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# DECIPHERING THE BYBLOS "PSEUDOHIEROGLYPHIC" SCRIPT

*Abstract: Since the Byblos "pseudohieroglyphic" signs are graphically almost identical with the Vinča (Danube/Old European) pre-script (which originally appeared in the central Balkans, then spread to the Danube valley, southern Hungary, Macedonia, Transylvania, and northern Greece, and has also been recorded in distant countries such as the Ukraine, Spain and Portugal), the author applies his knowledge in deciphering this pre-script in order to read more than fifty lines of the Byblos signs. Thus, at least some of the Byblos "pseudohieroglyphs" appear to constitute a restricted system of mythographic "eidograms" (halfway between pictograms and ideograms) used for the invocation of goddesses throughout the Old World, rather than a syllabary, as erroneously believed by George Mendenhall, Brian Colless, Jan Best, Fred Woudhuizen and others, or an alphabet (Malachi Martin).*

*Key words: Byblos "pseudohieroglyphs", Vinča script (Danube script, Old European script).*

## 1. Introduction

In nineteen thirties archaeologists discovered about ten inscriptions at the site of the Egyptian and, later, Phoenician commercial port Byblos, founded 4.500 years ago. French experts ascertained that the inscriptions consisted of approximately one hundred graphemes, and they concluded that they were signs of a syllabary from 1800 B.C. They are partly pictographic, but the majority is identical with Phoenician letters, and they were called "pseudohieroglyphic". So far they have remained undeciphered and its connection with the rise of alphabet has been uncertain (Niesiowski-Spanò 2020: 172). We find them identical with signs from Vinča, which make a system of eidograms (a kind of ideograms, not related to any

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particular language) to convey prayers to imaginary deities for healthy and abundant posterity. We shall analyze only two of these Byblos bronze inscriptions, but long enough to enable reading, following our interpretation of Vinča inscriptions in Hlebec (2017). Byblos inscription 1 is taken from Garbini (2006: 64) and 2 from Voinikov (2009).

Vinča (or Danube or Old European) script originally appeared in the central Balkans and quickly spread to the Danube valley, southern Hungary, Macedonia, Transylvania, and northern Greece. The Vinča culture, named after a village on the Danube near Belgrade which appears to have been its hub, occupied the central Balkans for at least two thousand years, providing the cultural and linguistic substratum to the succeeding people and then after spreading to all parts of the old world faded into oblivion. Fortunately, after the dissolution of the Vinča culture some of its carriers spread in all directions, taking their specialized writing system available for the use of prospective mothers irrespective of their language. This application was recognized by some investigators. “In their introduction to the Danube script, Harald Haarmann and Joan Marler write: “[...] What is exceptional about the Danube script is its exclusive use in religious functions.” (Ferraro *Sacred Script*: 7)

## 2. Glossary

☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉		
1a	1b	1c	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
33	34	35	36	37	38	39a	39b	40	41a	41b	41c	42	43	44	45a	45b
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
63	64	65a	65b	66	67a	67b	68	69	70	71a	71b	72a	72b	73	74	75
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84a	84b	85	86a	86b	87	88	89	90
☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101a	101b	102	103			

