## A NEW SARCOPHAGUS INSCRIPTION FROM ALEXANDREIA TROAS

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Keywords: Troad • Alexandreia Troas • Sarcophagus Inscription • Kamara • Ekbasmosis • Tymborychia

**Abstract:** This paper aims to introduce a new sarcophagus inscription which was used as a spolia of the garden wall of a house in the town of Ezine in Çanakkale Province. Providing information about the tomb architecture of Alexandreia Troas in the Roman Imperial period, the inscription constitutes the first clear epigraphic evidence in the city about the practice of erecting a sarcophagus on the top surface of a kamara. Archaeological example of these monumental tombs has not documented in the city. However, analogous practice is well known from the necropolis of Phrygian Hierapolis. The inscription also shows that the sarcophagus was placed on a 'stepped pedestal' called ekhasmosis, a rare term recorded in inscriptions. With this inscription, the term tymborychia which is common in the funerary inscriptions with fineclause, especially in Caria and Pisidia, firstly appears in Alexandreia Troas.

## ALEKSANDREİA TROAS'TAN YENİ BİR LAHİT YAZITI

Anahtar Kelimeler: Troas • Aleksandreia Troas • Lahit Yazıtı • Kamara • Ekbasmosis • Tymborykhia

Özet: Bu makalede Çanakkale'nin Ezine ilçesinde bir evin bahçe duvarında devşirme malzeme olarak kullanılmış olan bir lahit parçası üzerindeki yeni bir yazıt tanıtılmaktadır. Aleksandreia Troas'taki Roma dönemi mezar mimarisi hakkında bilgi sunan bu yazıt aracılığıyla kentte kamara olarak adlandırılan tonoz tavanlı mezar yapılarının üzerine lahit yerleştirildiğini öğrenmekteyiz. Aleksandreia Troas'ta bu türde mezarların varlığı arkeolojik olarak doğrulanmasa da lahdin bu şekilde yerleştirildiği mezar yapıları Phrygia Hierapolis'inde belgelenmiştir. Ayrıca lahdin yazıtlarda nadir olarak geçen ve "basamaklı platform" olarak tercüme edilen ekbasmosis üzerine verlestirildiği anlaşılmaktadır. Asia Minor'da özellikle Karia ve Pisidia bölgelerinde ceza formülü içeren mezar yazıtlarında sıklıkla karşılaşılan tymborykbia kavramı bu yazıt ile Aleksandreia Troas'ta ilk defa kayıt altına alınmaktadır.

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The inscribed block presented below was found in the town of Ezine in Çanak-kale Province embedded in the enclosure wall of a house in İnce Minare Geçidi Street. Musa Tombul, a senior archaeologist from Çanakkale Archaeological Museum who had previously been informed about the stone by the owner of the house, told us that the block was moved from Kemalli, a village a few kilometers east of the ancient site of Alexandreia Troas<sup>1</sup>. The rectangular block is made of white marble

with bluish-gray veins, suggesting the stone comes from Proconnesos (Fig. 1-2)<sup>2</sup>. The block is badly damaged on the left-hand side, except for the beginning of the first and the second lines which seem unbroken. The condition of the right-hand side is unknown since it is partly embedded in a block of cement. The block measures 1.95 m in width and 0.485 m in height. The height of the letters differs from 0.04 m to 0.06 m. Date: Second/Third century AD.

