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Two New Graves and Some Fragmentary Inscriptions from Termessus

Termessos'tan iki Adet Mezar Yazıtı ve Bazı Fragman Yazıtları

Ferit BAZ *

Abstract: This article presents two new burial inscriptions from the necropolis areas E3, E4 and two new fragmentary inscriptions at Termessus. They were discovered during the 2018 and 2019 surveys conducted by the author in the city of Termessus. Both inscriptions belong to the Roman Imperial Period. The first inscription was found in area of E3. It is a fragmentary inscription which gives the name Artemeis as a grave owner. The names of the other owners have not been reached. The second inscription talks about the persons Aurelia Eukarpia, Aurelius Hermodorus and Agoraste as a graveowners. Both burial inscriptions mention that the fine should be paid to Zeus Solymeus, the chief god of the city. This is quite common in Termessus. The third one is a fragmentary inscription and most likely belongs to a sculptural honorary monument. The stone that bears inscription, looks like a flat pedestal and most likely it honors a man whose name ends with letters -doros. Probably for Theodoros. The fourth is another fragmentary inscription found in the area of the bouleterion. On the block were probably carved the names of a female and a male in the genitive case and least the Greek word thygater.

Keywords: Grave, Sarcophagus, Termessus, Necropolis

Öz: Aşağıdaki makalede Termessos'taki E3, E4 ve iki yeni fragman yazıtı nekropolis alanlarında bulunan iki adet yeni mezar yazıtı sunulmaktadır. İlki E3 nekropolis alanında bulunmuştur. Fragman yazıtı olup, mezar sahibi olarak Artemeis isminden bahsetmektedir. Mezarın diğer sahiplerinin isimlerine ulaşılmamıştır. İkinci yazıt ise mezar sahipleri olan kimselerden Aurelia Eukarpia, Aurelius Hermodorus ve Agoraste'den bahseder. Her iki mezar yazıtında ceza miktarlarının kentin baş tanrısı Zeus Solymeus'a ödenmesi kararlaştırılmıştır. Söz konusu bu durum Termessos'ta oldukça yaygın bir biçimde karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Üçüncü yazıt bir fragman yazıtı olup büyük bir olasılıkla heykelli bir onurlandırma anıtına aittir. Yazıt taşıyıcısı basık bir kaide görünümünde olup büyük bir olasılıkla isminin sonu -doros olan bir erkek şahıs onurlandırılmaktadır. Olasılıkla bu isim Theodoros'tur. Dördüncü yazıt ise bouleterion yapısının yakınında bulunmuş olan diğer bir fragman yazıtıdır. Blok üzerinde büyük bir ihtimalle en başta bir kadın adı, sonrasında genitivus halinde bir erkek adı, en sonunda ise kız çocuğu anlamına gelen thygater ibareleri yer almakta idi.

Anahtar sözcükler: Mezar, Lahit, Termessos, Nekropolis

This article concerns some of the epigraphical works carried out in the E3 and E4 necropolis areas, main street and bouleterion under chairmanship of Ferit Baz in 2018 and 2019. Firstly, the inscriptions found in the necropolis areas are evaluated, and then two fragmentary inscriptions

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found on the main street and in the area of the bouleterion are discussed. As it is known, Termessus is a settlement that is famous for its large number of necropolis areas and for the diversity of grave finds. Ten necropolis areas of various sizes are known in the city¹. Each of these was marked with the letter E on the city plan drawn by Eugen Petersen, and this marking has been used by other researchers of Termessus².

Necropolis areas E3 and E4 are located in the rural area outside the city walls. Both necropolis areas are located relatively lower on the slopes overlooking the Mecene Strait. The E3 necropolis lies between Top Tepe, the summit of Güllük Mountain, and the lower rocky hill rising to the west, and on the eastern slopes of this hill³. While going to the region called Sarnıçlı Vadi, people pass through this necropolis. In this respect, a road route passes through the necropolis area. Even the niches on some rocks and the grave areas created should have been visible to people passing through this area. The E4 necropolis area is located just to the southwest of the E3 necropolis area, to the east of the theatre building, but at a level much lower than it. It is visible to people coming out of the city wall to go down to the Mecene Strait. Compared to E3, sarcophagi are observed much more frequently and are greater in number. Within our survey each one of the inscriptions here was researched and in this way the systematic epigraphic investigation of both the E3 and E4 burial areas was completed⁴.

