

Five Fragmentary Inscriptions from Assos

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All five fragmentary inscriptions presented in this paper are from the Assos excavation depository. Of these, the first, second and fourth inscriptions were already in the depository when the new excavation season began under the direction of Professor Nurettin Arslan in 2006. It is noted in the record sheet for the find, that the first fragment was discovered in the seventh seating section of the *media cavae* during excavations conducted in the Assos theater at the end of February 1996. It is likely that this fragment had fallen from the upper terrace, where the *agora* and *bouleuterion* of the ancient city were situated. There is no record in the archive about the find-spots of the second and fourth inscriptions. These two artifacts were probably found in the vicinity of Assos and moved to the depository in order to preserve them. The third fragment was discovered in 2007 in a trench located northeast of the burial enclosure thought to belong to the Larichos family, in the western necropolis of the city. The fifth fragmentary inscription was found in Çamköy, a village located northeast of Gülpınar, by Dr. Beate Arslan-Böhlendorf in the course of an archaeological field survey in 2013.

No. 1. Fragment of Decree Honoring Latimos, Son of Cleomortos

This is a fragment of a stele of white marble which is broken at the top, and bottom and down the right-hand side. The left side of the stele is intact. There is a fragmentary wreath decoration on the upper right rim. The stele is 0.215 m high, 0.148 m wide and 0.067 m deep. The height of the letters varies from 0.005 m to 0.011 m. The inscription consists of three lines (fig. 1).

Λάτ[ι]μ[ο]ς Κλεομόρ[του] ---
 2 ἐν τε τῷ πρότερον [χρόνῳ ---]
 [²⁻³]ΛΕΙΠΙ^[1-2]Ν πολλὰ κ[αὶ] ---]



It is clear that this fragmentary inscription contains the surviving lines of the preamble of a decree honoring Latimos, son of Cleomortos, whose name is presented in the nominative in the first line of the fragment. Undoubtedly, this Latimos, son of Cleomortos, is same with Latimos, son of Cleomortos, from Assos, epigraphically attested in a Hellenistic honorary decree (for which the preamble is missing), through which several honors are bestowed on him by an unnamed city for his services as a judge alongside Echelaos, son of Athenagoros, who also served as a judge, and Melanchros, son of Melanchros, who served as a scribe.¹ The phrase ἐν τε τῷ πρότερον [χρόνῳ in line two of the Assos inscription, which also appears in various forms elsewhere (e.g. ἐν τῷ

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¹ IAssos 7 ll. 10-12: “ἐπηγῆσθαι δὲ καὶ τοὺς δικαστὰς τοὺς παραγενόμενους Ἐχέλαον Ἀθηναγόρου, Λάτιμον Κλεομόρτου κτλ.” For the name Cleomortos, see IAssos p. 15.

ἔμπροσθεν χρόνωι and ἐν τε τοῖς πρότερον χρόνοις), is frequently collocated with statements indicating the honorand's favorable and generous attitude, such as εὔνους καὶ πρόθυμος ὃν διατελεῖ or πᾶσαν σπουδὴν καὶ προθυμίαν παρεχόμενος.² The letters at the beginning of the third line are quite indistinct due to the badly abraded surface of the stone. Even though the temptation might be to restore the corrupted part with the participle [έλ]λείπ[ω]ν, which is often preceded by such phrases as σπουδῆς καὶ φιλοτιμίας οὐθέν in honorary inscriptions (i.e. ISmyrna 579.II ll. 50-51: “σπουδῆς καὶ [φι]λοτιμίας οὐδὲν ἐλλείπων”), there is no parallel example attesting the collocation of this phrase with ἐν τε τῷ πρότερον χρόνῳ in the same text. A more plausible suggestion in terms of restoration is that the damaged part may have comprised the *ethnikon* of a city which was favored by the honorand. It was probably followed by the expression πολλὰ καὶ μεγάλα referring to the deeds of the honorand.³

It is unlikely that this fragment is a piece of the missing preamble of the aforementioned Hellenistic honorary decree that names Latimos, son of Cleomortos, since the letter forms of the two inscriptions are quite different. For instance, in this fragment *pi* has a shorter vertical right stroke and *omicron* is smaller. It is possible to ascribe approximately the same date to this fragment, ca. 100 BCE, as suggested for the Hellenistic inscription.

