Epigraphic Research around Juliopolis III: Roman and Byzantine Inscriptions from Doğandere and Juliopolis

Abstract: This paper presents a milestone (no. 1) found in Doğandere Village which lies between Nallıhan and Mudurnu (ancient Modrene) and several recently discovered Roman and Byzantine inscriptions (nos. 2-11) from Çayırhan (ancient Juliopolis), Ankara. The milestone dating to 285-286 is important as it stands on the northern route to Claudiopolis. It was erected by Tryfonianus, the Governor of Pontus. The excavations in the Byzantine necropolis of Juliopolis revealed new inscriptions including three Roman grave stones used as building blocks at a later period. No. 2 was erected by a certain Antonius for his freedman Chariton. No. 3 records Apolaustos and Claudia built a tomb for their parents. No. 4 is fragmentary inscription possibly erected for a man by his wife and son. Nos. 5-11 are Byzantine funerary inscriptions. No. 5 is a grave stone for the copper-smith Platon, no. 6 for the deaconess Athenoclia, no. 7 for a certain Magaris, no. 8 for the spouses Lykos and Photine, no. 9 for the priest Eutychios. No. 10 is fragmentary inscription probably for the presbyter Paulos. The inscription no. 11 is painted in a tomb decorated with red and green paintings, recording a prayer for those who were buried there and the final inscription (no. 12) is from inside the tomb of Menophilos, son of Doros, and his wife Dinis retaining its red colouring.

Keywords: Juliopolis; milestone; grave inscriptions; Byzantine necropolis; Pilgrim’s Road; painted inscriptions.

The epigraphic research from 2010 to 2014 in Nallıhan and Çayırhan concluded with new inscriptions, some of which were found around Nallıhan and preserved in the courtyard of Ayhan Sümer Cultural Centre at Nallıhan and some in the excavations of Juliopolis, have been examined. Most of those found around Nallıhan are already published by the team members¹. For the find-spots see Map 1 in the contribution by F. Onur on p. 79.

No. 1) A Diocletianic Milestone (Figs. 1 and 14)
Find-Spot: Doğandere Köyü, now in the courtyard of the Nallıhan Cultural Centre; Inv. No.: Doğandere 2010-2; upper part broken.
H.: 160 cm; W.: 40 cm; D.: 40 cm; Lh.: 2-3 cm.

¹ See Avcu 2015 and the previous contribution in this volume by F. Avcu and Y. Doğan.
For the pious and fortunate, undefeated Augustus imperator Caesar Gaius Valerius Diocletianus (erected this milestone) Tryfonianus, the excellent governor of Pontus devoted to his divine will and majesty.

This rectangular stone, the inscribed face of which is convex, although it lacks the distance numbers which normally are below the text, is most probably a Roman milestone from the form of the stone and the inscription formula. In the 3rd century A.D., in addition to their role as markers, milestones began to function as honorific monuments, as a means of showing piety to the ruler/s, erected by provincial officials, mainly by governors of the province, or by local communities. This milestone should belong in this honorific/dedicatory milestone category, from the absence of a certain starting point and a distance. The inscription should date to between 285 and 286 before the accession of Maximian as the co-Emperor, since only the name of Diocletian is recorded.

L. 6: Tryfonianus v(ir) p(erfectissimus) pr(aeses) P(onti)

L. 7: The VP is the abbreviation of vir perfectissimus. I transcribed the following letters PRPP as praeses provinciae Ponti. This transcription introduces the issue of provincia Pontus. From the reign of Nero until c. 190 A.D. the name of the province was Pontus et Bithynia. Several literary sources and epigraphic evidence records the name as Bithynia et Pontus starting from c. 190 until the mid-3rd century. Subsequently, Pontus et Bithynia was divided into three new provinces; Bithynia, Paphlagonia and Diospontos in the administrative reforms of Diocletian. The name Pontus referred to the newly established diocese of Dioecesis Pontica which included the provinces of Bithynia, Cappadocia, Galatia, Paphlagonia, Diospontus, Pontus Polemoniacus and Armenia according to the Verona List. However, on several milestones from the 3rd century and the first half of the 4th century, the name of the province was recorded as Provinciae Ponti with no mention of Bithynia. Some of the milestones with the praeses

