

VEDAT KELEŞ – ŐENGÜL DILEK FUL

AN INSCRIBED *AMPULLA* FROM PARION

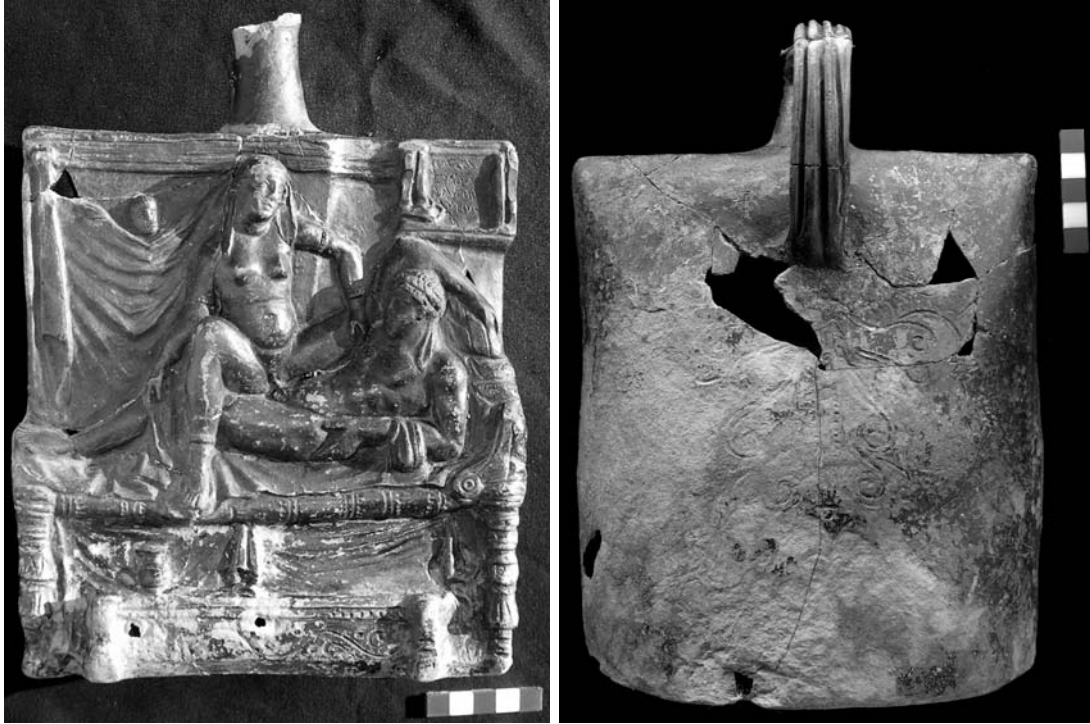
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The earthenware *ampulla* presented in this article has been unearthed during the excavations at the southern necropolis of Parion in 2008. The gabled-roof tile grave¹, in which the *ampulla* was found, contained remains from a cremated body and some funerary gifts including a *strigilis* and the fragments of four terracotta *unguentaria*. The absence of some fragments of the *unguentaria* leads one to assume that they were already broken off when they were placed in the grave (this may be explained as the part of a funerary ritual). The anthropological investigations on the cremated bone remains revealed that the grave probably belonged to a young male. In fact, the *strigilis* found among the personal objects in the grave leads one to assume that he was probably a sportsman. If so, the *ampulla* might have served as a container of perfume.

The most interesting piece among the finds in the grave is a terracotta *ampulla* with a handle on the reverse side. The obverse side is occupied by a scene showing a man and a woman in sexual intercourse on a *kline*. In the background, behind a cloth (a curtain ?), there is a male (servant ?) who is watching them. In the foreground there is a decorated chest (?) with a drinking cup (an *olpe* ?) on it. In the right upper corner there is a rectangular frame with an inscription of four lines. On the left of the frame a lamp is depicted. The reverse side of the *ampulla* is decorated with the figures of vegetables².