No. 2. Cillaios

This small block of gray marble is the preserved right front corner of a low pediment. It is broken off on the left-hand side and on the back. The height of the block is intact. The façade is decorated with a fine, smooth garland in recurrent motif with two rosettes below. The garland decoration continues on the right-hand side of the stone but with only one rosette preserved. The block measures 0.20 m wide, 0.152 m deep, and 0.169 m high. The height of the letters varies from 0.01 m to 0.014 m. The inscription engraved in the space above the garland relief on the façade (fig. 2), is:

[---]μεια Κιλλαίῳ ^{vac.}



It is difficult to tell whether this fragment is the epitaph of an individual called Cillaios (since this name was attested as a personal name in Athens⁴), or a dedication to Apollo Cillaios. The fragmentary [---]μεια at the beginning might be a patronymic adjective referring to the dedicant. Filiation through a patronymic adjective is frequently found in inscriptions from Assos.⁵

As Strabo (13.1.62) testifies, Κιλλαῖος was an epithet of Apollo who was originally worshipped in Cilla, a place near Thebe and Chrysa.⁶ The only alleged epigraphic evidence for the cult of Apollo Cillaios is from Sestos in Thracian Chersonese. When accepting the word 'Cillaios' as a certain ref-

² Cf. IIasos 73 ll. 6-7: “ἐπειδὴ ὁ δῆμος ὁ Πριηνέων ἐν τε τοῖς πρότερον χρόνοις εὔνους ὃν καὶ φίλος διετέλει κτλ.”

³ Cf. IG II² 506 ll. 3-5: “... ἐν τε τῷ ἔμπροσθεν χρόνῳ πολλὰ καὶ μεγάλα εὔεργέτηκε[ν τὸν δῆμον τὸν Ἀθηναῖ]ων κτλ.”. Also cf. IG XII.3 30 ll. 2-4: “... ἐν τῷ πρότερον χρόνῳ ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς [έών δι]ετέλει περὶ τὸν δῆμον τὸν Τηλίων, πολλὰς καὶ μεγάλας [χρεία]ς τῷ κοινῷ παρεχόμενος κτλ.”

⁴ Agora XV 206 (SEG 16, 91) = LGPN II s.v.

⁵ For example, the epitaph of Alectra, daughter of Larichos, IAssos 51: “Ἀλέκτρα Λαρίκεια”.

⁶ For the site of Cilla, see IAdramytteion p. 31-33.

erence to Apollo Cillaios in his discussion of the dating formula of a Hellenistic honorary decree (*I.Sestos* 1 l. 1: “[Ἐπὶ ι]ερ[έ]ως Γλαυκίου [το]ῦ Κιλλαίου κτλ.”), Josef Stauber raised the admittedly weak possibility that the cult of Apollo Cillaios in Cilla may have been transferred to Sestos.⁷ Nevertheless, it seems more likely that the word ‘Cillaios’ in the Sestos inscription was the patronymic of the priest Glaukos rather than the epithet of Apollo.⁸

There is no substantial testimony as yet that refers to a cult of Apollo in the vicinity of Assos.⁹ In addition, due to the lack of information about the original site of our fragment, for now it is best not to treat this fragment as evidence for the presence of an cult of Apollo Cillaios in the city of Assos. The letter forms suggest that this fragment dates from the second century BCE.

