SOME INSCRIBED LEAD SLING BULLETS FROM MILETOS

The leaden sling bullets published here are kept in the Milet Museum. The majority of the items were sold to the museum in different years by some locals who reported that they had found them in the fields in the surrounding area of the ancient city of Miletos.¹

Most of the names appearing on our sling bullets are in the genitive while on four items we have the nominatives: Εὐβουλίδας (no. 18), Δρόμας Αἰνιάν (sinistrorsum, nos. 40–44), Ἀπολλωνίδας (nos. 55–56) and Νίκαρχος (no. 57).² On two bullets there are the abbreviations of personal names: Αἴπε(-), no. 58, and Διδυ(-) [sinistrorsum], nos. 30–39 (see below Notes).

CATALOGUE

1 ΑΤΤΙ/ΝΑ – Ἀττίνα
Date of acquisition: 1993
Inv. 2469
Both sides are occupied by the inscription. Dimensions: 3 x 19 x 14; weight 37 g.

2 ΑΤΤΙ/ΝΑ – Ἀττίνα
Date of acquisition: 2001
Inv. 5682
Both sides are occupied by the inscription. Dimensions: 32 x 18 x 14; weight 36 g.

3 ΑΤΤΙ/ΝΑ – Ἀττίνα
Date of acquisition: 1994
Inv. 2590
Both sides are occupied by the inscription. Dimensions: 31 x 18 x 16; weight 36.6 g.

4 ΑΤΤΙ/ΝΑ – Ἀττίνα
Date of acquisition: 1992
Inv. 2242
Both sides are occupied by the inscription. Dimensions: 31 x 18 x 12; weight 36.5 g.

* It is a pleasure to thank Hasibe Akat İslam, the Director of the Milet Museum, for her kind permission to work on the sling bullets kept in the museum, H. Malay for his kind help and advice, and Sue Ellen Dopp for revising the English.

¹ For some other sling bullets found in the fields around Değirmentepe and Killiktepe in the territory of Miletos see Weiss 1997, 143–153 (SEG 1997, 1635 and Bull. ép. 1998, 86 [M. Sève]). Many other bullets from this museum will be published elsewhere.

² Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 263 draw attention to the risk of connecting the names in the nominative with artisans, and those in the genitive with commanders.

³ Dimensions (in millimeters) are given in the following order: width x height x thickness.
5 ΔΗΜΟ/ΚΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 1992.  
Inv. 2218  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 26 x 19 x 13; weight 30.5 g.

6 ΔΗΜΟ/ΚΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 1998  
Inv. 4085  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 29 x 19 x 16; weight 31.4 g.

7 ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 1998  
Inv. 4137  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 13; weight 33.2 g.

8 ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 2007  
Inv. 7215  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 13; weight 33.9 g.

9 ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 2011  
Inv. 8962  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 19 x 17 x 13; weight 29.8 g.

10 ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 1998  
Inv. 4090  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 28 x 19 x 17; weight 37.8 g.

11 ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ – Δημοκλέος  
Date of acquisition: 1996  
Inv. 3501  
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.  
Dimensions: 29 x 16 x 17; weight 31.5 g.
12 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 1993
Inv. 2473
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 32 x 19 x 15; weight 39.3 g.

13 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 1995
Inv. 2976
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 17; weight 40.3 g.

14 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3728
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 17; weight 40.2 g.

15 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4149
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 30 x 18 x 14; weight 40.2 g.

16 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 2000
Inv. 4817
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 14; weight 41.2 g.

17 ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ – Βαβύρτα
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9222
On the reverse is the symbol of an arrowhead.
Dimensions: 30 x 20 x 18; weight 44.3 g.

18 ΕΥΒΟΥΛΙΔΑΣ – Εὐβουλίδας
Date of acquisition: 2011
Inv. 8958
On the reverse is the monogram Δ in the middle and, perhaps, a hayfork on the right.
Dimensions: 34 x 18 x 14; weight 39 g.
19 ΠΕΡΔΙΚΚΑ – Περδίκκα
Date of acquisition: 1992
Inv. 2245
On the reverse is the symbol of Heracles’ club.
Dimensions: 32 x 19 x 18; weight 40.4 g.

20 [ΠΕ]ΡΔΙΚΚΑ – [Πε]ρδίκκα
Date of acquisition: 1994
Inv. 2591
On the reverse is the symbol of Heracles’ club.
Dimensions: 31 x 18 x 15; weight 39.2 g.

21 ΠΕΡΔΙΚΚΑ – Περδίκκα
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9215
On the reverse is the symbol of Heracles’ club.
Dimensions: 30 x 20 x 16; weight 42.8 g.

