

The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)



The Eastern Boundary of the Province Asia

W. M. Calder

The Classical Review / Volume 22 / Issue 07 / November 1908, pp 213 - 215

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00002067, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00002067

How to cite this article:

W. M. Calder (1908). The Eastern Boundary of the Province Asia. The Classical Review, 22, pp 213-215 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00002067

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

to be an educator: only I maintain that my methods were always straightforward.

Soph. Well, enough for the present; but I shall look forward with a new interest to the next production of the 'Frogs.' But now I must go and dress, for I am dining with

Aeschylus; poor fellow, he ages very fast now, and has taken to using longer words than ever.

[*Exeunt severally.*]

J. F. DOBSON.

Ambleside, Cranleigh, Surrey.

THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE ASIA.

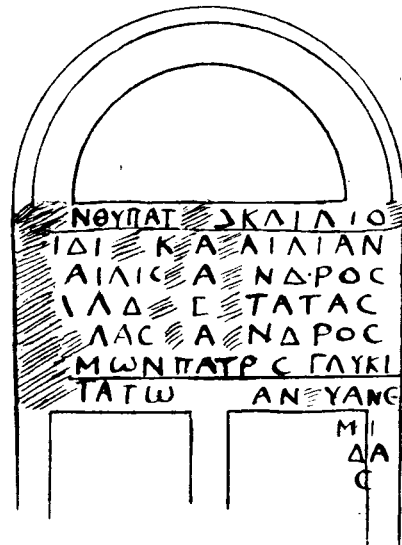
AT the head of this, the first of a series of papers embodying the results of travel, during May, June and July, 1908, in Lycaonia, Galatia, and Asia, I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to my teacher, Prof. Sir W. M. Ramsay, firstly for help in actual exploration, the nature and extent of which only those who have begun historical work in Asia Minor under his guidance can appreciate, secondly for allowing me to consult him constantly, amid the pressure of important work of his own, while I prepared this and other papers for the press.

Two inscriptions found by the writer in July, 1908, in the country between the desert of the Axylon and the Sangarius, supply a new and unexpected determination of the boundary-line between the provinces Asia and Galatia. The boundary-line of Asia, as drawn by Waddington (*Fastes des Provinces Asiatiques*, ch. ii. p. 25) and brought up to date by Prof. W. M. Ramsay (*Hist. Geog. of Asia Minor*, pp. 171-173), started from the Rhyndacus, passed north of Hadriani and Dorylaeum, turned southwards a few miles north-east of Accilaeum, then passed between Orcistus and Pessinus, east of Amorium, and then along the western side of the Axylon to a point east of Hadrianopolis, whence it retreated to the north-west along the ridge of the Sultan-Dagh. This is the line drawn by Mr. J. G. C. Anderson in his map of Asia Minor, and, so far as the north-east corner of the Province Asia is concerned, it seems the natural line. Pessinus was in Galatia, and the district between the Axylon and the Sangarius, to the east of Pessinus, would naturally form part of the same province.

But indisputable evidence has been found

that the Province Asia extended considerably further eastwards, on the north side of the Axylon.

At a point about fifty English miles north-east of the large Turkish village of Tcheltik (in the district between Therma and Veteston, as marked on Mr. Anderson's map), I visited a Kurdish yaila, or summer-village, called Chekirji.¹ Close to this village, and also at another point about a mile to the south-west, there are traces of considerable ancient ruins. The natives were digging beside the village for building stones, and showed us a marble grave-stone which they had found. It was a large Phrygian 'door-stone' with fragments of an ordinary epitaph. Happily, the im-



¹ The distance was measured by trocheometer. The total distance traversed between Chekirji and Tcheltik (the journey was made from N.E. to S.W.) was over 80 miles. After deduction for deviations, the straight road works out at rather less than 50 miles.

portant part of the inscription, the date by the name of a pro-consul, was well preserved. It was engraved on a raised bar of marble above the epitaph. A copy of the inscription was made and an impression taken: the epigraphic text, so far as it could be read, is given above.

The epitaph contains both Roman and Greek names, and I can quote from other inscriptions copied at this village, but not yet published, the Roman names *Σενή[ρος]* and *Μόμιος*. The first line of the inscription is certain.

The rest of the inscription consists chiefly of a series of names in the nominative, the sons of Gaianus, and the text is very uncertain. To show the probable constructions, the gaps may be filled up conjecturally as follows. The sons erected the monument to their deceased father. Apparently the name of one, Midas, was omitted by the engraver, and added as an afterthought at the end.

ἐπὶ ἀ[νθυπάτ]ον Δ. Καιλί[ο]υ.
 Λεων[?]ιδ[ης] κα[?] Αἰλιαν-
 δος κὲ Αἴλιος Α[?]ανδρος¹
 κὲ Κά[λ]ιδ[ιο]ς [κὲ] Τατᾶς
 κὲ Ἀκύ[λ]ας [κὲ] Ἀ[σ]ανδρος
 τῷ ἡμῶν πατρί[?] γλυκι-
 τάτῃ [Γαι?]αν[ο]ῦ ἀνε-
 [στήσαμεν]. Μίδας

[Γαι?]ανουῦ genitive confused with dative, as often in late inscriptions.

I feel no doubt that the inscription belonged to the site at which it was found. Apart from the assertion of the natives (who had no motive for misleading me), the stone itself was too large to have been carried from a distance. The mention of a pro-consul shows at once that we are dealing with a site in the Province Asia, for Galatia was governed by a *legatus augusti pro praetore*. Curiously enough, this same pro-consul had been governor of Galatia and Pontus at an earlier period. He is to be identified with D. Caelius Calvinus Balbinus, who was pro-consul of Asia sometime after his second consulship in 213 A.D., and afterwards became Emperor along with Maximus. The dating of this inscription by his name is an incon-

trovertible proof that the epitaph was set up in his province.

