

PHILLIP HARDING – HECTOR WILLIAMS

FUNERARY INSCRIPTIONS FROM STYMPHALOS

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 93 (1992) 57–66

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From 1982 to 1984 the Canadian Archaeological Institute at Athens with the co-operation of the Archaeological Society of Athens carried out annual architectural and geophysical surveys at the site of ancient Stymphalos in the mountains of the northeastern Peloponnese.¹ This work demonstrated the hitherto unsuspected presence of an orthogonally planned town of the 4th century B.C. and permitted a plan of the town to be made by plotting both existing surface remains (walls and parch marks in the soil) as well as buried remains (the latter recovered by the use of electrical resistivity survey methods).² Our intensive examination of the area both within and outside the line of the city's fortification wall resulted in numerous discoveries of architectural elements plowed up by local farmers whose massive tractor drawn equipment is rapidly removing most surface remains over large areas of the site; it also produced a number of funerary stelai that had been recovered by farmers from fields outside the walled area of the city. These fields evidently are located on the sites of at least three ancient cemeteries of Stymphalos, cemeteries that lined the start of the road from the city down to the coast some 50 kilometres away. One lies just north of the city wall and was probably the source of the stele (no. 2) built into the Cistercian church that lies a little further north; three (no. 1, 4, 10) that are now at the museum at Pheneos came from a field about 250 metres east of the spring that lies prominently beside the modern highway at the south edge of the village; six (now stored in the gate tower of the Frankish monastery) come from another field on the east side of the highway as one goes out of town to the north while the final one (no. 8) comes from the area of the old and largely abandoned village of Konia in the hills above and to the west of the ancient city. It was likely reused in a house or field wall but now lies beside a stream bed on a steeply sloping hillside. There are also four other stelai of similar size on which no letters are now visible.

¹ For brief annual reports see the Ergon and Praktika 1982-4; for fuller reports see ECM/CV N.S. 2 (1982) 194-205, 3 (1983) 174-186, 4 (1984) 215-224. The project was organized and directed by H. Williams with the late J. Travlos representing the Society. We are most grateful to our collaborator and to the late Professor George Mylonas, then Secretary General of the Society, for permitting us to work at Stymphalos and for the co-operation of the Nafplion Ephoreia of the Archaeological Service. For earlier reports of work at the site see A. Orlandos, Praktika 1924-1930 *passim*. He reported an inscribed statue base (ΕΡΓΙΠΠΟΣ ΛΥΣΙΚΑΧΟΥ) in 1926 and five funerary stelai in 1929: one with a gable and said to be 4th c. B.C. in style was found by the western city wall (ΕΥΚΛΕΙΔΩΝ) and the other four were reused in village houses (ΛΑΒΙΑΔΑΣ, ΑΓΑΝΩ, ΑΘΑΝΝΙΠΗ, ΔΑΜΩΝ). Funding was provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; the permit was issued by the Central Archaeological Council of the Ministry of Sciences and Culture, Athens.

² For a discussion of these methods see R. Jones, S. Papamarinopoulos, H. Williams, "Geophysical Explorations at Ancient Stymphalos," *Geoexplorations* 26 (1988) 255-61; we gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Arnold Aspinall, Dept. of Archaeological Sciences, Bradford University and his students David Jordan, Carl Heron, and Paul Spoerry in providing both equipment and expertise.

Annual examination of these fields since 1984 has indicated no trace of other material - e.g. tiles, pottery, bones - being plowed up, which seems to indicate that the actual graves lie deeper than modern plowing activity disturbs. Given the nature of the tombstones being recovered this fact is not surprising: they would have been set at a higher level than the graves themselves and, given the massive base that they all were provided with to form a sturdy anchor in the ground, many might actually have been ripped out of their original vertical position by the plow shares. Others (e.g. n. 4) as is clear from the plow marks on them were perhaps disturbed while in a horizontal position. Unfortunately as yet no excavation has been possible at the site, something that might allow the recovery of intact graves and their often readily dateable contents. Thus the dates of the stelai must be based on letter forms and, to a lesser extent, their style. A number have a modest architectural format with gable and even acroteria. The majority are very simple, however; indeed there are several from the site with illegible or simply no traces of inscription remaining on them because of weathering of the coarse local limestone and the shallowness of the original letters.

