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New Inscriptions from Idyma

ABSTRACT: This article presents four new inscriptions from the Karian city of Idyma. The inscriptions were found during the surveys and excavations on the site between the years 2019 and 2022. Two of the inscriptions (nos 1 and 2) are from an artificial terrace on the southern slope of Küçük Asar hill, which may have been an important part of the urban centre of Idyma in the Hellenistic period. The inscription no. 1 belongs to an altar of Arsinoe II Philadelphos. It shows that Idyma was under Ptolemaic control in the early 260s BC. The *epidosis* list no. 2 provides direct evidence that the city was part of the Rhodian Peraia in 175 BC. It is dated by the Rhodian eponymous priest and the board of *prytaneis* of Idyma. The subscription aimed to finance a *palaistra*. Among the fifteen subscribers whose names are preserved there are also the Rhodian governor in charge of the city (*epistates*) and two Rhodian military officials (*hegemones*). The fragmentary inscriptions nos 3 and no. 4 were excavated in the ruins of the medieval castle at İnişdibi. The inscription no. 3 is a dedication of the κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανιστῶν Δωριῶν? for Artemi[doros]. The association was possibly named after its founder (Doros?). The designation of this private association as κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανιστῶν indicates Rhodian influence. The last inscription is very fragmentary. It probably contains a decree of the city in honour of an unknown Rhodian.

KEYWORDS: Idyma, Arsinoe Philadelphos, Rhodian Peraia, subscription list, eranistai.

Idyma, the small *polis* at the eastern end of the Gulf of Keramos (modern Gökova Körfezi), has hitherto revealed nineteen epigraphic documents.¹ New excavations carried out under the direction of Abdulkadir Baran indicate that the pre-Roman urban centre of Idyma was situated on the southern slope of Küçük Asar hill, at the north of the village of Gökova. The following inscriptions no. 1 and 2 were found on the artificial terrace, on the southern slope of Küçük Asar. In the eastern section of the terrace, Baran and his team uncovered a block of an altar for Arsinoe Philadelphos (no. 1) during a survey in 2020. The year before, a block with the list of persons who promised to contribute to the construction of a *palaistra* (no. 2) was found near the wall of a Hellenistic building in the western section of the same terrace during illegal digging activities.

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¹ Inscriptions known up to 1991 are compiled in the corpus of Blümel (I.Peraia 601–615), republished with some corrections by A. Bresson, P. Brun and E. Varinlioğlu in 2001 (HTCarie, 194–208 no. 68–83). For further texts found in the vicinity of Idyma see Aytaçlar – Gürbüz 2007, 134–136; SEG 57, 1638 (inscription from a chamber tomb in Akyaka for a woman from Symbra) and Ünver – Yaman 2013, 139–143, no. 1–2; SEG 63, 882–883 (two further late Hellenistic – early Roman funerary inscriptions found in the modern cemetery of İnişdibi), see also Blümel 2016, 96–97. For the site of Idyma see Robert 1937, 480–485 with pl. XXX–XXXIX; Bean – Cook 1957, 68–72; İren – Gürbüz 2005 and 2006; İren 2013.

founders. The document in question is a dedication of a private association for the Rhodian Athanagoras and it is dated, on the basis of the letters, to the first half of the first century BC (I.Rod.per. 90 = I.Peraia 604): ὑπὲρ | Ἀθαναγόρα Μ[υωνίδευς?] | Ῥο[δίου] | τὸ κοινὸν τῶ[ν ----] | Σωσιγενείω[ν --- | ε]ὑεργεσίας [ἔνεκεν τῆς] | εἰς αὐτούς, | θε[οίς]. The lost word after τὸ κοινὸν was probably τῶ[ν ἑρανιστῶν]. The namesake of this association from Idyma was obviously Σωσιγένης.²² By analogy, the name of the person, after whom the κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανιστῶν in our new document is called, ended with the suffix -ρος or -ρις *vel sim*. The epithet of the association was short (only two or three letters of it are lost in l. 2), therefore one may suggest e.g. [τ]ὸ κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανι[σ]τῶν Δω[ρ]ίων as the official name of the association and a person Δῶρος *vel sim*. as eponym (for the androponym Δῶρος in the region see LGPN VB, p. 127).

4. Fragment of an Honorific Decree for a Rhodian?

Fragment of a white marble stele, broken at top and right. There is a profile at the lower edge and the tenon is partially preserved at bottom. The inscribed surface of the stele is quite worn, only some letters are visible under optimal light.

Reused as a wall block in the «Northern Tower IX» of the Medieval Castle in İnişdibi. Found during excavation work in 2022.

Dimensions: H: 0.23 m (with tenon 0.31 m); W: 0.33 m (with profile 0.35 m); D: 0.14 m (with profile 0.15 m); LH: 0.015 m.

Date: Probably Hellenistic period.

ca. 7 lines illegible

[ca. 6]EP[ca. 2]ON [- - -]

2 [ca. 5] Ῥόδιον [- - -].

On the basis of the word Ῥόδιον the inscription could belong to a decree honouring a Rhodian, but it is too fragmentary to determine the content.



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²² For other associations in the region named after their founders, see the evidence from Kedreai and Kallipolis mentioned in fn. 15. The *koinon* of Kedreai was named after Theudotos, that of Kallipolis after Polemakles.

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Idyma'dan Yeni Yazıtlar

Öz: Makalede bir Karia kenti olan Idyma'dan dört yeni yazıt tanıtılmaktadır. Yazıtlar kentte yürütülen kazılar sırasında 2019–2022 yılları arasında ele geçmiştir. İlk iki yazıt (no. 1 ve 2) Küçük Asar Tepe'nin güney yamacında, Idyma'nın Hellenistik Dönem kent merkezi olması muhtemel bir yapay teras üzerinde bulunmuştur. Yazıt no. 1, Arsinoe Philadelphos'un altarına aittir ve Idyma'nın MÖ 260'lı yılların başlarında Ptolemaios egemenliği altında olduğunu göstermektedir. Bir bağış listesi olan no. 2, kentin MÖ 175 yılında Rhodos Peraia'sının bir parçası olduğuna ilişkin doğrudan kanıt sunmaktadır. Yazıt, Rhodoslu *eponym* rahip ve Idymalı *prytanlar* kurulu ile tarihlenmiştir. Bağış çağrısı bir *palaistra*'yı finanse etmek için yapılmıştır. İsimleri korunmuş onbeş bağışçı arasında kentin Rhodoslu yöneticisi (*epistates*) ve iki *hegemon* da yer almaktadır. Sonraki iki yazıt (no. 3 ve no. 4) İnişdibi'nde bulunan Ortaçağ Kalesi'nin kalıntılarında ele geçmiş ve parçalı bir şekilde korunmuşlardır. Yazıt no. 3, bir adak yazıtıdır ve κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανοῦστων Δωριῶν? tarafından Artemi[doros] için dikilmiştir. Söz konusu dernek olasılıkla kurucusunun adıyla (Doros?) isimlendirilmiştir. Bu özel derneğin κοινὸν τῶν ἑρανοῦστων olarak tanımlanması Rhodos etkisine işaret etmektedir. Son yazıt kısmen okunabilmektedir; olasılıkla kentin, bilinmeyen bir Rodosluyu onurlandırdığı bir kararnamedir.

ANAHTAR SÖZCÜKLER: Idyma, Arsinoe Philadelphos, Rhodos Peraiası, bağış listesi, *eranistai*.