No. 3. Epitaph

This fragment is a block of gray marble with upper and lower moldings. The right-hand side is damaged and the upper right corner has broken away. The rectangular fragmentary mortise on the top suggests that this was the low base of a slab stele.¹⁰ On the bottom of the block, there is a small square hollow to fasten it to the ground. The upper molding of the block is 0.315 m wide. The shaft’s preserved width is 0.297 m, and is 0.292 m deep. The preserved width of the lower molding is 0.315 m and it is 0.31 m deep. The total height of the base is 0.23 m. The height of the letters varies from 0.014 m to 0.027 m. The second line is indented, possibly to align with the length of the first line (fig. 3).



Taking into account the find-spot of the stone, this fragment seems to be a gravestone. As for the restoration of the theophoric name in the first line, which begins Ἀπολλ-, possibilities include Apollonios¹¹, Apollonophas¹², Apollodoros¹³, Apollonides¹⁴ and Apollas¹⁵, which are epigraphically attested from Assos during the periods from fourth/third BCE to first century CE. The name in the second line is Ἀριστόλοχος. This name may have stood as a patronymic in the inscription (i.e. Ἀριστολόχου) or it may have pertained to the deceased person (i.e. Ἀριστολόχῳ). There are two attestations of this name from Assos. One is a son of Euagoras, recorded on a large block thought to date from the fourth/third century B.C.(?), which was found in the necropolis of Assos.¹⁶ The other

⁷ IAdramytteion p. 32-33.

⁸ See LGPN IV s.v. Κιλλαῖος.

⁹ For theophoric names from Assos, derived from Apollo, see inscription no.3 in this paper.

¹⁰ For another low base supporting its inscribed stele found in the western necropolis of Assos, see Stupperich 1992, 8 and Tafel 6, no. 3 and 5.

¹¹ IAssos 21a = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 1309).

¹² Abmeier 1990, 25-26 no. 3 (SEG 40, 1112.3) = LGPN VA s.v.

¹³ Abmeier 1990, 26 no. 5 (SEG 40, 1112.5) = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 305).

¹⁴ Klee 1918, p. 16 no. IIC 1. 85 = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 244).

¹⁵ LGPN VA s.v. (no. 106).

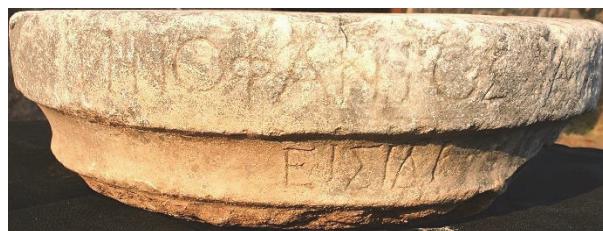
¹⁶ Stupperich 1993, 3 (SEG 43, 875) = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 10).

is a father of Anodicos the younger, recorded in a decree from Ilion concerning the organization of a festival.¹⁷

No. 4. Dedication to Isis

This is a round pedestal of gray marble with mortises on the top. The diameter of the pedestal measures 0.335 m and its preserved height is 0.113 m. The height of the letters varies between 0.018 m and 0.026 m. The inscription consists of two lines. The indented second line was engraved on the lower concave surface of the pedestal. The letters M, H and N are ligatured (fig. 4 and 5). The fragment is as follows:

Mηνόφαντος ^{v.} [Αρ[ιστ]ωγος]
Εῖσιδι ^{vac.} A..[^{ca.5}]



This is a dedication offered to Isis by Menophantos whose father's name, Ariston, was deliberately defaced.¹⁸ Bearing in mind the nature of this inscription, the missing part of line two could presumably be restored as ἀγέ[θηκεν]. This dedication is the first convincing evidence of the existence of an Isis cult in the ancient city of Assos. Prior to this inscription, a citizen of Assos called Isidoros, a theophoric name derived from Isis, was found recorded in a *proxenoi* list, dating to ca. 150 BCE, from Delphi.¹⁹