22 ΤΕΙΣΕΑ – Τεισέα
Date of acquisition: 2009
Inv. 8129
On the reverse is the symbol of a double-axe.
Dimensions: 28 x 18 x 14; weight 32.2 g.

23 ΤΕΙΣΕΑ – Τεισέα
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9248
The reverse is worn.
Dimensions: 29 x 17 x 14; weight 37 g.

24 ΜΕΝ[Ω]ΝΟΣ – Μέν[ω]νος
Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4138
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 18 x 12; weight 27 g.

25 ΜΕΝΟΝΟΣ – Μένωνος
Date of acquisition: 1999
Inv. 4704
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 18 x 12; weight 26.5 g.
Inscribed lead sling bullets from Miletos

26 ΜΕΝΩΝΟΣ – Μένωνος
Date of acquisition: 2009
Inv. 8128
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 17 x 13; weight 26.2 g.

27 ΜΕΝ[ΩΝΟΣ] – Μέν[ωνος]
Date of acquisition: 2007
Inv. 7346
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 17 x 14; weight 27.6 g.

Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4091
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 28 x 16 x 11; weight 24.7 g.

29 ΜΕΝΩΝΟΣ – Μένωνος
Date of acquisition: 2000
Inv. 4860
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 18 x 12; weight 27.6 g.

30 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3756
An unskived sling bullet. The projection to the right is the burr from the channel for pouring the molten lead into the cavity in the mould. Obviously the bullet is unused. 4
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 70 x 23 x 17; weight 54.7 g.

31 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 1999
Inv. 4702
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 32 x 19 x 14; weight 43.1 g.

4 For a well-preserved bronze mould see Empereur 1981, 555, no. 1, fig. 29. For information on manufacturing sling bullets and moulds see notably Kelly 2012, 9–10.
32 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3749
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 32 x 19 x 14; weight 43.1 g.

33 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4087
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 34 x 19 x 14; weight 44 g.

34 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 2000
Inv. 4818
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 19 x 14; weight 43.6 g.

35 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 2001
Inv. 5288
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 34 x 19 x 15; weight 45.5 g.

36 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 2009
Inv. 8126
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 34 x 20 x 14; weight 46.1 g.

37 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9219
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 34 x 20 x 16; weight 48 g.

38 ΔΙΔΥ ← Διδυ(-)
Date of acquisition: 1996
Inv. 3488
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 34 x 19 x 16; weight 41.4 g.
Inscribed lead sling bullets from Miletos

39 ΔΙΔΥ ← Δيدة
Date of acquisition: 1996
Inv. 3495
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 31 x 19 x 18; weight 34.5 g.

40 ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← Δρόμας Αἰνιάν
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3732
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 29 x 19 x 17; weight 37.2 g.

41 ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← Δρόμας Αἰνιάν
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3734
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 32 x 19 x 18; weight 37.6 g.

42 ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← Δρόμας Αἰνιάν
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3745
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 32 x 18 x 14; weight 35.6 g.

43 ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← Δρόμας Αἰνιάν
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3747
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 14; weight 36.3 g.

44 ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← Δρόμας Αἰνιάν
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3785
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 31 x 20 x 17; weight 36.3 g.

45 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ – Μικκίωνος
Date of acquisition: 1992
Inv. 2219
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 19 x 14; weight 37.7 g.
46 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ – Μικκίωνος
Date of acquisition: 1994
Inv. 2541
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 32 x 17 x 16; weight 39 g.

47 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ – Μικκίωνος
Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4155
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 14; weight 37.6 g.

48 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ (Μικκίωνος)
Date of acquisition: 1998
Inv. 4158
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 18 x 14; weight 38 g.

49 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ – Μικκίωνος
Date of acquisition: 2000
Inv. 4819
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 31 x 19 x 14; weight 38.7 g.

50 ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ – Μικκίωνος
Date of acquisition: 2009
Inv. 8127
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 17 x 14; weight 36.8 g.

51 ΛΥΣΙΑ – Λυσία
Date of acquisition: 1993
Inv. 2468
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 17 x 14; weight 30.7 g.

52 ΛΥΣΙΑ – Λυσία
Date of acquisition: 1994
Inv. 2577
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 18 x 14; weight 31.8 g.
Inscribed lead sling bullets from Miletos

53 ΛΥΣΙΑ – Λυσία
Date of acquisition: 1994
Inv. 4449
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 31 x 19 x 14; weight 37.7 g.

