JAMES HOOKER ON THE
ARCHAEOLOGY, EPIGRAPHY AND PHILOLOGY
OF MINOAN AND MYCENALEAN CRETE

by

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"ΔΑΙΔΑΛΕΙΟ"
TEI/HRAKLEIOY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In this volume in memory of James Hooker, teacher and friend, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the support and assistance received from colleagues, friends and family over the last 8 years (1988-1996).

My first acknowledgement is, of course, to the late James Hooker, whose presence is now sadly missed. I also warmly thank Mrs. Sheila Hooker, the Department of Greek and Latin at UCL, the Institute of Classical Studies and University College London.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Hellenic Government and people for a scholarship which I held at the University of Crete and for a “Council of Europe” Post-Doctoral Fellowship (1992-94). Particular gratitude is due to Ms. Roxanne Eleutheriadhou of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, and Dr. Arête Kalogeropoulou and Mrs. Mary Mikesaki of the Hellenic State Scholarship Foundation.

I have pleasure in thanking the previous and present directors of Heraklion Museum and their staff. To all my friends at Knossos and Heraklion Museum I record my gratitude.

I thank most warmly the late Dr. Hakkert, founder and previous editor of Cretan Studies, and Dr. Kos, present editor, for their encouragement to a young scholar and for offering a volume of Cretan Studies for my collected essays in memory of James Hooker.

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Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family, both British and Hellenic, without whose support this research would never have been carried out. In particular, I thank my wife and muse, Kalliope, for her constant support and encouragement (31-77-11). Kalliope also read the whole manuscript and contributed many detailed critical comments.

To all of the above I say “Thank You”. I am, of course, solely responsible for the opinions expressed and any mistakes.
INTRODUCTION

James Hooker and I first met in 1982 when I went to University College London to read Classics and Ancient History. While there I was awarded a scholarship to attend a summer school in Greek Archaeology. I returned fired with enthusiasm for the Bronze Age having visited Mycenae, Pyllos, Tiry and Thebes as well as the National Museum where I discovered Linear B. On my return to London I read Homer in my final year with James and in the summer of 1985 I visited Greece again and went to Knossos and Heraklion Museum where I saw Linear A and the Phaistos Disk.

Having returned to London to study for a Masters in Greek Archaeology and Literature I attended James' course “An Introduction to Linear B” and wrote my masters thesis on military vocabulary in Homer and Mycenaean Greek. My interest in the Bronze Age was fulfilled further by learning about the connection of Michael Ventris with UCL where he was an honorary research fellow.

Having commenced a thesis in 1986 with James, I was awarded, with his assistance, a Greek Government Scholarship to study in Crete in 1988. Having followed my research through Homer to the Linear B of Knossos, I became attracted to the greater challenge of Linear A. The epigraphic relation between the Minoan and Mycenaean scripts was studied within its historical context.

While on Crete I was visited by my supervisor who was preparing his book on Minoan Crete as a companion volume to Mycenaean Greece. I remember a particularly fine and stimulating day when we visited the Minoan Sanctuary at Kato Syme and discussed Minoan religion and Linear A. In typical James fashion, an arduous walk to the site, which he insisted on despite his failing health, was followed by afternoon coffee and baklava in the local village. That evening we continued the discussion, James and Sheila, Kalliope and myself, in the taverna of Balahouts at Knossos over wine. James and I often disagreed over matters of archaeology, epigraphy and philology but he was one of that rare breed of scholars who was able to combine healthy scepticism with an open mind. This seems to be a rare quality these days.

James' worsening health led to his retirement both as Reader in Greek at UCL and as my supervisor in 1991. I returned to London in September of that year to teach his course “An Introduction to Linear B” based on his excellent book and to complete my thesis. In December of that year James died shortly after they had moved to Cornwall, to find the peace and quiet that he so longed for.

1992 was the 40th anniversary of the decipherment of Linear B by Michael Ventris, marked by a Michael Ventris Memorial Mycenaean Seminar and a Michael Ventris Memorial Lecture in collaboration with John Chadwick of Cambridge. It was such a shame that James was not there to share it with us, particularly as he had contributed so much to Linear B studies in London and in the UK generally. In the summer of 1992, our studies completed, Kalliope and I spent
a few idyllic days with Sheila at their home in Cornwall. Sheila's hospitality and kindness were equalled by her generous gift of James' collection of offprints from Linear B scholars.

