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VOTIVE PERIRRHANteria FROM EPIDAUROS: ANECDOTA AND
REVISIONS

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 103 (1994) 106–108

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1. The following inscription, not included in *IG IV* or in the supplementary publications, reveals a new epiklesis of Artemis:

Epidaurus, sanctuary of Asklepios: votive perirrhanterion of greyish limestone, broken on top. Maximum Height 0,71. Letter height 0,035-0,04. The quality of the lettering (4th century B.C.?) is rather poor. Findplace unknown; now in the NW corner of the courtyard across from the museum's entrance [pl. XIIb].

Τιμοκράτης
Ἰππία Ἀρτάμιτι
Χορῖαι δεκάταν
ἀνέθηκε.

The epithet χορείος (3: ΧΟΡΙΑΙ = Χορείαι? *LSJ*, s.v. χόριος), used for Dionysos, is unattested for Artemis. This goddess, on the other hand, is traditionally associated with dancing in both literature and cult.¹ The presence of an Artemis of the Dances at Epidaurus is not surprising; in the Peloponnese special choruses for Artemis are attested at Sparta (Pollux 4, 104 and Hesychius s.v.v. βυλλίχαι, βρυλλιχισταί, βυλλίχης, βρυλλιχίδδει), Karyai (Pausanias 3, 10, 7 and 4, 16, 9), and Olympia (ib. 6, 22, 1.)²

The cult of Artemis at the Epidaurian Asklepieion can be traced back to the early beginnings of the sanctuary. Our perirrhanterion might have stood in the precinct of the goddess, between Building 'E' and the gateway of the so-called 'Gymnasium' (a very similar votive can still be seen today in this area, on the right edge of the Sacred Way);³ on the other hand, dedications to Artemis were also offered in the sanctuary of Apollo Maleatas and in Epidaurus town.⁴ The dedicant of the perirrhanterion, a Timokrates son of Hippias, cannot be matched with certainty with any of the other Timokrateis in *IG IV*² I.⁵

¹ Artemis' love for dancing is proverbial in Greek culture; cf. *Paroem.* 2, 229: "ποῦ γὰρ ἡ Ἄρτεμις οὐκ ἐχόρευσεν," More in K.Wernicke, art. "Artemis" in *RE* 2, 1, col. 353.

² The games of Artemis Alpheia and her Nymphs in Pausanias 6, 22, 9 may also reflect a sacred dance.

³ A perirrhanterion of grey limestone dedicated to Artemis by a certain Timarista: see *IG IV*² I, 195: Τιμαρίστα | Ἀρτάμιτι | δεκάταν. On the cult of Artemis at the Asklepieion see also: *IG IV*² I, 40: 6; 162; 272-278; 381; 405 (*ASAW* 60, 2 [1969] 162); 462 (*ASAW* 60, 2 [1969] 183); 493; 495-497; 499; 501-502 (*ASAW* 60, 2 [1969] 204); 503-506; 516; 710 (*ASAW* 60,2 [1969] 312); 742, I: 8 (? ἐν τῇ ἀρκτώφῳ θύρῳ); *ASAW* 63, 5 (1972) 30, 54-56; 63. Cf. Pausanias 2, 27, 5 (26, 6); P.Kavvadias, *ΤΟ ΙΕΡΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΥ ΕΝ ΕΠΙΔΑΥΡΩΙ* (Athens 1900) 132-134, 192; R.A.Tomlinson, *Epidauros* (Austin 1983) 75-78; cf. 29, 35, 37, 60, 87.

⁴ Sanctuary of Apollo Maleatas: *IG IV*² I, 404; 494; 500 (? Cf. M.Fraenkel, *lemma* to *IG IV*, 1542); *SEG* 38 (1988) 321; see also Kavvadias 1900, 192. Epidaurus town: *SEG* 34 (1984) 301; Pausanias 2, 29, 1. A

2. *SEG* 37 (1987) 300: "Epidauros. Sanctuary of Apollo Maleatas. Dedications to Apollo, 4th cent. B.C. *IG IV² I*, 191/92. Fragments of two stone perirrhanteria. M.T.Mitsos, *AE* (1974) no. 2, points out that both of these monuments were dedicated in the sanctuary and both were found there. In *ASAW* 63.5 (1972) 8 no. 6 (ph.), W.Peek republished no. 191, thinking that it was unpublished. No. 192, which Peek could not find, was rediscovered by Mitsos. There are then only two dedications, not 3 as Peek supposed."