- 1a, b, c Great Mother Goddess, cf. synonymous 74 (with two pairs of arms, on *Tărtăria disc*, Romania, and cf. the image of Siva) and 75 (*Viminatum Silver Scroll*)
- 2 daughter of Great Mother Goddess (a simplified variety of the preceding)
- 3 mighty Bird Goddess (pictogram of a bird)
- 4 Bird Goddess as mother with her offspring (ligature: 'Bird Goddess' 91, i.e. a sketch of a wide-winged bird, and one horizontal and two slanted nicks \_ \ /, i. e. 'children')
- 5 pregnant Bird Goddess (ligature: 'Bird Goddess' 91 and 'child' \_ )
- 6 Bird Goddess who is a mother (ligature, as above)
- 7 or 8 Goddess of New Life (from a sketch of snake, reproduced variantly in Vinča inscriptions)
- 9 mighty Goddess of New Life (pictogram of a cobra)
- 10 Goddess of Growth (cf. a synonymous sign with two cross bars more on *Dispilio Tablet*; from a sketch of a young plant)
- 11 Goddess of Transformation (a sketch of a thistle)
- 12 Moon Goddess (from the crescent sign; cf. the same symbol on *Vlasac Altar* and on *Bust inscr.*)
- 13 changeable Moon Goddess (plural of the preceding sign)
- 14 Moon Goddess in all phases (?)
- 15 waxing Moon Goddess (Moon crescent 12 and a notch \ for 'child')
- 16 pregnant Moon Goddess (ligature: 'Moon Goddess' 12 with a slanted / and a horizontal nick - , i. e. 'children')
- 17 Moon Goddess as mother (ligature: 'Moon Goddess' ( , 'mother' \_ and 'child' \ )
- 18 Bear Goddess (first interpreted as such by Griffen 2007)
- 19 Goddess of Vegetation (shoots with roots; cf. synonymous 76 and H on *Lepenski Vir Calendar*, *Dispilio Tablet*, and *Mauvo Spelio signet*)
- 20 Goddess of Fertility (symbol of a bee; cf. *Gnomic inscr.*, Serbia and *Alvao inscr.*)
- 21 deified mother-to-be (ligature: 'deified woman' v and 'mother-to-be' 28; identical in *Lepenski Vir Calendar*)
- 22 fertile woman, fertility of a woman (ligature: woman 77 and two slanted nicks \_ / 'children-to-be')
- 23 inseminated woman (ligature: 92 'woman' and . 'seed')
- 24 woman as mother (ligature: 'woman' 77 and 'mother' | )
- 25 (*Byblos inscr. 1*) pregnant woman (ligature: 92 'woman' and | 'child')
- 26 (*Byblos inscr. 2*) pregnant woman (ligature: 92 'woman' and - 'child')

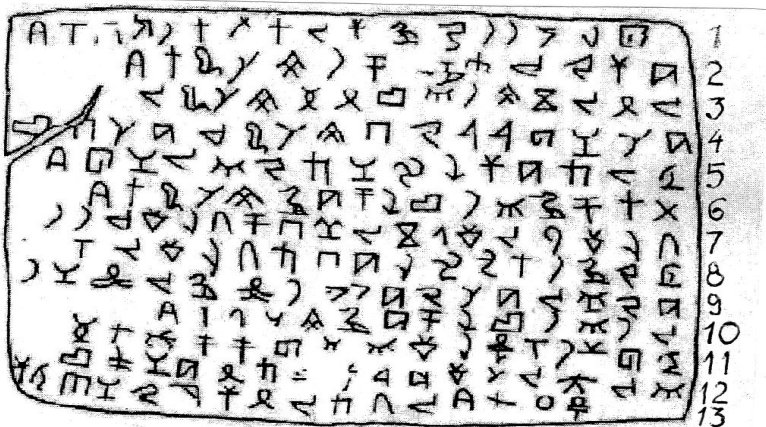
- 27 (*Byblos inscr. 1*) woman in childbed (from a sketch of a woman giving birth; cf. the same sign on *Viminatium silver scroll*, 78 *Belovode inscr.*, *Gradešnica Platter*, *EME inscr.*, *Sitovo inscr.*)
- 28 (*Byblos inscr. 2*) mother-to-be (ligature of | ‘mother’ and - ‘child’; cf. *Terracotta Figure I*)
- 29 deified woman able to have many children (ligature: ‘deified woman’ v and ‘slanted nicks’ / \ ‘children’; cf. 93 ‘Bird Goddess incarnated through a woman with children’ in *Dikilitas Spindle Whorl*)
- 30 life of a mother with her child (ligature: U ‘life’, | ‘mother’ and | ‘child’)
- 31 power of procreation (sketch of entrails/a womb; cf. a synonymous sign on *Gradešnica Platter*)
- 32 power of procreation of a woman to become mother (ligature: ‘fertilization’ 55 ‘woman’ 92 and ‘mother’ | )
- 33 love act (symbol of the union of a male and female)
- 34 love act to beget children (as above, with two nicks / / for ‘children’)
- 35 happy union (two interlocking crescents; cf. yin and yang and similar signs on *Nursing Mother of Rast*, *Fafos Spindle Whorl* and *Kormadin insc.*)
- 36 together with, community of (outline of a clamp)
- 37 plenty [of children] (sketch of an ox horn, ox being a symbol of wealth; cf. numerous identical synonymous signs in *Lepenski Vir* and on Vinča inscriptions)
- 38 plenty of love acts (ligature: ‘abundance’ 37 and ‘love act’ 33)
- 39a (*Inscr. 1*) 39b or 81 (*Inscr. 2*) baby (sketch of an open beak of a baby bird; cf. identical synonymous signs on *Viminatium Silver Scroll* and *Belovode inscr.*)
- 40 secure plenty [of children] (ligature: ‘abundance’ 37 and ‘secure’ 68)
- 41a, b, c many children (several nicks; cf. identical or similar signs on Vinča inscriptions, with the same meaning)
- 42 male (drawing of a hook; cf. synonymous signs on *Belovode inscr.*, *Pařta inscr.*, *Bowl inscr.*, and *Tserye Seal*)
- 43 fertile male (ligature: arrow ↓ ‘male’ and slanted \ ‘child’)
- 44 male procreativity (ligature: arrow ↑ ‘male’ and ploughshare 51 ‘produce a new life’)
- 45a people,
- 45b human (sketch of a human being; 45a *Šudikovo Cube*; cf. the synonymous 82 *Lepenski Vir Calendar*; 80 Linear B logo-pictogram for ‘man’ and 94 the Chinese character for ‘person’)
- 46 man (sketch of a human figure)

