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A REDISCOVERED FRAGMENT OF GIBM 343 (Cos)

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In 1990, Th. Fischer, *Liste von Spendern*, ZPE 82, 1990, 182 and Tafel VIc, published a small fragment from a private collection at Rome as follows:

Buchstabenreste
 ΣΥ]Ν ΥΙΩΙ·[
]ΥΔΟΤΟΣ[
 4]ΟΥ Η ΠΝΙΙ[
 ·]ΕΥΣΚΑΙΥ[ΙΟΣ
]ΜΟΥΚΑΙΥ[ΙΟΣ
]ΜΒΡΟ[ΤΟΣ

This appeared as SEG 40.868, where the SEG editor, Lazzarini, astutely noted that “The script and the use of the acrophonic numeral system do not point to Rome”.¹ This turns out not to be a new inscription,² rather the fragment doubtless joins the left side of lines 18–24 of face c of GIBM 343,³ a Coan⁴ subscription list found on Rhodes and dating to *circa* 200 B.C.⁵

In 1843, L. Ross visited the island of Rhodes and copied only this face of the inscription.⁶ The inscription was then intact, but built into a step inside the church of Saint John of Jerusalem, which had been converted into a mosque. The mosque subsequently exploded, and the damaged inscription was given by the Pasha of Rhodes to Prince Edward Albert of Wales, *sans* some of the fragments, including the one published by Fischer.⁷ The Prince then donated it to the British Museum in 1873, and the newly

¹ SEG 40.868, where it is rendered as follows:

[-----]
 [- - σὺ]γ υἱῶι [- - -]
 [- - -]υδοτος [- - -]
 [- - -]ου Η ΠΝΙΙ[- - -]
 [- - -]ευσ καὶ υἱὸς - -]
 [- - -]μου καὶ υἱὸς - -]
 [- - - -]μβρο[τος - -]

² I wish to express my thanks to a colleague at The Ohio State University Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies who, in the course of working on the material contained in the “Italy” portion of SEG volume 40 for a future release of the Packard Humanities Institute CD-ROM, first discovered that this fragment belonged to GIBM 343 and then turned it over to me to publish. I also wish to thank Stephen V. Tracy, who read a draft of this article and made some cogent suggestions.

³ C. T. Newton, ed., *The Collection of the Ancient Greek Inscriptions in the British Museum, Part II*, Oxford 1883.

⁴ That this inscription belongs to Cos was first recognized by W. Dittenberger, *De sacris Rhodiorum commentatio altera. Accedit epimetrum de inscriptione quadam Coa*, Halle 1887, x–xvi.

⁵ The consensus is that GIBM 343 commemorates donors during the First Cretan War of *circa* 205 to 202 B.C., or the war which immediately followed in 201–200 B.C. between Philip V and Rhodes, including her allies Cos and Calymnus. Scholars who discuss GIBM 343 and place it around 200 B.C. include: E. Preuner, *Datierungen griechischer Inschriften des II. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.*, *Hermes* 29, 1894, 540–553; H. Collitz and F. Bechtel, *Sammlung der griechischen Dialekt-Inschriften III*, Göttingen 1899, no. 3624; Ch. Michel, *Recueil d’inscriptions grecques*, Paris 1900, no. 642; R. Herzog, *Κρητικὸς πόλεμος*, *Klio* 2, 1902, 316–333; M. Segre, *Documenti di storia ellenistica*, *RPAA* 17, 1940/1941, 21–34; M. Holleaux, *L’expédition de Dikaiarchos dans les Cyclades et sur l’Hellespont*, ch. V in *Études d’épigraphie et d’histoire grecques*, tome IV: Rome, la Macédoine et l’orient grec, Paris 1952, 124–145; S. M. Sherwin-White, *Ancient Cos: An Historical Study from the Dorian Settlement to the Imperial Period*, Göttingen 1978, 118–121, *passim*; L. Migeotte, *Les souscriptions publiques dans les cités grecques*, Genève 1992, no. 50.

⁶ L. Ross, *Inscriptiones Graecae Ineditae. Fasciculus III: Insunt Lapidēs Insularum Meli, Therae, Casi, Carpathi, Rhodi, Symes, Chalces, Calymnae, Coi, Astypalaeae, Amorgi, II*, Berlin 1845, 20, no. 274.

⁷ For a history of the inscription and how it was damaged, see Newton.

emancipated stone was edited by Newton, including the sides of the inscription that had previously been hidden or too difficult to read.