0	[
	τεσκεύασα δὲ καὶ τὴν ὑπὸ τὴν [σ]ορὸν καμάραν [σὺν]
2	καὶ τ̞ῆ ἐκβασμώσει ἐκ τῶν ἐμαυτοῦ ϫ εἰ δέ τις ἕτερο̞[ς τολ-]
	[μήσ]η ἀνοῖξαι τὴν σορὸν ταύτην ἢ καὶ τὴν καμ[άραν]
4	[καὶ ν]εκρὸν ἀλλότριον βαλεῖν ἢ καὶ ὀστέα τινὸς [ἐγκα-]
	[ταθέσ]θαι, δώσει προστείμου τῆ λαμπροτάτη Τρφαδ[έων]
6	[πόλει] Χ ,ε καὶ τῷ ἱερωτάτῳ ταμείῳ Χ ,ε καὶ ὑπεύ[θυ-]
	[νος ἔ]στω τῷ τῆς τυμβωρυχίας ἐνκ $^{v}$ λήματι. $^{vac.}$

App. crit.: The restoration is mainly based on the view that the beginning of the first and the second lines are intact.

Translation: "[- - -] and also I built the chamber under the sarcophagus as well as the stepped platform from my own (expenses). If anyone else dares to open this sarcophagus or the chamber or to bury a strange corpse or to put somebody's bones in it, he will pay a fine of 5000 denarii to the most splendid city of (Alexandreia)

The indication  $\dot{\eta}$  σορὸς αὕτη in the third line makes it clear that this surviving inscribed block belongs on the long side of a sarcophagus. In conformity with the nature of sarcophagus inscriptions, the missing upper part should have born the name(s) of the owner of the tomb and of those who had the right to be buried in it,

Troas and 5000 denarii to the most sacred treasury and he will be subject to the accusation of grave robbery".

Several other funerary inscriptions discovered at Kemalli can be found in the epigraphic corpus of Alexandreia Troas, see I. Alexandreia Troas nos. 82, 91, 95, 119, 123, 128, 139, 142, 143, 148, 149, 155, 162, 166, 167, 168, 191.

For the characteristic features of Proconnesian marble, see Asgari 1978, 467-468; Ward-Perkins 1992, 131

such as husband, wife, children etc. Furthermore, apart from the kamara and the ekbasmosis, the act of erecting this sarcophagus should have been declared in the preceding missing clause. This is also implied by the wording of the clause in the first line; that is, the appearance of the word  $\dot{\eta}$ σορός in the phrase ἡ ὑπὸ τὴν σορὸν καμάρα and the collocation of δέ and καί following κατεσκεύασα. Thanks to two sarcophagus inscriptions from Alexandreia Troas, we know about analogous practices where some citizens of the city erected (τίθημι) a sarcophagus together with building (κατασκευάζω) a mnemeion<sup>3</sup>. Another parallel fragmentary inscription from Alexandreia Troas published by M. Ricl is more illuminating, testifying to the use of the semi-restored clause ἔθηκα [τὴν σορόν] in association with the term kamara in the same context4. Thus, it is quite reasonable to restore the beginning of our text [- - - ἔθηκα τὴν σορόν, κα]τεσκεύασα δὲ καὶ τὴν ὑπὸ τὴν σορὸν καμάραν κτλ.

The term *kamara* means vaulted tomb chamber, the epigraphic attestation of which is widespread in Ionia, Lydia, and Lycia, and is occasionally attested in other regions<sup>5</sup>. Funerary inscriptions containing the term *kamara* from Asia Minor inform us about various burial practices connected with the *kamara* as well as its association with other funerary components. In our inscription, the phrase  $\dot{\eta}$   $\dot{v}\pi\dot{o}$   $\tau\dot{\eta}\nu$ 

σορὸν καμάρα indicates that the sarcophagus was positioned on the top of the kamara. As mentioned above, the term kamara has previously been attested in Alexandreia Troas in a fragmentary sarcophagus inscription, in which M. Ricl preferred to restore the beginning of the second line ἔθηκα  $|^2$  [τὴν σορὸν ἐν τῆ ύπ οκάτω ύποκειμένη μέση καμάρα, without omitting the σύν option instead of έν, i.e. ἔθηκα |2 [τὴν σορὸν σὺν τῆ ύπ]οκάτω ύποκειμένη μέση καμάρα<sup>6</sup>. Each of the restorations offers a different translation and, accordingly, a different interpretation, as M. Ricl points out. According to the restoration with the ev preposition, the sarcophagus should have been placed in the kamara and, thus, the inscribed block must have stood above the kamara. In the case of replacing ev with σύν, then the sarcophagus would have stood on the kamara and the inscribed block would have belonged to the sarcophagus itself. By means of the inscription in question in this paper, which presents the first clear epigraphic evidence of such burial architecture at Alexandreia

