

R. J. Firth, J.-L. Melena, "The Knossos Linear B Tablets: Genesis of the Listing of the Later Fragments", in *Colloquium Romanum. Atti del XII Colloquio internazionale di micenologia, Roma, 20-25 febbraio 2006*, Fabrizio Serra Editore, Pisa-Roma 2008, pp. 281-308

Author's Accepted Manuscript

DOI: 10.1400/132267

THE KNOSSOS LINEAR B TABLETS: GENESIS OF THE LISTING OF THE LATER FRAGMENTS¹

Richard J. Firth and José L. Melena

INTRODUCTION

The present study is part of a sequence of papers which is re-examining the find-places of the Linear B tablets from Knossos.² However, this work concerns minor fragments for which there is little or no documentary evidence from the excavation. Furthermore, most of these fragments were re-discovered many years after the completion of Evans' excavations. Therefore, the link back to the actual unearthing of the fragments is necessarily weak. Nevertheless, the information that is available to us is significant and it is worthwhile reviewing this in the hope that it will help us to move closer to establishing the original find-places of these minor fragments.

This paper considers those fragments which are numbered upwards from 7000. These fragments came together, into the current inventory of Linear B tablets, from numerous different sources. There is information to be gained by trying to establish which fragments were re-discovered together, because there is a possibility that such fragments were excavated from the same find-place. Although this would appear to be a simple aim, it is complicated by the repeated observation that, at each stage, the publication of new fragments only concentrated on the better finds, with smaller finds being neglected in the first instance. In addition, the publication of many of the fragments was done according to classification rather than the grouping in which they were found. In this way, much information has been lost. Nevertheless, it is the

¹ We would like to acknowledge the help given by John Killen in providing copies of photographs and correspondence used in the preparation of this paper from the Mycenaean Epigraphy Room, Classics Department, Cambridge. We also acknowledge the help provided in recent correspondence from George Huxley.

² R. J. Firth, "The Find-Places of the Tablets from the Palace of Knossos", *Minos* 31-32 (1996-1997) p. 7-122; R. J. Firth, "A Review of the Find-Places of the Linear B tablets from the Palace of Knossos", *Minos* 35-36 (2000-2001) p. 63-290; R. J. Firth, "Evans' Missing Batch of Linear B Tablets", *Minos* 35-36 (2000-2001) p. 291-313; R. J. Firth & J. L. Melena, "Find-places of the Knossos Tablets: The 5000-Series", 11th International Mycenaean Conference, Austin, Texas (2000); R. J. Firth & J. L. Melena, "Identifying the Linear B tablets from the Arsenal and Little Palace at Knossos", *Minos* 33-34 (1998-1999) p. 107-133; R. J. Firth & J. L. Melena, "The Knossos Tablets: Genesis of the 5000-series" *Minos* 35-36 (2000-2001) p. 315-355; R. J. Firth & J. L. Melena, "A Tale of Two Fragments: KN DI 8216 and 8217", *Minos* 35-36 (2000-2001) p. 451-458; J. L. Melena, "Some Thoughts on the Origin of the Knossos Fragments found in 1984 at the Heraklion Museum", *Florent Studia Mycenaea* (1999) p. 363-387

purpose of this paper to demonstrate that a surprising amount of information can still be gleaned about these minor fragments.

This paper includes a discussion of the 9000-series of fragments. There is extensive documentation of the work that was done on these fragments prior to their publication in *KT5* and *CoMIK IV*. Much of this information is not readily apparent from a reading of the published literature and therefore this paper gives an overview for those who were not directly involved in the many hours of work on these fragments.

The structure of the paper follows the obvious pattern of describing each group of tablets in numerical sequence. Previous papers have described the sequence of fragments re-discovered by Emmett Bennett in the Heraklion Museum in 1950, numbered 5000-5191 and 5092-6068.³ Therefore, the present work starts from the fragments re-discovered in the Heraklion Museum in 1955 by Chadwick and Ventris. These are fragments which were held in museum stores during WWII but which had not been recorded .

7000 – 8075: Fragments transcribed by Chadwick & Ventris in 1955

Chadwick - April 1955

On 7 April 1955, Chadwick wrote to Ventris, as follows,

«He [Platon] told me that there were some trays full of rotted and crumbling tablets which had become exposed to the weather as a result of broken windows during the war; and Bennett evidently never saw these. They were thick in dust, and many have crumbled completely to a coarse red sand; some fall to pieces at the slightest touch (and were illegible anyway); but a great number are reasonably sound and well preserved. They are of course like the 5000 series only tiny fragments, many of them a mere sign or two or a numeral or merely blank ends. But I picked out any that looked large enough to contain a whole word, and in some cases, was able to make joins – 2 or 3 tablets I completely resuscitated from these trays. The important thing is that these fragments will doubtless help to complete the published ones – but I couldn't start to tackle the job of looking for joins; it would take a month at the very least to clean and sort up everything and get all the other tablets re-sorted by categories so as to give you a reasonable chance of success.»

Chadwick's paper on the Knossos Horse and Foal Tablet, **Ca 895**, resulted from this visit to Heraklion and in that paper he wrote a similar account.⁴

³ Firth & Melena "Find-places: 5000-series", cit., and "Genesis of the 5000-series", cit.

⁴ «He [Platon] drew my attention to a number of trays which had recently been discovered in the Museum's storerooms. They had contained fragments of tablets from Evans' digs at Knossos, but unfortunately had been exposed to damp owing to damage caused to the Museum during the war, and are now in a sorry condition. Some have crumbled to a coarse powder, but I found that a large number had been sufficiently durable to withstand their rough treatment, and although in need of cleaning could be salvaged and read. In the limited time at my disposal I was unable to do more than make a quick examination of the larger pieces and estimate the work which needs to be done.» J. Chadwick, "The Knossos Horse and Foal Tablet (**Ca 895**)", *Bulletin of Classical Studies of the University of London* (1955) p. 1-3 ; see also J. Chadwick, "The Decipherment of Linear B", Cambridge University Press (1958), p. 85.

In a letter from Ventris to Bennett dated 31 May 1955, Ventris wrote,

«The British School is digging at Knossos in August and September, but I don't think I shall do more than pay a short visit. I also want to have a look at the couple of new trays of fragments which Chadwick found in the Museum, and see how big the job of transcribing & joining them is likely to be.»

Chadwick sent a list of fragments which he had transcribed to Ventris and it had the following note at the top of the list,

«The following is a rough transcript of some of the many unnumbered fragments found in Iraklion Museum. It seems likely that some of them are already known from drawings, and a great deal of checking would be needed before publication. The fragments quoted here are transcribed uniformly with the system used in the London transcript, and have been arranged provisionally according to the single letter classes to which they seem to belong.»

In a letter to José Melena (dated 10 January 1993), Chadwick elaborated, «Platon produced a couple of trays full of small fragments of tablets (and pottery), not to mention dust. [...] What I saw were only a small sample of the 7000 series, certainly not more than 100 pieces, probably less. [...] Of course by the time he [Ventris] arrived many more trays of fragments had been unearthed from the αποθηκη.»⁵

The tablets which Chadwick transcribed in April 1955 are listed in Table 1.

Tablets from the 7000-series which were included in the Original Handlist⁶

This sub-section briefly considers those fragments seen by Chadwick which had already been published in *Scripta Minoa II*.

Evans included a number of tablets in his *Original Handlist* which he later considered to be either too minor to be included in the trays of major tablets or too minor to be published in *Scripta Minoa II* (or both). It was evident to Chadwick that a relatively large number of fragments, that he saw in April 1955, were already known to him from *Scripta Minoa II*. These are essentially the fragments in Table 1 which have both 7000-series numbers and *Scripta Minoa (SM)* numbers. It is probable that, at some stage, there was a 'weeding' of minor fragments from some of the trays of major tablets by Evans and that all the discarded pieces were put into a tray of minor fragments and that this was one of trays that Chadwick was shown in April 1955. (However, it does not follow that all the fragments were 'weeded' at the same time and that they all found their way into the same tray.)

