Michael Ventris died at the age of thirty-four on 6th September 1956 in a road accident. His discovery in 1952 that the Linear B texts of Knossos, Pylos and Mycenae were written in an early form of Greek ranks as one of the most brilliant achievements of scholarship.

Although Ventris trained and practised as an architect, he had a remarkable gift for languages ancient and modern. As a schoolboy he had been inspired to study the undeciphered scripts of the Aegean Bronze Age after meeting Sir Arthur Evans, excavator of Knossos. His first attempt at reading Linear B (as Etruscan) was published at the age of 18.

Ventris’s now-famous announcement on the BBC Third Programme that Linear B was Greek swiftly led to collaboration with John Chadwick, a young Cambridge philologist. This ultimately resulted in the 1956 publication, Documents in Mycenaean Greek, which remains the starting-point for all studies of Linear B texts.

The association of Michael Ventris with the Institute of Classical Studies goes back to the founding of the Institute in 1953–54, when a special research seminar on the ‘Minoan’ language was established. Ventris addressed the first meeting of the seminar, which — 50 years on — continues to flourish as the Mycenaean Seminar, a leading international forum for Aegean prehistory.

The Michael Ventris Memorial Fund was established in 1957 by the Institute of Classical Studies and the Architectural Association School to foster the work of young scholars, working in the fields of Mycenaean studies and architects. Further details of the award for Mycenaean Studies are available through the Institute’s web-site: http://icls.sas.ac.uk/institute/awards/michael_ventris.html

The Ventris Papers were given to the Institute in 1988, following the death of Lois Ventris (Michael’s widow) in 1988. The archive comprises personal correspondence and papers, drawings, photographs, and other memorabilia, as well as selected offprints and newspaper cuttings relating to the decipherment. The present Catalogue was compiled as part of the Institute’s 50th Anniversary celebrations with a grant from the University of London Vice-Chancellor’s Development Fund.
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

THE VENTRIS PAPERS
The bulk of the archive was presented to the Institute of Classical Studies by Ventris Family following the death of Lois (Betty) Ventris in 1988 and includes correspondence, papers, drawings, notebooks, photographs, newspaper cuttings, memorabilia, books, selected articles by MV in scholarly journals, offprints given to him by colleagues, obituaries. Much correspondence is personal in nature, i.e. between MV and his wife Lois (LV); some also relates to publications and lectures. Few letters / papers relate specifically to the decipherment (see below). A limited amount of additional material relating to Ventris and the decipherment has been added by the Institute since 1989.

The catalogue comprises 90 main headings, covering well over 500 individual items. Arrangement is by approximate date-order (when known) and subject. Insofar as possible, original groupings have been retained as a single catalogue entry, with individual items listed there under. Thus MV 053.1-71 Correspondence 1952–55 (Articles) comprises an original MV grouping of 71 letters, received by him or carbon copies of his replies, relating to publication of articles. In some cases it has also been possible to reinstate original groupings, which had been badly disturbed over the years, e.g. MV 054.1-70 Correspondence and papers 1953–56 (talks / lectures).

The Catalogue (see below pp. 8 – 36) was compiled during 2003–04 with a grant from the University of London Vice-Chancellor’s Development Fund. Sundry papers, which came to light in 2005, have yet to be incorporated in the Catalogue.

KEYWORD SEARCH
Keyword search is facilitated by lists of institutions, journals / publications / individuals / places (ancient and modern) / paper (i.e. blueprint, diary, offprint) occurring in the Catalogue. See listing below pp. 4 – 7.

ACCESS
For access to the Ventris Papers in corpore application should be made to the Director of the Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Copies of individual items may be supplied to bone fide researchers, subject to the discretion of the Director of the Institute of Classical Studies, and payment of a fee. For further information contact admin.icls@sas.ac.uk

Please note that the Archive will not be available from 15 December 2005 until further notice.

Copyright of the Ventris Papers rests with the Institute and due acknowledgement must be made in any publication resulting from the use of such material
Further papers relating to Michael Ventris and his work can be found at:
The Architectural Association, 34-36 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3ES. Tel 020 7636 0974
http://www.aaschool.ac.uk

University of Cambridge, Faculty of Classics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA
(Ventris–Chadwick correspondence)
http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/everyone/linearb/decipherment/html

Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH
(correspondence with Sir John Myres)
Tel. 01865 278000

University of Texas at Austin, Program for Aegean Scripts and Prehistory
(Ventris–Emmett L. Bennett, Jr. correspondence; papers of Alice Kober).
http://www.utexas.edu/research/pasp

Catalogue and supplementary information compiled by O. H. Krzyszkowska.
E-repository version produced 11.06
VENTRIS CATALOGUE — KEYWORDS

Institutions etc.

All Souls College, Oxford
Architectural Association (AA)
BBC
British Museum (BM)
British School at Athens (BSA)
Cambridge University Press (CUP)
Classical Association
Emmanuel College, Cambridge
German Archaeological Institute
Glasgow Academy
Greek and Roman Societies
Harvard, Widener Library
Institute of Classical Studies
Institute of Landscape Architects
Royal Air Force (RAF)
Royal Canadian Air Force
Magdalen College, Oxford
Metropolitan Museum New York
Minoan Linear B Seminar
Museum of Modern Art New York
Oxford University Anthropological Society
Routledge & Keegan Paul
Rutgers University
Society of Antiquaries
Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies
Stowe School
Svenska Institutet i Athen
Svenska Institutet i Rom
Trinity College, Cambridge
University College of North Staffordshire
Universidad di Salamanca
University Museum, Oxford
University of Leeds
University of London
University of St. Andrew’s
University of Sheffield
University of Uppsala

Conferences / lectures / radio talks etc.

‘Tongue of Heroes’ (BBC Home Service)
‘The Mycenaean civilization from the written evidence’
‘The frontiers of knowledge’ (BBC)
‘Light on the Mycenaean World’ (BBC)

Journals / newspapers / publications

ABC (magazine Madrid)
Acta Congressus Madvigiani
American Journal of Archaeology (AJA)
L’antiquité classique
Antiquity
Archaeology
Architects Journal
Architectural Association Journal
Architectural Design
Athenaeum
Basler Nachrichtung
To Bima
Bulletin de l’association H. Budé
Classified Inventory of the Mycenaean Inscriptions
Le Courier / The Courier
CRAI
Dagens Nyheter

Documents (in Mycenaean Greek)
Eranos
Etudes mycéniennes. Actes du colloque international.
The Evening News
Expressen
Le Figaro
Frankfurter Rundschau
Glossario Miceneo (Minoico B)
Glotta
Gnomon
Göteborgs Handels-och Sjöfarts-tidning
Göteborgs-Posten
Gymnasium
Hermathena
Historische Zeitschrift
Information
Journal of Hellenic Studies (JHS)
VENTRIS CATALOGUE KEYWORDS (CONT’D)

Journals / newspapers / publications (cont’d)

Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects
Kathimerini
The Knossos Tablets. BICS Suppl. 2
The Listener
Man
The Manchester Guardian
Mid-Century Report
Minos
Museum Helveticum
National Geographic
Neuer Zürcher Zeitung
The New York Times
The Observer
Proceedings of the British Academy
Proceedings of the Classical Association
Revue archéologique [RA]
Revue des études anciennes
Revue Hittite et Asianique
Rev de philologie
Rhenische Museum für Philologie
Röster i Radio
Scientific American
Stockholms-Tidningen
Studi in Onore di Ugo Enrico Paoli
Studies in Mycenaean Inscriptions and Dialect 1953-1955
Stuttgarter Zeitung
The Sunday Express
Svenska Dagbladet
Time Magazine
The Times
The Times Literary Supplement
Vaterland
Work-notes
Die Zeit
Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung
Ziva Antika

Individuals

Peter Alexander
Stig Alund
P. B. S. Andrews
R. D. Barnett (Richard)
B. A. Becher
E. L. Bennett, Jr.
Gudmund Björekk
M. H. Black
Peter Blake
C. W. Blegen
Axel Boethius
Marcel Breuer
G. P. Carratelli
Hugh Casson
C. W. Ceram
John Chadwick
J. M. T. Charlton
E. M. Cobham
‘Gus’ Corbett
Leonard Cottrell
Oliver Cox
O. G. S. Crawford
R. A. Crossland
P. Dikaios
Sterling Dow
T. J. Dunbabin
V. Ehrenberg
Sir Arthur Evans
Moses I. Finley
Dan Fink
Arne Furumark
V. Georgiev
D. Gillie
Philip Goodwin
A. W. Gomme
Cyrus Gordon
John Graeme
Walter Gropius
R. Hampe
Colin Hardie
Reynold Higgins
John D. Hillaby
M. S. F. Hood (Sinclair)
R. J. Hopper
Patrick Hunter
R. W. Hutchinson
Piet de Jong
Philip C. Johnson
Tönnes Kleberg
C. J. Kraemer
D. Kristiansson
K. D. Ktistopoulos
Gustavo Latis
Michel Lejeune
A. Lesky
Seton Lloyd
John Manby
S. E. Mann
Sp. Marinatos
C. S. Marshall
VENTRIS CATALOGUE KEYWORDS (CONT’D)

Individuals (cont’d)

O. Masson
P. Meriggi
K. G. Michanek
T. B. Mitford
James Morris
Hugo Mühlestein
A. R. Munday
Sir John Myres
T. G. Palaima
Denys Page
L. R. Palmer
I. Papadimitriou
Emilio G. Peruzzi
M. D. Petruševski
J. Puhvel
L. J. D. Richardson
E. Risch
G. S. Robertson
Andrew Robinson
M. S. Ruipérez
Anna Sacconi
C. Schaeffer
F. Schachermeyer
Albert Severyns
Marcel Silberstein
Ernst Sittig
Frank Stubbings
C. R. V. Tandy
Alicia Totolos
E. G. Turner
Geoffrey Turner
Louise B. Turner (Mrs. E. G. Turner)
A. W. Treweek
Dorothea Ventris
Olof Vessberg
A. J. B. Wace (Alan)
Lisa Wace (E. B. French)
T. B. L. Webster
Gladys D. Weinberg
Sir Mortimer Wheeler
Mrs. Winnington-Ingram

Places (ancient and modern)

Athens
Basel / Basle
Beyce Sultan [Beycesultan]
Canada
Chios
Copenhagen
Crete
Denmark
Dumfries
Eleusis
Emporio (Chios)
England
Enkomi
France
Great Britain
Hampstead
Highpoint
Holland
Italy
Kobenhaven
Knossos
Manchester
Milan(o)
Mycenae
North End
Pílon
Pylos
Ras Shamra
Shropshire
Skyros
Stockholm
Sweden
Thebes
Western Europe
Yorkshire

Paper

article(s)
blueprint(s)
book(s)
certificate
chart(s)
diploma
diary
drawing(s)
glossary
index cards

-6-
VENTRIS CATALOGUE KEYWORDS (CONT’D)

Paper (cont’d)

letter(s)                photocopy
log-book                photograph(s)
microfilm               printed matter
newspaper(s)            spring-back binder
notebook                sketch(es)
notes                   telegram(s)
offprint(s)             word-list(s)
papers (sundry)

Catalogue proper follows p. 8
THE VENTRIS PAPERS — CATALOGUE

ARCHIVE BOX 1

MV 001 Photograph album, original (257 x 190 mm) cloth + leather spine. Ca 1930.
Undated / unlabelled family photographs ca 1920s of MV as child + parents in UK +
continent. [One photo removed; page marked with yellow post-it; published in A.