- 47 in the home (from 40, a sketch of a house; cf. the identical sign 'home' on *Tserye Seal* and 95 on *Viminatium Silver Scroll*)
- 48 members of the household (ligature: 'house corner' 83 and 'child' \ )
- 49 great fertility (ligature; 'fertilization' 55 and 'abundance' 37)
- 50 great fertility to have babies (ligature: rhombus for 'fish', as in *Gradešnica Platter*, and a horizontal nick for 'child')
- 51 produce a new life/lives (a very simple sketch of a ploughshare; cf. a synonymous sign 84a on *Turdaş Spindle Whorl*)
- 52 (sustain) a new child's life (symbol of Goddess of New Life 84b (as in *Lepenski Vir Calendar*, *Belovode inscr.*, *Sitovo inscr.*) with the addition of a short horizontal line - for a newborn child; cf. the synonymous sign 84a on *Sitovo inscr.*)
- 53 shape (outline of a smoothing plane)
- 54 a child-begetting love act (ligature: love-act 33 and a slanted nick / for 'child')
- 55 fertilize, fertility, fertilization (picture of a seed; cf. the synonymous . on a number of Vinča inscriptions)
- 56 fertilization (picture of a seed in the soil)
- †7 deliver [a baby], delivery (crossing | 'mother' with \_'child'; cf. the same synonymous sign in a number of Vinča inscriptions and on *Vatin Amulet*)
- 58 birth (as above, but in the contiguous process of parturition seems to focus on the child being born unlike 57, which foregrounds the woman giving birth; cf. *Byblos inscr.* 2 line 16 with the two signs apparently differentiated)
- 59 repeated birth (a double cross sign; cf. the identical sign on *Lepenski Vir Calendar*, *Lepenski Vir Slab*, and *Mauro Spelio Signet*)
- 60 renew life (a wheel representing the life-and-death cycle; an early variant of the triskelion)
- 61 with the help of (sketch of a lever)
- 62 help (sketch of a lever; cf. the synonymous 96 and 62 on *Lepenski Vir Slab*, *Sitovo inscr.*, *Bust inscr.*, and *Terracotta Figure I*)
- 63 through the connection with goddesses (a profile of a bird, which is a go-between of people with goddesses)
- 64 transform (sketch of a crescent, Moon being a symbol of change; cf. 86a on *Mauro Spelio Signet* and 86b on *Gradešnica Platter* and *Alvao inscr.*)
- 65a, b change (as above)
- 66 generate life from the seed (ligature: seed 55 and a ploughed field 87)
- 67b (inscr. 1), 67a (inscr. 2) protect (sketch of a dog, recorded in a number of Vinča inscriptions)
- 68 secure (the simplified «protect» sign above, also on *Belovode inscr.*, *Bust inscr.*)