<sup>3</sup> I.Alexandreia Troas no. 83. ll. 1-2: "τὸ μνημεῖον κατεσκ[εύασα καὶ τὴν] ]² σορὸν ἔθηκα; I.Alexandreia Troas no. 98 ll. 2-3: "ἔθηκα τὴν σορόν, κατασκεύα[σας ]³ τὸ μνηνεῖο]ν for which M. Ricl offers alternative restorations [τὸ ἡρῷο]ν or [τὴν καμάρα]ν instead of [τὸ μνηνεῖο]ν. In the funerary context, τίθημι for the act of placing a sarcophagus

was a common verb in Alexandreia Troas, cf. I.Alexandreia Troas nos. 83, 84, 85, 94, 97, 98, 101, 102, 107, 109, 111A, 129; cf. Ricl 2000, 130.

<sup>4</sup> Ricl 2000, 129 no. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kubinska 1968, 94-99.

Ricl 2000, 130.

Troas, here M. Ricl's σύν restoration option now seems more acceptable than the other.

Ἐκβάσμωσις means a 'stepped pedestal' on which, specifically, a funerary altar (bomos) or sarcophagus stands<sup>7</sup>. It is a rare term only recorded at Pergamon and Eleia in Mysia, at Apollonis in Lydia, and at an unknown city in Lycaonia8. Additionally, the synonymous term ekbasmidosis is epigraphically known at Ephesos9. Of these, the instances from Pergamon, Apollonis, and Ephesos attest to the use of this term in association with a bomos, in which the two terms always appear in sequence, such as τὸν βωμὸν καὶ τὴν έκβάσμωσιν, σύν τῆι ἐκβασμειδώσει τὸν βωμόν, and τὴν ἐκβάσμωσιν σὺν τῷ ἐπικειμένω βωμω. In the Alexandreia Troas inscription, however, ekbasmosis apparently is not used with the term bomos. Even though the phrase καὶ τῆ ἐκβασμώσει at the beginning of the second line tempts one to restore it with  $\tau \tilde{\omega}$ βωμῷ after the restored σύν at the end of the first line, there is no extra space for six letters at the end of the first line. Rather than being a conjunction, καί should function as an adverb in this position. Then, ekbasmosis in the current inscription is related to the sarcophagus, as is attested

at Eleia and in Lycaonia. The Lycaonian instance suggests that the *ekbasmosis* was not always merely a component but sometimes used as a burial place, which could contain multiple remains inside. J. Kubinska points out that this term was a synonym of *bathrikon* recorded at Phrygian Hierapolis and Aphrodisias<sup>10</sup>.

Although the presence of this type of tomb at Alexandreia Troas is attested epigraphically, it has not been archaeologically documented at the site thus far. On the other hand, barrel-vaulted tomb chambers are known in many cities of Asia Minor, such as Hierapolis, Laodikeia, Arykanda, Anemurium, Elaiussa Sebaste, Korykos, and Olba<sup>11</sup>. The general tendency of researchers working on tomb architecture is to identify this type of structure as a vaulted-chamber rather than using the term kamara, unless it has been recorded in the inscriptions of the relevant city. In his study concerning the necropoleis of Eleuisia Sebaste and Korykos in Cilicia, referring to the epigraphic findings of the city, A. Machatschek used the term kamara for the tombs he classified as "grabhäuser" 12. Again, in a recent study on the necropoleis and tombs of Phrygian Hierapolis, only a few tombs at the site which consist of a sarcophagus placed on a barrel-vaulted chamber with a stepped

Kubinska 1968, 92; Drew-Bear 1972, 70. See also Herrmann – Malay, New Documents 25 no. 9, compiling all previous bibliography on the term *ekbasmo-sis*.