MV 002.1-2 Photographs, original (242 x 293 mm) Stowe School pupils / masters. Ca mid-
1930s.
1. Photo showing whole façade of school; MV apparently 3rd row from back – 3rd
from right.
2. Photo taken on steps of school chapel; MV seated to right of ?matron – i.e. 3rd from
right, 1st row.

MV 003 Sundry photographs 1920s – 1950s
Miscellany of mostly family photos from ca 1920s (MV as child), 1940s (MV + LV;
copies 3 studio photos; 2 photos in ?Switzerland); MV in RAF; 1950s studio photo; 2
copies MV + Reynold Higgins in BM; passport photo; colour LV at Greek temple.
[Currently housed in modern red plastic album (225 x 160 cm)]

MV 004 Letter, photocopied, on Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer letterhead to MV
from Marcel Breuer 10 July 1939. [Original not found].
Thanking MV for letter and advising him that best place in England to study
architecture is the Architectural Association School in London; also suggesting
Technische Hochschule Zurich or Harvard University.

MV 005.1-3 Letters, photocopied, from Dorothea Ventris [MV’s mother] to Marcel Breuer
1. 2 November 1938; 2. 18 March 1939; 3. 18 August 1939. [Originals not found].

MV 006 Original bound copy of AJA reprint: M. G. F. Ventris, ‘Introducing the Minoan
Language’, AJA XLIV (1940), No. 4, 494-520. Cloth-bound with leather spine
‘1940’.
Inside front cover pasted original typed letter 9 November 1940 from Mary H.
Swindler to MV announcing acceptance of article & arrangements for page-proofs.
Marked ‘Michael Ventris Easter 1941’ on fly-leaf.
Extra bound-in pages at rear with MV handwritten transcriptions [5 pp inscribed, others blank]

MV 007 Letter handwritten to MV from E. M. Cobham 24 March 1941
Thanking MV for reprint of Minoan script article [cf. MV 006] and encouraging him
to continue and to keep in touch.

MV 008.1-3 Telegrams to MV and LV. May 1940
1. from Leonard ‘Hooray’; 2. from Gervase ‘love and best wishes to you both;
3. from Gabo Mirian Nina ‘love and blessing increase and multiply’
[presumably congratulations on Ventris wedding April 1940].

MV 009.1-2 Studio photographs, originals, ca 1942
1. Mounted on card 180 x 125 mm [dated on rear 1942]. 2. Mounted on card 200 x
280 mm. Cf. MV-003 for copies, plus copy of third photo, clearly taken at same
sitting but of different angle: original not found.
MV 010.1-40 Letters from MV to LV 1942-43
Ca 40 handwritten letters from MV to LV mostly written from RAF bases in Shropshire & Yorkshire, also Dumfries & Manchester 1942-43. Paper sizes various: some 13.5 x 17.5 cm, others on quarto. Letters not dated beyond indication of day, e.g. ‘Sunday after lunch’. Numbering by MV [e.g. ‘letter number 1.’] in top left hand corner of some, but not all. Some numbers missing, either because MV lost track, or complete set not here. One letter missing first page. Several remain in envelopes addressed to LV. Also telegram from MV to wife, sent from Hull post-mark on rear 20 Mar 1943 Bush End. [NB some letters have lightly pencilled numbers e.g. J16 and / or possible dates: handwriting not identified: unclear to what these relate]

MV 011.1-41 Letters between LV and MV July 1943 – January 1944
Ca 16 letters from MV to LV + 25 from LV to MV in Canada with RAF. Letters handwritten but photographically reduced to ca 310 x 110 mm NB contained in envelope addressed to LV but postmarked December 1942. Cf. MV 012.1-24 for further letters from LV to MV during this period.

MV 012.1-24 Letters from to LV from MV with RAF in Canada October – March 1944.
Blue air mail letters handwritten + typewritten from MV in Canada to wife in UK: Cf. MV 011.1-41 for further correspondence between LV and MV during this period.


MV 014 Royal Canadian Air Force, Flying Log Book for Aircrew other than Pilot. 1944
Pasted inside Certificate of Qualification, certifying that Sgt Ventris M. G. F. has qualified as Air Navigator with effect from 11.2.44

MV 015 Drawing by MV for block of flats. 8 February 1945.
Quarto, onion-skin, with typed comments by MV.

MV 016 Diary, typed + handwritten on quarto stapled into manila card cover labelled 1945 MGFV 20 February 1945 – 14 December 1945. Inside back cover: 4 photos 76 Squadron RAF [labelled] and 5 contact prints Plön autumn 1945 [labelled].

MV 017 CC letters typed + handwritten from MV to LV stapled into manila card cover labelled ‘1946 first half’.
Some overlap with loose letters in manila folder labelled ‘michael ventris’ [cf. MV 018] but also additions, e.g. confidential report, typed, re ‘Visit of Soviet correspondents to B Corps District 21 March 1946’.

MV 018 Manila folder labelled ‘michael ventris’ [mid 1945-46]
Inside front cover book plate ‘F. Ventris’. Contains loose original typewritten + handwritten letters and some telegrams – all from MV (some signed Michael others Misha) to LV. Dating mid-1945 & 1946 – NB these presumably LV’s copies but the home-made diary [cf. MV 017] seemingly more complete.

Lists ‘Stockholm personalities & organizations; Stockholm main bldgs seen; Kobenhaven Domestic work; Kobenhaven public work;
MV 020 Loom of language + MV word-lists n.d. [ca mid-1940s]
Sections extracted from F. Bodmer, *The Loom of Language: A Guide to Foreign Languages for the Home Student* (London 1944) pp. 515-636 in home binding. Profusely annotated by MV. Inserted are word-lists compiled by MV: 8 pp ruled sheets; 23 x 18.5 hole-punched and stapled headed ‘about 500 nouns’.

ARCHIVE BOX 2

MV 022 Blueprint, 5 pp foolscap; stapled. ‘The Geometry of Bird’s eye Views’ n.d. [?1946-50]

MV 023.1-10 Letters handwritten from MV to LV summer 1947 Sweden / Denmark
10 letters written btw 4 June 20 July 1947; NB letter 11 June – 1st 2 pages (recto+verso) exist only as photocopy, seemingly belong with original handwritten recto marked 2 + verso; letter 18 June – 1st page recto exists only as photocopy; original missing; likewise subsequent page(s).

MV 024 Architectural drawings / sketches / sundry notes by MV summer 1947 Sweden / Denmark, loose sheets.
P.1 headed ‘Jarvis Research July 1947’. Ca 30 pp handwritten – order uncertain; pp have different MV numbering systems – one seemingly related to subjects listed on p.1, others possibly relate to order of completion.

MV 025 ‘Travel Sketches Sweden & Denmark Summer 1947’, loose sheets
ca 30 pp – order uncertain; pp. have different MV numbering systems – one seemingly related to subjects listed on p. 1 ‘sketch of filing system: - 3 Constructional details 5a Exterior sketches (mixed) 5b Interior sketches (mixed) (other numbers as detailed).’ Likely that all belong to Jarvis Research [project] for which see above MV 024 and ought not to be separated.

MV 026.1-2 Notes handwritten / architectural drawings on cartridge paper n.d. [1947]
1. 8 pp. 24.5 x 16 cm, torn from notebk and stapled together;
2. 8 pp 21 x 15 cm torn from notebk and stapled together, headed ‘Buildings’

MV 027 Notes handwritten. Summer 1947.
accounts [2 pp]; graph detailing cash situation; ‘Lois’ reels’.

MV 028 Letter typed on Kooperativa Förbundet Arkitektontoret letterhead from E. Sundahl 9 August 1947

MV 029 ‘Squabbles in Stockholm’, Ink cartoons by Oliver Cox [summer 1947]
7 loose pp; ‘dedicatedchiefly to Betts’ [i.e. LV & presumably sent to her].

MV 030 ‘Retreat from Stockholm’ Ink MS with cartoons by Oliver Cox 16 Aug. 1947.
5 loose pp [presumably sent to LV]

MV 031 Sundry printed papers [1946-47]
Cutting from Byggmästern 1946, 26 – ink box around ‘Svenska Arkitektföreningen’;
Cutting from Byggmästern 1947, 4 [labelled 13 in ink]
Map Scandinavia, The Baltic, Iceland [cut from unidentified atlas]
MV 032 Letter typed on Harvard University letterhead to MV from Walter Gropius
3 February 1948.
Thanking MV for letter and first issue of PLAN magazine.

MV 033 MV handwritten notes / drawings / colour charts; dated items autumn 1949
Red cloth spring-back notebook 8vo (230 x 155 mm)
Nb: mostly architectural but also notes / references to Near Eastern texts; also page on ‘Kaftian “B” syllabary experimental values, summer 1949’.