- 69 give (sketch of a hand, recorded in a number of Vinča inscriptions; often omitted as redundant)
- 70 support (sketch of the arm with shoulder, cf. a number of similar Vinča symbols
- 71 a, b, i.e. DS 130 and 131 according to Milton “Shan” Winn’s (2018), and OE 62, 189, and 190 according to Haarmann’s codes (1995)).
- 72a, b bring (representation of water as a carrier)
- 73 protection and help ? (ligature: protection 88, sketch of a projecting roof, cf. similar signs in various Vinča inscriptions, and 89 for a lever, see 61 above)
- 90 watch, be watchful (representation of the eye)
- 96 child’s birth (birth 57 and \_ child)
- 98 deified woman able to have many children
- 99 Goddess of Birth (found in numerous Vinča inscriptions)
- 100 Bird Goddess as mother (Bird Goddess 91 and | mother; Kekenydomb inscription)
- 101a, b breastfeeding (profile of a breast with the nipple)
- 102 mother (a representation of the vulva (according to Griffen 2007: 16) or a needle of a female hedgehog; used as a sign in a great number of inscriptions)

### 3. Inscriptions

#### Inscription 1



The righthand allignment and breaking the line at the end of a sentence indicate that the reading is right-to-left.

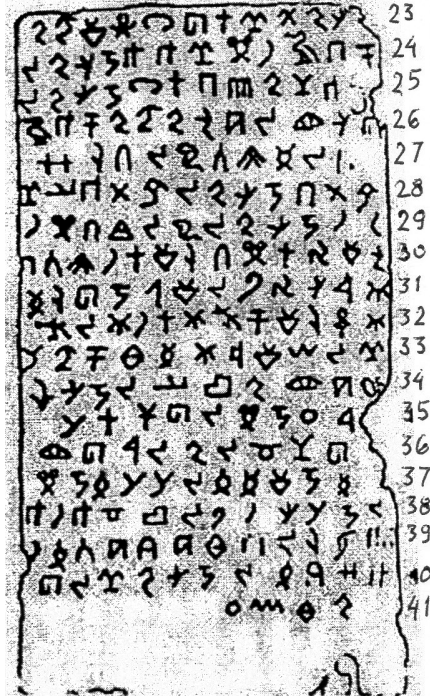
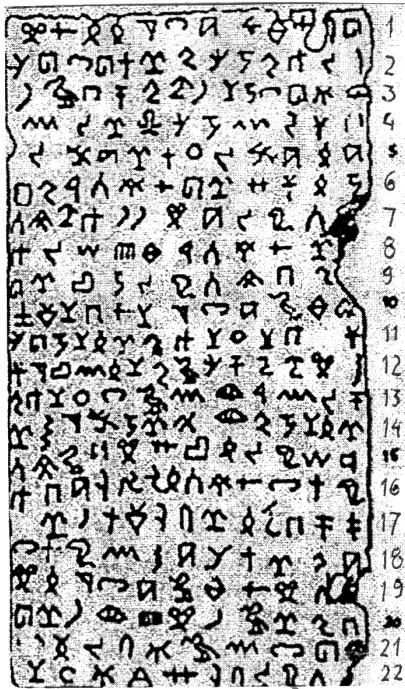
(1) The power of procreation 31 transform 64 into a sustained new child's life 52, o, changeable Moon Goddess 13! O, Goddess of New Life 8 and mighty Bird Goddess 3, for a deified mother-to-be 21 produce new lives 51 by delivery 57 and through a child-begetting love act 54 [enable] delivery 57! O, Moon Goddess 12, protection and help 73? (*indistinct sign*) for the mother-to-be 28 and plenty [of children] secure 40! (2) In the home 47 for a deified mother-to-be 21, o, Goddess of new life 8, produce new lives 51 of many children 41c and sustain new children's lives 52! O, Goddess of Growth 10 and Moon Goddess 12, plenty of love acts 38 give 69! O, Goddess of New Life 9, deliver 57 and secure plenty of children 40! (3) Produce a new life 51 and great fertility 49, produce a new life 51, o, Goddess of Fertility 20! [Enable] abundance of love acts 38, o, Moon Goddess 12, for the deified woman to have many children 29 with the help of 61 a love act 33! O, Great Mother Goddess 1b, abundance of love acts 38 give 69! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce a new life 51! (4) In the home 47 give 69 life to a childed mother 30. Power of procreation 31 through the connection with goddesses 63 and a male 42, o, Goddess of New Life 8, secure 68, and plenty of love acts 38 give 69! O, Goddess of New Life 9, woman as mother 24 in the home 47 give 69! Secure 68 with the help 61 (5) of pregnant Moon Goddess 16 the change 65a! Protect 67b in the home 47 the deified mother-to-be 21 and the fertile male 43 and renew life 60, the life of a mother with her child 30! Protect 67b, o, Goddess of New Life 8, the deified woman able to have many children 29 and produce a new life 51, life of a mother with her child 30, by the power of procreation 31 and secure plenty of children 40! (6) By means of a love act deliver a baby 57, o, Goddess of Growth 10, mighty Bird Goddess 3 and Moon Goddess 12, and with the help 61 of a fertile male 43! O, Goddess of Growth 10, in the home 47, and mighty Bird Goddess 3, plenty of love acts 38 give 69! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, deliver 57 and secure plenty of children 40! (7) Plenty [of children] 37, o, Bear Goddess 18, for the fertile woman 22, and Moon Goddess in all phases 14, produce new lives 51 for the fertile woman 22 and for the male 42! O, Goddess of Fertility 20, produce a new life 51! O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, secure [it] 68! O, Goddess of Growth 10, [enable] plenty [of children] 37! Transform 64 the fertile woman 22 into woman as mother, o, changeable Moon Goddess 13! (8) O, Moon Goddess as mother 17, Goddess of New Life 8, mighty Bird Goddess 3, and Moon Goddess 12, deliver 57 support 70 and renew life 60! O, Bear Goddess 18, in the home 47 secure 68 and protect 67b plenty [of children] 37! O, Bear