It is possible to obtain information about which tablets were discarded in a number of different ways.

⁵ Melena "Some thoughts", cit., p. 365.

⁶ There is a discussion of Evans' *Handlist* (and the terminology associated with it) given by Firth ("Find-places", cit.).

- There are drawings of tablets in *SMII* which were not in the trays of major tablets which were given to the Heraklion Museum.
- There are drawings of some tablets in the *Handlist* which were not published in *SMII*.
- There are *Original Handlist* numbers which cannot be linked to a drawing or photograph of a tablet.
- Evans wrote inked numbers on the back of tablets which he included in the *Handlist* (corresponding to their numbers in the *Original Handlist*). Many of these numbers are no longer legible, however, traces of ink on the back of 7000-series fragments indicates that they were probably included in the *Original Handlist*.
- There are photographs of tablets in *SMII* which were later found amongst the 7000-series.

Table 2 is a list of all the discarded fragments that were found in the 7000-series. Thus, it is shown that Chadwick saw a large proportion (60%) of the discarded fragments that are known to have been in the *Original Handlist*. Furthermore, since these are spread across almost all of the find-places involved, then we can be reasonably confident that Chadwick probably saw almost all such fragments. However, there is no evidence that he saw the fragments that had photographs in *SMII* (i.e. 7035, 7496, 7853 & 8041). Further, there is no indication that he saw the three fragments that are reputed to have ink traces but which have not been associated with the *Original Handlist* (i.e. 7373, 7547 & 7599).⁷

Considering the ‘couple of trays’ which Chadwick was shown

It is worthwhile asking what we know about the couple of trays of fragments which Chadwick was shown.

As noted above, it is clear that these two trays contained up to 20 minor fragments that had been included in the *Handlist*, initially stored with the major tablets, but later ‘weeded out’ and put in a tray with the minor fragments. These are from a range of find-places in the West wing that were excavated in the first season (1900). In practice, these discarded fragments do not tell us anything about the remainder of the fragments because they arrived in the tray by a different route.

We will now concentrate on the remaining fragments. Firstly, we should note that there are two stray fragments from the East-West Corridor and one from the Arsenal. If we also ignore these stray fragments, then the remaining fragments, with known association, are from the Western Palace (excavated during the first few weeks of the first season) and from the North Entrance Passage (also excavated in 1900).

We can say a little more about one of these trays of fragments. Five of the fragments, in Table 1, are part of tablets which now include fragments from Box IV of the 9000-series. The 9000-series of fragments will be discussed below, however, the association of Chadwick’s list with as many as five fragments from Box IV can be

⁷ The tracings of ink are noted by Olivier in his hand-written notes on a concordance constructed by Bennett. These were subsequently noted in *KTT Color*.

regarded as significant. The implication is that the fragments in Box IV included the residue of one of the trays that Chadwick saw.

It worth noting that among the pieces that Chadwick joined before transcribing are 895, 7022, 7041 and 7071.

Ventris - July 1955

In July 1955, Ventris went to Heraklion and transcribed the full series, 7000-8075. The 7000-series of fragments is complementary to the 5000-series that was transcribed by Bennett in 1950. Both Bennett and Ventris transcribed fragments from approximately ten containers. These containers were filled (roughly) consecutively during the course of the excavation at Knossos. Therefore, the contents of each container approximately represented a phase during the excavation. Bennett listed the 5000-series of fragments according to the contents of each container⁸. By contrast, Chadwick and Ventris listed the 7000-series of fragments according to classification. In doing this, Ventris regrettably lost all the possible find-place information that might have been gained by listing the fragments according to the container in which they were found.

Ventris noted the colour of the fragments and sub-divided the X-series fragments according whether the clay was 'red', 'buff' or 'grey' and whether the fragments were the beginnings, middles or ends of their original tablets (see *KT1*). It is generally accepted now that this sort of crude listing by colour is not useful because parts of the same tablet can have different colouring depending upon the conditions under which it was fired. Nevertheless, there is some useful information contained within Ventris' notes of colours. Most of the fragments are described as being either 'red' or 'grey' but there are 32 fragments which are described as 'buff'. Of the these 32 'buff' fragments, 20 were from the Room of the Chariot Tablets and, in particular, 14 were written by scribe 124-S.⁹ Most of these fragments by 124-S are in Ventris' X-series and are 'buff' beginnings, middles and ends.¹⁰

It is evident that Ventris made a number of joins prior to transcribing some of the fragments. The best example of this is **7035**, the right hand part of **7035** appears on Plate LXIV of *SMII* (and is given the number **1634**). In that photograph, the reading was, *Jta VIR 10*. Chadwick does not record seeing that piece. However, when Ventris transcribes **7035**, the reading became,

J-jo / po-ku-ta VIR 10,

indicating that a fragment, **1634**, has been joined by a second fragment to give **7035**. However, there are numerous other examples of 7000-series pieces that were joined before they were transcribed for the first time by Ventris (i.e. 7033, 7066, 7086, 7279, 7317, 7326, 7327, 7376, 7449, 7489, 7556, 7709, 7711, 7805, 7883, 7890, 8080).

It is possible to determine the period of the excavation in which the 7000-series fragments from the East-West Corridor were unearthed by their association with *Handlist* tablets. 86% of the fragments are associated with *Deduced Order Numbers*

⁸ Firth & Melena "Find-places: 5000-series", cit., and "Genesis of the 5000-series", cit.

⁹ See J. Driessen, "The Scribes of the Room of the Chariot Tablets: Interdisciplinary Approach to the Study of a Linear B Deposit", *Supplementos a Minos* No. 15, 2000, p. 85.

¹⁰ In Driessen, "RCT Scribes" (cit.), these fragments are mostly described simply as 'Orange'.

over 150, implying that they were excavated in 1902 and 75% of the fragments are associated with *Deduced Order Numbers* over 250, implying that they were excavated towards the latter end of the excavation of the East-West Corridor.¹¹

On 31 July 1955, in a letter to Chadwick, Ventris describes the remaining fragments which he did not transcribe:

«In addition, to the pieces that I've given red numbers to, there are two trays (about 150 bits) which either have no writing on them or which are untranscribable, but which are nevertheless firm enough to keep for possible joins. About 3 cupfuls of soft red fragments were so far gone that they weren't worth keeping, & they will be shoved in a σακκουλα in the basement together with the dust and carbonized seeds.»

It is suggested that the 150 bits which Ventris describes as being firm were held with the other agrapha in a tray labelled "Tray Untranscribed 1955" (see the discussion under 8218-8332 below). The "3 cupfuls of soft red fragments" were returned to the stores and it is probable that these were fragments that were discovered in the Museum stores in 1984 (see Melena, "Some thoughts", cit., and also the discussion on the 9000-series below).

Three of the numbers in the series 7000-8075 were inadvertently used twice. In order to remove this anomaly, the numbers 8080-8082 were introduced to replace 7067bis, 7475bis and 8026bis.

8100 – 8115: Tablets found in 1956¹²

With the exception of 8102, tablets 8100-8115 were found in the store room and Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos. 8102 is reported to have been found in the neighbourhood of the pine-trees to the north-west of the palace (but is joined to Ga 427 which was excavated from the Corridor of the House Tablets within the Palace). These tablets have already been discussed by the authors (Firth & Melena, "Arsenal & Little Palace", cit.). However, since that publication, we have obtained a copy of a letter from Sinclair Hood to John Chadwick informing him of the finding of some of these fragments,

«Since writing to you yesterday, after George Huxley had left, we came upon some more tablets in the Apotheke. Davina Best has made copies which I enclose. The second copy you might forward to Dr Bennett if you thought it would interest him. I do not know his address.

There are 8 fragments, mostly as you see large. The tablets are thick, shades of brown or red. They came from 2 boxes, both of them obviously contaminated & wrong labels! But from the finds & them I suspect they might have been found some years ago (but since the war) when the sides of the Minoan Road leading from the Theatral Area towards the little Palace were trimmed. The Armoury tablets came from

¹¹ For a discussion of *Deduced Order Numbers* and their interpretation see Firth, "Find-places" (cit.), particularly section 13 and Table J.i.