There is another unpublished inscription from Assos that suggest the likely existence of an Egyptian cult. As recorded in the document archive of the findings, the following inscription was discovered in 1993. It is located on the seventh row of seating in the third *cuneus* of the *summa cavea* of the Assos theater. It was engraved across two blocks next to the stairway separating the third *cuneus* from the fourth. The total length of the two blocks bearing the inscription measures 2.60 m. The last *alpha* stands separately in the middle of the second block. The height of the letters is between 0.16 m and 0.24 m. The inscription is as follows (fig. 6):

ΣΕΡΑΠΙΑ



It is reasonable to assume that SERAPIA may have been the abbreviated form of the term Σεραπιαστάι/Σεραπιαστῶν indicating that the reserved seats were for the association of devotees of Sarapis (*Sarapiastai*).²⁰ While no other epigraphic example of this abbreviation for *Sarapiastai* has, thus far, been attested, inscriptions on the seats of the Termessos theater in Pisidia, referring to the guild of "stone-masons from mountains" clearly demonstrate that uncommon abbreviations could

¹⁷ Ilion 10 l. 9 = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 11).

¹⁸ For other individuals from Assos bearing the name Ariston, see Breccia 1911, 128 no. 233: "Φι[λ]ώτας Αρίστων Αρίστωνος, Ἀσσιος" = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 74 and 75).

¹⁹ Syll.³ 585 ll. 314-315: "Ισίδωρος Διονυσοφάνεος Αιολεὺς ἀπὸ Ἄσσου" = LGPN VA s.v. (no. 63).

²⁰ For other place inscriptions of occupational guilds from the Assos theater, see Arslan – Özhan 2013, 73-80.

be used in such circumstances.²¹ *Sarapiastai* are attested in both Athens²² and Rhamnous²³ in mainland Greece as well as on several Aegean islands, such as Thasos²⁴, Delos²⁵, Ceos²⁶, Rhodes²⁷ and Lindos²⁸, including the city of Kamiros²⁹ on Rhodes. A Hellenistic inscription from Methymna on the island of Lesbos, situated across the bay from Assos, also lists the names of *Sarapiastai* who promised to contribute to the association for the banquet at the *megala Sarapieia*.³⁰ Prior to the discovery of the seating inscription in the Assos theater, the only attestation of *Sarapiastai* in Asia Minor comes from Limyra in Lycia. This is a dedication to Sarapis offered by one individual and the *thiasos* of *Sarapiastai*.³¹

A parallel example of seats reserved for a cult association is presented in *CIL XII* 714, a seating inscription of the association of *pastophori* of the Isis temple. The *pastophori* were placed next to the *scholastici* above the second-level walkway in the amphitheater of Arelate in Gallia Narbonensis.³² The length of the seats bearing the inscription in the Assos theater suggests that the association of *Sarapiastai* probably comprised only a small group of people. Both inscriptions from Assos belong to the Roman imperial period.

Compared with other regions in Asia Minor, the evidence indicating the presence of Egyptian cults in the Troad is very scarce. However, four examples are worth mentioning. In the ancient city of Scepsis, a fragmentary dedication to Sarapis, Isis and Anubis, and a coin of Faustina the Younger depicting Isis-Aphrodite with Eros-Harpocrates on its reverse, confirm the presence of Egyptian cults in the Troad.³³ The cults of Isis and Sarapis are epigraphically attested in the Propontic city of Parion.³⁴ Laurent Bricault also mentions two coins from Tenedos and Abydos both bearing a *basileion* figure, as evidence of an Egyptian cult.³⁵

No. 5. Honor to Lucius Calventius Faustinus, Winner of the Smintheia Pauleia Games

This fragmentary piece of bluish-gray marble is damaged on all sides. Its current height is 0.38 m, its width 0.41 m and its depth 0.12 m. The size of the letters in line two is distinctly larger than the rest. The height of the letters is between 0.035 m and 0.097 m, with the exception of the minuscule

²¹ TAM III 872 A IX 30: “Ορ(ρεων) λα(τύπων).| κτλ.” For the stone-cutters from Termessos, see also Brandt 1992, 137; van Nijf 1997, 225.

