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A Roman Senator ‘redivivus’ and a new Asiarch: Two new Inscriptions from Thyateira and Hierokaisareia

Abstract: The article is a publication of two new Greek inscriptions from Thyateira and Hierokaisareia, both dating from the Roman Imperial period. The new inscription from Thyateira contains the first epigraphical attestation of the Roman senator Domitius Florus previously known only from a short reference in Dio Cassius, while the new inscription from Hierokaisareia honours a previously unattested Asiarch.

Keywords: Thyateira; Hierokaisareia; Domitius Florus; Asiarch; honorary decrees.

1. The senator Domitius Florus

Marble statue-base allegedly brought from Kayışlar¹ c. 14 km SW of Thyateira as crow flies, today kept in the Manisa Museum (copy 2000). H. 123; W. 57; Th. 60; letter-height 2–3 cm.

Date: Reign of Elagabalus or Severus Alexander.

Δομίτιον Φλώρον
τὸν κράτιστον πρε-
[σ]βευτὴν τῆς Ἀσίας,
4 [σ]τρατηγὸν Ῥωμαίων,
[δ]ήμαρχον, ἐπιμελητὴν
[τ]ῶν ὑπομνημάτων
[τ]ῆς ἱερᾶς συγκλήτου, τα-
8 μίαν τῆς Ἑλλάδος, τὸν
πάτρωνα καὶ εὐεργέτην
ἑαυτῆς διὰ τὴν ἔν τε λό-
γοις καὶ ἔργοις ἀρετὴν
12 ἢ λαμπροτάτη καὶ δια-
[σ]ημοτάτη καὶ μεγίστη
[Θυ]ατειρηῶν πόλις
[ἐ]πιμελησαμένου Τιβ. leaf
16 [Κ]λ. Στρατονεικιανοῦ νέου
τοῦ φίλου· leaf
[ὁ ἀ]νδριάς ποδῶν ἕξ, δ[ακτύ]λων
[δέ]κα, [ισ]ομήκης τῶι ἀνδρι[άντι]
20 [ἢ βάσις].



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¹ P. Herrmann assigned the village to Apollonis.

Domitius Florus, the most excellent legate of Asia, praetor of Romans, tribune, curator of the acts of the sacred Senate, quaestor of Greece, her patron and benefactor, for his excellence in both words and deeds, the most splendid and most eminent and greatest city of Thyateirenoi, through the care of Tib. Cl. Stratonicianus Junior, his friend; the statue is six feet and ten digits high, equal in height to the statue [is the base].

l. 1: The new inscription records in the descending order the offices of one Domitius Florus, the highest one being that of a senatorial *legatus pro praetore* of the proconsul of Asia,² preceded by three offices discharged in Rome: of *praetor*, *tribunus plebis*, and *curator actorum senatus/ab actis senatus*,³ the lowest and last mentioned office being the one of a *quaestor provinciae Achaiae*. This is the first epigraphic attestation of the Roman senator Domitius Florus. Luckily, he is not completely unknown, since we find a single mention of this personality in Dio Cassius (LXXIX 22.1): Δομίτιός τέ τις Φλώρος περιδρομή θεραπείας πρὸς σπουδαρχίαν, καίτοι πρότερόν ποτε τὰ τῆς βουλῆς ὑπομήματα διὰ χειρὸς ἔχων καὶ ἀγορανόμος ἐπ' αὐτοῖς ἀποδειχθῆναι ὀφείλων, εἶτα πρὶν ἄρξαι τῆς ἐλπίδος διὰ Πλαυτιανὸν ἐκπεσὼν, κατεστήσατο καὶ δήμαρχος ἀπεδείχθη.⁴ This passage demonstrates that the career of Domitius Florus had commenced under Septimius Severus when he was entrusted with the office of *curator actorum senatus/ab actis senatus*; after that he was in line for aedilship, but due to his association with Severus' praetorian prefect Gaius Fulvius Plautianus who fell from power and lost his life in 205, his career suffered a temporary setback until the commencement of Macrinus' reign, when in 217 Florus became a *tribunus plebis*. That is all Dio has to report on Domitius Florus. The new inscription from Thyateira brings with it fresh evidence to the effect that Florus began his *cursus honorum* as a *quaestor provinciae Achaiae*,⁵ went on to assume the position of a *curator actorum senatus*, after a 15-year hiatus became a *tribunus plebis* in 217, then under Elagabalus a *praetor*, to finally arrive in Asia as a *legatus pro praetore* under the same Emperor or possibly under Alexander Severus.⁶ As he was probably in his mid-forties at that moment,⁷ his career could have easily continued beyond that point.

l. 15–16: Tib. Cl. Stratonicianus Junior, Florus' friend who took care of the setting up of his statue, is already known. He was the son of Tib. Cl. Stratonicianus, *strategos* of Thyateira featuring on coins minted under Elagabalus,⁸ also mentioned as a *dekaprotos*, *strategos* and *sitones* in a recently published honorific inscription from the same city.⁹ In the last mentioned inscription, Stratonicianus Junior and his brother T. Cl. Quirinus (also known as Celsus) are honoured by the council, the people and the *neoi* of Thyateira as *lampadarchai* and *dekaprotos*. Moreover, T. Cl. Quirinus Celsus appears alone in another inscription from Thyateira, as the φίλος of P. Aelius Aelianus whose honorific statue and base he helped set up.¹⁰

² A. v. Premerstein, s.v. *legatus*, RE XIII, 1924, coll. 1143–1144.