¹² G. Huxley & J. Chadwick, "New Fragments of Linear B tablets from Knossos" *BSA* 52, 1957, p.147-151

basements on the North side of the road, & I wondered if there was any probability, or possibility, that these tablets came from that area? If so, it may indicate that there are more to be found if we excavate there.»

The tablets drawn by Davina Best are: 8103, 8109 – 8115. **DI(1) 8103** was written by scribe 118. The other pieces have not been identified as coming from sets and there is no positive guidance on find-places. However, the fact that they have not been identified as having firing consistent with Arsenal tablets, indicates that Hood's speculation was incorrect in respect of most of these pieces.¹³

L 8105 was written by scribe 103 and is, therefore, very probably from the Western Palace. However, **Nc 8106** and **Xf 8107** are from the Arsenal and **Sk 8100** would have originated from the Arsenal area.¹⁴

The numbers 8116 to 8119 were not used.

8120 – 8143: Tablets found in the Upper Apotheke in 1957¹⁵

The finding of these tablets from was recorded in a letter from George Huxley to John Chadwick (dated 26 September 1956):

«When we were working the Upper Apotheke yesterday, we found in a small box containing some beads, a broken sealstone and a neolithic sherd about 150 tablet fragments. How they came to be there we do not know, but Sinclair [Hood] has written to R.W. Hutchinson to ask whether he knows anything about them. It is possible that they were found in the Villa Ariadne during the war and dumped in the apotheke.

Of the 150 fragments about 50 have signs or marks of punctuation. Very few of the fragments join: we may therefore hope that some pieces will fit existing tablets in the Heraklion Museum. Most of the pieces are in a very poor state and in no case are more than three consecutive signs visible. I enclose sketches of the more legible fragments.

The best preserved fragments are black and hard fired, the red ones being for the most part very fragile.»

The fragments sketched are: 8120, 8122, 8125, 8128-8131, 8133-8134, 8136-8139, 8141 and 8638. These fragments were all published by Chadwick, except for 8638.¹⁶

In 1960, Elizabeth French also photographed fragments from a “box of bits found Sept 1956 – untranscribed J.C. 1958”. These fragments were 8458, 8459, 8469, 8478, 8501, 8510, 8620, 8635, 8734. These fragments are all identified as being from the

¹³ The photograph of **DI(1) 8103** in *CoMIK* shows cracking which is similar to that of the hard firing attained by tablets from the Arsenal. It seems possible that it may have been fired near the Arsenal, cf. **DI(1) 8177** and **D 8174** (Firth & Melena, “Arsenal & Little Palace”, cit.). However, it is emphasised that this observation is based on the photograph and we have had not had the opportunity to examine the tablet to confirm this.

¹⁴ Firth & Melena, “Arsenal & Little Palace”, cit.

¹⁵ J. Chadwick, “Further Linear B tablets from Knossos”, *BSA* 57, 1962, p. 46-74.

¹⁶ Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit.

RCT. These were published by Olivier, who states that, at that time, they were in the agrapha drawers.¹⁷

In this way we can re-assemble 34 of the ~150 fragments found in the Upper Apotheke in 1956 (see Table 3). It is evident that these represent a container of fragments from sieving which were not taken to the Heraklion Museum before WWII. The fragments are almost all from the Room of the Chariot Tablets. However, there is only limited evidence that these tablets form part of a coherent subset of the RCT tablets. Nevertheless, it is worth drawing attention to the fact that:

- **(8131)7507** and **8138** both appear in the very small group of tablets listed as «Stylus Group 1» by Driessen¹⁸.
- **(8140)121** and **8141** both appear in the small group of tablets listed as scribal hand “124”n by Olivier (*Scribes Cnossos*, p. 72). **(8140)121**, **8141** and **(8142)7489** are all part of the Uf(1)-set.
- **8123**, **8458** and **8459** are all part of the Np(1)-set of saffron tablets written by scribe 124-E.

8144 – 8150: Tablets excavated in 1957-1959 on the West side of the Arsenal¹⁹

These tablets have been discussed by Firth & Melena (“Arsenal & Little Palace”, cit.) and in the review of find-pieces by Firth (“Review”, p. 255-256).

8151 : Fragment held by University College, London²⁰

This fragment was found by Mr M.S. Thompson in a corner of the Queen’s Megaron. Thompson was staying with Evans in the Villa Ariadne in the summer of 1911 and whilst they were walking round the palace, Thompson found the fragment. Evans told him he could keep the fragment.

The fragment is clearly a stray from the large deposit of sheep tablets found in the East-West Corridor.

8152-8153: Sealings found in the Ashmolean Museum²¹

These were sealings that were discovered in the Ashmolean Museum subsequent to the publication of *Scripta Minoa II* (see also fragments 8206 – 8209 below).

8154 – 8171: Tablets formerly in the National Museum in Athens²²

These are fragments associated with a group of tablets stolen from the Knossos excavation in 1901 and subsequently sold to the National Museum in Athens. This

¹⁷ J.-P. Olivier, “Nouvelles tablettes en Linéaire B de Cnossos”, *BSA* 62, 1967, p. 267-323. It is interesting to note that the 1956 page of sketches contains a disk, which reappears on French’s photograph, along with a sector of a second disk. French describes these as, “2-disks – painted on flat sides inscribed (?) on other, i.e. gaming pieces”.

¹⁸ Driessen, “RCT Scribes”, cit., p. 88.

¹⁹ Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 51-53.

²⁰ Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 53.

²¹ Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 53-54.

²² Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 54-58.

incident is described by Evans in *Scripta Minoa* I (p. 46).

The ‘Athens tablets’ were stolen by a workman excavating in Magazine XV (F14) before they were recorded by Evans. The tablets are clearly part of a coherent grouping because they include 3 As(1)’s, 3 Ld(1)’s, 2 L(7)’s.²³

M.Inv.(*)	Tablet no.	classification	scribe	notes
1540	471	L(7)	211	
1538	580	Ld(1) 575	116	
1544	592	L(7)	211?	
1539	601	Am(1)	103	palm-print R ZETA
1547	602	As(1)	103	
1545	614	Ak(1)	103	
1543	632	Ai		
1546	640	Ak		
1542	660	X		
1541	661	Ld(1) 598	116	
1550	8154	Ap		includes 8155, 8156, 8158, 8166, 8168
1556	8157	As(1) 603	103	
1549	8159	L(1)	103	includes 8165
1556	8160	L	103	
1552	8161	As(1)	103	
1553	8162	Ap 5547		
1555	8163	L	103	
1556	8164	X		
1551	8167	X		
1548	8169	Ld(1) 649	116	

(*) the M.Inv. of 8155 is 1554; there are numerous smaller fragments listed as 1556

8172 – 8205: Fragments found in the Stratigraphic Museum of Knossos²⁴

It has already been noted that fragments were found in the Stratigraphic Museum in 1956. However, the group of fragments listed here were found in a further search in 1960 by Raison. The inscriptions were numbered MSK 1 to 64. These included the SMII tablets: 4483, 4485-4492 from the Arsenal and 1573 (=4497, now 8204) and 4495 from the Little Palace.

When the MSK fragments were taken to the Heraklion Museum, they were given Museum Inventory numbers and these are included in Table 4. (Note that MSK 35, 41 & 47 are not Linear B tablets.)

These fragments came from a number of separate trays and boxes within the Stratigraphical Museum. The labels on the boxes do not provide any useful indication of find-places. However, there is some value in considering the find-groups of the inscriptions since it is evident that inscriptions in the same find-group tend to be from a common find-place.

In his discussion of the finds from the Stratigraphic Museum, Raison considers the following find-groups together,

MSK 1-27

²³ See the discussion in Firth “Find-places”, cit., p. 80-81.

²⁴ Chadwick “Further Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 58-65.

MSK 28
MSK 29-34
MSK 36

The areas indicated by the labels are unhelpful except to note that they are dated 1904. With very few exceptions, all these fragments are from the Arsenal which was excavated in 1904-5. Furthermore, three of the fragments from the group MSK 29-34 are now joined to fragments from the group MSK 1-27, which supports Raison's suggestion that these find-groups should be considered together. Many of these fragments are from the Nc-set.