²² IG II² 1292 (SIRIS 2; RICIS 101/201).

²³ RICIS 101/0502.

²⁴ IG XII Suppl. 365 (SIRIS 265; RICIS 201/0101).

²⁵ IG XI.4 1226 (RICIS 202/0135); IG XI.4 1307 (RICIS 202/0191).

²⁶ IG XII.5 606 (SIRIS 158; RICIS 202/0801).

²⁷ IG XII.1 162 (SIRIS 176; RICIS 204/0105).

²⁸ SIRIS 236 and 238-239; RICIS 204/0338 and 204/0340-341.

²⁹ SIRIS 195-197; RICIS 204/0215-0217.

³⁰ IG XII.2 511 (SIRIS 262; RICIS 204/0401).

³¹ RICIS II 306/0601.

³² For the association of *pastophori* of the Isis Temple from Arelate, see also van Nijf 1997, 234.

³³ Judeich 1898, 237 fn. 3; SNG Troas-Aeolis-Lesbos, no. 1581 (RICIS II 301/1001). However, Françoise Dunand (1973, 100 fn.1) casts doubt on the representation of Isis on the coin.

³⁴ Ful 2009, 101. For the figure of *sistrum* on a coin from Parion, see RICIS II 301/0700.

³⁵ RICIS II 301/0800 (Tenedos) and 301/0900 (Abydos).

iota, which was placed under *alpha* in the word παί[δων] in line three. Five lines have survived from the inscription (fig. 7):

Λ(ούκιον) Καλβέντιο[ν]
 Φαυστεῖν[ον]
 νεικήσαντα παί[δων]
 [π]ανκράτιον Σ[μίν]-
 5 [θ]εια Παύλεια ἵσ[οπύ]-
 [θια]



This fragment is the beginning of an honorary inscription for an athlete, Lucius Calventius Faustinus, who won the boys' *pankration* in the Smintheia Pauleia Games. It is well known that the Smintheia Pauleia games were held by the city of Alexandreia Troas in honor of Apollo Smintheus, whose sanctuary, named the Smintheion, lies close to the modern village of Gülpınar. There are, so far, only three known inscriptions, recording the Smintheia Pauleia games, and all pertain to the third century CE.³⁶

The phraseology of this fragmentary inscription is almost identical to other honorary inscriptions mentioning Smintheia Pauleia. The first two lines contain the nomenclature of the victorious athlete, followed by the term indicating the athletic event and the name of the festival.³⁷

This is the first attestation of the *nomen* Calventius in the vicinity of Alexandreia Troas/*Colonia Augusta Troadensis*. This *nomen* rarely appears in Asia Minor. Another individual bearing this *nomen* was a veteran, Calventius Silvanus, recorded in an epitaph from Anazarbos in Cilicia.³⁸

Along with the boys' *pankration*, wrestling (*pale*) was another athletic event in the Smintheia Pauleia games.³⁹ It is assumed that the Roman epithet 'Pauleia' originated from Paullus Fabius

³⁶ Robert 1939, 245-248 (OMS I p. 629-632) = IAlexandreia Troas 52, 53 and 54. In addition to these inscriptions, CIG 3620 (= IAlexandreia Troas 50) honoring an unknown athlete may have concerned the Smintheia Pauleia games, Frisch 1974, 38-39. On the preserved part of a statue base at Çanakkale Archaeological Museum, listing the victories of an athlete and attesting to games called Smintheia held in Alexandreia Troas (ἐν Τρωάδι Σμίνθεια), which were listed among the sacred games (*agones hieroi*), see Taşlıkhoğlu 1971, 179 no. 7 (BE 1972, 366) = Illion 125. From an inscription at Messene in the southwestern Peloponnese, honoring Sosias who won the men's *diaulos* at Smintheia, it appears that the Smintheia were organized in Alexandreia Troas even during the Late Hellenistic period, see Habicht 2000, 123-126; Gauthier 2000, 631-635. It gives me great pleasure to reveal that during the field seasons of 2009-2013 approximately 20 very well preserved statue bases were discovered in Smintheion bearing honorary inscriptions of the victorious athletes at the Smintheia (Pauleia) games. These findings will be published in the near future.