³ For the last one, see W. Kubitschek, s.v. *acta*, RE II, 1893, coll. 289, and E. Kornemann, s.v. *curatores*, RE IV2, 1901, coll. 1795–1796.

⁴ *A certain Domitius Florus, who formerly had been keeper of the senate records and should by right have been aedile next, but had, then, before he could enter on the office, been deprived of all hope of it because of Plautianus, now recovered his standing, thanks to the vigorous canvassing of his followers, and was appointed tribune.* On Domitius Florus, see PIR² III, 48 no. 147; Barbieri 1952, 51 no. 204; Potter 2006, 16; Scott 2008, 254.

⁵ On *quaestores* active in provinces, see G. Wesener, s.v. *quaestor*, RE XXIV1, 1963, coll. 816–817. Before entering the quaestorship, Florus might have been assigned one of the posts within the vigintivirate.

⁶ The question remains as to the identity of the governor of Asia during Domitius Florus' legateship. Candidates are (M. Nummius Umbrius Primus Senecio) Albinus (c. 221), C. Aufidius Marcellus (219–222), Q. (Hedius) Lollianus Plautius Avitus (c. 224), Q. Ai(acius Modestinus Crescentianus?) (222/235), Q. (Virius/Vibius Egnatius) Sulpicius Priscus (222/235). Cf. Magie 1950, 1585; Thomasson 1984, coll. 234–235 nos. 183–184; Mennen 2011, 262.

⁷ He was probably born around 170–175 A.D.

⁸ TAM V.2, p. 312.

⁹ Herrmann – Malay 2007, 41–42 no. 25 (=SEG 57 1177; AÉ 2007, 1350).

¹⁰ TAM V.2 927.

l. 18–20: Last three lines, of which the third is completely lost today, contain some exceptional details on the height of the honorific statue decreed to Domitius Florus by the city of Thyateira (6 feet 10 digits = c. 204 cm) and its base (equal in height to the statue). Since the base is only 123 cm high today, it has lost about 80 cm of its original height, in other words, its crown and base mouldings. In his most recent book, J. Ma (2013, 249–250) adduces similar specifications on the size of the statues found in several Hellenistic honorific decrees, where the norm, for non-royal individuals, appears to have been four cubits or 185 cm.¹¹

On the βάσις as the term for statue base, cf. Coulton 2005, 136 and 150–151.

2. The Asiarch *Valerius -tus*

Tiyenli, *Kulakdede Mevkii* (SE of Hierokaisareia).¹² Quadrangular marble base broken on bottom and damaged on the sides and above. H. 74; W. 54; Th. 50; letter-height 2.5cm. Present location unknown (copy 1994).

Ἄγαθῆ Τύχη·
 [ἡ π]όλις Οὐαλέριον
 [2–3]ΤΟΝ τὸν ἀσιάρ-
 4 χην
 ἐπὶ τῶν πε[ρὶ] Σώτηρον·
 δις διοικη[τῶ]ν τῆς Μ[ε]-
 [ν]εκρατιανῆς οὐσίας·
 8 [Π.?] Αἰλ. Καικιλιανὸς
 ἐπισ[τατ]εῖ·
 [φ]υλῆς Ἡ[φαισ]τιᾶδος.



With good fortune! The city (honours) Valerius []tus, the asiarch; in the year when Soteris, son of Soteris, and his colleagues were the administrators of the estate of Menekrates. [P.?] Ael. Caecilianus of tribe He[phais]tias supervises the works.

l. 2–4: The *asiarch*¹³ Valerius honoured by the city of Hierokaisareia was previously unknown; unfortunately, his name is not completely preserved.

l. 5–7: The phrase *οὐ περί* is often encountered in literary sources and inscriptions from the Greek world dealing with boards of officials, both in the Hellenistic and Roman period;¹⁴ there are attestations in Lydia itself (TAM V.2 915; 1191; 1413; Sardis VII.1 60); Soteris, son of Soteris, is previously

¹¹ Four cubits is the size of the statue of the Ptolemaic courtier Aglaos of Kos on Paros (SEG 33 682 l. 22), and of six more honorific statues: two each from Thessaly (IG IX.2 66a l. 10; 489a l. 20), Akraiphia (IG VII 4130 l. 38 and 4131 l. 11), and Pergamon (Jacobstahl 1908, 375–377 no. 1 l. 19 and 380 no. 2 l. 30). This may have been the normal size of honorific statues in the Hellenistic period. On the other hand, Roman statues from Aphrodisias fall between 200 and 220 cm (cf. Smith et al. 2006, 29–30) and this agrees well with the height of the statue of Domitius Florus erected in Thyateira.