* It is a pleasure to thank Prof. Dr. C. Başaran, the Director of the excavations at Parion, for his kind permission to publish the *ampulla*. Further information about the excavations is available at www.parion.biz.

¹ See H. Kasapoğlu, Parion Nekropolü Mezar Tipleri, in *Doğu'dan Yükselen Işık. Arkeoloji Yazıları* (ed. by B. Can – M. Işıklı (200), 488.

² The dimensions are: height 0.24, width 0.194 (top) and 0.174 (bottom), thickness 0.10 (at bottom).

The technical features of the glazed container remind one of the embossed containers of Pergamon dated to the late Hellenistic and early Imperial periods³. Indeed, the onion-shaped *unguentaria* from the same grave seem to support such a dating⁴.

The *ampulla* bears the following inscription (in four lines)⁵:



κατα/ξύομαι ὁ κύριος

The verb καταξύω⁶ does not seem to be attested in this context. Here the passive καταξύομαι seems to have the meaning “*I am being rubbed*” which has to be attributed to the man who is being pleased by his partner. Therefore the inscription on our *ampulla* would give the following sense: “*I, the master, I am being rubbed (screwed)*”⁷.

Özet

Makalede, 2008 yılı Parion kazılarında ele geçen, pişmiş topraktan yapılmış kulplu bir matara (*ampulla*) incelenmektedir. Mataranın ön yüzünde yer alan erotik sahnede, bir *kline* üzerinde cinsel birleşme halindeki bir kadın ve bir erkek yer almaktadır. Arka planda, onları bir kumaş paravanın arkasından izleyen bir erkek hizmetçi (?) yer almaktadır. Ön planda ise, bir sandık ya da sehpa ve onun üzerinde de bir vazodan (*olpe* ?) görülmektedir. Sağ üst köşedeki bir dikdörtgen panelde 4 satırlık bir grekçe yazıt, çerçevenin sol kenarında da bir lamba bulunmaktadır. Mataranın arka yüzü bitki motifleri ile bezenmiş durumdadır.

Mataranın bulunduğu kremasyon-mezardan çıkan kemik kalıntıları üzerinde yapılan antropolojik incelemeler ve ölü hediyeleri arasında bulunan bir *strigilis*, bu mezarın bir erkeğe ait olduğunu göstermektedir. M.Ö. I. ya da M.S. II. yüzyıllara tarihlenebilecek olan mataranın üzerinde yer alan yazıtta, erkeğin kadına yönelik bir komplimanı yer almaktadır.

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³ A. Çam – D. Akdemir, Hellenistik Dönem Zinter Astarlı Bergama Seramikleri, *Uluslararası Seramik Sempozyumu, Terra Sigillata Kolokyumu*, 2007, 16–18.

⁴ For the context see C. Başaran – V. Keleş – Ş. D. Ful – H. E. Ergürer – H. Kasapoğlu, Parion 2008 Kazıları, XXXI. *Uluslararası Kazı, Araştırma ve Arkeometri Sempozyumu* (2008), Ankara 2009 (forthcoming). For the *unguentaria* cf. C. G. Boulter, *Hesperia* 32, 1963, Pl. 46, O1; C. W. Blegen – H. Palmer – R. S. Young, *Corinth XIII: The North Cemetery*, 1964, Pl. 76, J. W. Hayes, *The Annual of the British School at Athens* 66, 1971, Figs. 10, 31; E. B. Dusenbery, *Samothrace 11: The Nekropoleis* (1998), S143.9 – S154.1 – S178.2; H. Kasapoğlu, *Parion Nekropolü 2006 Yılı Seramik Buluntuları* (unpublished thesis), 2008, Cat. no. 3–6.

⁵ We wish to thank H. Malay for his kind help in interpreting the inscription.

⁶ *LSJ*, s.v.: “*scratch, polish, smooth*”.

⁷ For similar texts on clay vase moulds from Pella see *SEG XLV*, 1995, 785.13–14 (2nd century B.C.).