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ARTEMIS LEMNIA

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In 1885 a substantial cache of decrees issued by the '*demos* of the Athenians at Myrine' (one of the two towns of cleruchs on Lemnos) was published (see *IG* XII.8. 2, with notes). The decrees had been found through chance digging in what was evidently a sanctuary a little way north of the town on the coast (see C.Fredrich, *AM* 31 [1906], 244). To whom was this sanctuary dedicated? Even when the discovery was made, that question admitted of an almost certain answer - which seems, none the less, never to have been given. *IG* II<sup>2</sup> 1224 is a decree of Myrine of the second c. B.C. found in Athens; it provides for its own publication in two copies, of which one is to be displayed on the acropolis and the other ἐμ Μυρίνει ἐ[ν τῷ ἱερῷ] τῆς Ἀρτέμιδος (line 24). A community of the size of Myrina is unlikely to have had two such places of display; and the site where the decrees were found, on the coast outside the settlement, is admirably suited for a temple of Artemis. Artemis' importance on Lemnos was already visible: indeed, it has been suggested (Fredrich, *ibid.*, 72-9) that she inherited some of the functions of the indigenous 'Great Goddess' (for whom see Aristophanes, fr. 384 K/A). According to Galen (xii. 169, 173 K.), it was a priestess of Artemis who collected and sealed the famous red Lemnian clay of Mount Mosychlos (on the other side of the island), while Segré in 1942 published 5th century *horoi* from two separate *temene* of Artemis in the Myrine region.<sup>1</sup> (The relation of these to the one mentioned in *IG* II<sup>2</sup> 1224 is unclear.) We now see that hers was probably the chief civic sanctuary of the town. The possibility has gone unnoticed simply because, it seems, the short fragment of *IG* II<sup>2</sup> 1224 (an inscription assembled from several pieces) which names Artemis first appeared only in the *addenda* (p. 422) to Koehler's *IG* II.I (1877).

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<sup>1</sup> *ASAA* xv-xvi (1932-3), 296-7 nos. 4-5; cf. L.H.Jeffery, *Local Scripts of Archaic Greece* (Oxford, 1961), 299.