¹² For other inscriptions from the spot called *Kulakdede Mevkii* see Malay 1999, 69 no. 55.

¹³ We are grateful to M. D. Campanile for her advice on the matter of asiarchs. From the vast bibliography on this subject, we single out Friesen 1993, 172–208; Campanile 1994; ead. 2004, 69–79; ead. 2006, 523–584; Kirbihler 2008, 109–149.

¹⁴ The other use of the same construction is periphrastic, where it serves as the equivalent of the personal name alone. Cf. Dubuisson 1977; Radt 1980, 47–58; eund. 1988a, 35–40; eund. 1988b, 108; Gorman 2003, 129–144.

unattested; *dioiketai*, hitherto unattested in Roman Lydia,¹⁵ constituted a board of public officials of Thyateira entrusted with the management of an estate originally belonging to one Menekrates¹⁶ and subsequently conveyed to the city in unknown circumstances (intestacy,¹⁷ confiscation, bequest). This Μενεκρατιανή οὐσία is probably mentioned because its funds were used to meet the expenses of the erection of the honorific statue for the asiarch Valerius.¹⁸

l. 9: The simple verbal form ἐπιστατεῖ is here most probably synonymous with ἐργεπιστατεῖ.¹⁹ it informs us that (whether as the official superintendent of building-activities in Hierokaisareia or chosen solely for this occasion) [P.] Ael. Caecilianus supervises the erection of the new honorific monument;²⁰ a less likely possibility is that he exercised his *epimeleia* in some other branch of local administration.²¹

l. 10: The name of the phyle, the first one known from Hierokaisareia, is damaged, but one is still able to discern its first letter (H) and five ultimate ones (ΤΙΑΔΟΣ), so that there should be no doubt that the name of the phyle of [P.] Ael. Caecilianus was Ἡφαίστιος. Previously, we only had at our disposal the names of tribes of Saittai (TAM V.1 74; SEG 40 1063) and Sardeis (e.g. Sardis VII.1 12; 34; 56; 186; SEG 41 1027), and Hephaistos was not among the eponym deities in either of these cities.²² As far as we know, there are only two cities with a tribe named after Hephaistos - Magnesia on the Maiandros (IM 110b: ἐπὶ Εὐφήμου, μηνὸς Παλλεόνος, χειροκρίται φυλῆς Ἡφαιστιάδος) and Perge (IPerge I 115: φυλὴ Ἡφαιστού).

Abbreviated Literature

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|----------------|---|
| Barbieri 1952 | G. Barbieri, <i>L'albo senatorio da Settimio Severo a Carino (193–285)</i> , Rome 1952. |
| Campanile 1994 | M. D. Campanile, <i>I sacerdoti del Koinon d'Asia (I sec. a. C. - III sec. d. C.)</i> . Contributo allo studio della romanizzazione delle élites provinciali nell'Oriente Greco, Pisa 1994 (Studi Ellenistici 7). |
| Campanile 2004 | M. D. Campanile, <i>Asiarchi e archiereis d'Asia: titolatura, condizione giuridica e posizione sociale dei supremi dignitari del culto imperiale</i> , in: G. Labarre (ed.), <i>Les cultes locaux dans les mondes grec et romain. Actes du colloque de Lyon 7–8 Juin 2001</i> , Lyon 2004, 69–79 (Collection archéologie et histoire de l'antiquité, Vol. VII). |
| Campanile 2006 | M. D. Campanile, <i>Sommi sacerdoti, asiarchi e culto imperiale: Un aggiornamento</i> , in: B. Virgilio (ed.), <i>Studi Ellenistici 19</i> , Pisa 2006, 523–584. |

¹⁵ On *dioiketai* in the Hellenistic period, see Dmitriev 2005, 22; 24. For the Roman period, cf. Iasos 199; 245; *ibid.* 248: διοικηταὶ τῶν νέων; AÉ 1940, 43; INikaia (II) 1588, all with duties similar to those of Lydian officials. See also W. Brandis, s.v. διοικητής, RE V1, 1903, coll. 790–791.

¹⁶ Among the new inscriptions from Lydia published by P. Herrmann and H. Malay (2007, 28 no. 14 = SEG 57 1164; AÉ 2007, 1348) there is a damaged marble statue-base from Hierokaisareia honouring one Menekrates (or son of Menekrates), *xystarches* of the games in Pergamon, who is praised together with his family for *euergesiai* and *philotimiai* towards his native city. Of course, we cannot be sure that this is the same Menekrates whose estate became public property.

