

SOME INSCRIBED CINERARY CHESTS AND VASES FROM SARDIS*

(Pl. XXV-XXVII)

A Roman tomb near Sardis was discovered and excavated in 1986 by the Manisa Museum. A preliminary report concerning this work has recently been published in *BASOR*, Suppl. 26 (1990), 161-4 (with figs. 29-33) where also the texts presented here are announced. Of the nine inscriptions five are engraved on marble chests or lids; the rest are either incised or painted on earthenware vases. The texts on the vases are difficult to read; regarding that even photographs would not be helpful for the reader, instead we here supply drawings showing both the forms of the vases and the preserved parts of the texts all inscribed below the upper rims¹.

Some of the texts (nos. 1-4 and 6) are dated by the names of different eponymous officials who doubtless served as priests of Rome, the goddess whose name appears only in no. 1. It has generally been accepted that eponymous officials recorded with the formulae ἐν ἱερέως τοῦ δαίνοϋς or simply ἐν τοῦ δαίνοϋς as in the cases of nos. 2-4 and 6, were priests of Rome². *Stephanephoroi* as eponymous officials in this region were replaced by priests of the goddess when Asia was organized as a province after the defeat of Aristonicos³. The present texts should therefore be assigned to the period between 129 and 27 B.C. after which the cult of Rome had gradually been replaced by the Imperial Cult (For some details on the dates of nos. 6, 8 and 9 see *infra*).⁴

The persons whose names appear in our texts were possibly the members of a single large family; but it does not seem possible to create a stemma to show their kinship. The genitive Συλληγίδος following some personal names in nos. 6, 8 (?) and 9, on the other hand, seems to point to a Sardian *phyle*

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1. For a bibliography concerning the publications of cinerary chests from Sardis see E. Gibson, *ZPE* 42 (1981), 215, n. 2. For inscribed cinerary vases from the same ancient city see *Sardis VII*, 1, nos. 116 and 125-8. In his forthcoming Catalogue of the inscriptions preserved in the Manisa Museum H. Malay will also publish several new cinerary chests from the same provenance.

2. For texts with similar formulae see *Sardis VII*, 1, 116 ff.; E. Gibson, *loc. cit.*, cf. also R. Mellor, *ΘΕΑ ΡΩΜΗ*, 71.

3. See *Sardis VII*, 1, p. 47; R. Mellor, *loc. cit.* and E. Gibson *loc. cit.* (But cf. J. and L. Robert, *Hellenica VI*, 114: "... on, ne sait pas à quelle époque cette datation a été remplacée par la datation ἐν ἱερέως τῆς 'Ρώμης'").

4. On rapidity of this replacement see R. Mellor, *loc. cit.*

so far unknown¹. The presence of this name now gives us the possibility of deciphering the abbreviation ΦΥΣΥΛ² as φυ(λή) Συλ(ληίς) which is recorded on two fragmentary tiles from the Artemis temple at Sardis³. The name Συλληίς leads one to think of the possibility that the Sardians would have created a new tribe in honor of Sulla as in the case of Συλλεία organized by the Athenians in the same way⁴. If this is right, at least the texts recording *Syllets* would date later than the eighties of the first century B.C. while ca. 27 B.C. remains as *terminus ante quem*.

1- Marble chest with lid. On the front of the chest is represented a keyplate. The text is engraved on the lid. H.O.34 (at ridge), W.O.43, th.O.43, letter height 0.015 m. Inv.No.6502 (Fig.1).

Ἐπὶ ἱερέως τῆς Ῥώμης Α...Α.
 ου τοῦ Ἀρχελάου, μηνὸς Ὀλώ-
 ου τριακάδι Μηνοδότῃ
 4 Ἀρτεμιδώρου κ[αὶ] Τατίας γυν[ῆ]
 δὲ Ἀλ(ε)ξάνδρου ἐτῶν λζ'.

The name of the priest may be restored as Ἀ[ρχε]λ[ά]ου who himself, or at least his father, may have been identical as Archelaos of Sardis VII, 1, 123 (a lid of a cinerary chest) and 125 (a cinerary vase) who held the office of priestship of Rome for a period of at least four years. Buckler and Robinson inclined to believe that their Archelaos was the same man as Ἀρχέλαος Θεοφίλου appearing in IGR IV, 297, line 100.