54 ΒΙΩΝΟΣ – Βίωνος
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3744
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 29 x 17 x 14; weight 30.7 g.

55 [ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΔΑΣ – [Ἀπ]ολλωνίδας
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9252
On the reverse is the symbol of a mace (?).
The inscription of two lines is on the front.
Dimensions: 31 x 15 x 16; weight 33.1 g.

56 [ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΔΑΣ – Ἀ[πολ]λωνίδας
Date of acquisition: 1997
Inv. 3752
On the reverse is the symbol of a mace (?).
The inscription of two lines is on the front.
Dimensions: 31 x 14 x 16; weight 31.9 g.

57 ΝΙΚΑΡΧΟΣ – Νίκαρχος
Date of acquisition: 1996
Inv. 8125
Both sides are occupied by the inscription.
Dimensions: 34 x 19 x 14; weight 47.7 g.

58 ΑΙΝΕ – Αἰνε(-)
Date of acquisition: 2012
Inv. 9220
The reverse is plain.
Dimensions: 30 x 19 x 14; weight 35 g.

NOTES

ΑΤΤΙ/ΝΑ (Cat. 1–4): An identical sling bullet of Ἀττίνας has been found around Miletos and dated to the second half of the fourth century B.C. He is suggested to be one of the officers of Alexander the Great.⁵

⁵ Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 266.
ΔΗΜΟ/ΚΛΕΟΣ (Cat. 5–6): An identical sling bullet of Demokles has been found in the territory of Miletos and dated to the late fourth century B.C.6 The different word division (ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ) on the following entry points to another mould producing sling bullets for the same slinger.

ΔΗΜΟΚ/ΛΕΟΣ (Cat. 7–11): Probably another type of bullet of the slinger Demokles, with different word division (see the preceding entry).

ΒΑΒΥΡΤΑ (Cat. 12–17): Βαβύρτας was probably a mercenary whose name is known from many other bullets, of which six come from the area of Miletos. Like Εὐβουλίδας (see below), Βαβύρτας was probably a mercenary involved in the operations conducted in the region of Miletos before or after the siege of Rhodes by Demetrios Poliorcetes in 305 B.C.7

ΕΥΒΟΥΛΙΔΑΣ (Cat. 18): Εὐβουλίδας-bullets with a lambda-omicron (Λ̼)8 on their reverse are well known9. This man was probably a mercenary who fought in a battle in the region of Miletos in connection with the siege of Demetrios Poliorcetes in 305 B.C.10 On some examples of Euboulidas’ bullets on the left of the monogram Δ is also the symbol of a hay fork (see notably the photos on p. 136 of Weiss–Draskowski 2010) which is not mentioned or properly illustrated in many other publications11. Though the reverse of our bullet is widely worn, there seem to be no traces of any symbol on the left of the monogram. But the shallow traces on the right of the monogram Δ may perhaps be recognized as a hay fork with a long handle to the left. Anyway, both cases would point to the another bullet type of Euboulidas.

ΠΕΡΔΙΚΚΑ (Cat. 19–21): An identical sling bullet recording the name Περδίκκας with the symbol of Heracles’ club appears in the catalogue of an auction together with three other bullets in the so-called London Group.12 Because of the frequency of the the name Περδίκκας, A. Avram doubts the identity of this Perdiccas with the famous commander of Alexander the Great.

ΤΕΙΣΕΑ (nos. 22–23): The inscription on a sling bullet from the territory of Miletos (Değirmentepe and Kiliktepe) has been restored by P. Weiss as [Τεισέ]α probably with the help of three other unpublished examples of unknown provenance.13 Weiss also mentions three other unpublished examples of the bullets of Τεισέας which are kept in a private collection. The bullets recording Teiseas are dated to the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C.14

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8 This monogram has been interpreted by Weiss–Draskowski 2010, 36–7 as referring to the city of Olous (Ὀλοῦς) in Crete (cf. also Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 271).
9 For bibliography on this bullet Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 271 and 2014, 132. For detail photographs of the monogram and the symbol of hay fork with detailed interpretation see Weiss–Draskowski 2010, 136 ff., no. 16 (SEG 60, 1859).
11 On this problem see already Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 271, note 170.
12 For the Auction CNG 81, Lot 1447, 4 consisting of four sling bullets (recording the names Babyrtas, Teiseas, Thersagoras and Perdiccas) see Avram 2014, 135 where the Perdiccas bullets are dated to the “second half or late 4th century B.C.”
13 Weiss 1997, 146, no. 7 (SEG 47, 1635 and Bull. ép. 1998, 86 [M. Sève]) with commentary on p. 152. Weiss also mentions two more examples exhibited in the Milet Museum, of which only their reverse sides with the symbol of the double-axe were visible to him.
14 Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 290.
MENΩΝΟΣ (Cat. 24–29): 18 sling bullets of Μένων appearing in an auction catalogue have been republished by A. Avram who dates them to the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. The reverse ην (Ν) appearing twice on one of our bullets (Cat. 29: ΜΕΝΩΝΟΣ) makes it obvious that Menon had another mould producing the letter η backwards.