¹⁷ Cf. Plin. *epist.* 10.83–84 (Nikaia).

¹⁸ One can compare the cases found in the following inscriptions: Iasos 274 (καταλιπόντα τῇ πόλει τὴν ἑαυτοῦ [οὐσίαν] πᾶσαν εἰς ἀλ[μ]μα), MAMA VIII 482 (Aphrodisias: a distinguished citizen οὐ καὶ ἡ οὐσία πᾶσα ἐλήλυθε εἰς τὸν δῆμον εἰς [αἰ]ωνίους κ[λήρους], IGR III 499 (Oinoanda: games ἐπιτελουμένων ἀπὸ οὐσίας Με<λ>εάγριδος; Ierphesos 622 (Αντωνιανὴ οὐσία and its *epimeletai*).

¹⁹ The full form appears in Lydia as well (e.g. TAM V.1 3, 517; V.2 1233, 1322, 1335). In Hierokaisareia we find an ἐπιστάτης ἔργων (TAM V.2 1266) and a former *epistates* (*ibid.* 1268).

²⁰ Compare SEG 30 1364; 38 1172.

²¹ Cf. Dmitriev 2005, 105 on the 'very broad application' of the word *epistates*; E. Szanto, s.v. ἐπιστάται, RE VI1, 1907, coll. 200–202.

²² Unless we recognize the name in an incompletely preserved vase inscription from Sardeis (SEG 41 1029).

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Özet

Bir Roman Senatörü 'redivivus' ve Yeni bir Asiarkh: Thyateira ve Hierokaisareia'da Bulunmuş Yeni İki Yazıt

Makalede, Thyateira ve Hierokaisareia kökenli Roma İmparatorluk Dönemi'ne tarihlenen iki yeni yazıt tanıtılmaktadır. İlk yazıtta, Thyateira kenti, kendisini daha önce Cassius Dio'nun bir pasajından tanıdığımız Domitius Florus isimli bir Roma senatörünü onurlandırmaktadır. Yazıt, söz konusu senatörün isminin geçtiği ilk epigrafik belge olma özelliğini taşımaktadır. Dio'nun verdiği bilgilere göre Septimius Severus zamanında *curator actorum senatus/ab actis senatus* olan Florus, Severus'un *praefectus praetorio*'su olan ve sahip olduğu gücü kaybederek 205 yılında hayatını kaybeden Gaius Fulvius Plautianus ile olan ilişkisi nedeniyle kariyerine 15 yıllık bir ara vermek zorunda kalmış ve ancak 217 yılında *tribunus plebis* olabilmisti. Florus için dikilen heykelin ve kaidesinin tam ölçülerini de veren bu yeni yazıt senatörün *cursum* kariyeri hakkında Dio tarafından verilen bilgileri daha da genişletmektedir. İkinci yazıtta ise, Hierokaisareia kentinden olup daha önce hiçbir belgede rastlanmayan ve tam adı yazıtın ilgili kısmının

silik olması dolayısıyla bilinmeyen Valerius isimli bir *asiarkhes*'i onurlandırılmaktadır. Yazıtta Menekrates isimli birisinin malını-mülkünü yönetmekle sorumlu bir kurulun (*dioiketai*) varlığı dikkat çekicidir. Yazarlar, Μενεκρατιωνη ουσια ifadesinden dolayı yeni belgelenen *asiarkhes*'in heykelinin dikim masraflarının bu kişinin malvarlığından karşılanmış olabileceğini düşünmektedirler. Yazıtların çevirisi ise aşağıdaki gibidir:

1) *Pek parlak, asil ve yüce Thyateira kenti patronları ve hayırhahları olan Asia'nın legatus'u, Romalıların praetor'u, tribunus (plebis), kutsal Senato'nun işlerinin curator'u, Yunanistan'ın quaestor'u Domitius Florus'u sözlerindeki ve işlerindeki fazileti nedeniyle onurlandırdı. Onun dostu Genç Tiberius Claudius Stratonicianus (bu işe) ihtimam gösterdi. Heykel 6 ayak ve 10 parmak boyundadır. Kaidenin yüksekliği ise (heykelle) aynıdır.*

2) *Hayırlı uğurlu olsun! Kent, Soteris oğlu Soteris ve arkadaşları Menekrates'in mülkünü yöneticiliğini yaptığı yıl asiarkhes Valerius'u onurlandırmıştır. Hephaistias phyle'sinden P. Ael. Caecilianus ise (heykelinin dikim işini) denetlemiştir.*

Anahtar sözcükler: Thyateira; Hierokaisareia; Domitius Florus; Asiarkh; onur yazıtları.