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Two Sepulchral Inscriptions from Suvla Bay

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TWO SEPULCHRAL INSCRIPTIONS FROM SUVLA BAY.

THESE inscriptions were copied by Captain G. A. Auden, R.A.M.C., near the Salt Lake, Suvla Bay, in 1915, and the transcripts handed over by him to Commander D. G. Hogarth, R.N.V.R., with the notes which are printed between inverted commas. Captain Auden writes 'They (the inscriptions) have a good deal of personal interest to me, for the wells, by which they were placed, came in for a good deal of daily shelling, and it was only safe to linger over them in the early morning or after sunset.'

No. 1. 'On a sarcophagus used as a trough near the Salt Lake. The inscription is a good deal weathered.' The inscription is engraved on a panel flanked on either side by a rough volute or vine-tendril.

ΦΛΑΒΙΑ ΠΡΕΙΜΑ ΖΩΣΑ ΕΑΥΤΗ
ΚΑΙ ΚΛ· ΜΑΡΚΩ ΑΝΔΡΙ ΚΑΙ ΚΛ·
ΜΑΡΚΩ ΥΙΩ ΕΘΗΚΕΝ ΕΑΝ ΔΕ ΤΙΣ
ΕΤΕΡΟΣ ΑΝΟΙΞΗ ΤΗΝΣΟΡΟΝ
ΔΩΣΕΙ ΤΩ ΦΙΣ ΚΩ ΧΑΦ

Φλαβία Πρεῖμα ζῶσα ἐαυτῇ
καὶ Κλ. Μάρκῳ ἀνδρὶ καὶ Κλ.
Μάρκῳ υἱῷ ἔθηκεν· ἐὰν δέ τις
ἕτερος ἀνοίξῃ τὴν σορὸν
δώσει τῷ φίσκῳ * ραφ'

No. 2. 'On a marble slab unearthed near the well at the foot of Lala Baba, on the edge of the Salt Lake. The slab was broken at the bottom. There were mortice holes at each end behind filled with lead, and the slab had a deep square-cut groove running the whole length behind. The inscription is very sharply cut without sign of weathering.' Owing to the fracture only the tops of a few letters are visible in l. 4.

Ω Γ·ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ·ΙΤΑΛΟΥ·ΖΩΝ·ΚΑΙ·ΦΡΟΝΩΝ·ΕΘΗΚΑ·ΕΜΑΥΤΩ·ΤΗΝ·ΕΟΡΟΝ·ΚΑΙ·ΓΥΝΑΙ
 ΚΙ·ΜΟΥ·ΚΛ·ΤΙ·ΤΥΛΛΑ·ΟΥΤΕ·ΔΕ·ΤΟΙΣ·ΤΕΚΝΟΙΣ·ΟΥΤΕ·ΣΥΝΓΕΝΕΙΣΙ·ΕΙΔΕ·ΤΙΣ·ΚΑΙ·ΕΤΕΡΟΣ
 ΤΟΛΜΗΕΙ·ΑΠΟΘΕΣΘΑΙ·ΤΟ·ΠΤΩΜΑ·ΔΩΣΕΙ·ΤΗ·ΠΟΛΕΙ·ΤΩΝ·ΚΟΙΛΑΝΩΝ·ΧΑΦ·ΚΑΙ·ΤΗ·ΠΟΛΕΙ
 ΑΠΟΚΟΝΕΙΣΙ

Γ. Ἰούλιος Ἰταλὸς ζῶν καὶ φρονῶν ἔθηκα ἑμαυτῷ τὴν σορὸν καὶ γυναῖκα
 μου Κλ. Τι. Τύλλα οὔτε δὲ τοῖς τέκνοις οὔτε συγγενέσιν· εἰ δέ τις καὶ ἕτερος |
 πολμήσει ἀποθέσθαι τὸ πτώμα δώσει τῇ πόλει τῶν Κοιλανῶν Χάφ' καὶ τῇ
 πόλει | [τῶν Ἀλῶ] πεκου(ν)ησί[ων - - -

Both inscriptions belong to a class very common in Asia Minor from the end of the first century A.D., in which *τυμβωρυχία* is treated as a civil offence,¹ punishable by a fine,² to be paid either to the Roman Government (the *φίσκος*) as in No. 1, or to a city as in No. 2. The amount of the fine varies greatly (from 200–20,000 denarii); the sum here mentioned in both cases, 1,500 denarii, no doubt represents the usual penalty for the district at that period (second century A.D.).

The first inscription calls for no special comment, but the second is of more interest.

In these inscriptions the right of burial is frequently reserved to the deceased's wife and children, to the exclusion of his kinsfolk, but I have been unable to find any other instance of the formal exclusion of the children (l. 2). As Julius Italus prepared the sarcophagus during his own life time (l. 1) he obviously wished to draw attention to the fact that he was not on friendly terms with his children and relations.

L. 3 *Κοῖλα* (Κοιλὸς λίμνη) was a port on the eastern coast of the Thracian Chersonese,³ between Sestos and Madytos; Mela places it near Kynossema and says that a naval battle took place in the portus Coelos (B.C. 411).⁴ By modern geographers it is variously identified with Kilia and Kilidj-Bahr. From the time of Hadrian down to the reign of Gallienus, it was a flourishing *municipium*.⁵

¹ For the steps by which it became a crime against the state instead of a sin against the gods, see Arkwright in *J.H.S.* xxxi. p. 264.

² Hirschfeld, *Die griechischen Grabinschriften welche Geldstrafen anordnen*, Königsberger hist.-phil. Studien i. (1887), pp. 85–114.

³ Pliny, *N.H.* iv. 50, 75; P. Mela, ii. 2, 7.

⁴ Mela, *loc. cit.* 'est portus Caelos Atheniensibus et Lacedaemoniis navali acie decernentibus Laconicae classis signatus excidio.'

⁵ Head, *Hist. Num.*² p. 259.

L. 4. As only the tops of the letters are visible it is possible that the first, third and seventh letters should be Ω, Ε and Η, ΩΠΕΚΟΝΗΙ = [τῶν Ἀλ]ωπεκον(ν)ησι[ων . . . Alopekonnesos was situated on the western coast of the peninsula rather higher up than Suvla Bay, where several of its coins were picked up during the British occupation. If the suggested restoration is correct it may reasonably be assumed that Suvla Bay is in the territory of Alopekonnesos, and that Julius Italus owned property there and in Koila, as both cities are intrusted with the protection of his sarcophagus.

C. A. HUTTON.