Ross' facsimile of lines 18–24 shows the following [the double interpuncts do not appear on the stone, and were evidently Ross' method of indicating half spaces on either side of the numerals; enlarged letters in bold-face are discernible or partially discernible in the photo published by Fischer in ZPE]:

ΝΟΣ:**ΗΗ**:ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΣΤΙΜΟΞΕΝΟΥΚΑΙΥΠΕΡ
 ΤΩ**ΝΥΙΩΝ**:**Η**:ΛΕΟΝΤΙΔΕΥΣΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ:Η
 20 **ΘΕΥΔΟΤΟΣ**ΘΕΥΓΕΝΟΥΣΚΑΙΥΠΕΡΤΟΥ
ΥΙΟΥ:**ΗΠ**:**ΝΙΚΗΣ**ΝΙΚΩΝΟΣ:Η:ΚΟΝΩΝΤΙΜΟ
 ΚΛΕΥΣ**ΚΑΙ**ΥΠΕΡΤΟΥΥΙΟΥ:Η:ΦΑΙΝΥΛΟΣ
 Σ]Ι**ΜΟΥ**ΚΑΙΥΠΕΡΤΟΥΥΙΟΥ·ΠΟΛΥΑΡΧΟΣ
 24 ΚΛΕ**ΟΜΒΡ**ΟΥ:ΗΗ:ΛΕΩΝΙΔΑΣΔΙΟΣΚΟΡΙ

When Fischer's ZPE photo of the rediscovered fragment is combined with a new photo of GIBM 343 (Fig. 1),⁸ the following text results. The underlined letters were read by Ross or Newton, but are now lost:



Fig. 1 GIBM 343 (Copyright British Museum, Ps 327833)

⁸ I wish to thank Dr. Dyfri Williams, Keeper of the Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, and the Deputy Keeper Susan Walker, for their assistance in acquiring a new photo of GIBM 343.

... Σώφρ[ο]-
 νος ΗΗ· Φίλιππος Τιμοξένου καὶ ὑπέ[ρ]
 τῶν υἱῶν Η· Λεοντιδεὺς Φιλίππου Η·
 20 Θεύδοτος Θευγένευσ καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ
 υἱοῦ ΗΓ· Νίκης Νίκωνος Η· Κόνων Τιμο-
 κλεῦς καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ υἱοῦ Η· Φαινύλος
 [Σ]ίμου καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ υἱοῦ Γ· Πολύαρχος
 24 Κλεομβρότου ΗΗ· Λεωνίδας Διοσκουρί-
 δα . . .

Commentary:

Lines 17–18: Or Σώφρ[ω]νος.

Line 19: The lower left vertical stroke of the first numeral Η is just barely visible in Fischer's photo. Ross read only a single Η, but Newton's facsimile shows ἘΛΕΟΝΤΙΔΕΥΣ. Newton assumed that Ross' copy had an error and he interpreted the initial horizontal stroke as a Γ after the Η (i.e., Newton reads τῶν υἱῶν ΗΓ· Λεοντιδεὺς . . .). But there is no room for the additional letter, especially when one considers that there is a half space on either side of each numeral. Compare the spacing of the same letters ΤΩΝΥΙΩΝ at the beginning of line 27 (the third line from the bottom in the British Museum photo). The small horizontal stroke that Newton interpreted as a Γ is still visible. This must be the serif at the top of the right vertical of the Η. One may compare the serifs on the other Ηs in line 28 (second line from the bottom of the British Museum photo).

In lines 23–29 of Newton's face a, we learn that three copies of the inscription were to be made. The first copy was to be "placed in the theater, the second in the Asclepieion, and the third in the agora by the altar of Dionysus".⁹ In 1885, E. A. Gardner, without realizing it at the time, published a fragment inscribed on two sides of one of the other two copies of this same inscription.¹⁰ In addition, two more fragments of the other copies of our decree were found in the Coan Castle. These were recently published by G. Pugliese-Carratelli.¹¹

What makes the fragment at Rome published by Th. Fischer unique is that it is not one of the copies of GIBM 343, but one of the fragments that probably broke off during the explosion of the mosque on Rhodes or when the stone was removed. How it ended up in Rome is as much as mystery as how this Coan inscription ended up on Rhodes in the first place. Th. Fischer has unfortunately passed away, and the fragment's present whereabouts is unknown. Perhaps the current owners will step forward and shed more light on its history.

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⁹ GIBM 343, face a, lines 23–29: ἐγδόντω στάλας ἐργάσασθαι τρεῖς καὶ ἀναθέ[ντω μί]αμ μὲν ἐν τῷ θεάτρῳ[ι τὰν δ]ε / ἄλλαν ἐν τῷ Ἀσ[κλα]πι[ε]ίῳ τὰν δὲ τρίταν ἐν τῷ ἀγορῶ[ι παρὰ τὸν βωμὸν τὸν τοῦ / Διονίσου . . . [Note: Newton's facsimile in line 29 shows ΔΙΟΝΙΣΟΥ, but many subsequent editors print the usual spelling Διονύσου without noting the discrepancy.]

¹⁰ JHS 6, 1885, 253, no. 4. W. R. Paton and E. L. Hicks, *The Inscriptions of Cos*, Hildesheim 1990 (reprint of 1891 edition), 9, no. 10 and Appendix C, 335–336, identified this fragment as belonging to one of the other two copies of GIBM 343.

¹¹ G. Pugliese Carratelli presenting M. Segre†, *Iscrizioni di Cos*, vol. I: Testo, Roma 1993, nos. ED 122 and ED 206.