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2 Kolb 2014, 657.
3 Niehoff 2001, 143-144.
4 Wesch-Klein 2001, 256; Baz 2013, 262.
5 Bury 1923, 132.
Ponti abbreviation derive from the province of Diospontos which corresponds to modern Sinop, Samsun, Tokat, Amasya and Çorum. In addition, one inscription is from Yukarıyanlar Village in Çankırı, ancient Gangra, which was the metropolis of the Province of Paphlagonia.

The location of the inscription in Doğandere is particularly significant as it shows us that a road other than the main Pilgrim’s way, led from Juliopolis to Modrene and then to Claudiopolis (see Map 1 in the contribution by F. Onur on p. 79). Further field survey is needed to trace this road and to search for other milestones along this route.

Inscriptions from Juliopolis

Juliopolis is located on the borders of Galatia and Bithynia. Between Ancyra and Nicaea, the city was on the main route leading to the East from Constantinople. Pliny the Younger refers to Juliopolis in his letters and records “... it is situated at the entrance of Bithynia, and is the town through which all who travel into this province generally pass...” as this route had always been of importance for military and commercial purposes to the Roman Empire. The road did not lose these functions during the Byzantine period and moreover it then became the road to the Holy Land for Christian pilgrims.

The on-going excavations in Juliopolis concentrate around the necropolis of the city. The modern reservoir divides the necropolis into two slopes; the western necropolis and the eastern necropolis areas. The graves of the eastern necropolis date from the Roman and early Byzantine periods. The earliest evidence is a coin of the Emperor Augustus. The inscriptions introduced in this paper come from the eastern necropolis.
Roman Gravestones

No. 2) Grave altar of Chariton (Figs. 2 and 15)
Limestone grave altar found to the South-West of the structure identified as a bastion. H.: 98 cm; W.: 47 cm; D.: 40 cm; Lh.: 3-4 cm.

Antōnīs
2 Χαριτώνι
ἀπελευθέρωμι
4 ρω μνήμης
χάριν ἔζη(σαντι)
6 ἔτη κθ’.

Antonius (ereceted this) to Chariton, (his) freedman who lived for 29 years, in (his) memory.

Fig. 2) Detail of No. 2.

L. 1, Antōnīς: Although examples of the same spelling are known from several inscriptions in various provinces, it should be understood as Αντώνι(ο)ς.
Letter-forms employed might indicate a date in the 2nd or 3rd c. A.D.

No. 3) Grave altar of Aemilius Apolaustos and Aristainete by their children (Fig. 3 and 16)
Limestone grave altar, upper part broken, found to the South-West of the structure identified as a bastion.
H.: 104 cm; W.: 46 cm; D.: 40 cm; Lh.: 4-5 cm.

01 ................
Δ Ἀπόλαυστος
tος καὶ Κλαύ-
dia Αἰμιλίῳ
4 Ἀπολαύστω
κ(αί) Ἀρισταινέτη
6 γονεύσιν
γλυκ[υτάτοις]
8 μ[νήμης χάρ-]
t[ν].

... Apolaustos and Claudia to (their) dearest parents Aemilius Apolaustos and Aristainete [in their memory.]

Fig. 3) Detail of No. 3.

L. 01-1: perhaps [ ... Αἰμίλ(ιοι), in plural form for Apolaustos and Claudia.

15 For the examples of Αντώνις from Anazarbos, Aspendos and Attaleia see LGPN VB, p. 35; See also IG II 2097 (Attica); IG V.2 55 (Peloponnesos); IGBulg. III 1868 (Moesia – Thracia); TAM V,1 597 (Lydia; see LGPN VA, p. 40); ISyring. 1872 (Egypt).
Letter-forms might indicate a date in the 2nd or 3rd c. A.D.

