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FOUR FUNERARY MONUMENTS FROM THE AEGEAN MARITIME  
MUSEUM OF MYCONOS

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## FOUR FUNERARY MONUMENTS FROM THE AEGEAN MARITIME MUSEUM OF MYCONOS

In 1985 the Aegean Maritime Museum was established on the Cycladic island of Myconos with the purpose of collecting and displaying items (from ancient to modern times) concerning maritime life.<sup>1</sup> Recently the Museum came into possession of an interesting variety of four funerary monuments: a cinerary casket, a kioniskos, a funerary decree and a stele, all from ancient seaports of the Aegean Sea. The author was given permission to study the inscriptions of the monuments,<sup>2</sup> and the study revealed that two of them are unpublished, while the other two were published almost a century ago, but their whereabouts had been unknown.

### 1. **Philokalos** (unpublished): cinerary casket (from Rhenea (?)) (Tafel XI).

A marble cinerary casket complete with gabled cover. Height 0,345 and 0,45 (with cover), width 0,54, side depth 0,40. The frontal long side is decorated with rams' heads at the corners with a garland between them. A similar but unfinished motif is on each end, while the back side is unadorned. The inscription, set in two lines, runs along the upper front part of the casket above the garland. The first line has a length of 0,43. Height of letters 0,025. The text reads:

Φιλόκαλος Γελλίωνος  
Χαίρε

The provenance of the casket presents a problem, but its physical appearance can perhaps give a clue. The fact that the back is flat and the two ends are unfinished indicates that these three sides were not meant to be displayed. In other words, the casket was meant to be set in a row with other caskets in a limited, restricted area such as in a columbarium, thus allowing only the front part with the name to be seen. The columbarium of Rhenea is the best known in Greece,<sup>3</sup> and it seems that caskets with similar, standard decoration were scattered all over the island, as reported by the French traveler J.B.Bory de Saint-Vincent, head of the 'Expedition de Morée', who visited Delos and Rhenea in 1839:

"Il existe une troisième sorte de monuments funéraires, également ornés de massives, têtes de boeufs, guirlandes de feuilles qui sont en forme de carré long, la plupart peu

<sup>1</sup> The author wishes to thank Mr. George M. Drakopoulos, founder and President of the Board of the Aegean Maritime Museum of Myconos for his generosity in facilitating her in every possible way to study and photograph the items which are presented in this article.

<sup>2</sup> No inventory numbers have been assigned yet to these items.

<sup>3</sup>For the columbarium, see D.Stavropoulos, ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ (1899) 68-69 and (1900) 70-71. A photograph of the columbarium appears in the elder edition of Ph.Bruneau and J.Ducat, Guide de Délos (1966) Pl.24-2. (The recent edition does not contain it).

considérables, et aussi creusés par le milieu d'une fossette carrée: ils sont tres communs, et je crois qu'ils furent également destinés aux restes des morts réduits en cendres. Sur plusieurs était écrit le nom du défunt..."<sup>4</sup>

It is quite possible, therefore, that the present casket is from Rhenea. Due to the relentless looting that Delos-Rhenea have undergone, many of their antiquities wound up in private collections and still remain unknown to archaeologists. The casket of Philokalos was purchased at a Sotheby's auction by the Museum on July 10, 1989,<sup>5</sup> and is presently exhibited in the garden of the Museum.

**2. Artemidoros** (unpublished): kioniskos from Rhamnous, Attica (Tafel XI ).

A white marble kioniskos, fully preserved with a rounded band near the top. Occasional small minor breaks. Height 0,47, top diameter 0,25, height of band 0,035. Under the band the inscription is set in 3 lines. Height of letters 0,03. The inscription reads:

Ἄρτεμίδωρος  
Λάμπωνος  
Ῥαμνούσιος

The kioniskos was found many years ago in the garden of an old house at the end of Sina Street in Athens (opposite the French Institute). The owner of the house recently donated it to the Museum. Its exact provenance is unknown.

**3. Aurelia Primilla**, from Aegiale, Amorgos (Tafel XII), IG, XII, 7, 407; ed. princeps, St.Kumanudes, *Athenaion*, II,1873,407-408.

A greyish marble stele, broken at the bottom, the upper left corner and the top, where a pediment probably existed. In the upper half a nekrodeipnon relief showing a woman reclining on a couch leaning on a cushion and left elbow. She has her right arm around the shoulder of a man who also reclines in the same position. Both figures have been defaced. In front of the couch is a three-legged table beside which a slave girl, in very small scale, stands holding objects in both hands in an attitude of serving. The existence of the nekrodeipnon relief was never reported in the ed. princeps and consequently not in the IG, since Kumanudes edited the inscription not from a squeeze but from a copy of the text sent to him from London, probably where the stele had been taken. Preserved height of the whole stele 0,60, height of the inscription 0,28, width 0,37, thickness 0,04. Height of the letters 0,015. The text should read:

<sup>4</sup> Marie-Therese Couilloud, *Les monuments funéraires de Rhénée*, EAD, 1974,348.

<sup>5</sup> Sotheby's catalogue "Achilles" of July 10, 1989, Lot # 387, where it is erroneously called "Roman".