This Cornish gift constituted the core of my Cretan library upon our return to the great island where I held a "Council of Europe" Post-Doctoral Fellowship for a study of Minoan Linear A. Over the next two years (1992-94) I built upon my research on the Minoan language. In 1994 I took up my present position as Erasmus Tutor and Assistant Professor at the 'Daidalic' TEI of Heraklion on Crete, where I continue my research into the archaeology, epigraphy and philology of Minoan and Mycenaean Crete.

The present volume of twenty articles in memory of James Hooker came about as a result of discussions with Drs. Hakkert and Kos who kindly offered Cretan Studies as a memorial volume. The research upon which all these articles are based was carried out while I was a Lecturer in Linear B at the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS 1991-92) and while I was a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Hellenic State Scholarship Foundation (IKY 1992-94). They have been written up, revised and prepared for publication while I have held a post at the 'Daidalic' TEI of Heraklion (1994-96). To all concerned I express my sincerest gratitude.

This volume of KRITIKA DAIDALIKA is divided into two parts. The first part, Evidence for the Minoan Language, is itself divided into two parts, concerning Linear A and the Phaistos Disk. The second part, Daidalika, consists of collected essays on the archaeology, epigraphy and philology of Minoan and Mycenaean Crete, supplemented by the 'EKMEK' and 'Daidalic Thematic Network' announcement. Four previously published articles are included here, two from Cretan Studies 4 (1994) and two from Cretan Studies 5 (1995), of which full details are given in the contents. These four articles which have appeared in Cretan Studies have not been republished, in a spirit of pragmatism of which James would have approved, but they are up-dated by means of Corrigenda et Addenda.

Of particular importance to Minoan studies is the Corrigenda et Addenda to "Evidence for the Minoan Language (1): The Minoan Libation Formula" which appeared in Cretan Studies 5 (1995), Studies Hood, a fine volume, which contains many important papers on Minoan Crete. This present volume of 20 collected essays has been arranged thematically for Cretan Studies (1996). In another spirit of pragmatism, of which I hope James would have approved, this volume is both dedicated to his memory and also to Sheila.

1996 is the 40th anniversary of the publication of Documents in Mycenaean Greek by Michael Ventris and John Chadwick. Sadly it is also 40 years since the untimely death of Michael Ventris.

"ΟΥ ΘΕΟΣ ΦΙΛΕΙ ΑΠΟΘΥΝΟΚΕΙ ΘΕΟΣ"

In Greece a memorial service is held 40 days after death and then every year. Therefore it seemed appropriate to mark the 40th memorial of Ventris' life and achievement by this volume. As I write, it is 40 years to the day since Michael Ventris so tragically died.
On this day in particular I think of the giants of Aegean Archaeology and Philology, Sir Arthur Evans and Michael Ventris OBE, and I also remember James Hooker, teacher and friend, who introduced me to the Aegean Bronze Age. To these three scholars this volume of collected essays is respectively dedicated.

GARETH ALUN OWENS - HERAKLION - CRETE - HELLAS 6/9/96

* See James T. Hooker, SCRIPTA MINORA, Selected Essays on Minoan, Mycenaean, Homeric and Classical Greek subjects, edited by Frederic Amory, Patrick Considine and Sheila Hooker, A.M. Hakkert Publishing Company, Amsterdam 1996. This contains 69 of James Hooker's 100 publications (books and articles excluding reviews), and is a lasting and fitting monument to his scholarship.
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PART 2

DAIDALIKA

COLLECTED ESSAYS IN CRETAN STUDIES ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY, EPIGRAPHY AND PHILOLOGY OF MINOAN AND MYCENAEAN CRETE

In 1800, Sir John夺魂, visited Crete for the first time in his search for information. He discovered the ruins of Knossos and other Minoan sites. In 1800, King Henry VIII visited Knossos and other Minoan sites. The best known is the Palace of Minos at Knossos, which was first excavated in 1878. The excavation was continued in 1899, and the site was first opened to the public in 1900.