No. 4) Fragmentary Grave Altar (Figs. 4, 5 and 17)

Limestone grave altar. Re-used in a later wall to the South-West of the structure identified as a bastion; broken into two pieces. Dimensions, A) H.: 67 cm; W.: immeasurable D.: 34 cm; Lh.: 4-5 cm. B) H.: 65 cm; W.: 53 cm D.: 39 cm; Lh.: 4-5 cm.

A . . . . . . ΤΟΝ
 . . . . . . ΟΜΗ
B [. . ἄνδρι καὶ
[ήμη]ς χάριν.

The tomb stone was erected by a woman for her husband. The letter-forms might indicate a date in the 2nd or 3rd c. A.D.

Byzantine Gravestones

No. 5) Grave stele of Platon (Figs. 6 and 18)

Marble grave stele found in the necropolis of Juliopolis in grave No. M270, now in the excavation depot of Juliopolis. The text seems to have been inscribed on the flattened surface of a column/altar. H.: 44 cm; W.: 26 cm; D.: 21 cm; Lh.: 1-2.5 cm.

† οἶκος
2 διαφέρων
  Πλάτωνι
4 χαλκέα
  καὶ τὰς γα-
6 μετὶς αὐ-
  τῶν Υγίας
8 Θεοδώ-
  ρ. †

The grave belonging to Platon, coppersmith, and his wife Hygia, daughter of Theodoros.
L. 4: χαλκέα: Although the word seems to be the accusative form of χαλκεύς, it should be taken as χαλκεῖ in conformity with the dative personal name. Another example of a coppersmith’s tomb is from Korykos, Cilicia (MAMA III 658: θήκη Περιγενίου χαλκεός).

L. 5-9: τίς γαμετίς ... Ὑγίας = τῆς γαμετῆς ... Ὑγείας, for the interchange of ι and η see Gignac 1976, 235-237.

L. 8-9: Ἐθοδώρῳ seems to have been added after carving the cross, which prevented the inscribing of Ἐθοδώρῳ in a single line.

No. 6) Grave stele of Athenoclia (Figs. 7 and 19)
Find-Spot: Juliopolis; Inv. No:-; Marble grave stele with acroteria found in the necropolis of Juliopolis in grave No. M275, now in the excavation depot of Juliopolis.
H.: 62,5 cm; W.: 26,5 cm; D.: 15,5 cm; Lh.: 3 cm.

†
† ἐνθάδε κα-
2 τάκιτε Αθ-
ηνοκλία
4 διάκονος.
†

Here lies Athenoclia, the deacon.

Fig.7) Detail of No. 6.

L. 1-2: κατάκιτε = κατάκειται, for the interchange of ι and ει see Gignac 1976, 189-191 and for the interchange of ε and αι see Gignac 1976, 193.

L. 2-3: The feminine name Αθηνοκλία is known from Pantikapaion (Crimea) as Αθηνόκλεια16 and from Smyrna (Ionia) Αθηνόκλεα17. For the similar name Αθηνοκλῆς see LGPN V/A p. 11.

Female deacons are reported in inscriptions from Asia Minor and from other regions.18

No. 7) Grave stele of Masgaris (Figs. 8 and 20)
Find-Spot: Juliopolis; Inv. No: -; Limestone grave stele found in the necropolis.
H.: 70 cm; W.: 36 cm; D.: 6 cm; Lh.: 4 cm.

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16 CIRB 333.
17 Smyrna 156.
18 Asia Minor: MAMA III 212b, 395 744 and 758 (Corycus, Cilicia); Jakopi 1937, 33-36 = BE 1939 451 = SEG 27 948 (Archelais, Cappadocia); MAMA VIII 318 (Iconium, Lycaonia); MAMA I 194 (Laodicia Combusta, Lycaonia); For further examples and detailed information concerning women deacons and diaconate, see Eisen 1996, 154-192; Karras 2004; Hübner 2005, 45-50.
ἐνθάδε
κατακίτε
Μασγαρις.

