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Inscriptions from Praesos

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INSCRIPTIONS FROM PRAESOS.

THESE fragments of inscriptions were found on the Altar-hill at Praesos in the excavation of 1901 and 1904 (*B.S.A.* viii. 254-260; x. 115, 247). The two Eteocretan inscriptions and the terracottas and other minor finds were published forthwith. The stones now described are of some interest as indicating that the sanctuary on this hill—Dr. Halbherr's 'Third Acropolis'—was the place where official records of treaties and other public documents were exhibited.

Our work in 1901, confined to the level hill-top, yielded quantities of votive offerings in bronze and terracotta, but few architectural fragments or inscribed stones. A temenos-wall and buildings within it, much disturbed by previous diggings, were laid bare. A rectangle of levelled rock seemed to indicate the site of a temple, but not a stone even of its foundations remained; the Hierapytnians, who destroyed Praesos in the second century before Christ, had made a clean sweep of any buildings that stood within the temenos-wall. In view of the number and variety of the architectural members found on the surrounding slopes and their relatively fresh condition, there can no longer be any doubt that they and the inscribed stelai were deliberately broken and thrown over the cliffs or outside the wall which bounds the temenos on the north.

The inscriptions of 1901 came from the slope outside the north gate of the temenos; the second Eteocretan inscription was found on the steps. The temenos-wall, roughly built of large undressed stones, still stands in places over six feet high. In 1904 the search along its outer face was continued and two Hellenic fragments (Nos. 7 and 10) were recovered. The whole of the area within the temenos had been cleared and refilled in 1901; but it seemed possible that older inscriptions might have been built

into the only well-preserved structure which it contained, a narrow closed stoa, constructed within and against the temenos wall (see plan *B.S.A.* viii. p. 255). Its front wall, 80 m. thick, is still preserved to a height of 65 m. above the original floor-level, and beneath this are broader foundations extending some 70 m. deeper. I had the two faces re-opened and extracted all likely stones, but found neither inscriptions nor architectural details.

We were more successful on the west side, which is at first precipitous, and then descends in irregular cultivated terraces encumbered with fallen rocks. Ancient building-stones had been noticed in several field-walls on this side in 1901, and some architectural fragments, part of an Ionic column in shell-conglomerate and pieces of a Doric triglyph-frieze, came to light in a trial made at the foot of the precipice. It seemed worth while, therefore, to work through the whole of the terraces and their supporting-walls from the valley below up to the limestone cliff. Numerous architectural members, including parts of at least three different buildings, and eight or nine inscribed fragments were obtained in this way. The largest haul, including the third Eteocretan slab, was made on a ledge halfway down the steep west face, buried under masses of fallen rock. Most of the ground belonged to Retseb Aga Perdikakes, the fine old Moslem farmer from whom Dr. Halbherr obtained the first Eteocretan inscription. He gave us a free hand and it is a pleasure to acknowledge his courtesy here.

Our search along the east face was less exhaustive but wholly barren. Possibly such stones as were thrown down on this side were utilised in the building of the Venetian village, called Pressos or Prassus, which lay 250 yards to the N.E. But to demolish the ruined churches which still stand on its site, and to excavate the ruins of the surrounding houses, would be a costly business. If ever the village of Vavelloi is re-built, other stones from Praesos may come to light there (see No. 13). The Altar-hill is not likely to yield anything more.

1. Fragment of coarse yellow freestone, 28 m. high, 26 broad, 10 thick, found in 1904 built into a field-wall on the S.W. face of the Altar-hill. It is the missing right hand portion of a decree obtained here about 1886 by Prof. Halbherr and published in *Museo Italiano*, iii. p. 599. This stone gave the beginning of ten lines, and the new piece completes

the first six of them. Together they form a slab .55 broad and .40 high, incomplete below. Letters .02 to .025 high. Traces of red paint were visible in the letters of the new fragment. The whole inscription has now been picked out with red by the authorities of the Candia Museum (Fig. 1).

