

ERSIE MANTZOULINOU-RICHARDS

FROM SYROS (II): THREE MORE STELAE OF THE HERMOUPOLIS MUSEUM

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FROM SYROS (II):
THREE MORE STELAE OF THE HERMOUPOLIS MUSEUM

This article is the sequel to Syros¹ and continues bringing up to date the unpublished and published epigraphical material from the cycladic island of Syros.

1. Ktesiphanes (unpublished)

A greyish marble funerary stele broken at the top where only the slanted beginnings of the pediment are extant. Preserved height 0,45, width 0,175, thickness 0,055. The inventory book of the Hermoupolis Museum shows its origin as Syros and it must have been placed in the Museum prior to 1961² (stockrooms, inv.no. 334; old inv.no. E 13). The inscription is set in 2 lines in the upper part of the stele (Plate III a) and reads:

ΚΤΗΣΙ[Φ]ΑΝΗΣ	Κτησιφάνης
ΑΝΑΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ	Ἀναξάνδρου

The carving of the letters is very worn. The restored Φ is not legible at all and there appears in its place a small slanted cut, probably an error, as Κτησιφάνης is the only possible restoration. The letters are chronologically "inconsistent": the right vertical bar of one N is shorter, the Σ has oblique bars, and the middle bar of the Θ is almost reduced to a dot; however the cross-bar of the A is broken. It can be dated tentatively to the I cent. BC.

The father's name, Anaxandros, seems from various other cases of having an Ionian origin.³ The deceased's name, Ktesiphanes⁴ is much rarer and appears only twice in the Aegean, i.e. in Delos and Keos. Both names are unknown in the prosopographia of Syros.

The following two stelae were published a long time ago and have subsequently found their way to the Hermoupolis Museum in recent years. Photographs, measurements and identification are presented here for the first time.

¹ By the author "From Syros (I): Polybius the Architect"; ZPE 87, 1991, pp. 35-36, Tafel Ia.

² The problem with the Hermoupolis Museum inventory book(s) is due to the fact that for almost a century Syros was the repository for the archaeological finds of other islands that did not have their own Museums. The very confusing first inventory book became obsolete in September 1911 and is now in the archives of the Myconos Archaeol. Museum. When J.Thomopoulos was appointed Epimeletes in Syros in 1961 he began the second inventory book (the one currently in use) assigning the first 150 numbers to the finds - still in storage - of Amorgos and other islands, and proceeded to renumber the Syros finds. For the items placed in the Museum between 1911 and 1961 all relative information was lost but these at least were catalogued by Chr.Doumas in the late 50's - when he found these items in storage. His interim catalogue (also in the Myconos archives) has the letter E in front of each number and this designates "prior to 1961", as used above.

³ SEG XXVI, 386: Stamped amphora handle from the Agora no. 6, Apollodoros Anaxandrou Knidios; XXVII, 1045: Eponymous priest in Egypt, Anaxandros Sminthios; also from Delos, Hesperia XVII 321 (12) son of Neocrontides, just to mention a few.

⁴ ID, 442 B, 227; from Ioulis, IG XII Suppl. p. 115, no. 235, IV, 9. (A Lexicon of Greek Personal Names, P.M.Fraser & E.Matthews, Oxford 1987).

2. Helikon. IG XII, 5 Addenda no. 1106 (p. 335); editio princeps by N.Polites in *Patris* (of Syros), Nov. 29,1903.

A funerary stele of greyish marble fully preserved, with a deep cut in the lower right corner. A vivid red color appears on the two triangles above the pediment, on the left exterior side and some traces near the inscription. Height 0,825, width 0,29, thickness 0,22-0,17. It bears in the center, within a deep rectangular niche the relief of a standing man in a frontal position, covered with a himation that he holds close to his chest with his right hand. On the top is a carved-in pediment with a small disk in the center. Under the relief is the inscription set in 2 lines (Plate III b). But the inscription, as reported in the ed.princeps and the IG, was set in 3 lines, the first one mentioning the deceased's name and part of his father's name. This line does not exist at all now. In its place is a cut groove that suggests a recent attempt to separate the inscription from the relief as evidenced by the two vertical grooves that flank the inscription. The text runs as follows:

[ΕΛΙΚΩΝΧΑΡΙΑ]	IG XII,5 Add. no. 1106	Ἐλικῶν Χαριδ-
HMOYETΩΝΞΕ		ήμου ἐτῶν ξε'
ΧΡΗΣΤΕΧΑΙΡΕ		Χρηστέ χαίρει

The inscription is completely legible except for the first letter of the man's age which remains undeterminable. It can be a K or a Ξ, as it has been rightly dotted in the IG. The shape of the letters (lunar E, C; cursive M and Omega), the rounded corners of the Y and the heavy apices date the stele to the imperial period, about 2nd cent. AD.

The stele was given to the Museum by Mrs. Maria Zarani of Metamorphosis, Syros, on May 19, 1976 and is presently exhibited in the Hermoupolis Museum under inv. no. 833.⁵

3. Nike. IG XII Suppl. (1939) no. 242 (p. 118; ed. F.Hiller v. Gaertringen)

A greyish marble funerary stele fully preserved with its pediment and part of the peg. Height 0,59, width 0,20, thickness 0,06. In the center of an oblong niche stands a female figure in a frontal position. She wears a chiton girdled under the breasts, and a himation that falls over her left shoulder and is supported by her bent left arm, the hand of which holds a round object (cist?). In her right hand she offers a bunch of grapes to what could possibly be either a goose or a rooster. Under the relief is the inscription, originally set on 3 lines. Since 1906 when the stele was discovered and recorded, the inscription has badly deteriorated (Plate III c). What can be barely read today are parts of the first and second lines only which appear (here) underlined in the original text as recorded in the IG:

⁵ The stele reached the Museum through the efforts of its devoted guard, Mr. George Barouxis, who spotted it along with two more stelae in the rubble of an old house under demolition. He persuaded the owner to donate them to the Museum. All three are mentioned in the ed.princeps as belonging to the same owner. Unfortunately the epigraphical part of the other 2 stelae is totally illegible. They were given inv. nos. 834 and 835.

ΝΙ[Κ]Η ΠΑΥΣΑΝΙΟΥ
 ΘΥΓΑ[Τ]ΗΡ ΑΛΥΠΗ
 ΧΑΙΡΕ

Νίκη Παυσανίου
 θυγάτηρ ἀλύπη
 Χαίρε

In line 2 we might expect ἄλυπε instead of ἀλύπη. This letter is no longer legible today. The Σ has oblique bars, the Π two equal vertical bars. The IG edition is the editio princeps. The brief description of the relief "Anaglyphum mulieris cistam ferentis, unde avi cibum offert", as well as the name of the stele's owners definitely support the present identification of the inscription. Can be dated I BC-I AD.

The stele remained in the possession of the Vitali family of Ano Syros since it was discovered and recorded in 1906. It was donated to the Hermoupolis Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vitali on January 24, 1984, and is now in the stockrooms under inv.no. 841.⁶

Athens

Ersie Mantzoulinou-Richards

⁶ Along with this stele, Mr. and Mrs. Vitali also offered the relief of a nekrodeipnon, the epigraphical part of which is cut off, as well as two oversized roman heads, all under inv.nos. 842, 843 and 844 respectively.



a)



b)



c)

a)–c) Inschriften Nr. 1–3 aus Syros (Hermoupolis Museum)