Pergamon: IGR IV no. 514; Eleia: Hauvette-Besnault – Pottier 1880, 381 no. 8; Apollonis: Herrmann – Malay, New Documents 25 no. 9; Lycaonia: Schwertheim 2003, 91 no. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> I.Ephesos no. 1627; cf. Kubinska 1968, 92; Drew-Bear 1972, 70.

Kubinska 1968, 91-92, pl. 15; cf. Ronchetta 2018, 60-62, pl. 57 and 101. On the *bathrikon* at Aphrodisias, see also Öğüş 2018, 8.

For the vaulted chambers at Phrygian Hierapolis, see Ronchetta 2018; at Laodikeia, see Şimşek et al. 2011; at Arykanda, see Özbek 2005; at Anemurium, see Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1971; at Elaiussa Sebaste and Korykos, see Machatschek 1967; at Olba, see Akçay 2018. For Asia Minor generally, see Cormack 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Machatschek 1967, 74 n. 328.

firmly classified platform, were kamara<sup>13</sup>. Undoubtedly, the main purpose of using a sarcophagus was public visibility, although they frequently are discovered inside tombs or tomb chambers. Hence, the sarcophagi in the necropoleis were often placed in a position visible to everyone. Accordingly, sarcophagi in Asia Minor were given a monumental appearance by positioning them on high platforms, such as on the hyposorion in Lycia<sup>14</sup>, on flat roofed tomb chambers called bomoi<sup>15</sup> at Phrygian Hierapolis, on an altar (bomos) in Bithynia<sup>16</sup>, on a high pedestal with an arcosolium, on a stepped platform at Termessos<sup>17</sup>, and on a platform with a loculus at Tyre<sup>18</sup>. However, the archaeological evidence for this type of monumental tomb having an architectural design, as given in the inscription under discussion in this paper, can only be found at Phrygian Hierapolis<sup>19</sup>.

An epigraphic example that offers guidance on how burial allocation may have been decided upon in erecting such structures, with a *kamara* and a sarcophagus on the top of it, is found at Troketta in Lydia<sup>20</sup>. According to the inscription, Metrophanes, who built the tomb and a

sarcophagus for himself and his wife Aphion allowed only his heir Mosschion (sii), his freedmen and his wife's freedmen, and their descendants to be buried in the kamara lying under the sarcophagus which was reserved only for the owners of the tomb, namely Metrophanes and Aphion. Again, a sarcophagus inscription from Termessos in Lykia informs us of a similar practice as in Troketta; the sarcophagus belonged only to the couple and their children, while descendants were allowed to be buried in the ὑποκαμάριον<sup>21</sup>. With the attestation of several funerary inscriptions, it is well known that this burial practice was widespread in Lycia where the upper area of the tomb was used to bury the privileged family members while the others, such as distant relatives, slaves, treptoi, and freedmen were given the right to occupy a burial spot in the *hyposorion*<sup>22</sup>. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to consider that the abovementioned burial practice was performed in the same way in all these types of tomb structures.

Apart from βάλλω, the verb ἐγκατατίθημι, signifying unauthorized burial of bodies and bones, frequently ap-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ronchetta 2018, 57-58.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> İdil 1998, 8; for hyposorion, see Kubinska 1968, 81-84.

<sup>15</sup> Ronchetta 2018, 52-57.