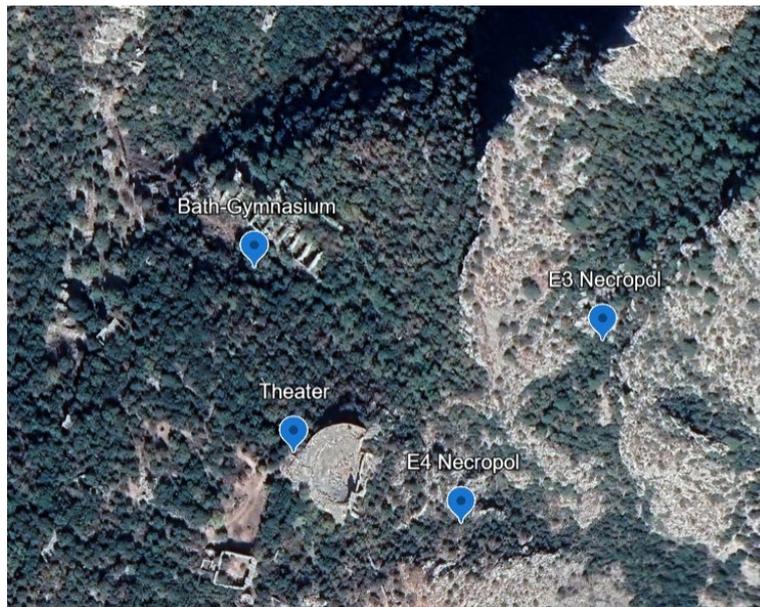


Fig. 1. Google Earth photo showing the necropolis areas E3 and E4

1. Sarcophagus of Artemeis and her Family Members

Fragment of a sarcophagus made of local limestone. It was found east of the E3 necropolis area. It was found in a rocky area shaped like a rock shelter. The sarcophagus is broken on all sides. We only have partial possession of the middle and lower part of the inscription which consists of four lines. Letters slanting towards the left are carved in different sizes. The writing shows medium care.

Inv.no: TER2019/37.

¹ For necropolis areas and burial customs see Çelgin 1990.

² Çelgin 1994, 156.

³ Tüner Önen & Arslan 2021, 227-228.

⁴ Two new inscriptions were published from the E3 in 2021, Tüner Önen & Arslan 2021, 227-234.

H.: 32 cm, W.: 55 cm, D.: 25 cm, L.H.: 4-7,5 cm.

Coordinate: 36°58'58" N - 30°27'59" E; Altitude: 1025 m; Fallibility: approx. 10 m.

Date: Probably before 212 A.D.

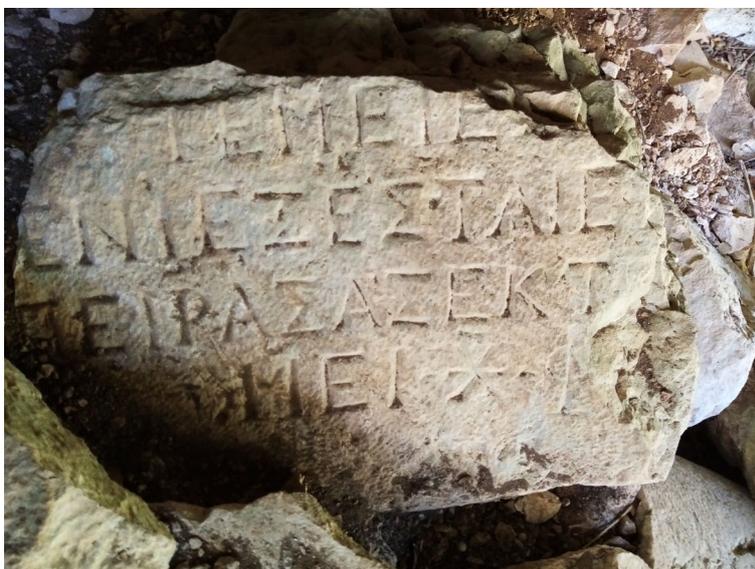


Fig. 2. Sarcophagus of Artemeis and her Family Members

[--- τήν σωματοθήκην ---]

[-----]

[καὶ τῆ -- αὐτοῦ] Ἀρτεμει' ἐ[τέρω δέ(?)]