MV 034 Letter typed to MV from John Graeme [?] 10 September 1950
Asking MV for advice on books etc re Schools [i.e. architecture thereof].

MV 035.1-4 Sundry notes handwritten Copenhagen n.d. [ca 1950]
2. 4 pp hw by MV pencil + ink torn from sketch-book 21 x 12 cm
[apparently rough notes for Copenhagen entries in guide]
3. Map of Copenhagen with places of interest listed in MV’s hand + stencilling.
4. Original pencil draft by MV Stockholm København

Foolscap enveloped labelled in ink ‘Great Britain’; in pencil ‘Ventris’ containing:
1. ‘Guide to Modern Architecture in Western Europe ENGLAND 1900-1950 (first draft only)’. [3 foolscap sheets – 5 pp total stencilled with emendations in blue pencil presumably by MV.
3. ‘Guide to Modern Architecture in Western Europe 1900-1950 what the cards are for’ printed card 21 x 12 cm folded giving 4 pp each ca 10.5 x 12 cm [9 egs all same]

MV 037.1-10 Correspondence re Modern Architecture project. 1950.
3. CC letter from MV to Arkitakt Dan Fink [Copenhagen] 10 June 1950 re card index project.
5. Letter typed on letterhead to MV from Dr Gustavo Latis [Milan] 17 September 1950 re collaboration in project.
6. Letter typed on letterhead to MV from Philip L. Goodwin [Architect 32 E. 57th St. New York] 18 August 1950 re guide project; with comments re Royal Festival Hall + Festival of Britain 1951
8. Letter typed [in original envelope] on Festival of Britain letterhead to MV from Hugh Casson 28 December 1950 acknowledging letter + enclosures, presumably re card index project
MV 037.1-10 Correspondence re Modern Architecture project. 1950. (CONT’D)

10. Letter typed on Festival of Britain 1951 letterhead to MV from Hugh Casson 11 January 1951 answering various architectural points raised in earlier letter by MV [marked ‘CASSON’ in MV’s hand, top left corner].

MV 038 Diploma Architectural Association 29 January 1951
[tube – stored with other rolled material]

MV 039. 1-4 Sundry papers and printed material for Guide – London. N.d. [ca 1950-51].
1. Architectural Association Guide to Modern Architecture in London 1927-1957 3/6 24.5 x 10.3 cm folder made of blue card – 24.5 cm x ca 32 cm – folded in three; stapled. Contains:
   • ‘Guide to Modern Architecture in Western Europe 1900-1950 what the cards are for’ – v.supra.
   [1 set complete + 2 folders with map + index only + one spare map]
2. Stanford’s Map of the County of London
4. Map as per above, without stencilled info.

MV 040.1-4 Papers and tourist literature: Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, France [late 1940s – early 1950s]
1. Generalstabehns Karta över Sverige [printed map x 2 copies]
2. Foolscap envelope labelled ‘Switzerland’
   • Carbon copy typewritten list ‘Switzerland – Buildings to see’ [1951 in upper right + pencil and ink annotations]. Quarto 1 page.
   • ‘Zurich’ issued by Zurich Development Association [tourist leaflet]
   • ‘Motoring in Switzerland Regulations, Hotels and Garages The Automobile Association London W1’ 28 pp booklet n.d.
   • ‘Lusanne Aufenthalts-stadt’ [tourist leaflet, German; n.d.]
   • ‘Hotel-Restaurant Canova Zürich’ [tri-lingual; n.d.]
   • ‘Map of / Plan de Zurich (Centre) ca 1:12000 Swiss Bank Corporation
   • ‘Hotel Hecht am Rhein Basel’ [leaflet trilingual n.d.] 2 copies
   • postcard Hotel D’Angleterre Ouchy-Lausanne
   • Switzerland’ article cut from The Architecture Forum September 1945 pp. 131-247 [featuring selected modern buildings]
MV 040.1-4 Papers and tourist literature: Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, France (CONT’D)
[late 1940s – early 1950s]
3. Foolscap envelope labelled Italy
   • Carbon-copy 2 quarto pages typed of places to see
   • ‘Verona La Citta di Giulietta’ [tourist leaflet; English]
   • ‘Milano Hotel Rosa’ [tourist map]
   • ‘ninth triennale of Milan May – October 1951’ [exhibition leaflet]
   • ‘Italy … four seasons of sunshine’ [tourist leaflet]
   • ‘Triennale di Milano 1951 Deutsche Abteilung’ [exhibition plan]
   • ‘Noticiero Turistico Italia N.40 Octubre 1951’ ca 28 pp quarto magazine
     [Spanish / German text + BW pics]
   • ‘Sezione Svedese della Nona Triennale di Milano’ [card folder 15.2 x 11 cm
     containing 6 BW post-cards of Swedish exhibits at Milan Triennial.
   • ‘Motoring in Italy Regulations, Hotels and Garages The Automobile
     Association London W1’ 28 pp booklet n.d.
4. Foolscap envelope labelled ‘France’
   • Carbon-copy 4 quarto pages typed [with ink annotations] of places to see
   • 2pp quarto similar for Holland

MB 041.1-8 Sundry printed matter chiefly relating to Scandanavia + Architecture
2. ‘Recent Architecture in Sweden’ 14 pp booklet printed ca 21 x 15 cm [2 copies]
3. Booklet lacking cover [Swedish?] evidently the index to a map ca 23 pp.
4. HSB Cooperative Housing [bklet on Swedish coop hsing 35pp 21 x 14.8 cm; n.d.]
5. Architecture in Stockholm – 3 copies [one marked ‘Michael Ventris’]
   [8pp n.d. 21 x 15 cm; list of best / most typical contemp bldgs in & around Stockholm
   compiled by Swedish Architects’ Association]
6. Exhibition of Danish Architecture To-day 1950’ Exhibition at the Royal Institute of
   British Architects, London 1950. [48 printed pp ca 21 x 13.3 cm]
   x 12.4 cm [marked Michael].
8. LIST OF NOTABLE GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, PARKS AND NEW
   TOWNS 1951 Institute of Landscape Architects 12 Gower Street, W. C. 1 [compiled
   by C. R. V. Tandy; 12 pp quarto, mimeographed + stapled; paperclicked to it an
   Institute of Landscape Architects compliments slip ‘With Mrs Browne’s
   compliments.’ ]
9. The Listener 13 December 1951 (contents marked with blue dot at ‘Le Corbusier’s
10. The Listener 20 December 1951 (contents marked with blue dot at ‘The Stones of

MV 042 Architectural Design June 1950: photocopy pp. 168–69
p. 168 features Festival of Britain Information Office, Leicester Square; Designed
Fello Atkinson (James Cubitt & Partners, Oliver Cox and Michael Ventris)
p. 169 3 bldgs are featured on this page: flats at Stevanage; Oslo Town Hall; BBC
Development at White City, perhaps one or more of interest / relevance to MV.
[Original not found]

MV 043 Plan 47 Highpoint n.d. but presumably 1940s.
Rolled drawing ink & pencil showing layout of furniture by F. R. S. Yorke / M.
Breuer in flat. Badly torn at edges; on one corner ‘VE1’ (?). [Stored with tubes.]
MV 044.1-5 Blueprints and printed materials re 19 North End Hampstead, early 1950s.
1. Original blueprint + pencil annotations ‘House at North End, Hampstead 12 April 1952’. Labelled ‘Furniture’
3. Original blueprint drawing 19 North End NW3 ‘Earth-moving 14.2.54’.
4. Change of address card [12.5 x 7.5 cm with drawing of new home – 19 North End – on front; reverse blank] n.d. ca 1954
5. Printed card ca 15.5 x 7.5 cm - map Hampstead area – marking location of ‘Ventris, 19 North End NW3’

ARCHIVE BOX 3
MV 045 ‘The Languages of the Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations: mid-century report, New Year 1950’. Stencilled + bound; foolscap 56 pp + xlv pp

MV 046.1-2 Ventris Work-notes on Minoan Language Research
1. microfilm copy [held by ICS library],
2. print-out of microfilm bound with Mid-Century Report [held by ICS Library at X102F VEN]
3. ‘First study of the grammar and phonology of the language contained in the Mycenaean archives from Pylos’ = work-notes 9 (19 June) to 15 (3 / 28 September) 1951 pp. 44-145. Foolscap; stencilled copy in MV home-binding. [Held by ICS Library at X1012F VEN Qto with photocopy in Ventris Papers].


MV 048 Experimental Mycenaean Vocabulary [July 1952]
Headed ‘Sign-groups are from Pylos 1939 unless prefixed by K’
12 pp negative Photostat [held in ICS Rare Books Cupboard classmark 220]

MV 049 Index cards Mycenaean vocabulary [n.d. pre-January 1954].

MV 050 Spring-back binder : typed label ‘1953 : GLOSSARY OF 1556 LINEAR SCRIPT B SIGN-GROUPS’
63 pp. foolscap (stencilled) of MV document with a few pencil annotations inside front cover inscribed T B L Webster + pasted cutting of ‘Fig. 2 – syllabic grid’ nb MV’s own original copy [handwritten in blue ink] is held at University of Cincinnati (Blegen Library), given by Emmett L Bennett, Jr.

MV 051 Spring-back binder : labelled on spine ‘SEMINARS’
Varitype copies of ‘Minoan Linear B Seminar’ 24.2.1954 – 13 June 1956 Interleaved are a few handwritten MV originals [perhaps notes arising from minutes. Some pages marked in red pencil upper right hand corner ICS / M and ICS W]

MV 052.1-2 Honorary doctorate Uppsala June 1954
1. University of Uppsala Honorary Doctorate [original certificate with seal attached] ca 40 x 55 cm Kalends of June 1954 [in Latin].
2. Contemporary copy of same: NB paper torn at edges requires conservation
Correspondence 1952 – 1955 (articles).

MV 053-1.71

‘PUBLICITY ARTICLES’

Contains letters to MV from various sources and carbon copies from MV mostly relating to publications; 6 October 1952 to 6 October 1955; hole-punched and arranged in approximate reverse date order, i.e. earliest at back of file. [Here listed by approx date order].