For the form Ὀλώου cf. TAM V, 1, 704 and *infra* no.7.

2- Marble chest with inscribed lid. H.O.354 (at ridge), w.O.47, th.O.38, letter height 0.02 m. Inv. No.6504 (Fig.2).

1. To the list of the Sardian *phylai* given by N.F.Jones in *Public Organization in Ancient Greece: A Documentary Study* (Philadelphia 1987), 355-6 add also Εὐμενής founded in honor of the King Eumenes (for the text see E.Lane, CCIS II, no.30).

2. Sardis VII, 1, 186, 9 and 10.

3. For this abbreviation Buckler and Robinson thought the possibility of "a non-Greek tribe-name such as *Syl (eias)*", *loc.cit.* (cf. also N.F.Jones, *loc.cit.*).

4. L. and J.Robert, *Bull. ép.* 1953, 57. One of the inscriptions on the seating-places of the stadium at Saïttai (see F.Kolb, EA 15, 1990, no.24) seems to give the obvious reading: φ(υλῆς) Συλληῖδος, as evidence showing the existence of a *phyle* named *Syllets* also at Saïttai.

Ἐπὶ ἱερέως Διοδώρο[υ τ]οῦ Νου-
 μηνίου, Δύστρου ις' Ἀ[λ]έξαν-
 δρος Ἀλεξάνδρου τοῦ Ἀπολ-
 4 λωνίου ἐτῶν ξ'.

For the omission of the word μηνός cf. E.Gibson, *ZPE* 42 (1981), p.216 (a cinerary chest from Sardis).

3-Marble lid. H. 0.07 (at ridge), w.0.47, th. 0.37, letter height 0.02 m. Inv. No.6500 (Fig.3).

Ἐπὶ Μόχλωνος, μηνός Δίου ιγ'
 Ἀπολ<λ>ώνιο<ς> Ἀλεξάνδρου
 ἐτῶν υαc. K EXAI υαc KT

L 2: ΑΠΟΑΑΩΝΙΟΟ, *lapis*.

L 3: After ἐτῶν we normally expect a number to indicate the age of the deceased; perhaps the mason intended κε'' χαῖ <πε> (?)

For the name Μόχλων see L.Zgusta, *Kleinasiatische Personennamen*, p.242, note 171.

4- Marble chest with lid. H.0.34 (at ridge), w.0.475, th. 0.38, letter height 0.015 to 0.02. Inv. No. 6503 (Fig.4).

On the lid : Ἐπὶ Δεσκόλου

On the chest : Ἀμμιον

γυνή δὲ Πανταινέτου.

For another attestation of the Lydian name Deskylos at Sardis see E.Gibson, *loc.cit.* where it appears as a name of the father of a certain Asclepiades who served as eponymous priest of Rome. It is probable that he was the same man as our eponym (On the name Deskylos see P.Herrmann, *NOLydien*, p.15, cf.also Ch.Naour, *EA* 2, 1983, no.17 [= *SEG* XXXIII, 1983, 1016] and E.Varinlioglu, *EA* 15 [1990], no.34).

The name Pantainetos occurs also *infra* nos. 6-7.

5- Marble chest with lid. On the front side is represented a keyplate. The text is engraved on the lid. H.0.30 (at ridge), w.0.47, th. 0.39, letter height 0.015 to 0.02 m. Inv. No.6501 (Fig.5).