Mitsos' argument that *IG IV² I*, 191 and *ASAW* 63.5 (1972) 8 no. 6 are the same perirrhanterion, erroneously published twice, is incorrect. Both perirrhanteria can be seen today in the Asklepieion area. *IG IV² I*, 191 is inside the archaeological zone, on the right side of the sacred way a few meters to the south of Apollo's altar [pl. XIIc].⁶ *ASAW* 63. 5 (1972) 8 no. 6, found by Peek in the Maleatas sanctuary,⁷ is now outside the epigraphical storeroom, along the wall directly across from the storeroom's entrance (fifth inscription from the left) [pl. XIId]. Although they show the same epigraphical text,⁸ the two votives differ considerably in their physical aspect. *IG IV² I*, 191 is a perirrhanterion of light grey limestone similar to the one shown at p. 89 of *IG IV² I*.⁹ Perirrhanteria of this type have a round, bowl-like basin resting on top of a thick conical stand; generally they are cut out of a single block of limestone. *ASAW* 63. 5 (1972) 8 no. 6 is of a variety of limestone much darker than *IG IV² I*, 191 and belongs to a type of perirrhanterion not represented in *IG IV² I*.¹⁰ Perirrhanteria like *ASAW* 63. 5 (1972) 8 no. 6 have slender, cylindrical stands stemming from a flat round base and widening at the upper end to provide support for a detachable basin. Often the stands are fluted, with ornamental bands at the upper and lower ends. The

precinct to Artemis Koryphaia, or 'Artemis of the Peak' is also reported by Pausanias in the mountains nearby, ib. 28, 2.

⁵ See Hiller's list in *IG IV² I* p. 163; the Τιμοκ[ρί]νης in ib. 306 A may also be a Timokrates (W.Peek, *ASAW* 60, 2 (1969) 129.) A priest Ἰππίας appears in a statue base of the 3rd century B.C., *IG IV² I*, 324 (cf. 328.) For the use of genitive in -α, in masculine names of the first declension, see ib. p. 212.

⁶ Its proximity to the altar of Apollo and to the temple of Artemis would prove that this perirrhanterion was dedicated in the Asklepieion, and not in the sanctuary of Apollo Maleatas, as Mitsos suggests.

⁷ Aravantinos' catalogue of inscriptions lists a 'marble column' in the Maleatas sanctuary which matches suspiciously this perirrhanterion: Epidauros, ct. 714, "Στύλος ἐκ μαρμάρου μετὰ βάσεως, ὕψ. 0,60. diam. 0,23. [follows the text:] Σώξενος".

⁸ Σώξενος | Θιάρης Ἀπόλλωνι (Ἀπόλλω[νι] *ASAW* 63.5 (1972) 8 no. 6.) Letters in *IG IV² I*, 191 are higher, ranging from 0.015 to 0.025 m. The letter-height in *ASAW* 63.5 (1972) 8 no. 6 does not exceed 0.015 m. The same text appears in *IG IV² I*, 192 with the names of the dedicants in reverse order.

⁹ First printed in *MDAIS*23 (1898) 15, fig. 11, this drawing represents *IG IV² I*, 183, a perirrhanterion now in the courtyard across from the archaeological museum.

¹⁰ This type of perirrhanterion is nicely illustrated by two wholly preserved examples from Delos and Olynthos in R.Ginouvès, *ΒΑΛΑΝΕΥΤΙΚΗ* (Paris 1962) pl. xx figs. 59 (= *Délos* xviii, pl. xxi, no. 149) and 61 (*Olynthus* xii, pls. 218/19, 1.)

basins, cut out in a separate piece, have generally the form of a wide round dish.¹¹ This type of perirrhanterion is frequently represented in vase painting.¹²

Mitsos' indication (not reported in *SEG*) that *IG IV² I*, 192, the other perirrhanterion in the Maleatas sanctuary, was transferred from there to the epigraphical storeroom in the Asklepieion¹³ is also incorrect. *IG IV² I*, 192 still stands in the Maleatas archaeological zone, in one of the rooms of the priests' residence complex, or *σκανῶ* [pl. XIIe]. Another votive perirrhanterion to Apollo by the same dedicants has been discovered at this site during recent excavations of Antoninus' cistern, thus giving a total of four dedications [pl. XIIIf].¹⁴

Epidauros-Gainesville

M.Steinbach-R.Wagman

¹¹ No basins from perirrhanteria of this type survive at Epidauros. Possible exceptions are: *IG IV² I*, 188; *ASAW* 63, 5 (1972) 40-41 (pls. xii, fig. 25; xvii, fig. 41 above); 70-71 (pl. xvii, figs. 40-41.)

¹² Examples in Ginouvès 1962, pls. xiv, fig. 41; xviii, fig. 56; xix, figs. 57-58; xxv, fig. 78; xxvi, figs. 81-83; xxvii, figs. 84-87; xxix, figs. 94-97. Representations of this type of perirrhanterion occur also in small size statuary and in jewelry: *ibid.* pl. xxi, fig. 63 (terracotta statuette in Paris, Louvre C 106); pl. xxiii, figs. 71-72 (casts from two gems in New York, Metropolitan Museum 17. 49 and 11. 196. 1.)

¹³ Mitsos 1974, 76 note 2.

¹⁴ *SEG* 38 (1988) 319 = (*PAAH* [ΠρακτΑΘΑΕταρ] 1984 A, 232, pl. 140 β.) This new perirrhanterion shows the same epigraphical text as *IG IV² I*, 192 (see note 8 above.) Both belong to the same perirrhanterion type as *IG IV² I*, 191. On the dedicants of these votives, the *hiaromnamones* (?) Soxenos and Thiares, very little is known. A Thiares son of Anaxidoros appears in another dedication to Apollo found near Lygourio, *IG IV² I*, 197. *IG IV² I*, 102, 49 also lists a Thiares as the guarantor *ἔγγυος* for the furnishing of sills in the temple of Asklepios.



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)

b)–f) Perirhanteria aus Epidauros