Here lies Masgaris.

L. 2: κατακίτε = κατάκειται (see above No. 6 l. 1-2).
L. 3-4: A Μασγαρις is attested from Nakoleia, see MAMA V 263.

No. 8) Grave stele of Leon and Photine (Fig. 9)
Juliopolis; Inv. No: -; Marble stele found in the tomb in the necropolis church.
a) H.: 16,5 cm; W.: 11 cm; D.: 2 cm; Lh.: 1-2 cm.
b) H.: 18 cm; W.: 19,5 cm; D.: 2 cm; Lh.: 1-2 cm.

διμάρχῳ?
† οἶκος διαφέρων
Λύκῳ Λέωντος και Φωτίνης
τίς αὐτοῦ γνησίας γετῆς
....

The grave belonging to demarch Lykos, son of Leon, and his lawfully wedded wife Photine.

The word carved vertically and ended with the abbreviation mark after X is probably διμάρχῳ (= δημάρχῳ). It is inscribed on the left edge and starts just before the second line, namely the name Lykos, to which it belongs, probably his official designation and it seems to have been added later, but probably at the end of, or soon after, the completion of the carving of the main inscription, as the letter types show no difference, e.g. rho and alpha.

L. 4: τίς = τῆς (cf. above No. 5, l. 5).

No. 9) Grave stele of Eutychios (Fig. 10)
Find-Spot: Juliopolis, now in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, Ankara; Inv. No: Jlp.2010/2-208; Marble grave inscription found in the necropolis of Juliopolis between the grave-niches in grave No. M204.
H.: 19,5 cm; W.: 14,7 cm.; D.: 8 cm; Lh.: 2-3.
Here lies Eutychios, the presbyter.

Fig. 10) No. 9.

L. 2-3: κατάκιτε = κατάκειται (see above No. 6 l. 1-2).

No. 10) Fragmentary grave stele (Figs. 8 and 21)
Find-Spot: Juliopolis; Inv. No.-; Marble grave stele found in the necropolis of Juliopolis at the entrance to grave No. M273, now in the excavation depot of Juliopolis. The upper part of the stele including the inscription is broken. Only two lines of the inscription are preserved.
H.: 49,5 cm; W.: 25 cm.; D.: 13 cm; Lh.: 2-3.

... Ι αὐτοῦ Μα-
2 ρίας υἱοῦ  (= Παύλου) πρ(εσ)βυ(τέρoς).

[...]Paulos the presbyter, son of Maria.

Fig. 11) Detail of No. 10.

L. 2: For the monogram (= Παύλου), see PLRE III B, p. 1566, no. 256.

No. 11) Painted inscription with Christogram (Fig. 9 and 22)
Find-Spot: Juliopolis; Painted inscription in grave No. M 392 in the necropolis. The tomb was introduced by Cinemre. The grave room has three arcasolia which are framed and decorated with red and green paintwork. The red painted text is accompanied by a Christogram painted in red and green colours. The cross is flanked by the letters “A” and “Ω” (i.e. the beginning and the end) and framed by a wreath.

(Professor) Κύριε βοή-
2 θι τοῖς
(In Christogram) οίκοι-  
A  Ω  4 σιν ἐν-
6 δε.

O lord, help those who rest here.

Fig. 12) Detail of No. 11.

From the formula employed and the Christogram, the inscription can be dated to before the end of the 7th century when the use of Christograms was steadily abandoned after the Quintisext Council of 691-2.

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19 Cinemre 2013, 408-409 and 422-423, figs. 5-7.
No. 12) The tomb of Menophilos and Dinis (Figs. 13 and 23-25)

Find-Spot: Juliopolis; No. M43. A chamber in the form of a sarcophagus, built by joining four independent monolithic slabs (Fig. 22). On the western short face is an entrance and red paintwork remains are visible around the entrance on the inner side (Fig. 23). Just above the entrance there is an inscription that still retains its red colour.

