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Letter of the Day

Theta - Θθ

Theos - word for god

Mycenae

The Megaron

- The main piece of architecture in Mycena.
- 3 part hall with a central hearth which would have a fire.
- This is a megaron.
- There was a large court in front of it
- Smaller than others we have seen

Renovations

- They expanded 3 times, adding rain walls and expanding the outside walls
- At the end of the third renovation they included grave circle A in the walls

Renovations at 1250 BCE

- the current state today
- This is when the Lion's gate was added
- This is also when grave circle A was enclosed
- The wall itself was built following an earthquake
- Wall was massive, up to 7m at points

Cyclopean Masonry

- Named after the fact the people believed that Cyclops built these buildings.
- Massive rocks

The Cult Center

- Large round section with an altar in the middle
- Was found over graveyard 4
- Raised 15m from where it was before.

Shrine

- There was a plaster bench with white plaster
- There was a painting on the wall, it has faded and we don't know what it is
- It supposedly shows two women wearing cloaks, one seems to be a priestess
 - Warrior women?

The Lion Gate

- Two lions standing heroically with a pillar between them
- Could have been a coat of arms for Mycenae
- We also see this in seal stones

Strong Walled Tiryns

- Friends with Mycenae due to proximity
- Between Mycenae and the sea

Early Excavations

- First dug by Schliemann and Wilhelm Dörpfeld

Walls

- They were strong
- Up to 15 meters thick
- Very strong defences
- Destroyed by an earthquake
- Built out the living rock

Citadel

- Divided into two sections
- Upper citadel
 - Palace and main buildings
- Lower citadel
 - At the end of the bronze age, was a place that people flocked to

Megaron

- Center of the citadel
- Remodelled in the iron age

- Floor was plastered and painted
- Floor was decorated with octopus and dolphin motifs between geometric patterns
- The king would sit on the throne and people would come to talk

Secondary Megaron

- Could be a queen's megaron
- Hearth is smaller, room is smaller
- Right next is the bathroom
- Had a fancy bathroom

Walls

- Build with ashlar stones
- Were stolen

Bathroom near megaron

- Was simply for taking baths

Fortifications

- Heaviest fortifications faced the sea
- Not much fortifications facing Mycenae

Pylos

Homer called it "Sandy Pylos"

- Out to the west from Mycenae

Carl Blegen

- Excavated by Carl Blegen
- Thought in the university of Cincinnati

Palace of Nestor

- Named after a guy from the Iliad named Nestor, supposedly where he lived
 - This can be proved because the name is on tablets
- Main buildings are
 - Palace

- Southwest building
- Northeast building
- First trench was the archive room
- Found at 1939 which was when the Hitler Mitler Man was dancing around europe
- Over 1000 tablets found
- Since they were mud they were not fired and there was a chance for them to be destroyed

The Megaron

- One side there is a raised platform
- Strange channel in the ground
 - Possibly for a drink offering
- Unlikely this is where people went to visit the king
-

Michael Ventris

- Codebreaker from WWII
- Greek was the basis behind a code he cracked

Types of Tablets

- Nodule
 - Would be like a label and would be attached to an object
- Page Tablet
 - Business, receipts, inventories
- Leaf Tablet
 - Would be for one item
 - Used to tally objects

Politics

Wanax

- Top official
- owns the most land
- in charge of religious rites
- Definitely related to religious

Lawagetas

- Second highest official
- "leader of the people"

- in charge of the army
- Usually attached to the military

Basileus

- Non-palatial local rulers
- village "chieftain"
- later becomes term for "king"