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Σκαμματος και πηλωματος: CIG II 2758


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Col. iii D.8 (= Liermann XXXVII).

Col. III

παιεῖν

παλαιστή

πύκτη

4

πανκρατιαστή

ἀνδράσιν

παλαιστή

πύκτη

8

πανκρατιαστή

όπλειον[δρόμος]

κέλητι [τελεία]

κέλητι [πολικῷ]

12

εὐνορίδι [τελεία]

εὐνορίδι [πώλων]

D.

δευτερεύου π[όλα[ων ]

ἀρματι [τελείω]

ἀρματι πολικῷ

4

ἀρματος [τ]ελείου τοῦ β

[ξ]υπότρηχη [ε]ἰς ἀναπ[λήρωσιν]

δην. τιν

δην. ἀφ

δην. ᾽α

δην. ψῆ
CIG II 2758 contains fragments of prize lists from five athletic and musical festivals of Aphrodisias. Prizes for the festival in List III seem to have been larger for all events than those offered in the other four lists: the victor in men's pankration in this festival, for example, received 5000 denarii as opposed to the 3000 denarii that victory in this same event commanded on Lists IV and V; the victorious herald on List III gained 500 denarii, but only 150 went to his counterpart on List I.1

The facilities for the festival on List III were also more elaborate: they included even a statue maker, and there was a large expenditure for the athletes' oil.2 It would not be surprising that such gracious accommodation would include a πῆλαμα pit for the athletes' practice sessions, which, as the preceding article shows, came to hold an important place in Greek athletic training, even though the dust of the skamma, of course, continued to be a place for practice, in addition to being the place for competition.

Although W. Sherard's transcript of the inscription records ΗΠΗΛΟΜΑΤΟΣ, the easy and appealing reading for CIG II 2758, col. III D. 8 σκάμματος καὶ πηλωματος does not appear in either Boeckh's text or Liermann's reedition. Salvinius had suggested the correction πλήρωματος in Sherard's text, which Boeckh rejected.3 The skamma, after all, contained fine, high quality dust or sand, often imported at great cost;4 and the athletes often chopped and softened the surface of the skamma themselves with a σκαπάνη, a pickaxe. If Aphrodisias needed more of this dust, the vague πλήρωμα would hardly describe it. But something in addition to the skamma, namely, a mud pit (πῆλαμα) makes perfect sense, and with a very small change, is exactly what Sherard recorded when he saw the inscription.

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1 The highly fragmentary List II notes an award for the adult winner in cithara playing of 3250 denarii, which is 6.5 times the award specified on List I for the same event. It also provides for awnings at the theater (βῆλας), not mentioned on the other lists. Unfortunately List III does not preserve information on the cithara contest, and it is therefore impossible, pace O. Liermann, Analecta epigraphica et agonistica (diss. Halle 1889) 188, to compare the festivals of Lists II and III.


3 Liermann p. 171 also noted the suggestion σκάμματος καὶ [πηλωματος], though he attributes it to Fedde, Der Fünfkampf der Hellenen, Wissenschaftliche Beilage zum Osterprogramm 1888 des Breslauer Gymnasiums zu St. Elisabeth, 39 n. 1 (non vidi).

4 Concerning the quality of the sand, and its cost, cf. Suet. Nero 45; Athen. 12.539c; Ael. VH 9.3