

NEW INSCRIPTIONS FROM ERGILI AND ITS ENVIRONS

ERGİLİ VE ÇEVRESİNDEN YENİ YAZITLAR

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Abstract: This paper presents three inscriptions from the village of Ergili, near Dascyleum and in its vicinity, in the Bandırma district of the city Balıkesir. The origins of the inscriptions are unknown. One of the inscriptions is a dedicatory inscription to Asclepius, the second an honorary inscription for an unknown emperor and the third is possibly an epitaph. Within this paper, suggestions for the restoration of the texts and dating of the inscriptions are offered, together with suggestions as to their origins.

Keywords: Dascyleum • Poemanenum • Asclepius • Stele • Honorary Inscriptions

Öz: Bu makalede Balıkesir İli'nin Bandırma İlçesi'ne bağlı Ergili Köyü ve çevresinde bulunmuş üç adet yazıt ele alınmıştır. Yazıtların hangi yerleşime ait oldukları bilinmemektedir. Ele alınan yazıtların ilki Asklepios'a yönelik bir adak metnini, ikincisi ise adı belirlenemeyen bir Roma imparatorunun heykelle onurlandırma metnini içermektedir. Üçüncü ve son yazıt ise olasılıkla bir mezar yazıtıdır. Makale kapsamında yazıtların tarihlendirme ve tamamlama önerilerinin yanı sıra hangi yerleşime ait olabilecekleri konusunda da değerlendirmelerde bulunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Daskyleion • Poimananon • Asklepios • Stel • Onurlandırma Yazıtları

In this paper, three inscriptions found in the vicinity of the village of Ergili, near Dascyleum, are presented¹. The inscriptions were not found during excavations, thus the context of these inscriptions are unknown. One (no. 3) was found on the lakeshore of Manyas (Aphnitis or Dascylitis) in the late 1980's during a survey; the other two were found in 2013 by private individuals in Ergili (no. 1) and Kızıksa (no. 2), a village *ca.* 8 km southwest of Ergili. Two of the inscriptions are held in the depot of the Dascyleum Excavation.

1. Dedication of Meidias to Asclepius

Stele of white marble, broken on top and at right. The traces of an unidentifiable relief are barely visible above the inscription. In the summer of 2012, the stele was handed over to the directorate of the Dascyleum Excavation by a private individual who stated the stele was found in the village of Ergili, near Dascyleum but possibly from Poemanenum² (Eski Manyas). Now in the excavation depot, Inv. Nr. AAA12ER.

Date: Late Hellenistic - Early Roman period from the lettering.

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² See; Steph. Byz. *s.v.* Ποιμαννών; for the localization and the archeological finds of Poemanenum (Poimananon) see Hasluck 1906; 1910, 115-123; Kaufmann – Stauber 1992, for the catalogue of inscriptions and coins, see *ibid.* 58-81.

Dimensions: H: 0,215 (preserved); W: 0,165 (preserved at top), 0,105 (preserved at bottom); D: 0,065; LH: 0,012; (Σ in ll. 1-2) 0,015.



Μειδίας Ἀπ[-----]

2 Ἴσκληπιῶ[ι ἀνέθηκεν?]

Translation:

Meidias, the son of Ap[--- dedicated?] to Asclepius.

L. 1: Μειδίας Ἀπ[ολλωνίου?] is a possible restoration. Apollonios is a common name in Mysia, see; *LGPN V/A*, 53 - 55, s.v. Ἀπολλώνιος (985 - 1278).

The personal name Μειδίας is attested in many inscriptions from Mysia, especially from Cyzicus and Dascyleum, see; *LGPN V/A*, 287, s.v. Μειδίας.

L. 2: The line can be restored as Ἴσκληπιῶ[ι χαριστήριον.], cf. Robert – Robert 1976, 232-35 and fig. 10. Reading Ἴσκληπιῶ is also possible without iota adscriptum.