Raison then discusses the following find-groups,

MSK 42
MSK 43-46

Again the areas indicated by the labels are unhelpful except to note that they are dated 1909-10. The fragments are mostly from the East-West Corridor, which was excavated in 1902-3. Thus, the date on the labels might suggest that these were a few fragments found at a later stage (possibly during reconstruction work by Christian Doll).

Raison then considers,

MSK 48-51
MSK 63-64

which were amongst finds from the Little Palace. (See the discussion by Firth & Melena, "Arsenal & Little Palace", cit.)

Raison divides the remaining MSK fragments as follows,

MSK 37-40
MSK 52
MSK 53
MSK 54-62

The labels for these were either missing or completely unhelpful. Many of the latter group are from the East-West Corridor. It is worth noting that MSK 62 is now joined to MSK 46 and MSK 53 is joined to MSK 59. It is possible that, if the date of 1909-10 is correct for MSK 42-46, it might also apply to MSK 53-62.

8206 – 8209: Fragments found in the Ashmolean Museum²⁵

These were fragments that had been found in the Ashmolean Museum subsequent to the publication of *Scripta Minoa* II (see also sealings 8152 – 8153 above).

8210 – 8215 Tablets excavated by Sinclair Hood in the vicinity of the Arsenal²⁶

These tablets have been discussed by Firth & Melena ("Arsenal & Little Palace", cit.) and in the review of find-pieces by Firth ("Review", cit., p. 255-256).

8216 – 8217 Fragments in the British Museum²⁷

²⁵ Chadwick "Further Linear B tablets", cit., p. 66.

²⁶ J. Chadwick & J. T. Killen, "Linear B tablets from Knossos", *BSA* 58, 1963, p. 68-88.

²⁷ Chadwick & Killen "Linear B tablets", cit., p. 70.

These fragments have already been discussed by Firth & Melena (“Tale of two fragments”, cit.). They were two fragments that had been separately brought back from Crete by officers of the Royal Sussex regiment in 1907 and subsequently donated to the British Museum.

8218 – 8332: The so-called ΑΓΡΑΦΑ fragments²⁸

According to the BSA report, these fragments had been stored in the ψ-drawer and were examined by Killen in 1961. Photographs of a large number of the fragments in the ψ-drawer had already been taken by Elizabeth French in 1960. Later photographs were taken by the museum photographer, Androulakis. The fragments were numbered according to classification, however, there is some information that can be gleaned from the earlier set of photographs.

There were six photographs of fragments taken by Elizabeth French. Five of these were described as being from “Tray ψ αγραφα”, the remaining photograph was of fragments from “Tray Untranscribed 1955”. The distinction between these two series of photographs is important. The fragments from “Tray ψ αγραφα” which were photographed by Elizabeth French were all fragments which had already been photographed by Emmett Bennett in 1954, i.e. these were the fragments which Bennett had seen but not transcribed in 1950 (or 1954). In other words, these were part of the residue of the 5192-6068 series of tablets (see Firth & Melena “Genesis of the 5000-series, cit.). The fact that these fragments had already been photographed and subsequently transferred into “Tray ψ αγραφα” means that they had already been handled a number of times and that there was no longer any significance in their relative locations on these photographs.

The “Tray Untranscribed 1955” were fragments which Bennett had not seen in 1950 or 1954 and which only came to light in 1955, but which had not been transcribed by Chadwick or Ventris. This latter group of fragments include 8222, 8228, 8244, 8250, 8253, 8256, 8259, 8269, 8271, 8277, 8279, 8280, 8284, 8285, 8295, 8296, 8328. These fragments were part of the residue of the 7000-series of fragments (as discussed above).

The 8218-8332 series also includes a number of fragments which were not present on the French photographs. With the single exception of 8303, all these additional fragments had been photographed by Bennett in 1954 and, therefore, they were from “Tray ψ αγραφα”. It is evident that the Androulakis photographs were required for the publication of Chadwick & Killen, “Linear B tablets” (cit.), both to supplement the French photographs and, where necessary, to improve on their clarity.

8333: Manchester Museum

Chadwick assigned a classification and serial number to **KN Dx 8333** in a communication to Nestor. He wrote, «Mr. V. R. d’A. Desborough has recently brought to my notice a fragment of a Linear B tablet which has for some years been in a private collection and is now in his possession. No record of its origin is preserved,

²⁸ Chadwick & Killen “Linear B tablets”, cit., p. 70-87.

but it seems likely to have been purchased from a dealer many years ago. Shape, content and hand all strongly suggest that this fragment originated from Knossos, and it is known that Evans suffered from the depredations of unscrupulous workmen.»²⁹

This fragment is now in the Museum of Manchester.

8334 – 8751: Nouvelles tablettes en Linéaire B de Cnossos³⁰

These were largely fragments from the agrapha drawers in the Heraklion Museum. The exceptions are:

- 8493 – 8500 which are clay sealings;
- 8572 (M.Inv. 1610) which was found by M.A.S. Cameron in a tray of frescoes in Apotheke labelled «Knossos Palace. N. Threshing Floor area 22 Z VIII». However, since this fragment is **Lc(1) 8572** written by scribe 103, it is evident that the labelling is misleading and that its actual find-place is the Western Magazines.
- 8709 – 8710 which were found in the Stratigraphical Museum by Popham in 1965;
- 8711 which is a sealing that was found in 1965 in a vineyard opposite the Little Palace. See the brief discussion by Firth & Melena, “Arsenal & Little Palace”, cit., p. 133;
- 8712 – 8713 which are clay sealings;
- 8714 – 8717 which are four of the fragments found by Raison in 1960 (MSK 25, 54, 56 & 61); see the discussion above.
- 8718 – 8721 which were found in two boxes in the Stratigraphical Museum by Olivier in November 1965. On the basis of their appearance, it is evident that 8718 and 8719 were excavated from the Arsenal and that 8720 was from the North Entrance Passage.

8752 – 8831: Nouveaux fragments de tablettes en Linéaire B de Cnossos³¹

These are, again, largely a list of fragments from the agrapha drawers at Heraklion.

- 8752-8754: sealings that had already been published by Olivier in 1966 (but without photographs).³²
- 8755 – 8786: fragments from the agrapha drawers at Heraklion (including MSK 31)
- 8787: fragment found in the National Museum in Athens in 1971. Olivier suggests that this is perhaps by scribe 118.³³
- 8788 - 8830: fragments from the agrapha drawers at Heraklion
- 8831: fragment found in the National Museum in Athens in 1972. This fragment is part of **Dd 5105** from the East-West Corridor.

²⁹ J. Chadwick, Communication published in Nestor 1 October 1964, p. 353

³⁰ Olivier, “Nouvelles tablettes”, cit.

³¹ L. Godart & J.-P. Olivier, “Nouveaux fragments de tablettes en Linéaire B de Cnossos” *BCH* 97, 1973, p. 5-18.

³² J.-P. Olivier, “La série Ws de Cnossos”, *Minos* 9, 1966, p. 173-183.

³³ J. Sakellarakis & J.-P. Olivier, “Deux fragments de tablettes en Linéaire B de Cnossos au Musée National d’Athènes”, *Athens Annals of Archaeology* 5:2, 1972, p. 289-292.

8787 & 8831 were found in a collection of sherds that were assembled by Hutchinson in 1939 to be sent to the University of Otago, New Zealand for teaching purposes. This collection was subsequently found in the stores of the National Museum of Athens and the fragments were identified as Linear B, respectively, in 1971 and 1972.³⁴

8832 – 8838: Miscellaneous fragments published separately

- 8832: A fragment of Linear B tablet from Knossos.³⁵ This fragment was found by Hallager in the Stratigraphical Museum in 1975. He suggests that its pumice-like appearance might indicate that it was from the East-West Corridor.
- 8833: Linear B tablet from the Unexplored Mansion.³⁶
- 8834: A new fragment of a sheep tablet from Knossos.³⁷ This fragment was found in 1981 in the Stratigraphical Museum. It is part of a sheep tablet from the East-West Corridor.
- 8835: Fragment from private collection.³⁸ This fragment was originally from the Arsenal.
- 8836: Fragment in the Liverpool University Archaeological Museum.³⁹ This fragment was bequeathed to the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies, Liverpool University, by R. W. Hutchinson, who was the curator at Knossos during the years 1934 to 1947 (excluding the years of WWII). It is a sheep tablet from the East-West Corridor.
- 8837: from the old agrapha in the Heraklion Museum.
- 8838: Fragment from North Entrance Passage.⁴⁰ This fragment was excavated in 1987 from a trial trench in the high ground east of the NEP. It was found in a mixed context.

