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COMPARABLE NAME-LISTS IN LINEAR A

1. Introduction

Three Linear A sign-groups correspond with sign-groups which have been interpreted as place-names in Linear B¹: *pa-i-to* (= Myc. Φαιστός on HT 97, 120), *su-ki-ri-ta*² (belonging to the group of Phaistos, readable on PH Wa 32) and *se-to-i-ja* (belonging to the group of Knossos, on PR³ Za 1). We will assume that these three Linear A words may be identified with the corresponding Linear B localities.

2. Linear A name-lists of variable order

There are examples of recurring name groups in the Minoan archives. A preliminary problem arises: how can we determine which are place-names? And, in particular, how can we distinguish personal-names, toponyms and vocabulary words on the tablets?

In certain cases this is a quite simple task: for instance, we may recognize a list of anthroponyms when each entry is followed by numeral 1, and the logogram VIR figures in the heading. Again, we may recognize toponyms when a list includes a securely identified place-name. In fact, of the three instances mentioned above, only *pa-i-to* appears on the Linear A tablets⁴; *su-ki-ri-ta* and *se-to-i-ja* are engraved on other sorts of documents. Unfortunately, since we know nothing about the Minoan language, we cannot identify any grammatical feature which is peculiar to toponyms (like the Myc. suffix *-i-jo* or the allative *-de*).

¹ See: M. V. Cremona – D. Marozzi – E. Scafa – M. Sinatra, *La toponomastica cretese nei documenti in lineare B di Cnosso*, Roma 1978.

² It could correspond with classical Σύβριτα (*Sugrita); cf. e.g. L. R. Palmer, *Mycenaean inscribed vases*, Kadmos 11, 1972, 33 and, recently, K. T. Witzak, *Notes on Cretan place-names in the Linear B tablets*, Kadmos 31, 1992, 163, n. 4.

³ Prassa, near Knossos.

⁴ HT 97 and HT 120.

We now proceed to consider HT 86a and 95a–b where several identical ‘names’ are listed in more or less the same order in different lists. They are:

ku-ni-su, sa-ru, di-de-ru, qa-ra₂-wa (HT 86a.1–3) with *da-me, mi-nu-te* (HT 86a.4–5)

da-me, mi-nu-te, sa-ru, ku-ni-su, di-de-ru, qe-ra₂-u (HT 95a)

sa-ru, da-me, mi-nu-te, ku-ni-su, di-de-ru, qe-ra₂-u (HT 95b).

In view of the variable orders of listing and the resemblance⁵ with the famous tablet PY Er 312, we consider *da-me, mi-nu-te, sa-ru, ku-ni-su, di-de-ru, qe-ra₂-u* (= *qa-ra₂-wa*)⁶ to be not place-names but titles, collective nouns or personal names. This last possibility is the most likely, since *sa-ru* is written in a list of *ki-ro* men (overseers?) on HT 94b (HT 94a records 110 men (workers?) grouped under various categories with their rations of food) and *qe-ra₂-u* is similarly found in a group of *ki-ro*.

The group *da-me* is listed on HT 120 next to *pa-i-to*, but not in the same context.

3. Name-lists in identical sequence

These are much more likely to be lists of place-names. A clear sequence results from a comparative analysis of HT 13, 85a, 122a and 10a.

Group 1:

HT 13	HT 85a	HT 122a.1–3	HT 10a
(<i>i-du-ne-si</i>)			<i>me-za</i>
	<i>da-ri-da</i>	<i><da-ri-da></i> (at the end)	<i>da-ri-da</i>
	<i>pa₂-ni</i>		
	<i>u-325-za</i>	<i>u-de-za</i>	<i>305-ru</i>
<i>da-si-118</i>	<i>da-si-118</i>	<i>da-si-118</i>	<i>u-325-za</i>
<i>ku-79-ni</i>	<i>ku-79-ni</i>		
<i>te-ki</i>	<i>te-ke</i>	<i>te-ki</i>	

⁵ HT 86 and HT 95 may be land-tenure texts; cf. D. A. Was, *The land-tenure texts from Hagia Triada*, Kadmos 17, 1978, 16ff.

⁶ *qa-ra₂-wa* is doubtless an alternative form of *qe-ra₂-u* and this implies that *qa* (AB16) and *qe* (AB78) are isoconsonantal also in Linear A, though we cannot specify the nature of this consonant. As regards *u* (AB10) and *wa* (AB54), I believe that their reading may be proved by these further alternations: *ja-ta-i-301-u-jala-ta-i-301-wa-ja* and, perhaps, *jja-u-pa[la-wa-pi; a-ma-u-tila-ma-wa-si*.

HT 13	HT 85a da-re	HT 122a.1-3	HT 10a da-re sa-ma
(te-tu) (re-za)			

Thus we obtain a name sequence in this order:
me-za, da-ri-da, pa₂-ni/305-ru, u-325-za (= u-de-za), da-si-118, ku-79-ni, te-ki (= te-ke), da-re, sa-ma.

The same list may be extended through the following comparison.
 Group 1b:

HT 122a.3-7	HT 9a	HT 9b (ka-305)
te-ki qa-310-i ja-mi-da-re si-da-re pa-de ku-pa ₂ -nu pa-ta-ne	pa-de	pa-de
306-tu	306-tu di-na-u	a-si 306-tu
<324-di-ra> (line 5)	qe-pu/324-di-ra ta-i-123 a-ru	<di-na-u> (at the end) 324-di-ra/qe-pu ta-i-123

(ku-pa₂-nu repeated)

Though the results are less certain, we obtain:
te-ki (= te-ke), qa-310-i, ja-mi-da-re, si-da-re, pa-de, ku-pa₂-nu, pa-ta-nea-si, 306-tu, di-na-u, qe-pu/324-di-ra, ta-i-123, a-ru.