1. Letter typed to MV from A. W. Gomme 6 October 1952 re publication of article ‘Evidence for Greek Dialect in the Mycenean Archives’ in JHS.
2. Letter typed to MV from A. W. Gomme 18 November 1952 suggesting additional footnote in article ‘Evidence for Greek Dialect in the Mycenean Archives’ to be published in JHS.
3. 3 pp quarto typed with Gk added in blue ink and further light annotations in pencil – evidently additions / corrections for JHS article. N.d.
4. Letter typed to MV from A. W. Gomme 12 November 1952 requesting modifications to JHS article [nb filed out of date-order].
5. CC Letter typed (recto + verso) foolscap from MV to A. W. Gomme 13 November 1952 regarding JHS article.
6. Letter, handwritten to MV from A. W. Gomme 19 August 1952 about proposed JHS article [out of date order see above].
7. Letter, handwritten on aerogramme, to MV from Sterling Dow 2 June 1953 about review article on Minoan language that SD was planning to write for AJA.
10. Letter, typed (carbon copy) with ink additions, to MV from T. J. Dunbabin, JHS reviews editor, requesting review of E. L. Bennett, A Minoan Linear B Index (Yale 1953) 4 July 1953.
11. Letter handwritten on aerogramme to MV from Sterling Dow 17 October 1953 re arrival of (JHS) article and SD’s own plans for article in AJA.
12. Letter handwritten on Antiquity letterhead to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 30 October 1953 re corrected proofs of MV’s ‘Note on Enkomi tablet’ for Antiquity and mentioning that he had written an Ed. Note on whole subject of Mycenae, which he had sent to Hutchinson to vet.
13. Letter typed on Archaeology letterhead to Richard Barnett (British Museum) from ‘Gladys’ [Weinberg] 26 October 1953 asking him to persuade MV to write article on Minoan script for journal, or to do one himself along lines of article in Manchester Guardian. Annotated in ink by MV ‘answered 9 November’.
15. Letter typed to MV from C. W. Ceram 11 November 1953 re decipherment and asking for further information to include in updated version of Gods, Graves, Scholars.
16. Letter typed on Archaeology letterhead to MV from Gladys D. Weinberg 17 November 1953 asking MV to contribute article to journal.
17. Letter typed on Rutgers University letterhead to MV from Emilio G. Peruzzi 19 November 1953 commenting that JHS article gave very ‘compact’ treatment and inviting him to write article for Minos detailing the successive stages of research.
18. Letter typed on Manchester Guardian Science Correspondent letterhead to MV from John D. Hillaby 27 November 1953 asking for clarification re certain points in article [presumably by JDH re decipherment].
19. Letter typed to MV from C. W. Ceram 26 November 1953 thanking MV for detailed letter and two reports; also asking for biographical details to include in article for US journal.

20. Letter handwritten on Antiquity letterhead to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 2 December 1953 about possible article on decipherment for National Geographic.

21. Letter handwritten on Antiquity letterhead to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 7 December 1953 saying he would leave MV to settle matters about possible article on decipherment for National Geographic; also asking if MV still had copy of newspaper cutting on Schaeffer’s tablet find at Ras Shamra.

22. Letter typed on aerogramme to MV from Gladys D. Weinberg [of Archaeology] 8 December 1953 saying that Blegen had given permission for photos of AE 04, Eb 35 and Pylos 641 to be used in MV’s article & that he had written to Athens requesting prints; also noting that they might be able to reproduce photos from Scripta Minoa II.

23. Letter handwritten to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 14 December 1953 returning cutting about Schaeffer’s Ras Shamra tablet.


25. Letter typed to MV from John Manby 21 December 1953 praising MV for decipherment and asking for assistance in his own ‘free-lance’ articles [JM apparently employed by Anglo Iranian Oil Co].

26. CC Letter typed from MV to G. D. Weinberg 28 December 1953 evidently accompanying his article for Archaeology, with brief comments on drawings, photos and also including biographical details.


28. Letter handwritten on Antiquity letterhead to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 17 January 1954 re apparent mix-up regarding offprints of Enkomi tablet article; referring to nice evening at Hood’s.

29. Letter typed on aerogramme to MV from Gladys D. Weinberg [of Archaeology] 18 January 1954 acknowledging receipt of article; detailing reimbursement postal costs etc.

30. Letter handwritten to MV from O. G. S. Crawford 28 January 1954 referring to ?letter / packet opened by OGSC by mistake – that he has no objection & it may help US sales [of Antiquity].


32. Letter typed (with ink / pencil additions) to MV from G. D. Weinberg [Archaeology] 119 April 1954 enclosing a clipping from New York Times written by C. J. Kraemer in wake of Archaeology article appearing [copy of which apparently also enclosed, pending despatch of offprints]. Also asking for MV’s interpretation of inscription seen by GDW on Skyros in 1933.


34. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Leonard Cottrell 23 April 1954 re enclosing appendix to his book [nb out-of-date order cf. no. 33] and stating he had suggested to BBC a feature programme on radio or television regarding Linear B, though not immediately as per MV’s wishes.

35. Letter typed to MV on Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd letter-head from Chris Franklin 1 October 1954 repeating (again) interest in work on Minoan script, perhaps for book.
MV 053-1.71  Correspondence 1952 – 1955 (articles). Foolscap file labelled by MV ‘PUBLICITY ARTICLES’ (cont’d)


37. Letter typed on Eranos letterhead to MV from Gudmund Björck [ed.] 4 December 1954, writing in very flowery [almost incomprehensible] terms about article [for Eranos?] and alluding to honorary doctorate certificate [cf. MV.052].


40. Letter typed on R. P. Gossop Artist’s Agents letterhead to MV from Bronson Gossop 17 February 1955 evidently about drawing for book, which Eric Fraser unable to undertake owing to ill-health, but perhaps could be done by son Geoffrey Fraser.


43. Letter handwritten on Society of Antiquaries letterhead to MV from ? Corder(?) requesting a review of E. Bennett’s Minoan Linear B Index, previously to have been done by Sir John Myres.

44. CC typed [2 pp quarto] DOCUMENTS IN MYCENAEN GREEK Comments on specimen pages (Spec. 1 27 July 1955) Athens, 8 August 1955 [unsigned but clearly by MV].

45. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from B.A. Becher 12 August 1955, thanking MV for letter of 8 August and comments on specimen page [Documents, see no. 44]. Refers to comments by John Chadwick and promises a revision specimen.

46. Letter typed on Universidad de Salamanca letterhead to MV from M. S. Ruipérez 20 August 1955 enclosing proofs of article in Minos IV.1 and referring to his own article in Minos III.2.

47. CC typescript [2 pp quarto] n.d. evidently copy for flyer or other publicity by CUP for Documents [see no. 47].

48. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from M. H. Black 24 October 1955, thanking MV for ‘blurb’ [cf. no. 46] promising to let MV see version used in all forms and on dust jacket; also noting that Chadwick is keeping pressure up to get book out as soon as possible.


50. CC letter from M. H. Black to Time Magazine 11 November 1955 to effect that book still in early stage of production and no proofs are available, in light of their interest in mentioning it as part of ‘The World We Live In’ feature. Annotated in ink by MV ‘Black to Time / Life’.

51. Letter handwritten to MV from S. E. Mann 27 November 1955 requesting information for inclusion in article in Man on implications of decipherment for Indo-European linguistics; SEM to be found most days at SSS [pencil annotation by MV ‘School of Slavonic Studies’].

Correspondence 1952 – 1955 (articles). Foolscap file labelled by MV ‘PUBLICITY ARTICLES’ (cont’d)

52. CC typescript with ink annotation [1 pp foolscap] review for JHS [by MV] of K. D. Ktistopoulos [cf. no. 51].

53. CC Letter from MV to Black [of CUP] 30 December 1955 thanking for block pulls & returning all original drawings; also requesting another proof set not on art paper to see how it matches standard of rest, commenting that section 2:1 Egyptian half looks a bit coarse, and that 3 seal impressions [Scripta Minoa I p. 159 P.49] appear to have been redrawn and original quality lost.

54. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from M. H. Black 2 December 1955 [hence out of date-order] enclosing block pulls for approval.

55. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to John Chadwick from M. H. Black 12 December 1955 [hence out of date-order] about queries on spelling changes to place / proper names in Wace’s introduction; JC pencil annotation ‘Have said “stet”’.

56. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from M. H. Black 3 January 1956 enclosing another batch of block pulls.

57. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from M. H. Black 6 January 1956, thanking MV for pulls and promising to re-draw 10:1 and perhaps some others.

58. Letter typed, on Universitetsbiblioteket Uppsala letterhead to MV from Tönnes Kleberg 9 January 1956 referring to article on ‘Mycenaean Furniture’ for Eranos [which MV had requested not to appear before November 1955] and explaining that proofs sent by MV to Gudmund Björck (since deceased) had disappeared; hence could MV please return new set of proofs when supplied by printers.

59. CC letter to John Chadwick from M.H. Black [of CUP] marked copy for Mr Ventris 16 January 1956 explaining unexpected snag [to do with Monotype Corporation being unable to supply enough matrices for the most commonly used signs] and this will delay the proofing; however still expecting it to be printing in about June.

60. CC letter by MV to Black [of CUP] 17 January 1956 thanking him for drawings, returned in separate registered parcel; noting a few typographical errors in Figs 6, 10, 11, 12.


62. CC letter typed to John Chadwick from M.H. Black [CUP] 21 February 1956 reporting that printers say proofs will start to go out next week, assuming labour situation does not deteriorate further; and indicating that CC of this letter sent to MV.


64. Letter typed on University of London letterhead to MV from J. F. [illegible: the Vice-Chancellor] 29 February 1956 thanking MV on behalf of Institute of Classical Studies for ‘the remarkable production, largely by your own handiwork … which has appeared as the latest publication of the Institute’ [cf. MV 069].


66. Letter typed on Svenska Institutet i Rom letterhead to MV from Axel Boethius 9 July 1956 acknowledging receipt of ‘your and Chadwick’s documents and Allan [sic] Wace’s introduction; but querying whether copy is meant for Institute or for Olof Vessberg personally [now Director of Mediterranean Museum in Stockholm].

