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A POSTSCRIPT TO “AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF TRADERS
IN LATE 8TH–7TH C. B.C. KOMMOS”

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A Postscript to "An International Community of Traders in Late 8th-7th c. B.C. Kommos"*

The resumption of excavation at Kommos (Southern Crete) in 1991 brought new evidence to support the hypothesis that the archaic port was visited by foreign and probably Central Greek traders in the late 8th - 7th c. B.C.¹ A fragment of a tenth black-glazed cup of local South-Cretan manufacture with a post-firing graffito inscription was found in an abandonment layer just above archaic (latest 7th c. B.C.) levels to the east of the sanctuary.² The new fragment (I 73, pl. VI 2), a rim-herd, preserves six letters and part of a seventh and is the longest archaic inscription yet found in Kommos. It reads dextrograde

]TADAEMI[

The forms of delta, mu and iota are clearly non-Cretan. They resemble those of another dextrograde inscription on a rim-herd of a glazed cup from Kommos, I 22 (ADMAI possibly for ADMAT_{*}[O]), which, I argued, indicated a Central Greek and most likely Boiotian alphabet by its rounded delta, four-stroked mu and curved alpha. The alphas of the new fragment have not the distinctive curvature of I 22, but they are nevertheless a known Boiotian type, beginning, as do many of the curved alphas, with a perfectly perpendicular initial stroke. Unlike the usual curved alpha, though like the curved alpha of I 22, I 73 has a crossbar which rises from the perpendicular stroke to the curved/oblique. The form of I 73's alpha is not very far from the second alpha of I 22: it is a form often found in Boiotian inscriptions, appearing, for example, on an early 7th c. B.C. votive bronze lebes fragment from Thebes.³ Other Central Greek alphabets are not to be ruled out, however, since the curved alpha appears more rarely in places like Lokris, Phokis and Thessaly.

The morphology of the new fragment now makes it certain that the graffiti on this group of cups are owners' inscriptions. The West Greek or Aeolic genitive ending in ADA⁴ would appear more probable in a non-Boiotian source, since Boiotian, alone of Aeolic dialects, normally retains the uncontracted genitive ending -αο of masculine α-stems. Yet at least nine examples of the contracted genitive are found in Boiotian inscriptions, among them three ar-

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¹ As argued in *ZPE* 88 (1991) 211-216. On p. 213, note 6 for "correction" read concoction.

² Near the North-east corner of Minoan building P. See J.W. Shaw, *Hesperia* 55 (1986) 255-261.

³ L.H. Jeffery, *The Local Scripts of Archaic Greece*, 2nd ed. with supplement by A.W. Johnston (Oxford 1990) [henceforth *LSAG*] 91, pl. 7, no. 2b (= *IG* i² 402 n.).

⁴ The form of the proper name in -άδαα is "in keiner Landschaft durch so viele Beispiele vertreten wie in [Böotien]..., darf daher als charakteristisch für sie gelten": F. Bechtel, *Die griechischen Dialekte* I (Berlin 1921) 264, sec. 53.

chaic.⁵ The form of the verb EMI would prefer Phokis, Lokris or Boiotia to Thessaly (Boiotian alone of Aeolic dialects uses e:mi, Thessalian emmi).⁶

Albert Schachter notes that most of the known examples of the -α genitive, and two of the three epichoric inscriptions, come from the northwest quadrant of Boiotia (Ptoion, Kopai and Orchomenos). The best candidate for the author of the new archaic graffito from Kommos may be a merchant from Phokis, Lokris or northern Boiotia, while a mercantile association straddling these territorial boundaries would account most economically for the variations in script found in the Kommos cups. The appearance of West Greek/Aeolic morphology on this inscription, as, probably, on two other cups from this set,⁷ make my earlier hypothesis, that these merchants are adjuncts of Euboian trade, appear less likely. With luck the renewal of excavations at Kommos will provide further evidence of the character of its archaic trading community.

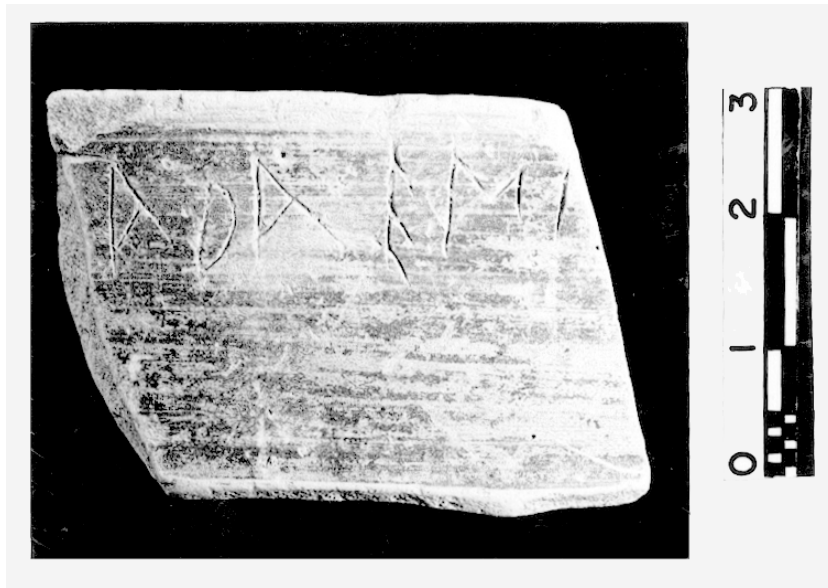
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⁵ Σιμονίδα ἄρχοντος, Ptoion 1943 nr. 1 [= Jefferey, *LSAG* 95, no. 13] (late 6th c. B.C.); Ἰκίδμα, *SEG* 30.478 (Ptoion, early 5th c. B.C.); Λυρέα ἐμ[ί], A. Plassart, *BCH* 82 (1958) 117, no. 61 (Thespiiai, first half of 5th c. B.C.); Πιρία and Εὐρέα, *IG* 7.2420.32 and 34 (Thebes, 3rd c. B.C.); Σωκλείδα, *IG* 7.2787.4 (Kopai, 3rd c. B.C.); Ἀλεύα ἄρχοντος, *IG* 7.3167.2.3 (Orchomenos, 3rd c. B.C.); Παῖλλέα ἄ[ρχοντος] and ἄρ]χοντος Παελλία, *IG* 7.3178, *SEG* 30.449, see also O. Masson in *La Béotie antique* (Paris 1985) 387, (Orchomenos, 3rd c. B.C.). ♣υλοατία ἐμί (Tanagra, 6th c. B.C.) cited as a contracted genitive by W. Blümel, *Die aiolischen Dialekte* (Göttingen 1982) 237, sec. 248, is listed as a possessive adjective by E. Schwyzer, *Dialectorum Graecarum exempla epigraphica potiora* (Leipzig 1923) 440.

⁶ Blümel, *op. cit.*, 183, sec. 197.

⁷ Taking I 26 Κλέα as genitive of Κλέαα and I 22 as a form of the name Admatos: see *ZPE* 88 (1991) 212ff.



A fragment of an inscribed cup from Kommos in Southern Crete