Goddess 18, for the fertile woman 22 produce a new life 51, for the woman in child-bed 28! (9) In the home 47, o, Goddess of New Life 8, in the home 47 for a deified woman able to have many children 98 produce a new life 51 and give 69 [it]! O, Goddess of New Life 8, in the home 47 greatly change 65b 65b, o, Moon Goddess 12, generate life from the seed 66! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3, produce a new life 51, generate the life from the seed 66! [Enable] life of a childed mother 30, o, Moon Goddess 12! (10) Produce a new life 51, o, Moon Goddess 12, for the deified woman able to have many children 29, o, Moon Goddess 12, with the help 61 of the fertile male 43! O, Goddess of Growth 10, in the home 47, and mighty Bird Goddess 3, plenty of love acts 38 give 69 to the male 42 and mother 102, and plenty [of children] secure 40! (11) O, pregnant Moon Goddess 16, [enable] the power of procreation 31 of babies 39a! O, Moon Goddess 12, mother-to-be 28 by the power of procreation of the woman as mother 32 transform 64 into a fertile woman 22! A deified woman able to have many, many children 29 29 protect 67b for many repeated births 59 59, and renew(ed) life 60 by delivery 57, o, Great Mother Goddess 1b! (12) For a deified woman able to have many children 29 produce a new life 51 of a human being 45b, produce a new life 51 and give [it] 69! The fertile woman 22 and the pregnant woman 25 through the connection with goddesses 63 ..... protect 67b great fertility 49 in the home 47 and the life of a childed mother 30 for repeated births 59 with the help 61 (13) of the power of procreation of a woman to become mother 32! Fertilize 55 for the birth 58 and plenty [of children] secure 40 and produce new lives 51! Plenty [of children] 37 protect 67b and produce new lives 51! [Enable] great fertility 49 for the deified mother-to-be 21 and members of the household 48, o, Goddess of New Life 8! [Enable] life of a childed mother 30, with many children 41b, o, pregnant Moon Goddess 16, for the deified fertile woman 21!