ΔΙΔΥ (Cat. 30–39): 19 identical bullets with the inscription Διδύ(-), an abbreviated form of the personal names Διδύμων or Δίδυμος, have been found in the territory of Miletos. They are dated to the 4th century B.C., perhaps in connection with the siege of Miletos by Alexander the Great in 334 B.C.

ΔΡΟΜΑΣ ← / ΑΙΝΙΑΝ ← (Cat. 40–44): Another example of these bullets with the inscription Δρόμας Αἰνιάν, occupying both faces, has been found in one of the fields around Değirmentepe and Killiktepe in the territory of Miletos. Δρόμας was probably a commander (?) of the Αἰνιάνες, a Thessalian ethnos, who must have played a role in the region of Miletos about the end of the 4th century B.C.

ΜΙΚΚΙΩΝΟΣ (Cat. 45–50): Two identical bullets of Μικκίων have been found in the fields around Değirmentepe and Killiktepe in the territory of Miletos while the provenances of the two other published examples are not known. P. Weiss dates the bullets of Μικκίων to a period later than those of Δρόμας Αἰνιάν and Δημοκλῆς.

ΛΥΣΙΑ (Cat. 51–53): Two sling bullets recording the name Λυσίας are known from the catalogues of different auctions. A. Avram is sceptical about the identity of these bullets and dates both to the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C.

ΒΙΟΝΟΣ (Cat. 54): An identical bullet of Βίων, of unknown provenance, has been dated to the 3rd–2nd centuries B.C.

ΑΠΟΛΛΩ/ΝΙΔΑΣ (Cat. 55–56): This bullet, recording the name Apollonidas in the nominative in two lines on the front and the symbol of a mace (?) on the reverse, is known from another example, of unknown provenance, which has been dated to the Hellenistic period.

ΝΙΚΑΡΧΟΣ (Cat. 57): A sling bullet recording the name Νίκαρχος does not seem to be attested.

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15 Printed Auction CNG 81, Lot 1450, b.
16 2014, 133.
17 Weiss 1997, 145–6, no. 1r–t (SEG 47, 1635 and Bull. ép. 1998, 86 [M. Sève]). The reading Διδύ(μων) is also supported by some other contemporary bullets of unknown provenance recording the full name associated by the symbol of a spear on their reverse: Weiss–Draskowski 2010, 133–4, nos. 11 and 12 (retrograde).
18 Weiss 1997, 149.
20 Another troop of Ainianes under the command of a certain Antimachos (Ἀντίμαχος Αἰνιάν) appears on another sling bullet from Cyprus (?): see Weiss–Draskowski 2010, 131 (SEG 2010, 1859), no. 9 and Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 265.
22 For the bullet appearing in an auction catalogue see G. Manganaro, ZPE 133, 2000, 128, note 44 (SEG 50, 1028) and Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 279; for the other instance in an auction in London (Printed Auction CNG 81, Lot 1450, a) see Avram 2014, 133.
23 2013, 279 and 2014, 133.
24 Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 267 referring to W. Vischer, Kleine Schriften II. Archäologische und epigraphische Schriften, Leipzig 1878, 262, no. 31 (non vidi).
25 One would recognize this sinuous symbol as a sling rather than a club or mace.
26 Hellmann 1982, 79, no. 13 (SEG 32, 1691) and Avram–Chiriac–Matei 2013, 263, Ἀπολλωνίδας (II).
AINE (Cat. 58): We know another example of this bullet from Crete. The text AINE is interpreted as the abbreviated form of a name, e.g. Aineas, Aineia, Ainetos, Ainesidemos. The discovery of the bullets of the slinger Aíne(-) in both Crete and Miletos reflects his mercenary activities both in that island and Asia Minor.

ABBREVIATIONS

Avram 2014 A. Avram, Marginalien zu griechisch beschrifteten Schleuderge- schossen (IV), Ephemeris Napocensis XXIV, 131–137.
Ma 2010 J. Ma, Autour des balles de fronde camiréennes, Chiron 40, 155–173.

Özet