H.: 115 cm; W.: 168 cm; D.: 235 cm; Lh.: 1-4 cm.

Fig. 13) Detail of No. 12.

Μηνοφίλου Δώρου καὶ τῆς γυναικὸς
2 αὐτοῦ Δίνιος.

(The tomb) of Menophilos, son of Doros, and his wife Dinis.

L. 1, Δώρου: the nominative form of this personal name is either Δωρᾶς or Δῶρος, most probably the latter, which is more commonly found in Asia Minor, see LGPN VA, s.v. Δῶρος.

L. 2, Δίνιος: it has to be a feminine personal name in the genitive form, most probably a derivation from Δίνις, which appears as a masculine name, mostly in Thrace, see LGPN IV, s.v. Δίνις.

It is hard to date this inscription from the letter forms which are irregularly incised and exhibit different characteristics. I incline towards a date between the 2nd and 4th centuries A.D. in respect to the dating of adjacent graves and inscriptions within this necropolis area.

Abbreviated Literature

Baz 2013 F. Baz, Considerations for the administration of the province Pontus et Bithynia during the imperial period, Cedrus 1, 2013, 261-284.
Hübner 2005 S. Hübner, Der Klerus in der Gesellschaft des spätantiken Kleinasiens,
İoulioupolis Çevresinde Epigrafi Araştırmaları III:
Doğandere ve Ioulioupolis’ten Roma ve Bizans Dönemi Yazıtları


Yazıtın çevirileri şöyledir:
No. 1) Dindar ve bahtiyar, yenilmez Augustus, İmparator Caesar, Gaius Valerius Diocletianus için, onun kutsî buyruğuna ve haşmetine bağlı kalarak şanlı Pontus eyaleti valisi Tryfonianus (bu miltaşını diktirdi).
No. 2) Antonius (bu mezar altını) 29 yıl yaşayan azatlısı Khariton’un anısı velesilesyle (dikti).
No. 3) Apolaustos ve Claudia, pek değerli ebeveynleri Àemilius Apolaustos ve Aristainete’nin anısı velesilesyle (diktiler).
No. 4) ... kocası ve .... oğlu (?)... anısı velesilesyle.
No. 5) Bakırı Platon’un ve eşi Theodoros kızı Hygia’ya mahsus mezardır.
No. 6) Burada diyakoz Athenoklia yatmaktadır.
No. 7) Burada Magsar isıtmaktadır.
No. 8) Leon oğlu demarkhos Lykos’a ve onun meşru karısı Photine’ye mahsus mezardır.
No. 9) Burada papaz Eutikhios yatmaktadır.
No. 10) ... Maria’nın oğlu papaz Paulos’un (mezari).
No. 11) Ey Efendi, burada istirahat edenleri koru!
No. 12) Doros oğlu Menophilos’un ve onun karısı Dinis’in (mezardır).

Anahtar sözcükler: Ioulioupolis; mil taşı; mezar yazıtları; Bizans nekropolü; Hacı Yolu; boyali yazıtlar.
Fig. 14) No. 1, The Milestone

Fig. 15) No. 2, Grave altar of Chariton

Fig. 16) No. 3, Grave altar of Aemilius Apolaustos and Aristainete

Fig. 17) No. 4, Fragmentary grave altar
Fig. 18) No. 5, Grave stele of Platon

Fig. 19) No. 6, Grave stele of Athenoclia

Fig. 20) No. 7, Grave stone of Masgaris

Fig. 21) No. 10, Fragmentary grave stele
Fig. 22) No. 11. Painted inscription

Fig. 23) No. 12. General view

Fig. 24) No. 12. Detail from the inner side of the door

Fig. 25) No. 12. Red colour in the letters