

January 21, 1971

Dear Mrs. Young,

I have recently examined a small clepsydra, belonging to our common friend Mr. Bremer, and believe that you know this object, which was found near Torikos when Mr. Bremer was there. I was precisely discussing at the Centre Belge d'Histoire des Sciences, of which I am the president, the use of ancient clepsydras as time-keeper, and concluded that their use as water-clocks is more theoretical than effective. Clepsydras, and especially the small ones, can only have been used for limiting a fixed period of time, e.g. the pleas of orators a.s.o. A little known use is the control of irrigation. The small clepsydra belonging to Mr. Bremer cannot be considered as convenient in either case, and I am looking for an other use. Herewith the manuscript of a paper which I intend to publish when completed; but before further writing, I should like to have your opinion.

Such a time-limiting device could have been used in the mining industry, and more particularly when washing the ore. Do you have any information in this sense ? Or have you an other suggestion ?

I enclose two photographs of the Bremer clepsydra.

Incidentally, I am informed by my friend Dr. D.J.de Solla Price, whom you probably know, that one of his students, Miss. Sharon Gibbs, will be in Europe next month and intends to study all the known examples of Greek and Roman sundials. May I advise her to meet you, and shall you be in Athens by that time ?

I do not need to tell you that if I can be of any help in your problems about the history of scientific apparatus, I shall be too glad to co-operate.

very truly yours

H.MICHEL