The boundary-line of the province Asia must therefore have extended to the east of this point. Fortunately we are able, by means of another inscription found this summer, to fix a point eastward of which it did not extend. At another Kurdish village called Baltsha-Hissar, ten to fifteen miles east of Chekirji,¹ and about the same distance north-west of Jarashli (where Mr. Anderson's map places Kinna), I found an early Christian gravestone, used as a head-stone on a Kurdish grave. The letters were roughly but distinctly cut; down either side of the inscription ran a decoration of curved lines. The inscription ran as follows:

Μακεδό-	βίον κατ-
νιος πρε-	έλιπεν Ὀλ-
σβύτερο-	πον διάδ-
ς τὸν ἀρι-	οχον.
στογα-	ἔπος λό-
λατίας,	γος. μνή-
ὁ λίψας	μης χά-
	ριν

The grammar is bad, as we should expect in this rustic district. The mixture of nominatives and accusatives (like that of genitives and datives) is characteristic of early Christian epitaphs in Anatolia. ὁ is used instead of ὁς. The third letter in Ὀλπος might be τ.² I can offer no explanation of the formula ἔπος λόγος. The title ἀριστογαλατίας is to be compared with the late formations *πρωτοπολίτης*, *πρωτοκομήτης*.³ The character of the lettering and the use of this title stamp the inscription as late, probably of the fourth century A.D. The word ἀριστογαλατίας proves

¹ The exact distance by road is twenty miles; but the road winds considerably. The true distance is about two-thirds of that measurement.

² Perhaps Ὀλίγος, a name of humility, was intended.

³ See Cronin in *J.H.S.* 1902, p. 359. Mr. Cronin's suggestion that *πρωτοκομήτης* means 'a native of Πρώτα Κώμη or Πρώτη Κώμη' must now be abandoned, as the title has been found in another Lycaonian village by Sir W. M. Ramsay. As *πρώτος κομήτης* becomes *πρωτοκομήτης*, so *πρώτος Γαλατίας* becomes *πρωτογαλατίας*. Strictly, *πρώτος* in such phrases takes the genitive in all similar cases, so that *πρώτος κομητῶν* would be the natural form, like *primus, civium, coloniae*, etc.

¹ Taking A as a slip for Δ.

that the fertile valley in which Baltsha-Hissar lies was part of Galatia.

The boundary-line of the north-eastern part of the province Asia must now be moved between fifty and sixty miles further east. Its general course is clear. When it reached the Sangarius, south of Pessinus, it must have turned eastwards along the southern bank of the river, and where the Sangarius turns northwards one of its tributaries must have served as the boundary-line. Then, at a point north-east of Chekirji, it must have turned southwards, and finally south-westwards along the north-west part of the desert. Whether or not this tract of country belonged to the kingdom of the Attalids, when the latter was taken over by the Romans, is still doubtful. At one time it unquestionably formed part of the territory of the Galatian Tribes. That the territory of the Troknades, who were Galatians, was included in the province Asia, is well known, and Professor Ramsay has suggested (*Hastings' Dict. of the Bible*, ii. pp. 82-83) that this territory was taken from the Galatian state by Attalus I. of Pergamus. But the whole tract of country stretching from the Troknades along the Sangarius to Chekirji must now be treated as a unity, and the inclusion in the Pergamene territory of a strip of land running far into the enemy's country, would have weakened the Pergamene frontier. It seems more probable that it was when the boundaries of the province Asia were being fixed—the power of the Galatians had by this time been broken—that this part of the Galatian state was annexed.

A necessary condition of its annexation to the province Asia is that this annexation took place before the establishment of the Roman province Galatia in 25 B.C., for otherwise this tract of country would undoubtedly have been assigned to Galatia.¹ The reason for its inclusion in the province Asia is not far to seek. We can point to a similar detour in the boundary-line of Asia to the south of the Axylon, where it descends towards the south-east to include the rich district of Phrygia Paroreios, and then withdraws north-westwards along the Sultan-

Dagh, excluding the barren mountain-country of Pisidia. Both these deviations in the boundary-line are illustrative of the land-grabbing policy which led to the annexation of the whole province. We should therefore expect to find evidence of the existence of Roman estates in this district. And such evidence is forthcoming.

Exactly two and a half miles north-east of Chekirji I passed a night at the Kurdish village of Kosez-Abdullah, which is situated on a southward-facing shoulder of land between two southward-running brooks. On a fragment of a round marble pillar, a foot in diameter, I found the following inscription:

Φιλίμων Ἀπ-
πουλείας Κο-
νο[ρ]δίας οἰ-
κονόμος
κατὰ κέλευσιν
τοῦ Δίος ἀνέσ-
τησεν]

Appuleia Concordia was a Roman lady who possessed estates in this neighbourhood. Philemon was her steward. This inscription is carefully engraved, and may be early. In any case Appuleia Concordia must be the descendant or heiress of a Roman landholder who acquired property here before 25 B.C., possibly at the time when the province Asia was originally organised.

This discovery necessitates a recasting of current theories on the ancient topography of the district; but an attempt at such recasting must be deferred until a complete account of the journey, with route-maps, can be published.

W. M. CALDER.

NOTE. I still think that the Roman Province Asia was probably constituted on the lines of the Pergamene kingdom. It was the object of Attalus to hem in and narrow the Galatae. In Paroreios it was necessary to extend far the Pergamene possession, as Lycaonia was assigned to the king, and the road to it led through the long valley of Paroreios. But Mr. Calder's rectification of the frontier is highly important, and throws unexpected new light on the history of Pergamene power in central Asia Minor.

W. M. RAMSAY.

¹ In late Roman times we actually find it forming part of the province Galatia.