67. Copy letter to Dr Olof Vessberg Svenska Institutet i Rom from CUP 28 June 1956 sending proof copy of Documents and advising that publication will probably be in early autumn at price of about £4 [nb out of date-order cf. 66].
MV 053-1.71 Correspondence 1952 – 1955 (articles). Foolscap file labelled by MV ‘PUBLICITY ARTICLES’ (cont’d)

68. Letter typed on Cambridge University Press letterhead to MV from CUP Educational Department [signed pp. Joan Bunting] 13 July 1956 about sending of proof copy to Swedish Institute [cf. 66-67 above] and giving list of further proof copies sent to those in ‘key positions’ abroad [8 names listed].

69. CC typed letter to John Chadwick from M.H.B. [lack – of CUP] 21 July 1956 informing him and MV [to whom CC sent] that Documents being printed; 1st printing will be ca 2000 copies and price will be 84/- [shillings]. ‘Our guess is that this number should last until you want to revise the text so thoroughly that a second edition will be called for. At an earlier stage we suggested paying you and Ventris an advance on your royalties, but I can’t see that anything was decided. Would you like us to pay you and Ventris £100 each on the day of publication?’

70. Specimen Pages, Documents in Mycenaean Greek pp. 1-2, 23, 34, 105, 286, Pt III, 209, S. 322 [printed on last page Spec. 1 27 July 1955]. [Thus out of date-order].

71. Fee payment slip typed, issued to MV by The British Broadcasting Corporation 6 October 1955 for ‘The Tongue of Heroes’ ‘first half of fee £26.5.0.’

MV 054.1-71 Correspondence and papers 1953 – 1956 (talks / lectures)

Letters chiefly related to lectures / talks / radio talks (invitations thereto, travel arrangements) also original notes / scripts for same. NB this appears to be an original MV grouping (cf. MV 053) since almost all items similarly hole-punched, but prior to inventory grouping had been disturbed with papers widely dispersed throughout Ventris boxes.

1953-54

1. Letter handwritten to MV on University of St Andrew’s letterhead from T. B. Mitford 30 December 1953 congratulating MV on ‘staggering discovery’ learnt of from Sir John Myres + JHS article; also inviting MV to give lecture on Thurs 28 October 1954.

2. Postcard handwritten to MV by T. B. Mitford 14 January 1954 thanking MV for agreeing to give lecture at St Andrews on Thurs 28 October 1954.


4a-b. (a). Letter handwritten to MV from T. B. Mitford 25 June 1954 enclosing (b) ‘Syllabus’ of lectures for St Andrew’s Archaeological Society 1954-55 [green printed card, folded].

5. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 30 June 1954 inviting MV to give talk in early Dec or late Jan. Ink annotation by MV ‘Seen in Copenhagen suggested put off to summer (I hope)’.


8. Letter typed on University of Sheffield letterhead to MV from R. J. Hopper 10 August 1954 inviting MV to give lecture under auspices of Dept of Ancient History & suggesting dates. Ink annotation by MV ‘suggested put off till summer’.

9. Manuscript 5 pp foolscap by MV in blue ink. ‘Lecture at 2nd Int. Congress for Class. Studies 27 August ’54’ – 3 pp [headed #1, #2, #3] with lecture, mostly in note form. 1 p head ‘Slide Register – x not shown in Athens’ [29 slides listed]. 1 p. main outline for lecture headed ‘lecture Athens MGFV 27 May ’54’.

10. Letter handwritten to MV from Patrick Hunter [Hill Farm House, Akeley, Bucks] 21 September 1954 thanking MV for pamphlet and evidently referring to possible [lecture date?] in May.

12. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 6 October 1954 re fact that Mrs Winnington Ingram had been in touch indicating they hold joint JHS / Classical Association meeting at Staffordshire with MV speaking; JMTC expresses hope that action by Mrs W-I ‘not precipitate’. Ink annotation by MV ‘ANS’ encircled.

13. Letter typed on All Soul’s Oxford letterhead to MV from T. J. Dunbabin 9 October 1954, thanking MV for review of Friedrich’s book; also v interested by news from Mycenae and account of work on Chios which Sinclair Hood gave him recently; also asking if any chance MV could come to stay & suggesting (in ink) weekend 13-15 November.


15. Letter handwritten to MV from Lisa [= E. Wace, later French] at Royal Masonic School for Girls Rickmansworth Herts 9 November 1954, thanking MV for invite to supper – suggesting Sunday 21st; also reporting that she had been trying to measure volume of the stirrup jars [presumably from House of the Oil Merchant, Mycenae] from the photographs and promising to try to get accurate measurements.

16. Letter handwritten to MV from Patrick Hunter 13 November 1954 thanking MV for his and suggesting 10 May as date for his talk [cf. 10 above]

17. Letter handwritten on Magdalen College Oxford Vice-president letterhead to MV from Colin Hardie 19 November 1954 asking MV to decide about Waynflete Lectureship by 24th November & expressing hope that MV would accept.

18. CC letter typed from MV to President Magdalen College Oxford 22 November 1954, turning down invitation to give Waynflete Lectures [cf. 14, 17 above].

19. Letter typed on Institute of Classical Studies letterhead from E. G. Turner [director] 23 November 1954 about request from Gillies [prof of classics, hull] to give lecture on Linear B to invited audience; but accepts that MV + Chadwick are pretty busy & may feel it is someone else’s turn [ink annotation in EGT’s hand ‘i.e. TBLW{Webster} or EGT[urner]’.

20. Letter typed on Magdalen College Oxford [president] letterhead 24 November 1954 expressing regret that MV declined [presumably invite to give Waynflete Lectures, see 14, 17-18 above].


1955


23. Letter typed to MV from A. R. Munday 18 January 1955 thanking MV for agreeing to speak [for event see 22].

24. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 2 March 1955 thanking MV for card & suggesting Wed 4th May as lecture date.

25. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 10 March 1955 thanking MV for card; will write to MV nearer 4th May.

26. Letter typed on University Museum Oxford letterhead to MV from G. E. S. Turner [acting hon sec OU Anthropological Society] 18 March 1955 inviting MV to address society
27. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 27 April 1955 giving train times from Euston for MV’s talk on 4th May.

28. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 27 April 1955 apropos possible rail strike on following week; suggesting travel by road.

29. Letter typed on University College of North Staffordshire letterhead to MV from J. M. T. Charlton 29 April 1955 suggesting best possible road route.

30. Letter typed to MV from Patrick Hunter, Hill Farm House, Akeley Bucks 30 April 1955 about talk to Classical Society on 10 May and checking about arrangements.

31. Letter typed to MV from A. R. Munday 7 May 1955 about trip to Glasgow [see 22] and further proposing MV speak to 5th and 6th formers.


34. Letter typed to MV from Geoffrey Turner [Univ Museum Oxford] 3 September 1955 thanking MV for agreeing to talk to OU Anthropological Society and suggesting 9 November.

35. Letter typed to MV from A. R. Munday 11 September 1955 asking for title of talk to One Day Refresher Course in Glasgow 22 October [cf. 22 above].

36. Letter typed to MV from A. R. Munday 21 September 1955 thanking MV for of talk to One Day Refresher Course in Glasgow 22 October [cf. 21, 34 above] and reserving hotel room.

37. CC typescript [8 pp foolscap] ‘The Tongue of Heroes – suggested outline of subject-matter’ 18 September 1955. Outline of proposed BBC radio talk [cf. 32 above] with annotations by MV in pencil, red pencil and blue ink. Plus 5pp foolscap CC typed notes for same. Also 2 pp. typescript [original] fleshing out some of speeches [though now clipped to preceding, date is uncertain; speeches were included in 2nd draft 21 November, see 50 below].

38. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Leonard Cottrell 23 September 1955 thanking MV for draft for programme [cf. 33, 37 above] and inviting MV to meet him at Bull & Bush on Sunday; proposing also they meet soon to discuss script in detail.


40. Letter handwritten on Emmanuel College Cambridge letterhead to MV from Frank Stubbings 29 September 1955 thanking MV for letter & outline of ‘Tongue of Heroes’; suggesting also that Evans may have realized language was Grk but wouldn’t admit it (not even to self).

41. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Miss E. H. Wakeham [copyright dept] 30 September 1955 re broadcast of ‘Tongue of Heroes’ on Home Service; suggesting inclusive fee of 50 guineas for work / performance and further 30 guineas for repeats on Home Service [other repeat fees attached – not here].

42. Letter handwritten to MV from A. R. Munday 2 October 1955 asking for clarification about slides to be used in talk [cf. 22, 35-36 above] and inviting him to dinner on 21st October.

43. Letter typed on University Museum, Oxford letterhead to MV from Geoffrey Turner 7 October 1955 firming up arrangements for talk to OU Anthropological Society & asking for title. Annotation by MV in ink ‘[The Mycenaean civilisation from the written evidence.’]

44. Cheque counterfoil from BBC for £26.5.0 [fee] 11 October 1955.
Correspondence and papers 1953 – 1956 (talks / lectures (cont’d)

47. Letter typed on Institute of Contemporary Arts letterhead to MV from Lawrence Alloway [ass’t director] 1 November 1955 inviting MV to participate in lecture series on ‘Aspects of Communication’. Annotated in blue ink by MV ‘refused’.
49. CC typed letter in French evidently from MV to unknown addressee [i.e. letter simply headed ‘Cher Monsieur’, perhaps Lejeune??] 18 November 1955 concerning ‘Bibliographie’ [to be ?published by ICS] and ‘Numérotation des idéogrammes’, referring to the objections he had outlined in Minos and explaining the genesis of the system; gives detailed examples, incl. ideogram for ‘cheval (105 etc)’.
51. CC typescript [1 p foolscap] ‘First draft of note to explain grid: can follow on from general introductory article’ 21 November 1955. Unclear what this intended for; includes two diagrams, incl. one of a ‘tablet’ [which text makes clear is ‘not an actual tablet from Knossos but combines a number of words that gave first clues to decipherment’].
53. Letter typed to MV from Frank Stubbings 12 December 1955 evidently accompanying draft sections for FS’s contribution to radio talk [cf. 33, 37-38, 50]; also thanking him for draft article explaining ‘grid’ but feeling that it is still ‘rather heavy going and needs more detailed comment’.
54. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Elizabeth St Johnston [English Programmes BBC European Service] 15 December 1955 inviting MV to take part in series of talks called ‘Frontiers of Knowledge’.
55. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Elizabeth St Johnston [English Programmes BBC European Service] 20 December 1955 agreeing to defer decision on talk [cf. 54 above] ‘until your April meeting is over’.
56. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Leonard Cottrell 21 December 1955 thanking MV for sending Frank Stubbing’s contribution to radio talk [cf. 33, 37-38, 50, 53].