FIG. 1.—DECREE FROM PRAESOS. (1 : 5.)

Θεὸς Ἀγαθῇ Τύχῃ
 ἔδοξε Πραισίων τοῖς ἄρ-
 χουσι καὶ τῷ κο[ι]νῷ ἐκκλη-
 σίας κυρίας γενομένης.
 5 Λέοντα Πανσ[ανίου] Ἀθηναῖ-
 ον καὶ Θράσων[α Θρα]σωνίδου
 Ἀθηναῖον φιλ[ίας] ἔνεκεν καὶ
 εὐνοίας τῆς [εἰς τὴν Πραισί-
 ων πόλιν δε[δόχθαι]

10 10Υ

The patronymic in line 6 fails to support Prof. Halbherr's suggestion that this Thrason might be a certain Θράσων Θράσωνος, emissary of Antigonus Gonatas and proposer of a decree in honour of Zeno at Athens in the year 263 B.C. (Diog. Laert. vii. 1. 9), and consequent

speculations as to relations between Antigonos and Praesos (De Sanctis in *Mon. Ant. dei Lincei*, xi. 495 ; Niese, *Gesch. der gr. u. mak. Staaten*, ii. 628, n. 3 ; Scrinzi, *La Guerra di Lyttos*, p. 7, n. 27, and Cardinali, *Creta e le grande Potenze Ellenistiche*, pp. 75 and 78).

2. Found 1902 on the hill-top. Two fragments, together '30 high, '22 broad, '115 thick. Letters '01 high. Museum numbers, 105, 110.

The lettering of this and the following inscriptions, 2-7 and 9-11, and 13, points to the fourth or third century before Christ.

No. 8 may be later, No. 12 is a century or so older.

	A	
	ΩΙΑΥ	Δ
	ΓΟΜΕΙ	
	ΥΝΘΗΚΑΝ	
5	ΦΑΝΗΤ, ΝΤ	
	ΓΙ	Ε
	ΙΛΥΤ	ΟΙΣΗ
	Μ	ΩΝΠΟΛΙΤ
	Ε	ΑΣΤΑΣΙ
10		ΟΛΛΩ ΚΑΙΑ
		ΚΑΙΟΥΚΕΓΚ
		ΠΟΧΩΡΑ
		ΘΕΞΙΟ
	A	

Evidently part of a treaty ; we may suspect the name of Lyttos in l. 7. In l. 4 we have *συνθήκαν*, in l. 11 *καὶ οὐκ ἔγκ[αρποῶ]*, in l. 12 *ἀπὸ χώρας*, which is often used in the sense of 'abroad.'

3. Found 1904 on the W. slope. Fragment '11 high, '185 broad, '07 thick : r. edge preserved. Letters '013 to '015 high, much smaller, between incised lines. Museum number, 104.

1 /
 -ΑΔΟΛΩΣΚΑΙΑΠΡΟΣ
 ΕΙΣΛΥΤΤΟΝΚΑΙ
 ΣΚΑΙΕΝΕΙΡΗ
 ΙΟΙΠΟΛΕ

ἀδόλως καὶ ἀπρο[φυσίστως]
 εἰς Λυττον καὶ
 Σ καὶ ἐν εἰρή[ναι καὶ ἐν πολέμωι
 ι οἱ πολέ[μωι.

Another treaty, probably with Lyttos. For the formula ἀδόλως καὶ ἀπροφασίστως cf. *B.C.H.* ix. 6, 7, ll. 4 and 14.

For ἀδόλως see also Collitz-Bechtel, *Dialektinschr., Creta* (ed. Blass), 5024, 9 and 5039, 17; for ἀπροφασίστως, 5018, 15; 5024, 16, and 5075, 7.

Dr. Xanthoudides has recently published this fragment by mistake as found at Lato (H. Nikolaos), in *Ἐφ. Ἀρχ.* 1908, p. 219.

