Two New Funerary Inscriptions from Bursa Museum

Fatma AVCU*

After 1993 numerous new inscriptions have been brought to the Archaeological Museum of Bursa. Within the scope of a research project conducted by Prof. Dr. N. Eda Akyürek Şahin and funded by Akdeniz University since 2004, some of them have been published¹. Two of the new funerary inscriptions are presented below.

No. 1. Epigram for Charmosynos (Fig. 1 a-b)
Find spot: Unknown. Inv. No.: -; H.: 47 cm; W.: 59 cm; D.: 9 cm; Lh.: 1,8-2 cm.

Limestone stele. On the shaft of the stele there is a thirteen-line inscription on the tabula ansata. The inscription is enclosed by a frame of ornamentation. A distaff on left side. Ivy leaf at upper right – left side and bottom right side. Scored lines with letters angled Epsilon Ε and Sigma Σ. Omega is given as ω without underline. And Upsilon is given as υ.

Fig. 1a) Epigram for Charmosynos

---

* Arş. Gör. Fatma Avcu, Akdeniz Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi, Eskiçağ Dilleri ve Kültürleri Bölümü, Kampüs 07058 Antalya (fatmaavcu@akdeniz.edu.tr).

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. N. Eda Akyürek Şahin who suggested that I publish these inscriptions, Enver Sağır and Ali Sinan Özbey, respectively the ex-director and the current director of the Archaeological Museum of Bursa for their permission to work on these documents. And also I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Johannes Nollé for his remarks concerning the manuscript.

¹ The essential corpus of the inscriptions from Bursa was compiled by Th. Corsten in 1993 (IK 39 and 40). A project for a new corpus of inscriptions in the Archaeological Museum of Bursa is in progress under the direction of Prof. Dr. N. Eda Akyürek Şahin. For subsequent publications see Akyürek Şahin 2008, 9-12; Akyürek Şahin 2010, 271-274; Akyürek Şahin – Onur 2010, 23-39; Akyürek Şahin 2014, 279-283; Uzunoğlu 2015, 397-415; Uzunoğlu – Taşdelen 2015, 37-49.
In the year 333, on the 15th day of the month Apel(l)aios: Earth covers Charmosynos [our brother?]
too early, who tasted life for nineteen years. Aurelius Kalandion (buried) his sweetest brother, Attal-
iane (buried) her brother-in-law, Herakleia (buried) her brother. Farewell!

L. 1: Sullan Era. 333 = 248/249 AD.

L. 2: Απελαίου = Απελλαίου.

L. 3-7 Whereas the pentameter of this distich is metrically, but not grammatically correct, as it
should be taken as ἐννέα καὶ δεκτέη γευσάμενον βιότου, the ‘poet’ failed to construct a metrically
accurate hexameter. The beginning (Χαρμόσυνον προπετής …) is correct, and γαῖα καλύπτει is
very common at the end of hexameters, so that we should eliminate τόν. Between προπετής and
γαία something is missing, perhaps [τὸν ἀδελφὸν].

Χαρμόσυνον προπετής [τὸν ἀδελφὸν] γαῖα καλύπτει [τὸν]
ἐννέα καὶ δεκτέη γευσάμενον βιότον.

L. 3-4: Χαρμόσυνος is a common Greek personal name. In προπετής the Omicron was written on
the top of Rho, as there was not enough space for it in this line.

L. 4: προπετής γέα is similar to προπετής μοῖρα or δαίμων, found in other funerary epigrams. γέα =

L. 11: δααίρα = δαέρα from δαήρ, -έρος: brother-in law. For spelling δαίρα instead of δαέρα cf. Bu-

---

2 Cf. IPerge 411; IG V/1 1186.
3 See the volumes of LGPN (I, II A, III A, IV, V A, V B).
4 For δαίρα also cf. TAM V/1 56, 472, 483a and 660.
No. 2. **Gravestone for Eutychianos (Fig. 2 a-d)**

Find Spot: Unknown. Inv. No.: - ; H.: 47 cm; W.: 59 cm; D.: 7 cm; Lh.: 1,5-2 cm.

