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A 'HEROIZING' GRAVESTONE FROM THERA

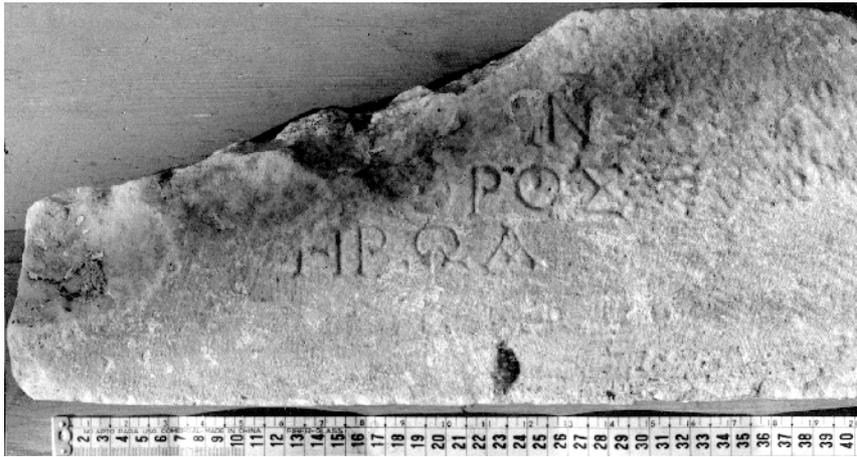
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A 'HEROIZING' GRAVESTONE FROM THERA*

Kamari, garden of Dionysis Vamvakousis; now inside the Sellada taverna. Oblong marble block, broken at the top left. The back surface is only partially finished: the stone evidently stood in a niche in one of the rock-cut sarcophagus beddings that dot the ridge "Sellada" below the ancient city.

h. 0.176 m.; w. 0.401 m.; th. 0.06-0.078 m.; l.h. (lines 1-2) 0.012 m.; (lines 3-4) 0.019-0.022 m.



I/II AD

['Ο δᾶμο]ς
[. . . .]ην
[. . . .]ορος
ἦ ρ ω α

Line 2: Only the very bottom of a vertical stroke with a serif remains: eta or (possibly) iota; upsilon seems precluded by the small space between the preserved stroke and the following nu.

Line 3: Only the curved bottom right of the omicron is preserved.

The date is based primarily on the letter-shapes. For the formula ὁ δᾶμος τὸν (τὴν) δεῖνα τοῦ δεῖνος ἦρωα (ἠρῶσαν) on Theran funerary monuments see *IG XII.3.879-883*, and *IG XII, 3 Suppl. 1625*; more commonly public heroization is declared by the formula (ἄ βουλὰ καὶ) ὁ δᾶμος --- ἀφηρώϊξεν and the like (*IG XII.3.864-77* and *Suppl. 1624*; *SEG XVI.471*).

If the names were more or less centered, as is probable, then both were unusually short, and the possibilities are therefore quite limited. There is no room, for example, for Damokrines Nikanoros, honored in *IG XII.3.498*. Still, identification of the deceased or his family does not seem possible. An Anthes Theanoros is attested (*IG XII.3.419*), but from the third century BC.

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