4. Found 1904 in field-wall near No. 1. Fragment .27 high, .15 broad, about .10 thick: r. edge of stone (but not of inscription) preserved. Badly weather-worn. Letters .014 high. Museum number, 103.

ΑΥΛ
 ΑΙΚΑΙΤΑΙ
 Ν Ο ΙΟΙ
 ΕΙΜΕΙ
 5 ΝΕΓ
 ΚΑΙΓΑ
 ΛΕΣΩΝ
 ΣΤ ΛΟΜ
 ΝΑΜΙ
 10 ΑΙΤΑΟΜ
 ΩΙΑΣΤΑ
 ΚΑΙΤΑ/
 ΓΡ

Lines 10 and 11 present a close resemblance to lines 8 and 9 of No. 2.

5. Two fragments, perhaps of one inscription. The material is a fine freestone. Letters deeply cut and well preserved; average height .016. They were picked out with red paint.

(a) 1904, from W. slope, .13 broad, .075 thick. Museum number, 106.

√ΔΕΚΑΟΚΙΣ
 ΠΕΝΤΕΑΓ
 ΣΙΩΝΑΡΧ
 ΑΝΒΟΑ
 5 ΤΩΝΕΓ
 ΜΓ

(b) 1904, foot of W. slope, '175 high, '07 thick. Museum number, 151.

ΙΗ
 ΙΔΕ
 ΙΑΔΥΟ
 ΤΑΦΡΑΚ
 5 ΙΟΝΤΩΝ
 ΠΙΤΟΥΤΩ
 ΤΕΛΛΟ
 ΡΟΞΕΤ
 Ο

L. 4 suggests a mention of *πλοῖα κατάφρακτα*.

6. Found 1904 on W. slope. Fragment, '23 broad, '06 thick ; inscribed surface '14 high, '12 broad ; part of l. edge preserved. Letters '014 high, Ο much smaller, between incised lines ; remains of red paint. Museum number, 108.

ΩΞ
 ΑΦΑΣΚΑΚ
 ΙΔΕΟΙΜΕΝ
 ΘΑΜΕΡΑΙ
 5 ΩΟΝΤΙ
 ΑΛΛΑ
 Ω Λ

L. 4 *αὐθαμέραν*.

7. Found 1904 outside N. wall of *τέμενος*. Fragment '29 high, '22 broad, '13 thick, Letters '014 high. Only a small part of the inscribed surface is preserved. Museum number, 168.

Ο
 ΠΡΟΓΕΙ
 ΞΑΝΑΛΑ
 ΟΙΟ

8. Found 1901 outside N. wall of *τέμενος*. Fragment '07 high, '09 broad, '06 thick. Letters '015 high, regular and deeply cut, Ο and C smaller. The curved Δ and Λ appear on no other inscription from this site. Museum number, 113.

ΥΙΤΑΚΑΙ
ΑΛΛΟΙΣ
ΟΝ

9. Found 1901 outside N. wall of *τέμενος*. Fragment '10 high, '12 broad, '04 thick; r. edge preserved. Letters '014 high. Museum number, 107.

ΝΟΝ
ΩΣΚΑΙΑΥ
ΙΣΕΡΙΓΙ
ΙΘΕΣ

L. 3 τοῖς ἐπιγυνομένοις.

10. Found 1904 outside N. wall of *τέμενος*. Fragment '10 high, '18 broad, '07 thick. Letters '025 high, between incised lines. Museum number, 109.

ΔΩΙ
ΝΚΑΙΓ
ΟΠ"

11. Found 1904 on N.W. shoulder of Altar-hill. Fragment from pediment of stele, '12 high, '11 broad, '04 thick. Letters '019.

ΑΙΤΥ 'Αγαθ]ᾶ Τύ[χα

12. Found 1904 on S.W. face, in deposit with the third Eteocretan inscription. Fragment '13 high, '35 broad, '04 thick; lower edge preserved. Letters '03 high. Museum number, 112.