By way of contrast in the summer of 1991 road building near the chapel of Agios Constantinos (several kilometres southwest of the site) destroyed what appears to be a late classical cemetery - the ground is littered with human bones, tiles, and pottery - but there were no stelai present. The soil is very shallow over bed rock in this area (a hillside) and it is likely the stelai were long ago carried off for reuse elsewhere.

The eleven funerary stelai presented here are simple tombstones with, in most cases, only the name of the deceased inscribed on them. One contains a message (XAIPE no. 11), another an indication of place of origin (ΦΛΕΙΑΣΙΑ, no. 1). Most of the names are known although several are new. Despite the very small amount of comparative material³ the style of the lettering is consistent with the view that they belong to the fourth and third centuries B.C. The only letters that show any change are the alpha (from a straight to a broken cross bar) and the epsilon (one example of which has serifs at the ends of the top and bottom crossbar). We present the stelai in order on this basis.⁴

1. Stele of local limestone.

H. 0.36 m. W. 0.27 m. Shallow dressed area at top as a crowning member, 0.04 m. high. Thickness 0.19 m.

ΕΥΦΡΑΝΤΑ (see p.62)

ΦΛΕΙΑΣΙΑ

Though not attested as a name from this region in IG V 2 nor particularly as a name for women in Pape-Benseler (the most common form being the masculine Euphrantos) it is an

³ Almost everything that we have from Stymphalos is in IG V 2, nos. 351-9, Pl. I & V.

⁴ The details presented here are the result of autopsy supplemented by a study of squeezes taken at the time. We thank Dr. Richard Parker, Brock University, for checking some details and Rob Loader, project draftsman, for his excellent line drawings.

easily recognizable variant derived from the verb "euphraino" - "she who cheers from Phlius". For a possible comparison see SEG 35 (1985), 663.

2. Stele of local limestone, built into the foundations of the nearby 13th c. Cistercian abbey church at the northwest corner area.

H. 0.43 m. W. 0.31 m. No crowning member. Thickness not recoverable as stone is built into wall.

ΑΝΤΙΠΑΤΡΑ (see p.62)

This is the name previously erroneously reported as ΑΝΤΙΓΛΙΤΣΑ.⁵ The rho in the penultimate space is clear on the squeeze and the letters in the fifth and sixth space (and) are to be read as P and A. There is no iota before the second tau. Antipatra is attested in Pape-Benseler and has obvious Makedonian associations, perhaps suggesting a date during or after the reign of Kassander. It is indeed possible that like Sikyon Stymphalos was refounded at this time although only excavation can settle this question.

3. Stele of red, soft, sandy stone with anchor at bottom and moulding (0.03 m. w.) at top. Beneath the moulding is a smooth band (0.06 m), lightly inscribed. Left margin preserved, right broken away.

H. 0.51 W. (max. preserved) 0.34 m. Thickness 0.19 m. tapering to 0.18 m. Letter height 3.2 cm.

On smooth band below moulding: ΑΣΣ[--] (see p.63)

Beneath the smooth band: ΑΣ[---]

From the configuration of the stele it does not appear likely that the name on the upper inscribed band was more than three letters longer than what is preserved, and probably only two. Therefore ΑΣΣΟΣ or ΑΣΣΟ are plausible readings. The name beneath begins to the right of the first letter above and either ended further to the right or, if symmetrically arranged, was one or two letters shorter (perhaps ΑΣΣΕ or ΑΣΣΑ). Possible reasons for inscribing some form of the same name twice (if that is what we have) might be that one is a patronymic or that the name was spelled incorrectly in one of the two cases. Also possible is ΑΣΣΟΣ ΑΣΙΟΣ. The name is not attested in Pape-Benseler or elsewhere that we can find as that of a man or woman but ΑΣΣΟΣ as a place name is of course well known.

4. Stele of local limestone.

H. 0.43 W. at base 0.30 W. at top 0.28 m. Narrow moulding at top, 0.052 m. Thickness 0.17 m.

ΜΩΣΙΣ (see p.63)

Although a female name of this kind is not listed in IG V 2 it is attested in Pape-Benseler, in the dialectical form ΜΟΥΣΙΣ, for both Athens and Boiotia.

5. Stele of red-grey pitted conglomerate with a crowning moulding.

⁵ AR (1984-5) 19 and EAH (1984) 65.

Preserved H. above anchor including moulding 0.49 m. W. at bottom above anchor 0.38 W. at top beneath moulding 0.36 m. Thickness 0.24 m. Letter height 3 cm.

