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A revised gravestone from Pisidian Apollonia

Abstract: A gravestone from Pisidian Apollonia, published, with mistakes, by Sterrett, has been revised here with some corrections and notes about its content. This gravestone, set up by Aurelius Asclepiades for his children Auxanon and Zoticus, dates back to the first half of the 3rd century AD; the names suggest that it was erected after *Constitutio Antoniniana*. The patterns engraved on the stone show that Asclepiades and his family earned their living by farming and fishing.

Keywords: Pisidia; Apollonia; Uluğbey Türbesi; gravestone; fishing.

In July 2010, as a member of the Isparta Archaeological Survey team (IAS),¹ I visited Seyyit Veli Baba Sultan Türbe, which is near the ancient city of Apollonia (Uluborlu) in Uluğbey Village in Isparta. One of the nine inscriptions copied by us at Türbe was seen by J. R. S. Sterrett, who published it in 1888.² There were, however, some mistakes in this inscription which Sterrett had deciphered before. The objective of this article is to give a detailed explanation of this inscription.

Sterrett saw this tombstone, erected after the *Constitutio Antoniniana* by Aurelius Asclepiades for his sons, in the court of the mosque. Mustafa Kılınçaslan,³ keeper of the shrine, who had been working for this Türbe for 14 years, said that this stone, excavated by the inhabitants of the village from 6 metres beneath the fountain located opposite the Türbe, had been brought here some 60–70 years ago.

The triangular pediment features a Gorgon head, probably the head of Medusa. Heads of Gorgons are usually used on temples and tombstones as well as on shields of soldiers. The front (A) shows six figures: a man, a woman and four children.

The right-hand side (B) depicts two figures – *a man and a child?* – on a boat. The one figure seems to be rowing the boat, the other is holding a trident, apparently to catch one of two very large fish swimming under the boat. Their size is suggestive of some kind of carp which in Antiquity used to be hunted in Lake Eğirdir.⁴ In addition, after completion of scientific work in 2005, a search was conducted in the area of Bedre Koyu and Gençali – Kayaağzı (Senirkent) on the west side of the lake. It was found that especially Bedre Koyu and Senirkent Koyu became the cultural areas established on the bed of the former lake⁵, which probably once served to fishermen.

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¹ In 2008, with the support of Süleyman Demirel University, an archaeological survey was started by Assoc. Prof. Bilge Hürmüzlü in the district and county of Isparta under the name of Isparta Archaeological Survey (IAS). I should like to extend my thanks to Bilge Hürmüzlü for support and assistance in this Project.

² Sterrett, Wolfe Expedition 357 nos. 513–514.

³ I should like to thank Mustafa Kılınçaslan for informing me and my team about the history of this stone and for his kind hospitality.

⁴ Balık et al. 2007, 88–96.

⁵ Görmüş et al. 2005, 205–218.



The left-hand side

Front Side

The right-hand side

The left-hand side of the stone depicts two bulls harnessed to a plough. The reliefs suggest that this was a family of farmers and fishers. There is a total of eleven lines of text on this stone: seven on the front side (A) and four on the right-hand side. Published by Sterrett, the text contained some mistakes in the first line on front side and also some mistakes in four lines on the right-hand side (B).⁶ A correct version of the text is given below:

Front Side (A):

- Αὐρ(ήλιος) Ἀσκληπιάδης Ἀνδρόνικοε [τοῖς]
 2 ἰδίοις τέκνοις Αὐξάνωντι καὶ Ζω[τικῶ]
 καὶ ἑαυτοῖς καὶ τοῖς τέκνοις
 4 μνήμης χάριν.
 Αὐξάνων
 6 τὸ καλὸν
 [τέκ]νον.

“Aurelius Asclepiades, son of Andronicus, erected this stone in memory of his own children Auxanon and Zoticus, for both them and their children. Auxanon, his lovely child”.

Line 1: *Sterrett*: Ἀνδρόνικο<ς>. The spelling of Ἀνδρόνικοε instead of Ἀνδρονίκου is probably a textual error. The stone is broken after this name, but the text could still be safely restored: [τοῖς].

Line 5–7: The early death of Auxanon, one of the sons of Asclepiades mentioned in line 2, may have caused Asclepiades to set up this stele.

Line 7: *Sterrett*: τέκνον. All that remains of this line of text is the last three letters NON which should be completed as [τέκ]νον.

⁶ Sterrett, Wolfe Expedition 357 and 513–514.

Front Side (B):

- [ὀ]ς ἄν τοῦτω τῷ μνη[μείω]
 2 [β]λαβεράν χίρα προσά[γη],
 ἔξι χῆρον βίον, οἶκον
 4 ἔριμον.

“Whoever touch this tombstone with his dreadful hand, may live a bereaved life and have a desolate home as well”.