The 9000-series

In 1984, eight boxes of fragments were found in the Scientific Collection in the Heraklion Museum by the director, I. A. Sakellarakis. The initial discovery is described by Olivier and more detailed statements on the contents of the boxes are

³⁴ Sakellarakis & Olivier, “Deux fragments” (cit.). 8791 has been identified on a set of drawings by Hilda Pendlebury and R. W. Hutchinson which include the set of fragments 2126-2138, found in the Villa Ariadne in 1948 (Firth & Melena “Arsenal & Little Palace”, cit., Table 5).

³⁵ E. Hallager, “A Fragment of a Linear B Tablet from Knossos”, *Kadmos* 16, 1977, p. 24-25

³⁶ R. D. G. Evely, J. T. Killen & M. R. Popham, “A Linear B Tablet from the ‘Unexplored Mansion’, Knossos”, *Kadmos* 33, 1994, p. 10-14.

³⁷ J. Bennet & J. A. MacGillivray, “A New Fragment of a Sheep Tablet from Knossos” *Kadmos* 21, 1982, p. 30-32.

³⁸ J. T. Killen, “Another Fragment of Linear B Tablet from Knossos”, *Kadmos*, 33, 1994, p. 14-15.

³⁹ J. T. Killen & C. Mee, “A Fragment of Linear B Tablet from Knossos in the Liverpool University Archaeological Museum”, *Kadmos*, 33, 1994, p. 15-17.

⁴⁰ J. T. Killen & A. A. D. Peatfield, “A Linear B Tablet from the North Entrance Passage, Knossos”, *Kadmos*, 33, 1994, pp. 17-21.

given by Melena.⁴¹ However, the most detailed accounts are contained within a series of reports that were circulated among a small group of co-workers.⁴²

The ‘boxes’ were actually an assortment of different containers. They had not necessarily been found together in the stores but had been brought together by members of the museum staff. It is noted in Rapport I Annexe II that «Aucune mention fiable d’origine n’était indiquée dans les boîtes, sauf sur un fragment d’un exemplaire du Times de Londres (datant de 1901 probablement : allusions à Mafeking) qui enveloppait au moins certaines des tablettes de la boîte II (“8 W Gallery” = “Eight Western Magazine”).» This was a sizable piece of newspaper, very roughly 15 cm square, and that some of the fragments were wrapped in the newspaper. There was newspaper in the other boxes but that was different because it was just small shreds. At least some of the shredding was done by rodents, which left their excrement in the boxes. In addition, Box I contained a tin box. The contents of the tin-box were mixed with the other fragments from Box I and it is not possible to determine which fragments were inside the tin-box.⁴³

As is clearly evident from the photographs in *CoMIK*, the 9000-series of are largely small fragments with little or no writing. However, the photographs do not show that, in general, these fragments are quite fragile.

Melena has convincingly demonstrated that many of these fragments have been formed as a result of the breaking up of larger pieces during their storage within trays (i.e. intra-tray breaks in the years subsequent to the excavation). In particular, he has shown that many of these are likely to have been the remains of the 7000-series. Melena quotes explicit examples from Boxes II, III, IV, VI and VII.⁴⁴

In his letter to Chadwick (quoted above), Ventris states that he separated out soft red fragments and sent them back to the stores. It seems very likely that most of the boxes of fragments found in 1984 contained the soft red fragments that Ventris was referring to in 1955.

However, Killen and Olivier judge that Ventris would not have unwrapped and re-wrapped these fragments and so they suggest that Ventris did not see the fragments wrapped in the newspaper with the reference to Mafeking in Box II. In addition, using a similar logic, Olivier suggests that Ventris probably had not seen the contents of the tin found in Box I. However, it remains possible that the fragments wrapped in the Mafeking newspaper and those in the tin box had been recently placed in Boxes II and I by museum staff as part of the process of assembling the collection of newly found

⁴¹ J.-P. Olivier, “Rapport sur les Éditions de Textes en Écriture Hiéroglyphique Crétoise, en Linéaire A et en Linéaire B”, *Tractata Mycenaea*, Skopje, 1987, p. 241-248; J. L. Melena, “The Reconstruction of the Fragments of the Linear B Tablets from Knossos”, *Atti e Memorie del Secondo Congresso Internazionale di Micenologia*, Rome, 1996, p.83-92; Melena “Some thoughts”, cit.

⁴² J.-P. Olivier et al, “Rapport concernant le travail exécuté au Musée d’Iraklio sur les tablettes en Linéaire B de Knossos” 1984-1993, numbered 1-19, unpublished.

⁴³ The contents of this paragraph are based on discussions with John Killen and Jean-Pierre Olivier during the Colloquium in Rome (February 2006). They emphasised that their recollections were of events that had occurred over 20 years ago. On the day that the fragments were unwrapped, the piece of newspaper was removed by a member of the museum cleaning staff and so it was not possible to trace its date. However, we know from the excavation notebooks that Magazine VIII was excavated in 1900.

⁴⁴ J. L. Melena, “Some thoughts”, cit.

fragments. In this case, Ventris could have seen the contents of Boxes II and I except for those fragments wrapped in the Mafeking newspaper or conained within the tin box.⁴⁵

It is also worth noting that the Arsenal tablets are noted for being particularly highly fired and it seems unlikely that Ventris would categorise Arsenal fragments as ‘soft’ and ‘red’. Therefore, it seems possible that the contents of Box VIII had not been seen by Ventris.

The 9000-series are referred to in terms of eight boxes, numbered using Roman numerals, I to VIII. The fragments in Box I (including the contents of the tin box) were sub-divided into the subsets I/1, I/2, I/3 (and occasionally I/4⁴⁶). It was evident that the contents of each of the Boxes were likely to have originated from the same find-place(s). Therefore, it was possible, at a very early stage, for Olivier et al (Rapport I, Annexe II) to draw up a list, based on identification of clay-types and this is reproduced here, as follows.

- I : -“Room of the Chariot Tablets” (I/3)
-“Room of Column Bases” (I/2)
- Varia (I/1)
- II : “Western Magazines “ (more towards the south ?) (cf. IV)
- III : “North Entrance” (cf. VI)
- IV : “Western Magazines “ (more towards the south ?) (cf. II)
- V : “East-West Corridor”
- VI : “North Entrance” (cf. III)
- VII : ?
- VIII : “Arsenal”

However, it was also evident that there were anomalies. Therefore, one of the first steps was to correct these anomalies (Rapport I, Annexe V). This was done by,

- Transferring 10 fragments of the RCT type from Box II to Box I.⁴⁷
- Transferring 20 fragments that were not from the East-West corridor from Box V to Box I/1
- Transferring 15 fragments that were not of Arsenal appearance from Box VIII into Box I/1.

In addition, pieces from the old agrapha were added to the 1984 boxes. For example, it can be noted that some of the MSK fragments that were found in the Stratigraphic Museum in 1960 now have numbers of the form, VIII-, indicating that they were later moved into Box VIII (see Table 4).⁴⁸

⁴⁵ The contents of this paragraph are also based on discussions with John Killen and Jean-Pierre Olivier during the Colloquium in Rome (February 2006).

⁴⁶ It is not possible to determine what I/4 was, but it seems likely that those fragments are now labelled as I/1.

⁴⁷ Rapport I Annexe V actually states specifically Box I/2, but this is probably a typing error since RCT fragments are associated with Box I/3.

