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A NEW PROPER NAME: Εὐδέριος

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In the private collection of Prof. Dr R.A. Lunsingh Scheurleer, Amsterdam, is a rather mutilated fragment of a statue of a horse (cf. Tafel 15ab). On the basis of the letters of the inscription (especially the delta) I dated this fragment of Italian marble to the II/III A.D. Its provenance is unknown. The most interesting feature of this artefact is the inscription of a name just above the neckstrap¹: ΕΥΔΕΡΙΟΥ. Although proper names starting with the adverb εὖ are very well attested² this specific name was to date not yet known. There can be no doubt that we are dealing with a compound of εὖ + δέρις = δέρη = δειρή = neck/throat (cf. δέριον = necklace; δερικτήρ = a horse-collar). Εὐδέριος has the meaning "with a good/fine/strong neck/throat" which is a perfect name for a horse.

That a horse bears a name is nothing to be astonished about, on the contrary, it is only logical that an individual animal had a name too³. The immortal horses of Achilles who were even able to speak with a human voice to predict the death of Hector were called Ξάνθος and Βάλιος⁴. Alexander the Great's horse, Bukephalos, enjoys world wide fame⁵. In curse tablets very many names of horses can be found⁶ and the names of the horses of the circus factions were known by name⁷. A horse was a possession of great value to its owner to be highly estimated. One is reminded of greetings given to somebody's horse "which the evil eye may not touch".⁸ Names were also given to other animals. Odysseus' faithful dog was called Argos (*Od.* ρ 292ff.) and Zenon's Indian hound Tauron even received two funeral inscriptions⁹. Even in simple documents the name of an animal is sometimes given¹⁰. Examples could be multiplied¹¹.

The genitive Εὐδερίου depends on a not expressed substantive. When a mummy-label starts with a name in the genitive¹² the underlying thought is "body of". Of a funerary stela starting with a name in the genitive¹³ the meaning is "stela/tomb of". A name in the genitive on, e.g., a ring implies that that ring belongs to the person mentioned¹⁴. In the present case we are dealing with a statue of the horse Euderios which was probably erected on the occasion of a glorious victory or because the horse died.

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¹ This fact proves that we are not dealing with a saddle-horse but with a draught-horse, probably one of a two, - or four, - in - hand.

² Cf. Fr. Bechtel, *Die historischen Personennamen des Griechischen bis zur Kaiserzeit*, Halle 1917.

³ Cf. the ideas which Xenophon, *Cyr.* 5. 3. 47-50 ascribes to Cyrus.

⁴ Cf. *Ilias* Π 154ff. and T 400ff.

⁵ Cf. *Der Kleine Pauly* I, Column 964.

⁶ Cf. A. Audollent, *Defixionum Tabellae*, Paris 1904, Index III (pp. 454ff.).

⁷ Cf. A. Cameron, *Circus Factions. Blues and Greens at Rome and Byzantium*, Oxford 1976, *passim*.

⁸ *O. Florida* 15, 2-3 note. On horses in general, see A. Hyland, *Equus: The Horse in the Roman World*, London 1990 (with abundant literature).

⁹ *P. Cair. Zen.* IV 59532. Cf. J. Hengstl, *Griechische Papyri aus Ägypten*, Darmstadt 1978, no. 98.

¹⁰ Cf. J.R. Rea, *JEA* 68, 1982, 280 note to line 7 for names of cows. Add *P. Rain. Cent.* 62, note to lines 9-10. Cf. also *ZPE* 56, 1984, 64 no.3.

¹¹ Cf. Cl. Gorteman, 'Sollicitude et amour pour les animaux dans l'Égypte gréco-romaine', *CdE* 32, 1957, 101ff.

¹² E.g., *C. Etiq. Mom.* 50, 68, 253 etc.

¹³ E.g., A. Abdalla, *Graeco-Roman Funerary Stelae from Upper Egypt*, Liverpool 1992, 76.

¹⁴ Cf. e.g., M. Maaskant-Kleibrink, *Catalogue of the Engraved Gems in the Royal Coin Cabinet, The Hague*, The Hague 1978, 1109 (with *Aegyptus* 60, 1980, 155).



a)



b)

a) + b) Fragment of a statue of a horse with inscription