[?]ΙΛΕΑΣ (see p.64)

The surface of the stele is broken away at the left hand margin but the preserved back enables the calculation that as many as four letters could be missing if the name was inscribed up to the margin and as few as one if the name was centred in the stele, as is usual. In that case (X) ΙΛΕΑΣ or (Φ) ΙΛΕΑΣ would be likely restorations. In favour of (Φ) ΙΛΕΑΣ is the fact that it was a very popular Arkadian name found at Mantinea (bis IG V 2 323.67 and 68 - as both father and son of ΣΑΔΑΜΟΣ), Megalopolis (IG V 2 143) and Tegea (bis IG V 2 11, 16 and 38.40).

6. Stele of dull grey pitted conglomerate, broken at the bottom (no anchor).

Preserved H. 0.44 m. W. at bottom 0.35 m. W. at top 0.33. Thickness 0.23 m. increasing to 0.24 at top. Letter height 2.3 cm.

ΝΕΟΚΠΑΤΕΙΑ (see p.64)

The name is not attested in Pape-Benseler and is, in fact an unusual compound in the Greek language; a masculine version (ΝΕΟΚΠΑΘ(Σ)) is known from Tegea (IG V 2 38.67).

7. Stele of red, soft sandy stone with anchor at bottom and a modest aetoma in relief at the top. Sides and face are well dressed, back and top undressed.

Preserved height (above anchor): 0.48 m. W. at base: 0.33 m. Thickness: 0.16 m. Letter height: 1.7 cm.

ΚΑΛΛΙΕΡΑ (see p.65)

This name is the feminine version (otherwise unattested) of the previously known Mantineian name ΚΑΛΛΙΕΡΟΣ (IG V 2 323.52).

8. Stele of local limestone. Name in shallow letters across top. Shallow rectangular panel (0.35 x 0.28 m. wide) set in centre.

H. 0.73 m. W. 0.44 m. Thickness 0.27 m.

ΟΛΥΜΠΙΧΟΣ

The name is very common in literature and inscriptions in this form or the equivalent ΟΛΥΜΠΙΚΟΣ; see Pape-Benseler under both names.

9. Stele of dull grey pitted conglomerate. Broken at both top and bottom. Right and left margins preserved intact. The alpha has a broken cross bar.

Preserved height: 0.55 m. W. 0.34 tapering to 0.29 at top. Thickness: 0.21 m. Letter height: 2.5 cm.

[--]ΟΣΤΡΑΤΟ[--] (see p.65)

Part of two diagonal strokes joining each other at the left are visible in the lower part of the first letter space. They indicate that a sigma (dotted) should be read in this place. The name ΣΟΣΤΡΑΤΟΣ is thus assured. The name is too common to merit comment, except that in Arkadia it is attested specifically for Tegea.

10. Stele of local limestone, broken at bottom. The left hand margin is broken at the face but preserved at back. There is a rough moulding (0.036 m. wide) at top. The alpha has a broken cross bar.

Preserved height: 0.53 m. W. at base: 0.32 m. W. at top (beneath moulding): 0.29 m.
Thickness 0.18 m.

(--)AMΩ (see p.66)

One's first thought is that this is a genitive of -----ΔΑΜΟΣ, a frequent base of compound names in Arkadia; unfortunately the available space to the left will only hold one or, at the most, two letters. Furthermore there is no sign that the space between these letters and the moulding was inscribed, nor was there anything beneath. Probably, then, we have the funerary stele of a Stymphalian women, ΔΑΜΩ. For this name see, for example, Fouilles de Delphes III, Pt. VI, no. 20, lines 3, 16 and 19 and W.Peek, Griechische Versinschriften, no. 105.

11. Stele of local limestone. Upper portion only preserved. Crowned by an elaborate moulding in pedimental shape with akroteria. The alpha has a broken cross bar; the final epsilon of XAIPE has serifs.

Preserved height: 0.44 W. below moulding: 0.22 W. at preserved base: 0.27 W. of moulding: 0.30.

On band beneath moulding: ΣΥΝΕΘ (see p.66)

Beneath band: XAIPE

The appearance of serifs on the arms of the epsilon suggests that this is the latest in date of these stelai. This is also the only stele to carry a message. ΣΥΝΕΘ is not attested for Arkadia but is listed in Pape-Benseler. At this final point it is perhaps worth noting that seven out of these eleven inscriptions mark burials of women; while the sample is too small for certainty one wonders if the popular male occupation of mercenary soldier in this part of Greece may have at times resulted in a female population larger than the male.

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