³⁷ cf. IAlexandreia Troas 52 ll. 2-5: “[νικήσαντα παίδων] | [π]υθικῶν πάλη[ν], | [π]ανκράτιον Σμίνθι[α] | [Π]αύλεια ἴσοπύθια [.]”

³⁸ IAazarbos 68: “D(is) M(anibus). Calventio Silvano, veteran(o) ex numero e{x}quitum Batavonum etc.” For the *nomen* Calventius, see TLL, Onomasticon II s.v. Calventius; Schulze 1966, 139; Tataki 2006, 161 no. 125.

³⁹ IAlexandreia Troas 52 and 53.

Maximus, who was proconsul of Asia Minor during the reign of Augustus.⁴⁰ However, Louis Robert believed that the epithet was adjoined to Smintheia in order to honor a benefactor bearing the name of Paulus, who financed the Smintheia Games and who may have lived in *Colonia Augusta Troadensis* in a later period.⁴¹ The epithet *isopythios* in line five, meaning “equal to the Pythian Games,” indicates that the games at Smintheia Pauleia were ranked equally with those held at Pythia in Delphi, including in terms of the awards and privileges.⁴²

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⁴⁰ IGR IV 244: “Ludi instituti in honorem Apollonis Sminthii ... et Pauli Fabii Maximi, cos. anno 11. ante C. n. etc.”

⁴¹ Robert 1939, 247 (OMS I p. 631).

⁴² Pleket 2014a, 103; Pleket 2014b, 367; cf. also Frisch 1988, 181.

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Assos'tan Beş Yazıt Fragmanı Özet

Makalede Çanakkale ili sınırları içerisindeki Assos kazıevinin deposunda bulunan beş adet yazıt fragmanı tanıtılmaktadır. Bunlardan ilki, daha önce Assos'tan bir onurlandırma dekretinde yargıç olarak adı kayda geçmiş Kleomortos oğlu Latimos adlı kişiyi onurlandıran bir dekretten günümüze kalan satırlardır. İkinci fragmanın Killaios adlı bir kişinin mezar yazımı olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Üçüncü yazıt, büyük olasılıkla bir mezar yazıtının parçasıdır. Dördüncü yazıt, Ariston oğlu Menophantos tarafından Tanrıça Isis'e sunulmuş bir adak yazıdır ve bu yazıt, Assos'ta bir Mısır kültürün varlığına dair ilk sağlam kanıttır. Bu yazıtla birlikte, Sarapis kültü müritlerinin topluluğu ile ilişkili olabilecek, Assos tiyatrosundan bir topos yazımı da tanıtılmıştır. Beşinci yazıtta, Aleksandreia Troas kenti tarafından Apollon Smintheus onuruna düzenlenen Smintheia Pauleia spor oyunlarında çocuklar kategorisinde pankration dalında zafere ulaşmış Lucius Calventius Faustinus onurlanmaktadır. Yazıtların Türkçe çevirileri şu şekildedir:

No. 1: *Kleomortos oğlu Latimos... daha önceki bir zamanda... birçok işler ve...*

No. 2: ... *Killaios için.*

No. 3: Bu yazıt büyük oranda tahrip olduğundan kesin bir çeviri vermek mümkün değildir.

No. 4: *Ariston oğlu Menophantos, Isis'e [adadı].; Sarapis kültü müritleri*

No. 5: *Pythia oyunlarına eş Smintheia Pauleia (oyunlarında), çocukların yarıştığı pankration'u kazanan Lucius Calventius Faustinus'u [filanca kişi onurlandırdı].*

Anahtar Sözcükler: Assos; Kleomortos; Isis; Sarapiastai; Mısır kültürleri; Smintheia Pauleia; Killaios.