ΕΛ
ΙΑΡΙΑ

The archaic lettering recalls that of the first Eteocretan inscription,¹ and the material is the same.

13. To these may be added an inscription found in the ruined Moslem village of *Βοβίλλοι* and in all probability derived from the ruins of Praesos. It is No. 70 in the Candia Museum, '48 m. high, '15 broad, '41 thick. The inscribed face is only preserved to a height of '33. The stone has been

¹ *Museo Italiano di Antichità Classica*, ii. 673.

dressed for building and is only a slice of what must originally have been a large block. None of the original edges are preserved. Forms ΑΣΝ. Letters '017 high.

ΑΡΤΙΑ

(Two lines perhaps intentionally erased.)

ΕΡΤ

(Space for one line, never inscribed.)

5 ΛΟΣΛ

ΓΕΡΝ

ΚΟΜΝΕ

ΛΤΑΤΕ

ΛΕΑΡΣ

(Space for several lines, never inscribed.)

This seems to have been an Eteocretan inscription. The *κομνε* in l. 7 recalls ΑΤΑΡΚΟΜΝ in the second line of the third Eteocretan inscription from Praesos (*B.S.A.* x. 117). On the ending -μν- see a recent paper by Kannengiesser, *Aegäische, besonders kretische namen bei den Etruskern*, in *Klio*, xi. (1911), p. 36.

14. PRAESOS. Stele of soft white freestone, found in a ruined *μετόχι* on the East slope of the First Acropolis (Πρασοκέφαλο), below the main road. Ht. '665 m., breadth '31 m. Ht. of letters in lines 1-3, '04 m., in lines 4 and 5, '02 m. Rude pediment and acroteria above, tenon below. The inscription is on a panel '032 high.

ΑΙΜΙCΙΑ

ΖΩCΙΜΩ

ΤΩΠΑΤΙΙ

ΜΝΗΜΗC

5 ΧΛΡΥΝ

Ζωσίμω

τῷ πατρὶ

μνήμης

χάριν.

When I first saw the stone I read ΑΙΜΙCΙΑ in the first line; since then the surface of the soft freestone has disintegrated, and the name is now illegible.

Now in the Candia Museum.

Compare similar inscriptions found near Ziro (Halbherr, *Mus. Ital.* iii. p. 601, No. 31), Piskokephalo (*ib.* No. 32), and Sitia (*ib.* No. 33), all in the

same neighbourhood. *Ζώσιμος* and *Ζωσίμη* seem to have been common nouns in East Crete in Roman times (Halbherr, *l.c.* Nos. 49 and 96).

15. EPISKOPE, (a village distant half-an-hour to S.W. of the town of Sitia). In the house of a Moslem : stele of close-grained freestone '43 m. high, '05 thick, blackened with fire, and broken in two pieces, with inscription in a sunk panel '29 m. high and '31 wide. Shallow lettering, '025 high.

ΕΥΚΑΡΠΟΣ,
ΚΩΝΙΤΩΠΑΙ
ΔΙΩΜΝΗΜΗΣ
ΧΑΡΙΝ

Εὐκαρπος Γ[λυ
κωνι τῷ παί-
δίῳ μνήμης
χάριν.

I bought the stele and placed it in the Candia Museum, where it bears the number 116.

16. ACHLADI, (a village one hour S.W. of Sitia). Seen in the cellar under the Demarcheion of Sitia. Stele of freestone, broken below, '46 m. high, '44 wide, '13 thick ; above is a large pediment, with a six-leaved rosette carved in the tympanum, and a column in low relief at either side of the inscribed surface. Letters '03 high.

ΚΑΛΟΠΟΥΣ
ΣΩΣΙΒΙΩ

Καλοπούς
Σωσιβίῳ
[μνήμης
χάριν]

R. C. BOSANQUET.