

**ISic3380**

Ash chest for Pompeios Elpistos

**Language**

Ancient Greek

**Type**

funerary

**Material**

limestone

**Object**

ash chest

**Editor**

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**Contributors**

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**Autopsy**

2013-10-03

**Last Change**

2020-11-26 - Simona Stoyanova restructured bibliography

**Place of origin (ancient)**

Syracusae

**Place of origin (modern)**

Siracusa

**Provenance**

found during exploration of predio di avv. Avolio, behind convent of S.Lucia, Siracusa, as inv. no. 15410, in early 1880s

**Coordinates**

37.073291, 15.291516

### **Current Location**

Italy, Sicily, Siracusa, Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi, inventory 15411

### **Physical Description**

Rectangular plain limestone ash chest, with a lid with plain moulding. Lid, not included in measurements below, is 68mm high.

### **Dimensions**

Height 26 cm

Width 47 cm

Depth 39 cm

### **Layout**

Five lines of Greek letters, centred on the wide face of the chest and laid out between guide lines.

### **Execution**

Engraved

### **Letter Forms**

Deeply cut lunate letters of somewhat varying height. Kappa has tall vertical, lower tail extends to the line; Pi has vertical strokes of equal length, some overlap by horizontal; Mu has extended serifs off the upper strokes; epsilon and sigma are lunate, the cross-bar of the epsilon sometimes very lightly cut and detached; alpha and delta have extended serifs on the upper strokes; there is a single comma-shaped interpunct in line 1 after the first letter.

### **Letter heights:**

Line 1: 23-32 mm

Line 2: 19-25 mm

Line 3: 17-25 mm

Line 4: 15-23 mm

Line 5: 15-20 mm

### **Interlineation**

Interlineation line 1 to 2: not recorded mm

### **Text**

1. Κ(οϋίντε) · Πομπῆι Ἔλπιστε

2. χρηστὲ καὶ ἄμεμπτε
3. χαῖρε
4. ἔζησεν ἔτη κδ μῆνες
5. δ ἡμέρας δ

### **Apparatus**

Text from autopsy (Prag 2013). The text reported by IG 14.45a was transcribed by Salvator Politi and sent to Mommsen in 1884, but it is clear that Politi either lacked good lighting, or experience, or both, since all the points marked as omitted or unclear are in fact perfectly legible.

### **Translation (en)**

Quintus Pompeius Elpistus, worthy and blameless, farewell! He lived 24 hours, 4 months, 4 days.

### **Commentary**

The context of discovery is described in NSA (1884), 163 but without explicit reference to this piece, only to ISic3338. The reading provided in IG 14.45a is clearly deficient, and the text is fully legible. The urn was previously on display in Room 3 of the old archaeological museum in Siracusa, recorded in the 1929 guide by Libertini. It is currently in storage in the Museo Archeologico Regionale P. Orsi, Siracusa.

### **Digital identifiers:**

TM 645608

PHI 140340

### **Bibliography**

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- Manganaro, G. 1988. *La Sicilia da Sesto Pompeo a Diocleziano. ANRW.* 2.11.1: 3-89. At 50

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### **Cite as:**

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Photo J. Prag, Aut. Assessorato Beni Culturali Regione Siciliana n.10681 del 06/05/2014