Ἀμμιον Μηνοδότου
γυνὴ δὲ Διογένου

6- Vase with graffiti. Height 0.41 m. Inv. No.6497 (Fig.6)

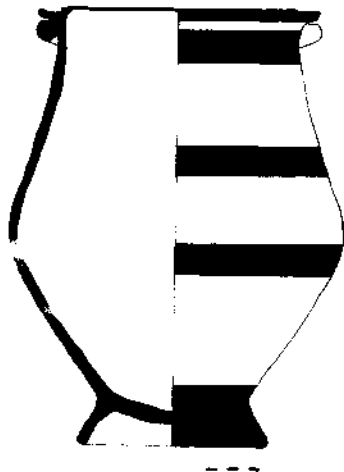


Fig.6

ΕΠΙ ΠΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΚΕΡΑΣΕΙ
ΜΗΝΟΣ ΓΟΡΠΙΑΙΟΥ
ΠΑΝΤΑΙΝΕΤΟΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ
ΣΥΛΛΗΪΔΟΣ
ΕΤΩΝ ΕΝΕΝΗΚΟΝΤΑ

Ἐπὶ Πολεμαίου Κερασεῖ,
μηνὸς Γορπιαίου
Πανταίνετος Ἀλεξάνδρου
4 Συλληΐδος
ἐτῶν ἐνενήκοντα.

There seems to be no doubt that our eponym Ptolemaios Kerasels, who must have served as a priest of Rome, is the same man as the official recorded by three other documents from Sardis:

- a) A marble ball from the Artemis temple (Sardis VII, 1,92),
- b) A cinerary vase where is the mention of his second priesthood (Sardis VII, 1, 116),
- c) A coin of Sardis (BMC Lydia, 242, 545-6, cf. Imhoof-Blumer, *Monnaies grecques*, 388, 28).

The occurrence of the name Kerasis¹ at Sardis led L.Robert to the assumption that the city of Kerassai mentioned by Nonnos (*Dionys.*, 13, 470) would have been located around Sardis² rather than at Kiresin (now Savaştepe) in Mysia³. P.Herrmann, in commenting upon a dedication to Μην Ἀρτεμιδώρου Κόρεα κατέχων thought a possibility that Kerassai and Koresa "ruled over" by the God Men might have been the same place⁴. Subsequently, simply for phonological reasons E.Lane incautiously located Koresa at Kōrez, a village in NE of Kula; he furthermore argued that "both Koresa and Keryza⁵ would have been ancient names for the same place, namely Kōrez" ⁶. Lane's speculative attempt of localisation, in fact, has not been taken into account by L.Zgusta who notes that neither Koresa nor Keryza can be located around Kōrez⁷. Like Robert⁸, in fact, he registers Kerassai as a Lydian city "bei Sardes und Tmolos" ⁹.

For *Syllets* as a possible tribe-name see the introductory page (cf. also *infra* nos.8-[?] and 9).

Pantainetos, the deceased, may have been the same person as the husband of Ammion (no.4) and/or the father of Moschion (no.7).

1. For the name Kerasis, appearing as a second name of Polemaios, the sources give two genitives: Κερασίας (*Sardis* VII, 1,92) and Κερασίης (*Sardis* VII,1,116 and our text). For the latter form see L.Robert, *Hellenica* IX, n.5 on pp. 24-5 ("génitif indigène populaire") and Cl.Bruxhe, *Essai sur le grec Anatolien au début de notre ère*, Nancy 1984, 73. Numismatical sources cited above, however, give different readings: Κερασίας (*BMC loc.cit.*) and Κερασίς (*Imhoof-Blumer, loc.cit.*).
2. *Et.Anat.*, 196-7, n.3; *Villes d'Asie Mineure* ², 278 and *Anatolia* III, 1958, 140-1.
3. A.H.M.Jones, *The Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces*, Oxford 1971, 85: "... Cerasa, probably the modern Kiresin, north of Stratonicea". But such a localisation had already been rejected by R.Kiepert in *FOA* VIII, p.3: "Den namen Cerasae auf das heutige Kiresin... halte ich nicht für berechtigt".
4. *NOLydien*, No.18, pp. 24-5 (=TAM V, 1, 460), cf. P.Debord, *REA* LXXXVII (1985), 3-4, p.353 and E.Lane, *CMRDM* I, No.47.
5. A toponym appearing on a dedication to Men (see L.Zgusta, *Ortsnamen*, 492).
6. *Anat.Stud.* 25 (1975), 109-10, cf. *CMRDM* III, 33.
7. *Ortsnamen*, 492.
8. See notably *Villes d'Asie Mineure* ², 278.
9. *Op.cit.*, 487-1.

