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IG II² 450, ATHENS AND ASANDROS: A NOTE


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The only substantial Athenian state decree at present securely datable to the government of Demetrios of Phaleron (317–307) honours the satrap of Caria, Asandros of Macedon.¹ At lines 17–22 of fragment a of the inscription, M. J. Osborne, *Naturalization in Athens* (Brussels, 1981), D42, prints:

κ-
αἱ παραγενόμενοις εἰς τὴν
πόλιν τὰς τε ναὐς τὰς ἱδιώ-
20 ἵτις κοιτοὺς στρατιώτας παρ-
[ἐχέται] Ἄθηναις [οἰκίσας εἰς τὰς χ-
[ρεῖας`

Most earlier editors (see e.g. Dittenberger, *SIG*³ 320; Köhler, *IG* ii 234) restored παρ[ἐχετο] in 20–21, but in the uncorrected paper of Wilhelm published at *ABSA* 7 (1900/01), 156–62, παρ[ἐχεταί] appears. Repeated by Kirchner in *IG* ii² 450, it was confirmed for Osborne by his detection of “the top of an upright in the right of the stoichos” before the first preserved alpha in 21. Attention has recently been drawn, however, to some awkward historical implications of restoring a present tense.² The decree is dated to 11 Gamelion (i.e. late January–early February) 313; but at that time, according to the conventional interpretation of Diodoros’ chronology,³ Asandros was hard-pressed in Caria by Antigonos the One-eyed and scarcely in a position to render Athens much assistance, let alone come to Athens in person. Moreover, the (unsuccessful) Athenian expedition to Lemnos, normally identified as the likely context of Asandros’ help, should have taken place in the 314 campaigning season, and may have been over by Gamelion 313. O’Sullivan’s solution is to disengage the decree from the Lemnos expedition and to suppose that the aid related to preparations for an Athenian expedition to Samos in 313. No such expedition is mentioned by Diodoros, however; and the only evidence for it is tenuous: two undated and heavily restored Samian decrees.⁴ Moreover, if Asandros was not in a position to come to Athens to help with an expedition to Lemnos in the late winter of 314/3, he seems unlikely to have been in a position to come to Athens to help prepare one to Samos either.

There is also a slight epigraphical awkwardness, shared by παρ[ἐχετο] and παρ[ἐχεταί]. They both entail restoration of 5 letters in 4 stoichoi in a stoichedon inscription.⁵ No such awkwardness would attend a restoration παρ[ἐχε] or παρ[ἐχε] or; and it would account as well as παρ[ἐχεταί] for Osborne’s top of an upright to the right side of what should be the fifth stoichos. The active of παρέχω occurs in precisely such a context at Polyb. 3.97.4: (Publius) παραγενόμενος εἰς Ἱβήριαν . . . μεγάλῃ παρέχει χρείαν τοῖς κοινοῖς πράγμασιν. Historically, one could envisage the Athenians (or rather, that proportion of them who still sat in the Assembly) looking back with (perhaps somewhat artificial) gratitude in Gamelion 313 to services rendered by Asandros the previous year, quite possibly against Lemnos.

⁵ There is admittedly an additional letter in two other lines, 5 and 16, though in one of these (5) the text ran over into the right margin, which is not a possibility here.
Line 22 is followed by a lacuna of unknown extent. When the text resumes with fragment b, Asandros is receiving further praise (the text again is Osborne’s):

\[ \ldots \alpha\varsigma \varepsilon\iota\varsigma \tau \ldots \]

\[ \ldots \varepsilon\iota\lambda\alpha\nu \tau\varepsilon\lambda\sigma\iota \tau \sigma\iota \varsigma \alpha\upsilon \tau \]

What had been done at Asandros’ expense? There has been general agreement that the verb in 23–24 was \( \acute{a} \pi \acute{e} \sigma \tau \varepsilon \iota \lambda \alpha \nu \) and that Asandros had perhaps facilitated the return to Athens of men captured or stranded by the defeat on Lemnos. Wilhelm (followed by Kirchner), accordingly ventured \( \varepsilon\iota\varsigma \tau[\eta\nu \iota\delta\iota\alpha \nu \acute{a} \pi \acute{e} \sigma \tau \varepsilon \iota \lambda \alpha \nu \) but, as Osborne noted, “this, while possibly giving the right sense, necessitates the assumption of a vacant space at the end of line 23, and, despite the incidence of irregularities at the ends of the first few lines, it is to be noted that the line ends are otherwise regular from line 6–34.” An elegant solution is recorded on a card in the museum of the British School at Athens, written in 1985/6 by the great Oxford historian of his generation, W. G. Forrest: \( \varepsilon\iota\varsigma \tau[\eta\nu \epsilon \alpha \nu \tau \omega \nu \acute{a} \pi \acute{e} \sigma \tau \varepsilon \iota \lambda \alpha \nu \) “They returned to their own land.”

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6 I thank Sean Byrne for reading a draft of this note. I hope to publish shortly a new edition of this inscription, of which fragment b is in the British School at Athens, in a catalogue with the other inscriptions in the School.