

KRZYSZTOF NAWOTKA

INSCR. SCYTH. MIN. I 207 (ISTROS) RECONSIDERED

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ISM I 207 found in 1951 in Istros on the Black Sea and published in 1960 by Dionise M. Pippidi¹ has attracted substantial interest among the scholarship. This is due to the fact that it names the first pontarch, i.e. the first president of the Western Pontic league². The stone containing the inscription is broken on all sides yet the meaning is not lost: it is a list of winners in a sacred agon ([νικήσα]ντες ἐπὶ ἀγωνοθήτο[υ - -] - line 2, τὸν ἱε/[ρὸν ἀγῶνα - lines 15/16). Top, bottom and the original left side of the stone disappeared; one has to agree with the editor that on the left 1 or 2 letters are missing in lines 5–18. On the right the original end of the line is preserved in ll. 7, 8, 13–17. Having studied the stone *in situ*³ I would like to offer a few observations on reading this inscription.

Pippidi's readings are for the most part good, save for not paying attention to ancient punctuation marks. They take the shape of raised dots which accompany abbreviated Roman names in lines: 3 · Μ · ; 5 · Μ · ΟΥΛΠ · ; Μ · ΟΥΛ · ; 6 · Μ · ΟΥΛ · ; 8 ΟΥΛ · ; 10 · ΑΙΑ · ; 14 · Π ΑΙΑ · . These punctuation marks were not employed by the cutter in a consistent manner since they do not occur with all abbreviated *praenomina* and *nomina*.

More substantial remarks have to be made on two of the onomastic restorations. Pippidi reads lines 3–4 προστατούντων δὲ Μ(άρκου) Ο[ὐλ(πίου) Ἄρτε/μι]δώρου, πρώτου ποντάρχου κτλ. The *nomen* of the first pontarch is certain as several more Marci Ulpii are attested in this inscription and the bottom part of *upsilon* can be read on the stone. The first preserved letter of the *cognomen* is, however, *lambda* and not *delta*; this can be seen even on the photo in *ISM*. There are no doubts about identifying the letter which stands clear against the undamaged surface of the stone and is very similar in shape to the *lambdas* in ll. 5, 11, 18. Therefore Pippidi's restoration does not hold; the *cognomen* of the first pontarch ends in -λωρος. There are seven Greek names ending in -λωρος: Ἄλωρος, Πέλωρος, Τέλωρος, Πύλωρος, Φλώρος, Ὑπάφλωρος, Χλώρος/Χλωρός⁴. None of these is attested in Istros.

The line length in this inscription, as determined in the well-preserved lines 5–13, is 32–36 letters. Therefore it is not possible to establish precisely the size of the lacuna in lines 3–4 and to determine which *cognomen* of the first pontarch should be restored there. Most likely the lacuna is 7–9 letters long and, assuming the usual abbreviation of the pontarch's *nomen* Οὔ[λ(πιος)] or Οὔ[λ(πιος)], one may expect quite a long *cognomen*, i.e. Ὑπάφλωρος.

This was the conclusion of a paper I presented at a conference in 1994⁵. Nevertheless this restoration is but tentative since the name Ὑπάφλωρος is very rare. To my knowledge it is not attested epigraphically and, as a matter of fact, it occurs only once in a fifth-century letter of Neilos⁶. It is perhaps more judicious to leave the name of the first pontarch unrestored as Μ(άρκου) Οὔ[λ(πιος)] -

¹ D. M. Pippidi, "Un nouveau document sur le koinon pontique au II^e siècle. En marge d'un album agonistique d'Istros", *BCH* 84 (1960), p. 434–455, reprinted in: *Scythica Minora. Recherches sur les colonies grecques du littoral roumain de la mer Noire*, București 1975, p. 230–249. Pippidi published it again, with minor alterations, in his *Inscriptiones Scythiae Minoris Graeciae et Latinae*, București 1983 (*ISM*) I 207. The stone is now in the Museum of Histria, no. 259.

² The milestone in the long discussion of the Western Pontic koinon is a paper of P. Veyne, "Augustal de l'an 1. – Premier pontarque", *BCH* 90 (1966), p. 144–155. For a summary of this discussion see: K. Nawotka, "The 'First Pontarch' and the date of the Establishment of the Western Pontic KOINON", *Klio* 75 (1993), p. 342–350.

³ I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Adrian V. Rădulescu, the Director of the Museums of Constanța and Histria for his friendly hospitality during my research trip to Romania in September 1993 and to The Ohio State University for the financial assistance of my research.

⁴ According to F. Dornseif, *Rückläufiges Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen*, ausgearbeitet von Bernard Hansen, Berlin 1957. A search which I have run on TLG and PHI disk #6 has not provided any more names with this termination.

⁵ "Pierwszy pontarcha raz jeszcze" ["The First Pontarch Again"], *Studia Moesica* 2 (1994), p. 79–84.

⁶ Nili ep. I 151 (PG 79).

-]λωρος. What is truly important here is the fact that the name of the first president of the Western Pontic koinon is not, as universally accepted, M. Ulpios Artemidoros. This renders obsolete much of the present discussion about the early years of this league⁷.

The second remark on the reading of a proper name concerns the last line of the inscription. Pippidi reads the second part of it: ΛΙ . . ΛΙΣ Καλλικλέου. Closer examination of the stone shows ΑΙΜ[.]ΛΙΣ and thus the last name in this inscription can be restored: Αἰμ[ί]λι(ο)ς Καλλικλέου.

Wrocław

Krzysztof Nawotka

⁷ Most notably D. M. Pippidi thought the first pontarch identical with another pontarch M. Ulpios Artemidoros (*ISM I* 137), an Artemidoros son of Herodoros (*ISM I* 193) and an Artemidoros father of Karpos (*ISM I* 193) – “Nouveau”, p. 237–238; “Reflexions sur la pontarchie et les pontarques de la Mésie”, in: *Scythica Minora*, 235. The validity of his reasoning was questioned even before reassessment of *ISM I* 207: Nawotka, “First Pontarch”, p. 346–347; cf. also M. Musielak, “Prosopographia Histriaca im 2. Jh.: Artemidoros, der Sohn des Herodoros und M. Ulpius Artemidoros, der Pontarch”, in: *Prosopographica*, hrsg. von L. Mrozewicz and K. Ilski, Poznań 1993, p. 109–114.