⁴⁸ In addition, it is possible to use the photographs of agrapha taken prior to 1984 to identify the following as old agrapha: 9104, 9169 (L 1015.21); 9158, 9165, 9633 (L 969.12); 9160-9162, 9166 (L910.70); 9172 (1015.29); 9406 (L1015.19 + 1984 FR.); 9618 (L910.66 + 1984 FRR.); 9622, 9652 (L 1012.71); 9629 (L 969.16); 9634 (L 1012.69); 9651 (L 1015.19); 9661 (L 1015.13); 9941, 9947 (L 1012.73); 9942 (L 1015.9). The photographs were taken by J.-P. Olivier and are on file at the École

This movement of fragments was undoubtedly done in order to rationalise the agrapha prior to the large amount of work that was done to join these fragments to the other tablets. However, the level of documentation does not permit us to reconstruct the precise contents of the Boxes as found. Nevertheless, we do have a clear picture about what was in the Boxes following the above transfers and it is this which will be described in the following sections.

It was noted, at an early stage, that none of the thousands of fragments from this series had the distinctive clay-type used by Hand 103.⁴⁹ In fact, it can be shown that there are very few joins of fragments from the 9000-series to tablets that were excavated in 1901. The only possible exceptions to this appear to be **Dd 659** and **Dv 1496** (which are DO 146, 147, see Firth, “Find-places”, cit., Table J.i).⁵⁰ In other words, no fragments from the 9000-series have been joined to tablets from areas B1, F9 to F14, F19, G1, G2, H5, I4, J2 and K. This is a very striking conclusion.

The following table gives the preliminary estimates of numbers of fragments across a range of categories (Rapport I, Annexe II). These numbers should be regarded as illustrative because there is inevitably some judgement about how each piece should be categorised.

Box	Readable⁵¹	Not readable	Not inscribed	Small	Minuscule
I/1	37	19	36	~270	~300
I/2	31	42	62		
I/3	35	4	18		
II	71	92	189		~300
III	71	69	225	~100	~300
IV	87	97	540		~1000
V	75	35	72	~100	
VI	118	102	497	~400	~1400
VII	47	58	315	~300	~1300
VIII	7	15	54		
Totals	579	533	2008	~1170	~4600

After a considerable effort to try to join the fragments from the Boxes, the remaining fragments from each Box were divided into two categories. The more significant fragments were allocated numbers in the 9000-series. The remainder are referred to in terms of their Box number (e.g. Box II-0). These were all transferred into a set of drawers, numbered 1 to 20, in one of the research rooms in the Heraklion Museum (Olivier, Rapport 14, 1988; Melena, Report of June 1991).

Française d’Athènes (with copies in Cambridge and PASP). The numbers in brackets are references to the photographs.

⁴⁹ Olivier, “Skopje Rapport”, cit.

⁵⁰ It is being assumed here that the tablets from the East-West Corridor with DO’s 1-150 were excavated in 1901 and those with DO’s greater than 150 were excavated in 1902. This division is marked by the absence of *Inked* and *Original Numbers* in the *Handlist* in for DO’s greater than 150 (see Firth, “Find-places”, cit., Section 13 and Table J.i).

⁵¹ In 1984, the ‘readable fragments’ from each of the boxes were given numbers of the form I/1-1 to 37 (for example). These are used to identify these fragments in the Rapports and in *KTT Color*.

Ex-Box	9000-series		Unnumbered fragments
I/1	9001 – 9061	Drawer 1	
I/2	9062 – 9108	Drawer 2	
I/3	9109 – 9172	Drawer 3	
II	9173 – 9286	Drawer 4	Drawer 11
III	9287 – 9406	Drawer 5	Drawer 12
IV	9407 – 9566	Drawer 6	Drawer 13, 14
V	9567 – 9663	Drawer 7	Drawer 15
VI	9665 – 9838	Drawer 8	Drawer 16 – 18
VII	9839 – 9932	Drawer 9	Drawer 19
VIII	9933 – 9947	Drawer 10	

In addition to these, there is a series, 10001 – 10127, where each piece is made up of joins of unnumbered fragments and, in June 1991, these were stored in Drawer 20.

It should be noted that, in all of the papers describing joins, the unnumbered fragments from these Boxes are referred to using the abbreviation, *FR*. This is used to contrast with the abbreviation, *fr*, for old agrapha, which were not moved into the Boxes. *KT Color* also uses the abbreviations *FR* and *fr*. However, *KT5* and *CoMIK* do not draw this distinction and all unnumbered fragments have the abbreviation, *fr*.

The discussion that follows is based on a new analysis of the numbered and unnumbered fragments from each of the boxes. In particular, it takes account of joins that have been made between these fragments and the other tablets. It also takes account of identifications based on the unjoined 9000-series fragments, where it has been possible to identify scribal hands or classifications (based primarily on clay-type; *CoMIK IV*).

Box I/1: 9001 – 9061

The fragments which are labelled I/1 were from a miscellany of find-places. In particular, these include a number of fragments from tablets excavated in the Room of the Chariot Tablets and the Room of the Column Bases. (Essentially, these were fragments that were not correctly categorised when Box I was sub-divided into Boxes I/1, I/2 and I/3). In addition, there are fragments from the North Entrance Passage and the Western Magazines.

Box I/2: 9062 – 9108

These fragments are all from the Room of the Column Bases (with the exception of **X 9075** and probable exception of **Fh 7336**).⁵²

There are only four fragments from the 7000-series which originated from the Room of Column bases. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the contents of Box I/2 are the remains of the container from the 5000-series which contained Batch B (see Firth & Melena, “Genesis of 5000-series”, cit.).

⁵² *CoMIK III* gives the scribe for Fh 7336 as 141??. However, according to José Melena Fh 7336 was not written by scribe 141.

Box I/3: 9109 – 9172

These fragments are all from the Room of the Chariot Tablets with the possible exceptions of **Fh 9149** and **X 10009**.⁵³

It is perhaps worth noting that there are only two tablets from the Vc-series which contain fragments from Box I/3 (i.e. 9128 & 9133).

There are only ~6 fragments from the 5192-6068 series which originated from the Room of the Chariot Tablets. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the contents of Box I/3 are the remains of the container from the 7000-series.

All of the joins between the fragments in Box I and tablets containing pieces from the 5192-6068 series are to tablets from the Fh-series. It follows that the fragments from Box I are a mixture of the remains of Batch B and the remains of one or more boxes from the 7000-series.

Box II: 9173 - 9286

It was noted above that, at an early stage, RCT fragments were moved from Box II to Box I/3. In practice, there are indications of further RCT fragments in Box II since both **Sc 7483 & 9237** include fragments from Box II.

If we consider those fragments that are joined to tablets with known find-places (or written by scribes associated with specific find-places) then these suggest that Box II is a miscellany. There are ~10 tablets which could be from the Area of the Room of the Bügelkannes, ~6 tablets from the West Wing, a few tablets from the North Entrance Passage and two from the Room of the Chariot Tablets.

There are no joins from Box II fragments to tablets containing pieces from the 5192-6068 series. Thus, it is evident that this box originally contained fragments from the 7000-series.

We should also consider the fragments from Magazine VIII which were wrapped in the Mafeking newspaper. It is reasonable to assume that these resulted in the joins to ~6 tablets from the West Wing, which are noted above.

Box III: 9287 – 9406

Box III contained a coherent set of fragments which (with very few exceptions) are from the North Entrance Passage.

The fragments, which are associated with known scribes, are from tablets written by scribes 106, 118, 120, 125, 134, 137 (excluding scribes linked to sets of tablets with three or less fragments from Box III).

⁵³ *KT5* and Driessen, “RCT Scribes” (cit.) classify fragment 9149 as Xd written by scribe 124?, whereas *CoMIK IV* classifies it as Fh written by scribe 141?.

The fragments from Box III that are now joined to major tablets from the NEP show a significant cluster of joins to those major tablets with *Original Handlist Numbers* in the range 718 to 765.⁵⁴ This is particularly interesting because it tends to tie Box III to a particular phase of the excavation of the North Entrance Passage.

