

(p. 94). Interesting similarities can be traced, no doubt, between these two mythologemes. The crucial points of the two plots are, however, utterly different. Gilgamesh does not gain any power at the end of the story — on the contrary: the very emphasis of the epic lies in the growing consciousness of the maturing hero that his infantile wish to overcome death and acquire eternal life is impossible. It is therefore not a “journey for power” but rather a journey towards *loss* of power: Gilgamesh is painfully coming to terms with the unavoidable reality of death.

These and other critical remarks⁴ should not obscure the fact that *Greek Myths and Mesopotamia* is an erudite and valuable study into the perilous field of comparative religion and literature. The real importance of this study is not so much in the answers it offers as in the questions it raises and the new approaches it paves.

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H.G. Liddell, R. Scott, H. Stuart Jones and R. McKenzie (eds.), *Greek-English Lexicon. Revised Supplement*, ed. by P.G.W. Glare, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996. xxxi + 320 pp. ISBN 0-19-864223-7. \$65.

The prototype of this volume is the list of Addenda attached to the eighth edition of the *Greek-English Lexicon* by H. G. Liddell and R. Scott, which appeared in 1897. The list contained references to new sources which could not be included in that edition, among them the Ἀθηναίων Πολιτεία. Both this and other newly recovered ancient Greek texts were incorporated into the ninth edition, thoroughly revised and augmented by H. Stuart Jones (henceforth, LSJ), which was published in 1940. This edition, which is still the latest edition of the *Lexicon*, was in turn accompanied by *Addenda and Corrigenda* of its own, which consisted of the materials accumulated in the course of its publication between 1925 and 1940. These, together with the new material supplied by inscriptions and papyri, were incorporated into *A Supplement* to the ninth edition, edited by E. A. Barber in 1968. It is this latter that the *Revised Supplement* has come to replace.

If the main difference between the present Supplement and its predecessor ought to be signalled in a single word, ‘Mycenaean’ would definitely be the one. Indeed, although this Supplement has again incorporated a considerable amount of important contributions from inscriptions and papyri, the inclusion of the material of the Linear B tablets is much more than simply augmentation of LSJ by new evidence. To see that, it is sufficient to turn to the following statement in the Preface to the 1968 edition: ‘No attempt has been made to deal with the Linear B tablets. The scholarly world is at present divided on the validity of the Ventris decipherment, and it would be at least premature to receive into this standard lexicon the incomplete and sometimes bizarre interpretations that have so far been proposed. If the decipherment eventually wins general acceptance, it may still be thought that a dialect so much older than classical Greek, and written in so different a script, is better left to special lexica’ (p. v).

⁴ Again, see W. G. Lambert’s review.

Leaving aside the astounding fact that, fifteen years after the decipherment of Linear B, its validity was still doubted in some circles, it cannot be denied that, on the whole, the cautious approach adopted in the 1968 edition was largely justified at the time. Not a few original identifications of Linear B words were challenged in the years following the decipherment, and it was not till 1973 that the first edition of *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* by Ventris and Chadwick (1956) was superseded by the second edition which took the changes into account. Today, the situation is different. This is not to say of course that all the Mycenaean words have been safely identified by now. Yet no one would deny today that the 'hard core' of the Mycenaean vocabulary consists of words whose identification can be regarded as secure. This is the situation that underlies the decision to include such words in the present Supplement. To quote the Preface, 'Ventris's interpretation is now generally accepted and the [Linear B] tablets can no longer be ignored in a comprehensive Greek dictionary' (p. vi). The new Supplement thus returns to the practice adopted in the later editions of Liddell and Scott, which recorded new words and forms discovered upon the decipherment of the Classical Cypriot Syllabary. Owing to this welcome change in editorial policy, not only the narrow circle of specialists in Linear B but every user of LSJ can now trace the history of such Greek words as ἄναξ (*wa-na-ka*), βασιλεύς (*qa-si-re-u*, *chief*, not *king*), δῆμος (*da-mo*), ἱερεύς (*i-je-re-u*), λαβύρινθος (*da-pu₂-ri-to-jo*; gen.), πόντια (*po-ti-ni-ja*), as well as many others, back to the Bronze Age.

New words are marked, as in the 1968 Supplement, by a superscript 'x'; entries from LSJ which have been totally rewritten are marked by a superscript '+'. Cross-references within the Supplement are marked with a superscript circle, and cross-references to both Supplement and LSJ with a double cross. Those who prefer to replace their copy of LSJ with the new reprint, that is, the *Lexicon* and the Supplement united in one volume (\$125), will have the advantage of finding in the main lexicon the superscript circled asterisk indicating the cases in which the Supplement should be consulted. Needless to say, all these hardly make the Supplement user-friendly, and it can be predicted that, as was the case with its predecessor, the circle of consumers of the new Supplement will consist of a limited number of specialists, such as epigraphists and papyrologists, who are professionally involved with the new data that it contains. A new edition of LSJ is certainly needed. Such a new edition will, it is to be hoped, not only incorporate the present Supplement but also correct the strategic error in Liddell and Scott, the omission of place-names and the bulk of personal names.

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Robert Parker, *Athenian Religion. A History*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996. xix + 370 pp. ISBN 0-19-814979-4.

The synoecism of Attica; the rise of the polis; the hero-cults; the laws of Solon; the Attic *gene*; Athens under Pisistratus; Clisthenes' reforms; democracy and empire; the trial and execution of Socrates; Philip II of Macedonia and the statesman Lycurgus — most of these are subjects usually associated with Athenian history proper rather than