One can easily suggest this inscription should be ascribed to Poemanenum due to the mention of Asclepius in the second line. The cult of Asclepius at Poemanenum is attested in literary sources, inscriptions and also on coins; According to Aelius Aristeides³, there was a holy and renowned temple of Asclepius in Poemanenum, a region of Mysia. Considering that Aristeides was born in Hadriani ad Olypnum (near Orhaneli), a town of Mysia, and that he was interested in the Asclepius cult with regard to finding a remedy for his illnesses⁴, this text should be considered as evidence of the existence of a temple in the IInd century A.D. Further, an inscription ascribed to Poemanenum provides evidence of the existence of a temple of Asclepius and Apollo in the early principate⁵. A Hellenistic inscription on a votive stele from Dascyleum, which was dedicated to Asclepius and Apollo as a thank-offering by a phourarch - Protagorides, son of Hecataeus⁶ strengthens the evidence. In addition to epigraphic evidence, the image of Asclepius can be found on some Roman coins of Poemanenum from the reigns of Trajan⁷ and Hadrian⁸.

2. Statue Base of an Unknown Emperor

White marble statue base with moulding above. Broken in the upper right corner. There is a clamp-hole on the top. The left lateral surface is rough-chiseled and there is a hole which appears to be a

³ Aristid. *or.* XXVI. (Ἱεροὶ λόγοι δ΄) 321, 20 - 23; ἔστιδὲ Ποιμανηνὸς χωρίον τῆς Μυσίας καὶ ἐναυτῶ ἱερὸν Ἴσκληπιῶ ἁγίον τε καὶ ὀνομαστὸν, ἐνταῦθα ἐτελέσαμεν σταδίου ἐξ ἡκοντα μάλιστα καὶ ἑκατόν. also see Edelstein – Edelstein 1998, 417 t. 812.

⁴ See e.g.; Petsalis-Diomidis 2008, 139; also see; Petsalis-Diomidis 2010, 122-150.

⁵ Kaufmann – Stauber 1992, 64-67 no. 10 (l.17) [ἄ]γαλμα μαρ[μάρτιν]ον [ἐν τ]ῶι τοῦ Ἴσκληπιῶ καὶ Ἰπόλλωνος ἱερῶ[ι], κτλ.

⁶ Robert – Robert 1976, 232-235; *SEG XXVI*. 1336. It is possible to ascribe the inscription to Poemanenum.

⁷ Mionnet 1807, 628 no. 725 = Kaufmann – Stauber 1992, 74 no. 32.

⁸ Kaufmann – Stauber 1992, 80 no. 56.

niche. Found in the modern cemetery of Kızıksa, a village *ca.* 8 km southwest of Ergili, in 2013. The original location of this base is unknown; likely brought from the vicinity; possibly from Poemanenum, Dascyleum or Cyzicus.

Date: Late IInd – IIIrd century A.D. from the lettering.

Dimensions: H: 0,68; W: 0,53; D: 0,50; LH: 0,025.

^{vac.} ἀγα[θ]ῆ τύχη^{vac.}

2 ὑπὲρ ὑγεί[ας] καὶ νείκης καὶ

[α]ἰωνίου δ[ια]μονῆς^{vac.}

Translation:

With good fortune, for the health and victory and eternal endurance of...



L. 2: ΠΕ, ΚΕ (both) and ΝΕ ligature

L. 3: ΝΗ ligature

The text does not contain the name of the honorand. Any trace of a *rasura* could not be observed under the 3rd line or even on the moulding. It is possible that the name of an emperor could have been written in paint on the surface under the 3rd line, but no trace of paint could be observed.

3. Epitaph (?) of Alexander

Fragment of a conical shaft of white marble with a circular base. The shaft is broken on the top and back. The circular base is preserved at the sides, broken at the front and back. The function of the shaft has not been clearly determined, it was possibly the lower part of a conical grave marker or a *phallus* placed on the grave. Found on the lakeshore of Manyas (Aphnitis or Dascylitis) in the late 1980's during a survey. Now in the Dascyleum Excavation depot.

Dimensions: H: 0,37; Dia: 0,36 (base, bottom); 0,23 (shaft, lower); 0,194 (shaft, upper); LH: (ll. 1-2) 0,05; (l.3) P: 0,055; O: 0,04; Y: 0,055.

Date: Roman Period, possibly IInd - IIIrd century A.D. from the lettering.

Ἄ[λεξ]-

2 ἀνδ-

ρου

Translation:

(Grave ?) of A[lex]ander.



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