Μειλησίων τῶν Ἀμοργὸν Αἰγιάλην κατοικούν-  
των ἔδοξεν ἄρχουσι, βουλῆ, δήμῳ· γνώμη στρα-  
τηγῶν καὶ δεκαπρώτων ἐχόντων δὲ καὶ τὴν πρυ-  
τανικὴν ἐξουσίαν· εἰσηγησαμένου τὸ ψήφισμα  
5 Αὐρ. Σεραπίωνος β', ἐπιψηφισαμένου δὲ Αὐρ. Πανκρί-  
του τοῦ Ἰάκονος· ἐγράφη κατὰ τὸν νόμον· ἐπεὶ Αὐρ.  
Πρειμίλ(λ)α, Αὐρ. Ἀγαθίνου θυγάτηρ, ἀνθρώπου τῶν πα-  
ρ' ἡμεῖν λειτουργῶν, ἀπὸ πρώτης ἡλικίας βίου σωφρό-  
10 νος ἀρξαμένη καὶ εὐσταθοῦς, πάσης αἰδοῦς  
καὶ κοσμιότητος ἐπιμελουμένη, φιλοπροσή-  
γορός τε καὶ εὐπρ[ο]σήγορος πρὸς ἅπαντας  
μεμετρημένως κατὰ λόγον ὑπάρχουσα.  
ὥς διὰ τοῦτο ὑφ' ἐνὸς ἐκάστου οὐ μόνον τῶν κατα-  
15 λογάδην, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν πάνυ ἐπ' ἀξιώματος  
στέργεσθαι τε καὶ ἀγαπάσθαι αὐτήν, οὕτως ὥς  
[.....]φησμ[... ]νουλ[..... ..]

Line 4: εἰσηγησαμένου, the second ε is no longer visible.

Line 9: voc, (not an omega as per Kumanudes). The first c in εὐσταθοῦς is carved by error as ε.

Line 11: ἅπαντας and not πάντα

Line 13: ὥς δια τοῦτο: ὥς [δ]ι' αὐτὸ [το]ῦτο IG. In μον[ο]ν the cutter omitted the last two letters, but he inserted them in the space above the τ.

Line 15: οὕτως ὥς: οὗτος IG.

Line 16: only ]νου[ in IG.

**4. Sedatos** : IG XII 7, no. 463; from Amorgos (Tafel XII).

A marble funerary stele broken on the top and the left side. Preserved height 0,40, width 0,28, thickness 0,08. The relief shows on the left side a man standing in a frontal position wrapped in a himation held on his chest with his right hand, the left arm hangs down. The head is missing, broken off at the neck. On the right side is a little boy, looking up at the man showing him something he holds in his raised right hand; his legs are crossed and what looks like a small animal is held in his left hand. Both figures are set in an oblong carved niche. According to the IG, on the far left side of the stele there was the figure of an old man sitting. This is missing today, except for a remnant of the bench. Height of letters, 0,015. The text is:

Σηδάτος Σηδάτου  
υἱός

The stele can be dated II-III AD.



Nr. 1



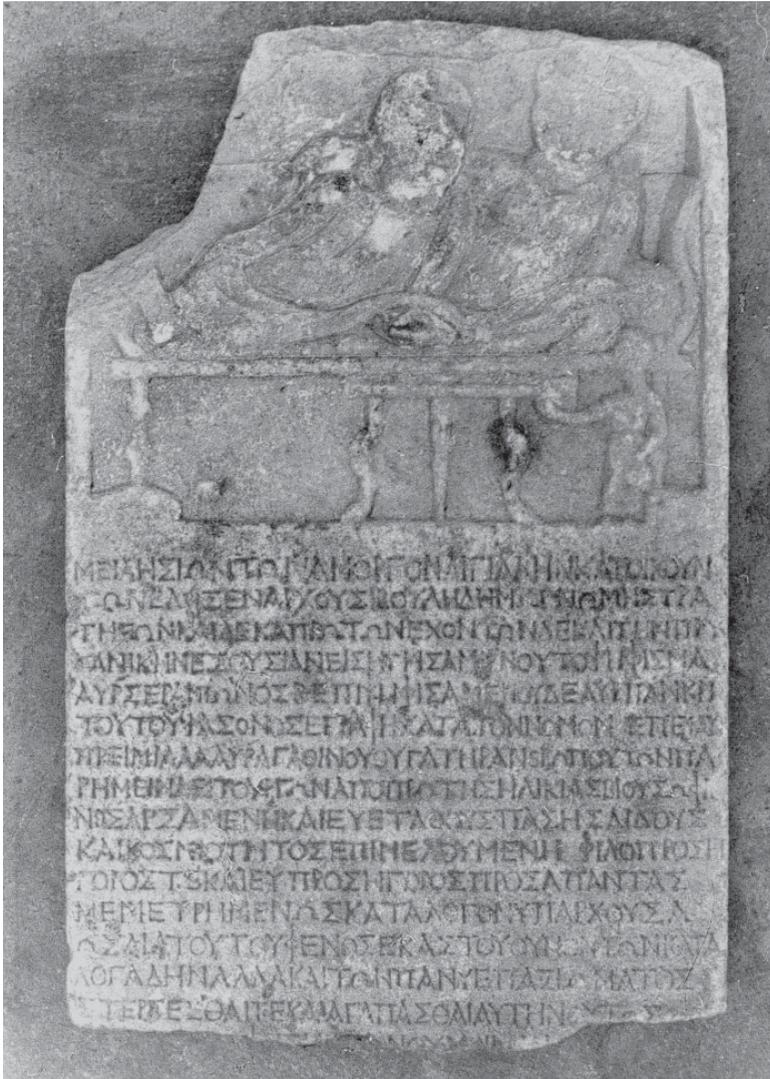
Nr. 2a



Nr. 2b

Nr. 1 Aschenkiste aus Rhenea?

Nr. 2 Kioniskos aus Rhamnus, Attica (Aegean Maritime Museum of Myconos)



Nr. 3



Nr. 4

Nr. 3 Grabstele aus Aegiale, Amorgos  
 Nr. 4 Grabstele aus Amorgos (Aegean Maritime Museum of Myconos)