There are only 4 tablets which contain both Box III fragments and pieces from the 5192-6068 series.⁵⁵ Thus, it is evident that this box originally contained fragments from the 7000-series.

Box IV: 9407 – 9566

This box contains a coherent set of fragments which are largely from the area of Western Magazine VIII (F7). This can be demonstrated by the following table, which lists the total number of fragments from Box IV which are joined to tablets from known find-places. This includes those tablets written by scribes from known find-places. It also includes scribe 205 which can be identified with Western Magazine VIII because of the clay-type used.

	Find-place	No. of Box IV fragments
B4	Area beyond W. Wall	1
F7	West Magazine VIII	109
F17	Near door of W. Mag. VIII	1
I3	North Entrance Passage	3
J1	East-West Corridor	3

There appear to be relatively few fragments in the Chadwick & Killen series (8218-8332) and Olivier series (8334-8751) that are from F7. Therefore, it would seem that, in April 1955, Chadwick saw this tray and transcribed a number of fragments. Then, in July 1955, Ventris transcribed the larger fragments from the tray. He then removed a small number of firmer pieces which he had not transcribed and asked that the remaining contents of the tray should be return to the store in the Heraklion Museum, where it was re-discovered in 1984.

Western Magazine VIII was excavated in late April/early May of 1900. The fragments from B4, I3 and J1 that were found in Box IV can be regarded as strays, as these areas were excavated at later stages during the work at Knossos.

We can note that scribes 108, 205, 208 and 209 are each represented by more than five fragments from Box IV. However, it is possible that these concentrations simply reflect those scribes that have been studied in the most detail. Thus, it does not follow that most fragments in Box IV were from tablets written by this small number of scribes.

⁵⁴ The full list of ON's is 718, 721, 736, 745, 752, 753, 765, 803, 840; see Firth, "Find-places", cit., Table I.ii. These include the new join, **Np(2) 860 + 9343** which was found on 26 Nov. 2002 <rjf>.

⁵⁵ **Bg 5736, B 988, E 847** and **Np 5721**.

There are no joins from Box IV fragments to tablets containing pieces from the 5192-6068 series. Therefore, it is evident that this box originally contained fragments from the 7000-series.

Box V: 9567 – 9663

It was noted above that the 20 fragments, that were originally in this box but were not from the East-West Corridor, were removed at a very early stage. Therefore, the fragments that are now recorded as being from Box V are almost all from the East-West Corridor.⁵⁶

By considering the fragments from Box V that are part of major tablets, we can deduce that almost all the pieces of major tablets were excavated in 1902 (i.e. these pieces do not have *Inked Numbers* or *Original Handlist Numbers*). Furthermore, there is a concentration of *Deduced Order Numbers* in the range 277 – 350 (such that 50% of the numbers fall within this range, although it is only 16% of the total range).⁵⁷

It is worth noting that over 80% of the fragments are associated with *Deduced Order Numbers* over 250, which is broadly consistent with that found for the 7000-series fragments (as described above).

Although there are a very large number of joins between fragments from Box V and tablets containing pieces from the 7000-series, there are also a relatively large number of joins of Box V fragments to tablets containing pieces of the 5192-6068 series. It seems possible that, in this case, Ventris mixed the remains of Batch F (from the 5000-series) in with the remains of a box (or boxes) of East-West Corridor fragments from the 7000-series.

Box VI: 9665 – 9838

The fragments in this box that can be associated with a known find-place are almost all from the North Entrance Passage.

The fragments from this Box that are joined to major tablets from the NEP are more widespread through the *Original Numbers* in Evans' *Handlist* than those from Box III.⁵⁸ It is interesting to note that this list contains five ON's which appear in the list for Box III (i.e. 718, 736, 745, 752, 840). This indicates an overlap between these two series of fragments from two phases of the excavation of the North Entrance Passage. It was noted for Box III the ON's were concentrated in the range 718 to 765. However, it can readily be seen that the bulk of the Box IV fragments are associated with ON's outside this range.

⁵⁶ There is a fragment I/1-0 that is part of **Dv 9559**, possibly representing a fragment that was incorrectly moved from Box V to Box I/1.

⁵⁷ See Firth ("Find-places", cit.) for a discussion of the numbering of the tablets from the East-West Corridor and, in particular, Table J.i. Note that the Batch F fragments from the 5000-series were also excavated in 1902 (Firth & Melena, "Genesis of the 5000-series", cit.).

⁵⁸ i.e. 672, 688, 699, 718, 736, 745, 752, 773, 780, 786, 788, 789, 795, 822, 831, 837, 840, 850, 856 and 867.

There are only 3 joins from Box VI fragments to tablets containing pieces from the 5192-6068 series. Therefore, it is evident that this box had originally contained fragments from the 7000-series.

Box VII: 9839 – 9932

Again, the fragments in this box that can be associated with a known find-place are almost all from the North Entrance Passage.

The major tablets from the NEP which include fragments from Box VII have *Original Numbers* 663, 726, 736, 752, 786, 812, 822, 840, 850 in Evans' *Handlist*. These are widespread throughout the series and do not show a particular pattern. It is interesting to note that these again include 736, 752, 840 which were also present in the lists for Box III and VI.

There is only one join from Box VII fragments to tablets containing pieces from the 5192-6068 series, therefore, it is clear that this box originally contained fragments from the 7000-series.

Box VIII: 9933-9947

It was noted above that, at a very early stage, 15 fragments, that were not of Arsenal appearance, were moved from Box VIII to Box I/1. We can attempt to trace some of these fragments by considering tablets which include fragments from both Box I/1 and Box VIII. There are two such tablets, **L 9003** and **X 9015**, both of which include two or three fragments from Box VIII. In addition, 9003 incorporates four fragments from Box I/1 (or I/4) and 9015 incorporates 27 fragments from Box I/1 plus two from Box IV. Thus, it is possible that the 15 fragments that were transferred were from Tablets 9003 and 9015.⁵⁹

There are 21 joins of Box VIII fragments to tablets containing pieces from the 5000-series. These 5000-series tablets were all from Batch H and Arsenal Batch 2. Furthermore, there are only two fragments from the Arsenal in the entire 7000-series (7485 & 7870). Thus, if the contents of Box VIII are the remains of the 5000 or 7000-series fragments, then it is most likely that they are the remains of the trays which originally contained Batch H and Arsenal Batch 2 of the 5000-series. On the other hand, it is possible that Box VIII may have contained fragments which had not been seen by either Bennett or Ventris.

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE 9000-SERIES

It is concluded that the 9000-series are primarily the remains of the containers that held the 7000-series. However, it is also concluded that the 9000-series also includes the remains of Batches B, F and H from the 5192-6068 series. This leads to the intriguing question: where are the remains from other Batches of fragments from the 5192-6068 series?

⁵⁹ The reader will note that there is not an exact match between the 4+27 fragments from Box I/1 (or I/4) and the 15 fragments that were transferred. It is suggested that we should not put undue emphasis on trying to get an exact count of the numbers of small fragments as it is quite possible that a single fragment could break within the trays into two or more pieces.