It remains to show the group got from ZA 4 and ZA 15, in which a fixed order of listing is clearly recognizable.

Group 2:

ZA 4	ZA 15
ja-to-ja a-ti-ru ja-pa [.]tu-me-se qe-si-79-e	qe-si-79-e i-ti-ni-sa mi-za-se

ZA 4	ZA 15
28b-nu-ma-re si-pi-ki ja-sa-mu sa-mi-da-e 324-ke-ma-se	28b-nu-ma-re si-pi-ki e-82 ka-di

The sequence is evident.

The conclusions are encouraging. Other such lists may be noticed in future.

We must remark that *ku-pa₂-nu* (group 1b) is also an anthroponym (a *ki-ro* man) on HT 88 (ex-ethnic, homograph?). HT 85b, where we find *te-tu, me-za* and *qa-310-i*, already identified as place-names, looks like a list of men and the places with which they are associated.

4. Philological considerations

From a comparison of HT 13, 85a and 122a we deduce that *te-ke* and *te-ki* are alternative spellings of the same word (a toponym)⁷.

Furthermore, through the variation *u-de-za / u-325-za*, readable in surely connected contexts (HT 85a, 122a, 10a), we assume that A325 is either a graphic alteration, a doublet ("de₂"), or a syllabogram isoconsonantal of AB45. Yet there is no conclusive evidence for a reading A45 = de.

For the analogous case of *qe-ra₂-u / qa-ra₂-wa*, see above, note 6.

By comparing ZA 10a, HT(?)⁸ 31b and ZA 20 we conclude that *a-mi-da-u* (ZA 10a) and *a-mi-da-o* (HT(?) 31b) may be the same word.

ZA 10a	HT(?) 31b	ZA 20
a-mi-da-u	a-mi-da-o (ri?)ru-ma-ti	ru-ma-ta-se du-re-za-se
du-re-za-se		

Therefore we propose the following readings:

⁷ To be exact this comparison confirms only that, if A67 = ki, then A44 = k-; but, since in Linear B 44 is read *ke*, we may obviously accept the same reading for Linear A (cf. L. Godart, *La scrittura lineare A, La Parola del Passato* 21, 1976, 42ff; *L'interpretazione e la traduzione dei testi minoici e micenei*, *AIQN* 7, 1985, 107).

⁸ Cf. W. C. Brice, *Notes on Linear A – III*, *Kadmos* 27, 1988, 155ff.

A44 = ke; A10 = u; A61 = o; A54 = wa; A45 and A325 are at least isoconsonantal.

5. Possible identifications

In 1957 E. Peruzzi⁹ suggested reading *ku-79-ni* as *ku-do-ni*, since Myc. *ku-do-ni-ja* = Min. *ku-do-ni*: a pre-Greek Κυδωνι(α)¹⁰.

We observe that the middle sign of the group in question, A79 (an eye?), shows an undoubted resemblance with B79 in which GORILA 5 recognizes the homomorph. It is, however, admissible to make a comparison between A79 and B14 (read "do" in Linear B), particularly when A79 is drawn with its typical "stalk"¹¹.

E. Peruzzi added a further identification: *te-ki* / *te-ke* could be read Τεγε(α)¹² and, following C. Velleius Paterculus¹³, he placed Tegea near Pergamon, west of Kydonia. Hence the geographical order might be eastwards in HT 13 and westwards in HT 85a.

The hypothesis is impressive and we read, perhaps not by chance, in the renowned list of Cretan toponyms found on an Egyptian inscription of Amenophis III (about 1380 B.C.), written in proximity, *K3twn3y* (*Ku-tu-na-ja*) and *Dyq3j3s* (*De-qi-as*), which P. Faure¹⁴ believes to be a mention of Kydonia and Tegea.

It is evident that the location of group 1 in the north-western area of Crete, if based only upon these few examples, remains a weak hypothesis; all the more so because the comparison between our group 1 and the Mycenaean group of *ku-do-ni-ja* / *a-pa-ta-wa*¹⁵ is inconclusive; however, we remark the silence of Mycenaean sources about the suggested Tegea.

⁹ E. Peruzzi, L'iscrizione HT 13, *Minos* 5, 1957, 35–40.

¹⁰ Cf. J. Raison – M. Pope, Le vocabulaire du linéaire A en translittération. *Études Minoennes I*, Bibliothèque des Cahiers de Linguistique de Louvain 14, 1978, 139, that maintains this reading.

¹¹ See GORILA 5, pp. XL–XLI.

¹² Stephanus Byzantinus, sub voce Τεγέα: "Ἔστι καὶ Τεγέα ἐν Κρήτῃ, ὑπὸ Ταλθυβίου κτιθεῖσα.

¹³ I.1,1: *Rex regum Agamemnon tempestate in Cretam insulam reiectus tris ibi urbis statuit, duas a patriae nomine, unam a victoriae memoria, Mycenae, Tegeam, Pergamum.*

¹⁴ P. Faure, Toponymes Créto-Mycéniens dans une liste d'Aménophis III, *Kadmos* 7, 1968, 140–141.

¹⁵ Precisely: *ku-do-ni-ja*, *ku-ta-to*, *da-pi₂-to*, *pa₂-ko-we*, *a-pa-ta-wa*, *o-du-ru-we*, *ka-ta-ra*, *si-ra-ro*, *wa-to*, *ku-pa-sa*, *to-ni*.