Five Fragmentary Inscriptions from Assos

Abstract

In this article, five fragmentary inscriptions are presented from the depository of the Assos excavation house in Çanakkale province, Turkey. The first inscription is the surviving part of a decree honoring Latimos, son of Cleomortos, whose name was recorded as a judge in another honorary decree from Assos. The second fragment appears to be the epitaph of an individual bearing the name 'Cillaios'. The third inscription is most probably the surviving fragment of an epitaph. The fourth inscription is a dedication to Isis, offered by Menophantos, son of Ariston, and is the first secure evidence of the presence of an Egyptian cult in the vicinity of Assos. A seating inscription from the Assos theater, which may be a reference to the cult association of the Sarapis-devotees of Assos, is also presented. The fifth fragment honors Lucius Calventius Faustinus, who won the boys' *pankration* in the Smintheia Pauleia athletic games held by the ancient city of Alexandreia Troas in honor of Apollo Smintheus.

Keywords: Assos; Cleomortos; Isis; Sarapiastai; Egyptian cults; Smintheia Pauleia; Cillaios.



Fig. 1

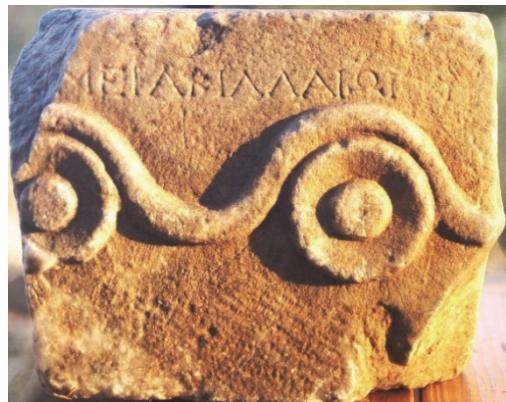


Fig. 2

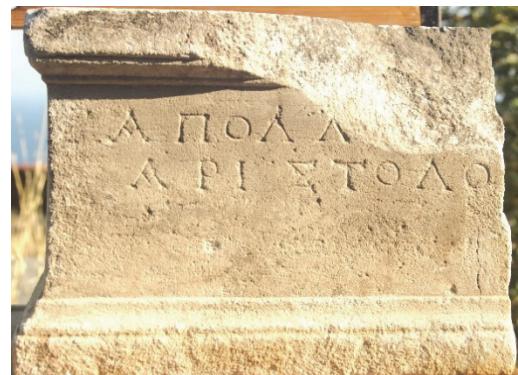


Fig. 3

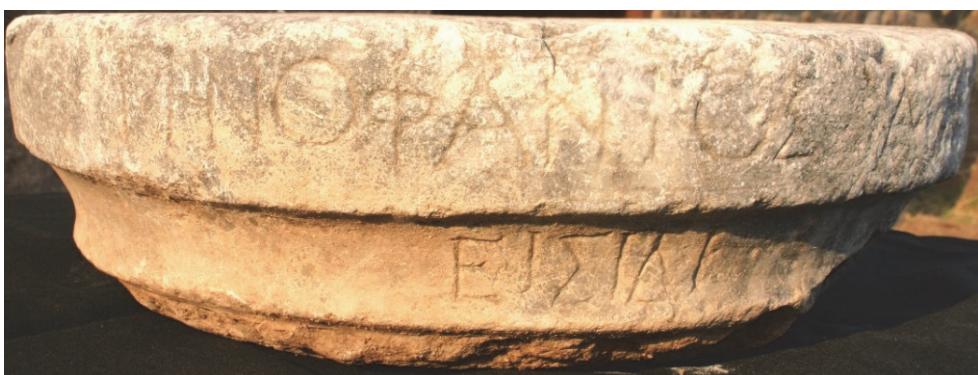


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7