### *Inscription 2*

(1) [Enable] the power of procreation 31, o, Moon Goddess in all phases 14 and Goddess of Vegetation 19, and [also] great fertility to have babies 50! O, Goddess of Transformation 11, in the home 47 in community of 36 the members of the household 48 o, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 and Great Mother Goddess 1b [enable] birth 58! O, Great Mother Goddess 1c, (2) for the mother | the new [child's] life 51 protect 67a! O, Goddess of new life 7, sustain the new life 52 of the baby 39b! O, Goddess of new life 7 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, [enable] delivery 57 by means of your power of procreation 31





together with 36 the power of procreation 31 of the baby 39b! (3) .... [enable] for the deified woman able to have many children by means of the power of procreation 31 together with 36 the new child's life 52! O, pregnant Bird Goddess and Moon Goddess 12, male procreativity 44, [and also] o, Goddess of New Life 8 and Goddess of Growth 10, secure 68 [it]! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3 and Moon Goddess 12, (4) you goddesses of birth 99, for the deified mother-to-be 21, o, waxing Moon Goddess 15, bring 72a and sustain the new life 52 of the baby 39b! For the man 46, o, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, a change 65a bring 72a (5) in the home 47 ! O, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, in the home 47 through a love act in order to beget children 34 produce a new life 51 by fertilization 55 and deliver the baby 57! O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, in the home 47 through a love act in order to beget children 34 produce a new life 51 (6) and sustain it 52! O, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, for the deified mother-to-be 21 o, Goddess of Vegetation 19 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, [enable] power of procreation 31 and birth 58 for the deified woman able to have many children 29 and for people 45a through the connection with goddesses 63! O, Goddess of New Life 7, (*meaning obscure*) (7) for people 45a, o, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce a new life 51 in the

home 47! O, Great Mother Goddess 1c and changeable Moon Goddess 13, protect 67a male procreativity 44 and [enable] plenty of love acts 38 for people 45a! (8) O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, [enable] birth 58 for the deified woman able to have many children 29 and for people 45a through the connection with goddesses 63 great fertility to have babies 50, [to have] many children 41a! For a woman in childbed produce a new life 51 and protect it 67a! (9) O, Goddess of new life 7, secure 68 plenty of love acts 38 for people 45a! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce a new life 51 and sustain the new child's life 52 with the help 61 of the Bird Goddess as mother with her offspring 4 and through the power of procreation 31 (10) .... great fertility to have babies 50! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3, in the home 47 in community of 36 the members of the household 48, o, pregnant Bird Goddess 5, birth 58 secure 68! O, pregnant Bird Goddess 5, for the fertile woman 22 child birth 96, (11) for the deified mother-to-be 21 protect 67a! O pregnant Bird Goddess 5, fertilization 55, pregnant Bird Goddess 5, do protect 67a! O, Goddess of New Life 7, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 and pregnant Bird Goddess 5, sustain the new child's life 52! The power of procreation 31 of a baby 39b (12) help 62! O, Great Mother Goddess 1c, [enable] male procreativity 44! Goddess of New Life 7 and Goddess of Growth 10 [give] the baby 39b ! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3, Goddess of New Life 7, pregnant Bird Goddess 5, and Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 bring 72a [it] with the help 61 of the members of the household 48 -for a deified mother-to-be 21 (13) O, Goddess of Growth 10, produce a new life 51 bring [it] 72a through the connection with goddesses 63! Be watchful 90 and bring [it] 72a o, mighty Bird Goddess 3, together with 36 fertilization 55, o, pregnant Bird Goddess 5, and protect [it] 67a! O, Goddess of New Life 7, (14) Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, and pregnant Bird Goddess 5, sustain the new child's life 52! O, Goddess of New Life 7, be watchful 90! Through a love act in order to beget a child 34 o, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, sustain the new child's lives 52! Through love acts in order to beget children 34 for the members of the household 48 bring [them] 72b! O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4 (15) enable breastfeeding 101b for the woman in childbed 27! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce a new life 51! O, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 with the help 61 of the Goddess of Vegetation 19 and Great Mother Goddess 1c, in the home 47, o, mighty Bird Goddess 3, [enable] plenty of love acts 38 for people 45a! (16) O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, [enable] delivery 57 together with 36 the birth 58 for the deified woman able to have many children 29 for people 45a! O,

Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, support 70 and renew life 60! O, Bear Goddess 18, in the home 47 secure 68 and protect [it] 67a! (17) Repeated births 59, o, Goddess of Growth 10, secure 68! O, pregnant Moon Goddess 16, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, [enable] plenty [of children]! O, Bear Goddess 18, for a fertile woman 22 [enable] delivery 57! O, Moon Goddess 12 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, (18) In the home 47 transform 64 (?)! Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, delivery 57, o, Bird Goddess, you who are a mother 6, in the home 47 help 62 bring 72a! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, [enable] delivery 57 together with 36 (19) ?? (*indistinct signs*) O, Great Mother Goddess 1c, birth 58 and great fertility to have babies 50, o, mighty Bird Goddess 3, in the home 47, in the community of 68 the members of the household 48, -o, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 and Great Mother Goddess 1c, (20) secure 68! O, Goddess of New Life 7, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, mighty Bird Goddess 3, Moon Goddess 12, and Great Mother Goddess 1c, over the power of procreation 31 watch 90! O, Moon Goddess 12 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, power of procreation 31 (21) ? (*indistinct sign*) power of procreation 31 together 36 bring 72a! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3, for the deified woman to have many children 29 abundantly 37 produce new lives 52! O, Great Mother Goddess 1b? (*indistinct sign*) (22) ? (*perhaps a missing sign*) [enable] plenty [of children] 37! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 7, produce new lives 51 of plenty [of children] 37! O, Bear Goddess 18 and Goddess of Vegetation 19, to become a pregnant woman 26, for a deified woman able to have many children 29 [enable] fertilization 55! O, Bird Goddess with children 5 (23) with babies 39b (notice the sense repetition to establish connection with the other side of the tablet) o, Goddess of New Life 7, through a love act in order to beget a child 34, and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, [enable] delivery 57 by means of the power of procreation 31 in the community 36 of man 46. Fertility of a woman 22 and male procreativity 44, o, Goddess of New Life 7 (24) and Goddess of Growth 10, secure 68! O, mighty Bird Goddess 3, Moon Goddess 12, Great Mother Goddess 1c and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, protect with all your might 67a 67a the new child's life 52 of the baby 39b! O, Goddess of New Life 7, produce a new life 51 (25) and protect [it] 67a! O, Bird Goddess with children 5 and Goddess of New Life 7, for many children 41a secure 68 delivery 57 together with 36 new children's lives 52 of babies 39b! O, Goddess of New Life 7, produce a new life 51 (26) of the baby 39b and watch [over it] 90! Produce a new life 51 in the home 47 and support [it] 70! O, Goddess of New Life 7, [enable] male procreativity 44!

O, Goddess of New Life 7 and Goddess of Growth 10, protect [it] 67a! O, Bird Goddess 3, (27) fertilize 55 the mother 102 and produce a new life 51! O, Great Mother Goddess 1a, [enable] plenty of love acts 38 for man 45a! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce new lives 51 and plenty [of children] 37! O, Bear Goddess 18, Goddess of Vegetation 19 (28) and Goddess of Transformation 11, by means of love acts 33 [enable] plenty [of children] 37 and sustain new lives 52 of babies 39b! O, Goddess of New Life 7, produce a new life 51! Goddess of Transformation 11, by means of a love act 33 secure 68 and shape [it] 53! O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, (29) and changeable Moon Goddess 13, sustain new children's lives 52 of babies 39b ! O, Goddess of New Life 7, produce a new life 51! O, mighty Goddess of New Life 9, produce new lives 51 for inseminated women 23 in great plenty 37! O, Great Mother Goddess 1c and Moon Goddess 12, (30) support the life 70 of the fertile woman 22 and renew life 60 by delivery 57! O, Great Mother Goddess 1c, [enable] plenty [of children] 37! O, Bear Goddess 18, [enable] for the fertile woman 22 delivery 57! O, Moon Goddess 12, [enable] plenty of love acts 38 for people 45a for plenty [of children] 37! (31) For a deified woman able to have many children 29 through the connection with goddesses 63 [with] babies 39b renew life 60! O, Moon Goddess in all phases 14, produce new life 51 for the fertile woman 22 and for the male 42 produce a new child's life 52! [Enable] the power of procreation 31, o Bear Goddess 18 and Great Mother Goddess 1a, (32) for a deified woman able to have many children 29! By woman's power of procreation to become mother 32 transform [her] 64 into a fertile woman 22! O, Goddess of Growth 10, through love acts in order to beget children 34 for a deified woman able to have many children 29 deliver children 57! O, Moon Goddess 12, for a deified woman able to have many children 29 produce new lives 51 of babies 81! (33) O, Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, produce a new life 51 for the woman in child-bed 27! For a fertile woman 22 enable breastfeeding 101a, for the deified woman able to have many children 29! O, Great Mother Goddess 1a [enable] great fertility to have babies 50! O, Goddess of Growth 10, [enable] male procreativity 44! O, Bird Goddess, you who are a mother 6, (34) ... in the home 47 be watchful 90! O, Goddess of New Life 7, help 61 shape 53 and produce the new life 51 and sustain the new life 52 of the baby 39b ! O, Goddess of ? as 103 (35) through the connection with goddesses 63 fertilize 55 and sustain new children's lives 52! O, Great Mother Goddess 1a, produce a new life 51 by means of the power of procreation 31 for the deified mother-to-be 21, and delivery 57 give 69! (36) By means of the power of procreation 31, o, pregnant Bird Goddess 5 , by fertilization 56 produce a new