TABLE 1: Fragments transcribed by Chadwick in April 1955

Tablet no.	Class	New no.	Scribe	Find-place	Comments
fr(895)	Ca	895		I3	
7022	Ak		108	F7	(= 635)
7025	Ak	627	108	F7	(Box IV)
7036	B				
7041	B				
7544	B	164	124	C	
7705	B	7034		I3	(Box VII)
7048	C				
7062	C				
7566	C				
7516	Ce		124	C	
7386	D				
7078	Df	5275	117	J1	
7071	DI		218	West wing	
7125	DI				
7771	DI		118?	I3	
7742	Dp				
7098	Dv		117	J1	(Box V)
7358	Ga				
7425	Ga		136	E5	(= 397)
7594	Ga		135	West wing	
7369	Gg		103	West wing	
7370	Gg	995	135	F18	(= ON 897)
7718	Gg	708	220	F7	(Box II)
7375	L			F7	(= 508bis)
7380	L		209	F7	
7390	L				
7403	L				
7406	L				
7412	L	515	208	F7	(Box IV)
7500	L	7380	209	F7	
7514	L			F7	(= 505)
7578	L		208?	F6/F7	(Box IV)
7377	Lc		113&115	F7	(= 507)
7385	Lc	7377	113&115	F7	Note (ii)
7378	Ld	787	114	I3&I3bis	
7419	Np	272	124-E	C	
7388	Od			I3	(Box IV)
7844	Og	7504			
7498	Ra		127	I3	(Box VII)
7920	Se		127	I3	
7485	Sg	1811		L	(Box VIII)
7512	V		115	West wing	
7513	V		115	F7	(= 509)
7620	V		115	F7	(= 510)
7517	Vc		115	West wing	

7612	Vc		124-S	C	
7139	Wb			I3	
7738	Wb	7713			
7907	Wb				
7546	X			F7	(= 508)
7548	X				
7559	X			F4	(= 477)
7560	X				
7573	X				
7627	X				
7631	X				Note (i)
7633	X			F4	(= 476)
7741	X				
7753	X				
7759	X				(Box IV)
7770	X				
7845	X		115	West wing	
7900	X			E5	(= 395)
7634	Xd		124-R	C	
7780	Xd		124	C	
7437	Xe		103	West wing	
7711	Xe		103	West wing	

Note (i): It has been suggested by Killen & Olivier that X 7631 is perhaps by the same scribe as Od 765 (in L. Godart, J. T. Killen, C. Kopaka, J.-P. Olivier, “43 Raccords et Quasi-raccords de Fragments inédits dans le volume 1 du «Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos»” *BCH* 110, 1986, p. 21-39).

Note (ii): It is interesting to note that 7385 is now joined to 7377 (=507) which were both found by Chadwick. 7377 was drawn by Evans into his *Handlist* but there is no indication that he was aware of a possible join with 7385.

Table 2: *Handlist* & *SMII* tablets found in 7000-series

ON	SM II	7000-series	F-P	Ink traces	Chadwick	Photos in SM II
375	315	7568	C			
472	395	7900	E5		x	
473	396	7426	E5			
474	397	7425	E5		x	
475	398	7431	E5	x		
508	476	7633	F4	x	x	
509	476bis	7776	F4	x		
510	477	7559	F4	x	x	
511	-	7116	F5			
512	478	7632	F5	x		
513	-	7897	F5			
555	505	7514	F7	x	x	
557	507	7377	F7	x	x	
558	509	7513	F7	x	x	
559	508	7546	F7		x	
560	508bis	7375	F7		x	
562	635	7022	F7		x	
563	510	7620	F7	x	x	
896	-	7371	F18			
897	-	7370	F18		x	
	parts of 1630	7853, 8041	I3			x
	1633	7496	I3			x
	1634	7035	I3			x
		7373		x		
		7547		x		
		7599	I1	x		

Note that ON 513 has now been identified with 7897 (and not 7894) on the basis of the description given in the *Handlist*.

Table 3: Fragments from the Upper Apotheke (*)

Tablet no.	Class	New no.	Scribe	Find-place	Comments
8120	B	164	124	RCT	
8121	Xd	149	124	RCT	
8122	E		124	RCT	
8123	Np		124-E	RCT	
8124	Sc		124-F	RCT	
8125	Sc		124-M	RCT	
8126	X		(-)		
8127	Vc		124-S	RCT	
8128	Xd		124-S	RCT	
8129	Xd		124-R	RCT	
8130	Xd		124	RCT	
8131	U	7507	124-1	RCT	
8132	Xd		124	RCT	
8133	X		(-)		
8134	Xd		124?	RCT	
8135	Xd		124?	RCT	
8136	Xd	82	124-R	RCT	
8137	Xd		124	RCT	
8138	Xd		124-1	RCT	
8139	F		124-2	RCT	
8140	Uf	121	124	RCT	
8141	Uf		124	RCT	
8142	Uf	7489	124-8	RCT	
8143	X		(-)		
8458	Np		124-E	RCT	
8459	Np		124-E	RCT	
8469	Sc		124-S?	RCT	
8478	Sc		124-F?	RCT	
8501	Xd		124	RCT	
8510	Xd		124	RCT	
8620	Sc	7471	124	RCT	
8635	Xd		124	RCT	
8638	Xd		124	RCT	
8734	Xd		124	RCT	

(*) Scribal hands based on Driessen (“RCT Scribes”, cit., p. 270-287)

Table 4: The MSK fragments from the Stratigraphical Museum

M. Inv.	KT no.	New no.	MSK	Class	Find-place
1557	8172		1	Nc	Arsenal
1558	4486		2	Xf	Arsenal
1559	8173		3	Nc	Arsenal
1560	4483	4450	4	Sd	Arsenal
1561	8174		5	D	Arsenal area
1562	4490		6	Nc	Arsenal
1563	8175	Note (iv)	7	Nc	Arsenal
1564	8176		8	Nc	Arsenal
1565	8177		9	Dl	Arsenal area
1566	4491		10	Sf	Arsenal
1567	4488	4484	11	Nc	Arsenal
1568	8178	5787	12	Nc	Arsenal
1569	8179	5130	13	Nc	Arsenal
1570			14		Note (ii)
1571	8180	5103	15	Nc	Arsenal
1572	8181		16	Nc	Arsenal
1573	4487		17	Xf	Arsenal
1574	VIII-47		18	agrapha	Arsenal
1575	8182		19	So	
1576	4489		20	Nc	Arsenal
1577	VIII-63		21	agrapha	Arsenal
1578	8183		22	Nc	Arsenal
1579	8184	5100	23	Nc	Arsenal
1580	8185	4489	24	Nc	Arsenal
1581	8714	8187	25	Nc	Arsenal
1582	8186		26	Nc	Arsenal
1583	VIII-64		27a	agrapha	Arsenal
1583	fr(8317)	8317	27b	Nc	Arsenal
1583	VIII-201		27d	agrapha	Arsenal
1584	4492		28	Xf	Arsenal
1585	4485		29	Nc	Arsenal
1586	fr(8286)	8286	30	Nc	Arsenal
1586	8756		31	D	
1587	8187		32	Nc	Arsenal
1587	8188	4489	33	Nc	Arsenal
1588	fr (8183)	8183	34	Nc	Arsenal
1588	VIII-no no.			agrapha	Arsenal
	VIII-61		36	agrapha	Arsenal
1590	8189	5226	37	Dm	J1
1591	8190		38	X	Arsenal?
1592	8191		39	X	
1593	8192		40	Ld	F14
1594	8193		42	Dv	J1
1595	8194	5190	43	Dc	J1
1596	8195		44	X	
1597					
1598	8196		46	Od	J1? (Note iii)

1599	8197		48	X	Little Palace
	8198		49	X	Little Palace
	4495		50	Xf	Little Palace
Note (i)					
1601	8199	7403	52	L	
1602	fr (8202)	8202	53	Od	
	8715		54	Dv	J1
1603	8200	1221	55	Da	J1
	8716		56	Dv	J1
1604	8201		57	Da	J1
1605					
1606	8202		59	Od	
1607	8203		60	Dv	J1
	8717	1199	61	Dv	J1
1608	fr (8196)	8196	62	Od	J1? (Note iii)
	8204		63	X	Little Palace
	8205		64	X	Little Palace

Note (i): The photograph of 9947 in *CoMIK* appears to show the number 51 (or possibly 57) written onto its front face. It is questionable whether this fragment originated from the Arsenal. If this is MSK 51, then the implication is that it could be from the Little Palace.

Note (ii): There is a reference to «MSK 14 / HM 1570» (i.e. Heraklion Museum inv. No. 1570) in Olivier's notes associated with the 1984-series (Rapport no. 9, IV Annexe). Perna had suggested that MSK 14 had a quasi-join to tablet Nc 4489 from the Arsenal but in June 1987 JTK/JPO rejected this suggestion.

Note (iii): The Find-place identification was by José Melena based on clay-type.

Note (iv): Probably the same tablet as Nc 5100 (*CoMIK* IV).