[οὐδ]ενὶ ἐξέσται ἐπ[ιθάψαι τινά, ἐπεὶ]

[ὁ] πειράσας ἐκτε[ίσει Διὶ Σολυ]-

4 μεῖ Ξ φ'.

*Someone built this sarcophagus for
and for his Artemeis. Nobody else shall
be allowed to bury someone. If somebody
dares to do (this), he shall pay to Zeus
Solymeus 500 denars.*

The content of the inscription is similar to many sarcophagi in Termessus and can be compared in this respect⁵. Many peoples must have been buried in the sarcophagus. However, the name of one of them has survived to this day: Artemeis. This name was used very frequently in Termessus⁶ and originates from Asia Minor⁷. The name Artemeis was also frequently used in the inner parts of Asia Minor⁸. The paying of the penalty to Zeus Solymeus is also very common in Termessus⁹. As it is known, the Zeus Solymeus cult was at the top of the city's pantheon¹⁰. The amount of 500 denars to be paid is also known from other inscriptions¹¹. Against tomb robbers, not only such notices on the sarcophagi were made, but other precautions were taken¹².

2. Sarcophagus of Aurelia Eukarpia, Aurelius Hermodoros and Agoraste

Sarcophagus made of local limestone. In the middle of the E4 necropolis. It is overturned approx-

⁵ See for example TAM III,1 304, 659, 707.

⁶ See TAM III,1, p. 316-317 (index). LGPN VC, s.v.

⁷ Zgusta 1964, 108-111; Çelgin 2001-2002, 124 fn. 6.

⁸ LGPN VC, s.v.

⁹ Çelgin 1994, 166; İplikçioğlu *et al.* 2007, 317-320; Tüner Önen & Arslan 2021, 233. For the inscriptions regarding the amounts of fines to be paid to Zeus Solymeus see Akçay & Gürel 2018, 10-11 fn. 27.

¹⁰ For the cult of Zeus Solymeus see Kosmetatou 1997, 51-56.

¹¹ See for example TAM III,1 235, 245, 264.

¹² Çelgin 1994, 166, 189-191.

imately 15 meters east of the city wall. The sarcophagus is broken off at the lower right and upper right corners. Three sides of the sarcophagus are carved, the back side has been left rough. On the main long face there is a tabula ansata carved in the middle and a round shield depiction on both sides. There is also a round shield depiction in a frame on each side face. As it appears, the inscription consists of ten lines, The name Artemidoros appears to have been later added to the inscription.

Inv.no: TER2019/49.

H: 106 cm, W: 208 cm, D: 115 cm, L.H: 1,5-5,5 m.

Coordinate: 36°58'58" N - 30°27'57" E; Altitude: 950 m; Fallibility: approx. 10 m.

Date: Because of Aurelia/-ius after 212 A.D.



Fig. 3. Sarcophagus of Aurelia Eukarpia, Aurelius Hermodoros and Agoraste

[Ἡρακλέων — — — κατεσκεύασα τὴν σωμαθήκην(?) ἐαυ]-

τῶ καὶ τῇ προενουσίῃ αὐτοῦ γυναικὶ Αὐρηλία Εὐκαρπία Ἐρμαίου

καὶ τῶ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ Αὐρ(ηλίω) Ἐρμοδώρῳ Ἡρακλέωνος <καὶ> Ἀγοράστῃ θυ(γατρὶ) Αὐρηλίου)

4 <Ἄρτ>εμιδώρου

μόνοις· ὁ ἐτέρῳ δὲ οὐδενὶ ἐξέσται ἀνοῖξαι ἢ ἐπενθάψαι

αὐτοῖς τινα,

ἐπεὶ ὁ πειρά-

8

σας ἐνσχε-

θήσεται ἐν-

κλήματι τυμ-

βωρυχίας

12

καὶ προστείμου ἐκτείσει ἀπαρετήτους Διὶ Σολυμεῖ ✕ ,αφ'.

