

LINEAR A LIQUID MEASURE: A CONTRIBUTION

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The Linear A inscription on a *pithos* from Epanô Zakro has been reexamined by J.G.P. Best.¹ In his opinion the heading of the text should be read as VINUM 21 and not VINUM 22, as I have done in a previous publication.²

The reading of VINUM 22 was the basis of the calculation of the (basic) liquid measure, being $25,2 \pm 2,8$ litres. In this calculation $\pm 2,8$ litres is the deviation of 11% we must allow in the mathematical approach of the liquid measure. Since it is virtually impossible to fill the *pithos* with liquid to obtain an exact measure, we are forced to use the mathematical approach, implicating the use of a margin. If we accept Best's reading of 21 units, we have to reconsider the (basic) liquid measure used in Epanô Zakro.

Assuming the contents of the *pithos* to be 556 litres $\pm 11\%$ we obtain a (basic) liquid measure of 26,48 litres. Applying the 11% tolerance means that we may expect the liquid measure to be $26,48 \pm 2,92$ litres, i.e. between 23,56 and 29,40 litres. Probably, however, it will be rather close to the calculated average amount.

The possibility of relations between the liquid measure systems used in the Old Testament (and Ugarit?) on the one hand and Epanô Zakro (= Crete?) on the other,³ is not essentially inflicted by this new development. It might, on the contrary, be a further confirmation of the correctness of this assumption.

1. J.G.P. Best, *The Zakro Pithos Inscription, Again*, TALANTA XIV-XV (1983/4).

2. J.P. Stronk, *A Pithos from Epanô Zakro*, TALANTA IV (1972), pp. 85 - 87.

3. Idem, p. 86, and note 4 for literature.