life 51! O, Goddess of New Life 7, produce a new life 51 through the connection with goddesses 63 and by means of the power of procreation 31, and be watchful 90! (37) Great Mother Goddess 1a, produce a new child's life 52 for the fertile woman 22! O, Great Mother Goddess 1a and Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, produce a new life 51! O, Bird Goddess, you who are a mother 6, give [it] 69! Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, produce a new life 51! Great Mother Goddess 1a, (38) sustain the new child's life 52 and give 69 the baby 39b! Moon Goddess 12, Moon Goddess in all phases 14 produce a new life 51 with the help 61 of sucking 101b and protect 67a, o, Moon Goddess 12, do protect [it] 67a! (39) Many children 41a through a happy union 35 transform 64 and produce new lives 51! O, goddesses of birth 99, great fertility to have babies 50 in the home 47 and plenty of children secure 40 in the home 47 for man 45a! O, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2 and Moon Goddess 12, protect 67! (40) ? (*indistinct sign*) o, Goddess of Vegetation 19, secure plenty of children 40! O, Daughter of Great Mother Goddess 2, produce new lives 51 and sustain new children's lives 52! Goddess of New Life 7 and Bird Goddess as mother with your offspring 4, produce new lives 51 by means of the power of procreation 31! (41) O, Goddess of New Life 7, [enable] great fertility to have babies 50 and bring 72a seed 55!

#### 4. Conclusion

The repertoire consists of a little more than fifty signs types, which is the lowest limit for a syllabary. However, we have shown that this is a system of eidograms rather than a syllabary. If the language was Phoenician, which is obviously not transparent, then the word order is marked, as it deviates from the usual VSO or the emphatic SVO order for this language. The vocative names of goddesses usually occur initially, less often finally, grammar objects are fronted, while verbs are frequently final. However, in dedicatory descriptions, the dedicated objects appear in the initial position of the clause (Schade 2012).

A connection with the Vinča script is beyond doubt because almost all of the Byblos signs have their doubles in the former. Those signs that differ in form have their Vinča script counterparts. For example, Great Mother Goddess, represented by 97 on the Dispilio Tablet and in the Lepenski Vir Calendar, here is shown by 1b, a symbol resembling its synonym 74 on the Tartaria Disc. Two symbols of goddesses occur in a pictographic and an eidographic version. They are Goddess of New Life 9 and 7 (Inscription 1) or 8 (Inscription 2) and Bird Goddess 3 or 91 (the latter only as an element of a ligature).

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## ДЕШИФРОВАЊЕ БИБЛОСКОГ „ПСЕУДОХИЈЕРОГЛИФСКОГ” ПИСМА

### Резиме

Археолози су на мјесту некадашње феничке луке Библоса открили десетак плочица исписаних непознатим писмом, за које су претпоставили да је слоговно. Назвали су га „псеудохијероглифским” јер су знаци донекле личили на египатске хијероглифе. Аутор овога чланка установио је да су они у великој мјери истовјетни са знацима винчанског претписма и да настављају традицију слања порука богињама са молбом за здраво и бројно потомство. Овдје су протумачена два таква натписа помоћу списка састављеног од релевантних винчанских и поствинчанских симбола.

► **Кључне ријечи:** псеудохијероглифи из Библоса, винчанско писмо (дунавско, староевропско).