Limestone with *tabula ansata*, broken into four pieces. The inscription is framed by floral ornaments. A perfume bottle was carved on the right side and an ornament (Fig. 2d: a hammer / pick-axe?) on the left side. Beneath the inscription a billhook (*falx arboraria*) (Fig. 2c), a plough and two zebus (Fig. 2b), probably the ploughing oxen, were incised into the free space of the tabula.

---

5 For *falx arboraria*, see White 1967, 85-88. Its depiction on the tomb stelae in Prusa ad Olympum and its vicinity is prevalent, cf. Uzunoğlu 2015, 40, fn. 4 (with further references).

In the year 340, month Hyperberetaios, 9th day. Aurelius Alexandros and Aurelia Diodora made 
(this grave) for their son Eutychianos in his memory. Aurelia Paulina, Alexandros, Hermodoros 
and Metrodoras honoured their 
brother. The paternal uncles Aurelius Hermogenes, Aurelius Eutychianos and Artemidoros hon 
oured their descendant. The mat 
ternal uncles Aurelius Metrodoros, 
Aurelius Alexandros, Aurelius 
Hermogenianos, Artemidoros and 
Nikeros honoured their nephew, 
and all the rest of kinship honoured 
him. Farewell passenger!

L. 1: Sullan Era. 255/256 A.D.
The letters recorded on the stone are ΥΠΕΡΒΕΤΕΟΥ, which should actually have been Υπερβε 
tεου (=Υπερβερεταιου).

L. 3: ὑῷ = υἱῷ.

L. 6: ἐτείμησαν: The usage of this honorific formula in a funerary context is not unusual in the re 
igion of Bithynia. According to an inscription preserved in the Bursa Museum and published re 
cently by Uzunoğlu and Taşdelen (2014, 42-43, no. 5), there are even examples in which the grave
owner was honoured with a golden wreath “χρυσός στεφάνῳ” by his threptoi, threptai and freedmen.

L. 13: ἀδελφιδέος: brother’s or sister’s son, nephew. In accusative casus “ἀδελφίδεα” term’s kinship connection is not clear. It was recorded a limited number in inscriptions which do not give a clear explanation for the kinship connection⁷. In such a case it should have connection to the maternal uncle. There are also in the nominative casus “ἀδελφιδοῦς”, and “ἀδελφιδῆ” versions which mean nephew⁸.

![Fig. 3) Possible family ties of the individuals in no. 2](image)

**Bibliography**


Cremer 1992  M. L. Cremer, Hellenistisch-römische Grabstelen im nordwestli-

---

⁷ See LSJ, s.v. ἀδελφιδέος.

⁸ There are only three inscriptions which contain in the accusative casus ἀδελφίδεα term. One is from Asia Minor. The other ones are from Delos and Lindos. For these inscriptions see TAM V/1 707; ID 1993; Lindos II 455.

⁹ These terms are attested frequently. For some examples from Asia Minor see TAM V/1 702; SEG XL 1099.
Bursa Müzesi’nden İki Yeni Mezar Yazıtı

Özet

Bu yazida Bursa Müzesi’nden iki adet mezar yazıtı tanıtılmaktadır. Eserlerin buluntu yerleri bilinmemektedir. 1 numaralı yazıt Kharmosynos için kard eşleri ve yengesi tarafından yaptırılan mezara ait bir şiirdir. 2 numaralı yazıt ise Eutykhianos için ailesi tarafından yaptırılan bir mezarin yazıtıdır.

Yazıtların çevirileri şöyledir:


Anahtar Sözcükler: Bursa; Bithynia; mezar yazıtları; epigram.

Two New Funerary Inscriptions from Bursa Museum

Abstract

This paper presents 2 funerary inscriptions recorded during epigraphic research in the depot and the garden of the Archeological Museum of Bursa. These inscriptions’ findspots are unknown. No. 1 is an epigram on a tabula ansata for Kharmosynos, erected by his siblings Aurelius Kalandion, Attaleia and Herakleia, No. 2 is a grave stone on a tabula ansata for Eutychianos, erected by his family. Both inscriptions are carved in ancient Greek.

Keywords: Bursa; Bithynia; funerary inscriptions; epigram.