Graef 1892, 82-86, Pl. 5; Coulton 2005, 139, fig. 13-14. For *bomoi* carrying sarcophagi, in general, see Coulton 2005, 139-142.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Çelgin 1990, 177-176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> de Jong 2010, Figs. 8-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See Ronchetta 2018, 57-58 and 186-191, Fig. 93. Waelkens (1980, 9) considers that tomb structures bearing a sarcophagus on their top surface may have been derivatives of the *hyposorioi* in Lycia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Keil – Premerstein 1908, 15 no. 24: "Μητροφάνης Άφίφ τῆ γυναικὶ καὶ αὑτῷ τὸ μνημεῖον καὶ τὸν σορόν, γρήσεται δὲ ὁ κληρονόμος μου Μοσσχίων

καὶ οἱ ἀπελεύθεροι οἱ ἐμοὶ καὶ τῆς γυναικός μου τῆ ὑποκάτω καμάρα καὶ τοῖς ἐ(γ)γόνοις αὐτῶν κτλ.". Cf. Kubinska 1968, 99.

<sup>21</sup> ΤΑΜ ΙΙ no. 45a: "[ἐστ]ὶν τὸ ἀ[νγ]εῖον Διο[φ]άντου τοῦ Ἑ[ρμοκ]ράτου Τε[λ]μησ[σέ]ος καὶ Ἀ[μμία]ς τῆς [συνβ]ίου [καὶ] τῶν τ[έκνω]ν. Καὶ [τ]ὸ[ν ἔ]κγωνο[ν Ἑρ]μόλυκο[ν Ἑρμολύ[κου] τοῦ Ἀγα[θη]μέρου κ[αἰ] Ζωσίμη[ν Ἀρ?]φόκρατο[υ Τελ]μησσεῖ[ς ἐπ]ιτ[ρέ]πομ[εν] κηδευθῆν[α]ι ἰς το[ῦ]το τὸ ὑ[ποκαμ]άριον. Cf. Ricl 2000, 130 n. 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Bryce 1986, 119.

pears in the fine-clause of funerary inscriptions at Alexandreia Troas<sup>23</sup>. Nevertheless, βάλλω was more commonly used<sup>24</sup>.

In the case of violation of the sarcophagus and the kamara, one of the recipients of the monetary fine designated by the owner was ἡ λαμπροτάτη Τρωαδέων πόλις<sup>25</sup>. Prior to this find, no other epigraphic documentation from Alexandreia Troas was known that attested to the use of the title λαμπροτάτη (the most splendid) for the city. Moreover, it seems that, except for Alexandreia Troas, none of the Troadic cities received such honorary titles in the Roman Imperial period. To the contrary, it is epigraphically documented that cities bearing the title λαμπρά and λαμπροτάτη were quite numerous in other regions of Asia Minor, as in the case of Ephesos, Miletos, Smyrna, Iasos, Aphrodisias, and Nysa. N.P. Milner points out that these titles generally appear in inscriptions dated after AD 200 and having the titles played a significant role in the rivalry between competing cities in some regions<sup>26</sup>. It may be noted that the title λαμπροτάτη has generally been recorded

in public inscriptions, predominantly honorary ones. So far as we find, another example attesting to the use of this title in funeral context comes from the ancient city of Kios in Bithynia<sup>27</sup>. But this is not the only instance from the city; a restored λαμπροτάτη which accompanies the word polis in a very fragmentary inscription recording the dedication of an imperial statue indicates that this title took place in the public inscriptions of the city as well<sup>28</sup>. Since the title was previously unattested in the public inscriptions of Alexandreia Troas, it is questionable whether it was officially used by the city itself. Although Alexandreia Troas was a Roman colony, namely Colonia Augusta Troadensis, however, it is referred to simply as πόλις in our inscription, a case which is not exceptional here because appears thus in the funerary inscriptions containing a fine-clause of the city<sup>29</sup>. The other recipient of the fine was the imperial treasury, the fiscus, which is designated by the term τὸ ἱερώτατον ταμεῖον in the inscription<sup>30</sup>.