1956

59. Handwritten letter to MV from Michel Lejeune [signature illegible] 5 February 1956 asking MV for the letter promised “‘in a few days time” sur le question des rapports’; also asking for state of play re the bibliography which will be ‘une contribution essentielle au colloque’.
61. Letter typed to MV from Michael E. Adams 9 February 1956, enclosing copy of script [not found, but cf. 62].
MV 054.1-71  CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS 1953 – 56 (TALKS / LECTURES) (Contd)
63. BBC official form inviting MV to prepare 700 wd script for feature on ‘Light on the Mycenaean World’ total fee £10.10.0 [10 guineas]. Invitation clearly marked ‘Retrospective’.
64. Letter typed on BBC letterhead to MV from Martin Esslin [Ass’t Head of European Productions] 14 February 1956 indicating that script has already gone round with MV being described as archaeologist, implying this cannot be changed, though MV himself could rectify it during broadcast [!]. Also indicating script circulated to various sections of European Service, which would duly contact MV if they wished him to take part.
65. CC typescript by MV ‘Light on the Mycenaean World Suggest review of the second half of the script’ 18 February 1956.
66. CC typescript by MV 2pp foolscap ‘Mycenaean Bibliography notes for the Paris Colloquium first draft for comment 23.2.56’. Pencil annotations by MV.
67. Handwritten notes by MV 1 pp foolscap ‘Resolutions of colloquium’
68. Typescript 1 p. quarto by MV with ink annotations ‘Outline for a programme about the deciphering of the Linear B script’ n.d. [sounds suitable for childrens’ programme]. [NB this outline typed on ‘front’ of p. 4 of incomplete typescript, apparently a children’s adventure story about American west].
69. CC typescript in French perhaps relating to reading of certain tablets ML 2.148 – ML 2.170. n.d. [several times refers to JC et moi – conceivably but not certainly MV].
70. CC typescript 1 p. foolscap ‘Documents in Mycenaean Greek Authors’ copies [names / addresses] Presentation copies [names addresses], to latter added by MV in pencil ‘Stowe School’. N.d.
71. Typescript 1 p. quarto ‘Copy of a letter written by Professor Blegen of Cincinnati [sic] University in 1953 to Michael Ventris’ re Pylos tablets [nb conceivably not copied out by MV himself, but after death].

MV 055.1-10  CORRESPONDENCE ca 1950 – 1956 (SUNDRY)
1. Letter MS to MV from Sinclair Hood 3 October 1950 thanking MV for dinner; expressing interest of comparison of Minoan and Etruscan in AJA 1940 article
2. Letter typed on The Times letterhead to MV from James Morris 26 November 1952 re contacting Bennett on Minoan theories.
5. Letter typed to MV from Marcel Silberstein (Basle) 7 April 1955 about decipherment and offering some new ‘readings’ of tablets; nb Silberstein a self-confessed amateur. [Letter marked in upper right corner, MS 1, possibly MV’s hand].
7. Letter MS to LV from Rachel [Hood] BSA 28 July 1955 In original envelope.
9. Letter typed on 10 Downing Street – the Prime Minister letterhead to MV [from official / secretary] 26 November 1954 re award of OBE.
10. Postcard from MV to LV postmarked 12.III.56 [or 50?] dated ‘Sunday morning’ [BW picture of ‘Zermatt mit Matterhorn’; message indicates arrival].

-23-
MV 056 ‘October 1954 Appendix 4 Classified Inventory of the Mycenaean Inscriptions’
Foolscap typescript 55 pp + ink annotations by MV + checks in magenta pencil against numbers. Draft for The Knossos Tablets BICS Suppl. 2 (January 1956), see MV 069 below. Ink annotations reads ‘Revised for state of November 1955 W = whole tablet revised A = added to Browning P = part of tablet revised’. Also nb. Ink annotation ‘There may not be room for this in the book. Alternative: a concordance only of the tablets we have selected’.

MV 057 On the transcription of Mycenaean “fractional quantities” 17 October 1955
Stencilled circular for Gif conference 3 sheets (recto + verso) foolscap, stapled and Marked by MV ‘VENTRIS’

MV 058 Fellowship Certificate German Archaeological Institute December 1955
Latin. [stored with tubes]

MV 059 CC typescript ‘A new inscribed clay tablet from Enkomi’ n.d. [1955–56]

MV 060.1-2 Transcripts – radio talks 1956
1. Transcript copies: ‘Light on the Mycenaean World’ by Michael Adams, with contributions by Michael Ventris produced by H. Wiedemann (S) (Third Programme) Transm. 26.2.56 2030-2100 Reh. 22.2.56 1515-1714. Rec 22.2.56 1715 – 1800. Ed 1815-1900. Number TBU 56761 (E.11). German [despite heading that this Third Programme, could German transcript represent a re-broadcast on Overseas Service??]. [NB there are 2 copies – both with annotations in red pencil + black pencil; slight differences between them; one may have been the narrators copy, the other MV’s – the copy assumed to be MV’s also has ink annotations in MV’s hand at points where MV was to speak].

Blueprint map [small photographic reduction also]. Stored with tubes

MV 062 Charts [ca 1954].
Hand-drawn in black ink with red pencil highlighting and yellow pencil shading 630 x 515 mm
1. “palm leaf tablets with single entry” [Pylos Ae04 + KN Arsenal]
2. “palm-leaf” tablet with long single entry [Pylos Eb35]
3. “palm-leaf” tablet with several entries [Pylos 1952 Ta641]
4. rectangular tablet as summary of smaller ones [Pylos En02, Eo01, Eo02]
5. ideograms [e.g. pictorial, variable; symbolic & unrecognizable; adjuncts]
6. spelling system: empirical “rules” [consonants, diphthongs, “dead” vowels]
[Stored in ICS Rare Books Cupboard 220]

MV 063 Drawings (large) of signs / tablets / artefacts for Documents
[Originals stored with tubes. Framed photocopies in ICS].

MV 064.1-4 Signs / tablets / map (small)
Pictures (incomplete) for glass slides.
MV 065 Slides n.d.
Cardboard box with canvas strapped labelled ‘Ventris Slides 3 ¼ x 3 ¼”’. Glass slides (incomplete) of diagrams etc. Stored with books.

MV 066 Photograph – Gif. April 1956.
Participants at Paris (Gif) Conference, labelled.

MV 067 Photograph MV by Tom Blau – Camera Press London n.d.
labelled on rear ‘British Archeologists: MICHAEL VENTRISS {sic}

MV 068 Photograph MV – enlarged copy n.d
Stored with tubes

Marked by MV on cover ‘check copy’. Sundry annotations typed / handwritten + on separate pp inside rear (e.g. errata, list complimentary copies etc). NB needs repair. [second copy not marked in any way by MV].

MV 070 Studies in Mycenaean Inscriptions and Dialect 1953-1955

MV 071 Proof copy Documents 1956
Annotated by MV.

MV 072.1-11 Offprints / cuttings MV articles [1953–56]
2. Antiquity 108 (December 1953) [marked Ventris]
contains: J. Chadwick & M. Ventris, ‘Greek records in the Minoan Script’, pp. 196-204 [also nb a proportion graph on clear card presumably by MV used as book mark]
3. BICS 1 (1954)
contains: M. Ventris, ‘Mycenaean epigraphy: suggested code of practice’ pp. 4-10 [also articles by Webster & Turner on Lin B]. 2 copies.
5. MV, ‘King Nestor’s four-handled cups: Greek inventories in the Minoan script’, Archaeology 7 (1954) 15-21 [3 copies, lacking cover / cover sheet]
MV 072.1-11  Offprints / cuttings MV articles [1953–56] (cont’d)

MV 073.1-27  Sundry offprints by other scholars belonging to MV / inscribed to him

-26-
MV 073.1-27 Sundry offprints by other scholars belonging to MV / inscribed to him (cont’d)

MV 074.1-4 Printed matter (magazines) relating to decipherment / Mycenaean studies
2. Time Magazine 19 April 1954 contains article ‘Tale of Two Palaces’ p. 36 with photo MV.

MV 075.1-52 Printed matter (sundry newspaper cuttings) relating to decipherment
1. ‘3.000-årig språkgåta uppklarad’, Dagens Nyheter 22 November 1952
2. ‘Forskarbragd av språkgeni loser mängtusenariga skritgåtor’, Svenska Dagbladet 22 November 1952 [incomplete, as continued on missing p. 7; re decipherment]
3. ‘Försiktig general om minosskritften’, Svenska Dagbladet, 22 November 1952 [brief report mentioning Bennet & Ventris]
5. ‘Kung Minos gåta’, Expressen, 26 November 1952 [re decipherment but illustrated with picture of Toronto chryselephantine figure].
6. ‘Srpkågenier som löste 3.000-årig gåta är arkitekt, korsordsfantast, hatar latin’!, Expressen, 27 November 1952.
7. ‘Lertavlor ger nickel till 5.000-årigt språk – Arkeologisk sensation’, Stockholms-Tidningen 28 November 1952 [by Gunnar Kristiansson]
8. ‘En märklig forskarbragd’, Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-tidning 7 May 1953
9. ‘On the threshold?’, The Times 25 June 1953 [re decipherment; on same page dispatch by Edmund Hillary re conquest of Everest].
10. ‘Un dialecte grec serait la langue dans laquelle écrivaient les Cretois il ya trente-quartre siècles’, Le Figaro 25 June 1953 [re decipherment].
11. ‘ΕΥΡΕΘΗ ΤΩΡΑ Η ΚΛΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΡΗΤΟΜΥΚΗΝΑΪΚΗΣ;’ unidentified newspaper; 28 June 1953; article by Sp. Marinatos [annotated with date by MV]


13. ‘En forntidswärld träder fram’, *Dagens Nyheter*, 1 July 1953, p. 4 [by Arne Furumark re decipherment]


16. ‘Lertavlernes gaade’, *Information*, 1 August 1953 [by A. Furumark, re decipherment].


