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A NOTE ON HESPERIA 58 (1989) No. 24

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In the superb volume including all the inscriptions concerning the Athenian Boule known up to 1974, B. D. Meritt and J. S. Traill made up a separate list of inscriptions that mention the heralds of the Boule and Demos from the end of the fourth century B.C. to the beginning of the Roman period¹. Two years later, M. Piérart supplemented and improved this list in some points². Finally, in 1978 J. S. Traill edited one more so-called “prytany decree”³ and, considering the fact, that the “Golden Age” of the excavations at the Agora had already passed, it seemed that nothing new would be found in the following years. This proved to be right, but in the meantime M. B. Walbank edited some fragments found in the 30s which had been stored in the depot. One of these fragments, after happy comparison with Agora XV No. 89, turned out to be part of a prytany decree from the 3rd century B.C.⁴:

[------ ἐπαί]-
 [νέσαι δὲ καὶ τὸν κήρυκα τῆς βουλῆς καὶ τοῦ]
 1 [δήμου] Φιλ[..... κ]-
 [αὐτὸν] γρα[μματέα τοῦ δήμου]
 [.....]ς Ἐρ[- - - καὶ τὸν ὑπογραμματέα - - -]
 [.....]ον Α[..... ἀναγράψαι]
 5 [δὲ τὸδ]ε τὸ [ψηφισμα τὸν γραμματέα τὸν κατὰ]
 [πρυτανείαν ἐν στήλῃ λιθίνῃ καὶ στῆσαι]
 [ἐν τῷ] πρυ[τανικῷ· εἰς δὲ τὴν ἀναγραφὴν τ]-
 [ῆς στήλ]ης [μερίσαι τὸν ἐπὶ τεῖ διοικήσει τ]-
 [ὃ γενόμενον ἀνάλωμα *vacat*]

Walbank did not supply the name of the herald. Probably Walbank’s self-restraint was prompted by the adopted chronology; from the other inscriptions we know that at this time it was Eukles, son of Philokles, who acted as herald of the Boule and Demos and not Philokles whose name, as I hope to show, could eventually fit line 1. But the date of this decree, adopted by the editor, is based on the similarity of formula with the precisely dated inscription Agora XV No. 89 only, not on stylistic or material arguments (hand, kind of stone etc.)⁵. The second reason for hesitation could have been the infrangible rule of stoichedon which requires 25 letters in this place. Even the longest version of the possible description of our herald (name + father’s name in genitive + demotikon) obviously cannot stand there because it consists of only 24 letters.

Personally, I am convinced that, in line 1, we should read:

[δήμου] Φιλ[οκλῆν Φιλοκλέους Τρινημέεα κ]-

¹ The Athenian Agora XV. Inscriptions. The Athenian Councillors, Princeton 1974, 14–15.

² Le Héraut du Conseil et du Peuple à Athènes, BCH 100 (1976) 443–447. Piérart is not exact when speaking about a list of heralds in Athenian Agora XV; there is no list of heralds here but only the list of inscriptions mentioning the heralds.

³ Hesperia 47 (1978) No. 8. To compare, above all, the comment on lines 3–4.

⁴ Hesperia 59 (1989) No. 24. Reprinted in SEG 39.123 without any change.

⁵ So, Walbank’s date “ca. a. 260–250 a.” for our inscription depends on Meritt’s “254/3 B.C.” for Agora XV no. 89. See also M. Osborne, The Chronology of Athens in the Mid Third Century B.C., ZPE 78 (1989) 230ff.

The person is attested in a well-dated bouleutic list⁶. Regarding the one-letter *vacat*, that solves the problem of the number of signs in that line, we can compare the inscription from about 250 B.C. published in 1964 in which there is a *vacat* in the same place in formula; it separates the herald of the Boule and Demos from the secretary of the Demos⁷.

So, we are in possession of the second testimony of the activity of the herald Philokles, son of Philokles of Trinemeia. The date *ante quem* of our inscription must be the year 256/5 B.C. in which this function had already been performed by Eukles, son of Philokles of Trinemeia, undoubtedly son of our Philokles⁸. The only definite *post quem* is 303/2 B.C. when another Eukles son of Philokles is attested as herald in the list of councillors⁹.

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⁶ The fragments were collected by J. S. Traill, The Bouleutic List of 281/0 BC, *Hesperia* 38 (1969). The name of the herald appears in l. 287. Then the fragments were rearranged; in Agora XV (No. 72) we can find it in l. 69.

⁷ *Hesperia* 33 (1964) No. 27 l. 4 (= Agora XV No. 99)

⁸ Agora XV Nos. 85 and 86. Since only two names appear in this family it is sometimes difficult to understand the relationship between its different members. For the most recent article presenting a genealogical tree, see n. 3.

⁹ If we accept a date before 262 B.C. we should alter the supplement in ll. 8–9: . . . [μερίσαι τοὺς ἐπὶ τεῖ διοικήσει] | [τὸ . . . κτλ.

For the orthodox view on magistrates who were engaged in paying for stelai see S. Dow, *Prytaneis*, Supplement I, 1937, 11–13; Ch. Habicht, *Studium zur Geschichte Athens in hellenistischer Zeit*, Göttingen 1982 = *Hypomnemata* Heft 73, 15; idem, *Untersuchungen zur hellenistischen Geschichte des 3. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.*, München 1979, 70. It was called in question by an inscription published by G. S. Dantas in *Hesperia* 52 (1983) 48–63 (= SEG 33.115); see now A. S. Henry, *The One and the Many. Athenian Financial Officials in the Hellenistic Period*, *ZPE* 72 (1988) 129–136; idem, *Provisions for the Payment of Athenian Decrees. A Study in Formulaic Language*, *ZPE* 78 (1989) 247–295 (particularly 270 ff.) and the sound commentary on the first of Henry's articles in *Bull. ép.* 1989, 238.