

HASAN MALAY – MUSTAFA HAMDI SAYAR

A NEW CONFESSION TO ZEUS “FROM TWIN OAKS”

aus: *Epigraphica Anatolica* 37 (2004) 183–184

© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn



## A NEW CONFESSION TO ZEUS “FROM TWIN OAKS”



Marble stele with flat-topped pediment and tenon. In a rectangular recess above the inscription a human leg is depicted. It is now in a private collection in İstanbul (Inv. no. 4389).<sup>1</sup> Dimensions: 91 x 47.5 x 5, L 1.5. Date: 287 Sulla = 202/3 A.D.<sup>2</sup>

Διεί ἐγ Διδύμων Δρυῶν  
Μηνοφίλα Ἀσκληπιάδου  
κολασθεῖσα ὑπὸ τοῦ θε-  
οῦ εὐξάτο πίνακα· ἐχρο-  
4 νούλκησε καὶ οὐκ ἀπέ-  
δωκε· συνευξαμένης  
8 τῆς ἀδελφῆς Ἰουλίας ἐ-  
πεζήτησε ὁ θεὸς στήλ-  
λην ἣν ἀπέδωκε εὐχαρισ-  
τούσα τῷ θεῷ· ἔτους σπζ΄, μη(νὸς)  
Δαίσίου λ΄.

*To Zeus from Twin Oaks. When Menophila daughter of Asklepiades was punished by the god, she promised (to offer) a votive tablet. But she wasted time and did not fulfil (her promise). As her sister Iulia had joined in (Menophila's) prayer, the god requested her (to set up) a stele which she now offers giving her thanks to the god. In the year 287, on the thirtieth day of the month Daisios.*

This is the confession of a certain Iulia who shared her sister's responsibility for neglecting the promise of hanging up a votive tablet (πίναξ<sup>3</sup>) in the sanctuary of Zeus ἐγ Διδύμων Δρυῶν (see below). From the narrative one would derive the following: For an unspecified reason Menophila had been punished on her right leg which is represented above the inscription.<sup>4</sup> Together with her sister Iulia they went to the sanctuary and asked for divine help and promised a πίναξ if she recovered. However, after the recovery she was not keen to fulfil the vow (ἐχρονούλκησε<sup>5</sup> καὶ οὐκ ἀπέδωκε). Probably being unable to get hold of Menophila, the god asked (ἐπεζήτησε)

<sup>1</sup> The stele, together with another one dedicated to the same deity, is said to have been found by the same dealer at Kalburcu, SW of Silandos. The other dedication will be published in a joint book by P. Herrmann† and H. Malay (in preparation).

<sup>2</sup> We wish to thank Mr Haluk Perk, the owner of the collection, for his kind permission to publish this inscription.

<sup>3</sup> See F. T. van Straten, Gifts for the Gods, in *Faith, Hope and Worship* (1981), 79 (“painted wooden panel”).

<sup>4</sup> On representations of parts of human body on dedications see F. T. van Straten, *loc. cit.*, 105ff.

<sup>5</sup> The occurrence of the term χρονονυκτέω is notable. *LSJ*, citing only Hesychius (μοργυλλεῖ· χρονονυκτεῖ), gives it as a synonym of χρονοτριβέω (“waste time”). In this context another term for this meaning is παρέλκω (cf. G. Petzl, *Die Beichtinschriften Westkleinasiens*, 1994, nos. 63, 65 and 71 (παρελκύσαντος αὐτοῦ χρόνον)).

Iulia, who had joined her sister in her prayer (συνευξομένης), to set up a stele (instead of the πίναξ) with the representation of the leg and the record of the recovery and the sin they committed. Iulia's thanks to the god (εὐχαριστοῦσα<sup>6</sup>) may indicate that her sister Menophila was still alive.

The local cult of Zeus ἐγ Διδύμων Δρυῶν is attested in four dedications (add now also the one mentioned in note 1).<sup>7</sup> The location of the sanctuary of Zeus ἐγ Διδύμων Δρυῶν is not known. However, considering that two of the dedications to this deity come from Börtlüce (see note 7) and two from Kalburcu (see note 1), one would locate the sanctuary S of Saittai, i.e. on the northern bank of Hermos.

İzmir  
İstanbul

Hasan Malay  
Mustafa Hamdi Sayar

### ÖZET

Makalede, Haluk Perk Koleksiyonu'nda (İstanbul) bulunan bir kefaret yazıtı (*confessio*) tanıtılmaktadır. İkiz Meşeler Zeus'u olarak adlandırılan bir yerel tanrıya sunulan ve İ.S. 202/3 yılına tarihlenen bu yazıtın çevirisi şöyledir:

*İkiz Meşeler Zeus'una. Asklepiades kızı Menophila Tanrı tarafından (ayağından) cezalandırılınca, (iyileştiği takdirde Tanrı'ya) bir levha (tablet) sunmayı vaat etti. Ama sonra bu görevini savsakladı ve adağı yerine getirmedi. (Hastalandığında) Tanrı'ya yakarırken kızkardeşi Iulia da onunla birlikte olduğu için, Tanrı Iulia'dan (yazılı) bir stel dikmesini istedi. Şimdi o bu steli Tanrı'ya şükranlarını sunarak dikti. 287 yılının Daisios ayının 30. gününde.*

İkiz Meşeler Zeus'una adanmış diğer dört adet adağın Lydia'daki Saittai kentinin güneyinde ve Hermos (Gediz) kıyısında yer alan Börtlüce ve Kalburcu köylerinde bulunduğu gözönüne alınırsa, burada tanıtılan yazıtın da bu bölgede bulunmuş olduğunu düşünmek gerekir.

<sup>6</sup> On the term εὐχαριστεῖν in dedications see *Faith, Hope and Worship*, 44 (H. S. Versnel) and 72 (F. T. van Straten).

<sup>7</sup> See G. Petzl, *op. cit.*, no. 9–12 (cf. M. Paz de Hoz, *Die lydischen Kulte im Lichte der griechischen Inschriften*, 1999 [Asia Minor Studien 36], nos. 61.22–25). On the cult see also G. Petzl, *Die Beichtinschriften in Kleinasien und der Fromme und Gerechte Gott*, Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften Vorträge G 355, Düsseldorf 1998, 9.