[Heracleon, son of so and so built this sarcophagus] for himself and for his own wife, Aurelia

Eukarpia, daughter of Hermaios, who is now in the sarcophagus, and for his own son, Aurelius Hermodorus, son of Heracleon <and> for Agoraste, daughter of Aurelius Artemidorus, only for them. Nobody else shall be allowed, open this sarcophagus or bury someone above them. If anyone dares to do (this), he will be subject to an accusation for grave-robbery and will pay inevitably the penalty of 1,500 denars to Zeus Solymeus.

The use of the formula ἐνοσχεθήσεται ἐνκλήματι τυμβωρυχίας in the epigraphic habit of Termessus is very common¹³.

The word ἀπαρετήτους = ἀπαραιτήτους was seldom used in Termessus¹⁴.

In another inscription, there is a record for Aurelia Eukarpia, daughter of Hermaios. An unknown person erected a grave monument for Eukarpia¹⁵. Due to the similarity of the names, there may be a kinship relationship between two Aurelia Eukarpia. Apart from that, all the other names mentioned on the inscription are known from Termessus¹⁶. The amount to be paid to Zeus Solymeus of 1500 denars is also found on other inscriptions¹⁷.

3. Fragment of an Honorary Inscription (for Theodorus ?)

Fragment of an inscription. The stone is local limestone and it looks like a small architrave block. It was found in the middle of the main street, approximately 30 m. from the south gate. The upper part of the stone is decorated and the stone is broken on all sides. Only the letters written below are visible.

Inv.no: TER 2018/13

H: 31 cm, W: 84 cm, D: 54 cm, L.H: 4,5-5,3 cm.

Coordinate: 36°983'936" N - 30°462'665" E; Altitude: 997 m; Fallibility: approx. 4. m.

Date: Roman Imperial Period.



Fig. 4. Fragment of an Honorary Inscription

¹³ For example TAM III,1 218, 246, 259, 280, 307, 379, 387, 389.

¹⁴ For example TAM III,1 633.

¹⁵ İplikçioğlu *et al.* 2007, no. 50.

¹⁶ TAM III,1 index.

¹⁷ For example TAM III,1 264, 361, 367.

To . [4-6]οδωρον

The fragment above most likely belongs to a sculpted honorary monument. The inscription probably contains the definite article masculinum in the accusative form, and the name of the honored person ends with the letters -doros. In this context, Greek personal names ending with -doros should be considered. The letters that can be read in the inscription probably belong to the expression τὸν καὶ Θεόδωρον. This Expression appears in a previously published inscription¹⁸: Αὐρ(ήλιος) Ἐρμαῖος τὸν καὶ Θεόδωρον · Αὐρ(ήλιος) Ἐρμαῖος Αἰλίου Πλάτωνος, ὁ πατήρ.

4. An Inscription of Unknown Content

The rectangular block is carved from local limestone. It was found 10 m. north of the bouleuterion wall. It was noticed that there were five letters on the undecorated block. Most probably the block belongs to the bouleuterion wall.

Inv.no: TER 2018/15

H: 51 cm, W: 92 cm, D: 55 cm, L.H: 12 cm.

Coordinate: 36°981'982" N - 30°464'233" E; Altitude: 950 m; Fallibility: approx. 4 m.

Date: Roman Imperial Period.



Fig. 5. An Inscription of Unknown Content

ος θυγ[άτ – –]

On the block, there was probably a female name at the beginning, then a male name ending with the name in the genitive, and at the end the phrase thygater, meaning girl. Considering the letter height on the stone, we may imagine with relatively certainty the size of the stone, The letters can be read from a distance. Most likely, the block belongs to the bouleuterion wall and the expression continued on other blocks. As it is known, there were some inscriptions on the walls of the bouleuterion-odeion building in Termessus. These inscriptions were the inscriptions of the victorious athletes¹⁹. However, it is very difficult to suggest the functionality and context of these letters and words carved on this block.

¹⁸ İplikçioğlu *et al.* 1994, no. 1.

¹⁹ TAM III,1 199; Çelgin 2007, 35 fn. 19.

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