This is the first occurrence of the term τυμβωρυχία (grave robbery) in a sarcophagus inscription at Alexandreia

τὸ ταμεῖον τὸ δήμου Ρωμαίων in a fragmentary sarcophagus inscription (I.Alexandreia Troas no. 158), dated to the third century AD in Alexandreia Troas. For the inscriptions recording the term ταμεῖον in Alexandreia Troas, see I.Alexandreia Troas nos. 93, 94, 96, 97. Other known funerary fine recipients at Alexandreia Troas are ἡ κρατίστη βουλῆ (I.Alexandreia Troas no. 98), ἡ συμβίωσις τῶν χαλκέων (I.Alexandreia Troas no. 122, the find-spot of which is problematic, Alexandreia Troas or Ilion), τὸ ἰερὸν γυμνάσιον (I.Alexandreia Troas no. 125), τὸ φορτήγιον τοῦ ἐμπορίου (I.Alexandreia Troas nos. 151, 152), τὸ φορτήγιον ἐπὶ τοῦ λιμένος (I.Alexandreia Troas no. 153. Note that the origin of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> I.Alexandreia Troas nos. 129, 154, 155, 159.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> I.Alexandreia Troas nos. 92, 93, 94, 99, 102, 111A, 122, 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> For the ethnic Τρωαδεύς, see I.Alexandreia Troas 4; Ricl 2000, 129.

Milner 2015, 190. On this title, see also Pippidi 1969, 243-245, 249.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> I.Kios 100.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> I.Kios 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Cf. I.Alexandreia Troas 12. See also Haake 2011, 151.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. I.Alexandreia Troas no. 129. On το ἱερώτατον ταμεῖον, see Creaghan 1951, 103; Millar 1963, 29; Robert 1970, 137 n. 4; Mason 1974, 91. I.Alexandreia Troas 92 also records the term *fiscus* inscribed in Greek, i.e. φίσκος. As an interesting example, in order to specify the *fiscus*, we also encounter the phrase

Troas, as well as in the Troad in general. Apart from a monetary fine, incorporating a supplementary measure against potential violators by adding a clause to the inscription subjecting them to the accusation of τυμβωρυχία frequently appears in funerary inscriptions imposing a fine in Asia Minor, especially in Caria, and Pisidia<sup>31</sup>. Parallel inscriptions from various sites demonstrate that legal regulations against *tymborychia* were in force in the cities and, thus, spoilers may have been exposed to juridical prosecution<sup>32</sup>.

## Figure List:

**Figure 1:** The inscribed block (Photo by the authors).

**Figure 2:** Condition of the stone in the early 2000s (Photo by M. Tombul).

this inscription is uncertain; it may be from Smyrna or Alexandreia Troas).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> On tymborychia, generally, see Gerner 1941. See also Creaghan 1951, 116.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Gerner 1941, 237-243; Creaghan 1951, 116. Cf. Strubbe 1991, 48 n. 9.

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Figure 1

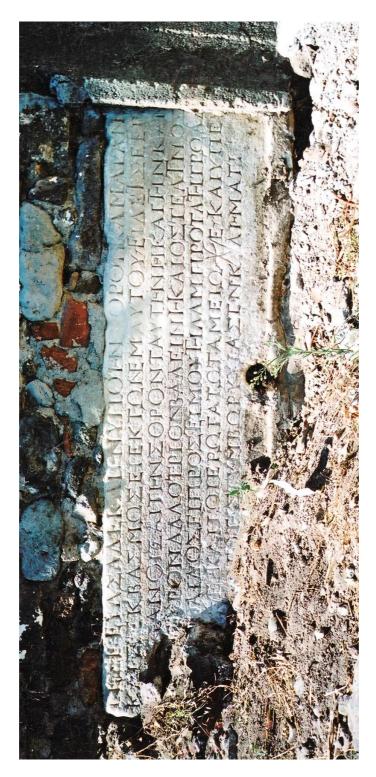


Figure 2