18. ‘En skoledrengs hobby löste historisk gaade’ newspaper unidentified, dated in pencil 11.10.53; article by Verner Forchhammer.


21. ‘Stonehenge signs hint at Crete Link’, *New York Times* 30 December 1953 [stuck on onionskin’ with red pencil annotations (not by MV) ‘how clever of Tessa to reach that high!!’]


23. ‘ΑΝΕΓΝΟΣΘΗ Η ΙΕΡΟΓΛΥΦΙΚΗ ΚΡΗΤΟΜΥΚΗΝΑΪΚΗ ΓΡΑΦΗ’ [by Sp. Marinatos; 3 January 1954; source unidentified; article outlined in red pencil; also circled Ιωάννου Τσάνγουϊκ, i.e. John Chadwick; pictures selected ideograms with transcription and renderings in modern Greek].


25. ‘Nu kan det läsas’, *Röster i Radio*, 21 March 1954 [source / date marked in MV hand; illustrated magazine article on decipherment, incl pictures of Knossos, Pylos, MV + tablets, incl Pylos 641].

26. ‘Deciphered tablets antedate Homer: Briton’s work shows early Greeks had ability to write’, *New York Times*, 9 April 1954 [by Sanka Knox; pp. 1 + 7] [a 2nd copy marked ‘FRONT PAGE of NY Times / date’ in red ink not MV hand; caption corrected by MV ‘syllabaries’ crossed out / ‘tablets’ inserted; + incomplete 3rd copy].

27. ‘Classical discovery’, *The Observer*, 11 April 1954 [source / date in MV hand; re paper on decipherment to Classical Association].

28. ‘Tale of two palaces’, *Time Magazine*, 19 April 1954 [3 copies; cf. also MV 074.2]

29. ‘Lifetime quest’, *Evening News* [?] 21 April [?] probably 1954 [marked by MV EN 21.4 – ink has run and reading ‘4’ uncertain; a popular / sensational piece saying that discovery of new tablets in summer could confirm or damn MV’s work]


32. ‘En saga om en saga’, newspaper unidentified; article by Gudmund Björck and inscribed by him ‘to Michael Ventris Uppsala April ‘54’
MV 075.1-52 Printed matter (sundry newspaper cuttings) relating to decipherment (cont’d)
[re decipherment].
34. ‘Architeks språknyckel öppnar 3.000 års gåta’, Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-
tidning 5 May 1954
35. ‘ΙΩΣ ΕΠΕΤΕΥΧΘΗ Η ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΙΝΟΪΚΗΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΑΠΟ ΕΡΑΣΙΤΕΧΝΗ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΟΝ’, To Bima, 28 May 1954
36. ‘Arkitekt löser ældgammel gaade’, source unidentified, but evidently Danish
paper; dated in pencil 21.8.54.
37. ‘Greek’ – brief paragraph announcing International Congress of Classical Studies,
Copenhagen under heading ‘News Service for Foreign Visitors – Today’s News’;
presumably Danish newspaper August 1954.
38. ‘The ever modern Greeks: Attic salt with a northern savour’, The Times, 28
August 1954 [on 2nd Congress of International Federation of Classical Studies,
Copenhagen; including para on Mycenaean tablets].
39. ‘Die kretische Schrift entziffert’ Der Mittelschullehrer und die Mittelschule
[Vienna] 9 (1954) 11-13 [by Dr W. Merlingen].
40. ‘Solution to a riddle’ source / date unknown, but 1954 indicated by context [by A.
P. Treweek, Dept of Greek, Sydney; refers to JHS 1953].
41. ‘Neues Licht aus Kreta I. Entzifferung der kreitschen Schrift erklärt Anfänge
europäischer Geschichte’. Die Zeit, 9 June 1955, nr 23 p. 13 [by C. W. Ceram]
42. ‘Neues Licht aus Kreta II. Die Wissenschaft am Faden der Ariadne.’ Die Zeit, 9
June 1955, nr 24 p. 11 [by C. W. Ceram].
43. ‘Die Entzifferung der mykenischen Schrift durch Michael Ventris’, Basler
Nachrichten: Sonntagsblatt, 23 January 1955 [by Hugo Mühlestein, ‘Gekürzte
Fassung eines Hellas-Vortrags 8 November 1954’].
44. ‘Berättelse i Odysse’en får märklig förklaring’, Stockholms-Tidningen, 7 January
1955 [by K. G. Michanek; with photos of sarcophagus from Mallia, view of palace,
drawings of 2 tablets from Knossos & photo of MV ]
45. ‘New learning at Oxford: Classics’ gift to the young’, The Times, 11 August 1955
[report on Hellenic & Roman Societies + Classical Association Conference at Oxford,
mentioning decipherment]
46. ‘Engelsk amatorforsker tyder Knossos-tavlere’, source / dated not indicated,
possibly 1952-53.
47. ‘4500-year-old riddle “decoded”’ Sunday Express n.d. [3 copies]
perhaps ca 1953.
49. ‘Skriftgåtor … Ventris skriver perfekt svenska’ source / date not identified;
continuation of article [beginning missing]. Arne Furumark pictured.
50. ‘Europas tidräkning gös om: Sagonkyngen Minos var grek, okända bildspråket
greiska’, newspaper unidentified; article incomplete – missing continuation p. 3
[article by K. G. Michanek; date pre-1954].
51. ‘Decifrato un sillabario dell’epoca degi achei’, unidentified newspaper / magazine,
n.d.
52. ‘ΤΟ ΑΛΦΑΒΗΤΟΝ ΤΩΝ ΑΧΑΙΩΝ ΑΠΕΤΕΛΕΙΤΟ ΑΠΟ ΕΙΚΟΝΑΣ’
unidentified newspaper n.d.

MV 076.1-12 Printed matter (sundry newspaper cuttings) relating to Mycenaean studies and
other archaeological topics
1. ‘Greek finds at Mycenae: duck-shaped bowl carved out of rock crystal [source /
date not given; probably The Times ca 1953-54]
2. ‘New discoveries at Mycenae: carved ivories and vases from before 1200 B.C.’ by
Alan Wace [newspaper not identified; probably The Times 1953].
4. ‘The Seven against Thebes: further details of finds at Eleusis’, The Times, 27 July 1953[?].
5. ‘Mycenae’s links with Crete: More finds in the Houses of Shields and Sphinxes’, [newspaper not identified, probably The Times] annotated 20.10.54 by MV.
6. ‘Reconstructing history at Chios: excavation team’s discoveries’ [source / date not given; probably The Times ca 1954-55]
8. ‘Mycenaean palace identified as King Nestor’s’, The Times, 23 September 1955.
9. ‘New light on Trojan War??: Tentative conclusions from Beyce Sultan finds’, source not indicated; 26 November ?1955 [by Seton Lloyd]
10. “‘New light on the Trojan War”’ letter from R. A. Crossland; source / date not indicated but refers to article of 26 November [cf. above].
11. ‘First Greeks on Crete’ The Times 12 March 1956 [re S. Hood’s excavations at Gypsadhes & Ailias Cemeteries Knossos].
12. ‘More light from Pylos I. – spoils of piracy’ [by J. Chadwick; source / date not given, conceivably The Manchester Guardian; refers to publication of Documents ‘later this year i.e. 1956].

MV 077 The Times 1 January 1955 complete with Honour’s List in full cf. p. 5 for MV.
MV own copy marked 19 North End on front [also torn copy pp. 5-6]

ARCHIVE BOX 4

MV 078.1-22 Sundry books belonging to MV
5. I. Stemann, Danish: A Practical Reader (Copenhagen 1938). Inscribed inside ‘Michael Ventris 1945’
MV 078.1-22 Sundry books belonging to MV (cont’d)
17. H. Th. Bossert & F. Steinherr, Jahrbuch für kleinasiatische Forschung II (Heidelberg 1952) NB title + pp. 1-112 are missing!
22. G. P. Carratelli, ‘Le iscrizioni preelleniche di Hagia Triada in Creta e della Grecia Peninsulare’, Monumenti Antichi XL (1945) cols 422-610 + 40 pls. [Marked ‘Michael Ventris’ and annotated by him in blue and red pencil; held in ICS Rare Books Cupboard 102F].
22. a) A. J. Evans, Scripta Minoia I (Oxford 1909); b) A. J. Evans, Scripta Minoia II (Oxford 1952), edited by Sir John Myres. [Both marked ‘Michael Ventris’ and annotated by him; held in ICS Rare Books Cupboard 102F].

ARCHIVE BOX 5
MV 079.1-4 Letters of condolence to LV on MV’s death.
1a-c (a) Letter handwritten to LV from Alan Wace at BSA 10 September 1956 sending condolences; and enclosing (b) CC typescript of obituary in English to be translated into Greek for Kathimerini. (c) Letter handwritten from Lisa [i.e. E. B. Wace, later French] from Athens 10 Sept 1956, adding her condolences to those of her father. All three together in original envelope.
2a-b (a) Letter handwritten to LV MS from on MV’s death. In same envelope [not addressed by EBW, but possibly by A.J.B. Wace carbon copy [3 pp quarto] of obituary for MV [perhaps prepared by AJBW for press / journal].
3. Letter handwritten on Svenska Institutet i Athen letterhead to LV from Arne Furumark 8 November 1956 expressing condolences.
4. Photocopy telegram to LV – ‘MINOS EDITORIAL BOARD RESPECTFULLY PRESENT SINCEREST CONDOLENCE DEATH UNFORGETTABLE DOCTOR VENTRIS YOURS TRULY PROFESSOR RUIPEREZ’ [n.d.]. Original not found.