7- Vase with inscription in ink. Height 0.285. Inv.No.6505 (Fig.7)

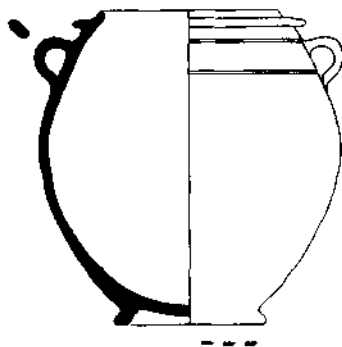


Fig.7

ΡΟΥ... Ο... ΧΕ
 Κ... Ϟ Β ΜΟΛΩΟΥ
 ΜΟΣΧΙΟΝ ΠΑΝΤΑΙΝΕ
 ΤΟΥ ΓΥΝΗΔΕΜΝΟ
 ΦΑΝΤΟΥ ΕΤΩΝ ΙΖ'

[Ἐπὶ ἱερέως - - -] -

ΡΟΥ... Ο... ΧΕ - - -

Κ[ca. 6] Ϟ β' μ[η](νός) Ὀλώου·

4 Μόσχιον Πανταινέ-

του γυνή δὲ Μηνο-

φάντου ἐτῶν ιζ'.

LL 1-3: The beginning of the third line may be restored as Κ[ερασέω]ς, a genitive from Kerasis, which reminds of the well-known person Polemalos Kerasis (see the preceding inscription); if this is right, he would have appeared as the father of an eponymous priest by whom the present text had been dated; e.g. [Ἐπὶ ἱερέως (τῆς Ῥώμης ?) - - -] ΡΟΥ... [τ]ο[ῦ Πο]λε[μαίου] Κ[ερασέω]ς τὸ β' etc.

L 3: The *omicron* of the article τὸ is inscribed above the *tau*; for this kind of ligature for the same word see Sardis VII, 1, 114, Fig.103 (fragment of a marble lid).

8- Vase with inscription in ink, Height 0.342 m. Inv. No.6499 (Fig.8)

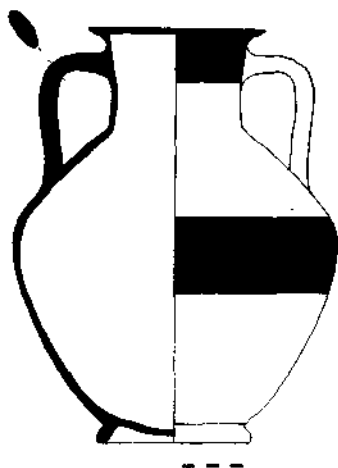


Fig.8

ΜΟΣΧΙΟΝ
 ΙΚΛΗΟΥΣ
 ΗΔΕ ΜΗΝΟΛΑΙ
 ΑΙΣ.....ΟΥ

Μόσχιον vac.

...ικλήους vac.

[γυν]ή δὲ Μ[η]νο[φ]ίλο[υ]

.....ΑΙΣ.....ΟΥ vac

L 2: For the patronym there are several possibilities, including Χαρικλῆς, Περικλῆς, Πασικλῆς, Σωσικλῆς etc.

L 3: The appearance of the tribe-name *Syllets* in Nos.6 and 9 may lead one to think of a supplement Σ[υλλητῶ]ος for the end, though the preceding lacuna would remain still unsolved.

9- Vase with inscription in ink. Height 0.368 m. Inv.No.6498 (Fig.9)

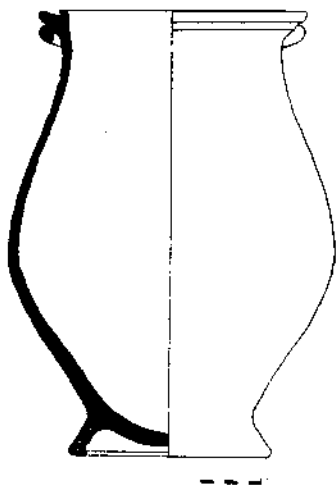


Fig.9



 ----- ΔΕ -----

 -- Σοληίδος ἐτῶν μβ'

For the tribe Σολ(λ)ηίδες at Sardis see the introductory page (cf. also *supra* nos. 6 and 8 [?]).

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