Line 1: Sterrett restored the beginning of this line as follows: [--ἐποίη]σαν τοῦτο τὸ μνη[μείον]. However, it is quite obvious that there is room for only one or two letters. For this reason, I have corrected it in the way given above.

Line 2: Sterrett: [- - - ὅστις β]λαβε<ρ>άν χίρα π[ροσάξει]. Strubbe, *Arai Epitymbioi* 207 no. 301 suggests: [ὀς τοῦτω β]λαβε<ρ>άν χίρα π[ροσοίσι] | ἔξι χῆρον βίον οἶκον | ἔριμον. Since at the beginning of this line there is room for only one letter, ὅστις is not possible; π and ρ at the beginning of last word of second line are in ligature. The next three letter OCA are clearly visible, and since there is room for only one or two more letters, this line should be completed as προσά[γη].

Line 3–4: The line, completed by Sterrett as [ὀρφανὰ τέκνα] ἔξι {ξι}ι {ἔξει}, χῆρον βίον, οἶκον ἔρ<η>μιον, has been corrected as ἔξι⁷ χῆρον βίον, οἶκον ἔριμον. Imprecations like this are occasionally found on the right-hand side of ancient tombstones. For imprecations on tombstones found in Anatolia, see Strubbe, *Arai Epitymbioi*.

Abbreviated Literature

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| Balık et al. 2007 | İ. Balık – H. Çubuk – R. Özkök, Eğirdir Gölünde Ekonomik Balık Populasyonlarının Göl Sahasındaki Dağılımları, <i>Journal of Fisheries Sciences</i> 1/2, 2007, 88–96. |
| Görmüş et al. 2005 | M. Görmüş – H. Çoban – Ş. Caran – K. Uysal – C. Bircan – İ. O. Tunç, Eğirdir Gölü Batısı Pliyo–Kuvaterner Sedimanları, <i>Türkiye Kuvaterner Sempozyumu (TURQUA) V</i> , İstanbul 2005, 205–218. |
| Sterrett, Wolfe Expedition | J. R. S. Sterrett, <i>The Wolfe Expedition to Asia Minor</i> , Boston 1888 (Papers of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens III). |
| Strubbe, <i>Arai Epitymbioi</i> | J. Strubbe, <i>ΑΡΑΙ ΕΠΙΤΥΜΒΙΟΙ</i> . Imprecations against Desecrators of the Grave in the Greek Epitaphs of Asia Minor, <i>A Catalogue</i> , Bonn 1997 (I.K. 52). |
| Wealkens, <i>Türsteine</i> | M. Wealkens, <i>Kleinasiatische Türsteine</i> , Mainz 1986. |

⁷ For the future tense suffix –ξι, used in Pisidia and Phrygia, see MAMA VI 325 l. 15 (ἀνορύξι) and Waelkens, *Türstein* 398 l. 3 (προσάξι).

Özet

Pisidia Apollonia'sından Bir Mezar Yazıtının Revizyonu

2010 yılının Temmuz ayında Isparta Arkeolojik yüzey araştırmasında (IAS), Apollonia kenti yakınındaki Uluğbey köyünde bulunan Seyyit Veli Baba Sultan Türbesi'nde, Aurelios Asklepiades'in oğulları olan Auksanon'a, Zotikos'a ve onların ailesine ait olduğu anlaşılan bir mezar taşı bulunmuştur. Daha önce J. R. S. Sterrett tarafından yayınlanan bu mezar taşının üzerinde bulunan yazıtta bazı hatalar tespit edilmiştir. Bu makalede söz konusu hataların düzeltilmesi amaçlanmıştır. Taşın üzerinde yer alan figürlerden yola çıkılarak, söz konusu mezar taşının sahibinin ve ailesinin, geçimlerini hem çiftçilikten hem de balıkçılıktan kazandıkları tespit edilmiştir. Dolayısıyla, söz konusu mezar taşının, dönemin ekonomik ve sosyal yaşantısına ışık tutacak bir nitelik taşıdığı anlaşılmıştır. Mezar taşının ön yüzünde (A) ve sağ yüzünde (B) toplam on bir satır uzunluğunda bir yazıt bulunmaktadır. Asklepiades'in, oğlu Auksanon'un ölümü vesilesiyle ailesi için yaptırdığı mezar yazıtının çevirisi şöyledir:

Ön Yüz (A): *“Andronikos'un oğlu Aurelios Asklepiades (bu mezarı), kendi çocukları Auksanon'un ve Zotikos'un, hem kendilerinin hem de çocuklarının hatırası için (yaptırdı). Güzel evlad(ımız) Auksanon”.*

Sağ Yüz (B): *“Her kim bu mezar taşına uğursuz elini sürerse, evi barkı olmasın, hanesi harab olsun!”.*

Anahtar Sözcükler: Pisidia; Apollonia; Uluğbey Türbesi; mezar taşı; balıkçılık.