MV 080.1-12 Sundry obituaries (newspapers) on MV’s death
1. ΤΟ ΑΡΘΡΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΛΑΝ ΟΥΑΙΗΣ [obituary of MV by Alan Wace – Grk newspaper – probably Kathimerini see MV 079.1b; 11 September 1956]
2. ‘Geniet Michael Ventris’, Dagens Nyheter, 12 September 1956 p. 4
MV 080.1-12 Sundry obituaries (newspapers) on MV’s death (cont’d)

5. ‘Der Entzifferer der minoischen Schrift’ Vaterland (Luzern), 29 September 1956.
7. ‘Lecturer killed in Hatfield crash’ – newspaper unidentified / n.d.
8. ‘He deciphered Minoan tablets’ – newspaper unidentified / n.d.
9. ‘A loss to archaeology: the late Mr Michael Ventris’ ILN [date?] p. 435.
11. ‘Mr. M. G. F. Ventris’ – obituary notes by John Chadwick and ‘A friend at University College London’ – newspaper unidentified probably The Times / n.d.
12. ‘Michael Ventris’ letter to Editor of The Times from R. D. Barnett and others proposing to establish MV Memorial Fund [n.d. but ca December 1956].

MV 081.1-10 Sundry obituaries (scholarly journals etc) on MV’s death

1. ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΑΙ MICHAEL GEORGE FRANCIS VENTRIS by N. Platon [offprints from Greek journal, unidentified pp. 317-320: actually Kretika Chronika I’ i.e. 10] 1956: 5 copies of same [one with Grk postage stamps stuck on cover].
2. British School of Archaeology at Athens, Annual Report of the Managing Committee for the session 1955-1956 [pp. 7-9 MV obit by M.S.F.H{ood}].
4. The Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects Third Series Vol 63 Number 12 October 1956 [pp. 514-15 MV obit by Mr. Robert Furneaux
5. The Architects’ Journal for September 13, 1956 [p. 367 MV obit by the Editor {unnamed}].
6. Architectural Association Journal September – October 1956 [p. 84 MV obit unattributed].

MV 082 The Architects’ Journal for November 15, 1956 [p. 687 re AJ Research Fellowships – 1st Fellowship having been awarded to MV on Jan 5 {1956} – work uncompleted owing to MV’s death; award to be re-advertised cf. p. 692. pp. 693-99 ‘The Handling of Architects Information:1 introductory and the handling of trade literature’ [this = 1st or interim report prepared by MV for fellowship]

MV 083.1-28 Sundry correspondence to LV re MV / Decipherment (1957-1988)

1. Letter typed on BBC letterhead from Leonard Cottrell to LV 5 March 1957 re broadcast of ‘Language of Heroes’ perhaps in June, with John Chadwick to take part.
3. Letter typed on BBC letterhead from Leonard Cottrell to LV 27 March 1957 re broadcast of ‘Language of Heroes’
4. Letter typed on The Evening News letterhead from Felix Barker 23 August 1957 to LV re proposed article on Mycenaeans, requesting photo of MV.
5. Letter typed on The Evening News letterhead from Felix Barker 12 September 1957 to LV thanking her for photo of MV and returning same.

6. Letter typed on Curtis Brown Ltd letterhead 29 August 1957 from James MacGibbon replying to letter from LV about proposed biography of MV.

7. Payment advice dated 4 October 1957 from BBC to sum of £2.12.6d for reproduction of ‘Die Erhellung der vorhomerischen Welt’ broadcast by MV March 1956.

8. Letter typed on Central Office of Information letterhead requesting permission to publish in Western Germany ‘Die Erhellung der vorhomerischen Welt’ by MV as published in Hier Spricht London 4.10.57. Fee payable £2.2s.


10. Letter typed on BBC letterhead from Leonard Cottrell to LV 10 June 1958 thanking her for enjoyable party & promising to send her tape recording of memorial tribute to MV.

11. CC letter typed from LV to T. B. L. Webster 25 June 1958 re complimentary copies of unnamed publication.

12. Letter typed on BBC letterhead from Leonard Cottrell to LV 2 April 1958 re proposed feature on ‘The Ventris Achievement’.

13. Letter typed on University College letterhead from T. B. L. Webster to LV 16 June 1958 enclosing copy of belated publication of 1954 Copenhagen conference proceedings.

14. CC typed letter from LV to T. B. L. Webster replying to his of 16th and asking for list of addresses for complimentary.

15. Letter typed on University College letterhead from T. B. L. Webster to LV 23 June 1958 sending proposed list for complimentary copies and offering to post them.

16. Letter typed on University College letterhead from T. B. L. Webster to LV 1 July 1958 regarding list [of complimentary copies].

17. Postcard typed from Prof Dr Manuel Garcia Blanco, Universidad di Salamanca 7 July 1958 stating that he had received [erroneously?] copy of The Decipherment of the Mycenaean Script meant for Sr Antonio Tovar currently in Argentina.

18. Card printed Michel Lejeune with handwritten inscription ‘à Madame Ventris avec l’expression de mon respect et du souvenir émy que je garde de Michael Ventris’ n.d.[probably 1958 on receipt on complimentary copy Copenhagen conference proceedings].

19. a) Letter typed on British Academy letterhead [with original envelope] from Sir Mortimer Wheeler to LV 21 May 1959 asking her to receive Kenyon Medal in memory of MV’s work on decipherment; b) Rough handwritten draft reply by LV to Mortimer Wheeler accepting.


MV 083.1-28 Sundry correspondence to LV re MV / Decipherment (1957-1988) (cont’d)
23. a) Letter typed on Langlos Harding & Co Solicitors letterhead from [illegible] to LV [Mrs E. Killick] 29 June 1961 enclosing two copies of letters requesting permission to reproduce Listener article [attached as 23b-c] and stating that the Public Trustee has no objection to the article being published as suggested but requesting LV also agree.
24. Letter typed on BBC letterhead from Roy Davies to LV 29 May 1975 re programme on MV and questions which LV would be asked [on broadcast].
25. Letter to Lois [Betty] Ventris 24th September 1975 from Roy Davies, Producer Archaeology and History Unity BBC TV, re transmission of film ‘The Decipherment of Linear B” on Monday November 10, 1975 at 9.50 pm on BBC-2 and informing LV that sections of interview filmed at her home were excluded.
26. Letter handwritten on Istituto per gli studi micenei ed egeo-anatolici letterhead from Anna Sacconi to LV 27 February 1987 re proposed volume in honour MV.
27. CC letter to Anna Sacconi 15 April 1987, unsigned but certainly from Alicia Totolos [Secretary, Institute of Classical Studies] re proposed volume.
28. Letter handwritten from LV to Alicia Totolos stating that LV does not have any relevant material.

MV 084.1-6 Transcripts of radio broadcasts and related papers (1957-77)
4. Leaflet for publication of From the Third Programme A Ten-Years’ Anthology, Ed. John Morris Nonesuch Press 66 Chandos Place London WC2 1956. 4pp 23 x 13 cm. Hand-written inscription on front page: ‘My dear Bets, I’m not sending you this as an advertisement, but thought you might like to note Michael’s inclusion. We would be so pleased to see you when you can cope, Yrs [illegible] Prudence.’ [MV’s ‘The Cretan Tablets’ listed for inclusion in this limited edition publication –cf. The Listener MV 047]. NB copy of book stored with books MV 078.
6. Cutting from The Radio Times 15 December 1977 advertising broadcast of Chronicle - ‘The Decipherment of Linear B’ – 8.10 pm Thursday [perhaps re-broadcast of programme of same title transmitted on 10 Nov 1975 v. supra 5]

MV 085.1-5 Sundry printed matter / offprints relating to decipherment / Mycenaean studies (1957-60).
1. T. B. L. Webster, ‘Mycenaean records: a review’, Antiquity 31 (1957) 4-8 [offprint rev. Documents].
MV 085.1-5  Sundry printed matter / offprints relating to decipherment / Mycenaean studies (1957-60). (con’td)

MV 086.1-11  Sundry newspaper cuttings relating to decipherment / Mycenaean studies (1956-1971)
1. ‘The Great Ventris Controversy’, *The Sunday Times* n.d. [autumn 1956, prompted by Beattie’s JHS review of *Documents*]
3. ‘The Ventris Controversy’, source / date not indicated, presumably either *Times* or *Sunday Times* cf. MV 086.1-2 [letter from T. B. L. Webster].
5. ‘Minoan script mystery’, *The Times* 28 August 1957 [re Cyrus Gordon’s ‘decipherment’ of Linear A as Akkadian ]
6. ‘Deciphering of Minoan script’ The Times 29 August 1957 [with comments by R. D. Barnett and J. Chadwick, referring to M. Pope]
8. ‘Cretan labyrinth’, The Observer n.d. [by J. Hawkes re Gordon’s ‘decipherment’ and Ventris / Chadwick’s work on Linear B].
11. Obituary ‘Professor C. W. Blegen, Discovery of the Palace of Nestor’, *The Times* [1971]

MV 087.1-7  Sundry biographical accounts of MV and articles evaluating the decipherment [ca 1958 - ]
4. I. Martin, ‘Some memories of the early “Minoan Linear B seminars”’, leaflet (4 pp 210 x 150 mm) printed September 1996 for Ventris Memorial Day held at Institute of Classical Studies.
MV 087.1-7 Sundry biographical accounts of MV and articles evaluating the decipherment [ca 1958 - ] (cont’d)


MV 088 Genealogy of Ventris Family from 1490
On tracing paper. Labelled top left ‘originally drawn up 18.2.1981 by R. S. Thompson’. [Stored with tubes]

MV 089 Sundry papers relating to Michael Ventris Memorial Award [1956 –]

MV 090 Exhibition material
2. Exhibition material, unmounted, including copies of photographs, book jackets etc [currently stored in A4 binders with plastic envelopes in Box 5].
3. Exhibition material mounted on heavy card ca 1997–2003 [stored separately].

Also held, but not catalogued, miscellaneous items belonging to Lois Ventris, including certificate from Architectural Association, obituary, late photos.

ohk 1/6/04

Sundry papers which came to light in 2005 have yet to be sorted and catalogued. Please note that from 15 December 2005 until further notice there is no access to the Archive.

PYLOS TABLET № 641-1952

ohk 20/11/06